

Pair of Local teachers Honored

Gist delivers golden apples to 2 Pawtuxet Valley teachers

Commissioner
drops in on
pair of local
educators, one
in WW and one
in Coventry

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WEST WARWICK — Education Commissioner Deborah Gist had a busy Thursday morning, presenting NBC 10 Golden Apple awards to two well-deserving educators in Kent County.

She began the honors at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School where seventh-grade social studies teacher Justin Howman was completely taken aback when Gist walked into his classroom with his family right behind, to present him with the Golden Apple award.

"It's a great honor to be recognized,"

he said, still a bit caught off guard even after a few minutes. "We teach in such a great district and as a social studies teacher, I believe we have to understand our past if we want to move forward and be successful in our future. I love my job and if you do what you like, then it doesn't feel like work."

Howman, who has been teaching for 13 years, was nominated by two students he had last year but have gone on to high school, Liam Noonan and Mike Tedeschi.

"He's so engaging and makes everything fun and a competition," Noonan

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Feinstein social studies teacher Justin Howman receives a Golden Apple award from RI Commissioner of Education Deborah Gist. The veteran educator, who has been teaching for 13 years, was nominated for the award by a pair of former students who are now in high school.

Teachers recognized with award

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said. "And, he's super organized and helps keep us organized."

"He also uses a lot of technology," Tedeschi added, as he rattled off a list of the time periods the class has covered so far. "He's also a great person who makes you feel very comfortable like his only focus is on you."

School Principal Dr. Authur Lisi said Howman has a special way with the students.

"He engages the students every single day and the kids

love what they learn."

Gist's second stop within an hour's time was at Horgan Elementary School in West Warwick to honor first-grade teacher Laurie Carley.

The school population knew a teacher was going to be honored and everyone was assembled in the auditorium, but no one knew who it would be so when Carley's name was announced as Gist walked her way, she was shocked.

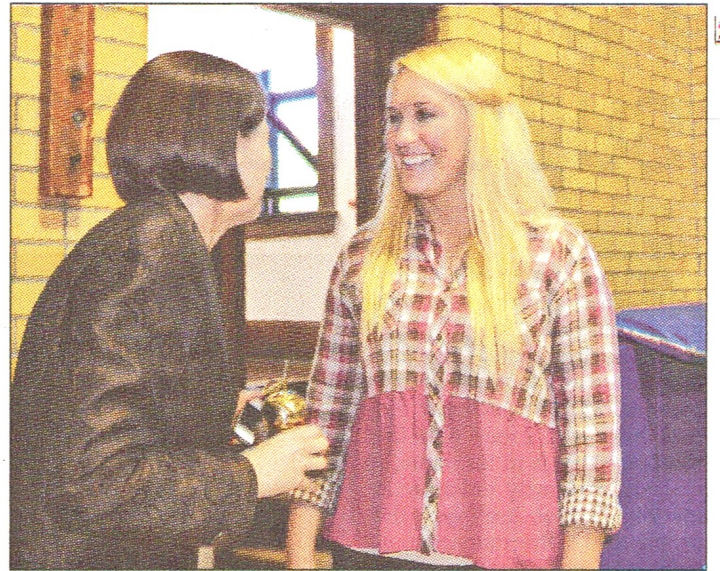
"I'm in shock and I feel very honored," Carley said. "I tell the kids once you're my student, you're always my student so I love when they come back to see me," she said. "What inspires me is how I was raised. My mom and dad have always been there for me — and every year in my classroom I have wonderful kids."

Carley, who was nominated by three of her previous students, has been teaching for 12 years.

Selina and Skyla Chrzanowska and Stephanie Bravo, past students, all agreed that she's a teacher they would never forget and wished every teacher they had is like her.

"She was always there for us and made us feel like we were the most important people to her," said Selina.

"I'm 22 now and I still talk



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Commissioner of Education Deborah Gist (left) presents a Golden Apple award to Horgan Elementary School teacher Laurie Carley yesterday.

about how great she is. My experience was phenomenal," added Bravo.

Horgan School Principal Donna Peluso said Carley is the type of teacher that as students get older will be at the top of the list of those they recall.

"She wants the students to know who they are and celebrate that and wants them to understand their potential — who they can grow up to be,"

she said. "Her classroom is one of the most peaceful places I've ever been in."

Gist was so proud to honor two teachers in the same area at the same time.

"We have many teachers in the state who are wonderful," Gist said. "It's a lot of fun to come to Kent County twice in one day and see just how much their families and students appreciate them."



wards	Merrimack to	Chatham to
3ay	Chatham	Watch Hill
Clouds	Sun/Clouds	Sun/Clouds
5-15	NE 5-15	NE 5-15
2-3	2-4	2-4
5	5	5

England Area Forecast

along with near seasonably cool temperatures over the weekend with temperatures a thing the potential to get clipped by a could bring some clouds, breezy con-