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The state
Loser in RI Lt. Gov. race fights to get on ballot

PROVIDENCE (AP) — A losing Republican candidate for Rhode Island lieutenant governor is continuing her fight to get on the November ballot.

Kara Russo says she should be allowed on the ballot now that Republican nominee Heidi Rogers has withdrawn from the race and backed the independent candidate. She argues that Rogers, as the winner of the Republican primary, has a constitutional duty to remain on the ballot.

The state Board of Elections denied her request Wednesday, so Russo and her lawyer appealed Friday to the state Supreme Court.

Rogers left the race just three days after the primary. She says she supports independent Bob Healey, who wants to see the position eliminated.

RI August home sales dropped by 29 percent

WARWICK (AP) — The expiration of the federal home buyers tax credit continues to have a negative affect on the Rhode Island housing market.

The state Realtors association said Friday that even though sales of single-family homes last month rose slightly when compared to July, they were down 29 percent when compared to August 2009.

The median price in August when compared to the same month last year remained stable.

There was also a lower number of distressed sales last month, with short sales and foreclosures down 47 percent from August 2009.

Condominium and multi-family home sales were also down, although prices were up when compared to the year-ago period.

Association President Karl Martone says he expects to market to return "to a more normal pace" in the fall.



Photo/Butch Adams

Award recipients are (left to right), Blackstone Canal Tour Group of Worcester representative Ruby Wuabu, whose group received an ARISTA Award for Sustainable Tourism; Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce President & CEO John Gregory, who was inducted as a William Blackstone Society Member; Morris Nathanson Design designer/owner Morris Nathanson, who received the Blackstone Valley Excellence in Arts, Business and Design Award (as well as his late brother, Abe Nathanson, who received the award posthumously); Friends of the Hearthside Inc. President Kathy Hartley and Vice President John Scanlon, who accepted the Footprints in History Award for Hearthside in Lincoln; and Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission Deputy Director Richard Greenwood, who was inducted as a William Blackstone Society Member.

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council holds awards night

By JON BAKER

LINCOLN — As Morris Nathanson relaxed at one of the front tables inside the Twin River Event Center on Thursday night, awaiting the start of the 25th annual Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's Awards Banquet/Presentation, he couldn't help but recall how he became the designer/artist he is today.

"I knew when I was six years old that my future would be in the arts, simply because I could draw," noted the 83-year-old owner of Morris Nathanson Design, Inc., a company he founded a half-century ago. "When my brother Abe and I were very young, my mother would have to hire, well, a

babysitter to control us. Wherever we'd go, we'd draw or paint on walls, and she was the one hired to stop us. Naturally, that was long before graffiti.

"I just loved it; I'm assuming because I was pretty good at it."

Nathanson admitted this fete caused him bittersweet feelings, as kid brother Abe Nathanson — a stellar artist, photographer, children's book author and jewelry designer — passed away at the age of 80 approximately six weeks ago.

"The good news is Abe knew about this, and he was so proud," he offered, explaining how the two siblings had been told a couple of months ago they each would receive the council's Blackstone Valley Excellence in the

Arts, Business and Design laurel on this night. "Abe invented Bananagrams four years ago, and it won an international award for the best new table (word) game by the Toy Industry Association.

"Since then, he had invented three more table games," he continued. "He was 80 when he died, and 76 when he started his company (Bananagrams). This is very emotional for me because my brother was supposed to share in this with me. I've been honored so many times by the community, and for Abe and myself to be honored together, that's the best.

"You know what he said after learning we had won? He told me, 'You

See AWARDS, Page A-2

Struggle between Pfeiffer, Moreau moves to court

By JIM BARON

PROVIDENCE — The tug of war between state-appointed receiver Mark Pfeiffer on one side and Mayor Charles Moreau and the City Council on the other over who pulls the strings at City Hall moved to Superior Court Friday, with Pfeiffer moving to halt the council's consideration of appointments proposed by the mayor.

The council had been scheduled to meet Friday afternoon to consider three appointments by Moreau — Milard Shabo to the Housing Authority and Clarise Thompson and Shawne Thomas to the board of the Wyatt

Detention Center — when President William Benson was served with an injunction Thursday evening stopping the appointments and informing him of the court action on Friday. Pfeiffer had already appointed Edna Poulin to the Housing Authority.

Appearing before Judge Michael Silverstein, the two sides agreed Friday to hold off on making any further appointments until an Oct. 4 court hearing at which the mayor and council's challenge to the constitutionality of the legislation establishing the state-appointed receiver will be argued.

While the mayor's appointments will not be acted upon, and Poulin's

appointment is on hold, Pfeiffer told The Time his proposed budget for the current fiscal year and its 10 percent supplemental property tax increase will move forward as planned, with tax bills being sent out "if not next week, then a few days after that."

"This basically sets the stage for argument on the constitutionality of the provisions of what authority the receiver has. It basically tees it up," said John Mancini, an attorney for Moreau and the City Council. Mancini said Moreau believes "the statute is too broad, it is too sweeping, it is unconfinned, it is unfettered in how it provides powers and it certainly conflicts with

provisions of the constitution (one) of which is the right for self government of the municipalities.

"The core of the issue is: is (the law establishing the receiver) constitutional?" Mancini stated.

He said that other municipalities, as well as the ACLU (which has already issued a statement questioning the constitutionality of the law) and other groups may want to file briefs in the case before the Oct. 4 hearing.

Pfeiffer told reporters after the hearing that the outcome was "satisfactory."

"Essentially it freezes any appointment powers or other powers the

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Cumberland man faces life for '09 murder of mother

By DONNA KENNY KIRWAN

PROVIDENCE — In Providence County Superior Court on Thursday, Richard Paiva, 37, formerly of 64 Baldwin Street, Cumberland, pled nolo contendere to the March 30, 2009 murder of his mother, Rita Paiva, at the Baldwin Street home. Paiva entered his plea before Judge Francis J. Darigan Jr. Thursday afternoon.

According to Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch, Judge Darigan sentenced Paiva to serve a life sentence at the ACI on one count of first-degree murder, and to a consecutive sentence of 15 years as a habitual offender under RIGL 12-19-21. Paiva must

serve 20 years of the first-degree murder sentence before being eligible for parole.

If Paiva is deemed eligible for parole at any point, he must then serve another 10 years as a habitual offender before being eligible for parole. In consideration of his plea, the State dismissed one count of assault after having been previously convicted twice of domestic offenses and one count of refusal to relinquish a telephone. The State also dismissed a pending count of possession of marijuana, subsequent offense.

According to a press release from the Attorney General's Office, had the matter proceeded to trial, Assistant

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