

HE'S BACK



Calhoun returns in UConn's win against Pitt. p.B1

WEATHER



MEGAN YOUNG

Today: Rain or snow showers with possible afternoon sun; high of 45. Details, p.B6

WESTERLY  
**THE SUN**  
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WESTERLY, R.I. SUNDAY, March 4, 2012

HOME DELIVERY \$4.75 PER WEEK \$1.75

**Group weighing storm water fees to protect local waterways**

By DALE P. FAULKNER  
Sun Staff Writer

WESTERLY — Town officials agree that the quality of local waterways must be a focus of governmental effort, but are less clear on how to ensure fouled waters are improved.

The Public Works Committee, a group that provides advice to the Town Council, is expected to develop recommendations Monday.

The recommendations could include whether to go forward with studying a proposed storm water utility — a mechanism supporters say would establish a stable source of money to be spent on improving the quality of water that runs from the ground and other surfaces into the Pawcatuck River, Little Narragansett Bay, Watch Hill Cove, Mastuxet Brook and Chapman Pond.

The committee discussed the

proposed utility and the town's current storm water practices during its meeting Thursday. Under a storm water utility, the town would develop a fee system to charge property owners for contributing to storm water, or the rain that runs off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, driveways, highways, parking lots, packed gravel roads and other hard surfaces. That water flows into storm drains found

on the side of roads and in parking lots.

Richard Smith, a committee member and chairman of the Board of Finance, said the town should conduct a detailed analysis of current practices before it devotes more time to a storm water utility. He recommended subjecting the current cost of storm water management, which officials say is about \$910,000 per year, to the scrutiny of the town

budget process for two years.

Under this scenario the cost of various storm water management efforts would appear as separate line items in the town budget. For instance, the cost of street sweeping, a storm water management practice, would appear as a line item that can be tracked annually.

The town's current storm water ordinance and compliance with it See **OPTIONS**, page A6

**Sharing the Narragansett culture**



CHRISTINE CORRIGAN / The Sun

Lorén Spears, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, is pushing for a greater focus on the culture of the Narragansett Indian Tribe in Rhode Island schools. She says lessons should be incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. See more photos in SunPhotos at [thewesterlysun.com](http://thewesterlysun.com).

**TRIBE'S FILM, EDUCATION TOOLS OFFER NEW PERSPECTIVE**

By CASSIDY SWANSON  
Sun Staff Writer

Nods to the Narragansett Indian Tribe are present all around Rhode Island.

Towns, streets, bodies of water and islands take their names from Narragansett words. Local favorites like jonnycakes, quahog chowder and strawberries are all traditional Narragansett foods.

But in terms of their culture, many Narragansetts feel that, in their tribe's home state, they are invisible.

Thanks to a grant from the Rhode Island Council on the Humanities, the tribe hopes to be given greater recognition in the state. The grant paid for the creation of a curriculum to be used in conjunction with the film, "Places, Memories, Stories & Dreams: The Gifts of Inspiration."

Narragansett Lorén Spears, executive director of the Tomaquag Indian Memorial Museum in Exeter, hopes the new material will help educate local youth about

the Narragansetts — something she did not have when she was in school.

She remembers "being in a history class during my elementary days and actually reading that I supposedly didn't exist, that my family didn't exist, that my people didn't exist," Spears notes in the curriculum.

The film features traditional Narragansett stories and historical recollections of Paulla Dove-Jennings (native

See **CULTURE**, page B4

**Bill aims to limit 'secret' gas tax**

■ More than 20 cents added to each gallon of gas in Connecticut amounts to "tax gouging," says state Sen. Len Suzio.

By CHRIS KEEGAN  
Sun Staff Writer

PAWCATUCK — It's known as the "secret" tax among Connecticut gas station owners, and today it adds more than 20 cents to the price of a gallon of gas at Evans Mobil, according to station dealer Ellison Evans.

With gas prices approaching \$4 per gallon, Evans said the gross receipts tax on petroleum is contributing to the squeeze on consumers' wallets. It's levied atop the state's 25 cents-per-gallon excise tax — and because it's calculated on a percentage basis, the tax increases as the price of gas jumps.

"The average gas customer in Connecticut does not know they're paying the tax," said Evans, a Westerly resident who has run the West Broad Street station for nearly 40 years. "That's why the dealers call it a secret tax."

Last month, state Sen. Len Suzio, R-13th District, filed legislation that would cap the gross receipts tax and stop the state from collecting surplus revenue when gas prices skyrocket. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

"I was like most people in Connecticut," said Suzio, who represents Cheshire, Middlefield, Middletown and Meriden. "I had no idea there were two taxes on gasoline until I got up here [to Hartford]."

The gross receipts tax is levied as a 7-percent surcharge on the price of wholesale fuel; that surcharge is handed down from suppliers to consumers. It's slated to increase to 8.1 percent in 2013.

"This is not only double taxation," Suzio said. "The gross receipts tax is also calculated in a different way. It's not a fixed amount per gallon. As the price goes up, the state benefits from the misery of families who have to pay for gas."

"In effect, Connecticut has been tax gouging people and they don't even know it," he added.

Suzio said the state has been reaping windfalls in extra revenue

See **GAS**, page A5

**Westerly High School takes up Rachel's Challenge**

By CYNTHIA DRUMMOND  
Sun Staff Writer

WESTERLY — Rachel's Challenge is bringing its message of kindness and compassion to Westerly.

On Thursday, students in grades eight through 12 will gather at Westerly High School for two special assemblies. That evening, parents and other members of the community will attend an event at Westerly Middle School. The intent of

both gatherings will be the same: to create a "chain reaction" of kindness at school and throughout the community.

Rachel's Challenge is a national initiative that began after the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado on April 20, 1999. Rachel Scott was the first person to be killed. She was just 17.

Rachel's father, Darrell, founded Rachel's Challenge in memory of his daughter, who is remembered for her caring per-

sonality and empathy for others. "She was ready to stand up for anyone she felt was mistreated," he said.

The program, which organizers say has already reached more than 1.5 million students across the country, is aimed at preventing bullying and violence by inspiring participants to change the way they treat others.

With assistance from certified presenters, students are encouraged to open up and tell

their stories of feeling alone or out of place. The group says it has drastically reduced bullying, and prevented more than 350 suicides since 2008.

Stacey Letiz, a teacher, and Terry Castagna, a counselor, both members of the high school's anti-bullying task force, laid the groundwork that made it possible to bring Rachel's Challenge to Westerly.

"Stacey and I decided to write the grant for Rachel's Challenge," Letiz said. See **CHALLENGE**, page A6

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Baby Boomers grow more likely to adopt 'work til you drop' attitude. p.D1

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# OBITUARIES

**inBrief**  
NORTHEAST

## Deaths

**Charlestown**

**Ferraro, John F.**

**Lakeland, Fla.**

**Booker, Shirley P.**

**Mystic**

**Goodchild, Marjorie L.**

**Westerly**

**Johnson, William H.**

The Westerly Sun publishes this list free of charge as a reader service. Additional information in the obituaries and death notices provided by funeral homes allows families to include, in paid space, the material they deem appropriate.

## William H. Johnson

William H. Johnson, 70, of White Rock Road, Westerly, R.I., died peacefully on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at The Westerly Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Rosetta (Burdick) Johnson.

Funeral arrangements, which are incomplete, have been entrusted to the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, 121 Main St., Westerly, R.I.

## Buckler-Johnston FUNERAL HOME

## Romney wins Washington GOP caucuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney rolled to a double-digit victory in Washington state's Republican presidential caucuses Saturday night, his fourth campaign triumph in a row and a fresh show of strength in the run-up to 10 Super Tuesday contests in all regions of the country.

Rick Santorum and Ron Paul battled for second place, while Newt Gingrich ran a distant fourth.

Romney's victory came on the heels of twin primary triumphs over Santorum earlier in the week in hard-fought Michigan and lightly contested Arizona, as well as a narrow win over Paul in Maine caucuses earlier in February.

Returns from caucuses in 54 percent of Washington state's precincts showed Romney with 38 percent of the vote, while Paul and Santorum each had 24 percent. Gingrich was drawing 8 percent.

## ★ Gas

from page A1

— \$72 million in 2010, and \$102 million last year — and using it for general expenditures. The tax was intended to fund transportation projects like road and bridge repairs, he said. "In the last 30 months, the state got over \$100 million in extra taxes than what was budgeted for," Suzio said.

Connecticut anticipated collecting \$273 million from the gross receipts tax last year, but ended up with

Marjorie L. Goodchild, 91, died on Feb. 27, 2012, in Belmont, Mass. She was the wife of Theodore F. Goodchild, her husband of 70 years, who predeceased her by three weeks. She lived at StoneRidge, Mystic, Conn.

Born in Providence on March 29, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Virginia Leete. She graduated from the Katherine Gibbs School in New York. She spent most of her life in Warwick, R.I., prior to retiring with her husband to Vero Beach, Fla., in 1982. They were residents of Shelter Harbor, Westerly, during the summer months.

Mrs. Goodchild was a pioneer in many areas of volunteer work, including being the first woman on the vestry of St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich, R.I., as well as one of the first volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program in the area. She was also involved in survey work conducted by a Brown University sociology professor. This gave her an opportunity to meet new people, which she enjoyed immensely.

Shirley Parks Booker, 77, of the 100 block of West Beacon Road, Lakeland, Fla., passed into the loving arms of Jesus Christ on Feb. 23, 2012, in her home. A native of Hackettstown, N.J., she was born on July 2, 1934 to the late Stillman Hiram Parks and Mildred Stowell Parks.

After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art in June 1956, Shirley worked at the Boston advertising agency Stilton Brothers-Calloway-Hoffman. In 1972, Shirley moved to Lakeland, Fla., with her parents and only child, Stephen R. Booker.

From 1973 until 2009, Shirley continued her artistic expression working in deli service and presentation, printing services and visual merchandising at Publix Supermarkets in Lakeland. Shirley actively encouraged and supported her son in Sunday school, church attendance and youth activities at Lakeland United Methodist

John F. Ferraro, 75, of East Beach Road, Charlestown, passed away at The Westerly Hospital on Friday, March 2, 2012. He was the husband of the late Shirley (Barber) Ferraro.

Born in Westerly, he was a son of the late Michael and Aurelia Ferraro.

John was employed as a body man for Hoxie Buick for many years. He was an avid New York Yankee fan who also served with the National Guard.

\$334.5 million in June. Of that sum, \$169.2 million was deposited into the state's General Fund, and \$165.3 million was set aside for transportation spending, according to Thomas Fiore, a fiscal and policy director in Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management.

This year, the state anticipated it would collect \$320 million, but has already raised its estimate to \$363.5 million.

Michael Fox, executive director of the Stamford-based Gasoline and Automotive Service Dealers of America, said Suzio's bill is a good start — but doesn't go far enough. His group represents about 450 gas stations in Connecticut, and lobbies at the Statehouse.

"We need to take it from a percentage-based amount to a fixed-cents-per-gallon amount," said Fox, a former Mobil retailer. "That's a real cap. That way, business owners would pay the same tax amount. Taxes should be the same for everybody."

As of Jan. 1, Connecticut levied 46.8 cents per gallon in state taxes on gasoline,

## Marjorie L. Goodchild



Marjorie L. Goodchild

A real leader, she was president of the East Greenwich Garden Club, which gave her an opportunity to be involved in flower arranging, a hobby she continued well into her eighties.

Wherever she went, Mrs. Goodchild was interested in cultivating new friendships, both in this country and abroad. While living in Poland for a summer with her husband, who was doing volunteer work, she struck up a conversation with a woman in a flower market because she spoke

## Shirley P. Booker



Shirley P. Booker

Temple. Shirley was renowned at the Church youth suppers for her preparation of hand crafted Cuban sandwiches.

Shirley is survived by her only child Stephen R. Booker, his wife Maria S. Booker and their two children, Joel S. Booker and Krista E. Booker, of Chesapeake, Va.; Stephen's father, Richard E. Booker of Auburn, Mass.; and her cousin, Barbara S. Higgins and her husband Harry of Pawcatuck, Conn.,

## John F. Ferraro

He is survived by a son, John F. Ferraro, Jr., and his wife Donna of Ashaway; a sister, Elinor Dickey of Westerly; and two grandchildren, Jonathan Ferraro of North Kingstown and Amanda Ferraro of Ashaway. He also leaves his cat, D.J.

In addition to his wife and parents, John was predeceased by his brothers, Arthur "Gat" Ferraro, Michael Ferraro, Joseph Ferraro and James Fer-

English. Thus began a friendship that lasted for many years and spanned several continents. Gifted with an amazing memory, one of her hobbies was remembering the birthdays of both friends and acquaintances alike, a talent that never ceased to impress people.

More recently, Mrs. Goodchild was head of the Welcoming Committee and the Social, Recreation and Education committees, as well as a member of the chorus at StoneRidge, a retirement community in Mystic, Conn., where she lived until her death.

Mrs. Goodchild is survived by her two children, Barbara J. Goodchild and Bruce L. Goodchild, both of Cambridge, Mass.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service to be held at Christ Church, 7 Elm Street, Westerly, R.I. 02891 on Saturday, April 21 at 11 a.m. The service will also celebrate the life of her late husband, Theodore F. Goodchild. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Christ Church.

and their sons Todd and Mark. Additional survivors include Susan and Jim Whitley of Stafford, Va., and Marshall A. Stowell of Washington, D.C.

Shirley was predeceased by a granddaughter Grace Sarina Booker and by a cousin, Marshall Stowell, retired Captain U.S. Navy, and his wife Patricia Stowell.

A graveside service for the family will be held on Saturday, March 10 at the New Fernwood Cemetery in Kingston, R.I. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Shepherd Hospice in Lakeland, Fla., or to a charity of the donor's choice. The family would like to thank the phenomenal level of care provided by Good Shepherd Hospice, Home Instead (skilled care givers) and Maxim Healthcare Services (RN and LPN services for medications), and a special thank you to Shirley's longtime friend, Ida Mitchell — all of whom allowed her to live out her final days at home.

raro, as well as his sisters, Mary Ferraro and Nancy Locke.

Visiting hours will be held on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Gaffney-Dolan Funeral Home, 59 Spruce St., Westerly. A funeral service will take place in the funeral home on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Burial will follow in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Westerly.

For online condolences, please go to [www.gaffney-dolanfuneralhome.com](http://www.gaffney-dolanfuneralhome.com).

\$41,000 per day. A 5-cent increase in the gross receipts tax alone cost drivers \$205,000 per day in added fuel costs, it said.

Evans said high gas prices hurt dealers, too. Because his station sits near the Rhode Island border, it has to compete with Westerly-area stations that collect just 33 cents-per-gallon in state taxes. (Westerly-area prices have not always reflected the tax difference, and at times have been closer to Connecticut's prices.)

He pointed to a dip in demand during the month of February, when the Pawcatuck station pumped about 800,000 gallons less than February 2011. The business only earns about 12 cents of profit per gallon when a customer pays with cash, he said.

The station was purchased last year by Alliance Energy LLC, which owns stations throughout southern New England. The new owners don't offer zone pricing discounts that once helped the station set competitive prices based on its location, Evans said.

[cheegan@thewesterly-sun.com](mailto:cheegan@thewesterly-sun.com)

## Mass. bill would curb how long dogs can be chained

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts lawmakers are weighing a bill that would forbid pet owners from leaving their dogs tied up outside for more than eight hours at a time.

That includes being tied to a pole, tree or dog house. The bill requires that any tether used to restrain a dog be specifically designed for pets. It would ban the use of logging chains and other types of lines.

Penalties would range from a \$100 fine for the first offense to a \$300 fine and potential loss of the dog to a shelter for the third offense. The bill is one of dozens being heard Tuesday afternoon at the Statehouse by the Judiciary Committee.

## N.Y. weighs expanding DNA bank to all criminals

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York lawmakers are again debating expanding the state's DNA database — this time to include samples from every person convicted of a crime. Critics say that could lead to tainted evidence and provide a secret stash of information that favors prosecutors.

Barry Duceman of New York's DNA crime laboratory says he can't recall a single instance in 16 years when bad DNA data linked an innocent person to a crime. He said the lab's work has helped police solve thousands of cases.

All states take DNA from most felons and most get samples from people convicted of misdemeanor sex crimes. Only California requires DNA from all offenders.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Senate Republicans want DNA samples taken from every person convicted of a felony or penal misdemeanor.

## FBI may probe congressman's fundraising

NEW YORK (AP) — The FBI is considering whether to open an investigation into allegations that followers of a New York City rabbi made illegal campaign contributions to U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm, according to a law enforcement official.

Followers of Rabbi Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto, an influential figure in Israel with a headquarters in Manhattan, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Grimm when he first ran for office in 2010, according to campaign records. Some donors have since said that they broke rules to donate more cash to the Republican's campaign than allowed by law.

Pinto hasn't commented publicly, but former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, a Democrat who had been close to the rabbi, said that Pinto approached him in the fall of 2010 to complain that Grimm had extorted him for the money.

## Cuomo pushes to expand broadband Internet

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Andrew Cuomo wants to devote \$25 million of a job creation fund to expand broadband Internet access to rural upstate and underserved urban areas of New York that could create jobs and potentially provide far more cellular telephone coverage to the Adirondacks.

Cuomo is working with legislators to devote \$25 million from the \$75 million New York Works Economic Development Fund in his proposed budget.

The Legislature would have to approve that use of the job creating fund as well as a law that would allow partnerships with private companies to implement high-speed broadband coverage. Some areas of New York, including in the Adirondacks, don't even have cellphone coverage.

## Expert: Kids likely not harmed in CVS pill mix-up

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI  
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Children who may have taken breast cancer treatment medication mistakenly distributed by a New Jersey pharmacy instead of prescribed fluoride pills likely won't suffer any health problems, a pharmaceutical expert said Saturday.

CVS Caremark officials say only a few children ingested pills for breast cancer treatment that they mistakenly received, and company investigators are still working to determine how and why the errors occurred at the pharmacy in Chatham. The pharmacy has acknowledged improperly dispensing Tamoxifen instead of chewable fluoride tablets to children in as many as 50 families between Dec. 1 and Feb. 20. "Fortunately, it's very unlikely that this specific drug would cause any serious or adverse effects when used

for only a short periods of time," said Daniel Hussar, a professor with the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences.

CVS said it had spoken with or left messages for every family whose child was dispensed a 0.5 mg fluoride prescription from its Chatham location within the past 60 days. The company issued a statement Friday that said it was "deeply sorry for the mistake that occurred," although it did not explain how the mistake happened.

Officials say the two pills are similar looking but have distinctively different tastes. Fluoride helps prevent tooth decay and is usually prescribed by dentists for children, while Tamoxifen is used to treat breast cancer and blocks the female hormone estrogen.

The state attorney general's office has begun a preliminary investigation into the matter.

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