

D'Ascenzo gives up 11 p.m. newscast

Veteran Channel 3 anchor wants to spend nights with her family



Matt Buckler BROADCASTING

After 22 years, 11 p.m. news viewers no longer will be sharing their time with anchor Denise D'Ascenzo.

The WFSB-TV3 news anchor announced Tuesday that she will no longer be featured on the station's 11 p.m. newscast in order to spend more time with her family.

She will continue to be co-anchor on the station's 5, 5:30 and 6 p.m. newscasts.

"I really want to be home at night with my family," D'Ascenzo said during Tuesday's 11 p.m. newscast, "so we were able to work this out, and I feel very grateful and blessed and I get to be with my buddies at 5, 5:30 and 6, and be home with my family at 11. What more could a girl ask for?"

D'Ascenzo had been at the late-night post longer than any current state anchor, working primarily with three partners — Don Lark, Al Terzi and current anchor Dennis House. Only the time period has remained the same.

It may take news viewers a while to adjust to the change. You can't predict what stories will make the nightly newscast, but the one thing viewers could count on was the calm, professional — sometimes almost soothing — presence of D'Ascenzo. For a newscast that once was known as the "Nightbeat," they couldn't have asked for a more efficient maestro.

Diamond dating

Boston Red Sox fans have another opportunity to combine two of America's favorite pastimes — baseball and romance.

"Sox Appeal" is going to be back for a second season on the New England Sports Network.

The show allows one Red Sox fan to spend a game at Fenway Park with three blind dates. After spending two innings with each date, the contestant has to decide during the 7th-inning stretch which date will return for the rest of the game.

Interested Sox fans don't have to travel far for the opportunity to audition for the show. The Bob's Store located on 220 Hale Road in

Manchester will be holding auditions for the second straight year. The casting call will take place Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Singles 21 and older are invited to attend. This is the only audition scheduled for Connecticut.

Prospective contestants will be asked to fill out an application, pose for a few photos and then appear in an on-camera interview.

Once the candidates are selected, the show will be taped at Fenway Park in June and will air every Sunday on NESN starting Aug. 3.

Of course, there's one way a date can guarantee to be brought back after the seventh-inning stretch — buy as many hot dogs as possible.

Cable commitment

In the classroom, he's known as Mr. DeFilipi. On cable television, however, he goes by another name — Mr. Democracy.

Tom DeFilipi, an Enfield High history teacher who was featured in a TV show that aired last year on Cox Communications public access, "Mr. Democracy Now and Then," has been nominated for a national award.

He is one of 44 finalists for the 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards.

The four-year-old program recognizes outstanding educators, administrators and other community leaders who have demonstrated innovation in education.

Finalists are eligible for national honors, which includes a ceremony for the winners at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

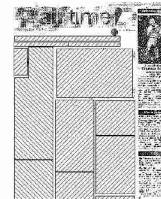
DeFilipi was nominated in the "Cable Partnerships for Learning" category, thanks to his production of "Mr. Democracy Now and Then."

The show featured several original songs about America in the 1700s, including the differences in the classroom back in colonial times.

The show aired on the Cox Enfield franchise last May and also aired on cable systems throughout the state.

"DeFilipi's efforts are a prime example of the sorts of education innovation the cable industry is proud to honor," said Doug Levin, the senior education policy director of Cable in the Classroom.

It would only be appropriate if DeFilipi would become a national winner — after all,



is there a better city for a man known as Mr. Democracy to visit than Washington, D.C.?

**So long, Steve**

No one seemed to enjoy being a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars" more than actor Steve Guttenberg, best known for his work on the "Police Academy" movies.

Unfortunately for Guttenberg, "Dancing with the Stars" viewers did not share in his enthusiasm.

As a result, Guttenberg became the third celebrity to get voted off the show, joining Penn Jillette and Monica Seles on the sidelines.

On Monday's competition show, Guttenberg didn't receive the lowest score from the judges. That distinction was claimed by Broadway actress Marissa Jaret Winokur.

The audience, however, didn't like Guttenberg as much as the judges did, and when the two votes were combined, Guttenberg found himself bounced off the dance floor.

"I'm going to miss seeing everybody all week and I just love everyone," Guttenberg said after the vote was announced Tuesday. "I've had such a good time here. It made me a better person."

It also made him a better dancer. He just wasn't good enough to survive the Week 3

cuts.

Guttenberg's departure leaves nine remaining celebrity dancers — Adam Carolla, Jason Taylor, Mario, Shannon Elizabeth, Cristian de la Fuente, Marlee Matlin, Priscilla Presley, Winokur and Kristi Yamaguchi.

Unless one of the dancers comes up with an instant Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers impersonation, however, it looks like this is Yamaguchi's competition to lose.

**Wahle to walk away**

Longtime state TV viewers should have fond memories of Scott Wahle, who worked at WVIT-TV30 in the late '70s and early '80s. He was the station's No. 1 sportscaster and also was the play-by-play voice for Channel 30 telecasts of the Hartford Whalers.

Wahle was in the news this week, but for the wrong reason. He was cut loose by WBZ-TV4 in Boston, where he's worked since 1989. Wahle was a victim of a workforce reduction at the station.

Also without a job is sports anchor Bob Lobel, who has also done reporting work at CBS.

That's why TV can be a tough business — even 20-year veterans aren't safe from the ax.

*Matt Buckler is television and radio editor of the Journal Inquirer.*



Extreme Makeover's Tanya McQueen.

**TV's top 10**

Ratings for the top 10 prime-time television shows, March 24 – 30.

SOURCE: Nielsen Media Research

RANK	SHOW	NETWORK	MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
1.	American Idol - Wednesday	FOX	25.7
2.	American Idol - Tuesday	FOX	24.8
3.	Dancing with the Stars	ABC	20.5
4.	Dancing with the Stars Results	ABC	17.5
5.	CSI: Miami	CBS	16.1
6.	Two and a Half Men	CBS	14.2
7.	60 Minutes	CBS	13.4
8.	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition	ABC	13.0
9.	Celebrity Apprentice	NBC	12.1
10.	Deal or No Deal - Thursday	NBC	11.4

One rating point represents 1,114,000 TV households. "Share" is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

**Overall network ratings**



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