

IS YOUR STORE ON THE LIST?

Which spots are closing + a guide to local alternatives. **B1**



LOOK, MOM, NO CHARGE

10 local restaurants where kids eat free **D1**

ATHLETES' NEW CUPS

Three high schools OK drug testing but only for athletes **C1**



Quahog Times

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GAS PRICE FLIGHT

Families say so long to the suburban life

As he gassed up his 2002 Honda Civic recently, David Underwood found himself at the intersection of two priorities: transportation costs and housing. Paying \$53 for a tank of gas to commute from his Hope Valley rental condo to his job in Quahog, Underwood realized that the price set a "personal best" he'd rather not repeat. That's why after much discussion, he decided to buy a home in Quahog, as close to his job as possible.

BUSINESS, D1

CHANGING FAITH

We're losing our religion

More than a quarter of adult Quahogs have left the faith of their childhood to join another religion or no religion, according to a new survey of religious affiliation by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. The report, titled "U.S. Religious Landscape Survey," depicts a highly fluid and diverse national religious life. If shifts among Protestant denominations are included, then it appears that 44 percent of Americans have switched religious affiliations.

METRO, B1

DOWNTOWN'S NEW ARENA

IT'S COMING.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITS \$120 MILLION, BUT WHO WILL PLAY THERE?



ON QUAHOGTIMES.COM. SEE PLANS FOR THE ARENA AND SOUND OFF ON YOUR PICK FOR QUAHOG'S NEW PRO TEAM

Plans for a downtown sports arena may be riding on today's expected news from the National Basketball Association, but the odds seem more favorable to lure a pro sports team from Canada.

The National Hockey League's Ottawa Senators have requested a tax break from Ontario Province that has left them literally skating on thin ice and considering a move to one of several cities, including Quahog.

Quahogans (who remain split on the idea of building a downtown arena) can't agree on what type of professional sport would be the best fit. While the NHL team seems like an easy deal to secure, many residents would prefer to lure an existing NBA franchise.

COVER STORY, A4

ON THE SHORT LIST



Ottawa Senators
Is Quahog ready for the NHL? The hockey team leads off the City Council's wish list.



Seattle SuperSonics
Owner Howard Schultz is interested in selling, but it's considered a long shot.



Memphis Grizzlies
The struggling NBA franchise would consider a name change if they move here.

ELECTION '08

OBAMA, McCAIN IN QUAHOG: OUR ISSUES, THEIR STANCES

SEN. JOHN McCAIN

Quahog Community Center, 2 p.m. today

SEN. BARACK OBAMA

Quahog High School, 4 p.m. today

"In a world of hostile and unstable suppliers of oil, this nation will achieve strategic independence by 2025."

ENERGY

"I stood in front of a group of auto-makers, and I told them we will help them retrofit, but they will have to make cars that use less oil."

"We must prove we can secure our borders, while respecting the dignity and rights of citizens and legal residents of the United States."

IMMIGRATION

"The time to fix our broken immigration system is now... We need stronger enforcement on the border and at the workplace."

"We've got to address the subprime housing problem. We need to make the Bush tax cuts permanent, which I voted for twice to do so."

ECONOMY

"His main proposal — extending tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans — is completely divorced from the reality of this crisis."

"We must win in Iraq. If we withdraw, there will be chaos; there will be genocide, and they will follow us home."

IRAQ

"Fighting in a war without end will not make the American people safer. I will set a new goal on Day One: I will end this war."

"Universal health care is a warmed-over proposal that we rejected back in the early '90s and I'm not interested in raising people's taxes."

HEALTH CARE

"We now face an opportunity — and an obligation — to turn the page on failed politics... My plan begins by covering every American."

BROWN TRIAL

Jury to debate death penalty in Z-Mart slaying

By Joe Jackson | Quahog Times

A Quahog jury rejected Rodney Brown's claim that he killed Apu Zaid by accident after the Melrose Avenue shopkeeper insulted and threatened him.

After deliberating about five hours Wednesday, the jury found Brown guilty of capital murder in the Nov. 9, 2006, slaying of the well-liked owner of Z-Mart. The verdict marked the first time in 30 years that a jury has returned a capital murder conviction in a Quahog case.

Jurors also found the 40-year-old Northern Rhode Island man guilty of attempted robbery and two counts of using a firearm in a felony. Today the penalty phase begins, and the jury will weigh whether Brown deserves life in prison or the death penalty.

After the verdict was read, Brown looked toward his girlfriend with an angry expression, his lips pressed into a grimace.



Brown

See DEATH, A4

MAGIC TOUCH

Nothing up his sleeve ...

Jonathan Jacques is willing a deck of cards to move. He puffs at the face-down deck, which contains a card — the queen of diamonds — signed by a visitor to a black marker. Slowly, the top half of the deck jitters and slides away to reveal the red queen's hiding place. At 16, Jonathan Jacques has gone far beyond the cute kid doing coin tricks for his uncles and aunts. The Quahog teenager is in demand and books about 250 paid gigs each year at birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, corporate gatherings and other events throughout New England.

LIFESTYLE, E1

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Weather, B8



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