

VETERANS DAY 2015

Veterans of all wars honored

Newport speaker notes that those who served in more recent conflicts should not be forgotten

By Sean Flynn
Staff writer

NEWPORT — Close to 100 people packed into the assembly room at the police station on Wednesday to pay tribute to all Americans who have served their country in a military uniform.

The Veterans Day assembly is usually held outside in front of City Hall, but the wet, blustery day forced a change of location. Because not everyone could fit into the room, dozens of people stood in the police station lobby and overflowed outside the front door.

"From sea to sea, in this great land, over 22 million living veterans have earned our

ALSO
♦ **Portsmouth ceremony also salutes families of veterans. A3**
♦ **President says more needs to be done for veterans. A8**

country's undying thanks for the sacrifices they have made, in times of war and in times of troubled peace, to protect and defend our

constitution and our way of life," said Navy Capt. Francis Molinari, chief of staff at the Naval War College and the ceremony's guest speaker.

"Throughout our history, young soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, when called upon to take up arms in defense of freedom, left home and hearth to venture to places such as Concord, Antietam, San Juan Hill, the Marne, Midway, Guadalcanal, Inchon, the Gulf of Tonkin, Fallujah and Kabul. Whether serving on the ground, in the air, above or below the seas, they earned the title 'veteran,' through unselfish dedication and commitment to duty," Molinari said.

He noted the presence of four World War II veterans in the audience, members of what has been dubbed "the Greatest Generation."

"But we should also pay tribute to the veterans of more recent conflicts," Molinari said.

He quoted former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel: "The entire 9/11 generation volunteered to serve at a time of war — at a time our nation was threatened, was attacked — and they have a strong desire to continue making a difference in the world, whether by



Dave Hansen | Staff photos

Vietnam War veteran Tony Cercena, right, of Newport and others bow their heads Wednesday for a moment of silence for fallen veterans during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Newport police station. Below, from left, proud Portuguese pals and World War II veterans Manny Dias of Newport, John Souza of Portsmouth, Edmund Lopes of Newport and Walter Alves of Newport catch up after the ceremony.

'It's truly heartening to see so many people come here to honor the veterans and their families.'

NEWPORT MAYOR JEANNE-MARIE NAPOLITANO

staying in the military, pursuing another outlet for public service, or just being involved in their local communities."

Rep. Marvin Abney, D-Newport, a retired Army major, presented a proclamation from Gov. Gina Raimondo declaring Nov. 11-Nov. 17 Blue Star Family Appreciation Week. The name comes from the custom of service members' families hanging a service flag in a window of their homes, with a blue star for each family member in the military.

"It's tough to leave your families behind," Abney said,

recalling his own deployments and saying goodbye to his wife and young children.

"The reason we can do what we do, is we have families to return to."

Edmund J. Lopes of Newport, who was a member of the 28th Infantry Division, 112th Regiment, that landed on Omaha Beach shortly after D-Day in June 1944, and Walter Alves Sr. of Middletown, an Army private stationed in the Philippines when the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan

VETERANS A7



Cops packing stuffed animals

The toys, donated by local families, will help police comfort children at accident scenes and other times of stress.

By Matt Sheley
Staff writer

MIDDLETOWN — As a mom, Lauren Bickings knows that sometimes a stuffed animal makes everything better.

Community Policing Officer and K-9 handler David Guerriero said a soft toy can bring comfort to a scared child after an accident or some other mishap.

On Tuesday afternoon, Bickings dropped off about 150 gently used and newly steam-cleaned stuffed toys at the police station on Valley Road. Jayden, Bickings' 4-year-old son, and family friends Erin Seiler and her 9-year-old son Lucas Miller helped deliver the collection, which included Elmo, Nemo, Buzz Lightyear



Dave Hansen | Staff photographer

Middletown Community Policing Officer David Guerriero helps Lucas Miller, 9, of Middletown, Jayden Bickings, 4, and Jayden's mother, Lauren, carry stuffed animals into the Middletown police station on Tuesday. The toys were donated by Middletown families for police to give to children at accidents and other times when they might be frightened.

and teddy bears. They will be distributed to local police officers to carry in their patrol cars, Guerriero said.

"It's one of those things

where you never know what might help," said the five-year veteran of the police force.

"A lot of us also carry police badge stickers to give to kids

to make them feel better, too. Sometimes, they've been in a car accident or been involved in a domestic incident and things aren't really making much sense, but a stuffed animal or sticker does."

Bickings said she was searching the Internet one day looking for a good way to "pay it forward" when she read about a stuffed animal donation drive. She contacted the Police Department, got the go-ahead for a local drive and put the word out on an online message board.

The response floored her, she said. People she didn't even know offered up bags of barely used stuffed animals to help the cause. Bickings had each donation steam cleaned and then loaded the collection into about 10 large plastic bags.

"When you do something like this, it shows you how much you can do with a little bit of help," Bickings said. "It's not all about you. And police officers like Mr. Guerriero will tell you how helpful a stuffed

POLICE A7

Earth-size planet resembles Venus

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — There's a new rocky Earth-size planet on our galactic block, and it's a sizzler.

Astrophysicists on Wednesday revealed the newfound world, GJ 1132b, named after the small nearby star that it orbits.

Even though the mercury can hit 450 degrees at this planet, it's cool enough to have a thick Venus-like atmosphere. Lucky for scientists, it's close enough to find out.

Planet GJ 1132b is just 39 light-years away, within the atmospheric study range of the Hubble Space Telescope. Given that a single light-year represents 5.87 trillion miles — the distance light can travel in a year — this planet is about 230 trillion miles away.

A team led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Zachory Berta-Thompson discovered the planet in May, using telescopes in Chile. He and his



Dana Berry | Skyworks

An artist's conception shows GJ 1132b, foreground, a rocky planet similar to the Earth in size and mass, orbiting a red dwarf star.

PLANET A7

INSIDE
today's news
Some things you won't want to miss

TIVERTON WANTS TO KEEP landfill open until it can afford to close it. **A3**

>>> BASKETBALL PREVIEWS for Salve men, women and URI men. **B1**



WEATHER

58 Today, cloudy, windy, showers likely. High near 58.

52 Tonight, cloudy, windy, showers. Low around 52.

Details, A7

Advice **B6**
Classifieds **B7**
Comics **B4**
Local & State **A3**
Lotteries **A7**
Obituaries **A4**
Opinion **A6**
Police & Fire **A4**
Sports **B1**
Television **B5-6**



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NATION

Missouri student arrested in online threats

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A white college student suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty at the University of Missouri was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat, adding to the racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top administrators to resign earlier this week.

Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore studying computer science at a sister campus in Rolla, was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. at a residence hall, authorities said. The school said no weapons were found. Boone County prosecutors announced the criminal

charge later Wednesday and recommended that he be held without bond. Park, who is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, was jailed in Columbia, about 75 miles to the northwest.

The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app YikYak and other social media, threatened to "shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia.

Another threat said: "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow." The message seemed to echo one that appeared on the website 4chan — a forum where racist and misogynistic comments are common — ahead of the deadly campus shooting at an Oregon community college last month.

Because the county courts were closed for Veterans Day, Park was not expected to appear before a judge until at least today. The prosecutor's office didn't immediately respond to an email asking whether Park had an attorney, and no information about the case is listed online. Prosecutors

also didn't immediately release the probable-cause statement, which would include more details about the case.

A message left by The Associated Press on Park's mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of Lake St. Louis.

Authorities were also investigating two other threats on YikYak involving other campuses in Missouri. One was leveled at the Rolla campus by someone saying, "I'm gonna shoot up

this school." In the other case, a student at Northwest State University in Maryville was arrested Wednesday morning for allegedly posting, "I'm gonna shoot any black people tomorrow, so be ready." Northwest Missouri State spokesman Mark Hornickel told several media outlets that authorities hadn't linked the incident to threats at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus.

When the first threat emerged, the Columbia school's online emergency information center tweeted, "There is no immediate threat to campus," and asked students not to spread rumors.

Explosion levels N.J. home; 1 dead

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — An explosion in northern New Jersey that leveled a duplex "like a pancake" and knocked a next-door neighbor out of bed Wednesday killed one resident and left two other people in critical condition with severe burns, officials said.

In all, 14 people were taken to hospitals, including an 11-year-old who was one of the critically injured in the Elizabeth explosion, Mayor Chris Bollwage said. The names and ages of the victims weren't immediately released.

A spokeswoman for the mayor said one person who was initially unaccounted for was later located and wasn't in the home when the blast occurred at about 8 a.m. Wednesday.

The blast leveled the two-family duplex "like a pancake," Bollwage said. Swarms of fire trucks and rescue vehicles crammed the street where the explosion occurred, just 100 yards from a busy corridor.

The explosion happened on the second floor, and the mayor described it as gas related. However, a preliminary investigation by Elizabethtown Gas hasn't linked the explosion to a natural gas leak, said the utility's spokesman, Duane Bourne.

The fire went out on its own. Bollwage and Elizabeth Fire Chief Thomas McNamara said that fact may have helped prevent the loss of more life and damage to neighboring buildings, which stand about 10 to 12 feet apart.

"There was a blast fire after the initial explosion, and we're very fortunate we didn't get a major fire afterward," McNamara said. "It would have been a whole different ballgame. We would have had quite a few buildings involved, and the outcome for some of the people who were rescued wouldn't have been the same."

The blast damaged seven homes, and three will need to be demolished, Bollwage said.

Lisset Garcia, who lives about two blocks away, said she was in bed with her daughter when the explosion occurred.

"I heard a loud boom and the house shook a little," Garcia said. "At first, I thought it was a small earthquake or something."

Woman steals police cruiser in handcuffs

BEAVER, Pa. (AP) — A western Pennsylvania woman has admitted she stole a police cruiser and led police officers on an 80 mph chase — all while her hands were cuffed behind her.

Roxanne Rimer, 28, of Chipewah Township also pleaded guilty Tuesday in Beaver County Court to an unrelated theft charge.

Defense attorney Steven Valsamidis said she was sentenced to four to eight years.

Authorities said Rimer was handcuffed and placed in the back of the cruiser after being accused of shoplifting in January. Officials said she squeezed through an unlatched opening and crawled into the front seat, then zoomed off and led officers on a nearly 10-mile chase, weaving in and out of traffic, before crashing.

Advertisement for Audrain Automobile Museum featuring a teal classic car and text: "AUDRAIN AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM... OPENING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH AMERICAN MUSCLE CARS"

Advertisement for Cornucopia Art Sale: "Preview Party FRIDAY, November 13th 6pm - 8pm... Show & Sale SATURDAY, November 14th 9am - 4pm... The Pennfield School"

Large advertisement for Newport Restaurant Week 2015: "NEWPORT RESTAURANT WEEK - 2015... November 6-15... three-course lunch \$16 • three-course dinner \$35 DiscoverNewportRestaurantWeek.org"

Advertisement for Atlantic Beach Club: "Early Bird Menu \$11.95... Includes your choice of Soup, Salad or Chowder and Coffee or Tea... ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB & Pavilion"

Advertisement for Newport County YMCA: "THANK YOU... The Newport County YMCA extends its deep gratitude to John and Sheryl Callaghan at Bellevue Wine & Spirits for making the 7th Annual Holiday Wine Tasting event possible."

www.NewportDailyNews.com

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VETERANS DAY 2015

Ceremony salutes veterans, families

By James A. Johnson
Staff writer

PORTSMOUTH — The effect war has on the families of those in combat was highlighted Wednesday morning at a Veterans Day ceremony in Portsmouth Town Hall.

Marine Corps Master Sgt. Lenny S. Vasquez first gave tribute to the many veterans attending the ceremony, saying he was humbled and honored to be in the presence of greatness.

“We recognize that all our veterans have given something of themselves to this country, and some have given all, laying down their lives for the freedoms we hold so deeply,” Vasquez said. “You have earned our everlasting respect and affection.”

He referred to the many hardships he lived through during his 18 years in the Marine Corps, such as combat, work-ups, temporary duty, sleepless nights and family separation.

“My family was always on my mind,” he said. “It was really hard at times to understand that I had the responsibility of staying focused on my task at hand, since my Marines depended on it. During those moments, my family was a driving factor. Once I put my head down on that pillow, I went right back home. My wife has been my best friend and confidant for 22 years.”

At times during his first deployment in Iraq, he had limited opportunity to contact his family by phone, email or Skype.

“Those couple of minutes a week lifted my spirits big-time,” he said of the times he could connect with his family.

Upon returning home, he said, he appreciated the support



Above: Marine Corps Master Sgt. Lenny S. Vasquez gives the keynote address Wednesday during a Veterans Day ceremony at Portsmouth Town Hall. Vasquez's combat deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and a humanitarian mission to Kosovo.

of family, friends and fellow Marines.

“I definitely think the military has made significant strides toward maintaining a high level of assistance to the families of service members,” he said.

He urged the veterans to use their talents by volunteering with such groups as their church, the American Red Cross, Little League and the Boy Scouts.

“We can all make a difference in our community,” he

SALUTE A4



Left: Lulu Vasquez, wife of Marine Corps Master Sgt. Lenny S. Vasquez, who gave the keynote address Wednesday during the Veterans Day ceremony at Portsmouth Town Hall, takes a moment to talk about what it is like to be the spouse of an active military member.

Dave Hansen | Staff photos

‘She’s there because of what she has accomplished. She’s not there as a partner or spouse.’

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., talking about Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg being chosen to sponsor the Navy's newest submarine

Navy taking new approach to submarine sponsorships

By Jennifer McDermott
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE — The Navy has made an unconventional choice to sponsor its newest submarine: Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, who is known for advocating women's empowerment through her “Lean In” book and campaign.

Sponsors, who christen the ship, are always women but historically they were often the wives of senior officers or politicians with close ties to the Navy. According to Navy lore, sponsors are said to imbue a ship with their personalities.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus chose Sandberg to sponsor the newest Virginia-class attack submarine, the USS Massachusetts. His spokesman, Capt. Patrick McNally, said Mabus looks for opportunities to connect the American public with their Navy.

“Expanding the variety of people who serve as sponsors is another avenue to strengthen that connection,” McNally said in an email.

The first time Sandberg used the phrase “lean in,” her shorthand for urging women to push for leadership roles in the workplace, was during a lecture at the U.S. Naval Academy in 2011.

Sandberg has publicly praised Mabus for changing personnel policies to empower women who serve, such as tripling paid maternity leave to 18 weeks. They have met several times and he visited her at Facebook headquarters in California, McNally said.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said Sandberg's selection is an exciting statement about the Navy's future.

“She really has come to epitomize a successful empowered woman,” he said Wednesday. “Her selection is merited in her own right. She's there because of what she has accomplished. She's not there as a partner or spouse.”

Sandberg founded a nonprofit group to foster small support groups — “lean in circles” — to help women achieve their goals. The Department of Defense has partnered with the group to launch these circles throughout the military. Sandberg has been critical of gender



Associated Press

Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, shown during a forum last week in San Francisco, has been chosen to sponsor the newest Virginia-class attack submarine, the USS Massachusetts. According to Navy lore, sponsors, who christen the ships, are said to imbue a ship with their personalities.

‘We’ve got a lot of work to do as a country in terms of sparking that interest. Having a high-profile person like her, I think, really sends a very powerful message.’

REP. JOE COURTNEY
D-Conn.

and racial biases within the military. She called on military leaders in September to “champion that equality makes us stronger.”

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut said Sandberg will be the “public face” of the new submarine throughout its life. Courtney hopes she will inspire young girls to pursue careers in science and technology.

The Navy lifted its ban on women serving on submarines in 2010. “We’ve got a lot of work to do as a

country in terms of sparking that interest,” Courtney said. “Having a high-profile person like her, I think, really sends a very powerful message.”

Construction on the USS Massachusetts is scheduled to start in 2017 at General Dynamics Electric Boat's facility in Quonset Point. Newport News Shipbuilding will do the final assembly work in Virginia.

The submarine is expected to join the fleet in 2022.

Sandberg went to Harvard in Massachusetts. Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust was also chosen to sponsor a new submarine, the USS Vermont, McNally said.

Most of the submarines in the class, however, are sponsored by the wife or daughter of a politician or senior military leader. First lady Michelle Obama sponsors the USS Illinois and former first lady Laura Bush sponsors the USS Texas.

Sandberg could not be reached for comment.

TIVERTON

Council resolution asks for extension on town's landfill

By Marcia Pobzeznik
Correspondent

Tiverton is \$2.9 million short of the \$9.3 million cost estimate to cap its landfill in the south end of town and is asking the General Assembly to help the town use its landfill for a few years more than anticipated so it can accrue the needed funds.

The plan is to increase the elevation of the landfill across its 33-acre footprint by at least 3 feet, which would give the town two to three additional years of landfill capacity beyond the estimated late 2016-early 2017 closure date, said Stephen Berlucchi, director of the Department of Public Works. That is when the landfill, which opened in the 1950s, is expected to reach capacity.

The town has been putting money aside in a dedicated landfill capping account since 1995. When its pay-as-you-throw trash disposal program began five years ago, the amount put into the fund increased substantially. But even with \$6.4 million in the bank, the town still needs nearly \$3 million more so it does not have to issue bonds to make up the difference.

A resolution asking the General Assembly to exempt the town's “proposed modest expansion” from a law dealing with refuse disposal was unanimously approved by the Town Council at its meeting Monday night.

The resolution states that the town would like to expand vertically by at least 3 feet to buy time “to accrue funding without creating a sudden large financial burden to taxpayers.”

Any additional time will also save the town the expense of having to transport its trash to the Central Landfill in Johnston and pay the tipping fees, which Berlucchi estimates will cost close to \$1 million a year.

Tiverton has the only other licensed landfill in the state besides the Central Landfill.

Rep. John Edwards, D-Tiverton, said the town has the local delegation's support for the resolution, but advised the council that it may want to work on its

‘This resolution simply gives us the discretion to play with the variables.’

JAY LAMBERT

Tiverton Town Council member

numbers again to make sure that 3 feet is the maximum amount of increase it needs.

“This is going to be a one-shot ask,” Edwards told the council. “You will not get a second bite of this apple.”

He advising that if the town wants to expand vertically by 4, 5 or 6 feet, instead of 3, it has to put that number in the documentation.

Councilman David Perry said he has asked in the past, and is asking again, how much it might cost the town in the future to put off the capping for a few more years. “Is it going to increase the cost of closing?” he asked.

The resolution will give the town “discretion, it's not a mandate,” said Councilman Jay Lambert, noting the town may want to close the landfill if its financial situation improves in the future.

“This resolution simply gives us the discretion to play with the variables,” Lambert said.

The amount the town will save over several years by not having to transport its trash to Johnston is considerable, said Town Administrator Matthew J. Wojcik.

“If we can put off paying Johnston for five years, we should follow it,” Wojcik said.

The slope of the landfill will be a deciding factor in how many feet the vertical expansion can be, Berlucchi said. “We can't exceed a certain side slope,” he said.

Edwards said he spoke with Janet Coit, the director of the Department of Environmental Management, and she advised the town to submit detailed documentation, including the engineering report and calculations on the time and cost savings that were figured into the proposal for expansion.

Tiverton@NewportRI.com

LOCAL

Obituary



Emeteria A. Roque

MIDDLETOWN – Emeteria A. Roque, age 91, of Middletown, RI, died Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at Heathcote Nursing and Subacute Center in Newport. Mrs. Roque was born February 4, 1924 in Nueva Ecija, Philippines. She was married to Delfin D. Roque who predeceased her on January 13, 2003.

Mrs. Roque had worked at Forest Farm for several years.

In her spare time, she loved sewing and gardening, whether it was flowers or vegetables. She also enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Roland Roque and his wife Josena of Portsmouth and Ricardo Roque and his common law spouse Edna "Jing" Soriano of Cranston, as well as two grandchildren, Timothy J. Roque and Christopher J. Roque.

She was also predeceased by two sons, Dannie Roque and Paul Roque.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 4-7 p.m., at the Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Broadway, Newport.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Lucy's Church, 909 West Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842.

Additional information at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

FOURTH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory Of



MARK R. RINFRET

2011 - November 12 - 2015

Remembering You
Your time on earth seemed all too brief. Because we wanted you in our life forever. And although we really miss you, In our hearts, we know that you are at peace. Still, countless times throughout the day we find ourselves remembering you, Although we cannot see or hear you, We know that you are with us. We feel you in the warmth of the summer sun. We see you in the brilliance of autumn leaves. You'll be beside us in the peacefulness of a gentle snowfall and rejoice with us at the emergence of the first flowers of spring. We are thankful for the times we shared and the priceless memories too; For those memories are a comfort now when we lovingly Remember You.

Your Wife, Penny and Children, Robyn, Kim, Renee and Matthew

FOURTH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory Of



MARK R. RINFRET HUSBAND - FATHER PAPA

2011 - Nov. 12 - 2015

We miss your sense of humor and the funny things you used to say. Although you are no longer with us our memories of you bring a smile to our face each and every day.

Love, Amanda, John, Ashley, Tim and Amber

Death Notices

ALBINI – Ilda (Longo) Albini, of King Charles Drive, Portsmouth, RI, passed away surrounded by her family on Monday, November 9, 2015 in Newport Hospital. Her funeral will be held today, November 12, 2015, at 9 a.m. at the Connors Funeral Home, 55 West Main Road, Portsmouth, with a Mass and Christian burial at 10 a.m. in St. Barnabas Church, 1697 East Main Road, Portsmouth. Burial will follow in Newport Memorial Park, Middletown. Calling hours were held on Wednesday evening, November 11, 2015, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Connors Funeral Home. Condolences, information, and directions available at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

GRAUER – Philip Grauer, 55, of Broadway, Newport, RI, passed away on Friday, October 30, 2015 at home. A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 10-11 a.m. in Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Broadway, Newport, RI. In lieu of flowers, donations in Philip's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 10 Speen Street, 2nd Floor, Framingham, MA 01701. Condolences, directions and information available at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

RENIERE – Vivian M. Reniere, 82, of Middletown, RI, died Saturday, November 7, 2015 at home surrounded by her loving family. Calling hours were held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Connors Funeral Home, 55 West Main Road, Portsmouth. Her Funeral service will be held today, November 12, 2015 at 12 p.m. in the Swan Point Cemetery Chapel, 585 Blackstone Boulevard, in Providence, RI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, 1085 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904. Additional information at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

WILLIAMS – Catherine M. (Peckham) Williams, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother went to be with our Heavenly Father on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. Funeral services will be held on Friday, November 13, 2015 at 9 a.m. from the Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Broadway, Newport with a Mass of Christian burial at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Spring Street, Newport. Burial will follow in St. Columba Cemetery, Middletown. Calling hours will be held this evening, November 12, 2015, from 4-7 p.m. in the funeral home. Donations may be made to Cure Alzheimer's Fund, 34 Washington Street, Suite 200, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481 donate@curealz.org or the Middletown Rescue Wagon Fund, 239 Wyatt Road, Middletown, RI 02842. Additional information at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

FOURTH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

In Loving Memory Of



MARK R. RINFRET PAPA

2011 - November 12 - 2015

I miss you and love you. I miss our walks at Sachuest Point.

Love, Sydney

CALENDAR

TODAY

GALLERY NIGHT – Various galleries around Newport County, 5-8 p.m. The Newport Gallery Organization will hold its Gallery Night featuring close to 30 galleries and institutions around Newport County, including Spring Bull Gallery, 55 Bellevue Ave., Newport, C.L. Sherman's Gallery at Hotel Viking, 1 Bellevue Ave., Newport, and DeBlois Gallery, 134 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown. Free. www.newportgalleries.org.

OPENING RECEPTION – Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley St., Jamestown, 6-8 p.m. The Jamestown Arts Center will hold a reception for the 2015 Members' Show, showcasing showcase artwork created by artists from the area and beyond. The juried show will run through Dec. 5. Free. 560-0979 or www.jamestownartcenter.org.

THANKSGIVING FUNDRAISER – International Yacht and Athletic Club, 536 Thames St., Newport, 6-8 p.m. The eighth annual Yachting Community Thanksgiving Fundraiser will support the Thanksgiving initiatives for Lucy's Hearth, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and the Seamen's Church Institute. \$20 donation; also accepting winter hats, coats and gloves. 439-6377.

"SIP & PAINT" FUNDRAISER – Potter League for Animals, 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, 6-8:30 p.m. The "Sip & Paint" fundraiser will include two hours of painting with professional instruction, with participants painting portraits of a dog or cat. Light refreshments and wine. \$40; proceeds benefit Potter League. 846-0592, Ext. 116, www.jjartworks.com or www.potterleague.org.

SOLARIZE AQUIDNECK MEETING – CCR1, 1 John H. Chafee Blvd., Newport, 7 p.m. Solarize Aquidneck will hold an informational meeting on solar array installations. Free. 845-9299 or www.solarizeri.com. To read about it, visit www.NewportDailyNews.com, type "Solarize" into the search field and click on the corresponding links.

FRIDAY

FILM SCREENING – Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St., Newport, 2:30 p.m. The 1946 film "The Best Years of Our Lives" centers around three World War II veterans returning home, only to discover that they and their families have been irreparably changed. Free. 847-8720, Ext. 208 or www.newportlibraryri.org.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING – Conanicut Grange/Senior Center, 6 West St., Jamestown, 7-9 p.m. Dances will be lightly prompted by BJ Whitehouse and his wife, Christine Ariel. \$5 for individuals, \$10 for couples. 423-1574.

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

MIDDLETOWN

TODAY
Planning Board, 6 p.m., Town Hall.

PORTSMOUTH

TODAY
Arts and Culture Committee, 7 p.m. Town Hall, council chamber.

Glen Park Working Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, Planning Board room.

TIVERTON

TODAY
Cemetery Commission, 7 p.m., Senior Center.

SATURDAY

BAZAAR – Portsmouth Senior Center, 110 Bristol Ferry Road, Portsmouth, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The annual Holiday Bazaar will feature knitted items, Christmas crafts, jewelry, baked goods, a gift table, a thrift shop and kitchen, large-themed basket raffles plus a \$500 grand prize raffle. Drawings will take place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Free. 683-4106.

Also, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 525 Broadway, Newport, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Old-Fashioned Country Bazaar will feature handmade crafts, white elephants, a bake sale, a lunch counter and a silent auction. Free. 619-1414.

CRAFT FAIR – Countryview Estates, 213 Hurst Lane, Tiverton, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Crafters and vendors will be on hand selling an array of goods. Free. 816-0896.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS SERIES – Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St., Newport, 2 p.m. Emergency room Dr. Jay Baruch will read "Calling the Code" from a fictional collection titled "What's Left Out?" Q&A session to follow. Free. 847-8720, Ext. 117.

FILM – Newport Public Library, 300 Spring St., Newport, 2:30 p.m. A free screening of the film "Inside Out" (rated PG) will be held for children ages 6-12. 847-8720, Ext. 204.

POETRY READING – Redwood Library and Athenaeum, 50 Bellevue Ave., Newport, 3 p.m. A poetry reading titled "Lost Fathers: A Poetry and Prose Duet About September 11, 2001" will feature Providence College English professor emeritus Dr. Edward McCorrie reading from his new book "Pretend Ballads" inspired by the children who lost fathers on Sept. 11. Free. 847-0295, Ext. 112.

POLICE & FIRE

NEWPORT

Narcotics possession charged

Christian D.M. Rodriguez, 23, of Providence was arrested Tuesday about 4:15 p.m. on felony charges of possessing heroin and Oxycontin.

Police said they received information that a Providence man would be delivering heroin Tuesday to the Bayside Village apartment complex at 143 Third St. The man would be driving a white Honda with dealer's plates, according to the information given to police.

Detective Lt. Michael S. Naylor waited at the Pell Bridge exit ramp and saw a vehicle matching that description, police said. He followed the vehicle to Bayside Village, where the Honda drove past the complex and then made an illegal U-turn and drove into the parking lot, where two police officers were waiting in a cruiser, police said.

They called for assistance and approached the vehicle that Rodriguez was driving. Police said they found 10 bags of heroin in the driver's armrest and 18 bags of heroin in the center console.

The drugs are valued at nearly \$1,500, police said.

MIDDLETOWN

Stove fire extinguished

A kitchen fire at 81 Ashurst Ave. was quickly extinguished Wednesday about 10:30 a.m.

Fire Chief Ronald N. Doire said the fire started in the oven when grease caught fire while bacon was cooking. Firefighters put out the flames using dry chemical extinguisher, he said. The stove was destroyed and there was minor smoke damage to the kitchen, Doire said.

The two-story house is owned by Alec and Aubrielle J. Tesa, according to the website of Vision Government Solutions.

No one was hurt, the chief said, and the family was able to return to the house.

Nabbed on warrant

Shane N. Wyre, 26, of 27 Elm St., Newport, was arrested Wednesday about 1:30 a.m. on a District Court warrant charging him with failing to appear for an ability-to-pay hearing.

Police said they stopped the car he was driving on Coddington Highway, near West Main Road, and learned of the warrant during a routine background check.

BRIEFS

Holiday Bazaar set at senior center

PORTSMOUTH — The Portsmouth Senior Center, 110 Bristol Ferry Road, will host its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The bazaar will feature knitted items, Christmas crafts, jewelry, baked goods, a gift table, a thrift shop and kitchen, large-themed basket raffles plus a \$500 grand prize raffle. Drawings will take place at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

The bazaar is free and open to the public. For more information, call 683-4106.

Craft fair scheduled Saturday in Tiverton

TIVERTON — A craft fair will be held Saturday from

11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Countryview Estates, 213 Hurst Lane.

The event will feature area crafters and vendors, who will be selling an array of goods. For more information, call 816-0896.

Rogers boosters plan fall fundraiser

NEWPORT — The Rogers High School Athletic Boosters will hold its annual Fall Fundraiser on Saturday from 6-9 p.m. at the Leys/Corcoran House, 57 Ruggles Ave.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at the event benefiting the sports programs at the high school.

Admission is by donation payable to the RHS Boosters. For more information, call 835-3700 or email rogersbooster-snpt@yahoo.com.

Salute

Continued from A3

said. "What better way to show our appreciation than by serving others?"

Later his wife, Lulu, described some of the difficulties families endure while a family member is deployed.

When her husband learned that he was to be deployed, she recalled helping him pack his gear and filling out his living will.

A few days after he left, she took her 3-year-old daughter to preschool and the girl asked, "Is Daddy ever coming back alive?"

"I fought to keep a smile on my face, took her to the classroom, got back to the car and broke down," the mother said. As she spoke Wednesday, she was fighting back tears.

A few months after his deployment, the girl asked if she could sit on the driveway while her mother was cooking dinner. The mother told the girl it was too late and asked why she wanted to sit on the driveway.

"Because I want to wait for my Daddy," her daughter replied.

Lulu Vasquez recalled some of the video calls with her husband when she would make sure she did not break down in front of the camera.

"When the phone call was over, I would go to my room and cry it out," she said.

Sgt. Vasquez is stationed at the Aviation Logistics Tactical Information Systems School in Newport. His combat deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and a humanitarian mission to Kosovo.

He is a recipient of the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal and two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement medals.

He and his wife have four children.

After the ceremony, all gathered outside for the laying of a wreath at the veterans memorial in front of Town Hall. The

memorial is dedicated to veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Wednesday's event was a salute to the Blue Star Families and was sponsored by American Legion Post 18, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 and VFW Post 5390 and its auxiliary.

Carolyn Evans-Carbery, Project Blue Star coordinator, talked about the memorial dedicated in 2013 at the Portsmouth Free Public Library at 2658 East Main Road. The memorial seeks to ensure that all Portsmouth veterans are honored — preferably during their lifetimes.

Rhonda Ziehl, president of the Rhode Island Blue Star Moms, gave the history of that organization, which offers support to families who have a member serving in the armed forces.

Retired Army Master Sgt. Brian Sullivan explained the work of Operation Stand Down RI, which recently opened an office on Broadway in Newport.

Formed in 1993, Operation Stand Down helps homeless and at-risk veterans secure stable housing, basic human needs, education and employment services.

People attending were encouraged to donate gently used coats, new hats and gloves for distribution to veterans through Operation Stand Down.

Emil T. Cipolla asked for support for legislation to eliminate the state tax on military pensions. Only five states still tax those pensions, he said.

Noah Rousseau, of the Portsmouth High School Band, played taps. Francis Gutierrez, chaplain of American Legion Post 18, gave the benediction.

The Rhode Island Patriot Guard formed a flag line outside Town Hall before the ceremony began. Cub Scout Pack 50 of Portsmouth posted the colors and led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Carlton Johnson was master of ceremonies.

Johnson@NewportRI.com

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NATION&WORLD

Afghan allies urged U.S. military to strike hospital, evidence shows

WASHINGTON (AP) — Immediately after the U.S. killed at least 30 people in a devastating airstrike on a charity hospital, Afghanistan's national security adviser told a European diplomat his country would take responsibility because "we are without doubt, 100 percent convinced the place was occupied by Taliban," according to notes of the meeting reviewed by The Associated Press.

More than a month later, no evidence has emerged to support that assertion. Eyewitnesses told the AP they saw no gunmen at the hospital.

Instead, there are mounting indications the U.S. military relied heavily on Afghan allies who resented the internationally run Doctors Without Borders hospital, which treated Afghan security forces and Taliban alike but says it refused to admit armed men.

The new evidence includes details the AP has learned about the location of American troops during the attack. The U.S. special forces unit whose commander called in the strike was under fire in the Kunduz provincial governor's compound a half-mile away from the hospital, according to a former intelligence official who has reviewed documents describing the incident. The commander could not see the medical facility — so couldn't know firsthand whether the Taliban were using it as a base — and sought the attack on the recommendation of Afghan forces, the official said.

Members of the unit have told Rep. Duncan Hunter, a California Republican who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, that they were unaware their target was a functioning hospital until the attack was over, said Joe Kasper, Hunter's spokesman.

Looking ahead, the strike raises questions about whether the U.S. military can rely on intelligence from Afghan allies in a war in which small contingents of Americans will increasingly fight with larger units of local forces.

Also at issue is how the target was vetted. American commanders, with sophisticated information technology at their disposal, allowed the strike to go forward



Associated Press file photo

The charred interior of the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, is seen Oct. 16 after being hit by a U.S. airstrike. Afghan authorities apparently were convinced the hospital was occupied by Taliban.

despite reports in their databases that the hospital was functioning. Even if armed Taliban fighters had been hiding inside, the U.S. acknowledges it would not have been justified in destroying a working hospital filled with wounded patients.

Jailani, a 31-year-old mechanic who uses only one name, says he was at the hospital to see his brother-in-law, Ibrahim, who was admitted two days before the airstrike.

"On the day of the attack I was in the hospital from 9 a.m. until 5 a.m. During that time, the Taliban came in without guns, as patients or accompanying their patients, or sometimes they came to take their dead out," he said. "They did not have permission to enter the hospital with their guns."

President Barack Obama has apologized for the attack. The Pentagon has said it was a mistake that resulted from both human and technical errors, and it is investigating, along with NATO and the Afghan government.

"No other nation in the history of warfare has gone to the lengths we do to avoid civilian casualties," Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said in a statement. "And when we make a mistake, we will not only own up to it, we will also scrutinize all of the facts to learn from them so that it never happens again."

The attack by an AC-130 gunship came after days of heavy fighting in the northern Afghanistan city. About 35 members of the 3rd Special Forces Group had been helping about 100 Afghan special forces soldiers retake Kunduz from the Taliban, the former U.S. intelligence official said. From their position in the governor's compound, they came under heavy assault by Taliban fighters, and sought to use air power to destroy the Taliban's remaining command and control nodes around the city.

The Afghans insisted the hospital was one of those command centers, and urged that it be destroyed, the former official said.

Jet in crash gave no call of distress

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Seven associates of a Florida real estate investment company were on the second day of a multicity Midwestern trip to look at property for potential shopping centers when their small jet crashed into an Ohio apartment house, killing all nine people onboard.

The crash Tuesday afternoon in Akron — 2 miles from the small airport where the plane was to land — killed two executives and five employees at Pebb Enterprises, a Boca Raton-based company that specializes in shopping centers. The two pilots also were killed.

Another pilot who had just landed at the airport reported hearing no distress calls despite being on the same communications frequency as the aircraft that went down, the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday.

The NTSB recovered the downed plane's cockpit voice recorder, which was being sent to a lab in Washington.

Investigators also reviewed surveillance video from a construction company that showed the plane coming in along the tops of trees and banking to the left before it crashed and exploded into flames and a cloud of black smoke, said Bella Dinh-Zarr, vice chairman of the NTSB.

The left wing hit the ground first before the plane crashed into the apartment house, she said.

Officials haven't released names of the victims, but family members at the crash scene said the dead included 50-year-old Diane Smoot, who was with the group from Pebb Enterprises.

"Our hearts are broken this morning with the news of the tragic accident that took the lives of two principals and five employees of Pebb Enterprises," said a statement posted Wednesday on the company website. "We are shocked and deeply saddened for the families, colleagues and friends of those who perished."

The 10-seat Hawker H25 business jet clipped utility wires and crashed into the four-unit apartment building, sparking a fire that destroyed the building, Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Bill Haymaker said. Nobody was home at any of the apartments.

Georgia man sues police after 29 years wrongly jailed

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia man says he was frightened into pleading guilty for a murder he didn't commit after police dangled him off a bridge three decades ago, brought charges against his parents and threatened him with the death penalty.

Timothy R. Johnson was 22 in September 1984 when police arrested him and charged him in the killing of a convenience store clerk shot during a robbery in the city of Warner Robins. He pleaded guilty in December of that year — even though he says he didn't commit the crime. He was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2006, the Georgia Supreme Court overturned Johnson's conviction, saying there was nothing to indicate he understood his right not to incriminate himself and his right to confront witnesses.

It took seven more years before he was finally tried and was able to make his case before a jury, which found him not guilty on all charges.

He filed a federal civil rights lawsuit Monday alleging Warner Robins police officers and Houston County sheriff's deputies arrested him without probable cause and participated in malicious prosecution against him. During his 29 years at Georgia State Prison and in the Houston County jail, he was placed in a cramped, windowless cell in solitary confinement

'It was like being in a bad dream, except you know you're not dreaming.'

TIMOTHY R. JOHNSON

speaking of his time in prison for a murder he did not commit

for at least part of the time and was given little access to exercise or interaction with other people, the lawsuit says.

At the state prison, he suffered beatings once or twice a week by a group of guards known as the "goon squad," the lawsuit says.

"It was like being in a bad dream, except you know you're not dreaming," Johnson said.

Department of Corrections spokeswoman Gwendolyn Hogan said she could not comment on the alleged conduct. Houston County Sheriff Cullen Talton, whose office oversees the county jail, said he hadn't seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment. Other local officials made similar remarks or didn't return calls.

The lawsuit makes claims including cruel and unusual punishment, due process violations and malicious prosecution. It asks for a jury trial and seeks compensatory and punitive damages.

About 100 miles south of Atlanta, Warner Robins is home to Robins Air Force Base.

Africa pushed to take migrants back

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — The European Union pressed African leaders on Wednesday to take back thousands of people who do not qualify for asylum, as overwhelmed Slovenia began building a razor-wire border fence to keep migrants at bay, raising tensions with neighboring Croatia.

Sweden, struggling to manage the influx too, became the latest EU nation to announce the introduction of temporary border controls, as of today.

According to the International Organization for Migration, almost 800,000 people have entered Europe by sea this year. The EU predicts that 3 million more could arrive by 2017.

The Europeans say most Africans are coming in search of work and should be sent home, but many deliberately arrive without documents and must wait months before they are taken back.

At an EU-run summit in Malta, African leaders are set to commit "to cooperate with the EU on return and admission, notably on travel documentation," according to the latest draft of an "Action Plan" being drawn up.

The president of Niger — a major transit route for Africans heading to lawless Libya in the hopes of crossing the Mediterranean to Europe — was cautious about opening the floodgates for people to return.

"We are open to talk about it. Everything will depend on the conditions that will be put in place for when they arrive," President Mahamadou Issoufou told reporters in the Maltese capital Valletta, adding that the best method of solving Europe's migration crisis is to attack the root causes forcing people to leave in the first place.

"We can put security measures in place, but the flow will

remain difficult to stop as long as we don't take measures to reduce poverty," he said.

The EU is working closely with Niger to stem the flow of migrants toward Libya, and ultimately to Europe. It is also trying to seal deals with Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. One was signed with Ethiopia as the two-day summit began.

The move gives Ethiopia — a major hub for people trying to reach Europe — access to money from a 1.8 billion euro (\$1.9 billion) trust fund.

But the head of the African Union expressed concern that moving on returns too quickly might result in the building of reception centers where people are held until they can be granted asylum or be sent home.

Such centers, "whatever we call them, will become de-facto detention centers," AU chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said.



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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Courtyard Marriott, Middletown
9 Commerce Drive
Middletown, RI
Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Join us in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the RAB and learn about where we started from and where we are today.

Meet fellow citizens and representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Help us plan studies and restorations of cleanup sites

For additional information and our schedule, go to the RAB Internet Web Site at www.rabnewportri.org. Additional information is available at the Navy's Internet Web Site at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil>.

If you have any questions, please call 401.841.7671.

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Rob Rogers | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

GUEST VIEW

Rebranding state is huge opportunity

By Stefan Pryor



Stefan Pryor is Rhode Island's secretary of commerce.

Rhode Islanders know the abundance of tourist attractions that exist within an hour's drive of home. From the mansions of Newport to the historic streets of Providence's College Hill to the beaches of South County, the Ocean State is an ideal vacation destination.

But our tourism industry has not achieved its full potential because our first-rate tourism assets have escaped the attention of vast numbers of potential visitors. Rhode Island has, for too long, underinvested in promoting our state as a tourist destination. In 2014, we spent less than \$500,000 on state-wide tourism marketing, by far the least amount of any state. This pales in comparison to the amount our neighbors spent on tourism marketing last year — Massachusetts spent \$16 million, Connecticut \$13 million. Simply put, we've fallen behind when it comes to tourist attraction.

Thanks to the efforts of Gov. Gina Raimondo, Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, and House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, this year's state budget earmarked \$5 million for a robust statewide branding and marketing effort worthy of our state.

Today, the development of this campaign is well underway. The governor recently announced the selection of a three-firm marketing team that will design and execute a top-notch statewide tourism and business attraction campaign. Milton Glaser, the iconic creator of the "I Love New York" campaign, will be responsible for developing a compelling statewide brand. International powerhouse HAVAS PR will use its world-class advertising and public relations expertise to effectively deploy this brand. Finally, Rhode Island's own Epic Decade will leverage ground-level, cutting edge knowledge of our state and our economy to help tell a story that is authentically Rhode Island.

Our well-established regional tourism councils, like Discover Newport, are essential to this effort. These

groups have the local knowledge and experience that are critical to our efforts. This is a point that Senate President Weed has correctly emphasized. She has worked tirelessly and passionately to ensure the creation of a Rhode Island tourism effort that makes sense for the state and its regions.

Indeed, our new marketing team will be working closely with the regional tourism councils to ensure that the final product presents Rhode Island effectively as a state while faithfully representing the unique assets and advantages of our different regions in the final product. This fully integrated brand will enhance all of our regions' marketing efforts.

In addition to visitors, the time is now for us to market our state to businesses and developers. We need to advertise our improving fiscal health, increasingly competitive tax landscape and potent new business incentives — in combination with our prime Northeastern location and well-educated workforce — to raise our state's visibility to those considering relocation of a business. As a hub of our defense-based industries, Aquidneck Island will figure heavily in this part of our effort as well.

By early in the new year, we will be ready to roll out a statewide campaign that will market Rhode Island's new brand beyond our borders — a campaign that will showcase our state's top-flight tourist assets and renewed dedication to job growth. We are in this position — from a new budget allocation in July to a new brand in the coming months — because the governor, the Senate president, the speaker and the General Assembly have seen the need for fast action.

Rhode Island's reintroduction is just over the horizon. Stay tuned.

READERS' LETTERS

Billions for foreign military aid could be much better spent

Newport Daily News readers, you have just been slapped in the face yet again. Your Congress has just shown you exactly where you stand.

Congress will appropriate \$4 billion for the National Cancer Institute this year in an effort to find a cure for cancer, which is money well spent, as all of us have been touched by cancer in our families. But is \$4 billion for cancer research enough?

Well, consider this.

Your Congress is increasing annual aid to one foreign nation to \$5 billion per year, which is \$1 billion more than Congress will appropriate for finding a cure for cancer.

Congress will appropriate \$5 billion of taxpayer money and give it to a foreign nation; just about all of that money will be used to buy military weapons. While cutting Medicare and food stamps for America's needy, and

leaving homeless veterans to live under bridges subject to imminent collapse, your Congress is increasing annual aid to one foreign nation to \$5 billion per year, which is \$1 billion more than Congress will appropriate for finding a cure

for cancer. Does that make any sense at all?

If you ever get to question your congressman, challenge him. The next time you vote, ask yourself: Why should I vote for them? This political spending defies logic and is highly insulting. I challenge readers to justify this kind of spending, or for that matter, I challenge you to defend your voting for such characters.

Joseph Clifford, Jamestown

Design change to intersection has major flaw

As part of the Broadway reconstruction project, it looks like the intersection of Broadway and Marlborough Street will be changed from a simple "T" intersection to a more complex curved shape. Marlborough Street may end in a wide curve to the left toward City Hall. This double curve design is inherently more dangerous for cyclists, and more challenging for buses and snow plows. It eliminates several badly needed parking spaces, which could have been used for short-term parking for City Hall and local businesses.

Judith A. Byrnes, Newport

SOMETHING TO SAY?

We welcome our readers' views. Our letters policy follows:

◆ Each letter must bear the writer's full name, full address and telephone number (for verification purposes only). We will not publish a letter unless a phone number is provided.

◆ We correct errors of spelling and punctuation, and edit letters to conform to Daily News style. We may condense letters for brevity.

◆ Letters must be no more than 450 words. Proposed guest view columns must be no more than 750 words.

◆ We will run no more than two letters per author per month.

To send letters:

Mail: Letters to the Editor, The Newport Daily News
P.O. Box 420, Newport, RI 02840

Fax: 849-3306

Email: Editor@NewportRI.com

Haunted house display scared up donations

To all our haunting guests:

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all those who came to visit and support my haunted house. Scaring people with the pop-up zombie and the jumping red-eyed rat was so much fun. The "Electric Show" with my homemade electric chair proved to be a great addition this season and to watch your faces and reactions was priceless. Dr. Shivers was once again collecting donations; he thanks you too.

To Phil Sherman from The Newport Daily News, thank you for stopping by and posting my photo in the paper. We saw many new faces this year. Many of our regulars showed up as well and were not disappointed.

Easter Seals of Rhode Island was the recipient of this year's generous donations.

It was a haunting good time and I look forward to scaring everyone again next year.

Derek Patsos, "hauntrepreneur," Middletown

Carson remains a riddle wrapped in a mystery

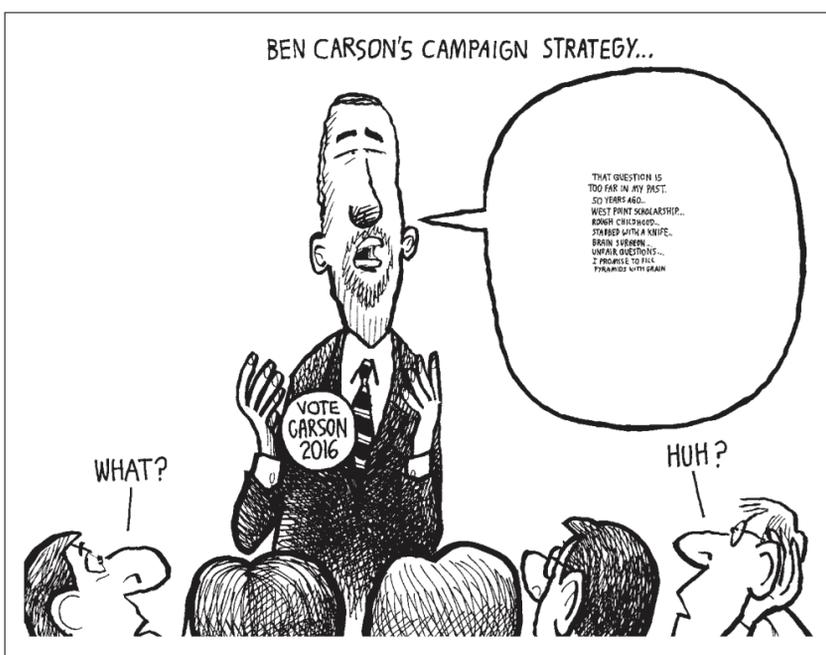
In the annals of presidential politics, it's hard to recall anyone who has tried so hard to be so ordinary.

The fascinating story of Dr. Ben Carson's attempts to unglue his lily by telling awful stories about himself — he tried to stab a classmate, later identified as a "close relative," and hit his mother with a hammer? — will be its own chapter someday, if not in a collection of strange campaigns then perhaps in a catalog of psychological classifications.

Masochistic/Narcissistic Conflation Syndrome? (I made that up.)

The illustrious Carson seems to have found his own too-good-to-be-true life story too good to be true — or to bear: 'Tis a mystery: Why would this amazing man seriously seek to belittle himself in the eyes of his admirers?

It is one thing to try to connect with people by sharing stories of common challenges or suffering. Al Gore talked of his sister's cancer; George W. Bush was candid about his drinking problem. But it is something else to disperse wildly discordant anecdotes for the sake of unpainting a



portrait. Is Carson a closet iconoclast?

Or, is it just too much being amazing?

Words like "amazing" and "remarkable" have followed Carson around all his life. Born to a teen mother, abandoned by his father, he somehow — miraculously — grew up to become a storybook pediatric neurosurgeon. The subject of a movie, he also authored a book that

home-schooled children read as part of their curriculum.

Handsome, widely recognized as a superior physician, unexcitable and thoughtful, one could hardly imagine a more impeccable example of The Good Man. But perhaps the burden of perfection and the expectations that have stalked him led him to reveal a less-perfect being.

Maybe Ben Carson is just trying to be human.

The problem with "bad" Ben Carson is that hardly any of his stories can be verified by reporters, leading to doubts about their veracity. If most people fib or exaggerate their resumes to get their dream job, what kind of man diminishes a story beloved by all? Why not just tell us Ronald Reagan was a pessimist?

On the one hand, one might say, who cares? On the other, people naturally would be

curious to know more about histories that conflict so dramatically with the persona of a man they thought they knew.

Is he telling the truth? Does his memory not serve? Stories also have changed in the tellings, which isn't unusual among storytellers. It's when you decide to run for president that they become problematic. Rather than offering clarity, Carson has defaulted to blaming the media for unfair, disproportionate vetting.

Nonsense. Why bait a hook if you don't want a fish?

Yet another odd tale has surfaced concerning a paternity claim Carson says was brought against him several years ago. Writing about it in a 2014 op-ed, he apparently was trying to make a case against "Chicago-style" politics and "how the blackmail threat operates" by reciting his personal experience. By his telling, he received a call in the operating room from the legal department at Johns Hopkins University informing him that the state of Florida was trying to garnish his wages for child support for a son he had fathered.

Carson wrote that he refused to provide a DNA sample, saying that he distrusted the government to handle things properly and feared that his DNA might show up at some murder scene.

Seriously? What is he suggesting? The case closed as mysteriously as it opened.

About 50 questions come immediately to mind, starting with: Who calls a doctor in the operating room to discuss ... anything? Who was the woman? Who was the boy? Was there ever a woman, a boy or a call?

While these and other puzzles continue to animate the media, as they should, Carson has indeed revealed himself to be a strategic iconoclast, successfully signaling to the Republican base the following targeted messages: He distrusts government; he was imperfect before faith corrected his course; the media are the enemy of the people; he's been faithful to his wife.

Most important, he's nothing like that other "Chicago-style" black male who happens to be president. Translation: I am not a superhero; I am you.

Except of course, he's not like anyone else on the planet, which is why so many have found him so appealing. He's a man of a higher order, unless he's not. In which case, one is left to wonder: Who is Dr. Ben Carson?

Kathleen Parker, winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a syndicated columnist. Send her email at kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Veterans

Continued from A1

in August 1945, were asked to lead the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Duchesneau, acting president of the United Veterans Council of Newport County and commander of VFW Post 406 of Newport, was the master of ceremonies. He read a list of the many veterans organizations participating in the observance. They included VFW Middletown Post 4487; VFW Portsmouth Post 5390; American Legion Newport Post 7; American Legion Portsmouth Post 18; American Legion Little Compton Post 37; Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans; and Ocean State Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1 of Newport.

Col. Robert Edenbach, commander of the Artillery Company of Newport, spoke briefly and noted that the company, chartered in 1741, is the oldest existing military unit in the country. Its members served as color guard and honor guard for Wednesday's ceremony, but the traditional cannon salute had to be skipped this year.

Edenbach invited everyone to visit the company's military museum in its armory at 23 Clarke St. The museum collection includes four bronze cannons cast by Paul Revere



Col. Robert Edenbach of the Artillery Company of Newport announces during the Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday at the Newport police station that the company will celebrate its 275th anniversary in February.

Dave Hansen | Staff photographer

in 1798, three Civil War artillery pieces, a letter George Washington wrote to the company in 1794 and a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, as well as numerous artifacts of significance to the state's and

the company's history.

Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano spoke and shared her reminiscences of her father, who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Among the other civic leaders present

were City Council Vice Chairman Marco T. Camacho, Councilwoman Lynn Underwood Ceglie, School Committee member Sandra J. Flowers and former mayors Paul Gaines, David Roderick and John Trifero.

"It's truly heartening to see so many people come here to honor the veterans and their families," Napolitano said.

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Police

Continued from A1

animal can be for him to do his job sometimes."

Seiler and her son said they had fun sorting through his old stuffed animals and finding old favorites, including a bunny a police officer gave Lucas a while ago. It was tough to part with some of the stuffed animals he's grown fond of over the years, Lucas said, but it's nice to know each one will make someone else happy.

"I had fun with all of them, but it's time some got a new home," said the fourth-grader at the Gaudet Learning Academy.

The bunny is not among them. That special gift stayed home with Lucas.

"It was the right thing at the right time and it meant so much to us," Seiler said of the fuzzy toy. "I don't know if we could ever donate that bunny."

The recent donation of stuffed animals is all the Middletown Police Department should need for a while, Guerriero said. Anyone looking to donate such toys should contact other area police departments, Newport Hospital, local shelters or charitable organizations, he suggested.

"I know it might be difficult for some people to understand this, but at the right time, a stuffed animal can be just like any other piece of equipment on the tool belt," Guerriero said. "You see it all the time, where a sticker or a stuffed animal helps make kids feel comfortable in a pretty stressful situation."

LOTTERIES

Wednesday's numbers

RHODE ISLAND

Numbers Midday: 5-7-6-3

Numbers Evening: 0-5-6-1

POWERBALL

4-26-32-55-64

Powerball 18

ELECTION 2016: PRESIDENT

Carson leaves out specifics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Carson got the chance he wanted to talk substance in the latest Republican debate. Be careful what you ask for.

In his turns at the microphone, the popular political neophyte bobbled more than a few facts, struggled for coherence at times and offered a nearly blank slate on what he'd do as president about the Islamic State, big banks and other leading issues of the day.

The economy-focused debate gave the eight candidates a platform to lay out their policy in more detail than before, and Carson was hardly alone in making some flubs. But for a candidate who was overshadowed by louder rivals in past debates and slammed the focus in recent days on his biography, the forum laid bare a largely details-to-come policy agenda.

On Syria and Iraq, Carson proposed both making Islamic State militants "look like losers" and destroying them, leaving unstated whether he would go after them with propaganda or ground troops. He inveighed against banking regulations while indicating he would head off another financial crisis with new, though unspecified, regulation. His flat tax ideas remain a concept with a few key elements, but a formal plan still to come.

At least to those drawn to his candidacy, "Carson communicated trustworthiness," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. "He communicated likability. He had greater difficulty communicating a command of the issues."

A closer look at Carson's answers to the questions that came his way.

ISLAMIC STATE: The Republican pack has those who would go after the Islamic State more directly than President Barack Obama, and those who shy away from more intervention. Then there is Carson, largely



Associated Press

Presidential candidate Ben Carson speaks at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., during Wednesday's Republican debate.

a mystery on how best to confront the threat and where — Iraq, Syria, both or beyond.

Early in the campaign, Carson spoke in favor of a U.S.-led combat role. In other settings, he's called for the U.S. to continue its current limited engagements in the region and its assistance for Syrian insurgent forces — in effect endorsing Obama's course even while criticizing it for being ineffective.

He also favors a no-fly zone in Syria, in general agreement with several GOP rivals and Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But the debate added little to those outlines. "I think in order to make them look like losers, we have to destroy their caliphate," he said. And, "I've learned from talking to several generals" that taking control of energy resources now in ISIS hands outside of Anbar, Iraq, could be done "fairly easily." He did not say who would challenge ISIS for that control or how.

"And then you move on from there," he said.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: Carson was asked about

possible inconsistencies in his life story. He said he had "no problem with being vetted. What I do have a problem with is being lied about." He suggested that other candidates, "like people on the other side," were getting easier treatment, singling out Clinton.

"We have to start treating people the same, and finding out what people really think and what they're made of," he said.

The idea that Clinton hasn't been subjected to intense scrutiny is head-scratching. She spent 11 hours last month testifying about the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, in the latest of eight congressional investigations into the matter. Clinton's use of a personal email account and server while secretary of state was uncovered by the mainstream media Carson criticizes for looking at his story.

Few figures in modern American politics have had their life story and career examined with such gusto as has the former first lady, ex-New York senator and two-time presidential candidate, dating back decades to the time of Whitewater and her

doings at the Rose Law Firm in Arkansas.

TAXES: Carson was questioned about his bare-bones plan to replace the current tax code with a flat tax of up to 15 percent. While many of the details are still TBD, he did offer one additional nugget when he said he would provide some sort of "rebate" for poor people.

There remain unanswered questions about who would qualify for the rebate, what Carson would count as income, how he'd treat investment income and how he'd address corporate income, among other things.

"He was on the lean side" in providing details, said Robertson Williams, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, a joint project of the nonpartisan Brookings Institution and Urban Institute.

Based on what's known of Carson's tax plan so far, Williams said, "we do know that people at the top of the income distribution would make out like bandits" and a substantial chunk of the population below them would pay more.

Carson aides say he will introduce a detailed tax-and-budget plan in coming weeks. He repeated Wednesday that he would do away with the most popular personal income tax deductions, those for mortgage interest and charitable contributions.

ABOUT THE BANKS: To a question about whether the nation's biggest banks should be broken up, Carson called for "policies that don't allow them to just enlarge at the expense of smaller entities." He then launched into a critique of the "stampede of regulations" and said, "If we can get that out, it makes a big difference." He finished the point by again speaking of new policies in the financial sector, seeming to endorse a regulatory solution while at the same time complaining about excessive rules.

CORRECTIONS

The Newport Daily News seeks to be fair and accurate in reporting the news. If you believe we have published an error, please let us know. Call the city editor at 849-3300, Ext. 254, send an email to CityDesk@NewportRI.com or write us at 101 Malbone Road, Newport, RI 02840.



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Planet

Continued from A1

colleagues reported their findings Wednesday in the journal Nature.

While the scientists say the planet is too hot for life, it's still much cooler than the rocky fireballs known to orbit stars beyond our solar system. The official term for a planet outside our solar system is exoplanet.

"If we find this pretty hot planet has managed to hang onto its atmosphere over the billions of years it's been around,

that bodes well for the long-term goal of studying cooler planets that could have life," Berta-Thompson said in a statement.

Berta-Thompson and the others estimate that GJ 1132b has a diameter of about 9,200 miles, slightly bigger than Earth. Its mass, however, is thought to be 60 percent greater than Earth's.

Its home star — GJ 1132 — is a red dwarf one-fifth the size of our sun. The planet circles every 1.6 days from just 1.4 million miles out, thus the heat wave. A slight dip in the starlight every 1.6 days was the

giveaway for the observing team.

"Our ultimate goal is to find a twin Earth," said astronomer David Charbonneau of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, one of the authors, "but along the way we've found a twin Venus."

He added in a statement: "We suspect it will have a Venus-like atmosphere, too, and if it does, we can't wait to get a whiff."

The astronomers are seeking follow-up observations from Hubble and the Spitzer Space Telescope. The James Webb Space Telescope, due to

launch in 2018, and other future craft could provide even more details.

In a companion article in Nature, the University of Maryland's Drake Deming points out astronomers will be able to study GJ 1132b with "unprecedented fidelity" given its proximity and also the small size of its star, which should minimize light interference with the measurements. That, in large part, makes it in his words "arguably the most important planet ever found outside the solar system." He was not involved with the study.

WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Today, showers, mainly after 2 p.m., windy. High near 58. Tonight, cloudy, windy with showers. Gradual clearing. Low around 52.

Saturday, sunny, breezy. High near 49. Saturday night, mostly clear. Low around 37.

Sunday, sunny. High near 53.

MARINE

Today, east wind 5-10 knots, becoming south with gusts up to 25 knots in the afternoon. Waves 1-2 feet. Tonight, southwest wind 10-15 knots

with gusts up to 30 knots. Waves around 2 feet.

TIDES, ETC.

Today's high tides: 7:43 a.m., 8:01 p.m. Low tides: 12:51 a.m., 1:36 p.m.

Today's sunrise 6:30, sunset 4:29.

Wednesday's temperatures: high 53, low 47.

NATION



President Barack Obama, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commanding general for the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, listens to the national anthem after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on Wednesday at Arlington National Cemetery.

Associated Press

Obama: Nation needs to do more for veterans

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama urged the public Wednesday to keep thinking about veterans long after the annual holiday honoring them.

At an observance at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the Department of Veterans Affairs is getting a bigger budget and making progress on entrenched problems such as veteran homelessness and a backlog of disability claims.

“Still the unacceptable problems that we’ve seen, like long wait times and some veterans not getting the timely care that they need, is a challenge for all of us if we are to match our words with deeds,” Obama said. He said his message to every veteran is “that I am still not satisfied.”

Obama said the Veterans Day federal holiday is about more than showing gratitude to veterans. “It is also a reminder

‘The unacceptable problems that we’ve seen, like long wait times and some veterans not getting the timely care that they need, is a challenge for all of us if we are to match our words with deeds.’

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

of all that they still have to give our nation, and our duty to them,” he said.

He said the country is in the midst of a new wave of veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. He asked communities and businesses to consider hiring veterans, and said some 200,000 veterans are returning to civilian life every year.

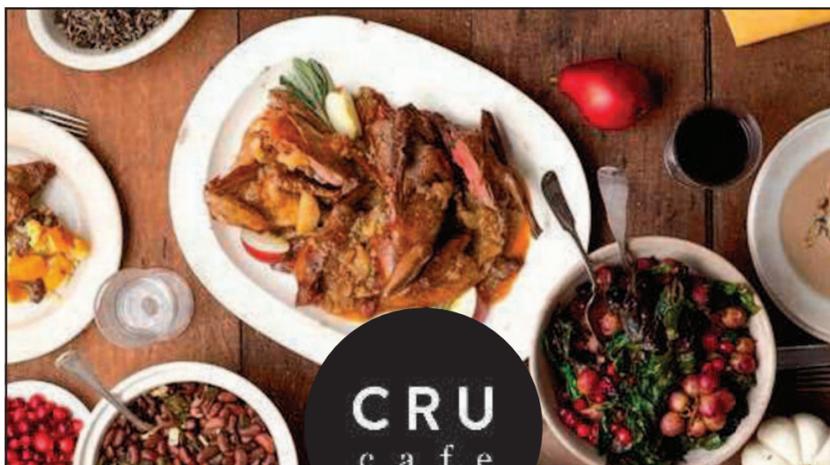
“If you want to get the job done, hire a vet,” Obama said. “They’re ready to serve and they’ll make you proud.”

The president also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and bowed his head

in a moment of silence.

Separately Wednesday, first lady Michelle Obama joined Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, to headline a luncheon for military women — active-duty service members and veterans, spouses and caregivers — at the Bidens’ official residence at the Naval Observatory.

A meal of grilled salmon, wild rice pilaf and an apple dessert was served under a tent on the Bidens’ lawn on the breezy, fall day. The event was part of Joining Forces, an ongoing initiative by the first and second ladies to support military families.



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- Movie Passes
- Fast Food Restaurants
- Old Navy, Gap, Banana Republic, JC Penney, Wal-Mart, Target, etc.
- Game Stop
- Beauty Salon or Barber Shop
- Gift Cards purchased at locally owned stores

Gift Cards for Adults

- Gas Cards, Visa or MasterCard Gift Cards
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- Coffee House Gift Cards
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Wal-Mart, Target, Banana Republic, etc.

A donation of giftwrap, tape, bows or ribbons is also greatly appreciated. These will be provided to the parent so they may wrap for their children.

In order to distribute the cards to all our clients and give them time to shop, we need them by Friday, December 11th. We are open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, so you can bring them in person to 114 Touro Street, Newport RI or drop them in the mail to the same address. Your generosity will have a positive impact in the lives of our clients.

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

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