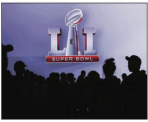


## SPORTS



### YOUR PICK?

Olympians and other celebrities weigh in on who they think will win Super Bowl LI. **C1**

## LIFE



### MAC DADDY:

Westport resident Jonathan Hunt knows his mac and cheese — he reviews brands from around the globe for his YouTube series BoxMac. **D1**

## MONDAY

### They spent my money on this?



**MARC DION:** A gimmicky, bland new logo and a few tired appeals to things that Fall River has always done well — is this really all we think the city has to offer?

## FOCUS



### A mix of emotions

San Bernardino shooting survivors are split on whether they support Trump's travel ban. **D1**

## INSIDE

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| Business.....       | C5     |
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| Lotteries.....      | C2     |
| Nation.....         | A7     |
| Obituaries.....     | A2, A3 |
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## WEATHER

**H: 44 L: 30**

Not as cold.

Five-day forecast, **A5**.



# FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

# FOOD

## Businesses prepped for 'super crazy busy day'

Kevin P. O'Connor  
Herald News Staff Reporter

**I**n football, preparation is everything. When the New England Patriots played the Steelers two weeks ago, Gabe Martins thought he was ready.

Crews came in early to Sam's Bakery, 256 Flint St. Syrian bread, chorizo piz, meat pies, went through the oven in prodigious numbers.

"We ran out of everything," Martins said. "By 1:15 that afternoon, everything was gone."

"When the Pats play, business doubles for us. It did more than that last game."

"When the Pats go to the Super Bowl, it is good for business."

All over the area, businesses are feeling that. Caterers are busy, grocery stores increased staff. Restaurants are hauling in swag.

"Some of the vendors, Budweiser, Coors, they've

TURN TO SUPER, PAGE A4

### BY THE NUMBERS: SUPER BOWL EATS

**5,500**

The number of chicken wings Bonehead Wings will sell today out of its Fall River site

**75**

The number of Ma Raffa's Game Day Deals (large cheese, lasagna, 1/2 dozen meatballs and order buffalo tenders)

NUMBERS COMPILED BY LINDA MURPHY

**400-500**

Cases of beer at Globe Liquors

**50**

Buffalo chicken pizzas at Fiorentina Pizza in Fall River

**400&600**

Vo Ida's stuffed quahogs and baked stuffed shrimp, respectively, at Clearwater Seafood

**20**

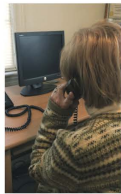
Charcuterie and cheese platters at Portugalia Marketplace

**32**

Growlers (32-ounce bottles) of Buzzards Bay beers.

Pounds of Willow Tree Chicken salad from the deli at Tom's Market

HERALD NEWS PHOTO JACK FOURGEOTTE  
Yamin opened Sam's Bakery with her late husband back in 1961.



HERALD NEWS PHOTO | DOROTHY ALVARO  
Del Ferus takes an anonymous phone call at the Samaritans office in Westport.

## Lonely? Suicidal?

Samaritans of Bristol County want to help you

Deborah Allard  
Herald News Staff Reporter

**WESTPORT** — You've seen the signs: "Lonely. Depressed. Suicidal."

That's the logo for the Samaritans, a non-profit organization with a mission of being there to listen to anyone in need of friendship or help, whether they are lonely, depressed or considering suicide.

Locally, the Samaritans of Bristol County, located in an office on State Road, want to get the word out that people should call them, rather than the Boston or national hotline, when they're in need.

"We're here," said Del Ferus, executive director of the Samaritans of Bristol County. "We're here and we know of all of the resources for our local residents if they call us."

Ferus said in the past couple of years, calls to the local hot line have diminished some because of billboards and signs displaying less-than-local phone numbers.

"We're trying to make our community aware that we're here," Ferus said.

She said the sign on the Braga Bridge listed the Boston Samaritans for the past two years, rather than Bristol County Samaritans.

That's recently been changed.

"Each branch (while offering the same type of help) is autonomous from each other," Ferus said.

When a caller reaches out to the local Samaritans, it can be just to talk. But when someone is in need of additional counseling, Ferus said they can be put in touch with local services like the Family Service Association in Fall River, or similar resources in New Bedford or their own town.

"It depends on what their issues are," Ferus said.

Ferus said many of the phone calls they receive are from people who are lonely, like elderly people who have no one to talk with, or from those who are depressed, or are angry about something and just need to vent. Family members and friends needing help

TURN TO HELP, PAGE A4



# LIFESTYLE

## TRAVEL

### In the wake of Vikings

The cruise through the North Atlantic traces the route of the Vikings, beginning in Norway and ending in Quebec.

PAGE D4

Editor: Linda Murphy, lmurphy@heraldnews.com, 508-676-2572.



## Snow walk

Warm up a cold hike for Valentine's

Shoshana Brown  
Special to The Herald News

February, usually our coldest month, also boasts the calendar's only day devoted to romantic love. Traditional fare for Valentine's Day might be a box of chocolates, or better, a fine restaurant meal. But what about a romantic walk in nature? Yes, February may be cold, but what can be more romantic than a walk in a snowy wood? (And you can walk off those chocolate-lates!)

So far there has not been as much snow this winter as I would like, but we New Englanders know that snow is necessary any time through April, so there is a good chance that we may have to enjoy a romantic walk (or cross-country ski- or snow shoe-outing) through a snowy landscape by Valentine's Day.

As I have written in previous articles, one of the tricks of finding a good place to enjoy a hike in the snow is knowing where you can park. So last month when we had one good snowfall (about 12 inches), I decided to try the Nature Conservancy's Dunder Brook Trail (part of the John C. Whitehead Preserve) in Little Compton — a place I had been in other seasons, but had never experienced under a blanket of snow.

Since the trailhead is directly next to Little Compton's town recreational fields and tennis courts, and behind the Wilbur and McMahon Schools (on Meetinghouse Lane), I figured that the chances were good that the parking lot there would be cleared. As it turned out, I was wrong; nevertheless I did find one parking space where the sun had melted enough snow for me to just fit. But since this trailhead is close to the town commons, and also to the public school,

TURN TO ROMANTIC, PAGE D2



ABOVE: One of the many beautiful holly trees arches over the preserve's boardwalk through the forest.

TOP: A robin serenades the hiker through the Dunder Brook Forest.

## BY THE BOXFUL



Jonathan Hunt, of Westport, holds up boxes of macaroni and cheese he's tasted on his YouTube series BoxMac.

HERALD NEWS PHOTOS | DAVID SODA

## AROUND THE WORLD WITH MAC AND CHEESE, FROM THE COMFORT OF WESTPORT

Linda Murphy  
Herald News Lifestyle Editor

For most fans of boxed macaroni and cheese, there's usually a few choices in the supermarket: Kraft, Velveeta or the store brand. Those looking for something a bit more exotic might wander over to the natural food selection where there's sure to be a few varieties of Annie's, Peacantik Parmesan anyone?

But for Westport resident Jonathan Hunt, macaroni and cheese brands and varieties are in the hundreds. And the options keep showing up in his mail.

Hunt, who tastes, cooks and discusses macaroni and cheese on his BoxMac YouTube series with his co-host, Frankie Frain, gets the

tasty and sometimes not-so-tasty products from fans all over the globe.

There was one from Iceland that turned out to be made in America for the Icelandic mac and cheese market.

Who knew?

And there was one from Japan.

Though he knows a bit of Japanese, Hunt said he had to do a lot of translation online to figure out how to cook it. And even then, it bore little resemblance to mac and cheese. For one, cheese is not a common ingredient in Japanese food and for this box, adding cheese was optional, he said. Japanese kitchens are also not set up the same as those in the United States, so they



had to wing it a bit to match the cooking process. The BoxMac team ended up adding chicken to the mix and cooked it in the oven. "It was more like a good pasta, than mac and cheese," recalled Hunt.

Varieties sent from fans in England tend to be good, but tame, while Canada's are "how we remembered it as kids, with a more distinct cheese flavor," said Hunt.

Living up to the Midwesterner's reputation for hospitality, a fan from Chicago mailed a box with several different brands found around Chicago. Hunt and the crew turned them into the Chicago box episode, but it was "some of the worst" Hunt has sampled.

And he's sampled a lot. Since they started the BoxMac

TURN TO MAC, PAGE D2

## Bigger than a wedding

Rhode Island band cast in De Niro film

Andy Smith  
Providence Journal Arts Writer

Art imitates life for Rhode Island wedding band The Free Downloads, who play — wait for it — a wedding band in "The Comedian," the new movie starring Robert De Niro that opened Friday. It's not just any wedding, either. It's a Jewish lesbian wedding, and De Niro is the uncle of one of the brides.

In "The Comedian," De Niro plays an aging comic and former sitcom star. He is forced to perform community service after accosting an audience member at a stand-up comedy gig. While in community service, he befriends a younger woman, played by Leslie Mann.

The Free Downloads, a seven-piece band that formed in 2010, got into the picture after a friend forwarded them an ad placed by New York City agency Grand Willey Casting seeking a wedding band. Band leader and guitarist George Leonard said the band, which also plays at bar mitzvahs, birthday parties, and corporate events, sent its videos to the casting agency.

Then came a call from an assistant to director Taylor Hackford.



Local wedding band called "The Free Downloads" play a wedding band in new DeNiro movie out Friday. From left are Gary Takemoto (sax), Marc Trachtenberg (keyboard), Sheree Dunwell (vocals), Riccardo Pearman (drums), Neil Letendre (vocals), John Wilson (bass) and George Leonard III (guitar).

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KIRK CRAIG

TURN TO MUSIC, PAGE D2



# LIFESTYLE

## Mac: Westport man a mac and cheese connoisseur — with a YouTube series

FROM PAGE D1

series a year and a half to two years ago, they've made 74 episodes featuring typically two to four types of macaroni and cheese.

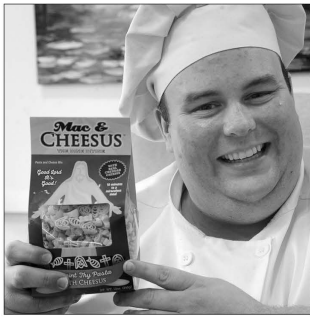
"I thought we'd go to the supermarket, buy a few boxes and get 10 to 15 shows out of it," said Hunt. "I've been through so many and they keep coming out with more."

For the most part, they separate the macaroni and cheese into two categories: the "classic" Kraft-style macaroni and cheese with the powdery sauce that gets mixed with butter and milk after the pasta is cooked, and the "deluxe" ones with the cheese mixture squeezed out of a foil pouch onto the cooked macaroni.

In the first episode, Target's Market Pantry brand was compared against the Kraft original. The winner: probably Kraft, said Hunt.

His overall favorites these days in the classic category: Kraft's Three Cheeses and one from the Borden brand out of Texas. For the deluxe category, a new contender takes the prize: Cracker Barrel Sharp Cheddar Macaroni and Cheese Dinner.

Most of the worst ones are in the vegan and gluten-free category, he said, adding, "If you're going to go through the trouble of eating vegan, why eat boxed mac and cheese?"



Jonathan Hunt, of Westport, holds up one of the unique mac and cheese packages he tests out on his YouTube series, BoxMac.

cheese?"

Before there was BoxMac, Hunt, Frain and a few other friends from the Westport/Tiverton area started making feature length films under their Red Cow Entertainment brand. After deciding it took too long to make a feature film, they made some YouTube videos called Just's Cart. When they moved on to the BoxMac series, it caught

on with fans. The videos

average about 4,000 views with fans in all parts of the world, said Hunt.

Like trading cards for the mac and cheese obsessed, Hunt has a collection of flattened, empty boxes of macaroni and cheese in languages both familiar and foreign to show for their efforts.

Though fans have sent plenty to sample, he said

Kraft wants "no part of them."

A computer engineer by profession, Hunt says they plan to take the series into a new cooking direction in the future.

But for now, there's boxes of macaroni and cheese in his pantry awaiting review.

EMIL LINDA MURPHY AT MURPHY@HERALDNEWS.COM

## HOROSCOPE

**Happy Birthday:** Take a position when it comes to great decisions. Love is highlighted. **5 stars**  
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** One of your doors and host a small gathering. Getting together with a group of people will inspire you to follow through with the personal plans you've been considering. It's time for a change and a new beginning. **3 stars**  
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**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You are a go-getter; eager to please and willing to compromise, adapt and make whatever changes are necessary to get what you want. Your ability to be decisive will draw support and encouragement. Make romance a priority. **5 stars**  
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Emotional deception will influence the outcome of a situation you face with someone. It doesn't matter if it's you or someone else who is not seeing things clearly. The point will be to find common ground to avoid a rift. **2 stars**  
**Berthday Baby:** You are emotional, perceptive and considerate. You are appealing and popular.

**Eugenia Last**  
Your numbers are 4, 16, 21, 25, 37, 46, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Participate, engage in group functions and open your mind to new experiences, and you will learn a lot about yourself and those around you. Embrace responsibility and whatever is required to improve your life. **4 stars**  
**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Go over what you have done in the past and learn from your mistakes. Having a clear and concise picture of what you want to do will help you convince others to get involved. Recognize emotional interference and stifle it. **3 stars**  
**GEMINI (May 21-June 21):** Let your emotions lead the way and you will punch your way through to victory. Whether a personal or professional matter, your ability to offer suggestions that capture others' attention will help you far ahead. Personal gains are apparent. **3 stars**  
**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your imagination will be in overdrive. Worry about any ideas that will be too expensive to complete. Refuse to let someone from your past tempt you into doing something that will leave you short of cash. **3 stars**  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Go where the action is. A day trip, trade show, retreat or vacation that allows you to take on a challenge will be exhilarating. Make someone a priority and don't be afraid to commit to something you believe in. **4 stars**  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You are at the end of a long journey that you can go to with a good friend. Exploring something new with the people you like to share experience with will make what you do more interesting and enjoyable. **2 stars**  
**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A day trip or a family gathering will help you establish your position in the pecking order. Offering suggestions and physical help will be

appreciated and put you in a good position when it comes to great decisions. Love is highlighted. **5 stars**

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## Music: Local band in 'The Comedian'

FROM PAGE D1

"He asked us questions as he was planning a wedding," Leonard said. "Could we play Jewish [wedding] music? Could we do 'Don't Stop Believin'?" A few other songs. But we're actually used to that. In the wedding business, you have to be adaptable and flexible."

The Downloads got the gig, and on March 2 and 3, 2016, they found themselves on a movie set in Queens. "We didn't know what to expect," said singer Neil Letendre. "We got there and it was just a big empty venue in a rundown part of Queens. There was nothing there. Then as the hours passed, everything started to make its way into the room."

That meant about 100 extras playing wedding guests, actors, cameras, equipment, crew.

"When it got real for us in when we saw Danny DeVito walk across the dance floor," said Leonard.

He said Hackford met with the band before the shooting started to talk about the songs, what would happen in each scene, and how the band should react. Sometimes, Leonard said, the band was playing live. Sometimes they were just pretending to play to recordings of their own music.

They played Jewish wedding music, such as "Siman Tov Mazel Tov," and a couple of secular songs, Belinda Carlisle's "(We Want) The Same Thing" and Charles

& Eddie's "Would I Lie to You?" (Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" never made it into the movie.) The band had to repeat some of the songs 20 or 30 times.

The wedding scenes were filmed over two nights, from about 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. "Lunch" was at midnight.

"It was a little intimidating at first, looking at cameras that are worth more than your house," said Letendre, who once sang at Viola DeVito's wedding. But at some point it just became like a regular gig.

Letendre said DeVito mostly kept to himself; DeVito and Patti LaPore were friends.

The band has about seven minutes of screen time during

which their music can be heard, and occasionally the cameras focused on the band itself. Letendre said there was one shot where the camera panned over his face for seven or eight seconds.

The Free Downloads saw the movie at a special cast and crew screening in December. "It was cool to see the rest of the movie, because we only knew what happened in one scene," Letendre said.

Now that they have one movie under their belt, the Downloads wouldn't mind doing more. Leonard said he is has been checking casting agency websites to see if there's any call for a wedding band.

"Man, I would love to do more of this," Letendre said.

## Romantic: Take a cozy walk in the woods for Valentine's Day

FROM PAGE D1

You could certainly find an alternative parking place if you don't mind walking a little further.

The Dundery Brook trail is not long (just a little over two miles round-trip), but it is beautiful, especially under a blanket of snow. The first half of the trail is on a raised boardwalk, which allows the hiker to view the forested wetland below without sinking in. In mild weather (with no snow or ice) this part of the trail is wheelchair- or stroller-accessible, but with a coating of snow on top, the path is more suitable for skis, snow shoes, or good hiking boots.

Two things I noticed about this part of the trail in the snow were first, the loveliness of the native holly bushes, their shiny green leaves and bright red berries set off by the barren trees and the snow, and second, how the snow "hushed" the noise so that the nearby songs of the robins were very present to me as I hiked. (Yes, there was a busy flock of robins, their orange-red breasts flashing about as they flew.)

Occasionally I could also hear children's voices carried on the wind from the neighboring school's playground, and at noon I was serenaded by bells from the nearby church on the Little Compton village green.

In all in the chirping and fluttering of robins, the sounds of children at play, and the church bells, I felt like I had stepped into some charming picture-book



An old ledge farm forms a snowy path.

At the edge of the forest, the boardwalk leads out onto a meadow-path (the Nature Conservancy's website says it is an old cart-path). To the left, the preserve borders on the property of Bumblebee Farm (the preserve is also known as "Bumblebee Preserve"), which is quite picturesque, but whose property is off-limits to hikers.