



Dimeo picked to build high schools

By **JOHN HOWELL**
and **ADAM ZANGARI**

Following the opening of bids for the construction of new Toll Gate and Pilgrim High Schools last Wednesday and lengthy interviews with the four contractors submitting bids most of Friday, the Warwick School Building Committee unanimously recommended Dimeo Construction as construction manager.

The \$22 million “at risk” award sets a \$350 million ceiling on the project including design, engineering financing and construction of the two schools.

At the School Committee meeting Tuesday, the committee added its endorsement, thereby moving the project closer to a groundbreaking and a targeted opening of the schools in 2028. Both schools would be built simultaneously in athletic fields and open areas of their current campuses. Once completed, the former schools would be demolished and athletic facilities would be built on those sites.

“They really dove deeply into the projects...they jumped head first into everything in the project,” Testa said of Dimeo Sunday. During questions and presentations the contractors addressed such issues as to how they would manage traffic during the opening and closing of schools and the blasting of ledge at Toll Gate. The Pilgrim site, on the other hand will require some fill that may come from material removed from Toll Gate.

More than once during interviews on Friday, Testa reminded firms bidding of the

\$350 million budget and “not a penny more.” All remained confident that is attainable.

The construction manager at risk (CMAR) method of construction, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a method in which a construction manager is hired early in the building process, and they advise the building’s design firm during design and planning. If done correctly, the method can lead to a more time- and cost-efficient project overall.

Also submitting bids were Ahlborg Construction of Warwick- who submitted a joint venture bid with Downs Construction, who recently opened a Warwick office- Gilbane Construction of Providence and Shawmut Management Construction of Providence.

The Building Committee scored each individual builder based on a scoring system taking into account each bidder’s bid amount, qualifications, work plan and methodology, as well as interviews conducted with each firm. Dimeo finished with the most points overall at 125, while Gilbane finished a close second with 123.

According to Chris Spiegel, a senior project manager at LeftField Project Management, who the School Committee retained as OPM (owner’s project manager), Dimeo got the slight edge over Gilbane due to their interview with the Building Committee.

“In the end, Dimeo did provide higher scores across every single interview metric,

■ **SCHOOLS - PAGE 9**



Breaking records

Angelica and Mike Penta of Gel’s Kitchen on West Shore Road have been raising thousands of dollars for worthy causes for years. Last Friday Gel outdid herself in more than one way. She took to the floor at the Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring event at Rhodes with Anthony Scalzi winning the Most Entertaining Award. But there’s more, she raised \$24,701 for the People’s Choice Award breaking the record raised by a single dancer since the evening benefiting MENTOR RI debuted in 2005. Story and photos of the event on pages 6 and 7

McAllister: First the budget, then a decision on running for mayor

By **JOHN HOWELL**

City Council President Steve McAllister knows the election clock is ticking if he intends to run for mayor, but for the moment he’s putting it aside as he concentrates on the city budget.

“I think about it every day,” he said Monday when asked if he would run for the office. He added a major responsibility of the City Council is to approve the city budget and that’s his priority.

McAllister’s name as a possible candidate for mayor popped up when Gov. Dan McKee and House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi co-hosted a fundraiser for him at the Crowne Plaza. Going into the event, speculation swirled

that he would use the occasion to announce his candidacy. McAllister confirmed his interest in the post, observing that this would be the first time a Warwick mayor would be elected for a four year term. He felt that was important to successfully complete an agenda and bring positive change to the city. However, about two days before the party he ruled out an announcement, leaving people to wonder if he had gotten cold feet.

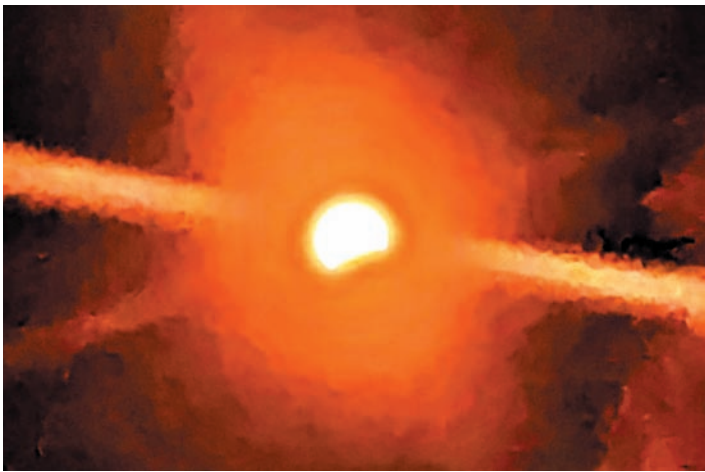
During his brief time in the spotlight as a possible mayoral candidate, McAllister said he received a lot of positive feedback and promises to work on his campaign. He feels he has the backing of the Democratic Party should he run. And while the Democrats have a hold on Warwick elected offices and would be a formidable force, incumbent inde-

pendent Mayor Frank Picozzi is a popular maverick. Picozzi, known for his Christmas digital light display, has a strong following on Facebook. In 2020 when the state was shutdown by the pandemic, Picozzi decided to bring some cheer to residents with a traveling digital display to every street in the city. It wasn’t long before homeowners were asking him to run for mayor.

Picozzi turned down political endorsements and focused his campaign on city services, highlighting deteriorating municipal equipment including sanitation and fire trucks, beating incumbent Democrat Mayor Joseph Solomon. He works closely with the all Democratic City Council yet remains true to his independent roots. At a Warwick Rotary

■ **McALLISTER - PAGE 9**

Many pick Rocky Point to view solar show



TRAILS IN THE SKY: Steve Johnson, who keeps an eye on the sky, sent along this photo of the eclipse framed by contrails

By **ADAM ZANGARI**

Rocky Point drew a crowd of about 400 Monday afternoon for a rare solar show.

With the eclipse reaching 92% totality at 3:29 p.m., Warwick was closer to seeing a total solar eclipse than it’s been since 1925 - when the city found itself in the path of totality. As the sky darkened, Rocky Point visitors felt a noticeable drop in temperature and had a clear view of the eclipse using specially-approved glasses.

For many, staying close to home was a better option than the three-plus hour drive to northern New England to reach the path of totality.

No official plans were made by any organizations for



CAMERAS AT THE READY: Photographers Thomas Gaines and Beth Magliette set up their cameras as the eclipse approaches its maximum totality.

an eclipse-viewing party at Rocky Point. Those that came, though, said they couldn’t think of any better place in the city to see the event.

“I’ve been to Rocky Point practically all of my adult life,” Madeline Mello said. “I love it over here.”

Madeline is 86 years old, adding this would be the last eclipse she would ever get to see. Getting to see it in a place that means so much to her alongside her daughter Sue, she said, was what made the experience special for her.

“Us getting to do this together, we decided that this was important,” Sue Mello said. “When I can get her here

■ **ECLIPSE - PAGE 9**

Contractors agree to rebidding skating rink, Bentley expected to win contract

By **JOHN HOWELL**

The question of which of two local construction companies will win the contract to build an outdoor skating rink and plaza behind City Hall is expected to be resolved this evening when the City Council holds a special meeting at City Hall.

On Monday Mayor Frank Picozzi requested City Council President Steve McAllister call a meeting after Tower Construction Co. of Cranston and Bentley Construction of Warwick agreed to scrap their initial bids and step forward with new bids last week.

In the second round of bids not only is Bentley the low bidder by about \$50,000, but the city stands to save nearly \$500,000. Bentley’s latest bid is \$6,715,666. Picozzi is delighted with the savings and only imagined the council would be, too.

That may not be the case, as Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur observed Monday that there were a number of inconsistencies, starting with the fact the city had not opened rebidding to all companies interested in the job to the plan for the bid award to come before the full council without consideration by the council finance committee.

Confusion has plagued this bid opening from the start, casting doubt as to which company submitted the lowest bid. While Bentley’s overall bid was \$128,134 less than

■ **RINK - PAGE 14**

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PATS BOUNCE BACK

After dropping the season opener, the Pilgrim softball team has bounced back by winning two games in dominant fashion. See story on page 22.

NOTABLE Quote

“They really dove deeply into the projects...they jumped head first into everything in the project.”

- School Committee member David Testa speaking about Dimeo Construction that the committee has selected to build new Toll Gate and Pilgrim High Schools. Page 1



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C	V	P	R	U	S	D	A	I	S	E	S		
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Planet Fitness gets three bomb threats in two weeks

Warwick Ave. location one of many nationwide targeted

By ADAM ZANGARI

The Planet Fitness on Warwick Ave. has been the target of three bomb threats in three weeks, with the location having to evacuate on March 28, April 4 and April 9.

According to Warwick Police Operations Manager Joel Thomas, all three threats were falsified and no bombs were found on the gym's premises in each incident.

"We had dogs, cleared the area and went through all the proper channels to make sure that everyone was safe," Thomas said. "[A week later], we received a very similar email- exact same email address, same sender, similar threat- to the Planet Fitness. That was again vetted, and we're still trying to identify the original sender of the

email."

The gym in Warwick was one of four in the state that received a threatening call on March 28, with one location in Providence and two in East Providence receiving similar threats. Additionally, Planet Fitnesses in Connecticut, Mississippi, Alaska and Oklahoma were reportedly targets of bomb threats on the same date as well, according to local media in those areas. The second threat, on April 4, occurred on the same date as threats to locations in Connecticut and Michigan. Since that date, threats have been made at Planet Fitnesses in Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and Kansas. The Providence and East Providence locations received threats alongside Warwick's again on April 9.

Thomas said that the WPD has been working in conjunction with other local police departments that have received the threats, as well as the FBI and the RIAC Police Department, to follow up on the incidents.

The company has been a target of right-wing outrage following an incident that occurred at a Planet Fitness in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Planet Fitness revoked a woman's membership after taking photos of a transgender woman shaving in the woman's bathroom without her permission, according to Newsweek.

Thomas said that political reasons likely played a part in the threats. The Warwick Police Department tracked the email address that sent the threats to Africa.

Due to the threat coming

from outside of the WPD's jurisdiction, Thomas said that the WPD would be largely constrained in catching the culprit of those threats, though he said that the FBI and other organizations they were working with would be able to "do a bit more digging" technologically.

Asked whether there was any concern of future threats to the gym, Thomas said that the WPD would be ready to respond should the Warwick Ave. location be targeted in the future.

"There's always the chance of an additional threat, and we're always ready for it," Thomas said. "We can't control it, but we can respond to it appropriately and if it happens that's what we intend to do."

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FEMA, SBA to address flood recovery funds Thursday

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will hold a town hall meeting Thursday April 11 from 5-7 p.m. in the Sawtooth Annex Building.

The main focus of the meeting will be on recovery from flooding in December and January. Flooding from December 17th through 19th saw the Pawtuxet River's second-highest flood in its recorded history. January 9th through 13th saw the river again crest at higher than 15 feet. Both caused significant damage to homes and businesses with-

in the river's vicinity.

Both FEMA representatives and representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be present to answer questions about recovery. The SBA will also explain to attendees how to apply for disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and private nonprofits.

For those not able to attend the meeting, questions about disaster recovery and assistance can be answered by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-3362.

POLICE LOG

Six charged after joint state & federal sting targeting child sex trafficking

BEACON STAFF REPORTS

Six men have been charged in Third Division District Court in Warwick with crimes related to "targeting children for sex, stemming from a joint investigation led by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Warwick Police Department, the Rhode Island State Police (RISP), and the Office of the Attorney General," according to a press release from the office of Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha.

"On April 4 and April 5, members of the Warwick Police Department and (RISP) Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) arrested six defendants following an undercover operation aimed at identifying those utilizing websites and online platforms to meet and engage with minors for sexual activity," according to the AG's press release. "Investigators placed decoy advertisements on websites known to be associated with prostitution and commercial sex. It is alleged that the defendants responded to a location in Warwick intending to engage in sexual activity with a minor."

"The results of this highly effective joint operation send a swift and clear message: those who wish to exploit and endanger children will be met by a powerful coalition of law enforcement partners to prevent that from happening," Neronha said. "I want to thank the investigative team from my Office, the Warwick Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, the Rhode Island State Police, and all the law enforcement organizations that played key roles in this operation's success."

"The operation that took place April 4th and 5th is a great example of agency co-operation and skilled investigators working together to root out child sexual predators," said Warwick Police Chief Colonel Bradford E. Connor. "Those arrested are a stark reminder that there are people out there who will continue to victimize our most vulnerable children and it emphasizes the need to continue working collaboratively to address this ongoing issue."

"Today's charges allege that these individuals sought out and planned to pay to sexually abuse children," said Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge for HSI in New England. "To root out predators and to protect our most precious children, HSI continually shares our expertise investigating child

sex trafficking with our partners, both domestic and foreign."

"Crimes against children are some of the most serious and devastating incidents we encounter," said Colonel Darnell S. Weaver. "I want to thank the Rhode Island State Police Internet Crimes Against Children, the Office of the Attorney General, HSI New England, and the whole team who successfully executed this operation to help effectively prevent and deter these terrible crimes."

As a result of the operation, the following individuals were charged:

- Luis J. Chacon, 30, of West Warwick, is charged with one count of patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity and one count of indecent solicitation of a child.
- Randy M. Joslin III, 27, of Charlestown, is charged with one count of patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity and one count of indecent solicitation of a child.
- Abudulganiyu O. Adeboye, 29, of East Providence, is charged with one count of patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity and one count of indecent solicitation of a child.
- Robert A. Petit, 58, of Voluntown, Conn., is charged with one count of patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity and one count of indecent solicitation of a child.
- Davon J. Bess, 33, of Central Falls is charged with one count of indecent solicitation of a child and one count of resisting arrest.
- Paul Taylor, 68, of Holland, Mass., is charged with one count of indecent solicitation of a child.

The Warwick Police Department worked with the HSI New England Field Office for Rhode Island, the RISP, and the Office of the AG to help lead the investigation. The investigation was also assisted by Portsmouth, Providence and East Providence Police, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) New England, and the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

placed all of the items inside," according to the arrest report.

The pair entered the bedding section of the store and selected two different bedding sets and four pillows. One of the women allegedly placed all the items in a large bin inside the carriage and placed the pillows on top of the bin.

Around 9:09 p.m., the pair entered the self-check line and one of the women, identified by police as Chiara A. Diaz, allegedly scanned the pillows, but not the items "concealed" underneath. Store security detained Diaz, 24, of 181 Ayoho Road, Coventry.

"The items that were recovered from the large bin inside the carriage totaled \$790.27," Valentim wrote.

The woman with Valentim told police "that she did not know that Diaz was concealing the items." Target filed a No Trespass Order against the other woman, identified by police as a 44-year-old Coventry woman.

The store informed police they wanted to file a criminal complaint. Diaz was charged with Shoplifting (first offense).

Boulevard and Suburban Parkway, but the car's rear tires were stopped on the stop line.

Skawinski initiated a traffic stop and spoke to the car's two female occupants.

Police identified the driver as Karen J. Armstrong, 59, of 2017 Cranston St., Cranston. Skawinski found a cooler containing beer bottles and a sealed box of Samuel Adams beer in the back seat.

"I informed the operator of the reason for the stop and asked both parties if they had anything to drink that night," Skawinski wrote in the arrest report. "Armstrong immediately pointed towards the cooler and stated, 'I know that looks bad.'"

The driver then allegedly told police she had just a single beer while working her shift, but denied drinking any of the alcohol in the vehicle (she later allegedly told police she may have had 2-3 beers).

Skawinski noted Armstrong's speech was allegedly "slightly thick-tongued" and her eyes "heavily blood-shot and watery."

Police asked Armstrong to consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. She agreed.

Following the tests, Armstrong was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence. She was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters where police asked Armstrong if she would consent to a chemical breath test. She asked to speak to a lawyer, and following legal advice, she refused the breath test.

Armstrong was charged with DUI of Liquor (BAC unknown, first offense). She also received citations for Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test (first offense) and Times When Lights Required.

SHOPLIFTING

Around 9:20 p.m., March 15, Warwick Police Officer Ryan A. Valentim responded to Target at 1245 Bald Hill Road for a shoplifting report.

The store's loss prevention employee told police he saw two women in the cosmetics section holding multiple items in their hands, until around 8:48 p.m. when they "grabbed a carriage and

Publisher's notice

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Toll Gate prepares for second annual Arts and Technology fair



SPRUCING UP THE HALLS: Student art projects are displayed prominently in a shelf just outside of Toll Gate’s cafeteria.

By **ADAM ZANGARI**

Toll Gate High School is preparing to put on display some of their students’ finest art works at the second annual Arts and Technology Fair on April 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

According to Susan Paoella, who is in charge of planning for the event and teaches photography at Toll Gate, the night is intended to show off student projects to relatives and community members.

“Students want to share [their work] with their parents and friends, because a lot of times, they don’t get to see it,” Paoella said. “They do all this beautiful work, and they upload it to our Google Classroom that we use, and it’s not shared.”

Paoella has been running preparations for the fair in an interim position, as Dean D’Andrea, Technology and Visual Arts department chair, is currently on leave.

While the added responsibilities have caused some stress, Paoella said the blueprint from last year has helped significantly in making sure this year’s experience is similar.

“Luckily, it’s not the first time,” Paoella said. “We know what Dean did last year. And we wanted to make sure to make this as community-oriented as possible.”

Attendees will also be able to enjoy popcorn, face painting, musical entertainment from Toll Gate’s band and chorus and a community painting station for those who wish to make their own art.

Many of the teachers involved in the event teach multiple forms of art. The classroom of art teacher Susan Geurard was full of sketchbooks, ceramics, and models made by students.

“[Our students] all have different strengths,” Geurard

said. “Somebody might not be very strong with drawing, but they’re so good with color, or so good with carving or painting. It’s my job to find their little niche, and give them enough opportunities to see their strengths.”

Classes were working last week on projects to be shown on the 24th, with Paoella’s class focusing on a slow-action edited photo, Geurard’s writing and illustrating a short book and Ashley Lynn’s class making 3-dimensional models of each other using tape.

Toll Gate robotics teacher Adam Ricci said his classes last year had a scrimmage between robots they had built.. This year, he’s looking at having more of a showcase of students’ work than a competition.

While students in Ricci’s class don’t all come into his classes with the same knowledge of programming and coding, the projects that they work on help students gain a wide breadth of knowledge about robotics.

“One kid did not know how to program this year, and he’s [Toll Gate’s robotics team’s] head programmer now,” Ricci said. “It’s great to see these kids grow.”

While the teachers’ fields- and the projects students are preparing- varied significantly, every teacher said that getting to see students show off their work to the community was very rewarding.

“It’s good to have our students show off what they do,” technology education teacher Richard Beauregard said. “Last year we had a good turnout, and it was a good time. We’re looking forward to it.”

The Poorhouse Graves of Route 37

As many as 3,000 buried beneath highway

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**

Silent no longer.

For decades, no one knew that Route 37, which traverses Warwick and Cranston, covered a dark secret. It was only after early summer rains and erosion caused skeletal remains to tumble into the fringe of a parking lot off Sockanossett Cross Road in Cranston in 2006, that it was discovered that the highway had built over a forgotten cemetery that was the last resting place for people who died at the old state farm for the poor, infirm and unwanted.

The discovery led to a major archaeological excavation project funded by the state, and the necessary unearthing of the graves of about 60 people in order to allow an improved drainage system to be built along that stretch of Route 37. The project was conducted with care and dignity and the bodies were eventually reinterred with proper ceremony at a nearby historical graveyard off Pontiac Avenue.

It is estimated that about 3,000 bodies remain beneath the highway, but historians and preservationists are determined to make sure they are not forgotten again and that their stories be told.



On Monday night, the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission hosted a panel discussion entitled “Forlorn Last Resting Place: The Poorhouse Graves of Route 37.” Held at the main branch of the Cranston Public Library, the event was attended by about 60 people and featured presenta-

tions by the Cranston Historical Society and The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) – the Pawtucket-based firm that conducted the recovery of the remains.

“What happened to these people was egregious,” said John Hill, Chairman of the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission. “And if there is any story that illus-

HISTORIC: About 60 people attended Monday's special presentation by the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission on the forgotten graves from the old state farm

trates the need for cemetery awareness, it is the story of what happened to the graves under Route 37.” He noted that the event coincides with “Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks,” <https://bit.ly/3VS6EvL>.

Monday night’s speakers told the stories of the grim lives of the people who lived and died at the state farm in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Archaeologists from PAL also gave a detailed account of the excavation and relocation project.

“This is why we work to get people to remember and respect our historic cemeteries,” Hill said. “The roads we drive are the paths they walked, and our neighborhoods are the fields they worked.

“The fact that their graves weren’t marked has nothing to do with them, and everything to do with us,” he said. “We build monuments to presidents and name high schools after governors, and there’s nothing we really do to remember the everyday people who did the sweating and the working back then. They were forgotten -- and we want to fix that.

Save Harbor drops marina plan...for now

By **JOHN HOWELL**

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur and neighborhood residents of Wharf Road were prepared to go a fourth round with Safe Harbor, the company with multiple marinas across the country which was scheduled to appear before the Planning Board Wednesday night even though it looked like they wouldn’t get their application approved.

At the March 13 meeting Planning Board member Kevin Flynn said Safe Harbor had not gone far enough to protect the residents from encroachment by the marina. Ladouceur urged residents not to be complacent. He told them to turn out in force for Wednesday’s meeting.

Then last week Safe Harbor withdrew without prejudice its application for a change of zoning from residential to waterfront commercial for lots abutting Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay at the end of Wharf Road and approval to build a 35 foot high 15,000 square foot boat workshop.

In a letter to City Planner, Tom Kravitz attorney for Safe Harbor, Christine E. Dieter writes, “Safe Harbor will submit a new application as applicable to the Planning Board should it decide to proceed with any development of the site. Please contact me if you have any questions or need anything further.”

In preparation to last month’s meeting Planning Board Meeting, the Planning Department drafted a board approval of the development that included a number of suggestions submitted by Ladouceur. If built, Ladouceur recommended the workshop be located more to the center of

the site; that proposed conservation areas be rezoned open space; that boat storage be restricted from infringing on Wharf Road; that the marina provide at no cost a 36 foot wide slip for a city fire boat and that the marina include public access allowing for kayak and other small boat launching.

Many of his proposals fell in line with comments made by area residents.

Brandon Main, who bought his house in 2008 spoke with the Beacon following the meeting that was continued to this month without a vote. He noted the proposed workshop would tower over his home. In addition, he pointed out the workshop would increase marina activity. He said that during the summer activity is focused on the docks and waterfront. In the winter after the boats are hauled for storage it is basically quiet, but with the workshop the yard would become a source of activity year round.

Main recalled the years when family owned boat yard populated Warwick Cove and there was a neighborly feel to the place. People would help one another and try to accommodate their requests. Both marinas on Wharf Road were bought and consolidated by Safe Harbor. Main recognized that Safe Harbor is a business and would be looking to grow. He noted Brewers that sold to Safe Harbor cleared a lot of land pushing marina operations into the neighborhood.

Regardless of whether Safe Harbor permanently drops its plan, Ladouceur said he expects the company to withdraw from its 10 foot encroachment of Wharf Road and



from the use of residential property for its operations. He also takes issue with what Safe Harbor considers public access to the cove.

“That’s not public access,” he said. “What we have now there now is access if you jump off a pier.”

He said what has happened, “shows how important is for people to attend these meetings and let their voices be heard. If you want to make change you have to be strong and united.”

He urged taxpayers to attend upcoming budget hearings and speak up

Getting a ‘safe’ peek of solar show

Libraries helped meet demand for glasses



SOLD OUT: More than 600 people gathered outside the library on Broad Street in Cranston (Photo by Barbara Polichetti)

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**

The solar eclipse was the main event Monday, with day turning to dusk as the moon slid between the earth and the sun in a rare astronomical event which will not be visible from the United States again until 2044.

Thousands of people in Rhode Island people donned

protective eyewear or made homemade viewers to witness the phenomenon – stopping midday to peer skyward from porches, backyards, or large celebratory gatherings. In Cranston, Warwick, and West Warwick, local libraries took the lead in prepping people for the historical occurrence by handing out eclipse glasses, providing educational programs months in advance, and in some cases, hosting festive viewing parties.

An estimated 1,300 people filled the lawns outside the William Hall Library in Cranston and the West Warwick Public library for festive communal viewing. In Rhode Island, the moon covered about 90-percent of the sun at the peak of the eclipse and lasted nearly two hours from start to finish.

“For years, libraries have been so much more than books,” said Martha Boksenbaum, Youth Services Librarian at William Hall. “They are truly community hubs where people have access to knowledge, programs, experiences, and each other. We are so excited to be hosting a viewing party here today.”

By the time the moon had slid out of the sun’s path and daylight was fully restored shortly after 4:30 pm, more than 600 people had spread out on the William Hall lawn on Broad Street.

Ryan Cooper, age 6, was eager to explain all she knew about eclipses, having studied the astronomical details in her first-grade class at Stadium Elementary School in Cranston. “The moon gets between the earth and the sun,” she said, trying to make sure her cardboard safety eclipse glasses stayed in place. “And you can’t look at it or you will go blind.”

Getting the eclipse glasses turned out to be no easy feat,

even though libraries throughout the state distributed thousands of pairs for free days before the event. Almost all ran out, as did many local stores which posted signs advising patrons that they would have to look elsewhere. Even libraries such as William Hall and West Warwick, which saved glasses for people participating in their viewing events, found that the demand far outweighed the supply and relied on people to share with each other.

“We are completely out,” Ellen O’Brien, Deputy Director of the Warwick Public Library said a couple of days before the eclipse. The library began helping the public prepare for the celestial show by scheduling special programs over the winter which included reading challenges, models, trivia and educational talks about the myths and cultural practices that have surrounded eclipses throughout history.

“Out of This World,” was the theme of the viewing party outside the West Warwick Public Library on Main Street. About 700 people attended, and the library arranged for food truck cuisine, a balloon animal creator, and sing-along entertainment by Steve Johnson, a local teacher and musician. All the librarians there were decked out in celestial-themed attire and said they were thrilled not only with participants’ enthusiasm, but their generosity. People had been asked to make donations to a local food pantry and their contributions filled the library’s board room.

“It’s all been fun,” said Rasha Al-Sasah, Head of Youth Services, “but in the end, it was the eclipse that was the big shebang.”

Apr. 13, Free Gridiron Girls Camp will be offered on Sat., Apr. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Johnston High School, 345 Cherry Hill Rd., Johnston. Dr. Jennifer Welter, the 1st woman to have coached in the NFL with the Arizona Cardinals football team, will be hosting her famous all girls football camp. This is an opportunity to explore a new avenue in sports for our young ladies. It is free! Participants must register! Be a part of history! Registration at: www.jenwelter.com or text/call Randy Phillips at 401-339-8511, coach1randy@gmail.com with any questions.

Apr. 13, Rhode Island Rose Society Meeting will be held on Sat., April 13, at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, 604 Seven Mile Rd., Hope, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All local gardeners and prospective gardeners are invited to the April meeting where Consulting Rosarians will demonstrate: "Planting Container Roses and Barefoot Roses," by Mike Shute; "Raised Beds," by Patsy Cunningham; "Fertilizing," by Lynne Harrington; and "Pets/Bugs in the Garden," by Baldo Villegas. This event is free and open to the public. Facebook page: rirs.org.

Apr. 13, Adventures At Bramble Woods Book Signing will be on Sat., Apr. 13, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Brewed Awakenings, 1316 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick. The Adventures at Bramble Woods is written and illustrated by Nicholas Bramble, a 13-year-old, self-published author and student at Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School in Cranston. Come out and support Nicolas for the signing of his inaugural publication featuring stories behind neglected, abandoned and long-forgotten places!

Apr. 13, Open House at the Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility, on Sat., Apr. 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at

the Warwick Sewer Authority, 125 Arthur W. Devine Blvd., Warwick. In honor of National Clean Water Week, the city is inviting the public to see how clean water is made. The process is amazing! Rain date: Sat., April 20.

Apr. 13, East Greenwich Art Club Displaying Works of Art at the Greenville Public Library, 573 Putnam Pike, Greenville, on Sat., Apr. 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. Members of the East Greenwich Art Club will be available to discuss their works on display at the library. The display will be on hand at the library from March 30 through the end of April. The club has promoted professional and emerging artists and photographers and provided student art scholarships for the past 65 years. Please visit their online site at: <http://www.eastgreenwichartclub.org> for more information. Stop by and meet the artists and enjoy a small snack as you enjoy their work!

Apr. 15-19, 2024 WCFA School Vacation ART Camps will be held April 15-19 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12 to 2:30 p.m. at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Road, Warwick. Spark your child's creativity this spring during April school vacation! We're offering such fun and creative classes as The Art Masters Mashup; Recycle, Repurpose, Renew and Recreate; Cartooning Basics; and Drawing Comic and Manga Style Book Covers. There's something for everyone! For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org.

Apr. 16, Photographic Society of RI will hold a meeting on Tues., Apr. 16, at 6:15 p.m. Print Log In, at 6:30 p.m., as a social time and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. It will be held at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick. Alan Murphy is speaking on "Advanced Bird Photography Tips." He will share some of his out of the box

THE BUZZ

Weekend Spotlight

Apr. 11, Oakland Beach Association Meeting will be held on Thurs., Apr. 11, at 6 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 715 Oakland Beach Ave. Warwick (side entrance). Our guest speaker will be the URI Master Gardeners. Bring your soil to be tested along with any gardening questions that you may have.

thinking to get some very difficult species in front of his lens. Want to know how to get an image of a kingfisher underwater? His website is www.alanmurphy.com. Everyone is welcome to come and see what the club is all about.

April 16 ,The Gaspee Seniors Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pilgrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick. After the business meeting with coffee and pastry, a story about Mr. and Mrs. Right will be read. Bring a \$3.00 dollar item in a brown bag in order to play. Come and enjoy the twists and turns of this story. New members are always welcome.

Apr. 20, Community Pet Vaccine Clinic (dogs and cats only) will be hosted by The Rhode Island SPCA Animal Health Center, 155 Plan Way, Warwick, on Sat., Apr. 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. while supplies last. No appointment necessary. Dogs must be leashed, and cats must be in carriers. We are offering rabies, distemper, and microchipping for \$20 each or all 3 for \$50. Pets must be at least 8 weeks old for Distemper and 12 weeks old for Rabies. To be eligible for a 3-yr. rabies vaccine, owners must provide proof of prior vaccination.

Apr. 20, Healthy Kids Day will be held on Sat., Apr. 20, at the Kent County YMCA, 900 Centerville Rd., Warwick from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Healthy Kids Day is a national annual event celebrated at Y's across the

country to help inspire healthy habits in kids and families. For more than 30 years, Y's have celebrated Healthy Kids Day by hosting a free community event focused on active physical play, nutrition, education, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and the arts, and much more. At Kent County Y, the Healthy Kids Day event will feature activities that range from rock climbing and water safety to cooking demonstrations, reading and exploration. All activities are designed to inspire kids to get active while teaching families how to develop routines that support mental and physical health at home. For more information contact: Donna Hartman 401-828-0130 or dhartman@gpymca.org. This event is open to the public.

Apr. 20, Elks Annual Fishing Derby will be held on Sat., April 20, from 7 to 11 a.m. at the Tri-City Elks Lodge, 1915 West Shore Rd., Warwick. Stop into the Lodge after 3:00 on any day and sign your kids up. Two age groups: ages 5-8 and 9-12. You will need to have your own fishing pole and bait! A fishing pole will be awarded to one child in each group that catches the LARGEST fish. Awards will be given out at 11 a.m. followed by free hotdogs, chips and soda. This event is supported by RI DEM.

Apr. 20, Moosup Valley Music Series is being held on Sat., Apr. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Moosup Valley Church, 81 Moosup Valley Rd., Foster. Featured will be: Charlie Wilkinson. Old-time sing-along piano music. Pass the hat for admission. For more information: Laurie 401 623 0320.

Apr. 24, The Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited will meet on Wed., Apr. 24, at the Elks Lodge, 42 Noose-neck Hill Rd., West Greenwich, at 6 pm. This month's speaker will be Fran Smith speaking on the "Quashnet River Restoration." All are welcome. For information or questions, contact Gary Menard at glaoriys@msn.com.

April 26, Armenian Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island is scheduled for Fri., April 26, at Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave, Cranston, at 6 p.m.

Apr. 26, Ocean State Center for Independent Living Annual Conference will be held on Fri., April 26, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event is dedicated to fostering independence and inclusivity, uniting industry leaders, innovators, and advocates for the rights and

advancement of persons with disabilities. There will be speakers, panelists, and exhibitors. General admission tickets are \$50 and there are also opportunities available to be an exhibitor, sponsor, or donate toward this event. Please visit <https://www.oscil.org/> conference for details on these options or call (401)738-1083 to request an email. Sign language interpreters and CART will be provided. All are welcome!

Apr. 27, Woodridge Congregational UCC May Breakfast will be on Sat., Apr. 27, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Woodridge Congregational UCC, 546 Budlong Rd., Cranston. The menu includes scrambled eggs, fritatas, johnnycakes, which are made by second and third generation makers, Belgian waffles, ham, sausage, home fries, Holly's baked beans, strudel, muffins, coffee cake, juice, milk, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 3 - 12 years old. Tickets will be available at the door.

Apr. 27 and 28 - Spring Quilt Fest will be hosted by the Narragansett Bay Quilters, "Colors in the Wind," on Sat. and Sun., Apr. 27 and 28, at the West Warwick Civic Center, 100 Factory St., West Warwick, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission: \$10, children under 12 free with an adult. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm both days. For more information: www.NBQA.org.

Apr. 27, Volunteer Community Cleanup will be held on Sat., April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is sponsored by the Warwick Health Equity Zone. Registration and supplies will meet at 218 Buttonwoods Ave., Warwick. Be part of a community of fellow volunteers working for a good cause.

May 1, Cranston Hall of Fame, applications are now being accepted for nominations for the Class of 2024. Deadline is Wed., May 1. Please find details and application criteria at: www.cpsed.net, under the "culture" tab. Any questions, please email the President: scoccio@cox.net.

May 4, Tea for Two's Tea Party Silent Auction Fund-raiser will be held on Sat., May 4 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 143 Ann Mary Brown Dr., Warwick. Register to join in the fun and laughter with an interactive program to highlight women, our female mentors and tea. Contests & prizes. Find out more on our website: Asburyumcri.org. Get tickets at Eventbrite. Fundraising for Asbury and its Missions. For more information, contact Andrea 401-207-8017.

May 4, Spring Bazaar at the First Baptist Church of North Kingstown, is scheduled for Sat. May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 1135 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown. Handmade May Baskets, Baked Goods, Swarovski Crystal Items, Vendors, White Elephant Table and lunch will be available.

May 11, Crafting for Critics: Spring Bazaar will be hosted by Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter on Sat., May 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Airport Professional Park, 2384 Post Road, Warwick (outdoors). Helping homeless animals get a second chance while supporting local artisans. Enjoy food trucks, crafts, jewelry and Mother's Day gifts. For more information: www.friendsri.org or fowas.crafts@gmail.com.

May 11, Mother's Day Plant Sale will be held on Sat., May 11, at The Warwick Central Baptist Church, 3270 Post Road, Warwick, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church back parking lot. The church will be selling hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, ground cover, bushes, trees and everything from Ajuga to Zinnias. Proceeds from the sale will be for repairs at The Murrow Indian Children's Home in Oklahoma. For more information, please call 401-739-2828.

May 11, Warwick Vets High School Chorale Members Reunion will be held on May 11, at 3 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 1915 W. Shore Rd., Warwick. Please bring your favorite potluck dish. Call Bill Flamand at 401-450-5699 with any questions.

May 14 thru June 5, RI Driver Education Course in ASL at RI School for the Deaf is currently taking registrations now for RI Driver Education Course meeting Mon. thru Fri., 3:15 to 5:15 p.m., with one Fri., May 31, at 2:15 - 5:15 p.m., at RI School for the Deaf, 1 Corliss Park, Providence. Course fee is \$100 plus \$10 registration fee = \$110. Total: 33 hours and MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES! Online registration is available on the RISD site with a credit card. Make sure to use the class ID #5643. Or register and pay in full through CCRI. Walk-in registration with payment of either cash, check or money order (payable to CCRI) accepted at one of the CWCE (Center for workforce & Community Education) in Lincoln, Providence or Warwick. Textbook required: New "How to Drive: Making Driver Education Fun and Easy!" 15th edition before the first-class meeting. Cost: \$26.95. Available at CCRI Bookstore and AAA. Bookstore does not accept checks as payment: Cash or credit card only. Refund Policy: Must notify at least 48 hours before the start of class. Attendees are responsible for their own transportation.

June 2, Music on the Hill will be held on Sun., Jun 2, at 3 p.m., Cloud Hill Museum will host Narragansett Brass Concert on the lawn at 4157 Post Road, Warwick. For more information www.musionthehillri.org or 401-884-9490.

To submit your news from The Buzz to: [Ida at idaz@rhodybeat.com](mailto:Ida@idaz@rhodybeat.com), or scan the QR code below. This includes virtual events, which should be submitted two to three weeks ahead of the event. Can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events.

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PICOZZI POSTS

April 3

Today, Mayor Picozzi had the pleasure of stopping by the birthday party of Charity Silvia to present a citation commemorating her 101st birthday!!

April 4

It was a privilege for Mayor Picozzi to cut the ribbon on the new Comprehensive Community Action Program building located on Buttonwoods Ave. CCAP can now provide even more quality care to the residents in Warwick. "CCAP lends a hand to individuals and families when times are tough. We help them weather difficult

April 5

The snack drive for traveling Military Members visiting the Military Lounge inside T.F Green International Airport has been extended until April 30th. Donations can be dropped off in-person at BJ's Marketplace located at 375 East Ave. or place a shopping order online. Donations can also be dropped off inside City Hall outside of the Board of Canvassers. Dona-

April 8

This Thursday from 5-7pm at the Sawtooth building a town hall meeting is being held to assist residents and business owners who were affected by the severe storms and flooding. FEMA and Small Business Administration officials will be present to answer questions and assist-

April 11

tions needed include: Granola Bars, Breakfast Bars, Sandwich Crackers, Hot Pockets, Cup of Noodles, Mac n' Cheese Cups, Slim Jims/meat sticks, Bottled Water, Gatorade/Powderade, Coffee Pods and Hot Chocolate Pods. Thank you in advance!!



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SWEET 17



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Mike Philibert accepts the People's Choice Award from Director of Development & Communications, Jenny Gruslin at Gel Penta's insistence, "Mike was the most positive of all the dancers. He worked so hard and raised the second highest amount of money while supporting everyone along the way." L-R Mike Philibert, Jenny Gruslin, Anthony Scalzi, Gel Penta



Angelica Penta, owner of Gel's Kitchen in Warwick and West Warwick, took home the People's Choice Award with \$28,528 more donations still on the way! Until now, 2014 dancer Shameem Awan from Amica was the highest individual fundraiser in the event's history with \$24,701 raised.

Gel and Anthony Scalzi also took home the Most Entertaining Award for the evening. She felt she needed only one award and opted to give her People's Choice Award to Amgen's Mike Philibert who raised the second-highest amount at \$15,729.50.



Angelica Penta, Helena Moronta, Anny Robert-Fernandez BACK L-R Anthony Scalzi, Brian McCrae, Daniel Koch



Marisa Sprague of Washington Trust danced with Noah Carsten and raised \$5,664 with donations still expected to follow.



Amgen's Mike Philibert danced with Jayne Pawasauskas and raised \$15,729.50.



Helena Moronta from BayCoast Bank and Brian McCrae took home the Judge's Choice award. Helena raised \$2,363.00.



Anny Robert-Fernandez from Bank of America announced she's been dancing for two! She found out about the time of her second lesson and kept with it! We're so grateful that Anny powered through; she raised \$2,492.75



Katie Knight of Amica Insurance, a Diamond sponsor of Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring, danced with Daniel Koch. She raised \$11,124.00!



Nick Mainville of Navigant Credit Union danced with Rachael Mooney and raised \$3,425.00.



Joe Garcia Danced with Deborah O'Donnell and raised \$1,631



Jason Williams of Greenwood Credit Union danced with Jayne Pawasauskas and raised \$2,603

*This Event Netted
\$120,300 for
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*Photos Courtesy of
Kate Taylor, Polar Square Designs*



OUR JUDGES: Professional dance judge Roxana Herzog makes her tenth appearance; Ryan Crowley, 2012 DWTS Star; and Bruce Perreault, 2013 DWTS Star, Survivor 44 and Survivor 45 contestant; confer and make their choices



EMCEES: Mario Hilaro and Amy Pontes

From CEO to Spectator, the view is just fine



A LEGACY OF CEOS: From Left to Right former President & CEO Jo-Ann Schofield (departed MENTOR Rhode Island 2023), new President & CEO Jeanine Achin, and former President & CEO Arlene McNulty (departed 2014)

By Jo-Ann Schofield former CEO - MENTOR RI

One morning in 2006, I walked into my office at MENTOR Rhode Island to find a voicemail from then CEO Arlene McNulty. She was in the middle of watching an episode of Dancing with the Stars when she called excitedly to share her idea for a Dancing with the Stars themed fundraiser for MENTOR Rhode Island. Little did we know that one voicemail would evolve into a 17 year (and counting!) legacy raising nearly \$1.5 million for the organization over the years. As the former CEO and a 26-year employee, I have attended every year in several different capacities — as the organizer, as the CEO, as a competitor (yikes!), and this year as a spectator from the crowd sitting with my mentor and predecessor, Arlene McNulty. Marc Mainville, a longtime employee and my “go to guy” when I was CEO, has been serving as interim since my departure in September 2023. What an incredible culmination for him at his last public event, with the newly hired permanent CEO starting just a few days later.

This was the first time I’ve ever attended the fundraiser without stress! It was wonderful to see so many people that I haven’t seen since I left. But I’m not going to lie... I was like a race horse waiting for the gate to open. I REALLY wanted to jump in to help... But clearly the team had this all under control!

What a fabulous night! There are so many people who have been instrumental in bringing this event to such an amazing level of success. With 10 dancers performing, each one brought something special to the dance floor. The choreography, time, and passion that longtime partners from the Dancing Feeling have invested in this

event since its inception is absolutely incredible! The co-hosts this year, Lite 105’s Amy Pontes and NBC10’s Mario Hilaro, are my old friends at this point. Working with them over the years they have both had nearly every role possible. They’ve competed, served as judges, served as hosts, and, of course, Mario has starred in many opening numbers over the years. Deb Gormley from Washington Trust has been the event chair for 13 years now. She competed in 2010 and went on to chair the organizing committee after longtime board member, Peter Koch, asked her to lead the charge. Such a legacy! With nearly every year netting between \$80,000 and up to \$130,000, it’s been an amazing ride! Each star is asked to fundraise a minimum of \$2,500 and this year, a 10-year fundraising record was broken. Shameem Awan from Amica Insurance raised \$24,000 in 2014 and in 2024 that record was shattered by Gel Kitchen’s owner, Angelica Penta, who raised over \$28,000. Wow!!! Sitting in the audience, I couldn’t help feel overwhelming gratitude and pride.

It really is all about mentoring. The relationships built between the professional dancers and the individuals (STARS!) who willingly volunteer to learn to dance, raise money, AND perform in front of hundreds of people is mentoring at its core. It’s not easy but clearly so much fun!

This fundraiser has helped build a strong foundation for the organization which, in turn, provides a strong foundation for kids through mentoring.

I can’t wait to see what the next chapter for MENTOR Rhode Island and Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring holds!

As long as the event continues, I’ll keep my low-stress seat in the audience...unless they ask me to be a judge...

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LENDER NCUA



The City of Warwick Announces Contributive Support Grant Program

The City of Warwick is inviting non-profit organizations who provide services to residents of the City of Warwick to apply for a Contributive Support Grant

For an application, please call
Roberta Steinle
Human Services, City of Warwick
401-468-4101
Roberta.a.steinle@warwickri.gov
or download a copy at
www.warwickri.gov

**Deadline to apply is:
Monday, May 6, 2024**

**Frank J. Picozzi
Mayor**

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Proceeds to benefit Warwick Rotary Charities

MET vs. DEI?

Republican Steven Corvi announces campaign to unseat U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner in CD2

By **RAYMOND BACCARI**

U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner now has a Republican opponent for this year's election. Political newcomer Dr. Steven Corvi, who filed with the Federal Election Commission on March 21, announced last Friday that he's running for Rhode Island's Second Congressional District.

"I would love to have a government by the people, for the people again rather than the government by special interest groups and lobbyists and for them too, by them, for them," Corvi said when asked why he's running for Congress. "I think it's time for a change, and if we don't, the system that's currently in place is unsustainable."

Corvi has worked for several colleges as an adjunct professor teaching history. The list of colleges he taught at throughout the last 25 years includes the United States Naval War College, Northeastern University, where he earned a Ph.D. in history in 2004, and Bentley University. Before purchasing a home in Warwick in 2022, Corvi said he lived in the South Shore region of Massachusetts for 15 years and was born and raised in Malden, Massachusetts. He said that he moved to Rhode Island "for a better quality of life than Massachusetts."

During this campaign, Corvi says his platform will focus on three key pillars: merit, equality and transparency (MET). Those pillars Corvi said are "in response to diversity, equity and inclusion."

"Everyone should be based on the content of their character as Martin Luther King said," Corvi said when describing the merit portion of the MET platform. "It should be that. Merit. That is it. Not by political identity, not by gender, not by race, not by any of it."

He added that with the element of merit then comes equality.

"And when I say equality, I mean equality of opportunity, equality of careers, equality of everything," Corvi said. "And not equity. There's a big difference between the [words] equity and equality, and equity is what the Democrats and the current government uses. And that's to try to bring one group up to balance another — you can't do that, it doesn't work, it's never worked in history. You need equality for everybody."

As for the transparency portion, he cited an example: if someone is applying for a job and they don't get it, there should be complete transparency as to why. Those pillars in his platform also factor into certain policy goals he supports, one of which is a move toward a merit-based immigration policy.

Another issue Corvi plans to focus on is the economy. The main step he says Congress must focus on is to "create a budget that borrows less money than the previous fiscal year."

On the issue of reproductive rights, Corvi, who is personally pro-life, explains his stance is "women should be the arbiters of their own reproductive



THE CHALLENGER: Dr. Steven Corvi has entered the race for CD2 in an attempt to unseat freshman U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner. (Submitted photo)

choices, but the government, both federal and state, shouldn't be paying for it." If he's elected to Congress, Corvi says he wouldn't vote for any federal abortion ban or legislation that codifies Roe v. Wade, emphasizing the need for this issue to be up to states.

A big question Republicans will face throughout the 2024 election cycle, as they did in 2022, is how aligned they are with the now presumptive presidential nominee, former President Donald Trump. Corvi considers himself a moderate.

"I'm not against Trump," added Corvi. "My choice, right now, between the two, I'm pro-Trump because Biden is ineffectual and represents complete corruption. That's a no-brainer. Am I all on board with the red hat and everything he says? No."

As for how he views the 2020 presidential election results, another litmus test Republicans faced last cycle, Corvi believes Biden won and that the result was legitimate, but also emphasized the need for campaign and electoral reforms moving forward. The reforms he mentioned were eliminating ballot harvesting and promoting voter ID laws.

Currently, Corvi says he's running a grassroots-styled campaign. His team consists of campaign manager Max Provencher, a current student of Corvi's at Bentley University, and Raine Spearman, a friend of Provencher who also attends Bentley. In addition to Provencher and Spearman, Corvi says other students are also volunteering and he's reached out to the state Republican Party and local committees about having volunteers help.

Rhode Island GOP Chairman Joe Powers said that he has spoken to Corvi and his campaign team, adding, "They've done their due diligence and spoke to a lot of people including the NRCC about running."

Powers' reaction to Corvi's candidacy is that he's "glad to see we have Republicans still looking to step up and run to try and effect change in [Rhode Island]."

The state party primarily focuses on statewide races Powers said, but explained that the Rhode Island GOP "will support and promote the federal candidates throughout their campaign."

At the time of publication, Rhode Island Democratic Party Chairwoman Liz Beretta-Perik did not respond to inquiries about the other party's reaction to Corvi's candidacy.

Magaziner confirmed on Monday that he's running for reelection and was asked about his reaction to Corvi's candidacy.

"I'm just going to focus on representing Rhode Island in Congress the best I can because right now the stakes in Washington are very high," Magaziner said. "I'm fighting to lower costs, protect Social Security, protect abortion rights. Unfortunately, the Marjorie Taylor Greene wing of the Republican party is focused on trying to cut Social Security, and cut abortion rights and pave a return to Donald Trump."

As for if he considers Corvi to be a part of that wing of the GOP, Magaziner said, "I don't know much about him, but I do know that if he's saying that he supports Donald Trump and is going to support Republican control of Congress — that is more extreme right now than what Rhode Islanders want."

There are a couple of policies that both of the candidates have similar opinions on. One of them is term limits for Congress. Magaziner introduced a constitutional amendment last year that would make the limit 10 years for the U.S. House of Representatives and 12 for the Senate. Corvi favors 12 years for the Senate as well but differs at eight years for the House. Another policy they both support is banning members of Congress from trading and having stocks, with Corvi saying he would introduce that bill if elected and Magaziner signing onto a bipartisan bill as a cosponsor last year.

Corvi's campaign kickoff is set for Saturday, April 13 at 3 p.m. in Warwick at Rocky Point State Park.

Open meeting to discuss ways to save state's wild forests

The Old Growth Tree Society of Rhode Island will hold an open meeting at the Warwick Public Library at 600 Sandy Ln. Wednesday, April 17th, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., to talk about how the state's wild forests and biodiversity are threatened with destruction, and what can be done to save them. Everyone is welcome.

Rhode Island's remaining rich natural heritage of wild forests, with centuries-old trees and a rich mix of native plants and animals, has been dwindling for decades, and is in danger of soon disappearing entirely, says Nathan Cornell, a founder of the Old Growth Tree Society.

"Our presentation will show photos of beautiful, old forests in Rhode Island, and explain the biodiversity and history of these rare forests. We will also show photos of the forests on public land which have been destroyed through clearcutting, and explain why none of the publicly owned forests on state land are actually protected from logging, and what you can do to Save Rhode Island's Forests," reads a release issued by Cornell.

The event is free and open to all. Please contact ncornell.ogts@gmail.com with any questions.



READY FOR THE MAIN EVENT: Madeline Mello (left), and her daughter Sue Mello take a look into the sky as the eclipse begins.

eclipse at 92% totality. "It's really a moment in history, and we've got the equipment," Gaines said. "We're just super excited, and now we're just hoping that the pictures come out." The next visible eclipse in Warwick won't be until 2079- though the city will be in the path of totality then. With a 55-year wait, though, those in attendance said that they were glad to experience something as rare as an almost-total eclipse. "I'll be 81 then, so hopefully I make it to that one," Villada said. "But this is pretty exciting to see- I'm excited to see the changes from our point of view."

Eclipse

(Continued from page 1)

- it just brings back memories." Some came ready to watch the show with lawn chairs and picnic blankets. Jonathan Villada and Jose Quevedo, who were unable to get eclipse glasses prior to the event, brought a colander with them so they could see the reflection of a partially blotted sun through it. While waiting to see more of the moon cover the sun, spectators kept themselves entertained flying kites, playing catch, or kicking soccer balls. Freelance photographers Thomas Gaines and Beth Magliette brought a drone, to capture both crowd shots and shots of the



A BAYSIDE VIEW: A group gathers on Rocky Point's Larry Mouradjian Fishing Pier, looking to get a view of the eclipse further out into the water.

Schools

(Continued from page 1)

as well as the pricing," Spiegel said. Ward 5 councilman Ed Ladouceur, the only member of the public to attend Friday's meeting that started at 7:30 a.m., remained skeptical the schools can be built as portrayed to the voters leading up to approval of the \$350 million last year. "They're taking it from a Rolls Royce and turning it into a VW," he said of what voters were told they would get and what's planned now. Testa has heard the argument before that schools are pulling a "bait and switch" on taxpayers. His response is that the first drawings were conceptual and as architects and engineers got into the project changes were made to conform to the budget. He said square footage has been reduced but not to the point where it falls below standards set by the Rhode Island Department of Education. "Chris Spiegel is our guy," Testa said.

Spiegel gave the Warwick School Committee a comprehensive update on the current plans and timeline to build two new high schools Tuesday. According to him, thanks to approval of the CMAR, plans for both high school projects were ahead of similar planned projects in Pawtucket, Middletown and South Kingstown. "When I came before [the School Committee] on the 12th of last month, I said that we had a lot of work to do on a very aggressive schedule in order to ensure that Warwick gets their pick of construction managers for this job," Spiegel said. "I'm happy to report that that aggressive

McAllister

(Continued from page 1)

Club meeting, Picozzi summed up his distain for state politicians trying to get him to join the club, "Anyone who expects me to kiss their ring can kiss my ass." McAllister and Picozzi have worked together on a cross section of projects. He and Picozzi are in constant contact, although that has cooled since McAllister expressed interest in running for the job. "It's a big decision (if he was to run for mayor). I would lose my job." McAllister is Vice President, Eastern Region for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and sees himself moving up the chamber ladder. For the next several weeks, however, McAllister is focused on the city budget. Drafted by the mayor and the administration, the budget that serves as the basis for the tax is handed off to the City Council by the second or third week in May. Customarily, public hearings are held over nights as the council goes over the spending package line by line and department by department. The School Department conducts its own public hearings. An overall school budget request is then forwarded to the mayor who amends or approves the total to the council. The council likewise has the power to amend the school budget, but it can't dictate where cuts or additions should be made.

NAMI-RI: Free Virtual Family-To-Family course on Mental Health NAMI-RI

Spring Registration The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is now accepting registration for our Spring 2024 virtual Family-to-Family course. This is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-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 lived 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 or call 401-331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

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Sun. April 14- TWIN OAKS Crans. 12:30

Wed. Apr.17- CROW'S NEST Wrrwk 12:30

Fri. April 19- BLUE ROOM Crans.

Sun. Apr. 28- McGovern's Fall Riv. 1pm

Sat. May 11- SPORTSMENS CLUB W.Wrk

Wed. May 15- Lobster Pot Bris 1pm.

Thursday May 16- Tavolo Wrrwk.

Reservations/Info/More dates at
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schedule has worked out." Spiegel said that LeftField also considered awarding one high school project to Dimeo and one to Gilbane, but ended up awarding Dimeo with both. Plans for all four bidders, according to Spiegel, meant that Warwick Public Schools would see significant cost savings by awarding them both projects. By approving Dimeo, Warwick Public Schools has now entered into a contract for preconstruction. According to Spiegel, the preconstruction process will determine exactly how much Spiegel's fee ends up being. Next steps, according to Spiegel, will include bringing on additional firms as consultants and working on the design of both buildings. He set a goal of early May for the schools to reach a schematic design checkpoint, which will be submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Still, the hiring of a construction manager marked a major milestone for Warwick Public Schools in the process of school construction. "The train has really left the station now," Testa said.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
NOTICE (NEW)

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

FROM: 2 Sisters 4 Good LLC
DBA: Light on the Bay
6 Bay Ave
Warwick RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci CLERK

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

4/11, 4/18/24

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
KENT COUNTY, SC.

SUPERIOR COURT

C.A. No.: **KM-2024-0147**

JOHN A. DORSEY, ESQ. AS PERMANENT RECEIVER FOR THE REAL ESTATE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 45 JOHNSON AVENUE AND LOCATED AT PLAT 345, LOT 0180

Petitioner,

v.

ONE PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 45 JOHNSON AVENUE AND LOCATED AT PLAT 345, LOT 0180, AN IN REM RESPONDENT; THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA A. CAREY; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF PATRICIA A. CAREY; AND THE CITY OF WARWICK Respondents.

NOTICE OF HEARING

1. Please take Notice that a hearing on the Petitioner's Miscellaneous Petition to Remove Encumbrances (the "Petition") in the above-captioned matter, regarding the property located at 45 Johnson Avenue, Warwick, RI will be held on the **6th day of May 2024, at 9:30 a.m.** before the Kent County Superior Court.

2. Any potential heirs or creditors having a claim against the Estate of Patricia A. Carey and/or the property located at 45 Johnson Avenue, Warwick, more particularly described on the City of Warwick Tax Assessor's Map as Plat

LEGAL NOTICES

345, Lot 180 (the "Property") shall file said claim via e-mail notification sent to Jdorsey@firlawri.com on or before April 30, 2024, or said potential heirs or creditors shall be forever barred from making any claim against the Property.

3. To request a copy of the Petition, please contact the Receiver, John A. Dorsey, Esq. at 401-455-1000 or jdorsey@firlawri.com.

4/4, 4/11, 4/18/24

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114

Docket No. SU22D1467DR

Marie R Vendredi VS. Harold Charles

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff had filed a Complaint for divorce, requesting that the court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown prohibiting the defendant from imposing any restraint on plaintiffs personal liberty.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has

been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. See Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are herby summoned and required to serve upon: Marie R Vendredi

125 Edgemere Rd.
West Roxbury, MA 02132.

Your answer if any, on or before 05/03/2024. If you fail proceed to the hearing will adjudication of this action.

You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.

First Justice of this court:
Stephanie Everett

February 23, 2024

Register of Probate

3/28, 4/4 & 4/11/24

STATE WIDE 7

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Probate Court of the
CITY OF WARWICK
NOTICE

OF MATTERS PENDING AND
FOR HEARING
IN SAID COURT

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

ARNOLD, Michael alias Michael Robert Arnold, est.
Name Change to Michael Robert Sheehan; for hearing April 18, 2024

CHASSE, Joseph Richard, Sr. alias Joseph R. Chasse, Sr., est.
Probate of Will; for hearing April 18, 2024

CORREIRA, Eliana C. est.
Minor Guardianship; for hearing April 18, 2024

HOUSMAN, Carole Joan alias Carole J. Housman, Carole Housman, est.
Probate of Will; for hearing April 18, 2024

MALONEY, Kayleigh E. est.
Guardianship Petition; for hearing April 18, 2024

MARCUS, Daniel William, est.
Name Change to Danielle Renee; for hearing April 18, 2024

O'DONNELL, Carol A. est.
Guardian's 1st Account; for hearing April 18, 2024

ROSE, Keira E. alias Keira Elizabeth Rose, est.
Guardian's 1st Account; for hearing April 18, 2024

SHACKELFORD, Katlyn Adrienne, est.
Name Change to Kyle Adam Shackelford; for hearing April 18, 2024

SMITH, Nathaniel Tyrone, est.
Sale of Real Estate for property located at 4204 Post Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818 further designated as Assessor's Plat 222 Lot 0037; for hearing April 18, 2024

VICCIONE, Judith M. est.
Administrator's 1st & Final Account; for hearing April 18, 2024

BENNETT, Gloria Jean, est.
Edward R. McCormick, III. & Joseph Bennett have qualified as Co-Administrators c.t.a.; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

COLE, Adam D. alias Adam Daniel Cole, est.
Haley J. Cole has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

DECESARE, Concetta, est.
Daniel A. DeCesare has qualified as Administrator c.t.a.; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

GUTIERREZ, Bridgette L. alias Bridgette Lenora Gutierrez, est.
Roland E. Gutierrez has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

HAMBLIN, Brenda M., est.
Kim R. Hamblin has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

HANKE, Helena C. alias Helena Hanke, est.
Robert E. Hanke, Jr. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

IOVINO, Lucy alias Lucy O. Iovino, est.
Linda Bonn has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

IRONS, Albert F. alias Albert Francis Irons, est.
Leon C. Boghossian, III., Esq. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

IRONS, Marilyn alias Marilyn Grace Rudolph Jenkins Irons, est.
Leon C. Boghossian, III., Esq. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

KANE, Adrienne Anne, est.
Terrence J. Kane Jr., has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

LEBEAU, Pauline M., est.
Jeannine R. LaPlante has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

LANG, Justin James alias Justin J. Lang, Justin James Lang, Sr., Justin J. Lang Sr., est.
Michael J. McCaffrey has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

MACKINNON, Sandra L. alias Sandra Louise MacKinnon, est.
Dawn MacKinnon-Ladino has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

MACRAE, John L. alias John Lincoln MacRae, est.
Garrison P. Roun has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

MASON, Richard O., est.
Kenneth R. Mason has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

MOORE, Clementina P., est.
Robert Pellegrino has qualified as Executor (Matthew Gabrilowitz, Esq. of 35 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, RI 02920 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

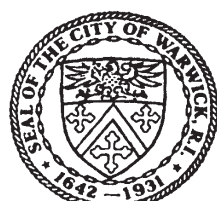
RIMMERMAN, Bernard, est.
Curtis M. Rimmerman has qualified as Executor (Julie Bruno of 117 Metro Center Blvd., Ste. 200, Warwick, RI 02886 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

WAYSS, James M. alias James Michael Wayss, James Wayss, est.
Jillian Wayss has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning April 4, 2024

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

ATTNEY: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

4/4, 4/11/24



THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF WARWICK SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW REGULATIONS

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the City Hall Annex, (Sawtooth Building) Community Room (ground floor) located at 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 beginning at 6:00 P.M., at which time, a vote will be taken. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board may vote on proposed amendments to the Warwick Subdivision and Land Development Review Regulations (the "Regulations"). This item will also be on the April 10, 2024 Agenda for informal comment.

These amendments are primarily intended to make the Regulations conform to changes in state law effective January 1, 2024, along with other routine updates resulting from state law changes and local zoning ordinance amendments. These include, without limitation: Changes in the effective date and administration of the regulations; Additions of, and amendments to, state definitions, including for: "administrative officer", "development plan review", "land development project" "minor land development project", "minor subdivision" "major subdivision", and "unified development review"; Corrections to the application time periods for review and approvals; Updates to the application requirements and review procedures for minor subdivisions and minor land developments; Updates to review procedures for major subdivisions and major land developments; Updates and changes to public notice and meeting requirements; Updates to procedures for appeals of decisions; and Modifications to application checklists. Opportunity shall be given to all persons interested to be heard upon the matter of the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments are under consideration and may be adopted and/or altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the public hearing. The proposed amendments are available for review at the Planning Department's Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays and on the City's website at www.warwickri.gov.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review the proposed Regulations, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board
Philip Slocum, Chairman

4/4, 4/11, 4/18/24



THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the City Hall Annex, (AAA Sawtooth Building) Community Room located at 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board will vote on, a Major Land Development/Subdivision Project for Preliminary Plan approval. The Applicant is proposing to construct a single, 5,040sf (+/-), mixed-use building with tenant spaces for a bank with drive-through and additional tenant space for retail/office tenant. Primary access is proposed from an upgraded signal at the Post Road and Airport Road intersection with an additional access point on Guilford Avenue.

Location: 1795 Post Road
Assessor's Plat: 322
Assessor's Lots: 167, 168, 169, 170, 182, 183
Owners: DNC Holdings, LLC/The State of Rhode Island (DOT)
Applicant: Premier Land Development
Zoning: Gateway and Residential (A7)
Number of lots: 6
Proposed Number of lots: 2
Area: +/- 1.13 acres
Ward: 3
Engineer: DiPrete Engineering

A vote will be taken by members of the Planning Board at this meeting.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009.

Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board
Philip Slocum, Chairman

4/4/24



THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the City Hall Annex, (AAA Sawtooth Building) Community Room located at 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to consider, and the Planning Board may vote on, a Phased Major Land Development Project for Preliminary Plan Approval. The Applicant is proposing to construct two (2) new commercial buildings in addition to the existing Firestone building. One building will contain two (2) tenants, a fast-food use with a drive-thru and a retail use. The second building will contain a fast-food use with a drive-thru. Access to the site will use the improved signalized entrance from Post Road for the main development. The Applicant has received dimensional relief from the Zoning Board of Review for less than required parking.

Location: 1689 Post Road
Assessor's Plat: 322
Assessor's Lots: 353
Applicant: Crossroads Capital Fund IV, LLC
Proposed Number of lots: One (1)
Zoning District: General Business (GB)
Area: 2.44 acres (+/-)
Ward: 3
Engineer: DiPrete Engineering

A vote will be taken by members of the Planning Board at this meeting.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009.

Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board
Philip Slocum, Chairman

4/4/24

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resume to

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Sun gazers



MASK UP: The third grade class of St. Rose of Lima teacher Jennifer Liddle was well equipped to view Monday's eclipse. The students went out to that afternoon to view the once in a life time astral display with personalized eclipse glasses at the ready. "We have completed a unit in science on astrology recently, so the timing for the eclipse has been a wonderful addition to our lessons," Liddle reported. *(Photo courtesy of Jennifer Liddle)*

Senate plans education summit April 22 at CCRI Knight Campus

On Monday, April 22, Education Committee Chairwoman Sandra Cano and Senate President Pro Tempore Hanna Gallo will host the Senate Education Summit from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Community College of Rhode Island's Knight Campus in Warwick. This important discussion, with the theme "Accountability to Rhode Island

Students: Measuring Success in Our Education System," will feature a panel of leaders and an opportunity for discussion among attendees.

During the current session, the Senate Committee on Education has been hard at work on the issues facing our schools. The Committee recently held a pair of hearings with Edu-

cation Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green and other officials from RIDE to discuss curriculum and basic education plan progress, as well as accountability progress and updates.

In the last several weeks, the Committee has additionally heard legislation and testimony on strengthening our early

childhood care and education workforce, providing services for students with disabilities and individualized education programs (IEPs), addressing chronic absenteeism, and more. And recently, the Committee once again supported Senator Roger Picard's proposal to enshrine the right to an education in our state constitution.

McKee selects legal team to go after those responsible for bridge failure

TALKING POLITICS



by
IAN
DONNIS

ter Alviti, "we're going to report it."

DRIVE-THRU

The outlook for Scott Avedisian's tenure as CEO of RIPTA grew more uncertain following the release of a police report last week suggesting he may have been under the influence during a minor accident at a McDonald's in Warwick. What's more, the longtime former mayor is reported to have left the scene and not responded when police came to his home. During the course of the week, Gov. McKee switched his commentary from wait-and-see to supporting a special RIP-TA board meeting to "review the facts," and "follow the appropriate human resources protocol," according to spokeswoman Laura Hart. Avedisian's lawyer, former House speaker John Harwood, told reporters after a court appearance that he wanted to review discovery in the case before commenting, and Avedisian has declined comment.

PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

"Uncommitted" got about 15% of the vote in Tuesday's presidential primary in Rhode Island -- and around twice that in Providence -- as some voters used the ballot box to protest U.S. support of Israel. State Rep. Jennifer Stewart (D-Pawtucket) was among local elected officials who voted for uncommitted. "I will support President Biden in the general election, for sure," Stewart said when asked on Political Roundtable if splintering Democratic support will help boost Donald Trump in November. "And I think that the uncommitted vote in the primary is really about sounding an alarm to Biden that this is something that is going to create further problems in the general election if it isn't tended to by his administration."

DELEGATE MATH

The election also included the election of delegates. For Democrats, the winners

in CD1 (the top three women and top four men) were Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, state Sen. Sandra Cano, Central Falls Mayor Maria Rivera, lawyer Kristan Peters-Hamlin, Pawtucket Mayor Don Grebien, Senate staffer Tom Kane, and William G. Foulkes. State Majority Leader Ryan Pearson didn't make the cut. In CD2, the winners (the top four women and the top three men) were Mary-Murphy Walsh, Melissa Carden, Erica Hammond, Autumn E. Guillotte and Jay G. Weigmont. All the Democratic delegates are for Joe Biden. Two more male delegates are expected to be elected during a Democratic state convention on June 9. Among Republicans in CD2, former Rep. Justin Price, who was in DC for Jan. 6, placed second.

MEDIA

Mike Reed, chairman/CEO of Gannett, owner of the ProJo and a number of other papers in southern New England, saw his compensation fall to \$3.4 million in 2022, down from \$7.7 million the year before. Via Dan Kennedy: "It's also 66 times more than the median salary (\$51,035) earned by Gannett employees in 2022, as Don Seiffert observes at the Boston Business Journal."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Efforts to move an overhaul of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights through the General Assembly have bogged down in the House of Representatives. A LEOBOR bill cleared the state Senate, with progressive support, early in the session. But with one week until lawmakers' spring recess, the outlook in the House remains unclear. The RI Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian-American and Pacific Islander Caucus recently announced four priorities needed to win the group's support: an annual public reporting mechanism, the removal of limits on the ability of people to speak

about LEOBOR cases, a summary suspension of up to 14 day without pay, and allowing LEOBOR cases to proceed concurrently with possible criminal cases.

CITY HAUL: Efforts to add more cycling infrastructure often remain an uphill fight, particularly when fallout from the Washington Bridge is cited in Providence Mayor Brett Smiley's plan to remove the protected bike lane on South Water Street. Cycling supporters turned out to oppose the move during a meeting at City Hall this week, and they say eliminating the lane will not improve mobility for motorists dealing with the bridge.

BASEBALL

Larry Lucchino, who died last week at age 78, leaves a rich baseball legacy, as someone who supported the rise of retro ballparks like Camden Yards in Baltimore, the preservation of Fenway Park, and most notably, was part the ownership of the PawSox, and the team was pushing for a new home in Providence in 2015, Lucchino was front and center in the efforts. He made for a good interview and was gracious, even as the proposal for a new stadium faced tough sledding in the aftermath of 38 Studios and a cold shoulder from top state officials. Lucchino's legacy includes relocating the Sox' AAA team to Worcester and profiting from the sale of the team. Minor league ballparks are nice amenities, even if they are not to be confused for engines of economic development, so the loss of the PawSox still stings.

WARWICK WORSHIP

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept - June
asburyumc.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
10 am. Sundays
concordiacsl.org

Eckankar Center
2914 Post Road, Unit #3
Path of Spiritual Freedom
Light & Sound Services
1st & 3rd Sundays 10 AM
Pastor Mark Lopotoski
738-4727
www.eckankar-ri.org

Faith Baptist Church
765 Commonwealth Ave.
Pastor Matt Vandeleest
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
lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com
Sunday Worship 10am
Offering Zoom for Sunday Services.
Please see website for link.
www.facebook.com/LBCWarwick.

Living Faith Christian Church
1201 Greenwich Avenue
739-2444
www.LivingFaithRI.org

Narragansett Bay Baptist Church
1642 West Shore Road
Pastor Dru Merrill
738-0600
nbccri.org

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

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1817 Warwick Avenue
Pastor Todd Stange
739-2937
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church
3257 Post Road
Rev. Scott R. Lee
737-4141
8:00 & 10:00 Holy Eucharist
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
111 West Shore Road
737-3127
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am
www.stmarkswarwick.com

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
389 Greenwich Avenue
Rev. Hayley Bang
737-6758
stpaulwarwick.org

Saint Timothy Church
1799 Warwick Avenue
739-9552

Saints Rose & Clement Church
111 Long Street
739-0212
Masses: Saturday 4 pm
Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am

SouthPointe Christian Church
200 Pettacoonsett Ave.
401-821-9800
Worship Services 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Kids Programming for Birth-4th grade both services
5th-8th grade Programming 9 a.m. Sundays
High School Programming Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
southpointeri.com

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

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

Warwick Hope Assembly of God
425 Sandy Lane
Pastor Matthew McIntosh
732-0634
Sunday Service 9:30 am.
Bible Study Wed. 7 pm

Warwick Central Baptist Church
3270 Post Road
Pastor Sam Chesser
739-2828
wcbc01@verizon.net
Service Sundays at 10:15 AM

Warwick Christian Fellowship
358 Warwick Neck Avenue
Pastor Steve Reickett
739-26606

Westminster Unitarian Church
119 Kenyon Ave., E.G.
401-884-5933
Sunday Service 10 am
Streaming on: westminsteruu.org

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



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Cranston Herald
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Johnston SunRise

BEACON COMMUNICATIONS

401-732-3100
1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick

Warwick Symphony Orchestra’s ‘Little Live Music’ comes to library on April 21

The Warwick Symphony Orchestra woodwind quartet and a studio orchestra will be featured in a concert of chamber music at Warwick Public Library on Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m.

The Warwick Symphony Orchestra’s grant-funded “A Little Live Music” chamber series brings music to the community with free concerts by small ensembles, trios and quartets, and a studio orchestra.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.

Author of garden travel guides to speak about gardens of Gilded Age

Garden designer, and garden tourist Jana Milbocker will give a presentation on Gardens of the Gilded Age at Warwick Public Library on Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

The Gilded Age is renowned for its ornate mansions with grand gardens built for the Roosevelts, Vanderbilts, and Carnegies. Milbocker will talk about the gardens at the Newport Mansions, Vanderbilt Estate, Vizcaya, Untermyer Gardens, and Nemours. Learn about their horticulture and design, and get travel tips to make a visit.

Milbocker is the owner of Enchanted Gardens, a Boston landscape design firm, and the author of three garden travel guides, “The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast,” “The Garden Tourist’s New England,” and “The Garden Tourist’s Florida.”

This event is co-sponsored by the Warwick Neck Garden Club and Warwick Public Library.

For more information, call (401) 739-5440, x9758. The Library is located at 600 Sandy Lane.

This event is free and open to all.

\$4M in scholarships available through RI Foundation

At the time of year when colleges are sending out their financial aid packages, \$4 million in scholarships is available through the Rhode Island Foundation. Nearly three dozen Warwick students received aid last year to attend the Community College of Rhode Island, Providence College, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island among others.

“This can help students and their families bridge gaps that might seem insurmountable,” said David N. Cicilline, the Foundation’s president and CEO. “These scholarships can make dreams come true for the students who get help and the donors who made it possible. The results of their generosity will be felt for years as these young people make their marks in their careers and on their communities.”

Dozens of individual and organizational donors have established scholarship funds at the Foundation to help students cover the cost of tuition, fees and books. The Robert G. and Joyce Andrew Scholarship Fund alone helped nearly 90 students attend college last year.

“This is life-changing. Now I can make full use of all the great learning opportunities at college with no delays or issues. The support not only enables me to pursue a career in engineering; it inspires me to grow into someone who will contribute greatly to my community in the future. I feel empowered to wholeheartedly pursue my dreams,” said Blessed Adeoye who attends Roger Williams University with the help of an Andrew scholarship.

Hundreds of scholarships are available. In addition to general assistance, the Foundation offers a number of awards targeting specific majors, including the arts, nursing and filmmaking. At up to \$60,000 over four years, one of the largest is the Rhode Island PBS Foundation Scholarship, which helps students pursuing journalism or communications as a career.

“Many students like me cannot help but worry about the financial costs of college. I felt a huge relief when I realized I was going to be able to now afford to attend college, live on campus, play tennis for Rhode Island College, contribute to my school community and pursue a career in broadcasting or public relations,” said Isabella Ba, who received a scholarship from the fund last year to attend Rhode Island College, where she is majoring in communications.

Other scholarship funds provide assistance based on gender or family history among other factors. The Patty & Melvin Alperin First Generation Scholarship helps students who are the first in their families to go to college and the Black Philanthropy Bannister Fund helps students of color.

“This will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in helping me to focus on both my collegiate athletic career and my academic pursuits as I work toward earning a degree in Exercise and Sports Science. This support has truly inspired me to strive for excellence in all aspects of my life,” said Elijah Barber, who attends Johnson and Wales University with the help of a Black Philanthropy Bannister scholarship.

In addition to help with college costs, the Foundation offers aid to Rhode Islanders who attend trade or technical schools in preparation for employment through funds like the David L. Taton Family Vocational/Technical Scholarship Fund.

For most of the scholarship funds, the deadline to apply is April 15. For more information about applying, visit [rifoundation.org](#).

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Obituaries

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

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

– Thank you

OBITUARIES

Judith Ann Townsend

Judith Ann (Hack) Townsend, 73, of Warwick, passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. She was the loving wife of George Adelbert Townsend. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, she was the daughter of the late Francis and Lenora (Dixon) Hack.

Judith worked as the Human Resources and Payroll Manager for A.C. Industries Inc. of Rhode Island until her retirement. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother and a member of The Sacred Exchange Fellowship in East Greenwich.

Alongside her husband George, she is survived by her beloved children, Craig Boyer of Pittsburgh, PA and Melissa DiPietro of Warwick, her stepchildren, John D. Townsend (Layne) of Chepachet and Timothy P. Townsend (Santana) of Palm Bay, FL, and thirteen grandchildren.

Judith was the mother of the late Jennifer Viera and sister of the late Thomas Hack, Francis Hack, Margaret Cigola, and Mary Tragard.

Her Funeral Service was held at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick. Interment followed at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter.

[www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](#)

Norman W. Haskins, Sr.

Norman W. “Mickey” Haskins, Sr., 73, passed away Thursday, March 28, 2024 at Kent Hospital. He was the husband of the late Rita T. Haskins and loving companion of Donna L. (Covill) LaPlante. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Norman and Kathleen (Shanley) Haskins. Norman was the beloved father of Norman Haskins, Jr., Jason Haskins (Amanda), Stephen Haskins and Kerrie Haskins; step father of Armand LaPlante, Jr. (Jessica) and the late Shawn LaPlante. He was the grandfather of Madison, Brady, William, Myranda, Tommy, Rita, Berlyn, Lilyana and Ashley. He was the loving brother of Gladys Johnson and the late Norma Haskins, Edward Haskins and Norma Haskins, loving uncle of Lori, Brian, Dawn and many more nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Mickey was an employee for the city of Warwick for 30 years before retiring. He was also an avid New England sports fan and enjoyed camping, boating, traveling, cookouts and going to the casino.

His funeral service will be held Friday, April 5, 2024 at 11am in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Burial will be in Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery, North Kingstown. Visiting hours, Thursday, April 4, 2024 4-7pm. For information and condolences visit [www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com](#)

Lois Elizabeth Davis

Lois Elizabeth Davis, a Warwick resident all her life, passed away on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. She was the loving wife of Lawrence R. Davis for fifty-nine years. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Ernest and Elizabeth Keates.

Lois retired from AstroNova Incorporated after twenty years of employment. Lois was a member of Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian and the Daughters of Argyll. A devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, she loved doing things for her family. Lois was also an avid sewer and was always interested in trying a new craft.

She is survived by her beloved children, Sandra E. Noonan (Kenneth) of Warwick, Kenneth L. Davis of Warwick, and Julie A. McCaffrey (Brad) of Warwick, her brother, David Keates (JoAnn) of South Carolina, and three grandchildren, Tyler A. Noonan, Trey B. McCaffrey, and Kayleigh D. McCaffrey.

Relatives and friends gathered at 11:00AM on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick for her Funeral Service at 12 Noon. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Warwick Animal Shelter, 101 Arthur W Devine Blvd, Warwick, RI 02886.

[www.murphyfuneralhomes.org](#)

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Anthony Angelo Ritacco,

Anthony Angelo Ritacco, 89, of Westerly, passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, March 31st, 2024, at home.

Anthony was born on September 30, 1934, to Louis and Rose (Gaccione) Ritacco in Westerly. He is survived by his sister, Anna Cardinali of Mystic. He was pre-deceased by brothers Joseph Ritacco of Minneapolis and Louis Ritacco Jr., of Westerly, and sister Angelina Ritacco of Westerly as well as daughter-in-law Kimberly Lima Ritacco, wife of son Anthony, of Uxbridge, Massachusetts.

A Korean War Army veteran, Anthony was a graduate of Macalester College and lived for a short time in St. Paul, Minnesota. While traveling back and forth to Rhode Island, he met the love of his life, the late Marypatricia. They married in January 1966 and were married for 56 years. Anthony leaves their 4 children, son Michael and his wife Kelly; Mollie Fitzgerald and her husband John; Patricia Ascari and her husband Michael, and Anthony and fiancé Elisha Morris; and five grandchildren, Marley Ritacco, Michael Ritacco, Lukas Ritacco, Gillian Ascari and Sawyer Fitzgerald.

Anthony, better known as “The Ace” lived most of his adult life in East Greenwich, where he and Patsy raised their family. He was a part of multiple businesses statewide. While working as the sales manager for the East Providence Post, he and the paper’s editor John Howell bought the Warwick Beacon in 1969. The company went on to buy The Cranston Herald and start weekly newspapers in Providence, Seekonk, Coventry and Newport as well as a commercial web printing company, Beacon Press Corporation in Warwick. Eventually, Tony ran the printing company and Howell the publishing company. The Ace’s reach throughout the state was wide, as he employed many people, mentored more, and fostered many business relationships throughout his storied career.

The Ace was a dedicated family man and a loyal friend to many with a heart of gold. His departure brings great sorrow to so many and is deeply felt by everyone whose life he touched.

Anthony will be laid to rest with military honors alongside his beloved Patsy this summer.

Donations in his memory to the Karen Bradshaw Memorial Charity, PO Box 1017, East Greenwich, RI 02818 or at [www.kabgolffmemorial.com](#) would be appreciated.

Carol Anne Brothers, RN

Carol Anne Brothers, RN, 79, the beloved wife of William A. Brothers passed away Friday, March 29, 2024. She was a daughter of the late Thomas and Agnes (Allen) Sliney. Carol was a Registered Nurse at Miriam Hospital for 8 years; she started her career in 1968 as Miriam Hospital’s first IV nurse. She ultimately became the hospitals IV supervisor and chairwoman of the pharmacy therapeutic committee.

In 1973, Carol became ill on a routine call and tests showed that her kidneys had malfunctioned. She quickly began dialysis treatments and with the uncertainty of her health, she leaned into those closest to her. One of those people being her then boyfriend William A. Brothers, who grew up living only a house away. He was committed to remaining by her side, even if their future wasn’t certain. After proposing to Carol, he sought out expedited premarital counseling and the two were married two weeks later on May 20, 1974.

On June 26, 1975, Carol received the news that they had found a donor, who was so close to a match, that it could have come from a sibling. She underwent surgery and became the 6th surviving kidney transplant in Rhode Island. Although she underwent difficult side effects from the transplant, the two were blessed to enjoy 50 years of marriage. Together, they became advocates for transplant recipients, speaking about her experience at medical conventions.

Carol was a member of the Rhode Island Nurses Association and loved spending time with her husband in Martha’s Vineyard, trips to Florida and going on cruises.

Her funeral was private. Because of her love for gardening and her appreciation for organ donation, she asked for people to plant a perennial in their yard or sign up to be an organ donor.

For information and condolences visit [www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com](#)

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No matter the role, Frank Flaherty looks to make a difference

Meeting with Mike



by
J. MICHAEL
LEVESQUE

Some people greet him as "Your Honor". Others, "Mayor". But probably over half the state simply calls him "Frank".

I am referring, of course, to former Warwick Mayor and former Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Francis Xavier Flaherty, who retired from active duty on the state's highest court in 2020.

Frank, by all accounts, has had a remarkable career.

I could fill up this newspaper with stories, but I thought I would start with the one I am particularly fond of, and one that I even participated in.

The year was 1989.

Frank, who was in his third term as Mayor of Warwick, glanced at a New York Times newspaper and noticed a headline that blared to the effect "Outlaws of National Proportion", and thought to himself, "What is this?"

Upon further examination he saw that the "Outlaws" in the article were the cities of Warwick and Cranston, and the Town of West Warwick.

The article described that decades prior, the three communities signed an agreement with the federal Environmental Protection Agency to upgrade their sewer systems and bring the Pawtuxet River to a "Class C" level, but never did it.

So, Frank immediately got on the phone with the EPA in Boston and requested that representatives come to Rhode Island to discuss this matter, and then phoned Cranston Mayor Michael Traficante, and me in West Warwick.

Soon after, we three May-

ors met with the EPA representatives, and Frank started the questioning.

"What's the Pawtuxet River classified as now?" The answer: "Class D".

When Frank asked what that meant, the EPA official explained, "A Class D River is suitable for recreational boating, and fish can live in the river."

Frank responded, "that sounds pretty good. What is a Class C?"

The EPA official responded, "In a Class C you have recreational boating, fish can live in the river as well as propagate in the river, rather than upstream."

He further explained that the cost of the three communities (through upgrades to each of their sewer systems) would be about \$95 million dollars combined."

Frank, clearly exasperated, said "Wait a minute. You want us to spend \$95 million dollars so that fish can propagate in the river? (In full disclosure Frank used another word that we can't print in these family newspapers).

The reply, "That's exactly what I said!"

At that moment Mayor Traf erupted out of his chair. I thought he was going to physically toss the guy out of the building!

As history would have it, the EPA at that time could not enforce their rulings, rather the enforcement was left to the states.

Luckily for Warwick, Cranston and West Warwick, Ed DiPrete was Governor and declined to enforce it.

Over the years many upgrades were made to each community's sewer facilities, but not a one-time draconian fix of \$95 million (1989) dollars.

That's Mayor/Judge Frank Flaherty.

As quick as they come, and a funny guy when you get to know him.

Move to Warwick

A little background on Frank Flaherty.

Born in Providence to Eugene (a mechanic by trade and service manager for a



FRANK FLAHERTY

large automobile dealership) and Gertrude (a school crossing guard and homemaker) Flaherty.

Frank and his 3 brothers and sister would move to Warwick when Frank was around 10 years old.

He would attend Warwick schools and graduate from Bishop Hendricken High School.

Frank then attended and graduated from Providence College in 1968.

After graduation, Frank joined the United States Army where he served our nation with great honor, as an Infantry Platoon Leader in Vietnam.

Frank's service was exemplary, being awarded 3 Bronze Stars (2 for Valor, and 1 for Meritorious Service), 2 Army Commendations for Valor and Meritorious Service, 3 Air Medals, Service and Campaign medals, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, a Civic Action Award, and a Combat Infantryman's Badge.

When he returned to Rhode Island, Frank attended Suffolk University Law School in Boston, where he received his Juris Doctor degree.

He started his governmental career as an Assis-

stant City Solicitor in Warwick from 1975 to 1978, leaving the position when he was elected as a Ward 6 City Councilor, serving until 1985 (his final two (2-year) terms found him unopposed).

In 1985, then Mayor Joe Walsh decided to run for Governor, so Frank decided to put his hat in the ring for the position.

It was a three-way race between Frank and two political powerhouses, Joe McGair and the late Joe Gallucci.

Frank would prevail in the contest in what Frank described as "really good candidates."

Asked to describe his tenure as Mayor he said, "it's really two full-time jobs. It's a full-time administrative job and a full-time political job with a small P." "You are constantly out and about with people at functions and events, I was more geared to be an executive rather than a legislator. That's why I didn't run for Congress when the opportunity arose. It was great stuff because I had great people around me. I loved being with people."

The mayor he succeeded, the legendary Joe Walsh, said this about Frank.

"Frank was especially qualified to be Mayor because prior to being Mayor he was the Labor Counsel for the City of Warwick, as well as a Councilman for 6 years. Not only was he well prepared but add to that his natural intelligence and leadership abilities, and it was a big win for the City of Warwick!"

Frank left the mayor's office in 1991 after an unsuccessful run in the Demo-

cratic Gubernatorial primary.

The first of two such campaigns, with the second being a nail biter.

He would then return to practice law for about 12 years, and simultaneously kept his hand in government by serving for 5 years on the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education.

Nominated for Supreme Court

In 2003 Frank received one of the most important telephone calls in his life from Republican Governor Donald Carcieri, telling him that he was nominating him to one of the two vacant positions on the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Frank said the call was "life changing."

He said he loved practicing law and was never really inspired to be a judge until later in life.

He further explained, "there were talks of potential judgeships, but when the Supreme Court vacancies arose, I decided to apply."

He continued, "You have to remember I was 55 by then and the kids were out of school except for the youngest". He had four children with his first wife Donna, who sadly passed away in 2004. The children are Nicole, twins Michael and Brendan, and Sean. Frank remarried current wife Joan (Miller) in 2013.

"When I applied, I didn't know Governor Carcieri, but he appointed me and current Chief Justice Paul Suttell. It's the highest form of work that a lawyer can do. The Supreme Court has a lot of resources and hears a lot of cases. Including sad cases."

"I loved it because you can make a real difference. I could have gone on, but I thought it was time.

I didn't want to keep the seat for the sake of keeping it. It was time for someone else to take the seat."

The person who took the seat, Associate Justice Erin Lynch Prata, said this of long-time family friend Justice Flaherty: "Frank remarked at the end of my first term, in a gathering of all of our Court staff, that I was the only Lynch that never voted for him for Mayor. What he didn't say was that I was only 10 when he ran the first time, and 15 by the time he left office!"

She continued, "Frank Flaherty is a giant not just in the Judiciary, but in the legal community as a whole."

"Having known Justice

Flaherty since I was a child, it was not until I came in to meet with him when I was appointed to the Court that he became a good friend and invaluable mentor to me. He was patient and kind, but most importantly encouraging; someone so much more experienced, and certainly much wiser than me, treating me as an equal, telling me that I am doing a great job and that I belonged here. Something that I am not always so sure of."

"He answers my calls immediately and is always ready with advice, to just listen if I need him to, or to tell me to trust my instincts."

She then added, "I moved into his chambers when he retired, and in the top desk drawer he left me a note. Included with his advice and encouragement was the statement, "make sure to keep it all in perspective. This is what you do, not who you are." That note still sits in the same spot in that drawer."

Frank, as you can imagine, is not about to spend his retirement years sitting on a bench in Warwick Neck feeding the seagulls.

Rather, he continues to keep his hand in the law by doing "a lot of mediation and arbitration on a private basis."

He still teaches at Roger Williams Law School and is a long-time member of the Board of the New England Institute of Technology. He is the Chairman of the Board of Advisors of Bishop Hendricken High School where he is an alumnus and is member of the Warwick Historic Cemetery Commission.

I couldn't help but ask Frank a final question while we were finishing our coffees at Café Tempo.

What does he think about politics today?

He didn't hesitate.

He said, "unfortunately it's mean and more personal. When I was in politics, the opponent was simply someone on the other team. When it was over, we shook hands. Now it's much more personal."

Frank Flaherty will go down in history as a great patriot and leader, and one who served his City, State and Country with great honor.

Even though he and I are on "different teams", I always admired him for those accomplishments.

He is also the author of the funniest line I ever heard in politics. The hysterical fish line.

I'm proud to call him my friend.

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21 LOCATIONS

Rink

(Continued from page 1)

Tower, the city claimed, a breakdown of Bentley unit costs put them higher than Tower. The administration recommended Tower get the job.

On April 1 the council on an 8 to 1 vote approved a \$7,219,000 contract to Tower, but not before Bentley attorneys Allan Fung and Jackson Parmenter vehemently argued Bentley was the low bidder. Fung said the city should have contacted Bentley regarding any confusion with their bid and the matter would have been made clear.

"Had BETA (which represented the city) made a phone call to anyone at Bentley, they would have known that Bentley's number- that \$6,884,000 number- was correct, and a number they stand by and stand by with the bid bond, we wouldn't have to get into this unit price, lump sum price- they are the lowest bidder," Fung told the council.

The following morning, the Bentley attorneys appealed to Superior Court Justice Kevin McHugh who granted a temporary order restraining the city making an award to Tower. A hearing was set for April 17.

Meanwhile, attorneys for both construction firms continued to meet with the city. In essence they agreed to submit their last and best offer and see where the chips fell. Last Friday the bids were opened and the administration deemed Bentley the low bidder.

McAllister said he agreed to Picozzi's request for a special meeting provided legal counsel was in attendance, as the council's attorney had recused himself. McAllister observed the vote could have been scheduled for the April 15 meeting, but that would have been during school vacation which may have resulted in difficulty in obtaining a quorum, further delaying the project.

Picozzi is anxious to start work on the facility as soon as possible, noting that specialized equipment is needed for the rink

and it could take months to order. In addition, as the second round of bids has shown, he said the contractors sharpened their pencils, "which helps us out."

McAllister thought it important the work start as soon as possible. "Time is money," he said. The rink and plaza is projected to take 18 months to build. It is being paid for with a \$5 million earmark grant obtained by Senator Jack Reed and American Rescue Act Program funds, which the city would lose if not spent by December 2025.

CCRI Providence campus hosts first State Offices Community Fair on Saturday

The Community College of Rhode Island is hosting the Rhode Island State Offices' First Annual Community Fair Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Liston Campus located at 1 Hilton St., Providence.

This community event is free and open to the public and is an opportunity for the state to raise awareness about all the free programs and resources available to Rhode Islanders through the state offices. Information booths will be on display in addition to giveaways, music, and raffles.

Among the agencies that will be in attendance are the R.I. Department of Health; Executive Office of Health and Human Services; State Police; Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Department of Labor and Training; Office of Healthy Aging; Department of Children, Youth, and Families; Department of Taxation; and more.

Why journalism is so vital to democracy



PHOTO BY MARY MURPHY

Former reporter, UConn professor Mike Stanton reflects on RI stories & characters

By G. WAYNE MILLER

GWM: Mike, let's start with today. You live in Rhode Island and are a journalism professor at the University of Connecticut. Tell us about your responsibilities and the courses you teach.

MS: Having lived in Rhode Island for three decades, I didn't want to move when UConn hired me in 2013. I grew up in Connecticut, but love Providence. So now I keep one foot in each state, which is interesting when UConn plays Providence College in basketball – I have season tickets to the Huskies and the Friars, who I used to cover for the ProJo!

I teach a range of courses, from our introductory Press in America and Newswriting I classes to more advanced courses like Investigative Reporting, Sports Journalism and Feature Writing. My investigative class last year published a project about housing evictions and the affordable housing crisis in southeastern Connecticut in The Day of New London. It won a national award for investigative reporting in the Hearst student journalism competition. It's a great example of the hands-on learning that we stress.

GWM: What attracts your students to journalism?

MS: Two things – storytelling and making a difference.

Since prehistoric cave paintings, humans have told stories and that appetite continues, even as the platforms change. Students are very excited to tell stories – through words, pictures, video, podcasts, etc. I tell them that newspapers may be dying, but not the public's hunger for stories – and that they're going to help invent the future.

Secondly, students are passionate about making a difference. Since the rise of disinformation and our fractured politics, we've seen an increase in students – even non-majors – who take Press in America because of a heightened awareness of the importance of a free press in a democratic society. Some have changed their major to journalism or added it as a second major. They want to do stories that hold the powerful accountable – that afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.

GWM: Give us an overview of where they hope to work – legacy newspapers, broadcast, online or somewhere else.

MS: There's a range. But they are finding jobs. Some work in legacy media, others for websites, or in broadcasting. Given our strong sports teams at UConn, and the proximity of ESPN in Bristol, Conn. (I co-teach Sports Journalism with ESPN feature producer Steve Buckheit), we have a lot of students who want to cover sports. Some work at ESPN; others have gone on to work as reporters and producers for Major League Baseball, including Molly Burkhardt, the daughter of two great journalists I worked with at the ProJo – the late Mimi and Andy Burkhardt. Others get jobs on the social media side of media companies, or doing social media for sports teams, etc. Data is another field. One former student is at the New York Times, mining huge amounts of data for investigative stories and graphics. Another worked for Tim White at WPRI as an investigative producer. Another recent alum, Taylor Begley, is the sports director at WPRI.

GWM: What's the best bit of advice you've ever given to your students?

MS: Get hands-on experience from Day One. The classroom is important, but it's only part of the equation. Sign up right away to work for campus media and develop as many multi-platform media skills as you can to make yourself more versatile. Dive immediately into journalism classes, so you can get to the more advanced courses faster and parlay your experience into internships that can lead to a job when you graduate. Too many college students focus in their first two years on knocking off their general-education requirements and don't get into the advanced journalism courses until they're juniors or seniors. In the classroom, we try to be as hands-on as possible, having students write news stories, cover campus beats, attend sporting events, produce broadcasts and podcasts, etc.



■ STANTON - PAGE 18

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable





Cici

Photo credit: Ron Schmidt Photo

Cici is a beauty queen, all dressed in her pearls and ready to be part of your family! She was rescued with her eight puppies that were born under a porch. Luckily for Cici someone stepped up to help her and now she is here in RI hoping to start a new life. The great news is all of her puppies have found loving homes and now it's her turn. She is a two year old golden color Lab/Hound mix with a sweet, shy loving temperament. Cici is available at Go Fetch Rescue, contact them via their website www.gofetchrescue.org Cici hopes her forever family comes along soon!

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

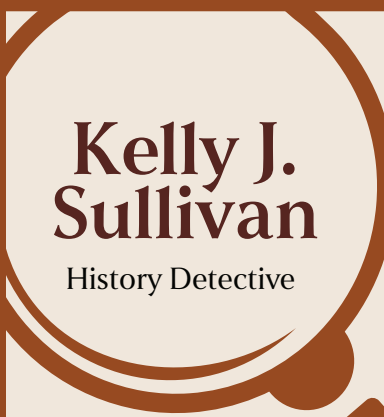




Griffin

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Are you ready to get outside and enjoy exploring with a new puppy? Then meet Griffin, he can't wait to join your family! He is an adorable seven-month-old mixed breed puppy with a fun loving temperament. He's smart, adorable and hoping that you will fall in love with his photo and go to meet him at EGAPL Heart of RI at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open for visiting hours on Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday and Friday 12:00-2:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. Feel free to call for more information at 401-467-3670. Griffin also has a brother and a sister who are also looking for a home!



Kelly J. Sullivan

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Movies

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MONKEY MAN

(Violent, Political, Revenge Movie)

Dev Patel directs and stars in the title role of this R-rated, extremely violent movie about an underground Indian fighter who gets the pulp beaten out of him in fixed fights for little money.

Referred to as Kid, he also works as a dishwasher and waiter in a posh restaurant/brothel, where he sneers at the haves, while living his miserable life among the have-nots. Kid's mother has been murdered in front of him when he was young, and he lives to revenge the police chief who murdered her.

Kid loses it one day as he has had enough of his mistreatment and that of an abused female "employee." He attacks the police chief, his bodyguards, and anyone who gets in his way in one of the bloodiest scenes I've watched at the movies.

He is chased through the streets in quick-cut scenes and injured nearly to his death. Saved by a cult, he gains back his strength.

Kid takes on the bad guys, seeking his revenge on the police chief in an even bloodier battle, with a shocking outcome.

The R-rated violence may be a bit too much for some, but the political messages about the injustices to the downtrodden in India come through loud and clear.

NETFLIX

RIPLEY

*** 1/2

Netflix has sent (The Amazing Mr.) Ripley off to Italy to return the prodigal son of a wealthy man to America.

The con-artist discovers more than he bargained for in this black and white film noir.

VIKINGS

*** 1/2

It's a bloody battle as the Vikings head west to discover new lands and new people to rid of their treasures.

The haves and have-nots clash, lessons are learned about how to treat those who are different than you, and who to trust.

LONGMIRE

*** 1/2

Our daughter turned us on to this series about a middle-aged Wyoming sheriff who tackles a murder an episode. Quirky characters, original plots, and some surprise endings make this a fun hour to watch.

Suspecting 'evil eye,' burial interrupted for autopsy

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

they were both employed. Allegedly, Cecelia had approached Theresa and performed some sort of witchcraft, sprinkling a powder over her head which she claimed was made from the bones of a dead man.

Terrified that a curse had been placed upon her, Theresa was desperate to rid her body of it. She sought out the help of an unqualified medical practitioner who sold her two bottles of a concoction which he claimed would neutralize the damning effects of the evil powder. The bottles, which still contained a portion of the quack's cure, were turned over to the Attorney General's office and placed in the custody of the Rhode Island State Board of Health for analysis. A full

Seventeen-year-old Theresa DeRensis of East Greenwich had been prepared for burial. The daughter of Italian parents, Callisto and Felicia DeRensis, she had passed away a few days earlier, on June 28, 1923, at the Rhode Island Hospital for the Insane in Cranston.

As the hours counted down that sad day, those who'd been close to the young woman awaited their final chance to say goodbye. Then the quiet of the somber interim was broken. One family friend could no longer remain silent and hurried to make contact with the Rhode Island Assistant Attorney General to explain the importance of an autopsy being performed. The Assistant AG was assured that such a probe would show Theresa had been poisoned.

As it happened, it was not only one friend but several who went on to report a variety of strange occurrences surrounding the death of Theresa. As one friend told it, Theresa had experienced an altercation with a co-worker named Cecelia Polacino on June 7, at the Apponaug mill where

investigation into the girl's death was then ordered.

Theresa had been transported to the state insane hospital on June 19. The superintendent of that institution recalled that when she arrived, she was highly nervous and excited and her body appeared to be strangely discolored. A few days later, her neck and chest began to swell considerably. The medical staff at the hospital had a mystery on their hands as no diagnostic tests gave any explanation for what was causing the swelling. Theresa's death at the institution occurred only nine days after her arrival.

After learning of the liberty Theresa's co-worker had taken in dusting her with magic powder, family and friends became certain that Theresa had died as a result of 'the evil eye,' being cast upon her by Cecelia. The cursing glance has long been believed in by cultures and religions across the globe, certain to bring forth injury, misfortune or death to whomever it falls upon. For thousands of years, the reality of 'the evil eye' has been so trusted that amulets, talismans and jewelry have been worn to ward off anyone attempting to curse the wearer and can still be easily purchased today.

During this particular investigation of 1923, the State of Rhode Island took the supernatural consideration very seriously as the facts of the matter were determined.

The Assistant Attorney General ordered the medical examiner for the Town of Warwick to perform an autopsy on Theresa immediately. Therefore, instead of her body being taken to Saint Patrick Cemetery in East Greenwich for burial, it was taken to the East Greenwich undertaking rooms of Frank Hill.

Cecelia was located, charged with assault and placed under arrest. However results of the autopsy later showed that Theresa had died of nothing other than natural causes. Her body was returned to the custody of her family and the funeral plans resumed, the unfortunate girl being interred in the cemetery later that day.

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

The Hammer Party explore apocalyptic sci-fi horror motifs with new single

By ROB DUGUAY

Every music scene has a few instances where a band gets together with each member having a stellar resume backing up their talents. Noise punks The Hammer Party are an example of this in Providence with vocalist Dan St. Jacques being part of Landed, Extinction Machine and Olneyville Sound System among a bunch of other acts. The same can be said for Cranston native and guitarist Damian Puerini, who is also part of Tall Teenagers while being a former member of Song Birds, The Haymakers and an assortment of other bands. Drummer Joe Prop has played with bands such as Scarce and The Silver Apples while performing with the likes of Mary Lou Lord, Will Oldham and Damon Albarn from Blur and Gorillaz. Last but not least, bassist Justin Silvia was the guitarist for Old Roger before joining up with the band and he serves as the glue for their amplified sound. Together, this quartet knows how to up the ante in terms of volume and energy, which is exemplified in their single “Tiamat’s Revenge” that came out via the local record label Psychic Static on March 9.

The record the track, St. Jacques, Puerini, Prop and Silvia worked with sound engineer extraordinaire Sammy D’Ambruoso at Andem Street Studios in their home city. This resulted in a blistering barrage of riffs and beats that’s accented by screeching vocals. A cataclysmic narrative is conveyed through the music with neo-futuristic themes involving annihilation, destruction and complete turmoil. I’m willing to bet



THE HAMMER PARTY
(Submitted photo)

that this is somewhat reactive to the uncertainty and division that’s prevalent in our current society. Regardless if it is or not, one definitive quality the song has is that it’s intense and it’s going to make whoever is listening want to turn their speakers all the way to the max.

There’s a b-side to the single titled “Revenge Reprise” that dives even deeper into the theme that revolves around the prima-

ry song. It’s sort of like a sequel with Puerini’s guitar having a droning tone while Prop’s drumming is rapid and sporadic. Silvia’s skills on bass once again hold it all together as St. Jacques goes off through a unique delivery while walking the line between spoken word and slam poetry. Both songs are ideal for any punk rock enthusiast who likes to listen to music that’s unconventional and a bit different. They’re



also ideal for your favorite weirdo who thinks the sound of circular saws provide a blissful sensation.

To check out The Hammer Party’s latest single and b-side, log onto their Bandcamp page at thehammerparty666.bandcamp.com. They have it available as a 7-inch vinyl record as well, which you can purchase either via Psychic Static’s website at psychicstatic.net or at one of the band’s shows. If you’re looking to keep tabs on when St. Jacques, Puerini, Prop and Silvia will be performing, you can follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/TheHammerParty or on Instagram at instagram.com/TheHammerPartyOfficial. I have a feeling that listening to these guys on vinyl would be awesome, so definitely make sure to grab one of those records if you can. When you do, make sure the needle is working, lay it down and listen to it in a loud manner.

College theatre abounds

By DON FOWLER

Can’t afford the theatre prices on Broadway, Boston or Providence?

Attend a college theatre production.

You’ll discover great talent both on stage and behind the scenes.

Brown Theatre offers some of the best in the country. I remember seeing Laura Linney as a student actor and writing that she was a “up and coming star.”

Ron McClarty went from student actor at Rhode Island College to TV fame and fortune.

The list goes on. CCRI, PC, and URI offer classes and degrees in theatre and the performing arts, and many students have gone on to find careers in New York City, Hollywood and beyond.

Josh Kohler at UMass-Boston

Cranstonian Josh Kohler graduated from Clark University and went on to work in the production area of the performing

arts in New York City.

Josh is now the Production Manager in the theatre Department at UMass Boston, the beautiful campus along the Charles River next to the Kennedy Library.

A group of his accompanied his mother Pat to see a production of D.W. Gregory’s “Radium Girls” at their black box theatre.

The college, made up mostly of commuter students, offers degrees in theatre, music and the performing arts, with a minor in dance. Kohler also teaches there.

The production was first class, with a few of the actors taking dual roles, and many students involved in the design team.

UMass-Boston, like many Rhode Island colleges and universities, offers numerous opportunities for students to hone their talents and prepare for a life in the theatre. Many others enjoy the opportunity to be involved and continue in community theatre after graduate.

And the price is right. For less than the cost of a movie, audiences can see a variety of plays and musicals.

Check it out.

April in years past

By DON FOWLER

20 Years Ago

Festival Ballet presented “Sleeping Beauty” at Vets.

Gamm Theatre presented “Barrymore,” directed by Fred Sullivan, Jr., and with Sam Babbitt in the lead role.

“The Graduate” was at PPAC.

Acclaimed jazz vocalist Shawnn Monteiro gave performances at Bryant and RIC.

Remember Catfish Grill on West Shore Rd. in Warwick? They were a great place to hear cajon and bluegrass music and enjoy good BBQ and jambalaya. Unfortunately, they didn’t last too long.

Dennis Quaid played Sam Houston and Billy Bob Thornton was Davy Crockett in “The Alamo.” Anne Hathaway played Ella in “Ella Enchanted.”

40 Years Ago

Robin Williams starred in “Moscow on the Hudson.” Goldie Hawn starred in “Swing Shift.”

“Amadeus” was at Trinity, starring William Damkoehler as Salieri and Brian McEleny as Mozart.

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band was at the Vets.

Parish House Players presented “Romantic Comedy” starring Lynne Colinson and Mike Flanagan of Cranston.

The Coventry Players did “The Down Staircase, starring Cranston’s Erica Koch, directed by Warwick’s Richard Blue.

Anne Scurria starred in Trinity’s “Crimes of the Heart.”

Bentley’s in Warwick held at Quahog Shuckoff.

Joe Pizzi of Cranston starred as Pinocchio in Kaleidoscope Theater at PPAC.

Discovering Japanese cuisine at Lemongrass

Restaurant Review
by DON FOWLER

We enjoy Chinese or Thai cuisine at Lemongrass at least once a week, dining or taking out their delicious food.

We sampled their Japanese sushi samples at the Food Bank’s Empty Bowls fundraiser and were surprised at how much we enjoyed them.

Lemongrass has an open Japanese kitchen right in the middle of the restaurant. We decided to take the plunge—twice—and have now added Japanese to our list of must-have ethnic foods.

Previously we had limited our choice to those touristy places where you sit around a grill while chefs cook shrimp and flip them into your shirt pocket.

We were ready for the real thing.

First on our list was Seafood Miso Soup (Shrimp, octopus and crabmeat in soybean broth (\$5.50).

Delicious, and a great way to start any meal.

Lemongrass’s Yum Yum Salad is just that. Yummy. Crabmeat, cucumber, spicy mayo and masago make for a light and tasty start.

On one visit we decided to share a meal out of four popular appetizers. Our table looked like a Japanese buffet, enhanced with a variety of flavorful sauces, and for me a Japanese beer.

Sashimi Appetizers (\$10.50) consist of a large plate of raw tuna, salmon, and yellowfish with interesting garnishes.

Gyoza (\$6.95) is pan fried shrimp dumplings with a sweet sauce. (I don’t know if it is kosher, but we mixed our

sauces).

The plate of Vegetable Tempura (\$5.95) was enough for a meal, with a huge variety of crispy mixed veggies with ginger.

Calamari Tempura completed the feast (\$9.50). The crispy, tender squid had a ginger sauce that added to its enjoyment. Sauce. Onion, string beans, mushrooms, broccoli, and four delicious patties of sweet potato made for a special treat.

Now we’re ready to sample the plentiful array of classic and special rolls on the extensive menu. They even offer some that are gluten free.

Lemongrass Asian Bistro is located at 1138 Post Rd., Warwick. Closed Monday. Tel: 941-7288.

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Stanton

(Continued from page 15)

GWM: Now, a bit of throwback. Years ago, we worked together at *The Providence Journal* – many fine memories! – where your specialty was investigative journalism. What was the appeal – and importance – of that?

MS: Rhode Island was a theme park for journalists – you had larger-than-life figures like Raymond Patriarca and Buddy Cianci and an assortment of characters and scoundrels. Providence was a target-rich environment. I can't think of a better place to learn the craft than at The Providence Journal in its heyday. At the ProJo, we had a proud tradition of not only investigative reporting but also storytelling and long-form narrative journalism. We had a story-of-the-month contest in the newsroom that promoted the craft of writing, and later some of those stories – and the accompanying *How I Wrote the Story* – were published in book form.

I loved holding public officials accountable and the impact that our stories had. I worked with friends and colleagues like Tracy Breton and the late Bill Malinowski and who showed me the importance of shoe-leather journalism – knocking on doors and developing sources. We had editors like Joel Rawson and Tom Heslin who encouraged us to think big and take risks. When a statewide banking crisis hit in early 1991, they took me out of the Sports department for what was supposed to be a temporary assignment to help cover it, and I never looked back.

GWM: And investigative journalism continues to play a vital role in a democracy, correct?

MS: Absolutely. Studies have found that communities that are news deserts – with no reporters keeping track of what's happening in town hall or at the State House – have higher rates of corruption and lower levels of voter participation.

GWM: You were on the team that won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. For those who may not know, tells us about what you investigated and the findings.

MS: When I was covering the banking crisis, I developed a State House source who had inside information about a patronage empire that former House Speaker Matthew Smith had built at the state courts, where he had landed a cushy job as state court administrator. Later, other ProJo reporters got wind of the fact that Smith had hired the n-er-do-well son of a political figure, who then stole money from a court fund. When Smith found out, he and his confederates covered it up. We wrote stories about that, then moved on to report on the patronage empire of Smith and Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Thom-

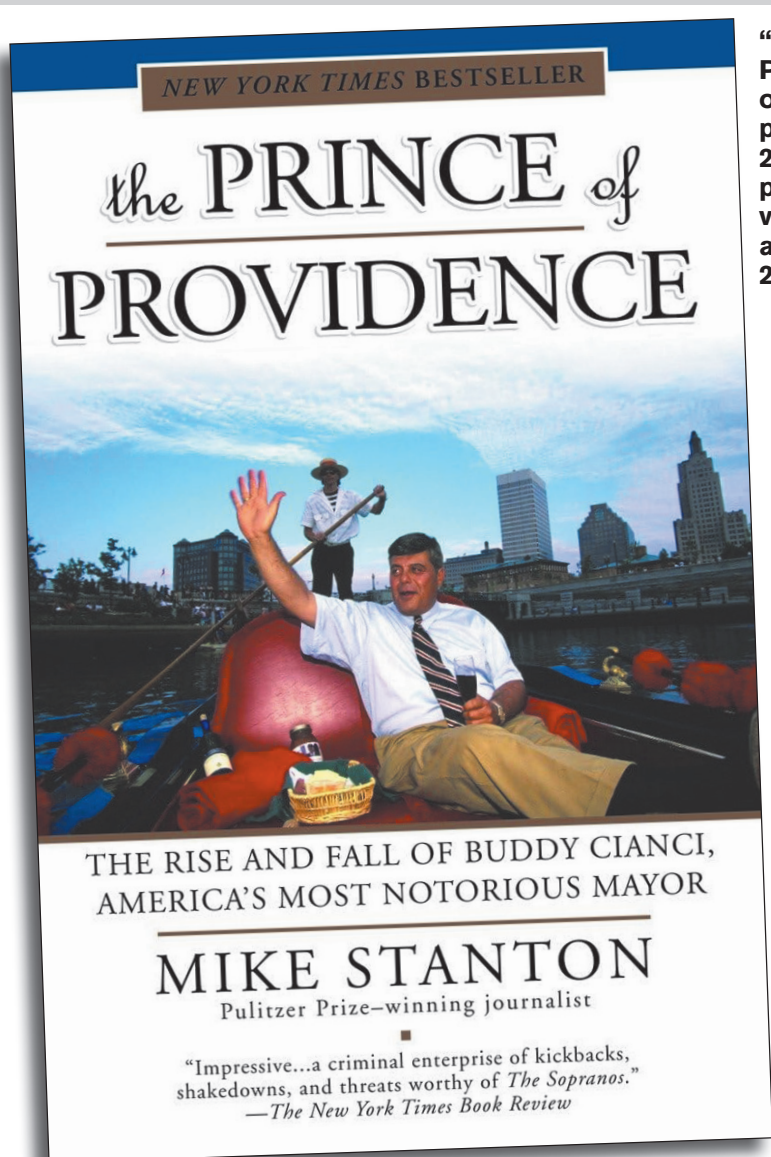
as Fay, who had been Smith's State House ally before his appointment to the bench. That led to criminal investigations and their resignations.

GWM: You are also an author. You first book was the best-selling "The Prince of Providence." For those who may not have read it, give us an overview.

MS: After we won the Pulitzer, several reporters on the investigative team moved on to bigger jobs – Dan Barry and John Sullivan to The New York Times, Ira Chinoy to The Washington Post, Dean Starkman to The Wall Street Journal. I got a 1-year Knight Fellowship at Stanford, returned to take over the ProJo's I-team, but was later offered a job at The Wall Street Journal. I accepted the job on a Friday, didn't feel good about it over the weekend, then turned it down on Monday. One reason I changed my mind: there were rumblings of a federal corruption probe of Providence City Hall, and I had this idea about writing a book about the case and Buddy Cianci. I knew if I left that I would never write that book.

Buddy was a colorful character who had gained a nationwide following and who embodied the best and worst of American politics – All The King's Men meets Goodfellas. I called Jon Karp, a rising star at Random House who had gone to Brown and then worked briefly as a reporter at the ProJo. His immediate reaction: "I've been WAITING for someone to write a book about Buddy." He connected me to his former Brown classmate, Andrew Blauner, who became my literary agent. I wrote a book proposal and sold it to Random House in the months after the FBI raided City Hall and Operation Plunder Dome became public. (Another publisher who bid on the book had published a landmark biography of Huey Long, which I thought put Buddy in good company! He wanted me to call my book *Rogue*, but I liked the alliterative *Prince of Providence*, with its bow to Machiavelli.)

I initially intended *The Prince of Providence* to chronicle the case – with the question of whether Buddy would survive serving as the narrative thread. But as I dug into the rich history, Plunder Dome became just the second half of the book. The first half deals with Buddy's rise and his first downfall – his early career as a Mafia prosecutor, his upset election in 1974 as Providence's first Italian American mayor (and the anti-corruption candidate!), his first reign as major and downfall amidst corruption and the assault of his estranged wife's suspected boyfriend with a fireplace log and lit cigarette. Remarkably, of course, Buddy made a triumphant comeback six years later to preside over the Providence Renaissance (the moving of the rivers, Waterfire, etc.) until he was finally brought down by Operation Plunder Dome. The City of Providence and its rich history –



"The Prince of Providence" was originally published in 2003 and the paperback version became available in 2004.

Roger Williams, the Industrial Revolution, immigration, the Mafia, machine politics – is also a major character. The book became a surprise New York Times bestseller and endures to this day as a classic on American and urban politics. People give it to people who move to Providence as a way of learning about their new home. The *Prince of Providence* was adapted into a hugely successful play at Trinity Rep in 2019 (the theater's biggest hit ever outside its annual Christmas Carol). It still awaits a movie adaption that has stalled several times, despite interest from actors ranging from Russell Crowe to Oliver Platt.

GWM: And tell us about your 2019 title, "Unbeaten: Rocky Marciano's Fight for Perfection in a Crooked World."

MS: Rocky Marciano, from Brockton, Mass., is history's only unbeaten heavyweight boxing champion. I knew about him, but in researching *The Prince of Providence*, I learned that Buddy Cianci as a boy would go to the old Rhode Island Auditorium to watch Rocky fight in the late 1940s. Turns out Rocky fought 29 times in Providence enroute to the title. Then, after my father died, I was going through his papers and found an autographed Rocky poster – Dad had gone to Bryant in the early 1950s, when the campus was in Providence, and met Rocky. I was fascinated to re-create this Runyonesque, Guys & Dolls world of mid-20th Century America, when boxing was as popular as the NFL is today, with celebrity studded, sold-out fights in Madison Square Garden and Yankee Stadium. Boxing also embodied the immigrant struggle. And the sport was controlled by the Mafia, which was notorious for fixing fights and in fact tried to, and may have, fixed a few of Rocky's fights. I was fascinated at how Rocky navigated the corrupt and brutal world of boxing to achieve perfection, then walked away in his prime – which few athletes do – with that 49-0 record. Later in life, in retirement, he bonded with his seemingly polar opposite, Muhammad Ali. I interviewed Ali's wife at the time, who told me how Ali and Marciano discussed going to American's inner cities together to preach racial harmony. This was amidst the riots of the late 1960s – and weeks before Marciano's death in a plane crash, so it never happened. I wrote *Unbeaten* as a social history that appeals to people who aren't hard-core boxing fans, and it won praise as a best book of the year from The Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal and Times of London. It's the only definitive biography of Rocky, and I uncovered some previously unknown stuff – like his Army court-martial in England during World War II. I remember going to the National Archives and that aha moment when I discovered a complete transcript of the court martial, old medical records and even Rocky's mugshot, which appears in the book.

GWM: In addition to everything else, you were a Boston Globe Spotlight fellow. What did that entail?

MS: That was a cool experience. The Hollywood filmmakers of the Academy Award-winning film *Spotlight* funded a fellowship at the Globe for investigative reporting. The Globe's Spotlight Team is the gold standard, especially for a kid who grew up in New England. Years ago, I'd been a finalist for a job at Spotlight but didn't get hired. I applied for the fellowship with a proposal to write about the natural gas industry in New England. I focused on the controversial construction of a natural-gas compressor on the waterfront south of Boston, in Weymouth. It was the lynchpin in a major gas line from Pennsylvania that feeds New England. I used that story to show how state and federal agencies that approve big energy projects are often captured by industry, with local residents who fight the projects for health, safety and climate-change reasons standing little chance against these Goliaths.

GWM: The decline of legacy newspapers has left many parts of the country news deserts – and gutted many once-leading publications. What threat does that pose to communities and democracy in general?

MS: It creates a vacuum that is filled by disinformation and puts people in silos,

leaving them disconnected and unable to agree on basic facts. Look at the recent Baltimore bridge disaster. Instead of focusing on what happened, you have some people claiming on social media that the accident was caused by diversity and equity initiatives.

We talk about this a lot in my classes at UConn. As I mentioned earlier, studies show that in the absence of local news coverage, voter participation declines and corruption rises. This is not a partisan thing – this is about simply telling people what's happening on their town council, with their city budget, at their police department, in their schools. I had a student at UConn from Long Island – the district where George Santos was elected to Congress – and she spoke in class about how, during his campaign, few reporters paid attention to the gaping holes in Santos's resume. There was one small local paper that wrote some things, she said, but few people paid attention. If reporters had been watching, Santos probably wouldn't have been elected.

GWM: Talk about role being played by the many non-profit online news outlets that have emerged in recent years. You are vice chair of the board of ecoRI News, a publication partner of Ocean State Stories, which is also a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

MS: This is an exciting development in journalism – the efforts of various non-profits to fill the vacuum left by the decline of legacy media. We're in the midst of an exciting expansion at ecoRI News. We have a Report for America reporter, Colleen Cronin. We have a new editor, Bonnie Phillips – a Rhode Island native who spent years as a top editor at the Hartford Courant, which won the Pulitzer for breaking news in 1999 for the Connecticut Lottery shootings and which was a finalist in 2013 for the Sandy Hook shootings. Frank Carini, our co-founder and one of our writers/columnists, was recently recognized for his environmental writing by being Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse's guest at the State of the Union address. Other newsrooms, like Rhode Island Current and Ocean State Stories, are providing new forums. Rhode Island's public radio and television stations are merging. I did really some fun stories about Narragansett Bay and seafood last year for ecoRI News as part of a new partnership with Rhode Island Public Television that also aired as a story on RI PBS Weekly. It was great working with them – they taught this old dog some new tricks! The Rhode Island Foundation is looking at ways to support local news as part of a new national initiative called Press Forward, which has the backing of such groups as the MacArthur Foundation and the Knight Foundation. I'm excited to see where that goes.

GWM: What's next for Mike Stanton?

MS: In the short term, I'm looking forward to hosting author talks later this month with two writers with Rhode Island ties whom I admire.

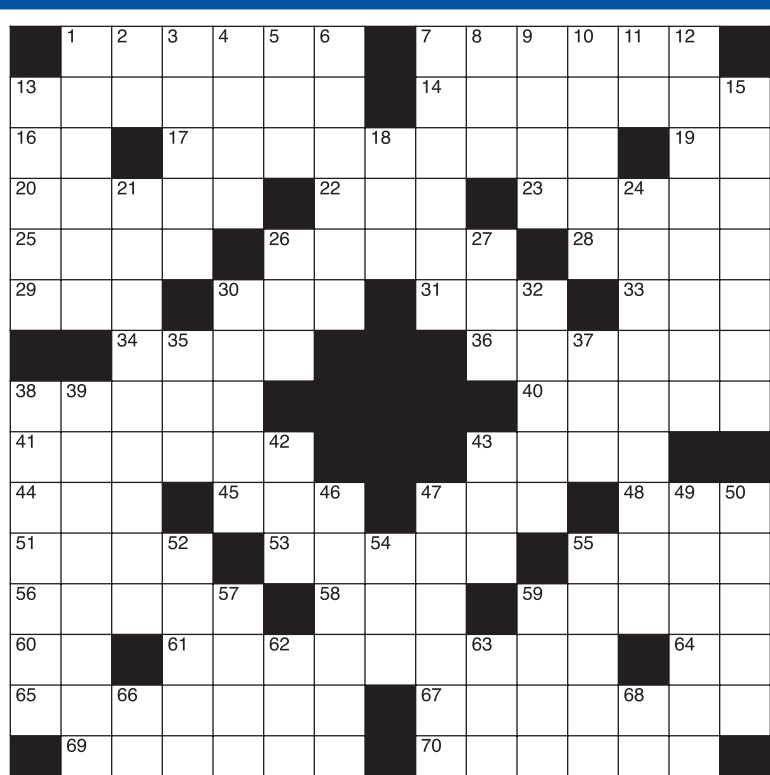
On April 20, at Barrington Books, I'll be talking with best-selling author Don Winslow about the final book in his Rhode Island/Danny Ryan trilogy, *City in Ruins*, about a Providence mob war based on the Iliad.

And on April 25, at Books on the Square, I'll be talking to former Providence Phoenix editor and local freelance author Phil Eil about his new book, *Prescription for Pain*, which chronicles a remarkable true-crime case of a major pill-mill doctor in the opioid epidemic.

As for my own writing, it's funny how one book leads to another. Writing about Buddy Cianci and Rocky Marciano, one name that kept popping up was Raymond Patriarca, the longtime former New England Mafia boss. I'm working on a biography of him. There's no timeline yet. I'm going through the voluminous files I've gathered over the years, including his 7,000-page FBI file, to organize the story and develop a book proposal. There's some wild and crazy stuff there! I'm excited to tell the story of a man whose life encompasses the rise and fall of the American Mafia, from the bootlegging days of Prohibition to the rise of the Las Vegas casinos.

I call it my Rhode Island Trilogy!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- Island nation
- Platforms
- Project plan
- French fishing port
- South Dakota
- Oakland's baseball team
- Military policeman
- Ornamental stone
- Garland
- Process that produces ammonia
- Mousses
- Music notation "dal"
- Fail to win
- Peyton's little brother
- Not near
- Some cars still need it
- Lizard genus
- An idiot (Brit.)
- Postponed
- African country
- Gazes unpleasantly
- In a way, traveled

- Ukraine's capital
- Appropriate
- Dash
- Twitch
- Swiss river
- Data file with computer animations
- City in S. Korea
- Particular region
- They have eyes and noses
- Tear
- Large Madagascan lemur
- Not out
- Ornamental saddle covering
- A driver's license is one
- Latin term for charity
- Rechristens
- Objects from an earlier time
- Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- Used as a weapon
- Yukon Territory
- Makes a map of
- An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- Unilhexium
- Merchant
- Playing the field
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Something to scratch
- Mexican agave
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Session
- North American people
- Ranches
- Electroencephalograph
- A type of compound
- Avenue
- High schoolers' test
- A type of meal
- Gradually disappeared
- Ancients
- Popular pickup truck
- Buzzing insect
- Deal illegally
- Lying in the same plane
- Obstruct
- Related
- Challenge aggressively
- Nocturnal hoofed animals
- Bird's nests
- Foys
- B. de Mille, filmmaker
- Title of respect
- One-time name of Vietnam
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Private school in New York
- Political action committee
- A way to fashion
- Email reply
- "The Great Lake State"

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Poached Egg Tostadas with Avocado-Tomatillo Salsa

Poached Egg Tostadas with Avocado-Tomatillo Salsa

Servings: 4 (1 egg and 1/2 cup salsa per serving)

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 4 corn tortillas (6 inches each)
- 4 cups water
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- 4 large eggs

Salsa:

- 1 medium avocado, diced
- 1 medium Anaheim or poblano pepper, seeds and ribs discarded, diced
- 1 medium tomatillo, papery husk discarded, washed and diced
- 1/2 medium tomato, diced
- 1/4 cup diced red onion
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 medium garlic clove, minced
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 400 F. Line baking sheet with aluminum foil. Lightly spray foil with nonstick cooking spray.

Arrange tortillas in single layer on foil. Lightly spray tortillas with nonstick cooking spray. Using fork, pierce tortillas to prevent from filling with air. Bake 5-6 minutes on each side, or until golden brown. Transfer to serving plates.

In large skillet over high heat, bring water and vinegar to boil.

Once water is boiling, reduce heat and simmer. Break egg into cup then carefully slip egg into simmering water. Repeat with remaining eggs, avoiding eggs touching in water. Simmer 3-5 minutes, or until egg whites are completely set and yolks are beginning to set but aren't hard. Using slotted spoon, drain eggs. Place each egg on tostada.

To make salsa: In medium bowl, gently stir together avocado, pepper, tomatillo, tomato, red onion, cilantro, lime juice, garlic and salt. Serve with tostadas.

Nutritional information per serving: 185 calories; 11 g total fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 3 g polyunsaturated fat; 5 g monounsaturated fat; 186 mg cholesterol; 169 mg sodium; 15 g carbohydrates; 3 g fiber; 2 g total sugars; 9 g protein.

Simple, nutritious meals to make more time for family

FAMILY FEATURES

Making time for meals together can have a positive impact on the well-being of families, including children and adolescents. In fact, regular meals at home can help reduce stress and boost self-esteem, according to research published in “Canadian Family Physician.”

Mealtime conversations are also a perfect opportunity to connect with your loved ones. A study published in “New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development” showed these conversations help improve children’s vocabularies more than being read aloud to.

Making time for meals together shouldn’t require spending all night in the kitchen, however. A simple-to-

prepare ingredient like eggs can help you spend less time cooking and more time with family.

For example, these heart-healthy recipes for Poached Egg Tostadas with Avocado-Tomatillo Salsa, Sweet Potato Hash with Eggs and Poblano Frittata from the Healthy for Good Eat Smart initiative, nationally supported by Egghand’s Best, are ready in 15 minutes or less. They include a wide variety of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and healthy protein sources, which are recommended by the American Heart Association to help prevent heart disease and stroke.

To find more tips for family mealtimes and recipe inspiration, visit heart.org/eatsmart.

Poblano Frittata

Servings: 4 (2 wedges per serving)

- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 2 medium poblano peppers, seeds and ribs discarded, chopped
- 2 cups frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
- 2 medium green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup finely shredded Cotija cheese or crumbled queso fresco

- 1 medium tomato, chopped
 - 1/4 cup fat-free sour cream
- In medium bowl, whisk eggs, milk and cilantro.
- In medium skillet over medium heat, heat oil, swirling to coat bottom of skillet. Cook poblano peppers 3 minutes, or until browning on edges, stirring frequently.
- Stir in corn and green onion. Reduce heat to medium-low and carefully pour in egg mixture. Cook, covered, 10 minutes, or until mixture is just set on edges and still soft in center. Avoid overcooking. Remove from heat.

Sprinkle with cheese. Cut into eight wedges. Place two wedges on each plate. Top with tomatoes and sour cream.

Nutritional information per serving: 244 calories; 8.5 g total fat; 2.5 g saturated fat; 1.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 3 g monounsaturated fat; 192 mg cholesterol; 177 mg sodium; 27 g carbohydrates; 4 g fiber; 8 g total sugars; 13 g protein.



Poblano Frittata

Sweet Potato Hash with Eggs

Servings: 4 (1 cup per serving)

- 2 teaspoons canola or corn oil
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped
- 4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 medium red or green bell pepper, chopped
- 2/3 cup fat-free, low-sodium vegetable broth
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper

- 1/8 teaspoon salt
 - 4 large eggs
 - hot pepper sauce (optional)
- In pressure cooker set on saute, heat oil. Cook onion 3 minutes, or until soft, stirring frequently. Turn off pressure cooker.
- Stir in potatoes, bell pepper, broth, garlic, paprika, cumin, thyme, pepper and salt. Secure lid. Cook on high pressure 3 minutes. Quickly release pressure. Turn off pressure cooker.
- Remove pressure cooker lid. Crack one egg into small bowl. Using back of spoon, make small well in potatoes. Slip egg into well. Repeat with remaining eggs, making separate well

for each egg. Secure lid with pressure vent open. Saute 2 minutes. Let stand on “keep warm” setting 2 minutes, or until eggs are cooked to desired consistency.

Serve hash sprinkled with dash of hot pepper sauce, if desired.

Nutritional information per serving: 258 calories; 7.5 g total fat; 2 g saturated fat; 1.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 3 g monounsaturated fat; 186 mg cholesterol; 244 mg sodium; 39 g carbohydrates; 6 g fiber; 9 g total sugars; 10 g protein.



Sweet Potato Hash with Eggs

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By JENNIFER COATES

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SPORTS

Pats bounce back



HOME RUN: The Pilgrim softball team meets Skylar Hawes at the plate after she hit a home run against Smithfield.

Pilgrim wins back to back games after dropping opener

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Pilgrim softball team bounced back after dropping its season opener by getting back to back wins to climb above .500.

Prout handed the Pats a 5-4 loss in extra innings to start the season. In the two games since, the Pats have looked

back to their old selves, beating Smithfield on the road 8-1 then cruising past East Providence in a 12-0 blowout.

Gretchen Dombeck has been stellar for Pilgrim in the circle and at the plate. She pitched seven innings in Smithfield, allowing no earned runs and striking out 11 batters

PATS - PAGE 23



Athlete of the Week: Gretchen Dombeck

The *Warwick Beacon's* Athlete of the Week is Pilgrim softball pitcher Gretchen Dombeck. Dombeck has been key in Pilgrim's back-to-back wins, tossing a complete game against Smithfield last week in which she allowed no earned runs and struck out 11 batters. She also knocked in a pair of runs on offense. She would then turn around to pitch five scoreless innings against East Providence while knocking in two runs again. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

Roundup: Titans sweep Knights

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Toll Gate boys volleyball team is off to a solid start this spring and won its second match, beating Exeter-West Greenwich 3-0 to improve to 2-1.

Austin Scottie led the Titans with 15 kills while Auston Van added 12 kills. Jaydon Glover finished the game with 23 assists as well.

Westerly 3, Pilgrim 0

The Pats were swept by the Bulldogs on Monday night. Jared Dosremedios led the team with eight assists.

BOYS LACROSSE

Hendricken 20, East Greenwich 12

The Hawks beat EG in a shootout on Tuesday night. John Treat paced the Hendricken attack with six goals while Ben Selle added five. Nick Senecal and Sebastian Nault also scored in the win.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Middletown 15, Pilgrim 4

The Pats fell to the Islanders on Tuesday night. Lily Farrell continued to shine, though, leading Pilgrim with a multi-goal performance.

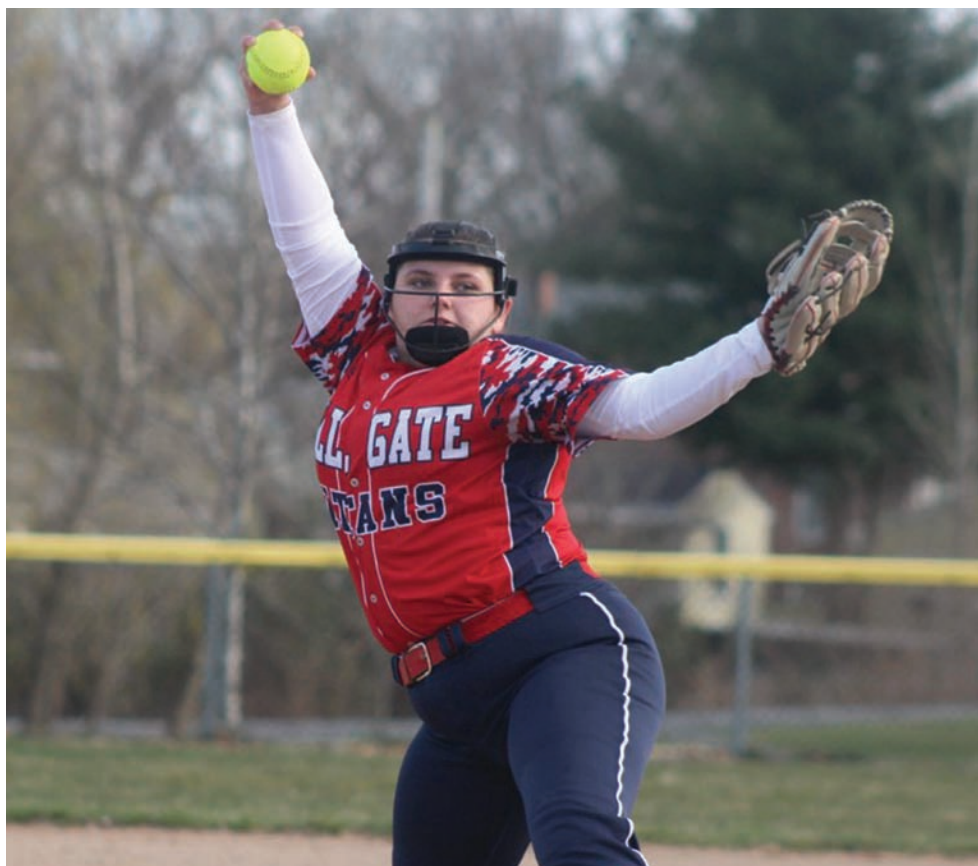
BASEBALL

North Kingstown 2, Pilgrim 0

The Pilgrim bats continued to struggle on Tuesday when they were shut out by the Skippers. Nolan Canestrari was solid on the mound for Pilgrim once again, tossing 5 1/3 innings and allowing just one earned run while striking out seven batters.

La Salle 11, Toll Gate 1

The Titans are looking to get into the win column after dropping their third straight on Tuesday when they fell to La Salle. Jeremie Luna scored the team's lone run.



WINDING UP: Toll Gate pitcher Delaney Wilson. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Titans looking for first win

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston softball team has emerged as a Division II favorite early this spring season after beating Mt. Hope 11-0 in the opener then Toll Gate 2-0 on Monday afternoon to improve to 2-0.

Sophomore pitcher Haley Boudreau has been electric in the circle for the Panthers, racking up 28 strikeouts in 12 innings of work and allowing no earned runs on just

three hits.

The Panthers clashed with the Titans in a pitchers' duel on Monday, as Toll Gate's Delaney Wilson was also stellar, allowing just one earned run when Kalyn Foster knocked in an RBI in the sixth inning. Johnston's first run came in the third on a throwing error. Otherwise, the Panther bats were held in check by Wilson, who

TITANS - PAGE 24

Softball teams impress in opening week

My biggest takeaway through the first week of spring sports is how excellent our softball teams are here at Beacon Communications. All five of our teams have impressed and could be contenders by season's end, at least based on what we've seen in the early going.

In Warwick, Pilgrim appears to be right back to where it was last year as one of the state's best clubs. Gretchen Dombeck has proven to be a worthy suc-

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

cessor in the circle after Alyssa Twomey graduated, and players like Genna

D'Amato, Madison Tuironk and Skylar Hawes appear to be more than enough on offense to keep this team in play for a deep postseason run.

The only question I have at this point is experience. Although Pilgrim's underclassmen have proven to be ready for significant roles, how will they fare when the playoffs arrive? It's early, I know, but this team will be in the playoffs, no doubt. How far can the

PITCH - PAGE 24

STATE CHAMPS: The Warwick PAL sixth grade girls basketball team that captured the state championship in March. (Submitted photos)



PAL Warriors win four titles

SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

The Warwick (PAL) Warriors youth travel basketball program recently wrapped up a highly successful season as it continued to grow in the 2023-2024 season with 14 teams competing in the RI MetroWest program, including four girls teams.

Five teams reached their respective state championship games with four of those teams capturing divisional titles.

Among the champions, the fourth grade boys A team had another historic run this season that included multiple major championships. The team captured the New England MetroWest Championship on March 17, defeating some of the region's top teams.

The week prior, the boys also earned their way to their

PAL - PAGE 24

Kickin' it

The Ocean State Grand National Karate Championship returned for its 42nd tournament this past weekend at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick and hosted some of the world's best practitioners in front of a packed crowd. Leading the event once again were Don and Christine Rodrigues of the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy in Warwick. Here are some shots of the action throughout the contests. *(Photos by Alex Sponseller)*



AROUND THE HORN: Pilgrim's Genna D'Amato makes a throw to first.

■ Pats

(Continued from page 22)

while also knocking in two runs.

"I think it was super important (to bounce back after the opener). We have a really good team to work with and we root for each other, we always have each other's back. It was great to just get back out here and throw," Dombeck said after the win.

Skylar Hawes blasted a two-run homer against the Sentinels while Madison Tuirok led the team with three hits. Genna D'Amato and Audra McDonnell also recorded RBI in the victory.

Smithfield led 1-0 and the game was tied 1-1 heading into the fifth inning. The Pats scored seven runs between the fifth and sixth to break things open.

"We gained more energy throughout the game. We noticed that we had to and we brought it," Tuirok said. "It proves to me that we have a team that bonds together."

Dombeck was a force once

again against the Townies, pitching five scoreless innings while recording another pair of RBI at the plate. Hawes went 3-for-4 with three RBI while McDonnell knocked in three runs on two hits. Marin Prest, D'Amato and Tuirok all batted in runs to help the Pats force the mercy rule.

After graduating five seniors – including Gatorade Player of the Year Alyssa Twomey – the Pats will be looking for newcomers to step up to replace the production. With seven freshmen on the roster, including Hawes and Tuirok, Pilgrim coach Carlos Rodas expects them to compete every day and help the Pats return to the Division I championship mix for the next four seasons.

"We're going to need them all to contribute. We lost five seniors from last year that were part of state championship runs. I told them that the expectation this year is just to bring it each game, but we really want to set the foundation for the next four years," said Rodas.

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 22)

youngsters carry this team when the postseason grind gets underway?

As for Toll Gate, despite starting 0-2, what I saw on Monday against Johnston was encouraging.

Pitcher Delaney Wilson is back and threw an absolute gem against the Panthers (who we'll get to in a moment). Wilson allowed just one earned run and struck out 14 batters. Unfortunately, the Titans bats were cold.

Sure, Toll Gate also has a young roster, but having a pitcher capable of doing what Wilson did is huge. Others may disagree, but pitching is the most important aspect of the game at the high school level. Any team can get lucky and knock in a couple runs here and there, but having a quality pitcher is essential. There is no such thing as a fluke performance in the circle.

Toll Gate was shut out in each game, so I do believe the offense will struggle this season. Wilson, though, will only get better once the weather warms up, as will the entire team. Toll Gate has a difference maker in the circle, and even just a small improvement at the plate will allow the Titans to win some games and make a playoff push.

The Cranston East Bolts look primed to be a contender in Division III after returning to the playoffs last season.

Freshman Isabella Sousa has been flat out dominant in the circle for the Bolts. Again, if you have a top tier pitcher, that alone will make you a playoff team. Jaeda Viveiros, Nevaeh Fatorma, Kiara McGarty, Estrella Rivas and Mariah Means-Waldorf are all solid players, while Samaya Imondi and Leanna Garcia look ready to emerge as underclassmen.

The Bolts really have all the pieces in place to contend for a championship, it will just be about staying healthy and consistent.

Across town, the West Falcons have also picked up where they left off last year and are also very much in the Division I Championship mix.

As of this writing, the Falcons are 1-0 after thumping North Kingstown 18-0 in the season opener. Heading into the season, the questions were: who would replace Paige Cote in the circle, and would the Falcons have enough depth to replace the two or three big bats that graduated?

It's a small sample size, for sure, but an 18-0 win is impressive and should give us the answers.

Mia Crudale got the win in her debut as the team's pitcher and has been around for awhile ... she should be ready to lead the team in the circle. Sofia Marella is behind the plate, and Siena Nardelli, Nicole Silvestri and Sam Healy all return and look ready to be All-Division players. This lineup is still loaded despite losing a few pieces.

Finally, the Johnston Panthers have already emerged as the favorite to win the DII title.

Haley Boudreau returns after a breakout freshman season and is set to be one of the best pitchers, not only in the division, but in the entire state. In two starts, she is 2-0 and has yet to allow a run while picking up 28 strikeouts. She has also been solid at the plate as well.

Along with Boudreau, there is Arianna Velasquez, who will be playing Division II softball in college and is an elite infielder. Ava Waterman also returns along with Kalyn Foster, who drove in the team's only earned run on Monday against Toll Gate.

Between having the division's best pitcher and a deep, versatile lineup on the field and at the dish, Johnston should be there until the very end.

Again, it has only been a week. Things can change and look completely different in the next two months, but when assessing the ceilings of these teams, we could easily see all five reach the playoffs and multiple win championships. Softball has always been my favorite spring sport to cover, so I am thrilled that it looks like this will be a huge season for our teams.



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College Notes: Warwick duo leading Lasell

By BRENDEN SOARES

The pitching corps at Lasell University has been bolstered this spring by the arms of a pair of players with connections to Warwick, namely Hendricken product Adam Marsh and Toll Gate alum Darek Lallo.

Marsh has been among the Lasers' most versatile options, flitting between the starting rotation and bullpen in his nine appearances to date, going 3-0 with a pair of saves and 35 strikeouts, tying for the team lead in the latter with Matthew Fletcher.

A decent chunk of those punchouts came during Lasell's early-season trip to Florida, where the former Hawk struck out 14 batters during his stints on the hill against Kenyon, Earlham and Northwestern-St. Paul.

In the last of those contests, the front end of a March 15 doubleheader versus Northwestern-St. Paul, Marsh hurled a complete game three-hitter in a 1-0 victory over the Eagles, striking out nine without surrendering a walk.

After spending the remainder of March in the bullpen, the junior righty got the ball again on April 1 in the Lasers' 17-6 defeat of Rivier, earning credit for the win with five strikeouts in as many innings before giving way to a pair of relievers.

The first reliever to emerge that day was Lallo, who at the time was enter-

ing his ninth game of the year and went on to record a strikeout of Rivier's Owen Medlock but also allowed a run, only the second time this season that a runner scored on his watch.

For the ex-Titan southpaw, this was part of a stretch in which he saw action in four consecutive contests, starting with a 5-2 upending of Brandeis on March 27 that resulted in his team-leading fourth triumph of the season.

Against the Judges, Lallo was the beneficiary of good timing as he entered proceedings just after Lasell's Brad Edwards singled home CJ Mills in the top of the fifth to break a 1-1 stalemate and go ahead for good.

Over the course of his 11 appearances thus far, the senior has racked up six strikeouts in 16 innings of work while maintaining an earned run average of 1.69, the lowest among all Laser pitchers with at least ten innings pitched.

Rivier extended their winning streak to six on Monday with a 16-6 decision over Colby-Sawyer, aided by a half-dozen punchouts from Marsh and a 2-for-3 day at the dish for Jared Whitby, who drove home four of the runs.

Now at 16-7 on the season, the Lasers have a busy week ahead as they try and keep their momentum, with midweek games versus New England College and Framingham State and

weekend twinbills against Anna Maria and Norwich on the docket.

Hendricken graduate Braydon Dolbashian has had ample opportunity in recent times to show off his power for the Merrimack nine, slamming a pair of home runs at the start of April for the Warriors.

The ex-Hawk cleared the fence as part of a 3-for-4 performance against Holy Cross last Tuesday, taking Nick Harnisch deep in the third inning of an 8-4 doubling up of the Crusaders, a contest in which Pilgrim alum Colby Barker picked up the win.

Three days later, Dolbashian was the difference maker in the Warriors' 7-4 defeat of Central Connecticut, hitting a three-run blast in the fifth inning to give Merrimack a 5-3 advantage that they would not relinquish the rest of the way.

It was the perfect beginning to the weekend for the visiting Warriors, who would go on to sweep the defending Northeast Conference champion Blue Devils to improve their record to 13-17 on the campaign going into Tuesday's meeting with UMass-Lowell.

Starting each of the 20 games he has played for Merrimack, Dolbashian is averaging .292 inside the batter's box with 15 runs driven in and three doubles while also setting the team pace for triples with three to his name.

■ Titans

(Continued from page 22)

finished with 14 strikeouts of her own.

"It was a pitchers' dual. We just couldn't find the holes. We had some hits but couldn't move the runners. (Boudreau's) a very good pitcher," said Toll Gate coach Shana Willis, who was happy with the team's progress after dropping the opener to Westerly, 10-0. "It was much better and a great stepping stone here. We were down 1-0 to Westerly then made some errors. They had those first game jitters. Delaney pitched great today and if we can get the bats going then we'll be heading in the right direction."

Boudreau relied on her off-speed pitches to keep the Titan batters off-balance all night.

"My curveball was working well. I noticed that they could hit inside so I made sure to pitch outside and that helped me get through the game. It was a lot of



BEHIND THE PLATE: Toll Gate catcher Amanda Preston makes a play.

pressure, but I feel that that makes me pitch better. The adrenaline helps me pitch faster," Boudreau said.

Boudreau had a breakout season last spring for the Panthers and figures to be perhaps the division's best

arm. She is excited to build on last year's performance and feels a bit more comfortable this season.

"I'm a lot more confident because I know that I won't be as nervous. I experienced everything last year,"

Boudreau said.

Bella Boudreau led the Panthers at the plate in the opener, knocking in three runs. Arianna Velasquez, Alexia DiLorenzo and Foster all recorded multiple RBI as well.

The Panthers have been trending in the right direction as a program over the past two seasons and are looking to take one more step toward winning a championship. With a roster that features quality pitching, fielding and hitting, Boudreau believes chemistry will be the final piece to the puzzle.

"We've been working together since sixth grade. We work well together, we communicate and I think we can make it far this year," said Boudreau.

The Panthers next faced Barrington on Wednesday, but the results were not available at press time. Johnston will host Lincoln on Saturday morning. Toll Gate faced South Kingstown on Wednesday, but the results were not available at press time.



WARRIORS ON THE COURT: The PAL fourth grade teams this past season.

■ PAL

(Continued from page 22)

third consecutive D1 Rhode Island MetroWest State Championship, and on March 6, the team won the state title once again, going back-to-back in decisive fashion.

This group has won 73 games together over their last two seasons in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. In addition to the 2024 New England and State Championships, the team also finished the season as the D1 Regular Season Champions, the RIYBA Thanksgiving Tournament Champions, Mass Premier Jamfest Tournament Champions, RIYBA MLK Tournament Champions, RIYBA Presidents' Day Tournament Champions, and remained undefeated in MetroWest play for the second consecutive season against both fourth and fifth grade opponents.

"I could not be more proud of the boys on this team for how focused they remained all year, for how relentlessly hard they work and play for each other, and how dedicated they are to becoming better people both on and off the court. The boys had to deal with taking everyone's best shot in every game. That is not easy to do 40 times a year. As I mentioned after last season's championship run though, it is very difficult to deal with a team like ours that treats each other like brothers. All of the kids on the team would literally run through walls for one another, whether we were winning by 2 or 32. That mentality, that intensity, the effort, and that approach does not change, and that is awfully tough for opponents to match that," head coach Jim Garcia said.

Garcia also coached the sixth grade girls team to its third consecutive Division II Rhode Island MetroWest State Championship game this season and captured their second state title in three years.

In addition to the state championship, the team was Division II regular season champions, won over 25 games on the season throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Additionally, the girls qualified and competed in the New England MetroWest Championships on March 16 and 17 and represented Rhode Island and the Warwick Youth Basketball program well with their relentless and tenacious play.

"Sixth grade is a very difficult year for travel basketball. In addition to the demands of the travel season, the girls are also transitioning to middle school which isn't exactly simple. They have to balance and juggle not only travel basketball but life in general, family dynamics, their academics, and also the



WINNING IT ALL: The PAL fifth grade team.

commitments to their middle school basketball teams. What they accomplished this season was impressive and did not come easy or without sacrifice," Garcia said.

The fourth grade boys B team led by coach Seth Holbrook had an amazing season winning the Division III tournament championship and finishing with an overall record of 19-8 including winning the MLK Jr. Tournament.

"I can't say enough good things about this group of players, their parents, our coaches and the organization. We had so much support and commitment from everyone to improve as a team and I'm glad the boys got to experience the thrill of winning a championship," Holbrook said. "In our championship game, the boys rallied to close a 5-point gap going into half - including a buzzer beating 3-pointer - and never looked back to take the victory."

After a tough season at the Division I level, the fifth grade boys A team led by coach Andy Tourageau was placed as the No. 5 seed in the Division II State Tournament, from there the team went on a three-game winning streak, beating teams by an average margin of 24 points, to capture the championship.

To see how the rest of the league fared this past season, check out and online recap at www.warwickonline.com.

The Warwick (PAL) Warriors compete against teams in MetroWest RI and the Rhode Island Youth Basketball Association, with teams from third to eighth grade. For more information visit warwickyouthbasketballri.org

Local waterways stocked for Opening Day

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Opening Day of the freshwater fishing season in Rhode Island is 6 a.m. Saturday, April 13. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has stocked over 60,000 brook, brown, rainbow and golden rainbow trout select areas in advance of the season.

Local waterways ready with stocked fish in the Cranston/Warwick/West Warwick area include Gorton Pond, Warwick (new this year); J.L. Curran Reservoir, Cranston; Meshaticut Pond, Cranston; Pawtuxet River (north branch), Scituate and Cranston; Pawtuxet River (south branch), Coventry and West Warwick; and Seidel's Pond, a children's only pond, Cranston.

Over one hundred freshwater locations will be stocked. For a list of trout stocked waters and rules governing children's ponds, please see trout waters and other information of interest to anglers at Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (ri.gov).

A 2024 fishing license is required for anglers 15 years of age and older. A Trout Conservation Stamp is also required of anyone wishing to keep or possess a trout or to fish in a catch-and-release or "fly-fishing only" area. Trout Stamps are not required for persons possessing trout taken from a lake or pond that shares a border with Rhode Island.

In Rhode Island, the minimum size for trout is eight inches (8") and the daily creel or possession limit is five from April 13, 2024, through Dec. 1, 2024, and two from Dec. 1, 2024, through Feb. 28, 2025.

Getting ready to fish is easy

Freshwater fishing in Rhode Island and Massachusetts is outstanding. Both states stock waterways with a variety of trout and salmon which makes catching them easy this time of year. Freshwater fishing is a good way to start fishing as anglers of all ages can fish from the safety and comfort of a pond, lake or river shore.

Fishing provides adventure, excitement and food if you like to clean and cook your catch (which is not necessary as many anglers

practice catch & release). And it gives us an opportunity to be outdoors with family and friends and/or gain a bit of solace with the environment.

Here are three simple steps to get started.

One: fishing licenses and regulations. Freshwater fishing is regulated by the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. See links to licensing information below.

Two: what you need to get started. For freshwater fishing use a light to medium action rod and reel combination such as an Ugly Stick, Berkley or other rod/reel combination (\$39 to \$69). You will also need some hooks and bobbers that float baits in the water column and move to signal that you have a bite. If recently stocked, trout can be fished with a synthetic bait (as that is what they eat when in the hatchery) like Power Bait (\$4 to \$6) or as the fish acclimate to the natural environment live bait such as night crawler worms or shiners can be used. Once anglers have mastered casting and retrieving, lures can be used such as spinner baits and jerk baits.

Three: where to catch fish. Rhode Island DEM's Division of Fish & Wildlife stocks over 100 ponds, rivers, brooks and lakes with a variety of trout and salmon so you might want to check waterways in your area. Massachusetts stocks designated trout waterways with over 500,000 fish each year. Many of them are stocked two or three times a year.

For a complete list of stocked ponds, license information and a copy of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations and Guide visit www.eregulations.com/rhodeisland/fishing/freshwater. In Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

Hats off to Ed Lombardo

Ed Lombardo, expert fly fisher, guide and instructor, was honored by Rhode Island Trout Unlimited (225) with their Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual banquet which took place Saturday at The Quonset O Club, North Kingstown. Ed was honored for his forty years of service as a fly instructor for thousands of men, women and children.

Lombardo has worked with the Department of En-



SILVER SPRING LAKE: Kevin Tierney of Burrillville fished with stepsons Camryn Lions and Geo Curtis. The trio caught seven trout including two golden trout. Opening day this year is Saturday, April 13. (Submitted photos)

vironmental Manager in Rhode Island for 33 years instructing freshwater and saltwater fly classes. Presently he works with Kimberly Sullivan, principal biologist and aquatic resource education coordinator for the DEM, delivering multiple fly fishing programs each year. They conduct both saltwater and freshwater classes, programs for children, veterans, beginners and those more experienced with fly fishing and tying. Ed has also instructed fly fishing and tying for the many area fishing clubs he is a member of.

After receiving the award, Ed said, "This was a total surprise. I did not know about the award. It is a great honor."

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing. Trout season in RI opens Saturday, April 13, however, many trout ponds are open for fishing in Massachusetts. Prior to this date. "Anglers just wanting to get tight on something have been traveling to Massachusetts to fish for trout. But here in Rhode Island anglers are starting to get excited too," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "Anglers are gearing up for opening day. We are open this weekend and have a good supply of Power Baits which have been the hot bait for the past few years. However, I might

add anglers have been hooking up with large-mouth bass and Pike in area ponds this week."

Saltwater. Anglers continue to find holdover school striped bass in estuaries. "The Narrow River has been producing school striped bass for customers fairly consistently," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "We have had quite a few anglers getting ready for both tautog and stiped bass. They are getting their lead core line ready for trolling and buying a lot of soft plastic lures mimicking shad. I do not expect it to be very long before the striped bass fishing explodes due

to the warm weather we are expecting next week."

Lombardo, said, "We fished Narrow River Monday. Caught a nice mid twenty inch fish that looked like a holdover fish. I believe once the water warms some the bite will get better. I caught it on my Hot Pink Ed's fly. We saw now bait in the water on Monday."

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



GOOD WEEK: Fly fishing expert Ed Lombardo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from RI Trout Unlimited Saturday and Monday he caught this striped bass on Narragansett.

Randall earns win for RIC

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior right fielder Sean Helfrich (Saunderstown, R.I.) went 1-for-3 with a three-run home run and two runs scored as Rhode Island College defeated Western Connecticut, 10-3, in a Little East contest played at Pontarelli Field on Tuesday afternoon.

The Wolves would strike early after a base hit single gave WestConn a 1-0 lead in the first inning. They would extend their lead in the fifth after a two-run double put the visitors up, 3-0.

After RIC went four innings without a hit, the offense exploded in the bottom of the fifth, as the Anchormen erupted to score eight runs and take an 8-3 lead.

RIC added two more insurance runs in the sixth inning to go up by seven, 10-3.

Senior righty Jake Randall (Warwick, R.I.) secured the win (1-1), striking out four without allowing a hit, in 3.1 innings of scoreless relief.

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Community Champion Series: Edward Fracassa

By **BRETT TAYLOR**
Special to the Beacon

What Makes a Community Champion?
Meet Edward Fracassa. This Warwick resident is the epitome of a community champion. Despite facing early challenges with his father’s passing during his childhood, he entered the United States Marine Corps during his high school years. There he played football and became a skilled javelin thrower.
Returning from the Marines, Fracassa finished high school and headed off to the University of Rhode Island to study and play football. An All-New England and All-Conference football and track athlete at URI, Ed taught physical education in Warwick for 27 years.
In 1973, he took over as head

football coach at Bishop Hendricken, transforming the struggling Class B program into a Class A powerhouse. As a member of the RI Football Coaches Hall of Fame, he led the Hawks to multiple championships with many successful seasons before retiring and enjoying time with his family.
Through the years, Coach Fracassa has mentored many young athletes. Whether guiding young adults to stay in school, coaching or advising them on different career paths, he can still be spotted throughout the state cheering on his past students as they now share his love of coaching.
Coach Fracassa continues to make an impact on many young athletes, such as volunteering his time coaching the javelin at Hendricken. Most of all, he has found new opportunities to

coach 5 special young athletes in sports that he has never been involved with before. From Flag Football to Irish Dance; lacrosse to basketball; tennis to squash, this proud grandfather rarely misses a game. Thanks Papa for teaching us the value of family and community. Happy Birthday!
Here is a Q&A with Fracassa:
BT: Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self?
EF: Sports provided me an opportunity to be part of a group and meet people from all different types of backgrounds. Teamwork and competition emulates life in many aspects. You can work hard and give it all you get, yet despite this effort sometimes you fall short. My advice

to myself and all athletes is to remember that sports do not define you. What defines you is the work you put in, whether it be the classroom or on the field.
BT: Beyond your achievement in sports, what inspires you to give back to your community as well as encourage others to do the same?
EF: One of the responsibilities is to have empathy, To realize where you came from and use those experiences to realize what you achieved and use those tools to help the younger generation to succeed.
BT: You, as an athlete, continue to be a positive influence. What are some examples of the contributions made or causes that you support?
EF: During my time as the head coach of the Bishop Hendricken football team I made

sure that the players and staff knew that being on the team meant more than playing the sport. It meant that we had to take on the role of being role models to the people in the community. During the 1978 season I learned about the country of Haiti and the extreme poverty its citizens were enduring. A local organization, Team Providence Haiti, approached me about organizing a trip to provide help and assistance to the Haitian people. As a result of this partnership the Hendricken football team participated in a mission trip to help the people of Haiti.
This past year I volunteered to help coach the javelin thrower for the Hendricken outdoor track team. All of the throwers beat their personal records and one athlete qualified for the Rhode Island state meet.

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136 Phillips Ave	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Ricci, Benjamin	3/22	\$200,000
165 Oakland Beach Ave	Weindel, Shannon	Divincenzo, Francesco	3/19	\$322,000
176 Harmony Ct	Finizia, Stephanie	Rizzo, Lisa and Sparling, David	3/21	\$354,000
190 Lakeside Ave	Scalzo, Frank and Scalzo, Wendy	Christensen, Drew A	3/21	\$375,000
209 Long View Dr	Duchesneau, Christine	Fletcher, Ryan A	3/21	\$250,000
229 Reynolds Ave	Gentile, Alberico and Gentile, Kimberly	Bateman-Drew, Robert M and Bateman-Drew, Stephanie E	3/18	\$555,000
230 Boulder View Dr	Treacy, Raymond M	Stocker, Drew T	3/22	\$535,000
230 Douglas Rd	Mark F Zappe Irt and Doyle, Matthew J	Ortega, Tony and Ortega, Gilberto	3/18	\$385,000
417 Squantum Dr	Kalplan, Rachael D	Gannon 4th, Richard P and Starr, Nancy K	3/20	\$523,000
426 Pequot Ave	Tiraterra, Casey	Borden, Andrea	3/18	\$330,000

West Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
27 Whippoorwill Way	Marchesseault, Gary D and Marchesseault, Michele	Marchesseault, Gary D	3/20	\$195,000

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
38 Gough Ave	Magiera, Joseph P and Magiera, Melissa	Howard, Calia E	3/22	\$430,500
56 West St	Reisert Realty Corp	Laroche, Thomas	3/22	\$360,000
94 Cowesett Ave Lot 23	Lugo, Jeann C	Pinto, Michael	3/22	\$175,000
450 Providence St Lot 3	Delman, Brian M and Delman, Terry L	Zhang, Yulun and Liang, Tingxia	3/21	\$326,000

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