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The Herald News

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Braga Bridge formally lit



The Braga Bridge is lit up in red, white and blue after being officially switched on by state and local officials in a ceremony in Fall River on July 7. DAN MEDEIROS/THE HERALD NEWS

Local officials tout 'civic pride' in ceremony

Dan Medeiros
The Herald News
USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — State Sen. Michael Rodrigues told the huddled masses gathered inside the Heritage State Park Visitors Center that he thinks of the Braga Bridge “as Fall River’s Statue of Liber-

ty” — the first thing many people see when they visit.

“By lighting this bridge today, it truly will be a beacon of welcome to everyone coming and visiting this city,” Rodrigues said.

The bridge’s new color-changing LED lights were formally switched on at an event on the city’s waterfront, where

local and state officials championed the Braga’s spiffy new look — though downpouring rain and a light fog from brutally uncooperative weather made them difficult to see from inside. More than one person contemplated stepping outside to get a better view, saw all the cats and dogs falling earthward out there, and thought better of it.

Still, officials were proud that the

See BRIDGE, Page 2A

Old Diman building walkthrough canceled due to flood

Dan Medeiros
The Herald News
USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — Alumni of Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School who had hoped to bid farewell to the old building one last time are going to be disappointed: the school has announced a final walkthrough is canceled.

A nostalgic walk of their alma mater’s hallways was originally scheduled for Sunday, July 12. The school announced via social media on Tuesday, July 7, that recent flooding “caused a major power outage and a loss of essential building utilities.”

“Because the building currently lacks electrical power, running water, and restroom facilities, it is impossible to safely welcome visitors inside for a final walkthrough before the transition to the new campus this summer,” the school stated.

Free memorabilia at Diman yard sale

The school is instead hosting a “yard sale” from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Diman gymnasium.

Diman is making available “surplus items and memorabilia” from the old building for free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking is available in the school’s student lot, which currently has a gravel surface.

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Sheriff says ICE intimidating him for following state law

Frank Mulligan
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

DARTMOUTH — Bristol County Sheriff Paul Heroux said he won’t be intimidated or shamed into breaking the law, in response to an ICE post on the social media network X critical of his release of a man in custody.

On July 2, ICE shared a post on X stating, “ICE Boston arrested Jose Raul Martinez-Alvarado, a criminal illegal alien from Honduras, during operations in New Bedford, Mass. Martinez-Alvarado’s criminal history includes pending charges for unlawful possession of a

large capacity firearm, unlawful possession of a large capacity feeding device, resisting arrest, carrying a firearm without a license and carrying a loaded firearm without a license.”

It also stated, “Bristol County House of Corrections RELEASED Martinez-Alvarado without honoring the ICE detainer. ICE Boston will do what sanctuary politicians will not: keep dangerous criminals off our streets.”

Heroux said it was a routine release on bail, so routine he added that it only came to his attention after the X post was brought to his attention by the media.

Heroux stated in a release that “ICE

Boston made a partisan political statement and tried to pressure or intimidate me and my office to break state and federal law.”

What is the suspect accused of?

According to court documents, the defendant’s name is spelled Martinez-Alvarado, and his address is 323 Purchase St., Apt. 2, in New Bedford. Court documents state he initially posted \$500 cash bail on June 8 but was held on \$1,500 cash bail. The remaining \$1,000 was posted on June 9.

See SHERIFF, Page 3A



Bristol County Sheriff Paul Heroux said he won’t be intimidated or shamed into breaking the law in response to an ICE post on X.

PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES

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