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NEWPORT ♦ MIDDLETOWN ♦ PORTSMOUTH ♦ JAMESTOWN ♦ TIVERTON

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WEEKEND EDITION



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Staff photos

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., leads a group of officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state Department of Environmental Management and the town of Middletown on Friday along the storm-damaged Sachuest Point Road in Middletown. The road was torn apart during superstorm Sandy in October.

SANDY: THE AFTERMATH

Sachuest Point restoration gets a boost from the top

By Sean Flynn
Staff writer

The Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown annually draws about 200,000 visitors a year, according to Charlie Vandemoer, the refuge manager. And the refuge along with other recreational attractions in town result in \$238 million in spending by visitors, said Town Council President Christopher Semonelli.

But the refuge has been shut down completely since the storm surge from superstorm Sandy on Oct. 29 devastated the access road, making it impassable. Portions of trails on the refuge were washed out and new landscaping, with “armor” rocks and concrete, is necessary to prevent future erosion and make the refuge trails and overlooks “resilient,” Vandemoer said.

About two dozen federal, state and local officials gathered at the refuge Friday afternoon to tour the site and discuss the upcoming remediation work, as well as the funding needed for the refuge, one of five in the state managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Leading the delegation was U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, D-RI, who is chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee of the Interior & Environment Committee, which oversees the Fish and Wildlife’s \$1.5 billion



Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., speaks Friday while touring the storm damage at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge with officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state Department of Environmental Management and the town of Middletown.

annual budget.

The Senate this week unveiled a \$60.4 billion Emergency Disaster Supplemental Bill to help pay for damage resulting from Sandy. The bill includes \$78 million to meet immediate reconstruction and recovery needs for national wildlife refuges on the Eastern Seaboard.

Of that amount, \$1.2 million would be allocated to Rhode Island refuges said Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who came up from Washington, D.C., on Friday for his first tour of the refuge here.

In addition to that, the Federal Highway Administration

would provide \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million for the restoration of the road and Fish & Wildlife would provide \$200,000 to remove concrete blocks and broken up asphalt that now covers the former roadway, officials said Friday.

The state Department of Transportation, which administers the federal highway money, plans to put out a contract for the road in the coming weeks, said Robert Smith, DOT’s deputy chief engineer and also a guest on the tour.

Vandemoer is hoping the roadway can be done throughout the winter so a final asphalt coat can be applied when the weather warms up in

the spring. If the work takes too long, he plans to move restoration work far enough along so he can open the refuge to pedestrian traffic.

That cannot take place yet though, because the road condition is considered hazardous, he said. There is a winding dirt roadway running parallel to the former road, but it is only accessible with four-wheel drive vehicles. Emergency response vehicles, that might be necessary for visitors, could not use the road, he said.

Next to Sachuest Point Road is a former town landfill that was capped in 2001. It, too, was disrupted by the storm.

“We are reusing the concrete slabs washed up on Sachuest Point Road to better armor the landfill cap against future storm events,” the Fish & Wildlife Service said in its description of work now being done.

Both Reed and Ashe said it was important not just to mitigate Sandy’s damage, but to take measures that create stronger barriers so it doesn’t happen again.

Because trails were washed out by Sandy, new trails are being created, one to the elevated Price Neck Overlook on a high large rock. Visitors on Friday were brought to overlook to see the vistas of refuge and the surrounding area.

POINT A7

CONN. SCHOOL MASSACRE



Associated Press photos

In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, a Connecticut State Police trooper leads a line of children from Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday after a deadly shooting at the school.

‘Our hearts are broken’

Man kills mother at home, 26 others at Conn. school

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)—A man killed his mother at home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught, massacring 26 people, including 20 children, as youngsters cowered in fear to the sound of gunshots reverberating through the building and screams echoing over the intercom.

The 20-year-old killer, carrying two handguns, committed suicide at the school, bringing the death toll to 28, authorities said.

The rampage, coming less than two weeks before Christmas, was the nation’s second-deadliest school shooting, exceeded only by the Virginia Tech massacre that left 33 people dead in 2007.

“Our hearts are broken today,” a tearful President Barack Obama, struggling to maintain his composure, said at the White House. He called for “meaningful action” to prevent such shootings. “As a country, we have been through this too many times,” he said.

Police shed no light on the motive for the attack on two classrooms. The gunman, identified as Adam Lanza, was believed to suffer from a personality disorder and lived with his mother, said a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but was not authorized to discuss it.

Panicked parents looking for their children raced to Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, a prosperous New England community of about 27,000 people 60 miles northeast of New York City. Police told youngsters at the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade school to close their eyes as they were led



A woman waits to hear about her sister, a teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School, after Friday’s shootings.

ALSO

♦ Shootings kindle debate over gun-control laws. A8

from the building.

Schoolchildren — some crying, others looking frightened — were escorted through a parking lot in a line, hands on each other’s shoulders.

Law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity said that Lanza killed his mother, Nancy Lanza, and then drove to the school in her car with three guns, including a high-powered rifle that he apparently left in the back. Authorities said he shot up two classrooms, but they otherwise gave no details on how the attack unfolded.

A custodian ran through the halls, warning of a gunman on the loose, and someone switched on the intercom, alerting people in the building to the attack — and perhaps saving many lives — by letting them hear the hysteria apparently going on in the school office, a

MASSACRE A7

Tennis Hall of Fame has plans to rebuild city block

By Sean Flynn
Staff writer

NEWPORT — The International Tennis Hall of Fame has plans to build new indoor tennis courts on the corner of Memorial Boulevard and Freebody Street.

The Hall of Fame recently bought the whole southwest corner of Memorial Boulevard and Freebody Street where the Sunoco gas station, the Water Bros. surf shop and an apartment building behind Water Bros. are located. It plans to demolish the gas station and move the Water Bros. building and the apartment building to other locations. They are now searching for new sites for those buildings.

Hayden Court, which runs between the Hall of Fame’s existing indoor tennis court building and the commercial and

‘We need a design that makes us all happy.’

MARK STENNING

chief executive officer of the International Tennis Hall of Fame

apartment buildings, was abandoned by the City Council this week and turned over to the Hall of Fame, which owns all properties around it.

The vision is to build a new shingle-style building on the merged properties that would house additional indoor tennis courts and possibly squash courts, said Mark Stenning, the Hall of Fame’s chief executive officer.

The existing indoor tennis court building would receive a new exterior, also in shingle style, he said. The Newport Casino that houses the

International Tennis Hall of Fame was constructed in 1880 and is considered to be one of the finest examples of Victorian Shingle Style architecture in the world. That style would be brought out prominently with the new building and renovated existing building, he said.

“Besides creating additional recreational facilities in the city, we hope to dramatically improve the streetscape of Memorial Boulevard with shingle-style architecture,” Stenning said.

The early cost estimate for these conceptual plans is in the range of \$8 million, which still must be raised by the Hall of Fame, he said.

“The project is contingent on funding,” he said. “We hope to begin construction in the next couple of years.”

Architect Martha L. Werenfels of

REBUILD A7



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Staff photographer

The Tennis Hall of Fame has purchased the Sunoco gas station and a building behind it in order to tear them down. The Hall of Fame plans to build indoor tennis courts at the site.



MONDAY

COMING attractions

Some things you won't want to miss

►► EDWARD KING HOUSE celebrates 100th anniversary.

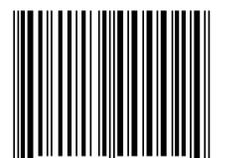
PEDAL POWER LIGHTS tree in downtown Newport.

WEATHER

Today, sunny. High near 41.
Tonight, increasing clouds. Low around 31.
Sunday, showers. High 43
Sunday night, showers. High around 40.

Details, A7

Advice	B5
Business	C7
Calendar	A5
Classifieds	B6
Community	C1
Local & State	A3
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	A6
Religion	C8
Sports	B1
Television	C9-C10



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