



## College football: Oklahoma downs Michigan, while Florida stumbles

SPORTS, 9A

# Telegraph-Forum

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### Scientists say RI species could be key in saving world’s reefs

Alex Kuffner Providence Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

BRISTOL, RI

You may not think that a coral can be a fierce hunter. But Rhode Island’s Northern star coral isn’t like others of its kind. • “It’s unremarkable to the naked eye,” said Koty Sharp, head of the Coral Microbial Ecology Research Lab at Roger Williams University. “But look at it under the scope. You’re gonna love it.” • On the digital screen attached to a stereo microscope, *Astrangia poculata* is revealed in all its writhing, tentacled glory. Up close and magnified like this, the pebble-sized colony looks like some sort of sinister alien ready to grab anything within reach.

And that’s exactly what it does when lab manager Ciaran Fitzpatrick squirts a bevy of brine shrimp into the water surrounding it. Sensing food, the ring of tentacles around each of the colony’s individual members goes to work, shooting forth venomous barbs that capture the tiny shrimp like a harpoonist from a bygone age spearing a whale.

Pretty soon, nearly all the shrimp have disappeared into the many mouths of the little animals known as polyps that make up the colony.

“We think they’re actually pretty remarkable,” said Fitzpatrick.

It’s easy to underestimate Rhode Island’s only native coral species, which, judging by its small size and drab appearance, is a mere shadow of the colorful, reef-building corals of the tropics.

But in the decade since Sharp founded the coral lab at Roger Williams, she and her scientific collaborators have proven that there’s a lot more to Northern star coral than meets the eye.

In the latest study to come out of the



ABOVE: Koty Sharp is head of the Coral Microbial Ecology Research Lab at Roger Williams University, where research is conducted that could help save tropical reef-building corals. PHOTOS BY DAVID DELPOIO/PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

AT TOP: When judged by its small size and drab appearance, it’s easy to underestimate the Northern star coral, Rhode Island’s only native coral species. But research on the coral could help researchers understand how to protect reefs that are crucial for marine life.

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## Senior activists protesting Trump

Many motivated to fight immigration policies

Lauren Villagran  
USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX – Bonnie Daniels and Dee Anne Croucher didn’t expect to spend their retirement in the florescent-lit halls of immigration court, facing down masked ICE agents.

But that’s where they head daily to quietly challenge President Donald Trump’s crackdown. They warn immigrants what awaits them. They hand out Sharpies so each can write an emergency contact phone number on their forearm. They hold the immigrants’ hands, walking shoulder to shoulder with them into the crowd of

See ACTIVISTS, Page 5A

## Shooting attack in Jerusalem kills 6



Israel says Palestinians opened fire at bus stop

Rami Amichay and Nidal al-Mughrabi  
REUTERS

JERUSALEM – Two Palestinian gunmen opened fire at a bus stop on the outskirts of Jerusalem on Sept 8, killing six people in what police described as “a terrorist attack,” one of the deadliest in the city in the past few years.

Footage from a dashboard camera at the scene in Ramot Junction showed people fleeing from around a bus at the side of a road as shots rang

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