



# Warwick Beacon

Thursday, May 15, 2025

2 Sections with Supplement • 24Pages • \$2.00 • Vol. 72 No. 45

## Key leaders in shaping Warwick schools retire

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

The retirements of two Warwick school administrators whose collective careers have spanned close to 80 years in the district were accepted Tuesday night by the Warwick School Committee with words of praise.

Lynn Dambruch, whose career started as a first grade teacher at Greene School in 1985, retired as superintendent. The committee named William McCaffrey, who has been serving as interim superintendent since Dambruch took a personal leave of absence earlier this year, as acting superintendent.

Dambruch was named principal of Robertson School in 1996, a post she held until 2014 when she became director of elementary education. In 2020 she was named assistant superintendent and superintendent the following year.

Patricia Cousineau, the director of elementary education, is looking forward to a retirement working full time with her husband, Bruce, on the business they started, Blind Squirrel Sauces. Prior to becoming the director in 2022 she was the principal of Warwick Neck School.

Both women focused their careers on promoting learning and impacting students at young and formative ages. They were at the helm during the pandemic and its aftermath, which severely impacted schools and setback edu-

cation.

As assistant superintendent, Dambruch worked with her predecessor as superintendent, Philip Thornton, on the design of the new Pilgrim and Toll Gate High Schools to best address educational needs of today's teaching. She navigated the difficult time of downsizing the district with the closure of neighborhood elementary schools and later the consolidation from three to two junior and senior high schools.

McCaffrey said yesterday that Dambruch committed her whole life 'to the success of the district. She was a col-

● RETIREES to page 7

## Rotary members roll up sleeves on West Bay Farm

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

The Warwick Rotary Club planted a lot of good will Thursday although by the time it is harvested, people will never know the club had a hand in it.

As a community service project organized by member Brad Connor, members spent a couple of hours in the hot sun doing a variety of chores including weeding, planting and spreading mulch at the Westbay Farm on Centerville Road. The land, once the working Barton Farm was eyed as a site for residential development until the city stepped in to save it for open space.

Several years ago, some fields were turned over to Westbay Community Action to be used as a working farm, with the produce going to the Westbay Marketplace.

Steve Stycos of Cranston, who has served on the Cranston School Committee, the Cranston City Council and ran and lost in a primary for Cranston mayor, works as Westbay's farmer.

He has a team of 12 volunteers who show up during the week to do a variety of chores depending on the season. The result of their work is an annual harvest of more than 20,000 pounds of fresh produce that supplies the marketplace on Jefferson Boulevard as well as being sold from the farm barn. Stycos doesn't use herbicides or pesticides on the farm.

Stycos assigned Rotarians jobs as they arrived and except for a few, like Steve McCartney and Bernie Rinn, who cleaned buckets for pickers and did other barn tasks quickly disbursed into the fields. Stycos estimated their work accomplished in about two hours would have taken him and his regular volunteers at least a day to complete.

● FARM to page 8



Farming can always use a little bit of scratching here and there. Tom Sanford and his son, Chris, plant onions while former club member Tim Hudyncia, who stopped by to say hello, had some fun. Beacon Media photos by John Howell

## Bids on new high schools lower than projected

City benefits from strong competition among subcontractors

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Bids on materials for the new high schools are telling a story and those close to the projects are cautiously optimistic that the final cost of the schools won't be anywhere near the \$400 million being bandied about.

So far, the steel and concrete for Pilgrim, which the School Committee awarded to Manafort Brothers of Cumberland for \$16.2 million is \$718,000 less than budgeted. Manafort is also the low bidder at \$18.8 million for site work at Pilgrim, coming in at \$2.3 million less than what was budgeted.

Bids of elevators for the two schools are less than what was budgeted. Schindler Elevators and Escalators of Providence is the low bidder in each case. The Toll Gate elevator was budgeted at \$505K and came in at \$288.8k. A total of \$375k was budgeted for the Pilgrim elevator and came in at \$259k.

The only project to come in over budget was for the demolition of the former Drum Rock elementary school on the Toll Gate campus. The job was projected to cost \$471k but came in at \$90k more.

Collectively the bids thus far are \$3.5 million less than what was projected. Why?

It's not because inferior materials have been substituted for what was originally planned as speculated in some social media posts, says David Testa, a member of the School Committee and chair of the School Building Committee.

"[The cost of] steel has always concerned me," said Testa. He was pleasantly surprised. Steel for Pilgrim was budgeted at \$9.1 million. The low bid was \$8.4 million.

"The demand for steel is soft," he said. This is US steel, too.

Chris Spiegel of LeftField Project Management, who is overseeing the school projects said last week what Warwick is seeing is not

● SCHOOLS to page 7

## Bottle bill sponsor hopeful but uphill climb remains

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Is a Rhode Island bottle bill in the cards this year?

Warwick State Senator Mark McKenney, who introduced the legislation in the Senate, wouldn't have placed odds on it a month ago. But following last week's hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture plus new Senate leadership, he's hopeful.

"It remains an uphill battle against a very difficult array of lobbyists and special interest groups," said the legislator in an interview Sunday.

But he's not throwing in the towel. Sen. Valarie Lawson is a co-sponsor of McKenney's bill, a move she made prior to be-



Sen. Mark McKenney

● BILL to page 7

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Warwick police recruit Andrew Persechino takes the stand as the arresting officer as he is quizzed by Warwick solicitor Kerry Raffanelli. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*



Victoria Ferreira, Warwick police recruit, watches the proceedings. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

## Role playing exercise gives recruits real sense of courtroom

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor

Warwick Police Sergeant Nelson Carreiro was acting on the hot seat Thursday afternoon. He was before Municipal Court Justice Kelly McElroy on a mock DUI charge. She was watching his every move as were the prosecution and defense and 15 of the 17 police recruits who started the Warwick Police Academy on Valentine's Day and will conclude with graduation ceremonies June 16 at City Hall.

The background of the mock arrest was quickly established by recruit Andrew Persechino who took the stand under the questioning of city solicitor Kerry Raffanelli, acting as the prosecutor. Persechino played the role of the first officer at the scene describing how he approached a black Silverado stopped in the area of Strawberry Field Road with its engine running and lights on. It was about 4:20 p.m. Persechino stepped through what occurred from there.

As he approached the car to see if he could be of assis-



Municipal Court Judge Kelly McElroy was on the bench during the mock trial for the benefit of 15 Warwick Police recruits. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

tance, the man who was identified as Carreiro shut off the engine. Persechino said there was an odor of alcohol and Carreiro's eyes were blood shot and speech slurred. He suspected he had been drinking.

Carreiro is one of many instructors working with recruits. The academy is run by Warwick Captain Robert Hart, Lt. Matthew Higgins and Sgt. Justin Martin.

The program is run out of the New England Institute of Technology Criminal Justice Building on Access Road in Warwick as well as the former Cooper Armory on Sandy Lane. Recruits also train at other city facilities including the gun range.

In the DUI scenario, Recruit Corbin Pereira was the second officer to arrive at the scene. Pereira looked to take a seat next to Persechino who was on the stand but was quickly instructed to leave the room. He would be called next, and it was apparent that attorney Ray Angell, a retired Cranston sergeant who teaches criminal law, wanted to catch any inconsistencies between the two testimonies.

Pereira is a Pilgrim High graduate who lives in Cowesett with his wife and two children. Their youngest was born recently and the other, a toddler, loves having a sister.

Pereira left a significantly better paying job at the ACI to come to Warwick. He said after eight years of virtually the same routine behind locked doors he is looking forward to doing police work in the community where he lives.

Raffanelli quizzed Persechino on how he concluded Carreiro was "intoxicated" by demonstrating the tests he put the suspect through. These actions were closely watched by the defense, who asked the recruit to repeat the steps. Angell noted Persechino performed the test slightly differently.

He also sought to poke holes in Persechino's testimony, but didn't get far.

Throughout Persechino answered Raffanelli and McElroy respectfully using "sir" and "your honor." That was part of what Carreiro hoped the recruits would get to see.

Apart from witnessing court procedures, Carreiro wanted recruits to understand the importance of speaking clearly and confidently under oath and court etiquette. Also, he was looking to understand "the importance of writing reports and how inconsistencies or what is not included can be challenged."

When all was said and done, Judge McElroy ruled Carreiro guilty as charged, and the class was done for the day.

## Police Log

### DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED LICENSE

On April 9 at about 11:46 p.m., Officer Ryan Riecke observed a 2022 black Nissan Altima rapidly exiting the parking lot of Sonesta Suites on 500 Kilvert Street. The vehicle then ran through a stop sign at the intersection of Kilvert St and Metro Center Blvd before speeding up, at which point Officer Riecke began to follow the vehicle. After observing the vehicle drifting over the double yellow lines on Kilvert St and then driving over the speed limit on Jefferson Blvd, Officer Riecke initiated a motor vehicle stop.

Upon identifying the driver, Officer Riecke ran a query and learned that the driver had a suspended license and that this would be her 4th+ offense of driving without a valid li-

cence. The driver was placed under arrest and brought to the Warwick Police station for booking, where she was released shortly after with a Third District Court summons for Driving W/ a Suspended License 4th+ Offense. She also received a RITT citation for obedience to stop signs, laned roadway violations and speeding.

### FENTANYL POSSESSION

On April 10 at approximately 5:21 p.m., Officer Nathaniel Gray encountered a man in the parking lot of Father Tirocchi Field, 100 West Pontiac St, during a patrol. After the man voluntarily identified himself, Officer Gray searched his name in police databases and learned that the man was current-

ly wanted by the Third District Court. After Officer Fitzsimmons arrived on the scene to assist, the man was handcuffed and searched. Officer Gray discovered a folded piece of paper in the man's jeans pocket, which contained a purple powdery substance the man identified as fentanyl.

Upon transporting the man to Warwick Police headquarters, a field test of the substance yielded positive results for fentanyl. The suspect was charged with Possession of Schedule I - V Controlled Substance, 10 Grams or Less. He was issued a Third District Court summons and turned over to the custody of the ACI.

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**WARWICK BEACON**

## Warwick Beacon

Published every Thursday by Beacon Media **POSTMASTER**: send address changes to:  
BEACON MEDIA RI, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889

Offices located at  
1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889 - Telephone (401) 732-3100  
Mail delivery \$45.00 for one (1) year (52 issues), \$75.00 for two (2) years (104 issues), Senior rate \$35.00 for one (1) year, \$49.00 for two (2) years (104 issues), \$2.00 weekly for carrier delivery, Out-of-State \$80.00 for one (1) year (52 issues), Periodicals Postage Paid at Warwick, RI 02889 (USPS666-780)

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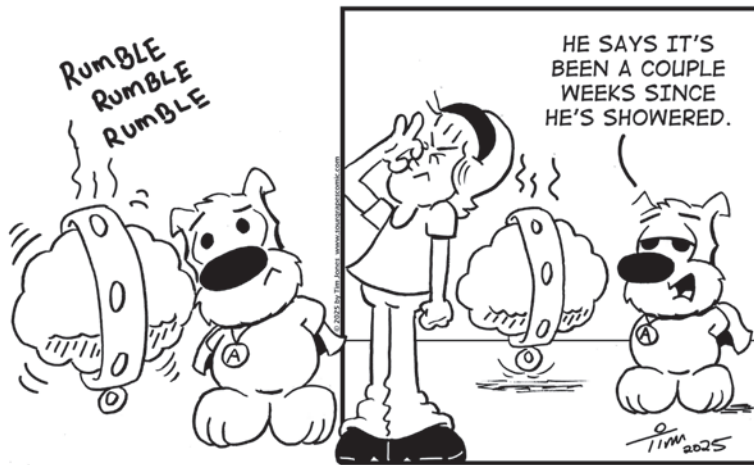
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# SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



## Schools, council get jump on budget talk

Galligan says sports, arts among discretionary programs that could be cut

By JOHN HOWELL  
Warwick Beacon Editor



Shaun Galligan

In a first, the School Committee and the City Council were scheduled to hold a public joint meeting last night prior to taking up the mayor's FY 26 budget starting next week.

School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan said Monday he suggested the meeting after getting school finance questions from council members.

Galligan said the purpose of the meeting is to answer council questions such as "what makes up our budget...what goes into it."

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur, chair of the finance committee, said Monday he wants to know why schools didn't foresee an operating deficit of more than \$7 million in the current until late December. Ladouceur also wants to hear what measures the committee took to avert additional deficits in the 2026 budget and going forward. Ward 6 councilman and vice-chair of finance, William Muto, who has dug deep into school finances has similar questions.

Galligan, on the other hand, looks to the meeting as an opportunity to show the community the size of the school system and the need for more city funds than Mayor Frank Picozzi has budgeted. The school committee submitted a \$198 million budget request. Mayor Picozzi shaved it down to \$194.4 million.

"We have the most buildings, the most customers and the most employees," he said. Considering an enrollment of 8,000 and 180 school days, he calculated schools serve 1.4 million customers or "students" annually. The workforce numbers 1,400.

In his budget message where Picozzi says schools are getting an additional 2.5 percent in funding, Galligan says that \$3.7 million increase is due to state aid and, in fact,

the city is level funding schools.

"He's taking credit for the state allocation," Galligan charged.

And what happens if the schools don't get a bigger chunk of city dollars?

"[We're] already operating a very lean budget," Galligan said. Without more funds, he said the committee would need to look at discretionary spending that includes special needs, sports, arts and after school programs.

"When you're down to your last buck do you buy toilet paper or paper towels... this is going to be a conflict budget season," he said. In the name of full transparency, Galligan said he aims to "bring the community along," by disclosing the issue.

community along," by disclosing the issue.

Picozzi also faces an issue.

He said Tuesday the city doesn't have the money to increase the school budget with school bond interest payments linked to the new high schools kicking in. Already, he notes, his proposed budget calls for the use of \$3.7 million in reserves and to dip deeper in reserves that are about \$31 million would jeopardize bond ratings with the potential of hiking borrowing costs for the schools,

### Galligan clarifies budget adjustment

Responding to Mayor Frank Picozzi's remarks concerning preparation of the school budget published in the May 8 Beacon, School Committee Chair Shaun Galligan said the district had to make a \$200,000 adjustment in its personnel supplement, not a \$2 million adjustment as claimed by the city administration.

## Warwick Representatives sign on to \$4,000 Conimicut grant

Warwick's State Representatives Marie Hopkins, Joseph Solomon Jr, Evan Shanley, and Joseph McNamara signed on to a \$4,000 for a legislative grant for the Conimicut Village Association. The money will be used for all sorts of projects and events in the village throughout the year.

"Conimicut Village is known for its members and volunteers who always keep the village looking great and make everyone feel like a family. In the coming weeks, we'll see hanging plants, colorful flowers, and plants in the planters. This year, Yard Works, on Warwick Ave., has donated the hanging flower baskets," said CVA president Leslie Derrig.

Derrig urged resident to patronize Yard Works and "tell them how much you love their generosity."

The CVA farmers market will return the first Saturday of June from 9 to noon. It will be held at the Shield's Post American Legion on West Shore Road. The weekly Saturday market features bakers, fresh produce, plants, honey, crafters, woodworkers, candle makers, and so much more.

In a display of patriotism and gratitude to

veterans American flags will fly throughout the village.

"The streets will be clean thanks to our weekly street cleaning efforts of those who have adopted a block. Oh, and the garbage containers will be emptied by our amazing volunteers," Derrig said.

Derrig suggests keeping watch for CVA announcements of "Night's Out" and "Porch Concerts."

"The Village is alive, and everyone's invited at no cost. If you haven't signed up for the Art Festival in September, what are you waiting for? Christmas? Oh, we have that coming too!" she said.

"Thanks to everyone for making Conimicut Village such a great place to live!"

The Conimicut Village Association received a big boost in the form of a legislative grant from the city's four state Representatives. Pictured at a recent CVA meeting from left are: Barbara Canton, CVAVice President; Rep. Marie Hopkins (R); Leslie Derrig, CVA President; Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr. (D), and CVA board member Lynda Takoudes. (Submitted photo).

## DEM is still looking for a few more good lifeguards

By JANINE WEISMAN  
Rhode Island Current

About 90 lifeguards have already been hired to work at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) beaches ahead of the summer 2025 season. But more are still needed.

"DEM is actively recruiting for seasonal positions and continues to accept applications throughout the season," Chief Public Affairs Officer Kim Keough said in an email confirming the number of guards hired so far. "We are still hiring for all seasonal roles, especially our lifeguard positions and encourage anyone interested to apply!"

Keough said DEM's Division of Parks and Recreation aims to hire over 100 lifeguards for the summer.

DEM's seasonal employment webpage still has a posting for seasonal state lifeguards — pay is listed as \$18.75 to \$19.25 an hour — and seasonal supervising lifeguards — paying \$19.50 to \$20.00 an hour.

To help with recruiting, DEM offers up to \$1,000 in incentive bonuses — a \$500

sign-on bonus for those hired by June 27 and an additional \$500 for those who remain on the job through Sept. 1

All lifeguard candidates must receive state certification and hold valid cards in lifeguard training, first aid, and CPR, including infant, child, and adult.

Lifeguards will be on duty and bathrooms and concessions will be open at Scarborough North and Salty Brine state beaches in Narragansett on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11, and remain open weekends only until daily operations begin Memorial Day. All other state beaches, except Roger Wheeler, will officially open daily Saturday, May 24 and remain open until Labor Day.

Beachgoers can plan ahead and buy their 2025 state beach season parking passes to all eight Rhode Island State beach parking lots. Online pass sales can take up to 24 hours to validate. New this year, returning customers with unchanged registration and contact information can bypass the verification process. They allow parking at all eight state beaches but do not guarantee entry. Parking is first-come, first-served.



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**May 16, 'Handmade Cast Paper Sculpture':** This workshop series will be on Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd., Warwick. The workshop a 3-dimensional sculptural artwork using the plant fibers cotton and abaca. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

**May 17: Ping Pong Tournament:** 2 to 5 p.m. at Bishop Hendricks High School. This event will support Mission: Boots to briefcases. \$75 to enter a three-person team. <https://missionbootstobriefcases.com/coming-events>

**May 17: Food for the Soul:** On Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 3 churches will host a free potluck. It will be at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick and will run every 3rd Saturday from October to May.

**May 20: Gaspee Seniors:** will meet on Tuesday at 1 p.m., at the Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Pkwy, Warwick. New members are always welcome.

**May 21: Something Fishy:** Oasis Senior Advisors Rhode Island is hosting a free event for seniors with dementia at 175 Metro Center Blvd. Open to all seniors with Memory Care challenges and their care partners. This is an ongoing event that happens every Third

Wednesday of the month.

**May 21: VFW Post #183 Bingo:** Open to all. Doors open at 6 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. \$30 entry. Please email [vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com) with any questions.

**May 22: Welcome Reception:** the Warwick Village Common Steering Committee will host a welcome reception on Thursday at 10 a.m., at The Tri City Elks Lodge at 1915 West Shore Rd. You can meet fellow village members and volunteers and learn more about the services and programs Warwick's Village offers. For further details visit their official page: [villagecommonri.org](http://villagecommonri.org).

**May 23 & May 24: "Drawing the Dressed Figure:"** The Warwick Center for the Arts, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 3259 Post Rd., will use a spot lit model with the goal of learning to understand the structure, proportions, and anatomy of the human figure. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

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

# The Buzz

[marykathaleencurtain@gmail.com](mailto:marykathaleencurtain@gmail.com). Tickets will also be available at the door. The Open Closet shop will be open after the show.

**June 1: Chamber Orchestra of Barrington at St. John's:** the final concert of COBSJ's 8th season will comprise of six small ensembles comprised of their musicians. It will be on Sunday at 3 p.m., at St. John's Episcopal Church in Barrington.

**June 5: Warwick Symphony Orchestra (WSO)** will be joined by performers from Coffee Milk Opera and Community College of Rhode Island Music. This performance will be on Thursday at 7 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church on 237 Garden Hills Dr. Tickets can be found on the website: [wsori.org/performances](http://wsori.org/performances) or at the door. Tickets: \$20 General, \$15 Seniors & Students, Free children 12 and under. Parking free onsite / fully accessible performance.

**June 23-August 8: WCFA Summer Art Camp 2025** at the Warwick Center for the Arts. Join us for one week or the whole summer. Morning and afternoon sessions available with different themes each week. For further in-

formation, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

**August 23: Class of 1975 Warwick Vets - 50-year reunion** at the East Greenwich Yacht Club, 10 Water Street, East Greenwich, from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person. Please contact Jeff Voigt at [meddevconsultant@aol.com](mailto:meddevconsultant@aol.com).

**October 11: Pilgrim High School Class of 1975 - 50-year reunion** at The Quonset "O" Club on 200 LT. James Brown Rd., North Kingstown., from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. Please contact Dean Plowman 401-413-9978 or [Dean695@gmail.com](mailto:Dean695@gmail.com).

**St Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association:** is accepting scholarship applications for Catholic High School until July 31. Forms are available by writing to SXA, P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, RI 02920 or email [sxa.alum@gmail.com](mailto:sxa.alum@gmail.com).

**Conimicut Village Art Festival:** the Conimicut Village Association is now accepting artist and maker applications for its annual Art Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 5. Artists are asked to be available for both dates. Space is limited, so don't wait to apply. Original artwork will be reviewed by a jury

committee and artists will be notified of their acceptance by July 15. Questions, or to request an application (\$60 registration fee) can be directed to [conimicutvillage@gmail.com](mailto:conimicutvillage@gmail.com) or for more information visit [conimicut.org](http://conimicut.org).

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

**Every Monday - The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets** at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit [www.gaspeecelticjam.org](http://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.

## CITY OF WARWICK COLLECTOR'S SALE OF ESTATES FOR TAXES AND/OR ASSESSMENTS DUE AND UNPAID

The undersigned, Tax Collector, of the City of Warwick, hereby gives notice that she will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the **Warwick City Hall at 3275 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886** on the **30th day of May 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time, the following described parcels of real estate (for the levy upon which notice is hereby given) or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the real estate taxes and/or assessments which constitute a lien thereon as set forth in the original advertisement of the **8th day of May, 2025** in the **Warwick Beacon** Newspaper, a weekly newspaper to which reference is hereby made.

Be advised that if your property in which you have a substantial interest is sold at tax sale, then you have one year to redeem it through the Collector's Office or through the tax sale purchaser by tendering the real estate taxes, sewer and/or assessments paid, plus a ten percent penalty on the tax sale amount, plus one percent interest on the tax sale amount per month from the seventh month onward.

After the passage of one year, you may exercise your right to redeem through the tax sale purchaser or his attorney, or, if a petition to foreclose your right of redemption has been filed in Superior Court, you may redeem through the Court until a final decree is entered forever foreclosing your right of redemption.

Property, upon which taxes have been paid since the advertisement first appeared, will not, of course, be included in the sale.

**TERMS: CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK ONLY**  
**Kyla A Jones,**  
Tax Collector  
**City of Warwick**  
**5/15, 5/22, 5/29/25**

### Notice of Petition for Termination of Parental Rights G.L. c. 210 § 3

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court**

Docket No. M125A0665CW

**In the matter of: Emma Dylan Sanderson aka Baby Girl Sanderson**

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

**To:** any unknown or unnamed father, parent(s) of the above named child.

**\* A putative father will not have standing as a party to this case without a voluntary acknowledgment of parentage or an adjudication of paternity.**

A petition has been presented to said court by **Adoptions with Love, Inc, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464** representing that the parent(s) of the child lack(s) current ability, capacity, fitness and readiness to assume parental responsibility for the child; that the petitioner's plan for the child will serve the child's best interests; and, requesting that this Honorable Court enter a decree under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 210, Section 3, that shall have the effect of terminating the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the custody, guardianship, adoption or other disposition of the child named herein.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT:

**Woburn**  
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **06/25/2025**

**YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE AP-**

### POINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY IF YOU ARE AN INDIGENT PERSON.

An indigent person is defined by SJC RULE 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving AFDC, EAEDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, food stamps, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, and SSL. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager/Adoptions Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed above to obtain the necessary forms.

**WITNESS,**  
**Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo,**  
**First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 24, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro  
Register of Probate

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

### Notice of Petition for Termination of Parental Rights G.L. c. 210 § 3

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court**

Docket No. M125A0665CW

**In the matter of: Noah Fontaine**

Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

**To:** **Imanol Marin Ramirez of Warwick, RI** and any unknown or unnamed father, parent(s) of the above named child.

**\* A putative father will not have standing as a party to this case without a voluntary acknowledgment of parentage or an adjudication of paternity.**

A petition has been presented to said court by **Adoptions with Love, Inc, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464** representing that the parent(s) of the child lack(s) current ability, capacity, fitness and readiness to assume parental responsibility for the child; that the petitioner's plan for the child will serve the child's best interests; and, requesting that this Honorable Court enter a decree under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 210, Section 3, that shall have the effect of terminating the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the custody, guardianship, adoption or other disposition of the child named herein.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT:

**Woburn**  
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **06/24/2025**

**YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ATTORNEY IF YOU ARE AN INDIGENT PERSON.** An indigent person is defined by SJC RULE 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving AFDC, EAEDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, food stamps, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, and SSL. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager/Adoptions Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed above to obtain the necessary forms.

**WITNESS,**  
**Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo,**  
**First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 23, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro  
Register of Probate

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

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE TRANSFER OF LICENSE

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

FROM: C & S Devine Inc.  
Db: Ollie's Pub  
941 West Shore Rd  
Warwick, RI 02886

TO: TEV LLC  
Db: Ollie's Pub  
941 West Shore Rd  
Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Wednesday, May 28th 2025 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
JAMES PAOLUCCI, CLERK

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

**5/8, 5/15/25**

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

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

FROM: Rancho Chico Restaurant Inc.  
DBA: Rancho Chico Mexican Restaurant & Bar  
1705 West Shore Rd.  
Warwick, RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Wednesday May 28, 2025 at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
James H. Paolucci CLERK

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

**5/8, 5/15/25**

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE TRANSFER OF LICENSE

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

FROM: The Friendly Tap Inc.  
Db: Dave's Bar & Grille  
2339 Post Rd  
Warwick, RI 02886

TO: JAVI LLC  
Db: Dave's Bar & Grill  
2339 Post Rd  
Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., **ON Tuesday June 10th at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
JAMES PAOLUCCI, CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD AT 739-9150 **AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE** OF THE MEETING DATE.

**5/8, 5/15/25**

### LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK ORDINANCE NO. O-25-6

APPROVED Frank J. Picozzi  
May 6, 2025 MAYOR

### ORDER OF THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF OLD QUAKER LANE COLBEA ENTERPRISES, LLC, PETITIONER

In the matter of the abandonment of a portion of Old Quaker Lane described on Exhibit A attached hereto, it appearing that due notice by advertisement and as described below, has been made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 24, General Laws 1956 and all amendments and additions thereto, and after giving opportunity to the owners of land abutting upon the hereinafter described portion of Old Quaker Lane to speak for or against such abandonment and as to the damage, if any, they shall sustain thereby, and after due consideration thereof, it is hereby

### ORDERED

- That the portion of Old Quaker Lane described on Exhibit A attached hereto be abandoned for the reason that said premises have ceased to be useful to the public as a highway or driveway.
- That it is the judgment of the City Council of Warwick that no owner of land abutting on that portion of Old Quaker Lane has suffered any damage because of such abandonment, and for this reason the City Council awards no compensation to said abutting owners.
- That signs shall be placed at each end of that portion of Old Quaker Lane having thereon the words "NOT A PUBLIC HIGHWAY".
- That notice of this order shall be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in English, and further that personal notice of same shall be served upon every owner of land abutting upon that portion of Old Quaker Lane as herein described who is known to reside in this State.
- That the City Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice to be given in accordance with the provisions hereof, and the Highway Department is hereby authorized and directed to erect and place signs referred to herein.
- That an Administrative Subdivision meeting the standards as set forth in the "Subdivision and Land Development Regulations", as amended, shall be recorded by the interested parties abutting the abandonment.
- Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 24-6-1 and Sec. 1-13 of the Code of Ordinances, an appraisal of the fair market value of the abandoned roadway was conducted and based upon that appraisal the Petitioners shall pay \$36,333 to the City of Warwick.

Entered as an Order of the City Council this 5\_ day of \_\_\_May\_\_\_, 2025.

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN GEBHART**

**COMMITTEE: PUBLIC PROPERTIES, LAND USE, AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Attest:  
Lynn D'Abrosca, City Clerk

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

### LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK ORDINANCE NO. O-25-7

APPROVED Frank J. Picozzi  
May 6, 2025 MAYOR

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPOSITION, AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS, SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE ALARMS, MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGES, AND DEFINITIONS

*Be it ordained by the City of Warwick:*

Section I: Chapter 20 of the City of Warwick Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

[...]  
**Sec. 20-42. – Composition.**  
The fire department shall consist of

a chief of the fire department and such additional personnel of other ranks and grades as the ~~bureau of fire~~ Board of Public Safety may from time to time determine. ~~The complete rank of the personnel in the department may be as follows: chief, deputy chiefs, battalion chief, superintendent of fire alarms, and privates, with any acting officers and men/women necessary for proper operations:~~

[...]  
**Sec. 20-50. – Age and residence requirements for appointees applicants.**

An applicant for a position in the fire department must be not less than 24 ~~18~~ years of age or shall not have passed his/her 30th ~~35th~~ birthday; ~~and must be a resident and registered voter of this city at the time of appointment.~~

[...]  
**Sec. 20-58. – Superintendent of fire alarms-Deputy Chief of Communications.**

The superintendent of fire alarms Deputy Chief of Communications shall be under the supervision of the fire chief. The installation and maintenance of wires and equipment connected with the fire alarm system shall be under the supervision of the superintendent of fire alarms-Deputy Chief of Communications.

[...]  
**Sec. 20-118. – Mandatory Retirement.**

Any member who attains the age of 60 while an employee (age 65, if the member holds the rank of chief, deputy chief, battalion chief or higher; or superintendent of fire alarms) shall retire under section 20-111 as of the first payroll period end of the calendar year after his or her 60th birthday (65th birthday, if applicable).

[...]  
**Sec. 20-141. - Definitions.**

This fund is divided into two tiers, Tier I and Tier II. *Tier I* means the pension fund covering any employee hired after May 29, 1992 and before July 1, 2012. *Tier II* means the pension fund covering any employee hired after June 30, 2012. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Actuarially equivalent value* means an amount having equal value when computed on the basis of a 2.84 percent interest rate compounded annually and the UP-1984 mortality table, for purposes of section 20-183.

*Actuary* means an individual who has attained Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries or a firm employing such an individual.

*Administrator* means the city treasurer, whose duties are described in section 20-261.

*Base pay* means the base wages paid to the employee in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the union.

*Beneficiary* means the member's spouse, dependent child under 18 years of age or child 18 years of age or older who is receiving social security disability benefits. Such beneficiary is or may become entitled to receive pension benefits from the fund as a result of the death of the member.

*Board* means the city's board of public safety.

*Creditable service* means the service which is credited in accordance with division 3 of this article.

*Earned income* means compensation for employment which is taxable as wages under United States income tax law, or compensation for services rendered by the member on behalf of a corporation or partnership.

*Effective date* means May 29, 1992 for Tier I and means July 1, 2012 for Tier II.

*Employee* means any employee of the city's fire department who is or has been represented by the union for collective bargaining purposes or is a sworn member.

*Final average salary:*  
(a) For Tier I means (a) if the member's retirement, death or disability occurs prior to January 1, 2005, the annual rate of pay equal to the average of the salaries received by the member for the period of three years of creditable service ending at the member's retirement, termination, or death, or

the average salary received over the member's entire career if the member had less than three years of creditable service at the time of death or disability; or (b) if the member's retirement, death or disability occurs on or after January 1, 2005, the annual rate of pay equal to the salary received by the member for the period of the last year of creditable service ending at the member's retirement, termination, or death, or the average salary received over the member's entire career if the member had less than one year of creditable service at the time of death or disability.

(b) For Tier II means the annual rate of pay equal to the average of the salaries received by the member for the period of three years of creditable service ending at the member's retirement, termination, or death, or the average salary received over the member's entire career if the member had less than three years of creditable service at the time of death or disability.

*Fund* means the trust fund established to hold and invest assets to pay benefits under chapter 20, article III; chapter 20, article IV; and chapter 52, article II, as further described in section 20-243.

*Holiday pay* means compensation in excess of base wages paid to the employee on account of holidays in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the union.

*Internal Revenue Code* means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Reference to a specific provision of the Internal Revenue Code shall include such provision, any valid regulation or ruling promulgated thereunder, and any provision of future law that amends, supplements, or supersedes such provision.

*Longevity pay* means compensation paid to the employee on account of longevity in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the union.

*Member* means any employee or retired employee who participates in the plan with benefits defined under this article in accordance with the provisions of division 2 of this article.

*Normal retirement age:*  
(a) For Tier I means the member's age upon completion of 20 years of creditable service or having attained the minimum age required to qualify for normal social security eligibility.

(b) For Tier II means 25 years of creditable service and having attained the age of 50 or having attained the minimum age required to qualify for normal social security eligibility.

*Plan* means chapter 20, articles III and IV.

*Salary* means the member's annual rate of base pay, holiday pay, and longevity pay, excluding compensation paid for any other reason.

*Spouse* means the person, if any, to whom the member is lawfully married at the time of his or her death.  
*Trustee* means the trustee or trustees appointed by the administrator to administer the assets of the fund in accordance with section 20-261(2).  
*Union* means Local 2748 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO.

[...]  
**Sec. 20-207. – Mandatory Retirement.**

Any member who attains the age of 60 while an employee (age 65, if the member holds the rank of chief, deputy chief, battalion chief or higher; or superintendent of fire alarms) shall retire under section 20-201 as of the first payroll period end of the calendar year after his or her 60th birthday (65th birthday, if applicable).  
[...]  
Section II: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as prescribed by law.

SPONSORED BY:  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI

ON BEHALF OF MAYOR PICOZZI

COMMITTEE: UNANIMOUS CONSENT / ORDINANCE

Attest:  
Lynn D'Abrosca, City Clerk



Vendors to the Crafting for Critters bazaar setup at the Airport Professional Park for the 11th annual show benefiting the Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*



In addition to a variety of leather goods, Wendy and Al Lavoie brought along some handcrafted winter wear for their display including a winter hat to accommodate a pony tail. As their friend Lenny Doeg is close shaven, Wendy outfitted him with the cap and a pony tail.



Rather than combat them, Dawn Burnham is going to make it easy for squirrels to enjoy bird seeds. A board member of the Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, she bought both an easily accessible feeder and a bird feeder for her yard. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

# Crafters for critters beat the chill

Text and photos

by John Howell, Warwick Beacon Editor

Judy Salvadore's black down jacket sporting a black cat pin was zipped up to the neck. Under that she wore a vest and under that was a double layer of T-shirts.

"You know I should have brought my gloves," she said Saturday morning as a drizzle mixed wind swept through the Airport Professional Park parking lot on Post Road not all that far from Green Airport.

Salvadore, president of the Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, said a number of 80 vendors signed up for the annual Crafters for Critters show canceled because of the weather. Nonetheless, there were those who stuck it out in support of the Friends and the volunteer work they do to assist animal rescues. Now in its 11th year, the show has grown exponentially to the point that it has to be held outdoors. It outgrew the Pilgrim Senior Center several years ago.

Many of the vendors are regulars. They keep coming back because of how the show is run and to support the cause. As one vendor pointed out, she likes the show because of the diversity of crafts offered which means she's not competing with vendors offering the same or similar products.

Jeanne Cherry of Steanne's Stuff whose artificial pumpkin carvings was a source of conversation among lookers, admitted she was chilled by the wind. She thought of changing into something warmer, but then decided not to.

"You know, I'll change; the sun will come out, and it will be 90," she said.

If that was going to be the case, she was urged not to delay changing.



Even the critters were dressed for the occasion.

## Vying for a contract, VNA therapists picket hospital



VNA of Care New England physical and occupational therapists held an informational picket outside Kent Hospital last Wednesday evening. Pictured making placards for fellow therapists is Byron Carlson, who has worked at the VNA for nearly 14 years. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*

About 25 VNA of Care New England physical and occupational therapists staged an informational picket last Wednesday evening outside Kent Hospital.

Led by Heather Kelley, elected organizer for 1199SEIU the group chanted, waved flags and cheered motorists who lent their support by honking their horns. The therapists are seeking increased wages and benefits. Their contract expired in February.

CNE called the picket "unfortunate and disappointing" while they remain in active negotiations.

"VNA of Care New England will continue to focus on an agreement that benefits staff, as well as our patient community," reads the release. A CNE spokeswoman said Tuesday that talks are ongoing.

Jannike Caldeira, a VNA physical therapist for 20 years, said she makes \$6 less an hour than a Women and Infants physical therapist. She noted physical and occupational therapists and assistants at the VNA of Care New England are responsible for providing home healthcare but their job has grown harder - not only do patients have a higher acuity, but they are also discharged more quickly from the hospital than before.

"We are fighting for fair treatment and compensation in line with our peers and for management to fairly compensate us for the long hours we drive across the state to deliver care," she wrote in a statement.

### ● BUZZ from page 4

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

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

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

**Third Wednesday of the month, Old Warwick Grange #41** will hold meetings at 7:30 p.m., at 1175 West Shore Rd. There are no meetings in July and August. The Grange is a fraternal community service, non-profit organization with a special interest in rural life and the traditions of faith, patriotism, leadership and family values. For information, please call either Joan Clegg at 401 465-7259 or Mike Osiensky at (508) 954-9712.

**Every Thursday, The Warwick Rotary Club meets** from noon to

1:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Every week features a different speaker.

**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 Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, 200 First Ave., Cranston. We Make RI offer job seekers a chance to meet with employers, get career counseling, resume help and more. Some employers include Swissline Precision, Admiral Packaging, KB Surfaces, Warwick Hanger and Hitachi Cable. For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit [www.wemake-ri.com/get-a-job-thursday](http://www.wemake-ri.com/get-a-job-thursday) or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

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

**NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups:** The Rhode Island 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](http://namirhodeisland.org), or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

*Editor's Note: To submit your*

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

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Toll Gate students, Nicholas Bruner and Jonah Mattiello take turns spinning the wheel. Submitted photo by Wave Credit Union

## Toll Gate, Pilgrim students put financial skills to the test

More than 250 students from Toll Gate and Pilgrim High Schools participated in Wave Federal Credit Union's CU 4 Reality™ Financial Education Fairs at the end of April.

This was the second fair of the year sponsored by the credit union.

"The CU 4 Reality Financial Program and Fairs complement the financial literacy legislation that passed in Rhode Island that requires all students to demonstrate proficiency in financial literacy before high school graduation," said David Dupéré, President and CEO of Wave Federal Credit Union. "This learning experience reinforces the teaching in the classroom and meets this need."

During the school year, credit union representatives were invited monthly over the course of two semesters to present topics to help students increase their understanding of the importance of managing their personal finances and to prepare for the financial challenges and lifestyle decisions they will face as adults.

Sponsored by Wave Federal Credit Union, the CU 4 Reality™ Financial Education Fair is the culminating event that places students through a realistic budgeting experience during which they make a series of spending decisions like those made by a young adult.

The fair provides the students with the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in the classroom and interact with local busi-



Pilgrim seniors Kaley Simas and Alexis Warburton take a break during the fair. Submitted photo by Wave Credit Union



Loan Authority meets with Toll Gate students. Submitted photo by Wave Credit Union

nesses as consumers based on their chosen career and corresponding monthly income.

The students met with representatives from Wave Federal Credit Union and various businesses and industries to include Community College of Rhode Island, Coldwell Banker Realty, DeGiulio Insurance

Group, LLC, Generations Financial Strategies LLC, Premier Home Realty, LLC, Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, Stop and Shop, Tasca Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM Fiat, and others to gain a better appreciation of the importance of budgeting, financial planning and making wise purchasing decisions.

## Bravo show 'Real Housewives' drops anchor in the Ocean State

By **CHRISTOPHER SHEA**  
*Rhode Island Current*

Get ready for some drama in the Ocean State — Bravo's "Real Housewives" franchise is coming to Rhode Island.

The network announced the latest iteration of the long-running reality show May 7, teasing on X that the 13th entry in the reality TV franchise will offer a look into the world of a tight-knit circle of Rhode Islanders who "have deep community roots and families that go back generations."

"With aspirational lives, thriving businesses, and tangled family dynamics, these decade-long friendships prove that in a state this small, there's no escaping your past...or each other," the announcement read.

Rumors of possible cast members circulated online over the winter, and WJAR reported in December that the show was likely filming in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Film & Television Office Executive Director Steven Feinberg called the speculation "an avalanche of enthusiasm" when confirming production on Facebook Wednesday.

"The Real Housewives of Rhode Island is ready to roll and take the world by storm!" Feinberg said in a statement. "Action!"

Bravo has not said who has been cast on the show, where production will take place, or when the season will air.

What is clear is that production of Real

Housewives will not be eligible for state reimbursement.

That's because the 30% production tax credit only applies to "motion pictures," which Rhode Island General Law defines to include documentaries, videos, television series, commercials made for theatrical or television viewing, television pilots, or productions intended for educational distribution.

Recent productions filmed in Rhode Island include "Ella McCay," an upcoming film directed by James L. Brooks, and Disney's "Hocus Pocus 2." HBO's "The Gilded Age" has filmed scenes for its two seasons in Newport.

Director M. Night Shyamalan is also preparing production in the Ocean State for "a supernatural romantic thriller" starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Phoebe Dynevor.

Gov. Dan McKee said he welcomed the franchise's "millions of viewers" and hopes that the show will bring national attention to Rhode Island.

"Our state is home to vibrant communities, amazing food, rich history, and stunning coastal beauty — perfect for the spotlight," McKee said in a statement.

"The Real Housewives of Rhode Island" is produced by Evolution Media, according to Bravo's announcement. Lucilla D'Agostino, Joseph Ferraro, Jen McClure-Metz and Andy Cohen will serve as executive producers.





Future Pilgrim High School Submitted image



Future Toll Gate High School Submitted image

● **SCHOOLS from page 1**

unique. At this time, he said, LeftField has been retained to manage more than \$4 billion of school construction projects in the northeast. They are finding strong competition for jobs with construction companies anxious to nail down contracts in this unsettled time over tariffs, interest rates and markets.

At this time, Spiegel said about 30 percent of the Pilgrim project and 20 percent of Toll Gate have been bid. What he is seeing is strong subcontractor competition, with as many as nine contractors bidding on Warwick jobs.

He reasons contractors are anxious to get public jobs since “the private work is more risky.”

Testa is optimistic.

“The trend lines are favorable and continue to look favorable,” he said.

Will it be enough to bring the schools in at the \$350 mil-

lion approved by voters?

“If everything broke our way we’re getting pretty close to budget,” said Testa. But that’s a long shot and Testa thinks 3% to 4% over the \$350 million is more realistic.

“LeftField is a very professional company. They’ve done an exceptional job. Everybody wants this project to succeed,” he said. Nonetheless, he added, “we’re going to be over budget.”

In anticipation the \$350 million won’t be enough, the Mayor and City Council are seeking General Assembly approval of a special election asking voters to approve an additional \$50 million for the schools. The House Finance Committee is scheduled to hear the bill this afternoon.

If approved by the House and Senate, Mayor Frank Picozzi would like to see the election held this year. Should the question fail, the city would then have time to explore other options to completing the schools.

At a meeting last Thursday night at Pilgrim High School, Spiegel and Steve Gothberg, manager of school

construction projects, reviewed the results of Pilgrim soil tests compiled from more than 40 borings on the site to detect contaminants as required by the Department of Environmental Management. Levels of arsenic, which apparently is common in Rhode Island soils were detected and the building committee has allocated \$2 million from contingency for remediation at Pilgrim and Toll Gate. A \$2 million contingency for soil remediation was built into the budget. The contingency budget for the two schools is \$145 million.

Should the DEM require soil remediation, Spiegel says the \$2 million contingency is more than adequate.

Testa said that the state’s allowable threshold for arsenic is so strict that if the schools were being built by Massachusetts standards, it wouldn’t be an issue.

Although not all phases of the projects will have been bid, the School Committee plans to go ahead with ground breakings at both schools set for June 9 and 10.

● **BILL from page 1**

coming Senate President. On Tuesday she reaffirmed her support.

She said in a statement, “I am grateful for the leadership of Senator Mark McKenney in chairing the commission examining plastic bottle waste and developing the legislation that stemmed from the commission. The commission worked for almost two years to research and put forward thoughtful legislation to address this issue, which impacts every Rhode Islander. I am a co-sponsor of his bill, and believe it is a very important conversation we are having in the Senate this session.”

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi released the following statement Tuesday: “I am keeping an open mind on the bottle bill heading into the House Environment Committee hearing and I plan to review the testimony carefully. I thank all the members of the House and Senate joint commission who put a great deal of time and effort studying this complex issue. There was not a consensus reached among the commission members and there was lot of advocacy and passion on both sides. I’ve heard from many consumers opposed to a bottle bill who view it as another tax.”

McKenney notes that Rhode Island and New Hampshire are the only two New England States without a bottle bill and it

would be easy to leave things the way they are.

“We don’t have to do this,” he said. “Our kids and grandkids can live with the decision we make.”

He paints a dim picture if the state chooses not to improve Rhode Island’s recycling rate, which he put between 14 and 26 percent based on the community. Without an increase in recycling, disposing of trash will become increasingly costly, if not difficult, as the landfill fills up. Litter will increase and most disturbingly, micro plastics will increase in our environment.

**Micro plastics**

McKenney said “tons of micro plastics” are already in our food, soils, and Narragansett Bay. He argues we can continue adding to the problem and that “begs the question what kind of state are we leaving?”

As evidenced at last week’s hearing, there’s substantial opposition to a bottle bill.

Representatives from the “Stop the Rhode Island Bottle Tax” coalition including consumers, small retailers, grocery stores, liquor stores, labor unions and beverage distributors, oppose the bill that would impose a refund of at least 10-cents on nearly all plastic, glass, and aluminum

bottles and cans sold in Rhode Island.

The coalition contends the fee would raise costs significantly on hundreds of everyday beverages “at a time when Rhode Islanders are struggling with higher costs for many essentials including food, housing and utilities,” according to a release.

The release notes the cost of a 24-pack of water bottles would go up by \$2.40. The cost of a 12-pack of sports drinks would go up by \$1.20.

“This is not your grandfather’s bottle bill,” said McKenney.

He says technology has made refunds easy and that Oregon and Maine, where recycling rates are close to 90 percent have shown that bottle legislation does work. He bristles at the reference that a deposit/return system is a tax since the deposit is retrievable.

Incentives and convenience he said are keys to making a bottle bill effective.

McKenney and the bill’s co-sponsor in the House, Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee co-chaired a study of bottle bills and efforts to improve recycling. The study found a five-cent refund is insufficient to motivate returns. Ten cents, however, is an incentive, they contend.

**Returns made easy**

As for convenience, McKenney touted

the Green Bag program being used in Maine. The ease of the program was demonstrated outside the State House last week by CLYNK, the company operating refund machines in Maine and New York.

Cans, bottles and even those small nip bottles that escape scanning at Rhode Island Resource Recovery are placed in a green bag and deposited in the machine that scans an individualized bar code. The machine later credits the refund to a personal account or credit card.

McKenney said the beverage industry pays for the system in Maine. The benefit for the industry is the plastic that is recycled at a savings versus virgin plastic.

McKenney said he and McEntee, reached out to the beverage industry to ask them what they would like in a bottle bill.

“We got crickets,” he said.

In a release the coalition opposed to a bottle bill argues, “Bottle bills elsewhere have added unnecessary burdens on residents who are forced to take bags of bottles and cans to redemption centers to redeem them. This hurts most the busy families, seniors and low-income residents who may not have access to reliable transportation.”

McKenney acknowledges redeeming bottles can be a task, but it can become a routine that improves the environment and is better than the alternative.

● **RETIREES from page 1**

league, friend and mentor.”

McCaffrey said Cousineau was proud of the Learn 365 program and her partnership with the Warwick Boys and Girls Clubs and connections with PTA programs.

“She is always student focused and concerned about student success,” he said. That was an observation echoed yesterday by Lara D’Antuono, director of the Boys and Girls Clubs.

“[I] never meet someone who was so dedicated and committed, every decision she made was in the best interest of the kids,” D’Antuono said. She called Cousineau an “unsung hero.”

Lisa Schultz, who talked about Cousineau at the Warwick School Committee Tuesday night, said Cousineau “helped move Warwick’s scores in a positive direction and put protocols in place to train new and existing principals at the elementary level. She is a visionary and is supportive to anyone who needs help. Patti is visible throughout the district, and students at every elementary school are excited to see her and joyful when sharing their learning with her. She has the best interests of the students at heart, and I will miss working with her dearly.”

Yesterday, Cousineau said she didn’t seek out the position of director of elementary schools and was urged by her colleagues. I have been honored to walk in her [Dambruch’s] footsteps,” she said.

Mayor Frank Picozzi remembers Dambruch from her days at Robertson School.

“She was great with kids and parents,” he said. “Dambruch created a great community at Robertson.”

Recalling the Red Sox win in 2007, he said they crossed paths when they were



**Lynn Dambruch**

both buying championship T-shirts. Dambruch was buying them for her staff.

“I didn’t see her again until I was mayor,” he said.

Lauren Slocum, president of the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

worked with Dambruch on voter approval of the \$350 million bond to build the two new high schools.

“She really listened and wanted to know how to move forward,” said Slocum.

She said Dambruch is genuine and caring and focused “on a better future for all



**Patricia Cousineau**

students.”

Dambruch in a call yesterday said she has “mixed emotions” about retirement.

Speaking of her colleague, she said, “Patti is full of energy, a hands-on leader who is innovative and a hard, hard work-

er...she truly made a difference.”

At Tuesday’s committee meeting, Darlene Netchoh, president of the Warwick Teachers Union and Mary Townsend, president of the Warwick Independent School Employees sang praises of both women as did committee members David Testa and Leah Hazlewood. Committee Chair Shaun Galligan elaborated on remarks he made in an email yesterday.

“Superintendent Dambruch has been an unwavering champion for our schools, and her retirement marks the end of an extraordinary era of leadership in Warwick. Her impact can be seen in every corner of our district, from improved academic outcomes and social-emotional support to stronger community partnerships and the construction of our new high schools. On behalf of the entire Warwick School Committee, I thank Lynn for her decades of service and extend our deepest gratitude for the integrity, compassion, and vision she brought to our school system every day,” he wrote.

In a text sent yesterday, former school committee chair Karen Bachus, called the two retirements a loss for Warwick schools. Bachus said Cousineau “knows her job and executes it with aplomb.” And for Dambruch, Bachus questioned whether she ever slept.

“She is on a mission 24/7 to improve our schools and the educational experience for all our students. Her singular dedication and devotion to the district are unmatched.”



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# Betty White (stamp) delivers to Senior Center



Richard Delfino (left) and Providence Postmaster Jeanne Jackson unveil the postal service's new Betty White stamp. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**  
*Beacon Media Staff Writer*

Here's looking at you, Betty. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently released a new stamp honoring the late Betty White, an actress and animal activist known for her comedic roles on television.

Johnston Senior Center members got a look at the new stamp last week when the post office chose the center as one of several community locations across the country to host an unveiling of the new stamp.

The Betty White stamp was officially launched on March 27 in Los Angeles, Jeanne Jackson, Providence Postmaster, told the audience.

"Betty White was an American treasure," said Amber McReynolds, chairwoman of the USPS Board of Governors in a press release in March. "With this stamp, we honor...the enduring mark she left on our American culture."

"It's one of our 'Forever' stamps," Jackson explained during the Johnston event, which means it will always cover the cost of posting a letter, even when the current mailing rate goes up.

A Johnston resident, Jackson said she chose the senior center for the announcement because it is a popular community space. The new stamp shows a digital illustration of a smiling Betty White, and if you look closely, you can see she is wearing paw-print-shaped earrings to honor her lifelong devotion to the humane care of animals.

According to the USPS, the stamp is based on a photo-

graph taken by Kwaku Alston in 2010. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dale Stephanos.

Stephanos described how the tiniest detail in his design came to him at breakfast during the March event in L.A.

"I was absent minded drawing instead of eating my eggs and looking back down at the mess I had been making in my sketchbook, I saw that at some point, I had drawn a paw print," he said. "I had a bit of a eureka moment and thought, what if I just give Betty an earring that's in the shape of a paw print?"

White's accomplishments are outlined in a special video the USPS produced in her honor. Sometimes called the "first lady of television," her career was primarily on the small screen where she created two memorable characters: Sue Ann Nevins on the Mary Tyler Moore show and Rose Nyland on the Golden Girls. In 2010, amid much fanfare, White became the oldest-ever guest host of NBC's "Saturday Night Live".

Jackson said that attending community events and meeting people is one of her favorite parts of being a postmaster.

She said that it can take about two years to create a new postage stamp, from the selection process through design and production. She said that the new Betty White stamps are in limited supply right now but should be available at most local post offices and participating CVS and Walgreens drugstores across the state.

White died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 31, 2021, just 17 days shy of her 100th birthday, stated the USPS press release.



Providence postmaster Jeanne Jackson talks a little about the Betty White at the Johnston Senior Center last week. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Volunteer Warwick Rotary "farmers" gather for a group photo at the Westbay Farm Thursday where they assisted the real farmer, Steve Stycos. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*



Rotarians Bernie Rinn and Stephen McCartney were the bucket brigade during last week's farm visit. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*

● FARM from page 1

Warwick Police Chief Connor also arranged for box lunches for his fellow Rotarians. But he didn't get one. Shortly after noon he was alerted of an incident involving a gun and rushed off.

By comparison farming is a gentle pace. The farm will hold its annual plant sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 24. Those interested in doing volunteer farm work should contact Jill Christian at 921-1299.

# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## What would Betty White do?

**A**t a time where conflict seems to be bubbling just under the surface all the time all around us, it can be hard to know where to turn when the going gets tough.

As children, when faced with such dilemmas, we likely look to loved ones like a parent or grandparent as role models on how to deal with challenging situations.

The universe has also provided us with a role model whose actions give us a road map to chart our own course towards a life lived well. And to unlock the powerful potential of this person requires no special privilege or excess of wealth; it simply requires you to ask one simple question.

What would Betty White do?

We know it might sound odd, but the beloved actress and animal rights activist — who charmed her way into America's collective heart through numerous unforgettable roles on television and film, and now boasts her own posthumous forever stamp, as unveiled recently at the Johnston Senior Center — actually does provide a wonderful example on how to pursue your passions and live life in a way that is fulfilling, hard-earned, and intent on leaving the world a better place.

Anyone can learn from her amazing life. She was bold in a time when women were expected to be meek. She wanted to be a forest ranger after being inspired by nature in the Sierra Nevadas, only to learn women weren't allowed to do the job at the time. She didn't wait for opportunities to come to her, rather she wrote and performed her own musicals for her school. When World War II broke out, she halted her Hollywood pursuits to drive a supply truck for nearby gunnery encampments.

While her aspirations were for the screen, she bided her time and put in work for radio gigs, eventually getting her shot at television programming and excelling so much that she would go on to become one of the first women to produce a nationally-broadcast sitcom, "Life With Elizabeth". From there, her star only continued to rise, and the list of projects she worked on and accolades she earned would require its own article.

The most important lesson to take from White's career, we think, was her willingness to embrace change and redefine herself over and over again. As she aged — in a business where women are explicitly told that their youth and vitality is their only marketable feature — White defied expectations and become an integral part of one of the most popular sitcoms to ever run, which began when she was 63 years old and ended when she was 70.

After "Golden Girls," she would land roles in multiple blockbuster movies, star in Super Bowl commercials, and is the oldest person to ever host Saturday Night Live. Her effortless, affable charm comes from a combination of never taking herself too seriously and being willing to subvert society's expectations of what she "should be."

In addition to her professional life, White had a passion for standing up for the rights of animals, and is universally heralded as someone who treated others with respect and compassion. Empathy and kindness are two traits that, like White herself, will never go out of style.

So, if you're ever faced with a difficult situation, just ask yourself what Betty White would do. Chances are, she would embrace the unknown, face negativity with unflinching positivity, and somehow make everyone involved smile when all was said and done.

▪ **WHERE TO WRITE:**  
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GUEST OPINION

## Supporting R.I. kids' mental health? There's a plan for that. And it's working.

By **SARAH FLEURY**  
and **CAROLYN**

It's Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, and we are encouraged to see some positive trends continuing as the pandemic fades into the past.

Back in 2021, the national percentage of high schoolers feeling sad and hopeless rose to 42%, a peak after several years of worsening scores. Since then, here in Rhode Island, key internal indicators we track at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island have been moving steadily in the right direction for members ages 18 and under.

From 2021 to 2024, we have seen year-over-year improvements for both inpatient admissions (down 25%) and for emergency department visits (down 13%).

For those of us working in mental health, the pandemic exposed a problem we had seen growing for years and prompted the U.S. surgeon general to issue an advisory calling on the nation to "step up for children." Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island had already recognized we had an important role to play. In 2018, we eliminated many prior authorization requirements for mental health services to improve access to care.

After carefully considering how we could best serve our members and their communities, we launched a three-year plan in 2023 aimed at supporting the mental health of 110,000 Rhode Island youths and children, about half of the state's under 18 population.

### Highlights of the plan include:

- **Assisting vulnerable populations:** We worked with providers in our behavior health network to increase the availability of urgent appointments, potentially avoiding unnecessary visits to hospital emergency departments, and we collaborated with Bradley Hospital on offering clinicians free autism and anxiety training, plus stipends, to help them better serve children and youth.
- **Early identification and treatment:** We increased reimbursement rates for early intervention care, offered incentives to pediatric primary care sites to integrate behavioral health care into their practices, expanded virtual care options, supported behavioral health startup Braver's use of trained coaches to ramp up its exposure therapy program for children's anxiety, and provided assistance to school-based mental health intervention programs, including Project SUCCESS and Mood Check.
- **Prevention and awareness:** We coordinated Teen Mental Health First Aid trainings, promoted digital emotional wellness coaching for parents and caregivers through The Greatest 8, seeded the expansion of the Chris Collins Foundation's school-based peer-to-peer program and supported youth recreation programs run by Recess Rocks in RI and Boys & Girls Clubs.

We're encouraged by our progress so far. Over the past two years, we estimate that our collaborative efforts have helped touch the lives of about 130,000 youths, exceeding

our original goal, and we are likely to surpass 200,000 by the end of 2025.

We've named just some of our valued partners here, but they and many others are foundational to the goals of our plan. They share our commitment to building healthier families and communities and we're proud to support their efforts to launch and grow programs and services that promote the wellbeing and mental health of Rhode Island youths.

Clearly, there is still work to do. For example, the just-released 2025 RI KIDS COUNT Factbook noted that there was a significant increase in mental health hospitalizations for children on Medicaid in 2024 and that the number of calls to the Kids' Link RI triage service, although down in 2024, still totaled 5,386.

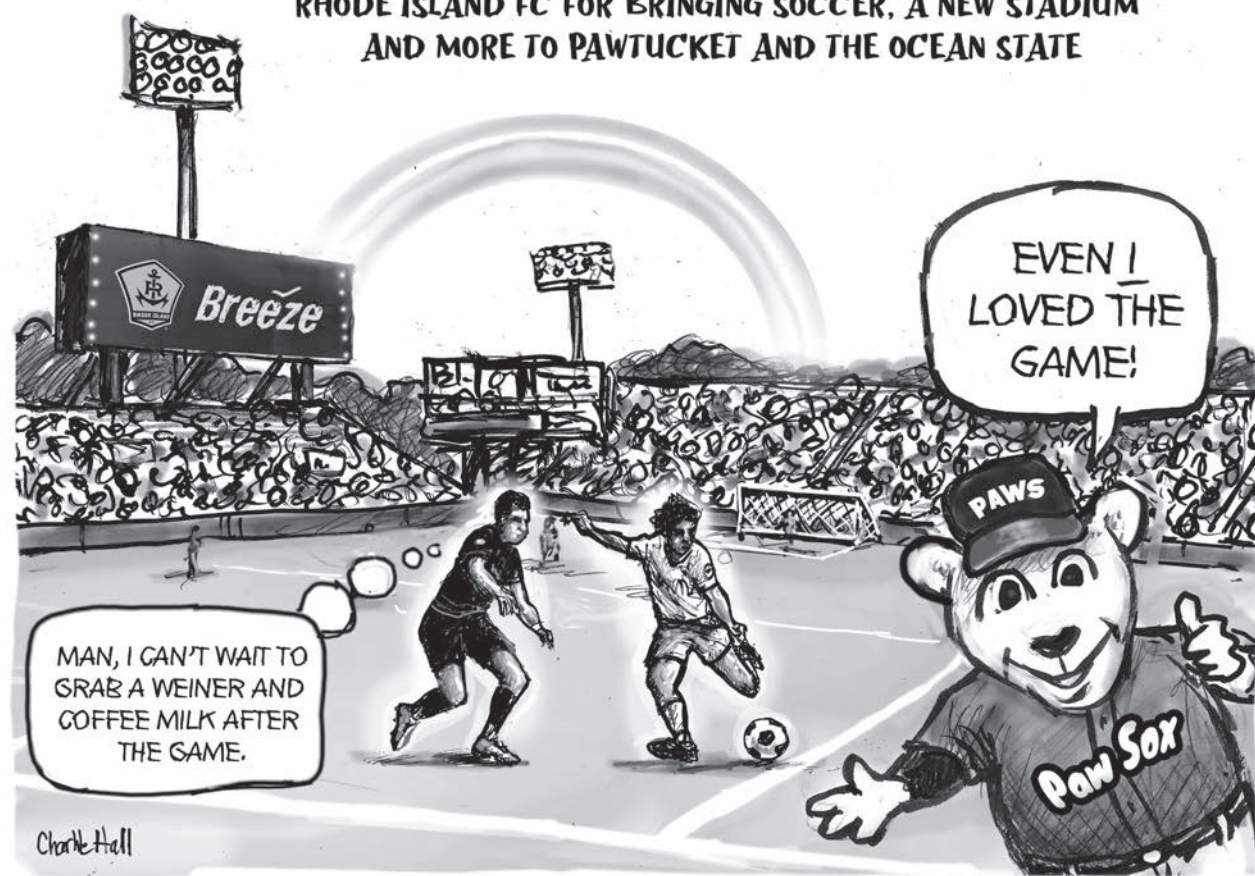
We know we join all our partners throughout May in recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month — a time to reflect on the progress we've made and, importantly, to recommit ourselves to creating safe and supportive environments, promoting mental health education, reducing, and ensuring access to high quality mental health care.

*Sarah Fleury is the managing director of behavioral health at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI.*

*Carolyn Belisle is vice president of corporate social responsibility for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.*

*This piece first ran in the Rhode Island Current.*

**KUDOS TO GOV. MCKEE, MAYOR GREBIEN, AND THE GANG FROM RHODE ISLAND FC FOR BRINGING SOCCER, A NEW STADIUM AND MORE TO PAWTUCKET AND THE OCEAN STATE**



## Company we least expected

"He's there."

Sure enough just as Carol told me, the sparrow that befriended us was looking in the dining room window. Between perching on the windowsill, he would flutter up, tapping the glass as if to say "let me in."

Maybe he was seeing his reflection and being this time of year, maybe he imagined another male was intruding on his territory. The sparrows nest under our porch eaves.

Our visitor would arrive with the morning sun and would do his window flutter and pecking for at least an hour. Then one morning a companion sparrow arrived. We guessed that would be the end of his visits. It wasn't. She watched his antics, perched on the porch lattice, perhaps anxious to get along with raising a family. But he was interested in watching us, even though I suspect he was titillated by his own image. You might say, he was full of himself.

There's much to be learned from birds.

Meanwhile, the spring cycle has brought the snow birds home. The osprey, cormorants, the occasional loon, egrets and heron have returned. I have yet to see the terns although I'm sure they'll arrive along with the juvenile



**This Side Up**

by John Howell

schools of menhaden. And then the Bryant geese are still here. Isn't it time to fly back to the Arctic?

The swallows and mourning doves are back, too. The swallows build a nest, which is made from mud pellets, hair, grass and feathers, between the porch light and the

roof. It's a spot free of the wind and the rain and secure from predators. With fighter plane precision they zoom between porch columns to take turns tending their clutch. I haven't figured out how this works, as there is more than a single pair going back and forth. And dare you get too close to the nest, as they'll take turns dive bombing you, coming within inches of hitting your head.

The mourning doves are more discrete. They nest on the porch beams and are statue still when we're around. Once the chicks arrive, however, there's a lot of commotion with both parents back and forth until the brood is ready to fly in which case the young birds are pushed out. All is quiet for a week or two and then the doves are back to raise another family.

As for our sparrow friend, he returned on Mother's Day to check on us. We were having breakfast and he sat on the window sill looking in. It was nice company.

LETTERS

## Why would the City Council seek flexibility in taxation?

**To the Editor:**

At the last Warwick City Council meeting, the council voted to change the way property tax is apportioned from the current policy, where residential owners pay 57% of commercial, to a plan where residential and commercial owners would pay a percentage equal to what their respective class paid in tax the previous year.

This was done because typically, commercial values never increase at the rate of residential values, so if there were one rate, the commercial tax would increase unexpectedly, and commercial owners are more sensitive to change than homeowners — ha!

The percentage change would be allowed every year.

To me, such percentage changes should be tied to the revaluation

schedule of years 3-3-9. Simple. Understandable.

Consistency and predictability in taxation is just as important to homeowners as it is to commercial owners, yet the proposed legislation puts commercial interests before homeowners (aka voters) by not fixing percentage change when assessments are updated each three years.

The tax rate is a simple calculated result of two certifiable numbers: the assessed value of real estate and the budget as approved by the council. There are no variables since this function meets the statutory requirement that tax is apportioned fairly and equitably.

For years the city has used a defined two-tier tax based on a fixed rate in an effort to meet the fair and equitable apportionment.

Yet now, the administration wants "flexibility" and the ability to provide incentives to commercial owners. Tax incentives are the prerogative of the City Council only. The mayor can suggest, but the council has responsibility for the budget ... how and who is taxed according to law.

It is impossible to have a fair and equitable basis when you allow flexible treatment. Flexible flies in the face of the Rhode Island General Laws permitting property taxation.

Allowing such flexibility may have unintended consequences.

The second passage will happen at the next meeting. Taxpayers need to react quickly.

**Ann Sheridan**  
Warwick

## GUEST OPINION

## Homestead will fall, but shore access may rise again

By RICHARD and JO-ANN LANGSETH

Yet another charming and venerable homestead at Old Buttonwoods is about to bite the dust. Built in 1896 by the family of Hope Austin, our one-time neighbor, the Elsbree-Austin Cottage is not long for this world. Bay breezes and views of Greenwich Bay, Brushneck Cove and Buttonwoods Point, along with playscapes of virtually every kind, magnified the magic of Hope's growing years.

The new owners of this handsome Victorian cottage, from Burlington, Massachusetts, will be tearing it down, according to an advertisement in the Beacon.

When Hope was a child, she would regularly see residents of Oakland Beach walking along Buttonwoods Avenue, the street in front of her porch, enroute to the Buttonwoods Beach Post Office to mail letters. There was no other post office nearby in those days. On their return trip, they would walk to Buttonwoods Point and climb up on the Suburban Railroad trolley bridge back to Oakland Beach.

In her elder years, Hope was our next-door neighbor. We'd sit with her on her front porch as she reminisced fondly (and interestingly) about the olden days, including May Day events with girls weaving ribbons around a May pole, and plays that she starred in at the Buttonwoods Casino. Her love and knowledge of classical music was another conversational highlight, as well as stories of the Brown students with whom she shared her parents' large house on the East Side.

Her classic brown Volvo, which she cared for meticulously, was the envy of many students.

Hope would chuckle and shrug at the signs and assumptions made about "Private Buttonwoods!" From

her position as treasurer of the Buttonwood Beach Association (the BBA), she regarded those aspirations to exclusivity as "jokes."

Her family and friends included cousins on Twelfth Avenue, the widow Mary Sweet, an aunt, a grandnephew, Michael (who played with our daughter), and the perennially young and much sought-after widower, Sam Otis Sr.

Our daughter babysat for Charlie Rice's kids, who came along afterward, the grandchildren of Hope's associate, Wayland Rice, a "Father of Buttonwoods" and BBA president.

Hope knew intuitively, and perhaps even legally, the truth about "Private Buttonwoods." In her youth, Old Buttonwoods was a very public place. The people from Oakland Beach, and others who walked from the Budlong Farm Campground, knew to get their mail at the Buttonwoods Post Office. Standalone post offices are public places.

Charlie Cutter, who lived by the Carpenter Cemetery next to the old Oxnard Pharmacy / CVS, was another steady presence, digging clams at Old Buttonwoods and selling them off his cart. Harnessing his willing wife to his cart, Charlie rolled regularly through "Buttonwoods Proper" laden with his harvest. Henry Budlong, founder of the Apponaug Library, sold, or perhaps gave, Charlie a lot by the creek to build his hut.

Hope experienced the end of the horse-and-buggy age, saw the BBA horse stable revenues dry up, witnessed the end of the 40-acre Buttonwoods Dairy Farm in the 1942 fire, ending a significant revenue stream to the BBA, and watched her father's involvement in the formation of the Buttonwoods Fire District, the governmental entity that took over the maintenance of the Buttonwoods streets using public tax revenues



The Austin Cottage at 4 Fifteenth Ave. in Buttonwoods. Submitted photo

when private funds dried up 100 years ago.

Then as now, the Fire District has been directed by the General Assembly to maintain the Buttonwoods streets for the public and report its tax revenues and public appropriations back to the auditor general on an annual basis. Hope scoffed at the idea that these were special private taxes set up to make Buttonwoods private.

The trolleys were never far from Hope's life. Her father, Eugene Elsbree, was paralyzed in a tragic College Hill runaway trolley accident in June 1942. It lost its brakes in the tunnel and crashed into Canal Street, killing a pedestrian.

She took care of her father, the owner of the Val-leau Elsbree store in Providence, until he died in 1952. Soon after that, Hope's husband, a jewelry manufacturer, suffered a stroke. She took care of him until he died in 1979, keeping him in shape to run his plant.

Hope died at age 95 in 1996, having cared for many needy people for 54 years.

The Buttonwoods Suburban Trolley tracks washed away during the Hurricane of 1938. Now, Hope's home too will be crushed to dust – not a problem for this progressive and high-minded denizen of Heaven.

However, Hope's laughter about old and new residents of Old Buttonwoods who put up and then passionately defend "No Trespassing" signs, will live on.

The Coastal Resources Management Council's Rights-of-Way Subcommittee will consider my motion for summary judgment on May 27 to revisit a simpler time at Old Buttonwoods when the streets were dedicated to the public. They still are.

Through this motion, the CRMC may soon recognize Buttonwoods as the public place that it always has been since Colonial times. If CRMC says yes, and calls for a public hearing this summer, and then recognizes Buttonwoods Avenue as a right-of-way to the shore, all of us will be, as were our forebears, happy and relaxed as we walk or drive down Buttonwoods Avenue to the sea. We may even find ourselves admiring the McMansion that will have replaced the Elsbree-Austin cottage.

(Go to the Saving R.I. Coastal Access / Rights of Way Facebook Page for more information on preserving the more than 100 rights-of-way to the shore in Warwick, founded by the grandson of the manager of the old Rocky Point Amusement Park, Conrad Ferla III.)

## LETTERS

## Why the Green Amendment makes sense

## To the Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rhode Island Green Amendment, House Bill 5732, Senate Bill 327.

Rhode Island has long been a leader in environmental progress, from protecting our coastal resources to advancing renewable energy. But despite these efforts, we continue to face significant challenges—rising sea levels, worsening air quality, and pollution that threatens both our health and economy. At a time when federal environmental protections are being weakened, it is more important than ever for Rhode Island to take a stand and ensure that clean air, safe water, and a stable climate are recognized as fundamental rights.

The people of Rhode Island, including future generations, deserve constitutional protection for their inalienable human rights to a clean, safe, and healthy environment—specifically, clean water, breathable air, a stable climate, and thriving ecosystems. The Green Amendment provides an opportunity for all of us—citizens and government leaders alike—to work together to strengthen environmental

protections. It empowers our elected officials with a constitutional foundation to prioritize the environment in decision-making, ensuring that the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders are always a guiding consideration.

The Rhode Island Green Amendment would:

- Recognize the inalienable rights of all Rhode Islanders, including future generations, to clean air and water, a healthy environment, a life-supporting climate, and the preservation of the state's natural resources.

- Affirm that Rhode Island's public natural resources belong to all the people and that government officials have a responsibility to conserve and maintain these resources equitably for the benefit of all, including future generations.

- Ensure these rights receive the same legal recognition and protection as other fundamental human, civil, and political rights enshrined in our state constitution.

While Rhode Island's constitution grants the right to enjoy and exercise access to the state's fisheries and shores under Article 1, Sections 16 and 17, these provisions do not provide explicit

and enforceable rights to clean air, safe drinking water, or a stable climate. The Green Amendment will bridge this gap by affirming that every Rhode Islander has a fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment—complementing and strengthening existing legal protections.

By supporting this amendment, our Legislators have the chance to reinforce Rhode Island's leadership and commitment to a sustainable future. This is an opportunity to take an essential step to protect our communities, health, and economy from environmental degradation while ensuring that future generations inherit a Rhode Island that is just as beautiful and life-sustaining as it is today.

George Faucher  
Narragansett

*A recent retiree from leading a large-scale global service delivery and program management teams, Faucher is a parishioner of the Peace Dale Congregational Church in Wakefield, which established a "Green Team". He is co-chair of the Green Team with Don Hermes, a retired geologist.*

## To the Editor,

With the recent announcement of Anchor Medical's closure, Rhode Island is witnessing the inevitable outcome of years of unheeded warnings about our collapsing health care infrastructure.

Dentistry is on the same path – and we're dangerously close to the breaking point.

For years, dentists have sounded the alarm about inadequate insurance reimbursements. Compared to our neighboring states, dentists in Rhode Island are paid, on average, 30% less – some rates are more than 50% lower. These disparities aren't just numbers on a spreadsheet; they're the root of a growing access-to-care crisis.

Delta Dental of RI and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI have failed to keep pace with regional standards for nearly two decades. This stagnation has real consequences. Rhode Island struggles to attract new dental professionals as seasoned dentists retire. The result? Months-long waits for appointments, especially for oral surgery and pediatric care.

The issue doesn't stop there. Because dentists in Massachusetts and Connecticut can offer more competitive wages to dental assistants and hygienists, Rhode Island practices are losing essential staff – further straining our system.

And perhaps most troubling: fewer dentists are able to participate in the state's dental-assistance program. Without fair reimbursement, many can no longer afford to serve Rhode Island's most vulnerable patients.

The time to act is now. What once were warning signs are now full-blown alarms demanding immediate action. If reimbursement rates don't change, dentistry in RI will sink just like another anchor.

Dr. Andrew 'Andy' Gazerro,  
West Warwick

*The writer is a 28-year practicing dentist, president of the Rhode Island Dental Association and a former member of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Benefit Programs.*

## 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  
asburymcri.org

**Baha'i Faith**  
Warwick Community  
Call for meeting information  
800-228-6483

**Buttonwoods Bible Chapel**  
311 Buttonwoods 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  
faithbaptistri.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  
fccwri.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. Dallas Ann Bradel  
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

**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

**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: westminsteruu.org

**Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian**  
58 Beach Avenue  
Rev. Deb Packard  
737-8232  
WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

**We're All Ears**

Your opinion is something we always want to hear.

**Questions? Comments? Story ideas?**  
Let us know how we're doing.

**Warwick Beacon**  
•  
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**Johnston SunRise**

**BEACON MEDIA**  
401-732-3100



# Fun runnin'

Students from E.T. Wyman ran through bursts of color and bubbles at the school's Fun Run on May 10. The event, organized by the parent teacher organization, raised more than \$4500 for the school. *Submitted photos by Shelby Simone*



## Obdulia 'Julie' Beecher

Obdulia 'Julie' Beecher, of Warwick, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on May 11, 2025, at the age of 76. She was the beloved wife of Cramer Beecher Jr.; and loving mother of Cramer Beecher III and Jeremy Beecher Sr., a retired Warwick Fire Department Rescue Lieutenant, and his wife, Jessica. She was also the proud grandmother of three cherished grandsons, Jeremy Jr., Jace, and Jaydin, who brought endless joy to her life.



Originally from Arizona, Julie moved to RI as a young woman to marry Cramer. She quickly bonded with her mother-in-law, who taught her to cook treasured Italian family recipes. She continued to cook with warmth and love throughout her life. Julie had a special cheerfulness about her; she never missed sending a birthday or holiday card, was always ready for a good conversation, and lit up every time she talked about a trip to the casino. She was fun, open-hearted, and had a love for hot sauce. Truly, the hotter the better. Julie was a fan of Twins Pizza, Mick Jagger, and most of all her family.

A dedicated and caring colleague, Julie worked for many years at Vishay Electro Films, Warwick, RI, earning the admiration and friendship of co-workers. She was generous with her time, accepting of everyone, and never shy about offering her opinion when it was needed.

Julie was the daughter of the late Eduvigus Valenzuela. She also leaves behind her mother, Obdulia Arellano Valenzuela, and her brother, Ruben Valenzuela, both of Queens Creek, Arizona, as well as two sisters, Rachel Valenzuela and Angelina Garcia, both of Mesa, Arizona; dear sisters-and-brothers-in-law; and many nieces and nephews who will forever hold her memory close.

Julie will be remembered for her smile, kindness, and the love she shared so freely with those closest to her.

## Warren Galkin

By anyone's standards, Warren Galkin was a stand-out human being. He's leaves a legacy of inspiring many.



Born two days prior to Independence Day in 1929 to the entrepreneurial, charismatic and loving family of Arthur & Shirley Galkin and their three-year-old son, Bob. Arthur had carved out his own path at the age of 21, quitting his job as an assistant manager of a shoe store, investing his savings in a horse and wagon and selling waste-paper. Arthur went on to found Natco Products, still in business today, four generations later and still family owned. It's from this hardworking family, Warren learned the value of hard work and a strong moral code.

He graduated from Hope High School and went on to Brown University earning a ScB in Physics, then on to Wharton to earn his Masters. After graduation, Warren enlisted in the Navy as an engineering officer, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. From there, he joined his father's company. He served many roles in the company, including head of the industrial relations department, negotiating and successfully executing union contracts. As a result of his skills, Natco never had a strike or grievance that went to arbitration.

When Arthur retired, Warren and Bob ran Natco. Bob managed the business end. Warren served in many roles, including putting his physics degree to work designing labor-saving machines for the factory, machines that would go on to create the iconic Pam Am flight bags. He and Bob sat with desks facing each other for more than 70 years. Their relationship was the perfect balance, Bob being the outgoing "mover and shaker" and Warren balancing out the team with his quiet intelligence and modest demeanor.

He was married to Joyce Galkin, the love of his life, and traveled extensively with her, preferring to explore world by train and by walking. In his spare time, Warren found joy in playing the organ and built many throughout the years. He loved skiing, rollerblading, bike riding and wind surfing. In his late 80's, the family watched in awe as he skied the Glaciers in Austria, as well as windsurfed in Newport Harbor.

Warren had a huge impact on the Boys and Girls Club of Warwick, setting up their first endowment fund and spearheading the construction and remodeling of their club buildings. He is the first inductee into their Hall of Fame. In the field of education, Warren has set up many endowments and scholarships that inspire students to achieve. One example is at Brown University where he established the Galkin Physics Fellowship which funds research by their top physics graduate students, as well as funding an undergraduate stipend for research in the Brain Science Department.

In 2017, Warren was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the New England Institute of Technology. He was on the board of the Japan-American Society of Rhode Island. He also earned the 2017 Middendorf Pillar of Freedom Award from The Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity.

He has served as an inspiration to so many which include his three nieces who adored him. Ellen Kenner, the oldest, will tell you that Warren taught her to take care of her body and her mind. This inspiring advice set her on a path earn a PhD in Psychology. Jane Litner loves to recall how Warren helped her excel in Math, inspiring her to become a math teacher. Each time they were together, Jane would say, "IDOW" (I depend on Warren) and he would return "IDOF" (I depend on Jane). His youngest niece, Debby Krim, was driven to mechanical and artistic endeavors which, she will tell you, comes directly from Warren's influence. In the 1960's, Uncle Warren was ahead of his time gifting her "boy toys" which all had "some assembly required." Those toys, along with his supportive words, gave her the confidence to embrace mechanical challenges.

He is survived by his stepdaughter, Cathy Gennert and her husband John King, their son Ben King and his wife Stacey King and their daughters Zara and Layla, and son Josh King.

So many friends, neighbors, family members and employees were profoundly impacted by Warren's generosity of ideas, his thoughtful support, and his humility. He was easy to love, and so many of us loved him.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be made to: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick. PO Box 8938, Warwick RI 02888.

## Obituaries

### John A. DelGiudice

John A. DelGiudice, 68, of Warwick, passed away peacefully at home on May 12, 2025. He was the devoted husband of MaryAnn DelGiudice for 33 years and the loving father of David, who was the greatest joy of his life.

Born in Providence, John was the son of former Warwick Councilman, the late John C. and Pauline "Polly" (Crohan) DelGiudice.

John also served on the Warwick City Council representing Ward 5 from 2005 to 2012 and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Warwick Board of Canvassers. John was the owner of JPS Freight Service.

John had a love for boating and found joy sailing on Narragansett Bay, playing with his band "Too Far Gone," and spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his siblings Jeanne, Tony, Mark, and Tim DelGiudice, and Tiam Benoit, along with many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his siblings Mickey DelGiudice and Ellen Hermanowski.

Warm winds and following seas John. You'll be missed dearly by everyone.

His Funeral Service will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at 11:00am, in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave, Warwick. Relatives and friends may gather beginning at 10:00am. His interment will immediately follow in St. Francis Cemetery, Pawtucket. Visitation will be held in the Funeral Home on Thursday from 4:00-7:00pm.



### David Harvey Humphrey

David Harvey Humphrey passed away Tuesday, May 6, 2025. He was born and raised in Watertown, NY, son of the late Harvey and Susan (Davy) Humphrey. In 1965, he married Jeane Germain who passed away after 46 years of marriage. Together they raised two children, Jill and Craig. After being widowed, he met his partner for the remainder of his life, Shirley Keene.

After graduation, Dave joined the US Air Force and was stationed at Mitchel Air Force Base on Long Island, NY. Serving his country enabled him to obtain his education as an aircraft mechanic. Not too long after his discharge from the Air Force, he was able to take his love for airplanes and the skills he acquired to begin working as an A&P Mechanic at Mohawk Airlines. He continued to work for the same company throughout his working career. He saw them through all the airline mergers, from Mohawk, to Allegheny, to US Air, then Piedmont and finally to retire from US Airways 40 years later.

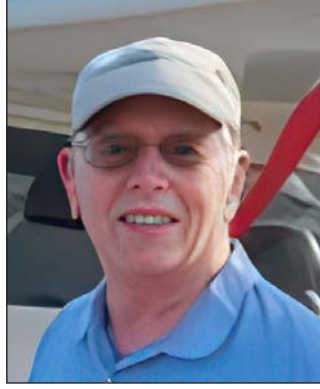
He always had a love for flying. He had a private pilot's license, was an instructor for the Civil Air Patrol, loved going to air shows and air museums. He was also very involved with Asbury United Methodist Church, where he has attended since moving his family to Warwick in 1972.

Family was very important to Dave. He was the neighborhood "fix it" dad and a Little League coach for many years. He thoroughly enjoyed watching his grandchildren grow, hearing about what was going on in their lives, always attending their school and scout functions. He enjoyed photography, using his tools to build things, traveling, especially cruises.

David leaves behind many loved ones including his daughter Jill and her husband Arthur Ouillette, their two sons Kyle and Cory, his son Craig and wife Jessica, their children Tyler and Riley Humphrey. In addition, he leaves behind Shirley and her children, Susan and her husband Steve Capasso, their children Sara and Sophia, her dearly departed son David, his wife Lisa and their children Allison and Jimmy Keene. Besides his sisters Jacqueline Eggleston and Aloha Burnard, he also leaves many nieces and nephews.

Dave will always be remembered as a happy person with a great positive attitude. He was famous for saying, "It will all work out." He was always willing to help and will be missed by many.

A celebration of life for David Humphrey will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church, 143 Ann Mary Brown Drive, Warwick, RI 02888 at 11am on Friday, May 16, 2025. In lieu of flowers, donations to Asbury United Methodist Church-Audio, Visual, Music Fund in his name would be appreciated. Another cause dear to his heart would be the American Cancer Society to support "The Jungle Cruisers" marathon team running in memory of Dave Keene. Support can be done through the link: [https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?fr\\_id=111037&pg=team&team\\_id=2800514](https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=111037&pg=team&team_id=2800514)



### William J. 'Bill' Ryan

William J. "Bill" Ryan passed away on May 5, 2025, at home in Peabody, Kansas. He was surrounded by his loving family. Bill was born on February 27, 1950, in Providence, Rhode Island to James T. and Jeanette M. (Burton) Ryan. On December 12, 1992, he married Janette Butler in Wichita, Kansas.

Bill served his country honorably for two tours in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, receiving many accolades and metals, including the bronze star. He owned and operated Those Blasted Signs in Newton, Kansas for many years, using his wonderful artistic talent. Many of his signs can be found in Newton and surrounding areas.

Bill was an active member of the American Legion Post #2 in Newton and instrumental in the American Legion Riders honoring fallen veterans across Kansas.

His greatest joy was assisting and leading in the Newton Annual Toy Run every November for many years. Bill also joyfully helped with the American Legion Turkey Run at Fort Riley in Kansas.

He is survived by his wife Janette; son, Steven Ryan, daughters Nicole Ryan, Jennifer Brady (Matthew), Janice Garcia (Jessy) and Krystal Lieby (Tyler); sisters: Kathleen M. Nottell (John) and Patricia Keenan (Robert). He is also survived by several nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Michael P. Ryan.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 9:00AM-10:00AM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick followed by Interment with Military Honors at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 301 S County Trail, Exeter.

The family expresses their deep gratitude for the compassionate care provided by the wonderful staff and nurses at Good Shepard Hospice Care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Rheumatology Research Foundation, 2200 Lake Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30319 or online at: <https://www.rheumresearch.org/donate> [www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](http://www.murphyfuneralhomes.org)



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# 'We're the smallest state with the greatest backlot'

*From Western Hills Middle school to Hollywood and back again*

President Ronald Reagan once said that "there is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse."

Steven Feinberg, the executive director of the Rhode Island Film and Television Office, has no objection to this sentiment.

Just drop by C&L Stables at Goddard Park in Warwick someday and watch when he calls his horse, "Rhode Island Rusty". The horse will come charging out of his shed and run up to him like a dog would, nudging at his pal.

True to his love of horses, Steven saved Rusty and can't ride him due to nerve damage from a previous injury. Steven just walks along the beautiful trails with him.

But Steven would probably say that Rusty helped save him, because his previous horse, named Cruiz, had to be put down after a severe injury. An awful event that Steve describe as the "worst day of my life".

So how does this relate to film and television for this soon-to-be newest honorary doctor of letters (to be conferred upon him by the University of Rhode Island on May 16) as well as one of the nine esteemed Rhode Islanders recently inducted into the prestigious Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame?

### Having a dream, working hard

Spend five minutes with Steve and you'll find out it's all about "having a dream and working hard."

Steven Feinberg is one of the lucky ones.

He didn't have to bounce from one career to another to find out what his passion was.

At age eight, the Cranston native made his first movie, "Charlie Chaplin meets Dr. Jekyll".

His dad Ross, a beloved teacher at Coventry Elementary School was his lone camera man, using an old 8mm Kodak Brownie camera. I'm sure that his mom, Lotte (a gemologist who fled Nazi Germany with his grandmother and grandfather) was also there with all the support and encouragement.

The following year, Steven got his own camera, a Super 8 with all the bells and whistles.

He filmed at the airport and near the Warwick Mall, creating his own brand of a James Bond film, once again with the assistance of his mom and dad and brother Robert.

His parents would tell him "If you put in half the money (to buy new equipment) we will put in the other half." So, Steven did what a lot of kids did at that time, he cut lawns, shoveled snow and did odd jobs to bring his share to the table.

I asked him when he knew that mak-

### Meeting with Mike

by Mike Levesque



ing films and being in the industry would be his life's devotion?

I was startled when he answered, "I was 10 years old and driving with my parents.

I remember the exact moment when I thought "maybe one day I will be in charge of movies in Rhode Island."

### Time moved quickly.

He took a filmmaking "after school" class at Western Hills Junior High in Cranston and was the only student in the class to make a movie. He did so with no instruction, as the supervisor was a Home Economics teacher with no knowledge of film but was curious about it. He was rocketing down his life's path.

Fast forward a few years. Steven would spend a year at the University of Rhode Island and then head to UCLA Film School, followed by USC Film School.

He was offered a great job at 20th Century Fox with just two classes to go to get his degree and decided to jump at the opportunity.

His life would change when he heard of an opportunity to apply for a position as Director of the Rhode Island Film office, which was under the umbrella of the Council of the Arts.

With support from heavy hitters like Disney and others, Steven beat out over 300 other applicants for the position.

So, he loaded up 32 boxes of clothes and equipment and drove from LA to RI.

The pay for this new job and his life's dream? \$45,000.

Now, 21 years later, though his ambitions were realized, he still has the unbridled enthusiasm, energy and creative juices that he had as that 8-year-old kid in Cranston.

### This is a guy who loves his job.

What his office has brought to RI is sometimes overlooked and underreported.

It's not from lack of style. Steven's ever-present signature cowboy hat and duster certainly make an impression.

### \$1 billion to the state

In simple terms, under his leadership, the office has brought nearly \$1 billion in film and television productions into the state. That includes more than 130 feature films that used the industry-setting Motion Picture Tax Incentive Program that provides a 30% tax credit on qualified expenditures in the state.

Think of how remarkable that is when you consider that the Governor and legislature puts a cap on the amount available each year. States like



Steven Feinberg in his RI Film and Television office. *Beacon Media photo by Mike Levesque*



Steven and his horse, Rusty. *Submitted photos from Steven Feinberg*



Filming in 1982 while at USC in Agoura Hills, CA. *Submitted photos from Steven Feinberg*



Steven at USC Film School in 1984. *Submitted photos from Steven Feinberg*

Massachusetts and California (30 in all) have no caps. Competition is extremely strong.

But as Steven likes to say, "We're the smallest state with the greatest backlot."

Undaunted by the competition, they have delivered in a big way with countless major stars and major productions utilizing our rich and diverse state with its spectacular coastline.

When I asked him what the most rewarding production were to him personally, he immediately mentioned "The Gilded Age," "The Brotherhood" and "Ella McKay," though he cautioned that the list is a lot longer than 3.

### Employment opportunities

He also was proud about the employment opportunities films bring, remarking that a production like "Ella McKay" requires about 400 crew and cast members and 1200 or so background actors, as well as utilizing local vendors, clean-up crews, tenting, florists, cleaners, lumber and other needs.

He also remarked that, according to a Cam-

bridge study, "for each \$1 provided as tax credits for film production in Rhode Island, the state realizes a return of \$5.44 in economic activity."

Again, referring to the recent production of "The Gilded Age", in one year alone, the state benefitted from 5,925 hotel nights for cast and crew, hiring over 1,450 local employees for the production.

Is retirement in the cards?

"I plan to be here until I'm no longer able to be here," he said. "I'd like to do another feature film in Rhode Island. Maybe take a sabbatical. I also want to build a studio here."

A big task but no one would doubt that if Steven Feinberg sets his mind to it – it will be done.

The guy in the cowboy hat and duster doesn't know the word "can't."

His philosophy is simple.

"If you daydream and work hard and find like-minded people to support that dream – it can come true."

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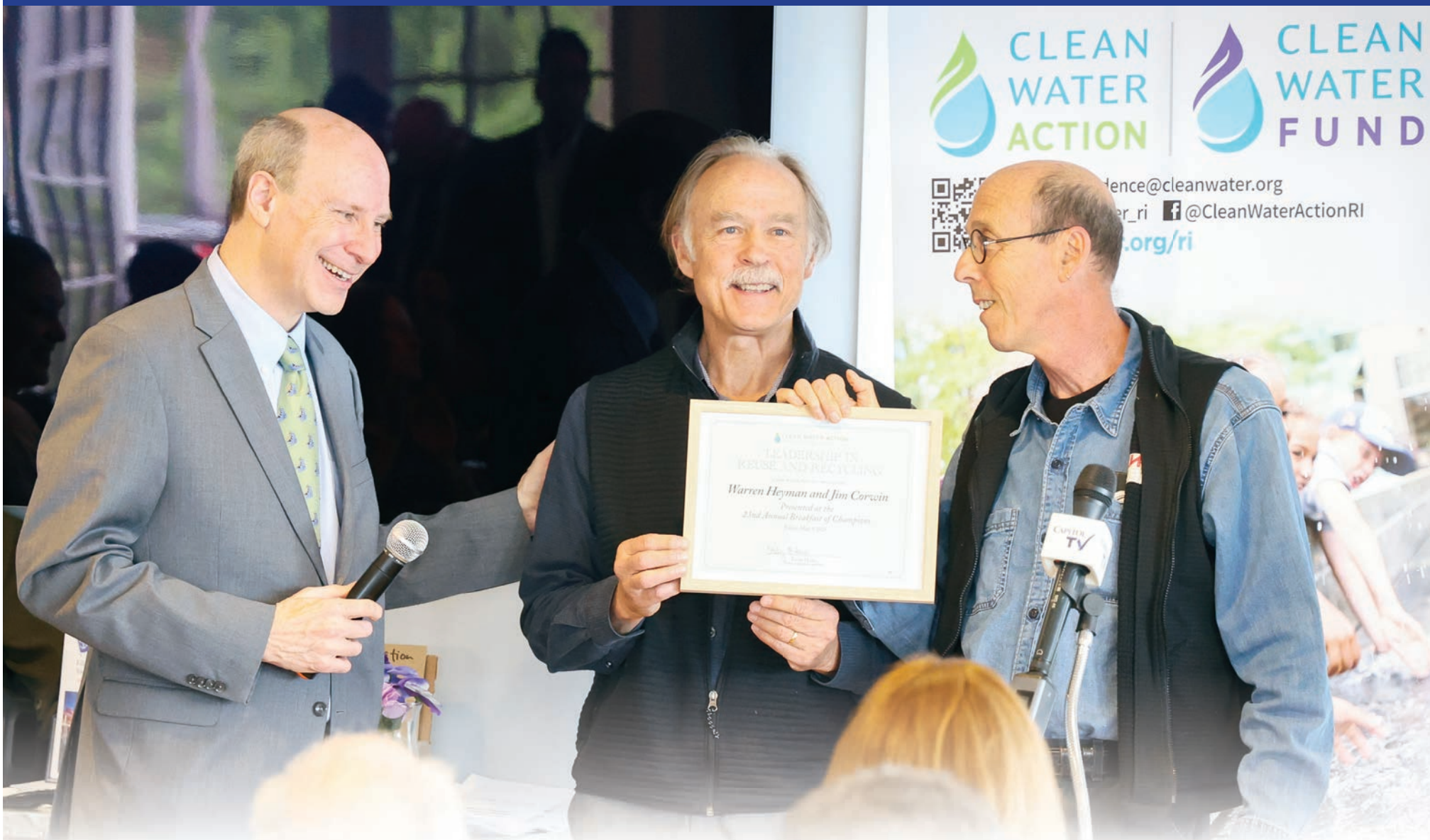
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L-R Bob Walsh, former executive director of the National Education Association of Rhode Island, presents Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of Cranston with the Reuse and Recycling Award. Submitted photo by the RI House of Representatives

## Duo honored for tackling food waste in schools

Effort enlists 2,000 kids statewide, including from Cranston, Johnston, Warwick

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Edgewood Yacht Club was buzzing with activity on the morning of Friday, May 9, for Clean Water Action's 23rd annual Breakfast of Champions. The assembled crowd, including US Senator Jack Reed, US Rep. Seth Magaziner, RI Speaker Joseph Shekarchi, RI Attorney General Peter Neronha, and RI General Treasurer James Diossa, gathered to honor six Rhode Islanders for their environmental work.

Among the morning's honorees were Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of the RI School Recycling Project, recipients of this year's Reuse and Recycling Award. They are Cranston residents.

Begun in 2001, when schools were only beginning to recycle, the initiative has brought school recycling rates from 20 percent to 68 percent. More recently, though, the organization's focus has shifted to food waste. Schools, particularly elementary schools, waste a lot of food, and it all ends up in the Central Landfill in Johnston. Or did, anyway, until Corwin and Heyman launched their program a few years ago.

In 2019, the Attorney General's office provided Corwin a grant to measure food waste in Rhode Island schools. Elementary school students, on average, throw

out about 47 pounds of food in a year. To put it another way, a literal ton of food waste might be generated by just two classrooms over the course of one school year. This causes problems, including the eventual release of methane, a greenhouse gas that is a primary driver of climate change.

Corwin knew there had to be a way around this, and he decided to pilot a program in a handful of area schools. With a \$40,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, he conceived a strategy to eliminate food waste out of the trash. Sensing resistance from custodians and teachers, Corwin brought in Heyman, a recently retired friend from the Edgewood neighborhood with decades of experience organizing for the hospitality workers' union UNITE HERE.

"I said you'll need to talk to custodians, and you'll need to talk to the food service workers," Corwin says. Heyman agreed.

"I'm retired but now I'm working 60 hours a week," Heyman says. "But it's totally fun and extremely rewarding. I've met so many amazing teachers, custodians, food workers and principals."

The food waste program now includes 52 schools in 16 districts across the state, from the Newport and Chariho districts up to Woonsocket and Burrillville. For now the program is most concentrated in ele-

mentary schools, where students are actually the most wasteful with their lunches, but the program is gradually expanding into middle schools and high schools.

Corwin, Heyman, and a group of about 18 volunteers around the state visit schools and train groups of students about how to properly dispose of unwanted lunch. In the cafeteria, these student rangers guide their classmates through a quick and efficient five-step process.

First, they remove food that is still edible—unpeeled bananas and orange, for instance. That food goes into refrigerators supplied by the School Recycling Project, with signs in English and Spanish telling students that the food is free to anyone who will eat it. Food insecurity is a real issue in many schools, and studies have shown that hungry students are more tired and less able to concentrate on lessons.

The second step is a five-gallon bucket with a simple colander on top. Students empty their juice and milk containers, and the liquids are later poured down the drain.

Third is recycling. This includes juice boxes, milk cartons, and paper lunch bags.

By this point, all that's left is solid food, maybe a bit of trash, and a disposable lunch tray if the school doesn't have an operating dishwasher. Opened, uneaten

food goes into a compost bin. So do the compostable trays, thanks to a new law banning styrofoam trays from schools. What's left is lightweight and doesn't take up much space. Plastic silverware can't be recycled. Neither can plastic sandwich bags or chip wrappers.

There are about 2,000 trained student rangers—some schools call them different names but the idea is the same—rotating lunch shifts every few weeks. By Corwin and Heyman's count, they have already diverted 260 tons of food waste from the landfill and redirected about 30 tons of healthy food from the landfill to hungry students.

Heyman looks to the future. "There are no more landfills in Connecticut," he said. "They burn about 60 percent of their solid waste, and the rest they pay to haul to a landfill in Pennsylvania." The Central Landfill in Johnston is expected to reach capacity in the next 15 years or so.

"The taxpayers will be paying to haul trash out of state," he says. "And more money for trash disposal means less money for the schools."

One school of the program is that the composted food returns in the form of fertile soil. Schools like Nathan Bishop Middle School in Providence use the soil to plant garden beds and have even incorpo-

### Rhode Island Clean Water Action 2025 Environmental Champions



Jim Corwin and Warren Heyman of the RI School Recycling Project along with fellow award winners, State Rep. Megan Cotter and Pawtucket City Councilman Clovis Gregor. They were joined by Emily Howe, executive director of Clean Water Action and Jed Thorp, Save the Bay's director of advocacy. Submitted photo by the RI House of Representatives

#### David R. Gerraughty Award for Lifetime Commitment to the Environment

— Dr. Hans Scholl is active member of Climate Action RI's Politics Team and the Yes to Wind Campaign as well as the PolComm Team of the Environment Council of Rhode Island. He maintains a public accounting of pending environmental legislation which helps organizers know how and when to influence the progress of bills in the Rhode Island General Assembly. Additionally, his work highlighting the dangers of artificial turf polluting underground water supplies, rivers, and Narragansett Bay is noteworthy.

#### Legislative Champion

— Rep. Megan Cotter (Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond) in 2024 fought to secure the \$12 million in the Green Bond for the preservation of green open spaces in Rhode Island. She also leads by example and is an avid bicyclist while knocking on doors in her community.

#### Reuse and Recycling Award

— Warren Heyman and Jim Corwin partnered with schools to start the RI School Recycling Project, which reduces waste in cafeterias and empowers kids to be recycling, reuse, and composting leaders. The program sometimes works alongside Clean Water Action's ReThink Disposable program.

#### Environmental Justice Leader

— Pawtucket City Councilman Clovis Gregor led an inspiring campaign to save Morley Field in Pawtucket, drawing attention and media eyes to inequities in green space access.

#### Steadfast Advocacy Award

— Barry Schiller was honored for his decades of passionate advocacy for mass transit and RIPTA.

rated gardening into the special education curriculum.

Rhodes Elementary School in Cranston was one of the first to implement the program. In April it was launched at Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, and in Johnston it operates at Bar Avenue Elementary School. That school's cafeteria switched to metal trays last year, a move so notable that the Washington Post wrote about it.

There are substantial benefits to diverting food waste out of the trash. First and foremost, less trash in the dumpsters means that schools save money by reducing trash pickup. Less food in the dumpsters means fewer rodents and other hungry pests lurking. Less food waste in the landfill means a reduction in harmful methane as the food decomposes. And fewer bags in the landfill

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Jean Carlson

## BamBam

Are you looking for a fun-loving, active boy who will steal your heart? Well, here you go, meet BamBam! This young, handsome fellow loves to play fetch and brings smiles to everyone's face wherever he goes! BamBam is in search of a home with a fenced in yard where he can run around till his heart's content! If you already have a dog and are in search of a friend for your current pup, maybe BamBam is the boy for you. For more information about him, please contact the Cranston Animal Shelter at 401-464-8700 for more information. When you see BamBam in person, you will smile too!

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)

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L-R Julia Curtin as River Sister, Emma Dunlop as Jane, Tali Russel as Jo, Steph Rodger as Elizabeth, Rose Trammell as Cathy. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke

## Untamed heroines, unwritten rules

### Barker Playhouse presents 'You On The Moors Now'

By IDA ZECCO

You On The Moors Now is a literary and theatrical eruption that tears through the narratives of 19th-century heroines with all the subtlety of a battle cry.

It is inspired by four 19th century novels: "Pride and Prejudice" [1813], "Wuthering Heights" [1847], "Jane Eyre" [1847], and "Little Women" [1868-69], "You on the Moors Now" by Jaclyn Backhaus.

"You on the Moors Now" is what happens when the Brontës, Jane Austen, and Louisa May Alcott go to a feminist rage room together and rewrite their own novels. The show gleefully detonates the corset-tight constraints of 19th-century romance plots, giving us heroines who stomp, shout, sword fight, and side-eye their suitors into emotional oblivion. It's messy, wildly theatrical, and smarter than it has any right to be.

Set in a mythic wilderness where the moors become a surreal playground of feminist reckoning, the "no" that each heroine gives to her respective suitor in the opening is not just a personal refusal—it's a systemic one. Backhaus doesn't simply ask what happens when literary women say no to love; she asks what happens when they say no to structure, genre, and the male gaze entirely.

Characters speak in heightened poetic bursts, slam into pop culture references, and slip into stylized battle scenes. What makes You On The Moors Now truly intelligent is its

self-awareness. These women are complex, contradictory, sometimes insufferable.

The quartet of women deliver hysterically volatile performances.

Rosalynde Trammell as Cathy Linton is both bold and nuanced, capturing the character's passionate nature while infusing her with a modern sensibility. Trammell's performance for her depth and authenticity, with a fresh take on this classic character.

Tali Russell brings Jo March to life with infectious energy and wit, embodying the character's independent spirit and determination. Russell is both heartfelt and humorous, making Jo's journey of self-discovery relatable and inspiring.

Stephanie Rodger as Lizzy Bennet is sharp, intelligent, and full of charming warmth. Rodger skillfully delivers an engaging and thought-provoking character adding a contemporary edge to this beloved heroine.

Emma Dunlop as Jane Eyre blends strength and vulnerability to Eyre's inner turmoil and resilience. Dunlop offers a provocative exploration of love and identity while providing a fresh perspective on a well-known tale.

Then, the suitors: Mark Roberts as Mr. Darcy broods so hard he could power a small Victorian village with sheer emotional repression. Roberts' Darcy is less a man and more a walking cloud of rain and judgment.

Tylar Jahumpa's Mr. Rochester rolls in with red flags flapping—mysterious, intense, and one attic fire away from being a full-blown insur-

ance liability. Laurie (aka Theodore Laurence) played by Tyler John is rich, charming, and has golden retriever energy, but he's also that guy who thinks "no" means "try harder, but with flowers."

Kevin Thibault's performance as Heathcliff, is a goth cryptid raised by vengeance and wind—if emotional damage were currency, he'd own half of England. Together, these suitors are the literary Avengers of red-flag romance, and the play gleefully kicks them to the curb.

With an ensemble cast of 13 performers, applause must go to Morgan Salpietro, director, who brings an imaginative and fearless vision to the stage. Salpietro blends literary classics with bold, contemporary storytelling crackling with energy, pushing boundaries while honoring the emotional core of the characters. Brava!

In an era where feminist narratives are often commodified into sleek empowerment slogans, You On The Moors Now is refreshingly unruly. It dares to let its heroines be messy, angry, and unresolvable. It's a play that trusts its audience to navigate discomfort, to wrestle with history, and to imagine new forms of storytelling—unpolished, imperfect, but free.

**Who:** The Players  
**Where:** Barker Playhouse  
 400 Benefit Street, Providence  
**When:** May 9, 10, 16 & 17 - 7:30 PM; May 11 & 18 - 2 PM

**Tickets:** Box Office: 401-273-0590  
[www.playersri.org/main-stage](http://www.playersri.org/main-stage)



L-R Katherine Murphy, Natalie Balen, and Sara McCormick as the March sisters. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke



L-R Tyler John as Laurie, Tylar Jahumpa as Rochester, Mark Roberts as Darcy, Kevin Thibault as Heathcliff. Submitted photos by Katie O'Rourke



Two photos of examples of trash. Submitted photo by Warren Heyman

● WASTE from page 13

mean that the Johnston facility might extend its life a little longer.

"All they have to pay for now is compostable gloves, compostable liners for the bins, and the fee to haul the food waste somewhere," Heyman says. "So there's a lot of different savings happening."

Corwin knew there would be resistance. "My wife is a teacher," Corwin said. "So I know that they're stretched very thin and focused on getting kids to test well. There's no time for what they might see as extracurricular." Teachers have started taking an in-

terest, though. Schools do monthly audits of how much is being thrown away and how much is being diverted.

At Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, before the program was implemented the school was throwing away 105 pounds of trash—about 12 bags—every day. When food waste is taken out of the equation, they were throwing away 10 pounds of trash a day, only two bags.

This year, the program received a federal grant to expand into Pawtucket, but like many grant contracts, theirs was canceled abruptly by the federal Department of Government

Efficiency (DOGE) last month. Luckily, the Rhode Island Foundation and the Newport-based nonprofit 11th Hour Racing stepped in. Whether the project will keep growing remains unclear, but Corwin and Heyman are plugging ahead.

The United Nations hopes to see a food waste reduction of 45 percent by the year 2030. According to the UN Environment Program, food waste is the third most common man-made cause of methane after the energy and agriculture industries.

"There are 305 schools in Rhode Island," Heyman speculates. "Can we get them all composting by 2030?"

## Before

At Hoxsie Elementary School in Warwick, before the program was implemented the school was throwing away 105 pounds of trash—about 12 bags—every day.

## After

When food waste is taken out of the equation, Hoxsie was disposing of 10 pounds of trash a day, only two bags.



# Allain gets locals involved with 'Bird In My Chest'

Submitted photo by David Lee Black

By **ROB DUGUAY**

For the past few decades, Rhode Island has had a very vibrant and rich singer-songwriter community. You can see a ton of them playing at venues all over the state on a regular basis, including Steve Allain.

While taking on an expansive approach to his craft, the Providence based artist incorporates elements of country, folk and blues along with having a knack for storytelling through his tunes. He also has been a collaborator with a wide array of musicians in the scene, which is exemplified in his new album "Bird In My Chest" that came out on May 9. This specific vibe within the full-length is shown through the sonic variety that's present in the tracks from start to finish.

Allain worked with engineer Ross Lenzig on the recording process. They handled the production together. The songs were captured in two different settings, with some done in Swansea, Massachusetts and others in Grand Isle, Vermont.

"This is by far the best collection of songs that I have released," he says about the making of "Bird In My Chest". "Once we got them into the studio and started arranging them, the results exceeded my expectations."

Along Tracie Potochnik from the folk duo Cardboard Ox into the fold, Allain included other musicians who are

either based around the area or in other parts of the country. These include Tessa Sacramone on violin, Ben Shaw on saxophone, Bessie Bessin on accordion and Nicole Gauthier on backing vocals.

While some songs like "I Was Never Good Enough" and "Goddamn the Day" have noticeable amplification, the majority of "Bird In My Chest" is very stripped down while abiding by an acoustic aesthetic. This is highlighted through the tunes "Old House", "Go to Glory" and "Long Sad Season" among others. There are themes of love, struggle and acceptance that come across at various instances, and they are best experienced through Allain's lyrics.

To celebrate the release of the new album, there's going to be a show happening on May 17 at The Music Mansion located on 88 Meeting Street in Providence starting at 5pm. To purchase tickets, log onto the venue's website at musicmansion.org.

To check out "Bird In My Chest" before attending, look it up on either Spotify, YouTube or any other streaming service of your choice. For more information about Allain, other shows that he has coming up and the rest of his discography, log onto [steveallain.com](http://steveallain.com)



Wild West Shrimp Courtesy [longhornsteakhouse.com](http://longhornsteakhouse.com)



Grilled Lamb Chops Courtesy [longhornsteakhouse.com](http://longhornsteakhouse.com)

## Warwick's LongHorn Steakhouse—steaks & more

Restaurant Review by **DON FOWLER**

While most of our restaurant reviews concentrate on locally-owned establishments, we occasionally check out the national chains. We found a good one in Warwick.

Joyce likes her steaks extra rare, and that's hard to come by at many restaurants, but LongHorn Steakhouse in the Warwick Mall complex accommodated her perfectly.

I'm not a steak person, but noted online that LongHorn offered a grilled lamb chop dinner, plus a number of seafood and chicken entrees.

We were impressed with the warm, homey atmosphere of the restaurant and equally impressed with our waiter, who actually seemed to be enjoying his job.

We chose the shrimp appetizer from an extensive list and were pleased with its careful preparation, served piping hot with peppers and a delicious sauce (\$12.79).

Joyce chose the 6 oz. Flo's Filet (\$24.49). The waiter

underlined the extra rare note for the chef, and it came extra rare, juicy and tasty.

Her Caesar salad had thin slices of parmesan and a smooth dressing.

My six grilled lamb chops were smothered in a delicious sauce, tender and delicious. Two of them went home for the next day, along with the generous portion of perfectly cooked asparagus.

We both enjoyed the asparagus, thin, crunchy and cooked to perfection.

I've been to both overpriced and bargain steakhouses and have never been a fan of either. LongHorn strikes a perfect balance.

They are open seven days a week until 10:00 p.m.

Their number is 737-6943 and they can be found online at [longhornsteakhouse.com](http://longhornsteakhouse.com).

See it on the **Screen**  
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Crooked politicians and businesspeople are once again the target, as our four heroes plus Bob come together on a dangerous mission, using their wits, weapons and superpowers to save the world.

There's loads of action, plus some nostalgia and bickering to fill in the spaces.



Fight or Flight

**FIGHT OR FLIGHT**

\*\*

(Quirky, Violent Mess)

You won't see this one on your flight to San Francisco.

Josh Hartnett stars as a mercenary who is hired to capture a "ghost" on a flight from Bangkok.

He is drugged and beaten to a pulp in the bathroom by his seatmate until he recovers enough to kill him in a bloody battle.

During the eight-hour flight, he kills half of the passengers, who all turn out to be assassins looking for the ghost.

Much of this is done in a cartoonish style, with blood and guts spilling in the aisles, while Reyes makes inane comments that are supposed to turn this into a comedy.

He is aided by a flight attendant (Charithra Chandran) who turns out not to be who we think she is.

This stupid movie goes on and on ad nauseum to its stupid conclusion.



Nonnas

**NETFLIX**

**NONNAS**

\*\*\* 1/2

(Based on True Story of restaurateur)

Vince Vaughn stars as Joey Scaravella, a Brooklyn mechanic who dreams of owning his own Italian restaurant on Staten Island.

Inspired by growing up with his mother's cooking, he takes the plunge by purchasing a closed restaurant, unaware of the obstacles lying ahead, mostly dealing with money.

Joey hires four Nonnas (grandmotherly women) all with interesting backgrounds and personalities.

He reacquaints himself with his high school sweetheart and they all come together to create Enoteca Maria a restaurant that has been a hit in New York for over fifteen years.

The movie is a bit schmaltzy at times, but it also is quite heartwarming.

You'll find yourself cheering for Joey to make it.

## The stories beneath the stones

Most pass by a cemetery and acknowledge nothing more than a sea of stones. Most don't consider the fact that beneath every stone is a story. In St. Ann's Cemetery in Cranston, there are over 130,000 stories.

On the morning of Feb. 20, 1911, three people were laid in a common grave at St. Ann's Cemetery as a thick sheet of snow fell from the sky and unfurled upon the mourners. Most who pass by that grave don't know the three stories — intertwined into a single horrific tale — buried beneath the stone.

Ernest St. Laurent was born in Canada in 1878. At the age of three, he came to America with his parents and settled in Providence. He married Annie Lacerte on July 29, 1902 and they went on to have two children. A son, Joseph Ernest Arthur St. Laurent, who was born on Oct. 8, 1905, did not survive. In 1908, Annie gave birth to their

### Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



daughter Blanche.

The St. Laurent family resided on Cranston Street in Providence. Ernest was employed as an optical framer. By the winter of 1911, Ernest was suffering with ill health. He had also become overwhelmed by his job and seemed to be spiraling into a pit of mental agitation. Questions swirled in his head.

He was having to take on too much responsibility at work — more than he could handle — but how could he quit and render himself unable to financially support his wife and daughter? What would happen when his medical condition worsened?

Certainly, Annie would be forced to take on the role of nursemaid to care for him. Seeing nothing but dimness in both of their futures, Ernest conceived a

plan and shared it with his wife to end their lives.

It didn't take long for both parties to begin questioning what would happen to their three-year-old daughter in the event both were gone. Upon such a realization, Ernest withdrew his suicide pact idea.

About six weeks later, however, the couple rethought the situation.

On the evening of Feb. 17, 1911, Ernest and Annie attended a party. Annie apparently was not tight-lipped about the nightmarish plans and conversations she and her husband indulged in. She confessed to family members that Ernest had requested her to stand in a doorway so that he could shoot her. That evening, the 29-year-old wife and mother talked about how she had ventured into town just hours before the party to purchase the clothes she wished to be buried in. In between issuing these concerning bits of informa-

tion, party guests later said that she cried hysterically throughout the event.

When the St. Laurents had returned to their home, it was alleged by police that Ernest waited for Annie to fall asleep in their bed before removing Blanche from her own bedroom and laying her down beside her mother. It was assumed he then affixed the tube, which was found to the gas jet, laid the open end of the tube upon the bed, turned on the gas, and laid down beside his wife and daughter.

In the morning, Ernest's father came upon the unspeakable scene. They appeared to be sleeping — his son having decided that his own chosen demise would include them all.

Three days later, Ernest, Annie and Blanche were laid to rest in a triple funeral service. Their dark story was buried with them, and pure, white snow quickly covered the ground.

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# 'No Apologies' comedy show makes no apologies



Jim Florentine. Submitted photo

By **ROB DUGUAY**

In the world of stand-up comedy, there are certain performers who hold nothing back with their material and have no filter whatsoever. While their jokes aren't for everyone, their honest approach can often be hilarious.

It's fair to say The No Apologies Comedy Show makes no apologies.

The May 17 show at 7:30pm at the Park Theatre in Cranston will feature a trio of comedians, including Tom Cotter, a Providence native, Tammy Pescatelli and Jim Florentine.

Florentine and I talked ahead of the festivities about how he got his big break in stand-up, making prank calls with telemarketers, being a fan of heavy metal and hard rock music and his plans for the near future.

**Rob Duguay:** You got your big break in comedy when you and fellow comic Jim Norton met Andrew Dice Clay at The Comedy Store in Los Angeles during the late '90s and you both eventually became his opening acts. It's been mentioned that you were inspired to do stand-up from watching Clay as part of a Rodney Dangerfield comedy special, so how did you and Jim get to meet him backstage after a show and what was the experience like sharing the stage with him?

**Jim Florentine:** That was during our first day ever in Los Angeles. Louie Anderson had a late night comedy show that he hosted on NBC, so we got flown out there for it. We heard from a fellow comic friend, Rich Vos, that Dice was hanging out at The Comedy Store. He was hanging out back with Rich, we asked him if we could get a picture, and he was like, "No", and we were like, "C'mon, we're big fans", so he finally agreed to do it. We started talking, we told him that we were fans of his album

"The Day the Laughter Died" where he pretty much bombs, we started telling him the jokes and he couldn't believe that we knew all this stuff.

He told us to go up on stage and tell these jokes for him and his friends, so we got up and did the jokes and stuff. After that, he said, "I like you guys." We exchanged numbers and started opening for him. It was crazy.

**RD:** That's a great story. You've done voice acting for several characters on the Comedy Central show Crank Yankers, which was originally aired in 2002, so when you got this gig voicing puppets rather than performing in front of people, did it take any adjusting? Were you familiar with prank call comedy through The Jerky Boys and stuff like that?

**JF:** I have my own CDs out where I mess with telemarketers. They would call, I'd record them and mess with them, so that's how I got the gig. The people who started Crank Yankers heard my calls and they wanted me for the show, and the show was basically the same thing other than that it was outgoing calls instead of incoming calls, but I was already doing prank calls at the time.

**RD:** You were also a co-host on "The Metal Show" that was on VH1 Classic, and you're a noted fan of heavy metal and hard rock music. I know this is probably a tough question for you to answer, but who would you say is on your personal Mount Rushmore of favorite bands?

**JF:** Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath, AC/DC and Motörhead, those bands are pretty much my top three along with Ozzy.

**RD:** Those are great picks. Are there any newer metal or rock acts that you listen to, or do you just stick with the classics?

**JF:** I stick with the classics. Nothing that new is sticking with me for some reason, so I don't go searching that much anymore at this point.

**RD:** I hear that, especially with your busy schedule not giving you the time to surf the web or hit up local record stores. For this "No Apologies Comedy Show", you are part of a stacked lineup with Tom Cotter and Tammy Pescatelli, so what are your thoughts on performing in Cranston and what are your plans afterwards?

**JF:** Rhode Island is always a great state to perform stand-up in and I'm excited to be part of a lineup with Tom and Tammy. We've been doing shows together for the past year or two and the Rhode Island crowds are always great, I'm always excited to go there. After the show, I'm just going to be touring. I released a special around a year ago, so I'm working on a whole new set at this point and that's basically what I have going on.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich, hosts three concerts. Submitted photo

## Music On The Hill chamber music festival

Next week, Music on the Hill opens its seventeenth chamber music festival with seven concerts in the West Bay as summer begins. Concerts pair familiar works by Bach, Brahms, and Copland with new favorites. Tickets are just \$30 in advance with Eventbrite or at the door (cash/check only), and free for students with I.D. For information, visit [www.musiconthehillri.org](http://www.musiconthehillri.org).

### 2025 Chamber Music Festival

#### Silent Movies

**Crafted Hope Brewing, 1485 South County Trail, East Greenwich**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

**Craft beer and food truck fare available for purchase**

The Great Train Robbery, Tango Tangles, and other classic shorts starring Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Buster Keaton

Music of Copland, Berlin, Chopin, and more

*Anton Miller, violin and Rita Porfiris, viola*



Silent Movies "A Burlesque on Carmen" and "The Great Train Robbery" will be just two of the shorts screened May 28 with live music, at Crafted Hope Brewing in East Greenwich. Submitted photos

#### Bach & Beethoven

**First Baptist Church, 30 Peirce St, East Greenwich**

**Thursday, May 29, 7:00 pm**

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 6 in D Major

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 3 in C Major

Beethoven, Serenade for flute, violin and viola

*Peter Ferry, marimba; Anthony Trionfo, flute; Anton Miller, violin; Rita Porfiris, viola*

**Narragansett Brass Quintet on the lawn at Clouds Hill Museum, 4157 Post Rd, Warwick**  
**Sunday, June 1, 4:00 pm**

**Please bring a chair or blanket. Rain location: First Baptist Church**

Dukas, Fanfare from La Peri  
 Pezel, Sonata No. 22  
 JS Bach, Selections from The Art of Fugue

Bellon, Quintette  
 Vaughan Williams, English Folk Songs

Schickele, Brass Summer  
 Bizet, Selections from Carmen

Owen, 1954 Suite  
 Blake, Roberts, Ragtime Suite

*Stephen Banzaert, Gino Villareal, trumpet; Kevin Owen, French horn; Alexei Doohovskoy, trombone; Thomas Gregory, tuba*



Narragansett Brass Quintet performs on the lawn at Clouds Hill, Sunday June 1 at 4:00. Submitted photos

#### We've Gone Baroque

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich**

**Wednesday, June 4, 7:00 pm**

J.S. Bach, Suite No. 2 for Solo Cello in D minor

Vivaldi, Concerto in C Major

C.P.E. Bach, Flute Concerto in G Major

Dall'Abaco, Sonata da Camera

Torelli, Trumpet Concerto in D Major

*Peter Ferry, marimba; Anthony Trionfo, flute; Roderick MacDonald, trumpet; Victoria Moreira and Naomi Culp, violins; Gillian Gallagher, viola; Elisa Kohanski, cello; John Pellegrino, bass.*

*Scholarship spotlight: Israel Alvarez, piano*

#### All Brahms

**St Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St, East Greenwich**

**Saturday, June 7, 7:00 pm**

Cello Sonata No. 1 in E Minor

Three Songs

Clarinet Sonata No 2. in Eb Major

*Kate Norigian, soprano; Elisa Kohanski, cello; Daniel Gilbert, clarinet; Donna Lee, Jack Kurutz, and John Norigian, piano*

#### Appalachian Spring

**Immaculate Conception Church, 237 Garden Hills Dr, Cranston**

**Sunday, June 8, 7:00 pm**

Williams, Air and Simple Gifts

O'Connor, Appalachia Waltz

American/Appalachian Loop Pedal Violin Set

Copland, Appalachian Spring

*Kimberly Fang, Anton Miller, Sarah Whitney, Liana Zaretsky, violins; Rita Porfiris and Sebastian Ruth, viola; Elisa Kohanski, Trevor Handy, cello; John Pellegrino, bass; Anthony Trionfo, flute; Daniel Gilbert, clarinet; Ellen Connors, bassoon; Donna Lee, piano; Edward Markward, conductor*

*Scholarship spotlight, Jack Paiva, piano*

#### Festival Finale

**St Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St, East Greenwich**

**Tuesday, June 10, 7:00 pm**

Poulenc, Sonata for Trumpet, French Horn and Trombone

Albinoni, Concerto for Oboe in D minor

Vivaldi, Concerto in C Major

Hertel, Concerto for Trumpet and Oboe in Eb Major

Brahms, Vocal Duets arr. for French Horn and Trombone

*Peter Ferry, marimba; Roderick MacDonald, trumpet; Michelle Baker, French horn; Charles Baker, trombone; Anne Marie Gabriele, oboe; Victoria Moreira and Kristen Pellegrino, violins; Gillian Gallagher, viola; Trevor Handy, cello; John Pellegrino, bass; Bonnie Anderson, piano*

Schedule subject to change.

Visit [www.musiconthehillri.org](http://www.musiconthehillri.org) for up-to-date information.

**A special event June 11 will benefit Music on the Hill's festival and education programs: A "Gilded Age" House Concert** in the parlor at Clouds Hill, an evening of American romantic music with pianist **Bonnie Anderson** and cellist **Trevor Handy**. \$150 per person donation includes the concert, wine, and hors d'oeuvres, and is limited to 40 guests. The Clouds Hill parlor is one of the locations featured in HBO's hit series "The Gilded Age." This concert offers music of the time performed on the cello and Clouds Hill's historic piano. For information, visit [www.musiconthehillri.org](http://www.musiconthehillri.org).

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# Hail and ice and spring, oh my!

The mystery of how hail is formed had completely eluded me. How can chunks of ice the size of a quarter, or larger, manage to fall out of the sky?

It seems downright ridiculous that frozen projectiles come plummeting from the sky on a warm, sunny day. I learned that the secret to this icy surprise lies not at ground level, but high up in the atmosphere, where the weather is running a completely different program. Hail forms inside strong thunderstorms with powerful updrafts, which are basically nature's version of an express elevator for hot, moist air.

On a toasty day, that warm air rises up, up, up, only to get slapped in the face by frigid temperatures at high altitudes, sometimes colder than the freezer.

Up there, super-cooled water droplets, liquid water that's somehow still chilling below 32°F,

start freezing around whatever bits of dust, dirt, or bug wings they can find. This creates the humble beginnings of a hailstone. The storm's updrafts hurl it skyward over and over again, each time adding more icy layers like a snowball gathering mass rolling down a hill.

Eventually, gravity gives in, and the now plump hailstone joins its frozen comrades for a dramatic crash-landing on cars, rooftops, roads, and any poor soul who did not make it inside in time.

I should be glad it is only ice, which is relatively harmless. In places like Honduras, there is a rare phenomenon called "animal rain" where fish, frogs, or even tiny crabs fall from the sky during storms. Scientists believe the same powerful updrafts involved with making hail suck them up from lakes or rivers and drop



## Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

them miles away. Imagine getting hit on the head with a fish, one would need an umbrella and a fishing net.

I have been tricked by ice once before. We had decided to visit Niagara Falls in January because, in our infinite wisdom, we thought, "How magical would it be to see the Falls in winter?" Spoiler alert: it was magical all right—like being drop-kicked into a snow globe during the Ice Age.

The moment we stepped out of the car, the wind slapped us so hard our nostrils froze.

Hubby, ever the optimist, said, "At least the parking was easy, there were plenty of spaces!" That's because nobody else was

insane enough to be there. As we waddled toward the viewing platform, bundled up with sleeping bags wrapped around us for extra warmth, we saw it: Niagara Falls, seemingly frozen mid-roar. Giant icicles clung to the cliffs, mist had solidified into a surreal icy fog, and the water itself looked like it had been paused with a remote control. I reached for my phone to take a picture, only to realize it would be impossible to do with all of my gear on. I would simply buy a postcard of the picture, which would undoubtedly present a much more beautiful view than I could take on my phone in the cold. After about 10 minutes of gawking, we shuffled back to the car. I must admit, it was a beautiful, thunderous, icy masterpiece carved by nature, and the trip was totally worth it.

We are currently in spring, waiting for summer. The sun

stays out longer, and we get these glorious long days when it feels like there is plenty of time to do anything outside. The air is crisp and fresh. We no longer need coats or long sleeves with consistent 70-degree weather all around us.

May is perfect weather, Goldilocks temperature: not too hot and not too cold! It is a magical temperature where we do not experience heat stroke or frostbite. No more cranking up the heat, and it is not time yet to turn on the air conditioners. I can sleep with the windows open and feel the cool air drafting through the windows. Perfect!

That is, until I can step outside to bask in the sun, only to get pelted with ice cubes from the sky, which must be nature's way of reminding me not to get too comfortable. Yes, surprisingly, May is a prime month for hail.

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Sue Rezendes can be reached at The Travel Connection at 401-946-6010 or via email at [sue@travelconnectionri.com](mailto:sue@travelconnectionri.com). To learn more, visit the website at: [www.travelconnectionri.com](http://www.travelconnectionri.com). The Travel Connection is located at 1265R Post Road. Hours are Monday – Friday, 11am – 3pm, Saturdays from 10am – 2pm by appointment.



Visit the island paradise of Barbados with the professional help of Sue Rezendes of The Travel Connection in Warwick! This could be your life in a matter of hours, so call Sue today at 401-946-6010!

By JENNIFER COATES

continues to forge for itself.

The island of Barbados, an island country in the Atlantic Ocean, may be only 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, but it is world renowned for its natural beauty, year-round sunny weather, and gracious people. When asked what makes this island country so famous, the answer lies in its stunning beaches, rich history, vibrant culture and reputation as the "culinary capital of the Caribbean". Barbados is the vacation destination that should top your bucket list this year!

Situated in the West Indies, Barbados is the easternmost island of the Caribbean. Its heritage is unique with traditions and celebrations such as their annual Crop Over Festival which give this island paradise its identity and honor its layered history. One of its special claims to fame is that it is considered the birthplace of rum. This is a country which rightfully prides itself in both its illustrious past and the exciting future that it

For those who love cultural and culinary destinations, Barbados is the place for you! But if you just love long walks along pristine beaches or swaying in a hammock overlooking the ocean, it is also the perfect place to visit. There is nowhere like Barbados to be rejuvenated and restored!

If you are looking for something a little more adventurous or wellness-oriented, then Barbados has a lot to offer here too! Heal your mind, body and soul with spa treatments in the inland's many boutique clubs and luxurious spas, or enjoy something more challenging like paddle board yoga. Feeling adventurous? Try any number of exhilarating diversions such as hiking, biking, snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, kite surfing, deep-sea fishing, jet skiing, golfing and taking an island safari. The world literally is your oyster in Barbados!

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# Sports

## Pilgrim unified takes home title

Pats rebound after 2024 finals loss

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
Beacon Sports Editor

The Pilgrim unified basketball team returned to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Championships last weekend at Bishop Hendricken and topped Mt. Hope to win the title. The Pats reached the championships last season but lost in the finals.

Pilgrim coach Sean Magee was proud of his team for its improvement over the course of the past two seasons, as well as its resiliency after coming up short last season.

“It meant a lot. They were very excited. We had a lot of kids returning that lost in the finals last year, so to be on the other side was great. The beauty of this team is they got better. They got better since last year and it was fun to be a part of. It was a great experience,” said Magee.

With so many returning players, the athletes and partners grew to be friends both on and off the court. That chemistry helped push the program over the top as it hoisted the championship plaque.

Magee mentioned some key athlete-partner duos like Finnegan Blakely and Keaney Bayha, Tyler Martin and Connor Reece, and Juliana Kavanagh and Emilia Kaczmaryk.

“It is one of the most beautiful parts of the program itself. Mixing students of all different abilities together, seeing the athletes and partners work together. The partners want to be with the athletes and the athletes want to be with the partners. Winning is fine, but the relationships that they build

● UNIFIED to page 20



The Pilgrim unified basketball team after winning the state championship last weekend at Bishop Hendricken (above). Pilgrim's Finnegan Blakely and Keaney Bayha celebrate after winning the title (at left). Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



### Athlete of the Week: Cornelius Zmed

The Warwick Beacon's Athlete of the Week is tennis player Cornelius Zmed. Zmed has enjoyed a breakout season as a freshman for the Warwick co-op and took home another three wins at top singles in the past week. He earned a pivotal win in three sets against Cranston East last week in a battle of elites, helping the co-op emerge as a contender as playoffs approach. Zmed also qualified for the individual state tournament.

## CCRI advances to NJCAA World Series

FROM STAFF REPORTS

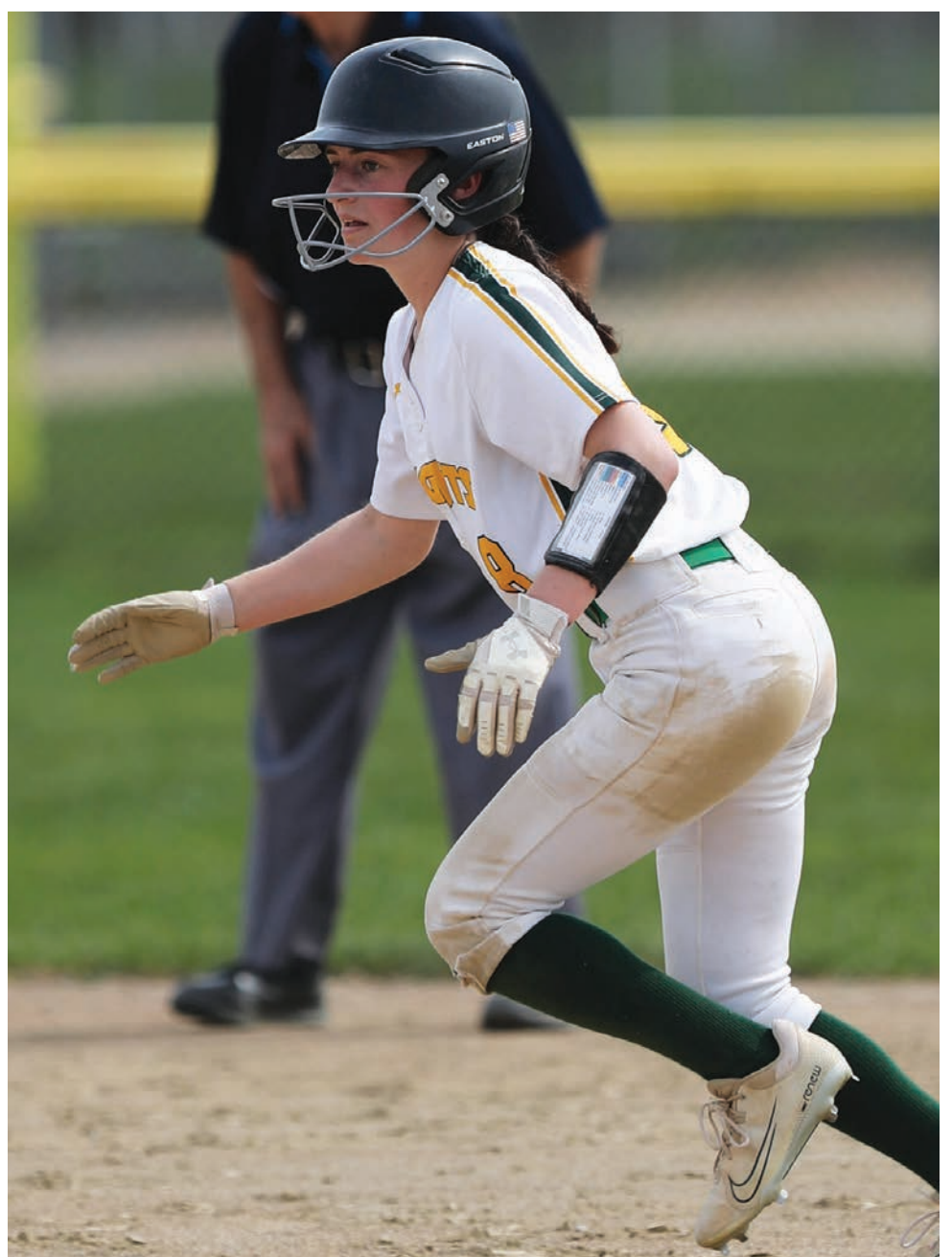
The Community College of Rhode Island softball team is headed back to the NJCAA Division III Softball World Series for the second consecutive season following another remarkable run in 2025.

With a 19-7 overall record, CCRI is currently ranked No. 6 in the NJCAA Division III national poll and will represent the Northeast District and Region XXI at the World Series, held May 21-24 at Carrier Park in Dewitt, NY.

The Knights are one of only eight teams nationwide to qualify for the tournament, with official seeds and bracket announcements scheduled for Monday, May 19 at 5 p.m. As the only active softball program in Region XXI, CCRI once again had to compete against teams from Regions XV and XX in the Northeast District Tournament, where they defeated Dutchess Community College in a decisive doubleheader sweep (6-1, 5-1) on May 10 to secure their bid.

“This is a real honor,” said head coach Paul Mercier. “All they’ve wanted from Day 1 was another invitation to the World Series.”

● CCRI to page 19



Kathryn Motta takes a lead in a recent game. Photos by Mike Zawistoski



Jaiden Harding waits for the ball as a runner slides into second base.



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● CCRI from page 18

I'm very proud of the way we stuck together. We had some rocky roads, but we found our path to the region and district playoffs, and now we're on our way to compete with the best programs in the country."

This season builds on the momentum of a record-setting 2024 campaign, when CCRI won a program-best 32 games and secured its first-ever World Series win, upsetting No. 7 Herkimer in the consolation round.

**Season Highlights**

- National Rankings:
  - o 1st in home runs (14)
  - o 2nd in team batting average (.428)
  - o 1st in on-base percentage (.507)
  - o 4th in slugging percentage (.611)
  - o Pitching staff ranked 4th nationally with nine shutouts

**Player Accolades**

- o Zoe Battersby (West Warwick, RI): Broke CCRI's career home run record with

17 in two seasons; hit .457 with 38 RBI and a .889 slugging percentage

- o Crystyliah Covell (Easton, MA): Freshman standout hit .500 with 17 RBI and a .620 slugging percentage

- o Brianna Grenier (Cumberland, RI): Hit .457 with a team-high .901 slugging percentage, 5 home runs, and 33 RBI

- o Kathryn Motta (Warwick, RI): Batted .557 with 38 hits, surpassing 100 career hits

- o Sophia Chevian (Warwick, RI): Led pitching staff with 7-3 record, 1.81 ERA, 3 shutouts, and 42 strikeouts (120 career Ks)
- o Janina Mazzulla (Johnston, RI): Finished 6-1 with 4 shutouts and a team-high 55 strikeouts (122 career Ks)

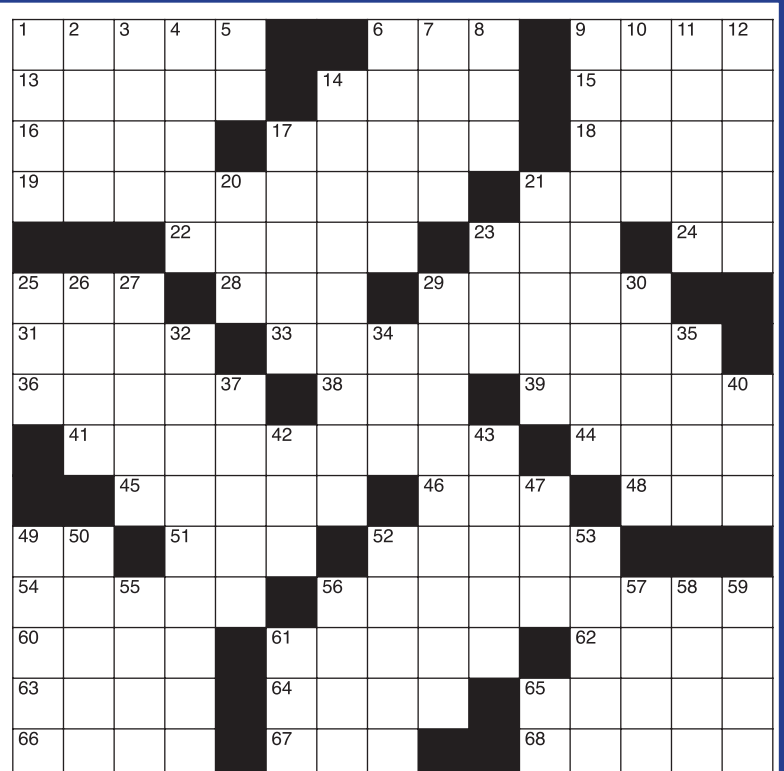
Seven of CCRI's regular players (20 or more games) hit over .400 this season, highlighting the team's offensive depth and consistency.

"CCRI is officially on the national softball map," added Mercier. "With 10 returning players from last year's team, I'm hoping the experience will help us this time around. Our players will leave everything on the field."



Sophia Chevian at bat.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Two-person German submarine
6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
9. Database management system
13. Vertical position
14. American jazz singer Irene
15. Ancient Greek City
16. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
17. Japanese seaport
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks
21. Beloved type of cigar
22. Discounts
23. Cambodian communist leader Pot
24. Important football position
25. Kilometers per hour
28. Lentil
29. Extremely angry

31. Yellow-flowered European plant
33. American state
36. Some are made by rabbits
38. Express with a head movement
39. Affair
41. Cured
44. Youth organization
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. Focus a shot
49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)
51. Mouth
52. Infections
54. Curved pieces of a horse collar
56. Shameless
60. Assist in escaping
61. Capuchin monkey genus
62. Cold wind
63. Retired Brazilian NBAer
64. Tropical Old World tree
65. Bulgarian city

66. Speak indistinctly
67. Soviet Socialist Republic
68. Between-meal sustenance

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Not soft
2. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
3. Line a roof
4. Greek god of the underworld
5. Software
6. Large-headed elongated fishes
7. Shag rugs
8. Type of whale
9. Lacking a plan
10. Spill the beans
11. Some is "heavy"
12. One who has been canonized
14. Indicate times
17. Greeting
20. Broadway actor Josh
21. Seashore
23. Indicates before
25. Electrical power unit
26. Destitute
27. Drags forcibly
29. Impropriety
30. Word forms
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. Official
49. People living in Myanmar
50. Notable tower
52. Type of sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Listing
56. Summertime insects
57. Concluding passage
58. Guitarist Clapton
59. Damp and musty
61. Central nervous system
65. Against

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Open for Submissions Through May 31

# Roundup: Hawks remain in first with win over Portsmouth

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

The defending champion Bishop Hendricken baseball team topped Portsmouth 4-1 on Monday to hold on to first place in Division I.

Parker Boyd and Cullen Crain each drove in runs to pace the offense. Patrick Clemmey pitched two innings and recorded six strikeouts while Dylan Lynch tossed five innings, allowing no earned runs and picking up five strikeouts.

Hendricken faced Smithfield on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

### Pilgrim 6, Lions 0

The Pats picked up a shutout

win over the Lions on Tuesday evening.

Derek Asciola drove in a pair of runs while Jacob Soulliere and Michael Mainelli also knocked in runs. Nolan Canestrari got the win on the mound, pitching a complete game and striking out six batters.

### Toll Gate 3, Johnston 1

Toll Gate's ascension in Division II continued as it beat Johnston on Tuesday.

Shane Moro, Jack Colvin and Edward Rosario all recorded RBI for the Titans. Colvin earned the win on the mound, pitching a complete game and allowing no earned runs and striking out eight batters.

## SOFTBALL

### Pilgrim 2, East Providence 0

The Pats held on to beat East Providence on Tuesday.

Gabriella Santiago got the win in the circle, pitching a complete game shutout and allowing just two hits while striking out eight batters. Santiago helped the cause by driving in a run while Skylar Hawes also recorded an RBI.

### Toll Gate 11, North Providence 0

The Titans rolled past the Cougars in five innings on Monday night.

Liv Cota and Alanna Pereira each drove in multiple runs while Delaney Wilson got the win in the circle, pitching five innings and allowing no hits and striking out

10 batters.

## BOYS TENNIS

### Warwick 7, Coventry 0

The Warwick co-op swept the Oakers on Tuesday afternoon.

Cornelius Zmed earned a 6-0, 6-4 win at first singles while Josh Maynard won his match 6-0, 6-3 at second singles. John Maynard took home a win at third singles by a 6-3, 6-4 score, while Etienne Degos won at fourth singles, 6-1, 6-1.

Jacob Scott and Will King won 6-2, 6-1 at first doubles. Alex Maris and Christian Mainelli won 6-0, 6-4 at second doubles. Warwick won its third doubles match via forfeit.

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

### South Kingstown 3, Pilgrim 2

The Pats were edged in a thriller on Monday night.

Sam Skinner led Pilgrim with seven kills.

### Lincoln 3, Toll Gate 0

The Titans were swept by the Lions on Monday night.

Harrison Hum led Toll Gate with eight kills.

## BOYS LACROSSE

### La Salle 17, Hendricken 2

The Rams continued to surge in Division I when they beat Hendricken last weekend.

Sebastian Nault and Will Kornecki scored the Hawks' lone goals in the loss.



Connor Reece puts up a shot.



Russell Horton drives to the basket.



Gabriel Brousseau takes the ball up the court.



Amelia Holmes (20) and Michaela Fitzgerald (10) work together to score some points. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

## ● UNIFIED from page 18

together, it's great to see," said Magee.

As unified sports continue to grow in Rhode Island, Magee has seen them bring the community together firsthand, and believes that they are an important part to the local sports scene.

"One of the best examples of seeing its impact is not just on the players, but on the student body. The last few years, Toll Gate comes over and we have an in-school game. It's an amazing thing to be a part of and the students are really rooting hard and they are very respectful of Toll Gate. It's not us versus them, it's a celebration of sports and our students embrace it," said Magee.



The Pilgrim unified basketball team gets ready to celebrate as the final seconds wind down.

# Tournament to include ocean beaches, area south of the bridges

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI  
Special to the Beacon

“We are thrilled that the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament keeps growing,” said Capt. Chris Willi, Tournament Director and owner of Block Island Fish Works, a bait & tackle shop and charter fishing business located on Block Island, Rhode Island. “We now are fishing for nine species with an expanded fishing area that includes areas south of the Newport and Jamestown Bridges including the Rhode Island ocean beaches to about fifteen miles south of Block Island itself.”

The tournament will start at 5:30 a.m., Saturday, July 26 and end Sunday, July 27, 12 noon. There will be an “After Party” at Capt. Nick’s Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 27 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony.

“This is a length only Tournament. Participants download GotOne, the Tournament app, on their smartphone. To make a Tournament entry they take a photo of their catch up against the Tournament supplied ruler and send the entry into the Tournament electronically. This makes it unnecessary to attend the awards ceremony to pick up prizes,” said Capt. Willi.

Species now include bonito, false albacore, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna and mahi in addition to fluke, black sea bass, bluefish and striped bass.

Tournament entry fees are \$150 per boat for up to six anglers and \$35/shore angler. Capt. Willi said, “Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Ørsted as well as tackle shop co-sponsors, we are able to donate 100% of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue.”

Tournament highlights include: cash cards/swag/and sponsor prizes totaling \$10,000; boat, shore, youth, team and photo divisions; take a photo with the Block Island Wind Farm shown and you can enter three photo categories each with \$200 prize... most scenic, best fish photo and best team photo; pick up participant bags at one of seven locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Tackle Box, Warwick; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Register at BI Inshore Tourney | bifishworks (sandypointco.com); contact Block Island Fish Works at bifishworks@gmail.com or 401.742.3992.

### Recreational catch data helps assess fisheries

The Marine Fisheries Division of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) held a workshop for charter captains last week to discuss encouraging charter fishing customers to participate in intercept interview surveys when leaving their vessels. Nathan Andrews, Fisheries Specialist for DEM, said, “If we can capture even a small enhanced number of surveys from charter customers on what they caught it



Flutter spoon catch: Jim Lundy caught this East Passage striped bass using a flutter spoon last week. Submitted photo

would make our data more robust, reduce uncertainty and lead to less buffer in harvest limits which could possibly lead to more liberal regulations.”

Experts at NOAA Fisheries’ regional science centers, in consultation with states, regional partners and through a public process, perform stock assessments which assure our shared fisheries resources remain productive, sustainable, and economically viable.

Stock assessors review a wide range of data to help determine stock status. This includes private boat, shore, and for-hire (charter boat) saltwater recreational fishing catch and effort information. These data are compiled through large-scale surveys that are part of the state-regional-federal recreational fishing data collection partnership known as the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

All datasets are plugged into a statistical stock assessment model that determines a stock’s current and future population size and if it is Overfished (the population is too low) or if it is undergoing Overfishing (the catch rate is too high).

For additional information visit Recreational Fishing Data | NOAA Fisheries and for information about DEM angler surveys contact Nate Andrews at nathan.andrews@dem.ri.gov.

### Quahog Week, May 11-17

The ninth annual Quahog Week is taking place May 11 to 17. Visit seafood.ri

gov for a full list of events, participating restaurants, markets and specials.

### Where’s the bite?

Striped bass. Angler Fred DeFinis of Middletown, said, “I fished in the East Passage last week for three days and landed a fair number of fish. By far, the most common size is 28-29 inches which are probably of the 2018 year class, the last good spawning year.”

Expert fly angler and instructor Ed Lombardo, said, “I got one fish Thursday on an incoming tide near Middle Bridge on the Narrow River.”

“Some nice stripers, especially during the rainy nights have been caught. Bass fishing has been consistent along the beaches and in the breachways. The rain seemed to slow down the worm hatch a bit,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

Angler Gil Bell fishing the surf in South County, said, “Caught a fact, sea lice free 30” striped bass which I released.”

Tautog. “Tautog should continue to move closer to shore as the water warms up. Offshore water temperatures have just reached 50 degrees, while the pond temperatures hit the mid-60s this week. As a reminder female tautog can be full of eggs this time of year and is good sport to release them and keep the males,” said O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Capt. Mike O’Grady of Fishing Machine Charters, said, “Tautog fishing is

good. We are catching full boat limits with a bunch for shorts and a good squid bite too.”

Angler John Migliori said, “Caught a 7.64 tautog from shore on Aquidneck Island this week using green crabs.”

Squid and summer flounder. The squid fishing has been very good with anglers hooking up at night. And, the fluke are right behind them. Angler Matthew Haczynski reported Sunday finding squid and fluke off Block Island, “We managed to boat three keepers between all the shorts in 75’-100’. A few fish were tossing squid on the way up. A good sign of better things to come.”

Giant bluefin tuna bite is already on. Offshore fishing angler Richard Pastore said, “Last Thursday a 600 pound giant was caught on a Ballyhoo rig between Cuttyhunk and Block Island.”

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

Dave Monti holds a captain’s master 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. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net, visit www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com or www.noflukefishing.com

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# Rose finally gets his due

Major League Baseball officially lifted its ban of Pete Rose, among others, for their involvement in gambling infractions from their playing days. The ban now makes these players eligible for the Hall of Fame and other league-related honors.

This was a long time coming and an obvious move to make. You simply can't have your all-time hits leader out of the Hall because he bet on himself. You just can't.

Don't get me wrong, allowing professional athletes to gamble on their respective sports is a slippery slope. I am not advocating for it to be legalized or common practice. However, Rose has more than paid for it. He's one of the greatest players to ever do it and he did it the right way, despite making the boneheaded decision to gamble.

If we want to really get contro-

versial, I am totally for steroid users to be allowed in the Hall as well. Well, let me amend that take a bit. Players that succeeded during the steroid era of the late 80's into the early 2000's. Modern day users should not be allowed in.

Reason being, for about 20 years, steroid use ran rampant throughout the sport. There wasn't a clubhouse that wasn't littered with users and that was why offenses surged in the 90's. Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Alex Rodriguez, Barry Bonds, all of these sluggers should be allowed in as well as Roger Clemens, who I believe is the best pitcher of all time.

There are just too many greats to ignore during that era, and what people seem to forget is that they battled each other. Steroid users versus steroid users.

I am glad that the league cracked down on it and has seemed to have made it out on the



## My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

other side in a good place. Modern day players are not nearly as reliant on performance enhancing drugs as they were 20 or so years ago. It'd be impossible to narrow the cut-off down to a single year, but I really do feel that players from that era deserve to be inducted. It was one of the most thrilling eras in the history of the sport.

Admittedly, I am a bit biased as that was the era in which I grew up. A-Rod was my guy until he donned the pinstripes.

Let's get back to Rose. Unfortunately, he passed away last September at 83 years old so he will not be present for when his name is inevitably called. MLB Commissioner Rob Man-

fred announced the news and essentially said that the decision was made now that Rose has passed and to have lifted the ban while he was alive would have gone against previous commissioners. I am not a fan of the sentiment.

No one is perfect, and things evolve over time. I would understand not wanting to rock the boat if this was 30 years ago, shortly after Rose was banned in 1989, but for years people have been calling for the ban to be lifted. For Manfred to admit openly that the decision was made due to Rose's passing is tone deaf, to be frank.

Baseball has the richest history of any North American sport. The actual gameplay is fascinating and the culture in the dugout and clubhouse is something that everyone should experience whether it is in Little League or beyond. Baseball is America's Pastime, no

doubt.

Having said that, though, there are still far too many crunchy pencil pushers running the MLB. The latest generation of players has been a breath of fresh air. These kids are maybe a little snooty, a little more entitled, but they also have a ton of fun and are elite athletes. Baseball has never been this athletic.

The older generations that are running the league front offices have not caught up yet and are still, in many respects, stuck in the overly formal, dry, monotonous mindset that helped plummet TV ratings and viewer interest. With the emergence of some new stars, guys like Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts, Paul Skenes, we are finally seeing things turn back around. Let's hope that this news is a sign of the times changing in the league and the commissioner fully embracing a new outlook.

# Anchormen fall in Little East Championship

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Fifth-year third baseman Cal Parrillo (Greenville) went 1-for-3 with a solo home run as No. 5 Rhode Island College fell vs. No. 3 Eastern Connecticut, 13-3, in game nine of the 2025 Little East Baseball Championship played at Franklin Pierce on Saturday afternoon.

The Warriors came out swinging, as they plated three runs in the second inning to put RIC on the comeback trail early.

Three more Eastern markers came off back-to-back doubles in the top of the fourth as the lead quickly ballooned to six, 6-0.

RIC and the Warriors traded for two runs apiece in the sixth inning, as both fifth-year right fielder Justin Wardwell (Westport, Mass.) and senior first baseman Daniel Trzepacz (Mont Vernon, N.H.) both recorded RBI ground outs to keep the deficit at six, 8-2.

However, a three-run homer in the seventh and a pair of runs in the eighth from ECSU would put the rest of the contest out of reach for the underdog Anchormen, as the game ended in eight innings due to the ten-run

rule. Sophomore pitcher Steven Sullivan (Acton, Mass.) took the loss (3-3).

Trzepacz went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Parrillo went 1-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI. They each finished with 222 career hits to share the program record for career base knocks.

RIC's season comes to an end in the loss.

### Sainristil has big day for RIC track

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) earned All-NEICAAA honors with a fifth place finish in the 10,000m (36:46.04) as Rhode Island College wrapped up competition at the 2025 NEICAAA Women's Track and Field Championship, hosted by UMass Amherst on Saturday afternoon.

RIC finished in 23rd place (29 teams) with a team score of 6.0. UMass Amherst finished in first place with a team score of 136.0.

Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence, R.I.) earned two All-NEICAAA honors with a pair of eighth place finishes in the 400m (56.88) and 4x400m relay (4:04.06). She also placed ninth in the 200m (25.10).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield, R.I.)

earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06). Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:04.06). Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston, R.I.) finished 18th in the hammer (42.64m) and 19th in the shot (11.76m).

### Schiller takes eighth for RIC

Sophomore Will Schiller (Smithfield) earned an All-NEICAAA honor as Rhode Island College competed at the 2025 NEICAAA Championship, hosted by UMass Amherst on Saturday afternoon.

RIC finished in a tie for 28th place (30 teams) with a team score of 1.0. UMass Amherst finished in first place with a team score of 119.50.

Schiller (Smithfield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67) and 23rd in the 400m (50.49).

Freshman Jack McEntee (Foster) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 17th in the 400m hurdles (55.88).

Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). He also finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67).

Freshman Brody Shiels (Wakefield) earned All-NEICAAA honors with an eighth place finish in the 4x400m relay (3:27.09). Junior Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67).

Junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished 12th in the 4x100m relay (42.67) and 24th in the 100m (10.86). Junior Brandon Mota (West Warwick) finished 12th in the hammer (51.81m).

Sophomore Gabriel Dosunmu (Providence) finished 14th in the long jump (6.64m). Junior Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished 18th in the hammer (48.23m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown) finished 20th in the 3,000m steeplechase (9:56.13).

# Real Estate Transactions

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<b>EAST GREENWICH</b>									
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