



Warwick Beacon

Thursday, July 17, 2025

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Schools grapple with federal cuts

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

After state officials announced last week that the federal government had frozen nearly \$30 million in education funding intended for Rhode Island, school districts are struggling to understand how the freeze could impact them at the local level.

According to figures provided to the Sun-Rise by the state Department of Education, federal grant funds totalling \$355,305 intended for schools in Johnston are caught up in the pause.

The breakdown includes:

- \$209,601 in Title II (A) funding for recruiting and training teachers and other leaders;
- \$42,222 in Title III LEP Allocation funding to support programs for English language learners;
- \$103,482 in Title IV SSAE Allocation funding for academic enrichment programs and technology.

Georgia Fortunato, interim superintendent of Johnston Public Schools, on Wednesday morning said she is working to determine the exact impact of the federal freeze. Because of the ongoing nature of the situation, she was unable to comment on specific programs that would be affected.

Other school districts in the area are unsure of whether certain programs will be able to survive long-term if the funds aren't disbursed. Paul Heatherton, who oversees federal grants for Warwick Public Schools, said the freeze hasn't interrupted any federally funded programs currently underway

in the district – though the effect on future programs is unclear.

"It's that sense of uncertainty as we're planning for the upcoming school year," Heatherton said. "There are some activities that are supposed to be happening in August that we're questioning if we can even do."

The withheld funds include a grant that supports a summer camp program geared toward academic enrichment, provided through a collaboration between Oakland Beach Elementary School and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick. The camp is funded through a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, which also helps to fund an afterschool program during the academic year. The summer camp will continue as planned this summer.

Lara D'Antuono, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick, said it took years of effort to secure the federal grant. After finally receiving it last year, she said, she's seen the positive impacts of the summer camp and the afterschool program firsthand.

"We're allowed the privilege of serving kids on a much more intensive, lower-ratio basis," she said. "We've seen the impact that this has made in their growth and their scores for literacy and math. If this were to be cut, all of that would go away and it would impact kids negatively for sure."

Much of the reasoning behind the federal government's decision to withhold funding remains unclear to state officials, largely owing to the brevity of the initial message

● CUTS to page 12



Kullen Slattery said there's been a steady lineup of city trucks and residents dumping storm debris at the compost station since last week. Grinders are turning the material into compost that residents are free to take. A recent Toll Gate grad, Slattery first worked for the DPW as a summer employee. Now he is thinking of a career with the city. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

Cleanup continues in wake of July 3 storm

By JOHN HOWELL
Warwick Beacon Editor

The brief but high intensity storm that buffeted the state with winds and rain that knocked out power to more than 65,000 Rhode Islanders on July 3 may be a distant memory for some, but as of Monday, Warwick Department of Public Works crews were still cleaning up.

And that's not all.

"We're in prevention mode," said DPW Director Eric Earls as the workday drew to a close Monday. While city workers and three independent tree crews continued to clear downed branches and trees and yard debris piled high along city streets, they also worked to take out compromised limbs and trees that might not make it through the next storm.

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Advance America, the primary lender of payday loans in Rhode Island, operates eight locations across the state, including this storefront on Bald Hill Road in Warwick. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monastesse*

Clock is ticking on high-interest payday loans

RI law caps interest rate on small loans at 36%

By TARA MONASTESSE
Beacon Media Staff Writer

After more than a decade of effort by loan-reform activists, payday lending is finally coming to an end in the Ocean State.

A bill signed into law earlier this month will effectively ban the practice by prohibiting loan providers from charging high rates of interest on short-term loans. Previously, a loophole in state law allowed lenders to charge an effective interest rate of up to 260% on small loans. Once the law takes effect in 2027, the maximum interest rate a lender can charge for a loan under \$300 will be capped at 36%.

"It's really exciting after all that time to finally get the legislation enacted," said Alan Krinsky, the director of research and fiscal policy at the Economic Progress Institute. "It has been a long struggle and involved a lot of people." The EPI, a Rhode Island-based research and policy organization, has collaborated with other groups in the state to advocate for an end to payday lending.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi

played a key role in the bill's passage, having initially brought payday loan reform legislation to a House vote in 2023, where it passed 70-to-2. Though it ultimately failed to make it out of the Senate that year, the bill finally cleared

the General Assembly during this summer's legislative session.

"The House passed this much-needed legislation two years ago, and I'm very pleased we were able to get it enacted into law this year with the passage in both the House and Senate," Shekarchi said in an emailed statement. "Protecting vulnerable Rhode Islanders from the predatory practices of storefront lending companies is simply the right thing to do."

Payday loans are small loans designed to be repaid quickly, typically taken out to cover immediate expenses until the borrower receives their next paycheck. Vulnerable people who rely on these loans to cover essential costs can become trapped in cycles of debt, critics say, as repaying high-interest loans often requires them to borrow more money.

In Rhode Island, high-interest payday loans are mainly available through the Advance America chain. Eight locations currently operate in the state, with one located in Cranston and two in Warwick. Advocates have framed these storefronts as the primary facilitators of predatory lending in the state – last May, activists for payday loan reform staged a protest outside the Advance America location on Bald Hill Road in Warwick to call for an end to payday lending.

Short-term loans will still be available in the state after the legislation

takes effect on Jan. 1, 2027, though they will no longer be able to charge exorbitant interest rates. As the sun begins to set on payday lending, some financial institutions in the state hope to provide borrowers with alternative financial options.

Andy Posner, the founder and CEO of Capital Good Fund, said he believes that the new law is "a very basic common-sense consumer protection." Capital Good Fund, a financial institution based in Rhode Island, positions its small loan products as a more sustainable alternative to traditional payday loans because of their lower interest rates and longer repayment timelines.

"Certainly as we start to go into the next year, we'll ramp up our outreach to make sure folks know about it," Posner said.

For activists in Rhode Island, however, the fight for loan reform isn't over. Krinsky said that other exploitative practices still exist, such as earned wage access programs that charge employees withdrawal fees in order to access their earned wages ahead of payday. (A 2024 press release from the General Assembly stated that this practice is probably already illegal under state law.)

"There are unfortunately other predatory loans products out there," Krinsky said. "This is not the end of what needs to be done to protect Rhode Islanders."

Police Log

Sleeping at the wheel, charged with DUI

On June 14 at about 11:45 p.m., a WPD officer was approached by an anonymous reporting party who observed a male driver sleeping behind the steering wheel while in an operating vehicle, in the middle of Pierce Avenue. Minutes later, the officer located the vehicle and yelled out to the driver, who did not respond. The officer reached into the vehicle to shift into park, turn off the vehicle and remove the key from the ignition. At this time, the driver woke up and exited the vehicle according to the officer's instructions. The driver swayed side to side and had issues staying awake while conversing with the officer. The officer observed the driver's eyes to be bloodshot and speech to be slurred.

The officer decided to conduct standardized field sobriety tests, to which the driver consented. The driver did not consent to a blood chemical test at Kent Hospital. The driver was transported to WPD headquarters where they were charged with DUI of liquor and refusal to submit to a chemical test and issued two Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal citations.

Vandalism, Disorderly Conduct

On June 15 at about 5:30 a.m., Warwick police responded to the area of Planet Fitness at 650 Bald Hill Rd. for a call about malicious damage to property. The reporting party stated that a brick had been thrown through his car window and that the suspect started running after him with an additional brick. A WPD officer identified the suspect running in front of the Chuck E Cheese. The suspect walked towards the officer, repeatedly saying "take me to jail."

At the end of the investigation, the officer observed damage to the front window of the Planet Fitness which appeared to have been caused by the same bricks. The suspect was taken to WPD headquarters, where they were charged with one count of Vandalism/Malicious Injury to Property and one count of Disorderly Conduct.

Speeding, Suspended License

On June 19 at about 8 a.m., a WPD officer was on a fixed traffic post at Airport Road and Harmony Court, working a speed enforcement detail. The officer clocked a white pickup truck driving eastbound on Airport Road at 58 mph in a 35-mph zone. The officer conducted a traffic stop at Dave's Fresh Marketplace on Airport Road. Dispatch advised that this was the driver's 4th+ offense of driving with a suspended license. The driver was taken to WPD headquarters, where they were issued a District Court summons and a municipal violation for speed.

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Kent Y A-frame renovation coming

By GRETA SHUSTER
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Summer camp facilities at the Kent County YMCA are about to receive a complete makeover. The Greater Providence YMCA (GPYMCA) has been awarded a \$90,000 grant through the 2025 Lowe's Hometowns program. With this financial support, the GPyMCA is launching a major renovation of the A-Frame building at the Kent County YMCA, the central hub for the branch's after-school and summer camp programs.

The project will address aging infrastructure to create safer and more functional spaces for local youth and their families. Renovations in and around the A-Frame building will include replacing tile flooring in the lobby and rubber flooring in the gym, repainting interior and exterior spaces and repairing pavilion roofing and amphitheater floorboards.

"The A-Frame building has been around for so many years," said Scott Medeiros, Director of the Kent County YMCA. "It's served thousands of kids and families over the years. We have great staff, great programs, so the infrastructure really just helps support and elevate that."

One of 100 awards across country

According to their website, Lowe's Hometowns is a five-year, \$100 million commitment to rebuild and revitalize community spaces nationwide. Each year, 100 community projects are selected in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, reflecting Lowe's belief that home can be more than a place—it can be a feeling, a source of pride, and a foundation for the future.

The GPyMCA is deeply appreciative of this investment in the future of youth programming in Rhode Island, according to a press release.

"We're thrilled for the support we got from the Lowe's Hometowns grant," said Karen Santilli, CEO of the GPyMCA. "Really, there's only 100 awards in the entire country and the fact that we got one for the Kent County Y is really exciting for us."

To apply for the grant, the GPyMCA submitted pictures of the project and a video explaining why the organization was applying and the impact of the grant.

"The Greater Providence Y has programs in other communities, but not all of our program areas have summer camps," said Santilli. "We also have children from our Cranston and Providence programs that are able to go to the Kent County summer camp...It's incredibly important for Kent County but it's also beyond that in terms of the Greater Providence Y's ability to serve



The A-Frame at the Kent County YMCA will get an interior and exterior refresh. *Submitted photo*

kids in other communities."

Medeiros said, between 200 and 300 kids attend summer camp at the Kent County YMCA each week, culminating in around 2,500 to 3,000 kids per summer.

As for other summer activities available at the Y, the splash pad at the Kent County YMCA is available to members, as well as nonmembers at a daily rate. Medeiros said to look out for social media blasts from the YMCA during heat waves to see when the splash pad is open. "We're excited to welcome the community to join us," he said.

This year, the Kent County YMCA is partnering with the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) in their outdoor camp spaces for a week of activities. OSCIL is a non-profit organization that provides support and services for people with disabilities to live and play in their community as able-bodied people are able to do.

Visit <https://ymcagreaterprovidence.org/programs/> to learn more about the variety of programs offered by the different branches of the GPyMCA.

Children gather around their camp counselor, deciding what book to read together. Activities like this, and many others, take place in the A-Frame building. *Submitted photo*



City Council debates \$277,000 for Water Division trucks

By GRETA SHUSTER
Beacon Media Staff Writer

After heavy debate, the Warwick City Council voted to approve the bid of more than \$277,000 to purchase three Chevy Silverado 3500 trucks for the Department of Public Works Water Division at the council's July meeting.

The trucks, used by the Water Division primarily for meter service, will also be equipped with snowplow systems. The bid was awarded to Liberty Chevrolet in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

The trucks that are being purchased will be used primarily by meter repair crews. They will have bins for the storage of parts and tools that DPW Director Eric Earls says are now strewn across the beds of the existing outdated vehicles. The purchase of these trucks is not associated with a new meter system or new meter readers.

Christy Moretti, DPW office manager, presented the bid item on behalf of the Water Division. City officials including Chief of Staff Bill Facente, Purchasing Agent Francis Gomez and Water Division Chief Gerald Oullette emphasized the necessity of this purchase. They

stressed the dual purpose of the vehicles and the difficulty with procuring outside vendors during snowstorms for plowing.

"These vehicles would be multi-purpose," said Moretti. "The water department helps [DPW] out every time we have a weather event."

Oullette explained that the trucks are the proper vehicles for the job and do not require any altering or modification once purchased. "These trucks are first-responder vehicles. If you have a problem, these are the ones that are going to show up at your house," he said.

"I would just ask that you allow the water department and the city to operate its department as it sees fit from the situational experts," said Facente.

Pushback first came from the City Council's finance committee, chaired by Councilman Ed Ladouceur, who suggested finding less expensive vehicle options, such as vans, that are "more in line with what the job description is." His position was that meter service can be done to the same standard in cheaper vehicles.

"We are extremely sensitive to spending money this year," said Councilman Muto, alluding to the city tax in-

creases this year. "A lot of our questions and a lot of our concerns will be around the need versus the want."

"I'm not convinced that throwing a plow on this truck is going to have any useful benefit to the taxpayers," said Ladouceur. "These vehicles, at an average of \$90,000 per vehicle, to go out and perform meter service. I can't support that."

Oullette emphasized that the Water Division is financed through a City Enterprise Fund, meaning it is financially self-sustaining through user charges. Revenues from water services cover operational costs as well as capital expenditures.

The council's finance committee voted in a tie for the bid: Ladouceur and Muto voting opposed, Foley and Nappa voting in favor. The tie brought the final decision to the full council with no recommendation.

At the full council vote, Ladouceur and Muto remained steadfast in their opposition. But a final 7-to-2 vote approved the bid. According to Moretti, the trucks could be delivered in as little as six to eight weeks.

Summer school offers home study, early finish

By ALYSSA WALKER
Beacon Media Contributor

Summer is officially here, which means summer school for some Warwick students.

Summer school for Pilgrim and Toll Gate High School students is underway through Aug. 5 at Pilgrim High School, 111 Pilgrim Parkway. In-person classes run from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m. However, that time is flexible as long as students complete the required 1.5 hours per day and 30 hours per course. This flexibility also allows students to complete courses early and, if they pass, excuses them from summer school.

This flexibility is possible due to the school's continuation of at-home learning

through an online program called Edgenuity. Founded in 1998, Edgenuity is a virtual-learning platform that has worked with more than 18 million students nationwide, the company's website says. The program became popular during the online-learning days of 2020 and 2021, as it was able to help students learn from home.

The program is no stranger to the Warwick school system, which has been using it for their summer school students for about five years. It has also been used periodically throughout the regular school year. Whether students attend summer school in-person or stay at home, they will be required to use this program.

Students have the option to attend summer school fully in-person, fully online, or through a mix of both. For those looking to

get one-on-one help from a teacher, being present at Pilgrim High School is the best option. However, as summer school principal Timothy Kane explained, some students will attend school in person at the beginning of the summer session, get the help they need, and are responsible enough to continue their learning at home. Since the summer school program does not provide transportation, at-home learning may be easier for many students and their families.

Though at-home learning does not allow for teachers to be present and keep students on track, Edgenuity does something very similar in their place. The system keeps track of when a student signs in and whether they are actually working during that time by monitoring their keystrokes. Daily progress will also be tracked, with a daily

goal of 5% progress.

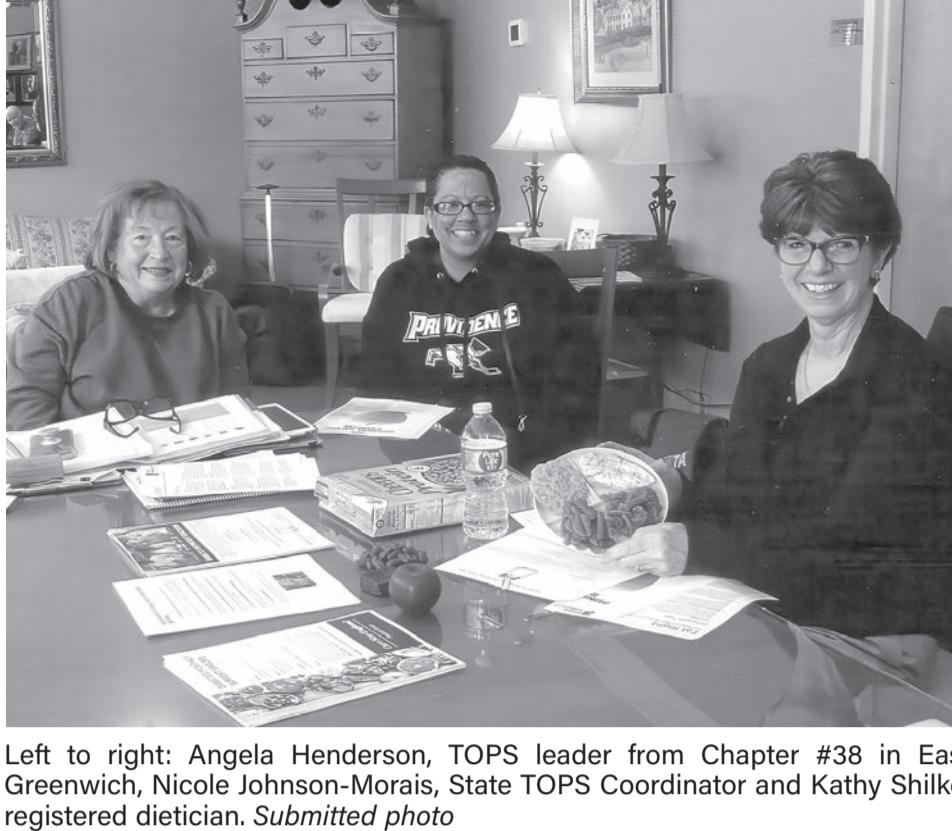
For online students, teachers will be available by email to answer any questions. For in-person and online students, teachers will communicate the progress of the student with their parent(s).

Kane says that, while it is ideal for students to pass their courses during the year, he understands that it is not always possible. He says summer school "gives kids a vehicle to make up a course" and keeps them on track toward graduation.

Kane acknowledges that when people hear about the Edgenuity technology, some wonder about its accuracy in tracking students' progress. But the multiple years that Warwick has used the program have given him faith that his students will be accurately monitored and graded.

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TOPS Chapter 38 hosted registered dietitian

Left to right: Angela Henderson, TOPS leader from Chapter #38 in East Greenwich, Nicole Johnson-Morais, State TOPS Coordinator and Kathy Shilko, registered dietitian. *Submitted photo*

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter 38, which meets at St. Luke's Church on Pierce Street in East Greenwich, welcomed two guests at a recent meeting.

Kathy Shilko, registered dietitian, Clinical Nutrition Counselor and Diabetes Educator worked at Healthtrax on Post Road in Warwick. She spoke on a variety of topics, including how what you are eating can affect your health and could lead to high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes. Shilko also works with people with digestive problems and offers classes for patients with diabetes.

Nicole Johnson-Morais, the state TOPS Coordinator provided an update about what is going on statewide with TOPS and will be coming back to visit the Chapter to do a program at a later date.

The Buzz

June 23-Aug. 8: WCFA Summer Art Camp 2025 at the Warwick Center for the Arts. Join us for one week or the whole summer. Morning and afternoon sessions available with different themes each week. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org

July 1-31: Patterns of Resilience: Afghan War Rugs and Cultural Memory will be on display at the Warwick Public Library. This exhibition features rare Afghan war rugs alongside traditional domestic art.

July 17: Warwick Rotary Club weekly luncheon welcomes guest speaker David Cicilline, president & CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. The luncheon takes place at the Crowne Plaza at noon. For those interested in becoming a Rotary member, contact membership chair Jessica Gosselin at jgosselin@stelizabeth-community.org.

July 17 and 24: PLEIN AIR 'Paint the Town' will be held on Thursday, July 17 and 24 from 2:30-5 p.m. at Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd., Warwick. Meet at WCFA at 2 p.m. We will set up to work on the brick patio or anywhere else that strikes your fancy in good 'Ole Apponaug for this plein air event! Beginners welcome! There will be extra easels set up for you! Bring your paint, canvas, and/or paper. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org.

July 18: Sea Glass & Beach Treasures 'Wind Chimes' will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. at Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd., Warwick. The cost is \$55. For further information, please call 401-737-0010 or warwickcfa.org.

July 19, Aug. 23: Gaspee Celtic Jam Musicians: Enjoy performances of Irish and Scottish musical selections at the Sprague Mansion Carriage House (located behind the mansion) at 4 p.m. Visit gaspeecelticjam.org ahead of dates for their announcement on songs for the evening. Tickets each performance: \$13; \$5 age 12 & under. Seating is limited. Parking in back of mansion. No pets.

July 22: Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Enrollment Day welcomes new and returning students on Tuesday, July 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Knight Campus in Warwick. This in-person event is designed to help students get ready for the Fall 2025 semester by offering guidance on course registration, financial aid, and transfer options.

July 22: Enchanted Tails: A Midsummer Benefit for Animals, hosted by Rhode Island Pet Network in collaboration with Rhode Island Vegan Awareness, takes place on Tuesday, July 22, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Flatbread Company, 161 Cushing St., Providence. This whimsical, A Midsummer Night's Dream-themed evening promises fun for all – including furry friends! Guests can enjoy indoor dining and a dog-friendly patio while supporting two great causes. Highlights include: raffles, Fairy and Forest Doggie Costume Contest at 7 p.m. on the patio, full Flatbread menu available. Contact: Rhode Island Pet Network Email: RIpetnetwork@gmail.com or Rhode Island Vegan Awareness Email: riva@vegan-awareness.org.

July 22: "Married in Moscow" lecture at the Warwick Public Library at 7 p.m. Join authors Joann and Jim Mead for a talk about living in the Soviet Union from 1979-1981 and discover how Russia in 2025 is shaped by the past.

July 23: Needle Felting for Teens at the Warwick Public Library from 2:30-4 p.m. for grades 6-12. Join local fiber artist Miss Pokey from Poke-It Felting for a hands-on needle felting workshop. Learn the basics of 2D needle felting while creating your own wool painting. All

materials are provided and no experience is needed. Registration begins Wed, July 2.

July 30: The RI Chapter of Trout Unlimited will have its monthly membership meeting at the Check Station on Route 165 in Exeter. Cookout starts at 5 p.m., then the meeting at 6 p.m. After the meeting there will be fishing in the Wood River. Everyone is welcome.

August 5: National Night Out at Rocky Point from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is put on by the City of Warwick and the Warwick Police Department. There will be vendors, food, activities and more.

Aug. 9: Cranston High School East, Class of 1970 – 55-year reunion at the Cranston Country Club, 69 Burlingame Rd. Cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. Reunion committee is seeking help locating classmates. Send information to Barbara Russo at twinn52@yahoo.com or Jeanne Sinapi at jeanpass@cox.net.

Aug. 15-17: Ocean State Bluegrass Festival will take place at Frerich's Farm at 65 Kinnicutt Ave in Warren. Enjoy performances, workshops and food. Festival tickets are \$30; parking is an additional \$5. Children under the age of 14 are free. Tickets are available online and at the gate. Visit the RI Bluegrass Association website for more information: <https://www.ribuegrass.org/>.

Aug. 23: Class of 1975 Warwick Vets – 50-year reunion at the East Greenwich Yacht Club, 10 Water Street, East Greenwich, from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person. Please contact Jeff Voigt at meddevconsultant@aol.com.

Aug. 24: 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 Aug. 24, at The Dance Floor, 332 Atwood Ave., Cranston from 5-10 p.m. Food, beer, wine and entertainment is included. No cash bar. Tickets are \$55 per person. 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. For information/questions contact: Dottie (Rapone) Whelan: 401-714-7625 or dotiethewhelan@gmail.com or Nadine (Gravel) Skovron: 401-837-0496 or ngskovron@yahoo.com.

September 20: Gerald Habershaw Memorial Scholarship Cornhole Tournament at the Tri-City Elk Lodge #14 in Warwick. They are currently seeking sponsors, raffle items and silent auction donations. The event supports Pilgrim graduates pursuing college or trade school. Contact Heather Rodrigues with questions about donations at pumpkinpatch9@cox.net.

October 4: Toll Gate High School Class of 1975 – 50-year reunion at the Quonset 'O' Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Road, North Kingstown, RI. The reunion will run from 6:00- 11:00 p.m.

The cost is \$70 per person and \$130 for a couple. We are still searching for classmates. Inquiries can be directed to Cindy Taylor Branca, at TGH-1975REUNION@GMAIL.COM.

Classmates can also join the Facebook page at TOLL GATE CLASS OF 1975 – 50TH CLASS REUNION.

October 11: Pilgrim High School Class of 1975 - 50-year reunion at The Quonset "O" Club on 200 LT. James Brown Rd., North Kingstown, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. Please contact Dean Plowman 401-413-9978 or Dean695@gmail.com.

Conimicut Village Farmer's Market: the Conimicut Village Farmer's Market will be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the parking lot at the

Shield's Post Legion at 662 West Shore Rd in Comimicut. It will have anywhere from 20 to 30 vendors each week: produce stands, bakers, woodworkers, artists, crafters, herb products, coffee & tea, eggs, yarn products, honey, candles, and so much more. Check the website, www.comimicuttvillage.org for a weekly list of vendors and updates.

St Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association: is accepting scholarship applications for Catholic High School until July 31. Forms are available by writing to SXA, P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, RI 02920 or email sxa.alum@gmail.com.

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

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

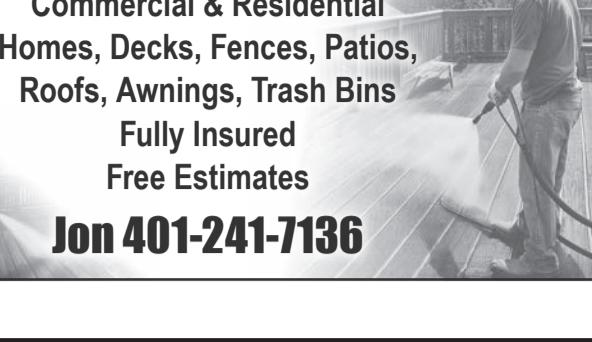
Every Monday – The Gaspee Celtic Jam meets at the Pawtuxet Village Baptist Church, 2157 Broad St., Cranston, every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Do you play fiddle, guitar, Irish flute, pennywhistle, bodhran, mandolin, banjo, concertina, accordion, folk harp, hammered dulcimer, Appalachian dulcimer, banjo, acoustic bass, ukulele, keyboard, recorder, or do you sing? All skill levels welcome. Visit www.gaspeecelticjam.org for more info (including the current tune list/tune book) or to send us any questions. No specific Celtic music experience is required.

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

Every Tuesday, ASL Interpreted RI AA Meeting will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

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



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Former Gov. Edward DiPrete relaxes for an interview with Mike Levesque to mark his 90th birthday in July 2024. *Beacon Media file photo*

'Citizen politician'

Ed DiPrete was a dedicated leader who took some fateful missteps. Here's how three men remember him.

By BARBARA POLICHETTI
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Former Gov. Edward D. "Ed" DiPrete was a popular Republican politician in a predominantly Democratic state. He rose from the ranks of the Cranston School Committee to become mayor of the city and then a three-term governor. He was a beloved family man and a respected businessman. He was also a public servant who fell far from grace.

DiPrete, who died at home last week at the age of 91, was the first and only Rhode Island governor ever to be sent to prison. He was sentenced after he left office when he pleaded guilty to charges of bribery, extortion and racketeering related to his tenure as governor. One of his sons, Dennis, who did not hold public office, faced charges with his father. Those charges were dropped as part of the plea-bargaining process.

Last week, news of his death evoked memories as DiPrete's friends and former colleagues paused to share recollections of the man they knew. They remembered a quiet businessman who valued family and friends and who resonated with his fellow Rhode Islanders with his "everyman" style.

"He was a citizen politician," said Robert Murray, a Cranston lawyer, veteran of local GOP politics and former top staff member for DiPrete – both in City Hall and at the State House. "He was a local businessman who had seven children and he grew up in his family's real estate business," Murray said. "He never forgot his roots ... he was sincere in wanting to make things better."

Earl J. "Buddy" Croft III worked for the City of Cranston when DiPrete was mayor, and Croft later supported his campaigns for governor. He described DiPrete as a "low-key" man who was usually gentlemanly in his manner.

"Ed entered public life as a quiet, reserved, thoughtful and unassuming family man that ran his family insurance business and then embarked upon an extraordinary public career as a member of the Cranston School Committee, City Council, mayor and governor," Croft said. "He had numerous accomplishments and many, many happy moments along the way ... and through (it) all he remained the same person that never stopped loving his hometown of Cranston and his fellow Rhode Islanders."

Croft – whose career has included positions in the state Family Court system and most recently as head of the Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority before his retirement in 2020 – said that he remained in contact with DiPrete through the years.

"After public life, he cared for his beloved (wife) Pat during her health challenges and relished his time with his children, grandchildren, extended family and lifelong friends," Croft said.

"Ed was very much at peace in his later years and still had his fastball as we discussed local, state, national issues, sports and life in general," Croft continued. "After a very public life Ed once again was that quiet, reserved, thoughtful and unassuming

guy who was immensely proud of the life and family he and Pat experienced together. It was a privilege for me to be a lifelong friend of Ed, and I will miss him dearly."

J.R. Pagliarini of Warwick, who has held a long list of top positions in the public and private sectors, said his interest in public service started decades ago when he was a young intern in Cranston City Hall under then-Mayor DiPrete.

Currently the Rhode Island business development executive for Machado Consulting, a technical support and cybersecurity company, Pagliarini's public positions have included chief of staff for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, chief of staff to former Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Donald Carcieri.

He said his relationship with DiPrete started through family ties – his grandfather and DiPrete's father were on the same ship when they immigrated to the United States from Italy. "The DiPretes and the Pagliarini's were always intertwined," he said.

Pagliarini said DiPrete, a graduate of Holy Cross College in Worcester, was often the "smartest person in the room" – an assessment that Murray and Croft agreed with.

"He was very analytical; he had a mechanical way of thinking," Pagliarini said. "He wasn't a visionary, but wanted things run the right way."

Murray and Pagliarini said that DiPrete worked hard to run government like a business and that his accomplishments were many. His tenure was marked by a strong economic time for the state. He supported local education and also made great strides in preserving open space in Rhode Island.

Pagliarini said DiPrete jump-started recycling efforts in the state and pushed for the renovation of Scarborough Beach facilities.

Murray said that another of DiPrete's strengths was his ability to "reach across the aisle" and work with all officials, Republican or not. "I learned by watching him," Murray said, adding that he thinks DiPrete found peace in his life after leaving politics and his legal problems behind.

"He started his public life based on a private life of faith and family," Murray said. "He and his wonderful wife, Pat, raised a beautiful family. He had much to celebrate in his life and I think he did ... when you look at the measuring stick of his career, he did a lot of positive things."

Said Pagliarini, "Ed DiPrete had an 80% popularity rating in 1987, and it's been a long time since we've seen anything like that." (The last time the state had a Republican governor was in the early 2000s during the two terms of Gov. Donald Carcieri.)

He said that in some ways, DiPrete represents a "Shakespearean tragedy" in the state's political history. "There was hope and optimism because he was the change we needed," Pagliarini said. "If people can look past any misdeeds, I think they will find that his accomplishments rival those of any governor since."

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Joseph Nicchia



Rank: 1st
Future Plans (education): Brown University

Dylan Tupaz



Rank: 5th
Future Plans (education): Colgate University

Inesh Rai



Rank: 2nd
Future Plans (education): University of Virginia

William Gallogy



Rank: 7th
Future Plans (education): Brown University

Emmitt Rattey



Rank: 3rd
Future Plans (education): Brown University

Addison Heffernan



Rank: 8th
Future Plans (education): Cornell University

Dominic DeHaven



Rank: 4th
Future Plans (education): University of Notre Dame

Alexander Arnold



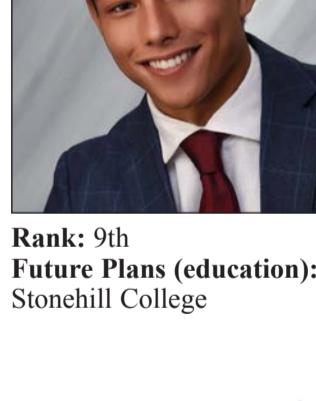
Rank: 9th
Future Plans (education): University of Virginia

Patrick Cavanagh



Rank: 5th
Future Plans (education): University of Notre Dame

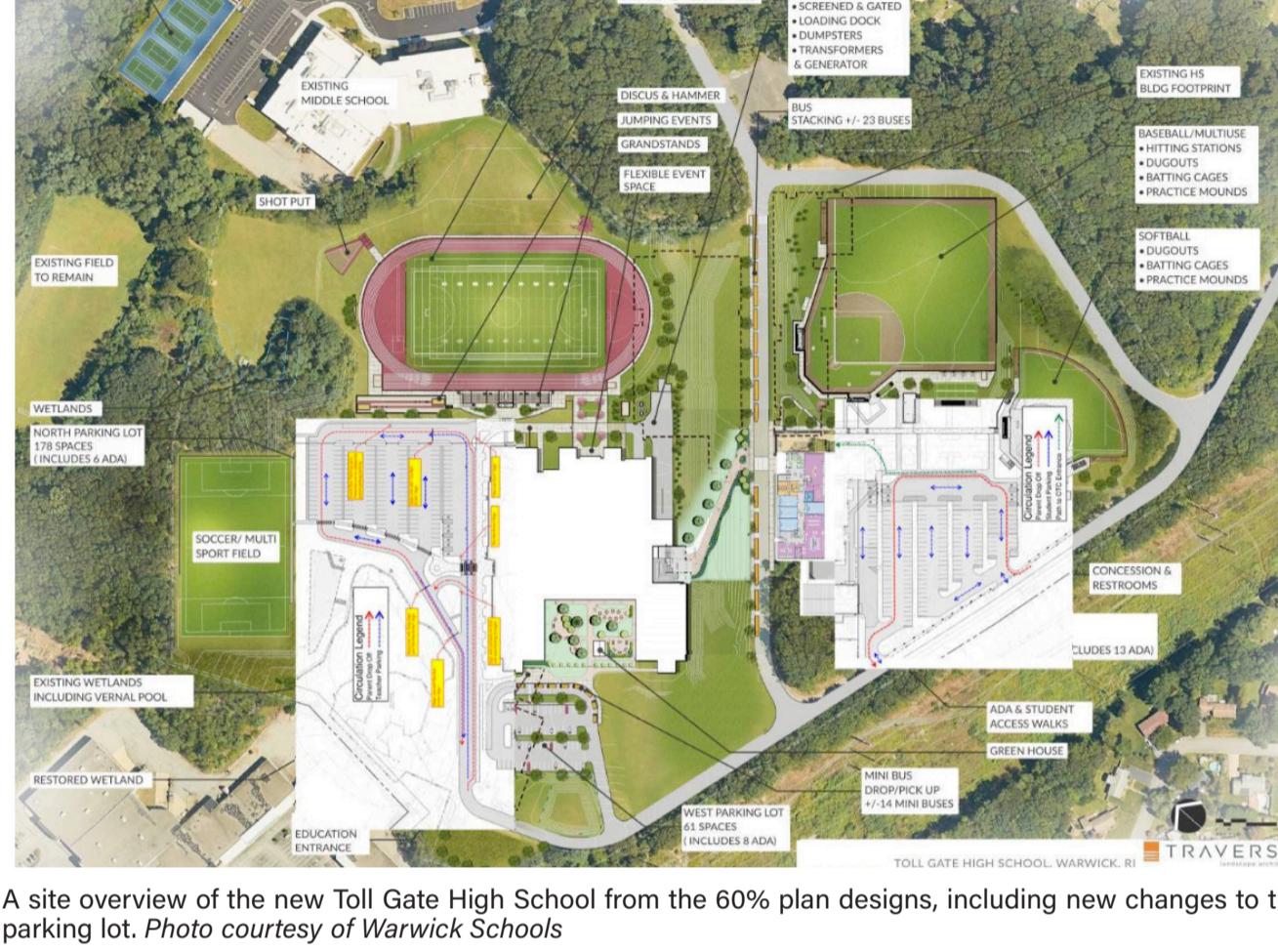
Alexander Elevado



Rank: 9th
Future Plans (education): Stonehill College



Director of Construction & Capital Projects Steven Gothberg presents the state submission of Toll Gate High School's 60% plan to the Warwick School Committee. Beacon Media photo by Greta Shuster



A site overview of the new Toll Gate High School from the 60% plan designs, including new changes to the parking lot. Photo courtesy of Warwick Schools

Construction ramps up at Toll Gate, Holliman to reopen

By Greta Shuster
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Construction projects are well underway this summer at Warwick schools. At the July School Committee meeting, updates from Senior Project Manager John Bates of LeftField and Director of Construction & Capital Projects Steven Gothberg solidified construction plans.

Tree clearing at now-vacant Drum Rock School is completed, and ledge blasting will begin next week. Demolition of the building itself is set to begin Aug. 2 after utility companies cut connections.

Holliman Elementary School, which was renovated during the academic year, is getting finishing touches this month. According to Steve Gothberg, construction workers are finishing up with door adjustments, HVAC systems and shelving. "The place looks spectacular, I think," said the department's director of construction. The scheduled move-in for Holliman, which held classes last year at the Gorton Administration building, is July 23.

The school department and LeftField continue to work with the state Department of Environmental Management on a plan for the remediation of contaminated soil at Pilgrim High School.

"We do need to work with DEM very closely on the best approach for remediation," said Bates. "As I've said in previous meetings, it's a multi-step process." Bates said that LeftField is looking to start work at Pilgrim in mid-August.

While a guaranteed maximum price [GMP] has yet to be set for Pilgrim or Toll Gate, Bates hopes that those figures will be presented to the School Committee at the August and September meetings, respectively. Gothberg in a conversation prior to the meeting is optimistic that the final cost of the two high schools won't be any more than the added \$23 million projected this spring. In 2022, voters approved a \$350 million bond for the schools, however, delays in the projects, inflation and competition have pushed prices up.

"The question is how much contingency are we going to use," said Gothberg. As contracts are solidified and construction starts the projected shortfall will come into focus. Gothberg is hopeful that could fall below \$20 million.

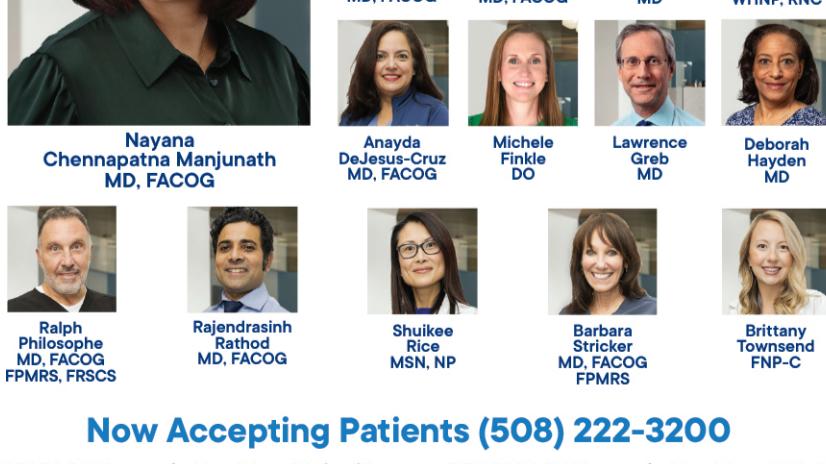
The School Committee voted unanimously to approve the state Department of Education submission of the Toll Gate 60% construction document. Gothberg presented a slideshow of design images, explaining the changes since the most recent round of designs. Major changes include a reconfiguration of the parking lot and the car path for drop-off, in compliance with DEM wetlands regulations, and a redesign of the pathway to the Career and Technical Center.

"I appreciate you presenting this this evening to us and highlight the differences from the last time we approved the designs," said School Committee Chair Shuan Galligan.

With reports from John Howell.

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Bella's Creamery employee Katie shows off the s'mores gourmet milkshake topped with toasted marshmallows, a chocolate bar and graham crackers. *Beacon Media photo by Greta Shuster*



Bella's Creamery employee Leah assembles the chocolate topper for the s'mores gourmet milkshake. *Beacon Media photo by Greta Shuster*

Summer dish: Bella's Creamery

By GRETA SHUSTER
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Located at one of the city's busiest intersections, Bella's Creamery is serving up lavish desserts at Airport and Post roads.

"I go extravagant. I go big and bold," said co-owner Danielle Smith. In an effort to make her new business stand out, Smith curated a menu that goes far beyond the traditional offerings of an ice cream shop.

Bella's Creamery's menu ranges from their Gifford's hard ice cream selections to crepes, açaí bowls, bubble waffles and gourmet milkshakes.

The shop has been in operation since its grand opening in February, after a change in ownership from the former Fun House Ice Cream Shoppe. Smith and her business partner took over the location from the retiring couple who owned Fun House. Bella's is a small, family-owned business that employs 8 people.

Smith describes Bella's as "not a standard creamery." Their most popular items are the gourmet milkshakes, especially the

s'mores and Oreo overload. Smith's personal favorite is the cheesecake crumble milkshake, which comes with a small slice of cheesecake.

"I would not be able to do it without them," Smith said of her crew. Leah and Katie, two of her employees, spoke highly of the work environment.

"I love when kids come in and are wowed by the options," said Leah. Katie said working at Bella's is "the most fun job."

Customer service is Smith's number-one priority. She encourages all her employees to create a friendly environment for customers. Smith also emphasized the importance of building a good relationship with Warwick. "It's not going to thrive without the community," she said.

Bella's Creamery is at 1775 Post Rd. There are both drive-through and walk-in service options. Hours are Monday-Thursday noon-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday noon-11 p.m. and Sunday noon-9 p.m. You can find the shop on social media @BellasCreameryRI.

Kent Hospital president to lead Baltimore health system

Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, president and chief operating officer of Kent Hospital, has accepted the position of president and chief executive officer at GBMC HealthCare (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) in Maryland. He will remain with Kent Hospital through mid-September to assist with transition planning as Kent's owner, Care New England, launches a national search.

"While we are saddened to see Dr. Gopalakrishnan depart, we are incredibly proud of this well-earned next step in his career," Michael Wagner, MD, FACP, president and CEO of Care New England, said in a statement. "Over the past three years, his leadership has propelled Kent Hospital to new heights in clinical excellence, operational performance and patient-centered care."

During Dr. Gopalakrishnan's tenure, Kent earned recognition for excellence in key service lines, including Emergency Medicine, Geriatrics and Orthopedic Surgery. "Paari," as he is known to the hospital staff, also spearheaded a major financial turnaround and led the planning of an upcoming renovation of the Emergency Department and Ambulatory Services build-

ing, set to begin this fall.

Dr. Gopalakrishnan joined Kent Hospital in 2009 as the director of the Inpatient Medical Group, was appointed chief medical officer in 2018, and was appointed president and COO in 2022. In addition to his leadership at Kent, he has played an integral role on the executive team at Care New England.

"Serving the patients, staff and community at Kent Hospital has been one of the greatest privileges of my career," Dr. Gopalakrishnan said in a release. "I'm grateful for the talented and dedicated team I've had the honor to work alongside, and I leave confident that Kent's best days lie ahead."

Care New England will share updates regarding interim leadership and the national search in the coming weeks.

"We are looking forward to a smooth transition and continuity of all clinical services and hospital operations," added Dr. Wagner. "Kent Hospital has a talented and dedicated leadership team who I am confident will continue to advance our commitment to caring for the greater Warwick community in the weeks ahead."

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Bisque & Cakes \$12.99	Tender Bay Scallops \$18.99
Clam Cakes 1/2 DZ. \$7.99 1 DZ. \$13.99	Deep Sea Scallops \$24.99
Lobster Bisque Cup: \$8.99 Pt: \$15.99	Fried Shrimp \$17.99
Portuguese Stuffy \$4.99	Fried Seafood Platter
Shrimp Basket 1/2lb. \$14.99	Fish, Shrimp, Clams, Scallops, \$29.99
Fried Calamari \$14.99	One Clam Cake, Tartar Sauce, Cocktail Sauce
Fried Smelts \$14.99	
Mozzarella Sticks \$7.99	OVEN BAKED
Chicken Tenders \$7.99	Served with Potato Salad
Onion Rings Large! \$7.99	Cole Slaw, & Lemon

Point Judith Hard Shell Steamed Lobster
Butter, Lemon, Tail Cut, Claws Cracked
\$22.99 1/4 lb.

P.E.I. Mussels
Broth, Butter, Lemon
\$10.99 1 lb. Bucket

Four Town Farm Native Corn
Picked Daily
\$2.00 per ear

Thin Sliced Snail Salad
Snack Made, Better than the Hill!
\$12.99 1/2 lb.

FRIDAY 5PM - 8PM - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 11:30AM-8PM

Maine Steamers

Medium Sized, Triple Washed,

Broth, Butter, Lemon

\$21.99 2 lb. Bucket

P.E.I. Mussels

Broth, Butter, Lemon

\$10.99 1 lb. Bucket

2255 Warwick Ave., Warwick

Next to Dockside Seafood

CONSUMER ADVISORY WARNING FOR RAW FOODS: IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, WE ADVISE THAT EATING RAW OR UNDERCOOKED MEAT, POULTRY, OR SEAFOOD POSES A RISK TO YOUR HEALTH

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
REVISED 7/10/25

8% SALES TAX NOT INCLUDED.



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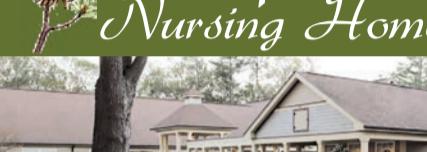
60 MO.
0% INTEREST
CREDIT TERMS APPLY

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YOUR LOCAL UTILITY PROVIDER WANTS TO PAY FOR YOUR INSULATION
SAVE MONEY & STAY COMFORTABLE
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APPLY NOW!

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Apply to Kyle Gauvin or Evelyn Callaghan at
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Travel + Leisure readers: T.F. Green best US airport

Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport is the Top Domestic Airport in Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards 2025 readers' survey, as voted by the publication's passionate well-traveled readers. This honor will appear in the August 2025 issue of Travel + Leisure and is also featured online at Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards. According to the FAA, there are 560 airports that conduct commercial passenger operations, making this a notable distinction on the tails of being the fastest growing airport in the U.S.

This recognition comes as part of Travel + Leisure's 30th anniversary celebration of the World's Best Awards, which highlight standout destinations, properties and travel experiences worldwide.

"This recognition is an incredible honor for our airport and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team," Iftikhar Ahmad, president and CEO of the Rhode



Iftikhar Ahmad

Island Airport Corporation said in a statement. "To be named the No. 1 Domestic Airport by some of the most seasoned travelers in the world is both humbling and inspiring. We're proud to be Rhode Island's gateway to the world and the fastest growing airport in the country."

"Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards are a trusted barometer for excellence across the travel industry," said Jacqueline Gifford, editor-in-chief of Travel + Leisure. "To be selected as No. 1 means your guests feel truly taken care of and that you stand out among the best of the best."

Each year, Travel + Leisure asks readers to rate airports across several categories including access, check-in/security, restaurants/bars, shopping and design. The 2025 results are based on the experiences of hundreds of thousands of readers who participated in the survey.



Dori LaBella, retiring head of the Pilgrim science department. Submitted photo

Retirees with 25+ years in the schools

Lynn Seidenberg, Grade 2, Sherman Elementary, 39 years
Marguerite (Peg) Cocozza-Pallini, Art, Vets Middle School, 39 years
Lynn Dambruch, superintendent, 39 years
Christopher Plante, Science, Toll Gate High School, 37 years
Lisa Rzemien, Norwood Elementary, 36 years
Linda Patrick, nurse, 36 years
Patti Cousineau, director of Elementary Ed., 36 years
Norman Bouthillier, Social Studies, Winman Middle School, 35 years
Lisa Fortier, Grade 1, Robertson Elementary, 35 years
Sue Fusco, Grade 4, Sherman Elementary, 35 years
Dori LaBella, Science Department Head, Pilgrim High School, 35 years
Karen Callabro, Grade 3, Sherman Elementary, 32 years
Catherine Maguire, Grade 2, Warwick Neck Elementary, 32 years
Heidi Cianfarani, Grade 3, Cedar Hill Elementary, 31 years
Patti Blanchard, Speech/Language, Warwick Neck Elementary, 27 years
Al Brizio, Science, Pilgrim High School, 26 years
William Mahoney, Grade 4, Oakland Beach Elementary, 25 years
Timothy May, Math/Computer Science, Pilgrim High School, 25 years
Kathy Genest, Grade 5, Park Elementary, 25 years

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● TEACHERS from page 1

and asked, "Do you want to write a novel?"

Cocozza-Pallini described the changes in the department as "scratching the seven-year itch." In her perspective, every seven or so years the department would introduce new curriculum, just as teachers were "getting used to things."

"Some of it was implemented well," she said. "But the training wasn't there."

"I loved every minute of it," she said. "There were a lot of changes, but we adapted to it like a metamorphosis."

Cocozza-Pallini, as a longtime veteran of the school department, has a perspective that spans generations. She has watched as her students grow up to become the parents of the students she has taught more recently. "This happens to me a lot," she said.

When it comes to technology, "kids are really the best teachers," Cocozza-Pallini said. She remarked on the ease of Promethean boards and the convenience of being able to pull up any image quickly to provide a visual for her thoughts.

According to Cocozza-Pallini, technology should be used as a "tool, but not the foundation of education."

Dori LaBella – Pilgrim High School

Dori LaBella worked in the Warwick school department for 35 years. Most recently, she was the science department head at Pilgrim High School. LaBella began working as a student teacher at Winman Jr. High School (now Middle School) in 1989 and was hired full-time teaching science in 1990.

LaBella attended the College of the Holy Cross, where she earned her undergraduate degree in biology on the pre-med track. "When I was looking at med school, it was looking at another 10 years of education before you could settle and start regular life," she said. "It was going to be a long journey."

After years of working in various hospital programs doing neurological testing, LaBella returned to school to obtain a teaching certificate at URI in biology and general science.

"I was always interested in working with kids," she said. She was especially inspired by her mother, who taught first grade.

LaBella remarked on the declining enrollment in Warwick schools over time and consolidation of many "neighborhood schools." It was these local neighborhood elementary and junior high schools that drew her to Warwick. "I love being able to see the kids in the neighborhood," she said.

"You get a different relationship with the

kids than you would driving in from another area."

"The pandemic really made a difference in the way that kids are learning and what their expectations are for school," said LaBella. She remarked that students are more screen-oriented than ever, but technology does have its benefits. She explained how online materials can provide the most up-to-date information when it comes to developments in the scientific community.

Her fondest memories with her students include conducting hands-on science experiments, teaching bioethics to her high school students and leading the eighth-grade trips to Washington, D.C.

Catherine Maguire
Warwick Neck Elementary School

Catherine Maguire is a "Rhode Island girl at heart," educated and employed in the state her entire life. Originally from Warwick, Maguire went through Warwick schools K-12 and graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School. She retired this spring after 32 years as a full-time certified teacher and 43 years in total with the department. She has taught at Warwick Neck Elementary School since becoming a teacher.

Like so many teachers who have spent decades in the schools, Maguire's students have grown up to be parents of kids who she's also taught. "Being a Warwick person forever, I taught some of the kids of parents I went to high school with," she said.

When thinking back on the pandemic, Maguire says it was "beyond words."

Maguire emphasized the difficulty of managing an online classroom environment, especially for second graders. Teaching young children to mute and unmute themselves on Zoom was "definitely a challenge," she said.

"Technology is a double-edged sword," Maguire said. She emphasized the importance of children learning how to communicate face-to-face and play cooperatively with each other. Social-emotional learning, something that Maguire says has always been a part of her personal pedagogy, became a required part of the curriculum post-pandemic. Maguire emphasized the importance of small classroom sizes to encourage relationship-building between students, their peers and teachers.

When Maguire looks back at her time at Warwick Neck, she thinks fondly of the philanthropic and fundraising efforts she was able to work on with the parent-teacher association. "The kindness piece, for me, has always been huge," she said.



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CAVA opens in Warwick

CAVA opened its second Rhode Island location last week in Warwick at 1009 Centerville Road on June 27.

With Mediterranean-inspired bowls, pitas, dips, and dressings, the fast-casual restaurant chain serves delicious food that helps people eat well and live well. These menu offerings, combined with an emphasis on hospitality and serving others, have created diverse, passionate followers who flock to new restaurant openings.

Since 2019, this companywide Community Day program has raised more than \$600,000 in donations, mostly targeted at improving food security in local communities. CAVA's Warwick Community Day event raised funds for Rhode Island Community Food Bank, a nonprofit organization serving more than 63,000 Rhode Islanders per month through food pantries and meal sites.

CAVA's new Warwick restaurant will employ 25-40 local people.

CAVA is a Mediterranean fast-casual restaurant chain. *Submitted photo*



Toll Gate High posts 3rd quarter honor roll

Grade 12 High Honor Roll

Dima Al Sallami, Brook Bastan, Riley Baxter, Kyle Bickham, Olivia Bradford, Ryan Brady, Lena Butera, Michael Caparco, Robert Chace, Aaliyah Charron-Abbott, Madyson Clark, Levi Coggins-Libian, Lyla Costa, John Dacey, Cassandra DaCosta, Ava DelVicario, Nathan D'entremont, Avry Dewar, Hannah DiCaprio, Brayden Drowne, Noah Durand, Zachary Dyer, Victoria Edge, Jacob Enos, Mason Enos, Rebecca Farias, Jackson Fields, Lucas Franco, Jacob French, Sierra Gardner, Adrianna Giovannelli, Liam Harnois, Emma Harrold, Brayden Healey, Emma Hindle, Connor Jackson, Joshua Jutras, Brennan Kabalkin, Ethan Kazarian, Devin Kelly, Jaiden Kilroy, Kayla Kipphut, Elizabeth Lagergren, Geoffrey Laliberte, Meredith Lamphier, Kiera Lavalle, Shamus Leahy, Katelyn Leonard, Kelsee Leonard, Megan Levett, Daniel Lin, Steven Marandola, Haylee Marandola, Ava Marrocco, John Maynard, Joshua Maynard, Joseph McCormick, Mary McNulty, Jayden Medeiros, Ella Mehta, Juanita Mendez, Grant Meunier, Flora Meunier, Shane Moro, Nickolas Napolitano, Christopher Nolan, Carter Nolan, Julianna Pauley, Seth Payne, Alanna Pereira, Lorenzo Perez, Angelo Petrone, Caroline Polo, Joshua Quimby, Aiden Rios, Ana Carolina Rodrigues Braga, Jared Sabatelli, Lorenzo Salvador, Alonso Sanchez, Jalissia Smith, Lillian Szewczyk, Kaitlin Szymkowicz, Maxx Tejada, Maddiesyn Tente, Bryan Tombs, Tye Traverse, Connor Ventura, Hanna Ventura, Katelyn Watson, Nicholas White, Amelia Wilson, Jack Wilson, Joan Yao, Alexandra Zinno, Jareksa Zuniga

Grade 12 Honor Roll

Anabella Alcantara, Braydon Amaral, Austin Audet, Samantha Barr, Rylee Berard, Ronald Bliss, Rion Brown, Leah Brown, Jazmin Budrow, Jack Colvin, Kamryn DeAngelis, Jared DeCorpo, Alexander Dolan, Lily Duquet, Leo Ellis, Arielle Harpin,

Melody Harrison, Jing Harrison-Viera, Stephen Hutchison, Angelina Jennings, Anthony Merola, Isabella Meyer, Julianna Meyer, Samantha Murphy, Hunter Nasrabadi, Aaron Pacheco, Abigail Parenteau, Gabriel Parrillo, Abigail Paulhus, Alexia Peckham-Fusco, Cristina Plante, Izaiah Poston, Brendan Reilly, John Ricci, Daemon Rigollet, Connor Salzillo, Arison Santana, Adriana Smith, Allen Thimas, Hailey Venticinque, Delaney Wilson, Kason Wirtz

Grade 11 High Honor Roll

Abigail Adoian, Caitlyn Aiello, Sean Anderson, Jacob Arthurs, Jacob Ballsmith, Kevin Barker, Nicholas Bergeron, Benjamin Berry, Ava Birmingham, Christian Boudreau, Haley Bourgault, Laurel Breault, Ella Bronner, Matthew Brunelle, Ethan Cahoon, Selah Canzano, Kayley Carreiro, Benjamin Carvalho, Hannah Chasse, Mackenzie Chianca, Nicholas Chianca, Gracelyn Cobb, Rocco Coccio, Denzel Colaj Chivalan, Maia Costa, Hope Daggett, Blaze Day-Reyes, Declan DeGuzman, Chloe Dias, Roseana Diaz, Caiden Dill, Gianna DiMeco, Alina Dorsey, Benjamin Durand, Addison Eddy, Avery Engstrom, Brady Fales, Karleigh Ferraro, Ava Fisher, Gavin Franco, Daylan Garcia-Lopez, Olyvia Gardner, Austin Garrett, Madison Gautieri, Victoria Gedney, Gianna Goffreda, William Goodine, Brooklyn Gray, Dariel Guzman, Isabella Haley, Peter Hamilton, Haylen Heal, Cali Hidalgo-Stafford, Brianna Hockhausen, Sophia Izzo, Fiona Jevne, Maxx Jolly, Vanessa Jones, Jackson Kavanagh, Ciaran Kenyon, William King, Stella-Blue Kraus, Yahir Landry, Jack Larrivee, Alexa Lautieri, Anden Lavature, Robert Lawler, Jaylene Le, Joshua Lebel, Jonathan Leibler, Samantha Lin, Grace Marchand, Elayna Marcotte, Glenn Marmol, Andreas Martino, Isabella Martino, Aaliyah Mateo, Tyler McCoombs, Madilyn McGarrahian, Andromeda McMillan, Kristy Montesi, Reagan Motta, Matthew Nikodem, Abigail O'Connor, Shannon Olobri, Brendon

post-employment benefits unfunded actuarial accrued liability is reduced to \$0.00, the city actuary shall:

- Determine total employer pension contributions and OPEB claim payments in the prior year pursuant to the Warwick Ordinances section 20-132 (Fire and Police 1), section 20-242 (Fire 2), section 52-85 (Police 2), and sections 60-251 to 60-253 (Municipal Employees), and OPEB claim payments from information supplied by the City of Warwick.
- Calculate a two and one-half percent increase from the sum of subsection (1) of this section.
- Determine total employer pension contribution appropriations and projected OPEB claim payments for the new year pursuant to section 20-132 (Fire and Police 1), section 20-242 (Fire 2), section 52-85 (Police 2), and sections 60-251 to 60-253 (Municipal Employees), and OPEB claim payments projected by the actuary.

(4) Subtract the sum of subsection (3) of this section from the sum of subsection (1) of this section and subtract the result from subsection (2) of this section. The city shall appropriate the difference to the irrevocable "Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust." If less than \$0.00, no contribution to the other post-employment benefit trust is required.

(b) Nothing shall prohibit the city from making additional appropriations in any year to the trust from other sources without impacting future requirements under this section. Employee contributions to the "Other Post-Employment Trust" shall reduce the appropriation requirement by the city.

Section II: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as prescribed by law.

SPONSORED BY:
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI
ON BEHALF OF MAYOR PICOZZI

COMMITTEE: FINANCE
Attest:
Lynn D'Arosca, City Clerk

Sec. 60-500. – Employer contributions.
(a) For fiscal year 2023-2024, and each year thereafter until the other

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

FROM: Governor Francis Inn Restaurant LLC
DBA: Governor Francis Inn Restaurant
1251 Warwick Ave.
Warwick, RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, 2nd floor WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., ON **Tuesday August 12th at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING

Board of Public Safety
James H. Paolucci

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

7/17/25, 7/24/25
STATE WIDE

Board of Public Safety
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7/17/25, 7/24/25

City of Warwick
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FROM: Harbor Lights Partners LLC
Dba: Harbor Lights
150 Gray St
Warwick, RI 02889

7/17/25

TO: Flying Bridge LLC
Dba: Harbor Lights Restaurant
150 Gray St
Warwick, RI 02889

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROOM, WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, 99 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR., WARWICK, R.I., ON **Tuesday August 12th at 6:00PM** AT WHICH TIME AND PLACE PERSONS REMONSTRATING AGAINST THE GRANTING OF THIS APPLICATION MAY BE HEARD. REMONSTRANCES MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE OF HEARING

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7/17/25



With his signature top hat, Henry Brown and Don Conlon were among those originating Gaspee Days ride in the 2016 parade. *Beacon Media file photo by John Howell*

● BROWN from page 1

the late Robert Breslin in his bid for the local state Senate seat. Everybody liked the idea of a clambake. Henry took on the project, but not before doing his research at the library.

Collector and author

Henry was keen on research and an inveterate collector of artifacts and stories. His study from Spring Green Farm overlooking Occupasstuxet Cove was packed with three-ring binders of newspaper clippings, maps, drawings, deeds and letters pertaining to Rhode Island history but particularly Warwick. Ancestral portraits kept vigil over the scene that gave the feel of stepping back into time, especially when Henry elaborated on who they were and what they were like.

On one visit to his home to follow up on a story about the disappearance of Greene Island, Brown asked this reporter to look down at the threshold. There was what appeared to be a worn but genuine oriental rug. Portions of it were threadbare, but the pattern was distinct and the colors still rich.

"Guess where I got it?" Brown asked. It could have come from an estate sale or perhaps an auction. No doubt Henry considered it a find, a treasure.

"Rescued from the Block Island dump," he said proudly.

He rescued a lot from being lost over time and he wrote scores of books.

Henry had the story of and photos of Greene's Island, which is now little more than a sandy spit that disappears at high tide. He had personal accounts of playing on the island embankments, how it once had a spring and fresh water and how a derelict barge that had become a hangout was torched in one July 4th celebration.

Mark Maggiacomo who owns Louie's Barber Shop in Conimicut, remembers trading stories with Henry and hearing more than once Henry's lament that Spring Green was being charged taxes for the island that didn't exist. "Is it appraised at high or low tide" Henry would ponder.

The island's story is in the last of Henry's books, "Gaspee Point: ...from its Revolutionary beginning through the tented family campgrounds to the present-day cottages," which was published in 2020. Roger Hudson, who assisted Henry in a variety of matters, worked with him on selecting Gaspee materials from his vast archives, which included interesting stories on families as well as photographs.

Les Rolston is another local to collaborate with Henry. Les, who wrote a book about neighbors who fought on different sides during the Civil War, was an inspector in the city building department. He remembers following up on a complaint that a Gaspee resident was raising chickens, which is restricted by ordinance. Sure enough, Les found the chickens. He asked the resident if Henry knew about them. The landowner's answer: "Oh, yes. He comes down and checks for eggs." Henry was more interested in agriculture than ordinances.

Putting together a clambake

Dan said his father revered and depended on Wilmot's record-keeping to help run the clambake from year to year. Dan listed the clambake preparations. Rocks for heating had to be round and not of quartz, which would split, and were gathered from a sand and gravel pit that is now part of the Metro Center development. Seaweed came from Swansea, as did the clams. Sausages were bought at Saugus. They weren't the classic hot dogs, but the smaller white veal sausages called "buckys," recalled Dan.

Next was washing everything, a process involving placing much of the food on giant grates and spraying it with a hose. Meanwhile giant logs that had been burning in an open pit produced a bed of coals on which the stones were heaped. Next came the seaweed and then the food built in layers with the seaweed like lasagna. Clams and items that took longer to cook on bottom near heat and then topped with lobsters. It was all covered with a tarp and allowed to steam until Henry, wearing his trademark top hat as bake master, declared the bake ready. In the early years, the bakes started off with 25 to 30 people, and as time passed, morphed into hundreds of seafood-starved ticketholders.

An Aldrich grad who went to URI

Henry grew up on Spring Green, attended Aldrich High School and went on to graduate from URI, where he studied agriculture. At the time of the Korean War he enlisted in the Army and was sent as a medic – he drove an ambulance – at a base not far from Frankfurt, Germany. He bought a Jaguar that he



Here's a bet from years ago whose outcome endures today: Sarah Wilmot Perrone stands in front of the rhododendrons Henry Brown gave her mother, Elizabeth Wilmot, in 1971. Henry bet Elizabeth she would deliver a boy. He lost the bet and Sarah stands before the rhododendrons that continue to grow today in the yard now belonging to her older sister Susan Wilmot Cabeceiras. *Photo contributed by Susan Wilmot Cabeceiras*

permitted the crew from the base motor pool to use, provided they kept it in tip-top running shape.

"He was always thinking ahead," said Dan

Dan admires his father's propensity to share things and help others. Around 1976, after the Vietnam War, Hmong people and farmers who had fought alongside the Americans fled to this country as refugees. Henry provided a plot of land to a small family of refugees, Ming and Pong, who grew vegetables year after year. Dan remembers their kindness and love for his father along with the spring rolls and other delicacies Ming and Pong would offer in appreciation.

Henry had a love for Block Island. As the story goes, when Dan and his older brother William were boys, Henry bought "Hull's" roadside cottage, which was small and in deplorable condition. Soon afterward Henry was at the butcher shop waiting to place an order when he picked up on the local gossip that "some damn fool" paid good money for the dilapidated shack.

When he reached the counter, Henry said, "This damn fool wants a couple of steaks."

Henry's marriage to Joy Harrison – they had met in Warwick – had hit a rough spot, and although the divorce was not easy, Dan never heard his father become judgmental or negative about the matter. He just kept moving on and wanted to support and love his children. Dan stayed with his mother on the island, graduating from the Block Island School while his brother moved back to the mainland at around 14 and grew up on the farm in Warwick.

Scott Avedisian's father and Henry's father, John Francis Brown, were close friends and went to school together.

"I've known Henry my whole life," Scott said when reached for comment. "He was involved in everything." As a child Scott remembers the two-day Trinity Church bazaar that Henry played a big part in running. "It was sold out every year," he said.

At the end of the event, Henry would bring home the turkey bones to make soup. That story would surely resonate with Anne Holst of Cloud's Hill Museum, who served on the conservation commission with Henry.

Forecasting a severe winter

She recalled discussions her mother, Nancy Allen Holst, and Henry had over weather forecasting and how the breast bones of geese could tell whether it was going to be a severe winter. The larger the breast bones the more severe the winter.

Anne remembered Henry desperately wanted to have a museum to preserve the Spring Green Farm 19th century agricultural equipment. He devoted himself to saving the old farm equipment and donating it to the Clouds Hill Museum, where it now sits as the Henry A.L Brown Agricultural Collection. Separate from all the farming equipment, Spring Green Farm was a busy place as it was, said Anne, and did a thriving business of raising chicks for hen laying chickens plus other poultry. A key to the business was the insecticide developed by a Professor Lambert that was used to de-louse the birds and could also be used on kids.

"He was a frustrated farmer," she said.

Anne recalled Henry's 'Que Sera, Sera' approach to life, recounting how the Warwick Historic District Commission traveled to Block Island to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Block Island Commission. On the return ferry trip, the Block Island commission hosted a reception. Soon after pulling away from the dock, a companion questioned Henry about the whereabouts of his luggage. Henry suddenly realized he had left it on the dock. The companion fretted about it being left behind, but Henry wasn't perturbed.

Anne remembers Henry saying, "Don't worry, they'll find them". Soon after, another passenger appeared with the luggage. He spotted the baggage and thought Henry would need it. Henry always figured life would work its way out.

Henry always produced a tree for the Arbor Day observances held by the Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission at an elementary school each year. At the ceremony, Henry would recite Joyce Kilmer's poem "The Tree." He cared greatly for nature and wanted Warwick schools to instill the importance of wildlife preservation and trees to children. This love also led him to donate acreage along his waterfront property to the Audubon Society.

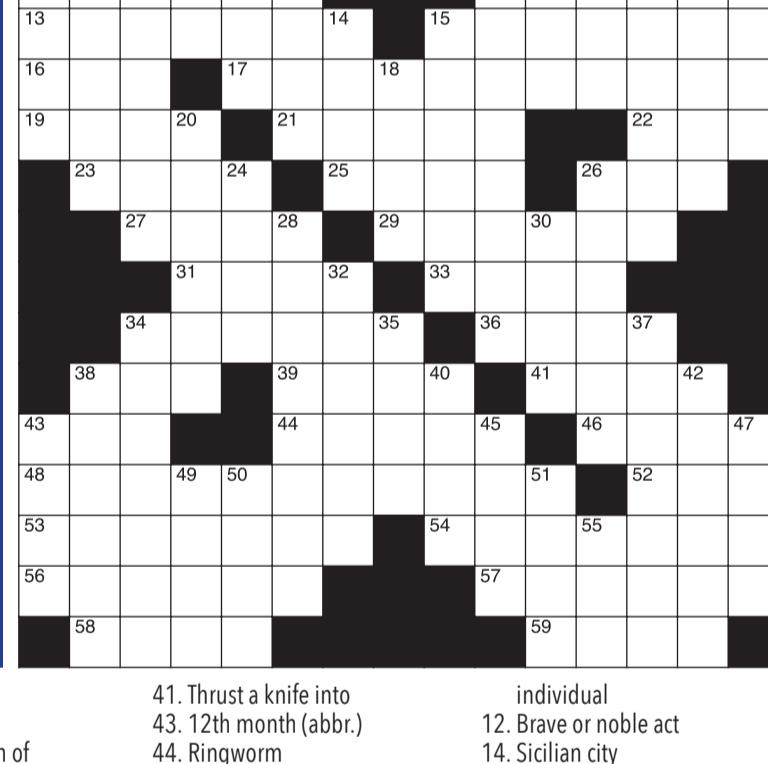
In speaking about trees, Dan remembered a story from his father that brought him great annoyance. Soon after the Great Storm, otherwise known as the Hurricane of 1938, he saw monkeys that had escaped from the Rocky Point Zoo during the storm.

"He yelled out, 'daddy, look at the monkeys behind you swinging in the trees.'" His father told him to stop imagining things and get back in the car without even turning his head to look.

"He never forgot that experience and talked about it to the end of his days," said Dan.

At the memorial service on Saturday, Dan will keep to his word and the script his father approved. Dan will use the clambake as a parable of Henry's time in this world with the gathering of so many delicious ingredients that collectively made for such a full and rewarding life.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Resorts
- 5. One point south of southwest
- 9. Musical performances
- 11. Matched
- 13. Four-footed animal part
- 15. Express severe disapproval of
- 16. Type of leaf
- 17. Preparatory
- 19. Walk heavily
- 21. Succulent plants
- 22. Rectangle of grass
- 23. Lump in yarn
- 25. Too
- 26. Foot (Latin)
- 27. Afflicts
- 29. Smoothed
- 31. Mind (Greek)
- 33. Tampa ballclub
- 34. Semitic language
- 36. Sheltered sides
- 38. Ocean
- 39. Electronic point of sale
- 41. Thrust a knife into
- 43. 12th month (abbr.)
- 44. Ringworm
- 46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
- 48. Fighting back
- 52. Cease to exist
- 53. Insects in adult stage
- 54. Freestanding sculpture
- 56. Caps
- 57. Repents
- 58. Brown and Wallace are two
- 59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Goes bad
- 2. Yard structure
- 3. They __
- 4. Marine invertebrate
- 5. European river
- 6. Office supplies firm
- 7. Physically abused
- 8. Service stations in Australia
- 9. Kills
- 10. Liquid body substances
- 11. Particular to a given
- 12. Brave or noble act
- 14. Sicilian city
- 15. Conqueror
- 18. Elected officials
- 20. Type of "pig"
- 24. Drop of viscous substance
- 26. Monetary unit of Spain
- 28. Guarantees
- 30. Coloring materials
- 32. Reddish browns
- 34. Square measure
- 35. Will not
- 37. Canned fish
- 38. Appeared
- 40. Six (Spanish)
- 42. Took off
- 43. Negligible amount
- 45. Posts in a Greek temple
- 47. Witnesses
- 49. Phil __, former CIA
- 50. Places to park
- 51. Guns
- 55. Dance to pop music

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Imagine what Henry Polichetti has seen in 110 years of living

Some things in life are easier to imagine than others. And then there are some things that are beyond the understanding of anyone who didn't experience it themselves.

This is why it's important to cherish the time we have with people like Henry Polichetti.

Polichetti, of Cranston, just turned 110 years old on July 3. And regardless of whether that eye-popping milestone is a Rhode Island record (historical records can be finicky), what is certain is that his experience is worthy of prolonged celebration.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to appreciate the gravity of events during those 110 years of Mr. Polichetti's life, or to understand fully what some episodes within that unfathomable span must have felt like in the moment.

For context, think a moment about what it would mean for you to have been born on July 3, 1915.

That is just a couple of months after the sinking of the Lusitania, the doomed British passenger ship that was attacked by a German U-boat on May 7, causing the deaths of more than 1,200 people (including 128 Americans). It was one of the final catalysts for the United States to enter the First World War.

In January 1915, the first intercontinental phone call was initiated by Alexander Graham Bell. To think of the exponential strides in communication technology in the ensuing 110 years – and all of the good, bad and ugly that has occurred as a result – is striking.

While many of the surviving World War II veterans today were teenagers at the time, imagine being a 26-year-old American man when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Imagine the sense of national outrage and pride and duty and cohesion, and the elation and catharsis you would have felt when the war ended.

Mr. Polichetti doesn't have to imagine it. He lived through it all.

Go through the full lyrics of the famous Billy Joel tune "We Didn't Start the Fire" and you're covering only a 40-year blip in the life of Henry Polichetti, who read about or witnessed all of those historic and pop-cultural events in his time.

Growing up, Mr. Polichetti would have been around adults who spoke of The Civil War as part of their experience. He would have seen the world go through tumultuous periods of chaos and calamity, followed by unimaginable periods of growth, advancement and peace.

Aside from being honored and respected as a veteran of World War II, Henry Polichetti should be honored and respected as a living repository of so many different experiences that have shaped the modern day we now reside in.

We look forward to his 111th year and consider ourselves lucky he resides in our backyard.

GUEST OPINION

How high the sky

The thunder rolled by,
And the dark clouds passed on,
As I splashed in the lake
And enjoyed the fierce sky.
So I sat on my porch
Watching airliner sports –
As the yellow birds ate
And the hummingbirds darted.
And now the huge sky
Was patched with some blue,
And white clouds now draw forth,
Into clear view.
The sun re-appearing,
Like a promise fulfilled.
The lake was now sparkling,
Wind was now stilled.
Why is it so high
... This marvelous sky?
Is it just because now
I took time to see it?
Is it absence of airplanes,
Or traffic pursuing,
Or is it just waiting
For me to now view it?
And why are the stars
So much clearer up here?
Where trees become giants,
And eagles prefer.
But what really matters
Is how the soul feeds,
And Jesus knows why
This sky makes me high.

By Carol Howell
Warwick

What's on your mind?

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

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**Rhode Island's
70th Governor
Edward DiPrete**

1934 - 2025



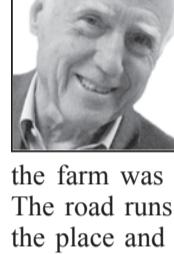
Finding communion with nature

Mark Richards was on the phone, but I had trouble hearing him. There was a lot of banging going on.

"Get out of there," Mark shouted. The clanking only grew louder. Then it went silent. For an instant I thought Mark had dropped his cellphone. It sounded like a scuffle with a few expletives. Was Mark coming under attack? The answer was no, but a young bull interested in cows was kicking up a fuss. He wanted to be in the barn, too. Mark wasn't ready for that, although since the beginning of the year he has raised and sold more than one heifer and he's looking to raise more.

Mark is one of the sons of Tim and Linda Richards, who ran the dairy farm down the road from the home my great aunt and uncle built in upstate New York. As I remember, the Richardses had a herd of about 185 cows, of which about 155 were milkers and the rest "dry." Like banks, food markets and pharmacies, small, independent dairy farms like that run by the Richards family are no match for the giant ones with thousands of milkers. Fields that once grew corn are now rotated between being left fallow and supporting a herd of fewer than 100 grass-fed cattle by a new farmer whose good-paying job is 60 miles away in Albany.

When the Richards family ran it,



This Side Up

by John Howell

the farm was a source of complaint. The road runs through the middle of the place and it was frequently spotted with cow pies, its muddy shoulders deeply rutted from tractors. Nearby, derelict farm equipment rusted under vines and weeds. Barns needed doors and roofs. It was a mess. But, on the other hand, it was alive. The Richardses had a harem of barn cats, a couple of dogs that were always friendly and an untold number of chickens, ducks, geese and occasionally a couple of turkeys. The family was up early for the morning milking and some summer mornings I'd wander over knowing I'd find them at the milking barn to catch up on the local gossip.

On one visit, Mark, his brother Matt and their father found the time to chat between all their chores. I stood facing the three of them when I got this feeling we were not alone. I turned to find a collection of fowl, a dog, several cats and a cow taking in our conversation. They were all part of the

family. I felt the attraction of a farm beyond the pulse of the seasons with the sowing, harvesting and all the hard work that goes in between.

On a smaller scale, I suppose it's comparable to caring for a pet. They are dependent on you, although I've wondered over the years whether one of our dogs – that's Ollie the spotted coon hound – cared more for chasing down a scent than being part of the family.

Mark now has a full-time job with a roofing company, but he comes home to a menagerie. He's the provider for a flock of chickens that provide him with enough eggs and then some, he's got a pig or two and then, of course, about six cows and a young bull feeling his oats. To make it work, he hays several nearby fields, which requires working equipment (he was in the market for a new tractor engine when we talked) and the help of his sons and extended family.

It could hardly be called idyllic.

I'm content mowing the lawn, leaving the gardening to Carol, savoring a fresh-picked cherry tomato and having Farrah sit for a chicken morsel at the dinner table.

I'll get my communion with nature when I visit Mark, and I'll be happy to meet the bull ... from the opposite side of the fence.

GUEST OPINION

Another spin through 'Endless Summer'

By ERIN O'BRIEN

I discovered my Beach Boys "Endless Summer" record on the turntable where I'd left it last September.

It was my very first album, purchased with my earnings from clearing tables and washing dishes at the pizza parlor, four doors down from the record store, five doors down from the bank where I deposited my paychecks for college.

On the first day of summer last year, I reached into the old wooden vegetable crate from the pizza parlor for the Beach Boys' "Endless Summer" in the very front of my record collection. Over the years the interior paper sleeves had become discolored, but tucked inside, the poster of a blue sky with two red biplanes trailing banners of "Endless Summer" and "Beach Boys" in an impossibly blue sky remained pristine. Since it was a double album, all four sides had to be examined before selecting a disc, before I gently set the needle down and turned up the volume. Once downstairs, the strains of summer music would find me, where I imagined I could smell the suntan lotion wafting down the staircase, hear the pounding waves and remember the feel of warm sand under my towel.

Throughout last autumn and winter, when I'd pass the open door of the upstairs room, I'd turn on the record player and flip the discs over, making for my own endless summer.

Summer has returned, along with thoughts of those idyllic days on an LA beach with five friends when I was 15 years old, and the harmonies of three brothers, Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson, their cousin Mike Love and their friend Al Jardine.

Last month I read of the passing of the last Wilson brother, Brian. If you lived in Hawthorne, California, you were familiar with the Beach Boys. A former classmate remembered his older sister plunking him and his two younger twin brothers in their red wagon to stroll past the house where the band practiced in an open garage, until she was discovered and chased away.

Growing up, my friend Elaine lived three houses away. When we were both 10 years old, her sister, a very sophisticated 13 years old, introduced us to the Beach Boys album "Surfer Girl." The cover depicted the five musicians in uniform Pendleton shirts, carrying a longboard along the shoreline. From Elaine's sister's treasury, we alternated listening to The Beach Boys and the Beatles – and Elaine's Monkees record when she wasn't home. (At the time, I was unaware I was late to the party, for unknown to me, the Beach Boys record had been released several years earlier and the Beatles had already broken up.)

At my grandparents' house I liked to retrieve the Hawthorne High School yearbooks from the old maple desk in the front room in order to hunt for photos of my aunts and uncles and their classmates Brian, Dennis, Carl, Mike, and Al. I remember the day I happened upon the black-and-white portrait of Al Jardine in his football uniform with his engaging grin.

What was it like going to school with the Beach Boys in those black and white photographs? I turned to my aunts and uncles from Hawthorne High School Classes of 1963, 1964 and 1967 for answers.

Looking back, from the Class of '63, "Brian was the talented one," my aunt recalled. "Al played varsity football and was really good. Dennis and I went to school together. They played at our senior breakfast and were not very good. Who knew?" she mused.

"My parents had rented a jukebox for a dance party I was having," she continued, "and Dennis came with beer. My dad asked him to leave, and the next day Dennis came over and apologized to my dad and mom. Way back when!"

"Al and Brian were Class of '60 with my sister," my uncle began. "We were Class of '63 with Dennis," adding that a third uncle was in the Class of '64 with Carl Wilson.

"My sister told Al he was going to be a dentist like his father. His father was upset that he joined The Beach Boys.

Al played football and wrestled. Brian was a quarterback and center fielder in baseball, and ran cross country his sophomore year."

No matter how many years have passed, with the very first note, the familiar words return to me. The lyrics conjure up summer days of youth, basking in the sun, body-surfing and boogie-boarding, biking on the strand, and gazing at blond boys who might be real surfers. The Beach Boys melodies are the soundtrack to those days and transport me even today.

I'm grateful my aunt married my dad's brother, and that my dad's sisters married my uncles, when I consider the three of them might have each married a Beach Boy.

Chances are, if you turn on the radio this summer, you'll be treated to the music the Beach Boys gifted us all with, triggering a memory of a summer on the beach and imagining all the summers yet to come.

N.B., Another Hawthorne High School graduate, Class of '65, would marry another musician by the name of George Harrison ...

A California transplant, Erin O'Brien lives in Warwick and is sometimes a contributor to these pages.

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

**Boys Town expands board membership**

As Boys Town New England, a non-profit support organization for young children and adolescents, continues to grow its programs and services across Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, the organization has expanded its board of directors, including two Warwick residents.

"This expansion comes at a critical time for Boys Town New England," said Executive Director Sarah Galvan. "We're growing—not only in numbers, but in reach."

Bill Muto, an innovative business intelligence and data analytics leader and a member of the Warwick City Council representing Ward 6, brings a data-driven mindset to the boardroom.

"Data tells the story of need—and opportunity," Muto said. "I'm excited to help Boys Town expand its ability to serve families effectively, particularly as we reach more communities across southeastern New England."

Kathy Wyllie, a partner at the Warwick-based law firm

Revens, Revens, St. Pierre & Wyllie, brings more than two decades of legal experience in civil litigation and public service.

"I've spent my career advocating for people in difficult circumstances," Wyllie said. "Boys Town's work resonates with me both professionally and personally."

Linda Zammer, a seasoned entrepreneur and former owner of several iconic Cape Cod restaurants, has long been a champion of philanthropic causes on the Cape.

The new board members will officially begin their terms in August. Their arrival marks a new chapter for Boys Town New England, which has steadily expanded its residential programs, foster care services, and community outreach efforts over the past decade. In 2024 alone, nearly 9,300 children were served and impacted by Boys Town New England services.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

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Rev. Yohan Go
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asburyumcri.org

Baha'i Faith
Warwick Community
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884-8632
www.christchurhce.org

Church of The Apostles
Anglican Church in
North America
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Coventry, RI 02816
821-7609
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
www.apostlesri.org

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
111 West Shore Road
737-3127

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am

www.stmarkswarwick.com

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
389 Greenwich Avenue
Rev. Hayley Bang
737-6758
stpaulwarwick.org

Saint Timothy Church
1799 Warwick Avenue
739-9552

Saints Rose & Clement Church
111 Long Street
739-0212

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9 a.m. Sundays

High School Programming

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

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738-4727

www.eckankar-ri.org

Faith Baptist Church

765 Commonwealth Ave.

Pastor Matt Vandeleest

738-7664

faithbaptistri.org

Sunday 9:30am & 11:00am

Faith Family Chapel

205 Hallene Rd. (Unit 103)

Pastor Brian Regan

681-4690

www.faithfamilychapel.org

First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

715 Oakland Beach Avenue

Pastor Michael Ashe

738-3377

fccwri.org

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

124 Division St.

East Greenwich

Friendship Baptist Church

2945 West Shore Road

Pastor Kaleb Hall

738-4392

friendshippri.com

Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian

805 Main Avenue

Rev. Dallas Ann Bradel

737-1230

www.gccp.org

Lakewood Baptist Church

255 Atlantic Avenue

Pastor Ron Provencal

781-1136

lakewoodbaptistchurchri.com

Sunday Worship 10am

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www.facebook.com/LBCWarwick.

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www.LivingFaithRI.org

Narragansett Bay Baptist Church

1642 West Shore Road

Pastor Dru Merrill

738-0600

nbbcri.org

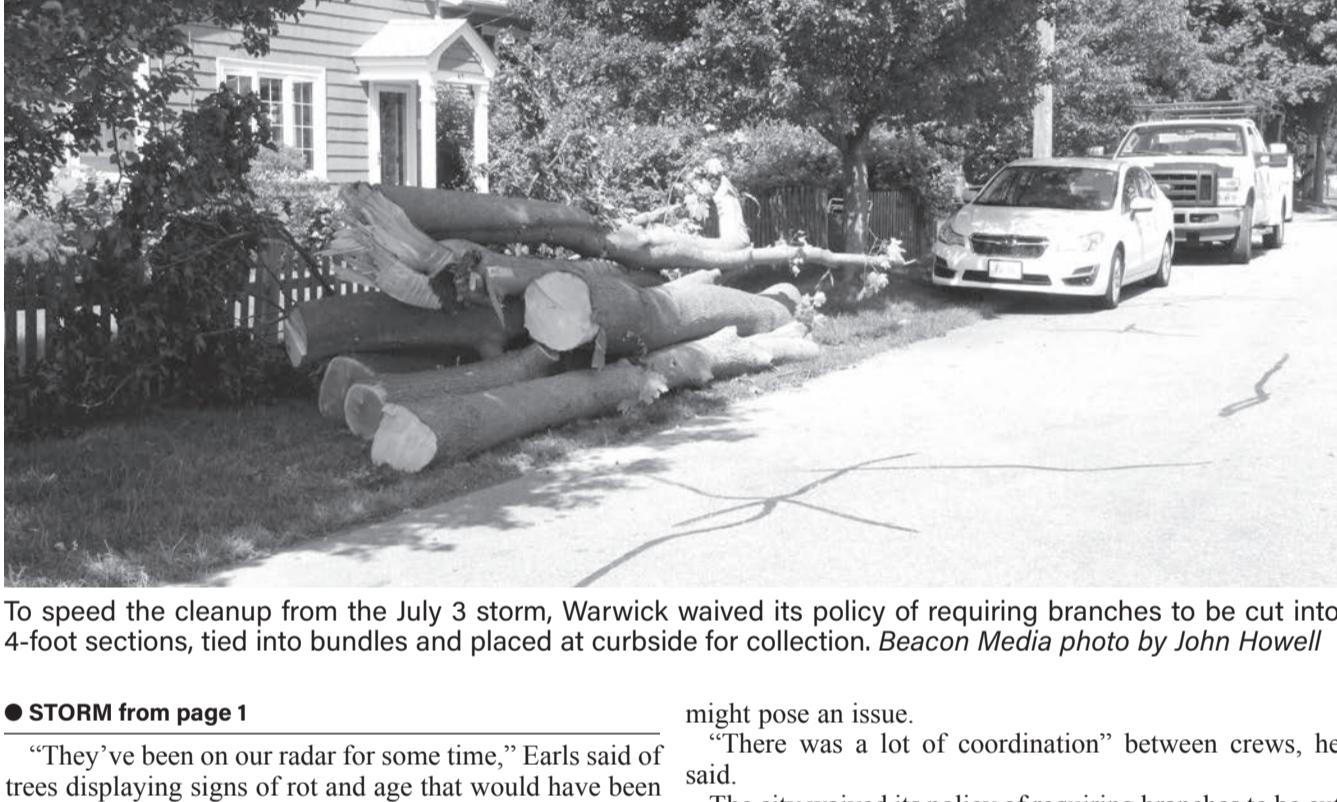
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To speed the cleanup from the July 3 storm, Warwick waived its policy of requiring branches to be cut into 4-foot sections, tied into bundles and placed at curbside for collection. *Beacon Media photo by John Howell*

STORM from page 1

"They've been on our radar for some time," Earls said of trees displaying signs of rot and age that would have been difficult for city crews to handle. With their wood chippers and devotion to tree work, Earls said Warwick Tree, Northeastern and Stanley, the three vendors contracted after the storm, made quick work of the precautionary effort.

In the wake of the storm, Earls estimated the city responded to 120 locations in the first couple of days. Working alongside were Rhode Island Energy crews who were called in situations involving downed wires or where wires

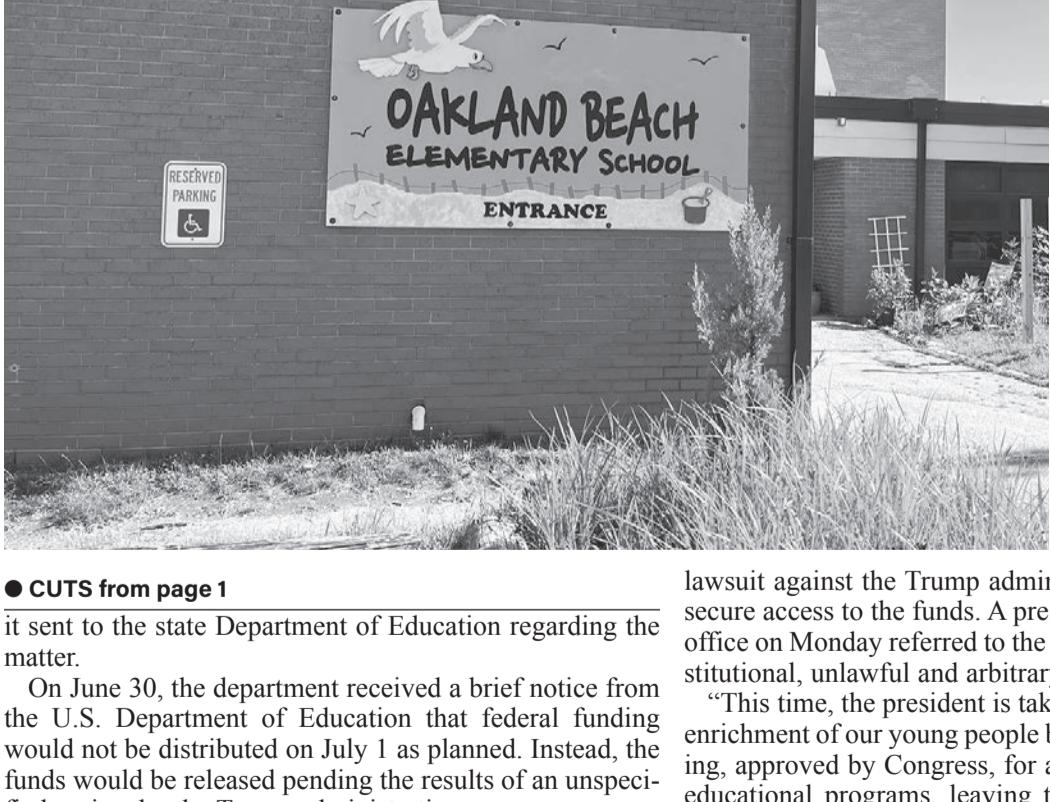
might pose an issue.

"There was a lot of coordination" between crews, he said.

The city waived its policy of requiring branches to be cut into 4-foot sections, tied into bundles and placed at curbside for collection. Earls said in some instances crews helped residents cut and pull branches from their yards.

What of the loss of trees?

Earls said he is looking into a program offered by the Department of Environmental Management that would provide the city with trees to plant.



Oakland Beach Elementary School in Warwick relies on a federal grant to support an annual summer camp and afterschool program held in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick. This summer's camp appears to be unaffected, but funding in future years is in jeopardy. *Beacon Media photo by Tara Monatesse*

CUTS from page 1

it sent to the state Department of Education regarding the matter.

On June 30, the department received a brief notice from the U.S. Department of Education that federal funding would not be distributed on July 1 as planned. Instead, the funds would be released pending the results of an unspecified review by the Trump administration.

"The department remains committed to ensuring taxpayer resources are spent in accordance with the president's priorities and the department's statutory responsibilities," the notice said.

"Most concerning is that the U.S. Department of Education did not provide a timeline for when, or if, these funds will be made available," Randall Rice, a spokesperson for the state education commissioner's office, said in an email to the SunRISE.

In response, Attorney General Peter Neronha has joined 23 other attorneys general and two governors in filing a

lawsuit against the Trump administration in an attempt to secure access to the funds. A press release from Neronha's office on Monday referred to the funding freeze as "unconstitutional, unlawful and arbitrary."

"This time, the president is taking aim at the growth and enrichment of our young people by freezing essential funding, approved by Congress, for a wide range of important educational programs, leaving the Rhode Island Department of Education and similar agencies across the country to scramble," Neronha said.

Leaders are anxious to ensure that funding is disbursed to schools before the beginning of the academic year. In the meantime, information about the exact timeline of the Trump administration's review of the funding remains scarce.

"We are waiting for recommendations from the Rhode

Island Department of Education on the next steps that need to be taken regarding the sudden funding freeze by the

Trump administration," House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi said in an emailed statement.

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Harold K. "Kenny" Bourque Jr.

 Harold K. Bourque Jr., 78, passed away Friday, July 11, 2025 at Kent Hospital. He was married to his devoted wife Jeanne (Ruberia) for 57 years. Born in Danville, Illinois, he was the eldest son of the late Harold and Patricia (Jacobs) Bourque.



Raised in Warwick, he joined the US Army at 17. After his discharge, he worked as a truck driver before eventually joining the family business, H.B. Alarm Systems Inc., as an alarm technician until his retirement in 2010.

He was an avid boater, fisherman and hunter and was a lifetime member of the NRA.

He was the loving father of Lisa Bourque Yuettn (Timothy) of Cranston and Michael Bourque (Monique Robert) of West Warwick. He also had four step-grandchildren. He was the brother of John Bourque of Warwick and the late Richard Bourque. He also leaves many beloved nieces and nephews including his best friend Brian "Butch" Ruberia.

Visitation will be Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Interment at RI Veterans Cemetery will be private. In honor of Kenny's love for animals, donations to Friends of the Warwick Animal Shelter, Attn: Kathy Cote, Treasurer, P.O. Box 9285, Warwick RI 02889-9285 would be appreciated.

James A. Abrahamson

James A. Abrahamson, 62, passed away on June 19, 2025. Surrounded by his loving family. He was the loving husband of Sharon A. (Marchak) Abrahamson, his wife of 13 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late William R. and Shirley A. (Howland) Abrahamson.

Jim was a plumber for 30 years. Jim loved his clients, and they became more than just customers, they became longtime friends. Jim was quick to lend a helping hand or just share his knowledge. Jim had a love for camping and playing cards. There wasn't a card game that he did not know and if someone just mentioned the word cards, his head spun around and said deal them up. He loved the ocean and loved spending time at Frye Island; ME. Jim loved all kinds of music (well except Country) especially the Eagles and Stevie Nicks. He was kind to all animals, would talk to the frogs at night in his backyard. Jim had a love for puppies and loved to have the litters just so he could play with them and love on them. Jim said that he did not have favorites, but if you knew Jim, his love for Maggie Baby Girl was never matched by any other.

Besides his wife Sharon, Jim is survived by his two brothers, William Abrahamson from AZ, and David Abrahamson of Warwick RI, his sister Shirley Abrahamson of Warwick RI and the late Cathy Abrahamson. He is survived by his two daughters, Dorothy Abrahamson of TN and Sarah Abrahamson of FL, his stepsons Richard Abrahamson of Florida and Steven Huddleston of Johnston RI. Jim has 5 grandchildren. Jim adored his niece, Mary Kate Stewart, and nephew Liam Patrick Stewart.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday July 19, 2025, at the Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a Celebration of Life from 1 - 2 at the funeral home. His burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name can be made to Little Rhody Rescue, 31C Cooper Rd Chepachet, RI 02814.

Robert "Bob" F. Geisser

Robert "Bob" F. Geisser 81, of Warwick, passed away on Saturday, July 12, 2025. He was the loving husband of Mary Ann (Lemire) Geisser. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Matthew W. Geisser, Sr. and Viola D. (Gwynn) Geisser.

Robert graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School and worked as President and Scale Technician for Central Scale Co. He was a member of the former Shawomet Baptist Church. He also loved spending time with all his grandchildren. Bob enjoyed fishing and golfing. As well as going and watching all the grandkids sporting events

Alongside his wife, Mary Ann (Lemire) Geisser of Warwick, he is survived by his beloved children, Scott R. Geisser and his wife Tara L. of North Scituate and Heather Mary Magyarosi and her husband Todd A. of Tampa, FL, and his grandchildren, Colby Mastostefano, Madison Geisser, Victoria Geisser, Aiden Amann, and Sierra Amann.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 4:00PM-7:00PM at THE URQUHART-MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Scituate High School c/o Booster Club, 94 Trumpton Rd, North Scituate, RI, 02857. www.murphyfuneralhomes.org

STAPLETON BARRY-HOLDREDGE

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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To our devoted Families that we have served for over 40 years—

We want to announce a new chapter for the Stapleton-Barry-Holdredge Funeral Home. We have sold the property at 684 Park Avenue and joined with the Butterfield Funeral Home and Chapel at 500 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston. We will now be operating at their location.

The Stapleton-Barry-Holdredge Funeral Home will still be here to take care of your

At-Need and Pre-Need arrangements. All existing arrangements remain valid.

Our Funeral Home phone number and Jim Stapleton can still be reached at 401-461-5050.

We are looking forward to the new changes in our life and to continuing to serve our Families.

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Obituaries

Raymond J. Ross

Raymond J. Ross passed away on Wednesday, May 21, at the age of 39. A resident of Montrose, Co. Born and raised in Warwick, Rhode Island. Raymond had a passion for learning computer knowledge from an early age. He had become a brilliant computer networking engineer. He had been working simultaneously for three different companies.

Senior Director of the computer networking infrastructure for Circana. Also employed as a networking engineer for the American Cancer Society and Velera Solutions. He was always the go-to guy that was eager to assist and help others learn in the process.

Raymond proudly served our country as a US Marine. He was stationed at MCAS Cherry Point, NC. Trained in tactical electronics warfare, stationed with Squadron 2 (VMAQ-2). He served three tours in Iraq between January of 2006 to March of 2009. He also served in Pensacola, Florida, as a US Marine Staff Sergeant, instructing others in the knowledge of aviation electronics working on the EA-6B Prowler.

Raymond was a very kind and giving person. He put high value on his family and friendships. He enjoyed spending time with his two dogs Bea and Butters. He is loved and missed by many.

He was the husband to Abbey L. Ross and Father of Benjamin and Amelia Ross of Montrose, CO. Son to Jacklyn and Raymond Ross of Warwick. Predeceased by his brother Matthew Ross of Warwick. Brother to Nathan Ross and his wife Sierra of Warwick. Uncle to Conner and Kenzie Ross of Warwick. Also, grandson to the late Victor Simas Jr. and Sharon Simas of Warwick. The nephew of the late Victor Simas the third and John Simas of Warwick.

A Memorial Service of Honor will be held at the RI Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 301 S. County Trail, Exeter, R.I. 02822 on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 11:00 am. Celebration of life will follow at the Gregs Restaurant in North Kingstown.

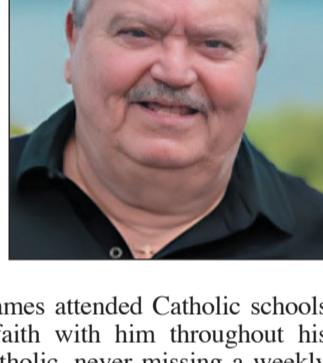
Donate in lieu of flowers to St. Rita's Church, 722 Oakland Beach Ave, Warwick, R.I. 02889.

Kindly visit the Fagan-Quinn Funeral Home online for information and condolences, www.PatrickQuinnFuneralsandCremations.com

James J. Daigneault Jr.

James J. Daigneault Jr., a retired Director of Warehousing for Brooks Drug and former owner of Spec Fasteners Inc. passed away Sunday, July 13, 2025, at Kent County Hospital. He was 80 years old. He was the beloved husband of Valerie J. (Dyer) Daigneault to whom he shared 57 years of marriage. Born in Providence, he was the oldest of three sons born to the late James J. Daigneault Sr. and Mary L. (Santos) Daigneault. Raised in a traditional Catholic home, James attended Catholic schools and carried his deep-rooted faith with him throughout his life.

He remained a devout Catholic, never missing a weekly Mass—whether attending in person or, when unable, watching on television. He enjoyed antique car shows and was an avid sports fan, faithfully following the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football, the New England Patriots, and Boston Red Sox, gifting his family with hats and t-shirts every time one of his teams won a championship. Affectionately known as 'The Man With A Plan' he was generous with his time, talents and wisdom and always had a solution when someone approached him for help and advice. He was looked up to as a father figure for various teenage boys that he mentored through the Big Brothers program. James was the devoted father of Patricia (Spelman) Hackworth, Richard Spelman (wife, Janice) and the late James J. Daigneault III; cherished 'Grandpa' of Zachary Cimiglia, Nicole Evon and the late Michael Spelman and 'Papa' to his great-grandchildren, Lyla Cimiglia and Mason Evon. He is also survived by his brothers Eugene 'Gino' Daigneault and Richard Daigneault and nieces Cheryl Damiani, Marianne Desimone, Christine De'Witt and nephews Joseph Daigneault and Richard Daigneault, Jr. A Visitation will be held Friday, July 18, 2025 from 8-10am in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Ave., Warwick followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am in St. Kevin Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Interment will immediately follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, West Greenwich. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Pl. Memphis, TN 38105 are greatly appreciated



Obituaries

In your time of need, the Warwick Beacon will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge and also place the obituary on our website, warwickonline.com.

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call (401) 732-3100 or email Obits@rhodybeat.com for additional information. Prices start at \$60

Jason T. Almeida

Jason T. Almeida, 50, of Richmond, RI, passed away surrounded by his family and friends on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

This obituary was personally written by Jason:

I was a devoted husband of Nicole J. (Brousseau) Almeida, beloved father of Talia N. Almeida, and leave behind my loving dog, Bonnie. Nicole and I shared a lifetime of love and partnership. Our first date was September 30, 1990.



I was a graduate of Warwick Veterans High School in 1993, and was an All-State wrestler and All-Division football player. I went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Rhode Island College in 1999.

I became a Physical Education & Health Teacher in the City of Warwick where I coached wrestling, football, and cross country during those years.

My above all greatest passion was hunting. I looked forward to getting up on a cold day in the fall to sit and wait for a trophy deer to walk by. I also enjoyed softball, golf, cornhole, playing cards, and working in the yard.

In addition to my wife and daughter, I am survived by my mother, Carol Almeida (Ruby Rose); father, Michael P. Almeida and his husband Thomas Kilbane; brother, Michael J. Almeida; In-Laws, Alan and Paula Brousseau, Michelle and Walter LeBelle; nieces and nephews, Abigail and Benjamin Almeida, Alexis and Joseph LeBelle; and many other aunts, uncles, cousins, and amazing friends that were truly family.

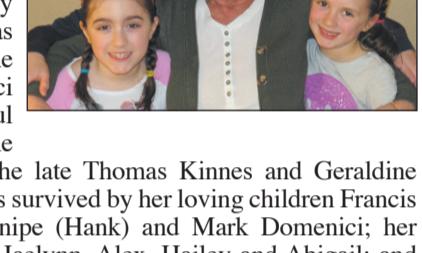
I will be cremated. There will be no wake or funeral.

A Celebration of Life will be held on a later date for all to attend.

In lieu of flowers, I ask that you make a donation to the 76 Foundation online at: www.76foundation.org/donate.

Anne M. (Kinnes) Domenici

Anne M. (Kinnes) Domenici, 75, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 13, 2025, with her loving family by her side.



She was the beloved wife of the late Francis J. Domenici Sr. for 52 beautiful years. Anne was the devoted daughter of the late Thomas Kinnes and Geraldine (Fararra) Kinnes. She is survived by her loving children Francis Domenici Jr., Alisa Snipe (Hank) and Mark Domenici; her adoring grandchildren Jaelynn, Alex, Hailey and Abigail; and by many dear relatives and friends. Anne is predeceased by her two sisters, Barbara Bove and Patricia Beauroseil.

Born in Providence, Anne moved to Warwick in 1978. A stay-at-home mom while raising her young children, she later worked as a Registered Sleep Technician at Rhode Island Hospital for 25 years. She enjoyed her daily crossword and Jumble, cooking, playing cards, and walking her dog Boston in city park. She loved good conversation over a glass of wine, and trips to Maine. She most enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

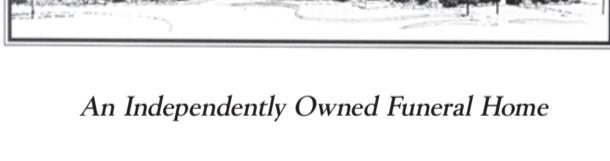
The family thanks everyone at Hope Health for helping Anne to remain in the comfort of her own home with family. It would not have been possible without you.

Services will be private at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center; Address: 1085 N Main St, Providence, RI 02904. To offer condolences, please visit TheQuinnFuneralHome.com

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Jerome D. Quinn, Christopher P. Quinn,

Michael J. Quinn, Stanley G. Larson,

Paul C. Potvin, John H. Grover,

Steven A. DiLorenzo, Alex D. Manasas





Attendees of the first anniversary ceremony included (from left) Jennifer Wheelehon, vice president of the Central RI Chamber of Commerce, Michael Aurecchia, board chair of the Central RI Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Frank Picozzi, Chef's OBD owner Marc Needham, Ward 6 Councilman William Muto and Lauren Slocum, president and CEO of the Central RI Chamber of Commerce. *Beacon Media* photo by Greta Shuster

Chef's celebrates one year milestone



BY GRETA SHUSTER
Beacon Media Staff Writer

Chef's Oakland Beach Diner (OBD) has been serving breakfast, lunch and dinner to members of the Warwick community and beyond for a full year. On July 1, the restaurant celebrated its one-year anniversary with a ceremonial cake cutting with officials from the city and from the Central RI Chamber of Commerce in attendance.

Marc Needham, owner and executive chef of Chef's OBD is a professionally trained chef who graduated from the Johnson and Wales culinary program in 1990. Needham currently employs a team of 11. He initially opened with only 4 employees.

"We've been very busy," said Needham. "The first year went well, better than expected." According to him, the most popular item on the menu is the meatloaf, which is made using his grandmother's recipe.

The cake cutting ceremony was just the first event to celebrate the diner's first anniversary. On July 3, Needham hosted a party to continue the festivities. Despite the storm, and having to move the event inside, Needham said it was "still a blast."

Chef's OBD has traditional indoor seating as well as an outdoor patio that can seat about 45 people. The patio is pet-friendly and customers can bring their dogs on leashes. The Beach Room inside the res-

taurant can be rented out for private events with a catering menu available. There is live music every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"People like [the patio] because they walk their dogs, they come here, and they sit outside. Nobody else around here allows that," Needham said. One customer even came to the patio with their cat wearing a harness and leash, he added.

Chef's OBD is in the heart of Oakland Beach at the intersection with Suburban Parkway. Its interior decor matches their beachside location, from the turquoise walls to the slideshow of antique Oakland Beach images on rotation.

Ward 6 Councilman William Muto remarked that he often hosts community meetings at the restaurant. He said the benefits are "two for one"; he gets to speak with residents of his ward while also introducing them to a new local business. Muto identifies as a "breakfast person," but will also stop by for hot wieners for lunch.

"He's such a good guy, and I want him to be successful," Muto said about Needham.

Chef's OBD is located at 805 Oakland Beach Ave. Their summer hours are Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m.-9p.m., Friday-Saturday 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information and to view their menu, visit www.chefsobd.com.

Marc Needham slices and serves cake to guests to celebrate the first anniversary of the restaurant. *Beacon Media* photo by Greta Shuster

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Lifestyles

Thursday, July 17, 2025

WARWICK BEACON

Lights, camera, action!



The Greenwich Odeum marquee on July 13. Submitted photo by DeNucci

Madonna Della Civita hits the big screen

By MATTHEW LAWRENCE

You could begin a history of Saint Mary's Church in July 1938, when Bishop Keogh blessed the newly erected church building on Cranston Street in Knightsville.

You could also go back to 1925, when Reverend Cesare Schettini began presiding over the newly established parish. Or maybe you'd want to start in 1922, when Rev. Schettini first began conducting Mass for Italian-speaking Catholics in the basement of nearby St. Anne's Church.

The story could also begin in the early 1900s, when immigrants from the Italian village of Itri first settled in Knightsville.

Or you could go back to 1527, the year of a great plague that spread through central Italy. Most of the people from Itri (known as Itrani) were killed by the plague, though the village was ultimately spared, which many credit to a miracle.

And according to new documentary *The Heart of Knightsville*, a procession of believers carried a portrait of Mary and Jesus throughout the town, a dark cloud cleared over the sky, and the plague was lifted, sparing the Itrani from further death and suffering.

Since then, the Itrani people have celebrated La Madonna Della Civita every year in July, a tradition that has continued in Cranston for over a century.

Or you could go back even further...

"This history dates back to the eighth century," exclaimed Bernadette Conte, a lifelong parishioner of St. Mary's and Knightsville resident.

If you go back that far, the feast was inspired by a reported miracle in Itri where, according to legend, a deaf mute shepherd regained his speech after discovering a painting of the Madonna in a tree. The painting was believed to have been painted by St. Luke.

Conte has studied and researched the history of St. Mary's since 1975. "The pastor asked if I could write the history for the parish's 50th anniversary," she said in February during the 100th birthday celebration in the parish hall.

The founding of the parish is the story of discrimination against an immigrant community. Italians in the early 1900s were fleeing poor economic and health conditions in their homeland, with many moving to different mill towns in Rhode Island. The Itrani landed in Knightsville, and soon they held most of the jobs at Cranston Print Works, according to Anne T. Romano's 2007 book *Distant but Loyal: Cranston's Italian Americans*.

But the Italians clashed with French-Canadian and especially Irish Catholics whose traditions and languages were different. Many Knightsville residents walked to St. Rocco's Church in Johnston to hear masses in Italian, rather than listen to the English sermons at the Irish St. Ann's Church also in Knightsville. Italians at St. Ann's were discriminated against and spied upon, says Conte, until they eventually convinced the diocese to allow an Italian parish in Cranston.

Executive Producer Bernadette Conte at the premiere of *The Heart of Knightsville*. Submitted photo by DeNucci



Heart of Knightsville Screening
Sunday, July 27 at Sundown
Itri Park, Phenix Ave, Cranston



Tom DeNucci directing Vincent Pastore inside St. Mary's Church. Submitted photo



The Heart of Knightsville is narrated by Vincent Pastore. Submitted photo

"Their stories are heartbreaking," Conte says, having interviewed many of the church's original members over the years.

The Knightsville celebration of Mary predates the church. On Sunday, July 20, the parish will mark its 120th year for the procession. Initially, the Devotion to Madonna Della Civita, more commonly known as Saint Mary's Feast.

According to the book's back cover, the story is a "moving account of the history that explores the difficult but enduring ties between the sister cities of Itri and Cranston..."

Conte wrote as part of its introduction, "I am proud to say my roots stem from Itri, Italy, and my parents and grandparents gave me a heritage no one can take away."

Italian immigration began in earnest in the 1880s and intensified in the early 1900s. By 1920, one out of nine Rhode Islanders was either Italian-born or descended. At the time, Rhode Island had many jobs for so-called unskilled workers in mills, construction, and the textile industries, jobs that didn't require reading ability or fluent English.

The documentary packs a lot of information into its 43-minute runtime.

"We get into some of the

miracles," DeNucci said.

"There's also the story of a

statue that Bernadette un-

covered in a basement after

almost a hundred years. I

really tried to pack in as

many stories as I could."

There are indeed many stories packed into this narrative: a blind shepherd, a miraculous painting, Brazilian monks, the bombing of Itri in 1944 by American forces hunting Nazis in the town, as well as more personal stories about Conte's son and how her home unexpectedly became a sort of shrine for decades.

"There are a lot of anniver-

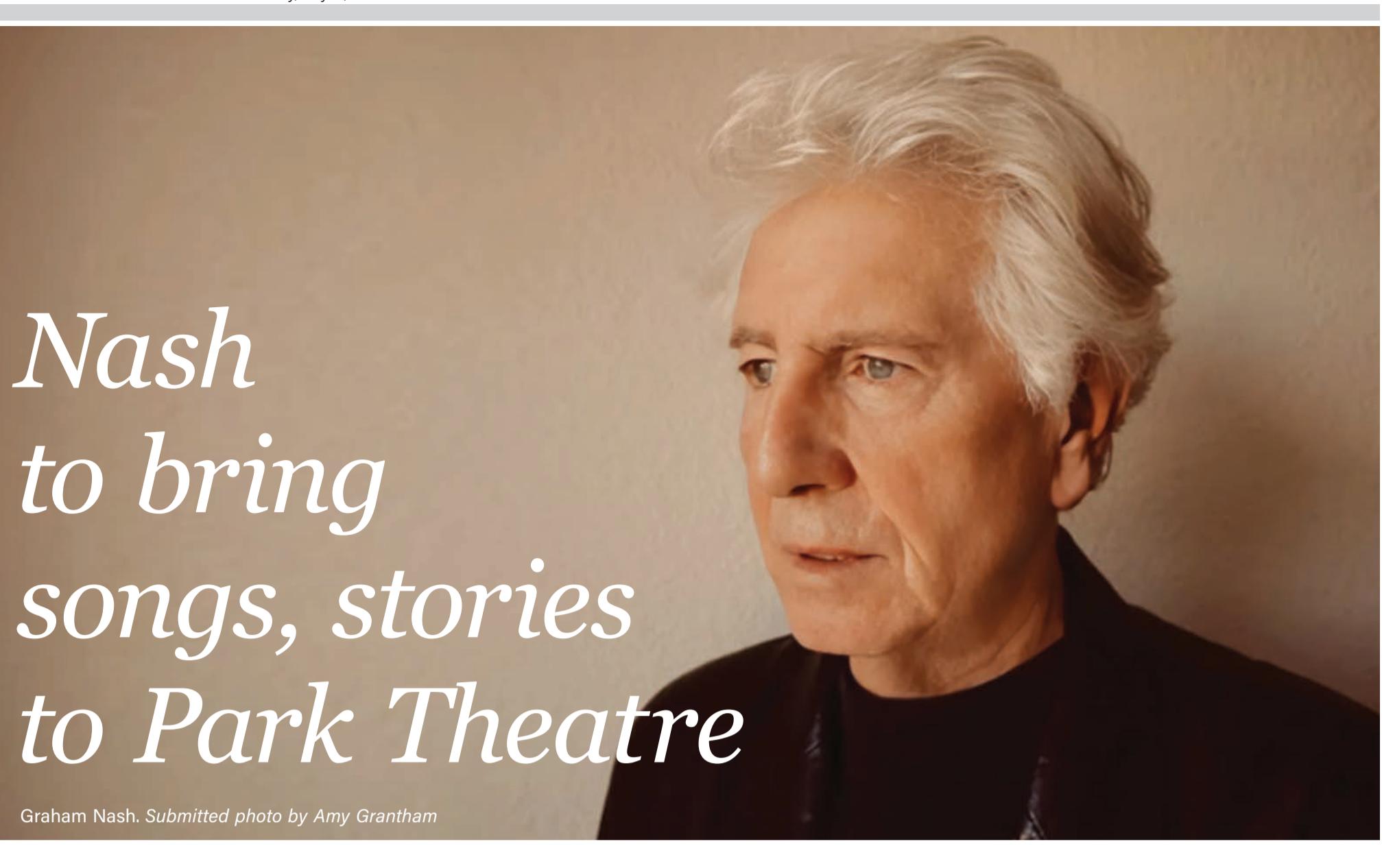
saries happening," Conte says.

"One hundred years for the parish, and then in

2027 it will be five hundred

years for the miracle in Itri."

The film includes photos, archival videos, and interviews with notables from St. Mary's Feast Society. Interestingly, the documentary also uses generative artificial intelligence (AI) images to fill in some visual gaps, depicting everything from an eighth century miracle to what Conte looked like in 1975.



Nash to bring songs, stories to Park Theatre

Graham Nash. Submitted photo by Amy Grantham

By ROB DUGUAY

Graham Nash is one of the best songwriters over the past 60 years. This is true with tunes such as "King Midas In Reverse" and "Jennifer Eccles" with The Hollies, as well as with "Marrakesh Express", "Our House" and "Teach Your Children" with Crosby, Stills & Nash.

Nash is still writing songs and performing on a regular basis. He's currently on tour and will be coming to the Park Theatre (848 Park Ave., Cranston) on July 19. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. The show will be a mix of song and storytelling.

We had a talk ahead of his performance about going from rock and pop to folk music when he was starting out, a company he has outside of his music career, and looking forward to bringing good music to Rhode Island.

Rob Duguay: When you started your career with The Hollies during the '60s, the band exhibited a blend of rock and pop styles, but when you started collaborating with David Crosby and Stephen Stills, the music you were making came from more of

a folk influence. What would you say inspired this transition? Was it due to the folk revival that was going on in popular music at the time or was it something else?

Graham Nash: When I was in The Hollies, I learned to write a melody that you couldn't forget if you heard it a couple times, but the words were kind of fake in a way, like in the songs "On A Carousel" and "Carrie Anne". Then when I moved to America and I made music with David, Stephen, and Joni [Mitchell] and so on, I

realized that if I could put better words to the melodies then my songs would be better. I think that's what happened.

RD: Has your approach or technique with music changed over the years since you moved to the United States during the '60s?

GN: My technique hasn't changed since I came to America over 50 years ago, I still write about what's happening to me.

My wife Amy gave me a great quote by Nina Simone, who said, "every artist, no matter what you do, you have to reflect the times in which you live". I've always thought that was an incredible quote, and that's what I've always tried to do with my music. Things that upset me, things that make me fall in love, things that piss me off, things that make me

ing at us, and we should either get on the train or get out of the way. I started Nash Editions in 1989 with Mac with a graphics printer, which was an IRIS 3047 and it's now in the National Museum of American History.

RD: Very cool. When it comes to doing digital publishing these days, do you still use printers or is it mostly done online?

GN: I think a good printer is invaluable and I've always tried to make the best prints.

When I travel around the world and I go to the art galleries

that show what

feel ok, I just have to reflect on the times in which I'm living.

RD: You also founded a fine

art digital-based publishing com-

pany called Nash Editions with

your former road manager Mac

Holbert, which is still in opera-

tion today. The company started

a bit ahead of its time, so what

initially gave you and Mac the

idea to pursue this endeavor?

GN: I always saw digital pub-

lishing as a train that was com-

ing, particularly the Park Theatre. The people in Rhode Island love to hear good music, and the truth is that you have to start with a real song. If I can touch someone's heart with an acoustic guitar or a piano, I know I'm doing well. You don't need 20,000 singers and 12 dancers, you just have to start with a good song.

RD: Absolutely, couldn't agree more. Do you have any plans to work on a new album? I know it's been a bit since you released your most recent album "Now" back in 2023.

GN: I'm working on several things. First, about a new album,

I just finished a song with my friend Adam Minkoff, who is one of the people who will be

playing with me when I come to the Park Theater. Adam is an

acoustic and electric guitar player,

and on a couple of songs he

plays drums and bass and sings

at the same time. I also have

Zach Djanikian playing on gui-

tar, mandolin and tenor sax, and

my dear friend Todd Caldwell,

who I've been making music with for over 15 years, on key-

boards.

"I've always loved the people who love music in Rhode Island, particularly the Park Theatre. The people in Rhode Island love to hear good music, and the truth is that you have to start with a real song."

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Free skin cancer screenings return to Rhode Island parks and beaches this summer

By ALEXANDER CASTRO
Rhode Island Current

Beachgoers can get free skin cancer screenings at Rhode Island beaches and parks this summer, thanks to the return of the annual Skin Check program led by the state health department, Brown Dermatology and other statewide partners.

There are three screenings remaining, including this Friday, July 18. The first 100 people at each event will receive a private, on-site screening from dermatologists or dermatology residents affiliated with Brown. No registration is needed and those who need additional care will receive referrals for follow-up appointments.

"One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime," Dr. John C. Kawaoka, an associate pro-

fessor of dermatology and residency program director at Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School, said in a statement. "Everyone is at risk, even those with darker skin tones...Every year we find a number of skin cancers, including melanoma, many of which people had no idea that they had."

The health department recommends that participants wear bathing suits or easily removable clothing to allow doctors to examine areas of concern.

"Along with getting in the shade and using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more, getting a skin check is the most important thing you can do to protect against skin cancer,"

Rhode Island Department of Health Director Dr. Jerry

Larkin said in a statement. "Cancer screenings have the power to save lives."

Local TV news outlet WJAR is the media partner and sponsor for the Skin Check events. Other partners include the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island, Brown University Health Community Health Institute and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM).

"Skin Check has a long history of providing free screenings to residents in our communities who need it most," Megan Daniel, Executive Director of the Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island, said in a statement.

"It's inspiring to see individuals and businesses who want to support this

service and help reduce the burden of cancer in Rhode Island."

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, according to the American Academy of Dermatology, and about one in five Americans will develop it at some point in their lives. Every day, an estimated 9,500 people are diagnosed with the disease.

Rhode Island falls slightly below the national average for melanoma of the skin, with 19.8 cases per 100,000 people compared to 22.7 nationally, per data from the National Cancer Institute that spans 2017 through 2021.

More tips for sun safety and skin cancer prevention are available on RIDOH's website.

Skin Check Dates and Locations:



Friday, July 18, 1:30pm-3:30pm:
Easton's Beach

175 Memorial Boulevard, Newport, RI 02840

Saturday, August 2, 11am-1pm:

Scarborough Beach North

870 Ocean Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Friday, August 15, 1:30pm-3:30pm:

Lincoln Woods State Park

101 Table Rock Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Courtesy of www.prci.org

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CATHY'S CAT CORNER



On June 27, 2025, Rhode Island became the sixth state in the U.S. to ban cat declawing, joining our neighbors in Massachusetts, as well as New York, Maryland, California, and New Jersey. The new law, which goes into effect on September 1, was sponsored by Sen. Melissa A. Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) and Rep. William W. O'Brien (D-Dist. 54, North Providence).

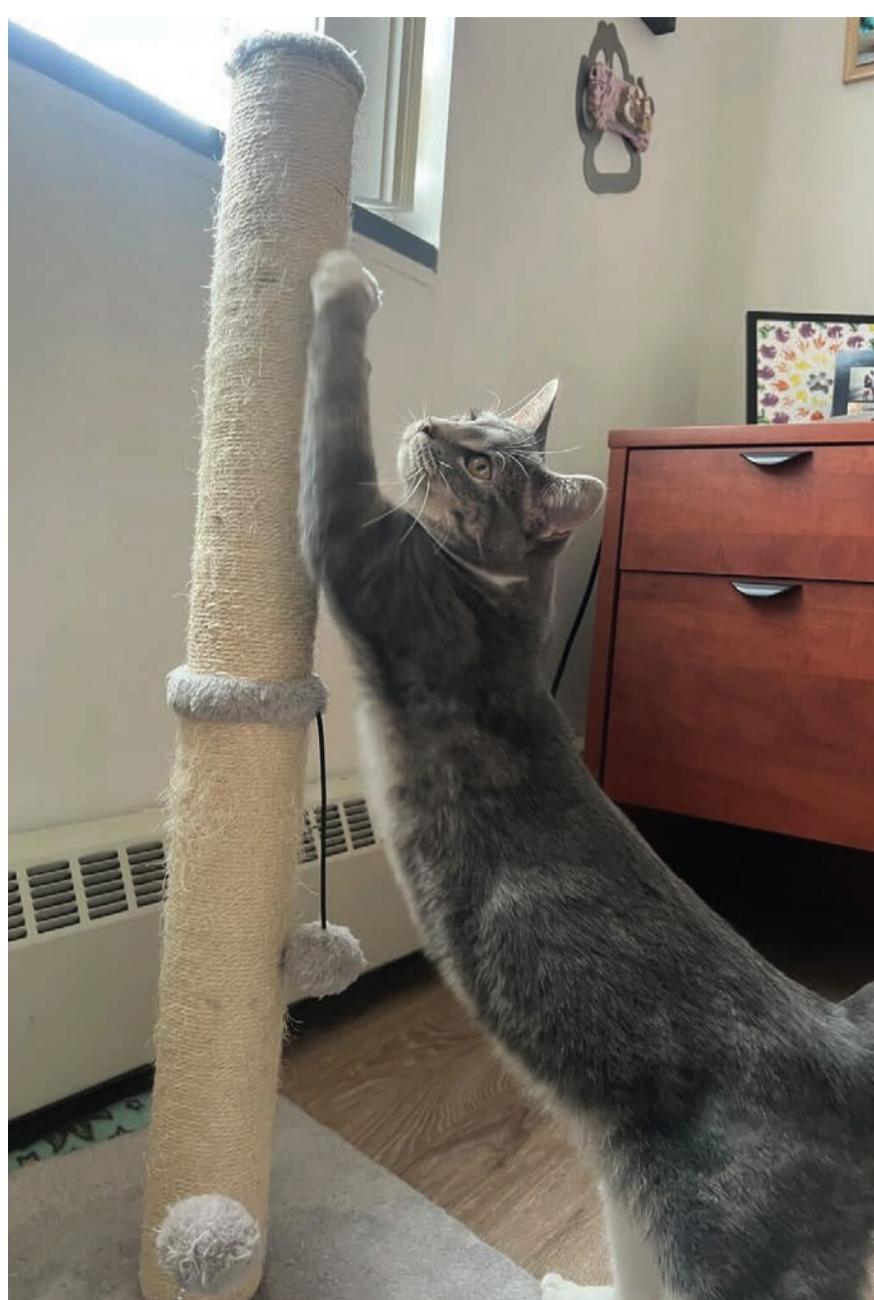
This legislation is a huge step forward for feline welfare. Declawing is already banned in more than 40 countries, and for good reason. The procedure involves the surgical amputation of the last bone of each toe—equivalent to removing the last knuckle of a human finger. It is often performed for human convenience, not medical necessity, and can lead to lifelong complications. Cats who have been declawed are at increased risk for chronic pain, arthritis, behavioral issues like biting, and litter box avoidance. Some cats even become withdrawn or depressed. By passing this bill, Rhode Island is saying our cats deserve better.

With declawing off the table, what are the alternatives? It starts with understanding that scratching is completely normal, healthy, and necessary for cats.

Scratching is not bad behavior. Cats scratch to maintain the health of their claws by removing the outer sheath. It also serves as a form of exercise, stretching and strengthening the muscles in their legs, shoulders, and back. Scratching has an important territorial function as well. When a cat scratches, they leave behind both visual markers and scent from glands in their paws, which communicate ownership of the space and create a sense of security.

Instead of trying to stop scratching, we need to redirect it. That means providing cats with plenty of approved places to scratch—and making sure those places are actually appealing to them.

Not all cats like the same types of scratchers, so it's important to offer a variety. Some cats prefer to scratch vertically, reaching up high for a good stretch. Others prefer horizontal



Vertical scratchers should be tall enough to allow a full-body stretch.
Submitted photo from the RISPCA

scratches they can dig into while crouched down. Materials also matter. Many cats enjoy sisal, whether it's tightly woven fabric or rope. Others like the texture of corrugated cardboard. Some like the natural feel of tree bark or unfinished wood. And while a few cats prefer carpet, using carpeted scratchers can be risky if your cat already targets rugs or furniture—so it's best used thoughtfully.

Vertical scratchers should be tall enough to allow a full-body stretch, ideally around 30 inches or more.

They should have a sturdy, wide base that doesn't wobble or tip over when the cat pulls down on it. Horizontal scratchers should be long enough for a good front-leg stretch and heavy or stable enough to stay in place. Both styles should offer a satisfying texture and resistance under the claws.

Many commercial cat trees come with sisal-wrapped posts, which are a great option, but they shouldn't be the only scratcher in the home. Cats benefit from having multiple options, and the general rule is to provide at least one scratcher per cat, plus one more. The more choices you give your cat, the more likely they are to leave your furniture alone.

Placement is also key. Cats often want to scratch

after waking up, so placing a post near your cat's favorite nap spot is a great idea. Since scratching is a territorial behavior, scratchers should also be placed in areas where your cat wants to mark—like entryways, hallways, and near doors. And if your cat is already scratching a particular piece of furniture or wall, place a scratcher right next to that spot to give them a more appropriate alternative in the same location.

If your cat doesn't immediately use a new scratcher, don't give up. You can encourage interest by rubbing or sprinkling catnip or using catnip spray on the surface. Engaging your cat in play near the post with a wand toy can also help them discover it. Some people find success using Feliway, a synthetic feline pheromone, to make the area feel more inviting and safer.

When you give your cat appealing, well-placed options for scratching, you're supporting their natural behaviors in a healthy, humane way. With declawing on its way out, it's more important than ever to understand and respect what cats need.

Stayed tuned for next month's article where we will cover senior cats—their specific needs, how to keep them comfortable, and why you shouldn't overlook them when it comes to adoption.

If you have any questions about this month's article, or questions about behavior concerns with your cat, you can reach out to me at cathy.simonini@rispca.org. I am happy to be a resource to you and your cat!



It's important to offer a variety of scratchers.
Submitted photo from the RISPCA

July in years past

20 Years Ago

Eartha Kitt gave an incredible performance at Newport Casino.

Bob Colonna directed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the former 2nd Story Theatre. Some familiar faces in the cast where Jim O'Brien, Marilyn Mersdon, Amy Thompson, Tom Roberts, and Joan Dillenbeck.

Tom Cruise starred in a decent remake of "War of the Worlds". Johnny Depp starred in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn starred in a raunchy "Wedding Crashers".

Lucy DeVito, Rhea Perlman and Danny DeVito's daughter, wrote and performed a hysterical one-woman piece, "9 More Minutes", at Brown Summer Theatre.

The fantastic dinosaur show was back again and continues to return to this day at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

40 Years Ago

Warwick Musical Theatre was the place to be in the summer of 1985. Stars included the Statler Brothers, Jeffrey Osborne, Sergio Franchi, Tom Jones, the Charlie Daniels Band, Natalie Cole, Chaka Khan, Roger Whittaker, Eddie Arnold, the Everly Brothers, Gordon Lightfoot, Del Shannon, Bo Didley, Slim Whitman Johnny Cash and Loretta Lynn.

Ah, those were the days!

Warwick's Crows Nest had fresh local steamer for \$4.75 and shrimp scampi for \$8.95.

"Evita" was at Theatre-by-the-Sea.

Cranston's Ed Rondeau directed an excellent production of Lanford Wilson's "Angels Fall" at Brown Summer Theatre. In the cast were Rhode Island's great actor, Tom Gleadow and a "prosing young actress by the name of Laura Linney. Linney also starred in "Stage Struck" that summer at Brown.

"The King and I" was at Theatre-by-the-sea, featuring Cranston's own Gary Flynn.

Tina Turner was at the Providence Civic Center.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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Are you looking for a Buddy? Well, you need to go meet him at Scruffy Paws, he will win over your heart for sure! He's a black & white beauty with the most striking green eyes you'll ever see! His handsome face is accented by his long snow-white whiskers and his black tipped nose! Buddy loves attention and yummy treats too! For more information about how you can meet Buddy please email the rescue at: contact@scruffypawsanimalrescue.org they are located in Warwick, RI. Buddy can't wait to be you forever friend!

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animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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F1 WARWICK SHOWCASE

F1
* * *

If you are a fan of Formula 1 Grand Prix racing, you'll want to catch this one. If not, like us, you may get lost in the complicated rules of sport, but you should be caught up enough with the action to go along with it.

Brad Pitt plays Sonny Hayes, a washed-up race driver who travels around the country looking for races, just for the thrill of racing and winning.

His old rival (Javier Bardem) recruits him to join his losing F1 team, and he immediately disrupts the group with his style and attitude.

The team has a young, hot-shot driver (Damson Idris) and the competition gets serious.

To win, F1 teams need good cars and good drivers, and they are lacking both. After losing some and winning some, it comes down to the final race. Can they pull it off?

What do you think?

We'll make a rare recommendation for this one. Pay the extra couple of bucks and see it on the XPlus screen, which is a large-format auditorium featuring Dolby Atmos sound, advanced digital projection, and a large screen.

The sound is powerful, and Hans Zimmer's music keeps you glued to the races as the cars accelerate around the curves at record speeds.

There's a bit of romance, a villain, some philosophical discussions and an opening back story, but the crux of the two-and-a-half-hour movie is the racing.

The shots of the Grand Prix tracks around the world are awesome and the closeups of the pit crews are incredible.

Don't worry about all the complicated rules and strategies, just sit back and let the movie come to you.



See it on the Screen

with Joyce & Don Fowler



Superman

SUPERMAN

* * *

(High-tech Superhero)

David Corenswet is the latest Superman in this high-tech version of the man of steel fighting for justice, saving Gotham City, defeating arch-enemy Lex Luthor, going public with his love affair with Lois Lane, and defending his honor, which has been questioned by Luthor.

The movie opens with Superman having been beaten badly, left to die, but saved by his super dog, Krypto. The plot thickens and gets complicated and techno crazy as our hero is brought to the Fortress of Solitude where he faces his enemy and his past, accused of aiding and abetting in a war with the fictional Boravia.

Our hero is slapped around to the point of being pulverized but always manages to pull himself together and prove his "humanness".

The Superman franchise has lost some of its charm and down-to-earth humor with all this sci-fi, futuristic approach, but that's what the younger crowd wants these days.

We miss the simplicity of the meek Clark Kent turning into Superman in a telephone booth (What's a telephone booth?) and confronting the bad people with his superpowers.

JURASSIC PARK REBIRTH

* * 1/2

(More Dinosaur Chases)

Want to see dinosaurs?

Go to the exhibit at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Want to see dinosaurs chasing people through the jungle and in the ocean, devouring a few along the way?



Jurassic Park Rebirth

Go see the latest installment of the Jurassic Park franchise.

A crew of scientists have been recruited to return to the abandoned island in the Atlantic, where disaster has left the facility off limits to humans. Their mission is to gather samples from remaining dinosaurs for scientific reasons.

Along the way they rescue a family whose boat has overturned, setting the scene for some exciting chase scenes on the water.

The groups are separated. They reach land, each going their own way. Some make it. Some don't.

The scenery is spectacular. The animated figures are realistic. The story is trite.

Do they make it? Some do. Some don't.

Will there be another sequel? As long as people pay money to see this stuff, probably.

AVON

THE LIFE OF CHUCK

* * *

(Quirky Celebration of a Simple Man's Life)

With all of these spectacular super movies hitting the screen this summer, director Mike Flanagan has brought us a quirky celebration of the life of a simple man, told in three stages, from end to beginning.

It deals with the simple things in life, such as love, caring, loss, and fulfillment.

It is one of those movies that is hard to explain. You sit down, watch a man deal with the joys and frustrations of life, discover himself and find peace and fulfillment.

It is simple, lovable filmmaking at its best. No big deal, but very comforting.



The sold out crowd for the July 13 premiere of *The Heart of Knightsville*. Submitted photo by DeNucci

Cranston and made his confirmation at St. Mary's, DeNucci initially declined to work on the project because he was so busy with other projects. Then the Writers Guild of America strike happened, with screenwriters screeching filmmaking operations to a halt for nearly five months in 2023. Suddenly, DeNucci had free time.

"I truly believe this Lady chose Tom to do the film," Conte says, pointing to a photo of the statue of Mary.

DeNucci is known more for action thrillers like the Providence-set *Vault* (2019) and the more recent *Play Dirty* (2025), but he has directed several documentaries before, most recently *Knock Out Blonde: The Kellie Maloney Story*, which is about the transgender British promoter known for guiding boxer Lennox Lewis to fame in the 1990s.

The Heart of Knightsville is narrated by Vincent Pastore, who may be best known for playing Salvatore Bonpensiero in the first two seasons of *The Sopranos*. His scenes for



Bernadette Conte of Cranston and Tom DeNucci, *The Heart of Knightsville* director. Submitted photo

the documentary were filmed inside the church.

The documentary premiered on Sunday for a sold-out screening at the Greenwich Odeum. It will be screened a second time at sundown on Sunday, July 27 in Ittri Park. The screening will be hosted by Mayor Ken Hopkins and former city councilor, Ed Brady and State Rep. Chris

G. Paplauskas. There is a suggested \$10 donation for adults and the event will be free for children.

"I'm excited for the premiere at the Odeum but I'm equally or a little more excited to show the movie in Knightsville," DeNucci says. "Hopefully La Madonna will give us a clear night."

Doctors succumb to blood poisoning in early 1900s

Dr. Alanson Decatur Rose of Manton stood beside his mother's burial place a few days after her March 8, 1909 death. His mother had run the luxurious Woonsocket House Hotel on Block Island for 40 years and he enjoyed the high-class lifestyle it provided to him prior to achieving his own success.

In the middle of Nov. 1909, Dr. Rose accidentally cut his finger while performing an operation. As soon as it became evident that the wound was infected, he began treatment. Initially, the treatment appeared to be working but then the infection intensified and approximately four weeks after the accidental laceration, blood poisoning set in.

Several physicians were consulted to determine the next course of action. However, all seemed to agree that recovery wasn't likely. If Dr. Rose succumbed, he would be the third physician in Rhode Island to die of a wound sustained during surgery within just a few weeks.

Dr. Frank Bradford Sprague, an ear, nose and throat doctor from Providence, had recently sliced open one of his fingers while performing

an operation on a patient's middle ear. He noticed on Oct. 26, 1909 that a painful infection had developed in the finger. As the pain grew worse, Sprague became desperately ill.

Again, it was blood poisoning. The 44-year-old died at his home on Stewart Street on Nov. 17.

Eleven days later, Dr. Donald Churchill of Providence died. An 1893 Harvard University graduate and an 1898 Harvard Medical School graduate, Churchill began his career in Rhode Island as an intern at the state hospital. He later became assistant superintendent and in 1905, was made a surgeon at the facility. On Nov. 8, he was asked by a fellow doctor to perform a simple operation on a wound the other doctor had incurred. Churchill accidentally cut his own finger while performing the surgery. In less than two weeks, blood poisoning was evident. The 39-year-old died

on Nov. 28 at his home on Broad Street.

As Dr. Rose lay dying, much medical talk centered on the fact that it had been their work on "charity patients" which had brought about the demise of the doctors – insinuating that those who couldn't pay for their own medical care were unclean and unsafe. However, Churchill's patient had been a wealthy member of his own circle.

Miraculously, Dr. Rose survived. He spent many more years attending to the needs of the sick and wounded. He finally succumbed to cardiac issues in 1946 when he was 81 years old. A monument for him stands in Pocasset Cemetery in Cranston.

While surgical gloves were a necessity in 1909, they could accidentally be cut through, just as they sometimes are today. Presently, surgeons usually wear a double set of sterile gloves which are replaced in the event of tearing. According to the American Journal of Infection Control, present-day glove perforation during operational procedures occurs most often during oral surgery and plastic surgery.

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Back in the Day

by Kelly Sullivan



Death Matters

I have just come from a staff meeting where one of the priests sighed and said quietly, "I need to share this with you. I was tossing and turning all night, and it was truly because I am tired of all this death." It was not meant to be dramatic, or said for sympathy, just honest, raw and human in the way that grief sometimes shows up, not with tears, but with exhaustion.

We have had four funerals this month. Four times we sat down with grieving families to gently ask how they would like the memorial service to unfold. They choose hymns and scripture readings. They select the readers, the ushers, the greeters, and, perhaps most importantly, the person who will speak on behalf of the one they have lost. A final role that carries the weight of the moment. It is the speaker who sets the tone, who moves the gathering beyond ritual and into something personal. With stories, humor, and quiet truths, they paint a picture of who the person really was, not just the birth through death date on a program, but the life lived

in between. They give heartfelt, human glimpses into who the person truly was.

For June, her nephew said this, "June lived for beauty, especially for the gorgeous flowers she nurtured in her garden, and the beauty in her family. She had four children whom she adored and nine grandchildren who kept her young. She enjoyed family picnics at Goddard Park, and the annual family trip to Six Flags. She said her life was full of fun stuff, including playing cards with her friends on Fridays, and eating hot fudge sundaes at Newport Creamery."

For Cecile, his grandson said this, "Grandpa loved fishing on the lake, and was especially excited if he caught a catfish. He did not like eating fish, just the sport of catching them. He would ride out on the lake with his little boat and just enjoy the calmness of the day. He was there for all my wrestling matches and clapped loudly when I won."



Life Matters

with Linda Petersen

Mary's daughter said this, "My mother has led a happy life. Although she did not have much money, she delighted when the grandchildren visited and brought her pictures they drew. She would always have a package of M&Ms to share with them. Her favorite activity was the family cruise taken last year for her and dad's 40th wedding anniversary. It was a joy for her to see the whole family enjoy themselves, and she carved out a little niche for herself in the cruise casino."

Jack's family had a tougher time giving his eulogy because he had been suffering from cancer for the past four years, and no one in the family felt up to speaking in front of others. His best friend from childhood, Tom, spoke on his behalf. "Jack and I grew up in the same neighborhood. We used to play kick the can and hide and seek until the streetlights came on and someone's mother yelled out the door that it was time to come home." Tom shared stories of

teenage antics, of shared birthdays, of the way Jack could make you laugh even when things were hard. He talked about the way Jack faced his illness, with grace and grit. "Even when he was sick," Tom said, pausing for a moment to collect himself, "he was the one cheering me up." Tom's words were not polished or poetic, but they did not need to be. They were true. And sometimes that is the most powerful tribute of all.

Each of the four people who passed away led what some might call "ordinary" lives. They were not doctors or lawyers or movie stars. They did not have buildings named after them or memoirs waiting to be published. But they were real-life people, kind, dependable, funny, generous, and loving.

So yes, death can feel overwhelming. It stirs up old grief and is a reminder about how fragile life is. However, by bearing witness and affirming that this person mattered, we honor the truth that every life, even one without fanfare, matters deeply.

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By JENNIFER COATES

The island of Barbados, an island country in the Atlantic Ocean, may be only 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, but it is world renowned for its natural beauty, year-round sunny weather, and hospitable people. When asked what makes this island country so famous, the answer lies in its stunning beaches, rich history, vibrant culture and reputation as the "culinary capital of the Caribbean". Barbados is the vacation destination that should top your bucket list this year!

Situated in the West Indies, Barbados is the easternmost island of the Caribbean. Its heritage is unique with traditions and celebrations such as their annual Crop Over Festival which give this island paradise its identity and honor its layered history. This is a country which rightfully prides itself in both its illustrious past and the exciting future that it continues to forge for itself.

For those who love cultural and culinary destinations, Barbados is the place for you! But if you just love long walks along pristine beaches or swaying in a hammock overlooking the ocean, it is also the perfect place to visit. There is nowhere like Barbados to be rejuvenated and restored!

If you are looking for something a little more adventurous or wellness-oriented, then Barbados has a lot to offer here too. Heal your mind, body and soul with spa treatments in the inland's many boutique clubs and luxurious spas or enjoy something more challenging like paddle board yoga. Feeling adventurous? Try any number of exhilarating diversions such as hiking, biking, snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, kite surfing, deep-sea fishing, jet skiing, golfing and taking an island safari. The world is literally your oyster in Barbados!



Visit the island paradise of Barbados with the professional help of Sue Rezendes of The Travel Connection in Warwick! This could be your life in a matter of hours, so call Sue today at 401-946-6010!

There are endless opportunities for accommodations in Barbados including the familiar brands of Marriott, Hilton, Fairmont, Sandals and Radisson as well as a variety of locally owned options.

To help you set up the most hassle-free and seamless getaway to this beautiful island dream, connect with Sue Rezendes of The Travel Connection in Warwick. As both a frequent visitor to Barbados and an official member of the Barbados Elite Club of preferred travel consultants, Sue Rezendes is the perfect local person to plan and help execute your dream vacation!

Sue Rezendes has been in the travel industry for over 30

years. There is little she hasn't seen or done in an increasingly more experienced population of world-travelers. She has helped thousands of people realize their dreams by working closely with agents in all the places they want to discover and explore ~ just like Barbados. She has brought the world to Warwick!

Sue Rezendes can be reached at The Travel Connection at 401-946-6010 or via email at sue@travelconnectionri.com. To learn more, visit the website at: www.travelconnectionri.com. The Travel Connection is located at 1265R Post Road. Hours are Monday – Friday, 11am – 3pm, Saturdays from 10am – 2pm by appointment.


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Caroline Dillon is the executive director of The Village Common of RI. Submitted photo

Neighbor helping neighbor, one village at a time

The Village Common of Rhode Island is a neighborhood-based, older-adult driven system of community support. There are villages operating in Cranston and Warwick, among other communities statewide.

Caroline Dillon is the executive director of The Village Common statewide and chatted with me about this innovative way for older adults to support each other while living in community.

Maria Cimini: How did the village movement, or village common, begin?

Caroline Dillon: In Rhode Island we call it The Village Common and is part of a national village movement.

More than 25 years ago, the first village started in Beacon Hill, Massachusetts, and it was all about aging in community with volunteer support. Roughly 10 years ago, after hearing a story on NPR about the Beacon Hill Village, the convener of the RI village movement thought that the concept was interesting.

His kids had moved out of state, he and his wife were nearing retirement and would love a village to support them when they needed it. So, he decided to create one in Rhode Island. He did research, presented at libraries, churches and synagogues, and created the Providence Village. After a few years of operation, as a solo village, and a lot of inquiries from other communities, they did more research and decided to create a hub and spoke model.

Now, every interested community can create a village, but they share infrastructure so not every village has to become a 501(c)(3), create bylaws and have a board of directors. One statewide framework that supports villages across Rhode Island. Soon thereafter, Barrington joined the Village model, then Edgewood, Westerly and so on.

MC: So, what does a Village do exactly?

CD: A village is a community of mutual support. We support each other, as we all have needs as we grow older. But we all have gifts to share, and a village allows us to support each other in whatever way we need it with whatever a volunteer can do. It provides rides to medical appointments sometimes, but it is so much more than that. It's combating isolation and loneliness. It's ensuring someone can get to the grocery store or volunteering to pick something up and deliver it for someone. Our volunteers do provide services but it's all about sup-

Moments in Time



MY MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN

I'm sitting here on my backyard porch in the quiet of the evening watching day slowly disappear into night. There's a grassy hill beyond our fence — lush now, and green with summer vegetation.

Rabbits chase each other across the meadow. The grass is high, but I can still see them as they fly along, hopping full speed ahead. Their white puff tails pop up and down — right off the pages of Beatrix Potter, making me think of Mopsy, Flospy, and Cottontail — as the chase continues.

Birds fly back and forth — as if on a mission. Singing as they fly — they serenade me with their music.

A moment of July time. I could capture it in a photo — taking just seconds on my phone. I could even print it out and put it into my collection of "dinosaur-age" photo albums. But even a photo wouldn't capture the full beauty, the silence broken only by bird calls, the stillness broken only by rabbit antics, and the subtle movement of the wind in the trees — this moment in time.

Time is such a precious, elusive thing. My oldest grandson, Michael, is turning 21 this month. Abby and Anthony, both 18, just graduated from high school. Emilia, 7, lives in Dallas, and visits us every July. Jack and Madeline are 2 1/2 and 5 months. July is a busy time with lots of family memories to be made.

In between summer's many activities, I've kept up with my voice lessons. My voice teacher chooses songs for me, but also allows me to suggest songs, too. At the end of a lesson recently, I suggested "Today" by

porting each other, aging together, growing older together.

MC: I can totally see why someone would want to be the recipient of that, but why do you find people volunteer to offer that support?

CD: They volunteer for a few reasons. In a community of mutual support, everyone is putting something into the pot but then they also get support, too. The same people may give and receive — a ride, a conversation, tech support, but more than that, it's the happiness that comes from serving others. Your mood, health, and outlook on life improves when you service and help others. People volunteer because they are creating something bigger than themselves. The whole village model allows us to be part of a bigger movement than just helping a neighbor — a national movement towards helping neighbors.

MC: When you said that there are villages in Providence, Edgewood, Barrington, Westerly, Warwick and other communities. Why isn't there just like one giant statewide Village? Are they different?

CD: Oh yes, so each village is unique and has its own personality. Each community has its own needs and its own way it shines. Our Edgewood village has an amazing friendly call and visit program. The Burrillville Village does offer a lot of rides. It is a real need in a rural setting. And, by being neighborhood, city, or town-based, volunteers know their community and it is really neighbor helping neighbor.

MC: And is it all one-on-one support or are there activities that are more communal?

CD: Both. There are a lot of one-on-one interactions. But there are also a lot of opportunities within Villages for greater social interaction with walking groups, book groups, film clubs, knitting or crocheting groups. There are a lot of opportunities where folks come together and just create community together. Create new friendships.

MC: That's really wonderful. If someone wanted to join a village or to volunteer for a village or to start their own village. Who should they contact? Where should they go?

CD: Go to our website, villagecommonri.org. There you can learn about volunteering, joining an activity, or starting a Village. We're aging better together, join us!

the Minstrels. I learned it at Camp Hoffman Girl Scout Camp in the 1960s around the campfire, accompanied by guitar. I loved

the lyrics and the haunting melody and for some reason the song touched my soul. The only time I ever heard or sang the song was at camp every summer.

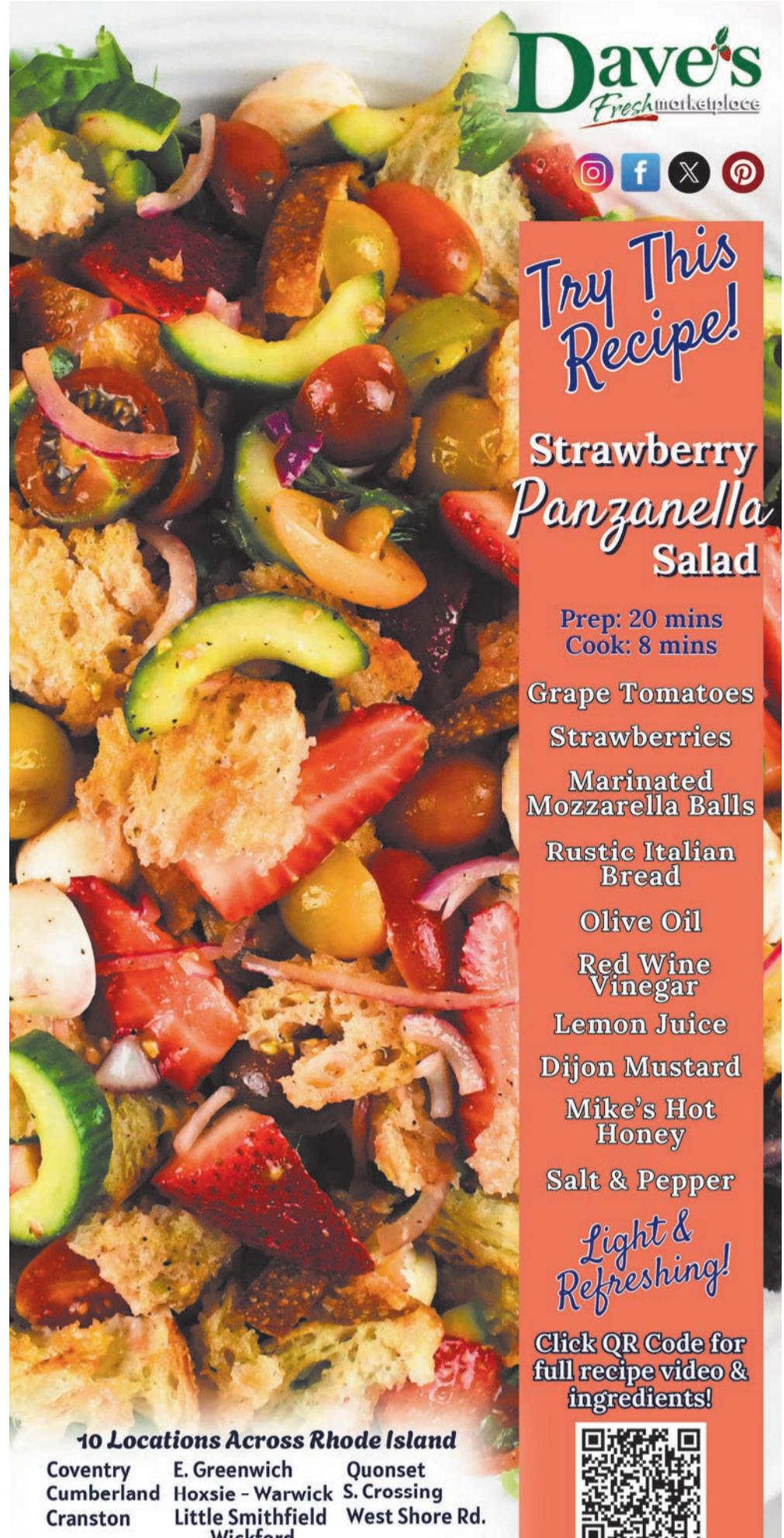
I don't know why the song popped into my head when my teacher asked for a suggestion. It just did. He doesn't always agree with my choices, citing range and level of difficulty, or the need to find a "better fit" for my voice.

On the morning of my next lesson, scheduled for that afternoon, I was sitting in an office waiting for an appointment. Music was playing. As unbelievable as it sounds, the song "Today" came over the sound system. I almost dropped the book I was reading in astonishment. How in the world did this bit of synchronicity occur? The last time I'd heard the song was at camp more than fifty years ago. And that afternoon was when I'd find out if it was going to be added to my lessons. What were the chances that I'd be sitting in a place at a time when I'd hear that particular song — a rather random, obsolete song pulled from the dusty annals of time?

As it turned out, my teacher thought it was a great choice. Was that the message? Was hearing it out of nowhere confirmation that I'd be adding it to my repertoire? Or was it something deeper?

The lyrics start:

"Today while the blossoms still cling to the vine,



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I'll taste your strawberries, I'll drink your sweet wine,

A million tomorrows shall all pass away,

Ere I forget all the joy that is mine today."

It seems to be saying "today" is to be cherished fully. Regretting yesterday or worrying about tomorrow clouds our experience of today, this moment — the joy that is ours right now. "Presence" is all that matters.

While pondering all of this, my daughter sent me a picture of my two youngest grandchildren sitting on the couch, then sent a second picture, zoomed in. She had noticed that two-and-a-half-year-old Jack was holding 5-month-old Madeline's hand — carefully cradling her tiny fingers. Jack hadn't been coached in any way. He had picked up Madeline's hand all on his own.

mine today."

Night has descended as I sit here, and the nocturnal insects have taken over. The moon has risen and the stars are twinkling in their proper places, as they have since the beginning of time.

Time — elusive and seeming to fly — perhaps I can capture the long summer days of July — perhaps I can hang onto them by staying present...

one moment at a time.



Dean's grandchildren, Jack and Madeline of West Warwick.
Submitted photo

— like grandkids turning 21 and graduation milestones, and simple times like a toddler brother and his baby sister sharing an innocent, sweet moment of connection that overwhelms me with love.

July is filled with moments big and small — some captured on camera, some simply remembered — summer moments that will become memories. I want to stay present and enjoy all of them in the here and now — "ere I forget all the joy that is

mine today."

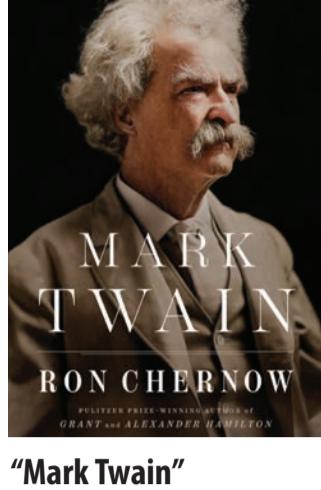
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Mark Twain, Nate Bargatze, and two multi-voice comedies

A pair of very different Southern humorists and a couple of funny scripts with full-cast productions are this month's audiobooks.



“Mark Twain”

By Ron Chernow, read by Jason Culp. Penguin Audio, 44½ hours, \$40. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

Over a century after his death, Mark Twain — once America's biggest celebrity — is mostly remembered as the author of “Tom Sawyer” and “Huckleberry Finn.” For those with a theatrical bent, there's the image of Hal Holbrook striding the stage in a white suit and spouting wry commentary in “Mark Twain Tonight.”

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by ALAN ROSENBERG

But there was much more to Twain than a folksy man with homespun humor and trenchant observations. And in this monumental biography, Chernow — author of the book on which Lin-Manuel Miranda based his Broadway hit, “Hamilton,” as well as an excellent biography of President Ulysses S. Grant — struggles to bring it all through the door and still let Twain exist as a living, breathing person.

Part of what Chernow is dealing with is an immense output of stories, articles, novels and non-fiction books (though even Twain's nonfiction was leavened with a certain amount of invention). The recitation of Twain's works and summary of their plots is necessary, because they all spring from his life in some way. But it frequently brings the action to a halt.

Because there is, indeed, plenty of action, from Twain's earliest days as a rambunctious young

ster to all sorts of other adventures, in both his business and his personal lives.

There are his world travels, which early on led to such books as “The Innocents Abroad,” and later became a fruitless effort to try escaping from his many troubles. And his time within shouting distance of Rhode Island, both at the home of a friend in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and at his own home in Hartford, Connecticut — a place he first delighted in, then shunned when a beloved daughter died there.

There are his many failed get-rich-quick schemes, backing this typesetting machine or that patent medicine, that left him desperate for money even as his fame soared. Even a better-conceived effort at being a book publisher — he published Grant's best-selling memoirs — ended in defeat.

There are Twain's efforts on behalf of Blacks, despite his racist upbringing in slaveholding Missouri; of Native Americans, despite his early scorning of them; and Jews, despite the casual antisemitism of his early days, when he noted famed writer Bret Harte's Jewish father in complaining about the poor quality of his own collaboration with Harte on a play.

There are the health struggles that saw Twain's son die in early childhood, a daughter die of meningitis in her 20s, another daughter struggle with epilepsy, yet another daughter battle depression and other chronic illness, and Twain's beloved wife see her energy wane until, like so many that Twain loved, she, too, was gone.

And then there are the creepy interactions he had after his wife's death with a string of teenage girls.

While nothing sexual was ever alleged to have happened, Twain's successive courting of what he called his “Angelfish,” and his creation of a club for them called the Aquarium — with himself the only male member — would do more than raise eyebrows if it happened today, as Chernow notes repeatedly.

It's this late-in-life section where the book surges into its own. Freed from the need to segue repeatedly into recaps of pieces of Twain's writing — he had mostly stopped publishing by then — Chernow recounts in pitiless detail the many hours Twain spent playing games with his Angelfish, or writing them cloying notes, while sparing little attention for his own sickly daughters.

Chernow is clear-eyed, too, about Twain's misadventures with his longtime secretary, Isabel Lyon. Lyon called Twain “The King” and seemed to worship him while Twain paid her a pittance even as he heaped an ever-increasing load of duties, both personal and financial, on her shoulders. Chernow repeatedly foreshadows that this wouldn't end well — as, indeed, it didn't, when Lyon and another Twain employee turned out to have been diverting funds he had foolishly given them control over.

As Twain's troubles mount, the book comes into its own, with Twain emerging as a tragic figure akin to Hamilton and Grant: highly accomplished but brought low by their own flaws. Twain can't forgive himself for the errors he made in dealing with his family, and it's this emptiness that he deals with as he heads toward the grave.

The book is marvelously enhanced by Jason Culp's wondrous narration. Culp slips with seeming effortlessness from a standard narrator's voice to a Southern drawl as he reads from the bonanza of Twain's letters and notebook entries Chernow quotes, and then to well-defined characterizations for many others as Chernow harvests from their letters and diaries. It's a tour de force that ultimately helps this book emerge triumphant.

I reached out to Bargatze's publishers in mid-June to ask if he knew that Loafman was dead, and if he had been contacted by Loafman's family about this portrayal of him. I wondered, too, if the comedian had any thoughts about it in light of Loafman's death.

At the time of publication, I had not received a reply.

“Big Dumb Eyes: Stories from a Simpler Mind”

By Nate Bargatze, read by Bargatze. Hachette Audio, 7 hours, \$24.99. Available through all Rhode Island public libraries.

To hear Nate Bargatze tell it, his life has taken him from one stupid decision to another. He's so thick, he can't handle money or keep any kind of secret from his long-suffering wife. Frank-

ly, it's surprising he's still alive. Even his eyes are big and dumb — the inspiration for the book's title.

Yet somehow, this native of a tiny town in Tennessee, son of a professional magician, has not only survived, but built a comedy career that has seen him twice host “Saturday Night Live.” And this book is strongest when he's recounting how got there: flunking out of community college, drifting from job to job, then taking a leap into a career in humor by heading to Chicago for classes at the famed Second City improv troupe. Followed by a move to New York, where things really started to happen.

All of that is maybe half of the book. The other half is comic takes on Bargatze's friends, family and other topics, some of it adapted from his standup act and specials. His comic timing is unaltered, but you can sense where it would be funnier with an audience reacting to it. It's just Nate and you, and while it's not unfunny, there's something missing.

One especially odd chapter is about a worker Bargatze and a friend encountered when they were shopping at a Goodwill store. The man was named Michael Loafman, and Bargatze goes on at some length about what an odd name that is, and how it was justified by the fact that Loafman gave the wrong answer to a question when the right answer was literally around the corner.

So lazy, that loafing man. And whenever Bargatze is being lazy, he's a real “Michael Loafman.”

I wondered whether Michael Loafman was a real person, and apparently, he is. Or was. A Michael Loafman died last year at age 63 in Kentucky, having worked for 27 years at Goodwill Industries. Like the Michael Loafman whose name and work ethic Bargatze makes fun of, this Michael Loafman was an accomplished athlete.

I reached out to Bargatze's publishers in mid-June to ask if he knew that Loafman was dead, and if he had been contacted by Loafman's family about this portrayal of him. I wondered, too, if the comedian had any thoughts about it in light of Loafman's death.

At the time of publication, I had not received a reply.

“Summer Breeze”

By Aaron Tracy, read by Kelly Ripa, Mark Consuelos, Sarah Steele, and a full cast including Ally Sheedy, Jackie Hoffman and Talia Balsam. Audible Original, 3 hours, \$14.95.

This smart, funny story of early 1990s showbiz intrigue is the tale of Lucy, a waitress and aspiring screenwriter, who longs to see her script produced as a

feature film, only to have it stolen by Gordon, the powerful producer she thought was going to provide her big break. The next thing she knows, she's out of her job at the cafe — and into a new one as head writer of the struggling soap opera “Summer Breeze.”

Both Lucy and the soap's star-cum-showrunner, Carolyn, have been burned by the same producer, and they hatch a plan to use the show to take him down. But he's going to use all of his power to fight back — and if he wins, it's the two women who will be destroyed.

Writer Tracy has toiled in the TV vineyards and knows his way around the business, and his script provides lots of good twists and turns. His characters, including Lucy's soap-besotted grandmother and roommate, are fun to listen to. And he's helped enormously by his able cast, led by Steele (Marissa from “The Good Wife”) as Lucy, soap veteran and talk-show host Ripa as Carolyn, and Ripa's husband, Consuelos, as the hissable villain Gordon.

“Better Luck Next Time”

By Cara Bastone, read by a full cast led by Mae Whitman and Colin Woodell. Audible Original, 4¾ hours, free with Audible Plus membership, \$7.95 a month.

What if you were driving to a New Year's Weekend gathering with your life-long best friend turned bitter enemy when a chance encounter with the Northern Lights sucked both of you into an alternate universe?

And what if in this universe, the two of you were married — but on the brink of divorce? And would be spending the weekend at an isolated cabin during a huge blizzard with your immediate families, hovering and advising and wishing both of you the best?

That's the premise of this silly but sweet rom com from Bastone, author of such romance novels as “Ready or Not” and “Call Me Maybe.” The script may be lighter than air, but that doesn't mean it's not an enjoyable listen.

Of course, the performances are crucial. And the cast, led by Whitman (“Parenthood,” “Good Girls,” “Arrested Development”) and Woodell (“The Flight Attendant,” “The Continental”) delivers on both the book's comedy and its love-match-in-the-making.

Alan Rosenberg, of Warwick, is a retired executive editor of The Providence Journal and has been reviewing audiobooks for more than two decades. Reach him at AlanRosenbergRI@gmail.com.

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Sports

North 10's battle to district title

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

The Warwick North 10-U All-Stars grinded through the District 3 tournament and would beat East Greenwich 6-3 in the final to clinch the title and advance to this weekend's state tournament.

North won its first two games before taking a loss and being moved to the losers bracket. The team bounced back to win its next game and take on EG and would have to win twice. North did just that and finished with a 5-1 record while scoring 71 runs across the six games.

The team found its confidence early after rolling past Narragansett on the road in the opening game.

"The first game we beat Narragansett, 15-3. They practiced every day to prepare for it and when they got that win, they were even more bought in. We had a great team this year, they have bonded like a family," said North manager Bryan Conley.

The team will now be taking on the other district winners at states, which will



● NORTH to page 25 The Warwick North Little League 10-U All-Star team after winning the District 3 championship. Submitted photo

WCA 11's wrap up state run

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Warwick Continental American 11-U All-Star team finished its summer by going 1-2 in the state tournament last weekend.

The team fell to Cranston East 11-3 in the opener but rebounded by beating Barrington 10-7 the following day. WCA's run came to a close when East got the 4-3 win in the double elimination bracket.

Brayden Delfino drove in an RBI in the opener while Brantley Hinshaw scored a run on two hits. Hinshaw also pitched 2 1/3 innings and racked up five strikeouts.

WCA used a five-run fifth inning to edge Barrington. Landen Engstrom finished the day by driving in two runs on two hits while Cody Banach, Joey Rotz, Hinshaw and Nico Gianfresco also recorded RBI. Engstrom tossed 3 2/3 innings and struck out four batters.

WCA led 3-2 in the sixth inning in the rematch against East, but the latter would walk off by scoring a pair of runs in the bottom half. Engstrom drove in a pair of runs while Hinshaw knocked in another. Hinshaw pitched 5 2/3 innings and finished with five strikeouts.



WCA's Brantley Hinshaw makes contact at the plate. Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com

Keeping local players local

Every summer, but especially more recent summers, I have local baseball coaches voice their concerns about youth players electing to join AAU travel programs rather than stay in the more local leagues such as Little League and Cal Ripken.

It's more prevalent than ever and when we get into the thick of these summer tournaments, you see the conversation brought up quite a bit. I've had four different people – coaches and league administrators – since Monday discuss the topic and ask how I felt about it.

Let me start off by saying that I would never judge a family for their choice when it comes to the leagues in which they enroll their children. Every family situation is different, every child is unique, and every league offers something of value. There really is no right or wrong answer here.

That said, I have always leaned more toward Little League and the local organizations. Not lean as in "they are better," but lean as in, "I would enroll my child in them."

There are plenty of posi-



My Pitch

by Alex Sponseller

tives that travel programs provide. They afford kids the opportunity to play outside of their backyard, get a taste of high-level play against teams of different backgrounds, and simply having the experience of traveling around and getting to see different parts of the country. The travel is the primary reason why these leagues are expensive and sometimes exclusive.

What the local leagues provide, though, are much more affordable rates, and to be frank, an experience more driven toward having a good time rather than developing players. At the youth level, I'd rather have my child's focus be on socializing and being a part of the community.

Now, let me reiterate my earlier point, there is absolutely nothing wrong with young players wanting to take the sport a little more seriously. AAU and travel teams, although they do promote fun, they also pro-

● PITCH to page 26

Tremblay ready to take on Save The Bay swim



Dawn Tremblay (right) and friend Michelle Farrow. Submitted photos

Warwick resident raises funds, awareness for environmental protection

By ALEX SPONSELLER
Beacon Sports Editor

Warwick resident Dawn Tremblay will be one of the hundreds of locals to take part in this Saturday's Save The Bay swim. It will be her fifth time participating in the event, but her first time swimming in person across Narragansett Bay's East Passage.

The Swim is Save The Bay's largest annual fundraiser. It is a two-mile swim across open water and the event helps raise funds and awareness for the organization's push to preserve Narragansett Bay. The proceeds will go directly toward Save The Bay's educational programs, advocacy efforts and habitat restorations efforts.

Tremblay had planned on doing the in-person swim during her first year in 2017, however, the event was canceled due to safety concerns stemming from hazardous weather conditions. She has since participated virtually and is excited to hit the open water for the first time.

Her training began at McDermott Pool back in February and she has since been increasing

● SWIM to page 25

Come clam with me

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI
Special to the Beacon

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Aquatic Resource Education program will hold three more "Come Clam with Me" events this year. The events are scheduled for August 12, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Rocky Point, Warwick; August 25, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Gull Cove, Portsmouth; and September 9, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at North Kingstown Town Beach.

Participants learn how to dig for clams, the equipment you need, and the management strategies that support quahogging in Rhode Island.

The program fee is \$10/person for registrants 8 years of age and older. For information and registration call 401-330-0634, email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or visit online at Aquatic Resource Education (A.R.E.) Program for Children and Adults | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Some quahog history

The word quahog comes from the Narragansett Indian name "poquauhock". Indians used quahog shells to make beads that were used as money (called wampum). A quahog can get quite old, each line on its shell is a growth ring. You can count the rings to determine the quahog's age. Researchers estimate that the largest quahogs (about four inches in length) can be 40 years old.

Where to get them

You can dig for quahogs in many coastal Rhode Island towns. Parts of the Bay have seasonal, conditional or permanent closures, check the RI Department of Environmental Management Web site for areas you can shellfish, visit Shellfishing | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. I like to fish spots I know are clean in Warwick, North Kingstown and on salt ponds in Narragansett.

How to dig them

For years, I dug for quahogs with my feet, this is the way my father taught me. Sort of like doing the twist with your feet underwater and moving backwards until you feel a quahog. Once you do, you reach down and pull it up with your hand. Today I use a quahog or clam rake which is available at bait and tackle shops and hardware stores.

In early spring the water is about fifty to sixty degrees so I



Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren with a hefty striped bass caught off Newport last week on BragaBout Charters with Capt. Chad Braga. Submitted photo

use waders and rubber gloves with great success (I use this same gear to scallop in the fall and winter). They protect my feet and enable me to quickly catch what I need for dinner, minimizing the time I am in the cold water.

Quick quahog dishes

Visit my posting blog for a clams cassino and my Frutti de Marie Quahog Pasta recipe at www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish and false albacore. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "The striped bass bite was outstanding in front of Newport in the Brenton Reef area Wednesday. We caught 30 plus pound fish both with surface lure and with live eels."

"The bigger bass have made their way into the salt ponds and are also abundant on local reefs. Live bait has been the key to hooking the larger fish, while smaller bass can be caught using

sand eel imitations and topwater lures. We've seen fewer bluefish locally this week. A few are still being caught from the rocks, but more can be found out around Block Island now," said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, "Surfcasting the Big Ditch remains slow, but prolific Canal Rat Bob 'Bull' MacKinnon got into some fish just before the holiday for a few days. Bull enticed some schoolies, slots and better with his Tsunami bunker shad after seeing mackerel, bunker and peanut bunker swim by. Last weekend, Ben 'The Potato Manager' Sivonen chunked some mackerel fillets into an afternoon rising east tide with his conventional Abu Garcia Ambassadeur 700, producing a 30-inch strip and another that was just short of slot size."

Summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass and squeteague. O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, "The bite remains consistent, with mostly smaller

fish being caught. They've moved into deeper local waters, around 43-55 feet. Interestingly, a good population has also moved into the salt ponds. These fish can be targeted effectively with a light bucktail and a teaser, worked in channels and deep troughs between sandbars."

"Anglers caught fluke fishing in 50 feet of water off Newport Wednesday, however, they had to fish through a lot of shorts. Bucktails were working as well as Hi/Low rigs," said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. The summer flounder and black sea bass bite is good for anglers fishing off the Sakonnet River over humps and bumps. Keepers are being caught but anglers are working for them. We continue to catch squeteague, summer flounder and scup around Warwick Neck, particularly when on a perfect drift with wind and tide in line.

Summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass and squeteague. O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle said, "Tuna reports have been excellent this week, with most fish in the mid-40-inch range. Trolling

with green, zucchini, and purple side trackers has been successful, and some customers are also catching fish on jigs and plugs."

Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "The bluefin bite is on and starting to build some consistency." Looks like it is going to be another good year for bluefin tuna fishing.

Freshwater. "Both the smallmouth and largemouth bass bite is on. Anglers hooking up with smallmouth bass using small shads, with frogs and spinner baits working well for largemouth bass," said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle.

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, visit www.noflukefishing.blogspot.com or www.noflukefishing.com

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● NORTH from page 23

take place in Pawtucket starting on Saturday. Conley and company are excited to have a chance to compete against the state's best while also helping North return to the top of Rhode Island's All-Star scene.

"We're going to be going against really good teams. We've had ups and downs but even after that loss they bounced back from it. They've proven that they can take adversity so hopefully they can build from there," said Conley. "We're trying to put Warwick North back on the map. We were

always a powerhouse and we want to be in that discussion again. Hopefully we can take the first step in doing that by making noise at states."

Members of the District 3 champion North team included: Adrian Hilario, Bean Bacani-Cordeiro, Julian Lyman, Aiden Ferreira, Cameron Alestra, Alfred Kroszner, Kevin Coupe Jr., Ryan Senra Jr., Xanders Simas, Bryce Sorrentino and Josh Conley. Assistant coaches were Jeff Ferreira, Edward Hilario, Kevin Coupe.

The North 10's would like to say thank you to the league and its families for their support throughout the tournament.



Aiden Ferreira makes a play. Beacon Media photos by Alex Sponseller



Adrian Hilario delivers a pitch in a game last week.

● SWIM from page 23

her swim distances in anticipation of the event. Save The Bay requires a kayak escort for swimmers, and Tremblay's friend, Warwick resident Michelle Farrow, will fill the roll on Saturday. The pair has been working together to prepare in open water as well. Another friend and Warwick resident, Amy Brockway-Jackl will be participating virtually.

"It's pretty awesome having supportive friends in my community who share my love of the ocean and open water swimming. The swimming community is an incredibly friendly and incredibly supportive community and Save The Bay has been the same way," said Tremblay.

Farrow encouraged Tremblay to run a triathlon years back. It was the first time since she was a child that Tremblay swam in open water and fell in love with the ocean. It was shortly after that she began searching for more open



Dawn Tremblay (left) and Michelle Farrow.

water swimming events and was introduced to Save The Bay, where she has been an active volunteer ever since.

"I fell in love with their

mission and wanted to be a part of having such a positive impact on the environment. Since then, I've become a STB volunteer and have helped out with several cleanups and habitat restoration projects, planting sea

grass at Oakland Beach and the Brushneck Cove revitalization," said Tremblay.

Tremblay is also the chair of the newly formed Oakland Beacon Association Environmental Committee, which holds early morning

beach cleanups every Monday from 7-8 a.m.

As she gets geared up for Saturday's swim, Tremblay hopes everyone will become inspired by Save The Bay's mission and lend a hand.

"I love swimming in the ocean, I love Save The Bay and I love helping keep the environment and ocean clean. I'm doing (The Swim) again to help raise awareness and help people that aren't involved to at least donate."

Information regarding Save The Bay and The Swim can be found at savethebay.org, where donations can also be made.



Kaney Bayha (center) accepting her award from RIIL staff. Submitted photos

Bayha named RIIL's Student-Athlete of the Year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League held its end of the year awards ceremony last month and Pilgrim's Kaney Bayha was named Student-Athlete of the Year along with Scituate's Austin Simas.

The award, presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, recognizes the outstanding efforts of senior student-athletes in Rhode Island high school athletic programs who: Excel in the classroom, during competition, participate in multiple school-sponsored sports and activities, demonstrate good citizenship in their school and good citizenship in their community.

Bayha has competed on seven Patriots sports teams throughout high school, playing field hockey and running cross country simultaneously in the fall and then moving on to indoor track and field and swimming in the winter and outdoor track in the spring. In addition, she has been a partner and shadow on the Patriots' fall unified volleyball and spring unified basketball teams.

She has captained all of those teams and amassed a multitude of All-Division, All-Class and All-State honors in track and cross country, capturing the Individual State Cross Country title last fall.

Earning High Honors since her freshman year, the class Salutatorian boasts a 4.63 GPA despite maintaining a challenging course load of honors and AP classes.

She has also served as Class President for four years, as well as the president of Pilgrim's chapter of the National Honor Society. She is also a member of the Spanish and National Art Honors Societies, as well as Pilgrim's Student Council and the school's Debate Club, and has served as a Civic Student Liaison to the Secretary of State.

"She's the once-in-a-lifetime student, true lighting in a bottle, destined to accomplish remarkable feats, and to bring about real change in the world," said Andrea Hainey-LaPierre, one of Kaney's teachers at Pilgrim. "I say without reservation or hesitation that Kaney Bayha is the best student I have ever known."

Kaney will be attending URI in the fall and hopes to major in English and History, while also competing for the women's track and cross country teams.

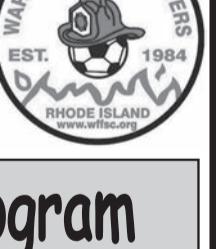
"In a time of sports specialization, Kaney specializes in being a good citizen in every aspect of her life," Pilgrim High School principal Toby Gibbons wrote. "Kaney Bayha is not only the first Pilgrim High School student to ever win an RIIL Girls State Championship in cross country, to me, she is unmatched with any other student I have worked with as a coach, teacher, athletic director, assistant principal or principal when examining the requirements of this award. I am honored to be her principal and have a new example of what a student-athlete could be moving forward."



Kaney Bayha and Scituate's Austin Simas.



**WARWICK FIRE FIGHTERS
SOCCER CLUB**
Est. 1984, Largest Club in RI
Where Kids Have Fun Learning Soccer



Fall 2025 Recreational Program

Online registration is preferred and available at www.wffsc.org

WFFSC's Fall Rec Program is a full season with games and practices. Games are on Saturday for U6/U8/U10 teams at Winslow and anticipated to be on Mon/Wed during the week for older teams U12/U16 under lights at the Bend St fields. Season starts in early September and runs to end October. **Fee is \$80 for U6 and \$100 for U8 and older with \$20 discounts for multiple players in family.** All players receive a high-quality jersey and socks. U6/U8/U10 players receive a trophy and older teams have a season ending tournament. There is a separate Tiny Tykes Program for ages 2-4.

Last date of registration to be guaranteed a spot on a Rec team is July 31st. Player should be at least 4 years old and born 2010 or later.

For additional information, go to www.wffsc.org

PITCH from page 23

mote skill acquisition and setting kids up to be top-notch players for the high school level and beyond. That is why they have more games, year-round training offerings, and again, schedules beyond state lines.

These programs also have coaches that often played college and sometimes professional ball. They are also connected to high school and college programs and can provide a pretty solid road map to getting there.

Still, what I love about the local leagues is that they are run entirely by volunteers whose passion is seeing kids have fun and make memories they'll take with them forever.

On top of that, I believe at the youth level, there really is not much of a gap, if any gap at all, between the quality of coaching between local and travel coaches. Reason being, kids at these ages are still learning the fundamentals of the game. It does not take a former Division I

player or Big Leaguer to teach an 8-year-old how to properly swing a bat or field a ground ball.

My children are 3 and 1, so I still have some time to make a decision, but my plan as of right now is to stick to the local leagues to start, probably my town's Little League. By the time they age out, they will be 13 years old.

That is the age in which I'd consider allowing my kids to play travel ball if they wish to do so. That is around the age that the gameplay intensifies and kids can really start expanding their knowledge and honing in on their craft, especially if they aspire to play as a varsity high schooler and possibly college.

Ultimately, I am all for making the child happy. If they want to play AAU ball and get on the travel circuit as soon as possible, and if the families can afford it and have the flexibility to make it happen, then by all means. Your child will receive amazing benefits and be put in a great position to succeed. Elevating to the high school and perhaps college level will be seamless.

If your child decides that they want to join the town Little League, fantastic. He or she will get to experience traditions like no other, like the opening day ceremonies, the jam-packed championships with the whole community watching, the lighter moments in the dugout and on the field.

I know I may look like I am playing it safe by riding the fence here, but I promise you that I am not. There are countless of opportunities within each side and again, every child and family are different.

Either way, get your children involved in youth athletics. There is no greater tool for children to develop as human beings. Whether it is travel, AAU, Little League, Cal Ripken. Everyone wins when they are on the team.

One more baseball thought before I sign off.

Tuesday night was the MLB All-Star game and it ended by the National League winning in a swing off. It's the baseball equivalent of a hockey shootout, where it is essentially another home run derby to determine a winner. The NL erased a six-

run deficit to force the extra event.

This, along with a handful of other gimmicks, is why I no longer invest in the All-Star game. I feel like I am complaining about it every year and only tune into the highlights.

I was devastated when the MLB eradicated the rule that the All-Star game determined homefield advantage in the World Series. It's old news now, but it was around that time that I began losing interest. I was in the minority as most people thought it was a ridiculous and often unfair procedure.

I loved it, though, because it felt like a true competition. Teams wanted to win because it meant something. Now, players only compete for their bonuses and hopes of making headlines. No one cares about who won as much as which player did what. Kyle Schwarber won MVP for his performance in the swing off and Red Sox pitcher Aroldis Chapman tossed an inning of relief. That's all I've heard about the game, along with the final score.

Take me back to the 90's, the best decade in MLB history.

Real Estate Transactions

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Greenwood
CREDIT UNION

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE	ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
COVENTRY									
1 Giovanni Rose Ct	Seddon Jr, Richard J and Seddon, Shirley A	Maynard, Thomas G	6/27	\$307,500	161 S Cobble Hill Rd	Freeman, Bennette F and Freeman, Ashley M	Pratt, Jeffrey S and Pellegrino, Elyse M	6/20	\$861,000
1-3 Richard Ct	Napolitano, Anthony B	Cobb, Chandler M and Cobb, Griffin	6/23	\$492,500	172 Villa Ave	Koldyke Lt and Koldyke, Henri S	Azera, Gary and Azera, Emily	6/25	\$385,000
142 Station St	Hopkins, Robert B and Hopkins, Sandra L	Caliri, Douglas	6/26	\$470,000	2 Crescendo Dr	Steamboat Cap LLC	Kinsler, David A and Kinsler, Norma P	6/24	\$350,000
236 Read Ave	Weiss, Christopher and Weiss, Rachel	Delgado, Edie M and Delgado, Mara M	6/23	\$440,000	236 Ives Rd	Trapp, Carrie J and Trapp Jr, Vann O	Pezza, Gregory J and King, Abigail C	6/23	\$740,000
24 Park Ln	Cramer, Corinne A	St Jean, Russell	6/26	\$30,000	25 Caverly St	Caverly Street Rt and Adrain, Alyn L	Bazin, Keith W and Siravo-Bazin, Stacey J	6/24	\$380,000
27 Cynthia Dr	Page, Jennifer A	Berrios, Diego and Berrios, Heather	6/24	\$530,000	251 Crestwood Rd	Mills, Donna	Kiser, Alexander J and Tranquillo, Julia	6/20	\$750,000
30 Hebert St	Pizzo, Anthony and Pizzo, Samantha	Easterbrook, Jillian R and Schulz, Aaron C	6/23	\$416,000	279 Beach Ave	Shine Concepts LLC	Green, Allison Q and Martin, Max H	6/23	\$535,000
35 Morin Ave	Moore, Crystal M and Moore, Marcus J	Nelson, Melanie M	6/27	\$620,000	294 Miantonomo Dr	Walser Hldg LLC	Scavoni Ft and Scavoni, Sandra E	6/20	\$540,000
35 S Pond Dr	Weaver, Scott C and Weaver, Tammy M	Pang, Philrose and Sherly, Fnu	6/25	\$700,000	30 Uphill Ave	Simpson, Peter F	Erazo, Jose E	6/20	\$305,000
37 Phillip St	Council Of Giants LLC	M2Res Resources LLC	6/27	\$330,000	33 Merle St	Capobianco, Mark	Shuler, Natalie J and Shuler, Taylor C	6/23	\$387,000
45 Lydia Rd	Jankowski, Patricia J	Brendan, John	6/27	\$375,000	357 Champs Ave	Saucier, Cheryl A and Parker, Michael H	Morcom, Christopher	6/23	\$355,000
5 Enzo Dr Lot 5	Ratte, Barbara A and Perry, Sandra	Mary J Gesmondi T and Gesmondi, Mary J	6/23	\$480,000	36 Anne C Hols Ct	McCauley, Meaghan	Nostramo, Robert	6/25	\$845,000
5 Woodland Ave	Ursillo, Jeffrey	Kd Properties LLC	6/27	\$360,000	38 Amsterdam Ave	Maynard, Eric and Maynard, Jacqueline M	Baker Jr, Daniel E	6/20	\$373,500
634 Victory Hwy	40thomebuyers LLC	Campbell, William S and Callan, Rosemary	6/25	\$450,000	5 Beechcrest St	Sturdahl, Ann M	Rodriguez, Edwin	6/25	\$262,000
75 Pembroke Ln	Hanlon, Dannielle and Evans, Daniel	Berard, Jacqueline U and Kavanagh, Shane S	6/26	\$440,000	51 Alger Ave	Ls9 Master Participation and Us Bk T Na	Alison H Delapp Stephens and Delapp Stephens, Alison H	6/25	\$460,000
8 Centennial St	Correia, Luis	Carlino, Christopher and Carlino, John	6/23	\$550,000	51 Graham Ave	Benbow, David	Balboa, Aaron J and Balboa, Lilyann L	6/20	\$380,000
9 Grieg Ct Lot 3B	Steven P Major T and Major, Steven P	Hopkins, Robert B and Hopkins, Sandra L	6/27	\$465,000	51 Lippitt Ave	Chin, Nickie K	Roy, Peter A and Roy, Donna M	6/20	\$385,000
9 Sharon Dr	Wilfred D Groves T and Conti, Patricia M	Inocencio, Jose and Inocencio, Celeste	6/27	\$765,000	55 Grove Ave	Norquist, Marjorie M and Norquist, John E	Jackman, Amber and Jackman, Scott	6/20	\$430,000
CRANSTON									
104 Fairfield Rd	Culkin, Lesley J	Dresser, Todd M and Stockbridge, Elisabeth	6/27	\$430,000	5570 Post Rd Lot 10	Smith, Greta	Gray Melvin, Kathryn E and Maio, Robert	6/20	\$600,000
11 Fox Ridge Dr	Pagano, John-Michael and Pagano, Suzanne J	Pagano, John-Michael	6/25	\$205,000	60 Flagg Ave	Powers Richard A Sr Est and Powers, Richard A	Mattera, Deborah M and Mattera, Gabriella P	6/20	\$240,000
135 Paine Ave	Alexandra Nunez Lt and Nunez, Alexandra	Deguerre, Carline and Deguerre, Johnny	6/27	\$476,000	71 Tampa Ave	Pagliarini, Peter J and Pagliarini, Jessica A	Nunez, Yenely and Lantigua, Janice	6/25	\$415,000
14 Bennett Ave	Ditoro, Jason	Franklin-Vinbury, Braer and Vendettuoli, Justin	6/24	\$520,000	74 College St Lot 35	Pellett, Scott A and Pellett, Lynn	Seventy Four College St L	6/23	\$722,500
15 Anstis St	Slone, Barbara G	Bowen, Garrett S and Horwitz, Jennifer A	6/24	\$651,000	74 College St Lot 386	Pellett, Scott A and Pellett, Lynn	Seventy Four College St L	6/23	\$722,500
21 Garrison St	Pizzo, Ernest A	Gary Fletch LLC	6/25	\$450,000	75 Woodcrest Rd	Balsamo, Tamarie	Ivone, Keith M and Fortes, Selena D	6/24	\$565,000
30 Charles St	Defelice Ann M Est and Defelice, Arthur T	Hreczuch, Erin E	6/27	\$389,000	83 Myrtle Ave	Tate, Raymund and Bateson, Caroline	OConnor, Kathryn	6/20	\$405,000
30 Charles St Lot 495	Defelice Ann M Est and Defelice, Arthur T	Hreczuch, Erin E	6/27	\$389,000	86 Farnum Rd	Lgo Hm Improvements & Mas	Ratte, Justin	6/25	\$450,000
36 Loomis St	Wargary LLC	Krupa, Matthew D and Algire, Catherine G	6/24	\$485,000	95 Kerri Lyn Rd	Clohessy, Judith E	Verrecchia Const Mgmt LLC	6/20	\$375,000
39 Marion Ave S	Haggerty Donna J Est and Peso, Stephanie	Builders & Dev Inc Est	6/26	\$238,750	West Greenwich	West Warwick	Hawkins, Troy V and Hawkins, Charles S	6/24	\$420,000
42 Harris Ave	Marichal Rivas, Hector M and Gomez, Carmen N	Duran, Marynelly and Nunez, Miguel	6/27	\$340,000	203 John Potter Rd	Fiori, Ronald and Fiori, Lisa	Hennessey Jr, Kevin M	6/24	\$130,000
42 Nelson Rd	Bella Casa LLC	Idowu, Olivia K and Furtado, Jr, Steven A	6/25	\$712,000	212 Mishnock Rd	Audette Audrey L Est and Kirk, Robert K	Dovidio, Morgan E and Capobianco, Mark A	6/24	\$470,000
45 Henry St	Stephens, Erin	Maxfield, Laura and Smith, Jordan	6/27	\$440,000	24 Bailey Dr	Audette, Joshua	Martin, Conner M	6/25	\$455,000
502 Oaklawn Ave	Bellini Corp	Cahill, Dylan F	6/23	\$459,000	425 Plain Meeting House Rd	Glickman, Donna M and Glickman, Louis A			
54 Denver Ave	Mchugh, John M	Wilson, Landon and Kelly, Molly	6/25	\$436,500	West Warwick	Fiorentini, Ronald and Fiorentini, Lisa			
58 Roslyn Ave	Mary V Dambrosio T and Dambrosio, Mary V	Rosenfeld, Brittany and Rosenfeld, Ethan	6/27	\$440,000	1 Cleveland St	Pellett, Scott A and Pellett, Lynn			
62 Vallette St	Coon, Leslie A	Forbragg, Kelcy and Kroff, Jared	6/27	\$445,000	136 Andrews Ave	Balboa, Aaron J and Balboa, Lilyann L			
7 Kendal Ct	Nelson, Jeffrey L and Nelson, Amy M	Covin, Kyle E and Covin, Rafaela L	6/23	\$930,000	16 Gough Ave	Glickman, Donna M and Glickman, Louis A			
777 Pontiac Ave	Natale, Joseph	Elder, Kelsey and Dusenka, Kelsey	6/27	\$510,000	17 Carolyn Dr	Obrien, Dawne	Deus Jr, Alexander M and Hopp, Kristine	5/1	\$535,000
82 Maplewood Ave	Fusco, Ralph	Tingle, Jessica L and Sherman, Brian	6/23	\$337,500	23 W Valley Cir Lot 23	Medeiros, John T and Medeiros, Robert J	Penafiel, Rafael and Palmieri, Evelyn	5/1	\$357,500
95 Hybrid Dr	Wayne & Karen Penn Ft and Penn, Wayne M	Erol, Soner and Posluk, Sebnem	6/25	\$605,000	26 Urquhart St	Gilatrick, Michael J	Parrillo, Michael J	6/30	\$380,000
EAST GREENWICH									
1404 S County Trl Lot 216	Vistas LLC	Dejesus Ft and Jesus, Efren D	6/23	\$580,000	27 Kulas Rd	Lynn E Sillman RET and Sillman, Lynn E	Hutchinson, Christian and Lynch, Katherine	6/27	\$417,000
15 Arrowhead Ln	Mucciarone, Christopher and Mucciarone, Melissa M	Swartz, Mark A and Swartz, Mauta E	6/26	\$1,030,000	4 Freemont St	Residences At West Vly In	Calkin, Daniel and Calkin, Jeanine	6/26	\$477,700
47 Cliff St	Stubblefield, Thomas and Stubblefield, Karen	Casey, Kyle and Ferranti, Helen	6/27	\$570,000	7 Valley View Dr	Carroll Jr, William E	Villalongo, Maria and Pineda, Geovanny A	6/30	\$395,000
EXETER									
132 W Shore Dr	Fontaine, William N	Safford, Esterina and Safford, Jack K	6/20	\$679,000	425 Plain Meeting House Rd	Chellis, David S and Chellis, Helena A	Martins, Lucy and Martins, Mariano	6/26	\$480,000
221 Nooseneck Hill Rd	Fullmer, Ralph E	Fuller, Jessica A	6/27	\$190,000	West Warwick	Cruz, Raquel D and Cordero, Amaury J	Andrade, Richard	5/1	\$410,000
455 Yawgoog Valley Rd	Sperry, Jason and Sperry, Christina M	Grabbert, Stephen J and Grabbert, Beth R	6/26	\$670,000	1 Cleveland St	Ocean State Customs LLC	Fazio, Amanda and Northcutt, Nicholas	7/1	\$450,000
92 Black Plain Rd	Steely, Jed								

