



Warwick Beacon

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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Local clergy remember Francis as advocate

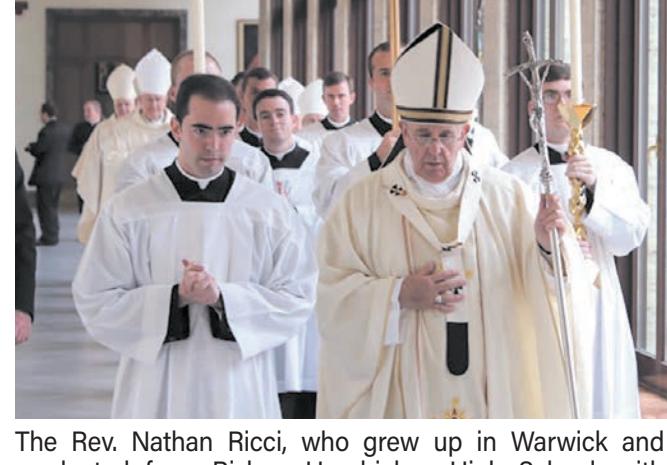
*One emceed for pontiff as seminarian in Rome: 'I will never forget the kindness he showed each of us'***By ROSEGALIE CINEUS**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

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.



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

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 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

● FRANCIS to page 11



A tradition kept

Once again, the gates were opened at Warwick Neck Light on Easter Sunday morning for a sunrise service that has been a local tradition for decades. The lighthouse property, which the city remains hopeful will be handed over to Warwick now that it is no longer occupied by the Coast Guard, offers a commanding view of Narragansett Bay and the sunrise. See Page 18 for more Easter photos. Photo courtesy of Mike Levesque

City Council OKs \$50M more for schools

Now it's up to state legislators and then voters in a special election

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

There are a lot of "ifs," but the City Council, over lamentations that the city should have done things differently from the beginning, unanimously approved a resolution Monday to ask voters whether to approve an additional \$50 million for construction of new Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools.

And if the General Assembly approves legislation to finance completion of the schools, then the city will need legislative approval to place the question on the ballot. If

that all happens, then the voters will need to approve the \$50-million bond.

But if they don't approve the additional funding, at this point it is unlikely the \$350 million voters approved in 2022 will be enough to complete the new schools and gain about 50% reimbursement from the state Department of Education. Bids on some materials for a new Pilgrim — a groundbreaking is being planned for next month — are coming in on target or lower; however, there are a lot of unknowns with Toll Gate. Es-

● COUNCIL to page 8

R.I. Senate President Dominick Ruggerio dies at 76

Fellow lawmakers remember 'Donny' for blue-collar sensibilities, fairness

By NANCY LAVIN
Rhode Island Current

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.

Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain, D-Warwick, Cranston, a former assistant city solicitor in Warwick and former prosecutor in the Attorney General's Office who was elected to the Senate in 2022 and is viewed by some as Ruggerio's heir apparent, released a statement on his passing:

"I mourn the loss of a dear friend, mentor and one of the most principled leaders I've ever known — Dominick J. Ruggerio. His passing leaves a profound void in our chamber and in my heart. As president of the Senate, he exemplified a 'first among equals' philosophy, always approaching his role as a steward of a co-equal branch of government, never as a ruler."



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

"His leadership was thoughtful, disciplined and collaborative — grounded in respect for the institution and a deep commitment to the people we serve. He had the rare ability to set aside personal beliefs in deference to the collective will of the Senate, forging consensus in service of progress. Under his guidance, we tackled major challenges in health care, education, climate change and economic development."

"President Ruggerio led with courage, compassion, and fairness — qualities that defined his leg-

● RUGGERIO to page 12

Flushing but never forgetting

Annual open house aims to expose realities of wastewater treatment

By JOY FOX
Beacon Media Publisher

5 to 5.2 million gallons per day.

While many residents and businesses flush and forget it, the team at the city's wastewater treatment plant can never forget. In fact, thoughts of running water keep Warwick Sewer Authority Director Betty Anne Rogers up at night.

Since joining the team almost 30 years ago, Rogers has found that the more things change, the more they stay the same. One change is the weather.

"We are thinking a lot more about the weather and how it affects water flow," she said, standing in the lobby of the plant's offices off Jefferson

● WASTEWATER to page 6



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Getting water ready

Warmer weekend weather had everyone thinking summer. Victoria Sokolowski of Cranston was getting her new 19-foot Mako center console ready for the season on Saturday in the parking lot of CL Marine on West Shore Road in Warwick. She and Mike Marley of CL Marine were working on some quick electronic repairs. This boat will be docked at the Edgewood Yacht Club this summer. *Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox*



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, securing 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 ilot.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.

Police Log

DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSE

On March 17 at 1:04 a.m., a Warwick police officer noticed a car exit the parking lot of a Mobil gas station with its trunk open, and what appeared to be a propane fire pit strapped into and hanging out of the trunk, obstructing the view of the vehicle's rear registration plate.

The officer then followed this vehicle onto Route 95 south. The officer conducted a traffic stop and upon speaking with the operator, determined that he did not possess a valid driver's license. The officer then observed a small axe on the floor in front of the passenger seat and instructed the passenger to exit the vehicle.

The operator was identified as Christopher Laurence, and upon running checks, the officer discovered Laurence's license was in fact suspended. It was verified that this would be Laurence's fourth offense of operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Laurence was arrested and transported to Warwick police headquarters, informed of his court dates and released.

SHOPLIFTING

On Feb. 16 at 5:01 p.m., Warwick officers responded to Walmart for a report of shoplifting in progress.

While responding, all units

Burlington Coat Factory Dispatch described the suspect as wearing a gray zip-up hoodie with black sweatpants and a white baseball cap.

Dispatch also advised that the loss-prevention worker observed the suspect get into a red Saturn SUV and drive toward the Sketchers Store. Upon arrival, all three officers checked the surrounding area with negative findings. One officer remained in the area and continued to check the surrounding businesses and parking lots for the suspect.

The loss-prevention officer stated that on surveillance footage he saw a male put a pair of binoculars into his pocket and walk toward the front of the store. The loss prevention officer annotated in his written statement that he recognized this suspect from previous incidents at this location and knew him to have a no-trespass order against him blocking his presence in the store.

One of the officers identified the suspect as William Ruhle. At the time a warrant was drafted and pending for one count of misdemeanor shoplifting.

ARREST WARRANT

On March 19 at 7:50 p.m., Warwick police officers made a traffic stop. The vehicle was identified as a gold 2011 Lexus operated by Jesse Espinal.

While driving northbound on Bald Hill Road, one of the officers heard music playing obnoxiously loud, in violation of the city's

noise ordinance, in a car in the lane to their right as they approached from about 50 feet away. They passed the vehicle and came to a stop in traffic. As traffic resumed moving, they noticed the driver of the vehicle did not want to pass their marked patrol cruiser and stayed several car lengths behind them even though there were no vehicles in front of it. Eventually due to traffic, Espinal passed their position, and the music was no longer audible.

They ran the license plate which came back to Espinal, who they said had an affidavit warrant from the

Providence Police Department for simple assault. He was arrested and taken to Providence police headquarters.



WARWICK BEACON



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In Cranston. Arrival 6:30, Dinner 7. Show follows.

Fabulous Chicken Marsala Dinner from Chef Dom! Only \$55!

Also:

Sun. May 4- GEORGE'S OF GALILEE
Sun. May 11 (MOM'S DAY)- Hometown Tavern, Wren.
Sat. June 7- The ISLANDER, Warwick (All U Can Eat)
Sat. June 14- LANCELOTTA'S, North Providence

Reservations, info @ agingdisgracefully.net

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Miscalculation allows \$2.1M trim from school budget

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

Hours before the School Committee was to consider the administration's \$200.3-million FY 26 budget last Thursday, Robert Cushman — who studies the numbers and is often critical of how schools are financially managed — detected an anomaly in the 177-page document.

Why had the department's allocation to the state pension system been budgeted at more than \$15 million when in the current year it was \$12 million?

Cushman, a former councilman and member of the School Committee, started making calls and asking questions. Interim Superintendent William McCaffrey, whom Cushman has criticized, was willing to listen. McCaffrey said that is part of his job and that while more often than not he disagrees with Cushman, he went back to his staff and had them look at the calculations.

"You never know what you're going to find. I always listen to them," McCaffrey said of School Department critics.

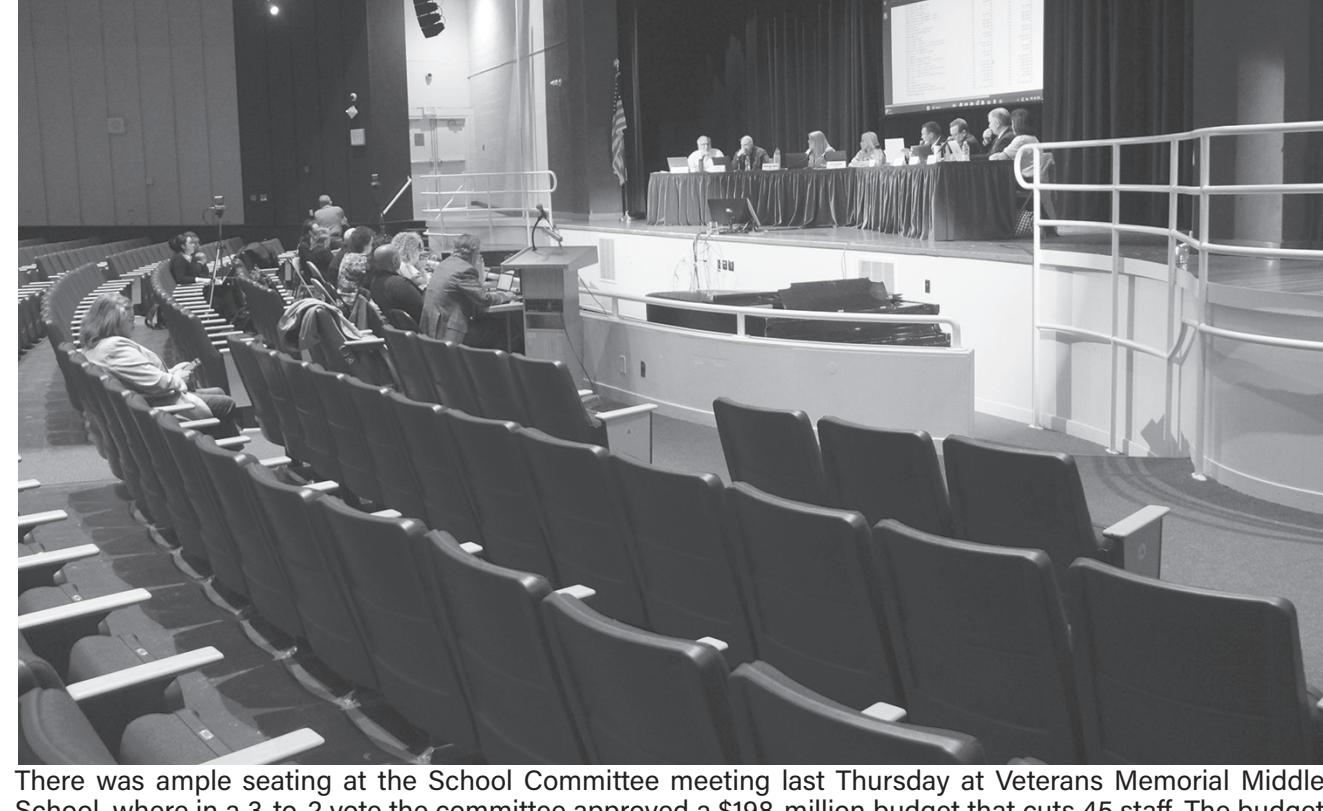
Cushman was right, although that admission wasn't totally clear when on a motion by School Committee Chairman Shaun Galligan, \$2.1 million was cut from the overall budget and \$1 million was added to the pension allocation to Warwick Independent School Employees.

Cushman isn't basking in his revelation, a bit of good news for Mayor Frank Picozzi and the City Council, who are not looking for additional reductions but rather a program to erase school deficits now projected to be about \$6 million by the end of this fiscal year.

Cushman believes schools should go beyond the 20-teacher, 25-nonteacher and single administrator layoffs approved by the committee. The layoffs were not identified at the Thursday budget hearing, which drew a sparse audience. He's not alone. Ed Ladouceur, chair of the council finance committee, who sat through the four-hour meeting, said the committee should have significantly cut staff considering the reduction in student enrollment.

That was a consideration of committee member Dave Testa, who pointed out last week that the teacher contract provided for more than 20 layoffs when there are significant student reductions. Soon after the start of the meeting, Galligan asked school counsel Andrew Henneous if that was a viable argument. Henneous said if the committee chose that course of action it could lead to a protracted legal battle. The committee shied away from laying off more teachers.

During the public comment that leads off the meeting,



There was ample seating at the School Committee meeting last Thursday at Veterans Memorial Middle School, where in a 3-to-2 vote the committee approved a \$198-million budget that cuts 45 staff. The budget now goes to the mayor before moving on to the City Council. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

several parents urged the committee not to cut teacher aides, who are members of the WISE union. The aides play roles in working with autistic children and others with IEPs, individual education plans.

Jennifer Cardillo, chair of the Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee, said the committee understands the financial pressures on the schools and that by working together, all parties can make the numbers work "without compromising the quality of education to our most vulnerable students."

Mentor RI, which matches more than 300 students for an hour a week during the school day with adult mentors, appealed to the committee to continue city support of the program.

Committee member Michelle Kirby-Chapman sought to undo staffing cuts in the budget that would impact special education. When it came down to a vote, she and vice chair Leah Hazlewood voted against the \$198,162,060 budget

that left the proposed schedule of layoffs untouched. The budget passed on a 3-to-2 vote.

"This is approximately \$2.1 million less than what the administration was requesting," Galligan said in a text Friday morning.

More cuts need to be made, says council finance committee chair Ed Ladouceur. He reasons that while the teacher contract limits layoffs to 20, the committee should have called for more and sat down with the union to hammer out an agreement that also addressed legacy costs.

Yet to be determined is how schools are to amortize the repayment of the department's deficits, which the city must cover.

That is a priority of the School Budget Commission chaired by former state Auditor General Ernest Almonte, one of Mayor Picozzi's three appointees to the commission approved by the council Monday night.

Winman Middle School 3rd quarter honor

High Honors Grade 6

Emma Carty, Calvin Cerpovicz, Mackenzie D'Antuono, Sophia DeAlmo, Piper Dutcher, Emery Eaton, Jacen Gardner, Evey Hallam, Xylah Johnson, Arianna Laine, Matthew Lang, Miller McGuinness, Madeline McNeil, Kellan Meredith, Sophia Noh, Finley Robertson, Noah Sary, Lorenzo Ucci, Arvind Vinod Kumar, Evelyn Vinod, Noelle Welyd

Honors grade 6

Isabella Antunes, Ava Barrolle, Kaiden Blanchette, Anna-belle Blazier, Wesley Caetano, Daniel Centeio, Elena Chaj, Emilia Chaj, Juliana Dagesse, Carter Dancause, Demi DeAlmo, Carter DeJesus, Alexander Doucette, Robert Fraser, Noah Garcia-Lara, Ella Gesualdi, Atticus Gomes, Benjamin Goodine, Mia Goodine, Logan Izzo, Abhay Jayakrishnan, Mason Keller, Matthew LaBossiere, William Lang, Brooklyn Laskowski, Seamus Maloney, Kaley Miceli, Colin Myers, Lennox O'Connell, Vienna Oldrid, Grace Payne, Alexis Pelletier, Connor Perra, Dean Perrino, Molly Powers, Samantha Reynolds, Sophia Rodrigues, Lian Shockley, Audrey Shottek, Dakota Sloan, Lucia Swierk, McKenna Viquist, Grace Yates, Adrian Zisserson

High Honors Grade 7

Jocelyn Anderson, Cole Auclair, Ethan Banspach, Saydee

Bence, Rileigh Burrows, Cali Caruso, Dani Eastwood, Nolan Lavature, Maddox Long, Riley McKiernan, Lola Millette, Thomas Monk, Haley Mulcahey, Mia Parks, Eloise Persson, Ava Resnick, Maya Reynolds, Keira Rose, Sadie Rotz, Sarah Sullivan, Ivy von Maffei, Adelyn Yates, Brenton Zagryn

Honors Grade 7

Grace Aligo, Gianna Andrade, Christopher Baldassi, Quinn Bears, Michael Burroughs, Lily Canfield, Chloe Coccio, Shawn Corbett, Carter D'Antuono, Daneil Decosta, Branigan Dow, Collin Elsdoerfer, Madison Faughn, Riley Gionfriddo, Gabriel Gonzaga, Ryan Hanley, Madison Kavanagh, Hadley King, Kaleigh Leavitt, Allen Lim, Avery Lourenco, Violet Lowell, Jonathan Madden, Mylah Major, Jackson Marandola, Mason Matalavage, Hayden Mattox, John McAniff, Kyle McGuire, Fionn McNamara, Violet Milette, Connor Moua, Dilan Murray, Gabriel Normandin, Bently Oliveira, Dawsey Persson, Grace Powers, Devanya Punetha, Keaton Rounds-ILarrazza, Nicolas Mateo Santos de Castro Torres Melo, Drew Simpkins, Mia Skaltsis, Kenley Smith, Lily Sorice, Luca Spaziano, Amalia Tillett, Sheyli Marianita Urizar Noriega, Sebastian VanBlarcom, Theodore Watson, Callum Way, Josephine Webb, Miles Welch, Nora Wood

High Honors Grade 8

Yara Alkassem Alosman, Jayden Ball-Rodrigues, Samuel

Grade 8 Honors

Breault, Ryan DeSilva, Nathan Flynn, Hannah Hochman, Juliana Janton, Jordyn Mailloux, Jason Morin, William Mulcahey, Ark Patel, Giuliana Simas

The Buzz

support.

April 30: The Rhode Island chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its monthly membership meeting on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge at 42 Nooseneck Hill Rd., West Greenwich. All are welcome.

May 1: RIMA Annual Meeting and Breakfast on Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., will feature keynote speaker Karen McCullough as well as talks by U.S. Senator Jack Reed (via video), and Speaker of the House Joseph Shekarchi at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 W Exchange St., Providence RI. Attendees can also purchase a Business Showcase Table for networking opportunities. Tickets: RIMA Members: \$125 & Non-RIMA Members: \$150.

May 3: The Cranston Public Library and Notable Works will hold a special event celebrating the six poets who will read their winning poems from the 2025 Notable Works' Poetry Contest. The event will take place in the William Hall Library Auditorium at 1825 Broad St., Cranston on Saturday at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is free and open to the public

and complimentary refreshments will be served. Registration is not required, but those who register up to three days before the event will receive an email reminder about the program.

Pre-Registration Link: <https://events.cranstonlibrary.org/event/13004740>.

May 4: St. Rita Church will celebrate 90th anniversary and **St. Timothy Church** will celebrate its 75th anniversary, beginning with a Mass at St. Timothy at 1799 Warwick Ave., at 9 a.m. and with Mass at St. Rita Church at 722 Oakland Beach Ave., at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by a dinner/dance at 1 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 301 Greenwich Ave. Please call St. Rita's rectory at 401-738-1800 or St. Timothy's rectory at 401-739-9552 for further information.

May 4: St. Mark's Episcopal Church Hall will host its annual May Breakfast on Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon at 111 West Shore Rd. Donation: \$30 family, \$14 individual, \$10 under 10 years old. Raffles are planned for spring wreaths and gift baskets.

Warwick Public Library

will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at the main branch of the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane. A Concert by "The Old Country" will immediately follow at 6:45 p.m.

May 8 and June 12: Adventures in Acrylic workshops

will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd., Warwick. Each month artists will explore a different technique

that can be applied to their acrylic painting practice which will enhance the narrative of their paintings. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org.

Summer Art Camp 2025 at the Warwick Center for the Arts.

Join us for one week or the whole summer. Morning and afternoon sessions available with different themes each week. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

Call for Volunteers Gaspee Days Committee:

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of planning the Gaspee Days celebration. The next Gaspee Days Committee meeting is being held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Aspray Boat House, 2 E. View St. For more information on the Gaspee Days Committee visit www.gaspee.com

Conimicut Village Art Festival:

the Conimicut Village Association is now accepting artist and maker applications for its annual Art Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 5. Artists are asked to be available for both dates. Space is limited, so don't wait to apply. Original artwork will be reviewed by a jury committee and artists will be notified of their acceptance by July 15. Questions, or to request an application (\$60 registration fee) can be directed to conimicutvillage@gmail.com or for more information visit conimicutvillageartfestival.com

May 10: Vendor/Craft Sale, Plant Sale and Mini-Book Sale

sponsored by the Friends of the Warwick Public Library at 600 Sandy Lane on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come and support our library!

May 17 Ping Pong Tournament: 2 to 5 p.m. at Bishop Hendricken High School.

This event will support Mission: Boots to briefcases. \$75 to enter a three-person team. <https://missionbootstobriefcases.com/coming-events>

June 23-August 8: WCFA

● BUZZ from page 3

conimic.org.

Every Monday through Friday: Virtual Dementia Caregiver Support Groups are specifically designed for people caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Monday, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Information and registration, call 401-415-4664; or email to: info@HopeDementia.org. Follow us on Facebook @ HopeHealth.

Every Monday - The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, All are welcome!

Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RI AA Meeting will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston from 7 p.m.

Every First and Third Monday Rhode Island Active Toastmasters meets, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. Rhode Island Active Toastmasters holds its meetings at New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich, in Rm N214 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact us Rhode Island Active Toastmasters. All are welcome!

Every Wednesday of the month, Old Warwick Grange #41 will hold meetings at 7:30 p.m., at 1175 West Shore Rd. There are no meetings in July and August. The Grange is a fraternal community service, non-profit organization with a special interest in rural life and the traditions of faith, patriotism, leadership and family values. For information please call either Joan Clegg at 401 465-7259 or Mike Osiensky at (508) 954-

to 8 p.m.

Every Second and Fourth Tuesday the Fall River Toastmasters Meeting, serving both Rhode Island and Southern Mass. the Fall River Toastmasters holds its meetings. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meeting is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us at The Chamber, 200 Pocasset St, Fall River, Mass., 2nd floor. For more information, call Sean DaCosta at (508)-840-6621. All are welcome!

Every Thursday, Take Off Pounds Sensibly TOPS #38 is meeting every Thursday morning at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (lower level), 99 Pierce Street, East Greenwich. Weigh-in begins at 10:15 a.m. The meeting starts at 10:45 a.m. Enter from the side parking lot, go down the stairs to the kitchen area. All are welcome as well as any canned food donations. For information, call: Angela Henderson at 401-225-6174.

Every Thursday, Get-a-Job-Thursday - We Make RI, an organization that provides free manufacturing training, hosts a series of job fairs every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, 200 First

9712.

Every Thursday, The Warwick Rotary Club meets from noon to 1:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Every week features a different speaker.

Every Thursday, The Warwick Rotary Club meets from noon to 1:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Every week features a different speaker.

Ave., Cranston. We Make RI offer job seekers a chance to meet with employers, get career counseling, resume help and more. Some employers include Swissline Precision, Admiral Packaging, KB Surfaces, Warwick Hanger and Hitachi Cable. For more information about this event or other training opportunities, visit www.wemakeri.com/get-a-job-thursday or contact Mike at (401) 232-0077 x109.

Christmas in July Sale: Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hope (Scituate), is looking for donations of Christmas items for Christmas in July sale. Call Barbara: 401-827-8054

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups: The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones struggling with mental health. Groups are led by trained

facilitators with experience with family members. Meetings last 1.5 hours, and everyone gets a chance to share. Group members offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

Editor's Note: To submit your news to The Buzz, send information and photos to Rosegalie at rosegalie@beaconmediari.com by Friday at 3 p.m. to appear in the following week's edition. Items can include community and school event announcements and calls for volunteers. Submissions may be edited for space and are not guaranteed to run. To guarantee space, please call 401-732-3100 and ask to place an advertisement.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF LEGAL ACTION

IN THE MATTERS OF: PETTINATO, GABRIELLA MARIE AND PETTINATO, GREGORY ANTHONY, FC NOS. KJ25-001051 AND KJ25-001052

State of Rhode Island Family Court Juvenile, Warwick, SC IN THE MATTERS OF: PETTINATO, GABRIELLA MARIE AND PETTINATO, GREGORY ANTHONY, FC Nos. KJ25-001051 and KJ25-001052. NOTICE: Please take Notice that on April 2, 2025, the Providence County Family Court granted Petitioner's Motion for Alternative Service permitting alternative service on Defendant, Gregory Pettinato, via publication in the Warwick Beacon. Miscellaneous Petitions were filed on March 12, 2025. The matters have been scheduled for hearing on **May 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.** at Providence County Family Court located at 1 Dorrance Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Defendant, Gregory Pettinato, should contact the Law Office of Timothy J. Robenhymer, 303 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island 02888 at (401) 921-4800.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Warwick Public Schools is hereby providing Notice of Public Meeting per RIGL Chapter 23-19.14 (The Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act) and, more specifically, Section 23-19.14-4 (Objectives of Environmental Clean-Up) and Section 23-19.14-5 (Environmental Equity and Public Participation).

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss environmental investigations associated with the construction and building of a new high school on the existing Pilgrim High School Property located at 111 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick, Rhode Island.

The record for the public meeting shall be open for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this notice and, therefore, will close at 6:00 PM on May 23, 2025. Public comments regarding the environmental investigation for the proposed project must be submitted in writing to: Ms. Reilly Cusick, RI Department of Environmental Management, Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 or by email to reilly.cusick@dem.ri.gov. For more information regarding this notice, please contact Reilly Cusick by telephone at (401) 537-4343.

The Public Meeting will be held at

6:00 PM on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Pilgrim High School Auditorium at 111 Pilgrim Parkway, Warwick, Rhode Island.

4/24/25

Midnight to 5:00AM License Second Class Victualer -24hrs

APPLICATION FOR A MIDNIGHT TO 5:00AM AND A SECOND CLASS VICTUALE 24hrs IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY ORDINANCE, SECTION 10-3 AS AMENDED HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: DDO New England LLC
Dba: Taco Bell
510 Quaker Lane
Warwick RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPT., 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE, WARWICK RHODE ISLAND, AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY NIGHT, May 13, 2025, AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS LICENSE MAY BE HEARD.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci
CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD 739-9150 AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING DATE.

4/24, 5/1/25

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE NOTICE (NEW)

LICENSE APPLICATION FOR A RETAILER'S BEVERAGE LICENSE CLASS BL TO KEEP AND SELL INTOXICATING BEVERAGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 3 OF THE R.I. GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED, HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM: Café Daou LLC
Café L'Artisan
2000 Post Rd
Warwick, RI 02886

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., on Tuesday May 13th at 6:00PM AT

WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
James H. Paolucci CLERK

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 468-4217, OR TDD 739-9150 AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING DATE.

4/17, 4/24/25

CITY OF WARWICK ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: CITY OF WARWICK – ANNEX BUILDING

65 CENTERVILLE ROAD

WARWICK, RI 02886

SAWTOOTH BUILDING – 1ST FLOOR

CONFERENCE ROOM

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC HEARING AS ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW - Discussion and/or action and/or vote regarding the following petitions. The Zoning Board may approve, approve with conditions or deny the following petitions/applications, as may be modified by testimony and/or evidence presented throughout the public hearing; and/or possible vote to continue a petition's public hearing to a date determined.

Petition #11050 Ward 3
1727 Post Rd.

The petition of Crossroads Capital Fund VI, LLC, 95 Sockanissett Crossroads, Suite 203, Cranston, RI, requests an amendment to a previously granted petition, and a dimensional variance. The petitioner is proposing a fast-food restaurant without a drive-thru, previously approved as a retail space, having 128 parking spaces (188 spaces required). Also seeking a special use permit to have shared parking with the abutting property at 1689 Post Rd. Assessor's Plat 322, Lot 353, zoned General Business (GB).

Petition #11051 Ward 8
21 Solar Dr.

The petition of Daniel Gauthier, 21 Solar Dr., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a 12' x 16' two-story addition for a study in the lower level, and a dining room above. Proposed addition having a rear yard setback of 9.5' (20' required). Assessor's Plat 270, Lot 453, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11052 Ward 5
38 Whipple Ave.

The petition of Eric J. Eliason, 38 Whipple Ave., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a two-story addition to the existing one-story single-family dwelling. Proposed addition having a rear yard setback of 5.1' (20' required). Proposed deck having a rear yard setback of 5.1' (10' required). Assessor's Plat 355, Lot 296, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11053 Ward 7
1 Staples Ave.

The petition of David Collins, 4 Fifteenth Ave., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to demolish the existing single-family dwelling to construct a new single-family dwelling on a pre-existing, undersized non-conforming lot. Proposed dwelling having a front yard setback of 5.2', and proposed porch & stairs having a front yard setback of 0.6' from the front property line along Fifteenth Ave. Proposed side stairs having a setback of 3'-6" to the corner/side property line along Buttonwoods Ave. (Per RIGL 42-38 (b), a setback of 9' is required from both front property lines). Assessor's Plat 374, Lot 69, zoned Residential A-40 & Residential A-15.

Petition #11054 Ward 4
100 Circuit Dr.

The petition of Haley Gauthier, 100 Circuit Dr., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct an addition above the existing attached garage for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). Proposed addition having a side yard setback of 7.3' (15' required). Subject property being a pre-existing undersized lot. Assessor's Plat 315, Lot 24, zoned Residential A-10.

Petition #11055 Ward 4
425 West Shore Rd.

The petition of Café Namaste, LLC, 1191 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI, and Yavas, LLC, 14 Fourth Ave., Warwick, RI, request a dimensional variance to utilize the existing non-conforming commercial structure as a café, having less than required parking spaces, less than required landscaped buffer along the front property line, and less than required landscaped buffer from a residential zoning district. Assessor's Plat 318, Lot 93, zoned General Business (GB).

Petition #11056 Ward 4
425 West Shore Rd.

The petition of Café Namaste, LLC, 1191 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI, and Yavas, LLC, 14 Fourth Ave., Warwick, RI, request a dimensional variance to utilize the existing non-conforming commercial structure as a café, having less than required parking spaces, less than required landscaped buffer along the front property line, and less than required landscaped buffer from a residential zoning district. Assessor's Plat 318, Lot 93, zoned General Business (GB).

Petition #11057 Ward 5
38 Whipple Ave.

The petition of Eric J. Eliason, 38 Whipple Ave., Warwick, RI, requests a dimensional variance to construct a two-story addition to the existing one-story single-family dwelling. Proposed addition having a rear yard setback of 5.1' (20' required). Proposed deck having a rear yard setback of 5.1' (10' required). Assessor's Plat 355, Lot 296, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11058 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11059 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11060 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11061 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11062 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11063 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11064 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat 360, Lot 82, zoned Residential A-7.

Petition #11065 Ward 6
7 Holt St.

The petition of Zarrella Development Corp., 20 Gerald's Farm Dr., Exeter, RI, and Estate of Robert A. Vickers, c/o Deborah Vana, Executor, 2060 Warwick Ave., Apt. 2010, Warwick, RI, request a special use permit from Table 1 Use Regulations #101.1 to construct a 28' x 40' two-family duplex. Assessor's Plat

Grant helps firefighters breathe more easily



Warwick firefighters stand near new air packs, also called self-contained breathing apparatus, that the department was able to purchase thanks to a federal grant secured. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*



Warwick Fire Chief Peter McMichael joins Senator Reed at the podium. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Members of Warwick's Congressional delegation joined city officials at the Warwick Fire Department's headquarters Monday to announce the purchase of life-saving equipment thanks to a federal grant.

Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse along with Congressman Seth Magaziner said they were happy that securing a \$1 million federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant means 72 new self-contained Scott air packs for Warwick firefighters.

The air packs, also known as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), are essential, standard equipment for city's 200-plus firefighters whenever they enter a burning building.

Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Fire

Chief Peter McMichael thanked federal officials for obtaining the funding for the new air packs which will replace older air packs which were expiring.

"Ensuring that our firefighters have modern, updated equipment to keep them safe is critical," Reed said. "I was pleased to work with my colleagues to deliver this funding to Warwick."

In thanking the delegation, McMichael noted that without the federal assistance the new air packs they would have had to be purchased with local tax dollars. The breathing apparatus is essential fire-fighting equipment, he said.

"The men and women of the Warwick Fire Department do heroic work every day to protect their community," said Whitehouse. "I'm glad to help deliver this federal funding to ensure Warwick's first re-

sponders have access to the tools they need to do their job safely and effectively."

Fire officials said that the air packs weigh nearly 40 pounds each, and that an average firefighter wearing typical turnout gear is carrying about 60 pounds of extra weight. This would include their protective jackets and pants, helmets, hoods, boots, and any tools they might need.

Typically, the air packs provide about 20 to 30 minutes of breathing time, but that can vary depending on an individual's level of exertion, fire officials said. They noted that the air packs are equipped with safety alert alarms that every firefighter must wear. The safety system alarms chirp or beep whenever a firefighter has not been active for about a minute or less.

These personal safety alerts have proved to be essential in making sure a downed

firefighter can be quickly found, even in a smoke-choked building.

"Warwick firefighters are among Rhode Island's bravest, and we owe it to them to make sure they have the tools they need to do their jobs," said Magaziner. "Bringing home \$1 million in federal funding for new breathing equipment is one way Rhode Island's congressional delegation is stepping up to meet that responsibility and have the backs of local firefighters. I'll keep fighting for first responders to get them whatever they need to keep Rhode Islanders safe."

Reed's office noted that the collaborative work of the state's congressional delegation has brought in nearly \$30 million in federal funding for Rhode Island fire departments in the past year.

CRMC orders rock wall removed

By NANCY LAVIN
Rhode Island Current

A 600-foot-long rock wall built without permission along the shoreline of Quidnessett Country Club became the signature criticism of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council last year.

But as environmental advocates hammered the coastal agency for contemplating the country club's retroactive request for forgiveness – which the council eventually denied – a Warwick property owner's own illegal seawall escaped similar public outrage.

A hearing on Tuesday before the CRMC thrust the spotlight onto Sali Siharaj, who built a shoreline retaining wall along his property overlooking Greenwich Bay two years ago without permission from coastal regulators. Despite multiple written warnings, two separate threats of fines totaling \$18,000 and multiple meetings with CRMC staff, the illegal stone wall remains.

Which is how what has been an administrative enforcement case 'til now has risen to the attention of the 10-member, politically appointed council.

The council voted Tuesday to require Siharaj and his real estate company, ODI Realty LLC, to bring his property in compliance with state coastal regulations. The enforcement order allows a 45-day window for Siharaj to submit a restoration plan that would eliminate the stone wall and restore vegetation or face financial penalties.

The council's unanimous vote doesn't actually preclude Siharaj from having any kind of protection against shoreline erosion on his property. After removing the wall, Siharaj can opt to proceed with what coastal regulators have determined is an appropriate protection against shoreline erosion: a "hybrid" wall with stone on the bottom and vegetation on top.

Unlike the Quidnessett property, which borders the most environmentally sensitive type of state waters, where any permanent structures on the shoreline are prohibited, the shoreline abutting Siharaj's property near Buttonwoods Beach is not so stringently regulated. Some development is allowed, but it must first be reviewed and approved to meet with state coastal requirements.

According to letters to the CRMC from his attorney, Siharaj was unaware he needed CRMC approval before work could begin, and was out of the country when construction was happening.

Jed Thorp, advocacy director for Save The Bay, was skeptical of the plea of ignorance.

"Even if coastal property owners don't know coastal rules, most contractors doing the work are pretty well aware," he said.

Council member Kevin Flynn questioned why CRMC staff had not taken enforcement measures against the contractor, who continued to excavate and build the stone wall on



A stone wall was built along the shoreline of Sali Siharaj's Warwick property in 2023 without permission from the state Coastal Resources Management Council. *Photo courtesy of CRMC*

Siharaj's property, along with a separate, also illegal wall on his neighbor's section of shoreline, despite being told to stop.

"A contractor who willingly ignores cease and desist orders is part of the problem to me," Flynn said during the meeting.

Anthony DeSisto, the outside counsel for the CRMC, responded that the property owner, not the contractor, is responsible for violations of state coastal regulations.

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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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

B	B	C	G	A	S	S	P	T
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P	R	E	G	L	N	A	N	E
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City and state officials came to support the sign-lighting of Cranston's iconic neighborhood diner. Pictured left to right: Councilman Chris Buonanno, Councilman Richard Campopiano, Planning Commission member Nicole Renzulli with her children Frankie and Jojo, Mayor Kenneth Hopkins and Rep. Chris Paplauskas.

**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 handmade 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 Paplauskas.

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 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 con-



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

tinue 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.



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

tine as possible.

About 100 people participated in the April 19 open house to learn about what happens when they flush, and use the dishwasher, washing machine or shower. The event was also timed to celebrate the 1972 passage of the Clean Water Act.

"We hope people leave with an appreciation about what we do here," said Rogers. "We need people to understand what happens when you flush. Especially when you put kitchen grease down the drain or 'flushable' wipes." Rogers did little to hide her deep disdain for 'flushable' wipes.

Another part of the job that keeps her up at night is the city's aging infrastructure, which largely came online in June 1965.

"I am constantly thinking what's going to happen next," Rogers said. "A root system in a pipe, a collapse or a clog. Our job is to provide 24/7 365 uninterrupted service, so for me it isn't a matter of if, it is a matter of when."

When the worst does occur, like it did this January in the area of Namquid Drive, off Warwick Avenue, "our team is amazing."

For the January break, the first sign of trouble was a backup in residents' basements. The city's emergency response team deployed with a trailer and multiple lines and "just started flipping manhole covers" to isolate the problem. Soon they found the trouble spot – a collapse – and started running bypass hoses.

This collapse was particularly tricky because it was 26 feet below grade. This meant an extra step of pumping out the water table before they could begin the repair and relining. The project was finally completed in March.

Her team is always looking for new ways to avoid residential backups and recently deployed a set of smart devices on select manhole covers throughout the city. The sensors alert the team to water flow and if water is rising.

"The idea here is collecting data and to be watching for trends," Rogers said. The smart devices can be programmed to ring alarms on mobile phones.

"We are facing the same problems," Rogers said, "but now we have better technology."

Boulevard. "And it isn't just the rain, it is drought too."

"When we are in drought conditions, our water can often account for about 80% of the flow in the Pawtuxet River," she said. "And if there is too much water to treat because of storm flow, we have to use extra energy to keep up."

In addition to monitoring flow, her team is also keeping a daily tab on the organic materials flowing into the plant, all in an effort to keep the outflows into the river as prist-



Kyle Dorsey, a pre-treatment inspector and lab technician for the Warwick Sewer Authority, spoke about all the living organisms, including the Rotifer pictured here, that play a vital role in keeping the wastewater treatment plant running. Beacon Media photo by Joy Fox

Her team is always looking for new ways to avoid residential backups and recently deployed a set of smart devices on select manhole covers throughout the city. The sensors alert the team to water flow and if water is rising.

"The idea here is collecting data and to be watching for trends," Rogers said. The smart devices can be programmed to ring alarms on mobile phones.

"We are facing the same problems," Rogers said, "but now we have better technology."



After all, this is Rhode Island

Even though we didn't spot him, those attending the April 2 fundraiser for District 29 freshman Sen. Peter Appollonio couldn't help but think of Warwick/Cranston Rep. Joseph McNamara when removing the cover to the first dish in the serving line at Dave's Bar and Grille. It was fried calamari. McNamara introduced legislation in 2014 making calamari the state's official appetizer. The event was packed. Among those attending included past and present members of the City Council, Mayor Frank Picozzi and Appollonio's fellow senators, including Cranston Sen. Hanna Gallo, who made sure Appollonio got some of the Ocean State appetizer. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

NCAA chief, former Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker to address NEIT grads

Charlie Baker, president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and former governor of Massachusetts, will deliver New England Institute of Technology's commencement address on Sunday, May 4, at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence.

Baker is known for his bipartisan leadership, a popular governor who earned support by taking on significant issues and finding innovative ways to address them.

During his two terms as governor, Baker made investments in K-12 education, eliminated the state's budget deficit while cutting taxes, and increased access to health care. He helped bring broadband to communities throughout Western Massachusetts, guided the state's residents through the Covid pandemic and invested in expanding the capability of the state's technical schools and science and technology programs in higher education.

Baker has been president of the NCAA for two years, stepping directly from his role as governor to become the head of an organization that oversees athletic programs at 1,100 schools with a half-million student-athletes in 50 states. During his tenure he has helped to elevate women's sports and worked to keep student-athletes from being victimized

Rabbi Leslie Guterman will also be honored. Guterman is affectionately known as "Rhode Island's Rabbi," beloved for his wisdom, empathy and gentle sense of humor. He has done extensive work in the community, and for decades wrote an inspirational col-

VOWS marks 50 years of enhancing Warwick schools

Volunteers of Warwick Schools is celebrating 50 years of enhancing the lives and success of Warwick schoolchildren. A series of events marking that achievement will kick off with a "Spring Fling" wine and spirits tasting fundraiser this Saturday, April 26, from 6 to 9 pm at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd.

Adults can discover fine wines, craft beer and local spirits accompanied by delicious hors d'oeuvres while enjoying great art. Premium pours and expert wine consultation will be available. The event includes raffles and a silent auction. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be purchased online at vowsinc.square.site or at the door. All proceeds benefit the students of Warwick through Volunteers of Warwick Schools Inc.

VOWS was established in 1975 and is the centrally directed school volunteer management program that supports the efforts of the Warwick School Department. VOWS provides child outreach screening to all incoming kindergarten students, offers bullying-prevention presentations, coordinates guest readers for the popular reading week in schools and assists the good work of teachers by supporting small-group work centers in the classroom, copying and laminating materials and curriculum, and facilitating VOWS programming.

'Crafting for Critters' bazaar supports homeless animals

The 11th Annual "Crafting for Critters" spring bazaar will be held Saturday, May 10, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Airport Professional Park, 2348 Post Rd., Warwick.

Hosted by Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, more than 70 local artisans will be selling their handcrafted items. Just in time for Mother's Day, browse fine art, jewelry, crafts, handcrafted accessories, home décor, garden items, apparel, baked goods, candies, jams and jellies, dog treats, pet accessories, books and more.

Admission and parking are free. The bazaar is outdoors, so please watch the Friends social media for weather-related announcements.

Produced by Audrey Snow, director of Friends, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that uses donations and fundraiser proceeds to benefit the homeless cats and dogs at the Warwick Animal Shelter.

Donations are tax-deductible, as allowable by law. For more information, visit: <http://friendsri.org>

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City Treasurer and Finance Director Lynne Prodger and Mayor Frank Picozzi review the wording of a resolution calling for a \$50-million bond issue to complete construction of two high schools in response to a question from the council Monday night. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

● COUNCIL from page 1

timates on cost overruns for the two schools have fluctuated from \$22 million to more than \$30 million.

"But what is Plan B if this is shot down by the voters?" asked activist Barry Cook during the City Council finance committee meeting. Cook also advised that the city shouldn't go forward with the schools until it knows the exact cost of completing the projects.

**Athletic fields
last to be built**

Mayor Frank Picozzi agreed the city doesn't have the numbers, adding what is the city to do when it depletes the \$350 million earmarked for the schools and construction stops. At this point the expectation is for the buildings to be completed, but funds would be lacking for demolition of the existing schools and construction of athletic facilities in their place.

It was emphasized by council members and the administration that following completion of the two high schools, any residual funds from the \$50-million bond would be used to improve recreational facilities across the city, starting with the Mickey Stevens Sports Complex. Ward 3 Councilman Bryan Nappa wanted to make it clear that if voters approve the \$50-million, it is not a blank check for the School Department. He pointed out that using the funds for non-school related recreational facilities would be a return for all the taxpayers.

Ward 6 Councilman William Muto noted there isn't a standing list of recreational improvements but that Mickey Stevens is "a priority for all taxpayers." School representatives not present

Notably absent from the meeting were members of the School Committee and the school administration. Speaking for the School Committee, Shaun Galligan, chairman, said in a text Tuesday morning, that the referendum is a request of the mayor, and had Picozzi asked for their presence, they would have been there. Interim Superintendent William McCaffrey likewise said he and the "whole team" would have attended had they been invited.

"As a taxpayer in the city, I am pleased that the city is making a large investment in our recreational facilities. It's long overdue. I'm looking forward to seeing the changes over the next two to four years. It's a great day to be part of the Warwick community," McCaffrey wrote in a follow up text Tuesday morning.

Darlene Netcoh, president of the Warwick Teachers Union, spoke on multiple occasions in favor of the additional \$50 million and also

voiced her distaste for the state Department of Education when the question why that department wouldn't make reimbursements during phases of construction rather than waiting until completion. Netcoh said the department has "screwed" teachers and students.

Netcoh also said she didn't want to see any additional bonding go toward construction of the outdoor skating rink behind City Hall, which is scheduled to be completed in October. The statement baffled Picozzi. He said Tuesday that the project is coming in at \$1 million less than initially estimated.

Ward 5 Councilman and council finance committee chair Ed Ladouceur opened the committee hearing noting his consistent position that the city should build a single new central high school, that \$350 million would be insufficient for construction of the two schools and that the entire question of how the city should proceed should go back to the voters. In the end, however, Ladouceur reasoned that having General Assembly approval of a special election, rather than waiting until funding runs out, would be prudent. Additionally, he favors letting the voters decide and therefore voted in favor of the motion.

The issue of how the \$50-million bond might affect taxes was asked of the administration. City Treasurer and Finance Director Lynne Prodger said that would be difficult to project as it depends on the terms of the bond [20-, 25- and 30-year bonds] along with the interest rate and other variables including the revaluation that is nearing completion and the tax levy.

Rather than coming up with a dollar amount, Prodger gave a percentage increase in taxes that in the worst case scenario would be 1.6%.

**Know the rules,
says Komar**

Michelle Komar, one of several taxpayers who closely follows civic developments, chastised school and city officials for not pinning down the cost of the new schools, saying in the long run they are "going to cost a lot more in the end."

She said that contrary to the school administration's pitch for the \$350-million bond, "we're not going to buy one and get one free" because of state reimbursements.

"It was irresponsible not to know the rules before we start," Komar said. She advocated ditching the current plan and building a single best-of-everything school.

Resident Michael Zarum, whose comments frequently focus on airport developments, suggested tighter financial controls on the School Department, with monthly reports to the council showing what's been spent and is encumbered on the new schools.

Withdrawn from the agenda without explanation was City Council President Anthony Sinapi's resolution for a change in the charter, which would have also required legislative and voter approval. He is looking to expand the School Committee from five to seven members with the mayoral appointment of two members. The members selected would have been subject to the advice and consent of the council.

Asked about the proposed expansion of the School Committee, Picozzi said Tuesday he thinks such a change in the charter should come before the voters in a general election.

**What about a
special election?**

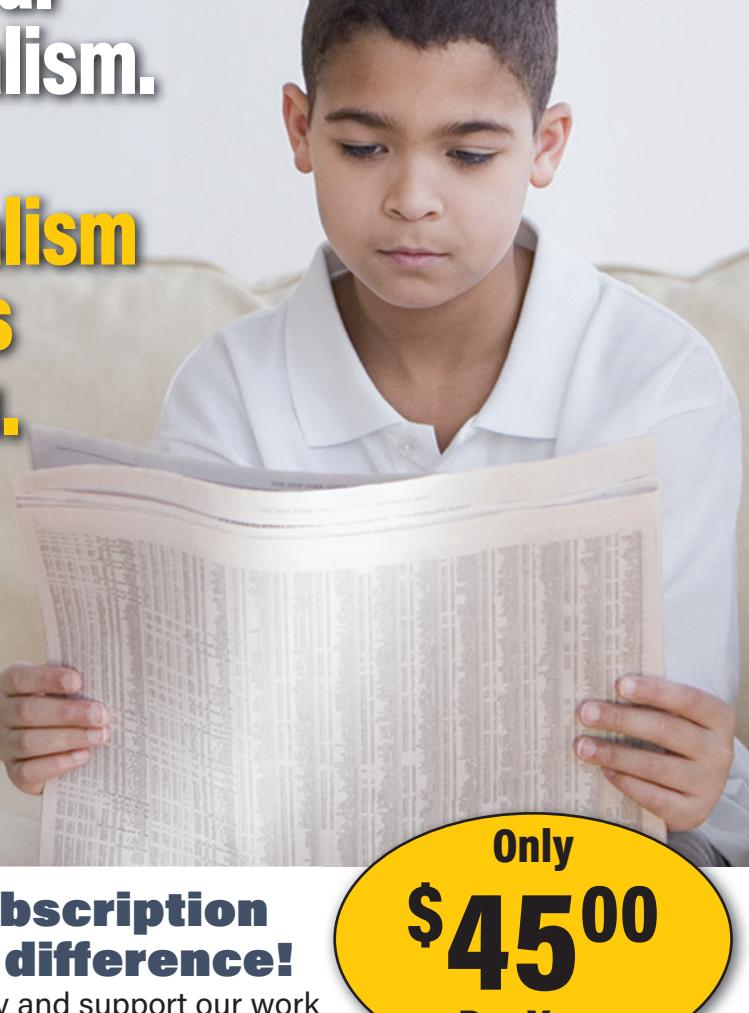
Assuming General Assembly approval of the plan for additional school funds and funds for recreational facilities, Picozzi said a special election could be held as soon as this summer. The council and the administration looked at a special election as an opportunity to amend the city Charter to streamline and modernize procedures. Unanimously, the council approved a resolution to the General Assembly to allow a change in the Charter enabling electronic notice of special council meetings although it was unclear what form of electronic notice would be used. It is presumed the measure would appear on the same ballot as the \$50 million bond question.

The council also voted in favor of Nappa's resolution supporting General Assembly review of public records laws to curb abuse of public-records requests that are being used by corporations and institutions as a means of gathering data at the government's expense. The state law is being amended to increase the hourly rate for such searches from \$15 to \$25. Council members voiced concern this could be too steep for taxpayers making the occasional request until it was noted the first hour is free.

The council tabled Sinapi's resolution to amend City Council rules, of which Sinapi had more than two dozen, until the second meeting in June, but moved ahead with Ward 4 Councilman Sal DeLuise's motion to move the start of council meetings from 7 to 6:30 p.m. DeLuise is looking to streamline the meetings by eliminating dead time between committee meetings that would continue to start at 5 p.m.

The council held for further study a resolution calling on the General Assembly to amend tax classifications to stabilize residential and commercial tax payments. Presently this is done by changing the rates between residential and commercial properties. City Assessor Neal Dupuis has proposed that it be based on a percentage of the levy.

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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.

What's on your mind?

The Warwick Beacon 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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GUEST OPINION

In Rome and Rhode Island, sad news at Easter

By FATHER ROBERT MARCIANO

As the Universal Church celebrated the great joy of Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ, the world was treated with a special and surprise visit of a convalescing Pope Francis appearing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, even in his grave condition, to give his traditional "Urbi et Orbi" blessing to the Church and to the world.

His doctors had sent him home with orders to rest and stay away from crowds but the pontiff, with his pastor's heart, had other plans. And so, on Holy Thursday, April 17, he went to visit the prisoners at Regina Coeli prison, as was his Holy Week tradition. And then Sunday, he appeared to more than 250,000 gathered in St. Peter's Square to hear his Easter message read by a bishop and hear his faint and feeble voice say "Bona Pasqua" ... Happy Easter ... and to pass his hand

over the crowd with a papal blessing.

As if this were not enough, he then got into his world famous "Pope Mobile" and went through the crowds, blessing babies and the faithful.

Easter Monday morning, the sad news reached us that he had gone to the Father's house. His Petrine mission was complete, and the world began to mourn this gentle priest with a heart for the poor and the forgotten. We will never forget his smile even to the very end, and his love of all. May this good and noble soul rest in peace.

Rhode Island has lost a strong and committed leader with the news of the death of Senate President Domenick Ruggerio on Easter Monday morning. I was privileged to have known and admired President Ruggerio and to be his guest at the State House many times to give the annual St. Joseph

**Senate President
Dominick Ruggerio
1948 - 2025**



Pope Francis 1936 - 2025

Her gift at Easter was to all: 'It was a lovely week'

There's no slowing Marcia Beagan down.

Whether it's the Hendricken graduation, a wedding, a chorus concert or a church service, she's there at her electric piano. She never sits impassively. She's swings with the music often pointing to the chorus or choir while joining in song.

You might conclude the performance is about her. Think again. Marcia is about putting the spotlight on others even in the worst of conditions, like when it's spitting rain or there's a mean cold wind off Greenwich Bay.

I thought of her Friday when I realized I wouldn't be returning to Warwick until Easter afternoon. For years, maybe 20, maybe more, I've found her shortly after 7 on Easter morning on the sand at Oakland Beach, usually wearing a bright winter coat and sporting a broad-brimmed Easter hat. She'd be setting things up for a service sponsored by the Congregational Church of Oakland Beach at St. Rita's Church.

Pastor Warren Marble of the Congregational Church and Father Francis O'Hara of St. Rita's started the early Easter morning service as a means of bringing the community together and telling the story of the disciples fishing in the Sea of Tiberius following Christ's resurrection. The disciples were uncertain who was on shore, but then Christ tells them where to cast their nets. They do as instructed, and the nets are so full they can't lift them into the boat. It's then that they realize the man is Christ.

Pastor Marble arranged for a boat at the waters' edge, and between the two churches they recruited disciples and a parishioner to play Jesus who walked the beach some distance before arriving at the boat. There's more to it than the reenactment. The Con-



gregational bell choir played hymns and those assembled joined in song and prayers.

Since the passage of Pastor Marble and retirement of Father O'Hara, the beach service has continued, albeit not as elaborately. Marcia and the churches have carried forth the tradition and pageantry of the sunrise service.

I called and learned she would be playing at multiple services during the next three days at St. Rita's and St. Timothy. And she related her episode



Flanked by Lucille Peloquin and Pastor Michael Ashe, Marcia Beagan plays and sings at the Easter morning service on Oakland Beach. Submitted photo

from Palm Sunday, when she was in such a rush she missed breakfast and forgot her phone. She ended up being taken to Kent Hospital, but fortunately it was nothing serious ... just not taking enough care of herself. It would have helped to have had breakfast. She questioned how much longer she could continue doing all she does. "I did myself in," she said.

But that was just a passing thought. She was on to preparations for Easter morning. She and Pastor Michael Ashe from the Congregational Church had met. He was still looking to find the wooden cross to be erected on the jetty, which is all part of the setting. I didn't ask about the boat, the net and on the beach fire where the disciples – many of them neighborhood kids – would huddle in their robes and turbans to ward off the morning chill.

Toward the end of the service, fish and bread would be offered from baskets to those attending. Marcia would see to it. She had the bread and the fish sticks were in the freezer, ready to be cut into bite-sized pieces after being heated Sunday morning. In response to concerns over cleanliness, Marcia placed the fish and bread in small plastic bags. She's on top of the details.

On Tuesday I gave her a follow-up call to see how it all went.

"Oh my God, things were flying around," she said of winds Easter morning. She said two men held down the 5-foot speakers on tripods so they wouldn't topple, and enactors held on to their robes and turbans.

"That was the longest week of the year," she said giving a rundown of all her performances. Then, on second thought, she concluded, "It was a lovely week. Thank God."

For many it wouldn't have been Easter without her. That's her gift.

Day prayer for the Rhode Island Senate. Each year he would give a commemorative gift to his guests, and the cufflinks he gave one year with the Rhode Island and U.S. flags will be a lifelong reminder of this strong and kind leader.

A devout Catholic, despite many pressures, he never wavered on controversial items, especially abortions, and stood tall when other Catholics faltered. He always put his faith and his convictions first and endured many a tidal wave of opposition.

We will miss him and commend his good soul to the Lord, whom he loved and served all his life. May he rest in peace.

The Rev. Robert Marciano is the pastor of St. Kevin Church, chaplain of the Warwick police and fire departments and the past president of Bishop Hendricken High School.

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 transfor-

mation 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.

LETTERS

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.

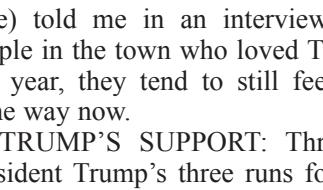
That is why I endorse universal school vouchers, which would give all parents the means to choose the best school for their kids. School choice would empower parents instead of the government.

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

GUEST OPINION

Trump's pushing of boundaries headed for showdown

Talking
Politics

by Ian Donnis

vile) told me in an interview, for people in the town who loved Trump last year, they tend to still feel the same way now.

TRUMP'S SUPPORT: Through President Trump's three runs for the White House, five rural communities have fueled his most reliable support in Rhode Island: Burrillville, Foster, Gloucester, West Greenwich and Scituate (Trump's top RI town in 2016, with 58.9% of the vote). Trump won 14 RI communities last year, up from 12 in 2020, with Woonsocket and Lincoln as the swing municipalities.

Burrillville used to be a Democratic town, just as now-Democratic Barrington and East Greenwich were formerly GOP communities. Local historian and former RI GOP National Committeeman Steve Frias, who did not seek to return to that post because of his differences with Trump, attributes the changes to national trends. "Basically, white non-college educated voters have really shifted dramatically to the Republican Party in recent years," Frias said in an interview.

LOOKING TO 2026: The latest finding from DC-based Morning Consult shows Gov. Dan McKee two points above water, with an approval rating of 43% and a disapproval of 41%. That places McKee near the bottom of the nation's governors, although it's not all that unusual. Republican Lincoln Almond's approval was at 43% before he beat Democrat Myrth York in 1998. Political obituaries were being written for Democrat Gina Raimondo when she was at 43% ahead of 2018; she wound up crushing Matt Brown in the primary and vanquishing Republican Allan Fung in the general. McKee has shown a knack for winning close races, and it's not hard to imagine him liking the idea of running with a chip on his shoulder. But the incumbent faces two wild cards as we move closer to 2026. A two-person Democratic primary race featuring Helena Foulkes poses a tougher test than the larger fields of the previously mentioned past races. And the Washington Bridge saga remains very tangible for Rhode Island voters.

BIDEN DENIALISM: Author Chris Whipple contends in his new book, *Uncharted: How Trump Beat*

Melting the
icy fingers of winter

"Wait a minute!"
This was supposed to be spring
But it still feels like winter.
It even looks like winter!

"But what happened?"
That icy stare that kept you in your house,
And out from the clear air,

Has been blinded by the yellow of the daffodils,
Who don't seem to care
How cold it gets!
They will wave and bend

... and still mend hearts
From the harshness of winter.
They do not seem to care
When they get a tear
on their beautiful petals,

For somehow they know
A fresh wind will blow,
And then they will return to building
their underground forces,
(Which develop throughout the cold of winter).
And rise up in The Spring.
Again.

Carol Howell
Warwick

Biden, Harris and the Odds in the Wildest Campaign in History, that President Biden's closest advisers and family were caught in a "fog of delusion and denial" about his ability to serve another term. Asked if Democratic voters should be angry about that, Sen. Reed told me in part: "[I]n retrospect you know, there was a series of mistakes I did this, what I thought was in a private meeting, I said to the White House that you have to get an examination of the president's cognitive skills and by two independent neurologists. And get it out publicly. I said that about two weeks before he stepped out of the race. And it was used, I think, at one point to discuss with him that he should get out of the race. But that was a point I made in confidence because I think President Biden, if you look at his record, has done a good job. But at that point he had to reassure the public and myself, but the public more importantly, that he had the cognitive abilities not only to continue his term but one more term, we hoped."

THE GUN DEBATE: With lawmakers returning to the State House this week, we're headed into a more active phase of the General Assembly session. One issue to watch is the proposed ban on new sales of assault-style weapons. As is typical in the gun debate, there are passionate arguments and motivated partisans on each side. With the debate continuing to percolate, the RI Democratic Party plans to stage a noon event this Thursday, April 24, in support of the ban, at the office of the National Education Association Rhode Island, 99 Bald Hill Road, Warwick. House Speaker Joe Shekarchi and state general officers are expected to take part, along with bill sponsors and advocacy groups. The headliner for the event is Parkland survivor and March For Our Lives co-founder David Hogg, vice chair of the DNC, who is leading an effort to oust older Democrats in primary races.

ENTITLEMENTS: Republicans have long accused Democrats of using scare tactics to motivate older voters — who vote at a higher rate than younger folks. During an event this week at the St. Martin De Porres senior center in Providence, Sen. Reed and U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner said the actions of the Trump administration speak for themselves, since thousands of Social Security Administration employees have been fired and field offices across the country have been shuttered.

Questions? Comments? Story ideas? Let us know how we're doing.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
Worship Service 9:30am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Sept - June
asburyumcri.org

Baha'i Faith
Warwick Community
Call for meeting information
800-228-6483

Buttonwoods Bible Chapel
311 Buttonwoods Avenew
401-823-7803
or 508-579-7384

Christ Church
1025 Main St., E.G.
(corner Post & Cedar)
884-8632
www.christchurche.org

Church of The Apostles

Anglican Church in
North America
170 Fairview Ave.
Coventry, RI 02816
821-7609
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
www.apostlesri.org

Church of The Transfiguration
1665 Broad Street
461-3142
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

Community of Christ Church

292 West Shore Road

Rev. Nancy L. Cornish

Rev. Peter M. Latham

738-0342

10 am. Sundays

concordiacsl.org

Eckankar Center

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Path of Spiritual Freedom

Light & Sound Services

1st & 3rd Sundays 10 AM

Pastor Mark Lopotoski

738-4727

www.eckankar-ri.org

Faith Baptist Church

765 Commonwealth Ave.

Pastor Matt Vandeleest

738-7664

faithbaptistri.org

Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am

Faith Family Chapel

205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)

Pastor Brian Regan

681-4690

www.faithfamilychapel.org

First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

715 Oakland Beach Avenue

Pastor Michael Ashe

738-3377

fccwri.org

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

124 Division St.

East Greenwich

Friendship Baptist Church

2945 West Shore Road

Pastor Kaleb Hall

738-4392

friendshippri.com

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue

Rev. Dallas Ann Bradel

737-1230

www.gccp.org

Lakewood Baptist Church

255 Atlantic Avenue

Pastor Ron Provencal

781-1136

lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com

Sunday Worship 10am

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www.facebook.com/LBCWarwick.

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739-2444

www.LivingFaithRI.org

Warwick Beacon

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Johnston SunRISE

Narragansett Bay Baptist Church

1642 West Shore Road
Pastor Dru Merrill
738-0600
nbbc.org

Norwood Baptist Church

48 Bulldog Avenue
Rev. George Barclay
941-7040

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1817 Warwick Avenue
Pastor Todd Stange
739-2937
www.pilgrimlutheranri.org

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church

3257 Post Road
Rev. Scott R. Lee
737-4141
8:00 & 10:00 Holy Eucharist
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

111 West Shore Road
737-3127
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am
www.stmarkswarwick.com

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

389 Greenwich Avenue
Rev. Hayley Bang
737-6758
stpaulwarwick.org

Saint Timothy Church

1799 Warwick Avenue
739-9552

Saints Rose & Clement Church

111 Long Street
739-0212
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Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am

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High School Programming
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
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738-7664

faithbaptistri.org

Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am

Faith Family Chapel

205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)
Pastor Brian Regan

● FRANCIS from page 1

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 shin-

ing 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.

Obituaries

Leonard M. Reynolds

Leonard M. Reynolds, age 80, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 17, 2025 with his family and loved ones at his side. He was the beloved husband of Linda Jo (Wallace) to whom he was married for 54 years prior to her passing in 2021. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Leonard A. and Anna A. (Hogan) Reynolds.

After many years of working in the industry, Len and his wife started their own roofing company, Roofing Concepts, which they owned and operated for nearly 40 years. He left an indelible mark on the construction community through the safety changes he advocated for and the friendships he made along the way. He was very generous with his time and talents and was a champion for others' successes and accomplishments. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed spending time near the water and working in the gardens in his yard. Len was an avid car enthusiast and shared that passion with his grandson, Liam.

He was the devoted father of Sean P. Reynolds and his wife, Kimberly of East Greenwich and the cherished 'Papa' of Liam M. Reynolds. He is also survived by dear family friend Seth McAdams (wife, Karla) to whom he was a mentor and father figure.

A Visitation will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 4-7pm in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. He will be privately interred in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 will be greatly appreciated.

Thomas J. Carmody

Thomas J. Carmody, 77, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. He was the beloved father of Alicia J. Farugia and her husband James Farugia. Born in Providence, Thomas was the devoted son of the late John Carmody and Florence (Patnaude) Carmody. In addition to his daughter, Thomas is survived by his loving sister Lynda Marzahn and her husband William; as well as his niece Kara Marzahn and her husband Thomas. He also leaves behind many dear friends, colleagues and his beloved cat Harrison.

A lifelong resident of Rhode Island, Thomas proudly served his nation in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea. Upon his discharge from the Army, Thomas joined the Warwick Police Department where he served an additional 31 years before retiring as Major. While stationed in Korea, Thomas became passionate about martial arts and continued to practice throughout his life; eventually becoming a 5th degree black belt in Kenpo Karate. During his retirement, he enjoyed driving around Warwick, reading the newspaper at Cominicut Point, and spending time with cats. He loved all animals and was a strong advocate for many local animal shelters. Above all else, Thomas loved his family who will miss him dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may be made to Scruffy Paws Animal Rescue by visiting the following webpage: www.scruffypawsanimalrescue.org/donate/

For information and condolences visit www.TheQuinnFuneralHome.com

Joseph Francis Barbone

Joseph Francis Barbone "Joe" 93, of Warwick, passed away on April 9, 2025 at Sunny View Nursing Home. He retired after 29 years as an Inspector 4th Class from Electric Boat in Groton, CT where he also earned an associate's degree.

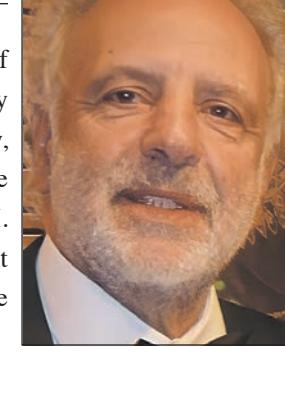
Joe was born on Oak Street in Westerly to Rose M. (Hutchings) and Anthony T. Barbone Sr. He graduated from Immaculate Conception School and Westerly High School before enlisting in the Army in 1950. He served as a PFC in the 334th Engineer Dump Truck Company in Paris during the Korean War. He was also assigned to duty with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). Upon discharge he returned to Westerly and worked as a plumber's apprentice for the family business - Barbone Service Company. During his life Joe also lived in Connecticut, Florida and Arizona before returning to Rhode Island in 2018 to be close to family. Joe was an avid fisherman and camper and member of the Westerly Elks Club. He loved a hearty plate of food (especially seafood), a glass of Merlot and soupie. He enjoyed watching movies from his vast DVD collection, crossword puzzles and listening to music.

Joe was predeceased by his brother Anthony T. "Tom" Barbone Jr., sister Helen R. Preuity, son Paul J. Barbone, daughter Lisa S. O'Connor and his granddaughter Elizabeth S. O'Connor. He was later the companion of Vivian during his time in Arizona. Joe is survived by several nieces and nephews and their children in addition to his daughter-in-law Deborah Barbone and his great granddaughter Kianna Grillo both of Alabama.

Burial will be private. A celebration of Life will be scheduled for a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island or HopeHealth Hospice and Palliative Care. Online condolences may be shared at www.THEBUTTERFIELDHOME.com

Louis Notarianni

 Louis Notarianni, 90, of Oro Valley, AZ, formerly of RI, passed away on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. He was the beloved husband of Regine M. "Gigi" (Baudot) Notarianni. Visit NardolilloFH.com for complete obituary and online condolences.



Raymond N. Finelli

 Raymond N. Finelli, Jr., a Rhode Island Portrait Artist and Advertising Professional, joined his heavenly family recently, at 103 years old. He was born in Washington DC before moving to Providence, then Warwick, RI. He was the oldest and last surviving of 5 siblings born to Raymond N. Finelli, Sr. and Daisy (Johnson) Finelli. He was married to his wife Edith (Whitaker) Finelli for 56 years, and is survived by a daughter, a grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

He was in World War II from 1940-1945, spending 5 years in the US army in North Africa and Europe as a company clerk and assistant to the medics, typing the chaplain's letters to send home to families of those killed in the war. He started in Casablanca and Algiers, fought through Italy into France, and was in Alsace-Lorraine near the German border when the war ended.

He and his wife were parishioners of Grace Church since 1952. He taught 5th grade Sunday School for 15-20 years, then was Head Usher for the next 15 years. After that, he interviewed other parishioners for their "Parish Profile" in their monthly paper newsletter for another 10 years!

In 1962, he started Raymond Finelli Associates, a Providence based industrial advertising agency, which he ran until retiring in 2002 when he became a full-time portrait artist. He found his calling for art in the early 1960s when he studied at the Rhode Island School of Design with Edna W. Lawrence, noted artist, teacher, and founder of the RISD's renowned Nature Lab. He says she was a major influence in the development of his portrait painting career. In 1963 he joined South County Art Association, became its program chairman, and later president.

He joined the Providence Art Club in 1970, sponsored by his high school friend and well-known artist, Maxwell Mays, and later served on the Club's Board of Managers. He has received awards for his artwork at both South County Art Association and at Providence Art Club. He started teaching Portraiture at the Providence Art Club in 1972 and taught it there for 48 years until age 99! In 2006 he became a Life Member there when was awarded the Providence Art Club Medal, given to a few members for many years of dedication to the activities of the Club, and in 2024 was chosen to join the "President's List".

Visiting Hours will be Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 3:00PM to 5:00PM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick. A memorial church service at Grace Church in Providence will be planned for early summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Providence Art Club, 11 Thomas Street, Providence, RI 02903 or Grace Church, 300 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903 for the music department, "In memoriam for Raymond Finelli".

www.murphyfuneralhomes.org

Obituaries

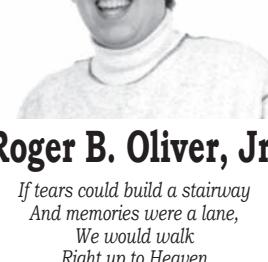
In your time of need, the Cranston Herald will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, cranstononline.com.

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

— Thank you

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APRIL 26, 1972



Roger B. Oliver, Jr.

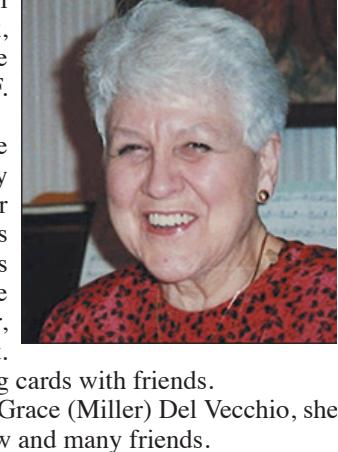
If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane,
We would walk
Right up to Heaven
And bring him home again.
No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before
We knew it
And only God knows why.
Our hearts still ache
With sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

Love Mom, Dad,
Tina, Kelcey, Christian & Cassidy

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Gladys F. Miller

Gladys F. Miller 97, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2025. Born in Warwick, she was the daughter of the late William A. & Anna F. (Sharpley) Miller.



Gladys worked as an Inside Salesperson for Dental Supply Company for many years prior to her retirement. She was a member of the St. Kevin's choir for over 20 years. She was an avid swimmer, golfer, and overall sports enthusiast. She loved knitting and playing cards with friends.

She was the loving sister of Grace (Miller) Del Vecchio, she is also survived by her nephew and many friends.

All are welcome to a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick at 10 a.m. on April 25, 2025. Her burial will be private.

Pamela D. Hull Borges

Pamela D. Hull Borges, 66, passed away at home surrounded by her loving family, Sunday April 20, 2025. She was the wife of the late Steven Borges. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Gloria (Littlefield) Hull.

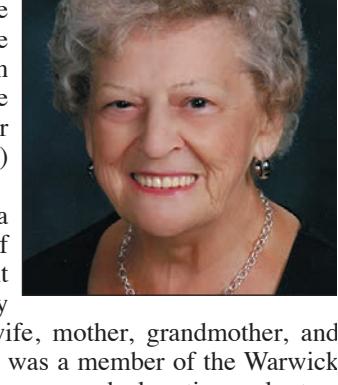


Pam lived in Warwick and Vero Beach, FL before moving to North Providence in 2021. She was an administrator with US Airways/American Airlines for 35 years before retiring in 2021. She also was a travel teacher at the Sawyer School for 10 years. She was the sister of G. Gail Martin of PA, Sandra L. Leigh of Gloucester, Robyne L. Fletcher of Greenville, Paula S. Drzal of North Providence and the late Robert L. Hull and the late Richard F. Hull. She is also survived by godchildren, many nieces and nephews. Pam was the "Auntie Gram" to several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Her funeral will be held Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10am in the Tucker-Quinn Funeral Chapel of Patrick Quinn Funerals and Cremations, 643 Putnam Pike, Greenville. Burial will be private. Visitation will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 4-7pm. Kindly visit PatrickQuinnFuneralsandCremations.com for information and online condolences.

Katherine Madeline Marsocci

Katherine Madeline (Golanski) Marsocci, 93, of Warwick, passed away on Saturday, April 19, 2025. She was the loving wife of the late Joseph J. Marsocci, Sr. Born in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of the late Alexander J. and Margaret (Buckley) Golanski.

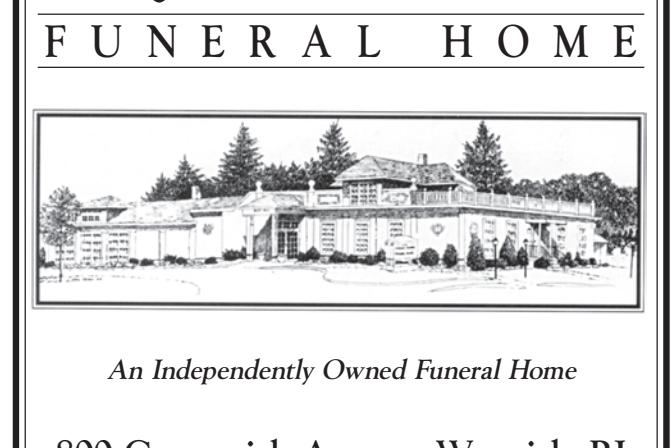


Katherine worked as a Secretary for the State of Rhode Island - Department of Elderly Affairs for many years. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Katherine was a member of the Warwick Central Baptist Church in Apponaug and a longtime volunteer for the R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program).

She is survived by her beloved children, Joseph J. Marsocci, Jr. of Warwick and Laurie S. Horner (James) of Warwick, her brother, John Golanski of Florida, her grandchildren, Kristine N. Marsocci, Katie M. Marsocci, and Dylan J. J. Horner, her great-grandchildren, Shelby and Scarlett, and many nieces and nephews.

Her Funeral Arrangements are private and entrusted to THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

www.murphyfuneralhomes.org



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During his return to the Senate floor on June 6, 2024, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, left, shares a laugh with Sen. David Tikoian. *Christopher Shea/Rhode Island Current*



Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, a North Providence Democrat, listens to testimony during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on a bill he introduced seeking reforms to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights on Jan. 23, 2024. *Christopher Shea/Rhode Island Current*

● RUGGERIO from page 1

acy and inspired all who served alongside him. His impact will be felt for generations."

Another state lawmaker representing Warwick, Mark McKenney, D-District 30, also issued a statement:

"Dominick Ruggerio was a lion of the Senate. He loved the Senate and took care of the senators. He had his moments; some folks found him a little gruff. But he listened. He was straightforward and his word was good. He felt for and worked for the disadvantaged and the elderly and the folks who did the hard labor."

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.

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 center for pneumonia.

'End of an era'

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.

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. With Beacon Media reports

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Lifestyles

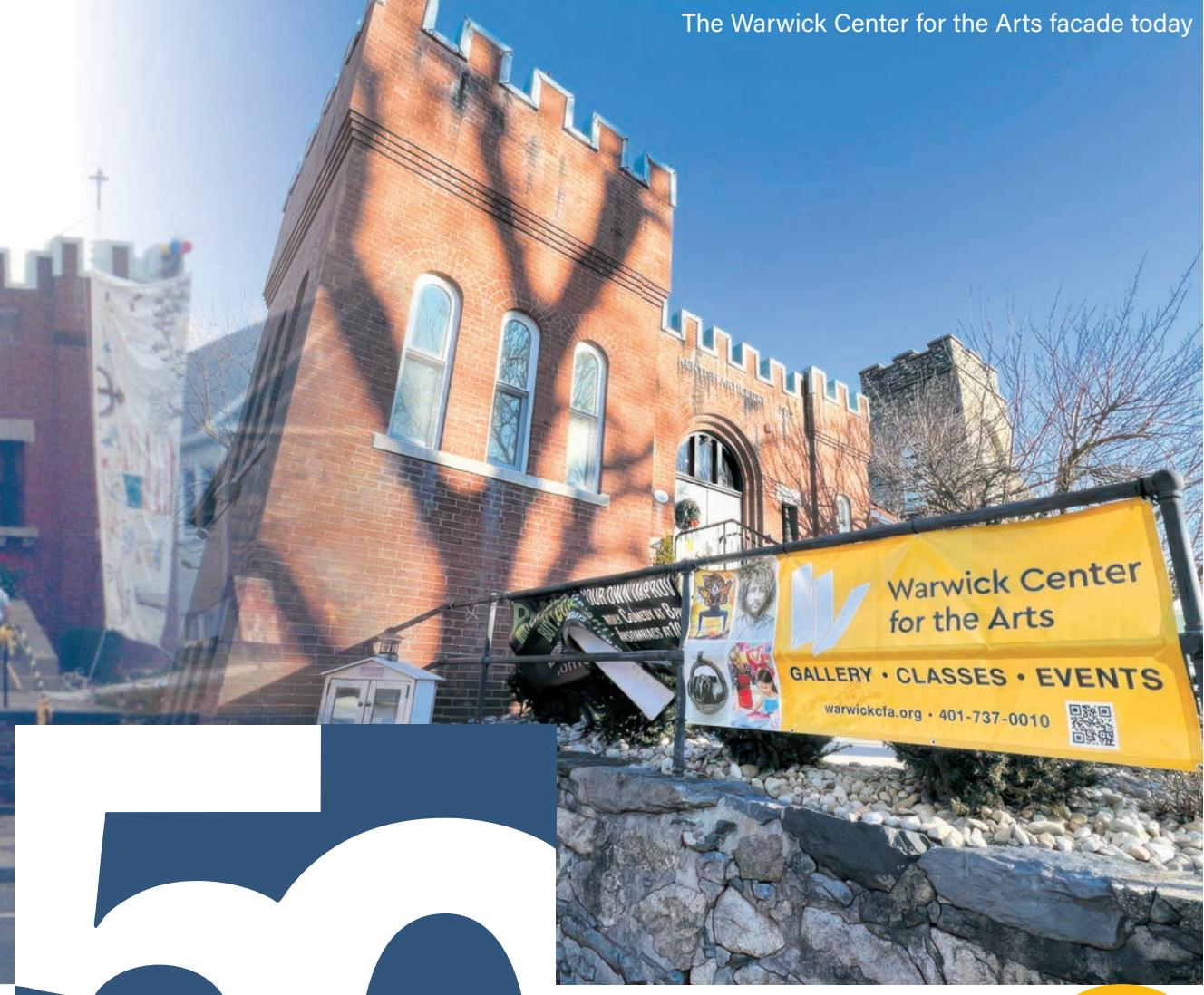
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

WARWICK BEACON

The Museum facade in 1980



The Warwick Center for the Arts facade today



What does

50

mean to
you?

Warwick Center for the Arts marks five decades

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

The museum opened its doors in Pontiac Mills in February 1976, the year of the nation's bicentennial. The first exhibit at the museum featured the history of Warwick's textiles and mills.

Located in the heart of Apponaug, Warwick Center for the Arts celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and the Center is currently in the midst of a full year of activities. Next up: a masquerade party and the opening of a group art exhibition centered around the theme of fifty.

In 1975, Warwick Junior Women's Club members presented the concept of the museum to the Warwick Bicentennial Commission. The Commission fully endorsed the project and the founders began fundraising.

"The Bicentennial Committee also contributed a cash award that helped provide seed money for the organization to flourish," Salisbury adds.

The museum opened its doors in Pontiac Mills in February 1976, the year of the nation's bicentennial. The first exhibit at the museum featured the history of Warwick's textiles and mills.

That home for the museum would be short-lived, because in 1977 the War-

"She shared details about how the idea to create a museum in Warwick became a project for the club," said Salisbury. "They entered the project into the

National Federation of Women's Club Community Improvement Contest. The project came in fifth out of ten thousand clubs competing nationally, which brought home prize money for the museum project."

wick Boys Club decided to move out of the Kentish Artillery Building in Apponaug. Carole Blank, the museum's director at the time, negotiated a lease with George Rice of the Kentish Artillery, and that

ing is on the National Registry of Historical Buildings as part of what is known as the Warwick Civic Center Historic District, which also includes City Hall and the Henry Warner Budlong Memorial

between the library and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Post Road.

The name has changed several times over the years: the Warwick Museum became the Warwick Art Museum and then the Warwick Museum of Art before settling in as the Warwick Center for the Arts in 2015.

The Center has faced several challenges over the years, including within the last decade from the pandemic to lease agreements.

"In 2017, the Center was awarded a \$140,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation to fix and restore the front of the building," said Salisbury. "However, the lease from the city had expired and the presiding mayor refused to renew the art center's lease, leaving the Art Center without recourse."

In 2019, then-mayor Joseph Solomon told the Beacon's John Howell that he was going to evict the Center to put city offices in the

Armory. That luckily did not happen, and in 2021 Mayor Frank Picozzi offered the Center a new ten-year lease.

In addition to producing community art exhibitions, the Center also holds art classes for adults and youth, yoga classes, summer art camps, and other events. Upcoming events include a poetry reading with Hannah Little on Saturday, April 26; the first in a series of plein air painting events in Apponaug Village, also on April 26; a weekly Saturday morning Vinyasa yoga class; and a series of summer art camps that begin the week of June 23.

On Saturday, May 3 from 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Center presents "Celebrating 50", a masquerade party with live music by the Lafayette Band Flute Trio. There will also be appetizers, a raffle, and a chance to view the new group exhibition Fifty. Masquerade

● ARTS to page 17



Warwick Center
for the Arts

years celebrating community arts

The Warwick Center for the Arts gallery
is free and open to the public 11 a.m. to 3
p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.
Learn more about WCFA and plan your
visit at www.warwickcfa.org

September the Museum began leasing its current home for \$25 per month.

Built in 1912 by the firm William R. Walker and Son, the old armory build-

ing. The large brick room that comprises the gallery was originally a drill hall for the Kentish Artillery Unit.

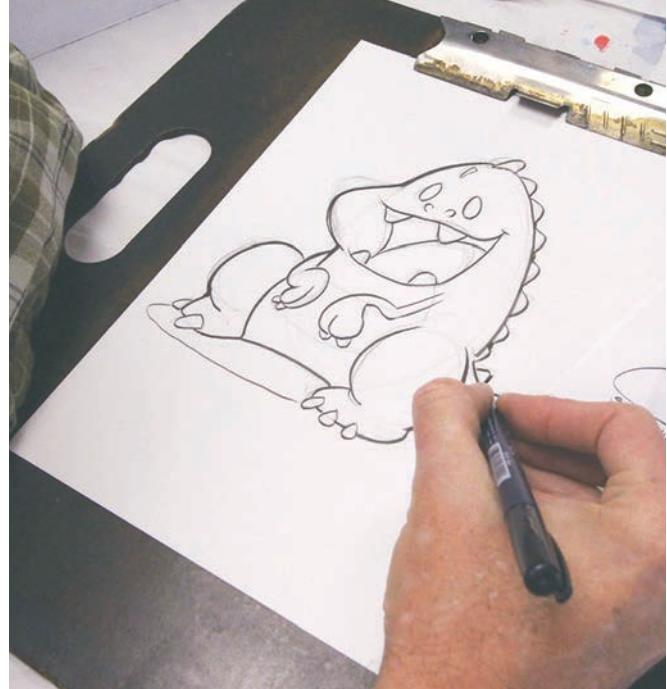
The Center fits snugly



At left, Carolyn McAndrew of Warwick shows off her one-of-a-kind monoprint after learning the technique from class instructor Veronica Janssen of Wakefield in October 2024. Beacon Media file photo



Danielle Salisbury, executive director of the Warwick Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy of warwickcfa.org



During COVID in 2021 the Center hosted instructional cartoon drawing. Beacon Media file photo

ANIMAL TALK



By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



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.almosthomeric.org> or email support@almosthomeric.org

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



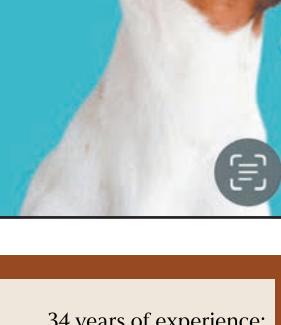
ADOPTION event

THIS SUNDAY!

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'Be Transported By Broadway'

PPAC announces 2025/2026 Broadway Season



J.L. "Lynn" Singleton, President and CEO of the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC), is pleased to announce the Theatre's 2025/2026 Broadway Season, featuring the Taco and The White Family Foundation Broadway Series and the Encore Series. PPAC patrons can look forward to all-new Broadway productions, including the 2024 Tony Award winning Best Musical THE OUTSIDERS, and long-awaited return engagements of WICKED and Disney's THE LION KING.

Subscription packages for the Taco and The White Family Foundation Broadway Series and the Encore Series are on sale. New subscribers may call the PPAC Box Office at 401.421.4278 (2787) or New Subs Rep Sharon Corcoran at 401.574.3136 for more information. Box Office window and phone hours are Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and two hours prior to curtain time(s) on performance days. Sharon Corcoran's hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Current subscriber seats will be

held until the renewal deadline of Thursday, May 22, 2025. PPAC will notify current subscribers via email when their renewal packets are in the mail.

Group sales for the upcoming season are also available; groups of 10 or more may visit ppaci.org/groupickets or contact Group Sales Manager Paul Hiatt at 401.574.3162 or phatt@ppaci.org

Six critically-acclaimed and award-winning shows comprise Taco and The White Family Foundation Broadway Series:

HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD – Sept. 19–Oct. 4, 2025

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS – Dec. 2–7, 2025

SUFFS – Jan. 20–25, 2026

WICKED – March 4–22, 2026

THE OUTSIDERS – April 14–19, 2026 – The 2024 Tony Award®-winning Best Musical

KIMBERLY AKIMBO – May 5–10, 2026 – The five-time Tony Award®-winning Best Musical

The Encore Series includes three well-loved shows that are "back by popular demand" and one production that will make its Providence debut:

SIX – Oct. 22–26, 2025

HADESTOWN – Nov. 7–9, 2025

CLUE – Jan. 16–18, 2026

Disney's THE LION KING – May 20–June 7, 2026

Along with Broadway touring productions, PPAC will present comedians JO KOY on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025 at 8 p.m., and LOUIS C.K. on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 at 7 p.m. The band AMERICA brings their concert tour

to PPAC on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.

The Boston Pops, conductor Keith Lockhart and the Metropolitan Chorale return to the Theatre for their BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY CON-

CERT on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 at 8 p.m. CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE will dazzle audiences with their whimsical holiday spectacular from Dec. 19–21, 2025 for four performances only.

Sensory-Friendly Performance – Bill Blagg's FAMILY MAGIC

Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 2 p.m.

In partnership with The Autism Project

With over 60 minutes of non-stop magical fun, FAMILY MAGIC is specifically designed to entertain and engage audiences of all ages. Renowned magician Bill Blagg's unique blend of comedy, audience participation and mind-bending magic will keep you on the edge of your seat eagerly anticipating what's coming next.

A sensory-friendly performance includes the following accommodations:

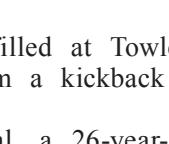
- House lights are dimmed, and sound levels are kept at 90 decibels.
- Strobe lighting and blinking lights have been eliminated.
- Audience members may bring small coping tools into the theatre (i.e. weighted blankets, fidgets, headphones, etc.). PPAC will provide fidgets and character cards.
- Break areas are available in multiple locations for families to access throughout the theatre.

On-sale dates for individual shows will be announced at a later date.

Addiction to prescriptions nothing new

Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



Jimmy Gardiner twisted and turned in his Rhode Island jail cell. It had been hours since he'd had access to cocaine, and he was becoming so sick that a doctor had to be called in. Ironically, it was a handful of local doctors who were the very reason that people like Gardiner were addicted to drugs in the early 20th century.

In 1916, physician Dr. Charles O'Leary, dentist Dr. Daniel D. Rogers, and pharmacist John S. D'Arcy were arrested and charged with conspiring to violate the federal drug act. D'Arcy was employed at Towle's Drug Store, which sold more drugs than any other pharmacy in the state of Rhode Island. Ninety-five percent of their business was brought in through prescriptions written out by O'Leary and Rogers. Within a period of two months – between April and June 1915 – Dr. Rogers handed out prescriptions for 9,000 morphine tablets and 58,000 heroin tablets. During that same period, Dr. O'Leary prescribed 2,000 morphine tablets and 44,300 heroin tablets. In addition, between the two of them, the pharmacy received prescriptions totaling six pounds of opium and 48 ounces of cocaine. Between March 1915 and August 1915, each time either of the doctors wrote out a pre-

scription to be filled at Towle's, D'Arcy gave them a kickback of three dollars.

During the trial, a 26-year-old male witness named James Perry swore that he had observed young girls buying narcotics at the pharmacy in his presence. The reason he was present at the pharmacy so often, he testified, was because he had been addicted to morphine, cocaine and heroin and frequently scored his drugs from D'Arcy. Another man, William Grosse, testified that he had witnessed people not only buying drugs at the pharmacy, but going into the back room to use them immediately.

D'Arcy was found guilty of the charge against him and sentenced to serve almost two years in prison. In response to his plea to be placed at an out-of-state prison so that his young son would not be aware of his confinement, he was committed to the Atlanta Penitentiary in Georgia.

Rogers, an 1883 graduate of the Philadelphia Dental College, was

found guilty and sentenced to serve three months at the Rhode Island State Prison in Cranston.

Forty-eight-year-old O'Leary, the son of a wealthy doctor who had grown up shadowed by servants, had been let out of jail on bail and failed to appear for the trial. In Dec. of 1916, he was located in New York. So strung out on drugs he was unable to walk or talk coherently, he was transported to Bellevue Hospital for treatment before being arraigned as a fugitive from justice. An eight-year addict, he pleaded nolo to the charge of conspiring to violate the federal drug act. He was sentenced to serve three months at the Providence County jail and saw his license to practice medicine revoked.

Later that decade, O'Leary resumed his medical practice from an office in Providence. Unmarried, he moved around to a series of boarding houses within the city. In June of 1930, he was placed at Dexter Asylum in Providence, a residential institution for the poor and sick. He died in January 1947 after suffering from chronic hepatitis – an inflammation of the liver – and malnutrition for many years. Only a few months after being released from prison, Rogers died from the effects of tuberculosis pneumonia.



Sun Urchins. Submitted photo

Sun Urchins launch 'Glow In The Dark'

By ROB DUGUAY

It's always cool to see a band that makes their influences visible while putting their own spin on them. This is one of the many characteristics that separates the originators and progressors from the ripoffs and hacks. For the Providence power trio Sun Urchins, it's apparent that guitarist and lead vocalist Em Timm, bassist and backing vocalist Tyler Bisson and drummer Andrew Knox are fans of '80s and '90s indie and alternative rock. This comes through in their sophomore EP "Glow In The Dark", which was released via Toy Camera Records on April 4. While possessing an amplified edge, the lyrics and arrangements give off upbeat vibes that are adorned with interweaving harmonies.

After having a fast paced process with their debut EP that came out in 2022, Sun Urchins decided to take their time with the new release while working with a producer. This was something Timm hadn't done before, but she enjoyed the experience and the band is pleased with the result.

"We'd been a band for a few years when we decided it was time to record another album," she said about the making of "Glow In The Dark". "Our second EP is a collection of seven songs that I brought to the band as demos and then with Tyler and Andy we arranged different parts, fleshed them out, and they got closer to their final form. Our first EP, 'Personal Shell', was recorded

in a single whirlwind weekend at our friend's studio in upstate New York. This time around, we yearned for a more leisurely pace, and with Tyler's skills as a recording engineer, we took several weeks to record the album from home, bit by bit. All the recording gear took over the house for a while, but it was well worth it to be able to take our time."

"Clover Nahabedian of the band Cheap City was enlisted as our producer," Timm adds. "It was my first time working with a producer, and it was truly great to have someone coming up with ideas and suggestions for recording, keeping us on track, and being smart and encouraging. She also played keys on a bunch of the songs. In true DIY spirit, we did it all ourselves with the recording, the production and the album art. Thanks to Tyler's late cut recording business, Audio Geography, we were able to wrap on recording, master the album, and start making records in two weeks flat."

While Timm didn't initially have a topical thread in mind while writing the tunes for "Glow In The Dark", she eventually discovered that the majority of the songs centered on raising the spirits of her community. With these uncertain times we're living in, her aspiration is for the listener to connect to the record in that way and in turn, uplift the folks they surround themselves with.

"I didn't set out to write a concept album, or even a collection of songs with a common theme, but I realized after we recorded that a lot of the songs on 'Glow In The Dark' are about lifting up the people around me," she said. "I hope this album can do that for anyone who listens. Other themes include existential dread and having big feelings, both good and bad. This is an album for empaths who need songs to blast while driving into the setting sun on I-95. It's for anxious introverts who feel weird being in public, and it's for those of us who have hope for the future but know it's not going to look anything like the world we know."

"Are you allowed to have crushes during the apocalypse? We say yes," Timm adds. "It's about how, with work, pain can make your spirit stronger and make it unbreakable. Overall, it's an evolution from our first album. We have gelled more as a band after playing together for a few years, and I think that's reflected in these songs."

My personal highlights off of "Glow In The Dark" include "Invitation", "Lullaby" and "Fake Smile", but I suggest listening to the EP all the way through. To do exactly that, log onto Sun Urchins' Bandcamp page at sunurchins.bandcamp.com and give it a stream while also purchasing the record for your digital music library. To keep tabs on the band in terms of shows, future releases and everything else, follow them on Instagram at instagram.com/sun_urchins.

Small actions can make a difference

Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22, but the spirit of the day can continue every day. The day serves as a reminder that our planet needs kindness and care. While I may be just a tiny speck on this vast Earth, I know that even small actions can make a difference. Little changes, when shared by everyone, can add up, inspiring greener habits that last throughout the year. By making mindful choices, we can all contribute to a healthier planet.

One thing I'm going to do is plant some vegetables with a little help from Hubby, of course. He has a green thumb, while mine might be more... well, brown and slightly wilted. I am not exactly the star of

the gardening world, but I am an enthusiastic side-kick. I love watching how his tomatoes and cucumbers grow, transforming from delicate little blossoms into full-grown, edible delights. It's like a slow-motion magic show. There's truly nothing better than the taste of a fresh, sun-warmed tomato, sliced open and sprinkled with salt.

Every year, Hubby has the same noble plan to grow enough tomatoes to make his famous homemade tomato sauce, the kind he lovingly layers into his lasagna with fresh basil

and garlic. But alas, there are never enough tomatoes left over.

Still, the process is a joy, digging into the soil, getting our hands dirty (well, his more than mine), and checking each morning for new blossoms. It may seem to be a small thing, but it makes us feel a little more connected to the Earth, and to each other.

For Earth Day, I find myself suddenly invested in recycling. I get confused about whether all paper and plastics are recyclable, and often, I will lazily toss everything into the recycling bin, only to later learn that my greasy pizza box and plastic forks are not exactly recycling friendly. Hubby, ever the recycling guru, is always

Ming's brings exciting food to Edgewood

Restaurant Review by DON FOWLER

The exciting, innovative Providence food truck cuisine has arrived at the corner of Broad St. and Shaw Ave., awakening the Edgewood neighborhood to something more than pizza and Chinese.

Ming's opened with a bang as curious customers stood in line over an hour to order their Thai chicken sandwiches and specialty drinks.

On our first visit, we tried three of their appetizers, all priced at \$17, complete with tasty sauces. I loved the egg rolls, crispy on the outside and filled with ground pork, cabbage, carrots and ginger. Joyce enjoyed the crab Rangoons, stuffed with imitation crab, cream cheese and mascarpone.

The pork dumplings were swimming in a Szechuan

sauce, giving them a unique flavor.

Our second visit was a take-out order of their two signature chicken sandwiches.

Kick'n Chicken was topped with mixed greens, Thai sweet chili sauce, spicy mayo, fried garlic, cilantro and scallions.

Katsu BBQ was topped with a Japanese BBQ sauce, sesame cabbage slaw, garlic aioli, cilantro and scallions.

Both are \$17 and served with french fries.

The chicken is humongous, twice the size of the sesame roll, and perfectly cooked.

Joyce suggested that they needed bigger rolls or small pieces of chicken.

I had a better answer. I cut the sandwiches in half (we shared) and trimmed

the extra chicken, giving us enough for sandwiches the next day.

The counter service bar has unique pre-mixed drinks, (\$11-\$14) beer (\$5-\$10) and wine (\$10). Pitchers of cold water sit on the bar.

Other items include hamburgers, soups, salads and specials.

Ming's has been overwhelmed since it opened, causing long lines and waits. With the owner taking the orders and running the bar, it is obvious that a better system exists and will probably be developed by the time you read this.

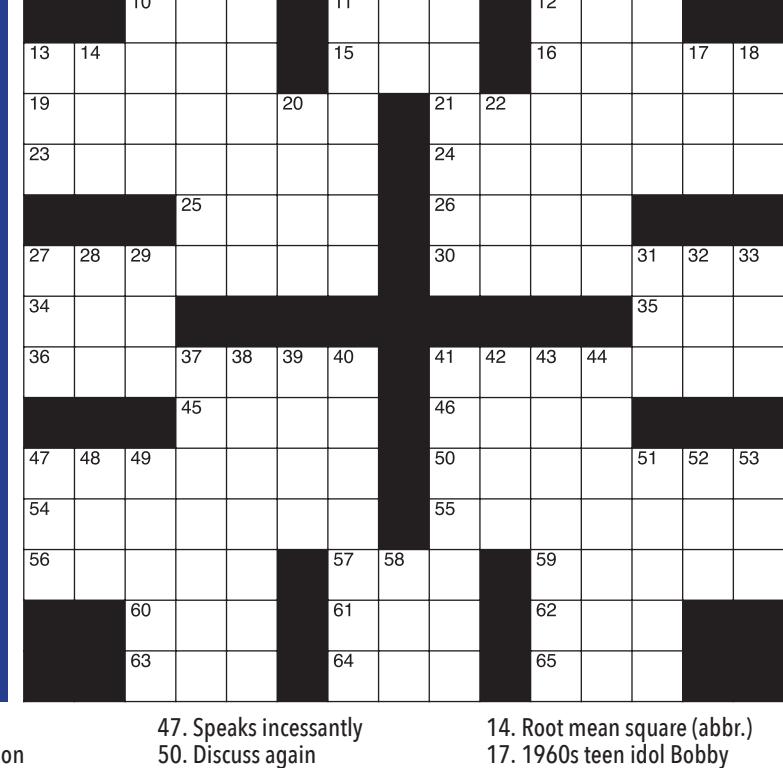
Ming's is open Tuesday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, dine in and take out. Their phone number is 680-8991.



Ming's on Broad located at 1864 Broad St. is a brick-and-mortar location from the owners of the popular food truck.

Photo courtesy of mingsri.com/mings-on-broad

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



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
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Dishwasher soap brand
- 45. Hall where military eats
- 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
- 10. 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

Prudence Dispatch.

A POETRY JOURNAL

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Open for Submissions Through May 31

The Rhode Island Philharmonic announces 2025/2026 season

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates its 81st season with the 2025/26 TACO Classical Series and Amica Rush Hour Series, led by new Music Director Ruth Reinhardt. Subscriptions are available now at tickets.rphil.org/subscribe. Subscribe now and receive free tickets to Yo-Yo Ma's Season 80 Gala Concert performance on May 31! Hurry before tickets sell out!

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra's new Music Director, Ruth Reinhardt, will conduct five of the programs

this season. "I am tremendously honored to join the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School as Music Director," said Reinhardt, when her appointment was announced.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ruth Reinhardt as the new Music Director of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School," said David Beauchesne, Executive Director of the RI Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School. "Her dynamic artistry, bold programming, and commitment to

both tradition and innovation will usher in an exciting new chapter for the Orchestra. This season offers a remarkable range of musical experiences—from timeless masterpieces to new discoveries. It also features the return of some favorite guest artists, like Joyce Yang, Robert Levin and Elena Urioste, a solo turn by Concertmaster Charles Dimmick, and some new faces that have worked frequently with Ruth. We hope it will result in an inspiring and unforgettable season."

Opening Night

Ruth Reinhardt Inaugural

Amica Rush Hour Series: September 19, 2025, 6:30PM

TACO Classical Series: September 20, 2025, 7:30PM

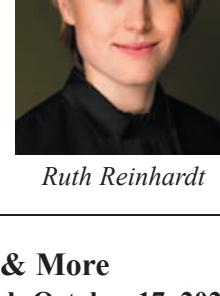
Ruth Reinhardt, conductor

Steven Banks, saxophone

GERSHWIN: Cuban Overture

BILLY CHILDREN: Diaspora: Concerto for Saxophone

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4



Ruth Reinhardt



Steven Banks



Andrei Ionita

The Moldau & More

Open Rehearsal: October 17, 2025 at 5:30PM

TACO Classical Series: October 18, 2025 at 7:30PM

Ruth Reinhardt, conductor

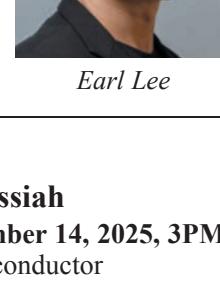
Andrei Ionita, cello

BOULANGER: D'un matin de printemps

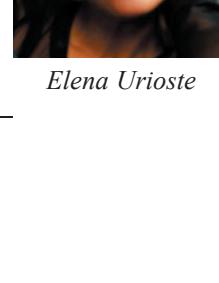
HAYDN: Symphony No. 88

JAELL: Cello Concerto (1882)

SMETANA: "The Moldau" & "Sarka" from Ma Vlast



Earl Lee



Elena Urioste

Beethoven Violin Concerto

Open Rehearsal: November 21, 2025, 5:30PM

TACO Classical Series: November 22, 2025, 7:30PM

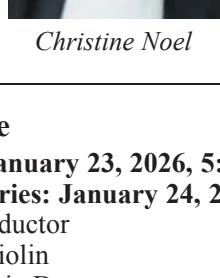
Earl Lee, conductor

Elena Urioste, violin

JESSIE MONTGOMERY: Overture

BEETHOVEN: Violin Concerto

SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 2



James Burton

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 14, 2025, 3PM

James Burton, conductor

Providence Singers, Christine Noel, Artistic Director

Lawrence Jones, tenor

David Soar, bass

The Blue Danube

Open Rehearsal: January 23, 2026, 5:30PM

TACO Classical Series: January 24, 2026, 7:30PM

Ruth Reinhardt, conductor

Charles Dimmick, violin

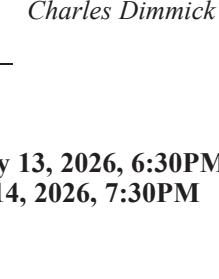
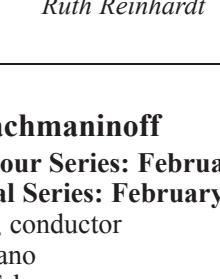
DVOŘÁK: 3 Slavonic Dances

Side by Side performance with students from the RI Philharmonic Music School

CHAUSSON: Poème

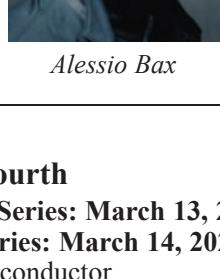
Johann STRAUSS: The Beautiful Blue Danube

PROKOFIEV: Symphony No. 5



Ruth Reinhardt

Charles Dimmick



Alessio Bax

Romantic Rachmaninoff

Amica Rush Hour Series: February 13, 2026, 6:30PM

TACO Classical Series: February 14, 2026, 7:30PM

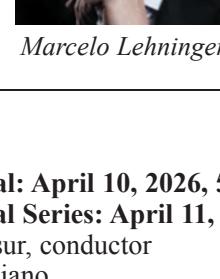
Ruth Reinhardt, conductor

Alessio Bax, piano

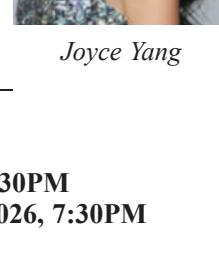
SUK: A Fairy Tale

WAGNER: Tristan & Isolde – Prelude and Liebestod

RACHMANINOFF: Piano Concerto No. 2



Marcelo Lehninger



Joyce Yang

Tchaikovsky's Fourth

Amica Rush Hour Series: March 13, 2026, 6:30PM

TACO Classical Series: March 14, 2026, 7:30PM

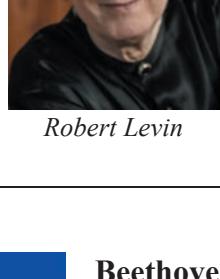
Marcelo Lehninger, conductor

Joyce Yang, piano

MISSY MAZZOLI: These Worlds in Us

BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 1

TCHAIKOVSKY: Symphony No. 4



Robert Levin

Open Rehearsal: April 10, 2026, 5:30PM

TACO Classical Series: April 11, 2026, 7:30PM

Ken-David Masur, conductor

Robert Levin, piano

MICHAEL HAYDN: Symphony in G - I. Allegro

(Introduction by Mozart)

MOZART: The Marriage of Figaro: Overture

MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K. 488

MOZART: Symphony No. 38 (Prague)



Beethoven's Fifth!

Amica Rush Hour Series: May 1, 2026, 6:30PM

TACO Classical Series: May 2, 2026, 7:30PM

Ruth Reinhardt, conductor

UNSKU CHIN: Subito con forza

RACHMANINOFF: Isle of the Dead

BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 5



Ruth Reinhardt



The Gamm Theatre stages Tony Kushner's two-part masterpiece, 'Angels In America'

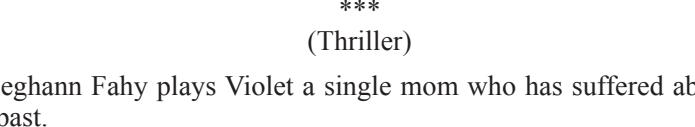
On the heels of its celebratory 40th anniversary season, The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is thrilled to present a special staging of Tony Kushner's two-part epic, Angels in America, directed by Brian McEleney. The pair of productions gets underway with Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches opening on May 29. The second half of this multi-award-winning masterpiece, Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika, opens September 25.

McEleney, who played a central role as Prior Walter in Trinity Repertory Company's acclaimed 1996 production directed by Oscar Eustis, said he is eager to introduce the play with its still-relevant themes to new audiences.

"Angels in America was written in a different time, and history has continued its relentless march forward in the last 30 or so years since I played Prior Walter,"

McEleney said. "We are a different country now, and the pace of change in our lives continues to accelerate. As the second quarter of the 21st century approaches, I'm eager to discover how this most ambitious and prescient of plays speaks to a new generation. Kushner's call for all of us to be angels in America could not be more urgent as we hurtle toward the future with terror, determination . . . and hope."

Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches runs May 29-June 15. Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika runs September 25-October 12. (These special productions are not part of a subscription series.) Tickets range from \$70-\$80 per play with discounts for subscribers to season 40 and/or season 41, as well as current members. To purchase, go to gammtheatre.org/angels or call 401-723-4266.



See it on the Screen

DROP

(Thriller)

Meghann Fahy plays Violet a single mom who has suffered abuse in her past.

She finally gets up the courage to go on a blind date, arriving at the elegant Chicago restaurant ahead of her date.

She encounters a number of people, including the bartender, waiter, piano player and another man waiting for his blind date.

After an awkward introductory moment, she receives a terrifying phone call, threatening to harm her son if she doesn't follow the person's deadly instructions.

She makes several attempts to send messages requesting assistance, but each effort is unsuccessful.

The list of suspects grows until finally revealed.

Up to this point, the movie is tension packed and has you guessing.

Joyce accuses me of too often praying for a better ending. This one stretches a bit too far.

SINNERS

* * 1/2

(Allegorical violent vampire movie)

There, I've done it!

I've given away a major development in a movie that I enjoyed up until it turned into a violent, bloody vampire movie.

I really needed to warn those of you who think you were going to see a historical film about Black lives in Mississippi in the thirties.

Michael B. Jordan plays two brothers who return to Mississippi to buy an old sawmill and turn it into a speakeasy for their people, who work hard in the cotton fields.

The story takes place in one day and night, as the son of a preacher man defies his father and joins the twins with his guitar.

His father is convinced that the blues music he plays is evil and will lead to no good.

It sure does.

Three wandering white musicians show up that evening preaching love and fellowship and seeking admission, which they are denied.

All hell breaks loose as they turn into vampires, start sucking blood, and as is typical in the genre, their victims start sucking the blood of their friends and relatives.

It is one bloody mess that goes on forever. Vampire movie fans might like it, but it will certainly turn everyone else off.

Also a shame because the acting, the music and the cinematography are excellent.

THE AMATEUR

(Revenge Spy movie)

Rami Malek stars as a mild-mannered CIA cryptographer who is deathly afraid of guns.

When his wife is killed by terrorists, he goes on a vigilante hunt for the perpetrators, which takes him to such exotic places as Marseille, Paris, Madrid, Romania, Finland and the Baltic Sea.

He tracks down the bad guys—and gal—using a variety of devices until he is finally abducted and faced with using a gun to stop them.

But Charlie is a cryptographer and has better plans.

An interesting twist to the usual vigilante movie.

● LIFE from page 15

there to correct me. He will even dig through the bin to retrieve any wayward items. He's also quick to point out that glass jars, like peanut butter or salsa jars, should be washed out to avoid attracting hungry critters to the bin.

The reality is that recycling helps, but it is the last resort in the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle trio. Reducing and reusing are even more powerful ways to care for the planet. That is why I use a reusable water bottle for my daily eight glasses of water, and I bring along cloth or canvas bags from Job Lot to carry home my purchased treasures.

Of course, my favorite way to celebrate Earth Day

is simply to appreciate the Earth. Leaving my iPad and cell phone in the house, I sat outside in one of those old, webbed folding lounge chairs in our backyard, overlooking the pond behind our home. The air was gentle and cool, and I started to feel the warmth of the sun on my skin. It felt almost as if the world had slowed down just for me. Before me stretched the calm lake, its surface like glass, perfectly mirroring the sky above. The water barely rippled, creating a stillness that invited a deep, peaceful breath. That is, until the roar of an airplane taking off from the airport shattered the silence. I watched as it soared overhead, the underside of its

belly reflected in the blue water. The ducks began quacking in protest, and the seagulls took flight in a flurry of feathers. My reverie was broken, but only for a few minutes. (We who live near the airport are used to momentary lapses in peace.)

It did not take long to relax again and enjoy the moment. As I sat there, the rest of the world felt far away, quiet, serene, and peaceful. It was one of those rare times when everything felt in balance. It was as if time had decided to pause, and all I had to do was sit back, relax, and soak in the beauty around me.

That's how I celebrated Earth Day.

● ARTS from page 13

guests are encouraged to come in their "most creative, magical, whimsical, elaborate or mysterious attire," according to the invitation.

Artists were asked to respond to the prompt "What does fifty mean to you?", with the call for artists referencing both the fifty states and Molly Shannon's "I'm 50!" Saturday Night Live sketch.

Artists were encouraged to think about historical significance, personal reflections, or cultural and social commentary, with the door left open for abstract or conceptual art inspired by the number. A Best in Show prize will be juried by Shari Weschler, Di-



Danielle Salisbury, executive director of the Warwick Center for the Arts on the steps to the Kentish Armory in Apponaug. *Beacon Media file photo*

rector of the Wickford Art Association.

The deadline for entries closed March 28. The exhibit runs through May 30 and the gallery is

open 11am-3pm Wednesdays through Saturdays.

The anniversary celebration will conclude with a ticketed fundraiser in September.

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By JENNIFER COATES

Warwick resident Sarah Roberts stands in the middle of an echoey big-box retail shop and looks for help from an experienced salesclerk. She is actually looking for just about ANYONE who could help her find some blinds for her family room's bay window. This is a large window that was custom-built and which needed a custom-fit window treatment, but she doesn't think she is going to find the help she needs today.

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Harris Alkins will come to your home or place of business to help you figure out which blind, shade or shutter are best suited for your windows. There is no more personal customer service to be found than at Harris Blinds & Shutters in Warwick

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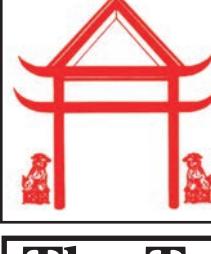




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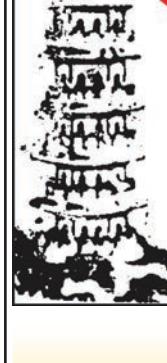
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Hundreds gather for egg-cellent hunt

Annual Easter Egg hunts hosted by the Conimicut Village Association and Oakland Beach Association held Saturday attracted hundreds of families and community volunteers. Anne "Head Bunny" Diffily has helped to organize the Oakland Beach hunt for several years. She thanked Jerry Galleshaw for securing about 3,700 eggs with various goodies inside, as well as the Warwick Police and their Explorers Program and the Knights of Columbus for helping to keep things moving and fun. Leslie Derrig, president of CVA had the help of multiple volunteers including the bunny who arrived at Clegg Field by fire truck. Diffily said, "The whole mission is to support the community. We are a small group but we have many new members. It's encouraging." The association meets every second Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Congregation Church in Oakland Beach.

Barbara Canton, a member of the Conimicut Village Association, which held the egg hunt, made sure kids were divided into two groups segregated by age. Members of each group won the right to select a prize from the trunk of a car corresponding with the number of their egg.

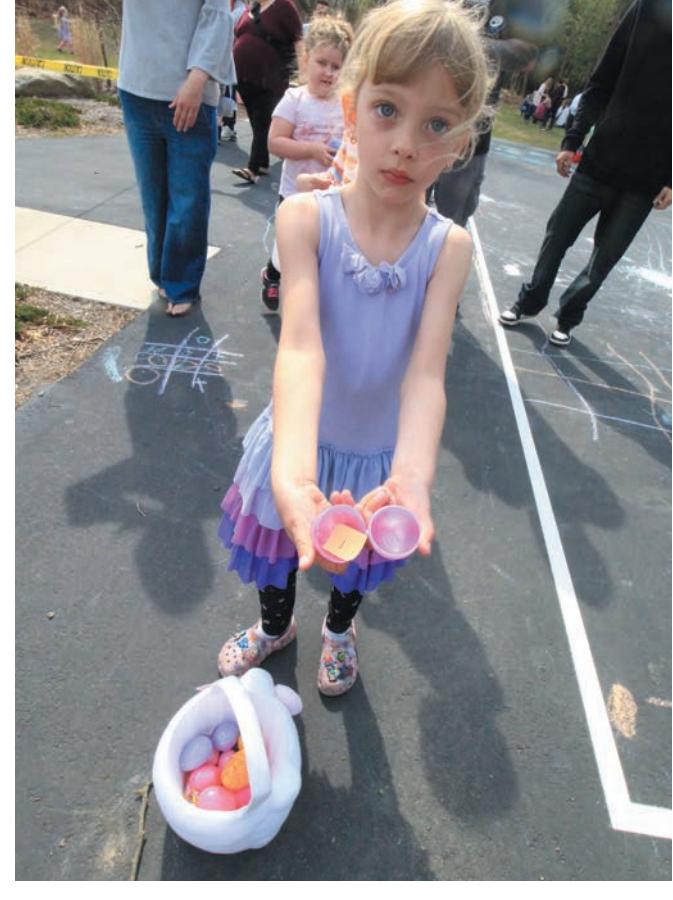
Kids starting lining up 20 minutes before the start of the egg hunt. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox

Warwick Police Explorer cadets spent an hour on Saturday hiding thousand of eggs. From left to right: Officer Stanley Hermanowski, Gennaro Trivisonna, Logan LaGreca, William Gabriel, Sgt. TJ Tavares, and Officer James Wenneman. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox

Melissa and her daughter, Aila, 5, of Cranston were excited to join in the egg hunt fun. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox

Members of the Knights of Columbus in Warwick were prepared to serve hundreds of hungry egg hunters on Saturday. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox

Else McDowell was delighted with the necklace she picked as her prize at the Clegg Field egg hunt. She didn't let go of it, but gave a smile for the camera.



For some kids it proved to be more challenging to select a prize than find eggs. Eggs with a number enabled them to pick a gift from the trunk of a car with the corresponding number.



Fritz Murray is a regular at the Conimicut egg hunt. The cupcakes he has colorfully decorated look too artistic to be eaten



Ellie Cooke, 7, wore her Easter best hat, which included a sparkling headband, to the Conimicut Village egg hunt held Saturday at Clegg Field.



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Fritz Murray is a regular at the Conimicut egg hunt. The cupcakes he has colorfully decorated look too artistic to be eaten



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Jerry Galleshaw, Angela Stamoulos, and Anne Diffily of the Oakland Beach Association. Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox

Sports



Reagan Motta (right) and Liv Cota (left) after getting an out. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller

Titans come back to beat Avengers

Toll Gate makes statement in Division II

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Toll Gate softball team is emerging as a contender in Division II and picked up a statement win on Monday afternoon, erasing a six-point deficit and holding off East Greenwich, 7-6.

The Avengers, who moved down from DI this season, scored six runs in the third inning to put the Titans on the ropes. Toll Gate wasted no time responding, though, putting up five runs in the bottom half of the inning and then adding another two in the fourth which would prove to be enough.

The Avengers did not go away, though, and managed to load the bases in the top

● **TITANS** to page 20



Athlete of the Week: Delaney Wilson

The Warwick Beacon's Athlete of the Week is Toll Gate softball player Delaney Wilson. The senior pitcher has been outstanding in her past two starts, tossing a combined seven innings and allowing no earned runs and striking out 11 batters. Wilson has also helped her own cause at the plate, going 4-for-6 in those games and driving in a run in the win over East Greenwich.

DRKA shines at Grand Nationals

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Ocean State Grand Nationals Karate Championship returned to Warwick's Crowne Plaza earlier this month and plenty of locals took home hardware along with other practitioners from around the world.

The Don Rodrigues Karate

● **DRKA** to page 20



Members of the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy show off the awards they won at the Grand Nationals. Submitted photo

Roundup: Pilgrim walks off in win over Cranston West

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Pilgrim softball team remained undefeated when it got a 3-2 walk-off win over Cranston West in a heavyweight Division I battle.

Skyler Hawes went 2-for-4 with two RBI, including the game-winner in the bottom of the eighth, while Marin Prest drove in another run. Gretchen Dombeck got the win in the circle, pitching 7 2/3 innings, allowing no earned runs and striking out three batters.

The Pats improved to 9-0 and will be battling Coventry on Thursday evening on the road.

BOYS TENNIS

Warwick 6, West Warwick 1

The Warwick co-op stayed sharp as it cruised past West Warwick on Tuesday.

Cornelius Zmed earned a hard-fought 3-6/ 6-2/ 6-1 win at first singles, while Josh Maynard won 6-1/ 6-3 at second singles. John Maynard won 6-4/ 6-2 at third singles, and Etienne Degos wrapped up the singles sweep by winning 7-6/ 6-4 in the fourth spot.

Jacob Scott and Will King won 6-4/ 4-6/ 6-4 at top doubles. Alex Marsis and Christian Mainelli took a 6-1/ 3-6/ 6-1 win at third doubles.

GIRLS LACROSSE

East Providence 14, Toll Gate 12

The Titans were edged by the Townies in a thriller on Tuesday.

Delanie Wheeler led the Titans with six goals while Aubrey Rubeira added four more. Ayla Paley and Stella-Blue Kraus scored in the win as well. Goalie Olivia Napolitano finished the day with nine stops.

BOYS LACROSSE

La Salle 18, Pilgrim 1

The Rams showed why they are the championship favorites when they cruised past Pilgrim on Monday.

● **ROUNDUP** to page 20

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 9-0 and in second place in Division I behind defending champ La Salle.

Pilgrim has arguably the state's most well-rounded player in Genna D'Amato and a dangerous sophomore duo in Madison Tirok and Skyler 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

● **PITCH** to page 22

Apponaug hits the field

The Apponaug Girls Softball league celebrated Opening Day last week. Joining the fun were players, families and of course, Mayor Frank Picozzi, who delivered the ceremonial first pitch. Here are some shots of the celebration. Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



Frank Picozzi shakes Camden's Fielder's hand after delivering the first pitch.



● TITANS from page 19

of the seventh with two outs. Toll Gate relief pitcher Reagan Motta escaped the jam as East Greenwich would interfere with a ground ball to shortstop, forcing the final out.

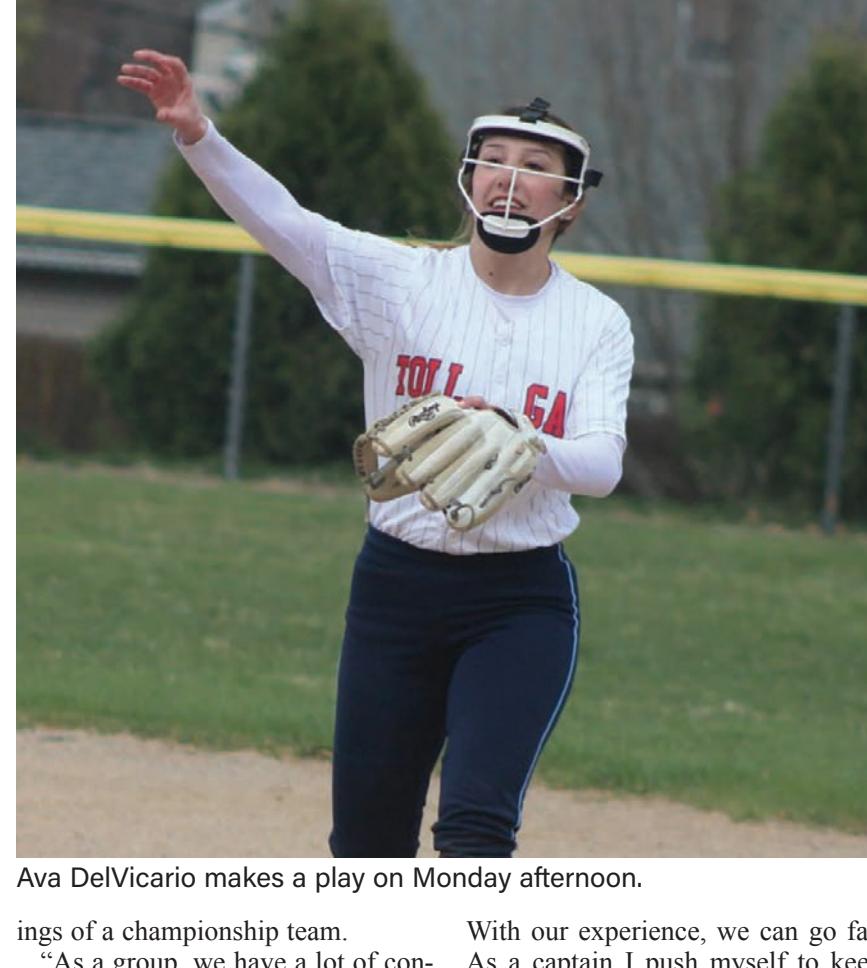
"I was scared but I've been in bad positions before and knew how to get out of them. I just (used) what works," said Motta. "We've been down before, we've been in holes early, but we just keep working to get out of them."

"It was just about putting the bat on the ball. The lower half of our lineup came through, too, which was big for us," added Delaney Wilson, who tossed three innings, striking out five batters and allowing no earned runs while also driving in an RBI on offense. Motta finished with three strikeouts in four innings in the circle and earned the win.

Abbi O'Connor also knocked in a pair of runs for the Titans while Aria Eddy and Ava DelVicario drove in runs as well.

The victory improved Toll Gate's league record to 4-0 and pushed the Titans into first place in the Division II standings. Not only did the Titans beat the Avengers, but they took DI power Pilgrim to deep water in their crossover matchup despite losing, 7-6.

Teams like Johnston, West Warwick and St. Ray's entered the spring season as the favorites to make deep runs in DII. With the strong start and eye-opening performances, The Titans feel that they also have the mak-



Ava DelVicario makes a play on Monday afternoon.

ings of a championship team.

"As a group, we have a lot of confidence because we work together and are a close group. A lot of us have been playing for a long time," said Motta.

Wilson added: "This win was a good boost for our morale, it gave us the confidence boost that we needed.

With our experience, we can go far. As a captain I push myself to keep our mood up. Having a lot of talented players helps everyone, including the girls on the bench."

The Titans were back at it in a pivotal matchup against St. Ray's on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

● ROUNDUP from page 19

Brett Taylor scored Pilgrim's lone goal.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

West Warwick 3, Toll Gate 0

The Titans were swept by the Wizards on Monday night. Rowan Pereira finished the contest with six kills for the Titans.

BASEBALL

Hendricken 1, Lincoln 0

Bishop Hendricken earned a walk-off win over Lincoln on Tuesday.

The game entered extra innings scoreless, but Parker Boyd broke through with an RBI single to lead the Hawks to the win.

Hendricken pitchers Mason Marchessault and Mason Crain threw a combined no-hitter, with the former pitching six innings and striking out eight batters. Crain struck out three Lions in two innings of relief.

Smithfield 6, Pilgrim 2

The Pats dropped a road match to the Sentinels on Tuesday.

Henry Kearns and Derek Asciolla drove in runs for Pilgrim. Kearns, Derrick Butler and Liam Budz combined for three strikeouts on the hill for the Pats.

Pilgrim dropped to 3-4 in league play with the loss and will next face Portsmouth at home on Thursday.

North Providence 7, Toll Gate 0

The Titans' offensive struggles continued as they fell to North Providence on Monday.

Jack Colvin earned the team's lone hit. Brady Fales and Shane Moro each recorded strikeouts on the hill. It was Toll Gate's sixth straight loss and the Titans have put up six runs in the stretch.

Toll Gate looked to get back on track on Wednesday when it faced Ponaganset, but the results were unavailable at press time.



Colonel Rhonda Gomez (center), a Don Rodrigues black belt, receives the Veterans Award from Christine and Don Rodrigues. Photo courtesy of Tim Stanton

● DRKA from page 19

Academy, in particular, was well represented and had plenty of success as it represented the home state.

Ashley Sacrey led the way as she won the Overall 30-plus Women's Black Belt Weapons Grand Championship. Colonel Rhonda Gomez received the Ocean State Veterans Award and is a Don Rodrigues black belt along with her husband and four sons.

Joining the hall of fame were Lisa Gabriel, Conell Loveless, Manny Reyes Sr and Justin Ortiz.



Toll Gate pitcher Greg Laliberte celebrates after escaping a jam. Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller

NOAA cuts bad for fishing and much more

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Beacon

Staff, budget and research reductions outlined for NOAA in a Trump Administration NOAA "Passback memo" on their budget would be devastating. Devastating for US agriculture, shipping, fishing, weather safety and the security of our nation as critical military missions could not run effectively without good weather reports.

The Whithouse plan outlined in the "Passback memo" to NOAA on its budget from the Office of Management and Budget will gut NOAA and smother climate research. The memo to NOAA eliminates the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research as a line item and slashes NOAA Fisheries budget, for a copy of the memo visit NOAA Passback | DocumentCloud.

Already important weather satellite maintenance is not being done and fishery stock assessments are being curtailed due to budget reductions.

Our economy in Rhode Island relies on NOAA to drive a billion dollar a year fishing and seafood industry.

Reductions outline by the administration will directly impact fishing by reducing funds spent on stock assessments which drive sustainable fishery management plans for important commercial and recreational species. A lack of information on how stocks are doing will increase overfishing and add to fishing plan uncertainty which will likely reduce allowable catch limits across the board, particularly for recreational fishing as extraction rates are estimates.

NOAA's ability to provide fisheries research and analysis to support conservation and sustainable resources will be reduced, ocean exploration (a lot of it conducted by URI's Graduate School of Oceanography) and specie research will be gone, storm surge warnings in real time will be gone, enhancements and conservation efforts in Narragansett Bay and its estuaries will be gone as well as important partnerships and funding of collaborative efforts as we know them from such organizations as RI Sea Grant will be gone with this new administration's plan.

As a nation and state we need to let our US senators and representatives know how much we do not want these cuts and/or the gutting of NOAA. Send



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

your congress 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 or-

der 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 ex-

ceeded 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 hold-over 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 striped 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 (bhagzbait@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."

Cod Fishing is still open south of Cape Cod as new regulations have still been delayed due to the new Federal rule making executive order, agencies must reduce regulations by ten to introduce every new one. This executive order needs to exempt fishing (as it did in the last Trump administration) as fisheries open and close regularly based on quotas.

Freshwater trout fishing is a good bet with trout stocking recently occurring in RI and MA waterways. 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.

Dave Monti holds a master captain's license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.com or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

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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 Edmondson Classic.

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

Frezzia leads RIC to 2nd place in CT

Sophomore Andrew Frezzia (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).

Freshman Owen Schenck (Warren) won both the 800m (1:56.05) and the 4x400m relay (3:24.09). Sophomore Younton Doe (Pawtucket) finished first in the 4x400m relay (3:24.09), fifth in the 400m (51.26) and sixth in the 200m (22.85).

Freshman Brody Shiels (Wakefield) finished first in the 4x400m relay (3:24.09), ninth in the 400m (52.46) and 13th in the 200m (23.14). Junior Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished second in the 4x100m relay (43.22), third in the high jump (1.85m), fourth in the 100m (11.17) and ninth in the

200m (22.95).

Freshman Nick Lamoureux (North Smithfield) finished second in the 4x100m relay (43.22), seventh in the high jump (1.80m) and 16th in the 200m (23.23). Freshman Jack McEntee (Foster) finished second in the 400m hurdles (55.50) and seventh in the 110m hurdles (16.78).

Freshman Tyrell O'Connell (Pawtucket) finished second in the 4x100m relay (43.22). Junior Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished second in the hammer (51.41m) and 17th in the discus (32.27m).

Sophomore Enrique Edjang (Providence) finished third in the hammer (49.74m).

Junior Garrett Jones (Beacon Falls, Conn.) finished third in the triple jump (13.04m), 12th in the long jump (6.23m) and 28th in the 100m (11.69). Sophomore Gabriel Dosunmu (Providence) finished fourth in the long jump (6.70m).

Sophomore Trevor Morgan (Smithfield) finished fourth in the hammer (48.01m), ninth in the discus (34.94m) and 20th in the shot (10.69m). Freshman Joshua Dabanka (Providence) finished sixth in the triple jump (12.28m) and 33rd in the long jump (5.61m).

Junior Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished seventh in the 200m (22.92), ninth in the 100m (11.27) and 34th in the long jump (5.56m). Freshman Aiden Fitzgerald (Cumberland) finished seventh in the shot (12.15m), 14th in the hammer (34.95m) and 25th in the discus (29.64m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunders) finished eighth in the 800m (2:01.95). Freshman Ravi Kapadia (Lincoln) finished eighth in the shot (11.92m) and 12th in the hammer (39.89m).

● PITCH from page 19

in the circle, and the Titans have a scrappy lineup that can hit from batters 1-9. After taking 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 Sousa, 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 Cydney 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.

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