

JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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Bursting with sweet luxury



Donald DePetrillo, owner of the Original Italian Bakery in Johnston, pipes the rich zeppole dough onto a baking sheet. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

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

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

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

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

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

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The finishing touch. Zeppole are topped off with a bright red maraschino cherry. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

La Fazia continues effort to help Rhode Islanders transitioning from homelessness

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor



DEREK LA FAZIA, JR.
Submitted photo

At just 17 years old, Derek La Fazia, Jr. has already made a significant impact on his community. A lifelong Johnston resident and junior at La Salle Academy, Derek is deeply involved in academics, athletics, and service. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, La Salle’s honors and scholars programs, and participates in the Future Innovative Thinkers Club, podcast program, and chess club. He also plays varsity football and competes in track and field. Most recently, he was accepted into the United States Naval Academy Summer Session, aspiring to a future career in aviation and psychological profiling.

From a young age, LaFazia has been committed to giving back. In the past, he’s participated in various community service drives and took part in numerous service projects

● **LA FAZIA** to page 6

Mayor defends eminent domain claim

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. is pushing back against claims that the town’s eminent domain proceedings for a municipal complex to be located on George Waterman Road are aimed at blocking a proposed affordable-housing development.

The mayor asserts that discussions about a new municipal complex have been ongoing since early 2023, well before the developer submitted plans for their project.

The property owners have filed a lawsuit against the town in U.S. District Court in Providence. Those owners, SCLS Realty LLC and Sixty Three Johnston LLC, are associated with Lucille Santoro, Ralph Santoro and Salvatore Compagnone. They proposed building more than 250 units for a low-income housing complex at the site, citing a need for such housing in town.

“The Constitution forbids using eminent domain under false pretenses. The town’s claim to be seizing the Santoro family’s land for a new government campus is a sham,

when the real reason is it a last-ditch effort to stop the Santoros from building affordable housing,” said Kady Valois, a lawyer at Pacific Legal Foundation, in a press release. “The town should be honest and transparent about its real reasons for using eminent domain and not lie about why it’s abusing its power to strip owners of their property rights.”

Pacific Legal Foundation is representing the Santoro family in the federal lawsuit in a bid to uphold property rights and advocate for housing solutions in Rhode Island and beyond.

“The developer keeps referring to this as a ‘sham’ taking, saying there was no discussion about a public safety complex prior to the proposal of their housing project. That’s simply not true,” Polisena said. “I have multiple emails and texts going back as far as March 2023, shortly after I took office, on prospective sites.”

According to Polisena, the town had searched for a suitable location for a municipal complex, with the hardest look given to AA Wrecking at 1307 Hartford Ave. However,

negotiations with the owner of that site fell through due to compensation disagreements.

“We went so far as hiring an engineering firm to do some site work and testing on one of those sites, but when I met with the property owner, we could not agree upon a price for the land,” Polisena explained.

As the legal dispute over the eminent domain claim unfolds, Polisena said he is eager to present documentation to the developer’s legal team showing the extent of the town’s efforts to secure a site for municipal use.

“I’m looking forward to their response when opposing counsel is provided with all the correspondence, site work and invoices over the past few years pertaining to the work the town has done in looking for a location for a municipal complex,” he said.

The mayor anticipates that the developer’s argument for the 31-acre site may shift once this information is presented.

“I’m sure their argument will then change from ‘there was no talk of a municipal complex before this’

● **MAYOR** to page 9

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**Johnston
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A photograph of a Costco Wholesale store exterior at dusk. The building features a large sign with the Costco logo in red and blue, and the word "WHOLESALE" in blue below it. The entrance is brightly lit, and several people are visible walking in and out. The sky is a deep blue. The text "WE'RE OPEN IN Sharon" is overlaid at the top, with "Sharon" in a large, bold, yellow font. At the bottom, the slogan "EVERYTHING YOU WANT. ALL IN ONE PLACE." is displayed in white, flanked by horizontal lines.

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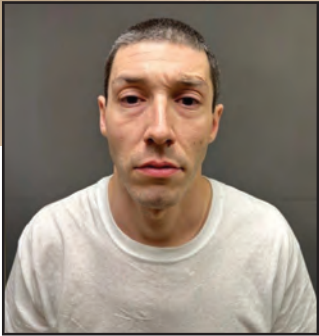
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Narcotics, money and a firearm confiscated during a recent search warrant arrest of Anthony Rubino (right) at a residence on Lafayette Street. *Photos courtesy of Johnston Police Department*



Police Log

NARCOTICS ARREST

On March 11 the Johnston Police Department's Detective Division executed a court-authorized search warrant at a residence on Lafayette Street in Johnston. During the search, investigators seized a variety of narcotics, including fentanyl, psilocybin, Adderall, and Xanax. In addition to the drugs, officers recovered a .40 caliber pistol equipped with a large-capacity feeding device and \$6,880 in U.S. currency.

As a result of the investigation, 40-year-old Anthony Rubino of Johnston was arrested and charged with multiple offenses. These charges include three counts of possession with intent to deliver Schedule I/II narcotics, one count of possession with intent to deliver Schedule III/IV narcotics, one count of possession of a firearm while committing a controlled substance violation, one count of possession of a firearm while committing a crime of violence, and one count of possessing a prohibited large-capacity feeding device.

Rubino was arraigned in 3rd District Court on March 12 and was ordered held without bail.

STATE POLICE WARRANT

On February 27 at approximately 11 p.m. while parked in a lot on Killingly Street, officers observed a black Audi sedan traveling southbound with no registration plates. A traffic stop was then initiated and contact made with the driver, later identified as Jose Torres Torres, 25, of 90 Draper Street, Apt. 1F in Pawtucket.

Background checks on Torres Torres revealed an active warrant from the Rhode Island State Police stemming from charges of larceny over \$1,500 and conspiracy. The Audi was also revealed to be unregistered.

Torres Torres was taken into custody and the car was towed from the scene. He was booked, processed, and later turned over to the State Police. Torres Torres was also issued a citation for display of plates and operation of an unregistered vehicle.

BENCH WARRANTS

At approximately 1:50 a.m. on February 28, officers responded to the Denny's restaurant on Hartford Avenue in reference to an unruly male customer. At the scene, officers spoke with the party, later identified as Kenneth Faucher, 61, of 69 Carlson Drive in Cumberland, who stated that he had an issue with his coffee and got into a verbal argument with restaurant staff.

Officers then spoke with staff inside

the restaurant, who claimed Faucher was upset about his coffee and became unruly. He was informed that if he did not calm down he would have to leave the premises. It was requested that a no-trespass order be placed of Faucher from the restaurant.

Background checks revealed that Faucher had two outstanding bench warrants for willful trespass. He was then taken into custody and transported to police headquarters where he was processed without incident. He was then transported to the ACI for the warrant charges.

CRANSTON WARRANT

While on a fixed traffic post on Killingly Street on March 3 at approximately 10:30 a.m., officers observed a silver Toyota Camry pass with an operator not wearing their seat belt. A traffic stop was then initiated and contact made with the driver, identified as Michael Rougier, 44, of 52 Victor Avenue in Johnston.

Routine background checks revealed that Rougier had an active Cranston Police warrant for simple assault and disorderly contact. Rougier was taken into custody and transported to headquarters where he was photographed, processed, and later released to the Cranston Police Department. He was also issued a summons for operating a vehicle without a seat belt.

SHOPLIFTING

Officers responded to Burlington store located on Atwood Avenue on November 9, 2024 for a report of a shoplifting that had just occurred. Prior to police arrival, the suspect had fled the scene.

Officers met with store staff, who stated that they witnessed a male party pass all points of sale with a shopping cart full of merchandise with an estimated value of approximately \$250.00. The suspect then entered a grey coupe and fled in an unknown direction. Store staff indicated they wished to pursue a criminal complaint should the be identified. The report was then forwarded to the Detective Division for investigation.

Following a review of video footage, a suspect was later identified as Kulh Lizarda, 36, of 20 Pezzullo Street in Johnston, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

On March 5 at approximately 8:30 p.m., officers responded to the Pezzullo Street address in an attempt to locate Lizarda. Contact was eventually made and Lizarda was taken into custody on the outstanding warrant charge as well as three other active bench warrants. He was taken to police headquarters where he was held pending arraignment.

Senior ‘Spotlite’



JOHN GUERTIN JR.

A life of service and enjoyment

John Guertin Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Navy in March of 1968, serving in the Naval Reserves before embarking on a long and distinguished career at the Quonset Point Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics. His dedication, talent, and expertise led to numerous promotions and increasing responsibilities. At times, his work required grueling twelve-hour shifts, seven days a week, and took him across the country—and beyond—providing critical support to the very fleet of ships tasked with protecting American freedoms.

Reflecting on his demanding career, John acknowledges that his rigorous schedule left little time for personal pursuits. As a result, he remains a bachelor but is now making up for lost time by embracing life to the fullest. A frequent visitor to the Johnston Senior Center, John finds joy in the friendships and activities it offers.

When he walks through the doors of the JSC, John is instantly recognizable by his warm smile and friendly greeting. Always well-groomed and neatly attired, he carries himself with dignity and an adventurous spirit. He eagerly participates in activities such as Bingo, ballroom dancing, and as many trips as he can schedule. Not one to limit himself, he also explores programs offered at other community centers.

For the past 30 years, John has lived alone in Chepachet, where he also enjoys a summer lake home. Despite his independent lifestyle, he values the camaraderie he finds at the Johnston Senior Center, describing the people there as friendly and welcoming.

We thank John for his service and sacrifice and wish him continued happiness in all his endeavors.

Editor’s Note: *Richard J. DelFino Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes a senior profile, called “Senior Spotlight,” submitted by the senior center.*

Driving kindness

Johnston Senior Center honors volunteer drivers

Submitted by
RICHARD DELFINO, JR.

Many times here at the Johnston Senior Center, it has been said that our many volunteers are the lifeblood of our community. So much depends on so many, who give their time and talents in a multitude of areas within the Center.

The beautiful JSC minibuses are out and about daily, giving members the ability to enjoy all of what Rhode Island has to offer. None of those opportunities could be realized if not for the efforts of our two volunteer drivers, Barbara DiBiase and Michael Pingitore.

Both came to us, an-



swering our request for drivers, via our electronic sign in front of the Senior Center. Barbara was a former business owner, operating some well known establishments in the area, Troino’s Stuffed Cherry Peppers, and Ann’s Bakery in Silver Lake. Bar-

bara also spent many years working at RIPTA, as a driver and customer service representative.

Michael spent his entire working career in plumbing and heating, about forty years, until health issues forced him to retire in 2020. Michael, who re-

ceived a double lung transplant in 2021, was given a new lease on life.

Both Barbara and Michael have been a Godsend to all here at the JSC. They enjoy meeting new people and visiting many places they might not have had the opportunity. They get to enjoy their newfound camaraderie and they feel the appreciation so many have for their sacrifice and service.

We are so lucky to have such wonderful people, giving of themselves, so that others get to live life to the fullest in their later years. Thank you, Barbara and Michael, for your service to the Johnston Senior Center.



Panelists for this discussion included Provost Toubha Ghadessi from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD); Patti DiCenso, Chair of the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education; Khadija Lewis Khan, Executive Director of Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center; and Shannon Carroll, President & CEO of the Genesis Center. *Photo submitted by the office of Senator Reed*

Women educators headline history month panel

U.S. Senator Jack Reed was at the Cranston Public Library last week to help kick off Women’s History Month and spotlight women who educate and inspire women and girls, both in and out of the classroom. Reed collaborated with the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island (WFRI) and women educators across the state for a special Women’s History Month panel discussion.

“Women’s History Month is an opportunity to reflect about women’s contributions to every aspect of our society. I was proud to team up with the Women’s Fund of Rhode

Island to hold this important conversation and talk about how we can work together to ensure that progress in the fight for equality continues,” Reed said in a press release. “Many of us can recall teachers or mentors who had a positive impact of our lives, whether at school, on the job, or out in the community.”

According to Reed, the discussion helped to look ahead to how educational opportunities can be strengthen for women and girls by inspiring more collaboration and encouraging more leaders of the future.

Kelly Nevins, CEO of the Women’s Fund said, “Education is essential for developing skills that are critical for the future, advancing equality, and strengthening our communities. “I was glad to help convene this important discussion with Senator Reed to connect more female educators and leaders with women in our communities to discuss how we can strengthen educational opportunities in Rhode Island to advance diversity and enhance leadership abilities.” - *Reports from Barbara Polichetti*

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REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD FASCIA
Submitted photo

Fascia’s bill seeks school buffer zone for level 3 sex offenders

Freshman Rhode Island House Representative Richard Fascia (District 42 - Johnston/Cranston) introduced his first piece of legislation (H 5925), a bill that would establish a 300-foot buffer zone around schools for registered Level 3 sex offenders. This is consistent with other such sex offender statutes.

Fascia noted that a void was created by the Supreme Court last year when they struck down a previously established

1000-foot buffer as discriminatory for Level 3 sex offenders, but offered no alternative, thus creating a void in the law. This proposed bill will establish a 300-foot radius around schools, consistent with existing statutes that address Level 1 and 2 sex offenders, thus offering greater protection to Rhode Island children and their communities.

Offenders would not be able to establish residency within the zone or otherwise be within it. Viola-

tion of the new zone would be a felony.

“We cannot offer our children enough protection from these monsters,” said Fascia, a retired Providence Police Officer and security professional. “I look forward to this important bill passing through committee and moving to the House floor for a final vote.”

Fascia has contacted the Attorney General’s Office for input and support, and the bill was referred to the House Judiciary.

House OKs Fellela bill mandating AEDs on golf courses

The House of Representatives recently gave its approval to legislation introduced by Rep. Deborah A. Fellela (D-Dist. 43, Johnston) that would mandate automatic external defibrillators on golf

courses.

The David Casey Act (2025-H 5083A), named for a Johnston golfer who suffered a fatal heart attack on the 18th hole of the Cranston Country Club in 2023, would add public

and private golf courses to the list of places where AEDs are required by law.

“David’s death was tragic, and has mobilized his widow, Betsy, to become an advocate for AEDs on all golf courses,” said Representative Fellela. “She wants to make sure that David’s death makes a difference, and if we save even one life, we reach that goal.”

Dr. Jerome Larkin, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, testified in favor of the legislation, telling the House Committee on Health and Human Services that “using AEDs and cardiopulmonary resuscitation within minutes of cardiac arrest can dramatically improve survival rates.”

The measure now moves to the Senate, where similar legislation (2025-S 0475) has been introduced by Sen. Andrew R. Dimitri (D-Dist. 25, Johnston). That legislation has been referred to Senate Health and Human Services.



REPRESENTATIVE
DEBORAH A. FELLELA
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Hospitality industry looks to score with World Cup

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

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

Adamo is executive director of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the JLC Live conference is one of many events she and her team book, plan and coordinate. On top of that over the next three to four weeks, the state will host the Division 3 college wrestling championships and March Madness. There are many more events the bureau’s staff of 30 have brought to the state or assisted local groups to coordinate from the Great Car Race involving 150 pre-1974 cars that started on June 15, 2022, from Rocky Point Park to Fargo, North Dakota to the collectors of paperweights show and convention that filled the Crowne Plaza.

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

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



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

conference focused on wind power has been canceled.

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

World Cup

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

July 19.

Yes, you read that correctly, “Boston Stadium.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Johnston Rec opens registration for T-ball, track

The Johnston Recreation Department is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2025 T-Ball and Youth Track & Field programs. These programs provide young athletes with a fun and engaging way to develop their skills, stay active, and enjoy the benefits of team sports.

T-Ball

Open to boys and girls ages 5 and 6 (age as of May 1, 2025)

Season: Saturdays, May 3 – June 14 (one-hour sessions)

Focus on fundamental skills like catching, throwing, and batting

Mini-games will be played toward the end of the season

Youth Track & Field

Open to boys and girls currently in grades 1-8

Season: Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 22-June 12

Athletes will develop running, jumping, and throwing skills

Registration Location:

Johnston Recreation Office
(Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Cost:

T-Ball: \$80 per individual, \$60 for each additional sibling

Youth Track & Field: \$85 per individual, \$65 for each additional sibling

Payment: Credit cards are not accepted. Checks should be made payable to JYSA.

Volunteers & Sponsors Needed

The Johnston Recreation Department is seeking volunteer coaches and program sponsors to help make these programs a success. If you’re interested in giving back to the community and supporting youth sports, please reach out for more information.

For schedules, registration forms, and additional details, please visit johnstonrec.com.

Magaziner launches 2025 congressional art competition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**NEW ENGLAND
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Johnston Pet Owners Rabies Inoculation Clinic Date And Dog Licensing Information

The Johnston Animal Control will hold a Rabies Clinic for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets three (3) months of age and older at The North Providence Recreation Dept., 2 Governor Notte Pkwy, Building #2, North Providence, Rhode Island, 02904 on **Sunday, March 30th, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. The cost for each inoculated will be ten dollars (\$10.00) cash only, no personal checks accepted. Proof of previous vaccine (Certificate Only) is required.

Dog Licenses are available as of April 1st and can be obtained during normal business hours (Monday Through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) at the Office of the Office of the Town Clerk, Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 (Rabies Certificate required). The License fee is \$5.00

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.,
Town Clerk

3/13, 3/20/25

iii RISLA

FREE HELP WITH FAFSA

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Money for College Starts with FAFSA!

Schedule Your Free Appointment

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Monsignor DeAngelis Manor is now ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Msgr. DeAngelis Manor, is located on Wakefield Street in West Warwick, centrally located on the bus route and nearby stores. Financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the elderly and disabled 62 years old and over.

Please enquire now at
RHM Management Co.
401-828-8040



Council Roundup

The Council Roundup is a digest of hearings, ordinances, licenses and other proceedings from the Johnston Town Council's March 10 meeting. All members were present.

STATUS ON PUBLIC HEARINGS

Zone Map Changes:

Mohamad Yaser and Rhonda Sasa submitted a petition to rezone Assessor's Plat 8, Lot 14 on Morgan Avenue from mixed R-20 and to R-7. This was held awaiting the Planning Board's advisory opinion.

Bachar Sasa petitioned to rezone Assessor's Plat 43, Lots 264 and 265 on Shun Pike Avenue from R-40 to Industrial. This was held pending Planning Board review.

Ordinance 2025-2, which amends the "Industrial Performance Standards" of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances and sets requirements to cover dirt mounds, was held awaiting the Planning Board's advisory opinion.

Ordinance 2025-4, which amends the "Industrial Performance Standards" of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances and sets requirements regarding noise was also held awaiting the Planning Board's opinion.

LICENSE APPROVALS

The Town Council approved the following licenses:

Glitz: Based at 1478 Atwood Ave., Unit 106, for Sacha Hummel who was granted a license for a boutique for women's clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry and more.

● LA FAZIA from page 1

Among his many accomplishments, one cause stands out as closest to his heart—the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive. Last year, he partnered with Crossroads Rhode Island to launch an effort to help individuals transition from homelessness into stable housing. While securing a home is a major step, many people struggle with something often taken for granted—the ability to keep their homes clean.

"After meeting with Ric Wild from Crossroads last year, I learned that even after an extremely tough journey to get into stable housing people are still very challenged with things that most of us unintentionally take for granted," said La Fazia. "Imagine not having the basic necessities to clean your home, not being able to wash your dishes because you don't have a sponge or soap. This is a very real challenge that no one should face."

P&E Consulting Inc., doing business as PVD Food Truck Events, was granted a mobile food truck event license to be located at Johnston Memorial Park at 1583 Hartford Avenue on April 16 from 5 to 9 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marie Michael, who petitioned to purchase a parcel of land from the town known as Assessor's Plat 33, lot 23, was held awaiting approval from the Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Petitions and Resolutions:

A petition from Narragansett Electric and Verizon New England LLC to install a new jointly owned pole on Mill Street was approved.

Resolution 2025-14 was approved, authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement for asphalt renovations to the walking trail at Johnston War Memorial Park. The repairs will be made utilizing grant funding not to exceed \$100,000, with Vinagro Materials LLC coming in as the lowest responsive bidder at \$73,949.00.

Resolution 2025-15 approved a bid award and authorized the mayor to enter into an agreement not to exceed \$100,000 for HVAC repairs at the Fire Department headquarters. The repairs will be made utilizing a non-matching Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. The lowest responsive bidder was Done Right HVAC-R at \$82,506.

Passed was Resolution 2025-17, which was a continuance of a previous resolution in which the town

sought to take by eminent domain the property located at 178-200 George Waterman Road for the purpose of building a campus containing a new Fire Department, Police Department and Town Hall. The resolution detailed the steps that the town had taken through the court following a review of the Town Charter and state law that allows for the taking of property through condemnation.

Resolution 2025-18 passed, which granted the town the authorization to take the property located at 178-200 George Waterman Road through condemnation to build the municipal campus. Andolpho Appraisal Associates Inc., determined the fair market value of the property was \$775,000. The resolution stated that the taking of the property is necessary and in the public interest.

TAX ABATEMENTS

Tax assessor abatements, totaling \$6,588, for reasons including Homestead Exemptions and Senior Exemptions, were approved.

CLAIMS

Claims from Anthony Gianfresco, Esq., on behalf of Stephanie Welch, and by James Burchfield on behalf of Carlos Liz Vasquez for injuries, were referred to the town solicitor. Also referred to the town solicitor was a claim from Eric Tennett for damage to his vehicle and a claim from Seth Perlmutter, Esq., on behalf of Randal Narvaez for damages.

Determined to continue the effort, Derek is once again calling on the community to support the Spring-Cleaning Drive throughout April. Donations of essential household cleaning supplies—including all-purpose cleaners, toilet brushes, glass cleaner, dish soap, furniture polish, paper towels, brooms, and mops—can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body, 920 Plainfield Street, Johnston, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Monetary contributions are also welcomed. Checks should be made payable to Crossroads Rhode Island, with "La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive" noted in the memo. Donations can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body or mailed directly to Crossroads Rhode Island, 162 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02903.

"Giving back to my community and my faith is a huge part of my life and my family's," said La Fazia. "I believe it's our duty to help one another."

Enter for a chance to win a new 2025 Chevy Trax 1RS



Vehicle courtesy of Hurd Auto Mall, Johnston

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\$50 EACH OR 3 FOR \$100
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BEACON MEDIA, 1944 WARWICK AVE, WARWICK
AND FROM MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARWICK

Proceeds from the raffle to benefit local non profit organizations

Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held May 15, 2025.

Winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket

Must be 18 years of age to participate. Odds of winning are 1 in 3000

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Will local tourism take a hit?

We're not breaking news to say that there are millions of reasons to visit Rhode Island, and New England in general. People flock here throughout the year, every year, because of our history, our top-notch beaches and protected natural resources, our amazing restaurants, and to watch our world-class professional and collegiate athletic programs. As we cover in this week's paper, there are some enormous events looming on the horizon that signal big bucks and big opportunities for our local hospitality industry. Even though it will mainly be held in Foxboro, the potential ancillary benefits that Rhode Island could experience from New England-based FIFA World Cup Round 32 matches is tantalizing, to say the least, for our local hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues. World-class events like this provide crucial tax revenue to our coffers and keep our cities and towns financially healthy and on the map. Tourism remains one of Rhode Island's most important industries, supporting over 86,000 jobs and bringing more than 28 million visitors in 2023. Those visitors and those jobs generated close to a billion dollars in state and local tax revenue.

In other words, keeping Rhode Island (and the country itself) a desirable place to travel is simply paramount to our continuing success. And this is why we will be keeping a close eye on tourism numbers throughout the coming months and years.

As economic volatility continues to surge – with the price of groceries and the cost of living seeing no relief – and some early signs already being reported that people elsewhere are opting not to take vacations to the United States amidst the bombastic rhetoric of the Trump administration, we find it concerning and worthy of more analysis as we move forward. A lot of people are hurting financially. The retired couple from Kansas that was pondering taking a flight into Green to check out their Jayhawks as part of March Madness might be clutching their wallets a little tighter this year, and for years to come. The family from Canada or Mexico who were interested in checking out Newport for their annual seaside vacation might think twice considering the political climate of the moment. These are not unreasonable concerns in modern times. Canadians have been urged by their former prime minister to not visit the United States, and travel to the U.S. from other countries is down over 2% from last year's February numbers.

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

What's on your mind?

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

• WHERE TO WRITE:
TimF@beaconmediari.com
or...
The Johnston SunRise
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889



LETTERS

We're not ready for a bird-flu pandemic

To the Editor,

The clock is ticking for Rhode Island. In February, the FDA cancelled its annual meeting to pick which flu strains should go into next winter's flu shot. The virus changes every year, so shots need updating, and vaccine manufacturers need six months to get them ready for the fall. As a result, we may not have a shot for the next flu season. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is also thinking about cancelling its contract with Moderna to develop a bird-flu vaccine, and considering RFK Jr.'s hostility toward proven science, cancellation seems likely. We already have bird-flu vaccines — Canada bought 500,000 doses of GSK's vaccine — but how we get shots for Rhode Island is unclear. Bird flu is creeping up on us. It's begun infecting humans here and there, and it kills 50% of the people who catch it. Being prepared with a vaccine is important.

So, with plan A — waiting for the federal government to act — falling apart, what would a plan B look like? Can the Rhode Island Department of Health work on getting us vaccines? It would be an unprecedented thing to ask for. Or could we have a regional response with all six New England states and New York state working together? It's still unprecedented, but sharing the work could make it more possible. Our state officials are reeling from the chaos caused by federal agencies abruptly reversing course, and limiting the damage will require solutions that are innovative and new. Everything needs to be done at once, but some things need to be started first. A flu pandemic has the potential to cause unimaginable mayhem and harm, and a plan to contain it needs to be near the top of the list of things to do.

Wil Gregersen
Providence

Will we know the numbers?

To the Editor,

As a person who has loved science all his life, I find that I must write about the (March 13 Warwick Beacon) article entitled "When Hospital, Schools Struggled at Ground Zero." In the Beacon's article, according to the state Department of Health, it's reported that COVID caused 3,636 deaths in Rhode Island. When I read about the statistics, I still wonder if those numbers are accurate. During the pandemic, I listened to the radio at work and heard Gov. Gina

Raimondo's updates regarding COVID deaths. At the time, Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott was director of the Department of Health. One of the two reporters who usually asked pertinent questions asked if any of the deaths that occurred by other means, by vehicle accident, etc., and the person tested positive for COVID were still counted as a COVID death. Dr. Scott said yes. How many other states and countries did the same thing? I doubt we'll know for sure.

Jerry Ferreira
Warwick

JohnstonSunRise

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Harley

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

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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Boneless Stuffed Chicken, Shrimp Scampi over linguine, Salad, Seasonal veggies, Potato, Rolls and Butter, Coffee/Tea and Chocolate Cake for Dessert

In Historic Pawtuxet Village on the Cranston/Warwick line

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Sun. May 4- Noon
GEORGE'S, Galilee

Sat. May 17
St. Mary's Feast

Sat. June 7
ISLANDER
Warwick

Reservations, info @ agingdisgracefully.net

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MY TIME CARD DOESN'T SAY MY NAME. IT HAS A NUMBER INSTEAD!

I MEAN, DO THEY EVEN KNOW MY NAME? IT'S INSULTING OF THEM TO REFER TO ME AS JUST A NUMBER, DON'T YOU THINK, AESOP?!

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

I BETTER GO COUNT TO TEN.

GUEST OPINION

Moving Beyond the Mass Exodus Tax Flight Myth

By ALAN KRINSKY

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

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

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

root themselves and their families over changes in top marginal tax rates.

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

People warned that the Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment establishing a four percent surtax on income above \$1 million would drive people away, and some Rhode Island politicians looked forward to welcoming all the millionaires who would flee across the border to the Ocean State. Yet, there is no evidence of such movement, let alone a mass exodus. Indeed, the early predictions of new revenue from the tax have proven to be significantly underestimated, with well over \$2 billion each year in new revenue helping to pay for education, public transit improvements, and free breakfast and school lunches for all students.

Currently, the top one percent of filers pay less of their income in total state and local taxes (8.6 percent) than the 20 percent with the lowest incomes (13.3 percent). En-

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

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

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

Legal Notices

Public Auction Legal Notice

To:Angel Almonte Suriel 485 Cranston St Providence RI A public auction will be held at 100 South st Johnston RI on March 29,2025 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2001 Honda JHLRD18491C011753 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

To: Benjamin Couto 4 Old North Rd Coventry RI, Westlake Financial Services PO Box 997592 Sacramento CA A public auction will be held at 100 South st Johnston RI on March 29,2025 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2015 Ford 3FA6POHD-3FR139521 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

3/20/25

Thibodeau 168 Morgan Ave AP 7

Lot 96, Zone R 20, requesting to add a Chiropractic office in completed basement.

Petitioner: Quick Lube of Carolina Atwood, LLC. 1402 Atwood Ave Johnston. Owner: David Gesualdi. Applicant: Quick Lube of Carolina Atwood LLC. Ap 49, Lo t335, Zone R15. The petitioner is seeking a special use permit to permit general automobile repair and relief from Town Ordinance Section 340-40(B) (2) (A), which permits only one exterior wall sign per commercial structure.

Petitioner: Ryan McKeon and Amanda Jayal 98 Peck Hill Rd Ap33 Lot 50 Zone R40, Dimensional Variance. Requesting To create a subdivision of the of the proposed lot and create a second lot that is undersized. 340 cable of dimensional regulations.

V. Adjournment:
Per order of the Zoning Board of Review Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

- The Zoning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.
- Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meet* Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

3/13, 3/20/25

Town of Johnston Planning Board AMENDED MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 6:00 P.M.
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. OLD BUSINESS

PB 24-42 – Forest Drive Solar AP 46 Lots 103, 171, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212 and 213- Zoned R-40. Owner:- Shore Holdings, LLC. Applicant -Revity Energy. The Petitioner is seeking A Public Hearing on the Master Plan Application of a Major Land Development and Special Use Permit applications pursuant to Unified Development Review to develop two 0.5 MW solar arrays and one single-family residential lot. Behind 3 and 17 Forest Drive.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:
PB 25-09- Quick Fuel Market Drive- Thru. A Public Hearing on A Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review for a Special Use Permit to construct a new 12-foot-wide driveway to accommodate the new Drive-Thru. 1601 Hartford Avenue AP 53 Lot 22- Zoned B2. Applicant/Owner: Shanker Veer LLC. C/O-Ravi Patel

PB 25-11 – Advisory Opinion Petition-2025-CP-17. A petition to purchase Assessor’s Plat 33 Lot 23.

PB 25-12- Advisory Opinion requesting amendments to Section 340-16 of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to noise.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
PB 25-03- Affordable Housing – Review DRAFT Plan, listen comment, recommendation action to the Town Council

PB 22-57 – The Comprehensive Plan. Future Land Use Maps

PB 23-35 – Zoning Update. Discussion and review of draft zoning ordinance. Major restructuring of the ordinance was required because of the changes and the failure to update the ordinance over the past years when changes were made to state law.

- The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.
- Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.
- Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

3/20/25

● MAYOR from page 1

to ‘this is the primary reason it was done, to stop the project,’ which is simply not true,” Polisena said. “If it was, I would have proposed something more inexpensive than a municipal complex. The reality is these are buildings we need, and we’ve needed them for some time now.”

Polisena announced on Friday via a Facebook post that, through a petition in Superior Court, Providence, the town had officially acquired ownership of the property at 178-200 George Waterman Rd. by eminent domain. A fair market valuation of the property, conducted by Andolpho Appraisal Associates Inc., determined it was worth \$775,000.

In a press release Wednesday morning, the mayor appeared to back away from his Facebook post’s claim that the town had acquired ownership of the land.

“The recent court decision simply means that the status quo is preserved,” the release said. “We will continue to make our case in the hearing scheduled for April. This legal process is ongoing, and we remain committed to advocating for the best interests of the current residents of Johnston.”

In December, the mayor made clear his refusal to acquiesce to the developers’ plan for the land.

● ZEPPOLE from page 1

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

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

Donald DePetrillo, owner of the Original Italian Bakery, can make them in his sleep – something he gets very little of. He typically sells zeppole from around the time of the Super Bowl until Easter Sunday and estimates that the total tally for the season is around 66,000. He already had countless orders for this week and said that it’s not unusual to sell 8,000 zeppole on St. Joseph’s Day alone.

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

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



Donald DePetrillo’s sister, Elaine DePetrillo Divozzi always shows up during zeppole season to help out. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

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

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

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

He said that customers want them pretty much all year long, although the special filling flavors,

In a Facebook post dated Dec. 4, 2024, Polisena wrote, “If the developer is unwilling to compromise, I will use every lever of government I have, including a court challenge of the low-income housing statute itself. Johnston will not be force-fed a development through a state law that will immediately add anywhere from 600-800 people, which is anywhere between 2%-3% of our total population now, a massive number for one development, without a fight.”

While the developer continues to challenge the town’s decision, Polisena maintains that Johnston’s priority remains addressing its longstanding municipal infrastructure needs.

“What else do you expect? The developer and their attorneys have to put forth some, simply any, legal argument that helps them,” he said.

The case is expected to proceed as both sides prepare to present their arguments.

“The primary reason is to provide 21st-century public and municipal services to our citizens. I have been looking for a location to do this since I took office, with proof to that effect,” said Polisena. “The police chief and fire chief are very excited about this location. Engineering review of the site confirms that this complex can be constructed on this site to serve this and the next generation of Johnston citizens.”

mon.

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

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

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

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

Obituaries

Louis Sisto Gautieri, Jr.



Louis Sisto Gautieri, Jr., 98, of Rosemont Ave, a retired business owner and proud WWII disabled veteran, died Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, surrounded by his loving family.



He was the husband of the late Lucy T. (Cesario) Gautieri, married for 47 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis S. and Helen F. (Defusco) Gautieri, he had lived in Johnston for 61 years.

During WWII, Mr. Gautieri served with distinction in the Pacific from 1944-1946 as a Seaman First Class with the 144th Seabees ABCD Navy Battalion in Guam. He received a number of awards, including the World War II Victory Medal; the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze star appurtenance; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Discharge Button; and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin, in recognition of his dedicated and loyal Navy service. He also received an honorary high school diploma from Mount Pleasant High School in 2003 in recognition of his sacrifices.

Mr. Gautieri had been the President and Founder of National Lumber & Building Materials Co., Providence, for 56 years, alongside his late brother, Domenic Sisto Gautieri. He built houses in his youth with his father, brother, and uncles in Cape Cod and was a successful lumber salesman and business owner. He was an avid reader, having completed hundred of books, and enjoyed many summers with his wife exploring Newport, Potter’s cove, and Block Island on his boat. He succeeded in his goal of navigating the U.S. eastern coast from Miami to New York on his boat with his wife in 1986.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Janet L. Gautieri of Waltham, MA; a late son, Joseph R. Gautieri of Olney, MD; and four grandchildren, Dvora Gautieri of New York City, NY; John Vrahliotis of Waltham, MA; Sara (Ari) Gautieri Benjamin of Medford, MA; and Judah Gautieri of Olney, MD. He was the brother of the late Dominic S. Gautieri, Helen Ottaviano, and Constance F. Rapa.

His funeral service will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 11am in the Anderson-Winfield Funeral Home, Rt 44 at Greenville Common, Greenville. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Ann’s Cemetery, Cranston. Visitation will be Monday March 17, 2025 from 4-6pm.

Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one’s full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, johnstonsunrise.net.

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

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Lifestyles



Doreen Collins. Submitted photo



Stacy Kendro. Submitted photo



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



Stephanie White. Submitted photo



Aimee Schwab. Submitted photo

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Local comedian Doreen Collins has some celebrating to do. This month marks the tenth anniversary of The Ladies Room, her annual night of standup and drag. The March 28 event, which features women performers, women sponsors, and supports non-profit organizations run by women, will be held at the Courthouse Center for the Arts in South Kingstown. “Men give us a bad rap,” said Collins, who lives in Warwick with her husband Frank. “Contrary to popular belief, women just really want to support one another.” According to her website, every year she produces a show that’s all about the ladies, bringing new meaning to girls night out. “The Ladies Room promotes and supports my fellow funny females by combining women just starting their comedic journey, with ladies with national recognition,” she notes on the site. Collins has lived in Rhode Island for the past 25 years and was the first woman inducted into the Rhode Island Comedy Hall of Fame. Most of her work now

is with Aging Disgracefully, a variety show she performs around the state with comedian Charlie Hall. Hall also contributes weekly editorial cartoons to this publication. Collins and Hall bring Aging Disgracefully to the Courthouse Center for the Arts a few times each year. The venue is mostly known for the cover bands that perform there—in the next month alone you can see tributes to Mötley Crüe, The Doors, Creed, Led Zeppelin, Styx, Boston, and Jackson Browne. “When it’s not live music it has a really intimate theater feel. It’s also definitely haunted,” she laughs. “I haven’t experienced anything myself, but it’s totally

haunted.” Other comedians at The Ladies Room this year include Boston-based headliner Stacy Kendro, who has performed at the event several times before, as well as Aimee Schwab and Steph White. The three will be joined by drag performers LaDiva Jonz, Haley Star, and Jacqueline DiMera of Drag RI. The audience is almost entirely made up of women. “There’s Frank,” she says, pointing to her husband, “and there’s Charlie [Hall], and the occasional man who doesn’t know what he’s walking into.” Audiences familiar with Collins might already know about Frank, a frequent subject of her comedy.

Collins likes to keep the night light and not too raunchy. “The performers can be as risqué as they want to be, but I’m not looking for the kind of acts that drop the f-bomb every other word.” One challenge for Collins as the organizer is that it takes time to wrangle the talent and the sponsors and so she doesn’t spend a lot of time preparing her own routine. “I kind of like the spontaneity,” she said. “My background is in musical theater where you rehearse, rehearse, rehearse. You know your lines, you hit your marks. I’m too nervous to go in totally cold. I at least need an idea in my head of what I want it to be about.” Collins is no stranger to being on camera. She’s a regular on WPRI’s The Rhode Show, where she hosts a segment called Senior Moments, and previously wrote, produced, and hosted the late-night series Rhode Bytes on Channel 10. But she is not a big fan of her live shows being recorded. “People will video me at a show,” she said. “I end every show with a number,

THE LADIES ROOM
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PrimeTime



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

Enjoying the *Performance* of Audiobooks

Q & A with editor and writer
Alan Rosenberg

by G. WAYNE MILLER
Ocean State Stories

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

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

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

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

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

● ROSENBERG to page 16

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The Past Shapes Your Present

MY SIDE OF THINGS by LARRY GRIMALDI

Like spring sweeps away winter's doldrums, it's time to open the windows to my memories and let the fresh air in. Our journey through life is like a stone wall, built rock by rock, held together by mortar of recollections and experiences. This column has been 65 years in the making and it's a validation that the past shapes our present.

Recently, I saw the movie, "Twelve Mighty Orphans." The film chronicles a Depression-era football team of 12 Texas orphans fighting for respect and recognition after being abandoned by their birth parents. Twelve Mighty Orphans brought me back to a past life.

My sister and I lived part of the winter and spring of 1959 at St. Aloysius Home, an orphanage in Greenville. My mother was hospitalized for an extended time and my father had to keep his job in the plating room of a

local jewelry manufacturing shop. My sister and I sat silently in a dimly lit, foreboding office while my father made the arrangements for our admission. We spent weekdays at St. Aloysius Home; and returned home on weekends. Every Sunday, we would return to St. Aloysius. It must have been very hard on my father.

My 'bedroom' at St. Aloysius was a ward. My 'closet' was an olive drab metal locker for my clothes and a few personal items. My most prized possession was a brand-new hockey stick my father had bought for me. I looked forward to playing hockey on the frozen pond in the back of the orphanage. It's the only fond memory I have of my time there.

Every morning, we were ushered into a cavernous bathroom with a long row of sinks to wash up and brush our teeth under the watchful eyes of the religious sisters. After breakfast, we walked to the school building next door. Often, I was called on to encourage my younger sister to eat. It was evident that the trauma of being in the strange and intimidating surroundings affected her deeply.

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

● PAST to page 16

New Beginnings

MY MEMOIRS by SUSAN DEAN

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

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

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

He said, "She's like Lydia - her hair." Lydia being his wife, my grandmother - who had died six years earlier.

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

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

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

My daughters were especially close to Aunt Madeline. She provided a listening ear and gave them sage life advice along with sharing her recipes and cook-

ing tips. Gretchen is an occupational therapist and when Aunt Madeline began to physically fail Gretchen helped her adapt at home. Aunt Madeline was a favorite of mine, too. We shared lunch or dinner often - usually at her apartment where she'd create a fabulous meal and we'd talk for hours. Aunt Madeline died in July, 2021 at age 91. She's still missed by all of us and is remembered with the purest of love.

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

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

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

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

My mother often told me that she didn't like her name - Louise - and I wondered what she'd think about her great-granddaughter being named after her.

This led me to thinking how Madeline might feel, too.

Since Gretchen was having a girl after having two boys, we decided to give her a small shower - a 'sprinkle' - just family and close friends. The night before the gathering I was alone in the house. It was a wintry cold night - all was quiet and still. The doorbell rang - just once. I looked out the window and saw no one - no cars, no Amazon truck, nothing. I opened the front door and looked down the street and it was empty. And there were no footprints in the snow. Why did the doorbell ring?

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

Maybe the doorbell ringing and the bathroom door opening were signs due. Did Madeline and Louise - my aunt and my mother - send me these signs to let me know that they're tickled pink that my new granddaughter shares their names? My aunt and my mother were close friends for more than fifty years - I can picture them laughing together and concocting a way to communicate their approval. It makes me smile.

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

Combat isolation, check out your local senior center



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

How do I know this? The State of Rhode Island allocates funds for Senior Services Supports through its annual budget and those funds are distributed by the Office of Healthy Aging to 51 municipal and community agencies. Do you know where your senior center or community center is? You can go on-line to the Office of Healthy Aging website, (<https://oha.ri.gov/>), or call the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 401-462-4444 to find one. As Rhode Island’s older adult population has grown, so has the commitment of the State to these important resources. In 2021, when Governor McKee took office, \$800,000 were allocated to these communities. In each budget he has introduced, he has increased the state’s investment. So now, in 2025, \$1.4 million was distributed throughout Rhode Island communities. Additionally, in his proposed budget for next year,



by MARIA CIMINI

Governor McKee recommended another increase to bring that amount to \$1.6 million.

Throughout Rhode Island’s 39 cities and towns there are centers where you could join a walking club, take an exercise class, learn how to use the latest iPad, share a meal, gain a new skill, volunteer your time, get support with the questions that you have about aging, or simply enjoy time with friends. Each center is unique, just as each community and each older person is unique. One of the most important things I’ve come to appreciate since becoming the Director of the Office of Healthy Aging, is the great diversity within our older adult population and programming, from age ranges to center offerings. Each center mirrors the geographic or cultural community it serves. At the Cranston Senior Center, you could play chess, talk to a nurse, or hone your ballroom dancing skills.

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

And at the Johnston Senior Center you could play bocce, plant a garden or go to a blood-pressure clinic. At other centers throughout the state, seniors are recording podcasts, painting with watercolors, engag-

ing in intergenerational programs, discussing current events, and more. These are just a few examples.

Senior Services Supports are also used to ensure that older adults can find connection and supports within their own cultural or faith communities. There are centers serv-

In every community of our state, and across every level of government, there is consensus that Rhode Islanders deserve an older adulthood full of learning, fun activities, shared experiences, and thoughtful, individual supports.

ing Southeast Asians, Spanish-speaking individuals, and African immigrants, as well as LGBTQ+ older adults, veterans, rural Rhode Islanders, and individuals with physical disabilities.

In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified social isolation and/or loneliness as being as great a risk to health as smoking. We all know after decades of surgeon general

reports and scientific research that smoking can be hazardous to your health. Who would’ve thought that the act of being lonely could have the same impact?

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

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

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



Tomato Basil Baked Cod

Ingredients From Dave’s Marketplace

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

Directions

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

Serve with side dishes from our kitchen

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True stories of yesterday, strong novels of the past and present

Absorbing historical sketches by a writer with Rhode Island roots, the latest novel from Anne Tyler, and two more excellent fictional works are among recent audiobooks.

“The Memory Palace: True Short Stories of the Past”

By Nate DiMeo, read by DiMeo, Jad Abrumad, Daniel Alarcón, Betsy Brandt, Carrie Coon, Hrishikesh Hirway, Dominic Hoffman, Rebecca Lowman, Roman Mars, Robin Miles, Ryan Reynolds, Kai Ryssdal and Lili Taylor. Random House Audio, 8¾ hours, \$20.

This beautiful, gentle book by a writer and podcaster with deep Rhode Island roots tells the stories of Americans of the past, as well as tales of DiMeo’s own past.

He lived in Providence in his 20s, in a Federal Hill house owned by his grandmother, who couldn’t stand living there after his grandfather died. His mother had grown up in the house, and it was still stuffed with the artifacts and stories that ultimately led him to a career of storytelling. Things that recalled the now-vanished Cafe Baghdad, which his grandfather owned, or his father’s reminiscence of the day a whale showed up in the Providence River and everyone hurried to see it.

DiMeo, who went to Dighton-Rehoboth High School, also recalls playing tour guide in Providence for his friends, and the day he discovered that the Providence River was being moved to create Waterplace Park, reversing the city’s mistake in covering the river with asphalt after it was no longer needed as a port.

There’s more to intrigue Rhode Islanders, too, including a skeptical look at Roger Williams’ friendship with the Narragansett tribe and a one-sentence tale saying simply that the regional headquarters for Otis Elevator in Providence is one story tall.

(Fact check, longer than DiMeo’s story: Otis currently has its office for Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts at 9 Rocky Hill Rd. in Smithfield, but before that it was at 175 W. River St. in Providence, according to Otis’ Christine Parnell and Peter Ratigan. Both are, indeed, one-story buildings.)

But the book ranges much farther than the Ocean State, all of it adding dimension to those who lived in the past, making real, three-dimensional beings out of those who

came before us. There’s the discovery of insulin treatment for diabetes, for instance, seen through the lens of a child who was being starved to deal with the disease — the treatment of choice at the time. And the woman who left her farmer husband and made a life, and national celebrity, creating sculptures out of butter.

There’s also Leo the MGM lion (real name: Jackie), who besides roaring at the beginning of movies was sent on a three-year nationwide promotional tour, doing things lions were never meant to do, like letting a little kid shake his paw. And the odd and mysterious history of Plymouth Rock, never mentioned by the Pilgrims in their extensive diaries, and unknown until a plan to build a wharf over the rock spurred a 95-year-old man to remember (or make up?) a story his father had told him about the Pilgrims landing there.

And much more, from the one-liner about Otis Elevator to tales that last far longer.

DiMeo suffered from a severe thyroid condition diagnosed when he was in high school. His work, he tells us, springs from his recognition that we all will die, and the moments count — and stories can bring them to life.

He and his many narrators capture that tone wonderfully, with understated but purposeful readings that get the most out of every tale.

“Three Days in June: A Novel”

By Anne Tyler, read by J. Smith-Cameron. Random House Audio, 4¼ hours, \$20. Also available via any Rhode Island public library.

Gail Baines is expecting a normal end-of-term Friday at the school where she’s assistant headmistress, leading into her daughter’s wedding weekend, when the headmistress calls her into her office and shatters her world.

The headmistress, Gail learns, is about to retire. A new one has already been hired —



by ALAN ROSENBERG

and she’s bringing her own assistant with her.

Gail, it seems, lacks “people skills.”

In this short, sweet novel by Tyler — Pulitzer Prize-winning author of two dozen novels, including “The Accidental Tourist” and “Breathing Lessons” — we get to know Gail pretty well, and the headmistress isn’t wrong. Gail is pretty oblivious to her ex-husband Max, who unexpectedly ends up staying at her house, and her daughter, Debbie, who has some last-minute concerns about her fiancé. In fact, the more we learn about Gail, the more we learn about the clumsiness of her relationships.

But this isn’t out of nastiness, only a certain tone-deafness. And as the weekend unfolds, she’s a sympathetic character in one of Tyler’s typically well-crafted tales.

Smith-Cameron, perhaps best known for her role as steely corporate executive Gerri Kellman in the HBO series “Succession,” here invests Gail with a warmth that goes a long way toward making her self-absorption both believable and understandable.

“The Best Man’s Ghostwriter”

By Matthew Starr, read by a full cast including Glen Powell, Nicholas Braun, Ashley Park, Lance Bass, D’Arcy Carden, Zach Braff, Debra Messing, George Takei, Neil Flynn and Jack McBrayer. Audible Original, 4½ hours, \$24.95 or free with Audible membership, \$7.95 a month.

Come for the all-star cast, stay for the writing and performances.

The cast includes such luminaries as Park (“Emily in Paris”), Bass (NSYNC), Carden (“The Good Place”), Braff and Flynn (“Scrubs”), Takei (“Star Trek”), McBrayer (“30 Rock”) and Rhode Island’s own Debra Messing (“Will & Grace”).

Holding this all together is the lesser-known but skilled Powell as Nate, paid ghostwriter for any best man who can’t come up with the right things to say about the groom. Now Nate is helping Dan, best

man for a “Jackass”-style web influencer — and trying to figure out why he has no best man for his own upcoming wedding since his best friend, Xavier, dumped him.

Starr’s smart, funny, and eventually heart-felt script makes you care about Nate; his fiancée, Ash (Parker); and Dan (Braun). Along the way, Nate offers lots of good advice for any actual best men who might want some tips.

And among the excellent star-studded performances, don’t miss Rhode Island’s own Messing as Nate’s mother, who can turn the chance to ask one question into three without taking a breath.

“Playworld: A Novel”

By Adam Ross, read by Ross. Random House Audio, 22 hours, \$30.

Griffin Hurt is all of these things: an aspiring high school wrestler; the son of a TV-commercial pitchman who has ambitions to be a Broadway star; and a 14-year-old actor playing Peter Proton in the “Nuclear Family” television series.

Griffin is also the subject of interludes with his wrestling coach that go well beyond the mat, as well as increasingly romantic time spent in the car of a woman who’s both a family friend and 22 years his senior.

This complicated Manhattan life forms the backdrop of Griffin’s coming-of-age story, along with his complex relationship with his brother, Oren; the girl he’s obsessed with, Amanda; and various friends who drift in and out of his orbit. And oh, yes, his parents’ troubled marriage.

Ross handles the story well, never letting its ickier portions get so graphic that they overwhelm Griffin’s confusion and desire to find a way through. His reading, with an amusing Noo Yawk accent for the “older woman,” is among the best author performances I’ve heard.

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

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SAVE THE PENNY—AGAIN

by ELAINE DECKER

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

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

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

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

Another use for the penny that came to my attention recently was using it to measure the tread on your tires. Insert a penny upside down between two of the treads. If any part of Lincoln’s head is covered, your tires are still good. If all of his head is visible, the tread is dangerously worn and you

should replace your tires. You may want to keep a few

pennies stashed away somewhere just for this purpose once they’ve disappeared from circulation.

Even once we stop minting the penny, the U.S. will continue to lose money minting its other coins. Maybe we should become a changeless society. There are some suggestions to that end floating around, as well as some that we should become cashless altogether and just use plastic or some type



The first thought that comes to my mind is still: “Where would that leave penny loafers?” I suppose they’d have to become dime loafers; a nickel wouldn’t fit in the slot.

of chip mechanism. If that happens, you can be sure there will be

plenty for me to write about.

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

Getting rid of the penny would be the death knell for the penny ante. Not to get too maudlin, but I still have the tin full of pennies that my late mother used when she played poker

with her lady friends. My mother died in 1995, and the last member of her card group died in 2012 at age 103. Their penny tin lives on, as full as it was after their last game.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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● ROSENBERG from page 11

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

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

How do you choose your titles?

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

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

Also, I try to pick a diverse set of authors and topics, so anyone in my audience can see themselves reflected in the audiobooks over time.

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

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

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

Oh, gosh, so many. The Journal’s former bureau in Greenville, where I worked with folks like Frank Prosnitz, Debbie Horne, Peter Gosselin and Gregg Krupa. Wandering around the old Providence police station as a young reporter, getting to know the cops and trying to dig out news. Covering both trials of Claus von Bulow, which involved competing with reporters from all over the world. My years in Features, working alongside unforgettable personalities like Andy Smith, Gail Ciampa and Michael Janusonis, just for starters — and where I got to interview William Shatner and Majel Barrett, and review restaurants along with my wife, Avis Gunther-Rosenberg. And working

● PAST from page 12

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

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

We spent countless hours at sporting and cheerleading events. We were very accessible to them, and they knew that they were safe and secure. To this day, our three children maintain a close relationship although my daughter lives in North Providence, one son is in Las Vegas; and my other son just moved to Vero Beach. Like many parents, we did our best to install in them the characteristics that would serve them well in their lives. We are proud that each of them is a generous and caring person.

We have five grandchildren now. I be-



Rosenberg on his last day in the Providence Journal newsroom while cleaning out my office in November 2020. Photo submitted by Avis Gunther-Rosenberg

with my team as executive editor, especially Mike McDermott, Michael Delaney and Whitman Littlefield. I guess it’s really the people I remember most fondly.

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

When I became The Journal’s executive editor in May of 2017, I wrote that the news media faced “the hostility of a president who has labeled the news media as the nation’s enemy, and the suspicion of those who think he might be right.” Today, journalists face the same conditions, only more so: a president who now seems implacably opposed to fact-based journalism, and is working hard to undermine it, as well as the open scorn of many of his followers. It’s not clear to me how journalists can break through that scorn so that the information on which people base their decisions is factual, rather than being driven by ideology.

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

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

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

The lessons of the past have melded into the present.

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

Sports

Betancur leads JWU to national title



Johnson & Wales junior Adolfo Betancur. Submitted photo by Geoff Riccio

Junior earns All-American honors

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

Johnston native and Bishop Hendricken alum Adolfo Betancur continued to add to his historic wrestling resume this winter season as he helped lead Johnson & Wales to its first-ever Division III National Championship crown.

Betancur finished the tournament with a 5-3 record, placing sixth in the country at 285 pounds and earning All-American honors. It was Betancur's second time competing in the national tournament, as he qualified last year and finished 2-2.

"I got to experience last year and it was an awesome experience. I knew that I wanted to do better than I did last year and that's exactly what I did," said Betancur. "It definitely prepared me, just being at that tournament and witnessing that environment, that's something that can make someone crumble. To qualify last year and make it back this year was awesome."

Betancur wrapped up the season with a 29-10 overall record. After a successful sophomore year, Betancur knew he and the Wildcats would have a chance to go on a special run this season and worked hard on and off the mats to get the job done.

● BETANCUR to page 18



Adolfo Betancur on the podium. Submitted photo



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

Hawks fall in state final

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

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

● HAWKS to page 18



Alanna Colon this past season.

Three Panthers nab postseason honors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island Basketball Coaches Association recently unveiled its postseason award winners and three Johnston standouts made the cut.

● THREE to page 18

● THREE from page 17

Annabella Gesualdi was named to the Division II First Team while Alanna Colon made the third team. Freshman Marissa Morsilli made the All-Rookie Team for Division II as well.

Gesualdi returned as one of the top players from the Johnston squad that reached the Division IV title in 2024 and was stellar once again as she led the team in scoring. Colon transferred to Cherry Hill this season from Woonsocket and immediately made her presence felt at the point.

The Panthers wrapped up the season by clinching a postseason berth in DII after being elevated all the way from DIV. Gesualdi, Colon and Morsilli are all slated to return next year.



Annabella Gesualdi hauls in a rebound.

● BETANCUR from page 17

“I just had to work hard. Everyone wants it. I knew I had to gameplan for this tournament, gameplan for every match. I knew I had to leave it all out there,” said Betancur. “We had some bumps in the road, had some family issues freshman year and sophomore year, but I used that as fuel and motivation for this year.”

Looking at his senior year, Betancur hopes to take first place as both an individual and again as a team.

“It’s the same goal as this year. To win it. To win it as a team. We have a good team coming back so hopefully we can win it,” said Betancur, who was proud to

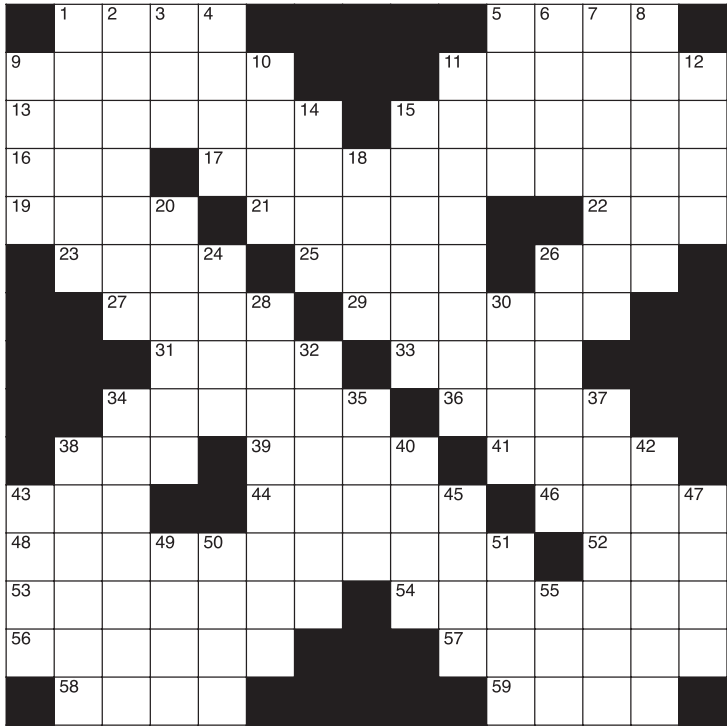
represent Rhode Island as it has slowly crept its way into the national spotlight in recent years, with grapplers like him leading the charge.

“Rhode Island is the best with wrestling. Everyone knows each other, everyone is with each other. Whenever we go other places, we cheer for each other as one team and are rooting each other on. We’re a small state and it’s great,” said Betancur.

Betancur also gave a shout out to the Bishop Hendricken team, who recently took second as a unit at the high school state championships.

“I talk to the coach (Kevin Hennessy) every day, I love him. I can’t be happy enough for them,” said Betancur.

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CLUES ACROSS

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

- 41. Network of nerves
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Showed old movie
- 46. Body parts
- 48. A divisor
- 52. Congressional investigatory body
- 53. Papers
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. Judge the worth of something
- 57. Makes sounds while sleeping
- 58. Which
- 59. Hungarian Violinist

CLUES DOWN

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

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



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

● HAWKS from page 17

cess.

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

Hendricken was led

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

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

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

the runner up in both the state and division championships. The Hawks will be graduating James Caldarella, Jakob Reyes and Dylan Lynch, while returning guys like D’Ambra, Ellis-Cipriano and Will Cary to the mix next winter.

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

Centerline opens its doors

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

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

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

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

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

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

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

"The road getting here was choppy, bumpy, long, but we made it and we're very grateful for that. We are extremely proud of our facility. The chance to open this business trumped all others and our clients have been incredible," said Bucci to the crowd on Saturday, which included members and local dignitaries including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins.

kins. "Our members have been so respectful, appreciative, and so enjoyable to be around. Our goal is to continue to make our facility warm and friendly so the word gets out. This is how we hope to continue to build and prosper at Centerline Pickleball."

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

"When I became mayor four years ago, our parks and recreation director came to me and said 'there's a great demand for pickleball,' and I looked her in the eye and said 'what the hell's a pickleball,' Picozzi joked. "Then I learned it's the fastest growing sport in the state and the country."

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

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

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

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



The Centerline Pickleball Club staff, along with local officials including Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins, cut the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony last Saturday morning. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*



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

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RIC softball rolls past Simmons

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Freshman catcher Gabrielle Sweeney (Shirley, Mass.) smacked a three-run homer and sophomore pitcher Ashleigh von der Linden (Stratham, N.H.) earned the win as Rhode Island College completed a doubleheader sweep vs. Simmons in a 9-1 (five in-nings) win at Daly Field on Saturday afternoon.

The Anchormen picked up where they left in game one and plated four runs in the top of the first. Sophomore left fielder Melanie Earley (Lumberton, N.J.) and classmate designated player Sydney Duclos (North Providence) knocked in runs with an RBI single and double, respectively, in the frame.

Sweeney smacked her first career homer with a three-run shot in the fourth.

Junior left fielder Sophia Crudale (Cranston) went 3-for-3 with two runs scored, a triple and an RBI, while von der Linden won her third game (3-1), allowing one

run on three hits in four innings of work.

Fifth-year third baseman Victoria Young (Sterling, Conn.) went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and a double.

RIC outscored Simmons, 15-1, on the day.

Rhode Island College senior Abby Kidd (Granby, Conn.) was named the Little East Softball Pitcher of the Week for her performance in a 5-1 week for the Anchorwomen.

Kidd appeared in five games, starting three of them. She was 3-0 with a 1.89 ERA and 23 strikeouts in 22.2 innings of work. Kidd fired a three-hit shutout and struck out eight as RIC blanked Simmons, 6-0, on March 15. Kidd came on in relief to earn the win, striking out five in 3.2 innings, as RIC bested Montclair State, 4-3 on March 12. She earned a win in relief, registering two strikeouts in 4.1 innings, as the Anchorwomen defeated Kean, 6-5, on March 10.

For the season, Kidd has appeared in seven games, starting four of them. She is 3-1 with a 2.87 ERA and

37 strikeouts in 31.2 innings of work.

Head Coach Lauren Hatfield’s team is 6-4 on the season.

Kelly wraps up career

Senior 197 lbs. Matthew Kelly (Katonah, N.Y.) went 1-2 to conclude his career at the 2025 NCAA Div. III Wrestling National Championship, hosted by Johnson and Wales at the Amica Mutual Pavilion on Friday.

Kelly opened action with a 4-0 setback vs. No. 6-seeded Joseph Patrella from Baldwin Wallace.

He then defeated VTSU Castleton’s Haven Tatarek, 4-2, in his next bout.

Kelly saw his run at the NCAA Championship end via a pin (4:25) to Wheaton’s (Ill.) Jackson Punzel.

Kelly was making his second career appearance at the national championships, having qualified at 184 lbs. during his sophomore season at New York University.

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COVENTRY					WARWICK				
32 Hazard St	Andreoni, Ryan	Karvounis, Lance	2/26	\$410,000	1 Lamb Rd	Blais, Elaine M	Compton, Jackson J and Popovic, Sarah Y	2/26	\$430,000
891 Carrs Ln	Tougas, Andrew J and Carr, Robert A	Beck, Mitchell R and Beck, Kate L	2/27	\$480,000	11 Cruise St	Raimondi Jr, Joseph and Raimondi, Bethany	Scott, Jacqueline A and Lai, Timothy H	2/25	\$505,000
CRANSTON					1209 Centerville Rd Lot 5	Morgan, Cheryl A and Morgan, Kenneth A	Cleary, Alex E	2/25	\$439,000
11 Bain St	Santos, Andreina	Halley, Nicole M	2/28	\$375,000	127 Bleachery Ct	D&a Prop LLC	Voltaire, Junior	2/28	\$449,000
1286-R Narragansett Blvd	Dillon, Margaret M	Klipfel, Adam A and Klipfel, Cindy E	2/26	\$900,000	134 Lindy Ave	Baker, Christopher	Wilkinson, Holly	2/28	\$465,000
14 Whipple Ave	Rodi, Lisa	Jean, Esmide L	2/28	\$415,000	147 Grand View Dr	Lamore Jr, Raymond F and Lamore, Lisa K	Liesching, John R and Liesching, Robbyn B	2/27	\$890,500
167 Armington St	Spreiser, Elan J	Payot, Renee and Flores-Perez, Iehsus S	2/26	\$565,000	15 Irene St	Johnston, Scott D and Johnston, Lisa R	Hawkins, Michael and Hawkins, Gay	2/28	\$570,000
169 Albert Ave	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Lapierre, Stephen W	2/24	\$1	19 Elton Ave	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	Cannata, Michelle L	2/28	\$399,000
169 Albert Ave Lot 2158	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Lapierre, Stephen W	2/24	\$1	21 Otis St	Resweber, Michael J and Doucette, Nicole	Corkery, Mark S and Rezac, Casey A	2/27	\$390,000
169 Albert Ave	Lapierre, Stephen W	Smith & Oak Dev Co LLC	2/25	\$589,000	283 Bellman Ave	Lux, Robert and Lux, Norine	Sanchez, Richard S and Castillo, Sylvia S	2/28	\$450,000
169 Morgan St	Canavan, Tara M and Mills, Phillip	Mills, Isaiah	2/28	\$410,000	299 Palmer Ave Lot 271	North End Rlty LLC	Rodriguez, Justin A and Amadiz, Emmanuel	2/26	\$480,000
17 Loring St	Caramante, Stephanie	Cityview Homes Inc	2/28	\$265,000	299 Palmer Ave Lot 398	North End Rlty LLC	Rodriguez, Justin A and Amadiz, Emmanuel	2/26	\$480,000
175 Hoffman Ave Lot 405	Ragosta, Louis J and Ragosta, Monique D	Relli, Robert	2/26	\$329,000	325 New London Ave Lot 3B	Discoli, Cheryl	Peters, Gabriel and Peters, Louis	2/28	\$300,000
255 Scituate Ave Lot B	Catanzaro, Anthony	Mayer, Alisha	2/27	\$365,000	46 Hagerstown Rd	Santagata, Robert	Monteiro, Tyler and Monteiro, Andreaanna	2/28	\$435,000
44 Delta St	Voller, Ralph M	Libassi, Glenn S and Manchester, Juliana M	2/27	\$400,000	49 Meadowbrook Ave	Rihdr Inc	Cohen, Matthew A and Lacerda, Sarah R	2/25	\$420,000
50 Elton Cir	Dominguez, Janice	Chofay, Zachary A	2/28	\$415,000	53 LloydA ve	Drammeh, Jahou	Faye, Dethie and Leye, Sokhna	2/28	\$425,000
6 Sweet Corn Dr Lot 6	Rocco J Andreoizzi Jr lrt and Andreoizzi, Rocco J	Squizzero Ft and Squizzero, Virginia A	2/28	\$560,000	53 Rip Van Winkle Cir	Dispirito, Emilio and Damico, Liana	Rowan, Christopher and Rowan, Christine E	2/26	\$715,000
62 Old Spring Rd	14 Prop LLC	Bianco, Philip J	2/26	\$515,000	60 Webb Ave	Frederick Donna L Est and Chappel, Dianne E	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	2/26	\$240,000
9 Iroquois Ln	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	James J & Cherie A Ferrei	2/24	\$1	82 Nolbeth Dr	Amy Rlty	Miller, William S	2/27	\$1
95 Ashburton Dr Lot 95	Shemanski Karen T Est and Black, Angela	Costa, Nicole and Costa, Adeline	2/27	\$450,000	835 Sandy Ln Lot 13	Cmw Prop LLC	White, Caitlin	2/25	\$331,500
956 Oaklawn Ave	Medeiros, David and Lopes-Bueso, Rosendo A	Link, Kimberly A	2/24	\$340,000	85 Amsterdam Ave	Wheaton, Beatrice E	Feeney, Michael	2/26	\$360,000
EAST GREENWICH					905 Stratford Ln Lot 905	Cotola, Nicholas J	Altieri, Stephen and Altieri, Melissa	2/25	\$330,000
EXETER					WEST GREENWICH				
158 Division St	Oneil, David and Oneil, Samantha T	Allanbrook, Brian and Allanbrook, Kerri	2/28	\$1,300,000	1002 Fish Hill Rd	Andrade, Demetrius	Berlied, Erik and Berlied, Amy N	2/27	\$715,000
76 Cindyan Dr	Beaudoin, Jason G and Beaudoin, Shelley	Decarli, Kathryn and Decarli, John	2/25	\$1,025,000	2 Pine Grove Ln Lot 2	Relli, Robert J	Gormley, Ilse	2/27	\$550,000
98 Division St	Park, Damon and Park, Erica	Gluck, David and Gluck, Jessica	2/28	\$530,000	64 Hammitt View Dr	Bourgeois, Susan M	Trowbridge, Heather and Stroer, Andrew	2/24	\$600,000
JOHNSTON					WEST WARWICK				
110 Mail Rd	Lena R Novo RET and Brule, Paul A	North View Farm LLC	2/28	\$1,245,000	1 Kristee Cir Lot 1	Hopkins, James R	Valley, Michael	2/28	\$240,000
125 Stony Ln	Raymond, Katherin M	Chabot, Tyler H and Chabot, Taylor L	2/27	\$558,000	101 Scenic Dr Lot 101	Deborah M Santagata RET and Santagata	Deborah M Crowley, Carol	2/28	\$312,250
77-A Miskiania Ln	Diuccio, Biagio S and Diuccio, Stephanie S	Miskiania Trail LLC	2/24	\$280,000	155 Legris Ave	Rooke, Robert R	Mccaughy, Daniel	2/27	\$437,000
16 Mill St	Mccreery, James E	Azylor Build & Design LLC, 3/4	2/28	\$235,000	183 Lockwood St	Rombo Robert E Est and Patent, Carol A	Aguiar, Susanne	3/3	\$310,000
25 Water St	Benedetto A Broccoli RET and Broccoli, David A	lab LLC	2/28	\$375,000	212 Lockwood St	Dotson Evelyn A Est and Dotson, Todd L	Wang, Ya W	2/28	\$379,900
34 Waveland Ave	Ahem, Colin and Ahern, Elizabeth	Encarnacion, Olga P	2/28	\$480,000	25 Park St	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	David J Magiera T and Magiera, Mark	2/27	\$370,000
					38 Cowesett Ave Lot 17	Weijlard, Hailey	Minille, Ann	2/28	\$201,500
					45 W Valley Cir Lot 45	Residences At West Vly In	Baldassi, Leonard and Baldassi, Mary	2/28	\$457,400
					53 W Valley Cir Lot 53	Residences At West Vly In	Lisa B Cohen RET and Cohen, Lisa B	3/3	\$464,954
					550 Wakefield St Lot 15,	Vila Nova Realty Dev LLC	Ferreira, Paula C	2/28	\$459,900

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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



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

Briarcliffe Gardens

A State-of-the-Art Memory Care Assisted Living

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54 Old Pocasset Road | briarclifferi.com

By JENNIFER COATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some of the many other features of Briarcliffe Gardens include:

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

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

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

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Trout fishing is the ticket in April

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the SunRise

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

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

RI Marine Fisheries Council meets to consider regulations

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

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

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

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

There are several commercial fishing industry proposals being considered at the Council meeting that would in effect dismantle the program to allow more Atlantic



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

menhaden to be taken in the Bay.

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

The meeting can be joined in person or by Zoom.

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

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

If you want the inside scoop on how to fly fish some of the best trout streams in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut you will not want to miss “Fishing the Dry Fly on Some of New England’s Best Trout Streams.”

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

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

as well as the equipment, rods, reels, fly line and leaders he uses.

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

Kid’s Day, An Introduction to Fly Fishing 101

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

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

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

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

Where’s the bite?

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

Freshwater fishing. Opening day is Saturday, April 12 for information and stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov and in Rhode Island visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Angler John Migliori of Aquidneck Island who has been targeting largemouth bass, said last week, “Today seems like it is the best day of March so far, and I took advantage of it by catching a very respectable 20 inch, 4.10 pound largemouth bass on my third cast with a spinner bait.”

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WEST WARWICK/CLYDE: Very spacious, 2bdr. 3rd floor, heat & hot water included. Off street parking. \$260/weekly. Security deposit \$1000. Call Tim: 401-301-4465.

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2014 IMPALA, inspected, good conditions, lots of miles. Best offer. 401-828-7111.

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Anora

WARWICK SHOWCASE

ANORA

(Oscar Winner)

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

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

She wins an Academy Award for Best Actress. Know what else? She deserves it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The ending is both funny, sweet and clever.

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

BLACK BAG

(Cerebral Spy Whodunnit)

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

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



See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler

for her.

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

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

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



Woman of the Dead

NETFLIX

WOMAN OF THE DEAD

*** 1/2

(Grim, eerie murder mystery)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Great ending.

● LADIES from page 10

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

As an emcee, Collins also has some thoughts about the role of the host and the role of the interviewer. “I love Kelly Ripa. She’s smart, she’s funny, and she’s a great interviewer. Is she the nicest person off camera? I don’t know. Maybe, maybe not. But Mark [Consuelos, her co-host] needs to stay home and do the dishes. He talks over the guests, he reads questions from note cards, he gets picky with Kelly, he’s terrible. When you’re interviewing somebody your job is to make them the focus, you get them to talk about whatever they’re promoting. You let them have the spotlight.” Collins pauses. “I go off on these tangents, I’m sorry.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



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