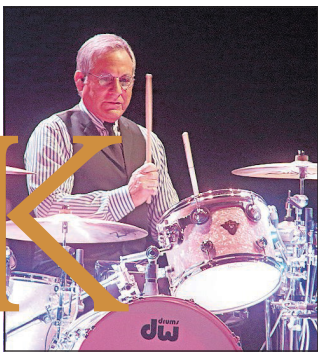


DAYBREAK



< **Springsteen drummer on P&Z board**
Max Weinberg, the longtime drummer for Bruce Springsteen and the bandleader for Conan O'Brien's "Late Night" and "The Tonight Show," has been appointed to a local planning and zoning board in Delray Beach, the Florida city where he lives.

'Boys State': A compelling peek at teenage political junkies **Page B3**

Depression,
heartbreak
and then a
reckoning.



Katy Perry photographed in July in Hollywood, Calif.

JAY L. CLENDENIN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

The *rebirth* of *Katy Perry*

"I was
kind of born
into chaos. So
I thrive in it."

By **AMY KAUFMAN**
Los Angeles Times

Before the clock struck midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, Kathryn Hudson and her family gathered in their home, readying for the apocalypse. Her parents, both Pentecostal ministers, had already stocked the garage with canned food. And so, on the eve of Y2K, they turned down the blinds and instructed their three children to join them in prayer.

Armageddon, of course, never arrived. But if it had, the 15-year-old — who is now known to the world as Katy Perry — would have

been ready.

"I was kind of born into chaos," she says. "So I thrive in it."

At 35, Perry still does not scare easily. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, she has continued to work while pregnant, taking what she describes as "calculated risks." At an oft-sanitized warehouse in Burbank, she has filmed music videos and other promotional material for her forthcoming album, "Smile," with a 10-person crew that is continuously tested for COVID-19. And though her due date is rapidly approaching, she is not fearful about giving birth to her first child. She simply does not entertain that energy,

she says. "The pain will pass. It's temporary."

This is also the message of "Smile," her fifth studio album for Capitol Records. Written over the past 2-1/2 years, the songs tell the story of a difficult period in Perry's life, during which she reckoned with both her romantic life and her place in the music industry. She broke up with and then got back together with actor Orlando Bloom, her now fiancé with whom she will soon welcome a daughter. And she struggled after "Witness," her 2017 album, failed to resonate with fans in the way her prior music had. It was the first of her albums to not

produce a No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 single, of which she has had nine since 2008.

"Every day, Groundhog Day / Goin' through motions felt so fake," she sings on the title track of "Smile." "Not myself, not my best / Felt like I failed the test."

Lyrics notwithstanding, her new material does not have bumper vibes. Recorded in various locales — Sweden, New Zealand, Santa Barbara — and made with a squadron of collaborators including Zedd and Charlie Puth, it's still quintessentially Perry: buoyant, playful, neon pop. As she puts it: "It's an upbeat record."

SEE PERRY'S PAGE B2

From pollution to nature sanctuary: The Grills Preserve perseveres



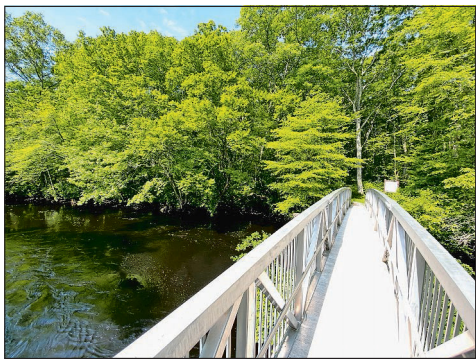
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Steve Fagin

After tramping a mile or so along The Grills Preserve's sweeping trails in Bradford, R.I., our small group passed an enormous, stone cairn and approached a 75-foot, aluminum pedestrian span that arches gracefully over the Pawcatuck River. "Let's cross here," said Maggie Jones, director emeritus of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic, who calls this glorious property one of her favorite destinations in all seasons. Hikers, mountain

bikers and runners can traverse miles of these well-maintained paths year-round, thanks to the foresight, hard work and generosity of local conservation advocates. Cross-country skiers also flock here when snow covers the ground.

And so the five of us marched across the Polly-Coons Bridge from the 550-acre Grills Preserve, owned by the Westerly Land Trust, to the 675-acre Grills Wildlife Sanctuary, **SEE EXPLORING PAGE B2**



The Polly-Coons bridge, named for Polly Burdick and Patty Coons, who owned land in the area in the 19th century, is the third span over the Pawcatuck River between Bradford and Hopkinton.

BETSY GRAHAM
SPECIAL TO THE DAY

Flock Theatre stages Aristophanes' 'The Birds' in Westerly

Flock Theatre will perform Aristophanes' Greek utopian comedy "The Birds" outdoors following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines in Westerly's Wilcox Park, at 7 p.m. Aug. 27-30.

A modern adaptation designed to sound the way it might have to an Athenian in an ancient comic theater, "The Birds" (written in 414 B.C.) details the escapades of the comedy team of Pithetaerus and Euelpides as they set out to create a utopia. Fed up with Athenian society, they seek out Epops, the King of the Birds who was once a human himself, to found a new civilization where the birds reclaim their status as the original gods and goddesses.

Leading the cast are Flock regulars Eric Michaelian as Pithetaerus and Madeleine Dauer as Euelpides, with Eric Propfe returning from Flock's 2003 production of



Flock Theatre will perform Aristophanes' Greek utopian comedy "The Birds." Above, Elizabeth Rannenberg.

"The Birds," and featuring musical arrangements of choral odes by Noah Todd. Circles for households will be painted

on the park lawn suitable for groups of up to five, and there will be six feet of space between each circle in every direction. The circles closest to the performance area are set 12 feet away, and all performers will be using face shields. The audience will also be asked to be masked when not enjoying their picnics, and there will be space for 75 audience members. Passersby are welcome to watch the performance from beyond the audience seating area.

Hand sanitizer will be available for audience members, and there will be porta-potties open for use before and after the performance and during intermission.

Performances run one hour and 45 minutes, including intermission. Admission is free, and donations to Flock Theatre will be accepted at the door and at flocktheatre.org.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NIGHT THIS WEEKEND



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