

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

But his passion was music, particularly heavy-metal music. On WHJY's Web site, The Doctor listed among his favorite bands Metallica, Black Sabbath and Ozzy. Under "Rock Stars I've Partied With" he listed Chris Robinson, Slash, and Vince Neil. And under "Coolest Show I've Ever Seen," ranked in third place was a 1985 performance in Providence of Judas Priest and Great White.

On the night of the fire, Mike introduced Great White. That was the last time anybody heard the voice that comforted so many for so long through the darkness of night.

— Gerald M. Carbone



### Jimmy Gooden Jr., 37 A 'big kid' who loved a laugh

James F. Gooden Jr. knew everybody's name, and everybody knew his laugh.

Jimmy was the deli manager at Hi-Lo in Swansea and a devoted husband and stepfather.

"He loved to laugh. He loved to make other people laugh," said his wife, Lori Ann Gooden.

Customers and coworkers could hear him chuckling across the store. He was the kind of guy who remembered customers' names and asked about their kids.

During his coffee break, Jimmy would call his wife, an assistant branch manager at a bank, to tell her that he loved her.

"I feel like what I had in 10 years with him some people don't have in a lifetime," Lori Ann said. "We understood what made a relationship work. We were committed to each other. At the end of the day, we always wanted to be together."

Jimmy, 37, was born in Providence and lived on Clarence Street in Cranston. He graduated from La Salle Academy in 1983 and joined the National Guard as a member of the 119th Military Police unit.

In 1995, he earned an associate's degree in business entrepreneurship from Johnson & Wales.

"Ideally, he wanted to open a cafe, one that had bands, kind of like what The Station did," said his brother John Gooden. "He wanted to name it Moonlight Mile, after the Stones song."

Jimmy loved to attend concerts at small venues so he could get close to the band. He bought advance tickets to the Great White show and went with Gino Companatico, Andrew Paskowski, and a friend of Paskowski's. The three others were injured but survived.

Jimmy met Lori Ann in 1992 when they both worked at Almacs on Elmwood Avenue. They married in 1995. Her children, Jessica L. and Lauren J. Iacobucci, were 6 and 4 at the time.

"He took to them. He was like a big kid himself," Lori Ann said.

Jimmy stood 6 feet tall and weighed about 220 pounds. He worked out almost daily at Future Fitness Center. He enjoyed skiing, fishing and going to the beach. He loved to be surrounded by friends, and to crack them up.

He'd leave silly voice-mail messages for them, he would burp his stepdaughter's full name, and once, he brought his elderly grandmother to a restaurant where the wait staff dressed up as aliens.

Lori Ann said he had a comedian's gift for perfect timing.

"He was always smiling, always happy, always happy-go-lucky," his brother said. "He didn't let much bother him. . . . His attitude was: I don't change my act for anyone."

— Cathleen F. Crowley



### Derek Gray, 22 About to marry

Derek J. Gray knew how to draw a crowd by playing guitar, telling jokes on a friend's stoop, or starring in a school play.

At age 22, he was looking forward to a new role: being a father. His fiancée, Barbara McGill, is due to have their baby in August. Derek proposed to Barbara this fall. "They were just so excited about getting married," friend Lauren DiPierina says.

The prospects of fatherhood scared Derek at first, but then he became excited about it. "He wanted a boy to listen to his rock music with him," Lauren says.

An avid guitarist and songwriter, Derek wanted to be famous. "He

wanted to start a band in California and do all his stuff out there," Lauren says.

Derek was a fan of rock 'n' roll bands from the 1980s, following groups such as Warrant, Poison, and Dokken. He wore T-shirts with logos from his favorite bands and carried pictures of himself posed with his favorite singers, Bret Michaels of Poison and Jani Lane of Warrant.

"Any time you talked about music, his eyes just lit up, and it was like a child on Christmas morning," agrees Tony Palaza, a manager at Lowe's Hardware, where Derek sold lumber.

While Derek followed bands on weekends, he kept in touch with friends at home in Burlington, Mass. "Every time he left us, he'd tell us all that he loved us," said Lauren.

Once when Derek spent a weekend in Vermont to see Warrant, he sent Lauren a letter to entertain his friends who hung out on her front stoop. He included a personal note to each; he told Lauren that she was like a second sister to him, and said she had a beautiful singing voice.

During his senior year at Burlington High School, Derek played the gangster in the school play, Kiss Me Kate. Lauren recalls rehearsing scenes with him — he replaced the scripted words "au revoir" with "oh ravioli" to make the cast members laugh.

On the basketball court, playing pick-up games in the park with his friends, he drew attention — not only because of his height (he was 6 feet 5 inches) — but also from his attire. He would play wearing cowboy boots and leather pants.

After graduating from Burlington High School, Derek went to work for Home Depot, and started at Lowe's seven months ago, putting great effort into his job. Last September, he was named employee of the month. "The lumber aisle is still his aisle, even though he may not be here," Palaza said.

— Jessica Resnick-Ault



### Skott Greene, 35 Tattoo artist lived dream

When it came to his work, tattooing, no detail escaped Skott C. Greene. "I think what he loved most was when someone would come in with an idea, a far-out scheme, and he would put it on them and make it happen," says a friend and employee Brian O'Donnell. "He loved to do the big crazy pieces because he loved the detail."

He also loved the band Deep Purple, the movie *Planet of the Apes*, and the television show *Lost in Space*. In fact, he loved the robot from *Lost in Space* so much he had it tattooed on the inside of his right arm.

"He was the biggest Deep Purple fan," Brian said. "He thought that in essence their musicianship was the greatest in the world."

Roughly 16 months ago, Skott got a chance at his dream when he opened Doors of Perception Tattoo, 709 Quaker Lane in West Warwick. His wife, Sandi, co-owned and managed the shop.

"That was his dream; he wanted to own his own parlor, and we did it," Sandi said. "He has been drawing since he was two, his family tells me. You couldn't even have a piece of scrap paper without him drawing something beautiful."

Before owning his own shop, Skott worked for nine years as a tattoo artist at Electric Ink, in East Providence.

"He was a perfectionist when it came to his art," Sandi said. "Obviously you can't erase it. No tattoo ever left that shop without being perfect."

Skott, 35, was known for his excellent tattoo portraits, a reputation that ultimately led him to The Station that Thursday night. Jack Russell, the lead singer of the band Great White, had called several tattoo shops looking for a great portrait artist, Sandi said.

Russell ended up at Skott's parlor. "He tattooed a kind of heart with the name Sue in it," Sandi said. "He tattooed it kind of on his pelvic area."

A pleased Russell put Skott and Brian on the guest list for the show. Sandi decided not to go.

"At least in my eyes, I am glad to see so many people walking around with his artwork," Sandi said. "There is no greater memorial. You can have pictures, drawings, but if you are wearing his work, there is no greater honor, and I have told his customers that."

— Andrew C. Helman



### Scott Griffith, 41 Daughter came first

The things Scott Griffith cherished most in his life were his 13-year-old daughter, Kacie Griffith, and his custom-made white Gibson Les Paul guitar.

He loved his daughter so much, her mother said, that he pleaded to bring Kacie with him when the computer security company he worked for gave him a promotion that meant a move to Rhode Island.

"It killed me to say yes, but I was proud of him," said Loree Griffith, of Phoenix, his former common-law wife.

Scott Griffith, 41, had been in West Warwick about seven months, but rarely went out at night, she said. He went to The Station because he was friends with Great White's lead singer, Jack Russell; Kacie stayed

around the corner from their house with a friend.

Officials told Loree that Scott's body was found by the club's door. She believes he stayed inside to help others out over the crush of people, then was overcome by the smoke.

Scott, who grew up in Huntington, Calif., had spent two decades playing for bands in southern California before relocating to Rhode Island.

"He's been playing since he was 12, he's been in many, many bands, he's done studio work, he writes songs for bands, he's just the most incredible, talented musician," Loree Griffith said.

Their daughter shares that talent, and has been learning to play the keyboard, singing, and writing songs with her father, Loree said.

Scott had gone through a rough patch in his life several years ago, but had "cleaned himself up real good" and taken computer classes that led him to his current job, with Guardent, she said.

He brought with him the custom-made guitar that Loree had given him about 15 years ago. Its mother-of-pearl finish and gold inlay had yellowed with time, but his affection for it had not waned.

He used to joke that he wanted to be buried with the guitar. But Loree said he would want his daughter, the budding rocker, to have it now.

— Liz Anderson



### Bonnie Hamelin, 27 Had a smile for everyone

Bonnie L. Hamelin brightened a room when she walked into it.

"Everyone who knew her loved her," her mother said.

Bonnie, 27, lived on Warwick Avenue in Warwick, graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School in 1993 and was listed on the honor roll. She worked alongside her mother, Claire (Hamelin) Bruyere, also of Warwick, in the cafeteria of Electric Boat in Quonset.

"She was the best person in the world, and she didn't deserve to die," her mother said.

When her uncle got sick a year ago, Bonnie was the first one to send him a get-well card, and the first to call him.

"She just said, 'How can I help you?' " said her uncle, John Tomlin, of Coventry. "Bonnie cared so much about people."

Bonnie frequently ran a little late, often rushing into church a few minutes tardy on Sunday mornings, scrambling for a seat, her uncle said. She doted on her three cats. "They were her kids," Tomlin said.

When she attended a family Christmas party last year, she threw her

arms around relatives as she greeted them, telling them she loved them.

Her generous smile was so characteristic, it's the strongest image of Bonnie in her uncle's mind.

"She loved life and people so much," Tomlin said. "She was always happy. The only time I can remember her crying is when her Pepe [grandfather] died two years ago."

Bonnie's former principal said he remembered her clearly, because she volunteered for a community-service home room and helped tutor younger students.

"I remember her as a generous, vibrant, giving person, and people who are like that in high school are like that their whole lives," said Richard Rouleau, now assistant superintendent of Warwick schools.

Bonnie also loved to sing and was in the high school's chorus, which met during school hours, as well as the chorale, an after-school activity.

A coworker described Bonnie as a sweet, warm, outgoing, friendly person.

"She was always the first to say 'Hi, how are you doing?' even if you weren't looking at her," said Mia Rossi, who worked with Bonnie for two years.

"She was always smiling. She just had a bubbly personality."

Rossi said Bonnie loved music and enjoyed going out to hear live music with her friends.

"She was a people person. She loved being with her family and friends."

— Jennifer D. Jordan



### Andrew Hoban, 22 'So much potential'

Andrew R. Hoban had never been to The Station before that Thursday night.

He was there to meet a client about a refinancing deal he was working on, said Richard C. Lamendola, Andrew's youth baseball and basketball coach in North Kingstown, who later became friends with him.

"He was a kid who just happened to be in the wrong place," said Lamendola.

Andrew was 22. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island last May.

As he did every year, Andrew spent last summer and part of the fall working in the pro shop at Quidnessett Country Club, just 2½ miles from the house where he grew up. His parents, John and Nancy, and younger sister, Kerrie, still live there.

He was an amateur golfer who regularly competed in local tournaments and dreamed of qualifying for the professional tour.

Maybe he could have made it, too, said Brian Thimme, general manager of the country club. "He had so much potential."

Instead, when the golf season ended in November, Andrew took a job as a mortgage broker for the Homestar Mortgage Co., in North Kingstown.

He probably would have been a successful broker, too, said Lamendola, who has known Andrew since he was 9.

"It was just the attitude he had," Lamendola said. "He took the talent he had and made the most of it. He was a real hard worker."

Tall and gangly and known for a strong arm, Andrew was an all-star third baseman on the Wilson's of Wickford Astros from 1990 to 1992. The team was North Kingstown Little League champion in 1991 and 1992.

That winning streak continued when he played for the Fleet Reserve team in the town's Senior League, and they won championships from 1993 to 1995.

"I hate to say franchise player," said Lamendola. "But that's what he was."

Andrew was also a forward on Catholic Youth Organization basketball teams and went on to play for the Skippers at North Kingstown High School. He was an honors student his sophomore year and graduated in 1998.

Around the time he started high school, he was hired at Quidnessett Country Club.

He started out as a part-time caddy and worked up to running the golf-equipment room in the pro shop and helping to organize tournaments. Along the way, he took up golf himself.

He was a popular employee — "the guy with the smile," Thimme said.

Andrew was close to his family and the community he grew up in. That's part of the reason why he went to URI and why he spent his summers refereeing youth basketball games, Lamendola said.

"The kid deserves a better story than this," he said.

— Alex Kuffner

## COUPLE ENJOYED GOING TO HEAR MUSIC

### Jude Henault, 37 A source of inspiration

Jude Henault sensed when friends were feeling down or struggling with a problem, and to lighten their load she would often send them funny or inspiring e-mails.

Friends described the mother of three, who looked younger than her 37 years, as sensitive and spiritual. "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it," she wrote to Dorothy Everett in the last e-mail her friend received from her.

"I felt she was my friend, not my supervisor," Everett said as she described the woman she worked with at Foxwoods Resort Casino for the last several years.

"You felt the first time she walked into the room, you could talk to her. She never stood on ceremony. And she had the prettiest blue eyes."

"You could just ask her anything, and she'd do it for you," said coworker Ellen Scott. "You could count on her lifting up your spirits."

Jude was a dedicated employee who sometimes brought her two younger children, Rachel, 12, and Andrew, 10, to the income audit department when she stopped by on her days off to do even more work.

Jude also worked in the general cashier and coin department for several years before joining the income audit office as an accountant about two years ago.

"Some people are aggressive when they start a job, then they level off," said coworker Fred Barning. "She never leveled off. She was dedicated to getting it right."

Photographs of her three children and examples of their artwork adorned her office.

Jude felt proud when she helped pay for her oldest daughter's wedding last fall, when Angela, 19, married Michael Boggs, of New London, Conn.



She loved to cook seafood and bake homemade bread in the Lisbon, Conn., home she shared with her boyfriend, Samuel A. Miceli Jr., and her two youngest children.

They lived near a pond, and Jude enjoyed the wildlife there, particularly a swan she and her family helped nurse when it was injured.

Jude and Sam liked live music. They won tickets to the Great White show at The Station that Thursday night from a New London radio station.

Both died in the blaze.

— Jennifer D. Jordan

### Sam Miceli, 37 Laughter was his specialty

Samuel J. Miceli Jr. was quiet, until you got to know him.

Then, he'd start making jokes, tossing in humorous comments throughout the day, getting coworkers to laugh outright as they installed windows, working hard all day.

"He could make anyone laugh at any time," says Dan Laferriere, who worked with Sam for a year and a half for the home-improvement section of Tri-State Window Distributors Inc., in Montville, Conn.

Sam, 37, worked as a contractor for the window company.

"All day long, we'd be talking. He was really funny and outgoing."

Sam won tickets to the Great White show from a New London radio station, and brought his girlfriend, Jude Henault. They both died in the fire.

The two lived together in Lisbon, Conn., and Sam was devoted to Jude's three children, Angela, 19, Rachel, 12, and Andrew, 10.

The two youngest lived with Sam and Jude near a pond, and the whole family enjoyed the wildlife there. Dan said Sam particularly liked feeding the swans and would spend hours just "hanging out" by the water, soaking up nature, paddling a canoe.

Along with listening to live music, Sam loved fast cars and "all types of automotive racing," Dan said.

Dan, who is 20, said he looked up to Sam, and often asked him for advice. The two had grown close in less than two years.

"He was the type of person who was friends with everyone, wherever we went," Dan said. "I'm just going to miss his presence, talking to him every day, working with him."

— Jennifer D. Jordan