

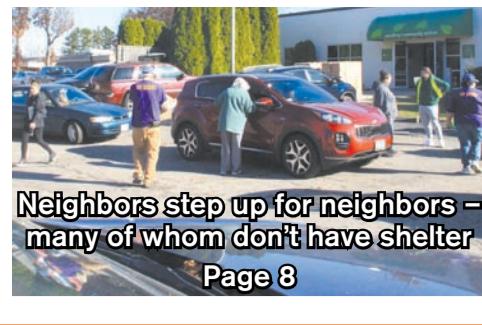


WARWICK BEACON

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

2 Sections with Supplements ♦ 32 Pages ♦ \$2.00 ♦ Vol. 72 No. 20



Neighbors step up for neighbors - many of whom don't have shelter

Page 8

Sinapi gets nod for council president, looks for efficiencies

By ADAM ZANGARI

A closed caucus of the nine members-elect of next year's City Council met Saturday, and when they came out they had reached unanimous agreement on the first decision they would make: Anthony Sinapi would be the council's next president come January.

Sinapi, Ward 8's representative, has been on the council since 2018. Those six years, he said, have prepared him to take the helm of a council that includes four freshmen.

As president, Sinapi said, he would look to make the body more efficient.

"I'm big on efficiency and getting things done," Sinapi said. "I've been pushing the

prior rule changes that we had when we cut everything down and made it more structured. I want to do more of the same and make things streamlined."

Though he said he was still considering what changes to make, Sinapi said that among them would likely be is how City Council committees operate.

"I'm still working on figuring out some basics, like streamlining how our committees conduct themselves and the degree of the composition, because right now, three people on a



Anthony Sinapi

committee, it makes it very complicated to actually discuss things amongst your fellow committee members," he said.

Sinapi and current council President Stephen McAllister have talked about the role, and both men said they have plans for further discussions to help ease Sinapi's transition to the presidential role.

McAllister, who was not part of the Saturday meeting, said that he called Sinapi after hearing the news to congratulate him and offer his ad-

vice.

"I'm very excited for him," McAllister said. "I think it's an excellent pick. There's a lot of great talent on this council, so you couldn't really go wrong. I think he's going to slide right into that position."

Sinapi said that he would be talking with McAllister and fellow outgoing Councilor Donna Travis about their experiences as council president, and will develop his own leadership style by determining what worked and what didn't work during their tenures.

Ward 9 Councilman Vincent Gebhart, who sought the role of president, said making sure the council starts the new year

■ COUNCIL - PAGE 15

Possible school deficit muddies prospect of \$3M surplus for city

By JOHN HOWELL

Last month the administration gleefully trumpeted a \$3-million surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, giving the city as much as a \$37-million reserve.

Then came last week's School Committee meeting.

Schools Finance Director Brandon Bohl told the committee the district overspent the \$95-million salary account for the fiscal year without naming an amount.

"We now know that this amount (the budget) was far less than the district needed to budget for salaries, while a significant adjustment was made to increase the budget for salaries in the current fiscal year, we anticipate being overbudgeted again in fiscal year '25," he told the committee.

Reached Monday, School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan said the district is still "closing out the fiscal year" and he couldn't say whether there would be a deficit or not. Asked specifically about a shortfall in the salary account, Galligan said the district "spent less in other area to close that gap."

The online Warwick Post, however, reported last week that Bohl said schools had overspent the salary account by \$4.8 million. It went on to say Bohl recommended increasing the current account by 4.61% in addition to the 35 layoffs already enacted.

This was news to Mayor Frank Picozzi and City Finance Director Peder Schaefer.

Schaefer said he talked with Bohl before issuing his rosy Oct. 10 report to the mayor and City Council. At that time there was no indication of a significant school budget shortfall. And in his report to the council, Schaefer wrote, "These preliminary results assume that the school department achieved a balanced budget. This is consistent with the school finance director's estimates. I will report to the mayor and council at a later date if there is any change to this projection."

■ DEFICIT - PAGE 3



From left, Lilly Mathison, Addison Eaton, Bridget Pouliot, Alexandra Howlett as Meg, Amy, Beth and Jo. (Beacon Media photo by Leo Van Dijk)

Still coming of age

From the senior lead to 'knocked our socks off' freshmen, Pilgrim's 'Little Women' promises a warm rite of passage

By ADAM ZANGARI

Pilgrim High School's theater arts program is putting the finishing touches on "Little Women," which is set to debut this Friday.

According to Richard Denningham, an English teacher and the theater director at Pilgrim, the cast and crew have been putting everything together in their rehearsals over the past few weeks.

The choice to perform "Little Women," Denningham said, came out of practicality. He was worried he would not have enough male actors to work with; however, he said, that has since worked out fine.

"We had several really talented new kids come in, and some returning kids too, but we didn't know that going in," Denningham said. "So it started out as very practical, but it turned out to really be kind of a blessing in disguise. It's a great show for our company. Lots of kids get to showcase their strengths in different

ways, and it's such a nice story."

Some of those newcomers, Denningham said, have been extraordinary, noting that some ninth-graders have "really knocked our socks off" in their roles.

In total, according to Denningham, around 50 students will be taking part in the play.

The lead role is being played by senior Alexandra Howlett. Denningham said that throughout her time at Pilgrim, Howlett has been an integral part of the theater program, and has taken on the challenge of "Little Women" admirably.

"This is a very challenging show for the lead," Denningham said. "It's basically the lead, and then everybody else. She's really taken that responsibility on, and she's a pretty terrific performer on top of being just a great kid."

In addition to Denningham, the cast and crew are working with specialists and music directors in order to hone their skills for the musical portions of the performance.

■ PILGRIM - PAGE 9

With 73% mandate, Picozzi aims to 'stay the course'

By JOHN HOWELL

Mayor Frank Picozzi has a full slate of objectives following the resounding voter mandate returning him to office. An independent, Picozzi won nearly 73% of the vote in a three-way race with Democratic candidate Leah Hazelwood and independent Patrick Maloney.

Simply put, Picozzi is looking to win one of the battles he fought and lost during his current term and "stay the course" to complete ongoing projects. In a half-hour interview last week, Picozzi didn't mention any new initiatives and side-stepped what is fast becoming a major issue: the planned

construction of two new high schools and how to fund that project, which appears can't be completed with the \$350-million bond approved by voters in 2022.

"We're in a holding pattern," Picozzi said of the schools. The school administration and its project management firm, LeftField, are going through cost estimates and looking for ways to bring them in line with available funding. Additionally, the mayor is seeking legislative support to accelerate state reimbursements that would reduce city borrowing costs. According to School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan, other sources of funding are also being explored.

Picozzi opposes holding another referendum on the new schools as being proposed by Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur.

"You don't take a Mulligan," the mayor said. Further, he ventured a guess that only about 5% of registered voters would vote in a special election, which would be unrepresentative of the population.

Looking for seat on RIAC board

Topping Picozzi's list as the General Assembly prepares for another session is legislation giving the city a seat on the Rhode Island Airport Corporation board of directors. Picozzi expects Rep. Joseph McNamara to resubmit legislation that failed to pass in the closing hours of the last session in June.

"We're going to do everything we can to get it," he said. Picozzi called on the public to lobby their state representatives and senators for a bill allowing the mayor to name a single member of the board that oversees operation of Rhode Island TF Green International Airport and the state's five general aviation airports. Such a measure had the support of the House and seemingly would sail through the Senate until Gov. Dan McKee, after a Senate hearing, raised questions about how the legislation could affect the appointment of other state agency boards.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi sought a compromise giving the governor the power to select a member from a

■ PICOZZI - PAGE 21

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Man charged with murder in missing-person case



Charlotte Lester (Beacon Media file photo)

A Warwick man has been charged with first-degree murder following a two-and-a-half-year investigation into the whereabouts of a missing person.

Warwick police officers arrested Mark Perkins, 64, of 29 Staples Ave., and charged him with the crime on Wednesday morning.

The missing person, Charlotte Lester, was last seen on May 16, 2022 in Apponaug.

The Warwick Police Department report states that new information regarding the case had been brought to their attention on Sunday. According to WPRI, Lester's remains were located in Exeter earlier this week.

Perkins was arraigned in District Court, Warwick, at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

The WPD commended Lester's family and friends, as well as the state Attorney General's Office and Warwick's Detective Division for "their continued hard work, dedication and cooperation throughout this entire investigative process."

The investigation is still active; as such, police did not release more details.

Anyone with information on the matter is encouraged to contact 401-468-4200 and ask for Detective Parmenter.

POLICE LOG

DUI

On Oct. 13 at 2:12 a.m., officer Jonathan McHugh observed a blue 2010 Toyota Matrix swerve on the road and stop at a green light at the intersection of Greenwich Avenue and Metro Center Boulevard.

When conducting a motor vehicle stop, he observed the driver, identified as Sandy Berube, 35, of 26 Oliver St., Massachusetts, to have blood shot and watery eyes, slurred speech, and the smell of alcohol on her breath. Berube said she was coming from Federal Hill, according to police.

Berube consented to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. She was later transported to Warwick Police Headquarters and charged with DUI — first offense/BAC unknown, Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test, Landed Roadway Violations, and Obedience to Traffic Control Devices.

SHOPLIFTING

On Oct. 13 at 3:18 p.m., police responded to a report of a shoplifting at Walmart, 650 Bald Hill Road. The suspect, identified as Christopher Carrion, 29, of 170 Benedict St., Providence, stole a baby monitor valued at \$149 and was still in the parking lot.

Police approached Carrion and retrieved the baby monitor. Carrion was arrested and charged with Shoplifting, second offense.

BENCH WARRANT

On Oct. 15 at 12:25 p.m., police con-

ducted a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle with its "rear passenger's side stop lamp out as well as the center high mounted stop lamp."

The driver, identified as Richard Gadoury, 35, of Coventry, had a suspended driver's license. The passenger, Jason Sykes, 43, of Providence, had an active bench warrant. Sykes was transported to Third District Court and released to the Rhode Island Sherriffs Department.

BENCH WARRANT

On Oct. 15 at 2:49 p.m., officer Nathaniel Gray observed a driver on East Avenue not wearing his seat belt. When conducting a traffic stop, Gray determined that the driver, identified as Nicolas Capela, 27, of 278 York Ave., Pawtucket, had an active warrant from Central Falls Police.

He was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters and issued a summons for No Seat Belt Operator.

NO TRESPASS ORDER

On Oct. 15 at 2:37 p.m., police were dispatched to Bald Hill Dodge, 1035 Bald Hill Road, for a disturbance in progress. An employee stated that a man, identified as Gadi Shemtov, 64, of Cranston, returned a rental vehicle with a cracked windshield and broken accessories to the facility.

Shemtov "entered the store irate and began using vulgar words" the employee, according to police. The employee requested that Shemtov be

trespassed from the property. Shemtov was notified of this no trespass order in person.

WARRANT ARREST

On Oct. 16 at 10:30 a.m., police observed two passengers in the back seat of a maroon GMC Envoy not wearing their seat belts. When conducting a motor stop, he found that the driver, identified as Jeffrey Furtado, 38, of Pawtucket, had a suspended license.

He was driving with a male and two females. The officer observed drug paraphernalia in plain view, including "needles in both female's purses and a large bong pipe in the center console."

One of the passengers, Gina Bernardo, 39, of 28 Flynn Ave., Cranston, had two felony shoplifting warrants from Coventry Police Department.

Furtado was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license. Bernardo was processed at Warwick Police Department until Coventry Police took custody of her.

NO TRESPASS ORDER

On Oct. 16 at 1:24 p.m., police responded to Airport Liquors, 1800 Post Road, for a shoplifting complaint in progress. When police arrived, the suspected, identified as Kenneth Dixon, 46, of West Warwick, was standing in an aisle looking at items. He shoplifted from the store before, according to police.

Police advised Dixon that the store requested a no trespass order.

On Oct. 15 at 12:25 p.m., police con-

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by Tim Jones



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- 12/13: Vitto's Pizza-Warwick. 8pm. \$20pp.
- 12/14: Bella Restaurant-Glendale. 6pm. \$60pp includes family style dinner, coffee & dessert, show, tax, & tip. Steven Palumbo sings during dinner.
- 12/15: Chelo's-Warwick. 12pm. \$45pp includes buffet, coffee & dessert, show, tax, & tip. Lady D sings during dinner.
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Could Mickey Stevens rebuild take load off schools?

By ADAM ZANGARI

The Warwick City Council met in regular session on Monday night with no new or unfinished business on the agenda.

But the council did still hear public comment and approve bids, including one that would allow the city to essentially kickstart reconstruction of the Mickey Stevens Athletic Complex by negotiating prices for design.

While the bid ultimately passed the council unanimously, Ward 9 Councilman Vincent Gebhart told Warwick Planning Director Tom Kravitz that he was concerned about the city's approach in doing so.

Gebhart's concerns, he said, laid with properly prioritizing recreational improvements in the city. He said he wanted to see a list of Warwick's recreational facilities and their needs to determine the needs of each field and to strategically improve them.

"We're at the tail end of almost \$50 million in government money that we've been able to direct in various areas," Gebhart said, referencing the city's American Rescue Plan Act funds. "We're never going to have it again. And we need to set the city up, from a recreational perspective, for the next 15 to 20 years. And this is kind of our last bite at the apple, so I want to make sure it gets done properly."

Gebhart also asked if it was possible for the new facilities to be used as a citywide complex for the new Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools, noting that with the high school project currently over budget, the new Mickey Stevens could serve as the home arenas and fields for some of Pilgrim and Toll Gate's sports.

"Given the unknowns of the school projects, I just wonder if this project could become part of a bigger solution," Gebhart said.

Worries aired about sound berm at T.F. Green

Two members of the public also stated their concern to the council that the Rhode Island Airport Corporation

would renege on its promise to build a sound berm and wall in the area of Strawberry Field Road West.

The council passed an order for the abandonment of parts of Strawberry Field Road West, Murray Street, Bunker Street and Fieldview Drive to allow for the berm's construction in an attempt to protect local residents from the impacts of the airport's new cargo facility to be built nearby.

"The airport has plenty of money to put into a berm," Richard Langseth said. "They're putting a \$20-million carpet replacement for the terminal. So they can spend \$20 million in the carpet - they can put that in the berm."

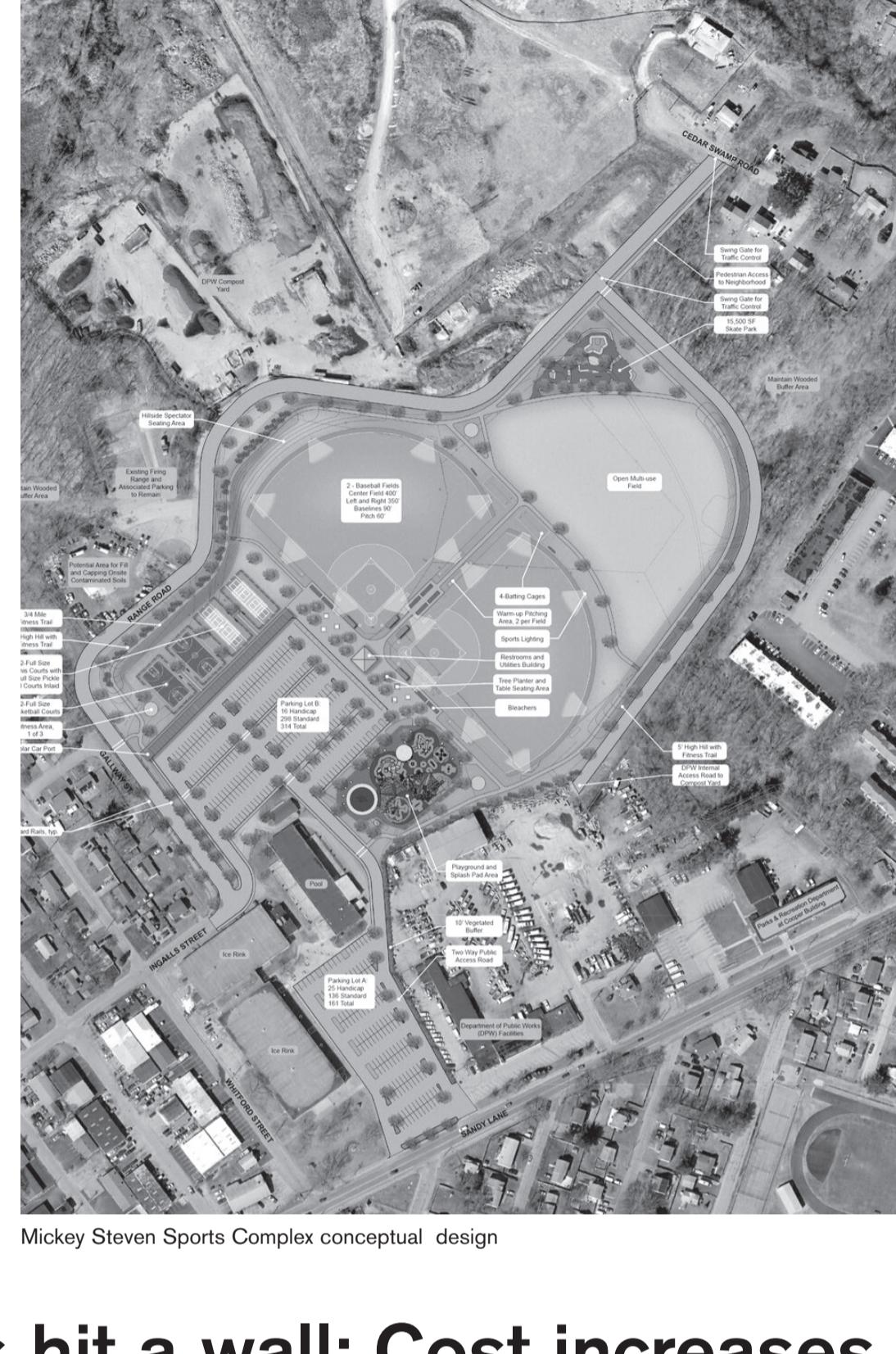
Langseth also said that it was concerning to him that the City Council had not allowed for him to speak longer, after a motion to allow Monday's public commenters 10 minutes of speaking time as opposed to 5 did not receive the unanimous consent necessary, with Ward 3 Councilman Tim Howe and Ward 1 Councilman William Foley objecting to it.

According to Langseth, RIAC is now disallowing public comment at its board meetings, which he took as a sign that the corporation was trying to avoid hearing locals' concerns about airport plans.

"It's absolutely ridiculous," he said. "People need to know that the airport is not on our side."

Michael Zarum, a former member of the city's Legal Selection Committee for Aviation Counsel, echoed Langseth's concerns. He also said that the city needs to enforce local zoning laws, arguing that RIAC could not ignore them and it would ensure that the sound berm would be built.

"Our local zoning in Warwick applies to the airport, as well as any land owned by the Airport Corporation, as well as any land owned by the State of Rhode Island, which is most of the airport," Zarum said. "I want to be very, very clear on that, and that's how you get municipal control over what the airport can and cannot do."



Mickey Steven Sports Complex conceptual design

School improvements hit a wall: Cost increases

By ADAM ZANGARI

The Warwick School Committee is hearing about multiple financial issues facing the city's public schools.

In a meeting held last Wednesday, delayed a day by the Veteran's Day holiday, Steve Gothberg, director of capital projects for Warwick Public Schools, said that anticipated work on school-building envelopes - the components separating the inside of a building from the outside, namely doors, windows, walls and roofs - of different schools in the district would have to be reduced in scope to cover only work on the doors of each building.

Funding for the work came from a bond, initially approved in 2020, which allocated \$56 million for repairs to all of Warwick's elementary and middle schools.

Initially, the School Committee had gone out to bid on building-envelope replacements for Cedar Hill, Wyman, Park and Robertson elementary schools, but Gothberg said price increases would mean that if the initially planned work were done on those four, other schools in the district would be passed over.

That left three pathways to take care of the rest of the city's schools, Gothberg said:

- Moving all remaining money to the high school projects, which the building committee rejected.
- Focusing on the schools where the windows were in the worst condition, which the building committee rejected on the basis of the windows being in similar condition at each school.
- Reducing the scope of the project to focus on security at each school, which the building committee approved.

Committee member David Testa said it was better that each school get some upgrades, even if they were reduced in scope, noting that work on the doors at each building would improve safety.

"The point that was made at the building committee

meeting was that the \$56-million bond that was put up to the voters was a promise that every school would be touched," Testa said. Throughout the district, he said, "the HVAC systems were a problem that we had to prioritize, and I think we're doing the same thing here."

Salaries running over budget

Finance Director Brandon Bohl announced that Warwick Public Schools would halt all discretionary spending in light of new budget projections that show WPS spending more on salaries than initially projected.

Bohl read a statement from the administration on the budget that acknowledges the school system will probably exceed its budget for the current fiscal year and will be revising the budget.

"While a significant adjustment was made to increase the budget for salaries in the current fiscal year, we anticipate being overbudget again in Fiscal Year '25," Bohl said. "In the next several weeks, the administration will be working to develop a clear projection of exactly how much the district will spend in Fiscal Year '25 on salaries and benefits. We're going to work with budget managers to develop a spending plan for the second half of the year that makes sense from both an operational and a fiscal perspective, and present a district-recommended revised budget for Fiscal Year 25."

Discretionary purchases, according to Bohl, include custodial supplies and equipment, classroom supplies and maintenance supplies.

LeftField Project Management's John Bates, speaking on the high school projects, said Pilgrim's current design, which was ready to be resubmitted to the state for review, was very similar to the design shown at the special School Committee

meeting in August.

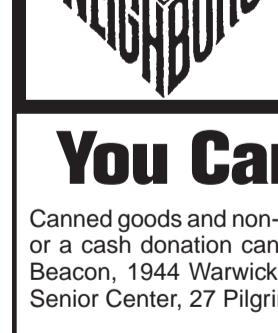
That, Bates said, was because of the phase the project currently occupies.

"The design development phase of this project, and any project, is actually progression into more of the details of the project," he said. "We're starting to talk about things like what manufacturers we're suggesting we use for carpet and ceiling tiles. We know where the windows are and how big they're going to be, but we need to detail how we're going to flash them to keep the rain out."

Bates also said the initial soil tests at the new Pilgrim and Toll Gate sites have not shown any contamination. Their environmental engineers have recommended some additional soil testing and sampling to be sure there's no contamination - which he said LeftField would bring before the committee in December.

The committee passed two items related to the new high schools at the meeting - one permitting LeftField to submit the current design development for Pilgrim to the state and one to start the process of labor negotiations for the new buildings.

School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan said that while he was voting in favor of the Pilgrim design for now, in future approvals he would "stand firm" on the need for such items as a larger gymnasium.



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Deficit

(Continued from page 1)

Yesterday the Beacon received a letter from former City Councilman and School Committee member Robert Cushman (full text of the letter appears in this edition) saying that according to his examination of school documents, the compensation account was overspent by \$5.9 million and that the overall school deficit was about \$2.4 million. Cushman questioned how the School Committee permitted this to happen, noting that by state law schools are not permitted to run a deficit.

This would not be the first time schools closed out the fiscal year with a deficit. During the administration of former Mayor Scott Avedisian, schools racked up a deficit exceeding \$2 million. In order to comply with the law, the city advanced the schools the money to balance its budget.

Schools repaid the money over a period of time.

Before commenting further, Schaefer said he plans to meet with the mayor on Friday. In a follow-up email Tuesday, Schaefer said he had reason to believe the

shortfall is less than \$1 million.

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur, however, didn't restrain comment.

"First question," he wrote in a text, "is why did they wait till after the election to discuss this?"

"This is FY '24 which ended June 30? How is anyone supposed to trust the School Department with over \$400 million of schools when they can't keep track or manage their own payroll? I'm waiting to hear what their defense is to this financial disaster."

"This represents almost 50 cents of our maximum 90-cent tax increase," Ladouceur said. "This irresponsible and out-of-control spending needs to stop in the School Department as well as the city administration."

Picozzi said Tuesday he hopes to get "some solid" answers on Friday. He said he is concerned and hopeful that schools are "keeping everything in check."

Galligan said he "remains optimistic" the schools will close out FY 2024 with no deficit.

Members of the school administration did not return calls to either confirm or deny the Warwick Post story.

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Leaf Cleanup

Francesca's family waits until all the leaves fall, then rakes them into one big pile and let her jump and play! (Submitted photo)

Fired airport firefighter denies alleged trespass

By JOHN HOWELL

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation claims Steven Parent, president of Local 2873 of RI Council 94 AFSCME, who was fired on Oct. 29 for allegedly discouraging a prospective applicant from applying to the airport fire department, gained access to an unauthorized area at the airport and "criminally trespassed" on Nov. 1.

In a lengthy interview last Friday morning, Parent, who was a lieutenant in the department, went step by step through his visit to the airport the morning of Nov. 1, explaining how he was scheduled to attend a union and management meeting. On arriving at the airport, he realized he left a copy of the contract at his home in North Smithfield.

Rather than returning home, Parent said he remembered he had made a copy of the agreement and left it on the desk of what had been his second-floor office at airport fire headquarters off Airport Road.

On arrival at the parking lot he encountered the deputy fire chief outside the building. Parent said he told the deputy he was on union business, which allows him to be on the property although no longer a RIAC employee, and was there to pick up his copy of the contract. He retrieved the contract and returned to RIAC offices in the terminal for the meeting, which he said was never held.

That's not the way RIAC characterizes Parent's visit.

A statement attributed to RIAC and published by GoLocal on Nov. 14 reads "Parent verbally attacked RIAC's deputy fire chief and asked the deputy fire chief to escalate the verbal altercation off airport property. Additionally, he took possession of RIAC property without authorization and removed it from the premises."

At no point, Parent said, did he verbally attack the deputy chief or escalate a verbal altercation. He said his

copy of the contract is the only item he removed from his prior desk and that there were personal items that he has yet to retrieve.

As for the alleged charges leading to his firing after serving 11 years with the department, Parent acknowledges talking with a job candidate who had worked at a Connecticut airport claiming conditions there weren't great, to which Parent replied he should check them out here. That exchange plus an anonymous note are the basis of RIAC's grounds for dismissal. The job candidate eventually ended up working at RIAC and Parent says he urged the new recruit to stay after he said he was thinking of quitting.

Parent has filed a grievance over his dismissal, which has not been heard.

Parent's dismissal is one of scores since Iftikhar Ahmad was named RIAC president and CEO in 2016. Anonymous emails and letters sent to elected officials, airlines, the FAA and the news media in June attributed the turnover in airport personnel to Ahmad's management style and a toxic work environment. The letters claimed employees would walk off their jobs on Aug. 13 effectively closing the airport unless the RIAC board took action.

The airport didn't close. However, the RIAC board approved at its monthly September meeting an investigation of who might have sent the letters. At a press conference in his office on Oct. 1, Ahmad disclosed that lawyer Marc DeSisto had been retained to conduct the investigation.

Last week DeSisto sent letters to current and former RIAC employees, instructing them on how to preserve evidence relating to any potential actions they or others may have undertaken to "cause reputational harm to the airport or impact its operations."

RIAC did not respond to requests for comment.

AAA: Nearly 80 million Americans expected to travel over Thanksgiving

This year's extended holiday forecast exceeds pre-pandemic numbers, sets new record

AAA projects a record 79.9 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Thanksgiving holiday travel period. For the first time, AAA's forecast includes the Tuesday before and the Monday after Thanksgiving Day to better capture the flow of holiday travelers.

This year's projection of nearly 80 million travelers is an increase of 1.7 million people compared to last year and 2 million more than in 2019.

"Thanksgiving is the busiest holiday for travel, and AAA continues to see demand soar post-pandemic as Americans reconnect with family and friends and seek memorable trips to new destinations," said Jillian Young, director of public relations, AAA Northeast.

AAA projects a record 71.7 million people will travel by car over Thanksgiving – an additional 1.3 million travelers

on the road compared to last year. This year's number also surpasses pre-pandemic numbers in 2019, when 70.6 million people drove to their Thanksgiving destinations. Drivers are benefiting from lower gas prices this Thanksgiving season: The average gas price in Rhode Island is down over 40 cents from this time last year.

Thanksgiving air travel is also expected to set a record. AAA projects 5.84 million people will fly domestically this holiday, an increase of 2% compared to last year and a nearly 11% increase over 2019. Air travelers are paying 3% more for domestic Thanksgiving flights this year, while the number of flight bookings is similar to last year, according to AAA booking data. International flight bookings are up 23% compared to last Thanksgiving, in part because the cost to fly internationally is down 5%.

Nearly 2.3 million people are expected to travel by other modes of transportation, including buses, cruises and trains. This category is seeing an increase of almost 9% compared to last year and an 18% jump over 2019, due in large part due to the popularity of cruising.

This record number of travelers is headed, in large part, to warm weather destinations over the holiday. Four Florida cities are on the list of top domestic destinations because of their beaches, theme parks and cruise ports. Other top destinations include New York, California, Hawaii and Las Vegas. Internationally, Europe and the Carib-

bean dominate the list thanks to their beach resorts, tourist attractions and river cruises.

Best and Worst Times to Drive

The worst times to travel by car over Thanksgiving are Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, according to INRIX, a provider of transportation data and insights. The best time to hit the road pre-Thanksgiving is early morning, and minimal traffic is expected on Thanksgiving Day. Drivers returning home on Sunday should leave early in the morning, and those coming back on Monday should expect a mix of travelers and work commuters on the road.

AAA car rental partner Hertz says the busiest car pickup day is expected to be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and the busiest rental return days will be the Monday and Tuesday after the holiday.

Best and Worst Times to Travel by Car

Date	Worst	Best
	Travel Time	Travel Time
Mon., Nov. 25	1-5 p.m.	Before 11 a.m.
Tues., Nov. 26	1-7 p.m.	Before 10 a.m.
Wed., Nov. 27	1-5 p.m.	Before 10 a.m.
Thurs., Nov. 28	Minimal Traffic Impact Expected (Thanksgiving Day)	
Fri., Nov. 29	7-10 a.m.	After 1 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 30	4-8 p.m.	Before 1 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 1	12-6 p.m.	Before 1 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 2	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	Before 8 a.m. / After 7 p.m.

"With a record number of travelers on the road over Thanksgiving, we urge drivers to plan ahead to make their trips smooth and safe," said Young. "For many, the night before Thanksgiving kicks off a season of holiday celebrations, and as drivers plan their road trips and outings, a safe and sober ride should be at the top of the list."

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

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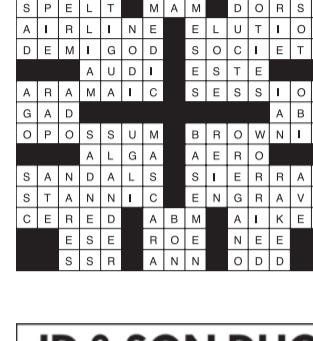
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Ex-RI lawmaker lost all hope, rebuilt his life



By G. WAYNE MILLER
Ocean State Stories

A conversation with Tom Coderre, principal deputy assistant secretary at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Tom, we will get into your distinguished career in a moment. But let's start with your personal journey. On May 15, you celebrated 21 years in recovery, writing in a post that "it's a road from a badly broken human being to living a life beyond my wildest dreams." Can you tell us about that road?

Wayne, first, thanks to you and Salve for the gift of Ocean State Stories and for caring about and covering mental health and addiction recovery as a journalist for decades.

As you know, I went through a vicious battle with alcohol and other drugs.

As my addiction progressed, I started to lose the things that were most important to me. When my family and friends tried to help, I resisted their help and pushed them away. This caused me to lose them. I lost interest in politics. I lost my job and my position as a Senate senator. My health deteriorated. I lost my apartment and became homeless. I lost my spirit. I lost my freedom and was briefly incarcerated. In the end, I lost everything, even my desire to live. My life, which at one time was so full of hope, became hopeless. Fortunately, I was able to get the help I needed. I was privileged to have access to psychiatric services and a long-term intensive substance-use disorder treatment program. As a result, today I'm a person in long-term recovery, which for me means that I haven't used alcohol or other drugs since May 15th of 2003.

What were the factors, insights or interventions that made you begin recovery?

There were many. The downward spiral of my life and my declining health scared me the most, and fear can be a motivator. However, addiction is brain disorder, which functionally changes the circuits in your

brain involved in reward, stress and self-control. It is characterized by compulsivity despite adverse consequences. So, I know it probably sounds unusual, but I'm grateful for my arrest, as it gave me the opportunity to stop and seek treatment. In recovery, we call this a nudge from the judge. However, when I was sitting in that jail cell, I realized the jig was up. My friend, the late Christopher Kennedy Lawford, wrote a book called "Moments of Clarity." This was mine.

Did you have a coach or sponsor?

There are many pathways to recovery, but mine has been a 12-step recovery program, and I have a sponsor. In recovery we call this peer support - walking this journey alongside people with lived experience. Peer support has been essential for my recovery. Peer support taught me I was not alone. Peer support taught me that treatment is effective and that people do recover. Peer support gave me hope, community, a belief in today and a faith in tomorrow. Peer support provided a resilient and robust infrastructure of people and places, and peer support provided a loving but rigorous cohort of "re-enforcers" - people who understood the pitfalls, the daily struggles, the doubts, the uncertainties, and the rationalizations and who - passing no judgment - did not waver in pointing the way forward for me. These peers are people that a power much greater than myself brought into my life, to give meaning and purpose to my life, and to set me on a path where I too now have the chance to help others in need.

And tell us a bit please about your childhood and education.

I was born and grew up in Pawtucket. Attended local public schools until ninth grade, when I went to St. Raphael Academy. My dad graduated from St. Ray's and he wanted his kids to do the same. It's an amazing school and it's where I received a top-notch education and made lifelong friendships. It's also where I developed leadership skills and would take that with me after graduation. When I was young, my parents were very involved in a local civic group called the Jaycees, so I



Former state Sen. Tom Coderre says "I know it probably sounds unusual, but I'm grateful for my arrest, as it gave me the opportunity to stop and seek treatment."

followed in their footsteps, joining the local chapter and then working my way through the ranks, eventually being elected national vice president. My mom was elected to the legislature as a state representative in 1984 and I decided to run for the state Senate in 1994 and was elected when I was 25 years old. I went to the Community College of Rhode Island and earned my associate degree and transferred to Rhode Island College, but because of my public duties, I ended up pausing my education. When I got into recovery at RIC, President John Nazarian reached out and helped me get back to finish the credits I needed for my bachelor's degree.

Editor's note: Coderre is a lifelong Rhode Islander.

OK, now your career before you were promoted to your current post as principal deputy assistant secretary at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, popularly known as SAMHSA. That was in February. Congratulations, by the way! You served in Rhode Island state government and also the federal government. Can you give us a summary?

Thank you. It's really an honor to serve in this capacity at SAMHSA. I've had several roles within the ad-

ministration, and it's exciting to continue the progress we've made. Before this role, I was SAMHSA's Region 1 administrator, which includes the six New England states and the 10 federally recognized Native American tribes in that area.

I was in that role at the beginning of the pandemic, and I really prioritized prevention, treatment and recovery services. I also reconvened the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Opioids, and as overdoses spiked throughout 2020, I'm also very proud to have launched the Diversity Inclusion Project Showcase with our team. This was an effort to address structural racism and ensure equity in the distribution of resources across New England by introducing organizations that work in BIPOC communities to funders.

I was also SAMHSA's chief of staff to the assistant secretary and led the team that produced "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health," and worked on the 21st Century Cures Act, which reauthorized SAMHSA, contained important mental health reform provisions, and included a \$1-billion expansion for treatment to stem the opioid crisis and overdose epidemic.

And in Rhode Island, I

served as a senior advisor to Governor Raimondo and co-chaired a task force that coordinated a multi-layered response to the opioid crisis. The state built more treatment capacity, reduced opioid prescribing, scaled prevention efforts, expanded resources for recovery support services as well as harm reduction programs and broadened access to medication-assisted treatment and naloxone. I also was chief of staff to Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed for six legislative sessions and was able to see that institution from the perspective of a staffer and help her advance many of the Senate's priorities, including behavioral health.

Which brings us to your current job as principal deputy assistant secretary at SAMHSA. What are your responsibilities?

Well, a little context first. In January of 2021, I was asked to be the acting assistant secretary and leader of SAMHSA during the Biden-Harris administration transition. I was the first person in recovery to be asked to do that and it was the honor of my lifetime to have that opportunity. My main duties consisted of helping heal and rebuild the agency that had gone through a several difficult years prior. I had to bring together a leadership team, identify strategic priorities and make sure that we were there for people when they needed us the most. I was in this role for six months until Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon was appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

When she arrived, I was prepared to return to my regional role; however, she asked me to stay as the Acting Deputy and eventually, I applied for the permanent role and was selected. In this role, I am the top career official at the agency, and I work closely with the political appointees to advance the administration's priorities.

SAMHSA's mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes. I supervise several members of an executive leadership team who run the centers and offices that deliver grants and other services to the American people. I also represent the assistant secretary across the government and in the community when necessary. I'm now in a position to provide continuity at SAMHSA whenever there is a transition in leadership.

It must be long hours, correct?

Absolutely, but it's worth it. As someone in recovery, I have a passion for taking on the full spectrum of mental health and substance use challenges, including primary prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery supports. And when you're passionate about something, that makes the hours easier. It's also heartbreaking to see many people continue to struggle with their mental health and substance use and I know that we need to keep working as hard as we can to engage them and help them find what I've found.

How does your own recovery inform your work? Over the last several years, we've heard more and more about the role of peers in everything from harm reduction to recovery support and increasing the mental health and substance use workforce. What is being done to make space for peers and increase the legitimacy of lived experience in the eyes of clinical providers and the general public?

We really cannot overstate the importance of peers. All the data we've seen shows that when peers are involved with people needing help, outcomes improve. People engaged with peers are less likely to experience or die from an overdose, less likely to have a mental health crisis, more likely to stay engaged with treatment, and more likely to be successful in their recovery.

SAMHSA has done a lot of work to support peers as having valid, effective roles in the behavioral health workforce. Earlier this year,

we published a consumer guide, "How Can a Peer Specialist Support My Recovery From Problematic Substance Use?" For People Seeking Recovery, for people with past or current problematic substance use when exploring the roles, values and work environments of professional peer specialists. It helps readers understand who professional peer specialists are, what they do in various work settings and how to access and pay for their services.

We have also developed National Model Standards for Peer Support Certification and a guide to Financing Peer Recovery Support.

And finally peers play a critical role given the workforce shortages we have in the behavioral health field; they have bridged an important gap.

In your 21-year post, you also wrote "while I remain imperfect, I persevere and seek humility. It's all truly a gift so thank you to everyone who's been a part of this incredible transformation." Can you expand on that please - and tell us what other gifts recovery has brought you?

As I've shared, my life is incredible today, but I know I need to stay humble as I still have work to do. Recovery is a process of change, I need to stay vigilant. And as for other gifts, my family comes to mind first. My dad passed away in 2019 and I will never forget you reaching out to share about when you lost your dad - thank you. We were able to be part of each other's lives for almost 16 years together thanks to recovery. My mom, my brother and sister, my nieces and other family members have all come back into my life and I've come back into theirs. I have relationships with people that are so much deeper, stronger and meaningful than anything I had prior to finding recovery. These are the gifts.

What guidance do you have for people living with substance abuse disorders who are interested in recovery?

Too many people who need help are afraid to seek it. Don't let fear prevent you from reaching out and talking to someone about what you're going through. It takes courage and strength but there is no shame or judgment, just help on the other side. My story of recovery is not unique. It's the story of some 60 million Americans. Recovery is possible for everyone.

For those who want to help someone who is struggling, we must instill hope - the necessary ingredient for someone who is in despair. Only then we can engage them, meet them where they are and help them.

SAMHSA is your partner in this fight. We envision that people with, affected by, or at risk of mental health and substance-use conditions receive care, achieve wellbeing and thrive.

Anyone in immediate danger should call 911.

Other resources:

SAMHSA resources: If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org. To learn how to get support for mental health, drug or alcohol issues, visit FindSupport.gov. If you are ready to locate a treatment facility or provider, you can go directly to FindTreatment.gov or call 800-662-HELP (4357).

BHLink: For confidential support and to get connected to care, call (401) 414-LINK (5465) or visit the BHLink 24-hour/7-day triage center at 975 Waterman Ave., East Providence. Website: bhlinc.org.

The Samaritans of Rhode Island: (401) 272-4044 or (800) 365-4044. samaritansri.org

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Fisherman shares skill of filleting with culinary students

Culinary students at the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center got their hands on raw fish Monday thanks to a long-time fisherman and the generosity of Dave's Fresh Marketplace.

Fisherman Tom Cote, his wife, Kerry, and chef Lina Musch, instructed students in how to identify fresh fish, how to properly fillet the fish and ultimately how to utilize bones for a fish stock and scraps for a fish chowder. The loins and tails were used in the center restaurant, Tides, for fish and chips and other fish dishes.

For many students it was probably the only time they will have had the opportunity to work not only with a professional fishmonger, but also with the whole fish.

The donated fish included cod, haddock and pollock, which the students learned are all round fish and are popular here in New England.

The Tides Restaurant at the



FIRST FILLET: Gianna Gioffreda tries her hand at filleting as Amber Courtney and Marley Schmitz watch and record the procedure. (Photos and story courtesy of Eva Niosi, baker and pastry instructor)

Warwick Career Center is open Wednesday through Friday with two seating times, 11:30 a.m. and noon (reservations are required). Call 401-734-3161 and come in and see what's on the menu!

Manufacturing has already made a comeback

After pandemic, small cities led the first full recovery from a recession for factory jobs since the '70s

By TIM HENDERSON

Rhode Island Current/Stateline

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, McLean County, Illinois, was known mostly as the home of State Farm Insurance in Bloomington and Illinois State University in Normal.

Now, the area illustrates a trend that's bringing more factories to small cities with lower costs of living: It has thousands of new jobs manufacturing Rivian electric vehicles and a new candy factory that will produce Kinder Bueno and other Ferrero candies.

"Food and electric cars. This is not something we were known for before 2019," said Patrick Hoban, president of Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council in McLean County.

"We're primarily an insurance and university town that's just now seeing a rise in manufacturing. Rivian has ramped up from 300 to 8,000 employees, and I don't think anyone realized how fast that was going to happen," Hoban said.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to rebuild American manufacturing, and he won handily in most areas hollowed out by the movement of factory jobs overseas. But the rebound Trump promises has already been underway in many places: McLean County is part of an unusually strong jump in manufacturing jobs between 2019 and 2023 — the first time manufacturing employment has recovered fully from a recession since the 1970s, according to a recent report from the Economic Innovation Group, a bipartisan public policy organization in Washington, D.C.

There were about 12.9 million manufacturing jobs in 2023, slightly more than in 2019. However, the number of manufacturing jobs has declined precipitously since the all-time peak in 1979, when there were 19.4 million of them and they were a much larger share of overall employment.

Joseph McCartin, a Georgetown University professor and labor history expert, said manufacturing has been on an upswing since 2010, when the nation started recovering from the Great Recession. The pandemic interrupted the trajectory, but the United States recently saw a hopeful increase in pay for the new jobs, he said, as the Biden administration aimed to increase both wages and jobs through the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Biden administration tried to use policy to ensure that more of these would be union jobs or at least offer union-level wages," McCartin said. "This approach is almost certainly dead due to the results of the election."

Employers may have a hard time filling lower-paying manufacturing jobs such as meat processing if the new Trump administration deports the immigrants who fill them, said William Jones, a University of Minnesota history professor and former president of the Labor and Working Class History Association.

"These will be hard hit if Trump follows up on his deportation plan," Jones said. "The political rhetoric is that a bunch of native-born workers will move into these jobs, that they're getting squeezed out, but that's actually not the case. Some of these industries are extremely dependent on immigrant labor."

Where growth happened

Small urban areas such as McLean County got most of the increase in manufacturing jobs between 2019 and 2023, according to the Economic Innovation Group report. Rural areas lost those jobs, and large cities saw no change.

It was mostly Sun Belt and Western states that saw the increases during those years, according to a Stateline analysis of federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The largest percentage changes in manufacturing jobs were in Nevada (up 14%), Utah (up 11%), and Arizona and Florida (each up 9%). The largest raw numbers of new manufacturing jobs were in Texas (up 48,200), Florida (up 35,100) and Georgia (up 22,900).

Southern states such as Alabama and Mississippi also have seen more automotive jobs as manufacturers have taken advantage of lower costs and state "right-to-work" laws that weaken unions. Vehicle manufacturing jumped by 7,800 in Alabama and 6,600 in Mississippi, the largest increases outside California.

Meanwhile, traditional Rust Belt states have seen continued declines, with manufacturing jobs down about 2% in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

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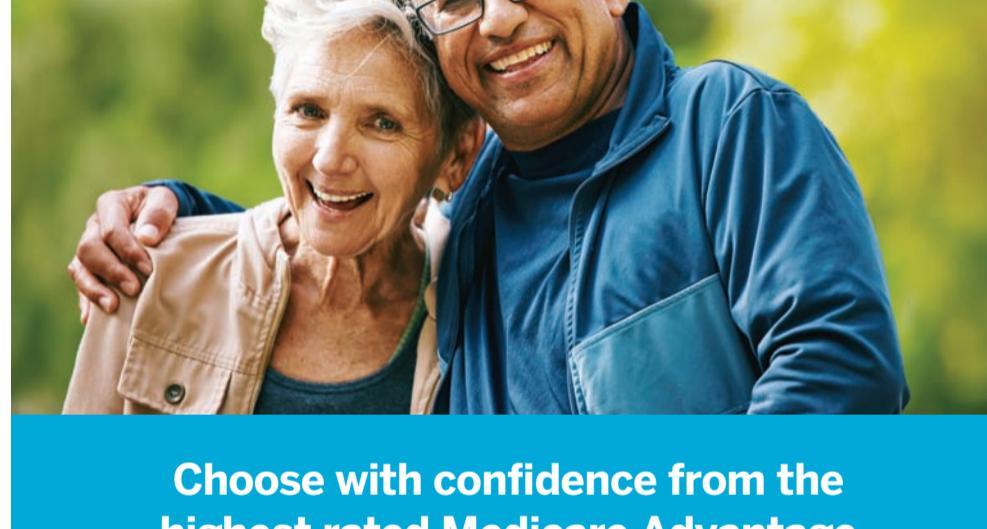
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Fri. Nov. 22nd @ 10AM

Mon. Nov. 25th @ 10AM

Tues. Dec. 3rd @ 10AM or by Appt.

Wed. Dec. 4th @ 2PM or by Appt.

Thurs. Dec. 5th @ 10AM or by Appt.

CRANSTON, RI

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by Appointment

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CHARLESTOWN, RI

Charlestown Senior Center

100 Park Lane

Tues. Nov. 26th @ 1PM

MIDDLETOWN, RI

Howard Johnson by Wyndham

351 West Main Road

Thurs. Nov. 21st @ 10AM & 2PM

NARRAGANSETT, RI

Narragansett Community Center

53 Mumford Road

Tues. Nov. 26th @ 10AM

CLICK OR CALL TO RSVP TODAY

Bring a Friend

401-331-7600

AN RSVP IS REQUIRED, CALL TODAY.

Universal Healthcare / Wealth Management

Karen Emma / Joseph Goddard

Email: Healthcare@universalwm.com

Phone: 401-331-7600 x 4

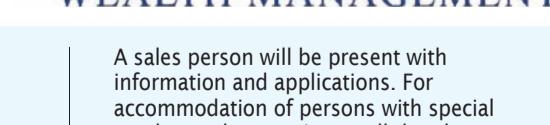
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A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call the phone number above.

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When attending in-person events, all staff and guests are required to follow state and federal COVID-19 safety guidelines.

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9/23 BMED-986300formal

ing the baskets as recipients lined up to drive by a team that filled their car trunks with everything from cider to pies and bread.

"This is what separates Warwick," Paul Salera, Westbay Community Action president and CEO, said of the outpouring of food and financial donations from individuals as well as businesses such as Dave's Fresh Marketplace.

He said that throughout the year, churches and nonprofit groups contribute thousands of pounds of food. Partnering with Warwick police, who mount a food and toy collection, Westbay also runs a Christmas adopt-a-family program. Individuals and groups looking to adopt a family, such as Kent Hospital, a consistent supporter, can call Westbay at 732-4660 and follow the prompts to learn more about the program. Under the adoption program, all family members, not just kids, receive gifts of toys and clothing that he estimated have a total value of \$400 to \$600 per household.

So far this year, she has received 768 requests for Thanksgiving baskets and about the same number for assistance at Christmas.

Steinle works closely with Westbay Community Action, which also serves to meet community needs. Westbay distributed about 400 Thanksgiving baskets on Saturday from their offices and marketplace on Jefferson Boulevard. The Scituate Lions Club played a key role in distributing

out there from school department reports of students living in shelters such as Motel 6.

"I've never seen so many homeless," she said. She's been informed of 15 to 20 families who could use a Thanksgiving dinner. She's looked to using supermarket gift cards, purchased with Neighbors Helping Neighbors contributions, but said that still hardly seems in the holiday spirit.

Gift cards to the homeless Salera said Westbay does distribute gift cards to the homeless.

How acute is the need for food and assistance?

Salera gauges the demand by those using the Westbay Market place where the needy can select food from the shelves once a week. Daily, the market serves between 75 and 140 people.

Meanwhile, the community is stepping up to help Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

St. Gregory the Great Church is committed to 150 holiday baskets it will distribute from the church on Nov. 26. St. Rose of Lima, St. Clements and St. Rita churches have teamed up to do 50 baskets, and St. Peter will provide another 25 baskets while St. Kevin and St. Benedict have signed up to do 30. In addition, Washington Trust has donated \$1,000 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors as well as donating food that has been dropped at Warwick bank branches. Don Rodrigues Karate Academy is also collecting food for the drive.

Looking ahead to Christmas, Steinle said, "Dan Scanlon is remarkable."

A member of the Warwick Rotary Club, Scanlon has spearheaded the club's drive to provide Neighbors Helping Neighbors baskets at this time of year. Last year the club provided 100 baskets. When Scanlon learned the program could run short for Christmas, he committed the club to 200 baskets.

Now, Steinle said, between the Rotary and St. Kevin Church, they will be able to distribute 230 Christmas baskets.

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LIC#31



Lilly Mathison, Bridget Pouliot, Addison Eaton, and Isabella Alves.



Lily Mathison and Jace Mazzucco.



Alexandra Howlett, a senior at Pilgrim, as Jo March.

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EVENT DETAILS ON facebook

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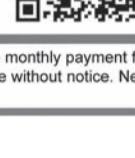
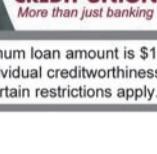
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Where Lindsay's used to be

Pawtuxet Village Market opens

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Jaymie Hazard thought that a local market with a focus on fresh ingredients would be a nice addition to Pawtuxet Village — so she decided to open one. And what better location than 2180 Broad St. in the village, the same location that, for years, was home to Lindsay's Market.

Lindsay's was a popular local institution, serving the neighborhood for decades before closing its doors in 2012. Since then, the space has been host to a variety of businesses in the busy village located on the Cranston-Warwick line.

A hairstylist and entrepreneur, Hazard says she actually knows very little about the grocery trade but has a vision of what she'd like the market to offer customers and that she has enlisted the help of an experienced manager. She said the new Pawtuxet Village Market will feature many fresh, locally sourced items, particularly in its dairy, deli, and produce departments.

The deli will include a variety of prepared foods and there will also be a florist section where custom gift baskets will be available. "I like to say think of a 'Baby Dave's,' she said, referring to the popular Rhode Island grocery chain, Dave's Fresh Marketplace. With about 2,400 square feet, Hazard said it will always be a small, neighborhood store.

"We're going to have most everything people need for their groceries — just on a small scale," she said. The store had a soft opening over the weekend, and Hazard said she expects to officially open the doors just in time for Thanksgiving.

She has been spending months designing and freshening up the interior, and last week, the shelves were starting to fill up with inventory. In addition to the deli and



Jaymie Hazard, owner of the new Pawtuxet Village Market, stands beneath the sign hand crafted by a friend. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)

florist area, Hazard said the store will also have bakery section with home-baked items.

Hazard grew up in the village area and said she is looking forward to creating a market where shoppers can get what they need and have some creative culinary options.

Honored to serve

'Four destroyers. Two transports. One icebreaker'

In a strong, clear voice, US Navy veteran, James Robinson, 103, recited the ships he served on across the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II.

The Knights of Columbus in Warwick welcomed Robinson along with 20 of his fellow veterans to their club for the third annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 14. Originally from South Carolina, Robinson retired at the rank of chief petty officer after 24 years. He went on to work for 18 years at the Navy base in Newport. He lived in Newport before moving to the veterans home in Bristol.

"We are truly fortunate to be able to do this lunch," said Bernie Lane, Jr. of Warwick and member of the Knights. His dad Bernie Lane Sr., an Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War was on hand to enjoy the meal of turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Cooking was supervised by Gary Pelliccio, a Knight and Warwick firefighter from Station 4.



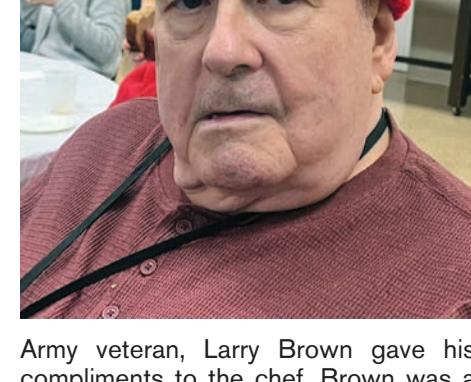
US Navy veteran James Robinson, 103, served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II. (Beacon Media photos)



The crew of volunteers from the Knights of Columbus.



Army veteran, Vinny Buratczuk, originally from Hoxsie, enjoyed lunch.



Army veteran, Larry Brown gave his compliments to the chef. Brown was a cook at the Greenwood Inn for 24 years.

Fontaine inducted into Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Former Beacon Media RI freelance writer Peter Fontaine was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame last Saturday at Veterans' Parkway in East Providence.

Fontaine grew up in North Kingstown and began his award-winning career in sports journalism in the early 1970s. He spent decades working for West Bay newspapers before retiring and joining the staff at Beacon Media RI (formerly Beacon Communications), where he spent his final years covering news and sports for the Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston SunRISE.

Not only did he cover sports, but he participated and was a pillar in the local athletics community. Fontaine was pivotal in the introduction of Babe Ruth baseball to the state where he regularly organized tournaments and he also founded the South Country Junior Football Club. He spent years coaching baseball, softball, football and basketball at the youth level, too. He guided North Kingstown to multiple state championships and earned coach of the year honors in DeMolay basketball and fast-pitch softball.

Other contributions to the state's sports scene included being named the sports information director for the RI76 Commission, which celebrated the country's bicentennial, while also establishing and coaching Rhode Island's first-ever statewide senior slow-pitch softball tournament. His RI76 team went on to win the event. Fontaine also helped in the fundraising and construction of McCarthy Field in West Warwick, where the press box as named in his honor.

Fontaine passed away at 77 years old last April, leaving behind a historic legacy that spanned across 50 years throughout the state. He is survived by his longtime partner, Georgia Pappas, who accepted the award on his behalf as last Saturday's ceremony.

Introducing Fontaine was Mayor Michael Levesque.



Michael Levesque (right) and Dr. Patrick Conley (left) present Georgia Pappas with a plaque in honor of Pete Fontaine's induction into the RI Heritage Hall of Fame. (Submitted photo)

"Pete was truly one of a kind. In the past half-century, no sports writer did more to publicize the local sports scene than Pete, but he not only wrote about it, he lived and loved it," said Levesque in a statement. "The void his passing leaves cannot be filled. As president-emeritus of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame I will recommend him for posthumous induction. May he rest in peace."

Other inductees included: Governor Lincoln Almond, General Michael Byrnes, Raymond "Ray" Dwyer, John "Johnny" Egan, Barnet Fain, Edmund "Ted" Fuller, George Greeley, U.S. Marshal John Leyden, Mary Ann Lippitt, Norman E. "Sandy" McCulloch, Morris Nathanson and Everett "Tall Oak" Weed-ed.

LEGAL NOTICES

Midnight to 5:00AM License Second Class Victualer -24hrs

APPLICATION FOR A MIDNIGHT
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Dba: Raising Canes
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Warwick RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN
THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPT.,
99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE,
WARWICK RHODE ISLAND, AT 6:00
P.M. ON TUESDAY NIGHT, December
17th, 2024 AT WHICH TIME AND
PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRAT-
ING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF
THIS LICENSE MAY BE HEARD.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci
CLERK

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

11/21, 11/28/24

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:

BATTEY, Gregory, C. est.

Sale of Real Estate for property
located at 294 Miantonomo
Drive, Warwick, RI 02886 further
designated as Assessor's Plat 307
Lot 180; for hearing December 5,
2024

CADY, Richard, J. alias Richard Joseph Cady, est.

Administration Petition; for hearing
December 5, 2024

DRAKE, Daniel T. est.

Executor's 1st & Final Account; for
hearing December 5, 2024

FISHER, Janis E. alias Janis Fisher, est.

Probate of Will; for hearing December
5, 2024

HEALY, Patrick, A. est.

Administrator's 1st & Final Account;
for hearing December 5, 2024

KOCHEVAR, Conrad M., est.

Probate of Will; for hearing December
5, 2024

LEWIS, Veronica, est.

Custodian's 2nd & Final Account; for
hearing December 5, 2024

FIorentini, Virginia M., est.

Probate of Will; for hearing December
5, 2024

MORSE, Margaret L., est.

Executrix's 1st & Final Account; for
hearing December 5, 2024

ALLSWORTH, Carol, Ann, est.

Jenifer Elizabeth Allsworth has
qualified as Executrix (Crystal
Collins, Esq. of One Courthouse
Square, Newport, RI 02840 as
agent); creditors must file their claims
in the office of the Probate Court
within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

AWODUMILA, Yinka A., est.

Adeyinka Awodumila has qualified
as Administrator; creditors must
file their claims in the office of the
Probate Court within the time
required by law beginning November
21, 2024

CORNWALL, Nancy J. alias Nance J. Cornwall, est.

James B. Cornwall, Jr., has qualified
as Executor; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

CURT, Steven H. alias Steven Henry Curt, est.

Susan T. Cote has qualified as
Administratrix (Brian Goldstein,
Esq. of 222 Jefferson Blvd. Ste.
3, Warwick, RI 02888 as agent);
creditors must file their claims in the
office of the Probate Court within the
time required by law beginning November
21, 2024

DIETZ, Katherine E., est.

Elizabeth A. Dietz has qualified as
Executrix; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

DUNBAR, Abel Michael, est.

James T. Dunbar has qualified as
Guardian of the Person & Estate;
creditors must file their claims in the
office of the Probate Court within the
time required by law beginning

November 21, 2024

DUNBAR, Jayce William, est.

James T. Dunbar has qualified as
Guardian of the Person & Estate;
creditors must file their claims in the
office of the Probate Court within the
time required by law beginning November
21, 2024

FLEMING, Judith A. alias Judith Ann Fleming, est.

Stasja Yates has qualified as
Executrix (Kristen Carron, Esq. of
1260 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick,
RI 02886 as agent); creditors must
file their claims in the office of the
Probate Court within the time
required by law beginning November
21, 2024

GOMBEYSKI, Elizabeth P. est.

Marie Celeste Di Mascolo has
qualified as Executrix; creditors must
file their claims in the office of the
Probate Court within the time required
by law beginning November 21, 2024

HULING, Nancy F. est.

Raymond E. Huling, Jr. has qualified
as Executor; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

KANE, Frances A. alias Frances Ann Kane, est.

Donna Mulcahy has qualified as
Executrix; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

LEDO, Antonio C. alias Antonio Correia Ledo, est.

Michael Ledo a/k/a Miguel Ledo
has qualified as Administrator c.t.a.;
creditors must file their claims in the
office of the Probate Court within the
time required by law beginning November
21, 2024

MAHER, James A. alias James Albert Maher, est.

Lisa A. Andrews has qualified as
Executrix; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

NICOLACE, Michael A., est.

Cynthia C. Nicolace has qualified as
Administratrix; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

VAN HOECKE, Jo Ann, alias Jo-Ann Van Hoecke, est.

Jennifer A. Smith has qualified as
Administrator; creditors must file their
claims in the office of the Probate
Court within the time required by law
beginning November 21, 2024

required by law beginning November
21, 2024

ATTEST: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

11/21, 11/28/24

CITY OF WARWICK ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

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

Petition #11016 289 Kilvert St.

Petition #11018 90 Herbert St.

Ward 9
The petition of Brook Ross & Christina Dewi, 149 Kings Ridge Rd., S. Kingstown, RI, requests a dimensional variance to demolish the existing single-family dwelling to construct a new 24.5' x 18.7' single family dwelling with a rear deck. Proposed dwelling having a front yard setback of 6' (30' required), proposed front deck having a front yard setback of 0' (30' required), a side yard setback of 5.5' (20' required), a side yard setback of 8.9' (20' required), and a side yard setback from the proposed deck of 1.7' (10' required). Subject property having a lot area of 3,913 sq. ft. (15,000 sq. ft. required), and a frontage & lot width of 41.95' (125' required). Assessor's Plat 222, Lot 107, zoned Residential A-15.

Petition #11019 345 Nausauket Rd.

Ward 7
The petition of Nicholas Gongoleski, 200 Tinkham Lane, Unit 112, Harrisville, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a roof over the front stairs. Proposed roof having a front yard setback of 4' (25' required). Assessor's Plat 367, Lot 429, zoned Residential A-7.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Dis- cussion and/or action and/or vote re-

garding the Regular Meeting Minutes
of the November 12, 2024 meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT -

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

Paul DePetrillo, Chairman

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

Facilities are accessible for people with disabilities. If you need interpreter services, please contact Amy at 401-921-934 at least 48 hours in advance of said hearing.

11/21/24

City of Warwick Board of Public Safety Alcoholic Beverage Notice

Renewal applications to keep and sell intoxicating beverages under the provisions of Title 3 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, for the licensing Period beginning at 12:01 a.m., December 1, 2024 and ending at 12:00 a.m., December 1, 2025, have been received from the following. These licenses will be going before the Board of Public Safety on **Tuesday November 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Warwick Police Department, 99 Veterans Memorial Drive, at which time and place persons remonstrating against the granting of these renewal applications may be heard. Remonstrance must be filed on or before date of hearing.

Governor Francis Inn Restaurant LLC

BV-027

1251 Warwick Ave

Board of Public Safety
James H. Paolucci

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the office of Public Safety at 468-4217 or TDD 739-9150 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting date.

11/14, 11/21/24

INVITATION TO BID

Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Memory Care Center, formerly Cornerstone Adult Services, Inc., invites sealed bids to renovate two existing bathrooms with options to renovate two more at their facility located at 140 Warwick Neck Ave. Warwick, RI 02889. Scope includes demolition of existing, new epoxy flooring, new plumbing fixtures, new casework, new lighting, painting, and other work as specified.

Each General Bidder may obtain complete sets of the Bidding Documents at Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Memory Care Center on Monday November 25th, 2024, and Tuesday November 26th between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

There will be a non-mandatory site review Friday December 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

Sealed bids are due by Friday December 20, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m. Opening of bids will follow and is open to the public.

Sealed bid proposals are to be sent to Tom Radican, Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Memory Care Center, 140 Warwick

RHODE ISLAND HERITAGE SERIES

Gomes' passion for baseball prevailed through years of racial adversity

This monthly series features a member of The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

By MICHAEL LEVESQUE

Most Rhode Islanders recognize the strong relationship between their state and professional baseball at major and minor league levels. Few, however, are aware that this connection extends to the professional Black teams in the Negro Leagues during the age of racial segregation in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. In those years, African Americans participated in leagues of their own in response to the exclusionist policies of white major league baseball. Joseph Gomes, with close ties to Rhode Island, participated in the Negro Leagues and distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete. He successfully competed "in the shadows" of segregation and thrilled loyal fans who appreciated his performance as a distinct form of social and cultural expression. Baseball strengthened community within Black neighborhoods, but fans and players never lost their determination to integrate America's national pastime. Outstanding players like Gomes used the power of their abilities to demonstrate that they were second to none and, as such, acted as pioneers in the struggle to desegregate the game and the country they honored.

Gomes was born in East Providence, Rhode Island, on May 8, 1910. He led his East Providence High School baseball team to a state championship in 1928, where

he garnered all-state recognition. An outstanding athlete, Gomes also earned All-State honors in football and golf. He became a superstar for the famed East Providence Townies, Rhode Island's semi-pro football champions when Sunday football was very popular in Rhode Island. After graduation, he enrolled at Providence College and, for two years, was a baseball and football standout for the Friar teams of that era. He dropped out of Providence College after a racial incident in which he was not allowed to take the field in a game against William & Mary in Virginia.

John McGraw, manager and co-owner of the New York Giants, approached Gomes with a plan that would send the talented right-handed pitcher to Cuba for a season or two with the idea that he would later join the Giants as a "Cuban" player, eligible to play in the major leagues. Gomes affirmed his heritage as a Cape Verdean and declined the offer. He is, perhaps, the only person of Cape Verdean ancestry to play in the Negro Leagues. Gomes began his professional career as a pitcher/outfielder for the Philadelphia Bacharach Giants in 1932. Unfortunately for Gomes, the Bacharach Giants were one of the weakest teams in the league, finishing last most seasons. Poor attendance and weak talent finally forced them out of the league after Gomes finished his first year. The team went on national tours, playing semi-pro teams across the nation. Gomes spent the next seven seasons barnstorming the country, playing lo-

cal and semi-pro teams. He developed arm trouble in 1937 and left the team. After his professional career ended, Gomes played for several local semi-pro and amateur teams in Rhode Island.

Branch Rickey was involved with baseball in various capacities — as a player, coach, manager, and owner — for over sixty years. His Hall of Fame plaque mentions his creation of baseball's farm system in the 1920s and his signing of Jackie Robinson. Rickey's interest in integrating baseball began early in his career. When he worked for the Cardinals, he had been particularly troubled by the policy of barring African Americans from grandstand seating in St. Louis.

In 1942, Rickey joined the Dodgers and quietly began plans to bring Black players to the team. The first Black baseball player to cross the "color line" would be subjected to intense public scrutiny, and Rickey knew that the player would have to be more than a talented athlete to succeed. He would also have to be strong and agree to avoid open confrontation when subjected to hostility and insults. Jack Roosevelt Robinson, the player who would break the color line, was born in Cairo, Georgia, on January 31, 1919. An outstanding athlete, he lettered in four sports at UCLA — baseball, football, basketball, and track — and excelled in others, such as swimming and tennis. Consequently, he had experience playing integrated sports. After a successful season with the minor league Montreal Royals in 1946, Robinson officially broke the ma-

yor league color line when he wore a Dodger uniform.

In his Baseball Hall of Fame induction speech in 1966, Ted Williams made a strong plea for inclusion of Negro league stars in the Hall. After the publication of Robert Peterson's landmark book *Only the Ball Was White* in 1970, the Hall of Fame found itself under renewed pressure to find a way to honor Negro League players who would have been in the Hall had they not been barred from the major leagues due to the color of their skin.

Many baseball pundits now believe that had Josh Gibson played in the major leagues, he would have surpassed Babe Ruth's 714 home runs before Hank Aaron had even hit his first. And the great Dizzy Dean acknowledged that the best pitcher he had ever seen was not Lefty Grove or Carl Hubbell, but rather "old Satchel Paige, that big lanky thrower."

At first, the Hall of Fame planned a "separate but equal" display, which meant that the Negro league honorees would not be considered members of the Hall of Fame. Satchel Paige insisted he would not accept anything less than full-fledged induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall relented and agreed to admit Negro League players on an equal basis with their Major League counterparts in 1971. A special Negro League committee selected Satchel Paige in 1971, followed by (in alphabetical order) Cool Papa Bell, Oscar Charleston, Martin Dihigo, Josh Gibson, Monte Irvin, Judy Johnson, Buck Leonard, and John

Henry Lloyd. Of the nine selected players, only Irvin and Paige spent time in the integrated major leagues. The Veterans Committee later selected Ray Dandridge, as well as Rube Foster, based on meritorious service.

Other members of the Hall who played in both the Negro Leagues and Major League Baseball are Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, Roy Campanella, Larry Doby, Willie Mays, and Jackie Robinson. Except for Doby, their play in the Negro leagues was a minor factor in their selection: Aaron, Banks, and Mays played in Negro leagues only briefly and after the leagues had declined with the migration of many Black players to the integrated minor leagues.

The story of Johnny Gomes' baseball career is that of gifted athletes and determined owners, of racial discrimination, and triumphs and defeats on and off the field. It perfectly mirrors Black America's social and political history in the first half of the twentieth century. But most of all, the story of the Negro Leagues is about players like Gomes who overcame segregation, hatred, terrible conditions, and low pay to do one thing they loved more than anything else in the world: play ball.

Joseph Gomes died on February 8, 1986. He was inducted into The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 1988.

Michael Levesque is the former mayor of West Warwick and a director on the Board of The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

RI Teacher of Year chosen to lead Apponaug Winter Festival parade

Milissa O'Neil, Rhode Island Teacher of the Year, will be grand marshal of the village parade to the second annual Strolling Rolling Apponaug Winter Festival on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the historic village.

Mayor Frank Picozzi selected O'Neil, a kindergarten teacher at Oakland Beach School, saying she is deserving of the honor in recognition of her work and the distinction she has brought to Warwick and its schools.

"I am honored and humbled to represent the state of Rhode Island for all educators in our state. I will certainly represent Rhode Island and I will certainly, truly support all students in Rhode Island," O'Neil said in accepting the award in a surprise presentation at the school in June. She added, "our Rhode Island students are absolutely amazing, and I know that moving forward as 2025 state Teacher of the Year, I will certainly have a voice for not only all students of Rhode Island but also educators."

The village parade organized by Gina Russo, who runs the Gaspee Days parade, will step off from in front of Fire Department headquarters at 10 a.m. With the Pawtuxet Rangers and Kentish Guards giving the parade a Colonial flair, the parade will circle the

village clockwise, disbanding in front of City Hall.

The festival website describes the festival as offering "endless activities," including balloon twisting by Antknee, face painting, glitter tattoos, hayrides, and the Warwick Public Library Pop-up Van, as well as a scavenger hunt to find lighthouses crafted by local artists, touch-a trucks, an outdoor marketplace, food trucks, and Save The Bay's Traveling Touch Tank.

A number of community groups are participating in the festivities. There will be a children's creative table and winter gallery market at the Warwick Center for the Arts. The Warwick Central Baptist Church will be offering activities, as will the Apponaug Babe Ruth League and the Apponaug library. Local school choirs will perform upstairs in City Council chambers throughout the afternoon.

Parking will be available at Toll Gate High School with shuttles to City Hall.

Warwick Tourism, Culture and Development, which is planning the stroll, has fingers crossed for good weather. In the event of inclement weather, the stroll will be canceled.



Milissa O'Neil

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EDITORIAL

Join in the season of giving

The holidays are officially here, and you know what that means.

Yes, it is time to finally take out your air conditioners and grumble about the incoming cold weather. It's a time-tested New England tradition, and one to be taken seriously.

But all joking aside, with Thanksgiving coming up next week and every commercial break now packed full of ads featuring huge corporations goading us to buy things we most likely don't need, the entry into the holiday season is a great time to remember how much of a difference each of us can make in the lives of those who face hard times in the coming months.

With the increasing costs of food, housing, childcare, and the general costs of goods and services throughout the economy, many of our neighbors will be forced to make difficult decisions about what they can and cannot afford. Some will go without adequate heat, while others will face increased food insecurity during a time where societal pressure is high to provide extravagant feasts. For many families in Rhode Island, the holidays are a harsh reminder of the struggle to simply get by.

No one person can solve these inequities that exist, but every person in a position of stability can do something to make life just a little bit merrier for someone going through hard times.

We are fortunate to live in a region where the opportunities to give back are plentiful, and the impact is instantaneous.

Particularly during the holidays, with food insecurity on a drastic increase in recent years and food pantries struggling to keep up with demand, a donation of food items or money to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a surefire way to ensure your gift goes directly to helping those in need.

A good starting point would be to look into our community action agencies (CAPs). Our CAPs provide dozens of avenues to donate time or money to various charitable efforts, including their own food pantries and the opportunity to "adopt a family" to ensure they have meals and gifts to provide to their loved ones.

Consider reaching out to any of our local churches, senior centers, and Rotary Clubs, who all usually operate some form of charitable drive during the holidays. Talking to these groups can often lead you to other charitable work occurring in the area.

The full list of organizations doing amazing work in our communities is too numerous to name one-by-one, but all are connected in the sense that they share a common mission of providing direct assistance to people in need.

Of course, giving can occur at any level, and in many ways. Simply reaching out to a neighbor that lives alone and making sure they are okay could make a big difference to that person.

Gripping about the weather might be one of Rhode Islanders' most tried and true traditions but being neighborly to those around us is a pastime that is even more prevalent and deeply rooted into our collective spirit. We implore you to keep that tradition alive.

LETTERS

Warwick School Committee failing taxpayers in oversight of school budget!

To the Editor,

At the Nov. 13 Warwick School Committee meeting, the department's director of finance, Brandon Bohl, briefed the committee on the fiscal year 2025 Monthly Financial Report and Year End Review for fiscal year 2024.

In his briefing he provided a spreadsheet that showed that the summarized expenses for compensation for fiscal year 2024 (Line Item 5100) was over budget by \$5,979,871. Also, the fiscal 2025 salary line item was projected to be significantly over budget. The fiscal FY24 budget would end with a deficit of approximately \$2.4 million.

By state law, school departments are not allowed to have budget deficits. The School Committee will be required to submit a remediation plan to the state auditor general to correct the problem.

Mr. Bohl indicated \$95.4 million was originally budgeted in 2024 for salaries. He stated, "through the process of adding programmatic head count and the expiration of COVID era federal funds, we now know this amount was far less than the district needed to budget for salaries. While a significant adjustment was made to adjust the salaries in the current fiscal year, we anticipate being over budget in fiscal year 2025."

Why would the School Committee approve the administration's request to add head counts to COVID-funded programs knowing that those funds were one-time funds, and that additional head counts would not be paid for by the federal government? This should have easily been identified and stopped by the School Committee before any new head counts were added to these programs, resulting in a multimillion-dollar deficit.

Overspending the 2024 salary line item by \$6 million didn't happen overnight. Why wasn't the salary deficit identified early in the year by the administration and addressed when it became clear that a large deficit would materialize?

Why didn't the School Committee take a more proactive role in making sure the department stayed within its budget with more rigorous oversight since the salary line item had been in deficits in prior years?

Did the School Committee consider what effect giving teachers a new three-year contract early this year that would cost taxpay-

ers \$10+ million in salary and benefits would have on the salary deficit?

With this revelation, how can Warwick taxpayers trust the School Committee to move forward with oversight on the \$400-million project to construct two new high schools when they can't even hold the department to salary spending levels promised in the annual budget?

Mayor Picozzi needs to use the power provided in the city charter and appoint four Warwick taxpayers to join the School Committee in making decisions regarding the construction of the two high schools.

Mr. Bohl indicated that a plan would include placing a freeze on all discretionary spending for the remainder of the year and the administration revising the remainder of this fiscal year budget. The department will cut custodial supplies, equipment, classroom supplies and maintenance supplies.

Will dirty school be the new norm? Will maintenance programs be halted? Isn't that what caused schools to deteriorate faster than they should have, requiring new construction?

Lastly, Mr. Bohl indicated that the administration would be looking to "develop clear projections of exactly how much the district will spend in fiscal '25 on salary and benefits," and work with budget managers to develop a spending plan for the second half of the year and present a revised budget to the School Committee that reflect the increase salary and benefit costs. Wasn't this work supposed to be part of the budget process last May when the School Committee approved the budget?

Superintendent Lynn Dambruch, school administrators and our elected School Committee are not doing their jobs. In the private sector heads would row! But in Warwick bailing out irresponsible spending with new taxes is common. However, this time it will be different.

A fiscal crisis will envelop Warwick very soon with devastating consequences for many and especially Warwick's elderly population!

Robert Cushman
Warwick

Robert Cushman is a former Warwick City Councilman and School Committee Chairman.

Cleaning out waste, fraud, abuse

To the Editor,

I was a federal employee for over twenty years, and I find it very refreshing that President-elect Trump has decided to finally address the problems that have plagued the federal workforce for many years.

The phrase "waste, fraud and abuse" pretty much describes how things work in the federal workplace.

Monetary awards given to individuals for simply doing their job was rampant. Promotions have been given through nepotism or friendship leading to individuals with no management experience being placed in charge of important positions.

Experienced being placed in a hostile environment by individuals who believed that since I was a combat veteran I was a dangerous person to work with.

They tried many times to get me fired by using lies against me.

I finally had to go to Senator Whitehouse for his help and support. He stopped the inquisition and allowed me to retire with honors.

While an employee of OSHA, I also witnessed inept staff - whose job was to protect workers - who were both lazy and incompetent.

These employees were paid six-figure salaries and barely worked in the field, staying in the comfort of their offices, and were allowed to work from home before the Covid pandemic.

How can a person who is supposed to be in the field visit work sites from their living room?

I hope that President-elect Trump follows through on his promise, because in many ways he will be saving the lives of Americans.

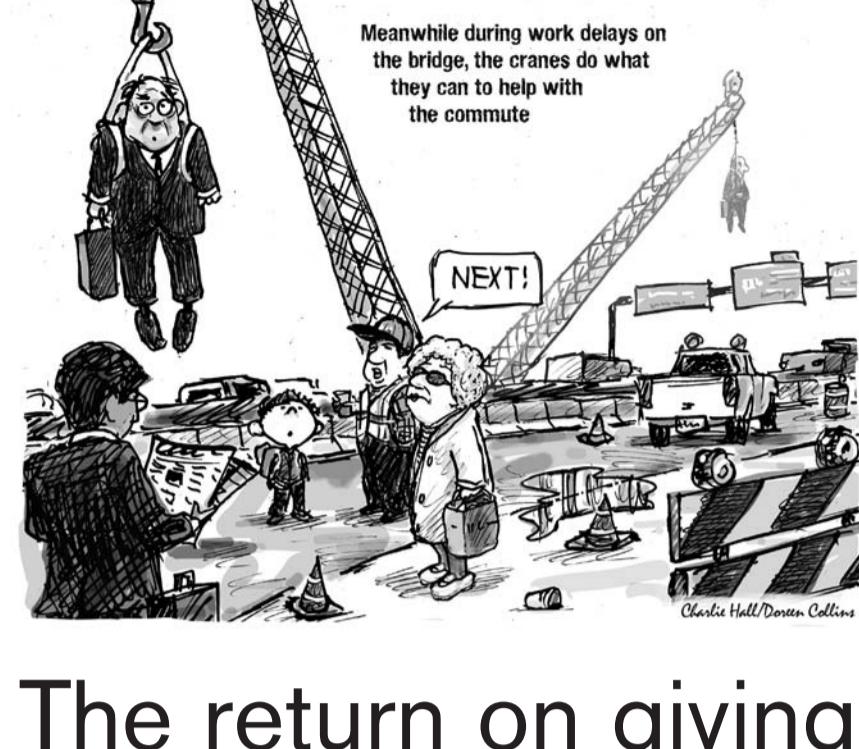
John Cervone
North Providence

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“Human rights advocacy – the perfect measure of courage”

Dr. Justin Bibee, a human rights advocate, is currently serving as a Global Fellow ('24)

at Brown University's Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies.



The return on giving

“It’s greater to give than to receive.”

Those words haunted me as a kid, especially at this time of year and the expectation of Christmas.

How did this work?

Was this a quid pro quo with our maker?

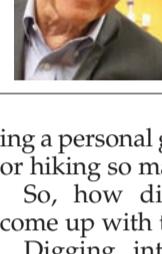
Would I not receive gifts if I did not give? Was I to feel guilty for not giving a gift to someone giving one to me? Was giving meant to be unconditional with no expectation of something in return - was that the reward? How could that be?

Those thoughts crossed my mind as I read one of dozens of emails flooding my inbox. The email was from the website WalletHub, and it included a report on the Most Charitable States. Topping the rankings is Wyoming. Maine was the only New England state in the top 20. It is ranked fourth.

The study didn't sit well with me.

This is a generous and caring community. If you scan the pages of this paper and check out social media, you'll find numerous instances of organizations and people helping one another. Money is one measurement, but it is hardly the only one. Time and in-kind donations are huge. And in many cases contributions are linked to personal achievements such as linking donations to meet-

This Side Up



by
JOHN
HOWELL

ing a personal goal of cycling or hiking so many miles.

So, how did WalletHub come up with this ranking?

Digging into the email, Chip Lupo, WalletHub analyst offered this explanation: "The most charitable states aren't just the places where people give the largest raw amounts of money. The share of the population contributing and the percentage of their individual incomes they're willing to use to help others are big factors in showing how charitable people are. In addition, many people can't afford to give much money, especially due to the influence of inflation, but they generously donate their time, which is just as important."

And how was Wyoming anointed the most charitable state?

The answer: "in large part because residents spend an average of 33 hours per year volunteering, the second-

most in the country. The state also has the second-highest percentage of residents who volunteer, at around 39%. In addition, residents of the Equality State generously give money to charity, donating nearly 4% of their adjusted gross income on average, the second-highest percentage in the country. On top of that, Wyoming has the second-most Feeding America food banks per capita, and it shelters 89% of its homeless population."

Not that the rankings should affect giving in Rhode Island - this is not a contest - but it's an unfair picture of Little Rhody. We need to look no further than the services provided by the Elks, Rotary, Lions, Knights of Columbus, church organizations to see how involved and caring this community is. Rhode Islanders are also supportive of an array of nonprofits underwriting causes from scholarships, youth development, medical research and providing permanent shelter for the homeless.

How might we think of this in terms of: "It is greater to give than to receive?"

As a kid it didn't compute. But now the return on community investment is apparent. It's huge. Keep giving and the Ocean State will even be better.

LETTERS

RIAC muzzling ‘the common man’

To the Editor,

The situation at the Rhode Island Airport Corporation has turned from bad to worse.

Now, T. F. Green service union people are muzzled from speaking at RIAC board meetings. These are the "little people," the service workers at Rhode Island T. F. Green International Airport.

Airport service workers, union people, would show up at RIAC board meetings to ask for raises, having struggled for years through the wee hours to get from their Cranston and Providence homes to the airport. Here they'd set up the coffee machines for us crack-of-dawn travelers. Cars were and continue to be expensive for them.

After more than 250 open monthly RIAC board meetings spanning a period of more than 25 years in which T. F. Green workers and the public came in to board meetings with their problems and suggestions, the system has spoken and the curtain has fallen.

Interested parties have been silenced and relegated to the back of the board room, diagonally across from the board members. We can't even see their name tags. There's no way of knowing when or why some quit. We sit behind seats marked with "reserved" tags, seats which remain empty because invited guests never seem to show up.

What we do see are service people, vendors with over 25 years' history of RIAC service, and concerned citizens now being tossed aside in strange procurement moves; public officials who show up to speak may also be muzzled. Could these repressive moves, just a few days after the election of a new president - one who promises massive changes to the way public programs are financed - be coincidental?

Grievance? Yes, you bet. Union grievances. At least four of them. RIAC management has chosen to investigate the RIAC union and fire its president, the RIAC fire chief.

In the old days, the General Assembly set up boards with union representation. The RIAC board has one, a former coach and mayor with over 50 years of union activity. He has just been elected to the Cranston City Council. But will he speak up now for the people before the RIAC board? As a union official, will he attempt to straighten out the mess at T.F. Green?

Yes, I too am being muzzled, along with the mayor and Rep. Joseph M. McNamara, who worked with the governor to get a City of Warwick agreed-to member on the board. House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi worked to that end as well, along with Senators Mark P. McKenney and Matthew L. LaMountain.

But the governor refused to work with the Warwick delegation. Instead, in what our mayor describes as an eleventh-hour deal with no one informing him of the hearing on the matter, the governor presented Deb Thomas, a recently retired Fortune 500 executive with connections to corporate hangars at T.F. Green slowly faded away. He was a pilot flying out of Quonset. He is well respected among the flying community.

Ironically, Mr. Giusto made his fortune as chairman of National DCP, a \$2-billion supply-chain management company serving the franchisees of Dunkin' Donuts.

Dunkin' Donuts booths are where some of the union people who used to speak to the RIAC board work.

This rousing saga reminds me of the song "Get Together": Come on, people, now - smile on your brother / Everybody get together / Try to love one another right now!"

Super-wealthy RIAC board members would do well to look back at the teachings of Theodore Francis Green and his principled family, who brought Rhode Island out of the dismal swamps of British rule. Let's stand with the common man who looks over our state and airport.

Richard Langseth
Warwick

Group reviews proposals for cybersecurity grants

By ADAM ZANGARI

The state Cybersecurity Planning Committee traveled to Warwick last Friday afternoon to discuss the approval of projects to improve the cybersecurity of cities and towns throughout the state.

Nathan Loura, the state's chief information security officer, led the meeting in the City Hall Annex, which featured attendees from 13 Rhode Island municipalities and representatives from multiple state agencies.

The Cybersecurity Planning Committee is a branch of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

The meeting focused on reviewing applications for funding from the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, a federal grant program designed to help local governments lower the risk of successful cyberattacks. The committee is in charge of making recommendations of projects to be funded by the grant, though Loura noted that it does not officially award the money.

"What we wanted to do was create a public committee that can get together, get inputs from everybody," Loura said. "We know that upfront cost is a prohibitive cost to municipalities on large expenditures, so we try to target those projects that have a huge upfront cost, but take little cost to maintain, so we can kind of get over that hurdle with the municipalities."

By doing so, Loura said, the committee can save four to six weeks and make sure the communities it is serving get needed funding faster.

For 2023, the committee received its largest chunk of federal money yet – \$5.5 million. The committee is finishing its application to the 2024 grant program. The funding is planned to continue for two more years. Due to the change in federal administration, the status of its final two years – 2025 and 2026 – are uncertain at the moment.

"I definitely wouldn't know if there are going to be any programs after [2024]," Tim Nadeau, a representative from the state EMA. "The good thing is that we have 2023, and that's the biggest iteration; that \$5.5 million is secure."

Much of the meeting consisted of reviewing the remaining applications for the 2022 SLCGP grant, which had \$77,969 remaining at the beginning of the meeting.

Five different cybersecurity projects were approved – one each in Middletown, Richmond and North Smithfield and two in South Kingstown. Five other project requests were returned to municipalities for clarifications on project details.

Applications for the 2023 grants will open in January, Loura said, and a link to apply for funding will be posted on the RIEMA's website. SLCGP grant funding cannot be used to fund a multi-year project.

Loura encouraged any municipal government or public school system in the state to submit an application for any cybersecurity improvements they are looking to make.

"This money is available," Loura said. "It's a great opportunity for these municipalities to get funding for important projects."

WARWICK WORSHIP

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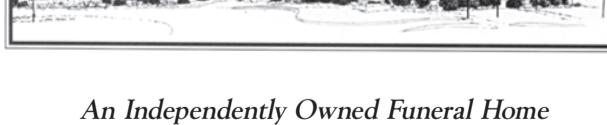
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The future of learning: embrace AI for better education

By JUNKAI GONG

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer just a futuristic dream. It is here and it is going to transform every aspect of our society. The emergence of AI will greatly benefit our society as it will revolutionize education by reshaping how students learn and how educators teach.

Education is the foundation of any society. It plays a crucial role in shaping future generations and driving societal progress. However, with our outdated learning methods and lack of assistance for teachers, our current education system is struggling to provide sufficient education for many students and produce adequate education outcomes. If we ignore the issues within our education system and fail to improve the way we learn and teach, we risk leaving future generations of America behind in this constantly progressing world and ruining America's future. Thus, we need to utilize AI, with its ability to create personalized learning experiences and assist teachers, to provide our education system with a much-needed transformation.

One of AI's most immediate and visible impacts on education is creating personalized education. Traditional teaching methods often approach education through a "one-size-fits-all" mind set and fail to address the diverse learning needs, circumstances, and interests of students, causing some to be left behind while others are held back. In contrast, AI can create adaptive and personalized learning methods that are tailored to individual students, making education more focused on each student. AI can analyze individual students' learning styles, track their progress, and adjust lesson plans accordingly to meet their

needs.

A great example of AI's ability to create personalized education is Duolingo, where AI is used to create and modify lessons based on the progress of individual users. Duolingo uses AI to analyze responses to identify a user's strengths and weaknesses, such as grammar mistakes and speech patterns, which then adjusts lessons and exercises to provide targeted learning. This personalized learning method allows struggling students to receive extra support while continuing to challenge advanced students. AI will create an education environment where everyone can progress at their own pace, which will improve the overall education level.

Another important impact of AI on the education system will be its ability to empower teachers. Currently, American teachers are under a lot of pressure. Time-consuming administrative tasks result in teachers being constantly overworked, which inevitably decreases the quality of teaching. According to a study conducted by McKinsey & Company, 70% of teachers in the United States identified the lack of time as a barrier to providing personalized learning for students. AI is a perfect solution for this issue. The same McKinsey & Company study also concluded that AI can help teachers reallocate 20% ~ 30% of their time to activities that support student learning. With the ability to automate administrative tasks such as tracking attendance, grading, and analyzing student performance, AI can create more time and freedom for teachers to proactively approach struggling students and work towards solutions. By reducing teachers' workloads and empowering them to engage students in more efficient and personalized ways, AI will greatly improve the quality of education received by students.

AI offers a valuable opportunity to improve our education system by transforming how students learn and how educators teach. By personalizing learning experiences and empowering teachers through taking over time-consuming tasks, AI can improve education outcomes in our society. However, such potential can only be realized if we are open to the change AI will bring to our society and approach it with curiosity and openness. Policy makers, teachers, students, and other members of our society must collaborate to discover ways to use AI effectively and responsibly, as we now have a chance to revolutionize education and prepare our future generations for tomorrow.

AI is the future of education – let's welcome it.

Editor's Note: Junkai Gong is a sophomore at Brown University majoring in International and Public Affairs.

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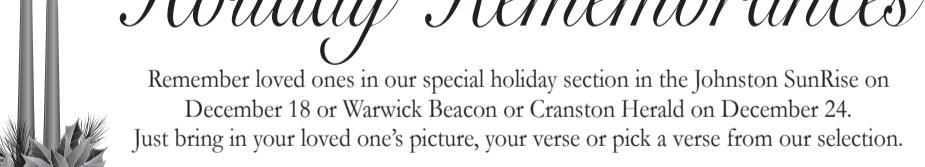
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One precious to our hearts has gone,
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The place made vacant in our home
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Our Father in His wisdom called
The one His love had given,
And so on earth the body lies,
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OBITUARIES

James P. Lawrence

James P. Lawrence, age 62, passed away on Sunday, November 17, 2024. A son of the late Bill and Marion Lawrence and brother of William, John, Stephen and Robert Lawrence, Nancy Lyon and Susan Monteiro. Uncle to many.

James had a love of life and of the friends and family who were in it. His vivacious personality, infectious laugh and heartfelt hugs were his trademark. His artistic talent was unknown by many but undeniable... and his Halloween costumes, prizeworthy! James left us with wonderful memories.

The family has requested that the burial be private and thank you all for your kindness and support during this difficult time. To leave condolence messages or to share a memory, please visit www.barrettandcotter.com.

Dolores E. West

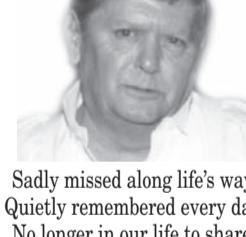
Dolores E. (Wilcox) West, 83, passed away Thursday, November 14, 2024 at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, surrounded by her eight children. Born in Warwick, she was the daughter of the late Donald E. and Hazel (Brakenwagen) Wilcox and a graduate of Warwick Veterans Memorial High School (class of 1959). Dolores was the wife of the late Lawrence Edward West Jr. and the beloved mother of Dawn M. Romans (Cy), Heidi D. Gregory, Lawrence E. West III (Anna), Heather R. West, Holly B. West, Jonathan D. West, Daniel West and Gretchen Cole (Jesse). She was also a loving grandmother to Anthony, Taylor and Jacob; Joshua, Austin, Lawrence and Lilisa; Dylan and Karly; Jordan; Kali, Tracy and Greg; Emily and Elias; and great grandmother of Snow, Sage, Nora and Monroe. In addition to her children and grandchildren, she is also survived by her siblings: Judith Jenks, Carole Snow, Donald Wilcox Jr., Donna Mello, Ernest Wilcox, the late Albert Wilcox and many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews.

Loved and treasured by many for her warm and genuine spirit, our unconditionally loving mother took the express line to heaven. Her family was always her priority and she treasured the time she spent with them. Her greatest joy was her children and grandchildren. Fun, loving, and a bit silly, Mom was a child at heart and loved playing and singing with the little ones. She found joy in life's simple pleasures - reading, poetry and doing puzzles. She also enjoyed knitting, gardening, hiking, watching TV, and exploring her family history through genealogy. She had a passion for baking and a sweet tooth to match, always sharing treats with those she loved.

Her love for Jesus was the foundation of her life, guiding her every step with grace, compassion, and kindness. Even up to the age of 80, she worked the land to maintain her happy place in Maine—a testament to her resilience and passion. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, faith, and kindness, reminding us to live scrupulously and compassionately. She will be missed by all who knew her, but her spirit, faith, and laughter will live on in our hearts.

Her funeral will be private at the convenience of the family. She will be laid to rest in the family lot in Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery, North Kingstown. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island, 50 Valley Street, Providence RI 02909 will be appreciated.

GEORGE MOULTON Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Birthday Remembrance



Sadly missed along life's way,
Quietly remembered every day,
No longer in our life to share,
But in our hearts he's always there.

Love, George, Ricky, Michael,
Michele, grandchildren and
great-grandchildren

For more information,
call Sue Howarth at

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Remember your late
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Simply provide your loved
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THIRD YEAR
REMEMBRANCE



The brightest star
in the heavens
Has your name
written upon it.

Missing you
forever and a day,

LOVE,
MOMMY, JIM
& FAMILY

A Loving Birthday Remembrance ROSA VIRGINIA GIORDANO

11/19/39 6/19/24



May a beautiful, passionate,
independent spirit and survivor
be at peace for all eternity in the
protection of the Holy Spirit and
the Blessed Mother.
And may all of those she leaves
behind be protected by her
maternal nature.

With love,
Your Grandchildren and
Great-grandchildren

Adaline H. King

Adaline H. (Carberry) King, 95, of St. Augustine, FL., passed away Monday, November 11, 2024. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 37 years, the late George E. King; her children, the late Gayle Bevilacqua, and George King, Jr.; her granddaughter, the late Victoria Scott; her parents, the late Robert J. Carberry and Bridget V. (Bishop) Carberry; and siblings, the late Marguerite DeLuca, George Carberry, Janice Games, Robert Carberry, Jr., Marie Simcoe and Gloria Carberry.

She is survived by her daughter, Robin Scott; daughter-in-law, Jane King; 5 grandchildren, Randolph Scott, Jr., Michael Bevilacqua, Jr., Andrew Bevilacqua, Steven Bevilacqua, and Danielle King; 7 Great-Grandchildren, Lily and Hazel Scott, Aidan Washington, Gabriella and Luca Bevilacqua, Violet and Gwendolyn Bevilacqua; she was the beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews, and dear friend of Adelino Dos Santos.

Adaline had a strong faith in God and was a member of the St. Kevin Church Parish Council and was a Eucharistic Minister. She was also a member of the Red Hats Society and enjoyed her time with her book club.

Always compassionate and loving, she cherished her time with her family and friends, watching her son play hockey, and entertaining guests by her pool in Rhode Island and at her home Florida. She was adventurous, and liked to keep herself busy with ballroom dancing, square dancing, golfing, bowling and traveling. In her down time, she enjoyed playing cards, Mahjong, sewing, crocheting, and cake decorating. She had a heart of gold and was never afraid to stand up for what she believed in. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her.

Relatives and friends are invited to join her Funeral Service on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 10:00am from the Thomas and Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave, Warwick, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00am, in St. Kevin Church, 333 Sandy Ln, Warwick. Burial will take place immediately following in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Providence. Visitation will be held in the Funeral Home on Sunday, from 4:00-7:00pm. For online tributes and condolences, please visit: www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com



Council

(Continued from page 1)

united is important to each of the nine council members.

"It was a priority for us that we go into this year unified, as a solid group," Gebhart said. "And in the interest of that, we all agreed to support Councilman Sinapi for council president."

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur likewise lobbied for the post and personally met with incoming councilmen and incumbents.

"Sometimes there are things in your personal life [that are more important]," he said explaining his change of heart. He said he personally likes Sinapi's "passion for research" and believes they would work well together and be an "asset to the council" should he be named finance committee chair.

"I'm confident that Anthony is going to do a good job," he said.

Sinapi has his own take on unity, too, saying that he hopes to make sure that the council has a good working relationship with other city departments and the public as council president.

"I'm not a fan of the infighting or even fighting with external parties, whether it be the corner office, city employees, the public, any of that," Sinapi said. "All of these parties and us should be working together, and if we're not, that means I need to do something different. My goal is to make it so that there's no reason for people to air out dirty laundry. Hopefully there won't be any dirty laundry; instead, there'll be people resolving things and getting things done."

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

Celebrate the Season Highland Memorial Park's 23rd Annual Christmas Remembrance Service

Sunday, December 1, 2024
4:30 pm • Highland Memorial Park

One Rhode Island Avenue, Johnston, RI



This non-denominational event offers an opportunity for families throughout Rhode Island to join in the holiday spirit of giving and pay respect to the memory of their deceased loved ones no matter where they are laid to rest.

... Giving

Families are encouraged to bring an unwrapped new toy for needy children.



Remembrance...

Beginning November 27, 2024, families can bring in their pewter ornaments and they will be hung by cemetery staff.

The cemetery staff will hang all pewter ornaments saved by the cemetery, which is approximately 1,000 family ornaments which will remain displayed on the trees until January 5, 2025.

The event will feature:

- The meaning of Christmas by:
Reverend Father John P. Soares
- Special Presentation by:
Johnston High School Select Choir
Conducted by **Matthew Gingras**
- Soloist Presentation by **Ruby Marie Corsi**
First Place New England Music Festival 4 years running

All ages are welcome
Ceremony to be held inside
Chapel Mausoleum

Refreshments available immediately following the ceremony.

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MEMORIAL PARK

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WARWICK

300 Quaker Lane (former Christmas Tree Shops location)



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CELEBRATION!**

**Saturday, November 23rd
9AM - 12PM**

**FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA,
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BRAND NAME MERCHANDISE AT CLOSEOUT PRICES!

The newest **Ocean State Job Lot** is now open in Warwick, in the former Christmas Tree Shops location. This is our third store in Warwick for your shopping convenience. Get **extraordinary value** on everyday items this winter season at Ocean State Job Lot. Shop for winter cold and storm essentials, winter clothing, cleaning items, pet care, toys for the kids, home essentials and more! **Start saving today!**

Shop us for incredible deals on quality items, including:

- Hardware
- Shelving
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Come for live theater and stay for everything else

Plays, movies, educational programs, The Gamm celebrates 40 and the future

By ROBERT DUGUAY

The Tony Award for best play went to Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing." "Amadeus" was playing in movie theaters. And in Rhode Island, the lights went up for the first time for Alias Stage in the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence. The year was 1984.

Since then, Alias has moved across three Rhode Island cities, changed its name once, and earned countless recognitions of its own. Now known as The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is in the midst of celebrating its 40th anniversary season.

The initial idea for today's Gamm was born out of Trinity Repertory's Conservatory. According to the website, seven graduates of Trinity Rep Conservatory (Dan Devine, Lucinda Dohanian, George Marcincavage, Pam Powers, Steve Sookikian, Kate Stone and Dan Welch) began performing as an artist collective out of the abandoned Riverside Mills in Olneyville. After several years in Providence, The Gamm moved to Pawtucket in 2002.

Tony Estrella, who started as an actor in 1996 with Alias Stage, was named artistic director in 2002 and believes The Gamm has made a tremendous impact on the community.

"We are a great example of one theater — a great theater like Trinity — birthing another theater," Estrella said. "Hopefully we've contributed to that by continuing to train and work with artists who want to stay in the area and make a vibrant community."

One of his first charges as artistic director was to professionalize the acting company. "This work led to becoming the second year-round professional theater in Rhode Island. It opened us up to actors not only locally, but in the Boston area and New York. It helped make for a stronger theatrical community," he said.

According to its website, The Gamm is a member of New England Area Theatres, a bargaining unit of Actors' Equity Association. The theater is also home to a robust set of educational programs, from camps to classes and community partnerships.

To help mark their anniversary season, The Gamm team turned to a fictional account of the rivalry between the classical composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. "Amadeus," the award-winning play first produced in 1979, just had its run at The Gamm extended through Dec. 7, 2024. It was adapted for the big screen in 1984, and Estrella says that seeing it at their theater on Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick makes for a unique experience.

"I think most people know 'Amadeus' as the amazing Academy Award-winning movie that came out 40 years ago, but it's a stage play first and foremost," he said.

The Gamm has pulled out the stops for this massive production. "It's really, really hard to do because it's so big and it changes so much," he said. "We've even made it more difficult by adding live music."

■ GAMM - PAGE 20



Left to Right Jason Cabral, executive director; Miriam Weizenbaum, president of the board; Tony Estrella, artistic director. (Photo by Nile Scott Hawver)



Tony Estrella welcomes patrons to The Gamm's 40th anniversary opening night. (Photo by Nile Scott Hawver)



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35th ANNIVERSARY

EST. 1989

Offer Available Nov 1st - Dec 31st

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Peaches

Peaches lives up to her name, she's as sweet as they come! This beautiful, happy go lucky girl was found as a stray but unfortunately was never reclaimed so now she finds herself at Providence Animal Control hoping someone will fall in love with her! They think she's about six years old and she's a petite lady with a beautiful brindle and white coat. Peaches is happy to get lots of attention, belly rubs and yummy treats! If you'd like to meet Peaches, please email PACadoptions@providenceri.gov and if you do not have access to email, please call 401-243-6040 to find out how to apply. Peaches will be waiting to share her sweetness with you!

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



ADOPTION event



Saturday, Nov 30

11AM-1PM

Dogtopia Warwick
30 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick

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East meets West: Textiles exhibit explores cultural exchange in fashion

Quinn Hall Gallery show on display through March

As you enter the University of Rhode Island's Textiles Gallery in Quinn Hall, the first thing to catch your eye — though they are small — are the lotus shoes.

The shoes — red, green and black, and beautifully embroidered with flowers — were worn by women whose feet were tightly bound as young girls to make them an ideal 3 to 5 inches.

"Very small feet were much admired in Chinese culture," said Linda Welters, professor of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design. "Even though it distorted the feet and made the girls unable to walk freely without support, they were considered beautiful."

Juxtaposed with a late 19th century corset from the Royal Worcester Corset Company in Massachusetts, it seems a powerful statement about the lengths women go — willingly or otherwise — to conform to culture's expectations. But that is not totally the story here, just a provocative way to pull you in.

The story being told by "Fashioning East and West: The Cross-Culture of Materials, Methods, and Meanings," has a broader message — exploring a wider understanding of the cultural exchange of fashion between East and West.

"One thing we like to do is to put some 'wow object' first to bring people in and I do think the lotus shoes do that," said Susan Jerome, who manages URI's Historic Textile & Costume Collection. "It immediately makes the visitor think, 'OK, there's something different going on here. I need to think about culture and other cultures and how they interact.'"

The exhibit's story is told well. It goes beneath the surface, discussing social, political, and economic influences while weaving in facts about materials, construction, and cultural importance. Interspersed with about 20 well-chosen garments and accessories from China, Japan and Korea — all taken from URI's historic collection of 25,000 items — are plenty of wall posters and exhibit labels to educate the visitor. The exhibit is the work of about 10 students in two Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design (TMD) master's classes who researched, curated and installed the exhibit — working with Welters and adjunct professor Rebecca Kelly.

"We wanted to emphasize to visitors the cross-cultural exchange and that it's not just the West taking elements from Eastern fashion," said Aileen Valerio, of Robbinsville, New Jersey, a master's student in historic textiles and conservation, who was in both classes that put together the exhibit. "But we also wanted to communicate the importance of teaching collections and make the exhibit approachable for all TMD students."

Welters came up with the idea for the exhibition as a way to expose students in her graduate class TMD 570 Topics: Fashion East and West to a wider view of fashion — not just in the West.

Eastern fashion, she said, has been historically overlooked. "Fashion as a term has been associated with the West forever until quite recently. Historians haven't recognized [Eastern fashion], but it definitely is there. So we wanted to place Eastern and Western fashion systems on an equal footing."

Rae Koch of Providence, a graduate student in historic textiles and conservation, noted examples in the exhibit in which the cultural exchange benefited both East and West.

For example, a woman's yukata that is part of the exhibit was made in Japan and shipped to the West. Unlike traditional yukatas sold in Japan, the informal garment — worn at summer festivals and around the house — was made with a large pleat in the back allowing it to be worn over a bustle style skirt, fashionable in the West in the mid-1800s. Later, that adaptation was also sold in Japan, where Western dress had become more prevalent, said Koch, who was part of Kelly's class, TMD 548: Exhibition and Storage of Historic Textiles class, which installed the exhibit.

"Those details were adapted in both directions and it's really fun that we have them in our collection at all," he added. "It's really cool to be able to highlight some unique aspects of these garments."

A Japanese silk pajama set, decorated with tiger lilies, provides an example of globalization, Rae said. As early as the 1870s, artists painted Western women in kimonos. By the 1920s, American women were wearing Japanese kimonos around the house. The rise of informal wear brought in pajamas with pants, starting in the English culture and spreading to the U.S. Eventually, Japan capitalized on the trend.

"The style of clothing was important to women, who were starting to wear pants instead of dresses all the time. The casual clothing allowed them to break out of a lot of formality in what people were wearing," Koch said.

The exhibit also highlights the use of Eastern fashion elements in contemporary fashion, which raises questions of whether the design exchanges are a form of appreciation or appropriation, Valerio said.

The mamianqun skirt, a style that dates to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), was popular in China over several dynasties. The colorful skirt was worn by brides. More recently, aspects of the skirt have been appropriated into global fashion, many times without honoring Eastern clothing traditions.

"There's a Dior skirt designed in the same silhouette and it was called the hallmark Dior look, which upset people," Valerio said. "And then Princess Diana wore the same type of skirt for her engagement to Prince Charles, and it wasn't exactly traditionally worn."

"We wanted to present this information ... and let the viewer interpret things on their own."

Another example, she said, is a young boy's vest — part of a Korean Hanbok ensemble that includes an equally small jacket. The vest was made with a small pocket, a feature influenced by Western culture. The ensemble originally had a satchel to carry belongings. "They didn't really need the pocket," she said. "But when the influence came in, they called it a 'barbarian' pocket."

The exhibit was also an opportunity for students to research and work with items in the URI collection — some more than 150 years old — that don't normally get explored by students.

"The students showed a lot of care in handling items and in the thought they put into the exhibit," said Kelly. "One of the things the students really get out of the second half of the class is that experience of working to a museum professional standard. We really try to get these two classes to mimic the real museum work environment."

Along with researching the items and writing up exhibit labels, students installed the garments, including carefully stitching garments where needed and building the forms to the exact measurements of the garments. Koch said the students wanted to make the exhibit visually appealing while also exhibiting pieces as they would have traditionally been used.

"I had done some installation work in exhibitions before, but this was the first time really digging into creating the story, writing the labels, and curating where objects go in relation to each other," said Koch.

"This was the first opportunity that I really had to work on the whole curatorial process. That was really valuable for me," Valerio said. "I've learned that the research and the story that the object tells is so paramount to the curatorial process and designing an exhibition. And that's what helped us develop the themes that united our exhibition."

"Fashioning East and West" will be on display into March in the first-floor gallery in Quinn Hall, 55 Lower College Road, Kingston. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A women's Hanbok from Korea, right, and a women's lounging set from Japan, circa 1930. (URI Photo/Nora Lewis)



A woman's, far left, and man's yukata from Japan, lounging attire that has become more popular than kimonos, are part of the exhibition "Fashioning East and West: The Cross-Culture of Materials, Methods, and Meanings" in the Textile Gallery in Quinn Hall. (URI Photo/Nora Lewis)

Majestic nostalgia at PPAC

By DON FOWLER

Following a dynamite 25th anniversary return of the popular award-winning musical "Mamma Mia!" come two more gems of the theater world: "A Christmas Carol" and "Hamilton."

We go back to Adrian Hall's first

production of "A Christmas Carol" in

1976, and have reviewed every perfor-

mance, always marveling at the inge-

nuity of the various directors.

With major renovations taking place

in Trinity's upstairs theatre, Lynn Sin-

gleton has opened the PPAC stage for their production of the annual Dickens' classic. This is the first collaboration between our two great Providence theatres.

With "Hamilton" also scheduled to

return to PPAC for the third time,

some adjustments of dates needed to

be made.

Trinity's "A Christmas Carol" will

open on Nov. 23 and run through Dec.

4.

"Hamilton" moves in for a Dec. 11-

22 run, with Dickens' classic returning

Dec. 26-29.

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"Hamilton" moves in for a Dec. 11-

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"Hamilton" moves in for a Dec. 11-

22 run, with Dickens' classic returning

Scooting through the airport to a joyful plane ride

Life Matters



with
LINDA
PETERSEN

This week we are the

lucky guests who have a

one-bedroom condo in

Maui, Hawaii, courtesy of

our oldest son, Francis. He,

his wife, and our two grand

kiddos lounge in the two-

bedroom suite next to ours.

The trip getting here was

quite the adventure! The

first flight was to Dallas/

Fort Worth, Texas, where

they have five different

terminals, connected by a

monorail that moves so fast

I would be plastered against

the window if I did not hold

on tightly. Of course, I had

my trusty scooter/carry-on

luggage with me. This amazing

vehicle is a suitcase that

turns into a scooter at the

touch of a button. Initially, it

appears to be a pink, hard

sided carry-on suitcase

which can easily be wheeled

using the handle. With the

blink of an eye, it turns into

a mobility scooter...wheels

spurt out from the front

along with a foot rest and

steering handle, which can

then be adjusted upwards to

a comfortable height. A

small pad sits on top so the

carrying handle does not

make sitting on it uncom-

fortable, and the handle

which would normally pull

it serves as a backrest. Voila!

This amazing mode of trans-

portation serves my creaky,

old back very well. It zips all

around like a mobility scoot-

er, and is great fun to ride.

It causes a sensation ev-

erywhere I go. Time and

time again, airport person-

nel and fellow travelers stare

at it quizzically and exclaim

surprise, saying they have

never before seen one, com-

ments which astound me.

How has this not caught on?

All throughout the terminal

are airport personnel push-

ing wheelchairs for people

for whom mobility is an is-

sue, a service I previously

utilized. Now, independently

zipping through the air-

port is a joy.

I am able to ride myself

down the jetway to the door

of the airplane, at which

time I hop off, push a but-

ton, and then pull my nor-

mal looking carry on onto

the plane and store it safely

away in the overhead com-

partment. Hubby and I then

enjoyed our eight hour

plane ride from Dallas to

Maui. Yes, we actually en-

joyed it, the reason being I

upgraded our seats after a

month of grumpy Hubby

bemoaning the fact that his

six foot four, overweight

body, would be squeezed

into a minuscule seat,

jammed up against a win-

dow. It was an expensive

upgrade, a splurge never be-

fore attempted, but some-

thing

that I needed to do in

order to prevent myself

from killing him.

The first benefit was pri-

ority boarding, not some-

thing I needed because of

my comfy scooter suitcase

seat, but because of Hubby's

intolerance of standing and

waiting in a long line. Our

seats were in the front of the

plane; two wide seats taking

up the normal place of three.

With two feet of leg room,

we practically danced into

the spots, which turned out

to be exceptionally comfort-

able, supple leather. They

reclined with foot rests also

up in the air, (although we

could not use this benefit for

taking off and landing). The

biggest surprise was an at-

tractive tote bag which con-

tained an exceptionally

puffy pillow along with a

comfy full body blanket. A

high quality set of head-

phones, an eye mask, and

bag of toiletries completed

the package, which was ours

to keep. (I love free stuff!)

There were several charging

ports and a few electrical

outlets for our phones and

iPads. The monitor which

was in front of us displayed

the free movies available, of

which I was enthusiastically

able to watch three during

the flight. (My only concern

is that there were many "R"

rated movies with sexual

scenes included, which were

easily seen by other travel-

ers, including myself.)

We were served free

lunch, which consisted of

chicken, an amazing salad

made of noodles, broccoli

casserole, and a piece of

scrumptious cheese cake.

Drinks, including alcoholic

beverages, were served

throughout the flight. While

I still chose to drink Diet

Coke, Hubby took this op-

portunity to try several dif-

ferent types of beers. Later

in the day, as an afternoon

snack, we were served a

plate of different cheeses,

fruits, crackers and jelly, and

a delicious candy bar. What

a wonderful flight! My only

regret is that we do not have

the financial ability to fly in

such style all the time.

We were served free

lunch, which consisted of

chicken, an amazing salad

made of noodles, broccoli

casserole, and a piece of

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The R.I. Philharmonic for newbies

By DON FOWLER

I brought my teenage nephew to an RI Philharmonic concert. He told me he didn't "dig" classical music. The night before he had attended a Rolling Stone concert that he described as "cool and "rad." The drums rolled and the trumpets blared to "The 1812 Overture" and Jason turned to me and said, "Uncle Don, that's awesome!" He has since become a fan. If we could convince our younger generation, and older folks, too, that classical music is indeed awesome, the RI Philharmonic would sell out every seat for every monthly concert.

I'm proposing January as "Take a Newbie to the Philharmonic" month.

Buy them a ticket for Christmas, along with a classical CD.

Explain that many of their favorite movies (Star Wars, Star Trek, Harry Potter) have classical music playing in the background.

Arrive at the concert early and read about the composers and their music in the program. Many, like Mozart and Dvorak, have fascinating backgrounds.

Don't worry about what your guest wears. The days of tuxedos, suits and ties, and fancy dresses are long gone.

You may explain that most people do not clap after each movement but wait until the end. Those who do are newbies, and are not looked down on in this day and age, but

appreciated as being new to the genre.

As you may shout "awesome" for the Stones, you may wish to shout "bravo" for the male soloist or "brava" for the female.

Occasionally, like the Stones, extensive cheering will bring two or three bows, and possibly an encore of a shorter work.

The Saturday, Jan. 17 concert features "Beethoven's 3rd (Eroica)" and Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," two exciting works. The Festive Overture features the side-by-side performances with members of the RI Philharmonic Music School joining the musicians.

And save the date of Feb. 15 for Ravel's "Boléro," a number that even the newbies will recognize.

Tickets can be purchased at www.riphil.org/events.

A conversation with Judith Stillman, creator of the musical score for The Gamm's Amadeus

By G. WAYNE MILLER

Judith Lynn Stillman, distinguished pianist and composer, is the music director for The Gamm's current run of "Amadeus." She created the show's arrangements excerpted from the works of composers from the 18th and early 19th century classical music canon including Mozart, Salieri, Gluck, Haydn, Handel, J.S. Bach, Bonno, Rossini, and Beethoven.

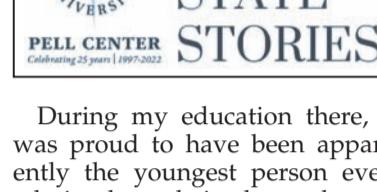
Thanks, Judy, for joining us here on Ocean State Stories. You have had such a distinguished career in so many artistic fields and we will explore many of them here. Let's start with your background. We see on your website that you hold bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Juilliard. Tell us

about your education and accomplishments at Juilliard.

Thank you for reaching out, Wayne. It's an honor to be in the company of such esteemed community members.

In terms of my background, I began playing piano by ear at age three, gave my first public performances at five, entered Juilliard Pre-College while in elementary school, and I was trained as a pianist from childhood through my bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at Juilliard. I've been on the international music scene since I was a teen.

The selective conservatory environment at Juilliard is, as you can imagine, extraordinarily competitive, but it is also remarkably inspiring to be among talented colleagues and renowned mentors.



During my education there, I was proud to have been apparently the youngest person ever admitted to their doctoral program, and I was honored to have received talent scholarships throughout the years and to win the prestigious Juilliard Concerto Competition.

These were formative years in which I was blessed to experience the highest level training with some of the world's most exceptional musicians. I made lasting friendships with musicians whose careers are off the charts and with whom I continue to collaborate.

When did you first become interested in music and did you have mentors and influences in your childhood?

I discovered my passion for music when I was very young. I had a nurturing home environment with music-loving parents. While I couldn't identify it at the time, I believe that I was drawn to music because of its profound effect on emotions and feelings.

I was fortunate to garner inspiration from the finest musical mentors – pianists, violinists, conductors – working with and alongside Rudolf Serkin at Marlboro, being in Leonard Bernstein's orbit at Tanglewood, studying piano with the musical guru Leon Fleisher.

I've forged lifelong musical partnerships with icons such as Wynton Marsalis; I appeared with Herbie Hancock on a Bose commercial; performed at The Grammy's celebration in honor of Rostropovich; performed with diverse musicians from members of the New York Philharmonic to the Beach Boys; was named Honored Artist of the American Prize as pianist and composer; served as a visiting artist in Russia, China, Scotland, France, Israel, and in the U.K.

Upon completing studies at Juilliard, I began my position as

Rhode Island College's Artist-in-Residence. As Artist-in-Residence, I serve as an artistic ambassador and do everything in my power to enhance the cultural fabric of the college, the community, the state and beyond.

In order to bring music to wider audiences and to best deliver messages on a broader scale, my career expanded and has evolved to include not only my work as a pianist but also as a composer, choral conductor, music director, educator, and filmmaker.

OK, now back to the professional Judy Stillman. Give us a snapshot of your piano playing. What are some of the places where you have performed?

It's difficult to select favorites from among the many and diverse venues. The ones that stand out the most have a parallel story connected to them. Premiering a work in Beijing, China, at the Central Conservatory of Music was a musical highlight. Performances at Lincoln Center were so gratifying, with full houses and standing ovations.

Please give us a snapshot of your composing.

As the great cellist Pablo Casals said: "Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart." My goal in composing is to express what's in my heart and to touch the hearts of listeners. Many of my composing projects are designed to give a voice to the voiceless. To that end, I most often create works that are both instrumental and vocal, typically as both composer and lyricist, as text can convey messages powerfully in tandem with the music.

In my projects, I often combine an educational focus/scholarship with creative artistry. I have a burning drive to bring projects to fruition often to underscore world issues and topics of global significance, to enlighten audiences. To that end, I compose multimedia works, original music and narration or lyrics, attempting to synthesize my interests as pianist, composer/arranger, writer, director, art enthusiast, and educator,

and I produce these events for live audiences, and for television and video – with the goal of bringing a visceral understanding of, for example, the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, climate change, women's rights, civil rights, the dire need for diversity, equity and inclusion, the complex lives of artists in history, and more.

Turning to Rhode Island, from your website we see that you are Artistic Director for Judith Lynn Stillman & Friends from the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra at the Carter Center, and the Artistic Director for Masterworks Concerts at the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. What are those centers and what are your roles?

As the Artistic Director of both series, I serve as the person responsible for programming, organizing, contracting, as well as curating, designing, oftentimes composing and scriptwriting, and serving as pianist. The Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts is on the Rhode Island College campus and the Carter Center is the home of the Rhode Island Philharmonic's Music School.

What advice do you have for people of any age who have an interest in artistic creativity, but may be afraid to take the first steps?

Follow your heart. I have a guiding principle which I share in my master classes and workshops: 'The Three P's: Passion, Practice and Perseverance.' It's natural to experience fear and anxiety, but these elements can help us overcome the difficulties inherent in pursuing a path which is immensely challenging but can be remarkably rewarding. Please also feel free to contact me at www.judithlynnstillman.com I would be happy to provide guidance.

Editor's Note: This story first appeared August 26, 2024 on the Ocean State Stories website. This piece has been edited for clarity and length.



JUDITH LYNN STILLMAN
(Submitted photo)

'Amadeus' extended by popular demand

The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) announces five additional performances of "Amadeus," extended by popular demand. As of opening night, houses for Peter Shaffer's enchanting, tragic, and ultimately beautiful play are selling out and the show is receiving audience acclaim.

"Amadeus" now runs through Dec. 7 at 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick. Tickets are \$70-\$80. Discounts do not apply during the extension run. Call 401-723-4266 or gammtheatre.org/amadeus

Extension performances are:

- Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.

The multi-award-winning play reimagines the lives of 18th-cen-

tury composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella directs The Gamm's production. Michael Liebhauser (Sebastian in "Twelfth Night," Isaac in "Describe the Night") is rowdy young prodigy Mozart, who arrives in Vienna determined to make a splash. Steve Kidd (Harry in "Hangmen," Stan in "Sweat") is court composer Antonio Salieri, awestruck by the boy genius' talent yet seized by obsessive and destructive jealousy.

"Amadeus" is brought to life by some of the most moving music ever written. The Gamm's production features live accompaniment by Judith Lynn Stillman, an internationally renowned pianist and composer, as well as an artist-in-residence and professor of music at Rhode Island College. She is also this production's music director, designer of the musical score, and lyricist.



Emily Turle as Katherina Cavallieri in Gamm Theatre's production of "Amadeus" (Submitted photo by Cat Laine)



Tony Estrella on The Gamm's 40th anniversary opening night. (Photo by Nile Scott Hawver)

Gamm

(Continued from page 17)

Judith Stillman, distinguished pianist, composer, music director and filmmaker, is the production's music director, pianist, and creator of the musical score.

"So, people get to see live Mozart in our intimate space that has only 185 seats," he continued.

"You get this massive piece of theater that's epic, epic while being done in an intimate space that has amazing music making and is up close and personal. 'Amadeus' is the kind of play that you usually see in a very large theater. You might see it being revived on Broadway, but to get to see something like this where you're breathing the same air as the actors is really powerful."

On the heels of the 'Amadeus' run, The Gamm team is hosting "A Winter's Delight" on Dec. 12, 2024, its year-end fundraising event.

"In the past, we've had a holiday show, but last year we started this winter benefit to bring the community together and have a great holiday celebration. It's lovely to be with everybody to celebrate the 'home for the holidays'-feel," said Estrella.

Looking towards the future, Estrella says that The Gamm aims to build on the momentum of this

milestone year. He also recognizes the importance of people being together, in-person to experience live theater or watch a movie.

"We need stories, we love stories, we need the light, and we need entertainment," said Estrella. He urges people to come to experience live entertainment together. "I think this is so important in a time where we spend too much of our time interacting with screens," he continued.

The theater's schedule has expanded to include free movie nights, which are running through June, plus ticketed shows from the National Theater Live screenings.

"We really want to turn our space into a vibrant center for arts and culture, not only in Warwick, but in Rhode Island," said Estrella. "We have all sorts of things going on, so we want people to know that The Gamm is here. It's vibrant. It's alive."

The Gamm's main offering will still be producing five or six plays annually. "But once people enter the building, they can see what else is happening there. It's really a place for the community that starts with theater, but branches out to a lot of other things as well," he said.

Visit The Gamm website for the calendar of events through June 2025. In addition to being entertained, "maybe folks can make a few new friends or hang out with some strangers, you never know what can happen," said Estrella.

Picozzi

(Continued from page 1)

list of three candidates provided by the mayor. Picozzi is looking for the right to select a member of the board.

For teams, a place to play

Picozzi sees the rejuvenation of Mickey Stevens Sports Complex a priority now that the Department of Environmental Management has given the green light to renovating the property that was once the site of an incinerator. The administration is in the process of developing and advertising a request for proposals for the complex. In 2016 voters approved a \$7-million bond for the complex. It is not clear whether the administration would seek to use those funds in addition to grants for the work.

At Monday's meeting, the City Council authorized design services for the Mickey Stevens Sports Complex, a first step to the upgrade.

Picozzi is anxious to have at least one field at Mickey Stevens available for play since existing high school ballfields have become sites for the new schools.

Good relationships with Democrats

Although city Democrats and the state delegation rallied behind Hazelwood during the campaign, Picozzi sees them putting aside politics when it comes to working together for the benefit of the city. He said both Sen. Jack Reed and Rep. Seth Magaziner called to congratulate him after polls closed. He is also hopeful of a good working relationship with the City Council, which may now be fully Democratic.

Although Democrat Anthony DeLuise won the most votes in the Ward 4 contest, independent JoAnne Miller is contesting how the party picked him as the candidate soon after Michael Penta withdrew since he is moving out of the ward.

Picozzi expects no issues working with Ward 8 Councilman Anthony Sinapi, whom fellow Democrats elected council president last week. "I'll get along with anyone working for the betterment of the city," he said.

Citing how his administration invested federal ARPA funds in capital projects and equipment and not in expenditures in order to balance the budget, Picozzi said the city is in a good financial position. He points out that between federal, state and city funding, Warwick has repaved scores of roads including the four-lane Jefferson Boulevard. His one regret is Kilvert Street, where work was delayed because of nearby construction and the need to realign the road near a solar farm to accommodate sidewalks.

He made a point of saying the city won't leave a dime of ARPA federal funds on the table when applications for the money expire. This includes \$100,000 of the \$200,000 the administration set aside for Ward 2 projects. Unlike other council members, Jeremy Rix did not come up with a list of projects totaling \$200,000. The money will now be allocated by the administration wherever it sees fit.

Keeping the pipes clear

Considering other elements of the city's infrastructure, Picozzi was complementary of the Sewer Authority and its director, Betty Anne Rogers. He said the authority is on top of replacing or renovating aging and failing infrastructure. He said the same needs to happen in the Water Division, which he will be addressing.

Study pegs RI 3rd**least lucky for lottery winners**

New research has revealed the luckiest lottery states, with Ohio coming out on top

Social casino website McLuck analyzed 2023 state lottery data for all states that publicly provide prize information to determine which states have the highest and lowest winnings per draw.

Ohio emerged as the luckiest state, with an average of \$992,054 won per draw in 2023. There were 62 draws and 146,496 winners across these draws. Thus, the state records an average of 2,363 lottery winners per draw, each taking home an average of \$419.86.

At the other end of the spectrum, Idaho recorded winnings of \$1,270 on average per lottery draw, the lowest of the 31 states with available lottery data. Rhode Island ranked as the third least luckiest state based on average lottery wins per draw. With a total of 732 draws, the average winning is \$10,370 per draw. The survey pegged the average winnings per Rhode Island winner at \$8. This compares to \$124.92 for a Massachusetts winner and \$53.96 in Connecticut. Indiana winners were at the bottom of the list with \$4.11.

Real Estate Transactions

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CREDIT UNION

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY									
1-1A Hill St	West Street Story LLC	Leathers, Shante M	10/21	\$415,000	102 Greenwich Ave	Colette Benoit RET and Benoit, Michel R	Dame, Ryan	10/28	\$599,900
11 Manning Ct	Mcgovern, Thomas and McGovern, Elizabeth	Giammarco, Frank	10/15	\$536,000	102 Greenwich Ave Lot 51	Colette Benoit RET and Benoit, Michel R	Dame, Ryan	10/28	\$599,900
14 Hampton Rd Lot 14	Apponaug Properties Inc	Irizarry, Jessica and Giammarco, Johanne	10/16	\$794,636	104 Morse Ave	Queen Invest LLC	Almonte, Manuel A and Reyes Maldonado, Alicia M	10/29	\$360,000
14 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 32	Storybook Homes Inc	Kathie S Feldman T and Feldman, Kathie S	10/23	\$779,900	110 Pilgrim Pkwy Lot 8	Varras, Nicholas	Marshall, Janet S	10/29	\$205,000
199 Colvintown Rd	Blain, Richard R and Blain, Rose M	Chhoeun, Johnny and Luangsouphom, Michelle	10/21	\$625,000	1209 Centerville Rd Lot 9	Morton, Amy	Murdock, Hannah	10/30	\$410,000
235 Arnold Rd	Lacroix Holdings LLC	Lacroix, Kyle J	10/21	\$325,000	128 Heath Ave	Fortin, Colby	Frazee, Walter	10/31	\$498,000
29 Leisure Way	Costa, Joyce	Charpentier 3rd, Joseph A	10/15	\$195,000	130 Pinner Ave	Saraiva, Antonio	Colon, Rolando D and Martinez, Hilda L	10/28	\$390,000
291 Ledge Rd	Clark, Christopher	Iadevaia, Zachary J	10/11	\$505,000	143 King St	Holder, John L and Holder, Brenda D	Tenney, Tammy T and Cuevas Agostini, Luis R	10/28	\$375,000
3 Black Walnut Dr	Bice, Adam	Lindewall, Carl B and Lindewall, Abigail	10/18	\$415,000	151 Tidewater Dr	Balletto Jr, John J and Balletto, Janet T	Dietz, Nouran and Dietz, Kevin	11/1	\$505,000
335 Chaplin Dr	Curtis, Carmine and Curtis, Kimberly M	Eleven Lane B T and Gardner, Amanda M	10/17	\$435,000	165 Heath Ave	Santilli, Francesca and Santilli, Franco A	Torres, Leann M and Estrada, Hazrom L	10/31	\$440,000
36 Wesleyan Ave	Rosalie V Dickens T and Marks, Timothy C	Lawrence, Cindy L and Lawrence, Glenn T	10/23	\$385,000	169 Payton Ave	Beausoleil, Cindy J	Lastor, Tomas	11/1	\$395,900
37 Puritan Ave	Denuccio, Gerald F and Denuccio, Geraldine V	Neto, Isequiel	10/17	\$230,000	170 Bartlett Dr	McCrae, Patti M	Giana Enterprises Inc	10/29	\$173,000
42 Lori Ln	Palleschi, Jeanine and Palleschi, Donald	Forcier, Ronald and Forcier, Michaela	10/22	\$225,000	2 Plantation St	McLaren, Judith C and McLaren, Peter J	Vue, Leo X	11/1	\$425,000
42 Sherwood Valley Ln	Smith, Lois	Lombardi, Santo	10/22	\$75,000	227 Holmes Rd	East Coast Prop LLC	Lilley, Patricia F	10/30	\$1
534 Blackrock Rd	Anthony Jr, Charles H	Nardolillo Jr, Robert	10/24	\$212,500	26 Covel Cir	Leone, Ronald M	Chihuon, Kimly	11/1	\$390,000
6 Lane 5	Kotkofski, Karen	Cooke, Joshua E	10/17	\$92,000	27 Church Ave	Carroll, James J and Carroll, Angel M	Brauer, Matthew G	10/31	\$345,000
61 Tuckwood Dr W	Virginia M Deluca T and Deluca, David L	Fitzsimmons, Christopher and Fitzgerald, Julia	10/23	\$635,000	306 Spring Green Rd	Aiello, Michael and Lipkin, Samantha H	Martinez, Herson and Paniagua, Christopher	10/28	\$625,000
62 Roundway Dr	Coppola, Nicholas	Paniagua, Victor H and Chajon, Lidia H	10/21	\$375,000	321 Blue Ridge Rd	Cote, Matthew M	Floody, Jason and Floody, Gina S	10/31	\$720,000
930 Knotty Oak Rd	Petrone, Christina M	Greene, Mitchel T and Greene, Amanda N	10/18	\$410,000	35 Cedar Bay Dr	John & Judith Campbell Jr and Campbell, John K	Cabral, Robert E and Nardolillo, Manuela	10/29	\$385,000
CRANSTON									
100 Twin Birch Dr	Vincent Jr, James and Vincent, Debra	Sepe, Jessica L and Aguera, Joseph A	10/31	\$940,000	36 Lindy Ave	Varras, Nicholas	Community Living Of Ri In	11/1	\$310,000
11 Lauren Ct	Feinstein, Louis and Feinstein, Arielle	Lawson, Zachary and Lawson, Victoria	10/28	\$1,225,000	400 Narragansett Pkwy Lot B1	Gould 2nd, Scott F and Gould, Francesca	Blount, Amanda Q and Blount, Barry B	10/31	\$280,000
117 Laura Cir	Colangelo Ft and Colangelo, Jason J	Law, William W and Law Ma, Ayesha C	10/28	\$516,000	43 Eagle Run Lot A	Gammons Jr, Allen B	Papitto, Madeline	10/28	\$440,000
12 Green Ct	Cunha, Debra J	Manera, Diana	10/31	\$280,000	44 Long St	Brown, Scott R	Lawson, Quincy J and Taylor, Sarah E	10/31	\$385,000
130 Fordson Ave Lot 7	Oitana, Marta R	Fordson 7 LLC	10/28	\$255,000	5 Nichol Ave	Kyltiff Invest & Consulti	Murphy Jr, William D and Murphy, Lisa A	10/28	\$469,000
131 Woodview Dr	Notarianni, Michael J	Romaine, Caitrinn and Boston, Matthew	10/31	\$701,000	552 Quissett Ct Lot 552	Elanor H Bennett Irt and Handy, Monica A	Hanley, Christine L	10/31	\$390,000
135 Garden City Dr	Sawicky, Jennifer L and Sawicky, Thomsen P	Tu, Thi V	10/28	\$430,000	57 Shenandoah Rd	Sheehan, Kenneth M and Sheehan, Sherry S	Cayer, Gerard R and Cayer, Gail A	10/28	\$630,000
140 Allen Ave	Hayes, Nancy B	Beganski, Ian and Beganski, Emily	10/28	\$375,000	58 Sophia Dr	Vourvachakis, George	Robbins, Jordan M and Flores, Roxana O	10/31	\$395,000
146 Oxford St	Desimone, Sarah	Azor, Mc J	10/31	\$531,000	6 Keeley Ave	Nadirov, Agil	Brilhante, Elisangela C	10/28	\$425,000
213 Glen Hills Dr	Cilento, Dorothy V	Motta, David J and Motta, Deborah L	10/30	\$620,000	61 Danforth St	Martin, Thomas L and Kalunian, Karen L	Sib Prop LLC	11/1	\$250,000
27 Holburn Ave	Robertson, Adam and Robertson, Rebecca J	Torrico, Karen and Cote, Derek J	10/28	\$425,000	61 Easton Ave	Porter, Corie M	Yan, Telvin K and Yan, Kruy	10/30	\$328,000
40 Harris Ave	Ruzzo, Veronica A Est and Ruzzo, Cory	Mandeville, George	10/29	\$150,000	68 Hope Ave	Fugere Sherrie L Est and Fugere, Heidi R	Baez, Bellamire E and Rodriguez, Esperanza	11/1	\$118,000
49 Newwood Dr	Garcia Nunez, Kelman G and Pena, Melissa A	Goodinson, Allesandro J and Goodinson-Anzevino, Alicia	10/31	\$423,500	68 Wilson Ave	Smith, Patricia A and Smith, David B	Doucette, Daniel and Doucette, Olga	11/1	\$309,000
555 Niantic Ave	Airway Leasing LLC	Mardy, Edeline	10/31	\$1	8 Druid Rd	Tocco, Joseph R and Tocco, Sylvia	Ri Custom Bldrs LLC	10/29	\$485,000
64 Phenix Ave	Notarianni, Thomas and Notarianni, Cynthia	Hamel-Balas, Sandra A and Balas, Andrew P	10/31	\$425,000	8 Granite St	Nelson, Paul M and Nelson, Leslie L	Washington, Michelle and Jones, Laurence	11/1	\$540,000
88 Narragansett St	Shao, James	Narragansett Re Cvs LLC	10/30	\$200,000	80 Landis Dr	Carr, Scott A and Carr, Brittany	Roy, Dylan and Roy, Jessica	10/30	\$455,000
95 Arcadia Ave	Beganski, Ian and Beganski, Emily	Rodriguez, Matthew C	10/28	\$370,000	83 Symonds Ave	Hayes, Kevin P	Mizera, Marianne C and Mizera, Gregory J	10/28	\$345,000
EAST GREENWICH									
14 Duke St Lot 14	Pals At Division LLC	Hudziak, James J and Hudziak, Theresa D	10/28	\$632,900	859 Oakland Beach Ave Lot 434	Sg Assoc Inc	Iggy's Boardwalk LLC	10/29	\$310,112
184 Pine Glen Dr Lot 184	Clouart, Peter B and Clouart, Nancy A	Zhang, Yamin and Wang, Haifeng	10/31	\$570,000	91 Northup St	Seplveda, Christina	Marshall, Nathan	10/31	\$235,000
190 Adirondack Dr	Jennifer L Hyland Lt and Hyland, Jennifer L	Fonseca, Joel R and Fonseca, Stacey R	10/28	\$1,105,000	97 Wayne St	Varras, Nicholas	Community Living Of Ri In	11/1	\$390,000
22 Laurel Hill Rd	Leather, Matthew and Cozzolino, Odessa	James S Janis RET and Janis, James S	10/30	\$780,000	99 Normandy Dr	Carter, Pamela M	Flanagan, Kayleigh M and Flanagan, Christopher K	11/1	\$375,000
2420 Division Rd	Lynne D Wiggins T and Wiggins, Lynne D	Mauricio, Nicholas J and Mauricio, Megan M	10/28	\$830,000	99 Normandy Dr Lot 302	Carter, Pamela M	Flanagan, Kayleigh M and Flanagan, Christopher K	11/1	\$375,000
306 Division St	Bethune, James D	Karabots, William J	10/30	\$499,000					
EXETER									
154 Purgatory Rd	Joanne B Sullivan T and Sullivan, David E	Bioteau T and Bioteau, Cynthia	11/1	\$900,000					

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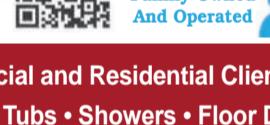
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Things to be Thankful for as you age!

Slowing Down:

Embracing the slower pace of life that often comes with aging allows you to appreciate the small moments and savor the beauty of everyday life and routines. It gives you the opportunity to stop and smell the roses, to enjoy leisurely walks, and to relish in the tranquility of a peaceful afternoon. Slowing down doesn't mean stopping; it means appreciating life at a comfortable pace, allowing you to notice the subtle nuances that make each day special.

Wisdom:

As we age, we accumulate a wealth of experiences and knowledge. Every wrinkle tells a story, and every gray hair represents a lesson learned. Embrace the wisdom that comes with age, as it allows you to navigate life's challenges with a deeper understanding and a broader perspective. With wisdom, you can offer valuable advice to others and make well-informed decisions, enriching your own life as well as the lives of those around you.

Family Time:

Spending quality time with family is a precious gift that comes with aging. Grandchildren bring boundless joy, laughter, and an opportunity to relive the wonders of childhood. The love and connection shared with family members can provide a strong support system, fostering a sense of belonging and happiness in your golden years.

Thanksgiving Facts

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family and friends and reflect on one's blessings. In anticipation of these holidays, here are some interesting facts about the Thanksgiving celebration.

- Thanksgiving is largely modeled on a 17th century harvest feast shared by the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.
- The National Turkey Federation says around 45 million turkeys will be eaten on Thanksgiving, which equates to about 720 million pounds of turkey being consumed (with the average turkey size being 16 pounds).
- The Butterball hotline answers roughly 100,000 calls every year on its turkey question hotline.
- In 1953, the Swanson company overestimated the number of frozen turkeys it would sell for the holiday season by 26 tons. Rather than waste the meat, Swanson sliced it up, repackaged it and created the first frozen TV dinners.
- Thanksgiving may be older than many recognize. While Thanksgiving is largely tied to the 17th century settlers, the National Parks Service says in 1565 Spanish settlers in St. Augustine (now Florida) celebrated by having a meal to which they invited the native Seloy tribe. The Spanish

Acceptance of Yourself and Others:

One of the most liberating aspects of aging is the acceptance of oneself and others. With age comes a deeper understanding of your own identity and a greater tolerance for the differences in others. Embracing your true self, flaws and all, fosters self-love and self-confidence. Moreover, accepting others without judgment promotes harmonious relationships and enriches your social connections, leading to a more fulfilling and peaceful life.

New Hobbies or

More Time for Old Ones:

Retirement and the golden years offer the perfect chance to explore new hobbies or rediscover old passions. Whether it's painting, gardening, playing musical instruments, or engaging in community activities, having the time to pursue your interests can bring immense fulfillment. These hobbies not only provide entertainment but also contribute to mental and emotional well-being, keeping your mind sharp and your spirits high. (STATEPOINT)



served pork stew, sea biscuits, red wine, and garbanzo beans. Some say the Seloy contributed turkey, venison and maize.

- Thanksgiving didn't become a civic holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one after the Civil War tragedy. Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday on October 20, 1864.
- The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves as 'pilgrims.' They used the word 'separatists' as they were separating themselves from a larger belief system.
- In addition to the United States, Canada, Grenada, Liberia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and the Netherlands celebrate their own versions of Thanksgiving.
- Each year, the president 'pardons' a turkey on Thanksgiving. This tradition dates back to when Abraham Lincoln's son was upset that his family's turkey that was going to be killed for Thanksgiving dinner.
- According to the U.S. Calorie Control Council (CCC), an average American may consume 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.
- The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition. It originated in 1924 and the famed balloons were added in 1927.
- Apple pie is the pie of choice for Thanksgiving, even though pumpkin pie is prevalent this time of year.



Making Thanksgiving Special for Seniors

Thanksgiving is a time to come together with our families to share a meal and give thanks. It's a time to reflect on the things that have happened over the past year. Celebrating the holidays with senior family members can have unique challenges. Enjoying the season as an aging adult can be difficult. Family members may live far away, there may be physical and mental challenges, dietary restrictions can be an issue, or a host of other health conditions that seniors face.

It's important to help them celebrate the holiday and feel included. Finding special ways to help them enjoy the festivities can be a bit tricky. Here are a few helpful tips to help make celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday a little bit easier.

Transportation and Location

One of the most important things to keep in mind when it comes to the holiday is the location. Choosing the right location for the senior is vital. In previous years, many different factors were probably taken into consideration when choosing where Thanksgiving would be hosted. Ease of travel should now be a bigger priority for senior family members. If it is possible to host the event in their home, great! Even if they are no longer able to plan and prepare the meals themselves, hosting in their home is a good option. It also removes any issues with transportation altogether.

For seniors living in a skilled nursing or assisted living facility, organizing easy and safe transportation to and from the event can help to reduce the stress and anxiety your loved one may be feeling about participating in the holiday.

Encourage Your Senior Family Member to Participate

Seniors may have been the one who planned, prepared, and hosted Thanksgiving. When the time comes for someone else to take over, it's important to keep them engaged in the planning and preparation process. Ask for their advice and opinions when planning the meal. You can also encourage them to share their favorite holiday recipes. Seniors can help to decorate. Seniors feel needed, appreciated, and gain a sense of purpose when they actively participate in planning the Thanksgiving celebration. Physical or mental limitations do not mean your senior loved one wants to be a passive bystander at family gatherings and holiday events.

Provide Healthy Food Choices

The Thanksgiving feast often includes rich, savory, and fatty foods and sweet desserts. While it is ok to still serve traditional dishes, it's important to keep restrictions in mind. Your senior may be suffering from heart disease, diabetes, or a host of other medical issues that can be adversely affected by certain foods. By offering more healthy food options, your senior family member can still enjoy the day without feeling left out.

Make Space for Accommodations

Thanksgiving can include lots of people and space can be limited. Seniors with mobility or balance issues may find it difficult to move. When the senior requires the use of a wheelchair or walker, being unable to move around in tight spaces can lead to feelings of discomfort and embarrassment.

Thanksgiving is a special time to come together to not only give thanks but to share stories and pass down family traditions. Seniors are an important part of the tradition.

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by CATHERINE TAYLOR

seen on
Medicare
summary
notices
of people

who don't have diabetes and didn't receive a related device. This is one example of how crooks charge Medicare for services not provided. To guard against this, check monthly Medicare statements carefully and report any false charges.

• Free products are another common Medicare scam. However, the product you receive—if you get anything at all—is usually cheap and inferior. Only share your Medicare number with your healthcare providers, and not with someone offering “free” products or services.

• Lastly, free genetic testing is once again a trending Medicare scam. This often happens at health fairs where a scammer will offer a free genetic test that only requires a cheek swab and your Medicare number. Medicare rarely covers genetic testing, and this is just a ploy to get your Medicare number.

Here are some tips to help avoid scams during open enrollment:

- Be suspicious of anyone who calls, emails or visits you promoting a Medicare plan.
- Legitimate health plans can only contact you if you've requested information or you have an existing relationship with them.
- Avoid giving personal information to anyone who calls or visits out of the blue.
- Review your Medicare or Explanation of Benefits statement to ensure fraudulent charges aren't included.

You have several ways to report Medicare fraud, which along with errors and abuse, cost Medicare billions of dollars each year. Scammers and identity thieves are relentless, so you need to be on guard every day.

One way to side-step scammers is by taking advantage of the RI Office of Healthy Aging's (OHA) State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which will help you find the right Medicare coverage at the right cost. It is a free service, and you can call toll free at 888.884.8721.

OHA also is the home of Senior Medical Patrol (SMP), which helps prevent, detect, and report cases of healthcare fraud. Through a network of trained volunteers, SMP educates Medicare members about scams and identity theft and reviews members' Medicare notices to ensure all listed services and charges are accurate. For more information about this program or to become a volunteer, call 888.884.8721.

Government programs are often the target of criminal scammers and Medicare is one of the biggest ones. Thankfully, the nationwide network of Senior Medicare Patrol volunteers often see these scams first and warn others.

Here are three scams they are seeing in 2024:

- False billing for diabetes treatment has been

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November 26 and December 3, 17

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On Being Bald

RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER



I learned that there are quite a few reasons why it's good to be bald.

When I had longer hair, my mother was always nagging me to get it cut or wear it differently. There's only one option when you're bald. I also need just one towel when I shower and it takes no time to dry my head.

When I had long hair, my toes were forever getting tangled in stray hair that had collected on the bathroom rug. And sometimes in bed at night, it was difficult to tell where my head ended and the cat's fur began. That's never a problem when I'm bald.

I'm not sure how long I'll let my hair grow eventually. I have what is called a widow's peak and even with that feature, longer hair was always dragging in my eyes. So I might keep it really short. I've seen magazine ads of white-haired older women with very short hair. I'm not sure if I'll be able to pull that off, but I might give it a try.

There's room for an exotic

tattoo. That's probably something only younger folks would be interested in and it will be covered over when the hair grows back. People of all ages will be glad to be done with dandruff flakes. I always loved long, dangly earrings, but they didn't hang right with my short neck. Once I lost my hair, this was not an issue. Baldness also helps you tell if your ears are off-center, but there's nothing you can do about that.

If you're stressed about going bald, consider some famous bald figures in history and entertainment. We had Gandhi, Churchill, Yul Brynner and Kojak. More recently we have Samuel L. Jackson, Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel. And Patrick Stewart, Stanley Tucci and James Carville. All the bald women who turn up on searches have shaved heads; I don't think they should count. I earned my bald head with chemo; shaving it seems like cheating.

Being bald has been a different experience this round, but I won't complain. I spend most of my time at home and we don't have many visitors. I could probably wear my Little Orphan Annie wig and no one would notice, especially because it's grayish, not red. Once my hair grows back, I'm willing to loan out my headgear. If you'd like to add your name to a list of borrowers, let me know. Those on chemo will have priority.

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Elaine M. Decker's books include *Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide*, *Retirement Sparks*, *Retirement Sparks Again*, *Retirement Sparks Redux* and *CANCER: A Coping Guide*. Her essays appear in the anthologies: *80 Things To Do When You Turn 80* and *70 Things To Do When You Turn 70*. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at emdecker@ix.netcom.com

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Those of us who are not members Generations X, Y, Z, or any other letter, will recognize the commercial for Chevrolet, sung by Dinah Shore. In the 1950s and early 60s, it was common to hear this jingle during many radio and television programs. When I picked up a new car recently (a make other than a Chevrolet), I was reminded of how far advanced (or if you prefer, technically baffling) automobiles had come from my father's two-tone 1953 Chevrolet sedan.

I got an indication of how complicated they had become when the dreaded "Check Engine" light came on in my now traded-in car. The service technician (they are no longer referred to as mechanics) told me that what used to be simply called the thermostat, was now a part that even rocket scientists would have trouble explaining would have to be replaced by a computerized gadget at a cost of \$1,800. The good news was that I had purchased an extended warranty due to computer phobia.

As a warrantee benefit, a new thing-a-ma-bob was installed free. Waiting in the service area for the repair to be finished, I began to catalogue the transformations that automobiles had undergone.

At first, many cars were equipped with standard shifts. You had to pay extra for an automatic and the shift lever was on the steering column. Most cars also came with an ashtray somewhere in the car and windows were opened and closed with crank handles mounted on the inside of the door. A four-door model was considered a luxury and many autos had push-button starters. Curiously, the button

starter has made a comeback in many models. This new/old feature has caused many a veteran driver to lock the car with the ignition running. I know because I've done it. If you look closely, the standard sedan, old-school station wagon, or mini-van has been given way to the SUV.

In times past, you had "air-conditioning" when you opened the windows and the heating systems were not very effective. (Hence the constant scrapping of frost from the inside of your windshield). At first, only AM radios were available. Eventually, you could pay for an FM radio under the all-encompassing feature called "options." An antenna stretched up from the hood to enhance the signal. A succession of sound systems included the eight-track tape, then the cassette tape, CD player, and eventually the satellite streaming system.

My new car has headlights that brighten and dim automatically. I can remember the high beam button on the floor or the high beam stick on wheel. It seems that white wall tires may be coming back into vogue and radial tires were an option. In the past you got a full spare tire and rim when you bought a new car, not a "donut." I've also seen a few two-tone cars.

Automobile safety has improved significantly. Seat restraints, air bags, crash safety features, safer child care seats, lane change warnings, back-up cameras, climate control systems, and automatic braking systems insure less dangerous drives.

The biggest change in the automotive culture, aside from paying \$125 per hour for the service technician, is

the on-board computer system. The central nerve system of my car computer can be started remotely, cruise along at a constant speed, navigate, talk to me, call for help, play music, charge my phone, send and receive calls, and is programmed to be compatible with many baffling "apps." If there is an advantage to this avalanche of technology, it's the navigation system. Instead of folding maps, which could never be refolded correctly, I can now program my route and listen to directions. I can also change the language or voice accent. My wife listens to her GPS in an English accent. One of these days, when I know where I'm going, I'll change the language or accent to amuse myself.

With all the technology involved, new car purchasers should be offered with a tutorial in communications and app management. I could have used more training use after the whirlwind tour of the control panel/ command center I received when I picked up the new car.

Many of us take these new convenience and safety features for granted. And

I'm sure that I haven't touched on all the automotive changes from 1950 to 2024; but it was just fun to think about. Next time get into your car, think of, "See the USA in Your Chevrolet,"... or, Ford, Dodge, Toyota, Subaru, Lexus, etc. Or as the old Esso gas station signs said, "Happy Motoring."

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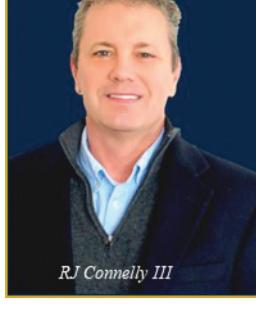
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*According to the 2024 National Consumer Health Survey

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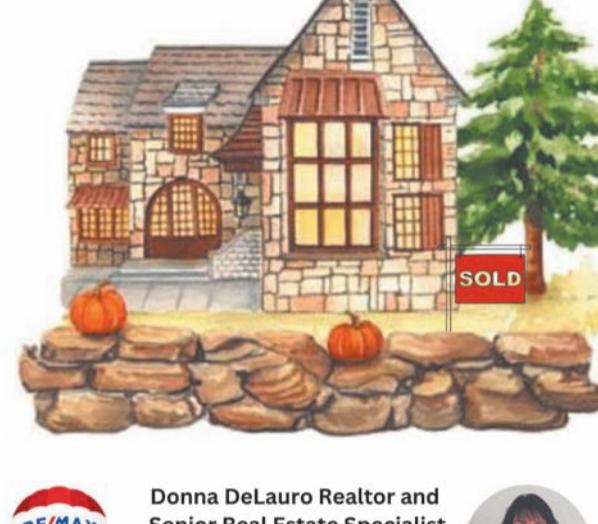
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Volunteers needed to provide free tax services

YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

IRS/SPEC

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs are currently recruiting volunteers for the upcoming filing season.

Each year, thousands of volunteers help their community and gain invaluable professional experience. Volunteers often include students, tax professionals, retirees and those looking to help their community.

VITA/TCE sites can be found nationwide and prepare millions of tax returns each year for low-to moderate-income taxpayers at no cost. The free tax program is generally available for individuals and families with low to moderate incomes and help underserved populations such as persons with disabilities, limited English speakers, senior citizens and more.

No experience is necessary to become a VITA or TCE volunteer. Free specialized training is provided by the IRS. Available positions are not limited to tax preparation and can include interpreters, greeters and computer specialists.

Volunteers have the option to participate at both in-per-

DID YOU KNOW

The National Football League (NFL) was formed in 1920 as the American Professional Football Association (APFA). The first-ever NFL game was played at Triangle Park in Dayton, Ohio, on October 3, 1920. In that contest, the hometown Dayton Triangles defeated the Columbus Panhandles 14-0. Though the Dayton Triangles were eventually purchased by a Brooklyn-based syndicate and relocated to New York as a result of that transaction, the team's status as the host of the first NFL game continues to pay dividends for residents of the southwestern Ohio city where the franchise ushered in the now wildly popular league. In recognition of the place the city of Dayton holds in NFL history, the NFL Foundation, in partnership with FieldTurf & Vasco, pledged to fund the installation of a new artificial turf at the city's Kettering Park. TF24C496

NETFLIX

EMILIA PEREZ

(Crime Story Musical)

When I saw a full-page "Emilia Pérez" ad in the Sunday New York Times, with glowing reviews, I knew this was a movie I had to see.

"Emilia Perez" is like no movie I had ever seen.

It is a gripping story about a macho, murdering Mexican cartel boss who undergoes a sex change.

And it is a musical!

Transgender actress Karla Sofía Gascón plays Emilia after her months of operations to completely change her appearance and flee from Mexico, shipping her wife and children off to Switzerland to protect them from rival gangs.

She hires Rita Castro (Zoe Saldana), an unappreciated female lawyer, to secretly take care of all the arrangements, and pays her royally.

Four years have passed, and Emilia misses her children. Rita finds them and brings them to her home.

Emilia wishes to atone for her past life, so with Rita's help she sets up a foundation to aid the families of the thousands of men who have "disappeared."

Problems arise between Emilia and her former wife, leading to a tragic ending.

The movie is both an intimate study of a man who becomes a woman and a grandiose, colorful musical.

See it at the

Movies



It is like nothing I have ever seen before.
In both Spanish and English with subtitles.

WARWICK SHOWCASE/AVON

A REAL PAIN

** 1/2

(Relationship Comedy/Drama)

Jesse Eisenberg wrote, directed and starred in this comedy/drama about family relationships.

Eisenberg plays David, a New York City resident, married with one child, who invites his cousin Benji (Kieran Culkin) to travel to Poland to visit their recently deceased grandmother's childhood home.

Not only do David and Benji live far away from each other, their characters and dispositions are also miles apart.

To make matters interesting, David wishes he were

more like Benji (free spirited and spontaneous), while Benji wishes he were more like David (secure and predictable).

Some might call their relationship a love/hate one.

They travel through Poland with four other tourists and a guide, with Benji being "a real pain" at times. Culkin's is a great acting job, but I have to admit to him getting on my nerves. His constant use of the F word didn't seem to bother his more conservative traveling companions, but I soon tired of it.

Benji's mood swings make everyone uncomfortable at times, but David humors him and when each return to their own life, he forgives him.

The scenes of Warsaw and other small Polish towns are a bit dreary, and their visit to a concentration camp is quite somber.

If you are into Eisenberg's brand of humor and pathos, you may enjoy this one more than I did. (Joyce stayed home.)

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By JENNIFER COATES

If there is anything that Sue Rezendes knows about it is that exploring the world is not a privilege afforded to a select few but rather an extraordinary opportunity that all should enjoy. She herself is an avid traveler whose work as the owner of The Travel Connection has spanned three decades and taken her to places many could only imagine ~ for now! She personifies the notion that we travel "not to escape life but for life not to escape us!" Let her introduce you to all the world has to offer!

The Travel Connection has been partnering with travel and tourism companies since it first opened its doors over thirty years ago. Collette is one of these such companies.

Collette is a family-owned business that has been based in Pawtucket since its inception in 1928. The business has enjoyed its nearly century-long

status because it has earned the loyalty of generations of travelers. Travelers who work with Collette are given first-class experiences every single time with their exciting worldwide destinations, outstanding customer service that takes all the guesswork (and stress) out of travel, unforgettable cultural experiences in all the unforgettable corners of the globe, and exceptional door-to-door treatment.

One of the most appealing aspects of Collette's tour is the small group explorations they offer. Groups do not exceed twenty-four guests, in fact, the average tour is only sixteen. These groups allow travelers to "dive deeper" into their trip, enabling them to access experiences, accommodations and destinations that larger groups can't always reach. Experienced tour managers bring the world within grasp in a personal, intimate, and more face-to-face manner.

Collette caters to every guest, whether you want to spend three nights on a houseboat on Lake Kariba for a safari experience or to climb the scenic mountains overlooking Lake Louise in Canada. Maybe you would prefer a trip through the natural landscapes and coastal byways of Ireland or a tour along the Iberian Peninsula where medieval architecture and delectable cuisine await! Let your dreams go wild and let Collette and The Travel Connection make those dreams a reality.

There are countless reasons why savvy travelers work with The Travel Connection and Collette: knowledgeable, reliable, highly experienced and diligent tour planners whose combined years in the industry exceed nearly one hundred years.

With all the destinations on the globe yet to explore and discover, there is no place that The Travel Connection can't get you to ~ on your bucket list, on your timetable, on your budget. The Travel Connection is located at 1265R Post Road in Warwick. To get started, call the office at 401-946-6010, contact Sue at sue@travelconnectionri.com or visit them at www.travelconnectionri.com.

Be sure to check with Sue regarding the Black Friday sale beginning Nov. 11th!



You will enjoy the holiday season with more energy and stamina when you put yourself on the top of your to-do list. Come to the Holiday Open House at the West Shore Wellness center on Sandy Lane to "thank yourself" and head into the holiday season feeling calmly uplifted.

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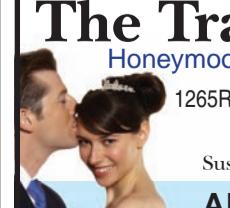
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November – A Time for Reflection & Gratitude



MY MEMOIRS by SUSAN DEAN

November often strikes me as a bittersweet month. Another year almost finished, with the promise of a new one rearing up to start. But the start of the new year comes with the knowledge that I will have another birthday half-way through. With only two months left in 2024, did I accomplish anything? Did I live fully?

I wrote recently about the summer vocal workshops that I attended. This October I attended another vocal workshop, one totally different from the summer gatherings. This one is held in Woodstock, New York in a studio nestled in the woods in the mountains. We were a group of nine. Three of us were repeat attendees so it was a reunion of sorts. It wasn't long, though, before the other six became fast friends.

This workshop is based on "finding one's voice", which can mean many different things besides singing. It's run by Claude Stein, the founder of "The Natural Singer Workshops". The day starts with vocal warmups and then with singing together. No written music, just lyrics. Music of all kinds - old chestnuts, popular tunes from every decade, folk songs, spirituals - with everyone harmonizing however one chooses. No rules, no judgment, just the melding of our voices as Claude accompanies on piano.

As the day progresses everyone is required to stand up and sing a song. The levels of courage and bravery vary, with some people confidently belting out a rock song and others timidly singing a ballad so softly that we'd all have to strain to hear. Some of us were dealing with "old tapes" running through our heads from childhood where we were afraid to be seen and heard. Others remembered being told to "just mouth the words" in their school musical performances and still carried feelings of deep shame and hadn't sung a note since. Others were convinced they were tone deaf. And others were simply afraid of being criticized and judged.

After each song, Claude worked his magic. With his unique

combination of musicality and innate intuition, he was able to tease out what each singer needed. The rock singer was instructed to sing it again - this time as a lullaby. It was beautiful to see the soft, tender side of this singer, and the tears streaming down her face as she realized that she no longer needed to hide or protect her softer side had us all reaching for the Kleenex.

The timid singers were asked to repeat their songs imagining that they were rock stars or to dance or march around the room while singing, anything to get them to laugh and put aside their fears. Claude has all kinds of tricks up his sleeve to help us "get over ourselves". I've had to hold buckets full of water up on stage during my solos in years past, the heavy weight helping me to stay grounded and present and to remind me to use my whole body and not just my vocal cords when I sing.

After each singer finished we went around the room and the rest of us commented with a positive and honest affirmation - truthful words as we witnessed each person's shining moment - the transformation - the self-realization - the beauty and the wonder. Lots of laughter, lots of tears, lots of love - celebrating everyone's successes.

We each presented five solos and each day was a new beginning with new chances to explore and grow. I sang three original songs. I wrote the lyrics and Claude wrote the music, all done through previous voice lessons with him on Zoom.

There were lighter moments, too. Claude on the piano as each of us composed a lyric, tagging onto the line created by the previous person until we had a crazy, humorous, fully-formed

jazz song that we collectively improvised.

We sang outside at times, under the vast blue sky with leaves drifting down and gently surrounding us in a kaleidoscope of colors. We spent time drumming outside, too, using drums of all shapes and sizes, rattles, and percussion sticks - again against the mountain backdrop of autumn's splendor. I could almost see Native American shamans slowly appearing out of the woods - called by our collective heartbeat-like rhythms. At one point I looked up and saw an eagle silently soaring above us. Was he called to join us, too?

One of the major milestones for me was Open Mic night at The Colony, a bar in Woodstock. We've attended every year and some of my friends have participated in the past. I've always been happy to be a spectator cheering my support from the audience. But this year, three of us got up and sang "The Rose".

We sang together on some lines, but each of us also sang parts of it alone, taking turns soloing. It was a momentous event that I never imagined myself doing in a million years. There was a woman sitting in the front row, her hands on her heart with tears streaming down her face. Perhaps she felt that we were giving her a gift, but her appreciation and expression of being deeply touched was a gift to me, one that eased my nerves and made my heart sing, too.

We spent our final day singing and laughing, vowing to stay connected, and with plans to reunite again "same time next year" in the cocoon of the mountains of Woodstock.

November - a time for reflection and gratitude. We're never too old to try new things, to expand, to grow, and to learn. I'm grateful for my family, my friends, my home, and especially for good health. And for all things - autumn leaves, an eagle in flight, singing with friends, giving the gift of a song, and for chances to spread my wings still. And for opportunities to remember to appreciate and to live fully in all ways.

NOVEMBER is Fall Prevention Awareness Month

Improving Your Balance to Avoid Falls

by RACHEL MONIZ
OAKLEY HOME ACCESS

One of our passions here at Oakley Home Access includes educating the community about how home safety begins with proper planning and the right tools. We are often asked about improving balance and other ways to help prevent falls.

Exercise and Health Tips To Improve Balance

Improving balance is an important aspect of maintaining physical health, especially as we age. Below are three ways in which people can improve their balance. As always It's important to consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen to ensure safety and effectiveness.

• Practicing balance exercises such as standing on one foot or walking heel to toe. These exercises help to strengthen the muscles and improve coordination.

• Incorporating activities such as yoga or tai chi into a workout routine. These practices focus on balance and can help to improve overall body awareness and control.

• Maintaining a healthy diet and staying hydrated can also contribute to better balance by reducing the risk of dizziness or lightheadedness.

There are many home modifications and tools to help with balance. Ramps and stairlifts are some of our most popular home modifications that help people age in place and prevent falls.

In addition to these 'in home' items, there are smaller and more portable tools available which can help in the home and while you are out doing errands in the community.

The Handibar is a small tool that helps with car entry and exit. It can be carried or stored in the door, a purse, or in the center console or glove box. The Handibar works by giving users a stable, graspable surface to push up from when exiting a car.

Security Pole – Grab bars will always be the gold standard. However, they are limited in that they utilize a wall to securely mount into. For locations without a wall nearby such as a couch, bed, toilet, or sunken living room, a Security Pole by Stander is an amazing option. The Security Pole utilizes the strength of the ceiling and the floor to put a grab bar WHEREVER it is needed.

Rolling Walkers - Many are able to ambulate independently within the home without the use of a cane or walker. For longer distances, however, a rolling walker is a great solution to assist with balance.

Grab Bars - Showers and bathrooms are the most common area in the home to fall for people of all ages. Grab bars can match any decor and be placed in the perfect location when assessed by Occupational Therapists and Certified Aging in Place Specialists.

Reed Pushes for Improved Menopause Research, Training, & Awareness

In an effort to reduce stigma and boost research into a key area of women's health that has been traditionally underfunded by Congress, U.S. Senator Jack Reed is urging

passage of the Advancing Menopause and Mid-Life Women's Health Act (S.4246). This bipartisan legislation seeks to boost menopause research, training, and education and would, for the first time, coordinate the federal government's existing programs related to menopause and mid-life women's health.

Menopause involves a significant hormone shift women go through in middle age, marking the end of menstrual cycles. Despite the fact that half the population in the U.S. will eventually experience menopause, menopause research has long been underinvested.

To date, there are few federally funded clinical trials on menopause and menopausal hormone therapy and very little menopause education for doctors—only 31.3 percent of U.S. residency programs offer a formal menopause curriculum according to a survey conducted by The Menopause Society, and 80 percent of OB-GYN residents believed more menopause educational resources were needed in their program.

Senator Reed says it essential to have comprehensive research and data to develop

effective policy to address the economic, social, and health impacts of menopause and perimenopause - which precedes it.

Specifically, the Advancing Menopause and Mid-Life Women's Health Act seeks to authorize \$275 million over five years to strengthen and expand federal research on menopause, health care workforce training, awareness and education efforts, and public health promotion and prevention to better address menopause and mid-life women's health.

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Senator Reed says it essential to have comprehensive research and data to develop

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI Medicare Advantage receives 4.5-star rating

During Medicare's annual enrollment period (AEP) Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) continues to offer plans for Medicare-eligible Rhode Islanders that remain the highest-rated in the market.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded a rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars to all BCBSRI Medicare Advantage plans that are continuing into 2025. No other Medicare Advantage plans offered to Rhode Islanders for 2025 scored higher.

Medicare's annual enrollment period runs from through Dec. 7, presenting a quarter of the state's population with important health insurance opportunities and decisions. More than most years, 2025 brings significant changes to the popular Medicare Advantage marketplace that are vital for many Medicare-eligible Rhode Islanders to understand.

These changes include a reduction in the annual out-of-pocket limit for prescription drugs (Medicare Part D) from \$5,030 to \$2,000 and new rules implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on how health plans administer prescription benefits. Together these changes are impacting Medicare Advantage markets across the country.

While many insurers are reducing benefits or pulling out of markets altogether, Rhode Islanders can continue to turn to BCBSRI for Medicare Advantage options designed to meet a variety of health needs and budgets.

Members who are satisfied with a BCBSRI Medicare Advantage plan that is continuing into 2025 can simply allow their coverage to automatically renew. All others may choose from a range of innovative plans and benefit choices.

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SPORTS

Hawks hold off Clippers in semis

Hendricken headed to 15th straight title game

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The top-seeded Bishop Hendricken football team punched its ticket to its 15th straight Rhode Island state championship when it held off No. 4 Cumberland, 35-22, last Friday night at home.

Hendricken was up 28-22 with less than two minutes remaining at the Cumberland 38-yard line. The Hawks faced a fourth-and-1 and decided to go for it by taking the usual route ... handing the ball off to running back to Jeremy Seidi.

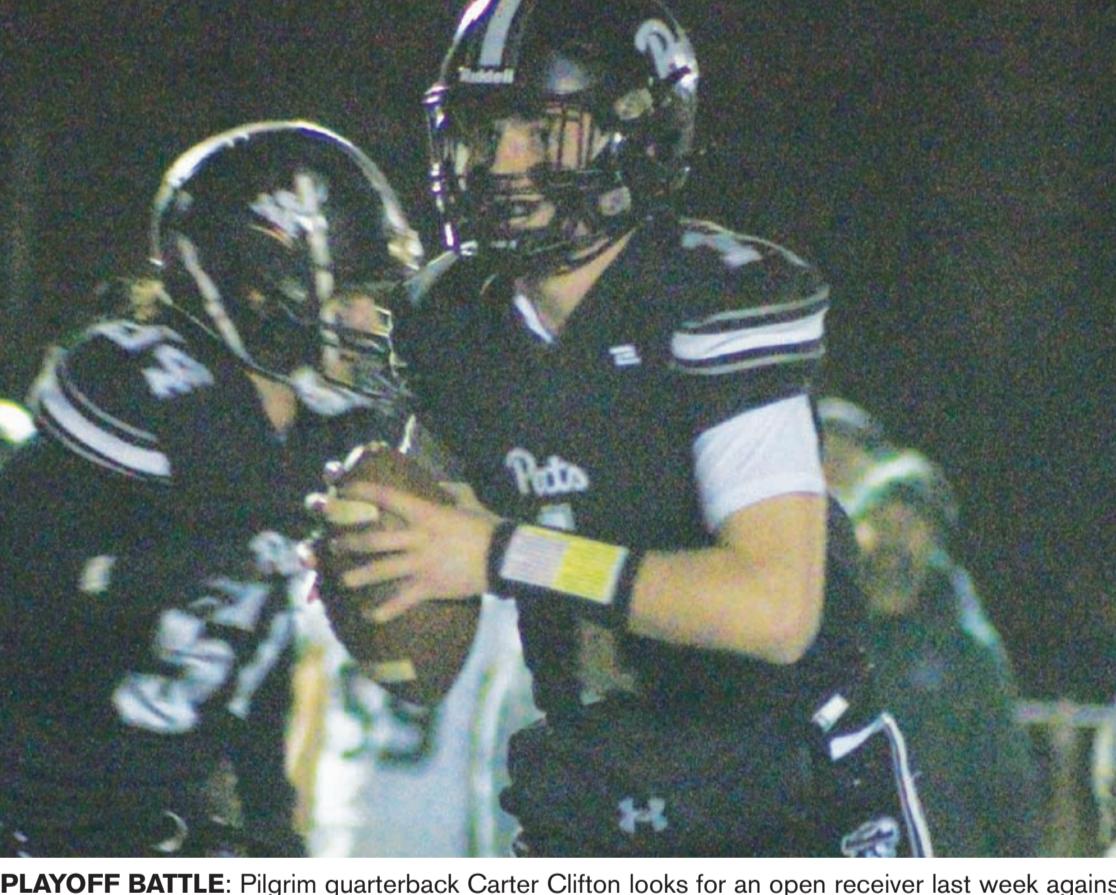
Not only did Seidi pick up the new set of downs, but he would end the game moments later when he broke loose for a 31-yard score and send Hendricken to the finals against rival La Salle.

Hendricken quarterback Dylan Lynch opened the second half by rushing for a touchdown to give the Hawks the 28-15 lead, which was sustained until midway through the fourth quarter when Cumberland found the end zone to make it a one-score game.

Seidi got the Hawks on the board in the first quarter before Cumberland scored 15 straight points to take a 15-7 lead late in the second



BACK TO THE FINALS: Bishop Hendricken lineman Ethan Charnley after the Hawks picked up a first down. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



PLAYOFF BATTLE: Pilgrim quarterback Carter Clifton looks for an open receiver last week against Ponaganset in the Division III semifinals. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Ponaganset surges past Pilgrim to end Pats' run

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Ponaganset football team overcame a halftime deficit to hand Pilgrim a 32-16 loss in the Division III semifinals, ending the Pats' 2024 run.

Pilgrim took a 16-15 lead into the halftime break, but Ponaganset would take control and surge in the final 24 minutes of play. The Chieftains scored a touchdown in the third quarter to make it 23-16, then kicked a field goal and added another late rushing touchdown to set the score at 32-16.

Pilgrim began the game by driving to the red zone, but Ponaganset would grab an interception to end the threat. Pilgrim's defense got a stop deep in Ponaganset territory and would give the offense back possession. This time, the Pats delivered when Jacob Souliere capped off the drive with a touchdown, followed by a successful 2-point conversion when Luka Ruscio hauled in the score.

Ponaganset returned the ensuing kickoff the distance to tie the score then rushed for another to take a 15-8 lead in the second quarter. Pilgrim quarterback Carter Clifton connected with Colin Burke for a touchdown strike and then rushed for the 2-point play to give the Pats the lead.

Despite a promising start, Pilgrim was unable to sustain its energy for four quarters.

"Our guys just put it all out there in the first two quarters. They came out hot, gave it everything they had, but I think it was just a very physical game. We had guys go down with cramps which forced us to make adjustments and that took away from what we were doing in the first half," said Pilgrim head coach Blake Simpson.

The Chieftains topped Pilgrim in the season finale two weeks prior. The Pilgrim coaching staff felt that it was able to put together the right game plan this time around.

■

PILGRIM - PAGE 32

Pilgrim trio signs college letters

Pilgrim saw three of its athletes sign their college letters last week at the school. Recent cross country state champion Keaney Bayha as well as track and field state champion Brandon Wolfenden signed to compete for Division I University of Rhode Island, while softball captain Genna D'Amato committed to Division II University of Bridgeport. (Submitted photos)



Striped bass overfished, new measures on way

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Striped bass have been under a rebuilding plan since 2019. Although some of the conservation measures taken since then are working the most recent 2024 stock assessment update conducted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) found the resource remains overfished with a less than fifty percent (50%) chance of rebuilding the stock by 2029 as planned.

The stock is not experiencing overfishing, but it remains overfished relative to the updated biological reference points. Thus, the rebuilding plan will not meet its goal unless new measures are taken to rebuild the stock. Low recruitment and the lack of strong year-classes to supply the fishy were noted as key challenges.

Based on these projections, a special meeting will be held on Dec. 16, 2024 to consider Striped Bass Management Board action to change 2025 management measures to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding to at least 50%. This may translate to new, more restrictive regulations for 2025.

In Massachusetts, before the Management Board meeting occurs on Dec. 16, there will be an informational webinar (register at https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3243414609517348697?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) for the public on Dec. 5, 6 p.m. to review the technical report. While public comment will not be accepted during the informational online seminar, written public comment on the technical report and management options is encouraged.

In Rhode Island the Division of Marine Fisheries will hold an informational workshop on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at 6 PM at the URI Bay Campus/GSO, Corless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett. The meeting can be joined online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86730003561?pwd=3xrGPC86ug8Upjg9Pp1zIObl5raT8v1> [us02web.zoom.us], Meeting ID: 867 3000 3561, Passcode: 685078, Dial in #: 1-929-205-6099 (listen only).

In a media advisory Nicole Lengel Costa of the RI Division of Marine Fisheries shared the below helpful meeting timeline on striped bass hearings. Ms. Costa is also available for questions and can be reached at nicole.lengel@dem.ri.gov or 401-423-1940.

Tuesday, December 3 – Technical Committee (TC) report posted here [asmfc.org]

Thursday, December 5 – ASMFC Public Informational Webinar [asmfc.org] at 6 PM to review TC report

Thursday, December 5 – MA Online Informational Workshop at 6 PM (see above)

Monday, December 9 – ASMFC Advisory Panel webinar [asmfc.org] meeting at 4:30 PM

Monday, December 9 – RIDEM Informational Workshop (in-person/virtual) at 6 PM (see above)

Tuesday, December 10 – Deadline for ASMFC written comments (comments@asmfc.org) at 11:59 PM

Monday, December 16 – ASMFC Striped Bass Board Meeting [asmfc.org] (in-person/virtual) at 10 AM

The deadline for submitting a written public comment for the Management Board's consideration is December 10. Per the Management Board's request, the technical report is expected to focus on management options that include changes to the recreational size limits or seasons and commercial quotas.

Trout Unlimited meeting

Trout Unlimited Rhode Island will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge, 42 Noose-neck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI. John Field will be the guest speaker talking about his book "Fly Fishing for Trophy Striped Bass." To register visit rhodeislandtu@gmail.com.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, bonito. Ed Lombardo, fly fishing expert and guide, said, "I caught a 35.8-pound, 43.5" striped bass last week along with five smaller bass and a good



EXPERT CATCH: Ed Lombardo, fly fishing expert and guide, with the 35.8 pound striped bass he caught with one of his flies in burgundy colors on Narrow River, Narragansett. (Submitted photo)

number of shad. Fished the outgoing tide from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the Narrow River in Narragansett. This is the first time many shad have been in Narrow River all season. The river looks much more promising going forward! Not much small bait showing but for these shad."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "This past week a lot of small bait has been around from sand eels to various rain baits and anchovies. Shad, stripers and bluefish continue to stick around and feed. Big fish have been coming into Ninigret pond amongst a lot of really small fish. By that I mean 10-18 inch fish. Bonito and mackerel are still out front especially around Block Island. The water is still warm, reports of water mostly 58-59 degrees." Todd Corayer, expert kayak striped bass angler and Fishwrap blog author said, "The stripers bite remains strong in our salt ponds. Water temp was 46 degrees Saturday, and the bass were all over schools of pretty fast moving bait. I never did get to see what the bait species was but there were plenty of bass. The bite stopped on a dime thirty minutes after sunrise. Pretty wild stuff for November."

"The striped bass bite has slowed with some small fish being caught in the surf and wash, however, we still have a good Bonito bite here. And further south at Sandy Hook, New Jersey surf anglers were shoulder to shoulder catching striped bass this weekend with a lot of fish and a lot of Atlantic menhaden in the water. So I would say fish have moved out of our region for the most part," said Matt Conit of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown.

Tautog. "Tautog fishing has still been good. You can even have a chance at Cod this time of year especially if you are fishing deeper water. With some bigger fish coming out of the bay," said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Conti said, "With the moon tides this weekend tautog fishing was off a bit for the party boats at our dock, however, the fishing is still very good. Prior to that anglers were catching their limit with good sized fish."

Angler Greg Spier reports, "Had to switch

to 6-8 oz weights as the tide and current picked up when fishing off Newport this weekend. Back at dock by noontime as the seas picked up with our limit of ten tautog, the largest was 19 inches. No keeper black sea bass."

Bluefin tuna. We still have bluefin tuna in the area. Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, said, "One of our customers is out there now (West fishing grounds off Block Island on Sunday) targeting bluefin. We had reports of fish being caught earlier today and yesterday (Saturday) four fish in the 40-inch range were caught while anglers were targeting cod. They switched off and caught bluefin. Amazing!"

Freshwater fishing. Anglers are still catching trout from fall stockings and largemouth

bass. Trout stocking locations in Massachusetts are updated daily, visit Trout stocking report | Mass.gov for an interactive map. Visit www.dem.ri.gov/fishing for ponds stocked in RI. This weekend when kayaking on Beach Pond (in Exeter, RI and Voluntown, CT) I spoke with anglers that were catching both largemouth bass and trout using shiners.

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.noflukefishing.com.

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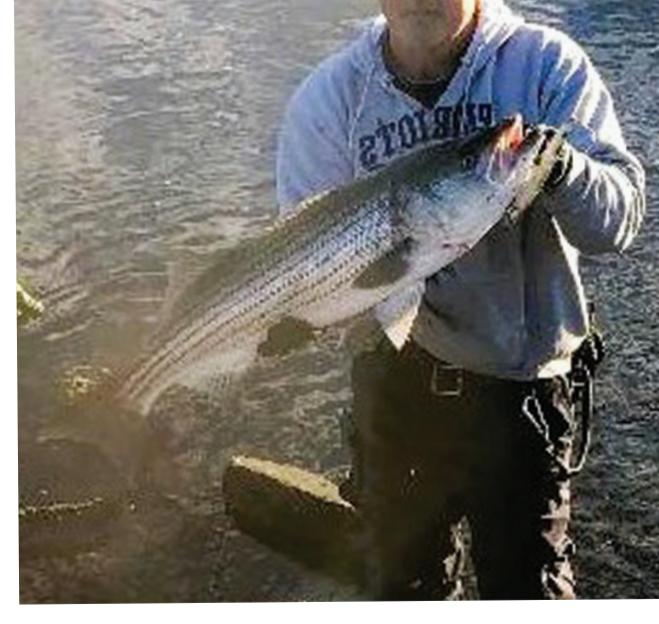


CLUES ACROSS

- Defunct airline
- Beverage container
- A team's best pitcher
- Unit of liquid capacity
- It comes before two
- Male child
- Type of wheat
- One's mother
- Upper side of an organism
- United is one
- Extraction process
- A being with lesser divine status
- People living together in a community
- Luxury automaker
- This (Spanish)
- Semitic language
- Period for a defined purpose
- Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
- Up in the air (abbr.)
- American marsupial
- Decadent dessert
- Aquatic plant
- About aviation
- Summer footwear
- Rugged mountain ranges
- With tin
- Cut on the surface of a hard object
- Wrapped in cloth
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- "American Idol" contestant Clay
- Midway between east and southeast
- Court decision "v. Wade"
- Born of Republic
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Actress "Margaret
- Not even
- Heat unit
- Faulkner, American writer
- Guatemalan town
- Of funny things
- Actress "de Armas
- Agents of one's downfall
- Takes forcibly
- Body lice
- Large nest of a bird of prey
- Unhappy
- Popular holiday dessert
- Habitual drunkard
- Used of a number or amount not specified
- Complications
- Fail to win
- Before the present
- Musical genre
- Flurry
- 007's creator

CLUES DOWN

- Midway between north and northeast
- Feeling
- Damage another's reputation
- Mottled citrus fruit
- Beauty product
- They man first, second and third
- Harness
- Herb
- Expressed concern
- Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
- Consumed
- Nostrils
- Gathered fallen leaves
- Express good wishes
- Monetary unit of Brunei
- Japanese Buddhist festival



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Paul-Tyson delivers loss to fans

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
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we caught a glance at Tyson's bare rear end ... just a very bizarre event from top to bottom (no pun intended).

It's funny how much Paul's sh!tstick aggravates the public. People fail to realize that he is actually playing the game perfectly. Find easy fights, talk smack, get people to tune in by the millions to hopefully see you lose and then get paid. Rinse and repeat. Paul knows that he's not a high level boxer, he knows he's not a champion, but he also knows how to get people to tune in. His character as a heel works.

As for Tyson, I mean, I guess why not? He got paid a reported 8-figure payday for getting lightly jabbed in the face for 16 minutes. Yes, he's a competitor and I am sure he is not thrilled about having a fresh loss on his record, but does he really care? Doubt it. He's got millions in the bank, a family, his health, and a hall of fame resume.

I do not care for these Jake Paul fights, I really don't. The outcome is pretty close to predetermined as he chooses fights that he should win. The only reason why I was interested in this one was because it was Mike Tyson. Who knows if we'll ever see him fight again?

It'll be interesting to see who Paul picks next. I probably won't tune in, but who knows?

The loser in this whole thing is Netflix. Yes, the service got its money, but it took a beating on social media. It put out a half baked apology, but I do believe that it did some serious damage to its brand in the debacle. It's supposed to be broadcasting the NFL games on Christmas and people are already casting doubt on if they'll tune in. Luckily, the Patriots won't be on, so I know for sure I will not put myself through that again. I am actually debating canceling my account altogether.

I was on the fence but

chose to stick around a few more weeks to watch the fight, but now I have zero motivation to continue to pay the fees that only continue to rise. Netflix made its subscribers pay more to get less. It's a shame that it did well financially when it did not deserve it.

We had two playoff football games this past weekend when Bishop Hendricken hosted Cumberland and Pilgrim took on Ponaganset. The Hawks held off a late Clipper push to earn a spot in the state title game against La Salle while a big second half helped the Chieftains earn the win over the Pats.

As for Hendricken, the Hawks should be able to get the job done this Friday night. The team lost to Portsmouth and it took all four quarters for it to close out Cumberland. Both of those teams are strong, but I think it showed some vulnerability in the Hawks.

The Hendricken roster is the best in the state and when the Hawks are playing their best, no one can beat them as constructed. But, what we've seen these past two games is that Hendricken struggles to be perfect for 48 minutes, as most teams do, and can be beat if the opposition strikes at the right time.

La Salle is dangerous, especially on offense. If there is a team that can make some noise at key points in a game, it's the Rams.

I believe Hendricken will be ready to go. After two tough weeks, I don't see the Hawks letting their guard down.

Pilgrim ran into, what I believe, is the best team in Division III. Ponaganset has a tough defense and an efficient running game. Classical has the best running back in Jordan Duke, but what Ponaganset does in its rushing attack is pretty tough to stop. Multiple guys that are fast and physical. They wear you down.

Pilgrim stuck to the script that has made it one of the scariest teams in DIII. It flew under the radar early on, figured some things out, then all of a sudden became the team that no one wanted to face come playoff time. Pilgrim led at halftime and seemed to have all the momentum, then Ponaganset emptied the tank and showed why it's an elite DIII unit.

It was just a strange scene. An old Mike Tyson that could barely stand on his feet for shortened rounds, Jake Paul kind of just popping him here and there. Of course there were celebrities in the crowd, weird pageantry ... the behind the scenes look into the locker rooms when

we were few.

It was just a strange scene.

An old Mike Tyson that

could barely stand on his feet

for shortened rounds, Jake

Paul kind of just popping

him here and there. Of course

there were celebrities in the

crowd, weird pageantry ...

the behind the scenes look

into the locker rooms when

RIC hoops tops MIT

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior guard Dwayne Robinson-O'Hagan (Woonsocket) scored a career-high 30 points as the Anchormen downed MIT, 82-65, at the Murray Center on Saturday evening.

A scorching hot shooting performance in the first half by junior guard Isaiah Dahl (Cornelius, Ore.) helped RIC to an early, 17-9, advantage in the first five minutes of action.

RIC would get scoring contributions from seven of the 10 Anchormen who played in the first half, which included 12 points by O'Hagan on 71.4 percent shooting from the field.

A layup by senior forward Ousmane Kourouma (Woonsocket), off an O'Hagan assist, with 15:43 left in the second half put the Anchormen in the driver's seat with a 14-point lead.

RIC kept at least a nine point lead throughout the second half on the way to its second straight win.

Kourouma notched his third straight double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Dahl finished with 23 points on the night and connected on 7-of-14 from long range.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will travel to Brandeis on Thursday, Nov. 20 (7 p.m.).

RIC wrestling takes down Plymouth State

Senior 184 lbs. Matthew Kelly (Katonah, N.Y.) and classmate 285 lbs. Michael Alfonso (Garfield, N.J.) each went 2-0 as Rhode Island College split a tri-match, defeating Plymouth State, 48-5, and falling, 19-18, vs. WPI, at the Recreation Center on Saturday afternoon.

RIC won the first five bouts vs. the Panthers as senior 125 lbs. Fred Luchs (Belford, N.J.), junior 133 lbs. Brett Redner (Butler, N.J.) and freshman 141 lbs. Sebastian Armstrong (Coventry) each pinned their opponents.

After a technical fall win by the Pan-

thers, RIC closed out the match with four straight wins, highlighted by pins from senior 174 lbs. Aidan Faria (Cumberland) sophomore 197 lbs. Anthony Fernandez (Nashua, N.H.) and Alfonso.

Rhode Island College 48, Plymouth State 5

125 lbs. Fred Luchs (RIC) pinned Brody McDonald (PSU) at 1:09

133 lbs. Brett Redner (RIC) pinned Cam Monahan (PSU) at 5:54

141 lbs. Sebastian Armstrong (RIC) pinned Nick Savariego (PSU) at 1:05

149 lbs. Michael Pestana (RIC) major dec. Damari Goldsmith-Greene (PSU), 10-0

157 lbs. Dillon Carter (RIC) dec. Nick Antonucci (PSU), 18-11

165 lbs. Chase Anestis (PSU) tech. fall. Scott Lallas (RIC) at 1:43 (15-0)

174 lbs. Aidan Faria (RIC) pinned Robert Tarasuk (PSU) at 1:40

184 lbs. Matthew Kelly (RIC) tech. fall. Tyler Miller (PSU) at 2:39 (15-0)

197 lbs. Anthony Fernandez (RIC) pinned Luke Murphy (PSU) at :21

285 lbs. Michael Alfonso (RIC) pinned Jon Picon Ruiz (PSU) at :47

WPI 19, Rhode Island College 18

141 lbs. Mason Medina (WPI) dec. Hunter Lundberg (RIC), 8-4

149 lbs. Mason Basara (WPI) dec. Michael Pestana (RIC), 8-4

157 lbs. Joey Baisley (WPI) dec. Dillon Carter (RIC), 13-7

165 lbs. Christopher McCarthy (RIC) Theo Sawyers (WPI) at 5:44

174 lbs. Joseph Tully (WPI) major dec. Aidan Faria (RIC), 12-3

184 lbs. Matthew Kelly (RIC) pinned Ryan Hsu (WPI) at 1:15

197 lbs. Nicolas LeSieur (WPI) dec. Anthony Fernandez (RIC), 12-7

285 lbs. Michael Alfonso (RIC) major dec. Trevor Bowen (WPI), 13-5

125 lbs. Tanner Thatcher (WPI) dec. Fred Luchs (RIC), 8-5 SV

133 lbs. Kwesi Amona (RIC) dec. Charlie Payis (WPI), 7-4

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HAT TRICK: Jeremy Seidi after scoring his third touchdown last week.

■ Hawks (Continued from page 28)

quarter.

That advantage was short-lived though, as Seidi and Lynch each rushed for touchdowns just before the break to make it 21-15 at halftime.

La Salle used a late surge to beat St. Ray's 43-22 on the other side of the bracket, setting up another Hendricken-La Salle championship which is slated for this Friday night at Cranston Stadium.

"It's really important for us. Every year our goal is to win a state championship so for our seniors, it's good to have a chance to win another one," said Hendricken captain Stephen Antonucci, who helped the Hawks once again win by tough play in the trenches. "It's our physicality up front. We have a good offensive line, a good defensive line. It starts at practice, we go against

the best every single day and I think our physicality won us this game."

Seidi and Jeremy Dennis have picked up right where Oscar Weah and Ronjai Francis left off last season as the state's best 1-2 punch out of the backfield. The Hawks and Rams typically stick to the same formula, so Hendricken will need its duo to step up one last time.

"Dennis and Seidi, those guys are beasts. No one can tackle those guys, it's an o-lineman's dream to have them back there," said Antonucci, who felt the team was hungry after dropping the regular season finale to Portsmouth two weeks before.

"La Salle is a great team. Very well-coached, very disciplined. Hopefully we can game plan for them and be ready for Friday."

We had two weeks off and we had that 'chip on your shoulder' mentality. Every day we came ready to play, ready to practice," said Antonucci.

■ Pilgrim (Continued from page 28)

"We really dove into the film and were looking to see what could be open, what holes they may have. We were able to hit a lot of chunk plays in the air. We knew we weren't going to be able to run well against that front, but with the receivers that we have, we had some design plays and Carter made some huge throws in the first half that helped us jump out to that lead," Simpson said.

Pilgrim entered the fall season under the radar in Division III with a largely new starting lineup. Despite their youth, the Pats scheduled games against opponents in higher divisions, including DII Woonsocket and DI Burrillville. Those tough matchups, ultimately, prepared Pilgrim to make a late push as it earned the second seed in the DIII postseason.

"They outperformed our expectations. We had a whole new set of skill guys, had to piece together an offensive line, but

every one of them stepped up to the challenge and the tasks that we asked them to do," Simpson said. "They performed well taking on very tough opponents. Those games helped them prepare to host two playoff games. If you talked to just about anyone in the media at the beginning of the year, I don't think any of them picked us to be in the top half of our division."

Pilgrim is set to bring back another young roster next season with a small senior class expected to lead the way. Simpson hopes that this strong finish will motivate the returners.

"I hope now they realize what it takes to make a playoff push and get back in the weight room and have that drive to get back to the playoffs," said Simpson, who will also appreciate the leadership of his current seniors. "These seniors mean a lot to me. They've grown so much, we have 10 of them that have been in the program for four years. To see them grow into not just football players, but as young men and leaders, it means a lot to our program and I'm going to miss them."



TAKING THE LEAD: Luka Ruscio celebrates after Pilgrim scores in the first half.

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