

Super swimmer

Apponequet's Ben Nicholas is boys Swimmer of the Year. **C1**



COASTIN' Island grooves

Steel drum sextet joins Tri-County Symphonic Band.



The Standard-Times

S E R V I N G T H E S O U T H C O A S T C O M M U N I T Y

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Fueling the fleet

Duo make their living gassing up fishing vessels

By BECKY W. EVANS
Standard-Times staff writer

NEW BEDFORD — Most days when the sun rises over the harbor, Al and Bob can be found on the Bay Fuels barge filling up the city's fishing fleet with marine diesel.

Each morning the duo fuel approximately four to six vessels with up to 6,000 gallons of diesel — enough for a 10-day trip to offshore fishing grounds in the Atlantic. It takes 30 minutes to an hour to fill each vessel, depending on its size

and the amount of fuel.

The blue barge, which is 30 feet long and 12 feet wide, is docked in Fairhaven, near D.N. Kelley & Son Inc. Shipyard. The push boat Can Do moves the 20-year-old barge back and forth across the harbor from vessel to vessel.

It's easier for the fuel barge to come to the fishing vessels than for the vessels, which are rafted together in groups of three or four, to get to a fuel dock, said 41-year-old Al Salvador, who has worked for Bay Fuels for the past nine years.

"It's convenient for them," Al said. "They don't have to keep moving the boats around."

Al often stays onboard the barge while Bob scrambles onto the fishing vessel and searches for the fuel tank, which is located in a different place on each boat.

In the winter, icy railings and slippery decks make the work dangerous. In his 20 years fueling boats, Bob Bowers, 45, has fallen into the water only once.

"It was 15 degrees out and it was still dark," he said. "Some guys pulled

See GAS A13



Photos by JOHN SLADEWSKI
Standard-Times special

Each morning Al Salvador and Bob Bowers fuel approximately four to six vessels with up to 6,000 gallons of diesel — enough for a 10-day trip to offshore fishing grounds in the Atlantic.



Above: Al Salvador unravels a coiled oil hose at Global Petroleum in order to pump nearly 20,000 gallons of fuel into the tanks of the Bay Fuels barge Can Do. Bay Fuels refills more than 45 boats on the waterfront.

Left: Bob Bowers replaces the fuel hose.

Wage hike sparks debate

Lawmakers at odds over proposed increase

By DAVID KIBBE
Standard-Times staff writer

BOSTON — Lawmakers at the Statehouse are close to making the state's minimum wage the highest in the country, but there is a deep split over how far it should go.

Legislation filed by Sen. Marc Pacheco, D-Taunton, and Rep. James Marzilli, D-Arlington, would boost the minimum wage from \$6.75 to \$8.25 an hour over two years, with the rate in future years tied to inflation.

But the House is resisting that approach, with a key legislative committee endorsing a plan last week to hike the minimum wage by \$1 over two years, which would still make it the highest in the nation at \$7.75 an hour. House members who control the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development rejected the idea of tying future minimum wage hikes to inflation.

At a Statehouse rally yesterday, a coalition of low-wage workers and union and religious leaders vowed to fight for the higher \$8.25 minimum wage.

Under the current minimum wage, a full-time worker makes about \$14,000 a year.

"I am here today to talk to you about fairness," Pacheco said. "We are living in one of the most expensive states in the country. Our housing costs are more, our health care costs are more, our food costs are more, our utilities cost more, and the costs continue to rise. The only thing that is staying the same is the wages of minimum wage workers, and that needs to change."

Attorney General Thomas Reilly, who is See WAGE A9

Two honored for heroism

By CURT BROWN
Standard-Times staff writer

NEW BEDFORD — Two New Bedford men were named yesterday as recipients of the prestigious Carnegie Medal for risking their lives two years ago to pull an 80-year-old man from a fiery wreck.

Gerald L. Ribeiro Jr., 34, and Keith Camp, 44, are being recognized for the heroism they displayed on Aug. 16, 2004, when they pulled Raymond A. Pittsley of East Freetown through the windshield of his burning dump truck as it lay on its side in the grassy median of Route 140.

See CARNEGIE A11

O'Malley's elevation cloaked in pomp

By JACK SPILLANE
Standard-Times staff writer

Archbishop Sean O'Malley will become a cardinal in a ceremony that is rich in the symbol-laden pageantry of the Roman Catholic Church.

During the consistory, which is technically a "raising" of the bishops to cardinals, "Archbishop Sean" will wear a cardinal's red skull cap (zuchetto) and receive from Pope Benedict XVI a stiff, three-cornered red hat with a pom (biretta). He'll also be given his cardinal's

FROM THE VATICAN

Local clergyman Rev. Richard Wilson writes about his arrival in Rome. **A11**



"This is a liturgical moment rich in tradition."

REV. CHRISTOPHER O'CONNOR,
St. John's Seminary in Brighton

the pope will individually exchange with the new cardinals a sign of peace, similar to the signs of peace Catholics exchange at the holy service they call Mass.

"This is a liturgical moment rich

in tradition," said the Rev. Christopher O'Connor, director of pre-theological students at St. John's Seminary in Brighton.

"The sign of peace is a reminder to the cardinals that they are to be in union with the Holy Father," he said.

Archbishop O'Malley's raising to cardinal will actually take place in two separate ceremonies, according to the Rev. Anthony Mancini, rector of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Providence.

See O'MALLEY A11



PETER PEREIRA/The Standard-Times

Gerald L. Ribeiro Jr., left, and Keith Camp accept their Carnegie Medals in honor of their actions in pulling a Freetown man out of his burning car in August 2004.

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Accusations fly in town tempest

By BRIAN BOYD
Standard-Times staff writer

WAREHAM — The ouster of embattled Selectman Bruce D. Sauvageau from his chairman post has uncovered a flurry of accusations among board members, including charges of police harassment, verbal threats and violations of the state's Open Meeting Law. The escalating controversy has raised

questions about who will be in charge when selectmen meet next on Tuesday. The dispute is also unfolding less than two weeks before the April 4 town election, when four candidates are vying for the seat being vacated by Selectman Cynthia K. Parola.

On Tuesday, three selectmen voted to remove Mr. Sauvageau — an action to See WAREHAM A11



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