

## Municipal Power Customers Pay Less For Heat Pump Operation

Heat pump installations are sweeping Massachusetts as residents across the Commonwealth begin to realize the savings that come with transitioning their heat off of fossil fuels. Some customers benefit more than others though, because even though air source heat pumps (often called mini-splits) are extraordinarily efficient, residents are still subject to whatever their local electricity rate may be.

Many customers felt the heat over the past few months, as Eversource and National Grid electric rates jumped as high as 39 cents/kWh, with prices for natural gas and oil spiking as well. The average residential electricity rate in Massachusetts last year was about 26 cents/kWh.

however towns like Shrewsbury and Taunton which have municipally owned power companies can see **rates as much as 50% cheaper**. This gives residents in these communities an additional incentive to switch their heating & cooling system to hyper-efficient electric heat pumps.

The good news for all rate payers is that heat pumps come in all shapes and sizes. Got ductwork? Great, **you can easily install a central heat pump connected to your existing ducts.**

No ducts? No problem. Tens of thousands of homeowners throughout New England already use ductless heat pumps as their primary heat source, and pay lower utility bills as a result.

\*Prices accessed via [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov), [eversource.com](http://eversource.com) and [www.selco.shrewsburyma.gov](http://www.selco.shrewsburyma.gov)



Call now to start saving money! **(774) 409-6524**

SERVING TAUNTON, RAYNHAM, DIGHTON, BERKLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES  
A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1848

# SUNDAY GAZETTE



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 | TAUNTONGAZETTE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## SUBSCRIBER-EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE MOVING FORWARD AFTER VIETNAM



Kerrin Willis, of Taunton, is the author of "Strange Arithmetic." PROVIDED

## Taunton love story travels back to Camp Myles Standish in the 1940s

**Kristina Fontes**  
The Taunton Daily Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

TAUNTON – Local author Kerrin Willis is once more shining a spotlight on some of Taunton's history with her latest novel, "Strange Arithmetic."

Willis released her first novel, "Iron & Fire," in 2022, also set in Taunton: it's a Colonial era romance set amidst King Philip's War.

"Strange Arithmetic" is a little closer to our era.

Jumping between the 1940s during the height of WWII to the year 2016, "Strange Arithmetic" is about a love that transcends decades and heartbreaking hardships. It's also packed with meticulous research, and features other local landmarks, like St. Mary's Church and the Roseland Ballroom.

**What is 'Strange Arithmetic' about?**

One of the protagonists, Maggie O'Callaghan, begins working at Camp

Myles Standish, the embarkation depot for more than 1.5 million soldiers going overseas to fight in WWII.

The camp also held German prisoners of war, and Italian "co-belligerents," so classified under the Geneva Convention because by the time they were brought to the camp, Italy had already surrendered.

Maggie meets an Italian co-belligerent named Leonardo Castiglione, and it's not long before the two fall in love.

See **LOVE STORY**, Page 3A

### CURIOUS TAUNTON

## A city within a city

Camp Myles Standish was WWII POW camp, point of embarkation and more



Camp Myles Standish in Taunton is pictured in September of 1945. PROVIDED BY CHARLES E. CROWLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER AT THE OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM

**Kristina Fontes**  
The Taunton Daily Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

TAUNTON – Before there was an industrial park, and before there was a Paul A. Dever State School, Taunton was home to a place that was its own little city within the city:

Camp Myles Standish.

It was the point of embarkation for more than a million servicemen during WWII, and also the place where many Americans came home from fighting overseas.

The camp also included theaters, and a rec hall, among many other amenities.

Once, the Boston Red Sox even came to play an exhibition game against the Camp Myles Standish team at Hope-well Park.

See **CAMP**, Page 2A



This grotto, on John Quincy Adams Road in the Myles Standish Industrial Park in Taunton, was built in 1943 by Italian co-belligerents held at Camp Myles Standish. KRISTINA FONTES/TAUNTON GAZETTE

## Meat you eat may cause UTIs, new study suggests

The findings could have important implications for the country's food supply and regulators

**Adrianna Rodriguez**  
USA TODAY

More than half a million urinary tract infections in the U.S. each year may be caused by E. coli strains from meat products, a new study reported Thursday.

Using a new genomic approach to track the origins of E. coli infections, researchers from George Washington University estimated that 480,000 to 640,000 UTIs may be caused by the foodborne bacteria, according to the analysis published in the peer-reviewed journal One Health.

"There's lots of studies showing that when most people have a bladder infection, it's caused by the same kind of E. coli that they have in their gut," said senior author Lance B. Price, founder and co-director of George Washington University's Antibiotic Resistance Action Center. "But where do they come from and how do they get into our guts? ... We tried to set out and quantify that."

See **UTI**, Page 5A



A study based in Flagstaff, Ariz., determined that about 8% of E. coli urinary tract infections in the area could be linked to meat. GETTY IMAGES

**Get the latest news, sports and more**  
See today's top headlines, local breaking news, area scores, things to do and subscriber exclusives at [tauntongazette.com](http://tauntongazette.com).

**Subscriber-only eNewspaper**  
Use your computer or app to access your paper online. Subscribers also get access to USATODAY's eNewspaper, plus updated news and sports Extra sections.

Volume 349 | No. 72  
To subscribe 508-676-2517  
©2023 **\$3.00**



# Love story

Continued from Page 1A

Meanwhile, closer to our present day, Niamh Reilly and her wife Christine are hoping to start a family of their own. While dealing with fertility problems, Niamh, who wants a family more than anything, takes a DNA test and discovers that she has far more relatives than she thought.

Niamh begins a journey that will lead her to discover not only a family that loves and cherishes her, but exactly what happened to the great love shared between Leo and Maggie.

## Kerrin Willis has strong family history in Taunton

Willis' own history with Taunton runs deep.

"I'm a fourth generation Tauntonian on my dad's side, so I grew up on stories from Taunton's past," Willis told the *Taunton Daily Gazette*. "My grandfather Francis J. O'Boy ran a market in town, and was the city's tax collector for a while."

And she's got family connections to Camp Myles Standish as well.

"Last summer, when I asked my Uncle Paul to clarify some details about Taunton in the 1940s for me, one of the things he mentioned is that his father worked the counter in one of the laundries at Camp Myles Standish part-time to help with the war effort," Willis said.

One of Maggie's more memorable experiences working at the camp's laundry in the novel comes from her grandfather's real-life experience:

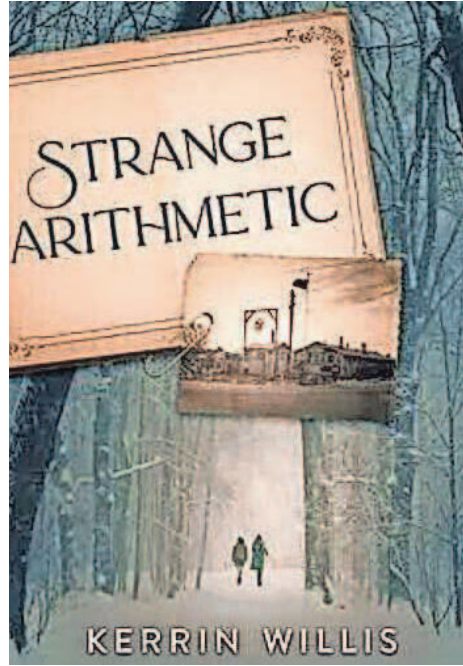
"Maggie's comment about the uniforms smelling like someone who had been dead in them for several days is a direct quote from him."

The other characters in Maggie's family were also influenced by Willis' relatives: her great-grandmother, Agnes McCaffrey, and her father and uncles, Frank, Paul and Joe O'Boy.

"As for Niamh's timeline, I'd love to take credit for it, but I'm not sure where it came from," Willis said. "Niamh is one of those characters who shows up in an author's head fully formed and proceeds to take over the story."

## Researching 'Strange Arithmetic' was 'a joy'

Willis, who is a 1998 Coyle and Cassidy



"Strange Arithmetic" was written by Taunton author Kerrin Willis. PROVIDED BY KERRIN WILLIS

graduate, also has a BA in English from Stonehill College, an MA in English from Simmons, and will be earning her MFA in fiction writing from Southern New Hampshire University in 2024. Willis is also a member of The History Quill and The Alliance for Independent Authors (ALLI).

She's also an English teacher and a mother of two.

"Most of my writing is done in the school pick up line, in the stands at gymnastics practice, or in the middle of the night," Willis said.

In comparison with the inherent difficulties of researching 17th-century Taunton for her first novel, Willis said the writing and research processes for "Strange Arithmetic" were "a joy to complete."

"In comparison, there is a wealth of information on the 1940s!" Willis said. "I went through old copies of the *Gazette* on microfiche at the Taunton library, I did some research at the OCHM, I interviewed family members, and I scoured the internet for anything I could find on the time period."

## 'Strange Arithmetic' available at local bookshops

"Strange Arithmetic," which is self-published, is now available in local bookstores.

The book was released on Tuesday, March 21, and is available through Read-

more Books at 330 Winthrop St.

It will also be available at An Unlikely Story, 111 South St. in Plainville, where Willis gave an author's talk on March 21.

"Strange Arithmetic" will be available everywhere books are sold, in paperback, e-book, and audiobook editions.

## Old Colony History museum hosts book release party

A release party for the book was also held at the Old Colony History Museum, 66 Church Green, on Saturday, March 25.

At the event, Willis talked about her inspirations for the book, there were appetizers, as well as live music from Greg Luzitano. Guests also had the chance to check out OCHM's collection, including items related to Camp Myles Standish, Willis noted.

Old Colony History Museum Director Katie MacDonald said that OCHM has "a number of items from Camp Myles Standish on display," and that the museum's entire military room is being re-installed.

## Keep up with Kerrin Willis' work

Willis said she has several events

scheduled at local libraries over the next few months, and that readers can buy a signed copy of the book at all of these events.

For a full schedule of events and updates, visit [www.kerrinwillis.com](http://www.kerrinwillis.com) or follow Willis on Instagram @KerrinWrites.

And there will be more from Willis on the horizon: she's working on a novel about a young woman who disguises herself as a man to get a job on a 19th-century whaling ship out of New Bedford.

"I want my writing to highlight the stories of the strong women who came before us," Willis said. "The characters themselves are fictional, but their struggles and experiences are not. So much of history is told from the male perspective, and I want to explore the female experience that might otherwise be lost to history."

*Taunton Daily Gazette/Herald News copy editor and digital producer Kristina Fontes can be reached at [kfontes@heraldnews.com](mailto:kfontes@heraldnews.com). Support local journalism by purchasing a digital or print subscription to The Herald News and Taunton Daily Gazette today.*

JOIN

# #TEAMGANNETT

TODAY!

Where working together creates greater opportunities, learning and growth!

<p><b>What Fits You Best?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sales</li> <li>Marketing</li> <li>Journalism</li> <li>IT</li> <li>Production</li> <li>Accounting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Great Perks &amp; Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed Time Off</li> <li>Employee Discounts</li> <li>Domestic Partner Coverage</li> <li>Tuition Reimbursement</li> <li>Telemedicine</li> <li>Fitness Programs</li> </ul>
--	---

We Believe in Our People, Our Communities, & The Health Of Our Planet.

JOIN #TEAMGANNETT

Stay in the Home You Love,  
with a New Accessible Walk-In Bath

Get

# \$1,250 OFF\*

a Walk-In Bath  
Installed in as little as 2-3 days!

Plus \$0 Payments and  
0% Interest for 18 Months\*\*

FREE

## In-Home Consultations

Our team is ready to take your call 7 days a week

# 508-692-5974

Senior & Military Discounts

\*Minimum purchase may be required, ask for details. Limit one per household. New orders only for appointments scheduled between January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023. Not valid with any other offer or previous purchase. \*\*Financing available with minimum purchase and approved credit. All financing is provided by unaffiliated third-party lenders. Price and payments may vary based on products and time of purchase. Licensed and insured Rite Window & Door MHC # 158722, Statewide Remodeling TX/OR/AR: RMP 17951 & RMP 42680, Pacific Bath: OR CC# 213202, AZ ROC#334399, WA PACIFIC#1011, NW#0386030, HomeSmart: NJ 131104501900, DE 8008206060, PA 013302. Visit [walkintubs.com](http://walkintubs.com) for all other details. Offers are subject to change without notice until time of purchase.

RESTRICTIONS APPLY

# PROJECTS AND PARADISE

## \$500 OFF

AND

THE FIRST 10 PEOPLE TO MENTION THIS AD WILL RECEIVE A VACATION TO SOME OF THE MOST DESIRABLE VACATION DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD WITH YOUR NEXT PROJECT!

- ROOFING
- WINDOWS
- DOORS
- SIDING
- GUTTERS & GUTTER GUARDS

# 774-406-2723

\*EXCLUSIONS APPLY, CALL FOR DETAILS. OFFER VALID THRU 3/31/2023