

JohnstonSunRise

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Land battle moves to RI, US Courts

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Johnston Sun Rise
Staff Writer

The ownership of property at 178-200 George Waterman Road — the site of a proposed affordable housing complex — is temporarily in legal limbo.

On March 14, Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. announced via his social media accounts that the town had exercised its eminent domain authority and, through a petition in Providence Superior Court, had “officially acquired ownership” of the property. Polisena has been an outspoken opponent of the proposed development.

Within days, however, U.S. District Court Judge Melissa DuBose issued a temporary restraining order putting the town’s action on hold for 30 days. For now, the property is back under the ownership of Ralph and Suzanne Santoro, Lucille Cantoro and Salvatore Campagnone.

At the same time they sought the temporary restraining order in federal court, the families also filed a petition in Superior Court asking that the town’s taking of the land be vacated.



This George Waterman Road property is at the center of eminent domain litigation. *(Beacon Media photo by Tim Forsberg)*

Both sides signed a consent order putting any action regarding the property on hold until further motions are filed, and all parties appear in court on April 2, 2025, for a status conference.

The land in question is the site of a proposed 250-plus unit affordable housing complex. In December, Polisena issued a strongly worded public statement opposing the project saying it is not in the best interest of the town and that he would use his authority and all legal means to fight it. He did not specifically mention the use of eminent domain powers at the

time.

In January, the Johnston Town Council backed a plan put forth by Polisena to build a new municipal campus – which would include new fire department headquarters, police station and town hall – on the land where the apartment complex was proposed.

On March 14, the town took the solo, or *ex parte*, action of going to Superior Court to deposit \$775,000 for the George Waterman Road land with the money to go to the owners in exchange for the property. According to court records, there is no record that the owners were notified at that time of the town’s action.

● **BATTLE** to page 8

Potent public power: What is eminent domain?

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Johnston SunRise Staff Writer

Any drivers who have careened around the “S curve” portion of Interstate 95 in Pawtucket have probably wondered why the road was built that way. What they may not know is that the snake-shaped portion of highway is an example how government’s use of eminent domain shapes lives and landscapes.

According to past reports in the *Providence Journal* newspaper, the nerve-wracking curves on the Pawtucket stretch of highway are the result of the state being unable or unwilling to use eminent domain to take certain prestigious properties for the Interstate construction – necessitating that the road be built around them.

Eminent domain is a broad governmental power and is in the news now as the Town of Johnston has attempted to use that authority to block a proposed multi-unit complex that would include affordable housing on a roughly 30-acre parcel at 178-200 George Waterman Road.

In a public statement issued in December, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. strongly stated his opposition to the proposed 250-plus unit development, saying he would use his authority and all legal means to fight it for the benefit of the town. He did not specifically mention the use of eminent domain powers at the time.

So what exactly is eminent domain and how does it work?

In simple terms, eminent domain is the governmental authority to take private property for public use/public purpose. And while eminent domain is not explicitly outlined in the Constitution, the Fifth Amendment specifically imposes limits on it, stating that government can only use this power, also known as land taking, if “just compensation” is provided to the owner of the property that is being taken for “public use.”

● **EMINENT DOMAIN** to page 8



Romeo was recently found, trapped, and returned to his owners after going on an adventure for 11 days. *Photo courtesy of Missing Dogs Massachusetts*

Wherefore art thou Romeo? Pug found safe after 11 days on the lam

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

Romeo, a 2-year-old pug who went missing on March 9, has safely returned home.

When the 25-pound pug went missing with just his collar from the Brown Avenue area, the call went out on social media to stay vigilant. As the days passed, Romeo’s disappearance gained increased social media attention.

● **ROMEO** to page 8

A grand slam for safety Panthers softball team trained in CPR

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

For Johnston Fire Chief David Iannuccilli leadership isn’t just about fighting fires—it’s about saving lives both off and on the field.

When he’s not commanding the town’s first responders, he’s coaching young athletes like the Panthers Girls Varsity Softball Team, instilling in them the importance of teamwork, discipline, good grades, and preparedness. He’s coached youth softball teams on and off for 24 years.

But this season, he took things to a whole new level by making sure his players were trained in a skill that could mean the difference between life and death: cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

“Today, I’m not your coach, I’m your CPR instructor and what you learn today might help you save a life,” said Iannuccilli. “If you ever have to do CPR, and I hope nobody ever has to, odds are it’s going to be somebody that you spend most of your time with—a loved one, your family, your friends.”

In a first-of-its-kind initiative for his players, Iannuccilli shared his expertise in CPR, turning the team into a squad that’s not just ready to compete but also equipped to respond in an emergency.

“All schools and the Interscholastic

● **CPR** to page 7



Under the watchful eye of Johnston Fire Chief David Iannuccilli, players learned how to perform full chest compressions on an adult. *Beacon Media photos by Tim Forsberg*



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Scouts Enjoy Sweet Adventure

Scouts from Troop 20 Johnston embarked on an exciting weekend adventure at the June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in Connecticut, where they attended a Maple Sugar Festival. During their stay, the scouts learned the intricate process of making maple syrup, from tapping trees to boiling sap. In addition to their sweet education, they took part in hands-on crafts centered around maple sugar and tested their marksmanship skills by safely shooting .22 rifles under the guidance of trained instructors. The weekend provided a mix of outdoor learning, skill-building, and camaraderie, making for a memorable experience in the great outdoors. *Submitted photo*

Police Log

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
At approximately 8:45 p.m. on March 7, Officer Matthew Levesque responded to the area of 26 Putnam Avenue regarding a motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with the driver of a red Kia Rondo, who stated he had been traveling west on Putnam Avenue when he saw a silver Dodge Grand Caravan stopped in traffic with its left turn signal activated, waiting to turn into the CVS parking lot. As the driver passed the Dodge on the right, the vehicle made an abrupt right turn with the left turn signal still illuminated and sideswiped the Kia. The patrolman reported that while speaking with the driver of the Kia, he observed the driver of the Dodge, later identified as Gary Zonfrilli, 45, of 35 Putnam Avenue in Johnston, to be stumbling in the parking lot across the street. Officers then spoke with Zonfrilli, who stated he was traveling west on Putnam Avenue and attempted to make a right-hand turn into the parking lot of 35 Putnam Avenue. He added that as he was attempting to turn right, the passenger side of his vehicle sideswiped the door of the Kia as it was passing on the right. The patrolman reported that while speaking with Zonfrilli, he allegedly observed a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. The officer also observed that Zonfrilli had difficulty maintaining his balance and showed other signs of intoxication. When asked for his date of birth, he struggled to respond after multiple attempts. Asked if he had consumed any alcohol or if he was under the influence of any substance, Zonfrilli reportedly replied that he had a couple of drinks. Zonfrilli was asked to complete a series of standardized sobriety tests, which he refused. Based upon the officer’s training and experience, it was determined that Zonfrilli was unable to safely operate a vehicle. He was then taken into custody, transported to police head-

quarters where he was booked and processed. He refused to submit to a breathalyzer test. According to the police report, Zonfrilli repeatedly stated “I am drunk” while being processed. Zonfrilli was charged with driving under the influence, first offense, refusal to submit to a chemical test, driving with an expired license (fourth offense), operating an unregistered vehicle, improper use of evidence of registration, and failure to signal a turn. He was also a probation violator and held. Bail was set at \$2,000 personal recognizance and he was later remanded to the ACI.

ATTEMPTED LARCENY
Patrolman Nicholas Defelice was dispatched to a Morgan Avenue address on October 10, 2024, at approximately 7:30 a.m. for a report of a larceny from a vehicle. At the scene the reporting party told police their Hyundai Tucson was broken into. Surveillance footage from the residence showed a suspect wearing a gray hoodie, black sweatpants and a mask approaching the car at approximately 4:30 a.m. According to the report, the vehicle was locked and the ignition assembly was ripped out, indicating the suspect attempted to steal the vehicle. The complainant reported that someone had rummaged through the vehicle’s contents, but nothing appeared to be missing. Detectives arrived to process the scene, gathering evidence for further investigation. Following the investigation, detectives obtained a warrant for Carlos Rodriguez, 21, of 337 Point Street in Providence, on charges of attempted larceny over \$1,500 and conspiracy. After the investigation, on March 14, Rodriguez was arraigned in Third District Court, where he pleaded not guilty to the charges. He was issued a \$5,000 surety bail and held at the ACI.

SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones

St. Rocco School boys basketball teams win big at Pot of Gold tournament

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

This past weekend, both of St. Rocco School’s boys basketball teams made local history by winning the coveted Pot of Gold tournament, a feat that principal Melissa D’Amico described as “unique and remarkable” for the school.

The school’s Junior Team dominated the D2 championship, finishing the season undefeated. The team’s victory was solidified with a 43-33 win against Mercy Mount, and standout player Domenic Boccanfusco was named both the Pot of Gold tournament MVP and MVP of the championship game. Boccanfusco, a sixth grader at St. Rocco School, helped lead his team to an impressive undefeated record for the season.

In the Grammar team’s game, they faced off against St. Cecelia School at Mercy Mount, emerging victorious with a 53-35 win. Eighth-grader Cody Parmentier, who will attend La Salle Academy next year, was named MVP of the game for his stellar performance on the court.

Both teams’ success has brought pride to the St. Rocco School community, with the tournament wins marking a memorable chapter in the school’s sports history.



The school’s Junior Team dominated the D2 championship, finishing the season undefeated. *Submitted photos*



Eighth-grader Cody Parmentier was named MVP of his game.



The Grammar Team emerged victorious with a 53-35 win against St. Cecelia School.



Domenic Boccanfusco was named both the Pot of Gold tournament MVP and MVP of the championship game.

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Johnston Public Schools Kindergarten Registration for School Year 2025-2025

ON-LINE registration for Kindergarten is open!

Johnston resident children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2025 are eligible to be registered for Kindergarten.

All applications must be completed online at:
www.johnstonschools.org

Questions or concerns can be directed to:
JPS Early Childhood Center
(401) 233-0054

Planning review for new Dunkin', solar farm extension, housing



A Dunkin' drive-thru is proposed to be added to the Quick Fuel on Hartford Ave. *Beacon Media photo by Tim Forsberg*

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

Residents could soon see a new Dunkin' to get their coffee fix as well as a couple of single homes should proposed planning changes be approved. The Johnston Planning Board will next meet on Tuesday, April 1 to review several development proposals. Included

in those proposals are a new donut drive-thru, a solar array project, and zoning changes. Quick Fuel Market, located at 1601 Hartford Avenue in the area of Johnston War Memorial Park, is looking to obtain a special use permit to add a drive-thru for a proposed in-store Dunkin'. The applicant, Shanker Veer LLC, is requesting approval to construct a 12-foot-wide driveway alongside the building, extend-

ing from the existing parking lot, to accommodate the new service. The property is currently zoned B-2. A special use permit is required to allow for the new drive-thru. Project details include where the proposed lane will be constructed and where drainage runoff will be directed. Revity Energy, LLC, is seeking approval to develop additional solar arrays to complement their existing facility, along with a single-family home to be located behind 3 and 17 Forest Drive. Located at the end of Shore Drive and Butler Drive, the total area of the lot is approximately 34 acres, situated along Oak Swamp Reservoir. The site currently contains a solar array, completed in the spring of 2023. Revity proposes to construct two new 0.5 MW solar arrays and one single family home. The proposal includes the creation of a roadway accessible from Forest Drive, leading to the proposed home and a second 0.5 MW solar array. The board will also consider an advisory opinion request for a petition to purchase a plot of land located next door to 205 Shun Pike. The petition was referred to the board for an advisory opinion by the town council as the land is currently owned by the town. The proposal comes from Marie Michael who is looking to buy the land for her son to build a home.

A proposal to amend the town's zoning ordinance regarding noise regulations is also on the docket. This was referred to the planning board in February by the town council. The referral comes after continuous complaints to town council members from constituents regarding noise pollution in town. It seeks to set maximum daytime and nighttime noise levels in residential, commercial, and industrial zones, as well as public spaces and parks. Construction activities and vehicle noise will also be addressed. An advisory opinion is also sought on enforcement and penalties for the handling of chronic offenders. Additional items include a review of a draft of the town's affordable housing plan. Per Town Planner Thomas Deller, the town's plan needs to be updated in the town's comprehensive plan to comply with regulations. Johnston looks to be in compliance with recent state law changes that mandate at least 10 percent of a municipality's housing stock be designated as affordable for low and moderate income households to promote equitable housing opportunities. Currently, 7.9% of the town's housing is considered low income affordable. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Johnston Senior Center at 6 p.m. Residents are welcomed to the public meeting to share their input on these proposed developments.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

In a polarized world, C-SPAN shines on

In today’s political climate, it seems increasingly that two people can have entirely different interpretations of one objective reality.

We can see this clearly in how people react to any kind of action taken by leaders of the two dominant political parties – all the way from City Hall to the White House. The level of polarization in our country is undeniable, and it undermines honest and productive political discourse in our populace.

This is only compounded by the erroneous belief that there are no longer unbiased news media reliably covering government and politics. Of course, much of this perception comes from the existence of hyper-partisan news channels on social media, TV and radio and in print.

There are plenty of large and small news organizations still producing high-quality, in-depth and responsible journalism every day – reporting and editing that reflects many different perspectives and shows obvious care taken to present a complete picture of any given issue.

With that said, it is still true that any good news diet, like any good financial portfolio, should be diversified, consisting of different outlets to ensure that you’re getting the whole story from as many angles as possible.

With all of this in mind, we’re taking this week’s editorial opportunity to spotlight an oft-forgotten but incredibly dedicated media outlet that for nearly half a century has been providing the people of America with inarguably unbiased and in-depth coverage in a more extensive way than any other outlet.

That would be the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, or C-SPAN, as you probably know it better by.

Created in 1979, this nonprofit media venture started as a way to bring everyday Americans into the halls of Congress to be an active part of their own governing, and to be better informed about the most important issues being debated by the people we elect to represent our interests.

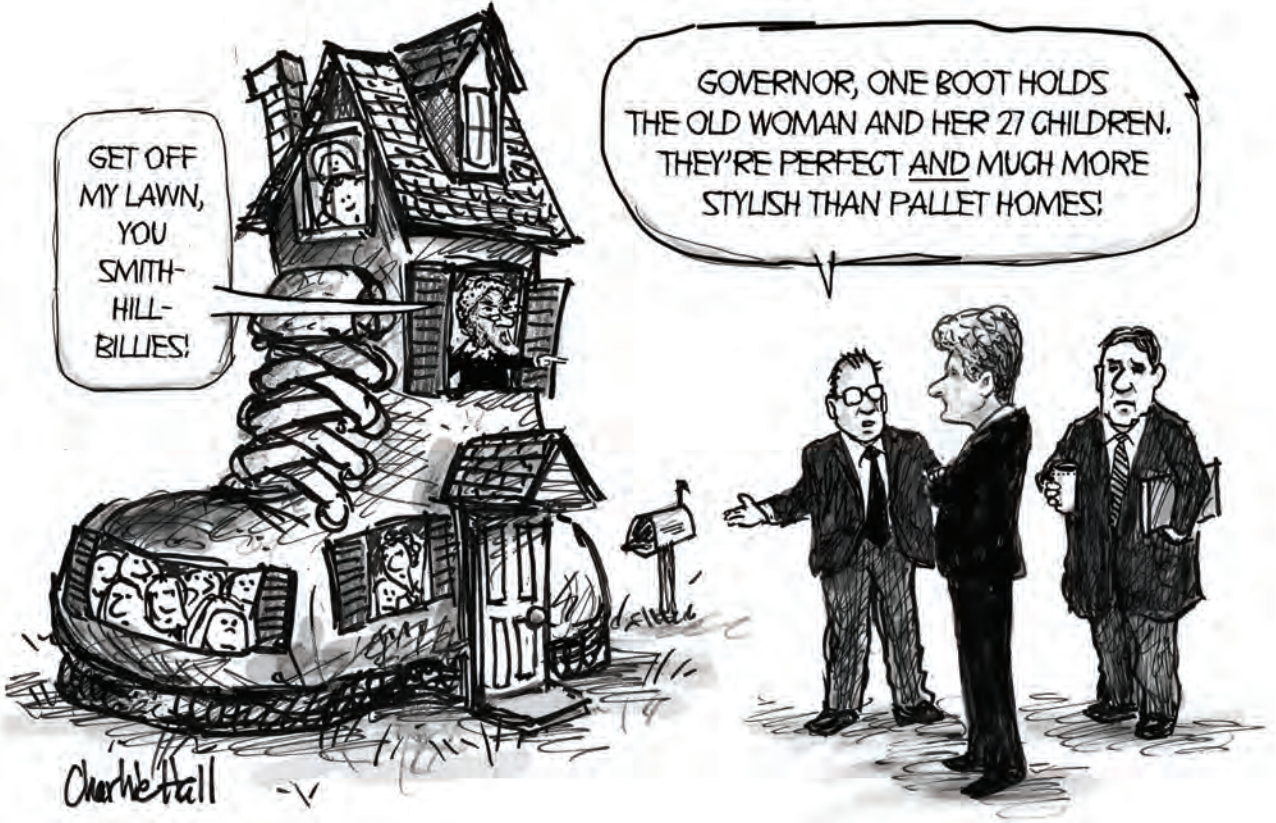
C-SPAN offers something that no other media outlet offers — a round-the-clock watch on government activity and its players without the need to spin its coverage for a particular base or drive enthusiasm through harmful tactics to sell ad space. In a time of extreme polarization, C-SPAN offers an unfiltered presentation of objective reality.

Legislators attend their committee meetings and vote on bills, and C-SPAN broadcasts what they say and do, and often provides them with the opportunity to explain why they are doing what they are doing.

Viewership data speaks to the value of this public service: C-SPAN viewers are not inordinately liberal (30%) or conservative (30%) or moderate (36%). They aren’t primarily older (the 55+ demographic is the smallest percentage of viewers). They aren’t from one region of the country and not another, and they do not consume the content through one device or another. It’s a pretty even spread down the line on the roughly 67 million adult Americans who consume C-SPAN within a six-month period, according to 2023 data.

At a time when public trust in government is so low, we implore more people to tune into C-SPAN to see how government is conducted. That way they can become better informed about the who, what, when, where and why of our true political reality regardless of who controls the chambers.

THE SEARCH FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND CONTINUES...



LETTERS

World tilting like a coin-eating pinball machine

To the Editor,

Mr. Trump: Hands off my Social Security.

When I was a teen, I jumped on the bus going down to the city square, went to the Post Office and applied for Social Security.

I took my card down to the mill and, at age 16, got a job sweeping floors after school.

They took out Social Security from my \$.75 per hour pay; \$11 per week minus 50 cents for Social Security. The mill matched my contribution with another half-buck.

Now, 66 years later I have a Social Security nest egg based on that dollar per week. I figure it pays me about \$30 per month or, adjusted for

inflation, \$7.50 per week.

A lot more came in over the years. Money that is crying out for protection from the DOGE boys.

In 1959, when I started, Social Security was 26 years old. Things looked bright.

Now Social Security is 92 years old and, if Mr. Trump has his way, it’s being privatized – being rolled over the cliff like the grandma in her wheelchair in the old “Don’t Screw with My Medicare” ad on TV.

Back at the mill, there was a pinball machine in the break room. Ding, ding, ding. A dollar a week thrown away. I should have put it away for my 80s. Put it in an IRA when they came out.

We all knew Social Security would

be there.

But will it under Donald Trump? Now it’s like a pinball machine on a tilt.

Kachung!

TILT in flashing lights. My coins going back to the mill owner through the pinball machine tilt black hole.

It seems like the whole world is tilting like a coin-eating pinball machine. How do we stop this?

We need our congressional delegation to join Bernie and Alexandria in calls for peaceful gatherings here in Warwick to show support for Social Security.

Richard Langseth
Warwick

Actions should adhere to law

To the Editor,

Recent statements by the president regarding Canada and Greenland have sparked considerable debate. While the president's pronouncements often generate significant media attention, it's crucial to approach such statements with critical analysis and a focus on verifiable information. The suggestion of annexing these territories, for instance, warrants careful consideration of the geopolitical implications and their feasibility.

Furthermore, discussions surrounding the president's interactions with foreign leaders require a balanced and nuanced perspective. Accusations of miscommunication, while concerning, should be assessed in the context of broader international relations and the complexities of global diplomacy.

It's imperative that we rely on credible sources of information and avoid engaging in unsubstantiated claims or personal attacks against individuals or groups. The promotion of violence or illegal activities, such as the destruction of property, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All actions should adhere to the rule of law.

John Cervone
North Providence

JohnstonSunRise

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

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A sudden spring in March

A sudden spring in March reminds the world that faithful change can come without our doing.

All of a sudden, or so it seemed, the icy crust on the lawn became a mere memory as we could see some tender green shoots joyfully piercing those hard, insistent layers.

“Oh, that’s right ... they break through in mid March here.” I had lost track of it.

Within days there were green "out-poppings" all around, to delight and surprise my eyes.

When I had looked forward to spring, I had forgotten its ability to bring delight, for my mind was lulled, stuck in “same old, same old” ... but spring was not stuck.

It can do it every time, even overpowering the greyness of winter that seems to infect the mind and soul at times.

Fighting through and rising up can prevail with a birdsong, without much help from us.

New life came, without my doing!

That is even more delightful. (The needed stress was generated from somewhere else.)

As I carefully put my yearly tomato supports in each place where the green was rising, I realized there were other places where I knew I had planted bulbs.

(I had collected many bulbs from walking the dog in playing fields, which plants had been pushed into another place by tractors. The machines had pushed the flowers aside in the woods, but as they bloomed anyway, I had dug them up and brought them home to be seen.)

I came to such a place where I knew the daffies were, and raked aside some very heavy wet leaves and vines.

Sure enough, I saw a plant in a circular position, like a dog sleeping, and it was all white. Even the bud was all white. As I carefully removed vines and leaves from around this ghostly friend, the sun, which was setting, hit that bud, which by now was already heading upward.

How marvelous!

As the sun went lower, I cut down more that was blocking the sun from the bud, and went into the house ... exhilarated.

“Why am I so excited?” I wondered.

I thought of Jesus’ words about "considering the lilies, and how they grow." He did not say we would not help them in their inherent growing, but, actually, Adam was told to “tend the garden.” Then I got it!

His point may have also been how much He cares about every single one.

Carol Howell
Warwick



GUEST OPINION

Trump tests our checks and balances

By JAMES C. SHEEHAN

The American Revolution was a struggle for independence from a king whose abuse of power made him a tyrant. To prevent a repeat of history, the founders built guardrails into the United States Constitution to thwart the consolidation of power in the hands of a would-be tyrant.

Indeed, the Constitution divided government authority into three distinct branches. Each branch was given the means to restrain or “check” the other two branches to prevent abuse of power. For over 200 hundred years, this system of “checks and balances” has worked well. However, in a matter of months, President Donald Trump is testing the limits of these Constitutional guardrails.

While he is the leader of the Executive Branch, President Trump felt it necessary to consolidate power within his own branch of government. Trump hand-picked department heads whose top qualification was unquestioning loyalty to Trump himself. Therefore, we cannot expect to see many figures like former Chief of Staff John Kelly stepping in to curb impulsive, imbalanced ideas that may cross the president’s mind. Trump’s new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) also has taken over several executive agencies, firing many of their employees in the process.

The Legislative Branch often leads the charge in checking the power of the presidency. Congress has done this through the power of the purse and oversight/investigative hearings. The most powerful tool in Congress’ toolbox is impeachment and removal of a president. With Republican control of the House and Senate, it is unlikely there will be any serious check on Trump’s power by Congress. Far from it, Republicans have fallen over themselves to please President Trump. Indeed, the Republican-led Congress willingly voted away its authority to check Trump’s emergency power enabling his erratic trade wars with our close trading partners, such as Canada.

The last branch of government that can check the president's power is the Judicial Branch. Federal courts have been busy with lawsuits responding to numerous executive orders issued by President Trump. While enforceable, executive orders must comply with federal law and the Constitution. The courts are the rightful arbiters of whether presidential executive orders are lawful or Constitutional.

Recently, a Bush-appointed federal judge ordered the Trump administration to halt temporarily the deportation of alleged gang members pending the court’s review of the rarely used 1798 law cited as grounds for their expulsion. Rather than waiting for a court opinion regarding the law, Trump immediately took to social media to personally and publicly attack the judge, calling him a “Radical Left Lunatic” and “a troublemaker and agitator.” As if that were not bad enough, Trump called for this judge to be impeached! Hours later, US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts rebuked Trump’s remarks, stating, “For more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision.” Both Republican and Democratic presidents have had their power checked by the courts; that is simply how our system works.

With no Legislative Branch check in sight, the Judicial Branch is the only branch to check Trump’s presidential power. President Trump has begun to undermine the reputation of the courts in the eyes of the public. I believe Trump will not relent in his quest to throw off any limitations on his power. Should Trump defy all judicial authority, our system of checks and balances will have failed. In spite of the hopes of our founders, history will repeat itself – our nation will once again be ruled by a king.

James Sheehan is a 30-year teacher of civics and U.S. history and a 20-year Rhode Island state senator.

Trump’s plan to dismantle the Department of Education hurts RI students

National Education Association Rhode Island Executive Director Mary Barden released the following statement in reaction to Donald Trump's reported Executive Order pushing to end the Department of Education:

"Dismantling the Department of Education robs America’s students of the promise of a full and fair education. Students and their families in every Rhode Island community - urban, suburban, and rural alike - will be harmed by Trump and Musk’s wrecking ball.

"Trump’s action, if successful, will balloon class sizes, gut special education services, diminish job training programs, destroy student civil rights protections, and put higher education further out of reach for families.

"The Department of Education plays a critical role in ensuring equity in the public schools where we welcome all children to reach their academic and life potential – no matter their race, ZIP code, ability, or immigration status.

"People like Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Don-

ald Trump have starved our public schools of the resources students deserve for years. Educators and parents will not be silent as a handful of anti-public education politicians force our students to pay for billionaires' tax cuts with their futures.

"On March 19, educators, parents, and community allies gathered across the country - including in Rhode Island - to stand up against Trump’s harmful plan. We are committed to protecting our students and public schools. And we are just getting started."

Legal Notices

Town of Johnston

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **April 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.

Applicant: Mario Mennella
Business Name: M & M Group, LLC
Location: 23 Greenville Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
License Type: Class C - Liquor License-

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Per Order:
Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

3/27, 4/3/25

Town of Johnston

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Applicant: Malasy Vongthavanh
Business Name: Malasy, LLC
d/b/a Baylee Thai Cuisine 2
Location: 1369 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
License Type: Class BV-Full - Liquor License-

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

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3/27, 4/3/25

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Applicant: Mahesh Kollu
Business Name: Indian Spice Co, LLC
d/b/a Empire Biryani & Grille
Transfer From: Duffs, LLC
d/b/a Taco Barn
Location: 198 Putnam Pike
Johnston, RI 02919
License Type: Class BV-Full - Liquor License-
Transfer of Ownership

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Per Order:
Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

3/27, 4/3/25

Say you saw it
in the
Johnston
SunRise

Lots of energy legislation, but can it cut costs?

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

Greg Cornett grew up in Tennessee in a blue-collar, lower-middle- income part of the state. He remembers winters when his father and he would deliver wood to less fortunate relatives who had exhausted their supplies and could use the help.

Cornett, president of Rhode Island Energy, which supplies electricity and natural gas to more than 700,000 Rhode Island customers, can relate to those who over the late month packed the state Public Utilities Commission rate hearing and turned out last Thursday when the House Corporations Committee, chaired by Rep. Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Warwick), heard testimony on 10 bills relating to energy. Their big beef is what it has cost them to heat their homes this winter. The stories of unaffordable bills and having to make choices between food and heat have been told before the cameras and legislators.

While he could have sent others to those public meetings, Cornett went and stayed until they were over.

“It is really important to hear from customers ... understand their struggles and to understand all the issues that go into this,” he said in a half-hour interview Tuesday.

The purpose of the call was to learn from his perspective whether any of all those bills could reduce the energy costs of Rhode Islanders.

“Unfortunately,” he said “most increase costs for customers.” He said one measure to cap the return on equity to the parent company PPL Corporation, seemingly a benefit to consumers, would

actually push up costs.

As Cornett’s predecessors pointed out, and as he reminds customers, Rhode Island Energy charges for the maintenance of the infrastructure and for the delivery of electricity and natural gas, not the gas or the electricity that is listed separately on the bill. The company pays local property taxes on its infrastructure, which in the case of Warwick makes it the top city taxpayer.

So which bills might reduce those costs?

Cornett named two, although there could be more in the works. They are a bill, introduced by Solomon in the House and Sen. David P. Tikoian in the Senate that would help RI Energy enter into contracts to procure nuclear power, and a bill by Rep. Charlene Lima of Cranston that would reduce incentives initiated in the early stages of solar power.

“Solar is very important to us,” Cornett said, adding that incentives enacted years ago are “growing year after year, and solar doesn’t need the same level of support.”

The regulatory framework for utility companies is the same across the nation, Cornett said, explaining that the reason electricity is cheaper in other parts of the country is because natural gas and coal – what he called the two cheapest sources – are being used to generate it.

Before his current position, Cornett served as associate general counsel and director of legal services for PPL subsidiaries Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company.

“This is a good piece of legislation,” Cornett said of Solomon’s bill, which would enable RI Energy to join other

states in the purchase of nuclear power – which he points out is available 24/7, unlike solar and wind, which are dependent on the time of day and conditions. The Solomon bill has not been heard in committee yet.

Would it lower the price to the customer? Cornett said that would depend on the market but generally speaking would be cheaper than offshore wind power.

“It wouldn’t result in building a nuclear power plant in Rhode Island,” Solomon said of his bill on Monday. What it would allow, he said, is for Rhode Island Energy to diversify its portfolio while maintaining a shift away from fossil fuels.

Not that it’s any consolation for those faced with high utility bills, Solomon said information provided to the committee found that Rhode Island’s electric costs are lower than those of Massachusetts and Connecticut and that Rhode Island gas costs fall between those of its two neighbors.

Easing restrictions on the purchase of nuclear-generated power would enable Rhode Island Energy to enter into multi-state procurement contracts at lower costs, Solomon said.

Thomas Kogut, information officer for the Public Utilities Commission, said in an interview last week that the proliferation of energy bills has the commission’s legal staff in a scramble to evaluate them and come up with recommendations. So far, he said, no recommendation has been reached on the Solomon bill.

“We have a lot of programs that support customers,” Cornett said, urging customers to visit the RI Energy website.



Greg Cornett, president of Rhode Island Energy
Submitted photo

He pointed to home energy audits, budgeting that allows for payments to be spread out and programs designed to help low-income customers.

He’s been in Rhode Island for about a year, and he and his husband bought a house in Pawtucket about six months ago and are discovering the Ocean State. “We’re eating our way through Rhode Island,” he said.

He’ll no longer be delivering wood from the trunk of his car to needy customers, but Cornett chairs RI Energy’s Good Neighbor Energy Fund, and he noted that the company doubled its donation to the fund this year with a contribution of \$400,000.

● CPR from page 1

League require all coaches to be trained in CPR and first aid. But my question is, what happens if the coach goes down,” said Iannuccilli “The players will be in a tough position if they don’t know what’s going on. So, I feel it’s very important to certify the team so they have an understanding on what happens.”

The training took place during a special session at the high school, where players traded their mitts and uniforms for CPR manikins and automated external defibrillators (AED). They learned how to identify the problem, perform chest compressions, assisted breathing techniques, and how to use an AED safely.

The chief came prepared with adult, child, and infant manikins, giving the girls a complete

set of tools to perform CPR under any circumstance.

Not only did Iannuccilli teach his team about CPR, he also taught and demonstrated how to perform the Heimlich maneuver on adults, children, infants, even on themselves if they found they were alone.

“Somebody that goes into cardiac arrest, which means their heart stops, the success rate with CPR and an AED is 90 percent. Every minute that you fail to start CPR, the success rate goes down by ten percent,” Iannuccilli said.

Iannuccilli explained how long an emergency call can take. First, it takes to call 911, then the call can be transferred to the fire department, and how long it takes to then dispatch a call. It takes time for first responders to get in their trucks and then to drive to the location,



The Panthers Girls Varsity Softball Team practiced on a whole new level by getting certified in a skill that could mean the difference between life and death: cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Beacon Media photos by Tim Forsberg

a process that can take six minutes or longer and could drop a survival rate to 30 percent.

“I just bought a rescue for the fire department, it was \$487,000. We carry \$150,000 worth of equipment on that truck. To train our EMS, and their salaries, it’s probably \$300,000. That’s close to a million dollars. All that means nothing if CPR isn’t started, that is how important it is,” Iannuccilli told the team. “Am I saying you’re going to be perfect at it? No, you’re not going to be perfect at it, you don’t do all the time. But at least you have an understanding, and you could actually help someone.”

Iannuccilli then watched each team member manually perform the maneuver on the manikins, helping with technique and providing tips and tricks for chest compressions. At the end of the session, each player raised their hand when asked if

they thought they could successfully perform what they had learned. Many asked multiple questions to confirm their own understanding of the technique. They then all earned their CPR certifications.

This season, the Panther’s softball team isn’t just taking the field with bats and gloves.

They’re bringing a life-saving skill set that could make the difference for their team and others. And that’s a home run for them all.

“You know how passionate I am about softball, I’m even more passionate about this,” said Iannuccilli. “CPR really works”



In order to determine if CPR was necessary, players were trained to detect if a patient was breathing prior to commencing.

A graphic for the obituary section featuring a bright sun with rays, a blue sky, and a few birds flying. The word "Obituaries" is written in a large, blue, serif font.

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.

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Raffle run by the Rotary Club of Warwick. Drawing to be held May 15, 2025.

Winner has option of cash, full details on the ticket

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

● **EMINENT DOMAIN** from page 1

It is a power that can be exercised by federal, state and local governments. Many cases are transacted quietly, but others are controversial due to high public interest and, sometimes, long-running litigation.

Attorney Stephen J. Angell handled one of the state's more recent and much-publicized eminent domain cases last year in Coventry. As the town's solicitor, he worked with local officials to successfully achieve the taking of Johnson's Pond and the dam that controls it. The pond had been controversial for years as owners feuded with the private owner, Soscia Holdings, over changing water levels that left many lakeside homeowners looking out on mud flats rather than shoreline.

Angell, who is also solicitor to the Cranston City Council, declined to comment on Johnston's case, but in an interview last week reviewed some of the basics of eminent domain law in Rhode Island and reviewed some of the actions taken by Coventry regarding Johnson's Pond.

He said that while eminent domain is a broad government power, it requires thorough preparation work. In the Johnson's Pond case, he said, experts had to be consulted to come up with a price for the pond and the dam – plus take into account the work that remains to be done on the dam. Also, specific local actions, such as authorization from the Town Council, had to be executed.

In the end, the town received court approval to acquire the pond and the dam for \$175,000 – a price that Soscia Holdings has said they will challenge in court.

"It's about a good process and getting "all the pieces in place," Angell said. "But at the core is public benefit. It wasn't enough for the town of Coventry that it did not care

for the stewardship of the private owner, we had to show that we had a purpose, and that purpose was to benefit the public."

Like Angell, Monica Teixeira de Sousa, a professor of law at Roger Williams University, declined to comment on the court actions pending in Johnston, but did discuss eminent domain laws. The crux of the action – whether it occurs on a local or federal level – is that the governmental power be used for the benefit of the public, she said. However, she added, exactly what defines "public benefit" continues to evolve as court decisions on various cases across the country either set new precedent or introduce differing interpretations of eminent domain laws.

Probably the most dramatic change, she said, came as the result of a 2005 U.S. Supreme Court decision that, on a 5-4 vote, affirmed the city of New London, Connecticut's right to take residents' homes in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood for private economic development – in this case specifically for the Pfizer pharmaceutical company. (Kelo v. New London.)

In the past, Teixeira said, there had been a general belief that land taking by eminent domain was for land to go to a governmental entity or public use.

"This case pushed the definition of what public use is to the outer limits," said. "What the court was basically saying was that (a public land taking) can even include economic development."

The New London case became commonly known as "the Little Pink House" case because one of the residents fighting to save their homes was Susette Kelo who owned a two-story, cottage style house painted pink.

According to past media reports and numerous legal discussions posted on the Internet, the New London Supreme court decision al-

lowing eminent domain for economic development sparked debate that continues today. It also prompted some municipalities to modify their own eminent domain laws to address or restrict the taking of public land for private economic development.

In Rhode Island, economic development is cited as a permissible reason for an eminent domain land taking, but a section of the law (Rhode Island General Law, 42-64.12-7) spells out certain restrictions and processes that must be followed. One of the stipulations in such cases is that the owner be compensated with 150-percent of full market value of their property.

According to the Institute for Justice, a national, public, non-profit law firm, the New London case had a less than illustrious ending. The economic development plan with Pfizer never materialized and the neighborhood that was razed for the project sat as vacant land for more than 20 years.

The case did not escape Hollywood's attention, however. In 2017, the movie *Little Pink House*, based on a book by the same name written by Jeff Benedict was produced. The American-Canadian production included actors Catherine Keener, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Aaron Douglas.

Another key part of any eminent domain action, according to Angell is determining appropriate compensation for the landowner. In the case of Johnson's Pond, he consulted with numerous experts because of the case involved a popular body of water and a dam.

"The exercise of eminent design was not designed as a weapon to be used by a government (entity)," Angell said. "It is designed for the purpose of public benefit to the citizenry. The government has to show that it has a higher and better use, and is ready to pay the owner."

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● **BATTLE** from page 1

In seeking the federal district court temporary restraining order which was granted by DuBose, lawyers for the property owners contended that "The Town's threatening eminent domain to pressure the Santoros to abandon their affordable housing plans, and its *ex parte* seizure of the Santoro Property isn't a typical taking, but 'municipal thuggery.'"

Even before the town took the eminent domain action that is now on hold, the families went to U.S. District Court to challenge the taking of the property. They are being represented free of charge by the Pacifica Legal Foundation. The Foundation, which is a non-profit entity, describes itself as "a public interest law firm that defends Americans' liberties when threatened by government overreach and abuse."

● **ROMEO** from page 1

Missing Dogs Massachusetts (MDM), an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to improving the reunion rate of lost and found dogs in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was called in for assistance.

Thanks to the efforts of MDM and Dawn McPhillips, a volunteer for MDM covering Rhode Island who worked the case the entire time, Romeo was finally trapped and is now back with his family.

"MDM would like to thank the community for all the calls that came in with Romeo sightings which were very sporadic because he was always on the move and in flight mode. Romeo spent a great length of time travelling through the swamps before we were able to push him out onto dry land," said McPhillips.

Romeo's path to being saved was when he was first spotted by a drone. According to MDM, during the course of

his adventure, he traveled more than five miles. Despite numerous sightings and visits to various properties, including farms where he befriended chickens and roosters, Romeo never settled in one place. He was frequently spotted deep in the woods over several nights, but it wasn't until March 20 that he was finally recovered.

"Although he was being tracked by our thermal drone, there were days he went into hiding. The community sightings were very important for his safety during this time. His family is forever grateful," said McPhillips. "We were finally able to get him settled with a feeding station and a trap was successfully set."

McPhillips wanted to thank her Rhode Island team of volunteers Linda, Andre, Sara and Jay. MDM also expressed thanks to the homeowners on Brown Avenue who allowed traps to be set that led to his capture.

AROUND TOWN JOHNSTON



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Rep. Fellela balances eminent domain case, affordable housing

BY TIM FORSBERG
Johnston SunRise Editor

The town’s recent use of eminent domain to acquire land slated for a 252-unit affordable housing complex has sparked debate among residents, developers, and state officials.

Representative Deborah A. Fellela (D-Dist. 43, Johnston), voiced her support for the town’s decision, emphasizing the strain such a large-scale development could place on local infrastructure and resources.

“Yes, I do feel it was justified, but realizing the state does need affordable housing, low-income housing, and elderly housing as well,” Fellela stated in an email.

She pointed to concerns about the neighborhood impact, believing Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. decision that Johnston’s police, fire, and school services are already stretched thin. “Adding a large housing development could exacerbate these issues,” she said.

Fellela also defended the town’s use of eminent domain, stating that she believes it aligns with the law’s intent.

“Having a safety complex will free up many of those old buildings that probably need quite a bit of maintenance,” she explained. She suggested that repurposing or selling these buildings could ultimately benefit the town.

At the statehouse, Rep. Enrique George Sanchez (D-Dist. 9, Providence), recently introduced legislation aimed at increasing transparency in such proceedings, particularly when they impact affordable housing and community-benefit projects. The bill would require municipalities to justify their use of eminent domain by presenting plans outlining the project’s purpose, benefits, and any structural or environmental issues. Such plans could not be approved until after a public hearing, a 30-day public comment period, and property owners given prior notice and the chance to negotiate a fair price.

“Eminent domain is supposed to be a tool of last resort for projects that support the public good, not a blank check that allows politicians to make short-sighted decisions,” said Sanchez in a press release. “This bill will make eminent domain proceedings more public and transparent, allowing those affected in the community to have their voices heard.”

Currently, such transparency measures apply only to eminent domain cases used for economic development. Sanchez’s bill would extend them to all instances of eminent domain in Rhode Island.

This legislation comes in response to the move to seize land that drew a lawsuit from a developer planning the housing complex. With only 7.9 percent of

Johnston’s housing classified as affordable, Sanchez stressed the need for municipalities to work collaboratively to address the housing crisis.

While some lawmakers have called for greater transparency in eminent domain cases, Fellela does not support Sanchez’s proposed legislation.

“I think mayors and administrators know their city or towns,” she said. “They know their constituency, neighborhoods, and we need to let them have the tools they need to further develop or to make decisions that are best for their area.”

Acknowledging that only 7.9 percent of Johnston’s residential units qualify as affordable housing, Fellela expressed support for increasing such units but emphasized the importance of proper planning.

“I get calls weekly for folks trying to obtain housing. Many of the elderly complexes are a 2-to-5-year wait,” she noted, adding she felt the proposed Johnston project was too large for its location. “I think if they had maybe come in with something smaller, possibly it could have moved forward,” she said.

Instead, she suggested looking at underutilized properties with existing access to transportation and services to minimize disruptions to neighborhoods. She also proposed that developers contribute to infrastructure improvements, such as road upgrades or investments in schools, to offset the burden on local resources.

Fellela believes municipalities should continue to have authority over their own development decisions, pointing to recent state legislation aimed at streamlining permits for housing projects.

“Ultimately, the decision lies with the city or town, which I believe is the right way to proceed,” she said. She also stressed the importance of community involvement in the process. “Affordable housing should not just be about building more units but ensuring those units foster healthy, thriving neighborhoods. Residents often feel more comfortable when their concerns are heard.”

Calls and emails to the town’s other state house representatives were not answered by the *Sun Rise* deadline. As the town’s eminent domain case faces legal challenges from the developers, Rep. Sanchez believes the debate over affordable housing and local governance is likely to continue.

“Eminent domain is supposed to be a tool of last resort for projects that support the public good, not a blank check that allows politicians to make short-sighted decisions,” said Sanchez. “This bill will make eminent domain proceedings more public and transparent, allowing those affected in the community to have their voices heard.”

ANSWER TO THIS
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Volunteers needed to preserve Johnston’s past

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Johnston Historic Cemeteries Committee is looking for people who are willing to roll up their sleeves on Saturday, April 12, and help clean up the Borden/Governor King Cemetery on Hartford Avenue.

Committee Chairman Steve Merolla said they are hoping for a lot of volunteers. Even though committee members work pretty much year-round to keep local historical cemeteries looking respectable, this is their annual spring effort and they rely on community participation.

“We’re hoping for a good turnout,” Merolla said. “We do this out of respect for those buried in the cemeteries and their families. These are our forebearers – we do this to recognize the difficulties they went through building this community.”

The cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and volunteers are asked to bring rakes or any other light tools they might need to help clear away leaves or trim vegetation. The rain date is Sunday, April 13, and refreshments will be provided.

The town has approximately 90 historical cemeteries, Merolla said,

but many are never seen since they are tucked away in the woods or located on a piece of private property.



Elise Carlson surveys the conditions at Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 63. Beacon Media file photo by Rory Schuler

The Borden/King Cemetery is one of the larger and more prominent, located on Hartford Avenue at the corner of Winfield Road.

Some of the graves there date back to the 1600s and the names etched on older slate markers tell the story of the town’s history.

Members of the Borden family were among the first settlers in Portsmouth, RI, but Merolla said as Quakers they faced religious persecution and eventually moved inland to what was then part of Providence. The Borden gravesites are some of the oldest in the cemetery, and then the King name starts to appear as the two families were united by the marriage of Josiah King to Mary Borden.

The marriage started the King dynasty in Johnston, Merolla said, noting that members of the King family played prominent roles in the town’s history. The most notable family member was Samuel Ward King, the only Johnston resident to ever have served as governor of the state, Merolla said.

“Once you’re done, you have a feeling of accomplishment,” Merolla said, adding that it’s also a chance to get some fresh air and exercise.

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From Warwick to Providence, Eldridge ahead of her time

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

March is Women’s History Month, and Rhode Island has no shortage of notable women to celebrate, from colonist and preacher Anne Hutchinson to the present day. One fascinating and underappreciated story is that of Elleanor Eldridge, a Warwick-born entrepreneur who won a landmark legal case in the 1830s.

“I thought it was just amazing how she built up her businesses,” says Wanda Schell, a playwright and actress who has performed as Eldridge with Stages of Freedom, a Providence-based nonprofit that creates live performances, walking tours, and other cultural events celebrating Black history in Rhode Island. “She’s a fascinating woman and she accomplished a lot,” Schell adds.

Eldridge was the daughter of Hannah Prophet and Robin Eldridge, her father a slave who won his freedom by fighting in the 1st Rhode Island Regiment during the American Revolution. Elleanor’s maternal grandmother Mary Fuller was a Narragansett woman who found her husband by purchasing his freedom from slavery. Narragansett women at the time outnumbered men by a two to one margin, so it was not unheard of for the women to marry African-American men.

Hannah died when Elleanor was ten, at which point the child began to work for a Mr. Joseph Green, performing domestic work, and later for Captain Benjamin Greene of Warwick Neck, where she learned how to take care of cows. Eldridge produced upwards of four thousand pounds of cheese a year.

“Her industry is just extraordinary,” says Robb Dimmick, Stages of Freedom co-founder. “She learns just about every skill that you can have, she’s always working, and so she establishes a remarkable reputation among white women.”

“At the time, women aren’t supposed to have their own business,” says Ray Rickman, the organization’s other co-founder. “Black women in particular. Remember, Black people need to piecemeal their work together. They don’t have one job because there aren’t any regular jobs for them to have.”

Times were difficult. In 1820, Eldridge was falsely accused of petty theft in Cranston, according to the Providence Patriot newspaper. Had she been found guilty, she would have been punished with a public whipping on the State House lawn.

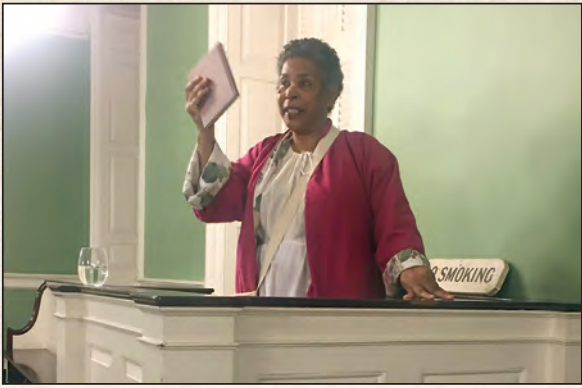
*“She stood up for herself and for the rights of women.
She didn’t back down.”*

Eventually the enterprising Eldridge saved enough money to purchase her own property in Providence and later expanded the home to earn income from tenants. She soon took out a personal loan to buy two more lots.

“Owning a house instead of renting from somebody is getting above your perceived station,” says Dimmick, “and people don’t like when that happens. Homes are a sign of status. When there were race riots in Providence in the 1830s, white people literally pulled houses down with their hands to lower people’s status.”

Everything changed for Eldridge in October 1831, when she and her brother George began a journey to visit family in Adams, Massachusetts. Elleanor fell ill with typhus on the journey and the pair stopped at a tavern in the town of Hadley for a night. The following day, George asked the landlady whether they could stay the following day, since Elleanor was too ill to travel. By sheer coincidence, two men from Providence overheard this request. When the eavesdroppers returned home, word quickly spread that industrious, self-made Elldridge was very ill. The gossips of the city kept elaborating the story until rumors began circulating that Eldridge had died in Massachusetts. Meanwhile, a fully recovered Elleanor and her brother were spending the winter happily enjoying time in the Berkshires.

Elleanor and George returned to Providence that spring and quickly learned that everyone thought she was dead. Not only that, but her property was in the process of being seized. The white man who gave



The Trials of Elleanor Eldridge, a one-woman show. Submitted photo

Eldridge a loan had died, and his wealthy brother was collecting payment on the loan by illegally taking Eldridge’s property. The matter was soon resolved, Eldridge believed, as the two came to an agreement. But after Eldridge left town again a few months later, she came back to find that the house had been sold.

The sale of the \$4000 house was never publicly advertised, as it legally should have been, and the auctioneer sold the house for just \$1500. When the buyer learned the circumstances of the sale, he called it a crime but refused to give Eldridge the house back, believing it to be a matter for the courts to decide.

The case would be an uphill battle for Eldridge. “These are horrendous times,” says Rickman, “when black people can not directly testify in court or serve

on a jury. For a Black woman to represent herself in court would be unheard of for anyone else.”

As it turns out, Eldridge did represent herself in court because her lawyer was out ill.

Though the battle was ultimately long and drawn out, Eldridge won back her property, though it left her with many legal fees. To raise money, a group of supportive white women banded together to produce *The Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge* and a sequel, *Elleanor’s Second Book*, with proceeds going directly to pay her legal fees. Written by Frances Harriet Whipple (Green), the book begins with a series of testimonials by white women who employed Eldridge, testifying to the quality of Elleanor’s character and the unfairness of her situation.

“There seems to be a spirit of willful malignity in this wanton destruction of property,” writes Whipple about the men who took Elleanor’s property, “which it is difficult to conceive of as existing in the bosom of civilized man.”

“She stood up for herself and for the rights of women,” says Schell. “She didn’t back down.”

Based on historic documents and actual court transcripts, *The Trials of Elleanor Eldridge* is a one-woman show that premiered a few years ago at the Old State House on Benefit Street in Providence. It has been performed a handful of times since and will be performed again this fall. Dates and location have not been finalized yet. Stages of Freedom owns rare first editions of Eldridge’s two memoirs, which are housed at the nonprofit’s museum space in downtown Providence.



*Elleanor Eldridge
A wood print from
“Memoirs of
Elleanor Eldridge”
Printed by B.T. Albro
of Providence
1843*

Tone Bell Performs As Part Of ‘Triple The Laughs’

Lil Rhody Laugh Riot hitting venues this weekend

By ROB DUGUAY

The Lil Rhody Laugh Riot is going to bring a ton of laughs at various venues across Providence this weekend (March 27-30). Some of the top stand-up comics on the planet, including Matt Rife, Leslie Jones and Kevin Hart, are going to be performing along with a bunch of other talented folks, including Tone Bell.

Bell is a man of many talents, who tells jokes while providing an hilarious look at life and other topics. He will be taking part in the festival at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on March 28 as part of “Triple The Laughs”. Fellow comics Alec Flynn and Andy Woodhull will also be performing with the show.

We talked about his previous career in promotions and marketing, how he’s been able to translate those skills into his current profession, and about doing stand-up for the first time in Providence.

Rob Duguay: You’re originally from Decatur, Georgia, but you didn’t start pursuing comedy until moving to Dallas and working in the promotions department for a beer company. What made you want to first start doing comedy? Was it based on a dare from a friend or was it something else?

Tone Bell: I’ve always been a huge stand-up fan. I was working a corporate job and I was looking to perform, so I saw stand-up as a way to get on stage and perform without having the time to go to rehearsals for plays or audition for TV. That was the start of it, it was something that I could do on my own schedule, and I fell in love with it immediately. I haven’t looked back since.

RD: Cool, that’s great. Do you feel that working in promotions gave you better insight on the business side of live entertainment where you have knowledge of how contracts work and how to market yourself as a comic?



Tone Bell
Submitted
photo by
James Anthony

TB: Yeah, I think promotions and marketing make you more comfortable around people. I was a mentor for a bunch of brands under an organizational umbrella at one point, so I had to look at myself and realize that I was promoting someone else’s product, but now I’m the product. I figured out how I wanted to put myself out there and how I wanted to be seen, so it really did help.

RD: You just mentioned that you did some previous work with hosting, and you were recently the host of the Netflix reality television contest show called “Drink Masters”. It featured a cocktail competition between 12 mixologists, so what was the experience like for you? Did you enjoy interacting with different people and were there any drinks that you were disgusted by and any drinks that you thought were inventive and delicious?

TB: They did a good job casting the talent and they really got people from all walks of life. I can talk to anyone, and I can have a conversation with a rock if I need to. Also, having worked in the beverage industry and knowing the process of how beer, tequila, vodka and all the spirits are made, but watching them create one-of-a-kind cocktails was mind-blowing. You get into the science of it, you get into the craft of it, and I’ll say that the majority of the cocktails on the show were amazing, but given certain challenges, they didn’t have the time to get it just right. If I gave you a bowl of cherries and you gave me a durian fruit, one is going to be better than the other one, so there were probably a couple that you would want to sip because of the terrible smell.

RD: As part of the Lil Rhody Laugh Riot, you’re going to be one of the comics taking the stage at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium for “Triple The Laughs”, so what are your thoughts on coming up to perform in Providence, especially with being from the South?

TB: I think the Northeast has very honest crowds. They show a lot of love for comedy in that whole region, but I’m super excited because I’ve never worked in Rhode Island. I’ve listened to a lot of podcasts in the past that are about Providence and the history of the city, so I’m excited to see what it’s like. I’ve performed in the area, but never there, so I’m really looking forward to it. We’ll see what kinds of people show up, but even though they might look different, everybody is kind of the same. You just have fun and people chuckle because if they follow along, they’ll get it.

RD: I hope you enjoy yourself in Providence and we do have a great following for comedy. After the Lil Rhody Laugh Riot, what other projects do you have going on that you’d like to mention? Are you doing any podcasting, do you have a new special in the works or do you have any new hosting or acting roles?

TB: There will be a couple movies coming up towards the middle end of 2025. I’m in the process right now of developing my own show and if everything works out the way it’s looking like it will, then hopefully later in the summer I’ll be shooting my sophomore special. It’s kind of a continuation of my first special “Can’t Cancel This” where I’m sort of starting a new chapter. I was single with no dog and no kids during my first one, and now things have changed, so it’s going to continue the anthology series and I think it’s going to be fun, enlightening and very real.



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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.



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

JHS cheer building numbers, culture

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston cheerleading team has been rebuilding its program this school year and recently took its competition squad to the state championships, where it took fifth place in its division.

The team cheers on the sideline for football in the fall and basketball in the winter, but only a select few athletes cheer for the competition squad. The Panthers took 10 cheerleaders to states with them to the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island.

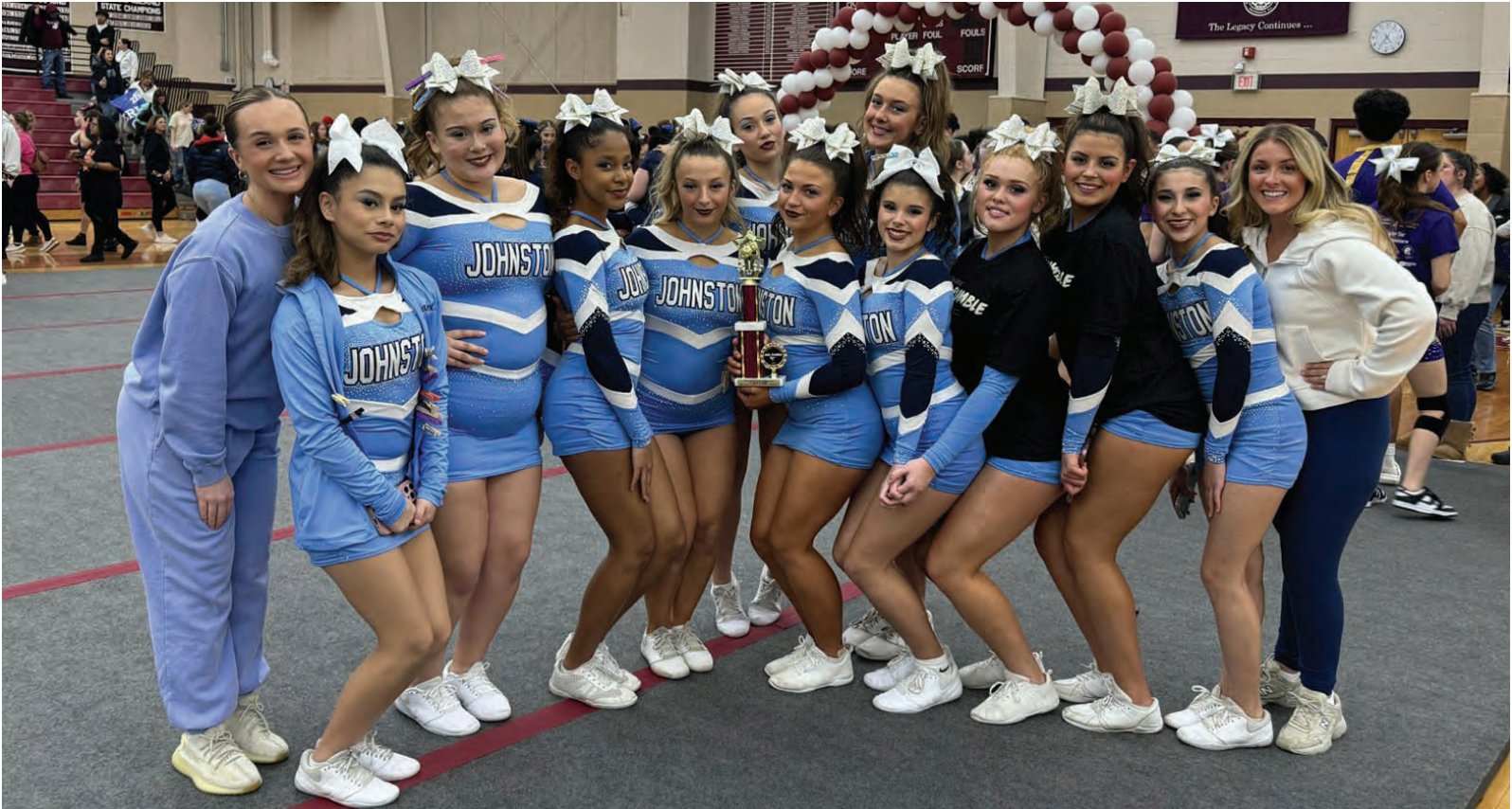
This year’s team was led by seniors Addison Neil and Gianna Usenia, who were key members of the squad which included a large core of underclassmen.

The team also welcomed in a new coach in former Panther Fallon Davis, who returned home to coach her alma mater.

Davis was proud of her team’s commitment to the sport, especially the two senior captains.

“Those two girls, I swear, they kept me up every night talking about cheerleading. They’d message me every day with new ideas, things they wanted to try to change, trying to make everyone else better. As a first-year coach they helped me a lot,” said Davis. “It’s definitely hard having a new coach come in. For the competitive season, the 10

● **CHEER** to page 14



The Johnston High School competition cheerleading team (above) as well as its sideline squad during this past basketball season (at left).
Submitted photos

Putting a bow on winter season

This week we are unveiling our winter All-City teams to honor the best athletes of this past winter season, officially closing the book until next year. I figured with spring sports less than a week away, I’d give one final shoutout to some of our winter teams and athletes and provide my final feedback on what we witnessed. I feel that the biggest story of the winter was the success of our boys hockey teams, as Hendricken and the East Greenwich-Toll Gate teams won titles. Now, I wrote a fairly lengthy column on these two clubs a few weeks back, so I’ll keep it short. I feel that the Hawks will be the odds-on favorite next season with much of the same core returning,

including both Mason and Cullen Crain. The only position that may get dicey is goaltending, as Avery Picchione and Colin Murray are each set to graduate. Other than that, Hendricken’s transition to next season will be near seamless. As for EG-TG, the co-op will also be graduating a few key seniors but will be returning a solid core that just experienced championship glory. I am all for keeping this co-op together and in Division II to allow it to defend its title. Our boys basketball teams were collectively excellent this season despite no championship plaques being hoisted. Hendricken, despite falling in the finals to La Salle, actually surprised me quite a bit this year.



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

The Hawks fell in the semifinals last winter and seemed outmatched by Classical. The Rams were the heavy favorite this year and the Purple returned four its five starters. I felt that Hendricken was the clear number three of the bunch, with both Barrington and Central nipping at its heels. I felt the Rams and Purple were on a collision course for the finals. Well, Hendricken steadily improved each passing game and wound up beating Classical twice in the playoffs. James Caldarella took another step forward to earn

All-State honors, while Michael D’Ambra, Will Cary, Deion Ellis-Cipriano and Jakob Reyes were stellar behind him. La Salle proved to be a worthy champion by going unbeaten in the state, but Hendricken surprised me. Ellis-Cipriano had a breakout playoff run and will be back in the mix along with Cary and D’Ambra. Not sure exactly where I’d rank Hendricken in the way-too-early list, but that trio will give the Hawks a chance to get back to the finals and win it. Although Pilgrim was disappointed in falling in the DII quarters, this team should be proud of what it accomplished. Dylan Vale and Carter Clifton were a top-notch 1-2 punch while Jack Cirelli, Jayden Ames and

Jack Bannon provided plenty of punch as well. Vale and Clifton will be moving on next season, so the ceiling will be capped, but this Pilgrim program is becoming a steady force in DII. Finally, Toll Gate got back into the championship mix when it reached the DIII semis and nearly won it. Of the three mentioned boys teams, the Titans will probably have the steepest climb back to the playoffs with Jack Colvin, Liam Leahy and Brayden Healy all graduating. Damola Oremosu joined the team as a transfer and led it in points, rebounds and blocks. He will be the face of the team next year which will be a nice starting point, but the Titans will have to

● **PITCH** to page 14

Pezza takes home three LEC awards

FROM
STAFF REPORTS

Rhode Island College freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) earned a trio of weekly Little East women’s track and field awards for her performance at the 2025 Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on March 21-22.

Pezza was named both the Little East Women’s Rookie Track and Rookie Field Athlete of the Week as well as the Field Athlete of the Week.

Pezza qualified for the N.E. Div. III Championship with a fifth place finish in the long jump (5.29m) and an 11th place finish in the 100m (12.43) on March 21. A day later on March 22, she qualified for the New England Div. III Championship in the triple jump with a 11th place finish (10.67m) and in the 200m with a 23rd place finish (25.78). She also finished 11th in the 4x100m relay (49.44).

RIC tied for 12th (50 teams) with a team score of 23.0. Coastal Carolina finished first with a team score of 121.0. The Anchorwomen competed against over 50 institutions, comprised of mostly Division I and II competition.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at Bryant’s Black and Gold Invitational on Friday and Saturday, March 28-29.

RIC men’s relay team
takes LEC award

The Rhode Island College 4x100m relay has been named the Little East Men’s Track Relay Team of the Week for their performance at the 2025 Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on March 22.

Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield), junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence), sophomore Will Schiller (Smithfield, R.I.) and sophomore Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 13th in the 4x100m relay (43.29).

Rhode Island College finished in 19th place (50 teams) with a team score of 14.0.

Mount Olive finished in first with a team score of 99.5. The Anchormen competed against over 50 institutions, comprised of mostly NCAA Division I and II competition.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at Bryant’s Black and Gold Invitational on Friday and Saturday,

March 28-29.

Keyes, Krause earn
All-America honors

Fifth-year Olivia Keyes (Bridgewater, Mass.) earned three All-American honors, while classmate Emma Tucker (Pompton Plains, N.J.) and freshman Aaliyah Krause (Milwaukee, Wis.) also earned All-American honors, as Rhode Island College finished fifth (six teams) at the 2025 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NC-GA) National Championship, hosted by Gustavus Adolphus on Saturday afternoon.

Keyes earned All-American honors on floor, beam and in the all-around. It brought her career total to nine All-American honors (four all-around; three floor; two beam). Keyes tied for 43rd on vault (9.300), tied for 10th on bars (9.650), tied for eighth on beam (9.800), tied for second on floor (9.875) and finished second in the all-around (38.650).

Tucker earned All-American honors on floor. It was her second career All-American honor, having earned vault honors a year ago. Tucker tied for 32nd on vault (9.550), tied for 14th on beam (9.750) and

tied for fourth on floor (9.850).

Krause earned All-American honors in the all-around. She tied for 32nd on vault (9.550), tied for 25th on bars (9.525), tied for 21st on beam (9.675), tied for 39th on floor (9.625) and tied for third in the all-around (38.375).

Sophomore Payton Greene (Mannford, Okla.) finished 12th on vault (9.700).

Sophomore Madeline Brandt (North Hampton, N.H.) tied for 17th on beam (9.725) and 16th on floor (9.775).

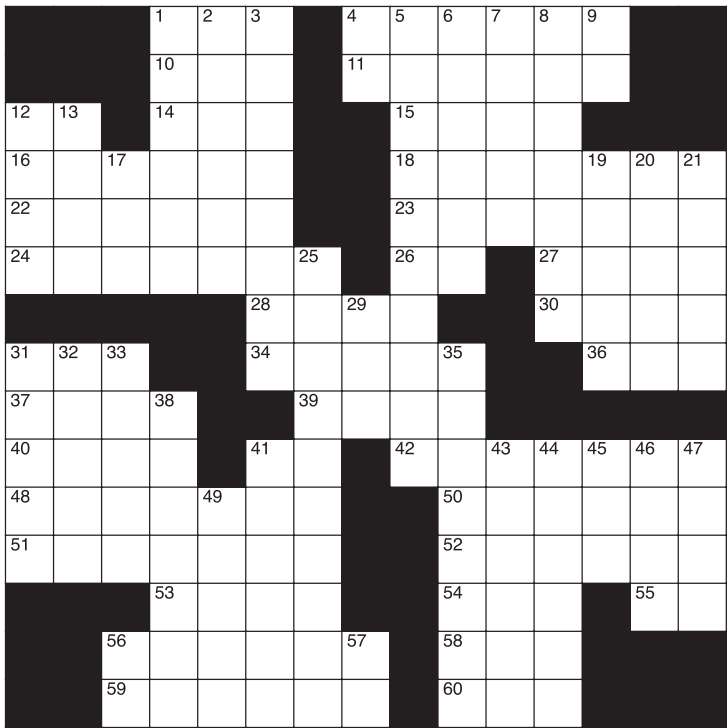
The Anchorwomen were making the program’s first appearance as a team at the National Championship in 27 years (1997-98).

Lyons sweep Anchorwomen

Sophomore designated player Sydney Duclos (North Providence) went a combined 3-for-5 with an RBI as Rhode Island College dropped a twinbill vs. Wheaton (2-1; 6-4) at Clark Softball Field on Saturday afternoon.

The Anchorwomen immediately put a runner on with a single in the first inning, which junior second baseman Noelle Simmons (Goffstown, N.H.) drove in for what ended up being the team’s only run.

CROSSWORD
PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. State in southwestern India
- 4. Pashto
- 10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Supervised release from prison
- 12. Greeting
- 14. Type of drug
- 15. ___ Sagan, astronomer
- 16. Every year
- 18. Nasal cavities
- 22. Nova ___, province
- 23. In an inactive way
- 24. Cream-colored root
- 26. Nervous system disease
- 27. Guitarist Clapton
- 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus
- 30. Lebowsky’s nickname
- 31. Play a role
- 34. Not fresh
- 36. Where golfers begin
- 37. Negatives
- 39. Wild goat
- 40. Releasing hormone
- 41. Makes up
- 42. Fastens

- 48. Exists in large numbers
- 50. A connecting word
- 51. A phase of the heartbeat
- 52. Northern Ireland county
- 53. An independent ruler or chieftain
- 54. Pacific sea bream
- 55. Commercial
- 56. Azure
- 58. Doctor of Education
- 59. Protected oneself against loss
- 60. Car mechanics group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pastes for filling crevices
- 2. Acquire
- 3. Heralds
- 4. News group
- 5. Exact copies
- 6. Particles
- 7. Noted 20th C. performer
- 8. Tempted
- 9. Midway between north and east

- 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate
- 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. Neither
- 19. Walk with confidence
- 20. Omit when speaking
- 21. Imperial Chinese currency
- 25. A bakery specializing in French pastry
- 29. Talk incessantly
- 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria
- 32. Longtime NY Times film critic
- 33. Beginners
- 35. Makes a trade
- 38. Sleep
- 41. Not moving
- 43. Popular drink: Pina ___
- 44. Potential benefits
- 45. A place you can get stuck in
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Chalcedony
- 49. Rover
- 56. Digraph
- 57. Investment vehicle

● CHEER from page 13

girls that stuck with it until the end, you can see that those are the girls where it’s more than just sideline cheerleading, it’s something that they work on every day.”

Davis hopes that the team’s experience at the state championships will help the returning athletes to grow moving forward, especially on the big stage.

“They’ve learned a lot throughout the season and I’ve learned a lot from them. They saw how much work has to go into it. I tell them though, that sports-

manship (is important). No matter what happens, you need to compliment the girls that end up winning. They need to realize, ‘this is what we need to do next year,’” said Davis.

Davis also hopes the girls pay attention to the lessons learned outside of the competition as well.

“There’s so much more that I wanted them to get out of it. Even if we weren’t the best every time, I just wanted to teach them to overcome things, to be able to adapt to different situations, work as a team and see a positive outlook in everything. There’s so many other lessons that come

into play than the sport itself.”

Davis also learned plenty of lessons in her first year as coach, and credited town legend and former cheer coach Sue Parillo for guiding her throughout the way.

“It’s stressful, much different from when I was on the flip side of things,” said Davis. “Sue taught me do much. Throughout the year I thought, ‘What would Sue do?’ I learned how to stay calm. I learned how to be hard on them, but how to also be there for them as a mentor because that’s what they need.”

● PITCH from page 13

come up with plenty of answers to repeat its deep playoff run.

For Johnston, the Panthers had a tough start to their ascension to Division I as they finished winless. Although a down year was expected after the team graduated all five starters from the previous year and was bumped up a division, I am not sure anyone would have guessed they’d go without a victory.

The Pilgrim girls were our best team as they reached the DIII semis and fell in a tight matchup against eventual champion Lincoln School.

My early prediction ... Pilgrim will at least reach the DIII finals next season, if not win it.

This team has so many returning players next season that it’s hard not to picture them taking another step forward. Madison Tu-irok, Lia Wasilewski, Skylar Hawes are all set to be back with some kids off the bench expected to make a bigger impact as well. Lock Pilgrim in as a favorite to win it all.

I have a strong feeling that Cranston West will be making a big comeback next year after a down winter.

Leading rebounder Saniyya Chase only played in six games before falling to a leg injury to end her season. She will be back along with Kyla Buco, who is an elite shooter and scorer. A few youngsters were thrust into action including Maggie Sjovall, who became a quality starter in the process. Expect the Falcons to reemerge as a high-end DI team.

Also expected to take a step forward will be Johnston, who is returning its entire roster next year as it had no seniors in its first season in Division II. With Bella Gesualdi

and Alanna Colon leading the way, I expect the Panthers to get at least a playoff win next winter.

We had a few state champions on the track, including Toll Gate thrower Vanessa Jones, who also went on the win the New England title and the USA National crown in the weight throw. Track usually flies under the radar, but what Jones accomplished this winter is significant. She cemented her place as the best high school weight thrower in the United States. Coming from a small state, that’s historic.

Our female wrestlers shined once again as Pilgrim’s Allison Patten and Toll Gate’s Victoria Salinas won their second straight championships, while Patten later took second at New Englands. The sport is continuing to grow in the state and it’s cool to see Warwick residents paving the way.

Another big-time performer this winter was Cranston West’s Gianna Desmarais, who won the gymnastics all-around title. The fact that she did it as a sophomore was incredible, and bad news for the rest of the field for the next two seasons. She has a chance to go down as Rhode Island’s best-ever high school gymnast if she continues on this trajectory.

Lastly, the Hendricken swim team managed to win an epic state championship as it took until the final second of the final event to get the job done. The Hawks won it all without an individual champion, which shows how deep this team truly is. Tristan Jordan is one of the best swimmers in the state and will be missed next year, but the Hawks got the job done with a fairly young roster.

That’s all, folks. See you next week as we get back outside.

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Hulkow battles back from surgery, takes 2nd at states

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

Bishop Hendricken wrestler Mikhail Hulkow made a splash his freshman season back in 2023 as he would go on to win the freshman state title. Things were looking up for the grappler as he was on the brink of joining the state’s elite going into his sophomore year.

However, those plans were put on hold in grueling fashion.

Hulkow has dealt with scoliosis for years and would end up on the operating table after a growth spurt caused significant damage to his rib cage. The impending surgery forced him to sit out his entire sophomore campaign.

The operation, which took place in March of 2024, included 18 screws and two rods to repair the damage. Doctors told Hulkow that he would need a full year to recover and that he’d not only miss his entire junior season, but that his wrestling career was in jeopardy altogether.

After the initial shock of the news, Hulkow would buckle down, recover and return to the mats in just six months. He rejoined the Hendricken team and went on to finish the season with a 29-8 record while taking second place at 120 pounds at the state championships.

“I really wanted to come back this season, I didn’t want to miss any more time, so I just had to push myself and recover faster. At first, it was hard to think about, hard to think about missing two years. That just made me more determined to work harder to come back faster,” said Hulkow.

Considering how physically demanding and dynamic wrestling is, Hulkow has had to teach his body how to work around itself. He never felt completely recovered this season but was able to improve enough each passing match in time to make a run at the state title.

“Physically, I’m not 100 percent. Going into the year I just wanted to see how good I could do coming back from the surgery. I didn’t expect to go this far. I had to figure out what I can and can’t do, movements-wise. I can’t twist my body the way I used to so I had to adjust to that,” Hulkow said. “I feel like I am adapting more and learning how to build around it.”

As Hulkow made the adjustments, his performance improved, and late in the regular season he began realizing he had a chance to make a strong finish.

“Toward the end of the season, I started winning more matches and I was looking a lot better. That’s when it hit (that I could win at states).It was really, really big. I didn’t think I was going to make it to the finals, so when I did I was super happy and felt accomplished,” said Hulkow.

Hulkow then went on to compete at New Englands and went 1-1. He was forced to withdraw from the tournament due to a setback he had in his recovery. As the season progressed, one of the rods was causing the tissue to tear and Hulkow finished the year with a mass the size of a grapefruit in his back. Despite the constant, agonizing pain, Hulkow toughed it out and was focused on making it the entire year.

Hulkow intends on returning for his senior year and will likely be wrestling under similar circumstances. He is confident that he will not just return to states but will have a chance to win it all.

“Next year I definitely think I can win states. I’m going to go into the states confident, confident in myself,” said Hulkow. “I used that as motivation when they told me it was going to be a year, but I told myself, ‘It’s not and I am going to do everything I can to make a full recovery.’ I learned how dedicated I can be if I put my mind to something and say I’m going to do it.”



Mikhail Hulkow in a match this past season at Hendricken. Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



Mikhail Hulkow on the podium earlier this season. Submitted photo

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Edgewood welcomes new director, adds STEM program

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The Edgewood Sailing School is ramping up its preparations for another summer on the water and will be hosting some of its annual events along with some new additions as well.

Taking the reins as the school’s sailing director is Skylar Batz. Batz, a Providence native, has been sailing since she was 8 years old and has been an instructor since she was 16. Her sailing career began at Community Boating Center in Providence and then she moved to Herreshoff in Bristol as a teenager before

taking the job at Edgewood. Sailing has become Batz’ passion over the years and she is excited to bring her perspective to students at Edgewood this summer. “I’ve always loved the water and I’ve loved being on boats, I’ve loved that freedom. I love bringing it to kids’ attention and my mom was a single mom, so that was something I really looked forward to doing over the summer,” said Batz. “I want to share my experiences and love for sailing with other kids.” Batz also appreciates the location of Edgewood, which is accessible for kids throughout Rhode Island, including her

hometown of Providence. “It’s a very centralized location, it’s so close to so many people that otherwise may not have the opportunity to do these things, to be near the ocean and get on a boat. We’re pretty close by, we’re 10 minutes from Providence and down the street from Johnson and Wales Harbor-side,” said Batz. The Edgewood Sailing School will be hosting its Starter Sailor program, which will now offer a full day course which will include sailing in the morning session and STEM sessions in the afternoon. “It’s not just learning sailing, but now

they’ll be able to learn the physics of sailing, the engineering, the science behind it as well,” said Batz. Along with the Starter Sailor program, it will be hosting its Opti program as well as its 420 program as well. On top of its standard programs, the school will also be offering private lessons and charters. The school has already been holding its volunteer days on Saturdays as its gears up for the season. The kids sessions will begin on June 16 and the adult sessions begin on June 1. For more information, check out the website at edgewoodsailing.org.

Real Estate Transactions

| ADDRESS | SELLERS | BUYERS | DATE | PRICE | ADDRESS | SELLERS | BUYERS | DATE | PRICE |
|------------------------------|--|--|----------|-------------|--|--|---|-----------|-------------|
| COVENTRY | | | | | 1746 Atwood Ave | K A Hickey Restated & RET and Ursillo, Michael A | Stamp, Ava K | 1/5 | \$215,000 |
| 10 Bentley Ln Lot 10 | Apponaug Properties Inc | Buco, Joseph and Buco, Cynthia | 1/6 | \$725,000 | 21 Linwood Dr | Odonnell Carol A Est and Odonnell, Karen L | Zdenek, Ruan G and Zdenek, Rachel C | 1/5 | \$370,000 |
| 103 Pembroke Ln | Tucker Janice E Est and Tucker, David J | Taft, David A | 1/6 | \$347,950 | 21 Riverside Ave | Demers, Cora A | Agency Group LLC | 1/7 | \$300,000 |
| 115 Windsor Park Dr | Ocean State Customs LLC | Eskander, Monika S and Rodas, Uzziel N | 1/4 | \$353,399 | 25 Paolino St | Citrone 2nd, William and Citrone, Gaetano W | Marsocci, Linda and Swanton, William | 1/7 | \$370,000 |
| 2 Lane 1, Hakanson, Jane | Boiardi, Tamara | 1/7 | \$74,900 | 5 Gano Ave | Jnc Investments LLC | Kings Catering LLC | 1/11 | \$315,500 | |
| 313 Station St | Dumas, Robert E | Santos, Carlos | 1/5 | \$480,000 | 55 Walnut St | Island Flippers LLC | Guarcas, Miguel and Farfan, Irma | 1/5 | \$590,000 |
| 4 Country View Dr | Amaral, Sean M and Amaral, Nurya | Martin, Denise | 1/7 | \$525,000 | WARWICK | | | | |
| 59 Arizona St | Hanlon, Kevin | Pelletier, Linda | 1/7 | \$282,500 | 110 Mayfair Rd | Kennedy, Caitlin M and Hurley, Nicholas E | Dyck, Duncan V and Mullin, Danielle E | 1/5 | \$430,000 |
| 725 Read School House Rd | Zachow, Kevin and Workman, Jacqueline | Giorgio, Ryan and Wright, Tiffany | 1/7 | \$680,000 | 112 Greenwich Ave | Geraeci, Steven and Geraeci, Shannen | Faria, Justin C and Faria, Ashley M | 1/3 | \$500,000 |
| CRANSTON | | | | | 1200 Quaker Ln Lot 32 | Nai Entertainment Hldg LL | Collabdev 3a LLC | 1/7 | \$1,100,000 |
| 100 4th Ave | Pedder, Donald A | Santos, Andreina P and Nunez, Jose A | 1/5 | \$515,000 | 1200 Quaker Ln Lot 33 | Nai Entertainment Hldg LL | Collabdev 3a LLC | 1/7 | \$1,100,000 |
| 100 Park View Blvd | Montecalvo, Aaron and Montecalvo, Kristen | Ayoub, Samantha and Emmons, Jake W | 1/7 | \$385,000 | 128 John St | Equity TCo | Harnedy, Richard | 1/5 | \$150,000 |
| 1003 Park Ave Lot 1824 | Wac & Family LLC | Yin, Suor T and Yin, Narin | 1/3 | \$400,000 | 128 John St Lot 116 | Equity TCo | Harnedy, Richard | 1/5 | \$150,000 |
| 1004 Park Ave Lot 1825 | Wac & Family LLC | Yin, Suor T and Yin, Narin | 1/3 | \$400,000 | 135 Hawksley Ave | Red Maple Eqty Grp LLC | Mcmahon Peter RET and McMahon, Timothy M | 1/3 | \$500,000 |
| 1005 Park Ave Lot 1826 | Wac & Family LLC | Yin, Suor T and Yin, Narin | 1/3 | \$400,000 | 136 Vineyard Rd | Joutras, Paul J and Joutras, Sheila A | Seymour, Robert Z and Wylyly, Amanda | 1/7 | \$435,000 |
| 118 Eden Crest Dr | Saugy, Benjamin | Feole, David J and Feole, Margaret E | 1/7 | \$438,500 | 142 Cady Ave | Pineview Svcs LLC | Caine, Kathryn and Caine, Spencer | 1/7 | \$470,000 |
| 122 Cranberry Ter | Helen Chin Tow T and Chin-Tow, Helen | Orellana-Barrio, Menfil | 1/7 | \$850,000 | 143 Lewiston St | Martin, Denise P | Koriorh, Valerie A | 1/7 | \$535,000 |
| 159 Brayton Ave | Lucy P Soscia RET and Wragg, Lori A | Scungio, Rosanne M and Scungio, Christian G | 1/7 | \$400,000 | 146 Staples Ave | Darigan Robert W Est and Hall, Daniel E | Jpmw LLC | 1/7 | \$300,000 |
| 207 Pontiac Ave | Innovation Grp LLC | Olsen, Ryan P | 1/7 | \$425,000 | 151 Centerville Rd Lot 258 | Cca Prop LLC | Clayton Munroe Hldg LLC | 1/7 | \$600,000 |
| 26 Harris Driftway St Lot 26 | Scungio, Christian G and Scungio, Rosanne M | Abbruzzi, Diana L | 1/7 | \$308,000 | 151 Dryden Blvd | Rcaf Acquisition T and Us Bk T Na | Aayv LLC | 1/4 | \$304,000 |
| 261 Cheshire Dr Lot 261 | Bianco, Michael | Albright, Linda M | 1/4 | \$495,000 | 190 S Cobble Hill Rd | Julian Rlty Grp LLC | Darnowski, James and Darnowski, Karen | 1/7 | \$725,000 |
| 34 Keller Ave | Caron, Ellen M | Kolenda, Daniel J | 1/7 | \$280,000 | 223 Narragansett Pl | Breen, Sandra M and Breen, Michael A | Claudia Rossi RET and Rossi, Claudia | 1/3 | \$515,000 |
| 41 Cottage St | Butcher, Meghan and Kennerly, Colin M | Hagen, William and Mackeen, Katie-Zun | 1/4 | \$390,000 | 24 Deer Run Xing Lot 24 | Lakeview Loan Svcs LLC | Robertson Re Inc and Robertson, Kenneth W | 1/5 | \$570,000 |
| 49 Villa Ave | Martinez, Alejandro and Nieves, Luz | Cooper, Nashan | 1/3 | \$405,000 | 276 Strawberry Field Rd | Neirinckx, Elise A | Amaral, Nurya | 1/7 | \$389,500 |
| 50 Surrey Dr | Ventetuolo Jr, Anthony and Ventetuolo, Marilyn E | Mirza, Brad | 1/3 | \$735,000 | 317 Claypool Dr | Briganti, Carolyn L | Tures, Lucille I and Paquin, Liam | 1/7 | \$398,500 |
| 52 Carlton St | Walker, Walter B and Walker, Hilda | Jones, Marquetia | 1/7 | \$427,000 | 3220 Post Rd | Martineau, Michelle M and Martineau, David M | St Laurent, Nicholas | 1/6 | \$310,500 |
| 605 Woodhaven Ct Lot 605 | Corsi Nancy Est and Shapanka, Carol A | Gilkenson, Kenneth and Gilkenson, Sean | 1/6 | \$307,000 | 3356 W Shore Rd | Gaskell, Jacqueline M | Sabetta, Thomas S | 1/6 | \$150,000 |
| 65 Bain St | Larghi, Carmela and Sperlongano, Peter | Vilorio, Humberto S and Jimenez, Nancy M | 1/5 | \$450,000 | 40 Missouri Dr | Tures, Lucille I | Gonzalez, Martin | 1/6 | \$420,000 |
| 701 Pontiac Ave | Diarra, Bakary and Diouf, Bintou | Debossu, Charlotte A | 1/7 | \$378,900 | 40 Poppy Pl | Howland, Dennis A and Howland, Lauren A | Walker, Brandon | 1/7 | \$336,000 |
| 74 Edgewood Blvd Lot 1510 | Powrie, Brian | Roach, Adam K | 1/3 | \$620,000 | 400 Narragansett Pkwy Lot A5 | Taft, David | Cowell, Harry T and Cowell, Teresa M | 1/5 | \$274,900 |
| 777 Pontiac Ave | Arpin Peter J Est and Kitchen, Lorraine | Natale, Joseph | 1/3 | \$165,500 | 47 George Arden Ave | Anne G Pushee Lt and Pushee, Anne G | Messina, Edward N | 1/6 | \$315,000 |
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| 80 Gladstone St | Damico 3rd, William R | Camacho-Tejada, Enrique A and Ramos, Ildania G | 1/3 | \$591,000 | 564 W Shore Rd | Conklin, Tyler R and Conklin, Arianna | Prescott, Brett D | 1/4 | \$470,000 |
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| 912 Park Ave | Zodiac Investments LLC | Chen, Yi M and Huang, Lixian | 1/7 | \$530,000 | 73 Longwood Ave | Arnold, Cecilia E | Ohearn, Robin L and Ohearn, William P | 1/5 | \$465,000 |
| EAST GREENWICH | | | | | 92 Wilson Ave | Fooks, William | Caffrey, Madison E | 1/4 | \$340,000 |
| WEST GREENWICH | | | | | 321 Plain Rd | Osbrey, Susan E and Wheatley Jr, George H | Kennedy, Karen A | 1/5 | \$433,000 |
| WEST WARWICK | | | | | 11 Crossen St | Arkinsulire, Wale | Pitman Warner LLC | 1/11 | \$3,032 |
| 10 Bentley Ln Lot 17 | Apponaug Prop Inc | Buco, Joseph and Buco, Cynthia | 1/6 | \$725,000 | 35 Brookdale Dr | Packer 2nd, Steven E | Colavecchio, Christian I | 1/6 | \$410,000 |
| 431 1st Ave | Rosenbaum, Adam S | Js Jenkins Prop LLC | 1/6 | \$485,000 | 83 Prospect Hill Ave | Devine, Donna A and Tacdol, John P | Fleming-Paniagua, D A | 1/5 | \$530,000 |
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Members needed for Fishermen’s Advisory Board

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the SunRise

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is seeking volunteers to further develop and expand the R.I. Fishermen’s Advisory Board (FAB). Members of the FAB play a crucial role in guiding the CRMC’s efforts to plan for, regulate, and mitigation the impacts of other marine uses on R.I.’s commercial and recreational fisheries and fishermen.

The FAB does not approve or deny marine uses but exists to “advise” and “guide” CRMC on possible positive or negative impacts on recreational and commercial fisheries.

The FAB is established under Rhode Island’s pioneering Ocean Special Area Management Plan (OSAMP) and is intended to be used as a tool to better guide CRMC staff and Council in its permitting and review processes for ocean development. As such, the FAB’s foundation is based on fisher expertise and a commitment to representing R.I. fisheries, the public interest, collaborative effort, and continuous learning.

If you are interested and have any questions about serving on this board, please reach out to Kevin Sloan, Offshore Wind Lead (ksloan@crmc.ri.gov ; (401) 332-8792) or Principal Ocean Engineer Justin Wolf Skenyon (jskenyon@crmc.ri.gov; (401) 783-3370) should you have any questions.

Fly fishing the cinder worm hatch

“Hello everyone, my name is Rosie and we’re going to make three flies tonight that mimic cinder worms.”

Cinder worms spawn annually on the surface and are a highly desirable food source for striped bass in the spring. Saltwater fly anglers wait anxiously for the event to start each year as the mud the cinder worms live in warms up and worms travel to the surface to spawn. The spawning event lasts just a day or two as low water in coves and estuaries heats the mud to spawning temperatures.

“I am going to take it step by step,” said Rosie Clifton (eight at the time), my fly tying instructor. The class I attended two years ago ran for two weeks at the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Kettle Pond Visitor Center in Charlestown, RI. After the first session Rosie said, “Now next week we are really going to have some fun tying three



Rosie Clifton (eight), fly instructor, shows Capt. Dave Monti, student, how to dry glue on a fly with an ultraviolet light at the Cinder Worm Workshop. Submitted photo by Todd Corayer

more flies.”

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Aquatic Resource Education Program, announced its annual Cinder Worm Workshop taking place on three days this May. This is the program’s seventeenth year, and it will include two weekday evening classes in fly tying instruction and one weekend evening of fly fishing. The program is free to registrants.

I liked the cinder worm workshop very much. Rosie and other instructors guided me to a fishery that I have fished with light tackle for years, now I have the capability to fly fish the cinder worm hatch.

Workshop participants get to make their own flies in class then take them out on the water to experience this great fishery. Instructors will be available to assist novice and experienced participants on fly tying, rigging and casting with project organizers Capt. Ray Stachelek, Dave Pollack and Capt. Jeff Perry, conducting the annual Cinder Worm Workshop with a host of volunteers.

“We would prefer if all attended the fly tying workshops as well as the fly fishing day on the Grassy Point areas of Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge. We don’t guarantee the weather or the fish,” said Pollack, “but past experiences have shown that this is

prime time for the worm mating season.”

The program is open to any adult or child over the age of 10, regardless of skill level-40 person maximum so register early. Instruction and guidance will be provided by some of the area’s most proficient and knowledgeable worm hatch fishers.

All fly-tying materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools and equipment, but all necessary fly-tying tools and equipment will be loaned to registrants upon request. Saltwater fly-fishing equipment, including rods, reel, lines and leaders, will be loaned to registrants who do not have their own gear and tackle upon request in advance.

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On floor: Roger Lemelin as Mysterious Man. Second Row from L to R: Elizabeth Peterson as the Baker’s Wife, Alex David as the Baker. Standing from Left to Right: Jeff Davis as Milky White, Jack Becker as Jack, Sam Lowry as the Harp, Liz Messier as Jack’s Mom. Submitted photo by Samantha Hudgins

Into the Woods theater review: Careful The Wish You Make

By IDA ZECCO

The Players at Barker Playhouse, Providence, is currently presenting Into the Woods through April 6. This thought-provoking musical with lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim, and book by James Lapine intertwines classic fairy tales—Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Baker and His Wife, and Rapunzel into a single narrative.

The characters’ quests for their wishes lead them into a dark forest, where their desires collide with unintended consequences. The story explores themes of ambition, morality, and the complexity of happily-ever-after, questioning whether getting what you wish for is truly the answer.

With Sondheim’s challenging music, sharp lyrics and Lapine’s clever story twists, Into the Woods highlights the unpredictable nature of life, offering both humor and insight into the human experience. The Baker and His Wife, a tale specifically created for this musical by Lapine, links the other fairy tales in the show.

It is difficult to draw out individual performances from this imaginative, creative, magical and well-cast production. The credit for this is given to co-directors, Samantha Hudgins and Lydia Johnson. It is one of the best productions of Into the Woods this reviewer has experienced.

Equally impressive is the music director, Tim Sauer (keyboard) conducting a fairly large orchestra. It is rare to have both a live-orchestra and an ensemble this large firmly locked into every perfect, musical number.

Bravo to the behind-the-scenes crew who brought the vision of Hudgins and Johnson to a staged reality.

Without one weak link in the cast or orchestra, Into the Woods delivers a production that blends individual brilliance with collective harmony to create an exceptional ensemble. Each actor brings a unique energy and depth to their role, yet together, they form a cohesive unit that elevates the storytelling. From the complex, emotional range of the Baker (Alex Paul David) and his Wife (Elizabeth Peterson) to the whimsical and pro-

found portrayal of the Witch (Erin Malcolm), every character contributes to the narrative’s intricate web.

Ingeniously, Hudgins and Johnson cast an actor as the Milky-White Cow. This character is usually represented as a mechanical prop or cardboard cutout. However, Jeff Davis as Milky-White is outstanding. Without a word spoken, Davis’s subtle reactions on stage not only supports each scene, but enhances without upstaging actors.

Applause to costume designers Connor Goins and Stephanie Travera for Milky-Cow’s imaginative ensemble and a beautifully dressed cast.

The supporting roles, including the charming and quirky Princes (Nathan Huey and Ruan Leverone), determined Little Red Riding Hood (Madison Cordona), a cunning Wolf (Ian Hudgins), inquisitive Jack (Jack Becker), a worried Jack’s Mother (Liz Messier), Rapunzel (Abbey Lane), Stepmother (Holly Applegate), Florinda (Malari Martin), Lucinda (Vanessa Sciolto), Steward (Ryan Gorman) Giantess/Hen (Savannah Horton) and Granny/Harp (Sam Lowry) all add layers of texture and humor.

Cast interactions felt natural and spontaneous, reinforcing the sense of a shared purpose in this reimagining of these beloved fairy tales. Whether through ensemble numbers or intimate moments, the cast’s collaborative spirit makes Into the Woods a theatrical experience which should not be missed. If you have not purchased your tickets for the remaining performances, do not walk to the box office—RUN!

What: Into the Woods
Where: Barker Playhouse
400 Benefit Street, Providence
When: March 28 & 29, April 3, 4 & 5 - 7:30 p.m.
March 30 & April 6 - 2:00 p.m.
Box Office: 401-273-0590
<https://www.playersri.org/main-stage>



Left to Right: Ryan Leverone as Rapunzel’s Prince, Nathan Huey as Cinderella’s Prince. Submitted photo by Samantha Hudgins



Left to Right: Anna Barcellos as Cinderella, Malari Martin as Florinda, Holly Applegate as Cinderella’s Stepmother, Vanessa Sciolto as Lorinda. Submitted photo by Samantha Hudgins

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥Adoptable♥Loveable



Photo credit: Donna Normand

Sage & Willow

Sisters, Sage (left) and Willow (right) are a bonded pair who have been together since they were puppies! At six years old they find themselves in need of a loving home after the loss of their Mom. They are both sweet, fun-loving, active, smart and beautiful! They walk well on a leash and would really love a fenced in yard to run around in and play! No kitties for these girls so please keep that in mind. If you'd like to meet them, please contact Rhode Home Rescue at rhodehomerescue@gmail.com or visit their website for more information <http://www.rhodehomerescue.org> These girls will fill your heart and home with so much love!



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Nebula

Nebula will captivate you with her ethereal beauty as indicated by her name! She is a two year old Tabby with a gorgeous striped coat of gray and chocolate brown. Her eyes speak for themselves, they are simply out of this world! Nebula’s best home would be an adult home filled with lots of love, time and patience...oh and treats, lots of yummy treats! She does long for attention but at her own pace. You can tell that once she's comfortable she's a very special girl! If you'd like to meet this beautiful star, please go to www.scruffypawsanimalrescue.org and fill out an application or email: Contact@scruffypawsanimalrescue.org Then the rescue will email you with more information about how you can meet Nebula and maybe even make your home her permanent galaxy!

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Stepping up to help kids who need support

By JOHN HOWELL

Eighteen years ago, Arlene McNulty was a pint-sized bundle of energy. She still is today.

Back then she was the director of Mentor Rhode Island, a program that pairs school kids who could use extra help or just a friend with adults for one hour a week during the school year.

Playing off the popular TV show, Dancing with the Stars, Arlene thought it would be fun to pair community leaders with professional dancers for a night of Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring.

Arlene did what she’s good at doing – she went out and asked dance studios and community notables if they would do it. The first Dancing with the Stars was held at the West Valley Inn. It was packed. The dancers brought their family and friends. Corporate sponsors bought tables and as only Rhode Island could get away with the audience paid to name the winner of the “People’s Choice Award” at a dollar a vote.

They still have the People’s Choice Award, but not the West Valley Inn that has since been leveled for housing development. Arlene won’t be dancing although she was paired with then Police Sergeant Jim Valkoun in 2011. She’s forgotten the song but recalls wearing a poodle skirt and winning the People’s Choice Award with more than 7,500 votes. Since starting 18 years ago, the event raised \$1.23 million for mentoring.

This time, Arlene is there to assist the celebrity dancers, who like Sabrina Antonelli, are newcomers to the event, which is Friday, April 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet.

“I want to make the dancers look good, to make sure they’re the stars,” Arlene said of her role this year.

Sabrina is the principal of Warwick’s Norwood Elementary School and Rhode Island Principal of the Year. She’s accustomed to standing up in front of audiences, which was not the case when she was a student. She was so fearful of reciting her presentation in front of fellow students



Derrick Powers of The Dancing Feeling is in the swing with Sabrina Antonelli, Warwick Norwood School Principal and Rhode Island Principal of the Year as they practice for the 18th edition of Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring. Beacon Media photos by John Howell

that she took a B rather than the A she would have had.

The challenge for Sabrina was meeting the \$2,500 threshold dancers are expected to raise as a participant – those votes really add up. That’s one of the things Arlene is there to help with. Family and friends as well as employers are a big help.

Arlene also helps organize events such as “Dine to Donate” at Texas Roadhouse on April 3 to benefit Sabrina, and Raymond & Flanigan at the Rhode Island Mall hosting a trivia night to benefit dancer Mike Aurecchia of Greenwood Credit Union on March 28 .

Hours of rehearsals

But raising money is only part of the lift. Putting in the time to come up with a routine is another huge piece. Kathy St. Jean and Randy Deats co-directors of The Dancing Feeling is the

backbone to the success of Dancing With the Stars of Mentoring.

Arlene attends rehearsals and is there to calm nerves when things get sticky.

Sabrina turned to Norwood students to come up with the music for her performance. She played musical selections and had students vote on what they liked and thought was best for her. Two pieces came out on top: Dance the Night Away and Levitating.

Derrick Powers, 26, a former Warwick school student and graduate of Rhode Island College, is Sabrina’s dance partner. Working on weekends at The Dancing Feeling they mixed the two sections to come up with the music. Powers, a lab technician at a cancer research institute in Massachusetts, never imagined he would enjoy dancing or become an instructor. While a

college student, friends suggested he join the college dancing club and he was introduced to The Dancing Feeling.

He has found students learn to dance visually, audibly and kinetically and that finding the best path or combination of skills is what it takes. And he’s found “slowing down” is often key to a performance so the partners are in harmony and working as a team.

Sabrina agrees that’s important. She took lessons in preparation for her wedding day last year.

“I let my husband lead,” she said following rehearsal Saturday. Nonetheless, Sabrina wanted to feel extra confident before stepping into the spotlights and an audience of more than 400 on April 11. While The Dancing Feeling provides 10 lessons for each of the celebrity dancers, Sabrina signed up for an additional five sessions to perfect the routine.

“It all came back” Arlene confesses as she and her partner waited for their turn to perform in the 2011 edition of the show her mind went blank, “but as soon as I got on the floor it all came back.”

This year, the judges are Angelica Penta of Gel’s Kitchen who danced last year, professional dancer Roxana Herzog and David Cicilline, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. Arlene recalls how everybody “wants to see you succeed.”

Sabrina can relate to that. Norwood School has more than 20 mentors, some of them firefighters, who spend one hour a week connecting with their mentee. She has seen how the program can build student confidence and improve attendance. She wants her students to succeed.

Current Mentor president and CEO Jeanine D. Achin, who watched the rehearsal is awed by the commitment made by mentors and the community to the program. This will be her first Dancing with the Stars. She is inspired by how much effort and time everyone puts into it.

“The fun part is dancing,” says Arlene, “the bottom line is helping kids who need support.”



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