

Chapter 7, Basic News Leads

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- 1. What's the key to a long marriage? A new study finds that divorce rates are lower if the woman has the following: money, religion, a college degree and is at least 20 years old.**

Pro Challenge:

Wealthy, religious, college-educated women stand the best chance of making their marriages last, according to a study of 50,000 women that found 43 percent of married couples break up within 15 years.

- 2. A plan by Charleston's mayor to get rid of the city's vagrants and panhandlers by busing them out of town is drawing criticism.**

Pro Challenge:

Panhandlers and vagrants may soon find themselves with a one-way ticket out of town as part of an ordinance Mayor Sabrina Datolli plans on introducing at Tuesday's city council meeting.

3. There are rough waters at a city swimming pool. A 17-year-old lightning strike survivor is suing the city, claiming the pool's lifeguards didn't do enough to warn swimmers about an approaching storm.

Pro Challenge:

A legal storm is brewing over whether municipal pool lifeguards adequately warned swimmers about an approaching storm, during which lightning struck two boys last summer, killing one and injuring the other.

4. Charleston police have arrested a woman for allegedly faking a pregnancy and defrauding an adoption agency out of \$12,000.

Pro Challenge:

A Charleston woman accused of swindling \$12,000 from a local adoption agency by pretending to be pregnant was arrested Friday on charges of grand theft and fraud.

5. A construction mishap is causing headaches for 25,000 residents in the Hanson Avenue area. City officials advise residents to boil their cooking and drinking water for the next three days.

Pro Challenge:

Officials Monday warned about 25,000 residents north of Hanson Avenue to boil their drinking water for the next three days because of a major water-main break.

6. An 8-year-old-boy being arrested after a playground fight with a girl? It happened yesterday and now a city police officer faces an internal investigation.

Pro Challenge:

City police officials are investigating an officer's decision to arrest an 8-year-old boy who allegedly slapped another child during a playground squabble.

7. A local woman faces grand theft charges for allegedly collecting \$200,000 in Social Security checks meant for her grandmother who died 20 years ago.

Pro Challenge:

Police arrested a woman Thursday on charges she had hidden her grandmother's death from federal authorities for 20 years in order to continue collecting Social Security checks.

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