

JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, May 1, 2025

16 Pages with supplement • **FREE** • Vol. 28 No. 11



Catching (and releasing) is all part of the fun

By **JOY FOX**
Johnston SunRise Publisher

Postponed by a day, the Johnston Recreation Department’s annual youth fishing derby went off without a hitch on Sunday under blustery blue skies.

About 100 people, with poles in hand, and tackle boxes by their side, lined the shore of Pocasset Pond at Johnston Memorial Park.

“It was very strong, pulling against me,” said Alexander, 8 of Johnston just after getting the pickerel he caught measured and weighed. He ended up tying for third place in his division for one of the biggest fish caught.

He was fishing with his family, including his brother Logan, 10, who caught the first fish of the entire derby, which ran from 10 a.m. to noon.

● **FISHING** to page 7



Logan Brennan, of Johnston, and a student at Johnson and Wales University helped to weigh and measure fish at the derby. Alex, 8, tied for third in his division for biggest fish caught.

TOP: The Bucci Family of Johnston participated in their fifth youth fishing derby on Sunday. *Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox*

RI Senate picks Lawson to lead; Ciccone No. 2

By **NANCY LAVIN**
Rhode Island Current

On Monday morning, Sen Valarie Lawson’s eyes brimmed with tears as she hugged fellow lawmakers walking out of the funeral Mass honoring the late Senate President Dominick Ruggerio.

Less than 36 hours later, Lawson embraced colleagues again after she was elected the chamber’s new president. Lawson, 58, an East Providence Democrat, will be the chamber’s fifth president and its second female leader, filling the vacancy left after Ruggerio died on April 21.

Lawson secured nearly two-thirds of support among the 36 other state senators during Tuesday’s leadership elections at the Rhode Island State House, with 24 votes in a three-way contest against Sen. Ryan Pearson, a Cumberland Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz, a North Smithfield Republican. Pearson secured eight votes, all Democrats, while de la Cruz claimed all four Senate Republican votes.

Sen. Leonidas Raptakis, a Coventry Democrat, abstained.

Yet tensions linger in the State House’s upper chamber amid concerns over potential conflicts of interest with Lawson’s day job as head of the state teachers union and her surprising alliance with conservative Democratic Sen. Frank Ciccone.

Ciccone, who represents Providence and Johnston in District 7, was elected Senate majority leader during the party caucus, having teamed up with Lawson on a slate ticket confirmed last week. Both Lawson and Ciccone faced challenges from within their own party; Pearson, a Cumberland Democrat, also sought the president role, while Sen. Alana DiMario, a Narragansett Democrat, was put up as an alternative to Ciccone for the majority leader role.

Nearly one-third of Democrats backed Pearson and an even higher share threw their support behind DiMario during the party caucus Tuesday.

First elected in 2018, Lawson is a former high school history teacher. She has served as president of the National Education Association of Rhode Island since 2023 – the same year she became Senate majority whip following the death of former whip Maryellen Goodwin. Lawson ascended within the chamber again last year when Ruggerio picked her as his second-in-command, replacing Pearson after a falling out between the two allies.

● **SENATE** to page 16

At 60, Head Start faces uncertainty

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Standing on a playground usually filled with frolicking children, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed visited the Head Start center in Cranston last week to publicly push back against potential federal cuts that would effectively eliminate the early-education program for disadvantaged youngsters.

Reed was surrounded by parents, teachers and statewide educators as he warned that President Donald Trump’s purported plan to wipe out funding for the decades old, national program would hurt families and children.

“We know that investing in early education – especially in comprehensive, high-quality programs like

Head Start – pays off,” Reed said.

His remarks came after news broke recently that leaked documents show that the Trump administration is planning extensive cuts that would mean the end of the Head Start program. The national media is describing the funding cuts as “preliminary” since they are part of a budget proposal for fiscal 2026 that has not yet been submitted to Congress.

Reed noted that Trump is already undermining Head Start, recently closing regional offices, including one in Boston office that provides “critical support” for Rhode Island programs.

Seeded in 1965 as a temporary program in President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “War on Poverty,” Head

Start has served about 39 million children and their families, according to the agency’s website.

It provides education, health care and nutrition services to young children in low-income households across the country, with the goal of preparing them for success in school. It also focuses on parental involvement.

“Head Start recognizes parents as essential partners,” Reed told the parents and teachers assembled outside the Pastore Youth Center on Gansett Avenue, where most of the city’s Head Start classes and programs are housed. “And we know (that) Head Start parents often go on to be more active in their child’s education in elementary, middle

● **HEAD START** to page 7



Senator Jack Reed visited the Head Start program last week to underscore how vital it is to disadvantaged children and their families. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

ATTENTION HOME AND LANDOWNERS

Know what you own !!!

Boyer Associates can provide you with:

- CERTIFIED RECORDED COPY OF YOUR DEED.
- PLAN OF YOUR PROPERTY LINES.
- RECORDED PLAN OR PLAT OF YOUR DEEDED AREA.
- THE AREA TOWN IS ASSESSING FOR YOUR DEEDED AREA.
- ASSESSORS PLAT# & LOT#
- COLORED ENLARGED AERIAL PHOTO OF YOUR PROPERTY AND NEIGHBORS.

Call 401-828-9850

Safe keep
this information
for title and
estate reasons.

\$235.00

2 hard copies
plus digital file
upon request

Smith Reglazing Company LLC



Tub & Tile Refinishing
401-935-4496
LSmith@smithreglazing.com
smithreglazing.com
Licensed and Insured #45582

A Care Tree Service

Licensed and
Insured
Arborist



Specializing
in Climbing

401-932-3541



Lifelong resident celebrates 100

The Johnston Housing Authority along with The Claiborne Pell Manor Tenant Association recently celebrated Etta Marrocco on her 100th birthday. Etta turned 100 on April 14 and has lived in the Plainfield Pike area of Johnston for her entire life. As part of the celebration, Etta was presented with proclamations from US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, State Senator Andrew Dimitri, State Representative Richard Fascia, Mayor Joseph Polisena as she was surrounded by family members. Submitted photo by Ron Cece

FREE EVENT
Register Today!



Save the Date!

National Small Business Week

**Connect & Innovate:
Small Business Empowerment Summit**

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025
8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick



SCAN TO
REGISTER



REGISTRATION OPEN. Don't wait space is limited.


DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 1-30, 2025

Your safety is worth more than any screen, snack, or second of distraction.



**MAKE SAFE DRIVING
YOUR ONLY DISTRACTION**



PAID FOR BY THE RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Driver who struck officer is shot, faces felony charge

A Providence man is being held without bail, accused of hitting a Johnston police officer with his car over the weekend in a confrontation that resulted in the driver being shot.

According to statements issued by the Johnston police, Damian Peterson, 28, of 502 Hartford Ave. in Providence, was shot Saturday after he reportedly struck a police officer with his car as police were responding to reports of a domestic disturbance at the Shell gas station at 1396 Hartford Ave.

Johnston Police Chief Mark Viera stated in a press release that Peterson was arraigned at Rhode Island Hospital on Sunday on charges of felony assault, assault of police officer, reckless driving and other offenses against public safety, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. He is being held with bail as a probation and bail violator, as police say he was already wanted on a state police warrant for obstructing an officer and reckless driving.

Viera said that the Johnston Police Department is investigating the officer-involved shooting in accordance with the state attorney general’s protocol for a review, and a joint investigation by members of the Attorney General’s Office, the Rhode Island State Police and the Johnston Police Department.

The officer who fired his service revolver has not been identified.

According to Viera, Johnston police responded to the Shell station at about 11:30 Saturday night after a third party called to report a possible fight between a man and a woman in the parking lot.

According to officers’ reports, Viera said, officers arriving at the scene saw a man seated alone in the driver’s seat of a white Nissan Sentra, with the car facing Hartford Avenue. As one of the officers exited his patrol car, the driver accelerated the Sentra and struck the officer with the vehicle, police said.

Viera said that the officer discharged his service weapon and fired multiple rounds at the driver. The car continued north across Hartford Avenue before stopping after hitting a pylon located in front of a business at 1369 Hartford Ave., he said.

Viera’s report states that officers immediately rendered medical aid to Peterson, whose identity they did not know at the time, and that he was taken by rescue to Rhode Island Hospital.

On Monday, Viera said that Peterson was being treated for a gunshot wound to the abdomen and is reported to be in stable condition. The officer struck by the vehicle sustained minor injuries and was also taken to Rhode Island Hospital for treatment and was subsequently released, Viera said.

Police Log

DUI

On April 10, at about 6 p.m., a vehicle exiting the McDonald’s parking lot was flashing its high beam and beeping the horn to get the patrolman’s attention.

The operator then shouted, “There’s two people overdosed in a car back here!”

Patrolman Nick Bordieri then turned on my emergency lights and siren and pulled into the parking lot. Upon arrival he observed a male in the driver seat and front passenger seat, both asleep, heads down, and snoring.

The patrolman immediately started to perform a sternum rub on the man in the driver’s seat who then finally became conscious and alert. The operator then began to shake and became conscious and alert.

Bordieri observed the operator’s pupils to be constricted and his speech to be slurred. He asked the operator if he had taken any narcotics to which he replied they did not and that they were just tired.

While in his cruiser running procedural checks, Bordieri observed the driver put his vehicle in reverse and back up without looking, subsequently striking the red Jeep behind him.

The operator of the Jeep advised he was not injured and there was minor damage to the Jeep’s front bumper. Johnston Fire Department (JFD) responded to the scene.

Patrolman Bordieri then asked the original driver to submit to a series of field sobriety tests to which he consented.

The driver was placed under arrest for the suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs. The operator refused a chemical test. Later, at the station, the driver admitted to having taken two Xanax pills that he had bought off a street dealer.

He was charged with DUI first offense-B.A.C. unknown, refusal to submit chemical test and driving with suspended/revoked/cancelled License fourth offense.

He was awaiting arraignment.



Students took the time to listen to more than 190 career professionals. *Submitted photos by Johnston High School*



Students take a moment for a photo for Governor Dan McKee at the career fair.

Career fair extends to middle school students

The Johnston High School gym was buzzing with energy last Friday for the school’s annual career fair.

Eighty-nine vendors and more than 190 career professionals mingled with students to answer their questions and explain to them various career paths. This year the fair extended its reach beyond high school students

to include seventh graders from Ferri Middle School.

The vendors represented a wide cross section of careers, such as criminal justice, health and wellness, finance and accounting, engineering and architecture, culinary, photography, environmental science, the labor unions among others. Alex Spenseller, the sports editor of the Johnston SunRise was

also on hand to speak with students about careers in journalism.

At the end of the career fair many of the vendors expressed that the fair was an enjoyable and reward-

ing experience, according to Joe Pirraglia, the CTE Career Coordinator for the high school

“Many of them said that they would hope to be invited next year,” he said.



Johnston School Committee members Phanida Phivilay, Carolyn Thornton Iannuccilli and Susan Mansolillo attended the career fair. *Submitted photo by Phanida Phivilay.*



Students learned about career paths in health care.



Johnston High School alumni participated in the career fair.

SPRING DANCE

70's and 80's Music by DJ Chett the Jet!

Saturday, May 24th
6:00-9:00pm

 Tickets on Eventbrite. Spread the Word!



Join us at
STEPPING STONE RANCH
201 Escotheag Hill Road
West Greenwich, RI 02817
(401)397-3725
www.steppingstoneranch.com



SUMMER TOWNHOUSE RENTAL

Bartlett, NH

June-October


3 Beds
2 Baths
Office
Deck/Patio



\$3k/month or \$13k for season
Contact: bartlettseasonal@gmail.com

Looking to Upgrade or Downsize?

Sell Successfully with Engel&Volkers



Whether small, medium-sized, or large properties – we cater to your individual needs and tailor our service to your requirements.

ENGEL & VÖLKERS
247 Main Street, East Greenwich
Michael Behm, Real Estate Advisor
401-265-9437 michael.behm@evrealstate.com

 **rischolarships.org**

Check out rischolarships.org

- Access to free local scholarships
- For Students & Parents
- Free College Planning Tools & Resources

Sign-Up Today!



rischolarships.org provided by:
iii RISLA

ANGELS CARING FOR ANIMALS

Step into Spring

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, May 10
9 AM-3 PM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ANIMALS IN NEED

Raffles & Baskets
Food & Baked Goods
For Sale

SOME VENDORS INCLUDE:
Beachcomber Baubles
Ray Wolf Books
July Rose Crafts
Simply Simmons

Church of the Apostles
170 Fairview Ave., Coventry, RI

Brilliant Basement Waterproofing, LLC

Over 36 Years Combined Experience
Egress Windows, Foundation Repair,
Crack Sealing, Sump Pumps,
Pumps Eliminated in Most Homes,
Yard Drainage

HIC: 0653192 • RI Lic. #43473
CALL US
401-541-5985

www.brilliantbasementwaterproofing.com

ADVERTISE TODAY!
Call 732-3100

LAWNSCAPES
THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

Landscape Maintenance & Construction

★★★★★

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS FOR THE 2025 SEASON

CONTACT US TODAY
401-385-9685
INFO@LAWNSCAPESRI.COM

Landscaping Maintenance & Construction
Weekly Maintenance Cleanups
Trimming & Pruning
Plant Bed Care
And MORE

FREE ESTIMATES

Proudly serving Rhode Island since 1994

FOR SALE

2003 HARLEY-DAVIDSON 100TH ANNIVERSARY FAT BOY

One owner 100th anniversary Harley Fat Boy. It's a rare burgundy red color.

Recently serviced, always done at the Harley dealership.

Like new condition.
3200 miles.

\$7500
Call 401.500.6854

ONE SENSATIONAL SUMMER SEASON!
MUSICALS ★ CONCERTS ★ KIDS SHOWS

A CHORUS LINE
MAY 29 - JUNE 22

TOOTSIE
A NEW COMEDY MUSICAL
JUNE 26 - JULY 20

The SOUND of MUSIC
JULY 24 - AUG 17

42ND STREET
AUG 21 - SEPT 15

BOX OFFICE WINDOW OPENS SUNDAY!

BILL HANNEY'S THEATRE BY THE SEA

THEATREBYTHESEA.COM
401.782.TKTS (8587)
364 CARDS POND RD. WAKEFIELD, RI

FOLLOW US @OFFICIALTBTS



Keeping it respectable

A recent community cleanup effort helped clear away rubble, debris and drying leaves from the Borden/King Cemetery on Hartford Avenue. The historical cemetery is one of the larger and more prominent cemeteries in the town and is located on Hartford Avenue at the cor-

Steve Merolla, chairman of the local Historic Cemeteries Committee said that regular clean ups help keep local cemeteries in respectable condition. "These are our forebearers – we do this to recognize the difficulties they went through building this community," he said recently.

Pictures submitted by committee member Elsie Carlson show the cleanup effort. The town has approximately 90 historical cemeteries. In the Borden/King cemetery of the graves date back to the 1600s.

Successful shred

A rainy Saturday did not stop more than 150 people from taking advantage of an opportunity to safely dispose of their personal documents at a special free "shredding" event held at the Johnston Senior Center

Richard J. Delfino Jr., executive director of the Johnston Senior Center, said that the free service was made possible by local business owner Lou Vinagro Jr. lending his shredding truck as well as his staff to the town free of

charge.

He said the town and the senior center organized the event to assist residents in properly disposing of sensitive documents. "Seniors in particular are very concerned and are many times the target of fraudulent activities," Delfino said. "Proper document destruction is one of (the) ways to keep confidential information out of the hands of people who may have deceitful motives."



AGING DISGRACEFULLY
STARRING DOREEN COLLINS & CHARLIE HALL

St. Mary's Feast Society Hall
SATURDAY MAY 17

*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, Wrm.
Sat. June 7- The ISLANDER, Warwick (All U Can Eat)
Sat. June 14- LANCELOTTA'S, North Providence

Reservations, info @ agingdisgracefully.net



Committee members Left to right back row: Laura Colannino, Chair Sandra Taylor, Susie Cuellar-Daza Left to right front row: Walt "Otto" Thierfelder, Nick Acquaviva, Rep. Richard Fascia, & Bob Sandberg. Submitted photo

Town Republicans express gratitude

The Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC) is thanking supporters and members of the community who participated in a weekend fundraiser held at the Kelly Gazerro VFW Post in Cranston. To help raise resources for operating costs and grassroots efforts to grow the town committee, the JRTC held a Comedy Show through

Funny 4 Funds.

Funny 4 Funds is a fundraising company that helps a wide variety of organizations raise money by arranging comedy show performances. According to Sandra Taylor, Chair of the JRTC, Saturday night's event raised about \$4,500 for the committee.

JRTC is actively looking for viable Republican candidates to run for local office. The committee makes every effort to support the endorsed local Johnston Republican candidates during their campaign.

People interested in getting involved can visit www.johnstonri.gop or email info@johnstonri.gop.

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

C	O	H	N	M	A	H	A	N	H	A	R	D
A	L	A	I	C	R	E	D	O	B	E	Y	
S	L	I	P	F	A	M	E	D	R	I	D	E
H	A	G	A	R	B	I	N	H	A	B	E	R
		S	I	L	I	C	O	S	I	S		
A	D	C	S	A	C	M	A	D	H	A	W	
P	A	R	S	E	C	H	A	G	F	A	D	E
A	R	E	A	S	H	A	S	H	A	N	D	S
R	E	A	D	C	O	N	H	O	A	G	I	E
T	S	K	R	A	M	R	H	O	S	S	R	
		S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S		
H	A	B	I	T	M	A	C	Y	A	C	C	A
A	R	A	B	R	A	M	E	T	B	L	E	W
N	E	R	I	E	D	E	M	A	E	A	R	N
D	A	N	U	C	E	R	E	D	R	Y	E	S

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Gone, but (thankfully) never to be forgotten

If you need a reminder that some of those living among us are worth a pat on the back and a kind word of appreciation, you need look no further than the dead.

More specifically, you should look to the areas across Rhode Island where those who have lived and passed on long before we existed are now lying at rest.

With nearly 3,000 historic cemeteries currently identified across the state – from small, family lots peppered throughout private properties to the larger, hallowed grounds with hundreds of gravesites in various states of disrepair, and everything in between – you are never too far away from the final resting place of someone who lived and breathed in a very different Rhode Island from the one you now inhabit.

And although one of humankind’s most interesting and unique traits among all the animals in our wonderfully varied biosphere is that we tend to take great care to honor and keep sacred our dead, there is no centralized governmental apparatus in the state to oversee and care for these cemeteries. Publicly owned cemeteries are maintained by municipalities, but the vast majority endure through time and seasons and decay with no mandated caretakers.

Thank goodness, then, for the volunteers who make up the state’s Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries, and for those who serve on individual, municipal-level cemetery commissions.

These passionate and caring community members make it their mission to advocate for the historical cemeteries we otherwise might pass by without a second glance. They see to the cutting of overgrowing grass, tidy up walking paths through the plots and (when they can get the funding), pay for professionals to restore and repair gravestones that have been damaged, vandalized or just worn down by the endless barrage of nature and time.

Cranston, Johnston and Warwick are all lucky to have dedicated and active historical cemetery commissions, each of which attracts volunteers who strive to protect these important relics of our past, and restore dignity to the names of those whose remains were interred within the grounds or perhaps weren’t lucky enough even to get a proper headstone or burial.

If you have any interest in history, we implore you to engage with your local historical cemetery commission and take a tour of a local historical cemetery, or see how you can volunteer to help. In Warwick, throughout the next month, you even have an opportunity like nowhere else in the state to go on a cemetery scavenger hunt.

We all know there is no escaping the grave, so it seems a wise investment to support groups who might one day in the far future deploy volunteers to restore your own to its former glory.



LETTERS

How businesses and workers can step up for youth

To the Editor,

As a board member at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island, I’ve seen firsthand how corporate mentorship programs change lives. When businesses empower their employees to mentor, they’re not just helping young people – they’re investing in stronger, more connected communities. Research shows that every dollar invested in BBBS mentoring pays for itself within seven years, thanks to higher graduation rates, increased earnings and reduced involvement with the justice system.

The benefits extend to employees as well. Workplace mentoring programs help build leadership, communication and collaboration skills. According to Deloitte, 89% of employees who volunteer say it enhances their sense of well-being, and 77% believe it’s essential to their overall health. Volunteerism also boosts job satisfaction and retention – especially among younger workers who are looking for purpose and meaning in their careers.

At Cox Communications, we believe in using our time and talents to serve others. Supporting mentorship isn’t just part of our corporate social responsibility strategy; it’s central to who we are.

I hope more businesses will consider the many ways they can get involved. Invite BBBSRI to host a “Munch & Learn” to share volunteer opportunities with your team, explore starting a workplace mentoring program, or even host a clothing drive to support local mentorship efforts. Every effort counts, and every effort helps ignite the power and promise of youth.

Rosie Fernandez
Cox Communications
Big Brothers Big Sisters RI

Pope Francis needn’t have shared the panel

To the Editor:

I must comment on your paper publishing an editorial drawing of both Pope Francis and Senator Ruggerio in the same frame. How could you pair such a holy man as Francis with the senator? Each took a different path to help people, but to put Ruggerio on the same level as the Pope is shameful.

Richard Lepore
Johnston

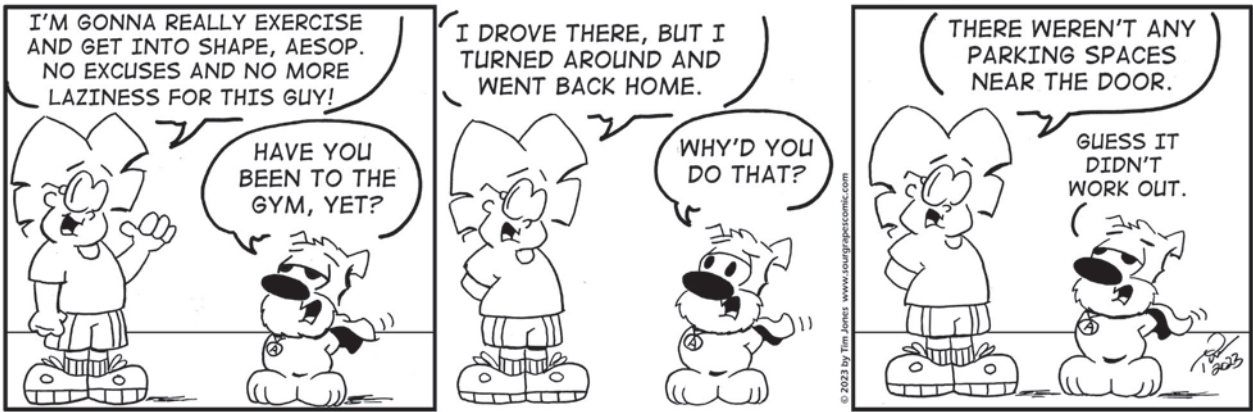
What’s on your mind?

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

- **WHERE TO WRITE:**
TimF@beaconmediari.com
or...
The Johnston SunRise
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



JohnstonSunRise

John Howell, Publisher Emeritus

Publisher Joy Fox - Publisher@BeaconMediaRI.com	Advertising Representatives Sherri Leo - SherriL@BeaconMediaRI.com Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com
Editor Tim Forsberg - TimF@BeaconMediaRI.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
Reporters Barbara Polichetti - BarbaraP@beaconmediari.com Rosegalie Cineus - RosegalieC@beaconmediari.com	Bookkeeping & Circulation Leslie Paz Andujar
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettnier - LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
Classified Advertising Ida Zecco - Classifieds@rhodybeat.com	Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

Tel.: 401-732-3100 • Fax: 401-732-3110

All advertising and editorial material in whole or in part designed and/or composed by Beacon Media RI is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without express permission of the publisher. Beacon Media RI shall not be liable for errors and omissions in or failure to insert any advertisement for which it may be responsible beyond the cost of actual space occupied by the item in which error or failure to insert occurred. Beacon Media RI is a member of the New England Press Association, The Rhode Island Newspaper Group and The North Central Chamber of Commerce. Johnston Sun Rise is owned and operated by Beacon Media RI. Editorial offices are located at 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889. Paid subscriptions are available for \$74 per year. Web site: www.johnstonsunrise.net

ANIMAL

TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥Adoptable♥Loveable



Photo credit: Elizabeth Boudreau Photography

Kiai

The weather is puppy perfect! Meet Kiai a sweet, playful four month old puppy who can't wait to find her forever family! Kiai and her littermates are Beagle mixes who want to learn and are very smart! If you have been waiting to find a new best friend to join your family, then go meet Kiai! Contact Go Fetch Rescue, visit their website at gofetchrescue.org or email info.gofetchrescue@gmail.com Don't wait too long this sweet puppy will get adopted quickly!

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



SUPER DOG

OVER 300 RESCUED DOGS AND PUPPIES

ADOPTION DAY!



SATURDAY

MAY 10TH

12PM - 4PM

WATERFIRE ARTS CENTER

475 VALLEY STREET
PROVIDENCE RI 02908

APPLY ONLINE FOR
10AM EARLY ENTRY

FREE ADMISSION
ON SITE VETERINARIANS
DOG TRAINERS
ADOPTION COUNSELORS
INDOOR & OUTDOOR
RAIN OR SHINE
FOOD TRUCKS
PERSONAL DOGS WAIT OUTSIDE EVENT AREA

VIEW ADOPTABLE DOGS AND EARLY SIGN UP AT
ALWAYSADOPT.COM



GUEST OPINION

Labor contracts overwhelm Johnston’s budget

By PETER A. FILIPPI III

Why are so many Democrats upset with cutting waste, abuse and fraud in government, as the Department of Government Efficiency continues to find wasteful billions? As for our town, realizing the countless inflationary provisions in the contracts that can easily be manipulated, if we did a forensic audit of labor costs, including work histories, the waste, abuse and fraud could be in hundreds of thousands annually.

Across the contracts, we provide 20 sick days, three personal days and up to eight weeks’ vacation, in which severance packages consist of accumulating up to 180 sick days, 60 unused vacation days and six personal days that have cost taxpayers about \$350,000 annually over the last 14 years. Because of these excesses, overtime for minimum staffing for police and rescue is about \$600,000 annually. (Note: If they work 15 minutes over their shift, we pay them for an hour at time and one half. Note: Police details are about \$60 an hour and four hours minimum, which is one of many reasons our state is noted for having dismal infrastructure.)

Pensions are calculated based on what is averaged over three most productive years. Police and especially Rescue personnel can easily earn over \$40,000 in overtime if they want a banner year. At 20 years, the average pension for rescue, at 50%,

is about \$58,000 excluding continued fully paid family health care that includes eye and dental. At age 65, when they go on Medicare, we pay all the co-pays. Note: if an employee claims they had hurt themselves or caught a cold on the job it doesn’t come out of their accumulated sick days, as they create overtime for one another. Anniversary bonuses are based on base salaries and used to be 10%, now 5%, given annually for life on the anniversary date of retirement – collectively, in the hundreds of thousands.

In addition, our town provides a \$250,000 accidental death policy; however, we also provide \$35,000 to \$75,000 life insurance policies. We also provide up to \$1,800 clothing allowances, 15 paid holidays that include birthdays and double holiday pay. Longevity bonuses average \$3,200; many are over \$7,000. Because of early 20- and 28-year retirements, at present we have a total of nearly 400 employees and approximately 640 retirees costing \$7.3M for health care. (Note: In 2010 through 2024 our budget went from about \$88 million to \$129 million excluding state school aid – an increase of about \$29 million as we overdevelop and taxes never come down.

As for the many concerns parents have with public education and the depravity taking place and dismal academic outcomes, we urgently need school vouchers that would al-

so lower costs via competition, as private and especially religious education is less costly and far better.

We all have family, friends and neighbors in civil service, but we must be truthful with ourselves. Johnston taxpayers who are concerned about tomorrow’s generation need to open their eyes. Our “blue state” is run by Democrats, and the party and the unions are one in the same. Is it any wonder we pay among the highest taxes and are known for our dismal infrastructure? Or that we’re one of nine states that tax Social Security income and we’re last as a place to retire? Government labor wants more people dependent on government so more civil-service jobs can be created.

In closing, when you consider the projection of taxation and contractual obligations that never should have been, our children and their children’s children will be nothing more than slaves. According to the Tax Foundation, average Americans now work about 107 days of the year to pay taxes. In coming elections, a true reformer will have the courage to call the unions out, as our municipalities need autonomy to rewrite the iniquities of the past. There are endless alternatives if eligible nonvoters step up to the plate.

Peter A. Filippi III, a former candidate for mayor of Johnston, is a self-described “concerned taxpayer” and “town troublemaker.”

RI’s health care crisis demands urgent action

By CHUCK JONES

Rhode Island’s health care system is in crisis. The closure of Anchor Medical Associates, leaving 25,000 patients without providers, is the latest blow. Even before this, our state faced a shortage of 300 primary-care clinicians to meet patient demand. Wait times for doctor visits stretch months, and many residents can’t find a primary

care provider at all.

As president and CEO of Thundermist Health Center, I’ve seen firsthand how financial challenges put community health centers at risk. Last year, escalating labor costs and declining revenue forced us to make difficult decisions to cut staff and operations to avert a financial crisis. A big part of the problem is low Medicaid reimbursement rates and a drop in

savings from the 340B drug pricing program. These programs are essential to helping us care for uninsured patients, who make up 13% of the 63,000 people we see each year.

Despite these pressures, Thundermist and other community health centers have stepped up. We’re working fast to take in thousands of new patients from Anchor Medical and are doing everything we can to ensure they don’t lose access to the care they need.

Rhode Island’s network of eight community health centers serves over 200,000 people – about one in five Rhode Islanders. We offer medical, dental and behavioral health care, and wrap-around services like access to SNAP and WIC. We’re often the first point of care for low-income families and vulnerable populations with complex needs.

But a financial crisis now threatens our ability to deliver care. Without action, health centers may close,

cut services or lay off staff, leaving hundreds of thousands without primary care. Emergency rooms that are already overwhelmed would face even greater strain, driving up costs and worsening health outcomes.

Potential federal Medicaid cuts loom, but state-level issues – insufficient Medicaid reimbursement rates and cuts to the 340B program, which provides discounted medications for low-income patients – exacerbate the crisis. At Thundermist, 42% of our patients rely on Medicaid.

Two bills in the General Assembly – H6046/S0896 to raise Medicaid rates and H5634/S0114 to protect the 340B program – can help stabilize our system. The Medicaid bill would require a \$10-million investment from the state, while the 340B fix wouldn’t cost taxpayers anything – it simply ensures drug manufacturers continue to fund the program.

Rhode Island cannot afford to let so many lose access to primary care. Please act now by visiting SaveOurHealthCenters.org to learn more, and contact your state representatives. Your voice can help keep health care accessible for all Rhode Islanders.

Legal Notices

Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Marshall J. Gates 1208 Anchor Ct Wylie Tx, Sherwood Williams Tx FCU 2802West Miller Rd Garland TX. A public auction will be held at 100 South st Johnston RI on May 10,2025 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2001 Chevrolet 1GCH-K23U01F162670 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

5/1/25



Town of Johnston

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

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

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

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

Johnston Town Council

Robert V. Russo

President

Attest:

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.

Town Clerk

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

Chuck Jones is president and CEO of Thundermist Health Center and a member of the board of directors for the Rhode Island Health Center Association.

● FISHING from page 1

According to Nicole Cournoyer, assistant director of the Johnston Department of Recreation, Citizens Bank supported the event along with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

“DEM helped to stock the pond prior to the event,” she said. In addition to pickerel, participants had a chance to catch sunfish, carp, and various types of trout.

Prizes for the fishing derby included new tackle boxes and fishing poles and ribbons.



Melania, 4, of Johnston, joined by her dad, Anthony, earned most unique catch honors for hooking a turtle.



Zachary, 12, of Johnston won first place in his division for the biggest catch. He also scored the biggest catch of the entire derby. His fish was 15in and 1.43lbs.

● HEAD START from page 1

and high school,” he said. “Head Start recognizes that school readiness is a family affair, and it empowers parents to speak up for themselves and their community.”

In Rhode Island, local Head Start programs are administered by partner agencies. In Johnston, Head Start services come under the umbrella of the Tri-County Community Action Agency. The agency has a broad service area, with Head Start programs in Westerly, North Kingstown, Burrillville and North Providence, in addition to Johnston.

Joseph R. DeSantis, president and CEO of Tri-County Community Action, said Head Start officials across the state remain in close contact with members of the state’s congressional delegation in this time of uncertainty and are grateful for elected officials’ support.

In Cranston, Stacy Del Vicario, CCAP’s vice president of child development, concurred, saying that the Head Start programs – and the state – are lucky to have such strong representation in Washington.

“Head Start is not just an early childhood program, but it is also very much about family development,” DeSantis said, noting that Head Start connects parents with a wide range of services, including health care and help in looking for employment.

“The heart of the program is to develop self-sufficient families that can take care of themselves,” he said.

“We are on hyper-alert,” DeSantis said. “We’re doing everything we can to make sure (the cuts) don’t happen.”

Del Vicario said it is unfortunate that in a year when it should be celebrating its 60th anniversary, Head

Start is worried about whether it will have a future.

The program currently serves nearly 170 children in Cranston, between its traditional services and its “early start” initiative, she said. Thousands of families have no access to early childcare, she said, but with Head Start they can pursue jobs and careers while their children are in a safe, nurturing learning environment.

“These children are already disadvantaged,” she said. “To take away their early education will have a ripple effect for them and their families.”

Despite the specter of devastating cuts, Del Vicario said that the program is maintaining positivity for the children and will continue to advocate for the work that it does.

“The children are here, continuing to learn and having fun as usual,” she said. “And we remain hopeful.”



Andrew, 4, of Johnston worked with his dad, Joe to earn most fish caught for his division. *Beacon Media photos by Joy Fox*



Brothers, Donovan, 6, and Desmond, 9.

Most Fish Caught

4 - 7-year-old division

First place – Andrew, age 4 - 3 fish
Second place – Connor, age 7 - 2 fish

8 - 12-year-old division

First place – Zelano, age 8 - 8 fish
Second place – Cameron, age 11 - 3 fish
Third place – Massimo, age 11 - 2 fish

Biggest Fish Caught

4 - 7-year-old division

Frist place – Stella, 6 -
13.5in and 0.75lbs

8 - 12-year-old division

First place – Zach, age 12 -
Length: 15in Weight: 1.43lbs
Second place – Jacob, 11 -
Length: 13.5in Weight: 0.99lbs
Third place – Desmond, 9 and
Domenic, 11, and Alex, 8

Most Unique Catch

4 - 7-year-old division

Melania, age 4 - turtle

First Catch

4 - 7-year-old division

Luca, age 7

8 - 12-year-old division

Logan, 10 - this was the first catch
of the entire day

Johnston students earn honors at Bay View Academy

Two students from Johnston have earned academic accolades at St. Mary Academy-Bay View for the third quarter, Principal Dr. Marcela Rossi recently announced.

Sophie Roda, a junior, achieved *Highest Honors*—the school’s top academic distinction—for earning all As during the quarter. Freshman Ivana Mendez earned *Honors* for her strong performance, receiving a mix of As and Bs.

St. Mary Academy-Bay View, an all-girls Catholic school serving grades 6 through 12, recognized 172 students overall on its Third Quarter Honor Roll. The school commended the students for their dedication and academic excellence.

Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one’s full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, johnstonsunrise.net.

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

– Thank you

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Preserve at Briarcliffe

A Supportive Independent and Assisted Living Residence in Johnston

THE PRESERVE AT BRIARCLIFFE
Supportive Independent and Assisted Living



BRIARCLIFFE

CALL 401.944.2450
TO SCHEDULE A
PERSONAL TOUR

Convenient to US Hwy 6 and I-295 in Johnston, RI
54 Old Pocasset Road | briarclifferi.com

By JENNIFER COATES

The expression “Home is where the heart is” is an oft-repeated phrase that is both familiar and evocative to all who hear it. Whenever these words are uttered, they immediately evoke the sentiment that no matter where life takes you, you can be “at home” as long as you are surrounded by the people and things you love. Home can truly be wherever you rest your heart.

As we age, the concept of “home” will often change. Perhaps we are no longer able to remain in the home where we raised our families. Perhaps we need more help than the independent lives we once led. Perhaps we need to eschew the possessions we once accumulated in our homes and embrace a simpler life, instead savoring time spent with loved ones and making new acquaintances. Life and “home” may change, but they can also be better as we go along.

“Life getting better” and creating “places where the heart can settle in” are part of the mission of The Preserve at Briarcliffe. The Preserve is the newest addition to the Briarcliffe family. Opened in June of 2021, this thoughtfully designed senior living residence is home to seniors looking for this simpler, stress-free life. A life of security, peace of mind, comfort, opportunity, and freedom. A “new” home that caters to their every want and need.

Each of The Preserve’s sixty-six apartments is designed to meet the specific needs of those who are either completely independent or who require assistance with such basic needs as medication management or help with simple, everyday activities. It is the ultimate in senior living, known in the industry as a Continuing Catered Retirement Community (CCRC).

The Preserve’s apartments come in six different floor plans including 330 square foot studio apartments and one-bedroom units. Each apartment has a kitchenette (complete



The Preserve at Briarcliffe is a warm, inviting retirement community located in Johnston. If you or a loved one is considering a new home, visit one of their apartments, including this studio apartment with its thoughtfully-planned bathroom and kitchenette.

with quartz countertops, small-scale refrigerators, and a microwave), “European-style” bathrooms for safe and easy access (complete with barrier free showers, grab bars and two emergency alarm pull stations), wheelchair-width doors for those with mobility challenges, and access to the outdoors. Each apartment is individually controlled for heat and air-conditioning. Every room is bathed in natural sunlight.

Every amenity here at The Preserve has been carefully curated. Restaurant-style dining with restaurant quality food, housekeeping, landscaped grounds to explore, a full-service

salon and fitness center, laundry service and cozy lounges where scheduled activities and entertainment are held. There is a library and game room for family gatherings. Though transportation is provided, there is hardly ever a reason to leave!

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

CRANSTON PAINT & WALLCOVERING
Interior & Exterior Painting

Celebrating 30 Years!
1995-2025

NOW BOOKING INTERIOR and EXTERIOR SPRING PROJECTS

“Products and Services From One Source”

946-5070 or 265-5095

cranstonpaintri.com

386 ATWOOD AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI
RI REG. #37080

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Ember to Ash
CIGAR LOUNGE

JOHNSTON, R.I.

23 Greenville Avenue, Johnston, RI
401-383-5700 Hours: 10AM-11PM

NOW OPEN

OFFERING:

- Fine Cigars
- Full Bar
- Private Members Lounge

Loyalty Discounts & Points

ADVANTAGE
KITCHENS, BATHS, COUNTERTOPS & FLOORS

Value, Service & Quality
Design & Contractor Services
One-Stop-Shop Direct

“MAKING KITCHENS AND BATHS AFFORDABLE FOR EVERYONE!”

(401)4130426
advantagebcf.com



★ **Lowest \$ In Town** ★

New State-of-the-Art Equipment – Same Old Prices!

WASH • DRY • FOLD Drop Off Service
only 89¢ per lb.
Includes Softener, Bleach, Soap & Hangers
Same Day Service

Jain’s Laundry
Plaza 44 • 39 Putnam Pike • Johnston • 231-7019
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm; Sat. & Sun. 7am-9pm

Advertise your business in our LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Be part of the LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT and get the word out about your business with a feature story and photo for one week during your 10-week advertising commitment...

All for just **\$44/week!**
(10-week commitment)
(Includes story & photo on our website)

Call Today 732-3100



NEW! SATURDAY NIGHT SIT-DOWN DINNER
5-8pm • Full Menu Available

FISH & CHIP FRIDAYS
Schedule Your Private Event Here!

Full Bar • Prepared Foods • Catering • Sandwiches

1302 Atwood Avenue • Johnston, RI • (401) 942-1234
Visit tasteofitalydeli.com for our Menu
Mon.-Fri. 10AM-6PM, Sat. 10AM-8PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM



BEACON MEDIA

WARWICK BEACON • JOHNSTON SUN RISE
CRANSTON HERALD • THE REMINDER
RHODE ISLAND NEWSPAPER GROUP

 **DONNA ZARRELLA**
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com
401-732-3100

1944 WARWICK AVENUE, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02889

Success in School starts with Karate

PREMIER MARTIAL ARTS

SIGN UP TODAY!


FIRST CLASS FREE

ScituateMartialArts.com
43 Village Plaza, North Scituate, RI • 764-5745



BEACON MEDIA

WARWICK BEACON • JOHNSTON SUN RISE
CRANSTON HERALD • THE REMINDER
RHODE ISLAND NEWSPAPER GROUP

 **SHERRI LEO**
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
sherril@beaconmediari.com
P: 401-732-3100

1944 WARWICK AVENUE, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02889

Sports

‘Learning on the run’

Thundercats grinding through rebuild

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

The Cranston East/Johnston boys lacrosse co-op is back for another spring season and is looking to build its program for the future.

The Thundercats graduated 11 seniors from last year’s team, many of which were first-year players. The team has 15 players on the roster this season, primarily underclassmen, and is looking to gain valuable experience while also growing numbers down the road. East/Johnston expects roughly 10-12 players to return to the roster next spring while it eyes adding up to 10 more.

Returning coach Matt Davis has been pleased with the team’s commitment despite a tough start. The Thundercats fell to North Providence on Monday afternoon to drop to 0-8.

“These kids are learning a new sport. Fifteen kids



● **RUN to page 10** Johnston’s Enzo Pistacchio battles past a North Providence defender on Monday. *Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller*

Panthers shut out Broncos

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston softball team stayed sharp as it shut out Burrillville 7-0 to improve to 5-1 this spring.

Haley Boudreau was once again electric in the circle for the Panthers as she completed the seven-inning shutout allowing just one hit and striking out 21 batters. Bella Boudreau led the way at the plate by going 2-for-4 with a pair of runs batted in. Alanna Colon also knocked in a run.

Haley Boudreau crossed home three times and also stole a pair of bases in the win. Colon stole two bases as well.

The Panthers faced Mt. Hope on Tuesday night but the results were unavailable at press time.

BASEBALL

East Greenwich 3, Johnston 0

The Panthers fell to the Avengers last week to drop to 0-9 this spring.

Emmanuel Rios tossed a complete game for Johnston and allowed two earned runs while striking out seven batters. The Panthers faced West Warwick on Tuesday, but the results were not available at press time.



Johnston senior Kalyn Foster at bat in a recent game. *Beacon Media photo by Alex Sponseller*



Anthony Desjarlais passes the ball against North Providence on Monday afternoon in Johnston.

CROSSWORD
PUZZLE CORNER

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39					40					41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. McCarthy acolyte Roy
5. Ancient Korean chiefdoms
10. Not soft
14. Jai __, sport
15. Philosophy
16. Do what you're told
17. Gaffe
18. Widely known and esteemed
19. Amusement park attraction
20. Popular comic strip Viking
22. Usually has a lid
23. American sportscaster
24. Lung fibrosis
27. General's assistant (abbr.)
30. Pouch
31. Upset
32. Partner to hem
35. Astronomy unit of distance
37. Witch
38. Gradually disappear
39. Regions
40. Possesses
41. Body parts
42. A way to comprehend
43. Defraud
44. Sandwich type
45. Expression of disappointment
46. Popular Dodge truck model
47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
48. Soviet Socialist Republic
49. Songs to a beloved
52. Custom
55. Partner to cheese
56. West Indies trees
60. Member of a Semitic people
61. Plant that originated vegetatively
63. Squandered one's money
64. Ethiopian river
65. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
66. Acquire by one's efforts
67. Irish goddess
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Currency
2. Ceramic jar
3. Reagan's Secretary of State
4. God worshipped in Kanesh
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Semitic
7. About blood
8. Benign tumors
9. Move one's head
10. Hours (Spanish)
11. Hebrew calendar month
12. Advise someone
13. Colors clothes
21. The sun does it
23. Concealed
25. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
26. Droop
27. Away from one another
28. Challenges
29. A harsh scraping sound
32. Attaches to a wall
33. Capital of Ethiopia: __ Ababa
34. German river
36. Disappointed
37. Star Wars character Solo
38. Supervises flying
40. Not mass-produced
41. Nonsense
43. Automobile
44. Hogshead (abbr.)
46. Soak in water
47. Flower cluster
49. Romanian city
50. A parent is often one
51. Fencing sword
52. Body part
53. Region
54. Farm building
57. Ali's surname at birth
58. Waxy bird beak covering
59. Stiff bristles
61. VCR button
62. Small amount



Connor Niles carries the ball up the field.



East/Johnston goalie Sean Mendonca on Monday.

● RUN from page 9

on a team, to play an athletic sport like lacrosse, a physical sport, to only have four subs a game, I give them a lot of credit. they give it everything they've got," said Davis. "Nobody's quit, they want to learn, they're asking questions and they want to get better. That says a lot."

The team has found what Davis believes will be two foundational players to build around in junior goalie Sean Mendonca and freshman faceoff specialist Grayden Guyon.

"(Mendonca's) unbelievable. He's making 14-18 saves a game, now we just need find ways to score," said Davis." We tried (Guyon) on faceoffs and the kid

is unbelievable. He's winning about 75 percent of his faceoffs."

A key senior is Connor Niles, while freshman Enzo Pistacchio has also made an impact.

Although a playoff run may not be in the cards for the rebuilding group, Davis and company have been encouraged by the progress made and is looking to continue to inch its way forward in the second half of the season.

"We just need to keep practicing. We've just got to learn to throw and catch, we need to find some offense," said Davis. "You can't go by score. We want to see improvement. I tell the kids, 'We want to see you be better tomorrow than you are today.' We've seen that progress, we're learning on the run here, but we do see that improvement."

Sponsor the Crossword Puzzle!

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

Only \$50.00/wk.

5.19" x 3" • 4 Week Minimum
(FREE Color If Available)

Call 401.732.3100

NOAA using DNA to improve fisheries

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**
Special to the SunRise

NOAA Fisheries is using fish DNA to analyze forage and predator relationships. Environmental DNA—eDNA—is loose genetic material shed by organisms in the environment. This can include mucus, feces, and tissue particles. It can be collected from seawater, extracted, and compared to sequences in reference libraries to identify species or marine communities that were present where the water sample was collected.

NOAA is using a similar approach to reveal predator and prey relationships by analyzing DNA found in the feces or stomach contents of marine animals. This innovative technology is a game-changer. For information on how NOAA is using DNA to improve ecosystem and habitat research and stock assessments visit Northeast eDNA Research | NOAA Fisheries.

Spring tautog season in full swing

The spring tautog season in Rhode Island opened April 1 with a 16-inch minimum size, only one fish may be greater than 21. The season runs through May 31 with a three fish/person/day limit and a ten fish per boat limit (does not apply to charter boats).

The season closes during peak spawning and reopens once again with a three fish/person/day limit on Aug. 1. There is a certain knack to tautog fishing as it takes a lot of concentration and a quick hook set. However, in spring the bite is often subtle. Here is what experts are saying this spring.

“Shore anglers fishing the jetties have not been doing as well as those anglers fishing the reefs off Watch Hill. The bait of choice that seems to be working best are white crabs if you can get them,” said Paker Mandes of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

“The tautog bite is just getting better. I have been catching fish in the mid to upper Narragansett Bay for about a week. They are in shallows with a sandy bottom around structure to warm up. They’re hitting Asian crabs and clam bellies best,” said Capt. Brandon Hagopian of B-Hagz Baits and Adventures charters. “The smaller the bait the better this time of year. The end of the incoming tide and beginning of outgoing tide has been the magic tide.”

Capt. Dustin Stevens of Rhode Island Kayak Adventures, who fished earlier this month around opening day, said, “It was windy and cold but I can’t complain about a successful opening day for Tautog! Two keepers, two shorts, not too shabby.”

Justin was fishing in 15-31 feet of water and his average time from drop to bite was about 10 minutes. Justin said, “I like to use half of a green crab with legs off in the spring as the fish seem to like softer baits.”

Some of my favorite tautog fishing tips learned from the experts.

- Keep rig simple to reduce tie ups, I prefer an egg sinker rig with one hook extended below the sinker on a swivel, or a one hook conventional rig with a dropper loop and sinker. Today the most popular rig for anglers are jigs of all sizes and colors, particular this time of year the smaller/lighter the better.

- Anchor over or near structure, and fish the entire boat or area, even casting a bit as tautog are territorial, a few feet make a difference, also let anchor line in and out to change position unless you have and electric motor

- Be prepared to chum as needed, I use a mixture of cut-up sea clams and



Angler Richard Reich said, “Caught this 24”, 7.24 pound tautog last Thursday in 20 feet of water off Narragansett. It was our best of eleven fish on jigs with Asian crabs with two anglers fishing.

crushed crabs

- I use 30 to 40 pound braid line with a fluorocarbon or monofilament leader of equal value to enhance a direct connection to the fish and the line does not stretch when the fish tries to run back into structure, my fishing rod is a medium action rod.

- Your rig should be on the bottom, be patient particularly in the spring as the bites are not as frequent, pay attention and be prepared to set hook quickly

- Be prepared to fish different types of rigs and bait presentations depending on conditions and what fish want i.e. jigs with bait, green crabs as bait, Asian crabs, conventional rigs, clam bellies, etc.

Where’s the bite?

Striped bass fishing for holdover striped bass (fish that did not migrate south) continues to be very good with anglers catching keeper striped bass 28” to < 31”.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, “The water temperature, in the 40s, is still too cold for the first good arrival of striped bass, but anyone following the northern migration knows that the first school is getting closer.”

Capt. Brandon Hagopian of B-Hagz Baits and Adventures charters (bhagzbaits@gmail.com), said, “I am catching new striped at the herring runs on big swimbaits and rubber shads in Narragansett Bay.” Herring run rivers or waterways include Apponaug Cove, Warwick; Narrow River, Narragansett; and the Barrington and Warren Rivers to name a few.

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle said, “Still now action in Apponaug Cove and Greenwich Bay area, no birds feeding and not much bait in the water, things should break open soon as the water warms.”

Tautog fishing is getting better every day and should until the season closes for spawning on May 31. “The tautog bite is just getting better. I have been catching fish in the mid to upper Narragansett Bay for about a week. They are in shallows with a sandy bottom around structure to warm up. They’re hitting Asian crabs and clam

Business Card DIRECTORY

This Week’s Featured Business...



Weatherproof Home Improvement

Roofing · Siding · Windows

Dennis 732-9218

Fully Licensed/Insured Reg #31803

Family-Owned/Operated

Advertise in the Cranston Herald’s

Business Card DIRECTORY

for only

\$18 per week

(12 week commitment)

Add the Warwick Beacon or Cranston Herald for an additional \$9 per week.

Call 732-3100

Free Estimates Fully Insured

Interior/Exterior • Residential/Commercial



Levine Painting

Prompt, Reliable, Quality Work

• Wallpaper Hanging • Power Washing • Staining

401-736-0600

RI Reg. #7140 www.levinepainting.com

bellies best,” said Capt. Hagopian of B-Hagz Baits and Adventures charters. “The smaller the bait the better this time of year. The end of the incoming tide and beginning of outgoing tide has been the magic tide.”

Angler Richard Reich of Narragansett and his fishing partner caught eleven tautog in 20 feet of water off Nar-ragansett last Thursday. Their largest fish was 24 inches and 7.24 pounds caught on jigs with Asian crabs.

Freshwater trout fishing is still 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.



Jeff Sullivan with a ten pound spring tautog caught with a jig and crab in Bristol.



Kayak angler Tom Houde with a string of three tautog, his limit, caught in spring two years ago.

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					3 IronsAve	Trombetta Salvatore P Est and Trombetta, James J	Cabreara, Herland	4/15	\$329,000
37 Phillip St	Mcallister, Michael	Council Of Giants LLC	4/7	\$240,000	32 SchoolSt	Tan, Jamie C and Standridge, Jrodan K	Michlek, Shawn and Ashida, Megumi	4/15	\$470,000
48 York Dr	Myers, Diane M and Myers, Glenn R	Vadnais, Sean and Williams, Brianna	4/11	\$425,000	84 CedarSt	Forant, Dean A and Forant, Kathleen A	Cooper, Nickolas	4/11	\$325,000
5 Woodland Ave	Michaud, Dennis A	Ursillo, Jeffrey	4/7	\$300,000	9 CamilleDr	West Bay Hm Solutions LLC	Levesque, Ryan M and Szulc, Vanessa A	4/9	\$425,000
63 Princeton Ave	Cwalt Inc and The Bank Of Ny Mellon Tr	Mark Anthony Homes LLC	4/10	\$290,000					
CRANSTON					1000 Warwick Neck Ave	Schulte, Matthew S and Schulte, Ellen B	Demir, Nicole and Demir, Ali	4/8	\$130,000
130 Fordson Ave Lot 4	Patel, Seema A	Goff, Hanna E	4/8	\$220,000	113 Brentwood Ave	Carberry Nancy A Est and Gemma, Sandra A	Zitnick, Dana A	4/4	\$315,000
130 Fordson Ave Lot 2	Walason, Brandon C	Ulhaq, Ehsan X	4/8	\$210,000	134 Sevilla Ave	Varras, Nicholas S	Grant, Megan E and Green, Jason D	4/10	\$405,000
132 Fordson Ave Lot 2	Crossley, Deborah A	Griffiths, Heidi	4/9	\$227,000	165 Hilton Rd	Hilton Street T and Cohn, Richard	Padua, Roberto R and Padua, Amanda M	4/4	\$435,000
1383-R New London Ave	Florentino, Michael	Lebeau, Gabriel G	4/8	\$438,000	166 Pinnerly Ave	Gleavey Frances M Est and Gleavey, Joseph	Gleavey, Joseph B	4/4	\$400,000
14 Abbott St	Cirillo, Danielle S	Alarcon, Andres F and Toepfer, Kristina M	4/7	\$410,000	175 Irving Rd	Oliveira, Linda	Leon, Stephanie and Proulx, Bentley	4/7	\$390,000
142 Chestnut Hill Ave Lot 497	Guadagno, Nicholas J	Mottl, Jon L	4/9	\$600,000	26 May Ave	Aldridge, Sandy N	Abitabilo, Carissa J and Williams, Zane C	4/7	\$325,000
142 Chestnut Hill Ave Lot 498	Guadagno, Nicholas J	Mottl, Jon L	4/9	\$600,000	2794 Warwick Ave	Demir, Ali and Demir, Nicole	Baxter Jr, John S and Baxter, Stephanie R	4/8	\$775,000
17 River St	Kelly Phillip B Est and Kelly, Kameron K	Walcott-Matthews, Kristin and Walcott, Ben J	4/9	\$380,000	285 Elm St	Avery 3rd, John W and Avery, Cheyenne J	Erazo, Jose E	4/9	\$261,900
234 Dunedin St Lot 234	Grant Court Dev Inc	Jordan, Lisa and Jordan, Fred	4/9	\$300,000	3 Hope Ave	Bonang, Catherine M	Borgus, Gabrielle and Borgus, Max	4/7	\$272,000
245 Budlong Rd	Manley, Desiree N	Kojoian, Kevin K	4/10	\$210,000	3 Hope Ave	Henry, Jacqueline J and Bonang, Catherine M	Borgus, Gabrielle and Borgus, Max	4/7	\$136,000
255 Budlong Rd Lot 2257	Manley, Desiree N	Kojoian, Kevin K	4/10	\$164,000	315 Oakland Beach Ave	Simone, Robert D and Simone, George M	Loulou LLC	4/7	\$250,000
26 Alto St	Munoz, Justin and Munoz, Kaci A	401 Homebuyers LLC	4/9	\$210,000	40 Haverford Rd	Ratkoski, Lance	Hagenberg, Eric M	4/10	\$345,000
31 Metropolitan Ave	Zorabedian, Michael L and Zorabedian, Monica M	Harootunian, Andrew and Harootunian, Lisa	4/7	\$435,000	4100 Post Rd Lot 2	Gutchen, Robert M and Gutchen, Sylvia M	Maguire, Meghan R	4/9	\$420,000
34 Vermont St	Blair, Donna C	14 Properties LLC	4/10	\$331,100	5 Zircon St	Jmmc Const Corp	Chaudhry, Anusha A and Trosin, Cameron A	4/10	\$680,000
9 Owl Ct	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Riggs, Kimberly	4/8	\$1	51 Oniska St	Rcf2 Acquisition T and Us Bk T Na	Rcf2 Acquisition T and Us Bk T Na	4/4	\$270,468
EAST GREENWICH					54 Sweet St	Kemp Judith M Est and Breault, Laurel J	Cosmo Prop LLC	4/9	\$245,000
1463 Frenchtown Rd	Sherer, John	White, Jessica and White, Nathaniel	4/7	\$1,200,000	591 W Shore Rd	Ethier, Jennifer and Ethier, Eric	Ri Custom Bldrs LLC	4/9	\$380,000
23 Gould Pl	Bialice Invt LLC	Lehne, Amanda and Lehne, Jared	4/7	\$852,000	69 Julian Rd	Long, Mark and Long, Cathy	Russell, Alex R and Russell, Veronica S	4/7	\$450,000
248 Marlborough St	Smith Linda Jane Est and Mcconkey, Stephanie	Mjc LLC	4/11	\$217,000	70 Jefferson Blvd Lot 301	Gricco 2nd, Dennis T and Cobleigh, Gerard P	70 Jefferson 301 LLC	4/8	\$155,000
EXETER					72 Huron St	Harrop, Keith	Liatto, Alexander R	4/4	\$428,000
199 Ridge Dr	Andrews, Manuel	Tucker, Stuart and Barr, Robin	4/9	\$970,000	951 Brighton Way Lot 951	John W Janke T and Janke, John F	Greene, Margaret M	4/7	\$329,900
JOHNSTON					WEST WARWICK				
10 Young Ln	Caitillo, Christopher and Johnson, Catherine A	De Paz, Jorge M and De Paz, Susan P	4/15	\$520,000	16 Lily Ln Lot 16	Gilcrest Asso LLC	Desrosieres, Rosemary	4/11	\$540,385
					325 Washington St Lot 6	Plante, Allison B	Pangilinan, Anna M	4/14	\$190,000
					80 Cleveland St	Sweet, Sarah K	Ratkoski, Lance	4/11	\$370,000
					885 Main St	Lyon Kings LLC	Sosa, Hugo	4/15	\$335,000

This copyrighted material is compiled from public records and re-printed under agreement with the Warren Group of Boston. Not every community is reported each week. To report a data error, call 617-896-5310 or send an email to transfersatthearrengroup.com

YOU COULD SPONSOR THIS PAGE

For more information about this high-visibility opportunity, call

732-3100



Rhode Island native and Bishop Hendricken alum Xavier Truss in 2018. Submitted photo

Truss overlooked by NFL

The NFL Draft took place last weekend and hundreds of college prospects saw their dreams come to fruition when their names were called to the stage.

One player that did not get selected was Rhode Island native and Bishop Hendricken alum Xavier Truss, who just completed his college career at Georgia.

Truss was considered by most to be a mid-to-late day three prospect, meaning he'd likely be drafted between rounds 5-7. I was told last fall by a source close to Truss that some evaluators had him ranked as high as the fourth round in their early draft boards.

The draft is always full of surprises, but I was scratching my head when Truss' name was not called. Sure, he signed a deal with the Denver Broncos as an undrafted free agent, so he'll have a chance to compete in the NFL, but when considering what he brings to the table, teams should have been willing to invest in him.

Yes, he checks off the physical traits with height, weight, length. That stuff is easy to identify. His biggest assets, though, are positional versatility and experience.

In his six years at Georgia, he made starts at four of the five positions on the line, with center being the only spot he didn't play. He was Second-Team All-SEC in 2023 and then started 14 games in 2024. He also made 14 starts in 2022.

Truss was one of the most well-rounded and experienced linemen in this draft, and he did it in the toughest division in football while helping the Bulldogs win multiple national titles. I am not saying that he didn't have technical issues to iron out, but he was a key starter on arguably the best offensive line in football for several seasons. He was successful in the SEC. Plain and simple.

We'll see how he fares in the coming months. I expect him to be right in the mix for a roster spot come August, primarily because of his versatility. He will be able to



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

compete for four different spots on the line, so when you combine that with his sheer size and talent, I do believe he will work his way onto the roster. At the very least the practice squad.

I'm not a coach, I am not a scout, so take what I say with a grain of salt. I understand that he is not a perfect prospect. Evaluators pointed at his footwork and anchor as issues that could slow him down at the next level. Some even said that despite his size, he needed to add strength to battle against the NFL's elite.

Point being, I do not think Truss is going to explode on the scene this summer and all of a sudden be the best lineman in the sport. However, I do believe that he will be a successful NFL player and he should have been drafted by someone at some point. Again, experienced, versatile SEC players are hot commodities and their success typically translates to the NFL game. I believe this time next year the narrative on Truss will be much different. He will be a roster lock in Denver, rather than someone fighting for recognition.

The biggest story of the draft was the fall of Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders.

Sanders, also the son of the legendary Deion Sanders, was projected to be a potential top-3 pick. As we approached draft night, though, reports surfaced that his pre-draft interviews with teams were disastrous.

He rubbed just about every team he met with the wrong way with what they felt was arrogance and immaturity. His father could get away with it during his playing days because he was one of the best athletes the sport has ever seen, but he is considered to be an ordinary prospect from a physical perspec-

tive. He just happens to play the most important position on the field.

Sure enough, he had to wait until the fifth round. To go from potentially the second overall pick to the fifth round is a historic drop. I have been an avid draft enthusiast for 20 years and I can't recall a fall like Sanders' this past weekend. Every year we see first round talents fall to the second round, sometimes even the third. This was extraordinary.

There has since been plenty of controversy surrounding the situation. Many people feel that the NFL did Sanders dirty and that there may have even been a league-wide effort to stick it to him and his father, who had also been pretty vocal throughout the process. His dad was on record saying that certain teams were unworthy of his son's talents and they'd refuse to suit up for them if he was drafted.

The NFL is a corrupt organization, run by greedy, deceitful owners. Rarely do I believe that NFL owners are innocent.

In this case, it all comes down to the simple fact that Shedeur and Deion are high-maintenance and unlikable. As noted above, the younger Sanders is just not a good enough prospect to invest a premium draft selection on when you are taking on all the other baggage.

I actually like Sanders as a player. He takes care of the ball, makes good decisions and delivers his passes with quality timing, touch and accuracy. He was a full field reader and can diagnose defenses pre-snap. I think the kid can be a pretty good quarterback if he is put in the right situation.

That said, I do not blame the NFL for holding off until the fifth round. I also believe that this is a valuable lesson for players looking to reach the NFL. You need to be professional, especially as a quarterback. If you want to be the face of a franchise and a first-round pick, you need to prove yourself off the field just as much as on the field.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Electrical

Valco Electric
Residential Specialist
Electrical Upgrades
Trouble Shooting & Repairs
Prompt & Courteous Service
401-921-3143
Lic. #A3990 AmEx/Disc/MC/Visa Insured

Fencing

Reilly Fence Inc.
Professional installations of
Vinyl • Wood • Aluminum
Chainlink Fences
Insured - Free Estimates
Call & book an appt. today!
228-3647 Reg. #40392

Flooring

EAST COAST WOOD FLOORS
Installed • Sand
Finish • Refinish
Insured • Senior Discounts
Cell 265-3644
Reg. #15124

Home Improvements

Weatherproof Home Improvement
Interior/Exterior Painting
Roofing • Siding • Gutters • Decks
Dennis
732-9218

Masonry

CEMENT MASONRY WORK
Chimneys ♦ Floors ♦ Patios
Driveways ♦ Steps ♦ Walkways
Repairs ♦ Free Estimates
Ron 397-1891
Cell 639-2942
Reg. #6326 Licensed & Bonded

Landscaping

RC Landscaping
Spring Cleanups and
Lawn Maintenance
Free Estimates
Call Ray
401-644-9239

Oil Tank Removal

Why wait for your oil tank to leak?
Old oil tanks removed
Licensed RI Waste Transporter
Drum Disposal
Newton B. Washburn, LLC.
Insured • Reg. #27176 • #RI877
401-647-9606

Painting

STEVEN G. RUHLE PAINTING
Interior & Exterior
Small Exteriors
Neat, Clean Workmanship
639-0967
Free Estimates
Reg. 12067 - Insured

C & J Painting

Interior/Exterior Powerwashing
Free Estimates
Jason • Craig
378-8525 • 743-2554
Reg. #22833 Insured

T & T Painting

25 years in Business
Interior and Exterior Painting
Power Washing
Deck Refinishing
Carpentry Repairs
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
SENIOR DISCOUNT
Insured - Reg. #3469
401-944-0336

Plastering

Harold Greco Jr. Plaster Perfection
ALL Small Repair Specialist
Emergency Water Damage Repairs
Historic Restorations Painting
Senior, Veterans & Cash Discounts
Integrity & Passion
ALL MAINTENANCE
Reg. #4114 ★ Member BBB ★ Est. 1946
Call now! **738-0369**

Plumbing & Heating

E.W. FLAGG Plumbing & Heating
New & Old
Installations • Repairs
Water Heaters
Commercial & Residential
739-6155

Power Washing

Coast to Coast Power Washing
Everything Residential
When Quality/Service Matters, call Ken,
401-413-0547
Satisfaction Guaranteed!
Save 20% off this month!
RI Reg. #GC47967

Rubbish Removal

Liberty House Junk Removal, Inc.
We remove one item or content of entire house.
Sheds and hot tubs
FREE ESTIMATES
15 years of reliable service
Reg. #2983 & Insured
401-286-0505

Spring Cleanups

House - Cellars - Garages - Moving?
Anything hauled away, some for FREE!
30 yrs. - Reliable Service!
741-2781 Lic. #37379 - Insured

BUSINESS SERVICES

ads start at

\$35/week

for 4 or more weeks

Ad appears in the Johnston Sun Rise, Cranston Herald, & Warwick Beacon
(All 3 papers for one low price)

Classifieds

OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

TO PLACE OR CANCEL A CLASSIFIED AD:

Call 732-3100 by —
▪ 3 PM Thursday for
Cranston Herald (Thursday),
Johnston Sun Rise (Thursday),
Warwick Beacon (Thursday) &
The Reminder (Wednesday)

Please Check Your Ad!

We make every effort to carefully proofread all advertisements, however, we ask you to check your ad the first time it appears. If you find an error, call 732-3100 so that we may correct it in the next publication. Beacon Media shall not be liable for errors or omissions in, or failure to insert, any advertisement for which it may be responsible beyond the cost of the actual space occupied by the item in which error or omission or failure to insert occurred. Advertiser will be entitled to refund of advertisement price or insertion in next issue at advertiser's option.

LINE ADS:

20 Words - \$35.00 per week
each additional word \$1.00
bold first line \$4.00
Includes Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise
Add The Reminder for an additional \$10/week

BUSINESS SERVICE ADS:

\$35.00 per column inch per week*
Includes Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise
*Ad Must Run 4 Consecutive Weeks

Add The Reminder:
\$8.00 per column inch. Ad Must Run 4 Consecutive Weeks.

Email ads to: Classifieds@rhodybeat.com

CREDIT POLICY We accept all major credit cards. We will bill line-by-line classified ads (with the exception of YARD SALE ADS) to customers adding \$1.50 billing fee. Business Service ads must be prepaid until a Credit Application has been approved and account established.

Apartments For Lease

APARTMENTS FOR LEASE

Imperial House Apts.
GOVERNOR FRANCIS FARMS
940 Namquid Drive, Warwick

3-Room Apartment • Eat-In Kitchen
Hardwood Floors • Laundry Room • Storage
Heat & Hot Water Included
NON-SMOKING • NO PETS

\$1500 First Floor
\$1400 Second Floor
BCI Required - Income Verification - Very Quiet

Sholes Properties
401-463-5600

Autos Wanted

CLASSIC CARS WANTED! Looking for American or European vehicles. Restored or needing work. Collections or single cars. Will pay finder's fee for referrals. Call 508-326-6359.

Homes For Sale

WARWICK 2 BED, 1 BATH on large lot with recent updates to be sold as is: \$319k. rileyrou54@gmail.com

Houses Wanted

WE BUY HOUSES: Any condition!! Quick sale!! House needs work? We don't mind. Call 401-595-8703.

Roommate Wanted

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female preferred. Includes ALL. \$950 plus security. Call: 401-771-3936.

RV's/Campers For Sale

2014 SKYLINE SKYCAT CAMPER TOY HAULER: 18'. In good shape. Needs some work. Many amenities. Call Bill: 401-397-4884.

Yard Sales

INDOOR/OUTDOOR YARD SALE: Saturday, May 3, 9am - 2pm, 21 Boundary Ave., Johnston. Something for everyone. Lots of items, too many to list. Rain or shine.

Free Horse Manure

EXCELLENT FOR COMPOST. Will help with large loads. West Greenwich. Contact between 9am - 5pm. 401-569-6541. Leave a message.

Help Wanted

CLEANERS: 1st & 2nd Shift, 20-25 hours per week, Monday-Saturday. \$15/hour. Must have valid Driver's License, reliable vehicle and clean BCI. Great job for retirees! Call Joe, 401-301-1162.

CARPET CLEANING TECHNICIANS/TRAINEES: \$700+/Week. Valid Driver's License. BCI required. Call Joe, 401-258-9648

HALCYON WEST BAY is hiring for the following positions: Maintenance Tech – FT; LPN – PT; Dining Room Servers – PT; Hairdresser – PT. Apply in person at Halcyon West Bay, 2783 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI – EOE

CHAUFFEURS NEEDED! Clean driving record. Non-smoker. Reliable/Professional. Flexible. Clean BCI. Competitive wages. Drug testing. 401-265-7784.

Home Improvement

CHOICE SOFTWASHING: Homes, Decks, Fences, Patios, Roofs, Awnings, Trash Bins. Commercial & Residential. Fully Insured. Free Estimates. 401-241-7136, Jon.



Advertise Your YARD SALE

Call 732-3100

(Yard Sale Ads Must Be Pre-Paid)

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

20 Words - \$35/week*

*Add \$1 for each additional word
Includes Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise
☐ Add The Reminder for an additional \$10/week

Please print clearly – One word per box
Phone number is one word.
Not responsible for words we cannot read.

☐ BOLD TYPE
\$4.00 per week. First line only.

				20 words
+\$1 each addition word				

Name

Address

Town/State


Phone

Price Per Week

of Weeks

Amount Paid


☐ Check/Money Order Enclosed – Payable to: BEACON MEDIA RI

Circle One:


Account #
Security Code
Expiration Date

MAIL OR BRING TO:
BEACON MEDIA RI
1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick RI 02889
E-Mail: classifieds@rhodybeat.com

Classified Ad Deadline is
THURSDAY AT 3PM



Lifestyles



David Rardin got his two Newfies up from their repose with the prospect of milk bones.
Beacon Media photos by John Howell

300 Newfies booked at the Crowne

Hotel hosts first dog show in 9 years with gentle giants

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

What's the challenge of owning, not one but two dogs, that weigh up to 150 pounds each, love eating, and when they shed leave "tumble weeds" of black hair throughout the house?

David Rardin of New Hampshire, who was seated Monday under a tent with his two Newfoundlands at the entrance to a Crowne Plaza parking lot in Warwick, barely paused to answer.

"Grooming," he said describing a three-hour long process of combing out tangles, washing and using an industrial blow drier to finish the job. And an hour later they could be rolling in the rain.

No matter, he loves his dogs, Barnabas and Eliza, who lay at his feet in the cool mulch. The dogs welcomed visitors petting them but stuck to the shade. Rardin said the dogs love swimming – they are used as water rescue dogs and some Newfie shows feature that skill, but not this one – and they love cold weather. His dogs roll in the snow even when the temperature drops to minus 25.

Rardin won't be entering Barnabas and Eliza in any events. He came to assist with the show and reconnect with all the friends he has made over the years.

Donna Thibault nodded her head in agreement grooming is a significant challenge when owning a Newfie. The dogs have been a part of her family since she was eight years old and that was 55 years ago. Both her daughters, Joanne and Jessica, have successful businesses based on the dogs raised as working companions by Newfoundland fishermen. Jessica won best of breed at the 2025 show in Duluth, Minnesota with a young dog that she was the breeder.

Thibault had a lot on her mind as the co-chair of the Newfoundland Club of America National Specialty show that bring together 300 of the gentle giants and more than 400 people for a series of events that started Monday with "drafting." Dogs are harnessed to a cart weighted by 25 pounds and follow a course up to a mile long. The show runs this Saturday afternoon (May 3) and is open at no charge to all those who love the breed or are simply just interested in dogs and meeting people from across the country.

According to the Specialty Show web-

site, this is the sixth time they have traveled to the Crowne since 1992.

This is the first dog show at the Crowne since the hotel ceased hosting the events nine years ago. In its heyday of dog shows the Crowne, and its sister the Warwick Holiday Inn, was ground zero for scores of shows featuring different breeds.

Thibault is excited to come back to Warwick and Ashley Mizer who is coordinator at the Crowne is excited to have the dogs back. Other than rooms reserved for flight crews and a few walk-in guests more than 240 rooms at the Crowne and more at the Holiday Inn have been booked by the show. Up to three dogs are allowed in each of the rooms. Mizer said the Crowne booked 1,000 room nights for the show.

Planning the event started more than three years ago, said Thibault. It's understandable as evidenced by the ambitious agenda spelled out in the thick program book

Thibault knows the ropes having worked on Newfie shows, including the five hosted by the Newfoundland Club of New England at the Crowne. The tents for the show came from a company based in Michigan. Then there are the golf carts the club rents to get volunteers around the Crowne campus and the company that trucked in a giant generator to power the largest of all the tents. Electricians were making the final touches on electrifying the tent Monday where owners will be able to blow-dry their Newfies after washing them at stations set up by the hotel and before coming under the scrutiny of judges who have traveled as far away as Oregon and California to be here.

"Of course we have some [judges] from New England, too," Thibault said.

Thibault and Mizer have already start-



Newfoundlands are known for their good nature and love of other dogs.

ed planning for next year, as the Newfies will make their return in 2026.

While seemingly every conceivable issue is planned for, oversights happen.

Thibault laughs relating how a volunteer had to drive back to Connecticut.

She had left the 3,000 poop bags at home.



Nancy Hoofler says her Newfie known as a Landseer because of its white spotted coat is a celebrity in her hometown of Westerly.

**The 2025 NCA
National Specialty
Rich History –
Bright Future**

**Monday April 28 -
Saturday May 3, 2025**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
Warwick, Rhode Island**

Free and open to the public

**For event details:
www.ncanationalspecialty.org**

Conflicting interests

Speaking to reporters after the votes, Lawson dismissed concerns about potential conflicts between her union job and the Senate leadership role. She noted she has sought advisory opinions from the state ethics panel previously regarding potential overlap, though none specific to her new role as Senate president.

As the chamber’s leader, Lawson now has outsized power to negotiate across the rotunda with the House and decide which bills advance to the Senate floor, setting the stage for conflicts on a host of education-related issues, said John Marion, executive director of Common Cause Rhode Island.

Senate rank-and-file members can recuse themselves by not voting or leaving the dais or even the room when their jobs or personal relationships conflict with legislative business, Marion said in an interview Monday.

“The Senate president, the buck stops there,” Marion said. “It makes recusal an insufficient tool for dealing with potential conflicts of interest.”

Similarly, as president of the 12,000-member state teachers union, Lawson holds key decision-making power over its legislative agenda and policy priorities. Ruggerio, who worked as an administrator for a branch of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, stepped down from his union job when he was elected Senate president in 2017.

Much like Ruggerio, who has long opposed state-level restrictions on guns, Ciccone said he would oppose the assault weapons ban as currently drafted. Ciccone is a licensed federal firearms dealer who sells guns out of the basement of his Silver Lake home; he also voted against the safe storage mandate signed into law in 2024.

‘Strong enough for two strong women’

Ciccone’s voting record on

guns, along with reproductive rights and protections for the LGBTQ+ community, rankled progressive lawmakers and advocacy groups. Sen. Pamela Lauria, a Barrington Democrat, nominated DiMario as an alternative to Ciccone for majority leader during the party caucus Tuesday.

“We all deserve to vote for someone we believe in,” Lauria said, insisting the Senate was “strong enough for two strong women.”

Drama descended upon the Senate early last year, after a private falling out between Ruggerio and Pearson became public. The conflict between the two occurred after Pearson visited Ruggerio at his home to discuss Ruggerio’s health and his ability to lead.

At the same time, Ruggerio confirmed his third diagnosis with cancer; his health struggles forced him to miss long stretches of the 2024 session and nearly all of the 2025 legislative session, as well as much of the door-to-door campaigning leading up to his reelection in November.

Pearson unsuccessfully attempted to oust Ruggerio from the president seat during a caucus after the November election, airing tensions brewing for months between opposing factions of Senate Democrats. Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Pearson said he felt vindicated in his prior insistence that Ruggerio’s illnesses had compromised his leadership, and in turn, the chamber’s function.

Vindicated

“My worst nightmare, what I was trying to prevent for this chamber, has played out exactly as I had a nightmare about it,” Pearson said.

He relayed a very different



Sen. Valarie Lawson, an East Providence Democrat, is sworn in as president of the Rhode Island Senate on Tuesday. At right, Secretary of State Gregg Amore administers the oath. Photos by Nikki Silva/Rhode Island Current

series of events than Ruggerio regarding the aftermath of their closed-door conversation last year. As Pearson tells it, when he went to the then-president with concerns about Ruggerio’s health, Ruggerio hugged him, and thanked him for his honesty. It was only after other senators got in Ruggerio’s ear, convincing him that Pearson’s concern was actually a power grab, that Ruggerio turned on Pearson, Pearson said.

Sen. Dawn Euer, a Newport Democrat, admitted during the floor session Tuesday that she believed the “rumors” spread about Pearson last year, but changed her mind after seeing Ruggerio’s health firsthand as former chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Euer alleged Pearson was “bullied” by other senators to advance their own interests.

“We need leadership that is going to tell the truth to members of this chamber, even when it’s hard,” Euer said.

While the battle between Pearson and Lawson for presi-

dent was not a close vote, it could have been. Pearson asserted he had verbal support from nearly half of the chamber’s Senate Democrats even a day prior, including from Ciccone, who agreed to back Pearson as president if he was made majority leader.

Ciccone could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday night.

In the frenzy of phone calls leading up to Tuesday’s leadership elections, one conversation never happened: between Pearson and Lawson. Pearson said his calls to Lawson went unanswered, noting that she has not responded to his calls or texts for a year.

Lawson walked away when asked by reporters about discussions with Pearson for a potential leadership slate.

A special election will be held later this year to fill the Senate District 4 seat spanning sections of Providence and North Providence held by Ruggerio since 1985; a date has not been determined.



Sen. Frank Ciccone, in tan jacket, a Providence/Johnston Democrat, applauds on Tuesday. At left is Sen. Victoria Gu, a Westerly Democrat.



INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Shop Locally!

PROPANE FILLING STATION


621-8129 Call Phil

ALL PROPANE TANKS FILLED HERE

- Open 7 days a week
- Open all year
- English & Spanish

904 Manton Ave. Providence (IN FRONT OF STOP & SHOP)

Phil.Johnston32@gmail.com www.jfcpropane.com



Nardone Painting Co.

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WORK

Roofing, Siding and Windows

NOW OFFERING: Carpentry, Kitchen & Bath Remodeling & Hardwood Floors

Over 40 Years Experience — Quality Work

LICENSED & INSURED

401-943-1675

Luciano Nardone 27 Tweed Street, Cranston

Mention This Ad For \$500 OFF Exterior Painting Jobs (\$2500 & Over)



GOULIN STORAGE

STORAGE CONTAINERS FOR RENT

Stationary at our Johnston location or mobile at your location for a monthly rental fee.

401.837.0048 or 401.626-8737

VERY COMPETITIVE RATES, FAST, RELIABLE COURTEOUS SERVICE

YARD DEBRIS, JUNK REMOVAL and MORE!

10, 15, 20 & 30 yard containers placed at your location

Call for pricing and availability.

401.626.8737 or 401.837.0048



(401) 461-5600 www.budgetrooterservice.com

BUDGET ROOTER SERVICE

Drain Problem? No Problem! Just Call Jim! 40+ Years of Experience

Family Owned And Operated

“Why Pay More?”

Servicing both Commercial and Residential Clients:

Main Sewer Lines • Sinks • Tubs • Showers • Floor Drains

Video Camera Pipe Inspection



Glass & Screen Repair & Replacement

Residential Services:

- Sliding Screen Doors
- Insulated Glass
- Storm Doors
- Acrylic Sheet Available

Call Denny (401) 641-1010

Johnston Area – Free Estimates – Will Pick up & Deliver





RI Reg # 46236

JRM Landscape Construction LLC

No Job Too Big or Small, We Do It All!

Mulch • Stone • Sod • Bushes Planted, Trimmed & Removed • Excavation • Weekly/Bi-Weekly Lawn Maintenance • Grading • Demo • Patios & More

Licensed & Insured

Call Us For a Free Estimate 774-644-4733 or 401-226-2716



