



## Council wrestles with school budget crisis 'No other responsible option,' auditor general says of oversight commission

By JOHN HOWELL

Despite claims that it is not needed and there is a better and faster way to reach the goal, the City Council last night was expected to approve the establishment of a Warwick School Budget Commission.

The five-member commission would oversee school expenditures and develop a three-year operating and capital financial plan. It would cease to exist once the mayor and council approve a FY 2025-26 school budget and schools adopt a deficit-reduction plan approved by the commission and the state auditor general.

Assuming City Council approval based on interviews for this story, (the Warwick Beacon went to press before the council meeting), the resolution will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Generally, as House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi explained Monday, legislators approve local legislation if it has the support of local officials. The resolution would also require approval of the Senate. Shekarchi thought the process of state legislative approvals could take about a month, at which time the commission could be formed and start its work.

"I've been extremely generous to the schools," Shekarchi said of state appropriations. He said he has received calls

about the deficit with "conflicting data" that needs to be resolved. He fears if it is not addressed it will put the two new high schools, which are slated to start construction this spring, "in jeopardy."

The commission has the support of Auditor General David Bergantino. Bergantino sent a letter of endorsement to the City Council, mayor and school officials on Monday. He said Tuesday he is planning to attend the Wednesday meeting and would sign up to speak.

In the opening paragraphs of his letter, Bergantino writes: "In my opinion, the School Department and the city's executive and legislative branches must embark on an immediate course of action that cannot be met by existing statutory tools designed to address fiscal problems of lesser urgency than those facing the Warwick School Department."

In closing, he writes: "While the creation of a budget commission is an extraordinary course of action, the serious fiscal crisis in the School Department leaves no other responsible option."

### Why a commission now, and what's the rush?

Bergantino called the commission a good idea, adding that there's not a lot of time to look at the current fiscal year and the city needs to minimize the deficit as far as possible

to maintain its bond rating and reduce the risk of higher borrowing rates on bonds for the new high schools.

The resolution for legislation notes that in spite of nearly \$900,000 in additional state funding in the current budget, schools project a \$9-million deficit. The resolution calls on legislators to enact a commission, noting that "the School Committee has worked to reduce the projected deficit without participation of city officials and has been unsuccessful in formulating a long-term plan; and ... the mayor and the City Council have concerns in the ability and capacity of the Warwick Public School administration to produce a workable deficit-reduction plan without detrimental impacts to city taxpayers."

The legislation spells out commission powers which includes the power to amend, formulate and execute the annual school budget; implant and maintain uniform budget guidelines and procedures; amortize operational deficits in an amount the City Finance Director approves for a long term not longer than five years and to employ, retain and supervise such managerial, professional and clerical staff as

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See letter from auditor general on page 7

## Third special meeting set on high schools project

By ADAM ZANGARI

Updates about the planned construction of the new Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools will be shared at a special School Committee meeting at Warwick Veterans Middle School on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.

The meeting, according to School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan, will be structured differently from regular School Committee meetings to allow members of the public to ask questions directly to a panel including multiple experts on the project.

"I want to make sure that we're bringing the public along on something so historical and polarizing for the city of Warwick here," Galligan said. "This is being positioned as a forum, so without a doubt the public will be able to ask questions during the upcoming meeting."

In addition to the School Committee, Galligan said that representatives from LeftField Project Management, construction managers Dimeo Construction, and architectural firms Saccoccio & Associates Architects and Saam Architecture will be present to help answer questions throughout the meeting.

This will be the third special meeting, following one held in August to give the public a first look at plans for the schools and one in October following news that cost projections for the two buildings had exceeded the \$350 million approved by voters.

LeftField, Galligan said, had no hard numbers at the moment, but the expectation was that the cost would be lower than the \$387.8 million most recently projected by the company.

"In August, we were looking at a good project from a financial perspective," Galligan said. "In October, it became somewhat unfavorable. But here in January, I believe the project is trending in the right direction."

The closer it gets to groundbreaking, Galligan said, the more accurate LeftField's financial numbers will become as more and more details of the project are finalized. Currently, groundbreaking for both schools is expected for late April or early May, which LeftField reported at December's regular school committee meeting.

Galligan also expects up-to-date designs and layouts of each building to be shown at the meeting. During last week's regular School Committee meeting, LeftField's John Bates said that the Toll Gate's design had to be slightly reconfigured in order to get a variance from the Department of Environmental Management, as opposed to the more extensive review which would cause delays of up to a year for the project that the DEM said that the original design would need.

Toll Gate, Galligan said, is expected to be behind Pilgrim throughout the construction process.

"We always knew that Toll Gate was going to be a slightly more complex project than Pilgrim, and that's why the projects are staggered the way they are," Galligan said. "So for the remainder of this project, people should assume that Toll Gate's project will be somewhere between four to six weeks behind Pilgrim's."

As the date for the groundbreaking of both schools gets closer, Galligan said that making sure the public was kept up to date about the planned construction was a top priority.

More special meetings will likely be held, Galligan



## First cold blast of '25 brings flurries of fun

Matthew Scannell, of Cranston made the frosty trek to Little Pond in Warwick to test his luck. His patience paid off—before the Beacon caught up with him, Scannell proudly reported reeling in two fish. See more photos on page 12 (Beacon Media photo by Tim Forsberg)

## Brown University Medical reinstates mask mandate as respiratory illness rises

By ADAM ZANGARI

Wednesday saw the return of a mask mandate at Brown University Health hospitals to combat rising cases of respiratory illness – influenza, COVID and Respiratory Syncytial Virus, known as RSV.

The hospital is requiring employees and visitors to wear Level 2 surgical masks – the masks most commonly worn through the pandemic – and encouraging staff to wear N95 masks "if appropriate."

Brown University Health, formerly known as Lifespan, operates most hospitals in the state, including Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. They also operate some hospitals in Massachusetts; those, however, are not currently moving to mandatory masking at this time, according to a Brown University Health spokesperson.

So far, Care New England, which owns Kent Hospital, has not reintroduced a mask mandate. Even so, Care New England spokesperson Doreen Gavigan said, CNE hospitals have seen a "sharp increase" in patients with respiratory illnesses, particularly the flu.

"While masks are not mandatory at Kent at this time, they are used as needed to help reduce transmission during respiratory virus season," Gavigan said in a statement to the Beacon. "We encourage individuals who are not yet vaccinated to consider getting immunized. Vaccination reduces the risk of severe disease and hospitalization."

Cases of respiratory illnesses usually spike in late December and early January. Data from the state Department of Health going back to the pandemic show such cases making up as much as nearly 15% of overall hospital cases at their

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### TG\EG HOCKEY IN FIRST PLACE

The Toll Gate/East Greenwich boys hockey co-op is having a big season in its second year as a unit and currently sits in first place in Division II. See story on page 18.

### NOTABLE Quote

"If anybody had a performance review at their job where you're only as good as your lowest score, you wouldn't like that too much."

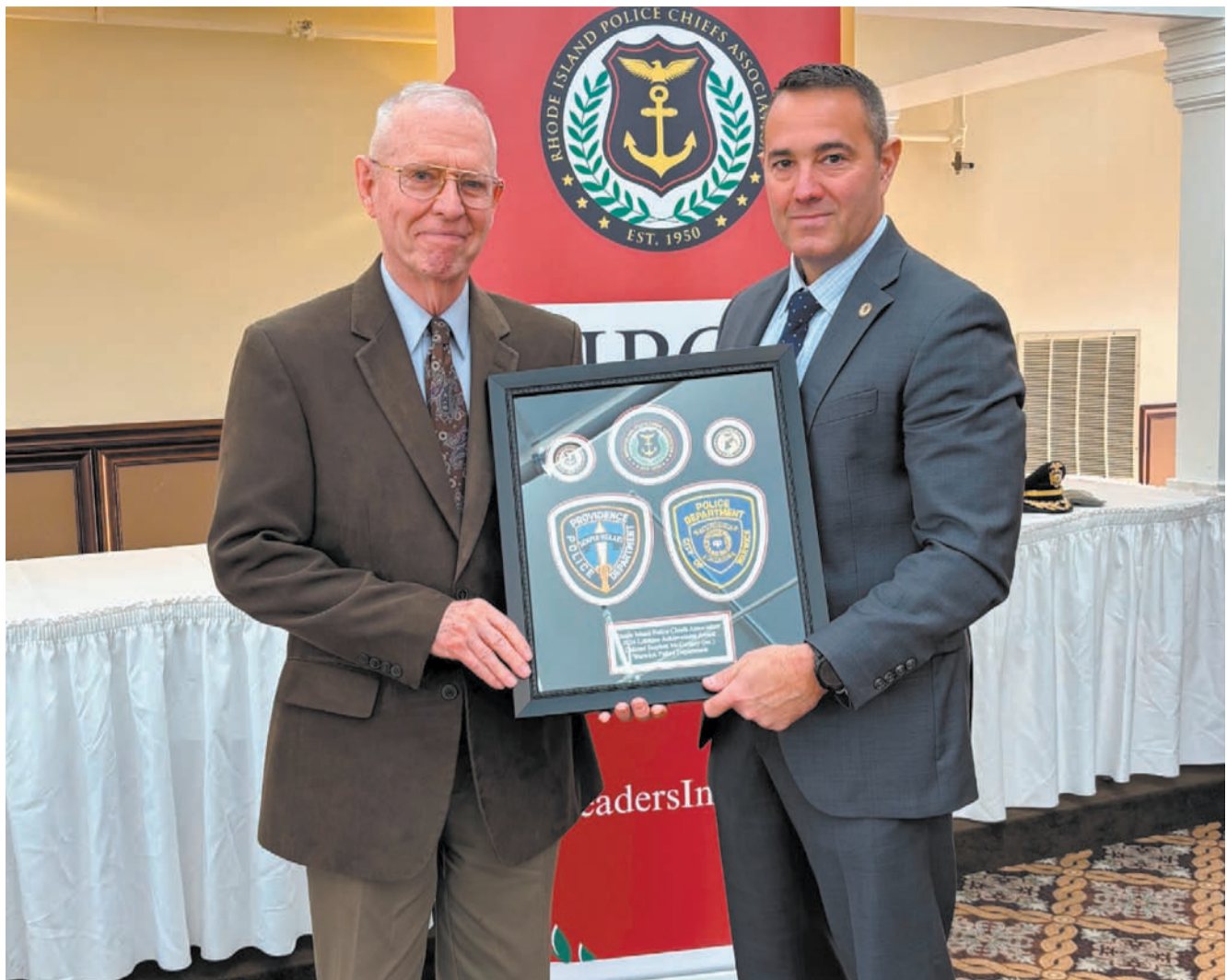
- Warwick School Committee member David Testa on the state's practice of ranking public schools by their lowest score among five categories of effectiveness.



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# McCartney recognized with lifetime achievement honor



Former Warwick Police Chief Col. Stephen McCartney (left) receives recognition from current Warwick Police Chief Col. Bradford Connor. Connor is also the president of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association. (Photo submitted by the Police Chiefs Association)

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 Proceeds from the raffle to benefit local non profit organizations  
 Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held April 2025, winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket  
 Must be 18 years of age to participate. Odds of winning are 1 in 3000

Two police officers recently received distinguished recognition from the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association. Former Warwick Police Chief Col. Stephen McCartney was honored with the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and Cranston Police Detective Michael Iacone was named as the Community Officer of the Year and announced earlier this month when the Chiefs Association cited several law enforcement professionals – both retired and active duty – for their outstanding work in various categories. "This year's award recipients have exemplified what it means to serve with excellence," said Colonel Brad Connor, President of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association and Warwick's Chief of Police. "Their achievements highlight the vital role that law enforcement plays in fostering safe and connected communities while inspiring their peers to follow their lead in making a difference." McCartney, who has nearly 50 years of law enforcement service, was with the Providence Police Department for 26 years before becoming Warwick's Chief of Police. He is also a Vietnam veteran and former U.S. Marine Corps Colonel. He was joined in earning the Lifetime Achievement Award by Richard S. Tamburini, former Chief of the

Johnston Police Department and also a veteran of the Providence Police Department. Iacone is a 22-year veteran of the Cranston Police and developed the department's therapy dog program. The program is believed to be the first of its kind Rhode Island and enabled Iacone and his canine partner, Cali, to provide support to victims of sexual abuse as well as provide education in local schools. The Chiefs Association noted that Iacone's vision and work with Cali resulted in the "CALI Gives Back" program, which has since evolved into a broader charitable initiative – called CPD Cares – which has donated more than \$10,000 to local organizations. Other law enforcement professionals recognized with the annual awards were: Female Officer of the Year – Captain Julie Veader of the Bristol Police Department. Distinguished Service Award – Sergeant Dennis Smith of the Foster Police Department. Civilian Liaison of the Year Award – Joe Terino, a long-time supporter of the Chiefs Association who also played a key role in fundraising for law enforcement.

## POLICE LOG

**DUI**  
 On Dec. 21 at 1:08 a.m., a WPD officer on patrol saw a black Hyundai Tucson commit multiple traffic violations and executed a routine traffic stop. Jeffrey Barrow, 45, of Norcross, Georgia, was the driver of the car. Barrow told the officer responding that he was not from the area, was in town for a funeral and did not know where he was coming from. After further questioning, he told the officer that he was coming from a "restaurant or bar." The responding officer said that Barrow claimed that his poor driving was due to trying to use the GPS on his phone while driving. Reportedly, Barrow said following his field sobriety test that he agreed with the officer's assessment that he was too impaired to drive. After failing a field sobriety test, Barrow was arrested, and charged with driving under the influence.  
**DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE**  
 On Dec. 16 at 1:10 p.m., a WPD officer responded to a two-car crash on Centerville Road. Both drivers agreed on the circumstance of the crash – one driver had rear-ended another. Tyler Lavallee, 20, of Coventry, said that he had been looking over his shoulder to check for approaching traffic, therefore missing that the car in front of him had stopped at the red light. Lavallee also reportedly admitted to the officer on the scene that he had had his license suspended for a DUI the previous month. After talking with both parties, the officer on scene allowed the other driver on the scene to leave before arresting Lavallee, whose car was towed from the scene.

**DUI**  
 On Dec. 18 at 1:30 a.m., police in the area of the northern extent of Jefferson Blvd responded after a report from a member of the public that there was a driver driving erratically on the road, that had then fallen asleep pulled over on Vermont Ave. Reportedly, once the officer arrived on the scene, the truck started moving again. The officer followed the truck and pulled it over on Colorado Avenue. Thomas Benevides, 50, of Pawtucket, told the officer that he had parked in front of his aunt's house for a quick snooze, and that he was turning onto the dead-end road in order to return home. Benevides had admitted to having three vodka cranberry drinks earlier in the night. While on the scene, Benevides had to be asked multiple times to provide his license, as he had forgotten previous requests by the officer to do so; he never provided his registration. Benevides had also urinated in his pants; reportedly, he was unaware of this. After failing a field sobriety test, Benevides was arrested, and charged with driving under the influence.  
**SHOPLIFTING**  
 On Dec. 20 at 8:33 p.m., a Warwick police officer responded to the Dick's Sporting Goods on Bald Hill Road for an alleged ongoing shoplifting incident. Andre McQuay-Ward, 22, of Groton, Connecticut, was stopped in the parking lot by officers on suspicion of being the offending party. Store employees reportedly confirmed that he was the person they were looking for, saying that McQuay-Ward had entered a fitting room with six items, left with four and left his shirt and sweatshirt in the room. Security footage shown to the officers supported the employees' story. Though officers noted that McQuay-Ward was not wearing a stolen sweatshirt, he was wearing three pairs of sweatpants, two of them stolen. The total value of the stolen sweatpants was reportedly \$185. McQuay-Ward was arrested. When asked about the sweatshirt left behind, he said that it was his, but that he had wanted to throw it out.

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**WARWICK BEACON**

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 John Howell, Publisher Emeritus  
**Publisher**  
 Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com  
**Editor**  
 John I. Howell, Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com  
**Editorial Staff**  
 Adam Zangari-AdamZ@rhodybeat.com  
**Sports Editor**  
 Alex Sponseller-AlexS@rhodybeat.com  
**Advertising Director**  
 Donna Zarrella-DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com  
**Advertising Representatives**  
 Melissa Miller - MelissaM@rhodybeat.com  
 Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com  
**Classified Advertising**  
 Ida Zecco-Classifieds@rhodybeat.com  
**Production Manager**  
 Lisa Bourque-Yuettner-LisaB@rhodybeat.com  
**Production Staff**  
 Monique Rice-MOR@rhodybeat.com  
 Ashley Mariani-AshleyM@beaconmediari.com  
**Credit Manager**  
 Lynne Taylor  
**Bookkeeping & Circulation**  
 Leslie Paz Andujar  
**Spotlight Profile Writer**  
 Jennifer Coates-JenniferC@rhodybeat.com  
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Jan. 23, Family Event: Story Time & Craft will be hosted by the OneCranston Health Equity Zone on Thurs., Jan. 23, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Pastore Center, 155 Gansett Ave., Cranston. This story time is geared to helping children explore their feelings. During story time, parents will get the chance to learn some tips on helping children manage social-emotional growth. For more info, contact Celia at cmhernandez@comcap.org or 401-649-0878.

Jan. 24, 40's Band at the FireBarn the Oakland Beach FireBarn, 645 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick, will be hosting a 40's Band on Fri., Jan. 24, at 7:00 p.m. No Cover.

Jan. 25, 61st Anniversary Burns Supper, by the Scottish American Society of RI, celebrating Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns! The evening will include a Scottish-themed raffle, traditional Haggis Ceremony, presentation of The Immortal Memory, Full Pipe Band Performance and Ceilidh dancing. Location is at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet Ballroom, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston. Doors open at 5:45 pm with cocktails (cash bar); seating for Scottish dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets go to sasri.co/upcoming-events.

Jan. 25, Kindergarten Registration for Cranston children, born before Sept. 1, 2020, will begin. All registration information can be found on the Cranston Public Schools website: www.cpsed.net. Click on "REGISTRATION" on the main page. All registrations are by appointment only.

Feb. 02, Music Bingo at the FireBarn come join the fun playing Music Bingo at the Oakland Beach FireBarn, 645 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick, on Sun., Feb. 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 06, "New Voices: The Next Generation of Rhode Island Artists" Exhibit: Opening Potluck Reception at Warwick Center for the Arts will be held on Thurs., Feb. 06, at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at 3259 Post Rd., Warwick. It is free and open to the public. The exhibit runs from Jan. 22 - Feb. 15. This exciting exhibit features works by rising talents in our community. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or visit warwickcfa.org.

Feb. 22, Steak Fry and Live Band at the FireBarn will be hosting a Steak Fry and Live Band event on Sat., Feb. 22, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Oakland Beach FireBarn on 645 Oakland Beach Avenue, Warwick. Tickets are \$20, and go on sale on Sat., Feb. 01. Call: 401-737-4786 for more information. This event is open to the public. Come see what we are about; meet old friends and make new ones.

March 13, RIPTA released its 2025 schedule for its 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 com-

munities 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 \$10.00 in 2025 and are valid for 2 years. Warwick residents can visit on Thurs., March. 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Pilgrim Senior Center on 27 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick. Applicants can apply in person at RIPTA's Photo ID Office, located in Kennedy Plaza. The Photo ID Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed 12pm-1pm). 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.

NAMI-RI offers mental health courses in January NAMI-RI, the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will offer two Family-to-Family courses, starting in January. This a free 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people living with mental illness. The in-person course will be held in Middletown, RI at St. Lucy's Catholic Church beginning Saturday, January 11 at 3:00 PM. This same course will also be held on Zoom starting Wednesday, January 15th from 5:30-8:00 PM. To register, or for more information call 401-331-3060, email beth@namirhodeisland.org or visit namirhodeisland.org

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

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. Mon., 3:30 to 5 p. m.; Tues., 3 to 4:30 p. m.; Wed., 5 to 6:30 p. m.; Thurs. and Fri., 10 to 11:30 a. m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email to: info@HopeDementia.org. Follow us on Facebook @HopeHealth.

Every Monday - The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist

# THE BUZZ

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 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 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, MA, 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 Street, 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 Thurs. 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. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information are now available at two locations: Cranston Central Library Reference Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston,

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

Oaklawn Grange Used Clothing Donation Shed in need of used clothing items at the Oaklawn Grange Donation Shed, 24 Searle Ave., Cranston. Accepted items only: Used Clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Belts, Purses, Linens, Pillowcases, Blankets, Curtains, and Stuffed Animals. All items must be in useable condition. Your donations will be distributed as whole garments locally and worldwide. Contact oaklawngrangeinfo@gmail.com for more information.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups; the RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 1.5 hours, and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org. or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

Volunteer with NAMI-RI The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is seeking volunteers to facilitate family programs in 2024. Free training is required and available for interested persons with loved ones struggling with mental health. Our grassroots volunteers, work every day to provide help and hope to millions of Americans. For more information about our family programs and volunteer training, email beth@namirhodeisland.org, call the NAMI-RI office 401-331-3060 or visit our website at www.namirhodeisland.org

Hearts for Hospice - Visiting Nurse Home and Hospice (VNH&H) is asking for individuals to support their hospice programs by giving \$20 or more to their Hearts for Hospice campaign. People can dedicate their gift to a loved one who is always in their heart; all dedications are listed on the organization's website. You can make your donation at www.visitingnursehh.org/giving/ or by calling 401-682-2100 extension number 1631.

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.

## Notices

(Continued from page 3)

have qualified as Co-Executors (Mark Iacono, Esq. of 56 Exchange Terrace, 5th Floor, Providence, RI 02903 as agent); Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 23, 2025

MURPHY, Eileen M. alias Eileen Murphy, est. Christopher Murphy has qualified as Executor (Marc Titchnell, Esq. of 2088 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905 as agent); Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 23, 2025

ROSSI, Joseph M. est. Barbara A. Rossi has qualified as Executrix; Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 23, 2025

ZAINYEH, Anthony M. est. George A. Zainyeh has qualified as Executor; Creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate

Clerk within the time required by law beginning January 23, 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.

ATTEST: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

1/23, 1/30/25

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SUPERIOR COURT

C.A. No.: PC-2023-05737

HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.

Petitioner,

THE PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TAX ASSESSOR'S MAP COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

78 HARRIET STREET, LOCATED AT PLAT 48, LOT 574;

THE PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE

LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF WARWICK TAX ASSESSOR'S MAP COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

86 BLUFF AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 302, LOT 80;

10 COOKE PLACE, LOCATED AT PLAT 304, LOT 237;

69 MARINE AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 348, LOT 399;

333 CHESTNUT STREET, LOCATED AT PLAT 297, LOT 396;

51 EASTON AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 308, LOT 345;

71 SPOFFORD AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 288, LOT 168;

155 HILTON ROAD, LOCATED AT PLAT 326, LOT 107;

176 CANFIELD AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 361, LOT 385;

39 DAMON AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 332, LOT 774;

24 NINIGRET AVENUE, LOCATED AT PLAT 319, LOT 79;

THE PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF CHEPACHET TAX ASSESSOR'S MAP COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

24 PINE ORCHARD ROAD, LOCATED AT PLAT 10, LOT 13;

THE PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TAX ASSESSOR'S MAP COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

39 SAUNDRA DRIVE, LOCATED AT PLAT 17, LOT 90;

Respondents.

NOTICE OF HEARING

1. Please take Notice that a hearing on the Temporary Receiver's Petition to Sell the Property Located at 86 Bluff Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island (the "Petition") will be held on the 3rd day of February, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. before the Providence County Superior Court Business Calendar (the "Business Calendar").

2. The hearing on the above matter will be conducted before the Business Calendar via WebEx conferencing software. Interested parties are not required to but may attend and monitor the hearing. Information concerning public access to the audio during the hearing will be located on the Judiciary's website at www.courts.ri.gov.

3. For further information regarding the hearing, including any request for assistance to obtain access to attend and/or monitor the hearing, or to request a copy of the Petition, please contact the Receiver at: jdorsey@fr-lawri.com or 401-455-1000.

Dated: January 23, 2025

CITY OF WARWICK ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: CITY OF WARWICK - ANNEX BUILDING 65 CENTERVILLE ROAD WARWICK, RI 02886 SAWTOOTH BUILDING - 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC HEARING AS ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW - Discussion and/or action and/or vote regarding the following petitions. The Zoning Board may approve, approve with conditions or deny the following petitions/applications, as may be modified by testimony and/or evidence presented throughout the public hearing; and/or possible vote to continue a petition's public hearing to a date determined.

Petition #11027 Ward 5 95 Burnett Rd.

The petition of Pamela Terreri, 95 Burnett Rd., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to demolish the existing single-family dwelling to construct a new 32' x 27'-8" single-family dwelling with a 7' x 27'-8" front porch. Proposed dwelling having a front yard setback of 17.1' (23.75' required per RIGL 45-24-38 (b)). Subject property having less than required frontage along Burnett Rd. Assessor's Plat 380, lot 106, zoned Residential A-7 & A-40.

Petition #11028 Ward 5 Arlington Ave./Seashore Rd.

The petition John & Aidan MacSweeney, 2 Captain Harris Dr., Assonet, MA, requests a dimensional variance to construct a new single-family dwelling. Proposed dwelling having a setback of 22.5' from the front property line along Arlington Ave.; having a side yard setback of 17' (20' required); and having a 25' setback to the coastal feature (50' required). Assessor's Plat 356, Lots 162, 163 & 204, zoned Residential A-7 & A-15.

Petition #11029 Ward 8 567 Providence St.

The petition of Matthew Brown, 25 Rosewood Dr., Lincoln, RI, and RJB Investments, 35 Rolfe Square, Cranston, RI, requests a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1, to convert the existing single-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling. Assessor's Plat 262, Lot 12, zoned General Business (GB).

Petition #11030 Ward 1 103 No. Country Club Dr.

The petition of Cynthia & John Hampton, 103 No. Country Club Dr., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a 21' x 27' addition for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to a pre-existing, non-conforming dwelling. Proposed addition having a front yard setback of 8.3' (25' required). Assessor's Plat 301, Lot 474, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11031 Ward 8 151 Centerville Rd.

The petition of Layton Munroe Holding, LLC & Daniel J. Clayton, 7 Fairview Circle, Barrington, RI, requests a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #407, to convert the existing office building to a veterinarian establishment. Assessor's Plat 246, Lots 254 & 258, zoned Office (O).

Petition #11032 Ward 6 59 Keller Ave.

The petition of Harrington Realty, LLC, 39 Dees Circle, Warwick, RI, requests a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to demolish the existing dwelling and construct a new two-family duplex. Also seeking a dimensional variance from Table 2A Dimensional Regulations for having a front yard setback of 23.9' (25' required), and a rear yard setback of 15.8' (20' required). Assessor's Plat 350, Lot 480, zoned Residential A-10.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Discussion and/or action and/or vote regarding the Regular Meeting Minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT -

BY ORDER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Paul DePetrillo, Chairman

\*Please be advised that the Zoning Board of Review has adopted Rules and Regulations governing the application process, submission of material, conduct of the public hearing on the application and responsibilities of an action to appeal a decision. These Rules and regulations are posted on the City's web site and are available for review in the Board's office during regular hours. All applicants and objectors are obliged to review these Rules and shall be held responsible for compliance therewith. If there are any questions on the above petitions, please contact the Zoning Office at 401-921-9534 or by email amy.e.cota@warwickri.gov

Facilities are accessible for people with disabilities. If you need interpreter services, please contact Amy at 401-921-9334 at least 48 hours in advance of said hearing.

THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex located at 35 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI on Wednesday February 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board will vote on, a Minor Land Development and Subdivision Application with the Planning Board acting as a Unified Development Review Board due to a Special Use Permit required to create 4 duplex unit and 1 single family unit on five lots where one lot currently exists. The Board will make two motions; one under RIGL 45-23-60 findings of fact to support the minor land development/subdivision, and the other under Zoning Section 906.3.C Special Use Permit standards for relief.
Location: 2214 West Shore Rd
Assessor's Plat: 360
Assessor's Lots: 644
Owners: JPMW, LLC
Applicant: Same
Zoned: A7
Number of lots: One (1)
Proposed Number of lots: Five (5)
Area: .89 acres
Ward: 6
Engineer: Ocean State Planners, Inc.
All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be held thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009.
Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.
Per order of the Warwick Planning Board Philip Slocum, Chairman 1/23/25

THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex located at 35 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI on Wednesday February 12, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board will vote on, a Minor Land Development and Administrative Subdivision Application with the Planning Board acting as a Unified Development Review Board due to a Special Use Permit required to create two duplex units on two lots. Five lots currently exist, which will be merged into two lots. The Board will make two motions; one under RIGL 45-23-60 findings of fact to support the minor land development, and the other under Zoning Section 906.3.C Special Use Permit standards for relief.
Location: 95 Tampa Avenue
Assessor's Plat: 360
Assessor's Lots: 557 thru and including 561
Owners: JPMW, LLC
Applicant: Same
Zoned: A7
Number of lots: five (5)
Proposed Number of lots: two (2) (Administrative Subdivision)
Area: .47 acres
Ward: 6
Engineer: Ocean State Planners, Inc.
All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be held thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009.
Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.
Per order of the Warwick Planning Board Philip Slocum, Chairman 1/23/25

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## They spotted some fowl

Members of the Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission met up at Rocky Point State Park on a cold Saturday afternoon last week to see if they could find some winter birds in the park. Though the forecast was less than stellar, around 40 bird-watchers managed to catch sight of some waterfowl on the north end of the park.

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## Warwick exhibition celebrates emerging artists



Fifty works by more than 20 local young and emerging artists will be exhibited through Feb. 15 by the Warwick Center for the Arts at the Kentish Armory, 3259 Post Road.

The Warwick Center for the Arts will host an exhibition focused on emerging talents titled *New Voices: The Next Generation of Rhode Island Artists* from Jan. 22 to Feb. 15. The show, which includes 50 works in a range of media by more than 20 local artists, was conceived and curated by Providence-based gallerist and writer Michael Rose. The exhibition will include a potluck reception and celebration on Feb. 6 from 6 to 8pm.

On view in WCFA's gallery in the historic Kentish Armory at 3259 Post Road, *New Voices* features talented local makers in the exciting early stages of their careers. Exhibiting artists include Sylvia Atwood, Kannetha Brown, Harry Cassell, Jenna Clouse, Mia Cross, Mollee Daniels, Sydney Darrow, Leia Fifer, Fu'una, Prinshu Gautam, Emily Gray, Kit Grindeland, Michael Gunn, Naylea Hernández, Caterina Maina, Khalil McKnight, Madeline Menkes, Gabrielle Patrone, Ashley Pelletier and Rebecca Pry.

Artworks include objects in an enticing and inventive range of media from paintings, drawings, and photographs, to assemblage, ceramics, and installation. Pieces in the show exemplify the varied personal experiences of their creators and share the broad interests and concerns of emerging talents in the local art community.

Speaking of the exhibition, organizer Michael Rose says, "Our state has a vibrant arts community and there are so many exceptional younger and emerging artists who deserve attention alongside their more established peers. I hope this show serves as a platform for Rhode Islanders to explore work by these makers and a prompt to create new connections."

The exhibition will include a potluck style reception Thursday, Feb. 6 from 6 to 8pm. This free event is open to all, with attendees encouraged to bring food and beverage to share. Reflecting on the event, Rose said, "I hope artists and art enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds from across Rhode Island will come to Warwick on the 6th to join us for a celebration. Receptions are great opportunities to connect one-on-one with artists and most of those featured in *New Voices* will be in attendance."

*New Voices: The Next Generation of Rhode Island Artists* will continue through Feb. 15.

The Warwick Center for the Arts has been uniting the community through art for 50 years. The center is located at 3259 Post Road in Warwick, and its gallery is free and open to the public 11am - 3pm Wednesdays through Saturdays. Learn more about WCFA and plan your visit at [www.warwickcfa.org](http://www.warwickcfa.org).

## AAA: Average RI gas price up 4 cents

As oil prices continue to rise, Northeast gasoline prices are following suit as a bitter chill continues to grip much of the country.

Strong demand for home heating oil and new, tougher U.S. sanctions against Russia, the world's second-largest producer of oil, pushed crude prices up 2% last week to levels not seen since mid-August. Oil prices have risen for four straight weeks, which has led to gasoline prices in commodities markets jumping by nearly 8% over the past month.

Adding to the upward momentum is demand for both oil and gasoline. Last week, crude inventories fell by 2 million barrels to 412 million barrels. That's 17 million barrels below last year's figure and far below the 5-year average of 440 million barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Meanwhile, demand for gasoline was higher than the comparable weeks of 2021 through 2024, surprising some market watchers who expected lower figures due to large parts of the U.S. dealing with snow and cold, which typically suppresses demand.

The rise in pump prices is being tempered somewhat by strong inventories of gasoline. The EIA reported yet another large build in gasoline inventories last week as refiners

maintain high output through the winter. Supplies were up 5.9 million barrels – the third straight week of inventory builds above 5 million barrels – and inventories have risen by 36.7 million barrels since mid-November. Here in the Northeast, gasoline stockpiles now stand about 500,000 barrels above the 5-year average.

Locally, the average gas price in Rhode Island is up four cents from last week (\$2.94), averaging \$2.98 per gallon. Monday's price is three cents higher than a month ago (\$2.95) and four cents lower than a year ago (\$3.02). Rhode Island's average gas price is 14 cents lower than the national average.

"The price of a gallon of gasoline can fluctuate week-to-week on supply and demand factors, geopolitical developments and the weather," said Jillian Young, director of public relations, AAA Northeast. "But ultimately, the price for a barrel of crude oil is the leading indicator for gas prices."

AAA Northeast's Jan. 20 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up six cents from last week (\$3.06), averaging \$3.12 gallon. The national average price is seven cents higher than a month ago (\$3.05) and four cents higher than this day last year (\$3.08).

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Fri. Feb. 14- LIONS CLUB, Pawt. (Valentines Day)  
Sat. Feb. 15- RIVER FALLS, Woon. 4:30 dinner  
Sun. Feb. 23- NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE, Newp. (matinee)  
Sat. Mar. 1- Tri-City Elks Lodge, Wrwk. (Show only- \$25)  
Sun. March 2- 579 BENEFIT, Pawt. 2:30 dinner  
Sat. April 5- O'ROURKE'S, Cranston



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# City's grade schools lead way in state scores

## But critics say English language learners aren't treated fairly

By ADAM ZANGARI



LISA SCHULTZ

Rhode Island's public schools were all recently graded on their performance in the 2023-24 school year, and Lisa Schultz, Warwick Public Schools director of curriculum, instruction and assessment, presented the district's reaction to the state's accountability scores for each school in the district last Tuesday.

Schools are graded on a scale of one to five stars in up to five categories – School Quality and Student Success, Achievement and Growth, Graduation Rate, Diploma Plus Measures and English Language Proficiency – and rated based on their lowest score in the categories where they received grades.

The state Department of Education released the annual scores last month.

Most of Warwick's schools sit at a three-star ranking. Sitting below them at two stars are Oakland Beach and Wyman elementary schools, Warwick Vets Middle School and both Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools.

Winman Middle School, though, was one of two schools in the district to move up a star from the previous year.

The school's rise from two to three stars was particularly notable, Schultz said, considering that middle and high schools often score lower and, due to their high enrollments, are harder to move upwards.

Scott Elementary School is still leading the way for Warwick as the only four-star school, with Schultz saying it was on the cusp of becoming the city's first five-star school.

However, Schultz said a few of Warwick's other elementary schools are nearing four stars as well.

"Robertson Elementary, for the first time, Greenwood Elementary and Holliman have had so much growth that they're right at the cusp of meeting four," Schultz said. "We're talking within a point or two away from it. These are things that we can definitely see in the next couple of years, if not next year."

The other school to move up is Lippitt Elementary School, which rose from a two-star to a three-star school.

Schultz said she was particularly proud of Lippitt.

"They were on the cusp of a one just last year," she said. "So the fact that they were able to move that much in one year, I've never seen anything like it."

Wyman Elementary School, on the other hand, dropped from a three-star to a two-star school after a stumble in the school's "Achievement and Growth" scores.

Schultz said she is confident that Wyman can rebound and earn three stars again next year, noting that the school was still right on the border between two and three stars.

Among Warwick's two-star schools, Toll Gate High School and Oakland Beach Elementary moved up from one star to two in RIDE's 2022-23 report.

Toll Gate, Schultz said, was particularly notable, as the only category where the school fell short of 3 stars was English Language Proficiency.

RIDE's rating system has raised questions about fairness for grading schools with a large number of multilingual learners – students learning English as a second language – only in their English Language Proficiency category. Critics say that restriction, combined with schools being graded based on their lowest star ranking, punishes schools for having larger number of students who speak English as a second language.

Of Warwick's schools, each of its secondary schools and Holliman, Robertson, Oakland Beach and Scott elementary schools are judged by that category, while the other nine elementary schools are not, though RIDE noted that Greenwood, Norwood and Cedar Hill are nearing the number of multilingual learning students to be graded differently.

School Committee member David Testa criticized the state's scoring system, which he said unfairly punishes schools by judging them by their worst aspects, rather than averaging out each school's scores across the categories.

"The star system is extremely misleading, and the part that frustrates me the most is that's what people look at, right?" Testa said. "If anybody had a performance review at their job where you're only as good as your lowest score, you wouldn't like that too much."

# Frias in new role: Cranston planning chair



Steve Frias

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS

Cranston has a new president and chairman of its Planning Commission. Steve Frias, who used to hold one of the top positions in the Rhode Island Republican Party as its na-

tional committeeman recently, stepped into the role earlier this month.

After not seeking reelection last year, he has returned to public service in a new capacity.

In the beginning, Frias said, he didn't have much interest in land-use issues, although he was familiar with them and had some understanding through his Cranston historical research into zoning.

In 2021, he said former City Councilman Christopher Paplauskas told him about the concern that the city would lose an exemption from the Affordable Housing Comprehensive permit under state law and that the comprehensive plan was significantly out of date.

So Frias said he agreed to serve on the Planning Commission to address those two issues, which he said was to make sure policies were adopted so the city would not lose its exemption and to build a comprehensive plan that kept Cranston primarily a suburban community.

"In 1924 Cranston first adopted zoning to ensure that Cranston remained, as Mayor Arthur Rhodes

declared, a 'City of Homes,' Frias said. "I believe in that vision. A century ago, Cranston was suburb. Today, Cranston is still a suburb. I will do my best to keep Cranston a suburb in the future."

For that reason, Frias decided to stay on the commission since his appointment in December 2021 and went on to become the president and chairman to see through the completion of the plan.

On Jan. 7, Frias succeeded Michael Smith, who Frias said was the longest-serving president and chairman of the commission.

Since the start, Frias says that the role so far has been interesting.

"The planning director is leaving, and so it's a major transition, getting up to speed on what's going on, helping oversee the Planning Department and moving it forward in a time when we're in flux on who's the director," Frias said. "So, it's been a transition, but a welcome challenge."

In addition to those goals, Frias said he also looks forward to developing the depart-

# State fire marshal offers safety tips for cold weather

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is reminding Rhode Islanders to take important safety precautions to protect lives and prevent fires with below freezing temperatures forecasted.

The following tips can help you stay warm while reducing fire hazards:

- Keep all flammable items at least three feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and radiators.
- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet at a time to avoid overloading circuits.

- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month to detect potentially deadly gas leaks.
- Use portable generators outdoors, positioned away from windows and as far from your home as possible to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.

- Store cooled ashes from wood stoves or fireplaces in a metal container and place the container at least ten feet away from homes or nearby buildings.
- Have chimneys and vents cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

"Winter is the leading season for home fires and the significant need for indoor heating equipment next week makes fire safety more important than ever," said Rhode Island State Fire Marshal Timothy P. McLaughlin. "A few simple precautions, like keeping flammable items away from heat sources and testing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, can save lives."

For additional safety information, visit: <https://fire-marshal.ri.gov/safety-information-public-programs/fire-safety-injury-prevention>

# Care New England residents, fellow doctors vote to join union

By ALEXANDER CASTRO  
Rhode Island Current

Union membership for approximately 230 resident and fellow physicians employed by Rhode Island's second-biggest hospital network was affirmed Wednesday, Jan. 15, by the National Labor Relations Board, union leaders announced.

Since December, resident and fellow doctors working at Care New England's properties — Kent Hospital, Women and Infants Hospital, and Butler Hospital — voted by mail to affirm membership in the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR-SEIU). The vote counts and outcomes for elections were counted separately but announced jointly Wednesday, with "overwhelming victories" at each hospital, according to union spokesperson Rachel Nass.

"The reason why we wanted to unionize is to ensure that we're all able to properly care for our patients and continue to give 100%, while also being able to take care of ourselves," said Dr. Natalie Duke, a third-year psychiatry resident, in a statement. "We're blessed to work with each other and with our patients, so winning our election is so meaningful for us as members of this community and as physicians."

On Jan. 7, 689 residents and fellows affiliated with

Brown University Health's Rhode Island Hospital also won their elections for union membership with CIR-SEIU.

Nass said the newly unionized members across both companies comprise the first unionized "housestaff" in Rhode Island, a term for resident and fellow physicians combined.

The doctors cited excessive time at work, sometimes up to 80 hours, without appropriate pay and often in the context of understaffed hospitals.

"As a psychiatrist, I see the impact of financial stress on our patients, and so we understand that when we experience that stress, it's harder to be present with our patients and it makes it harder to convince medical students that they should come here," Duke said. "The burden is particularly heavy for first-year doctors."

The newly unionized resident and fellow physicians hope to begin contract negotiations soon with their respective employers, with wages, benefits and physician supports among their top priorities at the bargaining table.

Alexander Castro covers education, health and technology for Rhode Island Current. He previously worked as a visual arts critic, curator and adjunct professor.

Rhode Island Current is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

# Schools

(Continued from page 1)

necessary to complete its task with approval of the City Finance Director.

Three of the five member commission would be named by the mayor with advice and consent of the council, and the superintendent and chairman of the School Committee would each name one.

City Council President Anthony Sinapi prefers this legislation to the administration's initial proposal, as it strips out certain powers such as the authority to enact new policies and regulations. The revised legislation, which he believes is likely to gain approval in some form, was presented and discussed in a Friday meeting attended by four council members – Sinapi, Ed Ladouceur, Vinny Gebhart and William Muto, the mayor and members of his staff, School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan and members of the school administration.

Sinapi would be delighted if schools see delays in establishing the commission as an opportunity to "vindicate themselves" and come up with their own plan.

That's not likely to happen in Ladouceur's opinion. Looking back, he sees a string of school deficits and he is amazed that the schools haven't been able to identify where they went off the track despite the retention of two financial experts recently retained to do that.

### 'We have a crisis'

"We have a crisis," he said. "How do you expect me to have confidence in the School Committee or the department when they have no clue as to how they got there."

Ladouceur points out that three members of the committee of five were elected in 2022 and are relatively new to the board.

"They inherited a snowball, but under their watch that grew into an avalanche. There's no explanation of how we got here."

In a statement, Galligan underscores his opposition to the legislation, says it is unnecessary and could disrupt ongoing efforts to address financial challenges.

"We have contracted independent consultants with extensive municipal finance experience, frozen discretionary spending and implemented substantial line-item reductions. Additionally, we are developing a comprehensive five-year fiscal plan, which will be presented publicly by Feb. 28, 2025."

Additionally, he points out, "We have strengthened our partnership with city leadership, holding bi-weekly meetings with the mayor's office, City Council and financial consultants to review expenditures and performance. These efforts demonstrate our commitment to fiscal responsibility and building public confidence in the governance of Warwick Public Schools."

And should the council deem an oversight com-

mission necessary, he says, "we encourage the use of existing state law governing budget commissions, which provides a proven and consistent framework for addressing fiscal challenges."

Former Warwick City Councilman and School Committee member Robert Cushman says there's already a state mechanism to accomplish the mayor's goals, and if Picozzi continues down the path toward Warwick legislation, not only will it bring out forces opposed to such far-reaching measures but it could take months and the city would lose the opportunity to make budget cuts now.

The committee shaved about \$2.9 million from its budget last Tuesday, but Cushman said it failed to address salaries and positions that are key to bringing the budget in line.

In a related matter, Cushman has called on the attorney general to investigate what he believes is a violation of the Open Meetings Law at a special meeting Dec. 30 when it discussed "budgetary items" behind closed doors. In his complaint, Cushman claims there's nothing in the law allowing the committee to do that.

### What about city finances?

However, should the city turn to the existing state law, both city and school finances would come under state review, which Cushman says would expose the city's dire financial condition. He said with the debt of new high schools, the city's unfunded liabilities would climb to \$1.5 billion.

Cushman said state review would start with a fiscal overseer who would determine if the city faces a fiscal crisis. That would be followed by a determination that the municipality would not achieve fiscal stability without the help of a budget commission and that the tax levy of the fiscal year should not be approved. The fiscal overseer would have the ability to recommend a commission to the Division of Municipal Finance.

"We need the state to come in now. This plan [to form a school budget commission] doesn't make sense," he said.

A post from Cushman's "Warwick Taxpayers' Spin" website says a school-only commission "will continue to hide the fiscal mess on the city side of the budget that Mayor Picozzi refuses to acknowledge."

Mayor Picozzi sees no need for an analysis of both the city and schools. He questions why schools would be so opposed to the oversight. He said reducing pension contributions, as the School Committee did last week, postpones the problem, and while he has heard schools are looking at layoffs, he hasn't gotten any specifics.

As for an explanation of how school finances got to this point, Picozzi said he was told that it was discontinuance of federal grants tied to the pandemic for positions the schools are now funding. If that's the case, Picozzi maintains, school officials knew of the problem when they put the current budget together.

"I have no idea what their plan is; they are not forthcoming," he said.



New Pilgrim High School rendering



New Toll Gate High School rendering

# Project

(Continued from page 1)

said, until ground is broken on the buildings.

"When construction gets going, I don't really see a need for us to maintain bimonthly meetings. Maybe we look at quarterly, or maybe one every six months," Galligan said. "During construction, it would be 'We dug some holes' or

'We poured some concrete' and that will be the update. We're not going to see progress really quickly based on the size of these buildings, so the more frequent updates won't be necessary once construction gets going."

Warwick Public Schools has a dedicated website for project updates on both high schools, which can be found at warwickprojects.com.

# Covid

(Continued from page 1)

total peak in January 2022.

This year, however, the state Health Department's data shows the flu leading the way, as opposed to other winters since the pandemic, excluding 2023, when COV-

ID had the highest diagnosis numbers. This winter has seen the lowest number of severe cases since before the pandemic as well, with respiratory illnesses accounting for just under 5% of emergency department visits statewide.

As of Jan. 5, the most recent data on hand, the flu accounted for 2.4% of emer-

gency department visits, whereas COVID accounted for 0.9% and RSV was responsible for 0.6%.

At the moment, according to the state, only 32% of Rhode Islanders have been vaccinated against the flu for this winter, and only 15% have been vaccinated against COVID.

**Office of the Auditor General**  
 State of Rhode Island - General Assembly  
**David A. Bergantino, CPA, CFE - Auditor General**

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January 20, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

**Members of the Warwick City Council**  
 Warwick City Hall  
 3275 Post Road  
 Warwick, RI 02886

Dear Members of the Warwick City Council:

On December 19, 2024, I received notification, as required by Rhode Island General Law (RIGL), from the Warwick School Department Superintendent, Ms. Lynn Dambruch, of a projected (\$9.0 million) operating deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. On January 13, 2025, I met with City and School officials in order to obtain financial information relative to the School Department's projected fiscal 2025 operating deficit. In that meeting, I found that the facts regarding the deficit were not in dispute and that both the City and the School Department understood the need to take immediate action.

In my opinion, the School Department and the City's executive and legislative branches must embark on an immediate course of action that cannot be met by existing statutory tools designed to address fiscal problems of lesser urgency than those facing the Warwick School Department. After careful consideration of the need for urgent action by the City, I write in support of the Resolution of the City Council, to petition the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact legislation to create a Warwick Public Schools Budget Commission. My support is driven by the following factors:

- The Warwick School Department is projecting a (\$9.0 million) operating deficit for fiscal year 2025. The operating deficit for fiscal year 2024, which is still under audit, approximated (\$1.3 million) which is projected to leave the School Unrestricted Fund in a cumulative deficit position as of June 30, 2024. These deficits occurred in fiscal years where the School Department received increases in State and Local Education Aid totaling \$6.8 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. These facts highlight a trend in operational deficits that underscore the urgency of the fiscal crisis, and the need for immediate and extraordinary action by the City.
- Realization of the current projected deficit in fiscal 2025 could have significant adverse implications for the City. Immediate action is needed to substantially reduce the projected deficit prior to June 30, 2025. Failure to do so could negatively impact the City's credit rating on upcoming debt issuances, which would result in substantial increases in future borrowing costs.
- A proactive corrective action plan needs to be developed as required by RIGL §16-2-9(f) to address the projected deficit for fiscal 2025. The adoption of a fiscally responsible budget for fiscal 2026 is integral to any recovery plan. As such, the process of adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget must include the crafting of a fiscally responsible and feasible deficit reduction plan. The proposed legislation would designate a Budget Review Commission with the responsibility and authority needed to meet this short timeframe.
- The City's fund balance reserves are not sufficient to absorb the projected operating deficit for fiscal year 2025. Warwick's percentage of unrestricted fund balance to the annual general fund total expenditures and other financing uses was 10.59% in the City's last issued audited financial statements as of June 30, 2023. This ratio is lower than the recommended Government Finance Officers Association reserve percentage of 17% (approximately two months of general fund expenditures) for municipalities.
- In conjunction with the need to address the current financial crisis faced by the School Department, a Budget Review Commission would provide the necessary dedicated resources and expertise to also prepare a 5-year budget forecast (required under RIGL § 44-35-10) that would allow improved planning and communication between the School Committee and City Council and minimize unexpected fiscal challenges from arising in future periods.
- The City's allowable incremental increase in the annual tax levy is capped at 4% per RIGL §44-5-2. Thus, the City has limited resources to balance future budgets which are already stressed by increased pension and OPEB contributions.

While the creation of a Budget Commission is an extraordinary course of action, the serious fiscal crisis in the School Department leaves no other responsible option. As required by RIGL §16-2-9(f), my office and other State officials will remain involved in discussions with the City and School Department until a deficit reduction plan is finalized.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for the proposed Resolution of the City Council and I look forward to continuing to work with the City and School Department to address the projected deficit in a timely manner while protecting the long-term fiscal stability of the City of Warwick.

Sincerely,  
  
 David A. Bergantino, CPA, CFE  
 Auditor General

C: Joint Committee on Legislative Services  
 Honorable Frank J. Picozzi  
 Members of the Warwick School Committee  
 Superintendent Lynn Dambruch

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# A tale of two speeches on Inauguration Day

By AARON MACKISEY

Monday marked the 60th Presidential Inauguration, which for only the second time in history was held in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building (the first being in 1985). While the inclement weather kept me and thousands more from attending in person, thankfully, C-SPAN has us all covered.

Accompanied by his family, members of his administration and Congress and a select group of supporters, surrounded by statues of American giants and Trumbull's majestic depictions of our young republic's finest moments, Donald J. Trump took the oath of office to become the 47th president of the United States of America.

Only the second individual to be elected to two non-consecutive terms as our nation's chief executive, Trump reached this moment after having waged a multi-year campaign to return to the White House following his defeat in 2020 to then-former Vice President Joseph Biden. Always someone who does not operate within the traditional norms and standards of his

predecessors, Trump gave not one but two inaugural addresses on Monday. Both of which built upon the themes of his successful campaign: renewal and retribution.

In his address, the president articulated his view of an America in decline, an America experiencing an economy where basic goods are unaffordable for the average family, a nation unable to adequately care for its citizens impacted by natural disaster, a nation disrespected on the international stage, a nation unable to control its own borders.

For these problems, the president squarely laid blame on the failings (unintended and intended) of his predecessor's administration. For these problems, the president offered a remarkably focused laundry list of specific executive actions, which he has taken in the hours and days since being inaugurated. For a president well known for his inability to stick to the script and his penchant for free-wheeling from the podium, Trump's address was remarkably concise and specific regarding the executive actions he would take to

bring about an American renewal.

The formalities concluded, President Trump ventured beneath the Rotunda to Emancipation Hall, where an overflow crowd of supporters had been watching the inauguration on jumbotrons. There, just minutes after his teleprompter stopped, the president delivered the speech he clearly wanted to give all along and one, he felt, that was "better than the one [he made] upstairs." Over the course of a half-hour, Trump vacillated between old and new gripes – he claimed the election was rigged in California, insisted that his former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and members of the January 6th Committee were guilty of "very very bad crimes," and that those individuals charged and convicted for crimes committed on Jan. 6, 2021, were "hostages" and would soon receive deliverance.

Admittedly, my taste in government administration and political leaders has always skewed closer to those, as George H.W. Bush stated in his 1989 inaugural, who are "engaged in high moral principle ... [making] kinder the face of

the nation and gentler the face of the world." As the son of a state trooper, I've never had sympathy for those who disrespect or attack police officers, as is the case of Rhode Islander Timothy J. Desjardins, convicted of beating police officers with a table leg on January 6th. True to his word, Trump pardoned him, and some 1,500 other individuals for their actions on January 6th.

I simply can't understand when someone claims the mantle of "Law & Order" and "back the blue," only to countenance their supporters doing harm to police officers. On his Inauguration Day, Trump had a great opportunity to rally and unify the country. Regardless of how our national tension and division began, he could have brought the American family together to say "regardless of who started it, I'm gonna end it," and lower the national temperature through words and action. As President Trump said on Monday, "its action, not words, that count," and through his action our 47th president missed an opportunity to turn the page, seek a new beginning,

and bring more Americans to his cause.

Yet, my analysis aside, I firmly believe in that great American tradition that regardless of how you feel personally about the occupant of the Oval Office, that you pray for their success and the success of the country under their leadership. I hope that the next time Trump has the opportunity to unify the nation through deeds, he takes it. Maybe I'm asking for too much change from a man in his eighth decade of life; maybe I'm asking too much from our broken political system, with its misaligned incentives. Either way, it starts with us, so let's work for unity centered on a renewal of our American body politic, making kinder the face of the nation and gentler the face of the world.

Asked by The Warwick Beacon to provide commentary on the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Aaron Mackisey, a Warwick native, currently lives in Washington, D.C., where he works in the nonprofit sector. Previously he served the Picozzi administration as the mayor's chief of staff.

## Winman Middle School honor students

The following students have been named to the 1st quarter honor roll for Winman Middle School:

### High Honors Grade 6

Emma Carty, Daniel Centeio, Mackenzie D'Antuono, Sophia DeAlmo, Robert Fraser, Jacen Gardner, Evey Hallam, Mason Keller, Arianna Laine, Alejandro Mendez, Kellan Meredith, Colin Myers, Sophia Noh, Lennox O'Connell, Dean Perrino, Marcos Rapoza, Dakota Sloan, Arvind Vinod Kumar, McKenna Viquiert, Noelle Weldy.

### Honors Grade 6

Isabella Antunes, Chase Barker, Sophia Barker, Henry Boutwell, Wesley Caetano, Elena Chaj, Emilia Chaj, Aman Ciju Nair, Abigail Clinton, Erin Curley, Carter Dancause, Carter DeJesus,

Jake Dempsey, Kaitlyn Devlin, Piper Dutcher, Emery Eaton, Adriana Faria, Jason Fratus, Noah Garcia-Lara, Ella Gesualdi, Atticus Gomes, Mia Goodine, Koda Hazard, Isabella Iarocci, Brayden Igo, Logan Izzo, Abhay Jayakrishnan, Sephora Jeanty, Matthew LaBossiere, Matthew Lang, William Lang, Brooklyn Lasowski, Seamus Maloney, Ella Martin, Ishaan Martin, Miller McGuinness, Madeline McNeil, Blake Middleton, Calvin Nelson, Ella Payne, Grace Payne, Alexis Pelletier, Connor Perra, Brayden Phelan, Molly Powers, Finley Robertson, Jaxon Rose, Noah Sary, Liam Shockley, Carter Thompson, Kinsey Tran, Lorenzo Ucci, Evlyn Vinod, Owen Whitehouse, Grace Yates, Carmella Zambrano, Josephine Zielinski.

### High Honors Grade 7

Jocelyn Anderson, Christopher Baldassi, Ethan Banspach, Saydee Bence, Riley Burrows, Cali Caruso, Dani Eastwood, Collin Elsdoerfer, Hadley King, Nolan Lavature, Maddox Long, Avery Lourenco, Violet Lowell, John McAniff, Riley McKiernan, Lola Millette, Haley Mulcahey, Eloise Perrson, Ava Resnick, Maya Reynolds, Sadie Rotz, Nicolas Mateo Santo de Castro Torres Melo, Mia Skaltsis, Lily Sorice, Ivy von Maffei, Nora Wood, Ade Lynn Yates, Brenton Zagryn.

### Honors Grade 7

Joseph Adoian, Grace Aligo, Chloe Alves, Gianna Andrade, Cole Auclair, Quinn Bears, Benjamin Bricker, Michael Burroughs, Lily Canfield, Noah Carey, Chloe Coccio, Shawn Corbett, Tiago Cordeiro, Ashlynn Curran, Carter D'Antuono, Cecilia David-

son, Daniel Decosta, Olivia Enos, Colby Fales, Reagan Gajewski, Payton George, Olyvia Giles, Jackson Hallett, Zoe Hambly, Ryan Hanley, Christian Humphrey, Emma Lamothe, Kaleigh Leavitt, Allen Lim, Jonathan Madden, Mylah Major, Jackson Marandola, Jackson Marcotte, Gian Mattiace, Hayden Mattox, Klye McGuire, Fionn McNamara, Aleahbelle Mendez, Violet Milete, Thomas Monk, Mason Moreira, Anthony Mosca, Layah Moua, Paige Moua, Dilan Murray, Leimeily Oquendo, Mia Parks, Dylan Pavao, Dawsey Persson, Jazzell Prete, Devagya Punetha, Isabella Robinson, Keira Rose, Rylan Rose, Keaton Rounds-ILarraza, Dominic Rudinsky, Tristan Searl, Drew Simpkins, Kenley Smith, Liam Sullivan, Sarah Sullivan, Patrick Sweeney, Amalia Tillet, Sheyli Marianita Urizar Noriega, Sebastian Van Blarcom, Cameron Ventura,

Theodore Watson, Callum Way, Josephine Webb,

### High Honors Grade 8

nabelle Consalter, Emily Curley, Natasha DeCosta, Alice DeGaetano, Lily Dillon, Natalie Garcia, Juliana Janton, Joanna Le, Summer LeBlanc, Jordyn Mailloux, Jason Morin, William Mulcahey, Ark Patel, Max Richmond, Julianna Simas, Cassidy Szymkowicz, Marielle Wood.

### Honors Grade 8

Christopher Aiello, Yara Alkassem Alosman, Amber Anderson, Marina Ayotte, Sofia Barter, Chloe Becker-Hebert, Trevor Boudreau, Victoria Brand, Samuel Breault, Joseph Costa, Sullivan Cox, Carolyn Cudmore, Megan Curley, Dylan D'Antonio, Alexandra De La O, Sydney DeCosta, Ad-

dison Dempsey, Ryan DeSilva, Evelyn Dillon, Kaitlyn Dionne, Connor Drake, Nathan Flynn, Sophie Godridge, Augustin Gubala, Damen Hernandez, Hannah Hochman, Vayda Johnson, Adyllene Kue, Danielle Lafreniere, Camila Lawler, Kaylee Leonard, Sophia Madriaga, Owen Mahon, Stephen Matsko, Kayleigh McCaffrey, Grayson McCaughey, Amiah Melendez, Derrick Monteiro, Grace Morris, Siena Mulcahey, Audrey Neil, Riley O'Donnell, Rosalie O'Hara, Ryan O'Neil, Kylie Pagano, Emersyn Page, Samantha Paiva, Maanya Patel, Sophia Politelli, Duncan Robertson, Jackson Rotz, Jacob Rush, Vanessa Santo, Peyton Sisto, Justin Sliney, Alanzio Smith, Alexander Smith, Soleil St Onge, Jenna Strom, Vivianne Swartzel, Kelly Tran, Raquel Umoh, Alinah Us Spaziano, Ava Velino, Griffin Weldy, Reilly White, Eliana Zimmer.



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# EDITORIAL

## Disagreement without disrespect

On a day when we marked the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., we watched a peaceful transfer of power as President Donald J. Trump was sworn into office for a second term.

We hope this is a moment on the national level to put aside the pettiness of politics.

The work ahead is too great to waste a single moment on political distraction and grandstanding. On the national level, the issues can seem overwhelming and too great to solve: war, inequality, the economy, the climate.

While these deserve our attention and advocacy, let's also keep our focus on the actions taken by our local leaders.

Here at home, across our city halls and school departments, we also can't waste time on politics. Our mayors are preparing their budgets, which are their priorities for our schools, infrastructure and quality of life. Warwick and Johnston are already facing financial shortfalls and Cranston is on the hunt for professionals to run department of public works, engineering and planning – key positions that help maintain our community and sustain its growth.

During the first few weeks of the year, we witnessed new council and school committee members take their oaths,

along with the mayors of Cranston and Warwick. Amidst words of congratulations, there were mentions of setting aside partisanship to work together for the good of the communities we love. We hope this sentiment carries through the upcoming local budget season.

In her remarks heralding the beginning of a new legislative season as president of the Cranston City Council, Jessica Marino may have best captured the need to revive civility in the arenas of debate:

"If we all want better then we need to take responsibility in doing better ... we need to practice what we preach. We need to spend more time being thoughtful and taking pause. Disagreement when done right is healthy and it's absolutely normal and essential in a civilized and prosperous society.

"What is not healthy and should not be tolerable is exhibiting hostility with insults or violence....

"We should refuse to accept the notion that the word 'differences' is to be synonymous with what is wrong in this world ..."

Her call to action is worth considering across every community. We must do better for one another. The times demand it. And said more eloquently, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "The time is always right to do what is right."



## Uncanny abilities of our canine companions

What's great about dogs is that they're like people. They're social most of the time. They have their eccentricities. They will keep you company just about anywhere you are go.



And then dogs aren't like people, which makes them so all the more lovable.

Their affection is unconditional. They don't complain, although they can be picknickety about their food. They trust you implicitly.

However, no two dogs have the same personality. Indeed, dog breeds have common traits, whether it is herding, hunting, retrieving, protecting or even being couch potatoes.

Nash, the family dog of my son Ted, is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. He's a lot of fur, close to the ground, loves riding in Ted's truck and knows how to lower the window. But give him the chance to be in your lap and he's there. The one trait that fortunately has changed with age and Ted's scolding is his piercing, high-pitched bark when he sees you headed for the door and he anticipates going for a walk or ride.

On the other end of the spectrum in terms of size was our dog Binky, who frequently made it into this column. He was a rescue from the Warwick Animal Shelter. Large and lanky, he was a cross between a greyhound and a Doberman pinscher, we were told. He was smart, as we learned the day we brought him home.

I'd arranged a run, stretching a wire between two trees, and shortly after arriving home, we clipped him to the run and went into the kitchen for dinner. No sooner had we sat down did the porch door open and there was Binky. We never figured out how he managed to free himself of the run, and for the rest of his life he let himself in the door. No, he wasn't smart enough to figure out how to unlock it. However, we'd find him sitting behind the wheel of the car if we'd left the window open.

He loved the car and going places. On one local shopping excursion, after stopping at the bank to make a withdrawal, Carol walked out to find the car gone. She didn't have to look far. It was in the middle of the parking lot with Binky in the driver's seat appearing to have things under control. After that episode, Carol double-checked to make sure the car was in park.

What's prompting me to write about dogs now is their uncanny ability to pick up on one's personal condition. You've

probably read stories, as I have, on how both cats and dogs have tuned in to people who have ailments and are there to comfort them.

Farrah, our latest canine companion, has that trait. Even after having been a family member for more than a year, she's still skittish and will back away if she gets the vibe you are about to do something she's not going to like, such as leaving her at home. Of late, we both have noticed her concern, especially if we're having a tough day or we're on edge. Usually, she's a bit of a "cat dog," independent and doing her thing. But now when either of us is not feeling good or things aren't running smoothly, she's checking up on us. It may be jumping up on bed to pull a check or snuggling be-



Farrah looks on as Carol prepares her dinner ... or was it ours? (Beacon Media Photo)

tween your legs while reading or watching a game on TV. She'll scan your face with her brown eyes with an inquisitive expressed that says, "Are you all right?"

She warmly acknowledges appreciative petting and "you're a good girl" comments. But, of course, she won't refuse a little treat for being so attentive. It's nice to know she's looking out for us.

## House ready to tackle challenges of new session

By K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI

The Rhode Island House of Representatives officially opened its 2025 legislative session this month, and it's shaping up to be a busy – and challenging – year. In the face of great need, we anticipate a sizeable budget deficit, estimated at more than \$300 million.

We have been extremely strategic with our resources in recent years, passing five balanced budgets with no broad-based tax increases. In fact, we provided tax relief that affects virtually every Rhode Islander: families with children, seniors, military retirees and small businesses, and we eliminated the car tax permanently.

Along with the projected budget shortfall, there is immense pressure on some of our most critical systems: housing, health care and our workforce, which are experiencing dire shortages. We have been laser-focused on these areas over the last four years and have already made substantial investments and critical policy initiatives to improve them.

Rhode Island's housing crisis affects every community. Both housing prices and rents exceed what is affordable for households earning the state's median income, and the price of a home in Rhode Island has nearly doubled in the last five years. There is not a single municipality where a family with a household income under \$100,000 can affordably purchase a home.

The legislature has enacted almost 50 new housing laws, created Rhode Island's first-ever permanent funding stream for housing development, and passed the largest-ever state housing bond of \$120 million. We also invested about one-third of our state's federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds – \$332 million – in affordable-housing initiatives.

During this session, we will focus on ensuring that these significant investments in housing are executed in a way that delivers maximum benefit in the least amount of time. We will also monitor progress made by our state Housing Department, which has yet to become the driver of consistent housing policy.

In particular, I am deeply concerned that resources directed to address homelessness have not been deployed as quickly or effectively as I intended. The Housing Department's new secretary recently appeared before our Housing Affordability Commission, and I hope she will make the needed adjustments to achieve the department's mission.

Another area of focus and concern across the country is health care. To help address our challenges, the state budget included funding for many health care programs and initiatives, including more than \$160 million for rate increases for home- and community-based behavioral health care and children's services.

As the son of a doctor, I realize we need to build on this foundation to address critical shortages in the health care system, particularly the looming shortfall of primary care physicians.



K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI

We must ensure that access to quality medical care is protected for every Rhode Islander, and we will work with our partners in health care – hospitals, insurers and providers – to chart the path ahead. Our attorney general has been doing an excellent job in ensuring oversight of hospital conversions, and our colleagues in the Senate have also made health care issues a priority. I look forward to continuing to work with them on efforts to reform health care.

The House will continue to utilize its power of oversight into the management of some immediate crises, such as the reconstruction of the Washington Bridge, which will require immense resources. The effectiveness of the state's response to this crisis impacts so many Rhode Islanders, and they deserve timely and accurate information. Our oversight committee will be asking tough questions as the state embarks upon rebuilding this vital thoroughfare, and it will also scrutinize the large-scale cyberattack that impacted some of our most vulnerable residents.

The good news is that Rhode Island has a unique ability to connect and collaborate. Our small size is one of our greatest assets. We are nimble and have the ability to move quickly, which has helped us retain some of our industry leaders. Last year, Citizens Bank had concerns about Rhode Island's tax structure making us less competitive compared with those of our neighbors. We listened, acted quickly, passed legislation and kept Citizens within our borders.

Here, companies have direct access to government leaders, and our partners in government enjoy an extremely collaborative working relationship. As the past several legislative sessions have demonstrated, the boat moves much faster when we are all rowing in the same direction.

In the House, we will tackle today's issues collaboratively, and with commitment, creativity and compassion. We welcome the input of the public and encourage the participation of all Rhode Islanders as we begin this new session.

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi is a Democrat representing House District 23 in Warwick

## SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones



# McKee's upbeat State of State address

## TALKING POLITICS



by  
IAN  
DONNIS

By IAN DONNIS

Gov. Dan McKee had a high-profile platform last Tuesday, using his State of the State speech to assert that Rhode Island is “flipping the script” from some of the less flattering narratives of yesterday. McKee was right to point to an all-time high in the state’s labor force on his watch. But although Rhode Island’s labor force participation rate hit 65.2% last July – its highest level since 2014 – that was still below a number of past peaks. So whether the economic glass is half-full or half-empty in the Ocean State remains subjective, depending on the relative experience of different individuals.

McKee seemed more comfortable in delivering his upbeat address, celebrating various elements of good news – ranging from a successful first season for the Rhode Island FC soccer team to how Regent Craft is adding jobs at Quonset. The gov-

ernor’s message competed, however, with how TV cameras were kept out of the House chamber, Harrison Tuttle of Black Lives Matter RI was led away by the arm by a plainclothes officer, and protesters were restricted to a small area on the first floor of the State House. In the view of Phil Eil, “the governor’s actions toward the press and protesters, which would have been ill advised at any time, were especially tone-deaf at our current moment,” with Donald Trump poised to return to the White House.

During the GOP response, RI Senate Republican Leader Jessica de la Cruz of North Smithfield pointed to familiar problems – the Washington Bridge, the recent cyberbreach, under-performing schools and so on – in arguing that Democrats have the state headed in the wrong direction.

All this takes place as Rhode Island is once again facing worsening budget deficits in future years. McKee’s budget includes efforts meant to stimulate economic growth and to cut spending over time. But while unemployment in the state remains low, the quest to build a stronger, more diverse economy very much remains a work in progress. Voters will have their say next year.

GUN BAN: McKee used the platform of the State of

the State to place a marker – his inclusion in the budget of a ban on assault weapons. This attracted a positive response in the House chamber and the proposal appears to have significant support in Rhode Island. But Republicans are not alone in calling the budget the wrong place for a contentious gun-limiting proposal, and it’s unlikely to remain there ahead of what is certain to be a sharp State House debate on the pros and cons. As House Speaker Joe Shekarchi tells me in a statement, “I don’t think it is appropriate to have an important gun issue considered as part of the budget. Social issues that bring out strong passions on both sides should be considered on their merits as stand-alone legislation. In the four years I have been speaker, I am proud to have strong bipartisan support for every budget, and I don’t want members to vote one way or another on a budget based on their feelings about a social issue.”

LOOKING AHEAD: Although McKee has a modest +4 approval rating in a new survey from DC-based Morning Consult, the governor’s campaign said it was encouraged by the findings. Campaign spokesman Mike Trainor said the rating compares favorably with how former Gov. Gina Raimondo was rated at a similar point in

her tenure. “And this December poll was taken amidst continued focus on the 195 Bridge and the RI Bridges data breach,” Trainor added. “Even more encouraging, this result for the governor implies an even stronger level of support for him among Democrat primary voters.” Jon Romano, campaign spokesman for Helena Foulkes, responded on X, “LOL.”

SEEING RED: With the end of federal COVID aid, Rhode Island is once again facing a string of future deficits. The red ink has to be cleared by the end of the fiscal year, but an imbalance between the growth of revenue and expenditures – mostly education and health and human services – makes for a structural imbalance. Over the next four years, the deficit is projected to grow to about \$400 million, down from \$683.5 million, if the changes proposed in McKee’s budget are approved by the legislature.

TROUBLED PROSPECT: The bankruptcy filing of California-based Prospect Medical Holdings, owner of Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in North Providence, has raised concern about the future of those institutions. It has also focused the attention of more elected officials on the situation, even though the threat

to the local hospitals has been visible for years. The hospitals are among the largest employers and biggest taxpayers in their respective communities. What happens next is unclear. Gov. McKee is hopeful that the local hospitals can be carved out from the bankruptcy, making it easier to complete their acquisition by the Centurion Foundation, a nonprofit in Atlanta. However, as I’ve reported, Roger Williams and Fatima face more uncertainty even under that scenario.

KICKER: The Old Canten is an iconic Providence res-

taurant, so it seems just wrong that it’s going to close and become a purveyor of wieners, as Gail Ciampa reports in the ProJo. The Canten is where Buddy Cianci had his first Rhode Island meal after getting out of a Boston halfway house in 2007. It’s where Nick Mattiello made calls as he put together his support for the speakership after the fall of Gordon Fox in 2014. A little more of old Rhode Island is slipping away, joining Benny’s and the Follies in the collective memory of the past.

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP

- 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  
asburyumcri.org
- Narragansett Bay Baptist Church**  
1642 West Shore Road  
Pastor Dru Merrill  
738-0600  
nbbcri.org
- Norwood Baptist Church**  
48 Budlong Avenue  
Rev. George Barclay  
941-7040
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church**  
1817 Warwick Avenue  
Pastor Todd Stange  
739-2937  
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org
- Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church**  
3257 Post Road  
Rev. Scott R. Lee  
737-4141  
8:00 & 10:00 Holy Eucharist  
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org
- Buttwoods Bible Chapel**  
311 Buttwoods Avenue  
401-823-7803  
or 508-579-7384
- Christ Church**  
1025 Main St., E.G.  
(corner Post & Cedar)  
884-8632  
www.christchurchec.org
- Church of The Apostles**  
Anglican Church in North America  
170 Fairview Ave.  
Coventry, RI 02816  
821-7609  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
www.apostlesri.org
- Church of The Transfiguration**  
1665 Broad Street  
461-3142  
Sunday 10 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist
- Community of Christ Church**  
292 West Shore Road  
Rev. Nancy L. Cornish  
Rev. Peter M. Latham  
738-0342
- Concordia Center for Spiritual Living**  
292 West Shore Rd.  
732-1552  
10 am. Sundays  
concordiacsl.org
- Eckankar Center**  
2914 Post Road, Unit #3  
Path of Spiritual Freedom  
Light & Sound Services  
1st & 3rd Sundays 10 AM  
Pastor Mark Lopotoski  
738-4727  
www.eckankar-ri.org
- Faith Baptist Church**  
765 Commonwealth Ave.  
Pastor Matt Vandeleeest  
738-7664  
faithbaptstri.org  
Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am
- Faith Family Chapel**  
205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)  
Pastor Brian Regan  
681-4690  
www.faithfamilychapel.org
- First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC**  
715 Oakland Beach Avenue  
Pastor Michael Ashe  
738-3377  
fcwri.org
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
124 Division St.  
East Greenwich
- Friendship Baptist Church**  
2945 West Shore Road  
Pastor Kaleb Hall  
738-4392  
friendshipri.com
- Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian**  
805 Main Avenue  
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark  
737-1230  
www.gccp.org
- Lakewood Baptist Church**  
255 Atlantic Avenue  
Pastor Ron Provencal  
781-1136  
lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com  
Sunday Worship 10am  
Offering Zoom for Sunday Services.  
Please see website for link.  
www.facebook.com/LBCWarwick.
- Living Faith Christian Church**  
1201 Greenwich Avenue  
739-2444  
www.LivingFaithRI.org
- Saint Mark's Episcopal Church**  
111 West Shore Road  
737-3127  
Saturday - 5:00 pm  
Sunday - 9:00 am  
www.stmarkswarwick.com
- Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
389 Greenwich Avenue  
Rev. Hayley Bang  
737-6758  
stpaulwarwick.org
- Saint Timothy Church**  
1799 Warwick Avenue  
739-9552
- Saints Rose & Clement Church**  
111 Long Street  
739-0212  
Masses: Saturday 4 pm  
Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am
- SouthPointe Christian Church**  
200 Pettaconsett Ave.  
401-821-9800  
Worship Services 9 & 10:30 a.m.  
Kids Programming for Birth-4th grade both services  
5th-8th grade Programming 9 a.m. Sundays  
High School Programming Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.  
southpointeri.com
- Spring Green Memorial Church**  
1350 Warwick Avenue  
463-8328  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr.  
https://sgmcri.wordpress.com/
- Trinity Church**  
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet Cranston, RI 02905  
8 am & 10 am  
10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet  
941-4324  
http://www.trinitycranston.org/
- Warwick Hope Assembly of God**  
425 Sandy Lane  
Pastor Matthew McIntosh  
732-0634  
Sunday Service 9:30 am.  
Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
- Warwick Central Baptist Church**  
3270 Post Road  
Pastor Sam Chesser  
739-2828  
wcbc01@verizon.net  
Service Sundays at 10:15 AM
- Warwick Christian Fellowship**  
358 Warwick Neck Avenue  
Pastor Steve Reickett  
739-26606
- Westminster Unitarian Church**  
119 Kenyon Ave., E.G.  
401-884-5933  
Sunday Service 10 am  
Streaming on: westminsteru.org
- Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian**  
58 Beach Avenue  
Rev. Deb Packard  
737-8232  
WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

## What's RI's housing forecast? It depends on us

By CHRIS WHITTEN

If there’s anything certain about Rhode Island’s 2025 housing forecast, it’s that it’s impossible to predict. Certainly, we can’t look to national forecasts to draw upon. While most of the country is seeing housing supply grow, Rhode Island’s is shrinking. It’s now down to a 1.6-month supply, far below the 5- to 6-month supply typical of a balanced market. And while home prices are stabilizing elsewhere, Rhode Island’s continue to climb.

Adding to the uncertainty, economic and political impacts are changing by the day, clouding the ability to predict the future for prospective homebuyers. December saw the biggest surge in Rhode Island’s housing market in more than a quarter-century, spurred in part by anticipation of further rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. Since the Fed began lowering its benchmark interest rate last fall, further cuts have been the norm and were widely expected to continue in 2025. While not directly linked, the targeted cuts to the Federal Fund Rate were expected to eventually lead to mortgage-rate declines. Then came the recent positive jobs report, which dashed those hopes, at least for the near future. Strong job growth means less pressure on the Fed to cut interest rates and now economists are wondering when it will resume more cuts, if at all.

On the national front, the second term of President Donald Trump cre-



CHRIS WHITTEN

ates even more questions. Will Trump initiatives like tariffs and deportation raise development costs? Will real estate-friendly programs lower them? And closer to home, how long before House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi’s 2024 housing initiatives begin to have impact?

The National Association of Realtors predicts that Boston will be one of the hottest markets of 2025. Drawn by the Ocean State’s close location to attractive but much-pricier Boston, thousands of Massachusetts residents have flocked here, a trend that seems destined to continue. Other economists have named Providence to their top spots based on price appreciation. It does appear that supersized demand will keep our inventory low and our prices elevated.

One thing we know for sure is that if Rhode Island doesn’t remove the barriers that face would-be homeowners, our housing market will continue to be a boon to current homeowners who are building wealth through epic equity gains, but a point of frustration for prospective buyers unable to get a foothold into building generational wealth. Though Rhode Island’s labor data is positive, it remains near the bottom tier of all the states. Housing starts remain there as well. Our younger generations deserve better.

According to an Economic Impact Study by the National Association of Realtors, the real estate industry accounted for \$14.6 billion or 18.9% of Rhode Island’s Gross State Product in 2023, pushing roughly \$134,000 back into our economy with each home sale. Homeownership is a strong economic driver, and barriers to it must be addressed swiftly. Jobs, infrastructure, taxes and legislative mandates that raise the cost of home purchases and ownership – all are critical issues facing Rhode Islanders. The Rhode Island Association of Realtors works to address the problems head-on to help others understand the unintended consequences of potential legislation. Ultimately, a positive housing forecast depends on all of us and the steps we take to reach out to our policymakers in the coming months.

Chris Whitten is president of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors

## Kent ER offers insight into how medicine should work

By LLEWELLYN KING

Most people have horror stories about emergency rooms. Whether in Boston, Washington or Los Angeles, the stories are appalling.

Gurneys, sometimes with critically ill patients, lined up and left unattended along walls. Hurting people waiting for hours because of a shortage of staff, beds and a prevailing shortage of resources. Systems that are stressed and seem to be near breaking point.

I have a story about my recent ER visit, which was pure joy and likely saved my life.

The story begins just before Christmas with my travels on crowded Amtrak trains and more overcrowded airplanes.

I was wearing a mask during these trips and I had gotten flu and COVID shots, but I caught the flu. I received prompt and proper treatment, but I wasn’t licking it.

The Saturday before Christmas, early in the morning, I had a fever hallucination: I sat bolt upright in bed and told my wonderful wife, Linda Gasparello, that I was preparing my maiden speech to the British House of Commons.

As I hadn’t set foot in the UK parliament for years, and then only in the press gallery, this insane bravado led her to call an ambulance at 2 a.m. – over my protests that I was getting better and taking a Tylenol would take care of everything. “Just you see,” I said.

What Linda saw was a very sick man, clearly delirious and in need of urgent medical help.

Kindly men from the West Warwick Fire Department’s ambulance service quietly entered our apartment and wuffed me into the ambulance, where

they checked my vital signs and did an electrocardiogram and other work. I was in good, strong, comforting and knowledgeable hands.

When they were done, they drove me a few miles to Kent Hospital, part of Care New England, which has the second-busiest ER in the state. Not auspicious? Read on.

I wasn’t parked along a wall or interrogated about my insurance but rushed straight to waiting nurses and the emergency medical technicians until I was hooked up to an IV and a doctor had seen me. Soon afterward, I was seen by two doctors.

Emergency rooms are, by all accounts, hellholes. I expected the worst, but I got two days of excellent care and pleasant attention. I have stayed at some of the best hotels in the world, including the Carlyle in New York, the Ritz in Paris, the Hassler in Rome and Brown’s in London, and I had the same feeling of well-being at the Kent Hospital ER – people who cared and told me they were just a bell-ring away.

When my vitals were stable in a few days, I was invited to participate in a unique and remarkable system called “Kent Hospital at Home.”

Under this system (some form of which is operational at nearly 400 hospitals in 39 states), select patients can go home without being discharged, and the home becomes a hospital room. You are hooked up to a monitor, which sends data about your vitals to ER nurses. You can read these on an iPad, with contact information for the nurses and doctors assigned to you. You also get an emergency alarm on a wristband.

Everything the patient might have needed in the hospital is transported to the home. This might include an IV, oxygen and other necessary equip-

ment that might be used in the ER.

Best of all, you get visits twice daily from a nurse and once a day from a doctor, either in person or virtual. I was in the system for just two days before discharge and saw the doctor in my home once and on Zoom once. I was given his cellphone number with instructions to call whenever needed.

The hospital-at-home concept was pioneered by the Mayo Clinic, among other medical facilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has a waiver from Medicare, which means that you are billed as an in-hospital patient, not an outpatient.

Kent Hospital emphasized that when it moved me from the hospital to my home – in their vehicle – it was a “transfer,” not in any way a discharge.

Research suggests that hospital-at-home care saves the provider between 19% and 30% compared with keeping the same patient in the hospital.

I am grateful to all who played a role in my recovery, from the ambulance crew to the emergency nurses, doctors, radiologists and porters.


Also, I am grateful for an insight into how medicine should work and how it will be enhanced in the future through technology that makes hospital-at-home care possible and viable.

For the record, I had influenza A and sepsis pneumonia. I had magnificent treatment, and I thank all who handed me a Christmas present beyond value. And I even saw a doctor making a house call. I wasn’t hallucinating.

Llewellyn King is executive producer and host of the “White House Chronicle” on PBS; columnist, Inside-Sources Syndicate; contributor, Forbes; Energy Central and commentator, SiriusXM Radio.

# OBITUARIES

## Frank Allen

 With sadness we announce the passing of Frank Allen on December 20th, 2024. Frank was a resident of Warwick and Rotonda West, Florida. He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Cam Malone-Allen and was pre-deceased by his wife Anna in 1980. Frank was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 30, 1937. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for many years, and was employed by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority. He was active in local politics in Marshfield, Mass, Toys for Tots, The Elks Club, and Disabled American Veterans. Along with his wife Cam he leaves his loving children, Kathleen, William, John, Jayne, Robert as well as Cam's sons, Michael and Timothy. Grandfather of 13 and Great Grandfather of nine. His visitation and Mass of Christian burial took place on January 2nd, in West Warwick, Rhode Island, with burial in Marshfield, Massachusetts with Military Honors on January 3rd. He is laid to rest alongside his deceased wife Anna, the mother of his children.



## Kenneth King Kuzman, Jr.

On December 19th, 2024, Kenneth King Kuzman, Jr. (54), of Downingtown, Pennsylvania and formerly Warwick, Rhode Island, passed away peacefully while skiing at Okemo Mountain with his long-time friends. They said Ken was skiing "hot." Picture him in your head in front of you, as you descend whatever type of slope: steeps, trees, bumps. Kenny was always balanced, tight, seemingly effortless. He spent his final day with people he loved, shredding some fresh powder. By his fifty-fifth year, Kenny had downhill skied a million or more vertical feet-and over 100 mountains-with so many different friends. But on this day, he made tracks up, into the clouds. We'll follow them to you in time, Kenny. For now, it's endless runs, and no groomers for you!



Kenneth (Ken, Kenny, Kuz, or Kuzzy) was born in Warwick, RI, on September 19th, 1970, to Brigitte and Kenneth Sr. As a child, Kenny was an amazing and loving older brother, friend to many, and son who kept his parents on their toes every day. Ken was a 1988 graduate of Tollgate High School in Warwick, and continued his education at the University of Vermont in Burlington, graduating in 1992. He then moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he met Hope Merkert, future mother of his three sons, Kyle, Bryce, and Ashton. They raised their family in Pennsylvania, surrounded by hills, creeks, farms, and animals. Kenny was a loving father who taught his kids the joy of skiing, never missed an important moment, and always showed up with a bag of fruit and Amish snacks. In 2009, he met Diana Whaley, with whom he shared many of the same joys in life, including their love of music and anything involving the natural world. They were later married on New Year's Eve, 2017, under their favorite tree. Kenny's inclusive, loving nature led him to become an influential father figure to Diana's daughters, Fantasia and Ariel.

Kenny's upbeat and attentive manner, integrity, and thoughtful way with words made spending time with him so enjoyable. Kenny never met a stranger, which led him to a very successful career in Specialty Door Sales, first with Krieger Specialty Products as their Regional Sales Manager, and later developing the specialty door line at Houston-Starr. In addition to skiing, he loved walking and biking in nature, waterfalls and beaches, good food in good company, dancing to live music, and nurturing life through gardening. Kenny was an exceptional cook of stir fries, pies, and porridge. He was a deeply spiritual man, well-known for his "go-with-the-flow" attitude and always taking the scenic route. Ken never lost his joie de vivre, whether exploring the world around him, playing ultimate frisbee and other games, or closing out every party he went to.

Kenneth is survived by his parents, Kenneth K. Kuzman, Sr. (Leah) and Brigitte Kuzman-Covill (née Dupré) (Gary); wife Diana Whaley (née Odum) and stepdaughters Fantasia Whaley and Ariel Whaley; former spouse Hope Merkert; three sons Kyle Kuzman, Bryce Kuzman (Cassidy), and Ashton Kuzman; and brothers Jamie Kuzman (Christine) and Brent Kuzman (Brooke). Kenny was predeceased by his oldest brother, Ken Kuzman. He will be missed by his extended family-aunts, uncles, cousins-and all the friends he met throughout his life in RI, VT, CO, PA, and elsewhere.


Relatives and friends are invited to attend a celebration of Kenny's life on February 22nd, 2025, at the Mettatuxet Yacht Club, 36 South River Drive, Narragansett, RI. The family will be celebrating between 12-4 PM, and guests can stop in at any point between those hours. A sharing will take place at 1 PM for those who wish to hear stories of Kenny's life.

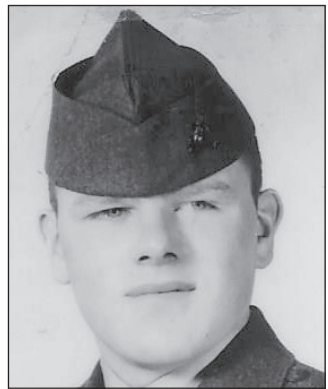
In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Kenny's love for skiing and his desire to share it with others, please consider a donation to the Share Winter Foundation, supporting underprivileged youth in skiing.

Donate Here: <https://sharewinter.donorsupport.co/-/NBWLRSCS>

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

## John P. O'Gorman

 John P. O'Gorman, 88, of Warwick died Monday, January 20th at the Brentwood Nursing Home. He was the husband of the late Marcelle H. (Tropea) O'Gorman.




Born in Providence, son of the late Patrick C. and Bridget (Connolly) O'Gorman, he had lived in Warwick for the past fifty years. Mr. O'Gorman was a Central Office technician for A.T. & T for over thirty years before retiring in 1985. Mr. O'Gorman was a Marine Corps. veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, and the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Department.

He leaves a son, Jonathan M. O'Gorman of Jamestown, two daughters, Kathleen M. O'Connor of Warwick and Patricia A. O'Gorman of Cranston; four Grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was the brother of Loretta O'Gorman of Warwick, the late Mary Mulligan, Kathleen Delaney, and Thomas O'Gorman.

His funeral will be Saturday, January 25th at 9 AM from the Frank P. Trainor & Sons Funeral Home, 982 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. Mass of Christian Burial in Saint Peter Church 350 Fair Street, Warwick at 10 AM. Calling Hours Friday 5-7 PM. Burial with military honors will be in Saint Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Condolences, please visit [www.trainorfh.com](http://www.trainorfh.com)

## Donald Sheldon Mulvaney

 Donald Sheldon Mulvaney, 92, of Warwick passed away on Friday, January 10, 2025. He was the beloved husband for 64 years to Margaret A. (Earley) Mulvaney. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Edward M. and Dorothy M (Kdan) Mulvaney.



Donald served in the US Navy during the Korean War. He graduated from NE Tech and worked for the Federal Government. He was a member of RI Fish and Game, was an avid sports car enthusiast and James Bond memorabilia, a reader of historical books, a coin collector and was an animal lover.


Besides his wife Margaret, he is survived by his daughter Kathleen Fossa of Warwick and her partner Shane, his good friend George, his nieces and nephews, and his pets Charlotte and Midnight.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 11:00AM at St's Rose and Clement, 111 Long Street, Warwick, RI 02886. Interment followed at RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter.

Visitation was held prior to the Mass from 9:00AM-10:00AM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

[www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](http://www.murphyfuneralhomes.org)

## Warren D. Cole

 Warren D. Cole, 76, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. He was the beloved husband of the late Barbara A. (Sigley) Cole and the fiancé of Lori Brierly.



Born in Providence, a son of the late H. Warren and Margaret (Bullard) Cole, he attended Rhode Island Junior College from 1966-1967 and Roger Williams Junior College from 1967-1969.

Warren was a United States Army veteran serving from 1969-1971 transferring to the USAR where he served from 1971-1975. He was the recipient of the Expert Badge with Auto Rifle Bar and Grenade Bar. Warren completed Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Threats (CBR) Training for the types of weapons or hazards that can be used in warfare, and which can cause significant harm to military personnel and civilians alike necessitating special protective measures and preparedness strategies.

He worked as a rigger for General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division, Quonset, RI from 1975-1977, for Offshore Oil Rig Western Oceanic Shell Oil from 1977-1980, and for General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division, Groton, CT from 1981-2015. He worked numerous part-time jobs including Eastman Brothers Building Movers from 1967-2020, Warren T. Job Rototilling from 1988-2023, Thielsch Engineering from 1988-1998, Canonicus Camp & Conference Center, Exeter, RI from 1988-1990, and at the Providence Journal, Front Desk Security, from 1988-1990.

Warren had many interests and talents. He was a kind, caring person who lived his life by the tenets of his Christian faith. He was a member and former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Asbury United Methodist Church, Warwick. He previously served in several ministry capacities as a member of People's Baptist Church in Cranston.

He was a member of the Rhode Island Greyhound Owner's Association - Twin Rivers; the Pawtuxet Athletic Club, and the East Greenwich Fireman's Association. In 1990, Warren won the Topsfield Fair Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off with "Big Wally" weighing in at 920 lbs.

Warren was also a musician. He played the trumpet and for over 30 years he played the three hymns he learned at many gravesides for family and friends. He also shared his gift as a volunteer playing Taps as a part of military honors being offered for a deceased veteran at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter.

In addition to his fiancé, Lori, Warren is survived by his sister Nancy Marion (Bob) and her children Kate Andrew (Ryan) and Eric Brown (Tina). He was the great uncle to three great nephews and three great nieces. Warren is also survived by his stepdaughter Anastacia Conti, three step-grandsons John Wright, Ron Wright and Steve Dobson, and a step-great granddaughter Eliza Conti.

Calling hours will be held at the Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick on Friday, January 31, 2025, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Funeral service in Asbury United Methodist Church, 143 Ann Mary Brown Drive, Warwick, Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Inurnment, with military honors, in the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to: Asbury United Methodist Church, 143 Ann Mary Brown Drive, (Warren Cole Memorial Fund), Warwick RI 02888. Condolences may also be offered and fond memories of Warren shared online at [www.barrettandcotter.com](http://www.barrettandcotter.com).

## Third Year Remembrance ANNA TOONE



I miss you so much. I think of you every day And tell you, "I love you." I hope you can hear me Talking to you. I wish I did that more When you were alive. I was so lucky to have You as a Mom. Your pure generosity, your kindness and unconditional Love for me and my family Never wavered. Please know that we appreciate Everything you did for us. I will always strive to Fulfill your wishes. You will never be forgotten. Lastly, you were right When you said, "You're Gonna miss me when I am gone." Every day, Mom.

Always in our hearts And with much love,  
YOUR DAUGHTER LOUISE,  
SON-IN-LAW DENNIS, RAYBON  
AND CHERISHED  
GRANDDAUGHTER, MARIAN

## In Memory 8th Anniversary BOB GAGE

JANUARY 27



Your presence I miss,  
Your memory I treasure,  
Loving you always,  
Forgetting you never.  
Your Lady

## GEORGE MOULTON 90th Birthday Remembrance

1/22/35



Today, we want to celebrate the incredible person you were. You were devoted, loving, and selfless. We feel so lucky to have been your family. Happy heavenly birthday, Dad  
Love, George, Ricky, Michael, Michele, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

## GREGORY S. GORDON Three Year Remembrance

2/7/2022



Every day in some small way, Memories of you come our way. Though absent, you are always near, Still missed, loved and always dear.  
Love, Mom and Family

## ELLA M. SWANSON Birthday Remembrance

1/20/1919



Happy Heavenly Birthday, Mother. We hold you close within our hearts And there you shall remain, To walk with us throughout our lives Until we meet again.  
Love, Daughter Nancy and Family

## GINA A LYTLE First Year Remembrance

3/12/1983 1/22/2024



I'd like the memory of me To be a happy one, I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles When life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering Softly down the ways, Of happy time and laughing times And bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve, To dry before the sun Of happy memories that I leave When life is done.  
Love, Mom, Dad & Mario

## URQUHART-MURPHY

### FUNERAL HOME



An Independently Owned Funeral Home

800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI

# 737-3510

Conveniently located off Exit 12A on I-95

EDWARD L. MURPHY, DIRECTOR

Member by Invitation  National Selected Morticians

## 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](http://warwickonline.com).

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

- Thank you

# More flurries of fun



Hope Road turned into winter wonderland drive on Monday. (Beacon Media photo by Melissa Miller)



Bridget Gonzalez (left) and Mariah DeFusco (right) scoop up the fresh snow to make "snow babies" on the sloping grounds around Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)



Cold work. Richard Ardito of Cranston was out early in the morning to clear his driveway and sidewalk. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)



Declan loved playing in his grandma's yard in Edgewood. (Photo submitted via Facebook)



## We create bright futures.

Our programs help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive at every age, and every stage of life.

Discover how we're building a community where everyone belongs, thrives, and is supported to reach their full potential.



Learn more:  
[TrudeauCenter.org/BrightFuture](https://TrudeauCenter.org/BrightFuture)



# Postseason kick

## Cranston's Kevin Vang, RIFC midfielder, on the team's leap to prominence in '24

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Rhode Island FC soccer team enjoyed a thrilling inaugural season in 2024, defying the odds and reaching the United Soccer League finals after going 12-7-15 in the regular season. RIFC took the fifth seed into the postseason and pulled off three straight upsets to earn the championship bid, beating No. 4 Indy, No. 1 Louisville City and No. 2 Charleston.

Right in the center of the action was Cranston's own Kevin Vang. The 24-year-old midfielder was a standout for Cranston East during his high school days and went on to play for Division I Providence College. He appeared in 83 games for the Friars and recorded four goals and nine assists. He also played for the New England Revolution Academy and later earned a spot on the Youth National Team Futures Camp team in 2015 and 2016. He also spent time playing club soccer for Bayside FC.

RIFC had a tough start to its season, winning just two of its first 14 matches. Things improved mightily in the second half of the season as the players, who had never played together before the season, began to bond on the field and off.

"It was unpredictable. Nobody expected us to achieve what we achieved. At the beginning of the season, we weren't getting the results that we wanted. It wasn't until the end of the season that we started winning games. We were on a run, we made a playoff run and starting beating playoff opponents. It was unbelievable," said Vang.

Vang felt that the coaching staff did an excellent job recruiting players, both in terms of talent and character.

"Day in and day out, our team really put in the work and did what the coaches wanted us to do on and off the field. The relationships that we built between teammates, on the field and off the field, they were important. The coaches trusted the players, and we just had to do our job. Coaches pick the players not just for being great soccer players, but for being great people as well. That played a big role in what we accomplished," Vang said.

■ VANG - PAGE 16



Kevin Vang shoots the ball during a game last year.



Kevin Vang makes a play for RIFC last season. (Photos courtesy of RIFC)



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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian  
Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

## Shutterbug

Can we all agree that this pup's smile just captured your heart! All I can say is you must meet him in person! His playful, fun-loving temperament is just the best! He has a zest for life and he's ready to live it with you! Shutterbug just turned a year old, has some puppy energy, loves to play fetch and getting belly rubs and then will happily snuggle with you! His body is so unique too, he's a short stack with a long body, he's just the cutest!! Please contact the Heart of RI at 401-467-3670 or visit the shelter on Wednesday 3-7 or Saturday 10-2 located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. Whoever adopts this fun little guy will be very lucky! He will bring love & laughter into your heart & home!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)

See it at the

# Movies

with  
Joyce & Don  
Fowler



NETFLIX

### JERRY SPRINGER: FIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION



JERRY SPRINGER: FIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

This revealing documentary delves into the personal and professional life of the late Jerry Springer, the former Cincinnati mayor who brought shocking programs to daytime TV.

We learn how the shows were constructed, the participants influenced and what happened to some of them after revealing their innermost secrets.

Springer beat out Oprah in the ratings with his violent, sexy shock.

The show that was banned, about a man who marries his donkey, is highlighted.

If you, like us, never watched the show, you will be shocked. If you were a fan, you'll learn some shocking (there's that word again) behind-the-scenes revelations.

### BACK IN ACTION

(Sloppy, violent familiar spy flick)

Jamie Foxx and Cameron Diaz star as spies in this sloppy, violent, senseless attempt at comedy/action adventure.

The movie opens with the CIA agents getting blown out of an airplane, escaping with a shared parachute and landing in the snow-covered mountains.

Switch to 15 years later. The pair quit spying, had two kids and somehow ended up living in an upper-middle-class neighborhood with a nice car. No explanation as to how all this happened.

Matt (Foxx) has stolen a valuable key that the bad guys need to control the world. Don't ask how, but 15 years later they are found and chased from the USA to London by both the police and the bad guys.

They end up with the kids at her wealthy mother's estate (Glenn Close). The kids never figured out that they were spies.

Emily (Diaz) hates her former-agent mother and Emily's daughter hates her. Can they all resolve their differences as they fight for their lives?



BACK IN ACTION

Mayhem occurs. Lots of chasing, car wrecks, hand-to-hand combat. Will our heroes come out of it un-

scathed? What do you think?

### TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES

If you are a movie buff, you just have to watch Turner Classic Movies, the 24-hour TV station that presents commercial-free classic films from the early silent-movie days to the occasional modern films. Here are two great films coming up this weekend:

**Friday, January 24 at 8:00 p.m.** one of the greatest musicals ever, "Oklahoma," starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones will be featured. Filmed in 1955, and made into a hit Broadway musical, it has the most memorable score of any musical.

**Sunday, January 26 at 8:00 p.m.** you can watch Paul Newman as a tough prisoner from a southern chain gang in "Cool Hand Luke." Remember the classic line: "What we've got here is failure to communicate."



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## Defrocked pastor shot in Cranston

**O**n the afternoon of March 17, 1935, 67-year-old Armenian priest Gevont Martugessian led the funeral services for the recently deceased Hagop Kalousian, at the Kalousian home on Smith Street in Cranston. The pastor of Cranston's Armenian Apostolic Church, Martugessian was leaving the premises at the close of the funeral when 45-year-old George Nazarian, who resided on Douglas Avenue in Providence, suddenly stepped up to the scene. Partially handicapped, George held his cane in one hand and a revolver in the other. He fired four shots at the mourners, striking his goal - the pastor - three times.

Nazarian, a 39-year-old unemployed cook, was holding Martugessian responsible for being what he called "the mastermind" behind the 1933 assassination of 54-year-old Archbishop Leon Tourian in New York.

The plot to assassinate Tourian had come together inside a pavilion during an Armenian Day celebration at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. The Archbishop wouldn't step out onto the stage until the national flag

### Back in the Day



by  
KELLY SULLIVAN

of the First Republic of Armenia was removed as he knew it was a provocation to Armenia's Soviet government. As a Catholic, he felt it was his responsibility to keep peace with those in Soviet authority. The act led to such a procession of threats that Tourian had to request police protection.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation - a socialist and Armenian nationalist party founded in 1890, felt that the Archbishop's actions had been an act of treason. Tourian was killed on December 24, 1933 as he began the Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Holy Cross in Manhattan. As he made his way down the aisle toward the front of the church, he was surrounded by a large group of men who had jumped up from their pews. Two of the men plunged

butcher knives into him. After a five-week trial, Nishan Sarkisian and Mateos Leyelegian were found guilty of first-degree murder.

Those who had come to mourn the loss of Hagop Kalousian two years later now descended on Nazarian and nearly beat him to death with his own cane before police arrived to arrest him. Martugessian lay on the ground in critical condition. Thirty-five-year-old physician and Polish native Dr. Stanley Freedman happened to be passing down Smith Street when he saw the commotion. He didn't have his medical bag with him but he had his stethoscope and he removed its plastic tubing to prepare a makeshift tourniquet to place on the pastor's right arm where one of the bullets had pierced an artery. With two additional bullets lodged in his abdomen, Martugessian was rushed to the Rhode Island Hospital along with wealthy 39-year-old Providence grocer Oscar Barsmian who had also caught a bullet.

Cranston police arrived in two squad cars and arrested Nazarian who wasn't alone in his ire toward the pastor. Martugessian had

been in the center of swirling controversy since 1907 when it was alleged that he was part of a blackmailing plot in New York. During the summer of 1934, he was under investigation in both New York and Rhode Island concerning his activities as a leader in the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. The controversy resulted in his being defrocked by the authority of the Holy Apostolic Church of Soviet Armenia.

Nazarian pleaded not guilty to charges of assault with intent to kill and assault with a dangerous weapon. The attorney general ordered that he be examined by a psychiatrist and he was later admitted to the Rhode Island State Hospital for Mental Diseases. Martugessian forgave Nazarian for his actions and the shooter was released from the psychiatric hospital in the winter of 1937.

Martugessian recovered from his injuries. In July of 1936, he was admitted to a hospital in Chicago for the removal of a tumor. He died following surgery.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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TWIN FOXES  
(Submitted photo by Devin Dom)

# Twin Foxes replicate live experience with 'Green, It's All Around You'

By **ROB DUGUAY**

It is a goal for any band or musician to generate the same energy of their live performance while in the recording studio. Without the organic exchange from an attentive audience, this can be difficult to pull off, but if it's achieved then it adds a special quality to a single, EP or full-length record.

This is something the Providence alt-punk trio Twin Foxes were after while making their latest record "Green, It's All Around You", which came out on December 30.

For ten songs, vocalist, guitarist, pianist

and lyricist Jared Mann, drummer and percussionist Carlos Molina and bassist Dan Tachon exude melodic amplification with an abundance of emphasis. Mann also handled the cover art and photography for the album while doing the engineering and mixing out of his Distorted Forest Studio based in North Smithfield.

The release took a few years to make with the result being a fantastic sounding record in a variety of ways. The instrumentation is cohesive while the rhythms are tightly knit and Mann's riffs and vocals have a substantial presence.

"We're super proud of this one," Mann said via Twin Foxes' Facebook page. "This

record was recorded as live as possible in summer of 2021 and then slowly overdubbed and mixed over the next couple years. We feel it's probably the best representation of us as a band playing together...I believe we were able to capture something special. I could say a lot of things about what went into it, but I'll let the record speak for itself."

"Wounded Dog" is one of the songs that sonically hit hard right from the start. This is especially true due to how the guitar riffs and drum beats fuel the feeling in rapid fashion. There's "Time Is On Your Side", which is my favorite tune on the recording. The guitar chords having a different tone

and the chorus absolutely raging. "Small Stakes" has a slow build into a flurry of sound. Other highlights include "Start A Band", "Pinnacle" and "The House We Built", but I recommend giving this new release an album in its entirety and forming your own opinions.

To listen log onto Twin Foxes' Bandcamp page at [twinfoxes.bandcamp.com](http://twinfoxes.bandcamp.com). There you can stream with an option to purchase. The band Instagram is a good way to keep tabs on what they have going on in the future. In the meantime, plug in and press play on a record that will excite the senses and make you feel something.

# Fading Echoes

## An interview with Richard Donnelly

By **IDA ZECCO**

Richard Donnelly is one of Rhode Island's most esteemed actors, having appeared in such films as "Don't Look Up," "Manchester by the Sea" and "American Hustle." His theater credits are too numerous to name; however, he's appeared in Wilbury Theatre Group's productions of *The Caretaker* and *Waiting for Godot*. Also, he is no stranger to the audiences of Trinity Rep and the Gamm Theater.

This month, Donnelly plays André, the title role in "The Father: A Tragic Farce" by Florian Zeller, translated by Christopher Hampton and directed by Josh Short. "The Father" is currently running at The Wilbury Theatre Group from Jan. 23 thru Feb. 9.

This interview was a special one for me, as Richard and I appeared several times together in "Shear Madness" in Boston. We talked about his leading role as André and the way child/parent relationships become inverted when we lose ourselves to old age.

**Ida:** What do you find most challenging about portraying André, especially considering his cognitive decline?

**Richard:** I am 78 years old, and I am at a certain age, and even if I forget things normally, when I delve into something like this, I become cognizant of the possibility of dementia happening to me. I tend to bring theater home with me, to immerse myself in the character. The result is that this condition is something that is on my mind all time.

**Ida:** How does André's relationship with his daughter, Anne, evolve throughout the play, and how do you approach playing those shifts in emotion?

**Richard:** André fantasizes about his deceased daughter; one he recalls as perfect. With his only living daughter, Ann, he often finds fault with her imperfections and his contention and confusion that he projects onto Ann is coming from his own perception, not from Ann's behavior. It is an exceedingly difficult struggle - for both of them.

**Ida:** André often expresses frustration and disbelief about his condition. How do you channel those emotions in your performance?

**Richard:** Throughout the play, André is angry and confused. I have to find that in myself. At times, those emotions may not be a place I want to go. However, director Josh Short is so good at what he does. Josh is always questioning how we might "play" with André's emotions and why. We may enact a scenario one way and then play it over again differently. Josh and I collaborate on ideas regarding how André reacts to all situations and in rehearsal it is not always the same. As we move through the process of finding the character of André, we are exploring the optimal emotion for each scene.

**Ida:** In your interpretation of André, do you focus more on his moments of clarity or his confusion?

**Richard:** It is easier to focus on clarity. But with André, his moments of clarity may not necessarily be reality. That is why it can be challenging. It is more effective to focus on André's clarity in portraying the authenticity of the char-



RICHARD DONNELLY  
(Submitted photo)

acter. It is his perception that is his reality.

**Ida:** The play explores themes of aging and dementia. How does it feel to play a character going through such a profound life experience?

**Richard:** I am a volunteer in a hospice care center. Especially on a day when I have completed my shift and then go to rehearsal, I have a strong inclination to go to a playground and mingle with children. It is not healthy to wallow in the emotional challenges of this play. But the reality is that I am not a young man anymore and nearer the end than the beginning of my life. There is a nagging consideration as I undertake this role to set my life priorities. This becomes more salient as I become older.

**Ida:** In *The Father*, André's perception of the world often contrasts with the reality of those around him. How do you convey this divide to the audience?

**Richard:** You just have to show the audience that André is either confused and covering it up or he is convinced that everyone else is confused. Staying true to this character is key. With Josh's vision of André, which is brilliant, clear and locked into the script, my job is to trust that. I believe with a great book and an equally talented director, my part as an actor is to persevere and emerge as André.

**Ida:** How do you work with the rest of the cast, especially the actor playing Anne, to create the emotional depth of the family dynamics?

**Richard:** The cast is not only a gathering of seasoned professionals, and they are tremendously generous on stage. Every family has their contentious dynamic and we

had to find that. Anne's character is the caretaker. She bears the burden of André's vitriol. It is an actual relationship that portrays unconditional love without false sentimentality.

**Ida:** What research did you do to prepare for the role of André? Were there any specific sources or experiences that helped you?

**Richard:** As I have mentioned before, I am a volunteer in hospice on a regular basis. I have had two particularly good friends who suffered this decline of "disappearing." I have had lengthy conversations with a knowledgeable nurse at the hospice center. And though I have done a good amount of reading on the subject, my most informative sources have been my own real-life experiences.

**Ida:** Can you talk about your collaboration with director, Josh Short, in bringing André's experience to life on stage?

**Richard:** I can't say enough about Josh. He is a great director. Not only does he have a vision, but he is also a true collaborator. Josh is consistently upbeat and comes into the rehearsal with pages of what he has learned and knows about Alzheimer's disease. He is prepared and focused every moment of our time together. It is a pleasure and a valuable learning experience working with Josh.

**Ida:** How do you maintain the consistency of your performance, given the play's structure and its intentional disorientation of time and place?

**Richard:** Well, you know this as an actor yourself, it is about preparation and living through that preparation. I am more anxious in the moments just before I am ready to go on stage. But once I am there, it all comes together. Every actor knows the three key elements to a successful performance: preparation, preparation, preparation.

**Ida:** What do you hope audiences take away from your portrayal of André?

**Richard:** A better understanding of the phases of Alzheimer's. This play leads the audience through the process of André's mental disappearance. Josh's vision was to start André strong, and as the play progresses André's world slowly closes in on him. I hope the audience becomes more aware of this process.

**Ida:** Is there a particular moment in the play that you find especially moving or difficult to perform?

**Richard:** For me, the very end of the play is exceptionally difficult to perform. It is the total devastation of a human being. It is disturbing. For that to be convincing, I have to let that happen to myself. It isn't something you act. It is something you actually must become.

**Ida:** What personal insights or connections have you made to André's character through your performance?

**Richard:** I am looking at André in a sort of looking glass. There used to be a time in my career as an actor when I could learn a script in a short amount of time. Now, as I've grown older, I am no longer able to accomplish that with speed. I have begun to seriously think about my priorities and what is important to me in my life - family especially. What would happen if I found myself with dementia or some other debilitating disease? I am more aware of living life to the fullest, now, when I can.

# Beer & cheese join together harmoniously at Proclamation Ale Company

By ROB DUGUAY



Edgewood Cheese Shop joins Proclamation Ale Company to offer beer & cheese pairings on Jan. 29. (Submitted photo by Proclamation Ale Company)

Whenever one goes out to their local establishment to have a few drinks, it's wise to have some grub to go along with it. You're less likely to be a bumbling fool by the time you leave and few things are worse than a hangover on an empty stomach. When it comes to beer, there are a variety of foods that pair well with the beverage. These range from french fries to nachos to burgers, but these options can be more simple and just as delicious. An example is cheese, and if you're not a vegan or lactose intolerant, then chances are that you love to have a slice or two as a snack every now and then. On Jan. 29 at the Proclamation Ale Company at 298 Kilvert Street in Warwick, there will be numerous offerings of beer and cheese presented to folks willing to partake starting at 6pm.

This will be the ninth edition of the event taking place at the brewery with five different tastings of beer being paired with five different cheeses. While indulging, attendees will be able to understand why certain cheeses go well with certain beers and vice versa.

"We started working with Adrienne [D'Arconte] and Edgewood [Cheese Shop] back in 2022 and truly look forward to each pairing," Proclamation Owner &

Creative Director Lori Witham says. "We work together to specially pair five of her amazing cheeses with five of our beers, that range in styles from IPAs to stouts to sours, and while you enjoy them each, you'll learn about the individual beers and cheeses, the different flavors, and why the two work well together. We try really hard to make each pairing unique and have never repeated a beer in any of the tastings, so that even if you've attended an event previously, you can definitely enjoy it again!"

Edgewood Cheese Shop is located at 1828 Broad Street in Cranston, and they have a variety of goods to choose from. Along with obviously numerous kinds of cheese, the business sells an assortment of dried meats, and they have holiday-themed charcuterie classes. They even have a "Cheese Club" where people in the area can get cheese delivered to their home on a monthly basis. They also have a newsletter to get regular updates, announcements and news via email. For all the details about everything I just described and more, visit [edgewoodcheeseshop.com](http://edgewoodcheeseshop.com).

To keep track of what Proclamation has going on in terms of events for the future, along with what they currently have on tap among other pieces of information, check out their website at [proclamationaleco.com](http://proclamationaleco.com).

## What can't be lost to fire

I cannot begin to fathom the devastation caused by the wildfires in California. Over 60 square miles have been destroyed—an area nearly equivalent to the combined size of Warwick and Cranston. To put it in perspective, it would be like losing entire neighborhoods such as Apponaug, Conimicut, Cowesett, Hillsgrove, Old Warwick, Pawtuxet Village, Oakland Beach, Pilgrim Park, Gaspee Point, Norwood, Garden City, Edgewood, Auburn, Rolfe Square, Alpine Estates, Apple Hill Estates, Castleton Estates, Eden Park, Fiskeville, Forest Hills, and Garden Hills. The scale of this tragedy is staggering.

If my home were to burn to the ground, the losses would extend far beyond what is merely visible, encompassing both tangible possessions and intangible memories. It's not just clothing I would mourn, but the specific garments that carry meaning—my favorite dress from Francis' wedding, where I stood as the proud mother

of the groom, a moment etched into my heart forever. My wedding dress, carefully preserved to honor that special day when Hubby and I began our journey together, would be lost as well. Hubby's Boy Scout uniforms, neatly folded and stored with care, would vanish alongside the enormous box of Boy Scout memorabilia he has cherished for decades. That box, filled with books that teach camping skills, patches and badges earned over the years, and countless tokens of adventure and leadership, represents a lifetime of dedication and memories.

The furniture we've accumulated over the years, neither antique nor new, is another loss that would weigh heavily. Each piece tells its own story, from the comfy recliner that fits my larger frame perfectly—no easy find—to our king-sized bedroom set, chosen to suit our needs but rarely fully used, as we always end up cuddling so closely that a twin bed would suffice. The living room sofa, where

### Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

we've spent countless evenings watching movies or dozing off during conversations, and the dining room table, where meals and stories were shared, would be reduced to ashes.

Then there are the more sentimental items, like my old accordion and amplifiers. Though they haven't been played in over forty years, they're reminders of a time when music filled my life in a different way. Our yearbooks, crammed with photos, messages, and notes from friends who

shaped our lives, would disappear, as would the yearbooks of our children, erasing a tangible link to their milestones and achievements.

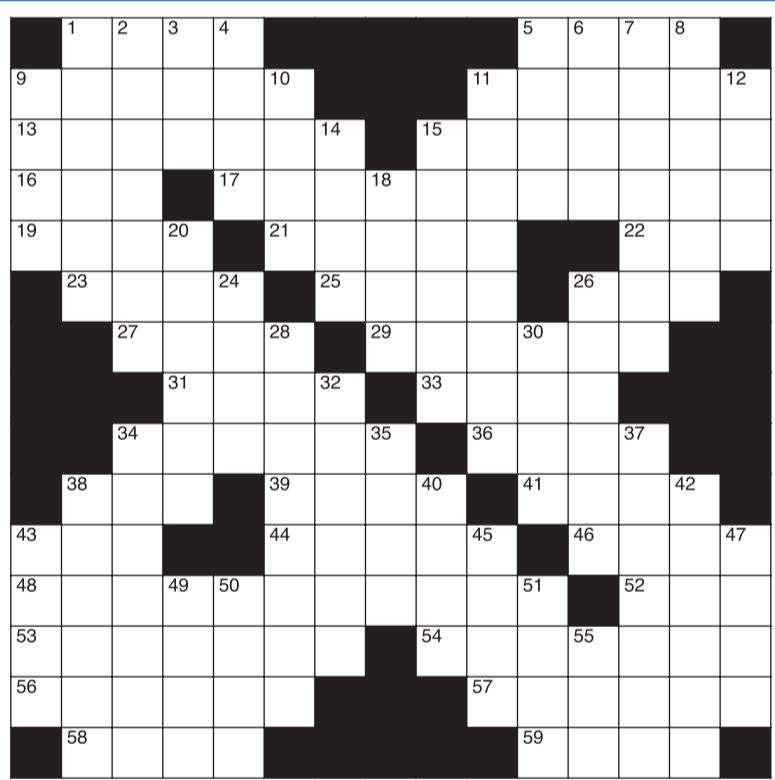
Going back even further, I would lose the two small stuffed dolls my father lovingly gave my mother when they first met—a gesture of affection that sparked their lifelong love. My father's Army helmet, a symbol of his service and sacrifice, would be gone, along with all of his creative works: the intricate carvings he made, the paintings he labored over, and the pastel portraits of my brother and me, capturing moments of innocence and youth.

My mother's hope chest, a beautiful keepsake from her days as a dancer, would also be consumed by flames. Its contents, filled with the fancy costumes she once wore to captivate audiences, are a testament to her vibrancy and artistry. Each item in that chest tells a story, and its loss would feel like losing pieces of her spirit.

The thought of losing these irreplaceable items—the physical markers of our family's history, love, and identity—is overwhelming. They are more than just things; they are the threads that weave together the tapestry of our lives, carrying with them memories, emotions, and connections that no fire could truly destroy. That is truly the lesson: our lives are far more than the tangible items we possess. While objects may hold sentimental value and remind us of cherished times, they do not define who we are. Our lives are built on the memories we hold dear, the love we share, and the relationships we nurture.

If we are healthy and alive, the loss of "things," though painful, becomes secondary. The essence of those memories lives on in our hearts, and the experiences, connections, and moments that truly matter remain irreplaceable. It's a powerful reminder that what truly defines our lives cannot be lost to fire or time.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



- CLUES ACROSS**
- "Loser" rocker
  - Partner to relaxation
  - Mixing
  - Winged nut
  - Expression of blame
  - Vast ocean
  - Comedienne Gasteyer
  - Multiply
  - Meat from a pig (French)
  - Related
  - Rocker Stewart
  - Surprise completely
  - Loon
  - Canister
  - Large, deep-bodied fish
  - Takes forcefully
  - Oil cartel
  - Palmer and Hepburn are two
  - More than one
  - Places down purposefully
  - Pitching statistic
  - Type of sword
  - Witnesses
  43. Body part
  44. Mixes slowly
  46. Satisfy
  48. Strong belief
  52. One's physique (slang)
  53. More frightening
  54. Soup cracker
  56. Teaches
  57. One who carries something
  58. Actor Sean
  59. Changes
  12. Breezed through
  14. Type setting
  15. Felt for
  18. Codified rules
  20. Small dome
  24. Chevrotain
  26. Male reproductive gland
  28. Controversial beliefs
  30. ZZZ
  32. One who confines another
  34. Bishop
  35. Garlands
  37. Bird that flies by the coast
  38. Optical device
  40. Greek goddess of discord
  42. Some are "Rolling"
  43. Formerly (archaic)
  45. Thrust a knife into
  47. German river
  49. Atomic #26
  50. Make a grotesque face
  51. Primordial matter of the universe
  55. Chinese philosophical principle
- CLUES DOWN**
- \_\_\_ Aires, city
  - Coarse grass
  - Type of gene
  - Door handle
  - Competition
  - Muslim ruler title
  - Hunting expeditions
  - Large mollusk
  - Bind securely
  - Former U.S. presidential candidate
  - 2-point plays in football



Kevin Vang before kickoff during a match last year. (Photo courtesy of RIFC)

### ■ Vang (Continued from page 13)

Vang joined fellow Cranstonian Damian Rivera on the professional scene, as Rivera played for the Revolution from 2016-2019 and is currently with Phoenix Rising FC of the USL.

Vang was excited to represent his home state as a pro and felt fortunate to

have had the support of his local coaches and teammates along the way.

"It's amazing to have a team in Rhode Island. It means a lot, especially for the sport of soccer, which I'm passionate about. It means a lot to get that community support," said Vang. "There are opportunities that shouldn't be taken for granted, and when you are presented with the

opportunity, you need to take it. If you want to choose the pathway of going professional, you need to keep your head down, keep working hard and connect with players."

RIFC is gearing up for its second season with largely the same roster. Preseason action begins in February, with the season opener against Charleston on March 15.



Kevin Vang during a match last year. (Photo courtesy of RIFC)

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# Shaw's expands prepared meals section

By DON FOWLER

After weeks of rearranging their stores, Shaw's has added a wide variety of prepared meals, including many cooked by their own chefs, giving Dave's a run for their money.

While I have a long history of eating prepared foods dating back to those horrible TV dinners of the fifties, times have changed, and pre-cooked packaged meals are now found in supermarkets, pop-up stores, on-line and just about anywhere from fast-food joints to gourmet restaurants.

Judging from my positive experience with Dave's American chop suey and salmon dinners and my recent tasting of a couple of Shaw's meals, the prepared food industry has arrived.

Shaw's added a Ready Meals section with lots of chicken and fish offerings. We found a winner: Grilled Shrimp with Vegetables (\$7.99). There were at least a dozen and a half medium-size grilled shrimp with carrots, broccoli, snow peas and cauliflower perfectly seasoned and taking only three minutes to heat in the microwave.

There are three separate chicken stations. One has chicken fried three ways, letting you pick and box however many pieces you need. There is a sign suggesting that you do not sample the product.

(Where would you put the bones?) Another area offers a variety of seasoned chicken wings. Good size and tasty.

The pre-packaged meals are still there. Stouffer's, Bertolli, Chang's and the dozens of other commercial products have their aisle but we're going to try some more of the innovative store-prepared meals.

We did find one brand we loved: Margaritaville Shrimp Scampi (\$7.99-on sale). Over a dozen shrimp coated in a delicious butter sauce. Directions suggest stove-top cooking. The sauce melts and covers the shrimp. The package shows them over spaghetti, but there is no pasta in the package. We boiled two packages of Ramen noodles and mixed in the shrimp and sauce. It was equal to a gourmet meal!

There are entire areas devoted to salads, sandwiches, meats and fish, with many prepared for heating up.

We may never cook again.



Fried chicken is one of the prepared foods available at Shaw's. (Photo courtesy of shaws.com)

## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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By JENNIFER COATES

Wellness: "West Shore Wellness provides therapeutic massage and bodywork, nurturing spa treatments, yoga classes, meditation meetups, Reiki and Transformation Breath® sessions to help you maintain personal wellness and inner peace."

We are in the middle of the winter doldrums and feeling all those mid-winter, seasonal blues. As the earth endures this season of rest, there are very few among us who will be hibernating any time soon! For many, it is a time when we need to prioritize personal wellness and restoration but often put that last on our "to-do" lists.

Jane McGinn, the owner of West Shore Wellness, encourages you to put yourself on the top of your priority list this year and to make your way to her serene spa in Warwick to be revived, restored and rejuvenated. You deserve to enjoy a calm "refueling" of your inner peace and joy. You deserve a temporary escape from the busyness of life. You deserve to "lead with your best self."

McGinn, the center's owner and a nationally certified massage therapist, explains the mission of West Shore

The center's spa treatments are very popular. New offerings include a Himalayan Salt Stone massage which can enhance relaxation, improve sleep, reduce inflammation, and nourish and exfoliate the skin. Their other longstanding customer favorites are the "Head to Toe Body Bliss" and the "Body & Soul Reflexology Combo."

There are regularly scheduled yoga classes to meet every ability level along with chakra-balancing Reiki sessions and Sound Healings to help you navigate life's stressors. Among many others, there is also the Ionic Foot Detox and Reiki Reset, an immersive experience that enhances total body relaxation.

This allows you to detoxify and neutralize heavy metals and free radicals generated by environmental toxins. The session includes a 30-minute ionic foot soak combined with a relaxation-inducing Reiki session.

Another important practice that helps us feel grounded and introspective is the discipline of meditation. The wellness center is grateful to have the talents and gifts of Joan James who leads regular guided meditation sessions. If you need to enjoy a moment of repose this winter, register through Meetup or call the center to enroll.

If you are motivated by New Year's resolutions that stick, try the weekly Ladies' Workout Program, held every Wednesday morning at 8:45am. This is a 45-minute workout that provides cardio and strength training using body weight, free weights, bands and stability balls. What a great way to kick off the new year!

West Shore Wellness is located at 459 Sandy Lane next to the Sandy Lane Market. Call Jane at 401-450-4172 today to give yourself the gift of peace, relaxation and more. Visit them at www.WestShoreWellness.com where you can also sign up for their newsletter or book your personalized massage.

Gift certificates to the spa also make a perfect year-round token of appreciation.



Come escape the world by getting a massage by the owner of West Shore Wellness in this cozy and tranquil room. You deserve to be pampered and renewed in 2025. Call 401-450-4172 or visit their website at www.WestShoreWellness.com.

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# Sports

## Bayha earns Gatorade Player of Year

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Pilgrim senior Keaney Bayha ran to a historic season for the cross country team last fall, taking first place at the Class A Championship and then later the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championships up at Ponaganset. Bayha's stellar season earned her Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Cross Country Player of the Year honors last week.

Bayha was the state's most dominant runner as she took first at states by 18 seconds. She became the first Warwick public school runner to ever win the individual state title and guided the team to a fifth-place finish as a unit. She then finished 15th at the Foot Locker

Northeast Regional, taking Third Team All-Region honors, then placed 27th at the NXN Northeast Regional.

She is also active in the school community, serving as class president and holding a GPA of 4.51. She also served as a moderator of roundtable debates at the school committee elections in 2024 and is a student liaison to the secretary of state.

She will be running cross country for Division I University of Rhode Island next fall.

Bayha is the fifth Pilgrim athlete to earn Gatorade Player of the Year honors, following Sarah Lynch for soccer, Alyssa Twomey for softball, and Sean Flynn for track.



Pilgrim senior cross country runner Keaney Bayha as she crossed the finish line at the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Class Championships last fall at Ponaganset. Bayha took first at the class race as well as the state championships to earn her Gatorade Player of the Year honors. (Beacon Media file photo)

## Climbing to 1st



Toll Gate's Nick Woods battles for the puck last week. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

### TG/E. Greenwich hockey co-op rolling in new division

#### By ALEX SPONSELLER

The East Greenwich/Toll Gate boys hockey co-op is enjoying a big start in its second season as a unit and its first winter in the Division II ranks. The co-op entered the week with an 8-2 record and sat in first place in the division.

The team boasts quality depth this year which has allowed it to play three lines on offense. Joe Andreozzi leads the team in points, including 11 goals, while Jack Kiernan has scored

12, Austen Dufresne eight and Brady Parks seven. Junior goalie Wyatt Gelzhiser has also enjoyed a breakout season, boasting a 2.20 goals against average to this point.

"We have a strong senior class and a junior goaltender that I think is a top-5 goalie in the division. We're pretty balanced and have pretty good depth compared to other teams. We can roll out three lines and our third line is big for us. Our first line has been producing at a fantastic rate," said new coach Jeff Giusti, who

was excited to see Andreozzi return after spending last year with Mount St. Charles. "He had a taste of that next level and wanted to come back his senior year to play with his buddies. That was a huge pickup having him back."

Toll Gate's Caleb Carpenter has a goal and four assists to provide quality depth for the team, while Brady Slinn has also made his presence felt with four assists as well.

HOCKEY - PAGE 19



Pilgrim's Lily Hall drives for a layup. (Beacon Media photo)

## Roundup: Pats roll past rival Titans

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Pilgrim girls basketball team rolled past visiting Toll Gate last Friday in a 37-10 decision.

The Pats roared to a 13-1 lead in the first quarter then extended that advantage to 33-1 by the halftime break. The team hauled in 27 rebounds in the first quarter alone to dominate the glass.

Sloan Hogan led Pilgrim with eight points and Maddison Belanger led the way with seven rebounds. Madison Tuiron finished with seven points in the win as well.

#### BOYS BASKETBALL Pilgrim 60, Narragansett 52

The Pilgrim boys basketball team has stayed sharp by winning three of its last four games, including a win over Narragansett on Tuesday night.

Derrick Butler Jr. led the team with 22 points scored while Jack Cirelli added 13 and Jayden Ames 10. Point guard Dylan Vale also chipped in nine in the victory.

#### Toll Gate 59, North Smithfield 53

The Titans remained in control of fourth place in Division III with a win over the Northmen last week.

Brayden Healey and Damola Oremosu led the team with 15 points each, while Jack Colvin reached double figures with 10. Healey led the way with 16 rebounds as well.

#### BOYS HOCKEY Hendricken 3, Pilgrim 0

The Hawks shut out the Pats prior to their win over rival La Salle on Saturday.

Ben Tamul, Jacob Aimon and Frank Tillinghast scored for Hendricken while Mason Crain picked up two assists. Goalie Avery Picchione finished with 20 saves for Hendricken while Pilgrim goalie Michael Bessette made 31 stops.



## Athlete of the Week: Brayden Healey

The Warwick Beacon's Athlete of the Week is Toll Gate basketball player Brayden Healey. Healey has been dominant in the paint for the surging Titans and was key in the team's most recent win against North Smithfield. He led the way with 15 points scored to go along with 16 rebounds. (Beacon Media photo)

## Hawks get revenge, hold off rival Rams

### By CHARLIE ADAMS

Bishop Hendricken's boys hockey team earned a massive 2-1 win on the road against La Salle Academy this past Saturday.

It follows a 4-1 loss to the Rams in the Ed Walsh Cup on Dec. 21. The four-time defending state champions have now won back-to-back games since their first in-state loss of the season to Moses Brown.

"I really think that set the tone for tonight," sophomore forward Nick Stevens said. "We wanted that bounce-back win and I think that really motivated us."

La Salle called on junior goaltender Jesse Humes, while Bishop Hendricken had senior Colin Murray between the pipes. Murray opened with two shutout periods in goal, a stark contrast between the three goals he allowed before being pulled in the second during the Ed Walsh Cup.

"He wanted to prove himself," coach Mike Soscia said. "He had a



Hendricken's Ben Tamul. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

HAWKS - PAGE 19



## All-Star quartet

The Warwick girls hockey co-op is excited to see four of its players named to the upcoming All-Star game, which will be held on Feb. 2 at Providence College's Schneider Arena. The annual event will host some of the best players throughout Rhode Island and celebrate their achievements on the ice. Pictured are Warwick's four players, from left, Isabelle Laudon, Hayley Clemm, Lauren Bastien and Flora Meunier. (Submitted photo)

## Hawks

(Continued from page 18)

great game right there. We're very fortunate, Murr played a great game and we probably have the two best goalies in the state."

The Hawks found their footing on the ice early following a roughing penalty against La Salle freshman Luca Marengi. It took the Hendricken power play unit 40 seconds to find the back of the net.

"We've been working hard and we've been struggling a little bit, but we're starting to find our own," Soccia said. "The power play was clicking a little bit last night [against Pilgrim] and continued into tonight."

Frank Tillinghast fed a pass from the point to Mason Crain at the wing. Crain's shot rebounded off the boards behind the net, finding Stevens in front for the game's first goal.

"We worked on [power plays] this week in practice," Stevens said. "I just got lucky that it bounced off the wall, gave me a nice one-timer."

An early goal had Murray and the Hawks ahead quickly after being shut out in the first period of their last meeting against the Rams.

"La Salle is a great team and they're well coached," Murray said. "Getting that first one, it's like a monkey off our back. We got a little momentum, got going, and pinned them for a while after that."

Hendricken finished the first period with a second score. Tiernan Leahy sent a shot inside with just under two minutes remaining in the period, deflecting off of a defender and Ben Tamul found the loose puck for a near-post putaway.

Second-period action went scoreless, despite three total penalties in the period. La Salle had some of its best scoring opportunities of the period on an early pen-

alty kill for a Declan Sullivan cross-check. Shane Gaudreau took back-to-back short-handed breakaway attempts down the ice, forcing a couple of great saves by Murray.

Although an away game, Hendricken's fan base made themselves at home. Chants rained out for Murray after making the crucial stops.

"Mangate gets an A-plus tonight," Murray said. "You could tell they were here, they were loud and it was good stuff tonight from them."

The Rams finally entered the score column nearly six and a half minutes into the third period. Tyler Garofalo passed from the corner up to the blue line for Tripp Peterson, firing it across as JD Plante tipped it past Murray to cut the deficit in half.

Coming down to the wire, Hendricken played strong and aggressive enough to prevent La Salle from pulling its goalie for as long as possible. The Hawks' keep-away left the Rams with under 30 seconds remaining before they could pull Humes off the ice.

An extra attacker wasn't enough to produce the tying goal, bringing La Salle's undefeated season against in-state opponents to an end. As the final buzzer sounded, the Bishop Hendricken bench exploded out and swarmed the boards near the Hawks' student section.

"Without them, our games aren't as fun," Stevens said. "They bring all the motivation that we need and with them here it really makes a difference."

A busy schedule lies ahead for Bishop Hendricken, gearing up to face four in-state opponents across five days. The third game in that stretch is a rematch against the Rams, slated for Jan. 31 in the Hawks' home rink at Thayer Arena.

"We just take one game at a time, we know what it takes," Soccia said. "Our goal is to be there in the end."



Anthony Mazzeo (left) battles through the neutral zone and Caleb Carpenter (right) takes the puck along the boards last week.

## Hockey

(Continued from page 18)

After joining forces last winter, the core players have become close friends which has helped them take a step forward in their second year together.

"The relationship is interchangeable, they're all really close, we've become a family. The first thing I noticed was how close knit a group they really were. You'd never sense a divide. They're all best friends," said Giusti.

The team only has five seniors on its roster, too, which bodes well for the future of this budding contender. Parks, a freshman, has been arguably the best freshman in the division to this point.

"Brady Parks has been fantastic, very mature beyond his age. He's a big kid too and has been producing at a high rate. East Greenwich and Warwick have a great history of having great hockey players and it has worked wonders for us. Hopefully keeping these kids together will also help keep those kids here and not leave for (private schools)," Giusti said.

Although things have been going smoothly for the co-op, it did take a tough loss to Narragansett/Chariho last week which took the wind out of its sails. Giusti hopes the loss will pay dividends as the team enters the second half of its regular season slate.

"It's a matter of not getting too high, not getting too low and understanding the grind of the season. Making sure the kids stay focused and taking it one shift at a time, taking it day by day," Giusti said. "We got knocked down last week, but maybe we can look back on that a month from now and think that was a turning point for us."

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# Time to solidify hockey co-op procedures

We're in the thick of the high school hockey season and we have seen it all to this point. Some top teams have remained on top, some have fallen off, some risers have made a splash. It has been a little bit of everything.

Although it makes the race fun to watch, I must admit, it has only grown tougher to keep track of the many co-ops in the state. Hockey numbers are down overall in public schools and even private schools have seen players exit for other prep schools. It is what it is, but what it is is a headache.

My point is that it is time for the Rhode Island Interscholastic League to start looking to build some consistency in its hockey leagues.

It seems like the past few years, it has been a hodgepodge of teams bouncing around. Yes, there are rules and parameters that must be adhered to and are, but those parameters have to change, starting with providing schools with a larger window

of time to develop as co-ops.

Look at Pilgrim and Toll Gate.

The Warwick co-op was given three seasons and ultimately, it ended up thriving with the final year ending in a deep Division I playoff run. If you recall, the "Militia" reached the semifinals and nearly got the job done in an epic battle. The co-op disbanded the following season.

I am thrilled to see Toll Gate land on its feet and find something good with East Greenwich. The team struggled in Division I but seems to have found a home in DII this season as it sits in first place. Pilgrim's numbers have taken a step back, though, with even more seniors set to leave next year.

Pilgrim has remained competitive and still has a few of the best players in the state on its roster, but like any high school varsity hockey team, it could use all the bodies it can get.

You look at a few three, four-team co-ops and it makes you wonder why some teams

## My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPENSSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

like Pilgrim have to see their numbers drop while other co-ops are growing. Unfortunately, even if another school joins forces with Pilgrim next season that will mean another team in the state will suffer the loss of depth and numbers.

I had several people complain to me last season about the Blackstone Valley Schools co-op, people both within my coverage area and out. The big complaint was that certain schools were favored when it came to playing time and opportunities. Other issues revolved around the logistics of

having so many kids from so many different towns coming together. Those issues exist in many co-ops, but BVP was last year's prime example.

Instead of changing and evaluating on a year-to-year basis, teams should spend this upcoming offseason assessing their respective situations, and then the league should do one sweeping realignment and leave things along for four years. Allow teams to develop instead of playing this game of speed dating for another year.

The NFL playoffs are in full swing and we saw a wild ending in the AFC Divisional matchup between the Buffalo Bills and Baltimore Ravens.

By now, most of you have seen the ending sequence. Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson led the team down the field in the final two minutes to give the team a chance to tie the score and likely send the game to overtime. On the 2-point conversion, tight end Mark Andrews dropped a routine pass which effectively

ended the game.

Since the error, Andrews has been dealt a ton of criticism. Although it was an inexcusable drop, it was one of those terrible situations where he is getting hammered for simply making a mistake at the wrong time.

The Ravens had plenty of opportunities in this game. Jackson had a few overthrows, the offensive line did not play great, the Baltimore defense was streaky. We'll forever remember Andrews' drop due to the timing, which is unfortunate, because he has been a key piece to that team's success for the last few years. The Ravens would not have made it that far without him.

Football is the ultimate team sport (cliché alert). There are usually well over 100 plays in a game and hundreds more mistakes that are made. Sure, Andrews dropped the ball (pun intended), but let's not forget how imperfect the Ravens' performance was on the night. Sometimes, good just is not enough, and the Ravens were simply good, not great.

# Cranston Card Show set for February return

The Cranston Sports Card Show™ has emerged as the oldest Charity run Sports Card show in North America since 1976 and we are celebrating our 49th year with this year's show! The show now supports two charities which are Sts Vartanantz Armenian Church AYF National Church Olympic team, in Providence, RI and the Sisters of the Poor, Pawtucket, RI supporting the homeless.

See if you can remember a few of these noteworthy achievements in sports so you can relate to the longevity of this card show classic.

Roger Connor, Fred Lindstrom and umpire Cal Hubbard were elect-

ed to the Baseball Hall of Fame and 7 days later Negro Leaguer Oscar Charleston is deservedly selected. Two days after HOF elections US Federal Judge John Oliver upheld arbitrator Peter Seitz's decision on Andy Messersmith for free agency and the new era overturning the reserve clause was on its way to becoming obsolete. Ted Turner purchases the Atlanta Braves for a reported \$12 million with today's value being \$2.8 billion and the San Francisco Giants are bought for \$8 million by Bob Lurie and Bud Herseth with a today value worth \$3.8 billion. One month after the SF Giants sale the AL approves the purchase of

the Toronto Blue Jays franchise by LaBatt Brewing for \$7M.

These were just a few of the happenings in the baseball world when The Cranston Sports Card Show™ was opening its doors for the first time in 1976 and unlike the skyrocketing numbers of inflation today it holds its prices relatively close to its roots of an original \$1 admission and today's \$5 admission with an address submission at the entrance.

There is no charity sport collecting show in North America that comes near the longevity of this sports collecting classic as it is older than the National.

The Cranston Sports

Card Show™ still remains through its growth trends its original theme as a fun family hobby experience for everyone where prices are affordable for everything from concessions, sports memorabilia, admissions, and tables. How affordable? A dealer can have 2 tables, a hotel for 2 days, and all meals for under \$600.

As for collector expenses? A family of 4 with 2 adults and 2 teenagers admissions total \$20 with supplying an address for a show that attracts large crowds with 100-plus tables of sports memorabilia to choose from coming from all of New England to include the Mid Atlantic states and some from Pennsylvania & Tennessee to round out the balance of 11 states. It consistently attracts 1,200 to 1,500 attendees for the 2 days. For the first time the event is being held in a private facility and not a school facility with future target sites for the 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2026 being a Convention Center to accommodate the necessary need of a larger facility and moving out of state is not out of the question.

The new facility is the Scottish Rite in historic Pawtuxet Village just a few hundred feet from Narragansett Bay and where the burning of the Gaspee took place in the Revolutionary War which is recreated every June with festivities. It is located at 2115 Broad St in Cranston, RI.

At the February show last year we had a few super collectors that flew in from the West Coast from the state of Washington stating this show was now a top 10 destination in the country from information they gathered on the internet for vintage sports cards! It was exciting to know the boundaries of the show's reach in the collector base have no limit in distance to travel to the smallest state in the Union for the big collectible offerings from our dealers.

Not to be another sports card show, Mike Mangasarian has been asked many times as to what separates his show from the many regional shows in the New England area and his response is, "Beside making everything affordable to the dealer and collector our highlight is to travel to Philadelphia and New York and similar faraway places to recruit the very best dealers in the country with diverse merchandise to come to our historical event where tradition in sports runs deep into the 19th century. RI sports



Collector Mike LeMay (at left) from Houston and now a New England local and National dealer Steve Gadziala (right) from Champion Sports Cards share a photo together. (Submitted photo)

fans and collectors who make the far away journey from 11 other states won't be disappointed when viewing into the deep inventory of our dealer base. If you miss this show you will not be able to see these fabulous vendors again in this part of the USA for 12 months. Mark your calendar and don't miss it!" said Mangasarian.

Autograph guests appearing at the card show on Saturday will be Boston Red Sox Hall of Famers Jim Lonborg and Bill Lee. USA Hockey Hall of Famer Paul Stewart, and NBA Rookie of the Year in 1973-74 and National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Famer and PC legend Ernie DiGregorio. Check for times, prices and dates on our social media sites.

Special guests appearing outside of the autograph arena are the RI Reds Heritage Society offering diverse merchandise attributed to our famed defunct local AHL hockey team from years gone by and Rich Coren author of the Road to Glory which is a history of PC basketball will be there offering & signing his newly released book.

What you can expect to see for purchase besides modern and vintage sports cards will be incredible autographs, vintage equipment in all sports, graded cards, Pokémon, Funko Pops, pennants, sports figurines, sports games, non sports cards, tobacco cards, wax boxes and packs, hobby supplies, vintage photos, yearbooks, programs, all sports vintage magazines, ticket stubs, regional issues, RI Reds hockey memorabilia, comic books, and a

whole lot more.

Continued features of the show will be the Silent Auction where dealers that do not have enough space on top of their table get an opportunity to put a few items into the silent auction with a minimum bid and a "Buy it now" option for the collector monitored by church staff. It is growing in popularity at the show with every venue that passes.

Another exciting event is the newly refined charity raffle where dealers and now even collectors have donated a various assortment of collectibles such as autographed items and memorabilia and one ticket gives you as many chances to win as there are prizes which is normally 20-plus prizes.

Here is a look at the details of this year's show:

Date: Sat. & Sun. Feb. 1 & 2, 2024.

Time: Saturday 9-4 (Early Bird admission 8am), Sunday 8:30 - 2:30  
Where: Scottish Rite 2115 Broad St., Cranston, RI 02905

Admission: Reduced admissions are \$6 each day & \$8 for a 2 day pass. Discounted admission for seniors 65 & older and Veterans is \$3 and children 12 and under is \$3 and children 5 and under are free. A very special popular feature being offered is the \$20 early bird admission for 8a.m. on Saturday and Sunday for collectors who would like to get on the show floor before the doors open to the public.

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# Fishing show simply the best

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is the largest and best fishing show of its type in the Northeast. Over 340 booths with eighteen seminars of interest that will have you catching fish all season. There will be exhibitor show specials and raffles of all types that you won't want to miss and a charter for six show door prize.

The show is 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.

Scott Travers, Show Director and Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (show sponsor), said, "We are two months out and have sold about 80 percent of the booths, and since the New Year the phone has not spotted ringing with requests."

All the large spaces for boats against the back wall of the exhibition hall are taken. However, there is still booth space available so give Scott Travers a call (401.826.2121) and he will try to accommodate your request.

"Seminars will key in on strategies and tactics to target species we as anglers love to catch, eat or release... striped bass, summer flounder, tautog, false albacore and tuna," said Travers. "Tuna has been closer to shore than ever before so many anglers are targeting them for the first time. We will have the seminars and gear to get them started."

Seminar topics will include everything from offshore Canyon tactics to inshore tips and tricks for black sea bass. Speakers will cover locations from Boston Harbor to the Connecticut River and everything in between. Accomplished charter captains, authors and local sharpies all pitching in to cover topics of interest.

### Plan your show visit

Visit [www.nesaltwatershow.com](http://www.nesaltwatershow.com) for updates on exhibitors at the show. Planning your visit to the show will save time and lead to success, just like planning a fishing trip in advance. By taking a little time to plan your show visit you can make sure you are at the show for the presentations you want to see and visit the booths that have products you want to check out and buy. My strategy is prior to the show or once I arrive and get a program in hand, I take ten minutes to plan the booths I want to visit. I do the same with the seminar schedule once it is published.

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center Friday, March 7, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children 11 and under admitted free and on Sunday, March 9, Family Day, all women are admitted free. Visit the Kids Casting Area on Saturday and Sunday.

All 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.

### My Fishing Cape Cod... fishing for giant bluefin tuna when its 24 degrees

Carson Schemenaur has written a great winter adventure and is sharing it on the fishing blog "My Fishing Cape Cod." Carson relates how he targeted giant bluefin tuna off Stellwagen Bank last month in 24 degree weather on his 21 foot center console. The story Chasing December Giants - My Fishing Cape Cod relates how he landed a 91", 487 pound gutted giant bluefin tuna in December.

If you have not visited My Fishing Cape Cod - your source for Cape Cod fishing reports & more you should pay it a visit, great fishing news, reports, and stories about fishing on and around the Cape.

### Where's the bite?

Cod. Bad weather has prevented vessels from fishing, but boats will continue to fish for cod this month once things calm down. So, if you are interested in getting out a boat to fish cod is a good option, visit party/charter boat social media sites, website or call them and ask if they are sailing. Vessels generally sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com) and [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com). Full day rates for vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Freshwater fishing. This recent cold spell will be great for ice fishers. AJ Coots of Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay, said, "Last weekend we had fishable ice with anglers successfully targeting bass and pickerel. So, the hope is that cold weather this week will continue to freeze things over."

Beech Pond in Exeter, RI and Voluntown, RI continues to have fishable ice with anglers putting their time in and catching fish there. Check on local safe ice conditions with local police or city/town halls. For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov, both Whiting and Falls Ponds in North Attleboro were stocked this fall. And, in Rhode Island visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing), or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

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](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).



All adults who enter the Fishing Show can register to win a free fishing charter trip with Capt. Connor MacLeod of Tall Tailz Charters for up to six people. (Submitted photo)



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# Pezza earns LEC award

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rhode Island College freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) was named the Little East Women's Rookie Field Athlete of the Week for her performance at the URI Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Pezza finished sixth in the triple jump (10.43m), eighth in the long jump (5.18m) and ninth in the 200m (26.93). It was an individual meet with no team scoring and was comprised of mostly Div. I and II competition.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the Wheaton Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 25 (11 a.m.).

### Anchormen suffer first LEC loss

Junior guard Loudon Chupas (Colchester, Conn.) recorded a career-high 20 points as Rhode Island College fell, 101-87, vs. Keene State at the Spaulding Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon.

The Anchormen held their only lead for a mere 15 seconds in the first half before

the hosts came surging forward and dominated the rest of the stanza.

The Owls led by four, 48-44, with two minutes left to play in the first half before tallying a 12-4 run to accumulate a 12-point, 60-48, lead going into the break.

Midway through the second half, the visitors pulled back to within nine, 80-71, after Chupas knocked down a free throw.

However, that would be the closest the Anchormen would get to a comeback as RIC would go on to lose its first conference game of the season.

Senior forward Ousmane Kourouma (Woonsocket) scored 20 points and hauled in 15 rebounds for the Anchormen.

Sophomore forward Xavier Mendez (Pawtucket) picked up his third consecutive double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

### RIC women beat Keene

Senior guard Madison Medbury (North Scituate) recorded 25 points, seven rebounds and a pair of steals as Rhode Island

College defeated Keene State, 68-49, in Little East action played at the Spaulding Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon.

Neither team was able to establish an offensive rhythm in the first quarter as both sides shot 14 percent from the floor. RIC led by four, 10-6, after the opening 10 minutes.

Medbury then started the second frame off hot, knocking down a pair of threes and forcing a timeout from the Owls as the Anchormen led by 10, 16-6, with eight minutes remaining in the half.

RIC continued its hot hand after the host's timeout, going on a 14-5 run during the middle of the second quarter and held a big 15-point advantage at the break, 35-20.

However, the Owls ended the third quarter on an 11-3 run and trailed by just six, 44-38, heading into the last stanza.

The Anchorwomen were able to deny any feasible comeback Keene State had in store and would go on to win their sixth conference game.

Senior forward Angelina Nardolillo (Hinsdale, N.H.) finished with 13 points and 13 boards to notch her eighth double-double of the season.

### RIC track shines at URI

Junior Brandon Mota (West Warwick, R.I.) finished fourth in the weight throw (16.88m) as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team competed at the University of Rhode Island Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Sophomore Antonello Lucchetti (Cranston) finished 26th in the 200m (24.64).

Sophomore Trevor Morgan (Smithfield) finished 27th in the weight throw (13.06m) and 32nd in the shot (9.97m).

Freshman Jamarre Parrott (Warwick) finished 27th in the 200m (25.19). Freshman Ravi Kapadia (Lincoln) finished 28th in the shot (10.74m) and 37th in the weight throw (10.01m).

Freshman Devin McCaffrey (Lincoln) finished 31st in the shot (10.13m) and 36th in the weight throw (11.33m).

# Real Estate Transactions

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ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
<b>COVENTRY</b>				
120 W Shore Dr	Entrepreneur LLC	Boyer, Amy M and Killmurray, Thomas J	12/30	\$450,000
15 Gentry Farm Dr	Kicia, Kevin and Kicia, Sonya	Merkel, Jean P	1/2	\$850,000
16 Ironwood Dr	Dispirito, Jaclynn K	Hazelton, Samantha and Hazelton, Brandon	12/30	\$665,000
16 Old Summit Rd	Boulay, Bertrand	Brown, Heather and Realejo, Mario	1/3	\$315,000
221 Provident Pl	Habas, Szymon J	Aguebor, Arlington	12/30	\$525,000
44 Read Ave	Wilcox Adam J Est and Wilcox, John	Silva, Evan M	1/3	\$330,000
51 Hornbeam Rd	Golembewski, Andrew and Flores, Santos	Nicholson, Laura	12/30	\$675,000
52 Angus St	Ouellette, Mark J	Blanchard, Taylor and Fullam, Vanessa	12/30	\$379,000
67 Windsor Park Dr	Edward F Bucklin Iv T and Bucklin 4th, Edward F	Myers, Randy Q and Nelson, Amanda L	12/30	\$398,900
84 Acres Of Pine Rd	Dennis J Rossi T and Rossi Sr, Dennis J	Brussard, John	1/3	\$300,000
9 Columbia Ave	Belanger, Roland G and Rhodes, Joudi L	Atwood Properties LLC	1/2	\$265,000
<b>CRANSTON</b>				
130 Woodland Ave	Prak, Sokchenda	Then, Kacelin and Natarano, Rashar	12/30	\$410,000
1336 Cranston St	Lagniappe Rlty LLC	M Dos Corp	12/31	\$600,000
1340 Cranston St	Lagniappe Rlty LLC	M Dos Corp	12/31	\$430,000
140 Sinclair Ave	Deasley, David A and Deasley, Naomi	Almeida, Ashley A	1/2	\$395,000
16 Maple St	Collins, Lisa	Lerebourspayano, Jhon and Reyes, Lourdes	12/31	\$472,000
175 Concord Ave	Elmwood Rlty LLC	Paulino, Jose and Paulino, Noga	1/2	\$560,000
21 Hope Hill Ter	Saint Pierre, Lucille G & Saint Pierre, Nicholas G	Miller Prop LLC	12/30	\$490,000
210 Macklin St	Loc Const LLC	Ortiz, Leonicio E	12/30	\$465,000
31 Intervale Rd	Wynn, Suzanne N	Harris, Eric J and Harris, Elizabeth L	12/30	\$410,000
349 Aqueduct Rd	Iacono Deborah A Est and Iacono, Matthew R	Garrick, Hope Y and Garrick, Sharon	12/30	\$385,000
46 Roslyn Ave	Mclp Asset Co Inc	Mclp Asset Co Inc	12/31	\$352,362
51 Oakland Ave	Thomas H Defusco Ft and Marsella, Karen B	Mota-Quiroa, Elder	12/30	\$500,000
51-53 Oakland Ave Lot 855	Thomas H Defusco Ft and Marsella, Karen B	Mota-Quiroa, Elder	12/30	\$500,000
58 Rose Hill Dr	Mariorenzi, Stephen	Cw Rodrigues Enterprises	1/2	\$225,000
<b>EAST GREENWICH</b>				
94 Division St	Tudino, Michael and Tudino, Cynthia J	Watson, Michael D and Watson, Michelle R	1/2	\$1,199,000
96 Friendship St	Cammuso, Karen T and Greene, Clark M	Gerstberger, Tobi	12/30	\$754,000
<b>EXETER</b>				
126 Sheffield Hill Rd	Disano, Stephanie	Vaughn, Kristen and Welch, Tristan	1/2	\$649,900
<b>JOHNSTON</b>				
116 Calumet Ave	Dennis D Pimental RET & Pimental-Spicuzza, R D	Gaboriault, Jon	1/8	\$300,000
19 Contillo Dr	Broccoli, Andrew and Broccoli, Harley C	Santilli, Phyllis R and Santilli, Ronald C	1/2	\$460,000
38 King St	Poons, Lynn	Sanchez, Wesley	1/3	\$310,000
41 Lee St	Beaucage, Patricia A and United Asset Mgmt LLC	United Asset Mgmt LLC	1/6	\$140,000
51 Winston Way Lot 12	Mendizabal, Roberto and Mendizabal, Nancy	St Pierre, Lucille G	1/2	\$401,000
<b>WARWICK</b>				
1 Willow Glen Cir Lot 82	Grayko, Kayla J and Couture, Michelle	Coffey, Taylor	12/30	\$297,500
1027 Toll Gate Rd	Major, Kaitlyn E	Aslan Cap LLC	12/30	\$475,000

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1027 Toll Gate Rd Lot 49	Major, Kaitlyn E	Aslan Cap LLC	12/30	\$475,000
107 Meadow St Lot 239	Pleasant Hill Hldg LLC	All Purpose Storage Warwi	12/31	\$1,075,000
11 Possner Ave Lot 95	Archambault, Rhonda and Ulricksen, Wayne	Mcguire, Brandon T and Madera, Nicole	12/30	\$309,000
12 Drake Rd	Gavigan, Mary J and Gavigan, William F	Durkin, Kristine and Morris, Christopher	12/31	\$580,000
18 Possner Ave Lot 101	Archambault, Rhonda and Ulricksen, Wayne	Mcguire, Brandon T and Madera, Nicole	12/30	\$309,000
18 Possner Ave Lot 96	Archambault, Rhonda and Ulricksen, Wayne	Mcguire, Brandon T and Madera, Nicole	12/30	\$309,000
2881 W Shore Rd	Vanasse, Michael P	Yang, Neng and Muy, Sokanthea K	12/30	\$380,000
30 Bangor St	Blasbalg, Joshua	Montanez, Victor M	12/30	\$366,000
31 Sagamore St	Bartholomew, Ginger and Zubrisky, Wendy L	Aljammal, Issam and Aljammal, Elizabeth	12/31	\$250,000
31 Verndale St	Cepeda, Dionisio A	Mc Golden Space Prop LLC	12/31	\$240,000
31 Verndale St Lot 93	Cepeda, Dionisio A	Mc Golden Space Prop LLC	12/31	\$240,000
5 John St	Pierce Jr, Frederick R and Birmingham, Donna L	Kulacz, Adam	12/30	\$305,000
62 Lincoln Ave	Garcia, Marys R	Samayoa, Jose	12/30	\$415,000
72 Bayonne Ave	Estevao, Dennis G	Pro Bldrs Ri LLC	1/2	\$180,000
89 Naushon Ave	Myers, Michael A and Myers, Patricia A	West Bay Hm Solutions LLC	12/31	\$280,000

## WEST GREENWICH

330-B Plain Meeting House Rd	Smith, Sandra and Smith 3rd Rhuben	Macko, Patricia M and Macko, Paul P	12/31	\$624,400
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## WEST WARWICK

10 Arthur St	Toolan, Tyler J	Louis, Flore M and Joseph, Tchery N	1/8	\$530,000
6 Kent St	Gomez, Kelly and Gomez, Emanuel	Laprade Jr, John G	1/7	\$397,500
92 Hamilton St	Pardington 3rd, James	Lake, Justin K and Carley, Miranda N	1/2	\$435,000



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