

JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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Chance encounter gets him half a million

By JOY FOX
Beacon Media Publisher

He now believes the adage is true: You can't win if you don't play.

Last Thursday, a Johnston resident was minding his own business at the Field House Pub in East Providence when the stranger next to him asked if he knew how to play Keno.

The man from Johnston, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to show the stranger how the game works. He ran his own set of numbers as a demonstration and went on with his night.

An hour later, on his way out the door, he scanned the ticket. A pub employee said no amount was shown but instead a message read "claim at the lottery."

During a phone interview with the SunRise on Friday, he noted that he doesn't gamble or regularly play the lottery.

Curious to know how much he won, he downloaded the Rhode Island Lottery mobile app to scan the ticket and discovered he had won \$500,010. About 35,000 users logged onto the app in the past month to check on winnings.

According to a state lottery spokesperson, this is the highest possible prize to win with Keno Overtime and this is the biggest Keno win since 2018. The game started in 1992 with the chance to win up to \$100,000. Keno Plus started in 2001 with the chance to win up to \$1 million.

The Johnston man wagered one dollar on a 10-spot Keno game and added the Plus and Overtime features for an additional one dollar each. He matched 0 numbers in the base game to win \$10, thanks to the 2X Keno Plus multiplier. His big win came in the Overtime drawing, where he matched 8 out of his 10 numbers to win the maximum Keno Overtime prize of \$500,000.

"You always think these games are rigged," he said, noting that the whirlwind experience has been surreal.

● KENO to page 4

Family fun

The senior center was hopping with activity on Saturday thanks to a visit from the Easter Bunny. The annual event, organized by Johnston Recreation Department, included arts and crafts and snacks for families. *More photos on page 7.*



Caitlin, age 6, of Johnston was waiting patiently for her friends to arrive to visit the Easter Bunny together. "I love the Easter Bunny," she said while holding her favorite stuffed animals. At left: Caitlin gave the Easter Bunny a high-five as her friend, Emma, 6, watched. *Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox*



JLL celebrates Opening Day

Johnston Little League celebrated its Opening Day parade and ceremony at War Memorial Park last Friday after the original date was postponed due to weather. Joining the fun were players, families and local dignitaries, including Mayor Joseph Polisena, who tossed the first pitch. Pictured is the Red Sox team carrying its banner during the parade. For full coverage, turn to sports on page 13. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*

RATS!

Outsmarting rodents requires teamwork, from residents to rodent control officers

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

They're smart. They're stealthy. And they are always looking for a new place to call home.

These traits make rats a challenging pest to control, and spring is a time when most homeowners will find signs that the resourceful rodents might take a liking to their property.

In Warwick, Cranston and Johnston, municipal rodent control officers are reporting that it is a busy season and as they work with property owners to keep rats at bay in both residential and commercial areas.

"It's year-round work, but we do get a lot of calls particularly this time of year," said David Laquale, rodent control officer for the City of Cranston.

Rats have inhabited the earth for more than 50 million years, but it's the clash between their evolutionary determination to survive and humans' equally strong determination to get rid of them that causes problems.

And if people in suburban communities think they're seeing more rats in re-

cent years than in the past, it's not their imaginations.

According to scientists, cities and suburbs are seeing more rats (most often brown rats also known as the Norway rat) due to a couple of factors. Scientific studies, including some cited in a 2024 NPR article note that warmer temperatures and even slightly shorter winters give rats more time to leave their burrows and tunnels to scour for food around houses and garages, and the more moderate temperatures also create better conditions for breeding.

Another key factor has been the pandemic. According to Guardian Pest Control, a Rhode Island company with 40 years of experience expelling rats and other pests, Covid changed our landscape forever by creating circumstances that drove rats into residential and suburban areas.

Cameron Correa, office manager for the East Providence-based company, explained that when restaurants closed during the pandemic, commercial dumpsters prevalent in urban areas sat empty so the rodents expanded their territories.

● RATS to page 16

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Big prizes in Cranston, Warwick remain unclaimed

According to the Rhode Island Lottery, two large sum prizes remain unclaimed as of the Herald’s deadline on Tuesday.

The first is a \$50,000 winning Powerball® ticket from April 16, 2025, drawing. It was purchased at Marty’s Liquors, 945 Namquid Dr., Warwick.

The second is a winning Lucky for Life ticket from April 19, 2025. It was purchased at Atwood Wine & Spirits, 426 Atwood Ave., Cranston. The ticket matched all five numbers drawn, but not the Lucky Ball, secur-

ing the game’s second-highest prize. The winning ticket, which is worth \$25,000 a year for life, has yet to be claimed.

Lucky for Life drawings take place nightly at 10:38 p.m. and can be viewed at rilot.com/luckyforlife. Tickets are available daily at Lottery retailers until 9:30 p.m.

The Rhode Island Lottery encourages all players to check their tickets and verify winning numbers on the Lottery’s website or mobile app.

DMV warns of fraudulent text message scam

The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (RI DMV) is warning residents about a widespread text message scam known as “smishing,” which falsely claims recipients have unpaid tolls and must make an immediate payment to avoid RI DMV restrictions.

Customers have reported receiving messages referencing E-ZPass and DMV restrictions on their license, with a link to a fraudulent website. These messages are not legitimate and should be ignored. Clicking any links may expose individuals to identity theft, malware, or financial fraud.

“Scammers are using fear tactics to trick people into providing per-

sonal and financial information,” said DMV Administrator Walter R. Craddock. “The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority and the RI DMV do not send text messages demanding payment for tolls or concerning your DMV records and driving privileges,” explained Craddock. “We urge all Rhode Islanders to stay vigilant and verify their toll balances and driving privileges through official sources only.”

How to Protect Yourself from Smishing Scams:

- Do not click on any links in unexpected or suspicious text messages.
- Be aware that official toll in-

voices and DMV related information is sent via mail, not text messages.

- Verify your E-ZPass account only through www.ezpassritba.com.
- Report fraudulent messages to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov) or forward them to 7726 (SPAM) to notify your mobile provider.

Rhode Island residents who have concerns about their DMV records should utilize our Online DMV Customer Portal to view license and registration status, expiration dates, and any blocks or suspensions.

For more Division of Motor Vehicles information, please visit www.dmv.ri.gov.

Police Log

DUI

On March 30 at approximately 10:30 p.m., Patrolman Michael Strain was traveling east bound on Hartford Avenue when he observed a vehicle with severe front-end damage and all airbags deploy traveling west bound on Hartford Avenue. At that point, he activated his emergency lights and conducted a motor vehicle traffic stop at the intersection of Anderson Road and Hartford Avenue.

Strain spoke with the operator, later identified as Devon Seekins, who could not account for how his vehicle sustained the damage. While speaking with Seekins, he observed moderate blood shot eyes, and a moderate odor of alcohol emitting from his breath. At that point, he asked Seekins to step out of his vehicle, a grey Nissan Frontier to continue the investigation.

When Seekins stepped out of the vehicle, he struggled to keep his balance and walk normally. Due to the damage sustained to the vehicle, Johnston Fire Department was called to evaluate Seekins, to which he signed a refusal.

Seekins refused to take a field sobriety test. At that point, Seekins was placed in hand restraints. Seekins was then taken back to Johnston Police Department Headquarters for processing.

While at the station, Seekins refused another breath test. Seekins was charged with DUI unknown BAC 1st Offense and issued Johnston Police Citation for laned roadway violation and refusal to submit to a chemical test with a Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal court date on April 10, 2025.

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Local clergy remember Francis as advocate

One recalls emceeing for pontiff in Rome 10 years ago

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media staff writer

Holy Week ended on a deeply somber note with the passing of Pope Francis, who died at 88 due to heart failure.

In the days since, local Catholic leaders have noted his humility and unflagging efforts to advocate for and reach out to people of diverse backgrounds. And one shared a memory of a personal encounter with the pope that left him deeply impressed.

The Rev. Nathan Ricci, who grew up in Warwick and graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School, is now vice chancellor of the Diocese of Providence. He met Francis in 2015 when the pope came to visit the North American College in Rome, where Ricci was studying as a seminarian.

During the pope’s visit, Ricci was tasked with serving as the emcee for the pontiff, which was a daunting and humbling opportunity, he said.

Ricci said that after Mass, the pope was joyful and filled with his “characteristic humor,” greeting everyone who had served alongside him.

According to Ricci, Francis said to him, “Tu hai fatto bene,” meaning, “you did a good job.” Awestruck in that moment, Ricci thanked him and wished him a good lunch, to which Ricci said the pope smiled, put a thumb up and wished him a good lunch, too.

“I will never forget the kindness he showed each of us, and the humility and reverence with which he celebrated Holy Mass,” Ricci said. “He challenged us priests and seminarians to focus on Christ before ourselves, and he consistently reminded us to seek out in the



The Rev. Nathan Ricci, who grew up in Warwick and graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School, with Pope Francis in 2015 when the pontiff came to visit the North American College in Rome, where Ricci was studying as a seminarian. *Courtesy of The Rev. Nathan Ricci*

poor and marginalized the face of Christ.”

In Cranston, several Catholic leaders expressed sorrow at the pontiff’s passing and support for their parishioners.

At St. Paul Church in Edgewood, Father Thomas Woodhouse said he was

surprised and yet at the same time he wasn’t. He said he was aware that Francis’ health had been deteriorating, but because of his presence at Easter, his passing seemed discordant.

Father Woodhouse said he hung a portrait of Francis in the church and has

begun the Novendiales — the traditional nine-day period of mourning for a deceased pope, in accordance with the message he received from the Diocese.

Monsignor Albert Kenney, who led Holy Mass for Easter Monday at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul and is the diocesan administrator, said Pope Francis was a shining and powerful example of the mercy of God who embraced people of all backgrounds, the poor and the marginalized.

The Diocese of Providence announced that, as is customary, the bells at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul would “toll 88 times for each year of the Holy Father’s life” beginning Monday at 11:30 a.m.

Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, bishop-designate of Providence, described Francis as caring and familiar.

“With his warm smile and familiar pastoral style, Pope Francis made us all feel part of a world-wide parish,” Lewandowski said. “As a caring pastor, he sought to be close to his flock, praying with us and for us, sharing the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, with us even to the end.”

Father Roger Durand at St. Patrick Catholic Church on Cranston Street described Francis as a good man who will be well remembered.

“We hope that God gives him a wonderful and favorable judgment,” Durand said. “And we hope that the church entrusts [the papacy] to someone of a similar mind. That would be the best outcome.”

The Vatican has scheduled the pope’s funeral for this Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m. local time (4 a.m. ET) at Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

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Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio died early Monday morning at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital. He was 76. *Michael Salerno/Rhode Island Current*

R.I. Senate President Dominick Ruggerio dies at 76

Lawmakers remember 'Donny' for shrewd but thoughtful decision-making

By NANCY LAVIN
Rhode Island Current

center for pneumonia.

‘End of an era’

Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, the “dean” of the chamber who married an uncanny listening ability with shrewd negotiation strategy, died early Monday morning from his third battle with cancer, according to a statement from his office. He was 76.

“It is with deepest sorrow that we announce the passing of Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio earlier this morning,” the statement said. “We are so grateful for the love and support of his friends and colleagues. Throughout his illness, Donny fought valiantly, just as he always had for his constituents and the residents of Rhode Island.”

Illness, including hospitalizations, forced Ruggerio to miss much of the 2024 and 2025 legislative sessions. But the North Providence Democrat’s 44-year political career left a deep and lasting imprint on the state.

A longtime administrator for the Laborers’ International Union of North America representing construction workers, Ruggerio was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980. He served two terms before he successfully ran for the Senate, where he represented District 4, spanning northern Providence and North Providence, for the next four decades.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi referred to Ruggerio’s death as the “end of an era.”

“I had enormous respect and admiration for his dedication and leadership,” Shekarchi, a Warwick Democrat, said in a statement Monday. “Even through his illness, we communicated on nearly a daily basis about the important issues facing our state. Donny devoted his life to the people of Rhode Island, which will always be his legacy.”

Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz, a North Smithfield Republican, described their working relationship as “based on mutual respect.”

“I appreciate that President Ruggerio’s door was open to me and found him to honor his promises,” de la Cruz said in a statement Monday. “His leadership changed the landscape of our state and we mourn his loss.”

A lifelong North Providence resident, Ruggerio graduated from LaSalle Academy in 1966. He attended Bryant College, but earned a bachelor’s degree in 1974 from Providence College.

He served on the board of the Wanskuck Library and as a member of the Sons of Italy, Loggia Vittoria, and the DaVinci Center Development Committee.

Ruggerio was the father of two children, Charles and Amanda, with his ex-wife, Cynthia, and a grandfather to Ava, Mia, Natalie and Jameson. He is also survived by his sister, Lisa Aceto.

Ruggerio was tapped as majority whip in 2003. He ascended to Senate majority leader in 2010, and in 2017 was unanimously elected Senate president after President Teresa Paiva Weed suddenly resigned.

The North Providence Democrat was hospitalized at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital last week for a bad reaction to his treatment – returning less than five weeks after he was released from the same hospital and rehabilitation

Nancy Lavin is senior reporter covering state politics, energy and environmental issues for the Rhode Island Current. RI Current is part of [States Newsroom](#), the nation’s largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

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● KENO from page 1

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime, actually more like once-in-a-billion-lifetimes experience.”

When he went to claim his winnings at the Rhode Island Lottery offices in Cranston, he overheard the team wondering “if this was the one.”

“I was expecting balloons to fall from the ceiling,” he said with a laugh.

Asked what he plans to do with the money, he talked about home repairs and his family. He says during COVID a contractor left his home in disrepair and then he faced a cancer diagnosis.

“It’s time to finish the house repairs and help my kids,” he said.

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Winning ticket from Field House Pub in East Providence. Photo submitted by the RI Lottery

Opinion

EDITORIAL

We can't afford not to provide Pre-K

While there are many people in power who proclaim that children are our future, and that we should do everything we can to support their becoming lifelong learners, the sad truth is that very rarely is that mantra carried out as a spending priority in our country.

Even after removing the outlier data caused by complications from years disrupted by Covid – which caused a massive dip in the total percentage of American children attending a preschool program of any kind – it remains a coin flip as to whether a child will be able to attend a Pre-K program, whether that is due to the cost of such a program or the lack of programming where they live.

This is despite consensus research clearly demonstrating that children who attend Pre-K are set up to become more successful learners, earners and overall high-functioning members of society in every different metric you can imagine.

The benefits go beyond being ready for traditional kindergarten and grade school, extending throughout their adolescent and teen years and into adulthood, with those who went through Pre-K going on to build more lucrative careers, avoid incarceration and establish more generational wealth than their peers who did not experience Pre-K.

It doesn't take a team of researchers to understand why. Pre-K introduces children to the process of learning when they are at their most malleable, their brains primed to soak up as much information as can be directed their way. Children in Pre-K programs are exposed constantly to other children and social situations. They face and overcome challenges and receive feedback, helping to develop and define the intellectual and interpersonal muscles that will serve them well all their lives.

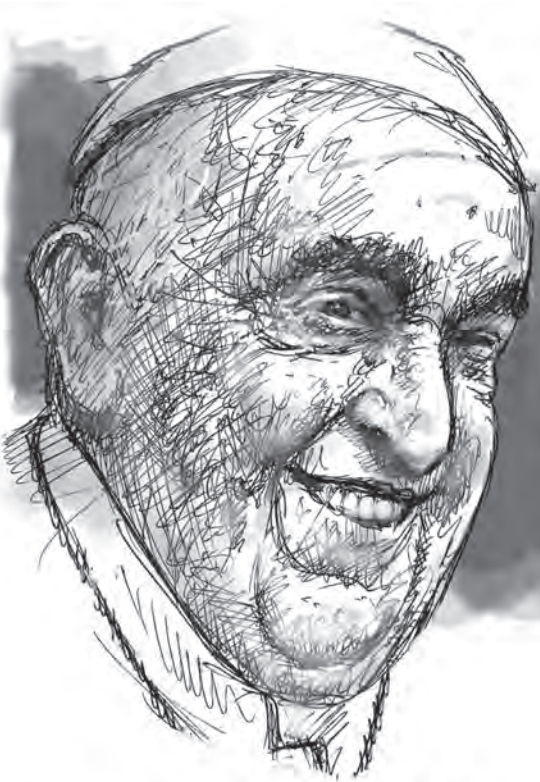
This is why we are bullish on a bill that would make strides toward universal Pre-K in Rhode Island. Sponsored by the chairs of the Education Committees in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate, the goal proposed is a lofty challenge to reach 70% Pre-K inclusion in the state through programming options and funding sources.

There's no disagreement – from educational advocates in Cranston, Warwick, Johnston or anywhere, really – that expanding access to Pre-K is a good idea. But as always with things that are universally seen as a good idea, funding becomes the elephant in the room.

We would argue that in the case of Pre-K, delaying this investment – and it is a smart investment – would only serve to delay Rhode Island's potential for years and decades to come, and in the meantime continue the offering of too many lackluster outcomes to generations of children who are deprived of a better early educational experience – not to mention the adults who stand to benefit from having more affordable and enriching places to send their young children so they, as parents, can better work and thrive in an increasingly challenging economy.

That economy may never present ideal circumstances for introducing universal Pre-K. Even in the best of times, it would not be cheap. Lifting people's prospects seldom is. But imagine the dividends it could pay.

That said, proponents of this legislation would be wise to install as much sustainability as possible in its financing. As we have seen countless times in the assembling of the state budget, when there is a true will, there is a way. It seems the real challenge here will be to find the right way to put this good idea to work with the viability and durability it will need to succeed.



Pope Francis 1936 - 2025



Senate President
Dominick Ruggerio
1948 - 2025

LETTERS

When disaster strikes, Red Cross is here

To the Editor:

National Volunteer Week is April 20-26 and the American Red Cross in Rhode Island celebrates the selfless volunteers whose unwavering support make it possible for us to assist people in need every day.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of the Red Cross, representing more than 90% of our national workforce, and their compassion helps to ensure that people are not alone during the most challenging times of their lives.

Here in Johnston, 17 Red Cross volunteers educate residents on disaster preparedness, assist veterans and military families and provide shelter and support after emergencies of all sizes – including multiple home fires since the start of the year. Among them are volunteers like Brian Butterworth, who serves on our Disaster Action Team.

Today, volunteers are more critical than ever as the American Red Cross responds to a new major disaster about every two weeks. These

massive events, such as storms and wildfires, are on top of the home fires that occur multiple times every day across the country.

Join us in thanking all the volunteers who serve our community – and consider putting on a red vest and becoming part of our team. Visit redcross.org/volunteer to get started today.

Beth Healey
American Red Cross
Rhode Island

Why should schools raise children?

To the Editor:

Democratic state Senator Hanna Gallo has a progressive notion of parenthood that would make Karl Marx proud. As reported by Tim Forsberg, Gallo, like Marx, thinks the government should be responsible for raising our children. (“Lawmakers push for universal Pre-K in RI,” April 17.)

Senator Gallo's goal is to get young children out of the home and into a state-managed Pre-K program. She wants parents to return to the workplace and leave the child-rearing to somebody else. Gallo discounts, as did Karl Marx, the essential role played by parents in nurturing their children.

As for the cost of this program, which would greatly expand the reach of government, Gallo offered what Forsberg describes as a “pragmatic response.” I call it pie in the sky.

According to Gallo, “We may spend money early, but we'll save money in the end.” But how does she know that? Where's the proof? We know from experience that the cost of government programs always balloons beyond what was initially projected.

Senator Gallo goes on to state that “We shouldn't dictate where parents send their kids.” On that point, I fully agree with her. The schools that children attend

shouldn't be determined by their zip code.

That is why I endorse universal school vouchers, which would give all parents the means to choose the best school for their kids. School choice would empower parents instead of the government.

The question is, if Senator Gallo means what she says, why doesn't she support universal school vouchers instead of proposing another big government boondoggle like the Prekindergarten Education Act? I'd like to hear her response.

A.H. Liddle
Warwick

What's on your mind?

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.

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John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

Publisher Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com	Advertising Representatives Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com
Editor Tim Forsberg - TimF@BeaconMediaRI.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
Reporters Barbara Polichetti - BarbaraP@beaconmediari.com Rosegalie Cineus - RosegalieC@beaconmediari.com	Bookkeeping & Circulation Leslie Paz Andujar
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Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
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ANIMAL

TALK

By Karen Kalunian

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Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Harley

Harley is one of those dogs whose eyes melt your heart! Harley is just two years old and is in search of a loving home that will spoil her like the princess she is! Her dream home is one where she will be your one and only girl, she will want all of your attention to herself! If you have a fenced in yard that would make her dream come true, she loves to run & play! Once she gets her playtime in this sweet girl will love to be by your side! If you have yummy treats Harley will become your bestie for sure! If you'd like more information please contact the rescue and find out how you can meet Harley and have her be the sunshine of your life! Please contact Almost Home Rescue via their website <http://www.almosthomeri.org> or email support@almosthomeri.org

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com

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GUEST OPINION

Celebrating RI’s small businesses, backbone of our economy

By NINA PANDE

As we celebrate National Small Business Week, we are reminded of the incredible role small businesses play in shaping Rhode Island’s economic and cultural landscape. This week is not only a time to honor this year’s Small Business Administration award winners, but a moment to recognize and appreciate the thousands of small business owners across our state who open their doors every day with grit, purpose and pride.

At Skills for Rhode Island’s Future, we are proud to serve as a co-sponsor for this year’s National Small Business Week in partnership with the SBA. Our work with small businesses throughout Rhode Island has given us a front-row seat to the resilience, creativity and drive that define this community. We have witnessed tremendous growth across industries – growth made possible by bold entrepreneurs, dedicated public servants and a shared commitment to inclusive economic development.

In collaboration with local and state government partners, we have seen a clear focus emerge: cultivating new businesses, strengthening those already rooted in our communities and growing enterprises that can power future economic prosperity. The energy and spirit behind this movement are exactly what inspired the launch of the 2025 Small Business Summit –

designed to support the professional development of our small business owners and help them keep pace with the evolving demands of the local, state, national and global economy.

Today’s small businesses must do more than adapt – they must anticipate. With technology driving nearly every facet of economic life, we believe Rhode Island small businesses are well-positioned to expand their reach far beyond our borders. Whether in food, arts, tech or services, a business can be headquartered here in Rhode Island and serve a global customer base with the right support, tools and vision.

Ongoing investments in technical assistance, access to capital and digital transformation will be essential to this growth. If we continue to invest in building the capacity of our small businesses – particularly those in historically underserved communities – we will unlock economic opportunity not just for individual entrepreneurs, but for entire neighborhoods and regions.

As we celebrate this year’s National Small Business Week, let us recommit to the partnerships and policies that make it possible for small businesses to not only survive but thrive. Rhode Island’s future depends on it.

Nina Pande is executive director of Skills for Rhode Island’s Future.

Legal Notices

Town of Johnston

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **May 12th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.

Applicant: Mahesh Kollu

Business Name: Indian Spice Co, LLC d/b/a Empire Biryani & Grille

Location: 198 Putnam Pike Johnston, RI 02919

License Type: Class BV-Full - Liquor License-

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

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

4/24, 5/1/25

Town of Johnston Planning Board SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 02919

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. OLD BUSINESS

PB 24-16 – Golden Avenue (Paper Street) – A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development and Unified Development Review - AP 9 Lots 248 & 262 - Zoned R-15. Applicant – Frank Gaglione - Owner: Emili Vaziri and Frank Gaglione - The Petitioner is seeking variances to lot size, dimensional requirements and use to develop one lot with a three unit residential and the other lot with a two-unit residential building. Each unit will be sold as a homeownership unit with its own lot and where necessary zero lot line. The parcels are identified as 7 and 8 Golden Avenue.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

PB 25-15 – 35 Hillside Avenue - A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review for a variance to lot size and dimensional requirements to create two lots. 35 Hillside Avenue. AP 14 Lot 276. Zoned R-15. Applicant/Owner: Erick M. Gallegos

PB 25-18 – Xtreme Auto Body – Public Hearing for a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review to develop a 42 foot by 90 foot addition which will need dimensional variances. 15 Bucklin Avenue. AP 17 Lot 156.

Zoned - Industrial. Owner/Applicant – Xtreme Realty, Inc.

PB 25-19 – 2160 Hartford Avenue (rear) - A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review for a variance to create flex-commercial space. AP 54 Lot 141. Owner/Applicant – LC, LLC. Zoned – B-2.

PB 25-20 – Angell Street Residential Development – A Public meeting for a pre-application review of a Minor Land Development where seven residential units are proposed. AP 40 Lots 235 and 237. Zoned B-2 and R-15. Owner/Applicant Bello Investments.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

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

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

4/24/25

Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 Public Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing for the consideration of adopting the ordinance described below:

Ordinance 2025-2: An Ordinance amending Article IV, Section 340-16 of Chapter 340 entitled “Industrial Performance Standards” of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances. Said Ordinance sets requirements for the covering of dirt mounds.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON:
May 12th, 2025 AT 7:00 PM at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919

The proposed Ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing. Said proposed Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Clerk for examination.

The meeting place is accessible to the handicapped in conformance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-2. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting date.

Johnston Town Council

Robert V. Russo

President

Attest:

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.

Town Clerk

4/24, 5/1, 5/8/25

Public Notice

On the DRAFT Application for the Community Development Block Grant Program

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday May 8th in the Conference Room of the Department of Development and Public Services located at 100 Irons Avenue Johnston, when all persons interested will be heard regarding the proposed application for Community Development Block Grant funding (CDBG). The application may include housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization and public facilities activities. Public comment is welcome on all proposed activities and program performance. Written comments may be submitted to CDBG Program, c/o the Department of Development and Public Services, 100 Irons Avenue Johnston 02919.

Department of Development and Public Service
Town of Johnston

4/24/25

Visit us online at johnstonsunrise.com

Wein-O-Rama lights up a new era

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS
Beacon Media staff writer

A classic Cranston diner got a fresh start last week with a large crowd gathering to celebrate the sign-lighting of local treasure Wein-O-Rama after its shuttering last summer.

New owners Eric Beaune, who is also owner of Garden Hills Fruit and Deli, and Chris Tasca, Fly Alliance's president and co-founder, purchased the local hotspot at 1009 Oaklawn Ave. last year when it closed after 62 years in business.

Tuesday's sign lighting announced a new era of Wein-O-Rama and celebrated the sign restoration done by City Councilman Richard Campopiano.

Campopiano said he got a text from the contractors on the remodel, his friends Russell Henry and Chris DiFilippo of Oak & Pallet Tile & Design.

"I've been restoring things since I was a teenager," Campopiano said. "Cars, furniture, clocks, everything. It's been a dream of mine to restore that sign for years."

Campopiano said the sign was

brought to him in January. He said it had a lot of damage and rot from the many years it was up.

He said he had to take it all apart; he sandblasted everything and fabricated new panels. He said the sign's internal electric components were all rusted out and needed to be replaced.

Campopiano got a hand from his daughter Deanna, a graphic designer, who helped pick the colors and hand-painted the "1962" on the sign.

According to Campopiano, all the new neon bulbs were hand-made by neon artist Nick McKnight, owner and operator of Night Light Neon, a Providence studio.

City and state officials came out to support the new sign and the imminent reopening of Wein-O-Rama, including Mayor Kenneth Hopkins, Planning Commission member and former City Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, City Councilman Chris Buonanno, School Committee member Anthony Melillo and District 15 Cranston state Rep. Chris Pappalardo.

Founder Mike Sotirakos opened Wein-O-Rama in 1962. It was taken over by his sons George and Ernie when he retired, and it stayed in the family until it closed late last summer.

The homey diner featured other homemade items in addition to its signature hot wieners with traditional toppings. Last year, both Tasca and Beaune said there are no plans to change the menu or the winning wiener formula.

At the sign-lighting, Hopkins



New owners Eric Beaune (left) and Chris Tasca (right), with their wives, Julia Beaune (middle left) and Kristina Tasca (middle right).



The newly restored Wein-o-rama sign lit up the night sky last Tuesday night as people looked on. Beacon Media photos by Rosegalie Cineus

thanked the Sotirakoses for establishing what he called an iconic place for people in Cranston to go and celebrate.

During his speech, Tasca shared how personal this endeavor is for him and how emotional he became when he found out Wein-O-Rama was closed. He said it reminded him of his childhood and most importantly the time he spent there with his late father, who died 11 years ago.

"I can remember walking into Wein-O-Rama with my Little League cleats on," Tasca said. "I remember the sound the cleats

made, but most importantly the meal that came together. And that's what this place is about."

For both owners, Tasca said having Wein-O-Rama continue as a place that brings people from all over the world in the door in Western Cranston is what's most important to them.

"This isn't just about owning a business," he said to the Cranston Herald last year. "It's more of a legacy project."

Tasca and Beaune say the diner will be open in a few weeks, after they complete an upcoming inspection.



Nicholas, 6, has met the Easter Bunny in Johnston for the last six years. This time, he brought his brother Noah, 1, along too. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox



Blake, 3, kept his mom, Natalie close during his visit with the Easter Bunny.



Emma, 6, was joined by her new little brother, Ben, two months on Saturday to meet the Easter Bunny.



Ava Waterman and Caroline Howe were part of the Rec Center team keeping Saturday's event moving for families and the Easter Bunny.



Scout Pack 20 set up a welcome table at Saturday's bunny festivities. William, 7 and brothers Donovan, 6, and Desmond 9 were ready to talk about the fun of scouting.



Levi, 6, had a busy day Saturday. After seeing the Easter Bunny and working on his coloring, he was headed off to his little league game.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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By JENNIFER COATES

For home and business owners throughout New England, there is no better find than a trustworthy, professional, and reliable painter and paint supplier for all their interior and exterior paint jobs. With the region's fickle and often harsh weather conditions, those paint jobs (both inside and out) are more frequent than in many other parts of the country. This makes it very important that ALL paint jobs are done correctly the first time.

Enter Bill McGuirk and Mike Sturdahl, the longtime owners of Cranston Paint & Wallcovering on Atwood Avenue. Bill and Mike have been in the paint industry their entire careers, spanning over thirty years. If there is anything this dynamic duo knows about, it is paint.

Bill McGuirk and Mike Sturdahl met in 1987 and later opened their first brick & mortar retail store on Atwood Avenue in 1995. In 2012, they purchased and moved into their current location on the same busy avenue in Cranston.

As of 2025, they have served hundreds and hundreds of satisfied customers. Over the years, they have steadfastly built a thriving business that has grown and evolved over time ~ and their reputation for excellence has done the same.

Today, Cranston Paint offers a huge selection of paint and stain products for the professional painter and DIY'er alike. You can find literally everything you need at the store for that weekend warrior project, from paint brushes to tools (and everything in between).

While the store is an excellent "go-to" destination for all painters, Cranston Paint has evolved into one of the most reliable paint companies in the state. With their hard-earned reputation of dependability, reliability, and quality workmanship, they have emerged as true experts in this specialized work. They have very high standards of excellence and demand it of their employees. In fact, they are regularly praised for their professionalism and diligence.



This familiar sight on Atwood Avenue, as well as these signature trucks, all remind home and business owners about Cranston Paint & Wallcovering - owned by Mike Sturdahl (left) and Bill McGuirk (right). Call them for your exterior & interior paint jobs!

Their paint crews show up on time. They are meticulous, thorough and detail-oriented. They are dependable and trustworthy.

The process begins with a visit by Bill McGuirk. Bill will come to your home or business and give you a fair and honest estimate of your job, whether it involves paint or stain, or minor carpentry. The written estimate arrives in a few short days, followed by a projected start date. Highly vetted painters are then employed to the job. Bill oversees the project until the last stroke or spray of paint is applied.

This year, Cranston Paint & Wallcovering is celebrating THIRTY years of supporting and beautifying the residences and businesses of Cranston, and well beyond. Come in today and see why this business has grown and prospered for over three decades.

Cranston Paint & Wallcovering is located at 386 Atwood Avenue in Cranston and is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm, and Saturdays from 8:00am to 11:30. To learn more, visit them at www.cranstonpaint.com or call 401-265-5095 (Bill's direct line) or 401-946-5070.

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Sports

‘Growing’ JLL celebrates Opening Day

League to field 200-plus players, three new teams

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

Johnston Little League held its Opening Day ceremonies last Friday night at Memorial Park after the original date was rained out the previous weekend.

Typically, JLL has a parade that begins at the high school and wraps up at Kennedy Field. This year, the league adjusted the route to take place entirely in the park. The new format was a hit as players, parents and local dignitaries made the trip to welcome the new season.

“It was something different but something the parents thought was unique. We were glad to try something new,” said JLL president Joe Splendorio, who returns for his third year at the helm. “It’s very exciting. We have such a longstanding tradition in Johnston Little League. This time of year, everyone gets a little antsy but is happy to be back with their Little League family after hibernating all winter.”

JLL has enjoyed a steady rise in numbers the past three seasons and is approaching 220

● JLL to page 10



The Johnston Little League Astros and Expos teams take the field during the Opening Day celebration at Memorial Park. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



Panthers keeping pace in new division

By ALEX SPONSELLER
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston boys volleyball team has had a solid start after being elevated to Division II this spring, as it currently sits with a 4-3 record.

The Panthers earned some hard-fought wins in the process, beating Woonsocket and Pilgrim 3-2 while also defeating Central 3-1. The Panthers beat the Villa Novans twice.

Johnston’s losses came against Central Falls, Westerly and most recently undefeated, first-place Lincoln on Tuesday night.

After winning back-to-back titles in DIII, the Panthers still managed to go 12-5 and reach the postseason last year with largely a new core. The Rhode Island Interscholastic League realigned the divisions heading into the seasons and decided to bump the Panthers up to DII.

● PANTHERS to page 11

Ryan Carvalho (left) and Richard Foster. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

Members of the Johnston Police lead the way during the Opening Day parade at Memorial Park.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. English TV station

4. It fuels cars

7. Where ships dock (abbr.)

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Midway between northeast and east

12. Small Milky Way constellation

13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist

15. A Brit's grandmother

16. Colombian city

19. Visualize

21. Charged

23. People's assets

24. Informative books

25. Jeer

26. You can do it with your horn

27. Agents of your downfall

30. Central Uganda city

34. Supervises flying

35. Type of tree

36. Alfalfa

41. Dishwasher soap brand

45. Hall where military eats

46. Ancient Greek City

47. Speaks incessantly

50. Discuss again

54. Extreme greed

55. Adopt or support

56. Fantasy writer Russell

57. Seize

59. Early Mesoamerican civilization

60. Noted pet detective Ventura

61. Automobile

62. Georgia rockers

63. Color opposite green

64. Amount of time

65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Sheep sound

2. Some can be emotional

3. Inflammation of colon lining

4. Origins

5. Comedienne Gasteyer

6. Perceived by the senses

7. A place to play ball

8. Occur before

9. Animal body parts

13. Thanksgiving dessert

14. Root mean square (abbr.)

17. 1960s teen idol Bobby

18. Promotional materials

20. One point east of northeast

22. Piers Anthony protagonist

27. Popular sports league

28. Cologne

29. Partner to cheese

31. Constrictor snake

32. Not good

33. Supplement with difficulty

37. Hug with fondness

38. Enforced again

39. Small amount of time (abbr.)

40. Substance

41. Anterior parts of the brain

42. Brews

43. Where ships load cargo

44. Holiday season singer

47. " __ humbug!"

48. Monetary unit of Macao

49. Popular children's book elephant

51. Glutinous

52. Function

53. Old world, new

58. Swiss river

Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena (center) is joined by Johnston Little League President Joe Splendorio (right) and player Amani Morales.

● JLL from page 9

not seem like a big deal to parents, they are to kids. It makes them feel like pros,” said Splendorio. “The parents like to be entertained, too, and it’s like a night out for them.”

As always, Mayor Joseph Polisena was in attendance and threw the ceremonial first pitch. Splendorio thanked Polisena for his commitment to the town’s youth sports scene, specifically JLL.

“Johnston Little League is very grateful to Mayor Polisena and for his efforts. He knows that we are growing and has been trying to help us out, especially with our fields. We’re very appreciative of that,” said Splendorio.

players overall. The boost in numbers has allowed it to add two more minor league teams and one more junior/senior team.

The league has worked hard over the past year to improve its facility and Kennedy Field. Between items such as new scoreboards, a new sound system and flags and banners throughout the complex, Splendorio and the JLL board of directors feel that locals are starting to take notice of the facelift which has helped attract more players.

“We’ve added walk up music, we’ve dressed up the ballpark with flags, new scoreboards. The things that may

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RI softball continues to be top-notch product

Every season I internally debate which sports are my favorite to cover here in Rhode Island. Typically, it's football in the fall, basketball in the winter and softball in the spring. This young softball season has already delivered and is making me wonder if this is my favorite sport to cover altogether.

What helps is that our teams here at Beacon Media are all enjoying great starts. Pilgrim, Toll Gate, Cranston East, West and Johnston are all shaping up to be playoff teams and any of them could find themselves playing at Rhode Island College in June.

As of this writing, Pilgrim is 8-0 and in second place in Division I behind defending champ La Salle. Pilgrim has arguably the state's most well-rounded player in Genia D'Amato and a dangerous sophomore duo in Madison Tuirok and Skylar Hawes. The Pats will be

making a deep playoff run, no doubt.

West has been stellar and is right in the thick of things as well, as Mia Crudale is a sharp as ever in the circle and girls like Siena Nardelli and Payton Wells, among others, are producing at the plate each night.

Johnston was locked in as the favorite to win it all in Division II and despite taking its first loss against St. Ray's, the Panthers have all the ingredients of a championship team. They have an elite pitcher in Haley Boudreau, who is also the best lead-off hitter in DII. Bella Boudreau is also on her way to being an all-division player as well.

With a 7-6 win over East Greenwich on Monday, Toll Gate has emerged as a dark horse in DII. Delaney Wilson and Reagan Motta are a legitimate 1-2 punch in the circle, and the Titans have a scrappy lineup that can hit from batters 1-9. After tak-



My Pitch
by Alex Sponseller

ing Pilgrim to deep waters and beating the Avengers, who moved down from DI, every team in DII should be taking Toll Gate seriously. The Titans are 4-0 as of this writing and in first place, yet no one seems to be talking about them.

Finally, the defending DIII champion East is off to a big start as well. Despite losing their ace last year in Isabella Souza, who transferred to St. Ray's, the Bolts haven't missed a beat as Lexi Montalban has more than held her own in the circle. Nevaeh Fatorma and breakout star Cydnee Meekins have been dynamite at the plate for the Bolts as they look like a strong bet to repeat as well.

You know how it goes, though. The playoffs are a

whole other animal and rarely do the odds-on favorites waltz their way to championships. That said, though, the softball playoffs are shaping up to be fantastic theater across all three divisions, and the fact that we will have teams in all three races is exciting. I'm looking forward to a busy June.

In Division I, it looks like the Rams are a shoo-in to at least reach the finals. Between the Pats, Falcons and Coventry Oakers, the second spot in the finals will be up for grabs and any of those four teams are capable of getting the job done.

DII will be super competitive. The Panthers, along with Toll Gate, St. Ray's and West Warwick will all be beating up on each other the rest of the way. East Greenwich and Barrington are no joke, either.

Although watching East complete the perfect season last year as it won its first-ever championship was

great, I am looking forward to seeing how things play out this time around as the DIII competition has improved. Tiverton is unbeaten and handed the Bolts their first league loss since 2023 and Davies is a better team than it was last year as well.

Don't get me wrong, I believe the Bolts are and should be considered the top dog in the division, but it will be intriguing to see how they respond this time around with a field that is deeper and more experienced.

It's early, I get it. There is still a lot of regular season to be played and then the long playoff tournaments. The sample size, though, is enough to get a feel for what our teams are capable of, and this is probably the best group of teams I have ever covered. Five teams, almost certainly five playoff berths, with all five having reasonable shots at championships. Unreal.



Santo DiRaimo makes a play.

● **PANTHERS** from page 9

Key returners for the Panthers have been all-division standout Balla Marone as well as Ryan Carvalho and Santo DiRaimo.

Here are some other updates on Johnston's teams:

BASEBALL
Chariho 8, Johnston 1

The Johnston baseball team is searching for its first win after losing, 8-1, to Chariho on Monday.

Matt Clements drove in Jayvin Adamo for the team's lone run. Adamo finished the day with two of Johnston's three hits.

Aiden Neil took the loss on the mound but finished with 10 strikeouts for Johnston.

SOFTBALL
St. Ray's 3, Johnston 0

The Panthers were dealt their first loss of the season when Saints' ace pitcher Isabella Souza clinched the no-hitter.

Johnston pitcher Haley Boudreau was sharp as well, tossing a complete game and racking up 17 strikeouts.

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Crudale leads RIC to win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior center fielder Sophia Crudale (Cranston) went a combined 3-for-6 with a pair of RBI and three runs scored as Rhode Island College split a doubleheader at Western Connecticut in Little East action played at the Westside Softball Field on Saturday afternoon.

Crudale got the Anchorwomen started in Game 1 with a double in her first at-bat, which brought junior second baseman Noelle Simmons (Goffstown, N.H.) to the plate in the first inning. Crudale then stole home as part of a six-run first frame as RIC posted a pair of singles and a sacrifice fly.

Sophomore left fielder Melanie Earley (Lumberton, N.J.) would double in the second to bring in senior shortstop Amanda Conti (Lincoln).

The Anchorwomen continued to hit the ball in the fourth with an RBI single from Conti, a two-run double by sophomore first baseman Reilly Austin (Cumberland) and an RBI double from sophomore designated player Sydney Duclos (North Providence) as the visitor’s lead grew to 11 and allowed the contest to end early due to the eight-run rule.

Conti went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and an RBI.

Senior pitcher Abby Kidd (Granby, Conn.) grabbed the win (8-6) with an eight-strikeout performance.

Earley doubled in a run the first for RIC in Game 2. However, the Wolves leveled the contest in the bottom half of the frame with an RBI groundout.

The Anchorwomen trailed for the first time on the day in the second inning as the hosts put three more runs on the board to lead by three, 4-1.

Simmons and Crudale scored in the third and then freshman designated player Jillian Guilfoyle (Derby, Conn.) tied the game back up at four-all with an RBI single.

The game wouldn’t be even for long as the hosts scored five more runs in the bottom half of the third.

The Wolves walked it off in the bottom of the fifth with three runs to end the game early due to the eight-run rule.

Conti went 2-for-2 with two runs scored. Sophomore pitcher Ashleigh von der Linden (Stratham, N.H.) took the loss (7-5).

Pezza earns LEC awards

Rhode Island College freshman Quiana Pezza (Cranston) and the 4x100m relay team were recognized by the Little East for their respective performances in two competitions last week.

Pezza was named the Little East Women’s Rookie Track Athlete of the Week and to the LEC’s Relay Team of the Week. It is her second rookie and third relay team of the week honor this spring.

Pezza finished first in the 4x100m relay (48.83), third in the 100m (12.56) and fourth in the 200m (26.45) at Eastern Connecticut’s Bonnie Edmondson Classic on April 18. Rhode Island College finished second (11 teams) with a team score of 149.0. Eastern

Connecticut finished first overall with a team score of 168.0.

The 4x100m relay squad, comprised of Pezza, fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence), junior Tayshia Cary (Wakefield, R.I.) and freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket), were named the Little East Women’s Track Relay Team of the Week for the third time this spring. The quartet finished first (48.83) at the Bonnie Edmonson Classic.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 Little East Championship, hosted by UMass Dartmouth on Saturday, April 26.

Frezza leads RIC to 2nd place in CT

Sophomore Andrew Frezza (Johnston) finished second in the 3,000m (9:20.33) as the Rhode Island College finished second at Eastern Connecticut’s Bonnie Edmondson Classic on Friday afternoon.

Sophomore Will Schiller (Smithfield) won both the 400m (49.61) and the 4x400m relay (3:24.09) for the Anchormen as well.

Rhode Island College finished second (12 teams) with a team score of 158.0. Eastern Connecticut finished first overall with a team score of 168.0

Schiller also finished second in the 4x100m relay (43.22) and third in the 200m (22.51).

Junior Brandon Mota (West Warwick) won the hammer (53.50m).

Junior Loudon Chupas (Colchester, Conn.) won the high jump (1.85m).

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					WARWICK				
16 Lane Z	Cook, Matthew	Paquette, Brenda	4/3	\$139,900	1108 Cowesett Rd	Jean A Rivera RET and Rivera, Edward P	Cote, Ann and Cote, Matthew	4/3	\$310,000
18 Lane C	Grace, Linda M and Grace Jr, Manuel E	Sweet, Barbara	4/4	\$235,000	12 Hilburt St	Perez, Nicholas and Perez, Patricia	Smith, Gregory J and Dieroff, Kimberly M	4/1	\$430,000
28 Airport Rd	Hall, James	Tempo Holdings LLC	4/1	\$45,000	122 Harrington Ave	Costantino, Michael and Costantino, Dianne	Derensis, Ariel and Genest, Sterling J	4/3	\$337,000
28 Hoxie Ct	Cline, Bryan and Cline, Elizabeth	Barton, Malik and Roqueta, Viviana G	4/1	\$511,000	18 Warren Ave	Exposito, Zoila	Gonzalez, Kelvin and Gonzalez, Ramona M	4/2	\$387,500
6 Sheffield Ave	Sarmaa, Elii	Cardillo 3rd, Luke L	4/2	\$369,000	188 Brookwood Rd	Slattery, Kevin and Slattery, Ashley	Kaplan, Robert E and Kaplan, Jennifer L	3/28	\$535,900
8 Long Pond Rd	Rajotte, Ann M	Zuleger, Dylan and Zuleger, Colleen	3/31	\$300,000	21 Omaha Blvd	Perry, Jackie	Jourdain, Lourdes	3/31	\$345,000
CRANSTON					254 Byron Blvd	Pearl, Glen D and Pearl, Elizabeth S	Plumb, Paige	4/1	\$375,000
11015 Reservoir Ave	Assefa, Samrawit	Torres Jr, Adolfo	4/1	\$470,000	284 Old Forge Rd	Barley, Devon C and Cook, Elizabeth R	Fetter 3rd, Paul	3/31	\$660,000
119 Eldridge St	Almonte, Marco A and Henriquez, Ana F	Castillo, Denise and Mejia, Thelma E	4/1	\$360,000	29 Ideal Ct	Andrews, Joan B	Strickling, Tyler and Strickling, Emily	3/31	\$410,000
14 Byron St	Garcia, Christopher L and Garcia, Rubi	Ros, Chheng H	4/4	\$350,000	30 Farnum Rd	Iscaragua, Jacob A	Almeida, Amy	3/28	\$417,000
14 Byron St Lot 444	Garcia, Christopher L and Garcia, Rubi	Ros, Chheng H	4/4	\$350,000	300 Warwick Neck Ave	Lechman, Kelly T	Cameron, Kyle and Cameron, Madison	4/2	\$415,000
15 Whitewood Dr	Ricaldy, Limbert H and Ricaldy, Susan A	Zaben, Joseph	4/3	\$710,000	31 Elton Ave	Hicks Dorothy M Est and Hicks, Raymond F	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	3/28	\$265,555
19 Bow St	Mcdaniel 4th, John B and Schwager, Clara G	Kershaw, Courtney and Seaward, John	3/31	\$490,000	31 Elton Ave Lot 134	Hicks Dorothy M Est and Hicks, Raymond F	Celtic Roman Grp LLC	3/28	\$265,555
23 Koster St	United Builders LLC	Chevalier, Berlis B	4/1	\$481,000	32 Sarah Ln	Ramirez, Shyrah M and Ramirez, Jose R	Etoroma, Christina	4/3	\$532,000
24 Magnolia St	James-Rennick, Elizabeth A	Rosenblum, Harry C and Erkinen, Taylor R,	3/31	\$415,000	376 Norwood Ave	Middlemiss, Marsha J	Rhody Hm Buyers LLC	4/2	\$245,000
311 Hope Rd	Lourenco, Emanuel	Fidalgo, Alexandre	3/31	\$325,000	402 Chatham Cir Lot 402	Pickell, Vicki L	Curry, Piers L	3/28	\$380,000
45 Tucker Ave	Lefebvre, Matthew L	Brito, Adriano	4/2	\$485,000	43 New Britain Dr	Mizzoni, Stephen J and Mizzoni, Kaitlin M	Mizzoni, Stephen J	3/31	\$60,000
49 Oak St	Messina, Helene	Dwell Hub Vent LLC	4/2	\$318,000	53 Pell Ave	Ri Hnsg & Mtg Fin Corp	Valliere, Joseph H and Hackworth, Pamela J	3/28	\$1
57 Woodlawn Dr	Ngom, Panha	Mello Jr, Daniel C and Mello, Laura	4/4	\$440,000	56 Pettis Dr	Williams, Michael S	Ricci, Nicholas and Cooley, Sierra	3/28	\$345,000
60 Alto St	Acosta, Vinisis	Cosme Cabrera, Perla M and Garcia Nicolas, Estiben R	3/31	\$570,000	581 Cowesett Rd	James T Sargeant Lt and Sargeant, Patricia B	Cowesett 581 Nt	4/3	\$385,000
86 B St	James, Dean P and Bowen, Simone A	Connors, Jacob	3/31	\$375,000	59 Claypool Dr	Bannon, Kathleen and Mann, Kyle N	Gerstmyer, Christopher A and Gerstmyer, Bethany L	3/31	\$430,000
EAST GREENWICH					WEST GREENWICH				
1191 Frenchtown Rd	Gerstberger, Tobi	Walsh, Connor and Walsh, Arrielle	4/4	\$840,000	1030 Fish Hill Rd	Gilliatt, James G	Chacon, Ligia M	4/4	\$219,000
1993 Middle Rd	Laverty, Laurie	Auslander, Nicholas J and Auslander, Caroline E	4/3	\$840,000	131 Victory Hwy	Sweet, Craig and Sweet, Barbara	Lacroix, Keith and Souliere, Breigh	4/4	\$587,000
23 Gould Pl	Bialice Inv LLC	Lehne, Amanda and Lehne, Jared	4/2	\$852,000	30 Parkside Dr	Steele, Matthew and Steele, Jacqueline	Sperry, Jason R and Sperry, Christina M	4/4	\$783,000
80 Proctor Ave	Dessert, Jason M and Dessert, Erin L	Mcdaniel 4th, John B and Schwager, Clara G	3/31	\$700,000	WEST WARWICK				
JOHNSTON					14 Governors HI Lot 14	Picard, Ann E	West Warwick Town Of	4/4	\$9,616
1125 Hopkins Ave	Smith Joyce L Est and Smith, Kenneth L	Bsh RET and Forrest, Ajie S	4/4	\$345,000	22 Hillcrest Dr	Schroth Michael J Est and Schroth Jr, Michael J	Dmn Capital Invs LLC	4/7	\$260,000
					23 Silver Cup Cir Lot 23	Trifari, Maureen A	Martira, Joseph	4/4	\$400,000
					37 Hoover St	Paulo, Tamara A	Fava Jr, Joseph L and Fava, Michael G	4/2	\$515,000
					42 Clyde St	Brackenbury, Keb H	Monge, Marisol and Adelanwa, Lukumon	4/8	\$380,000

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NOAA cuts bad for fishing and much more

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the SunRise



Capt. Brandon Hagopian (right) of B-Hagz Bait and Adventures charters, said, “Squid and monster fluke will soon be here. Last year at the beginning of May we went summer flounder fishing after dropping off a night squid charter and caught seven double digit fluke.” *Submitted photo*

person an email or call them and let them know they need to take action, you can find the names of US House members at <https://www.house.gov/representatives>, contact information for US Senators at <https://www.senate.gov/states/statesmap.htm>. It is important to have friends and relatives in other states do the same, particularly those with controlling party Republican senators and congress persons.

Bluefin tuna overfishing and closure delays

The news for bluefin tuna just got worse. NOAA Fisheries announced Monday, April 14, 2025 that landings for the 2024 fishing year 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, ten 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 video on this executive order at <https://www.usatoday.com>. 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.

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.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass fishing for holdover striped bass (fish that did not migrate south) continues to be very good with anglers catching striped bass to 34 inches. Connor Swartz of Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay, said, “The holdover striped bass fishing in estuaries is very good, but we also have some encouraging news about fresh migrating fish. The first ones were caught at the Vineyard already so in a week or two they will be at the Canal.” Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, “We have fresh fish being caught in the lower Bay, particularly in front of rivers that have herring runs like Narrow River, fish being caught have lice on them. We still have a good holdover striper bite too.” “Tautog fishing is starting to kick in with private angler and commercial tautog fisherman starting to catch some nice sized fish and it is only going to get better,” said Henault of Ocean State Tackle. Capt. Brandon Hagopian of B-Hagz Baits and Adventures charters (bhagzbaits@gmail.com), said, “The tautog bite is just getting better. I have been able to fish commercially and the fish are good size with the best bite coming and hour before and after high tide. Clams and Asian crabs seem to be working best.”

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From Congress to cybersecurity, Langevin busy as ever

Probably the highest compliment that you can give a politician is to tell the person that he or she is not a politician.

Sounds weird, right?
Not when you tell the person that you think of them as a public servant, and not a politician.

That's how I think of former Congressman Jim Langevin.

Jim was not afraid to mix it up on occasion to defend his positions and his colleagues. But I never thought for one minute that he would put party above public service.

When he left his safe seat in the US House of Representatives in 2022 to fulfill his professional ambition in the field of cybersecurity and emerging technologies, Jim left behind an unparalleled 30 years of exemplary service to our state and nation.

We all know that his early ambition was to become a police officer. But it was a career that was cut short at the age of 16 when an accidental gun discharge left him paralyzed while serving as a Police Explorer for the Warwick Police.

The outpouring of support from Warwick residents and people throughout the state inspired him to go into public service.

It started with leaflets

Jim was raised in Warwick and attended Warwick schools, and then Bishop Hendricken High School, Class of '83.

It was during his years at Hendricken that Jim started his political career as so many would-be politicians (excuse me – public servants) do, dropping off leaflets door-to-door for then State Representative and soon-to-be Mayor Joe Walsh.

After graduating from Hendricken, he attended and graduated from Rhode Island College and would later receive his Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University.

In 1986, he officially started his political career when he ran for a seat in the State's Constitutional Convention.

His election win would be the first of many.

Remarkably, he never lost an election but was surely tested by both primary and general election challenges in the years to come.

In 1988, Jim was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, representing Warwick District 29 in the General Assembly, where he would serve for 3 terms. His tenure was hallmarked by his leading the drive for the creation of Rhode Island's "Rainy Day Fund", which limited state spending to 98 percent of estimated revenue, placing two percent into a reserve fund.

In 1994 Jim left his Assembly seat to run for Secretary of State, ushering in



JIM LANGEVIN

the age of advanced technology to the office. In 2000 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives 2nd District, where he would serve 11 terms until retiring in 2023.

Jim was a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and was a founding member of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Considered an expert on national security, Jim was a vocal advocate for our nation to develop more innovative technologies such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, software evolution, directed energy, electronic warfare and hyper sonics.

He was so interested in the field that he co-founded and co-chaired the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus. Again, remarkably, Jim authored the National Cyber Director Act, which called for a National Cyber Director at the White House, ensuring its prominence in national policy.

A champion for people with disabilities

As the first quadriplegic to serve in the US House of Representatives, Jim was a voice for people with disabilities and was instrumental in the passage of the ADA Amendments Act.

Throughout his time in Congress, Jim was honored by countless organizations, receiving numerous awards including the General (Ret.) Michael V. Hayden Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service, the Christopher and Dana Reeve DC Legacy Award and the Association for Career and Technical Education Lifetime Achievement Award.

Leaving Congress

Asked if it was a difficult decision to leave Congress with senior status, Jim replied, "It was time to leave. It was time to do other things, and time to use my expertise in some way."

He continued, "I accomplished many things that I set out to accomplish. It was always my goal to give public service to the people of Rhode Island."

Being a little introspective, he added, "travel started to take a toll on me. It required a lot of travel back and forth (to Washington and elsewhere). I wanted to come home."

Shortly after returning to home, Rhode Island College President Jack Warner invited Jim for lunch, and during the course of the conversation asked if he would like to come home to RIC and start a program for cybersecurity.

It wasn't the first time he had had that kind of discussion. Another "university in Rhode Island" also asked him about considering a similar position.

So, Jim called Governor McKee for advice.

The choice was between heading a program that was turnkey, or one that was "ground up."

The Governor's advice? "I support whatever you do, but RIC is a state school," said McKee.

And the Governor went a step further.

He met with the Speaker and the Senate President and together they pledged to amend the state budget to get the new "Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies" at Rhode Island College off the ground.

They pledged \$2 million in initial funding.

The Institute would be housed in the

college's School of Business, headed by Dean Marianne Raimondo (sister of our former Governor).

Fulfilling a need, answering a threat

According to Jim, "cybersecurity is now one of the fastest growing programs on campus, with both a cybersecurity major and minor, as well as a major and two minors in artificial intelligence."

They are also breaking ground on a new facility on campus to house this growing curriculum.

I, of course, had to ask the question.

Did he miss politics? (though colleges certainly have their own brand of politics!)

"I still enjoy politics and government, but I don't miss being in the middle of it. There's a time and place for everything," he said.

Jim continued, "Now I'm helping to educate. I can't think of a better way to spend time. There's such a huge need for cyber professionals and defenders. There are five-hundred thousand jobs (in the field) that go unfilled every year."

Jim is also a strategic advisor to Paladin Capital Group, which invests in early-stage cybersecurity, AI and technology companies.

Now that he's back home doing what he chooses to do, the Distinguished Chair of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies may have his eye on the future, but he certainly didn't forget his past and the people that got him there.

You will see some of his former, trusted staff members in the Institute's orbit as media and public relations consultants, including former aides Seth Klaiman, Lindsay Russell and Tim DelGuidice.

He also keeps in touch with many of the dozens and dozens of aides he worked with in his 30 years of government service.

I can't imagine how he has kept the pace.

With challenges to do the basic things you and I take for granted, he has never let those challenges slow him down.

He attended every event he could. Not only his official duties as a Member of Congress or Secretary of State, but the countless dinners, birthday parties, groundbreaking ceremonies and sharing the grief of families that just lost a loved one.

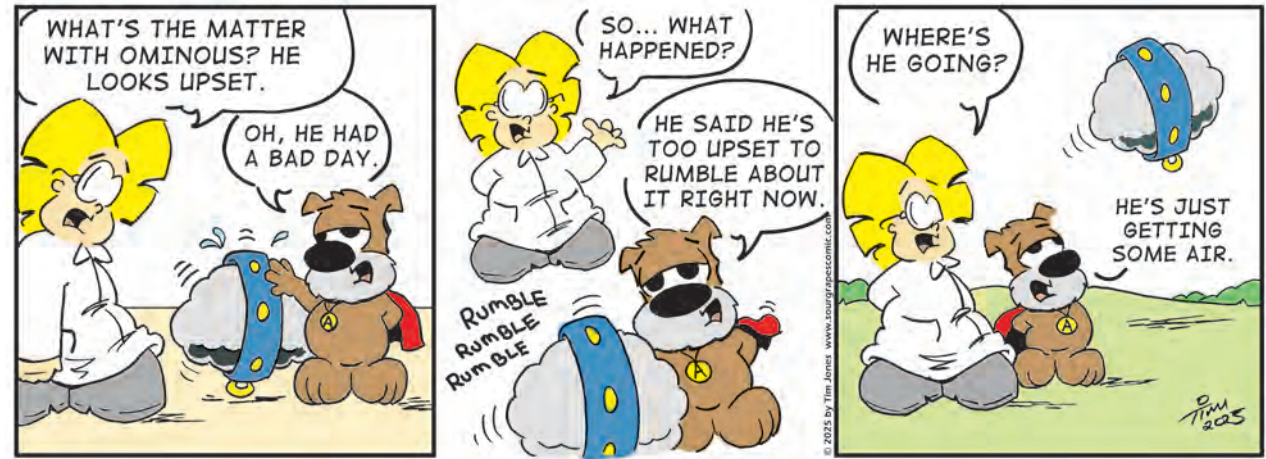
And he did it in a bipartisan nature.

The best way to describe Jim's career in government is to end with a quote from Texas Republican Congressman Michael McCaul.

He said, "I never saw him as a Democrat or Republican. He was just a guy that really cared about the country, cared about national security policies of the country, and just wanted to get good things done."

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



FOR SALE

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They are now unwelcome neighbors in many residential areas and are unlike to recede.

Their presence has prompted many municipalities to try to eradicate the problem, and Cranston, Warwick and Jonston are among several Rhode Island communities that have full-time rodent control officers.

Laquale spends most days responding to residents' concerns by placing tamper-resistant bait boxes in backyards across Cranston. The boxes contain packets of poison, and he said that the method works well in exterminating the rodents.

In the rare event that the poison has not worked, Laquale carries a golf club – a five iron, to be exact – with him so he can keep some distance if he has to deal with a live rat when checking the traps. “You always empty the box away from you and you want to have something to keep them away,” he said, adding that it is not his favorite experience.

Basic steps can prevent your property from being attractive to rodents. Among other things, residents should:

- Keep it clean.
- Make sure there is no trash or garbage around.
- Clear clutter that would give rats easy places to hide.
- Be diligent about keeping lids on any containers that hold garbage or any kind of food.
- Scoop the pet poop in your own backyard because rates love to eat animal waste.
- Make sure trash containers have not been compromised and are not cracked or split.

Laquale has a good relationship with fellow rodent control officer Michael Durante in the neighboring town of Johnston. He helped train Durante, who came on board in Johnston about two years ago when Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. fulfilled a campaign promise to tackle rodent problems in that community.

Both Laquale and Durante say they like their jobs, because they are always busy, they like a challenge and they enjoy meeting people.

“I am out talking to people every day trying to answer their concerns,” said Laquale, who adds that there is no part of Cranston he has not visited. “I’m a people person, and I meet a lot of nice people in this job.”

Durante, who estimates he has put out about 400 bait boxes across Johnston this year, concurs. “I like to help people,” he said. “And that’s what we do in this line of work.”

Laquale said that, like many other municipal programs, Cranston offers assistance only with external rat problems and to only residential property owners of single-family homes or buildings with no more than four dwelling units. Apartment or condominium complexes are the responsibility of the property owners, he said, and if rats have gotten inside a dwelling, it’s time to call a professional exterminator.

In Warwick, a spokesperson for the mayor’s office said that each residential complaint is evaluated on a “case-by-case” basis to see if setting up bait traps is warranted.

But extermination is only part of the solution.

“We also know that it takes a community effort to keep rodents at bay,” said Elizabeth Tufts, media coordinator for Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi. “Residents need to work together to remove food sources, eliminate hiding places and prevent entry points for rodents.”

Laquale, who works closely with Cranston’s inspection division, agrees, noting

that he spends a lot of time educating people on how to ‘rat proof’ their property and the most important rule is the most simple: Keep things clean.

He and Durante say taking basic steps can keep your property from being attractive to rodents. Among other things, residents should:

Make sure there is no trash or garbage around.

Clear clutter that would give rats easy places to hide.

Be diligent about keeping lids on any containers that hold garbage or any kind of food.

Scoop the pet poop in your own backyard because rats love to eat animal waste.

Make sure trash containers have not been compromised and are not cracked or split.

One key culprit that residents often overlook is bird feeders, according to Paul McAuley, deputy chief of staff to Cranston Mayor Kenneth Hopkins. The seeds in the feeders attract a lot more than birds, he said, noting that the mayor is committed to combating the city’s rodent issues. It even has an ordinance that limits bird feeders to one per property until rat problems in the city are under control.

Correa at Guardian said bird feeders and pet waste are probably the two main reasons people end up with rats in their yards. “When the birds eat the feed, they scatter it everywhere,” he said, adding that the company suggests adding something like cayenne pepper to bird feed – it will be distasteful to the rats, but harmless to the birds.

McCauley said that Cranston encourages residents to call the building inspection division, not only if they have a rodent problem, but if they see a property that has waste or other factors that will create a problem in the area. They can also get information and assistance on the city website: <https://www.cranstonri.gov/departments/public-works/rodent-problems/>



The rats found in urban and suburban areas are smart and will eat almost anything, the experts say. Take their food source away and you’re likely to be rid of them. Submitted photo

Anthony Moretti, chief of staff for Hopkins, said the mayor recently invested in new residential trash bins that are made with rodent-repellent material. The city will use the new bins when residents turn in old ones that are badly damaged or have holes in them, he said. But, he added, there is no better prevention that making sure your trash bins are shut tight.

Prevention is crucial, Correa said, adding that rats are smart – very smart.

Rats are also “neophobic,” he said, explaining that they notice anything new in their environment and will avoid it, so bait boxes will not necessarily work immediately. He said Guardian often puts out empty bait boxes at first, so the rat will get comfortable with the box before they even try to lure it in with bait.

Laquale and Durante said the only way communities are going to successfully combat rodent problems is by collaborating with residents. “It really is teamwork,” Durante said.



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