



A QUAHOGGERS' ARMADA: More than 100 quahoggers are turning out to fish the highly productive Area E of the Providence River north of Conimicut Point. The area opened for a first time in 75 years last summer when as many as 193 boats were recorded on one day. So far, shellfishermen have focused on Conimicut, seen here, off Gaspee and Bullock's Point to the east.



BY THE HANDFUL: Jody King displays a handful of quahogs that he harvested Tuesday from the fishery north of Conimicut Point.

Golden goose... but can it last?

Quahoggers say previously closed area five times more productive than the bay

By JOHN HOWELL

Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on improving the quality of Narragansett Bay waters is starting to pay off says Michael McGivney, president of the Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association.

Payback for McGivney and shellfishermen doesn't come without hard work, but the "golden goose" as quahoggers call the 1,900 acres of the lower Providence River has reopened on a limited basis for a second year in more than 75 years.

The area that reaches north from a line be-

tween Nayatt Point in Barrington and Conimicut Point to a line between Bullock's Point in Riverside to south of Gaspee Point in Warwick, opened May 23 to commercial shellfishermen for three hours and again on May 25th for three hours. It will continue to open on alternate days for two days a week throughout the summer. Because of the Memorial Day holiday the area opened on Tuesday this week and is slated to open again on Thursday. A recording of a half inch or more of rain at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport forces the closure of the area.

■ **QUAHOGS - PAGE 9**

Shooting threat not credible; state to fund security improvements

By ALEX MALM

Less than a week after the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde Texas a threat of a school shooting at Lippitt Elementary School was investigated over the Memorial Day weekend.

"A student from the school did create a chat on Saturday afternoon saying that he will shoot up the school," Superintendent Lynn Dambruch said in an email Tuesday morning.

Dambruch said that parents notified Martin Susla, Principal of Lippitt about the chat.

"Mr. Susla worked with the police and the student's parents," said Dambruch. "After the police investigated, they concluded that the threat was disturbing but not credible."

Susla in an email to parents said, "a couple parents emailed me and shared a screenshot of the conversation."

"While the threat was disturbing, it was also very upsetting

that a couple students didn't stand up and voice objections but said, 'alright.'" This type of bystander action is exactly the opposite of what we'd expect from our Lippitt young citizens," said Susla.

According to the email from Susla he spoke to the school resource officer and another, "who became directly involved in the situation."

"He assessed the threat and found it disturbing but unwarranted. Consequences were is-

sued as I contacted and more may be coming as we assess information," said Susla.

Funds for school safety

On Tuesday Gov. Dan McKee along with the Rhode Island State Police, and the Rhode Island Department of Education announced that school districts could be reimbursed for making improvements to the security of their schools.

"Public safety, and especially

the safety of our children, must be our highest priority," said McKee. "The best way for us to ensure that what happened in Uvalde cannot happen here is to make serious investments in repairs and security upgrades. Rhode Island families deserve that peace of mind."

According to a press release every school district in the state needs to conduct "walkthroughs of the school facilities in their dis-

■ **SAFETY - PAGE 9**

Robert Shapiro Drive ceremony is Monday

By ALEX MALM

For years the road off Centerville Road that leads its way past The Impossible Dream to Winman and Toll Gate Schools has had no name.

Now the road is named for someone who used the road everyday for years.

On Monday at 10 a.m. a ceremony will take place to commemorate the naming of the road for the late Robert Shapiro, a 50 year employee of Warwick schools and the first principal of Toll Gate High School serving in that capacity for 19 years.

Ward 8 Councilman Anthony Sinapi explained that the request originally came from the Impossible Dream. Since there was no official road name the non-profit struggled for years with deliveries for the schools ending up in their parking lot or things intended for Impossible Dream winding up on top of the hill at one of the schools.

Sinapi said that he discussed the possibility of naming the road during the previous Administration, however it eventually stalled out. When Mayor Frank Picozzi took office he said he renewed the conversations.

Picozzi was on board with the idea but had one request. "He suggested naming it after Robert Shapiro and here we are," said Sinapi.

Picozzi said the Toll Gate auditorium is named the Robert J. Shapiro Cultural Arts Center but it would be torn down if new Toll Gate and Pilgrim high schools are built. Shapiro and Picozzi's relationship goes back decades.

■ **SHAPIRO - PAGE 14**



ROBERT SHAPIRO

Lessons from 'the wall'

This Side Up



by
JOHN
HOWELL

School wall. In the summer he'd hit balls until his mother told him it was time for lunch. After lunch he'd go back out and hit more balls. As Doug put it, the wall always got the ball back so he devised a way of winning points. He drew a one foot by one foot square on the wall. When he hit the square, it was a point for him. When he missed, it was a point for the wall. Doug taught himself tennis.

His mother recognized his commitment to the game and paid for lessons. His teacher was amazed by this student who was already better than others who he'd been instructing for years.

Doug was good, very good.

As a student at Our Lady of Providence High School, Doug ranked third in the state behind brothers Gordie and Bobby Ernst. As a freshman at Rhode Island College, he was the team's number one player, only it didn't last. He dropped out of RIC when he couldn't attend practices as required of team members. The irony is he couldn't make the practices because he was teaching tennis

Doug James was always intrigued by the thought of becoming a cop, but then he had a thing for tennis. It wasn't a game neighborhood kids played. He grew up in a second story flat in Providence. Yet at 10 years old, he started hitting balls against the Greene



DOUG JAMES

■ **THIS SIDE UP - PAGE 11**

- INDEX -

Classified.....26
Editorial.....11
Obituaries.....13
Police Log.....2
Sports.....23-28
Rhody Life.....15-22



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TITANS FALL IN SEMIS

The Toll Gate girls lacrosse team fell to Burrillville 15-9 in the Division II Semifinals to end its run. The Titans finished their first season back in DII with a 9-3 overall record. See story on page 23. Pictured is Adeline Areson.

NOTABLE Quote

"I can barely fill shifts. We could never do that. Call the Governor and tell him to put the National Guard in the schools."

Mayor Frank Picozzi talking about having School Resource Officers all Warwick Elementary Schools for the remainder of the school year.

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Chilling memorial on a sunny day

Making a stark statement on the shooting of 19 elementary school children and their two teachers in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, Asbury United Methodist Church parishioners set up a circular row of Sunday School chairs in the island off Fair Street in Gaspee Plateau. Each of the chairs bears the name of a victim as well as a brief sentence about what they liked doing or a memory from a surviving relative. "It's a place to quietly think and to think of what action should be taken," said Jan Jones who with Andrea Dunn advanced the concept of the memorial to church members. "We got lots of encouragement from the congregation," she said. Jones, pictured here, thought the memorial would remain in place for about a week. She is hopeful it will serve as a "vessel of change" so that we might "embrace each other." (Warwick Beacon photo)

Older adults warned during seminar on detecting fraud

By ALEX MALM

"Don't answer the phone."

That's one of the key pieces of advice that Assistant Attorney General Molly Kapstein Cote told about a dozen people during a recent presentation to help older adults avoid falling victim to fraud at the Pilgrim Senior Citizen Center.

Attorney General Peter Neronha said one of his priorities since being elected is making sure Rhode Island residents have the tools they need to protect themselves, including against fraud.

Neronha told the crowd that it is easy to be scammed by scammers -- especially when it comes to phone scams, which is why it was pointed out a number of times during the presentation that it's important to not answer calls from unrecognizable numbers.

"These guys are really, really good," said

Neronha.

Neronha also explained that many of the crimes are hard to prove or prosecute because most of the scammers aren't in Rhode Island and in some cases aren't even in extraditable countries.

Neronha said it is important to contact the police department or his office if someone thinks they were scammed. He said not only will it help his staff detect new scams, but they are also still able to help after the scam occurs.

But the most important thing is detecting when something is a scam.

"The whole key to protecting yourself and your family is to be aware that it is a scam in the first place," Neronha said.

Mayor Frank Picozzi gave an example of a local incident of a senior being taken advantage of. He said that about 10 months ago, an older adult was attempting to take a large amount of money out of

the bank. The bank manager noticed, investigated and was able to stop a scam.

Picozzi said the police department takes scams extremely seriously and that many people within the city are there to help older adults if they fall victim to scams.

"You have an army of people waiting to help you," said Picozzi.

Kapstein Cote said that around 75 percent of the cases that the Elder Abuse Unit prosecutes are for local incidents of financial exploitation. She said that usually it involves some type of family member or caretakers.

"Those are the really heartbreaking cases," said Kapstein Cote.

One of the types of examples that Kapstein Cote told those in attendance to look for is making arrangements with someone they know for banking. She said in some cases a child or caretaker will have an arrangement with

an older adult to use a certain amount of funds for things like medicine or groceries. She said if that individual is on the older adult's bank account, there is little that can be done if the person uses it for their own gains because the bank sees anyone on the account as an owner of the account.

"They don't care about what kind of private agreement you have," Kapstein Cote said. "When you put somebody on your bank account, they are an owner just as they are and they can do whatever they want with your money."

Kapstein Cote said that the same applies for power of attorneys saying that it is important to have someone trustworthy before giving that person authority to make decisions.

To contact the Elder Abuse Unit with the Attorney General Office call (401) 222-2566 or (401) 274-4400, ext. 2269.

POLICE LOG

SHOOTING

Around 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 27, Warwick Police received reports of gun shots heard at Fast Freddie's gas station, 2003 Post Road.

Warwick Police Officers arrived on scene and located discharged shell casings on Fresno Road, according to a press release.

A man later arrived at Kent County Memorial Hospital with what police described as a "non-life threatening gunshot wound."

The victim reported to have been struck while attempting to enter Fast Freddie's," according to police. "It appears the suspect and victim knew each other and this was not a random incident. There is no threat to public safety at this time."

Warwick Police Detectives are still investigating the incident.

DUI

At 8:07 p.m., May 19, a Lyft Driver called police to report one of his fares was allegedly intoxicated, and drove away after getting dropped off.

Warwick Police were notified of a possibly intoxicated driver that just left the Grid Iron Ale House, 1599 Post Road.

"The reporting party, a Lyft Driver, picked up an intoxicated male, dropped him off at Grid Iron Ale House and watched him walk to his vehicle and drive south on Post Road,"

Warwick Police Officer Justin N. Martin wrote in the arrest report. The driver gave police the vehicle's make and model, a gray 2009 Ford Flex, and registration.

The driver told police the vehicle was entering Route 95 North from the Airport Connector.

Martin took the same route, found the vehicle and started to follow the driver in the far right lane.

"I observed the vehicle cross over the solid white fog line with both its passenger side front and rear tires," Martin wrote. "I followed the vehicle for a little over a mile as I waited for a safe place to conduct a motor vehicle stop. While following the vehicle, it maintained a slow speed that was significantly slower than normal traffic around him and he continuously was swerving to the left and right in his lane."

Martin stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as Kevin Cahill, 38, of 31 Philmont Ave., Cranston.

"Immediately while speaking with Cahill, I observed his eyes to be droopy and his speech to be slurred," Martin wrote.

Warwick Police Sgt. Derek Mourato, assigned to the Driving Under the Influence detail, was dispatched to the scene.

Cahill submitted to a series of standardized field sobriety tests.

Cahill was arrested for Suspicion of DUI. His vehi-

cle was towed from the scene. He was also cited with a Laned Roadway violation.

At 9:05 p.m., Cahill consented to a chemical breath test. Police said the sample tested over the legal limit for alcohol. Cahill was ultimately charged with DUI Drugs/Alcohol (Second Offense, 0.15 BAC or Greater)

LARCENY

At 3:15 p.m., May 23, an East Greenwich man called Warwick Police to report the theft of a catalytic converter.

Police responded to the Cornerstone Group, 931 Jefferson Boulevard, to speak to the victim, who arrived at work at 9 a.m. that day and parked in the rear parking lot behind the building.

Around 1 p.m., he went to his vehicle, a 2008 Toyota Prius, to go to lunch and noticed that it was making a strange noise, according to the police incident report.

The victim initially called AAA for the vehicle to be towed, but was advised that the catalytic converter was missing from his vehicle. That's when he called police.

The victim told police he would like to press criminal charges if they find a suspect.

LARCENY

At 12:54 p.m., May 23, Warwick Police were dis-

patched to UniFirst Uniform Services, 33 Lambert Lind Highway, for the report of a catalytic converter theft.

The victim, a Lakeville, Massachusetts man, told police that he parked his vehicle, a red Honda CR-V, in the lot between UniFirst and Bo's Bar and Billiard, parallel to Cardi Street, around 7:30 a.m.

He returned to his vehicle around 12:30 p.m. and attempted to start the vehicle and "heard the exhaust sound very loud." He checked under the vehicle and saw the catalytic converter was missing.

The victim told police he would like to press criminal charges if they find a suspect.

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Council vote on Flock Cameras delayed to August

By ALEX MALM

A vote that was scheduled by the City Council to purchase automatic license plate cameras was put on hold until August at the last minute during the May 16 Council meeting.

The request to hold the vote was made by Col. Brad Connor.

“The reason was twofold, first we wanted to see what, if any, bills pass at the state level that would affect the use of the cameras and second, we will be working with elected city officials to draft an ordinance that would allow for the technology that we are seeking but also place restrictions on its use as well as limit any future technology to be implemented without oversight,” Connor said following the meeting. “In doing this we hope to promote community engagement

and transparency while ensuring the public that this valuable law enforcement tool, as intended, can work to promote a safer city without invading the privacy of its citizens.”

Connor first made his pitch to the Council on Feb. 28 to lease 10 Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Readers. Due to concerns brought up by both members of the Council and the public the measure was originally held until May.

“The Flock Safety ALPR is not your traditional live feed camera, rather it is a device that records and stores data. The technology captures still photographs of license plates and vehicle characteristics as they travel on public roads,” Connor explained in a memo to the Council.

“The cameras do not independently record people or faces but can be used to

solve and reduce violent and property crimes. The cameras will never be used for traffic enforcement, as they cannot track speed or identify unregistered or uninsured vehicles. They capture objective evidence in plain sight, such as license plates, and can never be used for facial recognition.”

In the memo to the Council Connor said that while the cameras “do not result in unwarranted invasion of one’s privacy, they capture more than just license plates.”

“They allow investigators to search footage by vehicle type, make, color and other unique attributes; identify the state of a license plate; and capture temporary plates, paper plates, and vehicles without plates,” the memo reads. “ They are able to cover two lanes of traffic and vehicles traveling up to

100 mph. Investigators are also able to input vehicle data into the system and receive a ‘HIT’ and alert within seconds of a camera detecting that vehicle. The cities of Cranston and Pawtucket have shared their data and success stories with us. In the short time that they have used Flock Safety they have seen arrests increase significantly and have had a record number of recovered stolen property. Just as important, it has been used to locate missing and endangered people.”

Legislation

Earlier this year legislation was introduced in the House by state Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr. and by state Sen. Kendra Anderson, both of Warwick.

The legislation summary states that the act would

“provide for municipal and state police authorities to utilize automated license plate readers. Further, the act would identify what data may be collected and define how the data can be used.”

Anderson, who was one of those in the Council Chambers prepared to testify on May 16 following the meeting said, “It’s imperative that we don’t rush the decision to use advanced surveillance technology until we have smart policies in place to protect the civil liberties of all residents of Warwick and RI.”

“Advanced technology like this requires oversight that clearly defines how these cameras can be used productively without infringing on the rights of residents. It’s important to enact statewide regulations to provide a uniform set of procedures as data from

this system may be shared between municipalities,” said Anderson.

Solomon said that he expects a “Sub A” bill will be introduced this year in the House.

Solomon said that from conversations he has had with different stakeholders on the bill “everyone agrees it shouldn’t be used by third parties and that data shouldn’t be sold.”

“I’m hoping to get a framework in place this year and work more on the details as to when and how it can be used next year,” Solomon said in a text message. “Right now, nothing prohibits any city or company from using it for those purposes. Based on representations from who I’ve spoken to, the cameras are being used for limited purposes. However, without a framework, that could easily change.”

An emerging artist... maybe

Cranston East senior Mathilda Corcoran was the winner of the Rhode Island Art Educator Association’s \$500 scholarship presented May 7 at the closing reception of the third annual Emerging Artists show held by the Warwick Center for the Arts. Corcoran was one of 32 young artists whose work was shown in the exhibit. While Corcoran said she has a strong interest in art, she is not sure she will pursue it as a career. She will attend Brown University this fall and aims to take a course at Rhode Island School of Design. She is in front of one of three works she had in the show. (Warwick Beacon photos)



Council approves mayor’s non tax increase budget

By ALEX MALM

For a third straight year there will be no tax increase in Warwick after the City Council voted Thursday 7-2 in favor of Mayor Frank Picozzi’s \$341.1 million budget which increases spending by approximately \$8 million.

Despite increasing spending and recognizing that Warwick will be faced with a structural deficit in next year’s budget Picozzi made it clear from the beginning that this wasn’t the year to raise taxes.

“We do have challenges with the budget in the coming years but we have solid plans to meet that challenge,” Picozzi wrote on Facebook. “We have been very successful at securing grants to deal with our aging infrastructure and improving the quality of life in the city, and will continue to pursue them.”

Picozzi said that because of his “administration’s efforts and initiatives we are having incredible economic growth and development occurring in our city and our tax base and revenues will be growing enormously over the next several years.”

“Our Planning Department is having a hard time keeping up with development proposals that are coming in. Already going through the process is a new hotel, more than 800 apartments, and many other retail projects,” Picozzi’s post reads. “Old unused buildings are being repurposed or torn down and rebuilt. A large warehouse near the airport is under construction, that alone will bring in more than one million dollars a year in taxes, as well as good paying jobs.”

As part of Picozzi’s budget \$4 million is projected to come from the sale of former school properties..

Schools get more than proposed amount

The only amendment made to the budget was to move \$120,000 from the paving bud-

get in order to give additional funding to the school district.

Picozzi previously proposed an increase of approximately \$4.8 million for local appropriations to the school department including \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Funds. Picozzi said that the administration and the school department administration have an understanding that if additional state aid comes in then it would be used to offset the local appropriation.

Ward 8 Councilman Anthony Sinapi who proposed the amendment said he was contacted by various residents about issues related to the budget. He said that he contacted the school department to see what could be done if the Council was able to secure more funding for the schools. He said their request was for funds to restore two teacher assistants originally eliminated by the School Committee.

Sinapi said that he spoke to Picozzi beforehand to see if there would be any problem with moving funds from the asphalt budget. Once he confirmed that there wouldn’t be a problem he found out the total needed to restore the positions.

“We’re going to remain Switzerland on this one,” said Picozzi.

Ward 6 Councilwoman Donna Travis said that it gave her a “bad taste.”

Travis said that she supports the positions but was concerned that there aren’t any guarantees in place that would require the school department to use the funds on the teacher assistants.

“There’s no guarantee that you’re going to get two TAs,” said Travis.

Ward 1 Councilman Bill Foley, a former principal at Davey’s Career and Tech Center and whose wife is a former Warwick teacher assistant, said that he was in support of the proposal.

“The biggest bang for the buck in the classrooms sometimes is the TA,” said Foley.

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur said

that it “makes no sense” that the school department couldn’t find the \$120,000 from their budget despite getting an approximate \$4.9 million increase in local appropriations. “To me it makes no sense,” said Ladouceur. “We are talking about \$4.9 million dollars.”

Ladouceur said that over the past three years the school department’s allocation has increased by \$8 million.

“It makes no sense to me. It makes no sense whatsoever, said Ladouceur.

Ward 9 Councilman Vincent Gebhart agreed and said that he thinks that the school district should try to recruit students that they are losing to other districts, which costs the district money each year.

The Council ultimately voted 8-1 on the amendment with Gebhart voting against.

Proposed tax increase

Another amendment that was proposed during the meeting came from Ward 2 Councilman Jerney Rix.

His proposal was to increase taxes by \$4 million which would equate to a roughly 1.75 percent tax increase.

“Good news is that 4 of the last 5 years have had a 0% tax increase,” Rix wrote on Facebook. “Bad news is that the City is relying on a lot of one-time money to do it (\$7 million+ in federal funds and \$4 million in sales of land, for a structural deficit of \$11 million+, even if things go well. If a structural deficit of \$11 million sounds like a lot, that’s because it is. The most that the City can raise in a year - a maximum 4% tax increase - is about \$9 million.”

Rix said that he is “deeply concerned that, when the federal money runs out and we don’t have more land to sell, the City is going to be forced to enact a maximum tax increase and severe cuts to services.”

“Contractual increases and inflation (energy prices, goods, and interest on bonds)

cost money, so, the structural deficit will only be getting worse next year,” said Rix.

Rix said that he is also concerned about future years particularly when it comes to the unfunded Other Post Employment Benefits liability.

Rix said that he was concerned that the City “ is not making significant contributions to fund future long-term obligations to pay for retiree health insurance (OPEB).”

“To blunt the impact of the structural deficit next year, and to make a much more significant investment towards a 9-figure massively-underfunded liability the proposed that the City didn’t rely on \$4 million I proposed that the City not rely on \$4 million from one-time land sales to balance this year’s budget, but instead raise that \$4 million through a moderate tax increase of just under 1.75%, and invest that full amount to pay towards OPEB liabilities,” Rix’s post reads.

While Rix said that he doesn’t take raising taxes “lightly” he said “we have to put ourselves in a position as a City where we can pay our bills and provide the essential services that people rely on. Not just during election years; every year, now and into the future.”

Picozzi, while not naming Rix by name in his Facebook post said “I was dismayed that one councilman proposed a large tax increase.”

“Inflation is surging, gas is going up every day, people are paying far more for groceries and other necessities than they were a year before and people are struggling,” said Picozzi. “I could not in good conscience put an additional burden on residents with a tax increase this year.”

Picozzi said that he feels Warwick is “flourishing and blossoming.”

“It’s time for Warwick’s renaissance,” said Picozzi.

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BEACON BUZZ

Orchestra Performance

The Warwick Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will hold a live performance on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gamm Theatre (1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick). The music will be a selection of classical and pop favorites to please audiences of all ages. Tickets for WSO performances are available at the door but can also be purchased online. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors and students with a valid ID and children under 12 are free.

Pontiac Village Yard Sale

The Pontiac Village Association will have a neighborhood yard sale on June 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at various homes throughout the village.

Craft Fair

The Knights of Columbus will host a craft fair on June 5 from noon to 4 p.m. at 475 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Join 30+ crafters and vendors – there will be something for everyone. They will also have a raffle table filled with items from vendors and all proceeds will go to the Warwick North Little League.

Community Meeting

The Pontiac Village Association will host its next community meeting at 7 p.m. on June 7 at the Pontiac Library.

Pet Fest

EGAPL Heart of RI will hold a Pet fest on June 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 44 Worthington Road, Cranston. The organization will have small local businesses, the things they specialize in, raffles and a day of family fun for everyone. Proceeds will help Rhode Island small businesses as well as help EGAPL Heart of RI with continued rescue efforts.

Yard Sale

Spring Green Memorial Church at 1350 Warwick Ave. will hold a yard sale on June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. (In case of rain, the sale will be held inside the church building.) There will be many assorted items for sale including jewelry, clothing, household items and homemade goods. If you have any questions, you can call the church at 463-8328 or email at springgreenchurch@yahoo.com.

Class Reunion

The East Providence High School Class of 1972 will hold its 50th reunion on August 14 at the East Providence Yacht Club (9 Pier Road, East Providence). At 1 p.m. there will be a meet and greet, while “Tanya McEntire and the Professors” will provide music from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pub-style food and drinks are available for purchase, and the event is free for all class members and their partners. Donations will be appreciated toward a gift from the Class of 1972 for the new East Providence High School. Contact Dave Marchetti: pondguy54@gmail.com or call 401-258-6412.

Artists Workshops

Applications opened May 1 for RISCA's general Operating Support for Artists. The program provides grants of \$6,000 for three consecutive years (totaling \$18,000) for artists to work toward large, specific and self-identified goals in their art practice.

To assist in the application process and meet the July 1 deadline, Arts Council staff member, Mollie Flanagan, has scheduled virtual workshops and office hours throughout May and June. (RSVP is required).

Workshops: June 1, 4 p.m. Drop in Office Hours: June 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; June 30, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; July 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. One-on-one meetings start June 2.

Gaspee Day Foot Race

Enjoy the excitement of running before a pre-assembled cheering crowd in anticipation of the annual Gaspee Days Parade.

Over 1,600 runners each year participate in this event along the parkway's famed red, white and blue road stripe. The Gaspee Days 5K will take place at 9:30 a.m. on June 11. Challenge yourself to place a record among our top runners and win a prize or just do it for the fun – either way, you are supporting one of the area's favorite community events, as all proceeds support funding the annual Gaspee Days Parade. Dedicated to the loving memory of Allan & Edna Brown. For more information and to register for the race, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/RI/Cranston/GaspeeDays5k>.

Yoga Flow

The Warwick Central Library will hold a free yoga flow class on June 7 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. hosted by West Shore Wellness. Yoga flow is for all levels, and the class will focus on breath and mindfulness to flow into postures with ease. The class includes a light warm up, gradually coming into postures and finishing with meditation and sound healing. Individuals must bring a yoga mat and bottled water. The event will take place in the small meeting room. For more information, contact Maureen Mitchell at 401-255-9152.

Art Exhibit

The East Greenwich Art Club will exhibit artwork at the East Greenwich Free Library (82 Peirce St., East Greenwich) from May 31 to June 24. The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours: Monday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a reception to meet the artists on June 2 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the art club at info@eastgreenwichartclub.org or www.eastgreenwichartclub.org.

EG Art Club Meeting

The East Greenwich Art Club will meet at the East Greenwich United Methodist Church (1558 South County Trail) at 7 p.m. on June 7. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Michele Leavitt -- award winning textile artist, painter and drawing teacher -- will discuss the different ways she uses needlework to create two dimensional art. Her work can be found in collections at the Newport Art Museum and the University of Virginia Art Museum. For more information, contact the art club at info@eastgreenwichartclub.org or www.eastgreenwichartclub.org.

FOWPS Meeting

Friends of Warwick Ponds will host a meeting on June 21 at 6 p.m. at the Warwick Library; the meeting will also be on Facebook.

St. Xavier Academy Reunion

St. Xavier Academy's class of 1970 will celebrate its 50th +2 reunion at Chelo's Bar and Grille at 2225 Post Road, Warwick on Aug. 21, 2022 from noon to 4 p.m. Please email Nancy Tyrell Miley at Nmiley44@gmail.com or Pat Caldwell Carvalho at Patannncarvalho@gmail.com for additional information.

Pilgrim Class of '71 Reunion

Pilgrim High School will host its class reunion on June 18 at Richard's Pub (3347 South County Trail East, Greenwich). Appetizers and dinner are \$40 per person. RSVP to nmcdowell728@gmail.com for additional details.

Life Line Screening

Residents living in and around the Warwick can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Warwick's Fraternal Order of Police 7

will host this community event on June 27. Screenings can check for the following: the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels; Diabetes risk; Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis; Kidney and thyroid function. The site is located at 95 Tanner Ave in Warwick. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1354 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

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13th Annual Classic Car Show

After a two year hiatus, the 13th Annual “Cause for Paws” Classic Car Show roars to life on Sunday, June 12. There will be antiques and classic cars, plus all Corvettes, custom muscle, hot rod, rat rod, exotics and fire trucks. There is a \$15 entry per car – registration is from 9 a.m. to noon and trophies are given at 2 p.m. For spectators, admission is free. Proceeds benefit homeless animals at the Warwick Animal Shelter. For more information, email shelterhelp@friendsri.org. The event will be located 171 Service Avenue (off Jefferson Blvd.), Warwick. Rain date is Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Watercolor Painting

Join the Pontiac Free Library for a watercolor painting and educational workshop with Rhode Island artist Aileen M. Quinn on June 11 at 11 a.m. The topic of the painting will be the Conimicut Lighthouse. All materials will be supplied. Limited to eight participants. Registration requested: (401) 737-3292 or via our website.

Animal Program

Join the Pontiac Free Library on June 28 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for Dave's Animal Experiences program, a fun, hands-on way to meet turtles, snakes, small mammals and Wally the alligator up close and personal! Registration requested: (401) 737-3292 or via our website.

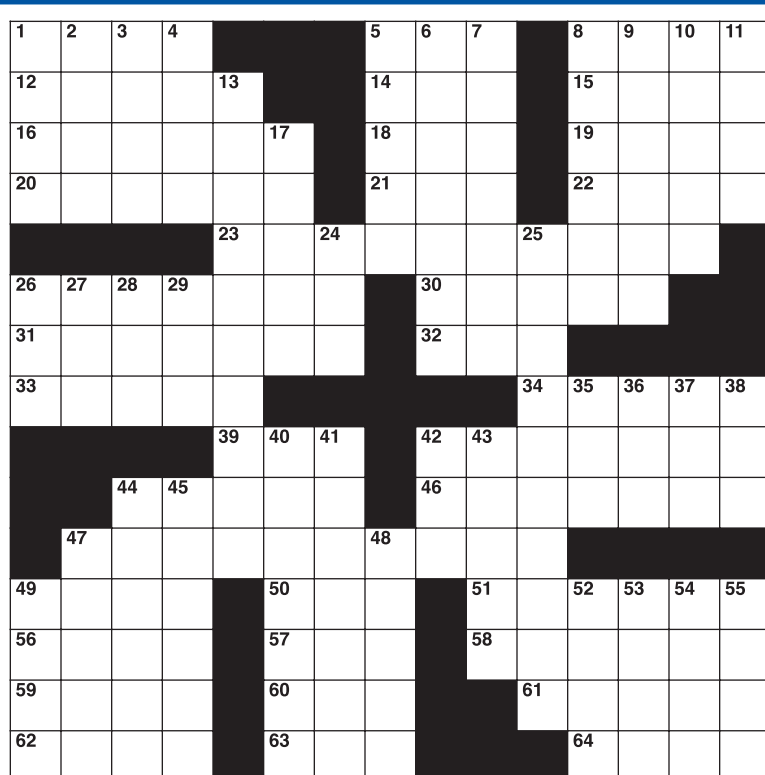
Theatre Summer Programs

The Rhode Island Youth Theatre Summer Programs will have two summer programs at the Historic Park Theatre and Event Center. “The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition” is for ages 7 to 16 and will take July 25 through August 6. No experience needed. Shows will take place August 5 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and August 6 at 7 p.m. The second program is “The Music Man, Jr.” which will run from August 8 to August 19. No experience needed. Shows will take place August 19 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and August 20 at 7 p.m. Visit www.riyt.org to register. Scholarships available for all programs, email ann@riyt.org.

AARP Martha's Vineyard Trip

AARP Chapter 2210 has planned a Martha's Vineyard trip for July 7. Bus pickup from the Exit 6A Park & Ride at 8 a.m., return time is approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$129/person. Trip includes motor coach transportation, ferry ride from Falmouth, guided bus tour of Martha's Vineyard and sightseeing in Edgartown with a stop at Bertucci's for dinner on the way home. For more information, call Maureen at 828-5188.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Orator's podium
- UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
- Partner to “oohs”
- African antelope
- Indigenous Thai person
- Monetary unit of Angola
- Becomes less intense
- Insurance mascot
- Tech hub ___ Alto
- Actress Tomei
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Type of smart watch
- Natives
- Incompetent person
- Rare Hawaiian geese
- Unspoken relationships
- Passports and licenses are two
- Claw
- Status quo
- Mimic
- Fur-lined cloak
- Ancient foreigner
- In an angry way
- Ill-intentioned
- Monetary unit of Serbia

CLUES DOWN

- Used by gymnasts
- “Luther” actor Idris
- Broad volcanic crater
- Not for
- Blur
- Tots
- Acted leisurely
- About the Alps
- Gets out of bed
- Town in “The Iliad”
- Welsh given name
- Remove salt
- Calvary sword

- S. American plant
- One or the other
- An alias for Thor
- Gratuity
- In a painful way
- French commune
- Promotional materials
- Greek city
- Assistant
- Confederate general
- Former NJ governor
- Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
- Keeps a house cozy
- Ballplayer's accessory
- Southwestern Russian city
- Pro sports league
- Congress investigative body (abbr.)
- Stop standing
- Utilize
- Sign language
- Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
- Being of central importance
- Ruin environment
- Dessert dish
- Sea eagles
- Fertilized
- Jerry's friend Benes
- Indian river
- Pass into a specified state or condition
- Nocturnal rodent
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Avenue of flags

As it has done for decades Pawtuxet Memorial Cemetery lined the roads leading through the cemetery with American flags bearing the names of veterans buried there. The flags serves as a reflective display bringing both family and friends of the deceased as well as pausing on Memorial Day together. Some families even made the occasion an outing. For Lynne Linden, pictured here, it was the setting for a quiet moment at the grave of her parents, Albert and Sarah Howland who died months apart of each other in 1996. A US Marine Corps sergeant, her father served during WWII and was injured in a battle for the Marshall Islands. Upon returning to Rhode Island he ended up working at Federal Products. (Warwick Beacon photo)



Registered Sex offender suspends council campaign due to “health diagnosis”

By ALEX MALM

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island on April 24 endorsed Michael Fleury in the Ward 5 City Council race. According to the Rhode Island Sex Offender Registry Fleury is an active level 2 sex offender.

Come Monday that endorsement may be rescinded after Fleury’s criminal past was posted on Twitter.

“The endorsement will be a topic of discussion at our next Executive Committee meeting on June 6,” said Katherine Revello, a spokesperson for LPRI. “We believe Fleury is ineligible to hold office because of his criminal conviction. We will be holding a vote to rescind the nomination and expect that motion to pass.”

Court records show that Fleury, 36 plead nolo contendere to two felony counts of indecent Solicitation of a Child on March 21 2017 according to court documents. Court sentencing documents show that Fleury was sentenced to five years of probation with his prison sentence suspended. In the second case Fleury was sentenced to serve one year in prison with four years suspended. He was sentenced to four years of probation in that case. According to sentencing documents Fleury’s sentences are consecutive.

Revello said that per the LPRI bylaws “any candidate for state or local office wishing to earn the party’s endorsement can seek it at our annual convention.”

“Our party members vote on whether to award a candidate the endorsement,” said Revello.

Revello said that the

party wasn’t aware of Fleury’s criminal conviction prior to his endorsement.

On Monday Fleury said in a text message that he would be suspending his campaign due to health reasons.

“Due to a health diagnosis given a little over a week ago I am suspending my campaign for Ward 5 city council for the election cycle as I put forth effort into handling this health issue,” said Fleury.

According to Article III, Section 2 of the state constitution “An elector shall be disqualified as a candidate for elective or appointive state or local office or from holding such office if such elector has been convicted of or plead nolo contendere to a felony or if such elector has been convicted or plead nolo contendere to a misdemeanor resulting in a jail sentence of six months or more, either suspended or to be served. Such elector shall not, once so convicted, attain or return to any office until three years after the date of completion of such sentence and of probation or parole.”

Revello on Tuesday said “under our party bylaws, anyone who is legally ineligible to run for office in the state is not eligible to receive the party’s endorsement. A candidate who seeks the party’s endorsement while not legally eligible to hold office is violating the party’s bylaws.”

“It’s likely that a question about criminal history will become a standing question for candidates seeking the party’s endorsement at our annual convention,” said Revello.



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HAMMING IT UP: Students from all of the city’s elementary schools got a taste of Christmas and plenty of games and activities at the Warwick Rotary party including, as seen here, having free rein to tour the cab of fire truck.

Christmas in May

Traditionally the Warwick Rotary Club holds a Christmas party for students selected by principals from each of the city’s elementary schools in December. That wasn’t possible in 2020 and the following year because of covid restrictions, but the club wasn’t prepared to let the event fade from the its mission to serve the community. So, under the leadership of members Lara D’Antuono and Robert DeGregorio, the club held a Christmas party last Wednesday – May 25 – at the Robertson School. Club members bought gifts, wrapping them in Christmas paper. Santa showed up in his shorts. The Fire Department arrived in a truck the children were welcome to climb though. The Police Department K-9 crew including the newest addition to their ranks – Charlie the comfort pup – delighted the kids. There were games and, of course, food and drinks. The consensus among principals and participants is that Christmas can be a lot of fun in May. That could well become the new Rotary Club tradition. *(Warwick Beacon photos)*



SOME TECHNICAL ASSITANCE: Rotary Club member Joseph Sinapi assists Hoxsie School student Fernando Knowles with the scooter he received at the Christmas party.



NEVER ENOUGH JIMMYS: Holliman School student Sophia Maradonna kept piling jimmys on her cupcake before taking a bite of the sugary confection.



MEETING THE YOUNGEST DEAPRTMENT MEMBER: Dan Scanlon Jr. gets a paw shake from Charley, the newest Police Department recruit on May 25.

Dambruch recommends termination of Wyman Principal

By ALEX MALM

Warwick Superintendent Lynn Dambruch said that she is recommending to the Warwick School Committee that Wyman Elementary School Principal Ronald Celio should be fired.

Dambruch said that over the last month the Director of Human Resources Kim Ruggieri “has led a formal investigation, reviewed by both myself and our leadership team, following an incident involving Wyman Elementary School Principal Celio and the restraint of a student.”

Celio was formally placed on administrative leave on April 8 after the incident was reported.

“Our investigation concluded this incident did not follow Crisis Prevention Intervention protocol and procedure for this student scenario. Warwick Public Schools has reported this incident to both the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families and the RI Department of Education pursuant to our statutory reporting mandate,” Dambruch said in a statement Sunday night.

“This is a difficult decision but with a heavy heart, I am recommending to the Warwick School Committee



RECOMMENDING TERMINATION: Superintendent Lynn Dambruch announced last week that she is recommending to the Warwick School Committee the termination of Wyman Elementary School Principal Ronald Celio. Celio is pictured in 2020 during a drive by celebration for Wyman Elementary School students while school was held remotely. *(Beacon file photo)*

that Mr. Celio be terminated from his position, The safety and well-being of every child attending Wyman Elementary School and all of our Warwick Public Schools is paramount, and my recommendation is consistent with this belief and made with

our students in mind.”

Dambruch said that the interim administrators Roy Costa and Sara Hess who are currently in place will continue to serve in that capacity.

A date for the hearing wasn’t set at the time of publication.



Ceremony: A sincere salute to our flag's history

By CASEY BISETTI

"There are too many to burn."
That was what Representative Camille Vella-Wilkinson said at this year's annual Warwick Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Warwick Veterans Park, wherein Rhode Island residents come together to honor the troops and respectfully retire old and worn-out flags.

In the quiet shade of the park, roughly half a dozen veterans and government officials, including Mayor Frank Picozzi and Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi, spoke on the value and symbolism of the flag. Admiration bled into their words as they wound their way through the flag's history. Witness to so many hundreds of battles, from Gettysburg to Afghanistan, this symbol is treated with the utmost respect, even when worn beyond repair.

Taken from, "I Am Your Flag," one of the poems read aloud at the ceremony: I am your flag. I am not a pennant, but a purpose; not a standard, but a symbol; not a banner but a belief. I was conceived in justice,



MEMORIAL WREATH: Former Disabled American Veterans commanders Tony Rodrigues and Jim Burrows carry a wreath to be placed on the Rhode Island War on Terrorism Memorial at Veterans Park at Warwick Veterans Middle School. (Warwick Beacon photos)

fostered by the love of liberty, and nourished by the desire for freedom. I am not a flag, but your Flag.

Toward the end of the ceremony, tattered strips of the flag were passed around to each member of the crowd, to be placed with solidarity in the box of retiring flags. First called were the red strips, representing hardiness and valor, followed by white stripes, representing purity and innocence, and finally, blue patches, representing vigilance, perseverance,

and justice. To conclude the ceremony, former commanders Tony Rodrigues and Jim Burrows of the Disabled American Veterans Organization laid a wreath on the Rhode Island War on Terrorism Memorial as a promise to continuously remember and honor those who lost their lives fighting for our freedom. Vella-Wilkinson has organized this event since 2011, when the city council asked her to conduct a ceremony after the annual Warwick Memorial Day Parade. Eventually, the parade was



REITRING THE FLAG: From left Rep. David Bennett, Rep. Evan Shanley, Col. Bradford Connor and Matt LaMountain place tattered flag remnants on a pile of flags to be retired by incineration.

discontinued after veterans expressed discomfort with the event. "It felt like a celebration," she said. "It's not a celebration. It's a memorial." DAV Commander Sal Caiozzo also touched upon the often misunderstood nature of the event, and its deep importance to veterans. "To many, Memorial Day is simply the unofficial beginning of summer. Many

are unaware of its history, or the heavy burden tied to its celebration." The current ceremony is something intimate, something quiet, surrounded by an overarching sense of community. According to Vella-Wilkinson, people from all over Rhode Island gave her flags for this ceremony. In the decade that she's been in charge of this ceremony, she has become somewhat

synonymous with it. She recounts tales of people approaching her in the grocery store with bags of worn-out flags ready to be retired. Typically, the retired flags are burned in a formal ceremony at the park, but this year, the number of flags was too great to be safely burned there. Instead, they were hand-delivered to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery to be retired there.



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Off to a good start...lots more to come



Mother Nature put on a command performance for the Gaspee Days arts and crafts show held over Memorial Day weekend in Pawtuxet. The forecast had been for rain Saturday morning, but while there were a few early drops it was not enough to deter a crowd ready for the return of the popular event. Vendors reported brisk business and as much as the fair is about finding the perfect gift for that special someone it was reconnecting people who are starved to have life return to "normal." Gaspee Days festivities continue this Saturday with the symphony in Pawtuxet Park from 5 to 8 p.m. (rain date is Sunday) to be followed by the fireworks extravaganza from 9 to 10 p.m. at Salter's Grove. The Gaspee Days parade steps off Saturday, June 11 at 10 a.m. with more events that day planned for Pawtuxet Park the following day culminating with the burning of the Gaspee at 3 p.m. (Warwick Beacon photos)



LET'S FACE IT, YOU CAN SEE IT:
Talia Toolin wanted to admire the art work of face painter Toni Morrison so she asked that a unicorn be painted on her arm. Morrison had a line outside her booth at the festival Saturday.



STORIES FROM LAOS:
Mayv Moua, who come to this country with her family from Laos in the wake of the Vietnam War, has been a long-time regular at the Arts and Crafts festival. Her needlework, which her mother taught her and she has handed down to her daughters features scenes from the homeland as well as ones depicting their home in this country. Their artistry includes stuffed animals, hand stitched purses and intricately patterned table cloths and mats.

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BUSHEL OF LITTLE NECKS: Jody King who is almost always accompanied by his dog Nosmo prepares to off load Tuesday's catch after returning to the marina in Oakland Beach. (Warwick Beacon photos)

■ Quahogs

(Continued from page 1)

Although last summer was unusually wet, causing multiple closures, the yield from the area over 15 days was 4.5 million clams. The surprise was that about 90 percent of the catch was little necks that command higher prices than the mature and older quahogs used for chowder and sold by weight rather than by the piece. Little necks range in age from 4 to 7 years.

With the area being closed for so many decades, it was thought the older and larger quahogs would be more plentiful explains Conor McManus, Chief of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries.

Can the area continue to produce quantities of little necks, or does the goose have only one gold egg?

McGivney and Warwick's Jody King report a productive two days of quahogging. Both agreed the first day was tough because of high winds. King said he harvested 2,500 little necks bringing him close to the six-bushel limit. King said the area is "five times better" than other areas in the bay. McGivney did not disclose his catch, but said these have been "good pay days."

King and an estimated 130 to 140 quahoggers were out there again this Tuesday with many of them arriving an hour before the opening to secure their preferred location. King scored another highly productive day harvesting more than 2,600 pieces (little necks), 400 larger quahogs (tops) and 100 pounds of the even larger chowders. He estimated it was a \$1,000 day for him.

For a first time the area is also open to recreational diggers. It is open every day of the week. The recreational shell-fishing limit is one peck or 2.3 gallons.

McGivney described the quahogs as being concentrated in "ribbons" or sets. He believes this is a reflection of the currents and how it deposits the larva as well as another "golden" goose extending up the Providence River.

McManus applauds the decision to open the area saying, "it provides an economic opportunity to the industry that has faced tough times." The challenge, he says, is to develop a management plan that provides for a sustainable long range fishery. Doing that requires reliable data from a variety of sources including evaluations of the harvest, water tests including temperatures, available food for the quahogs, predators that include crabs, whelk and even birds.

"It's a river of high abundance," McManus says preferring not to use the golden goose analogy of King and McGivney. He believes the thinning of the stock as well as the raking of the bottom can be helpful, but the danger is "not to reduce the spawning stock to a level it can't reproduce."

King on fears the area has limited regenerative powers and continued openings could kill it as a mother source of quahogs throughout the bay.

"This is my golden goose, is it going to continue to make seed?" he asks. He feels the area is being "raped" and opening it "is not a good thing to do."

Yet King will fish the area as long as it is open. His logic is that if he doesn't others will; it is easy work compared to other parts of the bay and it is good money. Additionally, he points out that quahoggers have focused on three areas – off Conimicut, Gaspee and Bull-ock's Point – that is a fraction of the 1,900 acres.

"There's lots of space to play," he said.

McGivney, who has served as association president for the past 27 years, sees opening the area as revitalizing the industry, offering opportunity to young people and introducing them to working for themselves. DEM offers an "open license" to students in school and 23 years old or younger. They are limited to a catch of three bushels as day.

McGivney is happy with the schedule the shellfish advisory council and the Marine Fisheries Council worked out for this year. The Fisheries Council

recommendation was referred to DEM director Terrence Gray who had the final say.

For starters the advisory council was able to meet in person rather than by Zoom. McManus said concerns about over fishing the area as well as flooding the market with product were addressed by reducing the days of fishing per week from three to two. Also, increasing the overall number of days by extending the season was seen as a means of easing the pressure on the area while giving full time diggers opportunities. The two days per week schedule carries through Labor Day when it goes to one day a week through October. The area is off limits to shell-fishing in November but will reopen for one day a week for three weeks in December. McManus said the reason for the December opening because at that time of year is the best prices for quahogs.

McGivney has seen a noticeable improvement in the water north of the Conimicut shoal. He points out there haven't been the huge quantities of seaweed that floated in rotting masses and washed up on beaches several years ago. Furthermore, he's seeing improved water quality extending north, reinforcing his conviction of more than a single golden goose.

David Borkman, a principal environmental scientist with the DEM, attributes the improved bay water quality to "decades of financial investment." He says it is not just with the CSO (combined stormwater overflow) - a system of underground cisterns that hold sewage and stormwater during an event until it can be treated – implemented by the Narragansett Bay Commission, but also municipal wastewater treatment plant improvements, reduction in cesspools and individual actions, such as picking up dog poop that has improved water quality.

"The effect of rain (on the quality of bay water) as almost been eliminated," he said.

■ Safety

(Continued from page 1)

strict and complete a comprehensive survey of potential emergency hazards, including reviews of doors and windows, car access, landscape features, lighting, alarm and camera systems, and communications systems."

These walkthroughs and corresponding reports have to be shared with RIDE and the School Safety Committee by next Friday.

"Schools where potential hazards are found will be encouraged to work with local law enforcement and their school safety teams to identify solutions to those hazards, including determining the time and cost of implementation," the press release reads. "RIDE will authorize up to \$500,000 in emergency approval through the School Building Authority for each district to make whatever additional security upgrades their school facilities need and be reimbursed after the work is complete."

School administrators did not respond to inquiries as to how they intended to conduct the school by school inspection and report as of press time Wednesday.

Armed guards in schools
The unsubstantiated Lippitt School threat along with the school shooting in Texas led to chatter on Facebook Tuesday night.

One proposal came from Katelyn Lafontaine who suggested that there be armed guards in all schools across Rhode Island.

A mother of a fourth grader and an aunt of a first grader at Oakland Beach Elementary School Lafontaine said in a Facebook post "I would like to look into having an armed guard at all Warwick schools every minute our kids are there."

"If we can't get decent roads to drive on we can at least have a little bit of peace sending out children to school," said Lafontaine.



On Patrol: Warwick police were seen outside of Lippitt Elementary School on Wednesday morning after a possible school shooting threat was reported over the weekend. After an investigation was completed police deemed that the threat wasn't credible. (Submitted photo)

Asked if she thinks that the armed guards should be in addition to the school resource officers at the middle and high schools Lafontaine said, "In the times we are living in, yes."

"And people are going to oppose and get political but bottom line is: I would rather have someone who is trained and armed to protect my child then roll the dice and take the chance of having someone shoot the school up with no one equipped (training, weapon, etc) to defend and protect them," said Lafontaine.

Earlier in the day during a weekly press briefing with Mayor Frank Picozzi, Picozzi said that he received a message from someone who said that all elementary schools in Warwick should have school resource officers. Currently School Resource officers are stationed at the city's middle and high schools.

Picozzi told the individual that he didn't think it would work mainly due to financial constraints.

"I said we don't have the funds for

that it's not budgeted, we don't have the personnel or the resources," said Picozzi.

Picozzi also noted that Warwick along with other cities and towns don't have the necessary personnel to have SROS in all of the schools.

"I can barely fill shifts. We could never do that. Call the Governor and tell him to put the National Guard in the schools," said Picozzi.

Asked if he knew how much it would cost for the remainder of the school year Picozzi said he didn't but said that all the officers working there would receive time and a half.

"It would cost a fortune," said Picozzi.

Asked if he would consider the proposal during the next budget cycle Picozzi said that it would cost too much and that the city doesn't have enough personnel within the police department.

"It's not like I'm not concerned, I have grandchildren in our elementary schools," said Picozzi.

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Fair aimed at helping parents help their kids

By CASEY BISETTI

The cozy atmosphere of the Warwick Public Library made it a good environment to connect with the community. After months separated by a screen, Cameron Kadek couldn't be more excited to finally meet with the parents of the kids she's been teaching for years now.

Kadek began at her position as a Title 1 Family Facilitator three years ago—just before COVID hit. As a faculty member under Title 1, her main job is to foster an inclusive and compassionate environment for underprivileged children and their families. She serves five elementary schools: Oakland Beach, Norwood, Lippitt, Hoxsie, and Scott.

She recounts the day, just over a month ago, when the state of Rhode Island declared a state of emergency in the field of adolescent mental health.

"I was coming back from April Vacation when the news of children and adolescents mental health had really become an issue... And I'm typing up my newsletter, and I'm sharing an article, and I'm saying, 'A state of emergency has been declared and here's some more information.' And I kind of thought, 'Okay, I'm sharing this, but what am I doing about it?'"

Kadek has proven time and time again that she's not one to remain paralyzed in a time of need. She's a woman of action, and one who refuses to stand by idly while others suffer.

She immediately placed calls to a variety of organizations all across Rhode Island and asked whether they would be willing to participate in a new event she planned to host, which she called a mental health fair. Thrive Behav-

ioral Health, the BHDDH, Rhode Island Regional Coalitions, the Parent Support Network, and the Warwick Health Equity Zone were happy to lend their time and resources to this worthy cause. The fair was held last Wednesday at the Warwick Public Library.

The turn-out was larger than Kadek had expected, with 20 to 30 parents attending.

She describes the fair as being a collage, of sorts, with different tables aligned in a horseshoe, and each table hosting a different organization or topic. Kadek's table focused on social-emotional well-being, and the impact that parents' attitudes and behaviors can have on kids.

"Sometimes, it's surprising how much these kids are really soaking things up in their surroundings... Death, sickness, all sorts of things. I'm sure that substance abuse was on the rise... We know that domestic violence was heightened."

To mediate some of the damage children can incur from witnessing negative coping skills in their role models, Kadek and her colleagues explained and demonstrated positive coping strategies to parents.

Other tables focused on self harm, suicide, substance abuse, and a variety of other urgent topics.

Martha Battella of the Parent Support Network said, "I am hopeful to see more of these events to bring awareness of the support and resources that are available. I believe it is important to bring people together and hold space to heal the trauma that we all have experienced."

Kadek is already making plans for another event. She hopes to turn this mental health fair into an annual event of grand proportions, possibly an outdoor event



AT MENTAL HEALTH FAIR: Cameron Kadek, left, and Martha Battella of the Parent Support Network compare notes at the mental health fair Kadek organized at the library. (Warwick Beacon photo)

with food trucks and fun activities for any kids brought along.

"People are busy. They're working two jobs. They're single parents. They can't lug four kids with them. So, you know, if we can have something fun and enticing, then it will be more successful."

This isn't the first initiative that Kadek has implemented to help children in need. For years, she's been hosting themed activity nights, from Electric Science Nights to Bingo Math Nights, to inspire enthusiasm and curiosity in young students. These events are designed to be attended by both students and their parents.

"We know that when parents are involved, the success rates of students climb," Kadek explains.

But, by far, her most successful initiatives have been her strikes

against child hunger and food insecurity.

Over 40% of kids in all of her schools qualify for free or reduced lunch, which the schools happily provide. But then, the question is raised, What are these kids eating on the weekends?

The tragic answer is: Sometimes, nothing.

This is what inspired Kadek to begin filling up discreet black bags with non-perishable goods for kids to take home on the weekends.

"If a kid is hungry, they're not focused on learning. They're not learning the math. They're not paying attention in class. They're thinking about their empty stomach. And same goes for the parents. They're not gonna come and hang out at a LEGO night with

me, or a science night, if they're like, 'I don't have groceries. I don't know how to feed my kid.'"

Oakland Beach Elementary School also has a food pantry with "Open Shop Hours", wherein anybody can visit and take as many items as are needed. This is where Kadek supplements the fresh produce and other perishable goods that she could not safely pack in a backpack to be sent home with the kids. She also provides necessities like laundry detergent there, which is often too heavy for kids to carry home themselves.

"Rhode Island is tiny, and we have so much. So, if we can bring everybody together, families can really see what they have at their disposal and where to turn to when they need help."



The "Maya's" book

When Mayor Frank Picozzi was asked to read to Wyman School students he brought along his own book "Where did all the R's Go" that makes fun of who Rhode Islanders drop Rs when speaking. Here the Picozzi reads to the fifth grade class of Cynthia Bowden. The students had questions for the mayor after he finished reading his book and one they picked out for him – The Book with No Pictures. Among questions for the mayor were his favorite color, whether he has pets and how many votes he received. And he had a question for them: How many had seen his Christmas light show? Hands flew up. (Warwick Beacon photo)

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EDITORIAL

Marijuana legalization is a win for common sense

The signing of a recreational marijuana legalization bill is an important moment in Rhode Island's history that is worth celebrating — indicative that state legislators have finally come to their senses on an issue which has massive potential upside and creates, in our view, no more hazards than already existed in a world where marijuana was outlawed. For far too long, opponents to recreational marijuana have relied on logically fallacious arguments to buoy their stance. They claimed it would cause massive increases in use among youth, that car crash fatalities would skyrocket, and that it would send a dangerous and harmful message regarding an endorsement of the use of recreational drugs.

In a world where alcohol remains for sale on nearly every corner of every Main Street in the state, and cigarettes are available at every gas station and convenience store imaginable, these arguments have only become more farcical with the passing of time.

The reality is much more boring, according to data collected by the Cato Institute on states that have legalized marijuana, beginning with Colorado and Washington in 2012. While they conclude that there is not ample data yet to make any big picture predictions about the future one way or another, data that has been collected has revealed that there simply has not been a drastic change in any of the major categories — marijuana use, crime, and road accidents, specifically — as a result of marijuana legalization. The only notable exception is the amount of tax revenue that has been collected, which has exceeded expectations on the whole.

This isn't really surprising. The era of alcohol prohibition remains a good reference point for the fact that human beings who want to indulge in a mind-altering substance are going to do so, regardless of laws that proclaim they should not do so. It stands to reason that, especially in a world where you can drive 20 minutes away to Massachusetts and buy marijuana legally, that the same number of Rhode Islanders who wanted to smoke weed when it was illegal, will still want to smoke weed when it is legal here. All you've done, in effect, is slightly reduce the burden for them to ob-

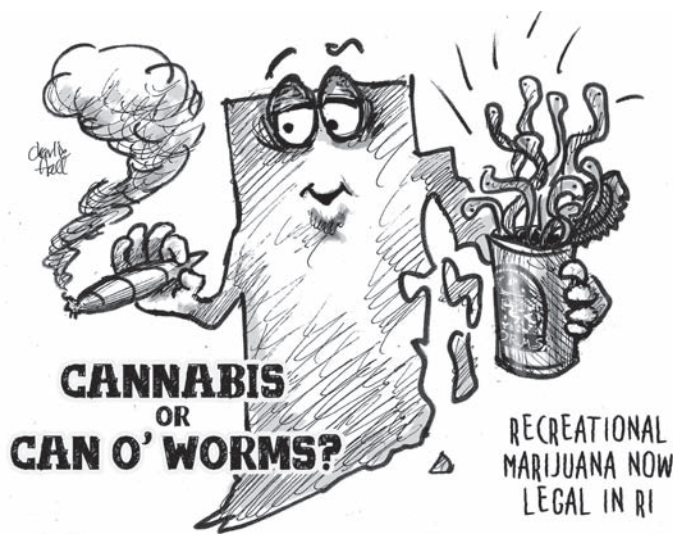
tain it, and captured more money for local communities and the state as a whole in the process.

Pearl clutching over "the children," and the message they receive from marijuana being legalized is also a gross mischaracterization. Aside from the fact that the law will only sell to those above 21 years of age, younger children are increasingly aware of drug culture in our society (it has been a staple of movies and television shows aimed at their demographic for nearly 20 years), and they are simultaneously armed with more information about its potential negative consequences than ever before. The same kids who want to stay away from marijuana now will continue to avoid it whether or not the drug is legal. The same kids who have been able to easily access the drug, despite its illegality, will continue to access it — all the more reason to have proceeds from legal sales go into funding drug awareness campaigns and resources to address drug abuse.

One benefit to the legalization of marijuana that is not purely theoretical, however, is the fact that no more people will be saddled with the life-altering difficulty of having an arrest record for possessing a small amount of a drug that is, inarguably, less harmful than the aforementioned and normalized alcohol. Being able to expunge the records of those who have been wrongfully persecuted for such a crime is an enormous win for justice, particularly for minority populations who have been inordinately targeted and punished for low-level drug possession.

The concerns about police not being prepared to catch people driving stoned ignore the fact that driving while impaired has always been illegal, and will remain illegal. There is no data to back up the notion that more people will now be driving stoned than already were.

We commend Senate Majority Leader and Warwick's own Michael McCaffrey for being a supporter of the bill. It wasn't long ago that he visited the Beacon office with current House Speaker Joe Shekarchi voicing his hesitation about legalization. We are encouraged by his ability to learn from testimony and trust in the people of Rhode Island to make the right choices for themselves and their neighbors.



■ This Side Up (Continued from page 1)



Doug James in uniform

in order to make the money to pay for his own tennis lessons.

Now at 56 years old, married and with two daughters having earned college degrees, Doug has made tennis a successful career. He has taught thousands how to play the game ranging in age from 4 to 95.

Today, however, he embarks on a new career, as a law enforcement officer. Having completed eight weeks of grueling physiological and physical tests where at more than one point he felt he couldn't go a step further, Doug will graduate today from the Rhode Island State Police Academy. Doug didn't only make it, he finished first in his class and will address his colleagues. He is believed to be the oldest new recruit (there may be former older police officers) to graduate.

If the wall was a lesson in personal commitment and persistence, then the academy was a fortress of many walls.

As a casual tennis player and a sub for what started out as the Toll Gate High School tennis league shortly after the school opened in the 1970s at Tennis Rhode Island on Centerville Road, I've known Doug for years. The Beacon has featured photo essays on him teaching some of his youngest students and he's usually at the club as the league finishes up Saturday morning play.

It was one of those Saturdays in March during locker room chatter that the "new Doug" revealed he would be attending the academy. The "new Doug" I then realized was quite a bit trimmer than

the Doug tossing balls over the net to a pair of young sisters. Not only had Doug shed 50 pounds but he was upbeat and animated as he described what he was about to do.

Just being accepted to the academy is an accomplishment.

Doug gave it a shot about a year ago, but failed the agility test when he completed 18 of the 24 sit ups required for consideration. That test also involves running 1.5 miles in 15:03 minutes, completing a 300-yard dash in 38.3 seconds and 13 pushups.

This time Doug trained for the agility test, not only losing those 50 pounds but pulling a hamstring a week before the test. He desperately sought a cure to pull him through — to beat the wall. He came up with a salve used on horses that reeked of garlic and explicitly stated on the directions, "not for human use." It got him through.

Technically according to the medical prognosis after he was born, Doug should have never gone on to play tennis or for that matter even be considered as a candidate to become a law enforcement officer. During birth his right arm was injured. Doctors predicted he wouldn't have use of it and it would never fully develop. Doug's mother stubbornly refused to accept that fate and regularly exercised the arm starting when he was an infant. It paid off even though to this day his mobility is limited and while serving he cannot lift his arm for a full toss. He plays with his left arm.

At the Saturday morning tennis league, Doug highlighted what he been through at the academy. The first report was of a candidate who withdrew leaving the class at five. When the academy was advertised, Doug said more than 250 applied. That number dropped to about 50 who took the written and agility tests and from that number six were picked for the academy.

Doug's weekly told of punishing exercises such as racing up and down stairs in the state administration building with pushups required at each landing, being

sprayed by pepper gas and getting zinged with a tazer. Then there were the mind games designed to see if you could keep your cool and the story straight under intense and sometime confusing questioning. And there were the tests in on constitutional law, civil law, domestic violence, officer safety, first aid, and use of force to name a few.

On Saturday Doug glowed as he reported he would be graduating first in his class by a thin margin. He wasn't as ebullient relating one of the final physical test, consisting of five minutes of exercises followed by 15 minutes of non-stop fighting. He was to hold off and neutralize his attacker. The first of his adversaries had a neck the size of a tree trunk making it impossible to get him in a neck hold. But Doug didn't give up; he never let his adversary de-arm him of his mock weapon. By the end of the session, Doug never felt so exhausted or beat up.

In his remarks tonight Doug will speak about the support of his classmates and his wife Lisa who put in extra time as the flower manager at five Walgreens to help balance the family budget and recall how he limped home after the first night of physical training.

I was "asking myself if I had made a mistake. Deep down I knew I hadn't. This is something I had wanted to do since I was a young kid."

Doug will be sworn in June 6. Being first in his class, he and the second place graduate are guaranteed jobs. He will be a member of the Capitol Police, a force of 48 that provides security at state buildings including among others the DMV, the State House and Administration offices.

And why did he want to be a law enforcement officer especially at this time?

"It's an honorable profession. It's something bigger than me."

Hopefully, I'll still see him at Tennis Rhode Island. I'd love to learn to put more top spin on my returns as I don't have the patience to face the wall.

LETTERS

Choice or coercion?

To the Editor,

Taxpayer funded abortion is currently being considered by the legislature in RI. WHY?

The "poor" have had access to abortion since 1973.

In fact abortion clinics were placed in poorer neighborhoods precisely to encourage them to seek abortions. That was the intent of the original founders of NARAL and Planned Parenthood who disdained the poor and felt they had no business procreating.

Pro-life people support families with their own money so they can keep their children. Shouldn't pro-abortion people do the same? If there is so much concern for the "poor" among them, they need to put their money where their mouth is and support these women that they claim cannot afford abortions on their own. The state need not be involved. For nearly 50 years anyone

who has wanted an abortion, has had one. So why involve state money now? I suggest that it has nothing to do with need but a desire to force everyone to participate in this never ending blood thirsty industry.

As someone who has worked with post-abortive women for more than twenty years, I can say that coercion and intimidation play a strong part in many abortions. Does the state intend to offer choice to women or to enter into the coercion and intimidation business for women? Or maybe that is the next piece of legislation!

Judith Costa
Smithfield

Slippery slope of weakening constitutional rights

To the Editor,

President Joe Biden has once again falsely claimed, "You couldn't buy a canon when the Second Amendment was passed". Even the left-leaning PolitiFact has repeatedly ruled it false and said that Biden, "...needs to stop making this claim."

Private citizens could indeed, and did, buy canons during the Revolutionary War period; and when the Second Amendment was passed, there were no laws prohibiting citizens from continuing to purchase canons. The Founders apparently believed that private citizens should have firepower somewhat equal to the government's in case—like King George's—government became tyrannical. The Founders even wrote into the Declaration of Independence that in such cases, "...it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government."

But how do we reconcile this constitutional right with our need to stop mass shootings in our country?

Most Americans agree that we should have robust background checks and red flag laws. Federal law already requires background checks for all gun purchases at gun stores, or 78 percent of all guns sales. Rhode Island and 20 other states have enacted laws that require further checks on people attempting to buy a gun privately or at a gun show. 19 states, to include Rhode Island, have red flag laws that allow authorities to temporarily confiscate guns from those a judge rules a danger to themselves or others. Other states are looking at passing similar laws. And that's where such legislative decisions constitutionally belong, with the states—not with the federal government.

As semi-automatic rifle ownership has gone

up in recent decades, our country's violent crime rate has declined by 54 percent. Less than 2 percent of gun deaths are caused by those wielding semi-automatic rifles.

87 percent of mass shooters have used legally purchased weapons. Almost all mass shooters had undergone background checks and had not been the subjects of complaints that would have triggered red flag laws. While these relatively non-intrusive laws should be strengthened and widened, history shows they will not stop mass shootings.

So, what's to be done? We can certainly do more to protect our most vulnerable—our school children—with security-supervised, single-point access and with hardened classrooms. We can also devote more financial and social resources toward improved mental health. Even raising to 21 the minimum age to purchase a gun, the same age required to purchase alcohol, seems reasonable.

If such changes are made and mass shootings continue in non-school settings, will most politicians and anti-Second Amendment groups then decide, as many already have, that the only way to completely stop mass shootings is to confiscate all semi-automatic firearms from all Americans—to include all pistols, shotguns, hunting rifles, target sports rifles, home defense firearms, and all other guns that have the capability to fire successive rounds without cycling a bolt or cocking a hammer?

Beware the slippery slope of weakening constitutional rights. Paraphrasing Martin Niemöller's famous Holocaust poem, "First They Came," future Americans may say: "First they came for the Second Amendment and I did not speak out, because I was not a gun owner. Then they came for the First Amendment's free

press and I did not speak out, because I didn't trust most news sources anyway. Then they came for freedom of religion and I did not speak out, because I'm not a regular church-goer. Then they came for citizens' freedom of speech and I did not speak out, because I am a quiet person who stays to myself. But finally, they came for the Fourth Amendment, to arrest me without cause—but there was no one left with constitutional protections to speak out for me."

Lonnie Barham,
Warwick

Barham is a retired Army colonel and former civilian police officer

Enlightened?

To the Editor,

In 1770 five Americans were massacred in Boston sparking a Revolution.

More than two hundred and fifty years later two eighteen year-olds massacre ten innocent patrons in a grocery store and nineteen third-and-fourth graders and two teachers at a school while we wring our hands and do nothing.

And we, as an enlightened citizenship, endorse the premise that eighteen year-olds lack the maturity to legally drink alcohol yet possess the intellectual stability to purchase, own and wield an assault weapon ... all while our Mothers weep and our Founding Fathers scratch their heads.

Stefano Andolfo
Warwick

WARWICK BEACON

1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4
Warwick, RI 02889
(401) 732-3100

The Warwick Beacon is committed to accuracy, honesty, fair play and the well-being of our community. Those are the standards to which we hold ourselves and by which we ask you to judge us. If you think we have failed to meet them, we want you to tell us. Please address your concerns to the Editor or Publisher, Warwick Beacon, 1944 Warwick Ave. Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889; call (401) 732-3100.

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Buddy is BACK!



“BUDDY: One Last Night” will run from June 15 to June 19. On June 15, 16, 17 and 18, shows will start at 7:30 p.m. There will also be 2 p.m. performances on June 18 and 19. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$25 for elevated seating and \$30 for VIP. For more information, visit thecomedypark.com/.

By EMMA BARTLETT

Comedian Nick Albanese, 48, is bringing Buddy Cianci back to life in his new one-man comedy show “BUDDY: One Last Night.” Join Buddy at the Comedy Park within Cranston’s Park Theatre from June 15 to 19 – seating limited – as he shares stories about the highs and lows of his career before going on “vacation” in the fall of 2002. Albanese said the show is filled with drama, comedy and Providence political history.

Given the nickname “young Buddy” when he was a child, Albanese looks like Buddy Cianci and met the former Providence mayor growing up. Albanese said he was around age five or six when he met Buddy at Lombardi’s 1025 Club; Albanese was dressed up with his hair combed to one side and everyone at the venue kept saying he looked like Buddy. Buddy walked in when someone told him there was a kid there who looked like him, Buddy said “this must be some good

looking kid’ and went over and met Albanese. Years later, Albanese and Buddy crossed paths again – with Buddy remembering him from Lombardi’s.

Albanese grew up in North Providence and graduated from CCRI in 1995 with a degree in theatre; he is now a writer, actor and producer.

“My thing was acting and writing,” said Albanese.

He performed in a number of productions at CCRI and in the local theatre scene. By the late 90s, Albanese became involved with TV and film – spending several years in California. In 2007, Albanese starred on national television by appearing in a few episodes of Showtime’s series “Brotherhood” as Councilman Charlie Hacker in seasons two and three.

After his involvement in TV and film for several years, Albanese returned to his theatre roots.

In 2015, he started his own theatre group with friends which ran up until the pandemic. Albanese debuted his one-man play, “The Last Sicilian” in 2015

which won Best New Work at the 2016 MOTIF Theatre Awards in RI and had a two week run Off-Broadway in New York City in 2018.

Albanese’s stand up comedy career took flight when he met comedian George Carlin at Providence Performing Arts Center who gave him advice on writing his own material. Carlin said to write five minutes of material for a routine and said Albanese should go to every open mic night he could.

Albanese said Trinity Repertory Company performed a play about Buddy in 2019 called “Prince of Providence.” Knowing he wanted to write his own piece on Buddy, Albanese got to work.

In “BUDDY: One Last Night,” Albanese said there will be a couple of surprises in the show – including one or two minor characters which will be appearances by surprise actors; there will also be a slideshow with photos capturing Buddy’s life. Overall, there will be funny bits with some more serious moments about him speaking of his life. Since he

will be performing in a comedy hall instead of a black box theatre, Albanese has altered his show.

He said in a black box theatre, the performer isn’t talking to the audience as much and the whole event is more theatrical. With the comedy hall where there are tables, chairs and bar, the room has a different feeling. In the Comedy Park, Albanese said the show will be more interactive.

For Albanese’s writing process, he writes what he thinks is funny and will either show some people or go to an open mic night to test the material. Sometimes, he’ll have his regular material and sneak in new segments to see if it works with the crowd.

Albanese’s favorite comedians include Sebastian Maniscalco, Chris Rock and Dave Chappelle.

“I love guys who say what they want and don’t care...comedy is supposed to be a little offensive,” Albanese said.

He said in his own work he has a little jab here and there, but he tries not to offend anyone since he wants

them to enjoy the show.

Albanese has also written several plays including “Everyone Needs Some Therapy Sometimes,” “The Last Days of Rockin’ Rob’s” and “Many Sides of the Reaper.” “Everyone Needs Some Therapy Sometimes” is about patients who have different issues and are in group therapy together; the play shines the light on their issues through comedy. “Last Days of Rob and Rock” is about a record shop

that closes in the early 2000s when technology is taking over and no one is buying records and “Many Sides of the Reaper” is based on the true story of a Mafia hitman in the 1980s. Albanese said he would eventually like to bring back “Many Sides of the Reaper” after rewriting and cutting the cast size; he would also like to see “Everyone Needs Some Therapy Sometimes” come back to the stage.

WARWICK WORSHIP

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
asburyumc.org
Child Care available

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.
Rev. Alan Vukas
732-1552

Congregation of Chadash
Egalitarian Minyan in the Jewish Conservative Tradition
in Trinity Episcopal Church,
139 Ocean Avenue, Cranston
Use Circuit Street entrance
Friday Services 6:00 pm
Saturday Services 9:30am
For information on High Holiday Services or Membership visit:
www.orchadash-ri.org

Eckankar Center
2914 Post Road
Pastor Tom Towhill
738-4827
www.eckankar-ri.org

Faith Baptist Church
765 Commonwealth Ave.
Pastor Dr. Ed Stutz
738-7664
faithbaptistrii.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

Friendship Baptist Church
2945 West Shore Road
Pastor Kaleb Hall
738-4392
friendshipri.com

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian
805 Main Avenue
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark
737-1230
www.gccp.org

Lakewood Baptist Church
255 Atlantic Avenue
Pastor Ron Provencal
781-1136
Sunday Worship 10am
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
nbbsci.org

Norwood Baptist Church
48 Budlong Avenue
Rev. George Barclay
941-7040

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1817 Warwick Avenue
Pastor Maria Hammons
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
Rev. Susan L. Wrathall
737-3127
5 P.m. Saturday
Sun. - 8 am & 10:00 am
All in person
No reservations necessary
LIVE <http://www.facebook.com/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 & 5 pm

SouthPointe Christian Church
200 Pettaconsett Ave.
821-9800
Worship Services 9am & 10:30am
with Kids Programming for both
for Birth-4th grade

Spring Green Memorial Church
1350 Warwick Avenue
463-8328
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr.
<https://sgmcr.wordpress.com/>

Trinity Episcopal Church
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet (Pawtuxet Village)
Cranston, RI 02905
Rev. Mitchell Lindeman
941-4324
www.trinitypaw@gmail.com

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 Services 9 & 11 am
Summer Service 10am 6/24

Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian
58 Beach Avenue
Rev. T. J. DeMarco, Pastor
737-8232
WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

To include your House of Worship in this listing, please contact Amanda at 732-3100 or AmandaN@rhodybeat.com

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE WIDE 7

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Probate Court of the
CITY OF WARWICK
NOTICE
OF MATTERS PENDING AND
FOR HEARING
IN SAID COURT
The Court will be in session at
WARWICK CITY HALL
on the dates specified in
notices below at
9:00 AM
for hearing said matters:

ARTS, Henri G. alias Henri Gerard Arts, est.
1st & Final Account; for hearing; June 16, 2022

BLANCK, Carole Mae, est.
Probate of Will; for hearing June 16, 2022

COURTEMANCHE, Paul J., est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 91 Northup Street, Warwick, RI 02889, further designated as Assessor’s Plat 0360 B 0317 Lot 0000; for hearing June 16, 2022

CRIBARI, Lucille Marie, est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 79 Grotto Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888, further designated as Assessor’s Plat 309 Lot 145; for hearing June 16, 2022

CROSBY, Barbara L., est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 197 Holmes Road, Warwick, RI 02888, further designated as Assessor’s Plat 289 Lot 393; for hearing June 16, 2022

DELSESTO, Parker, est.
Minor Guardianship for Estate Only; for hearing June 16, 2022

DUNN, Claire L., est.
1st & Final Account; for hearing June 16, 2022

HAGENBERG, Albert, est.
Removal Petition; for hearing June 16, 2022

JOSEPH, Marie M., est.
Administration Petition; for hearing June 16, 2022

PELLETIER, Dianne, est.
Probate of Will; for hearing June 16, 2022

QUINN, James P., est.
Sale of Real Estate for property

located at 14 West Natick Road, Warwick, RI 02886, further designated as Assessor’s Plat 273 Lot 0466; for hearing June 16, 2022

ROUND, Laurie W., est.
Probate of Will; for hearing June 16, 2022

SOSA-LOPEZ, Jorge L., est.
Removal Petition; for hearing June 16, 2022

BECK, Mildred, est.
Ilene Bojar has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

BELLUSCIO, Joyce M. est.
Dorianne Snay has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

BRENNAN, Brian J. alias Brian Joseph Brennan, est.
Sallie A. Brennan has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

DAY, Gerald est.
Mabel Day has qualified as Guardian of the Person & Estate; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

DEBLASIO, June A. alias June Ann DeBlasio, est.
Barry J. DeBlasio has qualified as Executor (Kenneth R. Rampino, Esq. of 65 Boston Neck Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

GREENE, Jeffrey M. est.
Marie F. Greene & Ann M. Greene have qualified as Co-Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

GUSTAFSON, Donald J. alias Donald James Gustafson, est.
Patricia Gustafson has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate

Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

HARTLEY, James F. Sr., est.
James F. Hartley Jr. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

MEUNIER, Richard W. alias Richard William Meunier, est.
Kenneth J. Quinton has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

MITCHELL, Catherine Gorman, est.
Linda Simmons & Catherine Albertson have qualified as Co-Administrator’s; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

PELLA, John T. alias John Thomas Pella, est.
Mary Ann Pella & John T. Pella Jr. have qualified as Co-Executor’s; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

QUAGLIETTA, Geraldine R. alias Geraldine Quaglietta, est.
Linda Kew has qualified as Executrix (Kevin A. Hackman, Esq. of 1370 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

QUIGLEY, Barbara E. alias Barbara Ellen Quigley, est.
Faith E. Whitaker has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

RUGGIERI, William C. alias William Charles Ruggieri, est.
Stephen Henry Mills has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

RUZZO, Anthony J. Sr., est.
Anthony J. Ruzzo Jr. has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

SWIFT, Margery F. alias Margery Florence Swift, est.
Gregory R. Swift has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning June 2, 2022

City Clerk’s Office at (401) 738-2006 Ext 4 at least (48) hours in advance of the hearing.

ATTEST: LYNN D’ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

6/2, 6/9/22

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE TRANSFER OF LICENSE

APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF A RETAILER’S BEVERAGE LICENSE
CLASS BH & CLASS BT 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: PHM Providence LLC
DBA Radisson Hotel Providence Airport
2081 Post Rd
Warwick, RI 02886

TO: Mittas Airport Hotel LLC
DBA Radisson
2081 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 21, 2022 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.

6/2, 6/9/22



TALENT IN ACTION: As an activity of Arts Night, students registered to draw in chalk a creation of their imagination on numbered sidewalk panels with the prospect of having their work picked for prizes. Kindergartner Lukas Heimiller took the challenge seriously, diligently applying himself to the admiration of onlookers.

Arts on display

Interrupted by the pandemic, Arts Night at Cedar Hill School returned in a big way Wednesday with an outdoor event that included activities for students and adults, musical performances and exhibits of student works both outside along the school fence and in the all purpose room class by class. Incoming PTO President Laura Dillon was key organizer of the event that has been a school tradition.

SOLO PERFORMANCE: Cedar Hill School 4th grader Hadley King was one of many students who displayed their musical talents either on a musical instrument or in song during Arts Night.



NO BARRIER TO THE ARTS: Visitors to the Cedar Hill School Arts Night on Wednesday were greeted with a fluttering display of original work.



SIGNING UP: Maya Schurman and incoming Cedar Hill School PTO President Laura Dillon were ready to sign up parents willing to share their energy and time in supporting the school.

RI Jewish War Vets salute those who served with honor,distinction

By PAM SCHIFF

Under a glorious blue sky, over 100 people attended the 77th annual memorial services at The Memorial Wall of Honor located in Warwick's Lincoln Park Cemetery. "The Jewish War Veterans of the United States is the oldest organized service group in our country," said Ira Fleisher, Chairman of the Memorial Wall Committee which hosted the program.

The organization was established in 1896 by a group of Civil War veterans of the north and south and was chartered by an Act of Congress.

"Over the years, the Jewish War Veterans have worked with other veterans' groups at the state level and with the United States Congress to effect change in the laws that affect all veterans," Fleisher said.

Members from the Rhode Island National Guard posted the colors, with a moment of silence to follow.

Senior Rabbi from Providence's Temple Beth-El, Sarah Mack, gave the Invocation.

"Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding. And, other who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. We are honored to remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives throughout the history of our great nation. And, those who make the ultimate sacrifice to protect us from harm," said Mack. Individuals recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Cantor Judy Seplowin of Temple Beth-El leading the singing of the National Anthem.

Deputy Police Chief of Warwick Commander Mark Ullucci, Mayor of Warwick Frank Picozzi Representative Samuel Azzinaro from the House Veterans Affairs Com-

mittee and Major General Christopher Callahan all provided remarks.

Director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Rhode Island, Lieutenant Kasim Yarn gave the principal remarks and spoke of unity, peace and tolerance.

"It is humbling to be here on the most holiest of days. It was inspiring listening to the other speakers and their experiences and thoughts on Memorial Day," said Yarn.

Yarn went on to speak of the importance of May being National Mental Month and the support and gratitude to gold star families. (A Gold Star Family is the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.)

"Through the lens of a Gold Star Family member, every day is Memorial Day," he said.

There is no bigger blessing than those willing to sacrifice themselves for the greater cause," Yarn concluded.

Mack and Seplowin performed the unveiling of the newest names to the wall.

After this recent ceremony, the count on the wall was raised to over 3,000.

Yarn and Callahan -- alongside Gerald Sherman and



WHAT MEMORIAL DAY MEANS TO US: The speakers at the Jewish War Veterans Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, May 29 included the following: (left to right) Deputy Police Chief of Warwick Commander Mark Ullucci, Representative Samuel Azzinaro from the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Major General Christopher Callahan, Mayor of Warwick Frank Picozzi, Director of Veteran's Affairs for RI Kasim Yarn, Cantor Judy Seplowin and Rabbi Sarah Mack.

Fred Reisner from the JWV -- laid wreaths.

The traditional playing "Taps" was performed by a member of Rhode Island National Guard.

The ceremony closed with remarks from Fleisher, retiring of colors by RING, the song "America the Beautiful" by Seplowin and a closing benediction from Mack.

For more information about the organization, visit JWV.

OBITUARIES

Marissa "Rissapee" Napolitano FOURTH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 8, 2018



Your presence we miss,
your memories we treasure,
loving you always,
forgetting you never.
Love Always, Us

Deborah Ann Cipriano

Deborah Ann (Smith) Cipriano, age 61, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. She was the wife of the late Barry Cipriano. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of Veronica (Estrella) Smith and the late LeRoy C. Smith, Sr.

Deb earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Salve Regina University where she graduated with Honors.

She was employed by Foxwoods Casino where she worked for 25 years. Deb loved the beach and enjoyed playing Roulette. She had a kind heart and gave a great deal to charities; some called her the "friend of the friendless." Deb cherished spending time with family and friends.

She was the loving mother of Barry Cipriano, Jr.; caring sister of LeRoy C. Smith, Jr. (Mary Jane Miguel), and Michael W. Smith (wife, Kelley); aunt of Brianna, Karissa, Kyle, Michael, and Kaitlyn; and great-aunt of Jade. Deb also leaves behind Cordell Cudworth, III and Adam Cudworth whom she helped raise.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 from the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave, Warwick with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Kevin Church, Sandy Lane, Warwick. Her burial followed in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence. Visiting hours were held from 5-8pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Tomorrow Fund, RI Hospital Campus, POB Suite 422, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903. <https://www.tomorrowfund.org/support-us>

For information and condolences, visit www.TheQuinn-FuneralHome.com



URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME



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with an In Memoriam ad*

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call Amanda at
732-3100*

Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

Ladouceur’s next big cause: Cutting retiree health care costs

By JOHN HOWELL

If he had it to do all over again, Ed Ladouceur would have applied the energy he does to his business and to causes he believes in to his education. Then he would have had a shot at becoming a US Marine Corp officer and a pilot.

And if he was younger, the Ward 5 Councilman would give serious consideration to running for higher office.

But this is now and Ladouceur announced this week he is running for reelection. He has some unfinished business that he feels is critical to the future of the city.

He wants to continue serving his constituents and lives by the advice he was given when he first sought public office: “never lose track of the most important thing to them.”

That’s why he’s wary of the city’s plan to relocate National Night Out that from the start has been held in Oakland Beach to Rocky Point Park on Aug. 2. The move is being made because the event is running out of space at Oakland Beach. Ladouceur fears his will mean more traffic for Warwick Neck plus complaints.

Ladouceur said police have done a good job on regulating other activities at the park, but this could be bigger.

“If it’s a problem we’re going to have a big problem on our hands,” Ladouceur said vowing to fight a return to Rocky Point next year if it doesn’t work out.

If only what the councilman sees as the city’s long range problem was so easy to remedy.

He’s not going to let go of efforts to end paying the full cost of health care for retirees when active employees are co-paying roughly 20 percent of health care costs. Based on actuary studies, Ladouceur said that legislation he introduced would save taxpayers \$5 million annually. That’s money that wouldn’t have to be raised through taxes and freeing up funds for other projects.

To back up the projected \$5 million savings, Ladouceur requested a fiscal note on the measure, however, City Finance Director Peder Schaefer argued it would be nothing because the city would need to negotiate the terms with the union and that hasn’t happened. Ladouceur was furious, since as he pointed out, the very purpose of a fiscal note is to project the cost or saving of legislation.

The outcome of a vote was obvious when the council chambers were close to empty. If the measure had a chance of passing, retirees and union members would



ED LADOUCEUR

have packed the place. Yet Ladouceur persisted and instead of moving to table the bill carried it to a vote and defeat.

He’s not giving up.

“We can’t continue to provide free health care to retirees...I’m not afraid of the fight,” he said.

“Sooner or later the public is going to say enough is enough and we’re going to fix this at the polls.” He feels Mayor Picozzi , “needs to press on this, too.”

Ladouceur is no stranger to Quitoian causes.

On his first run for council ten years ago, Ladouceur walked every street in the ward and talked with as many people as he could. He learned many felt betrayed because years before they had been promised sewers, yet nothing happened. In the meantime state legislators passed legislation requiring properties within 200 feet of the bay or body of water to either tie into sewers or build an approved septic system.

Ladouceur committed to do something about it. He founded the City Council Sewer Review Commission that reached far beyond the issue of making sewers available to more than 900 Riverview, Highland Beach, Longmeadow and Bayside property owners. Over countless meetings, the commission came up with

recommendations to adopt a per unit, rather than a linear foot assessment, extend assessment payments up to 30 years, to cap assessment interest costs at 1.25 percent more than the bond rate paid by the sewer authority and to issue revenue bonds of \$50 million to extend sewers including those for Bayside. On the basis that the city was moving to address the issue, then Department of Environmental Management Director Janet Coit waived fines for those with cesspools or malfunctioning septic systems.

That’s just a part of the Bayside story.

Ladouceur didn’t get into it Friday in an interview. Suffice to say construction on the Bayside sewer project started last year and that thanks to \$7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding committed by Mayor Frank Picozzi assessments for single units are locked in at \$16,900 when at one point they were projected at \$30,000 and more. Had the federal funding not been available, Ladouceur said there would have been little he could have done to provide homeowners relief.

“The numbers would have been the numbers,” he said.

As for campaigning Ladouceur is not likely to walk the ward as he did when he first ran for the office a decade ago.

“I will continue what I do as a councilman. I campaign every day,” he said. He faces a possible contest from Republican Ryan Cummings.

The councilman, who runs his own construction business, Stormtite, has experienced firsthand the rising cost of materials and labor. He said there is “no way” the school department can build two new high schools for the \$350 million the School Committee is looking to have on the November ballot. He thinks at least \$400 million would be needed if “you can get the steel.”

“There’s no way you can build it for that (\$350 million),” he said. While he has said he thought the voters should decide the question of new schools, Ladouceur said he’s not wed to the opinion and wants to see all the numbers – projected impact on city budgets and the taxpayer – going forward.

But what then do you do with two aging high schools? With school enrollment declining, Ladouceur favors a single new high school although he doesn’t have an answer as to where to build it. He thinks Veterans High School would have been the best location, but that option came off the table when it was upgraded and made into a middle school.



■ Shapiro

(Continued from page 1)

When Picozzi was Chairman of the School Committee Shapiro was the superintendent. During an interview on Tuesday Picozzi said that one of his favorite stories about Shapiro was when it came to snow storms.

“Bob took it very seriously; he would drive around,” said Picozzi.

In fact Picozzi said that he would drive from Woonsocket to Narragansett in order to check on the road conditions.

“All the other superintendents would stay in bed because they would call Bob to see what his call was. He was never wrong,”

said Picozzi.

Picozzi said that when he was acting superintendent he made the wrong call once when it came to canceling school. He vowed to never let it happen again.

“He was just so passionate about his job and so dedicated,” said Picozzi.

Picozzi also recalls that he gave away Sweeners chocolates as presents. Picozzi’s wife Kim received chocolates from Shapiro and to this day Picozzi said he still has to buy her those chocolates for holidays and birthdays.

“Everyone loved him, he was beloved. There probably wasn’t another character like him in Warwick history,” said Picozzi.

While Shapiro lived in the Garden City section of Cranston Picozzi said that he spent most of his time in Warwick whether it was in his office or at different events.

“He could’ve been mayor had he lived in Warwick,” said Picozzi.

Picozzi said he made sure to invite the Toll Gate band to the ceremony, something that Shapiro was passionate about.

“He used to love the Toll Gate band,” said Picozzi.

The dedication is slated to take place at the Robert J. Shapiro Cultural Arts with a reception at Tides Restaurant at the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center afterward.



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Nico's Tree nonprofit assists families and children

By EMMA BARTLETT

When Cranston's Dana Ventetuolo, 48, decided to start the nonprofit Nico's Tree in 2016, she was looking to provide emotional and financial support to patients and families who were undergoing treatment for long term pediatric diseases. Dana had recently lost her son – Nico – to a rare illness known as Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and recognized that community support helped her through the tough time and she wanted to assist those who were experiencing similar circumstances.

Nico was born in 2013 without a normal functioning immune system – common colds, viruses and infections would be fatal. SCID is a genetic disorder that depletes the immune system and leaves individuals with a high risk of developing an infection. The only cure was a stem cell transplant since – without one – life expectancy would be two years of age. While Nico appeared perfectly normal when he was born, after one year, he had frequent infections that lacked an explanation. After testing, doctors at Hasbro Children's Hospital determined Nico had SCID, he was sent to Boston Children's Hospital for treatment.

Nico received a bone marrow transplant and from March to July, Dana spent the majority of her time in Boston by Nico's side. After the stem cell transplant, Nico returned home with his mom; she said after three months they could tell Nico was doing better so he went in for a second round of treatment. Unfortunately, it did not take and he passed away in 2016.

She said after the initial shock and grief wore off following Nico's passing, she knew she had to make sense of it all and decided to start a nonprofit to help families get through the hardest time of their lives. Dana said during her time with Nico at the hospital, people reached out to help pay her mortgage, gas bills and groceries. While some of these individuals were friends, others were strangers.

"People who didn't know me but heard our story," said Dana, recalling those who generously assisted her and Nico.

Today, the nonprofit assists families during the hospitalization and recovery phases of their journey. The nonprofit offers emergency relief funding, bravery backpacks and mini wishes.



IN MEMORY OF NICO: Nico at Boston Children's Hospital in 2015.

■ NICO - PAGE 22



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Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Aspen

Aspen is so handsome, photos don't do him any justice. You have to see him in person to really appreciate his stunning orange cream color and his ice blue eyes! He also has a huge heart to match, he loves attention! Aspen is a four year old Siamese mixed breed. If you'd like to meet him please go to EGAPL Heart of RI 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. Hours of operation are Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday and Friday 12-2, Saturday 10-2. You can call them at 401-467-3670 for more information too. Aspen will be adopted quickly so be sure to contact them right away!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com

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Mia Ellis as Beverly, Aizhaneya Carter as Keisha and Jackie Davis as Jasmine in Trinity Rep's "Fairview." (Photo by Cat Laine courtesy of Trinity Rep)

Trinity's 'Fairview' tackles the race card

Theatre Review by
DON FOWLER

Playwright Jackie Sibblies Drury has given us much to think about in this provocative one-act play that will be seen through different eyes by a diverse – but predominantly white – audience not quite prepared for their usually comfortable night at the theatre.

"Fairview" is divided into three parts, joined together by the concept of racial blindness that provides some 'aha' moments along with a few 'huh?' ones.

What appears like a TV half-hour comedy about a Black family of means takes a drastic turn in the second segment. It may take a while for you to figure out what is going on as the family goes through the same motions as they prepare Grandma's birthday dinner.

Wait. They are not moving their lips, but white voices are talking. They observe, analyze, give opinions and make judgements, but are they really catching what is being said and done?

Are we in some sort of parallel universe or are we seeing things from a different perspective?

The third segment finds more people showing up,

including Grandma who does not look like she was expected to.

Daughter Keisha is confused (as you may be) and tries to make sense out of all this, withdrawing from the group. A food fight breaks out. After an uncontrollable melee, something I've never experienced in all my years going to the theatre takes place.

The reaction of the rather sedate Sunday night audience was mixed. It will be interesting to see the opinions of an online request for comments.

People were slow to react and some appeared stunned. I expect that the opening night crowd with seats filled with many younger students of the Brown/Trinity MFA Acting Program reacted differently.

"Fairview" is challenging, thought provoking, immersive theatre that attacks your comfort level.

It was good to see Mia Ellis back at Trinity and playing the mother, alongside Joe Wilson, Jr. as her husband, Jackie Davis as her sister and Aizhaneya Carter as her daughter.

A special shout out to Lex Liang for a perfect set.

"Fairview" is at Trinity Rep through June 19. Call 351-4242 for reservations.

Electric Paisan finds voice with new EP

By ROB DUGUAY

When he's not shredding on guitar with the Providence theatrical blues rock act Corinne Southern & The Constellations, Joseph Tudino is making his own music under the name Electric Paisan. He refers to the project's sound as "sadboi avant-garde dad-punk" and – from listening to his new Cigarettes and Dandelions EP – I totally get where he's coming from. With that being said, I can definitely elaborate my thoughts pertaining to this record that came out on May 27. There's a blend of powerpop, alternative and grunge elements with a straightforward approach. I enjoy how it showcases Tudino's talents on guitar as well.

The record's theme entails the internal struggle we often face when it comes to finding faith in ourselves and our abilities. It was also done in completely DIY fashion with Tudino taking on every aspect of the songwriting and recording process.

"The focus of the EP is mental health, especially the struggle to heal and to find your voice and confidence," said Tudino. "The first three tracks focus on those themes explicitly, but for me the last two tracks tie in tangentially. 'Sweet Tarts and Space Kisses' for me is as much of a tender song as it is a type of escapism while also soothing. Including 'Climate Don't Change a Thing' on this EP serves as a deeper dive on the last verse of 'Sadboi Blues,' which discusses the mental anguish that is caused on many of us by the world's problems."

"I recorded this EP myself in my bedroom," Tudino added. "I played every instrument and I recorded, produced, mixed and mastered it myself. The vast majority of the instruments are acoustic, but there's some resampled drums and MIDI synths."

Along with the tracks that were just mentioned, "Steel Fall Apart" and "Button Factory" are good songs.



There's some tongue-in-cheek and vague political topics examined in the entire EP to coincide with the introspectiveness. The record has an authentic vibe to it with no fancy production, audio filler or redundancy present; it's sort of raw, but the sound quality of the music is substantial – which is impressive while knowing that Tudino did it all himself. If you like guitar riffs and up front, honest lyrics, then you should check out this new release.

There are several ways to check Tudino out. You can stream and/or purchase Electric Paisan's new EP

either on Bandcamp, iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, Youtube, Deezer and pretty much anywhere else you listen to music. You can grab a physical copy either on June 21 at the Midway Cafe in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Massachusetts, at the Strange Brew Pub in Norwich, Connecticut, on June 28 or the next time Tudino is playing locally around Rhode Island. To keep tabs on future shows and announcements, follow the project on your favorite social media platform at @electricpaisan. In the meantime, plug in, press play and enjoy.

‘Electro-pop Opera’: A winner at Wilbury

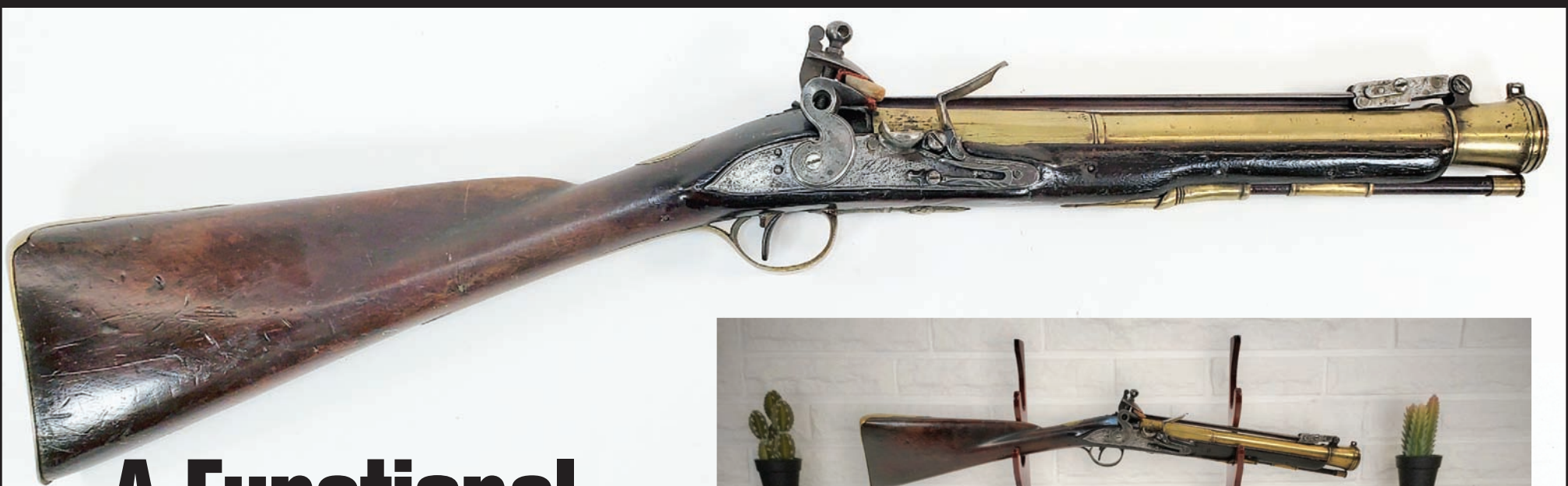
Theatre Review by
DON FOWLER

You can always expect the unexpected at Wilbury Theatre.
Director Josh Short has chosen Dave Malloy’s “Electro-Pop opera” to close the theatre’s season, and he chose wisely.
Adapted from a 70-page section of Tolstoy’s “War and Peace,” “Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812” is a two-act, two-hour extravaganza with every word sung to a beautiful score by eighteen actors, most of whom also play instruments, in addition to a six-member band.
Wilbury’s digs, in a room at the Waterfire building on Valley Street in Providence features a stage running down the middle with two sets of steep stairs at the ends.

The audience sits on both sides and in a small balcony, totally immersed in the action. Actors frequently make eye contact, move among audience members and run up and down the stairs with athletic agility.
Get there early and enjoy the cast playing Russian era music, mixed with some modern rock.
The lights dim. Andrei, a Russian soldier, walks on stage singing “There’s a war going on” and is joined by the rest of the cast and pulls the audience into the play.
The story is about unrequited love, deception, illicit affairs and -- like most Russian novels -- the search for meaning in life.
Relationships can get a bit complex, so Short has included a family tree in the program with photos of who’s who and their relations to each other.
And there’s a villain, or scoundrel as Anatole (Gunnar

Manchester) is referred to. He wins the love of Natasha (Kayla Shimizu), causing major conflict because of her and his marital status.
There is comic relief in this Russian drama provided by Old Prince Bolkonsky (Jason Quinn), who, like many of the cast members assumes other minor roles.
The production is blessed with many fine voices, including Manchester, Shimizu and especially Rodney Witherspoon as Pierre, whose haunting voice with give you goosebumps.
Bravo to Wilbury for taking on this giant of a play and succeeding to pull it off without a flaw.
“Natasha, Pierre & the great comet of 1812” is at Wilbury Theatre Group through June 19. Call 400-7100 for reservations. Check them out at info@thewilburygroup.org.

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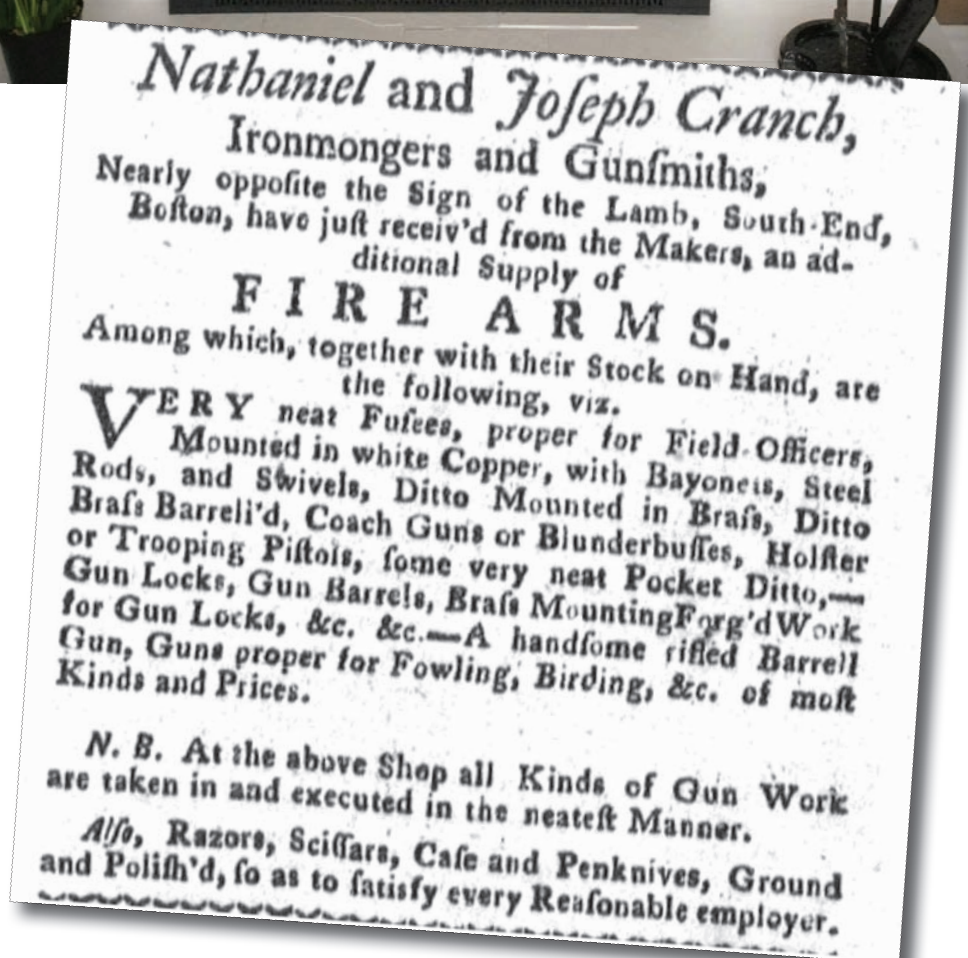
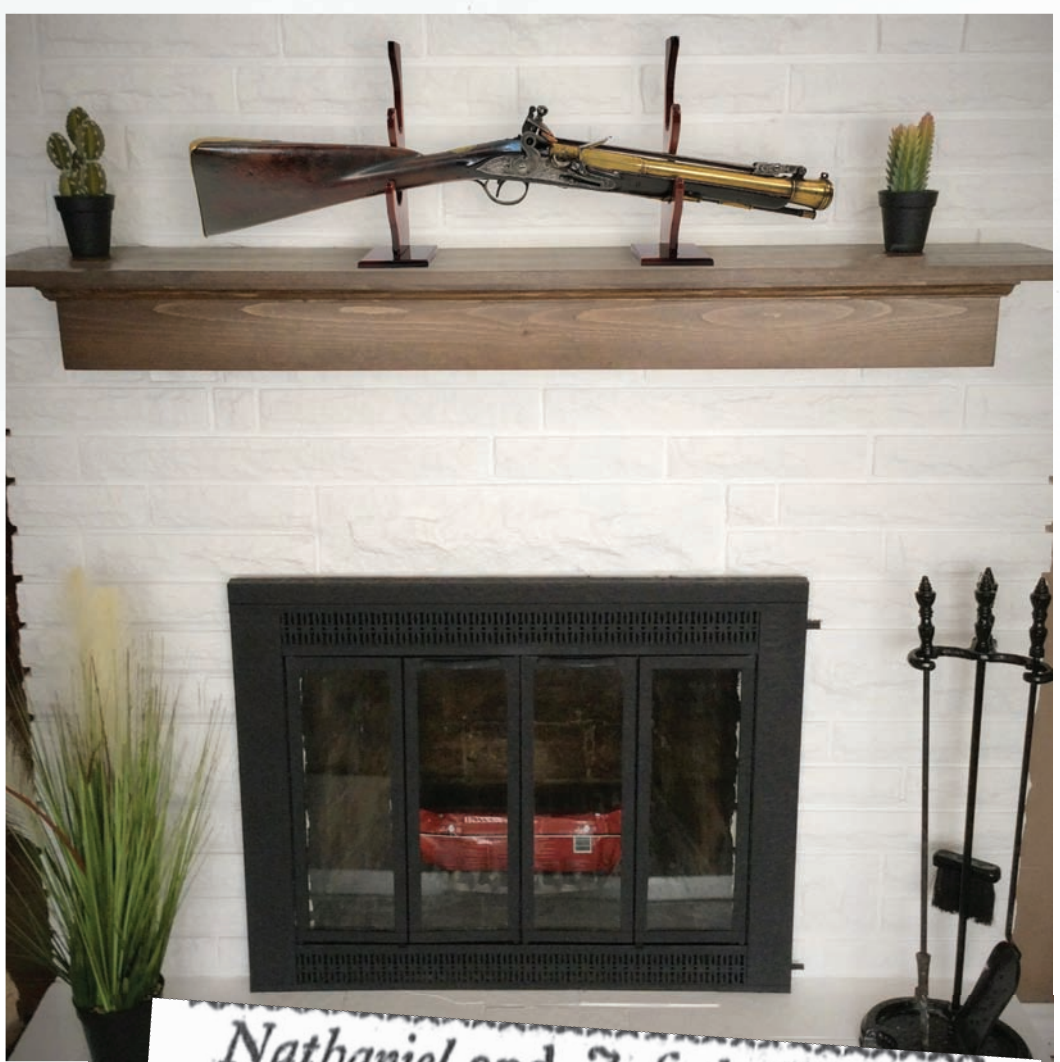


A Functional but Decorative Little Gun



By Joel Bohy
Historic Arms & Militaria
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
Cranston, RI

Today common flintlock and percussion rifles have become more of a decorative object than a collector’s item. If they are made by an unnamed maker or have condition issues they can be purchased fairly cheaply to hang on a wall or over the fireplace. Even if the gun is damaged and not functional, if it has a figured maple stock it is prime wall hanging fodder. A few years ago, at an auction preview a person walked in thinking it was a preview for an Americana sale. He decided to snoop around and found three blunderbusses that I had. The next day at the auction he bought all three. I was interested to know why he bought them as he wasn’t an antique arms guy. He said to him they were very interesting, good looking, and he wanted to hang them in his office. So, he had purchased all three of these funky little flintlocks as a decoration for his workspace.
In An Universal Military Dictionary published in 1779, the definition of a blunderbuss is “a well-known fire-arm, consisting of a wide, short, but very large bore, capable of holding a number of musket or pistol balls, very fit for a narrow passage, door of a house, stair-case; or in boarding a ship.” A search of advertisements in 18th century newspapers list them being sold at most shops in major cities so it makes sense why there are quite a number that exist today.
Some of them have steel barrels, but the most handsome have brass barrels with a flared muzzle and brass fittings. Some also have spring-loaded bayonets. The example I have shown is one that is perfect for a decorative piece and is affordable. It has a dark walnut stock, brass butt plate, brass trigger guard with a front acorn finial, brass wrist plate and ramrod pies, a brass barrel marked “London” on the top, a spring-loaded bayonet, and is a flintlock. However, this particular gun had been converted to a percussion firing system in the 19th century. At some point over the past 20 or so years, it was re-converted back to flint. Not being in its original flint form affects the value of the gun to someone who wants a pristine example, but it now makes it affordable to someone who wants it for historical as well as decorative value. They do look pretty cool on the mantle!





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Tom Cruise flies to the top of the box office in “Top Gun: Maverick.” (Courtesy of Paramount Pictures)

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

(Exciting sequel)

It has been 26 years since we saw Tom Cruise piloting a jet. Many of the movie-goers watching “Top Gun: Maverick” had not even been born.

Cruise is back as Pete Mitchell. The world has changed. Warfare has changed. His Maverick style has not.

Pete is still as cocky and arrogant as ever. He is also still the same rank of captain and has been grounded.

The Navy finds itself in a precarious position, attempting to fly into enemy territory under adverse conditions and drop a bomb at a strategic location.

Maverick is called, thinking he is to lead the team, but learns that his job is only to train them.

There are subplots, which include making amends with a son (Miles Teller) whose father died under Pete’s command; a renewed love affair with an old flame (Jennifer Connelly); defying his superior officers; and facing an old rival (Val Kilmer).

The story is a bit corny, predictable and manipulative, but it still works. You are drawn into the characters who face death with the dangers of their mission.

Beyond the characters and their individual stories and personalities lies the gripping excitement of the training and eventually the do or die mission.

We saw the movie in the Warwick Showcase XPlus theatre with its wall-to-wall huge screen and incredible stereo sound.

Lying back in the comfortable seats, you could literally feel the sounds of the F-18s vibrating against your body.

It costs a bit more, but it is worth it to be fully immersed in the action. The sounds and sights of the jets maneuvering are incredible. The scenery from the pilots’ perspective is breathtaking.

Cruise, and all the actors, are convincing in their roles, making you feel and care for them.

Don’t miss this one!

Rated PG-13 with some profanity. You would curse, too, if you were in the pilot’s seat.

The two hours and ten minutes just fly by.

My personal Memorial Day

My basement flooded several months ago, and all the covered totes were carried through the ankle-deep water and placed in a container outside in the yard. It been sitting there, ruminating, until it was opened for inspection on Memorial Day. Because I had been so busy, it was nice to have a holiday off for which my time was unaccounted.

Opening the thick doors was a challenge, and when they were, a basement full of “stuff” towered over my head and confronted me. The first tote contained pictures of my adult children. Francis was seated on his couch with his newborn daughter draped over his shoulder, and sleeping so soundly that it seemed to be a perfectly normal place to be. His shy grin of pride resonated with my heart. A photo of Alejandro, who was born a few years before Izzy and the son of my daughter, Dinora, showed him poking his head up over the top of a portable crib, smiling a toothless smirk. How we enjoyed those first few years of his life when he lived with me and Hubby (“Papa”)! When it came time for them to venture out on their own, I almost wanted to tell Dinora that she could move out, but that Alejandro needed to remain with us. The entire tote was full of pictures of the grandchildren. The frames came in various varieties, but the ones I valued the most were the ones that were handmade, little fingers dipped in paint and glitter glue that had colored the edges.

The next tote contained photographs of our own five children. There was one of Francis, so white skinned and blue eyed at the age of two, cradling an infant Dinora, mahogany brown and scrawny, holding her head close so he could see enough to put the nipple of

Life Matters



with
LINDA PETERSEN

the bottle into her tiny mouth. That look of concentration, using his extremely limited vision, has served him well throughout his life thus far. Angel, aged three or so, was decked out in an abundance of necklaces and bracelets, so heavy it was a wonder he did not fall over. His shining eyes belied his obvious joy. At the age of about six, Steven, my son obsessed with reptiles, squatted down on his haunches during a family camping trip as he cornered a snake and pretended to be Steve Irwin, the “crocodile hunter”. I was bemused to see another, later photograph of him when he worked at a reptile center. There he was, again squatting down, but this time there was a real, six-foot-long crocodile at his hands, snout wrapped in black tape so as not to snap at the tourists to whom he was providing a demonstration. There was an elementary school graduation picture of Marie, who, characteristically, grinned and flashed the “I Love You” sign.

Farther on through my sorting, a tote of my own childhood memories documented the wonderful life I led as

a child. With my dad being super stingy about spending ANY money on such frivolous things as photographs, this tote contained a lot of personal things I had kept in remembrance, such as the smooth stones that had been gathered from the stream next to which we used to camp in New Hampshire, of a picture I had drawn myself of me fishing in the lake in the Adirondacks, humorously catching a fish twice my own size. There was a neatly framed pastel portrait my dad had done for me, with the toothy, goofy grin he always accused me of having.

In the bottom of the tote were pictures of me in high school, at proms, (of which I went to fourteen, always up to be someone’s platonic date if they needed one,) and my senior picture where my very thin and stringy blond hair was fluffed up and pulled around the front of me as though my hair were long and beautiful, (which it was not!)

Another tote contained our wedding memories, pictures from another time and another generation, forty years ago. We got married at Saint Kevin’s Church and had our reception at the Officer’s Club in Quonset, all for \$1,000! Looking back at those photos, when we were so young, and naïve, and poor, I am grateful that we are now older, smarter, and not rich in money, but rich in love, with each other, with our children and with our grandchildren.

This was one, amazing, Memorial Day!

Warwick man has cemetery moved off his property

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

The directors of the Warwick Mills knew the convenience of building a side track off the main railroad line, which would lead directly to their facilities. Loading and unloading goods would be much easier with the spur track and, in 1896, it was decided to be done.

The sole problem was that the company would need to purchase additional land in order to complete the construction. The land they needed access to was that belonging to Joseph Carpenter.

Carpenter agreed to the deal, realizing something would have to be done with the cemetery that would be in the way of the proposed track. Known as Centerville Cemetery, it contained 22 burials, members of families with such surnames as Bowman, Gardiner, Fones, Fuller, Sheir, Dean, Fiske, Parker, Frink and Cottrell.

Located beside the depot along the main track, the cemetery was badly neglected and enclosed by poorly maintained fencing. Carpenter appealed to the Town Council, asking permission to disinter and relocate the bodies in another place. He promised he would have the burials moved, the stones reset properly and the new lot safely enclosed.

Carpenter was informed that he would be allowed to move the bodies under the direction of Dr. Charles Emile Chagnon, a 33-year-old native of Quebec who practiced medicine locally, ran “Chagnon’s Family Drug Store”, served as the area’s health officer and had previously served on the council.

When Charles Bowman of Black Rock heard about the plan, he immediately contacted Carpenter. He was irate that no one had told him about the removal of the cemetery, as several generations of his family lay within it. He asked Carpenter where he intended to relocate the bodies. Carpenter did not yet have an answer and argued with Bowman that unless he wished to handle the removal himself, he would go about things as he wished.

Bowman informed Carpenter that he would speak to the other members of his family to gain their opinions on the matter and would get back to him in a few days. But Carpenter didn’t wait. The very next day, at least 12 bodies were dug up and transported down the road to Small Maple Root Cemetery, on the corner of Hill Farm Road and Harkney Hill Road in Coventry. Among those moved, with the oldest death date being 1824 and the newest being 1878, were Thomas Bowman, Lydia Bowman, two Christopher Bowmans, Mary Bowman, William Bowman, Elizabeth Bowman, Jeremiah Fiske, Sarah Dean, Hannah Cottrell, Waity Fones and Czarina Parker.

When Bowman learned the move had already been made without his permission or input, he was furious. He claimed that all the disinterred remains had been deposited into unmarked pine boxes, placed in a long trench and covered over with dirt, leaving no way to identify the exact location where any individual lay.

Some of the stones from the old cemetery were moved and reset but Bowman claimed that others had been broken and simply thrown aside. In his fury, Bowman charged that Carpenter did not own the cemetery and had no legal right to have the graves disturbed and moved. He promised to fight the matter to the bitter end, however no further legal arguments have been located.

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



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The cast of “Million Dollar Quartet” playing at Theatre By The Sea thru June 18, 2022. (Photo by Mark Turek courtesy of Theatre By the Sea)

‘Million Dollar Quartet’ rocks Theatre By the Sea stage

Theatre Review by
DON FOWLER

The Tony-nominated musical takes us back to 1956; to the first and only time Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley ever made music together in the same room.

The story takes place at Sun Records in Memphis where owner Sam Phillips recalls the night all four

stars showed up at the studio.

The four characters argue, reveal secrets and finally come together while joining in a couple dozen rock and roll era classics.

The company starts things off with “Blue Suede Shoes” a subject of contention as Carl Perkins resents the fact that Elvis sang “his song” on the Ed Sullivan Show. In the second act, all four join in harmony in “Peace in

the Valley.”

Talent wise, Colin Summers leads the pack with his rousing electric guitar playing, sounding the most like his character Carl Perkins.

Wisely, the actors do not try to mimic their characters, but do pick up many of their traits.

Sky Seals – as Johnny Cash – dresses in black and has Cash’s low range down pat, but he does not exactly look or sound like him.

Taylor Isaac Gray has played Jerry Lee Lewis on several national tours, stealing the show several times with his crazy antics and wild piano playing.

Alessandro Viviano plays Elvis. While possessing a good voice, he does not appear to be playing his guitar and bears little resemblance to Elvis.

Elvis shows up with a date (Emma Wilcox) who adds a powerful female voice to the gathering.

“Million Dollar Quartet” is light fare, perfect for a May opening at the summer theatre, especially for those of us who grew up in the fifties and could relate to every song.

The show will be at Theatre By the Sea through June 18. Call 782-8587 for reservations. It was well worth a drive south on a foggy night in Matunuck.



Colin Summers as Carl Perkins (right) with Kroy Presley as Brother Jay “Million Dollar Quartet.” (Photo by Mark Turek courtesy of Theatre By the Sea)

47th season of Music on the Hill in fine tune

Review by **DON FOWLER**

The 47th season of Music on the Hill kicked off Sunday afternoon under sunny skies on the lawn of Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum in East Greenwich with a rousing concert by the Narragansett Brass Quintet.

Short pieces by Scheidt, Byrd, Ewald, LaFosse and McKee were joined by a modern piece by David Baldwin, “Music for AI’s Breakfast,” which was an audience favorite.

The concert was dedicated to Gerard Pellegrino, who passed away only days before. Gerry was a past president and board member for many years. He and his wife, Carol, hosted many of the musicians who perform in the series of Chamber concerts over the years.

The concert series continued Wednesday, June 1 at the First Baptist Church in East Greenwich with “Moving Voices” featuring music by Wallen, Fonte, Masso, Rossini and Hill.

That concert was funded in part by Gerard and Carol Pellegrino.

The experience of the Music on the Hill concerts is enriched by the program, which is filled with information about every composer and performing artist. A unique feature includes the time of the piece, most of them between five and 20 minutes.

Tomorrow (June 3 at 7 p.m.) “Trio Time” will be presented at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in East Greenwich. The setting in churches of various denominations provides a chance to enjoy the rich architecture and the excellent acoustics.

Ermin Schulhoff’s “Concertino for Flute, Violin & Bass,” Johnathan Kolm’s “Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano” and Johannes Brahms’



“Clarinet Trio in A Minor” are featured.

Artistic Director of MOTH, John Pellegrino, born and raised in Warwick, will join other musicians who have performed with orchestras and chamber groups from around the world.

“A Great Day For Singing” is the theme of the June 4 concert at 2 p.m. St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in North Providence. Mary Phillips and Diana McVey will perform works by Sondheim, Gershwin, Cole Porter, Alan J. Lerner, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers and Rachmaninoff.

On June 7 at 7 p.m., join musicians for a concert at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Cranston for “Inspiration,” featuring pieces by Beethoven, Woods, Mellitis, and

Fabregas; a unique performance by Peter Ferry on the vibraphone will be featured.

Back to Cranston’s Immaculate Conception on June 9 at 7 p.m., concert goes will be in for an evening of Rhode Island composers Edith Hemenway and Anthony R. Green.

The series winds up at the site of the original concert 47 years ago, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in East Greenwich on June 12 at 3 p.m. for “Violin Virtuosity.” Brahms, Benito and Piazzolla will be featured, with a special performance by the Miller-Porfiris Duo.

Tickets for each concert may be purchased at the door for \$25. For more information, go online to musiconthehillri.org.

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Contemporary Theater Company to present 'The Voice of Gertrude Stein'



Rachel Hanauer

On Saturday June 4th at 7 PM in Wakefield, RI, The Contemporary Theater Company will present "The Voice of Gertrude Stein," featuring the best of local New England talent. The program will feature a selection of art songs with text by Stein from LGBTQIA+ composers such as Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, and Felix Jarrar, as well as Rorem's opera *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*.

With this performances, co-producers Rachel Hanauer and Caroline Spaeth especially aim to provide a voice to the LGBTQIA+ arts community. Hanauer, a professor at Providence College, hopes to bring opera to Rhode Island collegiate voice students who may not get many chances to see the vocal arts performed live. "We also hope that this evening will provide a safe haven for LGBTQIA+ and non-binary audiences, especially as the past few years in American political life have been so fraught," Spaeth says.

Spaeth and Hanauer will sing the roles of Jenny and Helen in *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*. Filling out the cast are tenor Michael Gonzalez, soprano Sara DeLong, and mezzo-soprano Jade Espina. Mezzo-soprano Julie Rumbold will sing the role of Stein herself in selections from Peter Dayton's *May She | She May* in the program's first half, and will assume the role of Sylvia in *Three Sisters* on June 4th.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.contemporarytheatercompany.com/springboard-schedule>. They are \$10-\$30.



Caroline Spaeth

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By JENNIFER COATES

There are some events in life that one can plan for ~ the impending birth of a child that requires more space, or the need to downsize to accommodate a new life as empty nesters. Perhaps a young adult daughter who is beginning a new life in an apartment of her own or an elderly parent vacating a lifelong home for a retirement community.

There are also times in life that are unexpected and even a bit unsettling ~ a new job opportunity that is too hard to resist, a rogue storm that lands a crushing tree limb on your house, an eviction notice that was impossible to avoid, the death of a loved one.

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old piano out of your living room to packing up and moving your entire home or business. No job is too big or too small. They will move your possessions from your residence to anywhere in New England, including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine, and even into New York and New Jersey.

One of the things Michael and his talented team take pride in is the way they take care of those who need an extra hand. If you are a senior who is planning a move, R.L. Davis knows the potential hardship that moves impose on the elderly and offers them a 5% discount. Furthermore,

they are one of a handful of local businesses that contract with the state to move those receiving public assistance.

While RL Davis are professional movers and packers, if you prefer to do the packing yourself, this company has all your supplies for sale, including boxes, tape and more.

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Infertility is defined as 1 year of intercourse without pregnancy for a woman under age 35 and 6 months of trying for a woman 35 years and up. But if you haven't tried to conceive yet, how can you determine if you are at risk for fertility problems? Most adults actually do not have challenges getting pregnant provided they do not have factors that put them at risk.

What about male fertility? Infertility affects men and women equally. Men who have had injuries to their testes, chemotherapy, or radiation may have difficulties with low sperm counts. Certain medications can decrease the chance of fertility in men such as testosterone supplements. Marijuana use can lower sperm counts.

What about young women in their 20s or early 30's? There are several risk factors that are well known. Women who have had a sexually transmitted disease in the past may have had damage to their fallopian tubes leading to a blockage. Irregular periods which are often due to a lack of ovulation may indicate a problem. Fertility difficulties may be due to a

woman having polycystic ovaries or other hormonal problems. Women who have had surgery in their abdomen, a tubal pregnancy or a history of endometriosis may have reduced fertility. They may have chronic pain in the lower abdomen or severe menstrual cramps which could mean there is a problem with the uterus or tubes. Some women may have very heavy periods or a history of fibroids leading to decreased fertility.

Women over the age of 35 years often have difficulty conceiving, but each woman is different in how quickly her ovaries age. When a woman is over age 40, she

Staying Healthy



by
CAROL WHEELER, M.D.
WOMEN & INFANTS
FERTILITY CENTER
PROFESSOR,
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may have a significant decrease in fertility, so women in this age group should seek an evaluation as soon as is possible.

What can you do to try to maintain your fertility? Both men and women should have a healthy diet, normal weight, and healthy lifestyle to try to increase future chances of a family. Avoiding reproductive toxins such as smoking and marijuana may have a positive impact. If you have concerns about your future fertility, some basic testing can be done by your health care provider to see if you have any reason to be concerned. For a man, this would be a semen analysis and for women blood tests and an ultrasound are suggested. Individuals on long-term medication or with diseases such as diabetes or high blood

pressure should speak with their health care provider to make sure they are as healthy as possible and that the medications that they are taking are safe when trying to conceive.

Should a woman in her 20s or 30s freeze her eggs? That is not always an easy question to answer as it is a complicated question and an expensive "insurance policy". Certainly, we are hearing more and more about egg freezing. Freezing eggs is an involved process and not without risk. A woman who chooses to freeze her eggs may never need them. Nevertheless, it offers peace of mind to women in their mid-30s who do not have a partner or who are not ready to begin their family. If that is something you are contemplating doing, you should see a reproductive endocrinologist (fertility specialist) for a consultation. You will have an opportunity to learn about your fertility potential whether or not you choose to pursue any treatment.

Infertility affects about 10-15% of couples. If you think you may have infertility, speak with your health care provider who can help you determine if you should be concerned. The good news is that there are many treatments available should you have difficulty conceiving.

Carol Wheeler, M.D. of Women & Infants Fertility Center is a Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Clinician-Educator).



The Consumer's Guide to Understanding the Pelvic Floor

12 signs that you're suffering with something more than just regular abdominal or lower back pain!

Have you ever experienced any of the following?

1. Urinary incontinence – bladder leakage?
2. Fecal incontinence – bowel leakage?
3. Bladder pain or burning with urination?
4. Difficulty starting the stream of urine?
5. Frequent urination or strong urges to urinate?
6. Constipation and/or straining to have a BM?
7. Several bowel movements in a short period of time?
8. Inability to complete a bowel movement?
9. Rectal pain and/or pressure before, during or after a bowel movement or just with sitting?
10. Low back pain?
11. A feeling of pressure or something falling out of the vaginal opening?
12. Painful intercourse?

If you have noticed any of these symptoms you may be suffering from a problem involving your pelvic floor muscles.

What is the pelvic floor?

The pelvic floor is a group of muscles that are found at the base of the pelvis. They act like a sling running from the front of your pelvis by your pubic bone to the back of your pelvis attaching to your sacrum (triangle bone at the bottom of your spine).

When functioning correctly, the pelvic floor has 4 functions:

1. It supports your pelvic organs (bladder, uterus, prostate and bowel) from falling out
2. It maintains continence (allowing you to hold in urine, gas and bowel movements)
3. It aids in sexual functioning



JESSICA L. PAPA, PT, DPT
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4. It works with the abdominal wall to give support and stability to your spine.

What is pelvic floor dysfunction?

Pelvic floor dysfunction is often the result of increased tightness or shortening in your pelvic floor muscles just like a hamstring can get tight or shortened in the back of your thigh. This tension does not allow you to completely relax your muscles for things like urination and defecation and optimal sexual functioning. This can present like pain with urination, frequent urination or bowel movement, as the muscles don't relax enough to allow your bladder or bowel to empty all the way. This gives you the sensation of having to go more often. It can also cause constipation and abdominal pain or bloating as the pelvic floor muscles don't relax for you to be able to have a bowel movement or when you do have a bowel movement you have to strain to do so. Frequently after childbirth or surgery in the pelvic region or low back the pelvic floor muscles become weak. Some women experience a sensation of pressure or falling out sensation in the vaginal area. This can come from organ prolapse such as your bladder falling down. In this case the pelvic floor muscles cannot

function as well to support your internal organs and become even weaker.

The national Institutes of Health found that pelvic floor disorders affect 10% of women ages 20-39; 27% of women ages 40-59, 37% of women ages 60-79 and nearly 50% of women over 80.

How does the pelvic floor help low back pain?

Your pelvic floor is part of your CORE! The alignment of your spine and pelvis/sacral iliac joints is also important since your pelvic floor muscles attach there. Instability of these areas also increases muscle tension and pain. If these bones are not in their ideal position it can cause increased tension, stretching or weakness of the pelvic floor muscles creating an imbalance in your musculature. Any weak muscles around the pelvis and low back contribute to back pain.

If you have experienced any of the 12 signs listed above you are a perfect candidate to explore the possibility of your pelvic floor being the cause or a contributing factor. Remember there are treatment options for you! Don't suffer and compromise your quality of life when the treatment is so easy!

My goal is to help you identify potential causes of your symptoms and give you some ideas for how to begin working towards correcting it and move you closer to restoring the lifestyle and the quality of life you desire.

The signs of pelvic floor disorders listed above are definitely just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to pelvic muscle assessment and treatment; so, if you continue to suffer or simply would like to undergo a thorough professional assessment, please do not hesitate to contact us. We're here to walk beside you on your return to life, as you once knew it!



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Nico (Continued from page 15)

If families need help paying housing costs, utility bills, food and travel expenses and other essential needs during times of hospitalization, Nico's Tree is there to help through their emergency relief funding. Dana said during the second time of Nico's treatment in Boston, she had run out of PTO and had to go back to work while trying to support living in Boston to be near to her son.

"I wanted to develop a foundation to support families that go through the same thing and keep them by their bedside and help them sustain gas, food, mortgage," Dana said.

According to Nico's Tree's website, emergency relief funding is "valuable during the critical months following a transplant or chemotherapy as families often cannot participate in everyday life as they once did in order to protect their child from threat of infections or relapse."

To offer comfort for children while they're in the hospital, Nico's Tree gives out bravery backpacks which are personalized chemo-care kits created especially for patients who are about to

undergo treatment or hospitalization. Backpacks are uniquely customized for patients and past backpacks have included games like Uno and MadLibs. There may also be some snacks or socks and slippers.

Dana said a patient's room can become their room for several months so it's important that the kids make it their own during that time. To create the backpacks, Dana collaborates with "Sew for Love " which have also made superhero capes for the kids.

Lastly, the nonprofit's mini wish program is to help brighten the day of a child undergoing treatment. By letting Nico's Tree know about a wish, the nonprofit will work at getting a grant for it. Dana said that siblings who have donated bone marrow or provided support in another way are eligible for a mini wish.

Dana usually receives requests every couple of months from those in the greater Boston and Rhode Island area. The nonprofit's most frequent request is financial assistance for a mortgage or rental and Dana is able to work with social workers at Hasbro Children's Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital

to ensure families get the assistance they need. Dana said during the pandemic the nonprofit saw an increase in the number of families asking for financial assistance.

To accomplish all that they do, Nico's Tree hosts fundraisers once or twice a year, as well as a golf tournament, trivia and bowling nights. Running the nonprofit is a family and friends endeavor and Dana said the nonprofit has had several student volunteers over the years.

As for the nonprofit's long term goals, Dana would like to see Nico's Tree continue to expand. Additionally, she is currently earning a certificate in grief counseling and is hoping to hire a small staff to offer bereavement courses or meetings for parents. Dana said she used grief counseling.

"It made such a difference and it just helped me heal," Dana said.

Born and raised in Johnston, Dana now lives in Cranston near Oaklawn Village. She has worked at Kent County Hospital for the past 16 years as an emergency room nurse. To learn more about Nico's Tree, visit <https://www.nicostree.org>.



DONATING TOYS: Jimmy Fund social worker Martha Young (left) and Nico's Tree founder/director Dana Ventetuolo delivered toys to the Jimmy Fund Clinic this past December.

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By JENNIFER COATES

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SPORTS

Toll Gate boys pick up win in quarters

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The fifth-seeded Toll Gate boys lacrosse team topped No. 4 Burrillville on the road in the Division III Quarterfinals last week to punch its ticket to the semis. Nate O’Keefe and Sean Mulaney led the Titans with two

goals each while Gerard Schifino and Cooper Grossguth each added one apiece. Toll Gate’s win set them up for a semis matchup against cross-town rival Pilgrim on Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to this weekend’s state championship. The Pats were

undefeated heading into the matchup including two wins against Toll Gate. The results of the game were not available at press time.

SOFTBALL
Pilgrim 10, Chariho 0
The Pilgrim softball team

picked up a big 10-0 win over the visiting Chargers in the opening round of the Division I playoffs on Tuesday evening. Jenna Altieri led the Pats at the plate with three RBI while Marin Prest, Madison Wrench and Audra McDonnell all added two RBI.

Alyssa Twomey was lights out in the circle, pitching all six innings and allowing just two hits while striking out nine batters. The Pats will next face La Salle Academy on Thursday afternoon at home. Pilgrim cruised to a 10-2 win over the Rams earlier this season.

Titans fall in semis



PLAYOFF BATTLE: Toll Gate’s Maddie Clark takes the ball up the field on Tuesday. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Broncos surge to hold off Toll Gate, 15-9

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The No. 3 Toll Gate girls lacrosse team fell to No 2. Burrillville 15-9 in the Division II Semifinals on Tuesday night on the road. The two clubs were tied 2-2 with just over nine minutes remaining in the first half. However, the Broncos would go on a 5-0 run to take a 7-2 lead into the break. Toll Gate came out firing in the second half and quickly pieced together a 3-0 run to make it 7-5 early in the period, but the Broncos offense would take off again down the stretch to collect the win. “We just came up a little bit short. I was happy with how the girls played, they did a bunch of things well, but (Burrillville) just played better than us and that happens sometimes in sports. They did everything I asked,” said Toll Gate coach Jim Areson. Adeline Areson led the Titans with six



LEADING SCORER: Adeline Areson, who led the way with six goals.

Hawks edge Eagles, fall to Rams in semis

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Bishop Hendricken lacrosse team won its opening round playoff matchup in a 6-5 battle with visiting Barrington last week. The two clubs were tied at 2-2 at halftime and the Hawks would get back-to-back goals to take a 4-2 advantage. However, the Eagles would battle back to knot the score at 5-5. With less than a minute remaining, Hendricken would get a goal from Grayson Bruno to take the lead and get the win. Teighan Jeremy led the Hawks with a hat trick in the victory. “We have 11 seniors on the team and those guys do the brunt of the work for us. Teighan Jeremy had a strong game. We were getting a lot of shots on their goalie. It was a back-and forth game,” said Hendricken coach Dave Hadeland. Hendricken had perhaps its toughest schedule ever this



PLAYOFF RUN: Bishop Hendricken’s Braeden Shields works his way past a Barrington defender last week during the Division I Quarterfinals at home. The Hawks would get the 6-5 win to advance to the semifinals against La Salle. The Rams would ultimately win 22-7 to end Hendricken’s run. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



ACE ON THE MOUND: Pilgrim starting pitcher Colby Barker deals. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

Rams top Pats in prelims

By RYAN D. MURRAY

The Division I-A No. 3 Patriots fell to the Division I-B No. 6 La Salle Academy Rams 12-5 during the D-I Baseball Preliminary Round at Pilgrim High School on Tuesday. La Salle shortstop Marcus Rodrigues led the Rams offense with two hits and six RBI, while Clyde Boutier, the first baseman, added three hits and three RBI. Pats senior catcher Sean Gallagher topped the Pats with three hits and three RBI, and Cam Nadeau, the designated hitter, had two hits and two RBI. Pilgrim took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Gallagher and Nadeau hit a pair of RBI singles. However, in the top of the third, La Salle scored five runs and drew a 5-2 lead. In the bottom of the third, Nadeau hit another RBI single, and then Aidan Ferreira scored during a double-steal, which pulled the Pats within 5-4. La Salle and Pilgrim each added a run in the fifth, which gave La Salle a 6-5 advantage. The Rams tacked on five more runs in the sixth, and one more in the seventh, and that earned La Salle the 12-5 victory. “We hung in there,” Pilgrim head coach Nolan Landy said. “It was back-and-forth. We made a few mistakes on the mound, but they hit the baseball very well. In clutch situations, two outs, they did a good job. That’s why they won.” Pats junior Colby Barker started on the bump and took the loss after just 2 2/3 innings. Barker gave up five earned runs, on six hits, with one strikeout, one walk, and one hit batsman. Ferreira came on to pitch for Pilgrim in the third, but the freshman didn’t fare much better. Ferreira, too, pitched 2 2/3 innings and he yielded four earned runs, on seven hits, while walking one, and striking out two.

PATS - PAGE 24



QUARTERFINALS: Bishop Hendricken's Sebastian Nault carries the ball against Barrington last week.

■ Hawks

(Continued from page 23)

spring, facing the typical Division I teams throughout the state but also playing non-league games against teams from Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut.

Although the overall results were mixed, the Hawks turned it around late in the season and entered last week's playoff playing their best lacrosse of the spring.

"I scheduled a pretty tough non-league schedule this year just because I wanted to be ready for the tournament. With all of the DI teams that we're going to be playing, I wanted the guys to see that lacrosse is played at a high level all over the place," Haddeland said. "We always have a great brotherhood here. They enjoy playing with each other, they are pretty close and play multiple sports together. It's the last go around for

them, there's some urgency for some of them," said Haddeland.

The Hawks turned around to face No. 1 seed La Salle Academy on Tuesday. The Rams were undefeated in league play this season and topped the Hawks 24-6 earlier this spring.

The Rams ended up winning the contest 22-7, ending Hendricken's season and punching their ticket to the state finals. The Hawks wrapped things up with a league record of 6-4 overall.

■ Titans

(Continued from page 23)

goals while Maddie Clark added two and Kate Pale one. Freshman goalie Mary McNulty, who was filling in for starter Jill Costello, recorded 10 saves in the cage.

After reaching the Division III finals last season, the Titans were bumped up to Division II this year and fit right in, going 9-2 in the regular season and making the semis.

"It was a great season. We stepped up to Division II and made it to the semis, going into the season, even I didn't think that we would do that. It was a phenomenal season and they played well," Jim Areson said.

The Titans will be returning nearly their entire roster next season as they only graduate three seniors and are made up of primarily juniors and sophomores. After these past two playoff runs, Jim Areson hopes that the experience will pay dividends moving forward.

"We're still actually pretty young and are only graduating three seniors, so this is a great experience for them and next year I think each of them will be even better," Jim Areson said.

Clark, Costello and Emma Vollucci will be graduating in a few weeks, and will be leaving big holes in the Toll Gate roster.

"Maddie has been a four-year starter and has played in two finals and is going to play in college. Jill had a record of 21-4 and had never played goalie before. Emma worked hard, really stepped up and made some big contributions. The three of them are just quality people; we're going to miss them," Jim Areson said. "Hopefully we have some people to step up and fill those shoes. The expectations will be high next year."



GREAT SEASON: Toll Gate's Kate Pale on Tuesday afternoon in Burrillville. Pale scored a goal for the Titans in the loss.

■ Pats

(Continued from page 23)

McConnell pitched the final 1 2/3 innings for Pilgrim and gave up one earned run, on one hit, with one strikeout, and one walk.

Patrick Jones, a sophomore, started on the bump for La Salle and tossed six solid innings and earned the win. Jones struck out three and walked three, with one hit batsman, while giving up five earned runs on nine hits. Rams sophomore Mike Mita closed the game with a 1-2-3 seventh inning and struck out two.

With the defeat, the Pats season ends, while La Salle moves on to play at D-I-B #2 South Kingstown on Friday against the Rebels.



AT THE DISH: Pilgrim's Mark Woods (right) and Jack McConnell at bat against La Salle on Tuesday afternoon at Pilgrim.

My postseason forecast

We are officially in the thick of the spring playoffs this week and I am excited to enter the final push before the summer break.

Let's dive right into where we are and what's to come.

As of this writing on Tuesday morning, we have a handful of our lacrosse teams still in the mix.

The Bishop Hendricken boys beat Barrington in the opening round of the Division I race and will be taking on top-seeded La Salle Academy. The Rams have been the hottest team in the state and beat the Hawks pretty good in the regular season, but of course, anything can happen once you're there.

Hendricken played a tough non-league schedule, taking on some of the best teams from Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut. Some of those teams were nationally-ranked. Having said that, although it would be unwise at this point to go against the Rams, I would not totally count the Hawks out. They've been as battle-tested as any group this spring.

The top-seeded Pilgrim team will be taking on crosstown rival Toll Gate on Wednesday with the winner heading to the DIII final on Saturday.

The Pats have also been dominant this season, finishing the regular season unbeaten and virtually untested. Again, anything can happen in the playoffs, but I struggle to see Pilgrim coming up short.

The Pats were the favorite at this time last year and nearly got it done, but fell short in the title game. They've been on a mission this year and have really separated themselves from the pack.

Pilgrim and Toll Gate have squared off twice this year. Pilgrim got an opening day win, but the Titans rallied to keep the Pats honest until late in the game. Toll Gate managed to keep a tied score until late in the first half in the second meeting as well before Pilgrim took off.

Again, I'm going with Pilgrim the rest of the way. It's hard to pick against that level of dominance. Toll Gate has played them hard though, so we'll see what happens from here.

On the girls side, Toll Gate has been one of the biggest surprises in the state, moving up to Division II but managing to take the third seed in the playoffs with a 9-2 regular season. The Lady Titans traveled to Burrillville on Tuesday to take on the defending DIII champion Broncos, who narrowly beat them in the championship last year.

The Cranston West girls won their opening round matchup against Chariho in a thrilling win at home last week and faced top-seeded Portsmouth on Tuesday for a chance to go to the title game on the line. Portsmouth has been perhaps the best team in the state, so West had a daunting task. The Cranston East girls are also in the thick of their playoff run and has been flying under the radar a bit. The Bolts took on top-seeded East Providence, who they almost beat earlier this spring.

My pitch



by
**ALEX
SPONSELLER**
SPORTS EDITOR

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The Johnston girls pulled off a 9-5 upset over Classical in the play-in game, but came up short to the aforementioned Townies in the quarterfinals. The Panthers had an up and down season, so to get that win is a feather in their cap, for sure.

For what's up next, the baseball playoffs should be fun to watch. Bishop Hendricken grabbed the top seed in its division and figures to be a favorite to make a deep run. Although Pilgrim wasn't quite as dominant as it was last spring, it also has title aspirations.

Both Cranston East and West had mixed results this year but did enough to earn playoff spots. Not sure if championships are in the picture for them, but you never know who will get hot and make some noise.

Johnston finished second in Division II and recently split its series with top-seeded Westerly, handing the Bulldogs their only league loss this spring. The Panthers are right in the mix and with ace Jeremy Urena in the fold, have a real chance to make a run at a championship.

Pilgrim is looking to return to the championship in softball and will have every chance to do so. Between a deep lineup and having arguably the best player in the state in Alyssa Twomey, Pilgrim should at the very least make a deep run, as should Toll Gate, who took the second seed in their division in DII.

Cranston West and Johnston grabbed lower seeds but have shown flashes of big ability throughout the season. Will one of these teams be a dark horse in their respective races?

On to volleyball, where the Johnston boys are looking to grab a title in Division III. The Panthers enter the tournament with the second seed, having only lost to top-seeded Lincoln.

Lincoln went 2-0 against Johnston with a 6-0 combined score. The Lions are secure as the favorite, but if anyone is going to knock them off, it will be the Panthers.

Hendricken and Cranston East are both very much alive in the Division I race, despite each holding modest seedings. The Hawks and Bolts have competed with and beaten some of the best teams in the state, so although neither of these teams are the betting favorites, they shouldn't be counted out just yet.

Then for outdoor track, I think it is safe to say that the Hawks will likely fly to yet another title and their impressive outing at the class championships reinforces that. The West girls pulled off an unexpected win and are all of a sudden locked in as the favorite on the girls side. We'll see how things shake out this weekend.

Favorite ways to catch striped bass

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

We have an influx of Atlantic menhaden (pogies) in Narragansett and Mt. Hope Bays this week. With all this bait and the perfect water temperature (just over 60 degrees), now is the time to try to catch some striped bass because they have arrived following the bait.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said last week, “Anglers are catching some great slot size (28 to <35 inches) and larger striped bass with chunks (of pogies) all the way up to I-195 in Providence.”

East End Eddy Doherty said, “I caught a 21-pound striped bass two days after May’s full moon on the Cape Cod Canal. Primary forage baitfish has been consisting of significant schools of herring, silversides, squid and nine inch bunker as well as smaller groups of mackerel that have entered the Canal so let’s hope they decide to stick around to feed the predators.”

With all this bait in the water here are some favorite ways to catch striped bass:

10. Trolling with umbrella rigs. I like to use this technique trolling in deeper parts of Narragansett Bay, off Newport or Block Island with a variety of squid, shad, worm or eel umbrella rigs. Hook two fish at the same time and you will experience a great fight.

9. Casting soft plastics, various bait types and weights to fish different depths. Many anglers love this technique and use it successfully in the spring. Make sure the plastic baits are scented if they are not add some scent.

8. Buck tail jigs with pork rind squid strips. Have had success with this method to get under schools of bluefish and to the striped bass on the bottom.

7. Live eels. Used by shore and boat anglers, some fishing guides use this as their primary method to catch killer stripers. Hook the eel through the mouth and out one eye. Going between the eyes usually kills the bait. You must use circle hooks, it is the law. Circle hooks generally slide out of the fish and hook it on the corner of their mouth on the way out allowing you to release the fish you are not keeping ... and release them alive and well.

6. Live menhaden. Snag the

live bait with a weighted treble hook or net them. Hook the bait through the bridge of the nose, find a school of Atlantic menhaden and put the live menhaden into the school bait and let it swim. Used when menhaden are running strong, particularly up the Providence River in early spring.

5. Chunking fresh or frozen menhaden. You can anchor (and chum); drift fish or fish the moving bait schools with chunks. Some anglers use a weight slide to get the bait down to the striped bass.

4. Surface plugs. Have caught hundreds of bass in the spring using surface plugs of all types.

3. Swimming lures. Great way to catch fish in coves, on rivers, etc. My favorite is a grey Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow.

2. Parachute squid jigs. Often used in ocean water (or where there are squid). Anglers successfully use this method off Newport, Narragansett and Block Island.

1. Trolling with tube and worm. I have had great success in the Bay using lead line weighted with two or three ounces of lead between the line and a five foot fluorocarbon leader. I find that bubblegum or red colored tubes work best (the tube hook is tipped with clam worm). The idea of added weight is to get the line down to where the fish are. Tube and worm trolling has been a successful technique for the Southwest side of Block Island using 300 ft. of wire line out in 35 to 45 feet of water, amber colored tubes seem to work best there.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish became more abundant this week with an improved bite. “Striped bass fishing improved this week at Block Island with angels catching slot fish and larger trolling wire with tube and worm at the Southwest Ledge. The bluefish bite was particularly good at the North Rip. The bass bite along the coastal beaches has been a night bite,” said Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown. Sam Toland of Sam’s Bait & Tackle, Middletown said, “The striped bass and bluefish bite out in front of Newport and in Narragansett Bay has been very good with some large fish (above the slot size of 28 to <35



WHAT'S THE CATCH: Leo Beras of Providence with a striped bass caught last week in the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

inches) are being caught in the East Passage all the way up to Providence.” “Mike Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly, said, “The bluefish and striped bass bite on the West Grounds at Block Island was very good this week. We had a lot of fun targeting them with surface and swimming lures and caught fish to 42 inches there.” Tom Houde caught a slot size fish on his kayak in a Bay cove this week with a Butchiebuilt.com standard 24-inch tube and worm.

Summer flounder/black sea bass. Black sea bass season opened May 22 to August 31 with

a two fish/person/day limit. Anglers are reminded that the minute size is now 16 inches. “The fluke bite had note ben very good off Newport or in the Bay. But the black sea bass bite has been good for anglers,” said Sam Toland of Sami’s Bait. Mike Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters said, “The fluke bite in the Block Island Wind Farm area has been good. We caught fluke to 26 inches just south of tower five in about 70 feet of water and had no trouble limiting out four fish/person/day limit (18 inches is the minimum size). Things have warmed up so the bite is pretty good.”

Elisha Cahill of Sun Harbor said, “The fluke bite is good off Carpenters in about 30 feet of water and the bite is very good at the East Fishing Grounds off Block Island and just south of the Wind Farm.”

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 and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verison.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com

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FACING OFF: Pilgrim's Azael Alvarez and Toll Gate's Tyler Carpenter battle at the net on Tuesday.

Season Finale

The Pilgrim and Toll Gate boys volleyball teams squared off one last time on Tuesday for their season finales. Here are some looks at the action as the playoffs begin this week. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



TEAMWORK: Pilgrim's John Mixner and Eli Kearns work together to return a shot.



AT THE NET: Toll Gate's Tyler Carpenter looks to get a shot past Pilgrim's Ayo Falano.

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