

Cranston Herald

Thursday, May 15, 2025

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Bottle bill sponsor hopeful but uphill climb remains

By JOHN HOWELL
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Is a Rhode Island bottle bill in the cards this year?

Warwick State Senator Mark McKenney, who introduced the legislation in the Senate, wouldn't have placed odds on it a month ago. But following last week's hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture plus new Senate leadership, he's hopeful.

"It remains an uphill battle against a very difficult array of lobbyists and special interest groups," said the legislator in an interview Sunday.

But he's not throwing in the towel. Sen. Valarie Lawson is a co-sponsor of McKenney's bill, a move she made prior to becoming Senate President.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi released the following statement Tuesday: "I am keeping an open mind on the bottle bill heading into the House Environment Committee hearing and I plan to review the testimony carefully. I thank all the



Senator Mark McKenney

members of the House and Senate joint commission who put a great deal of time and effort studying this complex issue. There was not a consensus reached among the commission members and there was lot of advocacy and passion on both sides. I've heard from many consumers opposed to a bottle bill who view it as another tax."

McKenney notes that Rhode Island and New Hampshire are the only two

New England States without a bottle bill and it would be easy to leave things the way they are.

"We don't have to do this," he said. "Our kids and grandkids can live with the decision we make."

He paints a dim picture if the state chooses not to improve Rhode Island's recycling rate, which he put between 14 and 26 percent based on the community. Without an increase in recycling, disposing of trash will become increasingly costly, if not difficult, as the landfill fills up. Litter will increase and most disturbingly, micro plastics will increase in our environment.

● BILL to page 5

'We're the smallest state with the greatest backlot'

From Western Hills Middle school to Hollywood and back again

President Ronald Reagan once said that "there is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse."

Steven Feinberg, the executive director of the Rhode Island Film and Television Office, has no objection to this sentiment.

Just drop by C&L Stables at Goddard Park in Warwick someday and watch when he calls his horse, "Rhode Island Rusty". The horse will come charging out of his shed and run up to him like a dog would, nudging at his pal.

True to his love of horses, Steven saved Rusty and can't ride him due to nerve damage from a previous injury. Steven just walks along the beautiful trails with him.

But Steven would probably say that Rusty helped save him, because his previous horse, named Cruiz, had to be put down after a severe injury. An awful event that Steve describe as the "worst day of my life".

So how does this relate to film and television for this soon-to-be newest

Meeting with Mike

by Mike Levesque



honorary doctor of letters (to be conferred upon him by the University of Rhode Island on May 16) as well as one of the nine esteemed

Rhode Islanders recently inducted into the prestigious Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame?

Having a dream, working hard

Spend five minutes with Steve and you'll find out it's all about "having a dream and working hard."

Steven Feinberg is one of the lucky ones.

He didn't have to bounce from one career to another to find out what his passion was.

At age eight, the Cranston native made his first movie, "Charlie Chaplin meets Dr. Jekyll".

His dad Ross, a beloved teacher at Coventry Elementary School was his lone camera man, using an old 8mm Kodak Brownie camera. I'm sure that his mom, Lotte (a gemologist who fled

● BACKLOT to page 5



Steven Feinberg in his RI Film and Television office. Beacon Media photo by Mike Levesque

Garden City kicks off first farmer's market on Sunday

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

With the summer heat fast approaching, outdoor activities are finally making a return, including outdoor farmer markets.

Beginning on Sunday, May 18, Garden City will host its first farmer's market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday until Sept. 28.

With a mix of farm booths and rotating local makers, more than 30 vendors are expected to participate in the Garden City market.

Faith Lockhart, senior marketing manager for Garden City, says including vendors that were Rhode Island based was an important factor when putting this all together.

This newest market is part of the Rhode Island Grown program, an initiative of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Agriculture.

According to DEM, the program aims to educate consumers about the benefits of buying direct from local farmers. "Buying direct enables you to see just exactly where your food comes from, for health and peace of mind. And of course, the ability to get the freshest of the fresh produce is no small factor," states the Rhode Island Grown homepage.

The Garden City farmer's market project began after Lockhart said they received a lot of customer feedback that indicated high demand for a market.

She says people seem to be really

excited about the initiative. According to Lockhart, the initial announcement posted on Instagram had 152,000 views and 2,700 likes – atypical engagement for the photos they usually post on the account.

Lockhart said they contracted Lupe Aguilar, founder of Rhode Island Night Market to manage the Garden City farmer's market. Aguilar's business is an events-focused bazaar that highlights local vendors, artists and small businesses.

A Cranston resident, Aguilar calls the upcoming farmer's market, "a market for everyone."

Keeping the focus on Rhode Island vendors and talent, Aguilar said they

● MARKET to page 5

the **Real Housewives**
OF RHODE ISLAND

Bravo show 'Real Housewives' drops anchor in the Ocean State

By CHRISTOPHER SHEA
Rhode Island Current

Get ready for some drama in the Ocean State — Bravo's "Real Housewives" franchise is coming to

● HOUSEWIVES to page 4

Vic DiBitetto



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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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A	P	E	A	K	D	A	Y	E	E	L	E	A	
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S	L	U	R	S	S	R	S	N	A	C	K		



Howell and his wife, Carol, salute the flag during the induction ceremony.

'Dean of RI newspaper publishing' in Hall of Fame

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
 Beacon Media Staff Writer

Lifelong newspaper man and Warwick Beacon editor (and former publisher) John Howell has always been all about getting the story right. Well, on Saturday, he was the right story, joining eight other notable Rhode Islanders in being inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

In the event at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, Howell was one of nine prominent Rhode Islanders selected this year to be honored for their contribution to the state, its history and its society. According to Hall of Fame Board President Lawrence Reid, the organization was formed to honor "any individual who has brought credit to Rhode Island, brought Rhode Island into prominence, and contributed to the history and heritage of the state."

This was the 59th year of welcoming new inductees to the Hall of Fame, which includes historical figures such as Roger Williams and the Chief Sachems of the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes. It's roughly 800 members include people who have made their mark in Rhode Island through a wide variety of careers and causes.

This year's other inductees are: Maria Gemma Corcelli, executive director of the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Center; Olivia Culpo (McCaffrey), Cranston native, actress and businesswoman and former Miss Rhode Island, Miss USA and Miss Universe; Steven Feinberg, Cranston native, writer, film producer and director who is also executive director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office; Matthew J. Smith, former Speaker of the House and a historian and professor; Loren M. Spears, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum and an educator and Native American rights advocate; Dr. Joyce L. Stevos, an educator and social reformer for African and Native communities as well as director of the Heritage Harbor Foundation; James Vincent, Cranston resident, social activist and former president of both the Urban League of Rhode Island and the Providence branch of the NAACP; and Thomas P. Whitten, long-time executive director of the John Hope Settlement House and author and social activist for the Black community.

Howell, 83, embodies the values of the honorary society and has more than made his mark on the state he has called home for more than 50 years.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Greenwich, Con-

necticut with youthful aspirations of becoming a political operative, Howell is a graduate of American University. He switched to journalism early in his career and worked on newspapers in Connecticut before moving to Rhode Island to become editor of the East Providence Post. A short time later, in 1969, he and a colleague purchased the Warwick Beacon.

They went on launch papers in other communities, but the Beacon became Howell's journalistic home, and he served as editor and publisher for decades, sometimes writing almost entire editions himself – and taking the photographs.

In nominating him for the Heritage Hall of Fame, former West Warwick Mayor Michael Levesque called him the "dean of Rhode Island newspaper publishing." In addition to the Warwick Beacon, Beacon Media currently includes the Cranston Herald, the Johnston SunRise and The Reminder.

Although Howell sold the papers recently, he remains on board as editor of the Beacon and is still busy covering stories today. When he stepped to the podium to make his acceptance speech Saturday, Levesque teased that he had never seen Howell without a camera or a notebook in hand. Howell did not miss a beat and reached into his suit jacket pocket to produce one of his trusty reporter notebooks.

His commitment to local news has been matched only by his commitment to serve the communities he covered. According to his biography for the Hall of Fame ceremony, his accomplishments include co-founding the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon, serving as a driving force for the preservation of Rocky Point, and being a longtime supporter and past chairman of MENTOR Rhode Island, as well as a member of the Warwick Rotary Club for more than 50 years.

He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Community College of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education.

His wife, Carol B. Howell, has been at his side through it all, and the couple reside in Warwick overlooking his beloved Narragansett Bay.

In inducting Howell into the Hall of Fame, Levesque hailed him as the dean of newspaper publishing in the state, a civic leader and a true "Rhode Island treasure."

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Police Log

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On May 11 at 7:33 p.m., officers arrested Daniel Pennine, 35, of 34 Hawthorne Ave. Cranston, for Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a walk-in complaint from an incident which occurred at 816 Park Ave. Pennine was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace.

DOMESTIC DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On May 10 at 8:43 p.m., officers arrested Intigam Akbarov, 26, of 265 Knollwood Ave., for Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a disturbance report in the lobby of CPD headquarters. Akbarov was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace.

DUI

On May 10 at 10:26 a.m., officer(s) arrested Lisa Ise, 46, of Johnston, RI for DUI of Liquor or Drugs 2nd Offense. The arrest was the result of a call for an accident in the lot of 235 Atwood Ave. (Dunkin). Ise was awaiting arraignment.

DUI

On May 9 at 9:55 p.m., officers arrested Edgar Reynoso, 37, of 74 Auburn St. for DUI-1st Offense-BAC Unknown and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. The arrest was the result of an erratic operator call at Taco Bell on Cranston St. Reynoso was held for morning arraignment.

DUI

On May 8 at 11:36 a.m., officer(s) arrested Jalyssa

Lazzareschi, 30, of 148 Orchard St for DUI-B.A.C Unknown 2nd Offense and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. The arrest was the result of a call for an accident in the area of 83 Rolfe St. (Valley Community School). Lazzareschi 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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Candace Gauvin enjoys the lunch which included blueberry cake for dessert. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

Lunch, love, and birdhouses for moms

Mothers and community members alike flocked to the Cranston Senior Center to celebrate a special Mother's Day with a full lunch and gifts to go with the occasion. Sky Marcos, Programs Director at the Senior Center hand painted over 70 birdhouses to give out to those who came out for the special day.



Debbie Joseph loves visiting her grandchildren and enjoyed the special lunch. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Thank you, moms! Guests enjoyed their lunch and thank-you tokens. Loni Hooper (left) and Sue Abdullah (center). *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



It was smiles for moms and non-mom's alike Friday at the Cranston Senior Center. Sue Abdullah holds one of the hand-decorated birdhouses that guests received. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Dad's count too! Florence and Anthony Lambrese. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Students shake Cranston East Principal Thomas Barbieri's hand as they receive the awards for the night. *Submitted photo*



Members of the Cranston High School West Choir sing the national anthem to begin the ceremony. *Submitted photo*

East, West recognize student achievement

May is always a busy time for Cranston schools as the academic year ends with ceremonies, graduations and events celebrating student achievements.

On May 1, Cranston High School East kicked off celebrations with its National Honor Society Induction, National Art Honor Society Induction and Junior Award ceremony.

The night's events celebrated students from class 2025 and 2026 as they were inducted into their respective honor societies and received awards for the year.

The Cranston East Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) presented the colors. Amaryllis Miller (class of 2026) sang the National Anthem. Speakers included Cranston East Principal Thomas Barbieri, School Committee Vice Chairperson Anthony Melillo and Assistant Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools Norma Cole.

The Faculty Tribute of the night went to Howard Chun, who has been a science teacher at East since 1994. Students in the National Honor Society are given the opportunity to nominate a teacher to give the faculty address and this year they chose Chun.

Cranston East Honorees

Fifty students were inducted into honor societies and/or received an award.

Class of 2025

Cabral, Amaya K.; Coello Imaicela, Madeleine G.; Coello Imaicela, Meritxell Isabel; Diaz, Toribio, Enerlee A.; Estrada Ortega, Hellen; Eva, Sierra N.; Kelshaw, Alexis K.; Patrick, Aryanie E.

Class of 2026

Battle Cabrera, Mia G. Hassan, Marquis A., Billings, Alice B. Jean-Louis, Ashley, Calderon, Asianalese Kue, Pangzong A., Chea-Yan, Noelani Leary, Finn R., Chin, Jessica L. Lim, Laysoon, Connor, Haley B. Lin, Jolie, Conway, James R. Lopez, Ala'Jah C., Corcoran, Thora F. Lovenbury, Grace A., Cruz, Oliver Margarit-Guzman, Farners, Desjarlais, Anthony M. Marquisio, Fabiana D. Dorvilier, Caleb J. Mata, Nicole M., Garcia Decena, Eliana Melino, Jackson T., Garcia, Leanna F. Michaelson, Grace M., Germosen, Nicolas Miller, Amaryllis C., Gong, Noah E. Ogunde, Erioluwa O., Grace, Gwendolyn M. Oliveira, Gabriel A., Guan, Simiao Robinson, Tyler F., Guerrero, Miguel Santino B. Tiu Toj, Bryanna D., Guzman, Camila D. Vargas, Mariel, Hardy, Desiree Vetaique, Zephaniah A. Hart, Madelyn O. Yang, Miley N.

On May 8, Cranston High School West (CHSW) also celebrated its students who were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS), National Art Honor Society, Società Onoraria Italiana, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica and Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society.

The Cranston West Chamber Orchestra performed and members of the CHSW Choir sang the national anthem. Speakers included Cranston West Principal John Fontaine, School Committee Chair Domenic Fusco, School Committee member Kathy Crowley, and Assistant Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools Norma Cole.

Cranston West Honorees

Jaisany L., Acosta; Connor, Ainley; Zukaa, Alnahas; Matthew, Andrews; Kiame, Angeles; Nathan, Arsenault; Gabriella, Aurecchia; Nicolas, Ayala; Chloe, Ayoub; Declan, Bachner; Victoria, Badger; Abraham, Baldomar; Talina, Barbosa; Eid, Bassil; Brooke, Bedetta; Emmanuel, Betancur; Caitlyn, Blanchette; Cameron, Bobek; Sofia, Borges; Alexander, Brady; Aliviah, Britto; Samara H., Brown; Kyla, Buco; Sadie, Butler; Arthur, Butts; Brooke-Isabella, Caciocia; Yiluo, Cai; Madison, Capaldi; Leah Carrillo Hernandez; Ciana, Catelli; Emilia, Chace; Tiffany, Chen; Celina, Cheng; Nicholas, Chin; Hanna, Chong; Joshua, Clapprood; Emma, Coggeshall; Harper, Cohn; Alexandra, Colardo; Liliana, Colon; Nathan, Conca; Julia, Davis; Devin J., DeAngelis; Benjamin, DeFusco; Alexa N., Diaz Mejia; Sophia, DiBenedetto; Connor, DiOrio; Angelina, DiSanto; Elvis, Donnelly; Alexa, Eliminowicz; Leslie, Espanol; Camryn, Evon; John, Fang; Christopher, Frias; Nadia, Gabriel; Andrew T., Gardiner; Celine, Gautreaux; Noah, Germain; Natalia, Giardina; Sophia, Gomes; Jake, Harty; Arianna, Hathaway; Addison, Haun; Leah, Carrillo Hernandez; Ava, Iannelli; Samantha, Irons; Natalia, Jackson; Nisarangi, Jarvis; Ariella, Johnson; Liam, Johnson; Emma, Kiley; Michelle, Kim; Katherine, Kue; Jillian, Langley; Angelina S., Lanni; Kyanoush, Lay-

ton; Zachary, Leone; Ashley, Levin; Francesca L., Longo; Ryan, Luke; Jack, Marques; Ashton, Mak; Narianna, Marfeo; Elizabeth, Matias; Payton, Mays; Mina, Meehan; Gia, Mooney; Lylah, Morais; Lauren, O'Connor; Devyn, O'Donnell; Steven, Objio; Madison, Olney; Oceanna A., Orlandi; Mya, Pagliarini; Charles, Paley; Aidan, Paplauskas; Janvi, Patel; Valentina, Pedraza Herrera; Kyla, Pedroso; Hannah V., Perez; Mia, Perron; Isabella, Perrotta; Promise, Pitts; Emili, PolChocoj; Lilliana, Prendergast; Kristi, Prestly; Joshua, Procaccianti; Zaiyan, Quddus; Nora, Quero; Dorian, Rajack; Jackelyn, Ranone; Michael, Raspallo; Emma, Regine; Giana, Rivelli; Mark, Rodrigues; Daniel U., Rodriguez; Greta A., Rotmer; Alessandra, Russo; Angelina, San Antonio; Julianna, Santagata; Mia, Santomassimo; Sayde, Sawyer; Alexa, Senna; Emma-Rose, Shaw; Kylie, Shears; Nathaniel, Shyllon; Ava, Silveira; Keira, Simpson; Jonah A., Silva; Zoe, Smith; Ashley, Sosa; Benjamin, Spirito; Robert, Stevens; Morgan, St Jean; Ilter, Talebi-Abgarni; Edward, Tavarez; Ava, Tedeschi-Moran; Trinity, Tessier; Savanna, Theroux; Ava, Thurber; Ryan, Thurber; Amelia, Tindall; Kyla R., Tyler; Giovanna, Van Helden; Regan A., Violante; Reece, Vitale; Aidan, Vongkanya; Layla E., Ward; Sophia, Zhu; Brenna, Zolli.

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Students generously share the love

The Cranston Rotary Club concluded its annual Share the Love food drive this past week, gathering donations of food from elementary schools across the city to donate to local pantries.

Titled “Share the Love” because of its start around Valentine’s Day, the project has grown and spread across the city, helping many of the local food pantries at a time of scarcity, says Tom Glasgow, president of the Cranston Rotary Club.

Cranston’s 15 elementary schools participate. In each school, the classroom that collects the most items gets a pizza party as a reward.

Orchard Farms students collected more than 2,000 pieces of food. L-R Tom Glasgow, president of Cranston Rotary, Orchard Farms Principal Cheri Sacco, Michele Winters, Cranston Rotary member, and Asst Principal Ramon Torres. *Submitted photo by Tom Glasgow*

DEM is still looking for a few more good lifeguards

By **JANINE WEISMAN**
Rhode Island Current

About 90 lifeguards have already been hired to work at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) beaches ahead of the summer 2025 season. But more are still needed.

“DEM is actively recruiting for seasonal positions and continues to accept applications throughout the season,” Chief Public Affairs Officer Kim Keough said in an email confirming the number of guards hired so far. “We are still hiring for all seasonal roles, especially our lifeguard positions and encourage anyone interested to apply!”

Keough said DEM’s Division of Parks and Recreation aims to hire over 100 lifeguards for the summer.

DEM’s seasonal employment webpage still has a posting for seasonal state lifeguards — pay is listed as \$18.75 to \$19.25 an hour — and seasonal supervising lifeguards — paying \$19.50 to \$20.00 an hour.

To help with recruiting, DEM offers up to \$1,000 in incentive bonuses — a \$500 sign-on bonus for those hired

by June 27 and an additional \$500 for those who remain on the job through Sept. 1

All lifeguard candidates must receive state certification and hold valid cards in lifeguard training, first aid, and CPR, including infant, child, and adult.

Lifeguards will be on duty and bathrooms and concessions will be open at Scarborough North and Salty Brine state beaches in Narragansett on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, and remain open weekends only until daily operations begin Memorial Day. All other state beaches, except Roger Wheeler, will officially open daily Saturday, May 24 and remain open until Labor Day.

Beachgoers can plan ahead and buy their 2025 state beach season parking passes to all eight Rhode Island State beach parking lots. Online pass sales can take up to 24 hours to validate. New this year, returning customers with unchanged registration and contact information can bypass the verification process. They allow parking at all eight state beaches but do not guarantee entry. Parking is first-come, first-served.


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Park View Middle School Third Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 8 HIGH Honors

Esme R. Appel, Aalyana L. Aybar-Connelly, Rowan F. Braga, 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, Jo-manov Jamsely Leblanc, Amaya B. Madriaga, Aidan T. McDonough, Oliver J. McParland, Sophie R. Mills, Riya M. Patel, Damian A. Rosario, Alyssa K. Sammartino, Margaret K. Sloan, Cameron R. Taylor, Ivan Ye, Mila A. Zacarias.

Grade 8 Honors

Penelope M. Adams, Kaily G. Baez, Gia O. Biondi-Corley, Troy M. Bohorquez, Lorenzo F. Boutier, Dayla V. Buchanan, Rosalie L. Byron, Ella M. Cambio, Makayla T. Cha, Ariana M. Chan, Olivia L. Chisholm, August J. Clarkson, Delaney C. Croke, Jazlene D. De La Rosa, Anthony C. De Los Santos, Jaden C. DeLeon, Xavier V. Dethvongsa, Luna Diorio, Gianna L. Guerrero, Ivan D. Her Jr., Lavont J. Jarrett, Mark W. Jennings Jr., Yonalia K. Jimenez, Lorelei LaRiviere, Gabriel A. Liranzo, Mason P. Lizarda, Daniel Lugo Jr., Cory Makor, Alijah J. Martinez, Dean Y. Neimeyer, Milania V. Pacheco, Xueyuan Peng, Karmryn D. Pinardi, Kaylynn A. Rajapho, Margaret Reyes,

Francis L. Ryan, Melany A. Sandoval, J'lene A. Santana, Vincent M. Seng, Charlotte M. Stacey, Hunter C. Stys, Conner R. Sutcliffe, Zahid F. Tavarez, Elijah R. Torres, Pichshima Un, Jisaiah X. Urena, Armani W. Urizar, Nathalie A. Urizar, Samuel B. Vaca, Emelianny L. Valdez, Kailyn L. Vongvixay, Ilyanna Zullo.

Grade 7 HIGH Honors

Reese E. Burgess, Ishaan S. Catone, Miles J. dosReis, Kyle-Norly C. Germain, Kaili H. Gignac, Ashot Hakobyan, Lucy E. Kershaw, Huiying Li, Samuel P. Michaelson, Chloe E. Riese, Nadia Rosales, Isaac L. Santana, Mason L. Sena, Mia R. Vieira, Enzo L. Volpicelli, Kadence R. Walsh, Emmy M. Wilson.

Grade 7 Honors

Anna V. Alvarez, Aubrey E. Andrews, Israel A. Antuna, Elizabeth K. Bailey, Nicholas C. Cocca, Yoselys De La Cruz, Shayla L. DePina, Madelynn R. Elderkin, Emelia V. Farrelly-Sweet, Jack B. Finale, Matthew E. Garcia, Marco A. Hassan, Kyle K. Her, Camila I. Hernandez, Alexia Hok, Zachary Kelly, Jonathan D. Kong, Katy Liu, Justyna K. Lonczak, Jean Mbwanly, Raymond J. McLaughlin III, Evan G. Morgan, Josephina S. Muro, Diana O. Ngwani, Juan P. Parra Guerrero, Evan

C. Penha, Haylee A. Perez, Josmary Portes Martinez, Evelyn J. Poyant, Jack. C. Rezendes, Helena G. Rossi, Tayla S. Saab, Wilson D. Sanchez, Aliansys N. Santana, Liliana E. Schulenburg, Madison G. Silva, Measchantra M. Soch, Caiden R. Taylor, Maximiliano I. Tejada, Richany K. Top, Neyla B. Tuscia, Chloe B. White, Arianna O. Williams, Nicholas F. Wilson, Jodie Wu, Emma R. Young, Lidia M. Zaitseva.

Grade 6 HIGH Honors

James K. Aardal, Matthew F. Arias, Angela M. Bennett, Keanu A. Delgado Ramos, Angelina C. DeLuca, Taleah L. Dyer, Landon-Jordan M. Fasulo, Salome E. Finkle, Edison C. Hodge, Astoria Johnson, Martin Alexander G. Jusayan, Tenley F. Lenahan, Ziyu Liu, Benjamin L. McGovern, Lorelai C. McParland, Luc H. Munslow, Aaron R. Nelson, Eliana K. Pamphile, Ryan D. Phan, Asha Ramcharran, Mason K. Riese, Nathan A. Robbio, Murdoch Robley, Natalia I. Rocha, Jorelys Rodríguez De La Cruz, Seneca K. Sales Kohler, Eleanor E. Shealy, Aishat M. Shiyambola, Mia I. Smith, Kelsey R. Sutcliffe, Amora R. Teixeira, Henry M. Tufts, Nikita L. Um, Vildy Y. Urizar, Jimenez, Kaylie C. Vargas, Harmony P. Voravong, Liam R. Walker, Mason A. Wroe, Emily H. Wyche, Karmella

Zambarano.

Grade 6 Honors

Ahmed R. Abdelrehem, Audrey J. Baez, Piper L. Boyes, Samantha L. Cabrera, Jaiden A. Cafarella, Lark M. Casner-Reynoso, Miles A. Chang, Anthony L. Cotto Jr., Mason A. Cronin, Annelise C. Dang, Oliver R. Davis, Camden DeCosta, Ema A. Del Rosario Contreras, Valerie N. Espanol, Ethan E. Esteban, Alice E. Faulkenberry, Mikel V. Frost II, Catherine L. Furtafro, Mikai G. Gore, Izaiah I. Goris, Victoria Guan, Sebastian Harris, Giuliana A. Heard, Ethan M. Iavarone, Egypt A. Karbedeh, Tristan H. Le, Daniel Lei, Victoria E. Leon, Arvin R. Lizarda Sereño Jr., Ayden J. Long, Efrain I. Lopez Jr., Daniel A. Lozada, Sophia I. Luna, Makai S. Matias, Londyn S. Mazza, Nyla R. McDaniel, Avery N. McLaughlin, Emily Mendez, Sophia Monzon Rodriguez, Ayden M. Moquete, Logan A. Morse, Gianna D. Pacheco, Aaliyah S. Paradizo, Arianna Peralta, Nayli B. Perez, Louis P. Petrucci IV, Aaron W. Powell Jr., Dexter S. Raposa, Raegan P. Rezendes, Jakob T. Roussin, Kane X. Ruiz, Mitchell N. Ryan, David B. Shealy, Rose M. Sliwa, Samkhanpanharith Sokha, Jeanna Tejada Villalona, Melissa Tejada, Reshmi M. Unruh, Daniel A. Urizar, Ella R. Valero.

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● HOUSEWIVES from page 1

Rhode Island.

The network announced the latest iteration of the long-running reality show May 7, teasing on X that the 13th entry in the reality TV franchise will offer a look into the world of a tight-knit circle of Rhode Islanders who “have deep community roots and families that go back generations.”

“With aspirational lives, thriving businesses, and tangled family dynamics, these decade-long friendships prove that in a state this small, there’s no escaping your past...or each other,” the announcement read.

Rumors of possible cast members circulated online over the winter, and WJAR reported in December that the show was likely filming in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Film & Television Office Executive Director Steven Feinberg called the speculation “an avalanche of enthusiasm” when confirming production on Facebook Wednesday.

“The Real Housewives of Rhode Island is ready to roll and take the world by storm!” Feinberg said in a statement. “Action!”

Bravo has not said who has been cast on the show, where production will take place, or when the season will air.

What is clear is that production of Real Housewives will not be eligible for state reimbursement.

That’s because the 30% production tax credit only applies to “motion pictures,” which Rhode Island General Law defines to include documentaries, videos, television series, commercials made for theatrical or television viewing, television pilots, or productions intended for educational distribution.

Recent productions filmed in Rhode Island include “Ella McCay,” an upcoming film directed by James L. Brooks, and Disney’s “Hocus Pocus 2.” HBO’s “The Gilded Age” has filmed scenes for its two seasons in Newport.

Director M. Night Shyamalan is also preparing production in the Ocean State for “a supernatural romantic thriller” starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Phoebe Dynevor.

Gov. Dan McKee said he welcomed the franchise’s “millions of viewers” and hopes that the show will bring national attention to Rhode Island.

“Our state is home to vibrant communities, amazing food, rich history, and stunning coastal beauty — perfect for the spotlight,” McKee said in a statement.

“The Real Housewives of Rhode Island” is produced by Evolution Media, according to Bravo’s announcement. Lucilla D’Agostino, Joseph Ferraro, Jen McClure-Metz and Andy Cohen will serve as executive producers.

● MARKET from page 1

will be working with local musicians to bring live music every week. He said there will also be a local craft beer garden in collaboration with Newport Restaurant Group.

The market will also feature kid-friendly activities such as a bubble vendor to life-size dinosaurs from the Roger Williams Zoo on Sunday, May 25. There will also be rotating food trucks every week and some Garden City shops will participate with small pop-ups throughout the market.

With Garden City centrally located with convenient highway access, Aguilar says those factors make it accessible for people and invites the whole state, not just people from Cranston.

Hoping to keep this a permanent fixture, Aguilar says events like these are needed to bring people back out, where they can be social, put the phone down and build community.

"It's so multifaceted," Aguilar said. "We're helping the local makers, the local farmers, the local craft beer folks, the local

musicians that are getting paid to be there, but we're also bringing the community together with a reason to get out of the house on a beautiful Sunday morning and afternoon."

With over 300+ vendors signed up for the season, Aguilar says this weekly event aims to help everyone involved. His motivation, to hammer home that local economy from the "dirt" up.

The Garden City Farmer's Market will start the season on Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will run until Sept. 28. The Pawtuxet Village Farmer's Market started on May 3 and will run through October 25 from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet.

Lupe Aguilar has a long history in the restaurant and hospitality industry. One of his focuses is platforming the local community. With this new market coming to Garden City, he says buying local allows people to connect directly with makers and know exactly where their food is coming from.



Steven and his horse, Rusty.



Filming in 1982 while at USC in Agoura Hills, CA. Submitted photos from Steven Feinberg



Steven at USC Film School 1984.

● BACKLOT from page 1

Nazi Germany with his grandmother and grandfather) was also there with all the support and encouragement.

The following year, Steven got his own camera, a Super 8 with all the bells and whistles.

He filmed at the airport and near the Warwick Mall, creating his own brand of a James Bond film, once again with the assistance of his mom and dad and brother Robert.

His parents would tell him "If you put in half the money (to buy new equipment) we will put in the other half." So, Steven did what a lot of kids did at that time, he cut lawns, shoveled snow and did odd jobs to bring his share to the table.

I asked him when he knew that making films and being in the industry would be his life's devotion?

I was startled when he answered, "I was 10 years old and driving with my parents. I remember the exact moment when I thought "maybe one day I will be in charge of movies in Rhode Island."

Time moved quickly.

He took a filmmaking "after school" class at Western Hills Junior High in Cranston and was the only student in the class to make a movie. He did so with no in-

struction, as the supervisor was a Home Economics teacher with no knowledge of film but was curious about it. He was rocketing down his life's path.

Fast forward a few years. Steven would spend a year at the University of Rhode Island and then head to UCLA Film School, followed by USC Film School.

He was offered a great job at 20th Century Fox with just two classes to go to get his degree and decided to jump at the opportunity.

His life would change when he heard of an opportunity to apply for a position as Director of the Rhode Island Film office, which was under the umbrella of the Council of the Arts.

With support from heavy hitters like Disney and others, Steven beat out over 300 other applicants for the position.

So, he loaded up 32 boxes of clothes and equipment and drove from LA to RI.

The pay for this new job and his life's dream? \$45,000.

Now, 21 years later, though his ambitions were realized, he still has the unbridled enthusiasm, energy and creative juices that he had as that 8-year-old kid in Cranston.

This is a guy who loves his job.

What his office has brought to RI is sometimes overlooked and underreported. It's not from lack of style. Steven's ever-

present signature cowboy hat and duster certainly make an impression.

\$1 billion to the state

In simple terms, under his leadership, the office has brought nearly \$1 billion in film and television productions into the state. That includes more than 130 feature films that used the industry-setting Motion Picture Tax Incentive Program that provides a 30% tax credit on qualified expenditures in the state.

Think of how remarkable that is when you consider that the Governor and legislature puts a cap on the amount available each year. States like Massachusetts and California (30 in all) have no caps. Competition is extremely strong.

But as Steven likes to say, "We're the smallest state with the greatest backlot."

Undaunted by the competition, they have delivered in a big way with countless major stars and major productions utilizing our rich and diverse state with its spectacular coastline.

When I asked him what the most rewarding production were to him personally, he immediately mentioned "The Gilded Age," "The Brotherhood" and "Ella McKay," though he cautioned that the list is a lot longer than 3.

Employment opportunities

He also was proud about the employment opportunities films bring, remarking that a production like "Ella McKay" requires about 400 crew and cast members and 1200 or so background actors, as well as utilizing local vendors, clean-up crews, tenting, florists, cleaners, lumber and other needs.

He also remarked that, according to a Cambridge study, "for each \$1 provided as tax credits for film production in Rhode Island, the state realizes a return of \$5.44 in economic activity."

Again, referring to the recent production of "The Gilded Age", in one year alone, the state benefitted from 5,925 hotel nights for cast and crew, hiring over 1,450 local employees for the production.

Is retirement in the cards? "I plan to be here until I'm no longer able to be here," he said. "I'd like to do another feature film in Rhode Island. Maybe take a sabbatical. I also want to build a studio here."

A big task but no one would doubt that if Steven Feinberg sets his mind to it – it will be done.

The guy in the cowboy hat and duster doesn't know the word "can't."

His philosophy is simple. "If you daydream and work hard and find like-minded people to support that dream – it can come true."

● BILL from page 1

Micro plastics

McKenney said "tons of micro plastics" are already in our food, soils, and Narragansett Bay. He argues we can continue adding to the problem and that "begs the question what kind of state are we leaving?"

As evidenced at last week's hearing, there's substantial opposition to a bottle bill.

Representatives from the "Stop the Rhode Island Bottle Tax" coalition including consumers, small retailers, grocery stores, liquor stores, labor unions and beverage distributors, oppose the bill that would impose a refund of at least 10-cents on nearly all plastic, glass, and aluminum bottles and cans sold in Rhode Island.

The coalition contends the fee would raise costs significantly on hundreds of everyday beverages "at a time when Rhode Islanders are struggling with higher costs for many essentials including food, housing and utilities," according to a release.

The release notes the cost of a 24-pack of water bottles

would go up by \$2.40. The cost of a 12-pack of sports drinks would go up by \$1.20.

"This is not your grandfather's bottle bill," said McKenney.

He says technology has made refunds easy and that Oregon and Maine, where recycling rates are close to 90 percent have shown that bottle legislation does work. He bristles at the reference that a deposit/return system is a tax since the deposit is retrievable.

Incentives and convenience he said are keys to making a bottle bill effective.

McKenney and the bill's co-sponsor in the House, Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee co-chaired a study of bottle bills and efforts to improve recycling. The study found a five-cent refund is insufficient to motivate returns. Ten cents, however, is an incentive, they contend.

Returns made easy

As for convenience, McKenney touted the Green Bag program being used in Maine. The ease of the program was demonstrated outside the State House last week by CLYNK, the company operating refund machines in

Maine and New York.

Cans, bottles and even those small nip bottles that escape scanning at Rhode Island Resource Recovery are placed in a green bag and deposited in the machine that scans an individualized bar code. The machine later credits the refund to a personal account or credit card.

McKenney said the beverage industry pays for the system in Maine. The benefit for the industry is the plastic that is recycled at a savings versus virgin plastic.

McKenney said he and McEntee, reached out to the beverage industry to ask them what they would like in a bottle bill.

"We got crickets," he said.

In a release the coalition opposed to a bottle bill argues, "Bottle bills elsewhere have added unnecessary burdens on residents who are forced to take bags of bottles and cans to redemption centers to redeem them. This hurts most the busy families, seniors and low-income residents who may not have access to reliable transportation."

McKenney acknowledges redeeming bottles can be a task, but it can become a routine that improves the environment and is better than the alternative.



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

May 18: Garden City Center Farmer's Market, the season's first, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Garden City Center's gazebo. Free to attend and held rain or shine, but please register on Eventbrite.

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

May 19: Reading Week 2025 at Edgewood Highland School. While reading week is primarily aimed at children and schools, it's a great opportunity for older adults to engage with children. Transportation to Edgewood Highland School is available free from the Cranston Senior Center. It will be from 9:45-11 a.m. Departure is at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to sign up, call Sky at 401-780-6216.

May 19: Author talk: the Cranston Senior Center will host Ann Boulet, a local author to speak on the meaning of Memorial Day on Monday at 10 a.m. at the Cranston Senior Center.

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

May 21: Staying Healthy & Fit through Diet & Exercise: will be offered Wednesday at 10 a.m., at the Cranston Senior Center.

May 22: Making Social Security Secure: a presentation will be offered Thursday at 10 a.m., at the Cranston Senior Center.

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

May 28: Healthy Foods

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

May 31: Edgewood Garden Club: Plant & Yard Sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Shriener's Parking Lot, 2115 Broad St. Locally grown plants from members' garden will be sold, along with gently used garden tools, decorative items and household goods.

May 31: Spring Fashion Show: the Open Table of Christ United Methodist Church will host a spring fashion show from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 1520 Broad Street, Providence. \$10 admission includes lunch and door prizes. Tickets are available at the Open Closet resale shop or email marykathaleencurtain@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door. The Open Closet shop will be open after the show.

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

June 1: American Girl Doll Tea ~ Grand Ballroom: Young folks can bring an American Girl doll or favorite doll along with an adult at the Sprague Mansion from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Reservation Only: call 944-9226. \$22 per person. Send check payable by May 26 to Attn: Doll Tea Cranston Historical Society, 1351 Cranston St. Call 944-9226 to volunteer. www.facebook.com/cranstonhistoricalsociety.

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

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

June 27: Governor Sprague Mansion Spring Grounds Beautification:

Cranston Chatter

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

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

Convenient Ways to Declutter & Give Back: Drop off at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) Cranston Donation Center, 993 Oaklawn Ave. Open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bins available 24/7. No time to drop off? Schedule a FREE home pick-up at DonateRI.org or call 401-921-2434 #2. donations@bigsri.org

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

Cranston Tree Program is now accepting applications for its spring planting. Seven- to eight-foot-tall trees, planted by a nursery, are available to homeowners for free. Residents living near highways are urged to apply. Applications can be downloaded at westbaylandtrust.org/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 Gas-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Tuesday – Cranston Senior Center will be offer-

ing 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.wemakერი.com/get-a-job-thursday or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Arts & Crafts Festival
May 24, 25 and 26 at 10:00 am daily
10:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday & Sunday | 10:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday
Narragansett Parkway, Warwick

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

What would Betty White do?

At a time where conflict seems to be bubbling just under the surface all the time all around us, it can be hard to know where to turn when the going gets tough.

As children, when faced with such dilemmas, we likely look to loved ones like a parent or grandparent as role models on how to deal with challenging situations.

The universe has also provided us with a role model whose actions give us a road map to chart our own course towards a life lived well. And to unlock the powerful potential of this person requires no special privilege or excess of wealth; it simply requires you to ask one simple question.

What would Betty White do?

We know it might sound odd, but the beloved actress and animal rights activist — who charmed her way into America’s collective heart through numerous unforgettable roles on television and film, and now boasts her own posthumous forever stamp, as unveiled recently at the Johnston Senior Center — actually does provide a wonderful example on how to pursue your passions and live life in a way that is fulfilling, hard-earned, and intent on leaving the world a better place.

Anyone can learn from her amazing life. She was bold in a time when women were expected to be meek. She wanted to be a forest ranger after being inspired by nature in the Sierra Nevadas, only to learn women weren’t allowed to do the job at the time. She didn’t wait for opportunities to come to her, rather she wrote and performed her own musicals for her school. When World War II broke out, she halted her Hollywood pursuits to drive a supply truck for nearby gunnery encampments.

While her aspirations were for the screen, she bided her time and put in work for radio gigs, eventually getting her shot at television programming and excelling so much that she would go on to become one of the first women to produce a nationally-broadcast sitcom, “Life With Elizabeth”. From there, her star only continued to rise, and the list of projects she worked on and accolades she earned would require its own article.

The most important lesson to take from White’s career, we think, was her willingness to embrace change and redefine herself over and over again. As she aged — in a business where women are explicitly told that their youth and vitality is their only marketable feature — White defied expectations and become an integral part of one of the most popular sitcoms to ever run, which began when she was 63 years old and ended when she was 70.

After “Golden Girls,” she would land roles in multiple blockbuster movies, star in Super Bowl commercials, and is the oldest person to ever host Saturday Night Live. Her effortless, affable charm comes from a combination of never taking herself too seriously and being willing to subvert society’s expectations of what she “should be.”

In addition to her professional life, White had a passion for standing up for the rights of animals, and is universally heralded as someone who treated others with respect and compassion. Empathy and kindness are two traits that, like White herself, will never go out of style.

So, if you’re ever faced with a difficult situation, just ask yourself what Betty White would do. Chances are, she would embrace the unknown, face negativity with unflinching positivity, and somehow make everyone involved smile when all was said and done.

KUDOS TO GOV. MCKEE, MAYOR GREBIEN, AND THE GANG FROM RHODE ISLAND FC FOR BRINGING SOCCER, A NEW STADIUM AND MORE TO PAWTUCKET AND THE OCEAN STATE



GUEST OPINION

Foster families deserve gratitude. But they need support too.

By KAYLA DAVID

Across Rhode Island, children enter foster care every week because their homes are no longer safe — due to a range of complex factors, including family instability, abuse, unmet needs, or other family challenges. When that happens, we don’t just need shelter. We need people. We need families who can meet children where they are, offer compassion and consistency, and help them begin to heal.

The problem is that those families are getting harder to find.

According to the most recent data, approximately 1,272 children under the age of 21 are in the care of Rhode Island’s Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) and living in out-of-home placements. But the number of licensed foster homes is shrinking. Too often, children wait in hospitals, residential treatment facilities, or bounce between short-term placements simply because there’s nowhere else for them to go. In some cases, siblings are separated — not because it’s in their best interest, but because no one can take them together.

Foster parents have always been asked to do a lot. But today, they are doing more than ever: caring for children who have experienced complex trauma, navigating behavioral and medical challenges, and coordinating services across multiple systems — all while parenting.

And they are doing it with less. Fewer fellow foster parents to lean on. Less access to respite care. Fewer placements to share the load. Less certainty about the resources that will be there for them tomorrow.

Despite these challenges, foster parenting remains one of the most impactful roles a Rhode Islander can play. I’ve seen it firsthand. I’ve seen teens placed in homes where they were listened to — maybe for the first time — and start to believe they matter. I’ve seen toddlers learn to sleep through the night again, and siblings reunited in a living room that’s suddenly filled with laughter.

What foster parents provide isn’t just shelter. It’s safety, consistency, and the hope of a brighter future.

And yet, we rarely talk about what these families need. We thank them in May, but gratitude isn’t enough. They

need respite, mental health resources, community, and predictable support from the systems around them. They need to be treated not as temporary caregivers, but as essential partners in a child’s recovery and growth.

I’ve seen teens placed in homes where they were listened to — maybe for the first time — and start to believe they matter. I’ve seen toddlers learn to sleep through the night again, and siblings reunited in a living room that’s suddenly filled with laughter.

Policy conversations around foster care often center on recruitment — but recruitment is only part of the equation. Retention — ensuring that families stay engaged and supported over time — requires meaningful, sustained investment. That means adequate reimbursement rates, and timely, barrier-free access to the services they need, without having to navigate a maze of referrals or red tape. We need a “no wrong door” approach and a system of care that’s easy to understand and navigate.

It also means investing in a stable workforce — one where families aren’t met with long waitlists, and where workers have manageable caseloads and the capacity to provide consistent, compassionate support. And it means ensuring foster parents themselves have access to emotional support, ongoing training, and responsive systems of care.

What’s at stake isn’t just program success — it’s the well-being of children who’ve already lost too much.

If we want foster families to keep showing up, we must meet them there — with better support, stronger networks, and policies that reflect the gravity of what we ask them to do. Because every child who needs a foster home deserves one. And every person willing to open their home deserves our full support.

This Foster Care Awareness Month, let’s not only thank foster families. Let’s stand behind them — and ensure they’re not standing alone.

Kayla David, LMFT, is vice president of the Home Division at Family Service of Rhode Island. This piece first ran in the Rhode Island Current.

Supporting R.I. kids’ mental health? There’s a plan for that. And it’s working.

By SARAH FLEURY and CAROLYN

Highlights of the plan include:

It’s Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, and we are encouraged to see some positive trends continuing as the pandemic fades into the past.

Back in 2021, the national percentage of high schoolers feeling sad and hopeless rose to 42%, a peak after several years of worsening scores. Since then, here in Rhode Island, key internal indicators we track at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island have been moving steadily in the right direction for members ages 18 and under.

From 2021 to 2024, we have seen year-over-year improvements for both inpatient admissions (down 25%) and for emergency department visits (down 13%).

For those of us working in mental health, the pandemic exposed a problem we had seen growing for years and prompted the U.S. surgeon general to issue an advisory calling on the nation to “step up for children.” Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island had already recognized we had an important role to play. In 2018, we eliminated many prior authorization requirements for mental health services to improve access to care.

After carefully considering how we could best serve our members and their communities, we launched a three-year plan in 2023 aimed at supporting the mental health of 110,000 Rhode Island youths and children, about half of the state’s under 18 population.

- **Assisting vulnerable populations:** We worked with providers in our behavior health network to increase the availability of urgent appointments, potentially avoiding unnecessary visits to hospital emergency departments, and we collaborated with Bradley Hospital on offering clinicians free autism and anxiety training, plus stipends, to help them better serve children and youth.

- **Early identification and treatment:** We increased reimbursement rates for early intervention care, offered incentives to pediatric primary care sites to integrate behavioral health care into their practices, expanded virtual care options, supported behavioral health startup Braver’s use of trained coaches to ramp up its exposure therapy program for children’s anxiety, and provided assistance to school-based mental health intervention programs, including Project SUCCESS and Mood Check.

- **Prevention and awareness:** We coordinated Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings, promoted digital emotional wellness coaching for parents and caregivers through The Greatest 8, seeded the expansion of the Chris Collins Foundation’s school-based peer-to-peer program and supported youth recreation programs run by Recess Rocks in RI and Boys & Girls Clubs.

We’re encouraged by our progress so far. Over the past two years, we estimate that our collaborative efforts have helped touch the lives of about 130,000 youths, exceeding

our original goal, and we are likely to surpass 200,000 by the end of 2025.

We’ve named just some of our valued partners here, but they and many others are foundational to the goals of our plan. They share our commitment to building healthier families and communities and we’re proud to support their efforts to launch and grow programs and services that promote the wellbeing and mental health of Rhode Island youths.

Clearly, there is still work to do. For example, the just-released 2025 RI KIDS COUNT Factbook noted that there was a significant increase in mental health hospitalizations for children on Medicaid in 2024 and that the number of calls to the Kids’ Link RI triage service, although down in 2024, still totaled 5,386.

We know we join all our partners throughout May in recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month — a time to reflect on the progress we’ve made and, importantly, to recommit ourselves to creating safe and supportive environments, promoting mental health education, reducing, and ensuring access to high quality mental health care.

Sarah Fleury is the managing director of behavioral health at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI.

Carolyn Belisle is vice president of corporate social responsibility for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

This piece first ran in the Rhode Island Current.

What’s on your mind?

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

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

LETTERS

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rhode Island Green Amendment, House Bill 5732, Senate Bill 327.

Rhode Island has long been a leader in environmental progress, from protecting our coastal resources to advancing renewable energy. But despite these efforts, we continue to face significant challenges—rising sea levels, worsening air quality, and pollution that threatens both our health and economy. At a time when federal environmental

Why the Green Amendment makes sense

protections are being weakened, it is more important than ever for Rhode Island to take a stand and ensure that clean air, safe water, and a stable climate are recognized as fundamental rights.

The people of Rhode Island, including future generations, deserve constitutional protection for their inalienable human rights to a clean, safe, and healthy environment—specifically, clean water, breathable air, a stable climate, and thriving ecosystems. The Green Amendment provides an opportunity for all of us—citizens and government leaders alike—to work together to strengthen environmen-

tal protections. It empowers our elected officials with a constitutional foundation to prioritize the environment in decision-making, ensuring that the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders are always a guiding consideration.

- The Rhode Island Green Amendment would:
- Recognize the inalienable rights of all Rhode Islanders, including future generations, to clean air and water, a healthy environment, a life-supporting climate, and the preservation of the state’s natural resources.
 - Affirm that Rhode Island’s public natural resources belong to all the people and that government officials have a responsibility to conserve and maintain these resources equitably for the benefit of all, including future generations.
 - Ensure these rights receive the same legal recognition and protection as other fundamental human, civil, and political rights enshrined in our state constitution.

While Rhode Island’s constitution grants the right to enjoy and exercise access to the state’s fisheries and shores under Article 1, Sections 16 and 17, these provisions do not provide explicit and enforceable rights to clean air, safe drinking water, or a stable climate. The Green Amendment will bridge this gap by affirming that every Rhode Islander has a fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment—complementing and strengthening existing legal protections.

By supporting this amendment, our Legislators have the chance to reinforce Rhode Island’s leadership and commitment to a sustainable future. This is an opportunity to take an essential step to protect our communities, health, and economy from environmental degradation while ensuring that future generations inherit a Rhode Island that is just as beautiful and life-sustaining as it is today.

George Faucher Narragansett

A recent retiree from leading a large-scale global service delivery and program management teams, Faucher is a parishioner of the Peace Dale Congregational Church in Wakefield, which established a "Green Team". He is co-chair of the Green Team with Don Hermes, a retired geologist.

Legal Notices

Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Sean Bolger 13 Edith Rd Narragansett, RI. Ally Financial 200 Renaissance Center Detroit, MI A PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 640 Atwood Ave Cranston RI ON May 24, 2025 AT 900 AM. THE VEHICLE A 2008 GMC VIN # 2GTGC13C181309045 BELONGING TO THE ABOVE. THE AUCTION BEING HELD IS TO SATISFY TOWING AND STORAGE AND FEES

5/15/25

gov and the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jun 2, 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/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbalbcEFYziQcJm.1>
Passcode:854034

Phone one-tap: +16469313860,,92622262471# US +13017158592,,92622262471# US (Washington DC)

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND ZONING

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION VARIANCE UNDER ZONING ORDINANCE

Dimensional Variance by Building Official Pursuant to Section 17.20.130

You are hereby notified that **ANDREW and STEPHANIE ROUGAS (OWN/APP)**, have filed an application for permission to construct an addition to a single-family dwelling with reduced side yard setbacks at **10 Thyme Drive**, AP 35, Lot 93, area 23,038 sf; zoned A-20. Applicants seek relief per Section 17.20.130 Modification Dimensional Variance, 17.20.120 Schedule of Intensity Regulations.

Any interested party may review the submitted documents at the Department of Inspections. Any person opposing should respond in writing to the Department of Inspections, 35 Sockanosset Crossroad Cranston RI 02920, within a period of thirty (30) days from public notice on Thursday **May 15, 2025**.

By Order of the Building Official David Rodio

5/15/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, June 2, 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 Title 5, Chapter 24 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City’s website at www.cranstonri.com.

Additional Hours Victualing License

DDO New England, LLC d/b/a Taco Bell 1102 Cranston St. Monday-Ssunday 7am-4am

Kristen Haroian, Chair Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC City Clerk

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

5/15, 5/22, 5/29/25

PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE

Of Matters Pending and For Hearing In Said Court

On the dates specified in notices below at

9 A.M. for hearing said matters Cranston Municipal Court 5 Garfield Ave., Cranston, RI 02910

Individuals requiring assistive 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.

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

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

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

BAGGESEN, JONATHAN J. RESIDENT MINOR Peter Baggesen has qualified

as Guardian of the Estate Only; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 8, 2025

BAGGESEN, KAYDEN M. RESIDENT MINOR

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

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

Tracy Nelson Clerk of the Probate Court

5/8, 5/15/25

REVISED City of Cranston Collector’s Sale of Estates For Taxes and/or Assessments Due and Unpaid CHANGE OF TIME TO MAY 22, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

Please note that this tax sale was originally advertised on May 1, 2025 to be held in the Cranston City Council

Chambers, 869 Park Ave. Cranston RI on Thursday, May, 22, 2025 at 8:30 am. Due to a scheduling conflict, **we have moved the start time of the tax sale to 3:00 pm on Thursday, May 22, 2025** at Cranston City Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave. Cranston RI 02910.

Accordingly, the undersigned Treasurer of the City of Cranston hereby gives revised notice that he will now sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the Cranston City Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave. Cranston, RI on **Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 3:00 pm** the various parcels of real estate or so much as may be necessary to pay the taxes and assessments which constitute a lien thereon as set forth in the original advertisement in the May 1, 2025 issue of the Cranston Herald, to which reference is hereby made.

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

Terms: Certified Funds - **No Cash Will Be Accepted.** Payments must be delivered to Cranston City Hall 869 Park Ave. Tax Collections, Room 206 Cranston, RI 02910 between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm on Friday, May 23, 2025.

David A. Capuano City Treasurer

5/15, 5/22/25

CRANSTON BOARD OF CONTRACT AND PURCHASE AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Board of Contract and Purchase on May 20, 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 OPENINGS: Construction Services for the Plainfield Pump Station Rehabilitation for the Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility Roofing System for Cranston Fire Department Station 4 located at 160 Sockanosset Cross Road City Wide Basketball and Tennis Court Renovations

BID AWARD: Duteemple Basketball Court Renovations Installation of Pour in Place Rubber Surfacing at Garden City Playground Fertilization, Lime, Aeration, and Lawn Treatments at Fields & Parks Residential and Municipal Refuse, Recyclables & Yard Waste Collection Services

BID WAIVERS: Parks & Recreation Towne Glass and Aluminum Inc. \$3,467.50 Fire Department John D. Preuer & Associates \$1,102.23 Fire Department MES Shipman’s \$4,789.98 Fire Department MES Shipman’s \$22,514.86 DPW/Highway Fleet Force LLC \$1,345.00

Mark J. Marchesi, Purchasing Agent

5/15/25

CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING “Vaughn Lane” Residential Planned Development

The Cranston City Plan Commission will hold a public hearing to review the Preliminary Plan for a proposed Residential Planned Development entitled “Vaughn Lane”. This public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.** in the **James T. Giles Community Room of the Central Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd.** As a neighboring property owner, you are invited to attend this public hearing at which time plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission review and consideration.

Zoom webinar information for remote participation: <https://zoom.us/j/95471701340?pwd=qRZ9XecflrwtAx14Xe7wvTi2IjcN60.1>
Passcode: 090994
Or One tap mobile: +16465588656,,95471701340# US (New York)
Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 954 7170 1340
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/ad01GSPfNv>

The meeting of the City Plan Commission will be live streamed on the City’s YouTube channel. You will only be able to watch the proceedings on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofcranston>

The subject parcel is located on Vaughn Lane designated as Lot No. 83, 84, 85 & 258 on Assessor’s Plat No. 30. The owner and applicant is 777 Main Street LLC. The lots proposed for development contain 91 +/- acres. The proposal is to extend Wini Street and Vaugh Lane and create 44 lots for single-family use while preserving 56.0 +/- acres of open space. The parcels are zoned A-20 and A-80 Residential. The project will be serviced by public water and sewer. The proposed residential planned district is a use allowed by-right within the Cranston Zoning Code.

The full Site Plan, staff reports, and additional details on this application will be posted to the City’s website and can be found on the City Planning Department’s webpage at <https://www.cranstonri.com/departments/planning/>. If you are unable to access the internet, you can contact the City Planning Department directly at 780-3138 for access to meeting materials. The application may be reviewed prior to the meeting in the City Planning Department, Room 309, Cranston City Hall, during regular office hours, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Pursuant to the Cranston Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, the proposed plan may be revised by the City Plan Commission as a result of further study or because of views expressed at this meeting. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired should contact the Planning Department at 780-3138, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting date.

Steven Frias *President* Beth E. Ashman, MCP, AIC *Acting Planning Director*

5/15/25

CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING “Capezza Family Plat” Minor Subdivision with Zoning Relief Unified Development Review

The Cranston City Plan Commission will hold a public hearing to review the Preliminary Plan for a proposed Minor Subdivision requiring zoning relief entitled “Capezza Family Plat”. This public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**, in the **James T. Giles Community Room of the Central Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd.** As a neighboring property owner, you are invited to attend this public hearing at which time plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission review and consideration.

Zoom webinar information for remote participation: <https://zoom.us/j/95471701340?pwd=qRZ9XecflrwtAx14Xe7wvTi2IjcN60.1>
Passcode: 090994
Or One tap mobile: +16465588656,,95471701340# US (New York)
Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 954 7170 1340
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/ad01GSPfNv>

The meeting of the City Plan Commission will be live streamed on the City’s YouTube channel. You will only be able to watch the proceedings on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofcranston>

The subject parcel is located on Laten Knight Road designated as Lot No. 10 on Assessor’s Plat No. 29. The owners and applicants are Nicholas W. Capezza and Cynthia L. Capezza. The existing lot contains 128,014 +/- square feet. The proposal is to create two lots each in excess of 60,000 square feet. Each lot will have 126.54 feet of frontage. The parcel is zoned A-80 Residential. The project will be serviced by public sewer. The proposed minor subdivision is a use allowed by-right within the Cranston Zoning Code, subject to the zoning relief sought.

The full Site Plan, staff reports, and additional details on this application will be posted to the City’s website and can be found on the City Planning Department’s webpage at <https://www.cranstonri.com/departments/planning/>. If you are unable to access the internet, you can contact the City Planning Department directly at 780-3138 for access to meeting materials. The application may be reviewed prior to the meeting in the City Planning Department, Room 309, Cranston City Hall, during regular office hours, 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

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Steven Frias *President* Beth E. Ashman, MCP, AIC *Acting Planning Director*

5/15/25

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. David’s On-The-Hill Episcopal Church
200 Meshanicut 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
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Rev. Mitchell Lindeman
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Rev. Aidan Kelley
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LETTERS

RI dentistry also at collapsing point

To the Editor,

With the recent announcement of Anchor Medical's closure, Rhode Island is witnessing the inevitable outcome of years of unheeded warnings about our collapsing health care infrastructure.

Dentistry is on the same path – and we're dangerously close to the breaking point.

For years, dentists have sounded the alarm about inadequate insurance reimbursements. Compared to our neighboring states, dentists in Rhode Island are paid, on average, 30% less – some rates are more than 50% lower. These disparities aren't just numbers on a spreadsheet; they're the root of a growing access-to-care crisis.

Delta Dental of RI and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI have failed to keep pace with regional standards for nearly two decades. This stagnation has real consequences. Rhode Island struggles to attract new dental professionals as seasoned dentists retire. The result? Months-long waits for appointments, especially for oral surgery and pediatric care.

The issue doesn't stop there. Because dentists in Massachusetts and Connecticut can offer more competitive wages to dental assistants and hygienists, Rhode Island practices are losing essential staff – further straining our system.

And perhaps most troubling: fewer dentists are able to participate in the state's dental-assistance program. With-

out fair reimbursement, many can no longer afford to serve Rhode Island's most vulnerable patients.

The time to act is now. What once were warning signs are now full-blown alarms demanding immediate action. If reimbursement rates don't change, dentistry in RI will sink just like another anchor.

**Dr. Andrew 'Andy' Gazerro,
West Warwick**

The writer is a 28-year practicing dentist, president of the Rhode Island Dental Association and a former member of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Benefit Programs.

Betty White (stamp) delivers to Senior Center

**By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer**

Here's looking at you, Betty. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently released a new stamp honoring the late Betty White, an actress and animal activist known for her comedic roles on television.

Johnston Senior Center members got a look at the new stamp last week when the post office chose the center as one of several community locations across the country to host an unveiling of the new stamp.

The Betty White stamp was officially launched on March 27 in Los Angeles, Jeanne Jackson, Providence Postmaster, told the audience.

"Betty White was an American treasure," said Amber McReynolds, chairwoman of the USPS Board of Governors in a press release in March. "With this stamp, we honor...the enduring mark she left on our American culture."

"It's one of our 'Forever' stamps," Jackson explained during the Johnston event,

which means it will always cover the cost of posting a letter, even when the current mailing rate goes up.

A Johnston resident, Jackson said she chose the senior center for the announcement because it is a popular community space. The new stamp shows a digital illustration of a smiling Betty White, and if you look closely, you can see she is wearing paw-print-shaped earrings to honor her lifelong devotion to the humane care of animals.

According to the USPS, the stamp is based on a photograph taken by Kwaku Alston in 2010. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dale Stephanos.

Stephanos described how the tiniest detail in his design came to him at breakfast during the March event in LA.

"I was absent mindedly drawing instead of eating my eggs and looking back down at the mess I had been making in my sketchbook, I saw that at some point, I had drawn a paw print," he said. "I had a bit of a eureka moment and thought, what if I just give



Providence postmaster Jeanne Jackson talks a little about the Betty White at the Johnston Senior Center last week. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Richard Delfino (left) and Providence Postmaster Jeanne Jackson unveil the postal service's new Betty White stamp. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

Betty an earring that's in the shape of a paw print?"

White's accomplishments are outlined in a special video the USPS produced in her honor. Sometimes called the "first lady of television," her career was primarily on the small screen where she created two memorable characters: Sue Ann Nevins on the Mary Tyler Moore show and Rose Nyland on the Golden Girls. In 2010, amid much fanfare, White became the oldest-ever guest host of NBC's "Saturday Night Live".

Jackson said that attending community

events and meeting people is one of her favorite parts of being a postmaster.

She said that it can take about two years to create a new postage stamp, from the selection process through design and production. She said that the new Betty White stamps are in limited supply right now but should be available at most local post offices and participating CVS and Walgreens drugstores across the state.

White died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 31, 2021, just 17 days shy of her 100th birthday, stated the USPS press release.

Protest calls for crackdown on payday loans

Legislation is again pending at State House

**By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Contributor**

As Rhode Island legislators prepare to once again consider a bill to reform payday loan practices in the state, advocates in favor of stricter regulations on short-term lending staged a protest outside Advance America, a payday loan provider on Bald Hill Road in Warwick, on May 9.

Organized by the Rhode Island Coalition for Predatory Lending Reform and the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty, the protest sought to rally support for proposed legislation that would limit the amount of interest and other fees that lenders can impose on short-term loans. Roughly 15 people were in attendance, bearing handmade signs that decried payday loans as being exploitative of vulnerable borrowers.

Payday loans, also known as cash advance loans, are short-term loans typically taken out by borrowers to cover essential costs until their next paycheck arrives. Critics of the practice claim that payday lenders target low-income borrowers by charging



Peggy Desjarlais (L) standing next to the sign holder who did not provide her name. *Submitted photo from Economic Progress Institute*



Protesters from the Rhode Island Coalition for Predatory Lending Reform and the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty met last week in Warwick.

high interest rates, trapping them in a cycle of further borrowing to pay off debt.

Payday lending practices "drain around \$3 million in fees a year from these consumers — and from the local economy — and sends most of that money out of state, mainly to one company that's located in South Carolina," stated a press release from the Economic Progress Institute (EPI).

Rhode Island is the only New England state that allows payday lending. In the 2023 session of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives voted by a 70-2 margin to reform payday lending. All five state General Officers signed a letter in 2024 urging reform.

In Rhode Island, state law prevents small loan providers from charging an annual percentage rate greater than 36% for loans of \$300 or less. However, the Economic Progress Institute states that a loophole in state law allows lenders to register as deferred deposit providers, enabling them to enforce

an annual percentage rate of up to 260%.

While efforts to address this loophole aren't new it's been tough getting anything to stick across both chambers.

Whether reform efforts will have to spend another year in the General Assembly remains yet to be seen. This year, Rep. Karen Alzate and Sen. Ana Quezada have introduced bills in the House and Senate, respectively, that would repeal existing provisions that allow payday lenders to register as direct deposit providers.

"We appreciate Speaker Shekarchi allowing that [House] vote and we're hoping for another floor vote this session," said Michael Healey, communications manager for the Economic Progress Institute, a member of the coalition. "We're also hopeful about the Senate side with the new energy and leadership of Senate President Lawson."

EPI anticipates a hearing on the bill to take place within the Senate Commerce committee in the coming weeks.

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Grade 8 Honors

Alvarado, Elianah S., Arango Quiroga, Samara, Bello, Christopher, Beltre Melo, Engel, Campbell, Anthony L., Chen, Victor, Chen, Yubin, Clerie, Rodrigo J., Estrada, Eduardo, Hall, Robert, Henry-Mejia, Brandy M., Jimenez, Maddox J., Kong, Leeyana S., Loeu, Ayden M., Madison, Natasha N., Marshall, Tavius J., Matta, Mariangelle, Medeiros, Kallum J., Mejia, John B., Milian Morales, Jheiny K., Morales, Gutierrez,

Cristian D., Morales Jumique, Carlos A., Morales Ruiz, Jason T., Pena Lopez, Aliushka R., Phillips, Hannah M., Rabanales Urizar, Selvin D., Reyes Estrella, Wilfreisy, Reyes, Ayleen, Ribezzo, Starshine S., Rodriguez, Heisy, Rosales Rivera, Lysandra A., Ruiz, Victoria N., Santos Lopez, Mario W., Severino De La Cruz, Zoe N., Song, Skyler K., St Preux, Esther, Tolentino, Miledy Y., Upia Suarez, Alis D. Vargas, Jayleen A., Zhu, Yanhua

Grade 7 High Honors

Calligano, Mia G., Carnevale, Raymond A., Gamez, Milianny A., Hernandez, Carlos M., Il Sar, Terryn Torres, Sarah E., Urizar Tino-

co, Jaylee C., Wu, Weilongpong-

Grade 7 Honors

Abreu, Yahelys A., Adenmosun, Olanrewaju W., Arica Huarhuachi, Ian J., Barrientos Fuller, Haylee D., Bertsch, Liam M., Brown, Chayden E., Brown, Trevor A., Jr, Calel, Shirley E., Carrasquillo, Janalis L.Chea, Povmonyrithysak, Cueva, Anyelis, Espinal Rodriguez, Emma, Ferrera Colon, Jaznelly, Figueroa Sanchez, Angely Y., Franco Rivera, Maria J., Garcia Mendez, Ashlan A., Grullon, Julius A., Jackson, Tamia Z. Jerez, Anaeli F., Khiev, Leonna, Lin, Zhijie, Lopez Zetino, Elizabeth, Martinez Fernandez, Meli-

beth M.Martins Leon, Deborah J., Men, Seyha, Parada Coste, Leona I., Poirier, Liliana, Pol, Alita, Reyes Reyes, Beverly A., Santiago, Jairelys, Sem, Rex C., Suor, Somritpiset, Turquiz Bartolo, Joselyn, Vasquez Encarnacion, Luis A., Venturini, Victor J., IV, Zabala, Jeanine

Grade 6 High Honors

Agosto Sim, Julian J., Asencio, Emeli C., Batres Velasquez, Sofia I., Buzdigian, Sophia E., DeCosta, Jizelle M., Franco, Alex A., Giron, Leonardo B., Gonzalez, Caleb J., Hardy, Anita A., Henriquez, Adrianny, Hernandez, Hellen D., Morales Ruiz, Daleyza C., Reavis, Penelope N., Reyes, D'Aries

, Rodriguez, Madison C., Rodriguez, Pamela, Sanchez Urizar, Kelvin N., Solares, Jennifer S., Sosa Salguero, Adriana M.

Grade 6 Honors

Almonte Bello, Anderson, Avila, Brianna M., Barwary, Aveen K., Bien, Luna M., Borgelin, Jennica G., Borrelli, Madison M., Burks, Jax J., Cac, Camila I., Chea, Taelin E., Choup, Vince R., Colon, Andrew L. Cueva, Alondra, Darosa, Noah J., De La Cruz, Shantelle, Edwards, Zyonah A., Garcia, Gioia N., Gil Rodriguez, Anthony A., Giron, Devon E., Gonzalez Espino, Anthony, Hansen, Francesca R. Hidalgo Medina, Anabela S., Jxcuna Tomas, Jossy E., Izazaga,

Maria J., Joya Zavala, Aaron I. Khoun, Mackenzie S., Maloney, Bryson S., Marquez Lopez, Jenessa Y., Martinez Tejada, Gelvinson Monterroso, Walter F., Jr, Osorio, Scarlett R., Paz De La Cruz, Destiny Y., Phillips, Lexis B., Phon, Alvyana E. Pimentel Perez, Kerlyn J., Pung, Alivia B., Ramos, Julian A., Ratanak, Jordan, Reyes Peralta, Matthew Rodriguez Reyes, Joerlin D., Santisteban Mercedes, Yazlery I., Santos Aguilar, Abby E., Seng, Jimmy L. Sok, Khinnady, Vang, Michelle D., Vasquez Melendez, Amie E., Velzis, Mackenzie M., Whatts, Jhon M. Williams, Kalev R., Yan, Bingtong

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Steve Stycos who runs the Westbay Farm always welcomes volunteer workers. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

Stycos puts Warwick Rotary members to work on the farm

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Warwick Beacon Editor

The Warwick Rotary Club planted a lot of good will Thursday although by the time it is harvested, people will never know the club had a hand in it.

As a community service project organized by member Brad Connor, members spent a couple of hours in the hot sun doing a variety of chores including weeding, planting and spreading mulch at the Westbay Farm on Centerville Road. The land, once the working Barton Farm was eyed as a site for residential development until the city stepped in to save it for open space.

Several years ago, some fields were turned over to Westbay Community Action to be used as a working farm, with the produce going to the Westbay Marketplace.

Steve Stycos of Cranston, who has served on the Cranston School Committee, the Cranston City Council and ran and lost in a primary for Cranston mayor, works as Westbay's farmer.

He has a team of 12 volunteers who show up during the week to do a variety of chores depending on the season.

The result of their work is an annual harvest of more than 20,000 pounds of fresh produce that supplies the marketplace on Jefferson Boulevard as well as being sold from the farm barn. Stycos doesn't use herbicides or pesticides on the farm.

Stycos assigned Rotarians jobs as they arrived and except for a few, like Steve McCartney and Bernie Rinn, who cleaned buckets for pickers and did other barn tasks quickly disbursed into the fields. Stycos estimated their work accomplished in about two hours would have taken him and his regular volunteers at least a day to complete.

Warwick Police Chief Connor also arranged for box lunches for his fellow Rotarians. But he didn't get one. Shortly after noon he was alerted of an incident involving a gun and rushed off.

By comparison farming is a gentle pace. The farm will hold its annual plant sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 24. Those interested in doing volunteer farm work should contact Jill Christian at 921-1299.



From left are HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center Manager Christine Daniels, RN; Inpatient Unit Hospice Aide Domingas Vaz, CNA; Inpatient Unit Nurses Monique Boulanger, RN and Roxanne Currier, RN; and Charcuterie Kreation's founder and owner Kara Meneses. *Photo submitted by HopeHealth*

Daughter honors mother's legacy

By **ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Kara Meneses of Cranston lost her mother Kathleen Reddy to cancer in 2022. Since then, Mother's Day hasn't been one for celebration.

But, this year, that changed when she decided to go all in on a project to honor her mother's legacy by giving back to HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center, a nonprofit hospice and palliative-care provider.

Through her small business, Charcuterie Kreation's, which offers creative and customized charcuterie boards, she decided to donate one large platter to HopeHealth for every five sold. As of deadline, her Mother's Day Brunch Platter special had donated 10 large boards to HopeHealth, which can feed over 100 people.

"I just don't think enough people celebrate the work that they do and the compassion that they bring forward to people," Kara said. "I mean, it's not just about the people that are sick. They also care for the families as well."

HopeHealth Hular stepped in and provided hospice care for her mom as well as Kara, along with her younger brother, during their time as caregivers. For Kara, her mother's passing was a lonely experience. She said one of the constants in her life was HopeHealth.

After her mother passed, Kara said she wanted to try something new. She said she learned a lot after losing her mother and she just wanted to be excited to work and do what she loves.

She began Charcuterie Kreation's a year

after her mother passed, and in December 2024, it became her full-time job.

Naming it Charcuterie Kreation's, Kara said the name of the business starts with a "K" because both her and her mother's name start with "K."

"What was really important to me was finding unique ways to have little, small touches of her to honor her throughout the business that not a lot of people know about," Kara said.

Another way Kara says she honors her mother has to do with the charcuterie boards she creates.

Filled with items like croissants, fresh scones, artisanal cheeses, jams, eggs, carrots, fruits like grapes, oranges, strawberries and blueberries, the charcuterie boards are entirely customizable, which Kara says is an important element to her work.

When creating the boards, Kara says hidden within the folds of those scones, slices of meat and pieces of fruit, is always an item that her mother liked such as strawberries.

"It's just [that] by the time I'm done and finished and look back at what's been created, I always make sure I add a small touch of her," Kara said. "Just because without her, I wouldn't have been starting this business."

Kara said her mom would have been in awe that she started her own business. But also at the same time, not completely shocked.

"I know that she would have a Charcuterie Kreation's t-shirt on delivering these platters with me" Kara said. "She was definitely like my other half. She was really up for anything compassionate towards people."

To check out Charcuterie Kreation's, visit charcuteriekreation.com.

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L-R Bob Walsh, former executive director of the National Education Association of Rhode Island, presents Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of Cranston with the Reuse and Recycling Award. Submitted photo by the RI House of Representatives

Duo honored for tackling food waste in schools

Effort enlists 2,000 kids statewide, including from Cranston, Johnston, Warwick

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Edgewood Yacht Club was buzzing with activity on the morning of Friday, May 9, for Clean Water Action's 23rd annual Breakfast of Champions. The assembled crowd, including US Senator Jack Reed, US Rep. Seth Magaziner, RI Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, RI Attorney General Peter Neronha, and RI General Treasurer James Diossa, gathered to honor six Rhode Islanders for their environmental work.

Among the morning's honorees were Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of the RI School Recycling Project, recipients of this year's Reuse and Recycling Award. They are Cranston residents.

Begun in 2001, when schools were only beginning to recycle, the initiative has brought school recycling rates from 20 percent to 68 percent. More recently, though, the organization's focus has shifted to food waste. Schools, particularly elementary schools, waste a lot of food, and it all ends up in the Central Landfill in Johnston. Or did, anyway, until Corwin and Heyman launched their program a few years ago.

In 2019, the Attorney General's office provided Corwin a grant to measure food waste in Rhode Island schools. Elementary school students, on average, throw out about 47 pounds of food in a year. To put it another way, a literal ton of food waste might be generated by just two classrooms over the course of one school year. This causes problems, including the eventual release of methane, a greenhouse gas that is a primary driver of climate change.

Corwin knew there had to be a way around this, and he decided to pilot a program in a handful of area schools. With a \$40,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, he conceived a strategy to eliminate food waste out of the trash. Sensing resistance from custodians and teachers, Corwin brought in Heyman, a recently retired friend from the Edgewood neighborhood with decades of experience organizing for the hospitality workers' union UNITE HERE.

"I said you'll need to talk to custodians, and you'll need to talk to the food service workers," Corwin says. Heyman agreed.

"I'm retired but now I'm working 60 hours a week," Heyman says. "But it's totally fun and extremely rewarding. I've met so many amazing teachers, custodians, food workers and principals."

The food waste program now includes 52 schools in 16 districts across the state, from the Newport and Chariho districts up to Woonsocket and Burrillville. For now the program is most concentrated in ele-

mentary schools, where students are actually the most wasteful with their lunches, but the program is gradually expanding into middle schools and high schools.

Corwin, Heyman, and a group of about 18 volunteers around the state visit schools and train groups of students about how to properly dispose of unwanted lunch. In the cafeteria, these student rangers guide their classmates through a quick and efficient five-step process.

First, they remove food that is still edible—unpeeled bananas and orange, for instance. That food goes into refrigerators supplied by the School Recycling Project, with signs in English and Spanish telling students that the food is free to anyone who will eat it. Food insecurity is a real issue in many schools, and studies have shown that hungry students are more tired and less able to concentrate on lessons.

The second stop is a five-gallon bucket with a simple colander on top. Students empty their juice and milk containers, and the liquids are later poured down the drain.

Third is recycling. This includes juice boxes, milk cartons, and paper lunch bags.

By this point, all that's left is solid food, maybe a bit of trash, and a disposable lunch tray if the school doesn't have an operating dishwasher. Opened, uneaten

food goes into a compost bin. So do the compostable trays, thanks to a new law banning styrofoam trays from schools. What's left is lightweight and doesn't take up much space. Plastic silverware can't be recycled. Neither can plastic sandwich bags or chip wrappers.

There are about 2,000 trained student rangers—some schools call them different names but the idea is the same—rotating lunch shifts every few weeks. By Corwin and Heyman's count, they have already diverted 260 tons of food waste from the landfill and redirected about 30 tons of healthy food from the landfill to hungry students.

Heyman looks to the future. "There are no more landfills in Connecticut," he said. "They burn about 60 percent of their solid waste, and the rest they pay to haul to a landfill in Pennsylvania." The Central Landfill in Johnston is expected to reach capacity in the next 15 years or so.

"The taxpayers will be paying to haul trash out of state," he says. "And more money for trash disposal means less money for the schools."

One more bonus of the program is that the composted food returns in the form of fertile soil. Schools like Nathan Bishop Middle School in Providence use the soil to plant garden beds and have even incorpo-

Rhode Island Clean Water Action 2025 Environmental Champions



Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of the RI School Recycling Project along with fellow award winners, State Rep. Megan Cotter and Pawtucket City Councilman Clovis Gregor. They were joined by Emily Howe, executive director of Clean Water Action and Jed Thorp, Save the Bay's director of advocacy. Submitted photo by the RI House of Representatives

David R. Gerraughty Award for Lifetime Commitment to the Environment — Dr. Hans Scholl is active member of Climate Action RI's Politics Team and the Yes to Wind Campaign as well as the PolComm Team of the Environment Council of Rhode Island. He maintains a public accounting of pending environmental legislation which helps organizers know how and when to influence the progress of bills in the Rhode Island General Assembly. Additionally, his work highlighting the dangers of artificial turf polluting underground water supplies, rivers, and Narragansett Bay is noteworthy.

Legislative Champion — Rep. Megan Cotter (Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond) in 2024 fought to secure the \$12 million in the Green Bond for the preservation of green open spaces in Rhode Island. She also leads by example and is an avid bicyclist while knocking on doors in her community.

Reuse and Recycling Award — Warren Heyman and Jim Corwin partnered with schools to start the RI School Recycling Project, which reduces waste in cafeterias and empowers kids to be recycling, reuse, and composting leaders. The program sometimes works alongside Clean Water Action's ReThink Disposable program.

Environmental Justice Leader — Pawtucket City Councilman Clovis Gregor led an inspiring campaign to save Morley Field in Pawtucket, drawing attention and media eyes to inequities in green space access.

Steadfast Advocacy Award — Barry Schiller was honored for his decades of passionate advocacy for mass transit and RIPTA.

rated gardening into the special education curriculum.

Rhodes Elementary School in Cranston was one of the first to implement the program. In April it was launched at Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, and in Johnston it operates at Brown Avenue Elementary School. That school's cafeteria switched to metal trays last year, a move so notable that the Washington Post wrote about it.

There are substantial benefits to diverting food waste out of the trash. First and foremost, less trash in the dumpsters means that schools save money by reducing trash pickup. Less food in the dumpsters means fewer rodents and other hungry pests lurking. Less food waste in the landfill means a reduction in harmful methane as the food decomposes. And fewer bags in the landfill

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Jean Carlson

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L-R Julia Curtin as River Sister, Emma Dunlop as Jane, Tali Russel as Jo, Steph Rodger as Elizabeth, Rose Trammell as Cathy. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke

Untamed heroines, unwritten rules

Barker Playhouse presents 'You On The Moors Now'

By IDA ZECCO

You On The Moors Now is a literary and theatrical eruption that tears through the narratives of 19th-century heroines with all the subtlety of a battle cry.

It is inspired by four 19th century novels: "Pride and Prejudice" [1813], "Wuthering Heights" [1847], "Jane Eyre" [1847], and "Little Women" [1868-69], "You on the Moors Now" by Jaclyn Backhaus.

"You on the Moors Now" is what happens when the Brontës, Jane Austen, and Louisa May Alcott go to a feminist rage room together and rewrite their own novels. The show gleefully detonates the corset-tight constraints of 19th-century romance plots, giving us heroines who stomp, shout, sword fight, and side-eye their suitors into emotional oblivion. It's messy, wildly theatrical, and smarter than it has any right to be.

Set in a mythic wilderness where the moors become a surreal playground of feminist reckoning, the "no" that each heroine gives to her respective suitor in the opening is not just a personal refusal—it's a systemic one. Backhaus doesn't simply ask what happens when literary women say no to love; she asks what happens when they say no to structure, genre, and the male gaze entirely.

Characters speak in heightened poetic bursts, slam into pop culture references, and slip into stylized battle scenes. What makes You On The Moors Now truly intelligent is its

self-awareness. These women are complex, contradictory, sometimes insufferable.

The quartet of women deliver hysterically volatile performances.

Rosalynde Trammell as Cathy Linton is both bold and nuanced, capturing the character's passionate nature while infusing her with a modern sensibility. Trammell's performance for her depth and authenticity, with a fresh take on this classic character.

Tali Russell brings Jo March to life with infectious energy and wit, embodying the character's independent spirit and determination. Russell is both heartfelt and humorous, making Jo's journey of self-discovery relatable and inspiring.

Stephanie Rodger as Lizzy Bennet is sharp, intelligent, and full of charming warmth. Rodger skillfully delivers an engaging and thought-provoking character adding a contemporary edge to this beloved heroine.

Emma Dunlop as Jane Eyre blends strength and vulnerability to Eyre's inner turmoil and resilience. Dunlop offers a provocative exploration of love and identity while providing a fresh perspective on a well-known tale.

Then, the suitors: Mark Roberts as Mr. Darcy broods so hard he could power a small Victorian village with sheer emotional repression. Roberts' Darcy is less a man and more a walking cloud of rain and judgment.

Tylar Jahumpa's Mr. Rochester rolls in with red flags flapping—mysterious, intense, and one attic fire away from being a full-blown insur-

ance liability. Laurie (aka Theodore Laurence) played by Tyler John is rich, charming, and has golden retriever energy, but he's also that guy who thinks "no" means "try harder, but with flowers."

Kevin Thibault's performance as Heathcliff, is a goth cryptid raised by vengeance and wind—if emotional damage were currency, he'd own half of England. Together, these suitors are the literary Avengers of red-flag romance, and the play gleefully kicks them to the curb.

With an ensemble cast of 13 performers, applause must go to Morgan Salpietro, director, who brings an imaginative and fearless vision to the stage. Salpietro blends literary classics with bold, contemporary storytelling crackling with energy, pushing boundaries while honoring the emotional core of the characters. Brava!

In an era where feminist narratives are often commodified into sleek empowerment slogans, You On The Moors Now is refreshingly unruly. It dares to let its heroines be messy, angry, and unresolvable. It's a play that trusts its audience to navigate discomfort, to wrestle with history, and to imagine new forms of storytelling—unpolished, imperfect, but free.

Who: The Players
Where: Barker Playhouse
 400 Benefit Street, Providence
When: May 9, 10, 16 & 17 - 7:30 PM; May 11 & 18 - 2 PM

Tickets: Box Office: 401-273-0590
www.playersri.org/main-stage



L-R Katherine Murphy, Natalie Balen, and Sara McCormick as the March sisters. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke



L-R L-R Tyler John as Laurie, Tylar Jahumpa as Rochester, Mark Roberts as Darcy, Kevin Thibault as Heathcliff. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke



Two photos of examples of trash. Submitted photo by Warren Heyman

Before

At Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, before the program was implemented the school was throwing away 105 pounds of trash—about 12 bags—every day.

After

When food waste is taken out of the equation, Hoxsie was disposing of 10 pounds of trash a day, only two bags.

● WASTE from page 11

mean that the Johnston facility might extend its life a little longer.

"All they have to pay for now is compostable gloves, compostable liners for the bins, and the fee to haul the food waste somewhere," Heyman says. "So there's a lot of different savings happening."

Corwin knew there would be resistance. "My wife is a teacher," Corwin said. "So I know that they're stretched very thin and focused on getting kids to test well. There's no time for what they might see as extracurricular."

Teachers have started taking an in-

terest, though. Schools do monthly audits of how much is being thrown away and how much is being diverted.

At Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, before the program was implemented the school was throwing away 105 pounds of trash—about 12 bags—every day. When food waste is taken out of the equation, they were throwing away 10 pounds of trash a day, only two bags.

This year, the program received a federal grant to expand into Pawtucket, but like many grant contracts, theirs was canceled abruptly by the federal Department of Government

Efficiency (DOGE) last month. Luckily, the Rhode Island Foundation and the Newport-based nonprofit 11th Hour Racing stepped in. Whether the project will keep growing remains unclear, but Corwin and Heyman are plugging ahead.

The United Nations hopes to see a food waste reduction of 45 percent by the year 2030. According to the UN Environment Program, food waste is the third most common man-made cause of methane after the energy and agriculture industries.

"There are 305 schools in Rhode Island," Heyman speculates. "Can we get them all composting by 2030?"



Allain gets locals involved with 'Bird In My Chest'

By ROB DUGUAY

For the past few decades, Rhode Island has had a very vibrant and rich singer-songwriter community. You can see a ton of them playing at venues all over the state on a regular basis, including Steve Allain.

While taking on an expansive approach to his craft, the Providence based artist incorporates elements of country, folk and blues along with having a knack for storytelling through his tunes. He also has been a collaborator with a wide array of musicians in the scene, which is exemplified in his new album "Bird In My Chest" that came out on May 9. This specific vibe within the full-length is shown through the sonic variety that's present in the tracks from start to finish.

Allain worked with engineer Ross Lenzig on the recording process. They handled the production together. The songs were captured in two different settings, with some done in Swansea, Massachusetts and others in Grand Isle, Vermont.

"This is by far the best collection of songs that I have released," he says about the making of "Bird In My Chest". "Once we got them into the studio and started arranging them, the results exceeded my expectations."

Along Tracie Potochnik from the folk duo Cardboard Ox into the fold, Allain included other musicians who are

either based around the area or in other parts of the country. These include Tessa Sacramone on violin, Ben Shaw on saxophone, Bessie Bessin on accordion and Nicole Gauthier on backing vocals.

While some songs like "I Was Never Good Enough" and "Goddamn the Day" have noticeable amplification, the majority of "Bird In My Chest" is very stripped down while abiding by an acoustic aesthetic. This is highlighted through the tunes "Old House", "Go to Glory" and "Long Sad Season" among others. There are themes of love, struggle and acceptance that come across at various instances, and they are best experienced through Allain's lyrics.

To celebrate the release of the new album, there's going to be a show happening on May 17 at The Music Mansion located on 88 Meeting Street in Providence starting at 5pm. To purchase tickets, log onto the venue's website at musicmansion.org.

To check out "Bird In My Chest" before attending, look it up on either Spotify, YouTube or any other streaming service of your choice. For more information about Allain, other shows that he has coming up and the rest of his discography, log onto steveallain.com



Wild West Shrimp Courtesy longhornsteakhouse.com



Grilled Lamb Chops Courtesy longhornsteakhouse.com

Warwick's LongHorn Steakhouse—steaks & more

Restaurant Review by DON FOWLER

While most of our restaurant reviews concentrate on locally-owned establishments, we occasionally check out the national chains. We found a good one in Warwick.

Joyce likes her steaks extra rare, and that's hard to come by at many restaurants, but LongHorn Steakhouse in the Warwick Mall complex accommodated her perfectly.

I'm not a steak person, but noted online that LongHorn offered a grilled lamb chop dinner, plus a number of seafood and chicken entrees.

We were impressed with the warm, homey atmosphere of the restaurant and equally impressed with our waiter, who actually seemed to be enjoying his job.

We chose the shrimp appetizer from an extensive list and were pleased with its careful preparation, served piping hot with peppers and a delicious sauce (\$12.79).

Joyce chose the 6 oz. Flo's Filet (\$24.49). The waiter

underlined the extra rare note for the chef, and it came extra rare, juicy and tasty.

Her Caesar salad had thin slices of parmesan and a smooth dressing.

My six grilled lamb chops were smothered in a delicious sauce, tender and delicious. Two of them went home for the next day, along with the generous portion of perfectly cooked asparagus.

We both enjoyed the asparagus, thin, crunchy and cooked to perfection.

I've been to both overpriced and bargain steakhouses and have never been a fan of either. LongHorn strikes a perfect balance.

They are open seven days a week until 10:00 p.m.

Their number is 737-6943 and they can be found online at longhornsteakhouse.com.

The stories beneath the stones



Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan

Most pass by a cemetery and acknowledge nothing more than a sea of stones. Most don't consider the fact that beneath every stone is a story. In St. Ann's Cemetery in Cranston, there are over 130,000 stories.

On the morning of Feb. 20, 1911, three people were laid in a common grave at St. Ann's Cemetery as a thick sheet of snow fell from the sky and unfurled upon the mourners. Most who pass by that grave don't know the three stories — intertwined into a single horrific tale — buried beneath the stone.

Ernest St. Laurent was born in Canada in 1878. At the age of three, he came to America with his parents and settled in Providence. He married Annie Lacerte on July 29, 1902 and they went on to have two chil-

dren. A son, Joseph Ernest Arthur St. Laurent, who was born on Oct. 8, 1905, did not survive. In 1908, Annie gave birth to their daughter Blanche.

The St. Laurent family resided on Cranston Street in Providence. Ernest was employed as an optical framer. By the winter of 1911, Ernest was suffering with ill health. He had also become overwhelmed by his job and seemed to be spiraling into a pit of mental agitation. Questions swirled in his head.

He was having to take on too much responsibility at work — more than he could handle — but how could he quit and render himself unable to financially support his wife and daughter? What would happen when his medical condition worsened?

Certainly, Annie would be forced to take on the role of nursemaid to care for him. Seeing nothing but dimness in both of their futures, Ernest conceived a

plan and shared it with his wife to end their lives.

It didn't take long for both parties to begin questioning what would happen to their three-year-old daughter in the event both were gone. Upon such a realization, Ernest withdrew his suicide pact idea.

About six weeks later, however, the couple rethought the situation.

On the evening of Feb. 17, 1911, Ernest and Annie attended a party. Annie apparently was not tight-lipped about the nightmarish plans and conversations she and her husband indulged in. She confessed to family members that Ernest had requested her to stand in a doorway so that he could shoot her. That evening, the 29-year-old wife and mother talked about how she had ventured into town just hours before the party to purchase the clothes she wished to be buried in. In between issuing these concerning bits of informa-

tion, party guests later said that she cried hysterically throughout the event.

When the St. Laurents had returned to their home, it was alleged by police that Ernest waited for Annie to fall asleep in their bed before removing Blanche from her own bedroom and laying her down beside her mother. It was assumed he then affixed the tube, which was found to the gas jet, laid the open end of the tube upon the bed, turned on the gas, and laid down beside his wife and daughter.

In the morning, Ernest's father came upon the unspeakable scene. They appeared to be sleeping — his son having decided that his own chosen demise would include them all.

Three days later, Ernest, Annie and Blanche were laid to rest in a triple funeral service. Their dark story was buried with them, and pure, white snow quickly covered the ground.



See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler



Thunderbolts

WARWICK SHOWCASE

THUNDERBOLTS

(Superheroes Return)

This one has lots of action for lovers of the genre. As for us, we've had enough.

The superheroes have their troubled pasts, fight amongst themselves and eventually band together to destroy the bad people who are trying to take over the world.

Crooked politicians and businesspeople are once again the target, as our four heroes plus Bob come together on a dangerous mission, using their wits, weapons and superpowers to save the world.

There's loads of action, plus some nostalgia and bickering to fill in the spaces.



Fight or Flight

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

**

(Quirky, Violent Mess)

You won't see this one on your flight to San Francisco.

Josh Hartnett stars as a mercenary who is hired to capture a "ghost" on a flight from Bangkok.

He is drugged and beaten to a pulp in the bathroom by his seatmate until he recovers enough to kill him in a bloody battle.

During the eight-hour flight, he kills half of the passengers, who all turn out to be assassins looking for the ghost.

Much of this is done in a cartoonish style, with blood and guts spilling in the aisles, while Reyes makes inane comments that are supposed to turn this into a comedy.

He is aided by a flight attendant (Charithra Chandran) who turns out not to be who we think she is.

This stupid movie goes on and on ad nauseum to its stupid conclusion.



Nonnas

NETFLIX

NONNAS

*** 1/2

(Based on True Story of restaurateur)

Vince Vaughn stars as Joey Scaravella, a Brooklyn mechanic who dreams of owning his own Italian restaurant on Staten Island.

Inspired by growing up with his mother's cooking, he takes the plunge by purchasing a closed restaurant, unaware of the obstacles lying ahead, mostly dealing with money.

Joey hires four Nonnas (grandmotherly women) all with interesting backgrounds and personalities.

He reacquaints himself with his high school sweetheart and they all come together to create Enoteca Maria a restaurant that has been a hit in New York for over fifteen years.

The movie is a bit schmaltzy at times, but it also is quite heartwarming.

You'll find yourself cheering for Joey to make it.

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‘No Apologies’ comedy show makes no apologies



Jim Florentine. Submitted photo

By **ROB DUGUAY**

In the world of stand-up comedy, there are certain performers who hold nothing back with their material and have no filter whatsoever. While their jokes aren't for everyone, their honest approach can often be hilarious.

It's fair to say The No Apologies Comedy Show makes no apologies.

The May 17 show at 7:30pm at the Park Theatre in Cranston will feature a trio of comedians, including Tom Cotter, a Providence native, Tammy Pescatelli and Jim Florentine.

Florentine and I talked ahead of the festivities about how he got his big break in stand-up, making prank calls with telemarketers, being a fan of heavy metal and hard rock music and his plans for the near future.

Rob Duguay: You got your big break in comedy when you and fellow comic Jim Norton met Andrew Dice Clay at The Comedy Store in Los Angeles during the late '90s and you both eventually became his opening acts. It's been mentioned that you were inspired to do stand-up from watching Clay as part of a Rodney Dangerfield comedy special, so how did you and Jim get to meet him backstage after a show and what was the experience like sharing the stage with him?

Jim Florentine: That was during our first day ever in Los Angeles. Louie Anderson had a late night comedy show that he hosted on NBC, so we got flown out there for it. We heard from a fellow comic friend, Rich Vos, that Dice was hanging out at The Comedy Store. He was hanging out back with Rich, we asked him if we could get a picture, and he was like, "No", and we were like, "C'mon, we're big fans", so he finally agreed to do it. We started talking, we told him that we were fans of his album

"The Day the Laughter Died" where he pretty much bombs, we started telling him the jokes and he couldn't believe that we knew all this stuff.

He told us to go up on stage and tell these jokes for him and his friends, so we got up and did the jokes and stuff. After that, he said, "I like you guys." We exchanged numbers and started opening for him. It was crazy.

RD: That's a great story. You've done voice acting for several characters on the Comedy Central show Crank Yankers, which was originally aired in 2002, so when you got this gig voicing puppets rather than performing in front of people, did it take any adjusting? Were you familiar with prank call comedy through The Jerky Boys and stuff like that?

JF: I have my own CDs out where I mess with telemarketers. They would call, I'd record them and mess with them, so that's how I got the gig. The people who started Crank Yankers heard my calls and they wanted me for the show, and the show was basically the same thing other than that it was outgoing calls instead of incoming calls, but I was already doing prank calls at the time.

RD: You were also a co-host on "The Metal Show" that was on VH1 Classic, and you're a noted fan of heavy metal and hard rock music. I know this is probably a tough question for you to answer, but who would you say is on your personal Mount Rushmore of favorite bands?

JF: Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath, AC/DC and Motörhead, those bands are pretty much my top three along with Ozzy.

RD: Those are great picks. Are there any newer metal or rock acts that you listen to, or do you just stick with the classics?

JF: I stick with the classics. Nothing that new is sticking with me for some reason, so I don't go searching that much anymore at this point.

RD: I hear that, especially with your busy schedule not giving you the time to surf the web or hit up local record stores. For this "No Apologies Comedy Show", you are part of a stacked lineup with Tom Cotter and Tammy Pescatelli, so what are your thoughts on performing in Cranston and what are your plans afterwards?

JF: Rhode Island is always a great state to perform stand-up in and I'm excited to be part of a lineup with Tom and Tammy. We've been doing shows together for the past year or two and the Rhode Island crowds are always great, I'm always excited to go there. After the show, I'm just going to be touring. I released a special around a year ago, so I'm working on a whole new set at this point and that's basically what I have going on.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich, hosts three concerts. Submitted photo

Music On The Hill chamber music festival

Next week, Music on the Hill opens its seventeenth chamber music festival with seven concerts in the West Bay as summer begins. Concerts pair familiar works by Bach, Brahms, and Copland with new favorites. Tickets are just \$30 in advance with Eventbrite or at the door (cash/check only), and free for students with I.D. For information, visit www.musiconthehillri.org.

2025 Chamber Music Festival

Silent Movies

Crafted Hope Brewing, 1485 South County Trail, East Greenwich
Wednesday, May 28, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Craft beer and food truck fare available for purchase

The Great Train Robbery, Tango Tangles, and other classic shorts starring Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Buster Keaton

Music of Copland, Berlin, Chopin, and more

Anton Miller, violin and Rita Porfiris, viola



Silent Movies "A Burlesque on Carmen" and "The Great Train Robbery" will be just two of the shorts screened May 28 with live music, at Crafted Hope Brewing in East Greenwich. Submitted photos

Bach & Beethoven

First Baptist Church, 30 Peirce St, East Greenwich
Thursday, May 29, 7:00 pm

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 6 in D Major

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 3 in C Major

Beethoven, Serenade for flute, violin and viola

Peter Ferry, marimba; Anthony Trionfo, flute; Anton Miller, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola

Narragansett Brass Quintet

on the lawn at Clouds Hill Museum, 4157 Post Rd, Warwick
Sunday, June 1, 4:00 pm

Please bring a chair or blanket. Rain location: First Baptist Church

Dukas, Fanfare from La Peri

Pezel, Sonata No. 22

JS Bach, Selections from The Art of Fugue

Bellon, Quintette

Vaughan Williams, English Folk Songs

Schickele, Brass Summer

Bizet, Selections from Carmen

Owen, 1954 Suite

Blake, Roberts, Ragtime Suite

Stephen Banzaert, Gino Villareal, trumpet; Kevin Owen, French horn; Alexei Doohovskoy, trombone; Thomas Gregory, tuba



Narragansett Brass Quintet performs on the lawn at Clouds Hill, Sunday June 1 at 4:00. Submitted photos

We've Gone Baroque

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich
Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 pm

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 2 for Solo Cello in D minor

Vivaldi, Concerto in C Major

C.P.E. Bach, Flute Concerto in G Major

Dall'Abaco, Sonata da Camera

Torelli, Trumpet Concerto in D Major

Peter Ferry, marimba; Anthony Trionfo, flute; Roderick MacDonald, trumpet; Victoria Moreira and Naomi Culp, violins; Gillian Gallagher, viola; Elisa Kohanski, cello; John Pellegrino, bass.

Scholarship spotlight: Israel Alvarez, piano

All Brahms

St Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St, East Greenwich
Saturday, June 7, 7:00 pm

Cello Sonata No. 1 in E Minor

Three Songs

Clarinet Sonata No 2. in Eb Major

Kate Norigian, soprano; Elisa Kohanski, cello; Daniel Gilbert, clarinet; Donna Lee, Jack Kurutz, and John Norigian, piano

Appalachian Spring

Immaculate Conception Church, 237 Garden Hills Dr, Cranston
Sunday, June 8, 7:00 pm

Williams, Air and Simple Gifts

O'Connor, Appalachia Waltz

American/Appalachian Loop Pedal Violin Set

Copland, Appalachian Spring

Kimberly Fang, Anton Miller, Sarah Whitney, Liana Zaretsky, violins; Rita Porfiris and Sebastian Ruth, viola; Elisa Kohanski, Trevor Handy, cello; John Pellegrino, bass;

Anthony Trionfo, flute; Daniel Gilbert, clarinet; Ellen Connors, bassoon; Donna Lee, piano; Edward Markward, conductor

Scholarship spotlight, Jack Paiva, piano

Festival Finale

St Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St, East Greenwich
Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 pm

Poulenc, Sonata for Trumpet, French Horn and Trombone

Albinoni, Concerto for Oboe in D minor

Vivaldi, Concerto in C Major

Hertel, Concerto for Trumpet and Oboe in Eb Major

Brahms, Vocal Duets arr. for French Horn and Trombone

Peter Ferry, marimba; Roderick MacDonald, trumpet; Michelle Baker, French horn;

Charles Baker, trombone; Anne Marie Gabriele, oboe; Victoria Moreira and Kristen Pellegrino, violins; Gillian Gallagher, viola; Trevor Handy, cello; John Pellegrino, bass; Bonnie Anderson, piano

Schedule subject to change.

Visit www.musiconthehillRI.org for up-to-date information.

A special event June 11 will benefit Music on the Hill's festival and education programs: A "Gilded Age" House Concert in the parlor at Clouds Hill, an evening of American romantic music with pianist **Bonnie Anderson** and cellist **Trevor Handy**. \$150 per person donation includes the concert, wine, and hors d'oeuvres, and is limited to 40 guests. The Clouds Hill parlor is one of the locations featured in HBO's hit series "The Gilded Age." This concert offers music of the time performed on the cello and Clouds Hill's historic piano. For information, visit www.musiconthehillri.org.

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Hail and ice and spring, oh my!

The mystery of how hail is formed had completely eluded me. How can chunks of ice the size of a quarter, or larger, manage to fall out of the sky?

It seems downright ridiculous that frozen projectiles come plummeting from the sky on a warm, sunny day. I learned that the secret to this icy surprise lies not at ground level, but high up in the atmosphere, where the weather is running a completely different program. Hail forms inside strong thunderstorms with powerful updrafts, which are basically nature's version of an express elevator for hot, moist air.

On a toasty day, that warm air rises up, up, up, only to get slapped in the face by frigid temperatures at high altitudes, sometimes colder than the freezer.

Up there, super-cooled water droplets, liquid water that's somehow still chilling below 32°F,

start freezing around whatever bits of dust, dirt, or bug wings they can find. This creates the humble beginnings of a hailstone. The storm's updrafts hurl it skyward over and over again, each time adding more icy layers like a snowball gathering mass rolling down a hill.

Eventually, gravity gives in, and the now plump hailstone joins its frozen comrades for a dramatic crash-landing on cars, rooftops, roads, and any poor soul who did not make it inside in time.

I should be glad it is only ice, which is relatively harmless. In places like Honduras, there is a rare phenomenon called "animal rain" where fish, frogs, or even tiny crabs fall from the sky during storms. Scientists believe the same powerful updrafts involved with making hail suck them up from lakes or rivers and drop



Life Matters
with Linda Petersen

them miles away. Imagine getting hit on the head with a fish, one would need an umbrella and a fishing net.

I have been tricked by ice once before. We had decided to visit Niagara Falls in January because, in our infinite wisdom, we thought, "How magical would it be to see the Falls in winter?" Spoiler alert: it was magical all right—like being drop-kicked into a snow globe during the Ice Age.

The moment we stepped out of the car, the wind slapped us so hard our nostrils froze.

Hubby, ever the optimist, said, "At least the parking was easy, there were plenty of spaces!" That's because nobody else was

insane enough to be there. As we waddled toward the viewing platform, bundled up with sleeping bags wrapped around us for extra warmth, we saw it: Niagara Falls, seemingly frozen mid-roar. Giant icicles clung to the cliffs, mist had solidified into a surreal icy fog, and the water itself looked like it had been paused with a remote control. I reached for my phone to take a picture, only to realize it would be impossible to do with all of my gear on. I would simply buy a postcard of the picture, which would undoubtedly present a much more beautiful view than I could take on my phone in the cold. After about 10 minutes of gawking, we shuffled back to the car. I must admit, it was a beautiful, thunderous, icy masterpiece carved by nature, and the trip was totally worth it.

We are currently in spring, waiting for summer. The sun

stays out longer, and we get these glorious long days when it feels like there is plenty of time to do anything outside. The air is crisp and fresh. We no longer need coats or long sleeves with consistent 70-degree weather all around us.

May is perfect weather, Goldilocks temperature: not too hot and not too cold! It is a magical temperature where we do not experience heat stroke or frostbite. No more cranking up the heat, and it is not time yet to turn on the air conditioners. I can sleep with the windows open and feel the cool air drafting through the windows. Perfect!

That is, until I can step outside to bask in the sun, only to get pelted with ice cubes from the sky, which must be nature's way of reminding me not to get too comfortable. Yes, surprisingly, May is a prime month for hail.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Taste of Italy, Deli & Caffe For Italian food lovers everywhere

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Visit tasteofitalydeli.com for our Menu
Mon.-Fri. 10AM-6PM, Sat. 10AM-8PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM

By JENNIFER COATES

Sometimes, the best kept secrets are right there in plain view! Such is the case of Taste of Italy, a deli and cafe on Atwood Avenue in Johnston that even longtime residents of the city have yet to discover – and now is the time to see what you have been missing! At Taste of Italy, hungry customers will find a huge selection of authentic Italian food, made fresh every day, with the freshest of ingredients and prepared by talented, experienced chef Jennifer Kaya.

Chef Kaya is a wizard in the kitchen, creating dishes that evoke memories of your childhood meals around the family table, but elevated by Kaya's own culinary touches. Quality and consistency are her guiding principles, guaranteeing that customers who come to Taste of Italy will find that their favorite dishes remain their favorite dishes, time after time.

Chef Kaya has the highest standards when it comes to her recipes, her ingredients, her techniques and the selection of her dishes. You will have to taste it all to believe it.

The menu at Taste of Italy is diverse and tantalizing with everything from homemade pastries and breakfast handheld snacks to prepared foods to sliced deli meat & cheese by the pound ~ and so much more. Whether you are stopping by for a morning cup of brew, packing some grinders for a beach picnic or trying to solve the age-old problem of "what's for dinner," there is something for everyone ~ and every occasion ~ at Taste of Italy. There is even a full bar when all you want is a libation with your meal.

One of the deli's most anticipated dishes is its crunchy, flaky and lightly-battered Fish & Chips (made with fresh-off-the-boat haddock), available every Friday. Whatever your family

traditions may be, this is the BEST way to end your work week.

This increasingly popular deli and cafe does so much more than serve up delicious food, it also provides catering. With the season of graduation parties and confirmation celebrations and warm weather for more outdoor gatherings upon us, let Taste of Italy "WOW" your guests! Think of all the options you can choose from: appetizers, salads, cold salads, pasta dishes, calzones, soups, chicken, veal and sausage dishes and the Italian classic favorites (lasagna, meatballs, Eggplant parmesan and rabe). Call to place your catering order today!

Finally, check out Taste of Italy on Facebook to learn updates about upcoming events including the Spring Fling Retro Car Show this weekend on the 18th (free admission, starting at noon) and a visit by Psychic Medium Debbie Squizzero in the days ahead.

A Taste of Italy is located at 1302 Atwood Avenue in Johnston. The deli is open Monday-Friday (10:00am – 6:00pm), Saturday and Sunday (10:00am – 4:00pm). To see more of their delectable food, follow them on Facebook. For more information, call 401-942-1234.



Come indulge your appetites on some of the outstanding food at Taste of Italy on Atwood Avenue, including these dishes of Baked Scrod, Mediterranean Pasta, Chickpea Salad and Sausage and Rabi.

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Sports

Falcons closing in on division title

West golf unbeaten as states approach

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The Cranston West golf team is in the midst of a breakout spring season as it topped East Greenwich on Monday to improve to 8-0-1 overall. With the win, the Falcons have the inside track toward their first Central Division title in over 20 years.

West graduated three starters from last year's team but have a crop of young standouts that have led the way. Jack Marques has been in the top spot on the lineup card, while Michael Farina, captain Eric Whitlock and Jagger Dion occupy the second, third and fourth spots, respectively. West has one of the deeper rosters in the state with 26 kids.

West coach Steve Hallas has been thrilled with the program's development the past two years and has been proud to see his players' commitment shine through.

"It was quite a bit of work, but the kids put it in.

● FALCONS to page 20



Josh Smith eyes a shot. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller



Gian Richardson on the podium at the national championship. Submitted photos

Richardson earns All-American honors

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

Cranston West freshman Gian Richardson made a splash in Rhode Island's wrestling scene last season as he went on to take sixth place at states in his first year at the varsity level.

He took another big step forward as he recently competed at the National High School Coaches Association's National Championships in Virginia Beach and finished in fourth place overall in the 182-pound freshman division. The finish earned him All-American honors.

"I felt proud of myself. For me, there is always a bit of nerves before going out for any match I have, but it felt great to go out there and be able to test myself past just a state or New England level (and) to be able to use what I have worked hard at and learned on a national level."

Joining Richardson at the tournament was West assistant coach Chris Lavallee, who was key in his development as a freshman this past winter season.

"Gian earning All-American status at NHSCA Nationals was special to witness. To see one of our faces of the program make serious noise on the national stage makes me very proud as one of his coaches. It's a huge step in the right direction as far as his development and inspiring fellow West wrestlers to see that they can do it too through

● RICHARDSON to page 17

Roundup: Fatorma hits for cycle as Bolts down Huskies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Cranston East softball team remained in third place in Division III when it beat Mt. Hope 15-7 last week.

Nevaeh Fatorma had a monster outing, going 5-for-6 with six RBI to pace the East offense and hitting for the cycle in the process. She also stole a base in the win for the Bolts as well.

Lexi Montalban got the win in the circle, pitching a complete game while striking out 10 batters.

West 12, Ponaganset 2

The Falcons stayed sharp and rolled past the Chieftains in six innings on Monday night.

Payton Wells and Tatianna Pacheco drove in multiple runs for the Falcons.

Wells had four hits overall. Mia Crudale earned the win in the circle, allowing just one earned run while striking out seven batters.

BASEBALL

North Kingstown 8, East 1

Despite taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning, the Bolts were unable to hold on as the Skippers surged to eight unanswered runs.

Ethan Torres drove in East's lone run, knocking in Joshua Gillen.

West 14, Mt. Hope 3

The Falcons remained in the Division I playoff hunt with a win over Mt. Hope on Monday.

Logan Taylor finished the day with three

● ROUNDUP to page 20



Athlete of the Week: Nevaeh Fatorma

The Cranston Herald's Athlete of the Week is East softball player Nevaeh Fatorma. Fatorma continues to be one of the state's most electric players as she hit for the cycle to drive in six runs last week in the team's win over Mt. Hope.



West unified takes 2nd

The Cranston West unified basketball team wrapped up its season by taking second place in its division at last weekend's Rhode Island Interscholastic League's state championships. Pictured is the team after the final game on Saturday. For more photos, turn to page 20. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

Anchormen fall in championship

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Fifth-year third baseman Cal Parrillo (Greenville) went 1-for-3 with a solo home run as No. 5 Rhode Island College fell vs. No. 3 Eastern Connecticut, 13-3, in game nine of the 2025 Little East Baseball Championship played at Franklin Pierce on Saturday afternoon.

The Warriors came out swinging, as they plated three runs in the second inning to put RIC on the comeback trail early.

Three more Eastern markers came off back-to-back doubles in the top of the fourth as the lead quickly ballooned to six, 6-0.

RIC and the Warriors traded for two runs apiece in the sixth inning, as both fifth-year right fielder Justin Wardwell (Westport, Mass.) and senior first baseman Daniel Trzepacz (Mont Vernon, N.H.) both recorded RBI ground outs to keep the deficit at six, 8-2.

However, a three-run homer in the seventh and a pair of runs in the eighth from ECSU would put the rest of the contest out of reach for the underdog Anchormen, as the game ended in eight innings due to the ten-run rule.

Sophomore pitcher Steven Sullivan (Acton, Mass.) took the loss (3-3).

Trzepacz went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Parrillo went 1-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI. They each finished with 222 career hits to share the program record for career base knocks.

RIC's season comes to an end in the loss.

Sainristil has big day for RIC track

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) earned All-NEICAAA honors with a fifth place finish in the 10,000m (36:46.04) as Rhode Island College wrapped up competition at the 2025 NEICAAA Women's Track and Field Championship, hosted by UMass Amherst on Saturday afternoon.

RIC finished in 23rd place (29 teams) with a team score of 6.0. UMass Amherst finished in first place with a team score of 136.0.

Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence, R.I.) earned two All-NEICAAA honors with a pair of eighth place finishes in the 400m (56.88) and 4x400m relay (4:04.06). She also placed ninth in the 200m (25.10).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield, R.I.) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06). Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) earned All-NEICAAA honors with

an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06). Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston, R.I.) finished 18th in the hammer (42.64m) and 19th in the shot (11.76m).

Schiller takes eighth for RIC

Sophomore Will Schiller (Smithfield) earned an All-NEICAAA honor as Rhode Island College competed at the 2025 NEICAAA Championship, hosted by UMass Amherst on Saturday afternoon.

RIC finished in a tie for 28th place (30 teams) with a team score of 1.0. UMass Amherst finished in first place with a team score of 119.50.

Schiller (Smithfield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67) and 23rd in the 400m (50.49).

Freshman Jack McEntee (Foster) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 17th in the 400m hurdles (55.88).

Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67).

Freshman Brody Shiels (Wakefield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). Junior Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67).

Junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67) and 24th in the 100m (10.86). Junior Brandon Mota (West Warwick) finished 12th in the hammer (51.81m).

Sophomore Gabriel Dosunmu (Providence) finished 14th in the long jump (6.64m). Junior Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished 18th in the hammer (48.23m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown) finished 20th in the 3,000m steeplechase (9:56.13).

Sophomore Enrique Edjang (Providence) finished 21st in the hammer (46.49m). Junior Loudon Chupas (Colchester, Conn.) finished 22nd in the javelin (47.14m).

Sophomore Andrew Frezza (Johnston) finished 28th in the 5,000m (16:32.06).

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Gian Richardson gets his hand raised after taking home a win.

● RICHARDSON from page 16

hard work and discipline," said Lavallee. Richardson faced some late-season adversity as well after dealing with injury at the state championships. Lavallee has been impressed by Richardson's confidence and mental toughness as a freshman.

"Gian's inner drive and belief in his training play a huge part in his success. It's one thing to train hard, but it's another thing to ignore the butterflies. I believe Gian's ability to ignore the outside noise, remain calm and trust his training led him to his success at Nationals," said Lavallee.

Rhode Island has grown into one of the most competitive areas in the Northeast in recent years, with many grapplers winning New England championships and beyond. Nearby Ponganset just took home the team New England title.

Richardson was proud to represent his home on the national stage and to help spread the word of the talent that resides in the Ocean State.

"I feel like with Rhode Island being the smallest state it's easy to overlook us, but RI is full of great wrestlers, both boys and girls, who are constantly working hard to be competitive. I feel like we have a lot more to show and I have no doubt that RI wrestling is going to be a constant per-

former at tournaments just like this," said Richardson.

With three more seasons of high school wrestling ahead of him, Richardson's goals include winning a state and New England championship.

"I set the bar for myself at working hard to constantly improve and become a better wrestler. As far as the rest of my high school career, I'm working to become a state champion, then a New England champion and making a strong showing in Virginia every year. I hope to be able to make a name for myself and leave my mark on RI high school wrestling," said Richardson.

Richardson gave one last shout out to those who helped him reach All-American status.

"I could not have done this by myself. There are so many people who helped me with this. For me it's my brother Dante who got me started in the sport and is my number one drilling partner. He along with my father (Dennis) who are constantly pushing me every day to get better," said Richardson. "My coaches at Iron Faith Wrestling who have coached me since I started wrestling and have made me progress to where I am now. The coaches at West and all the practice partners who have helped me improve."

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Two-person German submarine
 - 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
 - Database management system
 - Vertical position
 - American jazz singer Irene
 - Ancient Greek City
 - Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
 - Japanese seaport
 - Self-immolation by fire ritual
 - Assigns tasks
 - Beloved type of cigar
 - Discounts
 - Cambodian communist leader Pot
 - Important football position
 - Kilometers per hour
 - Lentil
 - Extremely angry
 - Yellow-flowered European plant
 - American state
 - Some are made by rabbits
 - Express with a head movement
 - Affair
 - Cured
 - Youth organization
 - 18-year astronomical period
 - Automobile
 - Focus a shot
 - The NFL's big game (abbr.)
 - Mouth
 - Infections
 - Curved pieces of a horse collar
 - Shameless
 - Assist in escaping
 - Capuchin monkey genus
 - Cold wind
 - Retired Brazilian NBAer
 - Tropical Old World tree
 - Bulgarian city
 - Speak indistinctly
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Between-meal sustenance
- CLUES DOWN**
- Not soft
 - Sharp-pointed dueling sword
 - Line a roof
 - Greek god of the underworld
 - Software
 - Large-headed elongated fishes
 - Shag rugs
 - Type of whale
 - Lacking a plan
 - Spill the beans
 - Some is "heavy"
 - One who has been canonized
 - Indicate times
 - Greeting
 - Broadway actor Josh
 - Seashore
 - Indicates before
 - Electrical power unit
 - Destitute
 - Drags forcibly
 - Impropriety
 - Word forms
 - Equal to 10 meters
 - Neither
 - Computer language
 - Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
 - A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 - A promise
 - Challenges
 - Official
 - People living in Myanmar
 - Notable tower
 - Type of sword
 - Vaccine developer
 - Listing
 - Summertime insects
 - Concluding passage
 - Guitarist Clapton
 - Damp and musty
 - Central nervous system
 - Against

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Open for Submissions Through May 31

Tournament to include ocean beaches, area south of the bridges

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**
Special to the Herald

“We are thrilled that the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament keeps growing,” said Capt. Chris Willi, Tournament Director and owner of Block Island Fish Works, a bait & tackle shop and charter fishing business located on Block Island, Rhode Island. “We now are fishing for nine species with an expanded fishing area that includes areas south of the Newport and Jamestown Bridges including the Rhode Island ocean beaches to about fifteen miles south of Block Island itself.”

The tournament will start at 5:30 a.m., Saturday, July 26 and end Sunday, July 27, 12 noon. There will be an “After Party” at Capt. Nick’s Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 27 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony.

“This is a length only Tournament. Participants download GotOne, the Tournament app, on their smartphone. To make a Tournament entry they take a photo of their catch up against the Tournament supplied ruler and send the entry into the Tournament electronically. This makes it unnecessary to attend the awards ceremony to pick up prizes,” said Capt. Willi.

Species now include bonito, false albacore, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna and mahi in addition to fluke, black sea bass, bluefish and striped bass.

Tournament entry fees are \$150 per boat for up to six anglers and \$35/shore angler. Capt. Willi said, “Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Ørsted as well as tackle shop co-sponsors, we are able to donate 100% of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue.”

Tournament highlights include: cash cards/swag/and sponsor prizes totally \$10,000; boat, shore, youth, team and photo divisions; take a photo with the Block Island Wind Farm shown and you can enter three photo categories each with \$200 prize... most scenic, best fish photo and best team photo; pick up participant bags at one of seven locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Tackle Box, Warwick; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Register at BI Inshore Tourney | bifishworks (sandypointco.com); contact Block Island Fish Works at bifishworks@



Flutter spoon catch: Jim Lundy caught this East Passage striped bass using a flutter spoon last week. Submitted photo

gmail.com or 401.742.3992.

Recreational catch data helps assess fisheries

The Marine Fisheries Division of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) held a workshop for charter captains last week to discuss encouraging charter fishing customers to participate in intercept interview surveys when leaving their vessels. Nathan Andrews, Fisheries Specialist for DEM, said, “If we can capture even a small enhanced number of surveys from charter customers on what they caught it would make our data more robust, reduce uncertainty and lead to less buffer in harvest limits which could possibly lead to more liberal regulations.”

Experts at NOAA Fisheries’ regional science centers, in consultation with states, regional partners and through a public process, perform stock assessments which assure our shared fisheries resources remain productive, sustainable, and economically viable.

Stock assessors review a wide range of data to help determine stock status. This includes private boat, shore, and for-hire (charter boat) saltwater recreational fishing catch and effort information. These data are compiled through large-scale surveys that are part of the state-region-

al-federal recreational fishing data collection partnership known as the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

All datasets are plugged into a statistical stock assessment model that determines a stock’s current and future population size and if it is Overfished (the population is too low) or if it is undergoing Overfishing (the catch rate is too high).

For additional information visit Recreational Fishing Data | NOAA Fisheries and for information about DEM angler surveys contact Nate Andrews at nathan.andrews@dem.ri.gov.

Quahog Week, May 11-17

The ninth annual Quahog Week is taking place May 11 to 17. Visit seafood.ri.gov for a full list of events, participating restaurants, markets and specials.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass. Angler Fred DeFinis of Middletown, said, “I fished in the East Passage last week for three days and landed a fair number of fish. By far, the most common size is 28-29 inches which are probably of the 2018 year class, the last good spawning year.”

Expert fly angler and instructor Ed Lombardo, said, “I got one fish Thursday

on an incoming tide near Middle Bridge on the Narrow River.”

“Some nice stripers, especially during the rainy nights have been caught. Bass fishing has been consistent along the beaches and in the breachways. The rain seemed to slow down the worm hatch a bit,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

Angler Gil Bell fishing the surf in South County, said, “Caught a fact, sea lice free 30” striped bass which I released.”

Tautog. “Tautog should continue to move closer to shore as the water warms up. Offshore water temperatures have just reached 50 degrees, while the pond temperatures hit the mid-60s this week. As a reminder female tautog can be full of eggs this time of year and is good sport to release them and keep the males,” said O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Capt. Mike O’Grady of Fishing Machine Charters, said, “Tautog fishing is good. We are catching full boat limits with a bunch for shorts and a good squid bite too.”

Angler John Migliori said, “Caught a 7.64 tautog from shore on Aquidneck Island this week using green crabs.”

Squid and summer flounder. The squid fishing has been very good with anglers hooking up at night. And, the fluke are right behind them. Angler Matthew Haczynski reported Sunday finding squid and fluke off Block Island, “We managed to boat three keepers between all the shorts in 75’-100’. A few fish were tossing squid on the way up. A good sign of better things to come.”

Giant bluefin tuna bite is already on. Offshore fishing angler Richard Pastore said, “Last Thursday a 600 pound giant was caught on a Ballyhoo rig between Cuttyhunk and Block Island.”

Freshwater. For complete regulations, a list of trout stocked ponds, and a copy of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations and Guide visit Fish & Wildlife | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

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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Gian Assante works past a defender (above). Gules Johnson dishes a pass (at left)



Jayden Zolli and Aiden Ventura work together to take the ball up the court.

● **ROUNDUP** from page 16

hits and three RBI to pace the offense while Elan Santana drove in three runs and Nick DiLorenzo two. Michael Parks got the win on the mound for the Falcons.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL
Classical 3, West 0

The Falcons were shut out by Classical over the weekend. Ashton Mak led West with three kills and 10 digs to go along with eight assists.



Jack Marques putts on Monday.

● **FALCONS** from page 16

We're trying to evolve while other teams peak. I'm impressed with how hard they've worked. They're not satisfied, though, they want more. I knew they had the potential, I knew they could do it and they deserve it. Things are falling into place, they're buying in and enjoying it," said Hallas.

The key to the team's success has been working out off the course while also taking advantage of the various opportunities to compete outside of the regular varsity schedule.

"They put the work in at the gym, we look like a football team in there. They've been in the simulator, they're playing in the big tournaments, the Challenge Cup tournaments. The more they play those, the more they put themselves out there, the less nervous they get," said Hallas.

With a young core, the Falcons have also worked hard to manage the big-tournament pressure while learning to compete against some of the state's perennial contenders. The state championship will be at Cranston Country Club on May 27-28, and the Falcons hope to make a splash.

"The nerves are starting to go away and they're starting to learn how to stay focused. I tell them, 'If you are feeling the pressure, put the pressure back on them and focus on your game.' They need to know that they can compete with these teams, they're ready," Hallas said.





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