



## Class of 2023

### Patriots cross stage, open a new life chapter

By DANA RICHIE

Two hundred and fifty-four seniors wearing black and white graduation caps, gowns and grins of accomplishment filed to seats overlooking the bay Wednesday morning. Family members, friends and loved ones pushed against plastic green snow fencing to get a glimpse of their graduate in the Pilgrim High School Class of 2023.

As she waited for the ceremony to begin Rowen Klyberg '23 said that high school at Pilgrim was a "crazy ride." Christian LaPorte '23, who walked behind her, added that he was "proud and excited" to be part of the Class of 2023.

Each graduating senior crossed the stage, received their diploma and officially ended a chapter of their life. The Pilgrim High School Concert Band and Senior Chorus harmoniously serenaded the class with the Alma Mater, signifying their emerging status as alumni.

Mayor Frank Picozzi, Superintendent Lynn Dambruch, Assistant Superintendent William McCaffrey, School Committee Members, central administration members and teachers participated in the festivities. In their remarks, many urged the students to appreciate all who have given to them and to believe they will continue to accomplish great things in the future. Griffin Taylor, valedictorian, was

described by social studies teacher Michael Costello as a "once in a career kind of student." Taylor, senior class president, lacrosse, basketball and squash player, robotics team member, Best Buddies member and app designer, will be attending Brown University in the fall to pursue Applied Mathematics and Computer Science.

Taylor praised his peers for being the "most motivated and driven" class amidst the obstacles presented by the Covid 19 pandemic. He said that for most of them, their senior year was the first year of in person high school.

"Time and time again, our class has

PILGRIM - PAGE 12



ONCE, TWICE AND AGAIN AND AGAIN: There was no mistaking who the Pena family was cheering for Tuesday at Toll Gate graduation ceremonies - Sophia. Pictured with the graduate is her sister, Chloe; father, Mark; mother, Traci and "Nana", Chris.

### Toll Gate grads bask in accomplishments at Warwick Neck ceremony

By DANA RICHIE

The Toll Gate Symphonic Orchestra played and family members cheered as women in red robes and men in blue robes proceeded into the crowded grassy area.

On the sunny Tuesday evening of June 13, 267 seniors graduated from Toll Gate High School at the Aldrich Mansion, crossing the stage with a scenic view of Narragansett Bay as a backdrop. A couple of spectator boats anchored off shore. The graduates sat in rows of chairs facing a stage with giant screens on either side giving the audience up close views of the proceedings as well as overheads from a drone above. From their lawn chairs, blankets or simply sitting on the ground, onlookers screamed their loved ones' names, applauded and occasionally blew air horns. This was the big moment and the morning rain had given way to bright sun and a cool southwest breeze.

The ceremony included speeches from students, administrators and city stakeholders including Mayor Frank Picozzi, Superintendent Lynn Dambruch and School Committee Chairman David Testa, all celebrating the accomplishments of the graduating seniors.

Picozzi praised the graduating class for making it to the "finish line of childhood," sharing that this occasion was special enough for him to wear a tie, something he said he rarely does. He acknowledged that some members of the class are destined to leave Warwick, so he reminded them that this "will always be your home."

The valedictorian, Svetlana Steponova is a National

TOLL GATE - PAGE 5

### Hendricken Class of 2023 looks forward to future

By DANIEL HOLMES

Bishop Hendricken High School hosted its 62nd Commencement Exercises on Monday, June 12, with the 143 members of the Class of 2023 being encouraged to face an unpredictable future with integrity and the desire to create change.

The ceremony was conducted in the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul, close by the tomb of the school's clerical namesake; in a longstanding tradition, the tomb of Bishop Thomas F Hen-

dricken was adorned with flowers at the beginning of the graduation.

The outgoing Hawks were addressed by several alumni and classmates, with keynote speaker Col. Lawrence Gallogly reminding them that life is full of unexpected turns: "believe me," said Gallogly, "in 1975, there wasn't anyone at Hendricken who thought a graduate named Bob Marciano would ever become president of the school."

After a laugh from all present (including Fr. "Bob"), Gallogly went on

to clarify that few members of his own Class of 1977 would have expected the course that his own career in the Air Force and defense research ended up taking.

"Life is never a straight line," he said. "But the greatest lesson I learned in my flying career is that you can't worry about the runway behind you. Focus on the runway in front of you. That's where all the opportunity lies."

This is a lesson which the past four years have already done much to in-

HENDRICKEN - PAGE 6

### Revaluation won't impact tax exemptions

By JOHN HOWELL

Depending on how you look at it, there's some good news and some bad news to report from the tax front.

The good news for those eligible for tax exemptions is that the revaluation has not impacted the dollar amount of the exemption whether you are a senior citizen, veteran, disabled, on the circuit breaker or enlisted in a number of other programs.

Of course, which is no news to those who have followed City Council approval of the mayor's budget,

the bad news is that taxes are going up. And while paying taxes is a pain, as of Friday it appears the city is on schedule to have the tax bills in the mail by mid-June with the first quarterly payment due July 17.

Also, as of Friday the city closed the period for property owners to appeal valuations that were mailed out May 14. The valuations as of Dec. 31, 2022 reflected a 30 percent growth in residential values and an 11 percent growth in commercial values.

City Tax Assessor Neal Dupuis said Vision Government Solutions, the

firm that conducted the revaluation, heard a total of 1,100 resident and commercial appeals. He noted that shouldn't be equated to the actual number of property appeals since some taxpayers own more than one property. Letters in response to appeals are expected to be in the mail this month. If property owners remain unsatisfied with the findings, they can appeal to the Board of Tax Review, but in the meantime are expected to pay taxes based on the valu-

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## Gaspee in his blood

### Committee president completes 2-year term

By DANA RICHIE

Amidst a fanfare of fife and drums, Gaspee Days Committee President Steve Miller, dressed in colonial garb, waved to parade spectators from the back of a convertible while sitting next to his wife, Tracey Saturday.

Miller recalled the first years of the Gaspee Day parade going by his childhood home. Between the ages of four and ten, he watched with excitement. Now, he's closing out his second year as President and thirteenth year as a member of the Gaspee Days Committee.

"It was always a big event," he said. "My parents always had a big party afterwards, so I was always interested in Gaspee Days in general for the festivities that went along with it."

Steve, who has worked at Citizens Bank for 30 years, grew up in Warwick, attended Bishop Hendricken High School alongside his two

GASPEE - PAGE 14



WHAT HE LOVES: Gaspee Days president Steve Miller accompanied by his wife, Tracey, waves to parade spectators Saturday. (Warwick Beacon photo)

Join the Parade on page 18

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#### HAWKS ELIMINATED

The Cumberland baseball team stunned top-ranked Hendricken in the Division I playoffs last week, ending its season. See story on page 26. Pictured is Griffin Crain.

#### NOTABLE Quote

"I was one inducted in the (19)70s, but apparent the association lost some of the early records. So when I came back to high school coaching in the 21st century they inducted me again."

- Former Pilgrim and Toll Gate tennis coach Bob Coker, who is now 93. Coker is the subject of an interview by John Gillooly on page 31.



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# \$700,000 opens classrooms to the outdoors



**THE GREAT OUTDOORS:** Mayor Frank Picozzi addresses Wyman School students Thursday. The school was the site of an announcement that Warwick is the recipient of \$700,000 of a RIDE \$7.5 million Learning Inside Out Outdoor Classroom program. (Warwick Beacon photos)

By DANA RICHIE

"This is untapped potential," Gary McCoombs, principal of Hoxsie Elementary School said Friday as he gestured to the wooded area that surrounds the school.

McCoombs and fifth-grade teacher Bill Potter approached the lush area, explaining their idea to put two outdoor classrooms and a nature walk in the greenspace behind the school.

one of seven Warwick elementary schools to receive \$100,000 grants for infrastructure and educational programming to facilitate outdoor education. Other Warwick schools awarded Learning Inside Out Outdoor Classroom grants from the Rhode Island Department of Education are Cedar Hill, Greenwood, Norwood, Oakland Beach, Robertson and Wyman. The \$700,000 that was presented to Warwick Public Schools is just a portion of the \$7.5 million that was awarded across the state.

Each school has its own plan to use the funds. Greenwood will convert a courtyard into a garden space, Norwood will build a sensory garden and walking path, Robertson will build a bug hotel and pine forest zone, Oakland Beach will create outdoor classroom spaces, Cedar Hill will build an amphitheater and Wyman will create three outdoor spaces. According to a memo released by Superintendent Lynn Damburch, all of these projects should be completed by December 2023, and the district will help each school maintain their outdoor spaces.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, Mayor Frank Picozzi, Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, Damburch and School Committee members joined parents, teachers and students to announce the awards Thursday at Wyman School. The awards are made possible with funds from RIDE's School Building Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Shakarchi said that this award is "so important for Warwick" and is a "testament to the dedication and hard work of our teachers and staff." Many stakeholders expressed their excitement for the opportunity to expand educational practices outside.

"This initiative will show students that learning just doesn't happen within four walls of a classroom," Damburch said. "It will give them the opportunity to experience learning in an outdoor environment and encourage children to explore, wonder and experience inquiry-based learning."

According to Infante-Green, Rhode Island is #1 in leading environmental education and is the top state in New England for Green Ribbon learning. She views

this grant and the funded programs as an extension of the state's commitment to sustainability and outdoor education.

Infante-Green also shared some of the proposed projects from schools all over Rhode Island, including "food and pollinator gardens, pathways, amphitheaters, pond upgrades and outdoor classrooms for students to learn about sustainability, irrigation, aquatics, farm to school initiatives, habitat restorations and much more."

Each school is in the early phases of planning. McCoombs said Hoxsie will likely use the \$100,000 to clear the trail and outdoor space, buy 8 to 10 big tables and install security and safety technology, but it is still too early to determine exactly how they will use the funds. He hopes there will be ongoing conversations with the district to discuss ways to keep the costs down.

Dr. Virginia Lund, a parent of a second-grader at Wyman, helped to write the grant proposal on behalf of the school because "this is an additional space of learning and growing and being for our children." Lund acknowledged that many teachers were already "dedicated to going outside and finding creative ways to learn," but she believes that with the RIDE recognition and support, it will be "easier and more accessible and more possible."

She said that the school plans to use the awarded funds to build a pollinator garden, restore the habitat with native plants, construct some 'hardscaping' for a patio area as a "space to gather" and clean up the trail to make a 'story walk' with posts of writing and images of books.

While writing the grant proposal, Lund visited classrooms to hear what students and teachers wanted. She recalled one student approaching her and telling her that he saw a blue jay on the windowsill, and she was inspired by his "wild wonder and appreciation." She hopes that the outdoor additions will help more students experience that joy.

"It matters to get ourselves into nature," she added. "It matters to spend time in the wonder and beauty that's all around us. It matters for our children to recognize the impact that they have on our neighbors, animals and otherwise, through their actions in the environment."

Potter agrees. He shared when he taught elementary school science he would "have the kids just sit, close their eyes and just listen to all of the sounds that they don't realize were there." He's excited to have the opportunity to do activities like that on a more regular basis with infrastructure to support it.

Deborah Faith, with Colliers Project Leaders, oversees a lot of school construction in Rhode Island. She said that they have built outdoor learning spaces for other school districts and "knows that it's a really great thing."

Kerri Manson, PTA president of Wyman Elementary, views this grant as a win for the whole community.

"It'll be something for the whole community to use, not just Wyman students but the Gaspee community," Manson said. "It's just something for all of us to enjoy."

Lund acknowledges that this is only the beginning.

"This is going to be a lot of work going forward," Lund said. "I know that our school community is energized and excited to do the work to make these dreams and these plans a reality."

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# Beach passes required as of this Saturday

By SAMANTHA RUSSELL

For a third year since being implemented, Warwick will collect entrance fees at Oakland, Conimicut Point and City Park beaches starting this Saturday.

Beachgoers can purchase a season pass or pay at the time of each visit. Season passes are accepted at all three Warwick beaches. For both options, fees are doubled for non-Warwick residents and discounted for seniors, veterans and disabled individuals. Resident season passes are \$20 and

non residents \$40. Passes for senior/veteran and disabled residents are \$10 per car and twice that for non residents.

Individual resident one-day car passes are \$5 and \$10 for nonresidents. One-day senior/veteran/ disabled tickets for residents are \$3 and \$6 for nonresidents.

One day bus passes, as assessed and authorized by the Director of Parks and Recreation, are as much as \$30.

Contrary to day passes, season beach passes cannot be bought upon beach visits. The Warwick Public

Library has been selling season passes since May 15. Sales are available there from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday. To purchase a beach pass, residents are asked to bring cash, a check or a money order made out to City of Warwick, their car registration or state issued ID as proof of Warwick residency and proof of age, veteran or disability status if necessary. The minimum age for senior discount is 60 years old. Passes are only

available at the library. Beach fees have been a topic of discussion for years, having been lifted during former Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian's term in office. Before that, the fees had been applied for about ten or eleven years.

Ward 6 Councilwoman Donna Travis described Avedisian's action as "giving people a break" in a hard financial time. Nevertheless, she voiced strong disapproval of the removal, along with Warwick's Department of Works.

"It was such a pig pen," she said of the beaches. According to her observations, diapers and garbage were consistently scat-

tered throughout the landscape; broader recreational access also increased traffic and illegal cooking on city beaches. She believes that because people did not have to pay, they cared less about their behavior and treatment of the environment.

Mayor Frank Picozzi agreed with Travis and reinstated the fees two years ago. Travis deems this action the "best thing that happened," and not a poor price, either.

Travis further explained that a lack of beach fees is unfair to Warwick residents, who find it difficult to enjoy their own beaches with the influx of non-residents. She additionally noted that beachgoers

create poor parking habits to avoid paying a fee, which leads to blocked driveways, packed side streets, and a "crazy" police presence.

"We were just trying to be fair with everyone," Travis declared. She said that since the reinstatement of the fees, the beaches have been much cleaner and more controlled. And, as long as she has anything to say about it, the fees will be here to stay.

"I just want everyone to get along and enjoy the summer," she concluded.

Warwick beaches are open from sunrise and sunset with lifeguards and fee collectors on duty.



## Digging in, helping out

P.J. Keating played a big role in this year's Gaspee Days 5K that helps provide funds for the parade, the most costly event of the celebration. The company donated \$3,000, covering half the cost of painting the blue and red stripe of the parade route down Narragansett Parkway and into Pawtuxet Village. Keating also supplied water for the road race. Pictured with Gaspee Days Committee president, left, is Carl Turgeon, the Cranston quarry manager. (Warwick Beacon photo)

## Quiet on the Set!

### Picket lines interrupt Good Burger filming

Welcome to Good Burger, home of the Good Burger. Unfortunately, your order might need to wait...

Filming for Good Burger 2 had been scheduled to continue in East Greenwich on Wednesday, June 14, but was halted due to picketing by the Writer's Guild of America. The union has been on strike since May 2 for issues ranging from residual payments on streaming content to the use of artificial intelligence in script writing.

"The Teamsters Union has put out a statement that their members won't cross our picket lines," said Don Hooper, a strike captain with WGA East. "So as long as we are physically present here, no filming will occur. We have a good relationship with other workers, so they're standing with us on this."

Hooper indicated that protests are scheduled to continue to occur until the disagreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers has been resolved. "These companies have been taking advantage of the transition to streaming platforms to underpay writers," he said. "They've refused to listen to our concerns about AI writing - they only offered to check in with us once a year to discuss new developments with the technology. And they rejected all of our demands about mini rooms."

"Mini rooms" are a fairly recent innovation in television production, with a greatly reduced number of writers

being paid at a scale rate to generate scripts. WGA negotiators are currently calling for a minimum of six writers in television writer's rooms in order to ensure that work remains available.

Last month, WJAR reported that executive director Steven Feinberg said the Rhode Island Film and Television Office "did not anticipate" picket lines at any of the Good Burger filming locations. In the time since then, however, both the Screen Actors Guild and the Directors Guild have altered the non-strike clauses in their contracts.

Filming has been taking place throughout the state over the course of the past several weeks, with the former Friendly's on Mineral Spring Avenue in Providence having been transformed into the eponymous fast-food restaurant introduced in the 1997 Nickelodeon film Good Burger. Stars Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell have been spotted riding around Providence in a hamburger-shaped car.

Additional scenes were supposed to have been filmed Wednesday at the New England Institute of Technology - or "Mega Corp," as it has been rechristened by the set dressers. Filming is expected to resume as soon as picketing ends. The Film and Television Office has also listed that locations in Warwick will be used when shooting recommences.



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# BEACON BUZZ

Hear that sound? It is all the buzz on what is happening this month! Want to buzz about your next outing? What about a fundraiser or club meeting? Share the love! Send your event information to: [Ida at Ida@rhodybeat.com!](mailto:Ida@rhodybeat.com)

**June 16, Gladstone Street Elementary School Good-bye Event** Friday, June 16, from 3 – 7 p.m., all Gladstone Street Elementary School Huskies, past and present, are invited to the Gladstone Goodbye Event, 50 Gladstone St., Cranston. The public will be allowed inside and outside the building. Feel free to take pictures and share a memory or two.

**June 16, Family Pride Karaoke Night** The Gamm Theater, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, is hosting a Family Pride Karaoke Night on Friday, June 16 from 6 - 9 p.m. Come sing a song in our lobby, try snacks and drinks from our café, and enjoy the weather on our patio. The evening will be full of music, fun and face painting for the kids. Bring the family and have a fun prideful night out!

**June 16 & 17, OUR LADY OF CZENSTOCHOWA POLISH FESTIVAL** On Friday & Saturday, June 16 & 17, from 5 – 9 p.m., Our Lady of Czestochowa will host their Polish Festival on the school grounds at 222 MacArthur Boulevard, Coventry. The festival features Polish/American food, games, raffles, Cow Chip Bingo and much more. Frozen Golombki & Pierogi will be available for sale. Free parking and free admission. Call 821-7991 or visit [olcsvp.org](http://olcsvp.org) for more information.

**June 17, Get Ready for Pride!** Saturday, June 17 12:00 noon. Stop by The Huddle Center (70 Gansett Ave) to get anything you may need for the Pride Fest in Providence. Drop in and get ready with us for Pride! Pack a goodie bag, take some Pride swag and get some Pride tips from community health worker Jill, a PVD Pride Fest regular. Please reach out to Jill at 401-258-3084 or [jparaco@comcap.org](mailto:jparaco@comcap.org) with any questions!

**June 17, Arts & Crafts & Plant Sale** The Friends of The Warwick Public Library are sponsoring an Arts & Crafts & Plant Sale on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Main Branch, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Also, Tickets for the “Books and Brews” Fundraiser on Saturday, July 15, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Apponaug Brewery, 334 Knight Street, Warwick, can be purchased at this event. Please support The Warwick Public Library!

**June 17, Drive-Thru Food Pantry** Spring Green memorial Church will be holding their monthly Drive-Thru Food Pantry on Saturday, June 17 between 11 a.m. and noon in the parking lot in the back of the church. Grocery bags of food will be distributed. For more information or questions please email the church at [springgreenchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:springgreenchurch@yahoo.com) or call 401-463-8328.

**June 18, Annual Rochambeau Strawberry Biscuit Tea** on Sunday, June 18, from 6 – 8 p.m., The Cranston Historical Society will hold its 22nd Annual Rochambeau Strawberry biscuit Tea at the Joy Homestead to celebrate the 242nd Anniversary of the March to Victory of General Rochambeau. Rochambeau led his French forces of King Louis XVI through Cranston, Scituate and Coventry on June 18, 1781, on his way to join General Washington to defeat the British at Yorktown. Enjoy an evening of pleasantries and tea with homemade biscuits & strawberries. \$5 donation. Reservations required. (401) 944-9226.

**June 20, Gaspee Seniors Meeting** will be at the Pilgrim Senior Center on Tuesday, June 20, at 1:30 p.m. This is the final meeting for the 2022 - 2023 year. The club will resume in September 5, at 1:30 p.m. and again on September 19 to begin the 2023-2024 year. New members are always welcome. Have a wonderful summer.

**June 21, Firefly Walk** Wednesday, June 21, 8:45 p.m. there will be a Firefly Walk. Meet at the lower Rhodes on the Pawtuxet parking lot, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston, for a half hour walk at twilight to watch the fireflies. Wear long sleeves and pants. Please do not bring nets, jars or dogs. Contact [timlehnert@live.com](mailto:timlehnert@live.com) for more information.

**June 22, How Animals Grow Up** on Thursday, June 22, at 1:30-2:30 p.m., the Pontiac Free Library, 101 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, will present: How Animals Grow Up. Registration requested. For information, please contact 401-737-3292 or [info@pontiacfreelibrary.org](mailto:info@pontiacfreelibrary.org).

**June 23, Johnston High School Class of '73 Reunion**, Friday, June 23, at 6 p.m., The Inspiration of '73 will celebrate its 50th year reunion. It will be held at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave., Warwick. Cocktails: 6 – 7 p.m. and Dinner: 7 p.m. \$80 per person. There will be live music. If you are in contact with any classmates, spread the word. For more information, check out the JHS Class of 1973 Facebook page or call Donna at 401-497-9292.

**June 24, Strawberry Festival** Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown, invites the public to celebrate their annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 24, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. This family friendly event will feature once again puppeteer Dan Butterworth, as well as pop singer Jesse Liam. Plenty of colonial games, activities, and crafts will be provided as well as pony rides for children. Vendors will be on-site, and they will be selling their famous strawberry shortcake as well as plants for the garden. A special exhibit will feature collections from the Narragansett Bay Quilt Association. Admission to Strawberry Festival is \$10 per adult, \$8 for seniors and military, \$6 for children over 6 years of age. Family Cap is \$25. For more information: <http://www.smithscastle.org> or 401-294-3521.

**June 26 – June 30 – Summer Drama Camp**, Monday, June 26 – June 30, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Emanuel Lutheran Church, 20 Leaf Street, West Warwick, will be holding their Summer Drama Camp for children ages 5 thru 14. Cost is \$20 for first child, \$10 for second child and \$5 for additional children (\$35 max per family). Scholarships are available. Call or email for more information or to pre-register: [pastor@emanuelww.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelww.org) 401-821-8888. You may also register at the door on Monday, June 26, 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Performance date: Friday, June 30, 7:00 p.m. [www.emanuelww.org](http://www.emanuelww.org).

**June 29, Fiddle and Fun** on Thursday, June 29, at 2 - 3 p.m. the Pontiac Free Library, 101 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, will present an educational program presented by Fiddle and Fun. Registration requested. For information, please contact 401-737-3292 or [info@pontiacfreelibrary.org](mailto:info@pontiacfreelibrary.org).

**July 10, Calling all Golfers** The Kent Hospital Auxiliary is celebrating their 25th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, July 10, Luncheon served from 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.; shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. at Potowomut Golf Club, 439 Ives Rd, East Green-

wich. \$225/golfer. We also have sponsorships ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000; T signs for \$175 and program ad availability (prices range from \$150-\$500). After golf there is a reception, dinner, awards, silent auction and raffles. This annual event has raised thousands of dollars for Patient Care Services at Kent Hospital. If you would like to join us for this spectacular event, please contact Donna Coppola at 401-737-7000 extension 31879 or [dmcoppola@carene.org](mailto:dmcoppola@carene.org).

**July 11, NAMI-RI: Registration Family-to Family course** The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is now accepting registration for our summer session of NAMI's Family-to-Family course which begins Tuesday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. This is a free and virtual, 8-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidence-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises. For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org) or call 401-331-3060 or email [beth@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:beth@namirhodeisland.org).

**July 15, Books and Brews Fundraiser**, The Friends of the Warwick Public Library will be sponsoring a fundraiser, “Books and Brews” at the Apponaug Brewery, 334 Knight St, Warwick, on Saturday, July 15, from 5 – 6 p.m. Come and support The Warwick Public Library. For tickets and more information call: 401-739-5440.

**July 22, The Prout Class of 1973** will hold its 50th reunion on Saturday, July 22, at 12 p.m., at The Prout School, 4640 Tower Hill Road in South Kingstown. All 1973 graduates are cordially invited to attend. For further information, 1973 graduate alumni are asked to join the Facebook Group “Prout Class of 1973,” or contact Mary Paolino at [mary.paolino@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.paolino@yahoo.com).

**July 30, Warwick Veterans/TollGate High School Class of 1973 Reunion** Warwick Veterans Memorial High School/TollGate High School Class of 1973 will hold its 50th Year Reunion on Sunday, July 30, at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave, Warwick. Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m. \$50 per person. Checks payable to “VetsTollGate Class of 1973” can be sent to Ms. Judy Snow, 29 Oberlin Dr. Warwick 02886. Contact us at [ClassOf73VetsTollgate@gmail.com](mailto:ClassOf73VetsTollgate@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Aug 17, Lake Winnepesaukee Luncheon Cruise** AARP Chapter 2210, Thursday, August 17, Lake Winnepesaukee Luncheon Cruise trip. Experience the majesty of Lake Winnepesaukee during your 2.5 hour narrated scenic tour aboard the historic M/S Mount Washington cruise vessel. Bus pickup from Exit 19 Park & Ride on

Hopkins Hill Road at 8:30 a.m., return time is approximately 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$134/person. For more information call Maureen at 401-828-5188. Final payment due by July 10.

Sept 9, Stepping Stone Ranch Presents Waves of Glory Stepping Stone Ranch, 201 Escoheag Hill Road, West Greenwich, presents Waves of Glory III on September 9 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. FREE outdoor, all-day event filled with worship, guest speakers and more! Tickets are free but are required through Eventbrite. Visit [www.inhismageoutreach.org](http://www.inhismageoutreach.org) for more information.

**Sept 11, The Comedy Course** The Comedy Course is returning for a 6th year, every Monday night for 6-weeks. Three instructors, with over 100 years of combined stage experience, will guide you on a 6-week journey from writing your first joke to performing your debut comedy routine. You will learn the dos and don'ts of standup comedy and have fun doing it. The course is \$200 per person. The place: TBD. Instructors include: Joe Hebert, Coleen Galvin and John Perrotta. Class size is limited. Call John Perrotta at 401-639-7726 to reserve your seat, now. Payment options are available.

**September 12, Boston Duck Tour and Margaritaville AARP Chapter 2210**, Tuesday, September 12, Boston Duck Tour & Margaritaville Faneuil Hall trip. Bus pickup from Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 8:30 a.m., return time is approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$134/person. For more information call Maureen at 401-828-5188. Final payment is due by August 12.

**October 3, Mohawk Trail Fall Foliage Tour** AARP Chapter 2210 Tuesday, October 3, Mohawk Trail Fall Foliage Tour on October 3. Bus pickup from Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 9 a.m., return time is approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$109/person. For more information call Maureen at 401-828-5188. Final payment is due by September 3.

**October 14, Annual No More Hunger Walk** A walk to call attention to food insecurity and raise funds for local food pantries will be held on Saturday, October 14. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Over \$20,000 has been raised in the past two years. The walk will begin at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 West Shore Road, Warwick and proceed along West Shore Road to Donovan Park, in Conimicut Village. Any interested churches, organizations, and individuals are invited and encouraged to join. Call 401-737-8232 or e-mail [Woodbury-ChurchRI@gmail.com](mailto:Woodbury-ChurchRI@gmail.com) for details.

**October 15, Central Falls High School, Class of 1963 Reunion** Central Falls High School Class of 1963, will hold a 60th Class Reunion on Sunday, October 15, 12 – 4 p.m. at Chelo's Banquet Hall, 2225 Post Rd., Warwick. Tickets: \$60 for buffet and dancing. Please send checks to: Patricia (Guillette) Mannix, 111 Col. John Gardner Rd., Narragansett, RI 02882. Please include maiden name and phone number on check. For more information call or email Patricia Mannix 401-789-0451; [Patriciagmannix@gmail.com](mailto:Patriciagmannix@gmail.com) Or,

Nancy Dube Brazeau 401-789-0304; [nancybraz@gmail.com](mailto:nancybraz@gmail.com).

**November 7 – 9, Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City AARP Chapter 2210** Tuesday – Thursday, November 7 – 9, Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City from November 7-9. The Tour includes 2 nights' accommodation, 2 meal credits (up to \$20 value each) & \$20 slot play. Bus pickup from Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 7 a.m., return time is approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$299/person (double occupancy), \$279/person (triple occupancy) or \$399/person (single occupancy). For more information call Maureen at 401-828-5188. Final payment is due by September 21

**Every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. Gaspee Celtic Jam!** (No Jam on Monday, May 29) At the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St. in Cranston every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or sing? All skill levels are welcome! Visit [www.gaspeecelticjam.org](http://www.gaspeecelticjam.org) for more info or to send us any questions.

**Every Tuesday, Jeep Night** Tri-City Elks Lodge #14, 1915 W. Shore Rd Warwick presents Jeep Night every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Around back at the lodge. Jeeps and 4 x 4's of all shapes and sizes are welcome. The Tiki Bar will be open for beverages and there will be food prepared by PB&J's available to purchase.

**Every Second Tuesday West Warwick AARP Chapter** West Warwick AARP Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, 70 Church Street, West Warwick. Looking to expand its membership. All are welcome to come to enjoy a cup of coffee and chat with new friends.

**Every Third Wednesday Old Warwick Grange #41** The Grange Hall is located at 1175 West Shore Road, Warwick, meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. For information, please call either Joan Clegg at 401 465-7259 or Mike Osiensky at (508) 954-9712. The Grange is a fraternal community service, nonprofit organization with a special interest in rural life and the traditions of faith, patriotism, leadership and family values. It's a place where the whole family can go and grow. Help us to help others. There are no meetings in July and August.

**Every Thursday, Custom Collectible Car Show** Tri-City Elks Lodge #14, 1915 W. Shore Rd. Warwick, presents a Custom Collectible Car Show every Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Around back at the lodge. Bring your auto and show it off or just come and enjoy! Motorcycles are welcome. There will be live music & food for sale and the Tiki Bar will be open for beverages!

**Every Thursday, Take Off Pounds Sensibly** TOPS #38 is meeting every Thursday morning at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (lower level), 99 Pierce Street, East Greenwich. Weigh-in begins at 9:30 a.m. The is from 10 – 11 a.m. Enter from the side parking lot, go down the stairs to the kitchen area. All are welcome as well as any canned food donations. For information, call: Joan Tinkham 401-739-5322.

**Every Thursday Meadowlark Seniors** the Meadowlark Seniors meet Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., at St. Kevin Church Hall, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick.

Short meetings, fun activities, and socializing. Come join us. New members are welcome.

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

**Every Friday Cribbage Players** Do you play cribbage? If so, consider joining a small group of cribbage players every, who meet and play at the East Greenwich Community Center, Pierce Street, East Greenwich every Friday at 9:30 p.m. This is a social group where all levels of players are invited to play and meet new friends; there is no cost involved. If you are interested in joining, contact Barbara at 737-6477.

**Starting Saturday, September 25, Citizenship Prep Classes** at WPL Prepare for the U.S. Naturalization Interview with Citizen Preparation classes at the Warwick Public Library, starting Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. to noon.. Practice citizenship vocabulary, learn the necessary civics content, and work on interview skills using the N-400 application form. Sign up at the library. For more information, call (401) 455-8041. These free classes are offered by the RI Family Literacy Initiative.

**Jan. 1, until July 31, St. Francis Xavier Academy Scholarship Applications** The St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association is accepting scholarship applications from Forms are available on our two Facebook pages, by mail at SXA. P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, 02920, or contact a board member.

**Amenity Aid – Volunteers Needed** We are looking for volunteers that would like to help us plan and staff community events, organize hygiene product collection drives and raise funds for Amenity Aid. If you are interested in doing any of the above or would like to be a member of our Community Outreach Committee, please contact Stacey Silva, Community Outreach Chair at [Stacey@AmenityAid.org](mailto:Stacey@AmenityAid.org).

Amenity Aid's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations by creating access to essential hygiene products. Serving all of Rhode Island, we distribute toiletry necessities to those most vulnerable through our network of direct service agencies.

**Coventry Senior Band** The Coventry Senior Band is looking for musicians. A group of retired volunteers, we play gigs at Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, etc. If you are over 55 and play an instrument call David at (401) 368-6895 or email at [walshdavid170@gmail.com](mailto:walshdavid170@gmail.com)

**Hearts for Hospice Visiting Nurse Home** and Hospice (VNH&H) is asking for individuals to support their hospice programs by giving \$20.00 or more to their Hearts for Hospice campaign. People can dedicate their gift to a loved one who is always in their heart; all dedications are listed on the organization's website. You can make your donation at [www.visitingnursehh.org/giving/](http://www.visitingnursehh.org/giving/) or by calling 401-682-2100 extension number 1631.



**PROCESSION:** Family and friends lined the walkway as the Toll Gate Class of 2023 filed to their seats Tuesday afternoon as graduation ceremonies.



**CLOWNING AROUND:** Fresh from the stage and with diplomas in hand Shaelin Donovan, Kristen Carcieri (Salutatorian), Svetlana Stepanova (Valedictorian), Julia Cutler, and Coco Collette mug for family and friends.



**BEAMING:** Jamielynn Bernard celebrates her achievement as she poses with her diploma.



**READY TO PLAY:** With more than a diploma in hand, Noah Ramm crosses the stage.



**DISPLAYING HER ACHIEVEMENT:** The cap of this Toll Gate grad says it all.



**NO DETOURS TO GRADUATION:** Baxter Tietze carried a cone high as he and his classmates filed to seats facing the stage on the grounds of the Aldrich Mansion on Warwick Neck. (Warwick Beacon photos)

**Toll Gate**

(Continued from page 1)

Honor Society scholar, varsity tennis captain, student council treasurer, vice president of the Rhode Island Historical Society Teen Advisory Board, Best Buddies president, math team captain and award-winning artist, and she will be attending Boston University to pursue a double major in Business and Fine Arts.

Steponova said in her remarks that it has been a "long and convoluted journey" because of the unexpected pandemic in the middle of their high school experience, but she is "grateful with how everything unfolded." She added that she's "glad we did it all together."

Steponova also said that as a "sentimental person," she thanks Toll Gate for "memories that will last a lifetime"

and challenges her peers to "remember and keep the memories alive."

Kristen Carcieri, the salutatorian, thanked her teachers, family and friends for "sticking with me through all of the hard times in high school." Carcieri, a National Honor Society scholar, polyglot, Chairperson of Rhode Island Historical Society Communications Committee for Teen Advisory Board, mock trial president, student council member, musician, drama club member, figure skater and active volunteer, will be attending New York University's Stern School of Business with a focus in marketing. She offered words of encouragement to her peers.

"Think the most about your happiness when making choices, but it is important to remember that perfection does not exist," Carcieri said. "Life will always present us with challenges and setbacks, but it will also offer us

moments of success and happiness."

She expressed to her class that she is excited to see "all of the different choices you will be making and the different paths that they will take you on."

Principal Candace Calouri thanked all of the teachers, administrators and supporters within Toll Gate and the feeder schools for helping the graduates get to where they are today. She shared words of advice to the Class of 2023, urging them to "make good choices" and "be good human beings."

Calouri reminded the graduates that "once a titan, always a titan."

After all of the students crossed the stage and received their diplomas, the graduates tossed their caps in the air, the orchestra swelling. They huddled as a class in the middle of the chairs, cheering and beaming, together for the last time.

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7/29: **Benefit for the VFW Post 172** Washington Street Warwick.  
Dinner-Comedy Show \$40pp buffet & show  
7/30: **Stand-Up Sunday with John Perrotta at The Comedy Park** \$10pp.  
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**WORDS OF WELCOME:** Recently appointed Hendricken Assistant Principal Natalie Kessimian addresses the crowd at the beginning of Hendricken's 62nd Commencement Exercises.



**TOP SPOT:** Hendricken's valedictorian for the Class of 2023, Atul Thyvalappil, delivers his address. Thyvalappil, who will be attending Carnegie-Mellon in the Fall, spent the second half of his senior year interning here at the Beacon – we wish him and his classmates all the success they deserve



**PLAYING IN THE BAND:** Hendricken Senior Hunter Robbins has plenty of reason to 'toot his own horn' – the future "Yalie" was not only named salutatorian for 2023, he also received the Principal's Leadership Award.



**FRONT OF THE LINE:** Hendricken graduate Lyle Jaron Alcorido receives one of the first diplomas awarded at Hendricken's 62nd Commencement Exercises. From left to right, he shakes hands with chaplain Fr Brian Morris, Principal Mark R. DeCiccio, retired Auxiliary Bishop Robert C Evans, and Hendricken President Fr Robert Marciano.



**LEADING THE PROCESSIONAL:** Hendricken Senior Robert Shao plays the bagpipes as the Class of 2023 processes into the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul on Monday, June 12. Shao graduated summa cum laude, with various other honors and recognitions.



**CELEBRATION:** Hendricken families gather in Cathedral Square to celebrate their sons' accomplishments. The Class of 2023 numbered some 143 Hawks.

**Hendricken**  
(Continued from page 1)

still in the graduates, whose high school careers were eclipsed by the pandemic. Finding "miracles" in the midst of this chaos was the theme of the valedictory speech, offered by Atul Thyvalappil (a name which should already be familiar to Beacon readers, as Atul wrote for the Beacon for his senior experience). In par-

ticular, Thyvalappil noted the positive and negative ways that technology has shaped his high school experience. "Tonight we join a very unique community of alumni who can claim membership to Hendricken's short-lived but profoundly impactful 'virtual school,'" he noted. "From Microsoft Teams to the more recent rise of ChatGPT - which you guys might have heard of, though I know you never

use it - these strange few years brought us memories that very few of our brother alumni can reminisce about at their reunions." Thyvalappil also noted how the experience of going virtual taught graduates the value of real world connections and traditions, however. He seems well-poised to continue his reflections on technology in his academic career, as he will be attending Carnegie-Mellon's Mellon College of Sci-

ence in the Fall. Salutatorian (and recipient of the Principal's Leadership Award) Hunter Robbins encouraged his classmates to respond to a changing world by becoming catalysts of change themselves. Bound for Yale in the fall, Robbins spent his own time at Hendricken advocating against bullying and working with Hendricken's School Leadership Team to develop more advanced protocols on the is-

sue. He said that all positive change begins with a desire to understand one another: "it's our duty as citizens to strive to round out what we know about others in society as best as possible," Robbins said. "Every part of your neighbor's identity is a reflection of God's love for us, so let us truly appreciate this love." These themes were echoed in the closing prayer by retired Auxiliary Bishop

Robert C. Evans, who invoked the recently canonized St John Henry Cardinal Newman to encourage graduates to keep the faith in a tumultuous world. "We don't know why God created us, but create us he did," said Bishop Evans. "We may not know what plan he has for us, but a plan he has... and if you are faithful, then you will one day reap the rewards of that fidelity."

# Hendricken Class of 2023

- Azmar Abdullah
- M. Lucas Alano 1,2,5,7\*\*\*
- Lyle Jaron Alcorido 1,2\*\*
- Matthew Allen
- Ethan Alli 1,2,3\*
- Timothy Anderson, II
- Mark Andraka 1,2\*\*
- Timothy Andrews
- Nicholas Andrews
- Gabriel Asesor-McClary
- Rafael Ayriyan
- Zachary Baker
- Nicholas Banspach 1,2,3,5\*\*\*
- Andrew Barboza 2
- Justin Beausejour
- Liam Beusse 1,2,3,5\*\*
- Jawin Bodden
- Luca Boscia 1,2,4\*
- Colby Boyar 1,2,3\*\*\*
- Jayden Breault
- Jakob Bregenhøj 1,2,3,5\*\*\*\*+
- Aidan Briceno
- Nicholas Broccoli 1,2,3,5\*\*\*
- Matthew Brock 1,2,3,5\*\*
- Jacek Brown
- Zachary Burghardt 1,2
- Pablo Cabrera Jr. 2,3,5\*\*
- Cayden Calvino
- Michael Camarena
- Andrew Chadwick
- Tommy Chhoun

- Alexander Chinchilla 2\*
- Joseph Church 1,2\*\*
- Jack Ciunci 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*
- Alexander Clemmey
- David Corry Jr.
- Cristian Costa
- Marshall Coupe 1,2,3\*\*
- Peter Cummings 1,2,3\*\*
- Anthony D'Ellena
- Ryan Da Cruz
- Curt Daigneau 1,2,3,6\*\*
- Keith Daigneau 1,2,4\*\*\*
- Kyler de Bont 1,2\*\*
- Nicholas DeCosta 2\*
- Tyler DelleFemine
- Luc Dionne 2
- John Erickson 1,2,3\*
- Lucas Fleury 1,2\*\*
- John Flynn 1,2,3\*\*
- Richard Flynn IV
- Joshua French
- Andrew Frezza
- Andrew Fusco 1,2,3,5\*\*
- Brian Garrepy 2
- Elliot Gauvin 1,2\*\*\*\*
- Brayton Gazerro 1,2,3\*
- Jack Giorgio
- Richard Gonzalez
- Marcus Granados 2\*
- Howard Hicks
- Connor Igoe 1,2

- John Jablonski 1,2,3\*\*
- Thomas Jaques, Jr. 2,3,5\*\*
- Matthew Jarmie
- Jahden Jean-Baptiste
- Tyler Jordan 1,2,3,6\*\*
- Austin Kairnes 1,2\*\*
- Luke Karpowich 1,2,3,5\*\*
- Jun Seong Kim 2\*
- Nicholas Komari 1,2,3,5\*\*\*
- Jacob Kopech 2\*
- Ryan Kornacki 1,2,3,4,7\*\*\*
- Michael Laflamme 1,2,3\*\*
- Edmund Lok 1,2\*
- Rene' Lopez 3
- Devin Lynch 2\*
- Anthony Manna 1,2,3\*
- Collin Martin
- Alexander Martineau
- Nicholas McAfee 1,2\*\*
- Anthony Mena
- Jacob Minnis
- Christien Monello 1,2,3,4,7\*\*\*
- Alexander Morin 1,2,3,5\*\*\*
- Stephen Nardelli, III
- Josiah Nhar-Matko 1,2,3\*
- Sean O'Donnell
- Kim Mor Oeng
- Michael O'Hare
- Tyler Oung 1,2,3,5\*\*\*\*+
- Julian Palmisano
- Christopher Palumbo 1,2,5\*

- Michael Paquette 1,2
- Peter Pastore, III 1,2,5\*\*
- Sean Pedro 2
- K-vorn Pemberton
- Aidan Pennacchini
- Abel Perez 1,2,3\*
- Alexander Picard 2,3,5\*\*
- Landon Picillo 1,2,5\*\*
- Jason Pilderian 1,2,3\*\*
- Liam Pizzolato 1,2,3,5\*\*+
- Damian Platt
- Joseph Porcelli
- Nicholas Pullano
- Jonathan Rajotte 1,2,3,6,7\*\*\*
- Nicholas Regie
- Skyler Reich 1,2,3\*
- Isaiah Reidard
- Hunter Robbins 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*+
- Andrew Ruggiero 1,2,4\*\*
- Tyler Russas
- Christopher Sanders, Jr.
- Caleb Sclama 1,2,3
- Robert Shao 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*
- Daniel Shea 1
- Troy Silvestri 3
- Brendan Sisson 1,2,5\*\*\*
- Alex Sjoblom 2\*
- Nicholas Soccio 2,3\*
- Loubnen Sukkar 1,2,3,5\*
- Aaron Sullivan 1,2,3,5\*\*\*
- Andrew Tamul 1,2\*\*

- Maison Teixeira 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*
- Edward Thursby 1,2,3\*
- Atul Thyvalappil 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*+
- Keegan Tierney 2,3
- Sean Tilson
- Jahn Torres LaFrance 2\*\*\*
- Michael Traupman
- Riley Travassos
- Richard Vigliotti 1,2,3\*\*\*+
- Giancarlos Villavicencio 1,2,3\*
- Matthew Walden 1,2,6\*\*\*
- Eze Wali
- Cooper Weir 2,3
- Aidan Weiss 1,2,3,5,7\*\*\*
- Noah West 5
- Alexander White 1,2,5,7\*\*\*+
- Brady Williams
- Anthony Zaniol 1,2,5,7\*\*\*

- 1 National Honor Society
- 2 RI Honor Society
- 3 English Honor Society
- 4 National Italian Honor Society
- 5 National Spanish Honor Society
- 6 National French Honor Society
- 7 Mu Alpha Theta Mathematical Honor Society
- +RIDE Seal of Biliteracy
- \*Cum Laude
- \*\*Magna Cum Laude
- \*\*\*Suma Cum Laude



## By the numbers

What started off as nearly 1,000 parcels for the annual tax sale held last month was whittled down to 81 parcels by the time the sale was conducted in City Council Chambers. According to Tax Collector Kayla Jones, \$34,507 was collected for delinquent sewer bills, \$74,836 for utility or water bills and \$260,525 for unpaid real estate taxes. Seen here, prospective buyers wait to see if their number was spotted and if they will get to hold a lien on the property for the value of the utility bills or taxes due. (Warwick Beacon photo)

## POLICE LOG

### SUSPENDED LICENSE

At 5:42 p.m., May 19, Warwick Police Officer Connor R. Bemis was on a fixed traffic post on West Shore Road when he spotted a black Ford traveling west. The vehicle had no front plate, so Bemis initiated a traffic stop. The driver, identified as Roland J. Ferland, 54, of 17 Dexter St., Johnston, had a suspended driver's license, according to police. It was allegedly Ferland's fourth and subsequent offense, so he was taken into custody.

Ferland was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters. His vehicle was towed from the scene. He was charged with one count of Driving with Suspended/Revoked/Canceled License (fourth or subsequent offense).

### DUI

Around 11:30 p.m., May 11, Warwick Police on routine patrol traveling west on Airport Road spotted a red vehicle swerving over the fog line and yellow median multiple times.

When the vehicle turned right on to Post Road, police initiated a traffic stop.

They made contact with the driver, and identified her as Jonni M. Sabetta, 53, of 152 Broad St., Apt. 4B, Pawtucket.

"While speaking with Sabetta, I was able to observe Smirnoff alcohol cans and Parrot Bay nips on the front passenger side compartment of the vehicle," wrote Warwick Police Officer Alejandro J. Martinez. "I asked Sabetta if she had been drinking to which she had 'one coconut shot.'"

Police asked Sabetta to consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. Following the tests, she was arrested and charged with DUI of Liquor (BAC unknown, first offense) and received citations for Refusal to Submit to Chemical Test (first offense) and Laned Roadway Violations. She was ultimately transported to Kent County Memorial Hospital for detox and left in the care and custody of the staff.

### DUI

At 1:26 a.m., May 13, Warwick Police Officer Brent W. Giles was on routine patrol in the area of Hoxsie Four Corners, traveling north on Warwick Avenue, when he spotted a white Nissan traveling south crossing into another lane of travel, cutting off another vehicle.

Giles turned his cruiser around and initiated a traffic stop.

He identified the driver as Luis R. Gonzalez Castro, 26, of 71 Strawberry Hill, Apt. 101, Stamford, Connecticut. Police reported smelling alcohol when they approached the vehicle.

Police asked him to con-

ceived a distressing call from a neighbor the next morning. The neighbor told her that three of her four tires and rims were missing from her 2004 Toyota Corolla, which was propped up on bricks. The officer was approached by another neighbor, who advised him that their vehicle had two lug nuts loosened. "She was advised to have the lugs tightened before operating the vehicle," Canis-Langlais wrote in the report. He canvassed the parking lot and did not find any other vehicles that had been tampered with. The investigation continues.

### LARCENY

Around 9:16 a.m., May 23, Warwick Police Officer Robert J. Canis-Langlais responded to the Westgate Condominiums, 752 Quaker Lane, to investigate a reported larceny.

Upon arrival, police met with the reporting party, who told them she parked her vehicle around 6 p.m. the night before, but re-

ceived a distressing call from a neighbor the next morning.

The neighbor told her that three of her four tires and rims were missing from her 2004 Toyota Corolla, which was propped up on bricks.

The officer was approached by another neighbor, who advised him that their vehicle had two lug nuts loosened.

"She was advised to have the lugs tightened before operating the vehicle," Canis-Langlais wrote in the report. He canvassed the parking lot and did not find any other vehicles that had been tampered with. The investigation continues.

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PAMELA LOWELL, CELLO  
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# Volunteers in limelight for all they do for Warwick schools



**AWARD RECIPIENT:** Oakland Beach Principal Paul Heatherton was awarded the Robert J. Shapiro Award Thursday at the VOWS awards and volunteer appreciation reception held at Chelo's. Congratulating Heatherton are VOWS executive director Nicole Spirito and Audrey Shapiro, widow of the late superintendent for whom the award is named. (Warwick Beacon photos)

impact they have on the system.

Audrey Shapiro was surprised when she arrived at the event, opened the program and learned she would be presenting the award to the individual who emulates her late husband, superintendent Robert J. Shapiro. Audrey rose to the occasion, saying that her husband "felt like the superintendent of the whole city," in that he took his responsibility of serving the community so seriously. The Robert J. Shapiro Award went to Oakland Beach Principal Paul Heatherton.

Many of the 75 VOWS volunteers turned out for the event. They were joined by school principals, members of the administration and School Committee members.

Much of the work performed by volunteers, especially the screening at all of the city's preschools is a tremendous savings to the school department that would otherwise be faced with screening the children.

Funding comes from a school allocation of \$66,000, city allocation of \$10,000, grants, fundraising events and donations. The overall budget ranges from \$125,000 to \$145,000.

**By JOHN HOWELL**

VOWS is back, not that it ever went away, and it has moved. As of Monday, VOWS and its three-member staff are working from Park School. They were formerly located at WELC (Warwick Early Learning Center).

The pandemic put a crimp in the Volunteers of Warwick Schools. With all that Covid did to schools, from taking kids out of class-

rooms and putting them in front of computers to the masking and distancing when they returned, the role of VOWS from preschool to kindergarten developmental screening to tutoring was restricted if not eliminated.

The program's executive director Nicole Spirito was pleased Thursday evening that that is behind them and once again the program is in full swing. At the VOWS awards and appreciation

event held at Chelo's Restaurant on Post Road, Spirito reported during the year, 650 second graders completed the Heads Up program. Heads Up is a 10-week anti-bullying program that VOWS is now exploring to extend to 5th grade.

Spirito also reported volunteers screened 1,100 preschoolers. All Warwick preschool children between the ages of 3 and 5 are offered screenings in general devel-

opment, speech and language, vision and hearing. Parents participate by sharing information about their children's social and emotional development. The program offers information about community resources.

The evening was a celebration of the volunteers who provide services to all elementary schools. It was the first awards and volunteer appreciation night since 2018. In remarks Mayor Frank Picozzi recalled his years as a member of the Warwick School Committee and the close relationship between the school administration and VOWS. "There is nothing more pure than the heart of a volunteer h," he said.

Dambruch spoke of how volunteers give freely of their time and the positive



**THEY DO IT ALL:** Volunteers of Warwick Schools gather for a group photo at the reception held Thursday.



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# Wildcats have a field day

Putting golf balls, throwing passes and slurping Del's Lemonade isn't on the curriculum at Warwick Neck Elementary School, but teachers didn't have to work hard for students to pick up on what to do to have fun.

The field day was held Friday in two segments with the kindergartners to second graders in the morning and the third, fourth, fifth graders in the afternoon. The morning group that rotated between eight stations dodged a few rain drops. The afternoon group faced more of a challenge. School mascot Rocky the Wildcat made an appearance to the kids' delight and served as the gathering point for a group photo of the morning session. The event was hosted by the school's PTO with a record number of more than 50 parents turning out to assist with the running of event stations. (Warwick Beacon photos)



**HOLE IN ONE:** Many students scored a hole-in-one to the applause of classmates waiting their turn at miniature golf.

**BEING SILLY:** What better occasion for second grader Maximus Corello to wear his fun hat that the Warwick Neck School field day held last Friday?



**CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?** Allison Palm, parent of a Warwick Neck student, directed students to gather for a group photo.



**WILDCAT IN THE MIDDLE:** Principal Frank Galligan is joined the school mascot, Rocky, for a group photo of the morning field day session.

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Jumbo Tender Strips **MP**

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# Demands of Philadelphia delegation cast pall on state

## TALKING POLITICS



by  
IAN  
DONNIS

wrong message if funding for a project suddenly does not appear when a vendor chooses to report extortion by an administration official through the appropriate channels. It is critical that potential state contractors know they will be treated fairly. State contractors need to know that they are not breaking any unwritten rules if they report extortion, and they will not receive any retaliation if they speak up about impropriety."

**State Rep. Enrique Sanchez (D-Providence):** "I constantly hear it from our neighborhood small businesses in Providence. Many businesses run and staffed by people of color experience racially insensitive comments, and they don't like it. Many women who work in businesses across our state report receiving comments from men that are not appropriate in a workplace context. Some businesses feel like they have to give free favors to powerful state officials, and they don't like it. The allegations about how the McKee administration treated Scout, the state vendor for the Cranston Street Armory project, are exactly what is wrong with the broken culture of business and politics in our state."

**State Sen. Ana Quezada (D-Providence):** "The way these officials behaved in Philadelphia is disgusting and once again calls into question Gov. McKee's judgment in selecting the top people in his administration. I'm calling on Director Patten to resign and the McKee administration to release any and all communications with State staff and officials about their decision to cover up this situation. Rhode Islanders deserve to know what went on behind closed doors that enabled this to be withheld from the public for so long. It's disturbing that in 2023, cronyism and corruption are still the image that Rhode Island is showing to the rest of the country. It hurts our reputation, our economy, and our faith in government. Rhode Islanders deserve leaders who are transparent, honest, and actually use their office to serve the public good."

**State Rep. David Morales (D-Providence), via Twitter:** "David Patten should resign. He should NOT be receiving an annual salary of \$175,000 made up of taxpayer dollars along with benefits. Now just imagine if a worker earning minimum wage behaved like this, they'd be fired immediately."

**Gov. McKee:** "While we cannot provide specific comments as the HR and RISP investigations are ongoing, the allegations regarding Mr. Patten's behavior, if true, are disturbing, unacceptable and unfitting of anyone, especially an employee representing the state

and who expects to be employed by the state. This behavior prompted our Administration to initiate and request the investigations, and we will have more to say once the process comes to a close."

**ELECTION INTEGRITY:** The Electronic Registration Information Center, better known as ERIC, is considered one of the best ways to guard against voter fraud. But after the Gateway Pundit, which has promoted conspiracy theories, began writing about ERIC in January 2022, eight GOP-controlled states have pulled out of it. An investigation by NPR's Miles Parks found that local "election integrity" groups have played a significant role in attempting to discredit ERIC. As I reported in March, a Rhode Island-based group contends the state 2020 election was marred by problems, and it links with a host of conspiracy theories.

**MEDIA:** The walkout by workers at Gannett newspapers this week underscored concerns about cost-cutting and diminished news coverage. Employees at the Providence Journal and other local Gannett papers did not walk out, although some expressed solidarity. Although 1997 might as well be a million years ago in media-years, insiders expressed concern back then that selling the Projo to Belo would set off an inevitable shrinking of the newsroom. Cuts happened slowly at first and then accelerated after Belo sold the paper in 2014. Suffice it to say that this week's labor action is a long way from 1973, when a 13-day strike at the Projo ushered in decades of labor peace and gave birth to the Providence Newspaper Guild Follies as a way of healing rifts. Most incredibly, the late, great Jack White, the father of WPRI-TV's Tim White, kept in his pocket an eventual Pulitzer winning story -- about Richard Nixon cheating on taxes -- while participating in the strike.

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE:** A GOP-backed proposal -- to double, to \$2,000, the amount that can be contributed, per candidate, in a calendar year -- is sparking sharp debate. Critics say this will elevate the influence of money in politics. But supporters, including House sponsor Rep. Brian C. Newberry (R-North Smithfield), say they would not support the move if it further strengthened the hand of the Democrats who rule Smith Hill. This bill should make for a lively floor debate if it hits the House floor this week.

**TAKES OF THE WEEK -- a mix of views from various**

**Rhode Islanders.**

**Alan Krinsky, director of research and fiscal policy for the Economic Progress Institute:** "The proposed budget going to the House floor maintains funding for many critical programs and contains some important investments, including in affordable housing and early childhood education, yet overall the budget lacks sufficient bold, new investments in low-income and modest-income Rhode Islanders. The budget lacks even moderate proposals to increase equity by improving Rhode Island Works cash assistance or public transportation programs. New funding benefiting low-income workers, which are disproportionately women and people of color, includes a 1% increase in the state Earned Income Tax Credit to 16% of the federal credit; this average annual increase of \$22.50 per worker still leaves us far behind our New England neighbors, with state credits ranging from 25%-38% of the federal credit. Looking at the broader legislative picture, even popular measures that have little or no impact on the budget, like ending predatory, payday lending (Congress banned this for the military 15 years ago) or strengthening paid family leave are having a hard time getting committee votes. We applaud leadership for investing \$7 million in child care programs and early educators and not including measures that would disproportionately benefit those with the highest incomes and increase disparities like a sales tax or estate tax cut. With federal pandemic aid and budget surpluses coming to an end, now is the time to plan ahead for generating sustainable revenue, by increasing personal income taxes on the top 1% which would increase equity and tax fairness."

**Filmmaker DANTE BELLINI:** "Sometimes, you have to let go to get through." That is the line I wrote for the poster about my new short documentary "Demons & Dragons" -- Mark Patinkin's Cancer Journey. And it is the seminal lesson of Mark's ordeal and my film. When Mark was diagnosed with kidney cancer he knew, intellectually, that he had a fight on his hands. He was not special. Cancer is an insidious beast that affects all of us. The patients, families, caregivers, friends and more. However, it was Mark's emotional and psychological fight that turned out to be the more brutal battle. It was also why his son Zachary fortified him with the Dylan Thomas poem, "Do Not Go Gently into That Good Night ..." "Rage, rage against the dying of the light." Mark, like many others, endured the waiting, worrying, sleeplessness, the diagnosis, surgery, the recovery, the numerous follow-ups, and then even more waiting, more worrying and suddenly a new finding. Meaning more and new drugs and the requisite scans. This was his new reality, inside a medical machine that is both monstrous and necessary. But as much as my film is about

Mark's cancer, and his medical odyssey, it also is not. It is about a man facing his own mortality, and at first shrinking into himself and expecting to fall off every cliff along his journey. But he did not. He came to realize that if he was to survive, physically, psychologically, and emotionally, he had to let go of his death grip -- on death. And focus on life. Focus on his good life, his great kids and family and his fulfilling and important work. Believing that he did indeed have the heart and fortitude to make it through. Cancer may win some battles, but not every battle. That is what my film is about. A regular guy who discovered that it is never too late to change; and that the resilience of the human spirit is equal to the scars of the fight."

**State Sen. Tiara Mack (D-Providence):** "This week, AG Neronha and the state Department of Health filed

one of the most important complaints related to tenant rights in recent RI memory, against Pioneer Investment and its landlord, Anurag Sureka. The majority of this legislative session, I have focused on advancing tenants' rights in our state and released a six-bill package of Tenant Rights legislation. Our landlord tenant laws have not seen a major upgrade since 1986 and have serious enforcement gaps, leaving many renting families vulnerable to living in uninhabitable rental units. While we have focused on housing this session, led by the House Speaker announcing a 14-bill housing package back in March, only one of those bills was geared toward renters (banning rental application fees). There are over 159,000 renter households in our state and very few know their rights as renters or have the support of state and municipal governments when attempting to hold their landlords accountable. The AG's filing is a beacon of hope for renters and housing organizers and provides us a solid foundation for the next legislative session agenda. Tenants and tenant' rights should be happening in the same conversation as housing production and we now have local and national headlines to support this work in the future."

**JENNIFER HAWKINS, president and executive director of One Neighborhood Builders:** "For those of us who care passionately that everyone deserves safe, affordable, and stable housing, the 2024 budget should be considered a win. While I would have certainly liked to have seen more funding assigned to housing production, it is commendable that the speaker allocated \$10 million above and beyond the governor's supplemental budget proposal. A budget is a moral document and by maintaining current sales tax levels and making smart investments in 'upstream' social determinants of health -- such as quality housing -- Rhode Island is making a statement. Now we must ensure these housing dollars are spent on projects that will truly serve our lowest income neighbors, especially persons who are unhoused, and it will be incumbent upon Secretary

Pryor and the Housing Department to quickly build a process that accomplishes that goal. A budget is clearly also an economic document. According to the recent analysis ONE Neighborhood Builders' commissioned Faulkner Associates to complete, we know that Medicaid costs dropped 43% among RI Medicaid members who had access to our permanent supportive housing compared with other Medicaid members who remained in shelters. We can't let our foot off the gas -- let's get resources out the door and recognize the same level of investment is required annually to move RI out of this housing crisis."

**CITY HAUL:** As part of the process to remake the comprehensive plan guiding the future of Providence, an open house will be held Thursday, June 22. As planners know, the comp plan is a big deal. More information about the process can be found here. "Providence is uniquely positioned to grow into a world class city that people are excited to visit, work in, and proud to call home," Mayor Brett Smiley said in a statement. "It is fundamentally important the framework we develop to grow our city over the next ten years is guided by a collaborative vision from our community and stays true to the qualities that make Providence unique."

**EARLY VOTING:** The RI GOP is putting its support behind 'Bank the Vote,' a national effort to counter Democrats' advantage in early voting. "To win in 2024, Republicans need to beat the Democrats at their own game," tweeted state Rep. Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung (R-Cranston). "Pledge to vote early and do your part in retiring Joe Biden & stopping the soft on crime extreme left."

### ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:



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## Exemptions

(Continued from page 1)

ation set.  
If a taxpayer has been receiving an exemption -- the most common is the senior exemption for property owners who must be 65 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 -- they will continue receiving that exemption, which is \$415.20 to be removed from their tax bill. Those who have just turned 65 or haven't previously received the exemption should apply at the assessor's office in the Saw Tooth Annex in Apponaug.  
Prior to the elimination of the car tax, taxpayers had the option of applying the exemption to either their real estate or motor vehicle bill. At that time the exemption was applied to the assessment. As the motor vehicle tax rate of \$34.60 was higher than the real estate tax, a majority of exemptions were applied to motor vehicle taxes.  
Dupuis explained in establishing a set dollar amount, rather than adjusting the assessed valuation, the former \$34.60 motor vehicle rate was used.  
Overall, Dupuis said, the city issues about 10,000 tax exemptions of which 7,700 are senior exemptions. The total property value of the exemptions -- not the tax revenue the city would have otherwise received -- he put at \$192 million.  
Other personal real estate exemptions and the amounts are: Veteran, \$138.40; veteran 100 percent disabled service connected, \$346; paraplegic GI, \$692; POW, \$519; Gold Star parent, \$207.60; and Blind, \$622.80.  
In addition, the city offers a circuit breaker program providing a \$600 to \$1,000 deduction in real estate taxes that must be annually applied for. To be eligible taxpayers must be 65 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 or

100 percent disabled per SSA or the VA; a Warwick resident for the past five years; submit disability award letter from SSA or VA and submit income forms listing all funds received by all occupants.

### Exemptions of \$1,000

The circuit breaker is designed to assist low income property owners who might otherwise not be able to pay their taxes and face losing their properties for payment. Dupuis feels eligibility should also consider a taxpayer's total assets, exclusive of property value. As an example he cites a homeowner who is living off Social Security and meets the income eligibility requirements, yet has sizeable savings and or a portfolio of stocks and bonds.  
The amount of the circuit breaker exemption is based on annual income. To be eligible for the \$1,000 exemption the taxpayer can make not more than \$18,016. The tax credit drops from there to \$600 for taxpayers making no more than \$27,023.  
"This program is for people who can't afford it (taxes)," he said. He said there has been some talk of a commission review of exemptions, which could "clear up some of these ambiguities."  
Dupuis notes that the tax revenues lost by exemptions are "picked up by the rest of the taxpayers" and that's why he feels they should be applied "to people who truly need it."  
There is yet another exemption: a tax freeze at the current assessment and tax rate that is only available on a single-family house or condominium. To qualify the head of household must be 100 percent disabled or SSA or VA and unable to work or 70 years old or older and have an annual household income under \$7,500 for a single or \$15,000 for married couple.



**LEADING THE WAY:** Pilgrim Principal Toby Gibbons and faculty lead Pilgrim seniors at commencement exercises Wednesday. At right, are some of the younger spectators, relatives of graduate Ja-Lyn Marley.

## Pilgrim

(Continued from page 1)

proven to be relentless," Taylor said. "I have never seen a group of students overcome this level of adversity to be now sitting at graduation."

Principal Toby Gibbons shared an anecdote in which one of the graduating seniors told him, "I can't believe this went so fast." He agreed with Taylor that this class underwent unique challenges because of the nature of virtual learning and countless unexpected transitions, responding with resiliency.

"You built a sense of pride in your school and your class which we all desperately needed as we tried to put the past three

years behind us while learning the lessons from them," Gibbons said. "You cultivated and nurtured Pilgrim Pride and have set the groundwork for future classes."

School Committee Member Leah Hazelwood recalled that this class also has a sense of humor. She said that the class woke up at 6 a.m. to set up field games like corn hole and spike ball in the teachers parking lot. She urged the class to keep this sense of humor, but to also be a "good friend."

Taylor advised his peers to live in the moment and be the "ambassadors of empathy and kindness." "Stop worrying about where you'll be in ten years, and focus on where you are now and what you have accomplished to be here," he added.

When introducing salutatorian Emily Goldman, drama club director Richard

Denningham said Goldman is "exceptional" and a "role model." He directed her in 3 musicals and added that he "marveled at her creativity, especially under pressure."

Emily Goldman, salutatorian, agreed that the day "marks a great accomplishment" and that they've all made it through "every other bane of an adolescent's existence."

She candidly discussed her own experiences with mental health issues throughout the year, saying that "often, it has felt like simply surviving a school day was a noble fight."

Goldman expressed her "gratitude for the community which supported me," including her teachers.

She said that "not the only one who has been the recipient of the school's kindness," adding that "compassion for others" is the "essence of Pilgrim."

"Keep the memory of this compassion alive, and let it grow throughout your life," Goldman implored.

Many speakers recognized the late principal Gerald Habershaw and the impact he had upon this graduating class. Goldman said that she was "floored by the support shown despite the tragedy of the situation."

Gibbons also recognized the impact of Coach Michael Gaffney as a pillar in the Warwick community.

Gibbons closed his remarks with the evocation: "Once a patriot, always a patriot."

Following tradition, grads moved their cap tassels signaling they had graduated. Next to come were parties, the summer and a new chapter.



**TIME TO CELEBRATE:** Emma Lopes took pains to decorate her cap that special meaning to her while some of her peers express their unrestrained exuberance

# Pilgrim High School Class of 2023

- |   |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Elyse Acevedo<br/>Aiden Alpaio<br/>Jenna Altieri<br/>Aydan Amaral<br/>Jayden Amaral<br/>Krystopher Amaral<br/>Marco Amaral<br/>Tyler Amaral<br/>Ryan Annunziata<br/>Alexia Antonelli<br/>Zoe Aquino<br/>Grace Atwood<br/>Jezny Baez<br/>Colby Barker<br/>Michael Batchelor<br/>Aleighya Beachy<br/>Ciera Beaudoin<br/>Michael Becker<br/>Rebecca Befumo<br/>Daniella Bernardo<br/>Brian Berrios Jr.<br/>Makela Bessette<br/>Marion Bichsel<br/>Haley Blair<br/>Graham Blakely<br/>Litzzy Blanco<br/>Fiona Boisse<br/>Olivia Bordeleau<br/>Mathew Boullier<br/>Brooke Boyajian<br/>Jordan Boyad<br/>Jacob Brennan<br/>Gillian Brown<br/>Jenelle Brown<br/>Serena Bryant<br/>Ian Bubar<br/>Arianna Cabrera<br/>Layla Camacho<br/>Talia Cameron<br/>Vincent Campanella III<br/>Breanna Campbell<br/>Ariana Campos</p> | <p>Janeli Campos<br/>Alexa Canestrari<br/>Mia Caprara<br/>Gilberto Furlan<br/>Timothy Carter<br/>Jillian Casey<br/>Erin Cassady<br/>Kaleigh Catucci<br/>Elizabeth Cavanagh<br/>Mary Centracchio<br/>Luis Cepeda<br/>Jaclyn Cerullo<br/>Sophia Chevian<br/>Charles Clements<br/>Grant Clifton<br/>Anthony Colon<br/>Nectarios Constantinou<br/>Christopher Cook<br/>Winter Corbin<br/>Luke Corcoran<br/>Tyler Cote<br/>Robert Court<br/>Ethan Curtis<br/>Hailey Dalomba<br/>Solange DaLuz<br/>John Dean<br/>Joshua Dean<br/>Ryan Dean<br/>Hannah DeFeo<br/>Daniel DeMello<br/>Robert DeSantis<br/>Ethan Diffley<br/>Jacob Donovan<br/>Riley Donovan<br/>Gabriel Doyle<br/>Charles Dreyer<br/>Alivia Duquette<br/>Cameron Erban<br/>Caitlyn Erban<br/>Brian Esposito<br/>Raymond Facente<br/>Declan Faherty</p> | <p>Brandon Fairhurst<br/>Ayomikun Falano<br/>Serina Feliz<br/>Kendall Fera<br/>Michael Ferrazza<br/>Jesse Ferreira<br/>Kylie Figueiredo<br/>James Figueroa<br/>Hannah Finneran<br/>Emma Fishlock<br/>Maia Flynn<br/>Bryanna Follett<br/>Kiara Foster<br/>Charles Frazier<br/>Joshua Freitas<br/>Chloe French<br/>Tyler Fuller<br/>Jordan Garcia<br/>Angelia Gareau<br/>Camryn George<br/>Ourania Georgitsis<br/>Robert Giard<br/>Gavin Gillooly<br/>Emily Goldman<br/>Bailey Goodrich<br/>Joshua Gordils<br/>Ava Guerra<br/>Marialis Guzman<br/>Jarek Haley<br/>Alexander Hang<br/>Nathann Harker<br/>Cassidy Hatch<br/>Hailey Heal<br/>Lucas Hemond<br/>Diego Hill<br/>Andy Ho<br/>Kaitlyn Hooper<br/>Sean Hoyle<br/>Breeana Hynson<br/>Kenneth Irizarry III<br/>Princess Johnson<br/>Sharday Johnson</p> | <p>Gillian Johnston<br/>Paul Johnston Jr.<br/>Deven Karpinski<br/>Liam Kay<br/>Eli Kearns<br/>Aidan Kenney<br/>Rowen Klyberg<br/>Christian LaPorte<br/>Emily Latorella<br/>Colby Lavoie<br/>Missy Lee<br/>Joseph LeFrancois<br/>Andrea Leighton<br/>Oscar Lenartowick<br/>Jayden Leon<br/>Xiao Ke Lin<br/>Hailey Link<br/>Mason Link<br/>Emma Lopes<br/>Jenna Lucia<br/>Jamie Lymburner<br/>Nicholas Lynch<br/>Makya Madden<br/>Kailyn Manson<br/>Eliana Marines<br/>Ja-Lynn Marley<br/>Kelsie Martin<br/>Marisa Martini<br/>Nickolas Marzagao<br/>Robert McGuirk Pucino<br/>Alexa McHugh<br/>Zachary McMillan<br/>Mia McNally<br/>Madison McQueeney<br/>Tyler Meade<br/>Faith Meade<br/>Alyssa Moffat<br/>Samantha Moffat<br/>Mina Monroe<br/>Alexis Montgomery<br/>Devin Morris<br/>Ryan Motta</p> | <p>Emily Newton<br/>Elizabeth Nguyen<br/>Wendi Palmer<br/>Benjamin Passarelli<br/>Ninna Paye<br/>Salvatore Petrillo<br/>Ethan Pezzullo<br/>Jolina Phin<br/>John Pine<br/>Alexander Pinheiro<br/>Cailin Pinto<br/>Lucas Pirraglia<br/>Jarred Plante<br/>Reese Prando<br/>Emma Prest<br/>Lanya Preston<br/>Isaiah Price<br/>Gianna Ramos<br/>Keira Ramsden<br/>Noah Ramsey<br/>Sara Rega<br/>Alexia Resendes<br/>Abigail Ricci<br/>Julie Riccio<br/>Kenyatta Richards<br/>Saleen Ritchie<br/>Lawrence Robinson<br/>Jadan Rodas<br/>Nikolai Rotondo<br/>Yostin Roy<br/>Jonathon Russo<br/>Aline Saab<br/>Edwin Samayoa Juarez<br/>Isaiah Santa Cruz<br/>Alex Santizo<br/>Matthew Santos<br/>Richard Santos-Davis<br/>Ameli Savinon<br/>Kiara Scanlon<br/>Ava Schobel<br/>Katana Sen<br/>Katie Shaheen</p> | <p>Isabella Silva<br/>Cheyenne Sisson<br/>Jack Skinner<br/>Janessa Snead<br/>Emma Spolidoro<br/>Olivia Stahowiak<br/>Abigail Steinhilber<br/>Dasani Stewart<br/>Dylan Stewart<br/>Sophia Stogner<br/>Gianna Succi<br/>Connor Sutcliffe<br/>Miles Swanson<br/>Madison Tatarian<br/>Jessica Taul<br/>Griffin Taylor<br/>Abbagail Terranova<br/>Eileen Then<br/>Carissa Tillinghast<br/>Ashley Trudell<br/>Alyssa Twomey<br/>Robert Vale Jr.<br/>Brady VanLuinen<br/>Ana Viguera Gonzalez<br/>Timothy Vongsena<br/>Ethan Walaska<br/>Elizabeth Welch<br/>Arianna Welk<br/>Sarah Whelan<br/>Melodey Wickwire<br/>Augustus Wolfe<br/>Kyle Wood<br/>Mark Woods<br/>Madison Wrench<br/>Ekin Xiong<br/>Brady Zabawar<br/>David Zarlenga Jr.</p> |
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# EDITORIAL

## Honoring the sacrifices made for freedom and freedom itself

Few things can cut through today's polarized political climate like the emotional impact of an Honor Flight.

Since 2012, the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, in collaboration with the National Honor Flight Network and its many dedicated volunteers and donors, have embarked on 27 Honor Flights, ferrying thousands of veterans to Washington D.C. for a chance at a reflective and meaningful moment in the capital of the nation they vowed to protect and serve.

Anyone who has seen or participated in an honor flight understands the importance of these events, and how increasingly important they become as veterans of our nation's wars age (particularly our local World War 2 veterans) and become less able to travel without assistance from such groups.

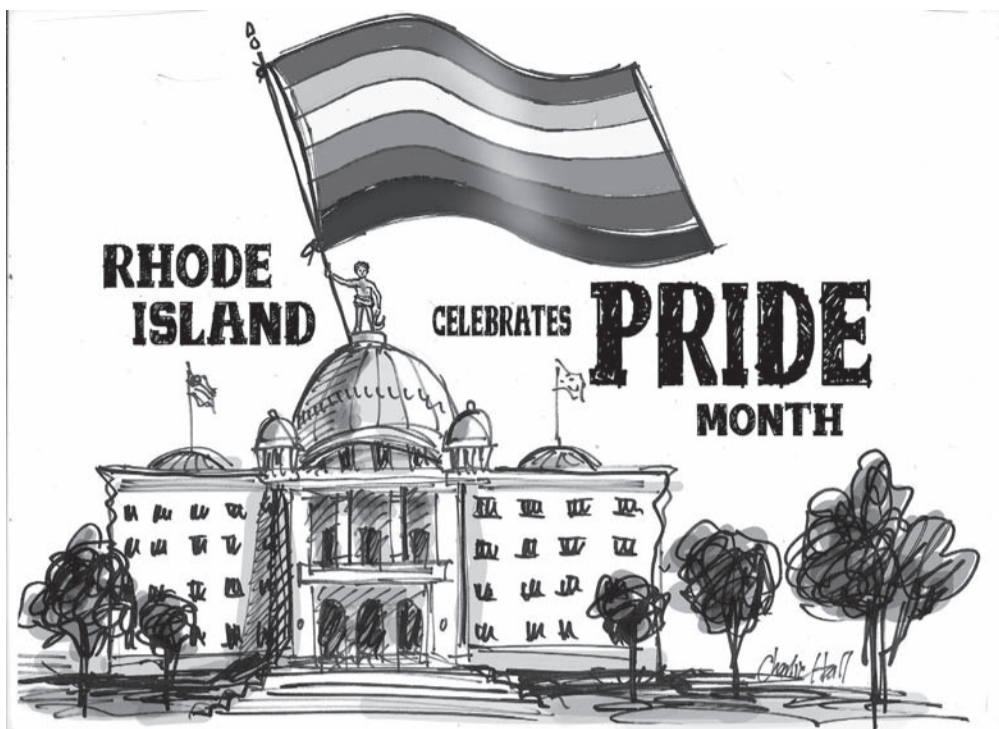
Former Providence Fire Chief George Farrell, who started the first honor flight in Rhode Island over a decade ago, has put in untold numbers of hours to safely transport these men and women. And he promises that the upcoming flight will hold an additional importance.

Rhode Island Honor Flight number 28, named "Freedom," will take place on Monday, June 19, as opposed to past flights which have traditionally been held on a Saturday. As of 2021, June 19 has been de-

clared a federal holiday, "Juneteenth", that commemorates the final emancipation of enslaved peoples of color in America in 1865.

It can be easy to forget in a modern world that in the not-so-distant past, millions of men, women and children were held in bondage and treated as property within a country whose very foundational document proclaimed that all people were created equal and entitled to certain rights. It can also be easily forgotten that thousands of minority American citizens — from those who fought in the Revolution as freed slaves, to those who helped liberate Europe from the tyrannies of World War II — have served this country and fought for its ideals despite not enjoying the equal treatment or protections of their white allies who they fought alongside.

With Honor Flight Freedom, there can at least be some pride in the fact that we have progressed as a nation and as a people, where we honor the sacrifice of our bravest individuals, notwithstanding their gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. Twenty minority veterans will join in the flight to D.C., where a contingent of the RI Professional Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums will follow them on their journey to memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, reflecting on what true American patriotism looks like.



## So much more than viewing a parade



HER FIRST PARADE: Sophie Crofter was outfitted with ear protection as she watches the Gaspee Days parade. Her parents, Asa and her mother, Emily, daughter of Bart Angelo, had front row seats to the event. (Warwick Beacon photo)

### LETTERS

## Netflix piece lived up to its review

To the Editor,

I've enjoyed Mr. Fowler's reviews over the years, even if it was for a film or local play I wouldn't normally see (and on rare occasion went to see because of the review).

One surprise, and odd coincidence was his recent review of an item from that vast sea of streaming choices-Netflix's Queen Cleopatra 'miniseries'.

My wife & I had been looking for something different just the week before

and stumbled across that piece. For the next 3 hours, we sat enthralled watching it. I agree with the review, it was an excellent piece!

Thank you!  
Dale Miller

## Father's Day wishes

Dear Dad,

I'm sharing this poem with the community to brag a little bit about our relationship. Having you as a father has been a gift that goes beyond words.

Soren Kierkegaard once asserted that "Life is lived forwards and understood backwards". Isn't that so true when we try to explain the influence parents (and caregivers) have on shaping our lives? I am still learning about your patience, love and understanding to this day. The poems Dad's Home and Autumn's Coffee try to explain the ever-changing relationship between parents and their kids. No matter the time, place, or situation, you will continue influencing me.

So, here's to all the dads, as well as those

parents and caregivers who love their children. My wish is that everyone is as lucky as I am. For those who have lost a father my thoughts and prayers are with you on this special day. Happy Father's Day dad. I love you. Your son, Bob.

P.S. Presently my dad is deep into his 91st year and recovering from a stroke. His mind is keen, spirit willing, and body working on getting better. Some of his fondest memories came from doing Karate Workshops for local kids (many from EG). He also served as the Grand Marshall for a Veteran's Day Parade here in Town. Like your dad he is special in many ways.

-Bob Houghtaling

## Dad's Home By Bob Houghtaling

I saw him leave each morning  
Through this child's eyes  
Unaware of his destination  
At the early morning rise  
Food was always on the table  
My bedroom nice and warm  
Somehow work at a paint shoppe  
Kept us from the storm

A quick evening's dinner  
Then off he'd go once more  
Returning late in darkness  
From doing extra chores  
Little did I understand  
What the young man did  
As long as I got to play  
And act just like a kid

As if by a miracle  
My youthful needs were met  
Baseball games and dental visits  
Came from my father's sweat  
I saw him leave each morning  
Through this child's eyes  
And because of his many efforts  
I've enjoyed the brightest skies



## This Side Up



by  
JOHN  
HOWELL

"We have a seat for you," said a voice pointing to two lawn chairs on the curb of Narragansett Parkway a stone's throw from Spring Green Drive where the Gaspee Days Parade has stepped off for more than 40 years. The invitation caught me by surprise for several reasons. First was that there were two empty seats at such a prime location with people standing two and five deep behind them. Then it was the couple who made the invitation, Marilyn and Bernie Kilcline who I haven't since last year's parade if not longer. And finally, it was the thought of being a parade spectator rather than the reporter and photographer, although I could do that from a lawn chair, too.

"I'll be back," I said following the line of march in pursuit of capturing images of the event that has become as much a celebration of community as it is the commemoration of an act of defiance of the British Crown 251 years ago. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth it amazes me that more attention hasn't focused on the events that took place on June 9th, 1772 off Namquid Point, Warwick.

On Friday night, I found myself telling the Burning of the Gaspee story while visiting my sister in Shellbourne, MA. The neighboring couple stopped over for rhubarb pie, and when I said I would be leaving early the next morning in order to get to the parade, they had no idea what I was talking about when I brought up the Gaspee affair. As I was finished telling the tale,

they agreed the Boston Tea Party couldn't hold a candle to — pun intended — to the Gaspee, yet the tea party is indelibly etched in history as a defining moment leading to insurrection.

Locally, the Gaspee Days Committee has planned so many events over the course of three weeks that it's impossible to ignore the historic event. Everything is Gaspee, even the beers from Rhode Island breweries that come up with such brews as Hannah's Revenge. I'm waiting for the Governor Francis Inn to come up with the Gaspee burger with a slice of English Stilton cheese and the meat singed black.

I make a point of arriving at Spring Green at least a half hour before Ron Barnes gave the command and the Pawtuxet Rangers, which those unfamiliar with the local militia would mistake for Brits in their red woolen uniforms, raise their muskets to give the opening shot of the parade.

"I followed you on Route 146," said Ben Craig from Jack Reed's office who was coming from Woonsocket. Realizing my Beacon license plate was a dead giveaway, I explained I was driving back from western Mass. After all why else would I be on Route 146 at 8:50 Saturday morning?

We're that closely knit. I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was Sheldon Whitehouse. "Happy Gaspee Days," we exchanged before talking about boats. The senator owns a classic Herreshoff S boat that was the hot bay racing sailboat to the advent of fiberglass. He's been out on the water this season. I expressed my envy. He extended an invitation. We hadn't said a word about what's happening in Washington or on the political scene nationally or locally as the custom at press conferences and announcements.

Photo opportunities abounded — co-parade grand marshals former Congressman James Langevin and David Cicillini draped with their ribbons,

Tracy Sorrell with her cori-gi Cadbury dressed as a Pawtuxet Ranger and an enraged Gaspee Days Committee veteran and parade organizer, Mark Russell, when two trucks towing floats drove through the lineup to find their position. Foremost for Mark was the safety of spectators and parade participants and then how the drivers had abandoned instructions and how they would turn around. He wasn't happy. It was an insight to the planning that goes into each of the Gaspee events.

Usually I walk a portion of the parade route recognizing from year to year the same people, waving a hello or exchanging bits of news before moving on. This year I took my time. Just as I expected, I found (rather I couldn't miss) Marsha Began dressed in an American flag and waving an American. She darted from the curb to greet me as she did for just about everyone else. Her effervescence is contagious.

Close by I spotted Bart Angelo with an empty chair beside him. He waved me to sit down. I soon learned why he wore a broad smile. He wasn't at work.

For years I've bought my tires from Bart at Sullivan Tire. He recently retired after 29 years and is enjoying it.

"I get to have breakfast when I want," he said. We talked about Conimicut and changes we've witnessed. I got to meet his daughter and granddaughter whose chair I was probably sitting in. That's not the kind of thing that happened in years past when I was constantly on the move. It added a dimension to the parade I hadn't thought about, the connections between spectators and how the event is a reunion. Indeed, the parade brings together strangers and makes for new friends.

Having joined Bart and the Kilclines for a seat, maybe it's time for me to bring a lawn chair to the parade, too.

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# Gaspee

(Continued from page 1)

brothers and attended URI for business finance. He met his wife Tracey while working at Old Stone Bank, and they hit it off. Tracey said her husband has only missed two Gaspee Days parades in his life.

"He's been doing this his entire life, enjoying Gaspee, ever since he was very small," Tracey Miller said. "So for him to be involved in Gaspee is not surprising at all. He just loves it. He loves the people. He loves the events."

Steve said his daughter, Amanda, is the main reason why he joined the committee. He said she was always interested in history, so when she had to do a project in high school about a local historic event, he thought the Gaspee Day Committee was the best place to turn.

"She and I went to the meeting, she did her project and here I am 13 years later," Steve added.

Steve said that his other daughter, Katie, has also been involved in the Gaspee Days celebrations, hosting the parade one year. He stuck around because he found such a great community.

"The people are amazing. I've made so many new friends from the committee, and everyone is just so friendly. It's a very community-oriented group. Everybody is working towards the same goal."

After a few years getting acclimated, Steve served as treasurer. He held the post for five years. He was then appointed second vice president, which he described as the unspoken succession plan for president. After serving in that position for two years, then first vice president for two years, he was elected president.

Steve a lot more preparation goes into planning Gaspee Days festivities than most would realize. The committee meets monthly starting in September to determine which members will fill each role, and the frequency of meetings increases closer to the event, with meetings twice a month in April, May and June. The president has the highest and most consistent commitment level throughout the year, to which his wife said that "his participation is 1000%."

"He always goes above and beyond and he's fully dedicated right up until the end," Tracey said.

Erin Flynn, a board member with the Gaspee Days Committee, called Steve an awesome volunteer. "His leadership style is kind and encouraging and he and his family are dedicated volunteers. We're very thank-



**READY FOR A BLAZE:** Gaspee Days parade chair Janel Russell accompanied Warwick harbor masters as they set off Sunday to set fire to the Gaspee in Pawtuxet Cove. She forgot to bring matches, but the harbor masters had flares. (Cranston Herald photo)

ful." Miller said that it couldn't be done without the help of countless "Gaspee elves."

"They kind of come out of nowhere, and they're there to help," he said.

The committee's annual budget is \$200,000, \$60,000 of which goes towards the parade or what Steve describes as the "culmination of everything." A lot of the events are fundraisers, like the road race, arts and craft festival and the block party.

The parade is his favorite part of the festivities. "We try to mix it up a little bit and try to do a couple of new things every year if we can. It's always fun to see who's at the parade that we've never seen before and old friends who have been in the parade for years and years."

Throughout his tenure as president, Steve said he's learned not to "sweat the small stuff."

"There's a lot of things that pop up and they can get frustrating," Steve said.

Steve was president during the 250th anniversary of the burning of the Gaspee, which he described as "more complicated than normal."

"It multiplied the amount of work that needed to be done," Tracey recalled. "It was a crazy time. A lot of

phone calls. A lot of working into new groups and making sure that everything was done correctly. It was definitely a lot of work, but it all got done somehow, some way."

Flynn said that the Gaspee Days parade in 2022 was the first festivity with the Rhode Island Semiquincentennial (250th) Commission and consequently included a float on their behalf. She said they more or less "have a process" for planning the parade and other events, so it was a manageable workload.

Even when his term ends, Miller plans to follow the trend of past post-presidents and remain a dedicated member. For example, Steve and Tracey Miller have hosted the block party for 8 years, and Tracey said they "still have a couple years left."

There are yet two more events to this year's celebration that were postponed because of windy and raw weather on June 3. This Saturday the Symphony in the Park will be held from 5 to 8 followed at 9 by fireworks at Salter Grove.

Steve summed up his experience as president in two sentences: "It's insane. It's so much fun."

# LEGAL NOTICES

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE TRANSFER OF LICENSE

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

FROM: Mizu Warwick Inc  
DBA: Mizu  
2276 Warwick Ave  
Warwick, RI 02889

TO: New Mizu Japanese Steak House Inc.  
DBA: Mizu Japanese Steak House Sushi Bar & Bar  
2276 Warwick Ave  
Warwick, RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM 2nd Floor, WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on Monday, July 10, 2023 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.

6/15, 6/22/23

# WARWICK WORSHIP

- Asbury United Methodist Church**  
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive  
Rev. Yohan Go  
467-5122  
Worship Servicer 9:30am  
Sunday School at 9:30am  
asburymcni.org
- Baha'i Faith**  
Warwick Community  
Call for meeting information  
800-228-6483
- Buttonwoods Bible Chapel**  
311 Buttonwoods Avenew  
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
- Eckankar Center**  
2914 Post Road, Unit #3  
Path of Spiritual Freedom  
Light & Sound Services  
1st & 3rd Sundays 10 AM  
Pastor Mark Lopotoski  
738-4727  
www.eckankar-ri.org
- Faith Baptist Church**  
765 Commonwealth Ave.  
Pastor Matt Vandeleeest  
738-7664  
faithbaptistri.org  
Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am
- Faith Family Chapel**  
205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)  
Pastor Brian Regan  
681-4690  
www.faithfamilychapel.org
- First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC**  
715 Oakland Beach Avenue  
Pastor Michael Ashe  
738-3377  
fccwri.org
- 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  
nbbcri.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  
737-3127  
Saturday - 5:00 pm  
Sunday - 9:00 am  
www.stmarkswarwick.com
- Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
389 Greenwich Avenue  
Rev. Hayley Bang  
737-6758  
stpaulwarwick.org
- Saint Timothy Church**  
1799 Warwick Avenue  
739-9552
- Saints Rose & Clement Church**  
111 Long Street  
739-0212  
Masses: Saturday 4 pm  
Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am
- South Pointe Christian Church**  
200 Pettaconssett 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://sgmcri.wordpress.com/
- Trinity Church**  
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet  
Cranston, RI 02905  
8 am & 10 am  
10 am is live-streamed on  
facebook @trinitypawtuxet  
941-4324  
http://www.trinitycranston.org/
- Warwick Hope Assembly of God**  
425 Sandy Lane  
Pastor Matthew McIntosh  
732-0634  
Sunday Service 9:30 am.  
Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
- Warwick Central Baptist Church**  
3270 Post Road  
Pastor Sam Chesser  
739-2828  
wcbc01@verizon.net  
Service Sundays at 10:15 AM
- Warwick Christian Fellowship**  
358 Warwick Neck Avenue  
Pastor Steve Reickett  
739-26606
- Westminster Unitarian Church**  
119 Kenyon Ave., E.G.  
401-884-5933  
Sunday 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 Ida at 732-3100

# Toll Gate High School Class of 2023

Naomi Abair  
Roman Abatiello  
Brayden Riley Adler-Maranhao  
Chloe Aguiar  
Diego Ivan Alarcon Calvo  
Jaiden Alba  
Raegan Jade Allen  
Rita Alqaisi  
Paul Alden Anderson  
Lily Elizabeth Ashman  
Gianna Aunchman  
Hannah Aveyard  
Matthew J. Badway  
Daniel Ballsmith  
Hayden Ellis Barker  
Emily Karen Bastien  
Haily Bates  
Autumn Beauregard  
Sebastian Belanger  
Dayanara Sofia Beltran Perez  
Damien Benevides  
Abigail Bennett  
Madelyn Bennett  
Jaylyn Alexis Benzan  
Abigail Elizabeth Berard  
Jaimelyn Yoselin Bernard  
Gerald Biel Minaya  
Jodeci Birkenfeld  
Mackenzie Joy Boudreau  
Colin Brazeau  
Sean Burns  
Morgan Caianiello  
Connor Mitchell Caldwell  
Domenic Calise  
Kristen Brenda Carcier  
Katherine Lyn Carlson  
Tyler Carpenter  
Natalie Claire Esther Cataldo  
Jackson Cehelsky  
Cheyenne Amber Cennamo  
Tyler Cogean  
Victoria Colacone  
Coco Collette  
Briana Lynn Collins  
Luis Colomba  
Geojhanni Colon  
Lilly Catherine Coons  
Ariana Costa  
Mackenzie Costa  
Morgan Cote  
Ashiloh Lee Crider  
Daniel Cruz Gonzalez  
Arianna Cucinotta  
Dylan Cunetta  
Julia Cutler  
Sebastian Douglas Cyr  
Ryan Dacey  
Lea Daigle  
Molly Daniels  
Aidan DeClercq  
Zachary DeCorpo  
Jack T. DeGaetano  
Kayla DeLeo  
David M. Dellinger III  
Joseph DeSantis  
Kaylee Rose DeSilva  
Logan Desroches  
Lily Kaydance Dewar.

Cameron Dewolf  
Brooke Kathryn DiBenedetto  
Lily Marie Dickinson  
Lily Marie Dobish  
Shaelin Grace Donovan  
Liam Breheny Doughty  
Jacob Duquet  
William Durand  
Olivia Marie Dutra  
Shelby Michael Dutra  
Christine Samantha Dutt  
Nalaniah Ead  
Alina Englund  
Deibys Miguel Enriquez  
Callie Rae Fagundes  
Ashley Farman  
Connor Farrell  
Katelyn Mackenzie Flanagan  
Alexa Cadence Ford  
Lea Fortin  
Alan L. Foster  
Nathan Franco  
Ashlyn Gannon  
Caleb Garceau  
Alberto J. Garcia  
Alicia Gaynor  
Kyle Girard  
Aaliyah Golato  
Eliana Sydney Goldman  
Isabella Selest Gray  
Raymond J. Green  
Samantha Jane Gregson  
Orion Michael Gurchik  
Darren Alexander Guzman  
Jacquelyn Paige Hager  
Anarra Skye Haggerty  
Victoria Marie Halstead  
Brydie Handfield  
Johnpaul Heath  
Ciara Elise Hernandez  
Aden Hewett  
Caoilfhionn Hockney  
Madison Ann Holroyd  
Julian Hostetler  
Joshua Howard  
Kailyn Huang  
Cameron Scott Hudson  
Tyler Hunter  
Simaa Ibrahim  
Makenna Riley Izzo  
Alina Corinne Jencks  
Zachary Michael Jerue  
Aaliyah Jones  
Sarah Ameera Karim  
Noah Kendeel  
Sarah G. Kennedy  
Kurtis Cash King  
Anthony Kowlessar  
Julia Krause  
Jaden Kump  
Briana Maria Laprade  
Samantha Joan Laurent  
Hayden Lavallee-Szewczuk  
Dominic Lavimodiere  
Kylie M. Lawson  
Hailey Leamy  
Zachary O. Legon  
Serena Rose Leigh

Jonathan Leonard  
Emily Paige Levasseur  
Sincere P. Luong-Sirimanatham  
Amelia Lynch  
Karlie Lynch  
Mariah Lyons  
Brady Robert Maccarone  
Mackenzie Maciel  
Kyle Madden  
Micah Harrison Malone  
Jason Manney  
Ariel Manzo  
Brodie Marinelli  
Brooklyn Marinelli  
Brady Martin  
Anthony Ryan Martinez  
Lucian Martinez  
Kirsten Mathews  
Raven Maysonet  
Samantha Menard  
Dylan Meneses  
Anthony Miniscalco  
Ty Mitchell  
Andres Molina Zamora  
Rachael Moretti  
Kyle J. Moro  
Zachary William Morrison  
Kathryn Motta  
Sean Robert Mullaney  
Phoenix Nacci  
Amanda Nazareth  
Kiara Rose Nelen  
Danh Thanh Nguyen  
Aiden Nhem  
Kadijah Njie  
Faith O'Donnell  
Brendan O'Toole  
Brandon Odell  
Jeyssus Oliveira  
Victoria Marie Oliveira  
Alex Orange  
Joshua Palmer  
Christopher Parenteau  
Alison Paul  
Amelia Paul  
James H. Paul  
Cooper Payne  
Gary Pearson  
Jacob Pella  
Sophia J. Pena  
Dylan D. Penney  
Sydney Rae Perreault  
Anthony Raymond Perry  
Luke C. Petcrca  
Jacob M. Picking  
Benjamin James Pimental  
Gabrielle Pisano  
Abigail Helen Polo  
Ethan Poole  
James Powers  
Ashley Price  
Allison Quinn  
Samantha Quinn  
Genaro Ramirez  
Noah Joseph Ramm  
Hailey Madison Randall  
Elijah Regan  
Jonathon Reupert

Devyn Robbins  
Cian McCabe Roberts  
Patyon Robinson  
Matheus Rodrigues Braga  
Brandon James Rooney  
Thaiza Rosa Ferreira  
Dylan Salois  
Matthew Santagata  
Ethan Christopher Scheve  
Gerard Daniel Schifino  
Damein Scott  
Samuel Robert Sherman  
Mackenzie Silcox  
Alyssa Rose Silva  
Jordan Silva  
Joseph Edward Simas III  
Brianlys Simono  
Alivia Joy Slinn  
Desmond Smith  
Brady Squire  
Abigail Squizzero  
Lydia Stalaboin  
Emily Rose Stepalavich  
Svetlana Maria Stepanova  
Michael StLaurent  
Isabella Rose Sullivan  
Kelsey Sabra Sullivan  
Jason Sutcliffe  
Katherine Elizabeth Sweeney  
Lucas Szewczyk  
Joseph Taber  
Xavier Anthony Tate  
Jaydin David Tevyaw  
Kaelyn Elizabeth Tevyaw  
Baxter Tietze  
Benjamin Tietze  
Jared Tillman  
Jordan G. Tomar  
Andrew Torres  
Isaiah Townes  
Devyn James Turner  
Noah Twitchell  
Andrew Valdez Estrella  
Jacob Vann  
Isaac Vargaz-Morales  
Christian Venticinque  
Vanessa Lyn Vespia  
Leonardo Victor  
Mya Rhiannon Vincent  
Vito Vinciguerra  
Kendra Samantha Volmar  
Tyrisse Simon Volmar  
Aimee Walsh  
Marlee Beth Walsh  
Seth Weindel  
Shay Wholey  
Rian Williams  
Thomas M. Williams  
Patrick Wilson  
Cameron Wirtz  
Allyson Makenzie Yabut  
Kara Paige Yelman  
William Rose Zinno  
Brandon Ian Zola  
Bravden Patrick Zulla



## A Memorial Weekend tradition

As the tradition, Pawtuxet Memorial Park paid tribute to veterans with its avenues of flags, each bearing the name of a deceased veteran buried in the cemetery on Harrison Avenue. Weather could not have been more cooperative offering visitors a peaceful and reflective experience shared by family of the deceased and visitors. Fran Rowell stopped to pay tribute to her mother's sister and her husband, Nellie and Joe Ziminski. Joe was an Army veteran who served in WWII in Europe. He died in 1983. (Warwick Beacon photos)



### Anita M. Davis

Anita M. (Wrobel) Davis, 83, passed away Sunday, June 11, 2023 at the Kent Hospital in Warwick. She was the wife of the late Lt. Col. Richard L. Senecal Sr. and Richard E. Davis. Born in Cranston, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Theresa (Brochu) Wrobel. Anita was the loving mother of Richard L. Senecal, Jr., Suzanne M. Skory (John), Michael G. Senecal (Wendy), Valerie A. Vadnaiss (George), Robert L. Senecal, Deborah A. Franks (Mike), Dawn M. Costa, Desiree M. Driscoll (Paul), and Jean Paul Senecal (Donna). She is also survived by 17 loving grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



Her funeral will be private at the convenience of the family. For information and condolences visit [www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com](http://www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com)

### John Anthony Merolla

John Anthony Merolla, 85, of Warwick, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was the devoted husband of Elaine Anne (McKeever) Merolla. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late John and Olympia (Narducci) Merolla.



John was a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School in Providence. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Rhode Island and his Master's Degree from Providence College. During his studies he played both high school and college football as a center. While attending both High School and College John proudly served in the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

After college John went on to teach in several locations to include Central Falls High School (1961), Johnston High School (1963), Providence Temple Street School (1968) and Providence Pleasant View School (1971). John was one of the first teachers hired for the newly opened Pleasant View School where he established the Adapted Physical Education Program for children. John retired from teaching in 1999 with 38 years of service.

In addition to teaching John coached High School Football from 1961 to 2008. Serving as an Assistant Coach at Hendricken High School, Head Coach at Johnston High School and Assistant Coach Central High School. In 1987 John was appointed as the Head Coach for Mount Pleasant High School where he remained until his retirement in 2008.

Of all Johns football victories, he is most recognized and appreciated by his peers for his off-field victory in the court case Merolla vs City of Providence; Providence School Department; Providence School Board; Employees Retirement Board of Rhode Island. The court ruled in John's favor and ordered school systems across the State of Rhode Island to reappoint experienced High School coaches after they had been unjustly removed for 2 seasons.

Alongside his wife Elaine, he is survived by his beloved children, Evangeline M. LaPlant (Robert) of Warwick, Elaine M. May (Michael) of Warwick, Kyle M. Merolla (Jovanna) of Holland, MA, Katie-lyn J. Merolla of Warwick, and Meghan J. Sheffield (Hiram) of West Greenwich, and his cherished grandchildren, David, John, Emily, Aidan, Zoe, Seamus, and Penelope. He was the brother of the late Amedeo Merolla (Norma).

John was known by all to be a generous, kindhearted man who genuinely made everyone feel valued and welcome while in his company. As a lifelong Rhode Islander it was often said that there was not a place that he could go where he wouldn't run into a familiar face or strike up a conversation with a stranger only to find a common connection from his past. He valued his time with his family to the fullest and spent time fishing, boating, golfing, and skiing with his children and grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at the Funeral Home on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 4:00PM-8:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Funeral on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 8:45AM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick with a Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10:00AM at St. Gregory the Great Church, 360 Cowesett Rd. Warwick. Interment will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery, West Greenwich.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his memory to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. [www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](http://www.murphyfuneralhomes.org)

### Marissa "Rissapee" Napolitano

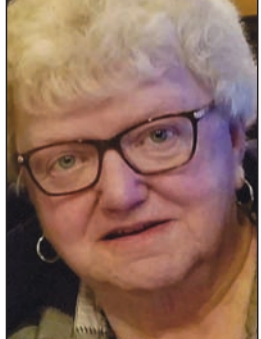
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
JUNE 8, 2018



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

### BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE PEGGY KEENAN

June 17



Loved & Truly Missed  
*Jay*

## OBITUARIES

### James Raymond Callary

James Raymond Callary, age 92, of Warwick, Rhode Island passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at the Kent Regency. Born in Pawtucket he was the son of the late George and Marion (Burke) Callary.



Mr. Callary was a bus driver for RIPTA for over 30 years before his official retirement in 1992. He had previously managed the former Louitt Laundry, which at one time was the largest laundry business in Rhode Island.

James served his country honorably in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He was also a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Mr. Callary is survived by his nieces, Karen J. Horrigan and her husband John, Joan M. Apostolico and her husband Domenic and Jean E. McCormick. His great nieces and nephews, Christopher Fanning, Jessica Fanning, John Horrigan, Kelley Horrigan, Richard McCormick and his great great niece Kyleigh Jaques.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday June 16, 2023 at 10:00 am in St. Timothy Church, 1799 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. Burial with full military honors will follow in Mt. St. Mary Cemetery, Pawtucket.

Family and friends may call Thursday June 15, 2023 in the Russell J. Boyle and Son Funeral Home, 142 Centerville Road, Warwick from 4:00-7:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. Callary's memory should be made to DAV, [www.dav.org/donate](http://www.dav.org/donate)

### Richard E. Fuller

Richard E. Fuller, age 87, of Warwick, passed away Monday, June 12, 2023, peacefully and surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Lillian J. (Lawton) Fuller, to whom he shared 53 years of marriage.



Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Ray Fuller and Sylvia (Warwick) Bray. A life-long resident of Warwick, he served in the US Army before becoming a Jewelry Tool Maker with Uncas Manufacturing for many years prior to his retirement.

Richard was a master of all trades and spent much of his time after retirement landscaping, gardening and doing odd jobs. He was a collector of many things, especially his baseball caps. He enjoyed life to its fullest, and was often the silliest one in the room. When spending time with his family and friends he was known to pull a prank or two. On weekdays you could find him at the donut shop with his plain donut sharing some laughs with his buddies, and on weekends you could often catch him in a cowboy hat dancing with his wife at the local VFW. Boy could they dance circles around the other couples.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Richard Fuller Jr with his wife Jessica, and Elaine Grady with her husband Scott, both of Warwick; five siblings, John Fuller, Robert "Bob" Fuller, Edgar "Ted" Fuller, Rae "Laurie" Low, and Murry Fuller; Seven grandchildren; and Four great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 16, 2023 from 5:00pm-8:00pm. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 11:00am at the Thomas and Walter Quinn Funeral Home followed by a burial in Pawtuxet Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, donations in Richard's honor may be made to the American Cancer Society or St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital.

Please Honor Richard by wearing casual attire and your favorite baseball cap.

For information and condolences visit [www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com](http://www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com)

### Carol Larney

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY  
June 13



What would he give her hand to grasp,  
Her patient face to see,  
To hear her voice, to see her smile,  
As in the days that used to be.  
But some sweet day we'll meet again  
Beyond the toil and strife,  
And clasp each other's hand once more,  
In Heaven, that happy life.

Loved & Missed.  
Husband, children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren

### FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE Herman A. Paolucci

10/26/1932 - 1/3/2023



WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER

That special smile that caring heart.  
That warm embrace you always gave us.  
You being there for us, through good  
And bad times no matter what.  
We'll always remember you because  
There will never be anyone to replace  
You in our hearts.  
And the love we will always  
Have for you.

Missing you with all of our love,  
Yolanda, Lori, Jimmy, Barbara,  
Grandchildren and  
Great-Grandchildren

### In Memoriam

Remember your late loved ones with an In Memoriam ad  
For info, call Ida at 732-3100

## URQUHART-MURPHY

### FUNERAL HOME



*An Independently Owned Funeral Home*

**800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI**

# 737-3510

*Conveniently located off Exit 12A on I-95*

EDWARD L. MURPHY, DIRECTOR

Member by Invitation  National Selected Morticians

## Obituaries

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

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

*— Thank you*

# Vietnam Vets and minorities represented on 28th Honor Flight

By RORY SCHULER

He returned from Vietnam, but wasn't welcomed back. The world was a different place when Craig Kohnaski enlisted after graduating from URI in 1968. He'll be one of a plane full of Rhode Island veterans who travel to the nation's capital on Monday, part of the 28th Honor Flight, organized by the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub. The Warwick man, a former ROTC cadet, started active duty in the U.S. Army immediately after basic training. He shipped off to Japan for more than two years and then volunteered to go to Vietnam. "They were going to send me to the Korean DMZ," Kohnaski recalled. "I ended

up in the First Signal Brigade for 13 months." Kohnaski longs to meet fellow veterans with shared experiences. "My exposure is limited," he said. "I'm looking forward to meeting more veterans period; hear some of their stories; shake their hands and let them know how glad I am to see them come home. I hope some of them had better welcomes home than I did." For years, Kohnaski learned to cope in a society that didn't appreciate his service. "I heard the stories," he recalled. "It was almost a shame to wear the uniform, the way people were looking at you, talking about you. It was not a good feeling to come home — not at all."

Over time, Americans finally started to acknowledge the sacrifices made by Vietnam War era veterans. Eventually, Kohnaski started wearing his Vietnam veteran hat in public. "Many people have come up to me thanking me for my service," Kohnaski said. "That didn't happen before. Things have changed; and I can't say when it happened."

**The Price of Freedom**  
On Monday, June 19, the Honor Flight "Freedom Is Not Free" trip will depart T.F. Green International Airport for Washington D.C. The Honor Flight has a Mission Statement: "To transport America's Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their sacrifices."

"Taking veterans to Washington, DC is now and always will be our highest priority," according to Chief George S. Farrell (retired), chairman of the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, which he founded in 2012. "After I witnessed what I later learned was an Honor Flight arrival at BWI (Baltimore-Washington International Airport) in the spring of 2010, my wife and I were so moved by the experience I came home and did some research to find out what Honor Flight was," Farrell recalled.

He was the president of RI Fire Chiefs Association, so he took his idea to the board and recommended the group's involvement in organizing the Ocean State's first Honor Flight. "It was also a way to Honor the service of my father, George F. Farrell Jr. (U.S. Navy, World War II) and my wife's father, Antonio Barletta (U.S. Army, World War II)," he said. "We both wish that our fathers were able to have been able to go on their Honor Flight."

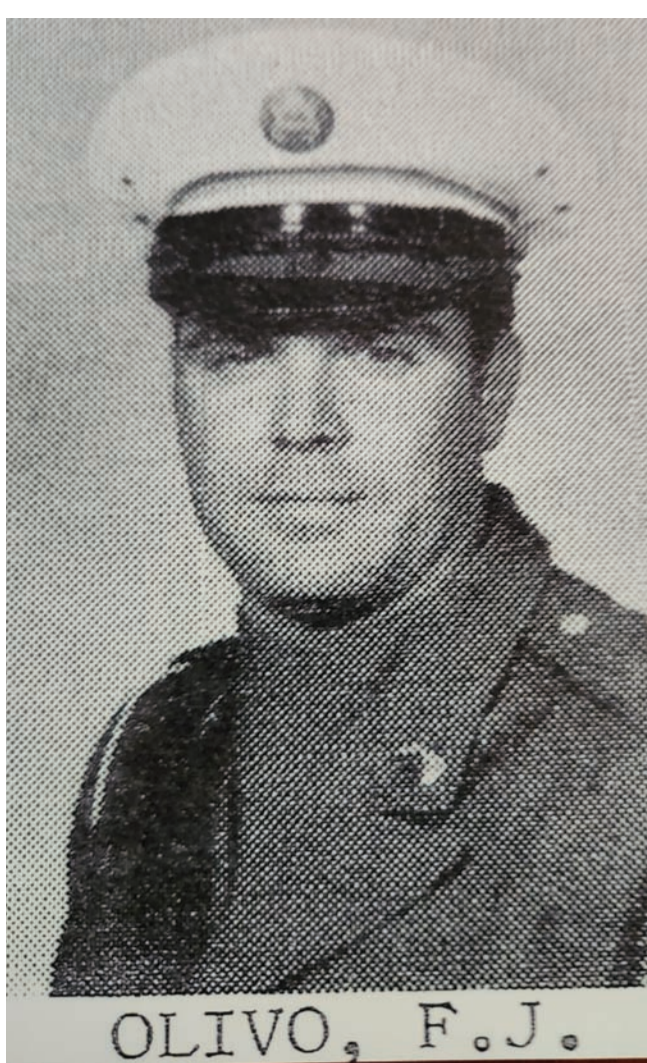
**Honored to Fly**  
The group took its first Honor Flight in November 2012. Since, 27 Honor Flights have transported thousands of the state's veterans to Washington D.C., taking them on tours of Arlington National Cemetery and the nation's war memorials.

"Currently, on this Honor Flight we have 3 (World War II) veterans," according to Farrell. "The oldest is 98 years old." Monday's flight will also include three Korean War veterans, many Vietnam veterans, and several veterans that served during other times and places. Farrell said that "about two-thirds of our veterans on this flight are Vietnam War veterans."

"We will be traveling to DC with a total of 115 passengers, veterans, guardians, medical staff, and photographers," Farrell said in a press release he circulated earlier this week. "On this Honor Flight we are also taking 15 members of the RI Professional Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums." The organization has been approved for a "Public Gathering Permit" from the National Park Service, which will allow the pipe and drum band to perform at the WWII Memorial and march along the reflecting pool with the Honor Flight veterans in-step behind.

"When we reach the end of the Reflecting Pool, at the base of the Lincoln Memorial the pipes and drums will perform again," Farrell said. "When we go to Arlington National Cemetery, we will participate in a Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." Four members of the group will lay a wreath — two WWII veterans, Roger Desjardins, 98, of North Providence, and Anthony Barsamian, 96, of Cranston. North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi and Paul Vadenais, who sponsored Monday's Honor Flight in memory of his father Normand G. Vadenais (a Corporal in the U.S. Army) will also attend.

**Freedom Day**  
Monday's date has a special significance. "June 19 ... is Juneteenth a Federal Holiday that celebrates 'Freedom Day' and the end of slavery," Farrell said in the press release. "Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of slavery which finally came on June 19, 1865 when Federal troops were sent to Galveston, Texas to free nearly 250,000 slaves. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021,



**HONORED TO FLY:** Frank Olivo, of Johnston, served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On Monday, he'll be on-board the 28th Honor Flight to the nation's capital. This portrait was taken while Olivo was in the service. (Courtesy photo)

when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. We are pleased that on Honor Flight 'Freedom' we have approximately 20 minority veterans and we celebrate Juneteenth with them and all our veterans. We believe that we are the first Honor Flight Hub in the Nation to travel to Washington, D.C. on June 19, 'Juneteenth.'

**The Wall**  
Kohnaski, now 77, said he's "super excited" to take the trip. "It's fantastic really," he said earlier this week. "It's like going back in history a little bit. I'll see a lot of fallen comrades ... and it's good to bring back some of the memories of what you went through during the time period and honor those who didn't make it back home." Johnston native Frank Olivo, also a 77-year-old Vietnam War era Army veteran, will be on-board Monday's Honor Flight.



**SNAPSHOTS FROM WAR:** Vietnam veteran Craig Kohnaski, of Warwick, will be on Monday's 28th Honor Flight to Washington D.C. In late 1970, he had his "Captains bars pinned on by Col. Miller in Japan." In 1971, he was awarded a Bronze Star in Vietnam. (Courtesy photos)



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# From fantasy

# to authenticity

# with a flip of a tail



Photo courtesy of Erin Walsh (Photo by Phlash Photography & Artistry www.phlashphotoart.com)

By SAMANTHA RUSSELL

A judgment free community where people can swim, enjoy mutual interests, and even receive a core workout: No, this place is not the local Planet Fitness, rather the Ocean State Merfolk. Based at the Smithfield YMCA, Ocean State Merfolk have created a community where people not only dress up as mermaids, but also become a part of their world.

The Ocean State Merfolk "is a community of artists and free spirits who embrace the sense of play that is found through merming," per their website. Ocean State Mermaid Erin Walsh established this pod two years ago as a means of providing others the incredible opportunity of mermaiding, and has since created an ever growing group of "fin-tastic" mermaid enthusiasts.

"My number one priority is making sure that our merfolk feel safe to try new things and to be their true authentic selves at our meet-ups and in our online group," she said.

The pod is a wide-ranging collection of merfolk of various sizes, shapes, races, ages, gender identities, and home states, according to Walsh. Although the group is named with the Ocean State, mermaids from any state are welcomed to join. Eager mermaids from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York have made the trek to the Ocean State pod; Walsh even recalls a mermaid visit from Seattle for their previous session.

Ocean State Merfolk runs a pod of over 190 merfolk. They come together to swim, practice their mermaiding skills, produce content for social media, swap tops and tails and tales and "generally have a large amount of fun." As summer sets in, the pod aims to schedule more meetups in outside venues, such as pools, lakes and seaside locations. The group also attends meetups organized by other pods throughout New England.

"Creating a group that could meet regularly to share the passion for mermaiding was very important to me," Walsh says. Move over, connecting with like-minded merfolk, coaching safe mermaiding and removing the stigma around adult play has always been a goal of hers, and she hopes to "normalize this sort of play as an essential part of our everyday lives."

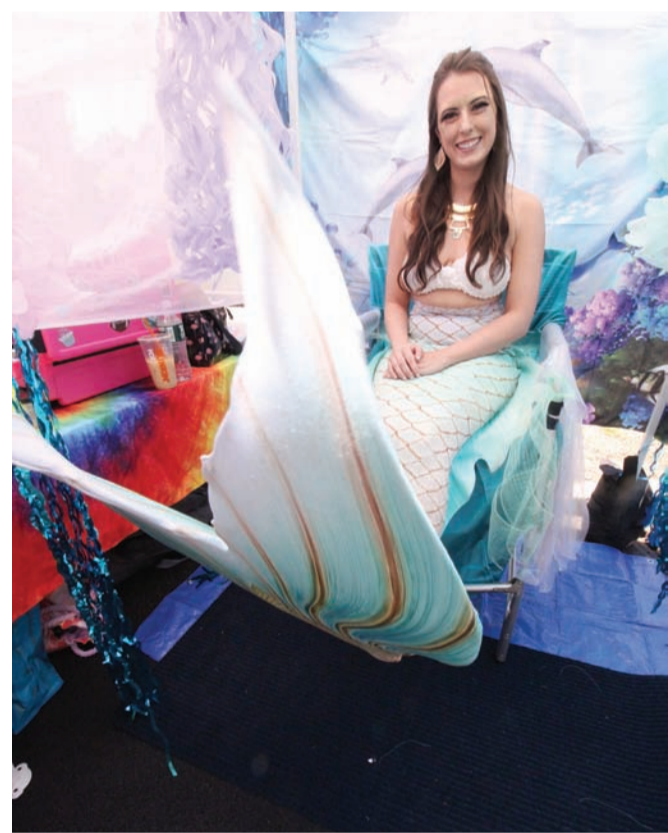
### 'Anyone can be a mermaid'

New members are always encouraged to swim with Ocean State Merfolk at their meet-ups. Through their belief that anyone can be a mermaid, the pod works to expand the mermaiding experience to anyone that is interested.

Walsh is a certified Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Mermaid Instructor and PADI Advanced Mermaid, Freediver and SCUBA diver, a lifeguard and an underwater photographer. For Ocean State Merfolk, she is also a modeling coach, organizes regular merfolk meetups and teaches mermaid classes.

Three years ago, Walsh commenced her mermaiding career with her fellow mer-friend, Chris Graefe. After swimming in his Mertailor monofin at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, Walsh became hooked on the adventure and never looked back.

The group's website states that mermaiding, or "merming," is the practice of wearing and swimming in a costume mermaid tail. This activity is open to children, hobbyists and professionals, who perform at venues such as circuses, aquariums and parties. The act can also go by the name of artistic mermaiding, mermaidry, or artistic mermaid performance.



**OUT OF WATER:** Erin Walsh was perfectly at ease at the Gaspee Days Arts and Crafts festival although she was out of water. (Beacon Communications photo)

■ MERMAIDS - PAGE 23

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# Stepping out for Gaspee Days



**OFFICIALS AND OFFICIAL CELEBRANT:** Former Congressmen Jim Langevin and David Cicillini, who served as parade grand co-m Marshals, at left, are joined by Don Conlon, a Gaspee Days original, former Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian and Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos at the start of Saturday's parade. At right, Marsha Beagan, who doesn't miss a Gaspee Days parade joins in the celebration. (Photos by John Howell and Steve Popiel)



**GIVE ME AN "H":** Hoxsie School Principal Gary McCoombs and the school float, not to mention its student passengers, were a colorful entry in the parade lasting about two hours.

**LEADING THE WAY:** Following close behind elected officials and the bearer of the mace, the Pawtuxet Rangers were the first of many units to make up the parade.



**BUT HE DIDN'T MARCH:** Cadbury, the appropriately attired corgi belonging to Tracy Sorrell was welcomed by Pawtuxet Rangers. Cadbury didn't join the parade. "He doesn't like the canons," Sorrell explained.



**ONE OF THE NEWEST:** Estelle Barada, (at right) a recent Pawtuxet Ranger private, rode in style while a youngster couldn't resist joining the fun. At left, the Pawtuxet Rangers fire their canon for the burning of the Gaspee on Sunday as seen above.



ARNOLD (Photo courtesy of Netflix)

**Netflix**  
**ARNOLD**  
\*\*\* 1/2

While we are not fans of body building, Arnold Schwarzenegger movies or Republican politics, we did enjoy the "Arnold" documentary, which coincidentally was divided into those three parts.

Arnold's life story is told in the first person, with the subject expounding about his life, his dreams, his philosophy on life, and his successes and failures.

Born and raised in Austria, he dreamed of moving to America, which he did, becoming a citizen in 1983.

The first episode centers on his body building obsession, eventually winning the Mr. Universe and Mr. Olympia titles.

The second covered his life as an actor, beginning with the horrible "Hercules", followed by the successful "Pumping Iron". The third episode delves into his political career, marriage into the Kennedy family, and eight-year term as Governor of California.

The doc is well made, using only a few talking heads, with Arnold letting us know about his take on life and finishing up with his current life as an elder statesman, giving back to Special Olympics and serving as a spokesman for many causes.

**TOUR DE FRANCE UNCHAINED**  
\*\*\*

While not a fan of bicycle racing, I was fascinated by the

See it at the **Movies** with Joyce & Don Fowler



documentary series that followed and explained everything there is to know about the Tour de France from the first leg in Copenhagen to the 21st in Paris.

The world's largest cycle race is a complex operation involving intricate strategies and rules.

The documentary gives you the full load by following one team and the individual racers.

From the training camps through the endless meetings leading up to the races, you are there, getting to know the racers and the many people behind the

scenes.

Most impressive are the overhead scenes of the race through cities and the beautiful countryside.

What amazes me are the thousands of fans who line up along the routes to see the teams of racers zoom by at high speeds.

Cycle racing, like auto racing, carries the anticipation of serious crashes. One of the worst was Fabio Jakobsen, whose crash and serious injuries was hard to watch. We watch him come back to race again.



TOUR DE FRANCE UNCHAINED (Photo courtesy of Netflix)

# RNE Comedy Night fundraiser at Park Theatre

By DON FOWLER

For those living with a rare disease or complex medical condition, finding resources, support, or an educated healthcare professional in their specific area can be a challenge.

Cranston resident Nicole White is the Executive Director of a nonprofit called Rare New England, whose mission is just that. Otherwise known as RNE, Rare New England is hosting a Comedy Show fundraising event to further its mission of bringing together New England patients, families and providers, touched by a rare disease. Rare New England offers educational opportunities, creates awareness of available resources and builds foundations for support to improve patient quality of life.

The comedy show will be hosted by Funny4Funds at the Comedy Park in Cranston on June 17th. Doors will open at 6:00pm and the show will start at 7:00pm.

White has been involved in nonprofit work since 2016. Her passion in this area grew as her son Kyrie was born with a rare birth defect called Gastroschisis, when the abdominal wall fails to fully close during development, leaving the intestines to develop on the outside of the body. From this, Kyrie was given the diagnosis of a life long rare disease called Short Bowel Syndrome due to losing the majority of his small intestine at 6 days old.

White's son has his health challenges, as does her husband. "The road we've been on has been quite the challenge, but we wouldn't change a thing. It has made us who we are and has brought so many special people in our lives."

White became great friends with Cranston's own, Meri Kennedy, as she had similar health challenges her husband faced. "The internet is so powerful" says White. "Meri and I met in a disease specific group on Facebook, discovered we were both from Cranston, and were there for each other since. She became a great friend." "Meri would call me when she needed support, assistance with a line dressing (for her IV) when she couldn't get her nurse, or her hair done when 'Salon Steve' wasn't able so we could also have our 'girl talk,'" said White.

"I do this work to help individuals like Meri; to provide resources and support to patients and families as well as education to medical providers so they can recognize a rare disease and know how to treat the patient." This is why it's so important to support a great cause like Rare New England.

Did you know rare diseases impact more people than cancer and AIDS combined? These people live in our neighborhoods and need our help. 1 in 10 people are affected by a rare disease and half of them are children. 3 in 10 children with a rare disease won't live to see their fifth birthday. There are no cures and just 5% of rare diseases have an FDA approved treatment.

The rare disease community tends to be a community in the background because not many people are familiar nor is it talked about much. Rare New England welcomes the community to attend and share a laugh together at their comedy show fundraiser. "This fundraiser is means to support our mission and share about the rare disease community. It will be a great way for the community to show support to a special community and make an impact to lives. Who knows, it could even be a neighbor you'd be helping support."



# Fight over child didn't end with his death

Even in death, 5-year-old David Chase Mason remained caught in a tug-of-war between his parents, delaying his burial and postponing eternal rest.

Volney William Mason had been divorced by his first wife, Anna, in 1879. Nine years later, he was sued by Clara Goff for breach of contract. Possessing an engagement ring, Clara testified that Volney had proposed, that the wedding date was set and her trousseau bought. She asked for \$30,000 in damages. The jury awarded her \$4,000.

Three years later, Volney was introduced to Emma Mitchell. By this time, the 49-year-old president of Volney W. Mason & Company on Lafayette Street in Providence, manufacturers of hoisting machinery, was already one of the richest men in the city. Emma, a native of Brooklyn, agreed to take a job as his live-in housekeeper.

On July 12, 1895 Emma gave birth to a child whom she named David Chase Mason. When the child was about a year-and-a-half old, Volney was again sued for breach of contract. Emma alleged that he promised to marry her and asked for \$10,000 in damages. She later dropped the suit and dropped out of Volney's life.

During the summer of 1900, Volney searched for Emma and David. He traveled to NY and around New England, finally locating them in Pawtucket. On March 3 of that year he went to Emma's residence and invited her and David back to his home on Laban Street in Providence. She agreed but, once they arrived there, he pulled David inside and refused to let Emma enter. She left the property and returned four nights later.

Tillotson Thomas, a 53-year-old housepainter who worked for Volney and lived in his downstairs apartment, was painting the ceiling of Volney's sitting room. Volney had asked him to keep an eye on David and he had the child in the room with him.

Just before 6:00, Emma entered the house and, hearing her, Tillotson locked the sitting room door. Emma knew where the key was, retrieved it and ran into the room. She threw her arms around David and would later allege that Tillotson stepped up to her and struck her across the face, tearing her dress as he wrestled David away from her.

## Emma seeks police help

Emma went to the police station, requesting assistance in retrieving her child. She returned to the property, pacing behind the house as she waited for the police to arrive. Volney returned home and confronted her. She informed him that she had notified police and they were on their way. Volney gripped her by the shoulders and pushed her down the driveway, threatening to have her arrested if she returned. Emma pushed back, screaming hysterically. Once she reached the road, she was either pushed or fell to the sidewalk. Several people were passing as she cried out that she had been assaulted by two men and that her legs were broken. A few witnesses had actually seen Volney pushing her from the property. One man took off his coat and covered her with it while they waited for police, who arrived about half an hour later. A large crowd had gathered by the time and Emma was transported to the police station where an ambulance was called.

At the hospital, they found no serious injuries. Police went in search of Volney but were told he and David had left the residence. Emma filed suit against Volney and Tillotson for assault. The case against Volney was dismissed. Tillotson, in his defense, said he had been ordered not to let anyone take the child and that he had pushed Emma away but she had ripped her own dress by stepping on it. When informed that police had asked Emma how

## Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

she got blood on her mouth and she'd told them it was from Tillotson striking her, he responded that he thought she might have gone into the barn and let the horse kick her. The judge ordered him to pay Emma \$15 in damages.

## Volney returns from Paris with casket

A couple of months later, events took a turn and Emma and David joined Volney on a trip to attend the Paris Exposition. For reasons not explained, Emma returned to America earlier than planned, alone. The second week of Dec., Volney arrived home, bringing with him a sealed casket. He told Emma that David had died in Paris of pneumonia. The casket was transported to the undertaking rooms of Clarence Oscar Chase on Westminster Street where it remained for a week, allegedly because Volney could not bear the thought of putting it into the ground. The casket was finally buried in a large lot owned by Volney in Cranston's Oakland Cemetery on Dec. 18.

At about 1:00 on the afternoon of Dec. 23, a wagon carrying Volney, two men and three women pulled into the cemetery. They placed a large floral wreath bearing the words "Our little darling" and "David C. Mason" on the grave, a gift from the employees of Volney's shop. At the same time, Emma's friend Mr. Starkweather was entering the cemetery but stopped upon sighting

them. He contacted police and asked them to station a guard at the grave as he was afraid Volney would exhume the body and take it away.

Emma had already scheduled and exhumation and feared Volney might take the body before her suspicions could be proven right. She did not believe the casket contained her son. She suspected that Volney had hidden her son somewhere and was attempting to convince her that he was dead. Police officers stood watch at the grave in shifts. Once the casket was brought up and opened on Dec. 24, Emma could no longer deny that her son was inside.

Just days later, Volney was arrested on charges that he had deceived Emma through seduction and promises of marriage. She asked for \$20,000 in damages. Volney furnished bail and was released. Four months later, the casket containing David Mason was still unburied, shelved at the undertaking rooms of James William Carpenter on Plainfield Street as the couple continued to fight over him.

Apparently sometime within the next year, Volney and Emma were married as, by Aug. 1902, they were in divorce court. Emma charged that Volney did not provide her with necessities and that she had told him unless he gave her an allowance, she would return to NY and her job as a dressmaker.

Emma stated that she had gone on to NY, feeling like she needed rest and change of scenery and that when she contacted Volney to inform him she was ready to return, he had told her to stay where she was. Volney testified that Emma had lived with him on and off over the years and had been amply supported by him, although he admitted he had locked the bathroom so she couldn't use it. He claimed he had no idea she had plans to go to NY until after she'd left and that he'd suspected she was suf-

fering from mental health issues.

## Back in court

In court, Emma's lawyer set his gaze upon the small pin affixed to Volney's tie as he sat on the witness stand. "Is that the picture of your child that is in your tie?" he asked. Angrily, Volney told him, "That's none of your business." The lawyer asked the question again and again, requesting the judge make Volney answer and explaining that the answer would expose the real reason Emma had left him. The judge refused to force an answer. Emma's lawyer then asked Volney if David was his child. His own attorney advised him not to answer.

The judge ordered that Volney pay Emma \$15 per week toward her support and her \$25 counsel fees. The following month, they were back in court where Emma asked the judge to order the return of her handbag and trunk. The judge told Volney to return the items to her immediately. Volney refused and they came back to the courtroom nine months later where Emma asked for damages in the amount of \$800 for the bag and contents of the trunk; lace, toilet novelties, clothing, dressmaking supplies and sewing machine.

The later life of Emma has been difficult to trace. In Nov. of 1906, a passerby threw a lit match through an open window of Volney's machine shop and it landed in a barrel of oil and started a fire. The damage was estimated at about \$15,000. Volney died on the night of Feb. 21, 1919 at his brother's house after suffering from pneumonia for three days.

It appears that neither Emma nor Volney are buried in the same cemetery as David, neither lying eternally near the child whom each spent years claiming greater ownership over.

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

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

## Summer



Photo credit: Tyler Mclewin

You can have Summer in your home all year long! Yes, her name is Summer and she truly brings the sunshine! This beauty is just over a year old and is a medium sized mixed breed. Her soft coat is multi-color and her big brown eyes just seem to say "love me!" Summer is playful, lovable, smart and loves yummy treats! If you'd like to meet her please contact EGAPL The Heart of RI at 401-467-3670 or visit during their open adoption hours Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday & Friday 12:00-2:00 or Saturday 10:00-2:00. They are located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. Summer will be ready to share her warmth with you!

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

# Daveapalooza brings live music, craft beer, delicious food & more to Proclamation

By ROB DUGUAY

When does an annual event reach the point of becoming a tradition? Is it five years or even 10? I honestly have no idea what the answer to that question is. With this in mind, it seems like the folks at the Proclamation Ale Company on 298 Kilvert Street in Warwick are approaching the cusp of this transition. For the third year in a row, Daveapalooza will be taking place at the brewery on June 24 to celebrate the life and legacy of co-founder Dave Witham, who passed away on Christmas Day back in 2020 after

battling cancer. The festivities will be going on from 12-6pm with a lot to offer. This includes kickass bands, a variety of food trucks, skateboarding and of course craft beer.

Even if you didn't know Witham, there are more than enough reasons to show up and enjoy yourself. As someone who attended last year, imagine a giant block party that's both indoors and outdoors with endless things to be entertained by.

"It's that time again! We're coming up quickly on our third annual Daveapalooza," says Witham's wife Lori, who is Proclamation's owner and cre-

ative director. "Help us celebrate our founder Dave Witham's life and the brewery he created that changed the landscape of the Rhode Island beer scene. As always, we are partnering with Civil and Highroller Lobster Co. for a day of skateboarding, lobster rolls, live music, food trucks, beer collaborations, slushies, and epic vibes."

When it comes to the food trucks that'll be selling scrumptious grub, the tastes and styles are wide-ranging. Anyone craving a lobster roll for the summer should check out the Highroller Lobster Company who are coming down from Portland, Maine. Those who are looking for something a bit different are bound to enjoy the unique options from Ming's Asian Street Food. If you're the type who likes to keep things simple, then a classic hot dog from Saugy is ideal. At an event like this, there's no reason to not skip dessert and Big Feeling Ice Cream & Sorbet will be on the premises to fulfill that particular need.

The live music portion of Daveapalooza is going to be absolutely stacked with Providence via Boston rock & rollers Salem Wolves, Newport surf rock shredders The Z-Boys and local roadhouse rock act The Day Drinkers performing. Stone Path Malt, Fresh Mode Screen Printing, Bristol County Savings Bank and Flexible Pack are going to be sponsoring the event as well. It's obviously 21 plus to drink, but people under the age of 21 can get in for free with an effort to have a family-friendly vibe being very apparent. For details pertaining to tickets and everything else, log on to Proclamation's website at [proclamationaleco.com](http://proclamationaleco.com). Along with it being a celebration of the positive effect Witham had on others, it's also a fantastic way to spend a Saturday afternoon.



DAVE WITHAM

## SWEAT FOR PUPS

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Where: Witherby Park, 321 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906

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All proceeds go directly to WHFTD against Nicole Kelly's Iron Man Fundraiser

# The many faces of dad

## Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

With Father's Day coming up, it makes sense to honor the dads out there. One day a year we can celebrate their loving qualities as well as their idiosyncrasies. According to the dictionary, a father is the male parent of a child who has rights and obligations when it comes to the care and raising of the child. Many years ago, when I was born, dads were not allowed into the delivery room, but sat in the waiting room commiserating with the other expectant dads. Additionally, my mother was completely sedated during the birth process, and when she woke up, there I was! How times have changed! Now, fathers are encouraged to be in the delivery room and witness every twinge of the labor pains. Under most circumstances, they are there when the tiny head pops out. What a joy for both parents to experience!

There are many types of fathers who are unable to be at the birth, fathers in the military, for instance. They may get to witness the birth through a video link but miss out on the whole crying, peeing, pooping newborn infant and sleepless nights. Other biological dads chose not to support the

mother, possibly because they only met that one time. Or they are married. Or they have another girlfriend to whom they are devoted. Or they have no conscience. These biological fathers have provided the male contribution to the conception of the child and are legally responsible for supporting the child. If he does not, he is classified as a "dead-beat dad". There is no Fathers' Day celebration for these dads.

A stepfather is a man married to the child's mother. Although not related by blood, he becomes the pseudo-dad while in the household, which is hopefully until the child matures. Because of this, many stepdads incur the additional expenses of college and weddings for these children, making them a full dad in my eyes. They deserve to be celebrated on Fathers' Day.

A foster father is one who temporarily cares for children who need a home. Hubby was a foster father for 16 infants and toddlers, as well as a hyper seven-year-old girl who was deaf with whom he had trouble communicating. (Because of his many hard-working years, and a touch of arthritis, his fingers did not easily perform sign language, which became a huge family joke because he always looked like he was "flipping her off".) Because we often had more than one foster child at a time, as well as our own biological son, Francis, Hubby could often be seen rocking in the chair to calm a fussy infant going through withdrawal from his mother's heroin use or frolicking on the floor with Steven, whom we eventually adopted. The big disadvantage to being a foster dad is that the children with whom we fell in love were usually sent to live back to the biological parents who had abused them in the first place or sent to live with a distant relative. Their stay with us was considered temporary, even if it was for a few years. While I had steeled myself that they would be leaving, Hubby fell in love with each one and mourned when they left. It was especially difficult with Alejandro, a drug-addicted newborn we took home from the hospital and loved for four years. We were in the process of adopting him when his 86-year-old grandmother filed an appeal with the court to take him, and she did. He was the last foster child we had because losing him was way too difficult to bear. All foster dads deserve extra praise this Fathers' Day for lovingly raising someone else's child.

Then there are adoptive dads, who gain the legal right to raise a child through the courts. Four of our children are adopted, and Hubby has been an awesome father, loving each one as his own. Our son, Steven, recently sent a text to Hubby, thanking him for raising him as though he were his own. Hubby texted back that he IS our own, and would never be treated differently than his older, biological brother. That is the true love expressed by an adoptive dad for whom genetics are unimportant, but family name is.

I am lucky to have a husband who is a wonderful father, and we will celebrate him on Sunday.

## HOUNDS AT THE HARBOR

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# Bach, Baroque and beer

By DON FOWLER

Shakespeare in the Park.  
Taylor Swift in Gillette Stadium.  
Art Exhibits in Downcity streets.  
And now, Music on the Hill brings chamber music to a brewery!  
Chamber music venues are usually restricted to concert halls, churches, weddings, exclusive upscale shops, and expensive fundraisers.  
Music on the Hill's Artistic Director, John Pellegrino decided to think outside the proverbial box this year by moving two of their concerts from the traditional church sites to Linesider Brewing in East Greenwich.  
The newly opened brewery proved to be a perfect location for the concerts, with one sellout and one near capacity.  
Who would have thought that drinking beer and munching on food truck hot dogs and Thai noodles while listening to Mozart would be so popular?  
We know that there were a number of first-timers to the music form because a number of them clapped between movements.  
And that was O.K.  
The musicians smiled, acknowledged the response and continued, playing before a backdrop of beer kegs, rather than stained glass windows.



# Rhody TREASURES

ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • CONSIGNMENTS • ESTATES • VINTAGE



# One of the Strangest MUSKETS Made During the Civil War...

The U.S. Model 1863 Double Rifle Musket made by J.P. Lindsay has to be one of the strangest muskets made during the Civil War. When a Lindsay is amongst other more common rifle muskets they don't really stand out until you see there is no lock plate and two hammers. Once you realize what you are holding in your hands, you think how cool it is, then realize it wasn't really a good design.

John Paul Lindsay received a patent for his double shot pistols in 1859 which were manufactured in very small numbers. Legend has it he was inspired to create the double-shot musket because his brother was killed while reloading a single shot musket in a gunfight. He patented this double shot musket in 1860. In 1861 as the Civil War broke out, many inventors were trying to come up with firearms that could fire multiple shots without the need to reload as much. As the war rolled on and casualties grew, the government ordered about 1,000 double rifles from Lindsay. Between 1863 and 1864, some of them were issued to four regiments for use in the field.

Soldiers would have to load two cartridges down the muzzle of the gun and place a percussion cap on each of the two nipples. The hammers would then be cocked and when the trigger



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

was pulled, the right hammer would fall and set off the top cartridge, or the second one loaded. The second pull of the trigger would drop the left hammer and set off the bottom cartridge. This seemingly would give a soldier two aimed shots before having to reload, however, through negligence, the heat of battle, or malfunction, both cartridges could go off at the same time with nasty results for the gun as well as the poor soldier shooting it. There were reports of this happening, and the gun was soon dropped from service. The fact that some did blow up, along with the relatively small numbers of them built, could be the reason why these odd guns are so rare.

The above said, they are very attractive,

and you can appreciate the engineering and thought behind the design. They have beautiful walnut stocks very similar in form to their single shot cousins. The stocks have government inspectors' marks on the left flat of the stock, although there are a few survivors that do not have these markings. The butt plates, barrel bands, trigger guard, nose cap, etc. are all bright steel just like the single shot rifle muskets, as is the ramrod and blued steel rear sight. The central receiver is quite interesting with an extended tang which runs down to the comb of the butt similar to a Remington Rolling Block. The top of the receiver in front of the two hammers is marked "LINDSAY/PATENT'D. OCT. 9. 1860".

While the Model 1863 Lindsay Double Rifle is really good looking and quite a piece of engineering, it goes to show that not every invention is a good idea to put into service.



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LEFT: Riley Nedder, Zach Gibb and Sabria Youn in "Red Velvet" at Burbage Theatre.

BELOW: JaQuan Malik Jones and Kelly Robertson deliver outstanding performances. (Submitted photos)



# Burbage premieres powerful "Red Velvet"

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

You only have this weekend to see one of the most powerful performances of the season in the Rhode Island premiere of Lolita Chakrabarti's equally powerful "Red Velvet".

Brown/Trinity MFA student Jaquan Malik Jones plays Ira Aldridge, a 19th century Black actor who is brought into London's Covent Garden Theatre to become the first Black actor to play the role of Othello.

The American born actor had been working in small theatres in Europe before being introduced to his fellow cast members by Pierre, his French friend and theatre director. Wait until you see and hear their reactions!

Ira is an overpowering, passionate actor. The weak, over-dramatic cast is no match for his talents.

Unfortunately, it is 19th century England, and the white,

middle-class society is not ready for a Black actor, even though Othello was Black.

My God, they have finally allowed women to play female roles. Isn't that enough progress for the theatre world?

To make matters worse, Aldridge is playing opposite a white woman (Alison Russo). And he touches her. Even gives her bruises on her arms!

Chakrabarti's dialogue is crisp and fresh, as she works in the prejudices, both subtle and blatant, that exist by the actors, critics. (They are especially not treated well) and audiences.

Amid the chaos stands Ira Aldridge, brilliantly and passionately played by Jaquan Malik Jones, an actor that I predict will have a long and successful career in the theatre.

Jones puts his heart and soul into his role, working fervently to win over his fellow actors, attempting to pass his

passion on to them, succeeding only with the conflicted Ellen.

While the play takes place many years ago, we realize that many of the prejudices voiced are still with us.

"He'll take your jobs," one actor shouts, fighting any many of diversity in the all-white theatre company.

"Red Velvet", like Shakespeare's "Othello", is a tragedy. It's powerful ending is not as tragic as Shakespeare's, but it is poignant, and beautifully played by Jones, who appeared exhausted following his masterful performance.

Credit to the excellent ensemble, directed by Jackie Davis. Playing bad Shakespeare can be as challenging as playing good Shakespeare.

"Red Velvet" runs through June 19, with two performances on Sunday, at Burbage Theatre, 59 Blackstone Ave., Pawtucket. For reservations, call 484-0355. Tickets are at a premium.

# Raina C. Smith's latest novel explores human contact with extra-terrestrials

Rhode Island Author, Raina C. Smith, who recently released her fifth novel, *The Earth Consented* will hold a book launch and event at the William Hall Public Library (1825 Broad Street in Cranston on Saturday, June 24th from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Raina will speak at 12 noon and take questions from attendees, followed by book signing.

*The Earth Consented* is a work of science fiction that includes supernatural and fantasy elements and involves scenes set in Smith's home state of Rhode Island.

"There's little else that compares to writing about that which you feel so passionate about. In this case, what diverse life throughout the universe may look like and what their interest in humans might be. Over the course of nearly two years, writing *The Earth Consented* took me on not only a literary but a personal journey, as I delved within to find new and creative ways to tell a compelling story about the nature of the universe, including what role mankind may play amongst the intergalactic community," said Smith.

"I highly recommend reading *The Earth Consented*, which electrified each of my senses from the first to the final page. The author seamlessly brings the reader through the main character's (Raquel Quinney) journey through time and space. And, while reading the novel, I felt like I was accompanying Raquel as she interacted with extra-terrestrial beings in places I'd never imagined existed before. As a result of reading this thought-provoking work, I have begun to explore my own beliefs about spirituality and different life forms," said reader, Julie Aponte.

Raquel Quinney, a young, naive woman from North Scituate, RI, could never conceive how her life would forever change after her car breaks down on a dimly lit back road. Searching for help, she discovers something unfamiliar to this world nestled deeply among the pine; the craft of an ancient alien race. That's when she is faced with a decision that will ultimately define her destiny - accept an invitation to sojourn through deep space with an extra-terrestrial species to learn about the true nature of the universe or return to her vehicle with no recollection of their encounter.

What Raquel fatefully decides exposes her to knowledge that mankind has long been ignorant of, that everything in existence possesses consciousness and aware-

ness. This includes planets such as the Earth, which initially consented to provide a home for human life, but is regretting.

If what Raquel learns from the interstellar travelers she's come to know is accurate, then immediately expanding humankind's consciousness is crucial. Raquel knows she must find a way to demonstrate to the world what the soul is to save the human race, but doing so could potentially cost her life.

*The Earth Consented* will provoke readers into starting an internal dialogue about what they believe may lie beyond Earth's atmospheric borders, in the vastness of space, as well as whether or not they believe intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe. It will also compel readers to confront their beliefs about whether or not time travel is possible, if reincarnation may be the pathway for a soul's ascension, where our dead go, and if near-death experiences offer glimpses into the next realm.

*The Earth Consented* is a wondrous tale of human self-discovery. It is available for purchase on Amazon (paperback and Kindle) and at Barnes & Noble (ebook).

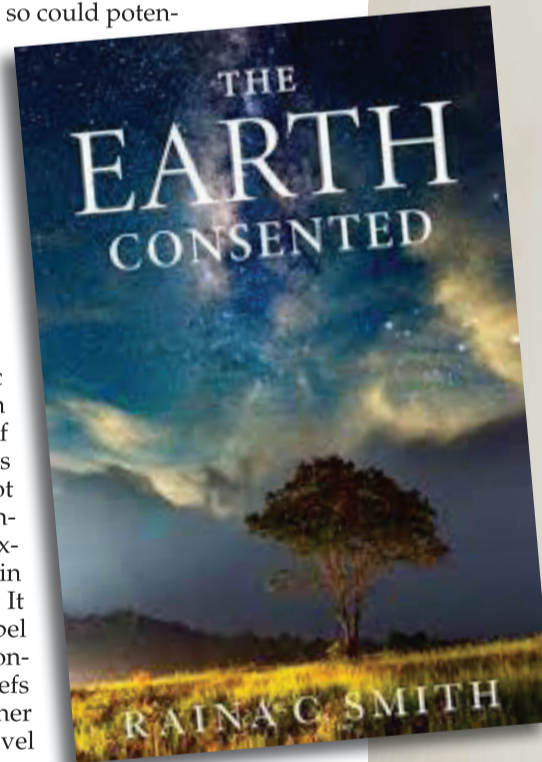
Smith is a native Rhode Islander, and author of five published novels, including *The Earth Consented* (science fiction/extra-terrestrial), *The Vampire* (supernatural), and *The 13th Apostle* trilogy (which includes *The 13th Apostle*, *Divine Providence*, and *Thy Kingdom Come* - religious thriller genre).

Smith draws inspiration from personal experiences, an innate curiosity of the universal energy force that connects all life, a love for her home state's storied history, and a source that she considers of another

realm, but cannot explain or identify to create the dramatic and intense storylines her readers have come to expect from her

For more about author Raina C. Smith or her books, please visit [rainasmith.com](http://rainasmith.com). Or, visit and follow her social media accounts at Facebook: @AuthorRainaCSmith

In addition to the book launch on June 24, Smith will make an appearance June 21 at 9 a.m. on WPRI-TV The Rhode Show (on WPRI-TV) and on Studio 10 (WJAR-TV) on Thursday, June 29th at 12:30 p.m.



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# Mermaids

(Continued from page 17)

The website goes on to say that dressing up as a character or concept, an interest known as cosplaying, allows people to tap into the "world of play" and their inner child. Those who role play as mermaids are also able to create striking photography and digital artistry through their costumes and makeup.

"It's an incredible release to swim with a mermaid tail, freeing and fun to glide under the water doing twists and turns, flipping below the surface and then back up again," Walsh commented. She added that mermaiding is a great way to improve well-being and fitness, as well as relieve stress. "We practice performance mermaiding just for fun and make videos to share with each other and on social media."

Most mermaid tails are made from a monofin, which sits under a fabric, spandex or scuba knit tail skin – all of which come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Dedicated merfolk can make the financial commitment of a full silicone tail, although this purchase is usually preceded by years of practice in a fabric skin with a monofin. Costs of full silicone tails usually begin at over \$1,500.

Swimming as a mermaid also takes resolute practice and technique, as stated by the group's website, and typically involves the dolphin kick to leverage the power of the fin and propel a mermaid forward. Propulsion levels also depend on the type of monofin a mermaid uses.

Walsh praises the diversity and acceptance that radiates from their pod. Beginning with a small group of friends interested in mermaiding, the group has transformed into a unique program that connects with all walks of life, creating a supportive and collaborative environment for people to discover an often lacked sense of play.

## Merfolk from out of state

"We work hard to be welcoming to all folks who join our group and encourage them in their pursuit of this wonderful hobby," Walsh stated. With the help of the Smithfield YMCA, Ocean State Merfolk has created a program unlike any other, welcoming guests from several New England states.

Approximately twenty to thirty merfolk regularly join the Ocean State Merfolk for their meetups. However, Ocean State Merfolk hosts a collection of dedicated and enthusiastic team members who help build their mermaid community and turn their fantasies into a reality. Among Walsh and other mermaid models, the team relies on their "mertender," Walsh's husband Kevin, to deal with equipment and camera technicalities.

Graefe, Alyssa, Toni and Abby are the four other members of their "Dream Team" and are active merfolk themselves, participating in meetups and engaging with the community and various charities. Grafe, not only fueling the initial mermaiding idea, works as a creative assistant and underwater model for the group. He recently completed a 24-hour swimming event to raise money for a Pennsylvania community center. Alyssa is a professional mermaid performer and can be booked to perform at various events. She also makes regular appearances at "Children's Wishes" charity events. Toni, an excellent face painter, is the team's Make-Up, Costuming and Networking Coordinator and the forefront of "mer-Made," a Rhode Island company that produces mermaid crowns and other mermaid themed items. Abby, artist and model, is a sculptor who creates fantasy creatures from clay and craft materials, which are featured in local galleries.

With the recent releases of the live action *The Little Mermaid* and the Netflix documentary *Merpeople*, increased awareness and appreciation around mermaiding has surfaced. And, it has certainly brought more participants to the Ocean State Merfolk.

"We are thrilled," said Walsh about the support. According to her, five or six new merfolk will be attending their meetup on June 11. She strives to give continued access to a safe, mermaiding space for all.

Mermaid and artist Jessie Jewels recently organized an Apple Cinemas mermaid-takeover for a showing of the live action *The Little Mermaid*. Over twenty-five Ocean



Photo courtesy of Erin Walsh (Photo by Phlash Photography & Artistry www.phlashphotoart.com)

State Merfolk attended the Warwick theater, along with merfolk from the Pod of New England, Pod of Northeast and the Mermaids Merfolk of CT, RI, MA and NY. Jewels is a mermaid of many pods, Ocean State Merfolk included.

At the event, mermaids watched the movie, sang its music, and took plenty of pictures. Walsh noted that kids at the showing got a "huge kick" out of their appearance.

Holding the title of Miss Rhode Island Mermaid for 2021, 2022 and 2023, as well as Queen of the Sea RI 2023, Jewels is a strong advocate for clean, sustainable and accessible waterways for everyone. Her platform, "Save the Bay, Save the Mermaids," voices oceanic issues and pushes towards meeting them with action. Jewels often volunteers at Save the Bay for events like beach cleanups, and advocates for state legislature regarding Rhode Island waterways.

"It's an excellent way to be heard about issues going on in the environment," she said of her pageant competing and advocacy. "No one else is doing it around here. It's needed."

Jewels additionally began creating art last year as a way to aid her platform. Profit portions of all mermaid-related art goes towards Save the Bay.

All it takes to become an Ocean State Merfolk is a short questionnaire before entering the pod's Facebook group, as well as agreeing to the group's rules. In the virtual space, individuals can introduce themselves and get to know each other. Announcements regarding meetups and special events are also released there.

"It's our goal to give everyone the opportunity to try the experience of swimming in a mermaid tail and seeing just how fun it can be," Walsh said. "Nothing should hold you back from giving it a try if you are interested."

Nothing, not even the tail itself. Ocean State Merfolk lets participants borrow Mertailor Mermaid Tails of all shapes and sizes to try on, swim in and be photographed in. New members are always given instructions on safe swimming in a mermaid tail and are paired with veteran merfolk for a one-on-one instruction session.

"Ocean State Merfolk is about having fun for fun's sake," said Walsh. "I've traveled to Roatan, Honduras and La Paz, Mexico on mermaiding adventures doing deep sea photoshoots with fellow merfolk. Now I try to share that mermazing experience with as many people as possible."



**POOL SIDE MERFOLK:** Erin Walsh provided this collection of photos from meetings of Ocean State Merfolk.



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By JENNIFER COATES



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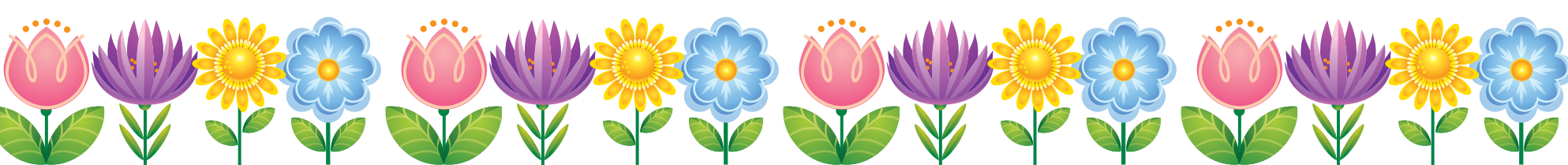
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# RhodyMoney

## 5 budget-friendly travel tips

FAMILY FEATURES

For many people, traveling is about exploring new cultures, landscapes, cuisines and ideas. However, the cost of the trip is still one of the most important considerations when booking a vacation.

In fact, according to a survey conducted by Slickdeals, a one-of-a-kind online community of shoppers working together to shop smarter and save more, 81% of respondents listed total cost as their top consideration followed by a desire for kid-friendly experiences at the destination and discounts or deals on transportation and lodging.

Even amid reported concerns about inflation (56%), increasing flight costs (51%) and gas prices (49%), 84% of families plan to spend the same amount or more on travel this year as last. Among the respondents, 42% plan to spend between \$1,501-3,000 and 15% plan to spend \$5,000 or more on travel.

While traveling is undoubtedly an investment, it doesn't have to break the bank. Consider these tips from Pete King, deal expert for Slickdeals, to save money as you begin planning your next excursion.

Set your budget with hidden costs in mind. When setting budgets, many people stop at the basics like transportation, accommodations and entertainment. Make sure to factor in additional costs such as pet care, food, checked luggage fees and airport and hotel parking so there are no surprises at the end of the trip.



Photos courtesy of Getty Images



Look for deals. Being open to a variety of destinations and travel dates can help you score the best deals. If you're tired of switching between booking sites or searching online for bargains, consider browsing the latest travel deals on the Slickdeals Travel Page where community members share some of the best travel deals on the internet, which can save you time and effort when looking for savings on your trip. You can even set deal alerts to be notified when deals pop up for your desired destination.

Bring an empty water bottle. While Transportation Security Administration regulations don't allow you to bring most fluids through security checkpoints in airports, packing an empty water bottle in your carry-on or personal item can save you from high costs inside the terminal. Once you're through security, simply fill your bottle at the nearest water fountain. An added bonus: You can take the full bottle on the airplane to stay hydrated during the flight without having to rely on the small complimentary beverage on board.

Pack less than you think you'll need. Many people overpack, and

that can be a costly mistake. A single checked bag can cost as much as \$50, and some airlines charge extra for a ticket that includes a carry-on. For a weekend trip, keep it simple with a carry-on or backpack, and for longer adventures, keep in mind nobody at your destination will likely know you wore the same jeans two days in a row.

Find the right rewards credit card. If you have a rewards credit card, you could get cash back when you make certain purchases. You could get a percentage back on groceries, travel, dining and more. For example, with a travel rewards credit card, you earn points or miles that can be redeemed for future travel plans. General travel cards earn points or miles on virtually every purchase, regardless of airline or hotel chain, while co-branded cards that align with a specific airline or hotel reward users with more points for loyalty spending and provide additional benefits like free checked bags or a free night's stay on your card anniversary.

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# SPORTS

## Clippers knock Hawks out of playoffs

### Cumberland shocks Hendricken in pod final

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Cumberland baseball team beat the odds and would get wins in back to back games to oust the top-seeded Bishop Hendricken Hawks from the Division I postseason.

Hendricken got a win over the Clippers last week to send them to the losers' bracket, but Cumberland would storm back to turn the tables in unlikely fashion to punch its ticket to the state championship against La Salle this weekend.

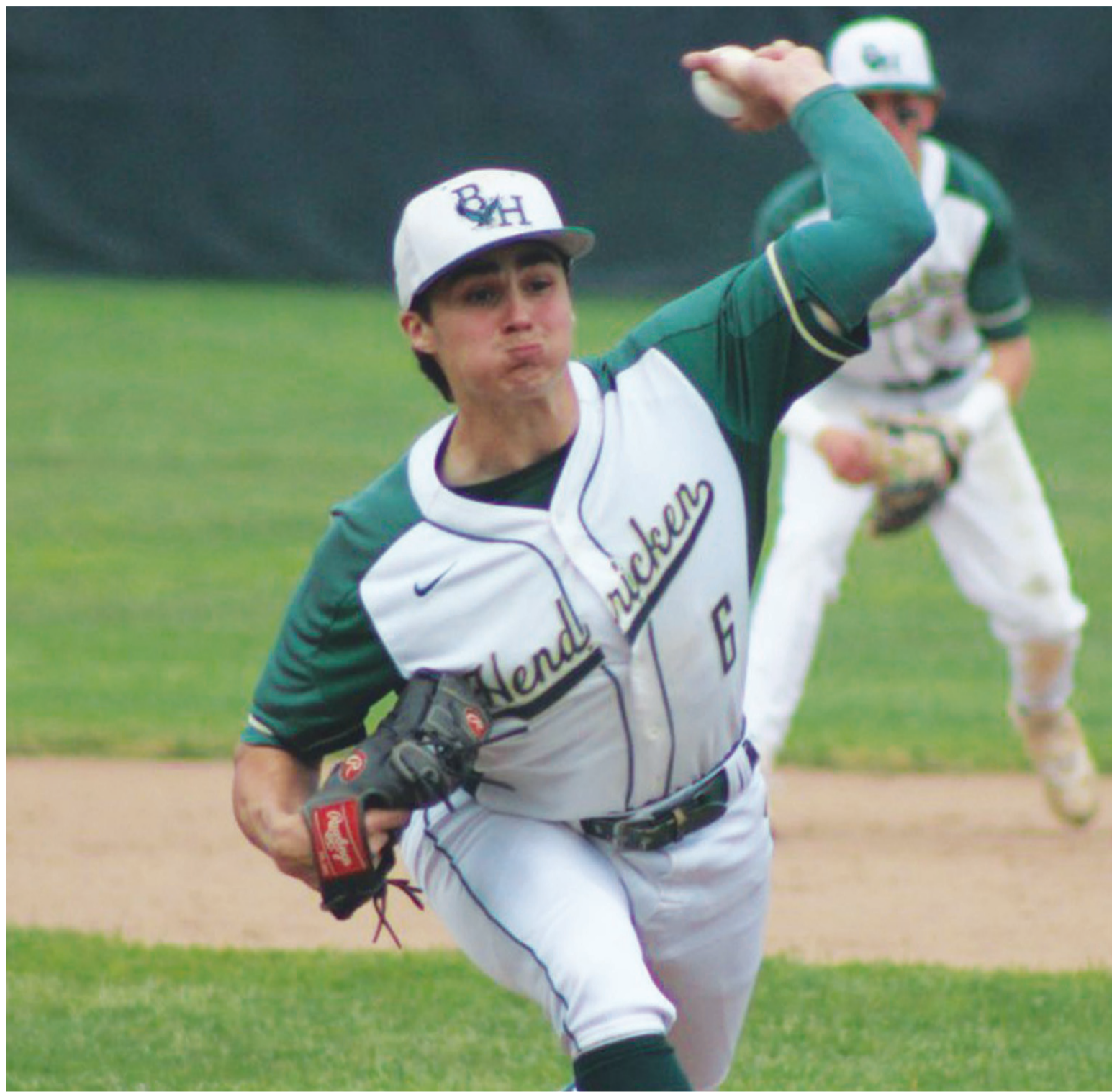
Cumberland would get a 4-2 win last Wednesday to force the winner-take-all matchup on Friday.

The Clippers would take Hendricken pitcher Griffin Crain to deep water early, scoring 3-0 runs in the first inning.

Crain settled down from there to hold the Clippers to just one more run in the final six innings. Frank Tillinghast would knock in a run on a sac fly and the Hawks made it 4-2, but the Clippers' defense would bail themselves out by turning two double-plays to go along with starting pitcher Michael Bradshaw's complete-game gem.

"We just didn't come through with the clutch hit. We had our opportunities, but we hit into two double-plays, credit to (Bradshaw), he pitched really well. We wanted to try to get deep into counts but at times we lost that patience, we were going after the first pitch. We need baserunners, we need to work the count, there were times where we chased the first pitch and let him off the hook," said Hendricken coach Ed Holloway.

Holloway was proud of Crain's response after the shaky first inning, but



ON THE HILL: Bishop Hendricken starting pitcher Griffin Crain works last week against Cumberland. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

HAWKS - PAGE 28

## Pats one win from state final

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Pilgrim softball team is grinding through the Division I playoffs and reached this week's losers' bracket final against Bay View.

The Pats wrapped up a 1-0 win over the Bengals last week to send them to the losers' bracket and remain in the winners' group. Pilgrim ace Alyssa Twomey was stellar in the circle, pitching a complete-game shutout and allowing no runs on just four hits. She finished the gem with 13 strikeouts.

Gillian Brown knocked in the game's lone run in the fifth inning which would be enough for the Pats to hold on to the win.

Things would get rocky for Pilgrim the following game when La Salle took a 4-2 decision on Monday night to send the Pats to the losers' bracket.

The Rams would score a pair of runs in the third inning to take the lead, but Pilgrim responded in the sixth with two runs of its own to tie things up heading to the seventh inning.

Madison Wrench would notch a two-run single to send home Dasani Stewart and Jenna Altieri.

The momentum was short-lived as La Salle



### Twomey named Gatorade POY

Pilgrim standout softball pitcher Alyssa Twomey was recently named the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Rhode Island for the second straight season. The senior Providence College commit has been the state's best pitcher this season and recently led the team to a complete-game shutout win over Bay View in the Division I playoffs. For her dominant performance and recent award, she is also the *Warwick Beacon's* Player of the Week.

PATS - PAGE 28



CLUTCH HIT: Pilgrim's Madison Wrench after knocking in a pair of runs to tie the game against La Salle on Monday night. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

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# How does the moon impact fishing?

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"I want to offer some insights regarding how and why I break the season down into moon periods," said Peter Jenkins, chair of the board of the American Saltwater Guides Association and owner of The Saltwater Edge tackle shop in Middletown, RI.

Jenkins looks at each period as 15 days which is, roughly, half of a month — it is the seven days before, the day of the new or full moon and the seven days following.

The moon has influence on the ocean and the fish. They drive the tide timings and the strength of the current, they also drive the measurable height of the tide and how dark the night will be if there is no cloud cover.

"My own observations over 20-plus years fishing for striped bass from the surf, tell me that there is no denying the fact that these periods of stronger currents are usually the times when bodies of fish make a move, into or out of a bay, from one region to another or even just a few miles down the beach," said Jenkins.

With stronger currents, bait and fish movement are greater so the odds of catching fish are greater. For information on fishing strategies, tactics, tackle and gear visit [www.saltwateredge.com](http://www.saltwateredge.com).

## Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Capt. Ray Stachelek of Cast-a-Fly Charters said, "Last Thursday anglers Dave Pollack and Mario Renzi of South Carolina hooked up with multiple striped bass to 25 pounds on a fly rod and bluefish to 12 pounds with fish chasing sand eels from Pr. Judith to Hazard Avenue, Narragansett." Dave Henault of Ocean State Bait & Tackle, Providence, said, "The striped bass and bluefish bite slowed a bit this week with most of the action moving to the lower East Passage with Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport doing well. The bite out in front of Newport is good too."

"The striped bass and bluefish bite diminished in Providence, yet the bite at Colt State Park and Bristol Harbor remained strong with pogies and trolling with tube & work and umbrella rings working well for customers," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside.

Joe Castaldi of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown said, "Although things slowed in the Bay this week the bite out in front off Newport and Pt. Judith remain very strong for large bass."

East End Eddie Doherty Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, "The action had come to a screeching halt on the Canal last week until Tuesday morning when the breaking tide brought a good size school of striped bass in from Buzzards Bay... High hook goes to 'Paulie the Painter' Gravina of Sandwich who was throwing his Hog Is-

land Canal Pencil that fooled an energetic striped weighing 31 pounds!"

Angler Curt Shumway reports a strong weekend striped bass bite on the Southwest Ledge of Block Island where he hooked up with four nice striped bass to 45 pounds. Angler Greg Spier said on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog, "Trolled a bit to start off two hours after low tide on the lower Sakonnet River. Plenty of boats fishing, think with live pogies. Did not see many fish being boarded. We were using tube and worm, nothing. Fished the incoming tide till high tide on a reef off Newport and it yielded a 35-inch striper."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Striped bass fishing is becoming more consistent with the bass aggressively feeding on sand eels and squid on the south shore and bunker up in the bay. There are also quite a few bass being caught back in the salt ponds on live bait and artificials. Big bluefish are still around mixed in with the bass."

Scup, black sea bass and summer flounder. "We had a customer catch a 6.25-pound black sea bass at the Newport Bridge this weekend along with three nice keeper flukes. Scup is moving up the bay to Colt State part with anglers a Sabin Pont catching a few too," said Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle.

Castaldi of Quaker Lane said, "The scup and black sea bass bite is very good in the Bay off southern southern coastal shores."

Henault of Ocean State Tackle, said, "The scup, black sea bass and summer flounder bite is goo on the East Passage channel pads, in front of Warwick Light and at Prudence Island with areas out in front off Newport producing for anglers too."

"The best fluke bite seems to be out in deeper water so you might want to start looking in depths of 40 feet or more. Block Island has been more consistent than the south shore. Scup reports are improving with mostly large scup and there are a few black sea bass being caught. Bigger ones in deeper water and shorts in shallow water," said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Freshwater fishing remains strong for both largemouth bass and trout in ponds that have been stocked including Willet Avenue Pond, Riverside which was restocked last week." said John Littlefield of Archie's. Castaldi of Quaker Lane said, "The largemouth bass bite remains very strong for customers with many having positive results with shiners. And the trout bite in stocked ponds remains strong."

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



ON THE FLY: Fly fishing expert Dave Pollack and Mario Renzi hooked up with multiple striped bass to 25 pounds on Cast-a-Fly Charters last Thursday. (Submitted photos)



NOT SINGING THE BLUES: Brandon Davis said, "These bluefish are large compared to what we have in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland area. And they are a lot of fun to catch."

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# Hawks make right decision on Clemmey

The Bishop Hendricken baseball team fell in consecutive games to Cumberland this past week to be eliminated from the Division I playoffs. It was an unexpected defeat as the Hawks appeared to be on a collision course with North Kingstown, who was also ousted from the tournament.

The big question heading into the winner-take-all matchup was whether or not Hendricken would turn to ace pitcher Alex Clemmey. Clemmey is a Vanderbilt commit and a lock to be selected in the upcoming MLB Draft. He was nearly untouchable this spring and essentially a cheat code for the Hawks. If Clemmey was pitching, it would take an extraordinary effort on the other side to get a win.

Clemmey was rested and in the clear to take the hill if his number was called this weekend. I'm not sure if there was a gentleman's agreement prior to the game between the coaching staffs to not turn to their No. 1 hurlers, but neither team threw their top guns in the final matchup to start the game.

Hendricken trailed 3-1 prior to the rain pushing the remainder of the game to Saturday. It was unclear if the Hawks would throw

Clemmey out there to start on Saturday, or at any point as the game wore on.

Hendricken elected to keep Clemmey stashed on the bench and allowed the other pitchers to do their thing.

Some may wonder if the Hawks made the correct decision and it is a fair second guess.

At the end of the day, all things considered, the Hawks did in fact make the best choice and they deserve a ton of respect for it.

There is much more at stake here than a high school championship. Clemmey has an opportunity to be a professional player and to go on to make millions and fulfill a dream that very few people even come close to realizing. To risk his health for a high school game would be dicey ... a potential disaster.

Now, that is not to say that these games were meaningless. Most of these players won't be suiting up after they graduate. For them, this is the biggest tournament of their lives.

For Clemmey, though, it is different. He is different.

Clemmey is a rare athlete that requires different treatment from the other players on the team. When I say different, it has nothing to do with the fundamental

## My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

requirements of being a quality player and teammate. He should be held accountable for his performance, effort, attitude. He should be required to be present every day and to be putting in the same work as everyone else.

When I say different, the above scenario is exactly what I mean. His future is just too bright to jeopardize. Especially with a potential championship series on the horizon, Hendricken had to pick and choose its usage and it chose correctly by taking the conservative approach.

Had Clemmey pitched, the Clippers likely would have been shut down. I'm sure he would have relished the chance to put his cape on and save the day, but sometimes these competitors

need to be saved from themselves.

Not to mention the fact that even without Clemmey, the Hawks had the most talented crop of pitchers in the state. They were certainly not hurting for quality pitching during his absence.

Although the question has been asked, I am pleasantly surprised that it has not become a divisive topic. It gives me faith that we here in Rhode Island do recognize the big picture. As much as we care about championships, as much as we root for these kids to have the opportunity to play on the state's biggest stage, their lives will continue on after high school and championships will be fond memories, not make-or-break occurrences that will impact their futures.

The Johnston boys volleyball team just finished its second straight perfect season as it rolled to the Division III title over Pawtucket.

What a massive year for Johnston sports as the basketball team won in the winter and now the volleyball team in the spring. It has been a ton of fun to cover and I am happy for the town as it has one of the richest sports histories

in the state.

Although the teams have remained competitive in my five years here, these were the first championships they've won in that span which has given me a sense of nostalgia, and I'm not even a native Rhode Islander.

When walking through the athletic wing of the high school on Cherry Hill, it is fascinating to see the legends that have come through the town. It almost feels like this year has been a revival, Johnston sports are truly back.

When it comes to the volleyball team specifically, what a powerhouse program it has become. The Panthers have not lost in two seasons and only dropped two sets all spring long. That is dominance at its finest.

I can't imagine that they will be held in Division III next season. I'm a big believer in letting teams enjoy their time in the sun once they've broken through as champions, but it is clear that the Panthers are a notch above the rest. Sure, they will have a new look with a handful of seniors graduating, but you don't go unbeaten in dominant fashion with just a strong senior core. This team has the depth and coaching to compete at the next level. I'll be excited to see what they do.

## Hawks

(Continued from page 26)

was disappointed to see the Hawks' continued struggles at the plate.

"He did a great job and pitched his heart out. If we got a clutch hit or two then it might have been a different game. It has been a problem for us all year. Our pitching has been tremendous and we get these opportunities to have a big inning but settle for one run. That's been the tale of the season. We have left a ton of guys on base and we did that again today," said Holloway. "We just need to hit the ball and score runs. I'm sure they're saying the same thing, neither of us will be pitching our number one's. We just need to get baserunners, get hits and see how it goes."

Cumberland would win a wild 8-6 game in the pod final, which took place across two days thanks to a rain postponement on Friday afternoon.

Cumberland's offense would roll and take a 3-1 lead on Friday before the rain stopped play in the fourth inning. The Clippers came out hot once again on Saturday as play resumed, mounting an 8-1 advantage heading to the seventh inning.

Hendricken's offense finally took off and would put up five runs to make it 8-6. With the tying runs on second and third base, Cumberland would make a pitching change which would pay off as Hendricken grounded out to end the game.

Crain and Tillinghast knocked in runs in the seventh while Ryan Thompson and Cole Hambly also found their way home. Hendricken also earned a run on a bases-loaded walk.

Hendricken finished the season with a 23-4 overall record.



END OF THE ROAD: Hendricken's Ryan Thompson (left) and Jack LaRose take on Cumberland last week.



WIN OR GO HOME: Pilgrim's Gillian Brown (left) and Marin Prest make plays in the field against La Salle on Monday.

## Pats

(Continued from page 26)

turned around to add two more runs in the top of the seventh, and Pilgrim was unable to close the gap in the bottom half of the inning.

"They have the best offense in the state and it's been that way all season. We knew it wasn't going to be easy to get a W but now we have another crack at it," said Pilgrim coach Carlos Rodas after the loss.

Twomey finished the day with seven strikeouts. La Salle freshman pitcher Hailey Vigneau has kept the Pats' offense off-balance this season, no-hitting Pilgrim in their previous meeting and holding them to just four hits and two runs on Monday.

"She spins the ball and she's tough. If you're not technically sound she's really tough on you," Rodas said.

The Rams and Pats split the regular season series with Pilgrim winning on opening day. The offenses have yet to truly break out in three games, but should they meet again, Rodas believes that could change.

"Each team saw the pitches better than they did the last two times. If we see these guys again for a fourth and possibly fifth game, the way we have with Coventry the past two years, the offenses will have a huge advantage," said Rodas.

Pilgrim was slated to take on Bay View on Wednesday with the winner advancing to the state final against the Rams and the loser going home. Jumping out to an early start will be key, according to Rodas.

"First team to 1. That's how it's been with us, the first team to 1 wins. It's the two best pitchers in the state, so get your popcorn ready," said Rodas.

Should Pilgrim top Bay View, it would have to beat La Salle twice as the Rams have yet to lose a game in the double-elimination playoff.

# Start of things to come

Damp and unseasonably cold weather for June didn't deter the Warwick Fire Fighters Soccer Club from breaking ground for a 1,760 square foot field house at Winslow Park, 300 Airport Road. The building, to provide rest-rooms, meeting room, storage and snack bar will be an integral part of the recreation programs offered by WFF-SC. The club has set a \$500,000 fundraising target that it aims to meet through events, in-kind contributions and support from the Local 330 Carpenters Union, local business, sponsorships, and government issued grants. Other businesses pitching in to make the field house a reality are J.K. Lyons Construction, FW Webb, Mattera and Sons Electric LLC and Priority Plumbing. The club has 650 players in the recreational program and 380 in the competitive/travel program. There are also 80 in the referee program. WFFSC has been recognized as the largest club in RI for several years. Among those speaking at the groundbreaking were Congressman Seth Magaziner, Mayor Frank Picozzi, Councilmen Tim Howe and Council President Steve McAllister and WFFSC president Doyle Byrd as well as state representatives and member of the City Council. (Warwick Beacon photos)



COMING SOON: A rendering of the future field house to be located at Winslow Park (left). WFFSC president Doyle Byrd addresses the crowd on hand.

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  - French river
  - Cavalry-sword
  - Nocturnal S. American rodent
  - Liquefied natural gas
  - Afflicted
  - Electronic counter-countermeasures
  - Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr.)
  - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - Large body of water
  - \_\_\_ kosh, near Lake Winnebago
  - Impudence
  - Resident
  - Federal savings bank
  - Paddle
  - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
  - One point south of due east
  - Winter melon
  - Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
  - Anger
  - Central European river
  - First responders
  - Spanish noble
  - Persons with absence of skin pigment
  - Defunct airline
  - Small island (British)
  - The extent of something from beginning to end
  - Capital of Bangladesh
  - Dutch cheese
  - Imitates
  - A contest of speed
  - Swiss river
  - Prejudice
  - Actor Idris
  - UNLV's are Runnin'
  - Criticize
- CLUES DOWN**
- Payroll firm
  - Unit of transmission
  - Rockers Better Than \_\_\_
  - Bambi is one
  - Highest parts of something
  - Correct behavior
  - Batty
  - Cyprinid fishes
  - Expression of sorrow or pity
  - Site of the famous Leaning Tower
  - American rocker Snider
  - W. African language
  - Symbol to mark for removal
  - \_\_\_ Squad

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# Coach Coker still following high school tennis at 93

Did you see the state title match? I asked Bob Coker about the May 13th R.I. Interscholastic League boys tennis state title singles match between Hendricken's Jack Ciunci and Lincoln High's Camden DiChiara.

"Yes, I did. It was a great match," Coker offered about the thrilling three-set title contest won by Ciunci.

I had hoped to see the match myself but other commitments kept me from Pawtucket's Slater Park that afternoon, but I wanted a knowledge appraisal of the match. That's why I asked Coker.

It has been decade or so since Coker, the Dean Emeritus of Rhode Island tennis coaches, has been the actual coach of a high school tennis team. But if there is an interesting tennis match happening in Rhode Island these days there's a good chance 93-year-old Bob Coker will be there.

Coker, who was a physics teacher at various Warwick high schools for over four decades in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s, started his tennis coaching career at the then new Pilgrim High in 1963.

He hadn't playing tennis growing in Warwick. He was a basketball player and actually played on one of the early Rhode Island College (then R.I. School of Education) men's basketball teams in the 1940s.

But he loved sports and as a young teacher he understood the important role athletics could play in the blending of the academic, physical and social life of a high school student.

He was a member of the first faculty at Pilgrim High when the school opened in 1962 so when the new school needed a tennis coach he took the job. He already was a teacher, husband, father - now he also was "Coach Coker." It was a title he held for six decades through tenures as a high school boys coach; a high school girls coach; a college men's coach and a college women's coach.

In the beginning he learned how to be a tennis coach by reading a lot and asking a lot of questions in addition to personally playing in local leagues. Before long people were asking him tennis questions. His decade tenure as the Pilgrim boys coach included the three-year span from 1969-71 when the Patriots Charlie Einsiedler became the first player to ever win three individual Interscholastic League state singles titles.

He patterned his coaching style on his dedication as a teacher. He was the type of teacher who when in the mid-1960s a group of motivated physics students wanted to create an advanced physics course

## Then & now



by JOHN GILLOOLY

at Pilgrim - beyond any level the school offered at the time - Coker told the students if they were willing to come in every morning an hour before the regular 7:30 a.m. start time he would teach the course for free. One of the students in that group was James Woods, who went on to Hollywood acting fame.

When Toll Gate High opened in 1972 Coker became a member of the first Toll Gate faculty and also the Titans tennis coach, both the boys and girls.

His Toll Gate girls' team was one of the nine teams in the first Interscholastic League girls' tennis league in 1973. He coached some of the top players in the new league. The Titans Cathy Roberts and Jean Ahlberg were the RIL's first doubles state championship team in 1973. Then in 1974 Toll Gate players Norma and Kathy Thompson and Melissa Ahlberg were among the players named to first Providence Journal All-State girls tennis team.

It wasn't just students who he helped enjoy the benefits of playing tennis. Shortly after Toll



**HOLDING COURT:** Bob Coker, second from right is joined by his son, Dave at right and Ed Blamires and Joseph Crowley on a recent Saturday morning for coffee following league play at Tennis Rhode Island. Bob Coker started the league soon after Toll Gate High opened in the early 1970s and continued playing up until a couple of years ago. (Warwick Beacon photo)

Gate High opened, he organized a Toll Gate teachers tennis doubles League that played early Saturday morning at the nearby Tennis RI indoor club on Rt. 117. That league, now supplemented with some non-teachers, still exists today. It was only last year, at the age of 92 that Coker stopped playing in the League, but he still can be found most Saturday mornings after the matches having coffee with league players.

He retired from teaching and

coaching in the Warwick school system in the early 1980s, but in the early 1990s, he became the head coach of both Bryant University men's and women varsity tennis teams.

He retired from college coaching around the turn of the century, but he couldn't stay away from coaching. Former Warwick athletic director Emo DiNitto lured him back into high school coaching where he coached both Toll Gate girls' and boys' teams. His Toll Gate boys' teams won back-to-back Division II state titles in 2007 and 08.

He is a member of both the boys and girls high school tennis Halls of Fame. In fact, he actually has been inducted into the Boys Hall of Fame twice.

"I was one inducted in the (19)70s, but apparent the association lost some of the early records. So when I came back to high school coaching in the 21st century they inducted me again. I told them I already had been inducted but some of the coaches said they didn't want to take any chances so they inducted me again," Coker said with a laugh.

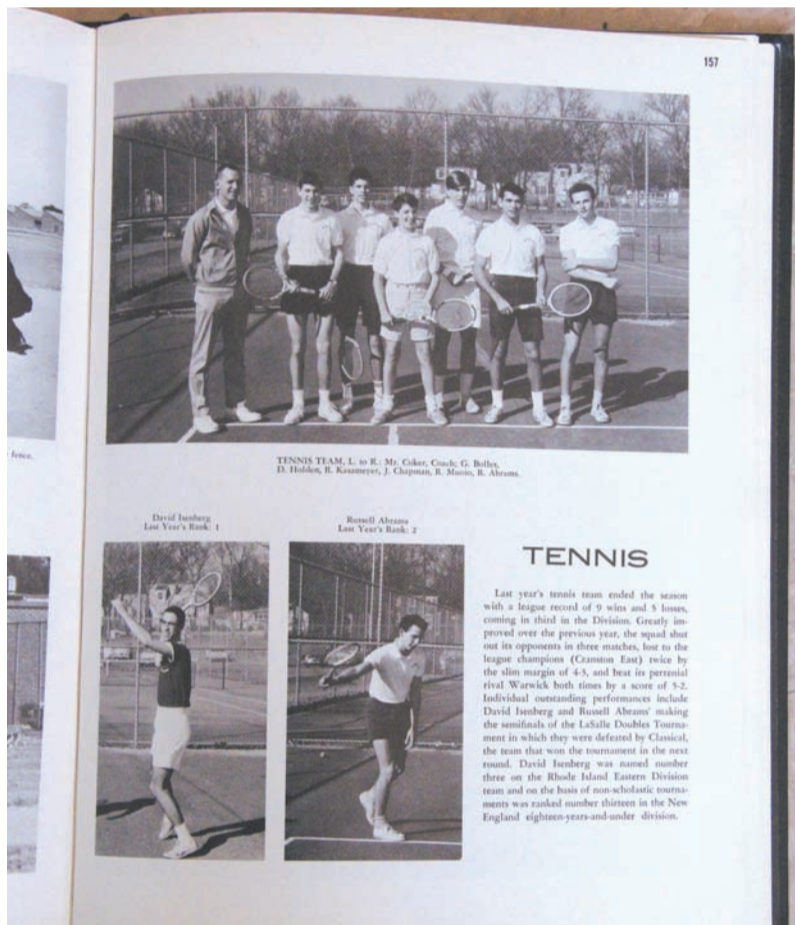
He finally completely retired from coaching about 10 years ago. He never kept track, but it's safe bet he coached a few thousand high school and college tennis players through the decades.

Even though he isn't actively coaching he still enjoys loves watching young players on a tennis court. His greatest joy these days is watching one of his granddaughters, who plays for the East Greenwich High girls team and one of his grandsons who is one of the top Under-12 players in the state.

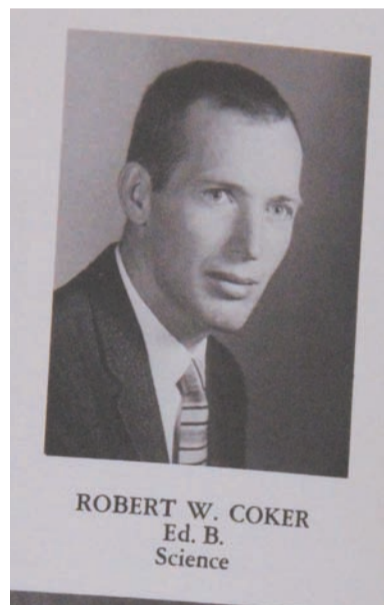
But it goes beyond just watching family members. He still enjoys being court-side watching some of the current top high school players throughout the state.

After all, he coached or coached against - some of their mothers and fathers, even their grandmothers and grandfathers. He's a well-known figure on the state high school tennis scene. These days it isn't unusual for a young player who is involved in a big match to come-up to Coker and thank him for coming to watch his or her match.

"He is a great coach and gentleman. I am proud to call him a friend," Richard Lawrence, the Hall of Fame former Mount St. Charles girls and boys tennis coach, said about Coker.



**PATRIOT PLAYERS:** Coach Coker as pictured in the 1965 Pilgrim High yearbook with the tennis team.



**TEACHER COKER:** Bob Coker taught physics at Pilgrim. This picture is from the school's 1965 yearbook.

# Anchormen honored by American Baseball Coaches Association

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Six Anchormen were named American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings NCAA Div. III All-Region for their respective performances during the 2023 baseball campaign.

Junior third baseman Cal Parrillo (Greenville, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III First Team All-Region 2. He was previously named First Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Parrillo played in 43 games, starting all of them. He batted .385 (69-for-179) with 42 runs scored, 69 hits, 14

doubles, one triple, four home runs, 55 RBI and seven stolen bases. Parrillo owned a .542 slugging percentage, .448 on-base percentage and a .933 fielding percentage. He established program records for both single season and career RBI.

Senior pitcher Shaun Gamelin (West Kingston, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III First Team All-Region 2. He was previously named Second Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Gamelin appeared in 13 games, starting all of them. He was 9-1 with a 2.93 ERA and 143 strikeouts in

89.0 innings of work. Gamelin established program records for single season and career strikeouts.

Junior center fielder Cameron Santerre (Bristol, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III Second Team All-Region 2. He was previously named Second Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Santerre played in 43 games, starting all of them. He batted .358 (57-for-159) with 72 runs scored, 57 hits, 17 doubles, two triples, three home runs, 21 RBI and 54 stolen bases. Santerre owned a .547 slugging percentage, .519 on-base percentage and a

.990 fielding percentage. He established program records for single season runs scored and stolen bases. Santerre also broke the career records for runs scored, stolen bases, walks and hit by pitch.

Junior pitcher Terry Murray (Norfolk, Mass.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III Third Team All-Region 2. He was previously named First Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com, the Little East Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-Little East. Murray appeared in 12 games, starting eight of them. He was 8-2 with a 2.57 ERA and 77 strikeouts in 70.0 innings of work.

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