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Jacqueline Marque ♦ Staff photographer
Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts speaks to members of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday about health care reform and its impact on small businesses.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

A state of confusion

The state lieutenant governor hears concerns from the local business community.

By **Joe Baker**
Staff writer

NEWPORT — The devil is in the details, and Scott Garvey was hoping he would learn more about those details when he attended the Newport County Chamber of Commerce's forum on health care reform Tuesday morning. But after Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts finished her presentation and answered

what questions she could, Garvey said he still felt like he was in the dark.

A partner in the Barking Crab Restaurants — one in Newport and another in Boston — Garvey said he still is not sure how the new federal health care reform bill, recently ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court, will affect his restaurants.

The new law requires states to set up health care exchanges through which individuals and small businesses can compare different health insurance plans and decide which might be right for them.

By Jan. 1, 2014, all individuals will

be required to have health insurance, but small businesses — defined as those with fewer than 50 employees — are not required to provide it. Businesses with more than 50 employees must provide coverage or pay a penalty.

In Garvey's case — and those of many restaurateurs — he said he isn't sure which definition his business falls under: His payroll changes from season to season, ranging from 30 employees in the winter to as many as 120 in the busy summer season. And nearly all of those are part-time employees. So

CONFUSION A6

Art returns 'home'

Collection of 18th century paintings back at The Elms

NEWPORT — The largest collection of 18th century Venetian paintings in America has been restored to its home at The Elms — 50 years after many of the paintings were auctioned off as the house was being prepared for demolition — according to the Preservation Society of Newport County.

Through the support of a small group of donors, the Preservation Society was able to purchase the last two paintings that had been missing from the dining room of The Elms, bringing the room back to the way it looked when it was completed by architect Horace Trumbauer and interior decorator Jules Allard in 1901.

"This is a truly significant preservation story," said Trudy Coxe, executive director and CEO of the Preservation Society. "We've not only re-assembled an important collection of paintings, but in doing so, we have taken another huge step forward in restoring a National Historic Landmark to its original appearance."

The collection consists of 10 paintings. The four largest canvases — two in the entrance foyer and two in the dining room — remained in place after the 1962 auction of The Elms' collections, but six smaller canvases which had hung over the doors to the dining room were sold.

In 2004, the Preservation Society succeeded in raising the funds needed to purchase four of the six and restore them to their positions in the dining room. Negotiations this year with Wildenstein & Company art dealers resulted in the purchase of the last two paintings, both attributed to Sebastiano Ricci (1659-1734).

The paintings were commissioned in



'The Investiture of Marco Corner as Count of Zara in 1344', left, by Sebastiano Ricci, and 'Anteros Pleads with Antropos,' also by Ricci, are two 18th century Venetian paintings that have been restored to The Elms.

the early 1700s by Bernardo Corner, a general and member of the ruling Council of Ten of the Venetian Republic, for his family's 16th century residence, according to the Preservation Society. Nearly 200 years later, the paintings were purchased by Paris decorator Jules Allard on behalf of his client, Edward J. Berwind, who was building The Elms on Bellevue Avenue as a summer residence in Newport.

With the death of Julia Berwind, who had inherited the house from her brother, The Elms was scheduled for



demolition to make way for commercial development. However, friends of the Preservation Society succeeded in raising enough funds to purchase the house from the developer and open it to the public as a museum.

Some of the original furnishings that had been sold at auction were donated back to The Elms, and through the years, the Preservation Society has sought whenever possible to re-acquire additional original pieces of art and furniture as they become available, Coxe said.



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Staff photographer
The Preservation Society plans to replace the visitors tent at The Breakers with a permanent structure.

Society planning welcome center on Breakers property

By **Sean Flynn**
Staff writer

NEWPORT — The Preservation Society of Newport County is planning to replace the visitors tent on The Breakers mansion property with a new welcome center that is being designed by a prominent architectural firm. The tent is where tickets now are sold. A vending machine shed and a toilet trailer also would be replaced.

"We are absolutely committed to having it behind trees and for it to be as invisible as the tent is now, or more so,"

said John G. Rodman, the society's director of museum experience.

Rodman said there are plenty of mature trees on the property and two groves of original hinoki cypresses will be protected.

"Visitors will see the driveway as Cornelius and Alice Vanderbilt once saw it," Rodman said.

The first conceptual architectural renderings should be available sometime in September, he said. The cost of the

VISITORS A6

ELECTION 2012

Gemma on attack during first debate against Cicilline

By **David Klepper**
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE — Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., and challenger Anthony Gemma sparred Tuesday in a combative and at times raucous debate two weeks before the Democratic primary and after Gemma's attempts to link Cicilline to unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

Throughout the debate, Cicilline worked to keep the focus on the economy and the need for leadership in Washington, while Gemma labeled him a liar. At times, boos and yells from the studio audience drowned out the candidates during their first televised debate, held at Rhode Island College.

Tuesday's clash came as the 1st Congressional District primary grows increasingly contentious and personal. Last

'We can't believe a word that comes out of David Cicilline's mouth.'

ANTHONY GEMMA

candidate for the 1st Congressional District seat

week Gemma accused Cicilline's earlier campaigns of paying people to vote multiple times or asking individuals to impersonate dead voters. Gemma repeated the claims Tuesday, though he offered no evidence with a clear link to Cicilline.

"We can't believe a word that comes out of David Cicilline's mouth," said Gemma, a businessman seeking his first elected office.

DEBATE A6

NEWPORT

Who's going to pay for school?

School Committee and City Council members discuss bond payments for the city's new elementary school.

By **Sean Flynn**
Staff writer

The next point of contention between the Newport City Council and the School Committee could be which body is responsible for making annual payments on the \$30 million bond that will finance the new Pell Elementary School set to open in September 2013.

"I will be advocating the School Department make the bond payments," said School Committee member Robert J. Leary, who often sides with the City Council on financial issues facing the department.

"Not so fast — I don't know if the savings will be enough to make those kinds of payments," said School Superintendent John H. Ambrogi.

All four elementary schools in the city will be consolidated into the new school, so personnel and maintenance savings are expected, Ambrogi said. Increasing school enrollment is a wild card, though, because if it continues to increase, projected saving could decrease, he said.

Enrollment in kindergarten through fourth grade was 811 at the end of the school year in June, Ambrogi said. When the schools open next week, K-4 enrollment will be at 862, an increase of 51 students one school year to the next, he said.

The exchange between Leary and Ambrogi came during a meeting of the City Council/School Committee Liaison Subcommittee on Tuesday morning, and was a preview of discussions to come.

The annual payments on the 20-year Pell school bond, principal plus interest, will total about \$2.4 million, assuming an interest rate of 5 percent. Since the state will be paying 42 percent of the total costs, the city's bond payment would be about \$1.39 million yearly and the state would be paying about \$1.01 million yearly,

according to a table showing the annual debt service that was put together by the city's Finance Department.

Those are estimated payments subject to change, said city Finance Director Laura Sitrin. At current market rates, the city would be paying less than 5 percent on the bond, she said.

In addition, Ambrogi said there is a possibility that the state could approve a reimbursement rate of 44 percent, based on what energy efficiencies the new school is able to achieve.

The first bond payment will be due in the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2013, and the city has not sold the bond to lenders yet. The bond will be sold through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corp., Sitrin said.

The current construction is being financed by bond anticipation notes, money the city borrowed pending sale of the bond. The city borrowed \$9 million on the first note and is ready to close this week on an \$18.4 million second note, Sitrin said. The city is paying the interest, less than 1

SCHOOL A6

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Portsmouth schools were back in session Tuesday. After a one-day strike, North Kingstown schools, including the high school, which Jamestown students attend, will be back in session today. For other local districts:
Jamestown: Thursday (grades 1-8); Friday (pre-K and K).
Tiverton: Tuesday (K-12)
Middletown: Wednesday, Sept. 5 (K-12)
Newport: Wednesday, Sept. 5 (K-12)



THURSDAY

»»» **TOUR BUSINESS** in Newport celebrates its golden anniversary.

SCHOOL BOARD HOPEFULS in Portsmouth take part in Candidates Night.

COMING attractions

Some things you won't want to miss

WEATHER

56 Tonight, mostly clear. Low around 56.

79 Thursday, mostly sunny. High near 79.

Details, A6

Advice **B5**
Calendar **A5**
Classifieds **B7**
Comics **B4**
Local & State **A3**
Obituaries **A4**
Opinion **A7**
Police & Fire **A4**
Sports **B1**
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