



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

2 Sections ♦ 32 Pages ♦ \$2.00 ♦ Vol.72 No. 24

RI braces for data-breach fallout

By ALEXANDER CASTRO **Rhode Island Current**

There's not much sand left in the hourglass counting down to an international cybercriminal group's purported release of data stolen from the RIBridges system - the online customer interface for social services like Medicaid, food stamps and individual subscriptions to Rhode Island's health insurance marketplace.

Reports in national outlets suggested the hackers' deadline was Sunday, Dec. 15, but as of 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, the countdown clock on hacker group Brain Cipher's dark web site showed about 27 hours left before the data would be released. State officials have not named the group directly but have relayed that there is an unspecified ransom demand, according to Deloitte, the RIBridges system vendor and architect. Deloitte has been in direct contact with yet to be determined. the cybercriminals, state officials said in recent press events. Brain Cipher took credit for a hack of Deloitte U.K. earlier this month.

"Unfortunately, giant companies do not always do their job well," Brain Cipher wrote on its blog.

The breach could affect hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders, including those who applied for social services

RIBridges still down, lawsuits target Deloitte

but were ineligible, as well as those who previously received benefits. Deloitte has indicated the stolen information may include names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers and bank-

ing information.

Notification letters will be sent to affected people following recovery and analysis of the RIBridges network, state officials have reiterated. The timeline is

The customer-facing web portal and state's administrative infrastructure remain down since Friday, as Deloitte works to cast out the hackers' remaining presence - described vaguely as

"malicious code" in a press release - from the system. Meanwhile, state employees have switched to paper processing for benefits such as food stamps.

HealthSource RI, the insurance marketplace, cannot process new applications during open enrollment season until the Bridges network can safely return online, Director Lindsay Lang said Monday.

BREACH - PAGE 11

R.I. House Speaker: Deloitte's on the hook

By ADAM ZANGARI



view with The Warwick Medicaid, only a few hours Beacon on Tuesday, K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of though he had heard unof-Representatives, said he ficial "rumblings" about the found out about last week's attack the day before. cyberattack on the RIBridges system, which handles state aid information in-

In a wide-ranging inter- cluding SNAP benefits and before it became public knowledge on Friday,

> The attack occurred Dec. 5, and has been claimed by

SPEAKER - PAGE 11

Home for the holidays Roughly a year after being taken down to allow for repairs to its marble perch and refurbishment of its shining exterior, Rhode Island's iconic Independent Man statue returned to its home atop the State House on Wednesday. It was the 125th anniversary of the date on which the statue was first lifted to its perch at the peak of Rhode Island's state capitol. (Photos courtesy of Rhode Island Senate)

Boy's empathy inspires charity closet on wheels



(L-R) Darren Cayard, Amanda Gravelin and Claribel Cayard with the remodeled bus.

By ADAM ZANGARI

It was last January that 5-year-old Caizer Cayard noticed that one of his friends kept coming to preschool without socks on.

Cayard, then a preschooler at Child, Inc. on Draper Ave., brought it to the attention of his parents, Darren and Claribel Cayard. After talking about it, the Cayards decided that they would make sure that not only Caizer's friend but as many people as pos-

"I questioned him a bit about it, like, does she not like socks? Is it because her feet get hot? And he just said, 'No, she doesn't have any socks,'" Claribel said. "Then, he asked 'Could we buy her some

sible would get the clothes they needed.

"From there, it kind of snowballed into, well, how can we make this a little bit bigger?" Darren said. "My wife and I are very big on trying to help the community and parents in need, families in need, because we are one of those families in need, and so we thought why don't we collect some do-

Those donations, Darren said, would become a "clothing closet" at Child, Inc., whose website describes it as a nonprofit agency that provides "comprehensive child development and family support services for low- to moderate-income families in Kent County." Darren also joined Child, Inc.'s policy council, where he brought up the idea of the closet. It was approved

Amanda Gravelin, a manager at Child, Inc., took charge of setting up the closet. Instead of using an actual closet, though, Gravelin suggested repurposing a bus sit-

CLOSET - PAGE 10

CCRI, Building Futures RI team up on apprenticeships



Gov. Dan McKee speaks to those in attendance about the benefits of the partnership between CCRI and Building Futures.

By ADAM ZANGARI

Administrators at the Community College of Rhode Island have seen many building-trades workers walk through their doors — and, following a visit by the governor, they're hoping to see an even higher rate go through.

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, which wrapped up on Nov. 22, CCRI and state leaders announced the creation of the Apprenticeship Readiness Program in a partnership between the college and Building Futures Rhode Island.

The program will use the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum, also known as the MC3, which is a program developed by the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU) to develop skills and offer credentials to those entering the workforce.

Gov. Dan McKee and Speaker of the House Joe Shekarchi were joined by CCRI Interim President Rosemary Costigan and Building Futures President and CEO Andrew Cortés, as well as other labor leaders, to celebrate the introduction of the

MC3 and the partnership.

The MC3 is designed to allow students interested in construction careers to explore apprenticeships across trades, including the plumbing, electrical and ironwork trades. Its curriculum, according to the governor's office, includes instruction on health and safety, industry awareness, construction math, blueprint reading, the heritage of the American worker, diversity and financial literacy.

"This will help Rhode Island prepare talented young people for good-paying jobs in key eco-nomic sectors, and we're going to continue to build into that pipeline," McKee said.

The governor's office said the state Department of Labor and Training is investing \$250,000 in the program to allow CCRI to offer the MC3.

Shekarchi said CCRI is an "economic incubator" and that the partnership would provide an eco-

APPRENTICESHIPS - PAGE 9

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HAWKS DROP **OPENER**

The Bishop Hendricken basketball team fell to rival La Salle 83-74 in the season opener on Tuesday. See recap on page 27. Pictured at left is Jakob Reyes, who scored a gamehigh 37 points.

NOTABLE Quote

"We need young adults to understand the great careers that are available to them through the registered apprenticeship model."

- Building Futures Rhode Island President and CEO Andrew Cortés on the good-paying jobs in the building trades brought within reach of more people through the recent partnership of his nonprofit with the Community College of Rhode Island.

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Greenwood toy drive

Members of the Greenwood Volunteer Fire Co. delivered toys that they had collected to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Warwick on Friday in one of their oldest engines. In addition, Greenwood Credit Union matched both the funds and toys raised by the fire department. Sitting in the truck bed along with Boys and Girls Club CEO Lara D'Antuono (right) is Greenwood Credit Union Senior Vice President Holly Ferrara. On the ground (L-R) are Volunteer Fire Co. members Joan Lowder, Gene Cahoon, Karen Leite and Harry Cahoon.

Police Log

DUI

On Nov. 9 at 3:48 a.m., officers conducted a motor vehicle stop at the intersection of Greenwich Avenue and Metro Center Boulevard after observing a gray 2019 Honda Accord driving erratically.

While making contact with the driver, identified as Giovanni Baccaire, 22, of 84 Alto St., Cranston, the officer detected the smell of alcohol on his breath. The officer conducted a series of standardized field sobriety tests.

Baccaire was placed under arrest and transported to



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Warwick Police Headquarters. He was charged with one count of DUI of Liquor - BAC unknown - 1st offense. He was also issued two traffic citations for one count of Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test and one count of Laned Roadway Violations.

SHOPLIFTING

On Nov. 9 at 5:50 p.m., officers responded to Walmart, 650 Bald Hill Road, for the report of a shoplifting in progress. They waited outside the store until a loss prevention employee signaled to them once the shoplifter passed all points of sale. The suspect, identified as Cody Carey, 41, of 17 New

Hampshire St., concealed 22 facial products in his jacket and jean pockets totaling \$250.43. He was placed under arrest and issued a No Trespass Order. Carey was transported back to Warwick Police Head-

quarters and issued a 3rd District Court Summons for

Shoplifting. **NO TRESSPASS**

On Nov. 11 at 9:15 p.m., police responded to Walmart, 650 Bald Hill Road, for the report of a shoplifting in prog-

Video surveillance showed the suspect, identified as Nancy Young, 25, of Coventry, taking price tags off merchandise.

An officer informed Young that she was being issued a no trespass order.

SHOPLIFTING

On Nov. 12 at 12:31 p.m., officers were dispatched to Walmart, 650 Bald Hill Road, for a report of shoplifting. The loss prevention employee, who officers recognized from past shoplifting reports, pointed officers to the suspect in the parking lot.

The suspect, eventually identified as James Welcome, 41, of 187 Franklin Highway, Andover, New Hampshire, provided officers false identification.

Welcome was charged with Shoplifting and Obstructing Officer In Line of Duty.

SHOPLIFTING

On Oct. 20 at 12:16 p.m., police responded to Best Buy, 24 Universal Blvd., for the report of a shoplifting that oc-

A customer, later identified as Keithon Perry, 44, of West Warwick, purchased a Mini Blink Camera while holding Skull Candy headphones. He told the cashier that he already purchased the headphones before leaving the store. Video surveillance showed that he never purchased the

headphones. Police issued a warrant for shoplifting.

On Nov. 13, a Warwick officer was dispatched to the West Warwick Police Department after Perry was arrested. He was charged with one count of Shoplifting and was notified of a No Tresspass Order from Best Buy.

DUI

On Nov. 16 at 1:14 a.m., police responded to the Dunkin' Donuts roundabout at the intersection of Greenwhich Avenue and Centerville Road for the report of a vehicle being stopped in the road. The driver was reported to be slumped over sleeping behind the wheel.

When officers spoke with the driver, identified as Samuel Caldwell, 58, of 6 Western Hills Lane, Cranston, the "identified the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from Caldwell's breath and his speech to be severely bloodshot and watery."

Caldwell was placed under arrest and charged with DUI of Liquor - BAC unknown - 1st offense. He was also issued a RITT citation for Refusal to Submit to Chemical Test – 1st and Places Where Parking or Stopping Prohibited.

Editor's Note: The preceding arrest log information has been taken from arrest and incident reports provided by the Warwick Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.



season by partnering with Westbay Community Action to collect New, Unwrapped Toys through December 20th! All Donations can be dropped off at our three branch locations and will bring joy to the children in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity!





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- Sat. Jan. 18- Islander, Warwick (all-u-can-eat buffet)
- Sun. Jan. 19- George's of Galilee (matinee)
- Sun. Feb. 2- Spumoni's, Pawtucket (matinee)





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(USPS666-780) John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

Publisher Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRl.com

Editor

John I. Howell, Jr. – JohnH@rhodybeat.com **Editorial Staff**

Adam Zangari-AdamZ@rhodybeat.com **Sports Editor**

Alex Sponseller-AlexS@rhodybeat.com **Advertising Director** Donna Zarrella-DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representatives Melissa Miller - MelissaM@rhodybeat.com Linda Nadeau - LindaN@rhodybeat.com anne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com **Classified Advertising Production Manager**

Production Staff Monique Rice-MoR@rhodybeat.com Ashley Mariani-AshleyM@beaconmediari.com

Credit Manager **Bookkeeping & Circulation**

Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates-JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

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City Council says goodbye to 4 departing members

By ADAM ZANGARI

In the Warwick City Council's final meeting of 2024, the council said goodbye to four outgoing members - council President Stephen McAllister and members Donna Travis, Tim Howe and James McElroy.

The four depart after a combined 52 years on the council, with Travis's 30-year tenure making up more than half of that total. They will be replaced on the council by Jack Kirby, William Muto, Bryan Nappa and Salvatore DeLuise, respectively.

McAllister opened the meeting by congratulating his fellow retiring council members, as well as his wife and daughter, whom he said would no longer have to deal with his talking about council meetings.

In her farewell message, Travis said that over 30 years she had been honored to meet and work with a wide range of people who cared about the city.

"I really enjoyed doing what I did, and I feel like I left my ward a little better than when I came in," Travis said.

Howe said that throughout his time on the council, he had worked to find solutions for the city, and pointed to his working through disagreements with Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur as an example of good govern-"We've had some contentious discussions,

some heated discussions; however, you and I have always found a way to step aside," Howe said. "Sometimes we need cooling off periods, but we've always found a way to step aside. And I think our common bond is our love for our families and love of this



The four Warwick City Council members who did not seek reelection this year were recognized for their service at their final scheduled council meeting Monday night in City Council chambers. Pictured, from left, are: Timothy Howe, Ward 3; council President Steve McAllister, Ward 7; Donna Travis, Ward 6 and James McElroy, Ward 4. (Submitted photo)

For some members of the public, though, the

turnover was welcome. "I'd like to congratulate the new incoming council members - I wish you all the best, resident Rob Cote said. "I hope that you do things differently than what have been done from the previous council members - that being, listen to your constituents, spend some time looking at the books, study the subject matter, answer your phone ... I had some prepared statements for the four people that are leaving, because frankly, I don't like you people. You have not served the city in the best interest of the residents."

Cote also referenced his lawsuit against Travis over an incident at a July 2023 meeting, saying that while she would no longer endure his comments about her at meetings, the two would see each other in court.

Michael Zarum, another member of the public and a former member of Warwick's Air Quality Committee, wished the outgoing council members well, though he singled out Howe for criticism. Zarum said he believed Howe had purposefully misled the council on matters relating to the construction of a noise berm along Strawberry Field Road, and that blueprints for the berm had shown that it wouldn't go as far as claimed in its environmental assessment.

"A lot of people come up to this microphone or reach out to our legislative body to try and make Warwick a better place, and there are many, many constituents in this city who feel like their voices are not heard," Zarum said. "I would ask that all the new people coming in work with people in the community who are knowledgeable to make Warwick a better

Judge: RI truck tolls OK if daily cap removed



(Beacon Media file photo)

By JANINE L. WEISMAN **Rhode Island Current**

Trucks can once again be tolled in Rhode Island, a fed-

eral appeals has decided. A three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Ap-

peals on Dec. 6 ruled that caps on tolls for local traffic were unconstitutional, but that the overall system created under the state's RhodeWorks program could remain in place.

Under the 2016 legislation signed by then-Gov. Gina Raimondo, tractor-trailers and larger trucks were required to pay a toll when they crossed through any of 14 gantries across Rhode Island's highways and bridges. Funding from the tolls would go to improving the state's bridges.

The plan included two stipulations meant to mitigate the burden on Rhode Island-based trucks: The first exempted all commercial trucks without trailers, and the second placed a cap of \$20 per day on tolls charged to any one tractor-trailer.

Each gantry had an average toll of \$3.

Tolling began in 2018, but the program was soon hit with a lawsuit by the American Trucking Associations that claimed the collections violated the U.S. Constitution's dormant Commerce Clause, which prohibits states from engaging in protectionist practices against other states.

U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith sided with the association, ruling in 2022 that the state had to stop

collecting truck tolls — which the state appealed.

In his ruling, U.S. Appeals Judge William Kayatta wrote there was "insufficient support" for the association's

"Even were we to assume that a few Rhode Island sin-

Latest study:

RI best state for reporting

gle-unit trucks compete in some manner with a few outof-state tractor-trailers, ATA's argument would still fall short," he wrote. "The dormant Commerce Clause is not an atomic fly swatter to be wielded against any and all trivial effects on commerce."

But Kayatta agreed that the \$20 cap on tolls charged per day per truck was unlawful.

"Āt first blush, RhodeWorks (minus the cap) would seem to pass the fair-approximation test quite easily," he wrote. "Out-of-state tractor-trailers receive substantially less of a discount per bridge crossing than do in-state tractor-trailers. Therefore, the privilege of toll capping is considerably more valuable for intrastate carriers than it is for interstate carriers."

But the truck-toll system would be constitutional as long as the daily toll cap was removed, Kayatta ruled.

American Trucking Associations Chief Legal Officer Richard Pianka said he is reviewing the court's decision and considering next steps.

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha, whose office defended the tolling program in federal court,

hailed the court's decision. "Tolling trucks is in the best interest of all Rhode Islanders and a necessary revenue source to support repairs and upkeep of the state's transportation system." Neronha said in a statement. "We have been confident that this will be the eventual outcome, and

we are grateful for the First Circuit's well-reasoned deci-

The decision comes as Gov. Dan McKee's administration is coping with a projected \$398 million structural deficit in the fiscal 2026 it is preparing to unveil early next year. In preparing budget requests, each department was asked to submit two versions of its proposed fiscal 2026 budget by Oct. 1: one that would maintain a "base level" of service and a "constrained" version 7.5% less. The state budget office has required departments to conduct additional reviews before hiring new staff or spending of more than \$5,000.

McKee called the ruling "a victory for Rhode Island

"The court's ruling allows the state to continue using a proven tool to make vital upgrades and repairs to Rhode Island's infrastructure, a matter of great importance to residents and businesses across our state," he said in a statement.

"The ruling also prevents what could have been a major clawback of tens of millions of dollars in previously collected toll funds, which would have been a significant blow to Rhode Island taxpayers."

McKee added he plans to meet with House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi and Senate President Dominick Ruggerio to discuss the reactivation of tolls.

Beacon Editor's Note: Chis Maxwell, president and CEO of the RI Trucking Association issued the following statement in response to the ruling: The First Circuit confirmed that the RhodeWorks caps spared the Rhode Island trucking industry, and the Rhode Island residents they serve, from the full burden of the tolls. If Gov. McKee and the General Assembly are considering reactivating the tolls without those protective caps, they first need to consider whether they are willing to break the promise that was made to the local business community as a condition of passage of the legislation, and be candid with Rhode Island residents that these increased costs will be reflected in the price of goods, nearly all of which reach them by

As was the case nearly a decade ago when the truckonly tolling program was first introduced, the Rhode Island Trucking Association remains open and committed to working with state leadership to find a more sustainable and equitable infrastructure funding solution that does not so egregiously impact our local businesses and con-



RWICK'S

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Canned goods and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the locations listed below, or a cash donation can be made payable to Neighbors Helping Neighbors c/o Warwick Beacon, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889 or Dept. of Human Services. Pildrim Senior Center, 27 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick, RI 02888 (use coupon below).

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Yes, I would like to make a donation to the

Holiday Basket Program

Rhode Island ranks first, with 96% of its 50 law enforcement agencies participating

in NIBRS—meaning 48 agencies are actively reporting. This is 1.4 times higher than the national average of 69,43, suggesting that Rhode Island's cooperation aids with comprehensive crime data collection, which can support effective crime preven-

Rhode Island is the state with the highest

percentage of law enforcement agencies

reporting crime data to the FBI according

The study, conducted by Pre-Settlement

Legal Funding Company High Rise Finan-

cial, analyzed the latest available data from

the FBI on the number of law agencies in

each state and the number and percentage

that report to the National Incident-Based

Reporting System (NIBRS). This analysis

provides insight into which states are the

most proactive in reporting detailed crime data, contributing to a better understand-

ing of crime trends at the national level.

to a new study.

tion and policymaking. Kentucky comes in second, with 94.47%

ticipating in NIBRS.

of its 452 law enforcement agencies, or 427 agencies, reporting to NIBRS. Virginia follows in third place, with

90.24% participation, representing 416 out of 461 agencies in the state. At the other end of the list, Pennsylvania

ranks as the state with the lowest level of cooperation with the FBI, with only 8.48% of its agencies reporting to NIBRS. This translates to just 161 out of 1,898 agencies participating. This is eight times lower than the national average of 69.43% Florida follows in second-to-last place,

with 15.94% of its 828 agencies-equivalent to 132 agencies—reporting crime data to NIBRS, four times lower than the national average. New York ranks third from the bottom, with only 20.27% of its 903 agencies par-



Animal Control Officer of year

On Friday, Dec. 13, the Rhode Island SPCA held its annual Holiday Party during which the Holden Award was given to the "ACO of the Year" in recognition of her dedication to animal welfare in Rhode Island. This year's recipient is Samantha Bowen from Hopkinton. The award is named in honor of David Holden, Sr. who joined the RISPCA in 2001 after retiring as a captain of the Pawtucket Police Department. Holden established many of the policies and procedures that continue to guide the RISPCA's humane law enforcement division and had a major impact on the Society. After nearly 10 years with the RISPCA, Holden was selected to lead Providence Animal Control where he had a similar positive impact.

Pictured from left are: Wayne Kezirian, RISPCA President; ACO Bob Salisbury from Smithfield (1st recipient of the Holden Award), ACO Samantha Bowen from Hopkinton, ACO Matthew Wright from Coventry, ACO Renee Massie from Pawtucket, Chris Rosata, RISPCA special agent, and ACO Shelby Koala Boudy from Cranston and her daughter Jenelle. (Submitted photo)

Shapiro Fund closes, its legacy \$100K to school arts

After 17 years, the Robert Shapiro Fund for Warwick Schools has completed its final contributions in support of programs that have greatly enhanced the experiences of Warwick Public Schools students.

The fund was established by Shapiro upon his retirement in 2007 as Warwick schools superintendent. In lieu of retirement gifts, he asked well-wishers to donate to the fund so that students could continue to benefit from his desire to provide a wellrounded education to each of them. The Pilgrim High School Drama Club was the recipient of the first check in October 2007.

Initially the fund was earmarked for drama productions in secondary schools, but beginning in 2013, elementary schools also received grants to provide cultural arts and science activities not supported by the school budget. Schools submitted requests for support of activities of their choice.

During the fund's existence, more than \$100,000 was distributed among all Warwick Public Schools.

Rich Denningham, long-time drama advisor at Pilgrim High School, expressed his appreciation of the Shapiro Fund's mis-

"This support has allowed the Pilgrim Players Drama Club to grow and has allowed our students to share their talents with their families, classmates, and the citizens of Warwick," Denningham said. "Mr. Shapiro understood the importance of the performing arts in our schools and our community. He also understood that the opportunities we provide can be expensive; his generosity and the continued support of the Shapiro Fund have truly made a difference in the lives of our students. We are proud to carry on Mr. Shapiro's legacy and love for the performing arts."

This was echoed by Darlene Netcoh, co-

advisor of the Toll Gate Drama Club.

'Receiving donations from the Robert J. Shapiro Fund has been significant not only because the drama club students have benefitted from the funds they received, but also because the awarding of the funds each year has kept Mr. Shapiro's memory alive," Netcoh said. "He was my principal when I was a student at Toll Gate and later, when I became a teacher in Warwick, he was the superintendent. Therefore, the yearly donation from the fund brought back many personal memories that I was able to share with my drama club students who perform in the Robert J. Shapiro Cultural Arts Center. Additionally, my co-advisor is Toll Gate English teacher Georgia Testa, who, as a 2018 Pilgrim graduate and drama program participant, benefitted from donations from the fund. To say that Robert J Shapiro was one of the most influential educators in the history of the Warwick Public Schools is an understatement,"

Similar feelings were expressed by elementary principals.

Gary McCoombs from Hoxsie School said, "The Shapiro Fund has been so instrumental with our students here at Hoxsie School! Our students have been exposed to the arts and have been able to participate in after school drama clubs which has improved their self-confidence and their ability to work as a team."

Brian Dillon, principal at Robertson School, said, "The Shapiro Fund has donated to Robertson Elementary, enhancing our music curriculum and helping us to offer After School Enrichment with STEAM, theatre, and art programs!"

The principal at Warwick Neck School, Frank Galligan, said, "Thank you so much, on behalf of Warwick Neck School, for all



The late Robert Shapiro pictured at his desk as principal at Toll Gate High School. He was the school's first principal and later was named superintendent of Warwick schools.

your support over the years in honor of Mr. Shapiro. We are so appreciative of the opportunities and enhancements that the Shapiro Fund provided us to better the arts program for our children."

Mr. Shapiro's educational career spanned 50 years, as a Warwick teacher, department head, founding principal of Toll Gate High School and over a decade as superintendent of Warwick Public Schools. His commitment to all students was legendary.

Upon his passing in 2012, his family directed that any memorial contributions be used to help expand the fund to benefit all Warwick students.

Over the years, the fund was directed by John Howell, John Thompson and Audrey Shapiro, with the assistance of other board members. The Citizens Bank Ocean State Trust Endowment Incubator Program successfully invested in a manner that extended the lifetime of the fund. "While the fund is coming to an end, Mr. Shapiro's spirit will live on in all the students, teachers, staff and all those whose lives he impacted. Thank you, Mr. Shapiro!" said Thompson.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND Probate Court of the 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:

Legal Notice

To the Members of Ocean State Credit Union:

In accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee of Ocean State Credit Union will meet at the

Ocean State Credit Union **Operations Center** Second Floor,

2006 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry, Rhode Island, on

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. for consideration

of the following: 1. The Nominating Committee Report

2. Counter Nominations by

members for any eligible nominee. Such nominations shall be made in writing by January 1, 2025, with written consent of the members. A member may nominate him or

The election and eligibility rules are in the Ocean State Credit Union By-Laws and are available upon request.

Respectfully, Therese S. Stafford

Ocean State Credit Union **Nominating Committee** Chairman



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DIETZ, Amaranta M. alias Amaranta

Maeve Dietz, est. Minor Guardianship; for hearing

DIETZ, Anouk M. alias Anouk Matilda Dietz, est.

Minor Guardianship; for hearing January 2, 2025

KASHNER, Mildred A. alias Mildred

Alice Kashner, est. Sale of Real Estate for Property located at 192 Holland Street, Cranston, RI 02920, Further designated as Assessor's Plat 12/3, Lot 2937; for hearing January 2,

MARTINEZ, Russell, L., est. Co-Guardian's 11th Account; for hearing January 2, 2025

MURPHY, Eileen alias Eileen M. Murphy, est.

Probate of Will; for hearing January 2. 2025

SMITH, Stephen, est.
Administration Petition; for hearing January 2, 2025

BACKE, Barbara J. alias Barbara Jeanne Backe, est.

Thomas A. Dale has qualified as claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024

CADY, Richard J. alias Richard

Joseph Cady, est.

Amanda L. Ireland has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December

FAMIANO, Anthony Jr., est.

MaryAnn B. Famiano has qualified as Executrix: creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024

THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE

CITY OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex located at

35 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI on Wednesday January 8th, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board will vote on, a Preliminary

Minor Land Development Application with Road Abandonment of a portion of Old Quaker

Lane, and Administrative Subdivision, with Planning Board acting as a Unified Development

Review Board. The Project requires a Planning Board decision and under separate motions;

decision on zoning relief and advisory opinion to the City Council for the road abandonment.

Applicant is proposing to construct a 280 square foot addition to the existing carwash

to support mechanical modernizations. Zoning relief requested is Table 2B dimensional

regulations setback of 3' where 25' is required, 6' from front and corner side lot line

resulting in 19' relief requested - decreases existing non-conformity from 22' to 19'.

Variance requested from Section 505 Landscaping Requirements. Existing car wash has

buffer of 3' where 10' required, extend buffer to 6' at front and corner setback yielding relief

Colbea Enterprises, LLC

GB General Business

DiPrete Engineering, Inc.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time

and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please

Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed

zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's

Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and

Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

One (1) (Administrative Subdivision)

1190 Quaker Lane

request of 4'. Decreases existing nonconformity from 7' to 4'.

215

30

Same

One (1)

.96 acres

Location:

Owners:

Zoned:

Ward:

Engineer:

Applicant:

Assessor's Plat:

Assessor's Lots:

Number of lots:

Proposed Number of lots:

contact the Planning Department at 738-2009.

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board

Philip Slocum, Chairman

FLEURY, Brittani E., est. Christine Fleury has qualified as Executrix (Amy E. Stratton of 4 Richmond Square, Ste. 150, Providence, RI 02906 as agent); creditors must file their claims in the

office of the Probate Clerk within

December 19, 2024

Derek Hitchener has qualified as Administrator; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December

HUNDLEY, Nancy V. alias Nancy Virginia Hundley, est.

Jaclyn Arruda has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December

IANNELLI, Peter Sr., est.

Sienna ladevaia has qualified as Executrix; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024

KIRTON, Kenneth F. alias Kenneth

Frederick Kirton, est. Linda Kirton has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must

Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024 LUDOVICO, Giovina, est.

Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024 MCCONAGHY, Anne K. alias Anne Kathleen McConaghy, est.

KOCHEVAR, Conrad, M., est.

Linda L. Adamonis has qualified as

Executrix; creditors must file their

claims in the office of the Probate

Lola J. Smith has qualified as

Executrix; creditors must file their

claims in the office of the Probate

David N. Bock, Jr. has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law beginning December 19, 2024

MCDONALD, Joan Frances, est. Charles F. Moran III. & Paul A. Moran have qualified as Co-Executor's (Nicholas Lambros of 100 Midway

Road, Ste. 16, Cranston, RI 02920 the Probate Clerk within the time as agent); creditors must file their required by law beginning December claims in the office of the Probate

beginning December 19, 2024

PAYNICH, Allan George, est. Lori-Ann D'Antonio has qualified as Administratrix; creditors must file their claims in The office the Probate Clerk within the time required by law

beginning December 19, 2024 RUSSO, Vincent alias Vincent Paul

Russo, est. Michael A. Russo has qualified as Executor; creditors must file their claims in the office of the Probate Clerk within the time required by law

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

beginning November 21, 2024

ATTEST: LYNN D'ABROSCA, CITY CLERK

12/19, 12/26/24

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE TRANSFER OF LICENSE

APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LI-CENSE CLASS BV TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RE-CEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOL-

FROM: Launch Trampoline Park II LLC Dba: Launch 920 Bald Hill Rd Warwick, RI 02886

IG Entertainment RI LLC Dba: Launch Warwick 920 Bald Hill Rd.

Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPART-MENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:00PM AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANC-ES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY JAMES PAOLUCCI, CLERK

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

12/19, 12/26/24

Philip Slocum, Chairman

Per order of the Warwick Planning Board

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

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing, will be held at the City Hall Annex located at 35 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI on Wednesday January 8th, 2025, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to consider, and the Planning Board will vote on, a Preliminary Minor Land Development Application with Planning Board acting as a Unified Development Review Board. The Project requires a Planning Board decision and under separate motions; decision on zoning relief and Special Use Permit.

Applicant is proposing to construct a 1,054 square foot addition to the existing carwash to provide a second wash bay and to support mechanical modernizations. Zoning relief requested from Section 701.7 Off-Street Parking Space Requirements where 5 additional spaces are required for the drive in/out car wash where no additional spaces are proposed. Applicant's current car wash operation exists by Special Use Permit, accordingly, the building addition requires a further Special Use Permit.

2128 Elmwood Avenue Location: Assessor's Plat: 295

Assessor's Lots: Colbea Enterprises, LLC Owners: Applicant: Same Zoned: **GB** General Business

Number of lots: One (1) Proposed Number of lots: One (1) Area: 1.48 acres Ward: 2 DiPrete Engineering, Inc. Engineer:

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at the time

and place to be heard thereon. For any questions or to review Development Plans, please contact the Planning Department at 738-2009. Any party, person (s) or entity interested in registering for electronic notice for proposed

zoning amendments and/or amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance and the City's Development Review Regulations governing Subdivision, Land Development and Development Plan Review should contact the City's Planning Department at 401-738-2009.

Teacher's legacy honored with opening of school store



The store is stocked with essentials for Thunderbolt fans. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

eaghan McGonagle always wanted her students at Cranston High School East to do well. And she wanted them to have fun in the process.

It's one of the reasons she worked so hard to create a wearable mascot costume for the school, which is known as the Thunderbolts. She labored over the design for a costume that a mascot could wear to encourage crowds to cheer at sports events – eventually settling on a pliable green and white grinning thunderbolt with arched eyebrows. She enlisted students' help to come up with the name, Benny the Bolt, and students have been eager to take on the role ever since.

McGonagle would have been pleased that Benny was in the lobby of the school gymnasium last Friday, waving and posing for pictures with students and faculty who had gathered to see a new school store opened in her memo-

The store was another dream that McGonagle had for her students. She died on Dec. 6, 2021, after fighting CO-VID-19. She was 41 and the mother of

"Today is a very special day as we open the Thunderbolt school store in memory of Meaghan McGonagle," Isa Tejada, an assistant principal at Cranston East, told the crowd that had assembled. "She was the life of this project

and also that of 'Benny the Bolt.' "The legacy of Meg will always be a tradition of excellence," Tejada said. "She was not only a colleague but a dear friend. People only die when we forget them, and she will always be here in our

Tejada and other colleagues said that as a business teacher and volleyball coach, McGonagle wanted the students to have a store stocked with Bolts' regalia and she would have been happy with the bright new space created in the gym foyer, complete with easy indoor window service. It will be open during most major sporting events and will be one-stop shopping for t-shirts, towels, water mugs and other items emblazoned with Benny the Bolt or the Cranston East logo.

"As a business teacher, she really wanted this for students and she worked so hard on this idea," said colleague and good friend, Lori Medeiros, a physical education teacher at East. With the help of fellow faculty members, and the support of the administration, Medeiros has labored to make the neatly stocked store a reality. And there is no doubt that McGonagle continues to inspire, with a large poster-size photograph of her on the store wall.

McGonagle's own days as a student were spent at Pilgrim High School in Warwick, where she excelled as a student-athlete, particularly in soccer. She was living in Warwick when she passed.

McGonagle's mother, Priscilla McGonagle, was at the school to commemorate the store opening by cutting a white ribbon. Clearly touched by the enthusiastic crowd, she said her daughter would have been so happy to see her dream store become a reality for the students, whom she loved "with her whole soul."

Medeiros said that wanted to carry on McGonagle's creative work for the store, and she also wanted to make sure that the beloved teacher and volleyball coach is never, ever forgotten. So, she said, she tried her hand at a little design work, creating a Benny the Bolt white and green oversized towel.

The image of the mascot that McGonagle created is there, but if you look very closely, there is also something else. Medeiros worked a reference to McGonagle's initials into the design, vious," she said. "But it's there for the new school store.



Meaghan McGonagle (Submitted photo)



Cranston East staff pose with "Benny the Bolt," the mascot that McGonagle worked so hard to create for students. From left to right: Teacher Lori Medeiros, Asst. Principal Isa Tejada and Cranston East Principal Thomas Barbieri.



with the small symbol M2. "It's not ob- McGonagle's mom, Priscilla, cuts the ribbon for

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Proceeds from the raffle to benefit local non profit organizations

Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held April 2025, winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket

Must be 18 years of age to participate. Odds of winning are 1 in 3000



The following churches invite you to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas

First Congregational Church of Warwick

Pastor Michael Ashe 701 Oakland Beach Ave Warwick, 02889. (401)738-3377 WWW.FCCWRI.ORG UCCWarwick@gmail.com

> **Christmas Carol Sing-along** Saturday, December 21, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Nativity Service and Pageant Tuesday, December 24, 6 p.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Michael T. Lembke 118 Division St, East Greenwich 02818 401-884-5572 firstlutheraneg1@gmail.com

> **Christmas Eve Service** Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Services Wednesday, December 25 - None

Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 29, 10 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 10 a.m.

Lakewood Baptist Church

Pastor Ron Provencal 255 Atlantic Ave, Warwick 02888 401-781-1136 https://lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com/

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m.

Norwood Baptist Church RI

Reverend George Barclay 48 Budlong Ave., Warwick 02888 401-941-7040 www.norwoodbaptistchurchri.org

Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1817 Warwick Avenue, Warwick 02889 (401) 739-2937 parishasst@pilgrimlutheranri.org

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 5 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 29, 9:30 a.m.

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton 565 Pontiac Ave, Cranston 02910 401.467.3300 Phillipschurch.org pmbcoffice565@gmail.com

Christmas Eve-Eve Service Sunday, December 22, 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany/Carol Sing

Sunday, January 5, 10 a.m.



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Fr. Scott Lee 3257 Post Rd, Warwick 02886 401-737-4141 stbarnabaswarwick.org

> Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24:

Holy Eucharist 4 p.m.

Holy Eucharist 10 p.m.

Christmas Day Service Wednesday, December 25, Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

New Year's Day Service Wednesday, January 1, Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Rev. Jarrett Kerbel & Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich 02818 401-884-4116 stlukeseg.org

> **Christmas Eve Services** Tuesday, December 24:

Family Service with Holy Eucharist 4 p.m.

Holy Eucharist 7 p.m.

Choral Prelude 10:30 p.m. with Holy Eucharist 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Service Wednesday, December 25, with Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

> **Lessons & Carols** Sunday, December 29, 10 a.m.

> > **Epiphany**

Sunday, January 5, with Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.

Epiphany Children's Pageant with Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

St. Paul Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Thomas J. Woodhouse, Pastor Rev. Peter J. Lee, In Residence Deacon Paul J. Shea, Deacon Assistant One Saint Paul Place, Cranston, 02905 401-461-5734 www.saintpaulcranston.org

Christmas Eve Masses Tuesday, December 24, 4:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Mass Tuesday, December 31, 4:30 p.m.

New Years Day: Wednesday, January 1, 12:05 p.m.

St. Paul/Bethany Evangelical **Lutheran Church**

Reverend Hayley Bang 289 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick 02886 401-737-6758 http://www.stpaulwarwick.org

> **Christmas Eve Services** Tuesday, December 24:

Candlelight Service 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Services Wednesday, December 25 - None

Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 29, 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service Tuesday, December 31 - None

New Year Service Wednesday, January 1 - None

Epiphany Service

Sunday, January 5, 9:30 a.m.

St. Kevin Church

Fr. Robert L. Marciano, KCHS, Fr. Roland Simoneau 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick, 02889 401-737-2638 Saintkevinri.org

> **Christmas Eve Masses** Tuesday, December 24:

Christmas Vigil Children's Choir 4:00 p.m. Sacred Concert 10:30 p.m. Mass 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses: Wednesday, December 25: The Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

No Noon Mass on Christmas Day

New Year's Eve Mass - Tuesday, December 31, 4 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass, Wednesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God 10 a.m.

Celebrated for the intentions of our

Annual Parish Appreciation donors

No 7:45AM Mass on New Year's Day

Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian

Rev. Deborah Packard 58 Beach Ave., Warwick 02889 401-737-8232 WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24, 8 p.m.

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Riverview Improvement Association presenting check to Senior Services Program at Westbay Community Action. (L to R) Danielle DeAngelis, Sandy Corrente, and Amber Bennett. (Submitted photo)

Brightening holidays for neighborhood charity

Riverview Improvement Association, established in 1903, has always considered helping Warwick neighbors in need an important part of its mission.

Westbay Community Action in Warwick offers assistance with food, utilities, health, safety, and education to a variety of inneed populations.

RVIA's \$800 donation will allow case managers to provide gifts for seniors to meet their specific needs.

If you can also afford a donation, send your check — payable to Westbay Community Action Program for Senior Services to Westbay Community Action, 224 Buttonwoods Avenue, Warwick 02886



Sprague Covington LLC proposes to build four buildings with a total of 16 condominium units on Old Warwick Avenue near Sandy Lane Meat Market. (Submitted rendering)

Planners grant first step to 16-condo project

By JOHN HOWELL

Less than an acre of land wedged between Old Warwick Avenue and the now-closed bridge over Buckeye Brook and the Sandy Lane Meat Market gained Planning Board master plan Dec. 11 as the site of a 16-unit condominium development.

There was no objection to the plan submitted by Sprague Covington LLC, based on Red Chimney Drive in Cowesett, and its president, John Giusti, who has built multiple homes. "I'm very happy," Giusti said of the board's action.

Ward 5 Councilman Ed Ladouceur is pleased with the proposed development. He said he hasn't heard any concerns from neighbors, adding that that wasn't the case when broken-down trucks and other equipment were dumped on the site.

The next step Giusti faces is City Council approval of an ordinance rezoning the property from general business to planning district residential. At best that could take two months for the council to grant first and second approvals.

In an interview prior to the Planning Board meeting, Giusti expressed hope to start the project as soon as possible after obtaining City Council and necessary permit approvals ideally early 2025 – although he lamented that he knows from experience the process takes longer than it should.

The proposed two-story units would be 780 square feet with a single bedroom. Four buildings with four condos in each building, above and below are proposed. Giusti feels there is a demand for smaller units. He did not venture what they would sell for, noting that material prices are unstable and demand for housing is high and prices reflect that.

City Planner Thomas Kravitz said the property has traded hands on several occasions, and that after Giusti bought it in September there was discussion of a more intense development. He feels 16 units is appropriate. There would be two parking spaces per unit. As the Planning Department approval reads, "That the proposed development is gener-

ally consistent with the city's Comprehensive Plan, having established commercial/office uses within the 200' radius. Consistent with Chapter 12 of the City of Warwick Comprehensive Plan, specifically, the section entitled "Future Land Use, Zoning and Urban Design: Goals and Policies," which promotes developments "that are safe, attractive, wellmaintained and stable ... ones designed to "protect ... and support ... existing residential

It goes on to say the development further promotes "public and private development that meet high standards of design by ensuring that proposed new residential development is compatible with the character and of the surrounding area.'

In addition to noting that the development gain rezoning, state and local permits and comply with regulations the planners note that city regulations require that the developer shall dedicate "Funds-In-Lieu of Open Space" equal to sixteen units to the City of Warwick for recreational improvements along with the final application. The funds are used to preserve, maintain and enhance a broad range of neighborhood recreational fa-







FAVORS

TCHEN GIVEAWAY

Happy Holidays!!!

I wish you all a happy a Healthy New Year.

I pray that 2025 bring all good things to you and your families.

> Regards, Ed Ladouceur



Ed Ladouceur

Warwick City Council Councilman Ward 5 401-447-7181 ed.ladouceurri@yahoo.com

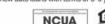
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 LATE ADVENT CONFESSIONS

6:00pm-8:00pm Four Priests Available

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD **CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mass of Christmas Night at 12:00am Midnight Preceded by Concert of Christmas Carols at 11:30pm

Mass of Christmas Morning at 7:30am

Mass of Christmas Day at 10:30am

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Confessions at 3:00pm & Mass of Anticipation at 4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am,

10:30am & 5:00pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD **NEW YEARS EVE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31** Mass of Anticipation at 4:00pm

NEW YEARS DAY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

Holy Day Masses at 7:30am &10:30am

Happy and Holy Christmas!

The Reverend Bernard A. Healey, Pastor, The Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Faculty & Students of Our Lady of Mercy Church & School

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Hoxsie students enjoy fruits of new hydroponic garden

By ADAM ZANGARI

Warwick's most unusual garden just might be in William Potter's classroom.

The Hoxsie Elementary School fifthgrade teacher has been looking after the school's lettuce plants, which finished growing on Monday in Hoxsie's new hydroponic garden. The garden, which grows plants using light, water and nutrients and without using soil at all, is the first of its kind in Rhode Island's elementary schools.

Principal Gary McCoombs said that he heard about the hydroponic gardens while attending an expo at the Crowne Plaza after Aramark employee Rob Rustico pointed them out to him.

The school then purchased the garden using grant funding. According to Potter, the garden cost \$4,000.

The garden, critically, can also grow plants throughout the winter so students can learn about them year-round. Mc-Coombs said that the school will likely be growing different and more difficult plants throughout the year to teach students about gardening

"We'll likely have mums in the springtime, for Mother's Day, also maybe some cherry tomatoes," McCoombs said. "This right here is like the Level 1. Hopefully, we can get up to Level 5."

Other potential crops, Potter said, included strawberries, for which he noted he had been looking up online demonstrations and tutorials.

To grow the lettuce, Potter gave the plants nutrients typically found in soil, in-

cluding potassium and nitrogen. Throughout the time the lettuce was growing, he monitored the pH levels in the plants' water, as well as checking the plants' nutrient

It took only three weeks for the lettuce to grow to maturity in the hydroponic garden, with Potter noting that he may plan a lesson later in the year for Hoxsie's fifthgraders to compare and contrast the time it takes plants to grow in the hydroponic garden and in a more traditional one.

"Twenty-one days ago, they were sprouts," Potter said. "Now, it's just goodlooking lettuce.'

In addition to the shorter timeframe and ability to grow food at any time of year, Potter said that the hydroponic garden also used fewer resources than it would take to grow plants in soil.

To kick off their Spirit Week, Hoxsie fourth- and fifth-graders gathered in the school's gymnasium Monday morning to celebrate the plants' growth in an event Mc-Coombs dubbed Harvest Day.

The vast majority of the lettuce plants Potter had planted had grown, leaving enough lettuce for each of Hoxsie's fourthand fifth-graders to eat after pulling off their roots, with enough left over after that for students to take lettuce home.

Teaching students about the science behind gardening, Potter said, was something that he believed would be very rewarding for them. And getting to eat the lettuce – with salad dressings provided by Hoxsie's kitchen staff - was the natural reward on Monday.



Hoxsie fifth-grade teacher William Potter shows GemsNet employee Sarah Reis how he tests the nutrient levels in the water of the school's hydroponic garden.



Potter a looks on as Brooklyn Audette separates the roots from the lettuce.

Charlie Mischler

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WARWICK BEACON



CCRI Interim President Rosemary Costigan and Building Futures President and CEO Andrew Cortés, flanked by members of the state's government and local labor leaders, sign the document making their partnership official. (Beacon Media photo by Adam Zangari)

Apprenticeships

(Continued from page 1)

nomic boon to the state.

"This is an opportunity to partner and utilize the talents, the creative talents and energy, that this university, its faculty and most importantly its students have," Shekarchi said. "We're doing good things for our students and good things for our economy."

Cortés, who is also the chair of the Rhode Island State Apprenticeship Council, said the MC3 would provide apprentices with exceptional training.

"I was around when the NABTU first developed the MC3, and I recognized the potential that there is to have a course which allows for exposure to all of the basic trades, gives you a good sense of how to get ready, and then connects the dots so that students can enter that early-learning pathway," Cortés said.

According to Cortés, many former students who went through the program are earning upwards of \$40 per hour with benefits. Giving students an option to move toward high-earning jobs without becoming deep in student-loan debt, he said, was something that would help improve the lives of many of Rhode Island's future workers.

"I have just one message for CCRI today: Thank you," Cortés said. "We need young adults to understand the great careers that are available to them through the registered apprenticeship model."

Following speeches, Costigan and Cortés signed docu-

ments officially inaugurating the partnership between the college and Building Futures.

"This shows what can be done when labor, higher education and government come together, working in a collaborative way," David Langlais, vice president of the RI

Building and Construction Trade Council, said. "And I think Rhode Island seriously does it the best."

RI'S Global Entry office

reopens after 4+ years

RHODE ISLAND CURRENT

ms and Border Protection's Glo

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Global Entry program has reawakened from a four-and-a-half-year hibernation, the state's congressional delegation announced Tuesday.

The reopening of the Global Entry Enrollment Center just outside of Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport allows local residents to apply for the program without having to leave the state to attend an in-person screening interview. The Warwick office closed on July 6, 2020, due to renovations.

The program offers faster entry through U.S. border patrol checkpoints during international travel for pre-approved travelers.

As post-pandemic travel rebounded, Rhode Island residents who frequently travel out of the country grew frustrated with having to trek to Boston or New Jersey or New York — the nearest offices — to complete the screening.

In May, Rhode Island's four-person congressional delegation sent a letter to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Troy Miller asking for a timeline on when the Warwick Global Entry office would reopen.

Delegation members in a joint statement on Tuesday referred to that letter as a reason why the office reopened.

"We're thrilled that U.S. Customs and Border Protections listened to us and reopened the Global Entry Enrollment Center at T.F. Green International Airport after a more than four year closure," they said in a statement. "Global Entry is a critical program for frequent travelers and the ability to conduct the required interviews in-state will help reduce the burden on new and renewal applications. Today, as we celebrate the center's reopening, we stand ready to assist our constituents to make their international travel as safe, reliable and convenient as possible."

A spokesperson for U.S. Customs and Border Protection

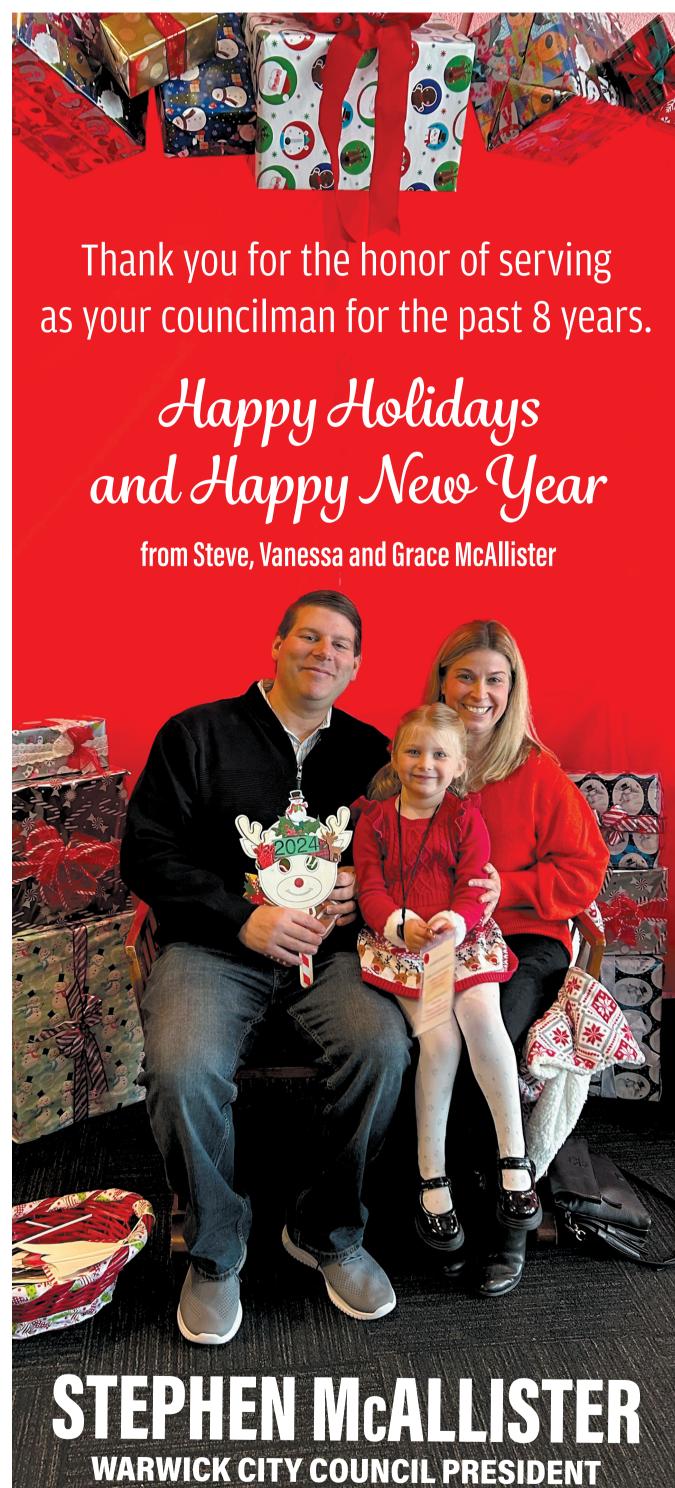
gave an emailed response Tuesday night.
"The U.S. Customs and Border Protect

"The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Enrollment Center at 300 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 104 Warwick, RI was closed in 2020 at the onset of the COVID pandemic," the spokesperson, who declined to be identified, said. "The center remained closed while a larger, modern and more efficient office dedicated solely to the processing of trusted traveler applicants was designed, funded and built. CBP is excited this facility is now open and available for the residents of Rhode Island and Southern New England to use."

The office at 300 Jefferson B in Warwick is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, according to the website. Information about how to apply for the program and schedule a screening interview is available online.







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Minstrels on the move

St. Mary Academy Bay View's orchestra quartet is spreading Christmas cheer this season. Hasbro Children's Hospital welcomed the group Tuesday, December 3 for a special performance. Iris Weiss (Warwick), Maya Lavey (Warren), Mara Machado (Barrington) and Caroline Kanaczet (Warwick) delighted hospital visitors with their melodic arrangements taking over the lobby. The next day, the group played for the Lower School blessing of the tree. And if that wasn't enough, the Bay View Quartet ended their gig week playing for guests at Bristol's Christmas market in Unity Park. (Submitted photo)





The inside of the remodeled bus that serves as Child, Inc.'s traveling closet features bins and tables of clothes where seats once were, as well as coat racks throughout.

Closet

(Continued from page 1)

ting unused in the agency's parking lot. "We were talking about these mini school

buses that we've had sitting around here not doing anything," Gravelin said. "We were trying to scrap them, get rid of them, we weren't really sure what to do. So we considered remodeling that, and I came up with a small proposal and a budget on how much it would cost. I brought it to a meeting, and everyone liked that idea.'

After taking out the seats, putting in new flooring and shelves and washing the outside of the bus, the clothing closet officially opened on Dec. 5.

As the closet started, Child, Inc. received donations of shirts, sweaters and blankets from Project Undercover, a Warwick-based community organization that provides necessities to children in poverty, in addition to donations from families. The Cayards themselves also brought a few bags of clothes to donate, though those are sitting in storage for now, as Child, Inc. has received more clothes than the bus can fit.

Currently, the closet is open only to members of Child, Inc., although Gravelin said that they were considering opening it to the public. Members can make appointments to pick up clothes from the bus on

Gravelin plans to paint and decorate the outside of the bus in the spring. If the closet is a success, Gravelin said, Child, Inc.

will create clothing closets at their other locations on the west side of the city and in

"It really depends on how many families access it," Gravelin said. "We would also have to have enough donations, whether it's monetary and we are purchasing it, or donations from families, that we're able to sustain it. It's a cycle, and my goal is to make sure that it's sustained. I just want to make sure that we have enough clothes for [families] to access and to continue doing so over the years."

For the Cayards, showing their son how his ideas can have a positive impact on the community has made the project extra meaningful for them.

"If we can know that there's no child in need, as far as not being able to come to school because they don't have a coat or shoes or what have you, or that family feels embarrassed by not having those things, if we can alleviate that, that would be huge," Claribel said.

We've let him know that this is from his idea," Darren said. "That he was so selfless and wanted to do something, because he saw that there was a need for that, and now we've reached out to our community and now we have this really big thing that is helping a lot more people in need.

Anyone looking to donate can do so by dropping off clothing at any of Child, Inc.'s locations. The items most in need, according to Gravelin, are clothes for babies and toddlers, underwear and hats, coats and gloves for the winter.



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Speaker

(Continued from page 1)

ware group known as Brain Cipher. When asked if Gov. Dan McKee's administration waited until Friday night to acknowledge the attack to try to minimize the impact of the story, Shekarchi said the intent was instead to make sure the hackers could not take any additional data before making the news public.

"[The state's] justification for this was that if they had alerted the public, they would have alerted the culprits, and they wanted to try to minimize the information [stolen]," Shekarchi said. "I believe they were getting advice from the FBI - they were trying to track the culprit while they were in the system."

McKee's office, Shekarchi said, also told WPRI to hold off on reporting the story until after 6:20 p.m. Friday in order to give the state enough time to shut down the system and prevent any more data from being taken, a process that Shekarchi said took roughly two hours. The TV station complied with the request.

Though the personal information of hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders was compromised, Shekarchi said the General Assembly was not directly affected by the

"We're separate from the rest of the state," Shekarchi said. "We have our own built-in firewall, our own built-in protections – we were unaffected."

Deloitte, an auditing, consulting, tax and advisory firm that handles the system for RIBridges, has come under intense scrutiny and is already a defendant in class-action lawsuits filed over the incident, and

Shekarchi saying that any damages from the cyberattack should come from the com-

"I'm concerned because Deloitte does not have a good history in being able to execute stuff in the state or protect it, protect that data," Shekarchi said. "[Monday], there was a class-action lawsuit filed against them, so I think that's just the beginning ... What I would say is that any damages that come as a result of this, and any damages that are needed to correct this or fix this, should all be paid by Deloitte."

One lawsuit, filed by former state Rep. Peter Wasylyk, is for anticipatory damages, saying that Deloitte had failed to take measures to protect residents who use RIBridges and ensure that its data was pro-

Additionally, Rhode Island's federal delegation wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Agriculture on Tuesday seeking flexibility for Rhode Islanders using or applying for RIBridges programs and ensuring that Rhode Islanders will regain access to those programs.

Comments from the full interview with Shekarchi on a range of topics including housing, schools and the state budget will be published in the Jan. 2 edition of the Warwick Beacon.

Anyone who suspects they may be affected by the cyberattack will find guidance at cyberalert.ri.gov or by calling (833)

Data Breach Hotline hours extended

Rhode Island Current

Gov. Dan McKee's office announced Tuesday that the RIBridges Data Breach Hotline would be available daily. The toll-free, multilingual hotline (833-918-6603) is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and weekends 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Call center staff can provide guidance on protecting personal information but cannot answer questions about state benefits or confirm if specific data was compromised. More updates are available on cy-

The state Department of Human Services (DHS) has also extended office hours at its Pawtucket location (249 Roosevelt Ave.) and two Providence locations (1 Reservoir Ave. and 125 Holden St.) until 7 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday this week. DHS will also extend its call center hours on these dates. The DHS call center can be reached at 1-855-697-4347.

The affected RIBridges programs include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Health coverage purchased through HealthSource RI
- Rhode Island Works (RIW)
- Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)
- General Public Assistance (GPA) Program
- At HOME Cost Share

Breach

(Continued from page 1)

"We're going to work to minimize any impact to coverage for 2025," Lang said then. "We want to make sure that any alternative processes that we develop are safe and secure and ultimately as convenient as possible for our customers, and then we'll be able to support their application once the system is back up and running.

Lang added that customers who already paid for their January 2025 coverage will have active insurance next

For now, the deadline for open enrollment remains Jan. 31, 2025, HealthSourceRI Director of Communications Christina O'Reilly said in an email Tuesday night.

"As we learn more in the coming days through the ongoing assessment of the system health and resulting restoration timeline, we are keeping our options open to ensure that we do all we can to minimize impact to our existing customers and potential new enrollees, and keep Rhode Islanders connected to coverage." O'Reilly wrote. "Open Enrollment is currently running through January 31."

Early signs of trouble

News of the hack first arrived on Brain Cipher's dark web blog around Dec. 4, when the hackers claimed they stole data from Deloitte U.K.'s own network. On Monday, a Deloitte spokesperson for the firm's U.S. business confirmed that the data was not from Deloitte U.K. but from the RIBridges database. Deloitte U.K. previously denied that the Brain Cipher hack affected its system, but did specify that a client system had been affected. The Brain Cipher blog still listed Deloitte U.K. as the breach's victim

"Soon we will tell you about this incident," Brain Cipher wrote on their blog. "We will provide an example of data that has leaked."

The hackers also appeared to taunt Deloitte for failing to observe "the 'elementary points' of information" – also known as the "CIA triad," or confidentiality, integrity and availability. Information security experts consider these three elements as foundational to building strong, secure

Lawyers suit up

The cyberattack swiftly translated to litigation: On Monday, the state's top law-enforcement official gently reminded Deloitte to keep all evidence about the breach intact. That announcement came after three breach-related class-action lawsuits were filed against Deloitte.

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha "will ensure accountability on behalf of Rhode Islanders for this failure to protect their most sensitive identity information, about which they are understandably very, very concerned," spokesperson Timothy Rondeau said in a statement Monday night.

Rondeau added the AG will "pursue any and all legal actions in order to help make those affected whole. To that end, we have already taken preliminary steps such as notifying Deloitte of its obligation to preserve information

Rhode Island law specifies that state agencies who suspect they have been breached notify the AG within a specific timeframe.

Rondeau said that as of Tuesday, the AG's office had not been notified formally - although the Providence Public School Department also delayed notification when it was hacked in September, as the state law allows for more time during active criminal investigations.

Two of the class-action lawsuits were filed Sunday and another on Monday. One lawsuit is from lead plaintiff Patricia Mahoney, a North Providence resident and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient. The second complaint is by Ronald J. Pannozzi of Providence. The third is by Claire A. Taraborelli, a Cranston resident who also receives SNAP benefits.

Pannozzi and Taraborelli's cases were filed in the U.S. District Court in Providence. Mahoney's was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. "Members are now, and for the rest of their lives will be,

Taraborelli's lawsuit states. Peter Wsylyk, formerly a state representative and House deputy majority leader, is serving as the attorney for all three cases. In the Mahoney case, he is joined by Gary E.

at a heightened and substantial risk of identity theft,"

Mason of Washington, D.C., in representing the plaintiff. "This incident is just another example of the critical need for entities to take strong measures to safeguard such sensitive personal information," Wsylyk wrote in a statement on Pannozzi's case. "When entities fail to protect individuals' personally identifiable confidential data, af-

fected individuals are left extremely vulnerable." An adage among cybersecurity professionals, one of those much-quoted sayings with an unclear origin, is, 'There are two types of companies: those who have been hacked, and those who don't yet know they have been

But the fallibility of systems has not stopped lawyers

Please mail with payment to: from suiting up to attack companies for less-than-ironclad

security. A 2024 analysis by Bloomberg Law found that federal court complaints mentioning breaches or ransomware "more than doubled from 2021 to 2022, and then more than doubled again from 2022 to 2023."

McKee weighs in

Gov. Dan McKee, meanwhile, took to touring the airwaves Tuesday to assure Rhode Islanders that his administration is doing everything it can to protect those affect-

"Last week was a good week until it wasn't," McKee said in a radio interview Tuesday afternoon with WPRO host Matt Allen. Allen asked if the governor was "rethinking working

with Deloitte," especially given the company's problemplagued rollout for RIBridges in 2016. That launch also resulted in a court battle, with Rhode Island netting \$30 million via a settlement agreement with Deloitte, the Providence Journal reported in 2020. 'Well, I think everything's on the table," McKee said.

"This is a complicated issue, one that services hundreds of thousands of people; you don't want a service interruption. ... We know there's missteps. We just don't know what they are right now.' McKee also said Deloitte is paying for costs associated

with the hack, including the credit monitoring, call center and notification letters.

Unfinished lessons from Providence schools

It's unconfirmed whether the RIBridges cyberattack is a true ransomware effort, which involves malware that makes files unusable with uncrackable encryption. Typically, ransomers will promise to provide the decryption key upon payment.

State Chief Digital Officer Brian Tardiff did not characterize the attack as ransomware on Friday, Dec. 13. But there was extortion involved, he said.

'So far, there haven't been any public reports of victims

actually paying a ransom to the Brain Cipher ransomware group," said Jon Miller, the co-founder and CEO of Halcyon, a Texas-based anti-ransomware company in an email to Rhode Island Current. "It's worth noting that many organizations keep ransom payments under wraps to avoid encouraging more attacks - or because of legal or reputational concerns. So, while no payments have been officially documented, it doesn't necessarily mean no one has paid up."

Miller also pointed to Brain Cipher's high-profile cyberattack on a government datacenter in Indonesia, which ultimately led to the hackers apologizing to the people of the southeast Asian country. The decryption keys were released for free, Cyber Security News reported in July. The state-level cyber attack comes just three months af-

ter prolific ransomers Medusa Group pulled more than

200 gigabytes' worth of data from the Providence Public School Department. But beyond their shared interest in encrypting files, the two ransomware outfits appear to operate quite differently. Medusa uses a ransomware as a Service (RaaS) model for its hacking activities, which is essentially a means of contracting out hacking activity. "Unlike established RaaS groups that provide ransom-

ware tools to affiliates in exchange for a share of the profits, Brain Cipher so far appears to be a more centralized operation or is only working with a small group of vetted affiliates," Miller said.

It's unknown if Brain Cipher will update its blog with a publicly available dump of the breached data, as Medusa did with the data it stole from Providence schools, or if it will sell the data to a buyer. The RIBridges dump is estimated to be 1 terabyte in size – about five times as large as the Providence dump.

Editor's Note: Alexander Castro covers education, health and technology for Rhode Island Current. Rhode Island Current is part of States Newsroom, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.



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EDITORIAL

Cheers for making retirement planning easier

new retirement program available to workers in Rhode Island who currently aren't offered such an opportunity will soon launch, and we believe it is a good example of proac-Live, responsible government that is worthy of applause.

The RISavers program, beginning in the spring of 2025, will automatically opt in both full-time employees and seasonal employees who work at least 120 days out of the year. It will be required of any employer that currently doesn't have a retirement plan to offer the program to employees.

In Rhode Island, many of those employers are small businesses whose owners lack the time or expertise to administer a retirementsavings program. Now they can offer it without administering it.

While the idea of such a widespread mandate – for both employers and employees - might seem a tad authoritative, employees are free to opt out of the program at any time, and employers are not expected to match contributions to the plan, which is operated by the state in the form of a Roth IRA.

We think it is an important and worthwhile program for a few rea-

The program, first and foremost, provides a low barrier of entry toward the growth of a retirement plan where automatic contributions taken from paychecks are taxed as normal income, but withdrawals down the line are not. It does this without burdening small business owners to take on the expense and time required to set up retirement accounts or match contributions, which might be finan-

The program also provides a method for Rhode Islanders to shore up their retirements that doesn't rely solely on Social Security, which remains imperiled due to a looming insolvency problem.

According to recent testimony from U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, by 2035 the contributions made into Social Security will cover only 83% of the benefits that it promises to nearly 70 million Americans.

Regardless of whether Washington politicos will get their acts together enough to pass meaningful legislation that addresses this looming financial disaster - and regardless of whether certain Republican lawmakers get their unfathomable wish to slash into Social Security for a shortsighted budgetary windfall - it is obviously wise for states like Rhode Island to join a cohort of 19 other states that have started similar programs to provide an option for more people to save toward retirement outside of that avenue.

Retirement is one of those things that seems unattainable for so many, and the RISavers program is one step to make it more achievable for the roughly 170,000 hardworking Rhode Islanders who currently have no retirement plan available to them through their workplace.

Furthermore, retirement saving is one of those things that becomes infinitely more attainable the earlier you start. Having a program like RISavers be mandatory for employers – and setting it up as an opt-out program for employees - will ensure that more people begin incorporating this as a normal part of their financial reality, which will only benefit them in the long run.

LETTERS

Two-tiered justice system?

To the Editor:

According to columnist Ian Donnis, Congressman Seth Magaziner thinks President Biden issued a pardon primarily to protect his son, Hunter. (Talking Politics, Dec. 12) I disagree with Mr. Magaziner's assessment.

I think it is more likely that Joe Biden issued the pardon to protect

Recall that President Biden had pledged repeatedly that he would not pardon Hunter under any circumstances. What caused him to

break his promise? I suspect it was because son Hunter threatened to spill the beans on the entire Biden Crime Family unless Daddy came up with a get out

of jail free card. Hence, the blanket pardon. Speaking of crimes, I also reject Seth Magaziner's slick attempt to conflate Hunter Biden's actual crimes with the manufactured claims

brought against Donald Trump. Hunter Biden committed real crimes such as firearms violations

and tax evasion for which the "average person" like you and me would already be in jail.

In stark contrast, Donald Trump was persecuted for crimes for which the "average person" would never even be charged. Under the Biden administration, our legal system was weaponized, creating the very "two-tiered justice system" that Seth Magaziner supposedly la-

> A. H. Liddle Warwick

THE STATE FALLS ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH



Perfection at Christmas, if you can find it

here's still time to find the You've been reminded of that by countless retailers as we close in on Christmas Day. And while you may have already completed your Christmas shopping, there's still those nagging thoughts: Will they really like what I got? Might they already have this? Could this be a disappointment?

My parents taught me that Christmas wasn't just about getting, although like most kids that's what I focused on. Christmas was also about giving. I wondered how this was go-

ing to work. At 9 years old I didn't have the money or the means to go shopping even if I knew what

Yet, I was old enough to know if I came up empty handed, I would feel I had let them down.

They didn't make it any easy either.

"What would you like for Christmas?" I'd ask. The frequent answer was, "make me something." Now that wasn't helpful.

"Well, maybe a picture," my mother would say. She was an artist, so making a picture for an artist was intimidating, especially for one who didn't hold back on the criticism. My sister and I made Christmas cards, but that always seemed inade-

Whoever came up with the idea of tickets or coupons for chores gave kids the perfect solution. It was easy to make coupons for washing the car, drying the dishes and cleaning off the dinner table. That certainly was better than a drawing of a Christmas tree and misspelled message that elicited

corrections and sometimes laughter. This Side Oh, how great it would have been if spell check was around when I was a kid, or for that matter a college stu-But I'm straying from the quest for

the perfect gift.

My wife Carol and daughter in-law Erica know exactly what to get each other. It never changes from year to year. Carol gives Erica a card with a \$100 check. Erica gives Carol a card

"What's the point?" I asked Carol. I

knew the answer before she had a chance to reply. Both feel they have given. It's an even trade and best yet there's no

pangs about spending money on yourself. After all, it's a gift, and best yet you're getting precisely what

So, is money or a gift card the best of gifts? I think not. My mother taught me otherwise

when I gave her the "perfect gift."

I was 15 at the time, maybe older. We had a Welsh Corgi then, Tico. She loved to spoil Tico, sneaking him bits off her plate at the dinner table and ensuring he had a comfortable bed. Tico would curl up to sleep with one ear pointing up and his nose tucked beside his bum.

I carved her a miniature sleeping Tico that she could fit in her hand. She squealed with delight when she unwrapped it. It was a total surprise. It went on her bureau with her collection of rocks, birds and animals. It was always there.

So what makes the perfect gift?

Knowing what the recipient loves is the best place to start. And it doesn't hurt if you made it, and better yet, it's a surprise.

LETTERS

A teachable event for the ages

To the Editor:

This letter is an attempt to echo and augment the suggestion of a recent letter-writer, Martha Cruciani, that the new Warwick high schools should be outfitted with energy that is not sourced from petro-chemicals. Most of us have become aware of the existential harm these fossil fuels are causing our planet. But they have become so finely integrated into our culture that we fail to act (even notice!), in spite of the dire warnings of scientists and leaders

from Bill McKibbin to Pope Francis.

The construction of our new campuses offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to actually DO something! I agree with Ms. Cruciani: let's do something to bring renewable energy to our schools. That will be a teachable event for the ages.

> Michael McNamara Greenwood



Still, many animals to be saved

To the Editor:

Did you know ...that a homeless pet, cat or dog, is destroyed every 90 seconds across this country?

Animals in shelters are dependent upon folks deciding to adopt them if they are to survive. In 1984, around the time I started to volunteer in the Warwick Animal Shelter, there were no no-kill shelters and about 17 million cats and dogs were euthanized in shelters. Now, approximately 415,000 adoptable cats and dogs are put down every year. If only 6% of people who obtain a cat or dog next year would adopt from a shelter, instead of buying from breed-

ers or pet stores, those 415,000 would be saved. We'd like to think that there are no-kill animal shelters out there, but the current standard for this is that 90% of shelter animals are placed. Only four states have achieved this status - Vermont, New Hampshire, Delaware and now

Though we can be proud that our Warwick Animal Shelter has met this standard, let's not forget that the significant work done by volunteers, the staff and director and city officials is what it requires to maintain these numbers.

Even so, up to 10% of animals can still be euthanized and that is still considered no-kill. (Data from Best Friends

So bottom line, please donate, volunteer and adopt from shelters and rescues!

> Barbra Walsh Warwick

McAllister says adieu to council, but not goodbye

Last night (Monday, Dec. 16) was my last City Council meeting. It has been an honor serving as your councilman city services. the past eight years. I am proud of all the work we have done together. I served with three different mayors and a number of outstanding council members and dedicated city employees who help serve our residents everyday behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone who has supported me these past four terms. We accomplished so much together. Just some of the things I am most proud of in-

- Co-sponsorship of three education bonds that have updated and upgraded our existing schools and have made investments for future generations of students to have the same excellence education and experiences I had during my time in the Warwick public school system.
- New playgrounds in Apponaug and Arnolds Neck. • Invitation of more residents and organizations to par-
- ticipate in council meetings than ever before.
- Completion of hundreds of constituent requests for
- Help crafting plans for long term infrastructure projects and fleet upgrades for our fire, police and municipal
- Protection of and investment in open space areas across the city.
- Promotion of housing as a priority for the city.
- But most of all, I was just happy to serve our city and try my best to help out our neighbors with any thoughts, concerns or requests they had for the City of Warwick.

It's been a great eight years! It's not goodbye, it's see you

Steve McAllister City Council President





Steve McAllister with his daughter Grace at his final meeting as City Council President Monday night. (Submitted photo)

Amo mixes optimism, pro-business outlook

TALKING POLITICS



by IAN Donnis

THE WEEK: U.S. Rep. Gabe Amo, who turned a ripe old 37 last Wednesday, has accomplished a lot as a young man: he worked for President Obama, Governor Raimondo and President Biden before decisively beating 10 primary rivals to vault into Congress in 2022.

Amo mixes an upbeat approach with a moderate probusiness outlook, and he appears to have a secure hold on the House seat in CD1,

which is considerably more Democratic than CD2.

Now, though, Amo is among the Dems who face the wilderness experience of dwelling in the shadow of Donald Trump's second term in the White House. There are fewer guardrails than during Trump I and the president-elect is following through on pledges to elevate unconventional people, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Elon Musk, into influential roles

Asked on Political Roundtable if Trump – who has also talked about replacing career employees with loyalists – will fundamentally alter the federal government, Amo said in part, "Well, this is one of my big fears. I don't want a government run by oligarchs, by the richest man in the world who gets a front row seat at decision-making, where we didn't elect him It's a cause of great concern to have a vaccine skeptic in Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in a position of authority that would affect so many lives.

The GOP will have a thin majority in the new U.S. House, and whether Trump will overreach remains an open question. Another question is whether Democrats, after struggling with their messaging in the presidential race, can use their communications to hold Republicans accountable. Amo believes that's the way forward to the midterms in 2026: "We've got to go directly to people. We have to use the bully pulpit. We have to use every venue ... And we have to shout from the mountaintops where they are coming up short."

BONUS BATTER: Here are some other key excerpts from my conversation with Rep. Amo:

***After working for President Biden, Amo is reluctant to

criticize the outgoing president. Asked if Biden undermined Democratic hopes of retaining the White House by waiting too long to get out of the race, Amo said in part, "Well, look, ultimately that was a decision that he had to make We weren't successful for a whole host of reasons."

***Amo rejects the view that Kamala Harris' campaign didn't focus enough on economic concerns, particularly for working-class voters: "She talked about an opportunity agenda that focused on access to housing and home ownership, that focused on lowering prices and costs, that focused on a lot of the kitchen-table issues, but ultimately, those did not resonate because, you know, people can't necessarily feel a policy plan, but they can feel the impact on their bank accounts when they are at the grocery store. And we have to do a better job of being connected to those feelings of economic insecurity that so many have experienced throughout the country, including in those states" hit by deindustrialization.

***Asked if Biden's pardon for his son Hunter reflects poorly on the president's ability to keep his word, Amo said in part, "Well, look, I certainly know that this was a tough decision. And I also know that these are unprecedented times where you have people entering positions like that, potentially of the FBI director at the DOJ who are pledging to wage campaigns of retribution. And I also think Joe Biden's a dad. I think about the other side of this. If Joe Biden had not pardoned his son, how would we be viewing him then? And so I do think it's complicated."

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE: Gov. Dan McKee offered an update on the Washington Bridge situation last Tuesday, a day ahead of the anniversary of the emergency shutdown of the westbound bridge. A subtle but significant shift in the governor's messaging was evident since the next steps on the bridge will increasingly converge with the statewide election in 2026. McKee acknowledged some early missteps in responding to the situation – and he offered a mea culpa for the time when he got snippy after a legit question from WJAR-TV's Brian Crandall - while also asserting that the state is now firmly marching in the right direction. In particular, two finalists for the job of replacing the westbound bridge have been selected, with the final choice slated for June. Unknown for now: when the bridge will be completed, at what cost, and how much the state will be able to recover from its re-

REALITY CHECK: northbound traffic on I-95 was backed up to Cranston by 3:30 pm last Thursday in one sign of the ongoing effect of the bridge situation. It took an additional 15 or 20 minutes longer to get where I was headed – not exactly an onerous toll - but that's added aggravation for motorists who experience it on a regular basis.

STATE HOUSE: With Rhode Island Senate President Dominick Ruggerio set to celebrate his 76th birthday this coming Thursday, the dean of the General Assembly was back at the State House – looking happy and chipper – for the chamber's new-member orientation on Thursday. The new

legislative session is to begin Jan. 7, with fallout from a recent

Senate caucus still in play.

PREVENTION: Three years after Rhode Island became the first state to approve supervised overdose prevention centers, nonprofit Weber/RENEW held a groundbreaking Tuesday to celebrate the effort to bring the first such center to Providence. More than 400 people died from overdoses in Rhode Island last year, and advocates hope the new center will reduce that number. My colleague Nina Sparling has a detailed report on the latest developments. Here's an excerpt: "While research shows that overdose prevention centers present a powerful tool to curb fatal drug overdoses, sites like the one opening in Providence have been met with skepticism — and sometimes legal challenges. The incoming Trump administration, experts say, presents new uncertainty for facilities like the one opening in Rhode Island."

HEALTH CARE: The targeted killing of United Health care CEO Brian Thompson has revealed widespread frustration and anger over U.S. health care - the costliest in the world. For some, the outpouring is reminiscent of the Occupy Wall Street movement that emerged in 2011. Here in Rhode Island, Attorney General Peter Neronha has been an outspoken advocate for coming to terms with the state's health care challenges. Asked during an interview this week how to get a better handle on this, Neronha cites the need to get reimbursement for Medicaid and Medicare on a par with nearby states:

'Overall, if we don't bring more revenue into our health care system, we're not going to have the number of doctors we need, which leads to frustration, and we're not going to have the kind of health care delivery system that we need, and that leads to frustration. Obviously, that frustration should never lead to violence, but as you have, when you talk to everyday Rhode Islanders about health care, nobody sings, or very few people, would sing a song of success."

THE MOB: It tells you a lot that a 2003 story written by Jim Taricani for the Providence Phoenix was titled "Twilight of the Wiseguys." As Taricani reported, "The New England [Patriarca] family of lore has lost the tentacles that once reached into the pockets of judges, politicians and cops."

The boss, Luigi "Baby Shacks" Manocchio, "presides over a scaled-down version" and was "paranoid about being ratted out by some of his fellow mobsters and keeps in his inner circle only a select few Rhode Island Mafios." My girlfriend at the time would encounter Manocchio on Federal Hill; she said he was a gentleman. That kind of view was typical for casual observers of the longtime mobster.

But Manocchio's time as boss came to an end and he wound up in prison after a 2011 indictment. Tim White has a detailed look back on the life of the last boss from Rhode Island, who died this week at age 97. As Steven O'Donnell, a former state police colonel, told White, even with his genteel image, "Nobody should be misguided by the allure of Man-

MEDIA: Let's give a big Rhode Island welcome to Nish Kohli, the newest reporter at The Providence Journal. According to a recent edition of the ProJo's am newsletter, Kohli will cover the Providence metro area, including Cranston, Warwick and East Providence.

Kohli's background includes reporting on the culture wars at Time magazine and interning on the Pandora Papers at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. She offered this response on why she wanted to report for the ProJo: "While much of the journalism world is currently in crisis, local news continues to facilitate community discourse and serve as a check on government and corporate power. I wanted to work in a newsroom that embodied these ideas. while also proving it values its journalists as real people who deserve livable wages. The Providence Journal seemed like a fantastic fit."

FAIR VOTE: Coming off her loss last month to Democratic U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Republican Patricia Morgan announced she was launching a new election integrity project. Via email, she wrote: "This is an opportunity to make a real difference from the comfort of your own home. The project involves identifying potential issues with mail-in balloting and ensuring every ineligible voter is identified. This work is vital to protecting the sanctity of our electoral process and paving the way for the success of future Republican candidates." Meanwhile, reports NPR's Miles Parks, "New data shows that the vast majority of Americans felt this year's general election was administered well, a stark contrast to perceptions in 2020 and a reflection of how Republican voters specifically have come around on election security in a year when their preferred presidential candidate won."

Hasbro's looming move from its longtime HQ in Pawtucket comes as many big corporations are switching things up. U.S. Rep. Gabe Amo, a Pawtucket native, is among those who have bent the ear of Hasbro CEO Chris Cocks, and Amo said Rhode Island still has a good case to make, even with the possible loss of the iconic company to Massachusetts.

"We have to focus on our virtues, our assets," Amo said on Roundtable. "People want to live in Rhode Island. If you've been to an open house anywhere in Rhode Island lately, you see a lot of those plates coming from other states. We are an appealing place to live. We need to reinforce that time and time again. And I'm hopeful that as leaders across the state, we will be able to work together to do that."

WARWICK WORSHIP

Asbury United Methodist Church

143 Ann Mary Brown Drive Rev. Yohan Go 467-5122 Worship Service 9:30am

Sunday School at 9:30am Sept - June asburyumcri.org

Baha'i Faith

Warwick Community Call for meeting information 800-228-6483

Buttonwoods Bible Chapel 311 Buttonwoods Avenew 401-823-7803

or 508-579-7384 **Christ Church** 1025 Main St., E.G.

(corner Post & Cedar) 884-8632 www.christchurchec.org

Church of The Apostles Anglican Church in North America 170 Fairview Ave. Coventry, RI 02816

> 821-7609 Sunday Worship 9 a.m. www.apostlesri.org

Church of The Transfiguration 1665 Broad Street 461-3142 Sunday 10 a.m.

Community of Christ Church

Holy Eucharist

292 West Shore Road Rev. Nancy L. Cornish Rev. Peter M. Latham 738-0342

Concordia Center for Spiritual Living 292 West Shore Rd.

732-1552 10 am. Sundays concordiacsl.org

Eckankar Center

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

Faith Baptist Church

765 Commonwealth Ave. Pastor Matt Vandeleest 738-7664 faithbaptistri.org

Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am

Faith Family Chapel 205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103) Pastor Brian Regan

681-4690 www.faithfamilychapel.org First Congregational

Church of Warwick, UCC 715 Oakland Beach Avenue Pastor Michael Ashe 738-3377

fccwri.org First Evangelical **Lutheran Church**

East Greenwich Friendship Baptist

124 Division St.

Church

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

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark 737-1230 www.gccp.org

Lakewood Baptist Church

255 Atlantic Avenue Pastor Ron Provencal 781-1136 lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com Sunday Worship 10am Offering Zoom for Sunday Services. Please see website for link wwwfacebook.com/LBCWarwick.

Living Faith

Christian Church 1201 Greenwich Avenue 739-2444 www.LivingFaithRl.org

Narragansett Bay Baptist Church 1642 West Shore Road

Pastor Dru Merrill 738-0600 nbbcri.org

Norwood Baptist Church 48 Budlong Avenue Rev. George Barclay

941-7040 **Pilgrim Lutheran** Church

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

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church 3257 Post Road Rev. Scott R. Lee

737-4141 8:00 & 10:00 Holy Eucharist www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

Episcopal Church 111 West Shore Road 737-3127

Saint Mark's

Saturday - 5:00 pm Sunday - 9:00 am www.stmarkswarwick.com Saint Paul Evangelical

Lutheran Church 389 Greenwich Avenue

Rev. Hayley Bang 737-6758 stpaulwarwick.org

Saint Timothy Church

1799 Warwick Avenue 739-9552

Saints Rose & Clement Church 111 Long Street

739-0212 Masses: Saturday 4 pm Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am

SouthPointe Christian Church 200 Pettaconsett Ave 401-821-9800

Worship Services 9 & 10:30 a.m. Kids Programming for Birth-4th grade both services 5th-8th grade Programming 9 a.m. Sundays High School Programming Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. southpointeri.com

Spring Green Memorial Church 1350 Warwick Avenue 463-8328

Sunday Worship 10:30 am Rev. Shelton Rucker, Jr. https://samcri.wordpress.com/ **Trinity Church**

139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet Cranston, RI 02905

8 am & 10 am 10 am is live-streamed on facebook @trinitypawtuxet 941-4324 http://www.trinitycranston.org/

Warwick Hope Assembly of God 425 Sandy Lane Pastor Matthew McIntosh

732-0634 Sunday Service 9:30 am. Bible Study Wed. 7 pm

Warwick Central Baptist Church 3270 Post Road Pastor Sam Chesser

wcbc01@verizon.net Service Sundays at 10:15 AM

Warwick Christian **Fellowship** 358 Warwick Neck Avenue

Pastor Steve Reickett 739-26606

Westminster **Unitarian Church** 119 Kenyon Ave., E.G.

401-884-5933 Sunday Service 10 am Streaming on: westminsteruu.org

Woodbury Union Church, Presbyterian 58 Beach Avenue

Rev. Deb Packard 737-8232 WoodburyChurchRI@gmail.com

SOUR GRAPES

HEY, HENRY AND HENRIETTA.

WHAT DID YOU GUYS GET

YOUR KIDS FOR CHRISTMAS?



by Tim Jones





PFC Anthony Amalfetano

KILLED IN ACTION **LUXEMBOURG** December 24, 1944

> The Amalfetano Family





on this holiday.

LOVE ALWAYS, YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE





Those we love don't go away; They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; Still loved, still missed, so very dear.

Loved & missed, The Amalfetano Family

Richard J. Woulfe 4th Anniversary



Dad, We miss you and love you. You were the best Poppy.



& the kids

Anniversary December 24 and Christmas Remembrance Tommy Caramante Jr.



Forever Loved, **Forever Missed**

LOVE, MOM & DAD, JOEY & KELLY, MICHAEL & KRISTEN, MASON & MADISON XXX 000

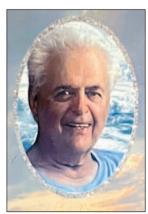
Eleventh Anniversary Christmas Remembrance



Those we love can never be More than a thought away. or as long as there's a memory They live in our hearts to stay.

Love, Your Family and Friends

Christmas Remembrance Thomas Caramante Sr.



Forever Loved, Forever Missed

LOVE, JEANNIE, JOEY & KELLY, MICHAEL & KRISTEN, MASON & MADISON

James J. Quaine IV



Maybe your reindeer know the way. For I have a special present I need delivered on Christmas Day. For Christmas is a time for sharing with those we hold so dear. Please take this gift, with all my love, for an angel who's no longer here. It's wrapped up in all our memories we once shared from the past. The ribbons and bows are all our dreams, inside there's a broken heart It's such a special parcel, please Santa don't delay. I would love it to be in heaven in time

Loved always,

Christmas Remembrance

ANNA TOONE

I miss you so much. I think of you every day

And tell you, "I love you." I hope you can hear me

Talking to you.

I wish I did that more

When you were alive.

I was so lucky to have

You as a Mom.

Your pure generosity, your kindness

and unconditional

Love for me and my family

Never wavered.

Please know that we appreciate Everything you did for us.

I will always strive to

Fulfill your wishes.

You will never be forgotten.

Lastly, you were right

When you said, "You're

Gonna miss me when I am gone."

Every day, Mom.

Merry Christmas in heaven, Mom.

Always in our hearts

And with much love,

SON-IN-LAW DENNIS, RAYBON

YOUR DAUGHTER LOUISE,

AND CHERISHED GRANDDAUGHTER,

MARIAN

Wife, Children & Grandchildren

for Christmas Day.

Christmas Remembrance Jennifer DelGizzo



Jennifer we will see your smiling face again, For we believe that everything God

Merry Christmas,

Love, Mommy, Jim and all our family

CHRISTMAS 2024 Ralph

Wendoloski



To my loving Family and Friends:

As the holidays draw near, I find myself here, in this peaceful place, watching over all of you.

Though I may not be physically present at the table, my spirit is here with every laugh, every shared story, every light on the tree.

Those moments, and countless others over the last few months are the treasures that I carry with me. I am with you all, and I will always be.

As you look towards a new year, remember the good times we shared. May you find joy and peace in the coming years.

Remember to live life and enjoy it. You only live once kid.

Endless love, Ralph (Dad/Pappy)



promised us is true.

Sweetheart.

who love you so very much.

Sadly missed along life's way, Quietly remembered everyday,

No longer in our lives to share, But in our hearts, they're always there.

RALPH & EVELYN BOVE

Christmas Remembrance

Your Loving Family

Twelfth Anniversary & Christmas Remembrance Mary Limoges

We can't have old days back,

When we were all together,

But secret tears and loving thoughts,

Will be with us forever.

Donna & Tim, Kathy & Ray, Patty & Rollie, Leeann & Tim,

Tom & Janet

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE

Edward & Rita Keane

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Love, Your Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Madelyn and Arthur Surrette



It's sad that you're not with us at this lovely time of year, But we have precious memories of when you both were here. You made each Christmas special, the way it's meant to be, And filled with your love, kindness and generosity. You were the dearest Mom & Dad, we know that we were blessed, And pray that Christmas angels bring you sweet eternal rest.

From Your Loving Family

Bob Goudie



Father Dick, Mother Shirley, Brother Rich, Wife Laurie

Tattooing in Heaven

Patricia Taylor

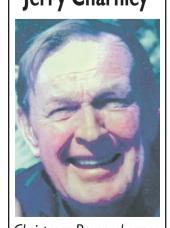


Nothing can ever take away, The love a heart holds dear; Fond memories linger every day,

Remembrance keeps her near. Love Joe, Joey, Lynne,

grandchildren Jennifer & Patrick, James & Kat & great-grandchildren Ella, Cillian & Harrison

Jerry Charnley



Christmas Remembrance Gone are the days we used to share,

But in our hearts you are always there. The gates of memory will never close, We miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret, We who love you will never forget.

Love, Lynne, Sue & John Carolyn & Bruce

Claudia Charnley



Christmas Remembrance

Our lips cannot tell how much we miss her, Our hearts cannot tell what to say, God alone knows how we miss her, In the homes that are lonesome today.



James & Betty Bailey





Gone are the days we used to share, But in our hearts you are always there. The gates of memories will never close, We miss you more than anyone knows, With tender love and deep regret, We who love you will never forget.

Love - daughters Lynne & Carol, son-in-law Joe, grandchildren Shannon, Cheyenne, Jennifer & Patrick, James & Kat, Katie & Michael, and great-grandchildren Ella, Cillian, Jackson, Harrison & Cameron

AAA: average Rhode Island gas price falls a penny

Northeast gas prices are idling like a car stuck in a holiday traffic jam, even though oil prices are up on geopolitical upheaval in the Middle East and early signs that Chinese petroleum demand could be improving.

Last week, crude oil prices rose about \$3 in the wake of the fall of the Syrian government and subsequent questions about the longterm political and economic impacts on the region at large. Prices were also buoyed by a reported increase in oil and refined product imports to China, which could be a sign that the Chinese government's recent economic stimulus efforts are starting to take hold. Also putting upward pressure on crude prices is a renewed concern about the potential for constrained global supplies after European Union leaders agreed last week to a new round of sanctions against Russia.

But gasoline prices in the United States are holding steady after supply and demand data from the Energy Information Administration last week showed sizable builds in gasoline. Nationally, gasoline stocks rose by 5.1 million barrels – the fourth consecutive week of increased holdings. In the Northeast, inventories rose by about 1.3 million barrels. Since mid-November, national gasoline stockpiles have risen by more than

12.8 million barrels. Most market watchers believe inventories will continue to climb into the new year as domestic oil and gas production continues to churn at or near record levels and the last of refiners' autumn maintenance windows are closed.

Locally, the average gas price in Rhode Island is down a penny from last week (\$2.95), averaging \$2.94 per gallon. Today's price is two cents higher than a month ago

(\$2.92) and 22 cents lower than a year ago (\$3.16). Rhode Island's average gas price is eight cents lower than the national average.

"Historically, global upheaval and demand forecasts from around the world weighed heavily on domestic crude and gasoline prices, but times have changed as the United States leads the world in production," said Jillian Young, Director of Public Relations, AAA Northeast.

Joseph Badessa

Joseph Badessa 98, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on December 11, 2024. He was the husband of the late Maria C. (Cesario) Badessa. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Josephine (Torillio) Badessa.

Joseph had proudly served in the United States Navy. Joseph had worked as an electrician for General Dynamics in Groton Ct. for

many years prior to his retirement. He enjoyed spending time building model boats, playing dominos, and cards. He loved watching cowboy and Indian movies especially if John Wayne was in them. He just enjoy life, he most especially loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Joseph is survived by his loving children, Joann Crabtree, Edward T. "Butch" Badessa and his wife Isis, Lynn McDonald and her husband Michael, and the late Jerry T. Badessa; the grandfather of Charles Nardolillo, Jessica Fitzpatrick, and Marc Badessa; and the great-grandfather of Talia Nardolillo, Anthony Nardolillo, and Conor Fitzpatrick. He was the brother of Etta Merlino and Benny Badessa.

His funeral will be held on Thursday December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. from the Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Burial with Military Honors will be in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston.

Loretta M. Oliveira

Loretta M. (Eaton) Oliveira, 91, of Warwick, passed away peacefully at Brentwood Rehab, on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. She was the loving wife of the late Manuel Olivera. They were married for 49 years.

Born in Oakland Beach, she was the daughter of the late John and Alice W. (Randall) Eaton. Loretta was a graduate of Warwick Veterans High School, class of 1951. She immediately

graduate of Warwick Veterans High School, class of 1951. She immediately started her career with New England Telephone. Took time off, in between, to raise her family. Then, ultimately retired, from NE Tel, in 1989. She also worked at Head Start, in the

Loretta loved Oakland Beach, and lived in that area, nearly her whole life. She'd often visit the seawall, with its stunning ocean view. Frequently, she'd take long, scenic drives, in southern New England, with her family and

She is survived by her son, Gerald Oliveira; granddaughter, Lori (Oliveira) Soucy; great-grandson, Adam Anthony; three great-great-grandchildren; Aria, Adam and Audrey; as well as many nieces, and nephews, and great nieces, and nephews. She was the mother of the late John C. Oliveira (wife: Barbara). Her siblings: Fredrick Sheldon, John Eaton Jr., James Eaton, Rhoda (Sheldon) Charlton, Anna (Eaton) Bussell, Mildred (Eaton) Green, and Mable (Eaton) Harding,

all predeceased her.

Loretta touched many lives, in her time. She was always there, to support her loved ones, and was always ready to lend a 'listening ear'. Many, affectionately called her: 'Auntie', or 'Nanny'. She will be sadly missed by all, in her family and community, who knew her.

Her Funeral Services took place on Sunday, December 15, 2024, in the Thomas and Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor may be made to First Congregational Church of Warwick, 715 Oakland Beach Ave, Warwick, RI 02889. For online tributes and condolences, please visit: www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com

OBITUARIES

Donald E. McKenzie

Donald E. McKenzie, 85, passed away Wednesday December 11, 2024, at Kent Hospital in Warwick. He was the beloved husband of Karen E. (McKenna) McKenzie for 53 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late William and Doris E. (Scowcroft) McKenzie. Donald was the loving father of Kristine E. Wilkinson (Raymond) and Katherine L. McKenzie (Mark),

loving grandfather of Andrew, Benjamin, Ryan and Riley. He was the brother of William McKenzie and the late 2LT Richard McKenzie. Donald was a proud graduate of Warwick Veterans Me-

morial High School. He went on to earn his degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology, which laid the foundation for his career at Electric Boat in Groton, CT. While working at Electric Boat, Donald was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served his country honorably during the Vietnam War. Following his military service, Donald returned to Electric Boat and excelled in his role as a Supervisor in the Optical Tool division. His dedication and skill defined his career until his retirement in 1996.

In retirement, Donald continued to give back, contributive the desired to the service of the servic

ing to medical advancements by participating in long-term research studies with the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) program at Miriam Hospital. His involvement reflected his endur-ing commitment to helping oth- ers and making a difference in the lives of those around him.

Beyond his professional life Don found immense invand

Beyond his professional life, Don found immense joy and fulfillment in pursuing his passions. Never content to simply observe, he threw himself wholehearted- ly into every endeavor. An avid skier, Don met the love of his life during a ski trip with the RISKI ski group, a moment that marked the beginning of a beautiful journey together.

Don was a familiar and dedicated presence at the Warwick West Side Pit, where he coached and managed his daughters' softball teams from t-ball through the senior league. His enthusiasm for sports and community was matched by his dedication to figure skating. As President of Warwick Figure Skaters, Don played a pivotal role in bringing several National Figure Skating Championships to Rhode Island. His passion extended further when he became an Ice Technician with US Figure Skating, traveling across the country to ensure competition ice met the highest standards.

Don will always be remembered for his warm and welcoming smile, his boundless generosity, and his willingness to lend a helping hand wherever it was needed. His presence in our lives was a true gift, and though his absence leaves a profound void, his memory will be cherished forever. We find comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the love he so freely shared with ey- eryone around him. His funeral will be held Saturday December 21, 2024, at 9:00 am from the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am in St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane., Warwick. He will be laid to rest with military honors at RI Veterans Cemetery, Exeter. Visiting hours will be held Friday December 20, from 4-7pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Bishop Hendricken High School to support the BHHS Memorial Prayer Garden. 2615 Warwick Ave. Warwick, RI

Information and condolences visit, www.thequinnfuner-alhome.com

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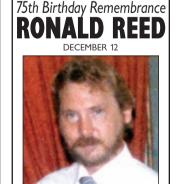
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Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home • WARWICK 738-1977
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Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home • NORTH KINGSTOWN 295-5603

Patrix Quinn Funeral Home • WEST WARWICK 821 6868

Potvin-Quinn Funeral Home • WEST WARWICK 821-6868





Happy heavenly 75th birthday, Ron. Love and miss you so much.

Love forever, your wife Linda; daughter Crystal; grandchildren: Katelyn, Nick & Mason and great-grandchildren: Levi, Liam and Luca

In Memoriam

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

Joan E. Messier

Joan E. (Ross) Messier, 78 a retired CNA, passed away Friday December 13, 2024 at the Avalon Nursing Home. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Everett J. N. and Hazel E (Malcolm) Ross. Joan was the beloved mother of Kevin J. Trenholm (Pamela) and Kristin M. Zarlenga (David), loving grandmother of Kayla, Krista, Jamie and David Jr.; loving great grandmother of Levi and



Ellie; sister of Terry George (James), Stasia E. Doar (late David) and the late Meredith D. Ross. She is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Her visitation will be held Friday, December 20, 2024 from 10-11am with a service at 11am in the Thomas and Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel 2435 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. She will be laid to rest in the family lot at Quidnessett Memorial Cemetery, North Kingstown.

Dana A. Pariseau

Dana A. Pariseau, 67, of Cranston, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on December 14, 2024. He was the loving husband of 40 years to Debra K. (Plants) Pariseau.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Joan F. (Williams) Pariseau and the late Donald A. Pariseau.

the late Donald A. Pariseau.

Dana was a Renaissance
man of the utmost moral

character. He was a master of carpentry. As much pride and appreciation as he had for his trade, he had even more for his family and friends. His wife was everything to him and together they built a beautiful life that Dana cherished deeply.

A lover of the outdoors. Dana found solace and joy in

A lover of the outdoors, Dana found solace and joy in nature. Whether camping and sharing stories around the fire or taking his boat on the river with family and friends, he embraced the beauty of the natural world. He passed this appreciation on to his loved ones.

Besides his devoted wife, Dana is survived by his loving daughters, Stephanie Pariseau of Cranston, Kimberly Buonfiglio (Stephen) of Coventry, Darlene St. George (Edward) of Cranston and Jaclyn Desrosiers (Ryan) of Coventry. He was the adoring pépé of Layla, Zachary, Jacob, Adelyn, Autumn, Alexander, Connor, and Liam. Dana also leaves his siblings, Debra-Lee Pinho (Fernando) of Cranston, Donald (Ilka) of North Kingstown, Dale Gaudet (Albert), Douglas (Renee), and Dean (Lisa) all of Warwick. Dana also leaves several

His funeral will be held on Thursday December 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. from the Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Paul's Church, 30 Warwick Avenue, Cranston. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. Burial will be in Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, Johnston. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd STE 3004, Warwick, RI 02886. Please visit www.barrettandcotter.com for online condolences.



FUNERAL HOME



An Independently Owned Funeral Home

800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI

737-3510

Conveniently located off Exit 12A on I-95

EDWARD L. MURPHY, DIRECTOR

Member by Invitation (National Selected Morticians



Obituaries time of need, the Warwick Beacon will prin

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.

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.

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your

 $- \, Thank \, you$

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Happy Holidays

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

from Senator Matt LaMountain & Family



This holiday season, I want to say thank you to the people of Warwick and Cranston for placing your trust in me to serve as District 31 State Senator. It has truly been an incredible experience and the honor of a lifetime.

From my family to yours, we wish you a happy, healthy holiday season.



Paid for by Friends of Matthew LaMountain



Out of the 'shoebox'

About 75 people joined the celebration Dec. 6 as officials of the Kent County Water Authority cut the ribbon to their new facility on Technology Way in West Greenwich.

The modern, approximately \$25-million facility situated on approximately 14 acres adjacent to Interstate 95 was decades in the making. According to KCWA Board Chairman Bob Boyer, the authority was "working out of a shoebox" in its old home in West Warwick, and now that the new facility is open, "we're going to expect more work out of our folks now that we have all this room.'

KCWA Executive Director Dave Simmons remarked how the initial mission in water delivery to Kent County dates back "to the 1700s, when workers used pick axes to put

Simmons added that the new facility is powered by solar energy, 'sustainability its driving force." The water authority services a large section of Warwick including Apponaug, Cowesett and East Natick.

Pictured from left are KCWA board members Kenneth R. Mason, PE, representing Town of Coventry; Charles J. Donovan Jr., representing Warwick; Geoffrey Rousselle, representing West Warwick; Robert B. Boyer, chairman, of West Warwick, Scott Duckworth, treasurer, of Coventry, David L. Simmons, PE, executive director/chief engineer, Jeffrey Giusti, vice chairman, of Warwick, and Brian Kortz, secretary, of East Greenwich. (Photo and information courtesy of Michael Levesque)

Ready to help unlock financial aid for students

The Rhode Island Student Loan Association (RISLA) officially kicked off the FAF-SA season with its College Planning center hosting a FAFSA Open House with free in-house counseling sessions. According to Charles Kelley, Executive Director of RIS-LA, "The federal FAFSA — the essential tool to unlock financial aid for collegebound students and their families — was released by the US government on Dec. 1 for the 2025/2026 academic year. RISLA

and its College Planning Center staff will provide free in- person or over-the-phone assistance to increase the completion rate in RhodeIsland. Although last year's changes were problematic, families should not hesitateto submit their FAFSA this year. Federal Student Aid has made both correctionsand improvements to this year's form and the College Planning CenterCPC team is here and ready to help.'



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

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Caring for the Caregiver Navigating the Holidays

GEOFF DECKER

Helen Boyle, who cared for her husband Tom during his seven-year battle with Alzheimer's disease, found solace in the company of friends.

"If my car is in the driveway, just come in," she told them, keeping her door open for visits that sustained her through the hardest times. Small gatherings over cups of tea and photo albums "kept me bolstered. They gave me purpose."

The holiday season, while joyful for many, often brings stress, exhaustion, and isolation for caregivers. Experts and caregivers alike emphasize the importance of flexibility, simplifying traditions, and seeking help to navigate this challenging time.

The Growing Role of Caregivers

Nearly one in four Rhode Islanders are 60 or over, a population that's projected to grow by 75% over the next 30 years.

As Rhode Island gets older, caregiving is becoming more complex and increasingly demanding. About one in 10 Rhode Islanders provided unpaid caregiving in 2023, according to the Family Caregiver Alliance.

The hours are long and the work is intense. The Family Caregiver Alliance estimates that Rhode Island's unpaid caregivers contributed an estimated 113 million hours, valued at \$2.1 billion. Yet, the job takes a far greater physical and emotional toll.

"The caregiving experience is a journey that's not for the faint of heart," Boyle said. "Watching your loved one decline is a difficult road."

Caregivers perform tasks ranging from helping with daily activities to responding to emergencies, all while managing their own emotional well-being.

And it spans generations, with middle-aged adults often juggling care for aging parents and their own children — the so-called "sandwich generation." Nationally, nearly half of adults in their 40s and 50s fit this definition, with about 15% supporting both

an aging parent and a child. Maria Cimini, director of the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging, recalls her own struggles caring for a mother-in-law with dementia. "The emotional energy of caregiving is a lot. That alone is challenging," she said. Even as a professional, "it was still really hard for me to navigate."



Isolation and Mental Health: 'We call ourselves the A-Team."

The Boyles' journey began after Tom experienced early episodes of forgetfulness that were out of character. A neuropsych exam revealed he was in early stages of Alzheimer's. Their first stop was to visit the Alzheimer's Association website, where they joined a couples support group. These groups are often invaluable, offering emotional outlets and connections.

Through COVID and loss, Helen says that the group bonded over caregiving's stresses and shared grief. They continue to meet monthly, keeping in touch regularly over group chats. "To this day we are all extremely close," says Boyle. "We call ourselves the A-Team."

Caregivers often grieve the gradual loss of their loved one as they knew them, so having an outlet to process these feelings is vital, says Caroline Johnson, a Cranston resident and retired hospital chaplain who is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Whether it's joining a support group, seeking therapy, or carving out time for personal exercise, prioritizing mental health is crucial. Avoiding

"A friend circle can be your best form of self-care," said Johnson, who recommends therapy, spiritual or pastoral care. "Having someone to listen — whether a therapist, pastor, or friend — can make a huge difference," she said.

Find a local therapist: Johnson says to start by searching https:// www.psychologytoday.com/, which lists dozens of Rhode Island therapists who specialize in dementia, grief, and geriatric care.

Constant Change

Janet Bryant, whose husband Paul has Alzheimer's, highlights the unpredictability of caregiving: "The hardest thing about being a caregiver is it constantly changes."

When Paul was diagnosed, Janet persuaded him to stop driving. A retired forest ranger and avid hunter and fisher, she also gave away his guns. As the disease progressed, she learned how to repair things around the house. Over time, she turned her focus to adapting their activities to meet Paul's evolving needs. Jigsaw puzzles transitions to 100-piece puzzles, then to

"As soon as you think you've got it down, there's a change," she says. "You have to be very flexible."

Tips for Navigating the Holidays

Simplify Traditions

Johnson advises scaling back: "If decorating feels like too much, consider simpler alternatives like a festive candle or holiday music. Everything doesn't have to be a Hallmark Christmas." Smaller, low-stress gatherings can also reduce overstimulation for loved ones with de-

■ CAREGIVERS - PAGE 22



Paul Bryant, a retired forest ranger and avid outdoor enthusiast, on a winter walk during his early stages of Alzheimer's. (Photos submitted by Janet Bryant)

Paul and Janet Bryant at their home in Providence during the earlier stages of Paul's disease. He is currently living at a nursing home in hospice

> Paul and Janet Bryant, during Paul's middle stages of Alzheimer's.







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Class Reunion

Oct. 11, 2025, Pilgrim High School Class of 1975's 50th Reunion will be held on Sat., Oct. 11, 2025 at Quonset "O" Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Road, North Kingstown. We are looking for our classmates and/or info on deceased classmates, etc. Please contact Dean Plowman dean695@gmail.com

Community Events

Dec. 4-21, "WCFA Annual Winter Market" from Wednesday, Dec. 4 through Saturday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Road. This Winter Market is a boutique style shopping experience (free to browse, but a charge for purchases). Wide variety of items available for purchase — from drawings, paintings, photography, and prints to original jewelry, textiles, glass, ceramics, greeting cards, gift items and more! For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or war-

Dec. 21, Food for the Soul at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 3 Churches Working Together to Feed Your Soul. Hosted by Lakewood Baptist Church, Asbury UMC and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints. Come and get a free bagged lunch consisting of homemade chicken soup, homemade cookies, a piece of fruit, ovster crackers and a bottle of water. This program is on every 3rd Saturday from October to May.

Dec. 21, Drive-Thru Food Pantry at Spring Green Memorial Church. Food will be distributed between 11 a.m. and noon in the parking lot in the $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ back of the church. If you have any questions, please email the church at springgreenchurch@yahoo.com or call the office at 463-8328.

Dec. 22 A Blue Christmas Service, also called the Longest Night, will be held at Woodbury Union Church, 58 Beach Ave., Warwick, at 3 p.m. This is a contemplative, ecumenical service which supports people who are grieving or struggling during the holidays. Complimentary ceramic doves honoring a loved one will be offered to those who wish to take one home. All are

Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Fireworks at Rocky Point from 3-6 p.m. Food Trucks, DJ, & Give-away for the kids every 30 minutes and Fireworks at 6

Jan. 1, 49th Annual Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Rhode Island

THE BUZZ

at its new location, Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett. The main plunge kicks off at 12 p.m., followed by a family-friendly plunge at 12:15 p.m. Registration is \$25, and additional fundraising is encouraged. This support makes a profound difference in the lives of Rhode Islanders with intellectual disabilities, empowering them to achieve their dreams.

Jan. 5 - 7, 2025, AARP CHAPTER 2210 ATLANTIC CITY TRIP has planned a trip to Resorts Casino Hotel in Atlantic City from January 5-7. The Tour includes 2 nights' accommodations, 2 meal credits (up to \$20 value each) & \$20 slot play. Bus pickup from the Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 7 a.m., return time is approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$299/person (double occupancy), \$279/person (triple occupancy) or \$399/person (single occupancy). For more information call Maureen at 828-5188 or Anne at 263-4272.

Jan. 7, VFW Post #183 Hi Lo Jack Tuesday League starts at 6pm. Email vfwpost183events@aol.com with any Jan. 9, VFW Post #183 BINGO Doors open at 6 p.m. bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. \$30 entry. Cash Prizes. Please email vfwpost183bingo@gmail.com with any questions. Bingo is also taking place Jan. 22, Feb. 6, Feb. 19, March 6, and March 16.

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

Every Monday, Gaspee Celtic Jam -The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Mon. from 7 – 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or

sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit gaspeecelticjam.org for more info (including the current tune list/tune book) or to send us any questions. No specific Celtic music experience is re-

Every Monday, Tri-City Elks Lodge #14 Country Line Dance Lessons, from 6 to 8 p.m., 1915 W. Shore Rd, Warwick. Instructor Melissa Caldarone from Get in Line RI, teaching beginner dances. \$10 per class. Come in and enjoy the fun!

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

Every First and Third Tuesday Ocean State Toastmasters Club meets, serving both Rhode Island and Southern MA. Ocean State Toastmasters Club holds its meetings at 641 Bald Hill Road, Warwick, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact: Arturo at 401-999-2393. All are wel-

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

Every Second Tuesday West War-

new friends. Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m., and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, MA, 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta

at (508)-840-6621. All are welcome! Every Wednesday, Calling All Seniors: The Dance '50's, '60's, 70's, & 80's Music at the American Legion, 662 West Shore Rd., Warwick. Light snacks for free and refreshments for purchase. No outside alcohol is permitted. Cover: \$10pp at the door. For more information: Mary 401-256-

Every Wednesday, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets every Wed. night with weigh-in at 5:45 p.m. at St.

BUZZ - PAGE 19

BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

Warwick resident Sarah Roberts stands in the middle of an echoey big-box retail shop and looks for help from an experienced salesclerk. She is actually looking for just about ANYONE who could help her find some blinds for her family room's bay window. This is a large window that was custom-built and which needed a custom-fit window treatment, but she doesn't think she is going to find the help she needs today.

Instead of waiting a minute longer, Roberts decides to try another approach to finding that perfect set of blinds. She gives Harris Blinds & Shutters a call, and a real person answers the phone ~ someone who knows how to get Roberts started right on her way.

The first step in the process is to set up a free consultation by Harris Alkins, the longtime owner of Harris Blinds & Shutters. To Harris Alkins, his customers' satisfaction has always been a priority and he does everything he can to meet those customers' high standards.

Right from the start, he comes to your home prepared with samples of his products, then measures your windows and helps you narrow down the options. He accounts for your budget and your needs ~ privacy, light control, insulation, and appearance. After a thorough consultation, he gives customers like Roberts a free estimate, in fact, all measurements and installations are provided FREE of charge! This is a completely hassle-free experience for Harris's customers.

With so many types of window coverings available, and so many companies selling them, customers like Roberts may feel confused about which products offer the best



Harris Alkins will come to your home or place of business to help you figure out which blind, shade or shutter are best suited for your windows. There is no more personal customer service to be found than at Harris Blinds & Shutters in Warwick.

value. This is why turning to a family run business such as doors Harris Blinds & Shutters is such a smart move.

Harris Alkins knows his product lines and he knows how to get them just the way his customers want them. Some of the many options include:

Solar Mesh Shades - an innovative product that helps

- filter light and provides privacy · Assorted mini-blinds
- · Designer roller, honeycomb, Vignette®, Solera® and Roman shades
 - · Hardwood, hybrid and poly-satin shutters
- · Window treatments for extra wide windows and sliding

· Vertical blinds of wood, fabric, vinyl or aluminum Within weeks, the blinds that Roberts ordered were delivered to the Harris Blinds storeroom. Soon, they will be installed with expertise and skill by one of the many talented and efficient installers. An all-around flawless experience for another satisfied customer.

Schedule your free consultation today by calling Harris Blinds & Shutters at 401-737-4917. To see all the many options available, visit their informative website at www. harrisblinds.com. The store showroom in located at 1638 Warwick Avenue.









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■ Buzz

(Continued from page 18)

Rita's Church, 722 Oakland Beach Avenue, Warwick. TOPS is a great way to improve your health. Stop by Every Third Wednesday Old War-

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

Every Thursday, Pick-Up Hockey 55 and older, coed: \$5pp. Thayer Ice Rink, 975 Sandy Ln., Warwick, from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Full Equipment required. For more information contact: Lon Krueger 302-229-3457 or bethlon@verizon.net.

Every Thursday, Take Off Pounds Sensibly TOPS #38 is meeting every Thurs. morning at St. Luke's Church (lower level), 99 Pierce Street, East Greenwich. Weigh-in begins at 9:30 a.m. The meeting is from $10\ \text{to}\ 11\ \text{a.m.}$ Enter from the side parking lot, go down the stairs to the kitchen area. All are welcome as well as any canned food donations. For information, call: Angela Henderson at 401-225-6174.

Every Thursday Meadowlark Seniors the Meadowlark Seniors will meet at 1:30 p.m., at St. Kevin Church Hall, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Short meetings, fun activities, and socializing. Come join us. New members are welcome.

Every Thursday - Get a Job Thursdays We Make RI, 200 First Ave., Cranston. An organization that provides free manufacturing training, hosts a series of job fairs every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon. We Make RI offer job seekers a chance to meet with employers, get career counseling, resume help and more. Some employers include Swissline Precision, Admiral Packaging, KB Surfaces, Warwick Hanger and Hitachi Cable. For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit www.we-

contact Mike at 401-232-0077 x109.

Every Friday Cribbage Players Do you play cribbage? If so, consider joining a small group of cribbage players every, who meet and play at the East Greenwich Community Center, Pierce Street, East Greenwich every Fri., from 9 to 11 a.m. This is a social group where all levels of players are invited to play and meet new friends; there is no cost involved. If you are interested in joining, contact Barbara at 737-6477.

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

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston & Warwick Public Libraries Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information are now available at two locations: makeri.com/get-a-job-thursday or Cranston Central Library Reference

Desk, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd. Cranston, Warwick Central Library Reference desk, 600 Sandy Ln., Warwick. Stop by for a free gun lock and literature on how to securely store weapons. Doing so will save lives and make our communities safer. Residents from all RI communities are welcome. "This event is not endorsed by or affiliated with the Cranston Public Library.'

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support

Groups The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones who are struggling with their mental health. The groups are led by trained facilitators who also have lived experience as family members themselves. The group meetings last about 1.5 hours, and everyone who participates in the meeting gets a chance to share. The other members of the group try to offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their own experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland. org. or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

First Thurs. at 6 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau

Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-starts Aug.) Second Tues. at 5 p.m. IN PERSON

ONLY at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room. Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Third Tues. at 6:30 p.m. MEETS VIA

ZOOM ONLY Please call 401-331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland. org for the Zoom link Fourth Wed. at 6 p.m. IN PERSON

ONLY at the Hope Valley Grange, #71116 Main Street, Hope Valley.

Volunteer with NAMI-RI The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is currently seeking volunteers to facilitate our family programs in 2024. Free training is required and available for interested persons who have a loved one struggling with mental health issues. Together with our grassroots volunteers, we work every day to provide help and hope to millions of Americans. Volunteers are essential to the work that we do at NAMI Rhode Island, and we are always seeking enthusiastic people to help us achieve our mission. For more information about our family programs and volunteer training, email beth@ namirhodeisland.org, call the NAMI-RI office 401-331-3060 or visit our

website at namirhodeisland.org.

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

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

Editor's Note: To submit your news to The Buzz, send information and photos to Ashley at ashleym@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week's edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertise-

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COVENTRY					39 Michael Dr	Piscopio, Vincent	Gomes, Branden R and Bridges, Katelyn A	11/15	\$440,500
13 Lane 7	Yates, Melissa	Lima, Sophie	11/22	\$105,000	395 Norwood Ave	Reihl, Patrick	Defelice, Alessia M	11/14	\$360,000
17 Maple St	Spearman, Michael and Spearman, Catherine	Tucker, Hugh and Groh, Rebecca	11/22	\$445,000	43 Beaver Ave	Calibuso, Kristian	Crofoot, Edwin	11/14	\$495,000
2 Lorraine Ave	Kelley, Louis	Schroeter, Griffin and SchroeTer, Michaela S	11/19	\$410,000	4430 Post Rd Lot 40C	Rawcliffe, John A and Rawcliffe, Anni C	Pelosi, Jenna M	11/19	\$277,500
28 Kiley Way	Marocco, Mark S and Marocco, Victoria	Vescera, Anthony C and Vescera, Patricia E	11/18	\$780,000	46 Briarbrook Dr	Johnson, Gail	Shawver, Timothy R	11/15	\$690,000
34 Airport Rd	Menard, Timothy	Hughes, Donna	11/18	\$149,900	48 Abbey Ave	Louise C Hannon Lt and Hannon, John J	Sheridan, Ryan	11/19	\$420,000
6 Beaulieu Ave	Price, Catalina	Desrosiers, Jared T and Mayer, Alexa R	11/22	\$385,000	62 Sweetfern Rd	Stern, Jodi	Nguyen, Thien	11/15	\$495,000
					65 Spruce St	Zisk, Gregory P	Burgess, Lauren and Kenny, Joseph	11/19	\$360,000
					7 Pevear Ave	Worden Clifford E Est and Worden, Timothy	Wida, Aaron	11/14	\$322,000
CRANSTON				78 Parkside Dr	Cohen, Jeffrey A and Cohen, Meredith L	Martin, Donna M	11/15	\$442,500	
					91 Hope Ave	Joost, Randy S	Thompson, Erin	11/19	\$325,000
103 Jordan Ave	Pienkos, Adam S	Roman, Evelyn C and Cuellar, Edwin	11/18	\$400,000	97 Pilgrim Dr	Schoonmaker, Eric D and Schoonmaker, Cheyanne R	' '	11/15	\$460,000
120 Kimberly Ln	Harrolle, Connie R	Grande, Jennifer L and Grande, David M	11/19	\$749,900	99 River Vue Ave	Sheckley, Abby	Dauntless Path LLC	11/19	\$240,000
135 Curtis St	Baccari, Mary C and Baccari, Erik R	Fagan, Julie B	11/18	\$410,000	99 River Vue Ave Lot 160	Sheckley, Abby	Dauntless Path LLC	11/19	\$240,000
188 Orchard St	Scanlon, Paul M	Lambert, Benjamin J	11/18	\$378,750	33 HIVEL VUE AVE LOT 100	Sheckley, Abby	Daumiess Fath LLC	11/13	Ψ240,000
198 Magnolia St	Ondis, Aleta T	Keang, Andrew and Keang, Kong	11/19	\$400,000					
22 Appleton St	Chapin Dev LLC	Ngov, Sunheng and Ngov, Seav M	11/19	\$38,500					
228 Farmington Ave 23 Haddon Hill Rd	Macdonald, Christen and ForreSt	Rose, Mejia, Dairys A	11/19	\$375,000	WEST GREENWICH				
23 Haddon Hill Rd 240 Mayfield Ave Lot C	Melissas, Jacqueline B Andrade, Brenda A	Eisen-Markowitz, Elana and Torres, Amanda A Grenkiewicz, Lori	11/18 11/18	\$450,000 \$305,000					
26 Susan Dr	Slavsky, Frank	Ragosta, Ernest and Ragosta, Lisa	11/19	\$255,000	796-A Nooseneck Hill Rd	Claeson, Teresa M	Deluca, Nicholas P	11/20	\$600,000
265 Scituate Ave Lot A	Pezza, Gina	Dattilio, Robert R and Dattilio, Tammy A	11/19	\$320,000	88 Carrs Pond Rd	Elaine & William R Teoli and Teoli, Elaine D	Velasco, Sylvia V	11/22	\$1,000,000
35 Rowe Dr	Ingerson Lee R Est and Omara, Kathleen A	Velasquez, Rafael E and Velasquez, Yaneth R	11/18	\$465,000	oo ourro'r ona na	Elame & William II fool and fool, Elame b	volusios, syrviu v	11/22	ψι,σσσ,σσσ
35 Rowe Dr	Omara, Kathleen A	Velasquez, Rafael E and Velasquez, Yaneth R	11/18	\$465,000					
373 Union Ave	Williams, David C	Canela, Yarine	11/18	\$655,000					
66 Community Dr	Fayram, Elizabeth	Pezza, Gina M	11/19	\$450,000	WEST WARWICK				
9 Walden Way Lot 9	Hopley, Jennifer	Lemoie, Jenna M and Lemoie, Nicholas R	11/19	\$515,000					
·					10 Shane Dr	Hopkins, James G and Hopkins, Dina C	Bendell, Kayla A and Roy, Paul	11/22	\$430,000
					11 Kiwanis Rd	Johnson, Teressa M	Johnson, Christopher and Johnson, Megan	11/21	\$360,000
EAST GREENWICH				36 Cowesett Ave Lot 5	Laplante Estates LLC	Pinte, Michael	11/21	\$200,000	
EAST GREENWICH				36 W Valley Cir Lot 36	Resi At West Vly Inc	Blanchette, Cyrile A and Blanchette, Helen	11/22	\$457,400	
11 Knollwood Ave	William J Cashore Lt and Cashore, William J	Harnick, Norma and Harnick, Michelle	11/18	\$685,000	37 Gardner Ave	Paguin, Robert P and Paguin, Sheryl	Morgan, Haley and Kiley, Jonathan	11/21	\$420,000
19 Cora St Lot 19	Middleberry Assoc	Martha L Aiken RET and Aiken. Martha L	11/14	\$1,375,000	500 E Greenwich Ave Lot 119	Capece Jr, Richard A and Capece Sr, Richard A	Baldwin, Elizabeth L	11/22	\$300,000
4 Bentley Ln Lot 14	Apponaug Prop Inc	Cartagenova, Arturo and Cartagenova, Dianne	11/15	\$743,045			,		
67 Eldredge Ave	Harnick, Michelle F and Harnick, Norman J	Detullio, Kyle and Berry, Chelsea C	11/18	\$1,199,000	72 Silverwood Ln	Rainone, Dennis M and Rainone, Kathleen	Casanova, Carlos A and Casanova, Raquel	11/21	\$517,000
79 Birchwood Way	Bates, Frederick M and Bates, Melinda R	Chang, Che-Wei and Zhao, Xiaoyi	11/15	\$640,000					
,	,			+					

WARWICK

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Zelen, Boki and Henry, Britta R

Pinheiro, Michele

10 Modena Dr Rooney Thomas E Est and Gavin, Cindy 103 Larkin Ave Rosalie L Morrison T and Morrison, Frank M 12 Lima St Johnston, Michelle A 15 Pasadena Ct Armenti Deborah Est and Lindawood, Rachael A Byrnes Judith A Est and Byrnes, Brian F 155 Canonchet Ave 158 Almy St Vinacco, Michael L and Vinacco, Francine 1598 W Shore Rd Saint Amour, Timothy 16 Cahir Ct Dolce, Irene F 16 Carson Ave Kirk, Daniel W 1603 Channel Vw Lot 1603 Carol E Pendergast Relt and Edwards, Robert B 163 Manolla Ave Googins Beth A Est and Sherman, Melissa 163 Morse Ave Guertin, Sonja I and Guertin, Robert A 203 Pettaconsett Ave Lee, Kong M 22 Powhatan St Abatiello, Joseph and Abatiello, Anthony 23 Gibbons Ave Greenless, Dennis 24 Valleybrook Dr Jacobsen, Scott M and Jacobsen, Kara L 255 Pierce Ave Adams, Kyle D 26 Atlantic Ave Santaniello, Dirk 27 Bank St Gleitsman, Martin 28 Tarleton St Callen, Craig 30 Lisa Ln Elias, Jay M and Elias, Lori R

Lundy, Robert H

Greco Jr, David and Greco, Denise A

7 Winfield Rd

8 Arnold Dr

30 Okinawa Ave

321 Hoxsie Ave

335 Natick Ave

3399 Post Rd Lot 9

35 Shadbush Rd

Gavin, Ryan T and Gibson, Anna \$400,000 11/15 Medina, Genevieve 11/14 \$360,000 Celtic Roman Grp LLC 11/15 \$307.555 Ewaszko, Nathan S 11/15 \$368,650 Galvin, Marcus A \$425,000 11/18 Dolloff, Ronald and Dolloff, Melissa 11/14 \$440,000 Martinez, Onelissa \$370,000 11/13 Katzir, Yuval and Blackwell, Dayna 11/15 \$442,500 Bross, Dylan 11/14 \$370,000 Elias, Jay M and Elias, Lori R 11/19 \$699,000 Bovill, James M 11/14 \$260,000 Pamphile, Asnack and Pamphile, Marie 11/19 \$510,000 Johnson, Brian K 11/13 \$339,900 Brown, Jean M 11/15 \$320,000 Totten, Jason and Totten, Cheryle L 11/19 \$182,000 Matthews, Lisa B 11/14 \$779,900 Hebb 2nd, John and Morey, Mariah 11/14 \$380,000 Castner, Jake and Castner, Kristin 11/18 \$305,000 Three Sisters Historic LL \$405,000 11/18 Garcia Chonay, Claudio D and Lopez Franco, Agustina D 11/18 \$200,000 Stephen A Cardi RET and Pisaturo, Lisa D 11/18 \$1,012,500 11/19 \$345,000 Swanson, James J Lacey, Alexander and Barbosa, Holly 11/15 \$420,000 Santos Jr. Charles E 11/15 \$430,000 Groccia, Stephanie A \$305,000 11/15 Diaboula, Ibrahima and Diawara, Bintou 11/18 \$535,000

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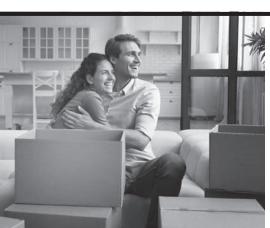
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Khan, Daniel

Bassett, Gregory A

Mauricio, Nicholas J and Mauricio, Megan M

Veyera, Bryan and Bilotti, Laura

Jordan, Travis E

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Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Lexie

Are you looking for a smart, active new best friend? Well, Lexie is looking for you too! This gorgeous tri-color mixed breed with the prettiest eyes is hoping to steal your heart! First things first, she will need a 6 foot fenced in yard, like we said she's active but also inquisitive, that Hound nose keeps her busy. So, if you have the yard then please keep reading! Lexie is two years old and on the smaller size, she also likes other dogs and loves people! Her energy and funloving temperament will keep your heart filled with joy and laughter. She might even like agility or group training classes, she'd surely be the top of her class! Don't miss out on Lexie, once you meet her you will fall in love, we promise! Please contact Friends of Homeless Animals via their website http://www.fohari.org

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at

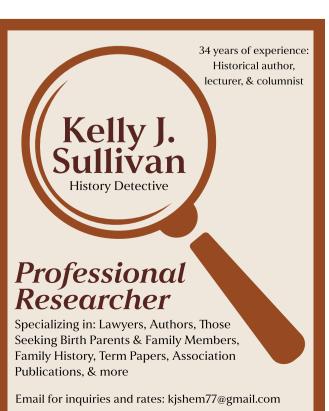
animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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'Hamilton' soars once again at PPAC

Nathan Haydel, Tyler Fauntleroy, Jared Howelton, Elvie Ellis and Company in Hamilton at Providence Performing Arts Center. (Photo by Joan Marcus from ppacri.org)

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Tickets have been selling like hotcakes at the Providence Performing Arts Center for the third time around for "Hamilton."

I saw it for the third time and loved it!

The cast was as good as I've seen, with Tyler Fauntleroy lighting up the stage as Alexander Hamilton.

Replacing the staging from "A Christmas Carol" with the intricate staging for the musical was accomplished in record time, allowing for the fabulous choreography and smooth movement from one scene to the next.

Most impressive was the clear sound system which allowed you to catch every word, even in the fast-paced rap

It was obvious that many people in the audience had seen the show before and were familiar with the lyrics, which are about as clever as you will find in any Broadway musical.

If you can catch a ticket, you still have this weekend to enjoy this fabulous musical.

Tickets are available at www.ppacri.org/events.

Anchor Seafood reopens under new ownership

By DON FOWLER

Remember when there was a fish 'n' chips place on nearly every block?

They started disappearing when the Pope changed his mind on No Meat Fridays and then again when the price of fish matched that of steak.

Anchor Seafood was our go-to place for the Friday take-out. Its location at 641 Warwick Ave., Warwick was close enough to get the fish home while it was still hot.

Nearby Cranston and Warwick seafood lovers will be happy to learn that Anchor Seafood has opened under new ownership, and it is brighter and better than ever.

There are now a couple of tables if you wish to eat in. The place has been painted and the display cases and lobster bins are all new.

The best news is that the seafood is fresh and tasty, offering a large assortment of cooked and uncooked delicacies from the sea.

Last Friday we enjoyed a large, perfectly cooked order of fish 'n' chips, reasonably priced at \$15.99.



Anchor Seafood offers fish 'n' chips on Wednesdays and Fridays. (Photo from anchorseafood-ri.com)

This week they prepared a fisherman's plate, with sea scallops, fish, shrimp, squid and squid over French Fries for \$18.99.

Anchor serves the squid whole. It looks like half an eggshell. Joyce prefers it cut in small rings, but I enjoyed it that way.

Anchor has the usual "starters," including crab cakes, calamari, and a variety of shrimp apps, ranging from \$9 to \$11.

Under Fresh Catch preparation they offer Sea Scallops, (\$20.99) Organic Salmon (\$21.95) and Baked Stuffed Lobster (\$25.95).

There's more, from fish tacos to fish fingers, all colorfully displayed in their attractive brochure.

They are open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For takeout, call 781-

Warwick man had too many wives

The course of love doesn't always run smoothly; sometimes it branches off in all direction. On July 24, 1903, Herman Alfred Decker was taken into custody by a police detective at the Union Passenger Station in Providence. He was then turned over to the police chief of Warwick and held on a charge of living with one woman while married to another.

A telegraph operator employed by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Decker had met his most recent flame while stationed as operator of the signal tower at Centreville. Grace Esther Havens, the object of his affection, was a school teacher from Coventry and the niece of the station agent. Not long after he first laid eyes on her, the 27-year-old man proposed to the 21-year-old girl and she accepted.

On June 18, 1903, the couple went to Boston and were married. Because Decker's boss had lately transferred him to Adamsdale, Grace returned to her parents' home in Coventry and reunited with her husband at his new residence a few weeks later.

reunited with her husband at his new residence a few weeks later.

One day, while Grace was visiting her husband at the signal tower, she became overcome with confusion when another woman arrived and

introduced herself as Decker's wife.

The woman was 27-year-old Luella

Back in the Day



KELLY SULLIVAN

Alice Babcock, his legal spouse of 11 years and the mother of their 9-year-old daughter, Bertha.

Decker was arrested, charged and indicted for bigamous cohabitation. He pleaded not guilty and was incarcerated at the Kent County Jail when he was unable to come up with the \$2,000 bail. He was later found guilty by a jury and sentenced to serve 30 months at the Rhode Island State Prison in Cranston.

Prison in Cranston.

Decker's second marriage was invalid so Grace Havens had no legal binds to break. Luella Babcock secured a divorce. Sometime after his release from prison, Decker relocated to Indiana. There, on Nov. 29, 1919, he married 57-year-old Arvilla Cham-

bers. Employed as a tele-graph operator for the railroad, he died at the age of 44 on June 9, 1920 – only six months

after saying "I do" again.

Chambers outlived Decker by 19 years and was not laid by his side upon death. Her obituary referred to her first late husband – Frank Moyer, who had died in 1915 at the age of 53 – as her marriage partner and she was buried with him.

buried with him. Despite the nightmarish experience of discovering that her marriage was a sham and that her husband already had a wife, Grace Havens took another shot at marital unity. In 1909, she exchanged vows with Daniel Matteson. The following year, they were divorced and, in 1913, she hoped that the third time would be the charm when she married saw mill owner John Dorrance Blanchard. She and Blanchard settled into a home in Scituate with his 14-year-old daughter from a former marriage and her 3-year-old son and 8-month-old daughter fathered by Matteson.

Blanchard died in 1927. Grace Havens became a patient at the Rhode Island Hospital for Mental Diseases and remained there for several decades before passing away in 1962.

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

'60s Latin Pop legend José Feliciano performs 'Feliz Navidad' & more at The Park Theatre

By ROBERT DUGUAY

Since November, The Park Theatre & Event Center, located on 848 Park Ave. in Cranston, has been celebrating 100 years of business. There have been numerous events gracing the stage, including live concerts, stand-up comedy and other productions. For the music side of things, a variety of performances have taken place so far this month to ring in the holiday season. An upcoming example of this is the Puerto Rican singer-songwriter José Feliciano, who will be playing a wide-range of material at the theatre on December 20 at 8 p.m. People have probably heard his Christmas hit "Feliz Navidad" over the past few weeks either on the radio or while perusing through the aisles of department stores, so whoever attends should expect to hear that tune being performed in person along with Feliciano's other repertoire.

We had a talk about the creation of his hit song, exploring various styles of music, having a bilingual approach and what he loves most about the Christmas season.

Rob Duguay: You've been known to explore various styles of music with your material, which include Latin, blues, jazz, soul and rock. Do you credit this wideranging approach to the music you were exposed to while growing up in the cultural melting pot of New York City during the '50s and '60s?

José Feliciano: To a great extent, I do believe that's true. My experiences as a youngster in Puerto Rico were later enhanced by so many other cultures, people who embraced me and my family, while



JOSE FELICIANO

(Submitted photo by Susan Omilian Feliciano)

living in New York. Good people, all so willing to share their food and their music with us. We feasted in that way.

RD: It's really cool that you grew up in that environment. Your most well-known song is the Christmas tune "Feliz Navidad", which you wrote in a studio in Los Angeles while feeling homesick and missing your family in New York City. The song gets nonstop radioplay all over the

world during this time of year, so what are your thoughts on its lasting impact on the holiday season?

JF: Well actually, I wrote it in our home in Orange County while my producer and I were assembling the song list for a Christmas LP for RCA [Records]. Rick Jarrard had recommended that I write "a new song" for the album but I immediately felt it to be impossible to try to measure up to

the works of Irving Berlin or Brenda Lee. Rick insisted I give it a try so I noodled around a bit with my guitar, thinking about our Christmases in Puerto Rico and later in New York City. You know, each have their own unique traditions and I missed that as an adult in California. I spontaneously came up with a lyric, but I told Rick it was too simple.

He disagreed with me and he was so right, we always laughed about that.

RD: That's a really cool story. What would you say is your favorite aspect of Christmas, is it the exchanging of gifts, spending time with family and loved ones, eating delicious food or is it something

JF: It's all that, sure, but it's definitely the birth of Jesus that takes center stage in our house from Christmas through King's

RD: You've released over 50 albums in your career in both the English and Spanish language, so do you feel that this bilingual approach is your way of honoring your cultural heritage or is it something else?

JF: It's really just who I am as an artist but also, really, as a person. I'm a Puerto Rican American who's been blessed to travel around the world sharing my music along the way so it's all become part of

RD: It's been a few years since you released your last full-length album "Behind This Guitar" back in 2020, so can we expect a new album from you at some point next

JF: We'll have to wait and see!

AVON

Flow

(Animated Allegorical Gem)

This beautiful Golden Globe nominee for Best Animated Feature will warm your heart.

With a beautiful score, clever drawings, no dialogue and a story that has a message of community, sharing, love, survival, trust, and all those positive ingredients, "Flow" will get you in the Christmas spirit.

For an hour and a half, you will follow the journey of a cat as he survives a devastating flood. Along the way he teams up with a capybara, lemur, birds and dog as they navigate a boat through dangerous waters in search of dry

Trust, courage and wits help them survive their danger-

The movie is also on Amazon Prime, but see it at Avon, where the weekend audience clapped as the credits played on the big screen.

WARWICK SHOWCASE

QUEER

(Surrealistic, Boring, Confusing)

Daniel Craig has been making the talk show circuit to promote his new movie and prove he can play more than

American expatriate William Lee is about as far away from Bond as you can get.

The aging homosexual has settled in a gay community in Mexico City where he searches high and low for a younger partner, settling in on a reluctant man who finally succumbed to him. Act 1 features the two of them drinking, smoking, and

engaging in boring conversation. Act 2 finds them on a trip to South America where Lee

becomes ill in his search of a psychedelic drug.

Act 3 finds the couple deep in the jungle where they experiment with the drug with strange results.

The epilogue occurs two years later with Lee returning to Mexico City searching for his lover and ending in dire

Many critics raved about this movie and Craig's performance. I found it to be a confusing bore.

Rated R with some mostly discrete sexual scenes, and lots of smoking Camels and drinking everything in sight.



NETFLIX

MARIA

(Last Years of Maria Callas)

Angelina Jolie stars as opera diva Maria Callas as she struggles with overmedication, loss of her voice and skeletons in her closet.

At 53 years of age she no longer sings and lives a reclusive life in Paris with her butler and housekeeper, her only

Flashbacks show her affair with Aristotle Onassis and

encounter with President Kennedy as she shares some intimate details with a filmmaker.

If you are an opera fan you will enjoy the many arias heard throughout the movie and the scenes of the great opera houses and streets of Paris.

Jolie is terrific as she struggles with her health, past indulgences and present desire to regain her voice.

She could be a cold diva at times, but her relationship with her two servants/companions had a certain kindness showing through.

The movie is beautifully filmed and acted, with Jolie mixing her voice at times with Callas recordings.



Angelina Jolie stars as Maria Callas in the new Netflix film from Pablo Larraín. (Photo courtesy of Netflix)

Sentimental at Christmas

found myself unusually sentimental. Listening to some of my favorite hymns about the birth of Jesus like "Away in a Manger," "Mary, Did You Know," and "Breath of Heaven"—gives me goosebumps and tugs at my heartstrings. For years, I took Christmas for granted, seeing it as a joyful season for visiting friends and family and indulging in my favorite activity: shopping for thrifty, personal, thoughtful gifts for my ever expanding family. The season has always felt like one big, festive party—until this week, when a wave of unexpected emotion has completely overtaken me.

We celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ, a real, live birth of an infant to a young teenage girl married to a husband who accepts that she is still a Virgin. I did know that Mary and Joseph were poor, but that was the extent of my knowledge. I have since learned that Christ was not born on December 25, or even in the winter, because the shepherds would not have been in the field watching over their flocks until springtime. It appears that in the fourth century, the Roman Catholic Church the birth, as it's unlikely Joseph cluding James, Joseph, Simon, and

his Christmas season, I've decided to celebrate his birthday on December 25 because that was the same day that Rome celebrated the winter solstice, which was when the pagans celebrated the birth of their gods. It also appears that Joseph may not have been a carpenter because most of the homes and buildings were made out of stone, not wood. Because of the massive construction projects, it is more likely that Joseph worked in the quarry.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a town considered one of the least significant during that time, underscoring the humility of his birth. Contrary to the traditional image of a stable, the Gospel account mentions there was no room for him in the "inn." However, the Greek word used refers to a "guest chamber," not a public inn. It's more likely that Jesus was born in the home of relatives in Bethlehem. With no space in the guest room, they may have stayed in a lower room where animals were typically sheltered at night. On this occasion, the animals were likely absent, and Mary placed Jesus in a feeding trough lined with clean straw for his bed. Female relatives probably assisted with

Life Matters



with Linda Petersen

possessed the necessary skills.

The wise men were likely astrologers who specialized in interpreting dreams and studying the stars. When they observed a bright star in the sky, they reportedly embarked on a journey of over 1,000 miles, traveling by camel caravan to find Jesus. By the time they arrived, Jesus would have been a toddler rather than a new-

The name Jesus was as common in his time as names like Joseph, reflecting his humble and ordinary beginnings. In Hebrew, his name was Yeshua, which translates to Joshua in English, emphasizing his humanity. Jesus was not an only child; he had siblings, indark hair, features that sadly continue to be the target of prejudice in today's world.

Discovering the historical context of Christmas has only deepened my appreciation for it. Rather than an improbable tale of Christ being born in a stable among unclean animals, with Mary left to fend for herself, the story reveals a more heartwarming scenario. They were likely staying in the home of a relative

Judas. He likely had dark skin and who offered them a warm and welcoming place for the birth. Understanding the more realistic depiction of Christ's birth has, surprisingly, made me feel closer to Him than ever before. He isn't a fictional character in a moral fable He was a real, living baby, born to loving parents in humble circumstances. It's His humanity, His very normalness, that makes Him so extraordinary and deeply relat-

Holiday Concert Sunday at Edgewood Church

By DON FOWLER

The Annual Edgewood Congregational Church Holiday Concert will be held this Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m. at the church, located at 1788 Broad St. in Cranston.

Members of the community are invited to an hour of Christmas and holiday music featuring local talent from the church, community and the School of Rock. The concert is free, but non-perishable and monetary donations will

be collected to benefit the Edgewood-Pawtuxet Food Closet at the

Transfiguration Church. Snacks and beverages will be served following the concert.

Come share the holiday spirit. All are invited.

Looking to get some last-minute gifts? Stop by the 'Holiday Sip & Shop' at Proclamation

By ROBERT DUGUAY

Around the holidays, there are usually three kinds of people. There's the types who purchase gifts for friends, relatives and loved ones way in advance to get it out of the way so they can focus on other things. There's the sadists, masochists and psychos who either camp or sleep in their car outside of the department store of their choice on Black Friday. Then there's the people who wait until the literal last minute to get their gift shopping done, which has its pros and cons. The obvious cons are the stress that comes with the situation, the limited amount of time and the majority of great deals ceasing to be, but the pros are that there are still some cool events happening in the area to solve these problems. One example is the "Holiday Sip & Shop", which is going to be happening at the Proclamation Ale Company on 298 Kilvert Street in Warwick from 5-8pm on Dec. 20.

For the event, the folks at Proclamation are teaming up with the collaborative Juicy Market PVD, which has been putting on markets with all sorts of vendors since 2021. This is the second edition with the first one taking place on November 22, and everyone involved is excited to give creative businesses from around the area an opportunity to shine in a really cool setting.

"We have always tried to find ways to support other local businesses and organizations, whether it be through donation drives, fundraisers, or events," says Proclamation Owner & Creative Director Lori Witham. "We have loved working with Juicy Market the last couple of years because it connects our patrons directly with the artisans that are set up inside of the



Proclamation Ale Company is located at 298 Kilvert Street in Warwick. (Submitted photo)

taproom. It is the perfect way to shop while enjoying a Rhode Island made beer and some tasty food from a local food truck!"

Juicy Market PVD was originally founded by both Gretchen Lizarda and Monica Martin, who were both vendors themselves before starting the organization. Their market events have been fixtures at various breweries around the area, including Pivotal Brewing Company in Bristol,

Newport Craft Brewing & Distilling, and Apponaug Brewing Company, which is also in Warwick.

"This festive evening will feature eight local artisans showcasing their handmade goods, from one-of-a-kind gifts to seasonal treasures crafted with care and creativity," both Lizarda and Martin collectively say about the "Holiday Sip & Shop". "Plus, Teddi's Food Truck will be on-site serving

up delicious eats to keep you fueled while you shop! Bring your friends and family to shop small, sip on Proclamation's delicious craft brews, and enjoy the holiday spirit. There will also be face painting for the little ones, making this a fun event for all ages. Celebrate the talent, passion, and hard work of local makers, and help keep small businesses thriving this holiday season!"

Those artisans are Elevninteen, which will be having various crochet plushies available, as well as Equals Me LLC, who have unique shimmering candles with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the Autism Society. MissMarissDesigns is going to be selling handmade jewelry and trinkets while Bijoux x Brie are certified permanent jewelry artists who specialize in custom jewelry. For folks who dig vintage, Mettle & Mirth has exactly what they're looking for, and Erika Dillon Design will have aesthetically pleasing crochets and illustrations. Revibedvinyl have repurposed vinyl records that have been made into ashtrays and other objects and last but not least, Into The Woods is going to be selling home decor, jewelry, kitchen gadgets and a whole lot more. Like I mentioned earlier, if you're one of those people who have a habit of waiting until the last minute to buy gifts for the holidays, then this upcoming event at Proclamation is an ideal way to get some of that shopping

For more information on Proclamation's beer list, the story behind the brewery and everything else, log onto proclamationale. con. To know more about what Juicy Market PVD is all about along with what they have going on in the future, check out juicymarketpvd.com.



Maria Cimini serves as director of the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging. (Submitted photo)



Jennifer Kevorkian, director of social services at the Cranston Enrichment Senior Center, said accepting (and asking for) help is one of the biggest things caregivers can do to take care of themselves. (Beacon Media photo by Geoff Decker)



Erica Collins is activities coordinator at Hope Alzheimer's Center in Cranston. (Beacon Media photo by Geoff Decker)



Caroline Johnson, a retired hospital chaplain, who supports caregivers and their loved ones, says one of the best ways to help caregivers is simply to listen. "I can't fix it, but I can listen. That's a huge gift."

(Submitted photo)

■ Caregivers (Continued from page 17)

Adjust Expectations

"Focus on what's good for your loved one, not being the 'hostess with the mostest," Boyle adds. Creating joy in small moments can replace the pressure of achieving perfection.

Ask for Help

Erica Collins, activities coordinator at Hope Alzheimer's Center in Cranston, says that men in particular struggle as caregivers to ask for help. "They don't want to burden their family, or they want to shield their partner from friends and family."

Collins says that during the holidays, less is more. Instead of going to all seven of the holiday parties and dinners, pick one or two. Avoid the ones that will be the most stimulating.

If there's a party that you really want to go to, ask someone to come give you respite for a couple of hours. "It's okay to ask for help," Collins says.

In addition to adult day care programs, the state office of health aging offers to connect people to CareBreaks, a low-cost service for residents providing unpaid caregivers a short-term break from their daily responsibilities.

'So many joys within this disease.'

In March, Tom Boyle passed away from Alzheimer's at age 72. Reflecting on her journey as a caregiver, Helen prefers to think of the "beautiful moments" they shared; quiet times looking through photo albums a trip to Ireland less than two years after his diagnosis. "There are so many joys within this disease that became evident to me."

She looks back and sees her experience as a caregiver as a privilege. "I say to caregivers, be good to yourself. Treat yourself to a cup of tea or a walk, because you have to be healthy to be a good caregiver."

Supporting Immigrant Communities

Gloribi Pastor, program director at Edgewood Adult Day Healthcare, notes that language barriers often prevent immigrant families from accessing caregiving resources. "We need more education in Spanish about dementia and its early signs," she says, emphasizing the impor-



Tom and Helen Boyle in Limerick, Ireland in 2019, almost two years into his disease. (Submitted photo)

tance of outreach to non-English-speaking populations.

Cimini estimates that 15% of Rhode Islanders over 65 speak a language other than English at home. Efforts are underway to expand multilingual resources and support

Types of Caregiver Support

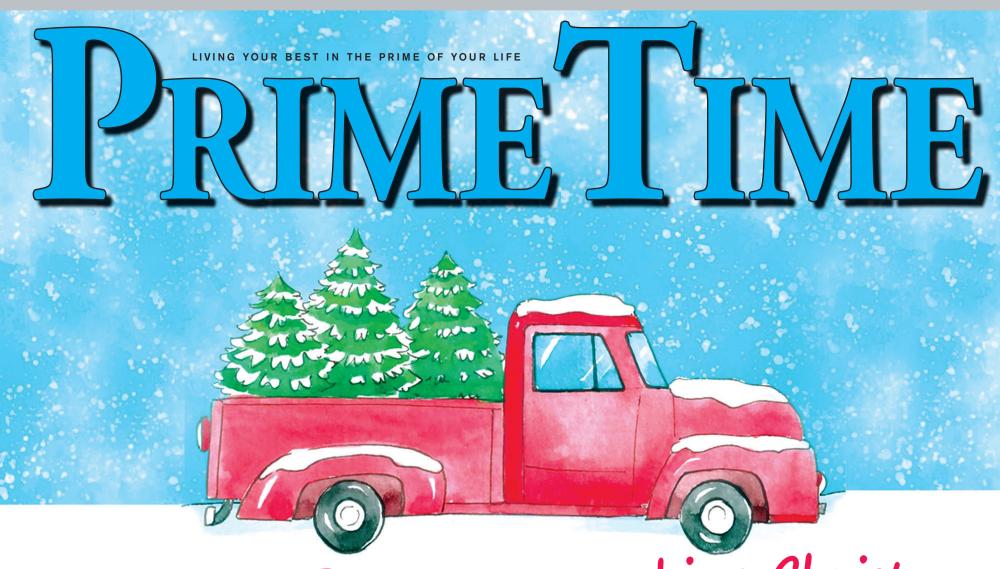
- Respite care services: Organizations like Cranston Adult Day Services and the Hope Alzheimer's Center can provide temporary care for the patient, allowing the caregiver to take a much-needed break.
- **Support groups:** Connecting with other caregivers, either in-person or online, can provide emotional support and practical tips for managing stress.
- Counseling/therapy: Having a professional counselor or therapist to talk to can be invaluable for caregivers to process their feelings and find healthy coping mechanisms.
- **Spiritual/religious support:** Reaching out to a pastor, chaplain, or other spiritual leader can provide comfort and guidance for caregivers.
 - Delegating tasks: Asking family and friends to help with holiday preparations,
- meals, or visits can lighten the caregiver's load.

 Prioritizing self-care: Making time for activities that recharge the caregiver, even if

RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

just 15-20 minutes a day, is crucial.

- ➤ The Point (401-462-4444): Connects caregivers to local services and can help you understand temporary caregivers insurance (TCI).
- ➤ Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (1-800-272-3900): Offers support and information.
- ➤ Hope Alzheimer's Center (25 Brayton Ave, Cranston): Affordable day programs and respite care.
- ➤ Memory Kits at Cranston Libraries: Themed activities designed to spark conversations and memories.
- ➤ Village Commons: Volunteer-led chapters supporting older adults with errands, rides, and social visits. The goal is to "help older adults stay in their homes," said Michael Fournier, who belongs to the Edgewood Village in Cranston. (A Warwick chapter will start in early 2025.)
- ➤ Cranston Adult Day Services: A part of the Cranston Senior Center, adult day services provides care and companionship for participants and respite for caregivers through a variety of health, social and rehabilitative programs in a protective setting.



Christmas Trees Over the Years



RETIREMENT SPARKS by ELAINE M. DECKER

decade ago I wrote an essay about un-trimming my Christmas tree. Back then I had a live tree and themed party where my guests actually did trim the tree. There was a Teddy Bears' Christmas trim, a Scented one, a Cozy Slippers trim and many more. My chance to appreciate the ornaments was when I took the tree down each year. It was always a time to renew acquaintances with old friends—both ornamental and human.

I now have three artificial trees, so I don't hear that telltale "Plink!" when the needles start dropping, letting me know it's time to take them down. That sound used to herald an evening of cherished memories. I no longer have holiday parties, so I can put the trees up in early November and take them down in late February. That timetable makes a lot of sense when you consider it takes me two weeks to do all that trimming on my own and at least that long to take the trees down.

You may wonder how I went from one live tree with themed parties to three fake ones and a solitary job of decorating them each year. It's the inevitable result of retiring and growing old. Once I stopped working, my circle of guests diminished significantly. In an effort to get my husband to slow down, I moved us to a condo-type community about two hours from his store in Providence. At the same time, we reached an age where we simply couldn't handle the weight of a live tree. Sadly, I switched to an artificial one.

DECKER - continued next page

Unpacking Christmas Memories



MY MEMOIRS by SUSAN DEAN

s I sit here in the quiet of a fading afternoon, the last muted rays of the winter sun creep through the living room windows. The western sky begins to darken as the deep purple and orange colors recede and shadows take over.

Another holiday season is in full swing and another new year will soon begin. What do I notice? What do I feel? What do I know?

It's incredibly quiet. The Christmas tree is lit - colored lights this year. My husband, Dave, likes multi-colored tree lights. I prefer the simplicity of white. So we alternate each year - one of the many compromises of marriage. But as I look at this brightly lit tree I'm reminded that Dave has brought color into my life. I'm the staid and quieter one - he is most definitely more adventurous, more out-going, more...colorful.

I sometimes compare my tree to others displayed in stores or in magazines. My tree never

seems to measure up in terms of glitz and modern decorating trends. But as I notice now, sitting here in these moments of quiet solitude, I see the counted cross-stitched and embroidered ornaments I made for my three daughters - dated 1983 and 1985. There's the winter scene painted on the wooden half-circle that my middle daughter, Joy, made in 1991 when she was in fourth grade. And the silver circle decorated by my youngest, Gretchen, which has her school picture glued at its center, made that same year, 1991, when she was a proud first-grader. And the delicate ballerina angel that represents my oldest daughter, Rachel, and her earliest years in dance.

DEAN - contiued next page

Give the Gift of Plants

GARDENING

by CHARLIE NARDOZZI

It's the holiday season, and for the gardener in the family the gift of choice often is a holiday plant. Over the years I've given and received my share of poinsettias, amaryllis, and Christmas cacti as gifts this time of year. While these colorful indoor plants are standards, this year why not push the envelope a bit when buying a holiday plant.

Here are some unusual holiday plants that should be available at your local garden center

Miniature Roses. These diminutive roses produce flowers for weeks in a wide range of colors on plants that grow 5 inches to 3 feet tall, depending on the variety. Even though they won't flower all winter without artificial lighting, they are worth saving until spring. Keep the plants humid by periodically misting the foliage and placing pots on pebble trays filled with water. In spring move them outdoors and they'll flower all summer.

Edible Plants. The holidays are known for eating. Why not contribute to the food parade by giving a gift of a perennial herb, such as rosemary, or an attractive edible, such as dwarf peppers? Rosemary plants grow best in bright light. Mist them periodically throughout the winter and water just enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Once the threat of frost has passed in spring, transplant rosemary into a window box, container, or herb garden.

Ornamental Christmas peppers, such as 'Riot', grow on compact 1-foot-tall plants that feature yellow, orange, and red edible fruits. In spring when the fruits have dried up, cut back the plant dramatically and plant it outdoors. Water and fertilize it well and it will revive to flower and fruit again.

Moth Orchid. One of the trendiest houseplants is a moth orchid (Phalaenopsis). This is the easiest type of orchid to grow indoors. There are many different colors of flowers, and the plants only require bright, indirect light and normal room temperatures to thrive. The flowers

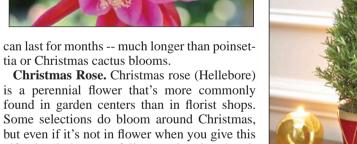


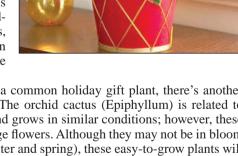
can last for months -- much longer than poinset-

gift, the dark green foliage makes it a handsome choice. As soon as the ground thaws, plant your hellebore in a partly shaded spot on well-drained soil and your holiday gift will be enjoyed for years.

Orchid Cactus. While Christmas cactus is a common holiday gift plant, there's another type of cactus that's even more flamboyant. The orchid cactus (Epiphyllum) is related to the Christmas cactus (neither are true cacti) and grows in similar conditions; however, these plants produce large, flat, fleshy leaves and huge flowers. Although they may not be in bloom at the holidays (they tend to bloom later in winter and spring), these easy-to-grow plants will still wow your friends with the 6-inch-long, colorful, orchid-shaped blooms.

Charlie Nardozzi, a nationally recognized garden writer, book author, speaker and radio and television personality, has appeared on HGTV, PBS and Discovery Channel television networks.





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Christmases of Years Gone By...

yLike most people, Christmas and New Years Day evoke vivid childhood memories for me. Join me in the time machine and revisit holidays of years long past. You can even hum a few bars of Auld Lang Syne as we flash back through the ages.

One of my most distinct memories involves opening the doors to the living room. They had been closed in late fall to preserve heat. For the holiday season, the living room became the center of our celebrations. We would stencil Glass Wax Christmas trees, wreaths, Santa Claus, and reindeers on the living room glass doors and the windows with white images of angels, wreaths, Santa Claus, snowflakes, and

There was always a trip to the Farmer's Market near the Providence Place Mall to buy the tree. One year, we paid the princely sum of seven dollars for our Yuletide evergreen. When the tree was properly secured, it was illuminated with multi-colored bulbs (after untangling from an intricate ball), hang the thin-metal hand-painted ornaments, wrap gold or silver garlands around the tree, throw on a generous amount of silver tinsel, and drop cotton balls to simulate snowfall. My train set, complete with a bridge, railroad crossing sign, and a Lincoln Log cabin with an incense spike in the chimney sat under the tree. I can still smell the pine scent. And there was always the slow drive along downcity's Westminster Street to marvel at the department store decorations and a ride to Cranston's Garden City to see the



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MY SIDE OF THINGS by LARRY GRIMALDI

King-Kong-sized Santa Claus beckoning you to spend your Christmas Club funds.

Before Midnight Mass, we celebrated the Italian tradition known as the Feast of the Seven Fishes (La Virgilia). Delicacies such as bacala (prepared in a salad and or in a red gravy), eels (fried or marinated), squid, smelts, spaghetti cooked in garlic and olive oil, etc. sent a confluence of exotic and enticing aromas drifting through the house. The Christmas Eve meal was, and still is, my favorite holiday feast. Over the years, we have varied the menu, but my Irish-French wife has graciously adopted the tradition.

At different times, I served as an altar boy and choir member at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. The grand pageantry of a two-hour Midnight Mass, was presided over by the Most Reverend Russell J. McVinney. The glorious sounds of one of the world's largest organs, blended perfectly with a magnificent choir conducted by musical genius C. Alexander Peloquin, enveloped the church. Peloquin was known worldwide for writing ecclesiastical hymns performed worldwide, including the Vatican.

Christmas Day was not the gift-giving extravaganza that it is today. We opened a few gifts (and maybe some sox or a sweater) that out parents could afford. They did not have big post-Christmas credit card bills because they didn't have credit cards. After the gift exchange and a Christmas breakfast, the rest of the day was spent with our relatives at a large family gathering.

After the food and festivities of Christmas, New Years Eve was ani-climactic When I was younger, the tradition was listening to Guy Lombardo's Band and watching the ball drop

in Times Square. As I became a little older, we listened to Dick Clark's New Years Eve to the music of our generation.

On New Years Day, before the customary trek to our relative's homes, my mother would prepare homemade macaroni (we called them cavatis). It was a rare, delicious treat. Many Italian families served lentil soup New Years Day as an offering to the Fates for a good year. I can't remember my family observing this ritual; but it didn't bother me because, even today, I don't like lentils. I realize that other cultures and ethnic groups have other New Years Day traditions; but I didn't learn about them until I was older. Of course, there was the steady diet of New Years Day football bowl games.

We knew that soon after New Years Day the Christmas decorations would be taken down and stored, the stencils would be wiped clean, and that holiday mood of anticipation would disappear. We also realized that we would be returning to school on January 2. (My late Uncle Mike teased us by referring to this as the Zero Hour).

Take a few moments to remember your family's holiday traditions. Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New

WHY IS THAT: In those bygone days we didn't join that 5:00 a.m. posse at local malls in the mass mayhem know as Black Friday?

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Larry and his wife Kathy are co-authors of "Wandering Across America," a chronicle of their cross-country road trip, and "Cooking with Mammie," a collection of family recipes prepared with their grandchildren. He has also written the column anthologies "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter, Volumes I & II." Columns reissued in these books are used with the permission of Beacon Communications. For more information, or comments, e-mail <u>lvgrimaldi49@</u>

■ DECKER

That explains half of the transition. But how did I wind up with three trees? That happened in two steps. The first artificial tree was seven feet tall. That seemed to be a good size, but it was dwarfed by the high ceilings in our new living room. The next year, I succumbed to the Balsam Hill commercials on Hallmark's Rom Com channels. Their nine feet tall tree is perfect. The seven feet tall one was relocated to our enclosed porch.

By now you're probably wondering: "What about that third tree?" And: "How do I decide what ornaments to put on which tree?" The answers to both questions are intertwined and they afford me the opportunity to explain my decorating themes.

The third tree goes in our family room. It belongs to our cats, with animals and items a cat would like to see. There are cat ballerinas, angels and fairies and even hobo cats. There are white mice, many in red felt outfits, a fluffy-tailed squirrel and some birds. More unexpected are the tiny knitted socks and mittens and the miniature funky sweaters. Our cats are very senior now, so we don't worry about them trashing things. They like to curl up under the trees on the quilted skirts that cover the stands. If the ornaments get disturbed, it's usually by accident.

What will you see on the large living room tree? That has a lot of hand made crafts, especially blown glass balls, as well as stained glass and pottery stars and hand-etched gourds. But its real claim to fame is all the funky animals. A diligent guest will find several zebras, ostriches, and a flamingo. There's also lots of elephants, giraffes and a frog or two. I'm sure I'm forgetting some other exotic animals. Several are playing saxophones, by the way.

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The tree on the enclosed porch is the stateliest. It's decorated with white china and metallic ornaments, as well as clear glass and crystal ones. A Coalport china bell and lantern were gifts from my former significant other. He's no longer with us, but his memory lives on in those two ornaments. I have nine silver snowflakes that my father gave me from the Metropolitan Museum, one for every year from 1976 thru 1984. They ended the Christmas after he died. When I touch those snowflakes, it's as though I'm still touching a small piece of him, too.

As I put each ornament on one of the trees, I think of the person or place it came from. Those memories trigger others, often having nothing to do with Christmas. Not all are happy ones, but all are treasured. When I take the ornaments off the trees and carefully wrap each in tissue, I get to savor them a second time. I miss having my friends help trim the trees, but I'm grateful for all the time I now spend with my Christmas treasures and my many years of wonderful memories.

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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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■ DEAN

Then I see the ornaments meaningful to both Dave and me commemorating the places we've visited. The cruise we took to the Caribbean in 2002, the road trip to Gettysburg in 2006, and the biking vacation in Ireland in 2007. The one where we forgot to check the fine print and found out when we got there that it was their most challenging itinerary and recommended for "Very Experienced Bikers". Sometimes the only thing to do was hop off our bikes and hike with them up the hills in the Ring of Kerry. Dave and I always chuckle at that memory as we hang that ornament on the tree every year.

We did another biking trip in 2017 - this time in Italy. We made sure we checked the skill level before signing up - moderate sounded doable. Except we were ten years older this time around, so doable, yes, but still not easy cycling up and down narrow mountain roads. But the ornament from Italy makes me smile as I remember that special week.

I see the ornament from Concord, Massachusetts - a place that was a favorite of Dave's brother, Bill, who passed away two years ago. We usually visited Concord at least twice a year with Dave's family to hike and bike, and often stayed overnight to enjoy a weekend together. Such fond memories from those days.

The ornament from the Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport reminds me of the dear friends we've made on the tennis courts through the years and also our fun at tennis camp in New Hampshire every summer.

The Cape Cod seashell hanging from a ribbon represents the many summer weeklong stays and October weekends I spent on the Cape with my friend, Deb, through the years of our long-time friendship.

I see the hand-painted tiny wooden sled given to me by my first principal in the elementary school where I began my career as a speech pathologist in 1992.

There are several ornaments from Rough Point in Newport, where I began as a summer tour guide in 2002 and where I still work now in retirement. Rough Point is where I met so many wonderful people who

are now life-long friends.

The tiny painted loon brings up memories of my summers up in Bridgton, Maine with my mother's family. The miniature trombone, violin, and piano remind me of the musicians in my father's family and also represent my own connection to and love of music.

As I shift my gaze, the stockings I made for my three girls as each was born catch my eye. They're faded and worn now, and some might say out-dated and silly to still display since my daughters all have their own homes and children of their own, but I love seeing them hanging above the fireplace.

I see the wired ribbon - cranberry and deep green that I've twisted into bows around light fixtures and candle holders, the angels everywhere, and the collection of tiny figurines - bears and mice next to miniature books of Christmas stories - as if they're getting ready for their long winter's nap. My copies of "The Night Before Christmas" and "The Polar Express" sit next to the fireplace. Nutcrackers stand guard on windowsills, in corners, and on the staircase. Bells on doorknobs make the house jingle and also make my grandchildren smile.

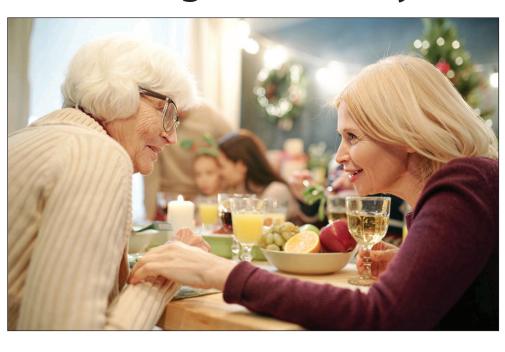
And there's a snow globe, too, from 2000 - the year Dave and I were married. It still plays "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with its sweet, soft chimes.

My tastes are quaint, I guess, and I've often wondered if I should reduce it, streamline it - go more modern as I often see in other homes. But maybe it's okay. Each year when I unpack these memories and spread them around the house or hang them on the tree I'm reminded of so many happy times, friends, and family. Times of laughter and love. What do I notice? Tangible reminders of my past and present. What do I feel? Gratitude and quiet peacefulness in my heart. What do I know? It's okay to be me. Someday, when I'm gone, maybe my children and grandchildren will unpack my memories and add them to their own. And maybe they'll have quiet moments, too, in the midst of the holidays in the dark days of winter, and smile as they remember the times when light filled their years.

www.ScandinavianCommunities.org

Warwick Beacon

Recognizing Signs of Aging During the Holidays



Tis the season when families come together frequently to attend parties and celebrations through the new year. It's important to take advantage of this opportunity to observe any concerning signs of aging in our elder loved ones.

It's normal for loved ones to experience some changes as they age and early intervention can make a huge difference; improving their quality of life, preventing further decline, and giving families peace of mind. Seeking professional help early could reduce the risk of serious health issues down the road.

Here are a few common signs:

Changes in Behavior

Is your loved one acting differently? Do they seem confused at times? Maybe they're agitated by simple questions or requests. Perhaps they're acting more distant or aloof. Pay attention to any mood changes while you spend time together over the holidays.

Any of these symptoms may indicate underlying concerns, from memory loss to issues with their physical health. It may be time to check in with a healthcare professional for an assessment.

Differences in Appearance

Does your loved one seem to be paying less attention to their clothing or hygiene? Have you noticed changes in weight or grooming?

They may be facing challenges due to mobility limitations, cognitive challenges, or depression. If a decline in these areas continues, it may be a sign that assistance is

Lack of Organization in the Home

Are there stacks of unopened mail or piles of papers spread around your loved one's home? Are there signs of clutter or a lack of basic upkeep around the house?

They may be overwhelmed by the tasks needed to maintain their living environment. Rather than let the situation worsen, help find ways to manage these everyday duties.

Medication Mismanagement

Taking medications consistently can be a challenge for any of us, but it is even more critical for seniors and older adults. It's important to pay attention to whether they're taking the right dose on the prescribed schedule.

While you spend time with elder loved ones this holiday, be on the lookout for warning signs like expired medications or mismatched pill counts and ask them about their routine and whether they are comfortable with the process.

Seeking Help

If you notice any of these signs, it may be time to seek assistance. Contact a Care Navigator at Saint Elizabeth Community. They'll listen to your concerns and help point you in the right direction so that you and your loved one access the services you need. A Care Navigator can connect you with local health-care providers and offer resources for home care or mental health support.

For more information or assistance, visit stelizabethcommunity.org.





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Dulce de Leche Crème Brûlée with Burnt Orange Sugar

with Burni Orange Sugar

(Makes 6 servings)
2 cans (12 fluid ounces each)
Evaporated Milk
3/4 cup packed brown

1/2 cup granulated sugar 2 large eggs

2 large egg yolks 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/4 cup granulated sugar 1 teaspoon thawed orange juice concentrate

2 pinches ground cayenne pepper

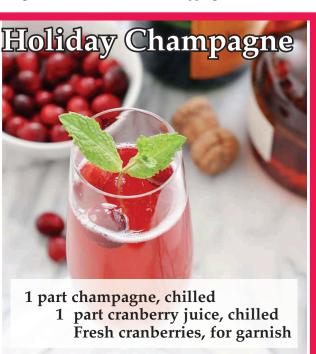
PREHEAT oven to 325° F. Place six 6-ounce ramekins or custard cups in 13 x 9-inch baking pan.



PLACE evaporated milk, brown sugar and granulated sugar in medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes or until sugars are dissolved. Beat eggs and egg yolks in medium bowl; gradually whisk milk mixture into eggs. Stir in vanilla extract. Pour mixture through a fine sieve into ramekins. Fill baking pan with hot water to 1-inch depth. Loosely cover pan with foil.

BAKE for 65 to 70 minutes or until gently set in the center. Remove to wire rack to cool slightly. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

PREHEAT broiler. Combine granulated sugar, concentrate and cayenne pepper in small bowl. Sprinkle each crème brûlee with heaping teaspoon of mixture. Broil for 1 to 3 minutes or until mixture has melted and caramelized (turned brown). Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until topping hardens.





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Reed-Backed BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act Clears Congress

There are currently 25,000 Rhode Islanders living with Alzheimer's disease, according to Brown University Health, and over 6 million Americans nationwide.

To help states effectively implement dementia interventions such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, and better support caregivers, the U.S. Senate today passed the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act (S.3775). This bipartisan bill, spearheaded by U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and cosponsored by U.S. Senator Jack Reed, reauthorizes the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L.115-406) and empowers public health departments across the country to implement effective dementia interventions in their communities.

The measure passed the U.S. House of Representatives in September, and now heads to President Biden's desk to be signed into law.

"Getting this bill across the finish line is a win for the 25,000 Rhode Islanders living with Alzheimer's, their adult children who work tirelessly as unpaid family caregivers, and for the health and economic needs of the next generation too. We must continue the progress we've made against Alzheimer's. We've got to find better treatments for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The federal government must do its part to reduce risk, detect early symptoms, and advance care while lifting the burden on unpaid caregivers," said Senator Reed, who is also a cosponsor of the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act.

One in three older Americans dies with dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Since the original BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act passed in 2018, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has been awarded \$3.4 million in BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act grants from the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). RIDOH has used the federal BOLD grant funds to help to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions, including boosting early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk, and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

Earlier this year, Senator Reed helped pass the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (AAIA), which President Joe Biden signed into law.

Alzheimer's costs the United States \$360 billion per year, including \$231 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid, according to the Alzheimer's Association, up \$15 billion over the previous year

As a member of the Appropriations subcommittee that oversees funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Senator Reed helped provide a \$275 million increase for Alzheimer's disease research in the fiscal vear 2025 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related Agencies Appropriations bill. In 2019, NIH awarded Brown University researchers, along with Boston-based Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL), over \$53 million in federal research funds to lead a nationwide effort to improve health care and quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as their caregivers.

Save for retirement now, get a tax credit later

YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

The Internal Revenue Service reminds low-and-moderate-income taxpayers that they can save for retirement now and possibly earn a tax credit in 2025 and future years. The Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, also known as the Saver's Credit, helps taxpay-

ers offset a portion of the first \$2,000 (\$4,000 if married filing jointly) they voluntarily contribute to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), 401(k) plans and similar workplace retirement The credit also helps eligible persons with a disability who are the designated beneficiary of an

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account and contributes to that account. For more information about ABLE accounts, see Publication 907, Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities, The maximum Saver's Credit is \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples). The credit can increase a taxpayer's refund or reduce the tax owed but is affected by other deductions and credits. Rollover

contributions do not qualify for the credit, and distributions from a retirement plan or ABLE account reduce the contribution amount used to figure the credit.

Who is eligible? Taxpayers can use the Interactive Tax Assistant tool for the Saver's Credit on IRS.gov to determine

Age 18 or older, not claimed as a dependent on another person's return, and not a full-time stu-

Furthermore, the Saver's Credit can be claimed by:

their eligibility. A taxpayer is eligible for the credit if they're:

Married couples filing jointly with adjusted gross incomes up to \$76,500. Heads of household with adjusted gross incomes up to \$57,375.

Married individuals filing separately and singles with adjusted gross incomes up to

Qualified surviving spouse filers.

Contribution deadlines Individuals with IRAs have until April 15, 2025 - the due date for filing their 2024 return - to set up a new IRA or add money to an existing IRA for 2024. Both Roth and traditional IRAs qualify. Individuals with workplace retirement plans still have time to make qualifying retirement contributions and possibly get the Saver's Credit on their 2024 tax return. Contributions to workplace retirement plans must be made by December 31 to a:

403(b) plan for employees of public schools and certain tax-exempt organizations.

Governmental 457 plan for state or local government employees.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) for federal employees.

Please. visit the Saver's Credit page on IRS.gov to learn about rules, contributions rates and credit limits.

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SPORTS

Rams deal Hawks opening night loss

Reyes' big outing not enough as Hendricken falls at home

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Warwick was buzzing on Tuesday night as the Bishop Hendricken basketball team hosted rival La Salle in its season opener. Despite a strong start for the Hawks, the Rams would take control in the second quarter and run away with the 83-

The Hawks led 25-21 after the first quarter, but the tide turned in the second as the Rams took advantage of Hendricken penalties – as well as a dominant rebounding effort – to mount a 45-31 halftime lead. The Hawks surged in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to five points with just over a minute left, but the Rams would control the final 60 seconds and walk out with

"We had some retaliation plays where some of our guys got frustrated. That led to technical fouls and direct points for La Salle. They went on a run because of our lack of composure. We knew it would be a crazy game and environment.

HAWKS - PAGE 32



LEADING SCORER: Hendricken's Jakob Reyes looks for space to work against La Salle. Reyes finished with 37 points. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

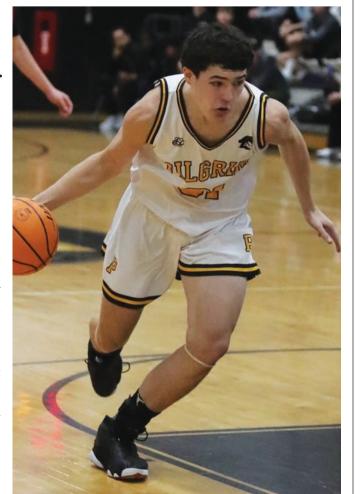


Special Guest

Boston Celtics coach and former Hendricken standout Joe Mazzulla was in town for Tuesday night's clash between the Hawks and rival La Salle Rams. Mazzulla enjoyed the action at his alma mater as the Celtics are in the thick of a home stand.

Athlete of the Week: Jack Bannon

The Warwick Beacon's Athlete of the Week is Pilgrim basketball player Jack Bannon. The Pats are off to a stellar start this season, picking up wins in their first three games including a pivotal league win against St. Ray's. Bannon has led the charge for Pilgrim the past two outings, scoring a combined 37 points in that span. (File photo by Mike Zawistoski)



Defending champs off to slow start

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The defending champion Toll Gate girls basketbal team has faced an uphill battle in the early going this winter and dropped to 0-2 on Monday night when it fell 41-16 to Exeter-West Greenwich. Addison Eddy led the Titans with seven points.

Toll Gate fell to visiting Burrillville 26-22 in the season opener last Friday night. Lyndsey Allen led Toll Gate with eight points, including a pair of 3's. Although the Titans fought back and climbed within three points with 20 seconds remaining, Burrillville would get a free throw to put the game out of reach.

The Titans are fresh off their Division III championship run but were bumped up to DII while graduating nearly their entire lineup. Returning senior Mary Mc-Nulty is set to be the leader for this young group as she emerged as a key piece to the team's title run last winter in the paint.

"She has to step up as a leader this year. We lost our whole starting lineup and we got moved up to Division II. We'll need her to lead," said Toll Gate coach Bob Enright, who is taking over for former coach Jim Areson.

With a new starting lineup, one that features players with little varsity experience, Enright and his staff are hoping to teach the fundamentals and stress tough defense while the offense finds its way. With McNulty up front, Allen on the outside and Eddy running the point, Enright sees some

"We have to start from the bottom, so we've been working on defense first. Lindsey Allen has a lot of talent and she's going to help us out. Mary is going to get her points, I want to try to free her up a bit. We need to shoot more on the



TIPPING OFF: Toll Gate's Mary McNulty (above) and Avry Dewar (below). (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



CHAMPS - PAGE 28

Pats roll to three straight wins

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Pilgrim boys basketball team is off to a strong start as it currently sits at 3-0. The Pats got an opening night win over East Providence before picking up wins against St. Ray's and Cathedral Prep.

The Pats had four players reach double figures against Cathedral Prep and were led by Dylan Vale with 20 points. Jack Bannon added 17 while Jayden Ames and Mike Bryson each scored 10.

Bannon led the team with 20 points in its win against the Saints and Carter Clifton added 10 points as well.

"The kids are playing hard, they're playing aggressive and they're playing up tempo. They're controlling the tempo

and changing defenses on the fly. The problems have been too many turnovers, too many bad decisions, too many easy misses. Layups and free throws. We have a lot to clean up but the kids are working hard and we're right where we want to be," said Pilgrim coach Sean Henseler.

With a strong veteran group and a healthy mix of young standouts, Pilgrim has its sights set on making a deep run in Division II this season. Henseler has already seen a different mindset this season versus previous years with this group.

"The kids are gaining confidence. They understand the mistakes. They have an objective this year. The last couple years have been, 'we hope we make the playoffs,' but this year is 'we want to make the playoffs and we want a home game.' This group wants to prove that they can potentially make a run in the playoffs," said Henseler.

The team has been using an eight-man rotation to this point and has seen each player contribute on the scoresheet.

"Carter has been rebounding like crazy and Dylan has been controlling the ball and tempo. Jack Bannon has come into his own, Jack Cirelli is stepping up, layden Ames has improved his game," Henseler said. "Mike Bryson is starting to find his shot, we have an eight-man rotation with those guys and Ian Laplume and Jake Soulliere. They're working well

and it's looking good. We kept 18 guys or the roster and we're glad we did because the guys that haven't seen minutes have been important, they've provided great competition at practice."

The Pats will next face West Warwick on Thursday evening.

Toll Gate 61, **Achievement First 53**

The Titans have also jumped out to a nice start with two straight wins, most recently beating Achievement First or

Brayden Healey scored 14 points to lead the Titans while Damola Oremosu added 12 in the win.

Storylines aplenty this winter season

inter sports are underway and plenty of our teams will be in the mix to do some damage. Here are some of the teams that I will be watching closely in the next few

For boys basketball, let's start with Hendricken.

The Hawks had a relatively inexperienced roster last year and fell in the Division I semifinals to eventual champion Classical. This year, Hendricken will be plenty experienced with all-stater James Caldarella back in the mix, along with Jakob Reyes, Dylan Lynch, Will Mascena and last year's breakout freshman Michael D'Ambra.

The Hawks have a well-balanced lineup and will, as always, be right in the championship mix. The challenge, though, will be the defending champion Purple, who also returns much of the same roster. Classical was a tough matchup for the Hawks and dealt them losses in each meeting last winter, so it will be interesting to see if Hendricken can find the answer this time around.

Perhaps the most overlooked team in the state at this point is Pilgrim, who is off to a scorching 2-0 start in Division II. The Pats have been rebuilding their lineup for several seasons and seem to have something cooking this year. Carter Clifton is back to full health and Dylan Vale is set to be arguably the best point guard in the division. Jack Bannon, Jacob Soulliere and Jack Cirelli are also back in the mix and are no longer young guys. Point being, Pilgrim has the top-end talent and depth to make some serious noise in DII and has already flashed brilliance

Johnston graduated all five of last year's starters and is down to just one remaining player from its championship team in 2023 with Anderson Villa starting. The Panthers not only graduated their entire starting lineup, but they were bumped up to Division I for the first time in school history. Although I expect Johnston to take some lumps early, it will be fun to see what this team looks like down the stretch.

On the girls side, the Lady Panthers were also moved up to Division II and tipped off the season by going 1-1.

Bella Gesualdi and Olivia Iafrate are back as senior leaders and the team welcomed in Woonsocket import Alanna Colon, who is already making plays at the point. That trio gives the Panthers a chance to win every night, but

My pitch



ALEX SPONSELLER

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Johnston will need its secondary pieces to step up. I'daizha Brown had a breakout performance against Cranston East and Bella Rivas has cracked the starting lineup as a freshman. Despite the jump up multiple divisions, I have a feeling that Johnston will be a factor in DII.

Cranston West will be another team that I think can surprise some people this season. Olivia Tedeschi-Moran and Maia Riccio are gone, but Kyla Buco and Saniyya Chase are back in the fold. Chase was one of the top rebounders in the state as a sophomore and Kyla Buco is perhaps the best shooter in the league as well. Like the Panthers, the Falcons will need the back end of their roster to step up and assist Chase and Buco, who should be a nice 1-2 punch this winter.

For hockey, Hendricken lost quite the core, including player of the year Griffin Crain. Frank Tillinghast, Aiden Craft, Mason and Cullen Crain as well as goalie Colin Murray are all back, so the defending champs should have enough to chase a five-peat, but what will the team look like without Griffin? Division I is a buzz saw with La Salle, Burrillville and Moses Brown in the mix, but the Hawks have plenty of championship pedigree to be atop the standings once again.

Don't count out Pilgrim, either. Sure, Braxton Bragg and Ryan Barlow have graduated, but Jack Sayler, Ricky Cabral, Jackson Bromage and Jackson Monte, among others, give the Pats quality depth across the lineup. I'm not saying Pilgrim will be better than it was last season, but don't underestimate the value of depth at the high school level. Pilgrim is as deep as any team in the state. It will just be a matter of whether or not any of the aforementioned guys can take the next step and be elite like Barlow and Bragg were for the past two seasons.

Cranston West should be seen as a favorite to win it all in Division II. The Falcons graduated

TOLL GATE

just three players from last year's group and feature one of the most potent offenses in the division Grant Bailey and Devin DeAngelis will be filling the scoresheet or a nightly basis while Brady Scanlon will be heavily involved. Jack Fontaine figures to be one of the best defensemen in DII as well. The Warwick girls hockey co-

op has been relying on a young roster the past few seasons, and although the underclassmen will still be heavily involved this winter, the Titans should have enough this year to take a step forward. Ayla Paley has been one of the

state's best forwards the last two years and is back as a senior while Flora Meunier and Hayley Clemm are back after solid seasons last winter. I'm looking forward to seeing how far this core

There are plenty of other teams and athletes that will be fun to watch this winter. Hendricken Toll Gate and West wrestling are always heavy hitters, while the Hawks will also look to defend their swimming championship with some new faces. As always we will have plenty of contenders in track as well. Let's have some fun this winter, which is my favorite time of year. See you out

CLUES ACROSS

1. Miller beer variety 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands

68

- 9. Stomach 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing 18. "American Horror
- Story" actress 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are
- 37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character

- effectiveness (abbr.) 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 46. Zoroastrian concept
- 49. Touchdown
- due east 51. Refurbishes
- Alex
- 59. Type of envelope 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 68. Young domestic
- sheep

- letter
- 44. Back parts
- of holy fire
- 50. One point north of
- 55. Silver and Dogg are
- 58. Former Tigers catcher

- 65. Past (archaic)
- 67. Old English letter

38. Relative biological

18

43

69. Football players need

69

70. Witness

to gain them

- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Dormant Peruvian
- volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfaresupport measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition 11. A small quantity of
- anything
- 12. Mountain Time 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element
- meaning ear 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails 25. Newborn child

50

- - 32. Become less intense
 - 34. Polishes

 - beloved 40. The 12th letter of the

 - 48. Roaming
 - 53. Brew
 - 56. Make ecstatically happy
 - 59. Blend
 - 61. Self
 - satisfaction

- 70
- 26. Sword 27. Groups of people
- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one's
- Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician 47. Pre-digital
- 52. Ambience
- 54. Late
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 60. Dash
- 62. Exclamation of
- 63. Hill or rocky peak



■ Champs (Continued from page 27)

outside. Offense will be the battle," said Enright.

Considering the mass roster change and ump up in division, the Titans are looking

"For us to take that next step and be DII team, we're going to need everybody. Ev-

NEW LOOK ROSTER: Toll

Gate's Lyndsey Allen

(above) and Kayley Carreiro

(left) take on Burrillville in

the season opener last Fri-

eryone is going to need to step up. We just want to be in the game, we want to have a chance," Enright said.

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Leaders Day highlights how climate is impacting both red and blue states

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's 15th Annual Energy, Environment and Oceans Leaders Day (EEO Day) held Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, was a big success.

The purpose of the workshop is to recognize Rhode Island environmental leaders and update the community on recent developments in the environment, energy, oceans and climate change arena. How climate initiatives and approved funding will be impacted by the new administration were a

key focus of the meeting.
"We must connect the dots between climate impacts and impacts on our economy. For example, storms in Florida have been devastating. Insurance rates for homeowners have quadrupled. Many cannot and will not be able to afford insurance and this will impact the ability of citizens to get mortgages and if banks are not issuing mortgages the real estate market is negatively impacted. The same thing is happening in wild fire states and will happen as other states feel climate impacts," said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

"We need to kick into a profound education mode to identify climate issues and workaĎle solutions," said guest speaker Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-MD), ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. When the House investigated oil companies, they delayed the investigation as it showed they knew carbon emissions were having a negative impact on climate. They should be held liable for this damage, much the way tobacco companies have been held liable for causing cancer in

Senator Whitehouse pointed to climate impacting the fishing industry. What we fish for today is different in composition and abundance than what we fished for ten years ago. "You cannot catch a winter flounder in the Narragansett Bay and when you go to Newport for lobster it was caught in Maine or further north. The cold water fish have left our area and the warm water fish are arriving," said Senator Whitehouse.

Senator Ron Wyden, (D-OR), chair of the Senate Finance Committee and leading Democrat on the Joint Committee

Free Estimates



AWARD WINNER: Pam Rubinoff, Associate Coastal Manager, Coastal Resilience at RI Sea Grant, University of RI Graduate School of Oceanography, received the EEO Day Service Award from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse last Friday. (Submitted photo)

on Taxation, said "The philosophy of the climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act are simple, the more you reduce carbon the better the tax savings. These tax provisions have been successful in red and blue states, in fact the 20 top states taking advantage of tax credit provisions are red states. They are going to ribbon cuttings for all sorts of projects that reduce carbon. I believe many Republicans will defend IRA tax credit provision as they are fueling economies in their states too.

I was honored to be invited to attend EEO Day and thought it was a great success. Congratulations Senator Whitehorse and staff on another very successful EEO

> Striped Bass Board votes to keep regulations the same

The Atlantic Sates Marine Commission (ASMFC) Striped Bass Board voted Monday, Dec. 16 to keep striped bass regulations the same for the 2025 fishing season which is one fish/angler/ day at a slot size of 28" to < 31" with an open season year

Instead of more restrictive regulations to rebuild the stock the Board committed to working on an Addendum to the Striped Bass Management Plan that will adjust 2026 regulations if needed.

Rick Bellavance, President of the RI Party & Charter Boat Association, said, "After almost five hours the board voted to leave everything alone. Although there were some significant closures proposed for Rhode Island in May/June ana Sept/October, nothing will change for next year."

Striped bass are overfished Reich, David Michel, Fred noflukefishing.com.

according to a 2024 stock assessment. At the Striped Bass Board Monday members considered measures to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding the stock to at least 50% by 2029. Instead of initiating new regulations for the 2025 season

Rig making seminar Dec. 30

slide for another year.

the board decided to let things

A rig making RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) seminar will be held Monday, Dec. 30, 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI.

Rig components supplied as well as expert advice from members on how to successfully tie rigs for targeting summer flounder (fluke), tautog and other species. Expert rig tiers on hand include Rich Hittiers on hand include Rich Hit-tinger, Bob Murray, Rich tifish@verison.net or visit www.

Definis and Scott Travers.

The in person seminar will have food available starting at 5:30 p.m. RISAA members free, non-member admitted for a \$10 donation to the RI-SAA Scholarship Fund.

For information contact Scott Travers, Executive Director, at 401-826-2121.

Where's the bite?

Tautog fishing and cod fishing. Call ahead to make a party boat reservation, vessels generally sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit www.islandcurrent.com and www.francesfleet.com. Full day rates for vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Striped bass. Connor Swartz of Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay, said, "Not a lot of action on the Cape Cod Canal right now, however, angler have been hooking up with maceral at the East End."

Ed Lombardo, expert fly fisher and instructor, said "Sunday, fishing from 9 a.m.to 2:30 p.m., at the Narrow River, Narragansett on an incoming tide, I caught two slot sized striped bass (28" to < 31"). No shad but some silversides in the water. Used one of my Ed's flies to land the fish."

Freshwater fishing. Swartz of Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay, said, "The freshwater bite has been good with anglers hooping up with largemouth bass from shore using spoons and nightcrawlers. The trout bite is good too, particularly in stocked ponds. Long Pond in Plymouth is producing for anglers."

For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass. gov, both Whiting and Falls Ponds in North Attleboro were stocked this fall. And, in Rhode Island visit www.dem. ri.gov/fishing, or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

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

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MONDAY THRU SUNDAY 8-6

UP THE COURT: Hendricken's Will Cary handles the ball on Tuesday. ■ Hawks (Continued from page 27) and rebounding woes. We knew we had to maintain our discipline and we lost it there. Then, we were basically scratching and clawing the rest

of the game," said Hendricken coach Jamal Gomes. "That game was lost in the second quarter."

Jakob Reyes was stellar on the offensive end for Hendricken, scoring 14 points in the first quarter, 17 in the fourth, and 37 overall. Michael D'Ambra and Will Cary each scored eight in the

Although Reyes helped the Hawks get back into the game in the fourth quarter, Gomes hopes to see a more structured

offense moving forward. 'We didn't share the ball enough with each other. We had some looks and the ball didn't go down for us, reason being that they were quick shots. We didn't have the patience we needed. They fought hard but they didn't do it togeth-

er. For us to win, we need to do it to-

gether. La Salle had five guys in double

figures, we had one," said Gomes.

Gomes also noted the team's defensive

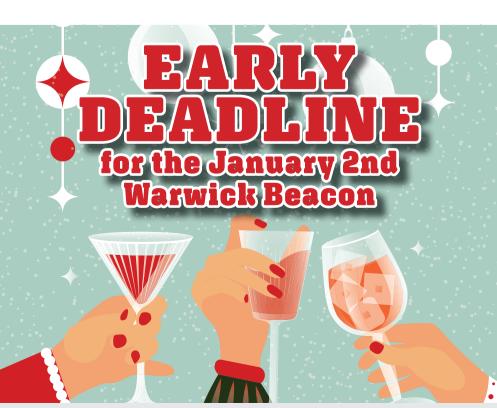
"I'm not happy with our defense, either. We knew it was going to be a battle on the glass and that's one thing that La Salle does well, they have some big guys.

We lost in all phases tonight." The Hawks will look to bounce back as they prepare for its tough Division I

"We have to regroup. We said that win or lose this isn't our season, but for us to be able to compete for a state championship we're going to have to beat a team like La Salle. A team that's tough, balanced and they can shoot it. We didn't

have that balance tonight," Gomes said. There were a handful of notable alumni in attendance for Tuesday's opener, most notably Boston Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla and current University of Rhode Island standout Sebastian Thom-

The Hawks will go on to face Portsmouth on Thursday and then take on Archbishop Molloy before going on the holiday break.



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LATE RALLY: Hendricken's Will Mascena works through a defender in the fourth quarter.