



Warwick Beacon

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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New village a gathering of generations

By ADAM ZANGARI

The “City of Villages,” as some residents call Warwick, has now inaugurated one more with the help of the Village Common of Rhode Island.

The village, the eighth in the state, was officially launched last Wednesday at a ceremony attended by about 60 villagers and volunteers at the Tri-City Elks Lodge.

The Village Common aims to help older adults living at home age gracefully by connecting them with community members and background-checked volunteers who can help with a variety of tasks, including giving rides to appointments and help with technology.

The launch was the culmination of talks and preparation that began in November 2023 about forming a Warwick Village Common. Since that time, the number of people interested in becoming part of the village has nearly quadrupled, according to Village Common of RI Executive Director Caroline Dillon.

“It’s all about the community spirit and the community volunteerism,” Dillon said. “While we are a growing nonprofit, we are at our heart a grassroots organization, and the best way to promote ourselves is someone telling a friend, a neighbor, an aunt, an uncle, a parent.”

Dillon said the development of Warwick’s village was particularly exciting, as multiple members of the statewide executive board are Warwick residents and will become members of the village.

Also in attendance giving remarks at the founding of the village were Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi.

Making sure older Rhode Islanders would have the support to age in their own homes, Shekarchi said, was personally significant to him.

“My dad just turned 99, and thanks to a very dedicated support system, he has been able to remain in his own home, which is where he wants to be,” Shekarchi said. “It’s important that seniors have the option to age in place – staying in their homes, living independently, if that’s what works best for them ... The Village Common has developed a model that provides a support system for people as they age in place.”

Making sure that residents from all corners of Warwick could be a part of the village, Dillon said, showed the spirit of Warwick’s village.

“Warwick’s a big place – a lot of different communities within one city,” Dillon said. “The steering committee was resoundingly clear that they wanted a Warwick village to support and be there for all of Warwick, and that was a beautiful moment. That really is the concept of a village. It’s

● VILLAGE to page 11



Super Quiz is super hard

At the 2025 Rhode Island Academic Decathlon on Sunday, Pilgrim High School team members Jocelyn Dilone, Lia Franchetti and Liam Holmes were given seconds to ponder a question in the Super Quiz. *Story and photos, page 12*

Clock ticking on space at the Central Landfill

Officials emphasize recycling matters, buys time

By BARBARA POLICHETTI



Recycling is important! RIRRC officials stress the importance of recycling: It helps keep unnecessary waste out of the land fill and saves municipalities in tipping fees.

No vacancy.

Officials predict that in about 20 years there will be no more room at the state Central Landfill – a place that, unfortunately, most Rhode Islanders rarely think about when they toss something into their household trash.

But the fact is that most of items we throw away – whether it be dirty diapers, a shoe without a mate, old photographers, a broken dish, batteries, mattresses – end up at in the mountainous landfill located off Shun Pike in Johnston.

Officials are studying the site with the goal of coming up with a plan, but all of that is still in the works. The Cranston Herald recently took of a tour of the landfill as well as the other waste management operations that occupy the 1,200-acre Johnston property to see how the state’s waste is handled and what options there may be for the future.

● LANDFILL to page 8

Reed: ‘We’re in a big fight now’

4-term senator urges constituents to speak out on local impacts, tariffs, tax cuts, Ukraine

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed last week decried turbulent and “reckless” tariffs, taxes and government layoffs being perpetuated by President Donald Trump and said that the price will ultimately be paid by average, hardworking Americans.

“So far Trump has shown that his priorities are not the priorities of working families, Main Streets, or even big industries,” Reed said at a press conference Friday morning at his office in Cranston.

During the press conference, while responding to a question from the media, Reed confirmed that he will seek reelection next year – largely to try to combat the damage he sees being done by the Trump administration.

The senator, who is in his fourth term said, “There are many factors involved (in his decision), but the one thing I learned at West Point and commanding paratroopers is that you don’t run away from a fight. And we’re in a big fight now.”

He said the president’s sweeping actions will result in higher costs for Rhode Islanders and all Americans. Tariffs will cause increases

in the cost of automobiles, homes and more, Reed said. And at the same time, the president and Republican-controlled Congress are getting ready to introduce a spending bill that will increase “billionaire tax cuts” that will mean more money for the richest people in America, he said.

This all comes at a time, Reed said, when the Trump administration is making wholesale cuts in vital assistance program such as food assistance for families in need (SNAP) and energy assistance for low-income households (LIHEAP).

Instead, Reed said, Congress needs to be

looking at ways to help working-class Americans, not the “ultra rich,” whom he said are “apparently only people Trump listens to.”

‘War on public education’

Reed’s press conference came just a couple of weeks after he, U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner and Rhode Island education leaders held a press event to denounce the Trump administration’s proposed cuts to the U.S. Department of Education, warning there would be

● REED to page 11

School budget panel advances

Clears Senate committee; floor vote due next Thursday

By ADAM ZANGARI and JOHN HOWELL

The state Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved legislation Tuesday to create a Warwick School Budget Commission, clearing one more hurdle to addressing school deficits that could dramatically impact taxes.

The bill is expected to come before the

Senate for a vote next Thursday, March 13. With the exception of one vote, the measure that was opposed by the Warwick Teachers Union and Warwick Independent School Employees was passed by the House two weeks ago.

Bill sponsor Sen. Mark McKenney (D-Warwick), in words echoed by Mayor Frank Picozzi and others advocating for the bill,

● PANEL to page 7

Hawks swim to 35th championship

The Bishop Hendricken swim team won its 35th state championship in dramatic fashion last weekend at Brown University, highlighting another busy week of high school postseason action. For a recap of Hendricken’s triumph, along with other local state championship coverage, check out sports on page 19. Pictured is Hendricken’s Tristan Jordan celebrating the team’s win. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/ rhodphoto.zenfolio.com*



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Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held April 2025,
winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Sharon Bowen, director of the Business Academy of Marketing and Management at the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center, with Jonah Johnston, second-place winner in a national competition sponsored by the American Bankers Association. Submitted photo

Video on scams earns WACTC student \$2,500

By JOHN HOWELL

“Beware of Scams” is the title of a video that has won Warwick Area Career & Technical Center junior Jonah Johnston second place in a national contest sponsored by the American Bankers Association.

Johnston’s selection was made at the recent ABA conference and online. Johnston and peers at the WACTC Business Academy of Marketing and Management have been working in collaboration with Centreville Bank and Meg Apostolou, the bank’s community development manager, who urged them to enter the contest.

Academy director Sharon Bowen is grateful for the opportunity the bank has provided students to learn business skills and “figure out how they could identify ways to determine unethical problematic potentials in the business world, through the lens of the financial industry.”

“This award provides another opportunity for my students to delve into different aspects of the business world, for a real life problem,” Bowen wrote in an email. She celebrated the award by treating the class to cake.

Johnston, who lives in Johnston and was homeschooled, imagines another opportunity. He said he will put his \$2,500 second-place award toward the purchase of a car, which will probably be a Honda CRV. In addition to the cash prize, as a winner in the Lights, Camera, Save ABA contest, Johnston will also receive an iPad, Apple Pencil, ring light wireless microphone and other devices valued at more than \$500.

Johnston already holds a high school diploma from Penn Foster High School, a for-profit online high school based in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He plans to complete the program at WACTC next year and is thinking of continuing his education at CCRI.

Asked what he likes about the academy, Johnston said he appreciates Bowen’s “hands-on approach” to teaching. “It’s not just do it my way,” he said. “It’s up to interpretation and creativity.”

“As a high performing school, we maintain cutting-edge opportunities to provide to our students, so that we can maintain our status in the Career & Tech education environment,” Bowen said.

Police Log

FENTANYL POSSESSION

On Jan. 30 at 5:19 p.m., a Warwick police officer responded to a call near the intersection of Main Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard for a report of a driver slumped over his steering wheel. The man reportedly woke up and started driving, and the officer located the car again at a gas station on West Shore Road.

The driver, 39-year-old John Laprade of West Warwick, was asleep in the gas station’s parking lot, but woke up when officers tapped on the window. After he stepped out of the vehicle, officers conducted a search of it, with his consent. They said they found a small bag with a white powder in it, after which they placed Laprade in handcuffs.

The officer conducted a field sobriety test and determined that Laprade was sober. Back at the police station, the powder tested positive for fentanyl, and Laprade was charged with possession.

DUI

On Jan. 30 at 9:17 p.m., a Warwick police officer responded to a report about a swerving car on West Shore Road in the Warwick Neck area. Follow-up reports from witnesses said the car had later backed into another car in a parking lot before the driver fled the scene, struck a traffic sign on the Post Road extension, and finally went airborne, striking a curb and popping a tire, in the area of 3600 West Shore Rd..

Officers identified the driver as 39-year-old Alexandria Gallucci of Portsmouth. When officers arrived, Gallucci’s car was in neutral, and she did not respond to officer requests to put her vehicle in park. Eventually, officers removed Gallucci from the vehicle, putting the car in park and turning it off.

Gallucci stated that she had been heading from Portsmouth to CCRI and did not provide officers any other information. After initially stating that she would like to take field sobriety tests, Gallucci, who was barefoot, struggled to put on a pair of boots and did not respond to officers asking if she would still like to take the test. Eventually, she told them that she would not.

Gallucci was arrested and charged with a DUI. While on the way to the station, Gallucci reportedly urinated on herself and spoke incoherently, telling officers asking for her weight that she weighed 560 pounds, which the reporting officer noted was visibly untrue. Gallucci refused to take a breath test.

SHOPLIFTING

On Jan. 24 at 5:40 p.m., a Warwick police officer responded to a report of a shoplifting at the Target store on Bald Hill Road.

A few minutes before, security cameras showed a man stealing what was later determined to be \$265 worth of items. He had refused to go to with Target’s loss-prevention agent and instead left the store with the goods, though he left the stolen goods with the agent.

A few minutes after leaving, the man, who identified himself as 41-year-old Andrew Deery of West Warwick, called the store, saying that he felt bad and wanted to return to pay for the items. A Target representative informed Deery that the company would still be pressing charges and told him to go to the Warwick police station.

Deery arrived at the station at 9:25 a.m., admitted to shoplifting and was arrested and charged with shoplifting.



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WARWICK
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ANSWER TO THIS
WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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Bill giving city voice on airport ‘should fly’ this year

By JOHN HOWELL

This time, Warwick legislators agree, a bill giving the mayor input on the selection of a member of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation “should fly.”

Last year, in the waning hours of the legislative session, it looked like Mayor Frank Picozzi would get to name one of the seven members of the board that oversees state airports including Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport, which has a footprint of more than 1,100 acres in the center of Warwick. With such a commanding local presence, Picozzi argued, Warwick should be kept abreast of airport operations and have

input when it comes to development. With the support of House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, the measure sailed through committee without opposition and was passed by the House. It looked like it would get similar treatment in the Senate, but before reaching a Senate vote, Gov. Dan McKee raised the question of whether it would usurp his authority and set a precedent giving other municipalities the power to name members to government boards.

Deemed a separation-of-powers issue, the measure was hastily redrafted, enabling the governor to select from a list of three candidates named by the mayor. By then, however, it was too late for the revised bill to make it through the House and Senate before ad-

journalment.

This session, “I’m very encouraged,” said Rep. Joseph McNamara. He said the bill addresses the concern over the separation of powers, noting that other quasi state corporations such as RI Resource Recovery have members who have been chosen from a locally generated list.

“I’m hoping it will go much smoother,” McNamara said of the bill that he expects to be scheduled for a committee hearing in the next two weeks. McNamara’s district, which covers portions of Warwick and Cranston, is smack within the Green Airport landing pattern. Depending on runway use, landing and departing planes are flying over sections of Edgewood and Pawtuxet.

He said the RIAC board should have local representation. The airport itself makes up the “core of Warwick” forcing people to drive around it. He said RIAC needs to enhance communications.

“I am proud to co-sponsor this important legislation, which is similar to the bill that the House passed last year,” Shekarchi said in a statement. “There will be a House Corporations Committee hearing scheduled soon and I welcome the input from the City of Warwick and all other stake-holders. I do not see any reason why it won’t pass the House again and we are working to ensure enactment this year.”

Little change expected in wake of Safe Harbor marina sale

By JOHN HOWELL

“Business as usual” is what Warwick Harbormaster Jeff Baris expects in the wake of last week’s announcement that Blackstone Infrastructure has agreed to acquire all 139 Safe Harbor Marinas across the United States and Puerto Rico for \$5.65 billion. Six of the 14 Safe Harbor marinas in the state are located in Warwick.

“I don’t think much is going to change right now,” said Baris. “They’ll still be Safe Harbor.”

Safe Harbor, a division of Sun Communities Inc., raised concerns locally when it started purchasing Warwick marinas. The company combined smaller marinas and generally stepped up improvements and prices. Marinas including Cowesett, Masthead, Apponaug Harbor, Sealark, Wharf, Brewers and Carlson’s were acquired by Safe Harbor.

Safe Harbor rates had a ripple effect on marinas, pushing rates north of \$100 to \$140 per foot for dock space, with Safe Harbor being around \$150 per foot, according to what Baris has seen.

“It’s not cheap anymore,” said Baris.

Warwick has the highest concentration of “secured” (either moored or docked) pleasure boats in the state. Baris said city offers 3,200 boat slips and 600 moorings. He rounds those combined numbers up to 5,000 when seasonal boaters are considered and this isn’t including trailered boats and jetskis, and kayaks and canoes carried on car roof racks.

Marinas have a significant impact on the local economy apart from jobs. Many boat owners live out of state, meaning they’re buying supplies from food to marine hardware here and eating in area restaurants.

As for the acquisition by Blackstone, Baris said the waterfront rumor over the past year was that Safe Harbor would be sold although a buyer wasn’t suggested.

In a press release issued by Blackstone, Heidi Boyd, senior managing director in Blackstone’s infrastructure business, said, “Marinas benefit from key long-term thematic tailwinds including the growth of travel and leisure as well as population inflows into coastal cities. We believe Safe Harbor is the best positioned company in this sector, and we look forward to working with their terrific team to invest behind their existing marinas and to expand their footprint.”

Looking ahead to the 2025 boating season that will soon be in full swing as boat owners assume the ritual of removing covers, sanding and painting bottoms and waxing fiberglass, Baris reported that the Coast Guard has been actively repositioning navigational aids in Warwick, Apponaug, Greenwich and Pawtuxet coves that have been moved by ice. Fortunately, he said, he hasn’t seen much damage to marinas, such as displaced pilings or docks.

The Blackstone release said the transaction “builds on Blackstone Infrastructure’s diverse portfolio and speaks to the strong momentum of the business, which has grown approximately 40% year-over-year since inception, now managing \$55 billion of assets (figures as of December 31, 2024). Blackstone Infrastructure invests in leading companies in sectors with strong tailwinds, and its portfolio companies include: QTS, the largest data center provider in the US; AirTrunk, the largest data center platform in the Asia-Pacific region; Carrix, the largest marine terminal operator in North America; Invenergy, the largest private renewables developer in the United States, among many others.”

Pilgrim High School posts second-quarter honors

GRADE 9 HIGH HONORS

Christopher Achille, Lyla Amitrano, Lily Ashton, Brooke Beaulieu, Kayla Becker, Dylan Belleville, Zoe Blade, Tyler Blake, Lila Blanco, Kathryn Brousseau, Ava Cabral, Autumn Cardarelli, Isabella Ciccarone, Kyle Cirelli, Christian Cliff, Tyler Collins, Michaela Conrady, Braydon Cote, Lilliana Crouse, Mackenzie Dailey, Isabella DeFusco, Kaylee Diffley, Eiriana Fairbairn Summers, Lucas Falandys, Charlotte Farrell, Natalie Fratus, Sadie Gauthier, Evelyn Gilchrest, Kyle Gillooly, Mia Gonzales Palomino, Peyton Guest, Amanda Haesche, Brenna Hall, Jessenia Hoerter, Thomas Horta, Leila Horton, Ayva Johnson, Ty Johnson, Emilia Kaczmarzyk, Juliana Kavanagh, Sean Kavanagh, Nalise Keo, Cecilia Khang, Jeffery Kingston, Lex Landry, Isabelle Laudon, Ella Madden, Christian Mainelli, Cayden Marks, Alexander Marsis, Ethan Marsocci, Khalil Martey, Dakota Mason, Evan McDermott, Jonah McDermott, Mazie McKeever, Ramon Mendez Agramonte, Jordan Nan, Kyra Nava, Ryan Nicolaides, Jasmin Oneppo, Joshua Pacheco, Liam Patenaude, Kaia Patty, Mary-Jane Pegram, August Pittman, Andrew Pouliot, Bria Rhilinger, Maxwell Roberge, Jacoby Schmidt, Lily Smiley, Aaron Smith, Michael Smith, Aliana Solis, Gisela Sotaquira Briceno, Matthew Tessier, Ryan Vannasse, Grady Weaver, Henry Williamson, Kong Meng Yang, Ayden Yehle, Cornelius Zmed, Miles Zuniga.

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GRADE 11 HONORS

Michael Bevilacqua, Tyrell Brousseau, Isabella Charette, Caidence Costa, Aden Deal, Cassandra Defoe, Etienne Degos, Jarrah Desjarlais, Desamni Dias, Gretchen Dombeck, Caidance Joutras, Abigail Killilea, Faith Livingston, Michael Mainelli, Breckin McGirr, Kara-Jade Mello, Alexander Mihalos, Jackson Monte, Jorja Neto, Lauryn Newman, Ashton Pike, Sheyla Rodriguez Lopez, Diana Rodriguez, Aliyah Rose, Jonah SanBento, Jacob

Scott, Evan Sor, Michael Spooner, Marcus Walsh. GRADE 12 HIGH HONORS Madison Adams, Jordan Allen, Liana Bannon, Andrew Banspach, Corey Barnes, Lily Batchelor, Keaney Bayha, Olivia Beckett, Aniyah Bendigo, Aliyah Bonn, Sarah Burnham, Jacob Campbell, Nolan Canestrari, Chloe Casavant, Jacob Chicas-Moore, Olivia Cliff, Noah Constantinou, Thomas Dale, Madison Delaroca, Italia Dias, Avery Donovan, Leah Eaton, Ethan Ellinwood, Sokhna Amy Faye, Isabella Ferguson, Grace Ferland, Rory Fiore, Michaela Fitzgerald, Camden Forrester, Blake Fraime, Lia Franchetti, Samantha Gates, Kamryn Gavin, Jasmine George, Nicholas Georgitis, Madison Giarrusso, Nicholas Golder, Jacob Gonzalez, Katelin Gouveia, Alyssa Grenier, Lily Hall, Andrew Hatch, Colin Hlavacek, Russell Horton, Alexandra Howlett, Henry Iech, Misharel Johnson, Nathaniel Kane, Jaewon Kang, Daniel Kavanagh, Henry Kearns, Kylie Kennedy, Logan Kennedy, Pyro Kong, Ian Laplume, Lorelai Leddy, Emma Lemoine, Serena Lewis, Luca Link, Geovanny Maldonado, Taylor Mark, Brodie McKay, Alyssa McKittrick, Gabriel Mercado, Jinija Monteiro, Keannah Morris, Kaitlyn Nelson, Paige O’Brien, Cassidy Oliveira, Hever Ortega, Carmella Mae Pega, Aaliyah Pestana, Abigail Petrillo, Marin Prest, Juliany Quezada, William Raleigh, Frankie Ramirez Acosta, Riley Rastella, Hailey Reis, Kyle Renaud, Owen Robinson, Alex Rodrigues, Kiomara Rodriguez, Luka Ruscio, Ariely Savinon, Hunter Schobel, Emma Scribner, Daegan Shepherd, Ryan Simao, Isabella Simas, Kaley Simas, Samuel Skinner, Zachary Smith, Noah Somers, Carla Sosa Tifa, Jacob Soulliere, Devin Stevens, Veronica Thongdee, Jordyn Toledo, Dylan Vale, Sarah Valentine, Madison Ventura, Brady Walker, Taylor Walker, Alexis Warburton, Matthew Wellington, Aiden White, Yahaira Wilcox, Grace Wolfe, Noah Wyman, Sila Yang, Mason Young, Josiel Zuniga.

GRADE 12 HIGH HONORS

Madison Adams, Jordan Allen, Liana Bannon, Andrew Banspach, Corey Barnes, Lily Batchelor, Keaney Bayha, Olivia Beckett, Aniyah Bendigo, Aliyah Bonn, Sarah Burnham, Jacob Campbell, Nolan Canestrari, Chloe Casavant, Jacob Chicas-Moore, Olivia Cliff, Noah Constantinou, Thomas Dale, Madison

Delaroca, Italia Dias, Avery Donovan, Leah Eaton, Ethan Ellinwood, Sokhna Amy Faye, Isabella Ferguson, Grace Ferland, Rory Fiore, Michaela Fitzgerald, Camden Forrester, Blake Fraime, Lia Franchetti, Samantha Gates, Kamryn Gavin, Jasmine George, Nicholas Georgitis, Madison Giarrusso, Nicholas Golder, Jacob Gonzalez, Katelin Gouveia, Alyssa Grenier, Lily Hall, Andrew Hatch, Colin Hlavacek, Russell Horton, Alexandra Howlett, Henry Iech, Misharel Johnson, Nathaniel Kane, Jaewon Kang, Daniel Kavanagh, Henry Kearns, Kylie Kennedy, Logan Kennedy, Pyro Kong, Ian Laplume, Lorelai Leddy, Emma Lemoine, Serena Lewis, Luca Link, Geovanny Maldonado, Taylor Mark, Brodie McKay, Alyssa McKittrick, Gabriel Mercado, Jinija Monteiro, Keannah Morris, Kaitlyn Nelson, Paige O’Brien, Cassidy Oliveira, Hever Ortega, Carmella Mae Pega, Aaliyah Pestana, Abigail Petrillo, Marin Prest, Juliany Quezada, William Raleigh, Frankie Ramirez Acosta, Riley Rastella, Hailey Reis, Kyle Renaud, Owen Robinson, Alex Rodrigues, Kiomara Rodriguez, Luka Ruscio, Ariely Savinon, Hunter Schobel, Emma Scribner, Daegan Shepherd, Ryan Simao, Isabella Simas, Kaley Simas, Samuel Skinner, Zachary Smith, Noah Somers, Carla Sosa Tifa, Jacob Soulliere, Devin Stevens, Veronica Thongdee, Jordyn Toledo, Dylan Vale, Sarah Valentine, Madison Ventura, Brady Walker, Taylor Walker, Alexis Warburton, Matthew Wellington, Aiden White, Yahaira Wilcox, Grace Wolfe, Noah Wyman, Sila Yang, Mason Young, Josiel Zuniga.

GRADE 12 HONORS

Jordan Baptista, Faith Bates, Tyler Boudreau, Dahir Brutus Jourdain, Carter Clifton, Abigail Correia, Giada Cramer, Genna D’Amato, Jezebel Damian, Jan Carlos Espinal Gonzalez, Eoin Flynn, Reid Handfield, Liam Holmes, Kendall Johnson, William Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Xavier Leon, Zachary Marsocci, Logan McDermott, Ashlyn McGorty, Sheamus Monahan, Ethan Murphy, Natasha Nemirow, Rian Ogni, Jacob Oliveira, Cameron Pezzullo, Emma Pouler, Aiden Prum, Marcello Restituyo, Danielle Rivera, Cole Robinson, Dylan Rodrigues, Jack Saylor, Dominick Sebastiao, Justin Tourgee, Alyssa Trudell, Adriana Vazquez, Jules Velazquez, Brad Whitman, Brandon Wolfenden.

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MARCH 7-9, 2025

RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER, PROVIDENCE
1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903

\$15 Admission (12 & Under FREE) Advanced tickets through Ticketmaster

Fri: 1-8pm – Armed Forces Appreciation Day – First 200 US Vets or Active Duty **FREE**
Sat: 9am-7pm • Sun: 10am-5pm – **FAMILY DAY!** Ladies & Kids under 12 **FREE**

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Win a FREE Private
Charter for 6 with

ENTER TO WIN!
Raffle prizes to include 3 custom rods created by

RAFTY ONE CUSTOMS
RODS • REELS • TACKLE

Seminar Schedule & Updates: www.NESaltwaterShow.com

March 6 VFW Post #183 will host a bingo night on Thursday. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. \$30 entry and cash prizes. Please email vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com with any questions.

March 9 Edgewood Yacht Club will host its annual Open House on Sunday, March 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 1 Shaw Ave. If you've ever wondered what is in that beautiful building at the bottom of the hill at 1 Shaw Ave. in Cranston, we would be glad to show you!

March 11 The History of Conimicut will be presented on Tuesday at Woodbury Church's lower level at 6:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Free to Conimicut Village Association members and a \$10 donation for non-members (can be used towards annual membership). Space is limited, first come, first seat. This is a CVA-sponsored event.

March 11 Photographic Society of Rhode Island (PSRI) will hold a meeting on Tuesday at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave. Social time starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Image study night with Ray Guillette. You can find more information about the club at www.psri.us.

March 11 Braver Angels of Rhode Island Alliance will be holding a workshop called "Skills for Disagreeing Better" on Tuesday at the Warwick Library from 6 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

March 13 RIPTA released its 2025 schedule for a program that offers a reduced fare bus pass program for seniors and people with disabilities. Every month, RIPTA's Customer Service staff will travel to communities throughout the state to process photo ID bus passes for qualified seniors and individuals with disabilities with valid documentation. This will allow residents to access transit information and apply for the Reduced Fare Bus Pass Program without having to travel to RIPTA offices in Providence. Photo ID bus passes for qualified people with disabilities and seniors will cost \$10 in 2025 and are valid for two years. Warwick residents can visit on Thursday,

March 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pilgrim Senior Center at 27 Pilgrim Pkwy., Warwick. Applicants can apply in person at RIPTA's Photo ID Office, located in Kennedy Plaza. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.). In addition, RIPTA Customer Service staff will continue to process bus passes applications submitted through the mail and online. For more info call 401-784-9500, ext. 2012 or visit RIPTA.com/ReducedFare.

March 16 Greenwood Fire Company and Museum will hold its next bingo on Sunday, March 16, at the Greenwood Fire Hall, 45 Kernick St. Everyone is invited. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Registration is recommended; space is limited to 50 guests. Price of admission is \$15. Reserve your spot by leaving a message or text to Diane at 401-241-7203 or email greenwoodvfc1@gmail.com. You must be 18 to play. Snacks and drinks are for sale, as well as bingo markers. No alcohol on premises.

Mar. 19 VFW Post #183 will be hosting a bingo night on Wednesday. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. \$30 entry and cash prizes. Please email vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com with any questions.

March 28 Friends of the Warwick Public Library will host their annual Mini Golf Fundraiser at the main library, 600 Sandy Lane, on Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Donate any amount at the door to play. Come at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. to avoid waiting in line.

Mar. 29 Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter is seeking artisans to exhibit at the 11th Annual Crafting for Critters Spring Bazaar. Application deadline is Saturday, Mar. 29. Applicants must make their items (no resellers or 3rd party vendors). Bazaar is on Sat., May 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Airport Professional Park, 2384 Post Road, Warwick (outdoors). For more information or to request an application: email fowas.crafts@gmail.com or visit www.friendsri.org.

The Buzz

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

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

Every Monday - The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit www.gaspeecelticjam.org for more info (including the current tune list/tune book) or to send us any questions. No specific Celtic music experience is required.

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

Active Toastmasters. All are welcome!

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

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass. the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, Mass., 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508)-840-6621. All are welcome!

Every Thursday, Take Off Pounds Sensibly TOPS #38 is meeting every Thursday morning at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (lower level), 99 Pierce St., East Greenwich. Weigh-in begins at 10:15 a.m. The meeting starts at 10:45 a.m. Enter from the side parking lot, go down the stairs to the kitchen area. All are welcome as well as any canned food donations. For information, call Angela Henderson at 401-225-6174.

Every Thursday, Get-a-Job-Thursdays - We Make RI, an organization that provides free manufacturing training, hosts a series of job fairs every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, 200 First Ave., Cranston. We Make RI offer job seekers a chance to meet with employers, get career counseling, resume help and more. Some employers include Swissline Precision, Admiral Packaging, KB Surfaces, Warwick Hanger and Hitachi Cable. For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit www.wemakeri.com/get-a-job-thursday or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston & Warwick Public Libraries Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. Free gun lock and securing weapons safely information is now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston, Warwick Central Library reference desk, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Residents from all RI communities are welcome.

This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.

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

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

Call for Volunteers Gaspee Days Committee: Volunteers are needed for all aspects of planning the Gaspee Days celebration. The Gaspee Days Committee meeting is being held on Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspray Boat House, 2 E. View St. Please ask for the volunteer coordinator. For more information on the Gaspee Days Committee visit www.gaspee.com

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

NOTICE OF SALE OF VESSEL

Per R.I. Dry Dock Facilities Act, 1976 §34' Pearson MEGHA FORCE with HIN PEA52140M76E, and last known owner Jeffrey J. Farnum will be sold to the highest bidder at public sale on 3/26/2025, 10:00 AM at IM 01 Prime, LLC d/b/a Greenwood Cove Marina, 3 Division St, East Greenwich, RI 02818. IM 01 Prime, LLC asserts lien on vessel of \$4,942.10 plus costs and reserves right to credit-bid and/or bid at sale. Sold where-is/as-is with all faults and without any express or implied warranties of any kind. Vessel must be paid for in full in cash or certified funds at time of sale with contractual agreement to remove within 10 days of title transfer approval. Info: Maritime Lawyer John K. Fulweiler, Esq., Fulweiler Ilc, 40 Mary St, Newport, RI 02840 1-800-383-MAYDAY(6293).

3/6/25

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL LICENSING AND REGULATION Liquor Control Section

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION NOTICE: Burke Distributing of Rhode Island LLC, located at 24 Minnesota Ave., Warwick, RI 02886, has filed an application with DBR for a Wholesaler Class B Liquor License. A virtual public hearing will be conducted

via Zoom on March 13th, 2025, at 9:30AM, at which time comments from interested parties will be accepted and considered. Access Information: Preferably, join through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84064132135?pwd=SOBfXnE7sk4DbARiWuHnMxukK6apL1>. (Meeting ID: 840 6413 2135). (Meeting Passcode: 470784) Alternatively, join by phone: 888-788-0099 US Toll Free OR 1-646-558-8656 US (New York). For additional information, please visit <https://dbr.ri.gov/divisions/commlicensing/liquor/hearings.php> or call (401) 462-9544. To request sign language and/or CART services for the deaf and hard of hearing, please contact DBR at (401) 462-9551. We strongly encourage you to do this at least 5 business days before the date of the scheduled hearing to allow adequate time to process your request.

2/27, 3/6/25

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE STOCK TRANSFER

APPLICATION FOR A STOCK TRANSFER OF A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LICENSE **CLASS BV** TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Blazin Wings Inc.
DBA: Buffalo Wild Wings
400 Bald Hill Rd
Warwick, RI 02886

TO: Munson of Warwick Wings LLC
DBA: Buffalo Wild Wings
400 Bald Hill Rd
Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, RI., ON **Tuesday, March 25th 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
JAMES PAOLUCCI, CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD AT 739-9150 **AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE** OF THE MEETING DATE.

CITY OF WARWICK BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY SECOND HAND DEALERS LICENSE

APPLICATION FOR A SECOND HAND DEALER'S LICENSE TO KEEP AND SELL SECOND HAND ARTICLES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 5-21 OF THE RI GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Goodwill Industries of Southern New England Inc.
DBA: Goodwill
2525 Warwick Ave.
Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPT., 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE, WARWICK RHODE ISLAND, at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday night, March 25, 2025** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci, Clerk

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD 739-9150 **AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING DATE.**

3/6, 3/13/25

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LICENSE **CLASS BV** TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Joey O's LLC
DBA: Joey O's
1980 Warwick Ave
Warwick RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on

Tuesday March 25th at 6:00PM AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD AT 739-9150 **AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE** OF THE MEETING DATE.

3/6, 3/13/25

STATE WIDE 7

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Probate Court of the CITY OF WARWICK NOTICE OF MATTERS PENDING AND FOR HEARING IN SAID COURT

The Court will be in session at **WARWICK CITY HALL** on the dates specified in notices below at **9:00 AM** for hearing said matters:

BARCHI, David, est.
1st Account; for hearing March 20, 2025

BAZOR, David W. alias David Wayne Bazor, est.
1st & Final Account; for hearing March 20, 2025

BELLIVEAU, Laura L. est.
1st & Final Account; for hearing March 20, 2025

COLE, Warren Douglas alias Warren D. Cole, est.
Probate of Will; for hearing March 20, 2025

CUDDY, Doris Elizabeth, est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 752 Quaker Lane, Unit 202, Warwick, RI 02818 further designated as Assessor's Plat 227 Lot 01-090; for hearing March 20, 2025

DONOVAN, James Timothy alias James T. Donovan, James Donovan, est.
Probate of Will; for hearing March 20, 2025

ELIASON, Ella Grace, est.
Co-Guardian's 2nd Account; for hearing March 20, 2025

HOULE, Grace, est.
Guardianship Petition; for hearing March 20, 2025

JENCKS, Lillian J., est.
Probate of Will; for hearing March 20, 2025

PIERCE FROELICH, Patricia, est.
Administration Petition; for hearing March 20, 2025

SMITH, Stephen, est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 11 1/2 Ocean Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889 further designated as Assessor's Plat 355 Lot 502; for hearing March 20, 2025

BROOKS, Robert David, est.
Margaret A. Brooks & Courtney Griffin-Neill have qualified as Co-Executors (Paula Cuculo, Esq. of 931 Jefferson Blvd., Ste. 1006, Warwick, RI 02886 as agent); Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time Required by law beginning March 6, 2025

BUDLONG, Mary Lou, est.

Susan Budlong has qualified as Guardian of the Person & the Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

CARROLL, Susan L. alias Susan Carroll, est.

Dianne Bertrand & Kathleen Carroll has qualified as Co-Administrator's; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

CONNOR, Whitney B. alias Whitney Bowe Connor, est.

Mary E. Connor has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

DONNELL, Eileen, est.

Jennifer A. Quinn & Stephanie A. Quinn have qualified as Co-Executors; creditors Must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by Law beginning March 6, 2025

HAWCROFT, Paul D., est.

Pamela Cave has qualified as Executrix (RI Registered Agents, Inc. 47 Wood Avenue, Suite 2, Barrington, RI 02806 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

LACROIX, Deborah Lee, est.

Julie Lynch has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

MORRIS, Michelle M., est.

Rachel Hazelwood has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

NUNES, Norma F. alias Norma Frances Nunes, est.

Jordan P. Nunes has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

PATON, Lynn M. est.

Michael J. Paton has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

POTTER, Stephen L. alias Stephen Leroy Potter, est.

Deborah Crowley has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the Office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

SANANTONIO, Donald N. est.

Donald J. SanAntonio has qualified as Guardian of the Person & Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

STEBBINS, Jean F. alias Jean Fiddes Stebbins, est.

Christopher Fiddes has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

STRAND, William H. alias William Harry Strand, est.

Laurie Ann Strand has qualified as

Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

VIAU, Linda L. alias Linda Lee Viau, est.

David C. Tyler, Jr. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

WEBSTER, Kathleen S. est.

Alisha Cady has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

WILSON, Robert H., est.

Meredith D. Wilson has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning March 6, 2025

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the City Clerk's Office at (401) 738-2006 Ext 4 at least (48) hours in advance of the hearing.

ATTENTION: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

3/6, 3/13/25

District Court
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
CASE NO.: A-25-911623-C
DEPT NO.: 5

RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS LLC
dba RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS,
Plaintiff,
vs. HYUNJU CRAIGMILES,
Defendant.
SUMMONS

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 21 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW. TO THE DEFENDANT: HYUNJU CRAIGMILES A civil Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint. Object of Action: Defendant is being sued for collection of an account relating to an event contract. 1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 21 days after this Summons is served on you exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following: a. File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court, with the appropriate filing fee. b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below. 2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time. 4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this summons within which to file an answer to the complaint. CLERK OF COURT, BY: Steven D. Grierson, Deputy Clerk, Date, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, County Courthouse, 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155, Issued at the direction of: SKLAR WILLIAMS PLLC, By: Anthony R. Ager, Esq., Nevada Bar No. 003780, 410 S. Rampart Blvd., #350, Las Vegas, NV 89145, Tel: (702) 360-6000, Fax: (702) 360-0000, Attorney for Plaintiff

3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3/25

Westbay Community Action
Construction Bid
Invitation to Bid

INVITATION TO BID 216-226 Buttonwoods Avenue, Warwick, RI, replacement of siding and gutters at Westbay Community Action Administrative Offices. Westbay is seeking sealed bids for the replacement of siding and gutters located Westbay Community Action, 216-226 Buttonwoods Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886. **A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Westbay Community Action, 216-226 Buttonwoods Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886.** The project specifications and bid package requirements will be provided at the mandatory pre-bid conference.

Bids must be received at **224 Buttonwoods Avenue Warwick, RI by 12:00 PM on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, and will be publically opened that day at 12:00 PM.** Bids must be sealed and properly labeled. Emailed, faxed, or unsealed bids will not be accepted. Bids should be labeled: **Westbay Community Action Administration Office 224 Buttonwoods Avenue Warwick, RI 02886 – Westbay Community Action Administrative Offices Construction Bid.**

This is a Federally Funded project. The contractor and subcontractors on this project must comply with HUD contract provisions 2 CFR 200, Build America Buy America (BABA), Davis-Bacon Act, Non-Discrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 requirements, Anti-Kickback Act, Sam.gov Registration, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, and Department of Labor Standards and Regulations as set forth in the Contract Bid Documents.

Westbay Community Action is an equal opportunity employer-businesses owned by women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The contract will be awarded to a qualified bidder submitting the lowest evaluated or responsive bid complying with the conditions of the invitation for bids and bidding documents, providing acceptance of the bid is in the interest of Westbay Community Action. Westbay Community Action will notify the bidder to whom the final award is made. Westbay Community Action reserves the right to reject all bids and waive any informality in the bids received whenever such rejection or waiver is in the organization's best interest.

2/26/25



Creating awareness

Students in the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center graphics arts program swept the awards in the “Roses are red, but red flags are too ” contest sponsored by the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence last month. February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. With graphics arts teacher Jann Rogers Gartner (right) are winners (from left): third place, Blaze Day-Reyes; second place , Katelyn O'Brien, and first place, Aurora Dailey. *Submitted photo*

Trinity welcomes musicians to celebrate prized pipe organ



Michael Kelly, minister of music at Trinity Episcopal Church, practiced before Sunday's concert. *Beacon Media photo*

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

As the afternoon sun streamed through its stained-glass windows, Trinity Episcopal Church in Edgewood was filled with peaceful music. A small audience was treated to a practice session, including the pipe organ and a cello.

“This is such a wonderful way to showcase this instrument,” said Margaret Thomas, Trinity parishioner who was helping with preparations before welcoming the public for a full organ concert on Sunday afternoon.

The concert, presented by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), was the perfect way to honor the installation of Trinity’s two-manual, twenty-five rank pipe organ, after a fire destroyed their original organ about 25 years ago.

According to the concert program, Trinity’s organ was built by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. The company designed and constructed the organ specifically for Trinity so they could continue to “meet the diverse musical requirements of its active music ministry”.

The Organ Plus concert featured guild-member organists along with a mix of professional and Brown University student singers and instrumentalists. They performed pieces marking Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

The guild concert was a good opportunity to combine the 25th anniversary of the organ’s dedication to the church and showcase the work of the guild. According to John Brooks, the dean of RIAGO, the professional group caters to organists of all skill levels. Brooks is the organist of St. Martin’s Episco-

pal Church in Providence.

“I would like to see our chapter engage more fully [with] students and professional musicians in a mix of programs, working together, so students can see how professionals work in a performance setting,” Brooks said.

Joining the Brown students were Cheryl Priebe Bishkoff, a professional oboist, Jessica Huetteman, a professional soprano and voice teacher in Providence, Michael Kelly, the minister of music at Trinity, Richard Spicer organist and director of music at All Saints Memorial Episcopal Church in Providence, and Craig Shadday, organist and adjunct professor of music at Salve Regina University.

Brooks said this concert is part of a series of efforts to highlight and recognize the many great and underappreciated pipe organs and churches outside of the immediate Providence area.

“Our mission is to promote the organ through education, and we do this primarily through concerts where a community can gather and celebrate the joy of music,” said Stephen Martorella, the chapter’s director of publicity who is also the music minister at the First Baptist Church of Providence and the organist for Temple Shalom in Middletown.

With about 50 members in the chapter, the focus is to continue collaboration and holding events that further the education and spiritual well-being of church musicians from all skill levels.

“I want everyone to experience the joy of music,” Martorella said.

Visit www.riago.org to learn more.

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Cornered deer underscore loss of river access

Frantic, a family of deer raced the fence line on a recent Sunday before running back across Post Road in panic. Beacon Media photo

By JOHN HOWELL

Joy Fox feels heartsick whenever she thinks about the scene she came upon driving east on Post Road into the village of Pawtuxet. She stopped her car in horror as a family of deer, one of them smaller than its three companions, frantically raced along a chain link fence running parallel to the road. She could see they were frightened and anxious to gain access to an open space and its wooded perimeter beyond the fence.

"They panicked," she says. "They didn't know where to turn." A car stopped behind her and there was a line of stopped cars in the opposite lane.

She had to do something about this. Fox took out her phone and started photographing the scene. Soon the distressed deer returned to where had come from, crossing Post Road into the historical cemetery on the village edge. Fox, publisher of the Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise, shared her experience and the photos with the editorial team.

The episode was not breaking news. Social media has carried accounts of deer and other wildlife attempting to cross to and from the area.

Now state Rep. Joseph McNamara is contemplating legislation giving the Department of Environmental Management the power to create rights of way to the river. He was uncertain whether this could be done through eminent domain or by some other means, but he sees the need reaching beyond the property at 175 Post Rd.

"It would give the DEM director the power to recognize traditional access to waterways," he said.

McNamara said riverbank neighborhoods for years have enjoyed paths, playing fields even a skating rink where a fire truck flooded a paved lot with a lip in the winter at the end of Dryden Boulevard. As a kid, he remembers swing-sets and the city conducting summer programs in the area. Hiking along the river trail was commonplace, a means of exercise and getting to the bridge at Pawtuxet center.

Roger Farren, who is a member of Pawtuxet Green Revival and lives on the Cranston side of the river, used to walk the trail regularly until Lee Beausoleil and Artak Avagyan, owners of 175 Post Rd., ripped out a bridge built by Boy Scouts crossing a stream not far from its intersection with Post Road and where Fox saw the deer.

Loss of the bridge and presence of the fence have fractured the loop walk.

"You come to the property line and you have to turn around. It's no longer a fun scenic route," McNamara said.

Farren said the association has appealed to its membership of about 400 to write letters to the city Planning Department to institutionalize the trail and river access in the comprehensive plan, which it is being updated. Over the last week, City Planner Thomas Kravitz said he received about 60 emails advocating preservation of the trail.

To this day Kravitz is mystified why neither the residents nor Beausoleil and Avagyan agreed to his proposal to preserve a chunk of the site as open space while giving the owners permission to build sheds to be used by contractors for storage of equipment and materials on the site of the former valve manufacturer Hammel Dahl. But both sides vowed to appeal the plan at a contentious Planning Board meeting.

With DEM approval, the fence went up without the last year.

"Spite fence," Matt Jerzyk says of the structure.

A lawyer and member of the Pawtuxet Green Revival, he questioned why, if developers were concerned about the security of vehicles parked on the property, they spent the money to extend the fence for the length of the Post Road lot. He also says if DEM had considered a wildlife corridor, as requested by the community, it could have required it as part of the fence permit.

Jerzyk sees problems with legislation enabling DEM to condemn property for river accesses. He said for it to work, it would need to be "narrowly tailored" to the site.

In response to questions about this story, DEM spokeswoman Kimberly Keough issued the following statement: "DEM is aware that legislative proposals have been introduced to address this issue and we are monitoring the status of those proposals. A wetland application for the installation of a fence was proposed by the property owner and was subsequently permitted since it did not result in any detrimental impacts on the wetland. An opening in the fence along the river was also proposed and implemented that allows for wildlife passage."

Artak Avagyan did not respond to a request for comment.

Walsh honored by Hospitality Association

The RI Hospitality Association (RIHA) announced William (Bill) Walsh of Warwick as the recipient of the President's Award at the 2024 ANCHORS Awards, held at Bally's Lincoln. Walsh was recognized for his steadfast commitment to advancing the hospitality industry through impactful advocacy and legislative achievements. The President's Award celebrates individuals who embody leadership, advocacy, and a commitment to fostering growth in Rhode Island's hospitality sector.

As general counsel for Government Strategies, Inc., Walsh has been instrumental in protecting and supporting Rhode Island's hospitality industry. His efforts during the 2024 legislative session were particularly noteworthy, ensuring a record year for RIHA's advocacy initiatives. Among his many contributions, he played a vital role in safeguarding the Tip Credit, opposing burdensome taxes and regulations, and advancing legislation that supports hospitality workers and businesses.

"Bill's dedication to our industry goes far beyond our expectations. His expertise, strategic foresight, and tireless efforts during this past legislative session have significantly strengthened Rhode Island's hospitality sector," said Farouk Rajab, President/CEO, RI Hospitality Association, which is located in Cranston. "We are proud to honor his contributions with the President's Award."

Walsh's advocacy extended beyond the legislative floor. He collaborated closely with RIHA's Advocacy Committee, contributed to the Hospitality on the Hill newsletter, and provided critical guidance to ensure the association's interests were effectively represented. His consistent efforts exemplify his commitment to the industry and the communities it serves.

In addition to his role with Government Strategies, he is an attorney admitted to practice in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia. He also serves as the Warwick City Council Solicitor and holds a diverse academic background, including degrees from Boston College, California Western School of Law, and the University of Rhode Island.

Outside of his professional achievements, he enjoys golfing, skiing, and spending time in the Pawtuxet Village with his dog, Burton.

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In Tuesday’s hearing of the state Senate Finance Committee, Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi (bottom right) responds to a question from Sen. Walter Felag (D-Warren). *Beacon Media photo.*

● **PANEL** from page 1

said that he would rather not be submitting the legislation but felt he had no choice.

“I certainly did not want to put it in, and I would prefer not to be here,” McKenney said. “It has been my hope that in the time it’s taken for this to move to this point, that the School Department can address the situation adequately. Unfortunately, there’s a serious lack of confidence that an adequate solution can be reached in-house, and that’s why we’re here.”

Picozzi said he had lost confidence in the School Committee’s ability to resolve the budget shortfall. Recent events, including Warwick Public Schools Finance Director Brandon Bohl’s being placed on administrative leave and then resigning, have left Picozzi with even less confidence.

“Everything they’ve done since they told the auditor general and I about [the deficit] in December, every way they’ve tried to cut the budget, is just moving and kicking the can down the road,” Picozzi said. “This is a financial crisis in the City of Warwick... This isn’t something that I can just say ‘Well, let them try.’ They have been trying. I like these people. I just don’t believe they can fix it.”

In an interview Tuesday, Picozzi said the major budget cuts made by the School Department, such as eliminating payments to the Warwick Independent School Employees retirement fund, only defers the obligation, creating a problem down the road. He’s eager for the commission, once approved by the Senate, not only to address the current operating budget, but also create a five-year budget plan.

The budget crisis surfaced in late December when school officials projected a \$9-million deficit in this year’s budget and were projecting to close out the 2024 fiscal year in June with a deficit of another couple of million dollars.

Picozzi was not prepared to make public the names of his three appointments to the five-member commission should it gain legislative approval – nor has he heard of potential members to be named by the superintendent and by the School Committee chairman. He said he won’t wait for those appointments.

State Auditor David Bergantino expects to get a budget update in a meeting today with the School Department, mayor and other members of the city administration. In a call Tuesday, he said he is aware of personnel changes within the department (Joseph Crowley was named interim school finance director following Bohl’s departure) and has not received updates. Like Picozzi, Bergantino is looking for a long-term plan that does not

simply push expenses from one fiscal year into the next.

Additionally, he noted that Warwick schools are not alone in seeking legislation to address a deficit. He mentioned Coventry, which faces a \$3-million school deficit and is looking to a measure that would transfer school financial operations to the Town Council and town manager when the district projects a deficit of 4% or larger.

Neither Warwick Schools Superintendent Lynn Dambruch nor School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan responded to a request for comment.

No members of the WPS administration or the School Committee were in attendance at Tuesday’s Senate committee hearing; something that Sen. Walter Felag (D-Warren) said significantly hurt their case.

The only WPS employee to speak against the bill was WISE representative Mary Townsend, who said she did not trust a commission of unelected officials from outside Warwick to solve WPS’s budgetary issues.

“I would much rather work with my administration and my School Committee to resolve pension issues than I would have a budget commission come in,” Townsend said. “They know finance, but do they know kids? We know what students need. They’re looking at numbers. And students are not just a number.”

Bergantino testified that what made Warwick’s situation different from the three other municipalities he’s currently working with is that the city’s School Committee received all of the funding it was promised in the municipal budget.

Picozzi said one of his biggest fears about a potential deficit was any potential impacts to the city’s bond rating, which would significantly raise the cost of building new high schools. Both he and Bergantino said that was a risk the city couldn’t take.

The School Committee “received what they asked for – they had a budget that was designated, complete with the funding it received, and halfway through the year, they did not comply with their own budget,” Bergantino said. “Don’t [exceed] your expenditure authority. That’s where a crisis begins.”

Following comments, Finance Committee chairman Sen. Lou DiPalma (D-Middletown) said he believed what was most important was an urgent solution to the deficit.

“This is about the students and about the taxpayers for the City of Warwick,” DiPalma said. “This needs to be addressed. It hasn’t been addressed. Something needs to be done ... [It’s been brought] to our desk. We now need to do something.”

Bay View announces second quarter honors

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

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Warwick

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Heavy equipment pushes trash into place. The landfill is expected be at capacity in about 20 years.

● LANDFILL from page 1

The operations, which include recycling and wastewater pre-treatment, are managed by the Rhode Island Resource Recover Corporation (RIRRC), a quasi-public agency formed by the General Assembly in 1974.

The tour was educational and eye-opening. Some people may call the landfill a mountain of garbage and it is messy work, but strict rules govern almost every aspect of the operation. Environmental regulations include mandated daily coverage of the active areas of the landfill, litter control, leachate drainage, and the subterranean collection of gasses that in the past created noxious odors and contributed to the smoldering of trash buried deep within the landfill.

Lou Vergato, Executive Director of RIRRC, said the corporation likes to give public tours of the site to help educate the public on the challenges of properly managing the state’s trash, the work involved, and the progress that has been made over the years.

According to state reports, about 750,000 tons of waste are buried at the landfill annually. It’s labor-intensive work, Vergato said, noting that regulations require that the site be kept relatively clean and litter free at almost all times – not an easy task when plastic bags that should have been recycled are blowing in the wind. Mitigating measures, such as wind fences, are erected around areas where trash is being dumped, he said, and crews regular fan out to pick up rogue debris that has escaped the fences so it can be properly buried.

The corporation has about 150 employees, about 80-percent of whom work out in the field, in all kinds of weather.

Recycling matters

Twenty years is not necessarily a long time considering the work that will have to go into coming up with a solution for what to do with Rhode Island’s trash when the landfill is full. When asked what the state’s plans are for an alternative, Rhodes said that there is no easy answer, but that sufficient study and planning must be done to come up with viable options.

Key factors that will be considered, he said, include costs, changing technologies, and recycling rates. Current state law does not allow an incinerator as an option for the RIRCC, he said, adding that further expansion of the current landfill will be an “option to be considered.”

One key message that RIRRC wants to get across to the public for the sake of the future, he said, is that “recycling matters.”

While some nation and international reports question the effectiveness of recycling, Rhodes said that removing recyclables from the waste stream helps buy precious time for the limited landfill space and also benefits the environment.

“Extending the life of the landfill is all about reducing the amount of material that requires disposal,” Rhodes wrote in response to questions that RIRRC asked to be sent in writing to the corporation. “(We) suggest focusing on maximizing the impact that the State’s current recycling laws and existing mixed recycling program can have in reducing Rhode Island’s disposal demand.”

He said that a 2022 report shows that “when Rhode Islanders take the time to participate in the (recycling) program and do so correctly they return real benefits to them-

selves and their neighbors.”

He noted that the mixed recycling program resulted in roughly 70,000 tons of recyclables being sold back into commodity markets in 2022 -- preventing that tonnage from having to be landfilled.

“To put this in perspective,” Rhodes said, “70,000 tons is roughly the same amount of waste that the City of Providence disposed of at the landfill over this same time frame. So, in other words, every year the program performs to this level it saves another year’s worth of disposal capacity for approximately 140,000 Rhode Islanders.

“Recycling definitely matters.”

By the numbers

Of the roughly 1,200 acres the RIRRC oversees in Johnston, the landfill takes up about 290 acres and is permitted for 390 acres, the corporation states on its website. Elevation-wise, it rise about 250-feet from its base to the top, and its peak is about 560-feet above sea level. The slopes of the areas that are no longer active have been “capped” with layers of vegetative material that is green even in winter. The other areas are covered daily with loose earth.

The daily operations can get muddy and messy but heavy equipment helps compact the trash, and Vergato said on clear days, the elevation affords crews and visitors views of Providence, the Fall River landfill, the Jamestown Bridge and the Newport Bridge.

Despite some locals derisive claim that the state’s highest point is a heap of garbage, that is not true, the RIRRC is quick to point out. The highest point in Rhode Island is Jerimoth Hill in Foster at about 812 feet

above sea level.

One of the key facilities that RIRRC operates adjacent to the landfill is the state’s recycling center, the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). Referred to informally as the ‘Murf’, the cavernous building houses a labyrinth of conveyor belts and sorting mechanisms. Since Rhode Island accepts “mixed” recyclables, paper products, cans, and bottles arrive in a jumble at the facility and have to be separated so they can be bundled for transport to facilities in the U.S., Canada and overseas where they can be made into new products. On average, about 385 ton of recyclables are sorted at the MRF every day.

The sprawling RIRRC property also includes composting sites, a wastewater pre-treatment plant which treats the leachate that is drained from the landfill through an underground collection system, and an Eco-Depot where the public can safely dispose of hazardous household materials such as propane tanks, lighter fluids, pesticides, and automotive and rechargeable batteries. On average, the wastewater facility pre-treats about 300,000 gallons of leachate per day. It is required to bring the landfill discharge in compliance with standards that allow it to be accepted by the Narragansett Bay Commission for further processing.

Vergato and Jared Rhodes, Director of Policy and Programs at RIRRC, said the corporation is always working to try to educate the public on the proper disposal of items and on the importance of recycling. Its outreach efforts include regular visits to schools throughout the state.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

We're approaching the 'find out' phase

A popular phrase among the younger generations today goes like this:
“Mess around and find out.”
We’ve cleaned up this phrase to make it printable and, consequently, less alarming to readers whose tolerance of alarm has been severely tested in recent weeks. We’re sure you can guess which word was substituted, and what the actual word is.

Essentially, the phrase invokes a sense of karma. It means that actions have consequences. But even further, it specifically warns that actions made with knowing, arrogant disregard for their consequences are likely to blow up in your face (the “find out” part of the phrase).

Many Americans who thought it would be fun to mess around are, unfortunately, about to find out.

As the barrage of monumental, life-altering decisions continues to flood the nation from wholly undemocratic actions in Washington – whether through the president’s vague and overreaching executive orders, or through arbitrary funding decisions made by an unelected billionaire with unfettered access to the nation’s data – people who have cheered on this chaos as a panacea to what they view as ineffective government bloat are about to realize just how important many of those government programs actually are.

The resources being targeted, or at least caught up in the haphazard approach being taken to rein in “wasteful” spending, are the ones that help people with low incomes come closer to meeting the cost of living. In our communities, this is the work of agencies like the Comprehensive Community Action Program, West Bay Community Action, and Tri-County Community Action which administers such basics as heating assistance, workforce development, and dental care.

CCAP, whose reach into the lives of 44,000 people in Cranston, Warwick and three smaller communities nearby, also includes Head Start, the federally funded early-childhood program that supports school readiness for infants, toddlers and preschool-aged kids from low-income families – a program whose casual destruction would do nothing for Rhode Island’s future.

It is no secret that government has long had a public relations problem in not being able to convey effectively how the money we pay in taxes goes to things that actually help people in our communities. But these kinds of local service organizations are the backbone of a system that produces so much assistance for the money we invest in it.

Undoubtedly, there is waste and fat that can be trimmed from any budget, never mind one as gigantic as the United States of America’s. But what we are experiencing now is a real-time lesson in why a foundational civics education is so important. The one area where a centralized government is truly necessary is in providing services to individuals who need them. Not for profit, but because it’s the moral thing to do. Because nobody else will.

If things continue trending this way and the government’s role in helping people who need help is slowly suffocated, it’s not just the needy who will find out. It will be all of us.

What’s on your mind?

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

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

LETTERS

Analysis needed before cutting programs

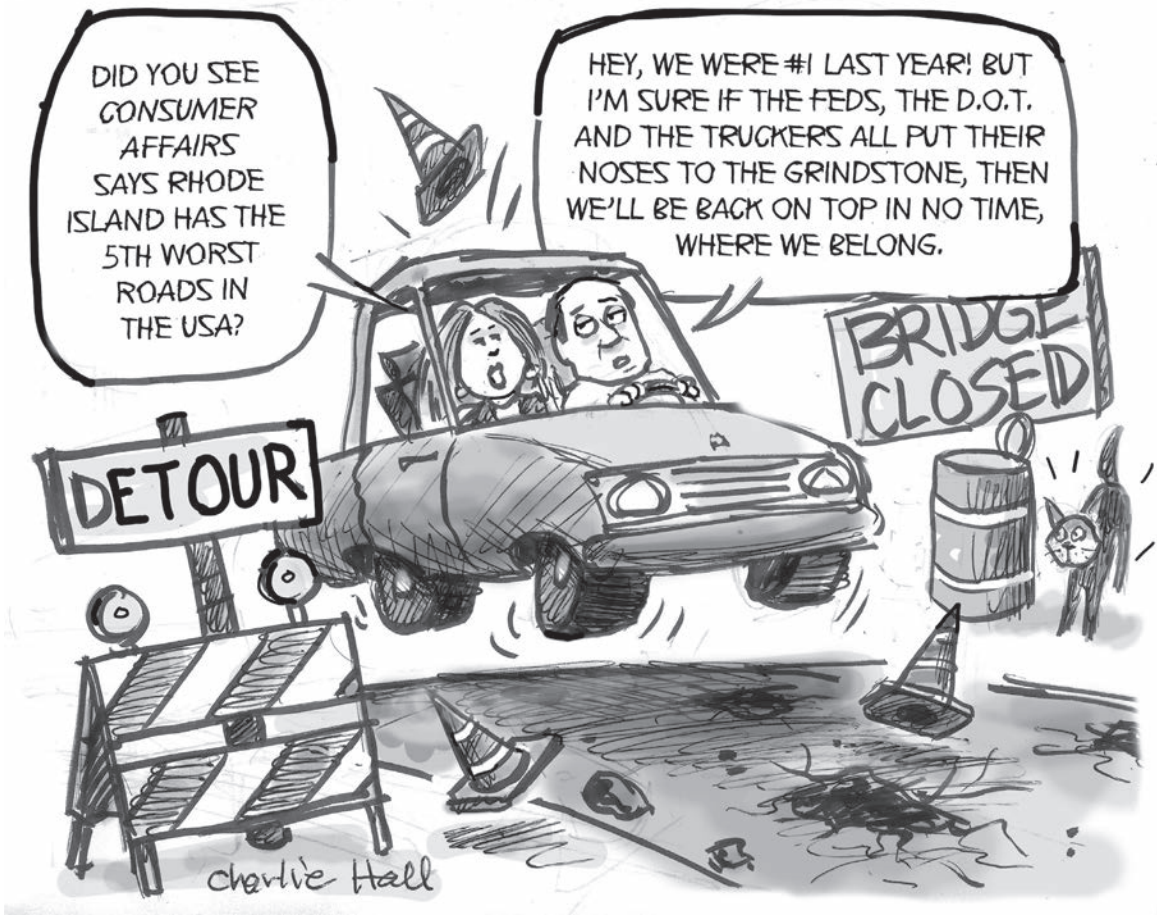
To the Editor,

I am writing to share my reflections on a recent sermon that resonated deeply with me. During Tuesday's 7:30 a.m. Mass, the guest pastor's homily included a call for prayers for our nation, drawing a parallel to the prayers offered for Russia during the 1950s. This comparison prompted considerable thought.

While the pastor's intention was undoubtedly noble, the analogy between the current political climate and the religious suppression in 1950s Russia requires careful consideration. The invocation of prayer for our country should not be conflated with opposition to specific policies or the current administration. Furthermore, the assertion that service eliminations are solely attributable to the current president overlooks the complex realities of budgetary constraints and program effectiveness.

My personal experience as a 30-year veteran of the U.S. military and a disabled combat veteran underscores the challenges faced by many Americans. I have not benefited from social-assistance programs, and my perspective is shaped by a firsthand understanding of the complexities of the real world, free from idealized notions. However, concerns about the mismanagement of certain programs are valid and should be addressed through constructive dialogue and responsible oversight, rather than solely through prayer. Anecdotal examples, such as individuals using luxury vehicles to collect food aid, while concerning, do not necessarily represent systemic failures that justify a wholesale condemnation of all such programs. A more comprehensive analysis of program efficiency and resource allocation is warranted.

John Cervone
North Providence



Even expletives are useless

Rats!

Is an expletive I used occasionally when things weren’t going the way I liked and the use of other four-letter words just wasn’t me. But now the word evokes a sense of invasion and torment.

Yes, I’ve seen rats along the shoreline, and over the decades the Beacon has reported neighborhoods plagued by the rodents and city efforts to meet them head on, setting out poison and traps. Residents are advised to restrict or eliminate feeding the birds and make sure not to leave out food. Careful disposal of garbage is also recommended.

We’ve had resident mice. They can be pesky and bold.

They’ve seen them scurry across the kitchen floor when we’ve flicked on the light in the early morning hours. They’ve made their presence known. We’ve found sunflower seed shells in one of the counter drawers before storing all bird seed in metal containers. The top of a bran muffin Carol left out for my breakfast showed signs of being nibbled.

I set out traps slathered with peanut butter, careful not to set them off as they’re gingerly slid into corners where the fridge meets the wall or next to the microwave. Understandably, Carol is fearful of having them snap prematurely and catch a finger so I’ll place the traps on cardboard that can be carried and positioned.

A few of the critters have been dispatched, however, the presence of unwanted co-inhabitants persists. There were scrabbling sounds from the chimney for the stove, a bite out of a raw sweet potato in a bowl on the kitchen table and droppings in the sink – were the invaders looking for a drink?

We set out rat traps, a giant version of the mouse trap with enough tension in the spring to inflict serious injury. Would they wake us up when triggered late at night? No, in the



This Side Up

by John Howell

morning the traps hadn’t been sprung, but they were licked clean of peanut butter. Had mice enjoyed the treat or something larger?

We ruled out poison, fearing Farrah would get into it. And we isolated the kitchen with a gate whenever we set traps.

We talked to friends. A couple of weeks ago Carol’s friend Cheryl and her husband arrived

with two rat traps wrapped with packing tape – sticky side out – which had worked for them. They were placed in the cellar, but as of yet remain untouched. With the help of another friend, appliances were pulled away from walls and all possible entries plugged. Holes along the foundation exterior that might allow entry were also filled.

The battle continues. In desperation, Carol got a Havahart trap. We armed it with a slice of bread heavily coated with peanut butter. Nothing, although it looked like some of the spread was gone.

Then came there was the discovery of the nibbled Himalayan Dog Chew, the hardened sticks of cheese that Farrah loves. Did that explain the banging noises – dropped chews – Carol heard during early morning vigils?

Carol bought another kind of trap that looks like a giant snapping jaw. The bait is inserted from the bottom. It worked. Either we had caught a large mouse or mid-sized rat. It was a victory. We had the upper hand, or so we thought.

The noise in the walls resumed and then the microwave suddenly stopped. We checked circuit breakers. The outlet was dead. An electrician traced the problem to “chewed wires” in the wall. He restored power, but that lasted hardly a day.

The electrician’s advice: call an exterminator.

What more can I say but “rats?”

LETTERS

Trump doing what he said he’d do

To the Editor:

“Energy in the executive is the leading character in the definition of good government.”

– Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist No. 70*

President Donald J. Trump is energetically doing exactly what he said he was going to do. Why do you find that so surprising? (“This isn’t ‘efficiency’ – it’s casual destruction,” Feb 20)

Perhaps it is because you have become accustomed to career politicians like Joe Biden who will say one thing and do another once elected? Or possibly you’re more comfortable with a congressional relic like Jack Reed whose primary goal is preserving political power?

I find it refreshing that Donald Trump does not operate in the mode of a crooked Joe Biden or a fossilized Jack Reed. Trump tells you what he’s going to do and he does it. Trump gets things done.

President Trump, aided by Elon Musk, is striving mightily to clean up the terrible mess left us by the disastrous Biden administration. Your histrionic editorial only serves to make that task more difficult.

Donald Trump, our patriotic president, is vigorously working to make America great again. You may have a problem with that, but I sure don’t.

A.H. Liddle
Warwick

'Jack and Sheldon aren't with us'

To the Editor,

Let’s be clear. We are in a war with billionaires and their collaborators. It’s a fight that started with Ronald Reagan’s first budget – remember trickle-down economics? – and it’s an attempt to steal what working people own.

Elon Musk’s effort to dismantle our federal government and suck up its assets is the most savage and frightening attack yet, and we need the help of our elected representatives to fight back and keep ourselves from losing everything we’ve strived for.

Seth Magaziner says he will fight. Gabe Amo seems open to the idea. Jack Reed says no, it’s up to the courts to duke it out, and Sheldon Whitehouse is MIA and not saying much at all.

War is confusing, and it’s not always easy to identify friends and foes, but when you’re being attacked, it’s obvious who isn’t on your side because they’re the ones who aren’t helping you.

It’s plain to see that Jack and Sheldon aren’t with us. We elected them to stand up for us, but that’s not happening, and worse, their passive silence is handing our attackers an easy path to victory.

Do Jack and Sheldon understand what’s at stake? It’s hard to say, but we do. And we’re growing more agitated every day as we see more and more of what belongs to us being taken away.

It’s time for Jack and Sheldon to figure out how serious this is for Rhode Island workers, business owners, families, veterans, retirees and every person in our state — and to step up, do their job and fight.

Wil Gregersen
Providence

There's one thing that hasn't been discussed

To the Editor,

With all this talk of the proposed assault-weapon ban from the governor and legislators, there's one thing that hasn't been discussed; the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the funding it brings to the state.

This longstanding federal act imposes an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, directing these funds to state wildlife agencies for conservation efforts. This has been instrumental in preserving habitats and supporting wildlife management nationwide.

Over the last decade, Rhode Island has received about \$70 million in total funding from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. This estimate is based on the consistent annual apportionment of around \$7 million to the state. These funds have supported land acquisitions, habitat restoration and outdoor recreational opportunities, including the acquisition of a 61-acre parcel of forestland near Big River Management Area.

However, the state’s new assault-weapon ban threatens this vital funding source. By restricting the sale of certain firearms, the ban will lead to store closures and reduced sales, which will mean fewer excise tax dollars flowing into Rhode Island’s conservation programs. This decline could significantly impact the ability to maintain and expand wildlife management efforts.

The connection between firearm sales and conservation funding is clear. As sales decrease, so too will the resources available to protect and preserve Rhode Island’s natural habitats. If the assault weapons ban passes, that funding will dry up.

Richard Petrillo Jr.
Cranston

Why Buttonwoods Avenue is a public road

By RICHARD LANGSETH

The Beacon reporter misunderstood my remarks about the Buttonwoods Fire District during the recent City Council public comments session.

He reported in the Feb. 27, 2025, “Resident to Council” story that I said Buttonwoods Avenue “is marked as a private community (route) in the city’s Comprehensive Plan.”

What I said, or meant to say, was that Buttonwoods Avenue is marked as a public highway in the Comprehensive Plan, a “Collector Highway.”

Many people get confused about the Buttonwoods Fire District.

What is it? A fire district in Warwick? Is it public? Is it private? Where are the fire trucks?

When the Buttonwood Beach Association set up the Buttonwoods Fire District, it had no intention to equip its fire company with trucks and firefighters.

It was a fire company in name only. They set it up to raise taxes to pave the streets at Buttonwoods.

They petitioned the General Assembly under a special provision of the Constitution of 1843, the organization of fire companies and military companies under Article IV, Section 17.

That section of the Constitution was set up as an answer to Dorr’s Rebellion of 1841-1842, in which disenfranchised citizens unsuccessfully attacked the state arsenal in Providence and then retreated to Burrillville. The governor’s military companies responded.

Rebellion leader Thomas Dorr’s cannon misfired and his companies of paramilitaries fled. With peace restored, a new Constitution was adopted. Newly organized military compa-

nies and fire companies were limited through Section 17 to be constrained in public service with no private purpose whatsoever. No private military companies. The fire companies were drafted into that constraint.

One century after its adoption, the Buttonwood Beach Association petitioned the General Assembly for a fire company under Section 17 – a completely public entity for the protection of the public with no private purpose. It has no powers to maintain private streets. It maintains the very public Buttonwoods Avenue for city fire trucks to pass unimpeded.

The Beacon reporter may have missed the Section 17 point I made at the City Council meeting when I spoke at the “open mic” public-comment session.

I explained that the Warwick Comprehensive Plan identifies Buttonwoods Avenue as a public highway running all the way to the shore, through what they call “Private Buttonwoods.”

I briefly explained the Dorr’s Rebellion fire company aspect, how the Buttonwoods Fire District is an entirely public entity, a fire company organized to protect the public.

Apparently, the reporter weighed the seeming improbability of the city marking Buttonwoods Avenue as a public highway in its master plan, the Comprehensive Plan.

If you ask people at City Hall about Buttonwoods, they might say, “Oh, you mean Private Buttonwoods, where the rich people live! That’s not public.”

But it is public, as shown in the Comprehensive Plan, public all the way to the shore.

As the American Colonies were descending into revolution with the Crown in the 1770s, the Royal Surveyor General published a map of shoreline military features, from Providence to the Sag Harbor area in New York.

He made note of the highway running from East Greenwich, through Apponaug, and on to the Buttonwoods Point, showing three Colonial houses when approaching the point.

They are the red house at Budlong Farm, the white house in the onetime orchard by the Buttonwoods Pillars, now the oldest surviving structure in Warwick, and the yellow house as you are approaching the Buttonwoods Point.

Are the Surveyor General’s maps still relevant 200 years later?

His book of maps popped up in U.S. District Court in Rhode Island in the 1970s in an action between New York pilots and Rhode Island harbor pilots who claimed control of Block Island Sound. This case went all the way to the Supreme Court (United States v. Maine in 1985).

The Supreme Court found the Surveyor General’s maps to be relevant, 200-plus years later. The ruling? Block Island Sound is outside the control of the Rhode Island Pilots’ Association.

In like manner, Warwick’s Comprehensive Plan is relevant. It shows Buttonwoods Avenue to be a public highway to the shore.

For those with an interest in public rights-of-way to the shore, I encourage you to follow the Facebook group Saving RI Coastal Access/Rights of Way. Here you will find 9,000 people following our work at Buttonwoods, as well as the Westerly fire districts, Charlestown, Middletown and other places where the public is denied access to the shore.

A resident of Budlong Farm Road in Buttonwoods, Richard Langseth has long questioned the local acceptance of Buttonwoods Avenue as a private road.

Neronha: Quick rulings may reverse Musk cuts

Despite the breakneck pace of President Trump and Elon Musk as they try to remake the federal government, Attorney General Peter Neronha said, “I think you can, for the most part, put Humpty Dumpty back together again.”

Neronha is among a number of Democratic attorneys general suing the administration on a range of issues. One case argues that the Department of Government Efficiency is illegal because it wasn’t created by Congress and since Musk was not subject to Senate approval. The world’s richest man recently hoisted a chainsaw to dramatize his effort to cut thousands of government employees and reduce or eliminate whole departments.

But whether Musk likes it or not, the federal government moves very slowly, Neronha said during an interview on “Political Roundtable.” “So I think that if these courts will rule on our cases quickly, as I hope they will,” he said, “I think we can reverse some of the damage.”

That’s a big if, though, and Neronha takes a dark view of Trump’s motivation, since, he said, the president is trying to sideline Congress and the judiciary: “There are three branches of government, we all know that; when two get sidelined, that means all power rests in one place in one man, the president. To me, that is a path to authoritarianism.” Will courts prove to be a backstop? “I do believe that our arguments are right on the law,” Neronha said. “I wouldn’t be bringing them or participating in them otherwise. I do believe [the administration’s actions] are harmful to Americans, and I believe at the end of the day the courts will side with us.”

THE BIG SPEND: Elon Musk claims that his cuts equal \$65 billion in savings, but a review by various news organizations shows the cor-

rect number is \$2 billion. “At this point, the \$2 billion in savings identified by Elon Musk would pay for 1/75th of 1% of the entire national debt,” Jessica Riedl, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and former GOP economics staffer, told PBS NewsHour. Making more impactful cuts to federal spending to pay for a U.S. House budget plan would require digging into four big-bucks pools – defense, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – and the thinking is that the latter, which primarily pays for health care for low-income people, could be on the chopping block.

2026 IS COMING: Gov. Dan McKee announced his reelection campaign via video posting Monday morning. While McKee campaign spokesman Mike Trainor said McKee was available to reporters later in the day, the video was a way of allowing the governor to control his message.

RHODE ISLAND SENATE: Back in January, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, 76, had enough respect and well-wishes in his chamber to coast to victory in another term for his leadership role even as almost a third of senators voted against him. But the issue of Ruggerio’s health has not gone away, as seen by how he was hospitalized at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence, as Kathy Gregg first reported, with what his office called “a touch of pneumonia.” This comes almost eight years to the day after Ruggerio ascended to the Senate presidency and it raises the question of whether the dean of the Senate will expedite a transition to different leadership. Ruggerio’s former majority leader, Ryan Pearson of



Talking Politics

by Ian Donniss

Val Lawson of East Providence, Majority Whip David Tikoian of Smithfield and Judiciary Chair Matthew LaMountain of Warwick. Meanwhile, the Senate, in a move to catch up with the House of Representatives, announced a resolution requiring the on-line posting of written testimony received by Senate committees. And starting next week, the Senate is shifting to meeting two days a week starting instead of one.

BLEAK HOUSE: Just 28% of Rhode Islanders believe the state is headed in the right direction, according to the findings of ace pollster Joe Fleming for work commissioned by the Rhode Island AFL-CIO. In 2016, a Brown University poll found Ocean Staters evenly divided on the right track/wrong track question, so what has changed? News reports about various state government gaffes are a hardy staple hereabouts, so the Washington Bridge saga and more recent cyber-breach probably didn’t tip the scale. A random sample of input from the usual suspects points to the uncertainty of our current moment. More to the point, the 28% finding is noteworthy for what wasn’t in the AFL-CIO report: any approval/disapproval findings for elected officials and potential candidates. AFL-CIO President Patrick Crowley declined to confirm the existence of a separate poll with that data, although it strains credulity to think that Rhode Island’s most powerful umbrella group for organized labor would not test the popularity of Gov. Dan McKee, House Speaker Joe Shekarchi and Helena Foulkes as we edge

closer to 2026. In that respect, the 28% right track finding may be considered a flashing warning sign for the incumbent governor.

PAYDAY LENDING: Groups backing same-day voter registration and a ban on smoking at Rhode Island’s two casinos quickly seized on the Fleming poll in advocating for their respective causes. And for critics of payday lending, who have been stymied for more than 15 years in trying to curb the industry, the poll found that 55% of respondents favor capping payday APR at the equivalent of 28%. This is an issue where Senate President Ruggerio has been considered the top opponent (“Haven’t even looked at it,” he told me in the waning weeks of the 2021 session. “I didn’t know a bill was in”), so a transition in leadership – sooner or later – may deliver a different result.

NERONHA NUGGETS: Added highlights from my interview with the term-limited AG:

***Neronha said his timeline on deciding on a run for lieutenant governor or other office in 2026 is this summer.

***Asked about how the federal lawsuit over CVS’ oversight of opioids poses a political headache for Helena Foulkes, Neronha said, “It’s something she’s going to have to answer Look, I’m a fan of others, too. I think if the speaker were to run for governor, I think he would be an excellent candidate. I have no idea whether he will in the end, but he’s done a great job as speaker and our relationship is very close. I think Rhode Islanders need at a minimum a choice for change at the top of the Democratic ticket. And I’m looking forward to that array of choices.”

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Anchor Baptist Church

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

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish

175 Oaklawn Avenue
401-941-4188
Sunday Liturgy 9:30am
www.annunciationri.org

Asbury United Methodist Church

143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept – June
asburyumc.org

Assemblies Of God The Solid Rock Church

1753 Phenix Avenue
Rev. Richard K. Leahy
827-0770
www.solidrockchurchag.com

Christadelphian Ecclesia

2104 Cranston Street
441-7432
www.christadelphia.org

Church Of The Ascension (Episcopal)

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

Church Of The Transfiguration

1665 Broad Street
461-3142
Sunday 10 am
Holy Eucharist

Edgewood Congregational Church

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

Faith Chapel Lutheran Brethren

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

Gateway Pentacostal Fellowship

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

Grace Bible Church

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

Holy Apostles Church

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

New Beginings Christian Church

122 Laurens St.
Mario J. Nadich, Pastor
787-0725

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

229 Wilbur Avenue
944-0864
www.olcbaptistchurch.com

Pawtuxet Baptist Church

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

People’s Baptist Church

1275 Elmwood Avenue
Pastor Mark Lindsay
www.PeoplesBaptistChurch.org

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

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

St. David’s On-The-Hill Episcopal Church

200 Meshanticut Valley
Father Edward Beaudreau
942-4368
www.stdavidsonthehill.net

St. Matthew Church

15 Frances Avenue
Rev. Ronald J. Bengford
461-7172

St. Patrick Catholic Church

2068 Cranston Street
Fr. Roger Durand, Pastor
SaintPatrickCatholicChurch.org
Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30

Saint Paul Church Of Edgewood

1 St. Paul Place
461-5734

Shepherd Of The Valley United Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Road
Rev. Katherine Mitchell
821-8217
www.sovumc.org

Trinity Church

139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet
Cranston, RI 02905
Rev. Mitchell Lindeman
8am & 10am
10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet
941-4324
http://www.trinitycranston.org/

Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ

546 Budlong Road
Rev. Aidan Kelley
942-0654
woodridgechurchri.org

Word & Prayer Fellowship

828 Oaklawn Ave.
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- Sat. April 5- O’ROURKE’S, Cranston 5pm

- Sat. April 12- BELLA, Glendale 5:30

- Tues. April 15- East Prov. Senior Center

- Sat. May 3- RIVER FALLS, Woon. 5pm

- Sun. May 18- CROSSROADS PUB, Wrn. 12pm

Reservations, info @ agingdisgracefully.net

● VILLAGE from page 1

inclusive, and working together is what a village is all about.”

The Village Common’s other villages consist of Providence, Edgewood, Barrington, Westerly, Burrillville, Glocester, Jamestown and Aquidneck Island, as well as a statewide community called “Circle of Pride” for elderly members of the LGBTQ+ community. In the works right now are villages in Cumberland and Woonsocket, and a Spanish-speaking village is

At the Feb. 26 launch of the Warwick Village Common, Rhode Island House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi noted that his father, 99 years old, continues to live independently at home with support. “It’s important that seniors have the option to age in place – staying in their homes, living independently, if that’s what works best for them,” he said. With him are, from left, Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi; Wendy Oliver, board president of Village Common of RI; Maureen Maigret, board member, and Caroline Dillon, Village Common of RI executive director.

● REED from page 1

catastrophic consequences.

Reed said proposals by the Trump administration to dismantle the Department of Education amount to a “war on public education” and the cuts would harm children, particularly those with disabilities, by stripping away federal funding.

“President Trump has said repeatedly he wants to eliminate the Department of Education, and Project 2025 lays out an attack plan to do just that,” Reed said.

Magaziner shared the same concerns, saying “Without federal support, the public education system in Rhode Island would be crippled.”

On Friday, Reed acknowledged that Trump is acting so quickly and across so many different fronts that it is hard to tell yet exactly how these federal actions will directly impact Rhode Islanders – whether it be cuts in direct assistance to families, the loss of community social-service programs or the elimination of support for much-needed scientific and medical research.

“On the local level, it’s very difficult to know right now,” Reed said. “There is massive chaos and confusion.” He said his office is in

forming in Providence.

Warwick, Gangji said, could serve as a positive example for the villages now or eventually in development.

“No matter where they live in Warwick, everyone in the village wants to support other Warwick residents,” Gangji said. “Other communities can really take that common goal of supporting older residents from their town.”

Anyone interested in joining Warwick’s Village can email warwick@villagecommonri.org or call 401-515-5118.



funding losses they face. He said that any constituents with worries or looking to get answers can call his office. “We will do our best to get answers,” he said.

‘Cruel and callous display’

On the international front, Reed sharply criticized Trump’s handling of the war in Ukraine, saying that the president is trying to undermine efforts of Ukraine people to defend themselves against an unprovoked attack from Russia. He said the fact that the president is trying to say that Russia did not invade Ukraine is another example of Trump dealing in falsehoods rather than reality.

Later, after news broadcasts of Trump’s meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Reed doubled down on his criticism of the president.

“Today’s spectacle in the Oval Office was a political ambush and a shameful failure of American leadership,” he said in a press release “President Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine are fighting for their very lives and existence.”

“Furthermore, today’s cruel and callous display does great harm to U.S. standing in the

world,” Reed stated. “Trump and Vance are communicating to the world that the United States is not to be trusted. Adversaries and allies alike will take note.”

During his daytime press conference, Reed said that on the home front, President Trump is unfortunately is getting little pushback from the Republican-led Congress. But Reed is hopeful that will change as people begin to feel the impacts of the cuts and start reaching out to their elected officials.

“We have to keep calling out what we think is wrong,” he said, adding that his office is willing to work across party lines to try to keep essential government assistance programs intact and stop the slashing of funding for essential federal services such as medical grants and the National Weather Service.

“The question is how do we stop this perfect storm,” he said. “I think that as more and more constituents speak out to their congressional delegations. ... ultimately the people’s voices will be heard,” Reed said. “And that is the genius of this country.”

Robert Clifton Peasley, Sr.

Robert Clifton Peasley, Sr., 86, of Warwick, passed away at Berkshire Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on February 23, 2025. Born on February 18, 1939, Loving Husband of Ann R Peasley (Mercurio). He was the son of the late Clifton and Lena Peasley (Silva)

Robert graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School and Salve Regina College. Robert began his career as a Warwick Policeman and retired in 1989 with the rank of Detective. Robert continued his career path as a Special investigator with One Beacon Insurance Company. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. He was an antique car enthusiast and enjoyed collecting model trains.

He is survived by his children, Kim Conroy and her husband Buddy of Brooklyn, CT, Kurt Peasley and his wife Tracy of South Kingstown, RI, and his daughter-in-law Kelly Peasley of Plainfield, CT. Robert was also the father of the later Robert C Peasley Jr.

He was known as “Pa” to his precious grandchildren Devon, Mitchell, Kohl, Brooke, Olivia, Christopher, and Connor.

Robert is also survived by his brother, Clifton Peasley, and his wife, Denise, of Warwick, RI. Along with other extended family members and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his brother Ronald Peasley.

A Committal Service was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 11:00AM at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 301 South County Trail, Exeter, RI 02822. Family and friends gathered at the Administration Bldg. at 10:45AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: RI Community Food Bank, 200 Niantic Avenue, Providence RI 02907 or online at www.rifoodbank.org

Donald P. Brown

Donald P. Brown, 76, of Wakefield, RI, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at South County Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Cynthia “Cindy” Senior Brown, with whom he shared 54 wonderful years of marriage. He is formerly of Exeter, RI, where he lived with his family for 45 years.

Don was born in Providence, RI to the late James and Dorothy (Boothroyd) Brown. He was raised in Warwick, earned his Bachelors Degree from the University of Rhode Island and two Masters Degrees from RIC. His passion for learning led him to a fulfilling 40 year career in the Warwick school system, influencing countless students as a history teacher before retiring in 2003 as Principal of Warwick Veterans Memorial High School.

After retirement, Don continued his commitment to the community by working with South County Habitat for Humanity, where he used his skills and generosity to help others. He cherished spending time with his family and found great fulfillment in woodworking, gardening and enjoying the beauty of Rhode Island’s coastline. A true history buff, he found great joy in sharing his knowledge and inspiring a love of learning in others.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Cindy Brown of Wakefield, his two sons, Jeffrey Brown and his wife Linda of Coventry, RI, and Gregory Brown and his wife Barbara “Bobbi” of Old Saybrook, CT, and his three treasured grandchildren, Madeline, Max and Jack, who affectionately called him “Gimpy”. He also leaves behind his brother, Timothy Brown and his wife Kathy, his brother-in-law, Ronald Senior and his wife Denise, as well as several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, Douglas Brown.

All services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Don’s memory to South County Habitat for Humanity at <https://www.southcountyhabitat.org/donate> or by mail to South County Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 68, Shannock, RI 02875. Remembrances may be made at carpenterjenks.com.



Obituaries

Edmond “Bob” F. Froment Jr.,

Edmond “Bob” F. Froment Jr., a proud U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, passed away on February 27, 2025 at the age of 89. He was the beloved husband of Lorraine I. (Alix) Froment with whom he shared 67 years of marriage. Born in 1935, he was the youngest of six children born to the late Edmond F. Froment Sr. and Rose (Vanier) Froment. Edmond was the best father anyone could ask for to Karen E. Slawski (husband, Don), David R. Froment (wife, Jill) and Kristen E. Bowerfind (husband, Craig); he was also the cherished Peperè of Alex, Mikayla, Benjamin and Jenna. He was the brother of the late O. Gerry Froment, Albert Froment, Cora Brule, Rachel Allen and Rita Froment, and is survived by one of his favorite relatives, his sister-in-law Anita Pare. He was also beloved “Uncle Bob” to many nieces and nephews, and loved his wide circle of friends (with whom he enjoyed playing hi-lo-jack). Edmond was caring, humble, generous, and a true gentleman to all who were lucky enough to meet him.

Edmond was a wonderful singer, who enjoyed many years in the parish choir. Unfortunately, his beautiful singing voice was not passed down to his children! He was also very proud of his years refereeing CYO basketball, and loved watching Providence College basketball throughout his life. He introduced his family to the joys of camping, and was most especially fond of Letchworth State Park, NY, where the family spent many wonderful summer vacations.

There was nothing he loved more than being a host... from hosting fondue parties in the 1970’s, to disco balls in the 1980’s, to many dinner parties and holidays, to the annual Alix Family Clambakes. For many years, he tried to talk Lorraine into opening a B&B, so he could take on the Bob Newhart host role (she respectfully declined).

Relatives and friends are invited to gather for a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10:00 am in Ss. Rose and Clement Church, 111 Long St., Warwick. Interment with Full Military Honors will immediately follow at the RI Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery, Exeter. Visiting hours are respectfully omitted.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your favorite charity in memory of Edmond Froment.



BARBARA J. MILLS
First Year Remembrance



In the hearts of those who loved you,

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Love, John

Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Warwick Beacon* will print your loved one’s full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, warwickonline.com.

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

Karen Lee Nerney

Karen Lee Nerney (DerManouelian), age 64, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Scott Nerney for over 33 years. Born in Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, she was the devoted daughter of the late Oscar DerManouelian and Mary (Brown) DerManouelian. In addition to her husband, Karen is survived by her siblings Vicki Brown, Mark DerManouelian, Andrea Oliver, Todd DerManouelian and Brad DerManouelian; as well as by many loving relatives and close friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor may be made to Baja’s Cat Café, 137 Main Road, Tiverton, RI 02878.



Scott Arthur Bryant

Scott Arthur Bryant, 68, a lifelong resident of Warwick, Rhode Island, and an upholsterer by trade, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on February 28, 2025, at his daughter’s home in Bristol, Rhode Island, following a recent diagnosis of lung cancer that took his life.

Scott was the son of the late Keith Bryant and Joyce Bryant.

He leaves behind four daughters: Lisa Gavarny, of Florida; Melanie Lupo, of Lincoln, Rhode Island; and Jamie Bryant and Kristy Bryant, both of Warwick, Rhode Island. Scott was the brother of Bruce Bryant, of Hope Valley, Rhode Island; Denise Bonang, of Warwick, Rhode Island; and Shelly Shea, of Cranston, Rhode Island. He was also the brother of the late Dana Bryant.

A viewing will be held Thursday, March 6th, from 4pm-7pm at Skeffington Funeral Home and Cremations, 925 Chalkstone Avenue, Providence.

Family and friends are invited to the burial Friday morning, March 7th, at 11am at the Pawtuxet Memorial Park Cemetery, 100 Harrison Avenue, Warwick, RI.

Foronlinecondolenceskindly visit: Skeffingtonfuneralhome.com



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Put to the test

240 students compete at daylong RI Academic Decathlon



Madeline McGrane chews her nails as she listens to a snippet of classical music as part of a music test. She was an alternate member of the Classical High School team.



Toll Gate coach Steven Belanger is surrounded by members of the two teams the school fielded.



Toll Gate teams 1 and 2 share the stage with coach Steven Belanger after finishing third and seventh respectively out of 19 teams in the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon.

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By JOHN HOWELL

For an instant early Sunday morning, Secretary of State Gregg Amore got a chuckle from more than 240 students who traveled to Bryant University from as far away as Westerly to compete in the 42nd annual Rhode Island Academic Decathlon.

Addressing the students, who sat nervously at tables, checking notes, quietly rehearsing their prepared speeches, chatting with teammates and munching doughnuts, muffins and chips, Amore congratulated them on their studies that go beyond the school curriculum and for their ambition to learn. He suggested that years from now they may find themselves on “Jeopardy!” That was followed by laughs. Then it was down to business.

Before him were teams from 17 public, private and parochial schools that had found time outside school hours to read up on materials provided by the U.S. Academic Decathlon and engage in discussions and activities promoted by their coaches. Two schools, Warwick’s Toll Gate and Johnston Senior High fielded two teams each.

The Wheeler School, once a decathlon powerhouse that won the state competition year after year, regained the title for the first time since 2008, scoring more than 34,000 points. East Greenwich placed second with 32,195 points and Toll Gate Team 1 was third with almost 31,000 points. Wheeler will go on to represent the state in the nationals this spring in Des Moines, Iowa.

Psychological stamina

Nearly 10 hours later in Bello Center – following the Super Quiz, where students answer questions before their peers and an audience – Belanger and his team were just as charged up as they were in the morning. They weren’t alone, as students hooted, yelled and applauded as team members correctly answered questions, and with the same voltage cheered as their members were called up to have bronze, silver and gold medals draped from their necks as winners in each event were announced by Scott Fraser.

How does Belanger get kids to put in the extra hours and get so excited about academics?

“To pull off this year’s finish, I really focused on pushing the positivity and canceling the toxicity. I’ve been very fortunate to always have lots of players, two teams most years, once even three teams at Vets. I recruited well, as did the players, but the players know that they’re in it for more than just medals and scholarships. It’s been learning for the sake of learning, about speaking and communicating better for the sake of that,” he wrote in a text Monday after all the excitement had calmed down.

What makes the decathlon so inclusive is that teams are comprised of A, B and C grade-point average students. It can also make it challenging for coaches to recruit teams.

- But it’s not all high tech. The speech and interview events are often the most daunting for students who can’t bear being separated from their cellphones. Being on a team and winning a medal can boost confidence and bring change even for coaches.
- Consider Belanger.
- “Going into this year I was considering stepping down after next year, my 25th as coach, and I even told Frank Lenox [state director] that, but this keeps me positive and productive, so I’m thinking strongly of just keeping going for a few more years, and maybe even until I retire,” he said.
- Academic Decathlon Medalists**
Cranston, Warwick and Johnston students winning medals in: (H, honors division; S, scholastic division and V, varsity division)

MATH: Jackson Kretzer, Hendricken, S, bronze; Joshua Holland, Hendricken, V, gold.

MUSIC: Alejandro Quintero Cashone, Hendricken, H, gold; Zachary Leone, Cranston West, H, gold.

SCIENCE: Breton Herman, Hendricken, V, bronze.

LITERATURE: Jaylene Le, Toll Gate 1, H, bronze; Rebecca Farias, Toll Gate 1, H, gold; Sam Girard, Toll Gate 1, V, silver.

ART: Neko Mahony, Johnston 2, S, bronze.

ECONOMICS: Briana Lazarte, Cranston East, V, silver; Brenton Herman, Hendricken, V, silver; Sam Girard, Toll Gate 1V, bronze.

ESSAY: Bailey Hidalgo Stafford, Toll Gate 2, S, bronze; Harrison Hun, Toll Gate 1, V, bronze.

SPEECH: Rebecca Farias, Toll Gate 1, S, gold; Danica Weedon, Toll Gate 1, S, silver; Mona Imrane, Johnston 1, S, bronze; Marcel Johnson-Goncalves, Johnston 1, V, gold; Harrison Hun, Toll Gate 1, V, bronze.

INTERVIEW: Hunter Schobel, Pilgrim, H, silver; Wesley Sanchez, Cranston East, S, gold; Rebecca Farias, Toll Gate 1, S, silver; Ariana Dandy, Johnston 2, S, bronze.



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The academic decathlon’s roots

The academic decathlon was conceived by an American POW flyer captured by the Germans in World War II. After the war, Robert Peterson went on to become superintendent of Orange County schools in California, where he started the first academic decathlon in 1968. As it grew, he invited schools from across the country to the event. In April of 1983, Hendricken sent a team to the nationals, and their coaches’ enthusiasm for the competition sparked the formation of a group to hold a competition here. In November 1983, the first Rhode Island decathlon was held at the CCRI Knight Campus with more than 25 teams competing.

In its 42 years, the decathlon has changed significantly. Tests have gone paperless. Essays are written online, submitted and graded before the day of the competition. The first couple of Rhode Island competitions were spread over a week with one day for the event, days for scoring and another day for awards.



Design became competition logo

For years, graphic arts students at the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center have submitted logo designs in keeping with the theme of the annual Rhode Island Academic Decathlon. This year the theme is “our changing climate.” The work of Alice Kinney, seen here in front of her classmates and instructor Jann Rogers-Gartner, was selected by her peers from more than 10 submissions. Alice’s creation graced the T-shirts given to more than 200 decathlon competitors March 2 at the event held at Bryant University. *Beacon Media photo*

Libraries are *more* than just books...

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

A whopping 92 percent of library patrons leave libraries feeling calm and peaceful, according to a new study organized by New York Public Library along with the Humanities and Human Flourishing Project at the University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology Center. That finding is just one of many takeaways from the study, which surveyed 2,400 New York Public Library patrons in 2023. The study also found that libraries contribute to patrons' love of learning, assist their personal growth, and make them feel equipped for life's challenges.

While many non-users may be surprised by these findings, it seems like common sense to the people who work in public libraries.

"Personally, I think when you leave the library with a pile of books and know that the next 30 hours of your life will be spent relaxing in a big chair, of course you're going to feel calm and peaceful," says Evan Barta, Deputy Director at Warwick Public Library.

"We help people with all sorts of technical problems," said Jon Anderson, director of the Marian J. Mohr Library in Johnston. "So I wouldn't be surprised if they felt calmer when they leave. I also think reading is just a very healthy thing to do. Television and social media can just make you feel more aggravated. Any time you give people a chance to read, it activates their minds and makes them more curious. Reading is a healthier way to use your mind."



"We offer a place where everyone is included and treated equally with respect," says Ed Garcia, Director of Cranston Public Library. "Our staff is dedicated to helping everyone with empathy and compassion."

EveryLibrary, a national organization dedicated to promoting libraries, released a statement in conjunction with the release of the study. "The [New York Public Library] report makes a compelling case that public libraries should be recognized as essential pillars of well-being. The research suggests that libraries don't just serve individuals; they strengthen entire communities."

EveryLibrary describes itself as "the first and only national organization dedicated to building voter support for libraries," and their main goal "is to support local public libraries when they have a referendum or measure on the ballot," according to its website.

I think when you leave the library with a pile of books and know that the next 30 hours of your life will be spent relaxing in a big chair, of course you're going to feel calm and peaceful.



— Evan Barta
Deputy Director of Warwick Public Library

EveryLibrary is also the subject of this year's Bateman Case Study Competition, organized by the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). Across the country, "Bateman teams" are made up of college students pursuing PR careers. In Rhode Island, Roger Williams University has a PRSSA chapter, and students from the university are currently working to promote the work of EveryLibrary.

"A lot of people who use the library already know the benefits of using the library," said Claire Kelley, a junior at Roger Williams and member of the university's Bateman team.

"We're really honing in on how we can target Gen Z," says senior Madison Jones, who is also taking part in the competition. "We are using Instagram, TikTok and YouTube to get the message out."

The students are working with libraries around the region, from Block Island to Swansea to all three cities and towns on Aquidneck Island. "Libraries are really the living rooms of



There is something for everyone at the library... Whether you are checking out something to read or view, using our free public computers or free Wi-Fi, attending a class, a program, viewing an art exhibit or just coming into the building to be around other people and have a sense of community. The library is here for all.



— Ed Garcia
Director of Cranston Public Library

● LIBRARIES to page 18



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Photo credit: Pamela Verklan

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

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MARCH IN YEARS PAST

By DON FOWLER

20 YEARS AGO

Ben Gazzara starred as Yogi Berra in "Nobody Don't Like Yogi" at RI College.

Folk singer Janice Ian was at the Odeon in East Greenwich.

Local singer Ronnie Rose was entertaining on the Bay Queen cruises to Newport. "Stomp" was at PPAC. Gamm Theatre presented "Oleanna" by David Mamet at their Pawtucket theatre.

The RI Philharmonic Pops performed at Vets Auditorium.

Vin Diesel starred in the action packed "The Pacifier." Adrien Brody and Kris Kristofferson starred in the psychological thriller, "The Jacket."

40 YEARS AGO

The Warwick Players presented "The Children's Hour" at Warwick City Hall.

Providence Opera Theater presented "La Bohème" at PPAC, followed by country group, The Oak Ridge Boys and the Vienna Boys Choir.

Paula Hunter Dancers gave a free performance at the Roger Wills Park Museum.

Anne Scurria and Peter Gerety starred in "The Country Wife" at Trinity.

Hemenway's opened in Providence.

The Auburn Fish Market sold a pound of tuna for \$2.99 and pasta salad for \$1.59 a pound. Fish and chips were \$3.45 at Gregg's.

Vin Diesel starred in the 2005 movie "The Pacifier" directed by Adam Shankman.

Cher and Eric Stoltz starred in the 1985 movie "Mask" directed by Peter Bogdanovich.

"The Gods Must Be Crazy" was at the Warwick Mall Cinema. Cher and Eric Stoltz starred in the moving "Mask" about a disfigured boy and his mother.

Jazz singer Rebecca Paris was at Capriccios.

THEY'RE BACK!

Dinosaurs Return from Extinction at Roger Williams Park Zoo

Dinosaurs are returning to RWP Zoo this spring.

Submitted photos courtesy of the Roger Williams Park Zoo

Dinosaurs are back! Sightings of these prehistoric giants have been reported in the wetlands at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Have these ancient creatures taken up residence once more, or have they been lurking undetected for the past 65 million years?

From April 6 through August 10, visitors are invited to journey back to the Jurassic era and embark on an unforgettable adventure in the Zoo's latest exhibit, "Return of the Dinosaurs," where they can step beyond the safety of the Zoo's familiar paths and venture into uncharted, wild territory, where colossal brachiosaurus tower overhead, velociraptors stalk through the brush, and a fearsome T. Rex awaits to greet the boldest explorers.

Discover how scientific understanding of dinosaurs has evolved over time—from groundbreaking research in paleontology to their enduring legacy in popular culture. Whether you're a lifelong dinosaur enthusiast or a curious adventurer, "Return of the Dinosaurs" offers an unforgettable, immersive experience for guests of all ages.

This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to come face-to-face with some of history's most incredible creatures.

Special Dinosaur Events:

Sensory Mornings
April 27 & July 6 • 8-9 am

Special sensory-friendly mornings an hour before the trail opens to the public: designed for those with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and sensory processing differences and their families. (Zoo will open at 9 am)

Dinosaur Family Nights
June 14 & August 9 • 5-9 pm

Families can journey back in time and enjoy an evening at the Zoo.

RI Philharmonic presents Rhapsody in Blue March 14 & 15 The VETS

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra presents Rhapsody in Blue with conductor Aram Demirjian and pianist Jeffrey Biegel for two performances at The VETS, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence: Saturday, March 15 at 7:30pm as part of the TACO Classical Series, and Friday, March 14 at 6:30PM, as part of the Amica Rush Hour Series. Both concerts feature the RI Phil premiere of Ives’ Fugue (from Symphony No. 4), the RI Phil premiere of Peter Boyer’s Rhapsody in Red, White & Blue, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, and the RI Phil premiere of Dawson’s Negro Folk Symphony.



Aram Demirjian,
conductor
*Submitted photo courtesy
of RI Philharmonic
Orchestra*

“This program is exceptional in many ways. Not only are we presenting three Rhode Island Philharmonic premieres, but we are also a part of a historic musical milestone in presenting Rhapsody in Red, White, & Blue by Rhode Island composer Peter Boyer, celebrating the centennial of George Gershwin’s seminal work, Rhapsody in Blue,” said Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School Executive Director David Beauchesne. “Featuring a mix of beloved classics and exciting new works, this March concert celebrates the rich and diverse musical traditions that have shaped American orchestral music.”

“Featuring a mix of beloved classics and exciting new works, this March concert celebrates the rich and diverse musical traditions that have shaped American orchestral music.”
— David Beauchesne, RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School Executive Director

Tickets start at \$20 and are available at tickets.riphil.org or 401.248.7000. Three-concert subscriptions are available for the TACO Classical Series. Subscriber benefits include access to the virtual concert archive, the best pricing as well as the best seats in the house, including the opportunity to always have the same seats at every concert and convenient flexibility with easy-to-accommodate ticket options if any conflicts arise. For subscriptions, tickets and more information visit tickets.riphil.org or call 401.248.7000.



Jeffrey Biegel, pianist
*Submitted photo courtesy
of RI Philharmonic
Orchestra*



Lenten sacrifices focus on meaningful acts

Many Christians are now in the season of Lent, the period between Ash Wednesday (yesterday) and Easter. During these 40 days, Christians typically observe Jesus’ fasting in the desert before beginning his ministry.

As a child, I remember observing Lent by having to give up something I enjoyed eating and refraining from eating meat on Fridays. This was not a particularly pleasant time for me—giving up my precious candy was difficult, and I hated fish.

As a child, I failed to understand the reason behind giving up my favorite candies for Lent—Bit-O’Honey, Mary Janes, Juju Fruits, gumdrops, Good & Plenty, Boston Baked Beans, Necco Wafers, Chuckles, and Sugar Daddies.

Once a week, my father would drive to downtown Providence on Route 10 (since Route 95 had not yet been built), where he would send me, alone, into a little hole-in-the-wall store to purchase his favorite cigars. He would always give me a nickel, and I would carefully pick out five pieces of penny candy.

Every Friday during Lent, the smell of fish frying in the pan makes me nauseous. I would pretend to eat it, all while sneaking pieces to our family dog, who sat anxiously at my feet, waiting for me to drop unwanted morsels.

I was overjoyed when Easter finally arrived, mostly because I knew a large basket of candy would be waiting for me—delivered by the Easter Bunny, of course. However, I could not eat any of it right away, as we had to fast for three hours before receiving communion. I impatiently had to wait until after church to finally enjoy my treats. Excitedly, I would put on my new Easter dress, patent leather shoes, and Easter bonnet and my mom and I would head off to church.

Of course, the real meaning of Lent goes beyond simply giving up favorite foods. It is a season of spiritual reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter. As a child, I didn’t fully understand this—but as an adult, I do.

I intentionally try to cheer people up, and sincere compliments naturally flow from me. If someone is wearing a pretty



Life Matters
with Linda Petersen

color, a cute blouse, or has beautiful, flowing curls, I make sure to compliment them. I can almost always find something to praise. (My mother was great at that—if my room was a mess and she wanted to give me a compliment, she’d look around, then up, and say, “My, what a pretty ceiling you have!”)

When I’m out in the community, I make a point to greet people with eye contact, a smile, and a cheerful “Good morning!” or “Good afternoon!” Most people smile back, and for some, it may be the only smile they receive that day. I’ve also found that if I’m feeling grumpy, returning a smile lifts my spirits too—so it’s a simple gesture that benefits both others and myself.

As an extra act of sacrifice during Lent, I take the time to write heartfelt cards to people who have had a significant impact on my life. Each card is cute and fun, with a personal message of gratitude. With my busy schedule, setting aside time for this can be a challenge, which makes it feel like a meaningful Lenten sacrifice.

Lent is also a meaningful time for me to give back to the Church Beyond Walls, a street church community in Providence that serves many individuals experiencing homelessness. For about \$100 on Amazon, I purchase a bulk supply of 150 personal care travel kits, each containing essentials like a toothbrush and toothpaste, mouthwash, a nail file, a sewing kit, a shaving set, and wet wipes. The product description amusingly claims they are “beautifully designed to bring elegance to any upscale property”—which should add a touch of sophistication to Burnside Park, where the church service is held.

My Lenten sacrifices focus on meaningful acts of kindness rather than simply giving up small indulgences. Instead of forgoing candy or only eating fish on Fridays, I choose to use my time and resources to uplift others. These acts may require more effort, but they bring a deeper sense of purpose and connection, making my Lenten journey truly fulfilling.

Texas man is seeking great-grandmother’s remains

In 1944, Helen Geneva (Carter) Barnes committed suicide. Eighty-one years later, her great-grandson is searching for her remains.

Helen Carter was born in Oklahoma in 1907 or 1908 – depending on what records are consulted– to coal miner James/John Elmer Carter and Nora McPherson. The couple also had a daughter Devern, born in 1909. By 1910, the family had relocated to Colorado.

Around the age of 17 in 1924, Helen married 27-year-old Karl Payne Pfau, a stenographer for Texas Company. Their daughter, Garnet Mildred Pfau, was born in 1925 in Houston. Two years later, Helen’s mother passed away at the age of 37, apparently followed by 19-year-old Devern in 1928.

On March 11, 1930, Helen and Karl were divorced in Texas. Two months later, on May 7, Helen married 27-year-old Everett Donnellay Barnes in Louisiana. By 1933, Helen was living with her husband and child in Hartford, Conn. By 1936, they were residing in Newton, Mass. and, by 1937 were in Boston. Everett was the district manager of the Monroe Calculating Machine Company in Providence. Within the next three years, the family moved to 70 President Avenue in Providence.

Sometime prior to the summer of 1944, Helen and Everett were divorced. Helen moved with her daughter Garnet to 171 Elmgrove Avenue in Providence. For reasons which have become lost to time, Helen was in Manhattan on Aug. 10, 1944. That afternoon, at 1:30, a doctor pronounced her dead at The Manor, a ten-story, 215-apartment brick and terracotta structure modeled after Sutton Place in Surrey, England. The apartment building, which opened for business in 1927, was a lavish operation containing several penthouses, each with a roof terrace. There in the comfortable surroundings, Helen had committed suicide through the use of illuminating gas – gas used to produce indoor and outdoor lighting.

Seventeen-year-old Garnet reported her mother’s death to authorities although it isn’t known if she was the one who discovered the terrible scene. As



Back in the Day
by Kelly Sullivan

Helen’s next of kin, the teenager was legally responsible for making decisions concerning the remains. It appears that at some point, Garnet’s former stepfather served the role of her legal guardian when it came to her inheritance of her mother’s estate.

Helen’s body was transported to Fresh Pond Crematory & Columbarium, a massive three-story structure in New York holding thousands of urns containing cremated remains. Helen’s ashes were not to remain there, however. After her cremation on Aug. 14, her ashes were picked up by an agent from W.B. Cooke, Inc., a funeral parlor on Roosevelt Avenue in New York.

Garnet returned to Providence where she married 20-year-old Donald Cushing Robbins four months later, on Dec. 15, 1944. Five years passed and while Garnet and Donald were residing on Angell Street, they welcomed a daughter, Lynda. “My mother said that Garnet only spoke of her mother’s death one time,” Steven Harrison said during a recent interview. “And that it was very off-the-cuff like ‘Well, my mother committed suicide.’ For that generation, suicide was such a taboo. It was never spoken of.”

Garnet eventually returned to Texas where she died and was buried in 2001. Subsequently, when Steven decided to begin tracing his family history, he was met with a host of mysteries. Acknowledging that Helen’s reasons for being in New York and taking her own life are probably forever lost to history, his present concern is whether or not she is resting in peace. While in the process of ancestral research, he came across an entry on the web site “Find A Grave,” stating that Helen’s ashes are interred at Roger Williams Mausoleum in Cranston.

The private mausoleum, on Cyr Street, opened its doors in 1926. Building contractor Thomas Francis Cullinan de-

signed the three-story stone building with compartmented walls in which to hold caskets and cremated remains. When Cullinan died 1938, care of the mausoleum was inherited by his two daughters, one of whom died in 2000 and the other in 2002. No provisions had

Although the mausoleum’s official records no longer exist, it is estimated that the remains of over 500 individuals are contained inside.

been made for the future care of the mausoleum. As the structure crumbled, it was entered by wild animals, looters and vandals. In 2005, the city of Cranston condemned the mausoleum as a dangerous and unsafe structure. It was locked, fenced off and posted with no trespassing signs. Although the mausoleum’s official records no longer exist, it is estimated that the remains of over 500 individuals are contained inside.

The funeral parlor which handled Helen’s remains is no longer in business. Harrison’s attempts to contact someone at “Find A Grave” to ask how they obtained his great-grandmother’s name as someone interred in the mausoleum have been unsuccessful. “Whoever added that information was looking at something,” he said, desperate to know what that something was as he can find no evidence of Helen’s final resting place at all. Attempts to contact someone affiliated with the mausoleum have also been unsuccessful for Harrison who stated, “If she’s there, I can’t leave her there. It’s on my conscience every day.” A resident of Texas, Harrison said he would gladly come to Rhode Island to recover his great-grandmother, if she is indeed here in the destroyed mausoleum. “If we could find her remains, than I would at least have some closure,” he said.



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The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism and Jersey Mike's partner for the 15th Annual "Month of Giving."
Photo courtesy of flutiefoundation.org

Jersey Mike's steps up for Doug Flutie 'month of giving' for autism

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism (Flutie Foundation) is teaming up with 74 Jersey Mike's locations across parts of New England, the Buffalo, NY region and Fresno, CA for the 15th Annual "Month of Giving" Campaign.

During March, customers at each participating location will have the option to round up their purchase to the nearest dollar or donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 when placing order. All proceeds will be directly donated to the Flutie Foundation in support of their important mission of helping people and families with autism live life to the fullest.

Now in their fifth year of partnership, the Flutie Foundation and Jersey Mike's have raised more than \$2.1 million to support the autism community and look forward to building on

this incredible momentum to make an even greater impact.

"We are honored to be partnering again with Jersey Mike's for the fifth year of this important campaign," said Flutie Foundation President and Co-Founder Doug Flutie "Thanks to the generosity of Jersey Mike's and its customers, we can continue making a meaningful difference in the autism community and provide essential support, resources, and opportunities to individuals and families in need."

The Month of Giving Campaign culminates with Jersey Mike's "Day of Giving" on Wednesday, March 26th, when all participating Jersey Mike's restaurants supporting the Flutie Foundation will donate 100 percent of the day's sales.

Full event line-up announced for Providence Culinary Collective

The Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau (PWCVB) announced that ticket sales are live for its inaugural Providence Culinary Collective, happening March 27-30, 2025 in locations throughout Providence.

The Providence Culinary Collective, alongside the inaugural Rhode Island Wine Experience (Wine X) produced in partnership with RMO PR, is also excited to share its full, multi-day schedule of events featuring signature tastings and specially curated paired dinners that honor the city's culinary legacy and reflect its brand.

"GoProvidence, with the help of our talented community partners, has curated a first-of-its-kind food and wine experience for Providence locals and visitors to enjoy," said Kristen Adamo, President and CEO of the PWCVB. "The Providence Culinary Collective brings together seasoned and emerging talent to truly showcase our area's culinary prowess in one delicious and diverse celebration. Throughout this four-day event, you will gather at the city's picturesque rooftops, dine among celebrity chefs, learn from the country's top culinary professors, and enjoy expertly-prepared meals inside some of Providence's most historic buildings. Providence has long

been a destination for authentic cuisine, supported by the talent of Johnson & Wales University alumni and a thriving dining culture. We are excited to continue sharing this with the world during the Providence Culinary Collective."

"Wine X is a vision I've been nurturing for some time - a way to highlight Providence's culinary culture while introducing renowned wines," said Rosanna Ortiz, founder of RMO PR and Wine X. "As someone who believes in the power of community, I wanted to create an experience that brings people together to explore exceptional wine, forge lasting connections, and honor the heart and soul of Providence."

Other Providence Culinary Collective partners include: Johnson & Wales University, Hope & Main, Food Trucks In, Rhode Island PBS and The Public's Radio's Uncorking the Future, and national media partner SAVEUR.

Events are being held in conjunction with Lil Rhody Laugh Riot, a new four-day comedy festival happening simultaneously in multiple venues in the city and featuring more than 20 comedians including Kevin Hart, Matt Rife, Aziz Ansari and Leslie Jones. Find more details at LilRhodyLaughRiot.com.

CCRI Players present Stephen Sondheim's Assassins

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Players continue their 2024-25 season with a bold and thought-provoking production of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's Assassins, running March 6-9 at the Bobby Hackett Theatre on CCRI's Knight Campus.

Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical, Assassins is a darkly comedic, yet chilling exploration of the lives of historical figures who assassinated or attempted to assassinate the President of the United States. The show takes audiences on a surreal and unsettling journey through the darker side of the American Dream, where the assassins interact across different historical periods, challenging the audience's perception of history, power, and fame.

"Stephen Sondheim is the most sophisticated musical theatre composer of all time. This is an extremely challenging musical to produce, and I'm absolutely thrilled at the effort and expertise being displayed by our theatre students, faculty, and staff on this remarkable work," said Ted Clement, CCRI Professor and Assassins director.

A Dynamic Cast of Student Performers

This production features a talented ensemble of CCRI Theatre Performance students, including:

Benjamin Card (John Hinkley/Assistant Director) is a 2023 graduate of Coventry High School and an AFA Theatre Performance major at CCRI.

Olivia Dailey (Sara Jane Moore) is a 2023 Home School graduate and a General Studies major at CCRI.

Emma Faith Estrella (Ensemble/David Herold/Bystander/Fairgoer) is a 2024 Home School graduate and an AFA Theatre Performance major at CCRI.

Max Hayden (John Wilkes Booth) is a 2022 graduate of Pilgrim High School, a JAA Film Studies major at CCRI, and Secretary of the CCRI Players.

Henry Kerr (Giuseppe Zangara) is 2022 Home School graduate and an AFA Theatre Performance major at CCRI.

Leila Rodriguez (Ensemble/Emma Goldman/Bystander/Fairgoer) is a 2023 graduate of Coventry High School and an AFA Theatre Performance major at CCRI.

Miguel Manuel Soto-Sanchez (Charles J. Guiteau) is a 2022 graduate of Tollgate High School and 2024 graduate of CCRI with a degree in General Studies.

Continuing a Legacy of Excellence in Theatre

The CCRI Players have built a reputation for tackling diverse and thought-provoking productions. Recent performances include Doubt: A Parable, The Laramie Project, and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!, all of which received critical acclaim for their compelling storytelling and strong performances.

Ticket Information

Performances of Assassins will take place March 6-8 (7:30 pm) and March 8 and 9 (2pm) at the Bobby Hackett Theatre on CCRI's Knight Campus in Warwick. Tickets are \$5 for CCRI students, \$10 for seniors, CCRI faculty, and staff, and \$20 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased online at ShowTix4U.com.

For more information about the CCRI Players and their upcoming productions, visit www.ccri.edu/performingarts/theatre.

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Location : Rhodes on The Pawtuxet

'BEVY 2025' brings a Sip & Shop experience to Rhodes

By ROB DUGUAY

With the arrival of March, we start to see the trees begin to bud again, the grass becomes a little greener and the winter thaw nears its conclusion as the blustery winds of spring make their presence felt. With St. Patrick's Day happening on a Monday, there are a bunch of green-themed events in the days leading up to it, and one of them is "BEVY 2025" happening at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on March 13 at 6pm.

The Rhode Island Night Market, an organization that's been putting on large-scale markets with a variety of vendors since 2018, is hosting BEVY 2025. Their mission is to provide a place for talented creative people from around the Ocean State and beyond to thrive and gain following.

"Local and national brands will be providing sample tastings, showcasing popular and new flavors both in spirits and non-alcoholic categories. Sip and shop with a local makers market, fun workshops and more," according to the event's website.

Some of those brands include local businesses like the South County breweries Chair 2 and Tower Hill Brewing, the Providence distillery The Industrious Spirit Company, the

Westerly based Granny Squibb's Organic Iced Tea and the North Providence beverage staple Yacht Club Soda. Others include Bully Boy Distillers out of Boston, Polar Beverages from Worcester, Burlington, Vermont's Citizen Cider and the Australian energy drink brand Red Bull among many others.

Event sponsors include the Southern New England brand development & beverage consulting company Two Bullyz and the food and drink themed social media content creator Rhody Foody just to name a few.

The first 250 people who either purchase or turn in their ticket at the door can sign up for a mixology workshop class put on by Say Yes To The Cocktail where they can learn how to make their own mixed drink.

There are both general admission and VIP tickets available, and folks are encouraged to follow both Rhode Island Night Market and Rhody Foody on Instagram at [instagram.com/rinightmarket](https://www.instagram.com/rinightmarket) and [instagram.com/rhodyfoody](https://www.instagram.com/rhodyfoody) for a chance to win free tickets. For tickets and more information on "BEVY 2025" and Rhode Island Night Market, log onto [rinightmarket.com](https://www.rinightmarket.com).



Netflix has a wide variety of crime and thriller movies from a number of countries. Here are a few we watched recently:

WATCHER
* * *

(Woman fears stalker)

While this one from Romania follows a similar pattern of stalker movies, it has a few twists and turns and a surprise ending that will keep you glued to the screen. An American wife follows her Romanian businessman husband to his native country.

She believes that a man across the street is watching her from his window and following her through the narrow streets. Husband and police think she is paranoid, but you just know something is amiss.

Good ending.

While this one from Romania follows a similar pattern of stalker movies, it has a few twists and turns and a surprise ending that will keep you glued to the screen.



See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler

ROGUE AGENT
* * *

(Mystery thriller)

This British spy thriller is about fellow spies chasing a con artist posing as a luxury car salesman, bilking women out of their fortunes. He gets what's coming to him.

TO CATCH A KILLER
* * *

(Serial killer pursued)

There's a serial killer loose in Baltimore, and he avoids the police, FBI and politicians who fear losing the election if he's not caught. Everyone wants the credit that will come with catching him.

SICARIO
* * *

(Fighting the Drug Cartel)

Sicario means Hit Man in Spanish. This brutal, action-packed movie stars Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro and Josh Brolin as rogue hitmen working undercover to do what the CIA can't do legally.

They invade the drug cartels in Juarez using every illegal trick possible to reach the cartel leaders and eliminate them.

No one can be trusted as they work with stool pigeons, crooked cops and undercover agents, using any means possible to reach the cartel bosses and eliminate them.

Thos who are weak of stomach may wish to skip this one.

AVON

Brown University French and Francophone Studies will sponsor the 30th anniversary of the Providence French and Francophone Film Festival through March 6 at the Avon Cinemas on Thayer St. Fifteen international films will be shown. Visit www.avoncinema.com for details.



ROGUE AGENT



SICARIO



RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Engage With Women's History from 1775–1925 at the John Brown House

HerStory: Historic Women of the East Side Walking Tours

To mark Women's History Month, the John Brown House Museum will offer the walking tour "HerStory: Historic Women of the East Side" at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, and Saturday, March 22. This walking tour, which covers just over a half mile on Providence's East Side, highlights women's stories from the 18th century through the present day. From educators, artists, and unsung heroes, this is the story of the women of the East Side. The 90-minute tour departs rain or shine from the John Brown House Museum and concludes at the entrance to the RISD Museum. Tickets are \$10 for RIHS members and \$15 for non-members. Guests can purchase tickets at rihs.simplenix.com.

Fashion in the Times of Sylvia DeWolf Ostrander (1841-1925) with Rebecca Kelly

Join the John Brown House Museum on Thursday, March 13, for Fashion in the Times

of Sylvia DeWolf Ostrander (1841-1925), a talk by fashion historian Rebecca Kelly. This event is in support of the exhibit, The Girl of My Dreams, Sylvia: A 19th Century Life from artist Stacy Morrison. The talk will begin at 5:30 p.m., when Kelly will discuss the radical changes in fashion that Sylvia would have witnessed during her lifetime. She'll explore questions such as, "Was Sylvia a follower of fashion? Or did she use clothing as a means of self-expression?" Guests are invited to enjoy a light reception prior to the talk, with doors opening at 4:30pm. They will also be welcome to tour The Girl of My Dreams with artist Stacy Morrison at 4:45pm. Admission is \$5 for RIHS members and \$10 for nonmembers. Guests can purchase tickets at rihs.simplenix.com.

Kelly is a textile historian, artist, and the Executive Director and Curator of the South County Museum in Narragansett, RI. Her research interests include studying the Gilded Age, particularly the work of under-recognized women fashion designers.

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● LIBRARIES from page 13

communities,” said Alexandra Cos, a senior who is also part of the Bateman team. “They are for everyone, no matter what.”

The students’ feelings are mirrored by those of local librarians. “Our regular patrons know the services we provide,” said Barta. “But when we get new people or people that are coming back for the first time in a while, they’re often surprised because they think they’re going to have to pay something. There’s a lot of joy from realizing that transactions can exist where you don’t have to buy a coffee or buy a sandwich to use the WiFi.”

“If you want to learn something, you don’t have to enroll in a course that costs thousands of dollars,” he says. “You can just come to the library and try it out for free.”

The study also found that lower income people see the most benefits from using the public library.

“There is something for everyone at the library,” said Garcia. “Whether you are checking out something to read or view, using our free public computers or free Wi-Fi, attending a class, a program, viewing an art exhibit or just coming into the building to be around other people and have a sense



of community. The library is here for all.”

“Keeping a child entertained is an expensive proposition,” Barta said. “It makes sense that we add value by providing free services.”

Aside from books and movies, local libraries also have other benefits for card holders, numbers for which vary by municipality. Forty-one percent of Cranston residents hold library cards, while in Warwick it’s 37 percent (the state average). It is much lower in Johnston at 19 percent.

In 2024 there were 47,019 books checked out at Marian J. Mohr Library, the lone public library in Johnston. Warwick and Cranston saw numbers of 308,522 and 352,346 respectively between all their branches.

“Television and social media can just make you feel more aggravated. Any time you give people a chance to read, it activates their minds and makes them more curious.”



— Jon Anderson
Director of the Marian J. Mohr Library
in Johnston

Program attendance is also important to note, and the three library systems between them had nearly 3,000 youth and adult programs last year, with attendance numbers ranging from 3,920 in Johnston to 25,763 in Warwick. Cranston was close behind with 25,241.

The Johnston library has just started promoting writers groups for adults, and is actively recruiting for the library’s Friends group. In Warwick, Barta provides free notary services, and the library also loans out a wide variety of items ranging from a wet vac and an air fryer to bocce sets and a portable turntable.

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By JENNIFER COATES

Warwick homeowner Stephanie Bell has a ritual every night as she shuts her house down for the evening. She begins in her living room where she turns the lights on and pulls down the shades that will now give her family privacy. In the morning, her ritual continues in reverse as she throws up those same honeycomb shades to let in the first of the morning rays of sunlight.

For those windows that face the brightest sun, Bell keeps the shades drawn to protect the fabric curtains she wants to prevent from fading. Those shades may help mark the time of day for Bell, but they also allow her privacy, protection, function, decoration and even insulation. All this from a local, hometown and family-run business that has been serving our community since 1990, Harris Blinds & Shutters.

Harris Blinds & Shutters has become a permanent fixture on Warwick’s busy Warwick Avenue where it has stood for 35 years. The store is best known for its superior products, covering the gamut from blinds to shades to shutters. Its mission now, as it has always been, is to “provide the best quality product, and the best service at the best price.”

To Harris Alkins, the owner of this window covering business, his customers’ satisfaction has always been his priority. He does everything he can to meet those customers’ high standards and expectations. Right from the start, he comes to your home prepared with samples of his products, then measures your windows and helps you narrow down the options to the ones that will best suit your budget and your needs. After a thorough consultation, he gives you a free estimate, in fact, he provides all measurements

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- Window treatments for extra wide windows and sliding doors
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Schedule your free consultation today by calling Harris Blinds & Shutters at 401-737-4917. To learn more, visit their informative website at www.harrisblinds.com. The store showroom is located at 1638 Warwick Avenue.



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Sports

Hawks go back to back for No. 35

Hendricken
claims title
in photo finish

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League's Swimming State Championships were held on Sunday at Brown University and plenty of locals made noise on both the boys and girls side. The Bishop Hendricken Hawks wrapped up the boys title in dramatic fashion, winning the 400 yard freestyle relay to clinch the championship in the final event.

Hendricken senior Tristan Jordan was the anchor of the relay and would help the Hawks secure the win by 0.28 seconds in a photo finish.

Jordan was on the shortlist of favorites to clinch an individual title. Although he just missed, he was thrilled to still take



The Bishop Hendricken swim team last weekend at Brown University. Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

Salinas, Patten take home titles Hawks finish 2nd as team

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League held its wrestling state championships last weekend and plenty of local grapplers made noise on the big stage.

Leading the way were Warwick wrestlers Victoria Salinas and Allison Patten, who won their second state titles on the girls side after also winning in last year's inaugural event.

Patten, a sophomore at Pilgrim, won the 107-pound championship and received the Outstanding Wrestler Award for her performance as she pinned her final opponent in less than a minute.

Salinas, a Toll Gate senior, moved down in weight this season to claim her second championship, finishing her high school career on top.

"It was super rewarding. I felt super rewarded for myself and my coaches. It was amazing. I felt a lot more confident because when I dropped weight, it made me feel more confident in my field and my skills. I felt more prepared," said Salinas. "All my nervousness died down. I was able to see and understand and grasp how chaotic things were. It was the best feeling ever leaving this year with a title, being with this school, it was a great feeling."

Salinas was also proud to help usher in a new generation of female wrestlers, with the tournament nearly doubling in participants from last year's event.



Athletes of the Week: Victoria Salinas, Allison Patten

The Warwick Beacon's Athletes of the Week are wrestlers Victoria Salinas and Allison Patten. Salinas (Toll Gate) won the 132-pound state championship last weekend as a senior while Patten (Pilgrim) won at 107 pounds as a sophomore. It was the second straight year that each grappler won at states and they will be gearing up for this weekend's New England Championships. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



Brayden Healey drives to the basket. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

Titans fall in semifinal thriller

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Toll Gate boys basketball team's Cinderella season came to an end last week in the Division III semifinals, when Times2 Academy pulled off the 66-63 win to advance to the finals.

Toll Gate played from behind the majority of the contest but would grab its first lead

with 5:41 remaining in the third quarter when Brayden Healey scored. Times2 regained the lead but Jack Colvin would hit a 3-pointer with 3:37 left in the fourth to put Toll Gate back on top.

Times2 star Yomy Garcia caught fire in the final three minutes of play, though, and would propel the Eagles to a 12-3 run to close things out. Toll Gate hit a 3-pointer at the

Lynx end Pilgrim's comeback season

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Pilgrim girls basketball team saw its playoff run end in the Division III semifinals last week when top-seeded Lincoln School wrapped up the 40-35 win.

Despite falling behind by as many as 11 points in the second half, the No. 4 Pats would rally and cut the deficit to just two points with two minutes remaining in regulation. The Lynx, led by leading scorer Sarah Berube, would hold off the late surge and close out the win.

The Pats were led by senior Lily Hall, who finished with 10 points. Hall and fellow senior Sloan Hogan spent much of the night guarding Lincoln School star Reign Whiteing, effectively holding her to just 10 points and limiting the damage in the first half, especially.

"She's a very tough player, aggressive and strong. Tonight could have been better but I think I did pretty good," said Hogan of her performance against Whiteing.

Pilgrim coach Kaitlyn Rachiele felt that the big-game jitters impacted her



Pilgrim's Sloan Hogan looks to pass in last week's DIII semifinals. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

● TITANS to page 22

● PILGRIM to page 22



Jakob Reyes on Tuesday night. *Beacon Media* photo by Alex Sponseller

Hawks fall to La Salle in Division I finals

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The La Salle Rams held off Bishop Hendricken 45-41 to win the Division I boys basketball title on Tuesday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence.

Offense was hard to come by for each team throughout the duration of the contest, as Tuesday’s final was the lowest-scoring since the 1976 season. Each team was also held to its lowest league score of the year.

La Salle boasted the state’s best offense heading into the matchup, so a sound defensive effort was needed by the Hawks. Although that’s exactly what they got – it was not enough as the Rams also played strong defense while each club struggled to find its rhythm shooting.

“This isn’t a high school gym. It’s a different setup, different experience for the boys. Each team battled hard on defense, battled hard on the glass. I was proud of the way the boys defended, it was probably our best defensive effort of the season, but you have to score points,” said Hendricken coach Jamal Gomes. “It was two heavyweight teams going at it. It wasn’t the prettiest of games, but you have to give credit to La Salle. They made the plays and they made the shots. They earned that win.”

Michael D’Ambra led the Hawks with 15 points while Jakob Reyes added eight. Hendricken will now flip the page to the open state tournament, which gets underway on Saturday when it takes on No. 15 Shea.

Despite the tough loss, Gomes was pleased with the team’s performance and expects it to regroup in time for the state tournament.

“We had to (play strong defense) going into this game. I told them, ‘I’m not disappointed, I’m not upset, I’m not angry.’ We came in with a good game plan and executed it. We just couldn’t make the shots and sometimes that happens in the game of basketball,” said Gomes.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Cut a little bit off
5. State with confidence
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Not narrow
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Challenged
25. One-sided
27. Showing extreme greed
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Lake in Botswana
38. E.T. rode in one
39. Juniors' parents
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental box
45. Gov't investigators
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Noted consumer advocate
60. Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. Tractability
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Brushed aside
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. A number everyone has
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who takes you to court
8. Indicates outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Strains
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Some pages are dog-
18. Ukraine city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Summer month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Jewelry brand
30. Fictional rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Furious
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They ____
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Type of protein
54. Pennsylvania town
57. Art ____; around 1920
58. ____ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to sleep
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Depressed
68. Gradually gave way
69. Clear-thinking

Pilgrim swept by Prout

By CHARLIE ADAMS
Special to the Beacon

Pilgrim’s boys hockey season came to an end on Saturday, following a 7-0 loss against Prout in game two of the state quarterfinals best-of-three series.

“We just ran into a hot team here today,” Pilgrim Head Coach Mike Boyaijan said. “Prout right now is playing very, very solid hockey.”

The Patriots reached the postseason as the seventh seed following a 3-11 record against in-state opponents. Prout had outscored Pilgrim 15-1 in its two regular season meetings and opened playoffs with a dominant 6-0 win in game one.

“It was a tougher year this year,” Boyaijan said. “It was a very, very competitive league, and overall, we had a good season.”

Teams dropping to Division II following last season contributed to the tougher year. North Kingstown, East Greenwich/Toll Gate and Cumberland all made the switch, taking three opponents off the schedule that Pilgrim went undefeated against in the 2023-24 season.



Pilgrim's Justin Cramer. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*

Prout dominated the puck out of the gate, powering to five goals in the first period. The Crusaders put across two within the first three minutes of the game.

Senior goaltender Brandon Laudon started the game for Pilgrim, blocking an early shot attempt by Aidan Forcier. The rebound reached Gabe Trainor at the wing who fired home the game’s first goal.

Less than 20 seconds later, the Crusaders crowded the crease and poked at the puck until John Gaffney was eventually able to get the score across.

Will Gaffney got the next goal on a two-on-one breakaway. Forcier delivered the pass after Laudon committed to his side, leaving a wide-open net on the pass across.

Just beyond the halfway mark in the first, Pilgrim looked for a chance on the attack when Ricky Cabral’s neutral zone pass was intercepted by Caleb Burnett. It was a costly turnover that left Burnett with just Laudon to beat for the fourth goal of the period.

Burnett soon got another breakaway score, deking through the defense before flicking the puck over and past a sprawled Laudon.

“[Prout] capitalized in the first period,” Boyaijan said. “I think the nerves got to us a little bit in that first period.”

Pilgrim opened the second period with chances, Cabral brought a strong shot from the blue line that forced Prout’s senior goalie Angelo Evangelista to lunge out for the cover. At the following whistle, the Patriots swapped out Laudon for junior Michael Bessette.

a minute later, Chase DeGregorio joined him for tripping. Forcier capitalized on the 5-on-3 chance with a score from a face-off win by Liam McIntosh for Prout’s sixth goal.

Max Costello had the lone score in the third for Prout, taking in a pass at the slot and shoveling it past Bessette.

Two Pilgrim seniors had chances late to crack the scoring column, Devin Stevens on a breakaway and Jack Saylor with a rebound opportunity. Evangelista kept the shutout intact with a couple of good saves.

“We had some quality chances today,” Boyaijan said. “I thought we had a share of good opportunities to score, but [Prout] has the best goalie in the state.”

Boyaijan was happy with how his team pushed itself in the series against Prout, despite the result.

“The biggest thing we told the kids all year, it’s not about wins or losses, it’s about the effort,” Boyaijan said. “If you can come in this locker room and say you tried your hardest, that’s all we cared about.”

Eight seniors are moving on for Pilgrim, but the Patriots have seen contributions from all levels this season. No senior was in the starting lineup on Saturday besides Laudon in goal, three juniors, one sophomore and the freshman Braydon Cote got things going.

“We’ve got a good, sound foundation to build on again,” Boyaijan said. “We’ll build, get a couple more guys experience on the backend and we’ve got a share of forwards returning that were underclassmen.”

Prout has now eliminated the Patriots from the playoffs in back-to-back seasons, advancing to the Frozen Four against Moses Brown on Friday. The Crusaders will look for a better result after being upset as the top seed in last year’s contest by eventual runner-up Burrillville.

Physicality picked up in the final five minutes of the period with the game’s first penalties. Pilgrim came up empty on the first power play of the game before heading to the box themselves.

Christopher Schifino received a double minor for roughing along the boards, and not

Epic finishes on court, in pool

This past week offered two of the most exciting events of the entire winter season and it was a nice reminder of why I love covering local sports.

The two events that I am referring to are the Division III boys basketball semifinal matchup between Toll Gate and Times2 Academy and the boys swimming state championships at Brown. The Titans fell in a wild showdown while Hendricken took home the state title in dramatic fashion, and I felt fortunate to have a front row seat to each.

Let’s start with the basketball game.

Times2 came out firing and would take an early lead by sinking five 3-pointers in the first quarter. It looked like it would be a long night for the Titans as Times2 was rolling and appeared to be the more athletic group as well.



The Titans were battle tested, having completed a fourth-quarter comeback against Central Falls in the quarters before ultimately erasing this deficit as well. Sometimes, teams get too used to playing from behind and need that adversity to click. I don’t think this was the case with Toll Gate, I just think it faced a few good clubs that came out swinging.

Toll Gate had the deeper lineup and was better coached, more disciplined. Sometimes in basketball, though, one star can be the difference, and last Thursday was Garcia’s night. He is one of the most feared players in DIII for a reason, and he was just too much to stop late in the game when he put the team on his back.

However, by halftime, it was anyone’s game as the Times2 lead shrunk. The Titans kept chipping away at the deficit and took their first lead with 5:41 remaining in the fourth. The team traded leads, with the Titans also finding an advantage with 3:37 left, but Times2 star Yomy Garcia took over in the final minutes to help the team advance to the finals.

Toll Gate’s Damola Oremosu kept the team in it in the first half, then Brayden Healey and Jack Colvin caught fire in the second half to help the Titans overcome the deficit. Oremosu and Healey proved yet again that they were a top-flight front court duo in DIII while Colvin also cemented his place as one of the most clutch shooters in the division as well. Toll Gate’s versatility and experience shined through.

I’ve covered far too many great games in my career to come up with a definitive list of the best, but I can at least say that this was the best basketball game I’ve covered this season. Two teams that were totally different but of equal quality, battling it out, exchanging shots, leads, clutch plays from start to finish. This game wasn’t over until the clock hit zero.

The Toll Gate players were devastated and nothing can be said to cheer up competitors in a loss like that. I hope in hindsight that the players look back on that game fondly. Win or lose, those games are exactly why you play the sport. That was an atmosphere that could only be appreciated in person and for the kids to be the ones on the floor, it is an opportunity that

few ever get. The Titans played a hell of a game, too. There were no moments that they truly botched the game, Times2 just simply made a few more plays to win.

Let’s shift gears to swimming.

This year’s field was wide open heading into the big day on Sunday. Between Hendricken, South County, North Kingstown and Barrington, there was no clear favorite and all four of those teams beat up on each other in the regular season.

Six state records were broken on Sunday, but none of them were Hendricken and it looked like South County was grabbing control late. When the final event, the 400 relay got started, the Hawks needed to win to leapfrog SCOOP and get its 35th championship and it did just that.

Not only did the Hawks get the win, but anchor Tristan Jordan would hold off the competition and win by 0.28. It was a photo finish in the final event to win the whole dang thing. It couldn’t have been drawn up any better.

It’s been awhile since I can recall a state championship coming down to circumstances like those. Sure, there are individual races that are close, but team scores are usually pretty set by the time the final event begins. That was far from the case this time, and the race itself was epic.

Playoffs always bring out the best of teams and every season there are games and events that get the juices pumping as a spectator. To witness two of the best competitions of the season within a few days of each other, it was a great week to be a sports writer.

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Jack Reed defends NOAA on US Senate floor

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Herald

It makes good economic sense to fund NOAA as their 2023 annual budget was \$6.8 billion, yet fisheries alone have an estimated annual economic impact of over \$400 billion. This impact is just the Fisheries side of NOAA with no weather/atmospheric benefits noted.

Last Thursday an estimated 600 to 880 NOAA employees received layoff notices, most were employees classified as probationary, meaning they were hired recently or had recently been promoted to a new position. Officials responsible for the layoffs refused to provide the media with details on the number of employees that received layoff notices.

NOAA is responsible for a broad range of research and data supporting agriculture, fisheries, aviation, transportation, marine, weather forecasting (tornadoes, hurricanes, wild fire conditions) and energy sectors. Its mission (visit Our mission, values and vision | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is “to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.”

After layoffs were announced last Thursday in an NRP story Janet Coit, Chief of NOAA Fisheries under the Biden administration (and Rhode Island resident), said NOAA cuts could “hollow the ability of NOAA Fisheries. It raises the question, she says: “How do you support the growth of our seafood sector while simultaneously eviscerating the agency that’s responsible for sustainable management and many other aspects of supporting our seafood sector?”

Last Wednesday, Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island took to the Senate floor to defend NOAA, its work, employees and budget. Senator Reed said, “Mr. President, my key topic this morning is to speak about the tremendous value that NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—provides the American people. Destroying NOAA... would be an enormous blunder that would hurt our economy, hamper innovation, and increase the risks to American lives and property. The fact is that NOAA accounts for just one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget. Yet it is delivering information and research that are absolutely vital to our economic prosperity.”

To see Senator Reed’s complete comments supporting NOAA and their efforts in the region and nation, visit the Congressional Record at CREC-2025-02-26-senate.pdf or see the video at ‘An Enormous Blunder’: Jack Reed Warns Against Cutting NOAA Funding.

Your support of NOAA and the fishing community is much appreciated.

Cape Cod Salties Annual Open House

The Cape Cod Salties (CCS) Sportfishing Club held their annual open house Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Yarmouth, MA Senior Center. Over 100 people attended the event with fifteen saltwater research and fishing related organizations display-



Senator Jack Reed took to the Senate floor last week to defend NOAA's work, employees and budget. Submitted photos

ing information and answering questions at tables.

Jonathan Ungerland, CCS President said, “This is our second annual open house, a great tradition growing with area organizations and members making them aware of our work in the community advocating for fisheries.” Groups participating in the event included MA Division of Marine Fisheries, UMass Striped Bass Research Team, Cape Cod Trout Unlimited, Cape Downwinders, Waquoit Bay Fish Company, Save Our Bay MA. Barnstable Association of Recreational Shellfishing, Friends of Bass River, Ocean Conservancy. Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, WHOI - Seagrant, and Riverview Bait and Tackle.

Congratulations Cape Cod Salties for another successful year serving the fishing community on the Cape.

New England Saltwater Fishing Show this weekend

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is this weekend Friday, March 7 to Sunday, March 9, 2025, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. The Show features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

Visit www.nesaltwatershow.com for the seminar updates and information on the show. Children 11 and under admitted free and on Sunday, March 9, Family Day, all women are admitted free. Adults who enter the show can register to win a Free Fishing

Charter Trip with Capt. Connor MacLeod of Tall Tailz Charters for up to six people. You can purchase raffle tickets for three custom rods donated by Ralph Craft of Crafty One Customs, with the rods displayed at the RISAA membership booths. Tickets at the door are \$15.

Where’s the bite?

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

Freshwater fishing. Check ice conditions with local cities and towns to make sure ice is safe for fishing or skating. For stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) stocked thirteen waterways last week for updates visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Dave Monti holds a master captain’s license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.



Janet Coit, past Chief of NOAA Fisheries (and Rhode Island resident) related how staff and budget cuts will reduce NOAA's ability to manage fisheries.

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● PILGRIM from page 19

young team, as much of the roster is made up of underclassmen that had not played in the basketball postseason. Pilgrim’s offense struggled to play clean down the stretch, with turnovers putting it in a bind as the Lynx capitalized.

“(The difference in the game) were the turnovers and pressure, that little bit of pressure forced some bad passes. It was a packed gym, we’re a young team. I think that the nerves and pressure led to those turnovers,” said Rachiele.

Pilgrim had a bounce back season, finishing with an 11-2 league record and emerging as a contender in DIII.

Despite the loss, Hogan was proud of the team’s showing in the semis.

“We left it all on the court. We were happy to make it to the final four,” said Hogan.

With much of this year’s core set to return, including players like Madison Tuirok, Skylar Hawes and Lia Wasilewski, the Pats should be right back in the thick of the DIII title picture next winter.

Graduating will be Hall and Hogan. Hall hopes that the younger players will learn from the defeat and continue with the program’s philosophy of playing with toughness and sharp defense.

“They’ll need to work hard, play hard for four quarters. Aggressiveness, play good defense and never give up,” said Hall. “We played hard tonight, we’re not mad about tonight.”

“I hope they gain confidence in knowing that they can do this when they believe in themselves. We’re a young, young team and we will only get better from here,” said Rachiele, who gave one final shout out to her two senior leaders. “I just really learned a lot from Lily and Sloan came a long way, she never played basketball and all four years she’s gotten better. I will miss them tremendously.”



Pilgrim sophomores Skylar Hawes (left) and Madison Tuirok last week against Lincoln School.



Toll Gate's Damola Oremosu (left) and Aidan Tourangeau (right) last week in the DIII semis.

● TITANS from page 19

buzzer to set the final score to 66-63.

“They’ve got great players and they got hot. They have players that can hit the outside shot and we made it easy for them. We’ve done that before, we’ve dug ourselves into holes,” said Toll Gate coach Richard Grenier. “We knew it was going to be a battle, they have guys like (Garcia) and they play on an elite AAU program. They have exceptional players. We played with a lot of toughness and grit but we just couldn’t pull it through.”

Times2 came out firing early and would grab a seven-point lead by sinking five 3-pointers in the first quarter. The Titans kept the score close, trailing by five at the halftime break. Healey scored eight points in the third quarter to set up the comeback opportunity.

Damola Oremosu led Toll Gate with 25 points while Healey added 17 and Colvin nine.

After moving to DIII this season, Toll Gate quickly became one of the top teams in the field and secured the third seed in the playoffs.

Oremosu will be returning next season along with guys like Will Goodine and Jaden Roache. The team will be saying bye to its three captains in Healey, Colvin and Liam Leahy.

“The three of them were great for us. They epitomized the word ‘team.’ We really were like a winter family this year. One thing you need to do in an athletic program is to develop a family atmosphere and they did that,” said Grenier.

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Toll Gate's Samantha Barr last weekend.

● HAWKS from page 19

home gold as part of the relay team. "It was awe, it was acceptance that this was my last event that I would swim in high school, and it was making up for falling short," said Jordan of what went through his mind when he and Hawks clinched the championship. "I am a champion and our team is a champion, we needed to win."

As he prepares to graduate, Jordan was proud to not only help Hendricken get back on top last season, but to repeat as champs this time around while laying a foundation for the future of the program.

"It's beautiful. Last year we came back after a two-year drop. Not only was I part of the jump-start, but I was part of continuing it further. I believe (the younger swimmers) will come back ready to work. They know what the standard is,"

said Jordan.

Hendricken's relay team of Rocco Czaja, Hunter Andrews, Avery Cover and Jordan won the 400.

Jordan took second in the 100 free for Hendricken and third in the 50 free. Hendricken's relay team of Tristan Andrews, Hunter Andrews, Cover and Jordan took second in the 200 free.

Hendricken's relay team of Czaja, Ben Ranney, Liam Kelly and Tristan Andrews took fourth in the 200 medley.

Rocco later placed fifth in the backstroke for Hendricken while Tristan Andrews took fifth in the breaststroke.

Cranston West's Alexander Tremblay led the Cranston co-op by taking eighth in the 200 individual medley. The co-op's relay team of Tremblay, Jayden Symonds, Runlin Liu and Eri Ogunde placed ninth in the 400 free.

● TITLES from page 19

"I've met so many amazing and talented girls this year, so many friends. Even my opponents. It's an uplifting experience to find a community in wrestling and to see so many amazing women there," Salinas said.

The two will now be competing at this weekend's New England Championships.

On the boys side, Ponaganset wrapped up the team championship while Bishop Hendricken finished second.

Hendricken's Mikhail Hulkow finished second at 120 pounds while teammate Logan Ross took second at 157 pounds. Toll Gate's Marcos Ramirez placed second at 126 pounds, while Hendricken's Matthew Pappas placed second at 165. Gianni Santo took second at 175 pounds for Hendricken

as well.

Hendricken's Michael Quinn took third at 113, while Johnston's Logan Martins placed third at 132 pounds for the Panthers. Hendricken's Seth McGrew took third at 144 pounds and teammate Lincoln Tiernan finished third at 190.

Hendricken's Vincent McAteer took fourth at 215 pounds. Michael Owens finished fifth at 106 pounds for Hendricken and Cranston West's Dylan Bowry took fifth at 126 pounds. West's Benjamin Jawharjian placed fifth at 132 pounds. Kason Wirtz finished fifth at 150 pounds for Toll Gate.

Gian Richardson reached the podium by placing sixth at 190 pounds for West.

Mila Dy took second at 114 pounds for Cranston East and West's Giana Espinal Albizu took third at 107 as well.



The Hendricken wrestling team after taking second at states last weekend.



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