

Cranston Herald

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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Bursting with sweet luxury

Rich in history and welcome every spring, there is nothing modest about Zeppole

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Despite a somewhat hazy history, there is absolutely no question that the Zeppole (ZAY-poe-lay) Italian pastry is beyond popular in Rhode Island, with local bakeries churning out tens of thousands last Wednesday in preparation for St. Joseph’s Day.

Accounts differ on how the pastry became associated with that holy feast day, as do accounts about the evolution of the pastry itself. But here in Rhode Island, the zeppole takes the form of a frilly round pastry bursting with rich custard filling, wreathed in whipped cream and topped with a maraschino cherry.

And although March 19 (St. Joseph’s Day) is the ‘official’ day to partake in the confection, most Italian bakeries across the state sell them from late January through Easter – and a few make them available all year long. Last week we visited popular pastry shops in Warwick, Cranston and



Despite a humble beginning as fried dough, zeppole now come with many different fillings including these stuffed with ricotta cheese and topped with an Italian flag. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Gini Nani at DeLuise Bakery with what seems like an endless supply of zeppole. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

Johnston, where it was a veritable frenzy of zeppole-making.

At the Original Italian Bakery in Johnston, it seemed that there were zeppole, or parts of zeppole, everywhere. There were huge wooden bakery tables lined with split zeppole shells waiting for their fillings, buckets of cooked custard filling in the refrigerators and a huge mixer churning out homemade whipped cream.

“By the time we’re done with zeppole season, we don’t want to want to eat them,” said one employee, noting that the desire to indulge in the sought-after sweet goes away relatively quickly when you are surrounded by them day after day.

Donald DePetrillo, owner of the Original Italian Bakery, can make them in his sleep – something he gets very little of. He typically sells zeppole from around the time of the

Super Bowl until Easter Sunday and estimates that the total tally for the season is around 66,000. He already had countless orders for this week and said that it’s not unusual to sell 8,000 zeppole on St. Joseph’s Day alone.

A baker and bakery owner for 58 years, DePetrillo, says he typically starts work around 11:30 pm and stays until about 2 pm. Like other bakeries, his busy store on Atwood Avenue near the Cranston line, has gotten creative with the zeppole fillings and now sells more than just the traditional ones filled with a sweet, cooked yellow custard.

The newer, non-traditional fillings – all of which are popular – include chocolate, pistachio, ricotta cheese, and a raspberry spread combined with whipped cream. There is nothing modest about the zeppole. They are bursting

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HeadStart program faces uncertainty over funding

By **ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Two months of Trump administration attacks on federal funding of social-service programs and services have left a local provider of help to low-income families fearing the worst.

HeadStart is a federally funded program that provides early-childhood education and support services to low-income families and their children to promote overall development and preparation to succeed in school.

Stacy Del Vicario, the agency’s vice president of child development, oversees HeadStart at Comprehensive Community Action Program. She says there is concern over potential cuts to the programs CCAP offers – programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps), which in turn would affect HeadStart.

“One of the ways that you can get into HeadStart without having to go through proving income and all of that is by having SNAP,” Del Vicario said. “So right now with the proposal of potentially cutting – I want to say I think it’s around 25% – but with cuts to SNAP, that’s thousands of people just in Rhode Island that would lose their SNAP, which means that they’re not automatically eligible for our program now.”

Del Vicario said that if these cuts continue, people will have to begin choosing between putting food on the table versus paying the rent that month.

Del Vicario also noted that Project 2025, the political initiative to reshape the federal government in favor of right-wing policies, proposed getting rid of HeadStart altogether.

Asked about the impact if HeadStart went away, Del Vicario said this would affect the families in Cranston and



Hudson and Benjamin play together at the aquatic station with toy sharks as part of this month’s activity: a pet study in which students in class learn about different animals. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

statewide the most, families who need the support and whose children deserve high-quality education.

“...The cost of childcare is very high and not always possible for families to pay,” Del Vicario said. “The whole idea of HeadStart is that you get a head start going into public school for kindergarten ... So, if we’re not here, if there’s no HeadStart, then children that might not have the access to preschool ... they’re going to go into kindergarten at a disadvantage.”

● HEADSTART to page X

Neronha challenges Trump on many fronts

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Warwick Beacon Editor

Peter Neronha had a story as soon as he learned that former U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, who is now president of the Rhode Island Foundation, would be addressing the Warwick Rotary Club.

Both were young prosecutors and both have a habit of speaking faster and faster when they home in on their final arguments. It was too much for the court stenographer, who stopped them – breaking their train of thought – and told them to slow down.

Nobody told Neronha, now the Rhode Island Attorney General, to slow down last Thursday as he addressed the service club. He was on a roll and lingered to chat well beyond the end of the meeting at the Crowne Plaza.

Only hours before, his office had issued a release that the state had joined a coalition of 20 states in suing the Trump administration to stop the dismantling of the Department of Education.

But he started with his management of the Office of the Attorney General following his election in 2018, went on outline the changes he has made, answered “maybe” when

● NERONHA to page 7

Pickleball keeps growing

Centerline Pickleball, located right on the Warwick-Cranston line, celebrated its grand opening last Saturday in front of a packed house. Centerline Pickleball is a new indoor facility offering eight courts across 22,000 square feet, along with event space and an experienced coaching staff. *See story, page 21.*



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Cranston Herald



An estimated 200 protesters gathered Sunday afternoon outside ICE offices on Jefferson Boulevard to protest the detention and deportation of people legally in the United States. *Submitted photo*

200 picket outside Warwick ICE office

Protest detentions, deportation

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

More than 200 people from numerous groups picketed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices on Jefferson Boulevard Sunday afternoon.

They came together to protest the detention of Mahmoud Khalil, who was involved in pro-Palestinian demonstrations on Columbia University’s campus and is a permanent resident of the United States. He has not been charged with a crime.

But then there was all the more reason to picket with the deportation of Dr. Rasha Alawieh, who has been working for Brown Medicine in the Division of Kidney Disease & Hypertension on an H-1B visa – and the arrest by ICE of Fabian Schmidt, a German national with a green card who, according to NBC News, is being held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls.

“There was a lot of energy, a lot of honking,” The Rev. E. Jarrett Kerbel, an Episcopal priest and organizer of the protest, said Monday. Kerbel said the picketing was orderly and that Warwick police sent two cruisers. Kerbel was at a loss to name all the churches and organizations protesting.

Initially the picketing was in support of Khalil, but as the cases of Dr. Alawieh and Schmidt became known, they were added to the cause. On Sunday, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, called on the Trump administration to immediately readmit Dr. Alawieh, who traveled to Lebanon to visit family and was then prevented by U.S. Customs officials from reentering the United States.

“Deporting lawful immigrants like Dr. Alawieh without any basis undermines the rule of law and reinforces suspicion that our immigration system is turning into an anti-Muslim, white-supremacist institution that seeks to expel and turn away as many Muslims and people of color as

possible,” CAIR wrote in a release.

The explanation on Monday from Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin, according to news reports including the New York Times: “Last month, Rasha Alawieh traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, to attend the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah – a brutal terrorist who led Hezbollah, responsible for killing hundreds of Americans over a four-decade terror spree. Alawieh openly admitted to this to [Customs Border Protection] officers, as well as her support of Nasrallah. A visa is a privilege not a right – glorifying and supporting terrorists who kill Americans is grounds for visa issuance to be denied. This is commonsense security.”

Kerbel, who is serving as an interim pastor for a local church, said “ICE is showing up at Kent County Court looking for people.” He said no one came out of the ICE office on Jefferson Boulevard and he suspected no one was there.

According to NBC, Astrid Senior, Schmidt’s mother, said she and her son moved to the United States from Germany in 2007 and received green cards in 2008. He lives in New Hampshire and renewed his permanent legal resident status last year.

Senior told NBC she has no idea why her son is being detained by U.S. immigration officials. She said her son, who once lived in California, faced misdemeanor charges roughly a decade ago. He has no active legal or court issues, she said.

News of Schmidt’s arrest and detention was first reported by WGBH, a Boston area Public Broadcasting Service television station.

“We are all waiting to see if the administration is going to follow court orders,” said Kerbel. He also said he and others troubled by Trump’s actions are looking for leadership. He observed that fear over the loss of rights has brought together diverse groups that normally would not join forces.

“They face a common threat and band together,” he said.

Police Log

was transferred to Central Falls PD.

SHOPLIFTING/FELONY

On March 15 at 4:01 p.m., officer(s) arrested Wendy Dabreu, 50, of 56 Ocean St. Providence, on a charge of Shoplifting/Felony and an arrest and affidavit warrant out of Warwick PD. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 275 Warwick Ave. (Stop & Shop). Dabreu was arraigned and taken to ACI Women’s Intake as a probation violator.

SHOPLIFTING/FELONY

On March 15 at 5:14 p.m., officer(s) arrested Sophia Hawkins, 40, of 175 Tidewater Dr. Warwick, on charges of Shoplifting/Felony and Habitual Offender. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 142 Hillside Road. (Sephora). Hawkins was arraigned.

DOMESTIC DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On March 15 at 7:26 p.m., officer(s) arrested Kaley O’Neil, 32, of 1586 Elmwood Ave., on a charge of Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a call for service at the aforementioned address. O’Neil was arraigned.

ARREST & AFFIDAVIT WARRANT

On March 15 at 8:39 a.m., officer(s) apprehended Jovon Byrd, 32, of 206 Massachusetts Ave., Providence, on an arrest and affidavit warrant out of Central Falls. The arrest was the result of a motor-vehicle stop at the intersection of Cranston St. and Washington Ave. Byrd

SIMPLE ASSAULT

On March 17 at 10:09 a.m., officers arrested Eric Clarke, 41, of 334 Garden City Drive, on one count each of Simple Assault and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 1282 Elmwood Ave. (Mobil). Clarke was given a release to appear.

DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

On March 16 at 3:49 p.m., officers arrested Tiffany Decambra, 28, of 297 Bayview Ave., on a charge of Domestic Simple Assault. The arrest was the result of a disturbance at the aforementioned address. Decambra was arraigned and released.

RESISTING ARREST

On March 16 at 9:45 a.m., an officer arrested Justin Jerrell Reid, 33, of 105 Ginger St. Warwick on charges of Weapons other than Firearms Prohibited, Obstructing an Officer in Execution of Duty and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest. The arrest was the result of a suspicious motor vehicle in the area of 777 Cranston St. (Season’s Corner Market). Reid was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace.

ARREST & AFFIDAVIT WARRANT

On March 16 at 11:44 a.m., officer(s) arrested Shain Wallace, 23, of 15 Netop Dr. Providence, on an arrest and affidavit warrant out of Providence. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 1059 Park Ave. (T’s Restaurant). Wallace was transferred to Providence PD.

26, of 314 Lowell Ave. Apt # 4 Providence, on charges of Shoplifting and Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 200 Atwood Ave. (Stop & Shop) Gaye was arraigned and released.

DOMESTIC DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On March 14 at 3:58 p.m., officers arrested Gia Vecchio, 19, of 777 Cranston St., for Domestic Disorderly Conduct and Reckless Driving, Drag Racing and Eluding Police, First Offense. The arrest was the result of a call for service on Glenmere Drive. Vecchio was arraigned and released.

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Hospitality industry looks to score with World Cup

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

Nearly 8,000 residential construction workers from across the region are expected to attend the JLC Live conference March 27-29 at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Kristen Adamo has had the event in her sights for months, lining up volunteers to help the visitors navigate Rhode Island, finding hotel rooms and arranging for transportation.

Adamo is executive director of the Providence Warwick



Kristen Adamo, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director, a Warwick resident, addresses the Warwick Rotary. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the JLC Live conference is one of many events she and her team book, plan and coordinate. On top of that over the next three to four weeks, the state will host the Division 3 college wrestling championships and March Madness. There are many more events the bureau’s staff of 30 have brought to the state or assisted local groups to coordinate from the Great Car Race involving 150 pre-1974 cars that started on June 15,

2022, from Rocky Point Park to Fargo, North Dakota to the collectors of paperweights show and convention that filled the Crowne Plaza.

And with seven FIFA World Cup games possible in Foxboro next year, PWCVB’s world just gets bigger.

Adamo said bookings for regional sporting events are large, and so are higher-education and medical conferences. She is keeping a close eye on how cuts in government agencies and grants under the Trump administration will impact the hospitality business. Already a conference focused on wind power has been canceled.

Last year the PWCVB booked 270 events that will result in the estimated direct spending of \$100 million in the state. Events are measured in booked hotel nights with 2,000 nights over three days considered big.

World Cup
Adamo told the Rotary Club of Warwick on Thursday that the bureau is working with Massachusetts to host seven FIFA World Cup 2026 games at Boston Stadium. The 2026 World Cup games are being held in this country, Mexico and Canada starting June 11 and culminating July 19.

Yes, you read that correctly, “Boston Stadium.” In order to host those games to be played between June 26 and July 4, 2026, FIFA requested Gillette Stadium be named Boston Stadium for the period, so it’s Boston.

“That’s like seven Super Bowls. That’s going to be crazy,” said Adamo. She believes one of the semi-final games will be played in Rhode Island. She also anticipates Warwick hotels will be packed, that there will be a surge in airline passengers at Green Airport, and there will be an increased demand for train service to the stadium.

Consistently, Warwick hotels have recorded good occupancy and average daily rates. Adamo attributes that to rates and to the fact that Warwick hotels welcome families with savings for groups participating in regional sporting events.

In the 12 months that ended in January, the occupancy rate of the city’s 18 hotels was 68.8% – growth of 4.3% year-over-year.

The average daily rate for the period was \$129, a 2.5% increase for the year. Revenue for the year was \$69.8 million, an increase of 5.3%.

“So, Warwick is pretty strong,” Adamo writes in an email.

“Our organization currently has 69 events on the books that are using at least one Warwick hotel between now and April of 2027, which is the furthest out we go for Warwick. This equals 18,264 total rooms. Lastly, these Warwick hotels are part of the 69 events that will be bringing in 180,940 attendees with a total direct spend of \$43.7 million.

Pro-housing group takes on RI’s shortage

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Seventy-eight percent of Rhode Islanders say their communities do not have enough homes that average people can afford, according to a recent poll by advocacy group Neighbors Welcome Rhode Island.

The organization held a press conference Tuesday to present survey results on housing policies and strategies to get more homes built.

The survey found Rhode Islanders support the policy changes that Neighbors Welcome RI has been advocating for, says the part-time organizer of the group, John Flaherty.

Neighbors Welcome RI is a grassroots network of neighbors calling for more home construction to remedy the state’s housing shortage. It is part of a national network known as Welcoming Neighbors Network (WNN).

Flaherty said Neighbors Welcome RI is focused on advocating for policies that will produce more homes of all types, and on establishing pro-housing organizations at the local level.

He points out that when housing developments are proposed in communities, reaction tends to come only from residents who are against them.

Neighbors Welcome RI supports mixed-use zoning, a way of encouraging commercial and residential uses together. According to Flaherty, on Thursday, a new bill requiring municipalities to designate a portion of commercial land to accommodate mixed uses will be heard.

"We support it because it is a common-sense way to allow for private investment in so many Main Street-type districts across the state that need investments and that local zoning doesn't allow for," Flaherty said.

Neighbor Welcome RI was launched two years ago by a group concerned about the housing crisis in their communities who came together to work on it, says Vice President Kristina Brown.

The organization has a volunteer board of four directors, including Brown. She says their focus is for Rhode Islanders to have access to housing across their lifespan.

She says the lack of housing for entire lifespans – from rental units to starter homes to homes for seniors – is because of the low vacancy rate and

Neighbors
Welcome!
Rhode Island



lack of supply in the state. According to Brown, the policies Neighbor Welcome RI focuses on support the construction of new housing and for commercial zones to accommodate housing.

“We just want to make sure that people who want to live here can live here or [who want to] stay in the state, can stay here,” Brown said.

Brown lives in Cranston and serves on the Cranston Housing Commission. She says the city is one of the areas that needs to be considering growth in housing.

Brown recalls looking for a new home. After being a tenant for a long time, she said, there weren’t a lot of choices.

It took her three years to find a house, and during that time she was putting bids in repeatedly – a symptom of the lack of supply, she says.

“People are bidding on the same houses, and bidding wars are causing the price of housing to increase,” Brown said. “Many households have to settle for a home that is more expensive and in worse condition.”

Brown speaks from experience. She bought her home, built in the 1920s, at a high price from an older couple who had raised their kids there and were now moving to Virginia to downsize. She realized the house had not been updated for some time.

“If we’re not building enough new housing to ease the supply-and-demand issue, the housing that exists, no matter how run-down it is, will continue to cost more, and cost more to maintain, which exacerbates the housing cost burden,” Brown said.

Brown says the housing stock that is really needed is something she calls the “missing middle,” which refers to having a diverse range of housing types, such as duplexes, single-family and rental units, providing options to increase housing diversity and afford-

ability. Brown says that, according to data from the Housing Works RI 2024 fact book, households need an annual income of \$143,000 to own even “affordable” houses in Cranston.

According to the same fact book, the median household income in Cranston in 2024 was about \$83,000.

It [is] estimated that Rhode Island needs to build about 24,000 units to get to a healthy vacancy rate in the housing stock,” Brown said. “That’s the goal, to be able to have people moving throughout their lifespan into appropriate types of housing.”

As Neighbors Welcome RI continues to advocate for housing across the state, it is always looking for new members. With a database of more than several hundred people engaged in the work they do, they are looking to hold their first membership meeting on Wednesday, March 26.

Flaherty says everyone is welcome and that the mission right now is to activate people to engage in their communities.

"There needs to be more voices advocating for the building of homes, because this is a problem that has been decades in the making," Flaherty said. And while we won't get out of it from the flip of a switch, I think the data shows that this has risen to a big problem for the average Rhode Islander. And we have to take that concern and put action behind it to address the problem."

The survey, conducted by YouGov Blue, surveyed 602 registered voters in the state between Feb. 21 and March 5, with a margin of error of +/- 4.8%. Neighbors Welcome RI says more than half of respondents (57%) identified housing costs as the most important issue facing the state today.

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by Gary Smith

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March 20, Family Event: Routines! Routines! Routines! will be hosted by the OneCranston Health Equity Zone on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pastore Center, 155 Gansett Ave. No registration required. For more info, contact Celia at cmhernandez@comcap.org or 401-649-0878.

March 26, Lunch & Learn: the OneCranston Health Equity Zone will host on Thursday at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at 311 Doric Avenue. Lunch will be provided. Bring a friend and receive a gift card. Virtual option available as well. For more info, contact Celia at cmhernandez@comcap.org or 401-649-0878.

March 27, TogetHER event for Women’s History Month, Garden City Center is celebrating Women’s History Month by spotlighting women-owned businesses and hosting the third annual TogetHER event at Legal Seafoods from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will be donated to the Sojourner House. You can find the tickets on Eventbrite named “TogetHER Women's Networking and Panel Event.”

March 27, Grandparents Focus Group will be hosted by the OneCranston Health Equity Zone on Thursday, at 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Arlington Elementary School, 155 Princess Ave. Dinner will be served. For more info, contact Celia at cmhernandez@comcap.org or 401-649-0878.

March 28, Emergency Preparedness 101: the state Department of Health will host a workshop at 10 a.m., on Friday to help you plan in case of an emergency. The workshop will be held at the Cranston Senior Center. You will also receive a

copy of “My Emergency Plan Workbook. Space is limited please call 401-780-6000 to register.

April 2, Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT): the URI Pharmacy Outreach Program will host a session Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Cranston Senior Center on the symptoms of DVT and prevention treatments and how it is diagnosed.

April 3, VFW Post #183 BINGO, Open to all. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$30 entry fee and cash prizes. Please email vfwpost-183bingo@gmail.com with any questions.

April 4, Elder Protection, the Rhode Island Legal Services will host a presentation Friday at 10 a.m., on the types and signs of abuse of adults 60 + and what you can do about it at the Cranston Senior Center. Call 401-780-6000 to register for this class.

April 12, Historic Hope Village will be presented by The Hope Historical Society on Saturday 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Rd. Exerts from RI PBS Special “Our Town” Scituate will be featured.

April 16, VFW Post #183 BINGO, Open to all. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$30 entry fee and cash prizes. Please email vfwpost-183bingo@gmail.com with any questions.

Applications open for Cranston Hall of Fame, if you would like to honor a Cranston Alum, please click fill out the application online on the cpsd.net website. Contact csoccio@cox.net for more information.

Wickford Art Festival

CranstonChatter

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

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

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 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p. m.; Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p. m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a. m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email to: info@HopeDementia.org. Follow us on Facebook @

HopeHealth.

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

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

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

Every Monday and Thursday – Cranston Senior En-

richment Center will be offering sessions to manage concerns about falls. Beginning March 24 and ending April 17, the sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. It will meet twice a week for four weeks. Upon successfully completion of the program each participant will receive a gift certificate. Space is limited. Call 401-780-6000.

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

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

Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RI AA Meeting will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac

Ave., from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

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

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

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass., the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, Massachusetts, second floor. For more information, call Sean

● CHATTER to page 6

Legal Notices

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE	International numbers available: https://zoom.us/j/uakZ2Mmug1	is more fully described for hearing March 27, 2025	Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING	Additional Hours Victualing License RB Donuts, Inc. d/b/a Honey Dew Donuts 1334 Park Ave. Mon-Sun 5am-6pm	GUERRERO LAZARO, ALEJANDRO A. ESTATE Petition for Administration; for hearing March 27, 2025	BOUCHARD, CHARLES RESIDENT WARD Andrew Hamil has qualified as Guardian of the Person Only
A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.. in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with 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 login information provided below as posted on the City’s website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State’s website at www.sos.ri.gov .	Kristen Haroian, Chair Safety Services & Licenses Committee	HJERPE, BRIDGET M. ESTATE Administrator’s First and Final Account; for hearing March 27, 2025	BUMP, RICHARD ESTATE Kenneth G. Cote has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
When: Apr 7, 2025 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee	Tracy A. Nelson, CMC City Clerk	LUIS TOJ, LUISA PAULINA MARIANA RESIDENT MINOR Petition for Minor Guardianship; for hearing March 27, 2025	CEPHAS, JOLOMONDEN D. RESIDENT MINOR Helena T. Horace has qualified as Guardian of the Person Only
	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.”	NEOU, ANGELINA RESIDENT WARD Petition for Guardianship; for hearing March 27, 2025	DORVILIER, JOSHUA J.S. RESIDENT WARD Josue Dorvilier and Dieula G. Dorvilier have qualified as Co-Guardians of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
	3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25	PIZZO, ANGELO ESTATE Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing March 27, 2025	FAZZI, LYNNE E. ESTATE Peter S. Allen has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
	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 10 A.M. for hearing said matters Cranston City Hall 869 Park Ave, Cranston, RI 02910 3rd Floor, Council Chambers	PIZZO, ANN J. ESTATE Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing March 27, 2025	GAUVIN, DANIEL JOSEPH ESTATE Daniel Martin Gauvin has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
	CROWSHAW, JAMES T. ESTATE Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 89 Sheldon St., Cranston, RI; for purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property	SMYTH, MICHAEL RESIDENT WARD Petition for Guardianship; for hearing March 27, 2025	GRAY, JAMES J. ESTATE Lisa Ann Gray and Lori Ellen Laury have qualified as Co-Executrices; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
		TOBIAS, DEBORAH J. ESTATE Petition for Administration; for hearing March 27, 2025	HIGHAM, MARY ELIZABETH ESTATE Melissa H. Polanco has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025
		AU, NHU Q. ESTATE Niki Tu has qualified as	MCGLOIN, ROBERT ESTATE Kthleen G. Dimuro, Esq. and Msgr. Jeremiah J. McCarthy PhD have qualified as Co-Executors; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning March 13, 2025

City of Cranston Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Public Comment 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The City of Cranston is convening a public hearing to review the draft 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and One-Year Annual Action Plan for the Program Year 2025. The City of Cranston is expecting to receive approximately \$5 million over the 2025-2029 Plan period, approximately \$1 million annually. The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan are required documents by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These documents assist the city in identifying how it will invest CDBG funds in housing, homelessness services, economic development, public infrastructure, and community programs between July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2029.

The primary purpose of these funds is to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Through the allocation of these funds, the City of Cranston plans to support viable urban communities by meeting the following objectives: (1) provide safe and decent affordable housing; (2) create and maintain a suitable living environment; and (3) expand economic opportunities.

The City of Cranston is making available a draft of its 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for public review and comment during a 30-day public comment period from April 1, 2025, to May 3, 2025. These documents will be available for review starting on April 1, 2025 online at <https://www.cranstonri.gov/departments/community-development/>. Additionally, a copy of each will be available for review at the Department of Community Development, 35 Sockanosset Cross Road, Unit #6, Cranston, Rhode Island 02910 between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm.

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 6:00pm to provide an opportunity for the public to offer comments on the 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The meeting will be held at the Cranston Senior Center, 1070 Cranston St., Cranston, RI 02910.

Residents of Cranston and all interested parties are urged to participate in this meeting. Written comments are also encouraged, and may be addressed, on or before May 3, 2025, to: Ernest Tommasiello
Director of Community Development
City of Cranston
35 Sockanosset Cross Road, Unit #6
Cranston, RI 02920
etommasiello@cranstonri.org

The City of Cranston will consider all comments received, revise the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan as appropriate, formally adopt each as official City documents, and post the final versions on its website. The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan will be submittal to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in May 2025.



CITY OF CRANSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING “South Auburn-Replat Record Plat Lot Nos. 235-238” Minor Subdivision with Zoning Relief Unified Development Review

The Cranston City Plan Commission will meet to review the Preliminary Plan for a proposed Minor Subdivision – Preliminary Plan entitled “**South Auburn-Replat Record Plat Lot Nos. 235-238**”. This public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**, in the Main Auditorium of Cranston High School East, 899 Park Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island. All are invited to attend this public hearing at which time plans will be presented for public comment and City Plan Commission consideration.

Zoom webinar information for remote participation:
<https://zoom.us/j/98893795256?pwd=gJ8tT6aJwTEKIJx26TKrJinknNNMm2.1>
Passcode: 735678
Or One tap mobile: +16465588656,98893795256#
US (New York)

Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 988 9379 5256
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/ac3v4pFcJt>

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>

In accordance with the provisions of RIGL § 45-23-50.1 and §45-24-46.4 (Unified Development Plan Review), the City Plan Commission will consider and vote upon any requested zoning relief in lieu of the Zoning Bord of Review for subdivisions and land development projects. The Proposal requires relief from provisions of the Zoning Ordinance including Chapter 17.20.120 – Schedule of Intensity Regulation relating to minimum lot size and width requirements for street frontage.

The subject parcel is located at 14 Dale Avenue designated as Lot No. 1375 on Assessor’s Plat No. 5. The owner is Amir Kattan and the applicant is Robert Moll. The existing four (4) record lots (3) contain 9,500 square feet. The proposal is to create two lots of 4,750 +/-square feet. The parcel is zoned A-6 Residential. The project will be serviced by public water and sewer. The proposed minor land development project is a use allowed by-right within the Cranston Zoning Code, subject to the zoning relief sought and is consistent with the goals and policies of the Cranston Comprehensive Plan.

A copy of the Site Plan is included in this notice. 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 780-3136 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 780-3136, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting date.

Steven Frias President
Beth E. Ashman, MCP, AICP
Acting Planning Director
3/20/25

Gov. Dan McKee celebrates as a student correctly answers a trivia question about the number of cities and towns in Rhode Island. *Beacon Media photos by Adam Zangari*



Gov. Dan McKee and illustrator Margaret Price compliment third-grader Nicholas Carmona on his coloring.

Governor, first lady bring anti-litter campaign to school

By ADAM ZANGARI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Governor Dan McKee and First Lady Susan McKee arrived at Park Elementary School on Friday to a crowd of excited second- and third-graders ready to learn about eradicating litter.

The two read the brand-new Litter-Free Rhode Island Coloring Book, which was created to help teach children about why it is important to keep their communities clean.

The visit was part of the McKees’ Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign, launched in 2022.

Helping keep communities clean, Susan McKee said, is a big source of civic pride, and something that everyone, no matter what age, can be part of.

“We know that we live in a beautiful state, don’t we?” the first lady told the students. “Rhode Island is a beautiful state. It has beautiful beaches, parks and neighborhoods, and we want Rhode Island to be the most beautiful, the cleanest, the healthiest state in the whole country. We know that we can do that if we all work together.”

The book’s author, Jordan Brazeau, attended Park and graduated from Pilgrim High School as its class president last year. He and the book’s illustrator, Margaret Price, had been working on the book as part of the Litter Free RI campaign after they pitched to the McKees the idea of a coloring book to get young people engaged in the Litter-Free Rhode Island campaign.

Park principal Dan Sylvestre said Brazeau’s work with the governor and first lady showed current students that they could go on to do great things. Brazeau said that he hoped he could at least inspire students and their families to be active in

keeping their communities clean.

“This was designed to inspire young people like all of you – and me, I’m still young too,” Brazeau said, “to think about the impact of litter and take action in their own communities, which is key to maintaining a healthy and sustainable community. Each page tells a story of young leaders in Rhode Island taking initiative.”

Price, who is studying political science and global studies at Providence College, said illustrating the book showed her how her different passions could intersect.

“Working on this coloring book reflected for me how politics, art and education can come together to protect our beautiful lands and waters,” Price said. “Participating in cleanups, learning about recycling and becoming more conscious about our intertwined relationships with the Earth starts with kids like you, so it’s important for all of us to get involved in caring for our state.”

The coloring pages within the book follow a plot line of Jordan and his friends cleaning litter from a beach, with the shore cleaned up by the final pages.

The book also ended with some trivia questions about Rhode Island, which the governor asked the crowd after he was done reading.

The governor also gave Sylvestre a certificate of recognition on behalf of the whole school for their work helping in the Litter-Free Rhode Island program.

“You kids play such an important role in this,” Dan McKee said. “You’re going to be a big, big help and make our state really shine.”

After reading to the second- and third-graders, the governor and first lady visited classrooms, helping kids color and signing their coloring books.

Meet Sergeant Pickles

Sergeant Pickles is a young guy ready to knock your socks off with his hilarious, playful style. He’s never met a stuffie he doesn’t like and must find that squeaker no matter the cost! He is athletic, friendly, funny, smart and affectionate. Sergeant Pickles is looking for a family that’s ready for adventure. He is house-trained and great with other dogs! He has a gorgeous chocolate/black “Hershey kiss” short coat of fur. Call us to schedule a meet and greet or stop by during our open hours!

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Awareness Code: 23705 • Expires: April 13, 2025 • Valid only at: Sharon Costco and Costco.com

● CHATTER from page 4

DaCosta at (508) 840-6621. All are welcome!

First Wednesday of every month, The Caregiver’s Support Group will hold its meetings at 2 p.m. at the Cranston Senior Center. It will encourage caregivers to care for themselves and provide productive strategies. The next meeting is on Wednesday April 2. For more information call Jennifer at 401-780-6254.

Every Wednesday and Friday – Cranston Senior Enrichment Center will be offering a balancing and strengthening exercise class called Tai Ji Quan Moving for Better Balance

(TJQMBB). It will begin March 12 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and end Aug. 29. It is free. Prescreening is required. For more information call Amy at 401-780-6200.

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

Every Thursday, BINGO, the Cranston Senior Center will host bingo every

Thursday from 1 p.m. to 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 & Line Dancing Lessons. For more information call 780-6000.

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston and Warwick Public Libraries: Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference

Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston, Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Stop by for a free gun lock and literature on how to securely store weapons. Doing so will save lives and make our communities safer. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. "This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library."

Oaklawn Grange Used Clothing Donation Shed in need of used clothing items at the Oaklawn Grange Donation Shed, 24 Searle Ave., Cranston. Accepted items only: Used Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Belts, Purses, Linens, Pillowcases, Blankets, Curtains, and Stuffed

Animals. All items must be in useable condition. Your donations will be distributed as whole garments locally and worldwide. Contact oaklawngrangeinfo@gmail.com for more information.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups; the RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 1.5 hours, and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at

namirhodeisland.org. or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

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



Briarcliffe Gardens Memory Care Assisted Living Residence on Old Pocasset Road in Johnston provides compassionate care and research-backed services to those with Alzheimer’s Disease, dementia and other memory-loss conditions.

Briarcliffe Gardens

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By JENNIFER COATES

In his novel entitled It’s About Time, author Richard Ratcliff penned these poignant words: “I am learning daily to be the reluctant guardian of your memories. There was once light in those eyes; I miss that.” There are many family members and caregivers who share these same sentiments when talking about the ones they love who are suffering from memory loss.

Memory loss, whether the result of aging, dementia, Alzheimer’s Disease or other causes, can alter the course of our

life’s journey. As painful as it is to admit, there often comes a time when those who suffer from memory loss can no longer live independently or, in many cases, remain at home with family or other caregivers. Safety becomes a deep concern, but so does the sustainability of a situation which can be stressful and even debilitating for long-term caregivers.

It is times like these when the support and resources of a memory care assisted-living residence such as Briarcliffe Gardens become so important. This established, state-of-the-art residence, situated on a private, 30-acre campus in Johnston, provides a comprehensive and compassionate home where memory-loss residents can still live fulfilling, vibrant and active lives.

Thought has been put into every feature of this memory-care residence. When the plans were being drafted for Briarcliffe Gardens, director and owner Akshay Talwar, along with his team, poured over every detail. Each design decision was based on thorough research conducted by evaluating other memory care programs around the country. Talwar felt he could improve upon what was previously available to people in need of these services and broke the mold in the design of Briarcliffe Gardens.

Every detail was carefully calculated, from the lofty ceilings and skylights of their common rooms that let in natural light to

the variety of therapeutic programs (pet therapy, Tai Chi and yoga, to name a few) to the caliber and training of its professional staff. All are intended to enhance the quality of life and the safety of the residents of this homey center.

Some of the many other features of Briarcliffe Gardens include:

- Sunny & cheerful common spaces for entertainment, crafts and socialization
- A combination of private rooms and single rooms with shared entry space & bathroom, unfurnished or furnished suites available
- Freshly prepared meals and nutritional counseling as needed by a registered dietician
- Coordination of care including rehabilitation, lab services and x-ray services

There are many other memory-care facilities in the state, but few have the record and reputation of Briarcliffe Gardens.

Schedule your personal tour of Briarcliffe Gardens, located on Old Pocasset Road in Johnston, by contacting them at 401-944-2450. For more information, you can also visit them at www.briarclifferi.com or their Facebook page, Briarcliffe Gardens Assisted Living.



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Irish Spirit Shines at Rhodes

The annual St. Patrick's Day celebration benefiting St. Michael's Social Ministries for the Poor took place at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston on Monday with hundreds of attendees. Organized by St. Michael the Archangel Church in Providence, the event featured the Rhode Island Professional Firefighters Pipe and Drums, members of the Kelly school of Irish Dance, lively Irish bands, dancing, children's activities like arts, crafts and facepainting, raffles, and traditional food. Kathy Harrington, event chair, said proceeds help provide much needed assistance for those in need, while sharing in a fun and festive atmosphere that highlights the church's mission of compassion and support for struggling families. Beacon Media photos by Tim Forsberg



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Sun. May 4- Noon
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Sat. May 17
St. Mary's Feast

Sat. June 7
ISLANDER
Warwick

Reservations, info @ agingdisgracefully.net

Joe Gardner, a baker at DeLuise Bakery in Cranston says each puffy pastry is made by hand. Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti

● ZEPPOLE from page 1

with their rich fillings and ringed with generous amounts of whipped cream.

Even the dough is rich. It is typically an egg dough called pâte à choux, and is the same dough used for cream puffs and eclairs. It is a soft dough that is spooned into pastry bags and piped onto baking sheets with crimped tips to give the zepole its characteristic frilly look.

At DeLuise Bakery on Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston, baker Joe Gardner says zepole are not the most difficult pastry to make but require “a process” and are certainly labor intensive. Most Italian bakeries in Rhode Island proudly point out that each zepole is made by hand – from piping out the dough to filling and topping them.

Gardner noted that while frying the pastry is the traditional way to cook a zepole shell, most are now baked, creating a slightly healthier version – if the word healthy can be applied to such a bodacious pastry.

He said that customers want them pretty much all year long, although the special filling flavors, such as Bailey's Irish cream, are only available during prime zepole season.

At Antonio's Bakery on West Shore Road in Warwick, trays and trays of zepole bursting with a variety of fillings lined the glass display cases.

“Thousands, we sell thousands a day at this time of year, said manager Shannon Monahan, as customers were ordering

them by the boxful. Antonio's has many of the varieties that other bakeries have but are also proud of their strawberries and cream zepole creation.

If you like zepole history, which is mostly anecdotal, the origin of the pastry is humble. Some accounts say it started out as a friend pancake-like creation, ostensibly because St. Joseph at one time sold pancakes to help support his family. Others say that its original form was nothing like its current, ruffled incarnation. It was supposedly simple balls of fried dough dusted with powdered sugar and cinnamon.

Some accounts say that the simpler-shaped zepole of ancient times were meant to signify the carpentry tools of St. Joseph and the crumbs symbolized saw dust. One of the few facts that many – but not all – accounts agree upon is that while the earliest forms of zepole may date back thousands of years, they began to become popular in the 1800's when Neapolitan baker Pasquale Pinaturo began selling them in the streets every March 19.

The zepole's current popularity is apparently at its peak in southern Italy, Rhode Island, Boston and parts of other East Coast cities where there are sizeable populations of Italian Americans.

As fascinating as the history may be, sleep is more on the minds of area bakers who are surrounded by zepole and lines of people who want to buy them.

“I've seen enough this year,” said Gini Nani at DeLuise with a laugh. “I don't need to see any more for a while.”

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United Way Increasing Nonprofit, Family Support Amid Federal Uncertainty

New Safety Net Grants Will be Made Available

As uncertainty surrounding federal funding and shifting federal policies grows, threatening the stability of nonprofits and the critical services they provide to hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders, United Way of R.I. is doubling-down on its support of local families and organizations.

“United Is The Way” will support efforts to provide needed resources to Rhode Islanders and to the community-based organizations serving them through this unpredictable time, focusing on three main areas. United Way will expand supports for nonprofits through the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact, expand services for residents through 211 and community outreach, and expand grantmaking to local nonprofits that provide vital support to their communities..

“It’s been dizzying to try and keep up with the barrage of funding and policy shifts coming out of Washington, but one thing is certain – what’s being targeted would be devastating to nonprofits and to our families, friends, and neighbors,” said Cortney Nicolato, United Way’s president and CEO. “The current climate and what’s at risk requires that we be swift and decisive in our actions, and that’s what we’re doing. You cannot have strong families and strong communities without also having strong nonprofits.”

The launch of “United Is The Way” includes expanded services by the Alliance for Non-profit Impact. Through its partnerships the Alliance will facilitate and fund legal supports to help organizations navigate the new regulatory environment, and will provide technical assistance to prepare nonprofits for increased federal scrutiny. The Alliance also will equip nonprofits with the resources, tools, and training to help them continue and sustain their vital work.

Among the resources the Alliance will be offering are expanded access to professional experts in the areas of fund development and revenue generation, strategic planning, and financial management. The Alliance also will offer additional support for collaboration and innovation, discounted certification programs, and will be advocating for funding protections at the state level.

United Way is also moving to strengthen its 211 services. In anticipation of increased need among Rhode Islanders, the organization plans to add staff to accommodate an expected increase in call volume and referrals, and to expand its direct community outreach.

The United Way Board of Directors voted to allocate organizational funds to seed “United Is The Way” and its new grants, which will soon be made available via a request for proposal (RFP) process and awarded on a rolling basis. To expedite its investments in the community, United Way will be accelerating payments to its grant partners, providing them added flexibility to meet their immediate needs and those of their community.

“This is a broad-based mobilization strategy to defend our community infrastructure from federal disruptions and do so with the heightened sense of urgency this moment demands,” said Nicolato. “We need to ensure the preservation of vital services and empower the nonprofits that deliver them. This is not a time to sit idly-by. It’s time for the caring power of the community to shine through.”

Bay View announces second quarter honors

St. Mary Academy-Bay View principal Dr. Marcela Rossi is proud to announce that 173 students made the honor roll for the second quarter. This academic distinction recognizes the dedication of students in grades 6 through 12 who demonstrate exceptional performance in their studies.

Students who earn all As for the quarter grading period receive the distinction of highest honors. Students who achieve As and Bs for the quarter grading period are recognized with “honors.”

St Mary Academy-Bay View is proud of the academic excellence these young wom-

en have achieved.

Cranston

Highest Honors: Charlotte Mancini, Grade 6; Honors: Abigail Matrullo, Grade 6, Addison (Addie) Haller, Grade 6, Adriana Pina, Grade 6, Amelia Saltzman, Grade 7, Cailey Zarcaro, Grade 12, Ella Izzo, Grade 10, Hayleigh Ranney, Grade 6, Ilsa (Hope) Carlson, Grade 8, Ireland McKenna, Grade 10, Mirna Mateo Ayala, Grade 10, Theodora Canty, Grade 8

Hope

Highest Honors: Ella Desrosiers, Grade 9; Honors: Ryan Miller, Grade 10

Airport Corporation receives credit rating upgrade

Fitch Ratings upgraded the rating on approximately \$54 million of outstanding airport revenue bonds issued by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation from A- to A, with a rating outlook of ‘stable’.

In announcing the upgrade, Fitch cited several positive factors, including Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport’s (PVD) robust financial position, highlighted by reduced leverage, strong coverage levels, and strong cash balanc-

es. The agency also noted that passenger levels have increased, with new airline services underway to boost enplanement growth and volumes.

“We are thankful for Fitch Ratings’ continued confirmation of our strong financial stability and growth,” said Iftikhar Ahmad, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation said in a statement. “RIAC’s ‘A’ credit rating truly reflects the commitment of all who have worked so hard to help

us become one of the best airports in the world and help boost our state’s aviation-related economy.”

The recent credit upgrade marks the fourth time RIAC has received a revenue bond upgrade in two years. In December 2023, Fitch Ratings upgraded RIAC’s bond rating to ‘A-’ from ‘BBB+.’ Earlier in 2023, S&P Global upgraded RIAC’s long-term and special facility bond ratings to ‘A,’ according to the RIAC release.

Union president fired from airport job calls new pact ‘good’

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Warwick Beacon Editor

One hundred and four airport employees, members of Local 2873 of RI Council 94 AFSCME, have a three year contract following a tumultus eight months during which all but one union member rejected a contract giving them 3% raises for each of the next three years, took a vote of no confidence in Rhode Island Airport Corporation president and CEO Iftikhar Ahmad and saw their union president, Steve Parent, lose his job.

“I think it is a good package,” Parent said Wednesday afternoon. “There are no changes to health care costs, and it should help with new hires.”

Under the agreement, Parent said, union employees will receive a 5% raise retroactive to last July for the first year followed by a 4% raise as of this July and 3% in the third and final year. Members also will receive a \$500 signing bonus under the agreement which was approved in executive session by the RIAC board on March 13.

Language changes that the union claimed would have given management the power to change job descriptions without workers being able to file grievances was the major stumbling block in the earlier contract offer. At that time, Parent said, “there is not a lot of trust in RIAC,” and that Ahmad would like to order anyone at any given time.”

As it turned out, Ahmad didn’t care for Parent’s performance.

Soon after Parent was reelected union president on Oct. 17, 2024, RIAC initiated the process to have him fired as lieutenant in the airport fire department, where he had worked since 2019. RIAC said he “knowingly and willfully engaged in efforts to sabotage airport operations” by discouraging applicants from working at the airport. Parent contested his firing, which has not yet gone to arbitration. Meanwhile, he is collecting unemployment compensation.

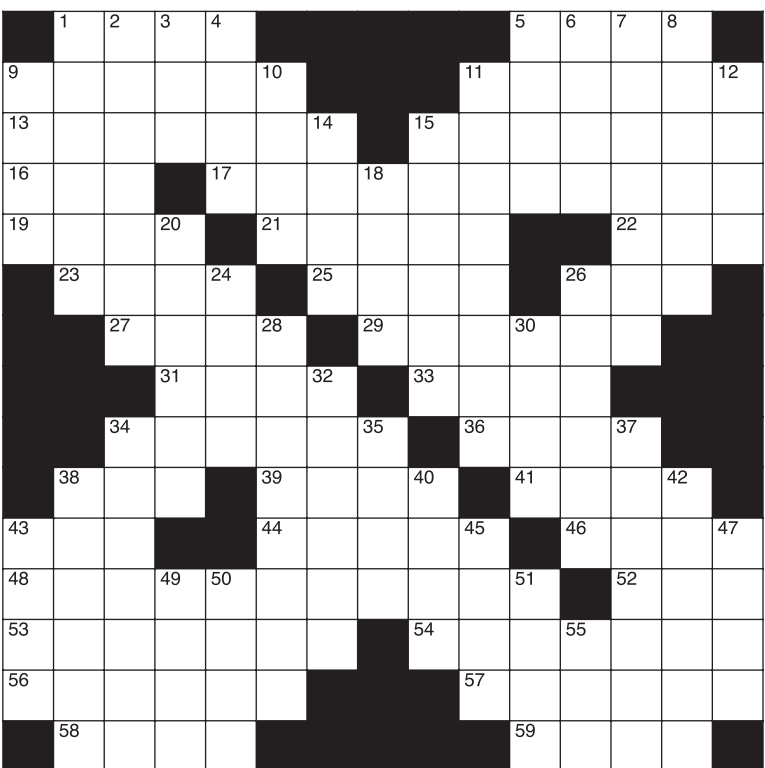
In a call Friday, Parent said the union considered making his return to work part of the package, but at his urging it was not included because he didn’t want the appearance of the deal hanging on that.

Parent said he is confident of winning his case on the merits, because “what they allege never took place.”

In a statement released Thursday, Michael McDonald, President of Council 94, said “Council 94 hopes that the new spirit of collaboration between management and the union continues. We also hope that RIAC management will swiftly reinstate President Steve Parent’s employment.”

Iftikhar Ahmad, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation had this to say in a release: "We are pleased this matter has been finalized and has resulted in a positive outcome for all parties. Both the union and management agreed to enter into mediation last month, which proved to be a highly successful vehicle for resolving our differences.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Take heed
5. One's superior
9. Prepped meat
11. Tighten anew
13. Type of textile fiber
15. Animalistic
16. When you hope to get somewhere
17. Offender
19. Former NYC mayor Ed
21. Type of cryptocurrency
22. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
23. Herring-like fish
25. Popular PBS program
26. Congressman (abbr.)
27. Flightless Australian birds
29. Defrosted
31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin
33. Nasal mucus
34. Some are southern
36. A place to construct
38. Popular beer brand
39. Shouts of farewell

CLUES DOWN

1. Pages
2. Head pain
3. A loud utterance
4. Large brown seaweed
5. Hulu's chef Carmine
6. Greek mountain
7. Made final
8. Bar
9. Tai subgroup

10. What you eat
11. Teaches again
12. Small constellation
14. Type of berry
15. Cows fattened for meat
18. A way to hoof it
20. Exaggerated a role
24. About two
26. Long upholstered seat
28. What employees earn
30. Fiber from a coconut husk
32. Digits
34. Polish by rubbing
35. Liquid body substances
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Edible part of a chicken
40. Satisfy
42. Tool used to remove
43. Icelandic poems
45. Swiss village
47. Drunks
49. Evergreen plant genus
50. Light precipitation
51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
55. An informal debt instrument

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Will local tourism take a hit?

We’re not breaking news to say that there are millions of reasons to visit Rhode Island, and New England in general. People flock here throughout the year, every year, because of our history, our top-notch beaches and protected natural resources, our amazing restaurants, and to watch our world-class professional and collegiate athletic programs.

As we cover in this week’s paper, there are some enormous events looming on the horizon that signal big bucks and big opportunities for our local hospitality industry. Even though it will mainly be held in Foxboro, the potential ancillary benefits that Rhode Island could experience from New England-based FIFA World Cup Round 32 matches is tantalizing, to say the least, for our local hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues. World-class events like this provide crucial tax revenue to our coffers and keep our cities and towns financially healthy and on the map.

Tourism remains one of Rhode Island’s most important industries, supporting over 86,000 jobs and bringing more than 28 million visitors in 2023. Those visitors and those jobs generated close to a billion dollars in state and local tax revenue.

In other words, keeping Rhode Island (and the country itself) a desirable place to travel is simply paramount to our continuing success.

And this is why we will be keeping a close eye on tourism numbers throughout the coming months and years.

As economic volatility continues to surge – with the price of groceries and the cost of living seeing no relief – and some early signs already being reported that people elsewhere are opting not to take vacations to the United States amidst the bombastic rhetoric of the Trump administration, we find it concerning and worthy of more analysis as we move forward.

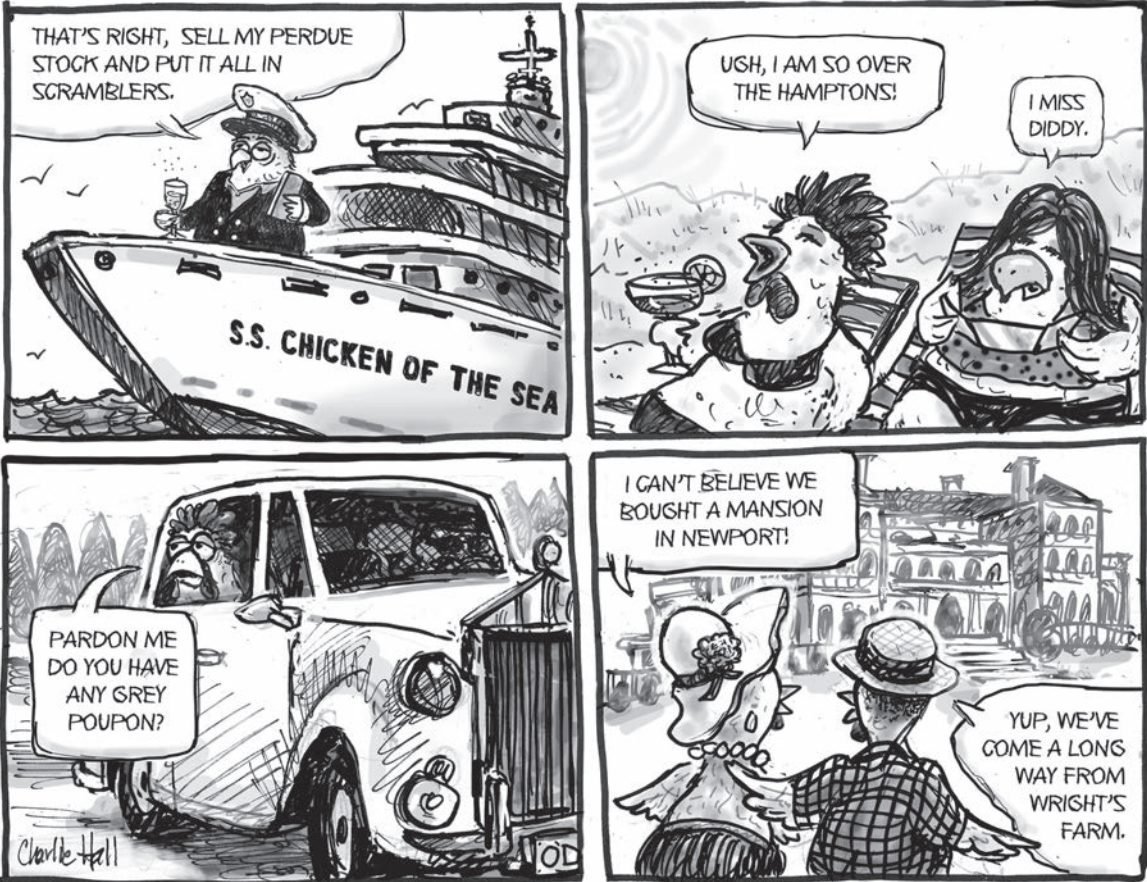
A lot of people are hurting financially. The retired couple from Kansas that was pondering taking a flight into Green to check out their Jayhawks as part of March Madness might be clutching their wallets a little tighter this year, and for years to come. The family from Canada or Mexico who were interested in checking out Newport for their annual seaside vacation might think twice considering the political climate of the moment.

These are not unreasonable concerns in modern times. Canadians have been urged by their former prime minister to not visit the United States, and travel to the U.S. from other countries is down over 2% from last year’s February numbers.

And while that might seem minuscule, at a time when declining revenue sources and the increasing cost of just about everything from health-insurance premiums to goods and services has put significant and constant burden on municipal budget cycles, even a slight percentage loss to our tourism industry could spell fiscal disaster for the state and for residents who foot the bill through necessary tax increases to make up for it.

Rhode Island must remain a welcoming place to all who wish to visit. That much, at least, remains within our control.

THE HIGH PRICE OF EGGS HAS CREATED A NEW MILLIONAIRE CLASS IN AMERICA...



GUEST OPINION

Moving Beyond the Mass Exodus Tax Flight Myth

The greatest obstacle to policymakers enacting a modest personal income surtax on Rhode Island’s highest earners, those in the top one percent, is the fear that any such measure will trigger their mass exodus and harm the economy. Well, as the recent policy brief published by my organization, the Economic Progress Institute, makes clear, policymakers on Smith Hill can let go of this fear, because there has simply never been in any state such a mass exodus in reaction to tax policy.

The data show that annual interstate migration rates never exceed the low single digits, regardless of top tax rates and changes in those rates. The data show that migration patterns are similar across New England, despite differences in rates and approaches to taxation.

Most people move for job and family reasons, and there is no good evidence showing that anyone, even the highest earners, are moving only or primarily over tax rates. Indeed, across the country, the highest earners, including millionaires, are less likely to move than those with the lowest incomes. Those with high incomes, especially those with businesses, tend to be very grounded in their professional, business, and social networks, and so are less likely to uproot themselves and their families over changes in top marginal tax rates.

When people do move from state to state, many move from higher-tax states to other higher-tax states. And while it is true there is movement, especially among retirees, to warmer states in the south, many people make the reverse trip, offsetting some of the population loss. For the last six years, tax filers with income of \$200,000 and above have moved into Rhode Island at a higher rate than they’ve moved out.

People warned that the Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment establishing a four percent surtax on income above \$1 million would drive people away, and some Rhode Island politicians looked forward to welcoming all

the millionaires who would flee across the border to the Ocean State. Yet, there is no evidence of such movement, let alone a mass exodus. Indeed, the early predictions of new revenue from the tax have proven to be significantly underestimated, with well over \$2 billion each year in new revenue helping to pay for education, public transit improvements, and free breakfast and school lunches for all students.

Currently, the top one percent of filers pay less of their income in total state and local taxes (8.6 percent) than the 20 percent with the lowest incomes (13.3 percent). Enacting a three percent tax on taxable income above the top one percent cut-off of approximately \$625,000 per year (as proposed in House Bill 5473 and Senate Bill 0329) would both make our state tax system more balanced and generate an estimated \$190 million. The legislation would have no effect on tax filers whose taxable income is \$625,000 or less. This new revenue could protect Rhode Islanders from the harm of likely federal cuts in state funding and help pay for critical services that make Rhode Island a wonderful place to raise families and do business.

Whether you are a legislator or concerned citizen, if you see the benefits of such a proposal but remain hesitant over the fear that lots of high-income Rhode Islanders will flee the state, I am here to tell you that you can let go of this fear and support the proposal. If you are a concerned citizen who wishes Rhode Island were a fairer and more equitable state, call or email your state legislators and tell them you support this legislation. I am not claiming absolutely no one will leave the state, but the data are clear that mass tax flight is a myth. It has never happened in any other state and will not happen here.

Alan Krinsky, Ph.D., is the Director of Research and Fiscal Policy for the Economic Progress Institute.

LETTERS

We’re not ready for a bird-flu pandemic

To the Editor,

The clock is ticking for Rhode Island. In February, the FDA cancelled its annual meeting to pick which flu strains should go into next winter’s flu shot.

The virus changes every year, so shots need updating, and vaccine manufacturers need six months to get them ready for the fall. As a result, we may not have a shot for the next flu season.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is also thinking about cancelling its contract with Moderna to develop a bird-flu vaccine, and considering RFK Jr.’s hostility toward proven science, cancellation seems likely.

We already have bird-flu vaccines — Canada bought 500,000 doses of GSK’s vaccine — but how we get shots for Rhode Island is unclear.

Bird flu is creeping up on us. It’s begun infecting humans here and there, and it kills 50% of the people who catch it. Being prepared with a vaccine is important.

So, with plan A — waiting for the federal government to act — falling apart, what would a plan B look like? Can the Rhode Island Department of Health work on getting us vaccines? It would be an unprecedented thing to ask for.

Or could we have a regional response with all six New England states and New York state working together? It’s still unprecedented, but sharing the work could make it more possible.

Our state officials are reeling from the chaos caused by federal agencies abruptly reversing course, and limiting the damage will require solutions that are innovative and new.

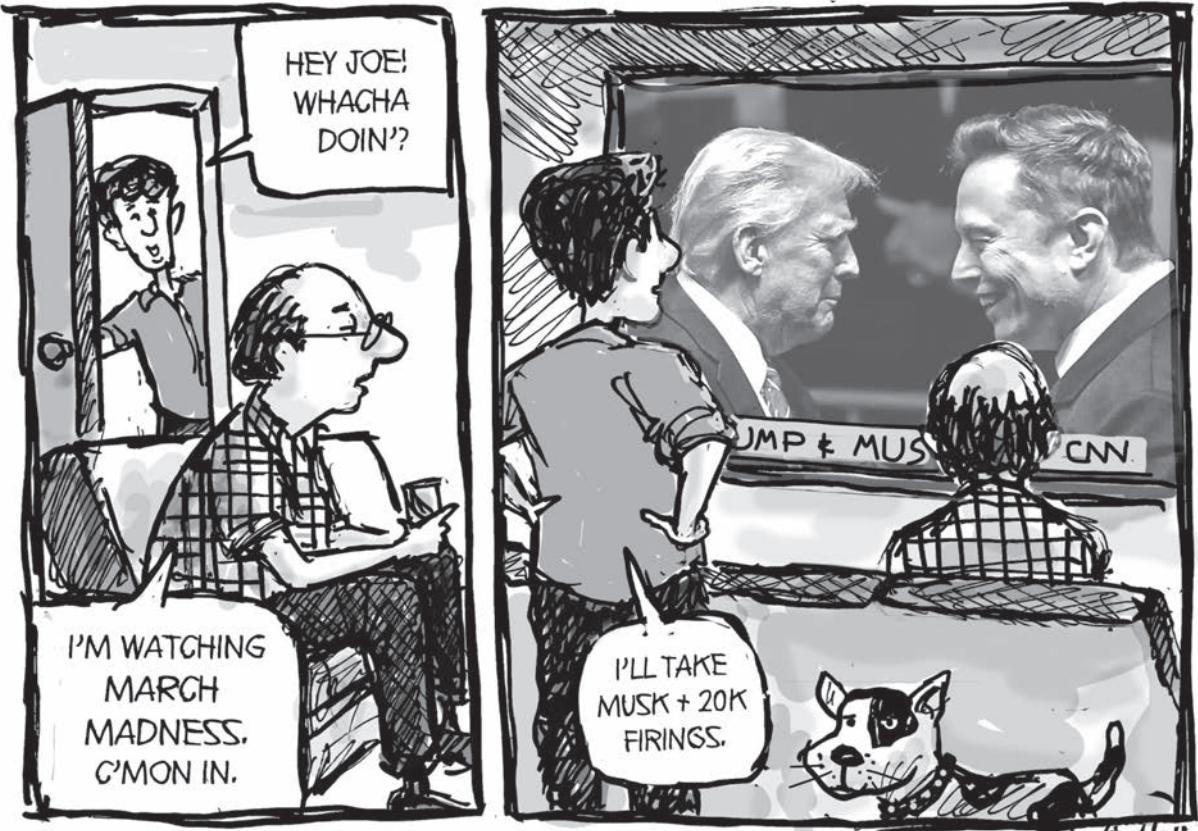
Everything needs to be done at once, but some things need to be started first. A flu pandemic has the potential to cause unimaginable mayhem and harm, and a plan to contain it needs to be near the top of the list of things to do.

**Wil Gregersen
Providence**

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.

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Students urge ‘proactive action’ on wildfires

Over three months, 10,000 California homes were lost. Wildfires are no longer a crisis in Los Angeles, but they are a growing threat in Rhode Island and beyond. With increasingly dry conditions, wildfires are not only spreading farther but also affecting air quality everywhere. Fires in the Carolinas as recently as March 2, 2025, show that this danger is putting more communities at risk. Many communities currently facing these risks are not aware.

Our team recognizes that we must act now by supporting wildfire relief and prevention efforts that make a real difference. We have been fundraising for Community Organized Relief Effort. CORE partners with local communities to ensure the aid they receive matches the community's

needs, including providing immediate aid and investing in long-term solutions. We know this is not a challenge we can face alone. We must all come together.

Our campaign began as a community service project for SkillsUSA, a career and technical student organization that connects students with industry to develop workforce skills. This competition initiated our efforts to give back, but we began to recognize that there is so much more we can do. As environmental engineering students, we recognize the risks we take when we don't take proactive action towards urgent societal needs.

Learning about the homes lost and lives devastated in LA, and the broader causes of wildfires, we were led to a clear realiza-

tion: In a community, when one member suffers, everyone is affected.

What started as concern has become much more personal, making the need for action urgent. Our campaign is now driven by the hope that we can educate and inspire Rhode Island to take precautions, raise awareness and support efforts to safeguard our environment and homes. Everyone must come together to contribute to stronger, lasting action.

Wildfires threaten more than just forests. They endanger homes, air quality and entire communities. Our mission has driven us to create a petition to Rhode Island's legislature. To spark action and amplify our message, we urge Rhode Island to lead by example. Together we can show how

communities can unite to prevent greater devastation and protect the places we call home before it's too late.

Wildfires affect us all. The time to prepare and protect is now. Please sign our petition. www.daviestech.org/wildfires

11th Grade Pre-Engineering Technology Students
Davies Career and Technical High School Lincoln

SkillsUSA: CVC Wildfire Guard
Audrey Rolfe, Lincoln
Lissalin Guzman, Pawtucket
Zyere Blake, Pawtucket

Nonprofits gear up for 401Gives on April 1

There's still time for organizations to register and be a part of the state's largest philanthropic effort in support of local nonprofits

401Gives, Rhode Island's single largest philanthropic effort to lift up and support the vital work of local nonprofits, is just around the corner on Tuesday, April 1. Hundreds of nonprofits across the Ocean State will participate, including more than 20 from Cranston and Warwick that will be raising funds.

There is still time for organizations to sign up and be a part of the day. Nonprofits can register through March 21 by visiting 401Gives.org.

Last year's 401Gives raised a record \$3.86 million for 597 organizations, inspiring nearly 25,000 gifts. In 2025, and as federal funding uncertainties jeopardize critical programs and services that tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders of all ages depend on, 401Gives is more important than ever.

“There is nothing more powerful than Rhode Islanders

helping Rhode Islanders, and right now, the nonprofits who are always there for us, need us to be there for them,” said Cortney Nicolato, United Way's president and CEO. “Cuts to funding leave seniors without specialized care and meals, children without access to Head Start, people without shelter, and unanswered calls to domestic violence hotlines, among many other services. This would be devastating to our communities.”

A sampling of the Cranston- and Warwick-based organizations gearing up for 401Gives includes: Project Undercover, RI Civic Chorale & Orchestra, · Hope Alzheimer's



Center, Cozy Rhody Litter Clean-Up, Rhode Island Parrot Rescue, Children's Wishes, Saint Elizabeth Home, Rhode Island Feline Rescue, Warwick Center for the Arts, Nora's Heaven, West Bay Chorale, Rhode Island Pet Network, Justice Assistance, Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, Junior Achievement of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Children's Dyslexia Center

A unified day of giving that makes it easy both for nonprofits to participate and for individuals to make donations to them, 401Gives utilizes an online fundraising platform and harnesses the power of social media and peer-to-peer outreach.

To learn more about 401Gives or if there are questions, contact Caitlynn Douglas at (401) 444-0720, or email 401Gives@unitedwayri.org.



Gov. Dan McKee speaks at a University of Rhode Island event celebrating the university's reaching Carnegie R1 status. Seated, from left are: Brenton DeBoef, dean of the URI Graduate School; Bethany Jenkins, URI vice president for Research and Economic Development, Barbara Wolfe, URI provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, R.I. Rep.Kathleen Fogarty, R.I. Sen. Alana DiMario and URI President Marc Parlange. *URI photo/Catherine Scott*

URI celebrates top U.S. research status

URI faculty, staff and students joined university leaders, Gov. Dan McKee and state lawmakers, on Feb. 13 to celebrate the official announcement that URI had achieved R1 designation in the latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The designation places URI among the 187 institutions that have achieved R1 classification—the top 4.8% of degree-granting postsecondary institutions nationally.

“I am so pleased and so proud to announce that the University of Rhode Island has officially achieved R1 status, the highest classification for research institutions in the United States,” said URI President Marc Parlange to cheers and applause. “This designation recognizes universities with the most advanced research activity and impact – placing URI among the top-tier research institutions in the nation.”

The R1 classification signifies that URI has achieved the highest level of research activity, measured by the number of doctoral degrees awarded and the amount of spending on research and development. To earn the designation, institutions must grant at least 70 doctoral degrees and have more than \$50 million in total research spending annually.

“This milestone is not just about rankings,” said Parlange. “It's about impact. We are a powerhouse for research and education fueling discoveries that benefit not just our students and faculty but Rhode Island, the nation and the world.”

“This is testament to everyone here today for their hard work and commitment,” said McKee. “URI is not only a leader in higher education. Today, they're reaffirming their position as a leader in research on a national scale.

“Being named an R1 institution by Carnegie is further proof that this school truly goes above and beyond for its students and our state,” he added. “This classification means URI can attract the best faculty, researchers, and students to campus ... and can provide one-of-a-kind research and experiential learning opportunities. This is more than just a point of pride for Rhode Island. It's necessary for economic and workforce growth and national competitiveness.”

Barbara Wolfe, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said R1 recognition is proof of the dedication, expertise and vision of the University's academic community.

“Across diverse disciplines, our faculty have driven a 25% increase in research expenditures over five years, exceeding \$144 million and solidifying URI as a leading research institution,” said Wolfe. “The research expenditures represent real-world impact – on health care, the blue economy and the many other fields being advanced by our faculty who are improving our communities, the state and the world.”

In her comments, Bethany Jenkins, vice president for research and eco-

nom ic development, described what it takes to produce successful research—research that improves lives and serves society. It's the long hours put in by faculty, principal investigators, and students; faculty who have sustained research programs for years; early career members who are receiving major recognition for their work; and the work of support staff who oversee the grant proposal pipeline, she said.

“I want to celebrate that this collective hard work at URI has paid off today with this major recognition for URI to be included among America's best R1 research universities,” said Jenkins. “We accept this designation with pride and further determination to continue our research excellence for the common good.”

Dean of the Graduate School Brenton DeBoef noted the vital contributions that graduate students— “the secret sauce,” as he called them — make to the university's research ecosystem. The university has more than 2,400 graduate students in over 124 doctoral, master's and certificate programs. Graduate enrollment is growing fast, he said, and URI has a goal of doubling graduate enrollment in the next decade.

“The University of Rhode Island is a destination for research,” he said. “Its graduate programs attract students from every continent – except Antarctica, of course –but we send students to do research on every continent, including Antarctica.”

Magaziner launches 2025 Congressional art competition

U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner announced his third annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in Second Congressional District. All eligible high school students are encouraged to participate, with the winning artwork to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year.

“The Congressional Art Competition shines a spotlight on the incredible talent of young artists in Rhode Island,” said Magaziner. “I'm thrilled to give students the chance to showcase their creativity on a national stage, and I encourage all eligible students to take part.”

Sponsored annually by the Congressional Institute, this nationwide art competition provides high school students with the opportunity to have their winning artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol. Since the competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students across the country have participated.

Participating students must reside in Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District. Entries must be submitted by April 11, 2025, at 5 p.m. and dropped off at Rep. Magaziner's Warwick District Office, located at 935 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 3003, Warwick, Rhode Island, during office hours, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students may submit artwork in any of the following seven categories: painting, drawing, collage, print, mixed media, computer-generated art, and photography. All submissions must include a Student Information and Release Form attached, signed by the student, a parent or guardian, and a teacher.

To find the Student Information and Release Form, and to learn more about rules and submission guidelines for Representative Magaziner's 2025 Art Competition, visit <https://Magaziner.House.gov>.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Anchor Baptist Church New Meeting Place 868 Reservoir Avenue Pastor Alex Martinez 632-9672 www.sermonaudio.com/anchorbaptist	Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church 229 Wilbur Avenue 944-0864 www.olcbbaptistchurch.com
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish 175 Oaklawn Avenue 401-941-4188 Sunday Liturgy 9:30am www.annunciationrioeg	Pawtuxet Baptist Church 2157 Broad Street Rev. Irving Scoby 461-3635 pawtuxetbaptist@verizon.net
Asbury United Methodist Church 143 Ann Mary Brown Drive Rev. Yohan Go 467-5122 Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School at 9:30am Sept – June asburiyumc.org	People's Baptist Church 1275 Elmwood Avenue Pastor Mark Lindsay www.PeoplesBaptistChurch.org
Assemblies Of God The Solid Rock Church 1753 Phenix Avenue Rev. Richard K. Leahey 827-0770 www.solidrockchurchag.com	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
Christadelphian Ecclesia 2104 Cranston Street 441-7432 www.christadelphia.org	St. David's On-The-Hill Episcopal Church 200 Meshanticut Valley Father Edward Beaudreau 942-4368 www.stdavidsonthehill.net
Church Of The Ascension (Episcopal) 390 Pontiac Avenue Pastor Santiago Rodriguez Sun 10 am (English) Sun 12pm (Spanish) 461-5811 www.ascensioncranston.org	St. Matthew Church 15 Frances Avenue Rev. Ronald J. Bengford 461-7172
Church Of The Transfiguration 1665 Broad Street 461-3142 Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist	St. Patrick Catholic Church 2068 Cranston Street Fr. Roger Durand, Pastor SaintPatrickCatholicChurch.org Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30
Edgewood Congregational Church 1788 Broad Street 461-1344 Sunday 10 am w/coffee hour www.edgewoodchurchri.org	Saint Paul Church Of Edgewood 1 St. Paul Place 461-5734
Faith Chapel Lutheran Brethren 43 Scituate Ave. John Black, Pastor 944-2771 www.faithchapelri.org Sunday Worship 10am	Shepherd Of The Valley United Methodist Church 604 Seven Mile Road Rev. Katherine Mitchell 821-8217 www.sovumc.org
Gateway Pentacostal Fellowship 711 Park Ave. (rear) Pastor Russell Farmer 467-3830 www.gatewayupc.org	Trinity Church 139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet Cranston, RI 02905 Rev. Mitchell Lindeman 8am & 10am 10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet 941-4324 http://www.trinitycranston.org/
Grace Bible Church 116 Rolfe Street 481-0030 www.gbcri.org 9 a.m. Sunday Worship 7 p.m. Wednesday Prayer	Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ 546 Budlong Road Rev. Aidan Kelley 942-0654 woodridgechurchri.org
Holy Apostles Church 800 Pippin Orchard Road Very Reverend William J. Ledoux 946-5586 www.holyapostles.com	Word & Prayer Fellowship 828 Oaklawn Ave. Pastor Chick Salliby www.wordandprayer.org
New Beginings Christian Church 122 Laurens St. Mario J. Nadich, Pastor 787-0725	Word Of Life Covenant Church 1308 Phenix Avenue 944-1163 thewordoflife.net



Attorney General Peter Neronha and his counterparts in other states have challenged multiple actions of the Trump administration. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

● NERONHA from page 1

asked if he would run for governor in 2026 and dove into a civics lesson on the three branches of our government and why it is so important to challenge the president when he steps beyond his authority.

And by what criteria does he make the decision to sue the president, or for that matter fight for lower energy rates?

The first question, he said, is whether the action being taken is unlawful, second is whether it harms Rhode Islanders and third is whether he has legal standing.

One of the first of Neronha’s challenges is to Trump’s effort to strip the U.S. citizenship of children born to immigrant parents in the United States. He said the 14th Amendment to the Constitution “makes it clear if I’m born here, I’m a citizen.”

Neronha said he and other attorneys general across the country had been working in anticipation that Trump would seek to deny this birthright citizenship. Their work resulted in the granting of a preliminary injunction by a federal judge early last month.

“If [immigrants] have a child here, they have standing whether [the administration] likes it or not.”

Neronha went on to talk about “federal funding grabs” and efforts to nullify grants that have been approved and in some cases issued.

“We knew we had to act quickly,” he said of calling on other states, among them California and New York, to gain a temporary restraining order.

He called those grants “basically a contract and not new aid.”

Neronha also touched on the dismantling of agencies, saying they “can’t be cut by 50% and do the same level of work.”

In the case of the Department of Education, Neronha said in the release issued last Thursday morning that massive layoffs “will severely undermine the department’s ability to perform basic functions, functions upon which American families rely. Kids with special needs who require speech therapy and IEPs and transportation; kids in rural communities whose districts rely on federal help to keep up; kids from underserved communities; those who require vocational rehabilitation services; the list goes on.”

In a discussion following the meeting, Neronha didn’t hesitate to say that in addition to stripping away the authority of Congress, Trump is going after the courts.

“If the courts don’t stand up to him, he’ll do it,” he said.

But then if the Department of Justice has been compromised, what power do courts have to enforce the law?

Neronha said he would hope that the people would see what’s happening and stand up.

● HEADSTART from page 1

In Cranston, the Early HeadStart federally funded capacity is 20 slots for children up through 3 years old and pregnant mothers, Del Vicario says. There are 146 slots in the HeadStart program for children 3-5 years old. There’s also a state-funded Pre-K program for children 4 years old. In total, Del Vicario says, they have 250 children enrolled at three sites.

“Proven results show that a child's early years shape the foundation of their future,” said Chris Mansfield, CCAP’s CEO. “Cutting funding for Head Start programs would take away vital opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive. Supporting early education is an investment in a brighter future for all.”

Del Vicario said the program is more than just school. She says the biggest difference between HeadStart and regular childcare, including state-provided pre-K, are the comprehensive services provided, such as advocacy work with families, a nurse, nutritionist and mental-health consultant.

Robin Cunetta, a Cranston resident, says HeadStart has had a big impact on her life. Her son went through the HeadStart program many years ago, when he was about 3 or 4.

“The reason I chose the program was because I liked ... how they addressed the whole child and not just necessarily focusing on academics, but the social-emotional piece was huge for me,” Cunetta said. “And the social interaction and the opportunities it provided him, including meal-times, breakfast and lunch, I thought that would be good for him to be able to sit with his peers and socialize while he’s having his meals.”

Her son, who is now 30, made leaps and bounds when he went to HeadStart for the year, she says. She said it was a nice, welcoming environment where she got to come in and help wherever needed.

Today, Cunetta has been working at HeadStart for about 17 years. She began as a teaching assistant before moving up, and she recently started a new role as one of the education managers.

To Cunetta, HeadStart is all about what’s best for the kids. She said it would be a shame and a tragedy to see such a high-quality program fall by wayside.

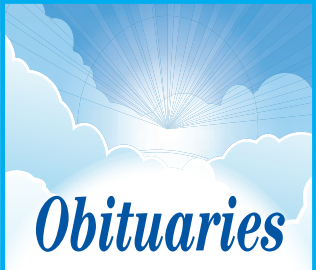
“Sometimes [people] think preschool is like babysitting,” Cunetta said. “It’s not. We don’t do babysitting here. We are actually educating, and they do learn through play, so some people don’t necessarily understand that, but they’re learning as they’re playing and we’re facilitating their learning.”

Expressing that same sentiment, Del Vicario says sudden uncertainty in federal funding for programs like HeadStart and SNAP is unfortunate, and that the families they provide education and services to deserve no less than everything they can give them.

“Someone’s income level or where you live in the state, what neighborhood, should not define the quality of education that your child is able to receive,” Del Vicario said. “HeadStart is high-quality education and support services for families that really need it.”

Maya, who Ms. Isabel says is sometimes known as “Maya Bianca Beyoncé” after proclaiming herself as such one day in class, gets ready to paint at the art station while Ms. Isabel looks on.





Obituaries

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

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

– Thank you

Request denied: Pratt workshop tower stays

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

The city’s Historic District Commission (HDC) last week denied a request to remove a shingled tower from the historic Henry Pratt workshop at 5 Turner Ave., and also denied the owners’ request to refresh the building with vinyl siding.

The unusual-looking building, which is now being used as a residential garage, was once the workshop of local builder and craftsman Henry Pratt who built some of the finer historic houses in the village in the late 1800s.

According to the application on file with the city, owners John and Pamela Lawson would like to remove the shingled tower because of the cost of maintaining it and the fact that its weight is stressing the structure of the building. They also noted that maintenance costs could be reduced by the application of vinyl siding.

According to historical documents, Pratt built the tower to serve as the base of a propellor-style windmill for his workshop.

The building is a part of Oaklawn’s federally designated Historic District, which means that it is part of a protected preservation area. Proposals for new construction or exterior alterations are subject to review by the HDC in order to determine the impact on a building’s historical character and whether or not changes will make a structure inconsistent with the historic character of the district.

The Oaklawn historic district is the only designated historic district in Cranston.

The decision to deny the Lawson’s request was preceded by lengthy discussion during which Commission members sometimes questioned how much latitude they have over determining exactly what exterior changes can be made to buildings in the historic district.

Some board members also considered modifying the Lawson’s request in an attempt to find a compromise between the owners’ concerns and the need to protect the historic value of the former Pratt workshop.

In conversations with the committee, the Lawsons noted said that they had received information from various contractors who said that there was dry rot around the base of the building and that it might need to be stabilized at the bottom since it does not have a foundation. They said that the weight of the tower is further stressing the building. Some HDC members debated whether it would be possible to reach a compromise under which only a portion of the old windmill tower was removed to reduce stress, while keeping at least a third of the tower to serve as a visual indication

that the building had historical significance.

Pratt, a creative builder known for the decorative touches he added to his late 19th-century houses, had originally hoped that the windmill would produce enough energy to power his tools. Historical documents indicate that the farm-style windmill did not achieve that, but did generate enough power to help him draw water from his well.

Stephen A. Torregrossa, chairman of the historic commission, said that according to his understanding of the rules and policies governing the HDC, a compromise would not be possible because any buildings within the district have to either be restored to exactly their original specifications or torn down if it not structurally sound. As a result, he said, removing part of the tower should not be considered.

Because there were questions about the condition of the Pratt garage, Torregrossa said that in his opinion, it should be razed.

The Lawsons asked if they would be allowed to build a new garage in its place but were advised that current zoning laws would not allow that given the size of the lot it is situated on.

Torregrossa’s remarks about tearing down the building seemed to surprise some HDC members who said they were looking for a compromise.

Acting City Planning Director Beth Ashman said that the final decision rested with the HDC but noted that language in the city code of ordinances indicates that the commission it does have some latitude in determining if a building can be modified while still preserving its historical character.

A couple of residents, including members of the Cranston Historical Society, spoke out against removing the tower from the garage as well as the request to add vinyl siding. Historical Society member and Cranston resident John Hill cautioned that the integrity an entire historic district can be eroded bit by bit as the result of decisions to allow historical structures to be modified in ways that are not keeping with their original character.

In denying the application to take down the old windmill base and add vinyl siding, HDC members noted that they would not object to work done to further stabilize the building as long as it was done with “in kind” materials.

The Lawsons declined comment after the decision, saying that wanted to review all the information that had been discussed.

Editor’s note: Cranston Herald reporter Barbara Polichetti is a volunteer with the Cranston Historical Society.



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Doreen Collins. Submitted photo



Stacy Kendro. Submitted photo



Drag queens Jacqueline DiMera, Haley Jonz, Haley Star, and LaDiva Jonz. Submitted photo



Stephanie White. Submitted photo



Aimee Schwab. Submitted photo

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Local comedian Doreen Collins has some celebrating to do. This month marks the tenth anniversary of The Ladies Room, her annual night of standup and drag.

The March 28 event, which features women performers, women sponsors, and supports non-profit organizations run by women, will be held at the Courthouse Center for the Arts in South Kingstown.

“Men give us a bad rap,” said Collins, who lives in Warwick with her husband Frank. “Contrary to popular belief, women just really want to support one another.”

According to her website, every year she produces a show that’s all about the ladies, bringing new meaning to girls night out. “The Ladies Room promotes and supports my fellow funny females by combining women just starting their comedic journey, with ladies with national recognition,” she notes on the site.

Collins has lived in Rhode Island for the past 25 years and was the first woman inducted into the Rhode Island Comedy Hall of Fame. Most of her work now is with Aging Disgracefully, a variety show she performs around the state with comedian Charlie Hall. Hall also contributes weekly editorial cartoons to this publication.

Collins and Hall bring Aging Disgracefully to the Courthouse Center for the Arts a few times each year. The venue is mostly known for the cover bands that perform there—in the next month alone you can see tributes to Mötley Crüe, The Doors, Creed, Led Zeppelin, Styx, Boston, and Jackson Browne.

“When it’s not live music it has a really intimate theater feel. It’s also definitely haunted,” she laughs. “I haven’t experienced anything myself, but it’s totally haunted.”

Other comedians at The Ladies Room this year include Boston-based headliner Stacy Kendro, who has performed at the event several times before, as well as Aimee Schwab and Steph White. The three will be joined by drag performers LaDiva Jonz, Haley Star, and Jacqueline DiMera of Drag RI.

The audience is almost entirely made up of women. “There’s Frank,” she says, pointing to her husband, “and there’s Charlie [Hall], and the occasional man who doesn’t know what he’s walking into.” Audiences familiar with Collins might already know about Frank, a frequent subject of her comedy.

Collins likes to keep the night light and not too raunchy. “The performers can be as risqué as they want to be, but I’m not looking for the kind of acts that drop the f-bomb every other word.”

One challenge for Collins as the organizer is that it takes time to wrangle the talent and the sponsors and so she doesn’t spend a lot of time preparing her own routine.

“I kind of like the spontaneity,” she said. “My background is in musical theater where you rehearse, rehearse, rehearse. You know your lines, you hit your marks. I’m too nervous to go in totally cold. I at least need an idea in my head of what I

want it to be about.”

Collins is no stranger to being on camera. She’s a regular on WPRI’s The Rhode Show, where she hosts a segment called Senior Moments, and previously wrote, produced, and hosted the late-night series Rhode Bytes on Channel 10. But she is not a big fan of her live shows being recorded.

“People will video me at a show,” she said. “I end every show with a number, and people who have seen me before know that’s when the phones come out. I’m not

going to stop the show to say anything about it, but I wonder if it’s going to end up somewhere online and what I actually sound like. Sometimes things are really great in the moment and don’t really work at all when you re-watch them later. Charlie recently posted a video with two other guys doing karaoke, and not one of them was hitting the notes. I said what are you doing? Take that down!”

As an emcee, Collins also has some thoughts about the role of the host and the role of the interviewer. “I love Kelly Ripa. She’s smart, she’s funny, and she’s a great interviewer. Is she the nicest person off camera? I don’t know. Maybe, maybe not. But Mark [Consuelos, her co-host] needs to stay home and do the dishes. He talks over the guests, he reads questions from

note cards, he gets picky with Kelly, he’s terrible. When you’re interviewing somebody your job is to make them the focus, you get them to talk about whatever they’re promoting. You let them have the spotlight.” Collins pauses. “I go off on these tangents, I’m sorry.”

“I don’t think I’m really funny,” she adds. “I’m amusing.”

Each year Collins donates a portion of proceeds from the event to a different charitable cause, and this year she decided to support Courthouse Center for the Arts, which is under the direction of Mariann Almonte.

In addition to being a music and comedy venue, the center provides opportunities for children of all abilities. According to its website, the center “provides theater, music, art, and child development programs for children of all ages and abilities, with inclusion programs for what we call differently-abled children.” Summer and year-round arts camps increase cognitive learning skills, self-esteem, and speaking abilities in the youth.

“I like supporting smaller charities,” Collins says, “because they need the money more and every dollar goes farther.”

This year show sponsors include Lisa Altieri, owner of Dante’s Kitchen in East Greenwich, Christina Rondeau of Rondeau’s Kick Boxing in Johnston, Jackie Judd of The Experience, Robin Kall of Reading with Robin, Ashley Bove of Artisan Bites RI, Nancy DiGiglio of Anyplace Travel in Johnston, Jessica Braza of The Dance Floor in Cranston, and Rebecca Minutelli of Mane Hair in Cranston.

The Ladies Room begins at 7:30pm on Friday, March 28. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <http://courthousearts.org>.



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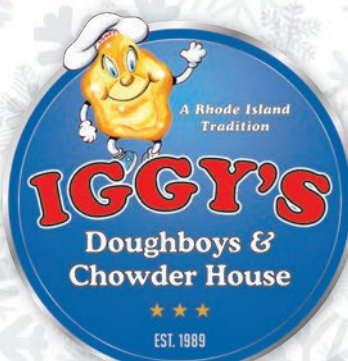
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APRIL 26



The Concert:
A Tribute to ABBA
APRIL 29



Lyle Lovett
and his Acoustic Group
MAY 1



An Evening with
Sara Evans
MAY 16



No Apologies
Comedy Show
MAY 17



Vic DiBitetto
MAY 23



Parachute jumper found on Warwick shore

Frederick Louis Bodreau Jr. was contracted by Rocky Point Management to make a jump from an airplane on July 8, 1928 to thrill park guests. Bodreau, 28, who worked as a parachute jumper and wing-walker, hired pilot Raymond Menard of Fall River to fly a plane belonging to Armand Pothier of Woonsocket for the spectacle.

The jump had been scheduled for 3 p.m. and as that time neared, Menard circled the drop area – about a quarter mile from the shore, between the park’s wharf and the Shore Dinner Hall.

“How high are we flying?” Bodreau called to Menard.

“One-thousand two-hundred feet,” Menard informed him.

“Throttle down the motor,” Bodreau directed. As the plane slowed down and began to glide, Bodreau stepped out onto the wing and crouched down, a recently-packed, brand new parachute harnessed to him. Those in the distance watched Bodreau jump. The chute didn’t open. The young daredevil plummeted into the deep water below.

Two men on the shore pushed a small motorboat out into the water and hurried to the scene. The closed chute was providing buoyancy for the unconscious jumper and the two men attempted to pull him into the boat, one grabbing Bodreau’s head and the other grabbing the chute. During the recovery, Bodreau slipped out of the harness and his body sunk below the surface of the water.

Professional diver Charles Crepeau searched the bay’s depth with no luck, followed by Warwick Police unsuccessfully moving through the area with grappling hooks.

Bodreau, the son of Frederick Louis Bo-

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



dreau Sr. and Georgianna (Marshall), was born in Pawtucket on April 23, 1906. He grew up on Lonsdale Avenue, his father – a United States Navy veteran – supporting a wife and two children as a machinist in a machine shop. The family later removed to Fall River where the elder Frederick worked as a machine shop foreman.

Bodreau had been honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps in 1927. He remained on the west coast where he performed the daredevil feats. He returned to his parents’ home on Legion Way in Auburn in 1927. He was called back by the death of his 12-year-old sister Esther. At that time, he settled into a house in Cranston. By the summer of 1928, he and his wife Vivian were in the process of divorce.

Six days after the fatal jump, two men walking along Warwick Neck, discovered Bodreau’s body – clad in a red bathing suit and white skullcap – washed up on the shore. The cause of death was attributed to the shock of falling and striking the water.

The cause of the parachute malfunction was determined to be an erroneous knot tied by Bodreau when he packed the chute. While one of the shroud lines was supposed to contain a slip knot, he had allegedly tied an inside-out knot by mistake. When he later pulled on the line, the knot tightened when it needed to loosen, leaving Bodreau to freefall over a thousand feet into the water below.

Bodreau was buried in Springvale Cemetery in East Providence, where his sister and both of his parents lay. During his funeral, a plane flying over the cemetery at a height of about 500 feet dropped three bouquets of roses and daisies in his memory.



Everything Everywhere All At Once

Journeys of the Heart: A Warwick Library film series

As the Warwick Library tours the U.S. in its “It Happened in America” film series, it will take a side trip for “Journeys of the Heart: A Film Series.” Come for four personal quests to satisfy a troubled soul and reach what may be an unreachable goal at Warwick Public Library on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

On March 25, 2025, see “Everything Everywhere All at Once” (2022), starring Michelle Yeoh and Jamie Lee Curtis. Can the possibilities of the multiverse save weary Evelyn Wang from her failing laundromat, marriage, and family relationships?

On April 1, watch “My Own Private Idaho” (1991), starring River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves. Narcoleptic street hustler Mike Waters and Scott Favor, a fellow hus-

tler from a rich family, travel to Italy to look for Mike’s mother.

On April 8, enjoy “Dead Man” (1995), starring Johnny Depp and Gary Farmer. Native American nomad “Nobody” helps critically-wounded accountant William Blake cross the Northwest frontier and find a poetic death.

On April 15, sit back for “Moonlight” (2016), starring Trevante Rhodes and Naomi Harris. As a child, teen, and young man, Chiron wrestles with neglect, physical and emotional abuse, and finding a way to be black and gay.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.



Moonlight



Spring has sprung...time to skip with joy

“Spring has sprung. The grass is riz. I wonder where the flowers is.” I remember this playful ode to spring from my days at Oakland Beach School. My mother was the president of the PTA, and this was the headline of the spring newsletter. Some attribute these whimsical lines to Ogden Nash, while others credit an anonymous author. Wherever it originated, I appreciate its lighthearted spirit. It’s a joyous and carefree welcome to spring—one that comes to mind every year around this time.

I love springtime! The air feels fresher, and with the time change, the days seem so much longer. Add to that the warmth creeping up again, and I can’t help but skip around with joy.

Spring is said to be good for your health. Increased sunlight exposure boosts serotonin production, which, in turn, lifts your mood. Gone are the winter doldrums—days spent stuck indoors, wrapped in a warm blanket, eyes glazed over watching reruns on television while snow and ice linger outside. In their place comes the energy and excitement of spring fever.

The thawing temperatures awaken the earth, encouraging wildflowers to bloom. Crocuses are the first to peek through the soil, soon followed by pink tulips, purple hyacinths, and cheerful white and yellow daffodils. Spring is simply breathtaking!

Buds appear on the barren trees, and their leaves return. Birds are more plentiful, with many migratory birds returning from their winter homes, filling the air with cheerful songs. Robins, swallows, and bluebirds are



Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

among the first to reappear, and, if I am lucky, I can actually spot the birds in the trees rather than just hear their tweets.

Baseball season is back, and Hubby is once again cheering on the Red Sox. Every playing field in the community comes alive with activity, from Little Leaguers just starting out to seasoned high school teams. Mean-

I love springtime! The air feels fresher, and with the time change, the days seem so much longer. Add to that the warmth creeping up again, and I can’t help but skip around with joy.

while, spring soccer is in full swing, with players of all ages—from the tiniest tots to energetic adults—kicking off the season.

One of the best parts of spring is packing away my bulky winter clothes and reaching for lighter, breezier outfits. Gone are the heavy coats, thick sweaters, and fuzzy socks. I can finally pull out my short-sleeved shirts, dresses, and light sweaters. As I am

doing so, a little voice in the back of my mind whispers a familiar worry that everything will not still fit after months of cozing up indoors and indulging in comfort foods. Those extra five pounds might have settled in a bit too comfortably. But that is okay, I love to go spring shopping at Kohl’s. I still love spring.

But wait... with all the beauty of spring comes an unwelcome guest—pollen! As trees and flowers burst into bloom, they release tiny particles into the air, triggering seasonal allergies. Even after taking an allergy pill, I am not spared. My eyes water uncontrollably, and my throat feels scratchy and dry, making my voice sound like the Hulk. My customary tiny sneezes come in rapid succession. (My dad used to sneeze one humongous sneeze which would scare the hell out of me and make me jump and pee in my pants, so I have always held back my sneezes into tiny bursts.)

Additionally, Rhode Island has seen its share of cold in the spring, with ice and snow bursting forth from the sky, covering the tender flowers. I even remember one blizzard on April Fool’s Day that dumped over a foot of snow. We were on our way to celebrate Easter with relatives in Connecticut when we got caught up in that snowstorm. The weather in March is unpredictable, with it often being warm during the day, only to wake up to frost on the car windshield the next morning.

I still love spring, with the promise of warmer weather to come.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥Adoptable♥Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Harley

Harley is one of those dogs whose eyes melt your heart! Harley is just two years old and is in search of a loving home that will spoil her like the princess she is! Her dream home is one where she will be your one and only girl, she will want all of your attention to herself! If you have a fenced in yard that would make her dream come true, she loves to run & play! Once she gets her playtime in this sweet girl will love to be by your side! If you have yummy treats Harley will become your bestie for sure! If you'd like more information please contact the rescue and find out how you can meet Harley and have her be the sunshine of your life! Please contact Almost Home Rescue via their website <http://www.almosthomeri.org> or email support@almosthomeri.org

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A concert of New Jazz Standards on March 23 at Warwick Library

A concert of new jazz standards by Austin Burns & Elliott Talley will be held at Warwick Public Library on Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m.

Jazz standards from the Great American Songbook can be up to a century old, so Austin and Elliott are updating it with new standards that sound classic but have a modern sensibility. Hear tunes like “The Coffee Song,” “Romance Is Not a Silly Dream,” and the pandemic-themed “Ah Chu” sung with a magnificent blend of tenor voices and accompanied by keyboards and guitar.

Burns is a classically-trained performer, composer, and arranger with a degree in vocal performance from New England Conservatory. Talley is Director of Music for Union Congregational Church in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts and a senior at New Bedford High School.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane. This event is free and open to all.



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See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler



Anora

WARWICK SHOWCASE

ANORA

(Oscar Winner)

Did you know that over the years 17 actresses have won Oscars for playing prostitutes!

Along comes a virtually unknown young actress named Mikey Madison to play yet another woman of the streets and guess what?

She wins an Academy Award for Best Actress.

Know what else? She deserves it.

Madison plays Ani, a stripper who earns a little on the side when her customers want more.

She becomes enamored by one of her customers, the son of a rich Russian who hires her for a week of fun and games at his expensive New York apartment.

A visit to Vegas ends up at a wedding chapel and the two return to NYC as husband and wife.

Daddy finds out and sends his henchmen to collect the spoiled brat and quickly annul the marriage.

Ani resists in one of the funniest scenes we’ve seen in ages, as she takes on three enormous bad guys.

The rich kid escapes, goes on a bender, as the bodyguards and Ani try to find him in another hilarious series of events.

The ending is both funny, sweet and clever.

If you missed this movie and want to see what all the praise is about, get over to the Showcase or rent it.



Black Bag

BLACK BAG

(Cerebral Spy Whodunnit)

Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender play British intelligence officers who happen to be married to each other.

When she is suspected of betraying her nation, he is faced with the choice of turning her in or covering up for her.

There are other suspects, and BLACK BAG quickly turns into a cerebral whodunnit.

The movis opens with the couple inviting three other people to dinner and concludes with the same setting, where all is revealed. There’s lots of dialogue and very little action as George tries to find the mole and save jolly old England from a secret code being leaked and thousands of innocent people dying.

Good performances, but occasionally hard to follow with all that spy talk and English accents.



Woman of the Dead

NETFLIX

WOMAN OF THE DEAD

*** ½

(Grim, eerie murder mystery)

If you like your murder mysteries on the grim and eerie side, this one from Germany is for you.

Brünhilde Blum owns a funeral home in a small ski resort town. She is married to a local cop and has two children and a father-in-law who lives with them.

Her husband is killed on his motorcycle by a hit and run driver and Blum sets out to find the killer, only to discover some nasty goings-on around town.

The series takes a number of turns as more bodies pile up as suspects are unturned.

Blum is an interesting and very dark character with some skeletons (literally) in her past and her present.

The series will give you the creeps as you witness Blum doing her handiwork with corpses.

Great ending.

Salois of Psyche goes acoustic at Strings

By ROB DUGUAY

There’s an energy that usually occurs when a band or musician performs at a particular venue for the first time. It’s an opportunity for folks who might not have heard them before to give their music a listen and it’s also an opportunity to create new networking opportunities and a new group of friends. It’s a cool thing to experience for both the performer and the audience, and if all goes according to plan, it won’t be the last time this happens at the establishment.

For vocalist and guitarist Seth Salois from the Providence hard rock act Psyche, this is exactly what’s going to happen when he takes the stage on March 25 at Strings Bar & Grill in Johnston. Starting at 7pm, he’s going to be doing a full set of acoustic tunes and showing a different aspect of his musical abilities.

We had a talk ahead of the debut performance about what made him want to play stripped down versions of songs, having an evolving song list and a new record he’s been working on.

Rob Duguay: What made you want to pursue this side gig of performing acoustically?

Seth Salois: I started doing it years ago and I really enjoyed it. I was doing it as part of a duo and it’s kind of a different platform for me, it allows me to interpret versions of songs that I really like. It also gives me the opportunity to strip things down and work on vocal stuff. It’s nice to front a loud rock band, but I’ve always enjoyed those stripped down versions of songs. I love going out and being able to play in front of people in a different atmosphere, which is great.

RD: Does it feel drastically different for you to be performing by yourself with a guitar without a full-fledged band behind you? If so, how do you handle it?

SS: It’s definitely different because you’re under the microscope, but that’s partially the reason why I like it because it makes me really hone what I’m doing. I spend a lot of time practicing, rehearsing and making sure my voice is good. I try to push it even more when I’m doing acoustic stuff. To me, it also comes down to song choice. I try to pick things that people might not necessarily know the artist, but they know every word to the song.

It’s stuff that I really enjoy, and I span everything from stuff by Peter Gabriel and Elton John all the way to the stuff I grew up on during the ‘90s, rock, alternative and grunge. Alice In Chains, Pearl Jam and stuff like that and even reinterpreting songs by Linkin Park and Metallica.

I try to be mindful of the songs that I’m picking, and I also want to give people an appreciation for going out there and stripping it down while showing them that you can be vulnerable. You can just go lay it out there. It’s not really about mistakes or anything like that, it’s about being in tune with the audience. You can do a song a different way without being backed up by a bunch of other instruments and trying to create different energy can be a lot of fun.

RD: That’s a cool approach to have. You just mentioned the songs that you play, and you do a mix of covers and originals with a growing song list that features The Beatles “While My Guitar Gently Weeps”, Incubus’ “Drive” and Elton John’s “Saturday Night’s Alright (For Fighting)” among others. When you first started pursuing this outlet, how many songs did you learn how to play and how many did you already know given a rough estimate? Did you find yourself learning 30 songs to begin with, or did you already have an established repertoire from the get go?

SS: I did have a lot of songs that I had played either as a cover with a band or stuff that I did when I first started playing solo acoustic years ago. Recently, what I’ve really tried to start to do is to take songs that I run into each other. For example, doing something like “Mary Jane’s Last Dance” by Tom Petty and going into a Bill Withers song. I’m staying in the same key and I’m able to transition into a different song to give a different flavor. It kind of makes a show within itself while stacking songs that are fun to reinterpret like that.

I try to look at it that way, but I’d say that I probably know around 150 songs. I’m always trying to add and I’m always asking people because I want to know what

“You can just go lay it out there. It’s not really about mistakes or anything like that, it’s about being in tune with the audience. You can do a song a different way without being backed up by a bunch of other instruments and trying to create different energy can be a lot of fun.” — Seth Salois



Seth Salois. Submitted photo

songs they like, which songs I would sound good doing or what they think would be enjoyable. I’m always trying to get feedback or trying to play something that people enjoy, even if it’s a piece of it. I think that’s fun for people too.

RD: When it comes to learning new material to grow the song list, do you make an effort to learn a new song on a daily basis? How would you describe your approach?

SS: What I try to do is I will go onto ultimate-guitar.com, where you can learn a lot of songs through tablature and stuff like that. For me, I’ll start going through lists of decades and songs from the ‘70s, 80s and ‘90s. I also follow a bunch of different groups on Facebook and Instagram where people will put up songs randomly and I’ll just save them into a folder. I always try to add at least two, three or maybe four new songs into the rotation. It’s nice to go to a new place where people hear you for the first time, but I’m lucky to have a lot of friends and people who follow me and they go to multiple shows, so it’s nice to always have something to include that’s new.

I’ll save them into a folder on my phone and when I have time I’ll sit down to go through a few songs and get to where I feel comfortable playing them. I’ll pick at least two and I’ll keep on adding them as I go, but I grab them from multiple places and then I’ll go back to chunk them out.

RD: What are your thoughts on this upcoming show at Strings and are there any plans for either a solo album or a new record from Psyche in the near future?

SS: I’m really excited about the show. I have a lot of friends who’ve played at Strings and my friend Rob Davis, who is also a local musician, has helped me out with stuff and he always has an open ear. He does so many shows and there’s so many good artists who are playing there too. Rob told me that Strings is a great place for music, so I’m looking forward to it and I’ve been really lucky to play the venues I’ve been able to play at. There’s great ownership, some good crowds and I’m hoping to add on to that.

I’m also doing a solo album. I’ve been working with Chris Piquette at No Boundaries Studios [in North Kingstown] and he also recorded Psyche’s first EP and our full-length album. We’ve stayed close over the years, so I told him that I had these songs, and I really wanted to do something original. We’ve been fleshing out these ideas and I’m going to be heading back there soon to do the vocals for the second single, so we’re probably going to be doing a full five song EP. I’m going to release three or four songs off of it as singles along with a bunch of media behind it to push it while getting as many ears on it as possible.

It’s the first time I’ve done a solo album and just being able to sit with Chris in a room and design these songs the way I want them to has been great. Hopefully people like it and I can get some cats together to play it live, which is an exciting possibility. I’ve been sitting on these songs for a bit and I’m really excited for people to hear them.

each month until every player can confidently perform it with the group.

The Beginners Ukulele Jam runs on the fourth Wednesday of the month from March through October.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.



Photo by Sergey Zigle on Unsplash

Public invited to join beginners ukulele jam

The public is invited to join ukulele beginners Ed, Judy, and Wil for a friendly and relaxed ukulele jam session at Warwick Public Library Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Ed, Judy, and Wil have been working with each other to learn new songs, chords, and strumming patterns, and you’re invited to be part of the group. Work on one tune

PrimeTime



Audiobooks help Rosenberg make good use of his time. Here he listens while drying dishes. Photo submitted by Avis Gunther-Rosenberg

Enjoying the Performance of Audiobooks

Q & A with editor and writer
Alan Rosenberg

by G. WAYNE MILLER
Ocean State Stories

Thanks for agreeing to do this, Alan. There is a lot to discuss. Let’s start by getting into some of your pursuits since leaving *The Providence Journal*, where during a long career you rose to the title of Executive Editor. You are an editor at *SlashGear.com*. Tell us about that.

I hadn’t thought about how much fun it would be to edit stories about cars, planes, ships, and other tech stuff before I got the job as a news editor with *SlashGear*. But last week I got to edit stories about a newly commissioned class of Chinese warships; how apps like Google Maps and Waze avoid traffic jams; and why current and former U.S. presidents aren’t allowed to drive — among many others. We check all the facts in a story as well as correcting spelling and grammar, so our stories are pretty airtight by the time they’re posted. I get to suggest stories, too (the story about the Chinese warships was one of my ideas), and I’m about to start training new writers for the site. So *SlashGear* scratches a lot of itches for me.

A true passion of yours is as a reviewer of audiobooks. Along with other duties, you reviewed them for over 20 years while at *The Journal* – and now at the *Warwick Beacon*, *Cranston Herald*, *Johnston SunRise*, *The Reminder*, and *The Valley Breeze Newspapers*. Why audiobooks?

Partly, it’s that they help me make good use of my time — I can listen to a book while driving or taking a walk or dealing with the dishes, which I can’t do while reading. But it’s more than that. Audiobooks have an extra dimension that print books lack — the performance.

What makes for a great audiobook?

A top-notch book, plus a terrific multi-actor cast or an excellent narrator. A great narrator can bring a book to life in a way the little voice in your head just can’t. They use different accents, they shift their timbre depending on whether a man or a woman is speaking, and they have a whole host of characters they animate in varying ways. They can elevate a so-so book to something that’s really enjoyable, and when they’re reading a good book it’s even better. There are lots of wonderful audiobook narrators today.

Some audiobooks today have “narrators” that are not people but AI-generated. Your thoughts on those?

I’ve only listened to one AI-narrated book, but I wasn’t a fan of it. It was a reasonably good facsimile of a human voice, but then it would mispronounce a word or pause in a strange place, which pulled me right out of the story.

How do you choose your titles?

I look first for Rhode Island authors and subjects. There are a surprising number of Rhode Islanders — both established writers like Ann Hood and newer talents like Vanessa Lillie and Riss M. Neilson — who are being published today. And even non-Rhode Islanders will sometimes pick Rhode Island subjects or settings to write about.

Beyond Rhode Island, I try to pick New England-based books. After that, I’m looking for whatever interests me. History, science fiction, mysteries, literary fiction, actors’ autobiographies — there’s a long list. I figure if I’m interested and enjoy a book, I can convey why potential listeners might like it, too.

Also, I try to pick a diverse set of authors

and topics, so anyone in my audience can see themselves reflected in the audiobooks over time.

What schooling and jobs did you have before coming to *The Providence Journal*?

I went to Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, which had and still has a program that places students in newsrooms around the country. I took an unpaid internship with the *Herald-Dispatch* in Huntington, West Virginia, which led to a paid internship there, which led to one at the *Detroit Free Press*. And there I was lucky enough to work with Marty Kohn and Carol Stocker, who both had come to the *Free Press* from *The Providence Journal*, and who talked a lot about how great both *The Journal* and Rhode Island were. And, of course, they were right.

Let’s indulge in a bit of nostalgia about *The Projo*. You and I were there together for about four decades. Any favorite memories?

Oh, gosh, so many. The *Journal*’s former bureau in Greenville, where I worked with folks like Frank Prosnitz, Debbie

Horne, Peter Gosselin and Gregg Krupa. Wandering around the old Providence police station as a young reporter, getting to know the cops and trying to dig out news. Covering both trials of Claus von Bulow, which involved competing with reporters from all over the world. My years in Features, working alongside unforgettable personalities like Andy Smith, Gail Ciampa and Michael Janusonis, just for starters — and where I got to interview William Shatner and Majel Barrett, and review restaurants along with my wife, Avis Gunther-Rosenberg. And working with my team as executive editor, especially Mike McDermott, Michael Delaney and Whitman Littlefield. I guess it’s really the people I remember most fondly.

What do you see as the biggest problem facing journalism today?

When I became *The Journal*’s executive editor in May of 2017, I wrote that the news media faced “the hostility of a president who has labeled the news media as the nation’s enemy, and the suspicion of those who think he might be right.” Today, journalists face the same conditions, only more so: a president who

now seems implacably opposed to fact-based journalism, and is working hard to undermine it, as well as the open scorn of many of his followers. It’s not clear to me how journalists can break through that scorn so that the information on which people base their decisions is factual, rather than being driven by ideology.

Finally, what advice would you have for young and emerging reporters and writers?

Understand that this is a historically hard time to start out and prepare yourself for a long and winding road in trying to make a living as a reporter. Be ready to work long hours for not much pay, if you’re lucky enough to get a job, and to take photos and shoot videos as well as reporting and writing. Make sure you’re building your own brand as well as burnishing your employer’s, because you might find your job evaporating at any moment. And above all, try to conduct yourself ethically in everything you do. It takes a lifetime to build a reputation, and as we’ve seen so often over the last few years, just one false step or ill-considered social-media post to blow it all away.

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The Past Shapes Your Present

MY SIDE OF THINGS by LARRY GRIMALDI

our teeth under the watchful eyes of the religious sisters. After breakfast, we walked to the school building next door. Often, I was called on to encourage my younger sister to eat. It was evident that the trauma of being in the strange and intimidating surroundings affected her deeply.

The plain brick school building did not resemble the gothic structure that housed our Tyler School in the parish of the cavernous Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. The building at St. Aloysius was not the only thing that was unsettling. I had trouble adjusting to new subjects, new teachers, and the new atmosphere. I felt lost and lonely.

Thankfully, my mother came home in May and we went back to Tyler School. I can still feel the gentle spring breezes drifting through classrooms with ancient wooden desks with ink wells bolted to the floors. In retrospect, it was a comforting metaphor for a new start.

Even though many years have passed, my time at St. Aloysius remains a part of my present. My wife and I never wanted our children to be uprooted. We wanted to give them the type of childhood devoid of upheaval. And despite some bumps in the road and the usual childhood ‘crises’ we achieved that goal.

We spent countless hours at sporting and cheerleading events. We were very accessible to them, and they knew that they were safe and secure. To this day, our three children maintain a close re-

lationship although my daughter lives in North Providence, one son is in Las Vegas; and my other son just moved to Vero Beach. Like many parents, we did our best to install in them the characteristics that would serve them well in their lives. We are proud that each of them is a generous and caring person.

We have five grandchildren now. I believe that my experiences as a temporary resident of St. Aloysius Home, and my wife, as a member of a large, loving family has inspired us to become an important part of their lives. We have joyfully established a very close relationship with our 21-year-old twin granddaughters and our 15-year-old grandson. We are determined to be the same attentive and caring grandparents to our six-year old grandson and three-year-old granddaughter.

The lessons of the past have melded into the present.

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

New Beginnings

MY MEMOIRS by SUSAN DEAN

March is one of those months that is almost like the beginning. The year is fully underway. There are signs of spring and its newness everywhere. The trees are now waking up, stretching their limbs to the sky. Spring bulbs are coming out of hiding — sticking their tender green shoots up out of the ground to take their first breath of spring air — waking up to their official ‘New Year’.

Spring sports start and tracks and fields, basketball and tennis courts come alive again. It’s as if we’ve suddenly emerged from hiding, too. Mild air and longer days make us smile.

New beginnings are everywhere. A new beginning happened for me in March long ago. My oldest daughter, Rachel, was born on March 25. I promised her I wouldn’t mention the year, but I was 26 and she now has two children — nearly grown — Michael is 20 and Abby is 18.

I remember holding this 8 lb. 2 oz. little being in my arms as I was being wheeled from the delivery room to my hospital room in the old Lying-In, the same hospital where I was born.

● BEGINNINGS to next page

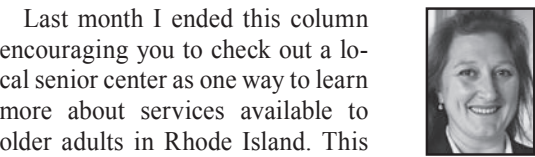
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Combat isolation, check out your local senior center



by MARIA CIMINI

Last month I ended this column encouraging you to check out a local senior center as one way to learn more about services available to older adults in Rhode Island. This month, I want to make sure you know where to find one. Not every single city or town in Rhode Island has a senior center, but every single city and town has programming for older adults.

How do I know this? The State of Rhode Island allocates funds for Senior Services Supports through its annual budget and those funds are distributed by the Office of Healthy Aging to 51 municipal and community agencies.

Do you know where your senior center or community center is? You can go on-line to the Office of Healthy Aging website, (<https://oha.ri.gov/>), or call the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 401-462-4444 to find one.

As Rhode Island’s older adult population has grown, so has the commitment of the State to these important resources. In 2021, when Governor McKee took office, \$800,000 were allocated to these communities. In each budget he has introduced, he has increased the state’s investment. So now, in 2025, \$1.4 million was distributed throughout Rhode Island communities. Additionally, in his proposed budget for next year, Governor McKee recommended another increase to bring that amount to \$1.6 million.

Throughout Rhode Island’s 39 cities and towns there are centers where you could join a walking club, take an exercise class, learn how to use the latest iPad, share a meal, gain a new skill, volunteer your time, get support with the questions that you have about aging, or simply enjoy time with friends. Each center is unique, just as each community and each older person is unique.

One of the most important things I’ve come to appreciate since becoming the Director of the Office of Healthy Aging, is the great diversity within our older adult population and programming, from age ranges to center offerings. Each center mirrors the geographic or cultural community it serves.

At the Cranston Senior Center, you could play chess, talk to a nurse, or hone your ballroom dancing skills.

At the Pilgrim Senior Center in Warwick, you could create sculptures, catch a movie, or learn about Medicare plans.

And at the Johnston Senior Center you could play bocce, plant a garden or go to a blood-pressure clinic. At other centers

throughout the state, seniors are recording podcasts, painting with watercolors, engaging in intergenerational programs, discussing current events, and more. These are just a few examples.

Senior Services Supports are also used to ensure that older adults can find connection and supports within their own cultural or faith communities. There are centers serving Southeast Asians, Spanish-speaking individuals, and African immigrants, as well as LGBTQ+ older adults, veterans, rural Rhode Islanders, and individuals with physical disabilities.

In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified social isolation and/or loneliness as being as great a risk to health as smoking. We all know after decades of surgeon general reports and scientific research that smoking can be hazardous to your health. Who would’ve thought that the act of being lonely could have the same impact?

CDC research shows how common it is to feel a lack of social connection. About one third of the older adults in the US report “feeling lonely,” and about one quarter of them report “a lack of social and emotional support.” Older adults are particularly at risk of loneliness, and that can increase their risk of heart disease, depression, dementia, and type 2 diabetes.

Older adults in Rhode Island, however, are lucky. In every community of our state, and across every level of government, there is consensus that Rhode Islanders deserve an older adulthood full of learning, fun activities, shared experiences, and thoughtful, individual supports. Governor McKee highlights his dedication to that shared goal through his continued support of the Senior Services Supports funding in the state budget. At the 51 community centers across the state, dedicated staff and volunteers make those experiences possible for older adults every day.

So, this column ends as the last one did. There is a place to get answers to your questions, connect to services, develop new interests, and make new friends – at any age! Pop into your local senior center and discover your community.

● BEGINNINGS from previous page

Rachel had bright red hair — a surprise since I’m blond and her father has dark brown hair. We thought this baby would be either light or dark or somewhere in-between... but red?

But my grandmother was a redhead — not the bright carrot top that Rachel was — my grandmother’s hair was a coppery auburn shade. And my mother was a strawberry blond. So, I guess having a redheaded baby wasn’t so surprising after all. I remember my grandfather, at 89, holding Rachel for the first time when she was just days old.

He said, “She’s like Lydia — her hair.” Lydia being his wife, my grandmother — who had died six years earlier.

I remember wondering about this little new life — her beginnings. How would her years unfold? What would the world look like as she grew? It was a new beginning for me, too, as I began to navigate motherhood for the first time.

We have another new beginning in our family this year. My youngest daughter, Gretchen, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl — Madeline May-Louise. A lot of thinking went into her name.

Madeline was my aunt’s name. As a child I thought it was so old-sounding and felt sorry for her that she was often called “Auntie Mad” by us — her nieces and nephews — although she was anything but. She was sweet and loving, nurturing and caring — never “mad” in any sense.

My daughters were especially close to Aunt Madeline. She provided a listening ear and gave them sage life advice along with sharing her recipes and cooking tips. Gretchen is an occupational therapist and when Aunt Madeline began to physically fail Gretchen helped her adapt at home. Aunt Madeline was a favorite of mine, too. We shared lunch or dinner often — usually at her apartment where she’d

create a fabulous meal and we’d talk for hours. Aunt Madeline died in July, 2021 at age 91. She’s still missed by all of us and is remembered with the purest of love.

Gretchen chose to name her new little one after Aunt Madeline, which makes us all smile — so fitting in every way.

Her middle name, May-Louise, was equally thought out and deliberately chosen. Gretchen’s oldest son, Anthony, was born in May, and it’s also my birth month. Gretchen’s second son, Jack, had a medical emergency this past May at 18 months old, a very scary episode where he was rushed to Hasbro by rescue. Jack spent several days intubated and on a ventilator in the pediatric ICU. He recovered fully and is an active and healthy 2-year-old. May was the month when we were frightened beyond words, but then blessed with a miracle, also beyond words.

May was also my grandmother’s middle name — the same one who passed her red hair down to Rachel. And May was also my great-grandmother’s middle name.

Louise was my mother’s name. My mother died in 1995 when Gretchen was 9. Gretchen remembers her, but didn’t have the time to get to know her as fully as her older sisters had. But she remembers the deep love she felt from her grandmother.

My mother often told me that she didn’t like her name — Louise — and I wondered what she’d think about her great-granddaughter being named after her. This led me to thinking how Madeline might feel, too.

Since Gretchen was having a girl after having two boys, we decided to give her a small shower — a ‘sprinkle’ — just family and close friends. The night before the gathering I was alone in the house. It was a wintry cold night — all was quiet and still. The doorbell rang — just once. I looked out the window and saw

● BEGINNINGS to next page

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Tomato Basil Baked Cod

Ingredients From Dave’s Marketplace

- 1 lb. Cod Tenderloin
- 1/4 Cup Parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- 6 Fresh Basil Leaves, chopped
- 1 Lemon, juiced
- 3 Garlic Cloves, minced
- 1 Pint Grape Tomatoes, halved
- Salt & Pepper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°
2. Place cod & tomatoes in a baking dish, drizzle olive oil all over. Salt & pepper to taste
3. Bake until fish reaches 145°, about 20 minutes
4. Spoon out tomatoes & place in a separate bowl. Add basil, parsley, garlic & lemon juice to tomatoes. Stir until combined then spoon over cooked cod.

Serve with side dishes from our kitchen

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● BEGINNINGS from previous page

no one — no cars, no Amazon truck, nothing. I opened the front door and looked down the street and it was empty. And there were no footprints in the snow. Why did the doorbell ring?

The next morning I was again alone in the house and in the shower — getting ready for the baby shower. While I was in the shower, I heard a noise and saw that the bathroom door had unlatched itself and opened about three inches. There were no breezes, no reason for this to happen. I wasn't afraid, but I wondered.

Maybe the doorbell ringing and the bathroom door opening were signs due. Did Madeline and Louise — my aunt and my mother — send me these signs to let me know that they're tickled pink that my new granddaugh-

ter shares their names? My aunt and my mother were close friends for more than fifty years — I can picture them laughing together and concocting a way to communicate their approval. It makes me smile.

March — new beginnings that signal the circle of life — birth, growth, death, and signs of rebirth. From the time of Rachel's March birth heralding her new life as well as my new beginning into motherhood, to Madeline May-Louise's start in life, to the signs of the earth waking up. There is assurance that life circles on. Not just through the seasons — but through the generations, too. Signs are everywhere and I see them as the earth physically awakens and I feel them also in my heart. I just have to remember to notice.

Save the Penny – Again

by ELAINE DECKER

Here we go again. Periodically we hear proposals to get rid of the penny. There was a major effort in 2014, and I wrote about it then. President Trump has now officially ordered the U.S. mint to stop producing the penny and I've decided to revisit the issue to remind us of the potential consequences.

The first thought that comes to my mind is still: "Where would that leave penny loafers?" I suppose they'd have to become dime loafers; a nickel wouldn't fit in the slot. Actually, I can't remember the last time I saw someone wearing penny loafers, with or without coins, so I don't see this as a major impediment to discontinuing the penny.

The plans to jettison the penny generally propose rounding sales up or down to the nearest nickel (a so-called 'rounding tax' since so many prices end in 99 cents). Some economists are advocating that the government stop minting the nickel, too. If we also drop the nickel, we'll need to round up or down to the nearest dime. It costs 14.5 cents to make a nickel; a penny costs 3.7 cents, which is twice what it costs to make a dime.

Canada discontinued minting its penny in 2012. Their penny is still accepted as legal tender up there, but I suspect that there aren't a lot of Canadian pennies still in circulation. If you're paying with cash, purchases are rounded to the nearest nickel. U.S. banks won't accept the Canadian penny. Based on recent tariff discussions, I doubt the U.S. government will take any comfort in how successful Canada has been in getting rid of their penny.

Another use for the penny that came to my attention recently was using it to measure the tread on your tires. Insert a penny upside down between two of the treads. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered, your tires are still good. If all of his head is visible, the tread is dangerously worn and you should replace your tires. You may want to keep a few pennies stashed away somewhere just for this purpose once they've disappeared from circulation.

Even once we stop minting the penny, the U.S. will continue to lose money minting its other coins. Maybe we should become a changeless society. There are some suggestions to that end floating around, as well as some that we should become cashless altogether and just use plastic or some type of chip mechanism. If that happens, you can be sure there will be plenty for me to write about.

If the potential financial costs to consumers aren't enough disincentive for these proposals (pun intended), here are some emotional ones to consider if we remove 'penny' from our collective conscience.

Getting rid of the penny would be the death knell for the penny ante. Not to get too maudlin, but I still have the tin full of pennies that my late mother used when she played poker with her lady friends. My mother died in 1995, and the last member of her card group died in 2012 at age 103. Their penny tin lives on, as full as it was after their last game.

The title (and lyrics) of the Beatles' song Penny Lane would have to be changed. Somehow Two-Bit Alley just doesn't have the same ring. And if the nickel also gets discontinued, we won't be able to press that into service to replace "Fifth." Saks Nickel Avenue sounds sketchy anyway.

The expression: "I'm like a bad penny; I keep turning up" would lose its meaning. There would be no good pennies, and pennies in general would no longer keep turning up. I'm not sure how we would replace this. "I'm like a discontinued penny; I keep rounding up" comes to mind (but quickly moves on).

Continuing with expressions consider: "For what it's worth, that's my two cents." Turns out your two cents have actually been worth four cents, but what would it be worth now? Would you be "dropping a dime"?

How about your Penny Valentine? If you sent her roses on February 14, would she become your Dime A Dozen Valentine? Whatever you called her and whatever you sent her, what used to cost a pretty penny would now cost an arm and a leg.

It's all just too sad to contemplate. Tissue, anyone?

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

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Sports

Centerline opens its doors

New pickleball club offers 8 courts across 22,000 square feet of space

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

Centerline Pickleball Club celebrated its grand opening last Saturday at its new facility in Warwick, which opened its doors to the public last month.

The state's latest pickleball facility offers eight new courts along with a private function room for gatherings and boasts an experienced group of certified coaches to guide players of all skill levels as they learn the sport and develop their skills.

Centerline Pickleball Club offers multiple membership options, which provide members with advantages such as free open play, discounts on rentals as well as discounts on leagues and clinics. Non-members are also welcome to join free play.

The facility also hosts birthday parties, corporate team building and private events. Centerline also has its own pro shop and lounge area.

Rhode Island has seen its pickleball community flourish in recent years and it is considered one of the fastest-growing sports in the world with 60 countries playing. The Centerline team, led by owner Gary Bucci, was thrilled to finally see its dream come to fruition and welcome locals to join what is now the state's largest indoor pickleball facility with over 22,000 square feet of space.

"The road getting here

● OPENS to page 24



The Centerline Pickleball Club staff, along with local officials including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins, cut the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony last Saturday morning (above). A look at some of the new courts in the 22,000 square foot facility (at left). *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



Pictured are members of the Edgewood Yacht Club and Sailing School leadership team, including sailing director Skylar Batz (far right). *Submitted photo*

Edgewood Sailing School welcomes new director, adds STEM program

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The Edgewood Sailing School is ramping up its preparations for another summer on the water and will be hosting some of its annual events along with some new additions as well.

Taking the reins as the school's sailing director is Skylar Batz. Batz, a Providence native, has been sailing since she was 8 years old and has been an instructor since she was 16. Her sailing career began at Community Boating Center in Providence and then she moved to Herreshoff in Bristol as a teenager before taking the job at Edgewood.

Sailing has become Batz' passion over the years and she is excited to bring her perspective to students at Edgewood

● EDGEWOOD to page 24

Hawks fall in state final

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The second-seeded Bishop Hendricken basketball team fell to La Salle 75-60 in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championship on Sunday night at the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island. La Salle finished the season with a perfect in-state record and defeated the Hawks for the third time this season in the process.

Despite leading 33-28 at halftime, the Hawks were unable to hold off the late La Salle rally, which saw the Rams outscore them by 13 points in the final quarter. The Rams got to the free throw line a whopping 22 times in the final two minutes and converted on 17 of them.

Hendricken was led by junior Deion Ellis Cipriano, who had a breakout performance with 17 points scored. Michael D'Ambra added 10 while Jakob Reyes scored nine.

The Hawks topped defending champion Classical 70-67 in an overtime thriller in the semifinals the previous night. D'Ambra led the way with 17 points.

Hendricken finished the season with a 22-8 overall record and was the runner

● HAWKS to page 24



Deion Ellis-Cipriano on Sunday night. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*

Trout fishing is the ticket in April

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

Rhode Island and some Massachusetts lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams designated as trout-stocked waters are currently closed for fishing. However, the season opens in RI and in additional MA waterways on Saturday, April 12, 2025 and runs through Feb. 28, 2026. More to come in the next week or two on Opening Day April 12.

For licenses and trout/salmon waterway stocking information in Rhode Island visit www.dem.ri.gov/fishing, and in Massachusetts www.mass.gov.

RI Marine Fisheries Council meets to consider regulations

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council will meet to consider some 2025 commercial and recreational regulations at an in-person and online hybrid meeting 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography Bay Campus, Coreless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett.

The Council makes fishing regulation recommendations to DEM, with Terrance Gray, DEM Director, approving 95 percent of the Council’s regulation recommendations.

Issues before the Council on March 26 that impact recreational anglers include regulations on how to measure the length of striped bass, recreational quahog harvest in the Providence River Shellfish Management Area, commercial management of Atlantic menhaden in Narragansett Bay, cobia regulations, and allowing striped bass to be harvested commercially that are caught in gill nets which would be a change.

The RI special management area in Narragansett Bay for Atlantic menhaden has been a model for programs nationally. The program includes weekly (sometimes daily) aerial stock assessments to determine whether the Bay is open or closed to commercial fishing.

There are several commercial fishing in-



Expert fly fisher Ed Lombardo will speak about ‘Fishing the Dry Fly on Some of New England’s Best Trout Streams’ at a RI Trout Unlimited seminar, Wednesday, March 26, West Greenwich Elks Lodge.

dustry proposals being considered at the Council meeting that would in effect dismantle the program to allow more Atlantic menhaden to be taken in the Bay.

For years anglers have advocated for ecosystem-based management for the species to provide enough bio bass in the Bay not only to sustain the fishery but to serve the ecological needs of fish and birds such as striped bass, bluefish, whales, osprey, etc.

The meeting can be joined in person or by

Zoom.

For agenda details with support documents on the meeting visit the calendar page for March 26 at <https://dem.ri.gov>.

Fly fishing in some of New England’s best trout streams

If you want the inside scoop on how to fly fish some of the best trout streams in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut you will not want to miss “Fishing the Dry Fly on

Some of New England’s Best Trout Streams.”

The presentation will be given by fly fishing expert and guide Ed Lombardo at the RI Trout Unlimited seminar on Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 42 Gooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI.

Ed Lombardo will share tactics and strategies he has successfully used for years to catch trout. And he will show how to read the water, dry fly imitations he uses as well as the equipment, rods, reels, fly line and leaders he uses.

The public is welcome. For information and to RSVP contact rhodeislandtu@gmail.com.

Kid’s Day, An Introduction to Fly Fishing 101

The Aquatic Education Resource Education program of RI DEM will hold a Kid’s Day, an Introduction to Fly Fishing on Saturday, April 19, 2025, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Addieville East Farm, 200 Pheasant Drive, Mapleville, RI.

This introductory class is designed for young people ages 10-15. Students will learn about the equipment needed to fly fish, how to tie flies, how to cast a fly rod, safe and responsible fishing techniques. Lunch is provided. A parent or guardian must be present for the duration of the class.

All equipment will be provided including fly rod and reel outfits. The program is free for those registering in advance. Space is limited.

Please email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov to register.

Where’s the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and a few smaller charter boats continue to fish for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island waters. Visit Fishing Machine Charters, Pt. Judith, RI at www.fishingmachinecharters.com; www.islandcurrent.com and www.francesfleet.com. Fishing. Full day rates for party boat vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Real Estate Transactions

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CRANSTON				
11 Bain St	Santos, Andreina	Halley, Nicole M	2/28	\$375,000
1286-R Narragansett Blvd	Dillon, Margaret M	Klipfel, Adam A and Klipfel, Cindy E	2/26	\$900,000
14 Whipple Ave	Rodi, Lisa	Jean, Esmide L	2/28	\$415,000
167 Armington St	Spreiser, Elan J	Payot, Renee and Flores-Perez, Iehsus S	2/26	\$565,000
169 Albert Ave	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Lapierre, Stephen W	2/24	\$1
169 Albert Ave Lot 2158	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Lapierre, Stephen W	2/24	\$1
169 Albert Ave	Lapierre, Stephen W	Smith & Oak Dev Co LLC	2/25	\$589,000
169 Morgan St	Canavan, Tara M and Mills, Phillip	Mills, Isaiah	2/28	\$410,000
17 Loring St	Caramante, Stephanie	Cityview Homes Inc	2/28	\$265,000
175 Hoffman Ave Lot 405	Ragosta, Louis J and Ragosta, Monique D	Relli, Robert	2/26	\$329,000
255 Scituate Ave Lot B	Catanzaro, Anthony	Mayer, Alisha	2/27	\$365,000
44 Delta St	Voller, Ralph M	Libassi, Glenn S and Manchester, Juliana M	2/27	\$400,000
50 Elton Cir	Dominguez, Janice	Chofay, Zachary A	2/28	\$415,000
6 Sweet Corn Dr Lot 6	Rocco J Andreozzi Jr Irt and Andreozzi, Rocco J	Squizzero Ft and Squizzero, Virginia A	2/28	\$560,000
62 Old Spring Rd	14 Prop LLC	Bianco, Philip J	2/26	\$515,000
9 Iroquois Ln	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	James J & Cherie A Ferrei	2/24	\$1
95 Ashburton Dr Lot 95	Shemanski Karen T Est and Black, Angela	Costa, Nicole and Costa, Adeline	2/27	\$450,000
956 Oaklawn Ave	Medeiros, David and Lopes-Bueso, Rosendo A	Link, Kimberly A	2/24	\$340,000
EAST GREENWICH				
158 Division St	Oneil, David and Oneil, Samantha T	Allanbrook, Brian and Allanbrook, Kerri	2/28	\$1,300,000
76 Cindryann Dr	Beaudoin, Jason G and Beaudoin, Shelley	Decarli, Kathryn and Decarli, John	2/25	\$1,025,000
98 Division St	Park, Damon and Park, Erica	Gluck, David and Gluck, Jessica	2/28	\$530,000
EXETER				
110 Mail Rd	Lena R Novo RET and Brule, Paul A	North View Farm LLC	2/28	\$1,245,000
125 Stony Ln	Raymond, Katherin M	Chabot, Tyler H and Chabot, Taylor L	2/27	\$558,000
77-A Miskiania Ln	Diuccio, Biagio S and Diuccio, Stephanie S	Miskiania Trail LLC	2/24	\$280,000
JOHNSTON				
16 Mill St	Mcreery, James E	Azylor Build & Design LLC, 3/4	2/28	\$235,000
25 Water St	Benedetto A Broccoli RET and Broccoli, David A	Iab LLC	2/28	\$375,000
34 Waveland Ave	Ahem, Colin and Ahern, Elizabeth	Encarnacion, Olga P	2/28	\$480,000

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11 Cruise St	Raimondi Jr, Joseph and Raimondi, Bethany	Scott, Jacqueline A and Lai, Timothy H	2/25	\$505,000
1209 Centerville Rd Lot 5	Morgan, Cheryl A and Morgan, Kenneth A	Cleary, Alex E	2/25	\$439,000
127 Bleachery Ct	D&a Prop LLC	Voltaire, Junior	2/28	\$449,000
134 Lindy Ave	Baker, Christopher	Wilkinson, Holly	2/28	\$465,000
147 Grand View Dr	Lamore Jr, Raymond F and Lamore, Lisa K	Liesching, John R and Liesching, Robbyn B	2/27	\$890,500
15 Irene St	Johnston, Scott D and Johnston, Lisa R	Hawkins, Michael and Hawkins, Gay	2/28	\$570,000
19 Elton Ave	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	Cannata, Michelle L	2/28	\$399,000
21 Otis St	Resweber, Michael J and Doucette, Nicole	Corkery, Mark S and Rezac, Casey A	2/27	\$390,000
283 Bellman Ave	Lux, Robert and Lux, Norine	Sanchez, Richard S and Castillo, Sylvia S	2/28	\$450,000
299 Palmer Ave Lot 271	North End Rlty LLC	Rodriguez, Justin A and Amadiz, Emmanuel	2/26	\$480,000
299 Palmer Ave Lot 398	North End Rlty LLC	Rodriguez, Justin A and Amadiz, Emmanuel	2/26	\$480,000
325 New London Ave Lot 3B	Discoli, Cheryl	Peters, Gabriel and Peters, Louis	2/28	\$300,000
46 Hagerstown Rd	Santagata, Robert	Monteiro, Tyler and Monteiro, Andreanna	2/28	\$435,000
49 Meadowbrook Ave	Rihdr Inc	Cohen, Matthew A and Lacerda, Sarah R	2/25	\$420,000
53 LloydA ve	Drammeh, Jahou	Faye, Dethie and Leye, Sokhna	2/28	\$425,000
53 Rip Van Winkle Cir	Dispirito, Emilio and Damico, Liana	Rowan, Christopher and Rowan, Christine E	2/26	\$715,000
60 Webb Ave	Frederick Donna L Est and Chappel, Dianne E	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	2/26	\$240,000
82 Nolbeth Dr	Amy Rlty	Miller, William S	2/27	\$1
835 Sandy Ln Lot 13	Cmw Prop LLC	White, Caitlin	2/25	\$331,500
85 Amsterdam Ave	Wheaton, Beatrice E	Feeney, Michael	2/26	\$360,000
905 Stratford Ln Lot 905	Cotola, Nicholas J	Altieri, Stephen and Altieri, Melissa	2/25	\$330,000
WEST GREENWICH				
1002 Fish Hill Rd	Andrade, Demetrius	Berlied, Erik and Berlied, Amy N	2/27	\$715,000
2 Pine Grove Ln Lot 2	Relli, Robert J	Gormley, Ilse	2/27	\$550,000
64 Hammitt View Dr	Bourgeois, Susan M	Trowbridge, Heather and Stroer, Andrew	2/24	\$600,000
WEST WARWICK				
1 Kristee Cir Lot 1	Hopkins, James R	Valley, Michael	2/28	\$240,000
101 Scenic Dr Lot 101	Deborah M Santagata RET and Santagata	Deborah M Crowley, Carol	2/28	\$312,250
155 Legris Ave	Rooke, Robert R	Mccaughy, Daniel	2/27	\$437,000
183 Lockwood St	Rombo Robert E Est and Patent, Carol A	Aguiar, Susanne	3/3	\$310,000
212 Lockwood St	Dotson Evelynlyn A Est and Dotson, Todd L	Wang, Ya W	2/28	\$379,900
25 Park St	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	2/27	\$370,000
38 Cowesett Ave Lot 17	Weijlard, Hailey	Minille, Ann	2/28	\$201,500
45 W Valley Cir Lot 45	Residences At West Vly In	Baldassi, Leonard and Baldassi, Mary	2/28	\$457,400
53 W Valley Cir Lot 53	Residences At West Vly In	Lisa B Cohen RET and Cohen, Lisa B	3/3	\$464,954
550 Wakefield St Lot 15,	Vila Nova Realty Dev LLC	Ferreira, Paula C	2/28	\$459,900

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A local player works on his form with Centerline owner Dante Bellini.



A look at the exterior of Centerline Pickleball Club.

● OPENS from page 21

was choppy, bumpy, long, but we made it and we’re very grateful for that. We are extremely proud of our facility. The chance to open this business trumped all others and our clients have been incredible,” said Bucci to the crowd on Saturday, which included members and local dignitaries including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins. “Our members have been so respectful, appreciative, and so enjoyable to be around. Our goal is to continue to make our facility warm and friendly so the word gets out. This is how we hope to continue to build and prosper at Centerline Pickleball.”

Picozzi was also excited to see his city offer a state-of-the-art pickleball complex and provide residents the chance to get involved in the sport.

“When I became mayor four years ago, our parks and recreation director came to me and said ‘there’s a great demand for pickleball,’ and I looked her in the eye and said ‘what the hell’s a pickleball,’ Picozzi

joked. “Then I learned it’s the fastest growing sport in the state and the country.”

“Approximately 50 million Americans this past year played pickleball at least once. That tells you the growth of this great sport and how popular it is becoming in the country. It serves all members of our population,” added Dennis DeJesus, who also said that 33 percent of players were over the age of 65.

As Centerline Pickleball settles in on the Warwick-Cranston border, Bucci looks forward to building a community while continuing to introduce the game to the Ocean State.

“Pickleball is the most social sport on earth,” said Bucci. “When I look at the courts at 5:30 on any given day and see all the activity in this place, it is truly heartwarming.”

Centerline Pickleball is located at 33 Lambert Lind Highway in Warwick, right on the Cranston Line. The club’s website is centerlinepickleballclub.com and it can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

● EDGEWOOD from page 21

this summer.

“I’ve always loved the water and I’ve loved being on boats, I’ve loved that freedom. I love bringing it to kids’ attention and my mom was a single mom, so that was something I really looked forward to doing over the summer,” said Batz. “I want to share my experiences and love for sailing with other kids.”

Batz also appreciates the location of Edgewood, which is accessible for kids throughout Rhode Island, including her hometown of Providence.

“It’s a very centralized location, it’s so close to so many people that otherwise may not have the opportunity to do these things, to be near the ocean and get on a boat. We’re pretty close by, we’re 10 minutes from Providence and down the street from Johnson and Wales Harborside,”

said Batz.

The Edgewood Sailing School will be hosting its Starter Sailor program, which will now offer a full day course which will include sailing in the morning session and STEM sessions in the afternoon.

“It’s not just learning sailing, but now they’ll be able to learn the physics of sailing, the engineering, the science behind it as well,” said Batz.

Along with the Starter Sailor program, it will be hosting its Opti program as well as its 420 program as well.

On top of its standard programs, the school will also be offering private lessons and charters. The school has already been holding its volunteer days on Saturdays as its gears up for the season.

The kids sessions will begin on June 16 and the adult sessions begin on June 1. For more information, check out the website at edgewoodsailing.org.



Bishop Hendricken’s Jakob Reyes on Sunday night in the state final.

● HAWKS from page 21

up in both the state and division championships. The Hawks will be graduating James Caldarella, Jakob Reyes and Dylan Lynch, while returning guys like

D’Ambra, Ellis-Cipriano and Will Cary to the mix next winter.

Ellis-Cipriano was named the team’s Most Valuable Player in the state final for his team leading point total.

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