

CranstonHerald

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Electric Boat welcomes graduates to submarine shipbuilding ranks

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Welcome aboard.
That was the message at an upbeat and decidedly patriotic ceremony held on May 22 to celebrate more than 200 graduating high school students from across the state who are immediately joining the workforce at General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) to build nuclear submarines.
The ceremony held at Cranston High School East and attended by Gov. Dan McKee and members of the state’s congressional delegation, also highlighted the importance of the state’s many career and technical programs which equip students with the skills to be work-ready in a variety of professions.
“(Tonight) is celebrating you,” Anjelica Infante-Green, the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education told the crowd assembled in the East auditorium. Noting that the state has hundreds of career and technical programs at high schools, career centers and post-secondary institutions, Infante-Green said, “Here in Little Rhody we



Navy Captain Brian D. Heberley, Commanding Officer Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion & Repair in Groton, CT reminded the graduates of the important role they will play in the country’s defense force. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

have what other states want – your talent.” This is the fourth year in a row that General Dynamics has held a statewide ceremony in Rhode Island to celebrate graduat-

ing high school students who have accepted job offers with its wholly owned subsidiary, Electric Boat. The company states on its website that it has been the primary builder of submarines for the U.S. Navy for more than 100 years.
Many of the students accepting their new jobs this spring will work as welders and pipe fitters at its Quonset Point hull fabrication facility in North Kingstown. GDEB operates its main shipyard in Groton, CT and has engineering offices in New London, CT and Middletown, RI.
The only other company in the United States with the capability to build nuclear submarines is Huntington Ingalls Industries’ Newport News Shipbuilding, located in Newport News, VA.
With a 125-year history, Electric Boat has built hundreds of submarines for the Navy and the company states current work includes construction of Virginia class fast-attack submarines as well as next generation, ballistic-missile submarines, called the Columbia class.
In addressing the graduates, Mark Ray-

● **EB to page 6**

Gaspee Days: Pawtuxet party is on



At Saturday’s Gaspee Days arts and crafts festival, Barry Edelstein of Cranston said the possum is the top seller among his menagerie of metal animals. *Story, page 5 Beacon Media photo by John Howell*



Laurie O'Rourke affixes an Irish-themed wreath to O'Rourke's Bar & Grill in 2018 in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Her work on Gaspee Days has earned her the first Benjamin Lindsay Award. *Beacon Media file photo*

Inaugural Lindsay award goes to Laurie O'Rourke

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Beacon Media Editor

Benjamin Lindsay is not frequently associated with Gaspee Day events, but Laurie O'Rourke is known to Pawtuxet Village residents.
On Tuesday, June 10, at Trinity Episcopal Church, O'Rourke will become the first recipient of the Benjamin Lindsay Award.
O'Rourke on Monday said she was surprised when she learned of the award and that she had been selected to receive it.

Lindsay, the captain of the Hannah, played a pivotal role in the burning of the HMS Gaspee on June 9, 1772. The Gaspee was in pursuit of the Hannah, which was sailing up Narragansett Bay. The Hannah, the smaller of the two boats, was believed to be carrying cargo that the British wanted to confiscate.
With a shallower draft than the Gaspee, the Hannah tacked across the Namquid Shoals on an ebbing tide. The Gaspee ran aground. Lindsay sailed on to Providence where he spread the word that the Gaspee was stuck and a party was rallied to do away with the ship.
Mark Russell, who has served in every possible role on the Gaspee Days Committee, wanted to do something to recognize all that O'Rourke, who until recently operated O'Rourke's Bar & Grill, has done for the committee and the village. He suggested she be awarded the Abraham Whipple Award. A Providence native, Whipple served as a commander in the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary War. The committee liked the idea of honoring O'Rourke, but felt the Whipple award should be reserved for Gaspee Committee members.
“We have come to realize that there are a lot of non-committee members that do so much for the committee and the Pawtuxet community. With that in mind we have created the Benjamin Lindsay Award,” Russell said in an email.

● **O'ROURKE to page 5**

Lawmakers surprised by \$15M shortfall as session winds down

By **NANCY LAVIN**
Rhode Island Current

You wouldn't suspect any opposition to proposed pay raises for state troopers and correctional officers based on public hearings on May 23.
The requisite meetings on new collective bargaining agreements held just before the holiday weekend concluded in under 10 minutes, with no public feedback on either contract. But legislative leaders are less than thrilled about the salary increases and accompanying benefits for roughly 1,250 state employees, which require \$15 million more than what Gov. Dan McKee planned for in his fiscal 2026 budget proposal.
Unlike most other state employee unions, the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers and the



House Speaker K. Joseph Sherkarchi
Beacon Media file photo

Rhode Island Troopers Association had not inked new deals with the administration when McKee unveiled his proposed \$14-billion spending plan in January. So McKee put in a \$30-million placeholder for the yet-to-be signed contracts.
Turns out, the agreements are actually going to cost the state \$45 million over the next two years, rather than the \$30 million McKee budgeted.
Hardly welcome news to the leaders of the Rhode Island General Assembly already grappling with a budget deficit and potentially devastating federal funding cuts just weeks before the end of the 2025 legislative session. A spending plan must be approved by the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

● **LAWMAKERS to page 4**



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Little Cranstonians Johnny, Kingston and Stella, all 6, kindergartners at St. Mary's. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*



Kids enjoy making personalized bottles of sand with Sandtastic Art. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

Grooves and giving at Cranston Spring Fest

Arts, food, entertainment and a good old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage. What more could you ask for? The Cranston Police Department held its annual spring festival at Mulligan's Island on Sunday, May 18. A wide array of vendors and local businesses across the state saw residents enjoy the great weather and items they had to offer. Towards the center of the field, past the bouncy houses and food trucks, was the main stage where World Premier Band performed for a crowd. With songs like the 1980 classic "Celebration" to the iconic song "September" by Earth, Wind & Fire, the

band played for locals ready to get their groove on. All for a good cause, the proceeds made from the festival will all go into CPDCares, the Cranston Police Department's nonprofit arm.



Lines form outside the bouncy houses as kids wait in anticipation of their turn. *Beacon Media photo by Rosegalie Cineus*

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DOMESTIC ASSAULT

On May 26 at 10:45 p.m., officers arrested Teresa Colombo, 55, of 24 Lindsay Lane, on charges of Domestic Assault on a Person Over 60, Domestic Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest. The arrest was the result of a domestic disturbance at the aforementioned address. Colombo was held for morning court.

FELONY SHOPLIFTING

On May 26 at 3:07 p.m., officers arrested Theresa Marie Dorazio, 38, Homeless, Providence, on charges of Felony Shoplifting and Habitual Offender – Shoplifting. The arrest was the result of call for service 1776 Plainfield Pk. (Walmart). Dorazio was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace as a violator.

INDECENT EXPOSURE

On May 25 at 3:17 p.m., officers arrested Jodana Brown, 55, of 85 Briggs St. Apt # 302 Cranston, on a charge of Indecent Exposure – Disorderly Conduct – 1st Offense. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 85 Briggs St. Brown was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and Released.

DUI

On May 25 at 7:08 p.m., officers arrested Wilfredo Rodriguez, 38, of 297 Harrington Ave. Warwick, on a charge of DUI of Liquor - .15 or Greater – 1st Offense (.316 and .321). The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop at 777 Cranston St. Ro-

driguez was awaiting arraignment by a Justice of the Peace to be released to RIH.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS

On May 24 at 12:07 p.m., officers arrested Kailee Withrow, 28, of No Particular Address, Cranston, on charges of Possession of Sched I-V(Fentanyl/Cocaine), Obstruction and a District Court Bench Warrant. The arrest was the result of a traffic stop on Knollwood Ave. Withrow was awaiting arraignment pending arrival of Justice of the Peace.

FELONY ASSAULT

On May 23 at 2:04 p.m., officers arrested Andrew Liberato, 45, of 495 Oaklawn Ave., on a charge of Felony Assault. The arrest was the result of a call for a disturbance at 1401 Park Ave. Liberato was awaiting arraignment pending arrival of Justice of the Peace.

FELONY SHOPLIFTING

On May 22 at 11:49 p.m., officers arrested Edwin Donald Gonzalez, 29, of 18 Pengrove St., on one (1) count of Felony Shoplifting and two (2) counts of misdemeanor shoplifting. The arrest was the result of a shoplifting in progress call at Seasons, 777 Cranston St. Gonzalez was held for arraignment/bail violator

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

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S A N A

D U D

L I L A C

C E N O T A P H

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M A D A M E



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'Live with Integrity': Student's essay wins big

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

That is how senior Cranston High School East student Danny Song began his award-winning essay.

A lover of both philosophy and history, Song said the quote struck him while he was putting together the essay, which took him only two hours to complete.

As a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. cadet, Song participated in the annual essay assigned by Cadet Command to all JROTC programs nationwide. Each year is a different theme. This year's theme was “Integrity.”

Drawing from his own experiences – Song is a senior drum major in the school band and is on the Cranston Combined Percussion team (semifinalists in this year's world championships) – he said he talked about what integrity meant to him in his extracurricular positions.

“It was just kind of like an honest thing,” Song said. “It's very hard writing something [and] fabricating it. So, I just spoke from my heart.”

(The quote Song led his essay with, long attributed to the philosopher Aristotle, has since been debated, with scholars finding it was instead a summation by author Will Durant of the philosopher's thoughts on the nature of excellence.)

Song said he was surprised to win over the other schools as Rhode Island is small.

JROTC is organized in eight brigades, and Cranston is assigned to the 2nd Brigade, which covers New England and includes New York and U.S. high schools in Germany and Italy.

Song's essay won the contest out of 125 schools in the 2nd Brigade.

Retired Command Sgt. Moses Moniz and Cranston East's JROTC army instructor said he got about 100 essays submitted from East's JROTC program, out of 110 cadets.

To Moniz's knowledge, no one from East has won this award in the last 20 years.

“I wasn't surprised because when I read his essay it was very well written,” Moniz said. “I was ecstatic that he was selected, and I think it proved that he did a good job.”



Drum major Danny Song, senior, celebrated senior night with the Cranston East marching band in November 2024. *Beacon Media photo.*

In one part of the essay, Song explains how living with integrity, losing with dignity and winning with humility play a critical role, especially in a diverse community.

Relating to his experience with multiculturalism, something that he is passionate about, Song said that since he was little his parents, who immigrated to the U.S., had high expectations for him.

The topic is deeply relevant to his own experience: He wrote about multiculturalism for his college essay. He is Korean Chinese. His family was born in China but are ethnically Korean. They are from a city called Yanbian, a Korean Autonomous Prefecture in China.

Growing up having to bridge two cultures, Song says one of the things he thinks about and tries to accomplish in his life is how he can bring people together.

“One thing about society that I've learned is that it's very diverse, especially in America,” Song said. “It's a melting pot. And I think one thing is how do we bring people together coming from different cultures?”

These are the thoughts that fill his mind, he says, especially as it relates to his leadership in JROTC and band. Throughout his essay, Song's passion for serving others and his dedication to leadership and responsibility shines through.

Many of the values he mentions in the piece he says were taught to him by retired Col. Jason Lafferty, who is battling leukemia and to whom Song dedicates the essay.

“When people read my essay, I want them to sit down and think to themselves, ‘How can I actually live with integrity?’” Song said. “And I just want people to be more responsible and be accountable for themselves ... learning and using that discipline in your daily life.”

As the school year ends, Song will graduate from Cranston East on June 7 before heading off on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., for the annual Cadet Command Academic and Leadership Bowl. There he will receive his award and be recognized.

Looking ahead, Song will be attending John Hopkins University on an Army ROTC scholarship. He will be in an accelerated master's program in international studies and relations, with hopes of becoming a diplomat.

But he will have to complete his eight-year military commitment first after graduating from John Hopkins.

As a graduating senior about to take on the rest of the world, Song's advice is to be bold, be brave, always try new things and learn from your mistakes. Citing one of his favorite quotes, “Don't be scared to fail,” Song said it is through his mistakes in high school that he was able to learn and grow as a person.

Senate passes LaMountain bills to increase protections on college savings plans, ABLE accounts

The Senate approved two bills on May 22 introduced by Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) that would protect college savings plans and savings accounts for disabled Rhode Islanders. Both bills were submitted by Senator LaMountain on behalf of General Treasurer James A. DiOSSa.

The first bill (2025-S 0730) would protect tuition savings plans from judicial attachment irrespective of the state in which the account was opened.

“Saving for college is one of the most important things we do as parents,” said Senator LaMountain. “While Rhode Island law currently protects tuition savings programs from attachment by creditors, it only applies to ac-

counts that were opened in Rhode Island through the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. This legislation extends that same protection to tuition savings accounts opened in other states.”

The second bill (2025-S 0731) would prohibit the state from seeking repayment for expenditures made on behalf of disabled Rhode Islanders from an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account upon their death.

“ABLE accounts have been a successful way for individuals with disabilities to save for the future without having an impact on their eligibility for federal or state benefit programs,” said Senator LaMountain. “Many expenses not paid for through Medicaid, such as medical

equipment or housing modifications, are purchased through these accounts. This bill would prevent state agencies from seeking reimbursement for those expenditures after the individual's death. Any money saved through an ABLE account would remain with the heirs of a designated beneficiary rather than return to the state.”

Both measures now move to the House of Representatives where Rep. Matthew S. Dawson (D- Dist. 65, East Providence) has introduced the tuition savings bill (2025-H 5645) and Rep. Terri Cortvriend (D-Dist. 72, Portsmouth, Middletown) has introduced the ABLE account bill (2025-H 5973).



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Cranston Chatter

May 28: Diabetes Chat (three-part series): Join the Cranston Senior Center on Wednesday at 1070 Cranston St., to discuss challenges of diabetes. Presentations are from 10-11 a.m. Sign up now call 401-780-6000.

May 28: Healthy Foods Cooking Demonstration: Chef Kevin Millonzi will present a free cooking demonstration of healthy options for meals. Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield RI, this event will be on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Space is limited, registration is required. Call now 401-780-6000.

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

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

June 1: Hike for Hope: The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP – RI) will gather for its first annual hike at Kent County YMCA Camp at 2 p.m. Registration and activities will begin at 1PM. For more details and to register, visit www.afsp.org/riconstruction. Walk-up registration is also welcomed.

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

June 4: Heat and Chronic Illness: Cranston Senior Center will hold a presentation in partnership with the URI Pharmacy Outreach Program on Wednesday at 10 a.m. on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of dehydration and heat stroke.

June 4: Caregiver Support Group: The Cranston Senior Center will host a caregiver support group meeting on Wednesday at 2 p.m. It will encourage caregivers to care for themselves and provide productive strategies for dealing with conflicts or tensions that may arise when caregiving. For more information call Jennifer at 401-780-6254.

June 7: Defenders of Animals’ Party Characters of Rhode Island: Come have your photo taken with Batman. Defenders of Animals Inc. a fundraiser on Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the Pet Supplies Plus store at 171 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Contact Person: Dennis Tabella, 401-461-1922.

June 10: Night Bingo: The Cranston Senior Center will be hosting night bingo on Tuesday from 5:30-p.m., at 1070 Cranston St.

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

June 18: Rochambeau Strawberry Biscuit Tea: The Cranston Historical Society will host an evening of pleasantries and tea with biscuits on Sunday at 6 p.m., at the Joy Homestead, 156 Scituate Ave. \$5 donation. Call (401) 944-9226 for more information or visit www.facebook.com/cranstonhistoricalsociety.

June 25: Coping With Triggers (Diabetes Chat): Join the Cranston Senior Center to discuss challenges of diabetes. Presentations are from 10-11:00 a.m. Sign up now call 401-780-6000.

June 27: Governor Sprague Mansion Spring Grounds Beautification: the Cranston Historical Society requests volunteer participation on Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at 1351 Cranston St., the Governor Sprague Mansion. Wear outdoor clothing and bring gloves and a rake. Call to sign up/register: 944-9226.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cranston Tree Program is now accepting applications for its spring planting. Seven- to eight-foot-tall trees, planted by a nursery, are available to homeowners for free. Residents living near highways are urged to apply. Applications can be downloaded at westbaylandtrust.org/cranston-tree, by emailing cranstontree@gmail.com or by calling 401-941-1264.

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

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

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

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

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

more information, please contact us Rhode Island Active Toastmasters. All are welcome!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mation call 780-6000.

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston and Warwick Public Libraries: Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A free gun lock and securing weapons safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston; Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.

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

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

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

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

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

● LAWMAKERS from page 1

“Unfortunately, the newly revealed shortfall from the administration’s contract settlements is not the only issue we need to address in the budget,” House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi said in an emailed statement. “It certainly worsens the situation and is, frankly, beyond frustrating.” Senate President Valarie Lawson also appeared caught off-guard by the unexpected cost hike, which she said she learned about on Wednesday.

“While this is deeply concerning, I will work with the Senate Finance Committee to address this unexpected challenge,” Lawson said in an emailed statement.

Laura Hart, a spokesperson for McKee’s office, defended the contract costs in an emailed response on May 23, noting that the third-quarter revenue report from the state budget office shows an extra \$60.9 million expected to flow into state coffers by the end of fiscal year 2025 on June 30.

“The governor encourages the General Assembly to support the contractual increases for public safety personnel using these dollars in the upcoming budget,” Hart said.

Retroactive cost-of-living hike for state police

Both contracts call for annual cost-of-living adjustments starting at 5% in year one, with a 4% second-year bump and a 3% adjustment in the third year — identical to the incremental scale adopted for 4,000 other state employees under contracts finalized last fall.

So how did McKee mess up the math?

For one, the raises for 255 state troopers start earlier than expected: the 5% pay bump is retroactive to Nov. 1, 2023, rather than the July 1, 2024, start date for other state

union workers, including correction officers, said Karen Greco, a spokesperson for the state Department of Administration. The tentative agreement, reached Feb. 28, also features a “uniform allowance” not accounted for in the governor’s budget projections, Greco said.

Erik Jensen, president of the state troopers union, acknowledged but did not offer a response to questions about the agreement on May 23.

Richard Ferruccio, president of the Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, remained unsatisfied with the terms of the 1,000-member union’s new state contract, which was finalized on May 14 after months of arbitration.

“I don’t want to sound ungrateful,” Ferruccio said in an interview Friday. “But I still feel somewhat frustrated with it.”

His main grievance was not with the annual cost-of-living increases but accompanying benefits that would make the union better able to attract and retain officers. Staffing woes at state Department of Corrections are well-documented, and costly; the 117 open positions as of March 22 are projected to lead to a \$42.9-million overtime cost for the full fiscal year 2025, according to a presentation to state lawmakers in April.

Ferruccio blamed staffing shortages on uncompetitive benefits relative to other local law-enforcement officers and neighboring states, where officers can reach the “top step” of pay in a shorter period of time.

“There are only a handful of people that really want to get involved in any type of law enforcement,” Ferruccio said. “When you look at other local police departments,

they have a significantly better situation with the top step than we do.”

He had hoped to lower the seniority requirement for union officers to reach maximum pay from its current 14 years to six years, matching the policy offered for correctional officers in Connecticut. But the compromise struck with the state cuts the length of service to 10 years beginning this June, and eight years starting in June 2026. The agreement also includes a 2.5% pay raise for anyone who stays at least 20 years.

The governor’s budget did not account for the costs associated with these changes, either, Greco said.

But Ferruccio said the final price tag should not have come as a surprise, noting that the changes to top step and retention benefits were longstanding asks by the union.

“I think the governor was given bad information by DOC,” Ferruccio said. He pointed to the grossly underestimated cost to close the state’s minimum security facility — initially pegged at \$1 million in McKee’s budget when a study found it would actually cost \$67 million to \$71 million — as an example of miscommunication by the corrections department.

J.R. Ventura, a spokesperson for the state corrections department, declined to comment when contacted on May 23.

State worker contract costs are not the only expense McKee underestimated in his fiscal 2026 budget proposal. The state will also have to make up a \$24-million shortfall in education aid to local school districts in its fiscal 2025 and 26 budgets due to corrected data on the number of students in poverty.



Past Gaspee Days Committee president Gina Dooley, left, chats with Natalie Abernathy, who will assume the role of president in September. Abernathy ran the arts and crafts festival this year.



Jackson Pavao, of Troop 4 Gaspee Scouting America, paused at the Pawtuxet Rangers display. He and other Scouts patrolled for trash and assisted where needed, as they do annually at the festival.



Marilyn Wasowski knew she wanted the Grateful Dead T-shirt the moment she saw it. A client at West Bay RI, Marilyn, who waters the window-box flowers on the Pawtuxet Bridge, was accompanied by Mary Beth Clancy from West Bay RI.

Gaspee Days are here again: Summer has begun

By **JOHN HOWELL**
Beacon Media Editor

This is Erin Flynn’s second time around as president of the Gaspee Days Committee, but she still gets a wonderful feeling when people tell her the arts and crafts festival is the beginning of summer for them. It’s a time for the whole family to come together, walk Narragansett Parkway, meet friends and look over and buy the wares of more than 150 vendors.

From early forecasts, however, it looked like the festival could be a washout. There have been some wet Memorial Day weekends, but the festival has never been canceled because of the weather. The only committee president to postpone the festival and cancel other Gaspee events including the parade was Gina Doolley. She didn’t have much choice. Covid shut down the state in 2020.

So a few showers on Saturday didn’t keep people away from the festival. The turnout was strong, and with improved weather on Sunday and Monday, it kept up.

While it’s the summer starting gun, the festival is also the kickoff to a series of events that culminate with the burning of the Gaspee (well, it’s a scaled-down steel outline of the British schooner that colonists torched on June 9, 1772) on Sunday, June 15 at 4 p.m. The best place to catch the action preceded by cannon fire from the Pawtuxet Rangers is Pawtuxet Park in Warwick.

● O’ROURKE from page 1

O’Rourke confesses she had little time after her husband, Michael, died in 2009 and she assumed full operation of the business. But that didn’t stop her from doing a lot for the village.

She credits Michael with spearheading the Gaspee block party, which raises a big chunk of what it costs to run Gaspee celebrations and in particular the parade. She said Michael believed strongly in the community and did what he could for Pawtuxet.

“It was his vision to do what he did,” she said. She noted that the Pawtuxet Stroll and the scarecrow event are

two of the activities supported by the business, which recently sold to John and Shannon Brito.

Now living in Narragansett, O’Rourke won’t be a stranger to Pawtuxet. She’ll be here for the Ecumenical Service, recently renamed the Gaspee Community Service & Concert, at Trinity Episcopal Church at 6 p.m., and to join in the food and celebration following the service.

In part, the plaque she will receive reads the award “recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional dedication through the generous donation of time, energy and resources to support the mission of the Gaspee Days Committee.”



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The honor guard from the Cranston High School East Jr. ROTC program opened last week's ceremony celebrating 200-plus Rhode Island high school graduates starting skilled careers with General Dynamics Electric Boat. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

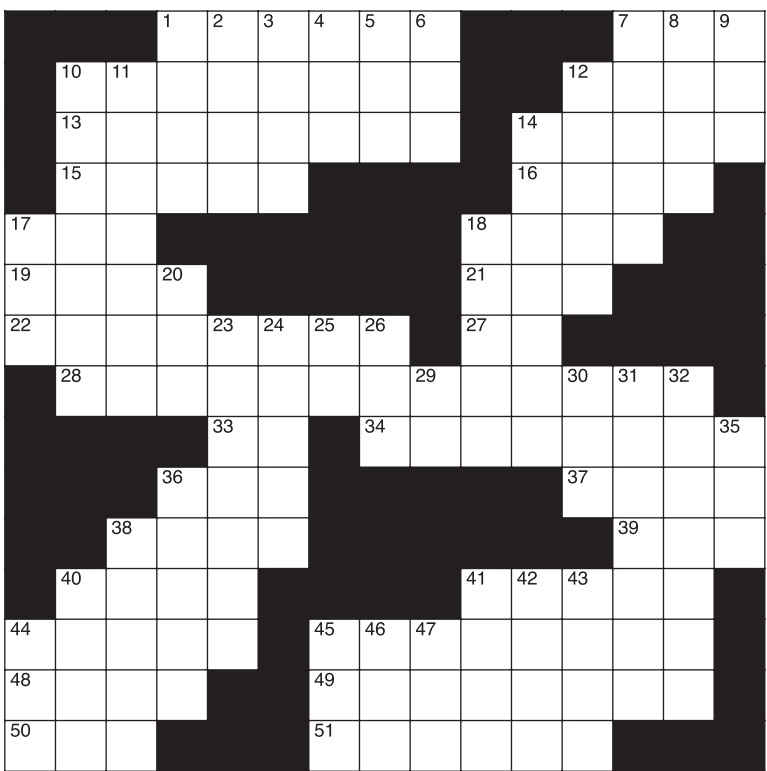


Ready to work. Even before they don mortarboards for their high school graduation ceremonies, these skilled students received their hard hats from Electric Boat. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



See you at Quonset. Charles Montalbano, vice president of Quonset Point Operations for GDEB is ready to welcome the new members of the company's workforce. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- Bring up
- Child
- Formal written defense
- Bangladeshi currency
- Burial site
- In the lead
- Large recesses in a church
- Count on
- Defunct phone company
- Golf scores
- Afflicts
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Prominence
- "The Great Lakes State"
- SoCal ballplayer
- Location of White House
- Magnificence
- Hip hop songstress
- Capital of Yemen
- __ Blyton, children's author

CLUES DOWN

- Kitchen devices
- Wings
- Mythological birds
- Everyone has one
- Matchstick game
- Bar bill
- Weights
- Satisfactorily
- Small amount
- Tree types
- Small protuberances

- Bomb
- Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- Pinkish-violet color
- A way to make right
- Monument to one buried elsewhere
- Region south of Dead Sea
- Acts out against
- Harsh cry of a crow
- Formal title for a woman
- Equivalent of 100K BTU
- Type of horse
- More (Spanish)
- Argentinian province
- A bad act
- Moving in a circular way
- Battery type
- Atomic #58
- Popular breakfast food
- An alternative
- Tooth caregiver
- A way to conform
- Disfigured men
- Cool!
- Genus of mosses
- Body part
- Kashmiri people
- Round water pot
- Something to purchase
- Emit coherent radiation
- Indicates 10
- Advertising metric
- Pitching stat
- Head movement

The new employees, who will work on nuclear submarines for the Navy, were individually congratulated by dignitaries including Gov. McKee and members of the state's congressional delegation. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



● EB from page 1

President of GDEB, congratulated them on their new well-paying, skilled careers which will give them opportunities to grow. But more importantly, he said, "You will do something that a lot of other people can't do: Protect our nation." He said that the United States is well-equipped to "flex back" when pressed by adversaries. "Thank you," he said to the students and their families. "We need you."

The role that the newly signed employees will play in defending the country was a point stressed by many of the evening's speakers. "You will protect our sailors and defend your freedom," said Charles Montalbano, vice president of Quonset Point Operations for GDEB.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed congratulated the students via video message, and he and Congressmen Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo credited the graduates for mastering their skills and signing up for jobs that serve their country.

Magaziner said that the nation's submarine fleet, which he described as the finest in the world, is the cornerstone of its defense systems and a key deterrent to aggressors. "They can be anywhere at any time," he said of the submarines. "And they can respond in a moment's notice."

Working in a shipyard can seem far from the depths of the ocean, but Navy Captain Heath Johnmeyer -- Commanding Officer for the Pre-Commissioning Unit of the District of Columbia sub which is still under construction by Electric Boat -- reminded the new hires that their service is as important as the sailors who serve on the vessels they build.

"You may not be wearing uniforms, but you are part of the submarine service now,"

he said. "You are a critical resource to our country."

The newly hired graduates represent more than 35 public high schools, career and tech-

Graduates headed to Electric Boat

Cranston High School East
Alexander Mendoza Luis, Angelo Pena, Bryan Garcia Bello, Jack Barboza, Joseph Benoit, Kaiya Loisel, Luis Camacho Perez, Nizayah Thomas, Tiarra Vasquez, Victor Cabrera and Xavier Grundy

Cranston High School West
Alius Cotto-Santiago, Anthony Salas, Caden Carvalho, Chris Sheriff, Joshua Brynes, and Troy Cha

nical centers, and charter schools in Rhode Island as well as about a dozen secondary schools in nearby communities in Connecticut and Massachusetts. All of the high schools in Warwick, Cranston and Johnston -- as well as the Warwick Career and Technical Center -- have students who have been accepted for skilled work at GDEB.

Looking out at soon-to-be graduates, Cranston School Supt. Jeannine Nota-Masse praised them and GDEB -- the students for their hard work and Electric Boat for its continued support of skills-based high school programs.

She also added levity while still underscoring the importance of the careers the young adults are about to embark on. "No pressure," she said. "But the defense of the United States is in your hands."

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A POETRY JOURNAL

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Open for Submissions Through May 31

Opinion

EDITORIAL

In memory of humanity

In today’s highly polarized, overly politicized society, holidays like Memorial Day can stir up complicated feelings, particularly if your family has never been touched by the loss of someone in the military, and particularly if you abide by an ideology that’s averse to war.

We think it’s worth exploring that inner conflict.

While we wholeheartedly support those who enter into careers in the military, and while we absolutely believe the ideals of America are worth fighting for, we can’t help but also find it troubling how many Americans (and Rhode Islanders) seem to hold the view that an aggressive sense of combative nationalism is prerequisite to being a patriotic American. Because in reality, some of the bravest souls to serve in uniform have emerged from their time in conflict advocating against all war, and fighting in general.

For example, let’s talk about Smedley Darlington Butler. Born in 1881 in Pennsylvania, he started his military ca-



Some visitors tucked yellow roses of remembrance into the combat boots that made up the moving Memorial Day display organized by Operation Stand Down Rhode Island at Fort Adams in Newport.

reer by lying about his age to receive a direct commission as an officer. By the end of his career, he would become (at the time of his death) the most decorated member in the history of the United States Marine Corps. He won the Medal of Honor twice and amassed 16 medals, including five for acts of heroism, during his 34-year military career, which continued through World War I.

In his later years, he would dedicate his life to speaking out against what he viewed as opportunistic profiteering by the U.S. government in conflicts around the world. He accused the military of using soldiers to enrich large corporations.

And whether or not you agree with that critique, or you see him as a sort of traitor to the flag, it illustrates an important point — that it is possible for very patriotic, very brave people to hold simultaneously conflicting views about war, about America’s involvement in conflicts around the globe, and about the meaning of something like Memorial Day.

As we look around us today and see how different people’s views are about what it truly means to be “American,” and the things they are willing to tolerate when a member of “their” political party does them, versus a member of the “other” party, perhaps it is best that we use days like Memorial Day to reflect on the humanity behind the day and leave the labels at the door.

Soldiers who go into war don’t get to decide when the war starts or when it ends. Many times, in past conflicts, they didn’t even get to decide whether they wanted to answer the call to serve. But thousands upon thousands of men and women throughout our history have perished on foreign and domestic soils throughout our history.

They didn’t do it to earn favors with a political party, to get rich or to advance their personal ideologies. Some of them died protecting civilians from the countries they were engaged in conflict with. Some of them sacrificed themselves to save their fellow soldiers from suffering the same fate, even if they held totally different views or personally disliked them. They all left permanent and painful voids in the lives of those who loved them and miss them to this day.

They all deserve to be remembered. And in a world that seems to be pulling us apart from every angle, this collective remembrance should be unifying.

We should never forget that at the end of the day, that is what Memorial Day is really about. It’s not about politics, or debating whether a war is just, or competing to show who has the most patriotic parade or who “loves America” the most. It should be a reflective remembrance of the humanity that binds us all together, and the humanity that is still worth fighting for.

SOUTH COUNTY SAYS GOODBYE TO AN OLD FRIEND...FOR A WHILE



Not what I expected at Kent Hospital

I got another perspective of Kent Hospital on Friday, one that I haven’t seen in more than 50 years of reporting news in Warwick. I was a patient at the hospital’s ambulatory care center, that long brick building that angles off to the east of the hospital entrance.

It looked deserted when the three of us – Carol and the dog, Farrah – arrived shortly before 6 a.m. There was a parking space right in front, in fact, a bunch of parking spaces. That never happens at a hospital. The lights were on, but there was no sign of activity. Had we arrived too early? Would anyone be there to perform the procedure addressing the torn meniscus in my left knee?

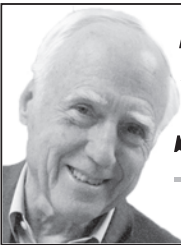
Carol checked the door. It opened and she disappeared. Still, there wasn’t a sign of anyone. A minute later she was back at the car.

“It’s on the second floor,” she reported. We left the car and Farrah smack dab in front of the building and took the elevator up, arriving at a reception area I recalled from a ribbon-cutting years ago when the center first opened. Nothing seemed to have changed other than the fact no one was there, or so I thought.

“Over here,” came the feminine voice from behind a glassed-in reception desk.

I entered my name on an elevated keypad while Carol asked about parking. We were good leaving the car if it was just for the time being, but if she was going to stay while I went in for the procedure, she would need to move it. Carol disappeared to find a space, which again was unbelievably easy, and I found a seat in a waiting area that started to fill up. There were six of us.

Carol returned and we decided it made sense for her to go home and wait for a call when everything was done. Not soon after she left, Melissa, a slim, cheerful nurse who has been at Kent for more than 20 years, guided me into the operating wing of the building. Being the first patient of the day, I got the first room within the bay. Melissa, whose two daughters are following in her footsteps as nurses, left me a plastic bag for my clothes, tagged my walker and gave me a johnny to change into. She was back with a heated blanket to keep me toasty and then prepared me for an IV that would be used by the anesthesiologist.



This Side Up

by John Howell

Soon I was to get a visit from Anthony DiMauro, physician assistant to Dr. Ramin Tabaddor of University Orthopedics, who would be doing the procedure. He was checking in to see how I was doing and whether I was ready.

I was still almost an hour away from being wheeled into the operating room. The ward was coming to life. A clutch of nurses gathered beyond my room, talking about their upcoming weekend activities. There was plenty of laughter. This didn’t sound like the hospital I knew. It was a stress-free environment.

Nurse Melissa was back in. Did I want to watch TV while waiting? I chose to check out the Wall Street Journal I’d brought along, which surely was an oddity but a topic of conversation when visited by the anesthesiologist. The front-page story on the multi-million dollar compensation package for the new CEO at UnitedHealth Care was a hot topic. And then I had a visit from another nurse who took vitals and an assistant who shaved and washed my leg with a disinfectant soap.

“You didn’t expect to get a spa, did you,” she said. Indeed, I had not expected such lavish attention, but was loving it.

Tabaddor joined the group. He was upbeat, ready to start the day, which consisted of five or six more procedures that morning. He marked my left knee with a pen, just to make sure they had the right one.

Soon after, I would be wheeled down to the operating room, where I would say good morning to everyone before losing consciousness for the next hour and finding myself back in my room. Carol was on her way to pick me up.

The vitality of the ambulatory center, the attention to detail and the care went a long way in building my confidence of a positive outcome. It pays to laugh, too.

In his effort to be thorough, the anesthesiologist explained he would administer two drugs. One would put me to sleep and the other would prevent me from snoring.

I replied, “snoring?”

“Yes,” he said.

“I don’t want to wake up the doctors,” I said.

He laughed.

It was going to be good morning ... and it was.

LETTERS

How much did RI’s delegation know about Biden’s decline?

To the Editor:

What did they know and when did they know it? I think that question should be asked of each of the four members of our congressional delegation regarding Joe Biden’s failing mental capacities.

Anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear could tell that Biden was impaired as far back as 2020. But his staff and most Democrat elites insisted he was sharp as a tack and fit to run again in 2024.

We are now learning that Biden’s staff engaged in a cover-up of the true extent of his infirmities. Were Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo clueless about this cover-up, or were they complicit in it? Whatever the answer, it doesn’t inspire much confidence in any one of these four career politicians.

A. H. Liddle
Warwick

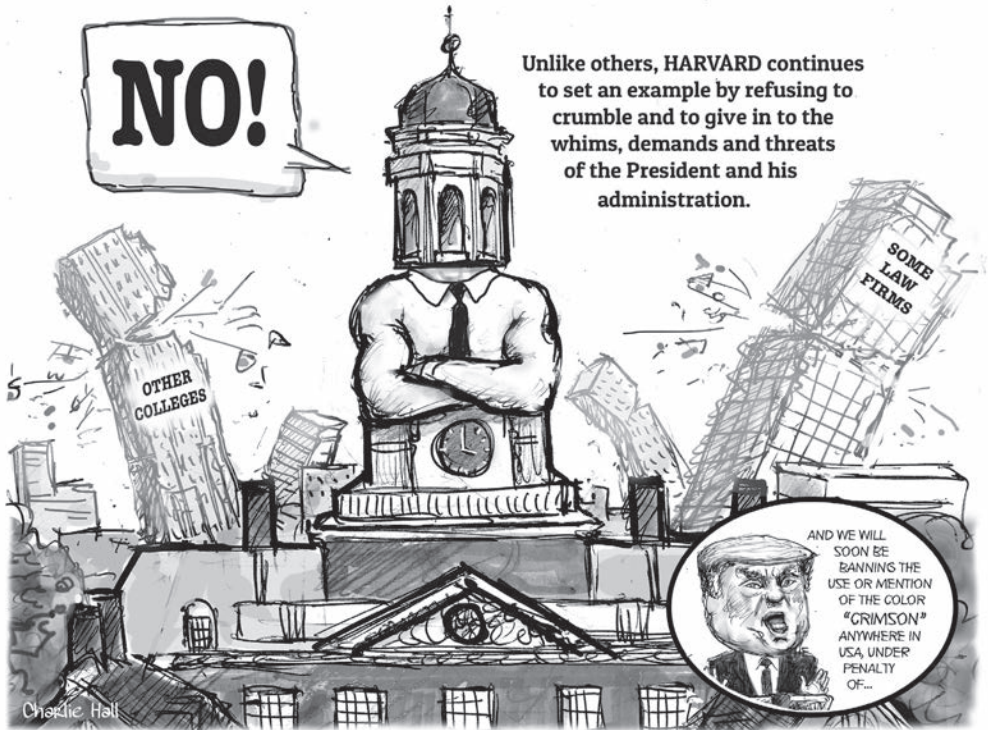
What’s on your mind?

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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Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The semi-annual public hearings to present findings in compliance with the Permanent Noise Monitoring Act (R.I. General Laws 1-5-1 et seq.), on Federal Aviation Administration, Part 150 noise abatement measures will be held by The Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) as follows:

June 25, 2025
12:00 PM
Cranston Public Library
140 Sockanosset Cross Road
Cranston, Rhode Island
6:00 PM
Mary Brennan Board Room, 2nd Floor,
Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport
Warwick, Rhode Island

The reports will be posted on RIAC's website, available at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, Rhode Island and the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, Rhode Island, and by calling 401-691-2000. The Corporation meeting room is accessible to the handicapped. Those requesting interpreter services for the hearing im-paired must notify Ms. Brittany Morgan at 691-2288 or Customer Service at customerservice@pvairport.com forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

5/29/25

THE CITY OF CRANSTON ZONING BOARD DOCKET June 11, 2025

The following applications will be heard in the City Council Chambers
Cranston City Hall
869 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910
on
Wednesday June 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
The items listed may be subject to final action.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

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

5/29/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 7 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended, for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jun 2, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034
Phone one-tap: +16469313860, 92622262471# US +13017158592, 92622262471# US (Washington DC)

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US

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Kristen Haroian, Chair
Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

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

5/22, 5/29/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 7 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended, for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jun 2, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034

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

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US

New Class BVL Liquor License
401 WingZ, Inc.
800 Oaklawn Ave, C3
Mon-Sun 11am-9pm

Kristen Haroian, Chair
Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

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

5/22, 5/29/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with Title 3, Chapter 7 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended, for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jun 2, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034

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

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US

New Class BVL Liquor License
Olneyville Opco, LLC
d/b/a Olneyville NY System
1012 Reservoir Ave.
Mon-Sun 11am-10pm

Kristen Haroian, Chair
Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

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

5/22, 5/29/25

SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held before the Safety Services & Licenses Committee on **Monday, June 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Cranston City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I.in accordance with Title 5, Chapter 24 of the R.I. Gen. Laws, 1956, as amended for the purpose of considering the application listed below. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

When: Jun 2, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034

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

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US

Additional Hours Virtualing. License
DDO New England, LLC
d/b/a Taco Bell
1102 Cranston St.
Monday-Sunday 7am-4am

Kristen Haroian, Chair
Safety Services & Licenses Committee

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

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

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

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on the following proposed Ordinance(s) will be held before the Ordinance Committee on **Thursday, June 12, 2025 on or about 6:30 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I. pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Cranston City Charter, for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the agenda. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/97960913699?pwd=equB6ftm43AAMElUN3tZtUVbv7bkC.1>
Passcode: 917297

Phone one-tap: +13052241968, 97960913699# US +13092053325, 97960913699# US

Join via audio: +1 305 224 1968 US +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 646 931 3860 US +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
Webinar ID: 979 6091 3699
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/acTikmUPnC>

Complete copies of proposed ordinance(s) are available for public review at the City Clerk's Office, and

the City's website cranstonri.com under calendar by clicking on the meeting date.

"Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf or hard of hearing must notify the City Clerk's Office at 461-1000 ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date."

Andy M. Andujar
Ordinance Committee Chair

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 05-25-01 IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 5, CHAPTER 04 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED 'LICENSES GENERALLY'

It is Ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.04.080 is hereby amended as follows:

5.04.080 Termination date of Sunday Holiday sales licenses.

The termination date of all licenses granted for **Sunday— holiday sales and Sunday-business**, pursuant to the General Laws, shall be March 31st of each year.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption

Sponsored by Councilwoman Haroian

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 05-25-02 IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 5, CHAPTER 68 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED 'TOBACCO DEALERS'

It is Ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.68 TOBACCO DEALERS is hereby **REPEALED** in its entirety

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption.

Sponsored by Councilwoman Haroian

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 05-25-03 IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 5, CHAPTER 20 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED 'BINGO GAMES'

It is Ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.20 BINGO GAMES is hereby **REPEALED** in its entirety

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption.

Sponsored by Councilwoman Haroian

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 05-25-04 IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 5, CHAPTER 32 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED 'FLOWER VENDORS'

It is Ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.32 FLOWER VENDORS is hereby **REPEALED** in its entirety

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption.

Sponsored by Councilwoman Haroian

5/29/25

PROBATE COURT OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON
NOTICE
Of Matters Pending and For Hearing
In Said Court
On the dates specified in notices below at
9 A.M. for hearing said matters
Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave, Cranston, RI 02910
3rd Floor, Council Chambers

Individuals requiring assistive listening devices are requested to contact the office of the city clerk at 461-1000 ext 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

BRICENO, DELIA RESIDENT WARD
Petition for Guardianship; for hearing June 12, 2025

DEFELICE, RONALD A. ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing June 12, 2025

HAGUE, CORINNNE M. ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 5 Stony Brook Drive, Cranston, RI; for purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing June 12, 2025

JORDAN, DAVID L. ESTATE
Petition for Probate of Will; for hearing June 12, 2025

MENARD, LORETTA RESIDENT WARD
Petition for Guardianship; for hearing June 12, 2025

MESCHINO, LORRAINE ANN RESIDENT WARD
Co-Guardian's 35th Account; Petition for the Sale of Personal Estate; for hearing June 12, 2025

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034

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

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 305 224 1968 US +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 926 2226 2471
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/uac9kGHWFk>
Complete copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public review at the

YOUNG, LIZZIE BELL ESTATE
Petition for the Sale of Real Estate located at 11 Washington Ave., Cranston, RI; for hearing purposes set forth, now on file, wherein said property is more fully described for hearing June 12, 2025

ALVITI, WAVE G. ESTATE
Kristine A. Richer has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

BRUNO, GEORGE J. ESTATE
Paul S. Bruno has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

CAPALDO, RICHARD J. ESTATE
Jeanne F. Capaldo has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

CAPUANO, MARK DANIEL ESTATE
David A. Capuano has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

CIRESI, GAIL M. ESTATE
Matthew P. Ciresi has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

CRIBARI, JR., RAYMOND A. ESTATE
Sherri L. Turner has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

DELANCY, SONA RESIDENT WARD
Brian E. Delancy has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

FANTOZZI, ANICETO ESTATE
Kristin Dispirito has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

GAMBUTO, MARGUERITE T. ESTATE

Elizabeth Gambuto has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MADSEN, GREGORY A. ESTATE
Lisa Madsen has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MAGUIRE, BARBARA C. ESTATE
Kim Parent has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MCGARRY, ELIZABETH RESIDENT WARD
Kathryn J. McGarry has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MCGOVERN, NEIL P. ESTATE
Robin A. McGovern has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MERCIER, JOSEPH A. ESTATE
Nicole Spirito has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

MORETTI, ROBERT J. ESTATE
Cynthia M. Capaldi and Kristin J. DiPrete Koopman have qualified as Co-Executrices; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

OFORI, CECIL SAI RESIDENT MINOR

Queenstar Fetuah has qualified as Guardian of the Person and Estate

ORSI, DORIS A. ESTATE
Paula Kojian and Debra Duffy-Connors has qualified as Co-Executrices; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

SAMMARTINO, EVERETT C. ESTATE

Everett C. Sammartino, Jr. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

SOLITRO, ELAINE S. ESTATE
Leslie A. Solitro-Lefebvre has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

TANNER, SUZANNE C. ESTATE
Irene Tanner has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the probate clerk within the time required by law beginning May 29, 2025

Tracy Nelson
Clerk of the Probate Court

5/29, 6/5/25

FINANCE COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing on the following proposed Ordinance will be held before the Finance Committee on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, City Hall, Cranston, R.I. pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Charter, in accordance with the RI General Laws Chapter 45-24-53 for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the agenda. Remote participation is also available by using the logon information provided below as posted on the City's website at www.cranstonri.gov and Secretary of State's website at www.sos.ri.gov.

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/92622262471?pwd=2ySjplwza7xS2nglbclbcFFyzlQcJm.1>
Passcode: 854034

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

Join via audio: +1 646 931 3860 US +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 305 224 1968 US +1 309 205 3325 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Webinar ID: 926 2226 2471
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/uac9kGHWFk>
Complete copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public review at the

City Clerk's Office and on the City's website (www.cranstonri.gov) under calendar by clicking on the meeting date.

"Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf or hard of hearing must notify the City's Office at 461-1000 ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date."

Dan Wall
Finance Committee Chair

Tracy Nelson
City Clerk

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 05-25-05 AMENDING THE CITY OF CRANSTON 2025-2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (Engineering Salary Schedule Amendment)

It is Ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:

Section 1. The salary schedule of the Department of Public Works budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, specifically "Engineering-1303", is hereby amended by zero funding the position of Chief Engineer:

Position	Grade	Step	Salary
Chief Engineer	41	6	\$133,179 \$ -0-

And adding the following:

Senior Civil Engineer	41	6	\$133,179
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Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption

Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins

5/29/25

CRANSTON BOARD OF CONTRACT AND PURCHASE AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Board of Contract and Purchase on June 3, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Pursuant to City Council Ordinance, the following advertises the agenda for that meeting. All matters listed are subject to a vote and/or final action by the Board unless otherwise noted.

BID OPENINGS:
Veterans Memorial Ice Rink Repairs
Police Department Uniforms
Sale of Obsolete Vehicles and Equipment

BID AWARD:
Construction Services for the Plainfield Pump Station Rehabilitation for the Cranston Wastewater Treatment Facility
Roofing System for Cranston Fire Department Station 4 located at 160 Sockanosset Cross Road
City Wide Basketball and Tennis Court Renovations

BID WAIVERS: Parks & Rec (



Four officers from the Navy Officer Development School in Newport spend time at the memorial. From left, Zachary Drake, Bill Drake, Wayne Forton and David Dereyfus.



Tom Fayed (left) bends down to right a flag that had been toppled by the wind. This is the first time he and his wife, Brenda, have visited the memorial, which they described as profoundly moving.

Boots on the Ground honors the lives taken

A stiff wind snapped thousands of small American flags taut Saturday as a squall rolled in over Fort Adams in Newport. The flags were guardians to more than 7,600 pairs of combat boots on display at the fort – an annual Memorial Day tribute to American troops lost in combat since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Boots on the Ground for Heroes memorial display at the historical fortress is organized by Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a private, nonprofit organization that supports veterans with comprehensive services and programs.

The empty boots, each pair anchored to a flag and bearing a tag with information on a fallen member of the armed services, create a moving display as they stretch in seemingly endless rows across the pentagonal parade grounds inside the historic fort.

Visitors walked silently up and down the rows, often stopping to read the name tags or secure a flag being tugged loose by the wind. Here and there, visitors had tucked yellow roses of remembrance into some of the boots.

—Tom and Brenda Fayed said they were glad they took the time to stop at the fort and found the display profoundly moving. “We lived in the area for years, but this is the first time we’ve come to see it,” Brenda Fayed said. “I’m glad we did. It means a lot to see this.”

Operation Stand Down, which is based in Johnston, launched the Boots on the Ground display in 2016 at Roger Williams Park in Providence. Three years later it moved the display to the 6.5-acre parade ground at Fort Adams, where it is open and free to the public for the entire Memorial Day weekend.

The logistics of the display and setting up thousands of pairs of combat boots is a testament to a determination to “never forget” and also to an army of volunteer supporters.

Hundreds of volunteers were stationed at Fort Adams days in advance to secure the boots in place. Each pair has a placard with the name and a photo of the U.S. service member, along with biographical information. The memorial is updated every year to include any service members killed on the ongoing “Global War on Terror,” Operation Stand Down states on its website.

The boots are organized alphabetically and by state and U.S. territory to make it easier for visitors. There is also a special circle for Rhode Islanders, with the state flag an-



Coins left on the toes of boots have special meaning. The denomination of the coin indicates how close someone was to the armed services member.

chored in the center. The boots there are desert tan, while the other boots throughout the memorial are black. Some boots, particularly those in the Rhode Island circle, had coins placed atop the toes. The denomination of the coins carries significance, and the practice stems from a military tradition that arose during the Vietnam War era. A quarter is the most significant coin to leave and indicates that the visitor was with the service member when they died. A dime means the visitor served in the military with the deceased, and a nickel means they spent time together in training. A penny is simply a way to mark someone’s visiting the

memorial and wanting to leave a tangible symbol of gratitude for national service and ultimate sacrifice.

This year’s Boots on the Ground for Heroes sponsors included AMGEN, the Tilley Family, Seasons Corner Market, Cardi’s Furniture & Mattresses, Corvias, IGT, Dave’s Fresh Marketplace, Flood Ford, Riverhead Building Supply and Brown Medicine/Brown Physicians Inc.

A team from Operation Stand Down Rhode Island was at the memorial all weekend, ready to answer visitors’ questions. George Lutge of OSDRI said the organization is grateful to all the volunteers who helped make the display possible but also to the thousands of visitors who took the time to reflect on the losses on a busy holiday weekend.

“Those represent are our brothers and our sisters,” he said, gesturing toward the grassy field of boots and flags. “It means a lot to us to see people stop by here and remember them.”

Obituaries

Paul J. Fox, Jr.

Paul J. Fox, Jr., 73, of Cranston peacefully passed away at home surrounded by his family on May 21, 2025. PJ, as he was affectionately known, was the husband of Wendy (Baltzer) Fox for 49 wonderful years and was the son of the late Paul J. and Marian E. (Halligan) Fox. He was a graduate of Our Lady of Providence, Class of 1970 and Providence College, Class of 1974. He worked with his dad, PJ Fox, Sr., at the family business, the PJ Fox Paper Company, and eventually took the reins as president. Later in his career, he worked in insurance and finally at the Internal Revenue Service.



PJ was a member of many civic, professional and religious organizations, including the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Sons of Irish Kings. He was a former commissioner of the Cranston Redevelopment Agency. He was also a member and past President of the Rotary Club of Providence and the first president of the board of the Genesis Center in Providence. He received the Paul Harris Award from Rotary International. He was a lifelong communicant of St. Paul Church.

PJ and Wendy first met in Kindergarten at ES Rhodes Elementary School before going their separate ways for nearly two decades. They were married for nearly five decades, during which they supported each other’s careers and volunteer efforts, and raised five children in the Edgewood neighborhood of Cranston. For the last 6 years, Wendy was his most loving and constant caregiver during his battle with Alzheimer’s. It was through their example – always and during this challenging time, in particular – that their children learned the power of love, humility, humor, and hard work rooted in faith.

PJ was the loving father to Joy, PJ III, Molly, Tim and his wife, Ami, and Hannah. He was the loving “G-pa” to Luke, Lennon, Madeline, and Declan.

PJ is also survived by his siblings, Mary Simas (Paul), Cathy Fox, Kevin Fox (Mary), Mike Fox (Ginny), Annie Stringfellow (Jon), John Fox (Kathy), Bridget Bugbee (Kevin), Ginny Byrnes (Brian), Joe Fox (Debbie), and brother-in-law Carl Hjerpe. He is predeceased by his brother Jimmy Fox and sister Susie Hjerpe. He will be sincerely missed by his many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Being able to care for PJ at home would not have been possible without the tremendous support of family and friends. The Fox family is deeply grateful for an amazing team of CNAs, especially Daniel and Dolores, and the care professionals of Hope Hospice.

His funeral was held on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. from the Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 a.m. in St. Paul Church of Edgewood, One St. Paul Place, Cranston. Visiting hours were Friday, May 23, 2025, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in PJ’s memory may be made to St. Paul Church, One St. Paul Place, Warwick Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905 or Sophia Academy, 582 Elmwood Ave, Providence, RI 02907.

Education panel to vet CCRI president finalists

Rhode Island Council on Postsecondary Education has announced the finalists in its search for a new permanent president of Community College of Rhode Island. They are Rosemary Costigan, Ph.D., R.N. and Christopher Reber, Ph.D.

Costigan has been the interim president of CCRI since 2023, when Meghan Hughes resigned the office. Reber is the president of Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, N.J., a position he has held since 2018.

Both candidates will be participating in forums organized by the Council on Postsecondary Education in which they will meet with CCRI students, faculty and staff, as well as the

alumni and foundation boards. Those meetings will be held the first week of June.

The announcement of the two finalists comes after a nationwide search, led by a diverse executive search committee and guided by AGB Search, a nationally renowned executive search firm that performs searches for colleges and universities. The nine-member committee was co-chaired by Hon. Elizabeth Ortiz, associate justice, RI Family Court and Steve Smith, educational consultant, Steve Smith Consulting LLC.

“The process to cut the list of candidates down from 44 applicants to these two was highly competitive,” said Judge Ortiz. “The diverse pool of candidates, many with formidable re-

sumes, provided the opportunity for the search committee to choose the finalists that were indeed the best match for CCRI at this time.”

“The quality of the individuals who had applied for this position was impressive, making it a very difficult decision,” said Smith. “Of the eight semi-finalists, there was much discussion about which candidates had the vision and experience to lead the college through its next era. Now, the faculty, alumni, students and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to meet with the candidates and ask questions about their goals for the college and their qualifications to achieve those goals.”

44-lot subdivision proposed in Fiskeville

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media Staff Writer

A new residential project of 44 single-family lots named “Vaughn Lane” has been proposed on Main Street in the Fiskeville neighborhood.

Development of public roads and open space are also included in the project. City Planning Director Beth Ashman says the plan was proposed as a cluster subdivision, which is encouraged in rural areas.

Ashman says a cluster subdivision means building fewer roads and building with respect for the shape of the land. It would have less of an impact on the area and should result in less expensive development as the project unfolds.

A cluster plan will also leave more dedicated open space that, according to Jonas Bruggemann, a senior planner working on the project, should be conserved in perpetuity.

An initial developmental review was held last Wednesday to provide feedback to the developer, 777 Main Street LLC.

During the meeting, concerns arose about the project’s need to expand Vaughn Lane and Wini Street.

According to Ashman, beyond the first house on Vaughn Lane is what she calls a “paper street,” a street that is not paved and usually only exists on paper. According to Bruggemann, Vaughn Lane is too narrow for use in emergencies, so it would have to be widened.

“If someone parked their car on Vaughn Lane right now, a firetruck wouldn’t be able to get past it,” Bruggemann said. “That’s kind of the width of the road we’re talking about.”

The proposal looks to extend Wini Street and Vaughn Lane to create access to the 44 lots for single-family use. The plan also includes preserving about 56 acres of open space.

Ashman noted that although several members of the public had questions, the review was very constructive. She called it the ideal way that planning should work when a new project can have impacts on nearby residents.

Another question brought up by a resident was whether the project would include affordable housing. Ashman said residents see the need for a mix of small and large homes to help address the lack of supply.

She says the developer has not indicated that a portion of the residential lots would have affordable housing, nor is it required that the city include any in a given project.

With some feedback received from the city and residents after the May 21 meeting, Ashman says it is not too late for others to share their thoughts and concerns about the proposed plan.

The Cranston City Plan Commission’s public review of the “Vaughn Lane” master plan is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the James T. Giles Community Room of the Cranston Central Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd.

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

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Collingham: A zinkie marking the grave of Lucy (Ramsdell) and Frederick Collingham. He was a master mechanic who immigrated to Rhode Island from Yorkshire, England and died of gangrene at age 47 in 1912. Lucy had died in 1894 of tuberculosis at age 27. The tree-branch font was popular on zinkies. Submitted photo by John Hill

'Zinkies' abound in Pocasset Cemetery

By JOHN HILL

Beacon Media Contributor

Cast your eye over any cemetery more than 100 years old and you're likely to spot, amongst the crowd of grey granite and white marble memorials, an occasional flash of light blue, like someone wearing a URI jersey in a stadium crowd.

They are relics from 150 years ago, when graves could be marked by more than stone. From 1874 to around 1914, mourners could also choose zinc. It's a metal, heavier than iron but lighter than lead, that resists corrosion. It was used by the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, Conn., to make all manner of memorials, from small markers the size of a loaf of bread to memorials towering 25 feet or more. If you tap one, it will sound like you're tapping on an oil drum.

Known today as 'zinkies,' they fell out of favor after World War I, when the government diverted domestic zinc supplies into armament production for World War I. But for a time they seemed to have sold well in Rhode Island, particularly at Pocasset Cemetery, which has about 20 of them.

Better known today as a health supplement, zinc has been mined and smelted for millennia. Its strength and resistance to corrosion make it an important ingredient in alloys.

But the marketing department at Monumental Bronze apparently felt zinc didn't sound sufficiently solemn, so the company dubbed its product "White Bronze." According to the company catalogue, prices ranged from around \$2 for small in-ground markers to as much as \$7,000. Customers could mix and match decorations for their memorials like we chose pizza toppings; with options such as doves, flowers, clasped hands or lyres. The company had an artist on staff in Bridgeport who would, for about \$150 more, take a photograph of the departed and make a sculpture of the person that could be added to the memorial.

The first of the nearly two dozen zinkies in Pocasset appeared in 1863, memorializing 37-year-old Samuel Greene, a Civil War soldier who died in Confederate captivity of wounds he suffered at the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill. The most popular period for them was the three decades from 1879 to 1908, when ten more were added.

Zinc memorials had a middle-class demographic. They stand on the graves of machinists, carpenters, roofers and farmers. The families of William H. Young, a traveling salesman; Edgar Weston, a milk salesman and Henry Carr, who ran a newspaper store on Westminster Street in Providence all chose metal over stone to mark their departed relatives' last resting places.

In "Monumental Bronze: A Representative American Company," cemetery historian Barbara Rotundo said 'white bronze' was aimed at a late 1800s public that was impressed with industrial might. The memorials were sold as longer-lasting than marble or granite, and casting meant it could produce more finely detailed designs.

Zinkies were created by sand casting. A

full-size version of each side of the memorial would be made in wax, which would be use to create a plaster version. That master would be pushed into a special mix of sand, leaving an impression of the marker. Molten zinc was then poured into that mold.

Once hardened, the individual sides of the memorial would be fused together by pouring molten zinc between them, fusing the pieces together. The assembled product would be sandblasted to give it a more stone-like look and then it would be coated with a lacquer that produced the distinctive bluish hue. Though all manufacturing was done in Bridgeport, the company had satellite offices in Des Moines, Iowa; Detroit, Chicago and Ontario, Canada, where memorials would be assembled and lacquered.

White bronze was sold as a cheaper and more enduring alternative to marble or granite. The company's catalogue boasted "when marble, sandstone and granite have crumbled to atoms, these monuments will remain untouched by the destroying hand of time." It included solemn endorsements from a half-dozen scientists.

"I see no good reason why these monuments should not last as long as the Pyramids of Egypt," Prof. J. W. Armstrong, a superintendent of the New York Normal

Advert. A newspaper advertisement for Monumental Bronze's memorials. Submitted photo by John Hill

School, definitively asserted.

But by the early 1900s white bronze's glory days were over. Connecticut historian Carolyn Ivanoff said after 1900 stone carvers had begun to lobby cemeteries to ban the metal grave markers and many were successful. Then came the government's switching the Bridgeport plant's output to gun mounts. Though Monumental Bronze stopped making memorials, Rotundo said the company continued to make new nameplates for existing customers until it went bankrupt in 1939.

Monumental Bronze promised its products would endure for eternity, but the company itself couldn't make it past the Great Depression. Though the company is gone, its zinkies are still standing, still keeping the promise made to the families of people like Samuel Greene, Henry Carr and Edgar Weston.

David Guiot contributed to this story

Cranston police's pet of the week

This handsome fella is Ebby, a one-year-old neutered male who wants nothing more than to snuggle with his human friends! Ebby is ready to find his forever home on one condition: He must be the only pet in the household, as he did come to the shelter with a wound of unknown origin. Ebby is quite the little charmer, low-key and gentle. He is officially available-vaccinated and FIV/L negative.

Submitted photos

Rescued by Comedy

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

John Perrotta likes to stay busy. The Cranston native spent decades building a comedy business at night while working as a correctional officer by day. He did all this while living a reckless lifestyle that nearly ruined him on more than one occasion. Now 67, Perrotta has just released an autobiography, *How Comedy Saved My Life: My Wild Journey of Addiction, Recovery & Making the Ultimate Comeback*.

The story is largely unhappy, beginning with a difficult childhood. “My father was an alcoholic and had depression,” Perrotta says. “In the sixties he had shock treatments. I was an only child. Because of my father, I swore that I’d never drink, but I started in eighth grade. And I was an alcoholic from day one. It was crazy back then. You could walk into a liquor store at fourteen years old and nobody blinked an eye.”

The same was true of Lincoln Downs, the old Greyhound racing track. “I just walked in at fourteen, fifteen. Nobody cared,” he said. Gambling became an issue thanks to a friend with a bookie father. “I lost a thousand dollars in one week,” he says. “I didn’t have a thousand dollars! I thought they were going to break my legs.”

In high school, Perrotta discovered

drugs. “Back then, between City Hall and Cranston East you could get any drug you wanted,” he says. “Coach [Michael] Traficante wanted me for the football team because I was a big guy, but I wanted nothing to do with it. I was behind the Park Theatre drinking beer and smoking pot.”

Living with two alcoholics was rough on Perrotta’s mother. At sixteen, he voluntarily went to Marathon House, a drug and alcohol program for adolescents, and he lived there for six months. The effects didn’t last.

The night after Perrotta finished high school in 1976, a group of graduates went to Scarborough Beach and spent the night on the sand. “At six in the morning I opened a can of beer. I looked around, and everybody on either side of me was passed out. I never wanted to stop.”

“The seventies were nuts,” he says. “It took until I was in my fifties to get the seventies out of me.”

After high school, Perrotta enlisted in the Navy, visiting 25 countries. In Egypt he smoked opium and stole a horse despite not knowing how to ride one. The women in Mallorca were so much fun that he missed his ship leaving. In New York, he went out drinking one afternoon and passed out in a men’s room. When he woke up three hours later, the bar was full and a band was set up. He hadn’t heard any of it. He was nineteen.

After the Navy, attempts to settle down were rocky. His first marriage lasted only seven months. But he went to CCRI and later to Roger Williams College, getting a degree in criminal justice. He was hired at the Adult Correctional Institute in 1982, and he was sober for a few years in the eighties. His first standup routine was performed during a rehab facility talent show. He remarried and had two children, but after a while returned to his old vices.

“I hit a lot of bottoms,” Perrotta says. His parents died in the early 2000s, from lung cancer and liver cirrhosis. “I’m so

happy I’m dying,” his father told him. That was hard to hear, especially as his own life was crumbling at the time. His rocky second marriage was dissolving, and his wife took out a restraining order forbidding him from seeing his children. He discovered crack cocaine and moved into a hotel on Hartford Avenue.

A year after his mother died, he hosted an event at Stitches Comedy Kafe, a club that was briefly located in Providence Place Mall. Snorting lines backstage between acts, Perrotta suddenly felt that something was wrong. Heart racing, he stepped outside for air. “I thought I was having a heart attack in the parking lot of the Providence Place Mall. Imagine a worse place to go!”

He recovered but cites that as another instance of hitting bottom.

At that point, he’d been booking comedy shows throughout southern New England for over a decade. “Putting shows together keeps me busy. I do everything, soup to nuts,” he says, from working with venues and booking acts to managing table reservations and frequently performing himself. As a comedian, Perrotta says he mixes jokes with crowd work. “I’m fast on my feet,” he says. “I’m a ball buster. Don Rickles was my idol. I loved Rodney Dangerfield.”

“I didn’t sleep much,” he says of that period. “And some days I was a little hungover. It wasn’t easy being an addict. How did I keep my job?” He was still a guard at the ACI, where he remained until he retired in 2018.

When Terry, his second ex-wife, became very ill, Perrotta drove out to Cleveland, where she received a life-saving double lung transplant. Reunited, the pair decided to remarry. “My second wife became my third wife,” Perrotta says.

In 2014 he quit drinking again for about three and a half years. Then he was back at Twin River for one last weekend bender. Drinking, drugs, and gambling were a package deal for Perrotta.

After that, he quit for good. His doctor told him that he would have only made it for a few more years if he kept going.

Now he stays focused on comedy. “Sometimes I book two shows a week, sometimes it’s five,” he says. “In the nineties I once booked eight shows in one night and I performed at five of them, one after the other.” He regularly produces, hosts, and performs at venues around southern New England, like his regular All You Can Eat, All You Can Laugh events at Lemongrass in Warwick.

“We’ve got a good comedy community in Rhode Island,” he says.

Perrotta’s new book is published by Legacy Books, an imprint started by his son David. “Comedy saved your life, Dad,” David told his father, the family now reunited. The younger Perrotta is a dating coach and influencer who has published five books teaching men how to attract women.



David with his dad John. Submitted photo from John Perrotta

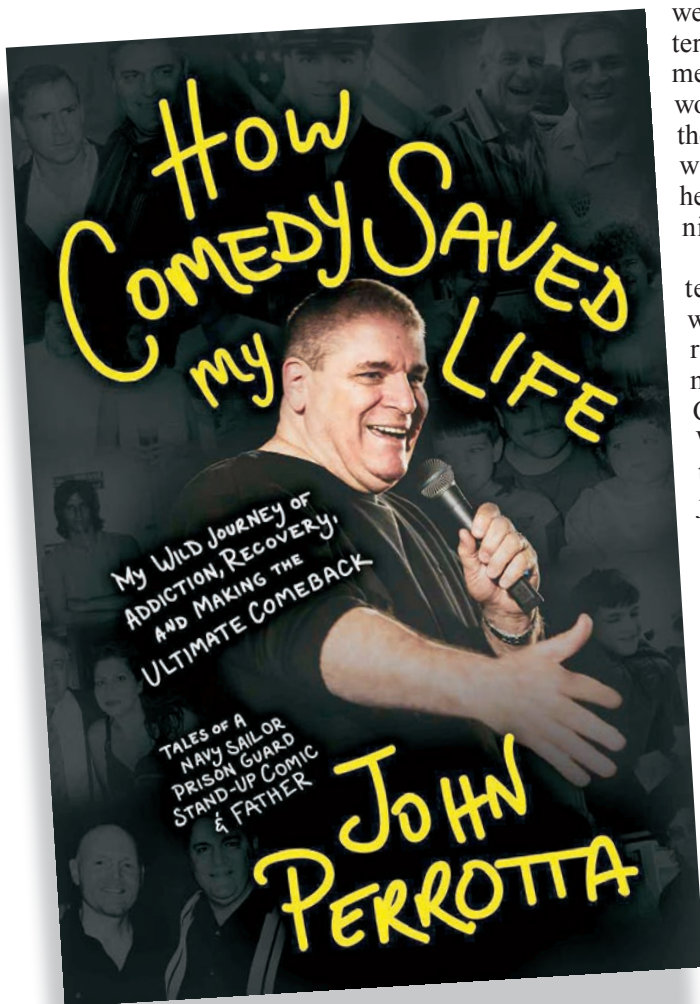
“My son made me realize my life was really different from a lot of people,” Perrotta says. The book ends at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, where Terry presents Perrotta with a coin for eight years of sober living.

Perrotta hopes his book might reach readers who are in recovery, or who want to be.

“I don’t have the urge anymore,” he says about drugs and gambling. “I lost a grand every time I went to the casino. I went bankrupt twice. It’s like there’s a switch. As long as I keep the switch off, I’m a regular guy. I’m not proud of everything I went through, but I’m proud of the book. I’ve had a pretty good career. Now my high is being with my grandson.”

The June 14 book launch is a dinner buffet and comedy show at 39 West in Knightsville (39 Phenix Avenue). Perrotta will share the stage with local comedians Carolyn Gifford, Tyler Hittner, and Stephen Turgeon. Tickets are \$60 for dinner and the show. Books are sold separately.

He’ll sign copies of the book before and after the show. Those who can’t make the show can stop by after 9:30pm for the book signing. Reservations can be made by calling (401) 639-7726.



The cover of John's book. Submitted photo from John Perrotta

ANIMAL

TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: RI Feline Rescue

Gilbert

ME-WOW!! Meet Gilbert, Gil, Mr. Gilbert, Gilly, Silly Gilly he's got so many nicknames! Just like his many playful traits, he's got a name to match them all! Gilbert's coat is as smooth as silk and his amazing eyes sparkle with excitement! He is a young kitten with a zest for life! He loves playing with his toys and has a loud purr when he gets his head scratched! He is currently in a foster home with a dog and they are best friends! Please contact our friends Rhode Island Feline Rescue for more information about Gilbert. Email: apply@rifelinerescue.org
We know you will fall in love with Silly Gilly!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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Aimee Mann. Submitted photo

Alt-Rock icon celebrates landmark album at Park

By ROB DUGUAY

Aimee Mann has been a talented and influential figure in the new wave and alternative rock realms since the early 1980s.

She got her start in the Boston music scene with The Young Snakes, but she really made her mark as the lead vocalist and bassist for ‘Til Tuesday with hits like “Love in a Vacuum”, “Voices Carry” and “What About Love” still getting radio play.

Ever since the band’s breakup in 1990, Mann has gone on to have a prolific solo career. Now, she’s celebrating the release of her third album “Lost In Space” with a run of shows. One of the stops is at The Park Theatre in Cranston on June 5. Folk-rock geek culture enthusiast Jonathan Coulton is going to be kicking the night off at 7:30pm.

Mann and I talked ahead of her show. We covered her reflections on the making of “Lost In Space”, a new single she put out with her husband, thoughts on performing in Rhode Island and ‘Til Tuesday recently reuniting for a one-off show.

Rob Duguay: This upcoming show at The Park Theatre is part of your “22 1/2 Anniversary Tour” for “Lost In Space”, which initially came out in 2002. I know there’s a remastered re-issue of the album, but was there any specific reasoning for having the anniversary be 22 1/2 years?

Aimee Mann: Yeah, there was COVID, and it was harder to get stuff pressed up. Obviously, we had intended it to be our 20th anniversary, but I also don’t care that much about exactly when it comes out. It doesn’t have to come out right on the dot of the 20th year, so I thought it was kind of funny to just say whatever the actual timing was and that’s kind of where it comes down.

RD: The original edition of the album came with a mini-comic that was done by the Canadian cartoonist Seth, who also did the cover art for ‘Lost In Space’. How did this initial collaboration come to be and do you view it as a precursor to how bands and musicians often add extra gifts like comics, pieces of art or other

objects with their music releases these days?

AM: Album art has always been important to me ever since I was a kid listening to music during the ‘70s. That was a big part of the experience. I recall as a kid buying records because I liked their cover. I didn’t realize how random it sometimes is, that the cover reflected the artistic sensibilities of the music and musicians inside. For me, those things always went together, so in every cover I just really wanted to have its own thing and connect with the music in some

“
I recall as a kid buying records because I liked their cover. I didn’t realize how random it sometimes is, that the cover reflected the artistic sensibilities of the music and musicians inside. For me, those things always went together, so in every cover I just really wanted to have its own thing and connect with the music in some way.”

way. I’ve been a big fan of Seth and I thought there was something kind of melancholy about his approach to cartooning. It’s a simple style, but there’s something about it that’s very evocative, and I thought it would be a nice match for that record.

RD: It reminds me a little bit of Vincent van Gogh’s “Starry Night” piece. You recently released a rendition of the folk traditional tune “Hallelujah! I’m a Bum” with your husband Michael Penn, who is the brother of actors Sean and Chris Penn. How did this come about and what was the experience like recording a

song that’s over 100 years old?

AM: That is all Michael’s doing, and it was for a project for the Sweet Relief Musicians Fund. He had recorded the song 10 years ago and I just sang on it, so that was totally his. I think he had also done a version of “Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?”, so it was very much a depression-era music project for him.

RD: Very cool, I listened to it the other day and I thought it was really good. It’s well known that you have a lot of history in Boston through being part of the bands The Young Snakes and ‘Til Tuesday during the ‘80s, but what are your thoughts on coming down to perform in Rhode Island?

AM: When I was in ‘Til Tuesday, we played Providence all the time. We played The Living Room a bunch and I’ve always had this memory of driving through Providence and our guitar player used to say “That’s the world’s fourth-largest unsupported dome” when he saw the State House. I always thought that it was a fun random fact, so that was always my memory of Providence, it’s home of the fourth-largest unsupported dome.

RD: There’s a lot of interesting facts about Providence, and Rhode Island. Speaking of Til Tuesday, you just performed your first show in over 30 years with that band at the Cruel World Festival in Pasadena, California on May 17, so are there plans for any more shows with them later this year or will your main focus be on continuing your solo career and making a new album?

AM: I think it’s probably going to be the only show. What I discovered in practicing for the show, especially the early Til Tuesday songs, is that I really sing in a totally different way, so it’s actually been difficult to try and figure out how to sing those songs. It’s a totally different style. It’s almost like doing karaoke and you can see how my voice changes through the three records. To play a full show would be a lot more difficult to figure out how to do because so much of it is unfamiliar to me right now.

Summer art and writing program launches

This summer, young creatives will have the chance to explore their talents in a new and inspiring way. School One is proud to announce the Write Rhode Island Creative Institute, a dynamic summer program designed for teens with a passion for visual art and creative writing.

Open to students ages 13–18, the program offers hands-on workshops led by professional artists and writ-

ers. With only 8-15 campers per session, students receive individualized attention and thrive in a supportive, collaborative environment. This year, the Institute will host two sessions, July 28–August 1 and August 4–8. Students can attend one or both sessions. In both sessions students will develop original work, build their portfolios, and collaborate with peers in a supportive, studio-style environment.

“We created this program to give teens the time, space, and guidance to explore their creativity and individual voices,” said Diana Champa, Director of Literary Engagement and Program Director. “Whether they’re sketching, painting, journaling, or crafting short stories, every student will leave with a stronger sense of confidence and creativity. This year I’m excited to add some new classes like Travel Writing for Teens, LGBTQ Stories, Anime, and Portraiture to our returning favorites of Dungeons & Dragons, Pottery and Spoken Word Poetry.”

The Write Rhode Island Creative Institute will host two sessions, July 28-August 1 and August 4-8. Space is limited and registration is open. Price for a full week is \$250.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://school-one.org/literary-center/youth-writers/https-school-one-org-literary-center-youth-writers-summer-program/>



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(Ethan Hunt Saves the World Again)

Tom Cruise is back again as Ethan Hunt, and he has brought his team with him to once again save the world from destruction.

Hunt has the key to the Entity, an AI contraption that will knock out all the nuclear defense systems around the world, but first he must deal with past enemy Gabriel, the president, the Russians, and a whole bunch of bad guys coming after him from all directions.

There’s a lot of AI language that the younger crowd will get, much more advanced than the simple tape recorder that tells Ethan that the message, should he choose to accept it, will self-destruct in seconds.

The action starts before the credits when Hunt is kidnapped by Gabriel and forced to retrieve coordinates and malware and do his bidding within four days.

That leads him and his crew to the Bering Sea, where Hunt must recover certain items from a sunken submarine in a scene that goes on way too long, before being saved by a makeshift decompressor.

There’s plenty of action and interesting characters in this nearly-three-hour movie, all leading up to the bi-plane battle over South Africa with stunts that will take your breath away.

There’s a lot going on. At one point we are asked to follow three different fights at three locations.

Ving Rames has the choice line when he reminds us that our lives are the sum of our choices.

Is this truly the last Mission: Impossible?

We don’t know where it would go from here, but nothing is Impossible.



Jane Austen Wrecked my Life

AVON

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

(Romantic Comedy)

Agathe (Camille Rutherford) works at the Shakespeare & Co. bookstore in Paris with her closest friend (Pablo Pauly).

The young lady wishes to be a writer like Jane Austen but suffers from lack of confidence and writer’s block.

Her friend signs her up for the Jane Austen Writer’s Residency in England where she joins a small group of writers and meets a distant relative of Austen’s whom she immediately dislikes.

The familiar theme of dislike turning into love develops, as she struggles with her feelings for her friend back home and her new relationship.

It’s a lovely little love story that plays out nicely in an hour and a half.

Half English and half French with sub-titles.



Pride and Prejudice

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

The Avon is bringing back the classic Jane Austen love story about a woman (Keira Knightley) who meets a man she immediately despises, but she eventually falls in love with him.

You can see both movies (separate admission) and have time for a slice of pizza next door at Antonio’s in between.



A chain link fence surrounds the fire damaged Matunuck Oyster Bar on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Rhode Island Current photo by Laura Paton

Fire marshal’s office says Matunuck Oyster Bar fire appears accidental

By JANINE L. WEISMAN
Rhode Island Current

Preliminary findings by the Rhode Island Office of the State Fire Marshal suggest the early morning fire on May 20 that seriously damaged the Matunuck Oyster Bar and displaced its 300 workers was accidental, according to reports on May 22.

The investigation into the cause of the blaze continues, but several possible causes have been ruled out, according to a release from the state fire marshal. Commercial cooking equipment was not the di-

rect cause of the fire.

Owner Perry Raso has vowed to rebuild the popular pond-to table seafood restaurant he opened in 2009 on Succotash Road in South Kingstown. Matunuck Oyster Bar employed about 300 workers.

“I want to focus on getting that building repaired so we can open our doors again,” Raso said in an interview on May 22. “I haven’t wrapped my head around everything that’s happened. I just know what the goals are, and I’m just trying to take one step at a time.”

Raso lives down the road

from the restaurant and received a call around 3:45 a.m. about the fire from a truck driver who was sleeping in his truck in the parking lot. The driver had hauled a delivery of chairs to be received when the restaurant’s workers started arriving by 6 or 7 a.m.

Raso expressed his gratitude for the outpouring of community support since the fire. Restaurants across the state have reached out to connect with staff who are looking for work, he said.

“Why not? We’ve got the hardest workers in the world,” he said. “I just hope

that when we open our doors again we can get a lot of these people back.”

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) “has made themselves so available to us and have really given us so much time and been so responsive,” Raso added.

The fire marshal’s office said steps have been taken to “preserve the security and integrity of the fire scene” so that the investigation can continue. Mitigation measures to prevent any contamination to nearby inland waterways have also been taken.

Supper Club no stranger to drama

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



Club Bagdad was known as Rhode Island’s “smartest supper club” according to its advertisements. The facility, located in the Lakewood village of Warwick, once hosted banquets, bachelor parties, dances, dinners and shows during the 1930s.

The club wasn’t always the backdrop of celebration, however. Legal chaos and tragedy would eventually connect itself to the business. During the summer of 1937, the owners of Club Bagdad engaged in a courtroom battle with actress and singer Belle Baker. The famous New York vaudeville star known for her love ballads and the radio show she hosted, was accused of failing to abide by a contract she had signed.

Four months later, 22-year-old Antoinette Cortez – another famous singer of love ballads and a resident of the Bronx, New York – was in the process of fulfilling a contract at the club when she plummeted from a second-story window in the building at 337 Warwick Avenue where the club’s guests and employees stayed. She was transported to Rhode Island Hospital. Her piano accompanist, who was also her husband, was held at the police station for questioning. He was released only after Antoinette, who suffered a broken right arm, assured them that he did not push her out the window.

In November 1937, the club hired 22-year-old Hungarian gypsy dancer Estelle Lintz of Boston to perform at the venue for three weeks. Like the other performers who came to Rhode Island under contract to perform at Club Bagdad, Estelle was provided temporary residence in one of the furnished rooms only one block away from the club. The final day of Estelle’s performance was to be Dec. 17. The night prior, she retired in a room not far from the rooms of 36-year-old Joseph DeBattista and 71-year-old Constante Peduzzi. DeBattista was employed as an electrician at Club Bagdad while Peduzzi worked there as a chef.

In the cellar of the structure, someone had removed the gas meter. A contraption was then rigged in its place by using a two-foot length of cut-off garden hose to fill in the gap where the gas line should have been. Known as a “jumper,” the make-do line had deteriorated to the point where illuminating gas – used for lighting the building – was seeping out.

Estelle awoke, feeling very strange. She went to the room of DeBattista and unsuccessfully attempted to wake him. She then went into Peduzzi’s room. He couldn’t be roused either. Estelle soon passed out.

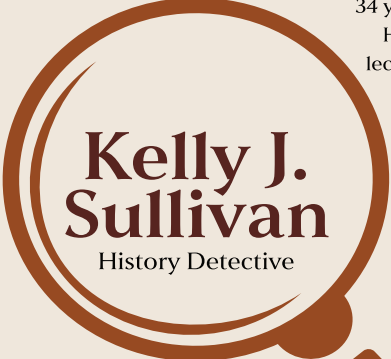
The trio was discovered during the afternoon of the following day. The two men had expired. Estelle was taken to St. Joseph’s Hospital where she was revived with an inhaler. Released from the hospital

later that day, her brother came and took her home to Boston.

Legal issues continued into the next year when the owner of Club Bagdad was

accused of serving alcohol past 1 a.m., which was unlawful. Before long, Rhode Island’s “smartest supper club” closed its doors.





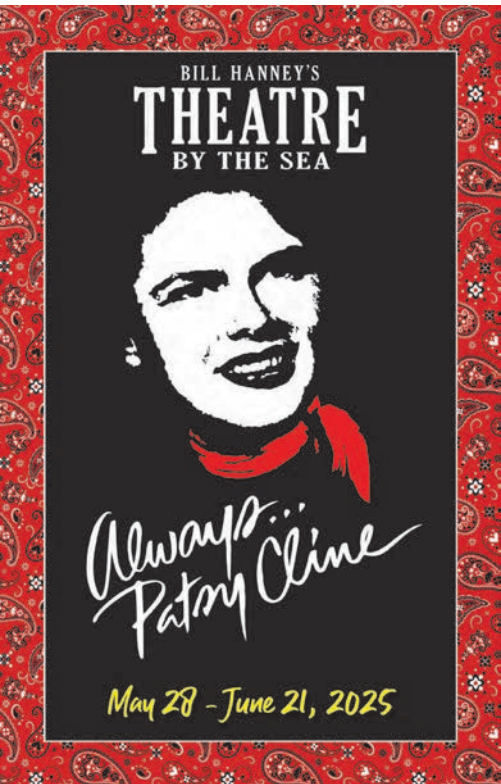
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Theatre By The Sea opens 2025 season with ‘Always...Patsy Cline’

In celebration of 92 Years of Theatre By The Sea, the 2025 season begins with “Always...Patsy Cline” a tribute to the woman who epitomized country music in the late 50s and early 60s. This intimate look at the woman behind the legend will be presented through June 21, 2025.

“Always...Patsy Cline” is a heartfelt and entertaining musical that celebrates the life and music of the legendary country singer Patsy Cline. Based on a true story, this touching production centers around the unique friendship between Patsy Cline and her devoted fan, Louise Seger, who fell in love with Patsy’s voice after seeing her perform on Arthur Godfrey’s Talent Scouts in 1957. She followed Patsy Cline’s career via radio and television and finally met the singer at a concert in Houston in 1961. Featuring over 20

of Patsy Cline’s greatest hits, including “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” and “Walkin’ After Midnight,” the show is a joyous journey through her timeless music. With its blend of humor, emotion, and unforgettable melodies, “Always...Patsy Cline” offers a poignant glimpse into the singer’s life and the bond she shared with her fans, making it a must-see for music lovers of all ages. Created and originally directed by Ted Swindley, “Always...Patsy Cline” is presented by arrangement with APC, Inc. www.alwayspatsycline.com.

“Always...Patsy Cline” will be presented through June 21, with opening night scheduled for May 30. Performances are scheduled for Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2:00 pm, and Sundays at 5:00 pm, with special performance times

on Sunday, June 1 at 2:00 & 7:00 pm and a special added Wednesday matinee on June 18. The theatre is located at 364 Cards Pond Road, Wakefield. Tickets \$65 - \$91 (additional fees may apply). Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more by calling (401) 782-3800 x112. Tickets are on sale at the box office Monday through Saturday from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm and performance days from 11:00 am until curtain, (performance Sundays 12 noon until curtain), online 24-hours-a-day at www.theatrebythesea.com and via telephone during normal box office hours by calling (401) 782-TKTS (8587).

Located on Rhode Island’s South Shore, Theatre By The Sea celebrates 92 years of summer theatre at its best!

May Music

By SUSAN DEAN

“I am Music — most ancient of the arts. I am more than ancient; I am eternal.”

This is the beginning of an essay that was included in the program of one of my choral concerts years ago. Its author wasn’t listed, and so it seemed almost as if it was simply “Music” expressing itself. After all, it begins with “I am Music” and continues to refer to itself in the first person. I rather like the idea that “Music” is its own entity from ancient times and that it is speaking to us as it has since the beginnings of our existence. I did some research, however, and found that it was originally written by Allan C. Inman in May 1950.

May is concert month for me. I sing with both the West Bay Chorale in Warwick and the Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra in Providence. Between both groups, we perform three spring concerts, all in May. My days and evenings in May are filled with music and singing as we rehearse and prepare. And I love every minute of it — from the first rehearsal right through to the end as concert time approaches, when we start working with the soloists and the instrumentalists. I love the challenge of learning the music — which takes practice time at home, too, listening to recordings and playing my alto lines on the piano between weekly rehearsals. And the progress we make week to week leading up to our concerts is gratifying and exciting.

There’s something that stirs from deep within our souls when we combine our voices, along with strings, winds, and other instruments to produce beautiful music together. The harmonies we create seem ancient and eternal — as if they’re as old as time itself.

It’s a privilege to share works of the great composers with our audiences. We bring to life musical notes that were in someone’s mind before being etched onto paper long ago somewhere in history. And it’s the same with all of our music — from all the different genres and time periods that we present. Whether it’s Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” or “Scarborough Fair” — the music fills our souls and flows into the souls of our audiences.

The essay continues, “I am a necessary luxury to all...”

My cousin, Janet, is an artist and designer and is very well-versed in the visual arts but had never done any singing beyond what we all experienced in elementary school. A few years ago, she asked about my singing and wondered if she could join one of my choruses. Janet sings with me in our alto section now and recently told me that it’s something she’d never want to give up — that it’s a beautiful and fulfilling expression of a part of her that she never quite

knew existed. Music is “a necessary luxury” indeed.

But the essay also touches on another type of music beyond the collection of notes and chords we’re used to hearing. There is music in the universe.

It says, “Even before life commenced upon the earth, I was here — in the winds and the waves.”

The birds wake us up early on spring and summer mornings. Listening to their songs is like listening to perfectly composed music, with rhythm, tempo, and pitch changes. There are crescendos and decrescendos as the various birds fly in and out through the trees — as if their singing is being conducted by a celestial director.

There is music in the wind, the flowers, and the trees. We can sometimes hear the wind whistling, but watching the branches, leaves, and plants nod and sway to their internal rhythms appeals to us visually, too. It’s as if they are dancing to an invisible orchestra — to music only the trees and flowers can hear.

There is music in the sounds of the ocean waves crashing. Never-ending — sometimes wild, fierce, and loud — sometimes quiet, pensive, and calm.

The sounds of the peep toads and nighttime insects lull us to sleep in spring and in summer — creating their own style of music. We’re reminded that nature is all around us, carrying on as it has done since the beginning of time, as sure as the moon and the stars appear and the sun goes on its journey — no matter what is happening in the world.

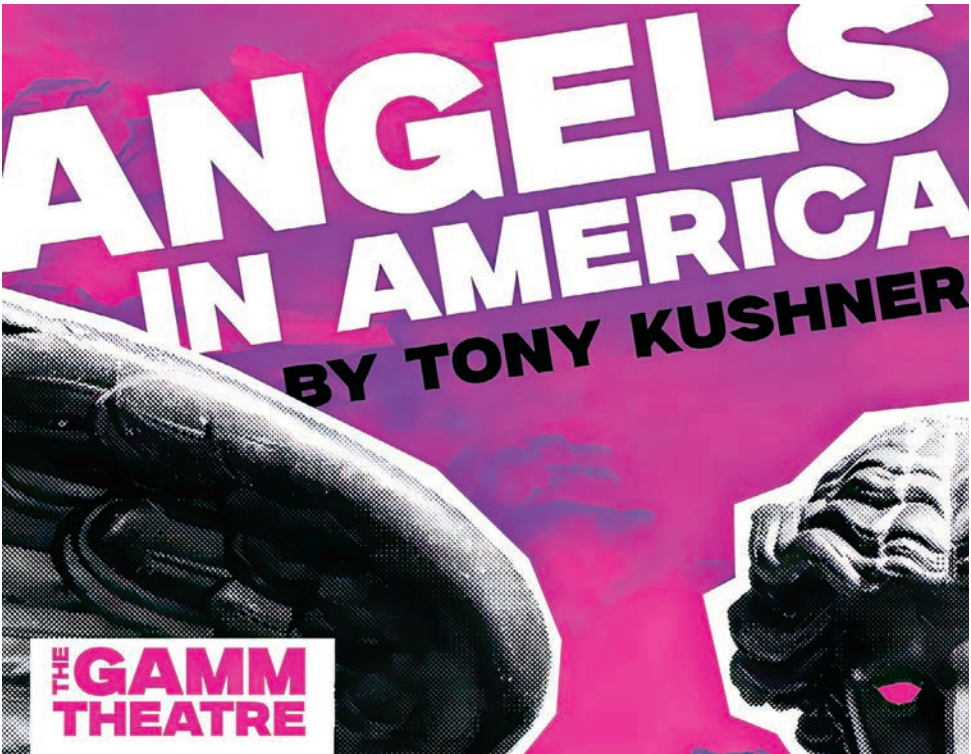
And there is also music in the sounds of our lives. In the voices of our children and grandchildren. In the sounds of someone making dinner — with pots and pans clanging and silverware clattering. In the sounds of a car pulling into the driveway as we sigh with gratitude for the safe arrival of a loved one returning home. There’s even music in the plunk of tennis balls and the laughter of my friends as we get together to spend weekly tennis time on the courts.

The essay continues, “I became the most delicate, most subtle, and most powerful medium for the expression...of emotions. I speak to all...in a language that all understand. Even the deaf hear me, if they but listen to the voices of their own souls.”

Music connects us. It touches our hearts and through music we can share what our hearts want to say.

The essay ends with “I am the food of love. I have taught gentleness and peace...I comfort the lonely, and I harmonize the discord of crowds.”

Music is everywhere and speaks to us in so many ways — all we have to do is listen.



The Gamm Theatre announces 2025-26 subscription season

The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) announces its 2025-2026 season packed with reimagined classics and bold contemporary stories that will touch audiences with both humor and heartbreak. The five-play subscription series, featuring unforgettable characters in a wide range of genres and styles, runs from November to June.

The season gets underway on September 25 with the previously announced special production of Tony Kushner’s Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika directed by Brian McEleney. The second half of Kushner’s two-part, multi-award-winning masterpiece follows on the heels of Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches on stage this June.

“Season 41 picks up literally where our 40th anniversary season left off, with the epic conclusion of the ‘great work’ that began in our season finale,” noted Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella. “We kick off our subscription season with another American classic, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Tennessee Williams’ sexy, searing play examines the consequences of self-deceit with the playwright’s distinctive lyrical language and emotional intensity. In the new year, we jump to the 21st century with Jonathan Spector’s up-to-the-minute Eureka Day. This scorching comedy took Broadway’s most recent season by storm

with its daring script holding a fun house mirror up to the absurdity of pandemics, vax wars, and living life in a far too digital world,” Estrella said.

“In the spring, we revisit two of The Gamm’s favorite playwrights. A new adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s Ghosts takes a fresh angle on this masterful work, exposing the destructive consequences of generational guilt and the bravery required to exorcise the ghosts of our past. The dark comic stylings of Martin McDonagh follows with The Cripple of Inishmaan. Set in 1934, this hilarious play dissects the culture clash that ensues when a Hollywood movie brings its charms and delusions to the desperate inhabitants of a small island off the west coast of Ireland. To close the season, we stage another seminal, modern American classic, Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune. Terrence McNally’s funny and tender romantic comedy, is a heartbreaker about desire, vulnerability and the cliff-edge danger of awakening the heart.”

Season 41 subscription packages are now on sale to the. Prices range from \$225-\$325, with discounts for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. Single tickets will be available on a rolling basis throughout the season.

Information and sales at gammtheatre.org or 401-723-4266.

Some things never change

When we look back, 50 years can feel like the blink of an eye, but in the moment, every year, every season, seemed to unfold slowly, with all its highs and lows. It may feel like 1975 was “just yesterday,” especially when certain songs, memories, or even smells bring it vividly back. Yet somehow, in the rearview mirror, almost a whole lifetime has passed.

“Jaws” was one of the first movies I ever saw, and it left a lasting impression. I still remember sitting in that dark theater, clutching my tub of hot, buttered popcorn, heart pounding. When the shark lunged at the boat, I nearly jumped out of my seat and spilled my popcorn. After that, the ocean never felt the same. I could not shake the feeling that something with sharp teeth might be circling below, just waiting for my legs to dangle. Luckily, I grew up near a quiet little pond, where the water felt safe and familiar, and summer swims could still be part of my world.

“Saturday Night Live,” de-

buted in 1975, though it would be a few more years before I was old enough to stay up late enough to watch it. Ironically, now that I’m old enough, it is once again too late for me because I cannot stay awake.

“All in the Family” was the number one television show at the time, which always felt a bit ironic to me, because Archie Bunker reminded me so much of my own dad. From the cigars he smoked to his strong opinions and blunt way of speaking, the resemblance was uncanny. None of us would dare argue with him. But to compare my mother to Edith would have been a great disservice. She was more like an angel, wrapped in a quiet glow that no harsh word could penetrate. She would sit with a gentle smile, untouched by the harsh words around her.

The pet rock became the number one toy in 1975. A rock. It sounds ridiculous now. They sold for about \$4 each, which was no small sum at the time, especially for a kid. The rocks themselves



Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

cost next to nothing, but the clever packaging and tongue-in-cheek marketing made them a sensation. Gary Dahl, the man behind the idea, sold over a million and a half of them. Who would’ve thought that one of the biggest fads of the year would be something I could find in your driveway?

Speaking of prices, a small, plain color television in 1975 sold for anywhere between \$300 and \$500, the equivalent of around \$3,300 today. It is no wonder people wanted to get their money’s worth out of those hefty console models. I have seen many of them repurposed into furniture, giving them a second life beyond grainy sitcoms. Their large frames make perfect storage units for books, records, or DVDs, and some creative souls have even turned them into home

bars, complete with shelves for glasses and bottles. But my favorite transformation? The aquarium. There’s something wonderfully poetic about replacing Archie Bunker’s grumpy face with a tank full of colorful, peaceful fish.

Of course, technology was a whole different world back then. In 1975, a young Bill Gates had just developed Microsoft, short for “microcomputer software.” That same year, a Kodak engineer invented the first digital camera. It wasn’t exactly something you’d pack for a family vacation, it weighed eight pounds and took black-and-white photos that were recorded on a cassette tape. I remember visiting Disney World about 25 years ago and seeing dads in the crowd, dutifully lugging those massive shoulder-mounted video cameras around the park, capturing every lovely family moment while sweating in the Florida sun. It was a far cry from today’s pocket-sized cellphones that can do it all.

The mood in 1975 was a mix of restlessness and hope. People were recovering from the Vietnam War and Watergate, facing economic struggles, but embracing cultural change and new beginnings. It was an exciting, hopeful time for me. Twenty-five years later, much has changed. Technology has transformed my life, not always for the better. Yes, it is great we have cellphones and instant access to people and information, but it can be so annoying when Hubby is looking up the grocery sales when I am trying to talk to him about something. (“I’m listening,” he says as he compares prices of pot roasts.)

So much has changed over the past 50 years, but the most important things remain. I continue to hold fast to the value of positive human experiences, accepting and loving one another, and embracing the power of kindness. In a society that constantly evolves, these simple truths still ground me and reminds me what really matters.

Burbage camps it up with ‘The Legend of Georgia McBride’

Theatre Review by
DON FOWLER

Pawtucket’s Burbage Theatre brings the Rhode Island premiere of Matthew Lopez’s “The Legend of Georgia McBride” to the stage in their campy version the prize-winning play, directed by Gia Yarn.

It is the tale of an Elvis impersonator who loses his job when the theatre owner switches the entertainment to a drag queen show.

Casey (Michael Yussef Greene) isn’t drawing the crowds to his show. The truth is, he is horrible. Lip

syncing Elvis in his white jumpsuit is anything but entertainment, so the owner (Brien Lang) fires him and brings in Miss Tracy Mills (Anthony DeRose), a plus-size drag queen and his anorexic partner Rexy (Omar Laguerre-Lewis).

Rexy goes off on a bender and Miss Tracy convinces Casey to fill in for him/her.

Casey reluctantly goes on stage, giving a performance that’s worse than his Elvis impersonation.

Miss Tracy coaches him and he becomes a popular performer.

The problem is that Casey hasn’t told his wife (Sabrina Youn) who is pregnant.

That’s the first act, which is a bit campy, but saved more than once by DeRose’s ability to hold things together, ad lib and take charge when necessary.

The play takes off in the second act, when their act gets better and better, thanks mostly to the talents and comic timing of DeRose.

Credit goes to the talented Aaron Blanck for his outlandish costumes and choreography.

Underneath all the silliness are important messages about finding out who you really are, accepting it and moving on.

As one Miss Tracy puts it, “Drag is not for sissies.”

I must admit, it took me a while to get with it, but once I did, in the second act, I liked it.

The finale, with quick changes galore, is worth the price of admission.

“The Legend of Georgia McBride” plays through June 8 at Burbage Theatre.

Go online at burbagetheatre.org for tickets and more info.



Production photo by Kris Laliberte

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By JENNIFER COATES

For home and business owners throughout New England, there is no better find than a trustworthy, professional, and reliable painter and paint supplier for all their interior and exterior paint jobs. With the region’s fickle and often harsh weather conditions, those paint jobs (both inside and out) are more frequent than in many other parts of the country. This makes it very important that ALL paint jobs are done correctly the first time.

Enter Bill McGuirk and Mike Sturdahl, the longtime owners of Cranston Paint & Wallcovering on Atwood Avenue. Bill and Mike have been in the paint industry their entire careers, spanning over thirty years. If there is anything this dynamic duo knows about, it is paint.

Bill McGuirk and Mike Sturdahl met in 1987 and later opened their first brick & mortar retail store on Atwood Avenue in 1995. In 2012, they purchased and moved into their current location on the same busy avenue in Cranston.

As of 2025, they have served hundreds and hundreds of satisfied customers. Over the years, they have steadfastly built a thriving business that has grown and evolved over time ~ and their reputation for excellence has done the same.

Today, Cranston Paint offers a huge selection of paint and stain products for the professional painter and DIY’er alike. You can find literally everything you need at the store for that weekend warrior project, from paint brushes to tools (and everything in between).

While the store is an excellent “go-to” destination for all painters, Cranston Paint has evolved into one of the most reliable paint companies in the state. With their hard-earned reputation of dependability, reliability, and quality workmanship, they have emerged as true experts in this specialized work. They have very high standards of excellence and demand it of their employees. In fact, they are regularly praised for their



This familiar sight on Atwood Avenue, as well as these signature trucks, all remind home and business owners about Cranston Paint & Wallcovering – owned by Mike Sturdahl (left) and Bill McGuirk (right). Call them for your exterior & interior paint jobs!

professionalism and diligence.

Their paint crews show up on time. They are meticulous, thorough and detail-oriented. They are dependable and trustworthy.

The process begins with a visit by Bill McGuirk. Bill will come to your home or business and give you a fair and honest estimate of your job, whether it involves paint or stain, or minor carpentry. The written estimate arrives in a few short days, followed by a projected start date. Highly vetted painters are then employed to the job. Bill oversees the project until the last stroke or spray of paint is applied.

This year, Cranston Paint & Wallcovering is celebrating THIRTY years of supporting and beautifying the residences and businesses of Cranston, and well beyond. Come in today and see why this business has grown and prospered for over three decades.

Cranston Paint & Wallcovering is located at 386 Atwood Avenue in Cranston and is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm, and Saturdays from 8:00am to 11:30. To learn more, visit them at www.cranstonpaint.com or call 401-265-5095 (Bill’s direct line) or 401-946-5070.

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Sports

Locals make noise at class meet



Cranston West sprinter Stalia Biosse last week. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The Bishop Hendricken outdoor track and field team went on to win its 48th consecutive Rhode Island Interscholastic League Class A Championship over the weekend when it edged rival La Salle. Pilgrim finished in fifth place as a team and Cranston West took eighth.

North Kingstown took the girls team title, as West finished fifth and Toll Gate eighth. West was led by Reece Vitale, who won the 300 hurdles and the triple jump for the Fal-

cons.

The next stop for these teams will be the upcoming RIIL State Championships, which will take place on Saturday, June 7 at Brown University.

Here are some of the results from the event:

BOYS

Hendricken's David Hayes won the 1,500 run while teammate Jack Moretta took first in the 3,000. Pilgrim's Brandon Wolfenden won the discus and shot put, and Hendricken's Carson Dean took first in the pole vault.

Pilgrim's Hunter Schobel won the triple jump and Hendricken's Jakob Reyes won the high jump. Schobel also finished second in the long jump.

Hendricken's Tristan Jordan finished second in the 110 hurdles while teammate Colby Flynn placed second in the 1,500 run. BJ Kerachsky finished second in the 3,000 run for the Hawks. Dimitri Johnson finished second in the hammer throw for the Hawks and teammate Alexzander Prado took second in the shot put.

Hendricken's Michael Shah placed

● CLASS to page 20



Cranston West catcher Cooper Bastia celebrates after the final out on Saturday. Submitted photos

Falcons upset Eagles

West tops Barrington in Division I play-in game

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Herald Sports Editor

The Cranston West baseball team carried its recent surge into the Division I qualifying round over the weekend, as it traveled to Barrington and handed the Eagles a 7-1 upset to earn a spot in the postseason.

The West offense was aggressive in the early going, going up 3-0 in the second inning and stealing five bases in the process. Although Barrington remained in striking distance, trailing

● FALCONS to page 20



Athlete of the Week: Alex Milano

The Cranston Herald's Athlete of the Week is West baseball player Alex Milano. Milano was stellar in the Falcons' 7-1 upset win over Barrington last week in the Division I play-in game, as he pitched a complete game and finished with nine strikeouts. He helped his own cause by also driving in a run on offense.

Roundup: Bolts advance to semis

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The second-seeded Cranston East boys tennis team picked up a 4-0 win over No. 7 Burrillville in the Division III Quarterfinals last week.

Adrian Rosales won his singles match 6-1, 6-1 while Jason Berrera won as well. Jefferson Shi won at fourth singles, 6-0, 6-1. Ansony Chavarria and Johnny Nawrocki earned a 6-1, 6-1 win at top doubles.

The Bolts faced No. 3 Warwick on Tuesday afternoon, but the results were unavailable at press time.

SOFTBALL Barrington 11, East 1

The Bolts fell to the Eagles in the regular season finale last week.

Lexi Montalban drove in Nevaeh Fatorma for the team's lone run. Fatorma finished the day with a pair of hits.

Montalban pitched one inning and struck out three batters for East.

The Bolts hosted Shea in the opening round of the playoffs on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

BASEBALL Portsmouth 5, East 3

The Bolts fell to Portsmouth in the regular season finale last week.

Jeu Leon led East with two RBI on two hits while Brayden Enright drove in another. Leon also stole three bases in the loss, and pitched a complete game in which he allowed no earned runs and struck out nine batters.

East finished the season with a 5-16 overall record.

Chambers earns CCRI Scholar-Athlete Award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Ten student-athletes from the Community College of Rhode Island were honored last week for their athletic and academic achievements as part of the annual Scholar-Athlete Awards held in House Chamber of the Rhode Island State House.

The Legislative Awards are designed to provide public recognition for student-athletes from CCRI, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island for significant achievements in their

academic and athletic pursuits. The honorees have also demonstrated exemplary citizenship and community service.

In addition, Class of 1992 graduate and former men's basketball standout Brendan Murphy earned the Athletic Alumnus Award while former CCRI Athletics Compliance Officer and softball coach Bev Wiley won the second annual K. Joseph Shekarchi Award, which is presented to an individual

● CCRI to page 17



The Cranston West boys tennis team at a recent match. Submitted photos

West run ends in quarters

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Cranston West boys tennis team wrapped up its spring season last week when it fell to top-seeded Prout 4-2 in the Division II quarterfinals.

Despite entering the contest as the underdog, the Falcons went toe-to-toe with Prout and saw Kovin Rasombath take home a singles win. Connor Ainley then won his singles match in three sets to give the Falcons a boost.

However, Prout would

● WEST to page 17

who has made significant contributions to the athletic program.

“It is a tremendous honor to celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding CCRl student-athletes who exemplify excellence in the classroom, in competition, and in our communities. These ten students, along with Brendan Murphy and Bev Wiley—two remarkable individuals who have left an indelible mark on our college—remind us of the power of perseverance, leadership, and service. I want to thank Speaker Shekarchi for his enduring commitment to recognizing our best and brightest student-athletes and for his steadfast support of public higher education and the CCRl community,” said Dr. Rosemary A. Costigan, Interim President of the Community College of Rhode Island.

“It was an honor recognizing 10 of our student-athletes at the 27th annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Ceremony for their extraordinary work both on and off the playing surfaces,” said CCRl Director of Athletics, Recreation & Wellness Ashley Casiano. “I thank them for their dedication and exceptional representation of our institution.”

- The scholar-athletes honored this year are:
- Kathryn Motta; softball; Warwick, RI; 4.0 GPA
 - Jaiden Harding; softball; West Kingston, RI; 3.98 GPA
 - Tyler Pendergast; men’s soccer; Coventry, RI; 3.72 GPA
 - Brooke Dibenedetto; volleyball; Warwick, RI; 3.45 GPA
 - Brianna Grenier; softball; Cumberland, RI; 3.49 GPA
 - Kylie Brito; women’s soccer; Coventry, RI; 3.33
 - Tyler Reall; baseball; Coventry, RI; 3.25 GPA
 - Tatiana Pereira; Providence, RI; 3.17 GPA
 - Sebastian Velez; men’s soccer; North Providence, RI; 3.01 GPA
 - Connor Chambers; men’s basketball; Cranston, RI; 2.93

Brito wrapped up her CCRl career with a strong sophomore season, finishing fourth on the women’s soccer team 11 points (three goals, five assists) as the Knights went undefeated in Region XXI play for the second year in a row and won back-to-back conference champions to advance to the NJCAA Division III National Championships. Also on the pitch this fall, Velez led the men’s program with a tremendous 2024 season, leading the Knights with eight goals and a team-high 17 points. Pendergast finished with three goals, including one of the Knights’ four game-winners during 2024.

Dibenedetto’s 2024 included 71 digs, 22 blocks, and 29 kills in addition to a team-high 85 service aces as the volleyball team finished 13-4 and advanced to the semifinals of the Region XXI Tournament.

On the basketball court, Chambers started 16 games during the 2024–25 season, averaging 9.8 points per game and 9.9 rebounds; in 15 conference games, he averaged a double-double with 10.5 points and 10.5 rebounds. Pereira starred 26 of 28 games for the women’s team and finished third in points with



Connor Chambers receives his award. Submitted photo

11.5 per game, including 12.5 points per game in conference play, and averaged 2.7 assists as the Knights won the Region XXI Tournament and advanced to the NJCAA Division III National Championships for an unprecedented fourth year in a row.

With CCRl’s softball team entering the stretch run, Motta has been one of the team’s top hitters this season with a .493 batting average – fourth on the team – in her first 23 games in addition to 23 RBI. Through 23 games, Grenier ranked second on the team with five home runs and tied for second with a .500 batting average while Harding has provided a solid, all-around performance through her first 15 games with 12 RBI and a .429 slugging percentage. In eight regular-season appearances on the mound for CCRl’s baseball team, Reall logged 18.1 innings with 16 strikeouts, including one start.

Murphy, a Smithfield, RI, native, earned this year’s Athletic Alumnus Award for his record-setting performance on the court between 1990–92. He ranks second in program history with 1,398 points and owns the college’s record for most three pointers in a season (110) and in his career (212). The sharpshooter helped lead the Knights to the NJCAA Division III National Championship game in 1991 and a year later earned NJCAA D-III Player of the Year honors in addition to being named a First Team All-American. He eventually transferred to Hawaii Pacific University, where he helped lead the Sharks to the 1992–93 NAIA national championship and was named the NAIA National Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He is now a world-renowned contemporary artist with his work found in private collections which include the likes of Warren Buffet, Serena Williams, Ryan Gosling and Novak Djokovic.

Wiley, a Warwick, RI, native, is a well-known trailblazer in women’s athletics who served CCRl student-athletes both on and off the playing field. She is the college’s all-time winningest softball coach with 108 victories, which includes three consecutive Region XXI titles during an 11-year span. Wiley also served as a Student-Athlete Academic Support Program Advisor at CCRl and later became the college’s first Compliance Officer in 2009, a role in which she ensured the college followed regulations and guidelines and complied with NJCAA Title IX and gender equity policies. Outside of CCRl, Wiley has served as Commissioner of USA Softball Rhode Island since 1992, implementing the rise of girls fast-pitch softball in Rhode Island and leading a new era of success on the national level in the 1990s.



Some looks at the West senior night celebration, honoring Kovin Rasombath and Devon Fraenza along with their families.

dominate the doubles’ side of things and grab the win.

The Falcons finished the season with a 4-11 league record and clinched the final seed of the postseason. The team earned

two wins over Chariho and also topped East Providence and Ponaganset. West held its annual senior night last week to honor captains Rasombath and Devon Fraenza.

The Falcons hosted crosstown rival East for the senior night event and would edge the visiting Bolts, 4-3.

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South Fork Wind creating ‘reef effect’

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Herald

The South Fork Wind Benthic Monitoring Program released a visual survey earlier this month conducted at South Fork Wind (SFW), an offshore wind farm located 16.5 nautical miles southeast of Block Island, Rhode Island in the Cox Ledge area. The survey shows that the project has had minimal environmental impact on the surrounding marine ecosystem and has created a positive “reef effect.”

Similar “reef effects” have been documented by peer reviewed studies at European wind farms and during a seven-year study at the Block Island Wind Farm, which showed there was a greater amount of Atlantic cod and black sea bass in the wind farm area compared to two control areas outside the wind farm, and all other species abundance was even.

Simply put, so far at 18 months out, South Fork Wind is yielding new habitat and fish.

James Riggs, a recreational fishing representative on the Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), said, “The enhanced ecology that I clearly see will only compound with time and become more and more prolific. It gives me hope that we can see a real benefit from what is already structurally out there and will be for a long time. There may be opportunities to enhance or improve on existing and or proposed marine infrastructure projects.”

Key findings of the study include no detectable changes to the biological communities on the seafloor surrounding the turbines; marine life is using the wind turbine foundations as habitat; and the project is already creating a reef effect, providing habitat for commercially, recreationally, and ecologically important marine species.

South Fork Wind’s comprehensive benthic (seafloor) monitoring program includes target visual studies at pre-construction, construction and post-construction time periods, which is something that fishermen advocated for. Comprehensive monitoring, like this study, is a requirement and aims to protect valuable marine resources and habitat.

To meet this requirement, independent science teams have conducted extensive visual monitoring surveys of the wind farm pylons, scour protection at the base of pylons, and cabling and bolder relocation areas.

Pictures speak louder than words

The good news is that SFW benthic surveys have not detected demonstrable change in the biological community or benthic functions associated with pylons, cable routes or bolder relocation. Striking video and still images taken before, during and after construction show extensive blue mussel growth and fish at pylons and in the surrounding area. See videos and still images at South Fork Wind Benthic Monitoring Program.

“I was very surprised with the mussel growth on pylons that has occurred so

quickly. The video footage clearly showed the creation of life on the pylons and at the base of the pylons on the scour protection,” said Fred Mattera, executive director of the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island, which represents nine commercial fishing-related organizations in Rhode Island.

Wind farms add new structure to the marine environment that marine invertebrates attach to and grow on. The new habitat and availability of food resources brings shellfish to the area attracting small and large fish.

Mattera said, “These structures are creating new habitat and life. The amount and variety of fish captured on video footage is incredible.”

This summer and winter there were numerous fishing reports from charter captains and anglers catching tuna, cod and an abundance of mahi-mahi at South Fork Wind.

“Simply put, my position is neither for or against offshore wind development, but if there is a way to improve marine habitat and strive for the goal of fish abundance I am all for it. I will do my best to advocate for recreational fishermen’s interests whenever I can,” said James Riggs of the FAB.

The South Fork Wind benthic visual surveys document the reef effect and reveal numerous commercially, recreationally and ecologically important species. Black sea bass, lobster, and flounder were documented near the structures. Other species observed included Atlantic cod, scup, cunner, barrel fish, flounder,

butterfish, jack, mahi mahi, trigger fish, Bermuda chub, winter and summer flounder, sculpin, spotted and red hake, ocean pout and the Atlantic rock/Jonah crabs.

Other studies being conducted as part of the South Fork research and monitoring plan include gillnet and fish pot surveys, a ventless trap survey, a beam trawl survey, mechanical jigging study, and acoustic telemetry studies. Most of these studies are still underway. Visit the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation at South Fork Wind Farm Fisheries Monitoring — CFRF and an article on the Marine Fish Conservation Network blog for details on the South Fork Wind research and monitoring plan.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass/bluefish. “Striper fishing is spotty. The are scattered. East Bay still a good bet,” said Nick Krajewski of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown.

Ryan Collins of My Fishing Cape Cod, said, “For boat anglers there’s been some awfully large striped bass caught in Cape Cod Bay and Buzzard’s Bay.”

Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, “Striped bass fishing remains productive, with a good variety of sizes being caught. Bluefish are still present, and there have been reports of some good-sized ones.”

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, said, “The striped bass bite is better in the East Passage, however, anglers are catching fish in the Greenwich Bay and West Passage area too.”

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11 Dell St	Navas, Nathaly and Rosado, Kin L	Silveira, Jamieson and Silveira, Adrienne	4/25	\$438,000	80 Stone Dr	Lurgio, Michael V and Lurgio, Denise A	Hickey, Patrick and Hickey, Caroline P	5/9	\$408,500
1107 Main St	Prais, Joshua K	Lacroix, Joseph A	4/29	\$450,000	EAST GREENWICH				
12 White Rock Rd	Watts Jr, Dale	Watts Jr, Dale	5/1	\$60,000	2265 Division Rd	Wright, Jefferson T and Wright, Lorraine A	Wright, Jefferson T and Hurley, Allison	5/5	\$700,000
131 Fairway Dr Lot 131	Leuropa, Steven D and Leuropa, Cheryl A	Leuropa, Chris S	4/23	\$142,527	830 Carrs Pond Rd	Schoonmaker, Brian J and Schoonmaker, Lucinda L	Miller, Henry	5/6	\$625,000
14 Liena Rose Way	Lemos, Susan	Downey, Florinda A and Downey Jr, James R	5/2	\$187,000	JOHNSTON				
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15 Remington Farm Dr	Phillips Jr, Fred A and Phillips, Diana A	Murphy, Christopher	5/5	\$520,000	1114 Central Ave	20 Jones LLC	Jael LLC	5/9	\$275,000
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172 Pilgrim Ave	Belleville, Roger A	Janovsky, Jasmine S and Janovsky, Hunter D	5/9	\$347,000	1185 Central Ave	Aldana, Arnoldo R and Aldana, Norma A	Hebert, Michael A	5/12	\$585,000
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23 S Glen Dr	Elmwood Realty LLC	Nowak, Declan	5/9	\$415,000	27 Kensington Way Lot 27	Atwood Ave Condos LLC	Matarese, Deborah and Matarese, Robert F	5/8	\$449,900
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4 Paul Sprague Dr	Hilario, Bryan	Shaw, Bradford and Shaw, Nancy	5/9	\$800,000	106 Landon Rd	Holmes, Cynthia J	Damico, Angelina M	5/2	\$400,000
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53 Roundway Dr	King, Andrew R	Fredette, Alyxandria	5/2	\$375,000	200 Post Rd Lot 223	Bullett, Teresa M	Kessler, Mitchell and Kessler, Cheryl	5/7	\$258,500
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10 Abbott St Lot 1540	Vance, Terri D	Plunkett, Alison M and Lake, Zachary E	5/5	\$525,000	73 Dundas Ave	Bolvin 3rd, Richard L	Burke, Gabrielle and Burke, Dylan	5/2	\$640,000
112 Scenic Dr	Natale, Joseph J	Lavoie, Kyle T and Messier, Lauren R	5/9	\$495,000	73 Dundas Ave Lot 189,		Burke, Gabrielle and Burke, Dylan	5/2	\$640,000
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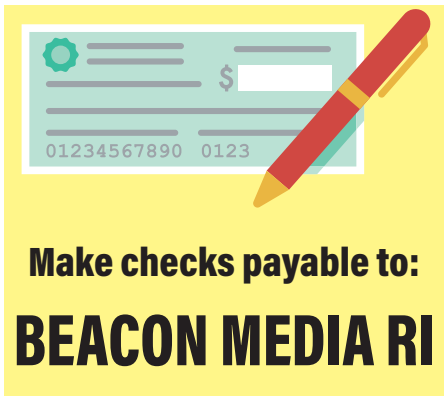
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