

JohnstonSunRise

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Lawmakers push for universal Pre-K in RI

By **TIM FORSBERG**
Johnston SunRise Editor

Rhode Island could be on the path to offering universal prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds under legislation sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Hanna M. Gallo and House Education Committee Chairman Joseph M. McNamara.

The Senate recently approved Gallo's Rhode Island Prekindergarten Education Act, which would establish a state-managed, publicly funded Pre-K program through a mixed-delivery model. The bill now heads to the House, where companion legislation is sponsored by McNamara.

For Gallo, this legislation is the culmination of years of advocacy driven by a core belief: every child deserves an equitable start.

"Once we were able to get the universal kindergarten in place, I didn't want to stop there," Gallo said. "Kindergarten was only two and a half hours – by the time they get their coats off, it's time to go back home. Preschool is about preparation, and right now it's the very poor and the very rich who can access it. For middle-class families, it's often out of reach. That's not

fair."

Her bill proposes a mixed-delivery system that includes Head Start programs, public school districts, licensed centers, family child-care providers, and child-care networks. The goal is to reach at least 70% of the state's 3- and 4-year-olds as funding becomes available.

Incorporating a range of providers was a deliberate move, according to Gallo.

"If you alienate any group, they're going to fight you. So, in order to get everyone supportive, it needs to be inclusive," she explained. "We shouldn't dictate where parents send their kids. If they feel more comfortable with an early childhood center, they should have that choice."

Funding for the program would come from a combination of federal, state and local sources. Although Gallo acknowledged that fiscal constraints are a concern, she stressed that the investment is essential.

"This is a priority issue," she said. "When kids can go to preschool, parents can go to work. They can be productive and put that money back into the economy. It's not just about children; it's about supporting working families."

Gallo believes in provisions to ensure program quality, including

competitive wages for educators, research-based standards, small class sizes, developmentally appropriate curricula, and support for English language learners and students with special needs.

She said one of the biggest challenges is retaining early childhood educators, who often have the same education as elementary school teachers but are paid less. She added that there's work being done to equalize wages to make sure these qualified teachers continue to work in early childhood settings.

To maintain quality, programs will be evaluated using the state's existing systems, which rates early childhood education providers. Gallo also highlighted the role of data in monitoring the program's effectiveness.

"Kids Count publishes an annual binder with data on everything from test scores to mental health services. That kind of research will be key to guiding the program as it expands," she said.

The legislation also mandates that 30% of any increase in funding for the expansion of the prekindergarten program go toward sustaining and expanding childcare and early learning opportunities for infants and

● **PRE-K to page 9**



The Johnston Historical Society is holding a special ceremony to dedicate a monument to Picotte on Sunday, April 27. *Submitted photos courtesy of the Johnston Historical Society.*

Paratrooper killed in WWII to be honored by historical society

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

His was a story that was sadly too familiar during World War II – a native son who never returned home.

Emery O. Picotte, a paratrooper with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, was killed in action at the age of 23 during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. He is buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg, but he has never been forgotten in his hometown of Johnston.

His nephew George Picotte was only 7 when his uncle died, but he wanted to make sure that Emery and his ultimate sacrifice for his country would never be forgotten.

When George Picotte passed away in December at the age of 87, he left a special request. A long-time member of the Johnston Historical Society, Picotte had generously funded the flagpole and monument that stands at the entrance to the society's museum on Putnam Pike. He wanted both dedicated in honor of his late uncle.

The historical society will honor that request on Sunday, April 27, with a public dedication ceremony at 1 pm at the Johnston Historical Society Museum, 101 Putnam Pike (Route 44). The community is encouraged and invited to attend.

Emery O. Picotte was awarded the Purple Heart. Before he left for war, he was a young man who had grown up in Johnston and was working at the Nicholson File Co. in Providence.

His youth, his patriotism and his dedication, and his hope that he would come back home after an Allied victory are all evident in a letter he sent to his Nicholson File co-workers in November 1944, about two months before he was killed in action.

The letter, quoted in its entirety below, was in an article about Emery published in an edition of the historical society's "Historical Notes" newsletter. It is marked as having been sent from "somewhere in Holland."

The dedication ceremony honoring Picotte is scheduled to be held outside the museum, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be held inside the museum.

His letter home, weeks before he was killed. Page 9



The city's review of redevelopment plans for the Cranston Print Works began in 2021 and is nearly complete. In its heyday, the factory was one of the largest 19th-century textile enterprise still operating in the world. It produced 60 to 70 million yards of printed cloth per year and employed about 700 workers. *Beacon Media file photo*

New lease on life coming for Cranston Print Works

Approvals move mixed use project forward

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

There may soon be signs of life at the former Cranston Print Works complex on Cranston Street in the Knightsville section of Cranston.

Recently, the Cranston City Plan Commission unanimously approved plans to redevelop roughly 17 acres of the former mill complex with a combination of apartments and self-storage units. According to the application submitted by CPW True Storage, LLC and CPW apartments, LLC, (both from Manchester, New Hampshire), the project involves the complete interior and exterior renovation of some of the former mill buildings to create 100 apartments. Other existing structures will be converted into about 880 self-storage units.

The project has been in the works for approximately

four years and would mean new life for the Print Works property which has sat fallow since about 2014. The project also marks long-awaited redevelopment activity in the heart of the city.

The oldest textile mill in the country, Cranston Print Works was founded in 1824 by former Rhode Island Governor William Sprague. The family's sprawling Sprague Mansion, now a historical property owned by the Cranston Historical Society, sits in the shadow of the mill complex at the corner of Cranston Street and Dyer Avenue.

In its heyday, Cranston Print Works was one of the largest 19th-century textile enterprise still operating in the world. It produced 60 to 70 million yards of printed cloth per year and employed about 700 workers.

The preliminary plan approval unanimously granted

● **PRINT WORKS to page 6**

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K-9 Honza with his handler Officer Eli McGuire-Krueger.

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Police welcome back K-9 Unit

The Johnston Police Department recently announced the addition of a K-9 Unit to its force. This marks the first time in more than 12 years that a police canine has been deployed within the department, according to a press release from the department. The newest member of the team, K-9 Honza, is a one-year-old German Shepherd from the Czech Republic.

Honza and his handler, Officer Eli McGuire-Krueger, recently completed an intensive eight-week training program at the Rhode Island K-9 Academy, specializing in narcotics detection. Officer McGuire-Krueger, a four-year veteran of the department, was selected for this role after undergoing a competitive internal selection process.

The addition of K-9 Honza was made possible through funding obtained from opioid litigation funds administered by the Opioid Abatement Trust. The funding covered the upfront cost of the program which included equipment and the vehicle, which was outfitted accordingly for K-9 Honza, according to Captain Joseph A. McGinn. The full annual cost of the program was not available as of press time.

This initiative reflects the department's commitment to enhance its capabilities in addressing the opioid crisis by improving our capabilities to detect and remove dangerous drugs from the streets. Honza will assist in locating and safely seizing

drugs, helping create a safer drug-free environment for the community.

Looking ahead, K-9 Honza is scheduled to undergo additional patrol training this fall. This advanced training will expand his skillset to include assisting in the apprehension of dangerous or hidden offenders, locating missing persons, and recovering criminal evidence.

McGuire-Krueger expressed his enthusiasm for the new role. "Our training has prepared the both of us for the challenges we may face," he said. "I look forward to seeing how Honza and I can contribute to the department's efforts to fight drug trafficking and keep our community safe."

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United Way increasing nonprofit, family support amid federal uncertainty

New Safety Net Grants Will be Made Available

As uncertainty surrounding federal funding and shifting federal policies grows, threatening the stability of nonprofits and the critical services they provide to hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders, United Way of R.I. is doubling-down on its support of local families and organizations.

"United Is The Way" will support efforts to provide needed resources to Rhode Islanders and to the community-based organizations serving them through this unpredictable time, focusing on three main areas. United Way will expand supports for nonprofits through the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact, expand services for residents through 211 and community outreach, and expand grantmaking to local nonprofits that provide vital support to their communities.

"It's been dizzying to try and keep up with the barrage of funding and policy shifts coming out of Washington, but one thing is certain – what's being targeted would be devastating to nonprofits and to our families, friends, and neighbors," said Cortney Nicolato, United Way's president and CEO. "The current climate and what's at risk requires that we be swift and decisive in our actions, and that's what we're doing. You cannot have strong families and strong communities without also having strong nonprofits."

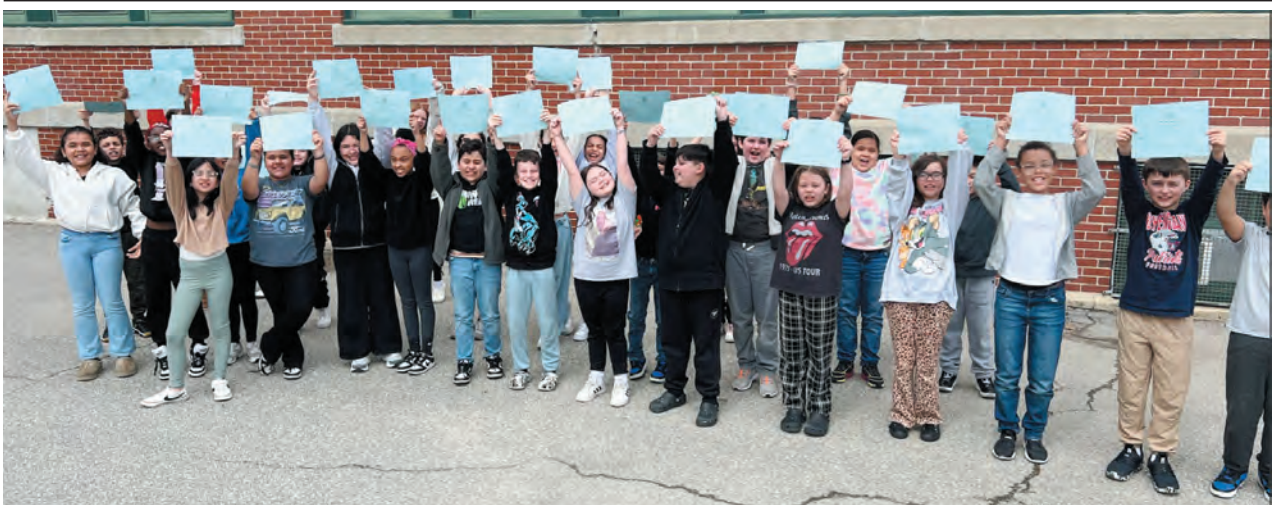
The launch of "United Is The Way" includes expanded services by the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact. Through its partnerships the Alliance will facilitate and fund legal supports to help organizations navigate the new regulatory environment, and will provide technical assistance to prepare nonprofits for increased federal scrutiny. The Alliance also will equip nonprofits with the resources, tools, and training to help them continue and sustain their vital work.

Among the resources the Alliance will be offering are expanded access to professional experts in the areas of fund development and revenue generation, strategic planning, and financial management. The Alliance also will offer additional support for collaboration and innovation, discounted certification programs, and will be advocating for funding protections at the state level.

United Way is also moving to strengthen its 211 services. In anticipation of increased need among Rhode Islanders, the organization plans to add staff to accommodate an expected increase in call volume and referrals, and to expand its direct community outreach.

The United Way Board of Directors voted to allocate organizational funds to seed "United Is The Way" and its new grants, which will soon be made available via a request for proposal (RFP) process and awarded on a rolling basis. To expedite its investments in the community, United Way will be accelerating payments to its grant partners, providing them added flexibility to meet their immediate needs and those of their community.

"This is a broad-based mobilization strategy to defend our community infrastructure from federal disruptions and do so with the heightened sense of urgency this moment demands," said Nicolato. "We need to ensure the preservation of vital services and empower the nonprofits that deliver them. This is not a time to sit idly-by. It's time for the caring power of the community to shine through."



Thornton’s perfect attendees

These outstanding students from Thornton Elementary School were recently recognized for achieving perfect attendance, a testament to their dedication, responsibility, and commitment to learning. Each student proudly holds a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment. School administrators praised the honorees for showing up every day, ready to learn and lead by example. Their consistent presence helps build a strong classroom community and sets the tone for academic success. Congratulations to all of Thornton’s perfect attendance recipients – your hard work and perseverance have not gone unnoticed. *Submitted photos*



Local walk to begin month of autism awareness, acceptance

By **ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Autism Project is holding its 23rd annual Imagine Walk as Autism Awareness and Autism Acceptance Month begins.

Established in 1997, the Johnston-based nonprofit organization works in the community to provide support to people with autism and teach others how they can be supportive of the autism community.

Executive Director Joanne Quinn describes the Imagine Walk as a community event.

“Our walk has a soul,” Quinn said. “Because we invite everyone to be there. It’s just nice for so many families to be out there together.”

A lot of programming at The Autism Project fosters that connection. From its community work with schools, hospitals and businesses to its summer camp providing supportive environments for kids and people 50 years old alike.

Quinn says they serve about 10,000 people a year between their outreach and service groups.

“Our goal is to work with everybody to increase the understanding of what autism is and proactively support the work of our members, so we can build a neuro-inclusive environment for everybody where people feel safe and welcome across their day,” Quinn said.

As for the month’s official designation, the Autism Society of America has pushed for a rebranding of Autism Awareness Month as Autism Acceptance Month. And since 2011, the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network has gone ahead and designated April Autism Acceptance Month. According to Autism Parenting Magazine, the change emphasizes the importance of accepting autism as a natural part of the

human experience to foster meaningful dialogue.

Quinn says the walk is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, at Goddard Park. Starting at 9 a.m., Quinn says, The Autism Project expects about 6,000 people to come out in support.

The Bierman Autism Center (BAC), a nationwide organization with offices in Rhode Island, works with children with autism, and is also one of the groups that comes out to support the Imagine Walk event.

Bennett Schlesinger, director of services for the BAC, says that over the years, the understanding of autism has changed – for the better, especially when you see the impact and growth in engagement at local events like the walk.

At the BAC, Schlesinger said, they launched a T-shirt initiative last week as part of their Autism Awareness Month programming. BAC partnered with the Association for Science and Autism Treatment and, according to Schlesinger, 20% of the proceeds will be going to ASAT, with Bierman matching every dollar.

“That is the goal, to get awareness out there for different ways that you can receive treatment for autism that is scientific,” Schlesinger said.

BAC uses evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis therapy to produce a supportive environment for the children they work with.

Aside from April’s programming, BAC holds a variety of sensory-friendly events open to the public for all to enjoy. Schlesinger said all their events are sensory-friendly because individuals diagnosed with autism need some help with their sensory input and need a break sometimes.

“We make sure that we have a space where they’re one, able to take that break if needed,” Schlesinger said. “And then also throughout the event, we’re trying to do our best to keep lots of open spaces and keep the noise levels down as much as possible.”

One of the events is a petting zoo scheduled for May 3 at BAC’s Cranston location, where they team up with a local farm that brings ponies and other animals to the center and invite the local community to come and enjoy the day.

“It’s one of my favorite events we do in the summer,” Schlesinger said.

Looking out into the future, Quinn says, one of their biggest challenges at The Autism Project is the current economic uncertainty and funding to support the most vulnerable of their members so they can get the services they want.

Quinn said a large part of their services is funded through Medicaid and grants, so not knowing about the stability of funds there is unnerving.

“There’s so much unknown,” Quinn said. “We just keep our head up and moving forward so that things can stay the way they are, so that people are receiving interventions and things they need.”

Quinn said the project is a big resource for everybody, and one of the top priorities is determining and pursuing how to keep their members safe.

Schlesinger said he would love for the awareness of the community to continue to grow, especially with what he says is the importance of early intervention and comprehensive, evidence-based treatment for individuals with autism.

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Easter Bunny brings smiles, heart health to Johnston seniors

The Easter spirit came early to the Johnston Senior Center, thanks to a heartwarming visit from Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. Residents were surprised and delighted when the Easter Bunny played by none other than Maurizio Marchese, director of admissions and marketing at Morgan.

Marchese hopped in with laughter, hugs and gifts of festive Easter-themed playing cards. The lighthearted visit was more than just fun and games. While Marchese spread cheer in costume, Melissa Cortez, a dedicated CNA from Morgan, led the center's monthly blood-pressure clinic, reinforcing the center's ongoing commitment to senior wellness and heart health.

This partnership is especially meaningful given Morgan's national recognition in cardiac care. Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center is proudly accredited with the American Heart Association for Heart Failure care, a designation held by only 2% of health care centers across the country.

Richard Delfino, executive director of the Johnston Senior Center, expressed his gratitude for the ongoing partnership with Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. "We're so thankful for everything Morgan does for our seniors," said Delfino. "They go above and beyond, and the joy they bring, especially during the holidays, is some-



Submitted photo

thing truly special." The team at Morgan echoed that sentiment, sharing their appreciation for the opportunity to support Johnston's seniors in both health and happiness.

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Johnston Sun Rise

Senior 'Spotlite'

Smiles and Great Deals Await at the JSC Café and Gift Shop

Ann Brown, one of the dedicated JSC Café Volunteers, greets visitors with a warm smile at the Johnston Senior Center Café and Gift Shop — home to some of the best "deals in town." Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Café offers a welcoming space where patrons can enjoy complimentary coffee, breakfast pastries, and good conversation. In addition to affordable snacks, drinks, and candy bars — all just one dollar — guests can browse a selection of handmade crafts and unique gift items, many priced at only a few dollars. The Café is also home to the daily "puzzle group," whose finished puzzles are beautifully mounted and available for purchase starting at just three dollars. With a large screen TV and plenty of friendly faces, the Café is a cozy hub for relaxation and socializing. Staffed entirely by volunteers, every purchase directly supports JSC programs. Interested in joining the team? Stop by or give the Senior Center a call to learn how you can get involved.

Editor's Note: Photo and information courtesy of Richard J. DelFino Jr., Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston.

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Chelsea Force of Mastery Martial Arts came out swinging for her dance with Anthony Scalzi. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*

Fancy steps raise big bucks for mentoring

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

Tara McClary knows how to put on a show and what to wear, although it didn't seem like an awful lot, to further her belief in the power of mentoring. McClary was one of nine community celebrity dancers to step on the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet dance floor Friday night for the 18th annual Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring before a crowd of more than 600.

She was wearing an eye-popping orange wrap-around that left her left leg fully exposed, her jewel-studded belly button glittering and her hands free for her professional partner Thien Ngo to spin her through a blend of salsa, cha-cha and hip-hop. Ngo is new to The Dancing Feeling, the Warwick studio that has sponsored the fundraising show year after year, McClary and Ngo won the People's Choice Award for the most votes – at one dollar a vote - for the mentoring program. Collectively, the nine performing couples raised \$81,000. Overall, as Jeanine Achin, Mentor RI president and CEO announced at the end of the evening, the event netted a record \$151,000.

Judges critiqued each performance and then were interviewed by Channel 10 Sunrise Anchor Mario Hilario, who co-hosted with Heather Gerstein of Heather and Matty Mornings on Lite 105. First time judges Angelica “Gel” Penta, who holds the record of People's Choice Award winners raising more than \$26,000 and former U.S. Rep. and now President and CEO of the RI Foundation David Cicilline were joined by professional dance judge Roxanna Herzog.



Channel 10 Sunrise Anchor Mario Hilario, who co-hosted with Heather Gerstein of Heather and Matty Mornings on Lite 105.

The judges awarded the most entertaining award to Chelsea Force of Mastery Martial Arts, who was paired with Anthony Scalzi. The Judges Choice was awarded to Xay Khamsyvoravong, former Newport mayor and presently a member of the Newport City Council, and professional Jayne Pawasauska, who danced a foxtrot and East Coast swing.



A full stage of dancers take a bow at the conclusion of the 18th annual Dancing with the Stars of Mentoring held Friday at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

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Johnston SunRise

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Ocean

Puppy love! Meet Ocean, she's just a puppy who is in search of a loving family! Her and her four sisters are all waiting at Heart of RI located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open every Wednesday from 3:00-7:00 and Saturday from 10:00-2:00. These girls are everything that you could want in a puppy, they are fun, playful, loving and so adorable! You can call 401-467-3670 for more information or visit their website heartofri.org Go see them in person, you will totally fall in love!

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Hop on Over to See the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is coming to town. Join in the fun on Saturday, April 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Johnston Senior Center, located at 1291 Hartford Avenue, for a morning filled with fun and treats. Enjoy pastries and refreshments while meeting the Easter Bunny. This free event is open to all, and each child will receive a special gift from the Easter Bunny. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the memories. For more information, visit www.johnstonrec.com.

A Spring Fling Dinner

The First Baptist Church, 1613 Main Street, West Warwick will be holding a Spring Fling Dinner Fund-raiser on Saturday, April 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. This is an old-fashioned family style meal: Saugy hot dogs, beans, green salad, homemade potato and macaroni salads, brown bread, assorted desserts, coffee, punch and water. There will also be a spring bulb sale. Ticket prices for adults are \$15, children 6 to 10 are \$8 and under 5 are free. All proceeds to go to help defray the cost to replace and install a new boiler system.

Cast your line at the 2025 Fishing Derby

The Johnston Recreation Department, with special thanks to Citizens Bank, is excited to announce the 2025 Fishing Derby for children ages 4 to 12! The event will take place on Saturday, April 26, at Johnston War Memorial Park. Drop by any time between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. This fun-filled, free event will feature awards for individual achievements. Be sure to bring your own bait and fishing poles. Please remember that the derby is designed for kids—adults may assist with casting and releasing fish if needed, but the young anglers should do all the fishing. For more information, visit www.johnstonrec.com.

● **PRINT WORKS** from page 1

by the Plan Commission last Tuesday was the next-to-last procedural hurdle the project needed to clear before actual work can begin. The next step, final approval, is handled administratively by the City's Planning Department and once that is received, redevelopment work could begin quickly, project representatives told the Plan Commission.

The final approval is pending minor plan modifications including traffic control at the exits and entrances to the complex and the specifics of some of the tree plantings.

Jonas Burggemann, senior planner for the city, wrote the staff report on the project. He said that the plans call for the property to be well planted and include communal recreational areas for residents.

The project received preliminary approval, also known as master approval, from the city in 2023, which is the first step in the review process. Since then, much more specific work has been done on the plans including traffic studies and obtaining necessary permitting from utilities.

A basic overview of the project was first broached publicly in the summer of 2021 and included a joint visit of the site by the City Council and the Plan Commission. The public was also allowed to attend.

At the time, city officials, including Mayor Kenneth Hopkins, expressed excitement about the possibility of redevelopment in the Knightsville area.

Attorney Robert Murray has represented the Print Works applicants throughout the review process and noted at last Tuesday's meeting that the master plan approval granted to the project in 2023 allows for 150 apartments. At this point, he said, the applicants are only planning on 100 apartments.

A zoning change was also needed to accommodate the mixed use of the new development and has been granted.

Almost May Breakfasts

The Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ, located at 546 Budlong Road in Cranston, will host its 41st Almost May Gourmet Breakfast on Friday, April 26, from 8 to 11 a.m. with continuous seating throughout the morning. This all-you-can-eat event features a menu including scrambled eggs, frittatas, Johnnycakes, waffles, ham, sausage, home fries, Holly's famous baked beans, strudel, muffins, assorted pastries, juice, milk, coffee, and tea. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5 to 12, and will be available at the door.

Get ready for a delicious start to your weekend at the (Almost) May Breakfast hosted by Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Join the community from 7:30 to 11:30 AM at 805 Main Avenue in Warwick, RI, for a hearty morning meal featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, baked beans, sausage, assorted breads and muffins, juice, coffee—and fresh apple pie! Handcrafted May Baskets filled with fudge and/or flowers will also be available, adding a sweet and festive touch to the morning. All are welcome!

Flagpole Dedication Ceremony

The Johnston Historical Society lost a beloved member, George Picotte, to pancreatic cancer on December 2, 2024. Before his passing, George generously funded the flagpole and monument at the entrance of the Johnston Historical Society Museum, with one request: it be dedicated to his uncle, Emery O. Picotte, who was killed in action at the Battle of the Bulge on January 3, 1945. Join us as we honor that wish on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 1p.m. (rain or shine) with a ceremony at the museum. Coffee and light refreshments will follow. The Museum and Elijah Angell House will be open for tours.

RIMA Breakfast

The Rhode Island Manufacturers Association (RIMA) invites the community to its Annual Meeting & Breakfast on Thursday, May 1, 2025, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Omni Providence Hotel, located at 1 W Exchange Street in Providence. This year's keynote speaker is nationally recognized workplace expert Karen McCullough, who will offer insights on navigating the challenges of generational dynamics in today's workforce. The event will also feature remarks by U.S. Senator Jack Reed (via video), providing a global overview of key U.S. issues, and Rhode Island Speaker of the House Joseph Shekarchi, who will discuss the state's economy and growth opportunities. Tickets are \$125 for RIMA members and \$150 for non-members.

Support the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive

Johnston's own Derek La Fazia, Jr., a 17-year-old La Salle Academy student, is once again leading the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive to help individuals transitioning from homelessness into stable housing. Throughout April, donations of essential household cleaning supplies—such as all-purpose cleaners, dish soap, paper towels, and mops—can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body, 920 Plainfield Street, Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to Crossroads Rhode Island (memo: *La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive*) and can be dropped off at La Fazia Auto Body or mailed to Crossroads RI, 162 Broad St., Providence, RI 02903.

Editor's Note: To submit your news to Scoops, send information and photos to Tim at timf@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.

Before the Plan Commission voted last week, board President Steve Frias said that the project is a good fit for Print Works site and surrounding area.

"There is very much a strong desire in the state for housing, and there's a strong policy coming for more housing," he said. "What I find is that there are some people who just want as much housing anywhere you can put it. But what I like is housing that make sense in the locations that we need it, and that can handle it. And what I find with this project is that it does make sense overall."

He noted that the property has room for ample parking and the fact that it has a mix of residential and commercial uses means it will have a positive fiscal impact on the community.

Beth Ashman, newly appointed director of planning for Cranston, said it is also a plus that the restoration of the Print Works property represents a major investment in the area. "It is a historic property and (the project) has seen strong support for the mayor and members of the community," she said.

Plan Commission member Lisa Mancini said that it will complement other pending plans that will also help revitalize the area.

Another project, called Knights Corner, is proposed for land across the street from the Print Works property. It received master plan approval in 2023 and calls for the construction of up to 160 apartments, with 15% of them earmarked as affordable house. It has not yet progressed to the preliminary approval process.

The project would also include the repair and renovation of the adjacent white, clapboard historic meeting house at 1380 Cranston Street for it to be converted into a restaurant. The building, which has a domed steeple and is obvious need of restoration, was initially built as a church for the mill village around the Print Works – an area also locally known as Sprague mill village.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

A little home can make a big difference

In Rhode Island’s stubborn shortage of affordable-housing options, there is no solution or effort too small toward addressing that crisis. And when it comes to providing solutions that not only address the housing crisis but can also keep aging family members closer to their loved ones, square foot-age truly is just a number.

Recently, Warwick cut the ribbon on its first “tiny home” built in the wake of a new state law that streamlines and simplifies the building of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) within the existing footprint of an owner-occupied property.

The resulting 650-square-foot home — modified from an existing garage and now complete with a kitchen, loft, bedroom and bathroom — provides a place for a local woman to live next door to her daughter but maintain her own space and retain as much (or as little) independence as desired.

These types of creative solutions to our housing crisis, while they will not completely solve the problem, should be celebrated. In this case, it was a Rhode Island company — NE Tiny Homes, of East Providence — that reaped the financial reward of helping the family navigate the fledgling governmental framework and get it through local approval and through construction. That’s a win-win for Rhode Island, and Rhode Islanders.

The ADU law hits way over its weight class in terms of providing benefits and avoiding drawbacks.

For one, ADUs must still comply with all local building code, size limits and infrastructure requirements. They must pass a safety inspection like any other home. If the lot is smaller than 20,000 square feet, they also cannot expand beyond the existing footprint of the home, meaning neighbors won’t have to worry about being closer than they’d like to be.

Lastly, and importantly, the law specifically prohibits new ADUs from being utilized as short-term rentals (Airbnbs, Vrbos, etc.). This is a forward-thinking provision that should ensure ADUs are built for the correct purposes and serving Rhode Islanders who need a place to live.

We understand that the housing crisis cannot be solved by one new law, or by ADUs alone, but for the aging grandparent who can’t afford their home or their rent any longer but doesn’t want to move away from their family, this legislation can make a big difference.



LETTERS

Vote for the person, not the party

To the Editor,

More raises for those holding the highest positions in Rhode Island state government? That means a salary of nearly a quarter of a million dollars to the person who caused the debacle on the Washington Bridge? Yet our roads remain antiquated and mostly are just continually patched up like a poorly constructed quilt with no regard for us.

Still the majority of this state continues to vote for the person with a “D” next to their name. People in this state need to start looking and listening to those on both sides and voting for the more qualified candidate. The Republican Party in Rhode Island is actually more the Democratic Party of years ago. The Democratic Party is now a government party caring only for themselves.

Many years ago, I considered myself a proud Democrat. Now I am a proud independent voting for people, not parties.

**Margaret Porter
Warwick**

Beware the rise of Christian Zionism

To the Editor,

Christianity today has embraced a theology known as Christian Zionism, which claims that modern Israel fulfills the promises that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12. Amazingly, its proponents have hijacked both the Executive (Marco Rubio, Mike Huckabee etc.) and the Legislative (Mike Johnson, Rick Allen, etc.) branches of the federal government. President Washington in his farewell address warned “that our true policy is to steer clear of any permanent alliances.”

In spite of this admonition, the ultimate goal of the Christian Zionist is to guarantee the hegemony of modern Israel in the Mideast and, in the very near future, to destroy Iran by U.S. military power.

To understand how perverse this view is, read the last chapter in the Book of Acts, where the Apostle Paul, a prisoner, writes that for “hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.” The hope of real Israel has always been the Messiah, Alpha and Omega, our redeemer and rock of salvation, and never the blood-soaked soil in the Mideast. That same hope is the anchor of our soul which is emblazoned on our RI seal and flag. Jew and Gentile Christians are the sons of Abraham by faith, not by DNA, and are grafted into a holy kingdom, the Israel of God.

Christian Zionists are fleecing the sheep and they have succeeded in making a shrine out of Palestine, where millions of Christians pilgrimage. Will these wolves in sheep’s clothing also trick the Trump administration into obliterating Iran? (Feb 4, 2025, if Iran assassinates President Trump, he said, “they get obliterated”). This may seem fantastical, but consider that Judas Iscariot betrayed the Messiah for only 30 pieces of silver from the religious wolves of his time.

Happy Easter!

**Erik Thorp
Warwick**

The Joy of Easter

Awake from a world of darkness
Where gloom and doom abound,
To a newfound light
Where peace and love and joy are found.

This world is full of darkness
Coming from people of sin.
This need not be the norm.
Let Jesus in. Let Jesus in.

Arise America from a long sleepwalking stupor
we’ve been in.
Let laughter and happiness
Replace darkness, fatigue and hopelessness
And let a new age begin.

Welcome to the world of Easter
Where colors are brighter and gay.
Put down your trials and burdens
Put them away.
Let God take them away.

Christ is now risen
To take away death and pain
We no longer toil and trouble.
We now have heaven to gain.

**Peggy Porter Quinlan
Warwick**

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The Johnston SunRise encourages letters to the editor. It’s part of our mission to reflect a multitude of perspectives on everything from community news to national politics. In the interest of including as many viewpoints as possible, we ask that you hold your letter to 250 words. We can accommodate a longer piece on a complex topic as an op-ed, preferably with a local focus and a maximum of 750 words. With your letter or op-ed, we ask that you include a phone number (not for publication) where we can reach you to confirm authorship. We’d like to hear from you.

• WHERE TO WRITE:
TimF@beaconmediari.com
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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



GUEST OPINION

Lawmakers, let’s ban assault weapons

By JENNIFER MCGEE

Legislation has been introduced by Sen. Lou DiPalma (D-Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) and Rep. Jason Knight (D-Barrington, Warren) that would prohibit the sale of assault-style weapons in Rhode Island, similar to existing laws in Massachusetts and Connecticut. With the support of most of our legislators, including Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, and all of our state office holders – Gov. Dan McKee, Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, Secretary of State Gregg Amore, Treasurer James Diosa and Attorney General Peter

Neronha – 2025 could be the year an assault weapons ban is finally passed in Rhode Island. There is no time to waste. Since the start of the year, the United States has seen at least 41 mass shootings, resulting in 25 deaths and 150 injuries, according to the [Gun Violence Archive](#) (GVA). In 2023, Brady United reported that 18% of mass shootings with four or more fatalities involved an assault weapon. These incidents accounted for 28% of all firearm-related deaths and 40% of all firearm-related injuries during such mass shootings. A 2016 study by the Violence Policy Center found that one in four law

enforcement officers who died in the line of duty were killed by an assault weapon. The regulation of assault-style weapons has been shown to contribute to the reduction of gun-related fatalities. According to Brady United, during the period when the U.S. assault weapons ban was enforced, from 1994 to 2005, there was a 37% decrease in gun massacres and a 70% reduction in the proportion of assault weapons linked to firearm-related crimes. Assault firearms are dangerous weaponry meant for war and destruction. Private citizens do not need assault weapons and should not have the

right to access them. According to a recent AFL-CIO poll, 64% of Rhode Islanders support an assault weapons ban. Gun safety advocates in Rhode Island have pushed for this ban for over a decade. As a Rhode Islander, I urge all members of the General Assembly to support the assault weapons ban legislation (H5436/S359) this session, because even saving one child or teacher makes it worthwhile. Jennifer McGee is a Cranston resident, Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence volunteer and former Washington, DC lobbyist.

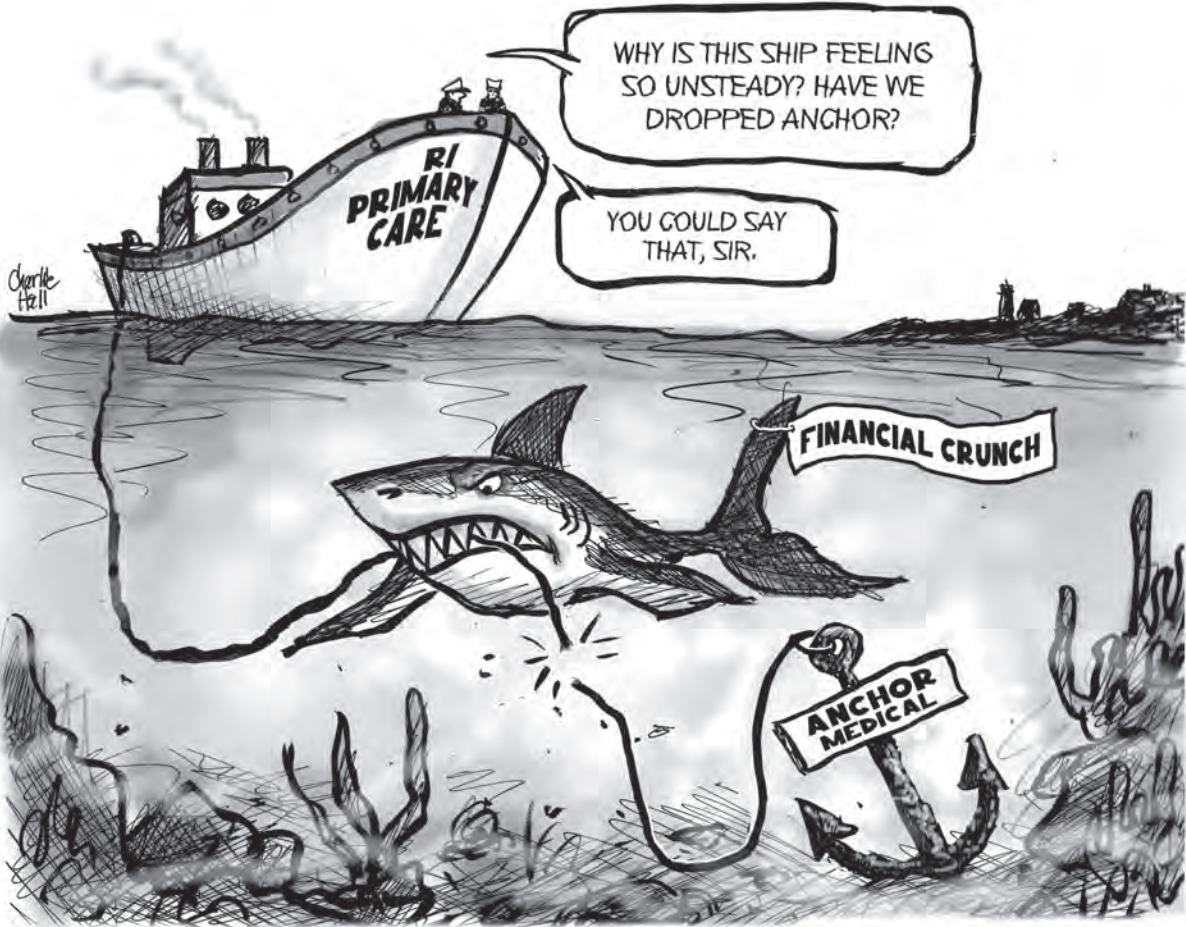
Where to have surgery? It’s hard to know

By Dr. MATHIAS P. BOSTROM

Each year, millions of Americans face a decision that’s more consequential than buying a home or car: choosing where to have major surgery. For procedures like spinal fusions and hip and knee replacements – among the most common operations in medicine – the choice of hospital can mean the difference between a full recovery and months of avoidable setbacks, pain and stress. Yet while a car purchase comes with detailed safety ratings and prospective homebuyers can obtain inspection reports, patients preparing for surgery are left largely in the dark – even though surgical complications can lead to extended hospital stays, additional procedures and sometimes permanent disability. Luckily, there is one telltale indicator of the risk associated with having surgery at a specific hospital – volume, or how many procedures a hospital performs annually. Studies show that high-volume hospitals consistently achieve better outcomes across multiple types of surgery. This makes the current approach to choosing surgical care deeply concerning. Research shows that most patients select hospitals based on data-free factors like word-of-mouth recommendations or doctor referrals. These recommendations and referrals aren’t always completely objective, especially as health systems increasingly pressure physicians to refer patients within their systems. Patients can become their own best advocates by examining the data in five critical areas. First, look at success rates – how well patients recover. The best hospitals track and share their patients’ improvements in quality of life, pain levels and function after surgery. Second, examine patient-experience scores. They contain a wealth of information about how well a hospital communicates, coordinates care and supports patients through their journey. Third, dig into complication rates. Find out how often things go wrong and how well the hospital handles the challenges that arise. The fourth factor, readmission rates, is particularly telling. How often do patients end up back in the hospital unexpectedly? Low rates of readmission signal that a hospital excels at preventing complications and managing the overall process of recovery.

Fifth, consider procedure volume – how many of the specified surgeries the hospital performs. Experience matters, and high-volume centers tend to deliver better results. Together, these five measures paint a clear picture of hospital quality, and should be readily available to any patient considering surgery. Yet all too often this information is difficult or impossible to find. But there are few resources available to patients interested in comparison shopping. While the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provide some hospital comparison tools, they’re clunky and incomplete. Private insurers have detailed data on their providers’ outcomes, but many choose not to share it. Easier access to comparisons would be game-changing

both for patients and the health care system as a whole. Just as vehicle safety ratings spurred car makers to compete on crash protection, surgical outcome transparency could drive providers to improve their results. Research suggests that simply publishing complication rates motivates hospitals to enhance their safety practices. Patients scheduling surgery shouldn’t settle for less information than they’d want when buying a car – and our health care system shouldn’t make finding it any harder than reading a window sticker. Mathias P. Bostrom, MD, is associate surgeon-in-chief and director of quality and safety at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in New York City. This was originally published by The Well News.



● LETTER from page 1

Hello gang,

How's the best gang of hardeners in the world? Surprised to hear from an old buddy after such a long time? Since my last operation, which happened to be my fourth and successful one, I really moved quite a bit.

I spent a lot of time in England before I parachuted into Holland. I jumped with the first groups to hit the ground in the invasion. We really gave the Germans plenty of trouble and something to worry about. The first couple of weeks were the worst. I lost about fifteen pounds sweating out help to reach us. Apples and milk the Dutch people gave us while marching kept me full when my rations ran low. The people here are tops. They are kind, clean and very religious. When the going was tough, they helped out plenty. I really sweat when there's tanks around because I'm a bazooka man and they hate my weapon.

I got a Purple Heart from a rifle butt in the jaw that knocked out two teeth and me for a loop. I'm hurting at chow call without my teeth, then to top it off, we eat English rations. While going through the cellar in a Dutch home I ran across a "Nicholson" file which I put in my pocket to keep our squad's knives razor edge. If everyone keeps doing a swell job like the file shop workers, "Victory" is just around the corner. Keep up the good work because we're depending on you. "Best of luck and best wishes to all,"

As ever ----- Emery



Emery O. Picotte left his home, family and friends in Johnston to join the Army and fight for his country in World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, a brutal and pivotal conflict in which Allied forces turned back Hitler's last-ditch campaign to stave off defeat.

● PRE-K from page 1

adults, including Early Head Start.

As for those concerned about the program's long-term cost, Gallo offered a pragmatic response.

"We may spend money early, but we'll save money in the end. If we don't support children early, we're setting them up to fail. Then they need individualized education programs (IEPs) or end up dropping out and maybe even in jail."

Gallo urged Rhode Islanders to contact their local representatives to support the House version of the bill.

Her greatest hope?

"That we stop setting kids up to fail. Let's give them confidence. Let's give them the tools. And let's make sure every child walks into kindergarten ready to succeed."

JOHNSTON'S PERSPECTIVE

Carolyn Roseman is an administrator at Johnston's Graniteville Pre-School, a dedicated preschool within the Johnston Public School District that offers early childhood education programs for children starting at age 3½.

Roseman added an optimistic yet realistic expectation for the legislation. She believes the youngest children are moldable and that early education can prevent future problems.

"I think universal Pre-K is long overdue ... and we see the benefits of children coming to school at an early age," she said. "I would absolutely support it, but the problem that I see is funding."

She said she believes the state will fund the program, but some of those costs will still fall on the districts. She was also concerned about space limitations.

"At Graniteville school, we're already bursting at the seams. We had to convert our meeting room into a seventh classroom. So that's my concern," she said.

Roseman would also like to see more training for early childhood teachers because there aren't enough of them.

"In our building, our teachers have dual certification, they have early childhood and they're also early childhood special education teachers. We're able to serve both populations; it's very specialized," she said.

Roseman says there would need to be more collaboration with local colleges to have the appropriate programs that schools could partner with to bring people in and observe the importance of early education. She also believes voters need to get involved, contact their state representatives and build a coalition of the willing who will support the initiative.

"Data will show the need; it always has. It's convincing the people who hold the purse strings that we get

results. If the investment is made in children early on, it's like a preventative measure," she said. "When you invest to address possible issues and get kids to like school early on and tackle any issues, you're avoiding them and can prevent future difficulties. If you invest early, you get better results than waiting until there's a crisis."

ON TO THE HOUSE

The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives, where McNamara is sponsoring a nearly identical bill.

When asked, Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi said he was concerned about what the cost of the program would be.

In an interview, McNamara said the public must look at this proposal strategically in terms of government investment. He said he believes no investment has a greater return in reducing long-term costs, and that such a program may reduce the need for expensive special education.

Using a sports analogy to underscore the stakes, McNamara believes that a child not going through Pre-K is like the Providence College basketball team starting a game with a 25-point deficit.

McNamara said those participating in the program, then later graduating, would have a reduced need for cash assistance, offering government savings. He also stated the program could reduce rates of incarceration. His research in preparation for the bill, which included working with Kids Count, shows that it currently costs

about \$200,000 a year to house an inmate, who may become non-productive and not contribute to society. Investing in early childhood education may curb those costs.

"These programs are proven; we can't afford not to do it. Greater rates of graduation have been shown with higher lifetime earnings for people, which results in more taxes being paid. So it comes back," he said.

McNamara also wants to lay out plans to increase universal Pre-K with the goal of expanded mixed delivery systems. He envisions working with childcare centers, Head Start, local education, licensed childcare providers and other networks. This would authorize the state Department of Education to develop rules and regulations and set standards. He said 30% of funding would be set aside for development and administration of programs.

If the bill passes, McNamara said he'd like to see the planning phase begin next year, with a goal of 70% of all Pre-K age children enrolled in high-quality programs.

As far as funds are concerned, McNamara said, current available funding would be used, acknowledging that federal funding is in jeopardy. But he pointed out that once kindergarten becomes full-time where it used to be half a day, the ability of those children to read and do math shows that they're ahead of where they had been when it was just part time.

"We need to plan for a brighter future," he said.

—With reports from John Howell



ROSEMAN

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By JENNIFER COATES

There is nothing in the world quite as wonderful as the Downy-fresh smell of clean clothes and clean linens. This familiar aroma evokes images of newly-washed clothes, hung on a clothesline to billow in the wind and dry in the warm summer sun.

While there are no clotheslines hanging in Jain’s Laundry, it is a common, daily experience to have your clothes and linens smell just as Downy-fresh as this sensory memory, every time you bring them home from this tidy laundromat on Putnam Pike.

Jain’s Laundry is a family-run laundromat in Johnston that has been in continuous operation since it was first opened by the Jain family in 1993. It is a place that has earned a reputation for cleanliness, trustworthiness, affordability, consistency, and friendly customer service. It is a place that provides an invaluable service for today’s modern family ~ both as a place where one can do all their wash in “one fell swoop” or take advantage of their convenient, same-day, wash-dry-fold service.

Cleaning your clothes and household linens is “essential work” but it does not have to be drudgery! If time is your most precious commodity, then why not bring your laundry to Jain’s Laundry for their drop-off service? Why not spend your time doing the things you love this spring and let Kaushal Jain help you carry the load?

For an incredible .89/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day. Besides the convenience of this great service, this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! What a bargain!

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain’s Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the “do-it-yourselfers”. If you don’t have enough



Come to this familiar laundromat on Putnam Pike in Johnston for all your wash/dry/fold laundry needs and for self-service washing & drying machines

quarters, no worries ~ there is a change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill available here.

There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.25 per load. Vending machines are also on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener, or laundry bags.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers.

Jain’s Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about their services, call 401-231-7019.

Now is the time to schedule a tour of your “new home” at The Briarcliffe, Preserve located in a leafy corner of the city at 54 Old Pocasset Road. To arrange for your tour, call Stefany Reed at 401.944.2450 ext. 202 or visit their informational website at www.briarclifferi.com.

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PrimeTime



State Rep. Lauren Carson (D-Newport), SACRI Policy Advisor Maureen Maigret, Michelle Muscatello, Vice President of Communications and External Affairs, Delta Dental of RI and Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director all took part in the recent Senior Agenda legislative conference. *Submitted photo*

United Voices for Meaningful Advocacy

Senior Agenda Coalition unveils 2025 priorities

by HERB WEISS

With the Rhode Island House of Representatives deliberating the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and key legislation affecting older adults, Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island (SACRI) announced its legislative priorities at its legislative forum in March.

Hundreds of older Rhode Islanders, aging network providers, state officials and lawmakers gathered at the forum called “United Voices for Meaningful Advocacy” at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. SACRI Board Chair Kathy McKeon delivered welcoming remarks, giving recognition to major sponsor Delta Dental. Serving as master of ceremonies, SACRI Executive Director Carol Anne E. Costa kept the three-hour legislative forum on track.

SACRI Policy Advisor Maureen Maigret gave an overview and highlighted the growing influence of Rhode Island’s aging population.

“We’re 200,000 strong and growing,” she said, noting that within five years, one in four Rhode Islanders will be 65 or older. In 21 of the state’s 39 cities and towns, older adults now make up at least 20% of the population, with some communities reaching over 30%.

Economic impact of older adults

Maigret noted that 21% of older Rhode Islanders still work, many are caregivers for loved ones, and vote in higher numbers than any other age group. About 12% are veterans, and many volunteer at senior centers, Meals on Wheels, RSVP and The Village Common of Rhode Island.

Older adults also contribute significantly to the economy. According to AARP’s Longevity Economic Outlook report, those age 50 and older generate 40% of the nation’s GDP. In Rhode Island, retirees inject \$4

billion into the economy through Social Security benefits.

Individually, however, many older adults struggle financially.

“The ‘forgotten middle’ falls through the cracks,” Maigret said, referring to those with low incomes who don’t qualify for Medicaid and some other public benefits. Long-term care costs are rising, and even with home equity, many middle-income adults will not be able to pay for long-term care.

Census data reveals that one in four Rhode Island households headed by someone 65 or older have annual incomes of less than \$25,000, and nearly half make less than \$50,000. The average Social Security benefit is \$23,995, with men receiving \$26,372 and women \$23,565.

● SENIOR to page 16

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Nana’s Desk



MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

It stands on slender, curvy legs in the corner of my living room. It holds my trinkets and treasures, scraps of paper, old bills and receipts, paper clips, stationery for the letters I still do write, photos waiting for albums, and pens that have no ink.

A lady’s desk, I was told, by someone who knows about these things.

I remember when it stood in my grandmother’s dining room. My maternal grandmother, Lydia May Mellor. Her birthday was April 4th and she’d be...oh...128 this year. She was 76 when she died — I was a junior in college. My Nana.

A lady’s desk — a drop-down — with lots of tiny nooks and recesses and drawers. Petite and unassuming, but a solid wood presence with carved, curled swirls on its face. Holding court while we ate our holiday dinners, we were oblivious to its silent witness as the grownups talked of bigger things and my brothers, cousins, and I ran past it on our way outside.

I wonder what it held back then? Probably coasters and cloth napkins, hand-written recipes, lace handkerchiefs, a treasured photo or two. Perhaps Sunday gloves or an age-old love letter safely tucked away. Maybe spools of thread, and buttons my grandmother had removed from worn-out clothes — buttons she could use again. A pin cushion, a cloth tape measure — faded yellow and wrinkled.

Nana knew how to sew — anything and everything. Her hands were gnarled and worn, but she sewed so beautifully. She could take a piece of cloth and without a pattern use her foot pedal-operated Singer to create something wonderful. Clothes and curtains and slipcovers. She could make chairs and sofas look new again using only her skills, her mind, her ingenuity, and with only an elementary school education. She had to drop out of school when her mother died to help her father “keep house” and to take care of her younger siblings.

I remember the doll clothes she made for me. Dresses and ensembles for my Barbies. I remember one that I marveled at even back then. A long fancy dress coat for my Barbie doll — cranberry corduroy with a hood and cuffs encircled with black fur — a seven-inch replica of a coat one might see in a magazine or a department store ad. And fully lined with pink satin.

Even then I wondered how she had managed to sew such perfectly aligned sleeves with tiny stitches and pleats that allowed the shoulders to puff up ever so slightly — ever so smartly. I started to fully appreciate this when I began to make my own clothes in my teens. Trying

to sew my adult-size clothes using Simplicity, McCall’s, or Butterick patterns (never Vogue — way too fancy for my teenage tastes!) was enough of a challenge for me. How did my grandmother create these miniature fashions so perfectly?

She made clothes for my Thumbelina doll, too — the infant doll that moved her head from side to side along with her arms and legs in a gentle motion — sort of resembling the stirrings of a newborn when you wound the plastic dial sticking out of her back. I still have one of the dresses. It’s pale yellow with tiny pink and green flowers, rounded puff sleeves, two tiny buttons gracing the front of the bodice, the gathered skirt just long enough to cover Baby Thumbelina’s knees (so that her knit booties would show), all trimmed with rickrack and dainty lace. And an opening in back to accommodate that head-turning dial.

Nana’s desk sits in my living room — silently speaking volumes. It makes me wonder. Its wood is now a faded red-brown darkened with age. What tree gave its life-blood and flesh for it to be carved into existence? The wavy veins and wood grain spirals speak of a beginning from a forest somewhere lost in time.

Was my grandmother’s dining room its first home? My grandmother was a young bride in 1917 — my grandfather off to war. Fear, uncertainty, and unrest were rampant, and there was news of a deadly influenza circling the world. All of this happened a century ago, but eerily similar to our times now.

We all have hopes and dreams. What were my grandmother’s hopes and what did she dream about? Did she ever wish for more in her life? She was a reflection of her generation and her circumstances, living in a time when choices, especially for women, were limited.

When I received the desk after my grandfather died, I found something that had belonged to my grandmother tucked away in the corner of one of the tiny drawers. A silver thimble — worn from use — left behind, forgotten.

I’ve kept Nana’s thimble in my desk...her desk. I think of her every time I see it sitting in its place of honor in one of the tiny nooks inside.

My grandmother — my Nana Lydia May. Her hands were gnarled with age, but they were working hands — always busy, always creating. Creating the life she had — and for me sweet memories — including a silver thimble shining from her finger as she sewed in the afternoon sunlight. A reflection of the life that was hers, a life well-lived, a life that was full in its quiet simplicity.



Are you age 70 or older and not yet receiving benefits?

by CHERYL TUDINO
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Retirement is not one-size-fits-all. It can mean different things to different people. Perhaps you have not applied for Social Security retirement benefits because you’re still working or are delaying applying so you can get a higher benefit. If you’re age 70 or older, you should apply now for the benefits you’re owed. Your benefits will not increase if you continue to delay applying for them because you are 70 or older.

Did you know that you can receive benefits even if you still work? Your earnings can increase your monthly benefit amount — even after you start receiving benefits. Each year that you work, we check your earnings record. It’s possible your latest year of earnings is one of your highest 35 years. If so, we will automatically recalculate your benefit amount and pay you any increase due.

The best and easiest way to apply for your benefits is with a personal my Social Security account. You can create your free account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you create your account, you can get an estimate of how much you might receive each month based on when you want to start receiving benefits and then apply.

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Caring for older adults can be challenging when combined with the responsibilities of everyday life. Family caregivers often must juggle supporting the needs of elder loved ones while managing work, their own children and other duties.

As a result, many elders spend their days home alone, with no one to talk to and no one to monitor their well-being. Without physical and social activity, they are at an increased risk for developing long-term conditions like Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's.

Adult day centers offer a perfect solution. Seniors spend the day receiving the attention they need as well as care from skilled nurses and trained healthcare workers like CNAs and physical therapists.

Participants leave the house to be socially engaged while our staff motivate them with fun activities, coordinating medication and

other health needs, including prescribed therapy. Or they can enjoy their own favorite pastimes like reading or completing puzzles.

"There's so much to do," explained Jessica Gosselin, Director of Saint Elizabeth Community's four adult day centers. "Whether they're a social butterfly or prefer to keep to themselves, we'll meet them where they're at, making sure they're comfortable and cared for all day long."

Saint Elizabeth's Adult Day Centers are located in Apponaug, Bristol, South Kingstown and Warwick Neck and they're open Monday through Friday. Guests attend anywhere from one to five days. Two is the recommended number to help create a sense of stability and belonging. Nutritious meals and snacks are provided, and transportation is available.

Many adult day centers specialize in supporting old-

er adults with memory loss or movement and mobility disorders. Trained staff address these issues individually or in group sessions.

As an alternative to nursing home care, adult day centers are a wonderful option for elders who don't need 24-hour skilled nursing and wish to remain in their homes, aging in place. These programs also assist working caregivers who are balancing their responsibilities between work and home by providing them with respite and peace of mind.

Designed to help people stay mentally and physically active, while reducing their isolation, adult day centers are also recognized for improving their health, and preventing the decline of their abilities.

Adult day centers are a great way to spend the day.

For more information on Saint Elizabeth Adult Day Centers, visit: stelizabethcommunity.org.





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Boursin Shrimp Bake

Easy to make at home!




Scan to see full recipe video!

Ingredients

- 2 (9oz) Pkg. 3 Cheese Tortellini
- 2 (5.2oz) Garlic & Herb Boursin Cheese
- 1 lb. Shrimp
- 1 Broccoli Crown
- 1 Red Onion
- 2 Garlic Cloves
- 1 Pint Grape Tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp. Olive Oil
- ¼ Tsp. each Salt, Garlic & Onion Powder
- 1 Pinch Crushed Red Pepper

Preheat oven to 400°

Mix vegetables, shrimp, spices & oil in a bowl

In a 9x13 baking dish, add Boursin cheese and the shrimp & vegetable mix & bake for 35-40 minutes.

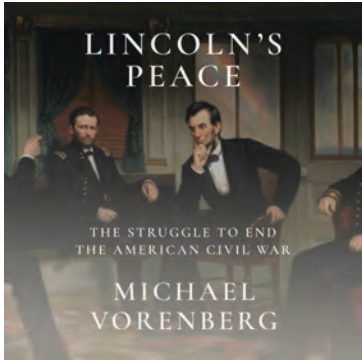
Cook tortellini according to the package, strain

Remove baking dish from oven, add tortellini & mix



The Civil War, snowbirds in Arizona, and sci-fi on audio

A Brown historian’s look at the fight that followed Robert E. Lee’s surrender, a novel about a lost snowbird and a pair of science-fiction tales are this month’s audiobooks.



“Lincoln’s Peace: The Struggle to End the American Civil War”
By Michael Vorenberg, read by Landon Woodson. Random House Audio, 16½ hours, \$28.

If you’re like me, you learned in school that the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, when Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

But Vorenberg, an associate professor of history at Brown University, argues in this meticulously researched book that this is far too simple a view. For one thing, other Confederate armies were still in the field, in the South and in the Midwest; it would take time — and many more deaths — for them, too, to lay down arms. For another, Union troops that were supposed to be mustered out at war’s end were about to head West instead, to fight Native tribes.

And then there was the more subtle war — the war waged by Southerners unreconciled to the notion that Blacks were equal to whites. This front opened less than a week after Appomattox with Lincoln’s assassination by Southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth, on April 15, 1865, and continued, with the

aid of racist President Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, through the long period known as Reconstruction (itself of uncertain duration, despite what’s taught in history classes). And beyond.

Why does any of this matter? Because, Vorenberg says, it shaped the nation in countless ways, and still does. That’s what makes this important listening for anyone who wants to understand how we got from a war meant to end slavery to economic conditions that, for decades afterward, mimicked slavery closely — and are still far from equal.

Woodson’s reading is perfectly modulated to maintain interest even in the smallest of Vorenberg’s minutiae. It’s one of the best nonfiction performances I can recall.

Vorenberg is appearing at several Rhode Island bookstores and in an online event in the next several weeks. Here’s the schedule:

Wednesday, April 23, 4 p.m. — Brown University (Joukowsky Forum, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 111 Thayer St., Providence)

Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m. — Barrington Books with the Barrington Public Library (281 County Rd, Barrington, RI 02806)

Thursday, May 22, 6:45 p.m. — Smithsonian Virtual Event www.si.edu/events

“The Snowbirds: A Novel”
By Christina Clancy, read by Karissa Vacker and Graham Halstead. MacMillan Audio, 10 hours, \$26.99. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

This isn’t about Rhode Islanders in Florida, but about Midwesterners in another warm winter destination: Palm Springs, once the leg-



by ALAN ROSENBERG

endary home of celebs like Frank Sinatra, now a place where older folks go to rest their weary bones.

Kim and Grant are just in their mid-50s, but when he loses his job as a professor at a Wisconsin college and she’s granted a sabbatical by the nonprofit she works for, it just seems to make sense to head there — especially since Kim’s ex-husband has offered them the use of his Palm Springs house. So Kim begins to hang out with her former mother-in-law at an exclusive community while Grant takes up hiking in the mountains. Meanwhile, the pair are dealing with the nagging issues in their relationship, including Grant’s history of walking out when the going gets rough and Kim’s hesitancy to commit.

And then, on a midwinter hike, Grant disappears. Is this another disappearing act? Is something more sinister afoot? Or has he simply gotten lost in high-altitude twists and turns — and if so, will he make it back?

Clancy draws Kim and Grant as complex but recognizable characters. Vacker, reading most of the book, helps enormously with shaded readings for all sorts of characters, while Halstead, reading Grant’s journal, gives a solid, understated performance.

“The Fourth Consort: A Novel”
By Edward Ashton, read by Barrie Kreinik. Macmillan Audio, 8½ hours, \$19.99.

Dalton Greaves was living a dead-end life in a little West Virginia town when he was recruited

into the service of Unity, a galaxy-spanning alliance that now includes Earth. Those who leave the planet to serve Unity end up living lives of incredible ease and wealth — if they return.

Now a mission has gone sideways, and Dalton and a human woman, Neera, are stranded on a planet light-years from home. As Unity’s titular ambassador, Dalton is left to deal with the insectoid natives, who have a deep conception of honor but no idea of human society or abilities; Breaker, the stick-like representative of a competing confederation, the Assembly; and Neera, who’s itching to blow the stickman into next week.

Ashton, author of such novels as “Mickey7” and “Mal Goes to War,” makes Dalton a deeply sympathetic character, trying to live his odd and desperate situation without getting killed by Breaker or the natives — or Unity, if he and Neera are rescued without having succeeded in their mission. And if this makes the story sound grim, then I’ve done Ashton a disservice. There’s also much humanity in Dalton, and the story moves you right along.

Kreinik, one of the best narrators around, succeeds in making distinct characters not just of Dalton and Neera, Breaker and some of the aliens, but even of the AI translator that’s embedded in Dalton’s neck.

“Amorph”
By Chené Lawson, based on stories by N. K. Jemisin, read by a full cast including Lawson, S T A R R, Chris Attoh, Amanda Turen, Raphael Corkhill, Vikas Adam, Orlagh Cassidy, Gillian Saker, Oscar Jordan, Skyla l’Lece and Zein Khlei. Audible Original, 3¼ hours, \$11.20; free with Audible Plus membership, \$7.95 a month.

This ambitious but heavy-handed dystopian tale is based on two of Jemisin’s short stories, stitched together: “The Trojan Girl” and “Valedictorian.”

Both are about young women who don’t fit in. The first, in something approaching our present day, can’t afford to implant the neural network that links just about everyone else in a social net so tight and absorbing, it’s nearly impossible to function in society without it. The second, hundreds of years later, is smart, bold and accomplished when everyone in her high school seeks mediocrity, enforced by a rigid social structure that demands allegiance and obedience.

Both stories are set in a science-fictional universe where there are beings who inhabit the computer network but can, with great difficulty, move into physical existence. The heroine of the first section, Trojan Girl, is the first to realize the connection between the Amorph, where the digital beings reside, and the Static, where having bodies keeps people divided unless they’re linked by the neural net.

Although there’s a lot of sturm und drang as the book progresses, these are just trappings for Jemisin and Lawson’s fairly conventional message about the problems of — but ultimate rewards in — being yourself. The cast does what it can, however, taking the overwrought words and never succumbing to the temptation to chew the invisible scenery.

Alan Rosenberg, of Warwick, is a retired executive editor of The Providence Journal and has been reviewing audiobooks for more than two decades. Reach him at AlanRosenbergRI@gmail.com.

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“Flip the Script on Aging”

May is just around the corner, and it is Older Americans month!

As you flip the page on your calendar, think about this year’s national theme for month, “Flip the Script on Aging”. We know the words we use matter, so at the Office of Healthy Aging (OHA), along with our federal partners, we will be having conversation about how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging.

In Rhode Island, we’ve been at the forefront of this conversation. It was back in 2019 that we changed the name of the Division of Elderly Affairs to the Office of Healthy Aging. Why would we do that? We were flipping the script on aging!

The word “elderly” may conjure images of frailty, illness, or someone who needs significant care. While certainly there are older adults who need care, there are just as many, if not more, that are aging in a new way. Rhode Island’s older adult population is vibrant and engaged as they age.

We can’t help but see the positive impact of older adults in our communities across the state. The largest age cohort in the state is 60-64 year olds, and those over age 60 make up nearly 270,000 Rhode Islanders.

The focus of this column last month was about senior centers, and in senior centers throughout the state, it is common for the staff to be peers of those who are participants.

There are other established peer-based programs available in neighbor-



by MARIA CIMINI

hoods throughout the state. The Village Common of RI supports communities of older adults connecting with other older adults in their neighborhoods. Those older adults share their time and talent with their neighbors (villagecommonri.org).

And the Americorps Senior Companion program offers similar companionship and support among lower-income older adults.

Older adults support young children, too; they serve as foster grandparents at places like the Orchard Farms, Gladstone, Holliman and Park Elementary Schools, just to name a few.

Even in spaces not traditionally focused on older adults, older adults are actively engaged. Did you know that in 2022, the student speaker at the CCRI commencement was a 61-year-old graduate? In his comments he said, “We are capable, smart, and we are always stronger together.”

Flipping the script on aging means recognizing people who are providing care and receiving care; people who are mentoring new generations of leaders and people who are learning from those new generations of leaders; and importantly, valuing the wisdom and experience of older adults to inform society today and what we are building toward tomorrow.

You’ll notice that we are flipping the script by not using “elderly” or “senior”, all those words that you may have heard used before in reference to the aging population.

Rather, we’re talking about older adults; they’re just another category of adulthood and are distinct from the category of younger adults. By using ‘older adult’ we recognizes the wisdom, the experience, and valuable the contributions still to be made by people into their sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties, and beyond.

Today’s older adults have changed the way aging looks like in the United States their entire lives. In the 1960’s and 1970’s, today’s older Rhode Islanders may have been at the forefront of breaking racial barriers, promoting gender equity, or advancing accessibility in public spaces. It is no wonder, then, that they’ve brought that same idea of flipping the script by creating a life of their own into older adulthood.

Watch this space to continue to learn about programs available to older adults in Rhode Island. You can engage, too. How do you think about aging? What should we do in Rhode Island to support full engagement of older adults in every aspect of life. Help us to highlight the work of older Rhode Islanders by sharing your thoughts <https://oha.ri.gov/get-help/feedback>.

Maria Cimini is the director of the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging.

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Filing taxes with incorrect or missing documents

Taxpayers should make sure they have all their documents before filing a federal tax return. Those who haven’t received a W-2 or Form 1099 should contact the employer, payer or issuing agency and request the missing or corrected documents.

If a taxpayer doesn’t receive the missing or corrected form in time to file their tax return, they can estimate the wages or payments made to them, as well as any taxes withheld. To avoid filing an incomplete return, they may need to use Form 4852, Substitute for Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, or Form 1099-R, Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, Etc.

If they receive the missing or corrected Form W-2 or Form 1099-R after filing their tax return and the information differs from their previous estimate, they must file Form 1040-X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

Most taxpayers should have received their documents by Jan. 31. These may include:

- Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement
- Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income
- Form 1099-INT, Interest Income

- Form 1099-NEC, Nonemployee Compensation
- Form 1099-G, Certain Government Payments, like unemployment compensation or state tax refund
- Letter 6419, 2021 Total Advance Child Tax Credit Payments
- Letter 6475, Your 2021 Economic Impact Payment

Incorrect Form 1099-G for unemployment benefits

Taxpayers must report unemployment compensation on their tax return as it is taxable income.

Taxpayers who receive an inaccurate Form 1099-G should contact the issuing state agency to request a revised Form 1099-G showing their correct benefits. Taxpayers who are unable to get a timely, corrected form from states should still file an accurate tax return, reporting only the income they did receive.

If the taxpayer didn’t receive unemployment benefits but did receive a Form 1099-G for unemployment compensation, this may be a sign that the taxpayer’s identity was stolen.

For more information, visit www.irs.gov/let-us-help-you.



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The Senior Agenda Coalition recently announced their state legislative priorities at a conference at the Crowne Plaza. Submitted photo

● SENIORS from page 11

Shaping SACRI’s 2025 legislative agenda

Survey results from SACRI’s October 2024 conference guided this year’s priorities. Among 241 respondents (42% aged 75 and older), top concerns included health care costs and access, economic security, housing and community supports.

SACRI’s top priority is expanding the state’s Medicare Savings Program (MSP) by increasing income and asset limits.

“Expanding MSP eligibility would provide an extra \$185 monthly, or \$2,200 annually, to thousands of older adults,” Maigret said. The federal government would cover the cost of those newly eligible. This extra income could help with food, utility bills or rent and would be a boon to the state’s economy, she said.

With primary-care practices closing due to retirement and low reimbursements, SACRI is pushing for a rate review to ensure competitive payments.

While fewer than 5% of older Rhode Islanders live in nursing homes, Maigret stressed the importance of addressing the industry’s staffing shortages and substandard care. SACRI supports increasing wages for direct-care staff, rewarding high-performing nursing homes, ensuring financial transparency and preventing Medicaid cuts.

To address the housing crisis, SACRI advocates for fair allocation of state housing funds for housing for older adults and people with disabilities. With public housing waitlists up to five years long, this is essential. SACRI is also pushing to expand income eligibility for the property-tax relief program to \$50,000 and mandating accessibility features in new developments.

Aging in place is another priority. SACRI calls for adding \$600,000 (\$10 per person age 65 and older) to the state budget to support community senior centers and enacting a caregiver tax credit to assist Rhode Island’s 112,000 caregivers, who spend an average of \$7,000 out of pocket annually.

SACRI also seeks to increase Medicaid’s asset limit from \$4,000 to \$12,000 to help older adults on Medicaid remain at home. Additional funding for volunteer programs and continuing the “Ride to Anywhere Pilot” are also on SACRI’s agenda.

Maigret also noted that SACRI is in close contact with the state’s congressional delegation to oppose any harmful Medicaid cuts or changes in Social Security.”

Lawmakers respond

Bringing greetings from House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, Rep. Lauren Carson (D-Dist. 75, Newport), who chairs the Special Legislative Commission on Services and Programs for Older Rhode Islanders, acknowledged the political power of older voters. “In the 2024 primary, 87% of voters

were over age 85. I paid close attention to that,” she said.

Carson emphasized the importance of protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. “Social Security is a promise. We paid into it. We can’t lose that program,” she said.

She highlighted legislative victories from 2024, including a \$10-million investment to stabilize nursing homes, raising the pension exemption from \$20,000 to \$50,000, and launching the “Digital Age” initiative to bridge the digital divide. However, she said, more work remains.

Carson is also leading efforts to eliminate ageist language from state statutes, replacing terms like “elderly” and “senior citizen” with “older adults.” “We’re living diverse lifestyles beyond age 60, and our language should reflect that,” she said.

Representing Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) Sen. Jacob E. Bissailon (D-Dist. 1, Providence), chair of the Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government, echoed Carson’s concerns. He warned that state lawmakers must protect hard-won progress considering potential federal cuts and a \$250-million state budget shortfall.

Bissailon called to address the housing crisis.

“There are 150,000 Rhode Island households paying over 33% of their income on housing. We need 20,000 more affordable units and 2,000 permanent supportive housing units,” he said. He also supports eliminating the state income tax on Social Security and pointed to the Senate’s newly established Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Committee, noting its important aims to protect older adults from cyber scams.

“It’s critical that Rhode Island keeps pace with technology,” Bissailon said “We have our work cut out for us.”

Following the legislative-priorities session, Carlson called to order a meeting of the Special Legislative Commission on Services and Programs for Older Rhode Islanders.

At this time, Elizabeth Dugan, Ph.D, from the University of Massachusetts Gerontology Institute, presented highlights from the 2025 RI Healthy Aging Data Report scheduled for full release on May 1.

To learn more about SACRI, go to <https://senioragendari.org/>

Herb Weiss, LRI -12, is a Pawtucket-based writer who has covered aging, health care and medical issues for over 45 years. To purchase his books, “Taking Charge: Collected Stories on Aging Boldly” and two sequels compiling weekly published articles, go to herbweiss.com – or purchase from Amazon.

Lifestyles



Photos submitted by Matthew Lawrence

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

Can you spot the lamb? Find the willow tree? Or scope out the grave of a Naval veteran who served on the Ironclad USS Monitor during the Civil War? These are questions you'll find yourself asking as you make your way through the new self-guided scavenger hunt at Warwick's Brayton Cemetery.

There are 3,800 people buried on the 6.5 acre property, located on Post Road just south of Apponaug Village, overlooking Arnolds Neck Drive and Apponaug Cove, the cemetery features 2,948 marked stones, and you'll feel like you know them all very well by the time you complete the new scavenger hunt, created for Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries Awareness & Preservation Weeks.

That mouthful of a title is a bit of a misnomer, since programs began earlier this month and will run through the end of May. Cleanup events and historical talks are planned for many towns in the state, although Warwick is the only one to boast about a scavenger hunt.

Originally a private property, Brayton Cemetery passed from the family in the 1990s when the owner died, and his daughters were uninterested in maintaining it. Notable occupants include over a hundred Civil War soldiers. Burials from nine smaller graveyards have been moved to Brayton over the years.

"Brayton Cemetery has the most types of headstones in Warwick," said Pegee Malcolm, who chairs the Warwick Historic Cemetery Commission. "There are slate stones, obelisks, flat stones, ones that look like rocks..."

There are 25 items on the scavenger hunt list, which can be found on the Rhode Island

Historic Cemeteries' website under the events tab. "We put a scavenger hunt together for last year and we had to reschedule it three times because it rained every Saturday," Malcolm said. "This year we said people can just do it at their own pace."

Some are broad (a gravestone with flowers on it, or a gravestone from before 1900). Others are very, very specific.

I gave myself an hour to attempt the hunt on one of the few sunny days last week and managed to check 18 of the 25 items on the list. Why couldn't I find a gravestone in the shape of a tree? That one seems like it should be easy. I found an animal resting atop one stone, but was it a lamb? It was too worn by age and weather for me to know for sure.

"We try to make it a little bit educational and a little bit fun," Malcolm said about the events planned in the city's historical cemeteries. "We get good turnout, and people say that they really enjoy it."

Other events around the state include a tour of the three historical cemeteries at Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, an event to lift and straighten the gravestones at the Ladd School in Exeter, and a headstone cleaning workshop at North Burial Ground in Providence. Details can be found at <https://rihistoriccemeteries.org>.

The statewide effort is spearheaded by Christine MacWilliams, who contacts volunteer organizers in cities and towns across the state to coordinate event programming.

"There are about fifty events happening throughout the state," said Malcolm. "We will have three or four just in Warwick."

Two dates have yet to be finalized, but one will be a talk



"There are 166 historical cemeteries in Warwick alone. Technically the people that are buried there are the owners. They bought the plot of land, so it's theirs."

— Pegee Malcolm
Warwick Historic Cemetery
Commission Chair

about Jewish burial customs and the other will be about a cemetery for slaves of the Waterman family in the 18th and 19th century.

Though it's not listed on the website, the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission is also having a cleanup event this month, at the Rhode Island Training School cemetery on Saturday, April 26. According to Facebook, the Spring 2025 Stakeholders/Community Cookout and Clean Up Day takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (rain date is Saturday, May 3, 2025). Participants are asked to RSVP by April 19 to John. Scott@dcyf.ri.gov.

Many people expect their towns or the state to maintain cemeteries, but actually historical cemeteries don't operate that way. "There are 166 historical cemeteries in Warwick alone,"

says Malcolm. "Technically the people that are buried there are the owners. They bought the plot of land, so it's theirs."

This leads to issues of upkeep, according to Malcolm.

"People come to us and say, 'My grandfather is buried in this cemetery and it looks awful—what are you going to do about it?' Well, it's his plot of land, so if you're concerned about it you should go clean it up."

"The (Warwick) Department of Public Works does help when they can," Malcolm said. "If we need a tree cut down or find a lot

of poison ivy that needs spraying, very often they'll come out and do it for us. They'll also accept veterans' headstones, because those need to be delivered to a public building." Lawn upkeep is a different issue, and it costs the Commission about \$780 each time the lawn company visits.

If you are interested in cleaning up Brayton Cemetery, a group will be there on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Anyone can help, and organizers recommend bringing gloves and a rake if you can.

Cemetery Scavenger Hunt

You're invited to participate in a self-guided Brayton Cemetery Scavenger Hunt during April and May, aiming to find 25 specific items on the headstones.

1. Gravestone with your first, middle, or last name
2. Religious symbol on a headstone
3. Gravestone with the last name Brayton
4. Gravestone with a U.S. President's last name on it
5. Gravestone of Thomas Vaill who was on the Ironclad ship Monitor
6. Gravestone with a flower or leaf on it
7. Gravestone of someone who died before 1900
8. Gravestone with an epitaph mentioning God
9. Gravestone of someone who died as a baby (less than 4 years old)
10. Gravestone with a crack in it
11. Gravestone with more than 2 names on it
12. Gravestone that mentions a place of death
13. Gravestone that mentions the deceased's accomplishments
14. Male name beginning with W
15. Female name beginning with M
16. Gravestone of a woman naval veteran
17. Gravestone with a lamb on it
18. Gravestone with moss or lichen on it
19. Gravestone with an animal on it
20. Any slate headstone
21. Picture of a mouse on a vault
22. Gravestone with a heart on it
23. Gravestone with a willow tree
24. Gravestone in the shape of a tree
25. Gravestone with a fraternal order symbol

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					776 Hartford Ave Lot 4	Yoerge Roberta E Est and Proctor, Catherine M	Danielson, Ryan M	3/28	\$14,000
111 Jefferson Dr	Rose, Robert S and Rose, June R	Shariff, Rizwanullah	3/12	\$482,000	9 Barbato Dr	Eternity Investment LLC	Castle, Christopher	3/28	\$530,000
119 Columbia Ave	Rhode Is Hsng & Mtg Fin C	Adamo, Anna L	3/28	\$1	WARWICK				
119 Peckham Ln	Dunphy, Michele K	Alger, Ghyllian H and Alger, Thomas A	3/14	\$535,000	1091 Main Ave	Ocheltree, John	Burden, Gilbert and Burden, Debra	3/24	\$521,000
137 Read Ave	Mako LLC	Peralta, Elida G	3/20	\$390,000	110 Brook Spring Dr	Bonetti, Edward P and Bonetti, Ann C	Martinez, Joel J and Cepeda, Yessenia	3/21	\$520,000
15 Highwood Dr	Costa, Lorraine E	Escalera, David	3/27	\$371,000	117 Kenneth Ave	Homes R Us LLC	Siou, Drew E	3/27	\$368,500
198 Blackrock Rd	Giorgio, Ryan	Frazier, Troy T	3/28	\$320,000	121 Melbourn Rd	Trombley, Susan A	Phommachanh, John A	3/21	\$535,000
21 Lane A	Cunningham, Edward J and Cunningham, Lynette	Plante, Monique N	3/28	\$125,000	15 Division St	Balasubramanian, Venkatesh and Patterson, Jacob	Ludwig, Patrick W and Pagliaro, Catherine E	3/21	\$935,000
2206 Village Green Cir Lot 2206	Palmera D Nolan T and Dollarhide, Jason M	Bulawka, David and Bulawka, Susan	3/24	\$410,000	192 Trent Ave	Vieira, Antonio M and Vieira, Debbie A	Avd325 LLC	3/26	\$185,000
25 Francis St	St Martin, Thomas J	Repose, Delo D	3/12	\$400,000	211 Irving Rd	Pereira, Susan M	Blackwood Prop Solutions	3/21	\$270,000
3 Adams Dr	Senra, Antoinette and Senra, Matthew	Duffy, John and Duffy, Shannon	3/21	\$530,000	211 Irving Rd Lot 498	Pereira, Susan M	Blackwood Prop Solutions	3/21	\$270,000
3 Audrey Ct	Allanson, Michael and Fields, Katherine	Dilibero, David J and Brzozowy, Kristin L	3/12	\$370,000	35 Westford Ave	Shine, Michael P and Shine, Meagan E	Orourke, Ellen L and Orourke, Patrick E	3/21	\$875,000
3 Watercress Ct	Neira, Karissa	Pienkos, Adam and Pienkos, Christina E	3/28	\$485,000	459 Harrington Ave	Sarkisian, Antranik	Donahue, Samuel	3/21	\$345,000
390 Fairview Ave	Alpha Holdings LLC	Powers, Valentina	3/14	\$177,450	61 Kerri Lyn Rd	Robert Bayha Irt and Bayha, Scott J	Granfors, Danielle L and Granfors, Harald V	3/21	\$455,000
390 Fairview Ave	Robertson Re Inc and Robertson, Kenneth W	Powers, Valentina	3/14	\$177,450	64 Haverhill Ave	Grocott, Scott A and Grocott, Donna M	Meas, Sothooun	3/24	\$460,000
40 Acres Of Pine Rd	Kevin B Bates T and Bates, Kevin B	Park, Damon and Park, Erica L	3/26	\$691,850	65 Harrop Ave	Bennet Gloria J Est and McCormick 3rd, Edward R	Kmsa LLC	3/27	\$285,000
40 Wisteria Dr	Robin J Liner T and Liner, Robin J	Remak, William and Remak, Elizabeth	3/12	\$570,000	68 Greene St Lot 3	Melwick Bldrs LLC	Bennett, Michelle	3/21	\$270,000
485 Knotty Oak Rd	Balas 3rd, Leo	Shayer, Amy L and Shayer, Jeffrey D	3/21	\$442,500	68 Greene St Lot 3	Melwick Bldrs LLC	Peter F Derosa Lt and Derosa, Peter F	3/21	\$420,000
50 Leuba Rd	Roberts, Joseph E and Roberts, Shawna L	Gouveia, Carol and Gouveia, Brian	3/28	\$580,000	72 Cathedral Rd	Dalomba, Adrian	Mccreavy, Kerry and Mccreavy, Matthew	3/21	\$447,500
6 Bentley Ln Lot 6	Apponaug Properties Inc	Trask, Edward and Trask, Erin	3/28	\$750,000	72 W Shore Rd Lot 202	Antaya, David and Antaya, Deborah	Mendez, Joel	3/26	\$178,000
63 Hazard St	Smith, Sonny	Whitfield, Jacob R and Bouchard, Katherine J	3/19	\$440,000	74 Arnolds Neck Dr	Gouveia, Carol L	Js Florence Prop LLC	3/26	\$435,000
636 Franklin Rd	Kaschner, Emily K	Robert, Katherine	3/14	\$432,000	80 Uphill Ave	Rookies Re Lc	Dragon, Mark S and Dragon, Lori A	3/24	\$1
7 Rivers Edge Dr Lot 7	Richard P Sullivan T and Sullivan, Patrick J	Brown, Beth M	3/19	\$460,000	835 Sandy Ln Lot 9	Anderson, Michael and Anderson, Leann	Berry-Fahm, Tiffany M	3/25	\$304,900
72 Arnold Rd	Martin, Charles	Chamberlin, Anthony M	3/17	\$318,000	844 Williamsburg Cir Lot 844-84	Mulcahey, Gail E	Gentile, Kellie	3/24	\$330,000
85 Lear Dr	Seyboth, Kyle	Sprague, Amy and Conlan Jr, William	3/21	\$160,000	87 FairhavenAve	Lombardi Dorothy A Est and Lombardi, John	Ketcham, Elissa E and Ketcham, Nicole L	3/21	\$360,000
CRANSTON					WEST GREENWICH				
105 Princess Ave	Cepeda, Dionisio	13 Lillian Ave LLC	3/26	\$395,000	33 Linden Ln	Almeida, Amy M	Dietsch, Brian S and Dietsch, Jada J	3/28	\$630,000
11 Gray Coach Ln Lot 1123	Patiot Builders Inc	Chakuroff, Dillon and Cavanaugh, Mckenzie	3/24	\$390,900	WEST WARWICK				
119 Midwood St	Bilodeau, Nicholas M	Ringswald, Alexis S and Ringswald, Matthew	3/27	\$336,000	Xu, Xun	Tended Seed Bus Dev LLC	Ferland, Alec J	4/1	\$182,000
124 Auburn St	Ward, Kevin P and Durette, Rosemarie	Oles, Alison M	3/28	\$405,000	101 Prospect Hill Ave Lot 2	Robitaille, Jane E and Bank Of Ny Mellon T Co Na	Shm42 Ak LLC	4/1	\$371,000
14 Kearsarge Dr	Johnson, Arleigh and Johnson, Isabel F	Granillo, Abner G	3/21	\$515,000	1013 Main St	Home Equity Loan T and Bk Of Ny Mellon T Co Tr	Title Investment Iii Rigp	3/28	\$225,250
144 Poplar Dr	Bomzer, Harriet	Reddy, Matthew	3/28	\$270,000	15 Hope Ct	Crecelius, Donald W		3/27	\$3,278
162 Grand Ave Lot 162	Durand, Samantha	Devore, August A and Raether, Jonah B	3/28	\$305,000	16 Spring St	Roca C LLC	Barros, Priscila and Barros, Barbosa	3/31	\$429,000
172 Poplar Dr	Lonardo, William	Pelagalli, Cheryl and Baleses, Derek	3/28	\$385,000	18 Pulask iSt	Beach, Denise M	Sharkey, Madison and Percy, Joshua	3/28	\$400,000
176 Curtis St	Gentile, Keith R	Cardillo, Karen E	3/25	\$125,000	28 Silver Cup Cir Lot 28	Silva Cecilia Est and Hart, Steven J	Hartford, Michelle and Silva, Manuel	3/31	\$175,000
23 Koster St	Guerriero, Demetrio and Guerriero, Fioramante	United Builders LLC	3/27	\$350,000	53 Maple Ave	Corrcia, Luis	Foster, Michael S	3/31	\$365,000
257 E View Ave	New Era LLC	Bader, Mohamed	3/28	\$425,000	71 Border St	Voccio, Scott M	Li, Ziwlei	4/1	\$227,000
28 Moorland Ave	Hamzo, Ervin and Hamzo, Kendra	Nye, Gregory	3/27	\$649,900	78 Kristee Cir Lot 78				
31 Friendly Rd	Allen, Sheldon and Allen, Miriam P	Kim, Suzanne and Penzhorn, Nerina	3/21	\$442,000					
44 Red Hawk Dr	Schwartz, David and Schwartz, Elizabeth	Hannah, Eric and Hannah, Katrina A	3/26	\$877,000					
45 Fernwood Dr	Principe, Barbara	Whittingum, Ronald	3/19	\$375,000					
52 Yeoman Ave	Jordan Payne T and Brunhuber, Nicole A	Downing, James J and Downing, Ritamary J	3/28	\$277,500					
52 Yeoman Ave	Payne Doreen A Est and Brunhuber, Nicole A	Downing, James J and Downing, Ritamary J	3/28	\$92,500					
59 Norton Ave	Tavarez, Marcos L and Tavarez, Liza I	Feighery, Andrew and Ferreira, Emily	3/27	\$500,000					
60 Western Promenade	Hernandez, Enmanuel and Hernandez, Yaremi	Marchessault, Lisa	3/21	\$449,000					
64 Brookside Dr	Albino, Kerry B	Rainho, Taylor R and Covington, Maxwell J	3/28	\$450,000					
66 Kimberly Ln	Expo Dev LLC	Trainor, Brian and Trainor, Francine	3/28	\$725,000					
77 Westfield Dr	Gannon, Michael and Gannon, Kathryn	Bilodeau, Nicholas M and Bilodeau, Ashley	3/28	\$460,000					
8 Queen St	Sweet, Dan	Coreas, Iliana N and Damascena, Yara	3/24	\$410,000					
81 Redwood Dr	Tetreault, Christina	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	3/28	\$380,000					
83 Fordson Ave	Quilantan, Isac N and Quilantan, Rocchina	Ehrenberg, James	3/27	\$425,000					
91 Old Spring Rd	Petrarca Jr, Robert S and Petrarca, David M	Giblin, Donald G and Giblin, Christine R	3/28	\$552,000					
EAST GREENWICH									
124 Pine Glen Dr Lot 12	Angelo J Lazarides RET and Lazarides, Angelo J	Page, Patricia M	3/24	\$510,000					
45 Water St Lot 99-3	Sea-Trek Realty	Sea-Trek Realty LLC	3/28	\$600,000					
45 Water St Lot 99-4	Sea-Trek Realty	Sea-Trek Realty LLC	3/28	\$600,000					
6 Bentley Ln Lot 15	Apponaug Prop Inc	Trask, Edward and Trask, Erin	3/28	\$750,000					
85 Balsam Dr	Xu, Xianhua and Lu, Xianghong	Ryan, John R and Ratcliffe, Jessica L	3/28	\$905,000					
EXETER									
597 S County Tri Lot 104	Jade Investment Group LLC	SodamnLUcky LLC	4/1	\$237,000					
76 Whispering Pine Way Lot 76	Lowndes Ft and Obrien, Cynthia A	Grennan, Ellen A and Grennan, Thomas J	3/28	\$649,000					
JOHNSTON									
115 Waterman Ave	Luy, Brett D and Luy, Kelsey M	Silva, Brandon and Fox, Dylan	3/24	\$665,000					
16 Sweet Hill Dr	Crudele, David L	Flaxington, Edward J and Flaxington, Kristen A	3/28	\$493,500					
20 Kensington Way Lot 20	Atwood Ave Condos LLC	Odonnell, Steven G and Odonnell, Holly A	3/28	\$449,900					
22 Kensington Way Lot 22	Atwood Ave Condos LLC	Caliri, Nancy L	3/28	\$449,900					
26 Grove Ave	Schiavone, Eloina	Lonardo, William T and Lonardo, Laura A	3/31	\$405,000					
32 Sprague Cir	Troia, Brenda-Lee	Solares, Henrii S and Sanchez, Selma A	3/28	\$590,000					
57 Wilson Ave	J&s Investments LLC	Detailed Analysis LLC	3/31	\$330,000					
57 Wilson Ave	Nilsson, Erik and Us Bank Na Tr	J&s Investments LLC	3/31	\$330,000					



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Psychic medium brings surreal experience to stage

By ROB DUGUAY



When a person passes away, family members and loved ones handle it in a variety of different ways. They will grieve for a certain amount of time, and then they may see a therapist or to help process the loss. Sometimes, they’ll pursue more unique measures and consult a psychic to see if they can connect with the person who has passed to the afterlife.

Matt Fraser, is one such psychic, who is from Rhode Island. Along with being a psychic medium, he’s also a prolific author and a reality TV star on the show “Meet the Frasers”. He is taking the stage at The Park Theatre in Cranston on April 24.

We had a talk ahead of the event about his childhood and his career before becoming a professional psychic, among other things.

Rob Duguay: Being from Providence, what was your upbringing like, and was there anything in your youth that made you realize that you could be a psychic, like a certain event or interaction?

Matt Fraser: I grew up in a psychic family, but I didn’t always embrace my gift. My mother and grandmother were both psychic, so I was surrounded by the spirit world from a young age. As a child, I would see and hear spirits at night, which was terrifying for me. I remember waking up to voices in my room and seeing figures at the foot of my bed. My grandmother always told me, “Talk to them! They just have messages to deliver”, but as a kid, I wanted nothing to do with it.

It wasn’t just at home, I also had these experiences at school. I attended Stadium Elementary School (in Cranston), and I would see and hear spirits even in the classroom. I would tell the other kids about them, and they would run and tell the teacher. I quickly learned to be quiet about it because nobody else understood what I was experiencing. At the time, I didn’t know that what I was seeing was real, and I certainly didn’t know that one day it would become my life’s work.

It wasn’t until later, as a teenager, that I realized I had a gift that could bring healing to others. That’s when I decided to stop running from it and embrace my calling.

RD: Before becoming a professional psychic, you were trained as a paramedic and a physician assistant while eventually working as an emergency medical technician. The medical field can be stressful, so do you feel that your psychic abilities give you a different perspective on certain situations? If so, how?

MF: Absolutely. When I was working in the medical field, I saw firsthand the thin veil between life and death. There were moments when I could sense a patient’s spirit leaving their body or feel the presence of their loved ones from the other side waiting for them. It gave me a deep understanding that life doesn’t end when we take our last breath. I also believe that my intuition helped me in ways I couldn’t explain at the time, whether it was anticipating a medical emergency before it happened or just knowing what a patient needed in the moment.

Eventually, I realized that my true calling wasn’t in medicine, but in helping people find healing and closure through mediumship.

RD: What are your thoughts on this upcoming show at the Park Theatre?

MF: Rhode Island is home, and performing here is like being with family. Most of the people in my audience have been with me since the very beginning. They’ve watched my journey from the time I first started giving readings to now taking my gift across the country. The Park Theatre is such a special venue, and it holds a lot of history for our community. It’s exciting for me to come back to a place so close to home, where I know the audience personally connects with what I do. I always say that my events feel like a big family gathering, and in Rhode Island, that’s especially true.

RD: What can people who haven’t seen you on stage before expect from the upcoming show?

MF: Expect the unexpected! My shows are an emotional rollercoaster, but in the best way. One moment you’ll be laughing, the next you’ll be crying, and before you know it, you’ll be blown away by the connections being made. I don’t pick the people I read, the spirits do, and they have a way of making sure the messages get to the right person at the right time. It’s not just a show, it’s an experience. Whether you receive a reading or not, you’ll leave with a new understanding of the afterlife and the reassurance that your loved ones are always with you.

RD: After the show, what are your plans for the coming months? Are you working on another book, or do you have any other projects?

MF: I’m always working on something. Right now, I’m traveling across the country with my live events, connecting people with their loved ones in spirit. I’m also working on new classes and workshops to help people develop their own psychic abilities, and yes, I do have another book in the works. I can’t share too much just yet, but it’s something I’m really excited about. My goal is always to help people find comfort, healing, and inspiration, whether it’s through a reading, a live event, or the words I put on the page.

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Sports

Panthers ‘coming to win,’ start 2-0

JHS softball rolls past Burrillville, Woonsocket

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston softball team jumped off to a strong start in Division II as it beat Burrillville 9-3 in the opener then topped Woonsocket 17-0 on Tuesday afternoon.

The Panthers’ bats were efficient in the opener as they put up runs in five of the six innings they went to bat. Bella Boudreau and newcomer Alanna Colon each drove in a pair of runs while Haley Boudreau, Kalyn Foster and Annabella Rondeau also collected RBI.

Haley Boudreau got the win in the circle, pitching seven innings and striking out 15 batters.

The Panther bats exploded against the Villa Novans on Tuesday, as

● WIN to page 22



Johnston's Bella Boudreau (left) and Jadyn Giroux last week in the season opener. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*

Johnston's Jacob Rankin drops a bunt in a recent game. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*



JHS falls to Burrillville in extras

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston baseball team fell to Burrillville 6-5 in eight innings on Monday afternoon.

The Panthers trailed 5-2 heading into the seventh inning but would tie the score to force extras.

Matt Clements drove in a pair of runs to pace the Panthers at the dish while Gio Celani, Aiden Neil and Matt Duquette also knocked in runs.

Anthony Vendetti pitched five innings for Johnston and finished with three strikeouts. Neil took the mound for 2 2/3 innings and finished with four strikeouts.

The Panthers took on St. Ray’s on Tuesday, but the results were not available at press time.

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The Masters, McIlroy deliver epic weekend of golf

The Masters continues to be the world’s best golf event, as Rory McIlroy took home the championship on Sunday in a play-off against Justin Rose to complete an epic tournament.

There was a lot to chew on here and this was the best weekend of golf in several years. McIlroy led by two strokes after 54 holes, but Rose would birdie six of his final eight to force the playoff. McIlroy birdied in the first hole of the playoff to make quick work of Rose as he completed the career grand slam.

First off, for those out there saying the quality of golf was poor are being far too cynical.

Sure, McIlroy, Rose, Scottie Scheffler, Bryson DeChambeau and to a

lesser extent Patrick Reed all had their share of chokes throughout the weekend. They all struggled to grab the lead and maintain it. All had their chances to take control and they all squandered opportunities at critical moments.

For us watching at home, yes, there were times that it looked like these guys were trying to give the tournament away. There were times that they all folded under the pressure. At the end of the day, though, this is the biggest, most historic and competitive golf tournament on Earth. Not only is there a tremendous amount of pressure on these guys, but there is also a razor thin margin for error.

We see it at every professional tournament.



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

One bad shot, one bad hole can make or break a golfer when the stakes are this high. I’m certainly not making the case that this was McIlroy’s career best performance, but the fact that he has essentially been told that he didn’t win the green jacket as Rose and others simply lost it, is a huge disservice to him and the sport.

McIlroy bounced back after a rough go in the final nine holes to birdie in the playoff. If that is not responding to adversity and pressure, then I don’t know what is. After an 11-year major championship drought, McIlroy

got the job done and cemented his place as one of the best to ever do it.

Here’s another way to look at these players struggling throughout the event: Isn’t it fascinating seeing how the human mind works in these moments?

You can obviously point to the missed shots, but what about the simple facial expressions, the body language? Seeing these guys panic in real time was strangely inspiring. Even some of the best athletes on the planet feel the pressure of the moment. They are all human, too.

Would we want a perfect tournament? I know I wouldn’t.

Let’s say all of these top guys aced every hole and there were not any controversial shots or decisions made. What would we have to talk about and evaluate? We need some poor play here and there, we need to see these guys struggle to be engaged. It’d be a dull weekend if the guys made every shot look easy.

That said, I stand by that we should be remembering the 2025 Masters as one of the most compelling tournaments of all time. Not

only did it require a play-off to complete, but there were truly three, four guys that had a chance to get it done entering the final round on Sunday. We saw some incredible holes, some wow moments, but also had the privilege of seeing some of the best golfers in the world navigate the incredible pressure and scrutiny of the Masters.

As for McIlroy, although I do not care much for the person he is off the course, I was happy to see him return to the mountain top after a decade away.

It seems like a lifetime ago at this point, but when he was younger, there was a narrative that he would never win the big one. He was one of the most talented risers in the world, but it took him a few tries to bring home his first major. He fell victim to one of the biggest collapses in the history of the sport in the 2011 Masters, as he shot eight-over in the final round to lose the lead. He bounced back to get his first major win months later when he won the US Open.

He then won the PGA Championship in 2012 and later won the PGA and Open Championship

in 2014, catapulting him to super stardom and fulfilling the expectations that he was the next big thing in golf. It looked like he would be on a trajectory that’d possible rival Tiger Woods, as he had four majors at just 24 years old. The sky was the limit.

Just like that, though, the winning came to a halt.

He dealt with some of the typical athletic hurdles. Injuries, personal problems, slumps. He was competitive in the past decade, it’s not like he fell off the face of the earth, but he took a back-seat to a handful of other young rising stars.

So, to see him come-back and reinsert himself as one of the top golfers in the world was cool to see. As great as underdog stories are, there is something to be said for watching great athletes live up to their potential. McIlroy was supposed to go down as one of the best to ever do it, and this past weekend may be enough for him to make that claim. One or two more majors wins would absolutely be enough and at 35 years old, he has another decade-plus of good golf left in him.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Dark blacks
7. Construct a wall to confine
13. Most inappropriate
14. A type of board
16. Sacred Hindu syllable
17. Flatterer
19. The Granite State
20. Tears down
22. China's Chairman
23. Former Houston footballer
25. Periods of time
26. Expressed pleasure
28. World alliance
29. A Brit's mother
30. Television network
31. Brother or sister
33. Type of spirit
34. ___ Ladd, actor
36. A medium oversees it
38. One time province of British India
40. Wrong

CLUES DOWN
1. Winged nut
2. It cools a home
3. Kisses (French)
4. Oxford political economist
5. Keyboard key
6. Leaf pores
7. Agrees with publicly
8. Not around
9. Czech city
10. Muscle cell protein
11. Greek letter
12. Movements
13. Ned __, composer
15. Popular series Game of __
18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
21. Helper
24. Gift
26. Up in the air (abbr.)
27. Treat without respect
30. Trims
32. Slang for lovely

CLUES DOWN
35. City of Angels hoopster (abbr.)
37. Guitarists' tool
38. Island nation
39. Delivered in installments
42. A baglike structure
43. Cooking vessel
46. Gets in front of
47. Wounded by scratching
49. More breathable
50. Medical dressings
52. Indiana hoopster
54. Married Marilyn
55. An ancient Assyrian city
57. Congressmen (abbr.)
59. Approves food
62. Ventura's first name
63. Between northeast and east
66. Atomic #71
68. Email designation



Haley Boudreau deals last week against Burrillville.

● WIN from page 21

Foster drove in five runs and Bella Boudreau four. Haley Boudreau also knocked in three runs and Mariah Fluery two.

Haley Boudreau got the win and improved to 2-0, pitching a hitless three innings and striking out six batters.

It is championship or bust for the Panthers this season as they return much of their lineup from last year’s team that was upset by West Warwick in the Division II playoffs as a No. 1 seed. Haley Boudreau is arguably the top arm in the division while Bella Boudreau is coming off a breakout season at the plate. Foster will also be a key returner while Colon takes over for Arianna Velasquez at shortstop after transferring to JHS from Woonsocket.

“We really want to win this year considering we should have won last year, beating the runner up (Westerly) and champion (Ponaganset). We are coming to win this year,” said Haley Boudreau,

who believes the team’s focus and respect for the opposition will be the key factors in determining how far it goes. “Our attitudes. When we don’t have good attitudes we play horribly. We can’t take any team lightly, any team can come back and beat us.”

Haley Boudreau is also plenty confident in the circle as a junior.

“I have a lot more confidence than I had in past years. I know what to throw against which teams and I’m coming into games more prepared. I’m ready,” said Haley Boudreau.

Colon quickly became a leader on the basketball team in the winter and is ready to make her presence felt on the diamond. Although the Panthers are contenders, they will still be relying on a handful of underclassmen to step up.

“They just need to fill their roles and look up to the leaders. They need to get come to practice every day and learn,” said Colon. “(I hope to) just be that extra piece to help us go on the run we want.”

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Bad news for bluefin tuna, closure delays and overfishing in 2024

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the SunRise

The news for bluefin tuna just got worse. NOAA Fisheries announced Monday, April 14, 2025 landings for the 2024 fishing year and it relates that landings were 138.3 mt (9 percent) higher than the quota. Recreational landings alone were 52 percent above quota.

This bad news was preceded last month with a bluefin tuna fishery closure delay, allowing the fishery to be overfished without the ability to close it due to the Trump administration’s regulation executive order that relates for every new regulation, 10 regulations have to come off the books.

Fishing was excepted from a similar executive order in the first Trump Administration. We need this exception today to manage fisheries to sustainable levels. See a story on this executive order from Pt. Judith at USA Today.

Landings for 2024, including estimated dead discards (using the 2023 dead discard estimate as a proxy), totaled 1,613.5 mt, which is 138.3 mt (9%) higher than the 2024 U.S. adjusted quota of 1,475.2 mt. As shown in the posted landings table, the General, Harpoon, and Angling category quotas were exceeded by 4%, 8%, and 52%, respectively. Recreational landings were particularly high late in 2024. This is the first time in more than 20 years that the U.S. adjusted quota has been exceeded.

Landings of school-size bluefin tuna (measuring 27-47 inches curved fork length) also exceeded the internationally-agreed limit in 2024. Because landings and dead discards exceeded the adjusted quota for 2024, there is no carryover of underharvest available for use in 2025.

In an advisory this week NOAA Fisheries related it is considering options for domestic management of the 2025 Atlantic bluefin tuna quota to pay back the 2024 overharvest along with managing category quotas in 2025. The actions that NOAA Fisheries may consider for quota management include commercial and recreational retention limit adjustments; quota adjustments or transfers; and/or closures. NOAA Fisheries plans to discuss bluefin tuna quota matters at the HMS Advisory Panel meeting, May 6-8, 2025, including an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting day.

Opening Day big success

Rhode Island and Massachusetts have stocked waterways with a variety of trout for the spring trout season. These initiatives provide excellent fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages and skill levels.

Opening Day of trout season in Rhode Island was this past Saturday, April 12. The cold, windy and snowy morning deterred a few anglers but those that braved the cold caught trout.

Gary Vandemoortele of Smithfield, who fished Spring Grove Pond, Chepachet, on opening day, said, “The trout were good size this year. We arrived a bit later in the morning and the anglers fishing next to us had already caught five nice trout. Shortly after I caught a nice 14-inch rainbow trout.”

Kenneth “Casey” Fernstrom, Senior Biologist and manager of the four trout hatcheries the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) have in Rhode Island said, “We are stocking with larger fish this year, most are between 14” and 18”, however, the 20 plus inch fish are more abundant, particularly the golden trout we stocked this year.”

Anglers who catch a golden rainbow trout on Opening Day and through May 6 will be eligible to receive a golden trout pin. Simply take a picture and email it to dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov for verification. Submissions must be received no later than Monday, May 5, 2025.

Last week, The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) officially began its annual spring trout stocking program, bringing hundreds of thousands of healthy, hatchery-raised trout to state waterways. MassWildlife raises brook, brown,



Gary Vandemoortele with a 14-inch rainbow trout caught at Spring Gove Pond, Chepachet on a cold and snowing Opening Day Saturday. Submitted photos

rainbow, and tiger trout. The fish are raised at hatcheries in Sandwich, Palmer, Belchertown, Sunderland, and Montague. Over 260 Massachusetts cities and towns are scheduled to receive trout this spring. Anglers are encouraged to visit MassWildlife’s website at mass.gov/trout to find daily stocking updates and locations.

“The trout stocking program is a key part of MassWildlife’s mission to enhance recreational fishing and connect people to nature,” said Todd Richards, MassWildlife Assistant Director of Fisheries.

This year’s fish are bigger and better than ever in Massachusetts too. While the quantity of stocked trout (measured in total pounds) has remained about the same for the last decade, MassWildlife has been steadily producing larger trout by adjusting hatchery growing techniques. Just 10 years ago, less than 60% of stocked trout were over 12 inches—now, more than 80% measure over a foot.

For complete regulations, a list of stocked ponds, and a copy of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations and Guide visit Fish & Wildlife | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass fishing in salt ponds, rivers and waterways continues to be very good with anglers catching holdover striped bass to 34 inches. The exponential increase in the number and size (to 34 inches) of holdover striped bass (bass that decided to stay in our waters rather than migrate south) is a matter of concern.

Sure, it is great to catch these bass, however, one wonders where these fish are spawning, how productive their spawn will be in the future, and how far north will this holdover anomaly occur in the future. It points out the need for research to understand this climate impact.

On any given day fish are being caught in the Pawcatuck River, Westerly; Narrow River, Narragansett; coastal ponds in South County; and in estuaries on Cape Cod. Last week Ryan Collins of My Fishing Cape Cod - your source for Cape Cod fishing reports & more, said, “What makes these estuaries particularly valuable to holdover stripers is their temperature fluctuation. On this April night, the water temperature was easily 10-15 degrees warmer than the adjacent ocean – creating a comfortable haven for fish transitioning from winter’s dormancy to spring’s activity.”

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Sainristil continues to shine for RIC

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished third in both the shot (11.79m) and the hammer (47.30) and placed fifth in the discus (36.55m) as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team competed at Southern New Hampshire's Ed Daniels Invitational on Monday. Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence) won the 100m (12.34) and the 200m (25.05)

The Anchorwomen finished fourth (18 teams) with a team score of 59.0. Saint Anslem finished first with a team score of 152.5.

The invitational hosted teams from Divisions I, II and III.

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) won the 1,500m (4:49.61) and finished third in the 800m (2:22.30). Junior Bethanie Jean-Philippe (Cranston) finished fifth in the javelin (34.90m).

Freshman Taryn Reed (Pascoag) finished seventh in the hammer (41.68m). Freshman Funmilayo Mclin (Providence) finished eighth in the hammer (40.31m).

Freshman Grace Lane (North Smithfield) finished ninth in the 800m (2:31.98).

Junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield) finished 10th in the 200m (26.79) and 12th in the 100m (13.63). Junior Milana Melvin (Johnston) finished 13th in the discus (24.97m), 14th in the hammer (34.11m) and 15th in the shot (9.26m).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at Eastern Connecticut's Bonnie Edmondson Classic on Friday, April 18.

RIC men shine at Ed Daniels Invitational

Freshman Owen Schenck (Warren) won the 800m (1:56.48) as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team competed at Southern New Hampshire's Ed Daniels Invitational on Monday.

Rhode Island College finished third (13 teams) with a team score of 96.0. UMass Lowell won the invitational with a team score of 146.0.

Junior Loudon Chupas (Colchester, Conn.) won the high jump (1.98m) and finished third in the javelin (55.83m). Junior Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished second in the hammer (52.00m).

Senior Garrett Jones (Beacon Falls, Conn.) finished second in the triple jump (13.43m), eighth in the long jump (6.42m) and 44th in the 100m preliminaries (11.96). Freshman Jack McEntee (Foster) finished second in the 400m hurdles (56.47) and seventh in the 110m hurdles (16.90).

Sophomore Gabriel Dosunmu (Providence) finished third in the long jump (6.66m), 19th in the 200m (23.27) and 37th in the 100m preliminaries (11.71). Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown) finished third in the 3,000m steeplechase (10:46.03) and 10th in the 800m (2:03.06).

Junior Brandon Mota (West Warwick) finished fourth in both the discus (42.61m) and the hammer (50.38m). Sophomore Enrique Edjang (Providence) finished fifth in the hammer (49.38m) and 19th in the javelin (28.27).

Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield) finished fifth in the high jump (1.83m), 13th in the 400m (52.10) and 26th in the 200m (23.54). Freshman Joshua Dabanka (Providence) finished fifth in both the long jump (6.55m) and the triple jump (12.36m) and 34th in the 200m (23.83).

Sophomore Younton Doe (Pawtucket) finished eighth in the 200m (22.70) and 11th in the 400m (51.57). Sophomore Trevor Morgan (Smithfield) finished ninth in the hammer (44.58m) and 11th in the discus (34.17m).

Junior Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 10th in the 200m (22.86), 11th in the long jump (5.97m) and 23rd in the 100m preliminaries (11.40). Junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished 12th in the 200m (22.90) and 18th in the 100m preliminaries (11.26).

Freshman Steve Rodrigues (Burrillville) finished 15th in the 200m (23.11) and 27th in the 100m preliminaries (11.50). Sophomore Giovanni Monteiro (North Providence) finished 15th in the 400m (52.16).

Freshman Ravi Kapadia (Lincoln) finished 15th in the hammer (35.30m). Freshman Jamarre Parrot (Warwick) finished 16th in the 200m (23.19) and 24th in the 100m preliminaries.

Sophomore Antonello Lucchetti (Cranston) finished 22nd in the 200m (23.48) and 41st in the 100m preliminaries (11.88).

Crudale helps RIC softball grab win

Fifth-year third baseman Victoria Young (Sterling, Conn.) went a com-

bined 5-for-8 with a pair of RBI as Rhode Island College fell in the first game of a doubleheader vs. UMass Boston.

The first game would remain scoreless until UMass Boston broke the game wide open with a four-run fifth inning due to a pair of singles and an error by the Anchorwomen.

The hosts would score one more in the bottom of the sixth as another RBI single gave the Beacons a cushion heading into the final inning up.

The Anchorwomen did not go away quietly as UMB walked the bases loaded for sophomore left fielder Melanie Earley (Lumberton, N.J.), who singled in a run. Young then singled through the left side for another RIC run before the hosts closed the door.

Senior pitcher Abby Kidd (Granby, Conn.) picked up the loss (6-4).

RIC went up in the second game, 2-0, in the first as senior shortstop Amanda Conti (Lincoln) knocked in one with an RBI single and Young brought in another with an RBI fielder's choice. The visitors scored again in the second frame as junior center fielder Sophia Crudale (Cranston) notched an RBI ground out.

RBI from both Simmons and Crudale in the fourth inning staked the visitors to a 5-0 advantage.

The Beacons posted a three-run bottom of the fourth and tied the game at five with two runs in the sixth inning. The game was halted in the bottom of the eighth with a Beacon aboard at first due to darkness.



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