




Highs and lows from last week




When Charles Royce said that he planned to rebuild the Ocean House, the reaction was overwhelmingly positive, other than a few architectural concerns. In the time that has elapsed since that decision, the economy has soured. So now that the crown jewel of Watch Hill is approaching opening, the 160 jobs it will bring are even more welcome than ever. The Ocean House will be more than a point of restored pride, but a key part of the effort to turn the local economy around.




It was a positive sign for the fishing industry to see those who make their living from the sea gather in Washington, D.C. Wednesday. Thousands rallied against new federal catch limits that could cripple our area fishermen. So many barely make it by now. But seeing them show support by taking the day to go to Washington demonstrates that the fishing industry for the small business owner will not be defeated without a fight.




Central Falls High School made national news last week with even the nation's secretary of education weighing in on a plan to fire all the teachers. There's no question that it is one of the worst performing districts in the state — the graduation rate is 52 percent — and that makes drastic action of some form necessary. But the infighting over how to achieve it has reached a level of acrimony that is shameful, especially since the problem is hardly new and should have been addressed long before. The district's children do not deserve to be caught in a tug of war between their teachers and parents.



Ashaway resident William J. Felkner made the right call in stepping down from his post on the Hopkinton Town Council. Felkner has been a lightning rod for controversy, but his decision was based on personal, not philosophical, reasons. He has not attended any workshops on the budget for the upcoming year due to family and business commitments and frequently missed meetings. A councilor should be thoroughly involved in such discussions, and we're certain that Felkner — a man who has never lacked opinions — wishes he could take a more active role. It is a long overdue acknowledgement on his part that he cannot.



Canada's gold-medal winning women's hockey team returned to the ice to celebrate after the fans went home ... and still found a way to embarrass itself. As players posed for pictures, one was shown holding a beer, even though she's under the drinking age in British Columbia. It's not the worst infraction in sports history, and athletes frequently celebrate with champagne, but it was in bad taste.



Westerly Rotarians raised a significant chunk of money for Haiti earthquake relief amongst themselves and also used their annual chowder cook-off, held Saturday, to help. The club is also aiding RICAN, a Charlestown-based shelter. The local club continues to play an active role in a variety of causes, truly living up to its motto of "Service Above Self."

