



BROS
for
LIFE

Dude, what's a bromance?
Columnist Jonathan Comey explains the art of the close male friendship. **TRENDS B1**

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Standard-Times

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY

SouthCoastTODAY.com

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New Bedford



Massachusetts

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HIGH LOW
82 60

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FAIR Plan under fire for rate hike proposal

The FAIR Plan, which provides insurance in high risk or coastal areas where traditional insurance companies are reluctant to do business, wants a rate hike. But New Bedford residents and officials fear that could hurt the community's image. **A11**

9.9%

Proposed hike for New Bedford policyholders

5,385

City homeowner policies under the FAIR Plan in '11

Attorney general sues NOAA over fish quotas

Martha Coakley files a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging the legality of drastic new quota cutbacks in the Northeast fishery, which she called the "death penalty" for the industry. **B7**

ALSO EU backs legislation to protect cod from commercial extinction. **A8**

School budget OK'd despite public outcry

Emotions run high at Thursday's hearing on the proposed New Bedford school district budget, where the School Committee unanimously votes to approve a plan calling for drastic layoffs. **A2**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This artistic rendering shows KG Urban Associates' proposed casino at Cannon Street station in New Bedford.

Casino license applications due Sept. 30

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission's plan to award a license for Southeastern Mass. by October 2014 puts the area about six months behind the process in the state's other two regions. **B7**

SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM

What do you think? Is a casino right or wrong for New Bedford? Take our poll at www.southcoasttoday.com.

Plus, read the full statements from Mayor Jon Mitchell on concerns about a casino and a response from Andrew M. Stern of casino developer KG Urban Enterprises at www.southcoasttoday.com/casino.

OPINION

OUR VIEW

The Department of Transitional Assistance has to control welfare abuse. **A4**

ONLINE

WEB VIDEO

Watch: Exploring the Ocean Explorium. SouthCoastToday.com/video

On the run from the heat



PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES

Tom Forcier uses a water gun Thursday to give relief from the hot weather to Rochester Memorial School students participating in the third annual Fitness Challenge. Thursday's high temperature reached 87 degrees, while today's high is forecast to be 82 with plenty of sun. For a full weather report for the next few days, see Page A2.



SIMÓN RÍOS/THE STANDARD-TIMES

All signs point to lasting success

Richard Poyant, president of Poyant Signs, speaks Thursday at the 75th anniversary celebration of his company, which has remained in the same family for generations. **Story on Page A2**

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INSIDE TODAY

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“A lot of the people (working) here are people from the community.”

NEW BEDFORD CITY COUNCILOR JIM OLIVEIRA



SIMÓN RIOS/THE STANDARD-TIMES

Jeff Cain, a project manager at Poyant Signs, leads a tour through the company's factory in New Bedford Business Park Thursday. The firm is the largest sign manufacturer in New England.

Poyant Signs marks 75 years in grand fashion

By SIMÓN RIOS
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NEW BEDFORD

NEW BEDFORD — When Maurice J. Poyant started his sign company in 1938, he could hardly have envisioned its anniversary event 75 years — and three generations — later.

In 1970, his son Len took over Poyant Signs, followed by his son Richard, the current president.

“A lot of the people (working) here are people from the community,” said City Councilor Jim Oliveira at the 75th anniversary celebration held at the sign company Thursday night.

Oliveira, who represents Ward 1 where the company is located, said he has been friends with the family for more than 30 years.

“They’re helping by providing value-added jobs, and (allowing workers to) be able to buy homes and purchase cars,” he said.

Visitors to the event in New Bedford Business Park were treated to an open bar and appetizer spreads, as company employees hosted tours of Poyant’s 21st-century facilities.

Many of the tasks previously completed by hand are now done by advanced machines, the guides explained, as the neon lights of signs past have been overtaken by LEDs.

The company — “the largest sign manufacturer in New England,” according to its website

— serves an array of clients representing household names, such as CVS and Irving.

Richard Poyant, the company’s president, addressed the crowd following a speech by his father, Len.

“Everyone that is here tonight, and those who couldn’t make it, have had an impact on our company,” he said. “You, our customers and friends, our staff and former staff, our families, our vendor partners and government representatives.”

Neil Mello, Mayor Jon Mitchell’s chief of staff, read a statement on behalf of the mayor applauding the company for its 75th anniversary.

“Of family-owned businesses,

only 40 percent survive a first generation,” Mello said. “Of those remaining businesses, only 12 percent survive to a second generation. And only 3 percent of family-owned businesses survive to a third generation — so here’s to beating the odds, Poyant Signs.”

Hugh Dunn of U.S. Rep. Bill Keating’s office read from a declaration Keating gave on the House floor.

“Although it has since outgrown its (original) Acushnet Avenue location, Poyant Signs still calls New Bedford home, and it is headquartered today in a modern 45,000-square-foot facility located in New Bedford Business Park,” he said.

School panel OKs proposed budget

By NATALIE SHERMAN
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NEW BEDFORD — Angry parents said Thursday the School Committee has “failed” in its duties as they called for revisions to the budget proposal that would save positions, particularly in the arts.

NEW BEDFORD — “Once again you have failed each and every one of our kids,” said parent Joanne Marques. “You should feel ashamed and embarrassed.”

“These cuts should come from the top,” said Armanda Arruda, 48, whose daughter attends fourth grade at the Ashley School. “We are the ones that voted you in and we are the ones that can vote you out.”

Despite the outcry, after more than three hours, the School Committee unanimously voted to approve a \$109 million budget proposal for the 2013-14 school year; it would eliminate 250 positions, requiring layoffs of more than 100 teachers. Among the positions slated to be cut are eight fine arts teachers, four nurses, three librarians and a position at Sea Lab.

After waiting more than an hour after the scheduled start of the public hearing, members of the audience decried those cuts in testimony that became tearful at times. “I feel like I’ve been cheated,” said New Bedford High School junior and Drama Club vice president Cassie Poirier, 16. “If I had known everything I loved about New Bedford High was going to be destroyed, I would have chosen a different school.”

“I just can’t argue more strongly for not cutting these programs,” said Cara Zajac, a New Bedford High graduate who is now a junior at Tulane University receiving \$50,000 a year in arts scholarships. “Cutting these positions is taking countless opportunities from the students.”

More than 50 people attended Thursday’s hearing. About 20 people signed up to speak at the meeting, which ran more than three hours, including a budget session that preceded it.

Arruda took School Committee members to task for not listening to the public’s concerns.

“I’ve heard it. I’ve heard every single word,” Mayor Jon Mitchell said.

“I just hope it doesn’t fall on deaf ears,” Arruda responded.

The School Department is scheduled to present the budget to the City Council next Thursday.

“I know you have to do what you have to do, but choose wisely,” said former School Committee member Jill Ussach, who also asked why the Athletics Department did not make a presentation. “It is the children who are the bottom line.”

WEATHER



TODAY
Mostly sunny
82/60

Tomorrow
Mostly sunny
80/61

Sunday
Partly cloudy
71/62

Monday
Chance of storms
69/58

Tuesday
Decreasing clouds
67/53

Today's highs/lows

Lakeville 91/63

Wareham 86/61

New Bedford 82/60

Westport 86/62

Ocean temperature 55

Records: high 97 in 1987; low 42 in 1985
Yesterday's high/low: 87/61
Precipitation through 7 p.m.: 0.22"

Local precipitation
Total for month: 4.16"
Normal month to date: 3.54"
Total for year: 13.04"
Normal year to date: 20.53"
Departure from normal for year: -7.49"

Winds
High wind yesterday: .15 mph

Air quality
Ozone: Good
Particulates: Good

Marine forecast
Today: southwest winds 5 to 10 knots; seas 1 to 2 feet. **Tonight:** southwest winds around 10 knots; seas around 2 feet. **Tomorrow:** southwest winds 10 to 15 knots; seas 2 to 3 feet.

Today's tides

Location	High	Low
New Bedford	1:37 a.m.	7:39 a.m.
	2:09 p.m.	8:41 p.m.
Canal, Buzz. Bay	2:47 a.m.	10:22 a.m.
	3:19 p.m.	11:24 p.m.
Westport	1:39 a.m.	8:05 a.m.
	2:11 p.m.	9:07 p.m.

Local forecast

High pressure off the coast will keep the weather dry, while southerly winds provide warm conditions for the area. Thunderstorms to the west will get close tomorrow, but mostly sunny skies and dry weather should continue. Breezy conditions can be expected for tomorrow as well. There will be some cloudiness developing Sunday, with just a slight chance of thunderstorms late in the day.

UV index

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Low Medium High Dangerous

Exposure to ultraviolet light is the cause of skin tanning and burning.

The sun and moon

Last	New	First	Full
May 31	June 8	June 16	June 23
Sunrise: 5:12 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:12 a.m.	Sunset: 8:11 p.m.	Sunset: 8:11 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:40 a.m.	Moonrise: 12:40 a.m.	Moonset: 12:28 p.m.	Moonset: 12:28 p.m.

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PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

Paddle your way through Saturday's Slocum River Regatta or get an inside tip on an indoor activities at SouthCoast Calendar's Best Bets. www.southcoasttoday.com/calendar

FIND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE PROM

Check out our prom galleries to find your friends and their dates dressed up for the big night. www.southcoasttoday.com/proms

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DINING

Browse our archive of “Dine Out” restaurant reviews, or write one of your own. Share your restaurant critiques via the Local Search widget on our Dining page, SouthCoastToday.com/dining. Just scroll down, click on “Local Search Homepage” and you’re ready to go!

Suspicious package a ‘routine incident’ for responders

NEW BEDFORD — A suspicious package that turned out to be a wallet caused about two hours of commotion in the Sixth Street area Thursday night.

According to police reports, a call about a suspicious package came in from the Post Office on Pleasant Street at 6:42 p.m. Police cordoned off at least four blocks with crime tape as passers-by gathered.

After taking X-rays of the package, two officials with gear for hazardous materials and bombs retrieved the wallet and determined there were no explosive or hazardous materials. The all-clear came around 8:30.

“This is a pretty routine incident for us,” District Fire Chief Scott Kruger said at the scene. “We’ve trained on this ... and we have plenty of experience with it.”

SIMÓN RIOS

LOTTERY

MASS. DAILY NUMBERS			
Drawn Thursday afternoon			5101
Payoffs on \$1 bet exact order			
4 digits	\$4,797	3 digits	\$672
2 digits	\$58	1 digit	\$6
Payoffs on \$1 bet any order			
4 digits	\$400	First 3 digits	\$112
		Last 3 digits	\$224
Drawn Thursday night			
Payoffs on \$1 bet exact order			6267
4 digits	\$5,025	3 digits	\$703
2 digits	\$60	1 digit	\$6
Payoffs on \$1 bet any order			
4 digits	\$419	First 3 digits	\$234
		Last 3 digits	\$117
RHODE ISLAND DAILY NUMBER			
R.I. WILD MONEY	7, 11, 18, 21, 30		
Extra			27
MASS CASH	13, 22, 27, 31, 35		
LUCK FOR LIFE	7, 8, 23, 28, 31		
Lucky Ball			1