



JohnstonSunRise

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In proposed budget, schools seek \$1M increase Superintendent cites expenses outside local control

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Johnston School Department is proposing a \$69-million budget for the coming fiscal year, marking an increase in total school spending of about \$1 million.

The proposed budget, which was approved by the School Committee last week, is predicated on the assumption that there will be a modest increase in state aid for Fiscal 2026, and it seeks the rest of the increase — about \$800,000 — from the town.

The proposed FY 2026 school budget maintains current programs and services for students.

Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. said there are a number of areas outside the school district's

control where costs continue to increase. One such area is out-of-district tuition that must be paid for students who choose to enroll in career and technical programs offered in other public school districts. That costs about \$4.5 million a year, DiLullo said, and Johnston is continuing to enhance its own career and technical offerings in order to be more competitive.

Special-education costs are also increasing, as is the expense of teaching “multi language learners,” students who are not fluent in English. “We currently have over 300 students who are MLL,” DiLullo stated in his presentation to the School Committee. “That number represents a growth of 306% since 2014.”

Johnston is an urban ring community in the greater Providence area, he noted, and as such, continues to see

an increasingly diverse student population. He said there is state support for many of the required services for MLL students and that supplemental support is essential.

The school budget will now be submitted to Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., who will put together his own comprehensive budget proposal for both the town and the schools for the fiscal year, which begins July 1. The major's budget will then be presented to the Town Council for final budget action, which could include modifications.

DiLullo said he hopes the budget receives support from the mayor and the Town Council, and he credited Polisena for working fairly with schools and providing

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Johnston police dog Honza, with K-9 patrol officer Eli McGuire-Kruege, checks out his robotic counterpart at the Citizens Bank corporate campus in town. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

K-9 meets Robo-dog Mission for both is public safety, but they're very different creatures

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Honza, meet Scout.

Technology met training last week when Honza, the Johnston Police Department's new German Shepherd, met his robotic counterpart, Scout, at the Citizens Bank corporate campus.

Honza arrived with his partner, K-9 patrol officer Eli McGuire-Kruege, while Scout seemingly showed up solo, even though he was actually being managed via remote control by Citizens security employees. Both ‘canines’ posed for pictures and were good examples of the way technology and training can help the public.

At about 18 months old, Honza is trained as a narcotics search dog but will soon expand his skills when he and McGuire-Kruege return to the Rhode Island K-9 Academy, where Honza will learn to also be a patrol dog. That training will include skills in search and rescue, apprehending offenders and tracking and recovering evidence.

Scout has been on the job a little longer. Equipped with multiple day-night cameras and looking more like something for a lunar landing than a security dog, he has spent the last three years traversing the expansive corporate campus, which includes hiking trails and walking paths that are accessible to the public. He stands about knee high with a cylindrical body and four mechanical legs.

Since he is battery-powered, Scout is environmentally friendly and emissions free. No cleanup is required when he takes shortcuts through landscaped garden beds or across neatly trimmed lawn areas on campus.

Bert Oliveira, head of corporate security for Citizens, said the robo-dog is intended to help people stay safe on campus, with the video feeds from its cameras displayed to the security team around the clock. Scout's ability to traverse uneven terrain makes it possible to see if there are security threats anywhere on campus, while also making sure workers and walkers are safe. Oliveira noted that Scout has even spotted one or two people having medical incidents in more remote areas, and security staff was able to see the live video and immediately call for help.

Courtney Robinson, communications director for Citizens, said that the bank

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RI ethics panel: Ciccone can vote on gun bills Senate majority leader is one of state's 99 federal firearms dealers

By **NANCY LAVIN**
Rhode Island Current

Senate Majority Leader Frank Ciccone III's side business selling guns out of his house does not prevent him from discussing and voting on an assault-style weapons ban or other gun legislation, the Rhode Island Ethics Commission decided Tuesday.

The ethics panel's 8-1 vote follows the recommendation put forth by its staff, which concluded that Ciccone's federal

firearms license is not a conflict of interest with the high-profile gun legislation pending at the Rhode Island State House.

The four-page opinion, presented by Staff Attorney Lynne Radiches, invoked the class exemption within the state's ethics code, reasoning that Ciccone does not stand to benefit, or suffer, any more or less from state gun laws than the other 98 federally licensed firearms dealers in the state, including the other 79 with a Class 1 license.

Ciccone, D-Providence, Johnston, ref-

erenced the same exemption in his letter to the Ethics Commission asking for advice.

Ciccone, who did not attend Tuesday's meeting, was unaware of the commission's decision until he was contacted by Rhode Island Current.

“I believe they looked at all the facts, and they came to their conclusion,” Ciccone said.

However, the advisory opinion comes with an important caveat: If any of the gun bills under review by the Rhode Is-

land General Assembly, including the assault weapons ban legislation, are amended in a way that impacts Ciccone, or fellow Class 1 license holders, more than other federal firearms dealers, Ciccone should recuse himself or seek a new advisory opinion.

Ciccone, a longtime opponent to state gun restrictions, has already indicated he wants to see changes to the proposed assault-style weapons ban in order for him to support it.

● **ETHICS** to page 19



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Johnston Sun Rise



Cooking for a cause

Aspiring chefs recently participated in Blake's Kitchen Cook Off is a fundraiser in memory of Blake Costa. The competition, which was held at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston on May 8, raises money for the Children's Wishes, a Warwick-based organization.

During the event contestants cooked their "favorite recipes in a competitive Cook Off challenge for a panel of judges led by Chef Frank Terranova", according to the Children's Friend website.

L-R Aspiring chef Owen Ferreira with Chef Frank Terranova, and DJ Beckel of Johnston who was there to cheer for his friend. *Submitted photos*

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Owen Ferreira of Smithfield whipped up chicken pot pie for the contest. DJ Beckel of Johnston was there for support and as a taste tester.



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Police Log

SIMPLE ASSAULT, DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On May 3 at about 3:45 a.m., members of 1st watch and Patrolman Nicholas Defelice responded to Denny's at 1450 Hartford Ave. for a report of a disturbance in progress.

Upon arrival, Patrolman Defelice spoke with a female, Ms. H, who stated that she was talking to an employee about getting seated. Ms. H advised that while speaking with the employee, she was told to "calm down," which made her upset. She stated that she approached the employee and engaged in an argument.

Ms. H stated she proceeded to pull the employee by her hair and strike her in the face with her fist.

A patrolman then spoke with the other individual involved who stated she was working at Denny's, rolling silverware at the front counter. She stated that she had her head down and was joking around and the Ms. H took a comment the wrong way.

The employee said she was suddenly attacked by what she believed were two females.

Patrolman Defelice later spoke with a witness who observed four individuals who walked into the establishment and were waiting to be seated. The employee approached the individuals and asked if they needed service. The employee was rolling utensils and made a joke to the witness, but the customers thought it was intended for them.

An argument began and the witness observed Ms. H physically attack the employee, pulling her hair and hitting her in the face.

Ms. H was criminally charged with one count of Simple Assault or Battery and one count of Disorderly Conduct (Fighting/Tumultuous Behavior). She was also banned from the business, which she acknowledged and understood.

Ms. H was arraigned and released on \$5,000 personal recognizance with a court date.

CCRI nursing grads bask in Nightengale's glow

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Mounds of white roses lined a table near the stage in the Athletics Field House at the Community College of Rhode Island's Flanagan Campus in Lincoln last week.

The occasion was the pinning ceremony for about 170 nursing graduates who are now ready to fill much-needed positions in health care.

Jarod R. Cournoyer of Warwick was the valedictorian, and he urged his fellow nursing graduates to go forward and fulfill their pledge to care for others.

Like some others in the program, Cournoyer, who was graduating with a 3.99 grade-point average, came to nursing after another career. The 37-year-old is a civil engineer, but said he went back to school for nursing because he had always felt the calling to help others.

"It was something I had to do," he said before the ceremony.

The pinning ceremony, held one night before the community college's commencement, was both solemn and joyous. Proud families cheered loudly throughout much of the evening, but the field house became silent during the entrance processional. Dressed in white nursing scrubs, the nursing students filed in carrying ceramic lamps in the shape of old-fashioned oil lamps – a classic symbol of Florence Nightengale, who is recognized as the founder of modern nursing.

The lamp, which CCRI faculty referred to as the "lamp of learning," is often used to recognize Nightengale's important role in nursing. It is a reference to the lamp she used to check on patients throughout long nights during the Crimean War and a reminder that her work and commitment to study and healing brought light to many during a dark time.

After Cournoyer's speech, he and his fellow nursing students crossed the stage in groups of three to receive their gold and green pins, with each student receiving a single white rose. Before and after the ceremony, friends and families waved colorful bouquets as they searched the crowd to congratulate their particular graduate.

Ryan DiGiulio, an East Providence firefighter who lives in Warwick, held two bouquets as he kept an eye out for his girlfriend, Nina DiBenedetto of Warwick. He said he is extremely proud of her becoming a nurse and that she has already been hired to work at Rhode Island Hospital.



Top of his class. Valedictorian Jarod Cournoyer of Warwick gets ready to lead the class processional.



Below: East Providence Firefighter Ryan DiGiulio was ready with two bouquets as he proudly waited for his girlfriend, Nina DiBenedetto, at the pinning ceremony. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



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AN HOLY NATION^f
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a. 2 Cor. 5:17 c. John 3:3 e. Rom. 11:17 g. Gal. 6:16
 b. Gal. 3:7 d. Gal. 3:29 f. 1 Peter 2:9 Heb. 8:10

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Community partners unite for Operation Stand Down



Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee members worked together to collect essential items for Operation Stand Down. Submitted photos by Maurizio Marchese, Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee

By **MAURIZIO MARCHESE**
 President
 Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee

In a display of community unity and compassion, the Johnston Senior Provider Collaboration Committee (JSPCC) recently led a regional effort to collect essential food and hygiene items for Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI), a nonprofit organization run by veterans for veterans.

The initiative brought together dozens of senior care providers, healthcare centers, and community organizations across Rhode Island to support OSDRI's mission of assisting homeless and at-risk veterans. Entirely dependent on donations, and community support, OSDRI delivers critical services that help veterans overcome personal challenges and regain stability and independence.

"We at the JSPCC are deeply committed to our founding principles of community support, outreach to those in need, and serving our aging seniors," said Maurizio Marchese,

President of the JSPCC Board. "This food and hygiene drive reflects those values and honors the service and sacrifices made by our nation's veterans."

A key partner in the effort was the Johnston Senior Center, which volunteered to be the headquarters and provide space for donation coordination and logistics.

"The Johnston Senior Center continues to be a vital partner in all our outreach efforts," said Michael Mangasian, Secretary of the JSPCC Board. "Their hospitality, generosity, and heart for service made this initiative possible."

The campaign received overwhelming support from the local healthcare and senior living community. Contributing partners included:

- Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- The Bridge at Cherry Hill
- Anchor Bay Pocasset
- Cherry Hill Manor
- The Johnston Senior Center
- Anchor Bay East Providence
- Evergreen House Health Center
- Atria Lincoln Place
- Chapel Hill
- Heritage Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Lincolnwood Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Elmhurst Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Riverview Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Home Smart – Paula Allin
- Assisted Living Locators – Nicole Tartaglione
- Advanced Wellness Pharmacy
- Care Forth
- Harmony Hospice
- The Alliance for Better Long-Term Care

In addition to the food and hygiene drive, residents at Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center created hand-knitted blankets to be distributed to families with young children in need.

"It's inspiring to see our seniors giving back many of whom are veterans themselves. Their care and generosity are reminders that no act of kindness is too small to make an impact," said Robert Sechio Administrator of Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center.

With the success of this initiative, the JSPCC reaffirms its commitment to service, collaboration, and advocacy ensuring that no veteran or vulnerable senior is left behind.

For more information about Operation Stand Down Rhode Island or to find out how to contribute, please visit www.osdri.org.



Operation Stand Down relies on community support and donations to provide essential supplies and services to veterans in need.

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Celebrating 70 Years of love with a vow renewal

Stella and John, long-time residents of Johnston, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a touching vow renewal ceremony at Cherry Hill Manor.

The couple, who met while working at the old Coro Company, shared heartfelt memories of their life together, which includes numerous vacations to Hawaii, five memorable cruises, and special family trips to Florida with their nephews. A particularly poignant moment during the ceremony was when Jarod, one of Stella's nephews, danced with her, highlighting their special bond.

Stella is a lifelong resident of Johnston and John is originally from Federal Hill in Providence.

The happy couple moved to Cherry Hill about four years ago, and Stella was thrilled when the activity department proposed the idea of a vow renewal ceremony to celebrate National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

When asked for their best marital advice, Stella and John humorously replied, "Sometimes it's good to keep



your mouth shut. Say what you have to say and then shut up."

Stella also reminisced about her wedding day, recalling every detail—from her nervousness while walking down the aisle to her husband's first words upon seeing her, when he lovingly called her beautiful.

In honor of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, which this year carried the theme "The Tapestry of Life," the activity department organized the vow renewal as part of ongoing efforts to promote connections within the community. The ceremony was held in the main dining room, beautifully adorned with white lights, candles, and tulle. One of Stella's friends from Cherry Hill took on the role of flower girl, tossing petals as Stella was escorted by her nephew. Father Richard Narciso, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine, officiated the ceremony, bringing warmth and joy to the occasion.

After exchanging vows, the couple participated in a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, sharing a beautifully decorated cake garnished with purple and pink flowers with family, staff, and fellow residents—truly embodying the spirit of connection within the community. The celebration also featured entertainment by resident favorite Janine Andrews, who performed a rendition of "On Blueberry Hill" at Stella's request. It was a delightful moment to see Stella happily singing along to her favorite tune.

Joy and laughter filled the room as guests enjoyed cake and music, making the vow renewal a memorable event that honored the extraordinary love and partnership shared by Stella and John over the past 70 years.

Story and photos submitted by Loraine DiLorenzo, Business Development Director, Cherry Hill Manor, Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Shirl Shirl

This sweetheart hasn't had the best life and we are here to hopefully turn that around for her! She's a little short stack full of love, even after all she's been through! Shirl Shirl is looking for a home where she will be the center of your world! No other pets in the home, she wants all the cuddles to herself! Shirl Shirl is a senior girl who wants all of her remaining years to be golden. Who is going to be the one who finally gives her the love she so deserves? Is it you? Contact EGAPL Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 or visit Shirl Shirl at 44 Worthington Rd Cranston, RI. They are OPEN Wednesday 3-7 and Saturday 10-2.

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Turning pages

State Senator Andrew Dimitri, a 2006 graduate of St. Rocco School recently returned to participate in the school's Reading Week program. Submitted photo from St. Rocco School



Johnston woman honored for teaching excellence

The National Education Association Rhode Island is proud to announce Ponaganset High School educator, Lisa Tvenstrup as the recipient of the 2026 NEARI Teaching Excellence Award. This honor recognizes her outstanding contributions to teaching and unwavering advocacy for public education.

A Johnston resident, Tvenstrup, has devoted her 40-year career to Ponaganset High School in Gloucester, where she has inspired generations of students through a diverse array of history and social studies courses, including East Asian History, World Cultures, Psychology and Genocide.

"There's something truly special about guiding students through learning - not just filling their minds with facts but helping them

make meaningful connections to their own lives," said Tvenstrup. "Seeing that spark when a lesson resonates, and later hearing from graduates who still carry those insights, is incredibly fulfilling."

Tvenstrup emphasizes that each course she teaches is designed to impact students on a personal level. In Psychology, students explore self-awareness; in Sociology, they gain tools to navigate relationships. Her World Cultures and East Asian History courses foster global empathy, underscoring the idea that "we are more alike than different." In her Genocide studies course, students confront the haunting lesson of "never again," learning that the intent behind genocide can be more devastating than war.

A passionate advocate for public

education, Tvenstrup has served on numerous school and district committees, acted as a class advisor and leadership team leader, and mentored aspiring teachers as a critic teacher at Rhode Island College. She sees schools as a second home and has spent decades enriching the Foster-Glocester Regional School District with her time, energy and commitment.

Applicants for the NEARI Teaching Excellence Award are evaluated on their professional practice, advocacy for education, commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, community and family engagement and leadership in professional development. Tvenstrup was selected from a competitive pool by a committee of NEARI officers and members.

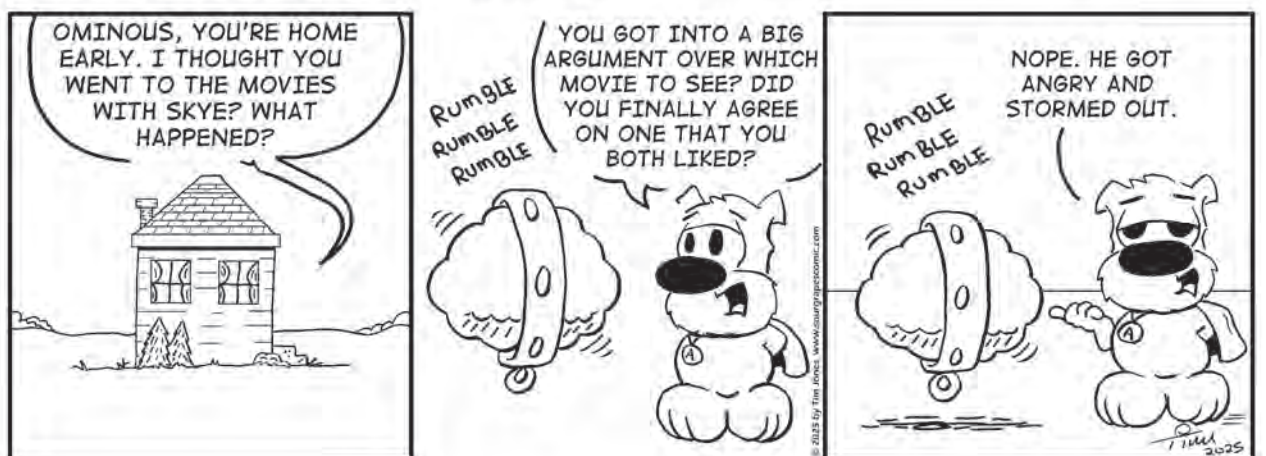


Senior Trip

Members of the Johnston Senior Center explored the colors of spring recently with a trip to the Kinney Azalea Gardens in South Kingston. The gardens—created by Lorenzo Kinney Sr., the University of Rhode Island's first botany professor - now span 16 acres and feature more than 1,000 kinds of azaleas and rhododendrons. The grounds include walking paths lined with exotic trees and wildflowers. Richard DelFino, executive director of the senior center, said members enjoyed their floral expedition. Submitted Photo from Johnston Senior Center

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Composting provides compound benefits

It's not often in life that a problem presents such a harmonious, simple and effective solution – one that requires only a little bit of effort for a lot of gains.

Composting is one of those examples, and while we're not idealistic enough to propose that every Rhode Islander will one day join the composting club, we think it is highly realistic for every one of Rhode Island's public schools to do so.

It would be a mistake not to move toward that goal methodically and purposefully in the coming years.

Rhode Island has a well-documented trash problem. We have one central landfill that will be full in the next couple of decades. Once that happens, the cost to truck our waste to somewhere else that still has space to bury our garbage will likely be a rude wake-up call for many residents who pay no attention to such matters. Just like having functioning plumbing, few people realize the vast amount of infrastructure and human ingenuity needed to keep our state from overflowing in refuse.

While composting would not solve the unavoidable trash avalanche headed our way, widespread implementation of its practices, even just in our public schools, would have a significant effect and could buy us some time. Some early data from local schools that are already participating in composting programs illustrate the possibility that most of what's being sent to our landfill is compostable food waste.

Saving that food waste from going into our trash, ultimately destined for the landfill, would solve multiple problems at once. It would reduce the persistence of rodents looking for quick meals from full dumpsters. It would cut the volume of greenhouse gases coming from the landfill. It would lower the cost of trash removal by reducing the amount of trash and, therefore, the frequency of having to haul it away. These would all be double victories for everyone.

Having mandatory composting programs at every public school in Rhode Island would also open a door to expanded educational programming on topics crucially important to the future of Rhode Island and the wider world.

Students could learn about what makes something compostable, recyclable or reusable. They could learn about what a landfill is, why they are important, how they work and what will happen when we run out of space in them. Schools could take soil – enriched from the very food waste they helped keep out of the landfill – and incorporate it into lessons about growing food and how plants thrive.

The other benefit of implementing a widespread composting program is that it could be launched at a relatively low cost and would promise long-term financial benefits for the schools that make the investment.

State leadership and corporate benefactors should be eager to figure out how they could help bankroll and support composting programs in their local communities. It would provide an easy public-relations victory, and would be a triumph for all of Rhode Island, and planet Earth.



LETTERS

We don't need a bottle bill

To the Editor:

I own and operate a Shop N Go in Warwick, and I'm worried the proposed bottle bill could hurt Rhode Islanders – and threaten the future of my business.

The bill would add a 10-cent tax on bottles and cans, meaning that the price of nearly every beverage sold in the state would increase, all at a time when families are already struggling. Increased prices will mean fewer customers and fewer sales. For businesses like mine, that can be the difference between keeping the lights on or closing up shop for

good.

What's worse, this type of tax hits hardest those who are struggling the most. For seniors, individuals with disabilities or those who don't have access to reliable transportation, making an extra trip to a redemption center to reclaim the deposit is out of the question.

Like many Rhode Islanders, I support initiatives that advance recycling outcomes to protect our beaches, parks and neighborhoods, but this bill is not the right approach. It would create unreasonable financial challenges for small businesses and working families who are just trying

to make it by.

Our state already has curbside recycling programs. Why don't we focus on making that better, more effective and even more accessible instead of creating an entirely new system that places the burden on families and small businesses?

I care about my business, I care about my employees and I care about my customers. A bottle tax would hurt all three. I urge lawmakers to go back to the table and find a better solution to keep our state clean.

**Jalil Rehman
Warwick**

On Smith Hill, echoes of Lexington and Concord

To the Editor:

Our nation began with a battle over gun control. On April 19, 1775, soldiers of King George III marched on

Lexington and Concord to seize the weapons of Massachusetts colonists. The goal of the mission was to make the defiant colonists defenseless.

As every American should know, the colonists had the courage to fight back, and did fight back, against British tyranny. The rest is history.

But now, 250 years after Lexington and Concord, despotic Democrats in the Rhode Island General Assembly are attempting to confiscate the firearms of law-abiding citizens. Two local legislators, Sen. Mark McKenney and Sen. Matthew LaMontaine, have joined the ranks of the enemies of freedom and are co-sponsoring the Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban of 2025.

As Bill Welch correctly points out, the purpose of this legislation is to "reduce the public's access to firearms for self-defense." What the law will not do is limit the access of criminals to these so-called assault weapons. ("Reducing criminal use of firearms requires honesty," May 8.)

McKenney and LaMontaine want to strip law-abiding citizens of the right to self-defense. Like our forefathers did in 1775, we should find the courage to fight back against the actions of these two King George III-type tyrants.

**A. H. Liddle
Warwick**

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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

Stop the money grab

To the Editor:

An open letter to “Governor” McKee and the General Assembly regarding Article 2 of H5076, i.e., the proposed FY 26 Budget.

“Governor” McKee, perhaps some background on what you are attempting to do to Rhode Island is appropriate? The 2011 Rhode Island Retirement Security Act (RIRSA 2011) included RIGL 35-6-1(d), the purpose of which was to require that all future state budget surpluses be deposited into the pension fund to help restore it to full funding.

Back in 2011, then-Treasurer Gina Raimondo promised that RIGL 35-6-1(d) was part of the pension reform package and was enacted into law to be an annually recurring function.

After becoming governor in 2015, Raimondo went back on her word and RIGL 35-6-1(d) [now subsection “(e)”] was rewritten to reduce the ERSRI deposit from 100% of excess revenues to

only 50% and to allow the other 50% to be used to balance the annual state budget instead of being used strictly to restore the pension fund. Any wonder that the pension fund has been slow to recover?

When word of your attempt to “scoop” approximately \$21.6 million, 50% of the FY24 surplus, from being deposited into the pension fund as required under RIGL 35-6-1, came to light, the board of the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI), speaking as one, voted on 9 April to send to the governor and all members of the General Assembly a resolution expressing its “strong opposition to any redirection or non-transfer of surplus revenues, which are statutorily required to be transferred to the Employees’ Retirement System.”

Further, the board’s Resolution in Opposition to Art 2, Section 3, questioned the efficacy of denying the ERSRI, which has been struggling to undo a level of unfunded liability for over 14

years to which it is statutorily entitled! Of note, since RIRSA was enacted, the RI budget has almost doubled, increasing from approximately \$7.7 billion to over \$14 billion!

One hopes that every RI union will join in the effort to stop the governor’s attempt to blatantly usurp the money, which is not McKee’s money, but state budget money that was directed by RIGL to be deposited into the pension fund for this sole purpose! What gives him the right to change the law?

In my opinion, it has been your hubris and lack of “fiscal oversight” that has contributed to the current state of affairs in Rhode Island. From thousands of Rhode Islanders suffering in the traffic over the Washington Bridge (we are still waiting for your self-proclaimed “Day of Reckoning”), to the possible collapse of our health care system, I could go on ad infinitum!

Your recent proposed pay raises for your senior advisors, while attempting to

deny the over 60,000 members of ERSRI funds statutorily required to be transferred to the Employees’ Retirement System, is beyond the pale. Your justification for the raises is that they “will help keep Rhode Island competitive in attracting and retaining top talent for crucial leadership positions.”

In my opinion, Governor McKee, you have no ethics, no honor and no integrity!

To quote Cromwell’s address to the rump Parliament back in 1653, “It is not fit that you should sit here any longer. You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing lately ... In the name of God go.”

But, before you go, please withdraw the surplus revenue “scoop” from your FY 2026 Budget.

**A.G. “Aldo” Palazzo, CDR USN (Ret)
West Warwick**

GUEST OPINION

It’s time for RI to lead on recycling reform

By **MARK P. MCKENNEY**

Every week, Rhode Islanders dutifully roll their recycling bins out to the curb, believing they are doing their part to help the environment by recycling paper, aluminum cans, and glass and plastic bottles. But the truth is: our recycling system is failing us. Rhode Island’s statewide recycling rate is a shockingly low 26%. How can this be, when so many of us are trying to do the right thing?

What this means is that most recyclable material – cans, bottles, glass, and plastic – is instead buried in the Central Landfill (expected to reach capacity in less than 20 years). Frustratingly, municipalities pay ~\$16 million annually to pick up recyclables, and a lot of those collected recyclables go straight to the landfill. That’s millions of taxpayer dollars for an underperforming recycling system.

Talk about buried treasure. More like a bottomless pit.

And, of course, what doesn’t make it to the landfill often goes into our roadways and rivers and Narragansett Bay. And it breaks down. A URI study last year estimated that the top 2 inches of Bay soil contains over 1,000 tons of microplastics. When we eat our local fish and swim in our Bay, we are likely ingesting those microplastics. That’s not good.

The General Assembly spent two years studying our recycling system. In partnership with Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee, I co-chaired a special legislative commission that held public hearings, heard from experts and other witnesses and examined evidence. The commission’s work culminated in a comprehensive plan, and I’m proud that we are now moving forward with two bold bills that address the systematic challenges we face. If we enact these measures, we will modernize

and reform our recycling program and make Rhode Island a national leader.

House bill 6207 and Senate bill 996 do two critical things:

Hold producers accountable for the packages and products they put out, shifting the burden and responsibility of recycling from cities and towns to the companies and corporations that produce them. The producers will pay for the program and run the program – collecting and processing these materials. Municipalities will no longer have to pay for that. Taxpayers and towns will save money. The corporations will pay their fair share for the waste they help create.

Implement a 10-cent, fully refundable deposit on beverage containers. Evidence has shown that a nickel per container doesn’t do the job – but a 10-cent deposit works. We’ve all heard of “cash for clunkers.” These bills would give you “cash for containers!” The system is convenient, and consumers get all the money back when containers are returned. It is a financial incentive to protect the environment. This modern “Bottle Bill” system has been proven to boost recycling rates to over 90%.

The General Assembly has the perfect opportunity to act. Rhode Island can choose to remain stuck in the past, paying for an expensive curbside recycling system that doesn’t work, and harms our economy and environment ... or we can lead the nation in recycling reform.

[Opponents of commonsense recycling reforms argue that the bills are too costly or complicated. But they offer no solutions in response. Their positions are little more than the same tired arguments heard before. They ignore the fact that what’s being proposed is vastly different from old-style bottle bills, or even the systems in Massachusetts and Connecticut. This is “Not Your Grandfather’s Bottle Bill.”

Modern “recycling refund” and enhanced producer accountability systems have both been proven to work. States with these systems (i.e. Oregon, Maine) have seen recycling rates soar, and their communities benefit from a cleaner environment, reduced litter, less pollution and greater economic growth.]

Rhode Island, we face a choice.

We can “kick the can down the road” again, and let our children and grandchildren deal with the problem, or we can tackle it head-on. In my view, we cannot afford to wait. The future of our economy, our environment and our children’s future is at stake.

It’s time for Rhode Island to act. Ask your senator and representative to pass H 6207 and S 996 – not just as a matter of good policy, but as a matter of responsibility. Let’s show the nation what it looks like when the Ocean State steps up to lead on sustainability. Let’s be bold, let’s be ambitious, and let’s give Rhode Island the recycling system it deserves.

State Sen. Mark P. McKenney represents Senate District 30, covering much of the southern half of Warwick.

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Town of Johnston
Adopted Ordinances**

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

Ordinance 2025-2
An Ordinance amending Article IV Section 340-16 of Chapter 340 Entitled “Industrial Performance Standards” of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances. Said Ordinance proposes amendments pertaining to Dirt Mounds in the Town of Johnston.

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council **Attest:**
Robert V. Russo **Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.**
President **Town Clerk**

5/22/25

Beating the cyber thieves

We've 'all been compromised'...but not defeated

By JOHN HOWELL
Beacon Media Editor

It seemed plausible. A baby is crying and a woman, speaking in anxious and concerned tones describes how she in a desperate situation and can't access her husband's cell phone for help. The cell phone employee on the call empathizes and as the conversation evolves, key information is disclosed including passwords.

This video scene was played for the Warwick Rotary Club by Helder Machado. Machado is the CEO/CISO of Machado Consulting, an information technology company based in Worcester, MA. The company provides cybersecurity services to more than 100 clients, many of them nonprofits.

In the last week the company provided free assessments to three Warwick companies and nonprofits.

Machado talked about phishing, smishing and vishing.

Machado started with phishing correctly assuming from the nods of his audience that people generally understood it is a cyberattack that uses fraudulent emails, text messages, phone calls or websites to trick people into sharing sensitive data, downloading malware or otherwise exposing themselves to cybercrime.

Watch out for vishing

Victims of smishing have been sent deceptive text messages to lure them into sharing personal or financial information, clicking on malicious links, or downloading harmful software or applications. And vishing, he explained, uses fraudulent phone calls and messages – sometimes using an AI generated voice sounding remarkably like someone they know to gain sensitive information such as login credentials, credit card numbers and bank details.

Machado spoke of some of the major cyberattacks such as one last December on the Rhode Island Bridges Account that compromised personal information of 650,000 Rhode Islanders. The information including Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers, he said would be sold on the “dark web.” He said the cost of these large scale cybersecurity and smaller scams totaled \$12.5 billion last year as compared to \$2 billion four years ago.

“We’re all compromised in some way,” he said.

Social engineering

The biggest threat, he said, is social engineering. This he explained is when people who have the skill build a relationship usually on the



phone or in an exchange of emails with an unsuspecting victim who sincerely believe they have found a trusting friend. Such a relationship can develop over weeks and months before the unsuspecting victim readily withdraws thousands from their savings or retirement account to help their “friend” who is suddenly faced with an emergency.

Machado advocates the use of Multi-factor Authentication

(MFA). Simply explained, when logging into a bank account for example, the bank won't give you access until you input a code sent to you by email or phone. Machado favors codes sent to cell phones as email can be more easily compromised. Online vendors, such as Amazon provide such protection. In the case of Amazon, he said go to the company's website and select two step verification.

Another line of defense is a password manager. He has a family subscription to LastPass which costs him \$48 a year for four persons. The system automatically populates the passwords you have selected for various applications, and as Machado points out the passwords you create you never need to remember.

Tips to protecting information

Some of the tips Machado offered are:

- “Think before you click.”
- Call your bank if you receive an email claiming to be your bank and asking you to click on a link that is provided.
- If you open a link requesting personal information don't provide it and better yet don't open and delete it.
- Check supposed bank notices by visiting the bank website.
- Change your passwords and make them long – his suggestion is to use sentences.

A retired Army Lieutenant Colonel with the Massachusetts National Guard, Machado is a 32-year combat veteran and recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He served in Iraq with the Third Infantry Division. He is a certified Information Systems Security Professional with more than 30 years of experience in information technology and cyber security.

He is offering free assessments to businesses and non-profits with 15 to 500 users to check for vulnerabilities. An audit takes about two hours to complete and will not disrupt services. As of last week he had performed three assessments in Warwick.

Should his report identify vulnerabilities and the client choses to use him to make corrections, Machado said the cost can run from a couple of thousand dollars to \$20,000.

Machado's cybersecurity recommendations

Tip #1 - Use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Using Multi-Factor Authentication is something you know; your password AND something you have; like a pin on your cellphone or app

Tip #2 - Practice good password management

We all have too many passwords to manage - and it's easy to take short cuts, like reusing the same password.

Here are some general password tips to keep in mind:

- Use long passwords: 10 – 12 characters; the longer the better.
- Use a strong mix of characters and never use the same password for multiple sites.
- Don't share your passwords and don't write them down
- Update your passwords periodically, at least once every 6 months (90 days is ok if you are required to change it more frequently).

Tip #3 – Be suspicious, avoid Phishing scams

Using various social engineering ploys, cyber criminals will attempt to trick you into divulging personal information, such as your login ID and password, banking or credit card information through emails, texts, and voicemails.

• Be suspicious of any official-looking email messages, texts, or phone calls that ask for personal or financial information and avoid clicking on links of unknown emails, texts, websites or downloading software from untrusted sources. If attachments or links are unexpected or suspicious for any reason, don't click on it.

Tip #4 - Back up your data

The single biggest thing that will defeat a security threat is having a good regularly updated backup.

- Back up all of your computers, phones, tablets, etc. on a regular basis to include your files, pictures and videos.
- If possible, subscribe to a service like Apple iCloud, Google Drive, or a similar service that will back them up for you automatically.
- For servers and cloud applications, daily backups are good but hourly backups are better.

Here are some additional tips to help keep you safe and secure online:

- ALWAYS use a firewall – on your network as well as on your computer. Mac and Windows have basic desktop firewalls as part of their operating system that can help protect your computer from external attacks.
- Use public wireless hot-spots wisely – Make sure you are connecting to the correct Wi-Fi and follow these tips for staying safe.
- Be conscientious of what you plug in to your computer Never plug in your computer a flash drive that you found and don't know what is on it. (Flash drives and even smart phones can contain malware and viruses).
- Be careful of what you share on social networking sites. This information can be used against you at some time in your personal or business career.
- Monitor your accounts for suspicious activity. Subscribe to an Identity Theft Service such as LifeLock or a similar tool.
- Bank or shop online only on trusted devices and networks - and logout of these sites when you've completed your transactions.
- Participate in and train employees – Make sure that you and your employees have annual training which includes testing them to make sure that the training is being understood and reinforced.

● SCHOOLS from page 1

increases in local funding for education in recent years.

The town has not yet scheduled public hearing dates on the budget, according to the secretary of state's website.

DiLullo acknowledged that in addition to advocating for the budget proposal for the coming fiscal year, the district is also still working with the town and the state Auditor General's office to come up with a remediation plan to address a cumulative \$2-million deficit from years past. “We continue to work on that,” he said.

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By JENNIFER COATES

Three young martial artists-in-the-making stood at rapt attention while their instructor, Mr. Johnny, led them in the dojo's "Student Creed". If one didn't know better, they might think these were young recruits, ready to go out and defend their country ~ but this is something much better for five, six and seven-year-olds! These students are instead learning how to defend their honor, their integrity, and their emerging sense of selves.

Kathryn, Stephen and J.J. could not have been more enthusiastic or proud as they said in unison "I will develop myself in a positive manner and avoid saying anything that will reduce my mental growth or physical health. I will develop self-discipline in order to bring out the best in myself and others. I will use common sense before self-defense and never be abusive or offensive. This is a Black Belt School. We are dedicated. We are motivated. We are on a quest to be our best!" Finally, "Winners never quit. Quitters never win. I choose to be a winner!"

These are not just catchy phrases that instructor and Black Belt Master Mr. Johnny chants to hear his own voice ~ these are aspirations that are woven into every aspect of the classes that he leads. His students listen to him and repeat his words like a Boy Scout mantra. They hear them often enough that maybe, just maybe, they will internalize them ~ young and old.

The students here at Premier Martial Arts in North Scituate (just over the border from Johnston) are serious about their martial arts practice. Whether they are elementary school aged boys and girls, or adults, they know that this ancient practice is so much more than kicks and punches. It is about learning "self-mastery, courtesy, integrity, modesty, self-control and perseverance."

Premier Martial Arts is part of a larger network of martial arts



Johnny Gasdia, Black Belt Martial Artist and co-owner of Premier Martial Arts in North Scituate, leads a group of enthusiastic young students as they advance towards their goals!

studios throughout New England. This dojo is owned locally and is managed by Mr. Johnny Gasdia, the talented, energetic and devoted Black Belt instructor. Gasdia is passionate about the work he does at the studio, but mostly he is passionate about the students who attend classes here. It matters to him that they live up to martial arts' overarching principles, both on the mat and in the outside world.

With every class, Mr. Johnny teaches all the classic moves of martial arts while focusing on monthly themes such as anger-management, teamwork, nutrition, courage, and so

much more!

Beginner students and experienced martial artists alike will find everything they need at Premier Martial Arts. If you want to know more, try their two FREE introductory classes. Classes are held Monday through Friday, and there is something for every age and ability level, from "tiny champs" to teens and adults.

Premier Martial Arts is located at 43 Village Plaza Way in North Scituate. To learn more, call Johnny at 401-764-5745 or visit their website at www.scituatemartialarts.com.

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PrimeTime



At 102 Domenic keeps ticking

Even at 102, Domenic Giarrusso serves up a contagious smile along with his hospitality. (Beacon Media photos by John Howell)

WWII veteran who worked on B24s knows you can't overwind a clock

by JOHN HOWELL

Domenic Giarrusso pointed to the kitchen table with its four chairs in an invitation to have a seat. A glass display case on one wall held a collection of cut crystal and porcelain figurines. Windows looked out on one side to a yard. The other side opened to a pin-neat, carpeted living room. A counter separated the area from the stove, refrigerator and cabinets filled with canned goods.

"A lot of expired labels...like me" Domenic said with a laugh and sweep of his hand.

"Coffee, tea?" Domenic pulled out a coffee

tin and filled the kettle with enough water to percolate a couple of cups. He didn't want any assistance. In fact, he insisted his guests be seated.

And, oh yes, there were a lot of wall clocks. Many hung in the entryway from the garage or were evenly positioned on a nearby bench. They all looked old and most were silent, which is a good thing for they all would have chimed on the hour.

Domenic expected the visit. He would get another clock - this one to repair - and he was prepared to tell his story as a WWII Air Force veteran.

What ensued was an extended visit during which Domenic talked about growing up in Providence, his job repairing B-24 bombers that had been shot up - he showed a photo of one with a wing tip nothing but wires and metal scraps - as they returned to bases in North Africa and Italy; marrying a first grade classmate; and eventually settling in Cranston. Along the way, when the Navy pulled out of Quonset in the 1970s, he was jobless for four months and learned how to repair clocks as a hobby that ultimately became a source of added revenue.

Today he's ticking - very strongly we would add - at the age of 102. He lives independently, drives to keep appointments with the VA and, on occasion, repairs clocks, too.

A middle child

It all started on Jan. 30, 1923 when Domenic was born at 409 Union Ave. in Providence. He was the "middle child," he puts it, of six sisters and one brother. His father was a shipping clerk at International Braiding and as Domenic recalls insisted that

● DOMENIC to page 16



Domenic Giarrusso during WWII. Submitted photo

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PACE unveils Reminiscence Therapy Room

PACE Organization of Rhode Island (PACE-RI), the health care provider and insurer for medically complex older adults, recently opened a state-of-the-art reminiscence therapy room at its metro-area center to support people experiencing dementia.

Reminiscence therapy is an intervention that helps elders, especially those with mild to moderate dementia, recall and share past experiences. The immersive experience of the room and corresponding activities encourage emotional well-being and social connection.

Reminiscence therapy is now available to PACE participants, including 33 Warwick elders and 14 Cranston elders who are provided transportation to attend the day center and clinic. It is part of the all-inclusive health care and social services offered by the organization to help nursing home-eligible older adults continue to live safely and independently at home instead.

The room has two distinct sections – one is modeled after a 1960s living room, complete with mid-century modern clocks, retro wall-

paper, and a clear vinyl covered couch among other amenities. The other area replicates a game room and den from the 1960s with simulated wood paneling. While the room has a vintage feel, it is also home to advanced technology based on the principles of reminiscence therapy.

Some of the innovative technologies featured include:

- **The OM Interactive Mobii Multi Touch Table**, an interactive tabletop projector that features games, music, social activities, and memory tools. It also encourages physical activity: a typical 30-minute session includes 550 movements.

- **A bubble wall** that encourages visual tracking, boosts auditory awareness, and reduces agitation in people with advanced dementia.

- **iN2L, a standing touchscreen system** used in over 2,000 elder care communities nationwide. It offers enriching content that supports cognitive health.



PACE participants Marie W and Lucille G demonstrate the OM Interactive Mobii Multi Touch Table. Submitted photo by PACE

- **A soothing fish tank** that encourages relaxation and reduces anxiety.

- **Aromatherapy diffusers** that engage the sense of smell to trigger positive emotions and uplift moods.

- **Joy for All™ companion pets**, lifelike robotic cats, dogs, and birds that simulate the comfort of real animals and reduce loneliness.

- **Moxie, a small AI robot** used as a companion and for conversation for adults with mild to moderate dementia.

The purchase of technology and the room's design and renovation were funded through generous grants from the Simon W. Wardwell Foundation and the Harriet Ballou Charitable Foundation.

Little things we take for granted

First, I would like to apologize to my faithful readers (all six of you) for missing last month's column. It's the first time that I have missed a monthly column in more than seven years. Rest assured that I had a good reason. In late February, I joined the unfortunate clan of 36 million seniors when I slipped and fell on wet stairs, fracturing two bones in my shoulder. I also became one of 300,000 seniors who need medical treatment in an emergency room or urgent care facility. Treatment for the injury began with a sling to facilitate healing. After that, I used a walker, then a cane to get to my goal of walking normally again.

The accident triggered a series of adjustments that I had to make during my recovery. Our first adjustment was to move our second-floor bedroom to the first floor of the house. Even with this adjustment, you may find that you need help to get in and out of bed.

You will probably need help showering. The most important idea, especially for elders, is to have grab bars installed and to

place non-stick strips on the shower floor. Another precaution would be to replace that old tub with low threshold unit and a permanent shower chair. For a short time, you may need help using the bathroom. Grab bars here would also be a useful safety feature. I was very lucky. For the first phase of my recovery, my wife helped me dress every morning.

After breakfast (cereal works best), you might leave the house for work, errands, shopping, appointments, or just some fun and relaxation. Herein lies a daunting challenge. If you have lost your ability to drive, as I did during my recovery, it's a severe blow to independence. This hurdle can lead to isolation and loss of social contact, both necessary to maintain vital and physical well-being. Even getting in and out of the car can also be difficult. Don't be afraid to ask for help and get some training from licensed professionals like



MY SIDE OF THINGS

by LARRY GRIMALDI

physical or occupational therapists. In most cases, therapy will be prescribed as part of your recovery.

Most communities have transportation programs to encourage persons in getting to senior centers, go shopping, keep doctor's appointments, eat a nutritious meal at community site "restaurants," or other activities. Senior centers are excellent sites to sign up for trips, exercise, clubs, and enroll in educational programs. You can find your local senior center by calling the town or city hall, the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging at 462-3000, or The Point information, referral, and resource center at 462-4444.

Although I previously never thought about climbing a flight of stairs, I found it necessary to find the elevator or ramp at various stores and restaurants during my recovery.

The National Institute on Aging offers additional tips on fall prevention such as:

- **Removing throw rugs**
- **Stay as active** as you can manage
- **Removing power cords** or other objects that may be in your walking paths
- **Enhance the lighting** in your home
- **Keep all your medical appointments** and periodically review your medications with your health care providers
- **Wear practical shoes** in and out of the house
- **Consider enrolling** in an emergency response system (particularly if you live alone).

For more information on fall prevention, go to the National Council on Aging website at ncoa.com or the National Institute on Aging (nia.nih.gov).

Don't take everyday tasks for granted and take your time performing them. Don't become a fall statistic.

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. For more information, or comments, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com or visit fruihillpublishing.my.canva.site/



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Don't sit with worry, reach out

7,000 reached out with concerns

"See something, say something."

It's been a common refrain in airports and transportation hubs for many years. It calls upon all of us to participate in the protection of our neighbors and community by calling attention to suspicious packages or behaviors.

How often, though, have you seen something concerning about your older adult neighbor, friend, or loved one and thought to yourself, "something isn't right, but I don't know what to do"?

If you are concerned about the safety of someone age 60 or older in Rhode Island, the Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) is who you can contact. Previous columns have introduced the ways OHA creates opportunities for connectivity, independence in aging, and supports community engagement and supports. A critical piece of OHA's work is to prevent and alleviate elder abuse. Concerns can be reported to 401-462-0555 or <https://oha.ri.gov/report-elder-abuse>.

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This month's column seeks to bring awareness, not just to the signs of abuse, but also to the supports available. Nationally, it is estimated as many as one in ten older adults is abused or neglected each year, but most cases are not reported.

Elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person".

Abuse may occur regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or relationship status. Some older adults may be at increased risk of abuse. They may be frail. They may have caregivers who did not want to be



by MARIA CIMINI

caregivers. They may have resources or money acquired throughout their lives making them a target for exploitation. Abuse may be physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual; it may be neglect or financial exploitation. Self-neglect also falls under the purview of Adult Protective Services (APS) at OHA. In 2024, our APS team received over 7,000 referrals. Seven thousand times a neighbor, family member, physician or friend called or completed a web form to express concern about an older adult in Rhode Island.

Worried about an older adult in your life?
Call 401-462-0555
All calls and emails are confidential

They were concerned. Not all calls were for abuse. Some were about neglect. Some were self-neglect. Some were circumstances where people needed supports, they didn't know how to access and ended up in distress or decline. Sometimes law enforcement was engaged and sometimes case managers were engaged. Every time, we were happy someone reached out. We need to be watching out for one another and no one should be suffering at the hands of a caregiver.

What might you call about? **Here are some signs that my prompt your concern:**

- Person lacks basic hygiene, adequate food or clean, appropriate clothing
- Person lives in a home that is cluttered, filthy, or in disrepair
- Person exhibits unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior
- Person has unexplained fractures, bruises, welts, cuts, sores or burns
- Person has unexplained sexually transmitted disease(s)
- Person with dementia is left unsupervised
- Person is confined to bed without care and/or has untreated "bed" sores
- Person's money is controlled by caregiver, but caregiver is failing to provide for the individual's needs
- Person is isolated by a caregiver
- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning to the person

If you recognize any of the above for a person age 60 or older living in the community in RI, call 401-462-0555 or visit <https://oha.ri.gov/report-elder-abuse>.

Your report is always 100 percent confidential, and the process is 100 percent confidential.

Don't sit with the worry about a friend or a loved one.

The staff at the office of healthy aging are trained to assess to protect and to connect to resources. OHA investigators and community-based case managers will go out, knock on the door, and offer support to someone in need. There is no shame in reaching out for help and Rhode Islanders should have the peace of mind that help is available.

Maria Cimini is the director of the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Random musings

by ELAINE DECKER

Some of you may remember the sketch Deep Thoughts with Jack Handey on Saturday Night Live. That spoof inspired my column for this month: Random Musings. I've reached the age when I lie awake at night musing about all sorts of random topics. I've collected some of them for this essay, randomly, of course.

The other evening I was struggling to decide if it's a kerfuffle or a kerfluffle. My bedtime brain doesn't have spellcheck, so I didn't know that Word would underline kerfuffle in red. I can see that now, but I've already moved on to other musings.

I'm aware that the animal known as the ship of the desert is the camel, but isn't that usually depicted with one hump? That would make it a dromedary. The ship needs two humps to be called a camel. This of course means that the cigarette brand of that name actually has a dromedary on the package. You probably knew this already.

Moving right along... is the Hokey Pokey really "what it's all about"? And if so, why? And can't words really hurt as much as sticks and stones?

Who decided there would only be two choices in winter hand coverings—mittens and five-finger gloves? Why isn't there an option with three channels—thumb, index and middle finger together, and the two smallest fingers together? Or thumb, index finger, and the last three fingers together?

Why do we assume that the first one to smell it did it?

I wonder if the estates of the four female leads in The Golden Girls get residuals for all those reruns on the Hallmark channel. I've watched some of them multiple times. The show is on just about every day, even more often

than Murder She Wrote, and that series has just one female lead who would be entitled to residuals.

I'm only half way through this and you should already be able to see how truly random my musings are. And this is even without a glass of wine.

Eggs are sold by the dozen. Golf balls are sold that way, too. Muffin tins have twelve compartments. So why do we rate things on a scale of one to ten? What's worse, sometimes one is the best rating and sometimes ten is. Bo Derek was a 10 in the movie of that name. Best In Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Competition is always the number 1 dog. It's all so confusing.

"We hear a lot about AI now. It usually means Artificial Intelligence. With all my aches and pains, it's more likely to mean the generics Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen for me."

We hear a lot about AI now. It usually means Artificial Intelligence. With all my aches and pains, it's more likely to mean the generics Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen for me. And my chronic cough means CVS texts me automatic refill notices for my Albuterol Inhaler. Artificial Intelligence will have to wait a long time before that's what I think of first when I hear AI.

I lost all my hair after my chemo treatments last spring. It grew back in white and straight and after a few weeks, I looked like Yahya Sinwar, the late Hamas leader who was in the news at that time. As my hair grew in more, I thought I looked like a human cotton

swab. Now my hair has grown a lot and it's curly. (It used to be straight.) My current look is very Harpo Marx. I'll get it trimmed back to cotton swab length soon.

My husband and I never had children, but we each have siblings, so we live vicariously through our nieces and nephews. People talk about grandparents and great grandparents all the time, but we seldom hear about grandaunts or great grandaunts. Grand aunt will show up if you search the term, but almost no one uses it. I found this explanation helpful. "Grand" indicates one generation away; "great" is added to indicate generations beyond "grand." Most of my nieces and nephews keep things simple and just call me "Aunt E."

I don't understand the reasoning behind the kerfuffle over football's "Tush Push." I have to do a tush push every time I put on a pair of French cut underpants. And a major push trying to get in and out of leotards. They should call that activity the "thigh pry."

I'm pretty much randomed out. I hope you've enjoyed musing along with me.

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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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From a Providence secretarial school to a moon made of cheese

The sadly mourned Katharine Gibbs schools, a pair of mysteries and a funny novel about the moon are this month's audiobooks.

"Expect Great Things!"

By Vanda Krefft, read by Eliza Foss. Algonquin Books, 10¾ hours, \$27.99.

When I arrived at the Providence Journal in 1978, among its standout characters were several smart assistants whose energy and purposeful strides across the newsroom marked them as "Katie Gibbs girls."

That is, they were graduates of the Katharine Gibbs School, which I thought of then as a Providence secretarial school. But as Krefft writes in this marvelous look at both the school and an era, it was far more than that. It did start in Providence, in a tiny office on Westminster Street, a block from what was then the city's Chinatown, but became a national chain of 11 schools before it closed in 2011.

And it did more than train secretaries. It trained women to make a difference in the world and taught them self-reliance, at a time when they had few legal rights and were expected to have no ambitions other than being homemakers.

Krefft starts her story in 1909 at Cranston's Edgewood Yacht Club, where Gibbs' husband fell from the mast of his yawl — a fall that would kill him and leave her nearly destitute, with two young children to raise. This echoed events earlier in her life when, as the daughter of a wealthy meat-packer in Galeana, Illinois, she was suddenly impoverished when her father died without a will and her brothers inherited everything. Together, these taught her the importance of women's being self-reliant, a lesson she would pass on to all the Gibbs Girls.

Gibbs tried starting a dressmaking business, but it failed. Then her sister, Mary, took a secretarial course at a Providence business school, and did so well she ended up as an instructor. Inspired, Katharine bought the school, though it was just two rooms with one student. And soon enough, she was expanding to branches in the toniest parts of Boston and Manhattan — later, Chicago and Montclair, New Jersey — and moving the Providence school to Angell Street on the East Side.

But that's an institutional story. Krefft mostly follows the Gibbs Girls whose lives it changed, many of whom started life in dif-

ficult circumstances like Gibbs' own. An unsung biographer of Woodrow Wilson, her credit taken by her male employer.

The first head of the Marine Corps' women's division. A pathbreaking Connecticut state representative. A bank president, a co-founder of United Cerebral Palsy, and several best-selling authors. An ambassador to Malta. A president of Colorado Women's College. And many others, including "M*A*S*H" star Loretta Swit, picking up skills that would support her on her way to a career in acting.

Eventually, it all came crashing down. With society changing rapidly in the early 1970s and women's rights advancing, secretarial schools seemed passe. Gibbs' son, Gordon, who had inherited the school, found that his daughters didn't want to run it after him, and sold it to the first of a string of corporate owners who, Krefft writes, expanded to squeeze as much money as possible from it, then walked away. A sad ending to a school that began in Rhode Island and went on to change the world.

Foss narrates with a warmth that helps the listener navigate the stories of the numerous Gibbs Girls whom Krefft profiles.

"The Commuter"

By James Patterson and Aaron Tracy, read by a full cast including Lizzy Caplan, Richard Schiff, Thomas Lennon, James Urbaniak, Sarah Steele, Terrence Terrell, Nicolas Dromard and Wolf Williams. Audible Original, 2½ hours, \$11.20; free with Audible Plus membership, \$7.95 a month.

This fast-paced, expertly acted audiobook takes full advantage of audio's advantage over print: that in hearing what's going on, you can much more easily picture the action in your mind's eye.

It's the story of Amy Nichols, a disgraced ex-FBI agent who overhears a murder plot on the train that takes her each day to and from her corporate security job. She's never been the kind to avoid meddling in anything, and she can't help herself — she's soon knee-deep in contradictions and red herrings that make it look like she's the one



by ALAN ROSENBERG

who'll be going to jail.

Patterson books are seldom big on characterization, but this one was ac-

tually written by Tracy, and he fills out the plot with deft touches like Amy's affair with her boss and her visually impaired mother's insight.

But beyond the writing, this book shines because of terrific sound effects that put you on board the train and in lots of other locales, and the strong acting of everyone in the cast. Two-time Emmy nominee Caplan ("Freaks and Geeks," "Mean Girls") is especially good as spunky but confused Amy, while Emmy winner Schiff ("The West Wing," "The Good Doctor") makes a believable alcoholic as Amy's ex-partner.

"Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping on a Dead Man"

By Jesse Q. Sutanto, read by Eunice Wong. Penguin Audio, 10½ hours, \$22.

In last year's delightful "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers," Vera found a man lying dead on the floor of the teahouse she runs in San Francisco's Chinatown, and proceeded to solve the crime — as well as to gather around her a group of suspects who became like family and removed the loneliness that had descended as she turned 60.

That USA Today bestseller was also an Edgar Award winner for best original paperback mystery, and an Audie Winner for its narration. Now Vera is back, this time trying to help a young woman who's concerned about a missing friend that soon turns out to be another death and assembling another group of suspects: the dead man's social-media-influencer girlfriend, his down-on-his-luck agent, and the grandfather who runs a dumpling house just down the street from Vera's place.

Vera loves bossing everyone around, from her suspects to her son, Tilly, and his police-officer girlfriend, Selena. She's still laugh-out-loud funny, as well as smart, insightful and resilient. You'd want her for your mother or grandmother — if you didn't

mind having her run your life. And you wouldn't mind.

Eunice Wong, who won that Audie Award, is back with another bravura performance, painting Vera as the epitome of Chinese grandmotherhood without mocking her, and drawing each supporting character as a living, breathing person with a voice all their own.

"When the Moon Hits Your Eye"

By John Scalzi, read by Wil Wheaton. Audible, 10 hours, \$29.66 (one credit with Audible membership).

It's an old myth that the moon is made of green cheese. (Green meaning new, not the color green. But never mind that.) So the excellent sci-fi writer Scalzi asked: What if the moon actually turned to cheese? And then wrote this funny, thoughtful novel about the fallout, day by day, all over the world — and beyond.

There are the NASA astronauts who are supposed to be launched soon in a "return to the moon" mission, and the billionaire rival to Jeff and Elon who hopes to beat them there. There are the scientists trying to figure out what happened and the old coots at a lunch counter trying to figure out what comes next. There's even the set of "Saturday Night Live." And, inevitably, there are the conspiracy theorists.

Things come to a head when a huge chunk of the cheese-moon breaks off (no, there are no giant crackers to go with it) and heads for Earth, threatening the planet's doom. And then — no, to find out, you're going to have to listen. As you should.

Wheaton, best known as Wesley Crusher on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (and for playing himself on "The Big Bang Theory"), charges through this book with terrific enthusiasm and diction, as well as evident amusement at some of Scalzi's more outrageous conceits. He doesn't go in much for different voices for characters, but there are excellent Midwestern accents in segments set in a pair of rival Wisconsin cheese shops.

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



MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

part of her that she never quite knew existed. Music is "a necessary luxury" indeed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Social Security introduces secure digital access

by CHERYL TUDINO
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is taking steps to provide a significant enhancement for my Social Security account holders, by introducing secure digital access to their Social Security number (SSN). This innovative feature is designed to provide the American public with a modernized, secure, and accessible alternative to the traditional physical SSN card.

SSA is committed to improving service delivery while safeguarding Personal Identifiable Information (PII).

The digital SSN feature will allow account holders to conveniently display their SSN, when needed, for reasons other than handling Social Security matters. This enhancement will provide individuals who have forgotten their SSN or misplaced their SSN cards a simple solution allowing them to securely view their SSN online through the my Social Security portal.

This will reduce their need for an in-person visit and/or having to wait to receive their SSN card through the mail. They will be able to access it via my Social Security on their mobile devices. This digital feature not only streamlines the process for those who need their SSN but also reinforces our dedication to protecting sensitive information. By providing a secure digital option, SSA aims to reduce the risk of lost or stolen cards and enhance the overall user experience.

SSA encourages all account holders to take advantage of this new feature, which will be available starting early this summer. For more information on how to create a my Social Security account, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>.

Together, we are working to create a more accessible and secure future for all Social Security beneficiaries.

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| | Wickford | |

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PREP TIME



5 MINUTES

COOK TIME



30 MINUTES

Ingredients

- 1 lb. Chicken Thighs, boneless
- 3 Ripe Peaches, cut into wedges
- 2 Shallots, chopped
- 1/4 Cup Fresh Basil, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- 1 Tbsp. Fresh Ginger, chopped
- 1/2 Cup White Wine
- 2 Tbsp. Honey
- 1/2 Tsp. Each of Ground Pepper & Salt



← Scan QR Code for recipe video

● DOMENIC from page 11

the whole family be at the table for dinner.

Domenic names the schools he attended as if he's reading them from a list, only he's not reading. When he reached Central High School he enrolled in a split program with automotive mechanics. That training opened doors he would never have imagined.

World War II was in full swing and before graduating Domenic enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corps, to later become the US Air Force.

"I wanted airplanes," he said. Having taken an aptitude test and completed basic training in Miami Beach that transformed from a tourist town to a training post during the war. From there Domenic was sent to St. Louis for intense training in aircraft mechanics that included as part of the finals flying a small plane comparable to a Piper Cub solo. Thirty-two started off in the class that ended off being 29 by the time training was completed.

"It was go-go all the time," he said describing how the day started at 6

a.m. with a muster and by 8 a.m. had them in classes until 4 p.m. Domenic estimates the equivalent of two years of college engineering courses was packed into five months.

With that portion of training completed, Domenic was assigned to the 312 squadron in Rome, NY where he was a basic mechanic working on "piston pounded" B24 engines.

Always the host

Domenic pauses to get a plate of sugar-coated cookies, a great compliment to the coffee. The story resumed.

From Rome, NY, the squadron was shipped to El Aouina Air Base in Tunis. The Germans were on the retreat in North Africa and Domenic spent a lot of his time fixing jeeps and keeping the motor pool running until the squadron was deployed to Gioia del Colle base in Apulia, Italy. There the crew worked feverishly to keep bombers in the air as the allies closed in on Germany.

When the war came to an end, the squadron stayed to close operations and fly out the planes. Infantry were

the first to return home.

Domenic was surprised on returning home was to discover his mother had saved the money he had been sending home to help the family had been placed in a saving account. He leaves his coffee for a second time and shuffles out of the room, returning with a satchel filled with albums, books and papers. There's a paper bound book that was compiled by members of the squadron recounting events during the war along with drawings and photographs. From one of the albums flops an 8 by 10 black and white photograph of a young man standing in the vacant square in front of St. Paul's Cathedral at the Vatican.

Domenic explains he visited Rome on leave after the squadron was reassigned to a base in Naples. He digs deeper into the satchel, coming up with the savings passbook handed him on his return to Providence.

His mother's advice

"I'm a keeper," says Domenic. "I keep everything." He remembers, too, down to his mother's advice "to always have breakfast" as

a kid to what she told Dorothy DelSesto when she learned they were going to marry. Her instruction: "Never feed him cheese."

Dorothy heeded the advice.

It was an off-hand inquiry to a friend that led to connecting with his first-grade classmate. In a casual conversation Domenic asked whatever became of Dorothy. The friend suggested he find out for himself and handed him a scrap of paper with her phone number. Sometime later Domenic found the paper in his pocket and made the call. Their first date was a movie and some five months later they were married.

Domenic was working for the Navy in Quonset, but the newlyweds wanted to be close to family and friends in Providence. When Domenic learned an acquaintance was buying a two-family house in the Union Avenue neighborhood, he asked if there might be an apartment for rent. The answer was "yes," but when Domenic went to check it out, it was an unfinished attic.

Domenic saw an opportunity. He offered to convert the attic into an apartment at his cost on condition that the rent was frozen at \$30 a month for as long as they were there. It was a deal.

Landlord reneges on deal

But the landlord reneged several years later, telling Domenic he wanted them out. Domenic was furious and thought of fighting the edict in court. Instead, he looked around, finding a double-decker they could call their own. It needed renovations and Domenic went to work. The replacement of a toilet with a wall tank and pull chain, which was on top of Dorothy's list to go, was among the first renovations. He cleaned up the yard and built an outdoor fireplace from cobble stones salvaged when Washington Street was repaved.

The first of their two children, Edward was born in 1957, followed by Elaine who came seven years later. He has two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

When the Navy pulled out of Quonset in the 70s Domenic was out of a job. He went to work as a production controller for Madison Industries. He looked to go farther. He took night courses in production planning at URI and somehow



Domenic Giarrusso uses the mechanism out of a Seth Thomas clock to point out features of the mechanism. (Beacon Media photos by John Howell)

between it all looked to fix a clock from Italy that had belonged to his grandfather. He went to D'Agastino Clocks and Watch Repair in Providence where he struck up a friendship with the owner who became his mentor in understanding clocks and repairing them.

But times were changing and so was the neighborhood. Following an episode where shots were fired not far from his home, Domenic started looking for a house in Cranston. He found the place close to Garden City but in need of cleaning and repair. Domenic put his woodworking skills to work again reconfiguring the kitchen and converting a portion of the basement into a clock workshop.

The clock shop

On a follow-up visit, he showed off his basement cubby filled with boxes and drawers of gears, springs and the tiniest tools.

"People would say they overwound their clock," Domenic says of the frequently heard complaint when he was averaging three to four repairs a week.

"But you can't overwind a clock." He explained that most clock failures result from worn pinions and bushings that hold gears in position. The pinions holding the spring in place, which are subject to the most torque, can wobble causing the gears to jam and the clock to stop.

He lists the parts, pulling gears of different sizes from drawers. One can imagine he was similarly focused on repairing a car engine or that of a World War II bomber.

Of all the clocks he's worked on, Domenic says the French ones are especially finely built. He said

components are precision crafted and are driven by springs – in the case of windup clocks – of minimal torque placing less stress on gears.

It was this mechanical thinking that surely played a role in him landing a job with the state and eventually a pension that continues to serve him well.

When he learned of a plant mechanic position overseeing the operation of the power plant serving the state institutions at what is now the Pastore Government Center, Domenic was interested in the money and the challenge. The job entailed ensuring the operation of five boilers standing three stories high. There were scores of applications for the position and Domenic figured he didn't have a shot at the job because he didn't know anybody. He was surprised when he was given a second interview and delighted when he landed the job that he held for 13 years.

Today Domenic says he takes one day at a time. He often has visitors, and he is a big admirer of retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell founder of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub. Domenic went on one of the 32 flights the hub has conducted, transporting veterans to Washington, DC for a day of visiting war memorials. Domenic attends Honor Flight fundraisers, often speaking about the experience and what it meant to him.

For Domenic, moderation and patience are tenants to live by. In his 102 years he has discovered the joy of living: "I like to see things come to life... I don't care if it's a million dollar clock or a 50 cent clock."

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Lifestyles



HISTORY IS *Her Story*

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

At a recent ceremony at the Quonset O' Club, Warwick resident Marta Martinez was inducted into the Rhode Island Press Association Hall of Fame. Martinez is founder of Nuestras Raíces: The Latino Oral History Project of Rhode Island, and was honored for over three decades of work documenting the stories of Rhode Islanders.

"I had so many ups and downs of emotions," Martinez says. "I actually wasn't quite sure what qualified me to receive the award. I had to sit with that for a while."

Born in Mexico, Martinez grew up in El Paso, Texas, part of a family that included six siblings. She moved east to attend Providence College, and by the end of her freshman year she met her future husband. After college, the couple spent a decade in Washington, D.C., returning to Rhode Island in 1988 because it felt like a better place to raise a family.

"I wanted to go into broadcast journalism," Martinez says of her time at Providence College. "I wanted to be a TV anchor. I got an internship at Channel 12, which was an ABC station at the time. That got me an interview with ABC in Washington when we moved there, but I realized then that broadcasting wasn't what I wanted to do."

Instead, Martinez got a job at Gallaudet University, a school for deaf students, and there she learned American Sign Language. During her time in Washington, she worked as an interpreter for both Spanish and ASL.

When Martinez returned to Providence, she started working with Hispanic Social Services, and from there got to know the South Providence and Elmwood neighborhoods.

"I started walking Broad Street and talking to people, and I was really introduced to the Latino community for the first time that way. In college I didn't get out much, I stayed on campus. Downtown felt very desolate. There was very little to do besides shop at The Outlet and maybe a few other stores. Well, I should say there was very little that I wanted to do downtown."

Though Providence had a large Latino community, Martinez says that media coverage at the time was very limited and mostly negative. "It was all crime and stories about welfare," she said. "So, I called the Providence Journal to ask why, and the person who answered the phone told me that if I wanted to see positive stories printed that I should start submitting them myself. So, I did."

"The culture of Broad Street is very Dominican, and that was very foreign to me," she says. "Mexican culture and Caribbean cultures are very different. I started learning more about that history. I went to libraries and archives to get a sense of who they were. I came from Texas, where Latinos have been around for four hundred years, so it was very surprising to me that Latinos didn't come to Rhode Island until the 1960s. At the time, the 1960s wasn't that long ago, so I thought it would be fun to meet some of the people who had arrived first."

That began a three-decade career meeting members of local Latino communities and recording their stories, first to audio-cassette and later digitally. Some interviews even became Providence Journal stories.

"It was very accidental," Martinez says. "Rhode Island Council for the Humanities gave me my first grant, and I used that to learn more about what oral history is, because I hadn't studied it. I found other oral historians and got very involved with the Oral History Association."

There were few other oral historians in Rhode Island, let alone working specifically with Latino communities. "A lot of people do oral histories in school, and it's their big project for a year or for a semester. Then they move on to other things and you never see them again. And where do the histories go?"

In 1991, Martinez started Nuestras Raíces: The Latino Oral History Project of Rhode Island. Since then, the organization, has grown into a diverse collection of personal stories, photographs, and documents that capture the history of Rhode Island's Spanish-speaking community, according to its website.

Nuestras Raíces lost some funding earlier in April when National Endowment for the Humanities funding was eliminated, even for projects that were already underway. Not only that, but the National Endowment for the Arts was targeted a few weeks later, impacting Rhode Island Latino Arts, Martinez's day job.

"With Rhode Island Latino Arts I work with artists from every genre: visual artists, musicians, theaters, even culinary artists," says Martinez.

● MARTA to page 18

Marta Martinez was inducted into the Rhode Island Press Association Hall of Fame on May 2. Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox



Martinez carrying a poster-size copy of her book. Submitted photo courtesy of Marta Martinez

● MARTA from page 17

An NEA grant was awarded, and later rescinded, for the 10th annual Teatro en el Verano production, a new bilingual (English/Spanish) retelling of the story of Doctor Faustus, which will be performed in local parks and outdoor venues around the state. The play was already cast and moving forward when the funding was taken away. They are now looking for funding to keep the production going.

In addition to theatrical programs, RI Latino Arts hosts regular meetups for artists. (They're normally held at the organization's gallery space in Central Falls, although the next one will be held in the Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History and Planetarium on June 5). Martinez also organizes a summer-long Museo del Barrio, in which Broad Street becomes a living museum with dance, drumming, performances, and tours of the historic neighborhood.

For more information, visit RILatinoArts.org



The Somos Rhode Island exhibit runs through July 18 at the Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad St., Providence (M-F 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and by appointment) and showcases a collection of 30 portraits created by artist René Gómez. For more information visit rilatinoarts.org. Submitted photo courtesy of Marta Martinez



Martinez interviewing an elder for an oral history project. Submitted photo courtesy of Marta Martinez



Martinez, a Warwick resident, before kicking off the 25th annual Halloween parade in Pawtuxet in October 2024. She is the chair of Friends of Pawtuxet Village and founder of the annual event. Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
CRANSTON									
12 Sherman Ave	Lane, Bruce D and Lane, Mindy B	Custodio, Jose M and Munrayos, Miriam M	4/23	\$525,000	31 Tartaglia St	Moore Jr, Anthony M and Moore, Lisa A	Mccabe, Justin and Armfield, Emma	5/5	\$485,000
120 Pontiac Ave	Bovis, Thomas and Lynch, Lauren	Bonilla Cruz, Marcos and Bonilla Calderon, Pablo	4/22	\$670,000	32 Cavalcade Blvd	Oconnell, Kenneth M and Oconnell, Katherine J	Bottell, Randy J	5/5	\$275,000
15 Mohawk Ln	Lancia, Marc and Lancia, Renee	Delgallo, Allyson and Delgallo, Nicholas J	5/2	\$620,000	35 Regina Dr	Giolitti Ft and Giolitti, Henry C	Weber, Karl	4/30	\$358,000
15 Mohawk Trl Lot 231	Lancia, Marc and Lancia, Renee	Delgallo, Allyson and Delgallo, Nicholas J	5/2	\$620,000	4 Heritage Cir	Fiore, Karyssa	Rodriguez, Jose A and Rodriguez, Betania	5/6	\$360,000
179 Jordan Ave	Rojas, Nancy B	Pimentel, Laura N	4/28	\$392,000	5 Gano Ave	Kings Catering LLC	D&m Home Improvements LLC	4/30	\$322,000
204 Maplewood Ave Lot 2380	Hernandez, Adelson	Estevez, Darys J and Nunez, Yasmin M	5/2	\$630,000	6 Midwestern Cir	He, Feng	Tonucci, Ronnie P and Chiaromonte, Julie S	5/6	\$560,000
204 Maplewood Ave Lot 2381	Hernandez, Adelson	Estevez, Darys J and Nunez, Yasmin M	5/2	\$630,000	657-1/2 Greenville Ave	Cascade Funding Mtg T Hb8	Eaton Developmtns Inc	4/30	\$191,750
204 Woodbine St	Northeast Revest LLC	Lacasse, Micaela J	4/28	\$587,000	97 Hill Top Dr	Flath, Jason R and Flath, Julie D	Osborne, Christopher J and Mckenzie, Mary	5/6	\$500,000
21 Highland St Lot 21	Fogarty Dorothy L Est and Jarvis, Christopher	Bogda, Dean and Bennett, Caroline	4/22	\$470,000					
221 Hillcrest St N, Agency LLC	Paul Durfee, Ryan and Leonart Rioli, Maya	4/23	\$680,000						
230 Lawnacre Dr	Beverly L Rush T and Rush, James L	Psikakos, Elenia A	4/30	\$430,000	116 Lake Shore Dr	Shrestha, Sajjan	Peterson, Shannon H	5/1	\$408,000
230 Lawnacre Dr Lot 3507	Beverly L Rush T and Rush, James L	Psikakos, Elenia A	4/30	\$430,000	120 Missouri Dr	Dewolf, Kevin J and Maslona, Eric D	Grinder, Robert	4/25	\$375,000
26 Susan Dr	Ragosta, Ernest and Ragosta, Lisa	Rodriguez, Odalis and Baez, Jhanley M	4/29	\$500,000	131 Brendard Ave	Ideal Estate Invest LLC	Yang, Richard S and Yang, Stephanie M	5/1	\$445,000
32 Cambio Ct	Banigan, Mona M	Levisay, Matthew and Livesey, Andrea	4/25	\$459,000	15 Willing Ave	Camus, John S	Smith, Michael R and Smith, Jae T	4/24	\$539,000
33 Hollins Dr	Dallesandro Roger Sr Est and Dallesandro, David	Ciccarelli, Leanne S	4/22	\$500,000	1508 W Shore Rd	Restivo, Robert	Decastro-Vicente, Suzana	4/24	\$315,000
35 Fales St	Ciccarelli, Leanne S	Cook, Kevin M and Leacock, Sandra D	4/22	\$400,000	166 Beach Ave	Excel Prop Solutions Ri L	Gonzalez, Hugo	4/28	\$290,000
37 Cardinal Rd	Hope Road Land Invest LLC	Berroa, Yudelka	4/29	\$1,195,000	167 Welfare Ave	Bottom Line Re Solutions	Fichman, Robert G and Harrington, Susan G	4/24	\$463,300
40 Norfolk St	Paul J Brown Lt and Brown, Paul J	Ri Custom Builders LLC	5/2	\$400,000	176 Aurora Dr	Cole Adam D Est and Cole, Haley J	Cole, Haley	5/1	\$300,000
420 Webster Ave	Luce, Oliver H and Luce, Gail F	Rojas Lopez, Valentin and Sanchez Derojas, Soraya V5/1	4/30	\$350,000	21 Rogers Rd	Orchard Invest LLC	Mella, David L and Mella, Maria K	4/25	\$575,000
45 Surrey Dr	Saccoccio, Steven J and Saccoccio, Melissa J	Toomey, Rebecca S and Toomey, Sean P	4/30	\$880,000	222 Killey Ave Lot 21	Staruch, Darcy L	Diorio, Maria E	4/25	\$320,000
77 Maplewood Ave	Collazo, Maria S	Hernandez, Adelson	5/2	\$360,000	265 Post Rd Lot 9	ConAve Sheila and Walton Jr, Hollie R	Bazarian Murray, Mary J	4/30	\$415,000
8 Roslyn Ave	Brown, Denise	Yeo, Anna J and Hanson, Matthew D	4/25	\$625,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 909	Pizzi, Stacie L and Pizzi Jr, Agelo R	Delos, Remi M	4/30	\$137,500
83 Freedom Dr Lot 3458	Cahill, Dylan and St Lawrence 3rd, Thomas	Belliveau, Danielle M and Russo, Michael P	5/2	\$957,700	370 Larchwood Dr	Citizens Bk	Alpha Hldg LLC	4/24	\$400,000
83 Freedom Dr Lot 3561	Cahill, Dylan and St Lawrence 3rd, Thomas	Belliveau, Danielle M and Russo, Michael P	5/2	\$957,700	370 Larchwood Dr	Alpha Hldg LLC	Parenteau Jr, Joseph A and Sullivan, Sharon	4/25	\$655,000
85 W View Ave	Rush, Carole A and Rush, William L	Little Flower Home	4/28	\$501,000	400 Narragansett Pkwy Lot SC12	Silvia, Mary L	Asvestas, Theodore	4/25	\$298,000
94 Carman St Lot 2193	Sanita, Donna M and Davis, Carol A	Agency Group LLC	4/24	\$430,000	41 Rosedale Rd	Elisabeth O Garbutt Lt and Garbutt, Elisabeth O	Rosedale Re RET and Bitsoli, Deborah A	5/1	\$850,000
94 Carman St Lot 2195	Sanita, Donna M and Davis, Carol A	Agency Group LLC	4/24	\$430,000	41 Williams St	Doehler, Carol	Tesler, Kristi	4/24	\$720,000
96 Harvard St	Mazza, Raymond and Mazza, Sacha M	Dunlap, John H and Dunlap, Kathleen P	5/2	\$417,500	5 Delaine St	Sage, Brandon M	Harvey, Justin and Margadonna, Gilbert	4/25	\$358,000
98 Sheffield Rd	Celio, John L	Moscariello, Joseph and Saint Hilaire, Debra A	4/24	\$550,000	51 8th Ave	Carlsten, George F	Bowie, John F	5/1	\$587,500
					68 Greene St Lot 4	Melwick Brds LLC	Singh, Gurvinder	4/24	\$422,000
					75 Marshall Ave Lot 211	Vartabedian, Pia	Lowell LLC	4/25	\$279,125
					75 Marshall Ave Lot 212	Vartabedian, Pia	Lowell LLC	4/25	\$279,125
					752 Quaker Ln Lot B207	Tocco, Paul J	Buscher, Dean M and Vargas, Jane E	4/25	\$218,000
					86 Bluff Ave	Dorsey, John A	Harrington Sr, Terence A and Hall, Beverly J	4/24	\$215,000
					884 Halifax Dr Lot 884	Paul, Evelyn A	Pierre J Plante RET	5/1	\$359,900
					92 June Ave	Mancini, Victor	Prior, Allyson C and Prior, Daniel	5/1	\$465,000
					WEST GREENWICH				
					17 Bates Ln	Cogan, Benjamin J	Baker, Emily E	5/1	\$450,000
					WEST WARWICK				
					16 Standard Ave	Rossi, Alfred S	Santucci, Robert and Santucci, Carol A	4/30	\$420,000
					2 Guertin St	Garces, Mauricio	Tripp, Carlisa	4/30	\$400,000
					50 Earl St	Dejesus, Julia J	Mandeville Pro LLC	5/2	\$260,000
					54 River St Lot 10	Townsend, Nella	Morales, Antol R and Morales, Kimberly	4/30	\$175,000
					606 Providence St	Amd Holdings LLC	Cross Street Realty LLC	5/2	\$1,495,000
					7 Miami St	Coyne, George M and Coyne, Claudette	Kennelly, Sean and Kennelly, Isabella	5/2	\$540,000
					71 Curson St	Murphy, Christopher M	Griffin, Melissa and Guy, Miranda	5/5	\$389,000
					75 Glen Dr Lot 3B	Lombardi, Don D and Lombardi, Diane A	Dupuis, Christien	4/30	\$309,000
EXETER									
135 Black Plain Rd	Brayam Ethel V Est and Nikola, Nora	Charpentier, Corinne E and Pickering, Christopher M4/30		\$380,000					
					JOHNSTON				
1 Dante Ave	Soares, Thomas J and Soares, Kimberly R	Sanchez, Jose	5/6	\$385,000					
14 Angell Ave	Drinkwater, Jamie	Bileau Investments LLC	5/1	\$410,000					
15 Dayton Ave	Pietros, Mark and Pietros, Amanda	Odgen Jr, Harry R and Odgen, Stephanie L	5/2	\$639,000					
2 Naples Ave	Dirocco, Francesca M	Lamarre, Lakicha and Acacia, Jerry	5/2	\$535,000					
22 Dante Ave	Title Investments Rigp	Joseph, Theophilus D	4/30	\$1					
24 Kensington Way Lot 24	Atwood Ave Condos LLC	Pell, David C and Pell, Ann M	4/30	\$449,900					
2631 Hartford Ave Lot 5	2631 Hartford Ave LLC	Warner, Edwin F and Brodner, Amy L	4/30	\$280,000					
2631 Hartford Ave Lot 6	2631 Hartford Ave LLC	Zabcccchia, Paul	4/30	\$257,000					
3 Coolidge St	Riccitelli, Hope F and Gitsit Solution LLC	Cianci Jr, Raymond M	5/5	\$282,000					

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● **ROBO-DOG** from page 1

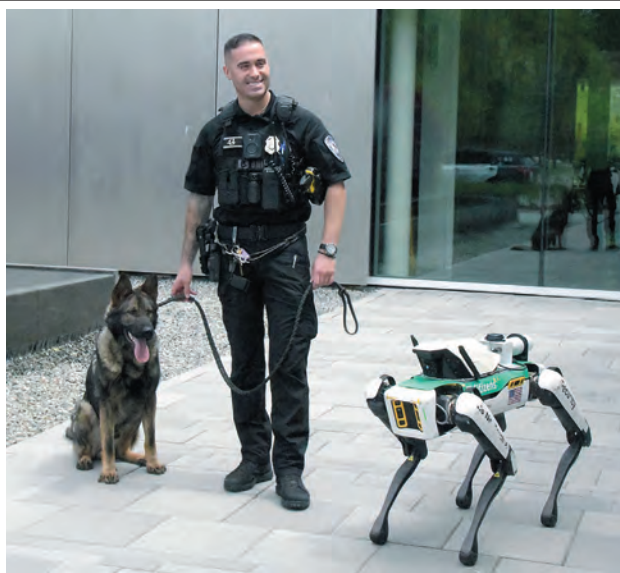
thought it would be fun and informative for the public to have Scout and Honza meet, given their shared dedication to public safety. “We have a great partnership with the Johnston Police Department,” Olivera said. “We work together well.”

Honza, who’s been getting a warm welcome from the town since his arrival from the Czech Republic earlier this year, was a crowd pleaser at the corporate campus, where he was greeted with a basket of homemade dog biscuits and brought smiles to employees passing by. He was not fazed by Scout walking around him and instead was far more interested in his in his rubber ball – one of the training tools that is used as a reward him when he is on the job searching for narcotics and other illegal substances.

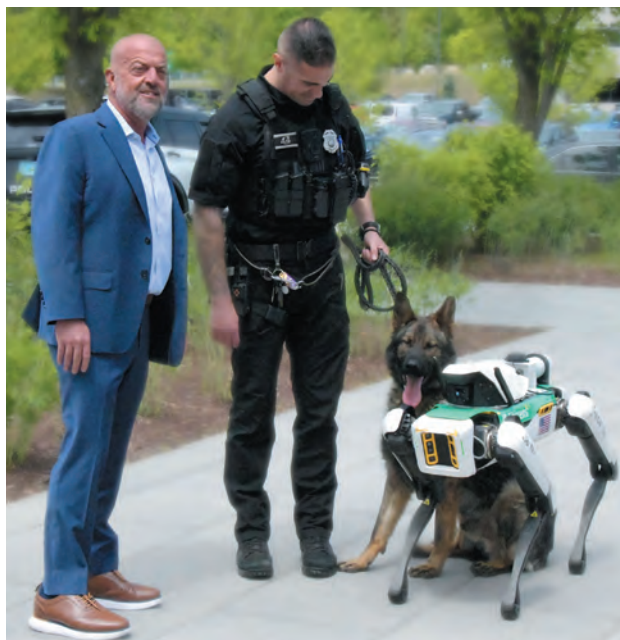
“We are happy to be here,” said Johnston Police Capt. Joseph A. McGinn. “We’re happy to have Honza meet people in the community we serve.”

Lean and still playful, Honza represents a long lineage of working-dog breeding, while Scout is a much newer “species.” Oliveira said he was made by Boston Dynamics in collaboration with Asylon, a robotics security company. At the time he was deployed at the Citizens campus, he was one of only a couple of robo-dogs in use in corporate settings in the country, he said.

On its website, Boston Dynamics refers to its robotic dogs as “Spot” models. Scout got his name at Citizens after a naming contest among employees, Robinson said. In addition to providing security, she said, Scout also serves as an unofficial greeter on campus and is programmed to be very well behaved – circumnavigating people and any other



Honza, at left, with fur, and Scout both show how they are well-behaved. With them are, left, Bert Oliveira, head of corporate security for Citizens Bank, and K-9 patrol officer Eli McGuire-Kruege.



Officer Eli McGuire-Kruege's K-9 training did not necessarily include robotic security dogs. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*

obstacles as well as occasionally bowing politely when addressed.

Still, he lacks the furry appeal of Honza and sometimes startles people who are not prepared to see a quadruped robot traipsing around the Citizens grounds. “He does look very futuristic,” Oliveira said. “And

not everyone embraces the technology.”

Oliveira was diplomatic when asked about the effectiveness of the two canines and which he would choose. “Yes,” he replied with a wry smile. “They are both good dogs.”

● **ETHICS** from page 1

Fresh off a marathon hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary on May 14, Ciccone said he still has questions over the legality of the legislation as drafted. However, he declined to specify what changes he’d like to see made, or whether he intends to support the controversial issue already named a top priority by Gov. Dan McKee.

“I am waiting to see what decisions the committee is going to make, what changes the sponsor is going to make,” Ciccone said. “At this point in time, I don’t know. It’s up to the committee.”

A committee vote on the assault weapons ban bill had not been scheduled as of Tuesday.

Better late than never

Ciccone has been a state lawmaker for 22 years, and licensed to sell guns since the 1980s. But this was the first time he asked for ethics advice on gun-related legislation. Asked why now, he said he never served on the Senate Judiciary committee, and therefore had little sway over whether gun-related bills advanced to the full chamber.

Now, as the newly elected Senate majority leader, Ciccone is an ex-officio member on all Senate committees, meaning he can vote to advance a bill to the full chamber.



Jason Gramitt, executive director of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, addresses commission members during their meeting on Tuesday. *Photo by Nancy Lavin/Rhode Island Current*

Ethics Commissioner Christopher Callahan cast the sole vote against giving Ciccone permission to vote on gun bills, pointing to the senator’s leadership role as reason for his hesitation.

“My perception is that there is potential as a senior political leader that he may have greater influence on the outcome of the decision,” Callahan said in an interview after the meeting. Callahan, the retired head of the Rhode Island National Guard, was tapped by Gov. Dan McKee in April to serve on the state ethics panel.

Commissioner Hugo Ricci Jr. disagreed. “He has one vote, the same as any other lawmaker,” Ricci said during the commission discussion. “He’s not president of the Senate.”

Ciccone’s leadership role a fresh complication

Common Cause Rhode Island Executive Director John Marion, who attended the meeting, said he was not surprised that the panel granted permission for Ciccone to vote on gun bills, given its “liberal” application of the class exemption in recent history.

However, Marion said he wished the panel had a more robust discussion of Ciccone’s role in leadership. “The majority leader helps set the agenda for the chamber, deciding what bills move and what bill dies,” Marion said. “That’s part of what the ethics commission can regulate.”

Marion expects the need for ethics input on legislative conflicts of interest will increase under the new Senate leadership team, both for Ciccone and for Senate President Valarie Lawson. Lawson’s day job as president of one of the state’s two largest teachers’ unions has already prompted concern by some of her colleagues about potential conflicts of interest. She has not requested an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commission since her election on April 30, though she said at the time she was considering it.

“Out of an abundance of caution, she is in the process of formulating a question to the Ethics Commission and will be submitting it to them soon,” Greg Pare, a spokesperson for Senate leadership, said in an email Tuesday.

Nancy Lavin is senior reporter covering state politics, energy and environmental issues for the Rhode Island Current. RI Current is part of States Newsroom, the nation’s largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

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Sports

Five Panthers headed to next level

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

Johnston High School recently held a college signing event and five Panthers made their decisions official.

Those signing were Manny Rios (baseball, Westfield State); Logan Martins (wrestling, University of Southern Maine); Nicki Aucone (track, Rhode Island College); Brandon Souza (United State Marines) and Tyler Holton (football, Dean).

Rios has been the baseball team's top pitcher the past two seasons and will be competing on the mound and in the field for the Owls. Holton will have a chance to extend his playing career after a strong career with the football team as a line-backer and tight end.

"Manny is a great kid and a great player, he can do it all. Tyler is the type of kid that will play anywhere, he just wants to play and do what's best for the team," said Johnston's Joe Acciardo, who coaches baseball and football. "The coaches are going to love them, they're both great kids and are going to do great wherever they go."

Acciardo was especially happy for Holton, who missed time last football season with an injury. "I'm happy for him. He lost out on some time in the back end of the season so I'm glad that he's going to get that experience."

● FIVE to page 24



Johnston track standout Nicki Aucone with her family after committing to Rhode Island College. Submitted photos



Johnston football player Tyler Holton (left) and baseball player Manny Rios (right).

Panthers show promise in rebuilding season

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston baseball team is wrapping up its regular season this week, with the finale slated for Wednesday against Ponaganset. The Panthers entered the matchup 3-15 overall and would need a win to have a chance to sneak into the Division II playoffs. With multiple teams still finishing their schedules, the Panthers will not know their fate until Thursday.

The Panthers had a young team this spring with only three seniors and three juniors on the roster. With so many young guys contributing, especially in important roles, the Panthers took their lumps in the early going.

"We have a very young team. The younger guys, little by little, started making their way into the lineup. Early on we preached patience. Sometimes nearly half of our lineup was freshmen, these guys were playing middle school ball last year. They stepped up, got a taste of it,

● PANTHERS to page 23



Johnston pitcher Ethan Bracey deals against Central on Monday afternoon. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

Favorite places to catch spring striped bass

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

The striped bass are here on their annual migration north. Before relating where to catch them and how it is important to note that they are in tough shape as a species.

Striped bass continue to be overfished and subject to overfishing so great care should be taken to catch and release fish safely to reduce fish mortality.

Using one single hook rather than multiple treble hooks on lures helps. Keep the fight short and try to keep the fish in the water when dehooking and releasing. In-line circle hooks are the law when using bait and no use of gaffs.

Take your time when releasing the fish once the hook is out holding it by its tail (caudal) fin moving it forward and backward so water flows over their gills to revive them. The fish will let you know it is ready to be released when it wags its tail fin in your hand, at that point just let it go.

The striped bass limit is one fish/person/day between 28" to less than 31".

Some favorite spots and methods

Coves, ponds, rivers and along the ocean shore. Salt Pond and Narrow River, Narragansett; Green River, North Kingstown; and the Warren River are good spots. My favorite cove is Greenwich Cove in the spring (because I lived there, and it is the first place I ever caught a



Grant Stark with the 46" striped bass he caught on Cape Cod last week. Photo courtesy of "My Fishing Cape Cod."

striped bass).

I have caught bass from shore and boat at the end, middle and mouth of the Cove at Chepibanoxet Point, Warwick; to the East Greenwich Town Dock and Scallop

Town Park on the east side; to the Godard Park boat ramp all the way up to the State Beach. My favorite baits are hard and soft plastic lures (both surface and swimming).

The East Passage of Narragansett Bay including the space between Popasquash Point, Bristol and Bear Point Prudence Island. I have caught many large striped bass in this area (large for the Bay is 20 to 40 pounds), particularly trolling with tube and worm or fishing the channel pads and edges with menhaden (live or chunked) and large spoons that mimic herring and Atlantic menhaden. The channel pads from Bristol to Barrington are also great places to fish as they hold bait and stripers as the shipping channel acts as a bait conduit pushing bait up and down the East Passage of the Bay. Can fish this area from shore at Barrington Beach and Colt State Park fishing pier, Bristol.

The West Wall of the Harbor of Refuge in Jerusalem area, South Kingstown; the Charlestown Breachway and any other jetty along the coastal shore. These areas provide shore anglers (and boat anglers) with one of the best first Rhode Island striped bass opportunities as the bass make their run past the Connecticut coastline to Rhode Island. Lures of all types are the baits of choice.

Providence River in the cities of Providence, East Providence, Barrington, Cranston and Warwick. The area from shore up the Seekonk River and at India Point Park and the Hurricane Barrier in Providence to Conimicut Point has been a very fruitful fishing area in early spring. The most popular method in recent years has been live lining or fishing with cut up chunks of Atlantic menhaden.

The hot areas to fish include the Hurricane Barrier down to Save the Bay on Fields Point in Providence. Anglers have caught thousands of bass in this area. When the menhaden spawning runs are strong striped bass chase them up the Providence River to the Seekonk River all the way up to downtown Pawtucket. Bass over 50" have been caught in this area. Anglers can catch from shore in Pawtucket, Providence, East Providence, Barrington, Warwick and Cranston.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass. Manny Macedo of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "The stiped bass bite has been very good in Mt. Hope and Narragansett Bays. Anglers should know that Rhode Island and Massachusetts now have two different ways of measuring striped bass."

In Massachusetts anglers must squeeze the tail (caudal) fin to take the measure from the closed mouth of the fish. Visit

Massachusetts - Striped Bass | eRegulations for an illustration on how to measure striped bass in Massachusetts. In Rhode Island measure from the mouth to the longest point of the tail fin, there is no squeezing allowed.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "Customers are having difficulty catching slot size fish in the upper Providence and Seekonk Rivers. Larger fish over 31" are being caught, earlier this month a 53" fish was caught. Baits working include live or chunked Atlantic menhaden with worms working best in the Seekonk River as all that mud up the Seekonk River holds a lot of worms."

Angler Kevin Travares said "We fished Mount Hope Bay, the Sakonnet launch to Bristol to Roger Williams, etc. Chased terns and gulls on breaking schools of bass. Sometimes w/out birds, could spot them breaking top water. Needed to move with the schools. 40-50' of water/drop offs in channel worked. Most fish were around slot, had some under 20" (nice to see) and a couple over 30 inches." Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "We've seen some impressive sizes, with reports of fish up to 47 inches caught in the Charlestown Breachway this week. Both tides have been productive, and they are actively feeding on a variety of bait, including silversides, needlefish, shad, eels, and squid."

Tautog. Ryan Collins of 'My Fishing Cape Cod', said, "The red hot tautog bite earlier this month seems to be cooling off a bit on the Cape as other species like scup move into the area."

"Anglers have filed fewer reports on tautog as not as many are fishing for them as they are now targeting scup, striped bass and other species that have arrived," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

Summer flounder and scup are being caught throughout the region. Manny Macera of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "The scup are in with small fluke being caught too."

Angler Matthew Haczynski reported Saturday finding keeper fluke in the Block Island area with he and two others filling a cooler full of fluke."

Angler Garey Vandemoortele, said, "We limited out on fluke in the Westport area last week when chartering on Three Sister Charters. Clams and clam worms worked best."

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

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Pressure on Mazzulla as Celtics upset by Knicks

The dust has now settled on the Celtics' Eastern Conference Semifinals loss to the New York Knicks, and all eyes will be on coach and Johnston native Joe Mazzulla as the team moves forward and tries to pick up the pieces after a devastating defeat.

To make matters worse, star Jayson Tatum did, in fact, rupture his Achilles and could be out for the entire 2025-26 season. Guys like Kristaps Porzingis and Jrue Holliday could be on the chopping block with their big contracts, and even Jaylen Brown will be recovering from a torn meniscus.

Time for Mazzulla to be the difference maker.

This is not the first time that Mazzulla has been tested and has even faced some national criticism. The team fell in the conference finals his rookie year and many wondered if it was too much, too soon for the young head coach. Well, he and the revamped roster turned around to win the title last season before this year's bitter end.

The primary complaint of those watching when it comes to Mazzulla is his devotion to the 3-ball. He has been very vocal over the past three years that his system is focused on hitting 3-pointers at a high



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

volume, and even if the shots aren't falling, to keep shooting anyway as things will settle back toward the mean.

Last season, the system worked like butter. This year, especially throughout the playoffs, it fell flat. The Knicks sold out to prevent the 3-ball and the Celtics struggled to win with Plan B. They just didn't have the horses to attack the rim, especially once Tatum went down.

Should Mazzulla have scrapped the 3-ball? Should he have been more aggressive attacking the basket? Should he have forced his guys to buckle down on defense and turn it into a dogfight? The answer to all of that is yes, but in the moment, coming off a dominant championship, it's hard to go against what had worked.

After the 2023 loss, Mazzulla had a pass because it was his first season with a roster that had some critical deficiencies. Year 2, well, you know how that went.

This is the first time that we will get see what Mazzulla is truly made of. He's in an interesting spot.

His first year was an impossible situation. Taking over a flawed roster on the heels of a controversial firing (I am referring to former coach Ime Udoka). His second year was the total opposite as he was handed one of the best rosters ever assembled. Although he is wise beyond his years and developed a system that worked, he was given the most talented team in the league to work with.

Next year he will be forced to lead the team beyond the sum of its parts. The roster is almost certainly going to have significant turnover and the pressure will be on Mazzulla to keep things rolling after the recent upset.

What's uncommon about Mazzulla's trajectory is that it goes against the typical ceiling versus floor debate. We usually get to see a young coach's floor early on and then see them rise to their ceiling. Last year showed us what Mazzulla's ceiling is. He's a championship-caliber coach at his best.

Next year will be about maintaining a high floor. There are coaches out there that sink when the roster takes big shots, there are guys that can't cut it when they don't have the same tools as other loaded teams.

The Celtics won't be the best roster in the league next year. Heck, they may not even be a top-5 roster by the looks of it.

If Mazzulla can return and bring the Celtics to the playoffs and on another deep run, then there will be no doubt that he is among the NBA elite. We all know that he's a qualified NBA head coach, you don't win titles if you aren't. But next year will show us just how good he really is.

I believe he is a good coach, I believe he is one of the best young minds in the league, and I believe he will learn from this loss. Let's see what adjustments he makes and how far he can bring a B-level roster.

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Jayvin Adamo drops a bunt on Monday.

● **PANTHERS** from page 21

but it's not easy. The kids throw harder, ground balls are hit harder, there were little mistakes," said coach Joe Acciardo.

A turning point for the Panthers came when they beat West Warwick, who is projected to be a championship contender.

"Midway through the season, though, we best Warwick and put up nine runs. We saw that we had the potential, we knew that we would make some mistakes and would have to live with it, but the kids did a really good job," Acciardo said.

Senior Manny Rios was the staff ace this spring while Ethan Bracey, Aiden Neil and Anthony Vendetti filled out the

staff behind him. Bracey led the team with a .364 batting average, while Neil batted .312. Matt Clements was also strong at the plate as he hit .260 and had a team-leading 11 runs batted in.

Although it was a rebuilding year, Acciardo and the staff liked what they saw and are excited that so many kids will be returning and earned big varsity experience this year.

"They kept their heads up and these kids were put in prime spots. The coaching staff is proud of them. We weren't worried about wins as much as morale. They kept their heads up and kept fighting," Acciardo said. "For the most part we were in every game, but it was growing pains. Next season, we will be primed and ready to go. It's promising."

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 4. British thermal unit
 7. Afflict
 8. Refrain from harming
 10. Galls
 12. Leg bone
 13. Rhine tributary
 14. Recipe measurement
 16. Chap
 17. Useful book
 19. Mountain Time
 20. Snakelike fishes
 21. Places where people live
 25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
 26. Periodical
 27. A type of sense
 29. A way to get possession of
 30. Everyone has one
 31. Body art
 32. Mr. October
 39. Abba __, Israeli politician
 41. Head movement

CLUES DOWN

 1. Island
 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
 3. Chemical compound
 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
 5. Mesas
 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
 8. Engine additive
 9. "CSI" actor George
 11. Stony waste matter
 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone

15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
 18. Digraph
 19. Married woman
 20. Peripheral
 22. Northern Italy city
 23. Klutz
 24. Type of tree
 27. Witnessed
 28. Popular breakfast food
 29. __ Mahal
 31. BoSox legend Williams
 32. Professional drivers
 33. Atom or molecule type
 34. The Constitution State
 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
 36. Type of solution
 37. Speaker
 38. Specifying
 39. Formerly (archaic)
 40. Wiseman and Krom are two
 44. The bill in a restaurant
 47. Tennis shot

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Johnston track standout Brandon Souza (left) and wrestler Logan Martins (right).

● FIVE from page 21

Martins has been one of the state's premier wrestlers throughout his four years with the Panthers, taking home top-five finishes across multiple weight classes at states.

Martins plans on pursuing a career in occupational therapy in Maine and was thrilled to find a school that boasted strong academics and a top-notch wrestling program.

"I wanted to pick a school with a strong (academics). That was really important to me. USM also has a proven wrestling program, last year they had two All-Americans which is exciting. They have an established team with great coaches. They really value academics and stress the importance of being a student-athlete and setting you up well for the future," said Martins. "I started wrestling in third grade and I never knew how far it

would take me. It wasn't until the end of (my junior) year that I even decided that I wanted to wrestle in college. Talking to coaches, trying to figure out where I would fit on a team, it was exciting."

Martins has been wrestling since grade school and considering his years of big match experience, he feels confident that he'll be able to make a splash from the get go.

"I've wrestled in so many tourna-

ments at this point that I don't really get nervous. I also travel, I wrestled at the Virginia Nationals, I wrestled all seniors there and picked up a few wins. That meant a lot to me."

Aucone emerged as one of the program's best throwers in the past few seasons and will be competing for a spot with the Anchorwomen. Souza is also a standout track athlete for the Panthers and will be moving on to the Marines.



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