



# When Rutschman might make debut for Red Sox

SPORTS, 1B

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A powerful airbag is prepared for use at a vehicle-recovery training exercise July 24 in Auburn, Massachusetts. Divers plan to raise a sunken police cruiser with the airbag.

# How divers prepare for recoveries like the Seekonk River tragedy

**Mark Reynolds**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three missing people, including a toddler, were in a vehicle that had plunged into the Seekonk River and were presumed dead.

The above-surface efforts of divers and other personnel were easily observed from a nearby bridge.

A few frustrated observers on the span talked about splashing into the Seekonk River to take a shot at pulling off the recovery job themselves.

Walter “Butch” Hendrick, an expert in the profession of public safety diving, was much further away from the site in Pawtucket.

But Hendrick also wondered, although quite guardedly, if the timeline for the work to recover the bodies was too slow.

Then, reporting in The Providence Journal clarified that underwater challenges at the site in Pawtucket had far exceeded normal impediments, such as zero visibility and tricky currents. For one thing, the river bottom was littered with other sunken vehicles.

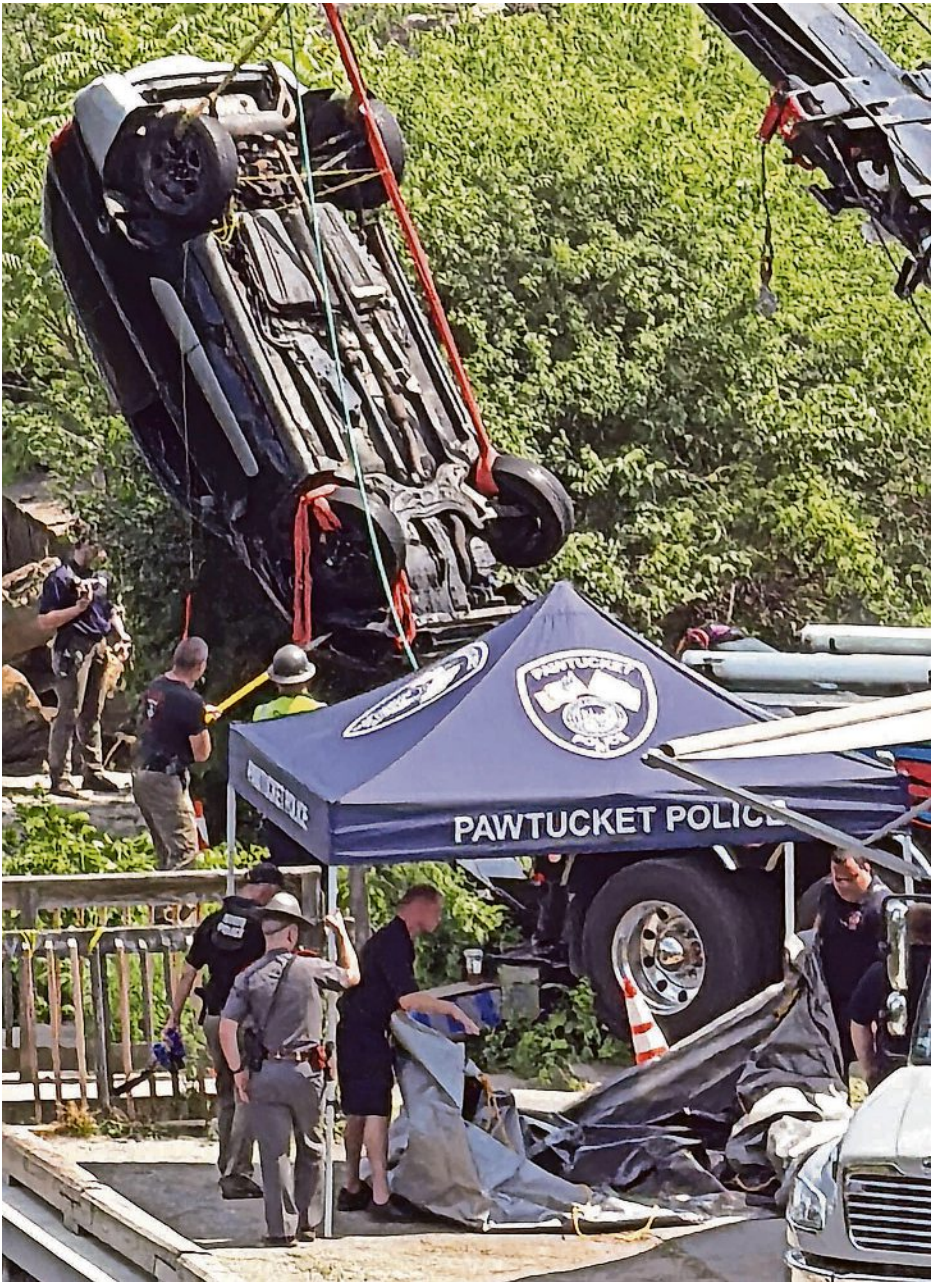
With that information, Hendrick was complimentary of the recovery efforts.

### Training for underwater challenges

Hendrick has spent his life training divers for similar situations. The president and CEO of New York-based Life-guard Systems has coached public safety divers in 14 countries.

That’s what he was doing on July 24, just a few weeks after the tragedy and just over the Rhode Island border in Auburn, Massachusetts.

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A previously submerged vehicle, containing the bodies of a 2-year-old and two women, is hoisted over the shore of the Seekonk River on June 29.

PHOTOS BY MARK REYNOLDS/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

# Senate panel votes to hold Fauci in contempt

**Zachary Schermele**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and personally sensitive issues, ranging from his actions as the country’s top pandemic expert to his own revealing diary entries.

Fauci’s stonewalling, pleading the Fifth more than 100 times, enraged Republicans, most notably committee chair Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, who accused him of defying Congress.

“The sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say

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# From Newport slavery to Sierra Leone

**Lynne Sullivan**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

What happens when a historian is studying an interesting historical figure but runs up against gaps in the historical record?

For Jane Lancaster, author of “Liberty is Sweet,” the answer was to fill those gaps with fiction, telling the story of Phebe and Arthur Bowler, two enslaved people living in Newport during the American Revolution.

“Although the Black and Indigenous men who joined Rhode Island’s Black Regiment in search of freedom are rightly celebrated, we’ve heard less about the many more – maybe 400 percent more – enslaved people who responded to British offers of freedom,” said Lancaster.

Phebe and Arthur were called “Black Loyalists” – “I prefer to think of them as Black pragmatists,” Lancaster said. Her book tells the story of the buildup to war through the eyes of servants and slaves, their worries about their employer/enslaver spying for the British, and their travels to Nova Scotia and, finally, to Sierra Leone.

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