



### SUPER BOWL BOUND

Middletown routs Narragansett to earn fifth-straight Super Bowl appearance. B1

# The Newport Daily News

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NewportDailyNews.com

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Thursday  
November 29, 2012

## New 'ghost bike' placed on Memorial

A second tribute has been placed after the first bike was removed by the state Department of Transportation.

By Sean Flynn  
Staff writer

NEWPORT — A new, all-white "ghost bike" was placed this week on Memorial Boulevard as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Elliot Kaminitz after a previous ghost bike placed there in honor of the late dentist was removed Friday.

The first bike appeared the weekend of Sept. 29-30 to keep alive the memory of Kaminitz, a longtime

practicing dentist in Newport who was hit by a car on June 19 while bicycling near Easton's Beach and died a short time later. White bikes placed at sites where bicyclists have been killed are known as "ghost bikes" and can be found around the country, some remaining in place for years.

It was unclear last week who removed the bicycle because the city manager's office, the city's Department of Public Services and local police all were unaware what happened to it. Memorial Boulevard is part of 138A, a state route, and initial contact with state officials did not result in an immediate answer.

The state Department of Transportation confirmed Wednesday that it removed the first bike.

"RIDOT received complaints about

the ghost bike on Memorial Boulevard and removed it," reads a written statement from Charles E. St. Martin III, DOT's chief of information and public relations.

"The Department is working to develop a policy to address all forms of roadside memorials, including ghost bikes. RIDOT understands the tremendous loss and grief associated with losing a loved one in a roadway accident. Any policy developed would be created with the utmost consideration of victims' families and friends while ensuring that memorials do not pose safety risks for drivers, pedestrians or those visiting roadside memorials.

"RIDOT's Office on Highway Safety, as part of its Highway Safety Performance Plan, is studying

alternatives to establish a statewide safe mourning site. This would eliminate roadside memorials and give families a safe place to honor their loved ones."

Rep. Peter Martin, D-Newport, sent email correspondence on Monday to Bob Rocchio, managing engineer in the division of traffic management and highway safety, asking that a policy be developed on such memorials. Martin asked that the following questions be addressed:

- ◆ What are the feelings of the family of the deceased?
- ◆ How will the memorial be attached and to what post?
- ◆ Exactly where will it be allowed?
- ◆ Who will maintain it?



Dave Hansen ♦ Staff photographer  
A second 'ghost bike' in honor of Elliot L. Kaminitz has been placed on Memorial Boulevard in Newport.

BIKE A6

## Branching out



A murder of crows gathers Wednesday in the trees along Eustis Avenue in Newport.

Dave Hansen ♦ Staff photographer

### NEWPORT

## School options criticized

By Sean Flynn  
Staff writer

Jennifer Hanson has a son in the first grade at Underwood School in Newport and a daughter who will be entering kindergarten next year.

She hopes to see both of them attend the new Pell Elementary School when it opens next year and that the School Department keeps its initial promise to place all pre-kindergarten through fourth-grade children in the city in the new school.

Hanson was one of several parents, teachers and administrators who spoke Wednesday during a meeting of the 14-member Pell Options Subcommittee that was formed after projected enrollment numbers for next year showed that all the children may not fit into the new school.

One option under discussion is putting all the kindergarten classes in Triplett School in

SCHOOL A6



Associated Press

### POWERBALL

## Two tickets strike gold

All eyes are on Arizona and Missouri as the hunt for winners begins.

Associated Press

The richest Powerball jackpot ever — and the second-largest top prize in U.S. lottery history — has been won. The question now becomes: Who are the lucky winners waking up to new lives as multimillionaires?

One of the two winning Powerball tickets for an estimated \$587.5 million jackpot was sold in the Kansas City area.

Missouri Lottery spokesman Gary Gonder says the winner has not yet come forward Thursday to claim the record prize, but there is no rush. The winner has 180 days to do so.

Gonder says he is traveling to the store that sold the winning ticket to help with an

expected onslaught of media attention. Missouri Lottery officials plan to announce the identity of the retailer later today.

The other winning Powerball ticket was sold in Arizona.

The Missouri Lottery says two \$1 million winning Powerball tickets were also sold in the state — one in Joplin and the other in Kansas City.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night are: 5, 16, 22, 23, 29 and Powerball of 6.

It was not clear whether the winning tickets belonged to individuals or were purchased by groups. Arizona lottery officials said early this morning they had no information on that state's winner or winners but would announce where it was sold during a news conference later in the day.

POWERBALL A6

## Business leaders: Bridge tolls would take a toll

By James A. Johnson  
Staff writer

PORTSMOUTH — The prospect that drivers may have to pay a toll to cross the Sakonnet River already is having an impact on at least one business in town.

Rick Hodges, president of Hodges Badge on East Main Road, said people from the other side of the Sakonnet River no longer are applying for jobs at the company, which manufactures ribbons, medals and rosettes.

"It's the uncertainty of whether they will have to pay tolls to come to work," Hodges said Wednesday. "That uncertainty has caused a drop in job seekers here."

He said 35 of his current 92 employees cross the Sakonnet River Bridge to and from work. Paying as much as \$4 in tolls each way — the current cash or out-of-state toll on the Pell Bridge — would have a major impact on those workers, he said.

The tolls could force Hodges Badge to transfer some of its work to its plant in Missouri, he said. Several customer service employees were recently

### WHAT'S NEXT

The state Department of Transportation will hold two public forums next week on a proposal to place tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge:

- ◆ Monday at 7 p.m. at Portsmouth High School, 120 Education Lane.
- ◆ Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Tiverton High School, 100 North Brayton Road.

### ALSO

- ◆ Now is the time to speak out against tolls. **Opinion, A7**
- ◆ Take a Sakonnet tolls economic impact survey: [www.NewportRI.com](http://www.NewportRI.com).

hired at that plant instead of in this area, he said.

"The uncertainty about tolls is certainly having an effect on recruitment," he said.

In June, the General Assembly approved as part of the state budget and Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee signed legislation

**'It's the uncertainty of whether they will have to pay tolls to come to work. That uncertainty has caused a drop in job seekers here.'**

### RICK HODGES

president of Hodges Badge in Portsmouth

that would turn over the new Sakonnet River Bridge and the Jamestown-Verrazzano Bridge to the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and allow the authority to collect tolls on the new span. The state Department of Transportation, which currently owns the Sakonnet and Jamestown bridges, and the authority, which owns the Pell and Mount Hope bridges, are conducting traffic and revenue studies as part of a federal review process.

Other people in the area foresee more drastic effects on the area if the plan becomes a reality.

Three people representing different groups in Portsmouth

TOLL A6

**COMING**  
attractions  
Some things you won't want to miss

### FRIDAY

►►► **SOPHOMORE SPEEDSTER** can turn game around in a flash.

**MIDDLETOWN SCHOOL BOARD** selects its new leaders.



### WEATHER

**35** Tonight, partly cloudy. Low around 35.

**41** Friday, partly sunny. High near 41.

Details, A6

Advice	B5
Calendar	A5
Classifieds	B6
Comics	B4
Local & State	A3
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	A7
Police & Fire	A4
Sports	B1
Television	B8



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