



6 leaks from ‘Ghostwriter’ filming around Providence

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The Providence Journal

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Warwick police officer Ryan Shibley starts off a game of bocce as part of a program that helps youths understand police officers better and vice versa. MARK REYNOLDS/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

Bocce program builds trust between teens and police

Mark Reynolds
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The mock scenario put Rhode Island State Trooper Ruth Hernandez at odds with an uncooperative motorcyclist. It unfolded in a Smithfield parking lot adjacent to a grassy field, where about 20 young people, ranging in age from 10 to about 17, had gathered to play bocce with Rhode Island police officers. Of course, no one had told the young bocce players that Hernandez and motorcyclist Bruce Cirliss were acting. Cirliss, who is middle-aged, had pulled into the lot at Roots Heaven Farm, off Douglas Pike. Hernandez rolled in behind him in her cruiser, lights flashing.

The motorcyclist dismounted from

his machine and pranced toward her, with the trooper telling him to stand by his motorcycle. She calmly asked for his license and registration; he excitedly demanded her name and badge number. Then, Cirliss aggressively moved toward the trooper. As the trooper drew her Taser, the bocce-playing officers stepped away from the game, moving closer as if they might need to lend assistance to their colleague. When many of the young people reached for their phones, the event's chief organizer, Ibn-Hashim Bakari, knew they were buying into the ruse. He also knew the lesson was succeeding. At that point, Cirliss showed compli-

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Ibn-Hashim Bakari is the founder and president of Lights & Sirens International.
PROVIDED BY IBN-HASHIM BAKARI

POLITICAL SCENE

Controversy dogs Foster's power couple

Katherine Gregg
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

While Senate Minority Whip **Gordon Rogers** may be No. 2 in the Senate Republican leadership, his political influence is tempered by his party holding only four seats in the 38-member state Senate. But Rogers and his wife, Town Councilor **Heidi Weston Rogers**, are *the* political power couple in their home town of Foster. And that has led to an ethics complaint about what role, if any, she played in preventing his removal as the town's \$84,872-a-year director of public works. **About this there appears little dispute:** She voted against an interim replacement for her husband and against a public posting for his job. On April 8, the Rhode Island Ethics Commission found "probable cause" to believe that the councilwoman ran afoul of the state's Code of Ethics in multiple ways, including the prohibition against someone using a public office to benefit a close relative — in this case, her spouse. The Ethics Commission's equivalent of a "trial" is set for Oct. 1, and she contends she's the victim of a "political hit job."

"I'm not settling," she told The Journal on Sept. 4. "I'll go to court, I'll go to trial," she continued. "I'm not going to settle. I'm not going to settle and be guilty [of] something when [we] had a solicitor for a reason — to keep us out of these things." And on the night in question, the solicitor did not warn her off. The pending complaint is not the first time one of the Rogerses has landed in an ethical stew. And the controversy over Heidi Rogers' votes to preserve her husband's job did not happen in a vacuum.

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Military analyst says wind farm not a security risk

Alex Kuffner
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

When retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Kirk Lippold heard that the Trump administration had ordered work to stop on Revolution Wind, the 65-turbine off-

shore wind farm being built off Rhode Island, he said he was surprised and disappointed. Lippold, who was commander of the USS Cole when it was attacked by Al Qaeda in 2000, was baffled by the government's vague reference to national security issues as the reason for the

Aug. 22 stop-work order. "Invoking national security for the cancellation of this project holds no weight," said Lippold, who now works as an analyst on military and national security issues and has appeared frequently on Fox News and other media outlets. "It was a specious argument

and a false narrative that they put forth." He said that there are legitimate security concerns raised by the development of offshore wind, namely that the installation of dozens or more towering

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