

Elizabeth Reichardt, a reading specialist at Ponaganset High School, right, reacts to hearing the news that she is the Foster-Glocester District's 2016 Teacher of the Year.



Submitted photo

Teacher

Continued from page A1 and students," Barnes said. "She is a true professional who exemplifies teacher leadership. In her classroom she focuses on the needs of each student, sets individual growth goals, and then differentiates her instruction to meet the individual learning needs of her students. She has fostered a classroom environment where students see themselves as learners."

As a reading instructional

coach for teachers, Reichardt assists in planning the lesson, co-teachers to model effective literacy practices, and shares strategies that can be used independently by the teacher.

"Liz sets her goals daily and doesn't rest until her students meet them. She works tirelessly on behalf of her students and possesses a work ethic like no other," says one of her colleagues at the school. "She is proactive and is always discovering the best methods of teaching and learning for her students which she readily shares with her col-

leagues. Her high interest tasks are designed to keep her students engaged continuously throughout the year as they strive to improve."

Another colleague said: "The best words I can think to describe her are focused, driven, goal oriented and determined. I have witnessed firsthand the confidence and pride she instills in her students as they work hard to achieve proficiency. She exemplifies teacher leadership by leading data presentations during ninth grade teaming, taking on the responsibility for the thought-

ful integration of our STAR assessment system, and making significant contributions to our Response to Intervention Team."

Barnes says there isn't a more deserving candidate for Teacher of the Year.

"We are fortunate to have so many talented and hard-working administrators, staff, and teachers, like Ms. Reichardt, serving the community of Foster-Glocester," he said.

Follow Joseph Fitzgerald on Twitter @jofitz7

Meals

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Baldelli-Hunt assembled a press briefing to call attention to the program on Thursday, gathering at the park with Schools Supt. Patrick McGee, members of the School Committee, State Rep. Robert Phillips (D-Dist. 51, Woonsocket, Cumberland) and employees of Sodexo.

With families descending on the park in numbers that haven't been seen in years, World War II Park joins Cass Park, Dunn Park, the Boys and Girls Club of Woonsocket and Citizens Memorial School as one of the so-called "open sites" where any child under 18 years old can come for breakfast and lunch, according to Colleen Surette, Sodexo's food service manager.

The park recently reopened after years of neglect following a \$2.6 million investment in capital improvements that brought a new ballfield, splash park, basketball court and playground to the park.

"This is probably one of the most active sites we have in Woonsocket due to the facilities we have here now," the mayor said.

YMCA and the YWCA, there are about a dozen sites in all where Sodexo runs the nutrition program, churning out about 450 breakfasts and 800 lunches per day, according to Surette. There are no income eligibility criteria. All kids have to do is show up — preferably with an appetite.

How hungry are they? Surette says it's hard to tell. But she sees the sheer volume of kids who arrive for meals every day as evidence of the need for the program. She doesn't know how many of them would miss a meal without the USDA sites, but there's little doubt in her mind that the program helps families stretch the food dollars in their household budgets.

"We want to think everybody eats," says Surette.

We may want to think so, but School Committeeman Donald Burke feels a whole lot better knowing the USDA safety net is there to make sure they do.

"It breaks my heart that we are here in a modern city today and there is a need for food," said Burke, an English teacher in Massachusetts for over four decades. "It's good that there's something in place here."

Follow Russ Olivo on Twitter @russolivo



Kids enjoy the monkey bars with friends at the new splash park and playground in World War II Veterans Memorial Park in Woonsocket recently.

Photo by Ernest A. Brown

Strokes

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according to Vanessa Hampson, a Landmark RN and stroke program coordinator. The protocols were created as part of Landmark's efforts to create an accredited Primary Stroke Center that maintains a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients coming into the emergency department. It is the only such stroke center in Northern Rhode Island and has been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association and the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation for its stroke care.

In Lussier's case, after his initial assessment, the protocols allowed him to go right in for a CAT scan to determine what type of stroke he was having—a blockage of blood vessels or a bleed in the brain.

"We were able to determine there was no bleeding and that he qualified for treat-

"If you think it is a stroke, don't wait, come here right away."

ment with clot busting medication," Hampson said. The medication cannot be used in the case of a bleeding stroke since it thins the blood and allows it to flow more freely.

The clot buster medication can only be used within a certain period of time from the onset of symptoms and because Lussier did not wait to go to the hospital, he was a candidate for that form of treatment, Hampson noted.

"He came in immediately so we had a window of time to work with," she said.

Typically patients have about a four-hour window for use of the medication if it is to achieve a better outcome, according to Hampson.

After his CAT scan, Lussier was evaluated by Dr. Motasem Al-Yacoub, Landmark's chief of neurology, and prepped to receive the medication.

Estelle said that before her husband received the medication, "he didn't know me. It was scary."

But then with a few minutes of receiving the clot buster, Lussier began to come around, his wife recalled.

"In five to ten minutes he knew who I was," she said with relief.

Her husband is also pleased with the outcome of his treatment and told Hampson and Landmark's spokesman Carolyn Kyle during a return visit, "you folks were great."

He is now back to playing pinochle, a card game involving frequent counting of points, with Bert and their friends.

He also likes to play cribbage but he and Estelle noted pinochle is the more difficult of the two games because it uses two decks.

The couple wanted to talk about Lussier's experience with the stroke so that other people might consider taking quick action when they think they might be in a similar situation, "I was very fortunate that you people were here for me," Lussier said. His wife agreed. "If you think it is a stroke, don't wait, come here right away," Estelle said.

Dr. Tyese Gaines, Landmark's Medical Director of the ER, said the hospital's stroke protocol is intended to speed the treatment response when a patient comes in with



Photo by Joseph B. Nadeau

From left, Landmark nurse Vanessa Hampson, Robert and Estelle Lussier are all in good spirits last week, not long after Robert was treated at Landmark while undergoing a stroke.

the symptoms of a stroke.

The guidelines for determine that possibility are included in the term FAST, which reminds family members or first responders to look for facial drooping, arm or leg weakness, speech impacts and to remember the important goal of time in getting to a treatment center.

"Time is brain," Gaines said while explaining that the longer a person goes untreated, the greater the possibility for permanent damage to brain tissue as a result of the stroke's impact on blood supply.

"I would advise them if there are any signs of symptoms such as facial drooping or limb weakness, anything

that makes them suspect the person is having a stroke, to come to the ER right away," Gaines said.

The hospital also maintains protocols for immediate transportation of patients requiring a higher level of intervention such as the surgical or catheterization re-opening of large blood vessel blockages at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. Such patients would be cared for at Landmark under the protocols while be prepared for their transport for the higher level of treatment, according to Gaines and Hampson.

The creation of the treatment protocols are especially important for Landmark which saw 230 patients come

into the ER with stroke symptoms in 2014, according to Hampson, and 250 patients in 2015 as community awareness likely helped drive the increase.

Landmark's efforts to create the stroke response protocols and team treatment approach earned it the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association's "Get with the Guidelines—Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award."

Kyle said the award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

THE CALL

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LOTTERY NUMBERS

R.I. Daily 7/9
 mid-day: 3, 1, 6, 7
 evening: 1, 9, 2, 6

Mega Millions 7/8
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 Megaplier: 2

Mass. Daily 7/9
 mid-day: 6, 1, 9, 1
 evening: 6, 4, 3, 0

Mass Cash 7/8
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Wild Money 7/9
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Movies in the park planned in Cumberland

CUMBERLAND — The Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department presents its free Movies in the Park series at the monastery this month.

It will show "Zootopia" on July 15, "Tarzan" on July 22 and "Mary Poppins" on July 29.

All movies begin at dusk — approximately 8:30 p.m. — in the gazebo area. The Parks and Recreation Department encourages attendees to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows.

Light refreshments will be available at a concession stand.