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## in her kitchen Chef Sherry Pocknett, owner of Sly Fox Den Too, cooks with sustainably raised, hunted and fished animals at Charlestown restaurant

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By Jenna Pelletier Globe Correspondent, Updated September 29, 2022, 6:00 a.m.



"Our people have always focused on local food," Pocknett says. "In the fall, we'd have raccoon and rabbit. In the springtime, it was striped bass with fiddlehead ferns, sunchokes and wild ramps."

since she was growing up on Cape Cod in the 1960s.

Pocknett now shares her Indigenous culture through the food she serves at her 30-seat Charlestown restaurant, Sly Fox Den Too. She runs it with her daughters, Jade and Cheyenne Pocknett-Galvin. The trio make dishes including quahog chowder, venison skewers, and three-sisters rice with corn cakes.

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The restaurant is named after Pocknett's father, Chief Sly Fox, Vernon Pocknett, who died in 1999. "He taught us everything," she says. "He took all of the tribal kids under his wings and taught us how to fend for ourselves in nature," she says.

Sly Fox Den Too, on South County Trail in Charlestown, R.I., keeps Indigenous food traditions alive. RYAN T. CONATY FOR THE BOSTON GL The "too" in the name references the fact that Pocknett's Charlestown restaurant is actually her Plan B. Shortly

slow.

before the pandemic began, she started raising funds to renovate a property near her home in Preston, Conn. She

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is still working on developing the project, called the Sly Fox Den Restaurant, Museum, and Oyster Farm, where

she plans to cook as well as offer educational programming on Indigenous culture. But her progress has been

"It's been really hard with the pandemic, and I've almost given up a couple of times," she says. "It's my real dream though." For now, Pocknett is renting the Sly Fox Den Too's space on Route 2 in Charlestown, which she stumbled

upon while attending a Narragansett tribe event. The restaurant also serves as a hub for her catering business

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mom in the kitchen a lot as a kid. I also remember doing things like going blueberry picking with a little basket around my neck when I was 3 or 4 years old. We were always self-reliant and harvested a lot of our own food. When I was older, I started waitressing at my uncle's [now closed] Mashpee restaurant, The Flume, which was really popular. In my 20s, I got into catering through that restaurant and started traveling around to different

pow-wows and events, which I still do today. I make things like bison burgers, frog legs, turtle soup and smoked

mussels. Later, I got the opportunity to become the food and beverage manager at the Mashantucket Pequot

Museum & Research Center, and that's how I ended up in Connecticut. I decided to stay in the state after I left

**Pocknett:** I've always loved to cook for people, even back when it was in my Easy Bake Oven. And I helped my

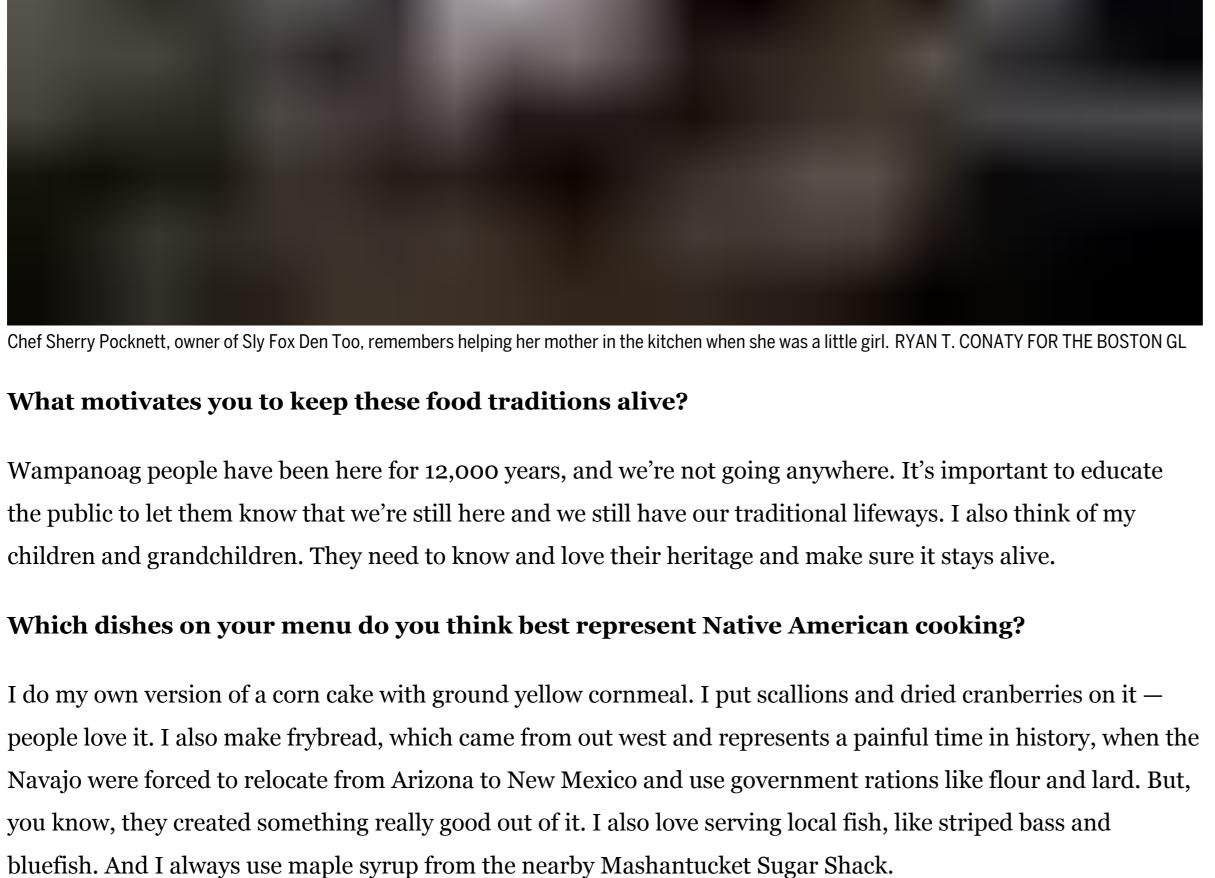
## that position.

Q: How did you become interested in food and cooking?

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and a revenue source for her Connecticut project.

What does the term Indigenous food mean to you? We embrace the bounty of each season and cook with sustainably raised, hunted and fished animals. We also use our original crops, like the three sisters combination of corn, beans and squash. I believe that we are here to love one another, to help one another, and to take care of the land, and those concepts are important to our food as well. Advertisement



We've had the property since 2019. We've come a long way with it, but we still have a lot of work and fundraising

Preston. The vision is to have a restaurant with at least a hundred seats, as well as a living history museum with

property, plus a garden and eventually an oyster farm. It will be a fun place for students and adults to come learn

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Last year you were featured on Hulu's "Taste the Nation with Padma Lakshmi." What was

Sly Fox Den Too, 4349 South County Trail, Charlestown, R.I., 401-642-7350, slyfoxdenrestaurant.com

to do before we can open. It's a beautiful place — right on the Poquetanuck Bay and a mile from my home in

an outdoor kitchen and a large wetu, or wigwam. We want to have interpreters doing demonstrations on the

It was awesome. Before she came, I didn't really know who she was. But I welcome anyone who wants to come and take a cooking lesson from me because I love to teach. She was very gracious — and so was her crew. This interview has been edited and condensed.

Roasted rabbit with root vegetables cooked at Sly Fox Den Too. RYAN T. CONATY FOR THE BOSTON GL

What's your vision for your project in Preston, Conn.?

about Indigenous peoples.

filming that like?

Poached eggs over duck hash with crispy duck skin. RYAN T. CONATY FOR THE BOSTON GL Show comments **MORE ON GLOBE.COM** SPONSORED BY: WOMEN IN REAL ESTATE **Abuse in National Women's Soccer League was** systemic, damning report finds **Women in Real Estate: 18 powerhouse players** in the Greater Boston area An independent investigation into the scandals that erupted in the National Women's Soccer League last Over 65% of agents in the booming local real estate season found emotional abuse and sexual misconduct market are female. were systemic in the sport, impacting multiple teams, coaches, and players, according to a report released Monday. Family reeling after Truro man dies in New After 'horror show' hiker rescues, N.H. asks Bedford jail following his arrest on charges of whether criminal charges are the next frontier killing his mother With volunteer rescue teams and conservation officers already "stretched thin," officials in the state take a defiant Since Friday, the extended Howe family has been stand against irresponsible hiking. overwhelmed by tragedy - the murder of matriarch Susan Howe in her Truro home and the apparent suicide of her

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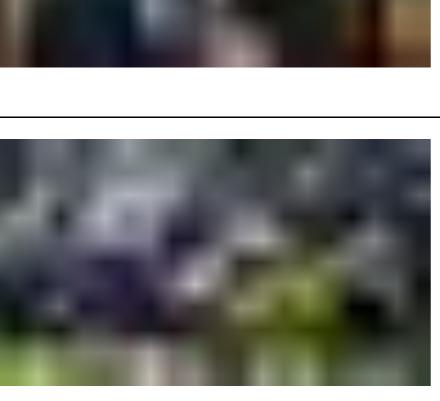
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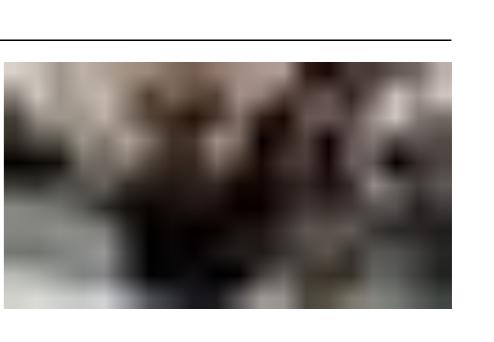
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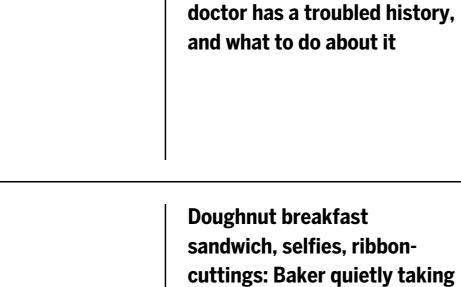
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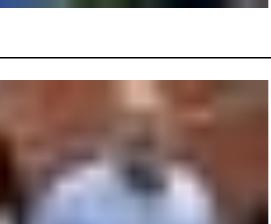
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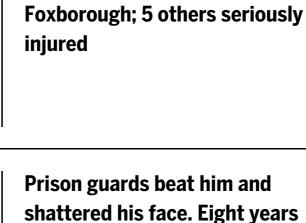
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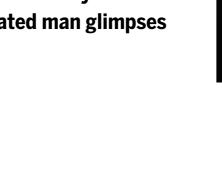
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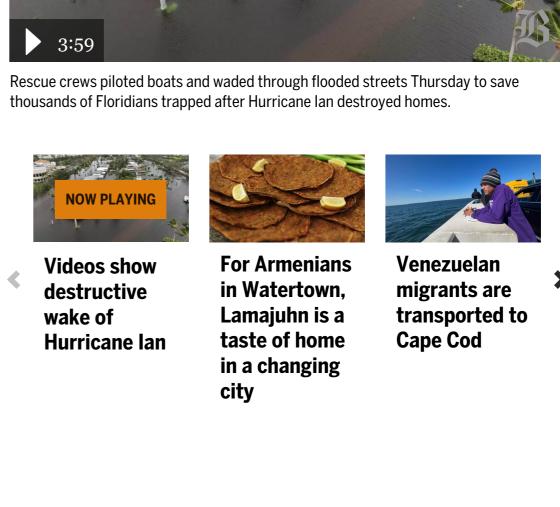
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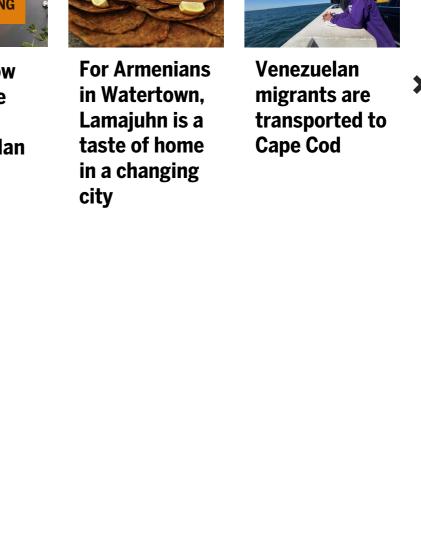
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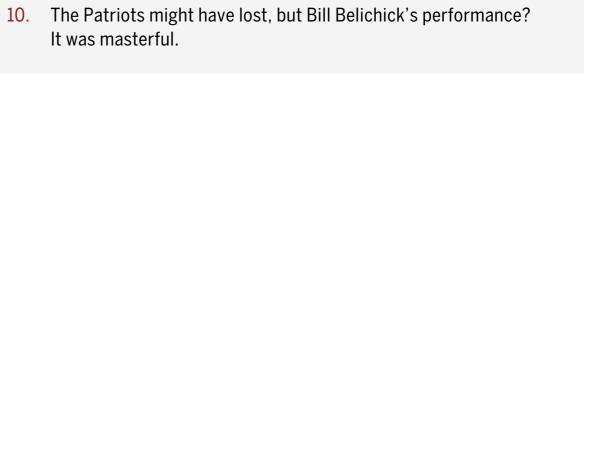
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