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Cranston Herald

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Coalition sounds alarm on US education cuts

Reed blasts 'war on public education'

By TIM FORSBERG

Sen. Jack Reed, Rep. Seth Magaziner and Rhode Island education leaders gathered Monday to denounce proposed cuts to the U.S. Department of Education, warning that budget cuts would have catastrophic consequences for students, teachers and families in Rhode Island.

Reed and Magaziner both emphasized that the cuts, driven by President Donald Trump and supported by business magnate Elon Musk, would severely harm the state's education system.

Reed said proposals by the Trump administration to dismantle the Department of Education amount to a "war on public education." He described the administration's efforts as ideologically driven and said they would harm children, particularly those with disabilities, by stripping away federal funding.

"President Trump has said repeatedly he wants to eliminate the Department of Education, and Project 2025 lays out an attack plan to do just that," Reed stated.

He condemned such a move as "outrageous," and emphasized the broader economic impact of the proposed cuts, predicting that they would disproportionately affect working families in Rhode Island.

Magaziner echoed Reed's concerns, pointing to the wider implications of the budget reductions. He criticized the Trump administration for possibly targeting essential services like career training programs and Pell Grants, which help Rhode Island families afford college.

"Without federal support, the public education system in Rhode Island would be crippled," Magaziner warned, adding that the proposed cuts would devastate the state's higher education institutions and vital support programs for students with disabilities.

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Rep. Seth Magaziner and Sen. Jack Reed sounded the alarm at a press conference Monday, emphasizing the critical need to protect federal education funding for Rhode Island students against proposed changes at the Department of Education. *Beacon Media photo*



Sky Marcos (left) Programs Director at the Cranston Senior Center and Volunteer Diana Petrosinelli get Valentine arrangements ready for patrons. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

'Everyone will feel special'

Love was also in the air at the Cranston Senior Center where staff and volunteers were attaching heart-shaped doilies to carnations to make sure there was a valentine at the place setting for everyone who came to the center for lunch on Friday. There were also special messages to be distributed on hand-made cards created by students at Bain Middle School.

"Everyone will feel special today," said Sky Marcos, programs director at the center.

See more Valentine's Day coverage on page 5

New England Tech cuts tuition 47% in trades programs

By ADAM ZANGARI

The New England Institute of Technology made waves last Monday when they announced that they would be cutting tuition nearly in half in certain programs starting this semester.

Tuition will fall in these programs:

- Building Construction Technology
- Electrical Technology
- Electrical Technology with Renewable Energy Systems
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- Plumbing and Heating Technology
- Welding Engineering Technology
- Automotive and Marine Technology

Speaking on behalf of the institute, Vice President of Community Engagement & Workforce Development Amy Grzybowski said the tuition cuts show New England Tech's commitment to helping students of all economic backgrounds receive an education.

"It just reinforces our commitment to affordability, acces-

TUITION - PAGE 7

Calling all drummers



The drum line usually consists of snare drums and bass drums. *Submitted photo*

Pawtuxet Rangers look to strengthen thinning drumline

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Fife, drum and bugle corps that kept step with colonial troops provided more than just music.

They were the messengers and morale keepers– their high-pitched tunes cutting through artillery sounds to deliver key instructions to troops and the cadence of their melodies providing a pace for soldiers marching into battle.

According to information compiled by Col. Ronald W. Barnes, Commanding Officer of the Pawtuxet Rangers, the "fifers and drummers would provide the music for all of the things that soldiers would need to do throughout the day. Music echoed through camps, battlefields and marches."

The drums were the heartbeat of that music and now Barnes and other members of the Rangers are concerned that that heartbeat might be silenced.

"We are immediate need of drummers," Barnes said in an interview last week. "We're looking for adults who want to play and to help us build our drum line back up.

"It's a great opportunity to volunteer, learn about the Pawtuxet Rangers and be part of your community," he said.

The Pawtuxet Rangers, based in Pawtuxet Village on the Cranston-

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Cranston Chatter

Feb. 19, URI Pharmacy Outreach Program, the Cranston Senior Enrichment is hosting a workshop on hearing loss on Wed. at 10 a.m. at 1070 Cranston St.

Feb. 21, Cranston Senior Enrichment Center is hosting a workshop on understanding "required minimum distribution," at 10 a.m., provided by New York Life.

Feb. 21, A Personal Journey, Nurse Marylou Pearson will be hosting a session taking you through her experience with Lasik surgery. The session will be held on Wed. at 10 a.m. at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center.

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Desmarais wins All-Around title



Cranston West sophomore gymnast Gianna Desmarais put on a stellar performance at the state championships, winning the All-Around title in dominant fashion.

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Cunha is out as Rhode Island's U.S. attorney



U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Cunha is seen on May 13, 2024, at a press conference announcing the findings of a joint federal investigation into the state's institutionalization practices for kids with behavioral health needs. *Alexander Castro, Rhode Island Current*

By CHRISTOPHER SHEA
Rhode Island Current

Rhode Island's top federal prosecutor is no longer on the job after being ousted by the Trump administration.

U.S. Attorney Zachary Cunha announced his immediate departure Monday night. His office said Cunha had tendered a letter of resignation to President Donald Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi on Feb.7, indicating his intent to leave the office at the end of this week.

But the White House sent Cunha a termination notice late Monday, said office spokesperson Jim Martin.

Darcie N. McElwee also left her post as Maine U.S. attorney Monday morning after being terminated by the Trump administration. The top federal prosecutor in Vermont departed on Inauguration Day while counterparts in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire stepped down on Jan. 17.

A copy of Cunha's resignation letter was not immediately made available.

"Over the three years that I have had the high privilege to serve as U.S. Attorney, it has been my constant goal to make sure that the work of this district punched far above the weight that our compact geography and small staff might imply," Cunha said in a statement. "By every measure, the men and women of this office have met that goal, again and again, across every category in which we prosecute and litigate on behalf of the people of the Ocean State."

Cunha was appointed by former President Joe Biden in 2021 to lead the office on the 17th floor of the skyscraper at One Financial Plaza in Providence. Rhode Island's senators, Democrats Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, both recommended that Biden select Cunha.

"Mr. Cunha served Rhode Islanders honorably, and I am grateful for his principled dedication to the law," Whitehouse said in a statement.

Under his tenure, Cunha's office has pushed the city of Pawtucket to ensure Spanish-speaking voters have proper assistance during elections, sued CVS for allegedly contributing to the opioid crisis, and pushed the nation's oldest community bank to address claims it discriminated against Black and Hispanic borrowers in Rhode Island.

His office also highlighted a consent decree reached with the state last December over claims that children with behavioral and mental health disabilities were being "warehoused" at Bradley Hospital in East Providence.

Cunha also served on U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland's advisory committee.

"I am deeply grateful to Senators Reed and Whitehouse for recommending my nomination to the White House, and to President Biden for his trust and confidence in appointing me to serve this extraordinary district and its citizens as United States Attorney," Cunha said. "I have worked hard every day to live up to the example of excellence set by my thirty-eight distinguished predecessors over the 235-year history of this Office, and it has been the honor of my career to do this job."

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Police Log

RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

On Feb. 17 at 3:14 p.m., officers arrested Isiah Allen, 26, of 606 Huntington Ave. Apt # 2 Providence, for Receiving Stolen Goods and Driving with Suspended / Revoked / Cancelled License 4th + Offense. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop at 208 Gansett Ave. Allen was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and remanded to the ACI (Violator).

OBSTRUCTION

On Feb. 17 at 6:33 p.m., officers arrested Kenneth Davila, 42, of 167 Grand Ave., Pawtucket, for Obstructing an Officer in the Execution of Duty, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop at 659 Reservoir Ave. Davila was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace.

DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

On Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m., officers arrested Domenic Dibiase, 29, of 102 Enfield St. Johnston, RI for Domestic Simple Assault and Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a disturbance at 125 Moccasin Tr. Dibiase was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace.

ARREST WARRANT

On Feb. 16 at 9:07 p.m., officers arrested Adilson Carvalho, 24, of 355 Paradis Ave., Woonsocket, RI for an arrest and affidavit warrant out of Johnston PD. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop in the area of Cranston St. and Gladstone St. Carvalho was turned over to Johnston PD.

DUI

On Feb. 16 at 12:29 a.m., officers arrested James Sweeney, 28, of 23 Roseview Dr, Cranston for DUI-1st Offense-BAC Unknown and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. The arrest was the result of an accident investigation on Phenix Ave. Sweeney was held for morning arraignment.

SHOPLIFTING

On Feb. 15 at 9:02 p.m., officers arrested Luis Macias Perez, 54, of 51 Adelaide Ave. Apt. 2, Providence for Shoplifting and Conspiracy. The arrest was the result of a larceny complaint at Walmart, 1776 Plainfield Pike. Macias Perez was held for morning arraignment.

SHOPLIFTING

On Feb. 15 at 9:02 p.m., officers arrested Alexandre Grana Lopez, 51, of 51 Adelaide Ave. Apt. 2, Providence for Shoplifting and Conspiracy. The arrest was the result of a larceny complaint at Walmart, 1776 Plainfield Pike. Grana Lopez was held for morning arraignment.

OBSTRUCTION

On Feb. 15 at 10:13 p.m., officers arrested Silvester Medeiros, 44, of 12 Cedar St, Cranston for Obstructing an Officer in the Execution of Duty and an Affidavit Arrest Warrant from Portsmouth Police Department. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Pocasset Ave. Medeiros was held for morning arraignment.

EXPLOITATION OF ELDERS

On Feb. 15 at 10:11 a.m., officers arrested Jonathan Enright, 43, of 151 Grand Ave. Cranston, RI for Obtaining Money/Goods under False Pretenses > $1,500 and Exploitation of Elders. The arrest was the result of an attempted pickup at the aforementioned address. Enright was awaiting arraignment.

RECKLESS DRIVING & ELUDING POLICE

On Feb. 15 at 10:11 a.m., officers arrested Michael Alexis, 40, of 4 University Rd.# 212 Cambridge, MA for Reckless Driving/Eluding Police, Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest, Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty, and an outstanding arrest and affidavit warrant out of Warwick PD. The arrest was the result of a suspicious vehicle in the rear lot of 318 Garfield Ave. (Edge Fitness). Alexis was awaiting arraignment.

DOMESTIC VANDALISM

On Feb. 15 at 12:26 a.m., Officer Johnston arrested Juan J Villar Tejada, 32, of 120 Maplewood St #2 for Domestic Vandalism, Domestic Failure to Relinquish the Telephone and Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a disturbance call at the aforementioned address. Villar Tejada was arraigned by Justice of the Peace and released.

BENCH WARRANT

On Feb. 14 at 6:09 p.m., officers arrested Johnny Ruiz, 54, of 132 Fordson Ave, Cranston for a Superior Court Bench Warrant. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Park Ave. Ruiz was remanded to Men's Intake.

DUI

On Feb. 14 at 7:37 p.m., officers arrested Nicholas Manocchio, 71, of 56 Cambio Ct, for DUI-1st Offense-BAC Unknown and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. The arrest was the result of a call for an erratic operator on Phenix Ave. Manocchio was arraigned and released by Justice of the Peace.

SHOPLIFTING

On Feb. 14 at 10:11 a.m., officers arrested Javier Resto, 54, of 73 Mitchell St. Providence, RI for Shoplifting, Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty, and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 247 Garfield Ave. (Lowes). Resto was awaiting arraignment.

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

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New RIPHA head has vision for health equity

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

The Rhode Island Public Health Association recently announced the appointment of a new leader, Larry Warner, a Cranston resident who will serve as the association's president for a two-year term.

Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, from parents of Caribbean descent, Warner said they were the ones who instilled in him a great work and study ethic.

He attended Brown University, where he discovered his interest in public health, calling it his "emerging North Star."

Falling in love with Rhode Island's scenery, its geographic diversity and culture, Warner decided to stay after completing his undergraduate studies.

Warner spent some time as a Providence firefighter and EMT, which he says contributed to how he sees and understands community. In his new role as president, he works to define the vision and plans of the board and help people understand what public health is.

He believes that after the pandemic, the general community began to have a true appreciation and recognition of the complexities of public health and its impact.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, people realized, 'Oh, there's a lot of things that are happening behind the background to help keep communities and individuals safe,'" Warner said.

Many may confuse health care with public health, Warner says, explaining that health care is what people turn to for preventive care and for remedies when they're sick or injured, and public health is everything else that contributes to healthy and safe communities.

Protection of safe drinking water, promotion of access to healthy fruits and vegetables and deployment of resources in an efficient way are some things that fall under the public health umbrella.

"In general, public health and health care are both important to the health and wellbeing of our state and the communities within it," Warner said. "There's a lot of things that people might not directly associate with public health that contribute to healthy communities, and that's part of our mission as well."



LARRY WARNER

As for the public health challenges he sees in the communities, he said they range from mental health to child wellbeing to isolation among seniors to overdose prevention and access to food.

For Warner, the work involves not only helping people with access to services and information in a moment of crisis, but also looking at things in a broader context and asking the question: What do we need to do to reduce the risk of poor health outcomes or reduce disparities in health outcomes between either geographies or demographic groups?

RIPHA is a nonprofit agency established in 1996 and is the local affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

The organization gathers public health professionals through activities and studies to increase public health knowledge and health-promoting policies, according to a press release announcing Warner's new role.

As the president of RIPHA, Warner oversees a membership range for the association of 800+ members, including individual and agency members.

In addition to his new role, Warner has served as the chief impact and equity officer of United Way Rhode Island since 2019.

Currently, RIPHA is in a partnership with the state Department of Health on projects including cancer screening, advocacy training and drafting community health reports.

Two main initiatives out of RIPHA are its Community Health Workers program and Health Equity Zones.

"The key element there is that community health workers reflect the communities that they're working with, and so there's a shared understanding and appreciation of the opportunities and the challenges that might be experienced there," Warner said.

Health Equity Zones were an initiative launched in 2015 by the state, Warner said. They identify priority issues for each community and the resources to address them.

Warner looks to position the organization to be nimble and remain relevant to a broader stakeholder base; especially on the heels of new leadership in key federal agencies –both the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health have seen leadership and other changes.

Now in this current climate of uncertainty and change, Warner says the most important thing as a community is to remember that we are "One Cranston."

"Some of us are newer immigrants, some of us, our families may have immigrated a couple of generations ago, but unless you are a Native American Indian, we have all found our way to where we are," Warner said.

For Warner, he hopes that people will see one Cranston, one Rhode Island and one United States, that people will recognize that regardless of your political affiliation or lack of it, "we're still one United States."

"Let's look out for each other and be supportive of each other in the ways that people prefer to be supported," Warner said – "not the ways that we think they should be supported."

Council panel rejects Alpine Estates rezoning

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

In a unanimous vote last Thursday night, the City Council's ordinance committee denied the proposed rezoning of an 11-acre forested lot.

An ordinance proposed by property owner Margaret Scaralia sought a zone change on the parcel at the end of Caraway Drive in the Alpine Estates neighborhood. The area in question is an A-80 zone where the minimum lot size is 80,000 square feet, or nearly 2 acres.

Scaralia sought to change the zoning on her property to A-20, which would allow for smaller, 20,000-square-foot lots and raise the number of homes that could be built.

The proposed rezoning faced strong opposition from residents who have long been opposed to zone changes favoring denser developments in the area.

Support for the residents' opposition to the zone change also came in the form of statements from Mayor Kenneth Hopkins and City Council President Jessica Marino.

Echoing the Planning Commission's negative recommendation from its meeting a few weeks ago, the committee followed suit with a "no" vote on the ordinance.

The ordinance committee reviews and considers proposed ordinances for the city. It is made up of City Council members with one leading as the chair of the committee – Andy M. Andujar is the chair for this committee.

Councilman Frank Ritz, who represents the ward that includes Alpine Estates, spoke against the proposal. He said proposed rezoning in the neighborhood was a hot topic when he was campaigning and remains so.

"I know we need more housing in Cranston," Ritz said, "but it cannot come at the cost of changing why Cranston is such a great city to live in."

Residents have voiced various reasons for their opposition of the zone change. Some include school overcrowding, increased traffic congestion and flooding issues.

"We are not against expansion," resident Annette Osborne said in an opinion article in the Herald last week. "Build your property, but build it the way you bought it and don't make a quick buck off all of us."

Other council members spoke on the matter during the meeting, voicing their support for denying the zoning change based on residents' concerns and the negative recommendation by the Planning Commission.

Councilwoman Bridget Graziano works as a wetland's scientist for various towns. She noted the residents' concerns of flooding and her concern about the infrastructure and sewer capacity in the area.

"I haven't seen any testing done on pressure for this new proposed facility," Graziano said. "The neighbors mentioned high water table; that's a huge concern for me when it comes to meeting the stormwater-management regulations and separation for storm water management controls for larger subdivisions."

The ordinance committee's vote will be on the docket for the next City Council meeting scheduled for Feb. 24. There will be no vote as the proposed ordinance was denied; it will simply be a report of what happened for City Council.

With this denial, the proposed ordinance can only be reconsidered after one calendar year.

■ Chatter

(Continued from page 1)

Feb. 22, Famous Polish Food Sale, Our Lady of Czestochowa will be hosting a food sale on Sat. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (or as long as the food lasts) at 222 MacArthur Blvd., Coventry RI. Sale held in school auditorium.

Feb. 25, Homemade Pasta Cooking Class, the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be hosting a pasta making class at 10 a.m. Space is limited! Register now by calling 401-780-6000. Be sure to bring with you a container to bring your pasta creation home with you.

Feb. 26, RI Materials Recycling Facility Tour & Presentation, the Cranston Senior Enrichment is hosting a "Inside Look at How RI Waste is Managed," event on Wed. at 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Depart from the Center at 8:45 a.m. Space is limited. Must register by February 19th. To register call Paula at 401-780-6178.

Mar. 1, Asbury UMC will be hosting a charity event at Top Golf's Cranston location t 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pro's and beginners welcome to join in this Asbury UMC charity event to raise funds for AED pads for children. Information and registration on Eventbrite.com Registration closes February 20th. Contact Andrea 401-207-8017.

Mar. 7, Free Balance Screening, the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be hosting a free balance screening at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Individuals that use a walker, cane, or other assisted device are welcome to participate. For more information or to register call 401- 874-4025 or 401-432-7217.

Mar. 8, Women's History Month event – Miss Julia "Kitty" Lippitt Mauran will be presented by the Hope Historical Society on Sat., Mar. 8 at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Howland Barn on 35 Ryefield Rd., in Hope, RI.

Mar. 12, "Songbirds on The Pawtuxet," Edgewood Garden Club will host an Open Meeting in the William Hall Library Auditorium on 1825 Broad St., Birder and conservation volunteer Doug Wilson will discuss colorful birds observed along the river and more. Free event open to the public. Social time, 6:30 p.m., and program at 7 p.m.

Wickford Art Festival Artist Applications Now Open North Kingstown, RI – The Wickford Art Association (WAA) is excited to announce that artist applications for the 62nd annual Wickford Art Festival are now open. The outdoor art festival will take place on the weekend of July 12 & 13, 2025. Now through March 15, artists are invited to submit their applications to be considered for participation in this event. Artists interested in applying can visit the official festival website at www.wickfordart.org for more details. Applications will be reviewed by a jury panel, and selected artists will be notified in early April 2025.

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

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

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be providing chair exercise classes from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. This FREE exercise class can strengthen everything from the core muscles and the glutens to the lower and upper back, the legs, and the arms. Come by and try it!

Every Monday through Thursday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering Tech-Help at 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Whether you are having computer questions or experiencing issues with your phone, iPad etc. Need help with your Portals or need to order Free Covid test kits? They can assist with that as well.

Every Tuesday and Thursday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be providing medication reviews from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mary McKenna, our CVS Pharmacist, is available to review and discuss your medications with you. Don't miss out on this free service available to you. Stop by or call for an appointment 401-780-6210.

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

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

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering computer assistance at 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering a balance, strength and flexibility class at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You will learn how to move the body in a healthy way to reduce pain and improve body awareness. Fee: $3.00 Classes are with or without the use of a chair.

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering an evidence-based workshop on "Tools for Healthy Living," starting Mar. 4 at 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and ending April 8. Class meets once a week for six weeks. Space is limited. To register call 401-780-6000. Facilitators: Marylou Pearson, RN & Jackie Rizzi

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, MA, 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508)-840-6621. All are welcome!

Every Wednesday and Friday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering a balancing & strengthening exercise class called Tai Ji Quan Moving for Better Balance (TJQMBB). It will begin Mar. 12 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and end Aug. 29. It is free. Prescreening is required. For more information call Amy at 401-780-6200.

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

NAMI-RI Family-to-Family Course is a free 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people living with mental illness. Registration is currently open for the next course which begins Wed., Mar. 12 at 5:30 p.m. on ZOOM. To register for the next Family-to-Family course, or for more information, call 401-331-3060 or email Beth at beth@namirhodeisland.org

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston & Warwick Public Libraries Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston, Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Ln., Warwick. Stop by for a free gun lock and literature on how to securely store weapons. Doing so will save lives and make our communities safer. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. "This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library."

Oaklawn Grange Used Clothing Donation Shed in need of used clothing items at the Oaklawn Grange Donation Shed, 24 Searle Ave., Cranston. Accepted items only: Used Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Belts, Purses, Linens, Pillowcases, Blankets, Curtains, and Stuffed Animals. All items must be in useable condition. Your donations will be distributed as whole garments locally and worldwide. Contact oaklawngrangeinfo@gmail.com for more information.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups; the RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 1.5 hours, and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org. or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

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

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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

			T	A	R	O		A	A	R	O	N	
	S	E	A	L	E	R		B	L	I	G	H	T
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1. ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (APR): Rate shown is for a 5-year loan and includes the 0.25% interest rate reduction for using the auto-pay feature and RIAdvantage discount.Qualified education loans for Rhode Island resident students attending school in any state or for non-Rhode Island resident students attending a school in Rhode Island are eligible for the RIAdvantage discount. Not all borrowers receive the lowest rate. The rate you will receive ranges from 3.99% - 8.04% with auto-pay.

COMEDY LUNCH/DINNER SHOWS
AGING DISGRACEFULLY
A 2023 WINNER best OF RHODE ISLAND
STARRING DOREEN COLLINS & CHARLIE HALL
- Sat. Mar. 1- CROSSROADS PUB, Warren 12
- Sun. Mar. 2- 579 BENEFIT. Pawt. 2:30pm
- Sat. March 15- COURTHOUSE CNTR, King.
- Sat. April 5- O'ROURKE'S, Cranston 5pm
- Sun. April 6- CHELO'S, East Providence 12
- Sat. April 12- BELLA, Glendale 5:30
- Sun. April 27- CHELO'S, Providence 12pm
(Available for fundraisers & private shows)
Please reserve online at
agingdisgracefully.net

Rewriting the Rules of Retirement
Longbridge Financial, LLC
Retirement comes with more time for the things you love. A reverse mortgage can help you fund them.
✓ Pay off your existing mortgage to eliminate monthly payments[1]
✓ Get additional income tax-free cash to use for what matters most[2]
✓ Continue to own your home just like a traditional mortgage
Contact Carol Miller, your local Reverse Mortgage Specialist.
(401) 406-1247 (Cell)
carol.miller@longbridge-financial.com
NMLS #595725
1. Property taxes, homeowners' insurance, and home maintenance required. The home must be your primary residence. 2. Consult a financial advisor and appropriate government agencies for any effect on taxes or government benefits.
Branch Office: 1 International Blvd, Suite 900 Mahwah, NJ 07495. NMLS #957935. 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.

Cranston HS West Q2 Honor Roll 2024-2025

Highest Honors

Grade 12: Mohamad Albukai, Giana Amitrano, Chad Antonelli, Joseph Archambault,Jr., Bianca Asencio, Corey Blanchette, Aviel Blanco, Cameron Bobek, Joshua Brynes, Nathan Chevez, Claudia Cioe, Elijah Curran, Alysia Czerwien, Devin DeAngelis, Anthony DeLuca, Aidan Devine, Nicholas DiRaimo, Gianna DiSpirito, Kaylee Faria, Juliana Fernandes, Andrew Gardiner, Kaydence Holden, Ashley Hopkins, Sampras Inthavong, Samantha Irons, Hayden Karas, Angelina Lanni, Logan Lavimodiere, Evan Lei, Zachary Leone, Francesca Longo, Nino Marrocco, Liam Meehan, Sienna Mignano, Oceanna Orlandi, Francesca Paola, Michael Parks, Jared Patalano, Janvi Patel, Pavan Tanay Ratnam, Isabella Resendes, Lucas Richard, Nathan Rojas, Antonio Sanchez, Mia Santomassimo, Jonah Silva, Joshua Silva, Ava Silveira, Zachary Smith, Emely Sosa, Benjamin Spirito, Nicholas Testa, Ava Thurber, Alexander Tremblay, Kyla Tyler, Anthony Yan, Alexis Zhang, Amy Zhang.

Grade 11: Connor Ainley, Eid Bassil, Caitlyn Blanchette, Sofia Borges, Alexander Brady, Sadie Butler, Yiluo Cai, Celina Cheng, Sophia DiBenedetto, John Fang, Daniella Garcia, Natalia Giardina, Natalia Jackson, Ariella Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Jillian Langley, Melany Martinez Vargas, Lylah Morais, Zachary Norberg, Steven Objio, Aidan Paplauskas, Arielle Place, Lilliana Prendergast, Joshua Procaccianti, Jackelyn Ranone, Michael Raspallo, Keira Simpson, Steven Sterpis, Reece Vitale, Aidan Vongkanya.

Grade 10: Saoirse Bacon, Kyleigh Barron, Elizabeth Biegel, Jacob Bovay, Arianna Chay Lizardo, Sofia Coccia, Isabella Coulanges, Audrey Dayrit, Jacob De Leon, Reese Deroxas, Emalee Dorrance, Brayden Enright, Giuliana Feroce, Alayna Fitzgerald, Ryan Golditch, Aariv Goyal, Alex Hallidri, Owen Heaney, Abigail Hoard, Haylee Hodge, Santana Jones, Nathan Jose, Annelisa Joyce, Pavani Kankanala, Jasmine Keang, Michelina King, Tyler Klingensmith, Mabel Lebowitz, Emma Leone, Sammie Lin, Gabrielle Lisi, Ava Lombardi, Veronica Lonczak, Dylan Malloy, Emily Manzi, Andino Merola, Angelo Minyetti Saldana, Lexi Montalban, Julia Muschiano, Minh Nguyen, Tydon Nguyen, Ariel Ochoa, Vincenzo Paliotta, Adelaide Papitto, Liam Perry, Grace Petitbon, Dylan Pires, Rebecca Puii, Sydney Reuter, Shayna Sanzen, Peyton Silva, McKenzie Stall, Mikayla Taveira, Robert Walker, Payton Wells, Chanel Yan.

Grade 9: Christopher Abatecola, Aanvi Aggarwal, Sanvi Aggarwal, Jasmine Bartolo, Joseph Bucci, Milania Carley, Mackenzie Carter, Natalie Chin, Luciana Cipolla, Cyrus Cohn, Molly Costabile, Miley Cournoyer, Marcos Cruz, Grace DeAlmeida, Madeline DiBenedetto, Devin DiLanna, Mia Falcone, Abigail Farmer, Leon Finkle, Alexis Graziano, Chelsea Guy, Alexia Guzman, Chase Hallam, Benjamin Irons, Oakley Kearns, Anna Kelly, Chan Keo, Jillian Knight, Juliani Lope Rosado, Melina Mak, Madeleine Marques, Avangeline McIntosh, Ryder Mello, Brandon Neth, Soleil Peang, Dylan Perez, Ella Perry, Ryan Resendes, Dylan Rodriguez Agudelo, Andrew Schiappa, Kira Stephens, Domenic Trabucco, Jack Ucci, Sofia Vincent, Peter Zaytounian.

High Honors

Grade 12: Jaisany Acosta, Amelia Albino, Nadia Andrews, Ethan Antin, Jonathan Antin, Avery Ashegh, Jenna Ayoub, Victoria Badger, Francesca Balasco, Ashlyn Benfeito, Stalia Biosse, Lola Blessington, Samara Brown, Emily Caniglia, Aidan Carter, Isabella Cavalloro, Caroline Chilvers, Shania Chin, Dylan Cicchitelli, Destyni Cipriano, Ruben Cortorreal, Hanna Cotter, Brady Croke, Mia Crudale, Cole Curran, Kyleigh Davis, Sophia Deanseris, Damien DeCesare, Elizabeth Denomme, Gianna D'Ercole, Amelya D'Errico, Peter DeSilva, Brody Devine, Alexa Diaz Mejia, Kevin Dilone, Tenniyah Disla, Megan Eastman, Christopher Espinal, Kaylin Flynn, Jack Fontaine, Angelina Fontana, Devon Fraenza, Amaya Gallant, Jonathan Gelfuso, Jordan Giusti, David Gomez, Melissa Gonzalez Gutierrez, Delilah Grace, Mark Iorfida, Jr, Caterina Izzi, Shawn Kemble, Justin Kodzis, Grace Kogut, Giada Leone, Aminah Liaqat, Ryan Luke, Ethan Madden, Jake Marchetti, Matthew Mastrostefano, Payton Mays, Eleanor McDowell, Haylee McManus, Christopher Melise, Angelica Merced, Sadie Mitchell, Isabel Moniz, Nikhole Morales Batres, Adam Morello, Dennis Morissette, Jr, Kennedy Moutinho, Siena Nardelli, Ophelia Nguyen, Madison Olney, Valentina Pedraza Herrera, Isabella Perrotta, Declan Perry, Matthew Petit, Nadia Petrella, Ryan Phillips, Emili Pol Chocoj, Adam Rajack, Aiden Ranaldi, Kovin Rasombath, James Raspallo, Sophia Robbins, Greta Rotmer, Julia Saccoccio, Adrian Samayoa, Enzo Sansone, Cameron Scorpio, Ava Sears, Robert Simmons, III, Joshua Smith, Zoe Smith, Dylan Spatuzzi, Braden Stephens, Madison Strumar, Madeleine Tenaglia, Richard Tierney, Emily Vang, Vanessa Vaquerano, Eduardo Velasco, Jr, Olivia Venagro, Regan Violante, Layla Ward, Eric Whitlock, Sophia Zamarripa.

Grade 11: Zukaa Alnahas, Matthew Andrews, Nathan Arsenault, Gabriella Aurecchia, Nicolas Ayala, Declan Bachner, Abraham Baldomar, Talina Barbosa, Emmanuel Betancur, Aliviah Britto, Kyla Buco, Jonah Buttie, Arthur Butts, Benjamin Calamar, Kate Caron-McCain, Leah Carrillo Hernandez, Ciana Catelli, Bradyn Chek, Tiffany Chen, Nicholas Chin, Emma Coggeshall, Harper Cohn, Alexandra Colardo, Liliana Colon, Nathan Conca, Joel Cortorreal, Julia Davis, Benjamin DeFusco, Jagger Dion, Connor DiOrio, Angelina DiSanto, Elvis Donnelly, Madison Dupre, Alexa Eliminowicz, Camryn Evon, Christopher Frias, Nadia Gabriel, Julia Gardiner, Noah Germain, Madison Gomez, Kiara Gonzalez Paz, Anastacia Hafferty, Jake Harty, Arianna Hathaway, Addison Haun, Logan Hoit, Coby Howard, Jared Howland, Ava Iannelli, Parker Inocencio, Nisarangi Jarvis, Nathan Kempe, Emma Kiley, Michelle Kim, Ivan Koptiev, Katherine Kue, Kyanoush Layton, Ashley Levin, Irie Lisiecka, Ashton Mak, Emily Marchetti, Jack Marques, Ian McGovern, Gia Mooney, Alyssa Needham, Michael Nunez, Lauren O'Connor, Devyn O'Donnell, Charles Paley, Kyla Pedroso, Calvin Phanthavong, Promise Pitts, Caleb Prak, Nora Quero, Dorian Rajack, Emma Regine, Ashlyn Renaud, Mark Rodrigues, McKenzie Rose, Deyrian Saballo, Julianna Santagata,
William Shealy, Kylie Shears, Aiden Short, Nathaniel Shyllon, Ashley Sosa, Jayden Soy, Morgan St. Jean, Robert Stevens, Edward Tavarez,Jr, Ava Tedeschi Moran, Savanna Theroux, Ryan Thurber, Amelia Tindall, Natalie Urizar, Giovanna Van Helden, Gabrielle Vitale.

Grade 10: Wesley Abatecola, Joshua Abrams, Phoebe Aime, Kefaya Altaan Al Hariri, Elijah Baez, Mia Baffoni, Shelby Bailey, Mariska Balasco, Cooper Bastia, Natalie Battista, George Betters, Jr, Griffin Bruno, Ashley Budano, Zoe Budano, Arleen Bueno, Gage Burkemper, Kennedy Carr, Abbygale Caruso, Olivia Case, Adriana Catelli, Amanda Chen, Ethan Conrad, Ethan Davis, Madison Deanseris, Jayda DeCosta, Saidee DelPrete, Sophia DeLuca, Cora Dempsey, Cara D'Ercole, Gianna Desmarais, Nevan DiMucci, Daniella Duarte, Jayden Dumay Aldana, Jonathan Edmond, Delaney Evans, Lexee Felicio, Victoria Fernandez Flores, Gavin Flynn, Sahara Genao, Edward Gomes, Sofya Gonsalves, Aidan Gosselin, Dylan Guglietta, Miranda Hutchinson, Jamila Joaquin Hernandez, Aaron Johnson, Donald Johwa, Jude Kilduff, Peter Kritikos, Kingston Kwong, Walter Lane, IV, Grace Lei, Peyton Lussier, Kaelyn MacDougall, Unity MacNeill, Oziel Martinez, Wyatt Mays, Liliana McGreevy, Isabella McGuinness, Zavier Montero, Caroline Nelson, Gabrielle Okunfolami, Mariella Paliotta, Lovely Pamphile, Madison Parent, Parth Patel, Michaela Pearson, Sarah Peralta, Ailani Perez, Ethan Pimental, Larisa Poghosyan, Owen Polofsky, Julia Rego, Makenzie Rego, Christian Rich, Melanie Rondon Paulino, Kasey Rose, Sarah Rose, Kaeden Roussin, Laila Russo, Siranoush Sahakian, Euan Sampang, Kira Sanzen, Samantha Sharp, Camila Sime, Bradyn Slaughter, Lillian Sliwa, Goldly Pheaktra Sok, Luis Soto Carias, Elisabeth Spirito, Owen Sterpis, Kylyne Stevens, Morgan Stone, Noe Zacarias.

Grade 9: Ellen Arslanyan, Mia Barone, Chloe Bickford, Chloe Bouchard, Ryan Chhun, Aikaterini Chrysanthopoulou, Elena DeFusco, Isaac Fernandez, Ari Gabriel, Kasen Gallant, Norly Oliver Germain, Liana Grenon, Allie Guisti, Diante Jackson, Luke Johnson, Ava Kiley, Adysen Martin, Lily McCartney, Sophia Nightingale, Alyse Odumosu, Alissa Pathammavong, Rachael Pine, Broden Riley, Gabriella Rogers, Gabriel Sandoval Estevez, Rheanna Sears, Gianna Simone, Isabelle Smith, Aral Talebiabgarmi, Kiarra Violante, Benjamin Warner, Danica Yin, Jared Yu.

Honors

Grade 12: Benjamin Ahlquist, Robert Akroyd, V, Brooke Alarie, Rusul Aldabbagh, Taha Alnahas, Wafaa Altaan Al Hariri, Illiana Alves, Ava Amadio, Antonio Aquilante, Alex Avakyan, Zachary Berardis, Christian Blanchette, Tyla Blanchette, Zachary Bradley, Natalie Brandow, Angelina Burrows, Justin Cabrera, Kiara Caraballo, Maranda Carline, Yesier Carrion, I, Evan Caruso, Cayden Carvalho, Jordy Chacon, Cameron Chantre, Joshua Clapprood, Michael Colaneri, Lindy Coreas, Chelsey Derby, Jadon DeSousa, Christopher Donnelly, Vincent Durante, Keven Espinal Hazim, Anthony Faella, Jr, Aryanna Ferreira, Erika Garcia, Mia Gavopoulos, Menagh Gendreau, Alicia Giannini, Jessica Gutierrez Ramirez, Nicholas Hall, John Hanley, Kailey Humphrey, Benjamin Jawharjian, Fadi Jirius, Marcus Johns, Eric Johnson, Mia Johnson, Anna Judge, Joshua Kasden, Leo Kinder, Jacobi King, Lucinda LaMorte Bromley, Dean Lauro, Serena Lei, Ethan Luguesi, Aliyah Macaruso, Alexa Mangione, Adrians Marte Garcia, Aisha Mbye, Evan Mejia, Eileen Mendoza Deriz, Brooke Menna, Joel Morales, Ayla Munoz, Sedra Najib, Trent Nani, Tomas Negalha, Riley Nguyen, Alexandra Olney, Diana Orellana, Jamison Orlandi, Jesus Ortega, Jr, Thalan Ou, Lola Paolissi, Dylan Paulhus, Joseph Pennacchia, Hannah Perez, Zachary Petrella, Samantha Pilozzi, Alisha Pimentel, Catarina Pimentel, Sarah Pimentel, Valeria Ramos Mues, Ruben Rendon-Berton, Robert Reyes, Frankie Rodriguez, Gisele Rotolo, James Ruggieri, Avery Salmons, Kimberly Sandoval Estevez, Gabriel Santana, Isabella Sawyer, Jack Schmiedeknecht, Kirsten Sharp, Olivia Shea, Chris Sheriff, Raymond Shurtleff, Florah Small, David Solares, Adam Stoloff, Sophia Teolis, Ella Thompson, Camryn Torres, Matthew Varin, Lauren Ward Smith, Ava Wiggin, Colin Williams, Sarah Xiong.

Grade 11: Lorenzo Aceto, Adalino Aceto-Kun, Katelyn Angell, Madyson Archambault, Olivia Avella, Chloe Ayoub, Genesis Bamba, Christopher Barboza, Analise Barnette, Brooke Bedetta, Emily Bedetta, Nicholas Benabio, Ida Bensouda, Alyssa Bermudez, Ava Brady, Finlay Braga, Jillian Burns,
Brooke-Isabella Cacicia, Madison Capaldi, Caley Carlino-Legault, Hayden Castrignano, Emilia Chace, Lysedavan Charles, Ryan Chase, Saniyya Chase, Hanna Chong, Michael Coggeshall, Gabriella Conetta, Ava Connors, Charlie Cornell, Dominic Correia, Jack D'Allesandro, Kassidy Danh, Jeremiah Davidson, Miguel De La Rosa, Michael DeFruscio, Henry DeLaZerda, Andrew DeSocio, Fatoumata Diakite, Emma Dilorio, Nicholas DiLorenzo, Avianna Dion, Connor Dionne, Jolene Draper, Marc Driscoll, Roman Duarte, Sean Dusseault, Giana Espinal Albizu, Taylor Evans, Jordan Fermino, Nicholas Figueroa, Anthony Flores, Julian Fonseca, Thomas Fountaine, Aidan Fowler, Ryan Furtado, Olivia Gallardo, Tyler Gesualdi, Sophia Gomes, Alexiona Gorton, Dolson Gould, Peter Grammas, Luke Gray, Noah Grebstein, Lana Hach, Cole Harris, Mark Heard, III, Colby Howman, Olivia Hughes, Mikayla Imondi, Emily Irving, Adam Jennings, Isabelle Johnson, Liam Johnson, Matthew Kelly, Russell Kent, Shafeng Khang, Kassi Khuth, Darien Kiernan, Alyssa Kleinberg, Logan LaFlamme, Courtney Lariviere, Evan Laventure, Lana Lieng, Tess Mahoney, Demetrius Maldonado, Jake Manzi, Maxx Manzi, Adam Marriott, Christopher Marshall, Caleb McGowan, Finn Meehan, Mina Meehan, Jaden Mei, Avaya Merced, Austyn Miller, Sianna Molina, Kenny Negron, Sam Newton, Eliany Nova, Sebastian O'Brien, Aaron O'Quinn, Jr, Olivia Pacheco, Tatianna Pacheco, Emily Padula, Mya Pagliarini, Ethan Parent, Matthew Parenteau, Luzmerlys Pena, Jayden Perez, Kristi Prestly, Hali Proulx, Jordyn Renaud, Allie Richardson, Giana Rivelli, Jace Roberts, Cristopher Rodriguez Agudelo, Ivan Rodriguez, Jayde Roman, Alessandra Russo, Skylar Russo, Ashley Sagastume Umana, Angelina San Antonio, Brendy Sanchez Calcano, Kristiana Santopadre, Sayde Sawyer, Michael Scotti, Jordan Sewell, Emma-Rose Shaw, Nicole Silvestri, Chloe Sprouse, Sawyer Sprows, Evan Stonis, Alex Sundberg, Ilter Talebi-Abgarmi, Emma Taylor, Lauren Trudell, Jean Urena, Cameron Varella, Ariana Velino, Ziyue Wang, Julianna Williams, Nathaniel Yeomans, Nyli You-Roeung, Sophia Zhu, Brenna Zolli.

Grade 10: Laila Alba, Madison Almada, Santos Arias, Collin Aul-Branch, Christopher Barron, Jr, Rozallie Benitez, Cristina Biernacki, Hailey Blais, Melina Blanco, Dillon Blessington, Victoria Bramble, King Brand, Giuliana Briggs, Emily Butler, Camden Cadet, Camren Cadet, Brooklyn Carreiro, Jacob Case, Madison Castaldi, Maya Cicchitelli, Aiden Clark, Jaelyn Cogean, Christopher Contreras Diplan, Iliannis Contreras, Aidan Courtemanche, Julian Crosson Bagley, Dominic Cruz, Caiden D'Amico, Samantha DeCesare, Sophia DeLuca, Ryan D'Errico, Rodney Dickerson, Jr, Abigail Dieterly, Nathaniel Dorrance, Perla Duarte, Emily Dusseault, Walter Edwards, Carter Elias, Adriana Espinal Albizu, Michael Farina, Jeiren Fernandez, Francesca Fisher, Alexandria Floyd, Lucas Frisella, Aaron Gravallese, Camryn Gravallese, Matthew Greene, Angelina Gutierrez, Kalen Habchi, Vanvesal Hach, Segev Hadar, Ahmad Haj Mahmoud, Lena Hasaba, Nathalia Holguin, Sam Hutnak, Janessa Jimenez, Alexis Johnson, Guilianna Johnson, Alice Kilduff, Kiari Knight-Tufts, Tira Knight-Tufts, Aiden LaBossiere, Nathan Lao, Jamauri Laurenceau, Fiona Lin, Kaylee Loffredo, Alijah Magdaleno, Alexandra Mailhot, Alberico Mancini, Joseph Manzi, Justin Marino, Madison McCartney, Luke McGuinness, Jazelle Mendes, Hayley Miceli, Jayden Mirabal, Daniel Mojica, Jr, Emiliano Monzon Rodriguez, Chloe Mooney, Jaevian Morales, Ryan Morales, Peter Morello, Kiara Morse, Dylan Neri, Michelle Okunfolami, Tyler Ou, Aniyah Pagano, Orion Paolino, August Pasquariello, Jane Paulhus, Jack Payne, Christopher Perez, Mateo Perretta, Talia Petrella, Johnathan Phav, Benjamin Phok, Anthony Pimentel, Joseph Pirri, Elijah Prak, Ivy Pratt, Jace Preister, Evelin Quixan Xec, Alexa Ramirez, Kiara Ramos, Teddy Ramos, Jr, Emma Reed, Dante Richardson, Daisy Roach, Delihany Rodriguez Pagan, Isabella Salazar, Edward Santos, Nicolas Scorpio, Katelyn Snedeker, Norman Trott, III, Elias Tsimikas, Jolizia Turcios, Sofia Uriati, Fallon Voccio, Marcus Whitfield, Gianna Wiedenroth, Kayla Wilson, Reece Zarrella, Frances Zins.

Grade 9: Anthony Abatecola, Emily Alvarado Mota, Alyaa Aly, Akorede Atakenu, Armen Avagyan, Brady Babcock, Brooke Bailey, Zaria Barbosa, Bree Bedard, Kaycee Belliveau, Owen Bennett, Jaiden Berardis, Victoria Blessington, Eliana Bogosian, Belle Bradley, Tanaysha Britto, Yiqi Cai, Anthony Campagnone, Mia Carlucci, Leah Castillo Martinez, Owen Catelli, Giuliana Celseti, Cooper Cerio, Joseph Ciarlo, Nora Ciccone, Carter Ciesla, Addison Colagiovanni, Bryce Crance, Gabriella Crudale, Jeranmy Cruz Mora, James Curran, Gabriella DelBonis, David DeSarro, Jr, Bianka Diaz, Urias Dobson, Giulia Dorsey, Valentina Dos Santos, Yassir Doumi, Jaly Espinal, Sophia Falandys, Ella Farrell, Aubrie Fernandes, Nathan Fernandes, Juan Fernandez, Mackenzie Ferreira, John Fitzgerald, Joseph Giron Pineda, Joseph Grant, V, Christopher Guevara, Braelyn Guion, Eudy Gutierrez, Nathan Hallam, Amanda Hanley, Isabella Harrington, Gabriel Hart, Rodaina Hassanen, Aubrey Haun, Ani Hovagimian, Gabriel Hudson, Benjamin Huntoon, Roman Iacobucci, Nathan Izzi, Vaming Khang, Emily Kodzis, Savannah Lafontaine, Elianna Laurenceau, Minh Le, Jayden Lee, Mariah LeFort, Aliza Lema, Kylee Letendre, Kelly Liang, Miah Licona, Jessica Lincoln, Mackenzie Lopes, Kason Lyons, Giuliana Macko, Nathan Martin, Lilly McConnell, Jordan McDowell, Braedon McMahon, Mila Meruvia Rico, Dylan Milano, Ariya Moeuy, Austin Molina Reynoso, Siena Montalvo, Janelis Montes, Valen Mooney, Elizabeth Moretta, Bodhi Morse, Paloma Morse, Arianna Musco, Rachel Navedo, Logan Nelson, Leah Newbury, Avery O'Brien, Mia O'Brien, Amelia Olivero Familia, Anaelle Pamphile, Sophia Paplauskas, Giuliana Parks, Xyrille Penaranda, Kayleani Pereyra, Aaliyah Perrino, Giada Picillo, Sophia Poirier, Selena Quinonez, Caydan Rego, Kevin Rodrigues, Joshua Rodriguez, Neishka Roldan Candelaria, Kathleen Rossi, Sophia Rubino, Chase Santos, Kyle Schultz, Victoria Sedlak, Judah Sencer, Adam Sepe, Jr, Amalisa Sherwood, Maggie Sjovall, Luca Talamo, Ephraim Taylor, Daisy Tenaglia, Emma Toolin, Isla Tucciarone, Keitana Tyler, Mason Ucci, Alizon Urizar Umana, Hendrix Vega, Donovan Velasquez, Aiden Ventura, Rosalie Ventura-Turrisi, Xavior Vicente, Yousif Wadia, Sara Ward, Sophia Waters-Burns, Edward Wenzl, Kenneth Yau, Jayden Zolli

LEGAL NOTICES

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 7 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended, for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://zoom.us/j/94488642305?pwd=FEfa0KNTv94vJ6MzSwNSdbPODboVtd.1
Passcode:157147

Phone one-tap:
+13052241968,,94488642305# US
+13092053325,,94488642305# US

Join via audio:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
Webinar ID: 944 8864 2305
International numbers available: https://zoom.us/u/acNv6TE4U1

New Class BV Liquor License
Laham Cranston, Inc.
d/b/a El Laham Restaurant
91 Rolfe Sq.
Mon-Sun 12pm-1am

Kristen Haroian , Chair
Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf or hard of hearing must notify the City Clerk's Office at 461-1000 ext. 3194 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date."

2/2, 2/27/25

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

AU, NHU Q. ESTATE
Petition for Administration; for hearing February 27, 2025

BOUCHARD, CHARLES RESIDENT WARD
Petition for Guardianship; for hearing February 27, 2025

BUMP, RICHARD ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 27, 2025

DORVILIER, JOSHUA J.S. RESIDENT WARD
Petition for Guardianship; for hearing February 27, 2025

GAUVIN, DANIEL JOSEPH ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 27, 2025

JOSEPH, AGNES A. ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 27, 2025

MCGLOIN, ROBERT ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing February 27, 2025

PAYNE, DOREEN A. ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 52 Yeoman Ave., Cranston, RI; for purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing February 27, 2025

PETTINATO, ADRIANNA M. RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor guardianship; for hearing February 27, 2025

PETTINATO, GABRIELLA M. RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor guardianship; for hearing February 27, 2025

PETTINATO, GREGORY M. RESIDENT MINOR
Petition for Minor guardianship; for hearing February 27, 2025

VIERRA, CHARLES ESTATE
Executrixes First and Final Account; for hearing February 27, 2025

DELFINO, VINCENT ESTATE
Debra DelFino has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning February 13, 2025

MACARUSO, DANIEL RESIDENT WARD
Ellen & Paul Macaruso have qualified as Co-Guardians; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning February 13, 2025

Individuals requiring assistive listening devices are requested to contact the office of the city clerk at 46l-l000 ext 3l97 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

2/13, 2/20/25



Dyer Avenue Florist assistant MaryRose Ouillette helps finish off countless bouquets.

'By far, our busiest day'

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Say it with flowers. Say it with balloons, candy or cards.

Valentine's Day messages of love kept businesses hustling last week – particularly florists where sprays of roses and baskets of bouquets seemed to cover every available surface, and the air was rich with the sweet smell of flowers in bloom.

On Thursday, the night before the holiday, Nancy Caverly, owner of Dyer Avenue Florist, was working late, surrounded by buckets of long-stemmed roses. MaryRose Ouillette, worked alongside Caverly, was stripping thorns off the rose stems and the two were using their skills to create colorful bouquets adorned with ribbons and bows.

"It's by far our busiest holiday," said Caverly, noting that for the average florist, preparing for Valentine Day's orders begins weeks in advance. And while things may get a little hectic, she said it is very much a labor of love for a holiday dedicated to love.



Nancy Caverly, owner of Dyer Avenue Florist in Cranston doesn't mind putting on long hours on the night before Valentine's Day. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*

Project Sweet Peas brings holiday joy to NICU families





What started as a simple gesture – providing Halloween costumes to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit babies in 2010 – has grown into something much more. Project Sweet Peas, a Warwick-based nonprofit, now brings holiday-themed photo shoots to the tiniest Rhode Islanders at Women & Infants Hospital's NICU.

Project Sweet Peas is a nationwide organization dedicated to empowering and supporting families of medically fragile infants while also offering remembrance resources for those affected by pregnancy and infant loss.

Most recently, the group brought Valentine's Day cheer to the NICU. Volunteers created handmade lay-on costumes and hats, ensuring that every baby could safely participate if their parents wished. With themed props and volunteer photographers, families received professional-quality photos, free of charge, as cherished keepsakes.

Looking ahead, Project Sweet Peas plans to expand these photo shoots to more holidays and, eventually, on a monthly basis. Beyond photography, the organization provides a weekly supply cart, gas and food gift cards, care packages and emotional support to families navigating the NICU journey.

For more information, visit ProjectSweetPeas.com. To learn about volunteer opportunities, email info@projectsweetpeas.com.



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Cranston Herald

Fascia ends 80-year GOP drought in District 42

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Richard Fascia wasn't looking to set any records when he decided last year to run as a Republic for State Representative in District 42.

A former Providence police officer who said his parents raised him with a strong sense of right and wrong, Fascia said he was motivated by a desire to serve his community. He also knew that it was hard to field GOP candidates for the ballot and he didn't like the thought of an unchallenged seat.

"I think people deserve a choice," he said, of the decision that landed him on the ballot facing Democrat Kelsey K. Coletta in a town where only about 16-percent of the voters are registered as Republicans.

And on election night, Fascia did make history. He won the District 42 (Johnston, Cranston) seat by about 60 votes, making him the first Republican to represent the district in more than 80 years.

Because of redistricting over the decades, it's hard to say definitely, but according to records compiled by the House Minority Office, the last Republican to hold the District 42 seat was Raymond S. Eastwood. A World War I veteran, Eastwood held the seat from 1939 to 1940.

"I was the most surprised son of a gun on election night," Fascia, 68, recalls with a smile. "I am so honored and humbled to represent the voters – this is a job I will 'interview' for every single day I am in office."

So, how did he do it?

Having grown up in the Eagle Square section of Providence in a family that was very active in the Democratic party, Fascia said he went old school. He knocked on doors, kissed babies, shook every hand , and "went to the opening of an envelope."

Fascia said he also worked hard to help voters get to know him – including his love of serving as police officer for 20 years, his time on the Johnston's Zoning Board, and his commitment to public service.

On his campaign website, he listed one of his proudest accomplishments as helping to lead opposition 55-panel solar farm in the Windsor section of town -- a project that he said was completely "out of place" for its proposed location.

Fascia, who retired from the Providence police with the rank of sergeant, is currently the Human Resource Manage for USENTRA Security in Warwick. After leaving the police, he held a number of jobs including working for the Providence Housing Authority as a fraud investigator, and later for Crossroads Rhode Island where, according to official State House biography, he was Director of Safety and Security for ten years.

Married for 42 years to his wife, Elizabeth, the couple of have two children and four grandchildren. Family has always been central in his life, he said, and to this day he still credits his parents with teaching him strong moral values, but even more importantly, the importance of "being compassionate to people."


State Rep – State Rep. Richard Fascia represents Johnston and a small section of Cranston. He also made history on election night when he won the tight race for his District 42 seat – he is the first Republican to hold that seat in more than 80 years. *Submitted photo*

"I think that doing good for others was instilled in me," he said, adding that he likes to think his parents would be proud of his new role at the State House. "Let's just say that after the election, I visited the cemetery and had a long talk with them," he said.

Fascia campaigned on a platform of fiscal responsibility, family values, transparency and accountability to voters. His campaign website describes him as conservative on some issues including opposing "WOKE ideology, benefits for illegal aliens and gender reassignment for children."

He has been appointed to serve on three House standing committees: Education, Municipal Government and Housing, and Labor.

A Johnston resident for 26 years, Fascia said he wants the town – and the northwest parts of Cranston he represents – to continue to be good places to live.

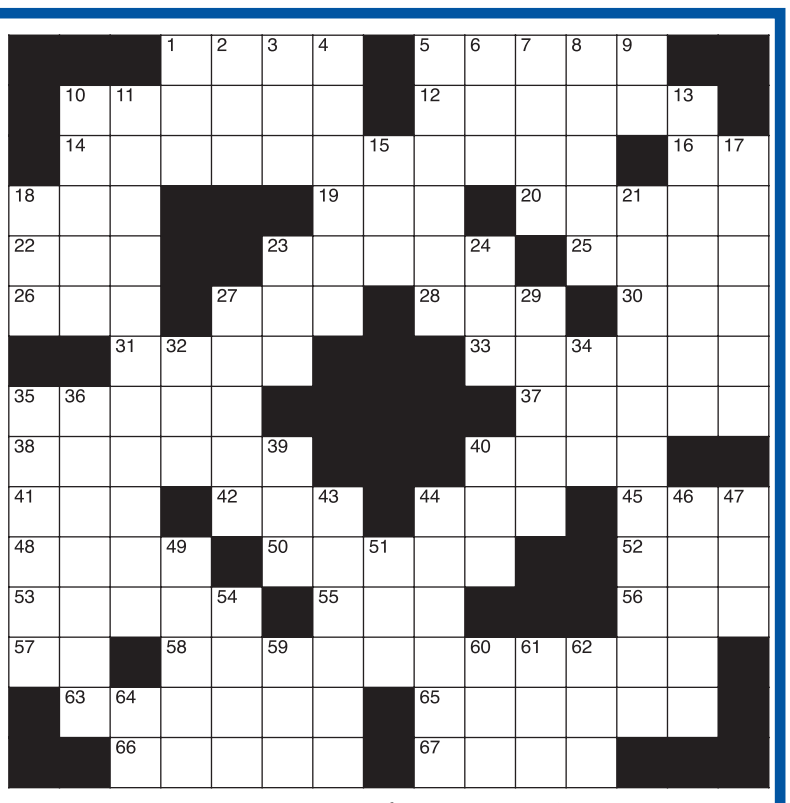
And despite the fact that he can, at times, still have the serious demeanor of a former police sergeant, he says he doesn't actually take himself too seriously.

"What do I do in my spare time?" he queries after being asked the question. "I'm old," he says. "I have the obligatory tomato garden in my backyard. I really like being out there enjoying the sunshine."

"My hope," he said, "is to make sure that the Johnston and Cranston voters I represent have a voice at the statehouse that echoes their feelings – not someone else's political agenda.

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1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They __
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape
38. A way to confine
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN
1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

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Community salutes Del Santo at 100

By PAM SCHIFF

February 1925. The world was different. There were only 48 stars on the flag, Calvin Coolidge was president, Sears Roebuck & Co. opened its first store. Sweet Georgia Brown and the Charleston were the radio hits.

And, Cranston's own Dr. Frank Del Santo was born.

Along with his family, including his daughter Anne Del Santo-Ravenscroft and her husband, Rob, and his daughter, Gina Del Santo, and her husband Stuart Easley, he celebrated with about 70 close friends and colleagues at the Sprague Mansion on Feb. 8.

Del Santo is the epitome of service and dedication. He is a graduate of the Cranston High School Class of 1945 and a retired University of Rhode Island professor.

He is a founding member of the Cranston Hall of Fame, a current member of the ROMEO (retired old men eating out) group and is a member of the Cranston Historical Society.

His commitment to the Cranston community was recognized through the creation of the Dr. Frank Del Santo Community Service Award. The first honoree was named at the Cranston Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2024.

The award acknowledges a person who has given of their time, energy and dedication to make Cranston a better place.

Cranston West graduate, Sgt. Adam DeCiccio, was posthumously honored for his work with veterans and serving the city.

"It was our honor to accept this distinguished award in honor of a distinguished gentleman. Thank you and the happiest 100 birthday," said Dawn DeCiccio, Adam's mother.

Fred Vincent, former president of the Hall of Fame, and longtime friend of DelSanto spoke of his commitment to Cranston and youth.


A-1 patient! Frank Del Santo (right) shares a hug with his doctor Yul Ejnes at a special party Saturday at the Sprague mansion. *Submitted photos*

"On behalf of the entire board of directors and its many grateful alumni, the Cranston Hall of Fame Foundation proudly acknowledges the celebration of your 100th birthday. Decade after decade you have been an inspirational leader not just for the Cranston Hall of Fame but for the many institutions, charities and organizations that were fortunate to share in your talents and wisdom. So, with the fondest of wishes we, your friends, colleagues and admirers hope that your 100th birthday has brought you more than all the joy, wisdom, friendship and love that you've always given away so freely," said Vincent.

Del Santo was very pragmatic about the big milestone.

"I am very fortunate to turn 100 – with a feeling that I can still help people and my family," he said.



The Pawtuxet Rangers are one of the few historical militia in the country to have a fife and drum corp. *Submitted photo*

■ Drummers

(Continued from page 1)

Warwick line, are one of the oldest existing chartered colonial militias in the country, and they are one of only a handful in the country to have a fife and drum corps.

The group is dedicated to preserving Revolutionary War history in the area and works side by side with Gaspee Days Committee which organizes annual events center of the 1772 burning of the British Naval schooner, the HMS Gaspee, off Rhode Island's shore – a key event in the start of the Revolutionary War.

The Pawtuxet Rangers are among the most active of Rhode Island's historic militia groups, Barnes said, noting that the militia and its fife and drum corps are constantly sought after for participation a wide variety of public events including parades, ceremonial State functions, and battle reenactments.

Historically, Barnes said, the importance of the fife and drum corps is key since they were the one means of communication that could reach soldiers "over long distances and over the noise of a battlefield."

Linda Deming, a major with the Pawtuxet Rangers and commanding officer of the fife and drum corps, said they are hoping to attract a few adults with drumming experience. The two drums used are snare drums and bass drums.

Deming, who has been with the Rangers for more than 50 years and plays the fife, said that people often find being in the corps informative – and fun. "We have so much fun when we get together and jam at our (weekly) rehearsals," she said. "And this is a truly unique way to be part of history."

Deming and Barnes said that, ideally, the drum line for the fife and drum corps would consist of at least four snare drums and two bass drums. They are now down to only a couple of people, some with limited availability, Deming said.

Barnes noted that with 2024 marking the 250th anniversary of the Rangers, and looking ahead to the busy early summer season of Gaspee Days activities, the organization is hopeful that they will find drummers ready to answer the call of history.

"We're looking for some people to donate their time and talent to the community," he said.







New England Tech is hoping that by cutting its tuition for some skilled trades programs, it will be able to help current and future students lead the way in the high-growth industry. *Photos submitted by New England Tech*

■ Tuition

(Continued from page 1)

sibility and high-quality education for students pursuing careers in those skilled trades," Grzybowski said. "We know that demand for this workforce continues to grow. We're helping students gain practical training and industry certifications without the financial barriers. It's an opportunity for students to not see cost as a barrier."

The new published tuition for students in the programs, according to Grzybowski, is $18,540, not including any aid that a student may receive.

Grzybowski said reducing tuition in these programs had been discussed for some time, and that now was the right time to do it.

"Some of our skilled trades programs were already at this price, and so we wanted to align all of them to be the same price," Grzybowski said. "It helps a student choose the pathway that they want, and not just choosing that particular pathway because of price or affordability."

Making sure that more prospective students could pursue careers in fast-growing fields, Grzybowski said, was also a top priority for New England Tech.

Citing both local and national statistics on the trades industries, Grzybowski said that it was extremely important for more students to receive an education in the trades, and that it was critical for the institute to keep leading the way in that field.

"The skilled trades industry is facing a critical labor shortage, both nationally and here in Rhode Island," Grzybowski said. "The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training is projecting a need for over 15,000 specialty trade contractors in the state by 2032 …. We're really hoping to increase the access to education and help bridge the workforce gap."

NEIT is hoping that increased enrollment will offset some of the reduced revenue per student from tuition, Grzybowski said.

"We are doing strong from an enrollment standpoint, because we're a leader in these particular fields," Grzybowski said. "We are committed to leading the way in this space, and we're able to adapt to ensure that we're able to provide the access for these particular programs."

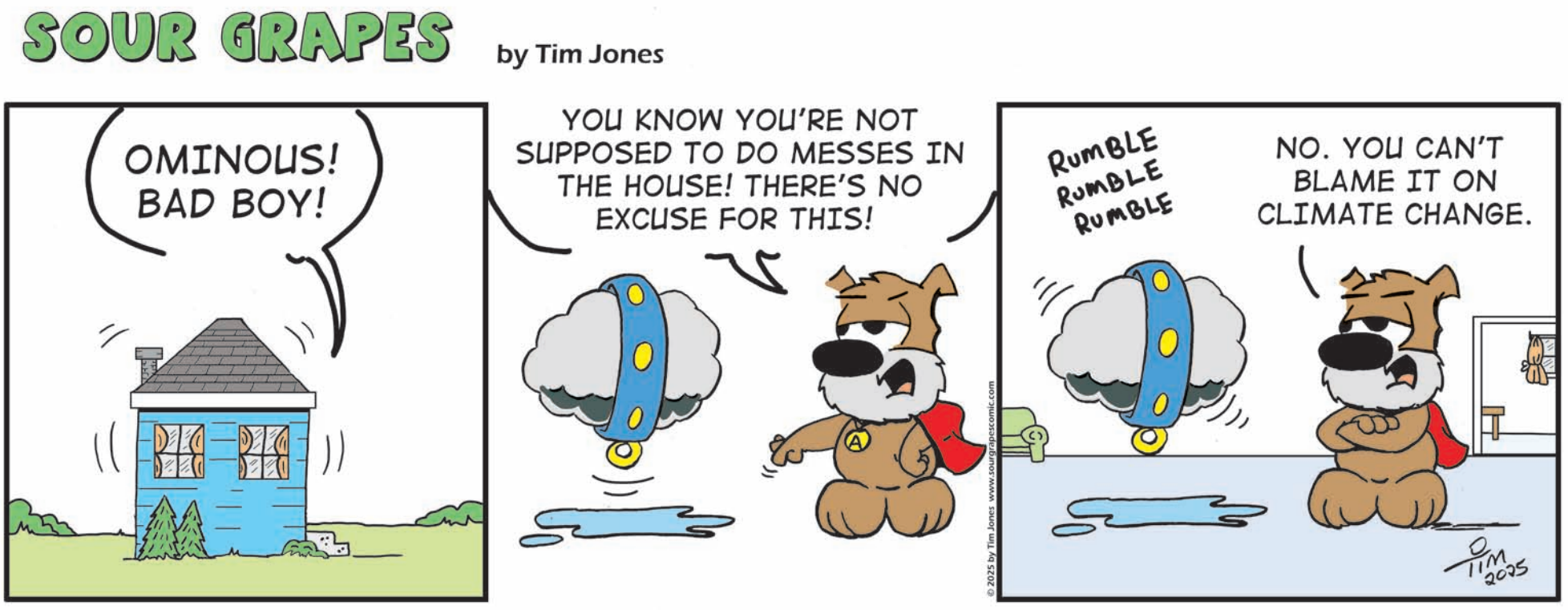
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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertop Flooring

"We make kitchens & bathrooms affordable for everyone"



By JENNIFER COATES

It has been said that you only get one chance to make a first impression, and nothing could be truer than when you walk into a kitchen or bathroom. That initial "wow" factor goes a long way! These rooms can make a lasting impression and can change how a homeowner loves and lives in a home.

While that first impression is important, it doesn't always tell the whole story. What you can't always see at first glance is all the professionalism, expertise and experience that have gone into converting an average space in a home into an eye-catching one. This is when you need to meet the formidable team of experts at Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertops Flooring, a cornerstone of the home improvement community.

Advantage specializes in everything from cabinetry, vanities, and stone countertops to sinks, faucets and flooring for your kitchen, bath or custom-built closet ~ all within your budget and all using only the best, industry-proven products.

Advantage Kitchen Baths Countertops Flooring is driven by the mantra that "we make kitchens and baths affordable for everyone." This is not just a catchy slogan, it is the driving force behind this family-owned and operated, Johnston-based company of industry veterans. Under the leadership of Richard and Susan Mooradian, co-owners Jim and Sonia Bray, and Kevin Catanzaro bring over a century of combined experience to every project they take on. They make this promise of affordability to their customers, but most importantly, they make a commitment that their projects will always be of the highest quality, start to finish.

Together, this dynamic team, which includes Richard and Kevin as two industry award-winning designers, helps their clients navigate the many decisions that must be made when doing this level of custom work. The entire team works together from the conception of a design plan and accompanying budget until every finishing touch has been completed. Big or small, every relationship, every result, every detail, matters to this team.

What sets this successful business apart from its competitors is their direct-to-consumers model. Not only does this process eliminate unnecessary markups, it also preserves the company's high standards. Advantage has long-standing relationships with vendors across the board and supports similar family-run businesses with values like their own.

It is important to note that when embarking on a home improvement project, homeowners are not obligated to use Advantage's contractors; it is also important to note that Advantage also sells and supplies materials alone if that is what their clients need. This is an individualized process that is very client-centered.

Visitors to Advantage's design center at 1232 Hartford Avenue (next door to Market Basket) are welcome Tuesday through Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. There are also free in-home consultations and on-site project evaluations.

To get started on transforming your living space today, call Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertops Flooring at 401-413-0426 or visit them at www.advantagekbcf.com.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

This isn't 'efficiency' – it's casual destruction

Has it felt to anyone else like we've gone through a year's worth of chaos, disruption and uncertainty in less than a month?

That's because we have.

And this dizzying strategy of "flooding the zone" — a term coined by the twice-convicted former White House Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, which refers to blitzing the American people and media with a disorienting number of newsworthy and potentially chaotic decisions one after another, never giving any one event time to be adequately discussed, adjudicated or digested — is not likely to subside anytime soon.

• WHERE TO WRITE:
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Warwick, RI 02889
publisher@beaconmediari.com

Trump has clearly learned his lesson about trying to impose his will through the legitimate levers of power provided by our cherished Constitution. He has, instead, given full authority to the world's wealthiest man to "audit" all of the federal government's wasteful spending and set it right. Or, judging from the rhetoric we've seen thus far, set it all alight.

And since Elon Musk's work in the "Department of Government Efficiency" is completely unchecked, unverifiable and opaque, we're all going to have to take his word for the facts and figures he presents and live with the momentously impactful decisions he recommends to America's chief executive.

The reality of this situation exceeds parody and cynicism. It is, frankly, unbelievable that any American could be OK with a brazenly corrupt and anti-democratic regime like the one unfolding in front of our eyes.

We would ask those who placed their vote for Trump in 2024 and continue to support him: Would you be OK with any of what is occurring right now if Kamala Harris or another Democrat sat in the Oval Office? Would you silently accept a president claiming ultimate authority above the law, ruling solely through executive action as if they were a king and demanding the removal of all dissidents in the cause of "saving the country?"

Auditing the efficiency of any business or organization takes time and careful consideration. An audit of massive federal government programs cannot be done adequately in the course of days by glancing through a budget spreadsheet and deeming certain expenses "wasteful" with no context.

What is happening right now is not an audit. It is the targeted elimination of departments that provide critical services to all Americans, including some of the most vulnerable populations, but also including veterans, children and, by the way, millions of people of all political stripes who rely on Medicaid and federal assistance programs.

Governing via chaos, disruption and uncertainty is not governing. It's wanton, casual, destructive lawlessness, and any self-proclaimed patriot should be opposed to it.



LETTERS

82 decibels isn't just annoying; it's dangerous

To the Editor:

Neighbors, students, teachers and staff are regularly exposed to high-intensity gunfire noise from training exercises at the Cranston Police Academy Training Complex. The facility is located across the street from Cranston High School West, close to the Western Hills Middle School and near residential neighborhoods. The noise is loud, persistent, unpredictable in onset and duration and intrudes into homes and schools.

Peak noise levels of 82 decibels in nearby residential neighborhoods were recorded by researchers from Brown University's Community Noise Lab. These far exceed levels known to be safe for hearing, for non-hearing health, and for children's learning. They also exceed the maximum limits of 55-75 dBA specified in Cranston's noise ordinance. For children in classrooms, the maximum safe level for prolonged exposure in schools is 35 dB – a level more than 20 times quieter than the levels measured by the researchers.

Chronic noise is not simply an annoyance or nuisance. It is a cause of chronic stress known to be harmful to health. It damages hearing and negatively affects mental health, physical health, children's learning and the ability to work productively. Those with sensory sensitivities such as autism and PTSD, including military veterans and survivors of gun violence, are particularly vulnerable to noise. It is known that the adverse effects of noise on the body occur even while people are fast asleep.

Noise was first declared a public health hazard more than 55 years ago, in 1968, by U.S. Surgeon General William Stewart, who spoke of the detrimental effects of noise on hearing as well as cardiovascular and endocrine health. Since that time, nearly 2,500 scientific articles on the harm from excessive and chronic noise have been published in the medical literature.

Research, starting in the 1970s by Arline Bronzaft, shows beyond any doubt that noise interferes with schoolchildren's learning.

"Scientific research strongly links noise to adverse physical and mental health effects, and to impaired children's learning," Bronzaft said when asked about the Cranston noise issue.

The normalization of gunfire noise in the school environment is also especially concerning in regard to active shooters. As one of our student interns asked while watching a video taken at Cranston High School West, 'How will those students and teachers be able to differentiate an active shooter from the police training exercises?"

Arline Bronzaft, PhD, co-founder, The Quiet Coalition, and Honorary Chair, Quiet American Skies
Dan Fink, MD, chairman, The Quiet Coalition

Jamie Banks, PhD, MSc, president and founder, Quiet Communities

Behind the headlines, progress in Cranston schools

By DOMINIC F. FUSCO JR.

The headlines screamed "Rhode Island students not meeting standards" and "One fifth of Cranston students not proficient." That might sell papers but there is so much more going on in Cranston than just these headline grabbers .

We have heard the reports, everyone wants to see results, but no one is really looking. To see real progress, examine all the numbers, not just one.

We all know what the pandemic did to our students, we also know some are still struggling, I won't debate that. However, there is real progress happening in Cranston schools.

Let's dive in: (note, I am only including a small sample of the results to show examples of the growth that is happening)

Let's start with:

RICAS ELA (English) - Grades 3-8

• Cranston overall saw an increase in the percentage of students making high growth in ELA (29.40% to 31.70%) while decreasing the percentage of students achieving low growth (34.90% to 32.80%)

• Orchard Farms increased percentage of students making high growth (28.90% to 32.90%)

• Park View decreased the percentage of students in low and typical growth, while increasing high growth (25.40% to 41.10%)

RICAS Math Growth Highlights – Grades 3-8

• Eden Park decreased in low and typical growth areas, while increased high growth (22.60% to 38.30%)

• Edgewood decreased in low growth range (46.10% to 34.20%), while high growth increased (22.50% to 28.90%)

• Gladstone decreased in low growth range (43% to 36.90%) while high growth range increased (27.80% to 36.90%)

• Glen Hills decreased low growth (61.60% to 40.20%) and increased high growth (15.10% to 25.60%)

• Oak Lawn decreased low growth (57.50% to 48.80%), while high growth increased (9.60% to 20.70%)

At the secondary level we saw growth as well, especially at one high school that has received its unfair share of criticism, the Apprenticeship Exploration School (AES)

• In ELA, the AES increased in Typical Growth from 34.30% to 42.90%

•In Math the AES increased in Typical Growth from 40% to 42.90%

We all want our schools to be the best, but achieving excellence doesn't happen overnight. It takes dedication, collaboration and hard work – from our administrators and teachers to our parents, families and students.

Cranston is on the right path, and we must keep this momentum going!

We're deep into the marathon of progress, and now it's up to our state and local leaders to ensure the necessary funding keeps this race going. Investing in education is investing in our future – let's make sure we give our students every opportunity to succeed!

Domenic F. Fusco Jr. is chairman of the Cranston School Committee.

Federal cuts may turn out to be catastrophe

TALKING POLITICS



by Ian Donnis

STORY OF THE WEEK: Providence is Rhode Island's ground zero for an array of possible cuts sparked by the administration of President Donald Trump and his GOP congressional supporters. With Republicans mulling $2.3 trillion in Medicaid reductions over the next decade, the fallout would hit hard in Providence, home to the biggest concentration of low-income Rhode Islanders. Elsewhere, the Trump administration's move to cut federal research funding has been delayed temporarily by a Massachusetts judge; opponents warn it would cause layoffs, suspend clinical trials and disrupt ongoing research. Just in the last year, Brown University received $139 million in NIH grants, Rhode Island Hospital got $31 million, and URI $19 million. Providence struggles even under the best of circumstances to generate enough revenue to operate city government, so Mayor Brett Smiley is closely watching for next steps. "Any one of these things would be a risk," Smiley said during an interview on Political Roundtable this week, referring to the potential federal spending cuts. "All of these things have the potential to be a catastrophe." Trump had a net 6-point approval rating in a CBS News poll this week, and as we noted last week, Americans tend to embrace the general notion of cutting government. The true test of public support for the president's approach, however, will take more time to assess, depending in part on what happens with inflation, the economy and whether Americans feel a tangible loss from federal spending cuts.

THE RESPONSE: Hundreds of Rhode Islanders recently demonstrated outside U.S. Sen. Jack Reed's Providence office, calling for the state's congressional delegation to take a strong stand against Trump, Elon Musk and their effort to remake the government. Reed joined me for a wide-ranging interview two days later and in describing the delegation's response to the Trump administration so far, he initially cited his opposition to Pete Hegseth's nomination as defense secretary. That might offer little solace to critics of Trump, since even the president's most controversial Cabinet nominees have cleared the Senate. Ultimately, though, Reed said, "We're in a position right now where, based on our constitutional system, the courts are the best form of relief. The president's arguably breaking the law in many cases, and as a result, it's the courts that must declare that and impose the proper sanction."

REED'S REACTION: Sen. Reed joined the Senate almost 30 years ago, in 1997, during the so-called 'vacation from history' – the time between the end of the Cold War and 9/11. Here are some excerpts from our interview earlier this week.

***On the ability of courts to prevent excesses.

Reed: "Well, I think the lower courts are doing that right now, and it's people who've been appointed by Republican presidents and Democratic presidents. They just understand this is clearly against the law. When it gets up to the Supreme Court, there it gets to be a little more complicated…. I think their concern is going to be not only what's the right thing to do, but will they be recognized and will that judgment be enforced by the president. And again, Trump's behavior is trying to send signals even to the court that you have no power. I have all the power. That concerns me, and it should concern everyone."

***Was Politico right to contend that Trump broke the Senate due to caving GOP opposition to once-unthinkable Cabinet nominees?

Reed: "Well, there is a very significant and real danger because our constitutional role is advice and consent. And frankly, my suspicion is that many of the people that voted for these individuals [like Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr.] had no confidence in their ability to do the job. And as a result, the Senate, I think, stepped back from its constitutional role, and that's unfortunate. The closest we got was Hegseth. It's the first, the second time, I believe, that a vice president ever had to vote to break a tie for a cabinet appointee."

***This didn't make it into the interview due to time constraints, but I asked Reed, 75, if there was anything that could keep him from seeking reelection next year. "The only thing that would stop me would be a medical condition that would prevent me to basically fulfill my obligation to the people of Rhode Island," he said. "I'm working hard as I always try to do. These are difficult times. I'm trying to do my best. In a way, too, I think leaving the scene at the moment of intense political instability might not be the best thing."

BEER BATTLE: The number of craft brewers in Rhode Island has climbed to almost 40 over the last 15 years (and who doesn't enjoy having a cold one at The Guild beer garden near the pedestrian bridge in Providence on a pleasant day?). This has been a bright spot for the local economy and it enhances Rhode Island's appeal as a destination. But craft brewers here are regulated more stringently than counterparts in Connecticut and Massachusetts. This remains a hot topic at the State House, where Sen. Wally Felag (D-Warren) wants to create a study commission examining alcohol and cannabis, and where the elusive quest for common ground continues.

R.I. home sales rose in 2024, reversing downward trend

Sales activity in Rhode Island's housing market rose last year for the first time since 2020. According to data released today by the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, 7681 single-family homes sold in the Ocean State in 2024, a 3.3% increase from 2023. Stunted by rising prices however, sales continue to fall far behind 2019 when 11,013 homes sold. In the five years since then, the median price climbed 66.7%. Last year alone, the 2024 median price of $475,000 represented an 11.8% increase from 2023.

Chris Whitten, President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors explained that demand from out-of-state buyers remains elevated. "The pandemic put Rhode Island on the map at a time our state was already short on housing supply. With the ability to work remotely, we've seen thousands moving into the Ocean State."

Last year, nearly one in four residential sales involved out-of-state buyers. For sales of $1 million and over, the figure rose to 42%.

The multifamily home market also saw gains in sales and median price. Closed transactions rose 3.2% from the prior year and investors interested in the hot rental market helped push the median price up 15.1% to $541,000, the largest annual increase of all residential housing types last year. First-time buyers and families also sought multifamily properties as a path to home ownership.

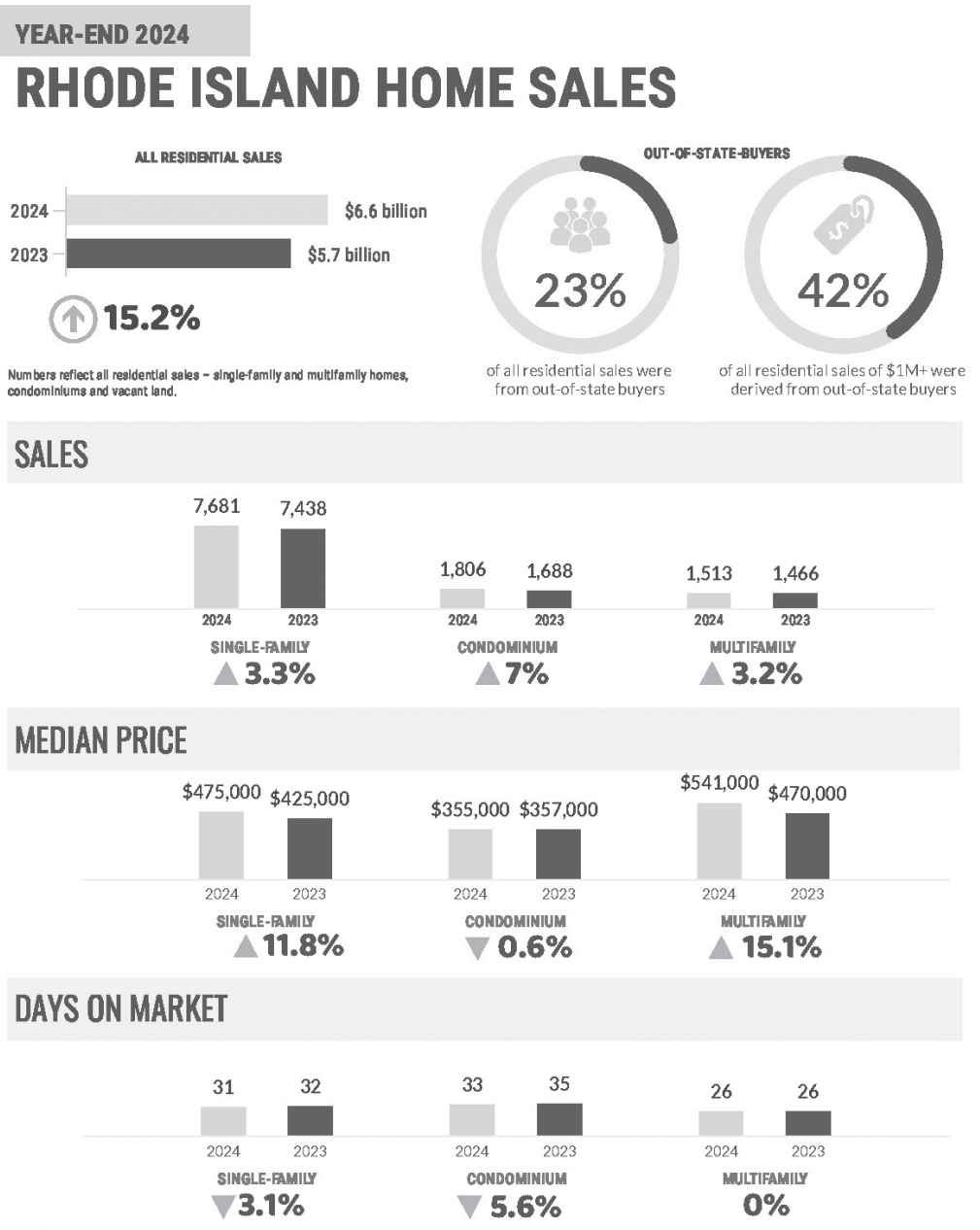
Rhode Island's condominium sector experienced a 7% increase in sales, though the median price of sales dropped slightly to $355,000 from $357,000 in 2023.

"It's clear our housing market remains extremely out of balance and the cost of owning a home here in Rhode Island has reached unprecedented heights. Obviously, we need to get more shovels in the ground to sensibly increase our supply, but just as important, the full ramifications of proposed laws on our housing market must be understood. While many bills are well intended, the effect of decreased home affordability from added fees, taxes and mandates can add up to thousands in a typical transaction. Sadly, the outcome of many of these bills are making the process more difficult to obtain the American Dream and detrimental to fixing our home affordability crisis," said Whitten.

Based on data as of third quarter last year, each Rhode Island home sale pushed $148,000 back into Rhode Island's economy through industry related income, expenditures related to home purchases and new home construction. The real estate industry accounted for $14.9 billion or 18.8% of the gross state product according to a report generated by the National Association of Realtors.

"In addition to the enormous personal toll a lack of housing takes on our citizens, it doesn't make sense to do anything that makes the process harder and creates less affordability for one of the state's biggest economic drivers," said Whitten.

Source: Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® www.rirealtors.org



Real Estate Transactions

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COVENTRY

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
137 Colvintown Rd	Richmond Harold E Est and Giroux, Melissa A	Wise Brothers LLC	1/29	$200,000
1712 Flat River Rd	Linares, Karen D	Roca, Julio C and Roca, Angelique I	1/31	$470,000
1850 Plainfield Pike	Fratantuono, Robert C	Fratantuono, Peter J and Lemme, Brooke	1/27	$610,000
187 Ayoho Rd	Wood, Christopher and Beaudry, Robert	Beaudry, Robert	1/31	$175,000
19 Juniper Hill Dr	James M Vesey T and Vesey, James M	Fox, Christopher L and Fox, Audra J	1/31	$600,000
190 Hopkins Hollow Rd	Medeiros, Joseph and Medeiros, Alison M	Sowers, M E	1/29	$479,000
225 Hopkins Hill Rd	Forsons Realty LLC	53 LLC	1/30	$1,325,000
26 Stuart Dr	Barnett, Tara	Taylor, Cornelius	1/28	$83,000
272 Nicholas Rd	Sutton, Paula J and Sutton, Steven C	Linares, Karen and Caraballo, Roberto	1/31	$750,000
3 Creighton Pl	Prime Re Investments LLC	Travers, Mildred	1/27	$390,000
3 Lane 3	Neri Thea M Est and Santangelo, Theajona	Boiani, William	1/31	$92,000
31 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 22	Westwood Const Inc	Lecostaouec, Jean A and Lecostaouec, Julia L	1/31	$747,900
55 Carrs Ln	Sowers, M E	Sowers, Tyler H	1/24	$675,000
563 Knotty Oak Rd	Forcino, Richard E and Forcino, Jo A	Suriel, Juan and Suazo, Denia V	1/27	$305,000
8 Centennial St	Boulanger David A Est and Boulanger, Jean A	Correia, Luis	1/24	$340,000
8 Jennifer Ln	Jepson, Jane and Jepson, David	Olney, Cory J	1/31	$420,000

CRANSTON

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
10 River St	Kelly, Kameron K and Kelly, Kody A	Kelly, Kody A	1/28	$275,200
115 Myrtle Ave	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Tiernan, Steven J	1/24	$425,000
115 Myrtle Ave Lot 2980	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Tiernan, Steven J	1/24	$425,000
14 Knight St	Perry, Joseph D	Polce, Patrick V	1/27	$525,000
15 Pershing St	W A C & Family LLC	Vla LLC	1/28	$379,000
15 Pershing St Lot 1821	W A C & Family LLC	Vla LLC	1/28	$379,000
1587 Phenix Ave	Difusco, Jason R and Difusco, Haylen B	Simhaqueva, Jennifer and Sullivan, Craig L	1/24	$450,000
18 Ridgevale Ct	Habchi Saad Est and Habchi, Marie	Rex Investments LLC	1/28	$725,000
24 Aldrich Ave	Pezza, Jillian	Conca, Jonathon	1/27	$450,000
32 Woodrow Ave	Threats Patricia Y Est and Simpson, Tanisha Y	Perez, Joshua M	1/24	$438,500
35 Whitewood Dr	Whitewood Dr LLC	Difusco, Jason R and Difusco, Haylen B	1/24	$750,000
400 Pippin Orchard Rd	Smart Homes LLC	Alba, Samuel	1/28	$1,000,000
400 Pippin Orchard Rd Lot 73	Smart Homes LLC	Alba, Samuel	1/28	$1,000,000
41 Fletcher Ave	Toni Ann Weisman T and Weisman, Elaine	Mandeville Prop LLC and Strom, Richard	1/27	$295,000
52 Lyndon Rd	Fitzpatrick, Francis L and Fitzpatrick, Sara J	Innis, Benjamin D and Hornsby, Emma G	1/24	$389,000
65 Vervena St	Maio, Robert and Maio, Thomas	Kiggundu, Frederick and Kiggundu, Immaculate	1/28	$467,000
90 Bryant Rd	Deciantis, Thomas M	Cheshire, Stacey L	1/24	$425,000

EAST GREENWICH

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
35 Frybrook Dr Lot 35	Sharon L Yarlas Lt and Yarlas, Sharon L	Harold & Faye Cook Lt and Cook, Harold J	1/31	$985,000
9 Tory Ln	Owner Private	Simons, Raymond C and Berman, Jessica	1/29	$875,000

EXETER

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
205 10 Rod Rd	Onorato, Kimberly R and Onorato, Ryan G	Cody, Rebecca	1/30	$364,000

JOHNSTON

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1 Clemence Ln	Cole, Joseph A and Cole, Heidi L	Clinton, Robert	1/30	$575,000
1 Cottage St	St James Investors LLC	Kqa 3217 LLC	1/29	$1
32 Buchanan St Lot 33	Saccoccia, Kimberly A and Towd Pt Mtg T2016-5	Vasquez Properties LLC, 2/4	$433,000	
4 Audrey Dr	Elevator Properties Inc	Gnacadja, Colette H	1/31	$510,000
4 Johnson Ave	Randle, Evan and Dinobile, Savanna	Laughter, Emily L and Masi, Alex M	1/31	$366,500
44 N Williams St	Sivo, Maria L	Rhody Rentals LLC, 2/4	$292,000	
6 York Rd	Carlson, David W and Towd Pt Mtg T2015-4	Almontes, Franky, 2/4	$260,000	
7 Lena Dr	Delgreco, Deborah J and Gemma, Susan M	Salvato Sr, Joseph A	1/31	$430,000

WARWICK

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1008 Toll Gate Rd	Ryan, Kevin S	Petrarca, Nicholas	1/31	$150,000
119 Holmes Rd	King, Dana F	Cheney Jr, Julian J	1/29	$400,000
1200 Quaker Ln Lot 32	Nai Entertainment Hldg LL	Collabdev 3a LLC	1/23	$1,100,000
1200 Quaker Ln Lot 33	Nai Entertainment Hldg LL	Collabdev 3a LLC	1/23	$1,100,000
14 Wheeler St	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Cunningham, Ciara L and Cunningham, Sharon L	1/23	$324,900
188 Wood St	Brian & Heather Johnson L and Johnson, Brian J	Patriot Hm Buyers LLC	1/30	$155,000
191 Boulder View Dr	Torres, Eric M and Bui-Torres, Oanh T	Marek, Emily and Otenti, Ian	1/24	$493,000
197 Glen Dr	Lamantia, Michelle and Dowaliby, Lisa	Tatro, Alyssa J and Eldridge, Joshua	1/27	$375,000
20 Overbrook Ave	Pittenger, Sol and Gambino, Monica	Williams, Paul and Bicknell, Hilary	1/30	$275,000
205 George St	Healey, Jane E	Yerger, Richard	1/31	$390,000
2103-2107 Warwick Ave Lot 3	Xavier Invest LLC	North Tide Invest Inc	1/31	$1,300,000
252 Sumner Ave	Sylvester, Allison and Senra, Nicholas	Colello, John A	1/30	$480,000
27 Galant Dr	Bush, Jennifer F and Chilvers, Betzy J	Dupont, Jami and Baron, Joyce	1/23	$385,000
28 Ithica St	New Era LLC	Carvalho, Elizabeth and Shea, Kimberly	1/24	$419,000
280 Long St	Bell, Robert K	American Hm Solutions LLC	1/29	$200,000
31 Eagle Run Lot A	Bowen, Lisa M and Bowen, Beth M	Flath, Eric	1/30	$350,000
316 Manolla Ave	Manolla Assoc LLC	Aaa Prop LLC	1/28	$270,000
32 Salix St	Vrmtg Asset T and Us Bk T Na	Ursillo, Jeffrey	1/23	$229,000
32 Sykes St	Boudreau, Shirley	Fresh Hm LLC	1/24	$300,000
357 Pequot Ave	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	Fitzelle, John R and Fitzelle Jones, Mary P	1/27	$1
42 Rosegarden St	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	King, Steven M and King, Victor M	1/27	$1
45 Eagle Run Lot A	Catherine M Murphy T and Mullaney, Eileen A	Mullaney, Daniel J	1/31	$350,000
51 Winthrop Rd	Thomas O Bernier Reft and Bernier, Thomas O	Wu, Guochu	1/31	$378,000
53 Welch Rd	Studley, Susan A	Rasombath, Songkham and Rasombath, Khanthaly	1/28	$450,000
62 Nakomis Dr	Buffery, Carol and Hallam, Wayne	Tantimonico, Phillip and Ruggieri, Amanda	1/23	$479,900
63 Robert Ave	Coffey, Joseph C	Haddad, Alexander and Zottoli, Carla	1/31	$470,000
70 Turner St Lot C3	Kristen B Miranda Relt and Miranda, Kristen B	Sasso, Maryann	1/27	$415,500
72 W Shore Rd Lot 103	Aldrich, Cynthia and Aldrich, Frederick	Gannon, James R	1/31	$200,000
86 Princeton Ave	Lemon, Mary and Lemon, Linda	Pereira, Jeff R	1/24	$295,000
86 Princeton Ave Lot 73	Lemon, Mary and Lemon, Linda	Pereira, Jeff R	1/24	$295,000
91 Harvard Ave	Elevator Prop Inc	Morgera, Marina	1/31	$415,000
93 Grove Ave	Finocchiaro Arthur A Est and Finocchiaro, Susan	Mershon, Aimee	1/31	$340,000
925 Halifax Dr Lot 925	Medeiros, Bruce J	Matteson, Michael R	1/15	$216,000

WEST GREENWICH

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
3 Pond View Ct	Grotta, Christopher D	Schanck, Gregory W and Eva, Natalie E	1/28	$630,000

WEST WARWICK

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
13 Bettez St	Elevator Properties Inc	Louis, Denno	1/29	$470,500
32 Trellis Dr Lot 32	Oreagan, Robert C and Maynard, Gwen M	Jepson, David and Jepson, Jane	1/31	$315,000
4 Freemont St	Blair Clifford L Est and Blair 2nd, Gordon D	Cruz, Raquel D and Cordero, Amurys J	1/31	$272,500
6 Cleveland St	Dacosta, Elizangela and Dacosta, Daniel	Jancura, Thomas G and Jancura, Megan,	2/4,	$415,000

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■ Coalition

(Continued from page 1)

Magaziner also called out what he described as the "incompetence" of the administration's workforce reductions.

"They just canceled a program that helps high school students with disabilities transition into the workplace," he said. "It's wrong, it's cruel, it's illegal and it's incompetent."

A call to public action

Reed and Magaziner urged Rhode Islanders to take action, to rally public support and push Congress to reject the proposed cuts. Reed called for a concerted effort to prevent the cuts from becoming law, saying it would take Republicans in Congress to recognize the damage the cuts would inflict on American students.

"These cuts are going to hurt our kids and our families," he said. "We're going to do everything we can to stop this. But it's going to take a gargantuan effort."

The proposed budget cuts are part of a broader $9 trillion reduction in domestic spending that would target not only education but also critical public health agencies. Reed and Magaziner emphasized that these cuts are driven by ideology, not fiscal responsibility.

From elementary school through college, uncertainty

Rhode Island's education leaders voiced strong concerns over potential cuts to federal education funding. Education Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green warned that such reductions would harm the state's progress in K-12 and higher education systems.

Infante-Green said about 15% of Rhode Island's education budget, or $275 million, comes from federal funding, which supports critical programs for low-income students, special education, school nutrition and career training.

"This money goes directly to our school districts," she said. "If we think we won't feel the impact, we're not paying attention."

She pointed out that Rhode Island is making a faster recovery from pandemic-related learning loss than its New England counterparts, but federal funding cuts could reverse this progress.

"This proposal serves to harm our progress and the foundation of our education system," she warned. She also emphasized the broader role of the U.S. Department of Education in enforcing laws and ensuring educational safeguards, calling on Rhode Islanders to unite in defense of the state's education system.

Specific concerns in higher education

Shannon Gilkey, Rhode Island commissioner of postsecondary education, underscored the importance of federal funding in higher education, noting that many students rely on Pell Grants for access to college.

"The research happening right here in Brown University and the University of Rhode Island will change the world," Gilkey said, citing the need for continued federal support in advancing research and innovation. He also stressed the importance of a skilled workforce, with 67% of jobs by 2030 requiring a credential beyond high school.

Rhode Island College President Jack Warner warned that federal funding cuts could jeopardize the affordability and accessibility of higher education. He described the college's commitment to "affordable excellence," noting that federal support helps keep tuition fees low, allowing many students to graduate debt-free and contribute to Rhode Island's economy.

"If that gets compromised, it directly affects the number of students who can come to our institution," Warner said.

Warner also pointed out that Rhode Island College receives additional federal grants to support disabled students and those impacted by COVID-related learning loss.

"We provide workforce training to support our key industries," he added. "Anything that compromises that can be really difficult for the state of Rhode Island."

'Don't mess with the students of Rhode Island'

Infante-Green added, "We're going to keep moving forward, because we're already on the path to success. So please, don't mess with the students of Rhode Island, because we're going to be here waiting for you."

Mary Barden, executive director of the National Education Association of Rhode Island, warned that eliminating the department would drastically harm those from lower-income and rural communities.

"Eliminating the Department of Education is equivalent to giving up on our future. Our students need more opportunities, more resources, and greater protections, not less," Barden said. She explained that proposed cuts would lead to increased class sizes, reduced job training programs, higher education becoming more expensive and special education services withering.

Barden highlighted the widespread benefits of federal funding, noting that 90% of Rhode Island students and 95% of students with disabilities are educated in public schools.

"As a 20-year classroom teacher here in Rhode Island, I know the positive impact the Department of Education's funding and programs have on all students," she said.

Barden also emphasized the critical role of Title I funds and Pell Grants in providing educational opportunities and supporting students with disabilities in the wake of the pandemic.

Maribeth Calabro, president of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers, called the apparent dismantling of the Department of Education a "direct threat to the principles of equity, innovation and national progress." She stressed the department's essential role in ensuring equal access to quality education for all students.

"The American dream was started in the foundation of the Department of Education," Calabro said. "It is instrumental in ensuring that every child has access to a quality public education."

Calabro further warned that the proposed cuts would increase inequities and teacher quality.

"Without federal oversight, students in marginalized communities would face even greater disparities in resources, teacher quality and educational opportunities," she said. Calabro also addressed the threat posed to higher education funding, noting that Pell Grants are crucial to many students' ability to attend college.

Barden and Calabro called on elected officials to prioritize public education and protect federal funding that supports students, families and educators.

"We must resist any attempt to weaken or abolish the Department of Education," Calabro urged. "Our children, our communities, our nation deserve nothing less than a robust and fully supported Department of Education."

RI Kids Count weighs in

Paige Parks, executive director of Rhode Island Kids Count, addressed the potential consequences of proposed federal cuts to education funding among children across the state.

"Rhode Island Kids Count is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health, safety, education and economic wellbeing of Rhode Island children," said Parks. "This is not about politics – this is about Rhode Island's children and the role federal investments play in their education."

Parks emphasized the role of federal funding for low-income students, who make up 44% of Rhode Island's public school population. Title I funding, which supports these students, allows schools to provide essential academic assistance and specialized programs. Federal funds are particularly vital in urban districts, with Providence, Central Falls, Woonsocket and Pawtucket relying heavily on U.S. Department of Education support. Smaller districts like Newport and Tiverton also receive significant contributions.

Federal funding also supports services for children with disabilities, including funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

"Before the pandemic, Rhode Island received about $46 million in IDEA funds, helping more than 22,000 students statewide," Parks said. "Dismantling the U.S. Department of Education would reduce resources for children with disabilities, leaving them at greater risk of falling behind."

The potential loss of federal funding also threatens after-school programs, which are important to academic and social development. Parks said the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program alone provided $6.5 million to Rhode Island in 2024, benefiting more than 5,200 children.

Parks also highlighted the success of Rhode Island's Career and Technical Education programs, with a graduation rate of 92% – much higher than the state average.

"CTE programs work so well for so many kids. We cannot let these funds be at risk," she said.

Mental-health programs, including training for students and educators, are another critical area supported by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Reducing or eliminating these funds would be harmful to all of our children," Parks warned. She called on Rhode Islanders to advocate for continued federal support for education.

"We must stand up and speak out for our children," Parks said, "especially for low-income students, children with disabilities, those in after-school programs, CTE students and those facing mental-health challenges."



Mary Barden, Executive Director of the National Education Association of Rhode Island, speaks out against proposed federal education cuts, warning of their impact on students, educators, and families across the state. *Beacon Media photo*

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www.annunciationri.oeg

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept – June
asburyumcri.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
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481-0030
www.gbcri.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Wednesday Prayer

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pawtuxetbaptist@verizon.net

People's Baptist Church
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St. Matthew Church
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Rev. Ronald J. Bengford
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Rev. Katherine Mitchell
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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
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Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ
546 Budlong Road
Rev. Aidan Kelley
942-0654
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828 Oaklawn Ave.
Pastor Chick Salliby
www.wordandprayer.org

Word Of Life Covenant Church
1308 Phenix Avenue
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thewordoflife.net

OBITUARIES

Barbara Jean Skorski



Barbara Jean Alexander-Skorski, 85, of Traverse City, MI, passed away on January 27, 2025, in Troy, MI, and is at peace afteher long battle with Alzheimer's.

Born on September 12, 1939, in Medford, MA, to Agustus "Bob" and Caroline Dowling Alexander, Barb was a devoted mother and a compassionate psychiatric nurse. Raised in Rhode Island, she later made Michigan her home after graduating from nursing school. She dedicated her career to caring for others at the State Hospital and then Munson Hospital until her retirement. In her later years, she embraced her creative side through her craft show business, Barb's Beauti-Knits, and rekindled her love of dancing.

Barbara is survived by her sister Dorothy "Dottie" McKittrick (Hal); sister-in-law Anita Alexander; her first husband Jeremy "Jerry" Chapman; her children Kevin Chapman, Tom Chapman (Mary), and Michelle Chapman (Scott Anderson); three grandsons—Duncan Chapman-Anderson, Cole Chapman, and Aidan Chapman-Anderson; and stepdaughter Jackie Francis (Al). She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. She is reunited in passing with her beloved husband Gerald "Jerry" Skorski, her parents, and her brother Robert "Bob" Alexander.

Friends and family are invited to share memories, photos, and tributes online at: https://www.forevermissed.com/barbara-jean-skorski/about?short_code=VK3nGe7n

Her children will be hosting a Celebration of Life this summer, with details to be shared on the Forever Missed memorial web- site.

Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Cranston Herald* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, cranstononline.com.

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call **(401) 732-3100** or email **Obits@rhodybeat.com** for additional information. Obituary prices start at $60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

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Bain students accept challenge, help those in need



Answering a call to help the homeless, students at Bain Middle School collected warm clothing and also donations. Here Principal Keith Croft (center with tie) gives a check to CCAP social worker Jesse Dooley (center left of Croft) who works with the homeless.



Students carry out bags of warming clothing donations that they collected.

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Last month, right around Martin Luther King Day, Bain faculty put out a challenge to the student body: How much can we help people without homes in our community this winter?

Last week, the students proudly displayed the fruits of their efforts – packing up bags of warm clothing and donating $60 to Comprehensive Community Action Programs (CCAP) for assistance to homeless clients.

"We felt it was in keeping with the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. and our students responded right away," said Mary Beth Young, advisor to the school-wide student council said of the call for donations. "We are so proud of them. This spirit of giving is part of the culture at Bain."

Jesse Dooley, a licensed social worker with CCAP, expressed gratitude for the students' generosity and said that the donations will be put to good use. As part of his job, he works with clients at Harrington Hall, an emergency overnight shelter for men, located on the grounds of the state Pastore Complex in Cranston.

"There is always a need for essentials like this," said Dooley, who last fall was also a candidate for the Cranston City Council. According to the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness, there are approximately 2,400 homeless people in the state. Dooley said they come from all walks of life – people who have fallen on hard times, people who are struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues, and some who have been released from being incarcerated and don't have the resources to build their lives anew.

Both Young and Bain Principal Keith Croft said that they never had any doubt that the middle school students would respond to the challenge to do something for the homeless this winter. "We are really proud of our kids," Croft said. "They work hard to have an impact on their community."

Sabitoni recognized with RI Hospitality Award

Honored for dedication to hospitality education, workforce development



Michael Sabitoni of Cranston and associate professor and department chair, food and beverage and travel and tourism studies at Johnson & Wales University. *Submitted by Johnson & Wales University*

The RI Hospitality Association (RIHA) presented Michael Sabitoni of Cranston and associate professor and department chair, food and beverage and travel and tourism studies at Johnson & Wales University with the RI Hospitality Education Foundation (RIHEF) Chairman's Award at the 2024 ANCHORS Awards, held at Bally's Lincoln. The RIHEF Chairman's Award celebrates individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to advancing hospitality education and workforce development.

Sabitoni has dedicated his career to shaping the next generation of hospitality professionals. His commitment to education, innovation, and community engagement has made an indelible impact on the industry and its future leaders.

"Michael Sabitoni's dedication to fostering talent and bridging the gap between education and the hospitality industry is unparalleled," said Farouk Rajab, RIHA President and CEO. "From mentoring students to spearheading groundbreaking programs, his contributions exemplify the mission of our Education Foundation, and we are honored to celebrate his achievements."

Sabitoni has hosted countless career and technical education students and their teachers at Johnson & Wales for tours and demonstrations, providing invaluable insights into the hospitality world. He has also volunteered his time and expertise for high school competitions and student career conferences, ensuring young professionals are well-prepared for success. Notably, he coordinated a specialized "boot camp" for students needing additional training to excel in RIHA's competitions.

Beyond his role at Johnson & Wales, Sabitoni serves as a liaison between the university and Rhode Island's hospitality industry, fostering collaboration and innovation. His international perspective, grounded in years of travel, enriches his work and inspires those around him. A frequent speaker and consultant, Sabitoni's expertise is sought after both locally and globally.

Sabitoni resides in Cranston, RI, with his wife, Dr. Karen Silva-Sabitoni, and their rescue puppy, Casside. He holds multiple degrees from Johnson & Wales University, including an M.S. in Hospitality Administration, and is a Certified Hospitality Educator.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 CRANSTON HERALD | WARWICK BEACON

Small but mighty





Dean Plowman teaches the basics of playing the ukulele. *Beacon Media photos by Matthew Lawrence*

Ukulele class draws all ages crowd

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

A gentle dusting of snow fell on the evening of Wednesday Feb. 12 as more than two dozen students filed into the large community room at Warwick Public Library. Each was holding a case, and inside each case was a small ukulele. The instruments came in many colors: light and dark wood finishes but also bright red, deep green, electric blue, and hot pink. Some were old, some were borrowed, and some were bought specifically for the Introduction to Ukulele course offered this winter at the library.

Every Wednesday for four weeks, the group meets to learn the basics of the instrument: how to make chords, strum, read tabs, play simple melodies, and sing while playing.

Some of the students are seniors, some are adults, and some are as young as ten. Many are from Warwick but some come from Cranston and other adjacent cities and towns. About three quarters of the students are women. Just about everyone from the first week returned for the second class, and one or two new faces also appeared.



This young student brought a stuffed friend to the workshop attached to the headstock of her ukulele.

Songs are learned quickly. In the first hour-long workshop, the group got through "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," "You Are My Sunshine," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." In the second week they covered "Happy Birthday" and Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline."

The workshop is led by Dean Plowman. Dressed in black slacks, a cordovan sweater, and a woven fedora, he speaks to the assembled group through a lightly crackling headset microphone that allows him to speak and play at the same time.

■ **UKULELE** - PAGE 16

Image by greenvideolab from Pixabay

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

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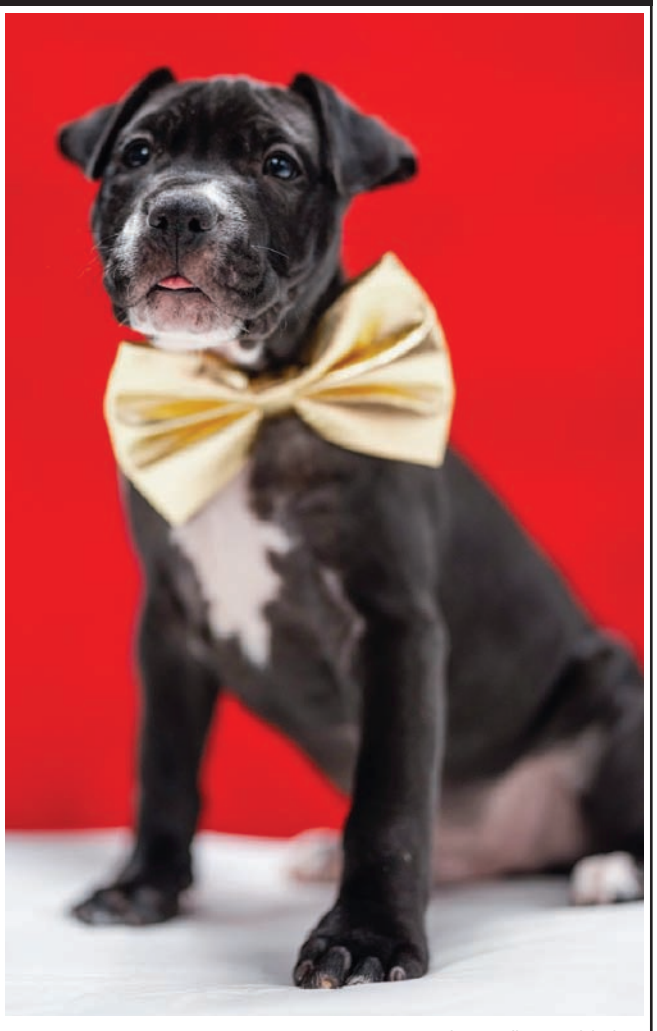


Photo credit: Ryan Pickering

LARK

What's cuter than a puppy in a bow tie? This little puppy named Lark is hoping to sing his was into your heart! If you have been searching for a puppy, look no further. Lark and another littermate are currently available at Heart of RI located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open on Wednesday's from 3:00-7:00 and Saturday's from 10:00-2:00. No appointment is necessary. For more information you can call 401-467-3670 or visit their website at http://www.heartofri.org Please keep in mind that puppies get adopted quickly so be sure to reach out or visit as soon as possible. Little Lark can't wait to start his life in a loving forever home!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Arturo Puentes as Oswaldo and Cliff Odle as Pops in Gamm's production of "Between Riverside and Crazy." *Photos by Cat Laine courtesy of Gamm Theatre*

Gritty Contemporary Dark Guirgis Comedy at Gamm

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

"Between Riverside and Crazy" is the second Stephen Adly Guirgis play to be seen in Rhode Island this season.

The first has a word you can't spell out in this newspaper, and is just as dark and gritty as this one.

Guirgis writes about passionate New York City folks with different lifestyles than most of us in his audiences.

At the center of this play is Pops (Cliff Odle), a retired NYC cop with a drinking problem, along with a few other problems, including eviction from his rent-controlled apartment.

His wife has recently died, his son Junior (Daniel Washington) moves in after being paroled, bringing along is girlfriend Lulu (Luz Lopez) and his messed-up friend Oswaldo (Arturo Puentes).

Pops has a complicated discrimination suit against his former employer in which two detectives (Rachel Dulude and Anthony Goes) are pressuring him to settle.

All this plays out in his apartment in a tense, sometimes violent look at a volatile family situation filled with strong street language.

Pops fights them, and himself, as he resists attempts to make him settle his case, which has strong racial implications.

I wish that the playwright had shortened his first act a bit, overemphasizing his points to the maximum.

Don't give up, because after intermission it all comes together in a tense, fault-finding, judgmental finale that involves one more character.

Maria Albertina takes over the stage as the visiting "church lady" who changes Pops' perspective and leaves him pondering his decision.

"Between Riverside and Crazy" is a tough, minded-bending play that underneath its rough edges raises many questions about racism, dignity, and "letting it go."

At Gamm Theatre through March 9. For tickets, call 723-4266 or visit gammtheatre.org.



Cliff Odle as Pops with Luz Lopez as Lulu.

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Artistry & Athleticism at 'Made on Hope'

Review by DON FOWLER

Ballet RI's director, Kathleen Breen Combes, describes the exciting "Made on Hope" evening of world premiere choreography at the ballet's Black Box Theatre on Providence's Hope Street as "Artistry and Athleticism."

I couldn't agree more.

Football is over for the season, and baseball is a couple of months away. It is time for the true athletes to shine.

Ballet RI has put together a program of eight short original pieces all expressing "intersections," briefly introduced by their young choreographers and each dancer with passion, precision and professionalism.

Opening with "Fractured Mirror," with the principals dancing in precise movements backed by a dozen dancers in perfect harmony. Clay Murray's innovative ballet is performed to fast and furious near perfection, setting the tone for a most satisfying evening of modern ballet.

Nina Yoshida-Webster's "Nagame" is a sensual piece danced with style and synergy by Garret McNally and Katherine Bickford Vigly.

Alexa Kearnan uses an all-woman ensemble in the exciting and amusing "My Life is a Movie."

Following intermission, Stephen Gunter delights the audience with three short pieces, followed by Gianna DiMassio's "I Am Pagliacci" with the dancers assuming roles of orchestra members, proving that ballet can be quirky and fun.

The evening closes with Alexandria Troianos's "Intertwined" bringing the fast-paced program full circle.

BalletRI proves that ballet can be fun and imaginative. The group of young choreographers' breathe fresh life into the art form that too many people have avoided.

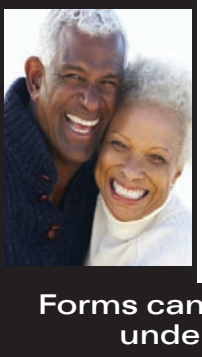
While there are only a few seats left for the remaining performances, you would be doing yourself a big favor by checking them out.

Artistry and athleticism--that's what BalletRI has to offer.

Tickets available for Feb. 20-23 at Balletri.org.







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Johnston Woman Widowed After Two-Week Marriage

Back in the Day



by Kelly Sullivan

Leo Milton Gray was born on March 16, 1922 to David Gray and his wife Alice (Hodgson). Leo and his brothers, Eugene and Richard, grew up in Volinia, Michigan where their father was a farmer. A 1941 graduate of Central High School, Leo enlisted in the United States Navy on June 30, 1942. Standing 5'10 tall and weighing 145 pounds, the hazel-eyed brunette with a scar in the center of his forehead left his home and his job at the machinery manufacturing company Allis Chalmers, to fight World War II.

Verna Marie Cusick was born on Aug. 23, 1924 to William and Mary Cusick. Verna grew up in Johnston, Rhode Island where her father worked as a mail carrier for the United States government. Verna graduated from St. Thomas Junior High School and St. Xavier High School in Providence – where she took part in numerous activities including French Club, typing club, science club, and serving as class treasurer – in 1942. On Sept. 1, 1942, she was admitted to the Rhode Island Hospital as a student nurse. Exactly one year later, she was admitted to the Cadet Nurse Corps program at the hospital. The program which trained nearly 120,000 nurses, was established that year to address the nursing shortage brought about by the war. Cadets pledged to serve in civilian or federal government services for the duration of the war. Verna was scheduled to graduate on Sept. 20, 1945.

Three months after Verna graduated, Leo received his discharge from the military. During his 34 months of active service, he had spent most of that time in the Pacific. Leo went back home to Michigan to visit his family for a few weeks before moving to Rhode Island where he had secured a job in Providence. He and Verna met and, on June 1, 1946, they married. Leo's mother traveled to Rhode Island for the wedding and then returned home to Mich. It was planned that the young couple would enjoy a honeymoon in Tenn. as they traveled to their new home in Decatur, Mich. where Leo had secured a job as a carpenter.

On June 13, 1946, twelve days after the wedding, Leo was driving a motorcycle with Verna seated on the back. At about 2:00 that afternoon, they approached an intersection near Dandridge, in Jefferson County, Tenn. approaching at the same time was a Ford truck. The two vehicles collided. While Verna received only minor injuries, her new husband suffered multiple contusions and compound fractures and was rendered unconscious. He died three days later at 12:05 a.m. without ever waking up. He was laid to rest at Cavalry Cemetery in Dowagiac, Mich.

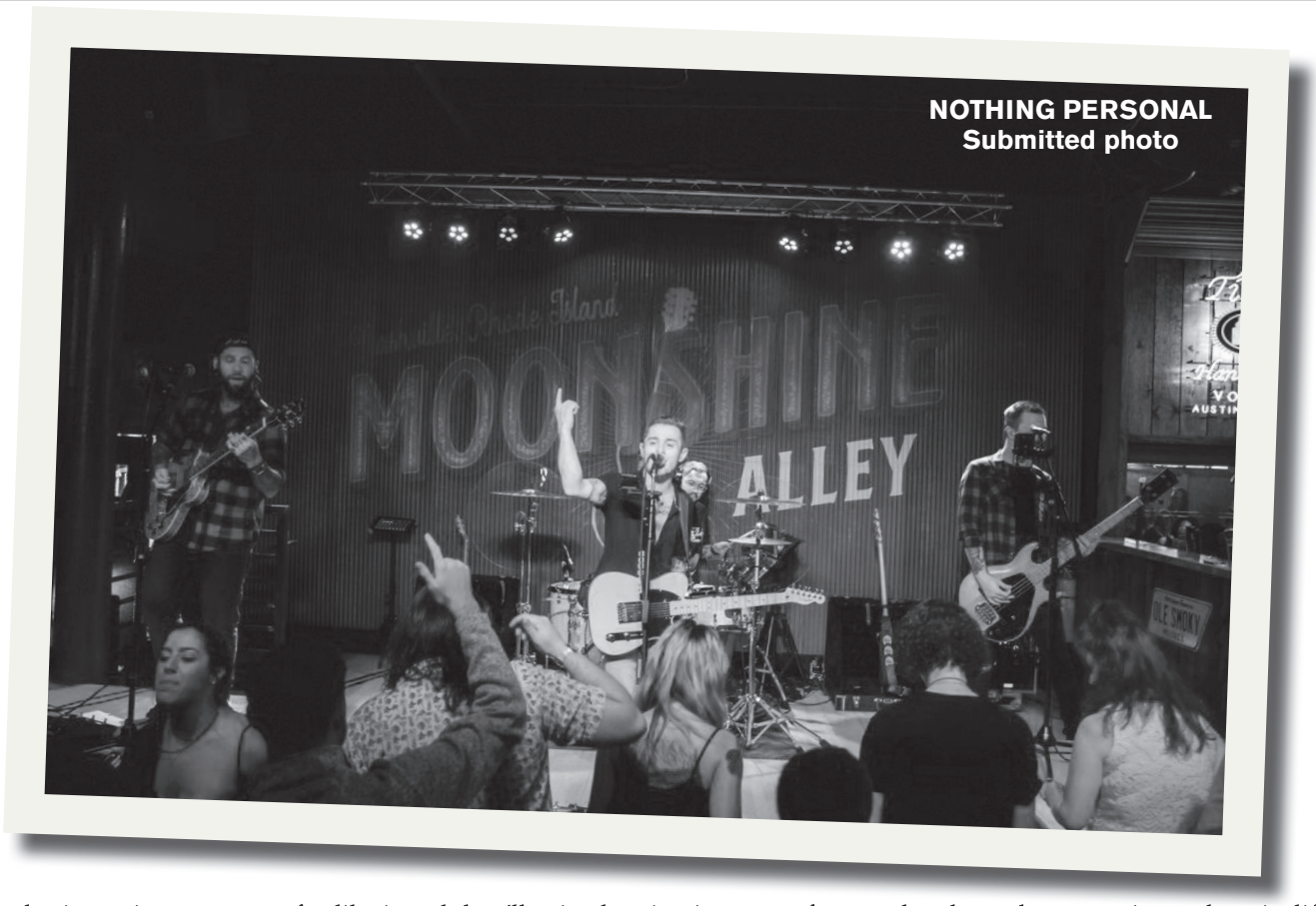


VERNA MARIE CUSICK

Verna returned to her parents' home on Riverside Drive in Johnston. The 22-year-old widow worked as a registered nurse in private homes. The tragic twist of fate was irony at its worst – young Leo Gray had survived three years in the throes of a violent war only to lose his life soon after – here in America, in the arms of the young woman he loved.

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

Nothing Personal brings hits to Pub On Park



NOTHING PERSONAL
Submitted photo

By ROB DUGUAY

Rhode Island many scenes within the music community. While there are a ton of bands playing original music, there are others who put their own spin on either classic tunes or contemporary hits.

One example is Nothing Personal, a Providence group that plays all over southern New England. With Patrick Devin and Rich Pare both on vocals and guitar, Mike Hill on vocals and bass and Chris Manfredi on drums, this band have a vast repertoire featuring renditions of songs like "American Girl" by Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, "Chicken Fried" by the Zac Brown Band and "Semi-Charmed Life" by Third Eye Blind just to name a few.

On February 21, Nothing Personal will play live at Pub on Park in Cranston starting at 9pm.

Rob Duguay: Nothing Personal started back in 2020, so who had the idea to start this project and how did you guys all come together to make it happen?

Patrick Devin: The timing of it was not a coincidence. We've all known each other for quite some time. Prior to the pandemic, I had played for a couple of other local cover bands. I just floated the idea to a couple friends that this was what I was doing before the pandemic, and it was a lot of fun to see if they had any interest in doing it. We pieced the band together with four members and we started rehearsing when the lockdowns lifted.

Everybody was taking precautions, but you could rent a rehearsal space to get together for a few hours a week and start to learn some music. Then as the world kind of opened back up, we were able to get into a couple places that were willing to give a new cover band a shot and it's kind of been a blur. We've really been going nonstop since then.

RD: When it came to the initial rehearsing, was there anything done virtually? Did you guys have a lot of Zoom chats to hash out ideas?

PD: No, I think based on my previous experiences in bands, they were pretty comfortable with giving me the reins to let everyone know the time and place to know these songs. We started with a giant master list of songs that we wanted to learn, and just because we had all been playing for a decade, maybe two, we already knew at least 20 of those songs immediately. We didn't have to rehearse "My Own Worst Enemy" by Lit because we all learned it when we were 10 years old, so we were pretty comfortable with that, but we didn't know how to play "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)" by Whitney Houston. We broke it up into groups of what we could get done in a night and what would take us a rehearsal or two to get under our belt, but nothing was really done virtually. There were a lot of texts back and forth, we have a 10 mile long group chat that we talk in throughout the week and that's really been there since day one.

When everything started, it was done in person. We communicated a lot about the planning that went into it, what we wanted to do and what we wanted to sound like. The creative element of being in a cover band is putting your own spin on it and that's a lot of what we discussed during those early days.

RD: When it comes to putting together a setlist, you guys play a range of material from pop, country and rock, so when it comes to choosing which songs you want to play, is it always a group decision or do one of you guys bring in an idea to try out a particular tune?

PD: There are a few questions we ask ourselves, and probably the biggest one is "Do I just want to play this song or will anybody want to hear it?" The things that I find the most interesting to play put audiences to sleep. There's a really big divide between music you like and music that everybody likes and everybody will enjoy. We try to ensure that if you're eight years old or if you're 80 years old, when you come to our shows you're going to hear at least a handful of songs that you really like. We try to cast a wide net so everybody can have a good time and it's not necessarily a group decision because we usually have one guy who absolutely hates doing whatever song is suggested. Eventually, they either stomach it or come around to it, but we really encourage the mentality of asking ourselves "Do we want to play this song because we like it, or do we want to play it because we know other people will like it and they'll enjoy hearing it at one of our shows?".

We try to approach learning new music as all gas, no brakes. We don't want to incorporate too many of what we call "bathroom break" songs where it's really fun for us, but it's the point in the night where everybody looks at each other and realizes that it's a good time to use the restroom or grab another drink. Whenever we're learning a new song, we want to make sure that it's going to keep somebody engaged and it's a song they actually would want to hear.

RD: That's a good mindset to have. The band itself has four different versions where you have the full band, you have the wedding band, you have the "Emo Night" band and you have the acoustic duo with you and Rich. When it comes to having these various aspects, how much planning goes into each one?

PD: When it comes to the planning that goes into it, I would say that it's too much. I probably spend more time than I should scrutinizing every element of all four of those things. The full band setup is what we do, that's our foundation and then everything else stems off of it. We really try to make each one of those things a different experience. When we play a wedding, we work really closely with the bride and groom to make sure that it's everything that they wanted it to be. We present very differently for a wedding, we wear suits, we make sure that we're putting on a show that fits a wedding and not a show that fits playing a bar, club or any other type of venue.

We have a different logo that we use for weddings, which is a little more classy. It's kind of designed to be a little more formal than our normal set, and then for "Emo Night", we all grew up going to Warped Tour, some of us have played Warped Tour, and that's the music we grew up on. When we play those shows, again our logo is different and when you walk in the room, you don't feel like you're going to see a cover band, it feels like you're going to a show at Lupo's in 2007 where All Time Low and Fall Out Boy are playing. For the acoustic shows, we wanted to do that as an extension because we want to use it as a way to get people to see the band as a whole, so a lot of planning goes into each of those elements.

RD: I can definitely tell. What are your thoughts on this upcoming show at the Pub on Park?

PD: It's pretty much going to be the same for us as every night. We take a week to plan out how we want to do it, and we also take the room into consideration and whether or not a good chunk of our following is most likely going to be there. We wouldn't usually play the same set at a place like Pub on Park like we would at Moonshine Alley in Providence, Splitsville in Foxboro or any of the other venues that we play. We tailor to the room and what the bartenders want to hear and some of the folks who are going to be coming there want to hear. My biggest thing for every show is just making sure that we sound good in the room. Every room is a little bit different, so we'll get there a few hours early to do a rigorous sound check to make sure the drums aren't too loud and the guitars aren't too quiet so anybody can walk in while not feeling overwhelmed but also feeling like they're watching a band.

Pub on Park is really one of the first venues that we've played. I've played there with previous cover bands and we really enjoy playing there, it's a nice little stage with a big dance floor, so when we go into a room like that, we expect that folks are going to want to dance so anything we have that they can dance to is going to go in the set.

See it at the Movies

with Joyce & Don Fowler



AVON

SING SING
* * * ½
(Theatre in the Prison)

Nominated for 3 Academy Awards, "Sing Sing" is based on a true story about a theatre group made up of prisoners at the infamous Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

Colman Domingo stars as Divine G, serving a long prison term for a murder he did not commit.

Looking for purpose in his drab life, he forms a theatre group, enlisting the help of an outside director and serving as a facilitator.

The story moves slowly through the process of preparing the inmates to play a role by rehearsing and eventually performing before the prison audience.

We get to know about the inmates--their personal lives, their feelings, their hopes and dreams and the anger that builds inside them.

Most of the roles are played by formerly incarcerated prisoners.

COMING SOON

Two Academy Award-nominated films are scheduled next at the Avon: THE ROOM NEXT DOOR, starring Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton and I'M STILL HERE, from Brazil.

SING SING



(L to R) Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) President and CEO J.L. "Lynn" Singleton and Rhode Island Energy President Greg Cornett. *Submitted photo by Core Photographic*

RI Energy Will Sponsor 'RIVERDANCE 30 – The New Generation' at PPAC

The International Irish Dance Phenomenon Returns to PPAC April 4

J.L. "Lynn" Singleton, president and CEO of the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC), announced that Rhode Island Energy (RIE) is the sponsor of "RIVERDANCE 30 – The New Generation" at PPAC for five performances only, April 4 – 6.

'RIVERDANCE 30' rejuvenates the much-loved original show with new innovative choreography and costumes and state-of-the-art lighting, projection and motion graphics. And for the first time, Riverdance will welcome "The New Generation" of performers, all of whom were not born when the show began 30 years ago.

"We are proud to support the Providence Performing Art Center and its presentation of 'RIVERDANCE 30'," said Greg Cornett, president of RIE. "By supporting local cultural events, we invest in our communities and help enhance the experiences that make Rhode Island a great place to live and work."

Tickets are available now at the PPAC Box Office (220 Weybosset Street, Providence, RI 02903), by phone at 401.421.ARTS (2787) and online at ppacri.org/riverdance. Ticket prices range from $80 to $38 and include a $4 per ticket theatre restoration charge. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Special pricing is available for groups of 10 or more. Contact Paul Hiatt at phiatt@ppacri.org or 401.574.3162 to order group tickets.

Notable Works opens submissions for annual poetry contest

Bridging the Divide is this year's theme

By ROB DUGUAY



Notable Works' Artist in Residence Noreen Inglesi. *Submitted photo*

With a couple clicks, it's easy to access information on the internet. This has its benefits but also has some negatives. For example, information may look credible at first, but they report falsehoods and skewed facts to fit a particular narrative. This often confuses people who are trying to find facts while making others fearful, angry and downright paranoid.

In response, Notable Works, a nonprofit in Warwick is currently taking submissions for their annual poetry contest. The theme of this year's contest is 'Bridging the Divide'.

"The theme of this year's poetry contest is based on the theme of Notable Works' new musical 'Sell Division: Breaking the Chains of Perception', which focuses on healing and bridging the divide which misinformation, labeling and stereotyping creates as it pertains to our environment and social concerns," Noreen Inglesi, who is a composer, poet and artist in residence for Notable Works, says via social media.

According to their Facebook page, Notable Works' mission is to raise awareness for environmental and social concerns through the arts. "We see the arts as a valuable means of enlightening, informing, fostering communication & inspiring community involvement," it states.

The submission deadline for the contest is March 1 and a $10 fee for up to three poems. The final judge for the contest is Tina Cane, who was Rhode Island's Poet Laureate from 2016 to 2024. Prizes will be given for the top three poems (third place $25, second place $50 and first place $100). Three honorable mentions will be selected. The winners will be showcased at an event at William Hall Library in Cranston on May 3 at 11am.

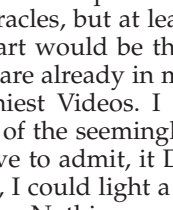
The winning poems will also be published in the June issue of Notable Works' monthly publication "Notable Notes" along with the top three winners being featured on the Cranston Public Library's "On The Line Program" during National Poetry Month in April.

Submission requirements include using 12-point Times New Roman font. The poem should not exceed 50 lines, with the title and blank lines being included, and each line should not exceed 66 characters, which includes spaces and punctuation. No identifying information should be included with the poem and it must be sent in as a Microsoft Word document. Poets who are looking to enter the contest are to email their submissions to info@notableworks.org, with each poem attached in a single email, not multiple. There also needs to be a cover letter included with the names of the poems, name of the poet, their email address, mailing address and phone number along with a short bio that's less than 125 words.

For more information visit notableworks.org.

No big deal at all!

Life Matters



with Linda Petersen

Lately, discouraging things have been weighing on me. For the first time in my life, I'm struggling to pay bills and living paycheck to paycheck. Supporting my adult children with disabilities has been far more costly than I ever anticipated, especially with Angel being homeless due to his mental health struggles and Marie's recent surgery requiring me to take time off work to help. On top of that, I am trying to lose weight, but it is a challenge. My hair is thin and gray, my make-up less face feels less than attractive, and my car's transmission is failing. I just did our taxes and instead of getting money back, we owe almost $3,000. Worries keep me up at night, leaving me exhausted and irritable, something I do not enjoy feeling.

I need to SNAP OUT OF IT and start setting some serious boundaries, no more being an ATM for others! It is perfectly fine to say no, and my financial survival needs to take priority. Gone are the days of sharing my cash like I'm some sort of benevolent money fairy.

Take Marie, for example. She is a pro at the "Hey Mom, can you send me $25 so I can eat out with my friends?" routine. Sorry…the Bank of Mom is officially closed for withdrawals! From now on, she can get her nutrition the same way I do, by rummaging through whatever's in her fridge. If there is nothing in it, there are plenty of food banks she could visit.

Besides, the real benefit of eating out is socializing, and last I checked, friendship isn't dependent on a three-course meal. She can still join her friends and sip on a budget-friendly cup of hot chocolate with a donut.

I hereby declare that it is not my responsibility if one of my grown-up children finds themselves running on fumes. Gas is expensive, times are tough, and if they want to keep their wheels rolling, they need to factor fuel costs into their travels. Case in point: Today, Marie called me in distress because a hit-and-run driver decided to hit her car and take off, and she does not have the money to fix it. Well, guess what? Neither do I! The "Mom's Emergency Fund for Everyone Else's Problems" is officially tapped out.

I also need to start small on my weight loss journey and getting exercise, like taking a daily stroll around the block. Better yet, I could sing and skip around the block! That would be much more fun… if only my bladder would cooperate. Without worrying about ALL carbohydrates, I could stop eating some of them that seem to cling to my waistline, such as bread and French fries.

Maybe I could throw on a little makeup and curl my hair. It might not perform any actual miracles, but at least I would feel like I made an effort. The best part would be that it is free because makeup and a curling iron are already in my arsenal.

I could watch America's Funniest Videos. I generally steer away from this program because of the seemingly stupid theatrics that are performed, but, I have to admit, it DOES make me laugh. To enhance the experience, I could light a lovely, scented candle from Bath & Body Works. Nothing says self-care like watching people wipe out while being surrounded by the calming aroma of "Warm Vanilla Sugar" or "Eucalyptus Stress Relief." A little laughter, a little aromatherapy—next thing you know, I might just trick myself into being in a good mood!

I would then be ready to face my troubles head on. Bills? Car troubles? Grown children with empty gas tanks? Unattractive? Overweight? No big deal. No big deal at all!



Students used ukuleles of many colors during the workshop.











■ Ukulele

(Continued from page 13)

"My first instrument as a youth was actually mandolin," Plowman says. "But then of course the Beatles came around and the Rolling Stones and I switched to guitar."

Then came ukulele and banjo, the latter of which he plays in a local Dixieland band.

"String instruments are all pretty similar," he says before breaking into a laugh. "Well, you don't want to hear me play the violin."

For Plowman, music was always a side project. Before retiring a few years ago, he worked as an electrical engineer and also taught engineering to students at Johnson and Wales University, CCRI, Bryant University, and New England Tech.

A few years ago, he contacted the Greenville Library about running a ukulele workshop–he runs those in the summer–and last year brought the idea to Warwick. He also brings his musical passion to the seniors of Greenville at the Village at Waterman Lake.

The history of the ukulele is fascinating. While many associate it with Hawaii and Hawaiian music, according to Ukulele Magazine the ukulele is a hybrid of two Portuguese instruments called the machête and the rajão. In the 1880s, the Portuguese island of Madeira was full of poverty and drought, so sugar plantations in Hawaii began hiring desperate workers from Madeira, who brought their instruments with them and performed on the streets of Honolulu. Once their contracts with the sugar plantations expired, three of them set up shop in Hawaii as guitar makers, and the ukulele was born.

Of the common plucked string instruments, Plowman says the ukulele is easiest for beginners to pick up because it only has four strings. New students are given clip-on tuners that allow them to get those strings sounding right. Entry-level ukuleles aren't expensive, but Plowman warns that the cheap ones will slip out of tune at the first possible opportunity.

During the second workshop, one student inquired about the callouses she was developing on her fingers from practicing. Plowman got excited. "You will get callouses! They will last two weeks. Then you'll never feel them again."

In the back of the workshop sit three helpers, students who took the course last year and kept practicing once the workshops were over. One of the apprentices is Wil Gregersen, the Library's Community Services Librarian and Adult Events Impresario. It's Gregersen who worked with Plowman to bring the workshop to Warwick.

Gregersen believes that free adult programs draw the best crowds.

"With ticketed events, sometimes you have a hard day at work or you're tired and you don't feel like going, but you force yourself because you already have a ticket. With a free course, the people who come are all here because they really want to be."

"I like giving back to the community," Plowman says, "and people seem to love it." For those who want to know more about ukulele music, Plowman's current favorite is Jake Shimabukuro, who he saw perform at the Park Theatre in Cranston last October. "He plays the ukulele like he's Eddie Van Halen," Plowman raves.

And for those who want to hear more music, the Library has several musical events coming up, including a four-week course on the history of country music and a concert featuring Scottish fiddler Louise Bichan.



LIVING YOUR BEST IN THE PRIME OF YOUR LIFE

PRIME TIME



Volunteers with the Warwick Village presented to the city council in the fall of 2024. Submitted photo.

A Village comes to Warwick

Issues call for more volunteers, villagers

After more than a year of planning by residents, alongside the Village Common of Rhode Island, Warwick's Village for older adults is becoming a reality.

There will be an opportunity to celebrate this milestone and to learn more about how the Village supports older adults in the community on Feb 26 at the Elk Lodge on West Shore Road.

The village concept is neighbors helping neighbors in a formal, sustainable organization. Older adults can get trusted help when they need it and stay social, preventing the negative effects of isolation.

According to a press release, the Warwick Village is always looking for volunteers to fill a variety of roles, from serving on the steering committee to helping older residents who are just feeling lonely and need someone to talk to.

"We can provide rides to doctor's offices, to the market, pharmacy or other errands, and do shopping for the member," Caroline Dillon, executive director of the Village Common told the Warwick Beacon in November when the Warwick Village was still in its early organizing phase.

"We offer home help, which includes basic maintenance, such as replacing a battery in a smoke detector, changing a light bulb or removing seasonal items…We all need some technology help, setting up new devices. We have volunteers ready," she said.

According to Dillon, volunteers must complete a required background check. Villagers can also be volunteers, which Dillon says has happened often across Rhode Island's other villages. Interested potential villagers, she continued, can meet with the organization's membership ambassadors at their homes or at another location.

"We want to be sure that a village is a good fit for the perspective member and expectations are understood," she said.

The Village Common of RI is a volunteer-driven, membership based, nonprofit organization with villages in Aquidneck Island, Barrington, Burrillville, Edgewood, Gloucester, Providence and Westerly. Each village has members and the volunteers who assist them, supported by the small administrative staff of The Village Common of RI. People can be both members and volunteers.

Formed in Providence in 2015, The Village Common of RI was inspired by the first village created by neighbors in the Beacon Hill section of Boston in 2002. These friends developed a formal network of volunteers available to help members with some of the challenges people experience as they age.

Each village reflects the needs of older adults in the community in which it operates. Villages are increasingly serving older adults in under-resourced communities with diverse populations. Members of Rhode Island villages pay dues based on what is financially manageable for them.

According to organizers, the Villages also rely on collaborations and partnerships to leverage their resources and better serve older adults. They partner with health care agencies and providers, senior centers, educational institutions, service clubs, for-profit businesses, faith-based groups, and organizations in the aging services network. They strive not to duplicate services but rather enhance connections to resources.

If you're interested in learning more about joining the Warwick Village as a volunteer or member, please contact us at warwick@villagecommonri.org or at 401-515-5118.

Visit our website to learn more about The Village Common of RI (www.villagecommonri.org).

With reports from Joy Fox and Adam Zangari.

Warwick Village Launch

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Frozen...Rhode Island Style



MY SIDE OF THINGS
by LARRY GRIMALDI

Being parents of two adult sons and a daughter, my wife and I have attended countless soccer, baseball, basketball, football games, dance recitals, and high school cheerleading performances. The cycle repeated itself when my twin granddaughters Kailyn and Sophia, now age 21 and in their last year of college, competed in hundreds of softball, volleyball, and soccer games, ran track, and cheered for the St. Raphael Academy football team.

These athletic events all had one common thread. They were held in mostly warm environments. While some football games and a few early season baseball and softball games were held during spring and fall when the weather had a chill in the air, they do not compare our newest adventure-high school hockey games. My grandson, 15-year-old freshman Nicholas, is a left-winger on the Blackstone Valley Schools varsity team. Consequently, we are being introduced an entirely new athletic circuit.

In our tour of the state's high school hockey arenas, we have discovered sites that are reasonably comfortable. Schneider Arena at Providence College, the Smithfield Rink and Thayer Rink in Warwick are okay. Things start to get chillier at the Rhode Island Sports Center on Route 146 in North Smithfield, the Burrillville High School Rink and the Boss Arena at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston.

The deep freeze begins at the Cranston Memorial Ice Rink. But nothing is as arctic as the Dennis M. Lynch Arena in Pawtucket. My wife and I have speculated that the heat was last turned on at this venue in 1982. If that wasn't cold enough, brain-freezing ventilation drifts through the rink. As you sit and observe the action on the ice, you are almost frozen in place on the aluminum benches. And I'm grateful that high school hockey periods last 15 minutes instead of the standard 20 minutes.

The heat, what little there is, can be enjoyed if you take refuge in the lobby and thaw out for about 10 minutes between the second and third periods when the Zamboni resurfaces the ice. The Zamboni is not used between the first and second periods when the teams gather around their coaches to review the action and get instructions for the last period. So you endure the igloo atmosphere in frigid silence, insulated with a long-sleeve t-shirt, flannel shirt, a wool toque topped by a hooded sweat shirt, a winter coat, gloves and a scarf as you huddle under a blanket. (I am NOT exaggerating).

My memory harkens back to those winter Sunday evenings spent at the old Rhode Island Auditorium on North Main Street watching the Providence Reds battle their American Hockey League foes like the Quebec Aces, Rochester Americans, Hershey Bears, Springfield Indians, and the Buffalo Bisons for the Calder Cup (the AHL equivalent of Lord Stanley's National Hockey League prized trophy). While I recall it being reasonably comfortable at the Auditorium, the cigarette and cigar smoke would rise to the rafters and could obscure some of the action on the ice by the third period.

The move to the Providence Civic Center in 1972 (now the Amica Mutual Pavilion) somehow took some of the aura away from the ritual Sunday contests at the old "barn." I also saw the rodeo, the circus, and the Boston Celtics, with roundball legends such as Bob Cousy and Bill Russell, play the Cincinnati Royals, featuring Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson at the Auditorium. I also skated there during open skating sessions.

At any rate, I'm sitting here at the frozen tundra that is the Lynch Arena and enjoying every minute. I wouldn't want it any other way.

WHY IS IT THAT: ***South Florida residents think that 65 degrees in February is cold?***

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Larry and his wife Kathy are co-authors of "Wandering Across America," a chronicle of their cross-country road trip, and "Cooking with Mammie," a collection of family recipes prepared with their grandchildren. He has also written the anthologies,"50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volumes I & II." The anthologies are a collection of previously published columns, used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, or comments, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com or visit fruithillpublishing.my.canva.site

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Office of Healthy Aging Explained



by MARIA CIMINI

Are you one of the nearly 190,000 Rhode Islanders over age 65? You are in good company; you are part of the fastest growing population in the Ocean State.

I'm excited to introduce you to Rhode Island's Office of Healthy Aging (OHA). We are your partner and funded with your tax dollars. OHA creates policies and programs to support your goals for aging and supporting your independence. OHA is a state agency which exists to help you find the information you need - when you need it.

So, each month you can look to this place, this column, to learn more about the important role OHA plays in advocating for older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers. Our mission is to provide you with the resources needed to live with dignity, security, and achieve maximum independence for your desired quality of life.

How we each choose to age — or grow old — is just that, a choice which looks different for each and every one of us. The team at OHA works as advocates and connectors, educators and protectors, for all our aging Rhode Islanders. Rhode Island has a larger than average older adult population.

Eighteen percent of our neighbors are over the age of 65, and nearly 40 percent of the state's population is 50 or older. We've built relationships with other state agencies and community partners to identify where each of our strengths and obligations lie.

As a third generation Rhode Islander, I know the Ocean State is a great place to grow up. It is also a great place to grow old. Part of what makes it great is our state's commitment to create support systems to allow people to thrive as they age. The team at OHA, alongside our community partners, works to create a Rhode Island that not only meets the basic needs of older adults but also ensures their full participation in society, in their communities, as they age. We must embrace each other through different stages of life and different times of need. Supporting older adults living in our communities' benefits everyone. Elders enrich society and contribute to our collective well-being.

We all know, or are, someone who is an older adult, an adult with a disability, or has taken on caregiving duties. The work of our office touches everyone in the state. By helping older adults, we honor their lives and help them age with purpose and dignity.

As you have aged, no doubt you have made plans. You've thought about where you'll work, and for how long; where you'll live; how you'll spend your time; and who you'll spend your time with. There are many challenges to planning. You may not know your options or how to pursue your goals. You may not know the resources available to you. What may be more challenging, however, is when an unexpected event disrupts your plans. That's where the work of the Office of Healthy Aging can provide a compass.

RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF HealthyAging

You are not alone.

Whether you want to improve or maintain your physical health, learn something new, navigate dementia care, transportation resources or need support as you care for your loved ones, each month we'll highlight different resources and opportunities to be sure that you continue to live as you desire.

Imagine the diversity of interest and need of the 190,000 older adults in RI.

We have an obligation and are determined to be accessible and responsive to the needs of our aging adults. That means future months we may highlight services for those who are homebound, opportunities to engage your community, programs focusing on physical accessibility, or multi-lingual or LGBTQ seniors.

But this month, I leave you with the most important resource. Rhode Island's Aging and Disability Resource Center is the best first call to ask your questions and get answers, 401-462-4444. Learn more about our Office at oha.ri.gov, or pop into your local senior center.

Maria Cimini is the director of the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging.

Footprints



MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

Our house backs up to a grassy hill that rises up to a stand of trees. We have a fence back there, but it's a short picket fence allowing a view of all the woodsy goings-on through the seasons.

In spring and summer, it's alive with activity. The drab grays and browns turn all shades of green — each tree a different forest hue from the rich deep emerald grassy meadow. Rabbits and squirrels dart here and there — in constant motion — or sit stock still as hawks or other birds of prey glide high above the treetops.

In fall, the colors are glorious — moving from green to brilliant orange, red, yellow, and deep purple. We've seen turkeys strutting their stuff — usually a group — a large tom spreading his bronze-green iridescent arc of tail feathers accompanied by his harem. One time they came through the back gate, which had come unlatched in the wind, and trooped into our backyard — first the tom and then the ladies, one at a time. They checked out the picnic table, foraged a bit through the fading flower beds, and peered at the back deck — eyeing the stairs but apparently thinking better of climbing them. As if they were a collection of sightseeing tourists, just arrived and eager to explore their latest stop. Their mission accomplished, the tom led the crew down the driveway and out to the street where they calmly paraded onward to their next destination.

We all leave footprints of our time on earth. The footprints we leave are our legacy. We were here and every one of us makes a difference in our own unique way.

We saw a full antlered deer back there once and another time two coyotes staked their claim on top of the hill for several days — sitting as if all was well in their world, soaking up the sun, ears alert, noses in the air. Nothing moved while they were in residence. Usually chittering squirrels and playful rabbits are in abundance — rough and tumbling, dashing across the meadow, disappearing into the trees and bushes, but there were no signs of life that week when the coyotes were kings of the hill.

In winter the trees are brown and bare, but we still see birds. The cardinals and blue jays provide dashes of color that brighten the grayness and when there's snow — their reds and blues are a vivid reminder that beauty is all around us even in winter's darkest days.

Winter weather is tough sometimes — disrupting travel and canceling activities and putting life on hold as we deal with the onslaughts of snow and ice. But sometimes the quiet overnight snowfalls are peaceful and we wake to see our world covered in a soft white blanket transforming our normal outside view from drab to clean bright white.

And most times when this happens I can see the tell-tale signs of the winter animals going about their nocturnal or early-morning travels. For some reason, this rather delights me. Tracks of various sizes and shapes appear near the back fence at different starting points and meander about — some heading straight across the backyard to the large ancient maple tree standing tall and bare. Some tracks go in arcs and circles, stopping at different parts of the yard and continuing on to another stopping place, or doubling back or criss-crossing other sets of tracks. Footprints in the snow that leave a temporary record of nature's never-ending activity in what we call the dead of winter. But nature and life continue to hum — very much alive even as the land seems to lie dormant — quiet, idle, asleep.

There is an elderly man who lives in our neighborhood. I don't know his name — we've never met — and for years he rode his bike slowly down our street and past our house every morning. Then there was a time when we didn't see him and we wondered what had happened. But eventually he resumed his morning outings — only this time walking very slowly using a cane. And this has now become his daily routine. One step in front of the other — making tracks of a different kind — leaving footprints in my mind. Footprints that tell of his perseverance, his courage, his motivation to keep moving and to keep going despite the difficulties.

He reminds me that we all leave footprints of our time on earth. The footprints we leave are our legacy. We were here and every one of us makes a difference in our own unique way. Footprints in the snow — tracks that signify that life goes on and that it is meaningful and purposeful. That something living has left its mark on earth.

My neighbor's footsteps are leaving a mark on me without his even knowing it. Footprints that silently teach me how to gracefully and courageously move through the seasons of my life. And remind me that my footprints — like the nighttime tracks left behind in the winter snows — signify that I was here. What legacy will I leave behind?

Showbiz Memoirs, a Broadway Play and a Twisty Mystery on Audio

Memoirs from Rhode Island-based comic Matt Rife and Tony winner Alex Newell, a Broadway play starring Rachel McAdams and a new book by Queen of Twists Alice Feeney are all heard on recent audiobooks.



by ALAN ROSENBERG

"Your Mom's Gonna Love Me"

By Matt Rife, read by Rife. Simon & Schuster Audio, 5¾ hours, $18.99. Also available via any Rhode Island public library.

Here's what breakout comedy star Matt Rife doesn't talk about in this new memoir: the offer he and a friend made in September to buy Burrillville's Conjuring House.

Here's what he does talk about: losing his virginity (it's the first thing he mentions); losing his father to suicide when he was a baby; his abusive stepfather and loving grandfather; sex; his struggles to get ahead in comedy; his sudden fame when a TikTok video went massively viral; and the backlash when a joke about a woman with a black eye was taken to mean he advocated domestic violence.

Oh, and the house he recently bought in Rhode Island, reportedly in North Smithfield (neither of which he mentions, for fear of fans finding him, he says). It came furnished, with a "flat and smushed" carpet and dingy beige walls, making him feel like he was moving into "an AirBnb that the owners died in." But, he says, there's "a comedy club, and an airport not too far away, so it's really convenient for all the touring I do."

And he says, he loves that it's in the middle of nature — though "the very first thing I bought for the house was a Nerf basketball hoop for the entrance, because blindsiding your boy with a windmill 360 dunk is good for you, too."

By the way, he recorded the book at Star Trak studios in Warwick.

If Rife's name isn't familiar, you probably don't spend a lot of time on TikTok, where his videos get hundreds of millions of views, or on YouTube or Netflix, where he's had several comedy specials. At 29, he's really just ascending into stardom, but he's got a surprising amount to say about his life, and he tells it in an engaging way. And being a comedian, with a comedian's timing, he's the ideal person to read his own book.

"Beautiful Ugly"

By Alice Feeney, read by Richard Armitage and Tuppence Middleton. Simon & Schuster Audio, 9⅓ hours, $26.99. Also available via any Rhode Island public library.

Just as he was hitting the New York Times bestseller list, British author Grady Green's beloved wife, Abby, disappeared. In the year since Abby's red coat was found near a cliffside road a mile from their house, Grady has been unable to write.

Now, out of money, he has taken refuge on a little Scottish island where his agent owns a cottage where a famed writer once lived and worked. But much is lurking behind the islanders' smiles in this characteristically twisty tale from the formidable Alice Feeney, author of books including "Sometimes I Lie" and "Rock Paper Scissors." I never like to give too much away about a Feeney book; suffice it to say that very little here is as it seems.

The book is enhanced by the reading from Richard Armitage, of the "Hobbit" movies. As his world disintegrates, Armitage understatedly but convincingly conveys his character's confusion and increasing desperation.

"Alex Newell and the Gospel of a Diva"

By Alex Newell, read and sung by Newell. Audible Original, 1 hour, free with Audible Plus membership, $7.95 a month.

If you're looking for a lot of insight into the life of Tony-winning actor Newell, you've come to the wrong place. If you'll be satisfied with a display of vocal pyrotechnics, this audiobook may be for you.

Newell, who won a Tony in 2023 for his performance in "Shucked," says early on that at 32, they're too young for an autobiography. That means they mostly confine the commentary part of this live-recorded performance to sassy one-liners about the attitude of a diva.

But the nonbinary actor opens up a bit when talking about their turn on TV competition show "The Glee Project," which led to a recurring role on "Glee" and opened the door to much bigger things. And this discussion leads to a dazzling, heartfelt rendition of "If I Were a Boy."

I wish there had been more pairings like this of music and musing. That would have gone a long way toward making this book a must-listen.

"Mary Jane"

By Amy Herzog, read by Rachel McAdams, April Matthis, Brenda Wehle, Lily Santiago and Susan Pourfar. Audible Original, 1¼ hours, free with Audible Plus membership, $7.95 a month.

Mary Jane is a single mother of a special-needs baby living in New York City. In this brief but wrenching play, she confronts her child's deepening illness in the company of a variety of people, primarily nurses and the mothers of other very sick children.

McAdams, who also played the title role on Broadway in the spring and early summer of 2024, brings intensity and sincerity to the part. What's surprising from a technical point of view is how frequently the dialogue feels like it was recorded in two different places, with McAdams stopping abruptly as though someone has cut in — but the other actor in the scene pausing a beat before beginning to speak.

It's a glitch that mars what otherwise is a strong slice-of-life performance.

Alan Rosenberg, of Warwick, is a retired executive editor of The Providence Journal and has been reviewing audiobooks for more than two decades. Reach him at AlanRosenbergRI@gmail.com.

Choosing the Long-Term Care That's Right for You

You have options when it comes to making decisions about long-term care.

When choosing long-term care, families sometimes wait until they experience a crisis and then are forced to make a decision during less than ideal circumstances. Although moving into a skilled nursing home is a wonderful option, it's not the only one, and it doesn't always need to be the first step.

You can decide what is best for you with the assistance of an Aging Life Care Specialist like Sheri Ferola with Saint Elizabeth Community, who explains,

"We work with our clients to find the best fit for them at this moment in time, while planning out their long-term options. We take a holistic approach in assessing their needs then we help guide them through the process. And we'll be there with them for the duration, adapting with them as changes occur."

Here are some options in the continuum of care that an Aging Life Care Specialist can evaluate with you.

> "We work with our clients to find the best fit for them at this moment in time, while planning out their long-term options. We take a holistic approach in assessing their needs then we help guide them through the process."
>
> — Sheri Ferola
> Saint Elizabeth Community

Home Care

We hear a lot of talk about aging in place where we have the opportunity to grow older in the comfort of our own home. Home care is a great way to make that happen. Let caring qualified staff come to your home to provide services that include skilled nursing, rehabilitation, physical therapy, CNA care, personal assistance and more.

Adult Day

One of the key ingredients of aging well is remaining active, physically and mentally. Adult Day Centers provide engaging and supportive activities all day long under the supervision of health care staff who offer assistance with everything from personal care to medication management. Many programs offer specialized care for elders affected by conditions like memory loss or motion and mobility disorders.

Senior Apartments

For older adults who live independently but wish to be in a community of their peers, senior apartments are a great alternative. Many housing complexes offer safe and affordable spaces that include resources like security and onsite resident services.

Assisted Living

Assisted living provides independent living much like senior apartments but with additional support and attention. Nursing and CNA staff help residents with their daily care. Dining, laundry and other personal services are available as well. And there are always fun social activities to keep everyone active and engaged.

Skilled Nursing Home

Whether for short-term rehabilitation or as a long-term resident, skilled nursing homes offer the ultimate in quality care. Staff build relationships with the members of the community and are able to monitor and assess their health on a daily basis. Specialized units may focus on memory care or physical activity, depending on the needs of each resident.

Before you decide on your long-term care, consider the wide range of options available to you.

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FEBRUARY
The Month of Love

by ELAINE M. DECKER

Ah, February! The month of great loves! With no disrespect to my husband of 34-plus years, I've been thinking about the loves of my earlier life. That in turn had me thinking about famous couples. What really started this was the recent death of President Jimmy Carter. He lived to 100 and had a 77-year marriage with his late wife Rosalynn. He first laid eyes on her when she was a newborn and three-year-old Jimmy peeked over her crib. His mother had helped to deliver her.

The Carters were inspiring both because of their longevity and marriage. Either one would be worth writing about. Without a long life, it would be difficult to celebrate a very long marriage. But some historical love affairs continue to be remembered because of their greatness, regardless of how long they endured. The earliest couple that comes to my mind is Antony and Cleopatra, made memorable in the 1963 film starring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. The tumultuous Burton—Taylor affair that ensued (including being twice married to each other) is one of the great love matches of all time.

Several other acting couples had love affairs or marriages that we still remember decades later. The most famous is probably Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Both had other marriages and affairs, yet we always think of Bogie and Bacall when we think of great loves. The lyrics of Key Largo play a role in keeping those names paired in our memories.

We had it all
Just like Bogie and Bacall,
Starring in our own late, late show
Sailing away to Key Largo.

A more conventional love and marriage of actors worth celebrating is that of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. They were married for 50 years when Paul died in 2008. Joanne was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease the year before Paul died. At last report, she was in hospice care.

We can't very well talk about Butch Cassidy without mentioning the Sundance Kid. Newman's costar in that movie also had a long marriage. He and his first wife Lola were together for 28 years. Regrettably, they divorced in 1985. He married again in 2009 and appears to still be with his second wife.

Some others in long marriages, unusual for actors, are Denzel and Pauletta Washington, who've been married for nearly 40 years. They met on the set of a TV movie in 1977 and started dating a year later. Denzel said Pauletta turned down his marriage proposal twice before accepting it. They married in the '80s.

Another long-term acting couple are Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson. They met in 1981 on the set of a TV comedy and their paths crossed again in 1985 while filming a movie. By 1988 Hanks and Wilson were married, and they've been together ever since. That's 36 years!

One long lasting love that can't easily be categorized is that of Oprah Winfrey and Stedman Graham. They met in 1986 and have been together since then. Winfrey has talked about why they haven't married even after she accepted Stedman's proposal. "I wanted to know he felt I was worthy of being his missus, but I didn't want the sacrifices, the compromises, the day-in-day-out commitment required to make a marriage work." For a relationship to last 38 years even without "a ring on it" clearly meant compromises and commitment, though perhaps not day-in-day-out.

Politics can also support great loves. Barack and Michelle Obama, President and First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017, met when they were both working at a law firm in Chicago. They married in 1992. The Obamas often speak about their marriage of 32 years, including how their relationship continues to flourish now outside of the White House.

The music entertainment field is not normally conducive to long relationships, what with touring and hangers-on. Country music's most iconic couple, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, have put the lie to that. They've been together for more than 28 years. They met for the first time in 1994, married in 1996, and have since had three children. Garth Brooks and Tricia Yearwood are another long-married country music couple, though not as long as Tim and Faith. Garth and Tricia have been together since 2005.

You can no doubt think of other couples that can celebrate great loves. They're all around us. Perhaps you're in one yourself. If so, congratulations! If not, it's never too late to begin one and February is the perfect month to do it!

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Sports

Desmarais wins All-Around title

Sophomore dominates at gymnastics championships

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Cranston West sophomore Gianna Desmarais put on a show at the Rhode Island Interscholastic League's Gymnastics State Championships on Sunday, becoming only the second athlete in school history to capture the All-Around title when she rolled to an overall score of 37.2.

Desmarais had a breakout season last year as a freshman, winning the Vault competition and taking second on Bars to wrap up a top-10 finish for Johnston. She returned with the Falcons this year and put on a performance for the ages, defending her Vault title, taking first on Bars and finishing third on the Beam.

Desmarais was equally as dominant on Saturday as she finished the team championship with a 36.9, leading the Falcons to a second-place finish in Division II. Although last year's individual champ Lauren Horrigan of La Salle Academy

■ TITLE - PAGE 24



Cranston West sophomore Gianna Desmarais is the Cranston Herald's Athlete of the Week. Desmarais defended her Vault title while also winning on Bars and taking third on Beam. She became the second Cranston West athlete to ever take home the All-Around championship. She was also key in the Falcons finishing second in Division II on Saturday and will next be in action at the upcoming New England Championships. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*

Athlete of the Week: Gianna Desmarais



Cranston West's Addie Papitto competes in the high jump. *Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*

Highlights from RIIL Indoor Track & Field States

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League Indoor Track & Field State Championships were held last weekend in Providence and plenty of local athletes made noise to close out the season.

Here are some of the top performers from the day:

BOYS

Cranston West's Ryan Stoloff finished third in the 300 meter dash for the Falcons.

Bishop Hendricken's Colby Flynn took second in the 300 run while Pilgrim's Brandon Wolfendon placed second in the shot put.

Fred Russell ran to third place in the 1,500 run for Hendricken

Jeremy Seidi took fourth

■ TRACK - PAGE 24



West's Aidan Gosselin competes in a relay.

Roundup: West girls rebound to beat Tolman

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Cranston West girls basketball team picked up a much-needed win when it beat Tolman/Shea 56-54 last week at home.

Kyla Buco led the Falcons with 22 points while Talya Walker added 13 and Darien Kiernan 10. Nicole Silvestri finished the day with 10 rebounds.

West faced Portsmouth in the opening round of the playoffs on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

Smithfield 68, East 31

The Bolts dropped their regular season finale last week. Ceanna Tuazon led East with seven points scored.

BOYS BASKETBALL

West 53, Johnston 37

The Falcons rolled past Johnston in their regular season finale last week.

Nate Conca led West with 19 points while Noah Germain chipped in 16. The Falcons took on East Greenwich on Tuesday in the Division II preliminary round, but the results were unavailable at press time.

■ WEST - PAGE 24

Winter playoffs are here

We're in the thick of the winter playoffs. Some championships have gone down, other tournaments are starting this week. The next few weeks are my favorite of the year.

Here are my takes on what we have seen so far.

We had a trio of girls take home state championships last weekend. Pilgrim's Keaney Bayha and Toll Gate's Vanessa Jones took home indoor track titles while Cranston West's Gianna Desmarais won the all-around title at the gymnastics meet.

Bayha's stellar senior year continues after she won the individual cross country title back in the fall. Now, she has another medal to add to the collection as she cements her place as one of Pilgrim's greatest athletes.

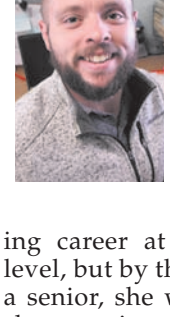
Jones made a splash as a sophomore by taking home a top-5 finish in the weight throw and took another step forward this year by winning the state championship as a junior. I'm not sure if she is looking to continue her throwing career at the college level, but by the time she's a senior, she will have no shortage in opportunities to compete for a college club.

On a similar note, Desmarais had a breakout year as a freshman and won the Vault last season before securing a top-10 finish in the all-around category.

She was dominant at Sunday's event, defending her Vault title before winning Bars and taking third on the Beam. Although she was considered to be in the mix to take the All-Around championship, I'm not sure if anyone

■ PITCH - PAGE 22

My pitch



by Alex Sponseller
Sports Editor
alexs@rhodybeat.com

Register for 'My Fishing Cape Cod' kickoff

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Herald

"My Fishing Cape Cod's" 2025 Season Kickoff workshop will take place Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hyport Conference Center, Hyannis.

Public Registration for this premiere fishing education and networking event starts Saturday. Registration is limited to 210 so don't delay as last year it sold out.

My Fishing Cape Cod is a fishing education portal for and by fishers on Cape Cod. Their purpose is to, "Help anglers of all ages and abilities (residents and visitors alike) to catch more fish, learn the area, and fully enjoy the Cape Cod fishing experience!" Their portal at My Fishing Cape Cod - your source for Cape Cod fishing reports & more features a blog, forum, educational podcast links, trip listings and a calendar of events.

During the Season Kickoff attendees will learn from some of Cape Cod's most experienced charter captains and surfcasters. Subjects covered in panel-style discussions will include various types of fishing. This is a great opportunity to network and access information you can't get anywhere else.

Speakers at the kickoff will include: Cape Shore Fly Guide & Fly Tyler Chris Kokorda of Flywalker; Surfcaster Calvin Toran-Sandlin of My Fishing Cape Cod; Surfcasting Ian McPartland of the Goose Hummock; Canal diehard Tony Navarro; 90 year old local expert Carl Johansen; Captain Mike Fowler of Bad Dog Sportfishing; Captain Cullen Lundholm of Cape Star Charters; Captain Tyler Putney of Flatliner Charters; Captain Tyler Macallister of the F/C Cynthia C; Off the Charts Sportfishing; and perhaps a few others.

Tickets are $25/person with all profits donated to the Cape & Islands Veterans Outreach Center and Fishing for the Mission 22.

Attend the Kickoff and you will be doing something good for our local veteran community while having a great time talking about fishing. To register visit: Tickets for 2025 Season Kickoff are Going Fast! - My Fishing Cape Cod.



Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, with a black crappie caught though the ice earlier this month in a North Kingstown, RI pond. *Submitted photo*

Saltwater Sportsman Seminar this weekend

This year the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series brings its 2025 New England edition to the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, on Saturday, Feb. 22. Hosting the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. event will be George Poveromo, host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on Discovery. Rick Mola, a legendary Connecticut and New England fishing authority, will co-host.

Courses for the Feb. 22 seminar will encompass the how-to and where-to of saltwater game fish. catching the regions inshore, nearshore and offshore

To purchase tickets and learn more about the seminar, visit: www.nationalseminarseries.com.

Council seat opens, step up your game

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) has a commercial fisheries seat open.

I served on the Council for eleven years; it was one of the most gratifying positions I have held; and was an honor to serve the State of RI and the fishing community in this fashion. Council persons learn the science behind fishing policy and regulations and get to interact with thousands of Rhode Island fishers.

So, if you are thinking of kicking things up a notch on fishing policy, I suggest you consider exploring applying for this Council seat. Candidates are currently being sought to fill a commercial fishing industry seat.

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) makes recreational and commercial fishing regulation recommendations to the Department of Environmental Management Director.

The RIMFC is composed of eight individuals and the DEM Director or their designer. Council members are chosen from among those with skill, knowledge, and experience in the commercial fishing industry, the recreational (private and for-hire) industry, and in the conservation and management of fisheries resources and/or marine biology. Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Rhode Island Senate.

Members are appointed to four-year terms, are expected to attend up to eight meetings per year and serve without compensation. Additional background information on the Council can be found on the DEM Division of Marine Fisheries website: https://dem.ri.gov.

Submit a letter of interest and resume to: Molly Ogren, Environmental Policy Analyst, DEM, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908; at Molly.Ogren@dem.ri.gov or call her with questions at 401.439.8852.

The deadline for submittals is March 31, 2025. All candidates will be forwarded to DEM Director Terrance Gray and Governor Dan McKee for review and consideration.

Where's the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and a 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. Angler Jeff Sullivan, an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, that opens March 1, said, "Cod fishing has just been fair at Nomans Land Island off Martha's Vineyard." 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. Check ice conditions with local cities and towns to make sure ice is safe for fishing or skating. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, said, "I have been fishing on 8" of ice but now with weather a bit warmer some of that ice is down to 4." However, I have been able to get out for the past twenty days catching trout, black crappie and perch. My bait of choice has been a Tunsten jigs tipped with a wax worm. Kastmaster jigs, and Swedish Pimple jigs have been working well too." For 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@verison.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

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Locals lead RIC track at BU

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) finished 11th in the triple jump (10.48m) as Rhode Island College competed at Boston University's David Hemery Invitational in women's indoor track and field action on Saturday afternoon.

It was an individual meet with no team scoring and featured mostly Div. I and II competition.

Pezza also placed 15th in the long jump (4.49m). Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished 12th in the shot (11.96m) and 13th in the weight throw (14.63m).

Junior Milana Melvin (Johnston) finished 16th in the shot (9.82m). Freshman Funmilayo Mclin (Providence) finished 21st in the weight throw (11.38m).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield) finished 53rd in the 60m preliminaries (8.49) and 59th in the 200m (26.45). Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) finished 93rd in the 200m (27.72) and 103rd in the 400m (1:05.01).

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) finished 192nd in the mile (5:07.94).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will host the 2025 Little East Championship at Providence Career and Technical Academy on Saturday, Feb. 22 (11 a.m.).

■ Pitch

(Continued from page 21)

would have guessed she'd take it in dominant fashion before the weekend. It's impressive to think that she has another two seasons of high school ahead of her. She was a big deal at the youth level when she competed out of Dream Big and now she is the best high school athlete in the state.

The basketball playoffs tip off this week and we have a handful of teams that made the cut.

I know that choosing the Division I boys tournament as my most intriguing is as cliché as it gets, but I am fascinated by how this is going to shake out.

La Salle remained undefeated and enters the postseason as the favorite, but the next few teams all beat up on each other and are fully capable of pulling off a potential upset. Classical played the Rams tough and are the defending champs, Hendricken split its games with the Purple, and fourth-place Barrington beat the Hawks when they met. Central, Portsmouth and Lincoln are all capable of emerging as factors as well. Although the Rams are the top dog, it is pretty wide open from there.

The girls race that I will be following closest to will be in Division III, where third-seeded Pilgrim will represent our coverage area.

The Pats flew out the gate this season and proved to be a contender with an 11-2 league record. Matchups make fights, so you can't do simple scoreboard math, but No.1 Lincoln School's only loss came to second-seeded Exeter West Greenwich, who the Pats beat. Pilgrim's losses came to the Lynx and fourth-place Prout, who is right in the mix as well. This is a true four-team race in the state's most interesting division.

The Toll Gate wrestling team took home the Division II/III Championship and will have a few grapplers looking to make noise at next weekend's state championship. As always, the Hawks will be well-represented along with Cranston West. Johnston's Logan Martins will be a player and Cranston East may send one or two guys as well.

Ponaganset has built a super team up north, and from what I have seen and heard it appears to be the real deal. The Chieftains will have a chance to run away with the team title with relative ease. Let's see how many of our guys can pull off wins and make this a fight on the team level.

The swimming division championships went down at Roger Williams last weekend and the defending champion Hawks took home the DI crown, setting them up as the favorite to win the state meet coming up on March 2nd.

It has been an intriguing regular season in DI swim. Hendricken has been impressive with largely a new lineup while the South County co-op has been right in the mix and beat Hendricken when they met. North Kingstown and Barrington were also very competitive at divisions.

It is too close of a race to declare a firm favorite for states, but the Hawks seem to have the inside track. Any of those other three teams can win, though, which should make it one of the closest state championships in recent years.

Hockey playoffs start next weekend so we will get into that next week once we see how the seeding breaks down. Hendricken is fighting for the top spot in DI, while Toll Gate-East Greenwich is clinging onto first place in DII. The Cranston co-op will be a dark horse in DII. Just as a preview.

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Gianna Desmarais on the beam last Sunday at Rhode Island College.

■ Title

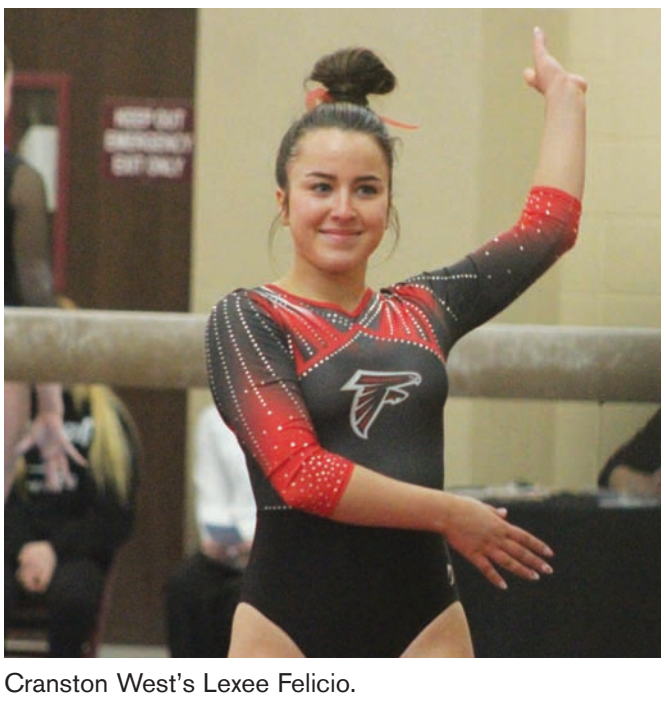
(Continued from page 21)

was considered the favorite heading into the weekend, Desmarais' confidence grew throughout the week, especially after Saturday's stellar performance.

"I'm really happy and I'm glad I won. I wasn't really expecting it (at first) but seeing how yesterday went, I was expecting it. I'm happy," said Desmarais. "Confidence. I came into this competition very confident. This week I conditioned myself my hardest so I was happy about that, my confidence was up this week. I came out here and did what I know how to do. I knew if I came in here with confidence and focused on myself that I could push through it."

Desmarais was also thrilled to represent her new team, one that features one of the biggest rosters in the state.

"I find it easier being here at West, I find it easier having a team here to support me. It feels better and helps my confidence," said Desmarais, who will now turn her focus toward the upcoming New England Championships, where she will be competing in Vault, Bars and Beam.



Cranston West's Lexee Felicio.

"It feels great, I'm very honored. Going forward, I only wish for more," Desmarais said.

Prout/Exeter West Greenwich took the DII title with a total score of 133.400 while Cranston West finished second with a 132.750.

Desmarais took first place in all four events in the DII finals. Emalee Dorrance, Lexee Felicio, Madilyn Bolton and Siran Sahakian all qualified for the Floor for the individual state finals. Bolton finished with a 31.800 score on Saturday, second on the team behind Desmarais.

The Warwick co-op finished the day in fourth place in the DI meet with a total score of 132.350. La Salle took first overall.

Abigail Marino led Warwick with a total score of 33.350 while Lia Franchetti finished with a 32.950. Mackenzie Long placed sixth on Beam in the individual meet on Sunday.

■ West

(Continued from page 21)

BOYS HOCKEY

Portsmouth 3, Cranston 2

The Cranston co-op dropped a late-season match to Portsmouth on Sunday. Jack Fontaine and Jacob Case scored goals for the Falcons while Devin DeAngelis, Brady Scanlon and Adam Marriott recorded assists. Goalie Bryce Crance finished with 32 saves in net.



Cranston East's Brooke Sloan last week in Providence.

■ Track

(Continued from page 21)

in the 55 dash for Hendricken

Flynn also finished fifth in the 1,500 run for the Hawks while BJ Kerachsky placed fifth in the 3,000 run. Teammate Jabari Jackson took sixth in the 55 run. Alexzander Prado placed sixth in the shot put for Hendricken and Dimitri Johnson placed sixth in the weight throw.

Hendricken's Elijah Guertin took seventh in the 55 hurdles and teammate Okah Wali placed seventh in the high jump.

Flynn also finished eighth in the 1,000 run while teammate Arion Amoruso took eighth in the shot put. Toll Gate's Kevin Barker placed eighth in the high jump. Hendricken's Ethan Charnley took eighth in the weight throw.

La Salle Academy won as a team with 124 points, edging second place Barrington who finished with 111.5. Hendricken placed third with 53.

GIRLS

West's Reece Vitale placed fifth in the 55 hurdles. Pilgrim's Keaney Bayha won the 3,000 run for the Pats.

Toll Gate's Vanessa Jones took first place in the weight throw

Bayha also finished second in the 600 meter run as well as the 1,500 run for Pilgrim. Bayha took home fourth in the 1,000 run.

West Warwick took first as a team with 67 points while Classical finished second with 57. Pilgrim placed sixth with 31.



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