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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2016 AT THE COURTYARD MARRIOTT NS NEWPORT RI
01/08/2016
THE NEWPORT (RI) DAILY NEWS

Purchases

Continued from A1

they had more than \$1 million in the bank — money town leaders said they knew nothing about.

In response, school officials said there was nothing wrong with the purchase, it did not increase the bottom line of the education budget and everything was handled properly.

About four months later, Providence attorney Marc DeSisto unveiled his report to the council and public during a packed meeting on Nov. 16 in Town Hall. DeSisto said the School Department did nothing criminal, but there were issues with parts of its purchasing, which he said education officials were working to correct.

DeSisto cited the need to improve communication with the town on large purchases, increase transparency and doing a better job of following town and state regulations.

The situation seemed to strain relations between the council and School Committee, which was also dealing with an expired teachers contract and upcoming budget issues.

According to the latest figures from the school and town finance offices, more than \$33,000 has been spent to date on consultants and other assistance connected to the laptop purchase.

The lion's share of \$24,002 has been for the schools, encompassing close to 144 hours of work billed by Scungio's office. The town has allocated \$9,465 for close to 53 hours of work on the issue.

Unlike the DeSisto report that was released to the council and public at the same time, the reports by Scungio and Almonte have been in school officials' hands for a few weeks. School leaders said they wanted to give the school board and educators a chance to review the document before it came out.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting Thursday, the school board met in executive session with Scungio for about 90 minutes.

The audience at the public meeting included council President Robert J. Sylvia and Vice President Rocky Kempenaar, and members Rick Lombardi, Rodrigues, M. Theresa Santos and Antone C. Viveiros.

Using a computer slide show, Scungio took the crowd through the history of the situation. Then he provided breakdown of several of the key questions that made up the case.

Early on, much of Scungio's presentation focused on a July 17 memo to the council from Town Administrator Shawn J. Brown that helped trigger the inquiry. Scungio said there were several misstatements and assumptions in the memo, including that the schools used impact-aid funds improperly, money was hidden to make the technology purchases and that education officials weren't forthcoming about the purchases.

Scungio said \$478,000-plus had been approved by the council in the fiscal 2015 budget for the technology and the schools appropriately used about \$546,000 in one-time money without affecting the bottom line.

Scungio used a series of emails from July 10, 2015, between municipal and school staff that he said show there was no attempt to withhold information.

Rather, he said, notes from Superintendent Rosemarie K. Kraeger and school business manager Raquel Pellerin showed school officials working hard to give town officials the information they were looking for.

Scungio — and later Almonte — said as part of his review, he tried to speak with municipal leaders involved in the matter but no one was made available.

"An issue was brought out in a letter to the editor about 'How can the district buy all of these computers and then in three years, they're all going to be dead?'" Scungio said. "Well, there are very thoughtful people in the school district, in terms of purchasing this kind of technology. One of the things that was done, where applicable, is there are extended warranties and drop protection on these items. They're all scheduled and hopefully will last about five years, to varying degrees. Some will wear out beforehand and have to be replaced, but as was pointed out to me, in five years we may be using something completely different. We may not be using laptops or iPads anymore. Think five years ago, what we were using in terms of technology and how that has now changed."

Next, Almonte took the floor, saying based on everything he saw, the way the School Department handled its business was top-notch.

Like DeSisto, Almonte said the schools should have been commended for helping improve access to computers for students.

"You would have been in the same position today, with the same equipment, the same price, the same vendor," Almonte said. "The only thing I saw, and Marc DeSisto saw, was the sequencing of it, which they did correct."

At the same time, Almonte said improving communication is a critical step.

For example, he suggested the town and school leaders hold at least quarterly meetings to go over where everything stands.

"Remember, even when a budget is passed, no one knows exactly what's going to happen during the year," Almonte said. "If we were that good, we'd win the lottery by now."

With 16 years of experience as the state auditor general, Almonte said such tension between town and school officials is not uncommon.

"But one of the best ways to solve that problem is through the communication process and understanding what the rules are," he said.

Town and school leaders said with the inquiries and reports done, it is time to heal and put the past behind.

"It's time that we now move forward," School Committee Chairwoman Theresa Silveira Spengler said, reading from a prepared statement. "We need to be proud of our accomplishments in this community, this town. We have a great community and this issue should not define the town of Middletown. Our taxpayers deserve elected officials who work together, who have honest conversations, who have confidence and trust in each other."

Council members agreed. "It's been said before that there's some rift, something coming between our schools and the town," Sylvia said. "I don't see it. We've always been, and continue to be, committed to the best relationship possible between our two groups, not only for the students and teachers of Middletown, but the entire town."

Sheriffs ask ranchers to leave

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — Three Oregon sheriffs met Thursday with an armed group occupying a federal wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon and asked them to leave, after residents made it clear they wanted them to go home.

Harney County Sheriff David Ward, accompanied by two other sheriffs, asked Ammon Bundy and his group to respect the wishes of residents and end an occupation that began last weekend to protest federal land management policies.

"There are some positives that could come out of this," Ward told Bundy during their meeting at the intersection of two remote roads.

"Before this thing turns into something negative, which would ruin all of that, I think we need to find a peaceful

resolution to help you guys get out of here," Ward said.

Bundy replied that his complaints about federal land management policies are not being addressed.

"We're getting ignored again, sir," said Bundy. "I didn't come to argue," Ward said, and Bundy replied neither had he.

Ward said he would call Bundy today to talk more.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday called the occupation "unlawful" and said it had to end.

"It was instigated by outsiders whose tactics we Oregonians don't agree with. Those individuals illegally occupying the Malheur Wildlife Refuge need to decamp immediately and be held accountable," she said.

On Wednesday night, residents attended a community meeting to air their views about the two dozen or so armed men holed up at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge south of Burns.

Locals said they sympathized with the armed group's complaints about federal land management policies but disagreed with their tactics.

At that meeting, Ward said he hoped residents would put up a united front to peacefully resolve the conflict with the group.

"I'm here today to ask those folks to go home and let us get back to our lives," Ward said.

Schools were closed after the seizure of the refuge because of safety concerns in the small town in eastern Oregon's high desert.

Odds

Continued from A1

getting heads 28 times in a row, said Jeffrey Miecznikowski, associate professor of biostatistics at the University at Buffalo.

"The probability is so small, dare say impossible," Miecznikowski said. "It's like trying to count electrons or drops of water in the ocean or grains of sand in the world. We just can't imagine these types of things."

WHEN WILL SOMEONE WIN?: No one has won the Powerball jackpot since early November, which is why the prize has grown so large. The bigger prize entices more people to buy tickets, and that drives up the jackpot. The increased ticket sales also make it more likely there will be a winner, simply because all those extra tickets mean more number combinations are covered.

DOES MATH OFFER ANY HINTS TO IMPROVE THE ODDS?: Scott A. Norris, an assistant professor of mathematics at Southern Methodist University, said there's no trick to playing the lottery, but your tiny odds of winning are a bit better if you let the computer pick rather than choosing yourself. That's because when people use birthdates or other favorite figures, they generally choose numbers 31 or below. That ignores the fact that there are 69 numbered balls.

HOW MUCH DOES BUYING MULTIPLE TICKETS HELP?: Your odds increase with additional tickets, but it's important to keep in mind how small they are to begin with. If you have a 1 in 292.2 million chance of winning with one ticket, you have 10 times the odds if you buy 10 tickets. Yet the probability is still incredibly small.

"The odds are so astronomically small that even 100 times that number is exceedingly unlikely to win," Norris said. "It's probably still not going to happen if you buy a hundred tickets or a thousand tickets or even a million tickets."

If you have extra cash and are thinking of buying all possible number combinations, that is allowed, but it wouldn't be very smart. At \$2 a ticket, the strategy would cost about \$584 million, and when taxes are subtracted, you'd end up losing money.

And if someone else had the winning numbers, you'd need to split the prize. You'd make back some of that money by smaller prizes paid for matching three, four or five of the balls plus the Powerball, but chances are it still wouldn't be a good bet.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE WINNINGS: Despite the odds, someone will eventually win the prize. What then? Is it better to take the money as an annuity or in cash?

Olivia S. Mitchell, a professor of Insurance and risk management at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, said to avoid the risk of overspending or an investment mishap, a safe option would be to take the annuity, guaranteeing a huge annual payout for three decades.

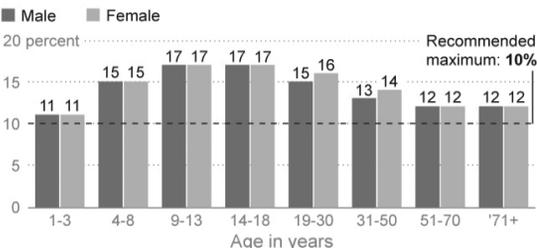
"We know the average American is quite financially illiterate," Mitchell said. For those who want to invest the money themselves, Mitchell suggested setting aside part of the cash option to buy their own annuity that would give them a guaranteed income in case the return on the money they do invest comes up short.

"That way, you still might not beat what the state pays," she said. "But on the other hand, you've protected your basic consumption needs."

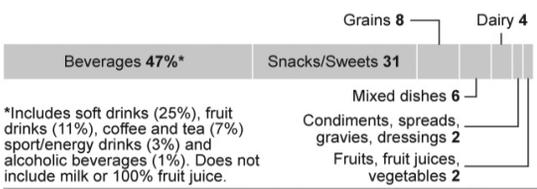
Curbing America's sugar appetite

New U.S. dietary guidelines recommend limiting intake of added sugars to no more than 10 percent of total calories.

Average added sugar intake as a percentage of total diet:



Sources of added sugars for U.S. population ages 2 and up:



SOURCE: Department of Health and Human Services

Guidelines

Continued from A1

recommendations, such as eating less red and processed meat, these guidelines miss a critical and significant opportunity to reduce suffering and death from cancer," Wender said.

CUT OUT THE SUGARY SODAS: One new recommendation is that added sugar should be no more than 10 percent of daily calories.

That's about 200 calories a day, around the amount in one 16-ounce sugary drink. The recommendation is part of a larger push to help consumers isolate added sugars from naturally occurring ones like those in fruit and milk.

According to the guidelines, sugary drinks comprise 47 percent of the added sugars that Americans drink and eat every day.

TOO MUCH SALT: Americans also need to lower salt intake, the government says. New figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show around 90 percent of people eat too much. The average person eats 3,400 milligrams of sodium a day, and the guidelines say everyone should lower that to 2,300, or about a teaspoon.

Lowering sodium intake was the major push of the 2010 guidelines, and that document recommended that those most at risk of heart disease, or about half the population, lower their intake to 1,500 mg.

The new guidelines delete that lower amount as part of the top recommendations. Later on, though, the report says those with high blood pressure and prehypertension could benefit from a steeper reduction.

CHOLESTEROL CONFUSION: After years of doctors saying that Americans shouldn't eat too many eggs, recommendations for cholesterol have also shifted.

The 2010 guidelines made a key recommendation that Americans consume less than 300 mg a day of dietary cholesterol, or about two small eggs. That recommendation is gone, after increasing medical research showing the amount of cholesterol in your bloodstream is more complicated than once thought. Several more recent studies have shown little relationship between heart disease and dietary cholesterol, focusing more on the kinds of fats consumed.

FOOD POLITICS: While the guidelines always have been subject to intense lobbying by food industries, this year's version set off unprecedented political debate, fueled by Republicans' claims the administration has gone too far in telling people what to eat.

Congress got involved, successfully encouraging the administration to drop the recommendations based on environmental impact but unsuccessfully proposing to set new standards for the science the guidelines can use.

Investigator

Continued from A1

not been charged with a crime, and did not return a phone message left Thursday at his home by The Associated Press. He told The New York Times on Tuesday that the allegations were "news to me." Asked by the newspaper if he had been fired because of the accusations, he said, "That isn't really true." He told The Boston Globe he had no comment.

A retired priest, White has been serving as a long-term, fill-in pastor at St. James Episcopal Church in Bedford, about 100 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Episcopal officials moved swiftly after his name surfaced, saying he would be subjected to church discipline.

"I have moved to immediately restrict Fr. White's ministry and to provide for the pastoral care of the congregation that he currently serves,"

'Today's decision is a very important first step in what we hope will be a process of reconciliation and healing.'

ANNE SCOTT

a 1980 St. George's School graduate, who says she was repeatedly sexually assaulted during a 2-year period

Bishop Audrey Scanlan of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania wrote in a letter published on the diocese's website Wednesday.

She said she has not received any reports of abuse at St. James.

Under the terms of his 90-day administrative leave, which is renewable, he is not permitted to wear priestly garb, perform any clerical functions or hold himself out as an Episcopal priest, Scanlan

said in an interview Thursday.

The school's report said that an employee later identified by victims' lawyers as White was fired in 1974 after he admitted to inappropriate conduct with a male student. It added the school's investigation "determined the employee had inappropriate and potentially sexual contact with at least three male students, including sharing a bed and trying to touch students in bed."

A biography of White on St. James' website said he was also on the faculty of St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., and went on to serve in leadership positions at private schools in Virginia and North Carolina before becoming rector of a church in Waynesville, N.C. He stayed at Grace Church in the Mountains for 22 years.

Ordained 50 years ago last month, White has been leading the tiny St. James congregation in worship each Sunday since retiring to Bedford in 2007.

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WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Monday, mostly sunny, breezy. High near 40.
Tuesday, mostly sunny, breezy. High near 43.
Tonight, mostly cloudy with occasional drizzle. Low around 36.

EXTENDED

Saturday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. High near 44. Saturday night, mostly cloudy with rain likely. Low around 42.

Sunday, rain, windy with possible thunderstorms. High near 54. Sunday night, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. Low around 37.

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.

LOTTERIES

Thursday's numbers

RHODE ISLAND
Numbers Midday: 3-8-6-1
Numbers Evening: 3-7-8-2
Wild Money: 13-14-17-19-22
Extra 33

LUCKY FOR LIFE

5-21-28-35-47
Lucky Ball 12

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PUBLIC MEETING
NAVAL STATION NEWPORT
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
MEETING
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
Courtyard Marriott, Middletown
9 Commerce Drive
Middletown, RI
Meeting begins at 6:30 pm
You can meet fellow citizens and representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and you can help 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.