

Cranston Herald

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Hayward, 7, says he loves playing in the water at the Cooney Playground splash pad. His parents said it's been the perfect way for him to cool off on a hot day. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

100°

Riding out the heat wave, city opens splash pad

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The needle wouldn't budge. For three solid, sweaty hours Tuesday, the National Weather Service's online readout of the temperature at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport hovered at 99 degrees – one degree enough to break an 80-year-old state record for a June high but lacking the drama of the triple-digit reports by The Weather Channel, Weather Underground and WPRI.

Right on deadline, with a stiff, withering breeze in the Sahara-like air in T.F. Green's backyard, the government's needle moved. One hundred degrees, for nearly a week the widely forecast high for Tuesday, was now confirmed by the federal government's meteorological agency.

The practical effects of that forecast had been in motion for days.

Mayor Kenneth Hopkins announced the early opening of the Cooney Playground splash pad Monday as a response to the record high temperatures hitting the Ocean State this week.

Cranston's original splash pad off Oak Street and near Hugh B. Bain Middle School, opened in July 2023 and was fully funded by Community Development Block Grants.

It is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hopkins also announced that the Cranston Public Library branches and the Cranston Senior Center are open as cooling centers during normal business hours.

The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 1070 Cranston St. Hours of operation for each library branch can be found at cranstonlibrary.org/locations/. The Central Library Branch opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday. All library branches are closed on Sundays.

● HEAT to page 8

Latest weather observations around							
2 Miles NE Rhode Island TF Green International Airport RI							
Location	Time (edt)	Sky/Weather	Temp. (°F)	Dewpt. (°F)	Humidity (%)	Wind (mph)	Pressure (in)
Rhode Island TF Green International Airport	16:51	Partly Cloudy	100	65	32	W 13 G 21	29.97
New Bedford, New Bedford Regional Airport	16:53	Fair	100	70	38	W 10 G 20	29.95
Newport, Newport State Airport	16:53	Fair	93	71	49	SW 7	29.97
Pawtucket, North Central State Airport	16:56	Fair	95	70	44	W 9 G 18	29.99
Westerly, Westerly State Airport	16:53	Fair	88	69	54	SW 10	29.99
Click on location name for the weather during the past two days at that site.							

As of press time Tuesday, the National Weather Service officially posted 100 degrees at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport. *Courtesy of the National Weather Service*

Housing Authority scores 92 in HUD review

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

A report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development gives high marks to the Cranston Housing Authority's financial condition and its management of subsidized public housing in the city. The report, called a Public Housing Assessment System, rated the Housing Authority a 92 out of 100 possible points after a thorough review that included inspection of buildings and examination of finances and policies. HUD typically issues assessments of all housing authorities in the state every year or so. The rating of 92, puts the Cranston Housing Authority in the category of a high performing public housing authority, according to the HUD ranking system. Robert Coupe, executive director of the Housing Authority, said he is pleased with the report, particularly because the organization has a relatively small staff that works hard to ensure residents have safe, clean and secure housing. "This is a big deal for us," Coupe said in an interview last week. "Our score in the last report was 89, which was

good and put us in the 'standard' category, but this score moves us up to high-performing." "We have a great staff, and this tells the public that we have a well-run housing authority," he said, adding that one of the challenges is balancing fiscal prudence with the costs of maintaining structures. The authority is also responsible for fairly administering its federally funded programs. "To me, this report says that we are finding the right balance," Coupe said. The Housing Authority oversees six public housing buildings that provide nearly 600 subsidized rental units to elderly, low-income, disabled and other qualifying people. The agency is also responsible for the disbursement of about 260 federal (Section 8) vouchers that help pay rents for qualifying tenants who find housing options in privately owned properties. As a quasi-public agency, the authority is governed by a board of directors appointed by the mayor. Its financial management is strictly of federal funds. Its multi-unit complexes include Arlington Manor, Budlong Manor, Hall Manor, Jennings Manor, Knightsville Manor and Randall Manor.



Robert Coupe, executive director of the Cranston Housing Authority, says, "To me, this report says that we are finding the right balance" of fiscal prudence and building maintenance. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

RI tradition on a roll: Wein-O-Rama is back, baby!



Here comes a regular: Domenic Votta, left, is at the restaurant just about every day and says the staff is like family. At right is co-owner Eric Beaune. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

If Eric Beaune and Chris Tasca – friends and business partners – ever wondered if they made the right move by resurrecting the popular Wein-O-Rama restaurant on Oaklawn Avenue, the answer was apparent last Saturday. Despite it being well past lunchtime and a scorcher of a day more suited to a visit to the Bay or the beach, the diner-style eatery was crowded with customers. They filled the booths and the long lunch counter to enjoy the restaurant's homemade food, especially its legendary hot wieners with all the fixings. "We knew we were doing the right thing," Beaune said. "But the response has been greater than we thought." He said the restaurant has remained busy since it reopened in April and people still come up to him and Tasca to thank them for rescuing the local institution. Opened in 1962 by founder Mike Sotira-

kos, the restaurant quickly became a local landmark, easily spotted by its glitzy, colorful neon sign. It was well known for its homemade breakfasts and lunches – and, of course, its trademark wieners, typically served with mustard, fresh onions and a zesty meat sauce. There was widespread dismay throughout the city last summer when the Sotirakos family announced that it was time to retire and close the restaurant. But hope was reignited a couple of months later when Beaune, one of the owners of Garden Hills Fruit and Deli, and his long-time friend, Chris Tasca of Fly Alliance, announced that they were going to reopen the restaurant and keep its traditions going. "Chris knew right away that he wanted to do this," Beaune said Saturday, pausing during his own lunch break to talk to customers who wanted to say hi to him as they toted out bags of the aromatic, paper-wrapped wieners. "It took me a while to agree, but we are both so glad we did."

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- INCLUDE your NAME, NAME OF NEWSPAPER and PAGE NUMBER where you found the mask
- WINNERS will be CHOSEN from correct weekly entries
- WINNERS will be contacted on Monday
- Winners will be CONTACTED BY e-MAIL
- ACTUAL SIZE of Theater Mask
- CONTEST ENDS August 2025



Melissa Gonzalez Gutierrez with Papitto Opportunity Connection founder Barbara Papitto. She says she is a true believer in the magic of finding the right book and hopes to help kids in low-income neighborhoods do that. Submitted photo

Her million-dollar idea: Share the magic of books

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Melissa Gonzalez Gutierrez, freshly graduated from Cranston High School West, is sharing the power of reading with disadvantaged kids, and she’s gotten a little bit of help: \$1,000,000.

Winning the 2025 Transform Rhode Island Scholarship, 17-year-old Gutierrez’s million-dollar idea is to promote literacy in underserved communities by building creative and personalized little libraries.

A little library is a small, community-run book-sharing station – usually a decorated box – where anyone can freely take a book or leave one to share.

Born in Spain, Gutierrez said she didn’t speak English well as a child. Then, in second grade, her teacher told Gutierrez’s mother she would have to stay back because her reading wasn’t strong enough.

Determined to pass the grade, Gutierrez said she began reading books every day. A few months later, she moved on to the next grade. It is a transition she remembers vividly.

“Reading was the thing that pushed me to move on to the next level,” Gutierrez said. “I think books are very influential and powerful when you have the right one.”

Now she is paying it forward. She says her little libraries program will be for kids statewide, from third to 12th grade.

Gutierrez says her program will be led by teachers impressing upon kids the importance of reading and literacy. These classes will be hands-on, and while learning about reading, the kids will work on building their own little libraries.

Once the little libraries are built, they will be placed in low-income neighborhoods so kids in those communities will have easy access to the enlightening world of books.

Gutierrez said the three communities she focused on in her idea were Central Falls, Pawtucket and Providence.

Out of more than 600 applications, Gutierrez’s idea won the million-dollar investment competition held by the Rhode Island nonprofit scholarship organizer Papitto Opportunity Connection.

Stephanie Kaffenberger, Cranston West’s English Language Arts department chair, had Gutierrez in classes as a freshman and a senior. Gutierrez was a standout, she said.

“I think she sees a lot of the things that need to change in society, and she will be one of the people to do that,” Kaffenberger said. “And this scholarship will give her the confidence to do it.”

Gutierrez was announced as the winner at the scholarship ceremony held at the Graduate by Hilton Providence on May 28. In addition to the financial backing, Gutierrez will receive a \$25,000 scholarship and will have a seat on the Papitto Opportunity Connection’s board of directors.

Gutierrez said she felt immense gratitude for being there in the first place. She was thankful for the people supporting her and was excited her idea was chosen as the winner.

“To even make it this far, thank you,” Gutierrez said about her being a finalist for the scholarship. “My goal wasn’t to be first place.”

But what turned out to be a surprise for Gutierrez began as a dedicated effort to create a project that spoke to her passion for reading.

She first applied for the same scholarship two years ago with a last-minute sports idea, but she didn’t win. After, she made a promise to herself to become a top 10 finalist with an idea that was true to her.

What followed was more than six months of preparation and planning focused on one theme: books.

From a list of any ideas that came to mind, on-the-street interviews with community members on how they felt about reading to creating a website about her idea for the judges, Gutierrez felt ready to apply when applications opened in January.

Following her entry into the top 10, Gutierrez was chosen as the winner of the scholarship by a panel of judges that included state Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angélica M. Infante-Green and the managing trustee of POC, John Tarantino.

As Gutierrez develops the little libraries program, she will also be preparing for a new chapter of her own: college. She will attend Providence College this fall, studying political science and planning to become a lawyer.

Police Log

DUI

On June 22 at 9:10 p.m., officers arrested a Central Falls resident for DUI of Liquor / Drugs >.15 (BAC .161 and .158) – 2nd Offense. The arrest was the result of a call for service and subsequent motor vehicle stop at the intersection of Cranston St. and Randall St. The arrestee was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace

SIMPLE ASSAULT

On June 21 at 11:35 p.m., officers arrested a Cranston resident for Simple Assault. The arrest was the result of an assault investigation at the address. The arrestee was arraigned and released by Justice of the Peace.

DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

On June 21 at 10:47 a.m., officer(s) arrested a Cranston resident for Domestic Simple Assault. The arrest was the result of a disturbance at the address. The arrestee was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace.

RECKLESS DRIVING/ELUDING

On June 21 at 2:58 a.m., officer(s) arrested a Providence resident for reckless driving/eluding. The arrest was the result of the attempt to disperse several vehicles from the Restaurant Depot parking lot at 140 Kenwood St. The arrestee was held for morning arraignment.

INJURING OR TAMPERING WITH VEHICLES

On June 20 at 9:29 a.m., officer(s) arrested a Cranston resident for Injuring or Tampering with Vehicles. The arrest was the result of a call for a suspicious person in the area of 15 Curtis St. (Meshanticut Park Condos). The arrestee was transported to 3rd District Court.

ARSON

On June 20 at 12 p.m., officer(s) arrested a Cranston resident for Arson-5th Degree. The arrest was the result of a call for service at the address. The arrestee 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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John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

Publisher
Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com

Editorial Staff
Barbara Polichetti - BarbaraP@BeaconMediaRI.com
Rosegalie Cineus - RosegalierC@BeaconMediaRI.com

Sports Editor
Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Director
Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representatives
Sherri Leo - SherriL@BeaconMediaRI.com
Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com

Classified Advertising
Ida Zecco - Classifieds@rhodybeat.com

Production Manager
Lisa Bourque Yuettnier - LisaB@rhodybeat.com

Production Staff
Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
Jason Major - JasonM@BeaconMediaRI.com

Credit Manager
Lynne Taylor

Bookkeeping & Circulation
Leslie Paz Andujar

Spotlight Profile Writer
Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

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Tax bills late; city may extend grace period

Median residential tax bill to rise about \$120

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Tax bills are being mailed in Cranston this week, about a week later than usual, but with plenty of time for residents to make their first-quarter payments by July 15, according to city officials.

The city typically allows a week’s grace period on before charging interest on tax payments and will probably extend that a bit more this year, City Finance Director Thomas Zidelis said Friday.

The tax bills are typically mailed on or

about June 15. They were delayed slightly this year, Zidelis said, because through an oversight, the city had not posted a legal advertisement it is required to publish every year regarding the proposed tax levy (total amount to be raised in local taxes) and the proposed tax rate for the coming fiscal year. The 2026 fiscal year runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

The City Council has the latitude to change the tax levy and the tax rate proposed by the mayor – and it did so after a series of public hearings – but nothing could be finalized and tax bills could not be

generated until the requisite initial legal notice was advertised. Zidelis said the city has remedied the problem and the legal ad was published in the June 11 issue of the Cranston Herald.

Since then, the city tax assessor has certified the tax levy and the new tax rate. Because the City Council made some changes to the budget submitted by Mayor Kenneth Hopkins, the new tax rate will be different from what was initially proposed. The biggest change the council made was to allocate additional funding to schools.

Another legal advertisement is not re-

quired, Zidelis said. The residential tax rate for fiscal 2026 will be \$13.88 per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of about 1.98% from the current rate of \$13.61.

With the median home valued at about \$347,600, the median annual tax bill will go up about \$120 – from \$4,700 to about \$4,820 in the new fiscal year.

Zidelis said the new commercial tax rate will be \$20.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value, up from the current commercial rate of \$20.42. The tangible tax rate will stay the same at \$28.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Lawmakers sustain library’s ESL program

By **ALYSSA WALKER**
Beacon Media Contributor

Cranston’s William Hall Library was recently awarded a \$2,000 legislative grant to help continue its English as a Second Language program.

William Hall has been running an ESL program for about 30 years in partnership with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative, a nonprofit affiliated with the Providence Public Library. RIFLI contracts instructors to run classes at the library, where they help community members learn how to adapt to life in a new country.

“There’s so much you need to learn when you move to a new place. Just getting a license, you know, all the things we take for granted,” said Ed Garcia, director of Cranston libraries. “The classes don’t only teach them English but also skills on how to navigate.”

Due to William Hall’s location, residents of Cranston, Providence, Warwick and Johnston are frequently in attendance at these ESL classes. Not only is there a mixture of Rhode Island communities, but there is also a large diversity in countries and regions represented with members coming from more than 30 countries. Garcia said that the classes include people from China, Southeast Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan. Due to this, a wide number of

languages are spoken by students, including Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, Chinese, Khmer and French and Haitian Creole.

“It’s a really large mix of countries, languages and cultures represented, which is very cool,” said Garcia.

The library has been receiving the legislative grant since well before Garcia became director 13 years ago. Every year, the money must be requested by a legislator and then approved by either the Senate president or Speaker of the House. The grant was previously funded by former Cranston state Senator Joshua Miller and was taken over this year by newly elected Senator Lammis Vargas.

“As the daughter of immigrant parents, I know firsthand the challenges families face when navigating a new language and country,” said Vargas. “I’m honored to present this legislative grant to the Cranston William Hall Library in support of their ESL and Citizenship classes, offered in partnership with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative. These programs open doors, build confidence and strengthen the very fabric of our community.”

The grant money helps to pay for RIFLI instructors, though it does not cover the cost for the entire year. William Hall is therefore always funding the programs through other means, such as donation jars, fundraisers and grants from foundations and businesses.

Despite nationwide immigration con-



From left, Cranston Library Director Ed Garcia, Ward 1 City Councilwoman Bridget Graziano and state Sen. Lammis Vargas in front of the William Hall Library with a \$2,000 check representing this year’s legislative grant for ESL classes. *Submitted photo*

cerns, William Hall is still planning to continue ESL classes in the fall. The program will also be moving the classes at from the Auburn branch to the much larger Cranston Public Library at 140 Sockanoset Cross Rd. Garcia says that, though there is “concern and fear in the community,” they have protocols that will help them continue the program.

Regarding the importance of ESL pro-

grams in today’s political climate, Vargas said, “We are living through a time when the very foundations of democracy, truth, access, participation and belonging are all being tested. Programs like citizenship education and libraries are quiet but powerful tools to rebuild those foundations. Supporting them isn’t just good policy. It’s a statement about the kind of country, state and neighborhood we want to be.”

Mill Doctor remembered for ‘wonderous skill’

By **JOHN HILL**
Beacon Media Contributor

In most of Cranston’s historic cemeteries, a four-foot tall headstone is the sign of an important man. David Whitman got a 15-foot obelisk.

Erected “by his friends and the friends of American Industry,” it towers over the three dozen gravestones in the Joseph Burton Lot on Seven Mile Road, honoring the bobbin boy who grew up and transformed the textile industry.

Whitman was born in Coventry in 1799, six years after Samuel Slater started his mill in Pawtucket. Whitman’s father Reuben built one on the Pawtuxet River in West Warwick and 12 year-old David worked in it.

He was a prodigy, mastering the mechanics of the looms and the water wheels and gears that powered them. The Manufacturers Journal said he “seemed to possess an innate knowledge of mathematics and geometry, in their most abstruse and recondite forms.”

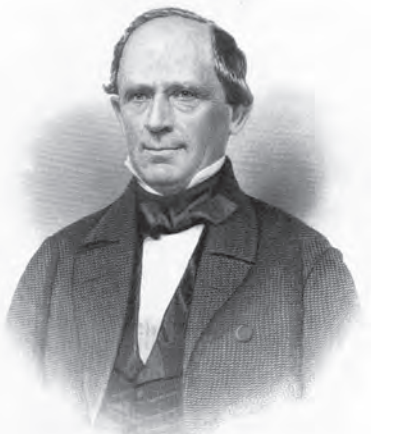
At 21 he was hired as superintendent of a mill in Pomfret, Conn. It was the first stop on a four-decade management career that took him all over New England and ended with him in an historic place in the engineering profession.

After his success in Pomfret, he came home to help his father build the Phenix Mill in West Warwick. He supervised and consulted on projects in Providence and Westerly in Rhode Island; Thompsonville, Killingly and Willimantic in Connecticut; New Bedford and Lowell in Massachusetts and Lewiston, Maine.

He was “The Mill Doctor,” the one called to oversee building a new mill or rebuilding an old one. The Boston Evening Transcript said “in every part of New England and all over the country where there is a cotton mill, he was soon recognized and acknowledged as the very best cotton spinner in the United States.”

He developed “The Whitman Tables,” a book of what we would call spreadsheets that broke down the cost of a yard of cloth based on the types of yarn, the type and number of looms used, workers’ pay, interest on any loans and wear and tear on equipment.

The tables “probably represent the



David Whitman. *Submitted photo from John Hill*

first printed figures compiled in this country for the use in a cost system for manufacturing ...” according to Samuel B. Lincoln in “Lockwood Greene: The History of an Engineering Business,” a 1960 history of the company that grew out of Whitman’s practice.

In other words, Whitman invented the consulting engineer.

He’d come to a town, design and supervise construction of a mill and run it for two or three years to make sure the enterprise took off. Then he’d move on to the next job and do it again.

While an expert on machines, accounts of his life note he never forgot the people he worked with when he was that 12-year old bobbin boy.

“In the complex and often clashing interests of labor and capital, he was ever on the side of the weak ...” the Manufacturers Journal said. He “never failed to denounce with an honest indignation that policy which classes men, women and children with inert matter, from whom the greatest amount of toil is to be wrung and to whom the smallest return is grudgingly doled.”

Histories of the villages he worked in praise him for his competence and willingness to share his methods. His memorial calls him “a man of mild and genial manners, of wondrous skill in his profession, combined with kind and generous affections and unspotted integrity.”

By 1842 Whitman wanted to retire to his farm on Seven Mile Road. But he kept getting called to advise on projects. In 1847 the Lewiston (Maine) Water-Power Co. asked him to help them build a water power plant.

He spent the next decade essentially rebuilding the Lewiston textile industry, working with Pepperell Manufacturing, Bates Mills and the Lewiston Bleachery & Dye Works. In July of 1858, while getting out of a carriage in Lewiston, he hurt his leg. It was before antibiotics, when even a minor scratch could get infected. His did, and he lingered painfully for seven weeks before dying on Aug. 30.

His young partner, Amos Lockwood, carried on the business, and it grew into a firm called Lockwood Greene, one of the major consulting firms in the 20th century United States. It specialized in institutional and industrial buildings and designing and building “clean room” facilities for pharmaceutical and electronics companies.

In 1975, 117 years after Whitman’s death, Lockwood Greene was still honoring him. The company paid for a granite block in front of the (now old) Coventry police station celebrating him as a “textile industry pioneer.” It’s still there.

Today, behind the cemetery on Seven Mile Road, in the fields where the Mill Doctor wanted to plant crops, rows of solar panels draw energy from the sunlight that shines on them.

As a man who culled power from rivers, he would like that.



Whitman's marble memorial in the Joseph Burton Lot on Seven Mile Road in the northwest corner of the city. *Submitted photo by John Hill*



BEACON MEDIA

office will be

CLOSED

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

Regular hours resume Monday, July 7th at 8:30am

Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July!

Staying cool

Recently retired, David Rossman, at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center, said he reduced his activity level and is drinking more water to stay cool. He said he went swimming Tuesday afternoon. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*



Cranston Chatter

June 25: Take Me Fishing: The Providence Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership will host a free fishing event on Wednesday, June 25, at Roosevelt Lake, Roger Williams Park, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. All equipment will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to participate. See the registration form for more details: forms.gle/yAbrUFLg6ZA-HENqBA

June 25: Coping With Triggers (Diabetes Chat): Join the Cranston Senior Center to discuss challenges of diabetes, how prevent and/or manage. Presentations are from 10-11 a.m. Sign up now call 401-780-6000.

June 27: Early Evening Tour with Tea at Sprague Mansion: Enjoy a relaxing evening tea and special sweet served in the Sprague dining room at 6 p.m. Must RSVP by June 22/limited seating. Call 944-9226. \$18 nonmembers; \$16 members. ATTN: June Tea Payable Cranston Historical Society, 1351 Cranston St. Accessible entrance and parking behind the mansion.

June 28: Sweet 16 Celebration: Local nonprofit Project Sweet Peas will hold a celebration of the work done to help those in the neonatal intensive care unit community. It will be on Saturday at 6 p.m. at Sprague on The Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Place. Attire is semi-formal. For more information, visit projects-sweetpeas.com/sweet16celebration.

July 2: Introduction to RISNER: Join the Cranston Senior Center to learn more about RISNER on Wednesday at 10 a.m., at 1070 Cranston St. RISNER is a statewide database of Rhode Islanders who may require special assistance during an emergency.

July 2: Caregiver's Support Group: The Senior Center will hold a caregiver's support group on the first Wednesday of every month. For more information, call Jennifer at 401-780-6254.

July 8: Arthritis Exercise Classes: Join the Cranston Senior Center for a free 12-week class in managing arthritis. Classes begin on Tuesday, July 8 at 1:15 p.m. Register now by calling 401-780-6000.

July 19: Gaspee Celtic Jam Musicians: Enjoy Irish and Scottish music selections in the Sprague Carriage House at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Bring along an instrument and join the group in song. Visit gaspeecelticjam.org ahead of dates for their announcement on songs for the evening. Tickets each performance: \$13; \$5 age 12 and under. Seating is limited. ATTN: Music/Payable Cranston Historical Society. 1351 Cranston St., Cranston 02920. Parking behind mansion. No pets.

July 24-26: Shakespeare Under the Stars: Three nights of Shakespeare: "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" returns to the Governor Sprague Mansion Museum. Performed outside by Rhode Island's longest running RI Shakespeare company. Tickets are \$20 each night

at the door. Children 12 and under are free. Food trucks may be available on premise. No pets. Bring a chair or lawn blanket and bug spray. Parking behind Sprague Mansion, 1351 Cranston St. For more information, call or text 401-440-7055.

July 30: Shop, Cook and Eat to Prevent/Manage Diabetes (Diabetes Chat): Join the Cranston Senior Center to discuss challenges of diabetes, how prevent and/or manage. Presentations are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sign up now call 401-780-6000.

Aug. 9: Cranston High School East, Class of 1970 – 55-year reunion at the Cranston Country Club, 69 Burlingame Rd. Cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. Reunion committee is seeking help locating classmates. Send information to Barbara Russo at twinn52@yahoo.com or Jeanne Sinapi at jeanpass@cox.net.

Aug. 23: Gaspee Celtic Jam Musicians: Enjoy Irish and Scottish music selections in the Sprague Carriage House at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Bring along an instrument and join the group in song. Visit gaspeecelticjam.org ahead of dates for their announcement on songs for the evening. Tickets each performance: \$13; \$5 age 12 and under. Seating is limited. ATTN: Music/Payable Cranston Historical Society. 1351 Cranston St., Cranston 02920. Parking behind mansion. No pets.

Aug. 24: Johnston High School Reunion Classes 1965 and 1966: Johnston High School will hold its class reunion for the classes of 1965 and 1966 on Sunday Aug. 24, at The Dance Floor, 332 Atwood Ave., Cranston from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Food, beer, wine and entertainment is included. No cash bar. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. Dress is smart-casual. Checks made payable to Dorothy (Rapone) Whelan, 6 Celebration Way, Johnston, RI 02919. Please include your maiden name and graduation year on your check. For information/questions contact: Dottie (Rapone) Whelan: 401-714-7625 or dottiewhelan@gmail.com or Nadine (Gravel) Skovron: 401-837-0496 or ngskovron@yahoo.com.

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

Lunch at the Cranston Senior Center: Mondays through Fridays – 11:30 a.m. Suggested Donation: \$3. Don't miss lunchtime fun and a delicious full-course meal. Good friends and good food. Check out our daily menus in our newsletter or by going to cranstonseniorcenter.com. Make reservations by calling 401-780-6134.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Monday and Wednesday: Cranston Senior Center will hold an aerobics exercise class from 10-11 a.m. Fee: \$3.00

Every Tuesday and Thursday: Cranston Senior Center provides medication reviews from 9 a.m.-noon. Mary McKenna, our CVS pharmacist, is available to review and discuss your medications with you. Stop by or call for an appointment 401-780-6210.

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

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga at the Cranston Senior Center from 10-11 a.m. Fee is \$3.00.

Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RIAA Meeting will be held at Phil-

lips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., from 7-8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New class at the Cranston Senior Center: Build Better Balance (B3) is a new exercise and balance class that will focus on fall prevention. No need to sign up. Fee: \$3.00 Bring a friend!

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

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston and Warwick Public Libraries: Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A free gun lock and securing weapons safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library

Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston; Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.

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

NAMI-RI Family-to-Family Course: Registration is open for the next in-person course which begins Wednesday, July 9 at 6 p.m. Classes will be held at St. Paul's Parish House on Main St. in Wickford Village. To register for the next Family-to-Family course, or for more information, please call 401-331-3060 or email Beth at beth@namirhodeisland.org. The NAMI Family-to-Family is a free 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people living with mental illness.

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

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

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

Editor's Note: To submit your news to The Chatter, send information and photos to Rosegalie at rosegalie@beaconmediari.com 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.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

GUEST OPINION

The fairways just got safer

In a flurry of activity, the General Assembly finished its 2025 legislative session Friday night, passing many bills that will affect thousands of Rhode Islanders in the years to come.

Among those bills is a measure introduced by a pair of Johnston lawmakers and championed by the Johnston widow of a man who died on a golf course, and it deserves a moment of recognition.

The David Casey Act, named in honor of the Johnston man who died in February 2023 after suffering a cardiac episode at the Cranston Country Club, is an example of local advocacy and local government working together to address a correctable flaw in our society with a fix that could save lives.

Although no one will ever know for certain if Mr. Casey would have been saved by the presence of an automated external defibrillator after he went into cardiac arrest on that day, the science is clear that having fast and effective access to an AED can make a huge difference.

With that in mind, and knowing that AEDs are already mandated in pretty much every space where large crowds of people gather (including gyms, health clubs, stadiums and other sports fields), it makes perfect sense to include golf courses among those facilities where they are required.

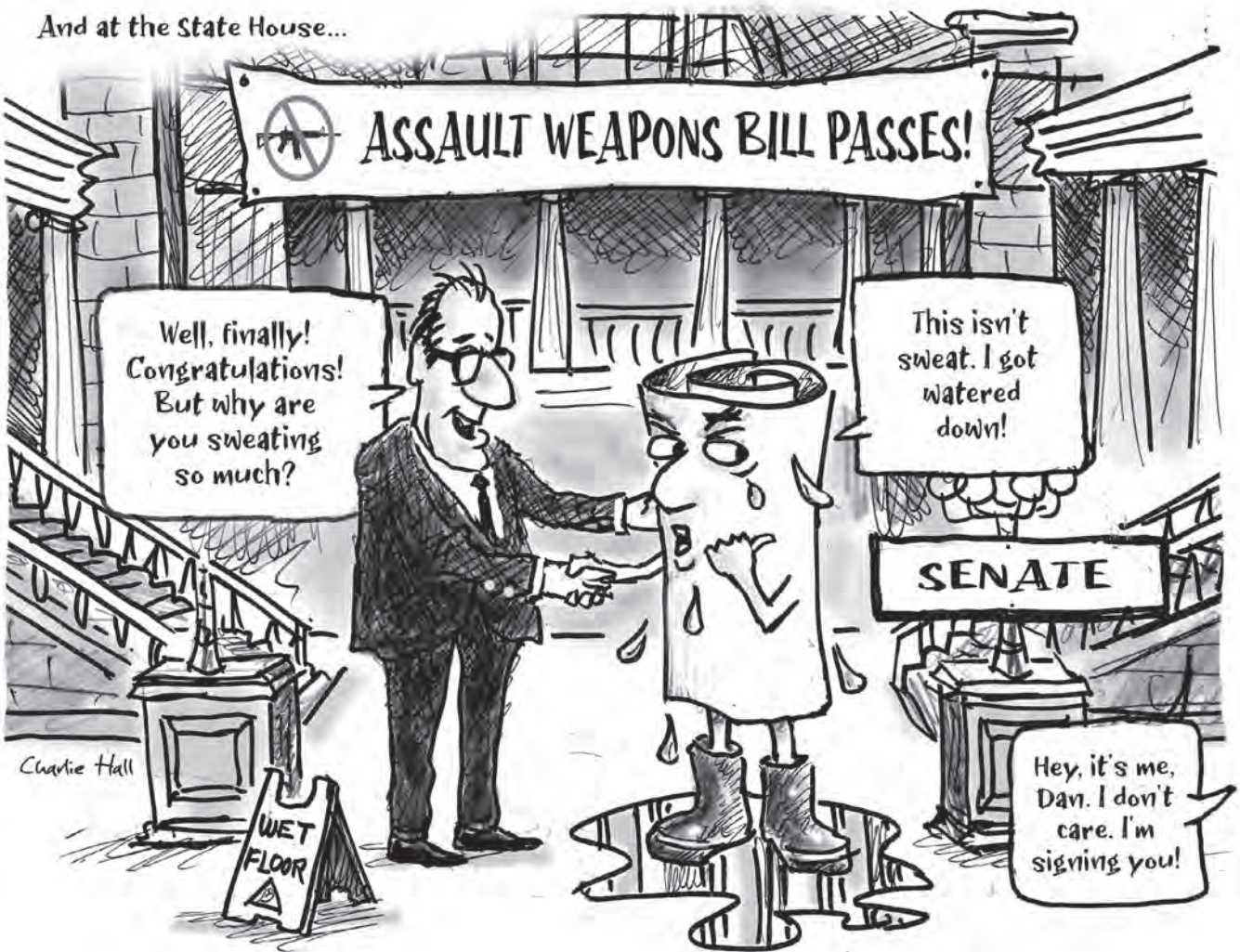
And although there has been some resistance to the idea that golf courses should have to finance the purchase of an AED, or the training of employees to be able to quickly and effectively administer one during an emergency, we would argue this is a very light lift and burden of responsibility in the context of what the measure can achieve now that it has become state law.

Is a person's life really not worth the \$2,500 it could cost for a golf course to buy an AED? Is it not worth the small fee (which could be free if municipal fire departments are willing to provide training to golf course employees in private/public partnership efforts) to provide a brief training session to show employees how to use the devices, which are designed to be simple enough so that anyone can use one?

This bill being passed in advocates' second attempt, especially in light of so many other high-profile bills being discussed this year, represents a win-win for the state and those who enjoy our wonderful golfing amenities throughout it.

We commend the Johnston legislators, Rep. Deborah Fellela and Sen. Andrew Dimitri, as well as their colleagues who saw the potential benefits of the bill, and for the efforts of Mr. Casey's widow, Betsy, to advocate for its passage.

Through their efforts, they have made effective action the postscript of a tragedy.



Exploiting exemptions: Rhode Island must act on vaccine loopholes

By JAMES FLORIO JR., MBA, MHA

Rhode Island has long championed personal freedoms, including the right to religious expression. However, a troubling trend has emerged: an increasing number of parents are claiming religious exemptions to bypass standard vaccinations required for their children's enrollment in public schools. In the 2023–2024 school year, thousands (1,000+) of students in Rhode Island were granted exemptions from vaccination requirements. Notably, these exemptions are often not based on genuine religious beliefs but are used as a loophole to avoid immunization mandates. This misuse of religious exemptions poses significant public health risks.

Measles, for instance, is a highly contagious disease with a basic reproduction number (R_0) between 12 and 18, meaning each infected person can spread the disease to 12–18 others in a susceptible population. To prevent outbreaks, a community immunity threshold of approximately 95% vaccination coverage is necessary. When vaccination rates fall below this level, herd immunity weakens, endangering vulnerable individuals who cannot be vaccinated for legitimate medical reasons.

The consequences of declining vaccination rates are evident. As of early 2025, the United States has reported 483 confirmed measles cases across 19 states, a 70% increase compared to the total cases in 2024. Texas has been particularly affected, accounting for 87% of these cases. While Rhode Island has maintained high vaccination rates, the rise in exemptions threatens this status and increases the risk of outbreaks.

Let's be clear: there are very few religions with formal doctrines that oppose vaccination. Yet, exemption numbers continue to climb, not because religious beliefs have changed, but because the process to claim one is absurdly easy. In Rhode Island, all it takes is a signed form—no verification, no affiliation, no explanation. This creates a

loophole wide enough to drive a bus through, and some are doing just that.

This isn't just a matter of personal choice. Vaccine requirements and mandates exist to protect entire school communities, especially those who *can't* be vaccinated due to legitimate medical reasons. When herd immunity weakens, the most vulnerable—infants, immunocompromised children, and others—are put at risk.

Let's call this what it is: abuse of a system designed to protect religious freedom.

It undermines trust in our public health institutions and creates unnecessary divisions between science and faith. It also unfairly shifts the burden of responsibility onto families who follow the rules and rely on a safe school environment. In some states, parents are subject to medical neglect laws and potentially face serious consequences legally for both falsifying documents and not protecting their children from dangerous viruses.

Rhode Island lawmakers must act. At minimum, the state should require more stringent documentation for religious exemptions—perhaps a notarized personal statement or evidence of consistent religious practice. Other states have already tightened their policies, and we should follow their lead.

Parents should, of course, have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children. But that right should not include the ability to exploit religious liberty as a loophole to ignore sound, science-based public health policy.

Let's protect genuine religious freedom. Let's protect our kids. And let's close this dangerous and unnecessary loophole before it costs lives. I'd like to see our Department of Health Medical Director and politicians join forces to make the necessary changes immediately to protect our children. I've done everything possible legally to protect my children so join me in doing the same.

What's on your mind?

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

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

Truck tolls are a tax on 'average Dan'

By CHRIS MAXWELL

In December, the First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Rhode Island's truck-only tolls are permissible, but the caps added to the 2016 law to protect local businesses are illegal. Accordingly, Gov. Dan McKee has included truck tolls in his proposed 2026 budget, but no other actions toward restarting tolls have been taken.

An uncapped toll program would mean that 94% of the burden would fall upon local businesses, many of which make repeated daily trips within the state. In a state that relies upon trucks to deliver 88% of everything that we live on, this is not good. It is a tax on the "average Dan."

The caps were a covenant made with the local business community and within the General Assembly to ensure passage. Reactivation of truck tolls without the caps would defy a promise made. The recent suggestion of a placeholder reduction in rates in an attempt to offset the removal of the "illegal" caps is not an acceptable solution; 94% is 94%.

Truck-only tolls were sold to the public and the General Assembly in 2016 to avert a safety crisis brought by statewide bridge

deficiencies that could be solved only through an additional layer of funding beyond traditional means such as fuel taxes. This layer came through a quizzical, controversial interpretation of a longstanding interstate tolling exemption on bridges.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation should be commended for its accomplishments over the last decade. Notably, as attested to by Director Peter Aliviti in the Feb. 13 oversight hearing, the agency has solved its funding problem, having repaired or replaced nearly 300 bridges and now having the resources to fund the new span of the Washington Bridge. The agency has spent \$4.8 billion over the last eight years, and its annual budget has almost doubled since 2016. Most importantly, the agency has brought the state well past the bridge safety crisis of 10 years ago.

Fast forward to the present, where the U.S. secretary of transportation is vigorously working to terminate New York's congestion pricing scheme – another

tolling program that tries to circumvent the intent and spirit of the interstate bridge exemption, asking users to pay for bridges and tunnels they have already paid for. In short, regardless of the December ruling and partial reversal in the appeals court, it is clear that the fate of such schemes is far from settled and will continue to play out in legal and regulatory arenas.

The trucking industry and commercial vehicle operators currently contribute to Rhode Island's infrastructure, paying an estimated 24% of all revenue generated despite representing only 6% of the current usage. The proposed

reinstatement of truck tolls absent the previously agreed-upon daily caps would have severe and detrimental consequences for Rhode Island businesses and consumers.

Our industry has never shirked its financial responsibility and, despite a decade of unprovoked challenges, we remain open to discussing more efficient, reliable, sustainable and equitable revenue sources. This is predictable, real "scarola," as opposed to speculative toll revenue undercut by a 30% overhead loss. These options have been communicated to the governor and all members of the General Assembly.

Truck-only tolls were a novel

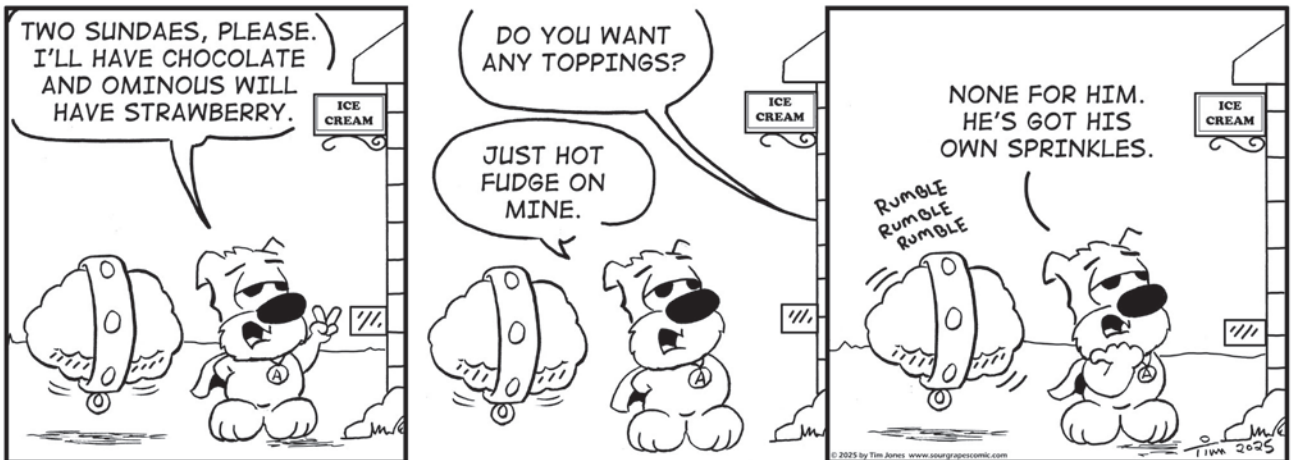
concept a decade ago. The program has now backfired. It is no longer just a trucking problem.

The time has come for the governor to act for the greater good of Rhode Island. This mess was not his making. If he chooses to reinstate tolls through his budget, it is well within the power and means of the legislature to intercede and, once and for all, nail the coffin shut on this flawed and reckless scheme.

Chris Maxwell is president and CEO of the Rhode Island Trucking Association, based in Warwick.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



At legislative session’s end, guns and poses



by Ian Donniss

1. STORY OF THE WEEK: More than 12 years after the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, an assault weapon bill last week had made more legislative progress in Rhode Island than ever before. Now, Gov. **McKee** is poised to sign the compromise measure into law.

2. THE BENJAMINS: Given the focus on the gun issue, it’s easy to forget how the House of Representatives passed a \$14.3 billion

budget last week. The Senate followed suit on Friday. While House Speaker **Joe Shekarchi** praised the spending plan, Gov. **McKee** has criticized the tax and fee increases it contains – setting up a potential issue should Shekarchi decide to jump into the race for governor next year.

3. BIG SPEND: Cloudy skies were over the State House when the House debated the budget last Tuesday – a seemingly fitting metaphor for how the state’s structural deficit will result in annual deficits (that have to be wiped out ahead of each new fiscal year) for the foreseeable future. In a scrum after the House bud-

get vote, Shekarchi rejected the idea that storm clouds are a symbol of the state’s fiscal outlook: “I think the fiscal direction of the state’s heading in the right direction. Certainly, there’s uncertainty in what’s happening in Washington.”

But he didn’t dispute the challenge of cutting the structural deficit down to size: “There’s a tremendous need. There’s a lot of people in Rhode Island who look to the state government to help support them. We are very generous in our benefit structure. I don’t necessarily think that’s a bad thing. But we take care of a lot of people, a lot of needy people, a lot of people who need assistance, a lot of people who

need medical assistance, health care.”

4. RI SENATE: **Val Lawson’s** rise as Senate president, after the death of Dominick Ruggerio in April, is one of the top stories of the legislative session. While Lawson is unbothered by her dual presidencies of the Senate and the National Education Association Rhode Island teachers’ union, rival Sen. **Ryan Pearson** (D-Cumberland) called her part of a “labor dream team.” Asked on Political Roundtable whether he’s concerned that labor now has too much influence in the Senate, Common Cause of Rhode Island’s **John Marion** noted that labor’s presence is noth-

ing new in the state. “But they are a special interest,” he added, “and we do need to keep a check that they’re not, like any special interest, sort of taking advantage of their position.”

5. PROGRESSIVE PRIORITIES: The minimum wage is scheduled to go up to \$17 an hour in Rhode Island in 2027 and lawmakers, after an effort of 14 years, finally put an end to high-interest-rate, small-sum payday lending – after the last-minute installation of a grace period that runs through 2026. But legislative leaders punted on the bottle bill, a long-studied issue, with a needs assessment council to develop findings by December 2026. And while legislative leaders declined to boost the state income tax, that issue could come into play if GOP imperatives blow a big hole in Rhode Island’s budget.

6. SETTLEMENT MON- EY: Attorney General **Peter Neronha** cites a court’s blessing as to why he can direct \$10 million from an environmental settlement to dental care for needy Providence kids. GOP lawmakers

say the AG’s move is illegal. Barring a legal challenge, Neronha’s plan will move ahead after Democrats easily defeated an amendment from Rep. **Brian C. Newberry** (R-North Smithfield) during Tuesday’s budget debate.

7. GOP STRUGGLES: Republicans (and some Democrats) made another push this year to create an office of inspector general, with the idea that an IG could boost efficiency while rooting out waste and fraud. The idea ran into a brick wall, since **Speaker Shekarchi’s** leadership (which insists that sufficient oversight is already in place) is completely uninterested in setting up an independent office to monitor government and spending. Making change on this front is a bit of a chicken and egg. Republicans hold just 10 seats in the House and 4 in the Senate, so they can’t move the issue legislatively. OTOH, if the GOP had a stronger presence to compete with majority Democrats, there might be less need for an IG. And efforts to build the party’s legislative presence have been largely flat for years.

LETTERS

As a nation, it's time for us to show compassion — even humility

To the Editor:

Margaret Porter’s letter of June 19 (“Please love your country, whoever is president”), while obviously heartfelt, states that Donald Trump was elected by “a big majority.” In fact, he won by a mere 1.5 percentage points, the fifth slimmest winning margin in the 32 presidential elections held since 1900. Ms. Porter also faults the Democrats for holding nationwide protests on the same day as Trump’s celebratory Army parade: “Couldn’t that have been done any other time?” to which I would reply “No, the one absolutely necessitated the other.”

As a U.S. Army veteran who’s about to turn 79, I was initially disgusted by President Trump’s decision to celebrate

the Army’s 250th birthday by hosting a military parade on his own 79th birthday. He is, after all, a draft evader who has openly mocked WWII fallen soldiers as “suckers” and “losers.” However, I must admit I found the televised parade surprisingly lowkey and entertaining, nothing on the scale of Soviet-era or North Korean tyrannical regimes.

Still, Donald Turmp has demonstrated, time and again, that bullying and intimidation are his calling cards. It’s common knowledge the United States is the world’s preeminent military power, by a long shot: Our military spending is more than the next 10 countries combined, and we possess four of the world’s five largest air forces. We don’t need to flex muscles

to show the rest of the world how tough we are. What we do need is to show some basic compassion and humanity (dare I add “humility”?) to those who aren’t lucky enough to possess the privileges and freedoms that we Americans have, and too often take for granted.

Like the rest of us, I don’t know how many more birthdays I have left to celebrate. But, for me, one thing is absolutely certain: as long as the Trump administration continues its assault on our democracy, I will continue to protest – even if it’s not by “taking it to the streets” in peaceful marches, as I was once physically capable of doing.

Peter Carney
Warwick

Legal Notices

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.. in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with RIGL 5-38.4-2, 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

When: Jul 7, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/96480416277?pwd=qcg8T0HkTMuNeNnOllxlusMI8Fblz.1>
Passcode:049536

Phone one-tap:
+1312626799,,96480416277# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,96480416277# US (New York)

Join via audio:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 964 8041 6277
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/96480416277?pwd=qcg8T0HkTMuNeNnOllxlusMI8Fblz.1>

10 Gansett Ave.
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm

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. 3198 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

6/26, 7/3/25

THE CITY OF CRANSTON ZONING BOARD DOCKET July 9, 2025

The following applications will be heard in the Council Chambers, City Hall 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910 on **Wednesday July 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** The items listed may be subject to final action.

OLD BUSINESS

APPEAL OF THE DECISION OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

AN APPEAL HAS BEEN TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF CRANSTON MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 17, SECTION 17.116.010- APPEAL POWERS FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY LOCATED AT **0 Doane Street**, A.P. 7, lot 2073. The Building Official has determined that the subject parcel may have been previously merged with A.P. 7, lot 2074 in accordance with 17.88.010 (B); unless the applicant can demonstrate conformance to § 45-24-38 (c).

JANINE M. ATAMIAN, TRUSTEE (OWN/APP) has filed an application to request permission to leave an existing two-family dwelling on two undersized lots and to separate a third lot for development at **53 Sherwood Street**, A.P. 8, lots 1772, 1783; area 6,3142 sf; zoned B1. Applicant seeks relief per 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity, 17.20.090 (A)- Specific Requirements.

has applied to the Board for permission to raze an existing single-family dwelling to allow the construction of a new two-family dwelling at **40 Ashley Street**, A.P. 11, lots 2235, 2236, 2237, and 2238; total area 16,800 sf, zoned A6. Applicant seeks relief by 17.92.010- Variance; Section 17.20.030- Schedule of Uses.

VALENTINO & KELLY CAITO (OWN/ APP) have applied to the Board for permission to construct a new single-family dwelling on an undersized lot previously merged with A.P. 7, lot 2074 with reduced area and frontage at **0 Doane Street**, A.P. 7, lot 2073; area 3200 sf; zoned B1. Applicant seeks relief per 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity,

DENNIS P CALDERONE and RYAN T CALDERONE (OWN/APP) have filed an application to request permission to leave an existing two-family dwelling on an undersized lot and to separate a second lot for development at **76 Packard Street**, A.P. 6, lot 2794; area 3,3120 sf; zoned A6. Applicant seeks relief per 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity, 17.20.090 (A)- Specific Requirements.

DENNIS P CALDERONE and RYAN T CALDERONE (OWN/APP) have applied to the Board for permission to construct a new single-family dwelling on an undersized lot with reduced area and frontage at **0 Packard Street**, A.P. 6, lot 2795; area 3320 sf; zoned A6. Applicant seeks relief per 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity, 17.20.090 (A)- Specific Requirements.

APPEAL OF THE DECISION OF AD-MINISTRATIVE OFFICER

AN APPEAL HAS BEEN TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF CRANSTON MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 17, SECTION 17.116.010- APPEAL POWERS FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY LOCATED AT **74 & 0 Gansett Avenue**, A.P. 6, lots 2420 & 2421. The Administrative Officer has determined that the subject parcels were previously merged in accordance with 17.88.010 (B) and improperly subdivided.

6/26/25

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

Individuals requiring assistive listening devices are requested to contact the office of the city clerk at 461-1000 ext 3197 seventy-two

(72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

D'ANTICO, BONNIE RESIDENT WARD

Guardian's Fifth Account; for hearing July 10, 2025

DORSEY, ARLENE M. ESTATE

Petition to Sell Real Estate located at 158 Woodland Ave., Cranston, RI; for hearing purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing July 10, 2025

GUERRIER, DIDEROT RESIDENT WARD

Petition for Guardianship; for hearing July 10, 2025

JOHNSEN, JOHN ESTATE

Petition to Sell Real Estate located at 23 Robert Circle, Cranston, RI; for hearing purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing July 10, 2025

BRICENO, DELIA RESIDENT WARD

Alejandro H. Briceno has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

BROWN, SANDRA JEAN ESTATE

Heidi Paquette has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

DEFELICE, RONALD ESTATE

Donna Calhoun has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

FOX, AGNES LOUISE ESTATE

Mayla Martin has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

JORDAN, DAVID L. ESTATE

Patricia E. Jordan has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

MACERA, FRANCIS A. ESTATE

Maryann J. Babits has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

MENNA, JOSEPH S. ESTATE

Margaret M. Menna has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

MERDINK, KEITH A. ESTATE

James L. Merdink has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning June 26, 2025

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

6/26, 7/3/25

NEW AUTO REPAIR LICENSE

Accu Auto, LLC
1570 Elmwood Ave.
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

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. 3198 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

6/26, 7/3/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with RIGL 5-38.4-2, 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

When: Jul 7, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://zoom.us/j/96480416277?pwd=qcg8T0HkTMuNeNnOllxlusMI8Fblz.1>
Passcode:049536

Phone one-tap:
+1312626799,,96480416277# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,96480416277# US (New York)

Join via audio:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 964 8041 6277
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/96480416277?pwd=qcg8T0HkTMuNeNnOllxlusMI8Fblz.1>

ANNA L. STORTI (OWN) and DENALI CORPORATION(APP) has applied to the Board for permission to construct a new single-family dwelling on undersized lot previously merged by zoning at **0 Tacoma Street**, A.P. 12, Lot 756; area 4,800sf; zoned A6. Applicant seeks relief by 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity Regulations, 17.88.010(B) (2)- Lot Mergers.

NANCY PATRICIA BARNETT and KERRISSA JANE HEFFERNAN (TRUSTEES/APP) have filed an application for permission to demolish an existing garage structure and to construct a new garage with workshop and pergola within the required setbacks at **116 Shaw Avenue**, A.P.2, lot 2890; area 8,040sf; zoned A6. Applicants seek relief by 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity Regulations; Section 17.60.010 Accessory Structure Setbacks.

ROBERT M. MORETTI (OWN/APP)

NEW BUSINESS

ANNA L. STORTI (OWN) and DENALI CORPORATION(APP) has applied to the Board for permission to construct a new single-family dwelling on undersized lot previously merged by zoning at **0 Tacoma Street**, A.P. 12, Lot 756; area 4,800sf; zoned A6. Applicant seeks relief by 17.92.010- Variance; Sections 17.20.120- Schedule of Intensity Regulations, 17.88.010(B) (2)- Lot Mergers.

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ROBERT M. MORETTI (OWN/APP)

CRANSTON BOARD OF CONTRACT AND PURCHASE AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Board of Contract and Purchase on July 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Pursuant to City Council Ordinance, the following advertises the agenda for that meeting. All matters listed are subject to a vote and/or final action by the Board unless otherwise noted.

BID AWARD:
Doric Avenue Basketball Court Restoration

CONTRACT EXTENSION:
Maintenance of Street Lights Contract- Extend contract with RISE Engineering for FY 2026.

BID WAIVERS:
Fire Department
Fire Department

Webster Marine
Webster Marine

\$2,445.05
\$5,840.00

Mark J. Marchesi, Purchasing Agent

6/25/25

**Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court**

6/26, 7/3/25

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AES Top 10

#1 Fiona Felton

Future Plans (education): Community College of Rhode Island (associate's degree in science) with enrollment of Fall 2025 Timeline. Utilizing the JAA Program, I will transfer to University of Rhode Island to complete my Pre-Veterinary Program and push towards becoming a veterinarian.

Future Plans (career): Rhode Island Veterinarian

High School activities and any position held: Yearbook Club Member (2022 - 2024), Magic the Gathering Club Member (2022 - 2024), Student Council Vice President (2023 - 2024)

Special awards/scholarships received: Student of the Month Award

Best High School memory: Hanging out with my group of friends at lunch time.

Who helped you succeed in High School: Mr. Lowell, my favorite history teacher. He taught me about history, that there is always room for improvement, and you must “play the game” to succeed.

Advice for next year’s class: You don’t want to be at school all day as a senior, so pass your classes as they come.

#2 Owen Tourgee

Future Plans (education): I plan to attend Rhode Island College and major in accounting.

Future Plans (career): I want to become a CPA (Certified Public Accountant)

High School activities and any position held: N/A

Special awards/scholarships received: Superintendents academic award 3x. Community Citizenship Award.

Best High School memory: I’d say playing basketball every day in construction and gym class with friends.

Who helped you succeed in High School: My parents and Mr. Pilk. My parent always supported me and helped me with anything I needed, and Mr. Pilk constantly gave us life advice that will help me as I continue my journey.

Advice for next year’s class: I would say to take your time and enjoy the little things. It might not seem like it at first, but the time does truly fly by.

#3 Jeremy Calcagno

Future Plans (education): Entering the LIUNA Apprenticeship after I graduate and then go to CCRI to study criminal justice

Future Plans (career): The goal is to be a forensic analyzer

High School activities and any position held: N/A

Special awards/scholarships received: Multiple time honor student, only student in this class with a seal on my diploma for scoring proficient on both English and math in both PSAT & SATS

Best High School memory: Finishing the concrete pedestrian bridge in construction class during junior year and taking a picture with the entire class on it. Or field day playing football and basketball with everyone and be able to pie the teachers faces.

Who helped you succeed in High School: My mother who motivated me to do my best and Mr. Pilkington who always drilled in our brains to mature ourselves, get licenses, a job, buy a car and make sure we have a good career path for after we graduate.

Advice for next year’s class: Enjoy every day you have left; you’re going to miss be able to come to school and be able to talk with all your friends. Figure out what you want to do in life before graduating, all the teachers her are extremely helpful and don’t forget to apply for scholarships.



#4 Jaryan Betances

Future Plans (education): Going to MTTI Electrician Program

Future Plans (career): Become a licensed electrician

High School activities and any position held: N/A

Special awards/scholarships received: Highest Honors

Best High School memory: Sophomore year field day

Who helped you succeed in High School: My mom because she really made sure that I had an idea of what I wanted to do and how to go about it.

Advice for next year’s class: Be open to experience new things



#5 Justin Reeves

Future Plans (education): Going to Pomfret academy.

Future Plans (career): Start my own business/be self-employed

High School activities and any position held: N/A

Special awards/scholarships received: Supreme excellence in Financial Literacy and Film Literature

Best High School memory: N/A

Who helped you succeed in High School: Mr. Pilk helped me succeed the most because he always reminded and pushed us to get our schoolwork done. As well as telling us to get jobs, cars, etc. outside of school to get situated.

Advice for next year’s class: Learn to accept that you won’t be perfect at everything, it takes time to improve.



#6 Gracie Leggett

Future Plans (education): CCRI

Future Plans (career): Medical Field

High School activities and any position held: Student Council

Special awards/scholarships received: Honor Roll

Best High School memory: N/A

Who helped you succeed in High School: N/A

Advice for next year’s class: N/A



#7 Christina Arias

Future Plans (education): Architecture - NEIT

Future Plans (career): Become a Licensed Architect

High School activities and any position held: Student Council, Gymnastics Team

Special awards/scholarships received: NEIT-Early College Program, Seal of Biliiteracy

Best High School memory: Building in the construction workshop

Who helped you succeed in High School: All the staff and teachers, the best Construction Instructors in the world, and Mrs. Tavares & Mr. D all guided me, pushed me to do better and helped me to succeed.

Advice for next year’s class: Don’t waste your high school years because time flies. Figure out the type of person you want to be in life. Explore what you want for the future early on and look around because there’s more help and opportunity at AES than you could ever imagine. Think big, show up, and stay out of trouble.



#8 Jace Valle

Future Plans (education): New England Laborers Training Academy

Future Plans (career): Construction

High School activities and any position held: School dance

Special awards/scholarships received: High Honor Roll

Best High School memory: Field Day

Who helped you succeed in High School: God, when I was stressed with work and mental problems, I went to Him and He helped me.

Advice for next year’s class: You can’t stop yourself from falling but you can choose to get up and try again.



#9 Dakota Jones

Future Plans (education): A plan that I set for myself in the future is to first attend CCRI for two years, then transfer over to RIC for another two years.

Future Plans (career): A career that I plan on getting into is to become a CNA during my time in college until I’m finished with my four years. Afterwards, I will get myself situated as a Registered Nurse for my full-time career.

High School activities and any position held: During my time in high school, activities that I participated in was the school store. For a little while, I helped with allowing people to buy whatever snacks they wanted with their PBIS points.

Special awards/scholarships received: A certificate in my effort in tourism and perfect attendance, alongside maintaining my role as an honor roll student.

Best High School memory: Being able to spend time with the friends that I made throughout my four years of being in AES.

Who helped you succeed in High School: Mrs. Lovejoy helped me succeed the most in high school because she always stood on business when it came to my education and ensuring that I had all my assignments accomplished, especially with my senior portfolio which is what she got on top of the most.

Advice for next year’s class: Strive to be yourself, never try to be like someone who you aren’t.



#10 Dafne Diaz

Future Plans (education): CCRI

Future Plans (career): Terrestrial biology

High School activities and any position held: N/A

Special awards/scholarships received: Student of the month in CDA s1

Best High School memory: The day before winter break.

Who helped you succeed in High School: Miss Coyle

Advice for next year’s class: Enjoy your last year.



Park View Middle School Fourth Quarter Honor Roll 2024-2025

Grade 8 HIGH Honors

Elina Alifonso, Esme R. Appel, Aalyana L. Aybar-Conelly, Makayla T. Cha, Olivia L. Chisholm, Luna Diiorio, Abigail R. Dumont, Finley F. Edwards-Orr, Henrietta F. Edwards-Orr, Ava Eliminowicz, Gisele J. Fabie, Julia C. Hale, Eva Hodge, Michael A. Kadak, Norah A. Kusz, Amaya B. Madriaga, Stella M. McCrave, Aidan T. McDonough, Oliver J. McParland, Sophie R. Mills, Dean Y. Neimeyer, Riya M. Patel, Damian A. Rosario, Alyssa K. Sammartino, Zahid F. Tavaréz, Pichshima Un, Ivan Ye, Ilyanna Zullo.

Grade 8 Honors

Gia O. Biondi-Corley, Rowan Braga, Dayla V. Buchanan, Ella M. Cambio, August J. Clarkson, Delaney C. Croke, Anthony C. De Los Santos, Jaden E. DeLeon, Xavier V. Dethvongsa, Gianna L. Guerrero, Sophia M. Higham, Lavont J. Jarrett, Mark W. Jennings Jr., Gabriel A. Liranzo, Sophia A. Lora, Cory Makor, Alijah J. Martinez, Abby M. Medeiros, Adelina G. Olivo, Milania V. Pacheco, Xueyuan Peng, Emma J. Reynolds, Jason J. Romain, Francis L. Ryan, Melany A. Sandoval, J’lene A. Santana, Ashley Santiago Lara, Vincent M. Seng, Margaret C. Sloan, Charlotte M. Stacey, Cameron R. Taylor, Analis Tejada, Elijah R. Torres, Julian S. Tran, Armani W. Urizar, Nathalie A.

Urizar, Zoe Veras Gonzalez, Kailyn L. Vongvixay, Jodie Weng, Mila A. Zacarias.

Grade 7 HIGH Honors

Reese E. Burgess, Ishaan S. Catone, Miles J. dosReis, Kyle-Norly C. Germain, Kaili H. Gignac, Ashot Hakobyan, Bella Hernandez Cuellar, Lucy E. Kershaw, Huiying Li, Samuel P. Michaelson, Juan Parra Guerrero, Chloe E. Riese, Nadia Rosales, Wilson D. Sanchez, Isaac L. Santana, Mason L. Sena, Madison G. Silva, Measchantra M. Soch, Neyla B. Tuscia, Mia R. Vieira, Enzo L. Volpicelli, Kadence R. Walsh, Emmy M. Wilson.

Grade 7 Honors

Aubrey E. Andrews, Elizabeth K. Bailey, A’driel B. Baker, Bradlee J. Baker, Allison Berreondo Morales, Lucas M. Cifelli, Yoselys De La Cruz, Shayla L. DePina, Madelynn R. Elderkin, Jack B. Finale, Mabel B. Furtado, Matthew E. Garcia, Pablo D. Garcia III, Sophia E. Garcia, Gabriela E. Guzman, Marco A. Hassan, Kyle K. Her, Alexia Hok, Crystal S. Huang, Camdyn J. Kane, Zachary Kelly, Jonathan D. Kong, Katy Liu, Justyna K. Lonczak, Evan G. Morgan, Josephina S. Muro, Diana O. Ngwani, Raquel Olivo, Arden L. Paley, Evan C. Penha, Haylee A. Perez, Christian J. Pieranunzi, Josmary Portes Martinez, Evelyn J. Poyant, Emma R. Quinones,

Rafael Reyes, Jack. C. Rezendes, Ydeliycce M. Rodriguez, Helena G. Rossi, Tayla S. Saab, Alianys N. Santana, Liliana E. Schulenburg, Eliana Shea, Kayvien N. Tasavanh, Jeremy E. Taveras, Caiden R. Taylor, Maximiliano I. Tejada, Richany K. Top, Chloe B. White, Nicholas F. Wilson, Aidan Ye, Emma R. Young.

Grade 6 HIGH Honors

James K. Aardal, Matthew F. Arias, Angela M. Bennett, Angelina C. DeLuca, Liliary Diaz, Salome E. Finkle, Avaya J. Galang, Sebastian, Astoria Johnson, Daniel Lei, Tenley F. Lenahan, Ziyu Liu, Londyn S. Mazza, Benjamin L. McGovern, Lorelai C. McParland, Sofia Monzon Rodriguez, Logan A. Morse, Aaron R. Nelson, Gianna D. Pacheco, Eliana K. Pamphile, Aaliyah S. Paradizo, Ryan D. Phan, Asha Ramcharran, Mason K. Riese, Nathan A. Robbio, Natalia I. Rocha, Jorelys Rodriguez De La Cruz, Jakob T. Roussign, Seneca K. Sales Kohler, Eleanor E. Shealy, Aishat M. Shiyانبola, Samkhanpanharith Sokha, Amora R. Teixeira, Jeanna C. Tejada Villalona, Henry M. Tufts, Nikita L. Um, Vildy Y. Urizar Jimenez, Ella R. Valero, Liam R. Walker, Mason A. Wroe, Emily H. Wyche, Karmella Zambarano.

Grade 6 Honors

Audrey J. Baez, Piper L. Boyes, Jayden A. Cabrera, Samantha

L. Cabrera, Abigail Cespedes, Miles A. Chang, Valerie D. Cotto, Mason A. Cronin, Annelise C. Dang, Ashton K. Danh, Cailin A. De La Rosa, Camden DeCosta, Keanu Delgado Ramos, Taleah L. Dyer, Valerie N. Espanol, Ethan E. Esteban, London-Jordan M. Fasulo, Alice E. Faulkenberry, Ailey Q. Fermin, Mikel V. Frost II, Giuliana A. Heard, Edison C. Hodge, Ta’Liyah U. Johnson-Young, Martin Alexander Jusayan, Egypt A. Karbedeh, Tristan H. Le, Victoria E. Leon, Arvin R. Lizarda Sereno Jr., Aldrich Verndale

Lizarda, Ayden J. Long, Efrain I. Lopez Jr., Daniel A. Lozada, Sophia I. Luna, Makai S. Matias, Nevaeh J. McCaughey, Nyla R. McDaniel, Delilah R. McMahon, Luc H. Munslow, Zoe A. Pete, Louis P. Petrucci IV, Aaron W. Powell Jr., Dexter S. Raposa, Raegan P. Rezendes, Murdoch Robley, Kane X. Ruiz, Mitchell N. Ryan, David B. Shealy, Rose M. Sliwa, Mia I. Smith, Kelsey R. Sutcliffe, Brycesen K. Taylor, Melissa Tejada, Reshmi M. Unruh, Daniel A. Urizar, Kaylie C. Vargas, Harmony P. Voravong.

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.

– Thank you



City officials gathered underneath the restaurant’s landmark sign on Sunday for a ribbon-cutting to officially mark the return of the landmark business. *Contributed photo*



Loving what he serves, Nick Palumbo happily delivers a plate of wieners Saturday. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Liz Archetto of Cranston sips coffee milk while waiting for her order — one wiener “all the way.” *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



A staff member rolls wieners across the crowded grill. Co-owner Eric Beaune says sometimes it is hard to keep up with demand for the zesty wieners. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Sunday’s ribbon-cutting ceremony included a car show, family activities and, of course, lots of wieners. Here, Cranston residents Richard and Mona McMahon with the house specialty. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

● WEINERS from page 1

He noted how important the project has been to Tasca, who still fondly remembers all the trips he made to the eatery with his dad, who passed away 11 years ago.

Before reopening the restaurant this spring, Beaune and Tasca spent time doing some updates and renovations, including the restoration of the trademark sign. The project became a community affair, with the sign refreshed and refurbished by City Councilman Richard Campopiano, owner of R&D Tool Engineering.

When it was time to relight it, city and state officials turned out for the occasion and lauded the return of the local landmark.

And while Beaune and Tasca made some physical updates to the building, they have kept the heart and soul of the restaurant the same – from securing the original recipe for the ‘secret sauce’ that tops the wieners to rehiring as much of the staff as possible.

As a result, the atmosphere was relaxed, friendly and familial on Saturday as customers enjoyed their menu favorites, chatted with staff and ran into neighbors and friends.

People are still thanking us,” Beaune said. “Everybody seems to have their own story about being here.”

Liz Archetto, a long-time patron, was seated at the counter to get her usual order: One wiener with the works (known as “all the way”) and a glass of coffee milk. “It just doesn’t get any better than this,” she said.

Saturday was particularly special because it was the day before the official ribbon-cutting to mark Wein-O-Rama’s new lease on life.

Campopiano did the honors, accompanied by other city officials who gathered outside to applaud Beaune and Tasca and the continuation of a Cranston tradition.

Campopiano said he was happy to have a place in Wein-O-Rama history by restoring the sign and that he was proud to help the city celebrate a local business that is a long-running success story.

“I love family businesses,” he said in an interview. “Some people live in the past and some in the future. The two gentlemen who (saved) this business are taking our past and moving it into the future.”



Hayward, left, and Jeremiah, both 7, met at the splash pad and have been finding fun ways to cool off together. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

● HEAT from page 1

This week has been unusually high temperatures for June. National Weather Service Meteorologist Matthew Belk said that the high 70s are more typical for late June. NWS is predicting a mid-week cooldown, but it will probably still be in the high 80s or low 90s.

Belk said the agency advises caution, to listen to your body and watch for signs for heat exhaustion.

The state Department of Health says that high temperatures can cause heat stroke, heat exhaustion or heat cramps. Vulnerable populations for heat-related illness during periods of extreme heat include babies and young children, pregnant women, children and teens with asthma, older adults, people who work outdoors and people with chronic medical conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes or obesity).

TIPS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

When you are outside during extreme heat:

- Stay out of the sun.
- Wear a hat with a brim and sunscreen for protection.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- If you exercise, pace yourself.
- Schedule outdoor events early in the morning, when it is cooler and the air quality is better.
- Wear light-colored and lightweight clothing.

When you are inside during extreme heat:

- Use air conditioning or fans, and window shades or curtains to keep your house cool.
- Take cool showers or baths. Avoid cooking food indoors.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Never leave children, pets or older adults in unattended cars.

Watch for warning signs:

Check on friends, family and neighbors during periods of extreme heat. Signs of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, cold, pale and clammy skin, nausea or vomiting, fatigue, dizziness or headache. If someone is showing signs of heat exhaustion, move them to a cool place and remove unnecessary clothing; put cool, wet cloths on their body (neck, under the arms and groin), use a fan and have them sip water or a sports drink. Call medical help (911) if symptoms get worse or last longer than one hour.

Meet Sturdy Health’s Newest OB/GYN



Nayana Chennapatna Manjunath MD, FACOG



Ralph Philosophie MD, FACOG FPMRS, FRSCS



Rajendrasinh Rathod MD, FACOG

The Full OB/GYN Care Team



Rosa Bermudez Emmanuelli MD, FACOG



Diana Calogrias MD, FACOG



Jeannine Connolly MD



Jennifer DeCarolis WHNP, RNC



Anayda DeJesus-Cruz MD, FACOG



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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK’S PUZZLE:

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Cranston Herald

Celebrating Cranston's best spring athletes

This week, the Cranston Herald sports department is honoring some of Cranston's best athletes of the spring season with its All-City teams. As always, it was a fun-filled few months of big-time performances as we saw plenty of athletes shine on the biggest stages. Athletes are selected based on factors including statistical performance, postseason success as well as leadership impact on and off the field, court, track, etc. Congratulations to all of our athletes! - Alex Sponseller, Sports Editor



Ryan D'Errico

Boys Outdoor Track & Field

Cohen Brinker, East
Ryan D'Errico, West
Ben Phok, West
Ryan Luke, West
Daniel Mojica, West
Logan Lavimodiere, West

Athlete of the Year: Ryan D'Errico, West

Ryan D'Errico was a steady contributor for the Falcons this past spring and shined on the big stages, including the state championship where he finished 8th in 200 dash and was a member of the team's relay squads that qualified.

Girls Outdoor Track & Field

Caroline Brennick, East
Jessica Chin, East
Brooke Sloan, East
Reece Vitale, West
Sophia DeLuca, West
Kristen Fountaine, West
Annelisa Joyce, West
Lilliana Prendergast, West
Maya Cicchitelli, West

Athlete of the Year: Reece Vitale, West

Reece Vitale continued to be the city's top track athlete and was among the top overall performers in the state meet earlier this month. The junior took second in the 300-meter hurdles as well as the triple jump while also taking third in the 100 hurdles.



Reece Vitale

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Baseball

Anthony DeFusco, East

Ethan Torres, East

Harrison Fisher, East

Joshua Gillen, East

Jeu Leon, East

Damien Wholey, East

Elan Santana, West

Alex Milano, West

Nick DiLorenzo, West

Logan Taylor, West

Ethan Madden, West

Jack Fontaine, West

Chris Barboza, West

Chris Barboza

*Player of the Year:
Chris Barboza, West*

Chris Barboza is the Herald’s Player of the Year after being a two-way force for the Falcons at the plate and on the mound. Barboza finished the season with a .348 batting average and led the team in runs and hits. He was a key member of the team’s pitching staff and finished the season with a 3.66 earned run average across seven starts.

Softball

Cydnee Meekins, East

Nevaeh Fatorma, East

Lexi Montalban, East

Gianna Tocci, East

Jaeda Viveiros, East

Siena Nardelli, West

Mia Baffoni, West

Gianna Dispirito, West

Mia Santomassimo, West

Mia Crudale, West

Payton Wells, West

Nevaeh Fatorma

*Player of the Year:
Nevaeh Fatorma, East*

Nevaeh Fatorma was the Bolts’ unquestioned leader and helped guide the team back to the championship game against Tiverton. The senior captain batted .508 while leading the team in runs and stolen bases. She was also among the division’s best outfielders. Fatorma will be heading to Division II Assumption University.

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Advocating for fisheries in Washington, DC

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Herald

Last month, I had the chance to advocate for full funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, DC.

I was with Gretchen Spiers, Vice President of the Cape Cod Salties; Scott Travers, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association; George Baldwin, Past President of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association; and seven other charter captains and anglers.

NOAA is under attack to reduce its staff and budget by about a third. We were in Washington to share with congressional offices how these drastic cuts would impact recreational fishing and the economies of our states. Both the Administration’s budget proposal and the budget Continuing Resolution now in Congress would be devastating to NOAA.

“We spoke with House and Senate staff about supporting NOAA’s Office of Habitat Conservation and Restoration, the National Estuary Research Reserves, and the inter-jurisdictional fisheries grants. Since Massachusetts has the largest commercial and recreational fishing economy in New England, and is the third largest producer of seafood in the country (behind Alaska and Washington State), these cuts will disproportionately impact Massachusetts,” said Spiers of the Cape Cod Salties.

Rhode Island has benefited greatly by these programs including our National Sea Grant Programs at URI Graduate School of Oceanography and Roger Williams University, Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and many of the programs run by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. Most of these programs would simply go away.

In Massachusetts NOAA funding supports the Waquoit Bay Estuary Research Reserve in Falmouth and Mashpee, grants assessing the impact of wastewater discharge from the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant into Cape Cod Bay, grants for offsetting losses due to

the decline in Atlantic herring stocks, and many other local initiatives,” said Spiers. “NOAA dollars also fund ongoing science-based research projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, such as those for the National Sea Grant Program and the Ocean Acidification Program.”

With budget cuts data-based stock assessments and fisheries cannot effectively be managed. The loss of funding for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) – direct mail and interview intercept surveys - will significantly harm the ability of NOAA to manage fisheries.

Spiers said, “A reduction in new and more accurate data collection efforts may lead to moratoriums and seasonal closures based on even more uncertain data, or possibly worse, increased deregulation.”

Our congressional delegation relies on anglers to keep them informed about what they are experiencing on the water, what the issues are and how these NOAA cuts will impact our industry. So please take the time to email them your concerns about NOAA cuts.

Top three tips to catch bigger fluke

The summer flounder (fluke) bite is on. Anglers are hooking up with keeper fluke off Newport, in lower Narragansett Bay, Mt. Hope Baye, along our coastal shore and around Block Island.

My three top tips

First you need to plan, plan, and plan your fluke trips. The idea is to select six to eight places you will fish based on wind and tide being in line. This is important as you want to drag your bait over the front of the fluke as they set up looking into the current. I then go to the first place I hope to catch fish based on catching experience and recent fishing intelligence and then go the second, third, fourth places, etc. until we catch fish.

Second, larger fish usually come on edges of structure. This includes inclines and declines around channel banks and ledges,



Advocating for NOAA are Capt. Dave Monti; George Baldwin, Past President, Connecticut Surfcasters; Gretchen Spiers, Vice President, Cape Cod Salties; and Scott Travers, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association. Submitted photo

the foot of jetties where it meets sand, between ledges, drifting over humps and bumps, fishing bridge abutment areas where bait gets tossed, etc.

Third, be ready to fish multiple rigs and baits. This means being ready to use multiple-colored rigs, jig types and stingers. And, be ready to tip them with a variety of baits including squid, gulp or the ground fish you have starting to catch and strip up i.e. sea robins, scup, bluefish, etc. The idea is to try a number of rig and bait arrangements until you discover what the fish want on any given day.

Fluke regulations in Massachusetts include a minimum size of 17.5” from a vessel and 16.5” from shore with a five fish/person/day limit. In Rhode Island the

fluke regulation is a 19” minimum size, six fish/person/day with special shore areas where anglers are allowed two 17” fish.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass/bluefish. Nick Krajewski, an associate at Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, “The fishing in Narragansett bay for striped bass is spread out, most fish seem to have migrated to the lower Bay around Newport and off Newport at Brenton Reef and the Jamestown Beavertail area.”

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marine, South Kingstown, said, “The stiped bass bite has been pretty good on ells or with soft plastics that mimic ells. Nice fish are being caught at Block Island and here along the coastline.”

“Customers are catching striped bass with flutter spoons, ells as well as trolling tube & worm and umbrella rigs,” said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke), squeteague and scup. Angler Matt Haczynski reports on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog “Last week the bite was insane off Newport. The fluke tossed up squid all over the boat when they came on board. We had our limit before noon each day. However, this Saturday the bite was way off. Possibly due the big blow on Friday.”

“The scup bite if very good just about everywhere, however, we did not get a lot of reports on anglers catching fluke this weekend,” said Nick Krajewski of Quaker Lane.

Conti of Snug Harbor Marine said, “We have a good fluke bite along the Southern coastal beaches however, you need to be fishing when wind and tide is moving in the right direction. At Block Island we are waiting for a second round of summer flounder. The bite last week was not good there. And the black sea bass have been small all around.”

Freshwater. “The largemouth bass bite for customers who like to use shiners seems to be very good. Wardon Pond, South Kingstown is producing for anglers,” said Krajewski of Quaker Lane.

“The largemouth bass bite is very good with anglers using plastics and shiners. Ponds producing six plus pound largemouth bass for customers include Gorton, Little and Sandy ponds,” said Giddings of the Tackle Box.

Dave Monti holds a captain’s master 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. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net, visit www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com or www.noflukefishing.com



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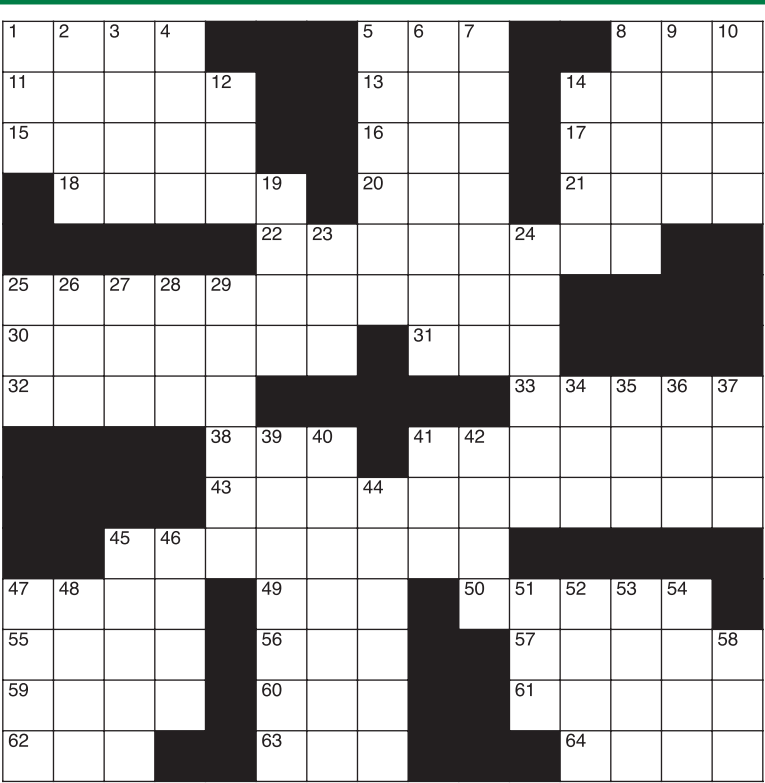
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5. Noted space station
8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
11. Automaton
13. Everyone has one
14. Incline from the vertical
15. Fights
16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
17. Finishes off
18. Places to store things
20. Dutch painter Gerard ____
21. Smaller quantity
22. There's a North, South and Central of these
25. In an early way
30. More spacious
31. Short-term memory
32. One who possesses
33. Sesame
38. Forbid
41. A way to explain
43. Not around
45. Evoke or suggest
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Dekameter
50. Fencing sword
55. "Luther" actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Hong Kong food stall: ____ pai dong
63. Not the start
64. Post

CLUES DOWN
1. Creative expression
2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
3. City in ancient Syria

4. College army
5. More disturbed
6. Pays no attention to
7. Restored
8. Competitions
9. Lyric poems
10. Famed American lawman
12. Expression of disappointment
14. Scars
19. Satisfy
23. Central European river
24. Brass instrument
25. One who gets paid to perform
26. Propel with oars
27. Long period of time
28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane
34. Pitching stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Pro sports league
37. Body part

39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Tributary of the High Rhine
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Restrain
58. Father
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- Brent Karpowich in the state championship. *File photo by Alex Sponseller*
- ## Karpowich nabs Gatorade POY honors
- FROM STAFF REPORTS
- Bishop Hendricken soccer player Brent Karpowich was named the Gatorade Player of the Year, becoming the program's first-ever athlete to earn the award.

Karpowich, of Cranston, led the Hawks with 23 goals and 20 assists last fall. He saved some of his best work for the championship game against rival La Salle, where he scored a goal in regulation then another in the shootout to help the Hawks win their first title since 1996.

He was also named to the Rhode Island Soccer Coaches Association's First Team and was a United States Soccer Coaches All-American selection. Karpowich will take his
-
- Abby Adoian, Marisa Gould, Kaylianna Downing and Daphne Cardillo, who make up Team Violet Storm and raise funds toward Epilepsy research. *Submitted photos*
- ## Team Violet Storm raising funds for Epilepsy research
- Abby Adoian is a girl on a mission.

So are her two pals, Marisa Gould and Daphne Cardillo.

And they have one thing in common; they are all affected by epilepsy.

But these three young ladies want to do something about it. They want to raise awareness of the fact that 13,000 Rhode Islanders are affected by epilepsy, and they also want to raise funds to help families and continue research into this "neurological condition characterized by recurrent seizures, caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain."

A condition that cannot be cured, but it can be managed.

So, why not rappel down a 35-foot building in Boston to raise those needed funds?

That happened at the Hyatt Regency Boston/Cambridge in what the Epilepsy Foundation New England (EFNE) said was a "thrilling once in a lifetime chance of rappelling in an exciting and completely safe environment."

A little background on the three pals who are members of "Team Violet Storm."

Daphne Cardillo (Team Captain) 19, hails from Warwick and is celebrating her 19th birthday and graduation from Toll Gate High School.

She is a member of the Toll Gate Unified Titans Basketball and Volleyball teams and the Toll Gate Drama Club.

Marisa Gould, from Cranston, is an Epilepsy Foundation New England Teen Speak-Up/Public Policy Institute participant and Hope two-time scholarship recipient. She is a CCRI student and talented artist and singer.

And, Abby Adoian, whom I have known for many years, is the team manager for the Toll Gate Unified Titans Basketball and Volleyball teams, and a member of the Toll Gate Chorus and Drama Club. She is an honors student and karate enthusiast.

Like most folks, I didn't know a lot about epilepsy, so I thought that I would sit down with Abby to learn a little more about it, and the effect it has on thousands of families in our state.

I learned that the causes are many, and include genetic factors, brain injury, infections like meningitis and encephalitis, brain issues at birth and other diverse factors.

Remarkably, in 50 to 66% percent of the cases, the cause remains unknown.

Abby, who lives in the Old Buttonwoods section of Warwick, had her first seizure when she was about 18 months old.

The daughter of Jed and Mary Adoian, Abby learned later in life that her dad was affected by the condition as well.

In her case, thankfully, she has had only three or four seizures in her whole life, the last being in 2023 while attending a Christmas play at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

She was pretty sure that the cause was the flashing lights that were part of the performance.

Abby, who is always upbeat and full of energy (like her brothers William and Joseph), decided
- ### Meeting with Mike
- by Mike Levesque
-
- to get involved with the EFNE.

Asked what her motivation was, she said, "my best friend Daphne has it. I wanted to support her, so I started going to epilepsy events throughout New England. When I found out that I had it, I not only wanted to support Daphne, but to also support my dad and others."

So, she went to various events primarily in RI and Massachusetts for walks and camps, which provided her with an opportunity to "know more about them and to learn new life skills. I also met a lot of people through social media."

She also joined her two pals in organizing a couple fundraisers at Papa's Ice Cream on West Shore Road in Warwick, as each participant in the Boston event had to raise a minimum of \$1,000.00.

Though fundraising is not high on her list of fun things to do, "I struggle with this. I'm good at talking to people, but it's difficult to ask people to donate because you know that sometimes you can get rejected."

I was curious about what this talented young 16-year-old would like to do after she graduated from Toll Gate, and as usual, Abby was not lost for words.

"I would like to do two years at CCRI for general courses. I'd like to see how I progress and maybe after that, URI"

She continued, "the career option that I am currently interested in is modeling or acting, so maybe another option is to go straight to acting school."

Why acting?

"Growing up, my family said I have the capability to be an actress. It's kind of stuck with me."

"I was afraid to take the leap at first and was hesitant to do it. Then I got into the Drama Club this year, and was worried about not remembering lines, but I performed in the play "The Alibi" and remembered all the lines. They said my acting was good and I got a lot of good feedback!"

"Now that I've done it, I have a lot more confidence."

And modeling?

My grandma and people at school tell me I should, so why not look into it?"

But for right now, Abby is most interested in raising money and awareness for the Epilepsy Foundation New England through Team Violet Storm with her two friends Daphne and Marisa. They also inspired another young lady from Massachusetts, Kaylianna Downing, to join the team at the last minute.

"The money is all going to the Epilepsy Foundation so kids can go to camp, or for research to look more into what epilepsy is."



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Boys Lacrosse

- Sean Mendonca, East
- Grayden Guyon, East
- Gio Gonsalves, East
- Owen Niles, East
- Connor Niles, East
- Derek Simas, East
- Sebastian Robbins, West
- Aidan Fowler, West
- Jacob Case, West
- Cam Scorpio, West
- Adrian Samayoa, West

Girls Lacrosse

- Lily Tillinghast, East
- Madeline Flinn, East
- Lia Jimenez, East
- Alyssa Pereira, East
- Isabella Dupret, East
- Ashley Budano, West
- Olivia Venagro, West
- Zoe Budano, West



Sean Mendonca

***Player of the Year:
Sean Mendonca, East***

Although it was a rebuilding season for Cranston East-Johnston Thundercats, a bright spot was the emergence of junior goalie Sean Mendonca. Mendonca spent his season in net for the first time and thrived, stopping over 50 percent of shots faced and keeping the co-op in plenty of games.



Lily Tillinghast

***Player of the Year:
Lily Tillinghast, East***

The Bolts quickly emerged as a threat in Division III this spring and would advance to the semifinals. Much of the team's success is thanks to Lily Tillinghast, who was the Bolts' leading scorer and most potent piece up front on a nightly basis.



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Boys Volleyball

- Dennis Dixon, East
- Caleb Xum, East
- Charles Pincince, East
- Darien Peterson, East
- Ashton Mak, West
- Kevin Dilone, West
- Lionel Alvarez, West
- Henry DeLa Zerda, West

Charles Pincince

*Player of the Year:
Charles Pincince, East*

The Bolts finally got the job done this season as they pulled off a big upset in the state championship over North Kingstown to bring the school its first DI title ever. Charles Pincince has been the team's top player the past several seasons and is among the best outside hitters in the state.

Boys Tennis

- Eri Ogunde, East
- Ansony Chavarria, East
- Johan Nawrocki, East
- Adrian Rosales, East
- Connor Ainley, West
- Gabriel Hart, West
- Devon Fraenza, West
- Kovin Rasombath, West

Eri Ogunde

*Player of the Year:
Eri Ogunde, East*

Eri Ogunde elevated his game this past season as he took on the duty of being the team's top singles player, and his performance shined through as he led the team back to the championship match while also qualifying for the individual state tournament.

Golf

- Eric Whitlock, West
- Michael Farina, West
- Jack Marques, West
- Jagger Dion, West
- Josh Smith, West
- Zach Smith, West

*Player of the Year:
Jack Marques, West*

Jack Marques has been perhaps the top player for the Falcons throughout their ascent to being one of the top teams in the state the past two years. Marques had another strong showing at states by shooting a 162, guiding West to a top-10 finish as a team.



Reclusive musician on album 57 and counting



Phil Vincent album covers. Submitted photo from Phil Vincent

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

You've probably seen his face on billboards around the state. You might have heard his music in commercials aired on Channel 10. And if you're an eagle-eyed driver, you may have even noticed the stretch of Route 95N adopted by Phil Vincent,

a hardworking local rock musician with a quirky marketing strategy and an even more unusual work ethic.

"They worked!" the Cranston native exclaims over the phone when I tell him I was curious about the billboards, needing to get to the bottom of who this guy is. He tells me a few minutes later that he plans to expand the billboard campaign into Massachusetts and Connecticut, though outdoor advertising is considerably more expensive in those markets.

Touring isn't as lucrative as it used to be for most bands, but that's not really an issue for Vincent since he rarely performs in public. That partly explains his need for creative marketing solutions. "I'm really a recluse," he says. "I don't like performing in front of people. If I know people, it's kind of stressful. It's not a stage fright thing, it's just uncomfortable."

Instead of touring, he spends time in the studio working on new material and releasing two or three albums a year, between solo work and several bands, each with different lineups. He fronts the British band Legion, an American band called D'Ercole, and also a two-man band he named Cranston, who have a third album in the works.

There was also a band called ZVP, a trio that released two albums before the passing of guitarist Da-

vid Zychek. (Texas Monthly called Zychek "the greatest guitar player you've never heard of.")

Vincent released his 57th overall album in late May, the thirteenth release for his quartet Tragik. "I'm gonna say what every artist says, it's my best one yet," he laughs.

The music is melodic hard rock with a metal influence. Vincent sings and plays guitar, bass, keyboards and drums on the album. He says his influences include Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Soundgarden, the Beatles, and Dokken. He also likes Queen.

"Queen albums are great," he says. "Queen would do one hard rock song, one ballad, one song that sounded like the 20s. Everything on the album was different from what came before it."

Vincent learned the drums first. "Much to my parents' chagrin," he says. "We lived in a big house, and they redid the attic, and I made a lot of noise up there. Drums, then guitar, piano lessons... And then singing. I just started singing, I didn't take any lessons or anything. I should have, maybe, depending who you ask."

"A friend of mine said music is a continuing recycling project," he adds. "You can't really create new music, all of the note configurations have already been done."

Vincent's label, Rock Company Records, is based in the Netherlands. "I've been with them since 2000," he says. "They've been really helpful with the promotions. Financially they back it up. It's not cheap having billboards, commercials, and streaming."

Sales of physical music is way down from twenty or even ten years ago. In the United States, streaming services accounted for about 84 percent of album listening in 2023, according to data journalist Florian

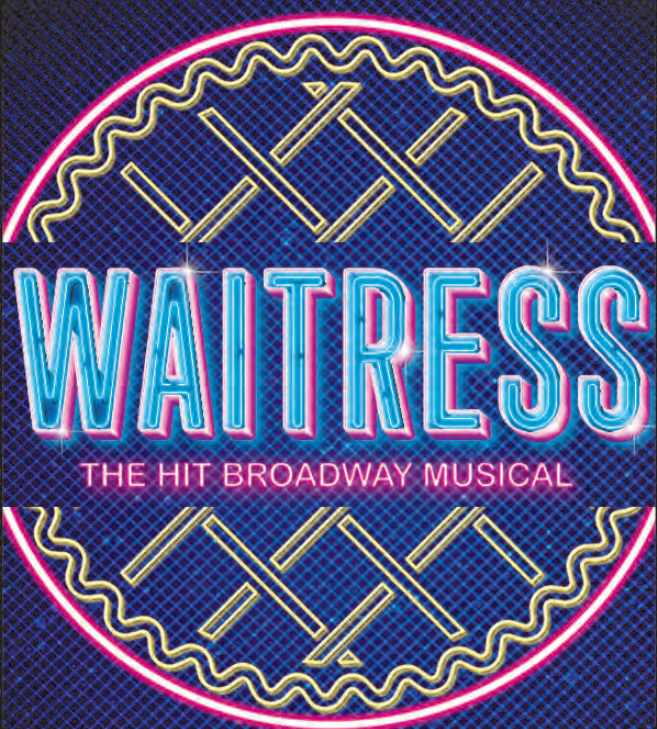


Phil Vincent in his home studio. Submitted photo from Phil Vincent



Phil Vincent at the drums in his home studio. Submitted photo by Phil Vincent

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Pomfret searches for connection with latest album

By ROB DUGUAY

A song tells a story. This could be purposefully done, where the writer is deliberate and explicit, or it could be more subconscious and left to interpretation. Regardless of the method, either approach is a catalyst for an array of intriguing sounds.

Dan Pomfret’s new album “Chameleon” achieves both. The Providence based artist and Coventry native released the title on June 13 and its music lives up to the title. This is due to the stylistic shifts that embrace Pomfret’s roots in both hip hop and progressive rock, with the bands Toad & The Stooligans and The Morgana Phase, along with the inclusion of R&B, pop and electronica.

Like a lot of records that have come out during the 2020s, “Chameleon” began as a project for Pomfret during the COVID-19 lockdowns at the start of the decade. With the vulnerable and personal nature of the lyrics, he spent some time being a bit unsure about releasing the album, but he eventually decided to go through with it for the sake of connection with whoever

Dan Pomfret. Submitted photo.

gives it a listen.

“I had been relegated from the stage to my slowly growing home studio, which at the time was a Macbook, a Focusrite, and an Ikea desk from work,” Pomfret says about the making of the full-length. “I knew I wanted to mix the in-the-box sounds of the digital world with real recorded sound, I knew I wanted to tell a story, and I knew I didn’t want to restrict myself too much stylistically.

“This album is not really a sunny day feel good record, but I hope it showcases a bunch of emotions from fear to loneliness to addiction to love and joy. I think of it as a baroque pop concept album, but I don’t really want to give away the narrative. I’ve talked about it before but I think I’ve said too much and I’d rather listeners interpret the story however it hits them because then it becomes collaboration between artist and listener.

“This record very nearly never saw the light of day, and it was really kind of just a ‘screw it, let’s put this out’ mentality that led to the release,” he adds. “I hope people are able to get something out of it, it’s been really meaningful for me.”

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra Presents Summer Pops ‘Don’t Touch That Dial: TV Classics!’

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra announces their 2025 Summer Pops schedule for “Don’t Touch That Dial: TV Classics” with Troy Quinn, conductor. All concerts are free and open to the public, no tickets required. The Summer Pops series will take place in Narragansett at the North Beach Clubhouse on July 11 at 8pm (rain date: July 12), in Providence at the Roger Williams Park Temple to Music on August 6 at 7:30pm (rain date: August 7) and in Pawtucket at Slater Park on September 6 at 6:30p (rain date: September 7).

The program will feature some of television’s more memorable theme songs including the Jeopardy Theme, Bonanza Theme, Mission Impossible Theme and the Main Title from The Crown. For more information, visit www.riphil.org/summer-pops.

"We're thrilled to bring back our Summer Pops series with a program that's equal parts nostalgia and fun," said David Beauchesne, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School. "Don't Touch That Dial is a joyful celebration of television's most iconic music—from The

Troy Quinn, Conductor. Submitted photo

Simpsons to Star Trek—and it’s the perfect way to experience the power of a full symphony orchestra in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Best of all, it’s completely free. These concerts are at the heart of our mission to make world-class music accessible to all Rhode Islanders."

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School continues to offer a wide swath of educational opportunities for Rhode Islanders of all musical and economic backgrounds. Visit riphil.org/music-school or call 401.248.7001 for more information.

Girl awed by the stage sent to reform school

By KELLY SULLIVAN

Edward Burke of Pawtucket took in his niece Catherine “Katie” Burke when she was eight years old. Edward, who was employed as a mill operator, and his wife lived in a home on Brewster Street and provided Katie with everything a child could possibly need. All agreed that the couple cared for Katie as if she was their own child.

During the summer of 1897, just after Katie had turned 15, she began to feel an urge to spread her wings. Katie had never been required to work but now was eager to engage herself in some sort of adult obligation. She expressed interest in gaining employment at a local mill. Her aunt and uncle were not supportive of the idea. Afraid of all she might be exposed to out in the world, Edward bought her a piano in the hope that music would keep her content to stay at home. It didn’t work.

In January 1898, Katie began venturing out and discovered comedies and melodramas, the excitement of the stage and the camaraderie of

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



thespians. She began hanging around the area opera houses, preferring to spend her time with performers.

Actors Harry La Lamar and Robert Mantell would be in town, along with French dancer Mademoiselle Zola that winter. There would be dancing and singing and Western dramas played out with guns and horses. Between Keith’s Opera House, Lothrop’s Opera House, Bates and Providence, there was more than enough scenery, costumes and reverberant orchestra music to keep a young girl in awe for hours. The thrill of opening performances and full houses soon became an obsession. Ordered to stay away from such places and their actors – who were regarded by society as social outcasts with low morals – Katie ran

away from home.

Police located the teenager on Feburary 27 on Exchange Street in Providence. She was transported to the station and word was sent to her aunt who retrieved her. Katie responded sarcastically that if she was made to go home, she would simply run away again, and she promised that the next time she would not be found. Her aunt relented and left her there, returning only to bring her a clean change of clothes.

Katie spent the night at the police station. In the morning, she was arraigned on the charge of being a vagrant. She pleaded not guilty. When her aunt was asked her opinion concerning reform, she stated that she had lost all control over the dreamy teen and felt that Oaklawn School for Girls might be the best place for her. The female reform school in Cranston and was the fate of hundreds of girls deemed to be delinquent by doctors, parents or judges. Katie was determined to be guilty of the charges against her and was sentenced to remain at the school until May of 1900.

50 years —and still counting— with the Beacon

By DON FOWLER

It was June of 1975 when I first met then Beacon Publisher/Editor John Howell.

I was working for the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, which at that time managed the Warwick Chamber.

I was also freelancing magazine and newspaper articles for several Rhode Island newspapers and talked to John, who was and still is an avid Chamber supporter, about writing for the Beacon.

He put me to the test, asking for a three-part series on the Warwick public and private school system.

That was followed with a feature story on faith healer Kathryn Kuhlman who sold out the Providence Civic Center, a story which proved to be a challenging assignment.

I continued my full-time work with the Chamber and part-time freelancing when I got a call from my friend Bruce Stevenson, a writer for the Pawtucket Times.

“Don, our theatre reviewer is sick, and I need a review of “Mack and Mabel” at the Pawtucket Players. Can you do it?”

Never having reviewed a play before, but being a huge fan of the theatre, of course I said yes.

After following the theatre, movie, concert and entertainment scene in Rhode Island, I submitted my first entertainment column to the Warwick Beacon/Cranston Herald on May 31, 1978...and haven’t missed a week since.

Back then there were movie houses at Garden City, Warwick, Lincoln and Swansea Malls, the Elmwood, Cable Car and Avon in Providence, Bristol and Coventry Cinemas, Showcase Cinemas in Seekonk and several summer drive-ins.

My first column featured a story about movies being a bargain, with many charging only \$1 and \$1.50.

The lead story was about the Pawtuxet Arts and Crafts Festival, which is still occurring on the same Memorial Day weekend. I mentioned the Bank Café and Driftwood restaurants in Pawtuxet Village, two great places to eat, but sadly long-gone.

The Play of the Week was the Rhode Island Shakespeare Theatre’s production of “Richard II,” directed by Bob Colonna and starring John Marzilli with Colonna playing two roles.

In the coming weeks and months, I’ll be reminiscing about some of the highlights of the past 50 years, including the good old days at the Warwick Musical Theatre, early days at Trinity and PPAC, the emergence of Gamm, Wilbury and Burbage Theatres, plus some of the many stars I have interviewed over the years, including Julie Andrews, George Burns, Vince Gill and Cathy Rigby.

And then there was the time the water pump failed during Theatre By The Sea’s “Singing in the Rain”....

Stay tuned.



One of Vincent's billboards in Rolfe Square the intersection of Park and Pontiac Avenues. Beacon Media photo by Matthew Lawrence



Phil Vincent in a rare on-stage appearance. Submitted photo by Phil Vincent

● VINCENT from page 15

Zendt. While streaming pays only a small fraction of what physical sales or radio royalties provide to an artist, there are upsides to streaming since international shipping is considerably more expensive than it used to be.

“Most of my music sells overseas,” he says. “In 1998 when I started this, a guy in Germany bought a CD from a magazine ad I put out, and he told people about me, and it spread from there. Whenever I put an album out, there are 1200 to 1500 people in Europe who buy it right away because they already know me and know what I do.”

Vincent says he mostly receives positive feedback. “My

thing is, if you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything. You might not like something somebody does but if that’s their passion, don’t slam their passion. But if the people complaining are that unhappy with their lives, let them complain. Freedom of speech, right? Let them do it. Would they come up to me and say it to my face? Probably not.”

He brings up one comment on the social forum Reddit. A few months ago, the user called u/quasicoherent asked “Who is this Phil Vincent dude and where does he get the means to self-promote his music on billboards and television commercials?”

In a follow up reply, he calls Vincent’s music “silly hair metal.” Visually, a lot of the album art is certainly reminiscent of the hard rock wave of the late 1980s and early 1990s—flames, scantily clad women, and sci-fi imagery all make multiple appearances.

“I don’t know what the problem is,” Vincent says. “Maybe the billboard’s right outside his window and I’m the first thing he sees in the morning. I could see not liking me if that was the case.”

Tragik’s new album Crescendo is out now, and can be found through Bandcamp and on streaming services.

The Seasons of Summer

Summer has an amazing allure for me. As a child, I spent the season traveling with my family, exploring incredible places like the Black Hills of South Dakota, the cherry-laden orchards of upstate New York, and the wonders of Yellowstone National Park. I've swum in more bodies of water than I can count—not including the lake in our own backyard, where I would spend endless hours snorkeling, sailing, fishing, and jumping off our beloved raft. I was a passionate tadpole collector, carefully placing them in a large plastic pool and watching, wide-eyed, as they slowly transformed into frogs.

Once I married and started a family of my own with Hubby, summers took on a very different tone. I spent seven years in college earning my bachelor's and master's degrees, and many of my summer evenings were devoted to classes. At the same time,

I was working two jobs, seven days a week. Instead of swimming in the lake or catching a catfish for dinner, I was swimming in homework and catching lectures on educational theory.

Eventually, my college years came to an end, and I stepped into a professional role as a social worker, just as our kiddos began arriving. What a joy it was to spend afternoons and weekends with them. I would sit in a lounge chair beneath the shade of a big maple tree, happily watching them play in the water and on the beach, building sandcastles with great imagination. Their laughter echoed across the lake as they splashed, giggled, and blew bubbles underwater. When they were little, we marked the swimming area with buoys so they could only wade in up to their waists. But as they grew older, we built a bigger raft, and one



Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

of their greatest delights was swimming out to it and leaping off, dramatically holding their noses as they jumped off. Because we did foster care, they always had company.

As my children grew, my summer days evolved once again. With more time on my hands, I began volunteering as the director of a large recreational group for adults with disabilities, and suddenly, I found myself planning summer vacations for all fifty of us. These trips opened doors for individuals who otherwise might never have traveled, and along the way, we created a joyful, supportive community. The trips were always

filled with laughter, often at our own expense, as we navigated new places, new experiences, and the occasional travel mishap with humor, and heart.

And then, as life tends to do, things shifted again. I aged. My body, once strong enough to lift wheelchairs and assist others with ease, began to face its own orthopedic challenges. The travel, the coordination, and the lifting became too much so I stepped back. I retired not only from full-time work but also from the volunteer activities that had once filled my summers with purpose and joy.

These days, I am fortunate to work part-time at a church, putting my legendary typing skills and well-honed people skills to good use. Truth be told, I love summer now more than ever. A big part of that is the peace that comes with no longer

having financial worries. I have learned to live comfortably on a small income, and that brings an unexpected kind of freedom. My children are grown and (mostly) on their own, which means I get to enjoy my grandchildren without the round-the-clock responsibilities of raising them. We have a blast together visiting places like Dave & Buster's or catching the latest Disney movie at the theater, where I share my favorite hot, buttered popcorn.

Summer has changed alongside me through every chapter of my life, from carefree childhood adventures to the juggling act of parenthood, the purposeful chaos of group travel, and now the quieter, sweeter joys of semi-retirement. These days, summer is not about how far I travel or how much I do. It is about enjoying the season in a slower, fuller way than I ever did before.

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Residents of Briarcliffe Gardens, an Assisted Living Memory-Care Residence in Johnston, will find a welcoming place to reside or to visit with loved ones and neighbors in this well-appointed living space in Johnston.

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By JENNIFER COATES

The summer sun pours through the skylights of the spacious common areas at Briarcliffe Gardens, casting a warm glow on the residents below. The residents of this busy memory-care Assisted Living Residence have gathered here for a day of socialization, activity and routines that are a part of their daily lives. This room, with a large stone fireplace as its centerpiece, is where they come to pass the time surrounded by attentive caregivers and staff who have devoted themselves to the care

and nurturing of those for whom memories of days gone by have faded, and life has taken on a new meaning.

Beyond this casual and welcoming gathering space, there are many other features of this state-of-the-art memory care residence in Johnston that have been implemented to make life more comfortable for its many residents. One such thing includes upholstered "rocking" armchairs! Residents can sink into these chairs and gently rock or swivel, creating soothing and calming effects. Research has shown that these "rocking chairs" have many significant health-promoting benefits, especially for individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's and other memory-related conditions.

According to a study conducted at the University of Rochester, "Rocking Chair Therapy" reveals an increase in the "psychological well-being of nursing home residents with severe forms of dementia." The study suggests that rocking causes a "release of endorphins that elevate the mood of these patients, in addition to relieving pain." The author of the study affirms that rocking has long been known to soothe infants, and it seems to provide the same therapeutic benefit for adults.

Some of the other known benefits of rocking include the reduction of anxiety and depression in seniors. The University

of Rochester explains that this reduction also "reduces the need for medications that treat anxiety and depression, thus mitigating any of their debilitating side effects." The motion of rocking has also been shown to stimulate the body to maintain balance which is useful for older individuals who face the increased risk of injury by falling.

These chairs, which are designed to be wider-than-average for safety reasons, and brightly-colored for easier recognition, represent Briarcliffe's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of its residents and to enriching, nurturing and fostering the highest quality of life. This philosophy is, and always has been, what sets the Briarcliffe "family" above the rest.

If you or a family member are considering a possible long-term stay for a loved one who suffers from health concerns like Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Briarcliffe Gardens offers so much more than exceptional care. It exemplifies everything that a memory-care residence should be — and can be — in this modern age.

Schedule your personal tour of Briarcliffe Gardens, located on a quiet and wooded campus on Old Pocasset Road in Johnston. Call the Admission's office at 401-944-2450, ext. 202. For more information, you can many questions answered by visiting them at www.briarclifferi.com.

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Submitted photo courtesy of RIPTA

RIPTA’s Summer Service changes reflect workforce need

Express Beach Bus returns for the season

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) will implement summer service changes effective Saturday, June 21, 2025. RIPTA makes regular service adjustments three times a year in response to seasonal changes and/or passenger use. RIPTA will make changes to Routes Qx, 14, 20, 31, 51, 54, 56, 60, 66, 67, 69, 72, 87 and 95x.

In an effort to improve service efficiency, better align with workforce needs, and support job growth, RIPTA is updating Route Qx (Quonset Express), Route 20 (Elmwood/TF Green/NEIT), Route 87 (Fairmount/Walnut Hill) and Route 95x (Westerly Park & Ride).

Route Qx will now originate in Woonsocket, operate express to Providence, and continue to Quonset Point, providing a seamless connection that aligns with **Electric Boat’s** 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift schedules. **Route Qx** will no longer serve the Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center.

Additional trips will be added to **Route 20** to better align with the **Electric Boat** student training class schedule at the **New England Institute of Technology (NEIT)**. **Route 87** will directly connect riders with **Route Qx** and **Westerly Education Center** service from the Clinton St. Park & Ride. Select **Route 95x** trips will operate express between Providence and Westerly (no stops), connecting passengers to the **Westerly Education Center**.

These improvements are designed to enhance access to jobs and improve workforce reliability for employees commuting from northern Rhode Island.

Summer 2025 Seasonal Service Changes

Newport

These annual seasonal changes include the start of select summer services, such as the return of free shuttle service to the Providence/Newport ferry and an increased frequency on **Route 67** (Bellevue/Mansions). **Route 67** and **Route 68** (CCRI Newport/Memorial Blvd./First Beach) will be free for passengers through October 31, 2025, courtesy of Discover Newport and the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. Additionally, RIPTA will increase service between the Newport Park & Ride lot and the Newport Transportation Center on weekends. Visit [RIPTA.com/Newport](https://www.ripta.com/Newport) to learn more.

Express Weekend Service to South County Beaches

Available June 28 – August 24

Starting Saturday, June 28, the South County Express Beach Bus returns for the summer season with express service from Central Falls, Cranston, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket to South County beaches. The Express Beach Bus runs on weekends and holidays only to Salty Brine (Galilee), Roger Wheeler (Sand Hill Cove) and Scarborough beaches. The fare for these express trips will be the regular bus fare of \$2 one-way. Visit the RIPTA website for the Express Beach Bus schedule.

RIPTA reminds passengers that there is *daily year-round service* on **Route 69 (Narragansett/Galilee)** from URI running every 60 minutes to the South County beaches. Passengers traveling from Providence can ride Route 66 to URI, where the route turns into Route 69 for a seamless connection to the beach. For more information on RIPTA routes that offer access to some of Rhode Island’s beaches, visit [RIPTA.com/BeachService](https://www.ripta.com/BeachService).

The following routes will be affected by summer service changes:

Newport Park & Ride

Additional service added between the Newport Transportation Center and the Newport Park & Ride lot. Service will operate every 15 minutes from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm on weekends only. Service may be subject to cancellation during inclement weather.

Qx Express

Weekday express service will now originate at the Clinton St. Park & Ride lot in Woonsocket, travel express to Kennedy Plaza, then continue operating express to Quonset Point and Electric Boat.

This route will no longer stop at the Pawtucket-Central Falls Transit Center. Passengers originating in Pawtucket may use the R-Line to connect to this express service at Kennedy Plaza, Stop X.

Morning trips will depart Woonsocket at 4:55 am and 5:25 am and arrive at Kennedy Plaza at 5:19 am and 5:49 am. Those trips will then arrive at Electric Boat at 5:46 am and 6:16 am respectively. Afternoon return trips will depart Quonset/Electric Boat at 2:45 pm and 3:45 pm.

Route 14 (West Bay)

The weekday 4:01 pm Inbound trip from the Newport Transportation Center will now depart at 4:15 pm. Weekday 6:10 pm and 7:10 pm Outbound trips will now depart at 6:15 pm and 7:15 pm.

Route 20 (Elmwood/TF Green/NEIT)

The weekday 6:15 am, 7:15 am, 8:15 am, 11:45 am, and 3:15 pm Outbound trips have been extended to NEIT Post Rd.

The weekday 7:08 am, 8:08 am, 9:09 am, 12:38 pm, and 4:04 pm Inbound trips from TF Green Airport will now start at NEIT at 7:05 am, 8:05 am, 9:06 am, and 4:01 pm respectively.

A weekday 12:35 am Inbound trip from NEIT has been added.

Route 31 (Cranston St.)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability and on-time performance.

Route 51 (Charles St/Twin River/CCRI)

Weekday and Sunday service has been rescheduled for better predictability and on-time performance.

Route 54 (Lincoln/Woonsocket)

Daily Inbound and Outbound trips will be extended to serve Stop & Shop, Bellingham, MA.

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability and on-time performance. A weekday 4:20 pm Inbound non-stop express trip has been added. Saturday service has been rescheduled to operate every 55-60 minutes.

This route will no longer serve the bus stop on John A. Cummings Way in Woonsocket. Route 54 passengers should board Inbound trips to Providence at stops on Social St., and Outbound trips to the Bellingham Stop & Shop on Clinton St.

A weekday non-stop 4:55 am Inbound trip has been added from Woonsocket to Providence, continuing to the Westerly Education Center. The trip will depart Providence at 5:17 am and arrive in Westerly at 6:10 am. Please note that the bus’s overhead sign starting from Woonsocket will display ‘Westerly Education Center’ because that will be the final destination.

Route 56 (Chalkstone Ave.)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability.

Route 60 (Providence/Newport)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability and on-time performance. Weekday trip arrivals and departures for NUWC have been adjusted to better align with shift times.

Route 66 (URI/CCRI)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability.

Route 67 (Bellevue/Salve Regina Univ.)

Service has been increased to operate every 20 minutes all day on weekdays and every 15 minutes all day on weekends.

Route 69 (Narragansett/Galilee)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability.

Route 72 (Weeden/Central Falls)

Weekday service has been rescheduled for better predictability.

Route 87 (Fairmount/Walnut Hill)

Weekday 4:45 am and 5:15 am Eastbound trips from Fairmount to the Clinton St. Park & Ride lot in downtown Woonsocket have been added. A 4:36 am Westbound trip from Price Rite to the Clinton St. Park & Ride lot in downtown Woonsocket has been added. These trips will directly connect with Route Qx service and Westerly Education Center service from the Clinton St. Park & Ride lot. The 4:45 am Eastbound and 4:36 am Westbound trips will both arrive at the Park & Ride lot at the same time (4:55 am) to allow riders to transfer to either the Route Qx or the Westerly Education Center bus.

Route Qx passengers should refer to the Route Qx schedule for schedule information.

Passengers traveling to the Westerly Education Center should refer to the Route 95x schedule.

Route 95x (Westerly Park & Ride)

One weekday morning and afternoon trip has been adjusted to operate express between Providence and Westerly (no stops).

The weekday morning trip will depart Providence at 5:17 am and arrive in Westerly at 6:10 am. The afternoon return trip will depart Westerly at 3:20 pm and arrive in Providence at 4:20 pm. Passengers traveling to the Westerly Education Center can board these trips for express service.

Passengers are strongly encouraged to check new schedules for how service changes may affect them.

For schedules and more information, passengers may call 401-781-9400 or visit [RIPTA.com/schedules](https://www.ripta.com/schedules).



Submitted photo

Summer camp program filling up quickly

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

With summer in full swing, the city’s Parks and Recreation Department will begin its annual summer camp program Monday.

A six-week long program, the summer camp is for ages 6-8 (and also a group for 9-to-12-year-olds, but that cohort is full). The camp convenes at four sites: Doric Park Playground, Garden City Elementary School Playground, Glen Hills Elementary School Playground and Hope Highlands Middle School Playground.

The program runs weekdays and will include activities such as bowling, magicians and outings to venues like Yawgoo Water Slides, United Skates of America and Top Golf.

According to Parks and Recreation Di-

rector Steve Piscopiello, registration is extremely limited, with about 425-450 kids already signed up. Earlier this week, there were a few 6-to-8-year-old spots open, he said.

Some of the registration costs were absorbed through camp relief funding from the city of up to \$20,000.

The relief fund is allocated to families according to household income.

“It was definitely helpful for a lot of families that really appreciated the gesture [from] the administration,” Piscopiello said.

The Cranston Parks and Recreation 2025 summer camp program starts June 30 and runs through Aug. 8. It is limited to Cranston residents only.

For more information you can visit cranstonri.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/.

Splash pad will be late; YMCA offers pool hours

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer



The splash pad at Cooney Playground opened for the summer on Monday morning ahead of the week’s rising temperatures. *Submitted photo*

With Cranston’s first splash pad at Cooney Playground reopened for the summer, its recent proposal for a new addition to the splash pad family may have hit murky waters.

The recently proposed Doric Park splash pad will not be opening in July, which was the city’s target date to open.

According to Public Works Director Frank Corrao, bids for the site work will go out by the end of this week.

The Board of Contract and Purchases, which meets every other week, will review final bids for approval, and the city cannot move forward with site work until the board gives final approval.

The Doric Park splash pad was recently proposed by the city after a construction delay with the Budlong Pool’s replacement triggered a closure for the summer.

Anthony Moretti, the mayor’s chief of staff, said work to isolate and clear out water from the former Budlong Pool site continues. Atlantic Control Systems Inc., a general contractor in North Kingstown, and the company conducting the isolation and removal of the groundwater were not satisfied with the attempt to keep the water at bay, he said.

To ensure the problem is resolved, an alternative solution was proposed to redirect the groundwater from the pool area.

According to a statement from the mayor’s office, once the water is cleared out, construction of the replacement pool will continue.

Moretti said the project is still within the \$4,750,000 budget from both the American Rescue Plan Act funds and federal grant money.

Moretti says city officials are still confident the new, smaller Budlong Pool will be open next summer.

As an interim measure, the city put a rush on the new splash pad project at one of Doric Park’s basketball courts.

According to Moretti, the project will cost \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Equipment has already been ordered from supplier O’Brien & Sons and is due to arrive in the next week or two, said Moretti.

Moretti said the goal is to get the Doric

Park splash pad running sometime this summer, but the opening will be after Aug. 1, with the date depending on when bids come back from contractors.

Moretti said that once the Doric Park splash pad is available, the city will keep it open for as long as possible.

Moretti says the city encourages residents to use the splash pad at Cooney Playground, off Oak Street, which is now open for the summer.

He also said that the Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring a free swimming program at the Cranston YMCA for all Cranston residents of any age as a way to offset the Budlong Pool’s sidelining.

“We want to be as proactive as we can, understanding that if there are people who like to swim, that were giving them the opportunity to do so,” Parks and Recreation Director Steven Piscopiello said.

Through an agreement with the Cranston YMCA, at 1225 Park Ave., the program will run three days a week – Monday, Friday and Saturday – for two hours a day starting July 7.

“I look forward to seeing residents staying cool and safe thanks to our city’s resources, whether their splashing around with family and friends or taking a leisurely swim at the YMCA,” Mayor Kenneth Hopkins said.

Hours are Monday from 10 a.m. to noon, Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Proof of Cranston residency and a registration waiver is required to attend.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Participants must bring their own bathing suit and towels. Space may be limited to adhering to YMCA safety guidelines.

To sign up you can call the Parks and Recreation office at (401) 780-6169 or sign up at this link: tinyurl.com/edtja2hc

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Photo courtesy of Edgewood Yacht Club

This summer school is on RI’s biggest playground

By **ALYSSA WALKER**
Beacon Media Contributor

Starting this week, the Edgewood Sailing School hosts its annual summer youth program where kids ages 7-17 can learn all about sailing on Narragansett Bay. The camp runs out of Edgewood Yacht Club, 3 Shaw Ave. in Cranston, and offers one-week

sessions for \$415 and runs until the second week of August. Kids can attend for half days (9-11:30 a.m.) or full days (9 a.m.-4 p.m.). From Monday to Friday, participants will get hands-on experience with sailing and STEM programs guided by counselors who have motor boating licenses, a U.S. Sailing certification and training in first aid and CPR. Campers above the age of 11

have the chance to advance up to Optimist dinghies known as “Optis” that they learn to sail by themselves and race. Kids in the older age division also get the opportunity to handle 420 sailboats, which help them learn about racing and operating with a crew. Kids who sign up for multiple sessions are able to advance from beginner to intermediate to advanced in their respective age

category, allowing room for them to grow as sailors. Youth Program Director Skylar Batz, who has been sailing since she was 8, credits the activity with helping her gain confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility. “It teaches you how to take care of things because if you don’t take care of the boats, you can’t go sailing!” said Batz.

The summer’s weekly sessions are filling fast, so visit edgewood-sailing.org to secure a spot. While on their website, there is also the opportunity to donate to their scholarship program, which helps kids attend the camp at a lower cost. Though scholarship applications have closed for this year, donations make it possible for the program to keep running summer after summer.

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Village Common to host Pride events

by HUGH MINOR

The Village Common of Rhode Island Contributor

The Village Common of Rhode Island

Introduces



Circle of Pride

For older LGBTQ+ adults

Aging Better Together!

The Circle of Pride is a unique part of The Village Common of Rhode Island (TVCRI) that enhances the experience of growing older in Rhode Island. Volunteers assist TVCRI members who belong to the LGBTQ+ rainbow spectrum.

In the Fall of 2023, focus groups were held inviting TVCRI members, volunteers, allies, and community groups interested in creating a safe space that would

serve those aging in the community that may identify as being LGBTQ+. Through several months of planning, training and discussion, the Circle of Pride was created in response to this feedback.

The Circle of Pride hosts engaging activities and events to bring together LGBTQ+ members and their allies. Recently, the group held a panel on navigating dilemmas facing aging LGBTQ+ individuals and joined AIDS Care Ocean State for Drag Bingo at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

Other sessions have included member trainings to understand the roles of grandparents when relating to children or grandchildren who identify as LGBTQ+ and using correct terminology.

The Circle of Pride is planning events for the summer including:

June 21 – Pridefest and Parade – visit our booth at PrideFest in Providence.

July 31 – Circle of Pride Potluck at Goddard Memorial State Park at noon. Please RSVP and share your contribution for the potluck to pride@villagecommonri.org.

The Village Common of RI is present in 12 communities across the state in Aquidneck Island, Barrington, Bristol-Warren, Burrillville, Cumberland, Edgewood, Exeter, Glocester, Jamestown, Providence, Warwick and Westerly with other communities in development. Each village has a Circle of Pride ambassador who coordinates training and activities for Circle of Pride members and volunteers, over 200 strong.

The Circle is looking for new members from the LGBTQIA community, so please help spread the word. For more information, please contact pride@villagecommonri.org.



Christopher Liu, Brown University graduate and Truman Scholar, speaks during a panel discussion alongside Cheryl A. Patnaude, MSW, and Emily Stetkiewicz, Elder Justice Advocates from Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice. The session, titled “Reporting Best Practices and Barriers to Reporting,” explored challenges and effective approaches in addressing elder abuse. Submitted photo by St. Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice

Coalition for Elder Justice promote empowerment, protection of older adults

The Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice (RICEJ) recently hosted a dynamic and impactful conference bringing together law enforcement, advocates, legal experts, community leaders, caregivers, and service providers to strengthen elder justice across the Ocean State.

The May 15 event featured presentations, panel discussions, and resource-sharing sessions focused on empowering older adults and the professionals who support them.

RICEJ works to create an effective community coordinated response to the abuse of older adults. The Coalition is a statewide effort inclusive of adults aged 50 and older. The Coalition was founded in 2020 as part of the Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse Later in Life grant awarded

to Saint Elizabeth Community by the DOJ Office on Violence Against Women.

The conference covered key topics including guardianship reform, elder justice programming, and practical strategies for recognizing and responding to elder abuse.

According to a coalition press release, attendees responded with positive feedback, highlighting the event’s collaborative spirit and the richness of the information shared.

“My soul was nourished to be in a room filled with people who share my passions,” commented one participant to the coalition. “In this current climate, it is easy to feel alone.”

For many, the conference was both an educational experience and an emotional touchstone, reinforcing the collective commitment to

uplifting and protecting older adults.

“This gathering highlighted the critical need for collaboration, education, and advocacy in addressing elder abuse and supporting autonomy and dignity for older adults,” said Robin Covington, Coalition Director.

Attendees received an elder justice toolkit filled with valuable information and resources designed to help professionals more effectively support older adults. Participants left the conference equipped with new knowledge, practical strategies, and meaningful connections; all aimed at enhancing their ability to serve and protect older Rhode Islanders.

According to the release, the Coalition extends heartfelt thanks to the sponsors who made this event pos-

sible: East Bay Community Action Program, RIPIN, OSCIL, Pride in Aging RI, R.I. Minority Elder Task Force, Inc., Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Ocean State Nursing Services, Inc., PACE Rhode Island, Cheryl A. Patnaude, MSW, and Yard Works Inc.

To learn more about the Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice and our ongoing efforts to combat elder abuse, support caregivers, and empower older adults, visit <https://rielderjustice.org/>.

If you or someone you know is over 60 and experiencing abuse, help is available. To report suspected elder abuse, please contact the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging at 401-462-0555 or visit <https://oharri.gov/> for more information. In case of immediate danger, please call 911.

Accessing Social Security after spouse passes away

by CHERYL TUDINO

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

The death of a spouse is among the most stressful life events. Losing a spouse can be devastating both emotionally and financially. You can depend on Social Security during this difficult time.

Can I get surviving spouse benefits?

When your spouse passes away, you may be able to get benefits as a surviving spouse—even if you’re divorced. Eligibility depends on several factors:

Age – You may be eligible for survivor benefits:

- If you are age 60 or older.
- As early as age 50, if you have a disability and are unable to work.

• At any age, if you are caring for your deceased spouse’s child who is younger than 16 or who developed a disability before age 22. Children (including stepchildren, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and adopted children) may be eligible for survivor benefits, too.

Employment – You may be able to work and get survivor benefits. It depends on your age and how much you’re earning. If you’re younger than full retirement age, you’re subject to an earnings limit.

Benefit status – If you already receive retirement or disability benefits on your own work record, you may be due survivor benefits

if they’re greater than your own. You won’t receive both—you’ll get the higher amount.

How much will I get as a surviving spouse?

Social Security benefits are based on a worker’s lifetime earnings. As a surviving spouse, you may receive between 71.5 percent and 100 percent of your deceased spouse’s benefit. The longer you wait to apply—up until your full retirement age—the higher your monthly benefit amount will be.

When should I apply for survivor benefits?

When your spouse dies, we recommend you call us right away at

1-800-772-1213 about our \$255 lump sum death payment. You’ll also want to discuss monthly benefits for you and your family.

You have options. You may be able to get benefits as a surviving spouse while delaying your own retirement benefit, if it’s higher. Or, you may want to receive a reduced retirement benefit, then wait until later to apply for a higher survivor benefit.

How do I apply for survivor benefits?

You must make an appointment by calling us at 1-800-772-1213.

If you already receive spouse benefits, you will automatically be converted to surviving spouse

benefits. No application is needed. However, you should contact us to apply for the one-time only \$255 lump sum.

You cannot apply for survivor benefits online.

What if I’m divorced?

You may be able to get benefits as a surviving divorced spouse if you were married at least 10 years, even if your spouse had remarried. You must be at least age 60, or 50 if you have a disability, and you must be single—unless your remarriage occurred after age 60. Social Security may be able to pay divorced spouse benefits while your former spouse is living.

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		4			9			3
					3	6		9
		3	2		5		1	
		8		9		5		6
			3			2		
9			1		7		4	
						7		
	7					1		2
	4						6	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	6	1	7	8	2	3	4	5
2	8	1	4	3	6	9	7	5
4	3	7	2	5	1	8	6	9
8	4	3	7	9	1	5	2	6
1	6	2	8	3	5	9	7	4
9	7	5	2	6	4	8	3	1
7	1	4	5	8	3	6	9	2
2	8	9	3	4	7	1	5	6
3	5	8	2	1	9	6	4	7

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Nature's beauty



A Great Blue Heron takes off with a prize catch at Stillhouse Cove in Cranston. Submitted photo by Thomas Wojcik

Enjoying the outdoors, beating the heat

Summer in the Ocean State is the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy our state while the sun is shining. We all know that Rhode Island has enviable beaches, bike paths, and walking trails tucked into every corner. Of course you can go to South County beaches, the East Bay bike path or the Arcadia Management Area in Exeter, or you can stay closer to home by enjoying Oakland Beach, Cranston bike path, or Snake Den hiking trails.

It is arguably the best time of year in Southern New England, so let's be sure we all know the opportunities for older adult adults to engage with summer activities and know where they may need to be a little more cautious. Spending time outdoors is known to reduce stress and strengthen immunity which supports both physical and mental health. There are even studies that indicate people who spend more time in nature have better short-term memories and even live longer than those who do not.

So, let's get outdoors and get healthy.



by MARIA CIMINI

What if you or your outdoor adventure partner have limited mobility?

As people adjust to a physical decline or mobility challenges, will they withdraw from activities? There is incredible risk to the physical and mental well-being, to people of any age, when their limited mobility limits their engagement with others.

All throughout Rhode Island there are parks, beaches, fishing holes, and boat ramps that are designed for maximum accessibility or that offer mobility supports to allow for full engagement. You can pick up flyers about these services at local libraries or senior centers or go on-line to riparks.ri.gov.

On the RI State Parks website, you can learn about campgrounds, beaches, and parks. Information about accessibility can be found under the Activities & Programs tab. Discover

which parks have paved trails or ADA picnic tables. Learn about where to find beach-accessible wheelchairs, beach-accessible walkers, or beach access mats. Beach days are a gift of RI summers and our state works to be sure everyone can enjoy them.

While you are enjoying the outdoors, remember to take precautions to stay safe in the sun.

Sunscreen, sunhats, sunglasses and lots and lots of water are important for all people during outdoor activities. People over the age of 50, however, may be more vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat. Sweat glands are less effective in older adults as compared to younger people. That means older bodies aren't as efficient as younger bodies with temperature regulation. Additionally, some medications prescribed for chronic conditions can increase vulnerability of heat risk. Heat-related deaths have been on the rise in recent

years and older adults are especially at risk.

AARP has great tips about how to stay cool, including: hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Speak with your doctor about prescribed medications and how they may impact your body's ability to respond to rising temperatures.

And, make a plan for warm weather. The library or senior center you go to for a class or to meet a friend, is also a great place to beat the heat. When temperatures really rise, cities and towns throughout the state open cooling centers. Those air-conditioned places are often publicized on the local news, or you can learn about them from the RI Emergency Management Agency.

With some proper planning, you can take advantage of all Rhode Island has to offer. If the beach is too far, go for a walk in your neighborhood. I hope you come across an ice cream truck or shop during your travels.

Long-term planning: getting your ducks in a row



Getting your ducks in a row now will provide peace of mind in the future.

Saint Elizabeth Community recently held an educational session at New England Institute of Technology focused on planning for long-term care. A panel of experts shared tips and tools to provide older adults stability and security in preparing for the future.

"People often come to us in crisis. A family member is sick and needs care immediately," said Matt Trimble, Saint Elizabeth Community President and CEO. "We want to help them plan ahead so that they don't end up in a crisis situation and have many more options available."

The world of long-term care can be complex. It can all be very overwhelming. But there are many more options available today than in the past.

Older adults may continue to live independently with assistance from home care nurses, CNAs and companions or by participating in adult day programs which also provide relief for caregivers. There are assisted living residences that provide basic care as well as skilled nursing homes that offer more robust attention and services, both with options for patients needing memory care.

Making the right choice at the right time can be complicated, but assistance is available. An Aging Life Care Specialist is a certified professional who works with families to sort out the options.

Similarly, there are experts who can coordinate financial and estate planning. It's important to make sure your affairs are in order and that they are updated as needs and situations change over time.

It's essential to have the proper documentation in order and readily available so that everyone understands your wishes and desires. Here are some of the arrangements you should prepare:

- Create a will/revocable trust
- Designate a health power of attorney
- Designate a financial power of attorney
- Determine your advanced directives
- Create a financial inventory
- Complete a digital legacy inventory
- Confirm beneficiaries on all financial and investment accounts and insurance policies
- Communicate your wishes to family and beneficiaries
- Create a safe place to keep all of your important information

"Mapping out clear plans that everyone understands takes some of the stress out of thinking about long-term care," adds Trimble. "It's important to remember to revisit these arrangements from time to time to make sure all of the information is current and still meets your needs as circumstances change over time. Getting your ducks in a row now will provide peace of mind in the future."

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28 Chandler Dr	Smith, James and Smith, Irene	Havican, Michael J and Havican, Linda J	6/2	\$475,000	16 Omaha Blvd	Velleco, Cheryle A	Revive Re Solutions LLC	5/30	\$290,000
35 Lydia Rd	Tavares, Kimberly	Haney, Amaya and Haney, Dustin	6/6	\$490,900	188 Wood St	Patriot Hm Buyers LLC	Mery, Eva	5/30	\$224,000
53 Park Ln	Featherston, Jamie	Solorzano, Edy P	6/4	\$50,000	19 Bates Ave	Joan A Sickinger Irt and Galasso, Jennifer J	Orodenker, Judith and Debinder, Mark	5/30	\$365,000
59 Wood Cove Dr	Nacci, Judy M	Zeramby, Justin and Zeramby, Juliana	6/2	\$570,000	20 Irondale St	Lucier, Robert and Lucier, Karin E	Dyer 2nd, Daniel R	5/29	\$510,000
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734 Washington St	Traversie, Michael D	Beaulieu, Steven D	6/6	\$205,000	244 Harmony Ct	Mascoli Fit and Mascoli, Jeffrey W	Tyner, Steven J and Yetman, Alexandra D	5/29	\$465,000
CRANSTON					290 Larchwood Dr	Consalter, Arthur and Danielski Ramos, Adriana D	Waller, Robert and Waller, Staci	6/2	\$1130,000
105 Roslyn Ave	Ulak, Jared C and Ulak, Ariana	Peipert, Jeffrey and Peipert, Leah	6/2	\$479,000	31 Eagle Run Lot B	Gorham, Catherine	Mueller, Thomas A and Mueller, Cynthia A	5/30	\$390,000
110 Westcott Ave	Flynn, Kimberly A	Reasonable Realty LLC	6/5	\$10,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 214	Axd Invest LLC	Karas, Kenneth J	5/30	\$310,000
116 Burnside St	Ayala Properties LLC	Wino, Ryan P and Russo, Ciarra L	6/5	\$480,000	367 Long St	Hattoy, Raymond E and Hattoy, Laurie R	Hattoy, Brittney and Ferri, Richard	5/30	\$525,000
12 Winthrop St	Vera E Uttley Irt and Uttley, Frederick K	Capital Square Group Inc	6/5	\$386,000	41 Darling St	Hattoy, Brittney E	King, Lisa J	5/30	\$475,000
135 Columbus Blvd	Contreras, Omar A	Tejada, Francisco	5/30	\$360,000	434 Harrington Ave	Dibenedetto, Victoria	Cooney, Sean	5/30	\$344,000
14 Ausdale Rd	Malone, Thomas J and Malone, Linda E	Dejesus, Eliezer M and Avila, Dayra J	5/28	\$415,000	44 Craig Rd	Nadeau, Ida E and Nadeau, Elizabeth	Waters, Kyle	5/29	\$368,000
14 Grove Ave	Masse, Beth A and Masse, Robert D	Mata, Marishell and Rosario Savinon, Oscar A	5/30	\$365,000	4430 Post Rd Lot E60	Dufresne, Kyle	Maiorano, Joann	5/29	\$300,000
15 Country Meadow Dr	Peiczarek, John A and Peiczarek, Rita L	Caron, Samuel	6/3	\$825,000	48 Natick Ave	Angellini, Jane M	Dolan, Sarah and Kelly, Owen D	6/2	\$360,000
16 Winthrop St	Kenneth F Uttley Irt and Uttley, Frederick K	Lrv Properties LLC	6/5	\$330,000	54 Paddock Dr	Slocum, Dustin	Julia R Janikies Irt and Casacalenda, Philip	6/2	\$759,900
186 Elsie St	Cox, Jonathan P and Gerstein, Haley E	Sibunroeung, Tommy and Rasasy, Rungthawun	5/30	\$534,000	55 Fern St	Santos, Jason	Masi, Stephen and Perry, Ashley	5/29	\$410,000
189 Kearney St	Hasaba, Hassan	Alvarez, Laury M	5/30	\$580,000	55 Knowles Dr	Caron, Samuel and Wickham, Jaclyn	Klammer, Sean and Gigliello, Angelica	6/3	\$535,000
20 Robinlyn Dr	Mcintyre, John E and McIntyre, Nancy R	Costa Jr, Richard A and Costa, Brittany L	5/30	\$610,000	71 Wilson Ave	Hundley Nancy V Est and Arruda, Jaclyn	Flores, Esther S	6/2	\$325,000
21 Clarion St	Pitman Partner LLC	Stewart, Matthew E	6/2	\$1	750 Quaker Ln Lot B302	Vendettuoli, Robert	Williams, Jennifer and Williams, Eric S	6/3	\$245,000
236 Mayfield Ave	Perez, Katherine and Giron Urizer, Maria Y	Leonguerrero, Stephen	5/28	\$392,000	752 Quaker Ln Lot C111	Xenia & Deron Lt and Murphy, Xenia A	Vendettuoli, Robert	6/3	\$255,000
237 PontiacA ve	Cs Construction LLC	Duarte, Layllah	5/28	\$427,125	8 SlaterA ve	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	Castro, Michelle A and Castro-Lavenant Jr, George	6/2	\$585,000
25 Summit Dr	Summit Estate LLC	Desimone, James	6/2	\$765,000	845 Williamsburg Cir Lot 845	Mccartney Patricia A Est and Plante, Melissa A	Desjarlais, Christina M and Desjarlais, Carl L	5/30	\$351,700
28 Cohasset Ln	Desimone, James G and Desimone, Toni M	Orlandi 2nd, Ralph E and Lepore, Sabra M	5/30	\$829,900	86 Glen Dr	Loren, Jeanne M	Ravikumar, Manoj and Kasula, Thrisha	6/2	\$250,000
288 Woodbine St	Serpa, Kayla M	Feiz, Farnoosh and Ghane, Amir	5/30	\$526,000	881 Greenwich Ave Lot A1	Delack, Sandra J	Patel, Hansa G and Jivani, Gaurang G	5/30	\$428,000
33 Farwell St	Guglielmetti, Susan	Labianca, Matthew and Labianca, Cara	5/29	\$600,000	94 Holmes Rd	Mathenia, Courtney	Mancini, Victor	5/30	\$315,000
35 Rosemary St	Wu, Wei H and Yu, Yan J	Liu, Candong and Yu, Yanhua	6/5	\$448,500					
357 SmithSt	Livingstone, Quoiquoi and Schubert, Angelina L	Alvarado-Ramos, Frankli	6/6	\$375,000	WEST GREENWICH				
400 Meshanticut Valley Pkwy Lot 5	Carter, Thomas P	Piccione, Taya and Piccione, Linda	5/29	\$535,000	19 Outlook Way	Ambrosino, Susan L and Ambrosino, Mitchell T	Barney, Steven and Barney, Christina	6/2	\$605,000
47 Fairway Dr	Medeiros, John D	Godar, Shamser	6/3	\$490,000	849 Hopkins Hill Rd	Jones, Erin M and Ehret, Suzanne M	Wolstenholme, Paul and Wolstenholme, Keiry	6/6	\$715,000
5 Exchange St	870 Oaklawn LLC	Sanginario, Timothy P and Sanginario, Diana S	6/2	\$250,000					
51 Ivy Ave	Odonkor, Quenster	Henderson, Jane	6/5	\$380,000	WEST WARWICK				
51 Quail Hollow Rd	Ducharme, Warren J and Ducharme, Steven	Koller, Michaela A and Mcgladrigan, Clare M	5/28	\$475,000	Fratus, Stephen R		Read, Derek and Read, Melissa	6/6	\$485,000
62 Calaman Rd	John R Warner T and Smith, Robert E	Spinden, Gwyneth	6/3	\$412,025	Thompson, Zachary W		Thompson, Jennifer C	6/4	\$473,552
62 Greylock Ave	Johnson, Dean A	Damato, Joseph	6/3	\$443,000	Maxey, Kyle S and Maxey, Ashley N		Durfee, Melissa N and Kierna, Mitchell J	6/9	\$533,500
66 E Bel Air Rd	Casali Albert Sr Est and Casali, Albert A	Giovannone, Nikole and Saltzman, David	6/6	\$610,000	Franklin, Jakob F		Napoleoni, Mark	6/6	\$510,000
70 Humbert Ave	Miley, John and Miley, Nancy	Turner, Jennifer L and Bussell, Allen	6/6	\$395,000	Coken Ft and Coken, Carl A		Marciano, Monica A	6/4	\$123,300
74 Leslie St	Manco, Matthew	Valley Construction Inc	5/30	\$335,000	Mansour, Julie A		Marciano, Monica A	6/4	\$246,600
84 Wales St	Blake Jr, Gerald D	Rhode Island Custom Bldrs	6/6	\$405,000	Cardi Properties LLC		Viti, Ryan and Labossiere, Kelly	6/6	\$352,500
					Stb Ventures LLC to Boudreau Jr		Cory A and Boudreau, Amanda,	6/9	\$519,900
EAST GREENWICH									
10 Prospect St	Joseph N Zenga Ft and Zenga, Christina A	Mosley, Scott B and Pescatello, Meredith S	6/4	\$750,000					
13 Prospect St	Cullinane, Paul M and Cullinane, Judith R	Wilson, Tyler and Wilson, Allison S	6/6	\$1175,000					
14 Howland Farm Rd	Fridley Ft and Fridley, Jared S	Malgieri, Christopher and Malgieri, Catherine	6/2	\$1,550,000					
15 Blueberry Dr	Jones, Rosamaria and Laughlini, Jealani	Chandra, Ezekiel C and Chandra, Kara S	6/2	\$860,000					
221 Cindynn Dr	Scott, Adam M and Scott, Jennifer M	Bacigalupo, Matthew	6/6	\$770,000					
23 Hampton Rd Lot 6	Apponaug Properties Inc	Goral Ft and Goral, Bruce J	6/6	\$1,086,951					
79 Duke St Lot 1	Lattmann, Alexander and Lattmann, Carol A	Pare, Lindsay	6/4	\$360,000					
JOHNSTON									
15 Water St	Guertin, Ryan	Vani, Samuel P	6/4	\$470,000					
2631 Hartford Ave Lot 4	2631 Hartford Ave LLC	Scotti, Louis and Scotti, Gina	6/6	\$259,000					
29 Pleasant View Ave	Saadeh, Tony and Ghanem, Shinelie	Joseph, Faton C	6/6	\$435,000					
31 Mathew Dr	Apici, Ralph and Apici, Mary E	Camara, Toumany	6/5	\$745,000					
4 Cantone Dr	Carnevale, Frank A	Rotella, Lisa and Cote, Victoria	6/5	\$380,000					
44 N Williams St	Rhody Rentals LLC	Ovalle, Carlina P and Mendez, Enercido A	6/10	\$424,000					
67 Peck Hill Rd	Venditelli, Stephanie and Venditelli, Michael R	Chhuanj, Ruth and Thanga, Vaiphei	6/10	\$640,000					
8 Ashby St	Vargas, Robinson and Gonzalez, Brunnilda	Emile, Jeanne	6/9	\$475,000					
WARWICK									
10 Remington St	Wiacek Jr, Francis	Wendt, Anna S and Anderson, Daniel T	6/2	\$589,900					
11 Highland Ave	Ficurilli, Lauren M and Wilson, Jamie E	Simonelli, Ann M and Simonelli, Steven A	5/29	\$592,500					
1120 W Shore Rd	Tavares, Jason and Tavares, Jacinta	Smith, Philip and Smith, Linda J	5/30	\$405,500					
116 Winnisquam Dr	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	Deoliveira, Douglas F and Barbosa, Gabriela	6/2	\$704,000					
1199 CentervilleR d	Filipe, Joabe and Anderson, Tabatha	Zt Const & Rlty Corp	5/29	\$3,000,000					
120 Abbott Ave	Ri Hnsg & Mtg Fin Corp	Fisher, Edward	6/2	\$1					



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New audiobooks of the past, present, and future

"The Dream Hotel: A Novel"

By Laila Lalami, read by Frankie Corzo and Barton Caplan. Random House Audio, 11¾ hours, \$23. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

Sara Hussein has just landed at LAX, coming back from an archivists' conference in London, when she runs into a problem. She had an encounter with the police at Heathrow, and though she was not at fault — in fact, she was being a good samaritan — it has triggered a review of her risk to commit a crime. Could she please step this way?

And so Sara enters a nightmare world of risk assessments and preventive detentions. In this not-far-off future, an algorithm takes everything in a person's life into account — even their dreams, monitored via an implant that aids in getting deep sleep, but also records the mind's nighttime wanderings. And Sara's score is just above the threshold, making her a potential threat to her husband, Elias, and sending her into “retention.”

In the retention facility, once a public school, she's locked up with dozens of other women, most of whom also have committed no crime, but all of whom are judged a potential threat to society. It's up to them to follow the rules and prove they're not a danger — but those running the for-profit prison have no incentive to help them do it. In fact, just the opposite.

And all Sara can do is wait, while Elias tries to raise their young twins by himself, her museum job recedes into the distance, and the retention center — not a prison, the authorities say, certainly not! — becomes the only reality she knows.

Lalami, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her 2014 novel "The Moor's Account," has crafted an all-too-believable portrait of a world



where civil liberties teeter in the face of public apprehension about crime and the people who might commit it. But she's also managed to make Sara, with her frustrations and longings, more than a symbol. Sara feels real, which enhances the realism of the ordeal in which she finds herself.

Corzo, a winner of Audie and Earphones awards, reads with a sense of bubbling frustration that helps bring Sara to life. Caplan contributes a solid rendering of various bureaucratic memoranda that help make up the retention center's world.

"Strangers in Time: A World War II Novel"

By David Baldacci, read by Stewart Crank, Alexandra Boulton, John Lee, Nicola F. Delgado, Matthew Lloyd Davies and Joe Pitts. Hachette Audio, 13¾ hours, \$31.99. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

Charlie Matters is a smart but

unschooled 14-year-old, living with his grandmother — but mostly by his wits — in the impoverished East End of 1944 London. Molly Wakefield is a clever 15, just returned from evacuation to the countryside and finding her parents mysteriously missing from her home in the city's wealthy West End. And Ignatius Oliver runs a bookshop halfway between them, mourning his late wife, trying to make ends meet, and serving as an air-raid warden during far-too-frequent German bombardments.

When fate brings the three together, they begin to form a family of choice that provides sustenance to all of them — even as Germany brings more and more powerful weapons to bear against the city.

If this sounds like it treads far from Baldacci's usual territory of presidents, spies and double crosses, it does, in some ways. A

A dystopian novel in which dreams are monitored, a departure into World War II from David Baldacci, and a pair of intimate stories that start in restaurants are this month's audiobooks.



self-professed Anglophile, he offers interesting detail about what life was like in wartime London. There are times when the characters seem three-dimensional.

But rest assured that we're not going to escape without some skulduggery. And that, as the story proceeds toward its climax, things revert to form: the good guys are amazingly noble, the bad guys completely foul, and the writing increasingly heavy-handed.

What saves this book are the perfectly pitched performances by the cast, who manage to take even Baldacci's most wooden words and make nearly all of them feel real. There are enough different voices, too, to make even some minor characters stand out — a triumph, in the end, of form over content.

“Strategic Love Play”

By Miriam Battye, performed by Helène Yorke and Michael Zegen. Audible Original, 1 hour, free with Audible Plus membership, \$7.95 a month.

A man and woman have one of the most awkward first dates imaginable in this interesting, but also frustrating, two-person play.

He and she have connected online, but neither is really ready for love when they meet over drinks for what seems like speed dating. So eager are they to have it be over. She's sure she's unlovable, and he's got his own issues, all of which come out in the course of this snappy one-hour show that was a hit in London and Off-Broadway.

The question “Succession” writer Battye raises is whether their quirks fit, in the sense that for every lock there is a key. Will they find a way to each other? I didn’t particularly like the answer she came up with, but your mileage may vary.

What really keeps this going.

though, are the strong performances by Yorke (Brooke Dubek on “The Other Two”) and Zegen (Joel Maisel on “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”). Each is a master of the uncomfortable, and Yorke has some serious Sutton Foster vibes going that help make Jenny feel like someone you know, even if you don’t especially care for her.

"Audition"

By Katie Kitamura, read by Traci Kato-Kiriya. Penguin Audio, 4¾ hours, \$18. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

Like “Strategic Love Play,” this curious novel by “Intimacies” author Kitamura starts with an awkward meeting in a restaurant. But the direction it takes couldn’t be more different.

It's between a New York actress and a man young enough to be her son. In fact, he tells her he thinks she's the mother who gave him up for adoption decades ago.

She assures him that this is impossible. But as the story goes on, and he becomes more and more enmeshed in her life, reality begins to bend. What, exactly, is their connection? And where does the actress's long-suffering husband come in?

The mutable nature of relationships, and the ability of the mind to convince itself of whatever it wants to believe, are the subtexts here. And if the result is not exactly a satisfying story, it's not a waste of time, either.

Kato-Kiriyama, a storyteller and author in her own right, reads with a distance and delicacy that helps the story's unreality come home.

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.

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MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

While cleaning out my mother’s house after her death, we found a metal box on a closet shelf. The box was unlocked. Inside were hundreds of letters sent to my mother during World War II—from George Davies—her boyfriend who was away at war. My mother never spoke of George, but my grandmother mentioned him occasionally. She said that they had met at church—Phillips Memorial in Cranston—and that they were “an item” during the war years. I debated about reading the letters—wondering what might be revealed. I posed the question to my Aunt Madeline. Madeline said, “An unlocked box? She knew you’d find it. I think she wanted you to know what was in those letters.” I agreed. My mother could have easily destroyed the letters but chose not to. I began by sorting the letters by year, not sure what I was going to eventually do with them, but sure that a project of some sort would reveal itself in time. I stopped to read some of them, and the letters transported me into another time. They were letters of love, hopes and dreams—letters of wartime from a young man far from home. I’d revisit the box from time to time, intending to continue with organizing, but always ended up getting lost in George’s words. Recently, I was in the basement and the box caught my attention. I noticed one of the letters sticking out from under the closed lid. I removed the letter and the box promptly locked—on its own. It’s never been locked, much less spontaneously locked itself. Why did this letter make its way into my hands at this moment in time? Was it a message from my mother, from George, or...from the universe? It’s dated 12-12-43 and it starts: “Dear Louise, Outside the evening is very beautiful. The moon is shining and the air is crisp and cool. Walking along on this perfect evening I got to thinking—with the stars and moon shining so peacefully, no one would ever suspect that somewhere tonight there is some terrible fighting going on. I’ve been thinking what I might have been doing this evening, if we were not faced with this struggle, and with this temporary life we now lead. I realize that we must make the best of what is to be, give it all we have, and keep faith with our God, and he will guide us through this war and into a better and more peaceful world.” Timeless words that could be spoken today. The letter goes on: “I have just come back from the main PX where I got a card to send to Dean’s folks. Yesterday I had a letter from Elberta that

Dean and Mary were to announce their engagement on the 27th of this month. What a swell fellow Dean was. I just can’t seem to settle my mind to the fact that he has passed on. Do you remember the first time we met them at Rhodes? They started to go together the same night we did, Louise. I also heard that Arthur Banks was killed in a bombing mission over Germany this month. This whole thing is really beginning to strike home, when you realize that these are fellows the same age as you are, your pals who are being killed, because of greed and hatred.” Greed and hatred—unfortunately so timelessly true as history so often repeats itself. The letter continues: “Gee, I wish I could get home to see you again, honey. The song “You’ll Never Know Just How Much I Love You” expresses my feelings for you so completely...” George talks about the moon and the stars shining serenely above, while humanity is engaged in a brutal world war below. His words remind me of our astronauts—the awe they express—the clash of emotions they experience while silently floating above the earth far from the strife and unrest beneath them. George talks of loss. His friends are dying. He asks, “Why war?” But he expresses hope, too, and dreams of dancing with my mother again at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. I live near Rhodes and have attended many events there. I think of my mother dancing with George. Dancing in a bubble of borrowed time and living with uncertainty. The only constants being the moon and the stars, the sun rising again, and...love. According to my grandmother, George proposed, but my mother didn’t accept. She married my father several years after the war. But my mother saved all of George’s letters and carried them with her for more than fifty years. This collection of letters, and perhaps this letter in particular, serves to remind me that love is eternal—there is authenticity ringing through George’s words. In this imperfect world, in times of conflict and unrest, we can maybe find solace in the small, shared moments. Even as my mother followed a different life path, perhaps she recognized that love comes in many forms, and she chose to honor that wartime love—those years when a young man far from home shared his thoughts, fears, hopes, and dreams, and all that his heart held for her. I’ll have to figure out how to unlock the box as there is no key. I’m sure there is more wisdom there—perhaps to be revealed when the time is right.

Life hacks for senior women

by ELAINE DECKER

The older I get, the more I appreciate the hacks that make my daily life easier. I’ve started collecting them in one place so that I can share some of them with you. The ones you’ll see here will be especially helpful for senior women. Most of them come from my personal experience. My balance continues to deteriorate. Sometimes I use a walker, even at home. A shopping cart serves a similar purpose when I go to the grocery store, which I still do. A lot of my peers have their food delivered. I like to cruise the aisles and especially the produce sections to see what catches my eye and to see what items are new or on special. I’ve found that the safest way for me to walk without an aid is to waddle from side to side. I call it my “wobble waddle.” I feel safer and more in control when I walk this way. It’s the walk I use at night when I make one of my frequent trips to the bathroom in the wee hours. My waddle helps me prevent making a piddle puddle on the way to the john. Some of these hacks are ones you should become familiar with even before you actually need them. No one gave me a heads up on this and now I struggle with some of them. In particular, I’m referring to my toenails. I assumed that as long as I could still reach my toes, their nails would not be a problem. I was wrong. Even though my house shoes aren’t confining, my toenails seem to be becoming ingrown. I struggle to trim them and often rely on filing their edges instead. I need to find a local podiatrist, but that’s just one more thing on my medical to-do list. I wish I’d taken care of this much sooner. Another personal care routine that’s become more difficult as I’ve aged is plucking the goat hairs on my chin. My fingers aren’t as dexterous as they used to be and my eyesight has become weaker. I have difficulty seeing those little white hairs. I’ve thought of a great solution but have yet to implement it. It’s based on the book club

concept that’s popular among women these days. Simply collect a group of women who agree to help one another pluck their goat hairs as they grow. You could call the club “Grandmother Pluckers!” In the meantime, I’ve been using a small, battery-powered shaving wand that I found in the local drug store in the “As seen on TV section.” I watch a lot of Hallmark romantic comedies. I’ve noticed that the female leads often wear silk blouses or tunics, usually with jeans. They all wear them in a specific way. The front of the top is tucked neatly into the waistband. But the back is left out completely. It’s an interesting look and I’ve recently learned there is actually a name for it. It’s called a “French tuck.” Leave it to the French to come up with something this stylish and sensible. The back of your blouse almost always comes untucked anyhow. Why not just start out with it that way? Let’s face it. A lot of good things come from the French, especially if we’re talking style. When it comes to hair, we have the French twist and French braids. These aren’t easy to do on your own, so best to find a hair styling partner. You can’t dress French without a beret. But to be truly French, you need a striped top, called a “marinière.” You might as well throw in a red scarf for good measure. You can’t find a much easier hack than that. Even senior women can pull that look off!

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Elaine M. Decker’s books include Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide, Retirement Sparks, Retirement Sparks Again, Retirement Sparks Redux and CANCER: A Coping Guide. Her essays appear in the anthologies: 80 Things To Do When You Turn 80 and 70 Things To Do When You Turn 70. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at: emdecker@ix.netcom.com.