

The Newport Daily News

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Monday
April 26, 2010



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff photos

Rep. Amy G. Rice, D-Portsmouth, and Newport Police Sgt. John D. Kliever lead their horses to the bronze horse trough replica in Washington Square in Newport on Sunday. Rice's horse wouldn't drink so Kliever's mount was the first to use the \$151,000, 838-pound trough. Below, a crowd of nearly 100 gathers in the square for Sunday's dedication.

Past meets present



Wraps taken off horse trough replica in Washington Square

By James A. Johnson
Daily News staff

NEWPORT — A replica of a horse trough that stood in Washington Square in the 17th century was unveiled Sunday amid “Oohs” and “Ahhs” from almost 100 people who attended the event.

“This is not just a horse trough,” said Lilly Dick, chairwoman of the Washington Square Advisory Commission, which commissioned the replica. “It is much more. It is a symbol of our past — a reminder of the history of this square and how life was in an earlier day when horses were a central means of transportation.”

After the trough was unveiled, Rep. Amy G. Rice, D-Portsmouth, guided her

white polo pony Atlas forward to take the first drink. But Atlas would not cooperate, giving proof to the adage: “You can lead a horse to water ...”

A horse ridden by Newport Police Sgt. John D. Kliever had the honor of taking the first drink from the trough.

A steady rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the spectators, many of whom carried umbrellas that added color to the ceremony.

One unforeseen handicap was the lack of sound amplifiers. Commission member David Leys said organizers realized at the last minute that electricity at the site is on a timer set to work only during the Christmas season.

To hear the speakers, the crowd gathered close together.

The horse trough will give Newporters a chance to talk to their children about life in the past, Dick said. She predicted it will become a backdrop for photos and a local landmark, a place about which people will say, “Meet me at the horse trough.”

“It is a beautiful work of art and it is public art, so rare in these days,” Dick said. “It will be a graceful presence in the square as it helps us bring the square back to life and helps us build the economic and cultural revitalization to the downtown area.”

The horse trough also is a fountain, with streams of water flowing from the mouths of four dolphins. Water from the fountain in nearby Eisenhower

‘This is not just a horse trough. It is much more. It is a symbol of our past — a reminder of the history of this square and how life was in an earlier day when horses were a central means of transportation.’

LILLY DICK

chairwoman of the Washington Square Advisory Commission

TROUGH A8

FINANCIAL REFORM

Parties divided as vote nears

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a show-down vote looming, Democrats are resisting Republican appeals for a broad compromise on financial overhaul legislation and are eager to test whether GOP unity will crack in an anti-Wall Street political climate.

The top negotiators on the regulatory bill — Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd and Republican Sen. Richard Shelby — professed to be close to a deal during a joint appearance on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

But Shelby conceded that “inches sometimes are miles,” and the two did not hold a negotiating session Sunday.

Appearing this morning on a network news show, Shelby said, “I don’t believe we’ll have a deal today.”

The legislation is the most sweeping effort to rein in financial institutions since the Great Depression. Aimed at avoiding a recurrence of the near collapse of the financial system in 2008, it would create a mechanism for liquidating large firms that get into trouble, set up a council to detect systemwide financial threats and establish a consumer protection agency to police lending. The legislation also would require derivatives, blamed for helping precipitate the meltdown, to be traded in open exchanges.

The House already passed its version of the legislation.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on Friday blocked Democrats’ efforts to bring the bill up for debate, setting up a vote today that will require 60 votes to move ahead. McConnell and Shelby said Sunday that without a deal with Dodd, all 41 Republican senators would vote to stall the start of debate. Shelby said a deal in time for the vote was unlikely.

Rep. Darrell Issa said today that 41 “no” votes by Senate Republicans “is a yes vote to more comprehensive reform, more bal-

PARTIES A8

HEALTH CARE REFORM

New law’s cost is still a concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — What’s it going to cost me?

That’s the single biggest unanswered question about President Barack Obama’s new health care overhaul law — and its weak spot.

Many experts believe the law falls short on taming costs, and that will force Congress to revisit health care in a few years.

While it seems hard to believe now, Republicans might want to participate in a debate over costs, perhaps opening the way for limits on malpractice lawsuits and other ideas they’ve advocated.

“Now that the baseline question of coverage has been answered, it would be irresponsible if we didn’t come back and try to do more on costs,” said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., who voted for the bill and led efforts to squeeze more savings.

“I think there is going to be a debate in the Republican Party on whether they should waste all their energy on repeal or make an effort to do something on cost containment,” Warner said.

For now, the political parties are too polarized — and lawmakers too exhausted — to contemplate health care 2.0. Conservatives are planning court challenges, and some Republican leaders hold out the promise of repeal. But economic reality probably will bring lawmakers back to the table.

Insurance premiums are likely to keep going up during the next few years.

CONCERN A8

BIRDMAN OF SAKONNET: A photographer shares images and stories about birds.

By Marcia Pobzeznik
Daily News correspondent

TIVERTON — It took just an instant to snap a picture of the Eastern screech owl looking wide-eyed out of the round opening of the bird box in his backyard, but it took Geoff Dennis three nights in a row to make it happen. He finally used his dog’s squeaky toy to get the owl to open its eyes for him.

That’s not the most trying circumstance Dennis, widely known in birding circles for his photographs of birds that have wintered, summered, bred and lived year-round in the Sakonnet area and beyond — or just paid a short visit here — has worked under.

He has climbed trees and camouflaged himself to get shots of mother birds feeding their young, and has lain

in snowy fields in the dead of winter to snap pictures of birds desperately looking for food. He’s donned a helmet and protective vest to take pictures of rare Peregrine falcons nesting near the roof of a high-rise bank building in downtown Providence.

Dennis shared some of the thousands of photographs of birds he has taken over the years during a talk Sunday afternoon at the Four Corners Meeting House.

The Tiverton Open Space Commission and Tiverton Land Trust hosted the event, which attracted a standing-room-only crowd. Dennis, a Tiverton native who lives in Little Compton, joked that he checked the television listings Sunday and noticed there was a Celtics basketball game, a playoff hockey game and a golf tournament



David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff

Geoff Dennis of Little Compton sits next to a photo of a male indigo bunting, one of the many images he shared Sunday.

BIRDMAN A8

COMING attractions
Some things you won't want to miss

TUESDAY
 >>> **POLICE GEAR UP** for parade on Sunday.
OFF THE CLOCK features a teacher who runs marathons.



WEATHER

44 Tonight, rain, fog. Low around 44.

58 Tuesday, cloudy, clearing. High 58.

Details. A8

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David Hansen ♦ Daily News staff

Lilly Dick, right, chairwoman of the Washington Square Advisory Commission, gets a hug from Howard Newman, who along with his wife, Mary, was responsible for recreating the horse trough, in back, that was unveiled Sunday.

Trough

Continued from A1

Park is circulated in a loop to the horse trough and back.

The 838-pound bronze trough cost \$151,000 and is one facet of the ongoing restoration of Washington Square. Once completed, the project will total about \$4.5 million including federal highway funds and foundation, corporate and private contributions.

Howard and Mary Newman of Newman Ltd. of Newport recreated the trough by analyzing historic photographs from the Newport Historical Society. Frank DeRubeis of Kahler & Paton Inc. of Scituate, Mass., created the wooden models for the base and bowl. Sculptor Andrea Hollis of Newport created the dolphin and leaf motif around the lantern pole.

The third phase of the square's restoration is expected to be completed by fall. The restoration of Eisenhower Park, in the center of the square, is expected to be completed next year.

Newport Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napoleano said the horse trough represents a

'It's about remembering our history and starting to bring life back into the square. It's just thrilling.'

LILLY DICK

chairwoman of the Washington Square Advisory Commission

vision not only for Washington Square but also for the rest of Newport, including upper Broadway, considered the entrance to Newport and the pedestrian walkway.

"We want people to enjoy everything that Newport has to offer," she said.

Kiki McMahan of Newport said the addition of the trough to the square is absolutely great.

"Lillian (Dick) deserves a lot of praise, applause and gratitude from everyone here," McMahan said. "She did a good job, even though we all complained last summer because of the inconvenience. It was well worth the effort."

Another person aware of the inconvenience was Josephine Brown of Newport, teller manager of the Washington Square branch of Citizens Bank. Her desk

faces Washington Square and she endured all the chipping, digging and noise during the restoration work.

"I was part of this every day and I wanted to see the happy ending of it all," Brown said. "I am thrilled. It's beautiful. It's just what I thought it would be."

Jamie Carlson, who retired last year from the Newport Historical Society, remembers looking out the window of the society's museum in the Brick Market and wondering when someone would do something about that "unfriendly looking" space. Carlson added a bit of history she learned from a book in the Historical Society's files. The Eisenhower Park fountain is supplied by water from the original spring that Newport settlers gathered around in Colonial times, she said.

After the ceremony, Dick said she is happy that the public will be able to enjoy the open space in Washington Square.

"That's what it's all about," she said. "It's about remembering our history and starting to bring life back into the square. It's just thrilling."

Send reporter James A. Johnson e-mail at Johnson@NewportRI.com.

Birdman

Continued from A1

on and was surprised to see that so many "came here to see a quahogger talk about birds."

When he started taking photographs of birds in 1986, he said, he knew "the simple stuff" — he could easily identify a chickadee and a robin, for example.

The bird feeder he put up in his backyard in Little Compton opened a whole new world for him, and over the years, through his photographs, he has introduced so many others to the birds that live and breed here.

During the next three weeks, many of the birds that

spend the winter in warmer climates will be arriving for the summer months. "How they make this journey is what fascinates me," said Dennis, who showed a Doppler radar image taken at night that tracked the 90-mile journey that thousands of birds make overnight from their winter grounds in northern Cuba to southern Florida, where they rest before the longer journey to New England. They fly at night to avoid predators and to stay cooler than they would if they flew during the day.

Birds that spend the winter in Central America, such as the ruby-throated hummingbird that buzzes around flowers here in the summertime, will fly across the Gulf of Mexico nonstop, a trip of 550

to 600 miles. Some come from as far south as Panama.

Others are taking flight out of this area at this time of year: The white-throated sparrow that spends winters here leaves in March to breed further north, some flying as far as northern Canada.

Many of Dennis' photographs have been taken in Weetamoo Woods, a 620-acre open space tract in the south end of Tiverton, and in Pardon Gray Preserve, a 230-acre open space tract adjacent to it that fronts Main Road.

Garry Plunkett, a co-chairman of the Tiverton Open Space Commission, said the open space tracts are "really significant ecological habitats."

Plunkett has crossed paths with Dennis on numerous

occasions in Weetamoo Woods when Dennis was carrying what Plunkett said was equipment that at first glance looked like a rocket launcher, but was the camera equipment he uses to capture magnificent pictures of the diverse bird population.

A poster showcasing the different types of birds that hikers may see along the woodland and field trails in Weetamoo Woods and Pardon Gray Preserve features Dennis' photographs. It will be installed on the kiosk at the main entrance of Weetamoo Woods on East Road, Plunkett said.

Send correspondent Marcia Pobzeznik e-mail at Pobzeznik@NewportRI.com.

Concern

Continued from A1

Experts predict that the law's early benefits — such as expanded coverage for children and young adults — could nudge rates a little higher than would otherwise have been the case. Also, insurers and medical providers could try to raise their prices ahead of big shifts set for 2014.

Under the 10-year, \$1 trillion plan, 2014 is when competitive insurance markets for individuals and small businesses are expected to open, and tax credits start flowing to help millions of middle-class households now uninsured. Medicaid will expand and pick up millions of low-income people. Most Americans would be required to carry health insurance, except in cases of financial hardship. Insurers no longer could turn away those in poor health.

More than 30 million previously uninsured people would gain coverage quickly — and they'll start going to the doctor for care previously postponed. Increased demand will push up health care spending, putting more pressure on premiums.

The cost controls in the bill are unlikely to provide much of a counterweight. Democrats scrambling to line up votes for the final bill weakened a provision that would have enforced austerity through a hefty tax on high-cost employer coverage.

Other savings in the law — mainly Medicare cuts — may prove politically unsustainable, according to the government's own experts.

The problem isn't that the 2,700-page law is devoid of ideas for curbing costs. Many mainstream proposals are incorporated in some form. But what will work?

While the law creates a commission to keep pursuing deeper Medicare savings, there's no overall cost control strategy and no single official to coordinate many experiments seeking greater efficiency.

"This bill takes a sort of spaghetti approach to cost control," said MIT economist Jonathan Gruber, who supports the broad goals of the overhaul. "You throw a bunch of stuff against the wall and see what will stick. Health care, Round Two, is when we will make a serious effort at cutting costs down, based on what this law has shown us."

If the law gets a B plus for expanding coverage to 95 percent of eligible Americans, it probably deserves a C minus or D for cost control. The U.S. spends \$2.5 trillion a year on health care, with some results worse than what other developed countries get by spending far less.

"Most people who have prob-

lems with health care costs now are not going to see much change in the next few years," said Mark McClellan, who ran Medicare under former Republican President George W. Bush. "Hopefully some of these ideas will work, but it's not automatic. I do hope we can revisit this in a more bipartisan manner."

A look at some of the law's main cost control provisions:

♦ Insurance market: Starting in 2014, the overhaul sets up new state-level insurance supermarkets called exchanges, intended to enable small businesses and individuals buying their own coverage to pool purchasing power. In theory, that would inject competition into markets now dominated by one or two major insurers in most states.

It also would reduce insurers' overhead by giving them access to many customers in one place. The companies would be heavily regulated by state and federal authorities, and proposed premium increases would get a close look.

"Individuals and small businesses will, over time, have something much more predictable to look at," said Christine Ferguson, former Massachusetts public health commissioner under Republican Gov. Mitt Romney. "We will have much more predictable rates of growth in health care costs."

Romney, a potential GOP presidential candidate in 2012, signed a similar law in Massachusetts, but is now calling for repeal of the federal version.

♦ Payment reforms: Using Medicare as the lab, the law includes experiments designed to change the way medical providers are paid. It encourages them to keep patients healthier by avoiding foreseeable complications.

Doctors and hospitals could band together to better coordinate care. Instead of paying piecemeal for visits and tests, providers would get a lump sum for managing patients with certain health conditions. Primary care providers would be encouraged to create "medical homes" for their patients, serving as wellness coaches and medical gatekeepers.

Successful experiments would be adopted as national policy.

♦ Medicare board: The law sets up a board to hunt for Medicare savings. Congress could reject the proposals, but it wouldn't be able to tinker with them.

♦ Insurance tax: Employer-sponsored health insurance is part of total compensation, but traditionally it's been tax-free.

The law imposes a 40 percent tax on health insurance plans worth more than \$27,500 for a family plan, \$10,200 for individual coverage.

CLARIFICATION

Midge Knerr's weekly column is called 'Beyond the Line.' Her column ran under the wrong label in the Weekend edition of The Daily News.

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 e-mail to CityDesk@NewportRI.com or write us at 101 Malbone Road, Newport, RI 02840.

Parties

Continued from A1

anced reform."

Speaking on CBS's "The Early Show," the California Republican said the bill the Democrats want to advance in the Senate does not go far enough to restrain mortgage housing giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which lost billions in bad loans.

But public sentiment was not working in favor of Republicans, as it did to some extent during the health care debate. Public opinion is leaning toward more regulation of large financial institutions, and a Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit alleging fraud by Goldman Sachs has added the cloud of scandal to Wall Street.

On Sunday, Dodd, D-Conn., agreed to toughen his overreaching bill with stronger rules on derivatives, including one that had drawn objections from the Obama administration, according to a Democratic official familiar with the negotiations. Dodd entered into a tentative deal with Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., to incorporate her committee's derivatives provisions into the broader regulatory legislation. At least two Republicans — Sens. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Olympia Snowe of Maine — are on record supporting Lincoln's derivatives package.

Derivatives are the complex

securities blamed for helping precipitate the 2008 Wall Street crisis.

One of the most sweeping of Lincoln's restrictions would require banks to spin off their derivatives business into subsidiaries with a separate source of capital. Large banks fiercely opposed the provision. The administration has called for banks to end trading in speculative securities but not to jettison operations that create derivatives markets for clients.

In yet another attempt to attract Republicans, Democrats appeared willing to jettison from the bill a \$50 billion fund — financed by large banks — that would have been used to liquidate failing firms once considered "too big to fail." The fund has been one of the main targets of GOP criticism.

Democrats said the time had come to move on with the bill.

"Are we going to start the debate or are we going to shut it down and continue negotiating, negotiating, negotiating?" Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, asked on ABC's "This Week" Sunday.

For now, Republicans are using the only leverage they have — the threat of 41 unified votes — to seek a bigger GOP imprint on the bill.

The impasse reflects differences over how to contain large, interconnected financial firms and how to liquidate them when they fail. But Democrats and Republicans also differed on how to protect consumers and how to set limits on previously unregulated exotic instruments

such as derivatives.

Dodd has already incorporated a number of Republican ideas into his version of the bill following negotiations with Shelby and Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee. Democrats, particularly liberals, have become increasingly worried that a compromise with Shelby will limit their ability to amend the bill during floor debate.

Dodd tried to reassure them. "We can't take care of everything in the bill," he said, referring to his talks with Shelby, R-Ala. "Obviously our colleagues will want to be heard."

Shelby said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he and Dodd have a meeting scheduled for early afternoon, just hours ahead of the procedural vote. He also said he believes the two sides ultimately will agree on a bill.

"I believe we're going to get a good bill," Shelby said. He said he wants a bill that's going to "put to bed forever the idea that you're going to bail out somebody."

"If they want to trade with their own money, with their own resources, is one thing," Shelby said. "But the idea of ... believing the taxpayers will bail them out, that's a mistake. Both sides are together on that."

"I think that, conceptually, we're very close together," the senator said of negotiations with Dodd. But Shelby also said the bill that emerged from the banking panel had "too many loopholes, and we're trying to tighten it up."

WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Tonight, showers, patchy fog. Low around 44.

Tuesday, cloudy, chance of showers. Gradual clearing. High near 58. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, windy with a slight chance of showers. Low around 38.

EXTENDED

Wednesday, partly cloudy, breezy with a slight chance of showers. High near 54. Wednesday night, mostly cloudy. Low around 42.

MARINE

Tonight, north wind 5-10 knots. Waves 1 foot or less.

Tuesday, northwest wind 5-10 knots with gusts to 20 knots in the afternoon. Waves 1-2 feet. Tuesday night, northwest wind 10-15 knots with gusts to 20 knots. Waves around 2 feet.

TIDES

Tuesday's sunrise 5:48 a.m., sunset 7:39 p.m. High tides: 7:28 a.m., 7:52 p.m. Low tides: 1:06 a.m., 12:56 p.m.

Saturday's temperatures: high 68, low 44. Sunday's temperatures: high 55, low 49.



During the month of April more than 100 volunteers restored a home in Newport for a family, painted the gym and built wooden storage shelves for the Florence Gray Center.

These projects were part of the national program that restored more than 10,000 homes and non-profit sites during the year.

We salute all the volunteers who contributed to this worthwhile program. We gratefully thank all those who participated in our program.

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