

Court news

Newport District Court dispositions for Sept. 22

• Ricardo Alfaro, 23, of Providence pleaded no contest to a charge of driving without a license. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay court costs, police said.

• Kyle Girardi, 19, of Warwick pleaded no contest to a charge of malicious injury to property and vandalism. His case was filed for one year, and he was ordered to make restitution and pay court costs, police said.

• David Kemble, 30, of Kingston pleaded no contest to a charge of drunk driving with a blood alcohol count of .15 or greater. The charges were amended to reckless driving and the case was filed with a 30-day loss of license and an order to pay court costs, police said.

• Cathleen Leary, 40, of 70 Spanker St., Jamestown, pleaded no contest to a charge of domestic simple assault and battery. The case was filed for three years, with Leary ordered to seek domestic violence and alcohol counseling and pay court costs, police said. A malicious injury to property charge was dismissed as part of a plea agreement, according to police.

Gerald Riker, 49, of West Warwick pleaded no contest to an amended charge of reckless driving. The case was filed for one year with a 30-day loss of license, and Riker was ordered to pay court costs, police said.

Newport District Court dispositions for Sept. 29

• Steven Marguette, 19, of North Kingstown had a charge of drunk driving dismissed under court rule 48A. On a charge of refusing to take the Breathalyzer test, Marguette was given the minimum sanctions, police said.

• Jean Seraichyk, 39, of 59 1/2 Melrose Ave. pleaded no contest to a charge of shoplifting. The case was filed for one year, and she was ordered to make restitution and pay court costs, police said.

Newport District Court disposition from Oct. 13

• Nicholas Cardi, 29, of Cranston had a charge of obstructing an officer dismissed as part of a plea agreement, but he pleaded no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct.

The case was filed for one year with the condition that Cardi seek mental health counseling, take his medication as prescribed, and pay court costs, police said.

• Shawn Lathan, 19, of 68 North Main Rd. pleaded no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct. The case was filed for one year, and Lathan must perform 10 hours of community service and pay court costs, police said.

Sen. Reed awarded for commitment to state's community health centers

In recognition of his commitment to providing high quality health care services to all Rhode Islanders in need, the Rhode Island Health Center Association this week presented U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) with the John H. Chafee Health Leadership Award at its annual meeting and 2006 Health Leadership Forum.

The RIHCA presents this award to individuals "whose work enhances the ability of the 12 community health systems in Rhode Island to provide primary care, dental care, and mental health services to over 110,000 Rhode Islanders."

"Community health centers are the true safety net for those who otherwise would not have access to health care. Today, the services and care they provide are more essential than ever before," said Reed. "I am honored to receive this award and proud to be part of public and private efforts to expand health center services to

increasingly diverse, underserved populations in Rhode Island and across the country," he said.

It is estimated that over 110,000 patients, or 10 percent of the state's population, visit health centers annually, including 30,000 uninsured people. Last year, Rhode Island's 12 community health centers received 350,000 visits and performed over 600,000 procedures.

As a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Reed has played an active role in legislation to help advance the mission of community health centers. He is a cosponsor of the Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006, which would reauthorize the CHC program at \$1.96 billion through fiscal year 2011. This is an increase in funding of \$623 million from the last authorization in 2002.

Earlier this year, Reed also requested \$181 million in addi-

tional funding for the CHC program in fiscal year 2007 so it can meet the rising costs of delivering care and enhance CHCs ability to serve additional patients.

"I will continue to work to ensure CHCs have the resources and support they need to carry on their mission of providing health care services to low-income individuals and families," said Reed.

During his acceptance speech Reed recognized the staff at each of the 12 community health centers throughout Rhode Island for their professionalism and dedication to caring for underserved populations in our state.

"Through your outstanding work, you have helped save lives, promoted healthier living, and helped improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders," Reed concluded. "Once again, thank you for this award, and I look forward to continuing to work together on this most noble and worthy cause."

New Web site helps teens and parents through adolescence

It's not often that you find a Web site that is geared at keeping teenagers plugged in to all the local activities and events as well as providing resources to parents on helping their kids make healthy decisions. But that's the case with a new Web site called NC (Newport County) Youth Connect, www.ncyouthconnect.org funded through grant money from the RI Foundation's Newport County Fund.

Developed by the Teen Ambassadors of the Newport County Prevention Coalition as a prevention resource Web site for adolescents, parents, and professionals, it provides information on agencies and services in Newport County and links users to local activities, information, community service opportunities, support, and assistance. The resources on this site can help parents help their teens through the often difficult years known as adolescence.

The site also provides teens with a countywide place to post their artwork, personal profiles, and favorite music. At the same time, ncyouthconnect.org offers teens in Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Jamestown, Little Compton, and Tiverton a peer support network led by the Newport County Youth Council, a group with a goal of addressing youth issues, developing leadership, promoting community activism, and delivering results that drive posi-

tive social changes in Newport County.

The Newport County Prevention Coalition includes Stopover Services - a program of East Bay Community Action, Women's Resource Center of Newport & Bristol Counties, Boys & Girls Club of Newport County, Caritas, Inc., Child & Family Services of Newport County, CODAC, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, and Visiting Nurse Services of Newport & Bristol Counties.

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Learn about island businesses at Expo tonight

The Jamestown Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Business Expo tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Portuguese American Citizens' Club.

More than 25 island businesses will be on display, and restaurants will participate in a "Taste the Chowders of Jamestown" event with an array of chowders donated by the eateries.

Charlie Petit, president of the Jamestown chamber, said, "It's a great chance to meet and talk to owners of businesses, both large and small." Petit said many owners of home-based businesses do not regularly get to meet everyone in town and this represents a good chance for them to show islanders what they do.

A drawing will be held every 15 minutes for Chamber Bucks, which are gift certificates that can be redeemed at participating island businesses, Petit said.

Donna Olney Kohler, the chamber's executive director, said that there are three businesses this year that have never exhibited in an expo before. They are Bella Baskets, which makes gift baskets for every holiday and theme; City Scope, a firm that consults on commercial real estate; and Polished Look, a company that markets Mary Kay cosmetic products.

Five restaurants have signed on to make chowder, and the Village Hearth bakery will supply fresh bread to dunk in the chowder, Kohler said.

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