

# JohnstonSunRise

Thursday, June 5, 2025

20 Pages with Supplement • **FREE** • Vol. 28 No. 16

## Lessons in faith, character



Students at St. Rocco School said their goodbyes to pet therapy dog Emerald on Monday in her final visit to the school this academic year. Pat Kane, Emerald’s owner, used sessions with the dog to impart Catholic faith lessons to the children and teach them about the value of good character. Adored by younger students and eighth-graders alike, Emerald will be missed until her return in September. *Photo submitted by St. Rocco School*

## New budget raises tax by \$110 on median home

By **BARBARA POLICHETTI**  
*Beacon Media Staff Writer*

The Town Council last week approved Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.’s proposed \$137.9-million budget for Fiscal 2026, the financial year that begins July 1 of this year.

The budget – which will maintain all current city services and increase town support of local schools by \$500,000 – will result in a tax-rate increase of 32 cents. The 2% rate increase will bring the residential tax rate from \$15.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$15.62.

Overall, the new budget marks an increase of \$3.5 million from last year’s budget of about \$134.3 million. It necessitates a tax levy increase of about 1.45%, well below the state levy cap of 4%. The levy refers to the amount of money needed in local taxes to support the budget. (Other revenue resources include state and federal aid.)

In an interview before the council meeting, Polisena noted that several cost increases beyond town’s control are key budget drivers. These factors include contractual salary raises for police, fire other municipal employees, he said, as well as increases in essential costs such as utilities.

“Generally, times are tough and things are expensive,” he said. “Cities and towns are not insulated from this.” He said he worked to keep the impact on the tax rate minimal while

● **BUDGET** to page 6



## Town’s puzzle: How to match zoning, reality

By **TARA MONASTESSE**  
*Beacon Media Staff Writer*

As Johnston continues to work toward updating its Comprehensive Plan, town officials must decide how to address decades worth of zoning inconsistencies, according to Town Planner Thomas Deller.

At a Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, Deller presented board members with a series of land-use maps to illustrate how space has been developed. The main issue, he said, is that “every lot that you see on these maps violates zoning.”

Most of the zoning violations involve undersize lots, smaller than the minimum size stipulated by the town’s regulations. Moving forward is a question of determining a vision for the town’s future. Officials will need to weigh the importance of adhering to zoning requirements against maintaining the current character of the town, and the discussion will continue

throughout the summer.

Under state law, the town’s Comprehensive Plan, which hasn’t been updated since 2007, must identify existing development and planned land uses for each area of the town. Making recommendations for what to do about the zoning inconsistencies will be an important part of the update.

While most of the guidelines regarding property development that existed when the original Comprehensive Plan was drafted in 2007 are the same today, much of the zoning that has taken place since then hasn’t complied with them. For example, Deller said, some areas originally zoned to be low density have been developed in subsequent years as if they were medium-density zones.

“When the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2007, it called for certain zoning designations across the town,” Deller said. “When the council adopt-



Town Planner Thomas Deller, center, shows Johnston Planning Board members a series of land-use maps during a meeting on Tuesday. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monastesse*

● **ZONING** to page 6

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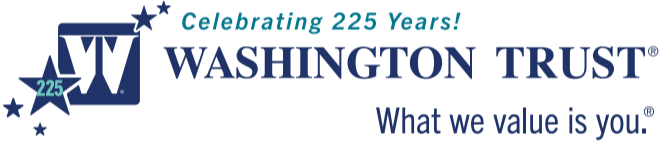


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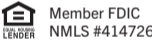
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## Coffee and a check

The Coffee Grinder in Gov. Francis Shopping Plaza in Warwick was the spot where State Sen. Matthew LaMountain, right, met John Howell, president of the RI Academic Decathlon to present a \$5,000 legislative grant for the organization that has conducted a statewide academic decathlon for the past 42 years. The state, corporate supporters, and individual donors make the program aimed at promoting and recognizing academic achievement possible. Warwick's three high schools, Cranston's two high schools, and Johnston Senior High School fielded teams in the competition held March 2 at Bryant University. The Wheeler School won the state event and went on to the nationals held in May in Des Moines, Iowa. Photo courtesy of Jeff Taylor

## Police Log

### DRUG POSSESSION

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, Patrolman Matthew Lonardo observed a black Kia exiting the parking lot of the Ocean State Job Lob at 1493 Hartford Ave without activating a turn signal. While the vehicle initially continued to travel after an attempted motor vehicle stop, Patrolman Lonardo eventually made contact with the driver.

Upon speaking with the driver of the vehicle and its passenger, Lonardo observed both exhibiting signs of nervousness. Based on previous experience with the individuals and their current behavior, Patrolman Lonardo asked if there were narcotics present in the vehicle. After initially stating there were none, the driver commented that a friend who had used the car previously had left a bag of cocaine in the vehicle.

Upon conducting a search, Patrolman Lonardo discovered a bag of a white powdery substance in the vehicle which appeared to be cocaine. The substance, once tested at Johnston Police Headquarters, yielded positive results for fentanyl. The driver of the vehicle was charged with Possession of Schedule I-V (Under 10 Grams).

### DUI

On Sunday, May 25 at roughly 11 a.m., Patrolman Zachary Morin responded with two other law enforcement agents to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Greenville Avenue and the RT. 295S on-ramp. At the scene, Patrolman Morin spoke with the operator of a 2016 Chevrolet Express whose car had sustained heavy front end damage and front air bag deployment. During the interaction, he noticed the scent of alcohol on the operator's breath; the operator denied any alcohol consumption.

After conducting a field sobriety test, Patrolman Morin observed signs of intoxication in the suspect. A witness to the accident stated that the operator's vehicle had been driving erratically, swerving over both the double yellow lines and white line as well as braking and accelerating frequently. The suspect was placed under arrest for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Though unable to sign a consent form, the suspect verbally agreed to submit to a chemical test of blood, which was performed. The suspect was issued a third district court summons to appear for DUI Liquor and/or Drug - BAC Unknown - First Offense.

Say you saw it in the

# Johnston SunRise

# KIDS COUNT warns of federal cuts to family support programs

By **TARA MONASTESSE**  
Beacon Media Contributor

The 2025 KIDS COUNT Factbook, released on May 5, has identified affordable access to housing, education, health care and nutrition as continued top priorities when it comes to supporting children and families in Rhode Island.

What’s uncertain, however, is whether the federal funding needed to sustain key programs for children and families in the state will remain intact.

KIDS COUNT, a nonprofit children’s advocacy group, publishes the Factbook annually to create a statistical portrait of how children across Rhode Island are performing. It looks at several key areas: family and community, economic well-being, health, safety, and education. The 2025 Factbook also introduced three new indicators to track child wellness: family structure, maternal health and infant health.

The 2025 Factbook was officially released at a special breakfast held May 5 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. The large meeting room was packed with more than 450 attendees that included dignitaries and high-ranking, state, local and federal officials. Those in attendance included mem-

bers of Rhode Island’s Congressional delegation as well as members of the General Assembly and various community leaders.

The organization stressed that many federal programs that have traditionally supported children and low-income families in the state are at now at risk. One such program is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides monthly benefits to low-income families in order to purchase food at retail stores and some farmers markets.

According to the Factbook, 44,951 of children under age 18 across Rhode Island received SNAP benefits as of October 2024. That number includes more than 5,000 children across Johnston, Warwick, and Cranston.

“We’ve been hearing a lot about an increase in hunger in Rhode Island,” Stephanie Geller, deputy director for KIDS COUNT. “The Rhode Island Community Food Bank has noted enormous increases in the number of people coming to food pantries because they can’t afford food. So, we know that that’s an area... we’re worried about.”

Geller, a longtime Cranston resident, also mentioned several early childhood education programs in the local area that could



Patricia Silva of FutureGood sic was the keynote speaker at Monday’s breakfast for the release of the annual KIDS COUNT report on the well being of the state’s youth. *Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti*

be affected if federal funding were cut — perhaps most crucially providers of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. For 60 years, Head Start has provided comprehensive services to low-income children, and their families. The services range from hands-on learning programs for the youngsters to childcare, health care, nutritional support, and more for the for families.

The 2025 Factbook reports that, as of October 2024, Early Head Start programs in Rhode Island supported 540 infants and 13 pregnant women. Head Start program enrolled 1,073 children with an additional 365 children dually enrolled in Head Start and RI Pre-K programs.

While the initial White House budget request for FY2026 released on May 2 does not mention Head Start, an earlier draft of the budget suggested eliminating funding for the program. Head Start programs across the country have already been impeded by layoffs of federal employees who support the programs.

“Congress is the one who makes the decisions about the budget, so we have to see what Congress passes,” Geller said. “But those have also been looking fairly ominous.”

The 2025 Factbook’s new indicators have also highlighted how crucial federal programs have been to supporting Rhode Island families in recent years. Under the

new “Maternal Health” indicator, the Factbook notes that women who received health coverage through RIte Care, the state’s Medicaid-managed aid program, were much less likely to have a delayed start to their prenatal care than women who are uninsured. From 2019-2023, delayed prenatal care affected 448 women in Warwick, 211 in Johnston, and 588 in Cranston.

Housing is another area where the loss of federal funds could impact Rhode Island families. Federal funding has been used extensively by the state to support affordable housing efforts; from FY2022 to FY2024, the Factbook reports, the state used \$332.2 million in federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide housing. With these funds now ending, funding sources such as housing bonds will have to be used to fill the gap. The loss of funding comes at the time where housing expenses in Rhode Island have risen, with the cost of rent in the state increasing by 17% from 2020 to 2024, according to KIDS COUNT.

In its executive summary, the organization stresses the need to continue programs the serve the state’s children and their families: “We must ensure that families will be able to access the programs that help them thrive.”

—With reports from Barbara Polichetti



2025 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

The read the latest factbook from Kids Count visit [www.rikidscount.org](http://www.rikidscount.org). Cover art courtesy of 2025 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook, and Greenwood Associates. Illustrations by Gail Greenwood.

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Happy Birthday to the Signore triplets pictured here with their dad. From left to right — John, John Signore Sr., Paul and Diane. Submitted photo by the Johnston Senior Center

# Triple the fun

There is an old saying, everything is better times three. This week the Johnston Senior Center shines on three members, the Signore triplets, who celebrated their birthday here at the Johnston Senior Center. John, certainly the most vocal of the siblings, said they wanted to celebrate with their senior center family and they provided a cake large enough for everyone to enjoy. John and Paul are regulars here at JSC, enjoying cards, lunch, bocce, and bingo. Diane enjoys lunch and looks forward to the Scrabble league. Like many others they enjoy trips and making new friends here at the JSC, which they say is such a welcoming place. It is so rewarding that we can be a special place in the lives of so many. We wish the “triplets” many more great experiences here at the JSC.



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Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angélica Infante-Green, left, with some of the local high school seniors who recently completed the New England Institute of Technology's Early College Program to earn college credit during their last year of high school. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monastesse*

# Early college credit program grows at NEIT

By TARA MONASTESSE  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Forty-five students were honored last week in a completion ceremony for the New England Institute of Technology's Early College Program – a group more than three times larger than the inaugural program's 12 students last year.

The program allows high school seniors to earn college credit while completing their final year of high school with a focus on career readiness. This year's graduating cohort was so large that the completion ceremony had to be split into two sessions to accommodate each student and their family members, a further testament to the program's growth.

"Last year, you made a bold commitment to leave the familiar hallways of your high school and embark on a unique opportunity to complete your first year of college while finishing your senior year of high school," Amy Grzybowski, vice president of workforce development and community relations at NEIT, told students at the ceremony on Thursday, May 29.

"You built a community here at New England Tech, one that you will always be part of, said Grzybowski. "And it's truly been a privilege to have you here on our campus."

Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angélica Infante-Green praised the students for challenging themselves by participating in the program.

"Our state can only be as great as it is and continue to grow because of you, your leadership, your dedication and your focus," Infante-Green said. "Each and every one of you has a bright future ... you began to lay that path within this program."

Douglas Sherman, NEIT's senior vice president and

provost, himself a graduate of Cranston High School West and a first-generation college student, also commended the students.

"We're here to celebrate your ambition," he said. "We're here to celebrate your resilience. And we're here to celebrate this outstanding accomplishment. You should all be very proud."

The program's graduating seniors said their time at NEIT taught them how to handle the rigors of a college education.

"It was hard being a high school student here, because everyone else in my class was grown," Abby Khounvichith, a graduating senior at Pilgrim High School, said in an interview. "I made some good friends here ... they've helped me with my classes, my work, and they helped me get through this."

Khounvichith said she plans to complete a Licensed Practical Nurse certificate at NEIT.

"It really gave me some good experience in getting my stuff together," Alexandra Hart, a graduating senior at Cranston High School West, said in an interview. She said that the program helped her with "getting on top of deadlines and due dates and really giving me an experience that is similar to the one I'll hopefully experience in the workforce." Hart, whose studies focused on software engineering and web development, will continue her education at NEIT.

Across this year's entire cohort, students earned more than 2,300 college credits. Participants hailed from 18 high schools across Rhode Island and one located in Connecticut, with 80% planning to continue their studies in post-secondary education. Other students plan to enter the workforce, completing an apprenticeship or enlisting in the military. The program will induct a third cohort of high school seniors to pursue studies at NEIT for the coming academic year.

## Amore recognizes student achievement

Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore recently honored 130 high school students from across the state who have earned 2025 Civic Leadership Awards. The award is given annually to high school students who have made outstanding contributions to their schools and communities over the past year.

"Every year, it's a great honor to celebrate students who are committed to public service and civic

engagement," Amore said during a ceremony at the State House. "These young civic leaders deserve recognition for their accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom, as well as their efforts to make their communities a better place."

Schools from around Rhode Island nominated students who have excelled in areas such as public service, leadership, and academic

achievement.

Students from the area who were honored are:

**Bishop Hendricken High School**  
Shane Ciunci  
Lincoln Tiernan

**Johnston Senior High School**  
Olivia Forgetta  
Bennett McClish

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# Senate passes LaMountain bills to increase protections on college savings plans, ABLE accounts

The Senate approved two bills on May 22 introduced by Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) that would protect college savings plans and savings accounts for disabled Rhode Islanders. Both bills were submitted by Senator LaMountain on behalf of General Treasurer James A. Di-ossa.

The first bill (2025-S 0730) would protect tuition savings plans from judicial attachment irrespective of the state in which the account was opened.

“Saving for college is one of the most important things we do as parents,” said Senator LaMountain. “While Rhode Island law currently protects tuition savings programs from attachment by creditors, it only applies to accounts that were opened in Rhode Island through the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. This legislation extends that same protection to tuition savings accounts opened in other states.”

The second bill (2025-S 0731)



Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain

would prohibit the state from seeking repayment for expenditures made on behalf of disabled Rhode Islanders from an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) ac-

count upon their death.

“ABLE accounts have been a successful way for individuals with disabilities to save for the future without having an impact on their eligibility for federal or state benefit programs,” said Senator LaMountain. “Many expenses not paid for through Medicaid, such as medical equipment or housing modifications, are purchased through these accounts. This bill would prevent state agencies from seeking reimbursement for those expenditures after the individual’s death. Any money saved through an ABLE account would remain with the heirs of a designated beneficiary rather than return to the state.”

Both measures now move to the House of Representatives where Rep. Matthew S. Dawson (D- Dist. 65, East Providence) has introduced the tuition savings bill (2025-H 5645) and Rep. Terri Cortvriend (D-Dist. 72, Portsmouth, Middletown) has introduced the ABLE account bill (2025-H 5973).

CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE CORNER

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Marsh plant  
6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")  
10. Fogginess  
14. Home to Fools' Day  
15. Absence of the sense of pain  
17. Popular November holiday  
19. Consume food  
20. Buddy  
21. Long-haired goat-antelope  
22. Japanese honorific  
23. Actor Malek  
24. One point south of southeast  
26. Illegal acts  
29. As fast as can be done  
31. Prevents harm to young  
32. Exclamation of satisfaction  
34. African nation  
35. Slow-moving animal  
37. Oh, goodness!

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy  
2. European health advocate  
3. Expression of annoyance  
4. Strong liquor  
5. Large red deer  
6. Holder of less common religious beliefs  
7. West Indian shrub  
8. Family of proteins  
9. Wealthy, influential business leader  
10. Low spirits  
11. Approves food  
12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman  
13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics  
16. Expressed in pithy maxims  
18. Relaxing spaces  
22. The NFL's big game  
23. Proof of payment (abbr.)  
24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers  
25. Indicates near  
27. Minneapolis suburb  
28. Herring-like fish  
29. Doctors' group  
30. Pouches  
31. Bread dipping in sauce  
33. Commercials  
35. A reminder of past events  
36. Affected by injury  
37. Geological time  
39. Stationary part of a motor  
42. Brings together  
43. Of sound mind  
44. Personal computer  
46. Without (French)  
47. A bank might give you one  
48. Agricultural testing organization  
49. A small island  
50. Type of gene  
51. Murres  
52. Card game  
53. A measure of human health  
54. Australian airline (abbr.)  
55. One point south of due west  
56. Affirmative

## BUDGET from page 1

“maintaining the services taxpayers are accustomed to.”

Polisena said that the median assessed value for a single-family home in Johnston is about \$347,000.

Under the new tax rate, owners of properties at that value will see their annual tax bills increase by about \$110 next year, or \$27 per quarter.

The mayor noted that some senior citizens will see their tax bills go down as the town continues with its three-year implementation of a new senior tax discount that gives homeowners over the age of 65, a reduction in their tax bills. It varies from the town’s prior method of giving seniors a reduction on their properties’ assessed value, not their tax bill.

Polisena explained that under the new plan, instituted by his administration, senior citizens received a flat-rate discount of \$800 off their tax bills last year, and it will be \$900 this year. The following year, seniors will receive a \$1,000 discount, he said.

According to minutes from the council meeting posted on the Secretary of

Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. discusses the town budget during a SunRise interview. Beacon Media photo by Barbara Polichetti

State’s website, the council voted 3 to 1 to approve Polisena’s budget, with District 5 Councilman Robert J. Civetti dissenting.

Civetti had stated that he had an issue with the funding for the School Department and had proposed amending the budget to give the schools a one-time transfer of \$3.7 million from the town’s reserve fund, according to the meeting minutes. District 1 Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli was not present.

It’s too soon to know exactly what impact the new

town budget will have on the school system. The budget as approved by the council provides \$300,000 less in local funding than was requested by the school district but is predicated on the assumption that Johnston schools will receive a \$1.3-million increase in state aid in Fiscal 2026.

The state budget has not been finalized by the General Assembly, so the definitive figure is not yet known.

After the council approved the new budget, School Supt. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said that cuts may be necessary. But he credited Polisena’s administration for continuing to work to be fair with the schools. Polisena has provided increases in local funding for education in recent years, DiLullo said, after the district had gone several years in a row without any increase in the town appropriation for schools.

In addition to the annual budget, the town and the School Department must still continue working with the state Auditor General’s Office to come up with a remediation plan to address a cumulative school budget deficit from years past.

## ZONING from page 1

ed the zoning ordinance, they didn’t follow those designations. So we have a lot of inconsistencies in our zoning rules.”

Johnston’s zoning stipulations aren’t new; in fact, they’ve been around for decades. The problem, according to Planning Board Chair Joseph Lembo, is that “nobody paid attention to them.”

“It is a 20, 30-year problem,” he said, stating that the board had learned that the situation “wasn’t as buttoned-up as we thought it was.” Besides addressing the zoning issues, Lembo said finding a solution to stormwater management as one of the board’s top priorities when designing the next Comprehensive Plan.

Other considerations include determining how different areas of the town should be zoned for development based on density, as well as how the town’s commercial

strips should be laid out.

Mike Lusi, a lifelong Johnston resident who attended the meeting, said he hopes leaders will work on “incorporating open space into all areas of the town.”

Lusi, who lives in the town’s Thornton neighborhood, said he believes houses are “encroaching” on areas of the community previously available for outdoor recreation.

Deller said he hopes community members will show up to meetings to weigh in as town officials discuss the Comprehensive Plan and how to address conundrums like zoning inconsistencies. He anticipates being able to hold public forums for discussing any potential changes by September.

The Johnston Planning Board meets at the Johnston Senior Center on the first Tuesday of every month, with meetings, open to the public, starting at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 1.

Cherry Hill  
Manor

Nursing and Rehab  
Center

2 Cherry Hill Road • Johnston, RI • (401) 231-3102

# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Not all roads lead to college

For too long, the pathway from graduating high school to starting a good career has been filled with an overabundance of complexity, and more than a little elitism. For multiple generations, the prevailing thought (at least one projected through popular media) was that “successful” kids went to college before entering the workforce. Everyone else – the less academically achieving, the trouble-makers, the ones with “less potential” – they would forgo college to immediately begin laboring in the lesser category of jobs known only as “the trades.”

For your child to become a plumber, a contractor, a pipefitter, a welder, et cetera, was like admitting they couldn’t be “more,” that they lacked ambition or any other number of derogatory assumptions based on the reality that they didn’t wind up sitting in an office somewhere doing white-collar work.

It was not until a generation of kids who went through college only to find themselves in a similar place as they were before college – unemployed, uncertain what their true passion was, what they could do with their new, ludicrously expensive degree – or competing for a finite number of jobs in brutally competitive fields – that we started to realize the error in this generalized way of thinking.

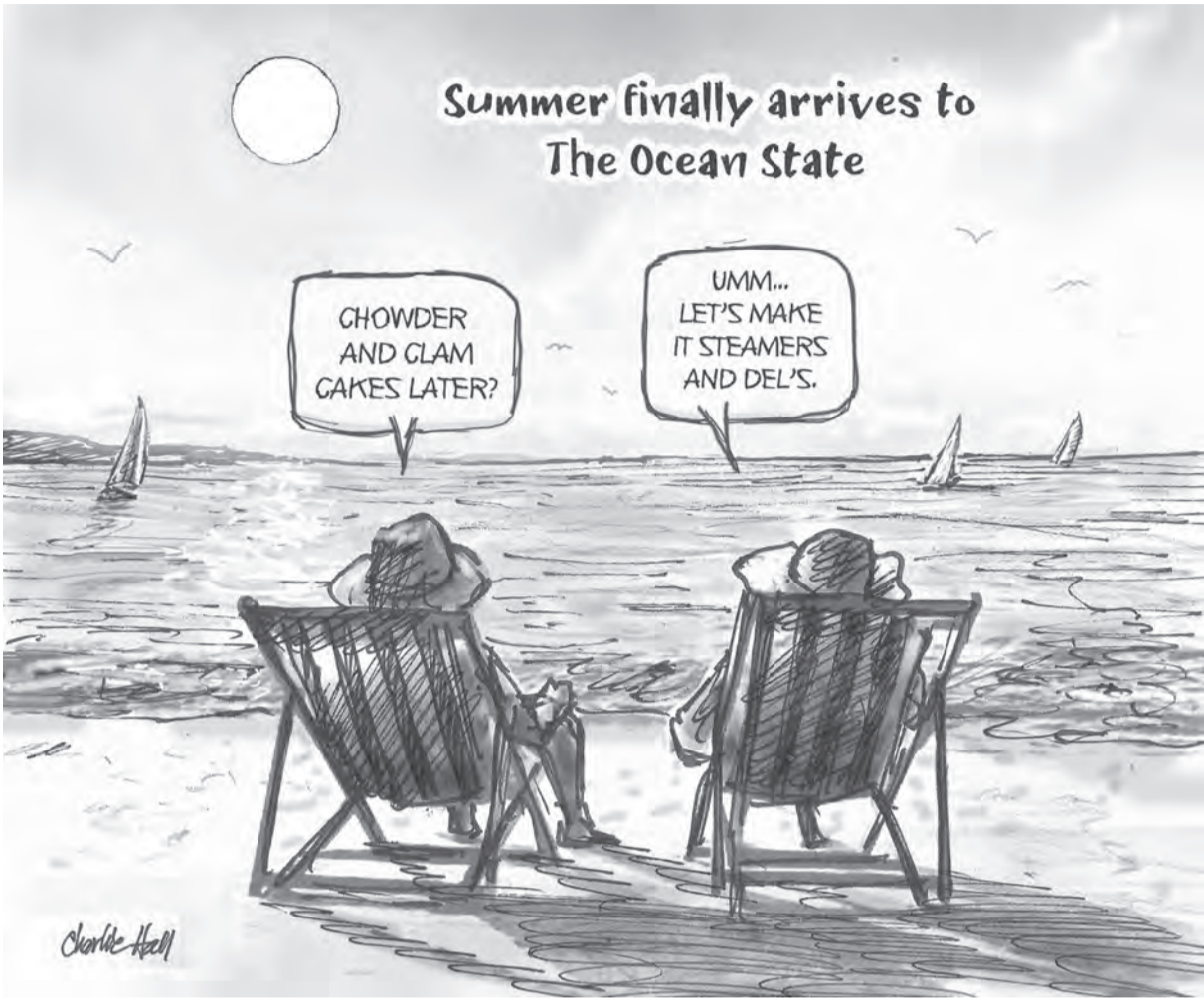
Thankfully, Rhode Island has been atoning for this monumental mistake at an advancing rate for the past decade. Hundreds of career and technical education (CTE) programs have started up in schools all throughout the state, giving kids the opportunity to explore dozens of different possible career pathways that lead directly to certifications, apprenticeships, or directly into jobs with tangible upward mobility immediately upon graduating.

As we covered in a recent story where more than 200 recent high school graduates were welcomed into the professional world by state officials and executives from General Dynamics and Electric Boat, there already exists one example in Rhode Island where an industry giant actually relies on this pool of talent coming from our high schools to fill their talent rosters.

We shouldn’t rest on the laurels of this success. While Electric Boat is a great place to land for any student who enjoys industrial trades, and while it helps bolster our national defense at a time of growing international uncertainty, we can’t help but wonder why there aren’t more “Electric Boat-type” graduating ceremonies in the state.

Imagine having five more partners with the same level of commitment. Imagine if cybersecurity, green energy and other forms of advanced manufacturing all had similar pipelines ready for young people. What kind of economy could we build then?

State leaders should be proud of the connection forged between high schools and Electric Boat, but they should also be eager to find the next Electric Boats and bring them to Rhode Island – companies that have a place for eager, hard-working and intelligent Rhode Islanders to begin working directly after graduation. We would all benefit from those opportunities.



LETTERS

### Let’s boost TCI’s benefit to caregivers

To the Editor:

In 2008, Andrew was born five weeks early, and instead of being able to take enough leave from work, I had to resign my position as a special education teacher. Over the course of his childhood, I had to take numerous days of unpaid leave due to illness, no nursing coverage and hospitalizations.

Fast forward to 2022. We go on our first vacation as a family of five to New Hampshire. The last day there, unbeknownst to me, an infection was making its way through Andrew’s bloodstream. Three days later, while home, I began to get really worried as Andrew was now to the point of being lethargic.

We arrived at the hospital by ambulance and were taken almost immediately to the critical-care room

where we learned that Andrew had sepsis. The trauma of this 30-day hospital pediatric ICU stay is something that my family and I will be working through for a long time. Especially considering we were back at the hospital for a 25-day stay just 10 months later.

As a mother of three, it is very difficult to save up my paid time off due to sickness, doctor’s appointments, school events and just everyday life. Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) – Rhode Island’s paid family leave program – has been an invaluable resource for me since its inception.

I am fortunate enough to live in a household with two working parents and a great family support system, so taking TCI at the current rate may be challenging, but we are able to make our budget stretch and

work, even if we have to dip into what little savings we have.

I am a staunch advocate of increasing the percentage rate of what TCI will pay caregivers because it is so hard to meet the demands of today based on the needs of children and families in this economy. Family is so important and vital to good mental health that when you have to stress about working versus ensuring that your loved one is safe, healthy and well cared for, everyone suffers.

As we near the end of this year’s legislative session, I encourage others who have experienced the benefits of TCI to connect with policymakers and move the needle forward for TCI in Rhode Island.

Tara Hayes  
Warwick

### Banks have armed guards; why not schools?

To the Editor:

It often takes a good person with a gun to take out a bad person with a gun. That simple fact is lost on gun

control advocate Emily M. Howe. (“Make weapons of war illegal in Rhode Island,” May 29.)

In her letter, Mrs. Howe promotes legislation that would keep “weapons of war out of civilian hands.” But such measures would not keep those weapons out of the hands of violent criminals. They already have them and will keep them regardless of what laws are passed.

That’s because the bad guys don’t obey the laws. This legislation would disarm only law abiding citizens who do. Gun-control laws render good people defenseless.

As for preventing mass school shootings, an awful phenomenon that was inconceivable when I was in school, I think placing armed resource officers in the schools would act as the best deterrent.

Psychopathic killers are evil, but they are not stupid. They generally do not choose targets where there is a chance someone will shoot back. That’s why designated gun-free zones have been their preferred target.

We have armed guards stationed at banks to guard our money. Don’t our schoolchildren merit the same kind of protection?

A. H. Liddle  
Warwick

# JohnstonSunRise

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## What’s on your mind?

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

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

# Searching for balance in RI's short-term rentals

By Rep. LAUREN H. CARSON

For the last year and a half, a House commission I have led has studied the economic and social effects of the short-term rental industry in Rhode Island. We have met with state and municipal leaders who grapple with tax, housing and safety issues, leaders in the tourism and hospitality industries and property owners who list rooms or homes on short-term rental platforms.

We have collected written and oral testimony from more than 200 members of the public, with opinions on virtually every facet of the industry, including state and municipal regulation of it, its effects on the housing market and neighborhoods and its opportunities for property owners.

Over the course of our work, the commission has identified a lack of coordination between the state's registration system for short-term rental properties and the 17 separate registration systems operated by municipalities around the state, as

well as a lack of transparency in the way short-term rental platforms remit the hotel, sales and municipal taxes they collect and submit on behalf of property owners. The commission has also identified a number of safety concerns, such as how to ensure individual adherence to fire and building codes.

One of the issues that our commission has encountered over the course of studying the short-term rental industry in Rhode Island is the matter of jurisdiction – whether the state, municipalities or both can or should be in charge of regulation.

That issue is at the heart of three lawsuits currently pending in state courts challenging the legality of ordinances passed in Newport, Narragansett and Exeter to regulate and ensure the safety of short-term rentals. The courts have ruled in favor of the municipalities in the Exeter and Newport cases, which are being appealed; Narragansett's ordinances have been stayed since October while a ruling is awaited in that case.

I am eager to address this matter legis-

latively so that we have robust protections that ensure the safety of renters, property owners, neighborhoods and our housing supply, as well as systems that ensure the proper, equitable collection and distribution of tax revenue generated by this industry.

However, the prudent action is to see how these cases are decided by the courts before we forge ahead with new legislation. It's unfortunate, since there are pressing public safety concerns and effects on our dire housing crisis, but we need to create a lasting, well-crafted path forward with this industry, and it does us no good to pass a law that could well face its own legal challenge within months.

As someone who has worked on legislative efforts related to short-term rentals for the entire decade I've spent in the House, and a representative of heavily affected Newport, I am disappointed that we cannot feasibly address this issue legislatively before the current legislative session ends in the coming weeks. However, I am hopeful that our commission

will be able to move quickly once these cases are resolved, which is likely to happen by fall. It's my intention that we will then issue our report and that I will then propose legislation informed by it.

I am very grateful to all the members of our commission for their effort and dedication throughout this process, and to the 200+ members of the public who have contributed their testimony. I remain determined to develop solutions that enable Rhode Islanders to generate income through the short-term rental industry while also protecting public safety, residential neighborhoods, economic equity and the housing supply Rhode Islanders desperately need, and I am hopeful this summer brings a successful tourism season to Newport and the whole state.

*Rep. Lauren H. Carson (D-Dist. 75, Newport) is chairwoman of the Special Legislative Commission to Review and Provide Recommendations for Policies that Deal with Numerous Economic and Social Short-Term Rental Issues.*

# The power of natural mentorship, and how we can do more

By RHONDA LAPHAM

May is a time of change and growth. Students are wrapping up the school year, families are adjusting to new routines and many of us are looking ahead to summer. It's also Mental Health Awareness Month, which reminds us of the importance of connection and belonging in a young person's life. As a board member at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island and someone who has benefited deeply from mentorship, I know how powerful these relationships can be.

Some of the most influential people in my life weren't assigned mentors – they were teachers, coaches, neighbors and colleagues who naturally stepped into that role. I learned so much from these individuals – traits and skills that have made me the person that I am today. I learned leadership, empathy, compassion and the desire

to help make a difference. They helped shape my values, guided me through tough times and celebrated my growth. These "natural mentors" are all around us, and often they don't realize the impact they're having.

At BBBSRI, they work to support and strengthen these natural mentorships. They know that young people thrive when they feel seen, supported and connected – and that's exactly what mentoring does. In fact, 100% of mentees in BBBSRI programs advanced to the next grade last year. Parents also reported major improvements in mental health (91%), increased self-confidence (86%), and avoidance of the juvenile justice system (97%). And every single mentor said the experience was positive for them, too.

We also know from national data that mentored youth are 20% more likely to attend college than their non-mentored peers. These relationships matter.

If you or your child are in a natural mentoring situation – maybe there's a coach, family friend or neighbor already playing that role – I encourage you to consider enrolling formally with BBBSRI. Their programs enhance and support those existing relationships by providing professional case management, access to free or low-cost activities and opportunities for scholarships, financial assistance, workforce development and more.

Mentorship doesn't have to start from scratch, but with the right support, it can go even further. Let's help our youth succeed – together. If you'd like more info about BBBSRI, visit BigsRI.org.

*Rhonda Lapham is market president of iHeartMedia Providence and a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island.*

# Beneath us, a diabolical enemy of the people

By MIKE LEVESQUE

There is a diabolical enemy that exists in plain

## Legal Notices

Public Auction  
Legal Notice

TO: Jose Cruz 130 Sumter St, Providence RI, A-N-R Auto 1165 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI. A public auction will be held at 100 South St, Johnston RI on June 14, 2025 at 9:00 am. The vehicle a 2012 GMC 2GKFLVEK6C6249606 belonging to the above. The auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

6/5/25

sight in the state of Rhode Island.

It saps the lifeblood out of your existence, causes pain and emotional distress, turns quiet days and nights into horror shows, and if you're lucky, rips your bank account into only marginal chaos.

I'm talking, of course, about potholes.

No, let me qualify.

I'm talking about potholes, depressed manhole covers and drainage grates, ripped up roads with no warnings, and "repaired" roads after the installment of new water mains or

sewer lines that are anything but "repaired."

Only in Rhode Island do you have to look down at the road ahead of you, rather than look at oncoming cars. And look at the scenery at your peril.

If you do choose to look at cars or buildings, you have a great chance of hearing that earth-shattering sound of a front axle bending to a hole the size of Block Island.

We are a state that has passed the buck for so long on upkeep and repairs that we sometimes have to do the sign of the cross before we cross a bridge.

And in one case, and you know what I'm referring to, we have to close our eyes when we see a

truck coming in the adjacent lane because we just know that in that section of the Washington Bridge, the lanes are so tight that we can shake the hand of the passenger in the next lane.

It doesn't have to be this way.

It's got nothing to do with politics.

It's just people with the will to get things done for a change.

We have to demand that our elected officials get off their high horse and smell the pavement (maybe the problem is that they are still riding horses).

Rhode Island is a beautiful state.

People love looking at the unique scenery when

passing through.

That is until they get a flat tire or broken axle from a manhole cover that is six inches below the surface of the highway, or a pothole that is humongous.

When budget time comes rolling around, I hope that our elected officials, both statewide and in our cities and towns, take this matter into account. Maybe redirect some of the unspent funds on road plowing as our recent winters have been relatively free of significant snow events.

God only knows that with the new administration in Washington, D.C., there is a lot of heavy lifting that our federal delega-


tion must do to get needed federal funds.

And it doesn't help that they are constantly suing and blasting the very people to whom they have to beg for more federal funds.

I think Buddy Cianci might have said it best: "Be careful, because the toe that you are stepping on today is connected to the a-- that you might have to kiss tomorrow."

Let's hope some good folks develop a plan to rectify this situation.

*A Warwick resident and former West Warwick mayor, Mike Levesque is the author of "Meeting with Mike," a column profiling community members appearing in this paper.*



## Legal Notice

### Town of Johnston

### Adopted Ordinances

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

**Ordinance 2025-5**

An Ordinance appropriating \$137,900,675 for the support and adoption of the town governmental budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, adopting the budget, including tax levy, personnel classification and salary plan for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council  
Robert V. Russo  
President

Attest:  
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.  
Town Clerk

6/4/25

## SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

# Delegation, library patrons rally against Trump cuts

By ROSEGALIE CINEUS  
Beacon Media Staff Writer

A budgetary item in President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget may spell the end for public libraries in the country. Here in Rhode Island, they are fighting back.

The budget proposes to discontinue funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

According to a press release from Senator Jack Reed’s office, in Rhode Island these cuts would eliminate about 45% from the budget of Rhode Island’s state library agency, the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS). That’s about \$1.4 million in grants offered by IMLS to OLIS, which provides support and services to the libraries.

A rally held at the central location of the Cranston Public Library last Thursday highlighted the importance of public libraries with Rhode Island’s congressional delegation and local officials advocating against the proposed cuts.

Reed and fellow Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI, and Representatives Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo, D-RI, joined Rhode Island Chief of Library Services Karen Mellor and Director of Cranston Public

Library Ed Garcia to speak about the issues facing these community resources.

Reed said libraries are among the nation’s best institutions, where everyone is welcome to connect to an entire world of information.

Amo recalled when he would use the Pawtucket Public Library as a young student. He said the library helped change his life.

From using the library’s internet when he had none at home to asking the research librarian for help to look up facts about history and government, Amo said those experiences are part of the magic that happens at libraries.

“That magic just doesn’t happen accidentally,” Amo said. “It’s invested in, it’s prioritized.”

If IMLS is cut, many of the services libraries provide would be affected. One of them is interlibrary loans.

Interlibrary loans are a service that allows a library’s patrons to access materials beyond their local library’s collection by borrowing them from other libraries. Last year, the Cranston Public Library requested 150 books from outside of Rhode Island, Garcia said.

According to the Cranston Public Library 2024 Impact Re-



Elected officials, from left, Representatives Gabe Amo and Seth Magaziner, state Sen. Hanna Gallo, Cranston Public Library Director Ed Garcia, Senator Jack Reed, Rhode Island Chief of Library Services Karen Mellor and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse show support for Rhode Island’s libraries after the rally. *Beacon Media photos by Rosegalie Cineus*

port, the library provided more than 63,000 interlibrary loans to other libraries, and it received more than 94,000 interlibrary loans from other libraries.

According to an executive summary published by the state’s Office of Library & Information Services, last year the Cranston Public Library and the Warwick Public Library had the second- and third-highest volume of incoming interlibrary loans in the state, respectively. The Warwick Public Library received more than 63,000 interlibrary loans in 2024 and provided more than 35,000 to other libraries in the state.

The Marian J. Mohr Library, which serves Johnston, received over 10,000 interlibrary loans in 2024 and also provided over 10,000 loans to other libraries. Director Jon Anderson estimates that roughly 20,000 visitors came to the Mohr library last year, and that the library had over 5,000 library card holders and roughly 50,000 physical materials in circulation.

Other resources, such as the summer reading program, e-book and audiobook lending,

statewide delivery and the Talking Books Library program, which helps lend special reading materials to the blind or physically handicapped who are unable to read standard print materials, would also be affected by these cuts.

Warwick Public Library Director Aaron J. Coutu-Jones says that the most important thing the government can do is to provide services for everybody and taking that type of option away is ineffective.

According to Mellor, more than 400,000 Rhode Islanders have library card, but many more without cards use the libraries as community resources.

“It’s these agencies that create an educated public; they make us human,” Mellor said.

In 2024, Cranston Public Library branches had over 235,000 library visits. With about 34,000 library card holders, the system saw a total physical circulation of more than 433,000.

The Warwick Public Library recorded 216,661 visitors across its four branches in its 2023-24 annual report. Among its 25,112

library card holders, the total physical circulation in the system came to more than 367,000 materials.

“When we rally for libraries, we rally for the heart of our communities – our libraries, our museums, our educators and our future,” said Garcia in the press release.

With one fight delayed for now, Mellor says the challenge is now the budgetary elimination of IMLS. In March, Trump signed an executive order that demanded the closing of IMLS, along with several other government agencies.

Rhode Island fought the executive order, with Attorney General Peter Neronha filing a lawsuit in Providence to join 20 other state attorneys general, according to Garcia. A federal court in Providence granted a preliminary injunction on the executive order, essentially leaving it stalled.

“President Trump’s plan to cut funding for Rhode Island libraries and museums to pay for tax breaks for billionaires is cruel and shortsighted, and we are determined to fight back,” Magaziner said.



Members of the public came out in support of the rally to save libraries and oppose President Donald Trump’s cuts to the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## SunRise Scoops

**Donation Drive for Central High School Alumni Association**

The Central High School Alumni Association of Providence will be holding a donation drive on June 7 at Central High School, 70 Fricker St., Providence, RI from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. collecting textiles, small household appliances and books (not textbooks or encyclopedias) to donate to Savers to raise money for the organization. Clean out your closets for a good cause! If you are not able to drop off your items within the listed time frame, call 401-595-8012 to arrange a pickup.

**Italian Family Dinner**

Join Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 54 Cedar Swamp Rd. Smithfield, R.I. for an Italian dinner on Saturday, June 7 at 6:00 p.m. There will be spaghetti & meatballs, chicken parmesan, gluten-free vegetable lasagna, Italian salad, & garlic bread. There will be homemade strawberry shortcake for dessert. Admission \$15 for adults, \$8 for 12 & under, 5 & under Free. Large family \$45.

Hope to see you there!

**Gaspee Days Parade Parking**

\$5! Safe, off-street Parade parking June 14 at Asbury UMC. 1 BLOCK FROM PARADE ROUTE! 550 Fair Street on the corner of Ann Mary Brown 9a-12:30p. Water for sale & Bathrooms open until 12P (Questions- Andrea 401-207-8017)

**RISPCA Summer Learning Series**

Rhode Island SPCA kicks off their Summer Learning Series on Wednesday, June 18. Please join us for a workshop with **Missing Dogs Massachusetts** to learn what to do if you lose your dog or if you find one! This free event starts at 6pm. Registration is required. For information: [www.rispc.org](http://www.rispc.org).

**Outdoor Summer Concert at Moosup Valley Church**

The Moosup Valley Church summer concert will be held on Saturday, June 21

from 6-8 p.m. on the outdoor stage (weather permitting, otherwise inside) at the beautiful, historic church at 81 Moosup Valley Rd., Foster. The concert will feature singer/songwriters Joanne Lurgio and Michelle Saylor. Light refreshments are provided and, as always, a hat will be passed to show appreciation to the performers. All proceeds benefit the musicians. Come out and support live, local music! For more info, contact Laurie @401-623-0320. Weather permitting, please feel free to bring a chair(s) and a picnic basket of your favorite goodies. Additional upcoming concerts include Aug. 23: Mary Ann Rossoni, Sept. 20 (rain date Sept. 21): Concert in the Valley, Nov. 15: Allison Rose & Chris Knott, Dec. 6: Atwater & Donnelly.

**Eating with the Seasons with Farm Fresh RI**

Join Farm Fresh RI at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library on Saturday, June 25 at 6 p.m. for a lesson on how eating with the seasons can benefit your

budget. Learn which produce is in season in Rhode Island and how to maximize your produce purchases with veggie substitutions.

**Johnston High School Reunion Classes 1965 and 1966**

Johnston High School will hold its class reunion for the classes of 1965 and 1966 on Sunday, August 24, at The Dance Floor, 332 Atwood Avenue, Cranston, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Food, beer, wine and entertainment is included. No cash bar. \$55.00 pp. Dress is smart-casual. Checks made payable to Dorothy (Rapone) Whelan, 6 Celebration Way, Johnston, RI 02919. Please include your maiden name and graduation year on your check. Please spread the word and inform classmates you know who may not have access to this information. For information/questions contact: Dottie (Rapone) Whelan: 401-714-7625 or [dottiewhelan@gmail.com](mailto:dottiewhelan@gmail.com) or Nadine (Gravel) Skovron: 401-837-0496 or [ngskovron@yahoo.com](mailto:ngskovron@yahoo.com).

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Jain's Laundry

Spring into clean for same-day wash/dry/fold service

★**Lowest \$ In Town**★



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

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

### Jain's Laundry

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

By JENNIFER COATES

Spring is in full swing here in New England! Even though we get some chilly spring days from time to time, there are finally flowers, and sunshine, and chirping birds, and more hours of daylight . . . AND, there is also mud, and grass stains, and piles of dirty, sweaty clothes. No doubt about it, with warm weather comes more time spent outside, and with more time spent outside comes more LAUNDRY! Spring sports and spring excursions and spring holidays all equal more need (and less time) for those unavoidable chores – like doing the wash!

Why battle the laundry this spring when you have the able and ready hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry? Jain's Laundry is a busy and convenient Laundromat located right off Route 44 in Johnston. For an incredible .89 per pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day - at this user-friendly, clean and efficient Laundromat.

Not only is this an amazing time-saving service, but this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by the end of baseball practice – all for \$8.90. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for less than \$11.00! In the age of rising inflation, it is nice to know that Jain's Laundry has made such a necessary chore so affordable.

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal



With all the stresses on your time this spring, rely on the dependable and time-saving help of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry. Let her lighten your load at this busy time of year

here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the “do-it-yourselfers”. If you are short quarters, the Jain's have got you covered. A change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill is available here.

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# Lifestyles

## SALTER GROVE HOST TO A HIGH-TECH TREASURE HUNT

*Scientists and volunteers team up to find a satellite tracking tag from Rhode Island's official state fish.*

**By JASON MAJOR**  
*Beacon Media Contributor*

The University of Chicago's Dr. Brian Prendergast and TNC's Heather Kinney try to get a satellite signal on the tide-covered causeway at Salter Grove in Warwick. *Photo by Jason Major*

Last week, a team of researchers and nature enthusiasts joined together at Salter Grove in Warwick to hunt for a high-tech satellite tracking tag that had fallen off a striped bass—a fish important not only to local anglers but also to scientists studying their migratory behavior.

So important, in fact, that one of the scientists traveled from Chicago to Warwick for the search.

Led by Dr. Brian Prendergast, a professor at the University of Chicago and Lead Investigator of the Striped Bass Initiative, the group met on the morning of May 27 and searched the causeway, breakwater, and reedy shoreline of Salter Grove for the electronic tag. Prendergast knew it had to be somewhere in the area. It had been sending a steady—if a little wobbly—location signal to a satellite for several days.

Also on site were Peter Becker and Marina Wong from Friends of Salter Grove, a neighborhood advocacy group for the park; Scott Bennett, a researcher from the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA; Heather Kinney, a coastal restoration scientist with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Rhode Island, and Madison Rogers, a Moses Brown senior volunteering with TNC.

Equipped with a satellite antenna attached to a handheld monitor, Prendergast and Kinney first scanned along Salter Grove's ebbing tide-covered causeway and up



Prendergast and Kinney walk along the breakwater at Salter Grove searching for a signal from the satellite tag. *Photo by Jason Major*

● BASS to page 14



The satellite monitor showing the direction and proximity of the tag. *Photo by Jason Major*



Dr. Brian Prendergast receives a positive signal from the nearby tag. *Photo by Jason Major*



Prendergast's satellite monitoring software marked several possible locations of the detached tag in the area within Salter Grove in Warwick. *Photo by Jason Major*



A Striped Bass in Eel Pond at Woods Hole, MA. *Photo courtesy of Scott Bennett*

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Meagan Lewis-Michelson as Patsy Cline with The Bodacious Bobcats Band in “Always...Patsy Cline” at Theatre By The Sea thru June 21, 2025. Photo by Michael Derr courtesy of Theatre By The Sea

# ‘Always...Patsy Cline’ returns to Theatre By The Sea

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Producer Bill Hanney brings “Always...Patsy Cline” back to the Theatre By The Sea after 22 years, and it is still as entertaining as ever.

The two-character musical tribute to the first female country singer to be elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, “Always...Patsy Cline” is a must-see for loyal country music fans.

Cline ruled the country charts during her short career in the ’50s and ’60s.

Meagan Lewis-Michelson stars as Patsy Cline, her big, brassy voice filling the barn theatre with over 20 songs, including classics “Crazy,” “Walkin’ After Midnight,” “I Fall to Pieces” and “Sweet Dreams.”

Her true story is told by Louise Seger (Mary Callanan), a devoted fan since hearing her singing on Arthur Godfrey’s radio show in 1957.

Louise befriends Patsy, serves as her unofficial manager and official best friend until Cline’s death in a

plane crash at age 30.

Meagan Lewis-Michelson sounds and looks enough like Patsy Cline to make us believe it is the country icon in front of us. With very little dialogue, she tells her story through her songs.

This version of the musical leans more toward the happiness in her life as seen through the eyes of her devoted fan and friend.

Callanan hams it up to the delight of the audience, allowing Cline’s loneliness and troubled marriage to be reflected in her music.

The Bodacious Bobcats Band provides perfect accompaniment under the direction of Jacob Priddy.

Country music fans (and who isn’t these days) will get a full load of classic country music to last them all summer.

“Always...Patsy Cline” is at Matunuck’s Theatre By The Sea through June 21. For tickets, call 782-8587 or visit [theatrebythesea.com](http://theatrebythesea.com).

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Meagan Lewis-Michelson as Patsy Cline with Mary Callanan as Louise Seger and The Bodacious Bobcats Band. Photo by Michael Derr courtesy of Theatre By The Sea

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Mary Callanan as Louise Seger and Meagan Lewis-Michelson as Patsy Cline with The Bodacious Bobcats Band. Photo by Michael Derr courtesy of Theatre By The Sea



Chloe Cordeiro.  
Submitted photo

# Keeping the beat: teen drummer powers the pulse of ‘American Idiot’

By IDA ZECCO

Seventeen-year-old Chloe Cordeiro isn’t your typical high school student. While most teens are juggling homework and college applications, Chloe is also keeping the pulse of American Idiot—the explosive musical powered by Green Day’s iconic punk soundtrack, currently being staged at the Wilbury Theatre Group in Providence. Behind the drum kit, Chloe drives the show’s energy night after night with power, precision, and passion well beyond her years.

I sat down with Chloe, a Warwick resident, to talk about preparation, punk rock, and what it’s like to live out a dream on stage—even before graduating high school.

**Ida:** Chloe can you tell me a bit about your background and how you began your musical career?

**Chloe:** I started playing drums when I was 3-years old. At 5-years old I started to take lessons at You Rock School of Music in Cranston. I now attend the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Pawtucket (JMW). I also come from a musical and artsy family. My dad plays piano, my grandfather plays guitar, my sister is a digital artist, and my Mom is a teacher and an artist.

**Ida:** Green Day’s music is known for its raw energy and fast-paced rhythms. How did you prepare to take on that kind of drumming for a full-length musical?

**Chloe:** Practicing with the album track, I had to listen to Green Day over and over. I read music and was comfortable with the score. Although It was overwhelming, I knew

I could meet the challenge with practice and rehearsals.

**Ida:** Did you stay true to Tré Cool’s drumming or add your own style?

**Chloe:** I added my own style to the music. I have been influenced by jazz and funk. I tried to incorporate that into my playing, and to be as true as I could to Tré Cool’s drumming as well.

**Ida:** Were there any songs that pushed you technically?

**Chloe:** “St. Jimmy” is particularly difficult because the tempo is so fast. I had to work hard and become more proficient on the kick-drum in order to maintain the groove. “Holiday,” “Jesus of Suburbia” and “Homecoming” are long and intense with lots of time signature changes.

**Ida:** How do you balance school and your professional-level performance schedule?

**Chloe:** With hard work and planning. My art school, JMW, is supportive and time-flexible. The school encourages an academic and performing arts life-balance. Half of my life is managing academics, and the other half is my music. Relying on the support of my family and teachers allows me to fulfill my dream as a drummer. I couldn’t do it without them.

**Ida:** Who are your musical influencers?

**Chloe:** Tré Cool, obviously, but my greatest influencer is Carter Beauford. My family and I are big fans of the Dave Matthews Band. I have always been drawn to Beauford’s energy and creativity.

**Ida:** What does punk rock mean to you?

**Chloe:** Punk is political, cultural and social—especially in American

Idiot. You have to feel the emotional context of the music to play it. It’s about honesty and expressing what you feel—loudly. There’s no pretending in punk.

**Ida:** How is playing for a stage musical different from playing in a band?

**Chloe:** The biggest difference is that you have to be more precise for the stage. In a band, you lead the groove. In theater, you follow the story. You’re reacting to cues, actors, lights—it’s more structured than playing in a band. In American Idiot, the drummer is leading the rest of the band, and they count on me to hold the structure together.

**Ida:** What’s been the most memorable part of this experience?

**Chloe:** The actors and the musicians in the band have been the most memorable part of this experience. I am the youngest person in the ensemble, and they made me feel a part of the creative process. They welcomed me as a professional. It is probably the most fun project I have ever been a part of.

**Ida:** Any advice for other young drummers dreaming of playing in a show like this?

**Chloe:** My advice is to be confident in knowing what you want to do. Take advantage of every musical opportunity you have. This will increase your diversity. Do not stop what you are doing—follow your dream.

Apparently, this 17-year-old is channeling emotion through music with a clarity that’s both insightful and inspiring. There’s something extraordinary about the way she has turned feeling into sound—honest, unfiltered, and unforgettable. Break a leg, Chloe!

## ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Pawswatch CCC

### Parker

Parker wants to be the life of the party, he's always entertaining!! He's handsome and he knows it! He is about a year old with a stunning black and white coat accented by light green eyes that sparkle with excitement! Parker is looking for an adult home where he will be the one and only prince in your life, after all he's all of the entertainment you will need! If you have been looking for a new best friend to spend your time with then Parker the party boy is waiting for you! Please contact Pawswatch Community Cat care Center via email: pwcccadoptions@gmail.com or call 401-285-9800 for more information. Parker will be waiting to meet you!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)



Photo credit: Donna Normand

### Cody

Cody is in need of a foster or a forever home, you can also foster to adopt! If you've been searching for a young pup to join your home, then look no further! Cody will fill your heart and home completely! He is going to turn one this month and his birthday wish is to find a patient, loving home! Someone who is willing to give Cody the time he needs is imperative, he has been through a lot! He is medium sized mixed breed with a beautiful tri-color coat and chocolate eyes that will steal your heart. Cody likes other playful pups, he's super smart, he is a little shy when you first meet him but he opens up and will share his heart once he feels comfortable. He loves to romp around and play too so a home with a fenced in yard would be a dream come true! How can you not fall in love with this face? To meet Cody please contact Rhode Home Rescue via their website at [www.rhodehomerescue.org](http://www.rhodehomerescue.org) Cody will be waiting to light up your life!

● BASS from page 11

along the breakwater separating the cove from the Providence River. Constructed in the 1960s by the Army Corps of Engineers, the rocky breakwater has long been a popular site for anglers.

Receiving no signals, they re-joined the rest of the group at the head of the causeway where everyone began to ponder the possibility of the tag having fallen silent or gotten lost. Considering this was the first time a striped bass tracking tag had been identified in Rhode Island—not to mention the transmitter’s \$5,000 cost—it was a potentially discouraging thought.

That was when Prendergast suddenly glanced at the monitor, his face lighting up with an exuberant grin. A positive signal! The tag was close by...and transmitting.

The group waited patiently for a couple more confirmed signals before moving in the general direction indicated.

The Striped Bass Initiative is a multi-institutional research program based at the University of Chicago’s Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, a well-known location for many oceanographic facilities. Begun in 2019, the Initiative seeks to learn more about the migratory patterns and behaviors of Striped Bass, a widely-popular game fish and important species within the estuarine ecosystems along the US east coast.

Striped Bass migrate annually north and south along the coast like many other species of fish, both to feed and to spawn. But some have been found to find ‘safe havens’ such as Eel Pond in Woods Hole where they do neither, choosing to reduce their activity and caloric intake over the warm summer months before striking back to sea in the fall. Which fish decide to do this—and when and why—isn’t exactly known, and that’s part of what Prendergast and the Striped Bass Initiative are trying to find out with the use of sophisticated satellite tags.

“Over 70 percent of the fish tagged return to the same spot every summer,” Prendergast said. “It raises a lot of questions about how they find their way there—and, if they’re caught, what’s going to replace them?”

*“The Striped Bass fishery is in decline. We need to generate better data to conserve the species. Accurately managing them is critical and we only have one chance to get it right.”*

— Brian Prendergast, Striped Bass Initiative Lead Investigator



Heather Kinney from The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island holds up the satellite tracking tag she found at Salter Grove. Photo courtesy of Marina Wong

Surgically attached to the fish, the tracking tags are packed with sensors that record date and time, water temperature, depth, and fish movement, and can communicate with satellites several hundred miles in orbit. They’re designed to detach automatically if conditions aren’t right or by a certain date.

“The individual fish this tag came from left Woods Hole in October,” said Prendergast. “We know it spent some time at the mouth of the Chesapeake and Delaware rivers...it was most likely on its way

back to Woods Hole before the tag detached on May 21.”

Gathering hard data on Striped Bass behavior also helps to determine how increasing human activity is affecting the fish and their environment, from recreational and commercial fishing to habitat loss, pollution, and anthropogenic global warming.

“The Striped Bass fishery is in decline,” said Prendergast. “We need to generate better data to conserve the species. Accurately managing them is critical and we only have one chance to get it right.”

After a considerable bit of wet mucking through the stands of invasive Phragmites that line the shore of Salter Grove west of the boat ramp, Kinney found the tag. About the size of a narrow light bulb with an 8-inch cord sticking out of the top, the dark grey device was fully covered by flattened reeds.

“We knew it was in that 100-foot area...at that point we had to stay and find it,” Kinney said. “I reached down and pulled back some reeds and there it was. It was a team effort—we had a bunch of different hands looking for it. It was really fun.”

Originally from Connecticut, Kinney has lived in Rhode Island for 15 years and is currently a Cranston resident. Her work with TNC focuses on conserving and restoring rocky shorelines, wetlands, and shellfish habitats along the Providence River.

Learn more about the Striped Bass Initiative at <https://striped-bassmagic.org>.

Jason Major of Warwick, is a freelance designer for Beacon Media and a Friends of Salter Grove member ([friendsofsaltergrove.org](http://friendsofsaltergrove.org))



Prendergast shows the satellite signal data to Peter Becker and Marina Wong from Friends of Salter Grove, who helped organize the search. Photo by Jason Major

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409 Knotty Oak Rd	Taylor, Christopher	Duhaime, Christopher	5/13	\$310,000	11 Macarthur Dr	Cardillo, Karen E	Brown, Latrice C	5/9	\$350,000
CRANSTON					113 Cove Ave	Midwood, Bethany R and Midwood, Jason B	Woodruff, George W and Woodruff, Diana M	5/15	\$444,000
130 Grand Ave	Catherin-Hodgkins	Maldonado, Karen M and Saum, Duncan	5/12	\$605,000	114 Covington Dr	Amen, Joseph and West, Owen	Fletcher, Lauren E and Matias, Jayson J	5/13	\$470,000
131 Fordson Ave Lot 7, Toher, Christine and Chubbuck, Kimberky		Sheehan, Maggie M	5/13	\$215,000	12 Barber Ave	Gabriele, Daniel L	Amalfitano, Diana and Amalfitano Jr, Steven M	4/30	\$335,000
143 Hoffman Ave Lot 101, Sunshine Dev Inc		Hoff, Eileen	5/16	\$357,000	124 Welfare Ave	Atwood, Christina R	Santana, Angel R and Roman Cruz, Legna M	5/15	\$323,000
149 Yeoman Ave	Federal Natl Mtg Assn	Jg Tiberi Dev LLC	5/16	\$375,000	141 Sturbridge Dr	Nanni, Roland W	Imondi, Jason M and Del Buono, Sarah E	4/30	\$485,000
15 Spruce Ave	Guertin, Lois S	Elevator Prop Inc	5/15	\$200,000	146 Holmes Rd	Burns, Steven J and Burns, Jessica R	Silva, Barbara	5/13	\$352,000
1880 Broad St	Murphy, Sean	Kennedy, Leslie and Kennedy, Michael	5/15	\$560,000	154 Twin Oak Dr	Dugas, Joshua T and Dugas, Mikayla L	Ahern, James C	5/9	\$514,799
190 Gladstone St	Pacheco, Louis M and Pacheco, Barbara A	Silva, Michael	5/12	\$615,000	160 Long View Dr	Weiner, Dana N	Oliver, Ginamarie and Mcvay, Christopher	4/30	\$575,000
27 Hemlock Ave	Cobble Hill Dev LLC	Soriano, Alexandra R	5/16	\$475,000	18 Louisiana Ave	Aker Bruce W Est and Nappa, Bryan J	Martini Hldg LLC	4/29	\$310,000
27 Holly St	Colardo, Paul	Jamieson, Amanda and Messier, Christopher	5/16	\$550,000	20 Blackmore St	York, Stephanie and York, Scott	Daniel, Lauren	5/12	\$725,000
27 Holly St Lot 2163, Colardo, Paul	Jamieson, Amanda and Messier, Christopher	5/16	\$550,000	203 Holmes Rd	Drennon, Tiffani L	Salvas, Deirdre R	5/8	\$450,000	
3 Pheasant Hill Ln	Dossantos, Daniel F and Dossantos, Sarah A	Girard, Andrew	5/16	\$740,000	205 Smith St	Langlais, George L	Mcniel, Kyle D	4/29	\$430,000
32 Dewey St Lot 2216, Lc LLC	Jamila Realty LLC	5/16	\$450,000	21 Airway Rd	Blunt, Jonathan	Castriotta, Nicholas	5/15	\$345,000	
32 Dewey St Lot 3821, Lc LLC	Jamila Realty LLC	5/16	\$450,000	2190 W Shore Rd	Ursillo, Jeffrey J	Schmitt, Dylan and Piontkowski, Kimberly	4/28	\$365,000	
348 Princess Ave	Fera, Paul D	Lantini, Jessica A	5/16	\$390,000	22 Eagle Run Lot A	Mary L Oneill Lt and Oneill, Joseph J	Houle, Karen R	5/16	\$405,000
35 Warren Ave	Avila, Carlos A	Moretti, Marijane	5/15	\$355,000	2536 W Shore Rd	Stockard, Justin	Cathedral Inv LLC	4/28	\$150,000
385 Olney Arnold Rd	Mary-Jo Vacca Relt and Barth, Henry E	Nunez, Khalie Y	5/14	\$810,000	26 Peepthoad Rd	Nunez, Khalie Y	Hamel, Joseph and Hamel, Patricia	5/14	\$570,000
50 Aetna St	Dawkins, Demetrious and Dawkins, Katie	Uber, Tricia L	5/15	\$365,000	265 Post Rd Lot 9	Conway, Sheila and Walton Jr, Hollie R	Bazarian Murray, Mary J	4/30	\$415,000
56 Blaisdell St	Sammartino Jr, Robert	Sammartino, James	5/16	\$337,500	28 4th Ave Lot 28	Cicillini, David J and Cicillini, Suzan	Passett, Catherine	5/16	\$290,000
7 Salem Ave	Dearmas, Leonar and Hollingworth, Daniel S	Long, Ryan and Long, Rachael	5/16	\$212,500	300 Warwick Neck Ave	Cameron, Kyle and Cameron, Madison	Scuncio, Zachary R	4/28	\$485,000
7 Salem Ave	Hollingworth, Craig B	Long, Ryan and Long, Rachael	5/16	\$212,500	3081 W Shore Rd	Hogan Marie F Est and Hogan, William E	Hobin, Rebecca K and Black, Christopher J	4/29	\$400,000
777 Pontiac Ave	Arpin Peter J Est and Kitchen, Lorraine	Natale, Joseph	5/12	\$165,000	33 Fox Ridge Cres Lot 33	Schooner Rlty LLC	Tessier, Allyson	5/16	\$386,500
777 Pontiac Ave	Arpin Robert H Est and Kitchen, Lorraine	Natale, Joseph	5/12	\$165,500	330 Longmeadow Ave	Follett Jr, William	Dodd, Henry and Perez, Adriana	5/13	\$350,000
99 Walden Way Lot 99, Harris, Joy M	Martinez, Dariel	5/12	\$370,000	3524 W Shore Rd Lot 909	Pizzi, Stacie L and Pizzi Jr, Agelo R	Delos, Remi M	4/30	\$137,500	
EAST GREENWICH					3524 W Shore Rd Lot 906	Ray, Robert K	Rioles, Sarah M	5/16	\$230,000
100 Rocky Hollow Rd	McLaughlin, Brendan L	Stephens, Richad S and Grey, Melissa Z	5/9	\$1,600,000	40 Buttonwoods Ave	Rinn, Gianna M	Rinn, Jacob K and Rinn, Colleen	5/12	\$410,000
307 Main St	Joseph N Zenga Ft and Zenga, Christine A	307 Main St LLC	5/9	\$850,000	403 Commonwealth Ave	Worcester Svcs LLC	Ajm Prop Hldg LLC	5/9	\$450,000
5 Sawmill Ct	Lawrie, Nathan and Lawrie, Smaranda	Verdi Jr, Chad and Verdi, Lauren	5/8	\$1,525,000	43 Carpenter St	Delgallo, Allyson C and Delgallo, Nicholas J	Lesieur, Corey R and Black, Angela E	5/15	\$451,500
65 West St	Ellis, Michael L and Ellis, Michael R	Kenyon Dev LLC	5/9	\$691,000	44 Scranton Ave	Islamaj, Eugert	Js Florence Prop LLC	4/29	\$415,000
EXETER					51 Westfield Rd	Jordan Realty Rigp	Fadl, Mohamed F and Fadl, Susan A	4/16	\$1
158 Pauchaug Trl	Eberl, Karen L and Sautter Jr, Charles E	Austin, Christine	5/20	\$199,500	51 Westfield Rd	L&r Prop LLC	Wong, Damon and Wong, Emily F	4/16	\$789,000
475 10 Rod Rd	Burlacu, Robert	Mckeen 3rd, George W	5/19	\$1,300,000	51 Whipple Ave	Pro Bldrs Ri LLC	Siegel, Joshua A and Wu, Dorothea	5/12	\$500,000
JOHNSTON					53 Buena Vista Ave	Gong, Feixia	Germosen, Pedro L and Germosen, Mariela A	5/14	\$500,000
1143 Hartford Ave Lot 4C	Martellucci, Sandra A and Deutsche Bk Na TCom	Assiradoo, Joseph	5/16	\$201,000	61 Bruce Ln	Rosenbaum, Daniel and Rosenbaum, Theresa	Chapelle, Sophie	5/13	\$700,000
19 Kensington Way Lot 19	Atwood Ave Condos LLC	Graber, Connie D	5/16	\$449,900	61 Mystic Dr	Stacey, Debra J and Mair, Denise R	Elliott, Kayley and Medina, Edward	5/16	\$390,000
30 School St	Crossley Jr, Robert and Crossley, Deborah	Alvarez-Diaz, Jeffrey A and Alvarez, Jose A	5/20	\$540,000	62 Crescendo Dr	Elevator Prop Inc	Yang, Shonmea	5/14	\$525,000
41 Harris Ave	Shao, Vianne W	Alvarez, Irish C	5/16	\$427,000	66 Ontario Ave	Rodericks, Brian J	Bouthillette, Matthew R	5/8	\$455,000
6 Blaine St	Slim Investments LLC	Harnois, Heidi and Chevette, Jacob	5/16	\$390,000	67 Haley Rd	Ronald Fontaine Lt and Mancone, Joanne	Dorfman, David J and Ferreira, Meagan E	4/28	\$550,000
64 Winsor Ave	Dodge, Christopher and Eccleston, Jane	Akin, Hannah and Akin, Jake	5/15	\$552,000	752 Quaker Ln Lot A206	Maynard, Maurice G	Csoszor, Colin	5/14	\$200,000
8 Toledo St	Gambit Properties LLC	Ternnova Enterprises LLC	5/19	\$550,000	760 Cowesett Rd	Camara, Christine and Camara, Sally	Moore, Davis	5/13	\$525,000
					77 Parkside Dr	Ohara, Jonathan and Ohara, Susan	Germani, Kenneth J and Choquette, Olivia	4/30	\$455,000
					9 Lippitt Ave	Earle RET and Northeast Private	Hintz, Steven E and Hintz, Carolyn	4/30	\$1,500,000
					9 Oakdale St	Horan, Brendan P and Kelly, Jocelyn W	Ventura Sanchez, Angel J	5/13	\$435,000
					99 Midgley Ave	Barbara A Durrell-Dickers and Durrell-Dickers, Barbara A	Debye, Danelle M	5/13	\$490,000
					99 Midgley Ave Lot 158	Barbara A Durrell-Dickers and Durrell-Dickers, Barbara A	Debye, Danelle M	5/13	\$490,000
					WEST WARWICK				
					15 Morris St	Yang, Shonmea	Hanson, Katherine C and Del-Sesto, Jonathan M	5/14	\$420,000
					17 E Greenwich Ave	Bland, Kamisha	Lemieux, Melissa and Lemieux, John	5/14	\$315,000
					2 Loggers Run	Mckiernan, Michael E	Blessing, Brendan and Walker, Madison R	5/19	\$513,000
					23 Crossland Rd	Flamand, Melinda M	Carey, Charles and Carey, Haley	5/14	\$300,000
					24 Alden Dr	Carey, Charles and Carey, Haley	Cullen Jr, James A	5/14	\$457,500
					24 Scenic Dr Lot 24	Kiernan, Michael A and Walsh, Kiley E	Lacombe, Diane A	5/16	\$326,000
					511 E Greenwich Ave	Padula Builders Inc	Touchdown Rlty Group LLC	5/15	\$1,575,000
					9 Lily Ln Lot 9	Moriarity, Erin and Galat, Stephen	Otrado, Patricia J	5/16	\$485,000
					98 Lonsdale St	Brooks Carpentry & Remode	Whittaker, Meghan and Whittaker, Zachary	5/16	\$478,000



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# Sports

## Kue sisters leading young JHS golf team

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston golf team had a bounce back season this spring with the state's youngest roster, one that was made up entirely of underclassmen.

Headlining the bunch are sisters Elizabeth Kue and Kamryn Kue.

Elizabeth, a sophomore, burst on the scene her freshman year as she earned a spot on the Rhode Island Golf Coaches Association's First-Team. She enjoyed another strong performance at the Rhode Island Interscholastic League State Championships last week when she shot a 160, good for fourth place on the girls side.

The team then traveled to Westerly on Tuesday to compete in the Division II championship, which featured teams outside of the top-12 in the state championship rankings. Kamryn had her best performance to date, shooting a career best 76 which was good for first place. She racked up six birdies in the event, while Elizabeth also hit an eagle.

The freshman was thrilled to finish this season strong and to have a breakout campaign.

"It's awesome knowing that I'm doing it as a freshman. It's a little

● KUE to page 20



The Johnston golf team at the state championships last week (above). Submitted photo. Kamryn and Elizabeth Kue with coach Jason Corsini (left). Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

## Panthers fall in playoff heartbreaker

By ALEX SPONSELLER  
SunRise Sports Editor

The Johnston softball team fell in a 10-inning heartbreaker in Monday's Division II playoff matchup against Portsmouth, as the Patriots rallied late to earn the 8-6 win to end the Panthers' season.

Johnston trailed 5-3 heading into its final at bat, but Kalyn Foster would even things up and force extras when she hit a two-run double, scoring Alanna Colon and Bella Boudreau.

After a scoreless eighth and ninth, Portsmouth scored three runs in the top of the 10th to take the 8-5 lead. Despite Maddie Campano driving in a run in the bottom of the inning, the Panthers were unable to close the gap as Portsmouth punched its ticket to the next round.

Mariah Fleury and Haley Boudreau also knocked in runs in the loss while Bella Boudreau finished the day with four hits. Haley Boudreau pitched all 10 innings and struck out 10 batters while allowing just one earned run.

Johnston coach Dave Iannuccilli was proud of the team's grit as it erased two deficits to force extra innings.

● PANTHERS to page 19



Johnston pitcher Haley Boudreau deals against Portsmouth on Monday afternoon. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller



One for the smoker: Steve Brustein of Warwick with a Narragansett Bay bluefish, now mixed in with striped bass and being caught throughout the Bay. Submitted photo

# Saltwater licenses up 3.8 percent in Rhode Island

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI  
Special to the SunRise

The Department of Environmental Management’s Marine Fisheries Division released their 2024 annual commercial and recreational fishing report on May 20, 2025. The Department is required by state law to provide annually to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council a report for review which provides valuable context throughout the regulatory process.

In 2024 there were 54,117 recreational saltwater licenses issued, up 3.8 percent from 2023. One of the highest license totals came in 2020 at the start of the covid pandemic when Rhode Island’s sought solace outdoors in clean fresh air more than ever including over 57,000 saltwater licenses.

However, the remarkable number for me are the number of fishing trips anglers made last year, nearly four million. The 3,923,972 fishing trips came from shore, boat, charter/party boat sectors. Most of the 2024 fishing trips, 2,343,014, were made by shore anglers.

When you stop to think about the money spent on each recreational fishing trip including bait, tackle, gear, fuel, boat cost and maintenance, hotels, restaurants, etc., the dollar amount is substantial for Rhode Island. NOAA’s Fisheries Economics of the US relates that the all in number including durable goods for recreational fishing sales impacts in Rhode Island is \$419 million annually. This data is from the 2018 report, the last year NOAA included durable goods in totals.

The two top species caught (by numbers of fish) last year were scup at 6.3 million and black sea bass at 5.6 million. However, there was a major decline in Atlantic cod caught from 17,352 cod in 2023 to 7,539 caught in 2024. The cod stock has been overfished with overfishing occurring for years. Recently, new regulations separating the biomass into four separate stocks to help with rebuilding plans approved by the New England Management Fisheries Council has been delayed by the new administration.

For a copy of the 2024 Rhode Island Annual Fisheries report visit <https://dem.ecms.ri.gov/>

### Introduction to the “Hex Hatch”

The RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Fish & Wildlife Aquatic Resource Education program will hold their introduction to the “Hex Hatch” program Thursday, June 12, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the DFW Outdoor Office, 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI.

Join Ed Lombardo, expert fly guide and instructor, and volunteer experts from United Fly Tyers, Rhody Fly Rodders, and Trout Unlimited to learn about the largest mayfly hatch on the Wood River, Hexagenia Limbata.

The three-hour workshop begins with a presentation about the mayfly and its habits, when it emerges to spawn, what gear to use to mimic the hatch, and how to catch a trout during the hatch. All fly-tying equipment and materials are provided.

Space is limited and registration is required. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information and to register, email [kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov).

### Atlantic Bluefin retention limits adjusted

NOAA Fisheries is adjusting the Atlantic bluefin tuna daily retention limits for recreational fishermen. The adjusted limits will take effect June 3, 2025 and extend

through Dec. 31, 2025, unless modified by later action. NOAA Fisheries may need to take another action(s) later in the year, if appropriate, to further adjust the retention limits or close the fishery.

The adjusted limits for private vessels with a HMS angling category permit is one school fish 27” to less than 47”. For charter boats with a HMS Charter/Headboat permit fishing recreationally two school fish 27” to less than 47” are allowed. In both cases no large school/small medium fish 47” to less than 73” are allowed.

For information and updates visit the NMFS Permit Shop.

### Where’s the bite?

Striped bass/bluefish. “Striped bass and the bluefish bite has been good in the Goddard Park Greenwich Bay area with anglers catching fish using topwater lures and soft plastics,” said Vincent Cataldi of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown. Angler Steve Brustein of Warwick caught a 34” striped bass Thursday night trolling tube & worm at Popasquash Point, Bristol.

“The striped bass and bluefish bite has been very good from the Bridges all the way to downtown Providence. The further up the Providence River the better. Successful baits have been Atlantic menhaden and maceral with flutter spoons and umbrella rigs working really well too,” said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Declan O’Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, “Striped bass fishing remains productive, with a good variety of sizes being caught. Bluefish are still present, and there have been reports of some good-sized ones.”

“Last week I caught a 32” and three smaller bass at Narrow River, Narragansett on an incoming tide. Used my burgundy color fly that caught some hickory shad as well,” said Ed Lombardo, fly fishing expert and instructor. The East Passage is still yielding fish for anglers all the way up the Providence River.

Black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke), squeteague and scup. Last week I caught small keeper fluke north of the Jamestown Bridge on American Ledge. Vincent Cataldi of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackel, said, “Anglers are loading up on big fluke around Block Island. A boat returned home with over 100 pounds of fluke. Fishing the coastal shore and in the Bay has been fairly slow for keeper fluke. However anglers are hooking up with scup and keeper black sea bass. I saw an angler land a keeper black sea bass from a dock in Jamestown.”

Tom Olson of Ponaug Bait & Tackle, Warwick, said, “Warwick Neck and Greenwich Bay are yielding a fair amount of squeteague.”

Freshwater. “Fishing has exploded with anglers hooking up with largemouth, pike and some monster sized trout,” said Giddings of the Tackle Box. Some ponds restocked with trout for Memorial Day. Visit Fish & Wildlife | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov.

Dave Monti holds a captain’s master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues. Forward fishing news and photos to [dmontifish@verizon.net](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net), visit [www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com](http://www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com) or [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).

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Johnston senior Kalyn Foster at bat on Monday.

● PANTHERS from page 17

“The girls showed a lot of heart. They were down a couple times and came back, answered the bell, kept pushing and pushing. We just came up a little short,” said Iannuccilli.

The Panthers are set to return eight of their starters next year, including Haley Boudreau, who cemented her place as one of the state’s elite arms as she surpassed 600 career strikeouts this spring.

“She’s one of the best pitchers in the state. I’d put her up against any pitcher around. Most coaches don’t want to play us for that reason. On any day, we can beat anyone and that’s because we have a great pitcher. We’re in every game,” said Iannuccilli.

The team will also bring back Bella Boudreau, who had a breakout season as a freshman and improved even further this year as a sophomore catcher.

“She’s a very catcher. It’s that sister connection, she catches for Haley all offseason. She’s a rock behind the plate, nothing gets behind her. She’s a very good hitter, too,” said Iannuccilli, who

also mentioned shortstop Colon, who transferred from Woonsocket this season and made a big impact. “She’s been a big plus for us too.”

Foster is the team’s lone senior and will be leaving behind a big bat in the middle of the lineup. Iannuccilli will be looking toward freshman Annabella Rondeau to step up big in 2026.

“Kalyn is going to leave a hole because of her RBIs. Annabella Rondeau had a big home run against Scituate so I’m looking for big things from her next year to help fill that spot for me,” said Iannuccilli.

This is the third straight season that the Panthers have come up short in the post-season. As this rising core turns the page toward next year, Iannuccilli hopes that it learns to play a little looser in the big moments.

“The biggest thing is to just have fun and not let the pressure get to you. At the end of the day, it is just a game. If you’re not playing to have fun then you’re in it for the wrong reasons,” said Iannuccilli. “If they have a little more fun, I think they’ll play better.”



Johnston shortstop Alanna Colon field a fly ball.



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overwhelming, but it’s good. I follow my sister around, watching the older girls playing and that’s how I want to see myself,” said Kamryn on Tuesday, who also elevated the bar after shooting her career best. “Now I feel that I have a lot more that I can do. I saw what I could do and now I can apply that.”

The Panthers have had small rosters in recent years but have gathered enough numbers to fill out a strong lineup the past two years. Although Elizabeth and Kamryn considered pursuing spots on major RI golf powers, they ultimately chose to stay home and help build something special on Cherry Hill.

“I think settling on Johnston was the right choice because we have the best teammates,” Kamryn said. “Small teams are better because they have strong friend groups. It is amazing how much we’ve grown and this shows how much more we can grow.”



Kamryn Kue watches a shot last week. Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com



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