

Council OKs clearing of trees from dam

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

The Town Council recently gave emergency authorization for the town to hire a private company to clear vegetation and large trees at the Simmons Lower Reservoir Dam in order to be in compliance with a mandate from the State Department of Environmental Management (DEM).

Acting on the recommendation of Tom Deller, the town's director of development and public works, the council voted unanimously at its April 14 meeting to award a contract not to exceed \$50,000 to JR Vinagro Corp. of Johnston.

In a memo to the council, Deller, who is also the town planner, explained that Johnston had been cited by the DEM in December for failure to maintain the dam by keeping it clear of vegetation. According to Deller, addressing the key issues cited by DEM would allow the town to avoid being fined, and he was therefore seeking emergency authorization for the tree removal work.

He said some initial work had been done by the town, but the size of the trees required a professional company. "Our crews have removed all small vegetation from the area but because it has been so long since any maintenance has been performed, the trees on the dam have a diameter of over 12 inches," Deller wrote. "The size of these trees makes it impossible for our staff to remove the trees without putting themselves at risk."

Deller said that in seeking proposals for the work, the town met with at least three tree and lumber companies, and Vinagro was the only firm to submit a proposal. He noted that the site presents a number of challenges, including the narrowness of the dam and the need to ensure that falling trees do not damage the structure.

According to information available online, both Lower and Upper Simmons reservoirs were built in the mid-1800s to provide water to the Cranston Print Works. Lower Simmons Reservoir covers approximately 45 acres and is located near the intersection of Route 14 and Interstate 295 in Johnston.

Both reservoirs were deeded to the town in the 1960s.

"The Town of Johnston is committed to maintaining the safety and integrity of important infrastructure," Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said this week. Regular tree and brush removal is critical to ensure the dam remains structurally sound and free of obstructions that could impact water flow or cause damage during storms. Keeping these areas clear helps protect surrounding neighborhoods, supports proper water management and preserves public safety.

"We appreciate the community's understanding as this essential maintenance work is carried out," Polisena said.



Richard Delfino (left) and Providence Postmaster Jeanne Jackson unveil the postal service's new Betty White stamp. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*

Betty White (stamp) delivers to Senior Center

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Here's looking at you, Betty. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently released a new stamp honoring the late Betty White, an actress and animal activist known for her comedic roles on television.

Johnston Senior Center members got a look at the new stamp last week when the post office chose the center as one of several community locations across the country to host an unveiling of the new stamp.

The Betty White stamp was officially launched on March 27 in Los Angeles, Jeanne Jackson, Providence Postmaster, told the audience.

"Betty White was an American treasure," said Amber McReynolds, chairwoman of the USPS Board of Governors in a press release in March. "With this stamp, we hon-



Providence postmaster Jeanne Jackson talks a little about the Betty White at the Johnston Senior Center last week.

or...the enduring mark she left on our American culture."

"It's one of our 'Forever' stamps,"

Jackson explained during the Johnston event, which means it will always cover the cost of posting a letter, even when the current mailing rate goes up.

A Johnston resident, Jackson said she chose the senior center for the announcement because it is a popular community space. The new stamp shows a digital illustration of a smiling Betty White, and if you look closely, you can see she is wearing paw-print-shaped earrings to honor her lifelong devotion to the humane care of animals.

According to the USPS, the stamp is based on a photograph taken by Kwaku Alston in 2010. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dale Stephanos.

Stephanos described how the tiniest detail in his design came to him at breakfast during the March event in LA.

● **STAMP to page 9**

Cooking up May Day appreciation

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Richard DelFino Jr., director of the Johnston Senior Center, woke up last Friday sure he was late for something important.

He was. It was the day he was supposed to make a May breakfast for his staff. And although it may not sound like a critical task, it's very important to DelFino that he always find time to show his staff that he appreciates them and the work that they do taking care of the town's older residents.

So, as soon as he arrived at the center on Hartford Avenue, he donned an apron and set out scrambling eggs and cooking bacon while the kitchen staff looked on with approval. Once breakfast was cooked, it was set up buffet style in one

of the center conference rooms where the employees could sit down and enjoy the good food and each other's company.

"This little May breakfast is just a way of saying thank you to my staff for what they do," DelFino said. "It's a labor of love,"

It was clearly appreciated as staffers sat around a long table with DelFino and talked about their jobs, which are second or third careers for many of them. Most said they've found a sense of family and belonging working at the center --- the same sense of family they hope that clients find.

Michael Pingitore, who is retired from a career in plumbing and heating, is now a volunteer driver for the Senior Center, responsible for taking clients on trips in one of the center's 14-passenger minibuses. He loves it, he said, not only be-

cause he is helping people, but because the 'job' helped him find a new sense of purpose after health issues caused him to his retire.

"I love being here," he said as other staff members nodded in agreement.

The Johnston Senior Center is a non-profit organization that operates with funding from the town augmented by federal and state grants, plus donations. It has tax-exempt status which helps with fundraising.

"No one is going to get rich working here," DelFino said, "but we love what we do."

DelFino's collaborative style and the appreciation he shows for his staff plays a big part in the esprit de corps that the employees share, they said.

DelFino, who was appointed by Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., took on the job a

little more than two years ago. A former employee of the Department of Corrections who worked in probation and parole, he has said in the past that it is important for people to feel valued, whatever stage of life they are at -- and that goes for his staff as well as his senior clients.

"Everyone is welcome here," he said of the center which is thriving with nearly 3,000 members and weekday lunch crowds that typically number at least 100 people.

Rebecca Rotondo dressed up for the May breakfast in a tailored business outfit accented with silver jewelry, but she said that people wouldn't recognize her a little while later when she changed her clothes and suited up for her role as a dishwasher in the kitchen.

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Police Log

DUI

On April 12, at approximately 2:43 p.m., Patrolman Nicholas Defelice responded to 2880 Hartford Ave., for the report of a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Upon arrival, while speaking with operator #2, he observed him to have bloodshot and watery eyes and odor of alcohol emanating from his breath. Patrolman Defelice was also advised by Sgt. Broccoli that there were empty alcoholic beverages in the back seat of his vehicle.

Patrolman Defelice later found there to be six empty alcoholic beverage cans (4 White Claw and 2 High Noon), which were seized, and later property tagged.

Operator #2 was asked what caused the accident and he advised that he was traveling westbound on Hartford Avenue about to turn into 2880 Hartford Ave., the Sky View Motor Inn, to visit a friend of his.

He stated that the other vehicle involved was traveling eastbound and came into his lane of travel, striking him head on. This statement directly conflicted with that of the other operator, as she stated that operator #2 was exiting the parking lot of the Sky View Motor Inn when he struck her vehicle.

Patrolman Defelice and Sgt. Broccoli observed surveillance video of the incident from the office of the Sky View Motor Inn. In the video, Patrolman Defelice observed operator #2's vehicle attempting to leave the parking lot and striking the other involved party as they were traveling eastbound.

Operator #2 was advised that his account of the story was false, and he appeared confused and stated again he was not pulling out of the parking lot. Due to these observations, Patrolman Defelice requested operator #2 to submit to a series of Standardized Field Sobriety

Test's (SFST's) to which he consented to.

Due to the results of the SFST's, operator #2 was then placed under arrest for suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs. He was then transported to headquarters after being read his Rights for Use on scene.

Operator #2 consented to take a breath test while at the station. The first test was administered at 4:23 p.m. which resulted in a BAC reading of .112%. The mouthpiece was then replaced with a new sealed mouthpiece prior to the second test. The second test was administered at 4:27 p.m. and resulted in a BAC reading of .111%.

After administering the chemical breath tests, Patrolman Defelice advised operator #2 he was being criminally charged with DUI of Liquor or Drugs-1st Offense. He was released with a 3rd District Court Summons.

Airport officials drop petition to take TSA screening private

By CHRISTOPHER SHEA
Rhode Island Current

State airport officials on Friday withdrew a petition filed a week earlier to join the Transportation Security Administration Screening Partnership Program, canceling a move that could have shifted passenger screening at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport to a private contractor.

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation said the decision was made after observing "significantly enhanced performance at the checkpoint" in recent weeks.

Airport officials filed the application on April 25 at the recommendation of Virginia-based consultant Studdiford Technical Solutions after RIAC raised concerns about long checkpoint lines during early morning travel last October.

Airport spokesperson Bill Fischer said the TSA has since worked to improve wait times at each of the seven lanes in the federal checkpoint.

"Improved wait times, particularly in recent days, have alleviated concerns raised by the airlines and the passengers back in the fall of 2024," Fischer said in a statement. "RIAC was pleased to witness that the early morning lines that spilled out of the terminal in November are now mostly contained inside the checkpoint — a marked improvement."

TSA spokesperson Daniel Velez said the federal agency tries to reduce wait times by adjusting staffing levels during peak hours and high-travel seasons, along with opening additional lanes or redirecting passengers to less congested checkpoints.

Velez declined to comment on RIAC's decision to drop its petition.

The longest wait time in the last month was 27 minutes, according to TSA data obtained by Rhode Island Current. The average maximum wait travelers experienced in April was 10 minutes.

Fischer said airport officials will continue to track wait times, noting that an inspection conducted between 4 and 6 a.m. last Friday showed roughly 400 travelers go through the checkpoint without any backups.

"RIAC has been singularly focused on one objective: reasonable wait times at PVD's checkpoint," he said.

RIAC's initial consideration to privatize TSA duties drew quick opposition from union leaders and Rhode Island's congressional delegation.

"Success," responded the head of the union representing New England's TSA officers after being told RIAC had rescinded its petition.

"Their initial decision to go private was ill-advised," Mike Gayzagian, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2617 headquartered in Boston, said in an interview.

U.S. Sen. Jack Reed said RIAC made the right move in leaving screening duties with the TSA.

"Putting people and the traveling public first must be job one at any top-notch airport," he said in a statement. "I know the people who work at TSA are committed to being efficient, effective, courteous and professional and will continue to serve at these high standards."

U.S. Rep. Gabe Amo said RIAC's decision to rescind its application was "the right call."

"In Congress, I'll continue to advocate for essential services and safety at T.F. Green amid harmful funding cuts proposed by the Trump administration," he said in a statement.

President Donald Trump has proposed cutting TSA funding by \$247 million.

Christopher Shea covers politics, the criminal justice system and transportation for the Rhode Island Current. RI Current is part of *States Newsroom*, the nation's largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

Honza is Johnston's first police dog in about 12 years. He and patrol officer Eli McGuire-Krueger recently started working together and are receiving a warm welcome from the public. Honza is a trained narcotics search dog. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



Happiness is a red rubber ball. Patrol officer Eli McGuire-Krueger holds up Honza's favorite toy, which is his reward every time he accomplishes a task. Honza lives with McGuire-Kreuger and the two continue to bond with each other.



Patrol officer, K-9 partner 'kind of alike'

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Johnston patrol officer Eli McGuire-Krueger likes his new partner – and that's a good thing since they spend most of the waking hours of the day together.

McGuire-Krueger is the town's new K-9 officer, and he is partnered with 'Honza,' a one-year-old German shepherd who arrived here from the Czech Republic only months ago. The duo recently completed an intensive, eight-week training program at the Rhode Island K-9 Academy, specializing in narcotics detection.

They are now out on the road together as Honza learns Johnston and his new job as a narcotics search dog.

In the future, the department plans to expand Honza's training to include "patrol dog" capabilities, which will include search and rescue, apprehending offenders and tracking and recovering evidence.

It's been about 12 years since Johnston police have had a K-9 unit, and McGuire-Krueger and

Capt. Joseph A. McGinn credited Chief Mark A. Viera and Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. with making the commitment to add this resource to the department.

"(They were) instrumental in bringing this K-9 program to fruition," said McGinn, who is working closely on the successful implementation of the program. "K-9 Honza and Patrolman McGuire-Krueger will now continue to strengthen their bond, as well as their efforts in narcotics detection through proactive police work."

McGuire-Krueger was chosen after a competitive internal application process, and McGinn said that he's confident it's a good match. "They're kind of alike," he said with a smile, noting that they both have a very strong work ethic.

McGuire-Krueger, who grew up with dogs, said he is excited to keep working and training with Honza every day so the newest member of the department can reach his full potential. He describes his new partner as having a mild temperament but being highly focused on work.

"These dogs come from a long lineage of being working dogs," he said. "That's what he wants – he wants to work. He now knows when I put my uniform on that we are going to work, and he wants to get in the car."

As a narcotics dog, Honza – whose sense of smell is hundreds of thousands of times more sensitive than a human's – can search out a variety of opioids, including heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and more. McGuire-Krueger said he gives Honza his commands in Czech which helps prevent distractions or intrusions from others.

At a little over a year old, Honza weighs in at a lean, muscular 65 pounds with a "sable" coat that is mix of dark and light fur. His reward when he finds a substance he's been instructed to find is decidedly low tech – a rubber ball on a string. "That's what he wants, that's what he works for," McGuire-Krueger said.

In addition to continuing with on-the-job training, he said, the work and the bonding with his canine partner continues off-duty as well. Honza requires a lot of exercise, and McGuire-Krueger takes him on at least three walks a day.

McGuire-Krueger said that he is excited about the added resources Honza brings to the Police Department. And, McGinn said, as Honza becomes more experienced, he will probably take part in more community activities.

McGuire-Krueger said it's a privilege to have this opportunity and it's also a big responsibility knowing that Honza relies on him too. "It's all about doing things in a safe way," he said, adding that he is happy to see the warm reception Honza is receiving everywhere he goes.

"We do get noticed, and everyone is happy to see him," McGuire-Krueger. "I think people know he is here to help us and also to help keep people safe."

Library showcasing student art

Art from Johnston elementary students is on display now through late May in our lower level meeting room and hall, according to Jon Anderson, director of the Mohr Library in Johnston.

The library has many activities on tap for May.

Saturday Storytime starts May 10 at 10:30.

Join Ms. Cailey for stories, songs, puppets, literacy activities, dancing and coloring. Best for children ages 2 to 5. Siblings welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Registration opens on May 12 at 9:30am for the kids' art programs and science programs with Ms. Melyssa during May and June. A parent or caregiver must remain in the building during these programs.

STEAM for Kids - Mondays at 4 pm, May 19th, (closed May 26th), June 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Kids ages 6 to 9 are invited to experiment, build and explore.

Art Smart - Wednesdays at 4 pm, from May 21st through June 18th. Kids ages 8 to 12 explore different art styles, genres and artists.

Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7 - Saturday at 2 and 3:30, May 24th through June 21st.

All ages are invited to be a part of developing programs and activities as part of library gardens. Email director@mohrlibrary.org for more information or visit mohrlibrary.org for programming registration links.



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From left to right - Kerri Thurber, Sparrow Katowicz, Vanessa Febus, Jeremy Ovalles, Morgan Cerullo, Benjamin Verduchi, Katelyn Loffler, Ronald Lamoureux, Samaya Ariza, Christian Black, and Matthew Gingras. Submitted photo by Paul Danesi Photography

Students inducted into music society

Eight Johnston High School students were recently recognized for their achievement in music. The students were inducted into Chapter 4009 of the Tri-M Music Society, a program of the National Association for Music Education, on April 22, during a ceremony at the school. In addition to

the induction ceremony, the evening also included solo performances by each of the inductees. Music Director, Ronald Lamoureux, gave opening remarks, followed by a short introduction of the current student officers: Katelyn Loffler as president, Y Jeremy Ovalles and Morgan Cerullo as vice presidents, Samaya Ariza as secretary, Vanessa Febus as treasurer and Caroline McCormack as

historian. The ceremony continued with the presentation of Tri-M Music Honor Society pins to each inductee, followed by their individual solo performances. Inducted into the Society were Samaya Ariza (Chorus) – Grade 10, Benjamin Verduchi (Chorus) – Grade 11, Caroline McCormack (Keyboard) – Grade 11, Vanessa Febus (Chorus) – Grade 11,

Morgan Cerullo (Chorus) – Grade 11, Sparrow Katowicz (Bass Clarinet) – Grade 9, Y Jeremy Ovalles (Chorus) – Grade 12 and Katelyn Loffler (Chorus) – Grade 12. Serving as accompanist for the evening was Christian Black. In addition to Lamoureux, the music education team attended too including Oliver Reid, music teacher, Matthew Gingras and Kerri Thurber, the choir directors.

Senate leadership team ‘a labor dream’

After Val Lawson won election last Tuesday as the new president of the Rhode Island Senate, she faced a battery of reporters’ questions about her dual role as head of that chamber and president of the National Education Association Rhode Island teachers’ union. The focus was easy to anticipate. Lawson, 58, was ready to respond and she stuck by her message – that she will tread carefully to avoid conflicts of interest. “There’s nothing I’m going to do without my due-diligence, I can guarantee you that,” she said. “It’s of the utmost importance to me all the time.” How this actually works in practice, however, will be a story that plays out over time. It takes a certain moxie to win the presidency of a major union and to move up quickly in a legislative body. But organized labor always presses its case, and the Senate has long exhibited a stronger pro-union flavor. The losing Democratic candidate in the race for president, Sen. Ryan W. Pearson (D-Cumberland), called the tandem of Lawson and the new majority leader, Sen. Frank Ciccone (D-Providence) – a former top official with the Laborers’ union – “a labor dream team.” RI GOP Chairman Joe Powers was more withering in a statement, saying in part, “Rhode Islanders should be very



Talking Politics

by Ian Donniss

concerned. This is no longer public service – this is political self-service.” To her doubters, Lawson can point to how she won the presidency with the support of 65% of the Senate (and 73% of the Democratic super-majority). And labor-related legislation aside, she faces an immediate challenge in getting her chamber up to speed in the intensifying rapids of the legislative session, with six to eight weeks to go and a state budget process marked by uncertainty due to the Trump administration and signs of a softening economy. THE OPPOSITION: Talking after the vote Tuesday for Senate president, Sen. Pearson said he felt vindicated. “It’s nothing I want to be vindicated on, but literally everything that I was concerned about and what I had expressed my concerns to the president at the time played out exactly as I thought they would,” Pearson told reporters. The Cumberland Democrat, 36, was referring to how he shared his concerns about Dominick Ruggerio’s health with the ailing Senate president last year. Pearson said the two men parted as friends after that discussion at

Ruggerio’s home – and that the subsequent rupture in that relationship, which led to Pearson losing his post as the number two Democrat in the Senate, was engineered by rival senators. In the end, Pearson got just eight votes in his competition with Lawson – four less than on the opening day of the 2025 session. BUSINESS: House Speaker Joe Shekarchi tells me a bill will be introduced this week as part of an effort meant to keep giant insurer FM Global based in Rhode Island. POLICING THE POLICE: Rhode Island is the last state to embrace reforms meant to thwart “wandering officers,” the practice in which police found responsible for misconduct sometimes move to a different jurisdiction. In 2001, a select commission formed after the shooting death of Cornel Young Jr., a Black Providence officer mistaken by two white colleagues for a criminal, found that Rhode Island Rhode needs “mechanisms to hold individual officers accountable throughout every stage of their careers.” But as Sam Stecklow reported for the Invisible Institute and The Public’s Radio, efforts to address the situation through a bill sponsored by state Rep. José Batista (D-Providence) faced strong opposition from police unions and AFSCME’s Council 94.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Rats: No single cause, but only one solution

It's not a club anyone wants to join, but it seems a majority of people in our three municipalities have some kind of story when it comes to experiencing rats in their own backyards. Maybe you've found them taking refuge in your shed, or you've had an out-of-body moment of fear shoot through you when you start to take a step off your porch and have one zip underneath your foot, or simply seen one run across the road 50 feet ahead of you when you're taking the dog for a walk in the neighborhood, there's no use denying the simple fact:

The rats are among us. They don't respect property boundaries. And they aren't asking for our permission.

If you have not had the personal misfortune of walking into your garage to be greeted by the sounds of scurrying little footsteps and panicked squeaking, consider yourself very lucky. Because it could happen to you tomorrow, or next year, even if you do everything you're supposed to do.

While a household with a tidy, neat and clean property that carefully bags its trash, keeps its ancillary structures free of clutter, and always picks up the animal waste in the yard is certainly less likely to attract rats, those prevention efforts mean much less if the house is bordered by a neighbor or two who completely disregard all of those precautions.

Our persistent rodent problem serves as a microcosm of a much larger issue. It shows how a society can function at its fullest potential only when everyone shares responsibility for it, and there are few more visceral symbols of our collective failure to hold ourselves accountable to this standard than a hulking rat scurrying from one overflowing dumpster or garbage can to the next.

While we are grateful that Cranston, Johnston and Warwick all have dedicated rodent-control workers who bravely battle an insurgent force far outnumbering them, the reality is they are fighting a war that cannot be won through extermination efforts alone.

The only way we can meaningfully reduce the rat population is to stop giving them such fertile grounds to thrive and reproduce. This means everyone – residents, businesses and governmental bodies – needs to work together to hold one another accountable, educate one another, and when those two fail, report and bring forth penalties to those who are not taking responsibility for carrying their portion of the load.

The rats themselves, although easily scapegoated, cannot be blamed for doing what rats are genetically driven to do: survive at all costs, using whatever means are available. They are smart and cunning, but we are smarter and more capable. So let's prove it.



LETTERS

Lawmakers, don't go soft on drunk drivers

To the Editor:

As a program manager of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), I urge the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass House Bill 5638 / Senate Bill 947 (Motor and Other Vehicles – Accidents and Accident Reports), which establishes stronger penalties for driving offenses resulting in serious bodily injury or death.

It was deeply troubling to hear testimony suggesting that these penalties are "too harsh." Where is the consideration for victims and

survivors? Impaired driving is not a one-time mistake; studies show that for every arrest made, there are an estimated 88 instances of drunk driving (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). This is not accidental — it is violent, reckless and 100% preventable.

Moreover, Rhode Island's "good time" law allows offenders to be released after serving only one-third of their sentence, compounding the injustice faced by victims' families. Real Rhode Island families are living with permanent injuries, grief and trauma, while the of-

fenders responsible can return to their lives after minimal accountability.

Those opposing these bills should sit beside a grieving mother in court before declaring that tougher sentences are unjust. Prison reform discussions should not come at the expense of justice for victims of violent crimes.

Passing this bill is a necessary step toward real accountability and prevention.

Jennifer O'Neil
MADD RI

A look at Trump's first 100 days – pluses, minuses

To the Editor:

Our present administration has just completed its first 100 days. It has produced both needed accomplishments and deep concerns.

There is much to review, but I will keep it simple. I will review what most Americans require: financial stability and public safety.

The financials have been extremely disruptive caused by proposed increased tariffs on most of our trading partners. This will cause a severe impact on all our financials, both spending and savings.

On public safety there is some good news, as we are currently deporting many violent criminal migrants making positive strides in public safety.

There is much to accomplish in the next 100 days, and one thing I suggest is a review of the firings of more than 100,000 dedicated federal employees.

We still have a need for a stable economy, medical coverage for all, personal safety in all public spaces and racial equality for all.

Move forward now.

Bob Sweeney
Warwick

How do we know Pre-K would be worth it?

To the Editor:

As reported by Tim Forsberg and John Howell, House Education Chairman Robert M. McNamara is eager to spend lots of taxpayer money on what he euphemistically refers to as "government investment." ("Lawmakers push for universal Pre-K in RI," April 17).

Chairman McNamara is an advocate for universal pre-kindergarten. He can't tell us how much this proposal will cost the taxpayers, but he is certain it "may" be worth it in the long run.

I call this legislating by wishful thinking. My understanding is that taxpayers currently spend more

than \$20,000 per year per K-12 pupil. And yet test scores show that only 30% of students in grades 3 through 8 are proficient in math and reading. Why hasn't that lavish spending resulted in better scores? Mr. McNamara doesn't say.

Mr. McNamara also claims this program "could reduce rates of incarceration" and "curb those costs" of imprisonment. But I'm skeptical. For example, I don't think any

pre-kindergarten experience would have made Craig Price a model citizen instead of a serial killer. And keeping Price incarcerated is worth every penny spent.

I'm also suspicious about McNamara's stipulation that "30% of funding would be set aside for development and administration of programs." That sounds like a plan to add even more administrative positions to an already top-heavy public school bureaucracy.

McNamara's plan may make sense to you, but it sure doesn't make sense to me.

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local♥️Adoptable♥️Loveable



Photo credit: Rhode Home Rescue

Joe Joe

Joe Joe is a small senior (nine years old) pup who's looking for a warm lap and lots of love! He's a pint-sized guy who loves being with you, playing in the yard and enjoys yummy treats! He is best suited for an adult, quiet home with a fenced in back yard. If you have been searching for an adorable companion please contact Rhode Home Rescue via email: rhodehomerescue@gmail.com or visit their website for more information at rhodehomerescue.org Joe Joe will be waiting to fill your heart and home with love!

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Trump's war on the nation's older adults

By MAUREEN MAIGRET

May is Older Americans month, a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight trends and reaffirm commitments to serving older adults in our nation, state and communities.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is at war with our nation's older adults. First, it was the attack on Social Security as offices were closed, workers targeted for layoffs and beneficiaries told they could not provide information over the phone but would need to visit offices or go online, which many older adults and some of those with disabilities are not capable of doing.

Next was an attack on the Administration for Community Living as Health and Human Services Secretary Robert J. Kennedy proposed its dismantling, with functions delegated to other agencies. ACL oversees the Older Americans Act, which funds states across the country to assist older adults with their nutrition needs, offer services such as home care and transportation, protect the rights of nursing home residents, deal with cases of abuse and neglect of older adults and help explain the complexities of Medicare.

Not only was the ACL proposed for dismantling, but important programs targeted for elimination including the long-term care ombudsman program, lifespan-respite services and adult-protection services support. Loss of funding for these programs would seriously impact the Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging, which receives half of its funding from the federal government.

Former Rhode Island Congressman John E. Fogarty was a driving force in the passage of the Older Americans Act, which laid the groundwork for many of the programs administered by the Administration for Community Living. Our nation's older population is growing. In Rhode Island, there has been a 25% increase in persons age 60+ since 2020, and in six of our communities 25% of the population is age 65 and over. Eliminating programs that help keep older adults healthy, safe and independent is irrational and just plain wrong.

Now we wait with great anxiety for an attack on Medicaid as Congress attempts to find the nearly \$900 billion in savings over 10 years needed to extend tax advantages for the extremely wealthy.

Medicaid – which pays for long-term supports and services including nursing-home care, adult day services, home care and assisted living for thousands of older Rhode Islanders and persons with disabilities – will likely be a prime target.

We must also be concerned that Medicare may be another battle in Trump's 'War on Older Adults.' Despite the president's claims that Medicare will not be touched, we do not yet know what the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid administrator has in mind but will be closely watching.

It is important to know what is at stake by these short-sighted proposals. We all need to speak up loudly to stop this 'War on Older Adults' and the disruption and collapse of programs so important to the lives of Rhode Island's older adults and adults with disabilities and those across the nation.

Maureen Maigret, a former Rhode Island state representative and director of the state Department of Elderly Affairs, is a consultant on aging policy and long-term services.

A smarter, safer approach to rat control

By JEFFERY C. HALL

Last week, a story in the Johnston Sun Rise entitled "Rats!" highlighted the growing rodent problem in many of our local cities and towns, along with some of the alternative control measures under consideration. Johnston, Cranston and Warwick are taking thoughtful and proven approaches by implementing a strategy known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This strategy has long been recognized as the

gold standard for managing pest populations, including rats.

Integrated Pest Management implements a variety of measures, such as proper trash management, habitat modification and biological controls before resorting to chemical options. The heavy reliance on poison bait boxes – such as the 400 deployed in Johnston – may worsen the problem, as IPM guidelines suggest that natural predators, such as birds of prey, can remove an abundance of rodents

from communities and are much safer and more effective than poisons.

Raptors – including owls, hawks and eagles – can each consume thousands of rodents each year. Unfortunately, the widespread use of anticoagulant rodenticides in bait boxes threatens these vital predators. These poisons take five to ten days to kill rats, during which time the rodents become easy prey. When poisoned rats are consumed by raptors, the toxins also accumulate in their bodies, often resulting in the deaths of these owls, hawks and eagles. An Eastern screech-owl, for example, may eat over 1,000 rodents annually, but ingesting just one or two poisoned rats can be fatal.

The risks extend beyond wildlife. Research shows that anticoagulant rodenticides contaminate waterways and infiltrate the food chain. Alarming, they also pose a serious risk to children. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, thousands of young children require

treatment for rodenticide poisoning each year. In 2023, 70% of reported exposures involved children under the age of 6.


Given the significant dangers to wildlife, public health and the environment, California banned the most toxic anticoagulant rodenticides in 2021. Since then, rodent complaints in cities across California have steadily declined, reaching a 10-year low. The evidence is clear: poison bans work.

With Rhode Island facing a growing rodent crisis, it is time for similar action. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island has made banning these harmful poisons a top legislative priority. Sen. Melissa Murray and

Rep. Rebecca Kislak have introduced legislation (S651 / H5704) that would prohibit the use of the most dangerous rodenticides while providing exemptions for agriculture and true public health – consistent with IPM's philosophy of using poisons only as a last resort.

We commend Johnston, Cranston and Warwick for their commitment to finding more effective, sustainable solutions for rat control. We urge all Rhode Island communities to embrace Integrated Pest Management and support the health of natural predators, such as eagles, hawks and owls, that are part of the solution.

Jeffrey C. Hall is executive director of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island



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

Legal Notices

Public Auction
Legal Notice

To: Yoelina Diaz 45 West Lawn Ave Pawtucket RI, American Honda Finance PO Box 997515, Sacramento, Ca. A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford Ave, Johnston RI on May 17, 2025 at 9:00 am. The vehicle a 2012 Honda 2HKRM-4H34CH628460 belonging to the above. The auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

5/8/25



Nephew’s wish granted: Uncle’s sacrifice honored

More than 140 people turned out Saturday to help the Johnston Historical Society honor a local World War II hero. Paratrooper Emery O. Picotte was 23 when he was killed during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. But he was never forgotten by family or friends back home in Johnston.

His nephew George Picotte, who was only 7 when his uncle died so far from home, was determined that he be recognized for the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country. Before George Picotte died in December at the age of 87, he left a special request.

A long-time member of the Johnston Historical Society, Picotte had generously funded the flagpole and monument that stands at the entrance to the society’s museum on Putnam Pike. He wanted both dedicated in memory of his late uncle.

And the historical society did just that Sunday with a formal ceremony outside the society’s museum where the flagpole stands. Speeches were given and salutes raised, and a memorial wreath was hung on the flagpole. Also, Emery Picotte’s name was engraved on a marker at the base of the flagpole along with the inscription, “Land of the free, home of the brave.”

–Staff Writer Barbara Polichetti

Obituaries

Angela E. Domenicone

Angela E. Domenicone, 92, of Johnston, passed away Saturday May 3rd. She was the beloved wife of the late John Domenicone.

Born In Providence, she was a daughter of the late Edmund and Genevieve (Jenny) (Ascioli) Nardella.’

She enjoyed knitting Afghans for family and friends, reading, playing cards, and loved to bowl, and was an avid fan of the Boston Celtics.



She is survived by five children, David Nardella, Adele Arsenault, Deborah Larson, Joanne Francis, and John Domenicone; 9 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren’ a brother Joseph Nardella; and a sister, Eleanor Soares. She was the sister of the late Edmund Nardella.

A funeral service will be held at the A.A. Mariani & Son Funeral Home, 200 Hawkins Street, Providence, at 10:00 am Friday May 9th. Burial will follow in St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston. Visiting hours are Thursday May 8th, 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

Barry Francis Picotte

Barry Francis Picotte, 71, of Hope Valley, passed away Friday May 2, 2025 at Kent Hospital. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late George M. and Beatrice Maria (Frazer) Picotte.

Barry dedicated many years of his life working in the family business as an oil cleaner. He had a deep love for fishing and a passion for antique cars. Known affectionately by many nicknames, including “Waa,” “Turtle,” and “B-Man”. Barry will be remembered for his unique spirit and the joy he brought to those around him.

He is survived by his two sisters, Janet Picotte and her husband David Geer, Margaret “Peggy” R. (Picotte) Migneault and her husband David, nieces Krisin Michaloski, Kerri Michaloski-Cole and Nicole Migneault, a nephew David Migneault, and devoted cousins, Emery “Motto” Picotte and Margaret “Peggy” Runde. He was the brother of the late George A. Picotte and Zeta N. Picotte.

A celebration of life for Barry will be held Sunday, May 11th, 2025 at 10 AM in the Joy Fellowship Church, 17 Bowling Lane, Bradford, RI. A luncheon will follow. For online condolences visit www.averystortifuneralhome.com

Ruggerio’s \$148K campaign account lives on

By NANCY LAVIN
Rhode Island Current

In his final months as Rhode Island Senate president, the late Dominick Ruggerio continued to rake in campaign donations, according to the first-quarter report filed with the Rhode Island Board of Elections last Wednesday.

Ruggerio died on April 21. But his campaign finance account, and its \$148,000 balance, lives on, with state law laying out a host of options for how

the balance in his war chest can be spent. Apart from paying off any outstanding loans or other debt, the money can be used to support other candidates, political parties and political action committees, donated to charity or returned to donors.

There’s no deadline by which a deceased officeholder or candidate’s campaign account must be closed, as long as there’s a treasurer willing to administer the funds and file quarterly reports with the state Board of Elections.

Jim Aceto, Ruggerio’s brother-in-law,

who was named as his campaign finance treasurer in 2008, said the family had not decided what to do with Ruggerio’s campaign funds.

“We’re not even thinking about that,” Aceto said in an interview last Thursday.

Only one other campaign finance account remains open and active for a deceased officeholder or candidate, said Ric Thornton, the state elections board campaign finance director.

Former Warwick Mayor Joe Solomon died in May 2021, but his son, Rep. Joe Solomon Jr., has maintained the account as its designated treasurer since his dad’s death. The deceased Solomon has over \$67,000 cash on hand in his account, though no new donations have been made since his death. The campaign has spent money one time since May 2021, making a \$500 donation in September 2024 to St. George Maronite Catholic Church in Cranston for a memorial, according to the report filed with the state elections board.

Joseph Solomon Jr., a Warwick Democrat first elected in 2014, did not return multiple calls for comment.

A third account for a deceased officeholder, former Cranston City Council President John E. Lanni Jr., remains open but inactive. After deducting bank fees, the remaining \$1,200 balance was transferred to the state’s unclaimed property account, overseen by the Office of the General Treasurer, following Lanni’s death in 2020, Thornton said. Lois Lanni, John Lanni’s wife and the treasurer for his campaign account, died in 2019.

Prior to his death, Ruggerio missed most of the 2025 legislative session due to illness, including two stays at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in his North Provi-

dence district. But the 76-year-old Democrat nonetheless received a strong show of financial support from fellow officeholders, labor and business leaders.

Ruggerio reported nearly \$93,000 in donations in the first three months of 2025, including \$64,000 from individual donors and nearly \$29,000 from political action committees. His financial supporters included local auto body shop owners, Bally’s Corp. lobbyists and two of his predecessors: former Senate Presidents Billy Irons and Teresa Paiva-Weed, who donated \$300 and \$250, respectively. Gov. Dan McKee gave \$1,000 to Ruggerio, while McKee’s 2022 Republican rival, Ashley Kalus, donated \$150.

Ruggerio spent more than \$65,400 from his campaign account in the first three months of the year, including more than \$31,000 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick on Feb. 5 for a political fundraiser.

Ruggerio also contributed to many fellow lawmakers. He gave \$1,000 to Sen. Val Lawson, the East Providence Democrat, his majority leader, who was elected last Tuesday to succeed him as president. Ruggerio also gave \$500 to Sen. Frank Ciccone, a Providence Democrat tapped as the new majority leader. Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz, a North Smithfield Republican who voted for herself in the leadership election among state senators Tuesday, received a \$100 donation from Ruggerio’s campaign.

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



Flowers adorn the State House Senate seat of the late Rhode Island Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, who died April 21. Ruggerio reported more than \$148,000 cash on hand in his campaign account as of March 31. Photo by Nikki Silva/Rhode Island Current

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Johnston Sun Rise



Senior 'Spotlite'

Pooling their time together

It is not very often that a husband and wife will explore the happenings at the Johnston Senior Center, with the emphasis and priority being "the billiard room."

Rick and Helene Pace, originally from the Woonsocket area, relocated to Florida, where they lived for two- and one-half years, returning to Rhode Island, purchasing a home in Johnston, a few months ago.

While in Florida, they developed an interest, and then enjoyment, in playing pool together. The Pace's, who owned and operated a photography business in northern Rhode Island, now come to the Johnston Senior Center, every day, meeting with friends and playing pool in the Center's new and improved billiard room.

Occasionally, the couple will have time to enjoy lunch, and plan on taking daytrips offered at the Center. For now, they are very happy enjoying each other's company, and the many other pool enthusiasts here at the JSC. *Submitted photo from the Johnston Senior Center*

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BREAKFAST from page 1

Rotondo has held several executive jobs, including serving as an executive assistant in the U.S. attorney's office in Rhode Island. But, says she wouldn't trade her current gig where she wears a rubber apron, long rubber gloves and water-proof shoes as she feeds racks of dishes through the commercial dishwasher in the senior center.



Senior Center Director Richard Delfino Jr. said he was happy to get up early Friday to make breakfast for his staff at the Senior Center.

Michael Pingitore (forefront), a driver for the Johnston Senior Center, dug into a dessert waffle prepared by Delfino. *Beacon Media photos by Barbara Polichetti*



through the commercial dishwasher in the senior center.

"I love it, it's my own little world" she said. "And Richard has a lot to do with why it's so good to work here."

Delfino said that's why he's always looking for ways to thank his staff, even if it's a simple May breakfast on a Friday morning. "Nobody's here for a pot of gold," he said, "but it's important that they know they are appreciated."

In addition to eggs and bacon, his robust breakfast menu included home fries, sausage and miniature waffles that could be topped with fresh fruit and whipped cream.

Kathy Yankee, kitchen manager at the center, gave him two thumbs up for his culinary efforts. "He can cook, and he's got a good attitude and work ethic," she said with a laugh. "We'd hire him."



Superhero crew at Winsor Hill Elementary School. Submitted photos by Rachel Aucone



This superhero does wear a cape at Brown Avenue Elementary School.



Patrizia, Kara, and Maggie serve Johnston High School students. The school's Kindness Crew made goodie bags for them.

Feeding the mind

Despite serving thousands of breakfast and lunch meals during an academic year, cafeteria teams rarely share in the credit for student success. On May 2, Johnston marked Lunch Hero Day to highlight the importance of food service employees across the district.

"I wanted to do something special," said Rachel Aucone, nutrition liaison for the Johnston Public Schools. Aucone worked at register at the Ferri Middle School for eight years prior to her current role.

"It is an exhausting job, and you really have to be a strong and caring person," she said via email. "I still have kids that say hi and remember me. It makes it all worth it."

She noted that it's people such as the "lunch ladies, custodians and maintenance workers and clerks that make the schools run."

● STAMP from page 1

"I was absent minded drawing instead of eating my eggs and looking back down at the mess I had been making in my sketchbook, I saw that at some point, I had drawn a paw print," he said. "I had a bit of a eureka moment and thought, what if I just give Betty an earring that's in the shape of a paw print?"

White's accomplishments are outlined in a special video the USPS produced in her honor. Sometimes called the "first lady of television," her career was primarily on the small screen where she created two memorable characters: Sue Ann Nevins on the Mary Tyler Moore show and Rose Nyland on the Golden Girls. In 2010, amid much fanfare, White became the oldest-ever guest host of NBC's "Saturday Night Live".

Jackson said that attending community events and meeting people is one of her favorite parts of being a postmaster.

She said that it can take about two years to create a new postage stamp, from the selection process through design and production. She said that the new Betty White stamps are in limited supply right now but should be available at most local post offices and participating CVS and Walgreens drugstores across the state.

White died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 31, 2021, just 17 days shy of her 100th birthday, stated the USPS press release.



Here's looking at you, Betty! Submitted photo

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



AGING DISGRACEFULLY best

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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Ember to Ash Cigar Lounge

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By JENNIFER COATES

Ember to Ash, the newest cigar lounge in Johnston, is everything you expect (and want) from a momentary escape from the world. Think of soft comfortable chairs that you can just sink into and relax for a while. A moody space that smells like leather and well-seasoned wood, but also of the familiar and nostalgic aroma of cigars. Two lounges, one for “members only” and the other open to everyone and staffed with a knowledgeable team of “cigar aficionados”. A full bar where you can enjoy a broad selection of fine liquors and other beverages. And finally, look for the humidor where you can find the most popular brands of cigars as well as some new “up-and-comers”.

Ember to Ash officially opened its doors to a warm reception on April 18th. It sits in an off-beat plaza on Greenville Avenue, close to where it intersects Killingly Street. Though it is only recently open to the public Ember to Ash has been a dream in the making for a long time. Step by step, this cigar bar was transformed into the welcoming and laidback space it is today. Attention was paid to every detail. The lighting. The furniture. The décor. The selection of cigars and libations. The long bar with its brass foot railing. The hand-selected staff. Every detail.

Today, visitors to this inviting cigar lounge will find everything they need to relax for a lingering smoke, or for a reoccurring visit. Customers may sit for as long as they wish but are simply asked to purchase one cigar from the humidor’s ever-growing inventory. Many longtime cigar enthusiasts will recognize the brands Kristoff, Estaban Carreras, Perdomo, Drew Estate, Rocky Patel, and more. Producers of the highest quality cigars from across the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua are represented here.

Many may ask, how do the memberships work? Once you



The city of Johnston welcomes Ember to Ash Cigar Lounge on Greenville Avenue. Open seven days a week, this lounge is the perfect place to unwind at the end of the day (or any time in between!)

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Johnston High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

High Honors

Melissa Aguilar 2025
 Temitope Ajayi 2025
 Skyla Almeida 2026
 Lucas Anderson 2025
 Kaitlyn Barbosa 2026
 Benjamin Bejnar 2025
 Isabella Boudreau 2027
 l'daizha Brown 2026
 Tyler Brunelle 2028
 Olivia Bryant 2026
 Sadie Bun 2025
 Tyler Buote 2025
 Ryan Capraro 2026
 Andrew Cardullo 2026
 Ryan Carvalho 2025
 Matthew Clements 2025
 Sean Connor 2025
 Elliot Cortesi 2025
 Jazmin Cuello-Pineda 2025
 Arianna Dandy 2025
 Ailany DeJesus 2028
 Dimazlia DiBiasio 2028
 Ava DiNobile 2026
 Christopher DiPanni 2028
 Lauren Dixon 2025
 Matthew Duquette-Siswick 2028
 Michael Fantini 2028
 Ruben Feleja Correia 2028
 Christian Fernandes Mensah 2028
 KalyN Foster 2025
 Robert Franchini 2025
 Ayberson Garcia Cruz 2025
 Kylie Geremia 2027
 Annabella Gesualdi 2026
 Anthony Hopp 2028
 Brooke Houle 2027
 Esra Imrane 2028
 Vanessa Javery 2025
 Vanessa Jean-Philippe 2027
 Morgan Johnson 2027
 Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025
 Syvianna Jules 2028
 Sparrow Katowicz 2028
 Elizabeth Kue 2027
 Kamryn Kue 2028
 Dario La Terra Bellina 2027
 Brenton Lang 2025
 Brianna Lapati 2028
 Andre Lataille 2025
 Katelyn Loffler 2025
 Sophia Lutrario 2028
 Angelica Maddaline 2026
 Neko Mahony 2025
 Jasmeet Mann 2028
 Gavynn Manning 2027
 Logan Martins 2025
 Jealeen Mateo 2027
 Bennett McClish 2026
 Michael Mills 2028
 Adriana Morales Cordon 2028
 Dariana Munoz 2025
 Frank Nasisi 2028
 Zariah Nhar Matko 2028
 Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025
 Gabriela Noriega Garcia 2028
 Maria-Fernanda Oliva 2028
 Anthony Pannone 2027
 Noelle Patenaude 2025
 Ariana Perron 2026
 Jacob Pettit 2026
 Genesis Pineda 2025
 Matthew Ponte 2025
 Catherine Privitera 2025
 Fallon Provoyeur 2026
 Angie Quiroa 2028
 Isaiah Ramirez 2028
 Victoria Repollet 2026
 Natalya (Nathan) Rhind 2027
 Brea Rianna 2028
 Danielson Rivas 2025
 Alexis Rivera 2026
 Hollan Rodgers 2026
 Daisy Rosales 2028
 Rayven Russell 2026
 Lilianna Salois 2025
 Joseph Santos 2028
 Jason Schino 2026
 Isabella Serpa 2028
 Lia Shenk 2027
 Kimberly Sibilii 2025
 Derek Simas 2028
 Lucas Simpson 2026
 Mia Soprano 2028

Aiden Soto 2025
Alexander Subirana 2026
Emma Taglianetti 2027
Luke Taglianetti 2025
Jayeden Thayorath 2028
Kyle Urban 2027
Cameron Veitch 2026
Ashlyn Wheeler 2028
Thomas Xoydara 2027

1st Honors

Milani Abate 2028
Selena Albanese 2027
Tala Alsheikh Kassem 2026
Eva Alves 2025
Samaya Anzivino 2027
Samaya Ariza 2027
Gabriella Barata 2026
Kara Bonetti 2026
Jack Bremer 2025
Lucy Bryand 2028
Dylan Cerio 2025
Morgan Cerullo 2026
Henri Chan 2025
Jonathan Cruz Granados 2026
Giuseppe Cucinotta 2025
Nickola D'Aquila 2028
Chantal DeJesus 2025
Edison Diaz Gomez 2026
Evan Dobrolet 2028
Riley Enos 2025
He Fang 2026
Anelee Fernandez 2027
Gianna Ferranti 2026
Logan Finelli 2027
Naomy Garcia Ore 2026
Amanda Giron Caballero 2025
Kiniya Glenn 2025
Ivan Gorrin Cimmarusti 2025
Robert Graham 2025
Isabella Halliwell 2027
Zachary Hanna 2025
Amelia Healy 2027
Olivia Iafrate 2026
Navjot Kaur 2028
Adrien Kirkland 2027
Aristotle Landim 2028
Ariana Lara 2027
Jordan Maggiacomo 2027
Caroline McCormack 2026
Ava Mello 2026
Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026
Samaya Montrond 2028
Antonio Morales 2027
Karissa Morales 2025
Alexandra Musa 2026
Alma Naser 2027
Kaiya Nop 2028
Gianna Orozco 2025
Linda Orozco 2028
Bricen Parris 2027
Nicole Patenaude 2025
Isabella Paulson 2027
Alvin Pena 2026
Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025
Caroline Pesenecker 2025
Lea Petrillo 2028
Mason Provoyeur 2028
Aylin Reyes Marte 2028
Adriana Rikken 2028
Delaynee Rodriguez 2027
Joaquin Rodriguez 2027
David Roland 2026
Carolyn Rosales 2028
Anthony Salisbury 2027
Sebastian Sanchez 2027
Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026
Miguel Santamaria Romero 2025
Jesse Santillan 2025
Jayden Santos 2025
Katelyn Silva 2027
Arleny Solorin Henriquez 2025
Nixon Soto 2027
Skyley Soto 2025
Gianna Stomberg 2028
Ayla Tellier 2027
Janie-Alice Thompson 2027
Abraham Tillet 2025
Isla Troxell 2028
Belinda Urizar Ruiz 2028
Jared Urizar-Santos 2025
Isabella Vargas 2026
Anthony Vendetti 2026
Ronald Vento 2026

Benjamin Verduchi 2026
Ella Ware 2028
Jordan (Fae) Weston 2025
Timothy Xoydara 2027
Nyomie Young 2028

2nd Honors

Italia Abbruzzi 2026
 Marleny Abreu 2027
 Logan Akins 2025
 Fabian Aleman 2028
 Malaika Ali 2028
 Katlyn Allen 2026
 Larissa Alvarenga-Pesoa 2028
 Maria Socorro Alves Sequeira 2027
 Andre Amato 2027
 Roman Amato 2027
 Morgan Andrews 2027
 Mariana Angulo Ortega 2026
 Ernesto Antelo Suarez 2028
 Estefania Antelo Suarez 2026
 Oscar Arriaza 2028
 Nicki Aucone 2025
 Emmalise Baez-Pena 2028
 Marlice Baptista 2026
 Isabella Barata 2025
 Colin Bishop 2027
 Tabitha Borja Arellano 2028
 Haley Boudreau 2026
 Ethan Bracey 2027
 Layla Rose Bryand 2027
 Juan Burgos Vilchez 2027
 Kayden Burrell-Cann 2027
 Azryah Buwee 2028
 Dylan Calabro 2026
 Abner Cambranes 2027
 Madison Campano 2027
 Joella Carpentieri 2028
 Steven Carrera Hermosilla 2028
 Samara Carson 2026
 Nyasia Cashwell Abney 2025
 Giovanni Celani 2027
 Abbigaelle Cenafils 2027
 Alexa Chavez 2028
 Christopher Cherry 2028
 Alanna Colon 2027
 Faith Connolly 2027
 Shemorie Constant 2027
 Edith Cortez Velazquez 2028
 Jon Costa 2028
 Aidan Cross 2027
 Santino Cucinotta 2027
 Daniel Curiel 2028
 Theresa DeFalco 2028
 Yarielis DeJesus 2026
 David Delfino 2025
 Roger Delgado 2028
 Nathan Della Morte 2026
 Kylie DePasqua 2028
 Raymond DeSimone 2027
 Rayna DiGiacomo 2026
 Tyler Diodati 2025
 Jada DiRaimo 2026
 Kendra Enriquez Castaneda 2027
 James Estrada 2025
 Emily Fashjian 2026
 Vanessa Febus 2026
 Cooper Ferranti 2028
 William Ferrara 2027
 Olivia Forgetta 2026
 Richard Foster 2027
 Alistar Roe Fredette 2026
 Diana Gaitan Flores 2027
 Aleyah Garcia Flores 2028
 Jazlyn Garcia 2028
 Jadyn Giroux 2026
 Ian Gobeille 2027
 Joao Gomes 2025
 Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027
 Sara Gomez 2027
 Cristian Gonzalez 2025
 Avery Gordon 2028
 Brendon Grace 2025
 Joseph Grenier 2026
 Jennifer Guerrero 2027
 Kenderra Guertin 2025
 Yeimy Gutierrez Santos 2027
 Jhasmin Heredia 2028
 Adam Heywood 2026
 Madison Hogan 2025
 Mona Imrane 2026
 Musa Jahateh 2026
 Daniel Jin 2025
 Emily Joseph 2026

Kaylee Kopka 2028
Jonathan Lagasse 2025
Christopher Landaverde 2027
Brady Larangeira 2025
Lila Lautieri 2028
Gabriella Laviano 2027
Jared Lee 2025
Isabella Liang 2027
Timothy Liang 2026
Joseph Lopez Tavares 2025
Casandra Lopez 2026
Jasmin Lopez 2026
Jeremy Luna Olivo 2027
Andrew Lyman 2025
Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027
Paul Magnuski 2028
Charlene Maranhao 2027
Analese Marcano 2026
Balla Marone 2025
Analeah Martins 2027
Cecelia Martins 2028
Muhammad Masood 2025
Autumn McIntyre 2025
Julia McLellan 2027
Manuel Mejia Mejia 2027
Makayla Melillo 2027
Evan Melvin 2025
Rachael Mendoza 2026
Alexandra Mollock 2028
Alan Montenegro 2025
Daniela Morales Cordon 2028
Ashley Morales 2025
Daniel Morales 2025
Chavier Moreira 2027
Marissa Morsilli 2028
Carlos Nacif 2028
Dennis Nikonorov 2028
Connor Niles 2025
Owen Niles 2028
Isabella Nunes 2027
Jacqueline Nunes 2028
Juliana (Jules) Nunes 2026
Lizbeth Nunez 2027
Brady O'Donnell 2027
Corey Ogden 2028
Elijah Omari 2027
Courtney Ortega 2027
Alexander Ortiz 2028
Andy Ortiz 2027
Julianna Ortiz 2025
Aubree Padula 2027
Elianna Paez 2027
Evelyn Pagliarini 2027
Aiden Pannone 2027
Savannah Paquin 2028
Loren Pastore 2025
Matthew Penafiel 2025
McKerry Petit Homme 2027
Brea Pezzullo 2026
Madison Picchi 2027
Gianna Pilloni 2028
Enzo Pistacchio 2028
Ethan Placella 2025
Bruno Porreca 2028
Leium Quinones 2027
Joseph Ramos Cardoza 2026
Sydney Raposo 2025
Tzivya Reyes 2026
Gian Ricci 2027
Gianna Ricci 2025
Isabella Ricci 2026
Valentina Rincon 2028
Emmanuel Rios 2025
Diana Rivadeneira 2025
Michael Roderick 2028
Brissy Rodriguez 2026
Henry Rodriguez 2027
Leandro Roquez 2026
Faith Rosadio 2026
Jared Rose 2028
Adriana Rossi 2027
Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027
Camilo Saldarriaga 2027
Leah Sanchez Perez 2026
Melany Sanchez-Rodriguez 2027
Jose Santamaria 2027
Max Sciotti 2028
James Senno 2027
Allison Serrano 2027
Brandon Simonelli 2025
Alexander Smith 2027
Nicholas Smith 2028
Jose Soto 2027
Kailey Souza 2027
Tristan Stevens 2028

Ariana Stoepker 2025
Eden Sylvia 2025
Alik Symoungkoun 2026
Kirk Tetteh 2028
Mark -Anthony Thompson 2028
Josie Torti 2027
Bobb'iSue Trahan 2025
Ava Turgeon 2028
Courtney Turner 2028
Izabella Urena 2028
Christopher Valdivieso 2027
Yomilenny Valois Tolentino 2028
Jasmine Vasquez 2026
Marques Vasquez 2025
Angel Veillard 2027
Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027
Adam Venditelli 2028
Dylana Vescera 2026
Abdiel Vidal 2027
Victoria Villafane 2026
Carldjon'n Volcy 2027
Aidan Wentworth 2028
Austin Wheeler 2025
Sofia Williams 2027

3rd Honors

Vincent Allen 2026
Lailany Aponte 2027
Damien Audet 2028
Tavian Banta-Cain 2025
Elianna Baptista 2027
Kelly Barrenechea 2027
Isabella (Zay) Bassett 2027
Ava Becker 2026
Kyle Boswell 2027
Annabella Brennan 2025
Brian Brennan 2027
Mia Bussolari 2026
Josue Cabrera Ramirez 2025
Jordan Caparrelli 2027
Marc Cardillo 2028
Jonelvis Castro 2027
Nevaeha Coelho 2027
Jaiden Cordero 2026
Jensee DePena 2025
Chiara DeQuattro 2028
Anthony DiBiasio 2025
Michael Dilorio 2025
Santo DiRaimo 2025
Domenic Duarte 2028
Maylin Dubon Najera 2028
Fiona Fairbanks 2027

Abigail Ferri 2026
Joshua Figueroa 2028
Sophia Finegan 2025
La'Niyah Florian 2028
James Forgetta 2028
Deanna Funches 2026
Sirra Gaye 2028
Morris George 2025
Yadier Grullon 2026
Joshua Guimaraes 2027
Mariana Gutierrez 2028
Tyler Hartmann 2025
Omar Jadama 2027
Na'imah Lopes 2026
Lisbeth Maldonado 2025
Isabela Martinez 2027
Alexander Melillo 2025
Michael Morsilli 2027
Tyler Nardone 2026
Mia (Ryo) Nilsson 2025
Randy Ortega 2025
Jeremy Ovalles 2025
Katelyn Palermo 2025
Trevon Paredes 2026
Emilly Paul 2025
Jayden Ponte 2027
Alexis Ratte 2025
Lucca Ricci 2028
Alayath Rietwijk 2025
Gisselle Rivas 2026
David Rivera 2028
Debra Rivera 2025
Ryan Rodriguez 2028
Jayden Rose 2026
Ivana Rua 2027
Fabian Saucedo 2027
Anthony Scorpio 2026
Hailey Segee 2027
Luke Sharpless 2026
Alana Smith 2027
Arisha Soto 2028
Brandon Souza 2025
Jay Spina 2027
Dante Tortolani 2028
Luke Ventura 2028
Steven Vera Vaca 2026
Leah Volcy 2027
Sincere Waldron 2025
Ryan Waterman 2027
Riley Whitten 2025
Nicholas Williams 2025
Janelle Yeomans 2026

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Sports

Gaunt earns trio of awards at Dean

Senior leaves lasting legacy in two sports

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**
SunRise Sports Editor

Johnston native Haley Gaunt is wrapping up a historic athletic career at Dean College, where she has played soccer and lacrosse the past four seasons.

Gaunt, who took home a state championship in soccer with the Panthers, recently earned a trio of awards to cap off her final college season. She took home the Michelle Porter Award, recognizing her as Dean’s Female Athlete of the Year. She also won team MVP for soccer and Offensive Player of the Year in lacrosse.

Gaunt was a team captain as goalie of the soccer team and broke the lacrosse program’s all-time scoring record as she finished her career with 151 goals.

“I’ve wanted (the Michelle Porter Award) all four years that I’ve been here and I worked so hard to even just be nominated for it. To make a difference for each team, to be recognized, it’s the best feeling in the world,” said Gaunt.

Gaunt was unsure of what her athletic future would hold after tearing both of her meniscuses during her junior soccer season. Although the recovery was sometimes a daunting process, it ultimately helped motivate her to not only return to the field but to be the best version of herself she



● **GAUNT to page 13** Haley Gaunt in net for Dean College last soccer season. *Photos courtesy of Dean College*



Johnston’s Corey Ogden at bat. *Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com*

Panthers pick up first wins

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston baseball team picked up its first two wins of the spring season when it beat West Warwick 9-6 then Middletown 9-3 the following game.

Juan Brache paced the Johnston offense against West Warwick when he drove in three runs on three hits. Matt Clements knocked in another two as well.

Ethan Bracey got the win on the mound as he tossed four innings and racked up eight strikeouts.

Corey Ogden and Brache each drove in two runs to help the Panthers beat the Islanders. Manny Rios got the win on the mound as he finished the day with five strikeouts and allowing just one earned run in five innings of work. Aiden Neil struck out a pair of batter in an inning of relief.

The Panthers improved to 2-9 overall with the win and faced Prout on Wednesday, but the results were not available at press time.

SOFTBALL

Johnston 1, Portsmouth 0

The Panthers shut out the Patriots last week to improve to 7-1 this season.

Alanna Colon drove in Johnston’s lone run as she drove in Haley Boudreau in the first inning.

Boudreau was dominant in the circle, pitching seven innings and allowing no runs on two hits while striking out 15 batters. She also stole three bases in the win.

The Panthers were back in action in a pivotal Division II battle against West Warwick on Wednesday night. Boudreau is closing in on 500 career strikeouts as the Panthers look to stay atop the standings.

Small moment delivers big message

I was covering the Cranston East Little League Opening Day ceremonies last Saturday and something pretty cool happened.

Moments before the league was set to hand the microphone to its board members that were going to give their addresses, they realized that the person that was supposed to be singing the National Anthem was not present.

Without any hesitation, co-president Dave Graziano grabbed the mic and sang the anthem in front of hundreds of people, right on the spot. Most of the crowd was totally unaware that there was even a hiccup, the law enforcement personnel rendered a salute and Graziano actually put on a pretty solid performance. He earned a well-deserved round of applause and it was not until moments later that co-president Andy Barron informed the crowd that it was an impromptu perfor-

mance.

On the surface, it is not a big deal, but I thought that it encapsulated what Little League Baseball is all about and it should also be an example of the type of people you want running your children’s sports leagues.

In youth sports, it is easy for things to go wrong but takes a big effort for things to go right. In that moment, it would have been easy for the board to punt on the anthem, or scramble trying to find someone capable of singing it or even pulling it up on a phone to play on the PA. Graziano moved swiftly and kept things rolling along and had fun with it. He was smiling the whole time, there were zero signs of discomfort.

Little League Baseball teaches kids not only the sport, but how to be a team player and embrace challenges. It is supposed to provide a fun environment where kids can make friends and enjoy being outside



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

and active. Graziano kept his end of the bargain as a board member, as he stepped up for the team, had fun doing something new, and made sure the kids came first. It was a pretty cool scene.

It’s also a reminder to appreciate what these volunteers do. Guys like Graziano don’t get paid, it is not a full-time job. Well, in a way it is, but it is like having a second job. Board members work tirelessly year-round, especially during the season to provide kids with a league. There really are no days off and these volunteers spend their time thanking the players, families and sponsors when really, they deserve much of that credit. They are the ones making it happen day to day.

It was a fun ceremony on a picture-perfect Saturday. And again, the Cranston East staff deserves much credit for putting the kids first.

The Rhode Island FC finally opened the new Centreville Bank Stadium in Pawtucket in front of a sellout crowd last weekend. It’s an exciting new addition to Rhode Island’s sports scene and a much-needed jolt of energy at the local level.

The talk of pro sports the past few years in the state has been dominated largely by the Paw-Sox leaving for Worcester and McCoy Stadium being demolished to make way for the new high school. RIFC burst on the scene last year and now has a new home in a beautiful stadium. Sure, soccer may not be an A-list sport in Rhode Island, but the state deserves a professional team that it can rally behind.

It will be interesting to see what this new facility will pro-

vide to locals beyond just a home stadium for RIFC. It hosted a rugby match the following day and those who run the show have left open the possibility for many other events taking place there.

There’s nothing wrong with Rhode Island College’s facility, but I’d love to see the high school state championships move to Centreville to give the kids that big stadium atmosphere, but as far as I know, that is not in the plans for the time being.

Either way, it’s great to see another state of the art complex be built in the state and it should provide some opportunities for neat things to happen at all levels, whether it be high school, college or professional. Rhode Island is a sneaky-good soccer state, especially with Cranston sending guys to both the MLS and USL in recent years. RIFC and Centreville Bank Stadium seem to be here to stay.

CROSSWORD
PUZZLE CORNER

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

CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish

5. Perform on stage

8. Soda

11. Small growth

13. In support of

14. Step taken when walking

15. Hollyhocks

16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

17. Feel pain

18. San Diego ballplayer

20. Inches per minute (abbr.)

21. Fat from a pig's abdomen

22. Create again

25. Honors once more

30. Thin coating of gold

31. Welsh river

32. Japanese novelist Mizumura

33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable

41. Showing guilt

43. Soldier

45. Photographers

48. Language spoken in Nigeria

49. Mimic

50. Expressed pleasure

55. Ancient Greek sophist

56. Beverage container

57. Night monkey genus

59. Lace bugs

60. Hoghead (abbr.)

61. Frameworks

62. Keyboard key

63. Greek goddess of the dawn

64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)

3. Razorbill genus

4. Bleached

5. Continent

6. Fruit preserved in syrup

7. Impediment to one's freedom

8. Nocturnal rodents

9. Earthy pigment

10. Relieved oneself

12. Golf score

14. Tech hub ___ Alto

19. Sportscaster Andrews

23. Records electric currents

24. Popular Hitchcock film

25. Revolutions per minute

26. NY Giants legend

27. Sports radio host Patrick

28. When you hope to get somewhere

29. French seaport

34. Thai river

35. Rocker's accessory

36. Extra charge

37. Influential American president

39. Pain in the head

40. Great Plains people

41. Consumed

42. Soluble ribonucleic acid

44. Improves

45. Secret clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Fallow deer

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. College's Blue Devils

58. Midway between south and southeast

A look at the crowd at Centreville Bank Stadium. Photo courtesy of RIFC

RIFC holds San Antonio FC to draw in historic home opener

After out-shooting, out-possessing and out-passing San Antonio FC, Rhode Island FC held the Western Conference leaders scoreless for the first time all season as its historic home opener ended in a hard-fought 0-0 draw on Saturday. A sold-out crowd of 10,700 fans brought Pawtucket alive for the first time, cheering on the Ocean State club at its new state-of-the-art home and celebrating a moment more than six years in the making.

After bossing more than 70 percent of the possession through the opening ten minutes of the highly-anticipated matchup, Rhode Island FC (1W-3L-2T) got a first real look at the goal in the 11th minute when Jojea Kwizera took Aldair Sanchez’s cross out of the air, recycling it back to the feet of Clay Holstad. Taking a first-time shot out of the air from outside of the 18-yard-box, Hostad’s powerful volley looped just north of the crossbar. In the 23rd minute, Noah Fuson layed a ball to Holstad in a similar position, and Holstad once again drilled the shot just over the bar.

In the 37th minute, San Antonio FC (5W-2L-1T) forced a turnover in the mid-field and immediately found its best chance of the half. Winning the ball just inside the center circle, Jimmy Medranda spun around and attempted a well-weighted lob over Koke Vegas that nearly found the back of the net, but the Spaniard rushed back just in time to make an acrobatic diving stop. The game remained scoreless going into the half.

In the 62nd minute, Vegas came up big again, denying San Antonio a dangerous

one-on-one opportunity when Jorge Hernandez broke through toward the net with a golden opportunity to give the visitors the lead. Two minutes later, RIFC nearly found the breakthrough on the other end when Maxi Rodriguez took a close-range volley at the back post off of a corner kick, only to be denied by a quick reflex save from an outstretched Richard Sanchez.

RIFC continued to push as the game went on, finding another close chance in the 67th minute when Rodriguez connected on a back-post header from Kwizera’s inswinging cross. Once again breaking into a wide open position, Rodriguez sent a powerful header just wide of Sanchez’s post. In the 80th minute, Rodriguez tested Sanchez yet again, forcing a low save after putting a dangerous free kick on frame. Then, less than a minute later, he sent Sanchez diving with a long-range curling effort that was inches from sending a sold-out Centreville Bank Stadium into euphoria.

Although the Ocean State club continued knocking on the door with a slew of dangerous chances, including a close-range header from Albert Dikwa “Chico” that grazed the outside netting, the hosts could not find the breakthrough as the first-ever game at Centreville Bank Stadium ended scoreless.

Up next, Rhode Island FC will return to U.S. Open Cup action as it gets set to face its first-ever Major League Soccer opponent. RIFC will return home to Centreville Bank Stadium to host the New England Revolution on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

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Say no to boat tax

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the SunRise

At press time, on Tuesday night, May 5, 2025, the boating and fishing community spoke out against Rhode Island House Bill H-6256 at a House Finance Committee meeting. The Bill proposes to remove the sales, property and use tax exemption on motorboats.

In a letter to the committee Rick Bellavance, president of the RI Charter & Party Boat Association, a membership of 51 small businesses in Rhode Island, said, “This bill would impact small businesses in the industry by introducing additional costs, with they might need to either absorb or pass on to clients. The industry supports our tourism-based economy and the effects of H-6256 should be carefully considered as the bill would not support tourism and the charter fishing industry in Rhode Island.”

Scott Travers, executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, with 7,500 affiliated members and 35 affiliated organizations, said, “Recreational fishing has a \$419-million dollar economic impact on Rhode Island’s economy annually. Many of our members own boats or fish with friends that have boats so this bill would harm recreational fishing as well as marine trades in Rhode Island.”

More to come as we follow this bill though the legislative process.

Small Vessel Speed Restriction for Right Whales

During a partial aerial survey on April 29, the Center for Coastal Studies documented 52 right whales in Cape Cod Bay, including three mother/calf pairs, all of which were skim feeding at the surface or just below the surface. This feeding behavior makes them highly susceptible to vessel collision. Acoustic detections of right whales on a near real-time monitoring buoy in Cape Cod Bay also shows a continued strong presence.

As a result of the ongoing presence of right whales, the small vessel speed restriction in Cape Cod Bay has been extended through May 15, 2025. Small vessels (less than 65’) are required to travel at speeds no greater than 10 knots in this area. Right whales are highly susceptible to injury and death due to vessel collision. A complementary federal speed restriction in the same area applies to vessels 65’ and greater.

Also on May 1, the Center for Coastal Studies Aerial Survey Team detected the presence of right whales north of Cape Cod, MA so a right whale Slow Zone Area is in effort there through May 16. This voluntary Slow Zone ruts mariners to avoid or transit at 10 knots or less. Visit Reducing Vessel Strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales | NOAA Fisheries for all Slow Zone postings and coordinates.

New bluefin tuna regulations in effect May 1

The Atlantic bluefin tuna retention limit for recreational fishermen will remain at the default limit of 1 school, large school, or small medium bluefin tuna (27 to <73” curved fork length) per vessel per day/trip. This limit will continue to be in effect through December 31, 2025, unless modified by later action. Current Atlantic Highly Migratory Species bag limit information can be found at Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Minimum Sizes and Bag Limits | NOAA Fisheries.

The recreational “trophy” bluefin tuna fishery remains open in the Gulf of Maine Trophy area and the Southern New England Trophy area. Atlantic tunas Angling category and Charter/Headboat permitted vessels when fishing recreationally are allowed one trophy bluefin tuna measuring 73” curved fork length or greater per

vessel per year provided “trophy” category subquota in the respective region is available at the time of harvest.

New cod and haddock regulation areas
In accordance with a new NOAA Fisheries Emergency Action on May 1, 2025 recreational vessels may not retain Atlantic cod caught in the Georges Bank, Southern New England (includes areas off Rhode Island) and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas.

Vessels in possession of Gulf of Maine cod that meet the possession limit, minimum size, and open season specified for the Gulf of Maine Regulated Mesh Area may transit the other regulated mesh areas with that cod, provided all bait and hooks are removed from fishing rods, and any cod on board has been gutted and stored.

Visit Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish): Recreational Fishing | NOAA Fisheries to see a map and coordinates for these areas, as well as current regulations for recreational fishing.

Recreational Limits for Gulf of Maine Haddock and Western Gulf of Maine Cod: At this time, the recreational fishing limits for haddock and Western Gulf of Maine cod remain status quo, consistent with federal regulations. For Gulf of Maine haddock the open fishing season is April 1 – Feb. 28 with a 18” minimum size and 15-fish bag limit and for Western Gulf of Maine cod, the open season is Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 with a 1-fish bag limit and 23” minimum size.

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”.

“Recent sunny days have warmed the water and we’re seeing a good mix of sizes, from smaller school bass up to impressive fish over 30 inches. We’ve also noticed a few worm hatches last week where fish have been present. It looks like these hatches will soon be expanding from the more secluded coves to the open edges of the ponds,” said Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick said, “Still not much action in Apponaug Cove area, but some anglers are picking up fish at Conimicut Point, Warwick with isolated reports of fish in Greenwich Bay.”

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, “Fish to 34” are being caught in the Providence River and West Passage with school bass being caught in Greenwich Bay. Natural baits such as clam, squid and oms are working as well as flutter spoons as there are not many Atlantic menhaden available.”

Tautog. “We’ve been getting some positive reports on tautog, with customers having success both from the shore and by boat. There have also been a few reports of cod in deeper waters.” said O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

Dustin Stevens of Rhode Island Kayak Adventures, said, “I like to use half of a green crab with legs off in the spring as the fish seem to like softer baits.”

Angler Greg Vespe of Tiverton, said, “Tog fishing exploded over the weekend with a nice mix of males and females in the mid and upper bay now that the water is 52.8 so they are chewing. We had our limits before our coffee was cold and then just played around trying new spots.”

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.



Tautog bite on: Angler Greg Vespa of Tiverton, said, “Tog fishing opened up this weekend in the mid and lower Narragansett Bay. Caught our limit before our coffee was cold.”



Trout bite still good: “Greg Spicer, a former employee, caught multi golden, rainbow and brown trout in Norther Rhode Island waterways last week,” said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence.

RIC has strong showing at N.E. Championships

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Fifth-year Trinity Hayes (Providence) earned three All-New England honors as Rhode Island College wrapped up the final day of competition at the New England Div. III Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championship, hosted by Coast Guard on Friday afternoon.

RIC finished in a tie ninth place (39 teams) with a team score of 34.0. Tufts finished in first place with a team score of 94.0.

Hayes was All-New England with a second place finish in the 400m (56.69), a third place effort in the 200m (24.66; new program record) and a fifth place

performance in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92).

Junior Haley Oliver (Coventry) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92). It was her second All-N.E. accolade, having won the 10,000m race yesterday.

Freshman Bendu Kamara (Pawtucket) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92).

Sophomore Lexie Zakrzewski (Taunton, Mass.) earned All-New England honors with a fifth place finish in the 4x400m relay (4:01.92).

Senior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) finished 12th in the shot (11.84m).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2025 NEI-CAAA Championship on May 9-10.

Anchorwomen to face Goucher in opening round

Rhode Island College will face Goucher in first round action of the 2025 NCAA Div. III Men’s Tennis Championship, hosted by Tufts on Thursday, May 8. This is the first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance for the program.

Head Coach Adam Spring’s team is currently 12-1 overall and finished with an undefeated 6-0 mark in the Little East to capture the program’s first-ever Little East Regular Season Championship.

No. 1 seeded RIC defeated No. 4-seed-

ed Western Connecticut, 5-1, in the semifinals of the 2025 Little East Championship on May 1 to reach the finals for the third consecutive season. The Anchormen then defeated No. 2-seeded Bridgewater State, 5-1, in the finals on May 3 to capture the program’s fifth Little East Championship title and the first for the program since RIC won four straight crowns from 1992-95.

Goucher is 16-7 and captured the Landmark Conference Championship with a 4-3 win over Drew on May 3.

The winner of Thursday’s first round match will face Tufts (20-2) on Friday, May 9.

Real Estate Transactions

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY					JOHNSTON				
1003 Victory Hwy	Paul Jr Richard E Est and Farrell, Derek	Helger, Rebecca L and Depasquale, Santino	4/14	\$357,500	1-1/2 Apple Tree Ln	Downing, James R	Sengsouvanh, Johnny	4/16	\$552,000
105 Fairway Dr Lot 105	Czajkowski, John A	Bibeault, Andre R	4/14	\$250,000	107 Springfield Ave	Hanley, Martin P	Horridge 3rd, Robert B and Silva, Brehanna M	4/21	\$370,000
1156 Sisson Rd	Palmer T and Palmer, Joseph A	Males, Brian and Mihalides, Ariana	4/17	\$815,000	114 Putnam Pike	Buchanan, Nancy A	Salvato, Paige	4/18	\$295,000
12 Donnas Way	Laprey, James F and Laprey, Denise J	Cornicilli, Shane	4/18	\$540,000	2332 Plainfield Pike	Loffredo, Michael	D&r Property Group LLC	4/21	\$350,000
2 S Pond Dr	Laborio Joan H Est and Fortin, Joseph	Hill, Jannel	4/14	\$435,000	28 Salina Ave	Chavier, Anthony J and Chavier, Christine M	Johnston Town Of	4/22	\$381,000
234 Read Ave	Petrangelo Roger J Est and Gorham, Nicholas	Sholes, Dana J	4/17	\$265,000	7 Barbato Dr	Anice M Oconnor T and Oconnor, Anice M	Li, Zu and Yan, Xiao T	4/21	\$501,000
2703 Village Green Cir Lot 2703	Dubois Francis Est and Dubois, Richard	Kenny, Steven B and Kenny, Michele F	4/16	\$420,000	8 Christopher Dr	Wilks Jr, Robert J and Wilks, Roberta A	Tricarico, Nicholas and Lamond, Stephanie	4/21	\$558,000
3 PatienceLn	Boisvert, Kyle M and Walker, Samantha V	Mulcahey, Joseph and Mulcahey, Brittany	4/17	\$350,000	8 Old Simmonsville Rd	Noemi Magwilli Lt and Magwill, Noemi	Steve Housing LLC	4/17	\$560,000
30 Idaho St	Guertin, Joshua J and Lemois, Jasmine M	Allstrom, Jamie E and Cryan, Audrey E	4/17	\$210,000					
51 Knotty Oak Shrs	M & I Homes LLC	Ira Financial TCo	4/15	\$87,000					
55 Arizona St	Lakeview Loan Servicing L	Mako LLC	4/18	\$190,000					
9 Columbia Ave	Atwood Properties LLC	Depradines, Landsay	4/18	\$415,000					
CRANSTON									
10 Bateman Ave Lot C2	Orsi Jt and Kojian, Paula	Maioiris, Roseann and Vinacco, Steven	4/16	\$342,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 441	M & I Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$813,782
105 Julia St	Atwell, Robert J and Atwell, Joyce L	Quezada, Sylviannie and Quezada, Tania	4/16	\$490,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 6	M & I Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$813,782
11 Amanda Ct	Desimone, Edward R and Gecawich, Kathleen	Gangi, Jennifer A and Gangi, Joshua D	4/18	\$450,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 441	New Vent Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$775,000
11 Bradford Rd	Stewart, Katherine and Powell, Connor	Digiovanni, Katelynn E and Edwards, Colin	4/16	\$485,000	1050 Warwick Ave Lot 6	New Vent Hm LLC	Dionne, Tod S and Dagostino, Gina M	4/16	\$775,000
115 Welfare Ave	Alias R Mcgloin Est and Dimuro, Kathleen G	Duarte, Albino	4/16	\$251,000	120 Aspinet Dr	Lucas, Beverly F	Council Of Giants LLC	4/14	\$347,000
12 Tacoma St	Sohegan, Debra and Boffi, Lori	Fondeur, Rachey E	4/16	\$400,000	120 Pinehurst Ave	Pomfret, Brian A and Pomfret, Cheryl A	Hammond, Kate and Hammond, Mitchell	4/11	\$350,000
144 Garden Hills Dr	Nieves, Tanya	Mcdonald, Aaron D and Mcdonald, Megan P	4/18	\$475,000	125 Duncan Rd	Tetrault Re LLC	Plante, Allison B	4/15	\$415,000
144 Harvard St	Goldberg, Lawrence N	Nadeau, Elizabeth and Nadeau, Timothy	4/17	\$623,623	144 Aborn Ave	Gargaro, Anthony	Harlow, Rachel B	4/15	\$265,000
17 Birch St	Watkins, Gerda	Morgado, Andrew	4/17	\$261,000	17 Willard St	Noriega, Adelso J and Noriega, Santos V	Obermeyer, Elizabeth and Obermeyer, Devin	4/14	\$495,000
17 Howard St	Tyler, Michael J and Tyler, Brenda J	Daly, Mary M and Chiclana, Alexander	4/18	\$450,000	187 Jefferson St	Grismala, Nathan B	Mead, Nicholas and Silva, Kimberly A	4/11	\$480,000
200 Mayfield Ave Lot D1	Aldridge, Kendra	Macchio, Lauren	4/17	\$351,000	209 Wood St Lot 96	Dos Santos, Vitor A	Fooks, William B	4/15	\$345,000
30 Tilden St	Mesoilella Joyce S Est and Mesoilella, Agostino	Beauregard, Jessica M and Beauregard, Alex D	4/16	\$440,000	211 Wood St Lot 98	Dos Santos, Vitor A	Fooks, William B	4/15	\$345,000
30 Tilden St Lot 789	Mesoilella Joyce S Est and Mesoilella, Agostino	Beauregard, Jessica M and Beauregard, Alex D	4/16	\$440,000	227 Stillwater Dr	Keating, Carly L	Preite, Thomas R and Korkotas-Preite, Georgia	4/11	\$560,000
304 Legion Way	Perry Anna Est and Liberatore, Michael	Jackson-Raum, Rachael A and Raum, Keith T	4/11	\$365,000	23 Peck Ln	Mulligan Prop LLC	Shannon Rlty LLC	4/16	\$1,500,000
42 Wales St	Tong, Man U and Wu, Johnnyfu	Chen, Yuping and Huang, Yong X	4/16	\$460,000	24 King St	Wong, Damon C and Wong, Emily L	Hernandez, Anna E	4/16	\$402,000
506 Oaklawn Ave	Jourabachi, Amir H and Jourabachi, Pamela	Batista, Carmen G and Batista, Clara	4/11	\$625,000	24 Ninigret St	Flagstar Bk	Higgins, Ashley	4/11	\$340,000
56 Verdant Dr	Stevens Jr, Jerry J and Stevens, Sarah R	Maslyn, Ryan	4/16	\$505,000	261 Draper Ave	Shaw Jr, Jeffrey T	Appel, Victoria L and Appel, Brandon C	4/11	\$390,500
80 Crestwood Rd	156 Lambert St Rlty LLC	Engels, Joshua	4/18	\$660,000	44 Cindy Ln	Breault, Steven J	Three Kids LLC	4/16	\$310,000
89 Sheldon St	Crowshaw James T Est and Crowshaw, Matthew F	Brown, Clara K	4/17	\$455,000	49 Langley St	Friel, Thereseann and Bouchard, Joseph	Friel, Daniel P and Deluca-Friel, Kacie A	4/16	\$240,000
91 S Hill Dr	Tasca, Maria A and Urban, Kenneth D	Baccaire, Nicholas	4/18	\$450,000	60 Merle St	Lacross, Edward E	Caparco Invest LLC	4/14	\$278,000
91 S Hill Dr Lot 1288	Tasca, Maria A and Urban, Kenneth D	Baccaire, Nicholas	4/18	\$450,000	64 Hazard Ave	Sabalewski, Debra A	Sylvia, Lisa P	4/16	\$330,000
EAST GREENWICH					65 Suburban Pl	215 Tollgate Rlty LLC	Streit, Lucas M	4/11	\$280,000
248 Marlborough St	Smith Linda Jane Est and Mcconkey, Stephanie	Mjc LLC	4/11	\$217,000	68 Greene St Lot 2	Melwick Bldrs LLC	Roberts, Mariano and Dugyala, Madhuri	4/11	\$428,000
35 Beech Crest Rd	Reagan Re Dev LLC	Graise, Andrew and Graise, Nermin	4/15	\$1,700,000	89 Bethel St	Brawner, Susan A and Hall, Kenneth A	Roso Invest Rt	4/11	\$235,000
70 Hyland Ave	Nutting, Phillip K	Erin Reedy RET and Reedy, Erin	4/18	\$940,000					
90 Signal Ridge Way	Obrien, Patrick and Obrien, Patricia	Godbolt, Bryan and Godbolt, Kristen	4/18	\$915,000	234 Mishnock Rd	Owens Family Irt and Owens, Kelly L	Kretchman Jr, Kevin and Kretchman, Kristin	4/16	\$220,000
EXETER					696 Victory Hwy	Castagna Family Rt and Castagana, Claudio	Sanford, Robert J	4/17	\$720,000
14 Partridge Dr	Mcadams, Paul R and Pennymac Loan Serices LLC	Mcadam, Paul R and Mcadam, Martha J	4/17	\$281,000					
480 S County Trl Lot 1-42	Riccitelli, Jonathan	Tholander, Michael	4/18	\$24,000					
595-C 10 Rod Rd	Warner, Margaret S	Beauchamp, Tyler	4/15	\$277,500					
					15 Earl St	Mccaffrey, Michael J and Cary, Ginette	Cosmo Properties LLC	4/16	\$230,000
					21 Saint George St	Sanocki, Mark	Best Life Homes LLC	4/21	\$260,000
					50 Governors Hl Lot 50	Zander Richard E Est and Zander, Charles E	Seippel, Paul and Ferreira, Catherine M	4/21	\$285,000
					681 Providence St	Atwood Property Group LLC	681 Providence LLC	4/22	\$465,000
					91 Maple Ave	Council Of Giants LLC	Gorriaran, Tany	4/22	\$460,000

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Lifestyles



Spring cleaning for 50,000 inhabitants

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

By trade, Anthony Ricci is a landscaper and a singer – although, he says, the singing gigs aren’t what they used to be. There are way too many funerals lately.

And then there’s another side to Tony, one where you can’t see his contagious smile. On a recent Friday afternoon as the temperatures finally crawled into the 60s, Tony wore a hat with fine netting draped across his face and the back of his neck. His voice was muffled. His jacket could have come from a first responder’s wardrobe. It was of heavy material, had giant pockets and reached below his knees. His jeans were strapped tightly around his ankles. His gloves were thick, but they didn’t restrict his movements.

On the other hand, his accomplice – his wife, Lorna, who for decades ran the Warwick-based Ocean State Center for Independent Living – was in spring clothes, hatless, fearless and ready to help.

Tony was on the front line of spring cleaning five beehives, lined up so they are exposed to the south and the sun, for another season of harvesting. Not all that far away is Hoxsie Four Corners with its own busy bees of motorists and shoppers.

Seemingly no concern to the bees that seemed intent on their work, Tony lifted a cement block from one hive and placed it on the ground before raising the cover to inspect what was inside.

“This is all insulation,” he said pulling sheets of pink foam from inside and around the hive. Without it during this unusually harsh winter, Tony and Lorna surely would have lost hives.

With the warmer weather, bees went about their work entering the hives from a screen lattice not far from the ground.

Feeding bees a tile of pollen

“This one is active,” said Tony, lifting the lid to another hive. “They could use some pollen.”

Lorna knew what that meant. She left, returning with a pollen patty about the size of a bathroom tile and the same

thickness. Tony laid it on the upper floor of the hive and replaced the top.

A bee colony will have 30,000 to 50,000 bees. The queen can lay upwards of 1,500 eggs daily. She lives in the hive along with worker bees, which live up to six months and run the place. Drones mate with the queen and live one to two months.

Nearby was the smoker, a handheld device about the size of a coffee pot with an enlarged spout. Smoke wafted from the spout. Tony lifted it to demonstrate its use, waving it near the opening to the hive. The bees didn’t seem to mind. They weren’t angry, but they retreated. Tony uses the smoker when the bees are agitated and when removing honeycombs.

The Grumpy hive

He uses the smoker more on “Grumpy,” his name for the hive that customarily is more troublesome than the others.

“Inside the hive is not a happy place,” he concludes.

Hives are built with removable stories with the top story – the super – being the one for harvesting the honey. Before removing it, he smokes the hive, causing the inhabitants to congregate near the queen downstairs. Then he brings the whole honeycombed flat, weighing about 45 pounds, to his cellar to separate and bottle the honey. Last year the Riccis bottled more than 600 12-ounce bottles.



Tony Ricci was properly attired as he set to cleaning his hives and putting them in order for the upcoming season. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*



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‘Mélange of music’ on June 1

Six ensembles comprised of members of The Chamber Orchestra of Barrington at St. John’s and friends will present a chamber music concert on Sunday, June 1 at 3 p.m. at the church, 191 County Road, Barrington. The musicians will perform a delightful mélange of music from around the world! Please consider bringing a canned food item for St. John’s Outreach Program. This is a pay what you can event. *(Submitted photo by Mary Murphy)*

Puerini and Killian join forces for new indie pop project

By ROB DUGUAY

It’s always interesting to see what happens when two musicians from different backgrounds get together to create something. Sometimes it’s a seamless melding of their styles, while at other times, it’s a completely different sound with new sonic territories being explored. The latter can be used to describe Crash Space, which is a duo featuring Damian Puerini and Beth Killian. With Killian on vocals, the structure and arrangements put a unique spin on pop music while adding synthy distortions, mesmerizing harmonies and an array of samples. This is exemplified in the debut full-length “Space Mom”, which came out on April 28.

I spoke with both Puerini, who is a Cranston native, and Killian about the catalyst for the start of this project, the making of the debut album, and how this is just the beginning for what Crash Space has in store for the future.

Rob Duguay: What was the initial inspiration for starting Crash Space? There’s a pretty interesting framework behind it with Damian coming from the rock & roll world and Beth being involved in folk and singer-songwriter styles.

Damian Puerini: We didn’t have any intentions, we got together to record a cover song and just started making our own. It doesn’t sound much like anything either of us have listened to or have made before, so we were both pretty surprised by what it sounded like. It’s funny to us how different our tastes and styles are, but how we’re also exactly on the same page for this one thing that neither of us previously felt any desire to do.

Beth Killian: Yeah, it’s a pretty new genre for both of us. I had started dabbling in writing electro-pop tracks about a year ago and put out a DIY EP co-produced with my brother John Killian last June. Damian heard it and thought it’d be cool to write together. He’d been making beats and has done some similar-ish instrumental stuff with his other project Blobfish in the past, so we started chatting about it at a show and decided to get together and mess around with what we could do. At first, we were just going to get together to make a cover so I could see



Damian Puerini and Beth Killian. Submitted photo

his workflow for sampling, using an MPC, production, all that stuff, and that was it.

The synergy was wild, and we wanted to try writing and producing something from scratch, and “Space Mom” really just took off from there. It was a surprising but really interesting sound that we both wanted to keep making.

RD: Speaking of “Space Mom”, what was the experience like recording it? Was it completely DIY fashion with you both handling the production or did you work with someone in that capacity?

DP: We recorded it ourselves on both of our bare bones setups. Some tracks we produced together at my home setup, and others were sent to Beth, who wrote and recorded the vocals at her place, both super DIY. We focused on getting the music down and sending it to producer Sammy D’Ambruoso at Andem Street Studios in Providence. He had the difficult job of working with what we were sending him, but he put a ton of work in to clean it all up and is definitely the third member of the group when it comes to recording. Our love of these songs has a lot to do with how Sammy was able to make them sound.

RD: That’s wicked cool. In terms of Crash Space being a creative outlet, what does this project fulfill for both of you and what makes it stand out from the other bands and projects you’ve been a part of?

DP: For me it’s been a total rush of making things quickly and consistently with another person on the exact same page. We just synched up and have similar workflows. I’ve never collaborated so productively with someone before, where we were both so involved with every little

part of it from the music to the arrangements, lyrics and themes. There was a mutual obsession that made our time very productive. We were both pretty entertained by how much fun we were having just making music without any plan.

When there’s no plan and you work well together, you loosen up and just have fun making things. Crash Space is just fun and easy.

BK: I’ve always been more drawn to writing lyrics and melodies, that’s where my experience is, and I only learned basic guitar when I was younger to have something to sing over. Crash Space has given me the opportunity to explore larger sounds, beats, interesting and unexpected clashes and whirrs and instrumental scapes that had been untapped before. Being able to actively co-create all of the elements of a song with someone equally as energetic and exploratory has just been really fun. It’s a creative challenge that we both want to keep going.

RD: Can we expect Crash Space to play any live shows? Are there any future recordings in the works? What does the future hold for this project?

BK: We played as a duo recently and are booking more like that, but we have a full band show coming up on June 28 as part of Schiavone Fest at Platforms Dance Club on 165 Poe Street in Providence. We have drums, bass, keys, backup singers, and we also have three EPs ready to go with another 16 songs to put out. We’ll be getting those tracks to Sammy in the coming weeks. Hopefully the future holds more songs and more recordings and more shows because we both love it.

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The first harvest of the season is a light yellow hue called “white honey.” As the season progresses, the honey gets darker. Last fall, Tony said, it was so dark and syrupy that he left it in the hive. Perhaps it was a telltale of the cold to follow. He augments what honey is left in the hive with plate-sized rings of hardened sugar.

Local honey sold in local stores

Lorna’s late brother Kurt Cameron introduced them to beekeeping and was their mentor until his death. They forged their own way in 2017 and haven’t stopped. They sell the honey at Sandy Lane Meat Market and other local outlets. A 12-ounce bottle sells for \$11.

Tony said he started off with Italian bees, but at this point “they are Rhode Island mongrels.”

Swarming occurs when a queen is pushed out of the hive by a new queen. The old queen takes off with her retinue to establish a new hive.

Tony said yard-spraying for insects kills bees and other pollinators. He is also down on herbicides, especially ones used at this time of year to kill dandelions that are among the first spring flowering plants. The herbicides also kill the bees that he finds dead.

Tony probably could have tended the hives without wearing all the protective gear. He has a good relationship with his bee team and he believes they understand he’s there to help and protect them ... but then one never knows what the Grumpy hive might have for him.



Lorna Ricci and her husband, Tony, are the beekeeping team with hives not far from Hoxsie Four Corners in Warwick. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*



Partially eaten pollen and sugar placed in the hive to help the bees through the winter are revealed once the lid of the hive is lifted. *Beacon Media photos by John Howell*



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