



## North Providence suffers loss to Vermont in regional opener

SPORTS, 1B



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## Dominican Pride



A glitter-faced Evoddy Mato, of the Calife De Fantasia Bari group, greeted parade watchers Sunday while heading to Roger Williams Park in the annual Dominican Cultural Parade.  
PHOTOS BY KRIS CRANG/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL



Jerry Delgado walks in royal regalia as Mr. Dominican during the annual Dominican Cultural Parade on Sunday.

## Annual festival a welcome and joyous mix of sound and sight

G. Wayne Miller  
Providence Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

In a summer when the headlines have not been universally uplifting, Sunday's annual Dominican Cultural Parade was a welcome change — a joyous potpourri of sound and sight that was billed as "a tribute to first responders & healthcare professionals" by organizer Quisqueya in Action. • "Today is important because we are celebrating our community and our culture," Jerry Delgado told The Journal. Delgado, serving for the second time as Mr. Dominican, is a native of the Dominican Republic.

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## Did Doris Duke intend to kill her employee?

Ex-paperboy's story has police reviewing 1966 crash

Sean Flynn  
Newport Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEWPORT — The Police Department is taking a new look at the investigation into the 1966 Doris Duke crash that killed Eduardo Tirella.

"Yes, I can confirm that I've been assigned to follow up with this case due to new information provided by Robert Walker," said Newport Police Detective Jacques Wuest in an email to The Daily News on Thursday morning.

"This case is now open for further review due to new facts coming forward," Wuest stated in a separate email shared with the media. "It is an active investigation."

Walker, now 68, was a paperboy delivering The Newport Daily News on the evening of Oct. 7, 1966, when he was 13 years old. He is now a retired steamfitter living in Newport.

"I was there," he told Peter Lance, author of "Homicide at Rough Point," a book published this year. "I heard the entire lead-up to the crash and I confronted Doris Duke seconds after it, when she jumped out of the car and was

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Doris Duke struck and killed Eduardo Tirella before hitting a tree outside her Bellevue Avenue estate in 1966.  
PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

## Fauci hopeful vaccines get full OK soon

Aamer Madhani  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILMINGTON, Del. — The U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said Sunday that he was hopeful the Food and Drug Administration will give full approval to the coronavirus vaccine by month's end and predicted the potential move will spur a wave of vaccine mandates in the private sector as well as schools and universities.



Fauci

The FDA has only granted emergency-use approval of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, but the agency is expected to soon give full approval to Pfizer.

The Biden administration has stated that the federal government will not mandate vaccinations beyond the federal workforce, but is increasingly urging state and local governments as well as businesses to consider such mandates. Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, said "mandates at the local level need to be done" to help curb the spread of the virus.

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### POLITICAL SCENE

## Different fundraising styles for different campaigns

Patrick Anderson  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

You don't need to dig through campaign finance reports to spot the stylistic differences between Gov. Dan McKee and his predecessor, Gina Raimondo, apparent in any of their press conferences.

But if you do peruse the midyear Board of Elections filings released last week, you'll see two Democrats with different approaches to raising campaign cash.

McKee, the longtime mayor of Cumberland, sticks closer to home for donations, while the former Rhodes scholar, Raimondo, cast a national fundraising net.

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# Did Doris Duke intend to kill her employee?

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**Sean Flynn**

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**Doris Duke struck and killed Eduardo Tirella before hitting a tree outside her Bellevue Avenue estate in 1966.**

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

## Crash

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staring down at it.”

### Author speaks to paperboy who says he was an eyewitness

Vanity Fair published “The Doris Duke Cold Case Reopens: The Only Known Eyewitness Speaks,” by Lance on Thursday, based on Walker’s account.

Before he approached Lance, Walker had been interviewed by Wuest, who found his statements credible. He went to Wuest after reading the Lance book.

Lance presents an accumulation of compelling evidence in the 412-page book that billionaire heiress Duke intentionally murdered Tirella at her Bellevue Avenue estate. Newport police, however, ruled it an “unfortunate accident” at the time.

The police determined officially that Tirella had been crushed against the iron gates, dragged across Bellevue Avenue and pinned under the car when it struck a tree. That is a conclusion Lance refutes, based on his interviews with the Newport police, who initially investigated the incident along with the state medical examiner’s findings.

Tirella had no lower-body injuries except a broken hip, consistent with another police theory of the accident uncovered by Lance.

Walker approached Lance as he was signing copies of the book at the Brenton Hotel in early July and confirmed what Lance had determined based on his recollections of what he heard and saw firsthand.

Walker was on his Schwinn 10speed bike at the corner of Ledge Road, just west of the Duke estate, and was headed there to deliver the paper when the fatal incident began. “I initially heard the argument and screaming of two people,” Walker told Lance.

### What did Walker tell Vanity Fair?

Accompanying the Vanity Fair story is a more than five-minute video of Walker telling his story.

Tirella was at the wheel of a Dodge Polara station wagon with Duke in the passenger seat just prior to Walker’s arrival. They were about to exit the estate when Tirella pulled up 15 feet from the wrought-iron gates and got out to open them.

“The arguing stopped for a couple of seconds,”

Walker said, “and the next thing I heard was the roar of a motor, the crash and the screaming of a man.”

For his book, Lance interviewed Edward Angel, the first police officer on the scene, who worked with Sgt. Fred Newton, the accident investigator.

Newton, Angel said, “showed me markings on the gates that suggested somebody had been forced up on the hood of the car.

Then he walked me into the middle of Bellevue, explaining that the blood and the skin I’d found were from when the victim rolled off and fell in front of the car.”

According to Angel, Newton believed Tirella went up on the hood of the wagon before it hit the gate. “That was his theory of the crash,” Angel said.

“Then, at some point after the gates blew open, she hesitated, tapped the brakes and he rolled off. At that point, he was run over by the vehicle and dragged to the point where he was still underneath it when it hit the tree.”

### ‘You better get the hell out of here!’

As Walker got closer to the scene, he heard the man scream once again. “That proceeded for a couple of seconds,” he said, “and then there was a deceleration of the motor and a slight skid.”

That’s when, in Newton’s view as related to Angel, Duke had tapped the brakes and Tirella rolled off onto Bellevue Avenue, having sustained a broken right hip but still alive.

“Walker, by now, was pedaling furiously, closing in on the Rough Point service gate when he heard the man ‘scream again and the roar of the motor,’ at which point, he says, the man’s wail ‘turned to horror. ‘Nooooo ...,’ ” Lance writes.

When Walker turned the corner and viewed the crash scene, “I saw a woman getting out of the car,” he said. “She was rather a tall woman — regal. When she got out, she took, like, six or seven steps. Quick and deliberate. She then spun around looking at the car.”

“She spun around and looked at me,” Walker told Lance. “I said, ‘Can I help you, ma’am?’ And she said, while screaming and pointing her finger, ‘You better get the hell out of here!’ “ Walker says he offered to go for help and, in an increasingly louder voice, Duke yelled at him. Finally, as he got closer to the back of the station wagon,

she screamed, “Get out of here now!”

Walker said he tried that evening to tell his father, Robert Walker Sr., a master steamfitter and former boxer, what had happened but his father put him off because it was time for the family dinner.

When the younger Walker picked up his bundle of copies of The Daily News the next day for delivery, on the front page was the headline: “Doris Duke Kills Friend in Crash.” There was the two-column photo showing the underside of the smashed Dodge Polara, from which Tirella’s lifeless body had been pulled.

### Why did Walker not come forward in 1966?

When Walker told his father, his father had responded, “Now you listen to me, son. You will never, ever, never tell anybody this story again. Do you understand me?” according to Walker. “You will not tell your mother, your brothers, your friends, and of all people, you’re not going to say anything to the police. Do you understand me? Do you understand me?”

When Walker turned 18 and was about to enlist in the Marine Corps, he asked his father why he was told to keep quiet. The father answered, according to Walker, “You know, son, at the time when you told me that story, I recognized that you could have shown motive and intent. I was concerned that you, as a key witness, could have been doing your paper route on the Ocean Drive [some late afternoon] and a truck could have come up on you from behind. The life of my child was more precious to me than that woman on Bellevue Avenue.”

The father died in 2000 at the age of 74. Duke had died in 1993.

Walker also told Lance that Duke had no injuries on her face when she yelled at him.

The police found her sitting at the steering wheel with facial injuries consistent with hitting the steering wheel, and apparently in trauma.

Lance speculates that Duke may have heard the police sirens coming, got back in the car and intentionally banged her face on the steering wheel as she prepared to escape responsibility. She later told the police that her foot slipped and that she had stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake. She had moved from the passenger’s seat to the driver’s side in order to drive the car out after the gates had been opened, she said.

### Police reviewing the 1966 cold case

“Mr. Walker did give me the same names you listed in your e-mail; names of people he has told his story to in the past,” Wuest wrote in an email to Lance, which he has shared with the media. “I have spoken to most of these parties, who have confirmed what Mr. Walker told me, therefore finding Mr. Walker’s account of the incident on Oct. 7, 1966, credible.

“I conducted my interview with Mr. Walker, after he contacted the Newport Police Department that he wanted to give information, in the Criminal Investigation Interview Room, which is where all detectives conduct any interview. Our interview lasted about two hours.

“It is too early to make the determination to alter the conclusion that Eduardo Tirella’s death was the result of ‘an unfortunate accident,’ “ Wuest wrote. “Regarding this, myself and the Newport Police Department would like to look further into this [due to the new information we’ve been given] and rectify any possible misinformation concluded in the past, if any.

“After an extensive search throughout the building, unfortunately, the Newport Police Department does not have any records from this case,” she stated.

Newport Police Chief Gary Silva was contacted by The Daily News, who referred questions to Lt. Corey A. Huck, who is with the department’s Criminal Investigations Division. Huck would be the point person for media inquiries about the case, Silva said.

“Detective Wuest has in fact been tasked with reviewing this case from 1966,” Huck wrote in an email to The Daily News. “Detective Wuest then confirmed with several individuals whom Mr. Walker claimed to have discussed this matter with over the years, which is common. This is to ensure the information provided had credibility. As with any case, the NPD will vet all information that becomes available in an effort to ascertain the facts of each case.”

Huck added the case officially is assigned for “follow-up” and “had not been reopened at this time.”