

Cranston Herald

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

2 SECTIONS • 20 PAGES • \$2.00 • VOL. 95 No. 42

From miniature golf to housing?

Owner of Mulligan's Island floats idea of homes on 55-acre site

By ROSE GALIE CINEUS

Following a tumultuous history of proposed projects and community pushback, the owner of a popular recreation spot in Cranston are considering residential development on the 55-acre property.

The city's Planning Department has scheduled a workshop on March 4 to hear from the public and discuss the redevelopment proposal for Mulligan's Island.

Acting City Planner Beth Ashman said no formal plans have been submitted to the city, but said the owner has floated the idea of a residential project and wants to hear input on single-family homes and multi-family units.

The land, owned by Michael Friedman, has been the

focus of proposed but elusive developments over the last two decades.

In 2007, a commercial project with two large retailers was planned but did not materialize. Then in 2020, a shopping plaza was planned, with Costco named as an anchor.

Four years ago, Friedman said the decision to move on from Mulligan's grew from several factors.

He cited increasing costs, including taxes, maintenance and utilities, and shrinking revenue.

"Shrinking returns make it nearly unworkable to afford to reinvest in the facility to keep it updated with the latest equipment and technology," Friedman said. "Our experience is not unique; countless golf and entertainment facilities have been closing at a rapid pace for

redevelopment across the country."

Almost two years ago, New England welcomed its first Top Golf sports and golf entertainment facility in Cranston – off Route 37, just about seven minutes away from Mulligan's Island.

Friedman said the Top Golf facility's arrival was not an original motivating factor for the sale of Mulligan's Island.

He told the Herald in 2020 that the pending development of Top Golf brought a lot of urgency and was just the "icing on the cake."

The property was once an undeveloped, state-owned cornfield. It is governed by Mixed Use Planned District zoning that was implemented in the late 1990s specifically

GOLF - PAGE 9

Shelling out more for eggs

As egg prices scramble to new heights, farm sets purchasing limit

By TIM FORSBERG

Once thought of as a cheap source of protein, eggs have become an investment. Fortunately, Johnston's own Stamp Egg Farms is helping to crack the case on what's ruffling feathers in the egg market.

According to Brijette Stamp, a family representative of the farm that keeps an eye on the store, coop and more, the rise in egg prices is a result of avian influenza. That flu has affected the egg market significantly.

"Egg prices are definitely on the rise, and that is seen everywhere. It's not just a trend that's happening, it's due to avian influenza," Stamp explained. "So essentially what's happening is the biological process that happens is when a bird contracts the flu, essentially all the surrounding birds are euthanized. Then it will take about six months for another chicken to grow to that same egg-laying size and lay those eggs again."

Stamp further elaborated on the immediate consequences of an egg shortage, which effects egg prices instantly, followed by price increases on food items with egg as an ingredient.

"So that starts with an egg shortage, and since eggs are an essential item, that means that on all shelves that price is immediately going to skyrocket," she said.

Despite these challenges, Stamp Farms has



With eggs-traordinary precision, Brijette Stamp puts the 'egg' in 'egg-spert' as she sorts her farm's finest into different sizes for retail sale. Brijette recently dished out why egg prices seem to be breaking new highs everyday. *Beacon Media photos*

EGGS - PAGE 9

Willkommen an der Garden City School



International colleagues and new friends. From left to right: Ashley Cardarelli Assistant Principal at Garden City School; Becky Jobes, assistant head of the Frankfurt School; and Jean-Marie Kahn, principal of the elementary level of the Frankfurt School.

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

When educators from an international school in Germany were looking for a model school to visit, their search led them to Cranston.

A small team from the Frankfurt Inter-

national School in Oberursel, Germany visited the Cranston School Department last week to tour the new Garden City Elementary School and to take a look at the recently renovated Eden Park Elementary School.

The visiting educators said that the

Garden City School, designed by Fielding International, is known in the education world for its innovative and flexible use of space -- a light-filled building that enhances the educational experience for teachers and students alike.

Jean-Marie Kahn, principal of the elementary school level at the Frankfurt school, said that the team decided to travel to Cranston because of the globally known work of Fielding International architects who specialize in designing schools.

"It's a large school, but it doesn't feel like a large school," she said sitting in a conference room Friday with her colleagues and administrators from Garden City. "They have reshaped what a school can be."

From the outside, the school, located in the heart of a residential neighborhood, looks like it was made of big colored blocks. Inside, it is spacious and bright, with no trace of a traditional classroom and desks lined up in rows.

Instead, the learning areas are flexible with small nooks for quiet learning and comfortable, large areas for lectures or reading time. The furniture is soft and comfortable, and desks can be easily wheeled into any configuration that best fits the lesson of the day.

The roughly 85,000 square-foot building opened in the fall of 2023 and currently houses about 532 students. "It's important that as educators we grow and learn from

each other," said Roxanne Gustafson Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessments, and Grants for Cranston Schools.

"We are trying to optimize student learning with spaces that promote creativity, collaboration, problem solving, and engaging learning experiences," she said. "These are important skills in 21st century learning. Having this opportunity to meet with the educators from Germany helps us realize we are all trying to promote optimal teaching and learning experiences for our staff and students."

The Frankfurt school visitors said that one of the most noticeable things about the school is something that is absent -- excessive noise. Nathan Strenge, a senior learning designer with Fielding, said that the generally quiet, calm feeling of the school is partly the result of acoustical design and also the fact that the interior space makes it easy for students to be relaxed and engaged in learning.

This is perhaps most evident in the huge, colorful cafeteria where there is plenty of happy chatter, but the noise level is much lower than expected. Students can sit on upholstered benches, in rounded booths or at small congregate tables. Colored discs cover one wall, and the expansive room is two stories high with lots of light.

Garden City Principal Bryan Byerlee said

SCHOOL - PAGE 6

- INDEX -

Classified	19
Editorial	7
Obituaries	9
Police Log	2
RhodyLife	11
Sports	16

Cranston Chatter

Feb. 5, Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be hosting the URI Pharmacy Outreach Program at 10 a.m. The session called "Heart Health for Older Adults," will be held at the center, 1070 Cranston Street, Don't miss this important and informative presentation. Bring a friend.

Feb. 5, Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be hosting a caregiver's support group at 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Our support group meets once a month. For more information call Jennifer at 401-780-6254 or just stop in on our next group meeting. You can always bring a friend if you feel more comfortable. Facilitator: Jennifer Kevorkian

CHATTER - PAGE 4

Unbeaten Bolts eye division title



The Cranston East wrestling team is undefeated and looking to finish strong in both the division and state.

Sports, page 16



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Lapatin inducted into Criminal Justice Hall of Fame



Providence police Maj. David A. Lapatin and his granddaughter, Audrey Lapatin.

Providence police Maj. David A. Lapatin, of Cranston, was inducted into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame last Thursday night.

"I am extremely pleased to receive this induction. I am honored to have my name alongside some of the most prominent names in the history of criminal justice for the State of Rhode Island," Lapatin said, according to the Providence Police Department.

According to Lindsay Lague, the department's chief

public information officer, Lapatin accepted the induction on behalf of his family and the City of Providence. He said both played very influential roles in his career.

Lapatin and his wife, Sandra, married more than 35 years ago and settled in Cranston. They raised three children, Sam, Stephen and Jenna, and have one grandchild, Audrey Lapatin.

POLICE LOG

ARREST WARRANT

On Jan. 31 at 10:45 a.m., officers arrested Jonathan Enright, 43, of 151 Grand Ave., Cranston, on an arrest warrant out of East Providence. The arrest was the result of a motor-vehicle stop at 772 Park Ave. Enright was transferred to East Providence police.

SHOPLIFTING

On Jan. 31 at 11:48 a.m., officers arrested Oscar Flores Garcia, 58, of 203 Lowell Ave., Providence, on a charge of Shoplifting. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 247 Garfield Ave. (Lowes). Flores Garcia was awaiting arraignment.

SHOPLIFTING/FELONY

On Jan. 31 at 12:33 p.m., officers arrested Ayesha Taylor, 41, of 3 Mount Vernon St., Providence, on two felony counts of Shoplifting, plus Conspiracy and Habitual Offender. The arrest was the result of Taylor's being transferred from the ACI Women's Intake Center to 3rd District Court. She was arraigned in District Court.

DUI

On Jan. 30 at 11:19 p.m., officers arrested Nolan T Jackson, 37, of 7 Elm St., North Providence, on a charge of DUI 1st Offense BAC 0.10-0.15. The arrest was the result of a motor-vehicle stop in the area of Reservoir Ave and Rt 10 S. Jackson was arraigned and released.

POSSESSION

On Jan. 29 at 9:06 p.m., officers arrested John Bartlett, 48, of 85 Plantation Dr., Cranston, on a charge of Possession of Schedule I-V <10g. The arrest was the result of a motor-vehicle stop at 645 Reservoir Ave. Bartlett was held for morning arraignment as a bail violator.

OBSTRUCTION

On Jan. 29 at 4:01 p.m., officers arrested Matthew McCarthy, 45, of 75 Mathewson St. Apt. A, Cranston, on a charge of Obstructing an Officer in the Execution of Duty.

The arrest was the result of a call for service at the intersection of Park Avenue and Elmwood Avenue. McCarthy was arraigned and released.

DRUG POSSESSION

On Jan. 28 at 6:19 p.m., officers arrested Heather Hazard, 47, of 1025 Narragansett Blvd., Apt. 2, Cranston, on a charge of Possession of a Schedule II Narcotic (fentanyl). The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Narragansett Blvd. Hazard was presented as a probation violator by the Attorney General's Office and remanded to the ACI's Women's Intake.

VIOLATION OF A NO CONTACT ORDER

On Jan. 28 at 6:19 p.m., officers arrested Joshua Nadeau, 45, of 202 Park Ave, Cranston, for Violation of a No Contact Order. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Narragansett Boulevard. Nadeau was presented as a probation violator by the Attorney General's Office and remanded to the ACI's Men's Intake.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT BY STRANGULATION

On Jan. 28 at 8:32 p.m., officers arrested Aminullah Faqiry, 35, of 101 Eldridge St., Cranston, on a charge of Domestic Assault by Strangulation, Domestic Simple Assault and Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a disturbance at the aforementioned address. Faqiry was arraigned and released.

DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

On Jan. 28 at 10:18 p.m., officers arrested Jonathan Starks, 62, of 1025 Narragansett Blvd., Apt. 2, Cranston, on charges of Domestic Simple Assault and Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of an affidavit arrest warrant pickup at the aforementioned address. Starks was arraigned and released.

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

Karpinski to retire as head of the state retirement system

The Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI), which provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to more than 60,000 active and retired state employees and participating municipal employees, today announced that its Executive Director, Frank Karpinski, is set to retire on June 30, after three decades of distinguished public service.

Karpinski is widely recognized as a leading authority on state and municipal pension matters. He came to ERSRI in May 1994, served as Director of Finance for seven years before becoming ERSRI Director in February 2001.

"Frank's tenure and contributions to ERSRI and the state have been remarkable," said General Treasurer and ERSRI board chair James A. Diossa. "His unparalleled knowledge and insightful guidance have been essential in ensuring our continued focus on serving ERSRI members and all Rhode Islanders. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and leadership throughout his tenure, and we look forward to ensuring a seamless transition as we search for a new Executive Director."

Cranston Herald

Founded 1928
Published every Thursday by Beacon Media. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
BEACON MEDIA c/o 1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889

Offices located at
1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889 - Telephone (401) 732-3100
Mail delivery \$45.00 for one (1) year (52 issues), \$75.00 for two (2) years (104 issues). Senior rate \$35.00 for one (1) year, \$49.00 for two (2) years (104 issues). \$2.00 weekly for carrier delivery. Out-of-State \$80.00 for one (1) year (52 issues).
Periodical Postage Paid at Providence, RI 02904
(USPS 978-120)

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

Publisher Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com	Classified Advertising Ida Zecco-Classifieds@rhodybeat.com
Editorial Staff Barbara Polichetti - BarbaraP@BeaconMediaRI.com Rosegalie Cineus - RosegalieC@BeaconMediaRI.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettnier-LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller-AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice-MoR@rhodybeat.com Ashley Mariani-AshleyM@beaconmediari.com
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	Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates-JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

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Member of: Rhode Island Newspaper Group, New England Press Association

Police chief named to state Hall of Fame

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

Cranston’s police chief, Col. Michael Winquist, a veteran of 35 years in law enforcement, was inducted into the Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame last week.

The Criminal Justice Hall of Fame was established more than a decade ago to give profile to professionals who have worked to improve and uphold the principles of the criminal justice system in Rhode Island, a news release from the organization says.

The Hall welcomed eight new members of the state’s criminal justice community were welcomed as the 2024 class and inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Office of the Attorney General.

Among them was Winquist, police chief in Cranston for more than 10 years. Previously, Winquist held the second-in-command position in the Rhode Island State Police, deputy state superintendent.

So far, he says, being police chief has been a great experience.

“[I] get a wide breadth of seeing things from the perspective of being law enforcement in the city and state environment,” Winquist said. “There is some crossover, but some things are unique to a city police.”

The Hall of Fame honor came unexpectedly to Winquist. He found out when Warwick’s police chief, Col. Bradford Connor, called him a few months ago and told him he was nominating him for the honor.

“First off, it’s humbling,” Winquist said about the induction. He said he looked at previous inductees and his peers in the 2024 class and realized “these are people I idolized.”

One of the people Winquist said he recognized last night was Col. Steven O’Donnell, a former state police superintendent and a 2022 inductee.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without him,” Winquist said. “He taught me a lot about policing. He promoted me. I learned a lot just by watching him and how he operated and how he treats the men and women of the state police.”

In his remarks, Winquist thanked his family and friends for their support and his colleagues for the work they have done together. Cranston police Maj. Robert Quirk was not able to attend, but Winquist thanked him for his support in the department.

Winqust’s family, colleagues and friends were there to celebrate his induction, including his wife of 20 years, Andrea, as well as Cranston police Maj. Todd Patalano, retired state police Lt. Col. Kevin Barry, retired Barrington Police Chief Dino DeCrescenzo, East Providence police Sgt. Diogo Mello, retired state police Col. Steven O’Donnell and Mayor Kenneth Hopkins.

“I was honored to support Cranston Police Chief Michael J. Winquist during his induction,” Hopkins said in an emailed statement . “Since before I assumed office, Col. Winquist has been a trusted leader within our police department. ...His leadership style, characterized by transparency and collaboration, has not only strengthened the police force over the past decade, but has built lasting trust with the citizens of our city. ...His recognition and induction into the state Criminal Justice Hall of Fame is well earned.”



Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael Winquist stands with his award.

Winquist said he started in law enforcement when he was just 21 years old. His father had been a police chief, too.

“To my late father, Carl Winquist, who inspired me to pursue a career in law enforcement and follow in his footsteps as a second-generation police chief, thank you for instilling in me the values of integrity, service and perseverance,” Winquist said in his remarks that night.

He said if he didn’t love the job so much, he probably would have been gone a long time ago.

“Wouldn’t want to do anything else. I like being involved. The officers who work here, that’s the satisfying part, getting the tools that they need,” Winquist said. “This city is phenomenal, they support the Police Department, I work for a phenomenal mayor who is pro-police department.”

Winquist said one of his priorities is the department’s community outreach.

“We really made that a focus of my time here, and I’m proud of that and how we’ve been able to do that successfully,” Winquist said. “We have good interactions with our citizens, and I think people feel safe. They’re not afraid to

call us. There’s a trusting relationship between us and the citizens.”

Winquist sees Cranston as a good city to work for and highlights the great work the people in his department have put in to keep residents safe. He says they have been successful at keeping crime down and are hitting historic lows.

“There’s just so many great people here and I’m lucky to have been proud of this for the past decade,” Winquist said.

It’s nice to be recognized, the chief said. It’s a moment equally humbling and validating for him.

“As I approach the latter part of my career, it is nice to get recognition for my work, although we don’t do it for [the] recognition. To be among the most legendary names in criminal justice is really humbling.”

The Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame 2024 class includes Michelle M. Alves, Toby Ayers, Ralph W. Ezovski in Memoriam, Maj. David A. Lapatin, Col. Stephen J. Lynch, Dana L. Smith, Col. Michael J. Winquist and J. Patrick Youngs III.

Magaziner visits senior center to listen, learn

By BARBARA POLICHETTI



Congressman Seth Magaziner lines up with senior citizen volunteers who donate their time to support a wide range of activities at the Cranston Senior Center. They participate through a program called the Retired Senior Volunteer Program or RSVP.



Irma Jenks talks about the work she and other senior volunteers do making emotional support dolls. The "smile dolls" are made by hand and are distributed to children who may be sick or troubled as well as Alzheimer's patients who may need the comfort of something to cuddle.

With confusion and concern swirling around exactly what a federal funding freeze will mean for state and local programs, U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner visited the Cranston Senior Center last week.

Magaziner said he came to listen to seniors tell him how initiatives – such as the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – have impacted their lives. He said that also came to deliver a message, along with Cranston Mayor Kenneth Hopkins.

Speaking from the stage of the senior center lunchroom, both Magaziner, a Democrat, and Hopkins, a Republican, pledged a bi-partisan effort to fight for the continuation of federal aid that assists the city’s older residents.

“We’re going to keep fighting for Cranston in every way we know how to help you out,” Magaziner told the audience. Hopkins echoed the sentiment, saying, “It is common sense that we all work together to (benefit) our seniors.

Magaziner followed the speaking portion of his visit by meeting with Cranston Seniors who participate in the RSVP initiative in the city. The program, which is part of AmeriCorps, matches people over the age of 55 with volunteer opportunities – allowing them to use their lifetime skills and talents to help other seniors.

AmeriCorps is a federal agency which connects a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. In Cranston, seniors in the RSVP initiative perform numerous services including providing rides for other seniors, serving meals, or running educational programs.

Magaziner was joined by Susan Cheesman, senior portfolio manager with the regional AmeriCorps office in New Hampshire. They listened to a panel of seniors talk about how becoming a RSVP volunteer changed their lives. The seniors said they enjoy helping others but also found out that volunteering gave them a sense of purpose in their own lives.

Approximately 85 seniors participate in the RSVP program in Cranston.

Magaziner thanked participants for their work, and also said that hearing their specific stories will help him lobby on their behalf. “Thank you for all that you do,” he said.

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Fluffy stuff

Hector Fernandez was out early Monday morning, making quick work of clearing his Auburn Street driveway in time to get to work. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti.*

Union ramps up effort to oust airport CEO

Police, firefighters cast unanimous vote of no confidence in Iftikhar Ahmad

By JOHN HOWELL

Days after the abrupt departure of a veteran law-enforcement officer selected to be chief of police at Green Airport, airport police and firefighter members of the local union unanimously took a no-confidence vote against Rhode Island Airport Corporation president and CEO Iftikhar Ahmad and airport management.

"The recent resignation of Public Safety Director Joseph M. Perkins speaks to the hostile work environment created and condoned by CEO Iftikhar Ahmad," reads a statement released Thursday by Steven Parent, president of Local 2873, RI Council 94 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

Parent, who was fired by RIAC last fall, continues to represent union members working at the airport in negotiations that have yet to reach a contract. The parties are hung up over wording that would give RIAC the power to change job classifications without recourse.

After attending a RIAC directors meeting last week, Perkins tendered his resignation to State Police Col. Darnell Weaver. As reported by WPRI, Perkins messaged his co-workers he was leaving and that RIAC was looking to dismantle the department. RIAC denies it is looking to drive out the department and the union.

The vote of no confidence is the latest in stories about Ahmad's management style and the departure of high level employees since he came to Rhode Island from Louis Armstrong Airport in New Orleans nine years ago.

"Under CEO Ahmad's tenure, over 60 non-union employees were terminated or left RIAC, had over four different police chiefs, and the Police Department is running 10 officers short in violation of a grievance settlement. CEO Ahmad's hostile churn and burn management must cease," reads the union release.

RIAC spokesman Bill Fischer responded to union allegations:

'Pure theater,' says RIAC

"The union's no confidence vote is pure theater intended to generate leverage at the negotiating table and nothing more. We have been negotiating in good faith for many months. It's time that union leaders put forth a meaningful effort to finalize a contract," Fischer asserted.

The statement goes on to call the vote a public-relations stunt that won't "pressure RIAC to make poor decisions at the negotiating table."

Fischer said, "RIAC management remains focused on its mission and will not be distracted nor impacted by baseless and untrue accusations."

He added, "RIAC's union employees are compensated extremely well in both pay and benefits."

Parent disclosed that the union filed a class-action grievance to contest the Airport Police Department's persistent understaffing. In an interview he said the department had more personnel before the pandemic. He said it was reasonably reduced during the pandemic and now 17 officers are covering not only the terminal but all RIAC buildings, garages and property. Usually a shift calls for a lieutenant, sergeant and four patrol officers. He said the department sometimes operates with only two officers even though, as RIAC reported last week, passenger traffic at Green has exceeded 2019 levels.

Parent hopes the vote of no confidence will bring public awareness of what happening at the airport.

"We want to make sure public safety is upheld at the airport," he said.

If RIAC is not overseeing law enforcement at the airport, who should?

"We would have more comfort with the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety," Parent said.

'Illegal acts,' says union

Michael McDonald, President of Council 94, is quoted as saying, "CEO Ahmad's illegal acts of releasing confidential personnel records, termination of a union president, unfounded accusations against employees and bad faith are unacceptable."

McDonald's reference to the release of confidential records refers to an

Oct. 1 press conference in which Ahmad disclosed the RIAC board had hired an attorney to hunt down the author(s) of anonymous letters to public officials, airlines, FAA and media calling on the governor to terminate Ahmad or union employees would walk off their jobs on Aug. 13 effectively closing the airport.

To support his claims that employees voluntarily left their jobs or were justifiably fired, Ahmad pointed to a bundle of personnel files and invited reporters to go through them.

"While Local 2873 members will continue working so that airport operations run smoothly, the union will increase communicating RIAC's bad-faith actions to the public, RIAC board members and political leaders. Council 94 will continue to fight to ensure CEO Ahmad provides a fair contract, dignity and respect to our members in all available forums," McDonald said.

Parent was fired Oct. 29, 2024 for allegedly discouraging a prospective applicant from applying to the airport Fire Department, gaining access to an unauthorized area at the airport and having "criminally trespassed" on Nov. 1 when he went to his former desk to obtain his personal copy of the union contract.

Council 94 represents more than 10,000 active and retired state, municipal and private-sector employees.

Putting a positive spin on the RIAC release, Fischer wrote, "The good news is Rhode Islanders can and should have every confidence in the leadership of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation. Every single metric confirms the airport is headed in the right direction. Rhode Islanders have more direct flight options than ever before and at competitive rates. The airport is fiscally sound with strong management as indicated by various rating agencies. Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport is coming off a record year with over 4 million passengers boosting Rhode Island's tourism and economy."

He said there would be an announcement this week of international flights at Green.

Strong December boosts airport over 4M passengers for '24

If you think Green Airport got busier over the year, you're right.

In a release issued in mid-January the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) touted that, "Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport (PVD) soared to new heights in 2024, solidifying its status as the fastest-growing hub airport in New England."

In addition, RIAC says that during the month of December the airport marked its best performance since 1997 with 27.3 percent growth compared to the year before, propelling it past the 4 million passenger milestone for the year, which is a volume of traffic greater than before the pandemic in 2019.

Based on FAA data for the other hub airports in the region, PVD is the fastest-growing hub airport in New England for 2024, and also offers the most per capita destinations to Rhode Islanders, with 34.7 routes per million population.

"This success is the result of the joint effort of the RIAC Board of Directors, Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and our Federal Congressional Delegation," said Iftikhar Ahmad, RIAC President and CEO. "I would like to congratulate them on this success and thank them for all of their work in making this airport an asset for all Rhode Islanders."

The release goes on to quote U.S. Senator Jack Reed, Gov. McKee, House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and RIAC board chair Jonathan Savage.

"Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport is an

important economic engine for our state. The airport's continued growth and success is great news for local businesses, tourism, and local economies across the Ocean State," Reed said in a statement

"This record-setting growth only enhances Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport's status as one of the best airports in the country," said McKee. He said the airport serves to bolster the economy and entice new businesses and industries to the state.

Shekarchi observed the airport already supports 20,000 jobs and has "an economic impact in the billions" and that the growth will further boost those figures.

Ruggerio said, "The commitment and investments made at Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport continues to pay off. Our state's growing reputation as a travel and tourism destination is truly a reason to celebrate."

Savage said the airport has not experienced such growth in almost three decades.

"Air travelers and airlines alike are taking note of PVD's remarkable ascent. Recent announcements by airlines have sought to tap into the increased demand for travel through Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport by increasing the availability of seats to popular destinations and adding new nonstop connections throughout the nation."

He said according to the Federal Aviation Administration Rhode Island receives \$2.7 billion in economic benefits from civil aviation, including over 19,000 jobs and the related economic activity they provide.

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Warwick, RI 02888

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Bringing the Laughter Since 1992!
Upcoming Comedy Shows:

For info or reservations call the Comedy Factory Hotline at 401-639-7726!

CHELO'S
HOMETOWN BAR & GRILLE
2225 Post Road | Warwick, RI

Valentine's Day
Dinner-Comedy Show
Friday, February 14 - 6:30 pm
With singing sensation Steven Palumbo performing during dinner!
Plus 5 comics! \$69pp includes buffet, coffee & dessert, show, tax, & tip.

2/15
7pm
Maven's Delicatessen-Pawtucket
\$60pp includes dinner, show, tax, & tip. Headliner Linda Belt.

2/20
6pm
O'Rourke's Bar and Grille
\$55pp includes Prime rib, baked stuffed shrimp, & more! Plus 4 comics!

2/21
6:30pm
The Rally Sports Bar & Grille
Enjoy a fabulous buffet! Plus 5 comics! \$50pp includes buffet, show, a complimentary glass of house wine, tax, & tip! Help John Perrotta celebrate his birthday!

2/21
8pm
The Event Factory Kitchen and Stage
RI comedy legend Poppy Champlin performs! \$35pp includes show & 1 drink.

2/23
6pm
Boomerangs Roadhouse
With the hysterical Stephanie Peters! \$10pp.

2/24
7pm
Olneyville NY System
With our "6 All The Way" Comedy Show! \$20pp.

2/27
6pm
Lemongrass-Warwick
With Boston comedy great Steve Sweeney! \$50pp includes buffet, show, tax, & tip.

comedyfactoryri.com

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carol.miller@longbridge-financial.com

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Branch Office: 1 International Blvd., Suite 900 Mahwah, NJ 07430. NMLS #673935. Licensed by Rhode Island Third Party Loan Servicer License: 20193879LS, Rhode Island Lender License: 20153084LL, MA Debt Collector License: DC957935, Mortgage Lender License, with reverse mortgage authority ML 957935.

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Msgr. DeAngelis Manor, is located on Wakefield Street in West Warwick, centrally located on the bus route and nearby stores. Financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the elderly and disabled 62 years old and over.

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RHM Management Co.
401-828-8040

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Empowering ‘we, the people’

There is no denying that public trust in institutions has reached a new sobering low in the last decade. This unfortunate reality has been exacerbated by polarized political posturing, profit-driven media conglomerates pushing partisan talking points to capture attention and far too many examples of government officials treating their responsibility to be transparent and open to the public with an air of inconvenienced contempt rather than a pillar of their democratically granted power. There exists no media entity in the world that flawlessly carries out their mission to provide news to their audience in a manner that is sanitized of all imperfection. News gathering, and reporting, is (at least for now) a very human process, beholden to the same imperfections that all humans possess innately. Although we certainly try our best to rise above them. And while this disclaimer holds true for our own outlet, we also try to implore time and time again within these pages that the ultimate arbiter of the success of our local communities is you.

This is why it is so critically important for citizens to not simply take a back seat — whether when participating in the political processes of their community or in how they digest their news. We are encouraged by the overflow turnout seen at a recent informational meeting held in Cranston by the Rhode Island ACLU, which sought to teach Rhode Islanders how to be active advocates in their communities through the legislative process. It also provided updated information to those who were wary of the uncertainties about ongoing efforts at the federal level to find and deport illegal immigrants – which brings with it a host of legal and moral issues. Seeing a strong desire by so many to become more informed by these big-picture topics was reassuring and heartening.

It is also our sincere hope to see reform pass at the State House this year that would simplify the process for members of the public to access public records from local governments. The current state of public-records law provides too much inherent cover for those who benefit from keeping information hidden from the media and the people of Rhode Island in general. Likewise, the fees that can be incurred for accessing such documents should be reduced. We all benefit from a more informed public and a more open, transparent and accountable government, regardless of our political leanings. Let’s strive to see more of that in the weeks and months ahead.

LETTERS

‘Residents’ concerns go unanswered’

To the Editor,

As a proponent of moving the police training gun range, I was disappointed to see Capt. [Justin] Dutra characterize concerns about the range as an “anti-firearm” issue. That couldn’t be further from the truth. As a proud Blue Card holder, I fully support responsible firearm use and training. What this issue is really about is the unacceptable level of noise produced by the guns being used at the complex and the administration’s and elected representatives’ continued inaction and lack of collaboration to find a reasonable resolution. For too long, the administration has dragged its feet while residents’ concerns go unanswered. City representatives have yet to offer meaningful input or discussion on this issue. Cranston deserves leadership that listens, engages and works toward solutions – not one that dismisses valid concerns with mischaracterizations. It’s time for transparency, accountability and action.

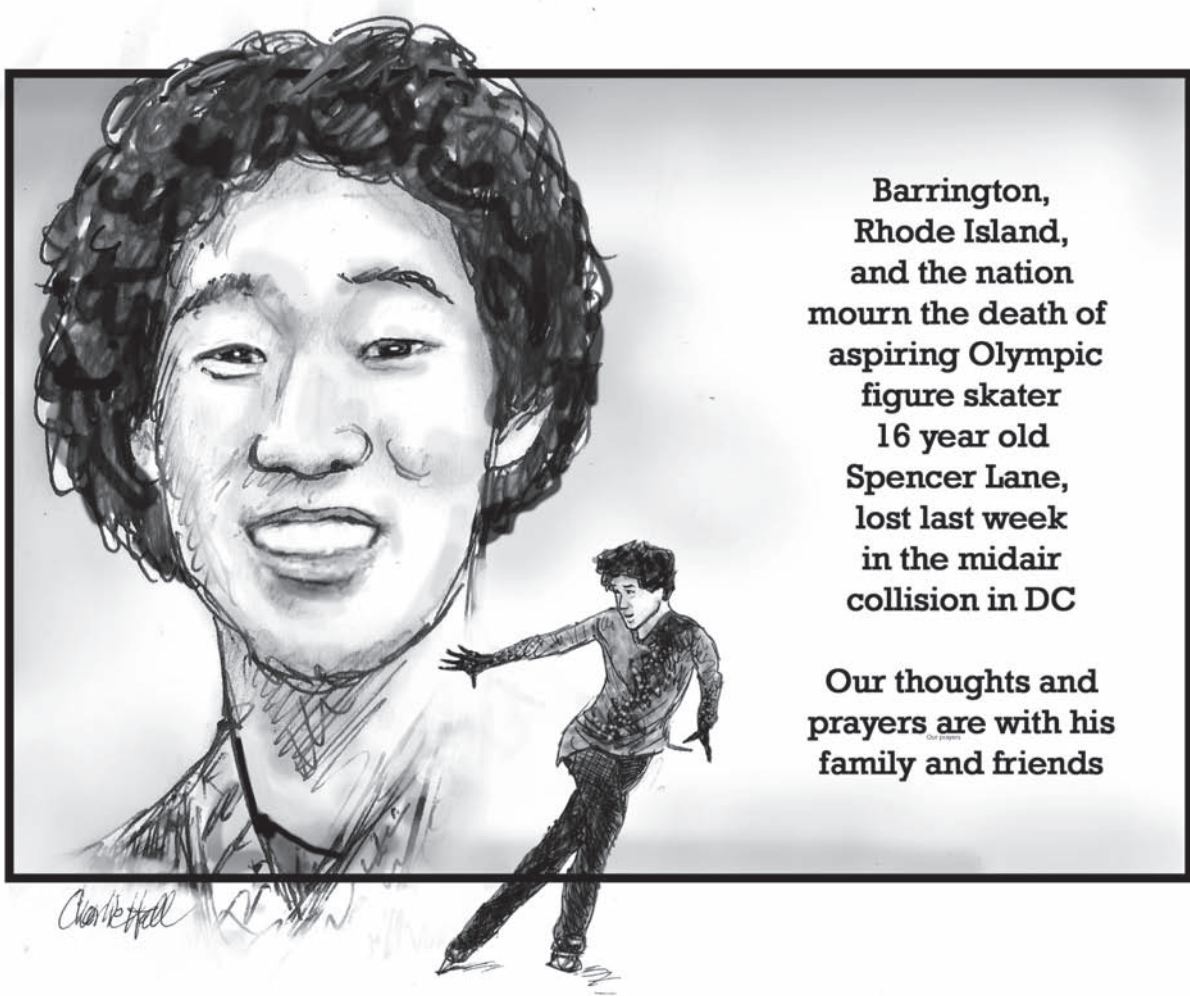
Respectfully,
Lauryn Pregoni
Cranston

Earwitness: Enclosed gun ranges contain sound

To the Editor,

The uneducated statement by [Mayor Kenneth Hopkins’ Chief of Staff] Anthony Moretti that “indoor [gun] ranges don’t substantially reduce the noise” is so very untrue. I have gone to the indoor range in Coventry. After going inside and using this range, I went outside of the range, standing approximately 10 feet from the range wall, and did not hear the shooting from inside. The illegal Cranston Police Shooting Range is illegal because the Police Department never received a zoning change or City Council approval.

Peter Sczerbinki
Cranston



GUEST OPINION

City officials brush off noise-pollution concerns

By HEIDI LAVIGNE

Upon reading the recent story entitled “Council’s baptism: Thorny issues surface again,” I noticed a few inaccuracies shared by our city leadership concerning the issue with the noise pollution emanating from the shooting range on Phenix Avenue. First, the claim that enclosing the range would not eliminate the sound is quite inconsistent with an article from 2022 featuring Meshanticut’s then-Ward 5 City Councilman, Chris Paplauskus, on RINewstoday.com, “He [Paplauskus] went to the enclosed Coventry shooting range and sat in the parking lot and could not hear anything – he believes enclosing [Cranston’s] is the answer.” The next claim is that no complaints from the school administration have ever been received by Hopkins’ administration. As a parent, I find this alarming if they have not spoken out, and you should too, if true. It makes me question the professionalism of our leaders in our public school system. Are they up to date on the latest research, and if so why aren’t they standing up and protecting our children from this? The research is definitive: noise is the second largest environmental cause of health problems after air pollution, according to the World Health Organization, and children are particularly vulnerable. It can cause reading deficiencies in children and lead to long-term health issues such as dementia, cardiovascular issues, diabetes and so on. According to the most up-to-date research from the World Health Organization, among many other expert bodies, children should be in an indoor learning environment of less than 35 dB and 55 dB outdoors, which is also the Cranston city ordinance. Readings collected by Brown University in 2023 were over 500 times above ordinance levels, as the decibel scale is logarithmic and not linear. It is stunning that we still have to defend our position so fervently after that proof. I have taken videos of games at Cranston West as the sounds of rifle shots ring out over the field and no one flinches; this alone is disturbing. We live in a world where kids do active-shooter drills in school, but we expect them to learn to ignore it in Western Cranston. I have knocked on many doors over this last year and have spoken to parents who expressed concern about the

gunfire. I find it hard to believe that these parents would express this concern to me, a stranger at their doorstep, and not to their children’s teachers or administrators at the school. This leads me to where the noise levels were described as “safe” and “under the limits.” I work from home and can attest that it’s so loud most days that I can’t concentrate and my focus is repeatedly broken and it often triggers migraines, too. With readings coming in 500 times over the limit, no wonder. Why is someone with no expertise in this field of study trying to convince the public that the sound is “safe” when every actual expert I have ever spoken to has said the exact opposite, and usually with great alarm? Western Cranston’s parents should be angered over the inertia of our city government in rectifying this simple issue. This could be a layup, an easy win, yet, they continue to waste our time and delay when they could simply make this a priority and deal with it. All should approach the narrative from city officials on this issue with skepticism, as they seem to repeat inaccuracies to change the narrative to us being anti-police or anti-gun. We have been extremely clear that we are not anti-police. Many of my neighbors own guns and support our police. Yet, we cannot focus in our homes while we work, our dogs shiver in fear and our children don’t get to enjoy warm spring days in our yard because the volume is at unsafe levels. Finally, I challenge our city leadership to present any professional body of research by public health or mental health professionals in support of the situation and present it to the public. I am confident that they will find exactly none because the evidence is conclusive that noise pollution is extremely detrimental to our physical health, and is particularly detrimental to our children’s. If Providence can move its shooting range to the middle of the woods in Scituate, then why can’t we take similar measures to protect our community? In the dog-whistled words of this administration during this last election cycle, “We don’t want to be like Providence.” Frankly, maybe we’d be better off in Meshanticut if we were. Enough is enough.

It’s true: Firearms are not church bells

To the Editor

The comments made by city spokesmen Mr. [Anthony] Moretti [Mayor Kenneth Hopkins’ chief of staff], and [police Capt. Dutra] in the article Council’s Baptism: Thorny Issues Surface Again are reminiscent of the heyday of Big Tobacco. Despite the amassed scientific evidence showing that smoking kills, cigarette manufacturers spent millions trying to cover up the evidence, discredit scientists and convince the public otherwise. In Cranston, regardless of the amount of empirical data collected, and despite the voices of psychia-

trists, psychologists, medical doctors and noise-pollution experts sounding the alarm, the administration and Cranston police leadership refuse to acknowledge the irrefutable science that noise pollution from firearms is detrimental to the human body. The incredible number of physiological events that occur can ultimately lead to early death. Lies perpetually repeated can’t change the science. So yes, Capt. Dutra, you are right. It is indeed about the fact that the off-the-charts 82-decibel* noise pollution that pervades Meshanticut comes from firearms, not church bells. The

body responds differently to the former than to the latter. If common sense doesn’t make that clear to you, perhaps an in-service with medical professionals to educate yourself about the incontrovertible evidence would be beneficial. *Note: 82 decibels was measured 0.3 miles from the Cranston range. 55 decibels is the legal limit in residential areas. The decibel level data, methodology, and scientific analysis can be viewed here at <https://bit.ly/Brown-SPH-Cranston-Gunfire-Study>

Martha DiMeo
Meshanticut

Numbers don’t support open-air gun range

To the Editor,

I wish the Cranston Police Department’s Capt. Justin Dutra would have done his research before making his statement. If he did check the current information with the city zoning and read Brown University’s reported test in 2023 and again in 2024, he would have seen that when the schools across the street are in session, the area has a noise limit of 35-45 decibels; on the residential land that abuts the firing-range property the limit is 55 decibels year-round, and the range produces 82 decibels. So maybe they will do more research and help the children, teachers and neighbors come to a fair and reasonable solution to this public health crisis.

Respectfully,
Alfred W. Schoeninger
Meshanticut

MEANWHILE IN JOHNSTON...





CITY OF CRANSTON AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Zone Change (Terminus of Caraway Drive)

The following is a notice of public hearings to consider a proposed amendment, **Ordinance No. 1-25-01**, to the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map to change the zoning for certain property located at **Terminus of Caraway Drive** and known as **Assessor's Plat 35, Lot 3 (the "Property")** as zoned **A-80**. The subject property is depicted on the enclosed map.

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 45-24 et seq and Cranston Municipal Code 17.120 et seq, the applicant, **Margaret M. Scaria**, is requesting a change of zone for **Assessor's Plat 35, Lot 3 (the "Property")** from **A-80 to A-20**. The application states that the property is to be used for **"Single Family Residences"**.

The matter will be heard by the **Planning Commission** on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Cranston City Hall Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston RI and via Zoom Webinar by logging into the link below or by phone by calling any of the numbers listed below:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/96720522544?pwd=Ta8EtkNGdFLd2NwVMjA8uiPHUtWw8n.1>
Passcode:430333

Phone one-tap:
+13092053325,,96720522544# US
+13126266799,,96720522544# US (Chicago)

Join via audio:
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Webinar ID: 967 2052 2544
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/96720522544?pwd=Ta8EtkNGdFLd2NwVMjA8uiPHUtWw8n.1>

The public hearing before the City Council **Ordinance Committee** will be held on **Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Cranston City Hall Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston RI and via Zoom Webinar by logging into the link below or by phone by calling any of the numbers listed below:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/94269751395?pwd=8tFMDwbkLQraWaTgnfLOoN2rBe1JB2.1>
Passcode:859207

Phone one-tap:
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+1 309 205 3325 US
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+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US

Webinar ID: 942 6975 1395
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/94269751395?pwd=8tFMDwbkLQraWaTgnfLOoN2rBe1JB2.1>

Subject to the Ordinance Committee's recommendation for approval, a public hearing will also be included as part of the next regular monthly meeting agenda of the full **Cranston City Council**.

The full text of this Ordinance and documents for this application are available from the Office of the City Clerk, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI during normal business hours.

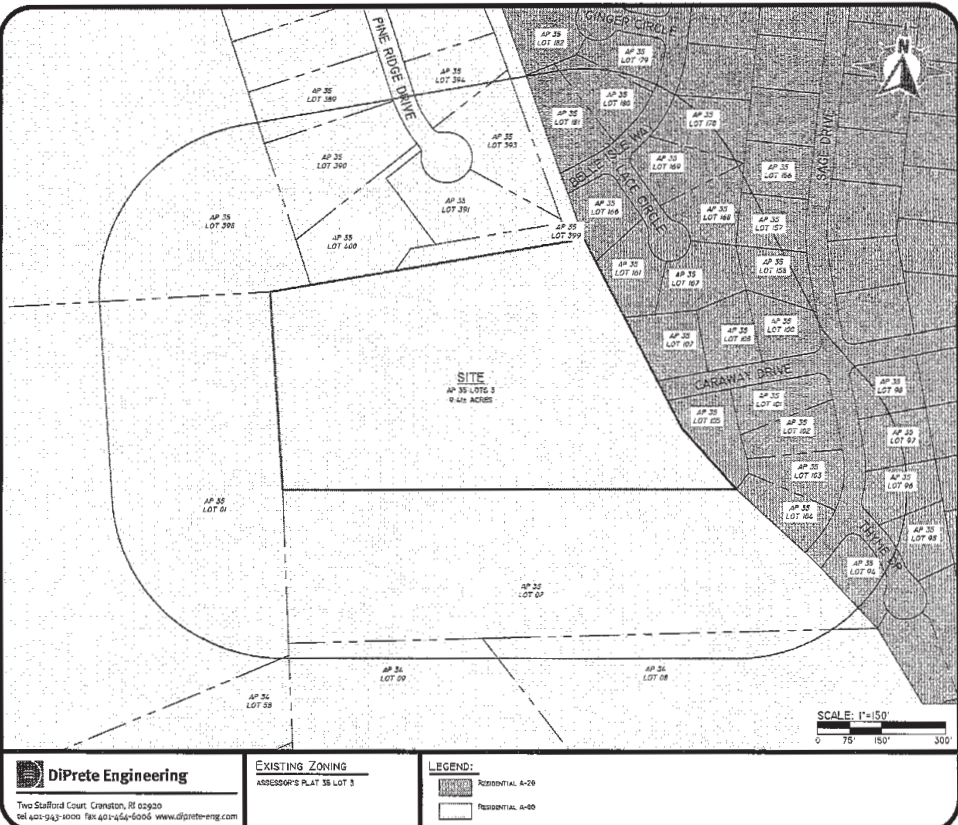
All interested parties will be given an opportunity to speak on the proposed amendments during the public hearings. The proposed amendments may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing, provided that any such alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the public hearing.

Andy M. Andujar, Chair
Ordinance Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

Any person with sensory impairments who will require auxiliary aid during the public hearings must notify the City Clerk's office at least 48 hours before the hearing by calling (401) 780-3194.

1/30, 2/6, 2/13/25



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that PODS ENTERPRISES, LLC, located at 185 Compass Circle, North Kingstown, RI 02852, will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of containers belonging to certain customers that owe PODS rent if payment is not received by March 2, 2025. Auction will be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com starting on March 19, 2025 and ending at 10 AM on March 26, 2025. The following individuals and the respective amounts owed are as follows: Carol Ryan & \$3,192.45.

1/30, 2/6, 2/13/25

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 City Hall
869 Park Ave, Cranston, RI 02910
3rd Floor, Council Chambers

BARONE, SILVANA ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 13, 2025

CORSI, NANCY ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 605 Woodhaven Court, Cranston RI. For purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing February 13, 2025

FUNARO, RAYMOND ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 99 Salem Ave., Cranston RI. For purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing February 13, 2025

MORETTI, MARY A. ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 13, 2025

PERRY, ANN ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 13, 2025

YOUNG, LIZZIE BELL ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 11 Washington Ave., Cranston RI. For purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing February 13, 2025

ANGELOSANTO, NATALINA A. ESTATE
Mary Angelosanto has qualified as Administratrix of the Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

ARPIN, ROBERT H. ESTATE
Lorraine Kitchen and Robert Kitchen have qualified as Co-Executors; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

BOYLE, ELEANOR L. RESIDENT WARD
Thomas W. Boyle has qualified as Guardian of the Person and the Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

FERRARI, ANTHONY N. ESTATE
Paul J. Ricci has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

GROSSI, EDNA ESTATE
Cynthia A. Grossi has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

HUELBIG JR., RAYMOND M. ESTATE
Shawnn Huelbig has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

MANERA JR., JOSEPH C. ESTATE
Marie A. Manera has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

MANN, ROBERT BARNEY ESTATE
Dana Harrell, Esq. has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

PALUMBO SR., ROBERT JOSEPH ESTATE
Robert J. Palumbo, Jr. has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

PILKINGTON, ELIZABETH RESIDENT WARD
Colleen Elizabeth Ray has qualified as Guardian of the Person, Residential, Finances and Association; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

QUIXAN CASTRO, MARCELINO RESIDENT MINOR
Manuela Pu Saban has qualified as Guardian of the Person & Estate. creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

QUIXAN CASTRO, ABELINO RESIDENT MINOR
Manuela Pu Saban has qualified as Guardian of the Person & Estate. creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

SANTOS JR., ANTONY ESTATE
Michael A. Saint has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

SQUILLANTE, RICHARD O. RESIDENT WARD
Frank Manni, Esq. has qualified as Temporary Guardian of healthcare and residency only.

TAVAREZ-MACKENZIE, ARES ANGEL ESTATE
Linsey Tavarez has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

TILLINGHAST, SR., GARALD MARTIN ESTATE
Helen P. Pirri has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning January 30, 2025

WARNER, GLORIA P. ESTATE
David M. Blanding Jr., has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required

by law beginning January 30, 2025

Individuals requiring assistive listening 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.

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

1/30, 2/6/25



CITY OF CRANSTON REQUEST FOR CONTRACTORS FOR RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Cranston Department of Community Development is seeking qualified contractors for inclusion on its bid list for its housing rehabilitation programs. Contractors needed for this list include: general, electrical, plumbing, heating, masonry and septic/sewer line contractors. This program is funded by the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Contractors responding must have a Rhode Island license and registered with the State Board of Contractor's Registration, a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator license and carry liability and workers compensation insurance.

Applications for this program are available at the Department of Community Development, 35 Sockanosset Crossroad Unit #6, Cranston, RI 02920 and also on the City's Website at www.cranstonri.gov.

For further information please contact the Department of Community Development at 401-780-6240. Minority, women-owned, and Section 3 businesses are encouraged to submit applications.

Kenneth J Hopkins, Mayor
City of Cranston

Ernest Tommasiello, Director
Department of Community Development

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.org

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
asburyumc.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.christadelphia.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
thewordoflife.net

Opening volleys as Trump takes office again

STORY OF THE WEEK: If the past week tells us anything, here are a few starting points: 1) Democratic-leaning states like Rhode Island are in no way immune from the changes emanating from the White House under President Trump; 2) The policies being put into place pose a mix of uncertainty and very tangible effects; and 3) the long-term political fallout is anyone's guess.

The whirlwind was front and center last Wednesday. U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner was among the Democrats responding to a Trump administration freeze on trillions of dollars in federal loans and grants. (Congress made it illegal in 1974 for presidents to refuse to spend appropriated funds.) During a news conference at his Warwick office, Magaziner called Trump's move part of an effort to implement Project 2025 – the controversial policybook that 47 tried to distance himself from during the campaign last year.

A short time later, reports surfaced that the White House had rescinded its freeze on grants and loans. Trump's press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, chimed in to say it wasn't a rescission of the freeze, "It is simply a rescission of the OMB memo. Why? To end any confusion created by the court's injunction."

Leavitt's tweet quickly gained notice in U.S. District Court Judge Jack McConnell's Providence courtroom as he considered a temporary restraining order requested against the Trump administration by attorneys general from 23 states, including Rhode Island's Peter Neronha.

Local nonprofits were among those troubled by the uncertainty and possible funding cut emanating from Washington. And while the funding freeze was held at bay in the short term, the clash marked another opening volley in the early weeks of the presidential administration. According to a White House news release, "the Golden Age of America is upon us."

Back in Warwick, speaking almost exactly three years after he announced his run in CD2, Magaziner pledged a vigorous response by Democrats. He also predicted Trump could face a rude awakening ahead of mid-term elections in 2026, since the GOP holds just a three-seat margin in the U.S. House and may need Democratic votes to fund the government or other key measures.

"If they keep this stuff up, public opinion is going to shift against them dramatically," Magaziner said, asserting that proposed cuts to Medicaid and the blanket pardon of Jan. 6 rioters are very unpopular.

NOMINEES: U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse last week told Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the controversial nominee to lead Health and Human Services for the Trump administration, "Frankly, you frighten people" due to his lengthy record of opposing vaccines. After Kennedy pledged to work with Whitehouse in addressing concerns on funding through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Whitehouse said he's learned that such pledges from nominees amount to zero. Whitehouse's skeptical line toward Kennedy comes about a week after some Democrats expressed concern about how he would vote on the controversial nominee.

THE OPPOSITION: As the Trump administration settles in, should elected officials in Rhode Island sharply resist or pursue a more diplomatic approach in the hopes of maintaining a better stream of federal dollars? It hardly seemed coinci-

dental that California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, is seeking to improve his relationship with Trump as the Golden State reels from wildfires. Perhaps the importance of federal money – which forms close to half of the state budget in Rhode Island – explains why Gov. Dan McKee's office issued a low-key release earlier this week indicating how "state agencies are actively reviewing all programs and investments, both current and projected, that rely on federal funding to determine the true extent of this order and to take steps to optimize the continued flow of these funds wherever possible." By contrast, AG Peter Neronha and members of the congressional delegation responded more sharply.

Where Democrats stand will be a bigger issue as we head into the 2026 campaign season. In a statement made when the freeze was still in place, Georgia Hollister Isman, regional head of the progressive Working Families Party, said in part, "With the stroke of a pen, Trump and his billionaire loyalists are robbing cancer patients of medication, families of food and Americans of paychecks for serving our communities." She added, "There's sides to this fight," asserting that McKee and other leaders "need to prove that Rhode Island's government is ready and willing to fight for working people."

DEMOCRATS IN THE WILDERNESS: Via On Point, distributed from WBUR: "Decades ago, Ruy Teixeira famously wrote that a more diverse America would lean heavily Democratic. But as he's watched Donald Trump's rise, he believes it's Democrats themselves who are to blame. Why?" Teixeira's prescription for Democrats comes down to three things: moving to the center on cultural issues, embracing a more patriotic message, and emphasizing an abundance agenda of economic growth for all.

THE DC CRASH: Accidents happen even under the best of circumstances and it will take time to identify the cause of the heart-breaking collision between a regional airliner and a military helicopter that claimed the lives, among more than 58 others, of Spencer Lane, a promising 16-year-old ice skater from Barrington, and his mother, Christine. Without evidence, President Trump blamed DEI programs that existed before he took power. Emerging clues "suggest that multiple layers of the country's aviation safety apparatus failed," The New York Times reported, citing "flight recordings, a preliminary internal report from the Federal Aviation Administration, interviews with current and former air traffic controllers and others briefed on the matter."

HOSPITALS: California-based Prospect Medical Holdings hopes to receive approval in U.S. Bankruptcy Court on Feb. 6 to sell the assets of Pennsylvania-based Crozer Health to a not-for-profit consortium. If that move wins a green light, it would seem to augur well for the planned sale of Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence to the Atlanta-based Centurion Foundation.

RESEARCH BLOCKED: The National Institutes of Health abruptly canceled long-scheduled grant review panels and ceased external communication, with little expla-

TALKING POLITICS



by
IAN
DONNIS

nation, reports my colleague Nina Sparling: "Dr. Philip Chan, associate professor at Brown University and chief medical officer at Open Door Health, a Providence clinic, said he had 'not seen anything like this before' and that it 'saddens' him to see research-based clinical and public health institutions 'undermined and chipped away at.' His research projects have received millions in NIH funding in recent years, dollars that allow him to employ teams of researchers and cover hard costs like equipment. Chan said that if he lost grant funding, it would put dozens of jobs on the line. And he's not alone. Between 2019 and 2023, the most recent year for which data are available, researchers in Rhode Island received roughly \$250 million a year in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health. Nearly 55% of those dollars went to researchers at Brown University, supporting inquiry into issues ranging from overdose prevention to Alzheimer's to HIV prevention."

HOUSING: On the surface, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. is more understated than his father, the former mayor, but he shows the same kind of willingness to make bold use of his power. The latest example is the Polisena-backed plan to use eminent domain to seize the land where a developer plans a 250-plus unit affordable-housing development. Housing advocates say the development is badly needed, while Polisena says it would strain municipal resources.

The clash has broader implications. Helena Foulkes, who cultivated a political relationship with Polisena, "does not agree with this approach," according to her campaign. Meanwhile, House Speaker Joe Shekarchi, a potential candidate for governor, remains opaque on what would cause him to take a more punitive approach to communities that resist efforts to add housing.

Mayor Polisena and the Johnston Town Council acted in what they believe was in the best interests of the citizens of their community," Shekarchi said in a statement. "However, I hope Johnston and every community in Rhode Island look to create more affordable-housing opportunities to address the ongoing housing crisis. I would encourage Johnston to consider repurposing the existing police and fire buildings, once vacated, for affordable housing."

RI POLI-MEDIA-LITERARY PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: Bay State political maven Joe Caiazzo, who ran U.S. Sheldon Whitehouse's 2018 campaign, has a new consulting shop, 1788 Media. According to Politico, the launch "is the latest sign that Democrats are reorienting themselves in the second Trump era and beginning to chart a path back to power." Congrats to PR man Chris Raia and his better half, long-time state government stalwart Brenna McCabe, on the arrival of Casey McCabe Raia Congrats, too, to my friend Christina Bevilacqua on being named executive director of LitArtsRI Frank Karpinski, executive director of the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island, is set to retire at the end of the fiscal year after more than three decades on the job. In a statement, General Treasurer James DiOSSa said, "Frank's tenure and contributions to ERSRI and the state have been remarkable. His

unparalleled knowledge and insightful guidance have been essential in ensuring our continued focus on serving ERSRI members and all Rhode Islanders. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication and leadership throughout his tenure, and we look forward to ensuring a seamless transition as we search for a new executive director."

SINGLE-PAYER: Will growing frustration with the insurance industry eventually lead to more support for a single-payer health care plan? If you ask state Sen. Linda Ujifusa (D-Portsmouth), who, like her husband, Dr. Mark Ryan, is a big supporter of the concept, the answer is 'yes.' Asked how she would pay for the change, Ujifusa offered this response on Political Roundtable: "It's already being paid for, believe it or not. We pay twice per capita what other industrialized countries pay for health insurance. And they have better health outcomes. They see their doctors more. They stay in the hospital more. They are not having hospitals go out of business. And so, you know, we are already paying for it. We pay about \$11,000 per person. And Canada pays about, I think, \$5,500. So we're paying for it already through taxes that pay for things like Medicaid, or the VA or whatever, and through your premium payments."

MEDIA NOTES: Joseph F. Nunes, who worked for the Hartford Courant for 38 years, offers a compelling read on the decline of an American newspaper, dating the turning point to well before the advent of the internet. (Nunes is the uncle of Alex Nunes, interim managing editor at The Public's Radio). Excerpt: "I viewed our collective work at The Courant as a vital social service, the proverbial beacon of democracy cutting through the fog, especially in the wake of Watergate. We kept readers informed about everything, from mundane school lunch menus to scintillating scientific breakthroughs, from late-night zoning meetings to municipal corruption scandals."

We all felt the grandeur of the Courant's unique history – 'Older than the nation, as new as the news,' as the slogan went. In the newsroom, we spoke truth to power, always striving to root out the truth, 'with malice toward none,' as legendary sportswriter Bill Lee titled his column. Every day there would be something in the newspaper, however innocuous, that would change people's lives, I often reminded colleagues. And that would be validated time after time." Dan Kennedy reports on the AP leaving the Massachusetts Statehouse ... A Rhode Island chapter of Press Forward – meant "to cultivate civically engaged and well-informed communities across Rhode Island by supporting diverse, reliable local news and information sources" – has been approved, via an announcement from the Rhode Island Foundation and the van Beurden Charitable Foundation.

GINAWORLD: Gina Raimondo's post-Biden life is starting to come into focus with a gig as a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

NIGHT MOVES: Can perpetually cash-starved Providence boost its appeal and revenue with a more effective approach to nightlife? That's the subtext of a new report billed as the first of its kind by Mayor Brett Smiley's administration. Among the findings: one-third of Rhode Island's bars and clubs are in PVD, and the sector supports thousands of jobs and more than \$600 million in annual direct spending impact.

■ Golf

(Continued from page 1)

for the Mulligan's Island project.

Any development moving forward will need City Council approval because of that special zoning, Ashman said.

The 12-acre ribbon of land along the access road to the property – currently in use as a par-3 golf course – is state owned and would not be part of any development, she said.

The workshop will be jointly held by City Council and the City Plan Commission to discuss the redevelopment proposal for Mulligan's Island and hear public comment it.

Ashman encourages residents to share their comments and thoughts on the project in the upcoming workshop.

The Planning Department will also take written comments if people wish to participate in that way. Just email planning@cranstonrr.org.

The public workshop will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4 at Cranston High School East.

■ Eggs

(Continued from page 1)

maintained its biosecurity efforts to protect their flock. Visitors are not allowed into the coop, and strict guidelines to protect birds' health are in effect.

"Although our birds are completely safe and we're totally contained and we practice very heavy biosecurity, the market prices and the competition are still what drives us to set our prices the same way," Stamp stated.

The farm has also begun to implement a limit on egg purchases due to increased demand, a historic occasion for a farm that's been open since 1937.

"This is the first time in all of my years that my dad has ever set a maximum on how many eggs that you can buy. We have a limit of three-dozen eggs for purchase in person, then we have an online ordering where it's a four-dozen limit," she said, adding that customers seem to be treating eggs like gold. "He said that people are hoarding eggs."

Brijette also shared that the farm has witnessed an increasing trend of people attempting to buy large quantities, with some customers requesting as many as 15 dozen eggs at a time. In addition to retail sales, Stamp Farms serves a large wholesale market, including breakfast restaurants.

"We do have a very large wholesale business, so most of the time when a customer is, say, a breakfast restaurant, we have to know if they're getting boxed eggs or loose eggs, there's really big difference and a price difference too. Loose eggs mostly go to restaurants, and all our boxed eggs go to retail customers," she explained.

Despite the market challenges, Stamp Farms' 3,000 Rhode Island



Bob Stamp of Stamp Farms, pictured in this file photo with one of his nearly 3,000 hens, owns the farm that produces several thousand eggs a day. His family recently placed a daily limit on how many dozen eggs a customer can buy due to possible "egg hoarding."

Reds remain healthy, with no signs of avian influenza among their flock. Their farms sees that their free-roaming chickens live happily in the same spacious, cage-free indoor coop, enjoying a vegetarian diet free from hormones and steroids.

Every egg is picked, packed, and delivered fresh—often within a day of being laid—so they stay fresher longer. In some cases, if stored correctly, eggs can last up to two months or longer.

Stamp also wanted to reassure customers about the future of egg supplies.

"I would say that there's no need to hoard eggs. There's not going to be a day when we're all just going to run out. I think people are fearing that all the chickens are just going to die, and the news is making it seem so dramatic," she said. "You should really get only as much as your family needs and that would also help with that skyrocketing price. Because the more people that are hoarding them, the higher the price is going to rise."

Stamp emphasized the safety of their contained birds, and wanted it known that their farm is taking the avian flu as seriously as they can.

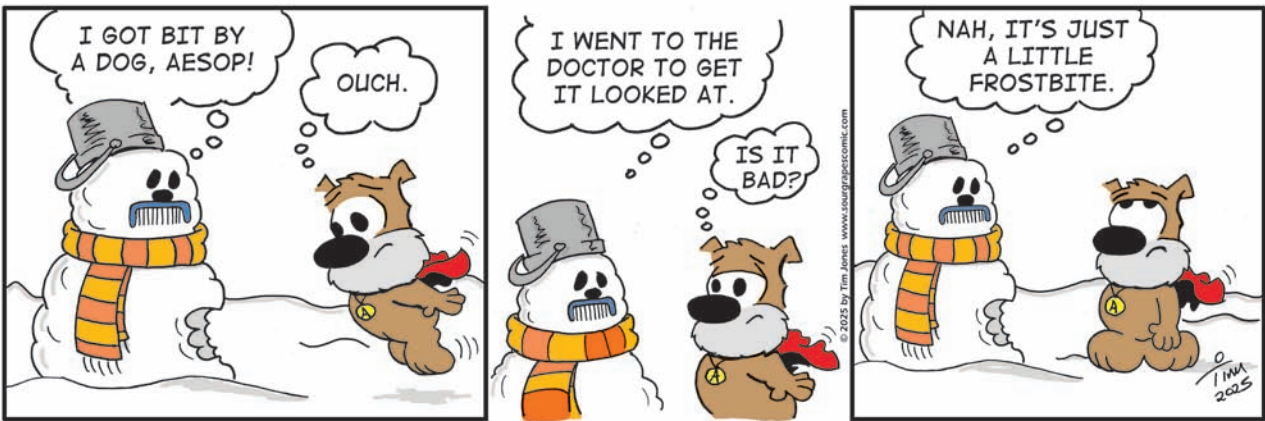
"Readers should definitely know that contained birds are probably the safest of them all," she said. "We're free range, but we're indoors, we're contained."

As the price of eggs continues to rise, with prices starting at the farm starting at \$7.25 for a dozen large brown eggs, Stamp Farms encourages consumers to buy responsibly and avoid panic buying to help stabilize the market.

For more information about Stamp Farms and their store hours, visit www.stampeggfarms.com.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



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Catholic School Week at St. Mary School



Students used their creative talents to thank on active duty with the Navy.

There are always a lot of fun and meaningful activities at St. Mary School, but last week was even busier than usual as the Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools week with events for students, teachers and parents. The week, which ran Jan. 26 – Feb 1, aims to highlight the values-based curriculum rooted in faith and service of Rhode Island's 36 Catholic schools.

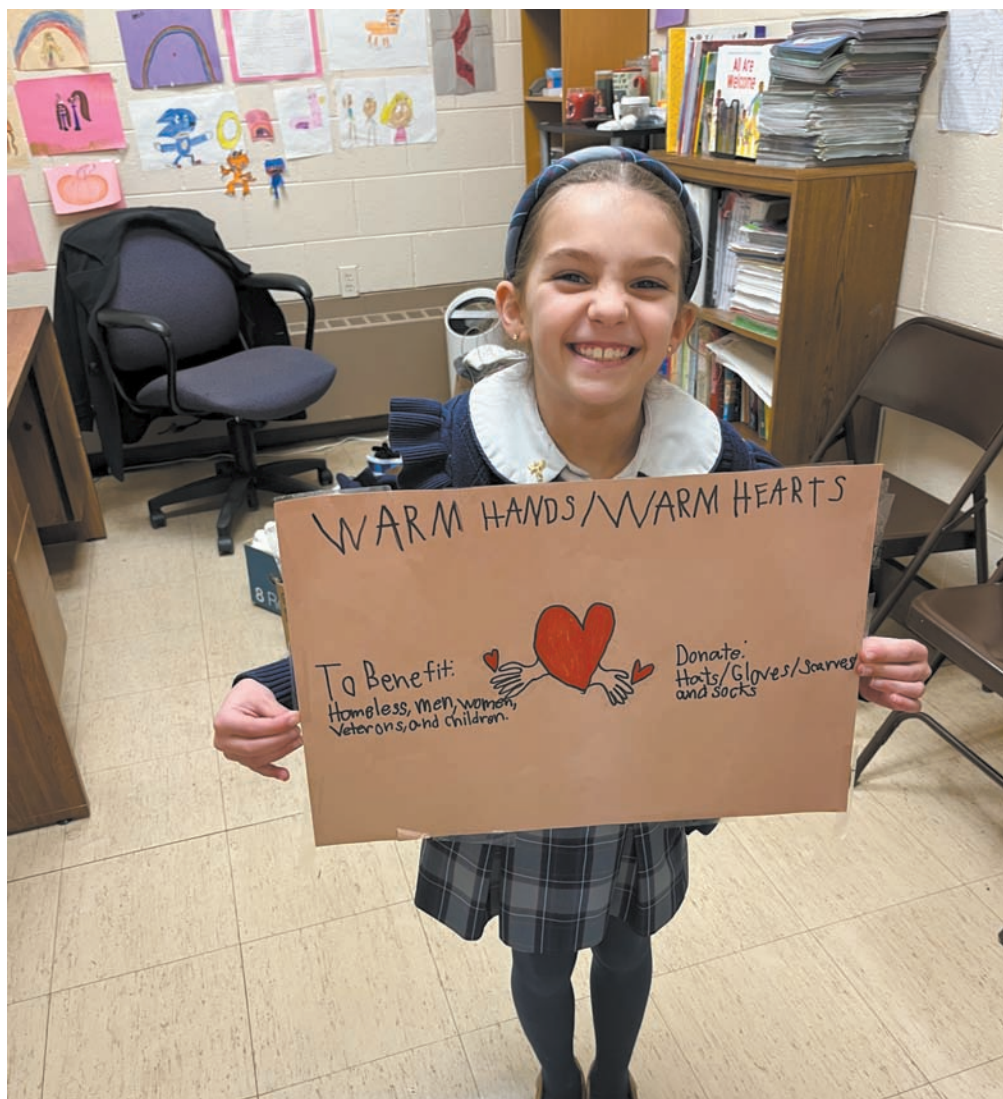
Special events at St. Mary's included a Mass at the start of the week and a closing Italian dinner on Saturday night, with many activities in between. Photos Courtesy of St. Mary School.



Calling all medical professionals. Students imagined what it would be like to be a doctor or nurse.



Calling all medical professionals. Students imagined what it would be like to be a doctor or nurse.



Second annual "warm hands, warm hearts" clothing collection for people dealing with housing insecurity and veterans in need.

New CEO Places Trust In Culinary Experts

By
BARBARA
POLICHETTI

If executive Mick Lamond wants to meet someone for a business lunch, it shouldn't be too difficult. As the new president and chief executive officer of Newport Restaurant group, Lamond has some of the most popular restaurants in the state to choose from – including Avvio Italian restaurant in Cranston, Hemenway's seafood in Providence, and the picturesque cliffside Castle Hill Inn in Newport.

It's more likely, however, that during lunch the low-key Lamond will be at his desk at the company's headquarters in Warwick doing what he does best – strategic planning and financial management of the restaurant group known for its eclectic cuisine and attention to detail.

"I like what I do...and I'm fortunate to be surrounded by wonderfully talented people," says Lamont who joined the Newport Restaurant Group in 2005 as its Chief Financial Officer. He rose to become its executive vice president, and now succeeds the company's long-time CEO, Paul O'Reilly who will stay on to act as a special advisor to Lamond, the company said in a press release.

The restaurant group proudly declares itself "100-percent employee-owned," and Lamond will oversee its portfolio of 17 restaurants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts with an eye toward continued growth.

A Cranston native, Lamond 55, sat down at Avvio Ristorante in the Garden City shopping center last week to talk about his new role, the goals he has for the company and his appreciation for the employees who have made the Newport Restaurant Group a success story. It was clear that the unassuming Lamond was not entirely comfortable being the center of attention.

As its CFO nearly 20 years, he has been responsible for all financial functions of the company and its subsidiaries, as well as the management of the employee stock ownership plan which owns 100-percent of the company stock. A graduate of Bryant University, Lamond has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in taxation. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the RI Society of CPAs (RISCPA).

He said that one of his main goals is to plan the company's future and keep an eye out for expansion opportunities. Another is to make sure that the restaurants continue to make the experience of their guests a top priority.

He credits the management and the staff at each restaurant for the work they do. "I am surrounded by people who are passionate about what they do," he said. "We are all about a commitment to excellence and our people take pride in what they do."



Mick Lamond of Cranston is the new President and CEO of the Newport Restaurant Group. (Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti)



Hart Boyd, executive sous chef at Avvio restaurant working near the wood-fire grill.

The company is proudly employed, a factor that Lamond says helps contributes to its success.



■ RESTAURANT - PAGE 14



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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Paw Print Studio

Tucker

Hi I'm Tucker, king of the "sploot" well sort of, I sit sploot!! I've been described in many ways, a meatball, a goof, playful, big softie, couch potato and a snuggler! My coat is snow white, I'm about three years old and I enjoy playing with toys, leash walks and yummy treats! My best home would be an adult home with a fenced in yard, that's my dream home! I promise to be your loyal, loving buddy and in return all I ask is that you'll love me too! If you'd like to meet me in person, please call the Exeter Animal Shelter at 401-294-2754 and be sure to bring me some yummy treats, that's the way to my heart!

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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Singing, Laughing, Dancing Options for Valentine's Night

By ROB DUGUAY

Valentine's Day tends to garner polarizing reactions. Those in a happy relationship are making plans to do something special with their significant other, while those who are single either poke fun at the day's absurdities, wallow in loneliness or face it with complete indifference. No matter how you're going to be feeling about Valentine's Day, it's on a Friday this year, which means there is fun happening around town. From live music to stand-up comedy, and a dance party there's something for everyone.



BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS (Submitted photo by Jason Siegal)

SOLD OUT
Big Head Todd & The Monsters
Greenwich Odeum
8pm - all ages - \$75 - \$84

Not many bands can say that they've been around for 40 years, but one of the few is Big Head Todd & The Monsters from Boulder, Colorado. Folks might know them from their 1998 collaborative hit "Boom Boom" with blues legend John Lee Hooker or other great tunes like "Resignation Superman" or "Broken Hearted Savior". This show is already sold out, so if you have a ticket, consider yourself lucky.

The Dave Howard Band
Pub On Park
655 Park Avenue, Cranston
8pm - 21+ - \$10

There are a few rock & roll lifers who are around the Ocean State, and Dave Howard is one of them. The Warwick native is the current vocalist for Neal & The Vipers with Rhode Island Music Hall of Famer Neal Vitullo. He also spent time doing the singing for the legendary band Roomful of Blues. Howard and his band will play a proper blend of blues and country with a rock 'n roll spin.



DAVE HOWARD



RECKONERS
The Parlour
1119 North Main Street, Providence
8pm - 21+ \$20 - \$25

Are you interested in a wicked cool show happening at one of the best venues in Providence that's ideal for any fan of blues and soul-tinged rock 'n roll. Reckoners are a supergroup led by guitar phenom Johnny Trama that features some of the best musicians from around the Boston area. Right before they head out on tour with blues-rock legend George Thorogood, Canyon Lights are going to be kicking off the evening in electrifying fashion so make sure to show up on time.

Paul Reiser
Comedy Connection
39 Warren Avenue, East Providence
9pm 18+ \$42

If you are looking for something instead of live music, then how about some laughs? Paul Reiser has been doing comedy since the early '80s and folks might know him from being part of the '90s NBC sitcom "Mad About You", the "Beverly Hills Cop" film franchise or his role as Dr. Sam Owens in the Netflix series "Stranger Things". This show covers what he does best as a stand-up comic. There are still tickets available for his second show. Act fast.



PAUL REISER

Black Valentines Disco Party
Ocean Mist
895 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown
8pm 21+ \$10 - \$20

If by chance you're single this Valentine's Day, then the best way to spend it is by hitting up a dance party at the coolest venue in South County. Couples are welcome as well with a DJ spinning the hottest tunes and the vibe being just right to have a spectacular time. When you're taking a break from dancing, go hang out on the deck and take in a view of the crashing waves.

Almost as fun as shopping at Ann & Hope

I have fully embraced the magic of Amazon, with my Prime membership, nearly everything I need materializes on my doorstep the very next day. Alas, gone are the days of leisurely Friday night shopping sprees at Ann & Hope with my good friend. We would waddle through the aisles after stuffing ourselves with fish and chips and strawberry cheesecake at Chelo's. Thanks to Amazon's online shopping, our beloved girls' night out has been reduced to texting each other. (Plus she has moved to another state.)

After meeting up with friends at Dave's Bar and Grill, Hubby got it in his head that Costco was the place to go for a new refrigerator when ours kicked the bucket. So today we bravely joined the great Sunday migration into the store. I should have known we were in over our heads when we circled the parking lot like vultures, searching for a spot. But in my sheer excitement—visions of bulk bargains and free samples dancing in my head—I ignored the warning signs and charged ahead, straight into the chaos.

First, we had to sign up for a Costco membership with the help of an enthusiastic store clerk who was so cheerful and energetic that I was still grinning like a fool when they snapped my ID photo. Clutching our shiny new cards, Hubby and I eagerly stepped into the throng of Sunday shoppers—and immediately lost each other. Had we stuck together, he'd be hovering over my shoulder, scrutinizing my choices. ("We do NOT need a ten-pound bag of Swedish Fish!" he'd grumble, crushing my bulk-buying joy.) Free to roam, I could shop with reckless abandon, at least until he found me.

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

Costco boasts an incredible amount of selection, offering everything from everyday essentials to the truly unexpected. Among the treasures I found, (but did not purchase) were gigantic tubs of peanut butter, large family sized boxes of cereal, enough olive oil to last a lifetime, enough popcorn to supply a movie theater, an industrial size container of Nutella, whole salmon the size of small sharks, and their famous rotisserie chicken on sale daily for \$4.99. There are chicken meatballs made with alfalfa and dandelions, and real coconuts to drink with a straw. They also have wheels of cheese so huge they could serve as a coffee table, and muffins so large they could each be shared by four people. There are giant containers of laundry detergent, which Hubby purchased to last us all year, along with enough toilet paper and paper towels to reach out to where the fires have recently been extinguished in California.

In the front section are televisions large enough fill my living room wall, reminiscent of the drive-ins I used to go to as a child, (but much, much clearer.) There are refrigerators at reasonable prices with fancy upgrades, such as attached tablets that can be a family calendar and organizer, along with a list of recipes, coupons and re-

bates. New fridges can include an entertainment system streaming music, internal cameras to remotely post pictures of what is inside the fridge for when I go grocery shopping, an easy grocery re-ordering system, and triple cooling systems for produce that keeps the food fresher for longer periods of time, (good-bye limp scallions and celery.)

Costco also has an enormous choice of reasonably priced clothing, such as name brand jeans and shirts, fluffy hoodies and a multitude of underwear. Next to the clothing are a huge variety of books of all sorts for all ages, including the Fantastically Great Women series for my granddaughters. Toys are also sold, such as puzzles with more pieces than I would ever assemble, giant teddy bears six feet tall, and a Bluey house with all the major characters included. For outdoor lovers, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, huge playsets, outdoor games and comfy lawn furniture are sold.

Huge bottles of health and beauty aids line several aisles, including shampoo in bottles the size of fire extinguishers, and vitamins and medicines sold in amounts so large they would not need to be purchased again until the year 2030. Costco also sells diamond rings, designer handbags and luggage, musical instruments such as saxophones and guitars, outdoor greenhouses, inflatable lawn decorations and the materials needed to build a barn.

When Hubby and I finished shopping and finally met up, we enjoyed a hot dog and a refillable soda for only \$1.50, and a piece of pizza almost as large as a whole pizza. Shopping at Costco is almost as much fun as shopping at Ann & Hope.

Ghosts, gags and the bard at Barker

By IDA ZECCO

I Hate Hamlet is a sharp, delightful comedy that has all the right ingredients: a dash of Shakespeare, a pinch of New York theater world satire, and a whole lot of snark. Paul Rudnick’s script delivers zingers faster than you can say “to be or not to be,” with a cast of characters so charming, you almost want to hang out with them, if only to witness more of their deliciously self-absorbed banter.

This play, currently at the Barker Playhouse, centers on a young, TV actor, Andrew Rally, played by David Sackal, who is disgusted by the idea of playing Hamlet in a prestigious New York production. His loathing for the role—combined with his newfound obsession with the ghost of John Barrymore, portrayed by Tim Bric, is the kind of setup that screams for both laughs and existential pondering. It’s as if Shakespeare’s ghost and Broadway’s ego had a baby, and that baby had a few drinks at a party thrown by Noël Coward.

Sackal as Andrew delivers an engaging performance. He captures the character’s confusion and vulnerability with ease. His charm brings the role to life, making Andrew’s journey of self-discovery both humorous and endearing.

Bric is a captivating mix of grandeur and wit to the role of John Barrymore, embodying the legendary actor’s eccentricities with flair. Bric’s performance exudes both humor and gravitas, making Barrymore’s ghostly presence both a comic and poignant highlight of the play.

Deirdre McDavey, Andrew’s girlfriend, is played by Rebecca Bernardo-Hartley. She delivers a sweet as syrup performance, balancing the character’s mix of ambition and romantic longing.

The role of Lillian Troy, played by Carole Collins, is a sharp-witted character commanding presence. She has some of the best comedic lines in the script, however, it was difficult to hear most of them at the back of the house.

Ramon Hernandez plays the character of Gary Peter Lefkowitz, a cocky, pompous television producer, who has given Andrew his first big break. Hernandez balances brash, comedic arrogance with an undeniable charm, making him both amusing and ingratiating.

Felicia Dantine, Andrew’s real estate agent, who claims to be able to speak to the dead is played by Kira Santos. Her over-the-top enthusiasm and belief in the supernatural is both endearing and comical. When done well, Santos adds a delightful spark to the play.

In the words of the legendary actor Ed-



Tim Bric as Barrymore and David Sackal as Andrew in 'I Hate Hamlet.' (Submitted photos by Samantha Hudgins)

mund Gwenn, “Dying is easy, comedy is hard.”

It takes more than a funny script (which this is) to give birth to a successful comedic play. The most difficult role of all to achieve this is the part played by the director. Gia Yarn provides noteworthy blocking and moves the characters around the stage with ease.

Some of the special effects, such as Barrymore’s entrance, added both humor and excitement. What was missing was overall comedic timing. There is as much a cadence and rhythm to comedy as there is to Shakespear’s pentameter/iambic pentameter. Delivering either of these styles, and misplacing the emphasis or rhythm, denies the meaning of the phrase or the landing of the joke. Pauses and silence are considered part of the rhythm, too.

This is not bad acting. It is how to deliver or direct the line to get the most out of it. This production is funny and entertaining. It could be funnier and more entertaining with a better understanding of comedic rhythm.

Lastly, there were a few costume choices that might be reconsidered for the characters of Gary and Felicia: Gary’s evening jacket and Felicia’s sweat suit. Barrymore’s requires men’s ballet slippers, or something cloth that slips onto the foot. Modern tie-shoes spoil the authenticity of the genre.

The beauty of “I Hate Hamlet” lies in its clever self-awareness.

It pokes fun at everything we hold sacred about theater, including its pretentiousness, its eccentricities, and even the very art of acting itself. What’s not to love about a play that lets you chuckle at the absurdities of *Shakespeare*, all while cleverly reminding you why we still put on these ridiculous performances in the first place?

So, yes, Andrew might hate Hamlet. But for the audience, this production is a good romp through the glories and groan-worthy pitfalls of acting, identity, and—of course—some extremely dramatic ghosts.

Where:	The Players Barker Playhouse 400 Benefit Street, Providence
When:	Fri. & Sat. 2/7 & 2/8 at 7:30 p.m. Sun. 2/2 & 2/9 at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets:	\$30/Adults \$20/Students, Military, First Responders
Box Office:	(401) 273-0590 or https://www.playersri.org

Ravel’s ‘Bolero’ Highlights RIPO’S Concert

By DON FOWLER

One of the most familiar pieces in an orchestra’s repertoire, Ravel’s “Bolero,” will be featured at the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Friday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Also on the program will be Jessie Montgomery’s “Rounds” and Rachmaninoff’s “Symphonic Dances.”

The program will be led by guest conductor Anna Handler and feature pianist Awadagin Pratt.

YO-YO MA RETURNS

The orchestra’s Gala Celebration will feature the return of cellist Yo-Yo Ma on Saturday, May 31 at 5:00 p.m, followed by a 7:00 p.m. reception at the Waterfire Arts Center.

Ma has been a friend of the Rhode Island cultural community for many years, having brought his talent to the Philharmonic in addition to performing with FirstWorks in concerts and educational programs.

Tickets for all events are available by calling 248-7000.

PPAC Now Accepting Applications for Arts Scholarships 2025 Program

Middle School Students Encouraged to Apply

The Community Outreach Committee of the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2025 ARTS Scholarships program are now live at ppacri.org/scholarships. This year, 60 to 80 Rhode Island students in the 6th – 8th grades will have the exciting opportunity to receive up to \$600 in scholarship funding to enroll in and attend summer arts-related educational opportunities of their choosing.

Applications and supporting materials must be submitted through the ARTS Scholarships web page no later than 12P on Thursday, March 20. For more information, please contact Ricky Gresh at 401.574.3105 or email scholarships@ppacri.org

Eligible students must reside in Rhode Island and be in grades 6, 7 or 8, or the home school equivalent at the time of submitting their application. Applicants must be interest-

ed in the arts and demonstrate need, financial or otherwise.

Several recipients will receive special memorial Scholarships supported by the DePietoro, O’Donnell, and Ragosta families to carry-on the artistic spirit of their loved ones.

The ARTS Scholarships program is one of PPAC’s Outreach and Engagement initiatives that engage students, educators and families with the arts. These Outreach and Engagement programs are generously supported by PPAC’s Annual Fund, attendees of PPAC’s Annual Gala, and community granting and funding organizations. For more information, visit ppacri.org/outreach.

The ARTS Scholarships program is made possible by the generous support of the Textron Charitable Trust, Ocean State Charities Trust, and PPAC’s Annual Fund donors with support from WPRI 12

The peculiar connection between the Sullivan brothers

John and James Sullivan of Warwick were siblings with five years between them. They may have had a connection, however, stronger than space and time.

The boys were the sons of Daniel Sullivan and Bridget (Riley). Daniel was a peddler and a mule spinner at a local mill while Bridget worked as a mill speeder tender. Besides John and James, the couple had two older children; William and Daniel Jr. In Aug. of 1897, Warwick’s overseer of the poor petitioned the town to have 11-year-old William, 10-year-old Daniel Jr., and 8-year-old John removed from the home of their parents and placed at the Rhode Island State Home & School in Providence. Evidently, 3-year-old James would remain with his parents.

Although the elder Daniel had issues with alcoholism, it seemed he made an attempt to support his family and, at some point, his three children were re-

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

turned to him and his wife. Bridget and the children were living on Phenix Road in Lippitt during the summer of 1904. By that time, Daniel had secured a job in Fall River and resided there for the time being. Bridget visited him when she could.

On June 22 of that year, 15-year-old John was at the Clyde Print Works where he was employed in the dye house. The enclosure was where acids were prepared for the dyes, and the fumes of the concoctions were usually over-whelming. Just after 1 p.m., the other boys working in the dye house watched John walk

over to a packing box, lay down upon it and promptly fall asleep. He slumbered but a few minutes and then got back on his feet, took about 12 steps toward the water tank and fell to the floor unconscious. The dye house foreman rushed to the boy’s side, picked him up and carried him out into the fresh air. A doctor was immediately summoned.

At exactly the same time, 10-year-old James fell unconscious at the Phenix School. Another physician was summoned while James was carried to a nearby home. After a great deal of effort, the physician was able to restore consciousness to James. John, however, could not be roused.

Bridget had left town early that morning to go and visit her husband in Fall River. A telegraph was sent to that city and it was arranged for a carriage to bring the sleeping John back to his home. Late that evening, John finally regained consciousness and appeared to be fine. The

doctor was certain John had suffered due to inhaling toxic fumes from the dye house. As for James, he had gone swimming in the river before going on to school that day and the doctor felt sure that the swim, so soon after breakfast, contributed to his own fainting several hours later. Even those who accepted the doctor’s theories admitted that the timing of the two events was bizarre.

The elder Daniel died at the RI State Infirmary in Cranston at 5:55 p.m. on Nov. 14, 1927. Having been physically sick for five weeks, the 64-year-old finally succumbed to acute alcoholism. Bridget died on June 15, 1934 at the age of 73. They were both buried in St. Ann’s Cemetery in Cranston.

James died at the age of 35 in 1929. John outlived him by 30 years.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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Local punk group mixes fun, poignant messaging

By ROB DUGUAY

Watch the news on television, and you're bound to see something that's alarming to the senses within the first five minutes. Surfing the internet can be even worse with the amount of disinformation. Amid these stressful time, Providence punks The War In Kids released their "Tilting at Windmills" EP on January 20.

Guitarist and vocalist Kevin Silva, drummer Christian Staton and bassist John Staton as the creative core, the band enlisted a few friends to round out the structures and arrangements.

There's a bit of reflection along with commentary on various aspects of the human condition in the 2020s. There's also some hip hop and spoken word elements being incorporated, which is rare to see from a local punk band.

"Super happy to work on this one with the fellas, including our buddy Jarrod Pimentel, who really added a totally different layer on this EP [on guitar]," Silva said. "Having contributions from stellar talent via the likes of Jesse the Tree and Bianca Gouveia from Yonks, and one of my best buds from the comedy world, Alan Sousa, this really was a fun EP to work on. This was in large part to the sweetest and most



THE WAR IN KIDS
(Submitted photo)

radical producer, Andrew 'The Portuguese Tom Cruise' Lima. The messaging of the

album is an old man in crisis, coming both from personal and social realities. Similar

to the old man in 'Don Quixote', it seems like a lot of well-intentioned people, these days, are attacking imaginary enemies."

"Sad and hurtful times, for sure," he adds. "I just hope our silly art can bring some morsel of joy to a world that seems to be quickly becoming very dark and somber. Without hope, all is lost."

The War In Kids already have plans for the next EP.

"There's a line on the EP that says, 'The Devil is right here at home', which is so true," said Staton. "Kevin wrote all of the lyrics and the social messaging is something that our band stands for. Musically, the new songs are really fun to play and Andrew is a saint for helping us put everything together. Now it's time to start writing the next one."

That hip hop element is courtesy of Jesse the Tree in "Stone Swallow", which also incorporates that reflective vibe as well. "Something Special" has Gouveia trading vocal duties with Silva, while "Anxiety Sucks" has Sousa reciting a poem that goes into a fully amplified tune. "Simple Jack" and the title track fill out the remainder of the EP, and to give it a listen, look it up on Spotify. It's a great punk record that doesn't take itself too seriously while relaying a seriously uplifting message.

Cranston/Warwick Restaurants Featured in Providence Restaurant Weeks

By DON FOWLER

The Providence Restaurant Weeks has grown to over 60 restaurants, including five winners from Cranston and Warwick.

You have through February 8 to take advantage of some great specials.

AVVIO in Garden City offers a three-course dinner for \$42 which includes braised beef, swordfish and fra diavolo (Joyce's favorite). We enjoy the food, atmosphere and service at one of the finest Italian restaurants in the state.

LEGAL SEAFOODS, also in Garden City has a luncheon special which includes the excellent stuffies or chowder and fish sandwich for \$25.

IRON WORKS on Jefferson Blvd in Warwick has a two-course dinner for \$29.95 which includes the best meatloaf in RI, wrapped in bacon and tasty as can be, plus many of their signature dinners including salmon, my second favorite. You can add dessert for \$6.

TAVOLO, across from the airport in Warwick is nothing like an "airport restaurant" but rather a homey neighborhood Italian restaurant. They have a full-course lunch including my favorite braised beef for \$19.95.

February in years past

20 Years Ago

It was 2005 and this is what was happening in the world of entertainment:

The Rhode Island Philharmonic, under the baton of conductor Larry Rachleff, featured Dvořák's Symphony No. 7 in a concert at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Trinity Rep presented "Moliere Impromptu," directed by Christopher Bayes and starring Fred Sullivan Jr. as Moliere.

Will Smith starred in the enjoyable romantic comedy, "Hitch." IMAX Theatre had a 3D nature movie, "Aliens of the Deep." Ethan Hawke played a detective in "Assault on Precinct 13." Ice Cube starred in the awful "Are We There Yet?"

Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet held a two-night Mardi-Gras celebration with Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys heading the Cajun/Zydeco party.

Subway opened on Park Ave. in Cranston, offering "free food" from 6-8 p.m.

"Defending the Caveman" was at PPAC.

"Red Noses" starring Tony Estrella and Wendy Overly was at Gamm, which was still in Pawtucket.

"Sesame Street" was at PPAC featuring Big Bird.

"The Little Foxes" was at the old 2nd Story Theatre.

40 Years Ago

Fanny's Fireside Inn in Warwick had Breakfasts for \$1.95 and complete dinners for \$4.45. Remember Mama Spumoni's in Warwick?

Capriccio was celebrating its eighth anniversary.

Frank Garish and David Wagner of Cranston starred in "Euripodes" at URI Theater.

Anthony Quinn starred in "Zorba" in Boston. He was living in Rhode Island.

"The Breakfast Club" was the big hit at the movies and became a cult classic.

REO Speedwagon was at the Providence Civic Center. Tickets were \$11.50 and \$12.50.

The Glen Miller Orchestra was at the Rocky Point Palladium.



Lamond at Avvio Ristorante in Cranston, one of 17 dining locations owned by the restaurant group.



Mixing it up at the Avvio bar.



Avvio employee David Rivoli making pizzas.

■ Restaurant (Continued from page 11)

Lamond said that maintaining that commitment to excellence is the result of hiring good people, the culture of being employee-owned, and the fact that each manager is given autonomy in running their respective restaurants.

The group employs about 1,700 people during peak season and its restaurants cover a wide variety of cuisines and many of them are eclectically mixes of different cultural culinary influences. In Newport, its venues include Castle Hill Inn, Bar'Cino, The Bohlin, The Mooring, 22 Bowen's Wine Bar & Grille, Aurelia, La Vecina, and Smoke House. In Providence, it owns Hemenway's and Waterman Grille, and other restaurants include the Boat House in Tiverton, Avvio in Cranston, Celeste in Narragansett, and Iron Works in Warwick. In Massachusetts, it owns Papa Razzi in Wellesley, and Bar 'Cino locations in Brookline, Watertown, and Westwood.

Asked if he has favorite, Lamond says, 'no,' but acknowledges that the historic Castle Hill Inn is a special place that draws visitors from around the world.

Reilly said he has total confidence that Lamond is the right person to lead the Newport Restaurant Group forward. "I am confident that Mick possesses the necessary leadership, vision, and financial acumen to drive the company forward in a thoughtful and strategic way," Reilly said in a statement.

Lamond, who grew up in Cranston's Stadium neighborhood off Park Avenue, says his family growing up didn't go out to eat much when he was younger. And even now, he it would not consider himself a "foodie," or epicurean adventurer.

Fortunately, that is not an impediment to his job, he says, because the restaurant group has top chefs and a culinary director who manage the kitchen side of operations. That does not mean, however, Lamond said, that he is completely hands off. He enjoys patronizing the restaurants when he can, and admits to loving "steak, Italian food and dessert."

"There is so much creativity in this business," he said. "And I think we are always our own harshest critics. We are always looking to see what we can do better."

The father of four grown children, Lamond and his wife, Gloria, now live in western Cranston, not far from where Avvio is located, and he says they do enjoy stopping by occasionally for dinner or lunch.

And if he has an opinion on a menu item he like to see added or changed? For the most part, Lamond says he's likely to keep that to himself, reiterating the fact that the autonomy of each individual restaurant is one of the Newport Restaurant Group's greatest strengths.

"I have been fortunate to participate in (this company) and experience its growth and success over the last 20 years," Lamond says. "I really enjoy being part of a great company."

For more information about the Newport Restaurant Group and its venues, visit newportrestaurantgroup.com.

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Oscar Week at Turner Classic Movies

By DON FOWLER

More Oscar-winning films are planned this week on Turner Classic Movies.

“The Three Faces of Eve” starring Joanne Woodward and Lee J. Cobb as her psychiatrist (1957) will be shown Friday, Feb. 7 at 8:00 p.m.

“Places in the Heart” (1984) starring Sally Field is one of my Top Ten movies of all time...one of the few movies that brought tears to my eyes. It will be shown Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8:00 p.m.

“To Kill a Mockingbird” (1957) starring Gregory Peck, one of the best films of all times, will be shown Sunday, Feb. 9 at 8:00 p.m.

NETFLIX

THE MENU

One of the eeriest movies we have ever seen starring Ralph Fiennes as a top chef who invites a dozen guests to his island restaurant, where he has something special in store for each one of them.

This haunting, eerie, unpredictable movie will have you guessing and possibly losing your appetite.

I watched it again after seeing it about a year ago. If you want something very different, check it out on the Netflix menu.



Sally Field won her second Oscar for her work in the 1984 film 'Places in the Heart.'

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6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

By JENNIFER COATES

Dreamland Learning Center, a creative and cheerful childcare center on Hartford Avenue in Johnston, is a bright and welcoming place where learning is fun and where every space was designed to enrich the growing minds of the many children who come here. This learning center was opened in 2015 and has been evolving and expanding ever since to meet the needs of today's modern family.

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners, while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn

with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music, and story time. The outside playgrounds provide the perfect place for youngsters to run off all that childhood energy. The after-school room is set up with long tables for homework time.

As parents visit the center, they will find attentive caregivers tending to a sunny room of infants while elsewhere, toddlers are toddling, preschoolers are exploring, and rooms await the before & after-school crowd of students which arrives here every day. Each day at this sparkling clean and whimsically decorated center is filled with activity, learning, discovering and yes, even dreaming!

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict

standards of the state while all staff are licensed and CPR certified. The staff here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship. The center is also highly “Bright Star” rated.

The team at Dreamland is always vigilant in their efforts to stave off all sicknesses. All common spaces are regularly sanitized with an emphasis on frequent hand washing! You can be assured that your child is in a safe, secure, and happy place!

Dreamland Learning Center is accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12 years of age. After school programs are in session. The center is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, to discuss your questions or concerns, call the office at 401-280-1400 or visit their website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com. Rhode Island state subsidies are accepted!

Be sure to check out the other Dreamland Learning Centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).



Be sure to check out the other Dreamland Learning Centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

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Sports

Unbeaten Bolts eye division title

East wrestling takes another step forward this winter

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Sports Editor

The Cranston East wrestling team has enjoyed a big season as it entered the week with a perfect 8-0 record and the favorite to take home the Division III title. The Bolts are also looking to make some noise at the upcoming Division II/III Championships and possibly send grapplers to the state championships later this month in Providence.

Leading the way for East has been the team's lone senior in Aquaves Roberson. Roberson has won all but one match this winter and is aiming for a title in the DII/DIII tournament and reaching the podium at states.

"He's been reliable and a few of our matches have come down to him getting the win. He's been one of those guys that the weight on his shoulders really doesn't bother him. I have really high hopes for him



■ TITLE - PAGE 18 Cranston East's Keldy Garcia (left) and Aquaves Roberson (right). Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

Roundup: Vitale highlights big performances at class meet

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League Indoor Track & Field Class Championships were held last weekend in Providence and several locals made some noise. Here is a look at some of the results from the event:

GIRLS

Cranston West's Reece Vitale won the 55 hurdles and later took third in the long jump for the Falcons.

Keaney Bayha won the 3,000 meter run

and the 600 run for Pilgrim and later took second in the 1,500. Toll Gate's Vanessa Jones won the weight throw

BOYS

Cranston West's Ryan Stoloff took third in the 300 dash

Jack Moretta won the 3,000 meter run for Bishop Hendricken while Colby Flynn took first in the 1,500. Toll Gate's Kevin Barker took first in the high jump event and Pilgrim's Brandon Wolfenden won the shot put.

■ VITALE - PAGE 18

Athlete of the Week: Reece Vitale

The Cranston Herald's Athlete of the Week is West track standout Reece Vitale. Vitale had a big outing last weekend at the RIIL Class Championships, taking first place in the 55 meter hurdles then third in the long jump for the Falcons. Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller



Cranston East's Alex Fernandez. Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller

Bolts stay in playoff hunt

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Sports Editor

The Cranston East boys basketball team is battling for a Division II playoff spot and helped its cause when it completed a 58-49 comeback win over visiting Cumberland last week.

The Clippers would mount a six-point lead midway through the third quarter, but

the Bolts would catch fire down the stretch to run away with the much-needed win. The Bolts were led by Alex Fernandez, who scored 14 of his game-high 20 points in the second half, including three 3-pointers. Mohammed Guey added 15 points and Darien Peterson scored 11 in the win as well.

After a slow first half, the Bolts would

■ BOLTS - PAGE 20

Park View rights ship this winter

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Sports Editor

The Park View boys basketball team turned things around this season and is looking forward to a bright future as a feeder system to Cranston East.

After winning just one game last winter, Park View finished this year's campaign with a 6-4 record and just missed the playoffs.

With a big eighth grade core and a commitment to building a new culture on and off the court, Park View enjoyed one of its better seasons in recent years.

"They only had one win last year but when I went into tryouts, I saw that they had talent. They've come a long way and became a basketball team," said new Park View coach Tyler Ceseretti. "We've just tried to keep our structure, trying to keep the best practice structure and be a family."

The new staff has also focused on the players taking things one play at a time and being mentally tough on a nightly basis.



■ PARK - PAGE 20 The Park View Middle School boys basketball team. Submitted photo

Funding NOAA is good for fish, good for economy

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Last week President Donald Trump put a hold on federal spending and then rescinded the order as Americans were outraged at the number of people and institutions that the executive order would impact negatively. The order put the brakes on funds approved by Congress including grants, loans and other financial assistance programs. The order was vaguely written and had the potential to impact a wide range of federal funding for states, universities, institutions, and nonprofits. Fisheries related programs our industry relies on to drive our state economies in Rhode Island and Massachusetts would have been impacted greatly and are still being hurt by efforts to reduce funding for NOAA Fisheries and dismantle research programs pertaining to sea level rise, warming water, ocean acidification, shifting stocks, and other impacts.

According to Fisheries Economics of the United States, recreational fishing in Massachusetts contributes \$931 million in sales impact to the economy annually and in Rhode Island recreational fishing sales impact is \$419 million annually.

NOAA Fisheries, empowered by the fishing law of this nation, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, has a job to do. Its normal funding for 2025 has not been approved yet, never mind funds for 2026. The rescinded executive order is just an example and the tip of the iceberg as important fishery research relating to shifting stocks, warming water, sea level rise and other climate related impacts have been cut or promises have been made by the Administration to cut such funding and it is a mistake.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island rely heavily on recreational fishing to drive our state economies. Recreational fishing is big business in our states, and it is being hurt by reduced and staggering funding of NOAA Fisheries and badly needed research and stock assessments.

To achieve sustainable fisheries, we need to invest in NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency that oversees the recreational and commercial fishing businesses. This is particularly true today as sea level rise and warming



John Migliori with his first fish of 2025, a golden trout caught at Melville Pond, Portsmouth. The Department of Environmental Management stocked thirteen waterways with trout and salmon in January. Submitted photo

water is changing our shoreline, habitat, and the fish available to catch in our area.

NOAA Fisheries, with its mission to produce fisheries science and conduct sustainable management, has a significant impact on our fish populations—from producing high quality stock assessments to keeping catch at sustainable levels, to protecting and restoring fish habitat. It is critical that NOAA has the funding needed to fulfill its stewardship and management role as well as capacity for ecosystem-based fisheries management, enhanced research and stock assessments due to warming water and the geographic shifts in bait and fish stocks.

We need to provide NOAA Fisheries with full funding for both 2025 and 2026. Appropriations support is needed along with support for funding initiatives that will lead to

long-term sustainable management as it readies our fisheries for the impacts of warming water and sea level rise. Fully funding NOAA Fisheries will keep this recreational fishing economic engine running.

Fortunately, our Congressional delegations from Massachusetts and Rhode Island have been very supportive of NOAA Fisheries' budget. I urge anglers, recreational industry businesses and all members of Congress and the Administration to support NOAA's budget and related fisheries research.

We need to do this for fish, and the economy.

Freshwater fly tying classes

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) will hold four classes under two separate registrations on freshwater fly tying on Feb. 25 and March 4, followed by

a second class on March 25 and April 1. The class will use natural or synthetic materials to mimic the organic food of the fish. Classes will allow students to learn the techniques and skills to tie streamers, nymphs, emergers, and dry flies.

The classes start in Hope Valley, RI at 3:30 p.m. and run 90 minutes. The classes run for two consecutive weeks on Tuesday's, Feb. 25th and March 4th or March 25th and April 1st. In case of severe weather, the in-

structor will make a judgement on the side of safety and reschedule the class to April 8th.

Classes are restricted to ten students, aged 12 years and older. Registration is required and it closes the first day of class. The cost for two classes is \$33.85 and can be paid online upon registration.

Lead Instructor Jeff Perry is past President of United Fly Tyers of RI, a Lifetime member of Trout Unlimited, a Certified Casting Instructor and a

Bronze Certification Tyer for Fly Fishers International, an active member of Rhody Fly Rodders, a volunteer instructor for the RI Dept of Environmental Management Aquatics Education Division, a L.L. Bean Casting Instructor and he holds a Masters in Education.

To register, visit Events | WPWA and for information email Kassi@wpwa.org.

Where's the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and few smaller charter boats continue to fish for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island waters. Fishing Machine Charters, Pt. Judith, RI at www.fishingmachinecharters.com has been hooking up with cod in the Cox Ledge wind farm area and is running open boats so you might be able to get a single spot on the vessel. Larger party boat vessels generally sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit www.islandcurrent.com and www.francesfleet.com. Fishing. Full day rates for party boat vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Freshwater fishing. For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) stocked thirteen waterways last week for updates visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Dave Monti holds a master captain's license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net or visit www.no-flukefishing.com.

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Koppen named head football coach at La Salle

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Br. Dennis Malloy, FSC, President of La Salle Academy is thrilled to announce Dan Koppen as the new Head Coach of the La Salle Academy Football Program. Coach Koppen was chosen to lead the 116-year-old football program, after a nationwide search led by a committee that represented the La Salle Academy community and family.

Coach Koppen brings an incredible depth of football knowledge and experience to the vaunted maroon juggernaut program. A two-time member of Super Bowl winning teams, the former center, said, "During my 11 years in the NFL, I had the privilege of working alongside some of the most talented players and coaches in the sport. Being part of these great teams taught me invaluable lessons about leadership, teamwork and perseverance. I am eager to bring these experiences and values that I've embraced to La Salle Academy where my coaching philosophy aligns seamlessly with the school's commitment to excellence both on and off the field." Koppen added, "As existing members of this school community, we chose this exceptional school for our kids based on its academics and community, long before the coaching position was an opportunity."

Josh McDaniels, offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots offered this about Coach Koppen, "He embodies so many of the incredible traits that a successful football coach must have. He was a flag carrier for our culture... He was one of our hardest workers. He is unselfish and put the team first in everything he did. He is an elite communicator who helped all others do their jobs well around him."

Bill O'Brien, Head Football Coach, Boston College, emphasized, "Dan would be a great head coach at La Salle because he would have a unique ability to connect with the kids on the team. He has experienced so many different things in football at every level and he would be able to impart all of this wisdom in his players. Dan would have a great impact on their lives and he would be an asset to La Salle Academy."

Coach Koppen's thoughtful approach impressed the search committee with his desire to create a space for athletes to learn high quality football. Koppen added, "I want to build a program that has a high set of standards, clear expectations and strong work ethic. I believe in being a physically and mentally tough football team and we can start establishing that culture in our state-of-the-art weight room. I am excited to get started."

E.G. Morse '88, La Salle Academy Board Member, retired Partner at Goldman Sachs, Princeton Football Alumnus and Providence Journal 1988 Schoolboy Athlete of the Year shared, "If I were sending my son to La Salle Academy or any high school for that matter, Dan Koppen with his strength of character, commitment to excellence and development of the whole student is THE Coach and man I would want my son to play for."

A graduate of Boston College, Koppen is the second Boston College alum to be appointed head coach of the La Salle Football Program. Jack Cronin, another Boston College graduate whose impact at La Salle was such that all the fields at La Salle are named after him, was head football coach for 45 years.

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Pezza earns LEC weekly award for second time

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rhode Island College freshman Qui-ana Pezza (Cranston) was named the Little East Women's Rookie Field Athlete of the Week for her performance at Boston University's John Thomas Terrier Classic on Friday. It is the second time this season that Pezza has received this award.

Pezza finished 14th in the triple jump (10.82m), 29th in the long jump (4.45m) and 69th in the 200m open (26.94). It was an individual meet with no team scoring and featured mostly Div. I and II competition.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the Coast Guard Winter Invitational on Friday, Feb. 7.

Reed earns LEC honors

Rhode Island College freshman Taryn Reed (Pascoag) was named the Little East Women's Swimming Rookie of the Week for her performance in the Anchorwomen's, 136-101, win at UMass Dartmouth on Saturday. It is the second time this season that Reed has received this award.

Reed finished first in the 100-yard backstroke (1:16.34) and second in the 400-yard medley relay (5:53.22), 200-yard backstroke (2:40.12) and 400-yard freestyle relay (4:30.40).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 Little East Women's Swimming and Diving Championship, held at the Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley on Feb. 13-16.

Keyes leads RIC to win

Fifth-year Olivia Keyes (Bridgewater, Mass.) took home first on floor and in the all-around as Rhode Island College finished first (four teams) at a quad-meet hosted by Springfield in National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) action on Sunday afternoon.

Keyes finished tied for ninth on vault (9.550), third on bars (9.575), tied for second on beam (9.725), tied for first on floor (9.775) and won the all-around (38.625) for the third straight week.

Freshman Aaliyah Krause (Milwaukee, Wis.) finished tied for fifth on vault (9.625), tied for fourth on both bars (9.525) and beam (9.675), tied for 10th on floor (9.650) and finished second in the all-around (38.475)

Fifth-year Emma Tucker (Pompton Plains, N.J.) tied for fifth on vault (9.625) and tied for fourth on floor (9.725)

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will travel to Bridgeport for a quad-meet with the Purple Knights, Springfield and Wilberforce on Sunday, Feb. 9 (1 p.m.).



Doug Davila climbs his opponent's back. Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller

Title

(Continued from page 16)

and he can be in the top two or three, be in the finals and maybe even win the DII/III championship. At states, he'll have a chance to place and maybe he can surprise some people and go to New England's," said East coach Ruben Rey.

East has been rebuilding its program the last few seasons after taking a hit during the pandemic. The Bolts had a breakout season last year when it finished 8-3 in the

division and is on track to take another step forward this time around. Although the team will be graduating Roberson, it will be returning a large junior class next season including guys like Sean Mendonca, Kevin Zulu and Cameron Boulanger on the roster.

"If we stay on the steady line that we've been on, things will be good," said Rey. "Most of the kids that we've been pulling in have wrestled club or middle school. It's a tough climb, but if we can consistently be in the top of DIII and win it, we'll be satisfied."

Vitale

(Continued from page 16)

BJ Kerachsky finished second in the 3,000 run for the Hawks, while teammate Elijah Guertin took second in the 55 hurdles. Hendricken's Fred Russell placed second in the 1,500 and Flynn finished second in the 1,000 run. Kayson Kong took second in the shot put for Hendricken. Johnston's Jayden Ponte took second in the Class B shot put.

Hendricken's Jabari Jackson took third in the 55 dash and Moretta placed third in the 1,500. Russell later took third in the 1,000 run and Wolfenden took third in the weight throw. Pilgrim's Hunter Schobel took third in the long jump.

Kerachsky took fourth in the 1,500 for Hendricken and Aidan Brindle took fourth in the 600 for the Hawks. Okah Wali finished fourth in the high jump for Hendricken

while teammate Dimitri Johnston took fourth in the weight throw, and Nathanel Tarlue finished fourth in the long jump.

Ben Williamson took fifth in the 55 hurdles for the Hawks while teammate Rylan Barbato took fifth in the 600. Hendricken's Arion Amoroso finished fifth in the shot put for the Hawks while Ethan Charnley placed fifth in the weight throw.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bay View 56, West 36

The Falcons fell to the Bengals last week in a Division I showdown. Kyla Buco led the team with 16 points scored in the loss.

East Providence 45, East 16

The Thunderbolts fell to the Townies on Monday night. Isabella Dupret led the Bolts with 10 points scored.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Pilgrim 57, West 44

Jake Anzivino led the Falcons with 12 points in their loss to Pilgrim last week. Erick Whitlock and Nate Conca each scored nine points in the loss.

BOYS HOCKEY

BVS 3, Cranston 2

The Falcons dropped a tough loss to Blackstone Valley Schools last weekend.

Jacob Bovay and Jack Fontaine scored goals for Cranston while Aidan Fowler recorded an assist. Bryce Crance stopped 23 of 26 shots faced.

The team beat South Kingstown 4-1 the previous night. Bovay finished with two goals while Devin DeAngelis scored a goal and three assists. Grant Bailey picked up a pair of assists as well. Crance made 17 stops in net to earn the win.

Real Estate Transactions

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26 HighlandAve	Johnson, Regena	Johnson, James R	1/13	\$450,000	110 OverlookDr	Bagley, David	Schmeltz, Jeffrey A and Lawrence, Melody R	1/8	\$805,000
3-A TorchLn	Poli, Francine	Chabot, Steven and Pelletier, Barry	1/17	\$198,000	125 ShawometAve	Burke, Jeffrey	Terrazas, Jacqueline and Terrazas, Samuel	1/13	\$292,500
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135 Pippin OrchardRd	Igliozzi, David V and Igliozzi, Mariesa R	Ruehmer, Christopher J and Kirkland, Kelly A	1/15	\$890,000	200 Post Rd Lot 504	Kean, Joseph E and Kean, Warren E	Russell, Mark	1/10	\$2,600,000
188 OrchardSt	Scanlon, Paul M	Lambert, Benjamin J	1/15	\$378,750	25 WalkerRd	Schofield, Sandra B	Mchale Sr, James S	1/9	\$300,000
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60 MelroseSt	Felino, Carol A	Rosario, Joshua A and Montanez-Montoya, Ivan J	1/13	\$275,000	258 TennysonRd	Degoosh, Katie E	Fleming, Matthew	1/10	\$355,000
75 TallmanAve	Hurley, Ryan K and Hurley, Kelley A	Montecalvo, Aaron G and Montecalvo, Kristen L	1/13	\$508,000	263 Country ClubDr	Lgc Hm Improv & Masonry L	Dinghaus, Petra and Pistel, Matthew R	1/10	\$568,500
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Park View's Jayden Navarrette (above) and Miles DosReis (below). *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



■ Park

(Continued from page 16)

"They're really excited and we've been emphasizing that basketball is a fast game. You need to get to the next play, if you mess up, you need to turn it around the next play. We've been keeping that next play mentality," said Ceseretti.

The team will have its work cut out for it next season as it is saying bye to eight players. However, five players are slated to return along with a new crop of sixth graders, and Ceseretti hopes to continue to

build a long-term contender at the school. "This (year's turnaround) was important. We've had our bumps in the road but we've gotten to them as coaches. Giving them that structure has helped them and I'm excited about getting those five kids back next year and giving them a little more," said Ceseretti.

The Park View roster included: Javian Mendes, Justin Ortega, Kobe Reth, Jayden Navarrette, Miles DosReis, Hunter Stys, Mason Riese, Nicholas Lora, Declan Croke, Mason Sena, Mason DeSouza-Saba, Alijah Martinez, Keanu Delgado Ramos and Devon Berry.

■ Bolts

(Continued from page 16)

clamp down on defense and see their shots begin to fall in the second half to turn things around.

"We had to pick it up. We had to play defense and execute," said Fernandez, who found his rhythm as a shooter late in the third quarter. "I just had to warm up, I warmed up and the plays started working."

"We had to turn up the defensive intensity. It all starts on the defensive end. We had to turn it up on defense and be physical," added Guey. "It's a game of runs. They were more intense and physical in the first half and then we were more intense and physical in the second half."

Although the East trio of Fernandez, Guey and Peterson led the way, the team got some key contributions from the guys behind them. Jeremiah Sainristil added five points while Angel Cabrera hit a big 3-pointer deep in the fourth quarter which put the game out of reach for the Clip-

pers.

"Having the subs, having everyone with different roles on the team, having that depth on the bench, it helps us play harder. It gave us the momentum we needed in the second half," said Fernandez.

The team fell to Tolman the following day and took on Johnston on Tuesday night, but the results were unavailable at press time. The top eight teams in the division make the playoffs, with teams seeded 9-12 competing in play-in games for a chance to reach the postseason. The Bolts sat at 13th prior to Tuesday's game and will likely need to win multiple contests in the final week of the regular season to clinch the 12th spot. East will be taking on Cranston West, North Kingstown, Bishop Hendricken and Scituate to wrap things up.

"This win is great and will take us far. We just need to continue to execute," Fernandez said.

Guey added: "We felt like this team couldn't beat us, this was our playoff game and that lit a fire in us."



East's Mohammed Guey (above) and Jeremiah Sainristil (below). *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



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Snowbirds



Breakfast! Every morning, Bethany Brown tossing bread crumbs to the wild turkeys that come waddling out of the fir glen behind her Phenix Avenue home. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



The big birds, who have become known to children passing by on school buses, didn't seem too crazy about the snow day. The larger bird with feathers flared has been dubbed "Hank" by passing children.

90 days on job, airport security boss quits

By JOHN HOWELL

“By any and all measures he seemed to be pleased with this job,” Rhode Island Airport Corporation spokesman Bill Fischer said soon after Joseph Perkins abruptly quit his job Tuesday as director of airport security.

Perkins, who took the job to run the 27-member airport police force in September, was undergoing certification to be chief. He did not notify superiors of his decision to leave the job, but according to a WPRI story sent a message to his colleagues that airport management was seeking to eliminate the department. He tendered his resignation to State Police Col. Darnell Weaver.

Fischer said Perkins was present at a department directors’ meeting Tuesday morning and apparently went from there to the state police.

“I think we’re all surprised,” Fischer said.

“We have no resignation letter from him or explanation for his decision. There are no plans to eliminate the RIAC police department and the department is properly staffed and able to fulfill its mission. We have had the same staffing levels over the last decade. The department has been and will continue to be led by Senior Vice President of

Operations Duc Nguyen,” reads a statement Fischer released.

But Perkins had issues with RIAC operations.

““Unfortunately everything you suspect about RIAC management is true,” Perkins wrote in the message, claiming management wanted to get rid of the police department and “most of all the union,” WPRI reported.

Perkins offered an explanation in a statement he released to the Warwick Beacon yesterday morning.

“I came from out of state. I knew no one in the state prior to accepting the job and certainly no one at the airport. After 90 days on the job, I quickly surmised that remaining employed at the airport under the current administrative leadership was something I would not do,” he wrote.

He continued, “Unlike most professions, law-enforcement decisions and actions have serious consequences. Walking away and not notifying someone of the issues I observed during my time there is not something my conscience or my professional character and oath would allow. The issues that concerned me are not issues that need to be shared in the media. Based on my experience as a law enforcement professional for over 35 years, I knew the correct way to handle the issues that concerned me – report them to the highest

ranking police officer in the state, Colonel Darnell Weaver.

Allegations that RIAC President and CEO Iftikhar aims to drive out the union and replace personnel with contracted services date back to last spring, when the Local 2873 of RI Council 94 AFSCM in a near-unanimous vote turned down a contract. The bone of contention was over language that would have given RIAC the authority to change job designations without the recourse of a hearing or an appeal. A contract has yet to be resolved.

Also last spring, state and local officials as well as news media outlets, the airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration received anonymous letters that there would be a walkout of RIAC staff on Aug. 13 unless the governor made a change in RIAC management. The letters cited the large number of high-ranking personnel who have left the agency since Ahmad was named to the post nine years ago, and also a toxic work environment.

The airport did not close, nor was there a walkout of personnel. At the FAA’s insistence, RIAC contracted an outside fire protection service, as the airport would have been forced to close had fire personnel not shown up.

Citing the cost of those services, which were not used, and the black eye the anonymous letters gave the airport, the RIAC board approved Ahmad’s request to hunt down the author(s) of the letters and to bring suit. Fischer said Tuesday that investigation is active and ongoing.

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A man with dark, curly hair and a beard, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, is sitting at a desk. He is smiling and looking towards the camera while holding a pair of glasses. In front of him is a large newspaper or magazine with a crossword puzzle visible. To his left is a small potted plant and a yellow cup.

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A man with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, is sitting at a light-colored wooden table. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A white coffee cup is on the table in front of him. In the background, there is a large screen displaying a presentation with colorful graphics.

The school was designed by Fielding International, a globally known architectural firm which specializes in school design. Nathan Streng is a senior learning designer with the firm. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

A large group of children are sitting at small wooden tables in a bright, colorful cafeteria. The walls are decorated with large, colorful circular patterns. The children are eating and talking. A teacher or adult is standing in the background, looking at the children.

The bright and colorful cafeteria.

School

(Continued from page 1)

that he and his staff were happy to welcome their international visitors, and it is hopefully the beginning a connection between the two school communities. He said the educators are talking about ways of having the students connect – possibly by video conferencing. “It is awesome to think that because of our school, we are

connecting with international friends,” he said.

Cranston school officials have called Garden City School an example of 21st-century learning, but there are some traditions that transcend time and continents.

The school mascot did not change with the opening of the new school and the students still have “bulldog pride.” And when asked, the visiting educators said that their school is equally proud of its mascot. It’s a bear -- “Frankie the Bear.”