Vol. 27, Number 47 · 16 Pages

COMPLIMENTARY

Thursday, January 9, 2025

DiMonte's resolution hasn't missed a day

"It's never too late to start"

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

t turned out to be one heck of a New Year's resolution.

At the end of December 2014, Vincent DiMonte decided it would be good if he got a little more exercise in his life. He started walking, lifting some light weights, and doing some basic exercises. And he has not stopped since.

Last week, his friends at the Planet Fitness on Hartford Avenue threw an impromptu party to celebrate the fact that DiMonte, 73, has exercised every day for 10 years. That's 3,652 days to be exact – from Dec. 30, 2014 to Dec. 27, 2024.

"It didn't start to be anything," DiMonte said of his exercise streak. "I just felt I needed to move a little more."

Almost every day, "moving a little more" meant showing up at Planet Fitness, but when Covid caused the health club to close temporarily, he continued on his own, finding favorite walks at local parks or exercising at home. It's the same on holidays, he said, noting that if the gym isn't open, he's still going to follow the list of exercises he writes down every night for the next day.

A family practice lawyer for more than 45 years, DiMonte acknowledges that he's not

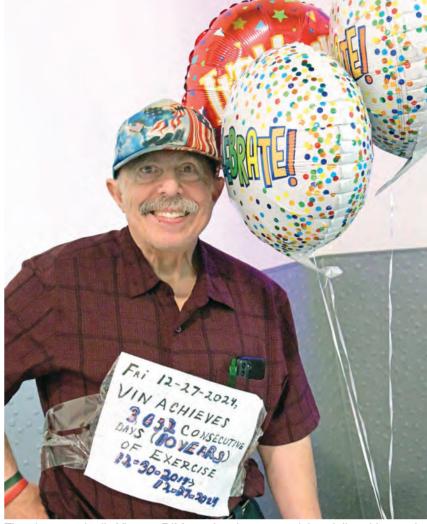
your typical athlete. His usual workout attire consists of lose trousers secured with a worn leather belt, a button-down shirt and "sensible" well-worn sneakers. He said he thinks his 10-year regime has helped up lose a little weight and tone up a bit, but it was also about enjoying the company of his friends.

"The man's a machine," kidded gym buddy Joseph Feula who organized Friday's party which included balloons, tiramisutype cake, donuts and a lot of good-natured jabs. "He's a lean mean machine – I think I actually saw him move once."

DiMonte, who has a broad smile and quick sense of humor, takes it all in stride. He meticulously writes down every work out on little pieces of paper that of paper that he carries around the gym and even drafted a "sworn affidavit" attesting to his 10 years of exercising every day, under "penalty of perjury." On Friday he made a large hand-lettered sign proclaiming his fitness streak and wore it taped around his body.

"I definitely have more muscle than when I started," he said, dryly maintaining a straight face. "Some people might even say I'm chiseled."

DIMONTE - PAGE 4



The sign says it all. Vincent DiMonte has been exercising daily, without missing a beat, for 10 years. Last week his friends at Planet Fitness in Johnston threw him an impromptu party.

It's not going to hold unless you tamp it down good.

Rocco Celletti, tamps down the patch, which could last a matter of months -- depending on the weather. (Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti)

Residents urged to be on pothole patrol

See a pothole? Contact public works

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

It's been a fairly a smooth ride so far this winter for the town when it comes to potholes. With temperatures staying moderate and no major snowstorms yet, the town reports that it has not received any claims this season from drivers who say their vehicles have sustained damage from a jarring dip into a pothole.

In Johnston, claims for vehicle damage caused by potholes are reviewed by the Town Council so the town can determine any settlement will be paid. Claims for damage that occurred on state roads must be submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT).

Johnston has a \$300 limit per claim, according to Town Clerk Vincent Baccari, and the town outlines the claim process in depth on its website. He said that claimants are encouraged to call police and get a report if they have a damage-inducing encounter with a pothole to help prove that the damage occurred where claimed and not in another city or town.

"Potholes are a nuisance that we can all relate to," Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said this week. "The town continues to improve our town roads and fill potholes on those roads upon request. If anyone sees a pothole, please contact public works and the town will patch it as soon as possible."

According to the Automobile Club of America (AAA), pothole damage costs drivers about \$3 million a year in vehicle repairs nationwide. Its study, posted on its website, states that damage from potholes has cost Americans \$15 billion in repairs over the last five years.

"In the last five years, 16 million drivers across the country have suffered pothole damage to their vehicles, "John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of Automotive Engineering and Repair states in the report. "The problems range from tire punctures and bent wheels, to more expensive suspension damage."

To help minimize damage, AAA urges drivers to ensure tires are properly inflated and have adequate tread depth, as they are the only cushion between a pothole and the vehicle. If a pothole strike is inevitable, it is also critical that drivers slow down, release the brakes and

POTHOLES - PAGE 2

New RI law shields medical debt from credit bureaus

By ADAM ZANGARI

A number of bills signed into law by Gov. Dan McKee in 2024 have now taken effect, including one new law aiming to significantly help those saddled with medical debt.

The bill, H 7103, prohibits medical providers from sharing patients' medical debt with credit-reporting agencies. In the House, the bill was sponsored by Mary Ann Shallcross Smith

(D-Lincoln), who said it was her favorite bill introduced in the 2024 legislative session.

She said she had been lobbied by the Bradford Group, a Providence public-relations, marketing and governmental-affairs firm, to introduce bills easing the burdens on people with medical debt. After looking at it, she said, she realized how big the issue is.

"I did not realize before just how expensive this was," Shall-

cross Smith said. "There are a lot of people who get sick, have cancer or get an unexpected injury and next thing you know they have thousands and thousands in medical debt. They asked me if I would submit the bill, and I said I would love to do this ... If someone wakes up with cancer, another disease or injury, it's not fair that they could lose their house, have their wages garnished or have a major percentage being paid in

medical debt."

From there, Shallcross Smith said, she went to her colleagues "desk by desk" to persuade them to support the bill. The bill ended up passing the House in a 71-0 vote, and the Senate approved it in a 34-0 vote, with four and three abstentions, respectively.

Nobody spoke against the bill as it was going through the General Assembly, Shallcross Smith said, with only written

testimony being submitted by Department of Human Services and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services regarding language about interest rates and wage garnishments in the bill. Those elements were removed from the law's final text.

Among those who had been pushing for the bill was Ernie Davis with the Leukemia and

■ LAW - PAGE 7



1/30: Cucina Rustica-Cranston

Dinner 6:30pm. \$60pp. With top Boston headliner Chris Tabb!

2/8: toast n' tap-West Warwick

8pm \$20pp (show only) with Brian Vincent, Tyler Hittner, & more!

2/15: Maven's Delicatessen-Pawtucket

7pm. \$60pp includes dinner, show, tax, and tip. With Linda Belt!

2/21: Rally's Sports Bar and Grille-Warwick \$50pp includes buffet, show, complimentary glass of wine, tax, & tip. With John Perrottal

2/21: The Event Factory Kitchen and Stage-Warwick

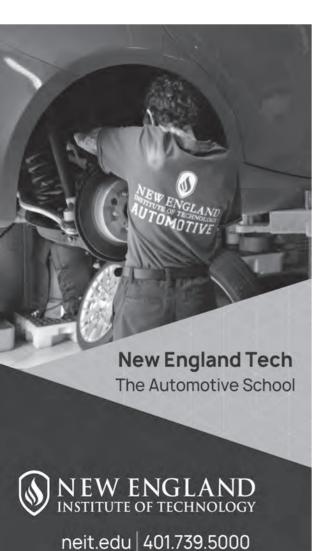
8pm. With national headliner Poppy Champlin!

2/27: Lemongrass-Warwick With Boston Comedy legend Steve Sweeney! \$50pp includes a fabulous Chinese buffet, show, tax, & tip

> For our complete schedule go to comedyfactoryri.com









Congratulations

"We would like to congratulate our newest members to the Johnston Police Department, who have successfully completed their training at the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy," the JPD recently shared on social media. "Class valedictorian Miranda Mascia & Matthew Merrit were sworn in as a probationary officers by Chief Mark Vieira. Please help us welcome them to this challenging but rewarding career." (Photo by JPD)

Police Log

SIMPLE ASSAULT & **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

On Dec. 7 at 9:36 p.m., police responded to the report of an assault that had just occurred. The reporting party told police that he was outside his house taking pictures of his Christmas lights when the suspect, later identified as Kevin Brault, 47, of 62 Sherman Ave., North Providence, got out of his car and began "striking [him] in the face multiple times with a closed fist and then left the area," according to police.

On Dec. 21 at 3:10 a.m., Johnston police responded to the East Providence Police Department to take custody of Brault, who was arrested on his warrant for Simple Assault and Disorderly Conduct. He was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, issued a 3rd District Court Summons, then released without incident.

BENCH WARRANT

On Dec. 20 at 2:30 a.m., police conducted a motor vehicle stop after observing a black Nissan Altima traveling northbound on George Waterman Road at approximately 40 MPH in a 30 MPH zone. The officer discovered that the driver,

identified as James Wood Jr., 37, of 45 Laban St., Providence, had an active warrant out for Hit and Run from the Pawtucket Police Depart-

Wood was arrested on the warrant and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters for processing. He was issued RI Summons for Speeding 1 to 10 MPH in Excess of Posted Speed Limit – 1st offense.

Editor's Note: The preceding police log information has been taken arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department.

■ Potholes

(Continued from page 1)

straighten steering before making contact with the pothole, according to the report.

Although it's been a slow pothole season so far, more are likely to crop up since winter weather in New England tends to provide the prefect recipe for pitted roads. Moisture and freezing temperatures are two of the ingredients that will guarantee potholes, according to Ryan Booth, owner of Quality Paving in Warwick.

When temperatures plummet, moisture in the ground expands, putting stress on the asphalt, he said. Enough pressure causes the pavement to crack and then shatter. Also, there is the extra structural stress of snowplows hitting frost heaves and other weak spots.

As to why the roadbed craters are called potholes, there may be several explanations. Some say it's because they are shaped like pots cut into the pavement. But the American Public Works Association poses a more creative possibility on its website.

Citing the late syndicated columnist and trivia expert L. M. Boyd, the association states that pottery makers in the 15th and 16th centuries used to look for damaged

FILING A CLAIM

Detailed instructions on how to file a claim can be found at https://townofjohnstonri.com/claims.

To assist residents, the web page also includes a list of state roads so people can determine if they need to submit their claim to RIDOT. Information for filing a claim with the state can be found at https://www.dot. ri.gov/about/claims.php.

Both the town and the state require that pothole claims be submitted within seven days of the inci-

dirt roads as they searched for cheap raw materials to make clay puts. Supposedly, roads with deep wagon wheel ruts were a preferred choice. The potters would dig for clay, leaving the roads in worse condition than they found them and annoyed teamsters driving the wagons purportedly dubbed the damage "potholes."

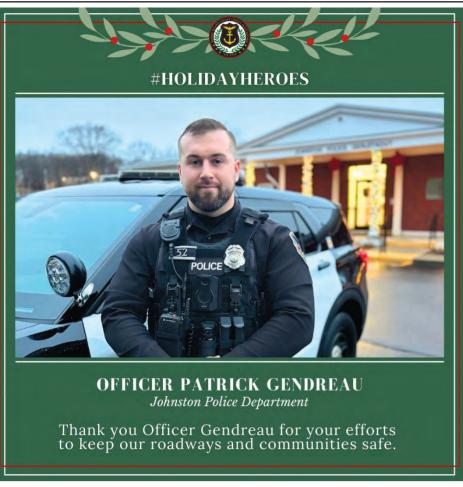
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Police officers recognized for holiday safety efforts

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

ecember wasn't just for the holidays. The past month was also a time when the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, took to social media to honor the men and women in uniform who help keep our travels safe all year long.

Every day of the month the Association posted a "Holiday Hero" on Facebook and Instagram - police officers from departments across the state who work mostly in traffic and community divisions, patrolling our roads and helping to educate the public about making smart safety decisions.

"It was a campaign we put together to highlight officers across the state and also emphasize traffic safety and keeping our communities safe," said Cara Cromwell with the association.

Three of the Holiday Heroes officers came from the West Bay area – two from the Warwick Police Department and one from the Johnston Police Department.

Cromwell said regardless of whether the honorees came from departments big or small, they all share a passion for their work protecting the public.

Warwick Police Chief Col Bradford Connor, president of the Chiefs Association, extended his congratulations to all the honorees and said that the campaign was an unqualified success.

"The Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association is always trying to help spread information on the importance of traffic safety and prevention for driving while under the influence," he said. "What better way to help spread that message

at this time of year than to celebrate the men and women of law enforcement who go out on our roads every day."

The three area police officers who were honored were Warwick patrol officers Connor Bemis and Zachary Black, and Johnston Patrolman Patrick Gendreau.

Below are quotes that the quotes the officers provided to the chief's association about their jobs.

"I've wanted to be a police officer since I was a kid, and I'm grateful to have fulfilled that dream," Bemis said. "Every day, I enjoy proactive policing to help keep our city safe and protect the great people in this community."

His Warwick police colleague, Black, said, "I wanted a fulfilling career dedicated to helping people and encouraging responsibility. Every day, I have the privilege of working alongside my brothers and sisters toward a common goal: keeping our community safe. Through proactive policing, we make a meaningful difference together."

In Johnston, Gendreau said, "I wanted to pursue a career that offered new and evolving challenges every day while allowing me to make a real difference in keeping people safe. I am passionate about achieving this through proactive policing, including, but not limited to, DUI enforcement. I continue to be motivated by the strong bond I share with fellow officers who are equally committed to this mission and proactive mind-

Cromwell said that the campaign was well received by the public and police officers alike, and will likely become a regular holiday spotlight.

Philbrick earns Dean's List honor

Joshua Philbrick, a Lasell University student from Johnston was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Fall 2024 semester.

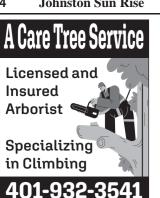
To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Say you saw it in the Johnston SunRise





Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, January 9, 2025









- 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)
- Sat. Feb. 8- Assados, Smithfield (matinee)
- Sun. Feb. 9- Crossroads Pub, Warren (matinee)
- Sat. Feb. 15- River Falls, Woonsocket
- Sun. Feb. 23- Newport Playhouse (matinee)



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Gym buddies. Two of DiMonte's friends - Tom Ferranti (left) and Joe Feula (far right) helped him celebrate with balloons and lavish gifts like a small yellow notebook to write down his workouts.



■ DiMonte

(Continued from page 1)

Born and raised in Providence, DiMonte went to LaSalle high school before getting his undergraduate degree from Providence College and his law degree from Villa Nova University.

He said that unfortunately, marriage was not in the cards for him, but it is clear from the amount of people that stopped to wish him well Friday, that he well known and well liked in the community. Di-Monte is an usher and lector at St. Robert St Robert Bellarmine Church on Atwood Avenue and is as faithful to his attendance there as he is to his fitness regime.

At about 5 feet, 4-and-half-inches tall, DiMonte typically cuts a dapper figure, with a penchant for colorful bow ties and jaunty caps when he's away from the gym.

"He is a person with a big heart," says Anthony Ursillo, a trustee of the Johnston Historical Society and fellow regular at the gym. "He can be anyone's friend - and he in-

DiMonte, who will turn 74 later this month, said that he has had a happy life, but he is also frank about the fact that it has not been without some hard times. He says that he never intended to be a lifelong bachelor and that living alone can be a challenge as he gets older.

Not too long ago, he moved into the house on Colony Drive to help take care of a beloved aunt, but she passed away in August with Di-Monte visiting her at the hospital every day. "I was the son she never had," he said. "Sometimes God asks you to do certain things and.... your only real choice is to say yes."

He said he was touched by the

fact that his friends chose to surprise him by celebrating exercise accomplishment, and that he enjoyed every minute of the party.

"I never intended for this to become a ten-year streak," DiMonte said, adding that while he does like exercising, he also truly enjoys the company and camaraderie of his gym compatriots.

He says his friends know they can find him at Planet Fitness every day – unless he's walking outside – and at church every Sunday.

He has no intention of breaking his exercise streak and said he thinks his accomplishment shows "that it's never too late to start anything.

"You just take the first step" he said. "You may not know at first exactly where you're going to go, but God literally holds you in the palm of his hand."

'It was the pool table'



The Johnston Senior Center 'Spotlite' this week shines on Ken Rawlinson, 82, who has been coming to the center for the past ten years.

It was the "pool table" that attracted him initially to Center, and he has been coming twice a week since that time. Ken moved to Johnston with his family in 1969and has lived in that same house for over fifty years. He and his brother operated a tax accounting business here in town. He has been enjoying retirement for the past seventeen years. He recalls visiting the El Marocco, many years ago, and has been coming here continually.

He enjoys the many social activities that are essential after retirement, such as having breakfast at the same location with a group of friends, seven days per week. Here at the Center, the game of pool is "serious business", but the competition is lots of fun for all. When Ken has spare time, he is exercising here in town, or can be seen shopping at local markets for the local "food pantries". Ken also enjoys spending time trading on the stock market.

Here at the senior center, we have something for everyone. Certainly, Ken, is one of our members who have made the most of life as an older adult. Keeping fit physically, mentally, and socially, is the key to a happy older life. Ken says the day isn't complete until it ends with a glass of good quality Scotch. Good advice from a gentlemen who has enjoyed 60 years of marriage.

Submitted by Richard J. DelFino Jr., Executive Director of the Johnston Se-

nior Center

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Reasons for hope on housing front

Thile the dawn of a new year provides a new hope for continued progress in our state, one of the most persistent and complex challenges we face remains as daunting as ever.

The lack of truly affordable housing - combined with ever-increasing demand and the skyrocketing price of the existing, inadequate housing stock – has, like nearly everywhere else in the country, led to a bona-fide housing crisis. That crisis has increased the number of Rhode Islanders who have no home at all, leading to some truly abysmal data that places the state in an unfavorable spot-

According to the The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress put out by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Rhode Island saw a 35% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2023 to 2024, with 2,442 people experiencing some degree of homelessness in 2024. That represents a 78% increase from 2007.

Even worse, Rhode Island now holds the unfavorable distinction of having the second highest rate of chronic homelessness in the country, with 48% of its total number of homeless individuals experiencing chronic homelessness (meaning someone with a disability who has experienced homelessness for one year or more or has experienced four episodes of homeless in the last three years amounting to 12 total months of homelessness).

While these facts should be viewed with a fair degree of shame for letting it get this bad, particularly in the smallest state in the country, neither the blame nor the solution for this complex crisis can be placed on any one person's

It is the result of a nationwide reckoning with the increasing cost of goods, services, labor and construction materials; all of which has been exacerbated by ballooning inflation, unprecedented economic disruption by the pandemic and continuously stagnant growth in the wages of working people over the course of many years.

And although no silver bullet will alleviate these issues, we are somewhat hopeful that the state is taking serious strides to address the issue.

House Speaker Joe Shekarchi has admirably led a charge since assuming his leadership role to boost housing production by cutting red tape for developers who include affordable units in their projects. He has championed adaptive reuse of vacant industrial and commercial properties and supported the streamlining of creating accessory dwelling units to allow existing homeowners to provide housing for aging family members or their children, who don't possess adequate financial capital to live independently due to the aforementioned economic fac-

These approaches are not perfect, but they are a great start. Creating more housing units should, in theory, decrease the overall cost of housing in the long run. However, the state should also look into making changes in its affordable housing strategy as a whole. For example, generous incentives and zoning relief (such as density bonuses) is currently available to developers who set aside just 10% of total units proposed in a project as affordable - with those units usually being listed at rates affordable to those making up to 80% of the area median income.

That sounds great, but in practice, this often leads to moderate- or large-size housing developments where a relationship between an emvast majority of the housing created is still wholly unaffordable to the average, working-class Rhode Islander. Increasing the mandated percentage of affordable units to unlock those incentives, and mandating a lower percentage of AMI as the basis for those affordable units, would lead to significantly better results in terms of creating actually affordable units.

Additionally, the state should be laser-focused on ways to bolster nonprofit housing developers who build projects where 100% of units are priced at affordable rates. These developments, subsidized by federal and local housing authorities, provide the greatest impact in addressing the crisis, while maintaining high quality of standards for construction and quality of life for residents.

We are likewise encouraged by the comprehensive report submitted by the new secretary of housing, which seeks to reduce redundancies among existing agencies and create a more thoughtful approach to increasing housing stock and decreasing homelessness. However, we do have concerns about the ability of the newly dubbed "Executive Office of Housing" to adequately staff and oversee the many responsibilities it proposes to consolidate under its umbrella without becoming over-encumbered.

We will look forward with open minds and ears to hearings in the General Assembly regarding this most important issue in the coming months.

MINIMUM WAGE RAGE..





Charlie Hall Exactly, and it's already not enough due to the rate of inflation. Shouldn't it be tied to a cost of living increase like the one that all of RI's lawmakers enjoy on your salaries?



LETTERS

The Privilege of Representation: A Commitment to My Constituents

As I embark on this significant journey as your representative in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for entrusting me with this immense responsibility. Your confidence in me is not only an honor but a deeply humbling experience. It serves as a steadfast reminder of the vital role I play in amplifying your voices and addressing your concerns on the legislative stage.

In a democratic society, the relationship between elected officials and their constituents is foundational. It is imperative that this relationship thrives on transparency and communication. I am fully committed to keeping you informed about the critical happenings at the State House. This includes regular updates on legislative developments, discussions, and the various challenges we face as a community. By maintaining an open line of communication, I hope to foster a sense of shared ownership in the complex legislative process.

In the course of my tenure, I plan to sponsor and advocate for bills aimed at improving our community's welfare. It is equally important that I shed light on legislation introduced by other members of the House, regardless of their political affiliations. In a diverse legislative body, progress often emerges from collaboration across party lines. Understanding the nuances of different proposals will enable you to engage more meaningfully with the issues that matter to us all.

While the process of making law can often appear labyrinthine, it is crucial for you, my constituents, to remain involved and informed. Your insights and experiences are invaluable, enriching the dialogue that shapes our policies. It is not merely my role to legislate but to be your conduit in this intricate process. I aim to transform the complexities of state governance into accessible discourse, allowing you to navigate the statutes that govern our lives.

As we move forward together, I invite you to engage with me in this journey. Your feedback, questions, and ideas are what will drive our collective success. I encourage you to reach out, attend community meetings, and participate in discussions—your involvement is vital to our shared mission. Representing you is not just a duty; it is an opportunity for partnership and collective action.

In conclusion, thank you once again for the privilege of representing you. Together, we will strive not only to address the pressing issues we face but also to celebrate our achievements. Let us embark on this journey with the shared intention of fostering a vibrant, engaged community that thrives on participation and collaboration. Your voice matters, and I look forward to ensuring that it resonates strongly in the corridors of power.

> Representative Richard R. Fascia House Dist. 42

RISavers unworthy of applause

To the Editor:

I do not consider the unwarranted interference by the Rhode Island General Assembly in the voluntary ployer and an employee to be "a good example of proactive, responsible government that is worthy of applause." ("Cheers for making retirement planning easier," Dec. 19).

In your editorial, you allow that the mandated RI-Savers program "might seem a tad authoritative." That's like saying a woman who is expecting might seem a tad bit pregnant.

For employers, this program is totally authoritative. Their participation is being coerced by the heavy hand of government. Have we been told what the penalties for non-compliance will be? Shouldn't we know?

What I find particularly offensive about this proposal is that many members of the Assembly who voted for

the law have no experience in running a successful small business themselves. And yet, in their arrogance, they want to dictate requirements to those employers who do. For decades, Rhode Islanders have had a method to shore up their retirement that doesn't rely entirely on Social Security." It's called a savings account.

These accounts are available to everyone at their local bank or credit union. Nothing could be easier. And they are available without any government intervention. All that is required is a sense of personal responsibility.

If you think cradle-tograve socialism is a good form of government, then I guess you might cheer on the RISavers program. However, as a believer in the benefits of free market capitalism, I do not find it worthy of any applause.

> A.H. Liddle Warwick



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GUEST OP

Data breach demands accountability, swift action

By the Rhode Island **House Minority Caucus**

The debacle surrounding Rhode Island's Unified Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP), later rebranded as RIBridges, which is a custom computer system, has once again highlighted the failure of state leadership and their ill-advised reliance on the contractor Deloitte. This latest catastrophe – a cyberattack compromising the personal information of 630,000 Rhode Islanders – demands immediate accountability and swift cor-

Since Rhode Island initially contracted with Deloitte to in 2013, UHIP has brought nothing but a string of failures. Initially projected to cost up to \$135 million, the system's price tag has ballooned to an astronomical \$794 million. Despite these staggering costs, the system has been plagued by operational disruptions, including a disastrous 2016 launch that left thousands of residents without essential services and created a backlog of over 20,000 cases, while also giving benefits to people who weren't even eligible to receive benefits. All of those ineligible benefits paid out were never recovered. The federal government issued warnings and even levied fines against Rhode Island, including an

\$805,000 penalty for unauthorized contract modifications. These funds, which could have been used to help families in need, were squandered to address Deloitte's inadequacies.

Yet, despite these complete failures, state officials continued to contract with

The December data breach resulted in the exposure of personal data of Rhode Islanders who have relied on the system for programs like Medicaid, SNAP and TANF since 2016. This massive cyberattack has left 63% of our residents at risk of identity theft and financial harm. Deloitte, the vendor entrusted to safeguard this information, failed catastrophically. This mismanagement of taxpayer resources is irresponsible and must end immediately.

The time for action is now. Rhode Island leaders must demand a full audit of all contracts and expenditures related to UHIP and RIBridges, and Rhode Island must immediately terminate its relationship with Deloitte and transition to a modular, AI-ready system from a trusted vendor with a track record of success, unlike Deloitte. The responsibility for this ongoing disaster lies squarely with those who ignored warnings, renewed failing contracts and prioritized vendor relationships over the welfare of our residents. Rhode Islanders deserve a government that puts their interests first, not one that excuses incompetence and failure. The people of this state demand accountability, and failure of our state leaders to pursue accountability is failure of those leaders to be responsible to the citizens they represent.

Rhode Island still lacks an Independent Office of Inspector General, leaving the state with inadequate oversight mechanisms. To address this gap, the House Minority Caucus is urging the Joint Committee on Legislative Services (JCLS) to convene an emergency meeting and order a comprehensive audit under the authority of RIGL 22-13-4(e). The proposed audit, to be conducted by the Auditor General, must thoroughly examine Rhode Island's contracts with Deloitte from 2013 to the present. It should include a detailed review of all state departments, employees and contractors involved in awarding, extending or executing contracts tied to the UHIP/RIBridges project since its incep-

Given that a partial review of UHIP was conducted by the Attorney General seven years ago, JCLS could alternatively choose to invoke its authority under RIGL 22-13-4(d) to facilitate this process. To ensure transparency, the JCLS should direct the Auditor General to use statutory subpoena powers to compel witnesses and gather all relevant testimony and documentation. This audit must uncover the full scope of failures and financial costs associated with this unacceptable misuse of taxpayer funds.

The Rhode Island House Minority (Republican) Caucus is comprised of the following elected members: Minority Leader Michael W. Chippendale, District 40 (Foster, Glocester/Coventry); Minority Whip David J. Place, District 47 (Burrillville/Glocester); Representative George Nardone, District 28 (Coventry); Representative Brian Newberry, District 48 (North Smithfield/Burrillville); Representative Robert Quattrocchi, District 41 (Scituate/Cranston); Representative Sherry Roberts, District 29 (Coventry/West Greenwich); Representative Brian Rea, District 53 (Smithfield/Glocester); Representative-elect Richard Fascia, District 42 (Johnston/Cranston); Representative-elect Marie Hopkins, District 21 (Warwick); Representative-elect Chris Paplauskas, District 15 (Cranston); Representative-elect Paul Santucci, District 53 (Smithfield/Glocester).

Business Card DIRECTORY

This Week's Featured Business.







Data Breach Hotline: 833-918-6603 A call center to assist Rhode Island residents who think they may be

RIBridges

impacted by the data breach is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Gov. Dan McKee said Monday that the state is seeking to have weekend hours as well.

The reference number for the Rhode Island incident is B137035. You may be asked for it when you call.

Call center staff will be able to provide general information about the breach as well as steps customers can take now to protect their personal information. Call center staff will not be able to confirm if your data is included in the breach at this time.

Households that have had personal information compromised will receive a letter by mail from the State that explains how to access free credit monitoring.

For updates, visit cyberalert.ri.gov.



LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD **OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING**

AGENDA Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its regular meeting on January 30, 2025 at 6:30 pm. at Johnston Senior Center. 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext. 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening

will be as follows, subject to change:

- Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
- Minutes from Previous Meetings
- III. Approval of Calendar 2025
- IV. Old Business: NONE

V. New Business: Petition of Robert Pagliarini 613 Killingly St MBL 13 31 zone B 2

Requesting a variance for a 6 ft. tall fence along the front of the property.

VI. Adjournment Per order of the Zoning Board of Review

Thomas Lopardo, Chairman The Zoning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at https://clerkshg

com/johnston-ri or Monday through Friday

between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the

To: Kysha M. Nelson 372 Mendon St

Pawtucket, RI. A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford ave Johnston RI on January 11, 2025 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2014 BMW WB-A3X9C52ED867662 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

Department of Development and Public Ser-

Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be

continued to the next Regular Meeting of

· Facilities are handicap accessible. Inter-

preter services may be requested from TTD

, (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

Public Auction

Legal Notice

special meeting at the discretion of Board.

vices. 100 Irons Avenue. Johnston.

1/9. 1/16/25

Cox New England welcomes Rob Brill as new market leader

Cox Communications is excited to announce Rob Brill as the new market leader for the company's Rhode Island and Connecticut markets. In this new role, Brill will oversee Cox's operations in both states, continuing its commitment to enhancing the customer experience, supporting local employees, and driving strategic growth within the region.

"I'm honored to take on this new role and look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our customers and supporting the talented teams in Rhode Island and Connecticut," said Brill. "I'm committed to driving positive change, enhancing our service portfolio, and ensuring Cox remains a trusted partner in these communities."

Brill's leadership journey with Cox spans over three decades. He began his career with Cox in 1992 as an installation technician and quickly rose through the ranks. After several leadership roles, including field services supervisor, Brill left Cox in 1998 to work at an outside agency. He returned to Cox in 2006 and has since held a variety of management positions in Ohio, Las Vegas, and Rhode Island, including roles in customer care and Cox Business' National Support Center.

Prior this new role, Brill served as market leader for Cox's Ohio Market, where he was an influential voice for local employees and customers. Under his leadership, Cox>s Ohio operations expanded and thrived. Brill is also deeply committed to community service and sustainability.

Brill replaces Ross Nelson who is retiring after having served as a leader in Cox's Rhode Island and Connecticut market since 2021.



Rob Brill has been named the new market leader for Cox Communications' Rhode Island and Connecticut markets. (Submitted photo)

Stephan M. "Steve" Bukowski

OBITUARIES

Stephan M. "Steve" Bukowski formerly of Jackson Avenue in Manton, passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2024, in Milford, Delaware. For more information please go to "The Friends of Stephan M. Bukowski" group on Facebook.



Teodolinda "Linda" Pezzullo

Teodolinda "Linda" (Riccio) Pezzullo 94, of Johnston, passed away at her home, surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, December 28, 2024. She was the beloved wife of Antonio Pezzullo for 73 years. Born in Valle Agricola, Caserta, Italy, she was the daughter of the late Antonio and Angelina (Riccio) Pezzullo.

Linda was a seamstress for many years before moving into the jewelry industry working for various jewelry companies before taking the bold step of opening her own jewelry shop alongside her husband, Antonio. Together, they established A&T Corporation, a testament to their partnership and shared vision.

Linda's passions extended beyond her career; she found joy in the simple pleasures of life. An avid cook she loved to bake cookies, often filling her home with delightful aromas that brought family and friends together. Her nurturing spirit was evident in her love for sewing, as she would skillfully hem clothing for those she cared about, ensuring everyone looked their best.

Alongside her husband, Linda treasured moments spent tending to their garden, where the couple cultivated both plants and memories.

Most of all, Linda found greatest happiness in her family, especially when surrounded by her grandchildren. Her warmth and loving presence will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Besides her husband Antonio, she is survived by her loving children, Joseph Pezzullo and his companion Carol Pannone of Johnston, Anthony Pezzullo and his wife Trudy of Johnston, and Robert Pezzullo and his wife Holly of Johnston. She was the cherished grandmother of Rhonda, Shane, Cody, Shevonne, and Brea Pezzullo and adored great-grandmother of nine. Sister of Dolores Izzo of Providence, Anna Skomin of North Kingstown, Anthony Riccio of Cranston, Joseph Riccio of North Providence, the late Phyllis Croce, and Louis Riccio.

Her funeral were held on Friday, January 3rd, at 9:00 a.m. from the NARDOLILLO FUNERAL HOME & Crematory, 1278 Park Avenue, Cranston, followed by her Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. in St. Rocco's Church, Johnston. VISITING HOURS were Thursday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Burial took place in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Visit NardolilloFH.com for online condolences.

SUN RISE SCOOPS

Remembering the 1950's

Jan. 11, Open Forum "Remembering the 1950's" will be presented by the Hope Historical Society at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Road, Hope. Open Forum is an interactive meeting where members and attendees become a living history by sharing memorabilia, artifacts, pictures, stories, etc. related to the program topic.

NAMI-RI offers mental health courses in January

NAMI-RI, the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will offer two Family-to-Family courses, starting in January. This a free 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people living with mental illness. The inperson course will be held in Middletown, RI at St. Lucy's Catholic Church beginning Saturday, Jan. 11 at 3:00 PM. This same course will also be held on Zoom starting Wednesday, Jan. 15, 5:30-8:00 PM. To register, or for more information call 401-331-3060, email beth@namirhodeisland.org or visit online at namirhodeisland.org

PSA Free Gun Locks at Cranston Public Library

Secure storage of weapons is now the law in Rhode Island. A Free Gun Lock and Securing Weapons Safely information is available at the Reference Desk at the Central Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd., Cranston. 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.

Help OSDRI restock their pantry!

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry needs a major restocking. Like many people, OSDRI's clients have been faced with some real obstacles these past couple of years. With your help, they pledge to always be there to give a hand up for veterans and their families in need. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OSDRI's main office, 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the OSDRI office at 401-383-4730.

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

The Johnston High School Class of 1971 established The Soul of 1971 Scholarship at The Rhode Island Foundation. The current balance is \$32,029.18. The class has already awarded three scholarships to JHS seniors. The Class of '71 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School System to establish a scholarship fund which will last forever. For additional information, contact Harold J. Hemberger Fund Chairman at hembergerharold@gmail.com All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

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 Thursday at 6 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-

Second Tues. at 5 p.m. IN PERSON ONLY at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room. Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middle-

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.

Editor's Note: To submit your news to Scoops, send information and photos to Rosegalie at rosegaliec@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 advertisement.

■ Law (Continued from page 1)

Lymphoma Society. The potential impacts on those dealing with such diseases, Davis said, would be

"The unfortunate place and space that a lot of our families and patients are under, the unfortunate component of health care in America now, when someone gets a serious illness, it's almost automatic that they think 'Oh, I need to start a GoFundMe page now,'" Davis said. "I think it's sad and sorry that people who get these unfortunate medical diagnoses think they have to go beg other people for money in order to get the care that they need to save

Davis said that similar bills have been passed in about 14 states.

their life."

Throughout his time at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Davis said, it has helped families nationwide who are struggling financially as a result of medical bills.

"Medical debt is not a debt that a consumer chooses to undertake, and as such, we are firm believers in the fact that people's medical debt should not be reported to credit bureaus as a sense of that person's credit-worthiness," Davis said. Shallcross Smith also said that she

had seen the impacts of the bill in conversations with friends after she submitted it. One friend, she said, was moved to tears after hearing about the bill. "A very close friend of mine, a

tear started coming down her eye, Shallcross Smith said. "I said, what's the matter? She told me she was diagnosed with cancer 18 months ago and was nearly \$70,000 in medical debt. There were more people than I ever realized who had medical debt – it opened my eyes."

In addition to the medical-debt bill, Shallcross Smith introduced two related bills in 2024's session. One would prevent liens from being placed on the homes of people with outstanding medical debt, and the other would cap credit-card debt at 3% interest; currently, according to Shallcross Smith, that interest can go up to 15%.

While neither of those bills made it through the General Assembly in 2024, Shallcross Smith said she is reintroducing them this year and is confident that they can both get

"I have a very good feeling that we're going to make another giant step this year," Shallcross Smith said. "And that will completely increase this law's impact."

TC ROGERS 1/13/23 2nd Year Annniversary



We think of you with love today We thought about you vesterday and days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. All we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memories are our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our heart.

Our Love, Mom & Dad Sister Tabitha and Family



In your time of need, the Johnston Sun Rise will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, johnstonsunrise.net.

Should you desire our

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

- Thank you

Thursday, January 9, 2025 **Johnston Sun Rise**

Local Adoptable Loveable





They say the eyes are the window to the soul, well in Chase's case his eyes say it all!! He has these stunning golden green eyes that look right into your heart! Chase is a young (just a year old) playful boy who loves people and other playful dogs! He's the life of the party! Chase is a medium size mixed breed with a gorgeous tan/ rusty color coat, when we say he's handsome we mean handsome! If you've been searching for a lovable new best friend, then please contact Cenla Alliance for Animals for more information or email Suz.cafa@gmail.com please tell everyone you know about this amazing boy!

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com

Enter for a chance to win a new **2025 Chevy Trax 1RS**



Vehicle courtesy of Hurd Auto Mall, Johnston

TICKETS: 550 EACH OR 3 FOR \$100 **AVAILABLE AT**

GREENWOOD CREDIT UNION, 2669 POST RD, WARWICK, **BEACON MEDIA, 1944 WARWICK AVE, WARWICK** AND FROM MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARWICK

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

Johnston Senior High School First Quarter Honor Roll

Christian Fernandes Mensah 2028

William Ferrara 2027

Joshua Figueroa 2028

Sophia Finegan 2025

Logan Finelli 2027

Richard Foster 2027

Thomas Fraioli 2028

Diana Gaitan Flores 2027

Lacy Ferreira 2026

Abigail Ferri 2026

High Honors

Melissa Aguilar 2025

Selena Albanese 2027 Skyla Almeida 2026 Lucas Anderson 2025 Ernesto Antelo Suarez 2028 Samaya Anzivino 2027 Isabella Boudreau 2027 Tyler Brunelle 2028 Tyler Buote 2025 Andrew Cardullo 2026 Ryan Carvalho 2025 Matthew Clements 2025 Giuseppe Cucinotta 2025 Arianna Dandy 2025 Dimazlia DiBiasio 2028 Lauren Dixon 2025 Matthew Duquette-Siswick 2028 Olivia Forgetta 2026 Kalyn Foster 2025 Robert Franchini 2025 Deanna Funches 2026 Ayberson Garcia Cruz 2025 Naomy Garcia Ore 2026 Kylie Geremia 2027 Amanda Giron Caballero 2025 Anthony Hopp 2028 Brooke Houle 2027 Esra Imrane 2028 Vanessa Javery 2025 Vanessa Jean-Philippe 2027 Sparrow Katowicz 2028 Hannah Klein 2025 Elizabeth Kue 2027 Kamryn Kue 2028 Dario La Terra Bellina 2027 Brenton Lang 2025 Brianna Lapati 2028 Timothy Liang 2026 Katelyn Loffler 2025 Sophia Lutrario 2028 Angelica Maddaline 2026 Neko Mahony 2025 Jasmeet Mann 2028 Gavynn Manning 2027 Logan Martins 2025 Bennett McClish 2026 Caroline McCormack 2026 Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026 Michael Mills 2028 Adriana Morales Cordon 2028 Dariana Munoz 2025 Frank Nasisi 2028 Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025 Connor Niles 2025 Kaiya Nop 2028 Gabriela Noriega Garcia 2028 Gianna Orozco 2025 Anthony Pannone 2027 Loren Pastore 2025 Nicole Patenaude 2025 Noelle Patenaude 2025 Matthew Penafiel 2025 McKerry Petit Homme 2027 Genesis Pineda 2025 Matthew Ponte 2025 Catherine Privitera 2025 Fallon Provoyeur 2026 Mason Provoyeur 2028 Angie Quiroa 2028 Isaiah Ramirez 2028 Natalya (Nathan) Rhind 2027 Alexis Rivera 2026 Hollan Rodgers 2026 Delaynee Rodriguez 2027 Rayven Russell 2026 Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027 Joseph Santos 2028 Jason Schino 2026 Isabella Serpa 2028 Kimberly Sibilia 2025 Derek Simas 2028 Lucas Simpson 2026 Nicholas Smith 2028 Mia Soprano 2028 Aiden Soto 2025 Kailey Souza 2027 Gianna Stomberg 2028 Alexander Subirana 2026 Emma Taglianetti 2027 Luke Taglianetti 2025 Jayeden Thayorath 2028 Kyle Urban 2027

1st Honors

Milani Abate 2028 Logan Akins 2025 Malaika Ali 2028 Eva Alves 2025 Andre Amato 2027 Morgan Andrews 2027 Samaya Ariza 2027 Nicki Aucone 2025 l'daizha Brown 2026 Sadie Bun 2025 Ryan Capraro 2026 Morgan Cerullo 2026 Henri Chan 2025 Shemorie Constant 2027 Jazmin Cuello-Pineda 2025 Hunter D'Elia 2026 Kylie DePasqua 2028 Anthony DiBiasio 2025 Michael Fantini 2028 Anelee Fernandez 2027 Evangelia Georgiladakis 2027 Annabella Gesualdi 2026

Kiniya Glenn 2025 Isabella Halliwell 2027 Zachary Hanna 2025 Jhasmin Heredia 2028 Tyler Holton 2025 Olivia lafrate 2026 Mona Imrane 2026 Emily Joseph 2026 Syvianna Jules 2028 Navjot Kaur 2028 Jared Lee 2025 Joseph Lopez Tavares 2025 Jeremy Luna Olivo 2027 Jordan Maggiacomo 2027 Charlene Maranhao 2027 Jealeen Mateo 2027 Makayla Melillo 2027 Samaya Montrond 2028 Daniela Morales Cordon 2028 Karissa Morales 2025 Alexandra Musa 2026 Alma Naser 2027 Mia (Ryo) Nilsson 2025 nnah Paquin 2028 Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025 Ariana Perron 2026 Lea Petrillo 2028 Jacob Pettit 2026 Brea Pezzullo 2026 Brea Rianna 2028 Gianna Ricci 2025 Isabella Ricci 2026 Adriana Riggen 2028 Joaquin Rodriguez 2027 Daisy Rosales 2028 Lilianna Salois 2025 Sebastian Sanchez 2027 Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026 Jesse Santillan 2025 James Senno 2027 Lia Shenk 2027 Ashlee Shiel 2027 Arleny Solorin Henriquez 2025 Nixon Soto 2027 Brandon Souza 2025 Ariana Stoepker 2025 Ayla Tellier 2027 Abraham Tillett 2025 Isla Troxell 2028 Ava Turgeon 2028 Isabella Vargas 2026 Angel Veillard 2027 Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027 Benjamin Verduchi 2026 Victoria Villafane 2026 Nyomie Young 2028

2nd Honors

Katlyn Allen 2026 Tala Alsheikh Kassem 2026 Larissa Alvarenga-Pesoa 2028 Maria Socorro Alves Sequeira 2027 Christopher Alves 2025 Ella Annicelli 2027 Estefania Antelo Suarez 2026 Marcos Arias 2027 Oscar Arriaza 2028 Mia Audino 2026 Emmalise Baez-Pena 2028 Gabriella Barata 2026 Isabella Barata 2025 Kaitlyn Barbosa 2026 Ava Becker 2026 Benjamin Bejnar 2025 Colin Bishop 2027 Kara Bonetti 2026 Tabitha Borja Arellano 2028 Haley Boudreau 2026 Ethan Bracey 2027 Juan Brache 2027 Jack Bremer 2025 Annabella Brennan 2025 Layla Rose Bryand 2027 Lucy Bryand 2028 Olivia Bryant 2026 Juan Burgos Vilchez 2027 Azryah Buwee 2028 Josue Cabrera Ramirez 2025 Dylan Calabro 2026 Dionis (Jayden) Calcagno 2026 Abner Cambranes 2027 Madison Campano 2027 Jordan Caparrelli 2027 Joella Carpentieri 2028 Steven Carrera Hermosilla 2028 Brooklynn Case 2025 Jonelvis Castro 2027 Dylan Cerio 2025 Christopher Cherry 2028 Jaiden Cordero 2026 Christian Coronado 2028 Elliot Cortesi 2025 Edith Cortez Velazquez 2028 Jon Costa 2028 Alessio Couture 2028 Aidan Cross 2027 Jonathan Cruz Granados 2026 Santino Cucinotta 2027 Daniel Curiel 2028 Nickola D'Aquila 2028 Chantal DeJesus 2025 Roger Delgado 2028 Nicholas Desmarais 2027 Ava DiNobile 2026 Tyler Diodati 2025 Christopher DiPanni 2028 Jada DiRaimo 2026 Riley Enos 2025 Fiona Fairbanks 2027 Emily Fashiian 2026 Vanessa Febus 2026

Ruben Feleja Correia 2028

Jazlyn Garcia 2028 Jordan-Alexis Garcia-Daniel 2028 Sirra Gaye 2028 lan Gobeille 2027 Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027 Jose Gonzalez Gorrin 2027 Cristian Gonzalez 2025 Valentina Gonzalez 2026 Avery Gordon 2028 Robert Graham 2025 Joseph Grenier 2026 Jennifer Guerrero 2027 Joshua Guimaraes 2027 Yeimy Gutierrez Santos 2027 Mariana Gutierrez 2028 Alejandro Harrop 2026 Amelia Healy 2027 Adam Heywood 2026 Morgan Johnson 2027 Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025 Cesar Jumique 2028 Jaylinn Khun 2027 Adrien Kirkland 2027 Kaylee Kopka 2028 Christopher Landaverde 2027 Aristotle Landim 2028 Jewel Langlois 2028 Ariana Lara 2027 Lila Lautieri 2028 Alyssa Leclerc 2025 Jackson Link 2027 Na'imah Lopes 2026 Sebastiana Lux Hernandez 2026 Andrew Lyman 2025 Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027 Paul Magnuski 2028 Balla Marone 2025 Isabela Martinez 2027 Analeah Martins 2027 Muhammad Masood 2025 Julia McLellan 2027 Manuel Mejia Mejia 2027 Julianna Melgar 2027 Ava Mello 2026 Arthur Men 2027 Rachael Mendoza 2026 Jaden Mollock 2026 Antonio Morales 2027 Ashley Morales 2025 Chavier Moreira 2027 Jonathan Morris 2025 Marissa Morsilli 2028 Carlos Nacif 2028 Zariah Nhar Matko 2028 Dennis Nikonorov 2028 Owen Niles 2028 Jacqueline Nunes 2028 Juliana (Jules) Nunes 2026 Lizbeth Nunez 2027 Andres Ochoa 2027 Brady O'Donnell 2027 Maria-Fernanda Oliva 2028 Courtney Ortega 2027 Alexander Ortiz 2028 Julianna Ortiz 2025 Aubree Padula 2027 Elianna Paez 2027 Evelyn Pagliarini 2027 Katelyn Palermo 2025 Aiden Pannone 2027 Bricen Parris 2027 Gabriella Pascale 2025 Isabella Paulson 2027 Alvin Pena 2026 Ellyce Perez 2026 Kaylee Phillips 2026 Madison Picchi 2027 Gianna Pilloni 2028 Ethan Placella 2025 Jayden Ponte 2027 Alexander Pratt 2026 Leium Quinones 2027 Joseph Ramos Cardoza 2026 Sydney Raposo 2025 Victoria Repollet 2026 Aylin Reyes Marte 2028 Deakin Reyes 2025 Tzivya Reyes 2026 Gabriella Ricci 2027 Gian Ricci 2027 Lucca Ricci 2028 Valentina Rincon 2028 Emmanuel Rios 2025 Danielson Rivas 2025 Na'zariah Rivera 2026 Henry Rodriguez 2027 David Roland 2026 Carolyn Rosales 2028 Jayden Rose 2026 Aiven Rua 2025 Anthony Salisbury 2027 Leah Sanchez Perez 2026 Kiara Sanchez 2026 Melany Sanchez-Rodriguez 2027 Miguel Santamaria Romero 2025 Jayden Santos 2025

Gianna Sauro 2026

Elliott Scattone 2028

Anthony Scorpio 2026

Hailey Segee 2027

Katelyn Silva 2027

Allison Serrano 2027 Luke Sharpless 2026 Alana Smith 2027 Alexander Smith 2027 Liz Solis Gonzalez 2028 Skyley Soto 2025 Jay Spina 2027 Kristopher Stetson 2028 Tristan Stevens 2028 Kirk Tetteh 2028 Mark -Anthony Thompson 2028 Yandel Torrico 2027 Josie Torti 2027 Bobbi'Sue Trahan 2025 Courtney Turner 2028 Izabella Urena 2028 Andrew Urizar 2027 Jared Urizar-Santos 2025 Yomilenny Valois Tolentino 2028 Loyal Vanstone 2028 Marques Vasquez 2025 Anthony Vendetti 2026 Ronald Vento 2026 Dylana Vescera 2026 Abdiel Vidal 2027 Rowan Vien 2027 Morgan Visnicky 2027 Carldjon'n Volcy 2027 Leah Volcy 2027 Sincere Waldron 2025 Ella Ware 2028 Ryan Waterman 2027 Jaiden Weston 2026 Jordan (Fae) Weston 2025 Nicholas Williams 2025 Sofia Williams 2027 Melvin Wilson 2028 Timothy Xoydara 2027

Brandon Simonelli 2025

3rd Honors

Michael Abbruzzi 2025 Talia Abbruzzi 2026 Jayvin Adamo 2026 Vincent Allen 2026 Luis Alvarez 2025 Roman Amato 2027 Elijah Arrington 2027 Tavian Banta-Cain 2025 Elianna Baptista 2027 Kelly Barrenechea 2027 Aiden Bianco 2027 Kayden Burrell-Cann 2027 Giovanni Celani 2027 Alexa Chavez 2028 Alanna Colon 2027 Sean Connor 2025 Ryder Dawson 2027 Yarielis DeJesus 2026 Raymond DeSimone 2027 J-lynn Dias 2027 Edison Diaz Gomez 2026 Diana Dourado 2027 Domenic Duarte 2028 Daniel Dubon 2027 Ismael Falette Henriquez 2027 Cooper Ferranti 2028 Khloe Florez 2028 La'Niyah Florian 2028 James Forgetta 2028 Benjamin Foster 2027 Zulmary Franco-Delgado 2028 Piper Gilmore 2026 Sara Gomez 2027 Isabella Grimshaw 2026 Kenderra Guertin 2025 Elijah Guzman 2028 Walter Homenick 2026 Omar Jadama 2027 Tatiana James 2028 Anthony Lastor Quinonez 2025 Gabriella Laviano 2027 Isabella Liang 2027 Casandra Lopez 2026 Cecelia Martins 2028 Rylee Medeiros 2028 Daniel Morales 2025 Nicholas Nardolillo 2027 Ahmad Naser 2026 Isabella Nunes 2027 Elijah Omari 2027 Daniestheliz Ortiz 2027 Yeremy Ovalles 2025 Emilly Paul 2025 Evan Perron 2028 Zion Phann 2028 Enzo Pistacchio 2028 Ryan Pistocco 2025 Isabella Rivas 2028 Jordan Rivera 2025 Yarham Robles Torres 2028 Brissya Rodriguez 2026 Zelice Rolland 2028 Faith Rosadio 2026 Ivana Rua 2027 Pedro Sajbin Estrada 2027 Anthony Sanchez Perez 2028 Max Sciotti 2028 Arisha Soto 2028 Michael Stone 2025 Eden Sylvia 2025 Alik Symoungkoun 2026 Janie-Alice Thompson 2027 Chase Turcotte 2028 Christopher Valdivieso 2027 Jalivah (Ronnie) Vanstone 2026

Leanna Vargas 2026

Adam Venditelli 2028

Luke Ventura 2028

Anderson Villa 2025

Aidan Wentworth 2028

Austin Wheeler 2025 Thomas Xoydara 2027

Cameron Veitch 2026

Ashlyn Wheeler 2028

RhodyLife



Thomas 'bringing the energy' in return to Ocean State

By ALEX SPONSELLER

University of Rhode Island point guard Sebastian Thomas made his return home this basketball season and has been electric as the Rams have quickly become one of the top teams in the Atlan-

Thomas left a historic legacy at Bishop Hendricken, leading the team to a state championship and earning all-state honors as the state's best guard in 2020. He became one of the most soughtafter Rhode Island prospects since Joe Mazzulla was recruited by West Virginia in 2006 and

elected to join URI as a freshman.

After two seasons with the Rams, Thomas transferred to Albany his junior year, hoping to see more playing time and emerge as a top-flight Division I point guard. He did just that, leading the Great Danes in scoring with 19.6 points per game across 32 starts and earning all-conference hon-

After his breakout season, Thomas eyed a return home and another chance to be a leader on his original college squad. He made the move official early last year and has not looked back.

Thomas currently leads the team in minutes per game (34.4), points per game (18.3) and assists per game (6.4), and has even flashed some skills on defense as he leads the team in steals per game (2.2). The Rams entered the week with a 12-2 overall record and began conference play going 1-1. After dropping the conference opener against Duquesne, the Rams bounced back to beat George Mason and Thomas hit the game-winning shot to secure the victory.

"Things are good right now. We've built some great chemistry the first few months that we've

played together. The conference is going to be harder, so we'll need to lock in more and be more disciplined," Thomas said.

Thomas has enjoyed the responsibility he has been given as a team captain and hopes his attitude is infectious on the court.

"My mindset on a daily basis is to show up and get the guys going. It is my job as the point guard to get all the guys to play hard, trying to win. I need to bring the energy every day and have the confidence in myself to get the guys going," said Thomas, who felt his year at Albany really helped him develop a strong mentality heading into his senior year. "It was more of a mental thing. I had to see myself do it. I had to see myself put numbers up and believe that I could do it anywhere. I carried that to URI and it is working for me.'

The Rams had a down year in 2023-24, finishing with a 12-20 record overall. With multiple new starters, including Thomas, basketball fans were unsure of what this year's team would look like. The Rams have made a statement to this point and have embraced the underdog label.



Thomas puts up a shot.

10

OCAL BUSINESS

The Preserve at Briarcliffe

Redefining the Senior Living Experience



By JENNIFER COATES

The holidays may be behind us, but Old Man Winter is still busy treating us to some record low temperatures and windy, bone-chilling days that deter almost anyone from venturing outside for anything but the essentials. The residents of The Preserve at Briarcliffe are well-advised to stay close to home while they ride out these frigid New England days.

For many seniors, these dark and cold days can be especially lonely and isolating. Research has shown that this loneliness and isolation can have some very detrimental effects on people, but particularly on the elderly. Dr. Ronan Factora, a geriatrician at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, has said "One of the things we learned during the pandemic is that social isolation is a really big problem and is probably one of the most recognized contributors to mental health issues now in the United States." He adds, "For older individuals, it's a bigger deal."

Dr. Factora further explains that loneliness can be a precursor for depression and that getting the chance to socialize with others can elevate a person's mood. This socialization can also be beneficial to their cognitive and physical health. Some researchers also propose that regular interaction with others may improve memory and longevity as it reduces stress and

Briarcliffe President & CEO Akshay Talwar and his team at Briarcliffe Preserve, a state-of-the-art senior living community in Johnston, are completely committed to staving off the negative effects of loneliness and isolation, not only in the drab days of winter, but all year long!

A visit to this modern and exquisitely appointed residence, with its myriad amenities, will allow one to see this commitment in full display. Planned activities for socialization are supplemented by a beautiful communal dining room where



When you visit The Preserve at Briarcliffe, you will see common gathering spots just like this cozy "Cheersstyle" bistro where frequent resident socials are held. All areas invite residents to linger, converse, reminisce and connect.

the residents enjoy restaurant style dining three times a day. There is always someone making note of who is present, who is well, who is lonely, who is feeling sadness, who needs companionship, who needs encouragement, who needs an extra dose of comfort and compassion.

The Preserve is dedicated to "preserving," protecting, and prolonging the mental, physical, and emotional health of all of its residents. This overarching goal has informed every decision made at this Continued Care Retirement Community, from its conception to its completion.

Every detail of this senior living community was intentionally

designed to make its residents and guests alike feel at home. This includes a wide array of highly personalized amenities and services such its weekly housekeeping, laundry and linen services, call and monitoring systems and scheduled transportation to appointments and outings. Regular and frequent contact with others is incorporated into every aspect of daily life at The Preserve.

Now is a great time to schedule your in-person tour of The Preseve at 54 Old Pocasset Road. To arrange for your tour, call 401.944.2450 or visit Briarcliffe online at www.briarclifferi.com.





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Sports

Panthers look to shake off rocky start

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys basketball team entered the week searching for its first win after starting off 0-7 to begin the year.

The Panthers graduated their entire starting lineup from last year, which coincided with the team being elevated to Division I. A slow start was to be expected as the lineup sorted itself out, and coach Mike Bedrosian now feels the team has found enough answers to begin pulling itself out of the early season lull.

"I feel that we've been getting better since day 1. (Our game against Cranston West) was the first game that we took a punch and punched back. The other games that we lost, we didn't really respond well when teams would go on a run," said Bedrosian, who also feels some of the mistakes are self-inflicted and preventable. "We need to limit turnovers. That's what put us in a hole. That's our biggest flaw right now and the reason we're struggling."

The team has also been bit by the injury bug early, being forced to play seven different starting lineups in its first seven games. The team was back in action against Westerly on Tuesday night and Bedrosian was preparing to use his eighth starting lineup to extend that streak. Missing multiple games was Sincere Waldron, who is perhaps the team's most productive player when healthy.

Despite the rocky start, Bedrosian and his staff have seen some underclassmen step up, specifically freshman Aiden Neil, who has come on as of late. He led the team with 16 points in its most recent

SHAKE - PAGE 12



Johnston's Ron Vento takes the ball up the court in a recent game. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)





Coventry/Johnston's Jack Horsman (left) and Kristofer Matola (right). (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)

Hockey co-op bounces back to beat Lincoln

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston/Coventry boys hockey co-op bounced back after a tough loss to Toll Gate/East Greenwich by beating Lincoln 7-5 last week

Cameron Dottor and Evan Rogers each scored a pair of goals while Mason Horsman, Owen Sanders and Jack Horsman also found the back of the net. Dottor finished with two assists, while Mason Horsman also assisted on two goals.

Johnston/Coventry goalie Abby Enos finished the day by recording 15 saves in net.

Collin King and Hunter Azar scored for the co-op in the loss to EG/TG. Enos and Silas Core combined for 27 saves.

The co-op will be back in action this Friday when it hosts Narragansett/Chariho for a 9 p.m. puck drop.



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■ Shake

(Cont. from page 11)

game against Shea while Ron Vento added 10.

"A bright spot has been Aidan Neil. We're getting good minutes from him. The last four games he's averaged 11 points and has helped on the glass, that's a bright spot especially coming from a freshman. He's getting some confidence and exposure," said Bedrosian.

Bedrosian has been proud of the team's fight as it faces adversity and believes that the players have the right attitude as they look for their first

"They're hungry and they're trying to right the ship. As a coach, you don't want to lose the team and we're far from that. They're a great bunch of kids. You can be dealing with a bunch of issues and we're not. They're tired of being in



Jason Schino handles the ball.

the loss column, but I keep telling them it will just take us one game. Once they get that game and get the feeling of a win, it'll make them hungry to win again," said Bedrosian, who still believes there is a route to the playoffs.

urgency, "There's there's no doubt about that. We keep telling

them that we're confident that they can do it. There's no reason we can't turn this ship around. If we get four or five wins against DI teams, we can clinch a playoff spot," Bedrosian said. "If we do that and sneak in the playoffs, you never know. We have the guys and we have the confidence."

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and ___, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround 23. Crisp and Pebbles
- are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage 28. Corpuscle count
- (abbr.) 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses

45. Swiss river

- 41. __ juris 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit

40. Condemn

48

- 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron 52. New Zealand
- mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian
- surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on
- bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into 66. Lumps of clav
- 67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese 2. Boxing's GOAT

- 3. Japanese classical theater

- Retailer payment

- 11. Hostilities
- 15. Resinlike substance

- 24. One point west of
- 29. Type of grass

- alphabet
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- Ballplayers' accessory
- system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword

- Sea dweller
- secreted by certain
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- due south
- 27. Trout

- 32. South American plant 34. Letter of the Greek
- 35. Not secure
- Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato 40. Period after sunrise
- and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shrill, wailing sound 51. A baglike structure in
- a plant or animal
- 54. Within 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette
- recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

64. It cools a home

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Mayo out as Pats fall off rails

The New England **Patriots** head coach Jerod Mayo shortly after the regular season finale on Sunday, further pushing back the team's return to contention ... whenever that may now be.

To be frank, I do not know how anyone could not see this coming the moment he was hired.

When looking Mayo's coaching resume, it was thin at best. He was never a defensive coordinator and was an assistant for just five years prior to being named Belichick's successor. The lack of experience alone should have worried everyone in New England, but owner Robert Kraft took the chance based purely on instinct. Instinct being the key word here, because there was nothing on paper to suggest that he was ready for the responsibilities that come along with being an NFL head coach.

Now, is Mayo a good coach? Yes, I believe he is an NFL-caliber coach with a bright future ahead of him. He drew rave reviews from players and coaches alike before being elevated to head coach and he was one of the smartest linebackers in the league during his time as a player. He was a key voice in recent Patriot defenses, which typically were among the

best in the league. But to be a head coach without experience as a coordinator? proves that it is just too big of a leap. Even if Mayo spent a season or two as a college head coach, that may have been enough experience to help him along, but he just did not have the qualifications at this point in his career.

Many people, most people in fact, have mentioned the roster that he inherited this season. It was one of the worst rosters in the league, if not the worst, filled with draft busts and overpaid middlers. I have been quite critical of Belichick in the past and have taken aim at his poor roster construction the last several years of his reign and his choices are still hampering the team to this day. It is impossible to assess Mayo's performance without mentioning the players and lack of talent he took on. That said, though, the team slowly regressed as the season wore on. Regardless of talent, that can't happen.

There were also some off-field shenanigans that took place in the final weeks as well. Mayo now infamously threw offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt un-

My pitch



SPONSELLER SPORTS EDITOR

der the bus after the team laid an egg coming off the bye week against the Arizona Cardinals, he also committed to Antonio Gibson as the team's starting running back in an interview hours before the team took the field and ultimately went with Rhamondre Stevenson. Players began speaking out against the fans that have been booing, Mayo started getting testy with media members when they inquired about the happenings of the team. Things fell of the rails fast in the final month of the season.

Is it fair that Mayo is being ousted after just one year with a terrible roster? Yes, it certainly

It does not matter how poor the roster is. It is up to the coach to ensure things improve as the season progresses and to have his team act professionally on a daily basis. That's not to say that the team needed to do a complete 180 and compete for a playoff spot, but we needed to at least things steady while also picking up a few more wins and not having weekly foot-in-mouth moments on the podium. Had Mayo conducted himself a little better on the mic and picked up even just another win or two, I believe he would have saved his job. For people saying he did not get a fair shake, it's not an unreasonable take, but an incorrect one. At the end of the day, he completely lost control of the operation down the stretch.

Now, to address the whole situation with the upcoming draft. The Patriots entered the finale with a chance to grab the first overall pick in April's NFL Draft. Had they lost against the Bills last Sunday, they would have secured it. With the (wacky) win, one in which the Bills handed to them, clearly, the Pats dropped to No. 4 overall. What a crushing blow to the future of the franchise. No one expected the

Pats to make a selection with the top pick, but quarterback-needy teams in recent years have sold the farm to move up to acquire this spot. The Pats would have likely secured an additional first round

pick in 2026, along with multiple other selections and maybe even a starting-caliber player in the process. The No. 4 pick is nothing to sneeze at and the team will be picking again at 38, but to leave that much on the table for a meaningless late season win was demoralizing.

There is no one to blame here, though. You can't actually expect professional players and coaches to throw a game just for the sake of acquiring draft capital. It just stings that so much was lost and virtually nothing was gained on Sunday. It was one of the most bizarre games that I have ever watched. The Patriots sat most of their starters and the Bills were not so subtle in trying to stick it to their division rival. The Bills had nothing to play for, so why not stand in the way of the Pats earning the top pick? Buffalo was conservative on offense and loose on defense. It was the only time I have ever seen an NFL team completely hand a division rival a win.

It'll be one of the most intriguing head coaching searches in Boston sports history. It seems like the Pats have Mike Vrabel circled and have had his name in mind for several years now. They will also be interviewing Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson as well.

I'd go Vrabel. Look, what Johnson has done in Detroit is remarkable and he has proven to be an elite offensive coach, something this Patriots team desperately needs, especially with a young quarterback under center in Drake Maye. I would not be disappointed in the slightest

if Johnson gets the job.

Experience should be

the primary focus here, though, and Vrabel has plenty of it. He was the head coach of the Tennessee Titans for six years and reached the playoffs three of those seasons, even advancing to the AFC Championship in his second vear at the helm. Things did not end pretty as the Titans missed the playoffs in consecutive years and Vrabel apparently chewed out members of the front office. However, reports suggest that his frustration was due to the team not going all-in on its roster and boxing him out when it came to personnel decisions. Vrabel seems capable of rocking the boat, but he has also proven to be capable of coaching a team to success. This isn't even mentioning the fact that he wants to be in New England, per other reports.

Go get him.

Mandatory Speed Zone opens to protect right whales

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

NOAA Fisheries announced the annual opening of a Seasonal Management Area (SMA) in Cape Cod Bay to protect North Atlantic right whales which started on Jan. 1, 2025.

All vessels 65 feet or longer must travel at 10 knots or less in this area to reduce the threat of vessel collisions with these endangered whales. The Cape Cod Bay SMA is in effect through May 15, 2025. Because vessels of all sizes can strike and injure a right whale, NOAA Fisheries also encourages vessels less than 65 feet in length to slow down to 10 knots or less within active SMAs.

North Atlantic right whales are on the move along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. If seen, remember that approaching a right whale closer than 500 yards is a violation of federal and state law.

Endangered North Atlantic right whales are approaching extinction. There are approximately 360 individuals remaining, including fewer than 70 reproductively active females. Human impacts such as vessel strikes and entanglements with fixed fishing gear such as lobster pots and fish traps continue to threaten the survival of this species.

Details and graphics of all vessel strike management zones currently in effect can be found at Reducing Vessel Strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales | NOAA

The Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Management Area Includes all waters of Cape Cod Bay with Northern Boundary of 42°04′56.5″N, 070°12′W to 42°12′N, 070°12'W then due west back to shore.

Fish data still rolling in after 61 years Last week NOAA Fisheries announced the completion of their Fall Bottom Trawl Survey which has been conducted for 61

On Nov. 12, Northeast Fisheries Science Center staff finished the 2024 Fall Bottom Trawl Survey aboard the NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow. They conducted resource survey tows and temperature and salinity sampling at 371 of 377 planned stations (98 percent completion). They sampled plankton at 115 of 116 planned stations (99 percent comple-

This year's fall survey occurred in three legs, moving from south to north. It got underway on Sept. 6.

The Henry B. Bigelow supports a variety of marine research on this multispecies bottom-trawl survey. The most important of its missions is to monitor the



Ed Lombardo, with a striped bass caught on a fly rod, will speak at the Marlborough Fly Fishing Show on catching stripers in local tidal rivers. (Submitted photos)

region's fishery resources.

The data provides critical inputs to regional fish stock assessments. They help inform fishery management decisions on allowable catch limits and regulations for recreational and commercial fishing by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils as well as Atlantic States Marine Fisher-

This survey monitors fishery stock abundance and distribution on the Northwest Atlantic continental shelf from Cape Lookout, North Carolina, to the Scotian Shelf. Data collected are used to track fish ages, lengths, weights, sex, maturity, and food habits.

The temperature and salinity profiles collected during the survey help link fish distribution to physical oceanographic conditions. The ichthyoplankton (larval fish and eggs) collected help with understanding spawning distributions and with estimating changes in fish abundance. The zooplankton (tiny animals and immature stages of some larger ones) collected tell researchers about the ocean food web. The data collected helps NOAA to construct models that support ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.

For information on the trawl survey visit 2024 Fall Bottom Trawl Survey Completed in Northeast | NOAA Fish-

Marlborough Fly Fishing Show Jan. 17-19

The Marlborough Fly Fishing Show will be held Friday, Jan. 17 to Sunday, Jan. 19 at the Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA.

The Fly Fishers International (FFI) will be offering free fly fishing instruction at the Learning Center located on the main show floor.

Learn about fly fishing and tying from the best guides in the region and nation. Over 25 seminars offered concurrently in two seminar areas. For example, Ed Lombardo, expert fly guide and instructor who taught me how to fly fish two years ago, will be conducting two seminars along with ten other featured speak-

Lombardo will host a seminar on Fishing the Dry Fly on Some of New England's Best Trout Streams at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 and then at 4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18 he will speak on How to Fly Fish for Striped Bass on Some of New England's Best Tidal Rivers.

Tickets are \$18 for a one day pass, \$28 for two days, and \$38 for a three day pass. Children under five admitted free with a \$5 fee for children 6 to 12 years

For information visit the show website at https://flyfishingsttps://flyfishingshow.com/marlborough-ma/how.com/ marlborough-ma/.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass continue to make an appearance in good numbers in our title rivers, salt pond estuaries and inlets that feed them. Fly fishing expert and guide Ed Lombardo and fishing partners continue to hook up with striped bass at the Narrow River, Narragansett. Mike Wade of Watch hill outfitters reports a good bass bite with fish from 24" to 35" and more off the Fire District Beach and in the Thames River.

Cod/tautog fishing. High winds and seas have prevented vessels from fishing, but boats will continue to fish for cod this month once things calm down. The tautog season closed Dec. 31 in MA and RI, and closed 11/28 in CT. So, if you are itching to get out cod is a good option, visit party/charter boat social media sites, website or call them and ask if they are sailing. 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.

Freshwater fishing. We are in a transition period, unfortunately the ice/no ice situation has made it difficult to fish from shore and boats. Anglers that have been braving the elements and are able to fish have been landing trout and largemouth. Beach Pond that straddles Voluntown, CT and Exeter, RI had fishable ice last week with a few anglers hooking up with trout there. Just a thin layer of ice this week in some spots. And that has been the case with many waterways in the CT, RI and MA area this week. 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 fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verison.net or visit www. noflukefishing.com.

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11 Gray Coach Ln Lot 1119 11 Harbour Ter 118 Mount ViewDr 12 Mathewson St Lot 362 12 Mathewson St Lot 363 139 ColonialAve 140 HazeltonSt 1533 HopeRd 174 Gansett Ave Lot 2421 195 Lake GardenDr 203 AqueductRd 40 BarrettSt 40 Barrett St Lot 1380 40 BerkleySt 400 Atwood Ave Lot 911 46 HopewellAve 5 PlazaSt 5 Plaza St Lot 2517	Patriot Bldrs Inc Almonte, Jennifer Lundh, Ashley C Swap Inc Swap Inc Lalas, Devan G Caramadre Vincent A Est and Caramadre, Anne O Gentile, William Not Enough Wine LLC Bibby Jr, Peter Danna, Stephanie M Lsf9 Master Participation and Us Bank TNa Lsf9 Master Participation and Us Bank TNa Sollars Marie Est and Chalek, Susan M Ocean Island Inc Dixon, Phillip G and Jones-Dixon, Andrea R Crudale, Ann E Crudale, Ann E	Berry-Fahm, Tiffany M Brady, Scott P and Brady, Tera A Henderson, Gregory P Akinfolarin, Rasheed Akinfolarin, Rasheed Murphy, Matthew Caramadre, Anne O Robinson, Jaston Liam Investments LLC Omar, Amira R Barbosa, Bernardo Sabbat, Almar and Sabbat, Jezybelle Sabbat, Almar and Sabbat, Jezybelle Corrigan, Cynthia Atwood Invest LLC Jyz Prop LLC Crudale Jr, Anthony J and Crudale, Rebecc Crudale Jr, Anthony J and Crudale, Rebecc	12/13 ca 12/17 ca 12/17	\$349,900 \$875,000 \$460,000 \$234,000 \$340,000 \$365,000 \$530,000 \$450,000 \$345,000 \$389,900 \$320,000 \$1,250,000 \$350,000 \$350,000	31 Verndale St Lot 93 3181 PostRd 33 MortonDr 46 DallasAve 48 LimestoneSt 50 DeborahRd 51 MellonRd 53 Reed St Lot 53 60 DundasAve 63 PenderAve 64 ErrolSt 64 Errol St Lot 169 64 ErrolSt 65 MajesticAve 69 HiltonRd 72 W Shore Rd Lot 206 73 BurbankDr 89 LucasRd 90 Park ViewAve	Vrmtg Asset T and Us Bank TNa Oconnell, Mary P and Oconnell, John T Nancy L Lewis Lt and Colagiovanni, Elizabeth Thompson Firt and Barber, Diane Gonsalves, Donna and Gonsalves, Perry Gardiner, Bradford W Faria, Cindy S Raso, Michelle A Kowalski, Alexander Dennen, Pamela J Bank Of Amer Bank Of Amer Bank Of Amer Bonilla, William and Bonilla, Jessica B Perry, Stephen J and Champagne, Stephanie A Naga & Shiva LLC Vasconcellos, Megan Rockwell, Brenda D Tata Raymond V Est and Tata, Kenneth A	Cepeda, Dionisio A and Cepeda, Antoni Roberts, Kylie C In Francis, Wayne and Francis, Lisa Bacani, Deborah Laflamme, Ian and Laflamme, Ariana Guyton, Jordan and Gordinier, Sarah Narcovich, Patricia and Broccolo, Christophe Bush, Dymond L Lynch, Patrick C Benevides, Yasuko C and Benevides, Jonathan I Bank Of Amer Bank Of Amer Centurion Prop Grp LLC Nardolillo Jr, Joseph R and Nardolillo, Kerry J Knight, Gerald and Manchester, Tricia Giem, Annette Dangelos, Lauren Cardarelli, Elecia and Rockwell, Troy Letran, Jamie J	12/16 12/16 12/20 12/19 12/18 er 12/16 12/16 12/20 M 12/19 12/20 12/20 12/20	\$215,250 \$499,000 \$430,000 \$355,000 \$410,000 \$4452,300 \$510,000 \$365,000 \$249,201 \$249,201 \$240,000 \$4425,000 \$165,000 \$350,000 \$462,000
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75 LeawoodDr 99 Basil Xing	Gardner, Stephen W and Gardner, Paula M Masello, Jenine	Collins, Madelyne and Collins, Donald Zhao, Mingming and Lim, See R	12/13 12/12	\$467,000 \$779,000	37 Club HouseRd 764-A Nooseneck HillRd	Clark, Linda I Hanna, Steven R WEST WAR	Gondor, Kalmar I and Gondor, Laurie J Landco LLC	12/19 12/17	\$501,500 \$600,000
	EAST GREEN	NWICH			1588 Main St Lot 18	Villanueva, Mark	Menard, Samantha	12/19	\$210,000
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11 AlvinaDr 1143 Hartford Ave Lot 6B 1216 AtwoodAve	Dimillio, Todd P and Dimillio, Raymond A Moody Stewart W Est and Moody, Michael S Mallane, Stephen D and Mallane, Dorothy A	Abroguena, John P and Beeman, Michael Toribio, Laura A	12/23	\$765,000 \$190,000 \$800,000					

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■ Thomas

(Continued from page 9)

"We know inside the locker room that we're a good team. We've got multiple guys that can do different things, we have depth. On the outside, I think we're still underdogs, people don't believe in us. People probably look at us as underdogs, but we're OK with that. We know in our locker room what we have and that we'll show up. Every game we're just going to have to prove it," Thomas

As he continues to lead the team in conference play, Thomas is thankful for the supportive community at URI and credits those around him for helping him hit another level this year.

"Honestly, I did not think that I would be doing this. I knew that I would have a good year and make an impact on the team because of the work that I put in. The workouts that I put in, the team we have and the position that the coaches have put me in have allowed me to be successful," said Thomas.

Thomas has also enjoyed doing it in front of his home state.

"It's an amazing feeling. There's a bunch of

people that know of me at our games - a bunch of people will come up to me. It's great that (local) people get to witness me do what I do," Thomas said. "Hopefully I am motivation for the younger kids that are trying to do the same thing as me. Hopefully I can be an inspiration for people in Rhode Island that want to live out their dreams. In the past few years, (basketball) definitely has grown in Rhode Island. As more time goes on, more kids will start playing in college, playing professionally, it's a great thing for the state of Rhode Island."

Thomas also reflects on his time at Hendricken and playing for coach Jamal Gomes. Thomas remains in contact with the Hawks and was in attendance for the team's season opener against rival La Salle before the holiday break.

"The thing that I look back on at Hendricken that I try to apply right now is that at Hendricken, everyone is family and is taken care of on the basketball team, in the community at the school," said Thomas. "Right now in my career, I'm trying to make it feel like a family environment with the coaches and team. When you have that, everything is more fun."



Thomas during his playing days at Bishop Hendricken. (File photo by Alex Sponseller)



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