

Cranston Herald

Thursday, May 8, 2025

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City has first full-time DPW chief in 2 years

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

A crucial yet persistently empty position in the Department of Public Works has been filled by City Council approval of Cranston's first permanent DPW director hiring since the post was last filled in 2023.

Frank Corrao was approved by the council at last week's meeting. No stranger to the role, he had been working as the acting director since last year.

Corrao said he was fortunate to start out as acting director for the

position. It gave him the opportunity to meet staff, City Council, administration and test drive the role before taking it on permanently.

Corrao previously worked as the deputy chief engineer at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), and he has lived in Cranston for over 40 years.

He credits his time at RIDOT as great experience and preparation for this role.

As the new DPW director, he will oversee a \$17.1-million operating budget, manage



Recently appointed Director of Public Works Frank Corrao in his office. Submitted photo.

71 employees and serve as a voting member of the City Planning Commission, according to the most recent job posting prior to Corrao's appointment.

"I like the direction the mayor wants to take the city, and I am excited to be a part of it," Corrao said about his role as the new DPW director.

The Department of Public Works oversees the control, care and maintenance of all phases of public works infrastructure, projects and facilities,

including rodent control, waste management and stormwater drainage.

One of the realms within the department is the highway division. Highway manager John Corso says Corrao has been great to work with since he came into the role as acting director.

Now that Corrao has been appointed, Corso says it is very good news that they have a permanent director now.

Along with his appointment, Corrao will also get a raise in salary. The council approved a salary

● CHIEF to page 9

Restaurants on the move



It's time to make artisanal bread

By JOY FOX
Beacon Media Publisher

The seventh Seven Stars had its soft opening on May 7, with grand opening celebrations set for Wednesday, May 14, according to JJ Smith, the CEO of the artisan bread company.

Most recently, their newest location in Edgewood, at the intersection of Broad Street and Warwick and Norwood Avenues, was home to a Santander Bank.

"It's a privilege to bring Seven Stars to this neighborhood," said Smith, noting the company's original founders, Jim and Lynn Williams, lived in Edgewood for a time. "This is a nod to their legacy."

The new space will be among largest in the company's portfolio at 2,500 square feet. Smith says the landlord explored trying to split the space into two storefronts, but after working with architects in an effort to maximize the customer experience, it was decided to keep current footprint.

The indoor and outdoor space will accommodate about 50 people seated. And to keep the operation humming, they will have a crew of 15 to 20 people.

Over the course of his career, Smith has worked with several brands and countless openings, but he notes a Seven Stars opening is different.

"[Seven Stars] is a Rhode Island icon," he said. "One of our core values is being a part of the community, and we work to stay connected to the community."

The café first opened in 2001 in Providence. Its Hope Street location, which was once a gas station, remains the bakery's flagship location.

This is Smith's second opening since joining the company as chief executive in March 2024. His first opening was Seven Stars number six in East Greenwich.

When asked what makes for a successful opening, without missing a beat he laughed and said, "have lots of bread on hand."

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Sonia's heads for Atwood Ave.

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Sonia's Market & Deli, a popular eatery on Park Avenue, is staying in the city, but will soon move to more spacious quarters on Atwood Avenue, according to an announcement it posted to its social media accounts last week.

The business, which offers traditional Armenian foods with an American twist, is known for its bountiful sandwiches and salads. It has occupied its location at 816 Park Ave. since 2011, but that is about to change.

"Our business is growing!! Can you believe it!? Pretty soon Sonia's will be opening on ATWOOD AVE in Cranston!!," the business states in what it billed as a "huge announcement" on Facebook and Instagram.

"We will have more important announcements and news coming about what else we are working on. But for now, we're just so excited to share this

excitement with you (and really excited to have more kitchen space) so stay tuned to see what we're working on, and what we're cooking up!!"

No one from the restaurant was available by press time to answer questions about the new location or details about the timing of the move.

According to the business' website, it was started by the brother-and-sister team of Ara and Sevan Janigian in 2011.

"As a brother-sister team, our dream was to create more than just a deli in Cranston," the restaurant states on its website. "It's about bringing to life the flavors of our Armenian heritage, blended with an American twist. Every dish we serve is a piece of our story, a celebration of culture and the joy of bringing fresh, delicious food to our community."

Sonia's, which also provides catering services, has built a faithful following and is always crowded at lunch and dinner, with parking spots hard to find.

Sure as the calendar

'Well-oiled machine' behind May Breakfast tradition

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

1,600 trays of cornbread. 145 pounds of ham. 78 apple pies. And copious amounts of piping hot coffee at the ready. These and more are what it takes to feed hundreds of guests at a local church carrying out a longtime tradition.

For 156 years, the Oak Lawn Baptist Church has held its annual May Breakfast. Underneath the hustle and bustle of hundreds of guests from all over the state is a finely tuned system of volunteers.

Some have been volunteering for decades at the May 1 rite of spring while others have joined up recently. They all work together to serve hot plates full of eggs, clam cakes, apple pie and fresh cups of orange juice.

Julie Ellison heads up the May Breakfast at the church. She says the May Breakfast is an important community



Seventy-eight apple pies were baked on location to be served up to hundreds of guests who came out in support of the longtime community event. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus.*

event that is part of the church's heritage. So much so that in its 156-year history, the church has canceled it only twice – during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's amazing how important this tradition is to everybody involved," Ellison said. "It's not just me or Jim (her husband); it

takes hundreds of volunteers to make this happen."

Pam Pearson is one of those volunteers. She's been helping at the breakfast for about 15 years. Keeping it in the family, her granddaughter, Jenna An-

● BREAKFAST to page 9



East Little League ready to play ball

Cranston East Little League opened its season and celebrated Opening Day last Saturday at Carberry Field in Cranston. The league held its annual parade to the field and welcomed players, families and local dignitaries to the scene as they gear up for another season of fun. Pictured is Mila Rosario tossing the first pitch. For more photos, *check out sports on page 16. Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*



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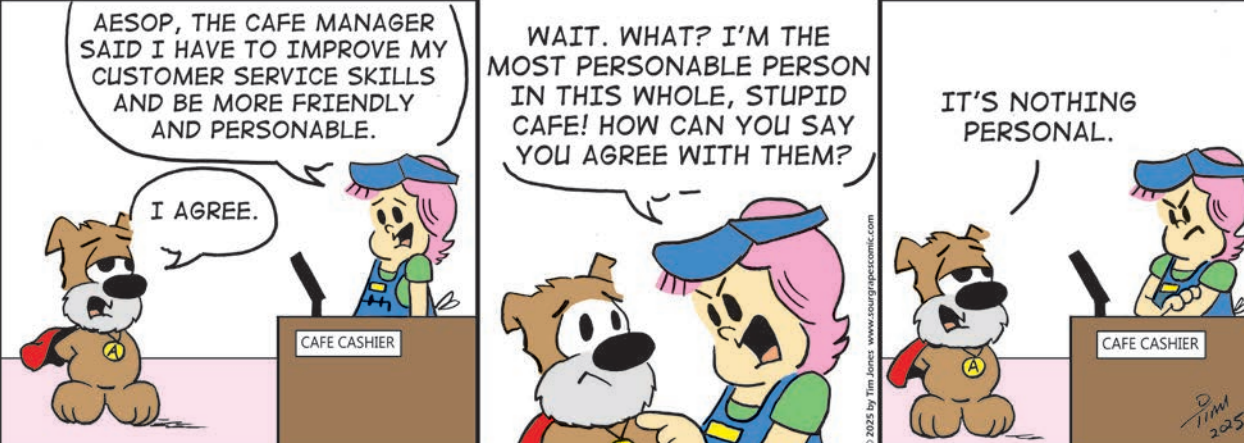
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SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones



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Airport officials drop petition to take TSA screening private

By **CHRISTOPHER SHEA**
Rhode Island Current

State airport officials on Friday withdrew a petition filed a week earlier to join the Transportation Security Administration Screening Partnership Program, canceling a move that could have shifted passenger screening at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport to a private contractor.

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation said the decision was made after observing “significantly enhanced performance at the checkpoint” in recent weeks.

Airport officials filed the application on April 25 at the recommendation of Virginia-based consultant Studdiford Technical Solutions after RIAC raised concerns about long checkpoint lines during early morning travel last October.

Airport spokesperson Bill Fischer said the TSA has since worked to improve wait times at each of the seven lanes in the federal checkpoint.

“Improved wait times, particularly in recent days, have alleviated concerns raised by the airlines and the passengers back in the fall of 2024,” Fischer said in a statement. “RIAC was pleased to witness that the early morning lines that spilled out of the terminal in November are now mostly contained inside the checkpoint — a marked improvement.”

TSA spokesperson Daniel Velez said the federal agency tries to reduce wait times by adjusting staffing levels during peak hours and high-travel seasons, along with opening additional lanes or redirecting passengers to less congested checkpoints.

Velez declined to comment on RIAC’s decision to drop its petition.

The longest wait time in the last month was 27 minutes, according to TSA data obtained by Rhode Island Current. The average maximum wait travelers experienced in April

was 10 minutes.

Fischer said airport officials will continue to track wait times, noting that an inspection conducted between 4 and 6 a.m. last Friday showed roughly 400 travelers go through the checkpoint without any backups.

“RIAC has been singularly focused on one objective: reasonable wait times at PVD’s checkpoint,” he said.

RIAC’s initial consideration to privatize TSA duties drew quick opposition from union leaders and Rhode Island’s congressional delegation.

“Success,” responded the head of the union representing New England’s TSA officers after being told RIAC had rescinded its petition.

“Their initial decision to go private was ill-advised,” Mike Gayzagian, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2617 headquartered in Boston, said in an interview.

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed said RIAC made the right move in leaving screening duties with the TSA.

“Putting people and the traveling public first must be job one at any top-notch airport,” he said in a statement. “I know the people who work at TSA are committed to being efficient, effective, courteous and professional and will continue to serve at these high standards.”

U.S. Rep. Gabe Amo said RIAC’s decision to rescind its application was “the right call.”

“In Congress, I’ll continue to advocate for essential services and safety at T.F. Green amid harmful funding cuts proposed by the Trump administration,” he said in a statement.

President Donald Trump has proposed cutting TSA funding by \$247 million.

Christopher Shea covers politics, the criminal justice system and transportation for the Rhode Island Current. RI Current is part of States Newsroom, the nation’s largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

Police Log

RECKLESS DRIVING

On May 1 at 11:44 p.m., officers arrested Michael Barney, 30, of 28 Connecticut St. Apt. 3, Cranston on charges of Reckless Driving/Eluding Police, Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest, Obstructing an Officer in the Execution of Duty, and an affidavit arrest warrant from Rhode Island State Police. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Greenwich Avenue, Warwick. Barney was held for morning court.

DOMESTIC DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On May 1 at 4:53 p.m., officers arrested Garrett Johnson, 25, of 187 Third Ave. Apt. 2, Cranston, on a charge of Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a call for service at the aforementioned address. Johnson was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and remanded to the ACI.

DUI

On May 1 at 5:56 p.m., officers arrested Nikauris Taveras, 45, of 1303 Elmwood Ave. Apt.101, Cranston, for DUI / Drugs / Alcohol 1st Offense – BAC Unknown and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. The arrest was the result of a call for service at the intersection of Roslyn and Park avenues. Taveras was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and released.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

On May 1 at 1:51 p.m., officer arrested Amaurys Severino, 30, of 60 Toronto Ave. Providence, on a charge of Simple Assault or Battery and Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of the subject being taken into custody at Cranston police headquarters. Severino was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS

On April 30 at about 7:41 p.m., officers arrested Tyler J O’Shea, 36, of 28 Lyndhurst Ave., Providence, charging him with one (1) count of Possession with Intent to De-

liver Schedule 1-2 (Cocaine) 1 oz to 1 Kg and one (1) count of possession of a controlled substance (Fentanyl) under 10g. The arrest was the result of assist to Providence police in locating a suicidal male and subsequent Felony Car Stop. O’Shea was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and remanded to ACI.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On April 30 at 2:25 a.m., officers arrested Cassidy Cabral, 30, of 95 Read St., Somerset, Massachusetts on a charge of disorderly conduct. The arrest was the result of a call for a disturbance at 1369 Park Ave. #3. Cabral was held for morning arraignment.

DOMESTIC B&E

On April 30 at 12:48 a.m., officers arrested Victor Nogueras, 32, of 923 Branch Ave., Providence on charges of Domestic Breaking and Entering, Domestic Simple Assault and Domestic Disorderly Conduct as well as a Cranston police warrant for previous Domestic Breaking and Entering, Domestic Refusal to relinquish a phone and Domestic Vandalism. The arrest was the result of a call about a breaking and entering at 11 Fairbanks St. Nogueras was held for morning arraignment.

Editor’s Note: The preceding arrest log information has been taken from online arrest log reports posted by the Cranston Police Department.



Cranston Herald

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK’S PUZZLE:



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From left to right: Karen Santilli, of Cranston and CEO, Greater Providence YMCA, Anthony Gibney, Executive Director, Cranston YMCA, Senator Jack Reed, Dan DaPonte, Chair, Greater Providence YMCA Board of Directors, Amanda Kelly, COO, Greater Providence YMCA). Submitted photo from the Cranston YMCA

Y opens doors to families, senior senator

Rain didn’t dampen spirits at the Cranston YMCA on Park Ave on April 26. From the Cranston Police K-9, Czar, to face painting, a karate demonstration and basketball the gymnasium was buzzing with activity.

“We’ve got a lot happening,” said Anthony Gibney, the executive director of the Cranston Y.

In addition to Saturday’s Healthy Kids program, Gibney has been working to expand the organization’s membership, programming and partnerships.

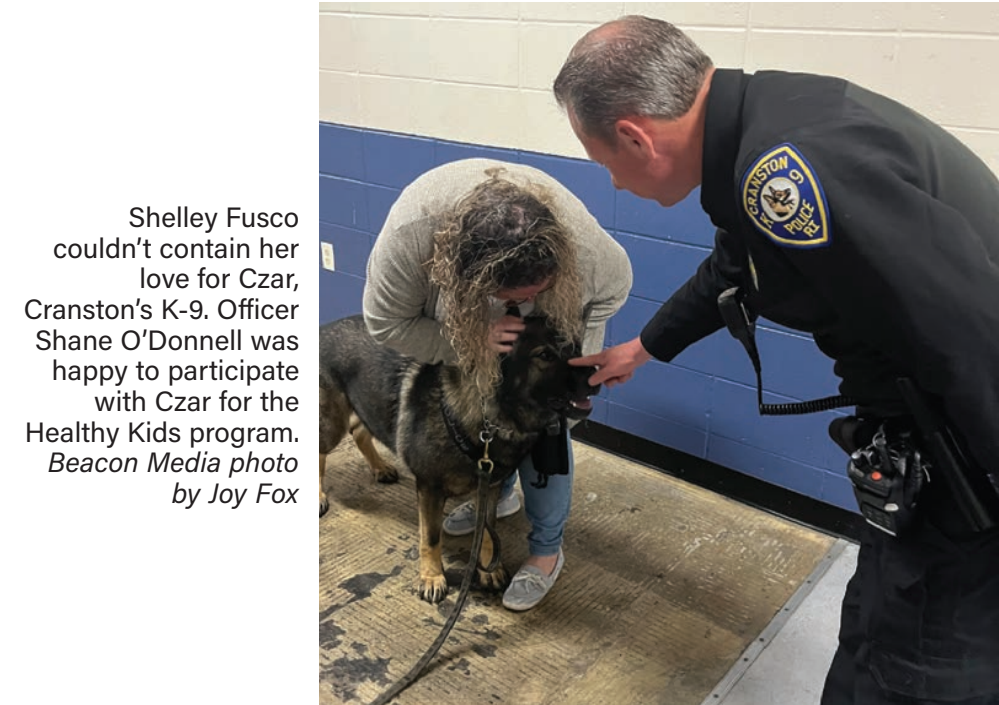
Since taking the reins of Cranston’s Y last fall, he’s prioritized expanding the hours for members to take greater advantage of drop-in programming before and after school. He’s also working to build professional development opportunities for his full and part-time team of 70 and to strengthen partnerships with Cranston schools, in particular Stadium Elementary.

Gibney and the team also recently hosted U.S. Senator Jack Reed visited the Cranston YMCA to meet with staff and tour the facility. Reed met with Y leadership, including board members and learned more about the Y’s role in supporting health, wellness, and community programs for the 4,700 members it serves annually, including 3,300 Cranston residents.

Karen Santilli, of Cranston and CEO, Greater Providence YMCA talked about the Learn 365 grant and the free summer math program coming to the Y with Domenic Fusco, chair of the Cranston School Committee on Saturday. Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox



Senator Reed speaks with a Cranston Y member during his workout. Submitted photo from the Cranston YMCA



Shelley Fusco couldn’t contain her love for Czar, Cranston’s K-9. Officer Shane O’Donnell was happy to participate with Czar for the Healthy Kids program. Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox

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Helping to bring spring to Sprague Mansion

Cranston Rotary members volunteered their Sunday morning beautifying the grounds of the Sprague Mansion on Cranston Street. Sprague is home to the Cranston Historical Society.

Some of the more complicated work of the day was made possible by a \$3,000 Rotary District grant.

“We had a tree service come and clean up a lot of the old, dead and scraggly trees and brush,” said Tom Glasgow, club president in an email to the Herald. “Then we rented a chipper to clean it up and we used the chips to mulch their parking lot islands.” Submitted photos by the Cranston Rotary

‘Self-contained’ development proposed for Pawtuxet

May 14 hearing set for townhouses, commercial space

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

Anthony Albanese Sr. thinks of the latest version for the future for Hunter’s Garage on the Warwick side of Pawtuxet Bridge as the “last hurrah.”

It’s no wonder in the last five and a half years two plans have been floated for the property with the most ambitious, and the one garnering the loudest village objection, being a structure combining six residential units and first floor restaurant with cantilevered balconies overlooking the river.

Albanese’s son, Anthony Jr., who is spearheading the latest proposal for the property that will get its first public airing May 14 before the Warwick Planning Board, believes the village will embrace “Hunter’s Landing.”

“We hope to have a beautiful building that everyone enjoys,” he said in an interview last week. He said the proposed building “keeps in style with the neighborhood.”

Scaled back proposal

So far, the project has received a favorable nod from City Planner Thomas Kravitz who notes the proposed mixed use building, a two-and-a-half story structure connected by a two-story common area is a significant reduction over prior proposals. Ginny Leslie, a board member of the Pawtuxet Village Association whose historic home is two lots away from Hunter’s got her first glimpse of the plan Sunday. While she found the proposal smaller than prior proposals, she still thinks it is too big for the lot.

As Albanese puts it, the project is a “self-contained envelope” meeting zoning requirements for residential and commercial parking.

According to the narrative accompanying the request of Bridge Group, LLC (Albanese’s limited liability company), for approvals of a Major Land Development Project, the western and eastern structures would have two one-bedroom, single level flats on the ground floor and two two-story townhomes on the second and third floors.



Hunter’s Garage in Pawtuxet Village is being proposed as the site for a connected two building development with six residential units and 1,500 square feet of commercial space. *Beacon Media photos*



A rendering of the “Hunter’s Landing” development proposed for 9 Post Road in Pawtuxet.

Restaurant not in the cards

Furthermore, the plans drafted by Joe Casali Engineering, Inc. (JCE) of Warwick, call for 1,510 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor of the eastern side of the building. Albanese Jr. says this could be a single commercial establishment or divided into two. He is “not looking favorably” on a restaurant.

“The eastern structure ground floor units will have patio spaces and the upper townhouse units will have patio spaces and the upper townhouse units will have decks above the common space entry doors,” reads the narrative. Common space would be comprised of the building entry, lobby and stairwell.

The existing Hunter’s Garage would be demolished according to the proposal.

According to the city zoning, parking ordinances for multi-family residential units and commercial space, the development would require a minimum of 20 parking spaces. The proposal calls for 22 spaces. Vehicles would enter the property from the north and would be restricted to existing the premise to the south.

Built in 1930, Hunter’s

Garage sat vacant for years before being acquired by the Albaneses who are the largest village property owners. They cleaned up the garage property that had become a site for derelict vehicles and trash, painted the building, adding windows which gave a façade more fitting to the historical character of the village.

Village scuttlebutt centered on what would become of the property. Two plans were advanced, the first being the combination of a restaurant and housing and the second a year ago for an all-residential 12-unit building. Both plans met strong headwinds from the Historic District Commission and village residents for being overpowering and were not pursued.

After briefly scanning the plans, Leslie said “it’s an improvement, but I’m not sure I can go for it.” What troubles her are the one-foot side yard setbacks from the abutting residential property for parking requiring an exception to the regulations from the city.

Repeating what one member of the Historic District Commission said in reviewing a development, Leslie said developers need to start their plans around what they have for property, not with what they want.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish

5. Perform on stage

8. Soda

11. Small growth

13. In support of

14. Step taken when walking

15. Hollyhocks

16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

17. Feel pain

18. San Diego ballplayer

20. Inches per minute (abbr.)

21. Fat from a pig's abdomen

22. Create again

25. Honors once more

30. Thin coating of gold

31. Welsh river

32. Japanese novelist Mizumura

33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable

41. Showing guilt

43. Soldier

45. Photographers

48. Language spoken in Nigeria

49. Mimic

50. Expressed pleasure

55. Ancient Greek sophist

56. Beverage container

57. Night monkey genus

59. Lace bugs

60. Hoghead (abbr.)

61. Frameworks

62. Keyboard key

63. Greek goddess of the dawn

64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)

3. Razorbill genus

4. Bleached

5. Continent

6. Fruit preserved in syrup

7. Impediment to one's freedom

8. Nocturnal rodents

9. Earthy pigment

10. Relieved oneself

12. Golf score

14. Tech hub __ Alto

19. Sportscaster Andrews

23. Records electric currents

24. Popular Hitchcock film

25. Revolutions per minute

26. NY Giants legend

27. Sports radio host Patrick

28. When you hope to get somewhere

29. French seaport

34. Thai river

35. Rocker's accessory

36. Extra charge

37. Influential American president

39. Pain in the head

40. Great Plains people

41. Consumed

42. Soluble ribonucleic acid

44. Improves

45. Secret clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Fallow deer

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. College's Blue Devils

58. Midway between south and southeast

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Mae Organization seeks ‘narrow, deep’ bonds with clients

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Tuni Schartner, the recently appointed executive director of the Mae Organization for the Homeless, has a lot on her mind.

Since Martinha Javid founded the organization almost 17 years ago, it has grown and expanded in its services. From a daily food pantry to providing clothing assistance, hot-meal sites and other services, the MAE organization’s mission is to help those in need.

One of the group’s essential programs is its donation program.

Through a partnership with St. David’s on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, the Mae Organization rents three rooms and organizes the donations it gets daily. From food donations to clothing and pet supplies for their clients, Schartner said, the donations program is critical to the organization.

Another program that Schartner is growing is a pantry where they put together boxes of food for people to come and pick up.

Viewing it as the main program that will help the Mae Organization develop what Schartner calls “narrow and deep” bonds with those they serve, she says the pantry program will help the agency get to know its clients, build trusting relationships and provide them with extra support.

Through partnerships with businesses such as Trader Joe’s for food to a new partnership with the Potter League for Animals, which donates pet supplies to the center, Schartner looks to build on the center’s foundation of addressing need through a customized approach.

“The great thing about MAE is we’re nimble,” Schartner said. “And I think that’s one of our biggest differentiators ... we’re able to really give you personalized, holistic support. So we really don’t ever want to lose that ability to really customize what you need.”

Schartner says the organization has always been small but mighty. With an average of 50 volunteers engaged weekly and three dozen regular monthly volunteers, the MAE Organization seeks to help address the pockets of



MAE volunteer Cindy Lantz (left) with Tuni Schartner, executive director of the MAE Organization, in the pantry room where they organize and package food items to distribute to their clients. (Submitted photo)

need that go unserved.

She says the group has arranged housing for three mothers since she began her job three months ago and that the challenge now is to keep the ball moving forward.

Doing that, Schartner says, will require analyzing what they are doing now and how it aligns with their mission and then finding out what they need to do to strengthen and grow.

From rebuilding the outreach coordinator role to implementing a more organized program with protocol and criteria, Schartner says the group’s base mission is to help lift people out of the cycle of being at risk or homeless.

And the work they do now aims to build the infrastructure that will support their mission and holistic approach to helping the community, strengthening the agency so it can grow.

With many requests for assistance coming through the online form on their website or in person through their programs, Schartner says the Mae Organization is always looking for more volunteers to help. Through what she calls the center’s “closet queens” – a core group of five volunteers who bag

and identify the things their clients need – they fulfill each request.

“Those amazing closet queens keep everything organized,” Schartner said. They take inventory for us. They’re amazing, and they fill requests. They have it all organized in there.”

Another core program for the center is the hot-meal sites. In Woonsocket, the MAE Organization has been leading the meal site for about eight years after supporting Help the Homeless RI, which started it, according to Schartner.

Meals are served every Sunday, and Schartner says they serve a hot, healthy meal to a weekly average of about 150 people, in addition to providing personal-care items and clothing.

Describing it as their most comprehensive and successful program, Schartner said there is great need in that area of the state and that most of those community members are homeless.

Schartner says the agency is stocking up on sleeping bags and tents.

“This time of the year, a lot of the shelters are closing because it’s spring, so [unsheltered people] are outside,” Schartner said. “So, we are stocking up on sleeping bags and tents because a lot of our clients, our homeless clients, are now moving outside.”

As Schartner continues to settle into her role, she says her goal is to further develop the services of the center – expanding existing relationships, forming new ones to fill out new roles in the center and growing the programming.

One of their biggest upcoming events is their Kentucky Derby Fundraiser on Saturday, May 3, which Schartner hopes to be a great time that brings the community together.

“More than anything, we want readers to know that their support truly changes lives. Every dollar raised helps us provide essential services and compassionate care to those experiencing homelessness,” Schartner said.

To get involved with the MAE organization, you can donate funds or items, or volunteer with the organization. To learn more, visit their website at MAE-Organization.org.

KIDS COUNT warns of federal cuts to family support programs

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Contributor

The 2025 KIDS COUNT Factbook, released Monday, has identified affordable access to housing, education, healthcare and nutrition as continued top priorities when it comes to supporting children and families in Rhode Island.

What’s uncertain, however, is whether the federal funding needed to sustain key programs for children and families in the state will remain intact.

KIDS COUNT, a non-profit children’s advocacy group, publishes the Factbook annually to create a statistical portrait of how children across Rhode Island are performing. It looks at several key areas: family and community, economic well-being, health, safety, and education. The 2025 Factbook also introduced three new indicators to track child wellness: family structure, maternal health and infant health.

The 2025 Factbook was officially released at a special breakfast held Monday at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. The large meeting room was packed with more than 450 attendees that included dignitaries and high-ranking, state, local and federal officials. Those in attendance included members of Rhode Island’s Congressional delegation as well as members of the General Assembly and various community leaders.

The organization stressed that many federal programs that have traditionally supported children and low-income families in the state are at now at risk. One such program is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides monthly benefits to low-income families in order to purchase food at retail stores and some farmers markets.

According to the Factbook, 44,951 of children under age 18 across Rhode Island received SNAP benefits as of October 2024. That number includes more than 5,000 children across Johnston, Warwick, and Cranston.

“We’ve been hearing a lot about an increase in hunger in Rhode Island,” Stephanie Geller, deputy director for KIDS COUNT. “The Rhode Island Community Food Bank has noted enormous increases in the number of people coming to food pantries because they can’t afford food. So, we know that that’s an area ... we’re worried about.”

Geller, a longtime Cranston resident, also mentioned several early childhood education programs in the local area that could be affected if federal funding were cut — perhaps most crucially providers of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. For 60 years, Head Start has provided comprehensive services to low-income children, and their families. The services range from hands-on learning programs for the youngsters to childcare, health care, nutritional support, and more for the for families.

The 2025 Factbook reports that, as of October 2024, Early Head Start programs in Rhode Island supported 540 infants and 13 pregnant women. Head Start program enrolled 1,073 children with an additional 365 children dually enrolled in Head Start and RI Pre-K programs.

While the initial White House budget request for FY2026 released on May 2 does not mention Head Start, an earlier draft of the budget suggested eliminating funding for the program. Head Start programs across the country have already been impeded by layoffs of federal employees who support the programs.

“Congress is the one who makes the decisions about the budget, so we have to see what Congress passes,” Geller said. “But those have also been looking fairly ominous.”

The 2025 Factbook’s new indicators have also highlighted how crucial federal programs have been to supporting Rhode Island families in recent years. Under the new “Maternal Health” indicator, the Factbook notes that women who received health coverage through RIte Care, the state’s Medicaid-managed aid program, were much less likely to have a delayed start to their prenatal care than women who are uninsured. From 2019-2023, delayed prenatal care affected 448 women in Warwick, 211 in Johnston, and 588 in Cranston.

Housing is another area where the loss of federal funds could impact Rhode Island families. Federal funding has been used extensively by the state to support affordable housing efforts; from FY2022 to FY2024, the Factbook reports, the state used \$332.2 million in federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide housing. With these funds now ending, funding sources such as housing bonds will have to be used to fill the gap. The loss of funding comes at the time where housing expenses in Rhode Island have risen, with the cost of rent in the state increasing by 17% from 2020 to 2024, according to KIDS COUNT.

In its executive summary, the organization stresses the need to continue programs that serve the state’s children and their families: “We must ensure that families will be able to access the programs that help them thrive.”

- With reports from Barbara Polichetti

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Cranston Chatter

May 9: 60th Gaspee Days will with a Museum Night at the Aspray Boat House and the Pawtuxet Rangers Armory, both in Warwick from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30/pp and include a beer or wine and a Gaspee Days commemorative glass or mug at both locations. Tickets are available through Eventbrite or at: <https://www.gaspee.com/events/museum>. For more information on Gaspee Days please visit www.gaspee.com

May 13: Cranston Senior Center will host night bingo on Tuesday from 5:30-7 p.m.

May 14: Early Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s & Dementia - the Cranston Senior Center will host a presentation provided by the RI Department of Health on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at 1070 Cranston St.

May 15: Understanding Your Social Security Benefits - The Cranston Senior Center will host a workshop provided by AARP on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at 1070 Cranston St.

May 16: It takes a village fun run and party at Pawtuxet Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to benefit E.S. Rhodes and Edgewood Highlands Elementary Schools. To register visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/RI/Warwick/ItTakesaVillage5kand1kKidsRun>

May 17: Governor Sprague Mansion Spring Grounds Beautification: the Cranston Historical Society requests volunteer participation on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 1351 Cranston St., the Governor Sprague Mansion. Wear outdoor clothing and bring gloves and a rake. Call to signup/register: 944-9226.

May 18: Cranston Spring Festival will be held at Mulligan’s Island from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The third annual event is presented by the Cranston Police and will have family fun activities.

May 18: Garden City Center Farmer’s Market, the season’s first, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Garden City Center’s gazebo. Each week on Sunday will also bring live entertainment and a pop-up beer garden courtesy of Avvio Ristorante. Free to attend and held rain or shine, but please register on Eventbrite.

May 18: Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra will perform “Requiems” on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 237 Garden Hills Dr. Get tickets at www.ricco.org.

May 19: Reading Week 2025 at Edgewood Highland School. While reading week is primarily aimed at children and schools, it’s a great opportunity for older adults to engage with children. Transportation to Edgewood Highland School is available free from the Cranston Senior Center. It will be from 9:45-11 a.m. Departure is at

9:30 a.m. For more information or to sign up, call Sky at 401-780-6216.

May 19: Memorial Day Presentation: the Cranston Senior Center will have Ann Boulet, a local author certified Thanatology, speak on the meaning of Memorial Day on Monday at 10 a.m. at the Cranston Senior Center.

May 20: Building an Herb Garden will be offered Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Cranston Senior Center. With the assistance of Cranston High School West Vocational Students, you will learn how to plant herbs and build your own planter. It is free event, but space is limited. Act now by calling Sky at 780-6216. Must register by Monday, May 12.

May 25: Oakland Beach Fire Barn Drag Brunch: Oakland Beach FireBarn will hold its 3rd Annual Drag Brunch with The Queens, on Sunday, at 645 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick. Tickets are \$40 per person. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. For tickets and more information: 401-737-4786.

May 28: Healthy Foods Cooking Demonstration: Chef Kevin Milonzi will present a free cooking demonstration discussing healthy options for meals. Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield RI, this event will be on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Space is limited, registration is required. Call now 401-780-6000.

Beginning May 5, ending June 13: Walk with Ease: Need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active? Join the Cranston Senior Center’s “Walk with Ease” with a twist: you walk alone or with friends three times a week for six weeks as far and as long as you are comfortable. All you need to do is keep a log of the days that you walk. Register by calling 401-780-6000.

June 10, Cranston Senior Center will host night bingo on Tuesday from 5:30-7 p.m.

June 14: Rummage Sale: the Phillips Memorial Baptist Church will be hosting a sale of nice, slightly used items at low prices on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 565 Pontiac Ave. Church is handicap accessible.

Convenient Ways to Declutter & Give Back: Drop off at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) Cranston Donation Center, 993 Oaklawn Ave. Open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bins available 24/7. BBBSRI accepts unwanted clothing, linens, and small housewares—even if they’re ripped, stained, or mismatched as they’ll be recycled. No time to drop off? Schedule a FREE home pick-up at DonateRI.org or call 401-921-2434 #2. Questions? Email donations@bigsri.org

Lunch at the Cranston Senior Center: Mondays through Fridays – 11:30 a.m. Suggested Do-

nation: \$3. Don’t miss lunch time fun and a delicious full course meal. Good friends and good food. Check out our daily menus in our newsletter or by going to cranstonseniorcenter.com. Make reservations by calling 401-780-6134.

Applications open for Cranston Hall of Fame: If you would like to honor a Cranston Alum, fill out an application online at cpsd.net. Contact csoccio@cox.net for more information.

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island Call for Volunteers: to apply you can visit rimeals.org/volunteer.

Cranston Tree Program is now accepting applications for its spring planting. Seven- to eight-foot-tall trees, planted by a nursery, are available to homeowners for free. Residents living near highways are urged to apply. Applications can be downloaded at westbaylandtrust.org/cranston-tree, by emailing cranstontree@gmail.com or calling 941-1264.

Every Monday through Friday: Virtual Dementia Caregiver Support Groups are specifically designed for people caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. Monday, 3:30- 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 3-4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 5-6:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10-11:30 a.m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email: info@HopeDementia.org. Follow us on Facebook @HopeHealth.

Every Monday: The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Mondays from 7-9 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Visit www.gaspeecelticjam.org for more info (including the current tune list/tune book) or to send us any questions. No specific Celtic music experience is required.

Every Monday: Cranston Senior Center Book Club meets from 9-10 a.m. For more information call Sky at 401-780-6216.

Every Monday, Thursday and Friday: Cranston Senior Center provides chair exercise classes from 9:45-10:15 a.m. This free exercise class can strengthen everything from the core muscles and the glutes to the lower and upper back, legs and arms.

Every Monday through Thursday: Cranston Senior Center offers Tech Help from 12:30-2 p.m. Whether you are having computer questions or experiencing issues with your phone, iPad, etc. Need help with your health care portals or need to order free Covid test kits? They can assist with that as well.

Every Tuesday and Thursday: Cranston Senior Center provides medication reviews from 9 a.m.-noon. Mary McKenna, our CVS pharmacist, is available to review and discuss your medications with you. Stop by or call for

an appointment 401-780-6210.

Every First and Third Monday: Rhode Island Active Toastmasters meets, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. Rhode Island Active Toastmasters holds its meetings at New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich, in Room N214 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact us Rhode Island Active Toastmasters. All are welcome!

Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RI AA Meeting will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., from 7-8 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Cranston Senior Center offers computer assistance at 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday, Bingo: Cranston Senior Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., the center will host night bingo.

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Center will be offering a balance, strength and flexibility class at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You will learn how to move the body in a healthy way to reduce pain and improve body awareness. Fee: \$3.

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Center will be offering a build better balance class from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Fee: \$3.00 Classes are with or without the use of a chair.

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday, the Fall River Toastmasters Meet, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts, the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St., Fall River, Massachusetts, second floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508) 840-6621. All are welcome!

Every Wednesday: Cranston Senior Center offers Tai Chi classes from 10-11 a.m. with a \$3 fee.

First Wednesday of every month: The Caregiver’s Support Group meets at 2 p.m. at the Cranston Senior Center. It will encourage caregivers to care for themselves and provide productive strategies. For more information call Jennifer at 401-780-6254.

Every Thursday, Get-a-Job-Thursdays: We Make RI, an organization that provides free manufacturing training, hosts a series of job fairs every Thursday from 11 a.m.- noon, 200 First Ave., For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit www.wemakeri.com/get-a-job-thursday or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

Every Thursday, BINGO: The Cranston Senior Center hosts bingo every Thursday from 1-2:30 p.m. Snacks provided, and cash prizes will be available.

Exercise Classes at the Cranston Senior Center: You choose what works for you. Some include but are not limited to: Aerobics, Balance, Strength & Flexibility Class, Tai Chi, Zumba, Ballroom Dancing and Line Dancing Lessons. For more information call 780-6000.

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston and Warwick Public Libraries: Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A free gun lock and securing weapons safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston; Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.

The Oaklawn Grange Used Clothing Donation Shed needs used clothing items, 24 Searle Ave., Cranston. Accepted items include only: used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains and stuffed animals. All items must be in useable condition. Your donations will be distributed as whole garments locally and worldwide. Contact oaklawngrangeinfo@gmail.com for more information.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups: The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 90 minutes and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

Cranston Senior Center is looking for your recipes: For the next few months, they will be collecting recipes from anyone who would like to share and see their favorite recipes in a future Cranston Senior Center Cookbook. Please drop off or mail your recipe to Sky Marcus at the Cranston Senior Center, 1070 Cranston St.

Christmas in July Sale: Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hope (Scituate), is looking for donations of Christmas items for its Christmas in July sale. Call Barbara: 401-827-8054

Editor’s Note: To submit your news to The Chatter, send information and photos to [Rosegalie at rosegalie@beaconmediari.com](mailto:Rosegalie@rosegalie.com) by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week’s edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Rats: No single cause, but only one solution

It’s not a club anyone wants to join, but it seems a majority of people in our three municipalities have some kind of story when it comes to experiencing rats in their own backyards. Maybe you’ve found them taking refuge in your shed, or you’ve had an out-of-body moment of fear shoot through you when you start to take a step off your porch and have one zip underneath your foot, or simply seen one run across the road 50 feet ahead of you when you’re taking the dog for a walk in the neighborhood, there’s no use denying the simple fact:

The rats are among us. They don’t respect property boundaries. And they aren’t asking for our permission.

If you have not had the personal misfortune of walking into your garage to be greeted by the sounds of scurrying little footsteps and panicked squeaking, consider yourself very lucky. Because it could happen to you tomorrow, or next year, even if you do everything you’re supposed to do.

While a household with a tidy, neat and clean property that carefully bags its trash, keeps its ancillary structures free of clutter, and always picks up the animal waste in the yard is certainly less likely to attract rats, those prevention efforts mean much less if the house is bordered by a neighbor or two who completely disregard all of those precautions.

Our persistent rodent problem serves as a microcosm of a much larger issue. It shows how a society can function at its fullest potential only when everyone shares responsibility for it, and there are few more visceral symbols of our collective failure to hold ourselves accountable to this standard than a hulking rat scurrying from one overflowing dumpster or garbage can to the next.

While we are grateful that Cranston, Johnston and Warwick all have dedicated rodent-control workers who bravely battle an insurgent force far outnumbering them, the reality is they are fighting a war that cannot be won through extermination efforts alone.

The only way we can meaningfully reduce the rat population is to stop giving them such fertile grounds to thrive and reproduce. This means everyone – residents, businesses and governmental bodies – needs to work together to hold one another accountable, educate one another, and when those two fail, report and bring forth penalties to those who are not taking responsibility for carrying their portion of the load.

The rats themselves, although easily scapegoated, cannot be blamed for doing what rats are genetically driven to do: survive at all costs, using whatever means are available. They are smart and cunning, but we are smarter and more capable. So let’s prove it.

What’s on your mind?

The Cranston Herald encourages letters to the editor. It’s part of our mission to reflect a multitude of perspectives on everything from community news to national politics. In the interest of including as many viewpoints as possible, we ask that you hold your letter to 250 words. We can accommodate a longer piece on a complex topic as an op-ed, preferably with a local focus and a maximum of 750 words. With your letter or op-ed, we ask that you include a phone number (not for publication) where we can reach you to confirm authorship. We’d like to hear from you.

• WHERE TO WRITE:
publisher@beaconmediari.com or...
The Cranston Herald
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889

LETTERS

Lawmakers, don’t go soft on drunk drivers

To the Editor:

As a program manager of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), I urge the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass House Bill 5638 / Senate Bill 947 (Motor and Other Vehicles – Accidents and Accident Reports), which establishes stronger penalties for driving offenses resulting in serious bodily injury or death.

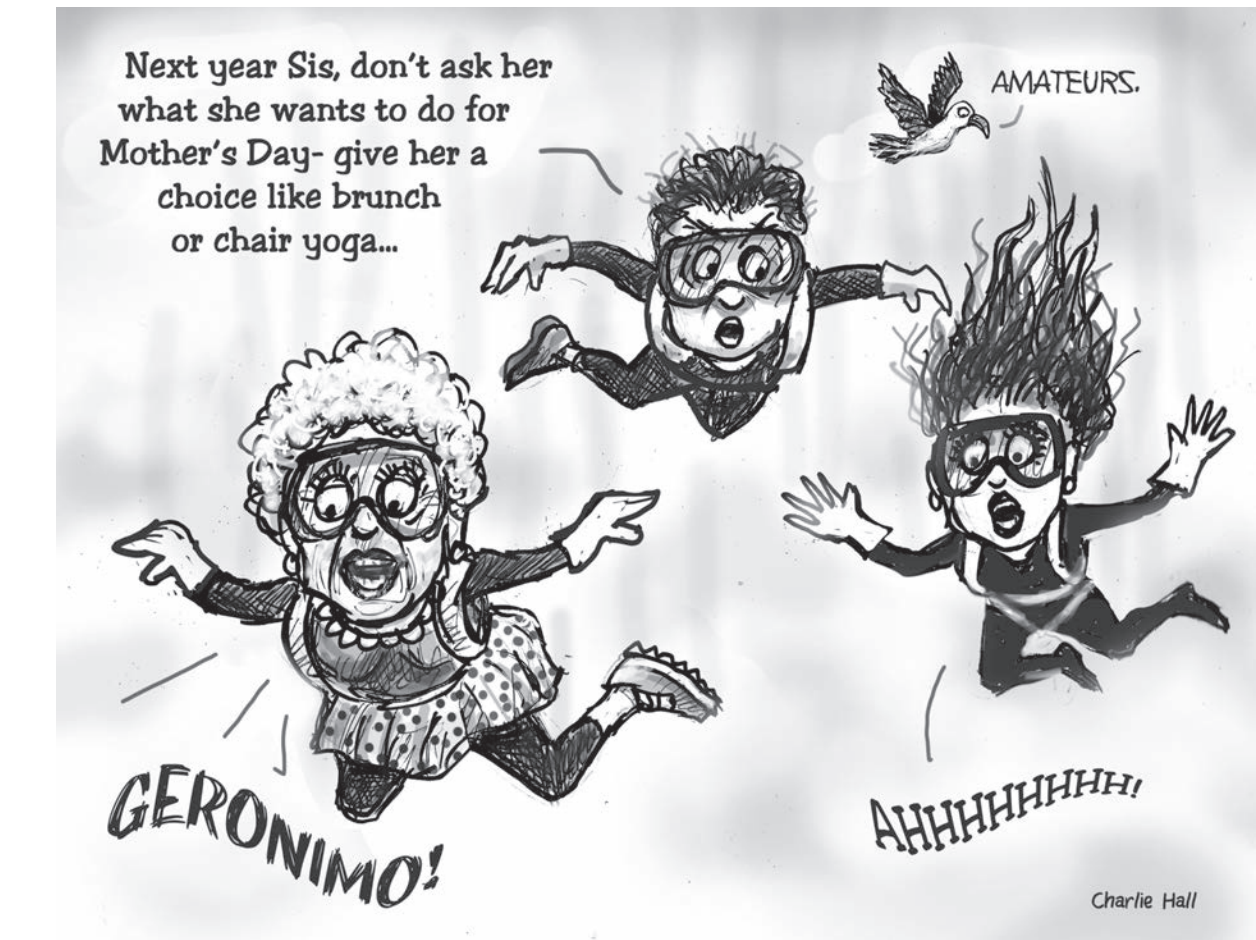
It was deeply troubling to hear testimony suggesting that these penalties are "too harsh." Where is the consideration for victims and survivors? Impaired driving is not a one-time mistake; studies show that for every arrest made, there are an estimated 88 instances of drunk driving (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). This is not accidental — it is violent, reckless and 100% preventable.

Moreover, Rhode Island’s "good time" law allows offenders to be released after serving only one-third of their sentence, compounding the injustice faced by victims’ families. Real Rhode Island families are living with permanent injuries, grief and trauma, while the offenders responsible can return to their lives after minimal accountability.

Those opposing these bills should sit beside a grieving mother in court before declaring that tougher sentences are unjust. Prison reform discussions should not come at the expense of justice for victims of violent crimes.

Passing this bill is a necessary step toward real accountability and prevention.

Jennifer O’Neil
MADD RI



LETTERS

Reducing criminal use of firearms requires honesty

A letter to the editor,

“Legislators, let’s ban assault weapons,” published April 10, is full of misinformation. Why does that matter? Everyone wants the state to be as safe as possible from criminal use of firearms. But that will not happen unless gun control advocates from Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, like the author of that letter, stop spreading false information. Only when we have honest, factual discussions about the root causes of criminal firearms violence can we improve public safety.

The Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban of 2025 (AWB), a bill under consideration in the legislature that the letter writer advocates for, cannot possibly make the public safer. It is based on falsehoods, as her letter clearly shows.

The writer touts the AWBs in Connecticut and Massachusetts. She either doesn’t know or chooses not to mention the ban in Connecticut has been a disaster. Fewer than 15% of the firearms owners affected have complied with the law. They have refused to turn in or register their banned firearms. In Massachusetts the law has met with considerable public resistance, including multiple lawsuits. Worse, the law created thousands of felons. Why are AWB advocates wasting legislative time and taxpayer money advocating for a law that has clearly failed elsewhere?

Her letter cites a Brady United statistic that gun massacres decreased 37% during the nationwide assault weapons ban of 1994 to 2004. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted the most respected studies of the ban. It could find no connection between the ban and a decline in mass shootings. Brady United produces antifirearm propaganda. The CDC is an agency of the federal government that is not particularly firearm friendly. Which organization is more likely to produce accurate information?

In her letter, the writer cites the Violence Policy Archive (VPA) claim that there have been 41 mass shootings in 2025. The VPA is another antifirearm propaganda organization. The Washington Post—hardly pro-firearms—said there have been three mass shootings this year. Again, whom do you believe?

In their campaign to reduce the public’s access to firearms for self-defense, gun control advocates are knowingly spreading misinformation. They say they want to ban “assault weapons.” Ironically the Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban of 2025 has absolutely nothing to do

with real assault weapons. Those are machine guns that fire continuously as long as the trigger is pressed. They are used by our military. The firearms the proposed Rhode Island AWB makes illegal are not assault weapons. It has been virtually impossible to own them in Rhode Island for 40 years.

This bill seeks to ban semiautomatic firearms that have certain features. None of these features—like adjustable stock, pistol grip, barrel shroud, foregrip—make these firearms more lethal. They actually make them more easily controlled, thus safer.

To scare up public support for their AWB, gun control advocates purposely misidentify these firearms as “assault weapons.” If gun control activists have a good case for an AWB, why do they feel the need to lie?

Gun control advocates never acknowledge the Center for Disease Control’s assertion that between 500,000 and three million times a year law-abiding people legally use firearms for self-defense. That’s far more than criminal use of firearms.

Passing ineffective feel-good legislation that is based on misinformation and overwrought emotion won’t make Rhode Islanders safer.

The Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban of 2025 would make it illegal to buy nearly every type of semiautomatic rifle and a number of shotguns and handguns. These are firearms that have been legal for Rhode Islanders to own for self-defense for more than 100 years.

Reducing violence involving firearms is a complex problem that requires more and better mental health services and more aggressive prosecution of gun-law violators. Believing that we can reduce violence involving firearms simply by enacting laws that make it difficult for good people to defend themselves is delusional and puts Rhode Islanders at greater risk of harm.

We need to tell our legislators not to pass a provably ineffective AWB and focus honestly on the real causes of gun violence.

The names and contact information for your legislators are easily found at the website sos.ri.gov > Elections and Voting > Find Your Elected Officials.

If we don’t speak up and the AWB becomes law, we will all be less safe.

Bill Welch
Portsmouth

How do we know Pre-K would be worth it?

To the Editor:

As reported by Tim Forsberg and John Howell, House Education Chairman Robert M. McNamara is eager to spend lots of taxpayer money on what he euphemistically refers to as “government investment.” (“Lawmakers push for universal Pre-K in RI,” April 17).

Chairman McNamara is an advocate for universal pre-kindergarten. He can’t tell us how much this proposal will cost the taxpayers, but he is certain it “may” be worth it in the long run.

I call this legislating by wishful

thinking. My understanding is that taxpayers currently spend more than \$20,000 per year per K-12 pupil. And yet test scores show that only 30% of students in grades 3 through 8 are proficient in math and reading. Why hasn’t that lavish spending resulted in better scores? Mr. McNamara doesn’t say.

Mr. McNamara also claims this program “could reduce rates of incarceration” and “curb those costs” of imprisonment. But I’m skeptical.

For example, I don’t think any pre-kindergarten experience would have made Craig Price a model citizen instead of a serial killer. And keeping

Price incarcerated is worth every penny spent.

I’m also suspicious about McNamara’s stipulation that “30% of funding would be set aside for development and administration of programs.” That sounds like a plan to add even more administrative positions to an already top-heavy public school bureaucracy.

McNamara’s plan may make sense to you, but it sure doesn’t make sense to me.

A. H. Liddle
Warwick

A look at Trump’s first 100 days – pluses, minuses

To the Editor:

Our present administration has just completed its first 100 days. It has produced both needed accomplishments and deep concerns.

There is much to review, but I will keep it simple. I will review what most Americans require: financial stability and public safety.

The financials have been extremely disruptive caused by proposed increased tariffs on most of our trading partners. This will cause a severe impact on all our financials, both spending and savings.

On public safety there is some good news, as we are

currently deporting many violent criminal migrants making positive strides in public safety.

There is much to accomplish in the next 100 days, and one thing I suggest is a review of the firings of more than 100,000 dedicated federal employees.

We still have a need for a stable economy, medical coverage for all, personal safety in all public spaces and racial equality for all.

Move forward now.

Bob Sweeney
Warwick

Trump’s war on the nation’s older adults

By MAUREEN MAIGRET

May is Older Americans month, a time to recognize older Americans’ contributions, highlight trends and reaffirm commitments to serving older adults in our nation, state and communities.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is at war with our nation’s older adults. First, it was the attack on Social Security as offices were closed, workers targeted for layoffs and beneficiaries told they could not provide information over the phone but would need to visit offices or go online, which many older adults and some of those with disabilities are not capable of doing.

Next was an attack on the Administration for Community Living as Health and Human Services Secretary Robert J. Kennedy proposed its dismantling, with functions delegated to other agencies. ACL oversees the Older Americans Act, which funds states across the country to assist older adults with their nutrition needs, offer services such as home care and transportation, protect the rights of nursing home residents, deal with cases of abuse and neglect of older adults and help explain the complexities of

Medicare.

Not only was the ACL proposed for dismantling, but important programs targeted for elimination including the long-term care ombudsman program, lifespan-respite services and adult-protection services support. Loss of funding for these programs would seriously impact the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging, which receives half of its funding from the federal government.

Former Rhode Island Congressman John E. Fogarty was a driving force in the passage of the Older Americans Act, which laid the groundwork for many of the programs administered by the Administration for Community Living. Our nation’s older population is growing. In Rhode Island, there has been a 25% increase in persons age 60+ since 2020, and in six of our communities 25% of the population is age 65 and over. Eliminating programs that help keep older adults healthy, safe and independent is irrational and just plain wrong.

Now we wait with great anxiety for an attack on Medicaid as Congress attempts to find the nearly \$900 billion in savings over 10 years needed to extend tax advantages for the extremely wealthy. Medicaid – which pays for long-

term supports and services including nursing-home care, adult day services, home care and assisted living for thousands of older Rhode Islanders and persons with disabilities – will likely be a prime target.

We must also be concerned that Medicare may be another battle in Trump’s ‘War on Older Adults.’ Despite the president’s claims that Medicare will not be touched, we do not yet know what the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid administrator has in mind but will be closely watching.

It is important to know what is at stake by these short-sighted proposals. We all need to speak up loudly to stop this ‘War on Older Adults’ and the disruption and collapse of programs so important to the lives of Rhode Island’s older adults and adults with disabilities and those across the nation.

Maureen Maigret, a former Rhode Island state representative and director of the state Department of Elderly Affairs, is a consultant on aging policy and long-term services.

Wildfire risk and the reality of old growth forests

By JOE SHANNON

I am writing to respond to recent letters and comments from Nathan Cornell regarding wildfire in Rhode Island that contained inaccurate and dangerous comments.

First, I would like to highlight that, contrary to Mr. Cornell's comments, RI forests are in fact more than fire prone and are actually fire dependent. Common species in RI, like pitch pine, thrive when exposed to fire. Their seeds need the heat from a fire to release, and the bare soil that results to get established. Their trunks and buds are specially adapted to protect them from the heat and vigorously grow into new openings. According to USGS LANDFIRE data most of the forests in RI have evolved over millennia to have frequent low intensity fires (on average every 6-15 years), and drier forests in the southern part of the state expect fires even more frequently (every 0-5 years).

Like many fire-prone forests around the world, there is a correlation with experiencing drier conditions. In RI, sandy soils do not hold much water; they drain easily and dry fast, meaning that an overly dense forest can have trees fighting each other for resources, making them weaker. These weaker trees are more likely to die in a fire, more likely to have dead branches further

down their stems leading to more severe fire conditions, and more likely to have dead wood debris dried out on the forest floor, leading to hotter fires that cause more soil damage. These forest are also more susceptible to other risks such as insect outbreaks (spongy moth) and drought (summer 2022).

There are lots of reasons people care about and enjoy forests, and lots of different forest structures that people can rightfully value, including the types of dense, closed forests that Mr. Cornell seems to favor. However, the idea that all "old growth" forests match this description stems from a lack of historical and ecological context about the variety of forests throughout Rhode Island, New England and North America.

Many RI forests have evolved for frequent low intensity fires, and many areas in RI and coastal New England have been managed with fire as a tool by tribal nations for millennia. Had these forests not been converted to agriculture (and later abandoned) we would see relatively open forests that had persisted for hundreds to thousands of years under careful and guided stewardship. Those forests would not be considered "old growth" under the conditions set out in previous letters to the editor and in the problematic Old Growth Forest Protection Act (H 5294). The singular

definition of "old growth" as both "untouched wilderness" and "dense, closed, rainforest-like greenery" erases history and collapses the wonderful range of natural forests we are all so lucky to experience.

RI has a chance to lead on being ready for the fire risk that faces us as we experience longer, warmer and drier falls and springs, like this last fall with fires in the state and up and down the East Coast. RI will not be able to prepare if we choose to ignore the science, ignore the history and ignore the risk. Education and incentive programs for residents can prepare communities for increased fire risk with proactive defense and informed forest management.

I have spent 22 years studying forests and disturbance, and I work on new methods to measure the effects of wildfire and forest management on the values people hold (safety, clean water, wildlands health, forest products). As an expert in the field I submitted testimony against the Old Growth Protection Act, and urge others to oppose this bill. I would also be happy

to speak in person with any state legislator who wants to learn more.

Joe Shannon holds a Ph.D. in forest hydrology. His research included how disturbances such as climate change and invasive species affect forests and what forest managers can do to preserve threatened ecosystems. A Cranston resident, he currently works for a private firm focused on the impact of wildfires, leading its efforts at quantifying and mitigating wildfire risks to water quality and quantity.

A smarter, safer approach to rat control

By JEFFERY C. HALL

Last week, a story in the Johnston Sun Rise entitled “Rats!” highlighted the growing rodent problem in many of our local cities and towns, along with some of the alternative control measures under consideration. Johnston, Cranston and Warwick are taking thoughtful and proven approaches by implementing a strategy known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This strategy has long been recognized as the gold standard for managing pest populations, including rats.

Integrated Pest Management implements a variety of measures, such as proper trash management, habitat modification and biological controls before resorting to chemical options. The heavy reliance on poison bait boxes – such as the 400 deployed in Johnston – may worsen the problem, as IPM guidelines suggest that natural predators, such as birds of prey, can remove an abundance of rodents from communities and are much safer and more effective than poisons.

Raptors – including owls, hawks and eagles – can each consume thousands of rodents each year. Unfortunately, the widespread use of anticoagulant rodenticides in bait boxes threatens these vital predators. These poisons take five to ten days to kill rats, during which time the rodents become easy prey. When poisoned rats are consumed by raptors, the toxins also accumulate in their bodies, often resulting in the deaths of these owls, hawks and eagles. An Eastern screech-owl, for example, may eat over 1,000 rodents annually, but ingesting just one or two poisoned rats can be fatal.

The risks extend beyond wildlife. Research shows that anticoagulant rodenticides contaminate waterways and infiltrate the food chain. Alarmingly, they also pose a serious risk to children. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, thousands of young children require treatment for rodenticide poisoning each year. In 2023, 70% of reported exposures involved children under the age of 6.

Given the significant dangers to wildlife, public health

and the environment, California banned the most toxic anticoagulant rodenticides in 2021. Since then, rodent complaints in cities across California have steadily declined, reaching a 10-year low. The evidence is clear: poison bans work.

With Rhode Island facing a growing rodent crisis, it is time for similar action. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island has made banning these harmful poisons a top legislative priority. Sen. Melissa Murray and Rep. Rebecca Kislak have introduced legislation (S651 / H5704) that would prohibit the use of the most dangerous rodenticides while providing exemptions for agriculture and true public health – consistent with IPM’s philosophy of using poisons only as a last resort.

We commend Johnston, Cranston and Warwick for their commitment to finding more effective, sustainable solutions for rat control. We urge all Rhode Island communities to embrace Integrated Pest Management and support the health of natural predators, such as eagles, hawks and owls, that are part of the solution.

Jeffrey C. Hall is executive director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Legal Notices

**City of Cranston
Collector’s Sale of Estates
For Taxes and/or
Assessments Due and Unpaid**

The undersigned Treasurer of the City of Cranston hereby gives notice that he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the Cranston City Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910 on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 8:30 AM the various parcels of real estate or so much as may be necessary to pay the taxes and assessments which constitute a lien thereon as set forth in the original advertisement in the May 1, 2025 issue of the Cranston Herald, to which reference is hereby made.

Property upon which taxes and assessments have been paid since the advertisement first appeared will not, of course, be included in the sale.

Terms: Certified Funds - **No Cash Will Be Accepted** Payments must be dropped off to Cranston City Hall Tax Collections by 2:00 PM onThursday, May 22, 2025

David A. Capuano
City Treasurer

5/8, 5/15/25

**PROBATE COURT OF THE
CITY OF CRANSTON**
NOTICE
Of Matters Pending and For Hearing
In Said Court
On the dates specified in notices
below at
9 A.M. for hearing said matters
Cranston Municipal Court
5 Garfield Ave., Cranston, RI 02910

Individuals requiring assistive lis-

tening devices are requested to contact the office of the city clerk at 461-1000 ext 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

AU, NHU ESTATE
Petition to Sell Personal Estate; for hearing May 22, 2025

CIRESI, GAIL M. ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing May 22, 2025

FANTOZZI, ANICETO ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing May 22, 2025

BAGGESEN, JONATHAN J. RESIDENT MINOR
Peter Baggesen has qualified as Guardian of the Estate Only; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 8, 2025

BAGGESEN, KAYDEN M. RESIDENT MINOR
Peter Baggesen has qualified as Guardian of the Estate Only; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 8, 2025

ZAZZARO, PAUL ANTHONY ESTATE
Michael A. Zazzaro has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 8, 2025

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

5/8, 5/15/25

HOUSES OF

Worship

Anchor Baptist Church
New Meeting Place
868 Reservoir Avenue
Pastor Alex Martinez
632-9672
www.sermonaudio.com/anchorbaptist

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish
175 Oaklawn Avenue
401-941-4188
Sunday Liturgy 9:30am
www.annunciationri.oeg

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept – June
asburiyumc.org

Assemblies Of God The Solid Rock Church
1753 Phenix Avenue
Rev. Richard K. Leahey
827-0770
www.solidrockchurchag.com

Christadelphian Ecclesia
2104 Cranston Street
441-7432
www.christadelph.org

Church Of The Ascension (Episcopal)
390 Pontiac Avenue
Pastor Santiago Rodriguez
Sun 10 am (English)
Sun 12pm (Spanish)
461-5811
www.ascensioncranston.org

Church Of The Transfiguration
1665 Broad Street
461-3142
Sunday 10 am
Holy Eucharist

Edgewood Congregational Church
1788 Broad Street
461-1344
Sunday 10 am w/coffee hour
www.edgewoodchurchri.org

Faith Chapel Lutheran Brethren
43 Scituate Ave.
John Black, Pastor
944-2771
www.faithchapelri.org
Sunday Worship 10am

Gateway Pentacostal Fellowship
711 Park Ave. (rear)
Pastor Russell Farmer
467-3830
www.gatewayupc.org

Grace Bible Church
116 Rolfe Street
481-0030
www.gbcri.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Wednesday Prayer

Holy Apostles Church
800 Pippin Orchard Road
Very Reverend William J. Ledoux
946-5586
www.holyapostles.com

New Beginings Christian Church
122 Laurens St.
Mario J. Nadich, Pastor
787-0725

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church
229 Wilbur Avenue
944-0864
www.olcbaptistchurch.com

Pawtuxet Baptist Church
2157 Broad Street
Rev. Irving Scoby
461-3635
pawtuxetbaptist@verizon.net

People’s Baptist Church
1275 Elmwood Avenue
Pastor Mark Lindsay
www.PeoplesBaptistChurch.org

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue
467-3300
Handicapped accessible
www.phillipschurch.org
Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton, Pastor
Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and the USA
Member of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptist (AWAB)
Facebook: @PhillipsChurch
Church Office Hours:
9:00 am – 1:00 pm (Mon. – Fri.)
Worship is at 10:00 am on Sunday

St. David’s On-The-Hill Episcopal Church
200 Meshanticut Valley
Father Edward Beaudreau
942-4368
www.stdavidsonthehill.net

St. Matthew Church
15 Frances Avenue
Rev. Ronald J. Bengford
461-7172

St. Patrick Catholic Church
2068 Cranston Street
Fr. Roger Durand, Pastor
SaintPatrickCatholicChurch.org
Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30

Saint Paul Church Of Edgewood
1 St. Paul Place
461-5734

Shepherd Of The Valley United Methodist Church
604 Seven Mile Road
Rev. Katherine Mitchell
821-8217
www.sovumc.org

Trinity Church
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet
Cranston, RI 02905
Rev. Mitchell Lindeman
8am & 10am
10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet
941-4324
http://www.trinitycranston.org/

Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ
546 Budlong Road
Rev. Aidan Kelley
942-0654
woodridgechurchri.org

Word & Prayer Fellowship
828 Oaklawn Ave.
Pastor Chick Salliby
www.wordandprayer.org

Word Of Life Covenant Church
1308 Phenix Avenue
944-1163
thewordofflife.net

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It's a mock trial, but the pressure is real

Retired Justice Flaherty critiques performance before team leaves for nationals

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The defense was ready to present its case. It would argue that the defendant, Hollis Trimble, was innocent of attempted homicide even though he owned a gun, planted a fake car bomb as a gag and threatened Tajari, an employee.

Hearing the case last Thursday afternoon at Bishop Hendricken High School would be a Hendricken alum, former Warwick mayor and now a retired Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, Francis Flaherty. Flaherty was not alone in critiquing the student performance. With him was Superior Court clerk assistant Joseph Wolserseder and lawyer Jen Spaziano.

And then there was Rebecca Warr, who is a lawyer and the coach of the Hendricken Mock Trial team that for a first time since the school fielded a team in 2008 has won the state championship. On Wednesday the eight-member team left for Phoenix, Arizona, for the national competition. Forty-eight teams from across the country will have the opportunity to participate in scrimmages today with the competition starting Friday morning with the first round followed by the second round that afternoon. Rounds three and four will be held on Saturday.

Benjamin Warr, son of Rebecca and Ronald Warr and a lawyer on the team, said the team would be argue two cases – one for the defense and the other the prosecution – in each round. Trials follow strict time restrictions and teams are awarded points on their performance.

Benjamin said the team came together in late September. It has been pretty intense since then, says coach Warr. She estimates the students have put in four to five hours a week doing research, reading cases and preparing. Twenty-five teams competed in the state competition, which narrowed



A lineup of the Bishop Hendricken High School Mock Trial team members, coaches and those assisting with a recent practice session before leaving for the national competition. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

the field to 16 in three preliminaries. After winning the state competition, the team received a 112-page packet on April 1 that spelled out the case including affidavits from all of those involved in from witnesses to law-enforcement in the totally factious case for the nationals.

Thinking on their feet

Coach Warr said she “fell in love” with her role when asked to help out the team three years ago.

“They’re a very dedicated group of boys,” she said. She said the experience “will pay off in all their classes, helping them conduct research and to think on their feet.”

That was evident Thursday when Ryan Lopez, playing

the role of defendant “Hollis,” took the stand. There were chuckles when Flaherty said Hollis looked to be 17 years old and not the 73 he said on the stand. Under repeated questioning, Hollis stuck to his story of befriending Tajari Hakika [Jacob Harrigan] an employee, and although they had argued and he became heated, he was innocent of attempted murder.

In summarizing the performance, Flaherty said “everyone gets nervous,” and as a result they go too fast. He urged the students not only to slow down, but when they find they have missed a portion of their argument, or have forgotten it, to pause and inform the court they are reviewing notes rather than move ahead and come off the tracks. He suggested a short opening statement keying in on what the defense will show, but not bringing up the issue of reasonable doubt until the closing at which time to highlight inconsistencies in witness statements.

“Put the question in their [the jury] minds,” he said.

“You want to put as many bulbs on the Christmas tree as possible,” he said referring to elements of the prosecution’s story that can be questioned.

In his 32 years at the court, Wolserseder said, he has seen thousands of lawyers. He commended the students on their performance. Spaziano, who filled several pages of a legal notepad with observations, drilled down to some fine points that Coach Warr and the team were glad to get.

In addition to Benjamin Warr, Jacob Harrigan and Ryan Lopez, other members of the team are Lucas Caporaso, Matthew Pappas, Edward Saroka, Nathan Vieira and Adam Barboza-Simpkins. Working with coach Warr is teacher-moderator Donna Lynch.

Coach Warr said the Rhode Island Bar Association has been helpful as well as lawyers Pamela Chin, Chris Barone and Chris Friel, who have worked with the team.

City Hall elevator still out of service

By **ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Cranston City Hall elevator will continue to be out of service following a repair delay. It has been out of service since the week of April 20.

An essential part of the elevator, a rope gripper, is needed for the repair. It is a crucial part of elevator safety systems that grips the elevator’s suspension ropes to stop the elevator in the event of a mechanical or electrical failure.

According to Mayor Kenneth Hopkins’ office, the repair company, Otis Elevator, was initially told by the manufacturer that the rope gripper was in stock.

Now, they are being told that it has a lead time of three

to four weeks.

According to Director of Communications Zachary Deluca, Otis Elevator is working with the manufacturer to confirm whether this is the definite lead time or see if there is any way to expedite the process.

If not, he says, the company will work with other vendors to see if they have the type of rope gripper needed and if it is more readily available. They will also see if they can install a rope gripper from a different manufacturer.

No cost has been determined as city officials weigh their options to repair the elevator.

The mayor’s office says it may be several weeks before the elevator is operational again but emphasizes that it will not interrupt city operations.

Recognizing the inconvenience this poses for people in need of services at City Hall, especially residents who are unable to use the stairs, Deluca said they are encouraged to seek assistance at the desk in the front lobby or call a department from the list below to request an employee’s assistance upon arrival to City Hall.

Residents may also call ahead of time to inquire about accommodation.

- City Clerk’s Office: 401-780-3195 (2nd Floor)
- Tax Collection: 401-780-2222 (2nd Floor)
- Planning: 401-780-3136 (3rd Floor)
- Mayor’s Office: 401-780-3104 (3rd Floor)
- Help Desk: 401-780-3108 (Front Lobby)



Parish Support from the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. Father Nick Zourakis (left) with his sons 7-year-old Paul Zourakis (in the sweater and glasses), 4-year-old Kosta Zourakis (sweater), and his grandfather, Father Andrew Zourakis (right). Father Nick said he loves the community aspect of everyone supporting a local church. Paul and Kosta say their favorite part of the meal was the cornbread. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus.*



Volunteer Jeff Butzier carries a pile of ham to be served. Over 145 pounds of ham were sliced on location in preparation for the breakfast. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus.*



Little helpers: Colby (left), Sophia (middle) and Jenna. Ellison says the breakfast really helps the kids to understand the traditions of the church and that you’re not too young to help. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus.*

● BREAKFAST from page 1

tunes, says she’s been volunteering at the breakfast since she was 14 years old. She will turn 20 this year.

Antunes says “it’s just a blast to be working with the people you see at church every Sunday and then have people from the community come in to just have breakfast with each other.”

In the kitchen, you find trays of cornbread batter waiting for the oven. Orders are called out for fresh eggs, a clean set of tongs and a new bowl of freshly baked cornbread, a crowd favorite.

In the middle of it all is a family that has been volunteering at the breakfast for more than 20 years. Jeff Butzier, his daughter Morgan Butzier and his sister Robin Butzier are busy making the cornbread and making sure there are fresh eggs ready to be served.

Taking a moment in the kitchen frenzy during last Thursday’s May Breakfast, Robin says the breakfast is a time full of tradition, family and community.

In a little area off to the side, more than 100 pounds of ham is plated and sent off to the tables. It is there we find Bob Butzier, father of Robin and Jeff, and Scott Lewis – a duo known as “The Hams.”

Bob, who is 81 years old, has been volunteering for more

“It’s really nice to say when you’re done, ‘I had fun doing my job today. I had fun being a part of this community, this church, this fellowship’ and it shows by the people coming and sharing that they had a wonderful time.”

Julie Ellison

than 20 years. Lewis has been helping at the May Breakfast for about 65 years.

Lewis remembers helping his dad get cars parked behind the library. And when he was old enough to drive, he said, he was one of the teenagers who helped pick up the brewed coffee for the event.

Ellison notes how important the volunteers are to keeping this event running every year. It is a big undertaking to put on such an event and she says the people who come in

● SEVEN STARS from page 1

He thanked his staff, particularly Sarah Williams, the head baker for Seven Stars, for drilling that point home with him. “You always need to have enough bread.”

Most of the baking happens out of the Seven Stars commissary on Royal Little Drive in Providence.

“We bake everything fresh every day, and after selling what we can, the rest gets donated to various food pantries,” said Smith.

and help tirelessly understand it takes a big team to keep it all together.

“We’re just like a well-oiled machine,” she says. More than 100 volunteers served close to 500 guests during the breakfast.

“It’s really nice to say when you’re done, ‘I had fun doing my job today,’” Ellison said. ‘I had fun being a part of this community, this church, this fellowship.’ And it shows by the people coming and sharing that they had a wonderful time.”

Celebrating its 156th anniversary this year, the Oak Lawn Baptist Church held the first May Breakfast in 1867.

The breakfast got its start in 1867 from Roby King Wilbur, president of the Searle’s Corner Benevolent Society, who borrowed the idea from the English May Day celebration to raise money to build a new church building.

The May Breakfast tradition started at the Old Quaker Meeting House, the first church in Cranston. According to the church program for this year’s breakfast, the Old Quaker Meeting House, which dates to 1729, stood on the spot where today’s Oak Lawn Baptist Church stands.

This year’s May Breakfast saw numbers of people come out to celebrate the start of a new season and a new month in one of the best ways to do it – with great food and community.

The emphasis at Seven Stars is on an artisanal approach. “We mill our own flour and there are no preservatives,” Smith said. In addition to their café locations, they have started a wholesale business in recent years to cover more areas.

Asked about future expansion, Smith said the company is selective, but “we are always looking.”

FOR SALE

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First farmers of the season

The Pawtuxet Village Farmers Market popped open its tents this weekend off Broad Street near Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet. It was also the first market for Leigh Vincola of Warwick. She's the new manager for the market.

Leigh Vincola kicked off the first market of the season in Pawtuxet and the first as market manager. *Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox*



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Sisters, Kathy Gendron of Cranston and Ruth Jones of Warwick were all smiles leaving the Pawtuxet Farmer's Market on Saturday. "This is such a fun way to connect with neighbors," said Gendron. *Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox*



Claire, 3, of Cranston enjoyed an oversized cookie while her new little brother, Wyatt, three weeks, snoozed. They were among the first to attend the market's opening weekend with their parents, Phil and Mekahla. *Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox*

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The Cranston Police Department's annual spring festival is a great time for families to come enjoy the day and support a good cause that Capt. Dutra says will help Cranston families in need. *Submitted photo.*



Last year's festival had bouncy houses, vendors and food trucks galore serving the community. *Submitted photo.*

By **ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

What do face painting, bouncy houses, craft vendors, food trucks and a "jeep club" have in common? On Sunday, May 18, they will all be part of the activities offered at annual Cranston Police Spring Fest.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mulligan's Island, the day will feature several kid-friendly activities, food trucks, police demonstrations and craft vendors. As one of the police department's sponsored community outreach programs, all proceeds from the event will go to CPDCares, the Cranston Police Department (CPD) nonprofit arm.

Capt. Justin Dutra is the community outreach/special projects division commander at CPD, and he says they first began this festival after finding a lot of need with other nonprofits, from food to clothing and backpacks.

Dutra said the city doesn't have a budgeted revenue stream for those types of donation items. And that is when the department created CPDCares.

Through CPDCares, they wanted to expand and generate income to help their efforts. And with events like the upcoming spring festival, they aim to raise money through things like vendor fees and a portion of the food truck sales.

All the money raised goes back into the CPDCares account says Dutra.

"We really focus on getting this money and resources back to local Cranston residents," Dutra said. "It's a ground-level type of initiative."

Through their nonprofit, Dutra says they donate to a lot of

homeless initiatives, other nonprofits like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a national organization that works to end drunk driving.

Money raised from events such the spring festival also help fund Thanksgiving activities, says Dutra. It helps pay for the turkey dinners that are given to families in need and helps fund their Shop with a Cop initiative where local children are paired with officers to shop for gifts during the holidays.

According to Dutra, 200 meals were given out during Thanksgiving and at least 500 kids were given toys around the holidays.

As the event has grown, Dutra says they moved to Mulligan's Island for more space.

The move expanded parking for guests and Dutra says handicapped parking will also be available at the event.

Previously, the festival was held in Rolfe Square and the streets were shut down for the event. Moving to Mulligan's Island provides space for more food trucks, more vendors, bouncy houses for kids, and even bands to come and play says Dutra.

The World Premier Band, and the bands from Cranston's high school will also perform.

With over 100 craft vendors registered and at least 20 food trucks, Dutra says he expects about 5,000 to 10,000 people to come out for the event if good weather holds up.

"This is a great opportunity to spend a Sunday with your family, and have a lot of fun," Dutra said. "[To] support a great cause that's going to go directly to Cranston families in need, which I think is important."

If any last-minute vendors are interested in participating, you can contact Capt. Justin Dutra for further direction.

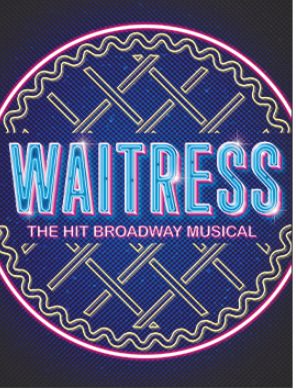


Vroom Vroom! A little kid hops on a Cranston Police bike. *Submitted photo.*

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Lifestyles

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

CRANSTON HERALD



Tony Ricci was properly attired as he set to cleaning his hives and putting them in order for the upcoming season. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*

Spring cleaning for 50,000 inhabitants

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

By trade, Anthony Ricci is a landscaper and a singer – although, he says, the singing gigs aren’t what they used to be. There are way too many funerals lately.

And then there’s another side to Tony, one where you can’t see his contagious smile. On a recent Friday afternoon as the temperatures finally crawled into the 60s, Tony wore a hat with fine netting draped across his face and the back of his neck. His voice was muffled. His jacket could have come from a first responder’s wardrobe. It was of heavy material, had giant pockets and reached below his knees. His jeans were strapped tightly around his ankles. His gloves were thick, but they didn’t restrict his movements.

On the other hand, his accomplice – his wife, Lorna, who for decades ran the Warwick-based Ocean State Center for Independent Living – was in spring clothes, hatless, fearless and ready to help.

Tony was on the front line of spring cleaning five beehives, lined up so they are exposed to the south and the sun, for another season of harvesting. Not all that far away is Hoxsie Four Corners with its own busy bees of motorists and shoppers.

Seemingly no concern to the bees that seemed intent on their work, Tony lifted a cement block from one hive and placed it on the ground before raising the cover to inspect what was inside.

“This is all insulation,” he said pulling sheets of pink foam from inside and around the hive. Without it during this unusually harsh winter, Tony and Lorna surely would have lost hives.

With the warmer weather, bees went about their work entering the hives from a screen lattice not far from the ground.

called “white honey.” As the season progresses, the honey gets darker. Last fall, Tony said, it was so dark and syrupy that he left it in the hive. Perhaps it was a telltale of the cold to follow. He augments what honey is left in the hive with plate-sized rings of hardened sugar.

Local honey sold in local stores

Lorna’s late brother Kurt Cameron introduced them to beekeeping and was their mentor until his death. They forged their own way in 2017 and haven’t stopped. They sell the honey at Sandy Lane Meat Market and other local outlets. A 12-ounce bottle sells for \$11.

Tony said he started off with Italian bees, but at this point “they are Rhode Island mongrels.”

Swarming occurs when a queen is pushed out of the hive by a new queen. The old queen takes off with her retinue to establish a new hive.

Tony said yard-spraying for insects kills bees and other pollinators. He is also down on herbicides, especially ones used at this time of year to kill dandelions that are among the first spring flowering plants. The herbicides also kill the bees that he finds dead.

Tony probably could have tended the hives without wearing all the protective gear. He has a good relationship with his bee team and he believes they understand he’s there to help and protect them ... but then one never knows what the Grumpy hive might have for him.



Partially eaten pollen and sugar placed in the hive to help the bees through the winter are revealed once the lid of the hive is lifted. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*



Lorna Ricci and her husband, Tony, are the beekeeping team with hives not far from Hoxsie Four Corners. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*

Feeding bees a tile of pollen

“This one is active,” said Tony, lifting the lid to another hive. “They could use some pollen.”

Lorna knew what that meant. She left, returning with a pollen patty about the size of a bathroom tile and the same thickness. Tony laid it on the upper floor of the hive and replaced the top.

A bee colony will have 30,000 to 50,000 bees. The queen can lay upwards of 1,500 eggs daily. She lives in the hive along with worker bees, which live up to six months and run the place. Drones mate with the queen and live one to two months.

Nearby was the smoker, a handheld device about the size of a coffee pot with an enlarged spout. Smoke wafted from the spout. Tony lifted it to demonstrate its use, waving it near the opening to the hive. The bees didn’t seem to mind. They weren’t angry, but they retreated. Tony uses the smoker when the bees are agitated and when removing honeycombs.

The Grumpy hive

He uses the smoker more on “Grumpy,” his name for the hive that customarily is more troublesome than the others. “Inside the hive is not a happy place,” he concludes.

Hives are built with removable stories with the top story – the super – being the one for harvesting the honey. Before removing it, he smokes the hive, causing the inhabitants to congregate near the queen downstairs. Then he brings the whole honeycombed flat, weighing about 45 pounds, to his cellar to separate and bottle the honey. Last year the Riccis bottled more than 600 12-ounce bottles. The first harvest of the season is a light yellow hue

ANIMAL

TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Rhode Home Rescue

Joe Joe

Joe Joe is a small senior (nine years old) pup who's looking for a warm lap and lots of love! He's a pint-sized guy who loves being with you, playing in the yard and enjoys yummy treats! He is best suited for an adult, quiet home with a fenced in back yard. If you have been searching for an adorable companion please contact Rhode Home Rescue via email: rhodehomerescue@gmail.com or visit their website for more information at rhodehomerescue.org Joe Joe will be waiting to fill your heart and home with love!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at **animaltalk1920@gmail.com**



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Taking flight



A Great Egret takes flight from Salter Grove Memorial Park in Warwick with the Port of Providence in the background. Submitted photo by Tom Wojick



See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler



The Four Seasons

NETFLIX

THE FOUR SEASONS

(Relationships Flick)

Tina Fay helped in the writing of this bittersweet relationships movie that stresses how much work is needed to create a successful marriage.

Fay stars as Kate, alongside Will Forte as Jack. On the surface they appear to have a happy marriage, but they are not always honest with each other. Steve Carell plays Nick and the delightful Kerri Kenney-Silver plays Anne, who is blown away when Nick has a midlife crisis and asks for a divorce.

Colman Domingo and Marco Calvani play a married gay couple.

The couples have been friends since their college days and take vacations together four times a year.

Things change in between their get-togethers, with the biggest bombshell being Nick and Anne's divorce and Nick bringing his half-his-age girlfriend along for the next trip.

There are some funny moments, but also some very poignant ones, especially with Anne who has serious problems dealing with the situation.

Couples therapy, infidelity, resentments, effects on grown children and the very existence of lifelong love are explored in a series that occasionally misses the mark but has enough going for it to cuddle up and watch on a rainy eve.

CONAN O'BRIEN — MARK TWAIN AWARDS

(Comedy Honors)

The annual Mark Twain Award for comedy is awarded every year at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center.

Fans of Conan O'Brien won't want to miss this year's event as the writer/performer is honored by his peers in a bitter-sweet evening of comedy and not-so-subtle pokes at the new administration and what one man has single-handedly done to tear the heart out of the revered center for the arts.

AVON

ON SWIFT HORSES

** ½

Lee and Muriel leave their meager existence in Kansas to start a new life together in California.

Lee's brother comes in and out of their lives as he also strives to start anew, working in a Vegas casino, striking up a relationship with a co-worker that turns deadly.

Meanwhile, Muriel decides that she wants more out of life than working as a waitress.

She becomes involved with another woman, starts drinking and betting on horse races, making enough money to support her new life.

The plot plays out like an old B movie with the addition of R-rated sex scenes and moves slowly toward an unrealistic ending.

You will not like these characters.



On Swift Horses

Case remains unsolved in Warwick

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



The tops had been cut off the too-large rubber boots on five-year-old Donald Darigan's feet. Still, he was having a difficult time trudging through the recently fallen snow on the ground. Donald and his 12-year-old brother Robert had gone with their 23-year-old brother Lester down to Gorton's Pond that day – Dec. 30, 1945 – to hunt deer and rabbit. Now, they were trying to make their way home through the woods.

Robert and Lester instructed Donald to follow the path, which was easier to walk, out to the main road where they would meet up with him in just a short time. When the two older boys reached the road about ten minutes later and Donald wasn't there, they assumed he had simply decided to continue on alone to their family's small cottage on Lucille Street.

When they got to the house however, Donald wasn't there. The two boys returned to the pond and followed their little brother's footprints to Trinity Street where the trail soon dissolved into the slushy, melted snow.

Later, a search party scanned the town. Sixteen-year-old Helen Rose, who resided with her parents on Main Avenue in Warwick, announced that she had seen Donald walking down the street at about 3:15 that day. He had entered Main Avenue from Trinity Street she said. He'd told her that he was looking for his brothers and had gotten lost, then he asked her how to get to "Seal Street." Helen didn't know of any such street and it was later assumed the boy had been attempting to say, "Lucille Street." Helen was headed toward Post Road, at the corner, where she planned to board the bus for Providence. Donald walked with her as far as the Greenwood train bridge, about a mile from his house.

"He would have known his way home from there," his parents Lester and Sarah Darigan told the police when the information was shared with them. Flyers were made up and police departments around the state were called. The missing boy stood at 4'3" and weighed 80 pounds. He had blue eyes, light brown hair and freckles. At the time of his disappearance, he was wearing brown snow pants, a green plaid shirt, a tall rounded hat colored navy blue and red, and a pea coat colored blue, red, orange and green. He wore a medal suspended from a chain around his neck, and a bracelet with his name on it. His description included a scar near the hairline on his forehead, and a broken front tooth.

Donald's disappearance resulted in the most intensive missing person's search ever organized in Rhode Island. The search party included friends, relatives, town residents, police officers, forest rangers, firefighters and Boy Scouts.

Eighty years have passed since five-year-old Donald Darigan disappeared one mile from his Warwick home. It's likely that anyone who knew anything about his disappearance is no longer alive. If anyone has any information to share, however, please call the Warwick Police at 401-468-4200.



Donald Darigan. Submitted photo

Cathy’s Cat Corner: One cat or two?

Spring is kitten season, and if you’re thinking of adopting a feline companion, now is the perfect time to visit the RISPCA or another local animal shelter. While a single kitten might seem easier to manage, two kittens are often less work, and a whole lot of fun to watch!

Kittens are playful, curious, and full of energy. And while that makes them adorable, it also means they need lots of mental and physical stimulation to help them grow into well-adjusted adult cats. A single kitten without a playmate can become bored easily, which often leads to unwanted behaviors like climbing curtains, grabbing and biting your ankles anytime you walk by, among others.

If you have two kittens, they will entertain each other, learn boundaries through play, and form a strong bond that provides comfort when you are not home. In fact, in many cases, two kittens are less work than one. They will tire each other out and develop social skills in ways humans simply cannot replicate. So, if you think you may want two cats someday, I highly suggest adopting a pair of kittens from the start.

Of course, every kitten needs human interaction. Just because you adopt two, does not mean you are off the hook. Playtime with you is not just fun, it’s es-

sential for your kitten’s development. Interactive play such as wand toys, food puzzles, and training sessions, helps prevent behavior problems, builds confidence, and strengthens the bond between you and your cat.

If you think you may want two cats in the future, adopt a pair from the start. A pair that already have a history of being friends and enjoying each other’s company.

What if you are unable to have two cats?

That’s okay! Many cats actually prefer to be the only cat in the home, and shelters are full of amazing cats looking for just that. The animal care staff can help you find the right match, whether it’s a high-energy cat who needs lots of play, or a more independent cat who enjoys solo time.

What if you already have a cat and are thinking of adding another one?

Look for a companion with similar energy and play style. They need to be compatible. As an example, an active kitten may overwhelm an older cat, leading to stress and conflict. Again, the animal care staff can assist you with finding a good match.

Anytime you bring home a new cat, there should always be a slow and struc-

tured introduction, but there are no guarantees. Not all cats will become best friends. Sometimes you end up with reluctant roommates that coexist. As long as they are not fighting or showing signs of stress, that’s a win.

This is why, if you think you may want two cats in the future, adopt a pair from the start. A pair that already have a history of being friends and enjoying each other’s company. This will also help them adjust quicker in your home, because they will have their best buddy with them.

To help our kittens grow into confident adult cats, we are excited to announce that the RISPCA will be launching Kitten Kindergarten starting this May. These classes are designed to set kittens and their humans up for a lifetime of success.

Kitten Kindergarten includes:

- An informational Zoom session to go over the program and to discuss the basics of kitten care and socialization
- Two in-person socialization and training classes
- Topics include veterinary handling, introducing to

new people, pets and sounds, food puzzles, play/enrichment, and introduction to clicker and harness training.

These early life experiences are essential for developing confident adult cats. Just like puppies go to training and socialization classes, kittens can also benefit from these classes, as well. It’s a great way to create a strong human-animal bond from the start.

So, whether you are adopting a pair of kittens, one kitten, or adding to your existing feline family, take some time to consider what is best for your lifestyle and for the cats. With thoughtful choices, working with the animal care staff, and some preparation, you can ensure your new addition thrives for years to come.

Next month, I’ll be letting you know why playing with your cat is one of the most important things you can do, not just for their health and happiness, but it strengthens your bond, as well.

If you have any questions about this month’s article, or questions about behavior concerns with your cat, you can reach out to me at cathy.simonini@rispca.org. I am happy to be a resource to you and your cat!

Bye for meow,
Cathy



This kitty crew will be available for adoption in about six weeks at the RISPCA. Submitted photo by RISPCA



Recently adopted kittens, Truffle and Fudge, are settling in their new home. Submitted photo by RISPCA

FirstWorks announces Summer Beats 2025: celebration of global music returns with four free concerts

Photos courtesy of firstworks.org



Las Guaracheras



William Cepeda & Elio Villafranca



Khumariyaan



Elida Almeida and Chachi Carvalho

FirstWorks, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting art with audiences, announced their 2025 Summer Beats Concert Series featuring a lineup of global artists. “FirstWorks created Summer Beats six years ago to gather community and unite us through the arts. We are uplifted by audiences aged 1-100 dancing, listening, enjoying food, and finding joy and replenished spirits through the music of extraordinary artists,” said Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director of FirstWorks. “Global Journeys is a theme we continue to embrace as we invite artists from across the world to Rhode Island and stellar local artists share stages as performers and hosts.”

The powerful, all-female salsa sextet Las Guaracheras kicks off the summer series at the Roger Williams Park Bandstand on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Las Guaracheras were founded in Cali, Colombia and perform Afro-Caribbean rhythms, salsa, as well as music from the Pacific region of Colombia. Coming up next is a groundbreaking collaboration with The William Cepeda & Elio Villafranca Sextet: Merging Roots, at Roger Williams Park Boathouse Lawn on Friday, July 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The “Merging Roots” project unites these two renowned musicians in a dynamic exploration of the shared African roots connecting Cuba, Puerto Rico and New Or-

leans. The event coincides with Food Truck Friday, nearby at the Roger Williams Park Carousel Village starting at 5:00 p.m. The third concert of this year’s Summer Beats global journey transports audiences to the ancient crossroads through the Khyber Pass with an electrifying performance by Pakistan’s Khumariyaan, on tour as part of Center Stage, at the Roger Williams Park Boathouse Lawn on Friday, July 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. With its propulsive, furious sound, Khumariyaan is celebrated for blending traditional folk music with modern styles. The event coincides with Food Truck Friday, nearby at the Roger Williams Park Carousel Village starting at 5:00 p.m.

In an exciting new expansion for FirstWorks Summer Beats, the finale concert featuring Cape Verdean vocalist Elida Almeida will take place in the city of Central Falls at Jenks Park on Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. The concert celebrating Cape Verdean musicians and heritage will also feature local hip-hop hero, Chachi Carvalho, who will open this special local/global double bill concert. For more information about free FirstWorks Summer Beats Concerts visit <https://firstworks.org>.

Las Guaracheras – an all-female salsa sextet from Colombia
Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Roger Williams Park Bandstand
Free and open to the public

The William Cepeda & Elio Villafranca Sextet: Merging Roots – Afro-Cuban / Afro-Rican jazz collaboration
Friday, July 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Roger Williams Park Boathouse Lawn
Free and open to the public

Khumariyaan, on tour as part of Center Stage – Pakistani folk fusion
Friday, July 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Roger Williams Park Boathouse Lawn
Free and open to the public

Cape Verdean vocalist Elida Almeida double bill with hip-hop hero Chachi Carvalho
Saturday, August 9, 3:00–6:00 p.m.
Jenks Park, Central Falls
Free and open to the public

May in years past

By DON FOWLER

20 Years Ago

Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn starred in the spy thriller “The Interpreter.” Don Cheadle and Sandra Bullock were among the many stars in the all-time classic movie, “Crash.” “Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge of the Sith” was the big hit of the summer. The Whodunnit Murder Mystery Theatre performed “Murder in the Court” starring Geri Sereno, Carol Allen and Stephen Bruno, and directed by Tony Annicone at Warwick’s Crowne Plaza. We reviewed Thayer Street’s Greek restaurant, Andrea’s, which has opened and closed a number of times over the years. We went across the street and reviewed

Kabob and Curry, which is still going strong. We also reviewed Cherrystones in Oakland Beach (Now the site of Top of the Bay). It was at this popular Warwick restaurant that we were introduced to tilapia, which has become one of our favorite fish. Chuck E. Cheese in Warwick had giant hot dogs for \$1.79. Remember the Pewter Pot in Midland Mall? They had liver and onions for \$4.25. Alvaro Cassuto led the RI Philharmonic in a Viennese pops concert at PPAC. PPAC also had the Temptations and the Four Tops. Gallagher was at PPAC. Christopher Durang’s “Marriage of Bette and Boo” was at the now defunct 2nd Story

Theatre. It starred JM Richardson, Jim Sullivan and Lara Hakeem. “Smoky Joe’s Café” was at PPAC, followed by “Movin’ Out,” with 24 songs by Billy Joel. Chelo’s had a dozen clam cakes for \$5.98. Trinity presented the hilarious “The Buzz Gem Blues” starring Timothy Crowe. Anthony Edwards starred in “Gotcha.” Chuck Norris starred in “Code of Silence.” Mia Farrow starred in Woody Allen’s “The Purple Rose of Cairo.” Richard Kneeland starred in Noel Cow-

ard’s “Present Laughter” at Trinity Rep. Bob Colonna and Lindy Netleton starred in “My Fat Friend” at the Newport Playhouse. The Shrine Circus was at the Cranston Ice Rink. Tickets were \$5, \$2.50 for kids. Bassett’s Inn on West Shore Rd. had prime rib for \$8.95, including their famous salad bar with marinated mushrooms. Celestino’s on West Shore Rd. had fish and chips for \$1.99. Vallee’s had a Maine lobster dinner for \$8.95. Bickford’s in Cranston had a Thursday night special omelet with three fillings plus French fries for \$2.99. L’Apogee restaurant, high atop the Biltmore Hotel, had prime rib for \$13.75.

Senior Center volunteers recognized for contributions

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Volunteerism helps make the world go round – particularly at the Cranston Senior Centers. Last week, the Cranston Senior Services Department held a special luncheon to thank the cadre of volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, known as RSVP.

Held at Fresco restaurant on Comstock Parkway, the lunch recognized the time and talents contributed by volunteers that helps to enhance the services and programs center offers. Being a part of the program also means new opportunities for both volunteers and those that benefit from their services.

Tricia Cipriano, Director of the program, said it helps provide a sense of purpose to seniors who still have much to offer.

“I firmly believe that socialization helps prevents isolation,” she said. “And this program benefits those that are giving their time as well as those that are benefitting from their volunteerism.”

She said that there are more than 80 RSVP volunteers involved with the Senior Center. They help to serve meals, give rides to seniors who don’t have transportation, or share their skills to teach classes or run recreational programs.

The program is part of AmeriCorps which states that it pairs thousands of Americans, age 55 or older with a wide variety of organizations across the country in order to empower them to make changes in their home communities.

“Volunteers are what make Cranston special,” Mayor Kenneth Hopkins said in addressing the crowd. “Thank you for the quality of life we have here...and thank you for helping make our senior center the best in the state.”



They bring the music! Volunteers Margie and Eddie Borbe are known for the popular midday karaoke sessions they have brought to the center. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



Lunch ladies. Volunteers (L to R) Pearl Fernandes, Eleanor Aloisio and Marilyn McCabe can be found in the Senior Center dining room every day helping to serve lunch. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



There were lots of smiles as volunteers from the Cranston Senior Center enjoyed a thank you luncheon. L to R: Jane Gemma, Henry Tow and Loni Hooper. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



Volunteers contribute a lot to the Cranston Senior Center, which held a special thank you lunch for them last week. Pictured here are RSVP volunteers Annette Martinelli (left) and Sharon Martin.

Puerini and Killian join forces for new indie pop project

By **ROB DUGUAY**

It’s always interesting to see what happens when two musicians from different backgrounds get together to create something. Sometimes it’s a seamless melding of their styles, while at other times, it’s a completely different sound with new sonic territories being explored. The latter can be used to describe Crash Space, which is a duo featuring Damian Puerini and Beth Killian. With Killian on vocals, the structure and arrangements put a unique spin on pop music while adding synthy distortions, mesmerizing harmonies and an array of samples. This is exemplified in the debut full-length “Space Mom”, which came out on April 28.

I spoke with both Puerini, who is a Cranston native, and Killian about the catalyst for the start of this project, the making of the debut album, and how this is just the beginning for what Crash Space has in store for the future.

Rob Duguay: What was the initial inspiration for starting Crash Space? There’s a pretty interesting framework behind it with Damian coming from the rock & roll world and Beth being involved in folk and singer-songwriter styles.

Damian Puerini: We didn’t have any intentions, we got together to record a cover song and just started making our own. It doesn’t sound much like anything either of us have listened to or have made before, so we were both pretty surprised by what it sounded like. It’s funny to us how different our tastes and styles are, but how we’re also exactly on the same page for this one thing that neither of us previously felt any desire to do.

Beth Killian: Yeah, it’s a pretty new genre for both of us. I had started dabbling in writing electropop tracks about a year ago and put out a DIY EP co-produced with my brother John Killian last June. Damian heard it and thought it’d be cool to write together. He’d been making beats and has done some similar-ish instrumental stuff with his other project Blobfish in



Damian Puerini and Beth Killian. *Submitted photo*

the past, so we started chatting about it at a show and decided to get together and mess around with what we could do. At first, we were just going to get together to make a cover so I could see his workflow for sampling, using an MPC, production, all that stuff, and that was it.

The synergy was wild, and we wanted to try writing and producing something from scratch, and “Space Mom” really just took off from there. It was a surprising but really interesting sound that we both wanted to keep making.

RD: Speaking of “Space Mom”, what was the experience like recording it? Was it completely DIY fashion with you both handling the production or did you work with someone in that capacity?

DP: We recorded it ourselves on both of our bare bones setups. Some tracks we produced together at my home setup, and others were sent to Beth, who wrote and recorded the vocals at her place, both super DIY. We focused on getting the music down and sending it to producer Sammy D’Ambruoso at Andem Street Studios in Providence. He had the difficult job of working with what we were sending him, but he put a ton of work in to clean it all up and is definitely the third member of the group when it comes to recording. Our love of these songs has a lot to do with how Sammy was able to make them sound.

RD: That’s wicked cool. In terms of Crash Space being a creative outlet, what does this project fulfill for both of you and what makes it stand out from the other

bands and projects you’ve been a part of?

DP: For me it’s been a total rush of making things quickly and consistently with another person on the exact same page. We just synched up and have similar workflows. I’ve never collaborated so productively with someone before, where we were both so involved with every little part of it from the music to the arrangements, lyrics and themes. There was a mutual obsession that made our time very productive. We were both pretty entertained by how much fun we were having just making music without any plan.

When there’s no plan and you work well together, you loosen up and just have fun making things. Crash Space is just fun and easy.

BK: I’ve always been more drawn to writing lyrics and melodies, that’s where my experience is, and I only learned basic guitar when I was younger to have something to sing over. Crash Space has given me the opportunity to explore larger sounds, beats, interesting and unexpected clashes and whirrs and instrumental scapes that had been untapped before. Being able to actively co-create all of the elements of a song with someone equally as energetic and exploratory has just been really fun. It’s a creative challenge that we both want to keep going.

RD: Can we expect Crash Space to play any live shows? Are there any future recordings in the works? What does the future hold for this project?

BK: We played as a duo recently and are booking more like that, but we have a full band show coming up on June 28 as part of Schiavone Fest at Platforms Dance Club on 165 Poe Street in Providence. We have drums, bass, keys, backup singers, and we also have three EPs ready to go with another 16 songs to put out. We’ll be getting those tracks to Sammy in the coming weeks. Hopefully the future holds more songs and more recordings and more shows because we both love it.

Raising Cane’s raises chicken fingers standards

Restaurant Review
by **DON FOWLER**

I wouldn’t touch a chicken finger with a ten-foot pole.

And then I broke down and went to Raising Cane’s and experienced an attitude adjustment.

My previous experience with chicken fingers had been at a fast-food chain, where the rubbery, tasteless product turned me off.

Chicken fingers were not for me. They were for kids who went out to eat with their parents where restaurants had added them to the kids’ menu.

Along came Raising Cane’s, built quickly on the spot of a former Chinese restaurant across from the Warwick Mall (336 Bald Hill Rd.)

I broke down this week and stopped at the brightly designed restaurant, where cars were lined up at the drive-through and people inside were ordering take-out and eat-in.

Most were ordering the popular combos, which included the Three Finger Combo, consisting of 3 chicken fingers, fries, sauce, Texas toast and a small drink for \$9.59.

For \$16.59, you can get 6 fingers, fries, sauce, cole slaw and a large drink.

You can buy 100 fingers for \$142.99, enough to feed an entire Cub Scout Pack.

Being extremely apprehensive, I ordered 2 fingers at \$2.29 each and sauce at 49 cents. I think the compassionate employee thought I was down on my luck. He gave me a free soda.

The chicken fingers arrived in a few minutes. They looked like a couple of fried smelts.

I dipped one in the special creamy sauce, and I was in chicken heaven.

Piping hot. Lightly breaded. Tender. Tasty. Terrific.

I’ll be back!

Raising Cane’s is open every day until midnight. Their phone number is 228-9487.

Civic Chorale to present powerful requiems

The Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra (RICCO) will present a deeply moving and uniquely beautiful concert featuring two powerful works: Herbert Howells’ Requiem and Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem on May 17 and 18.

On the May 17 the concert will be performed at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 237 Garden Hills Drive, Cranston at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$10 for students.

These two extraordinary pieces, composed by contemporaries during the 20th century, are renowned for their rich harmonies and emotional depth. While Duruflé’s Requiem is more familiar to American audiences, Howells’ Requiem is rarely performed in the U.S., making this concert an exceptional opportunity for lovers of choral music.

“The Howells’ Requiem is one of the most gorgeous, otherworldly pieces of mu-

sic in the entire repertoire,” says Joshua Rohde, RICCO’s Artistic Director. “It’s 30 minutes of sheer beauty—ethereal, lush, and incredibly moving.”

Both works were written in response to the turbulence of the early 20th century, yet the composers chose to focus on beauty rather than the harshness of the world around them.

“At a time when many composers were writing more dissonant, jarring music reflecting the ugliness of war and loss, Howells and Duruflé turned to rich harmonies and timeless chants,” says Rohde. “They sought to create beauty and solace in the face of chaos, making these pieces particularly meaningful and profound.”

Duruflé’s Requiem is especially notable for its integration of the organ, which plays a central role in the composition. “This isn’t a situation where the organ is a substitute for an orchestra—it was specifically writ-

ten for the instrument,” Rohde explains. “Duruflé himself was a renowned organist, and his deep understanding of the instrument shines through in this work.”

This concert is not only a rare chance to hear the Howells Requiem, but also an opportunity to experience the beauty of these two remarkable works performed together. As Rohde notes, “The harmonies and textures in both pieces are simply stunning. Despite the complexities, they sound effortless and can transport listeners to another world.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.RICCO.org.

In addition to presenting these two unique requiems, these performances will feature RICCO’s Collegiate Vocal Competition winners as soloists. As part of its mission to encourage the vocal arts in the New England region, RICCO holds an annual Collegiate Vocal Competition, now in its 15th

year, which is open to all vocal students, undergraduate or graduate, currently studying at any institution of higher learning in New England. Recent winners performed in November and December with the Chorale’s Messiah performances on Block Island, in Providence and in Manville.

Soloists for the upcoming requiem performances will include: Mara Riley, Soprano, from the New England Conservatory; Delaney Finn, Mezzo-Soprano, from Boston University; Zachary Fisher, Tenor, from the University of Massachusetts; and Ziqi Fang, Bass, from Brown University.

“It’s thrilling to give these young singers the chance to perform with a large choir and orchestra, often for the first time,” said Rohde. “Some of our past winners have gone on to sing in prestigious venues across the globe, so this is a wonderful opportunity for audiences to witness future stars in their early stages.”

Taking time to appreciate moms

As a mom, I carry a thousand worries in my heart about my adult children’s well-being, their choices, and their future. I still show up every day with love, strength, and hope, because that is what mothers do.

When I was raising my children, technology was not much of a concern, unless you count watching too much television. When they went to bed, they went to sleep; they weren’t hiding under the covers with tablets or phones into the wee hours of the night. I did not have to worry about screen time limits, social media pressures, or digital safety concerns like cyberbullying, inappropriate content, screen addiction, or the impact of constant social comparison. Back then, managing technology was as simple as telling them to change the channel if I didn’t like what was on TV. Mothers these days have many more wor-

ries about technology than I had.

While many years ago my children were involved in extracurricular activities, they were limited to Boy Scouts, or soccer. It seems that nowadays children are involved in way too many sports, including soccer, basketball, baseball, gymnastics, martial arts such as karate, taekwondo, and judo, dance including ballet, hip hop, contemporary, and tap, swimming, tennis, cheerleading, track and field, ice skating, hockey, fencing and rock climbing. Singularly, there are many more options for music and performing arts including lessons on instruments, including piano, guitar, violin and so many others, choirs, drama clubs, school bands and orchestras, and competitive performing arts programs.

There are robotic clubs, coding classes, science Olympiads, art classes, animation and digital de-



Life Matters
with Linda Petersen

sign, photography, service clubs, culinary classes, yoga classes, academic decathlon, chess, Dungeons and Dragons, peer mentoring, and environmental clubs.

In addition to the work schedules of 73% of mothers, they must also provide chauffeuring for their children who participate in these community sports and clubs. This turns mothers into unpaid Uber drivers with messy cars who fit in meals from fast food restaurants while driving around.

Eating a healthy, sit-down family dinner falls by the wayside, finances are strained by the constant tank fill-ups at gas stations, and exhaustion sets in, often leaving mothers to feel overwhelmed by their schedules.

Each child also needs attention to their medical needs, with the mother often finding herself in the doctor’s office reading outdated People magazines. This includes visits to the pediatrician for well-child and sick visits, the dentist for routine dental check-ups as well as orthodontic work, the eye doctor if the child wears glasses, specialists such as allergists, dermatologists and ear doctors, and physical, speech and occupational therapy. Moms are faced with providing transportation, emotional support and financial payments.

Moms need to be counselors, offering emotional support, listening to feelings, managing meltdowns, and providing comfort with kisses, cuddles, and hugs. They also serve as life coaches, teaching everyday skills, helping with homework, and attending parent-teacher conferences to ensure their children are on track.

Managing the household is another task that most often falls on mothers. Unless they have a helpful significant other, like my dear Hubby, they are the ones doing the meal planning, grocery shopping, cooking on a tight schedule, and making sure healthy snacks magically appear. Moms must clean (a four-letter word in my vocabulary), keep the house tidy (I personally prefer the “hide it in a cupboard or under the bed” method), and tackle endless loads of laundry (which I fold while bonding with Judge Judy on TV).

Being a mother these days is hard! Please take a moment to truly appreciate all that they do, not just the big sacrifices, but the daily juggling acts, the quiet worries, and the endless love they feel in their overworked hearts. Mother’s Day is this Sunday... do not let it go by without making her feel cherished and celebrated.

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By JENNIFER COATES

Ember to Ash, the newest cigar lounge in Johnston, is everything you expect (and want) from a momentary escape from the world. Think of soft comfortable chairs that you can just sink into and relax for a while. A moody space that smells like leather and well-seasoned wood, but also of the familiar and nostalgic aroma of cigars. Two lounges, one for “members only” and the other open to everyone and staffed with a knowledgeable team of “cigar aficionados”. A full bar where you can enjoy a broad selection of fine liquors and other beverages. And finally, look for the humidor where you can find the most popular brands of cigars as well as some new “up-and-comers”.

Ember to Ash officially opened its doors to a warm reception on April 18th. It sits in an off-beat plaza on Greenville Avenue, close to where it intersects Killingly Street. Though it is only recently open to the public Ember to Ash has been a dream in the making for a long time. Step by step, this cigar bar was transformed into the welcoming and laidback space it is today. Attention was paid to every detail. The lighting. The furniture. The décor. The selection of cigars and libations. The long bar with its brass foot railing. The hand-selected staff. Every detail.

Today, visitors to this inviting cigar lounge will find everything they need to relax for a lingering smoke, or for a reoccurring visit. Customers may sit for as long as they wish but are simply asked to purchase one cigar from the humidor’s ever-growing inventory. Many longtime cigar enthusiasts will recognize the brands Kristoff, Estaban Carreras, Perdomo, Drew Estate, Rocky Patel, and more. Producers of the highest quality cigars from across the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua are represented here.

Many may ask, how do the memberships work? Once you



The city of Johnston welcomes Ember to Ash Cigar Lounge on Greenville Avenue. Open seven days a week, this lounge is the perfect place to unwind at the end of the day (or any time in between!)



become a member, you have exclusive access to the private, “member’s only” lounge as well as to special discounts. For “Individual Members” who pay the annual fee of \$150, they get 5% off every purchase. For \$300, members get access to the lounge and 12% off all purchases as well as a cigar locker. If you have a buddy who you want to share a locker with, you pay \$400/yr. For frequent cigar fans, these memberships pay themselves back in no time!

There will also be upcoming events held at Ember to Ash,

including one on May 17th. when a representative from Kristoff cigars will be at the lounge. The event runs from 3:00pm to 11:00pm with the rep on-site from 1:00pm to 8:00pm. Come for a smoke. Bring your friends.

Ember to Ash Cigar Lounge is located at 23 Greenville Avenue. For more information, call 401-383-5700 or visit them at www.EmberToAshCigar.com. You can also learn more by following them on Facebook or Instagram. The lounge is open from 10:00am to 10:00pm, seven days a week! =

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Sports

Bolts sweep rival Falcons

East remains force in DI playoff race

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The Cranston East boys volleyball team swept cross-town rival West 3-0 (25-19/25-14/31-29) to win its second straight matchup against the Falcons and improve to 6-4 overall.

The Bolts cruised through the first two sets but the Falcons regrouped to take a quick 6-2 lead in the third. East chipped away at the West lead and the teams wound up needing more than 25 points to see a winner. The Bolts managed to rally to erase the early deficit and close out the win with 31 points.

“We started off slowly and had to close the gap. We have to stay the same emotionally throughout the game, whether we are up or down. There are certainly things we could have done better, we had some good plays, ultimately the score should not have gotten to the 30s, but we closed it out,” said East senior Charles Pincince.

It was the first time since

● **BOLTS** to page 20



The Cranston East boys volleyball team celebrates after scoring a point. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



East Little League opens season

Cranston East Little League celebrated its annual Opening Day ceremony on Saturday at the Carberry fields. As always, the festivities began with a parade that concluded on the infield. New league co-presidents Andy Barron and Dave Graziano addressed the crowd, while the latter stepped up to sing the National Anthem to get things going.

Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins was sure to make an appearance and also deliver an address to the players, with his message being, “If you swing and miss, swing again.” Tyler Barron and Ollie Reid had the honor of saying, “Play Ball!” while Mila Rosario got to toss the first pitch. Finally, the league announced that it would be dedicating its bat-

● **EAST** to page 20



Tyler Barron and Ollie Reid say “Play ball!” on Opening Day last Saturday. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*

Roundup: Falcons make quick work of Moses Brown

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Falcons used a nine-run fourth inning to roll past Moses Brown on Saturday.

Siena Nardelli was sharp at the plate, going 2-for-4 with three RBI and a home run while Nicole Silvestri drove in three runs as well. Payton Wells also knocked in a pair of runs for West.

Mia Crudale pitched four innings for West and allowed no runs on one hit while striking out five batters.

East 17, Mt. Pleasant 0

The Bolts were firing on all cylinders as they beat the Kilties in three innings.

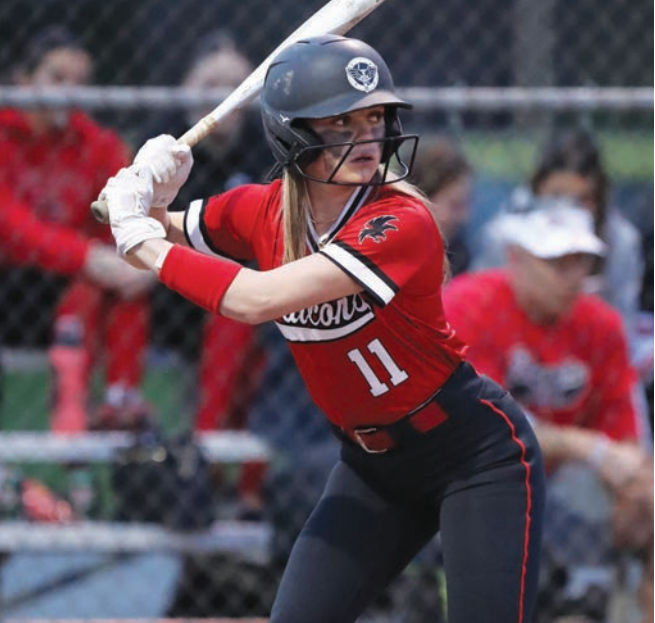
Cydnee Meekins’ bat stayed hot this spring as she went 2-for-2 with four RBI on two home runs. Pitcher Lexi Montalban pitched all three innings, allowing no hits, no runs and striking out seven.

BASEBALL

Cumberland 4, West 3

The Cranston West baseball team dropped a 4-3 decision

● **ROUNDUP** to page 20



Athlete of the Week: Siena Nardelli

The Cranston Herald’s Athlete of the Week is West softball player Siena Nardelli. Nardelli did it all in the Falcons’ 15-0 win over Moses Brown last week, as she finished the day with two hits, a home run, three RBI and a stolen base. *Photo by Mike Zawistoski*

Say no to boat tax

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Herald

At press time, on Tuesday night, May 5, 2025, the boating and fishing community spoke out against Rhode Island House Bill H-6256 at a House Finance Committee meeting. The Bill proposes to remove the sales, property and use tax exemption on motorboats.

In a letter to the committee Rick Bellavance, president of the RI Charter & Party Boat Association, a membership of 51 small businesses in Rhode Island, said, “This bill would impact small businesses in the industry by introducing additional costs, with they might need to either absorb or pass on to clients. The industry supports our tourism-based economy and the effects of H-6256 should be carefully considered as the bill would not support tourism and the charter fishing industry in Rhode Island.”

Scott Travers, executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, with 7,500 affiliated members and 35 affiliated organizations, said, “Recreational fishing has a \$419-million dollar economic impact on Rhode Island’s economy annually. Many of our members own boats or fish with friends that have boats so this bill would harm recreational fishing as well as marine trades in Rhode Island.”

More to come as we follow this bill though the legislative process.

Small Vessel Speed Restriction for Right Whales

During a partial aerial survey on April 29, the Center for Coastal Studies documented 52 right whales in Cape Cod Bay, including three mother/calf pairs, all of which were skim feeding at the surface or just below the surface. This feeding behavior makes them highly susceptible to vessel collision. Acoustic detections of right whales on a near real-time monitoring buoy in Cape Cod Bay also shows a continued strong

presence. As a result of the ongoing presence of right whales, the small vessel speed restriction in Cape Cod Bay has been extended through May 15, 2025. Small vessels (less than 65’) are required to travel at speeds no greater than 10 knots in this area. Right whales are highly susceptible to injury and death due to vessel collision. A complementary federal speed restriction in the same area applies to vessels 65’ and greater.

Also on May 1, the Center for Coastal Studies Aerial Survey Team detected the presence of right whales north of Cape Cod, MA so a right whale Slow Zone Area is in effort there through May 16. This voluntary Slow Zone ruts mariners to avoid or transit at 10 knots or less. Visit Reducing Vessel Strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales | NOAA Fisheries for all Slow Zone postings and coordinates.

New bluefin tuna regulations in effect May 1

The Atlantic bluefin tuna retention limit for recreational fishermen will remain at the default limit of 1 school, large school, or small medium bluefin tuna (27 to <73” curved fork length) per vessel per day/trip. This limit will continue to be in effect through December 31, 2025, unless modified by later action. Current Atlantic Highly Migratory Species bag limit information can be found at Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Minimum Sizes and Bag Limits | NOAA Fisheries.

The recreational “trophy” bluefin tuna fishery remains open in the Gulf of Maine Trophy area and the Southern New England Trophy area. Atlantic tunas Angling category and Charter/Headboat permitted vessels when fishing recreationally are allowed one trophy bluefin tuna measuring 73” curved fork length or greater per vessel per year provided “trophy” category subquota in the respective region is available at the time of harvest.



Tautog bite on: Angler Greg Vespa of Tiverton, said, “Tog fishing opened up this weekend in the mid and lower Narragansett Bay. Caught our limit before our coffee was cold.”

New cod and haddock regulation areas

In accordance with a new NOAA Fisheries Emergency Action on May 1, 2025 recreational vessels may not retain Atlantic cod caught in the Georges Bank, Southern New England (includes areas off Rhode Island) and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas.

Vessels in possession of Gulf of Maine cod that meet the possession limit, minimum size, and open season specified for the Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area may transit the other regulated mesh areas with that cod, provided all bait and hooks are removed from fishing rods, and any cod on board has been gutted and stored.

Visit Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish): Recreational Fishing | NOAA Fisheries to see a map and coordinates for these areas, as well as current regulations for recreational fishing.

Recreational Limits for Gulf of Maine Haddock and Western Gulf of Maine Cod: At this time, the recreational fishing limits for haddock and Western Gulf of Maine cod remain status quo, consistent with federal regulations. For Gulf of Maine haddock the open fishing season is April 1 – Feb. 28 with a 18” minimum size and 15-fish bag limit and for Western Gulf of Maine cod, the open season is Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 with a 1-fish bag limit and 23” minimum size.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass fishing for hold-over striped bass (fish that did not migrate south) continues to be very good with anglers catching keeper striped bass 28” to < 31”.

“Recent sunny days have warmed the water and we’re seeing a good mix of sizes, from smaller school bass up to impressive fish over 30 inches.

We’ve also noticed a few worm hatches last week where fish have been present. It looks like these hatches will soon be expanding from the more secluded coves to the open edges of the ponds,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick said, “Still not much action in Apponaug Cove area, but some anglers are picking up fish at Conimicut Point, Warwick with isolated reports of fish in Greenwich Bay.”

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, “Fish to 34” are being caught in the Providence River and West Passage with school bass being caught in Greenwich Bay. Natural baits such as clam, squid and oms are working as well as flutter spoons as there are not many Atlantic menhaden available.”

Tautog. “We’ve been getting some positive reports on tautog, with customers having success both from the shore and by boat. There have also been a few reports of cod in deeper waters.” said O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Dustin Stevens of Rhode Island Kayak Adventures, said, “I like to use half of a green crab with legs off in the spring as the fish seem to like softer baits.”

Angler Greg Vespe of Tiverton, said, “Tog fishing exploded over the weekend with a nice mix of males and females in the mid and upper bay now that the water is 52.8 so they are chewing. We had our limits before our coffee was cold and then just played around trying new spots.”

Freshwater trout fishing is still a good bet with trout stocking recently occurring in RI and MA waterways. For complete regulations, a list of stocked ponds, and a copy of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations and Guide visit Fish & Wildlife | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

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RIC has strong showing at N.E. Championships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence) earned three All-New England honors as Rhode Island College wrapped up the final day of competition at the New England Div. III Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championship, hosted by Coast Guard on Friday afternoon.

RIC finished in a tie ninth place (39 teams) with a team score of 34.0. Tufts finished in first place with a team score of 94.0.

Hayes was All-New England with a second place finish in the 400m (56.69), a

third place effort in the 200m (24.66; new program record) and a fifth place performance in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92).

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92). It was her second All-N.E. accolade, having won the 10,000m race yesterday.

Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m re-

lay (4:01.92).

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished 12th in the shot (11.84m).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 NEICAAA Championship on May 9-10.

Anchorwomen to face Goucher in opening round

Rhode Island College will face Goucher in first round action of the 2025 NCAA Div. III Men’s Tennis Championship, hosted by Tufts on Thursday, May 8. This is the first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance for the program.

Head Coach Adam Spring’s team is currently 12-1 overall and finished with an undefeated 6-0 mark in the Little East to capture the program’s first-ever Little East Regular Season Championship.

No. 1 seeded RIC defeated No. 4-seeded Western Connecticut, 5-1, in the semifinals of the 2025 Little East Championship on May 1 to reach the finals for the third consecutive season. The Anchormen then defeated No. 2-seeded Bridgewater State, 5-1, in the finals on May 3 to capture the program’s fifth Little East Championship title and the first for the program since RIC won four straight crowns from 1992-95.

Small moment delivers big message

I was covering the Cranston East Little League Opening Day ceremonies last Saturday and something pretty cool happened.

Moments before the league was set to hand the microphone to its board members that were going to give their addresses, they realized that the person that was supposed to be singing the National Anthem was not present.

Without any hesitation, co-president Dave Graziano grabbed the mic and sang the anthem in front of hundreds of people, right on the spot. Most of the crowd was totally unaware that there was even a hiccup, the law enforcement personnel rendered a salute and Graziano actually put on a pretty solid performance. He earned a well-deserved round of applause and it was not until moments later that co-president Andy Barron informed the crowd that it was an impromptu performance.

On the surface, it is not a big deal, but I thought that it encapsulated what Little League Baseball is all about and it should also be an example of the type of people you want running your children’s sports leagues.

In youth sports, it is easy for things to go wrong but takes a big effort for things to go right. In that moment, it would have been easy for the board to punt on the anthem, or scramble trying to find someone capable of singing it or even pulling it up on a phone to play on the PA. Graziano moved swiftly and kept things rolling along and had fun with it. He was smiling the whole time, there were zero signs of discomfort.

Little League Baseball teaches kids not only the sport, but how to be a team player and embrace challenges. It is supposed to provide a fun environment where kids can make friends and enjoy being outside and active. Graziano kept his end of the bargain as a



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

board member, as he stepped up for the team, had fun doing something new, and made sure the kids came first. It was a pretty cool scene.

It’s also a reminder to appreciate what these volunteers do. Guys like Graziano don’t get paid, it is not a full-time job. Well, in a way it is, but it is like having a second job. Board members work tirelessly year-round, especially during the season to provide kids with a league. There really are no days off and these volunteers spend their time thanking the players, families and sponsors when really, they deserve much of that credit. They are the ones making it happen day to day.

It was a fun ceremony on a picture-perfect Saturday. And again, the Cranston East staff deserves much credit for putting the kids first.

The Rhode Island FC finally opened the new Centreville Bank Stadium in Pawtucket in front of a sellout crowd last weekend. It’s an exciting new addition to Rhode Island’s sports scene and a much-needed jolt of energy at the local level.

The talk of pro sports the past few years in the state has been dominated largely by the PawSox leaving for Worcester and McCoy Stadium being demolished to make way for the new high school. RIFC burst on the scene last year and now has a new home in a beautiful stadium. Sure, soccer may not be an A-list sport in Rhode Island, but the state deserves a professional team that it can rally behind.

It will be interesting to see what

this new facility will provide to locals beyond just a home stadium for RIFC. It hosted a rugby match the following day and those who run the show have left open the possibility for many other events taking place there.

There’s nothing wrong with Rhode Island College’s facility, but I’d love to see the high school state championships move to Centreville to give the kids that big stadium atmosphere, but as far as I know, that is not in the plans for the time being.

Either way, it’s great to see another state of the art complex be built in the state and it should provide some opportunities for neat things to happen at all levels, whether it be high school, college or professional. Rhode Island is a sneaky-good soccer state, especially with Cranston sending guys to both the MLS and USL in recent years. RIFC and Centreville Bank Stadium seem to be here to stay.

Real Estate Transactions

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105 Fairway Dr Lot 105	Czajkowski, John A	Bibeault, Andre R	4/14	\$250,000	107 Springfield Ave	Hanley, Martin P	Horridge 3rd, Robert B and Silva, Brehanna M	4/21	\$370,000
1156 Sisson Rd	Palmer T and Palmer, Joseph A	Males, Brian and Mihalides, Ariana	4/17	\$815,000	114 Putnam Pike	Buchanan, Nancy A	Salvato, Paige	4/18	\$295,000
12 Donnas Way	Laprey, James F and Laprey, Denise J	Cornicli, Shane	4/18	\$540,000	2332 Plainfield Pike	Loffredo, Michael	D&R Property Group LLC	4/21	\$350,000
2 S Pond Dr	Laborio Joan H Est and Fortin, Joseph	Hill, Jannel	4/14	\$435,000	28 Salina Ave	Chavier, Anthony J and Chavier, Christine M	Johnston Town Of	4/22	\$381,000
234 Read Ave	Petrangelo Roger J Est and Gorham, Nicholas	Sholes, Dana J	4/17	\$265,000	7 Barbato Dr	Anice M Oconnor T and Oconnor, Anice M	Li, Zu and Yan, Xiao T	4/21	\$501,000
2703 Village Green Cir Lot 2703	Dubois Francis Est and Dubois, Richard	Kenny, Steven B and Kenny, Michele F	4/16	\$420,000	8 Christopher Dr	Wilks Jr, Robert J and Wilks, Roberta A	Tricarico, Nicholas and Lamond, Stephanie	4/21	\$558,000
3 PatienceLn	Boisvert, Kyle M and Walker, Samantha V	Mulcahey, Joseph and Mulcahey, Brittany	4/17	\$350,000	8 Old Simmonsville Rd	Noemi Magwilli Lt and Magwill, Noemi	Steve Housing LLC	4/17	\$560,000
30 Idaho St	Guertin, Joshua J and Lemois, Jasmine M	Allstrom, Jamie E and Cryan, Audrey E	4/17	\$210,000					
51 Knotty Oak Shrs	M & I Homes LLC	Ira Financial TCo	4/15	\$87,000					
55 Arizona St	Lakeview Loan Servicing L	Mako LLC	4/18	\$190,000					
9 Columbia Ave	Atwood Properties LLC	Depradines, Landsay	4/18	\$415,000					
CRANSTON					1050 Warwick Ave Lot 441	M & I Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$813,782
10 Bateman Ave Lot C2	Orsi It and Kojian, Paula	Maiorisi, Roseann and Vinacco, Steven	4/16	\$342,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 6	M & I Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$813,782
105 Julia St	Atwell, Robert J and Atwell, Joyce L	Quezada, Sylvianne and Quezada, Tania	4/16	\$490,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 441	New Vent Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$775,000
11 Amanda Ct	Desimone, Edward R and Gecawich, Kathleen	Gangi, Jennifer A and Gangi, Joshua D	4/18	\$450,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 6	New Vent Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$775,000
11 Bradford Rd	Stewart, Katherine and Powell, Connor	Digiovanni, Katelynn E and Edwards, Colin	4/16	\$485,000	120 Aspinet Dr	Lucas, Beverly F	Council Of Giants LLC	4/14	\$347,000
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17 Howard St	Tyler, Michael J and Tyler, Brenda J	Daly, Mary M and Chiclana, Alexander	4/18	\$450,000	209 Wood St Lot 96	Dos Santos, Vitor A	Fooks, William B	4/15	\$345,000
200 Mayfield Ave Lot D1	Aldridge, Kendra	Macchio, Lauren	4/17	\$351,000	211 Wood St Lot 98	Dos Santos, Vitor A	Fooks, William B	4/15	\$345,000
30 Tilden St	Mesolella Joyce S Est and Mesolella, Agostino	Beauregard, Jessica M and Beauregard, Alex D	4/16	\$440,000	227 Stillwater Dr	Keating, Carly L	Prette, Thomas R and Korkotas-Prette, Georgia	4/11	\$560,000
30 Tilden St Lot 789	Mesolella Joyce S Est and Mesolella, Agostino	Beauregard, Jessica M and Beauregard, Alex D	4/16	\$440,000	23 Peck Ln	Mulligan Prop LLC	Shannon Rlty LLC	4/16	\$1,500,000
304 Legion Way	Perry Anna Est and Liberatore, Michael	Jackson-Raum, Rachael A and Raum, Keith T	4/11	\$365,000	24 King St	Wong, Damon C and Wong, Emily L	Hernandez, Anna E	4/16	\$402,000
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91 S Hill Dr Lot 1288	Tasca, Maria A and Urban, Kenneth D	Baccaire, Nicholas	4/18	\$450,000	65 Suburban Pl	215 Tollgate Rlty LLC	Streit, Lucas M	4/11	\$280,000
					68 Greene St Lot 2	Melwick Bldrs LLC	Roberts, Mariano and Dugyala, Madhuri	4/11	\$428,000
					89 Bethel St	Brawner, Susan A and Hall, Kenneth A	Roso Invest Rt	4/11	\$235,000
EAST GREENWICH					234 Mishnock Rd	Owens Family Irt and Owens, Kelly L	Kretchman Jr, Kevin and Kretchman, Kristin	4/16	\$220,000
248 Marlborough St	Smith Linda Jane Est and Mcconkey, Stephanie	Mjc LLC	4/11	\$217,000	696 Victory Hwy	Castagna Family Rt and Castagana, Claudio	Sanford, Robert J	4/17	\$720,000
35 Beech Crest Rd	Reagan Re Dev LLC	Graise, Andrew and Graise, Nermin	4/15	\$1,700,000					
70 Hyland Ave	Nutting, Phillip K	Erin Reedy RET and Reedy, Erin	4/18	\$940,000					
90 Signal Ridge Way	Obrien, Patrick and Obrien, Patricia	Godbolt, Bryan and Godbolt, Kristen	4/18	\$915,000					
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595-C 10 Rod Rd	Warner, Margaret S	Beauchamp, Tyler	4/15	\$277,500	681 Providence St	Atwood Property Group LLC	681 Providence LLC	4/22	\$465,000
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Longtime Cranston East Little League board member John Croke is presented a sign dedicating the league's batting cages to his name (above).

● EAST from page 16

ting cages to longtime board member John Croke. Games were played shortly after on each field, kicking off a new season of fun with hundreds of players and their families.



● ROUNDUP from page 16

in eight innings against Cumberland last week. Alex Milano led the way at the plate for West, driving in a pair of runs on two hits

while Logan Taylor finished with three hits and an RBI. Chris Barboza tossed seven innings and allowed one earned run while striking out eight batters. West dropped to 5-9 overall with the loss.

Central 8, East 6 Despite rallying for three runs in the seventh inning, the Bolts were unable to catch Central as the Knights grabbed the Division I win.

Ethan Torres drove in three runs and Harrison Fisher got three hits for East. Damien Wholey and Cameron Boulanger allowed just three earned runs and combined for nine strikeouts on the hill for the Bolts, who dropped to 3-10.



Caleb Xum sets up a shot last week.

● BOLTS from page 16

2022 the that two clubs met within the same division, as the Falcons returned to Division I this spring after reaching the DII finals in 2024. Although the game had heightened stakes between the rivalry and divisional implications, East's Caleb Xum felt the team was only focused on its own performance. "It's a mindset. Trying to execute our serve-serve. That's what we've worked on. It doesn't matter who we face, if we play our game then we should be able to come into every game and try to win," said Xum. The final set was a wild one and created a playoff atmosphere by the final point. With some young players stepping up for East, Pincince thought it was a great opportunity for them to get that big-game feel as the postseason approaches. "It gives us more experience, especially with our younger guys playing. It gives us that experience emotionally, it's totally different when playoffs start. It shows us what we need to work on," said Pincince. The Bolts remained firmly in the DI playoff picture and beat Classical in three sets the following game. North Kingstown has dealt the Bolts two losses as it remains unbeaten and in first place. Pincince and Xum, along with Dennis Dixon and Darien Peterson, form one of the state's most talented and experienced cores. With so many seniors on the roster, the Bolts are looking to win a title in their final year as a group. "Energy, we need a lot of energy from our bench, starters, coaches, fans. We need energy. (Charles and I) been playing since freshman year so I know him like a brother. The chemistry is there," said Xum. Pincince added: "We have the athleticism, we have the chemistry, we have the skills. We just need to put it all together and get the job done. This is the year, it's now or never."



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