

# JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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## Developer sues town over land claim

*Says eminent domain filing against planned apartments is 'sham'*

RI Current and Beacon Media staff report

The owners of 31 acres of undeveloped land in Johnston targeted for seizure by eminent domain filed a federal lawsuit against the town Monday night, just two and a half hours after the Town Council voted unanimously to take legal action to condemn the land.

SCLS Realty LLC and Sixty Three Johnston LLC had plans to build a 252-unit affordable housing complex on the site, but Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. wants to build a new public safety complex and town hall. The Town Council voted 5-0 in its regular meeting Monday to pursue the land seizure after obtaining an appraisal that found the property was worth \$775,000.

Polisena is invoking the power of eminent domain in a legal maneuver that involves providing "just compensation" to the private owner. The value determined in the appraisal by Andolfo Appraisal Associates Inc., of Providence, would represent a cost of \$25,000 per acre for the land off George Waterman Road.



MAYOR JOSEPH POLISENA JR.  
*Beacon Media file photo  
by Barbara Polichetti*

Who has filed suit?

The lawsuit lists the members of the family-owned homebuilder corporations as Lucille Santoro, Salvatore Compagnone, Ralph Santoro and Suzanne Santoro. They are being represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, a California-based libertarian nonprofit that often takes on property-rights cases, including those of some Rhode Island coastal property owners who have sought to challenge the state's shoreline-access laws.

"The Constitution forbids using eminent domain under false pretenses," Kady Valois, an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation, said in a statement. "The town should be honest and transparent about its real reasons for using eminent domain and not lie about why it's abusing its power to strip owners of their property rights."

The plaintiffs intended to build under the provisions of the state's Low and Moderate Income Housing law, which limits the ability of a municipality to block a project unless at least 10% of the community's housing stock

● LAND CLAIM to page 10

## ACLU applauds, urges public meeting streaming

*COVID-era decision proves beneficial for public access*

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

Although remote access to public meetings – via livestreaming services such as "Zoom" or other platforms – is not mandatory in the state, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island is urging communities to make meetings as accessible as possible.

The organization's recommendation is based on a recent report that examines meeting access to municipal town councils and school committees. The data updates a similar report that the ACLU issued almost two years ago, and while it states that there have been some improvements in remote access to meetings, it concludes that there is room for improvement.

Citing its own prior report, the organization states, "Access to the democratic process should no longer hinge on a person's physical mobility or their ability to afford a car, get time off work, or find a childcare provider."

According to the report which can be read on the Rhode Island ACLU website, a majority of the 39 municipal town councils in the state make livestreaming options available to the public, as do the majority of school committees.

In the Warwick, Cranston and Johnston area, both Warwick and Cranston offer remote access to meetings. Johnston, however, was singled out in the report for not providing streaming access to School Committee meetings. And although it was not highlighted in the ACLU report, the town also does not offer remote access to Town Council meetings.

● ACLU to page 9

## Johnston Prevention Coalition Named National Coalition of the Year

By TIM FORSBERG

The Johnston Prevention Coalition (JPC) has been recognized on the national stage for its dedication to reducing youth substance use and fostering a healthier community.

CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) has honored JPC as the 2024 Coalition of the Year, a prestigious award given to coalitions that demonstrate long-term success in their prevention efforts.

JPC, coordinated by the Tri-County Community Action Agency, has been serving the Johnston community since 2006 under the Rhode Island Substance Abuse Prevention Act. The coalition's mission focuses on raising awareness, educating the community, and implementing evidence-based prevention strategies.

Through these efforts, JPC has achieved measurable success, particularly in reducing youth nicotine use. From 2018 to 2024, Johnston saw an 11.6 percent decrease in lifetime nicotine use and a 6.8 percent decline in past 30-day use among students in grades 7 through 11.

At the core of JPC's success is its extensive collaboration with local organizations, including the Johnston School Department, the Johnston Police Department, healthcare providers,

student assistance counselors, and parent-teacher organizations. These partnerships have been instrumental in implementing policies and programs that make a lasting impact.

Among its many initiatives, JPC has introduced interactive programs like the *Escape the Vape Escape Room*, which engages middle school students in learning about the dangers of nicotine use, and *Media Ready*, an evidence-based program designed to help students critically analyze media influences on substance use.

The *Pick Your No's* curriculum teaches middle school students refusal skills through role-playing activities, while the *Above the Influence (ATI) Peer Leadership Program* empowers middle and high school students to take an active role in prevention efforts.

Additionally, the coalition provides resources for parents and educators, such as the *Hidden in Plain Sight* display, which helps adults recognize warning signs of substance use, and campaigns like *It Starts With You: Talk Early, Talk Often* and *They Hear You*, which promote open conversations between parents and children about substance use. To further support families, JPC publishes the *Raising Healthy Kids* quarterly newsletter, offering practical tools and insights on prevention and healthy decision-making.

Patricia Sweet, Director of Prevention Programs and SPC Regional Task Force at the Tri-County Community Action Agency, expressed the significance of this national recognition.

"Winning Coalition of the Year is an incredible honor that reflects the dedication, hard work, and passion of everyone involved. It reinforces the importance of our mission and the impact we are making in our communities. This recognition is a testament to the commitment of our coalition members, partners, and supporters who work tirelessly to create positive change," she said. "It motivates us to continue pushing forward, knowing that our efforts are truly making a difference in prevention and community well-being. I have to say, without BHDDH funding, this could not have happened and was also supplemented by Drug-Free Communities funds"

The Johnston Police Department has been a key partner in JPC's mission, particularly in enforcement efforts. Chief Mark Vieira emphasized the department's longstanding commitment to working alongside the coalition.

"The Johnston Police Department has been involved with the coalition since its inception to assist with enforcement efforts. It's been a pleasure

● AWARD to page 10



Patricia Sweet, Director of Prevention Programs and SPC Regional Task Force and Alyssa Ausura, who works for the Johnston Coalition on the Drug-Free Communities grant, are joined by Lieutenant General (Retired) Barry Price, President and CEO of CADCA, who had the honor of presenting the awards. *Submitted photo*



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# Honor Flights rely on generosity to keep taking off

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**

The best day of their lives. That's what George Farrell, retired Providence fire chief and chairman of the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, wants to give every single veteran who takes an Honor Flight to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service.

Farrell, who founded the Rhode Island hub of the nationwide Honor Flight network, considers it his honor and duty to be responsible for the safe passage of veterans who have served their country. "Their families trust us, and we are prepared," Farrell said last week as he was wrapping up preparations for the next trip which will take place on March 30.

Called "Honor Flight 'Charlie,'" this trip will include two 100-year-old veterans of World War II, six Korean War Veterans, and 13 Vietnam Veterans. As on all honor flights, the guests are accompanied by 'guardians' and medical staff to make sure the trip is as safe as possible.

In preparation for the flight, Farrell was scheduled to be at the St. Mary's Feast Society in Cranston Saturday, where a special fundraising dinner was being held for the Hub.

Every veteran travels free of charge, and Farrell said that donations, sponsors, and special fundraising events like the dinner at the Feast Society are what make the Honor Flights possible.

He noted that this month's trip is named 'Charlie,' because its primary sponsor is North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi's charitable fund.

"It's our sponsors and local fundraising events like (the dinner) at the Feast Society that enable us to do this," said Farrell who founded the Rhode Island Hub of the national Honor Flight network in 2012. Since then, the state chapter has conducted 31 Honor Flights and transported 925 veterans to the nation's capital.

"By the time I finish the details for one trip, I'm already planning the next," said Farrell who is known statewide for his passion and tireless work to honor Rhode Island veterans.

The cost of each flight varies, he said, and is often dependent on the price he can negotiate with airlines. If he must charter a flight, the price of traveling can be as much as \$80,000, he said, but he is often able to find commercial flights. The guardians who accompany each veteran, as well as others who assist the non-profit Honor Flight organization are almost all volunteers.



Retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell, who originated the RI Honor Flights and continues to coordinate them shared the microphone with WWII veteran and Domenic Giarrusso. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*



Jane Barletta, wife of retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell who started the RI Honor Flights sold raffle tickets at Sunday's fundraiser. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

"It's our privilege to travel with these veterans," he said, adding that the organization is well aware of the "unbelievable trust" that veterans' families have in the Honor Flight – trusting the organization to keep loved ones safe on what may be the biggest trip they have taken in years.

"Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to the service and ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, the Honor Flight Network and RI Honor Flight Hub believe it is equally important that they get to visit and experience THEIR memorial," the organization sates as its official philosophy.

The Rhode Island Hub is one of 128 active Hubs in the country.

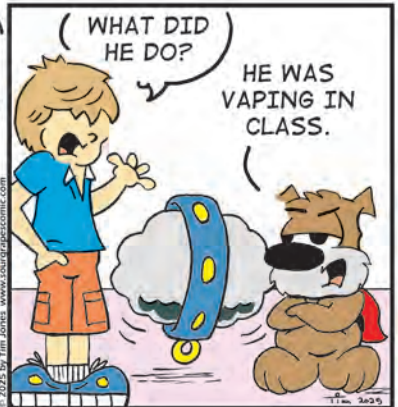
Founded in 2005, the Honor Flight network states on its website that, to date, it has served more than 317,000 veterans "and counting."

Farrell said it is his honor to attend fundraisers such as the dinner at the St. Mary's Feast Society and that he appreciates the sponsors and individual donors who make the Honor Flights possible. "Sometimes in the past we have large sponsors such as Ocean State Job Lot, and we also have local groups that support us with fundraisers," he said. "We are grateful for all the support we receive."

If anyone is interest in contributing to the Rhode Island Honor Flight Hub, they can visit its website at <http://www.rihonorflight.com>.

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones





# COVID 5 YEARS ON

## “There was no playbook”

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

“No easy answers.”

That is what School Committee members Robert LaFazia and Susan Mansolillo say they remember most about trying to figure out how to best educate and care for Johnston’s public school students during the height of the Covid pandemic.

It’s been almost exactly five years since then-Governor Gina Raimondo issued an executive order that essentially shut down the state in an attempt to manage a rapidly spreading virus that no one had ever heard of before.

That decision, and the dozens of necessary decisions in the months that followed, were a challenge to everyone. In an interview earlier this year, LaFazia and Mansolillo, were asked what they remembered about what it took to keep the school district operating when everyone was in uncharted territory.

“There was no playbook,” LaFazia recalled. “Things seemed to change every day. We (the School Committee) met almost constantly.”

There were huge decisions to be made, Mansolillo said, such as how to offer remote learning to the district’s approximately 3,000 students. And, she said there were smaller, but equally difficult decisions such as how to find a hand sanitizer that wasn’t flammable and would be compliant with school fire codes.

“Nothing was easy,” she said, recalling that state health mandates were changing constantly, safety supplies were in chronically short supply, and the district was being asked to come up with answers to questions it never



In 2020, Diana Rosales, an outgoing eighth-grader at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School, proudly displayed the specially made lawn signs that Principal Matthew Tsonos presented to members of the graduating class. They’re joined by Lisa Hunt, Nicki Aucone and Assistant Principal Freddie Skipworth. *Submitted photo*

faced before.

After the governor ordered the cessation of in-person learning at the end of March 2020, Johnston, like all other school districts, had to make sure students had computers so they could connect with their teachers for “remote” learning.

All sports and social activities were cancelled. “It was the students who really lost out,” LaFazia said. “They lost out academically and socially.... I don’t know if they ever really got a chance to catch up.”

In the fall of 2020, schools were allowed to reopen under

heavy safety restrictions – restrictions that often changed and had to be figured out how to be implemented by local school boards.

There were mask mandates, requirements of how far apart from each other students had to remain, and a need to monitor it all for compliance. Mansolillo said that, like other districts, Johnston researched all alternatives.

The district looked for dividers to place between students’ desks. It had to make sure there were enough proctors to monitor laboratories to make sure that students

were not close to each other when using the facilities. It scheduled staggered sessions to reduce the number of students in a building.

And through the early months, Mansolillo said, the schools had to carry on without any of the social activities -- such as proms, plays and homecoming parades -- that really complete public education.

“It’s the students who went through the worst of it,” she said.

Both she and LaFazia credit the students and parents in Johnston for doing whatever they could to help school officials, even though emotions were high

and there were so many decisions to be made that the school committee often felt like it was caught in the middle.

They stressed, however, that the school district’s pride was never squelched, and they knew that somehow things would eventually be okay in June 2020, when the district managed to pull off an “in person” high school graduation ceremony, covid restrictions and all.

Before the diplomas were handed out, seniors, retreated to the safety of cars to create a motorcade through town -- traveling down Atwood Avenue from FM Global corporate park to the high school. Parents, friends, family and townspeople lined the road to cheer on the graduates, taking care they were standing a safe distance apart.

Jumbo television screens displayed recorded messages from the commencement speakers, and, when it was time to get their diplomas, the students got out of their cars one by one to step on stage alone.

“I think we were one of the few schools anywhere that had a graduation ceremony that year,” LaFazia said. “We decided we didn’t care what it cost; we were going to do it for our students.”

It was a huge success, he and Mansolillo recalled, and even as things returned closer to normal in ensuing years, some students still wanted to another motorcade through Johnston.

“I think everyone in Johnston was out cheering for them,” Mansolillo said. “We were cheering for our students, and we were cheering for our town.”

## Domestic fliers take note May 7 is deadline for REAL ID

If you don’t have your REAL ID yet, be sure to check it off your to-do list before your next domestic flight. Starting May 7 travelers will need a REAL ID or a REAL ID compliant credential to board domestic flights or enter certain federal buildings.

While a traditional license will remain a valid form of identification for driving purposes, domestic air travelers should ensure they possess a REAL ID or REAL ID compliant credential before finalizing travel plans. Although a valid, unexpired U.S. passport will remain acceptable by the Transportation Security Administration for domestic air travel, AAA recommends frequent domestic travelers upgrade their traditional license to REAL ID.

“The key to making the REAL ID process as smooth as possible is preparation and arriving at appointments with all the right documents,” said Jillian Young, director of public relations for AAA Northeast. “Travelers should also know that they do not need a REAL ID to simply purchase airline tickets after the deadline but will need to have a REAL ID to board any domestic flight after May 7.”

Obtaining a REAL ID requires an in-person visit to either the Rhode Island DMV or a AAA branch. During the visit, you’ll need to provide proof of identity, a Social Security number and proof of Rhode Island residency. A list of documents that apply to each category can be found on the Rhode Island DMV’s website. Once the process is complete, a REAL ID is renewed just like a traditional license — only the initial in-person appointment is required.

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# Too Cool for School

Kindergarten teachers Ms. Pavao and Ms. Higgs at Johnston's Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School recently guided their young learners through an exciting exploration of penguins as part of a broader unit on living things. After learning about the unique characteristics, habitats, and behaviors of these fascinating birds, each student showcased their knowledge by writing and illustrating their very own book about penguins. To celebrate their hard work and creativity, the students hosted a special event where they shared their books with family members, turning the classroom into a celebration of learning, storytelling, and scientific discovery. See more photos at [johnstonsunrise.com](http://johnstonsunrise.com)

*Submitted photos*



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# Historical Society hosts 'intriguing' speaker on premature burial

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**

The Johnston Historical Society has arranged for a talk by Rhode Island historian and author Jim Ignasher on March 30. The talk, which will touch on the Victorian fear of being buried alive, and other less known history topics will be held at 2 pm the historical society's museum at 101 Putnam Pike.

Ignasher, who has a knack for unusual and little-known historical tales will talk about the Victorian fear of premature burial. "Truth can be stranger than fiction, and New England is not lacking for the bizarre mortuary tales of the dead, the undead, and those caught somewhere in between," Ignasher says.

He said that some of the tales, all based on historical research will include a story of a man who ended up in control of the hearse at his own funeral and another man who walked in on his own wake.

"The Victorian fear of a premature burial was very real, and apparently, well founded, based on numerous newspaper accounts that exist, but how many (people)

know that there were those who actually made a living by being buried alive," Ignasher queried. "And believe it or not, someone actually holds the world's record – maybe."

He said that while all the stories are true and presented in a "tasteful manner," his talk is not recommended for children due to the subject matter.

A Rhode Island native who now lives in Smithfield, Ignasher has written a number of history books including: *Remembering Smithfield: Sketches of Apple Valley*, *Rhode Island Disasters: Tales of Tragedy by Air, Sea and Rail*, and *"Forgotten Tales of Rhode Island."*

Anthony Ursillo, a trustee of the historical society said that Ignasher, who has spoken before numerous historical societies, seemed like an "intriguing" guest speaker.

He said the museum is a "hidden gem" in the town and people are encouraged to arrive early so they can walk around and explore.

The presentation is free and will be followed by light refreshments.

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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### COVID-era program has proven its worth

Five years ago almost to the day, if you can believe it, COVID-19 was formally declared a worldwide pandemic. The impact from that declaration and the coming months of unprecedented chaos and disruption is something that no one who lived through it will ever forget.

And while there is no shortage of decisions and governmental reactions stemming from that surreal time period where we can play Monday morning quarterback, we would rather applaud a program that came out of that time and should be enthusiastically continued.

Kent Hospital, recognizing that some patients could benefit from remaining at home while receiving treatments for various ailments, became a trailblazer in Rhode Island with the first program of its kind in the Ocean State — Hospital at Home, which recently celebrated treating its 1,000th patient.

The program, while a first in Rhode Island, is just one among hundreds found in 38 other states. And that wide pool of data, from drastically different parts of the nation, has given good reason to believe that the program makes a real difference in creating positive patient outcomes and lessening the burden on hospital systems that are frequently strained.

It doesn't take much imagination to see the benefits of such a program.

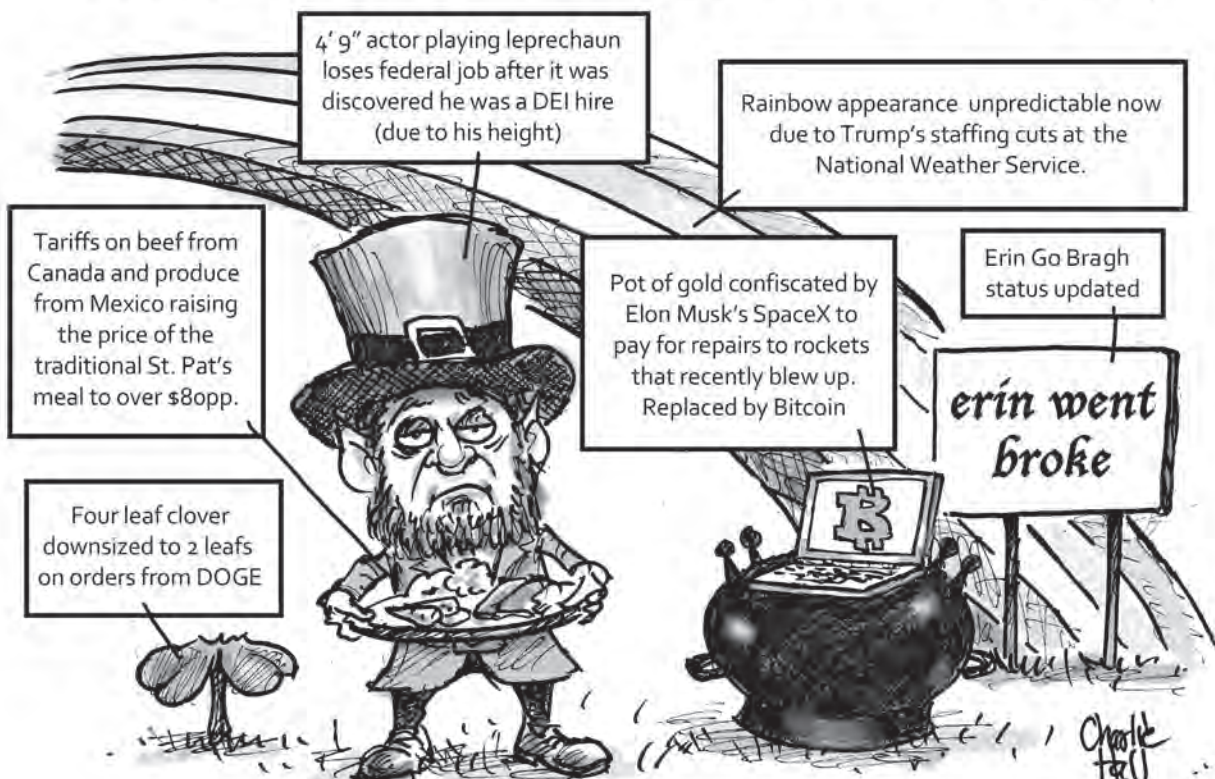
Rather than forcing a patient — for example, a person in their late 80s — from being moved out of their home (where they are most comfortable) into a stressful and often chaotic environment, that patient can receive treatment at home with a doctor or nurse coming to them. This enables them not only to recover faster from their illness, but it reduces the likelihood of them picking up some other sickness or infection while forced into staying at the hospital.

But as with all good things worthy of keeping or expanding, it all comes down to funding. And, like so many things right now, the mechanism providing for this program is in jeopardy of expiring or disappearing altogether.

The Hospital at Home program was made possible by a waiver provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that provided Medicaid reimbursements for home care that matched hospital care. Today, the ultimate state of Medicaid funding rests in the balance and at the peril of being de-funded by a Republican-led Congressional budget bill. But even more directly than that, the aforementioned waiver is set to expire at the end of March, and it has not been renewed yet.

While we understand that our federal delegation has a limited ability to reign in a foolhardy desire to use Medicaid as a sacrificial lamb within our federal budget, we hope that they can join colleagues from both sides of the aisle in extending the waiver that enables this program to happen in the first place. Then, if Medicaid funding survives, patients can continue to receive high-quality care from the comfort of their home; and one of the few positive legacies of Covid can live on.

### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY?



## LETTERS

### Lawlessness in Washington is attack on democracy

To the Editor,

I am 69 years old and I lived through Vietnam, Nixon and the Reagan years, but I have never seen an attack on our democracy like this.

In the past, there was bipartisan opposition to lawlessness. Elected officials did not all vote for tyranny based on political party. Why is the unelected Musk running the show? Why is

he getting access to our personal information? This is a coup because Musk and his followers were not elected to any public office and there is no office that would give him the authority to take these actions.

It is all illegal and its intended effect is to undo democratic practice and violate human rights.

Jeneane Lunn  
Cranston

### What is Trump's ultimate goal?

To the Editor,

I have been trying to figure out what is Donald Trump's end game. Why tariffs? Is he purposely trying to ruin the economies of the Western Hemisphere in order to make it easier for Putin to conquer the world? Is he purposely trying to destroy American farmers so that they are forced to sell their farms at bargain prices to the American oligarchy?

Whatever the end game, it is going to be a long hard four years, and that is if we can survive the destruction.

James Wishart  
Warwick

## GUEST OPINION

### Students urge 'proactive action' on wildfires

Over three months, 10,000 California homes were lost. Wildfires are no longer a crisis in Los Angeles, but they are a growing threat in Rhode Island and beyond. With increasingly dry conditions, wildfires are not only spreading farther but also affecting air quality everywhere. Fires in the Carolinas as recently as March 2, 2025, show that this danger is putting more communities at risk. Many communities currently facing these risks are not aware.

Our team recognizes that we must act now by supporting wildfire relief and prevention efforts that make a real difference. We have been fundraising for Community Organized Relief Effort. CORE partners with local communities to ensure the aid they receive matches the community's needs, including providing immediate aid and investing in long-term solutions. We know this is not a challenge we can face alone. We must all come together.

Our campaign began as a community service project for SkillsUSA, a career and technical student organization that connects students with industry to develop workforce skills. This competition initiated our efforts to give back, but we began to recognize that there is so much more we can do. As environmental engineering students, we recognize the risks we take when we don't take proactive action towards urgent societal needs.

Learning about the homes lost and lives devastated in LA, and the broader causes of wildfires, we were led to a clear realization: In a community, when one member suffers, everyone is affected.

What started as concern has become much more personal, making the need for action urgent. Our campaign is now driven by the hope that we can educate and inspire Rhode Island to take precautions, raise awareness and support efforts to safeguard our environment and homes. Everyone must come together to contribute to stronger, lasting action.

Wildfires threaten more than just forests. They endanger homes, air quality and entire communities. Our mission has driven us to create a petition to Rhode Island's legislature. To spark action and amplify our message, we urge Rhode Island to lead by example. Together we can show how communities can unite to prevent greater devastation and protect the places we call home before it's too late.

Wildfires affect us all. The time to prepare and protect is now. Please sign our petition. [www.daviestech.org/wildfires](http://www.daviestech.org/wildfires)

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Lissalin Guzman, Pawtucket  
Zyere Blake, Pawtucket

## JohnstonSunRise

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## HELP WANTED CEMETERY GROUND MAINTENANCE

FULL TIME EMPLOYEE  
HOURLY RATE BASED ON EXPERIENCE  
BENEFITS INCLUDE:  
HEALTH AND DENTAL  
VACATION AND PERSONAL LEAVE

FOR INTERVIEW CONTACT:  
ROBERT BRANCH, SUPERINTENDENT  
HIGHLAND MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY  
401-231-9120

## Johnston Pet Owners Rabies Inoculation Clinic Date And Dog Licensing Information

The Johnston Animal Control will hold a Rabies Clinic for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets three (3) months of age and older at The North Providence Recreation Dept., 2 Governor Notte Pkwy, Building #2, North Providence, Rhode Island, 02904 on **Sunday, March 30th, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. The cost for each inoculated will be ten dollars (\$10.00) cash only, no personal checks accepted. Proof of previous vaccine (Certificate Only) is required.

Dog Licenses are available as of April 1st and can be obtained during normal business hours (Monday Through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) at the Office of the Office of the Town Clerk, Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 (Rabies Certificate required). The License fee is \$5.00

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.,  
Town Clerk

3/13, 3/20/25



## Monsignor DeAngelis Manor is now ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Msgr. DeAngelis Manor, is located on Wakefield Street in West Warwick, centrally located on the bus route and nearby stores. Financed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the elderly and disabled 62 years old and over.

Please enquire now at  
RHM Management Co.  
401-828-8040



Say you saw it in the

# Johnston SunRise

### GUEST OPINION

# Federal elimination of election security support is frightening

By **NICK LIMA**  
*Cranston Canvassing Authority*

Election officials performed vital work throughout 2024 to successfully administer the presidential election – along with elections for numerous federal, state, and local offices and ballot questions. In cities like Cranston, Johnston, and Warwick alone, that effort included nearly 1,000 poll workers, city personnel, police detail officers, and full-time election staff who maintain our voter rolls, hire and train poll workers, and coordinate early voting and polling place operations.

The common denominator in all these efforts is the focus on securing and maintaining the integrity of our elections. For years, alongside local law enforcement, our biggest partners in strengthening election security have been federal agencies like the FBI, DNI, NSA, Homeland Security, and in particular, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which was created under President Trump during his first term in office.

Since 2017, our elections facilities, staff, and equipment have been designated “national critical infrastructure” – the same designation given to other vital facilities like nuclear power plants, ports, and pipelines. If our elections are successfully attacked, the foundation of our government crumbles, so the federal government has, until now, taken this designation seriously in providing significant security support.

This has been sorely needed: election offices are among the smallest, understaffed, and most under-resourced departments of local governments nationwide, yet a tremendous amount of responsibility is put on the shoulders of local election officials. We must process thousands of voter registrations accurately, enforce a complex web of federal and state voting laws, oversee recruitment and training of hundreds of poll workers, ensure ADA compliance and accessibility for all aspects of voting, be responsive to the public in keeping elections transparent, and, among many other duties, we must keep every facet of our elections process secure in order to ensure integrity.

The security of elections is more challenging than ever as we combat well-resourced, hostile foreign nations that have actively tried to undermine trust in our elections via fake, AI-generated videos on social media, robocalls to voters with false polling place information, and attempts to hack into election websites. On Election Day in 2024, hundreds of polling locations around the country received bomb threats – originating from Russia – in a brazen, but unsuccessful, attempt to disrupt voting across America. Fortunately, election officials were well-prepared for these attacks thanks to ongoing training, support, resources, and real-time intelligence from CISA.

These are serious threats from foreign adversaries who are intent on disrupting our elections process, which put local election officials on the front lines of international conflicts. However, we are unequipped to fight off these direct attacks by the governments of Russia, China, and Iran without federal support. That’s why the work of CISA has been so vital: they have been the front-line shield to protect our elections, voter databases, voting equipment, poll workers, and staff from America’s adversaries.

CISA has provided free training, planning templates,

classified briefings, cyber-attack table-top exercises, on-site security evaluations, and threat monitoring. For instance, they have routinely made us aware of specific email and IP addresses associated with hostile Russian intelligence agencies that are being actively used to attack elections, so that our city IT Department can take action to block them.

These vital services have been provided at no cost to all 39 Rhode Island cities and towns. If we had to pay for these free federal cybersecurity services from private vendors, municipalities, collectively, would need to spend millions of local taxpayer dollars.

Not all threats come from overseas. Last September, the state Board of Elections in Cranston received an envelope from the “U.S. Traitor Elimination Army” containing white powder, one of many sent to election offices around the country that in some cases were laced with deadly fentanyl. Election officials have been victims of swatting attacks on their homes and have faced credible death threats to their families. In October, incendiary devices were placed on several ballot boxes on the West Coast. CISA provided us with real-time intelligence sharing on these attacks in 2024, and the list of genuine security threats to elections goes on.

Shockingly, in recent weeks, election officials have learned the federal government has terminated all existing security support for our elections. Intelligence analysts at CISA, along with all 10 regional election security advisors – good people who we have worked with directly – were fired. The FBI’s elections security task force was disbanded. All sharing of threat intelligence and security preparations has come to a sudden halt. The Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) – a vital, CISA-funded organization designed to provide election officials with direct security intelligence – was terminated (all 41 state and local election offices in Rhode Island were active EI-ISAC members).

Numerous letters and attempts by state and local election officials from across America to discuss these concerns with CISA and Homeland Security leadership have gone unanswered. In essence, election officials are now completely cut off from our longstanding federal security partners.

Meanwhile, the myriad threats faced by our people, facilities, networks, and voting equipment are just as real, persistent, and dangerous as ever. Our ability to defend our democracy and provide accurate, safe, secure elections is dependent upon our capability to mitigate these threats. We are simply not equipped to do that alone.

For us to confidently administer secure elections, these federal partnerships must be restored and strengthened. Unfortunately, there is presently no indication that will happen, but we continue to remain hopeful that these common-sense, bi-partisan election security concerns will be heard and addressed at the federal level.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Nick Lima has been the Registrar / Director of Elections for the City of Cranston Board of Canvassers since January 2017. He is the Chairman of the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks’ Association’s Elections Committee, which is the state’s association of local election officials.*

## Legal Notices

**JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD  
OF REVIEW  
REGULAR MEETING  
AGENDA**  
Thursday, March 27, 2025  
at 6:30 PM  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Avenue

**I. Roll Call and Pledge of  
Allegiance**

**II. Minutes from Previous  
Meetings**

**III. Old Business: Johnston  
Asphalt LLC Decision.**

**IV. New Business:**

Petitioner: John and Jennica Thibodeau 168 Morgan Ave AP 7 Lot 96, Zone R 20, requesting to add a Chiropractic office in completed basement.

Petitioner: Quick Lube of Carolina Atwood, LLC. 1402 Atwood Ave Johnston. Owner: David Gesualdi. Applicant: Quick Lube of Carolina Atwood LLC. Ap 49, Lo t335, Zone R15. The petitioner is seeking a special use permit to permit general automobile repair and relief from Town Ordinance Section 340-40(B) (2) (A), which permits only one exterior wall sign per

commercial structure.

Petitioner: Ryan McKeon and Amanda Jayal 98 Peck Hill Rd Ap33 Lot 50 Zone R40, Dimensional Variance. Requesting To create a subdivision of the of the proposed lot and create a second lot that is undersized. 340 cable of dimensional regulations.

**V. Adjournment:**  
*Per order of the Zoning Board of Review  
Thomas Lopardo, Chairman*

• The Zoning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.  
• Items not heard by 10:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or special meet\* Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

3/13, 3/20/25

**Town of Johnston  
Planning Board  
AMENDED MEETING  
AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025 6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL  
CALL**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

PB 24-42 – Forest Drive Solar AP 46 Lots 103, 171, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212 and 213- Zoned R-40. Owner:- Shore Holdings, LLC. Applicant -Revity Energy. The Petitioner is seeking A Public Hearing on the Master Plan Application of a Major Land Development and Special Use Permit applications pursuant to Unified Development Review to develop two 0.5 MW solar arrays and one single-family residential lot. Behind 3 and 17 Forest Drive.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

PB 25-09- Quick Fuel Market Drive- Thru. A Public Hearing on A Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review for a Special Use Permit to construct a new 12-foot-wide driveway to accommodate the new Drive-Thru. 1601 Hartford Avenue AP 53 Lot 22- Zoned B2. Applicant/Owner: Shanker Veer LLC. C/O-Ravi Patel.

PB 25-10- Advisory Opinion requesting amendments to Section 340-16 of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to noise.

PB 25-11 – Advisory Opinion Petition-2025-CP-17. A petition to purchase Assessor’s Plat 33 Lot 23.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT &  
SPECIAL ITEMS**

PB 25-03- Affordable Housing – Review DRAFT Plan, listen comment, recommendation action to the Town Council

PB 22-57 – The Comprehensive Plan. Future Land Use Maps

PB 23-35 – Zoning Update. Discussion and review of draft zoning ordinance. Major restructuring of the ordinance was required because of the changes and the failure to update the ordinance over the past years when changes were made to state law.

• The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.  
• Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.  
• Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

3/13/25





## Story Time

Mayor Joseph Polisena and Phanida Phivilay, school committee member teamed up during reading week to read to fifth grade students at Brown Avenue Elementary School. The pair read 'R is for Rhode Island Red: A Rhode Island Alphabet' written by Mark R. Allio Illustrated by Mary Jane Begin. Phivilay also read 'The Sour Grape' by Jory John and Pete Oswald and 'The Good Egg' by Jory John and Pete Oswald to second grade students at Brown Ave as well as students at Winsor Hill Elementary School. Submitted photo



Gov. Dan McKee speaks at a University of Rhode Island event celebrating the university's reaching Carnegie R1 status. The Carnegie classification distinction places URI among the nation's top research institutions. Seated, from left are: Brenton DeBoef, dean of the URI Graduate School; Bethany Jenkins, URI vice president for Research and Economic Development, Barbara Wolfe, URI provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, R.I. Rep.Kathleen Fogarty, R.I. Sen. Alana DiMario and URI President Marc Parlange. URI photo by Catherine Scott

# URI celebrates top U.S. research status

URI faculty, staff and students joined university leaders, Gov. Dan McKee and state lawmakers, on Feb. 13 to celebrate the official announcement that URI had achieved R1 designation in the latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The designation places URI among the 187 institutions that have achieved R1 classification—the top 4.8% of degree-granting post-secondary institutions nationally.

“I am so pleased and so proud to announce that the University of Rhode Island has officially achieved R1 status, the highest classification for research institutions in the United States,” said URI President Marc Parlange to cheers and applause. “This designation recognizes universities with the most advanced research activity and impact – placing URI among the top-tier research institutions in the nation.”

The R1 classification signifies that URI has achieved the highest level of research activity, measured by the number of doctoral degrees awarded and the amount of spending on research and development. To earn the designation, institutions must grant at least 70 doctoral degrees and have more than \$50 million in total research spending annually.

“This milestone is not just about rankings,” said Parlange. “It’s about impact. We are a powerhouse for research and education fueling discoveries that benefit not just our students and faculty but Rhode Island, the nation and the world.”

“This is testament to everyone here today for their hard work and commitment,” said McKee. “URI is not only a leader in higher education. Today, they’re reaffirming their position as a leader in research on a national scale.”

“Being named an R1 institution by Carnegie is further proof that this school truly goes above and beyond for its students and our state,” he added. “This classification means URI can attract the best faculty, researchers, and students to campus ... and can provide one-of-a-kind research and experiential learning opportunities. This is more than just a point of pride for Rhode Island. It’s necessary for economic and workforce growth and national competitiveness.”

Barbara Wolfe, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said R1 recognition is proof of the dedication, expertise and vision of the University’s academic community.

“Across diverse disciplines, our faculty have driven a 25% increase in research expenditures over five years, exceeding \$144 million and solidifying URI as a leading research institution,” said Wolfe. “The research expenditures represent real-world impact – on health care, the blue economy and the many other fields being advanced by our faculty who are improving our communities, the state and the world.”

In her comments, Bethany Jenkins, vice president for research and economic

development, described what it takes to produce successful research—research that improves lives and serves society. It’s the long hours put in by faculty, principal investigators, and students; faculty who have sustained research programs for years; early career members who are receiving major recognition for their work; and the work of support staff who oversee the grant proposal pipeline, she said.


“I want to celebrate that this collective hard work at URI has paid off today with this major recognition for URI to be included among America’s best R1 research universities,” said Jenkins. “We accept this designation with pride and further determination to continue our research excellence for the common good.”

Dean of the Graduate School Brenton DeBoef noted the vital contributions that graduate students— “the secret sauce,” as he called them — make to the university’s research ecosystem. The university has more than 2,400 graduate students in over 124 doctoral, master’s and certificate programs. Graduate enrollment is growing fast, he said, and URI has a goal of doubling graduate enrollment in the next decade.

“The University of Rhode Island is a destination for research,” he said. “Its graduate programs attract students from every continent – except Antarctica, of course –but we send students to do research on every continent, including Antarctica.”

## Obituaries

### Donald William Iafrate

 Donald William Iafrate, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and patriot, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of the late Lorraine C. (Simonelli) Iafrate.

He was born on March 7, 1949, in Providence, Rhode Island, to the late Phillip and Lucy (Ravo) Iafrate.



His commitment to service was exemplified by his 42 years as a proud veteran of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, during which he diligently served his country, including during the Gulf War. His dedication and skills in communications were a significant part of his military career, contributing to the safety and well-being of his fellow service members.

After retiring from active duty, Donald embraced a new role within his community, serving as a bus monitor for the Johnston School Department. His warmth and caring nature made a lasting impact on the children he interacted with, showcasing his dedication to nurturing the next generation.

Donald also had a tremendous passion for youth sports, taking on coaching roles for Johnston youth sports and St. Philip’s CYO programs. His influence extended beyond the field, as he instilled important values and inspired countless young athletes.

Among his proudest accomplishments was his devotion as a caregiver to his beloved wife Lorraine, who battled Parkinson’s disease. His unwavering support during her illness embodied his deep love and commitment to her.

Donald is survived by his two sons, Brian W. Iafrate and his wife Edelta, and Michael W. Iafrate and his wife Melissa. He leaves behind five adoring grandchildren: Dimetri, Dante, Olivia, Michael, and Vittoria, who were a source of immense joy in his life.

Donald will be remembered not only for his military service and community involvement but also for the kindness and love he shared with those around him. His legacy lives on through the family he cherished and the many lives he touched.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 10am in St. Philip Church, 622 Putnam Pike, Greenville. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. VISITING HOURS Thursday from 5-8pm in the NARDOLILLO FUNERAL HOME & Crematory, 1278 Park Avenue, Cranston. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, RI Chapter, PO Box 114098, North Providence, RI 02911. Visit NardolilloFH.com for online condolences.

## Obituaries

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](mailto:Obits@rhodybeat.com) for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

– Thank you



# Johnston Senior High School Second Quarter Honor Roll

High Honors					
Melissa Aguilar 2025	Matthew Penafiel 2025	Evangelia Georgiladakis 2027	Larissa Alvarenga-Pesoa 2028	Sirra Gaye 2028	Sydney Raposo 2025
Skyla Almeida 2026	Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025	Joseph Grenier 2026	Christopher Alves 2025	Amanda Giron Caballero 2025	Aylin Reyes Marte 2028
Eva Alves 2025	Ariana Perron 2026	Kenderra Guertin 2025	Andre Amato 2027	Kiniya Glenn 2025	Gian Ricci 2027
Lucas Anderson 2025	McKerry Petit Homme 2027	Yeimy Gutierrez Santos 2027	Morgan Andrews 2027	Ian Gobeille 2027	Valentina Rincon 2028
Kaitlyn Barbosa 2026	Jacob Pettit 2026	Jhasmin Heredia 2028	Ella Annicelli 2027	Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027	Diana Rivadeneira 2025
Isabella Boudreau 2027	Brea Pezzullo 2026	Brooke Houle 2027	Estefania Antelo Suarez 2026	Avery Gordon 2028	Danielson Rivas 2025
l'daizha Brown 2026	Genesis Pineda 2025	Olivia lafrate 2026	Samaya Ariza 2027	Isabella Grimshaw 2026	Brissyra Rodriguez 2026
Tyler Brunelle 2028	Catherine Privitera 2025	Mona Imrane 2026	Oscar Arriaza 2028	Jennifer Guerrero 2027	Delaynee Rodriguez 2027
Sadie Bun 2025	Fallon Provoyeur 2026	Morgan Johnson 2027	Nicki Aucone 2025	Mariana Gutierrez 2028	Henry Rodriguez 2027
Tyler Buote 2025	Angie Quiroa 2028	Navjot Kaur 2028	Marlice Baptista 2026	Isabella Halliwell 2027	David Roland 2026
Ryan Capraro 2026	Victoria Repollet 2026	Lila Lautieri 2028	Isabella Barata 2025	Zachary Hanna 2025	Zelice Rolland 2028
Andrew Cardullo 2026	Natalya (Nathan) Rhind 2027	Jared Lee 2025	Benjamin Bejnar 2025	Victoria Hansen 2026	Leandro Roquez 2026
Matthew Clements 2025	Isabella Ricci 2026	Joseph Lopez Tavares 2025	Colin Bishop 2027	Amelia Healy 2027	Faith Rosadio 2026
Arianna Dandy 2025	Alexis Rivera 2026	Jasmin Lopez 2026	Kara Bonetti 2026	Adam Heywood 2026	Carolyn Rosales 2028
Dimazlia DiBiasio 2028	Hollan Rodgers 2026	Jeremy Luna Olivo 2027	Tabitha Borja Arellano 2028	Walter Homenick 2026	Daisy Rosales 2028
Jada DiRaimo 2026	Rayven Russell 2026	Jasmeet Mann 2028	Haley Boudreau 2026	Emily Joseph 2026	Adriana Rossi 2027
Lauren Dixon 2025	Lilianna Salois 2025	Analese Marcano 2026	Ethan Bracey 2027	Adrien Kirkland 2027	Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027
He Fang 2026	Leah Sanchez Perez 2026	Balla Marone 2025	Layla Rose Bryand 2027	Kaylee Kopka 2028	Camilo Saldarriaga 2027
Michael Fantini 2028	Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026	Jealeen Mateo 2027	Lucy Bryand 2028	Chantelle Lacasse 2026	Anthony Salisbury 2027
Christian Fernandes Mensah 2028	Joseph Santos 2028	Rachael Mendoza 2026	Olivia Bryant 2026	Christopher Landaverde 2027	Sebastian Sanchez 2027
Olivia Forgetta 2026	Jason Schino 2026	Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026	Juan Burgos Vilchez 2027	Aristotle Landim 2028	Sony Sanchez 2025
Kalyn Foster 2025	Isabella Serpa 2028	Samaya Montrond 2028	Dylan Calabro 2026	Ariana Lara 2027	Jayden Santos 2025
Deanna Funches 2026	Derek Simas 2028	Maria-Fernanda Oliva 2028	Madison Campano 2027	Gabriella Laviano 2027	Max Sciotti 2028
Ayberson Garcia Cruz 2025	Lucas Simpson 2026	Gianna Orozco 2025	Jordan Caparelli 2027	Isabella Liang 2027	Anthony Scorpio 2026
Kylie Geremia 2027	Nicholas Smith 2028	Elianna Paez 2027	Joella Carpentieri 2028	Na'imah Lopes 2026	Ashlee Shiel 2027
Annabella Gesualdi 2026	Arleny Solorin Henriquez 2025	Aiden Pannone 2027	Brooklynn Case 2025	Andrew Lyman 2025	Alexander Smith 2027
Ivan Gorrin Cimmarusti 2025	Mia Soprano 2028	Savannah Paquin 2028	Jonelvis Castro 2027	Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027	Ayva Soprano 2026
Robert Graham 2025	Aiden Soto 2025	Loren Pastore 2025	Giovanni Celani 2027	Jordan Maggiacomo 2027	Nixon Soto 2027
Anthony Hopp 2028	Alexander Subirana 2026	Alvin Pena 2026	Christopher Cherry 2028	Paul Magnuski 2028	Brandon Souza 2025
Esra Imrane 2028	Emma Taglianetti 2027	Lea Petrillo 2028	Sean Connor 2025	Gavynn Manning 2027	Tristan Stevens 2028
Vanessa Javery 2025	Luke Taglianetti 2025	Matthew Ponte 2025	Shemorie Constant 2027	Isabela Martinez 2027	Ariana Stoecker 2025
Vanessa Jean-Philippe 2027	Jayeden Thayorath 2028	Mason Provoyeur 2028	Jaiden Cordero 2026	Analeah Martins 2027	Ayla Tellier 2027
Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025	Kyle Urban 2027	Isaiah Ramirez 2028	Elliot Cotesi 2025	Cecelia Martins 2028	Janie-Alice Thompson 2027
Syvianna Jules 2028	Cameron Veitch 2026	Tzivya Reyes 2026	Edith Cortez Velazquez 2028	Makayla Melillo 2027	Natalie Toj 2026
Sparrow Katowicz 2028	Benjamin Verduchi 2026	Brea Rianna 2028	Jaziah Costa 2026	Ava Mello 2026	Josie Torti 2027
Hannah Klein 2025	Ashlyn Wheeler 2028	Gianna Ricci 2025	Jon Costa 2028	Arthur Men 2027	Bobbi'Sue Trahan 2025
Elizabeth Kue 2027	Kristel Xitumul Carrillo 2026	Adriana Rikken 2028	Aidan Cross 2027	Karissa Morales 2025	Isla Troxell 2028
Kamryn Kue 2028	Thomas Xoydara 2027	Joaquin Rodriguez 2027	Santino Cucinotta 2027	Marissa Morsilli 2028	Ava Turgeon 2028
Dario La Terra Bellina 2027		Jesse Santillan 2025	Daniel Curiel 2028	Zariah Nhar Matko 2028	Courtney Turner 2028
Brenton Lang 2025		James Senno 2027	Nickola D'Aquila 2028	Owen Niles 2028	Izabella Urena 2028
Brianna Lapati 2028		Lia Shenk 2027	Chantal DeJesus 2025	Mia (Ryo) Nilsson 2025	Belinda Urizar Ruiz 2028
Timothy Liang 2026		Kimberly Sibilia 2025	Yarielis DeJesus 2026	Kaiya Nop 2028	Andrew Urizar 2027
Katelyn Loffler 2025		Katelyn Silva 2027	Roger Delgado 2028	Juliana (Jules) Nunes 2026	Jared Urizar-Santos 2025
Sophia Lutrario 2028		Brandon Simonelli 2025	Hunter D'Elia 2026	Lizbeth Nunez 2027	Christopher Valdivieso 2027
Angelica Maddaline 2026		Skyley Soto 2025	Nathan Della Morte 2026	Brady O'Donnell 2027	Yomilenny Valois Tolentino 2028
Neko Mahony 2025		Kailey Souza 2027	Kylie DePasqua 2028	Linda Orozco 2028	Adam Venditelli 2028
Charlene Maranhao 2027		Abraham Tillett 2025	Raymond DeSimone 2027	Courtney Ortega 2027	Ronald Vento 2026
Logan Martins 2025		Isabella Vargas 2026	Nicholas Desmarais 2027	Randy Ortega 2025	Abdiel Vidal 2027
Bennett McClish 2026		Marques Vasquez 2025	Anthony DiBiasio 2025	Alexander Ortiz 2028	Victoria Villafane 2026
Caroline McCormack 2026		Angel Veillard 2027	Ava DiNobile 2026	Daniestheliz Ortiz 2027	Carljdjon'n Volcy 2027
Michael Mills 2028		Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027	Tyler Diodati 2025	Julianne Ortiz 2025	Sincere Waldron 2025
Adriana Morales Cordon 2028		Anthony Vendetti 2026	Riley Enos 2025	Jeremy Ovalles 2025	Ryan Waterman 2027
Daniela Morales Cordon 2028		Dylana Vescera 2026	James Estrada 2025	Aubree Padula 2027	Aidan Wentworth 2028
Antonio Morales 2027		Ella Ware 2028	Fiona Fairbanks 2027	Evelyn Pagliarini 2027	Jaiden Weston 2026
Dariana Munoz 2025		Austin Wheeler 2025	Emily Fashjian 2026	Katelyn Palermo 2025	Nicholas Williams 2025
Alexandra Musa 2026		Timothy Xoydara 2027	Vanessa Febus 2026	Bricen Parris 2027	Sofia Williams 2027
Alma Naser 2027		Nyomie Young 2028	Ruben Feleja Correia 2028	Emilly Paul 2025	Melvin Wilson 2028
Frank Nasisi 2028			Anelee Fernandez 2027	Isabella Paulson 2027	Janelle Yeomans 2026
Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025			William Ferrara 2027	Ellyce Perez 2026	
Connor Niles 2025			Lacy Ferreira 2026	Anthony Perito 2026	
Gabriela Noriega Garcia 2028			Joshua Figueroa 2028	Madison Picchi 2027	
Anthony Pannone 2027			Khloe Florez 2028	Enzo Pistacchio 2028	
Nicole Patenaude 2025			Richard Foster 2027	Ethan Placella 2025	
Noelle Patenaude 2025			Alistar Roe Fredette 2026	Jayden Ponte 2027	
			Diana Gaitan Flores 2027	Leium Quinones 2027	
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Dave Cesario (center), surrounded by friends and family, holds the IGA's International Retailer of the Year trophy.

# Dave's ties for best local grocery store worldwide

By ADAM ZANGARI

Dave's Fresh Marketplace may have started as a humble fruit stand on West Shore Road, but now it's achieved international renown.

Not only did the store, with 10 locations throughout Rhode Island, win a USA Retailer of the Year and Food Innovation awards, it finished in a tie for the Independent Grocers Alliance's best independent grocery store in the world. The IGA competition included more than 7,700 grocery stores from across five continents in the International Retailer of the Year competition.

"We were shocked by that," said Susan Budlong, Dave's director of marketing and communications. "There were so many impressive grocery stores. It was amazing."

This was Dave's first year participating in any IGA competitions. Budlong said the company had been encouraged to enter by its wholesaler, Bozzuto's Inc., which had shown off the store as a model to other independent stores over the last 10 years. Last year, Cesario and Hogan finally rented.

"Both Bill [Hogan, director of business operations] and Dave [Cesario, owner] are very humble guys. As a company, we're run under the radar, we keep to ourselves, we support our

communities and we do the right thing by people," Budlong said. "These are two guys that try not to make waves, right? They're not trying to be anything but the best community stewards and be involved ... At the time, I think they didn't realize what a big deal it was. It wasn't until we went to Vegas and realized that this was a lot of competition and this was a big deal."

Dave's tied with Nam Dae Mun Farmer's Markets, a Korean grocery store with eight locations in the greater Atlanta area, for the international honor.

In his acceptance speech, Hogan said that while local and independent grocers face increasing challenges from national chains, the most important priority for Dave's has never been focusing on its competition. Rather, it's been about making Rhode Islanders happy.

"We truly appreciate our customer base," Hogan said in his acceptance speech. "For 50-plus years, Dave's and its 10 stores have served Rhode Island well and given our customers clean, vibrant, neighborhood-themed stores loaded with caring staff and impeccably fresh, innovative food departments ... Our motto, 'What's so hard about being nice?' has always worked well for us."

Budlong said that the way that

Dave's makes and prepares its food is unique for a grocery store – making small batches of each of their foods at a time to ensure consistent quality. That preparation, Budlong said, impressed the IGA, and led to Dave's winning its Food Innovation award.

"We produce everything either through those kitchens or through our central commissary and our scratch bakery," Budlong said. "That's very different than an average grocer. Most grocery stores work with vendors that provide some prepared foods for them, but we develop the recipes ... I don't think I could name another grocery store that has a 10,000-square-foot commercial bakery on the premises."

At the moment, according to Budlong, Dave's is currently considering things to celebrate the honor, and get the word out to the community.

For now, though, the mood at Dave's can be summed up in one word: pride.

"Bill and Dave set the tone; we just try to manage it," Budlong said. "We try to make sure that people feel comfortable, and we want people to feel as though they can shop. We want people to be proud, right? This has made not only our employees tremendously proud, but Bill and Dave tremendously proud of the work they've done."

## ● ACLU from page 1

Robert Russo, president of the Town Council, said that while remote access is not currently offered, being accessible is important to the council. All meeting agendas and minutes are posted online, he said, and he has not heard of any concerns or received requests for remote meeting access for the public. "We don't have the equipment for that (remote access) ... and as far as I am aware, we have not had any requests," he said last week. "But if someone did approach us with concerns, I'm sure we'd try to see if there was something we could do."

Joseph Rotella, Chair of the Johnston School Committee, expressed similar sentiments. "We follow what the Town Council does," he said, noting that the school board recently hired a stenographer to improve public access to the details of past meetings.

Rotella, who became chairman in January, said the board does not cur-

rently have the equipment to live stream its meetings, but he would want to hear from residents who might trouble accessing current in-person sessions. "We don't have the equipment or the staff," he said. "I do want to point out that I think that we should use every extra dollar we have for the students."

Until the Covid pandemic, state law required public bodies to meet in person in sessions open to the public (with specific exemptions for closed "executive sessions"). That requirement was lifted a couple changed during the height of the health crisis when then-Governor Gina Raimondo suspended the in-person meeting requirement and cities and towns sought ways to conduct remote sessions.

However, two years ago, in February 2022, Governor McKee signed an executive order allowing public boards and committees to resume in-person session. He left them the option to continue remote options if they desired, but the remote access is

not mandatory.

At the time, Common Cause Rhode Island said it opposed any move that would no longer require remote meeting access. According to an article in the Providence Journal, John Marion Jr., executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island, said that stopping remote meeting access was a "step backward for government transparency."

According to the ACLU press release accompanying the report, 33 of the state's 39 cities and towns have livestreaming options for their council meetings. Of the 34 school committees in the state, 30 offer livestreaming, the ACLU states.

In the report, Zoe Chakoian, a communications for the ACLU, said, "Every step towards a more transparent process is a good thing – for each person that can be more involved and informed about what's happening in the community, and for the overall government transparency in our state."

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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥Adoptable♥Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

## Parker & Porter

These gorgeous boys have been together since the day they were born! Parker and Porter are brothers who have always looked out for each other! They are truly a bonded pair. If you are a Hound lover, then you know how smart and lovable they are too! "The Boys" as they like to call them are six years old and love to play, run, go for walks and most of all be with you. Please reach out to Heart of Rhode Island 401-467-3670 if you'd like to meet them and give them a loving forever home together!

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- Sat. May 3- RIVER FALLS, Woon. 5pm
- Sun. May 18- CROSSROADS PUB, Wrn. 12pm

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The land earmarked by the town to be taken by eminent domain for the proposed centralized municipal campus housing Johnston's Fire Department, Police Department and Town Hall. *Beacon Media file photo by Tim Forsberg*

### ● LAND CLAIM from page 1

qualifies as affordable. About 7.9% of housing units are considered affordable in Johnston, according to the 2024 HousingWorksRI factbook.

Polisena had opposed the proposed apartment complex, saying it was too big for the town and would bring too much traffic to the area. He also said he'd prefer that residents buy rather than rent their homes.

### Council backs plan for new campus

At a special Town Council meeting in January, Polisena introduced his plan to replace the apartment project with a new municipal campus that would include the Fire Department, Police Department and Town Hall. The council approved his proposed resolution 4 to 0.

"My number one priority is the 30,000 residents that currently live in Johnston and providing them effective and efficient government services," Polisena said in a statement Tuesday. "I look forward to the legal fight initiated by the developers in federal court."

Asked on Wednesday whether the town has a budget for such litigation, which could continue for years, Polisena issued this statement through Deputy Chief of Staff Dominique Turner:

"We already have a built-in legal services budget within the town's annual operating budget. The cost to the town depends on how far the case goes. What I can say is that whatever the legal costs are, it will be minimal compared to the continued maintenance of decrepit [municipal] buildings and cost of services and education for 252, 100% low-income apartments."

### Developers' lawyer: 'Clearly a sham'

An official condemnation action will be filed in Superior Court, Providence, probably by April, Town Solicitor William Conley Jr. told Rhode Island Current after the council's vote Monday night.

"It's clearly a sham," Kelley Morris Salvatore, the Providence lawyer representing the project developer, said in an interview Tuesday. "They didn't have any public discussions about a municipal facilities complex, but decided they needed one once they didn't want our project."

Town officials said the search for a new public-safety complex site had been years in the making, choosing to operate under the radar until an adequate location was found.

The lawsuit says Polisena's push to use eminent domain came only after he made multiple public declarations that he would use all the governmental power he had to halt the project. Polisena has stated he prefers to see single-

### ● AWARD from page 1

working with the coalition since everyone is extremely dedicated to achieving our shared goals," he said.

Chief Vieira also highlighted JPC's focus on reducing youth access to nicotine products and the department's role in compliance checks.

"The coalition has placed a strong emphasis on addressing nicotine use by our youth. Our goal is to reduce access to these products and create a healthier community. When a tobacco retailer is found in violation during a compliance check, the responding officer educates the sales clerk on the importance of checking IDs and provides a best practices handbook for tobacco retailers developed by the Southern Providence County Regional Coalition," he said. "In recent years, there has been a notable reduction in the number of tobacco compliance checks that have resulted in sales to minors, proving our joint effort has created a

family homes built in Johnston, not high-density apartment complexes.

"The Santoro family refused to buckle under this intimidation and declined to withdraw or alter its plans to build affordable housing," the lawsuit reads. "The town, in bad faith and with spite and actual animus, exercised eminent domain to force the Santoro Family into a choice: either alter or halt the affordable housing plans, or be deprived of the family's land by government force."

### Why the town wants a new public-safety center

Polisena has described the working conditions in the police and fire departments and the town buildings as "decrepit" and said first responders work "in squalor."

Both Police Chief Mark Vieira and Fire Chief David Iannuccilli spoke about the deteriorating conditions of their buildings at the special council meeting.

All three town buildings are approaching the end of their operational usefulness, the mayor and chiefs say.

Residents attending the January meeting shared their thoughts on the newly announced plan.

Jairson Ascencao, a town resident, spoke out against the proposal to supplant the proposed apartments with a municipal campus and asked the council to seek a compromise.

"The reason I came here primarily is because of the housing crisis in Rhode Island and America. Two hundred and fifty plus units of housing is an extreme amount of housing, and it's something people have needed," Astentao said, acknowledging that there was a need for new town buildings, too.

"It's a real trouble getting housing and getting a place where your family can stay. I really ask that you consider what your residents need."

The projected cost of the town campus project has yet to be determined, but Polisena shared in the meeting that town officials were looking to fund the project by modifying their strategy on a new high school.

Town government has been exploring the possibility of building a new high school.

### Where from here?

If the court reverses the town's land seizure, the developer intends to continue its plan to build the apartment complex, Morris Salvatore said.

An online search shows parcels of land in Johnston for sale ranging from \$159,000 for 1.48 acres off Anglewood Avenue, \$250,000 for just a little over an acre off Central Avenue, and \$499,000 for 0.46 acre lot off Atwood Avenue. But the value of land varies by its proximity to utilities and zoning regulations, said Rhode Island Builders Association CEO John V. Marcantonio.

"Like anything else, it all depends on what you can do with the land," Marcantonio said.

healthier community for our youth."

He added that the national recognition reinforces the coalition's impact.

"The Johnston Prevention Coalition receiving this prestigious national award for 'Coalition of the Year: Long-term Outcomes' demonstrates that Johnston is a youth-focused community that has a vested interest in the well-being of our children. We are committed to continuing our partnership with the coalition with the ultimate goal of achieving zero sales to youth in Johnston," said Vieira.

CADCA, an organization representing over 7,000 community coalitions worldwide, recognizes high-performing coalitions that excel in prevention efforts through its Blue Ribbon Coalition Initiative. JPC's designation as Coalition of the Year highlights its sustained commitment to reducing youth substance misuse through community engagement, education, and policy change.



# Lifestyles



## Hospital at Home:

*‘Old medicine with modern spin’*

**1,000 patients served since Kent Hospital initiated program during pandemic**

By JOHN HOWELL

Kent Hospital is like home to 90-year old Doris Witt. It is where four of her six children were born and where she went for the treatment of recent illnesses. And Kent is where she can expect to find her granddaughter, Julianna Witt an emergency department nurse.

Last week Doris’ apartment at Sparrows Point became the hospital as Kent marked the 1,000th patient admitted to its Hospital at Home program, the only one of its kind in the state.

“It’s the best thing when you don’t have to stay in the hospital,” Doris said. She is comfortable in her own space, her own bed and knowing her condition is being constantly monitored. She receives twice daily nursing visits and looks forward to seeing Dr. Tyler Weisberger once a day.

Earlier last week, Doris was having difficulty breathing. She was admitted to Kent where she was diagnosed with low oxygen levels and a mild exacerbation of congestive heart failure. Once patients with congestive heart failure are stabilized they usually stay in the hospital for several days, but in Doris’ case, and is becoming more popular with patients and physicians, she was admitted to the Hospital at Home program where she could receive treatments such as intravenous diuretics and oxygen therapy.

In addition to continuous cardiac monitoring 24/7 patients have access to other essential inpatient services such as lab work, physical therapy, physician consults, and x-rays.

### Making house calls

The program has also opened doors for those who



During a visit to her apartment last week, Kent Hospital’s Dr. Tyler Weisberger confers with Doris Whitt. Doris was the 1,000th patient to be admitted to the hospital’s Hospital at Home program. Photo submitted by Ryan Pickering



According to Dr. Michael Lee, Kent Medical Director of the program the hospital has seen the program grow steadily since it was started during the pandemic. Lee made a houseboat call to check on Russell Browning, in a marina off Post Road in Warwick. Photo submitted by Ryan Pickering

would otherwise be making hospital room visits.

Weisberger, who has worked the program for two years, said he never dreamed his job would be so enjoyable.

“You meet so many wonderful people and it’s cool to see how they’re doing,” he said. Benefits to patients are that they feel more comfortable coming back to the hospital. And, he notes, it keeps them at home at a time like this when respiratory illnesses are rampant.

“It really sets them up for success,” he said.

Weisberger, who trained at Kent came to Rhode Island from Maine with the thought he wouldn’t be staying. Now he thinks of Kent as his hub.

He feels “completely at ease” and enjoys the social aspect of being a visiting doctor.

Mentioning hospital beds, he said, “We can get anything needed within hours. It’s pretty amazing what we can do with the hospital team.” The team reaches beyond a patient’s discharge, which on average is between three and four days. Visiting nurses do follow ups as do physical therapists.

Yet, Weisberger acknowledges the program is not for everyone. Admission is granted only after careful evaluation of the patient’s condition as well as an appraisal of their conditions at home including support from family and friends. Pets also fit in the picture, although Doris doesn’t have one.

Kent Medical Director of the program Dr. Michael Lee said the hospital has seen the program grow steadily since it was started during the pandemic. The “game changer,” he said is when the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided waivers enabling Medicare to pay the same as in hospital care.



# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertop Flooring

"We make kitchens & bathrooms affordable for everyone"



By JENNIFER COATES

It has been said that you only get one chance to make a first impression, and nothing could be truer than when you walk into a kitchen or bathroom. That initial "wow" factor goes a long way! These rooms can make a lasting impression and can change how a homeowner loves and lives in a home.

While that first impression is important, it doesn't always tell the whole story. What you can't always see at first glance is all the professionalism, expertise and experience that have gone into converting an average space in a home into an eye-catching one. This is when you need to meet the formidable team of experts at Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertops Flooring, a cornerstone of the home improvement community.

Advantage specializes in everything from cabinetry, vanities, and stone countertops to sinks, faucets and flooring for your kitchen, bath or custom-built closet ~ all within your budget and all

using only the best, industry-proven products.

Advantage Kitchen Baths Countertops Flooring is driven by the mantra that "we make kitchens and baths affordable for everyone." This is not just a catchy slogan, it is the driving force behind this family-owned and operated, Johnston-based company of industry veterans. Under the leadership of Richard and Susan Mooradian, co-owners Jim and Sonia Bray, and Kevin Catanzaro bring over a century of combined experience to every project they take on. They make this promise of affordability to their customers, but most importantly, they make a commitment that their projects will always be of the highest quality, start to finish.

Together, this dynamic team, which includes Richard and Kevin as two industry award-winning designers, helps their clients navigate the many decisions that must be made when doing this level of custom work. The entire team works together from the conception of a design plan

and accompanying budget until every finishing touch has been completed. Big or small, every relationship, every result, every detail, matters to this team.

What sets this successful business apart from its competitors is their direct-to-consumers model. Not only does this process eliminate unnecessary markups, it also preserves the company's high standards. Advantage has long-standing relationships with vendors across the board and supports similar family-run businesses with values like their own.

It is important to note that when embarking on a home improvement project, homeowners are not obligated to use Advantage's contractors; it is also important to note that Advantage also sells and supplies materials alone if that is what their clients need. This is an individualized process that is very client-centered.

Visitors to Advantage's design center at 1232 Hartford Avenue (next door to Market Basket) are welcome Tuesday through Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. There are also free in-home consultations and on-site project evaluations.

To get started on transforming your living space today, call Advantage Kitchens Baths Countertops Flooring at 401-413-0426 or visit them at [www.advantagekbcf.com](http://www.advantagekbcf.com).



Kitchens, baths, countertops & flooring (as well as beautiful custom builds such as this stunning family room) are the specialty of this first-class business based in Johnston. If you are considering any upgrades or new builds, call 401-413-0426 to get started.

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# Sports

## Rollins, Knights headed to NJCAA tourney

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**  
*SunRise Sports Editor*

The Community College of Rhode Island women’s basketball team is returning to the NJCAA National Tournament after winning its fourth consecutive Region XXI title.

The Knights entered the region playoffs as the top seed with a 13-0 league record. Their dominant play propelled them to a 94-52 win over Northern Essex in the final, which earned them the seventh seed in this week’s NJCAA tournament. CCRI boasts a 23-5 overall record this season.

“They’re excited and they’re confident that they can come up here and do some damage,” said CCRI coach Doug Haynes. “They’re motivated to get to the Final Four, after the Final Four anything can happen.”

Six players return from last year’s group, which went 1-1 at nationals. Haynes hopes the experience at nationals – as well as with each other on the floor – will pay dividends this time around.

“I think playing together the last two years is going to help us. We know what the tournament is like, we know what to expect from the



● **ROLLINS** to page 15     Johnston native Jayanah Rollins puts up a shot for CCRI this season. *Photos courtesy of CCRI*



The Bishop Hendricken hockey team after beating Prout in triple overtime to win its fifth straight state championship and 11th title overall as a program. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*

## Hawks win 5th straight title

Hendricken comes back to beat Prout in triple OT

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**  
*SunRise Sports Editor*

The four-time defending state champion Bishop Hendricken hockey team was less than six minutes away from seeing its reign come to an end in Sunday’s title clash against Prout, as the Crusaders built a 2-0 lead deep in the third period.

The Hawks, though, extended their championship streak to five as they flew to two goals in the final minutes to knot the score, then would see senior Frank Tillinghast put the game away in the third overtime period to clinch the 3-2 decision.

“You dream about these scenarios happening. The whole week leading up to it you think about that overtime

● **HAWKS** to page 14

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# Hockey championships among best ever

In last week’s column I mentioned that I have covered too many championship games to truly chose a favorite or best. This past weekend’s hockey championships may have shattered those feelings.

The Bishop Hendricken Hawks came back in the third period and then eventually went on to win in triple overtime to clinch their fifth straight state title. In the earlier game on Sunday, the East Greenwich-Toll Gate co-op took the Division II championship when it beat Portsmouth in overtime in what was a back-and-forth contest from the opening two minutes on.

Each of these games were epic and I have to say, that was probably the best day of hockey playoffs that I have ever covered. Not sure how I’d stack each of the two games individually, but in terms of one overall day, I would put that at the very top of the list when thinking about the 10 years I have been in this field full time.

The two games were similar in that they required extra periods, but the way they got there was totally different.

In the first game, Portsmouth

took the lead in the opening period, EG/TG responded, Portsmouth answered back, and it wound up being a 3-3 score heading into overtime. The Avengers wasted little time getting the victory as they scored the game winner less than a minute into the extra period.

The first time the teams faced each other, EG/TG took the 7-4 win. These two teams were offensive juggernauts and the championship played out exactly as we expected. Fast paced, high scoring offense. It was a thriller from start to finish.

In the later game, the Hawks fell behind 1-0 early and were down 2-0 with less than seven minutes remaining in regulation. The Prout defense stood on its head up until that point and a shutout was on the table late in the third period.

We saw the power of momentum unfold as the Hawks rattled off two goals to force overtime. From there, you saw fatigue set in as the pace slowed down, legs got heavy, shots weren’t as crisp. It took until the third overtime for something to break, and fortunately for the Hawks, they got the opening



### My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

and Frank Tillinghast delivered.

A wild shootout and then a third period comeback, followed by overtime, to determine two championships. It was an unbelievable day to be a sports fan.

In terms of big picture stuff, it was EG/TG’s first title as a co-op and it was Toll Gate’s first hockey championship since 2005, it came almost 20 years to the day.

The Titans had been bounced around a bit the past few years. They spent time with Pilgrim then moved to East Greenwich. They’ve spent time in Division I and Division II.

It looks like they’ve found a home in East Greenwich and in DII. I dislike realignments and this annual game of co-op musical chairs. Once a partnership works, leave it alone. I have been very vocal about my frustrations with Toll Gate and Pilgrim parting ways two years

ago.

EG/TG will be the defending champs next season. Let them stay together and continue to build. Division II is very competitive and these kids have a special group, clearly.

For Hendricken, the streak continues.

Despite losing a big-time core led by MVP Griffin Crain, this year’s group defended the title seamlessly with Cullen and Mason Crain, Tillinghast, Aiden Craft and goalie Avery Picchione. This year’s success is a testament to the depth of this group that continues to churn out championship players on an annual basis.

As Prout was closing in on the win, my internal take was that the Hawks were just a little too young and would be back on top next winter. That was washed away in the blink of an eye, and now the rest of Division I will have to deal with what will be largely the same core next season as well.

Hats off to Prout, who finished the regular season with the top seed and was neck and neck with Hendricken. I have a feeling that these two will be right back in the championship

game next March.

Congrats to each team and thanks for a day to remember.

I need to give one final shout-out before I sign off.

At the conclusion of each of these games, especially the DI final, the teams and fans were in a frenzy. The players had to be wrangled for the awards ceremony, fans had to be pulled off the glass and kept in their seats, the ice had to be cleared in a hurry while the media sought its postgame interviews. That’s the simple description, but it got pretty chaotic.

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League representatives, led by Tom Marcello, did an excellent job of letting the fans have fun while maintaining order. It was clear that by the end of the night that the security and RIIL staff were worn out after three straight games, but they maintained a level of professionalism that was quite impressive, to be honest, considering the scene that played out.

It’s not easy containing that many excited people in one building, but Marcello and his staff deserve credit for what in reality, is a thankless job at times. Job well done.



Jayanah Rollins takes a shot.  
● **ROLLINS** from page 13

tournament and the other teams. They’ll know the layout,” said Haynes.

The team’s top newcomer is Johnston resident Jayanah Rollins, who has averaged more than 10 points per game for the Knights after a decorated high school career with the Panthers.

“Jay’s been a blessing for our program. She brings a lot of energy and I feel that she’s our best defender, we put her on the best scorers in the region and does a great job. She’s got a motor which helps the older kids get better,” said Haynes.

Haynes is looking for the Knights to simply stick to the gameplan and play clean basketball in order to make a splash in the tournament.

“We’ve got to limit our turnovers, stay smart, stay focused and play as a team. We need to continue to do what we’ve done all year long and not crumble once the pressure is on us,” said Haynes. “I’ve had some good teams, but I feel that this team is more talented and more driven. They feel like they have a lot to prove which is a good thing, you want to play with a chip on your shoulder.”

Haynes is also proud to represent the CCRI community as the Knights have established themselves as one of the premier NJCAA teams in the country in the past half decade.

“Being an alum at CCRI, that has always driven me. (Our success) makes a name for the school and the kids. We’re doing it with Rhode Island kids and that’s been our number one goal,” said Haynes.

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# Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					151 CusterSt	Galligan James P Sr Est and Galligan, James P	Perry, Joseph	2/14	\$242,500
15 Hide AWay	Holland, Shawn	Capato Jr, Gino	2/21	\$153,000	1527 CentervilleRd	Ursillo, Jeffrey	Ramos, Jayro M	2/21	\$560,000
25 Lane A	Seyboth, Kyle	Vossler, John M	2/21	\$149,900	169 CarolynSt	Fleming, Howard F and Fleming, Brian	Boisvert, Sherri-Ann	2/14	\$325,000
25 MohawkSt	Holston, Lynn M	Piacente, Evan F	2/20	\$298,000	17 GrangerCt	Snead, William and Smith, Anita	Gianfrancesco, Michael A and Aguilar, Sonia	2/21	\$357,000
296 Hope FurnaceRd	Millette, Lori and Millette, Gregory	Olivieri, Ashley	2/21	\$480,000	17 Granger Ct Lot 47	Snead, William and Smith, Anita	Gianfrancesco, Michael A and Aguilar, Sonia	2/21	\$357,000
31 Lane A	Sousa Barbara Est and Turner, Pattie	Msc Consulting LLC	2/21	\$5,000	20 BirchSt	Meyer, Christopher A	Sodano, Jonathan M and Sodano, Caroline C	2/21	\$442,000
39 CirclewoodDr	Tri J Construction LLC	Ford, Patrick E and Ford, Elsa	2/18	\$575,000	20 Birch St Lot 92	Meyer, Christopher A	Sodano, Jonathan M and Sodano, Caroline C	2/21	\$442,000
46 SharonDr	Rw Radebach T and Radebach Jr, Richard W	Ferguson, Ryan and Radebach, Megan	2/21	\$610,000	21 UrbanAve	Quintin, Joshua	Guerrero, Erlin	2/14	\$484,900
5 DixieRd	Crowe, Robert L	Hansen, Jason and Longval, Nicole	2/21	\$425,000	215 HoxsieAve	Smith George R Jr Est and French, Kelly M	Allspach, Cameron and French, Julia M	2/14	\$260,400
51 John FranklinRd	Hanley, Armanda R and Fraser, Jeffrey A	Malafronte, Robin L	2/18	\$640,000	22 Channel Vw Lot 4	Stinson, Johnson A and Stinson, Andrea P	Geiger, Thomas and Brisson, Annemarie	2/13	\$705,000
7 MeadowLn	Russell U Michael T and Michael, Gary T	Zoglio Jr, Richard C	2/21	\$335,000	24 SuperiorSt	Jones, Patricia L	Thao, Teng and Thao, Phone	2/18	\$580,000
74 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 19	Westwood Const Inc	Storybook Homes Inc	2/19	\$150,000	246 Spencer Woods Dr Lot 246	Obrien Ft and Obrien, Laura E	Jordan, Patrick	2/21	\$505,000
76 Sunset Lake Cir Lot 20	Westwood Const Inc	Storybook Homes Inc	2/19	\$150,000	253 VarnumDr	Prime Re Invest LLC	Hamzo, Ervin and Hamzo, Kendra	2/19	\$645,000
CRANSTON					28 FerrierDr	Chapman, Robert G	Sib Prop LLC	2/21	\$275,000
17 SmithSt	Dargan Consultants LLC	Li, Jane	2/21	\$321,000	28 WesleyanAve	Lacross, William J	401homebuyers LLC	2/18	\$212,000
131 Fordson Ave Lot 3	Hurley, Kevin	Sacagiu, Rani	2/10	\$240,000	33 Fox Ridge Cres Lot 33	Welch, Susan	Schooner Rlty LLC	2/14	\$365,000
132 Hoffman Ave Lot 203	Lima, Thomas R	Campbell, Theodore J	2/19	\$275,000	35 MassachusettsAve	Mancini, Rosemary	Fath, Marion	2/14	\$345,000
133 Glen RidgeRd	Gerardi, Stefanie	Sy, Cuong and Sy, Jessica	2/10	\$612,500	37 EldridgeAve	Gagnon Jr, William C	Palombo, Matthew	2/21	\$360,000
14 UtterSt	Anna C Tortolani lrfst and Tortolanti, Robert A	Dodd, Thomas P and Mooney, Colleen A	2/14	\$390,000	40 MeadowbrookAve	Silverstein Kelsey Est and Silverstein, Mark	Hendricks, Jonathan K	2/21	\$410,000
14 Utter St Lot 395,	Anna C Tortolani lrfst and Tortolanti, Robert A	Dodd, Thomas P and Mooney, Colleen A	2/14	\$390,000	43 Gaspee PointDr	Lakewood Baptist Ch	Major, Jeffrey R and Major, Diana S	2/20	\$415,000
15 LanternLn	Henlin Shirley H Est and Moffat, Keith D	Chafee, Paige E and Chafee, Quentin G	2/14	\$430,000	45 TourtelotAve	Federal Hm Ln Mtg Corp	85 Grafton St Invest LLC	2/18	\$200,000
160 GreenwoodSt	Lsf9 Master Participation and Us Bank TNa	Riley, Jesse and Jones, Melanie	2/10	\$389,000	5 Williams St Lot 1	Jmr Prop LLC	Cariappa, Shanthi M	2/19	\$1,500,000
161 Locust GlenDr	Volpi, William	Garneau, Benjamin D and Hague, Emily M	2/19	\$419,500	51 LimestoneSt	Trenn, Beverly J and Trenn 3rd, William T	Ingersoll, Richard T	2/13	\$325,000
1766 CranstonSt	Kalashian, Milton	851 Property Grp LLC	2/19	\$355,000	52 Park ViewAve	Saran, Robert C and Saran, Catherine A	Azylor Build & Design LLC	2/14	\$250,000
200 Mayfield Ave Lot E7	Aucone Firt and Aucone, Giusti R	Degre, Robert P	2/19	\$335,000	54 TiconderogaDr	Kullberg, Paula G	Kullberg, Paula G	2/13	\$110,000
204 WoodbineSt	Northeast Revest LLC	Lacasse, Micaela J	2/21	\$587,000	58 VaughnAve	Brown, Andrew F and Brown, Laura C	Danfelser, Matthew and Barry, Ashlyn	2/20	\$490,000
29 PaliottaPl	Moll, Robert E	Salim, Ahlaa and Farid, Ahsan	2/13	\$714,000	64 ClaypoolDr	Ford, Patrick E and Almeida, Elsa	Ross 3rd, William J and Ross, Noelle	2/18	\$412,000
43 LaurensSt	Coffey, David J	Brown, James	2/18	\$370,000	69 EverlethAve	Zapata, Ligia A and Parra, Manuel D	Masse, Michelle	2/20	\$400,000
43 RocklandAve	Pape, James J	Knollwood Const & Remodel	2/20	\$347,500	70 VanderbiltRd	Wobst, Charlene L	Murphy, Tyler	2/20	\$340,000
46 LakespurDr	Maurano, Karen M and Maurano, Steven J	Famiglietti, Lauren and Famiglietti, Nicholas	2/10	\$670,000	826 Williamsburg Cir Lot 826	Capato Jr, Gino	Veyera, Richard H and Veyera, Diane	2/21	\$365,000
533 ScituateAve	Caramadre, Anne O	Agency Grp LLC	2/21	\$245,000	86 KingSt	Harvey, David B and Smiley, Lynn E	Sanginario, Timothy P and Sanginario, Diana S	2/19	\$510,000
55 FerncrestAve	Cannistraci Jr, Joseph J	Stefanski, Elizabeth C	2/13	\$1	890 Toll Gate Rd Lot 44	Warwick Four LLC	Kp Sc Warwick LLC	2/19	\$6,262,500
57 HemlockAve	Mulvey, Patricia A	Tirocchi, Jared J and Tirocchi, Joseph	2/18	\$385,000	99 River VueAve	Dauntless Path LLC	Farwell, Hannah and Saltonstall, Joanna	2/21	\$380,000
67 Lantern HillDr	Lippitt Land Invest Phase	Cragin, Richard and Cragin, Maryanne	2/20	\$1,381,374	99 River Vue Ave Lot 160	Dauntless Path LLC	Farwell, Hannah and Saltonstall, Joanna	2/21	\$380,000
71 LakeSt	Dfi Building & Dev LLC	Lamonge, Michelange	2/21	\$400,000	WEST WARWICK				
75 Meshanticut ValleyPl	Arzoomanian, Gregory T	Cann, David W	2/19	\$722,500	1150 ArchambaultAve	Elmwood Realty LLC	Rider, Danile	2/25	\$150,000
80 Conley Ave Lot 5	Bodline, Christopher W and Bodline, Tina B	Oneil, Joseph A	2/14	\$612,500	3 AlexanderDr	Khang, Sintong S and Khang, Xia L	Khang, Kou S and Thao, Thai	2/25	\$550,000
9 FletcherAve	Cruz Mercedes, Dilenia A and Alba, Alcides R	Dejesus, Miguel J and Dejesus, Marcia Y	2/20	\$500,000	41 W Valley Cir Lot 41	Resi At West Vly Inc	Dias, Donna	2/21	\$453,400
90 GarlandAve	Madison, Lisa M	Teeter, Shaley L and Petit, Adam T	2/21	\$495,000	53 HooverSt	Cawley, Daniel E and Cawley, Peta-Gay	Brodeur, Christopher M and Wilson, Shannon D	2/20	\$450,000
90 LorettaSt	Suzanne Sawtelle T	Osetek, Adam	2/10	\$465,000	76 LexingtonAve	Mey, Angelica H and Mey, Kace S	Vaccaro, Shea	2/19	\$385,000
90 Loretta St Lot 110	Suzanne Sawtelle T	Osetek, Adam	2/10	\$465,000	82 Setian Ln	Rhode Is Hsng & Mtg Fin C	Pacheco, Rodney A and Pacheco, Velina M	2/19	\$1
99 LongviewDr	Metro Development LLC	Stinson, John and Stinson, Andrea	2/13	\$565,000					
EAST GREENWICH									
1180 MiddleRd	Kiorman, Brian	Van Der Hoek, Jasper and Van Der Hoek, Louise C	2/19	\$960,000					
138 Spring ValleyDr	Puglise, Joseph A and Puglise, Abigail A	Curtin, Jennifer and Derderian, Michael R	2/18	\$690,000					
EXETER									
220 10 RodRd	Coughlin, Joseph B and Coughlin, Jessica L	Solomon, Hayley M and Solomon, Nicolette	2/21	\$677,000					
301 LibertyRd	Slader Frank E Est and Slader, Karl	Aguilar, Gilmar	2/21	\$406,000					
JOHNSTON									
13 SimmonsSt	Warner, Wayne B and Warner, Elizabeth A	Jackson, Jermaine A	2/21	\$390,000					
2 Betsy WilliamsCt	Larose, Kevin P	Turchetta, Brad J	2/21	\$437,000					
2 SouthSt	Bryer, Steven H and Arkadia Realty LLC	Arkadia Realty LLC	2/24	\$240,000					
25 ReginaDr	Anniston Leasing LLC	Passarella, Antonio M	2/21	\$1					
38 MaribethDr	Quiroa, Maximiliano J	Cabrera, Teresa A and Padilla, Luis A	2/24	\$382,500					
47 Morgan Ave Lot 52	Martinez, Jacobo and Martinez, Silvia I	Altera, Steve and Altera, Dianna B	2/20	\$306,000					
WARWICK									
11 Willow Glen Cir Lot 95	Poulin Lt and Poulin, Mark W	Paiotte, Janelle	2/13	\$269,900					
100 PrimroseDr	Michael S Primeau Lt and Primeau, Michael S	Chew, James P and Chew, Lori A	2/20	\$1,150,000					
1085 Bald Hill Rd Lot 41	Warwick Four LLC	Kp Sc Warwick LLC	2/19	\$6,262,500					
127 AbornAve	Mallette, Michael D and Mallette, Paula A	Zhang, Weilong and Guo, Yusang	2/14	\$425,000					
136 TiconderogaDr	Santos, Anthony and Santos, Francina M	Arce, Sebastian	2/13	\$425,000					
14 Rutherford Ct Lot 14	Defelice Sr, Roger	Alzate, Monica	2/14	\$280,000					



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# One of two entangled Right Whales now gear-free

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI  
Special to the SunRise

Endangered North Atlantic right whales are approaching extinction. An unusual mortality event was declared for North Atlantic right whales in 2017, and currently includes 151 individuals (41 dead, 39 seriously injured, and 71 sublethally injured or ill). The primary causes of the UME are entanglements in fishing gear such as lobster pots and vessel strikes in both U.S. and Canadian waters, which are long-standing threats to the recovery of the species.

Two Right Whales, identified as #5110 and #4120, were seen December 9, 2024, by a NOAA Fisheries aerial survey entangled swimming approximately 50 miles southeast of Nantucket, Massachusetts.

On Feb. 9, 2025, a Center for Coastal Studies aerial survey team saw North Atlantic right whale #4120 swimming in Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts. #4120 appears to have shed her entangling gear and is now gear-free. This was the first sighting of #4120 since she was seen entangled in December.

North Atlantic right whale #5110 has not been seen since he was documented entangled on Dec. 9, 2024. That entanglement met the unusual mortality event criteria of a serious injury. Responders will continue to keep a lookout for him but many fear the whale is dead.

Mariners are encouraged to report sightings of entangled, injured, or dead whales through the Greater Atlantic Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline for Maine to Virginia: (866) 755-6622; and/or report sightings through use U.S. Coast Guard via VHF Channel 16.

If safe, and from the legally required 500-yard distance, please take photos or video and note the GPS coordinates to share with authorized responders.

### New Right Whale Slow Zone

On Feb. 28, 2025, the Martha's Vineyard Buoy operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) re-detected the presence of right whales southwest of Nantucket, MA. The right whale Slow Zone is in effect through March 15, 2025.

As a reminder, additional Slow Zones are also currently in effect. Locations and effective dates can be found at Reducing Vessel Strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales | NOAA Fisheries.

Mariners are requested to avoid or transit at 10 knots or less inside the Dynamic Management Areas (DMAs) and Acoustic Slow Zones where right whales have been detected.

### Fly fishing for trophy size striped bass in tidal rivers

If you want to fly fish for trophy size striped bass do not miss fly fishing expert and guide Ed Lombardo at the Rhody Fly Rodders seminar on Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m. There is no charge to attend the seminar, which is taking place at the Riverside Sportsman Club, 19 Mohawk Dr, Riverside, RI.

Ed Lombardo plans to share the tidal rivers and estuaries that he has fished in RI for many years. Learn to read the water



Nei Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, works with a customer at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show. Submitted photos

which holds these magnificent Bass. And learn about the flies Ed uses and other strategies and tactics to catch these big fish on the fly. His favorite fly fishing terminal tackle set-up will also be shared.

For information contact Ed Stachelek, club president at castaflycharters@cox.net

### Fishing Show big success

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show held this weekend, at the Rhode Island Convention Center waws a big success. The Show features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

“Great crowds for three days and we had a great family day on Sunday. Show participants loved the crowds as most attendees are hard core fishers and buyers,” said Scott Travers, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers, sponsor of the show.

Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, “The crowd has been very consistent. We had a great flow of traffic all day Friday, it held yesterday, and today, Sunday, the last day of the show, it seems like it is going to be strong right through to the end. It is great to see customers here and sales have been good.”

Visit [www.nesaltwatershow.com](http://www.nesaltwatershow.com)

### Trout Unlimited Annual Fundraiser Banquet and Auction

Rhode Island Trout Unlimited will hold their annual Fundraiser Banquet and Auction on Saturday, April 5, 3 p.m. to 7:30

p.m. at the Quonst ‘O’ Club in North Kingstown.

This year’s special guest will be George Daniel, Director of Joe Humphreys Fly Fishing School at Penn State.

An impressive array of silent and live auction items and bucket raffles will be accompanied by a delicious buffet dinner.

Share your passion for conservation and fishing with like-minded individuals while supporting a great cause. Tickets: \$50 for adults; \$20 for children up to age 12 at Rhode Island Trout Unlimited Annual Fundraiser: Sat, Apr 5, 2025.

### Where’s the bite?

Cod. Party boat fishing and a few smaller charter boats continue to fish for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island waters. Visit Fishing Machine Charters, Pt. Judith, RI at [www.fishingmachinecharters.com](http://www.fishingmachinecharters.com); [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com) and [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com). Fishing. Full day rates

for party boat vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

Freshwater fishing. For stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) stocked thirteen waterways last week for updates visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

*Dave Monti holds a master captain’s license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to [dmontifish@verizon.net](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).*



North Atlantic right whale #4120 was observed gear-free on February 9, 2025. Photo by Center for Coastal Studies

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# Violinist almost turned back

The tiny melody of a violin, climbing sharp peaks and descending again to lose its echo, filled the halls of the New York Public Health Department’s hospital. Thirty-five-year-old Italian immigrant Giuseppe Camilloni was facing deportation. His own violin was packed in his trunk, secured somewhere in the baggage room. He asked to borrow another – to entertain those who were intent on walking him to the edge of Ellis Island and putting him back on a ship.

Camilloni (sometimes spelled Camillone), had been born in Italy on March 19, 1886. He stood five feet and four inches tall and weighed 115 pounds. His hair and eyes were brown. But the eyes did him no good. Camilloni had been blind since birth. After it was planned that he would sail to America and reside with his older brother Antonio at 32 Walnut Street in the Johnston village of Thornton, Camilloni boarded the ship Pesaro at Naples and arrived on the shores of New York City on July 20, 1921.

When the immigration authori-

ties at Ellis Island learned that Camilloni was totally blind, they cited a law regarding the deportation of any immigrant liable to become a public charge. Camilloni, who had attended the Rome Institute for the Blind as well as the Rome’s Conservatory of St. Cecil, explained to the authorities that he was well-educated and able to write as fast as a sighted person. Considered a musical genius as a composer, violinist and pianist, he had written, performed, published and sold numerous compositions despite not having the power of sight. As the deportation order stood, he appealed the decision to the Secretary of Labor.

When Antonio discovered that his little brother had been ordered detained and deported back to their homeland, he instigated a major ruckus. He involved the Italian population of Thornton as well as that in Silver Lake. He contacted politicians and immigration authorities, requesting that the liability law be waived on this specific occasion. Each of the local Italians took it upon himself to write and submit an affidavit

## Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



guaranteeing that Camilloni would not become a public charge. After Antonio enlisted the help of an agent for the Society of Italian Immigrants, he was assured that his brother would not be deported until the matter had been carefully considered. Before long, it was decided that Camilloni could remain in the United States.

Rhode Island embraced Camilloni. Three months after he settled into Antonio’s home, a dinner to celebrate his life and achievements was held at the Narragansett Hotel. He went on to perform at grand concerts all over the state and taught piano and violin. The multi-talented musician continued composing his own pieces such as “Spring Motif” which he performed for the first time in 1930.

Camilloni spent his life residing in Rhode Island with Antonio – a

jeweler – his wife, and children. They eventually left Johnston and relocated to Leah Street in Providence and then Pocasset Avenue. On the night of March 7, 1941, the 55-year-old was seriously injured

when he was struck by an automobile while crossing Webster Avenue with a 16-year-old relative. Camilloni survived the accident and lived to the age of 85.



Submitted photo

● KENT from page 11

## Personalized medicine

“From the patient perspective it is very personalized medicine, a very different experience than the hospital,” Lee said. He sees the program as an extension of the hospital to the home, “but it’s still a Kent patient.”

Lee, who started at Kent in the Emergency Department, said one physician and one physician assistant are on each week to manage up to 10 patients at a time and screen prospective new patients in the emergency department or the hospital floors to see if they are good fits. Expansion of the program is under consideration.

Asked whether we’re seeing a return to the days when doctors made home visits, Lee sees Hospital to Home a combo of “old medicine combined with modern spin” that provides a high standard of care often resulting in faster recoveries because patients are in an environment they know. “Nothing beats your home,” he said.

Kent’s program is part of a growing national trend in delivering hospital care in the home. According to the American Hospital Association, there are 378 hospitals across 140 health systems in 39 states that have been approved to provide hospital-at-home services to patients.

According to the association, “Studies have shown that



Dr. Michael Lee made a houseboat call to check on Russell Browning, in a marina off Post Road in Warwick. Photo submitted by Ryan Pickering

Hospital at Home programs improve patient outcomes, reduce complications, lower hospital readmission rates, and enhance patient satisfaction—all while easing the strain on hospital capacity.”

Yet the program is still in its formative stage.

Lee points out the CMS “waiver” that laid the foundation for the creation of Hospital at Home programs (with regards to Medicare patients) is set to expire March 31, 2025.

“A five-year extension was part of a bipartisan bill that was widely expected to pass back in December 2024, but it got caught up in the end-of-year wrangling over the budget and government shut down and so the waiver was only extended until March 31, 2025. We are expecting that the waiver will be extended further, but unclear if it will be five years or something less than that,” Lee said.

Doris, who refers to herself as “one of the birds at Sparrows [Point apartments] was discharged from the program last Friday. Throughout her stay-at-home hospital visit and for the immediate future she depends on the Blue Cross Blue Shield meal program offered recovering patients. And she will get twice weekly visits by occupational and physical therapists.

“Things are looking better,” she said Sunday.

What she likes best about the hospital program is the freedom and comfort it’s given her.

“I’m very grateful to have helpful people around me,” she said.

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Sylvia Bernal as Chea, Yamel Castillo as Young Dedé. Submitted photo by Francis Parra



Yamel Castillo as Young Dedé, Juan Carlos Parra as Enrique, Jahaira Suarez as Young Minerva, José Luis Suazo as Trujillo, and Anna Delgado as María Teresa. Submitted photo by Jorge Rivera

# In the Time of the Butterflies

By IDA ZECCO

ECAS (Educational Center of Arts and Sciences), is currently presenting Yo Soy Minerva running through March 23. Written by Mu-Kien Sang Ben and adapted by Francis Parra, Director and Artistic Director of ECAS, the play begins with a Minerva who returns from the dead 54 years later after she and her sisters were murdered under the order of the Dominican Republic’s dictator president Trujillo. This is the life of Minerva Mirabal and her sisters in Ojo de Agua, Salcedo, their hometown. Through the memory of Minerva’s returned spirit, the story is a recollection of what happened to them as they led a revolution against a tyrannical dictator until their assassinations.

In a world where voices are often silenced, Yo Soy Minerva dares to speak truth with passion and power. This breathtaking play takes you on a journey through the struggles, triumphs, and untold stories of a woman who refuses to be defined by anything other than her own strength.

During the Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961), unspeakable crimes were committed in the Dominican Republic, but the exact amount is still unknown. One of the most widespread and reviled crimes was against the Mirabal sisters: Patria, Minerva, María Teresa, and Rufino de la Cruz, their chauffeur and protector.

In Yo soy Minerva, Mu-Kien Adriana provides a recounting of Minerva Mirabal, and her life based on the human dimension. To achieve this work, this author uses a rarely used method: she gives life to the spirit of Minerva and, 40 years after the crime, brings this fighter for the country’s freedom into the world. Minerva relates the events and places but especially the house where the sisters grew up and where they lived during their last years. Patria, Minerva and Maria Tera were often thrown in jail and tortured until their brutal murders. They are often referred to as “The Butterflies,” (Las Mariposas); which symbolizes a fight for freedom and independence.

The cast of Noelia Parra (Minerva - spirit); Jahaira

Suarez (Minerva - present); Anna Delgado (Maria Teresa); Betsy Montes (Patria), Yamel Castillo (Dede - past), Jose Luis Suazo (Rafael Leonidas Trujillo); Franklin Solano (Manuel De Moya); Sylvia Bernal (Dona Chea y Dede - present); Juan Carlos Parra (Enrique and Rufino) and Miosotis Ihelefeld (Violeta and Sina) under the direction of Francis Parra, bring this moving and difficult work to life as a cohesive, dynamic ensemble.

Noelia Parra as the spirit of Minerva, offers dauntingly sustained, moving and passionate monologues in her narration of the events that took place. Jahaira Suarez, as Minerva (present), displays a courageous and convincing young revolutionist unmoved by the danger that awaits her.

This is more than just theater. It is an invitation to reflect on our own identities, our place in the world, and the battles we fight within ourselves. Yo Soy Minerva will move you, challenge you, and ignite a fire within your soul. Whether you are witnessing Minerva’s fight for justice or connecting with her moments of vulnerability, you will find something in her journey that resonates with your own life.

Yo Soy Minerva is also ECAS’ tribute to March’s Women in History Month. The Mirabal sisters have become such a symbol of women’s struggle that, in honor of them, in 1999 the United Nations made November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

**What:** Yo Soy Minerva  
Performed in Spanish  
with simulcast supertitles in English

**Where:** Teatro ECAS  
679 Valley Street, Providence

**When:** March 13 thru March 23

**Box Office:** 401-421-3227  
www.teatroecas.org



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