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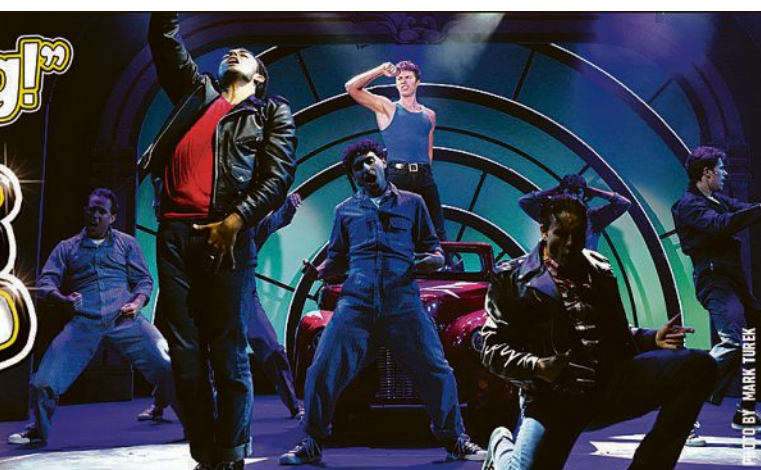
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A closeup of the historic stone wall at Peck Cemetery in Cumberland from the mid-18th century, seen on July 6. PHOTOS BY DAVID DELPOIO/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

ROCKS OF AGES

Cumberland looks to preserve 160 miles of historic stone walls

Jack Perry
 Providence Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

The town of Cumberland has an estimated 160 miles of stone walls, but some worry that the historic landmarks could be swallowed by development.

To protect the rugged walls that run along roads, through the woods, and border farms and cemeteries, the town is planning to do an inventory to better determine how many stone walls it has, how old they are and what types they are.

"Increasing development pressure may result in the loss of historic stone walls," the town said in a document outlining the project. "The Cumberland Historic District Commission has identified the need for a comprehensive inventory as a priority to ensure these resources are identified and evaluated, so that they can be better protected through future planning and zoning tools."

New England once had 240,000 miles of stone walls, enough to wrap around the Earth 10 times, according to stone wall expert Robert Thorson, an Earth Science professor at the University of Connecticut and an advocate for preserving them. He said, "We know Rhode Island had the highest concentration of stone walls in New England in 1871."

See **STONE WALLS**, Page 4A



A stone wall from the mid-18th century at Peck Cemetery in Cumberland. Cumberland plans to do an inventory to better determine how many stone walls it has, how old they are and what types they are.

Scratch ticket muddles divorce

Initially uncontested case went to high court

Katie Mulvaney
 Providence Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

This is a tale of a divorce, a lottery ticket and some bad timing – or not, depending how you look at it.

Ana Varela and Daniel Monteiro married in November 2007, with Varela filing for divorce eight years later on the grounds that the couple was separated and had lived apart for more than three years.

In fact, Monteiro had moved to Massachusetts years earlier. He filed no response or counterclaim to the proceedings and didn't even enter his appearance into the record, as directed by the court.

But what began as an uncontested divorce, with both parties making no claims for money, took a turn.

The reason? A scratch ticket, purchased by Varela, which ended up being a \$4 million winner. And complicating the issue was that both Varela, 48, and Monteiro, 56, represented themselves in court.

The state Supreme Court settled the

See **DIVORCE**, Page 7A

Lawmakers order audit for Rhode Island's troubled DOT

Katherine Gregg
 Providence Journal
 USA TODAY NETWORK

A testy, hours-long hearing on the lead-up to the Washington Bridge emergency closure and demolition during Peter Alviti's tenure at the state Department of Transportation left lawmakers with an angry thirst for an audit of the agency.

So that's what they ordered up in

See **AUDIT**, Page 7A

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