



# Slow start, costly turnovers hurt Somerset Berkley in first half

SPORTS, 1B

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# The Herald News

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## SMOOTH LANDING



A heron lands at the reservoir near Child Street in Warren, Rhode Island, in August. COLIN FURZE/HERALD NEWS

## BSU flight program gets \$1.3M in funds

**Frank Mulligan**  
The Standard-Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW BEDFORD — Bridgewater State University's aviation program has grown in numbers and stature since its inception in 1981, but needed something for a rainy day.

Or snowy, or windy, or just a day exposed to the salt sea air.

With the help of U.S. Rep. Bill Keating and Sens. Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, BSU received \$1.358 million in congressionally directed spending funds for a new hangar at New Bedford Regional Airport that will protect its current fleet of a dozen planes from the elements, according to BSU officials.

The funding was also used to purchase a new multi-engine plane with retractable wheels for its student pilots.

BSU's Department of Aviation Science offers a bachelor's degree in aviation management or flight training. It is the only four-year program in New

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## Stop & Shop cuts prices on products

**Dan Medeiros**  
The Herald News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — Supermarket chain Stop & Shop has been on a quest since May 2024 to turn around its financial fortunes — with its latest steps being price cuts at all Massachusetts stores.

The Quincy-based company announced in late August that thousands of products would have cheaper price tags by the end of the month. It's part of what the company has called a "transformation strategy," which includes remodeling some stores and closing others.

But is shopping at Stop & Shop noticeably cheaper than it was before? How do its prices compare to other chains? And what about inflation?

Last year, The Herald News surveyed prices of grocery staples at six area stores. Let's see how they compare to today.

### What did we buy, and what grocery stores did we visit?

In June 2024, we went shopping at six Fall River supermarkets with a grocery list and a calculator, looking for six products an average family might buy:

- **Milk:** a gallon, whole-fat
- **Eggs:** a dozen large, either brown or white
- **Bread:** a 20-ounce loaf of sliced white
- **Bananas:** one pound
- **Chicken:** boneless and skinless breast, packaged but not frozen, one pound
- **Ice cream:** 1.5-quart carton, because you deserve a little treat

We visited these stores:

- **Stop & Shop**, 815 GAR Highway, Somerset
- **Shaw's**, 4171 N. Main St.
- **Market Basket**, 600 William S. Canning Blvd.
- **Aldi**, 485 William S. Canning Blvd.
- **Walmart Supercenter**, 638 Quequechan St.



A sign advertising lower prices storewide hangs at Shaw's Supermarket in Fall River on Aug. 28. DAN MEDEIROS/THE HERALD NEWS

- **Price Rite**, 866 Pleasant St.

At the time, we found that Stop & Shop was the second-most expensive of the bunch — only Shaw's was more expensive. The bill at Stop & Shop was \$3 more expensive than its nearest competitor, Walmart, and nearly \$6 more expensive than the cheapest store, Aldi.

We re-ran the experiment on Aug. 28 — same stores, same groceries, a year later. Here are the results.

**Was Stop & Shop cheaper than last year?**

Compared to 2024, the bill at Stop & Shop was cheaper — but only slightly. A pound of chicken breast dropped a dollar a pound from \$3.99 to \$2.99, but egg

prices were up a dollar from \$2.99 to \$3.99, thus canceling out any savings. The price of bananas was unchanged, but other products saw slight trims in costs of a few cents here and there. Total, the bill was \$16.24, or 70 cents less than last year.

Out of the six stores surveyed, Stop & Shop was still the second-most expensive, too.

However, if Stoppies has been promoting its everyday lower prices, so has Shaw's. Signs were hung everywhere promising price cuts.

Last year's Shaw's bill came to \$20.42. This year, the same stuff was much cheaper at \$17.04.

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## What will happen to Silvia's campaign funding?

**Dan Medeiros**  
The Herald News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — The abrupt suspension of café owner Christopher Silvia's campaign for mayor of Fall River, after early voting has already begun, has raised questions about how campaign finance works.

According to the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance, Silvia has taken in a little over \$2,000 in donations as of Aug. 12, the last date for which reporting is available.

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Christopher Silvia takes questions at the Fall River Mayoral candidate forum held at Sociedade Cultural Acoreana on Covel Street on Aug. 27. COLIN FURZE/HERALD NEWS

