



No tax increase budget hikes spending

Mayor's proposal would use federal funds to balance spending package.

By BEACON STAFF

Mayor Frank Picozzi has proposed a \$341 million budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 that doesn't increase taxes yet increases spending by \$12.6 million from this year's projected budget according to a legal notice which appears on page 5 of today's Beacon.

Picozzi deferred comment on the spending package, saying in a text Wednesday that he first wanted to discuss the budget with City Council President Steve McAllister and Council Finance Chair Timothy

Howe. Copies of the budget are slated to go to the City Council as of today. The council will conduct a special public meeting May 23 at 4 p.m. to consider the budget department by department. This includes Picozzi's proposed school budget of \$178.6 million, an increase of \$5 million or 2.72 percent.

As for the tax rate, the legal notice reads that with an overall anticipated increase in property values coupled with an increase in the proposed tax levy the residential tax rate is \$18.73 per \$1,000 of valuation and the commercial rate is \$28.10, or identical to

the rates in the current fiscal year.

Yet what is unclear the notice reads: "A property tax rate of \$19.33 for residential real estate, \$29 for commercial and industrial real estate and \$38.66 for tangible personal property would be needed in the coming budget year to raise the maximum levy authorized by section 44-5-2 of the general laws." Similar language appeared in last year's legal notice as evidently required by ordinance.

Asked on Wednesday morning how he feels about the mayor's proposed no tax increase McAllister said that he hasn't seen

the proposed budget yet.

Schools

Heading into budget season one of the big questions has been what Picozzi would propose to give the school department.

After trimming the original superintendent budget the School Committee ultimately sent a request of \$178.6 million to the city of which \$134.9 million would be funded by taxpayers.

According to the legal ad Picozzi has pro-

BUDGET - PAGE 14



HAT TRICK: Tina Schadone and Maria Lanni stood out in their hats worn for a first time Saturday at the Warwick Country Club.



THEY MAKE A COUPLE: Amanda Day, court felony advocate at EBC, makes friends with one of two horses that greeted those attending the Run for the Roses.

Off to the races

Following a virtual event last year and no event the year Covid-19 shutdown the state, the Run for the Roses fundraiser for the benefit of the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center returned Saturday to the Warwick Country Club. EBC director Judith Earle thought people are ready to get out and be with friends. She was right. More than 200 bought tickets to sip mint juleps, admire the fancy hats worn by so many and watch the derby on a wall-size projection of the race before dinner. The startling win by Rich Strike with 80-1 odds was the buzz for those into horse racing. But more than those who may have had bets on the derby, the Run for the Roses was the winner raising more than \$30,000 for the work done by the EBC for victims of abuse. (Warwick Beacon photos)

Pushback on new grad regulations

By ALEX MALM

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is set to vote on a proposal soon from the Rhode Island Department of Education to change graduation requirements starting with the class of 2027.

The Warwick School Committee on Tuesday voted on a resolution that would ask the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to "defer any action on the proposed High School graduation requirements until the Department reports to them on the costs to LEAs of its implementation."

Vice Chair David Testa asked that the resolution be put on the agenda. He said they got language from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, which provided language that school committees could use if they decided to put a resolution forward.

"We're concerned about additional costs, and we're concerned if any of these things are going to be integrated into the basic education plan," said Testa.

One of the major proposed changes would require students to take two years of world language.

Currently students aren't required to take any modern language classes in order to graduate.

"If you're going to require that then you're going to need language teachers," said Testa.

Warwick Superintendent Lynn Dambruch previously told the Beacon "there's not enough certified foreign language teachers in Rhode Island."

REGULATIONS - PAGE 14

Legislative leaders say future of Kent Hospital a top concern

By JOHN HOWELL

In a co-authored response to Patricia Criner, an ICU nurse and president of the local 5008 of the United Nurses and Allied Professionals at Kent Hospital the leadership in the House and the Senate say they will work to do what is best for the area and the future of Kent, the state's second largest hospital.

In an op-ed published in the May 5 Warwick Beacon and Cranston Herald, Criner said the union had not received responses to emailed to legislators citing union concerns over the hospital's future now that the plan to merge Care New England and Lifespan has been rejected by the Federal Trade Commission and the RI Attorney General. Kent, one of three CNE hospitals, has been financially hard hit by the pandemic and according to hospital president Dr. Paari Gopalakrishnan in an interview also published on May 5 continues to lose between \$1 million and \$3 million monthly. Gopalakrishnan called on the state to use American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) to help bail out the hospital this year. He is especially concerned over the financial stability of the hospital going forward.

In an interview Monday Criner and Jack Callaci, Director at United Nurses & Allied Professionals, articulated their fear that now that multiple plans to strengthen CNE through a merger or acquisition have been thwarted that Kent could be sold to a for profit institution that would milk it for the benefit of stockholders and the detriment of the commu-

KENT - PAGE 14

'Tradition of insubordination'

By RORY SCHULER

The sinking of the HMS Gaspee is merely a footnote in some U.S. history books.

If a small group of Rhode Island citizen scientists succeeds, a search for the British vessel's remains may help rewrite the nation's annals, and place the Namquid Point (also known as Gaspee Point) explosion on the first page of the first chapter of the American story.

"We have an important announcement to make here today, on behalf of the Gaspee Days Committee and the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP)," said state Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (a Democrat representing District 19 in Warwick and Cranston). "It is time for Rhode Island and the Gaspee Affair to reclaim its place in history — in the first chapter of American history, not as a



ACROSS THE POND PEERS: Col. Ron Barnes, Commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers, shook hands with representatives from the British government and Navy — from left to right, with British Naval Commander Steven White, of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, Commander Simon Rogers, and Consul General for New England Dr. Peter Abbott OBE. (Beacon photo by Rory Schuler)

GASPEE - PAGE 15

- INDEX -

Classified 30
Editorial 11
Obituaries 15
Police Log 2
Sports 27-32
Rhody Life 17-26



PATS CRUISE PAST TITANS

The Pilgrim boys lacrosse team stayed undefeated when it topped rival Toll Gate 18-5 last week. See story on page 27. Pictured is Pilgrim's Brady Burke.

NOTABLE Quote

"There's not enough certified foreign language teachers in Rhode Island."

- Warwick Superintendent Lynn Dambruch speaking about a proposed requirement that high school students have two foreign language credits to graduate. Page 1



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BANK ROBBERY
Warwick Police announced the arrest of an alleged bank robber on Wednesday morning, May 11.
Paul Edward Larson, 60, of East Greenwich, has been taken into custody without incident, police said.
"With the assistance of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, the suspect was identified," according to a press release from Warwick Police.
Warwick Police Detectives Christian Vargas and Matthew Smith attempted to locate the suspect at an associated address in Warwick, but were unsuccessful. However, while returning to the police station around 3:40 p.m. on May 10, the detectives spotted the suspect on the patio at Cumberland Farms, 3335 Post Road in the Apponaug section of Warwick, according to police.
Larson was held overnight and will be arraigned at Third District Court today on one count of Second-degree Robbery.

Around 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 10, the Warwick Police Department received a report of a robbery at Harbor One Bank, 3830 Post Road in Warwick.
"The reporting person was one of two employees working at the time and both had secured themselves in the vault after providing an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspect," according to the original press release distributed by Maj. Andrew P. Sullivan, Operations Bureau Commander. "There were no customers in the bank at this time. Upon police arrival, it was unclear if the suspect was still on scene as the employees in the vault could not confirm the suspect had left. Police made entry and confirmed the suspect was no longer in the bank and that the scene was safe at which time the two employees exited the vault."
The employees told police that the suspect entered the bank and passed a note demanding cash, but did not say anything nor display a weapon, according to police.

POLICE LOG



BANK ROBBERY: Warwick Police used surveillance images from the May 10 Harbor One Bank robbery to identify a suspect. (Photo courtesy Warwick Police)

"One of the employees provided the suspect with the cash at which time the two employees retreated to the vault fearing for their own safety," according to the press release.
The suspect was described as a heavysset white or light-skinned Hispanic male, approximately 5'07"-5'08" wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, a cap on his head, and a face covering, according to the original press release.
Warwick Police used surveillance images from the robbery to identify a suspect.
Anyone witnesses with additional information are encouraged to call the Warwick Police Detective Division at 401-468-4233.

SEXUAL ASSAULT
On April 28, the Providence County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging a West Warwick man with two counts of first-degree child molestation and one count of first-degree sexual assault, according to the Attorney General's office.
As alleged in the indictment, Russel Trafford, 54, of West

Warwick, is accused of sexually assaulting a female victim multiple times, beginning when the victim was under the age of 14. The defendant is alleged to have assaulted the victim between August 1, 2000, and January 2, 2004, at locations in the city of Providence, according to the Attorney General Peter F. Neronha's office.
In February 2022, the Rhode Island State Police (RISP) Major Crimes Unit began an investigation into allegations against the defendant shared with them by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Following their investigation, the Office of the Attorney General presented the case before the Providence County Grand Jury who handed up the three-count indictment against the defendant, according to a press release from the Attorney General.
The RISP arrested the defendant on April 24, and later that day he was arraigned in Providence County Superior Court. The defendant was scheduled for a determination of attorney hearing on May 5, in Providence County Superior Court.

DRUG POSSESSION
At 1:58 a.m., Warwick Police Officer Brittany L. Crabtree stopped at Season's Corner Market, 2128 Elmwood Ave., to purchase a beverage.
While talking to the clerk, Crabtree learned of a grey Honda Accord that has been sitting at one of the station's broken gas pumps for hours at a time.
The clerk's supervisor "always asks him to check on the vehicle," Crabtree wrote in the incident report.
Crabtree walked up to the car and saw a man sitting in the driver's seat with his head resting on the driver's side window. She asked him to roll down the window.
She asked him what he was doing parked at the pump, and he said he was an Uber driver resting until he received notification of his next ride.
The driver was identified as De Andre Seeley Randolph, 27, of 109 Fairfield Road, Cranston.
"I observed, what appeared to be, a crack pipe on the passenger's side seat," Crabtree wrote.
Another Warwick Police officer arrived on the scene and asked the driver to step outside the vehicle.
"The operator did not show any signs of impairment," Crabtree wrote. "I advised Randolph that I was going to search his vehicle, as I had observed drug paraphernalia in plain view."
Crabtree found two "small white rock like substances" in the car's center console. She also found Choreboy, which is used to smoke crack cocaine, and a razorblade "which appeared to have a white powdery residue on it," according to the report.
Randolph was cuffed and placed in the back of a cruiser.
Both officers on the scene completed the search, and found a small container in the center console "which appeared to have a white powdery residue in a small plastic bag," Crabtree wrote. They also found two crack pipes on the driver's side seat where Randolph was sitting, and more Choreboy material.
The vehicle was ultimately towed from the scene.
Police tested the substances and one tested positive for crack cocaine; the other tested positive for fentanyl.
Randolph was charged with two counts of Possession of a Schedule I to V Controlled Substance (first offense) and assigned a court date. He was photographed, fingerprinted, and subsequently released around 5 a.m.
...
At 12:30 p.m. on May 3, Cranston Police arrested Andrew Silvestri, 27, of 18 Highland St., West Warwick, on charges of Shoplifting and Conspiracy. The arrest was the result of a call for service at 275 Warwick Ave. Silvestri awaited arraignment by the Justice of the Peace.
...
STOLEN VEHICLE
At 5:45 p.m. on May 7, Cranston Police arrested William Parenteau, 54, of 355 Hardig Road, Apt. C207, Warwick, on charges of Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle. The arrest was the result of a Flock hit in the area of Cranston Street and Lincoln Avenue. Parenteau was arraigned by the Justice of the Peace and transported to ACI Intake.
...
At 9:20 a.m. on May 7, Cranston Police arrested Robert Vezina, 34, of 319 Providence St., West Warwick, on charges of Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle as a result of a Flock hit at 190 Hillside Road. Vezina awaited Arraignment as violator.

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A RI first: We've got the smallest BJ's

By JOHN HOWELL

Warwick can claim to be first in the country to have a "lunchbox" BJ's.

That's how Peter Frangie, vice president of communications for the shopping club with six million members and 238 clubs in the northeast, characterizes the BJ's Market that opened Friday in the former 50,000 square foot Toys "R" Us store next to the Midland Commons on East Avenue.

The store is half the size of the customary BJ's. That didn't happen by mistake.

The market is "strategically located," said Frangie, between the Coventry and Johnston locations with easy access to Routes 295 and 95 and it has some high-tech features that its larger siblings don't have...yet. Also, it doesn't carry some of the merchandise such as electronics, tires and furniture found at the big box BJ's. It is also another super market, albeit membership driven, with access to Route 2 and the city's major retail corridor. Market Basket opened within the last year in the plaza including Best Buy and Home Depot.

"It's there for members who want to make a quick stop on their way to work or on the way home," Frangie said. Being smaller, members needn't walk as far to

find what they want and get back on their way. Or, they needn't come into the market at all.

Like bigger stores, the market has curbside pickup. The difference is that the Warwick store was designed to incorporate the feature. An area with refrigerators lining one wall and plastic containers on the other gives out to a pickup location at the front of the building. When members place their orders on the BJ's app their credit card charge is placed on hold until they make the pickup. Members can also use their cell phones to scan merchandise QR codes for in-store purchases and the express checkout lane dedicated for that purpose.

So, why would BJ's open a third store in close proximity to two others? Frangie's first answer is convenience and the second is to build membership in a densely populated area. Membership is \$55 for the "inner circle" and \$110 for "the credit card rate" that gives members a 2 percent cash back on most purchases.

Does the store carry any toys? After all Rhode Islanders are going to be referring to the store as "where Toys 'R' Us used to be."

Frangie laughed. No, you won't find toys in this BJ's although, like other BJ's, it's kid friendly.

WHERE TOYS "R" US USED TO BE: The new BJ's adjacent to Midland Commons doesn't carry all the merchandise of its big box cousins. It's designed more for convenience in and out shopping. (Warwick Beacon photos)



CURBSIDE PICKUPS: Dave Farina, a Bishop Hendricken grad who has worked for BJ's for 21 years, paused briefly last week as the new Warwick store prepared to open to describe how the curbside pickup feature operates.



DELI APPEAL: (at left) Mary Hassell, who lives in Coventry and until recently sold real estate, has worked a deli in the past and is looking forward to doing it again at BJ's.

At right is Peter Frangie, vice president of communications.



CCRI students share school experience with Gov. McKee

Working to overcome hurdles



SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES: Students spoke with Gov. McKee at a roundtable event on April 28 about why they chose CCRI and how their college experience has been.

By EMMA BARTLETT

Governor Daniel McKee joined 20 CCRI students and alumni at the Knight Campus in Warwick on April 28 for a roundtable discussion on why students chose CCRI to further their education as well as how their school experience has been.

CCRI President Meghan Hughes introduced McKee and acknowledged the diverse range of students in the room, noting that some came directly from high school while others were returning adult learners and were either full-time or part-time students.

"I think it's really important that we get out and work with the young people in the state of Rhode Island, listen to them about what they think their futures are and also some of the challenges they have to meet that future," said McKee.

Cranston's Talia Thibodeau recounted the past two years she's spent at CCRI.

"The whole experience has been amazing," said Thibodeau.

Thibodeau is a sophomore and general studies major with a concentration in sports media and communications - her dream is to be a sports commentator or sideline reporter. She is also part of

CCRI's joint admissions agreement (JAA) so - once she graduates from CCRI on May 12 - Thibodeau will transfer to the University of Rhode Island (URI). JAA allows students to obtain a four-year degree by starting their course work at CCRI and transferring to either URI or Rhode Island College (RIC) for the remaining two years.

Thibodeau attended George Peters Elementary School, Western Hills Middle School and Cranston High School West where she graduated in 2020. While at CCRI, she said she has made good connections and - at the governor's visit on April 28 - said she liked hearing other students' stories who she may not have otherwise met.

McKee drew upon his personal experience of working with younger people and spoke to understanding that some individuals have more hurdles to overcome than others.

"Where there were hurdles or are hurdles, we want to lower them or eliminate them the best we can," McKee said, adding that he wants it so everyone can be successful and have the education they need to reach their potential and contribute back to communities and earn a fair living.

Eliminating those hurdles includes meeting students where

they are and helping them get to their next goal. Imani Blake, who was born and raised in Providence, is a nursing student at CCRI and was able to work education into her work schedule.

"I experienced the four-year education at the University of Rhode Island, and when I thought about pursuing further education, I thought it was nearly impossible because once you are thrown into the real world. You start your career, and it seems like times against you," said Blake.

She mentioned that CCRI's tuition was affordable and adapted to her schedule.

"I chose CCRI because I think they do a great job on showing students here who are mothers, fathers. They have a full-time job while they're here, and I think it showed me and gave me the confidence to do something that I previously thought was impossible," Blake said.

McKee, whose sports references were spread throughout the hour and a half conversation, found commonalities with two students who are sisters and softball players for the school.

Warwick's Kate and Kiley Ferns are part of the school's RI Promise program which has resulted in their tuition being \$60 to \$90 per semester.

"We have enough time in our day to go to work to school and back to work," said Kiley, who mentioned she liked the online classes due to their flexibility.

Kiley is an education major with a concentration in early childhood development and will attend RIC in the fall for elementary education.

Kate chose CCRI because she wasn't sure what she wanted to do after school. The cost of schooling was more affordable and CCRI assisted her in finding her path.

"With the help of my advisors I actually have a major," said Kate.

Kate is part of the JAA program and is pursuing a general studies major with a concentration in mar-

keting and with the intent of transferring to RIC. She said she is considering graphic design at RIC.

Workforce housing

McKee mentioned the types of things he would like to fund through the FY 2023 budget to help students. He's considering a \$250 million budget appropriation for housing and said part of those funds would be classified as workforce housing with the intent of exploring the idea of transitional housing for jobs Rhode Island needs to fill to move the state forward.

Putting funds in the budget for a higher education academy is another one of the governor's tasks. McKee wants to propose the idea to the General Assembly about appropriating funds so they can go into the communities, talk with people and upgrade certificate degrees, associates degrees and four-year degrees. McKee would also like to double down on education in entrepreneurship and small businesses, and in the budget, is seeing about obtaining funding for minority and women-owned businesses and traditional financing for non-minority businesses.

Hughes made it a point to mention that CCRI meets Rhode Islanders wherever they are and to get them to where they want to be. Warwick's Lauren Buchholz is an example of this.

Buchholz graduated from URI in 2017 where she studied economics, political science and Chinese; her original goal was to be an analyst for the federal government. She said she had lived in China for over a year and a half and was deemed a security risk and essentially locked out of all the positions in that field that required security clearance. For the ones that didn't require security clearance, the available job positions required PhDs or were offering an unpaid internship.

Buchholz had a bachelor's degree and knew a PhD would take money and time for a low paid

position. She decided to switch careers that gave her more flexibility and a higher paying job - which the CCRI workforce program did.

"The people who designed the program very specifically went out to employers and asked them what skills they needed. And in all of my years searching for jobs, there's always been such a disconnect between what employers are looking for and what the degrees are providing," said Buchholz.

Because Buchholz already has a bachelors and is currently obtaining an associate, she'll have the necessary prerequisites computer science coursework to complete a masters. She also has a passion for Chinese and would like to use her skills to address gaps in language learning tools.

Hughes spoke about the reverse credit transfer and aligning course curriculum with job opportunities. The school is doubling down on taking Rhode Islanders who have some college or no degree and positioning them with a two-year degree and pathway. Additionally, the school is looking to award credit for prior life experience and work experience.

Overall, Hughes said CCRI nearly 20,000 Rhode Islanders are educated in its programs and another nearly 20,000 are educated in the workforce space.

In some last words of advice, McKee spoke about the RI 2030 interactive website which is a blueprint for Rhode Island's 10-year strategy when it comes to workforce, education and family and children.

Students attending the roundtable event included Ana Duarte Spencer, Imani Blake, Erin Ingebreten, Christine Williams, Lauren Blanchette, Kaele Rodriguez, Melanie Paquin, Richard McIntyre, Maya-Jane Lima, Casey Regine, Emily McNeil, Kiley Ferns, Kate Ferns, Talia Thibodeau, Theo Jadotte, Elizabeth Bruno, Edgar Lopez Reyes and Lauren Buchholz.

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Oakland Beach Association Meeting
 The Oakland Beach Association invites neighborhood residents to its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 12 at 6 p.m., at the Boys & Girls Club, 340 Oakland Beach Ave. (side entrance). Refreshments will be served.

Yard Sale at Asbury UMC
 Spring is here and so are yard sales. Asbury UMC at 550 Fair Street in Warwick is hosting a fundraiser/community outreach the yard sale on May 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have large and small ticket items. Indoor and outdoor tables hosted by Asbury members and the neighborhood. And, we wouldn't be Methodist if we didn't also have some food, so come a little hungry.

Scavenger Hunt
 There will be a scavenger hunt at Brayton cemetery (3468 Post Road) in Apponaug on May 14 at 1 p.m. Come find headstones containing certain names, attributes and artwork. Along the way, learn about some of the folks who now permanently reside at Brayton. Participants will learn about headstone cleaning and the symbolism contained on them.

13th Annual Classic Car Show
 After a two year hiatus, the 13th Annual "Cause for Paws" Classic Car Show roars to life on Sunday, June 12. There will be antiques and classic cars, plus all Corvettes, custom, muscle, hot rod, rat rod, exotics and fire trucks. There is a \$15 entry per car - registration is from 9 a.m. to noon and trophies are given at 2 p.m. For spectators, admission is free. Proceeds benefit homeless animals at the Warwick Animal Shelter. For more information, email shelterhelp@friendsri.org. The event will be located 171 Service Avenue (off Jefferson Blvd.), Warwick. Rain date is Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Watercolor Painting
 Join the Pontiac Free Library for a watercolor painting and educational workshop with Rhode Island artist Aileen M. Quinn on June 11 at 11 a.m. The topic of the painting will be the Conimicut Lighthouse. All materials will be supplied. Limited to eight participants. Registration requested: (401) 737-3292 or via our website.

Animal Program
 Join the Pontiac Free Library on June 28 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for Dave's

BEACON BUZZ

Animal Experiences program, a fun, hands-on way to meet turtles, snakes, small mammals and Wally the alligator up close and personal! Registration requested: (401) 737-3292 or via our website.

The Invisible Immigrant Community
 Most people would be surprised to learn that there were Chinatowns in Rhode Island. On May 16, Brown scholar John Eng-Wong will tell the history of immigrant Chinese communities in our state, why they settled here, the unique difficulties they encountered and how they managed to succeed. This is a virtual program sponsored by the East Greenwich Historic Preservation Society. It begins at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to all. For the Zoom link, register at info@eghps.org. The link will be sent at least a day before the program.

Bridging the Gaps Conference
 NAMI Rhode Island is the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI-RI's Bridging the Gaps Annual Conference brings together heroes and allies in the mental health community. Discuss the issues side-by-side with peers, family members, mental health professionals, advocates, legislators, volunteers and friends. This year, the Bridging the Gaps conference will be held virtually on May 25. NAMI Members attend for free. \$10 for non-members. For more information on Mental Health Awareness Month and/or to register for the upcoming Bridging the Gaps Conference, please visit <https://namirhodeisland.org/btg/>, call NAMI-RI at (401) 331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

Westbay Community Action's Annual Farm Plant Sale
 Westbay Farm will hold its annual plant sale at 1351 Centerville Road in Warwick on May 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A list of items for sale will be shared closer to the sale. As we prepare for this fun event we're asking the community to donate some key items. We're in need of grocery and lunch sized paper bags, three to four inch diameter plant pots, four-pack planters, black carrying trays and medium sized cardboard boxes. Please call Kendra @ 921-1249 ex. 352 with any questions.

Plant and Book Sale
 On May 21 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date May 22), Clouds Hill Museum will host a plant and book sale in the Center for the Outdoors which is behind the museum. Plants (both annuals and perennials) were grown onsite and are available in various sizes along with some hanging baskets. The book sale will feature volumes from the library of the well-known Newport interior designer Richard Nelson. In addition there will be coffee table books, novels, thrillers and more.

Painting on the Grounds
 On May 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date May 22) artists are invited to paint on the grounds of Clouds Hill Museum. From 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., the resulting works may be displayed on the porch of the house for sale by the artists. Anyone participating may have their work judged with awards for first through third place. The registration fee is \$45 and \$60 to include a bag lunch delivered to your painting location. For further information and registration, contact Warwick Center for the Arts at www.warwickcfa.org or call 401-737-0010.

Lawn Concert
 On May 29 at 3 p.m. the 2022 Music on the Hill Chamber Music Festival will host the Narragansett Brass Quintet, performing under the porte-cochere at

Clouds Hill Museum. Bring your chair and some munchies and settle in on the north lawn for an hour of music. For further information and tickets, contact Music on the Hill at www.musiconthehillri.org.

Theatre Summer Programs
 The Rhode Island Youth Theatre Summer Programs will have two summer programs at the Historic Park Theatre and Event Center. "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition" is for ages 7 to 16 and will take July 25 through August 6. No experience needed. Shows will take place August 5 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and August 6 at 7 p.m. The second program is "The Music Man, Jr." which will run from August 8 to August 19. No experience needed. Shows will take place August 19 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and August 20 at 7 p.m. Visit www.riyt.org to register. Scholarships available for all programs, email ann@riyt.org.

Comedy Fundraiser
 There will be a comedy fundraiser featuring top local comedians to benefit Greenwood Fire Company Museum on May 14 at the Warwick Firefighters Association 120, (750 Warwick Avenue, Warwick). Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. BYOS (Bring Your own Snacks), cash bar, raffles, 50/50 drawing, auctions. 18+ event. Cost \$25.00. For tickets to donate or sponsor (to be a sponsor costs \$100.00. Names placed on a large banner with other donors, flyers on the table regarding your organization), please visit funny4funds.com/events. For more information, please contact Donna Halsband at 401 742-4937.

Featured Speaker
 Italian American Historical Society member Bernadette Conte will be the featured speaker at Santa Maria di Prata, Cranston, on May 15 in the event honoring our mothers. Her book, "Under the Pear Tree," fulfills the commitment she made to her mother Caterina (Gaetanina) Cardi Capotosto, to write the family history. This book is an account told by one Itrani family of the difficulties and struggles the Italian immigrant experienced at the turn of the 19th century in Knightsville, Cranston, Rhode Island. The event starts at 11 a.m.

The Art of the Fan
 Clouds Hill House Museum presents "The Art of the Fan" which will run through May 15. Dozens of fans belonging to past generations will be on display. Fixed, cockade, fontage, brisé and pleated fans of lace, paper, cloth and feathers will be included with interesting and fun facts about fans. Reservations are required and regular admission rates apply.

Comedy Night Fundraiser
 Sts. Rose & Clement Parish, 111 Long Street, Warwick is holding a comedy night fundraiser presented by Funny4Fund\$ on May 21. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. This adult only (18+) event will feature church appropriate comedy, raffles, 50/50 and the drawing of the Grand Raffle winners. BYOS (bring your own snacks). Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets for this event cost \$20 and can be purchased online at funny4funds.com/events (event #812). For more information, please contact Kim Jones at 401-480-1250.

AARP Martha's Vineyard Trip
 AARP Chapter 2210 has planned a Martha's Vineyard trip for July 7. Bus pickup from the Exit 6A Park & Ride at 8 a.m., return time is approximately 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$129/person. Trip includes motor coach transportation, ferry ride from Falmouth, guided bus tour of Martha's Vineyard and sightseeing in Edgartown with a stop at

Bertucci's for dinner on the way home. For more information, call Maureen at 828-5188.

Poetry, Music and Performance at Audubon in Bristol
 Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co., Inc. and Audubon Society of Rhode Island will host a poetry, music and performance at the Audubon in Bristol. The event will take place on June 12 and run from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Pre-Registration is required. Space is limited. Ages 18 and older. Please visit <https://notableworks.org> or <http://www.eventbrite.com> (search: Poetry, Music and Performance at Audubon).

Women and Infants Hospital 2022 Gala
 There will be a celebration of mother and earth on June 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the WaterFire Arts Center located at 475 Valley St., Providence. This event is important for raising critical funds for a new labor and delivery center at the hospital. For sponsorship opportunities and event information, contact Cezarina (Sue) Jackson, 401-921-8508, or cjackson@carene.org.

URI Music Department and Notable Works' Spring 2022 Concert
 This event will take place in URI's Recital Hall within the Fine Arts Center on May 15 at 3 p.m. and features the American Band, Directed by Brian Cardany. The American Band will be honored at this event by the RI Music Hall of Fame. The main focus of this event is to illustrate how Rhode Island is dealing with the climate crisis, highlighting revitalization efforts in our communities, as well as practicing current outreach strategies to connect to a wider and more diverse workforce, while broaching the question: "What can each of us do to work together to help build a more sustainable future?" This performance is free and open to the public; however, donations for Notable Works will be graciously accepted. CDC State Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. Complimentary refreshments will be provided following the concert. For more information, please call 401-874-2431 or visit <http://www.uri.edu/music/events> or <https://notableworks.org>.

Old Warwick Grange 41
 The Grange is a fraternal community service, non-profit organization with a special interest in rural life and the traditions of faith, patriotism, leadership and family values. It's a place where the whole family can go and grow. Help us to help others. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. There are no meetings in July and August. The Grange hall is located at 1175 West Shore Road in Warwick. For information please call either Joan Clegg at 401 465-7259 or Mike Osiensky at (508) 954-9712.

Monthly Grab & Go Meals
 Food for the Soul is a food provision mission for those in need of a meal. Asbury UMC has partnered with Lakewood Baptist Church in Warwick to provide "grab and go" meals once a month. Pick up dates are May 21 and June 18 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Avenue, right on a bus line. Come as you are, leave feeling loved and cared about.

West Warwick AARP Chapter
 West Warwick AARP Chapter is looking to expand its membership. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at St. Mary's Church Hall, 70 Church Street, West Warwick. All are welcome to come enjoy a cup of coffee and chat with new friends.

Picozzi's City Hall Plaza vision to come true thanks to \$5 million earmark grant

By ALEX MALM

When Mayor Frank Picozzi was sworn in on the front steps of City Hall in January of 2021 he had a vision of what the old annex space could be used for just a couple of hundred feet away from where he was standing.

Now with the help of a \$5 million federal earmark grant Warwick is one step closer to fulfilling Picozzi's vision.

Last Friday, U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse who helped deliver the grant stood at the now empty space where the annex once stood. The new City Hall Plaza is expected to offer year-round activities and amenities including a major dual-purpose skating rink/roller rink/splash pad that can also be used for performances and exhibits, farmers markets, and other public gatherings, as well as new walking paths, green landscaping features, and parking.

"The City of Warwick is extremely grateful to have Senators Reed and Whitehouse in our corner, helping to secure this grant to soon make City Hall Plaza a reality," said

Picozzi. "It will not only be the central gathering place for residents, but it will also create jobs, and help boost our city's economy. This project has been a vision of mine since I was sworn into office. I'm confident it will greatly enhance the quality of life for all residents here in Warwick."

Michael Rooney, the President of the Apponaug Village Association and the former Parks and Recreation Director for the city said that when Picozzi and the Administration approached him about it he thought it would be a good thing for the village.

"That's a great idea but where are we going to get the money," Rooney remembers asking.

Reed said that he and Whitehouse view the plaza as a way to help the local economy as well.

"Senator Whitehouse and I are proud to make this \$5 million infusion of federal funding available to help the City advance its economic development priorities," said Reed. "When it's completed, this amenity-filled space will give residents and visitors

alike another reason to enjoy Warwick and spend some time and money right here in the neighborhood. This plaza will be a place to bring the community together for celebrations, family outings, performances, and more. It will help promote a healthy, active, walkable lifestyle. And in addition to offering opportunities for leisure, recreation, and event space all year round, this new plaza has the potential to be a catalyst for further economic development, increasing foot traffic to the area with the goal of attracting additional private investment and smart growth."



SHARING THE VISION: Mayor Frank Picozzi talks with Senator Jack Reed and Ward 1 Councilman William Foley at Friday's announcement that the city is receiving a \$5 million earmark grant for the development of Warwick Plaza including an outdoor skating rink. (Warwick Beacon photos)

Rooney said that the plaza will help to establish Apponaug as the center of the city.

"Warwick needs a center, they need a place where people can come. And I think this is perfect," said Rooney.

When the project was first proposed Rooney said that some in Apponaug had concerns including the Cal Ripken baseball league which utilizes the parking lot. Since then many have become open to the idea after seeing initial drawings. Rooney said that the neighborhood group is going to have community meetings to get feedback on what should take place there.

"This is a great idea and it's going to be great for the city and Apponaug," said Rooney.

According to Tom Kravitz the Planning Director RFQs were accepted for the project.

"Because of the specialty design associated with the rink itself that will likely involve a secondary subcontractor," said Kravitz. "I can see the design/permitting effort taking 6-8 months perhaps, with a construction bid coming by the spring of 2023."

A budget notice in today's Beacon indicates that in addition the \$5 million from a federal earmark grant a proposed \$3.5 million in ARPA funds is also being proposed in the budget for the project.



ALL IN THE PLANS: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and State Treasurer Seth Magaziner look over plans for the proposed Warwick Plaza behind Warwick City Hall.

School Committee approves increase for walking distance by 1/4 mile

By ALEX MALM

In 2020 the Warwick School Committee adopted a policy that would increase the walking distance for all grade levels by .25 miles.

Then the pandemic happened, and those increases were put on hold.

On Tuesday, the School Committee voted in favor of the increases for the next academic year.

Cam Machado, Director of Non-Instructional Services

said that during covid the department limited the number of students that were on the buses and moved to "extreme walking distance."

For grades K-5 the walking distance will increase to 1 mile, for middle school it will increase to 2 miles and for high school it will increase to 2.25 miles.

"The request is due to budget constraints and is the least intrusive increase for the community," a memo from Machado reads. "With the proposed walking distance, the Transportation Department will be able to maximize the amount of buses within the budget and will continue to

route students that are affected by roads deemed hazardous by Warwick Public Schools and The City of Warwick.

According to Machado the Warwick Public Schools has close to 6,000 riders.

Machado said that a regular size bus costs \$408.94 a day. With the increase in walking distance Machado said they were able to cut regular buses from their fleet for next year.

The policy will need a second reading before it is finalized. It is expected to be voted on again during the next meeting.

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COBBY AND VINNY: Assistant Fire Chief Brian Cobb and Vincent Edward Sperduti who has been doing what he can as a volunteer at the Warwick Fire Department for the past 40 years.



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Disabilities never stopped Vinny from helping Warwick firefighters

By J. MICHAEL LEVESQUE

Ask a Warwick Firefighter about "Vinny" (no last name needed) and the first thing you'll get is a broad smile. The next thing you'll hear is story after story about Vinny, and what he means to the Department and the City.

"Vinny" Is Vincent Edward Sperduti who lives with his mom Violet (his dad unfortunately passed) in the Conimicut section of Warwick.

Probably one of the most prolific volunteers in Rhode Island history, Vinny spends every available minute he can at one of the nine Fire Stations throughout the City, but mostly at Station 1 Apponaug.

What alone is remarkable. Even more remarkable is that Vinny, who has a developmental disability, has never let it affect his life's greatest pleasure - helping the department and the City.

Vinny was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, moved to the City of Warwick with his family (then at a home on Long Street) and graduated from Toll Gate High School in 1981. After graduation he entered the work program at the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center on 3445 Post Road in Warwick, assigned to a job "packing jewelry at a local company."

His next job was at Electric Boat in Quonset, part of the cleaning crew, where he works to this day. But, after a long day of work, Vinny is solely focused on his beloved Fire Department, logging in countless hours at the station, doing whatever he can to help.

Vinny wanted to be a firefighter, but it wasn't in the cards. Vinny being Vinny, that did not deter him. Instead, he got on his bike (now he drives a car) and for the last 40 years (yes you read that right - 40 years!) he has pitched-in in whatever way he could, at the direction of course of the command staff.

Some members of that command staff (like Assistant Chief Brian Cobb) even let Vinny ride in the truck to a call, where he has a catbird seat to see the Warwick professionals perform their duties.

He is also a staple at department functions, including promotion ceremonies, fundraising events, community events and even sad bereavements.

Asked how this remarkable devotion started, Vinny said simply, "I needed some-

thing to do. I wanted to be a firefighter", but when that didn't work out, he decided to "do whatever I can to help" That help includes "washing the trucks, washing the floors, daytime and nighttime." He also tries to make sure "no one pulls the fire alarms!"

He also liked visiting the 9 stations (when he started there were 8). And, of course, he "likes to ride on the trucks, but I stay in the truck. I never went into a burning building." He also bought himself a "fire radio" so he could monitor things at home.

As mentioned, it doesn't take much to illicit a comment about Vinny from a firefighter.

Assistant Chief Brian Cobb, who has a special relationship with Vinny, including letting Vinny ride with him for 10 years (Vinny calls him "Cobby" for fun) said "I've known Vinny for 31 years. He is always solid. If there's a function, Vinny will be there, whether a wake, funeral, parade, of softball game." He continued "Everyone knows Vinny. Vinny knows everyone."

Warwick Firefighter Union President Lt. Michael Carriero said, "Vinny is a senior man. I've been on for 20 years (he just celebrated that anniversary) - he's been there longer. That's how we respect him when he comes to the station."

He added "Vinny is a good morale booster. We love his enthusiasm, and how he loves the job." He added with a grin, "He's a character! He knows and remembers everything. He even remembers roll-call numbers and what trucks you're on!"

Asked how long this "super volunteer" will keep going Vinny said, "not too much longer. I might take a break."

He still goes to work every day at EB. He parks his car on Post Road and a Trudeau Center van picks him up, along with two other individuals. He is accompanied throughout the day with Karissa Brown, a Trudeau Direct Support Professional who mentors them and works alongside of them. She then brings Vinny back to his car at the end of the workday.

The Trudeau Center's mission is to promote and enhance the quality of life of individuals with disabilities. They certainly have shined in the case of Vincent Edward Sperduti.

The Warwick Fire Department will miss Vinny if he ever does "retire". Warwick is a certainly a better place because of him.

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MONDAY THRU SUNDAY 8-6

Gas prices leap 19 cents, now averages \$4.37

Rhode Island's average gas price is up 19 cents from last week, averaging \$4.37 per gallon. Monday's price is 34 cents higher than a month ago, and \$1.49 higher than May 9, 2021. Rhode Island's average gas price is 5 cents higher than the national average.

"With the cost of oil accounting for more than half of the pump price, more expensive oil means more expensive gasoline," said Lloyd Albert, Senior Vice President of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Northeast. "Locally, prices have now moved past those record high levels of early March."

Drivers are paying more at the pump—as the cost of gasoline moves steadily higher. In the past two weeks, the national average for a gallon of gasoline has risen 20 cents to \$4.32, a penny less than the record high set on March 11. The increase is primarily due to the high cost of crude oil, which was hovering near \$100 a barrel last week and is now closing in on

AAA Northeast's May 9 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be 13 cents higher than last week, averaging \$4.32 a gallon. Monday's national average price is 20 cents higher than a month ago, and \$1.36 higher than this day last year.

Leadership, discipline, kindness



EXCITED VOLUNTEER: Fifth grader Eli Martin volunteers to demonstrate the skills he's learned over the past four weeks while taking Taekwondo in Brianna Brigidi phys-ed class at Robertson Elementary School.

By EMMA BARTLETT

"Are you ready to show what you learned?" This was the first question Master Chan of Master Lee's U.S. Taekwondo asked third and fifth graders at their Taekwondo ceremony at Robertson Elementary School on May 11. For the past four weeks, students have spent their phys-ed sessions learning Taekwondo. The students spent their time not only developing their Taekwondo skills, had teamwork, leadership, discipline and kindness incorporated into each lesson. Phys-ed and health teacher Brianna Brigidi said the instructors (Master Him-Chan, Master Yeon-Sub, Instructor Will and Miss Vada) expressed wanting to help students within the community and taught these classes for free.

Brigidi said during the past four weeks she's noticed students have gained more confidence – especially the shy and more introverted individuals. She chose grades three and five for several reasons and noted that she wanted to leave fifth graders with a fun elementary school memory since they were third graders when the pandemic first hit.

Students were enthusiastic to demonstrate their Taekwondo skills for parents in the school play yard on May 11. Master Sub passed out wooden boards for parents to hold while their children broke them in half with their hand. On Master Chan's cue, you could hear the sound of the boards splitting.

Third graders involved in the event include Alanna Angolano, James Ballsmith, Oliver Blanchette, Calvin Cerpovicz, McKenzie Chamberlain, Darroch Fairbairn Summers, Olivia Giarnese, Jolene Harris, Mina Hikmat, Isaac Hpau Jan, Blake Lavigne, Cole Maclachlan-Spetrini, Greysen Paille, Jasiel Ribera Carrasco, Keila Rosales Sumala, Lucia Swierk, Ethan



GETTING PARENTS INVOLVED: Parents line up with their children and hold wooden boards that they are about to break.

Young and Carmella Zambrano.

Fifth grade students involved in the event include Christopher Aiello, Isabella Amaral, Max Andersen, Luigi Ariosto, Jayden Baker, Adrianna Braga, Victoria Brand, Violet Cahoon, Trevor Campbell, Lexi Capuano, Aaron Daggett, Kingston Dandy, Dyan DaSilva, Malcolm Desmarais, Evelyn Dillon, Mikaela Ferraro, Isabella Foster, Ruby Gardner, Vincenzo Gianfrancesco, Joseph Golato, Jai'Lise Gonzalez, Jaxon Keenan, Liam Kennedy, Garrett Kinder, Benjamin Laine, Hannah Lendeche, Yongyi Li, Ariana Maciel, Owen Mahon, Becket Marinelli, Eli Martin, Stephen Matsko, Grayson McCaughey, Jarrius Medina Carlson, Aubrey Meeks-Miranda, Nicole Molina, Diego Montalvo Salgado, Jenna Ngo, Innocent Nijimbere, Saidey O'Brien, Mia Santos, Julianna Simas, Soleil St. Onge, Jenna Strom, Bruce Thibedeau, Kelly Tran, Raquel Umoh and Asmi Upadhyaya.

Master Lee's U.S. Taekwondo is located at 1400 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston. For more information about the business, visit <https://masterleemartialarts.com/>.



GROUP DEMONSTRATION: Master Chan leads 67 students from Robertson Elementary School's third and fifth grade classes in a demonstration of their Taekwondo skills. The students showed their parents what they had been taught over the past four weeks.



WINDING UP: Assistant Superintendent of Schools William McCaffrey held boards for children to break.



GYM TEACHER TAKES A TURN: Robertson Elementary School's phys-ed and health teacher Brianna Brigidi successfully chopped a wooden board in half and celebrated with Master Chan.

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Warwick resident Logan Costa

Warwick mom looks to raise funds, awareness for Neurofibromatosis

By ALEX MALM

Just before his first birthday Warwick resident Logan Costa was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis type 1.

His birthday is May 11 which is Neurofibromatosis awareness month. His mother Wendy doesn't think it is a coincidence.

"I strongly firmly believe God sent me Logan to raise awareness," said Wendy.

On May 13 Wendy will host a fundraiser to help spread awareness for the incurable disease.

According to the Children's Tumor Foundation one in 3,000 births has NF. NF is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow on the nerves. Someone has to be born with NF in order to have it.

Wendy said that Logan's doctor suspected that he had NF when he was about six months old long before he was diagnosed. It was a shock for her. She didn't know what NF was.

Logan's symptoms include two brain tumors, headaches, Macrocephaly, multiple Cafe au lai spots, vertigo, possible loss of hearing in the right ear, short stature, Autism, along with gastrointestinal problems. Logan has already seen over 30 doctors.

"He's dealing with a lot right now," said Wendy.

When Logan was 15 months old he had a focal seizure that lasted for about a minute and a half.

That led to Logan having a brain scan done.

"That's when I found out that Logan has two tumors on the right side of his brain," said Wendy.

As of now there is no cure for NF. Wendy said that there is a trial med but it can't be started until he is two-years-old. Wendy said she will have to make a tough decision.

"We just take it day by day and take small steps," said Wendy.

Despite the obstacles Wendy said that Logan continues to be positive.

"He's a ball of joy, he's awesome," said Wendy.

Fundraiser

Wendy said she got the idea for the fundraiser from a friend she met from across the pond in England whose 20-year-old son has NF. She told Wendy about mug raffles that she does and Wendy thought it was a good idea as well.

The large mugs will be raffled off for \$10 a ticket and the small ones will be \$5 a ticket.

Wendy said that the mugs are going to be filled with different things like deodorant, Patriots magnets, a tape measure and other things for the men. For the women the mugs will include lip gloss and bath bombs among other items.

In addition to coffee and tea, Wendy said they will also have food from Depetrillos, Antonios, Dunkin, finger sandwiches along with other soft drinks.

Wendy said that they are also going to have activities for the kids in attendance.

"There's going to be a ton of stuff at the event," said Wendy.


Wendy said that this is the first time she is doing a fundraiser and said that her goal is to raise \$1,000. All the funds will go towards the Children's Tumor Foundation.

"I'm not going to stop," said Wendy.

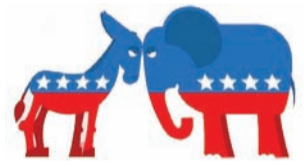

The event is slated to take place on May 13 from 12 to 5 p.m. The fundraiser will take place at the Knights of Columbus #1738 which is located at 70 Pettaconsett Ave in Cranston.

For those who are interested in donating but can't make the event can do so by going to join.ctf.org/give/401621/#/donation/checkout

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Landlords offered incentives to boost housing units for families experiencing homelessness

A team made up of state and federal officials and housing and community partners launched this week a statewide landlord challenge effort to provide permanent housing for Rhode Islanders who have been experiencing homelessness and staying in hotel shelters since the onset of the pandemic.

"Over 150 Rhode Island households will soon be transitioning out of hotel shelters and seeking available rental housing," said Governor Dan McKee in a release. "The rental market is tight and the need is urgent. We are calling on landlords across the state to step forward to provide housing to keep Rhode Islanders safely housed."

As federal funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide hotel shelters is winding down, state leaders and housing partners are seeking landlords with available rental units to step forward to house families experiencing homelessness and staying in hotel shelters during the pandemic. These individuals and families will soon be transitioning out of hotel shelters and require housing.

"Homelessness is an issue that requires immediate action. As we propose a historic investment of a quarter of a billion dollars to expand overall housing supply, we must not forget the critical role of landlords and the existing housing stock in addressing the here and now," said Deputy Secretary Josh Saal. "The Landlord Challenge is a call to work together as a community and create mutually beneficial opportunities for both landlords and prospective tenants experiencing homelessness."

The landlord challenge builds upon similar programs launched in 2020 and 2021, which attracted participating landlords across Rhode Island to provide available rental units to Rhode Islanders seeking rental housing. All participating units must be available, safe, habitable and rent reasonable. Program partners are seeking available units in a variety of sizes (studio,

one-bedroom, and more) in locations across the state for both individuals and families, including ADA accessible units.

"HUD is proud of our continued partnership with the State of Rhode Island to work toward the goal of making sure that every Rhode Islander experiencing homelessness has a place to call home," said Bob Shumeyko, Regional Director of Community Planning and Development in the HUD Boston Office. "This is a perfect example of how HUD funding can be leveraged with state, nonprofit, and private sector resources to meet a crucial community need and, in this case, will also provide a benefit to landlords."

Landlords will receive a \$3,000 signing bonus for the first unit signed on for a one year lease and \$1,000 for each additional unit. Up to \$3,000 per unit is available for reimbursement of necessary repairs. The program, when possible, will provide rent for up to one year.

"Hotel shelters are not a long-term solution to homelessness," said Eileen Hayes, president and CEO of Amos House. "This effort seeks to provide a more permanent solution by engaging landlords and matching their available rental units to individuals and families currently experiencing homelessness. With the financial incentives available, and rent, this program is a win-win for families needing housing, landlords with available units and our state."

Program partners include Governor Dan McKee, Amos House, and the RI Association of Realtors, who are working to jointly raise awareness of the program with landlords. Program funding for incentives comes from the State Office of Housing and Community Development.

For more information on the program or to sign-up for the program, please visit the Amos House website at: <https://amos-house.com/what-we-do/rhode-island-landlord-incentive-program> [r20.rs6.net] or call 401-272-0220, ext. 254.

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield and is accurate as of 04/05/2022. You must maintain a minimum daily balance of \$10.00 in your account to obtain the disclosed APY. Also, you must meet the following additional three (3) criteria to receive the full Journey Rewards Checking benefits: (1) twelve (12) debit card purchases must post and settle each monthly statement cycle; (2) have one (1) direct deposit or automatic payment post and settle each monthly statement cycle; and (3) access online banking and enroll to receive electronic statements. ATM fee refunds up to \$25 per monthly statement cycle. ATM-processed transactions do not count towards qualifying debit card purchases. If all Journey Rewards Checking criteria are met, balances between \$10-\$20,000 receive an APY of 2.00% while balances over \$20,000 receive an APY of .35%. If you do not meet all Journey Rewards Checking criteria each monthly statement cycle, your account will still function as a Journey Rewards Checking account earning an APY of .05%, and you will not receive ATM fee refunds for that time period. Rate is subject to change at any time after account opening. Fees may reduce earnings. New checking account relationships only. Federally insured by NCUA.

EDITORIAL

An educational balancing act

Designing a curricula that is the right combination of challenging, engaging, and well-rounded is far from an easy task for those at the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). Regardless, it is RIDE's responsibility to do so in a way that also does not over-cumbersome school districts at the local level. We find our state at such a difficult crossroads right now, where the state is in the midst of updating its high school graduation requirements to better provide young adults with an advanced 21st-century education, while local districts shout to hit the brakes and calculate the exact implications that update will have on their day-to-day operations. It is no secret that school districts face big challenges every year when it comes to balancing a budget. Stories throughout the region crop up every new year about a school extracurricular at risk of being cut, or a beloved teacher at risk of being let go because their program is being trimmed due to lack of enrollment. These stories are an unfortunate reality of our property tax-based funding system for public schools, but they are problems we must face and try to solve nonetheless. In this situation, the state's new regulations remain mostly the same aside from an increased emphasis on teaching kids foreign languages. Under the proposed graduation requirements, students will need two credits of the same foreign language to graduate. This is already the standard in Massachusetts. Considering

that the number of Spanish-speaking people in America grew by nearly 25 percent in the past decade — up to 62.1 million people in 2020 according to Pew — we would argue this is a very wise, forward-thinking decision. Being able to understand and speak the basics of a different language is one of the most valuable skills a young professional can possess going into the increasingly multicultural workforce today. Of course, aspirational vision and what is realistic are two different things entirely. RIDE officials should be prepared to demonstrate an ability to attract world language teachers to the state before committing to such a requirement. Districts have shown real apprehension at the ability to hire and pay foreign language teachers amid existing shoestring budgets, and that is a worthy concern. At the same time, assuming that students simply might “not be interested” in a foreign language — as has been levied — is lazy logic, and honestly not good enough. Students may not be interested in a lot of educational topics, but this does not make their value any less important. Foreign language knowledge will only become more important as our country becomes more diverse, and the state must prepare for that reality to remain competitive with its regional peers. At the same time, local districts' concerns over a dearth of available teachers is a legitimate one that the state should help alleviate before these requirements become set in stone.

Protecting Kent's patients, workers is paramount

By House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi and Senate Majority Leader Michael J. McCaffrey

Securing the future of Kent Hospital is essential for the health of our community. Thousands of Rhode Islanders in Warwick and beyond depend on Kent's services, from emergency care to cancer treatment. Hundreds of dedicated professionals and volunteers — our neighbors, friends and family members — make up the workforce at the hospital, which is one of the area's largest employers. Often, they have been part of the staff for decades.

demarc that has caused so much pain and loss, despite the unimaginable strain and heartbreak that came with keeping the hospital running day after day, the commitment of Kent's dedicated employees never wavered. For that, we can never adequately express our gratitude. The threat of a private, for-profit entity with more interest in profits than people taking control of this indispensable, non-profit community institution is one we have taken extremely seriously as leaders at the State House. As Care New England continues to explore options for its future — and knowing that Kent and other institutions hang in the balance, both in CNE's network and beyond — we remain deeply committed to protecting patients, preserving jobs, and ensuring the stability of our health care system.

Whatever solution ultimately emerges must be in the best interest of the people Kent serves, and of all those who make Kent's work possible. Whatever entity ultimately takes on stewardship of the hospital must be responsible and accountable, committed to the highest quality of care and to Kent's place in our community. The proposed merger between Lifespan and Care New England, which was recently rejected by federal regulators and the state Attorney General, offered one potential path forward. We acknowledge that a compelling case was made for the creation of a unified academic medical system in Rhode Island along with the partnership of Brown University, an arrangement advocates argued would maintain local ownership and enhance care. Ultimately, it was determined by the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission that the risks to patients and workers were too great, and we accept that finding. We rely on the judgment of the regulators, who have the necessary expertise, resources, experience and authority under the law to conduct extremely thorough reviews of transactions like the Lifespan-Care New England merger.

We understand the frustration many feel, particularly given the prior failure of Boston-based Partners HealthCare's agreement to buy Care New England. It may seem that decision-makers have rejected workable plans without offering alternative solutions. We believe the scope of what is at stake is too great, the implications too far-reaching, to be left subject to purely political considerations, or to be decided based solely on the public cases — appealing though they have often been — made by the parties involved. We must establish, and trust in, a process that is deliberate, comprehensive, and above all focused on the needs of our state. We must carefully consider every risk and every benefit, particularly with transactions that impact such a significant portion of our health care system.

It is for these very reasons that in recent years, we have joined with other lawmakers to seek improvements to Rhode Island's Hospital Conversion Act. In 2018, for example, Gov. Raimondo signed legislation approved by the General Assembly that strengthened investigatory powers and improved transparency in the HCA process. We are in the process of weighing the merits of additional legislation that is pending before us. As legislators, we will continue to monitor the status of our state's health care system and the ways in which we can strengthen the law to protect patients and workers. We will explore all available avenues to stabilize and strengthen Kent and other vital institutions. We will keep our doors open to all stakeholders — especially, and always, to the health care professionals whose work makes such a difference in so many lives. Kent's future has important implications for everyone in Rhode Island. For the residents of Warwick, it's an especially critical issue. We are committed to doing everything within our means to ensure the hospital's future is bright, and that it remains a vibrant, treasured part of our community for decades to come.

It takes a village to make for a celebration

Surely you've heard the saying: “It takes a village to raise a child,” which Hillary Clinton made popular in her book “It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us.”

That popped into mind Saturday when Carol told me kids dressed in colonial garb were outside the supermarket with collection cans. Carol said it all had to do with Gaspee Days. That seemed far-fetched. I've encountered Boy and Girls Scouts as well as Little Leaguers dressed in their uniforms outside markets selling wreaths and cookies or simply looking for donations. I don't recall ever coming across collections for Gaspee Days. Yet, why not?

Staging Gaspee days is an expensive enterprise. Just painting the red, white and blue stripe down Narragansett Parkway and into Broad Street in Cranston costs upwards of \$5,000. At least that was the tab when Scott Avedisian was mayor and Allan Fung was at the helm in Cranston. \$5,000 just to spiffy up the parade route seemed exorbitant on top of everything else that has to go into the parade.

But ingenuity is never lacking when it comes to raising funds for Gaspee Days. The two mayors were given a pair of challenges — who could raise the most in donations — each dollar was a foot — to paint the stripe and who could paint a 25-foot section of the stripe first. The painting duel had the two mayors clothed in white outfits looking as if they were about to enter Chernobyl standing back to back, paint rollers raised as the Pawtuxet Rangers did a count down before firing a volley. Allan hastily submerged his roller and with paint dripping placed it on the line and ran. Scott was more deliberative, working the roller back and forth to get a solid line. Scott covered about four feet before Allan stood triumphantly at the end of the line. But it was Scott who raised the most bucks that carried the Gaspee Days Committee across the finish line.

Over the years there's been grumbling that the city should pay for painting the line. After all these are city streets. But the city is a partner although it's not trumpeted. Proceeds from hotel and beverage taxes pay for the fireworks as well as for advertising.

The biggest fund raiser for the committee is traditionally the three-day arts and crafts show. Proceeds from the show pay for most of the parade. Last year the parade was canceled because of the pandemic, however, restrictions were sufficiently lifted by the fall for a scaled down version of the arts and crafts show. That helped give the committee a jump in fundraising for this year's parade marking the 250th anniversary of the burning of

This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

the Gaspee. The committee planned a February gala that would include auctions at Rhodes of the Pawtuxet to boost the kitty for a stupendous celebration. Tickets were sold and tables reserved, but then the newest variant threatened and the event canceled. Most of those purchasing tickets and tables generously donated the money rather than accepting a refund, making for a profitable non-gala.

Still getting it all to balance is proving difficult. Inflation — the fallout from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine — has thrown the committee a curveball. It was unclear Friday whether the Mummies who traditionally end the parade would be able to make it since the cost of busing the group here from Philadelphia has soared. Rising gas prices have likewise put the pinch on other groups.

By Sunday that Gaspee ingenuity had kicked in and Steve was planning an on-line version of items donated for the gala auction that he thinks could come up with \$4,000.

So, naturally I was curious as to what kids in colonial attire were doing outside the supermarket. Carol had the answer in the form of a handout declaring “Come and Experience History” and promoting the 19th walking tour of Pawtuxet to be held May 21 from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Students from Wyman Elementary and St. Peter Tri-Parish School assume roles of documented village residents of colonial Pawtuxet. Jailers, judges, ship builders and teachers are among the characters portrayed. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 5 to 12.

And how might this all fit with the proverb?

It occurred to me that the children are, in fact, raising the village. Of course, it's so much more than that. The Gaspee Days Committee, numbering 30 to 40 although no one has taken a precise count, is not only planning a grand party but raising the significance of the events of June 9, 1772 and how the burning of the Gaspee ignited the flames of independence.

My final deadline

By MERI R. KENNEDY

When I hit the send button last week to submit my weekly columns and other news/photos, I did not know it would be my final deadline. For the past 28 years, I have not missed one deadline for the Cranston Herald. Not even through breast cancer.

I entered home hospice last week. I have been suffering through a chronic illness called gastroparesis (paralyzed stomach) and have been writing from home due to my illness. Steve, my love and my photographer, works with me as a team. As I grew more ill, he added caretaker to the list.

I was being kept alive by TPN (nutrition via a line into my veins) and my body has stopped tolerating it. We have tried all we could even to the point of many surgeries and procedures, and I have lived through horrid pain and constant nausea. My stomach is no longer connected.

So, why am I telling you all this? One reason was that the weekly deadline has served as a weekly lifeline for me. I have a wonderful following over these decades and I have loved working for John Howell of Beacon Communications. We go back a long way and he has been there for me in so many ways. I asked if I could write this and he said please do but explain the illness which I hope I just did.

I want to thank you — all my readers and followers.

My vision is now too blurry to see the computer screen and read emails.

I have loved Cranston all my life and my careers in Cranston, as Chamber of Commerce Director to Reporter/Columnist for the Cranston Herald.

Despite so many challenges, I have met most of my goals. I am blessed with good friends and support.

I do believe Steve will stay on as photographer — he loves it so much and they adore him

and his work. It will be good for him.

I have had the privilege of covering the good news of our community and there is so much. Some have been features that have helped others — from event shout-outs to needs for a sick child.

I have had your trust and in this crazy world; truth in journalism is so needed.

I don't know how to say goodbye, but I knew this had to be written while I still can.

Thank you for sharing your achievements with me — from Eagle Scouts to fundraisers.

I posted on Facebook because there would be no way to contact everyone. I wrote that if there is anything you want to say to me, to say it. Hundreds of comments were posted with even fun memories from childhood friends. I am glad I made that post and also received phone calls from people I have impacted and did not know.

Again, thank you Cranston and to everyone who is making our City a better place to live.

I did ask John Howell if there was a Herald in Heaven...he replied...with you there most likely will be one.

Editor's note: Meri modestly omitted that she published a book on being a sexual abuse survivor and that she is a member of the Cranston Hall of Fame. She also failed to mention one of her most popular columns that ran for several years in the weeks leading up to Easter. Meri had a giant-sized Peep that visited various people in town. She'd get a photo and comments from the chosen celebrity to be printed in the Herald. She was kidded for running the biggest Peeps-show in town. Indeed, as she writes, Meri never missed a deadline — even if it meant writing from a hospital bed. She is proud of that fact. Unfortunately, it is now our time to miss Meri.



Meri R. Kennedy

Over the course of a pan-

WARWICK BEACON
1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4
Warwick, RI 02889
(401) 732-3100

The Warwick Beacon is committed to accuracy, honesty, fair play and the well-being of our community. Those are the standards to which we hold ourselves and by which we ask you to judge us. If you think we have failed to meet them, we want you to tell us. Please address your concerns to the Editor or Publisher, Warwick Beacon, 1944 Warwick Ave. Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889; call (401) 732-3100.

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NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 45-22.2-8 that a Public Hearing will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3275 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island on May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the proposed ordinance to amend the Comprehensive Plan as summarized below:

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the proposed ordinance to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) as contained in the *City of Warwick Comprehensive Plan 2013-2033, "City of Livable Neighborhoods"* (Comprehensive Plan), as summarized below:

Applicant: A.R. Building Company, Inc.
 Assessor's Plat: 278
 Assessor's Lots: Lots 30-42, 103-114, 144-147
 Location: Metro Blvd and Kilvert Street – Ward 3
 Present Future Land Use Map Classification: Technology-Light Industry
 Proposed Future Land Use Map Classification: Mixed Use
 Reason for Proposed Change: The Applicant is requesting a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM), specifically for Assessor's Plat 278, Assessor's Lot 30-42, 103-114, 144-147, by changing the intended use for these lots front Technology-Light Industry to Mixed Use to permit multi-family residential development.

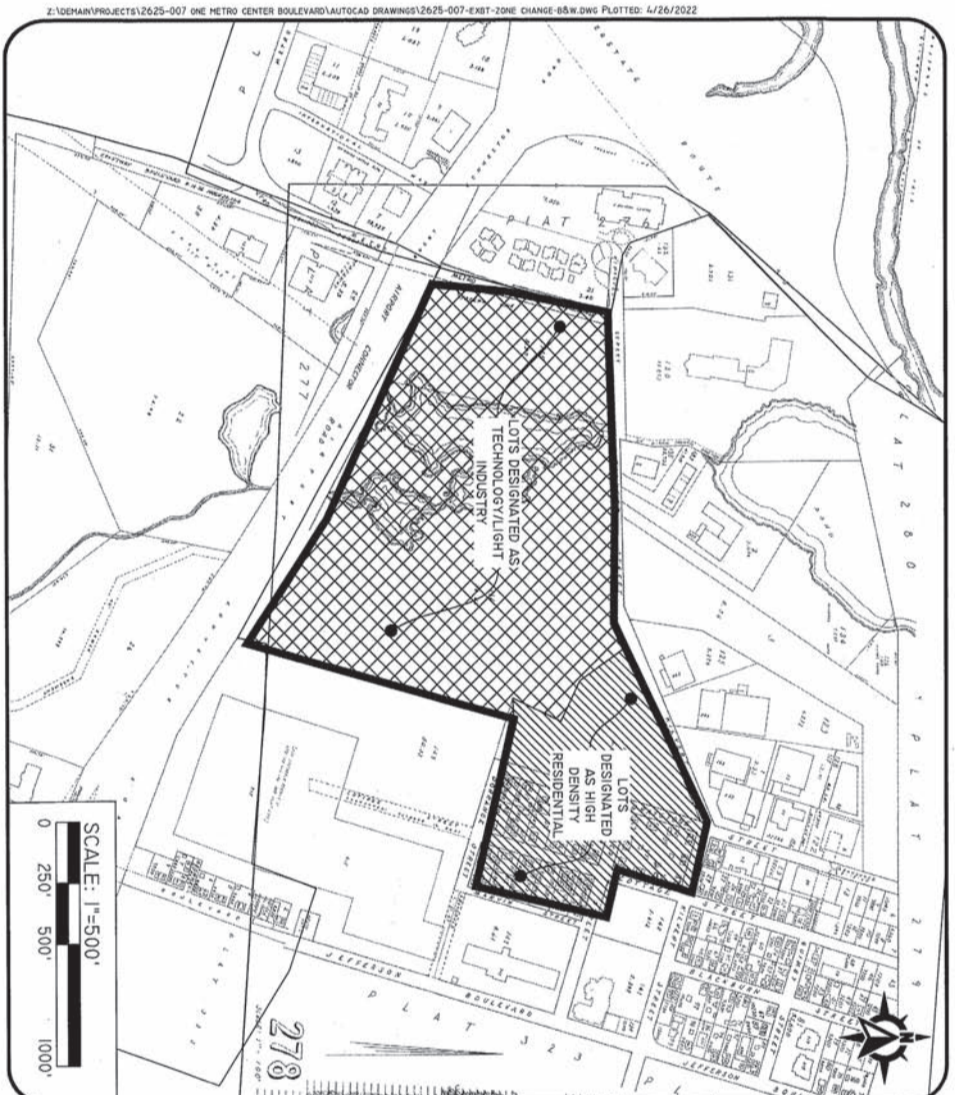
The Comprehensive Community Plan amendment proposed herein shall become effective for the purpose of conforming municipal land use decisions and for the purpose of being transmitted to the Director of Administration of the State of Rhode Island when it has been approved by the Planning Board and City Council. This proposed amendment shall not become effective for the purposes of guiding State agency actions until it has been approved by the State of Rhode Island pursuant to the methods set forth in the R.I. Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act.

A complete copy of the proposed amendments and maps may be examined on-line at the City of Warwick's web page and/or copied, at cost, in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Warwick, Rhode Island; Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The proposed ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at that time and place to be heard thereon. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

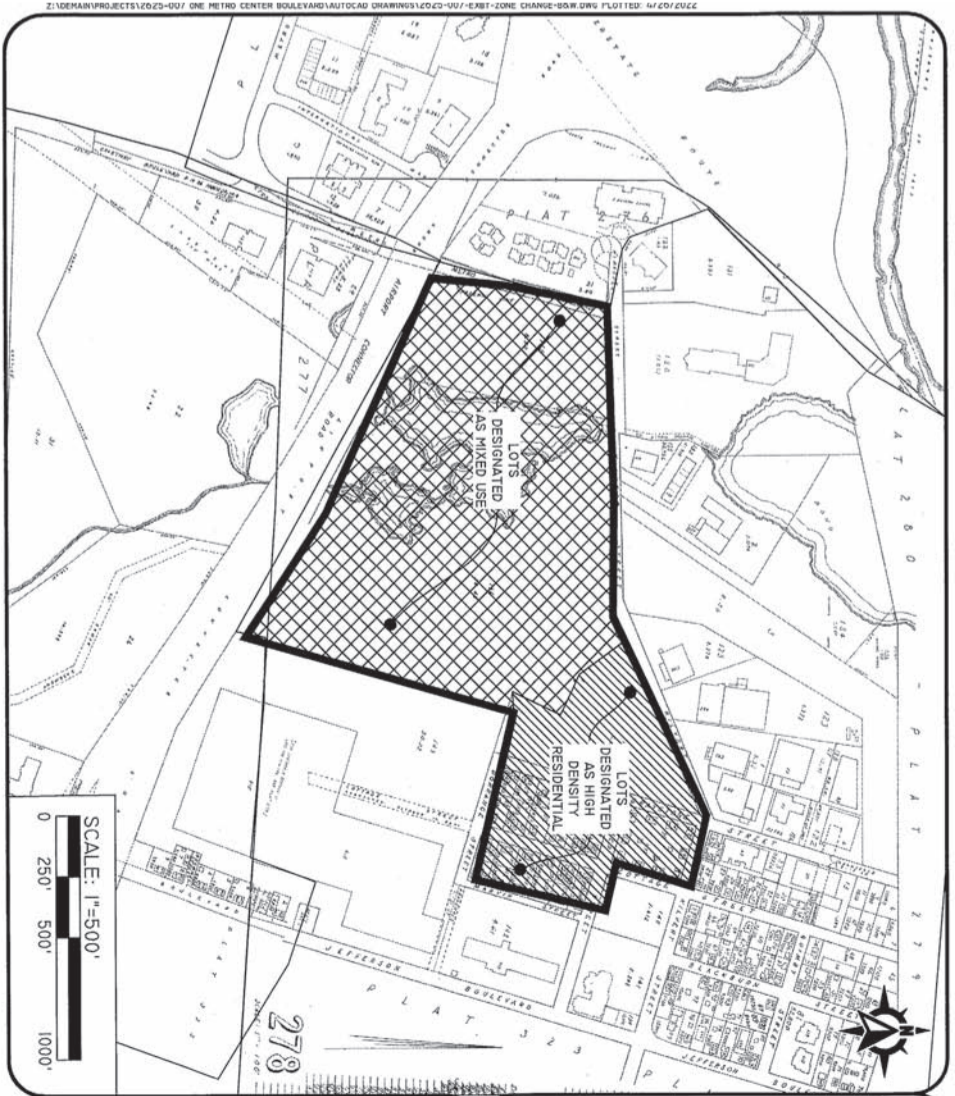
Attest:
Lynn D'Abrasca, City Clerk

4/28, 5/5 & 5/12/22



EXISTING FUTURE LAND USE EXHIBIT
ONE METRO CENTER
 WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND
 PREPARED FOR:
AR BUILDING COMPANY
 310 SEVEN FIELD BLVD, SUITE 350
 SEVEN FIELDS, PENNSYLVANIA 19066 TEL: 724-761-2367
 DATE: 04-26-2022

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NOTICE CITY OF WARWICK PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 45-24-53 that a Public Hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, 3275 Post Road, Warwick RI 02289 on May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the proposed ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map, as summarized below:

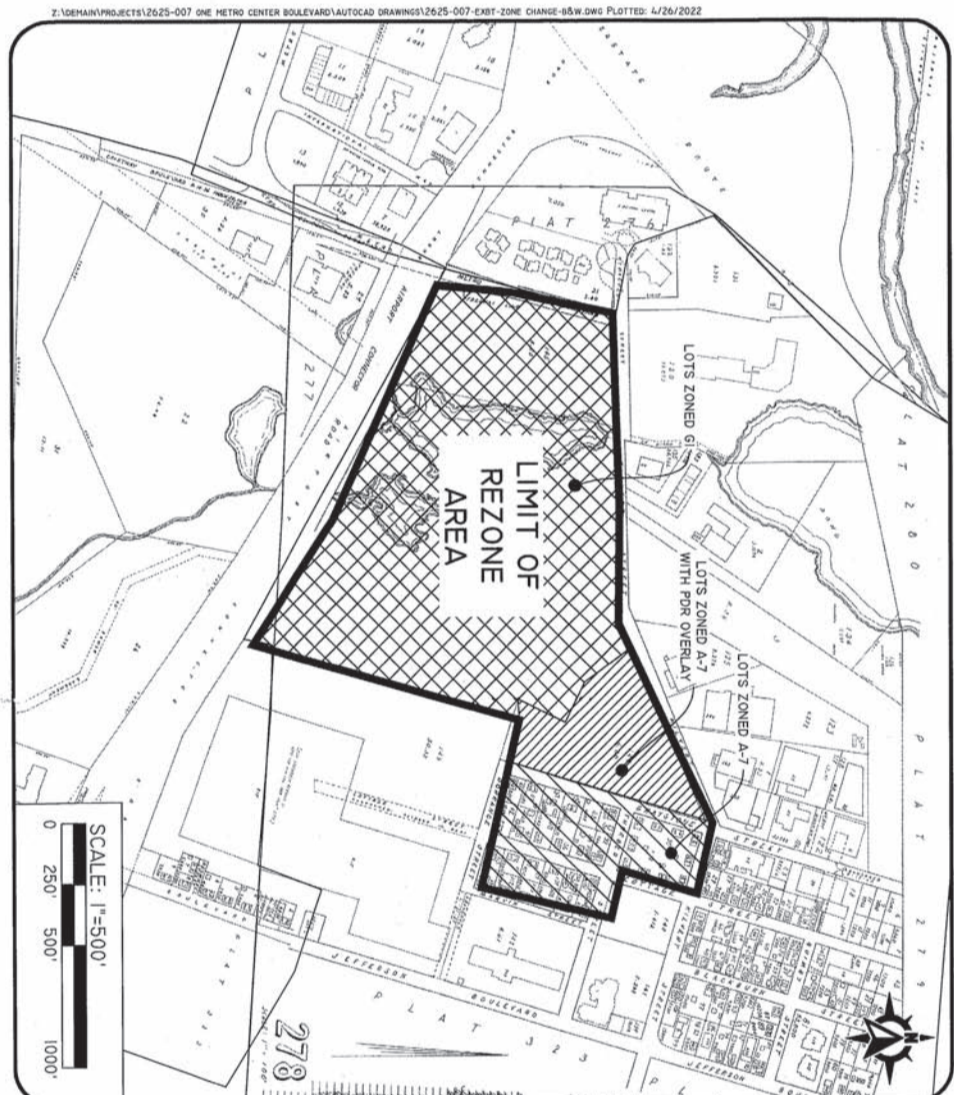
Applicants: A.R. Building Company, Inc.
 Assessor's Plat: 278
 Assessor's Lots: 30-42, 103-114, 144-147
 Location: Metro Blvd and Kilvert Street - Ward 3
 Present Classification: General Industrial (GI), A-7 and A-7 PDR
 Zone Change Requested: Gateway (G) – Warwick Station Gateway District
 Reason for Proposed Change: The Applicant is requesting a zone change for Assessor's Plat 278, Assessor's Lots 30-42, 103-114, 144 -147 from General Industrial (GI), A-7 and A-7 PDR to Gateway (G) – Warwick Station Gateway District to permit multi-family residential development.

A complete copy of the proposed amendment may be examined on-line at the City of Warwick's web page and/or copied, at cost, in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Warwick, Rhode Island; Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. The proposed ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at that time and place to be heard thereon. Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the office of the City Clerk at 738-2006, 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

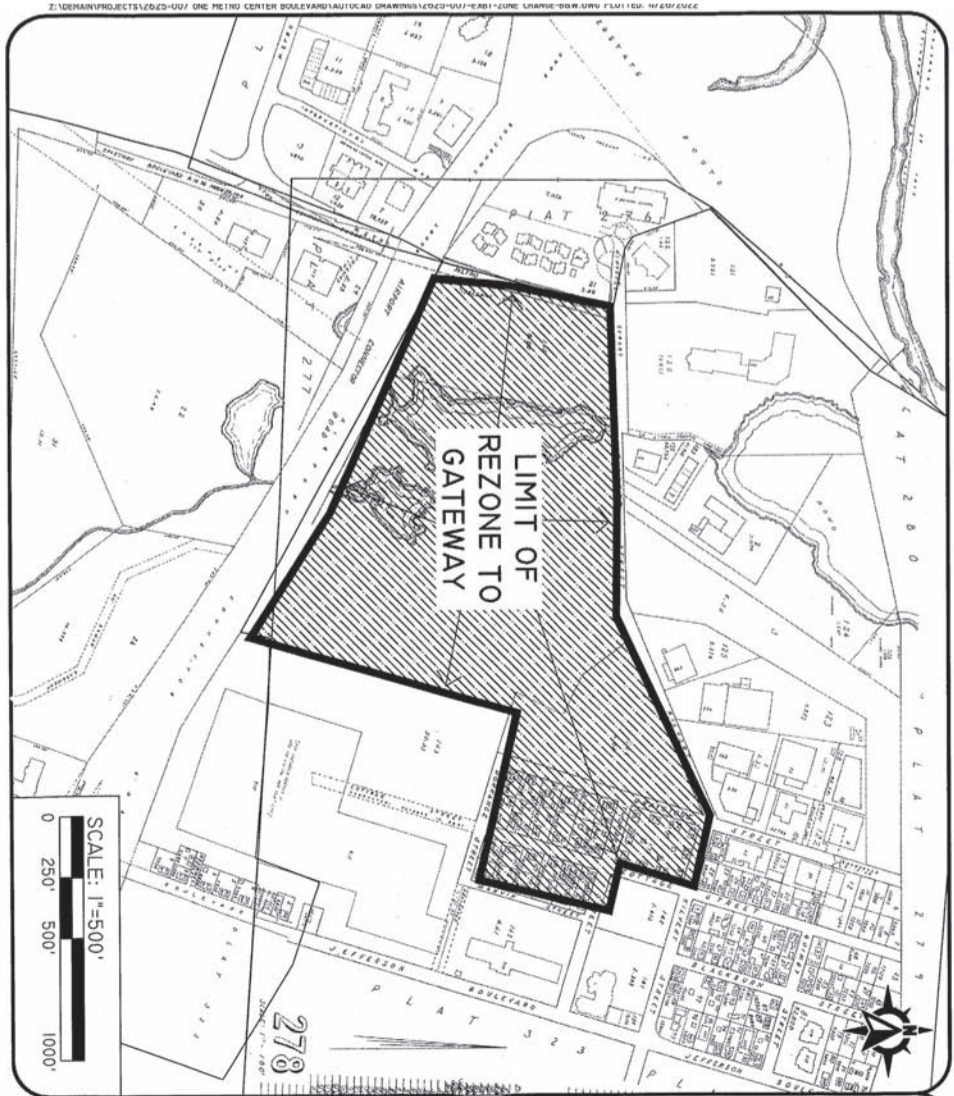
Attest:
Lynn D'Abrasca, City Clerk

4/28, 5/5 & 5/12/22



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Gaspee
(Continued from page 15)

"I have to tell you right up front, we can't promise success," Abbas said. "That's what politicians will tell you ... Is there anything there, or is there not? So at the end of this, if we have to come back and say, 'Well, there wasn't anything there,' at least that's a positive contribution to the scientific process that we have. I suspect we will be able to find something, but I can't tell you what it will be."

British Consul General for New England, Dr. Peter Abbott OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), attended Tuesday's boathouse event with British Naval Commanders Simon Rogers and Steven White, of Her Majesty's Royal Navy.

"I like to joke that being the British Consul in New England means you have to have some pretty broad shoulders," Abbott joked. "I get invited to events to commemorate the Boston Massacre. I get invited to events to commemorate Evacuation Day. But I think what really takes the biscuit is to be invited to an event to commemorate the burning of a British ship."

The crowd erupted in obstinate colonial chuckles. "There is something that sort of gets me childishly excited about the prospects of a shipwreck," Abbott confessed. "There is something that stirs the imagination about the idea of finding a ship that's been sunk and has been under the waves for many many years."

As a child, Abbott visited the Mary Rose, which was King Henry VIII's flagship.

"It sank off the coast of England in 1545, and it was raised from the seabed in 1982 and it still has to be kept wet to prevent the timbers from rotting," Abbott recalled. "So if a ship that sank in 1545 can be raised up, I have no doubt, if you find the Gaspee, it will be possible to raise it up as well. If you have the money to do so, I think it's quite an expensive endeavor."

Abbott admitted the British ship's incineration deserves a pivotal place in volumes of American history.

"It is, of course, the Gaspee is a huge historical significance," Abbott said. "The first act of hostility in the War for Independence ... And the burning of the Gaspee established a tradition of insubordination in Rhode Island, which continued of course when you were the first colony to declare independence from Great Britain on the Fourth of May, 1776."

Abbot ended with a warning for the descendants of rebels in the crowd, including Henry Brown, relative of John Brown, the colonist who helped lead the Gaspee scorching.

"I will close here just by saying that I think the King's bounty is still in effect on the heads of those responsible for the burning of the Gaspee," Abbott concluded. "So just be careful."

McNamara refused the light dose of tongue-in-cheek intimidation.

"Wow," he responded with sarcasm. "Fifty pounds sterling. We know that ... King George III took this very seriously because he sent four ships over with boxes that had handwritten warrants and rewards for information leading to (those responsible) for the burning of the Gaspee."

As champagne flutes full of sparkling cider were distributed to the crowd gathered in the packed boathouse, McNamara introduced Warwick Beacon and Cranston Herald Publisher John Howell, who delivered a toast.

"Let us all raise our glasses in a toast to our friends from across the pond who like parents tolerated the impertinent actions of their child who willfully burned the vessel of their protector thereby setting an example for their siblings to do likewise," Howell said, lifting his glass. "Justly, such adolescent behavior bore consequences. But those times are now behind us and events that have followed have forged



THE REDCOATS HAVE ARRIVED: Rep. Joseph M. McNamara chats with British Naval Commander Steven White, Great Britain's Consul General for New England Dr. Peter Abbott OBE, and Commander Simon Rogers, of Her Majesty's Royal Navy.

yet stronger bonds. As we set out to retrieve what we might of the Gaspee, rest assured we will treat it with reverence and promise not to play with matches again."

Commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers, Ron Barnes, lead the flock in a "cheer of enduring friendship."

McNamara had a gift for the visiting British dignitaries.

"The colonists have just passed down this rumor that there was a vandalism incident on the docks of Boston and that there's a shortage of the beverage that we both hold dear," he said, handing a small gift bag to Abbott. "So I have for you a box of American tea."



HANDS LIFTED HIGH: In a moment of prayer, individuals on the steps outside City Hall raise their hands during prayers for family and education.

Prayers of plenty

Approximately 40 people gathered on Warwick's City Hall steps to celebrate America's National Day of Prayer on May 5. The event included a prayer for Mayor Frank Picozzi and prayers for first responders, government, church, family and education, business, media and arts and the nation.

Local religious leaders led the crowd in prayers and included Rev. Carol Howell, Rev. Jon Angell, Rev. Matthew McIntosh, Rev. Marciano, Rev. Dave Gadoury, Rev. Susan Miles Darcy, Rev. Richard Leahey, Father Scott Lee, Rev. Ron Provencal, Rabbi Bryan Samuel and Ms. Sandy Cooper.

The theme of the 45 minute event centered on establishing truth. Rev. Marciano of Bishop Hendricken High School shared that it is in people's DNA to pray and that America never stands taller than when people are on their knees in prayer.



A DIVINE CALL: As Rev. Matthew McIntosh was about to pray for Mayor Frank Picozzi, Picozzi's phone started ringing - followed by McIntosh saying 'God must be calling.'



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PASSION FOR PEACE & ART



FACE TO FACE: Justin Bibee with a Bamum mask from Cameroon, specifically the Cameroon Grasslands, made of bronze with raffia palms. This mask is part of a family of masks that perform together. It represents the male human face and symbolizes a clan ancestor. Masks such as these are performed at funeral or memorial celebrations. This mask is worn on the top of the head, while raffia palm conceals the performer's face, and a mesh veil covers the performer's body. It is one of many in his collection on display at the Warwick Public Library through May 31.

Justin Bibee strives to share ethnographic art for its aesthetic beauty

By JOHN HOWELL

You can't help but smile at a smile. This one is wide, curling up at the corners of the mouth. You know this is a joyous smile. It's reflected in the shape of the opening for the eyes. This is a mask, yet it is too small to cover a face, even a child's face. It's the size of a saucer. What was the artist thinking? What was he or she seeking to tell us? Was it simply to get us to smile; was it like music to carry us to some inner understanding about ourselves?

Justin Bibee believes this mask – and the scores of masks and figurines he has collected from the years he served in the Peace Corps and the United Nations in Tanzania and bought from estates, thrift stores, the internet and has been gifted – have the power to break down barriers, create bonds and open communications... to foster peace. He is bent on expanding and sharing his collection of ethnographic art to raise awareness of other cultures. There are some restrictions, however.

His wife drew the line when Bibee learned of an 11-foot statue for sale in New York. Where would they put it? Renting space wasn't in the family budget.

Bibee is all about showing his collection.

"When we share culture, we have the potential to change negative attitudes and stereotypes – contributing to a more peaceful world. As well, I simply want to share the art that I find so intellectually and aesthetically captivating with my community," he writes in an email following a recent interview at the Warwick Public Library. Bibee, a 2006 graduate of Cranston East who initially pursued engineering and quickly learned his passions lay elsewhere, blindly emailed libraries throughout the region inquiring whether they would host a sampling of his collection. He made it clear the library would bear no responsibility should a work be damaged or stolen. All he was seeking was an opportunity to share the power of these works. The Warwick Library was the only one to take him up on his offer. The display covers a wall and tables beyond the information desk.

It is extensive. It can't be missed.

Bibee can't be overlooked either. He stands a thin six feet seven inches tall.



■ MASKS - PAGE 23

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Lynn Martin

Bailey

Calling all Hound lovers, look at this beauty named Bailey! She is a seven year young Redtick Coonhound who loves car rides and long sniff walks! Bailey is looking for a home where she can run and play, so a big fenced in yard would be her dream! She is best suited for a home with no other pets. If you are a Hound lover, this is the girl for you! Bailey is also looking for an adult home or a home with older children. She will bring you lots of happiness and fun! Please contact the RISPCA at 401-438-8150 via email adoption@rispca.com. Bailey deserves all the love you have to give!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen at animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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Weddings

Giana Solitro ~ Blaise Kearns

Giana Solitro and Blaise Kearns were united in marriage March 19, 2022 at Holy Ghost Church in Providence followed by a reception at Lake of Isles in North Stonington, CT.

The bride is the daughter of Anthony and Martha Solitro of Warwick. She has a Bachelor's degree from Endicott College and a Masters degree from American International College. She teaches fourth grade in Easton, MA.

The groom is the son of Kenneth Kearns and Judy Kearns of Troy, NY. He received his Bachelor's degree in finance from Endicott College and is a CFA charterholder. He is an investment analyst at Meketa Investment Group.

The bride wore an Allure bridal gown that she bought at Spark Bridal in Cranston, RI. The dress has a full tulle skirt with long lace sleeves and a sweetheart off-the-shoulder illusion neckline. The custom all-lace back was done by Almeida's Bridal Alterations on Park Ave. in Cranston. All of the lace was hand beaded with white and clear beads. She carried a large cascading bouquet with champagne porcelain spray roses, black and white anemones and red black pearl roses.

Jenna Gravel and Abigail Buehrer were matrons of honor. Kristen Solitro, Danielle Potter Dube, Brittany Potter (sister of groom), Natalie Beauparlant (sister of groom) and Paige Kearns (sister of groom) were bridesmaids, and Ella Solitro was the flower girl.

Kevin Bennett was best man. Nicholas Solitro (brother of bride), Paul Nichols, Kevin Ray, Mitchell Renfrew and Brendan Griffin were groomsmen, and the ring bearer was Jack Solitro.

The couple will be honeymooning in Greece and Italy in July. They and now reside in Mansfield, MA.



MR. & MRS. BLAISE KEARNS



Blue Man Group will be at Providence Performing Arts Center May 20-22.

Blue Men invade Rhode Island

By DON FOWLER

They're back! Those wild and crazy guys who paint their heads bright blue, throw toilet paper into the audience and bang on drums and plastic pipes.

And fans can't get enough of them. We first saw the Blue Man Group in Boston a couple of decades ago. I never laughed so much. Then I got home and sat down to write a review. How do I explain that they stuffed their mouths with marshmallows and Captain Crunch and used the food as projectiles.

I talked to Seattle native Corky Gainsford who has been connected to the show for the past 21 years as song writer, drummer, music director and producer.

"We take the audience on a different

journey," said Gainsford. "They relate to three weird guys on stage with a band behind them playing new music, somehow helping to explain what they are thinking."

(The Blue Men don't talk.)

"While we still do some of the original routines, much of what we do is new and some of it is improvised," Gainsford said. "For the Providence show there are seven us, all from different cities where BMG performs, so we bring a lot of different cool stuff to the performance."

Twenty-one years ago, Gainsford went for an interview for BMG at the urging of his girlfriend.

"They were looking for a drummer and guitar player," Gainsford said. "I studied music in college and was doing some event productions and writing. I was one of five they hired

from over 300 interviews. I thought it would be a short engagement, and I'm still with them."

Gainsford couldn't remember if he had been to Providence, but the chances are he has.

"I'm not sure where I am right now," Gainsford said. (Iowa). "My home base is now Vegas. It's just like living in the Northwest where it's too cold to go outside. In Vegas it's too hot."

Blue Man Group has performed before over 35 million people around the world. (The men are still blue, but the rest is all new!)

Catch them at the Providence Performing Arts Center May 20-22. If you have never seen them, you will be in for an experience like no other. If you have seen them before, I know you'll be there. I know I will!

Call 421-ART for tickets.

Beth Ann McDowell does things her own way with new album

By ROB DUGUAY

There's something to be said for an artist forging their own creative identity. It's a difficult task to accomplish, but when it's attained it makes the craft much more interesting. You can see their heart and soul within the painting, sculpture, poem and/or song. Concerning the latter, this is where singer-songwriter Beth Ann McDowell comes in. The Minneapolis native shows her unique musical approach with her new album "The Sim Is Real" that came out via the Cranston based record label Pitch & Prose on April 29.

R. Walt Vincent, who has worked with the likes of Pete Yorn, Liz Phair, Scarlett Johansson and Joseph Gordon Levitt, handled the producing, recording and mixing of the record out of his studio in Los Angeles. It was all done live with an organic vision in mind and it's evident due to the consistently great sound quality. To help achieve this vision, guitarist Matt Kirkwold, keyboardist Kevin Gastonguay, bassist Isaac Levy and drummer John Richardson were involved in the recording process. Jennifer Grimm also provided backing vocals on a majority of the songs to add a proper dose of harmony to the music. This all resulted in an album that has a lot to offer in terms of originality.

Elements of indie rock, synth pop and alternative play a big part in how everything sounds. There's a pleasant, upbeat vibe being conveyed as well, nothing comes off as



a downer or a drag. I do enjoy the dynamic between the acoustic and electronic with the guitar providing the former and the keys providing the latter. Having the two opposite tones creates an aesthetic that has both instruments feeding off each other. I also enjoy how the songs seem to not be restricted to any boundaries with McDowell exhibiting her own artistic freedom.

"Where The Calm Things Are" leans more towards synth than the rest of the tracks. It's kind of haunting at the start, when the chorus hits the harmonies come in and the keys rise to a higher note. During "Copy and Paste," the keys have a cleaner

tone with more of a pop vibe. The acoustic/electronic dynamic I mentioned earlier is within "When I Fall." The guitar and keys seamlessly syncopate while those stellar harmonies once again make an appearance.

If you dig pop adorned rock music, "The Sim Is Real" belongs in your music library. It's a great representation of McDowell's creative talents and the listening experience her new album provides is a pretty damn good one. I enjoyed how the songs each have their own intricacies while abiding by the same blueprint. To stream and purchase the album, log on to Pitch & Prose's Bandcamp page at pitchandprose.bandcamp.com. For more info on McDowell and what she'll be up to in the future, check out her website at bethannmcdowell.com.

Gardeners beware!

I love spring and summer. As soon as the weather breaks, you can find me in my yard. It is so relaxing and rewarding to weed, rake and clean up the damage from the fall and winter weather. I often bring my dog, Lucas out with me. He loves the sun and running around the yard.

Several weeks ago, I had a big scare. We came in and we were sitting on the couch. I noticed he was shaking. It got worse very quickly. He couldn't walk and I noticed his eyes were dilated. He vomited and then after about five minutes, it ended.

I didn't know what it was and of course immediately went to Doctor Google. I don't know what we did without this instant source of information. I found out that there are many common plants that are poisonous to animals.

If eaten, they can cause a variety of complications. Vomiting, diarrhea, and seizures are common. Depending on the plant and how much they ingest it could get as bad as liver and kidney failure, tremors and even death. After learning this I started watching where my dog went in the yard. I was shocked

60s and Sexy



by CINDY WILSON

to see that in fact he would go to some plants and nibble on them. There are several reasons why. Sometimes it could be that

they are nauseous or gassy and trying to self-medicate. It could be as simple as they are bored, or the plant tastes good. Regardless of the reason it is important to guard your animals from poisonous plants. You can remove them from the yard or put a fence around them. Here are some common plants to watch out for. Chrysanthemums, Daffodils, Tulips and English Ivy pose a mild to moderate threat. Lily of the Valley and Oleander can cause a moderate to severe threat. A lot depends on the size of your dog and how much he ingests. If you notice any of the

symptoms I described, immediately flush your pet's mouth out with tepid water for about 15/20 minutes. Using a spray nozzle, point it at the back of their throat. If the symptoms persist, then it's time to call your vet. I'm careful when my Lucas is in the yard and luckily haven't had another incident. I put him on a lead so I know exactly what plants he can reach. To learn if you have poisonous plants in your yard, simply identify your plants and plug them into what-ever browser your use. The information is readily available and can save your dog's life.

COLLECTIBLES



By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
Cranston, RI

As part of our theme for Military Appreciation Month, we cannot forget about our plastic soldiers. G.I. Joe was created in 1964 right here in Rhode Island by Don Levine during his tenure at Hasbro. It was not just a brand Hasbro had created at the time, but a revolutionary concept for the toy industry at large.

The "Action Figure," was a never before heard term for a toy. Prior to G.I. Joe the idea of a boy changing the clothes on a doll was ludicrous. They wouldn't do that, but an action figure, now that is something little boys would play with. G.I. Joe utilized the format of Mattel's Barbie, but instead of Summer dresses and convertible dream cars, G.I. Joe had World War II inspired uniforms, vehicles, and every war accessory you can imagine. By 1966 G.I. Joe was even headed into space with the Space Capsule play set.

The original 12" G.I. Joe toy line ran from 1964 to 1976, including an array of different figures, vehicles, and accessories. By the end of the original run Joe had become more fiction-based including *Adventure Team* and *Atomic Man* sub-lines to compete with trending toys of the time like the *Six Million Dollar Man*.

Jumping to present day, we have now lived in a world with over 50 years of G.I. Joe awesomeness. In 1982 the brand underwent a complete overhaul to build the story of *G.I. Joe, A Real American Hero*. It followed the heroic Joes fighting the evil terrorist organization Cobra. This change in story also included a change in the toys becoming 3 3/4" tall compared to the original 12". This was copying the success of Kenner's *Star Wars* line in 1978.

Regardless of whether you're an original 12" fan or cartoon nerd of the 1980's, there is no denying how important of a toy line G.I. Joe is. After three live action films, comic books, and multiple television series, there is no denying G.I. Joe is here for the long haul.



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Will Roe v Wade tilt votes in CD race?

STORY OF THE WEEK: As much as the news about what sounds like a pending reversal of Roe v Wade was seismic, it wasn't surprising; this is the very outcome that women activists and their allies warned about before Rhode Island passed a state-based abortion law, the Reproductive Privacy Act, in 2019. That came after some local Democratic leaders – mostly notably then-Speaker Nicholas Mattiello and then-Lt. Gov. Dan McKee – downplayed the threat to Roe and questioned the need for a state law to protect abortion rights. But a strong grassroots movement convinced General Assembly leaders who personally oppose abortion (including Mattiello and Senate President Dominick Ruggerio) to bring the legislation to a vote. That was not unlike what happened in 2013, when a grassroots campaign propelled legalization of same-sex marriage in RI, over the prevailing more socially conservative ethos of legislative Democrats. Opponents of abortion rights are cheering the tea leaves from SCOTUS. Yet supporters of a woman's right to choose (a majority of Americans, according to polls) are on edge, and they fear the high court could roll back same-sex marriage and other privacy-based rights. Moving ahead, the ability to get an abortion may largely depend on whether a woman resides in a red or a blue state. Democrats have remained on the defensive as Republicans have reshaped the direction of the nation's top court. The question now is whether SCOTUS follows through in outlawing Roe and whether that significantly changes the political dynamic surrounding elections and rights.

FALLOUT: Pundits and other observers now debate whether abortion is enough of a prioritized issue to change voting behavior by Americans. In Rhode Island races, the biggest impact could be in the Second Congressional District, where the issue underscores differences between Democrats and Republicans. Republican favorite Allan Fung has made clear that he wants to focus on inflation and higher gas prices. In a statement, Fung minimized the relevance of abortion in the CD2 campaign: "My views are in line with the majority of Rhode Islanders. As your next congressman, I would not vote

for legislation that allowed late term or partial birth abortion, and I would be against taxpayer funding of abortion. In Rhode Island, Roe is already on the law books, and as such nothing would change for Rhode Islanders. I am not running to change abortion laws, I'm running as laser-focused on lowering the price of groceries, lowering the price of gas and home heating oil, and keeping our neighborhoods safe." On the Democratic side, whichever candidate emerges as the general election candidate can be expected to zero in on the abortion issue – and what they believe it says about DC Republicans.

THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR: The biggest surprise from the gubernatorial forum organized by RIPEC and staged last week at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick was how barely any punches were thrown at the incumbent, Gov. Dan McKee. Matt Brown represented a contrast from the other candidates in his criticism of the political status quo. But Republican Ashley Kalus and Democrats Helena Foulkes and Nellie Gorbea didn't make any real effort to bring the fight to McKee. The governor acted like an incumbent, hanging back and sticking to his message about an improving economy. There was no mention of the ILO Group controversy or McKee's flip-flop in variously deciding to participate in the debate or skip it. Former CVS exec Foulkes – who has yet to go on TV despite a well-stocked campaign account – underscored that by telling the audience of business titans that they do not yet know her. Some of the talk focused on housing. And in a display of the benefits of incumbency, McKee teased possible tax relief while simultaneously touting RI's unusually robust budget outlook.

AS SMITH HILL TURNS: Jack Lyle, the former representative and former senator from Lincoln, tells me he's more likely than not to run for the General Assembly this year, although he's still deciding between a House and Senate run. Lyle was ousted in 2020 by Rep. Mary Ann Shallcross Smith (D-Lincoln), who beat him by 604 votes in a three-way race. On the Senate side, Lyle resides in the district represented by Sen. Thomas Paolino (R-Lincoln). A Republican-turned-independent, Lyle voted for RI's abortion law

TALKING POLITICS



by
IAN DONNIS

in 2019, and he said he's concerned about the country's direction.

AS SMITH HILL TURNS II: The progressive RI Political Cooperative unveiled five more legislative candidates this week to run (in most cases) against incumbent Democrats. Savannah DaCruz, an artist and activist who works for Dorcas International, is running for the seat held by House Majority Leader Chis Blazejewski of Providence; Danielle Walsh, a mother, educator and development director for BLM RI PAC, is running for the seat held by House Judiciary Chairman Robert Craven of North Kingstown; Jennifer Stewart, described by the Co-op as an award-winning teacher, is aiming for the seat held by Rep. Jean Philippe Barros of Pawtucket; Finally, Arthur Flanders, described by the Co-op as a diabetic and a queer working class man, is opposing Sen. Frank Ciccone of Providence, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee; and Stan Shoppell, a chef, artist and community advocate, is seeking the seat being vacated by Rep. Gregg Amore of East Providence as he runs for secretary of state.

END OF AN ERA: When then-Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed's leadership unveiled a "Move the Needle" package meant to shake RI from its economic doldrums in 2013, Senate GOP Leader Dennis Algieri (R-Westerly) was front and center in urging support for the legislation. The bipartisan bonhomie highlighted the collegial nature of the Senate, where it often seemed like Ds and Rs were on the same side, particularly in comparison to the more fractious House. Algieri, a banker, served for years alongside the three Democrats who now lead the Senate, Dominick Ruggerio, Michael McCaffrey and Maryellen Goodwin. Along

the way, the dynamic has changed, with the election of a few right-leaning Republicans in the Senate, but even more so with progressive Democrats publicly clashing with leadership. In that sense, it's not surprising that Algieri has decided against seeking re-election. Ruggerio indicated his esteem for the departing GOP leader in a statement: "Statesmen like Dennis Algieri are rare in today's politically charged atmosphere. I am grateful to Minority Leader Algieri for his three decades of service to the people of Rhode Island in the State Senate. With dignity and class, Dennis has always advocated unflinchingly for his community and for our state. His ability to build bridges and find common ground with people from across the ideological spectrum has made him an uncommonly effective legislator. I am proud to call him a friend. He will be sorely missed in the Senate Chamber."

STILL IN THE FIGHT: With election season approaching, President Ruggerio used his weekly email blast to double down on the idea of speeding up the phase-out of the car tax: "We want to fully complete the phase-out early, in the budget currently under consideration, so that Rhode Islanders never have to pay car taxes again. This won't create any additional out year deficits, because the phase-out is accounted for in future years. This is a crucial opportunity for us to help Rhode Island families across the board. Let's seize on it and keep our state's economy growing!"

BINDERS FULL OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS: The late Robert "Cool Moose" Healey, fondly remembered for his schtick, appearance ("a shave and a haircut away from the governor's office," in the words of M. Charles Bakst) and a plan to eliminate the lieutenant governor's office, would no doubt be amused by the presence of six – count 'em – six candidates for LG: incumbent Sabina Matos, state Rep. Deb Ruggerio (D-Jamestown), Sen. Cynthia Mendes (D-East Providence), backed by the RI Political Cooperative, and Republicans Jeann Lugo and Paul Pence. This is arguably a disproportionate amount of interest for a job with limited official responsibility. Be that as it may, the latest entry – former state Rep. Larry Valencia

– is running on a Moose-inspired plan to melt away the LG's office: "Rhode Islanders deserve the best and most efficient government," Valencia said in a news release. "Eliminating this position saves millions of dollars each election cycle. Had we eliminated the lieutenant governor in 1986, when Bob Healey first ran, we could have already saved \$40 million or more. That is why I'm running – to be the last lieutenant governor."

AGING MATTERS: As one of the four Es in her campaign messaging – Economy, Environment, Education and Elderly – Rep. Ruggerio is citing the need for more resources to help older Rhode Islanders remain in their homes as they age. As she notes, RI – which has long ranked in the top ten states with the biggest proportion of older residents – is aging, with the time approaching when a quarter of the state's population will be north of 65. The bad news, as pointed out by Paul Edward Parker in the Projo last Sunday, is how the state also faces negative population growth at the other end of the spectrum, with a shrinking number of newborns. Has the General Assembly dropped the ball on making Rhode Island a more attractive destination for transplants? "What we need to really do is capitalize on the economies that are really strong here," Ruggerio told me on Political Roundtable. "Not just manufacturing, but advanced manufacturing, the blue technology, and the green energy." While changes take time, she acknowledged, the number of renewable energy companies in the state now tops 50, up from a handful a dozen years ago.

KICKER: Is there ample time for the Red Sox to transform a fairly miserable start to the 2022 campaign? Sure. But time's a-wasting, amid this insight from Globe sportswriter Peter Abraham: "Fair to think it'll take at least 90 wins to be in the mix for a wild card in the AL this season. That would mean the Sox have to go 80-56 (.588) the rest of the way. It's a long season and lots and can and will happen. But right now that's hard to imagine."

Ian Donnis can be reached at idonnis@ripr.org. You can follow him on Twitter @IanDon. To read a longer version of this column or to sign up for email delivery.

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**WARWICK SHOWCASE/
 APPLE CINEMAS**

**DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE
 MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS**
 *** 1/2 (Don & Joyce) **** 1/2
 (Marvel Fans)

At the end of the last Spiderman movie, loyal fans waited patiently through the end of the credits to get a hint of what would come next. What they saw was a scene with Doctor Strange, starring in his own movie that has nothing to do with Spiderman. The two-hour extravaganza stars Benedict Cumberbatch as a number of Dr. Stranges from many multiverses. Amid all the action and special effects, the weird doctor gets a bit reflective, asking himself repeatedly, "Am I happy?" After an opening dream scene (Or is it a dream?), we find Dr. Strange at his former girlfriend's wedding when the proceedings are interrupted by a one-eyed, octopus-like, giant monster wreaking havoc on the city while chasing a teenage girl. America Chavez came to earth from another universe, it seems. She is being pursued by the wicked Wanda. Off goes Strange and his pal Wong to another universe where battles occur frequently, and old friends and enemies appear. Loyal fans will know who they are and what their relationships are. I got lost a few times, but Joyce, who is smarter than I, said she had no trouble following it. The major credits roll, and we get a glimpse of what is to come next. The faithful sit through the endless list of the thousands of people involved in the movie's production and we are treated to another brief bit. Marvel keeps pushing the envelope with more action and imaginative situation, contrasting character development with incredible special effects.

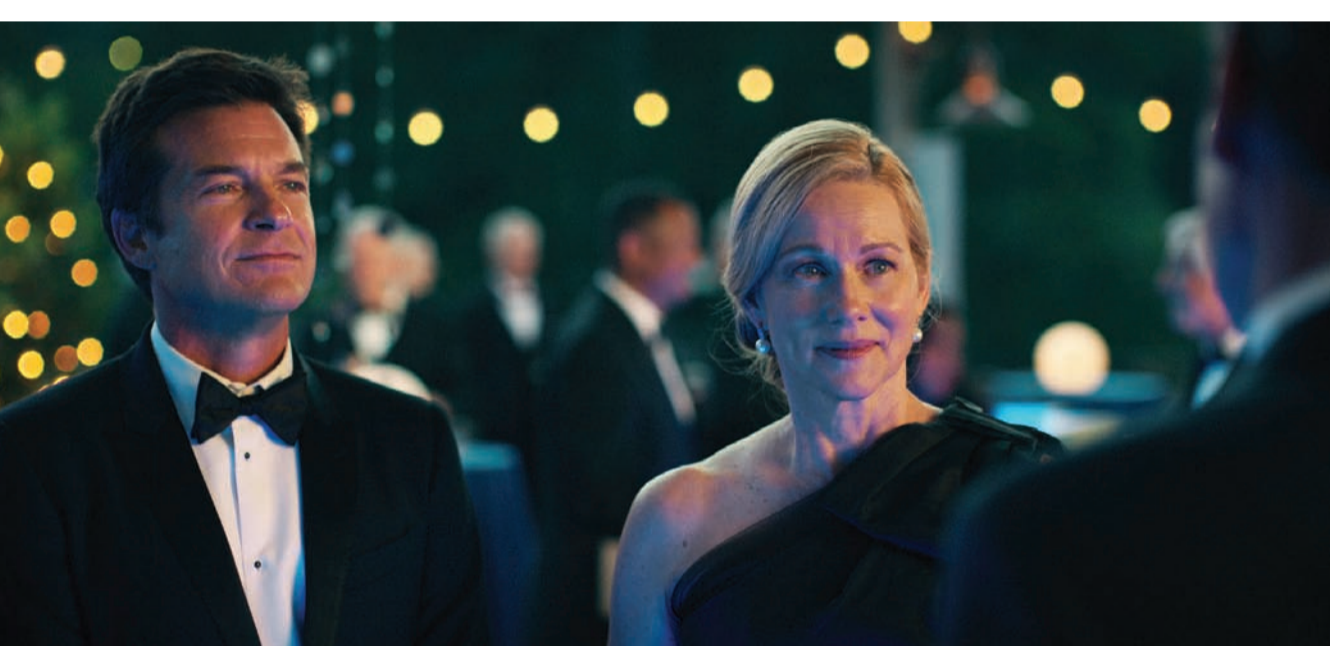
**A smile in
 return is
 priceless**

**Life
 Matters**



with
 LINDA
 PETERSEN

I was raised by my mother for whom disappointments in life did not exist. My brother was born with Rubella Syndrome, blind, hearing impaired, cleft palate and severe developmental delay. After a brief hiatus to be grief stricken, (and a bona fide visit from "up above",) she replaced any disappointment with love. Love him she did, and he was included in all aspects of daily life, including my life as a child, where I would happily pull him in a wagon to the playground and lovingly place him in a toddler swing. He was "normal" in my eyes, and so is anyone else with a disability that I have encountered in my life. Like many siblings who have lived with a brother or sister with a disability, I have an innate acceptance for others with disabilities. My first job as a waitress at Newport Creamery, I paid extra attention to patrons with disabilities rather than shy away from them like some of the other servers. Anytime a customer had a difficult to understand speech impediment, I would be called over to serve them, which I did with patience. I would get his food order from him, (and not from their guardian or friend sitting with them,) even if it included pantomime or drawing on a napkin. I'd been known to cut up food for a patron unable to use a knife and fork, and my smile and eye contact never wavered even if the person had severe burns or facial disfigurement. I went to college to get a masters in social work, counseling and rehabilitation and did my internship at Newport Mental Health Center, a residential psychiatric facility for acute mental health situations. Perhaps psychiatric illnesses are the most difficult for me to understand, and work was a constant challenge. It was with amazement that I watched individuals come in with schizophrenia, off the street, with dirty, ratted hair, urine-soaked pants, wild eyed and barefoot, talking about being chased by the devil, only to leave the facility clean and clear thinking after a week on medication. A lot of people are anti-medication and I respect their opinions, but there are times when medication can allow a person with a psychiatric illness to live a "normal" life. (Funny story...my brother had been hospitalized at the medical center during one of his severe depressions. He joyfully came up to me when I visited to tell me how happy he was. "Jesus" had visited with him and told him not to be sad. Come to find out, his roommate had schizophrenia and thought he was Jesus.) Not only my professional work has been with individuals with disabilities, but my personal life includes five children with disabilities. When my oldest son was born legally blind, it wasn't a big deal. In fact, when it was learned that he had the same type of hereditary blindness as my brother, (which we had thought was related to the Rubella Syndrome,) I rejoiced in the fact that he was ONLY blind instead of having all of the more difficult issues of his uncle. We then went on to adopt four children who were subsequently determined to have disabilities. Motherhood was spent going to IEPs, facilitating appropriate placements and services, and maximizing independence for all five of my children. I have been blessed with an acceptance of individuals with disabilities which has, through osmosis, also affected my children. When my son, Francis, took the bus to Kennedy Plaza from Boston, he stopped to give money to a homeless person sorting through the garbage. My daughter, Marie, who is deaf, will often run up to carry bags for the elderly, always with a smile and a wave. My son, Steven, who knows sign language he learned to talk to his sister, never misses an opportunity to practice being friendly when he sees a person using ASL. Dinora has volunteered her time as a make-up artist to beautify teenagers with disabilities as they prepare for a dance, and Angel regularly volunteers his time to deliver food to individuals who are homebound. It is easy for me to be accepting. It is much more of a challenge for people who have not had such positive experiences. This is therefore a challenge to everyone who may be shy or cautious around people with disabilities. Instead of looking away, smile. A smile in return can be heartwarming!



Jason Bateman and Laura Linney star in *Ozark* on Netflix.

NETFLIX
OZARK

I'm exhausted!
 I just completed over 14 hours of Season 4 of Ozark, the series that got me started on Netflix. Wendy and Marty just can't stay out of trouble as they get involved deeper with the Mexican drug cartel, become FBI informants, launder money in their casino and lose control of their children. Meanwhile, they have an on and off relationship with Ruth, who left their employment and bought a motel, where she hires Jonah to do her books. People get killed at the drop of a hat. Wendy buys off politicians to reach her goal of saving the world, and she doesn't tolerate anyone getting in her way. Every episode has at least a couple of twists and shockers.

I am a big fan of Laura Linney, having reviewed her when she was a student at Brown, referring to her as a "promising young actress." I called that one right! She has captured the essence of the ruthless woman who will do anything to reach her goals. Word is that there is a second part of season 4 and there may not be a season 5.

THE PENTAVERATE
 *
 Vulgar Comedy

Mike Myers stars as a Canadian over-the-hill journalist looking for that big expose. He discovers the Pentaverate, a secret society with weird rituals. Myers plays a number of over-the-top roles. I watched two of the six episodes and could stand it no more. It is filled with vulgar bathroom and sexual humor, stupid caricatures and a dumb plot.

**Native American presence in
 old Arnold Graveyard**

In 1910, Augustus Arnold could not resist the amount of money offered to him by Michael Carroll in exchange for his legacy, the longtime family homestead. The property, consisting of seven acres of land behind the Warwick Town Hall, included the graveyard where many of his ancestors lay. Known as the Captain William Arnold Lot, it was known to contain 11 bodies; eight interred beneath inscribed monuments and three beneath simple fieldstones. The burials included Captain William Arnold, who died in 1841 at age 79; his father Caleb Arnold, an innkeeper, who died in 1799 at age 74; his wife Ruth (Burkett) Arnold, who died in 1808 at age 46; his wife Elizabeth (Congdon) Arnold, who died in 1831 at age 63; his son William Arnold, who died in 1829 at age 30; Joseph Arnold, who died in 1855 at age 71; Joseph's wife Sarah (Rice) Arnold; and Mary Arnold, who died in 1824. The graveyard, which stood unprotected upon a small hill, was dug up on Dec. 1 of that year, the collected remains transferred to section H of Warwick Cemetery #34. During the exhumations, the decomposed bodies of an undisclosed number of Native Americans were located at the site and it was assumed they had been buried there long before the Arnolds claimed the area as their family burial ground. In addition to the burials of Native American bodies, many native relics were unearthed. It would not be the first time, or the last, that modern-day digging would uncover buried history.

**Back
 in the Day**



by
 KELLY SULLIVAN

When Europeans first arrived in Warwick, sometime around 1639, there were at least four sub-tribes of the Narragansetts residing there. They called the area of Apponaug "Oppenenauchack", meaning "oyster." The Europeans referred to it in their writings as "Aponahock" and "Aponake." During archeological work in

Warwick during 1954 and 1955, archeologist William Fowler discovered 2,267 Native American artifacts upon ancient burial sites, seasonal settlements and areas which had held domestic structures. In a refuse pit, Fowler discovered shells, the bones of deer and the bones of a bear. He also found several triangular hoes and pottery pieces as well as the skeletal remains of a woman who appeared to have been about 20 years old when she died somewhere around 950 AD. In his report, her skull was described as being flattened, probable evidence that she carried heavy items on her head regularly. Food items such as a shoulder of venison and a cooked wild fowl had been placed in front of the woman's skull and covered, shingle-

style, with oyster shells. It appeared the natives had camped on the north side of Apponaug near a spring-fed stream which led to the cove. This assured them a close bounty of oysters, quahogs, clams and scallops. It was estimated that the land had been lived upon by humans since at least 100 BC. That cold winter day in 1910, the eternal sleep of the Arnold family was disturbed after a little more than a century. The natives had lain at peace much longer before their own "final" rest was disturbed as well. It is assumed the bodies of the Native Americans were not moved along with those of the Arnold family. Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.



COMPARING NOTES: Justin Bibee talks with Mary Tramonti who stopped to look at the display of masks and figurines on display at the Warwick Public Library. Tramonti, who lived in Ethiopia, compared notes on living in Africa. (Beacon Communications photos)

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Masks (Continued from page 17)

Peace Corps service in Morocco

But first, before talking about the art, some background on Bibee. After attending CCRI, he went on to earn a degree in Justice Studies from Rhode Island College and then moved to Brattleboro, Vermont, in 2013 to attend graduate school at the School for International Training (SIT) where he studied peacebuilding. As part of his master's degree, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco where he taught and founded Humanac, Morocco's first-ever volunteer-based human rights organization. Morocco is also where he met his wife where she taught Americans Arabic and local culture and customs.

"I remember seeing her smile my very first day in Morocco, but we didn't speak to each other until six months later when we both had training in Marrakech. There I asked her if she wanted to go for a walk, and we've been together ever since. We got married in Morocco in 2015."

In 2017, he served an internship with the United Nations in Tanzania where he worked with Burundian and Congolese refugees on financial inclusion, establishing savings groups where refugees are able to pool their money to use as small loans amongst themselves, and also connecting refugees to banks in their host country — protecting their money and contribute to the local

economy. Bibee spent time in the Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli refugee camps. Nyarugusu refugee camp is the third largest refugee camp in the world. While working with refugees, he wrote his thesis and graduated from SIT in 2018 with a master's degree in peacebuilding.

On returning to Brattleboro, he worked with people experiencing homelessness and was elected to a three-year seat as the District 3 Town Meeting Member for Brattleboro. But Bibee was called away early in his term. In 2019, his human rights work took the couple to Hawaii where he worked with people living with HIV/AIDS.

After returning to Vermont in 2020, Bibee continued working with people experiencing homelessness as a statewide director for a homelessness intervention program funded by the CARES Act.

The opportunity to return to Rhode Island came the following year when his wife was offered a job at RISD and he landed at Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island as a refugee resettlement case manager. He works with Afghan, Syrian and Cambodian refugees. Concurrently he is a PhD student at Durban University of Technology in South Africa.

Power of art

Art and now collecting art speaks to him.

"I just love art," he said with a sweep encompassing the library display that includes a giant porcelain blue and white vase from Japan that is juxtaposed between multiple carvings mostly of men and women. Some are rough cut; others are delicately carved including their clothing and head dresses. At the end of a table are what appear to be two ebony sticks about four feet high and smaller than a broomstick. Canes? Bibee urges a closer look. One is a male figure, the other female.

"Fertility," suggests Bibee. He said many of the pieces are centered on fertility used in ceremonial rituals. Others have ancestral significance or are tied to times of the year — the harvest, for example — and to celebrate spiritual and culturally important dates.

"I've spent most of my early human rights career living in other countries conducting fieldwork. I've lived and worked in some remote places. While on human rights missions, I've always kept my eye out in search of local art. I have spent most of my career in different countries in Africa, so I've naturally been drawn to African art. I think it was more intuition than intellect. I think this because I am instantly captivated by ethnographic art for its aesthetic beauty. That will always be the first thing that captures my attention. Learning about the rich culture behind each piece is a privilege — and that is the intellectual captivation," Bibee said.

Bibee understood he was fascinated by art and how it could cross political divisions, language barriers and transcend cultural biases, but it wasn't until the pandemic that he looked at his collection in a new light. It was more than a hobby, although he thinks of his collecting in those terms, it was also an entity that could be greater than a sum of its parts. It was a collection that when taken in its whole provoked insights and emotions. To use the analogy, it was a symphony with all pieces playing a part. He thought of composing that symphony and bringing it to the public. What's more, he sees the display as a means of sharing culture and building peace.

There are also stories to each of the works. In some cases there's scant information to the works other than how Bibee acquired them and where. He is looking to document the works and if possible their provenance. Bibee is hopeful of lining up additional displays, saying he's willing to risk even losing pieces so as to share them.

"This is my addiction," he confesses. "I have a problem; I love art."

The library exhibit is on display until May 31.



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Carrabba's exciting new lunch menu

Restaurant Review
by **DON FOWLER**

We have been fans of the Carrabba's Italian Grill restaurant chain since visiting them in Florida many decades ago.

When the Warwick Carrabba's opened we broke our tradition of only dining at family-owned Rhode Island Italian restaurants and enjoyed our first of many visits to the Route 2 location.

We have never been disappointed. Carrabba's recently added a noon to 3 p.m. lunch specials menu at a most reasonable price, which should make you think twice about grabbing a quick bite at one of the endless drive-throughs along the busy corridor.

Endless soup and salad is the bargain of the year at only \$7.99. Their Caesar salad is as good as any we've had, and their soups are the best. All this and a basket of fresh bread and olive oil.

Our favorite is the Lunch Trio (\$9.99), which includes the salad and soup and your choice of meatballs and ricotta, shrimp scampi, mozzarella

marinara, or fettuccine alfredo.

The generous salad portion is accompanied by a bowl of soup. Joyce chose the chicken soup, which includes dark meat and tender white meat -- the best we've found in R.I. I always get the same thing -- the sausage and lentil soup, which is enough to satisfy my hunger. Served piping hot with a tinge of spiciness.

We both chose the shrimp scampi which, when brought to the table in a small cup, accompanied by toasted Italian bread, looked a bit skimpy.

Much to our surprise, and delight, the four shrimp were perfectly cooked in a creamy, tasty sauce, with enough bread to soak up every bit of the sauce.

For those with big appetites, the Italian sandwich combo fills the (\$11.99) bill. You have a choice of caprese with chicken, chicken parmesan or meatball, plus a choice of soup, salad, French fries, penne pomodoro or sauteed broccoli.

Every item on the menu lists the calories you are consuming. All Carrabba's food is cooked to order.

The regular dinner menu is also available for lunch.



Carrabba's Italian Grill located on Bald Hill Road, Warwick, has lunch specials available from noon to 3 p.m.

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We Change Lives

By JENNIFER COATES

If Jennifer Mello's grandmother Dottie Maguire was still alive today, she would be both proud of and flattered by her granddaughter, the owner of Infinity Fitness in Warwick. Turns out that Dottie was not only a doting grandmother who shared her granddaughter's birthday, she was also the inspiration behind "Dottie's Delights", a line of healthy snacks and meals that Jennifer now sells at her busy fitness studio on Post Road.

"Dottie's Delights" are different from the other "health food" products now on the market, even though they have many of the same ingredients. What sets them apart from their competitors is that they are made with love! Though that might sound cliché, it is true. Each recipe was designed with Dottie in mind. The ingredients are all fresh, gluten-free, dairy-free and organic, but they are also homemade and delicious ~ nothing boring or tasteless about these products! Dottie inspired them all, so they just couldn't be "ordinary".

Some of Dottie's Delights are baked goods such as tasty protein muffins, cookies and protein bars but there are also crispy salads and other easy to grab-and-go meals available at Infinity Fitness. Dottie may be the motivation behind these healthy and gratifying foods but Lauren Blackburn is the one who has woven these dreams into reality. It is her careful attention to detail and taste that have kept these products flying off the shelves. Working with Jennifer, Lauren is always trying to find ways to add new products that are both convenient and appetizing.

Come check out Dottie's Delights at Infinity Fitness and while you are there, take a close look at this state-of-the-art fitness studio. Infinity Fitness is a fully-equipped workout center ~ complete with everything needed for group classes,



Dottie of "Dottie's Delights," a line of homemade protein snacks, is seen here with young Jennifer Mello! Check out Infinity Fitness's May specials including half off on massages, \$99 for 3 personal training sessions and \$69.99 for a month of unlimited classes!

personal training and functional training (including spin bikes, weights, boxing bags, various stability balls, and the newest mini-trampolines) as well as an area dedicated to Yoga, Zumba and Pilates classes, a massage therapy room and a place for a life coach to work with those seeking balance in their lives. As Mello calls Infinity Fitness, this is a "one stop destination" for healthy living.

What sets this fitness center apart from its competitors has everything to do with the philosophy of Mello herself who believes in the importance of seeing her clients as complete people. All of her workouts are highly individualized and easy

to modify; all of her classes are small and her approach is success-oriented. Jennifer is a busy coach, personal trainer and fitness guru who embraces her clients as family. This is a place where all are welcome on their journey to physical, mental, social, and emotional health ~ starting from the inside out!

Infinity Fitness is located at 1201 Post Road and is open seven days a week. Jennifer Mello can be reached at 401-265-9499 or you can find the studio on Facebook and Instagram. Explore their informative website at www.InfinityFitnessRI.com and get started on a healthier life today.

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RETIRING in uncertain times



“Who Moved My Cheese” was a great little book about dealing with things that don’t happen the way we expected and how we adapt to them.

As we look at the world today, certainly, things are not what we expected! Who could have predicted the pandemic? The hyper volatility of the stock market? Inflation going up to the highest level, 8.5% in March, in 40 years? <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/inflation-cpi#:~:text=US%20Inflation%20Rate%20Hits%20New%2040-Year%20High%20of,with%20gasoline%20prices%20surging%2038%25%20%2840%25%20in%20January%29>. And let’s not forget the war in Ukraine! Any one of these issues would be enough for you to reconsider your retirement date. Add all of them together and it’s no wonder people are concerned about their retirement and their very future.

If you are within the typical 5-year period just before retiring, these issues are likely causing you some angst about your decision to retire. No one would blame you, either!

Let’s look at some steps to take that may help you make a decision that won’t keep you up at night. Firstly, it is important to focus on those things in life that we can control. Just like we can’t control the weather, we can’t control the stock market or any of the other issues noted above. So, instead of getting worked up over the level of risk you have in your portfolio, why not meet with a professional to determine the actual risk you have and potential ways to mitigate that risk going forward? That is something you can control.

If you are concerned about your retirement income such as where it will come from, will it come from an uncertain asset such as stock market investments or will it be contractual with an insurance company? If you are concerned meet with a qualified advisor that can help you determine which strategy might work best for you and your particular circumstances.

There are many questions that would typically be considered when pondering your retirement date. Hopefully, these questions may better prepare you for that wonderful time when you can walk through that retirement door and enjoy the next phase of your life.

Here is a list of some questions to provoke some thoughts:

- Am I mentally prepared to leave my work life and work friends?
- Do I really know where my retirement income will come from?
- What portion of my retirement income will be guaranteed?
- What portion of my retirement income will be subject to the ups and downs of the stock market?
- Have you optimized your Social Security income benefit?
- According to the Social Security Administration, they are projecting an approximate 25% reduction of benefits starting in 2033. What is your plan to cover that projected loss of income?
- Do I have an adequate emergency fund established?
- Is my spouse up to date with the family finances?
- Have you determined your lifestyle expenses for a year? Knowing this is the first step in developing your income plan.
- If my income is stock market dependent, do I have a backup plan if there is a major drop in the stock market value? A significant stock market decline may reduce your income or require you to sell more shares of stocks to maintain the same level of income.
- Are you prepared for a “sequence of returns” risk in the market? The risk is most significant in the early stage of retirement if the stock market has a steep decline in value and you are relying on the market to produce a certain income every month.
- What if I withdraw too much from my investments? What will be the impact be in the later part of my retirement years?



Jeffrey H. Massey
Certified Financial Planner™
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• Are you prepared for major medical issues that may arise? Do you have a strong medical insurance plan?

And the list goes on! I do hope that this article will motivate you to learn more about your financial readiness for retirement. I have developed the “7 steps to Retirement Readiness” to help our clients with the daunting task of solidifying their retirement planning. These steps cover everything from your emergency fund up to your estate plan and how best to maximize your legacy to your loved ones.

I realize that planning your retirement is a tough challenge. I have written a book that covers the most important aspects of retirement planning. Reach out to us if you’d like a complimentary copy of my book. My passion is to help as many people as possible prepare for their “golden years” in retirement.

Control what you can and adapt to the changes! Have a GREAT day!

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SPORTS

Roundup: Hawks shut out Pats, 8-0

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Bishop Hendricken baseball team rolled to an 8-0 win over Pilgrim on Tuesday afternoon.

Griffin Crain led the Hawks at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Jared Munoz, Brendan McCafrey and Jack Hornstein all added hits and runs, while Braeden Campbell scored three times as well. Corbin Bernard got the win on the mound for Hendricken, pitching all seven innings and allowing just three hits.

Jack McConnell pitched 4 2/3 innings

for Pilgrim and recorded five strikeouts. The two teams will be squaring off again on Thursday afternoon.

Toll Gate 8, Smithfield 2

The Titans rolled past Smithfield to improve to 4-8 this spring.

Dylan Perreault and Matthew Colvin led Toll Gate at the plate with three RBI each while Jamie Luna knocked in two runs as well. Brayden Adler-Maranhao got the win on the mound for the Titans and recorded three strikeouts while only allowing one earned run.

SOFTBALL

Toll Gate 7, Ponaganset 5

The Titans continued to roll this spring and beat Ponaganset to improve to 9-2.

Julia Krause led the way with a pair of RBI at the plate while Eliana Goldman, Marlee Walsh and Delaney Wilson all knocked in runs as well. Sydnee Perreault also scored a pair of runs in the win.

Emma Harrold earned the win in the circle and racked up six strikeouts.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Toll Gate 11, Narragansett 5

Toll Gate improved to 7-1 last week with a win over the Mariners.

Adeline Areson led the Titans with six goals scored while Maddie Clark added three and Alina Jencks two. Jill Costello finished with 10 saves in the cage.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Pilgrim 3, Woonsocket 0

The Pats wrapped up the shutout win earlier this week. Jimmy Salisbury led Pilgrim with six kills and an ace while Nate Dos Remedios added five kills. Azael Alvarez stayed hot, adding four kills and two aces in the win.



GETTING THE WIN: Tyler Fuller takes the ball up the field last week against Toll Gate. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Pats run away with 18-5 win over Titans

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The undefeated Pilgrim boys lacrosse team maintained its position atop the Division III standings as it rolled to a 18-5 win over rival Toll Gate last week.

The Titans struck first in the opening minutes and the score was tied 3-3 deep into the second quarter. However, Pilgrim would adapt and roll the rest of the way to keep its perfect re-



CELEBRATION: Toll Gate goalie Christopher Schifino celebrates after the Titans score a goal in the first quarter last week.

● PATS - PAGE 32

Where we stand at the halfway point

It's hard to believe, but we are already halfway through the spring sports regular season. Now that we have an actual sample size to work with, let's get some observations and takes to this point.

My first take has to do with Pilgrim boys lacrosse. After coming up short in the state championship last season, the team, which is made up of much of the same core as last year's group, has been on a tear.

The Pats finished last week at 10-0 and really have not been tested. Their closest game was against

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
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rival Toll Gate in the season opener, but they still ran away with a five-goal win. They really have been untouchable.

We see this all the time,

● PITCH - PAGE 31



HAT TRICK: Pilgrim's Keira Ramsden, who scored three goals. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Pilgrim girls lax falls to Mt. Hope

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Pilgrim girls lacrosse team fell 9-6 to visiting Mt. Hope last week to drop to 2-4 this season.

The Pats trailed 6-4 heading into the halftime break but would take control early in the second and get goals from Keira Ramsden and Olivia Monte to tie things at

● LAX - PAGE 28

Four Titans headed to next level

By RYAN D. MURRAY

Four Titan seniors signed National Letters of Intent in the Toll Gate gymnasium on Tuesday morning to move on to play college sports.

Dante Faria, a forward and midfielder, will play soccer at New England College for the Pilgrims, who compete in Division III. Faria, who transferred to Toll Gate as a sophomore, was voted to be a captain this season. Faria has played with both Bayside FC and Bayside ECNL Regionals.

"Dante was a leader from the start," Titans boys soccer coach Mike Kenney said. "Dante came to us as a sophomore and stepped right into a leadership role, even as the newest and smallest kid in the program. He had extensive experience playing in clubs and he came in and he used



● TITANS - PAGE 32 **MAKING IT OFFICIAL:** Dante Faria, Julia Maker, Madison Clark and Zach Scotti. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

Lax

(Continued from page 27)

6-6 with 11:01 remaining in regulation. Mt. Hope immediately called timeout to adjust and went on to score three unanswered goals to walk away with the win. "They did a better job at the end of the day securing the ball. That's what it comes down to at the end of the day, the fundamentals. We were not aggressive enough, we lost the ball a few times, gave the ball away a few times and they didn't. They executed on our mistakes. They're a good team. We didn't execute," said Pilgrim coach Jess McCaughey of her team's second-half performance.

Ramsden scored a pair of early goals and Mary Centracchio would add another to give Pilgrim a 3-2 lead midway through the first half. The Huskies would go on a 3-1 run to close out the first period, with Emily Newton scoring Pilgrim's other goal. McCaughey hopes to see the team re-

bound after the tough loss and is looking for the Pats to play with more consistency from start to finish.

"When we're on, we're on. Our whole thing is that we're trying to play 50 minutes on. A couple times a game we lose it and that's our downfall. Our defense did great but it was the little tiny moments that we messed up and they capitalized. The day that we play a full, 50-minute game the way we know we can play, every other team should be worried," McCaughey said.

Ramsden continued to add to her stellar junior season with the hat trick. McCaughey and company will be leaning on her to lead the way throughout the second half of the regular season slate.

"Keira is incredible. She's one of those players that's just good at everything and you wish that there were a million of her," McCaughey said. "She's so fast, she's strong with the ball, has a strong lacrosse IQ. She's the backbone of our team, she's our leader and she deserves all the accolades that she could get."



LOOKING TO PASS: Pilgrim's Kiley Strain looks to pass the ball last week.



ON THE MOUND: Vets' Dominick Berry delivers a pitch. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Vets looking to secure playoff berth

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Warwick Vets Middle School baseball team has a big game this Thursday when it takes on Coventry in the regular season finale.

The Hurricanes overcame a slow start to the season to turn things around down the stretch, however, they will need to get a win to qualify for the postseason as they currently are hanging on to the final spot in a crowded race.

With key eighth graders like Dominick Berry, Michael Bryson, Sam Shelton, Michael Mainelli and Jackson Cirelli, Vets likes its chances at upsetting the undefeated Coventry club.

"The kids have played pretty well this year, it's just that the division that we are in

is probably the toughest in the state," said Vets coach Sean Rainey. "They're excited, they feel that they can beat them. Anyone can beat anybody on any given day in baseball. They need to come prepared and do what they do. Hopefully the numbers will come out in our favor."

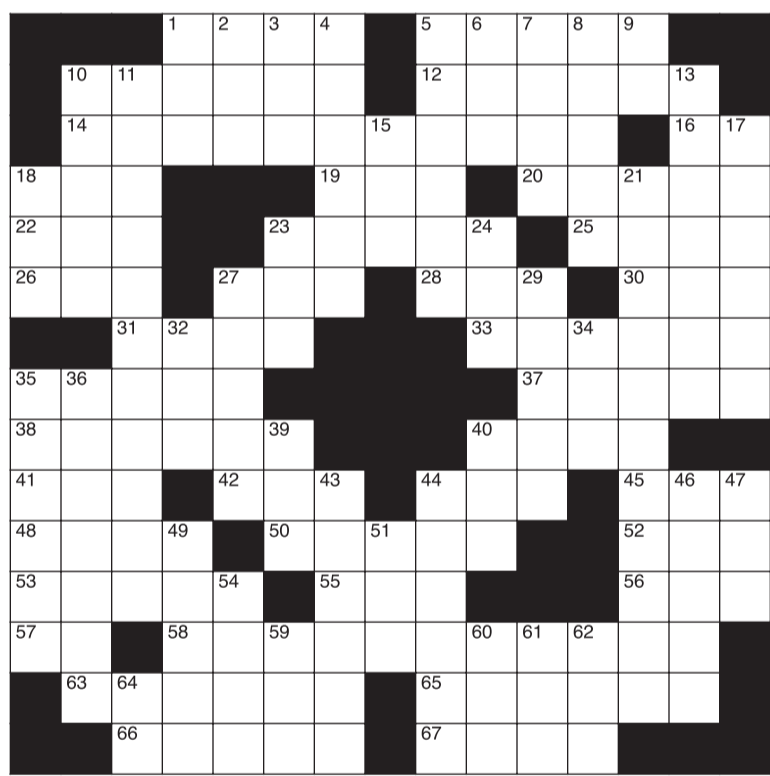
The key to success will be playing a clean game in the field, according to Rainey.

"We're going to need to be stellar on defense and make every play that we can. We can't make any errors, errors will probably determine the game. They're a good team and we're a good team. We lost some games early in the year that we probably should not have lost, but the kids have turned it around. Our guys have worked hard every day and have grown," said Rainey.



THE THROW TO FIRST: Vets' Sam Shelton makes a play at shortstop.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Amounts of time
- 5. A ship's place at a wharf
- 10. Point a finger at
- 12. Large, burrowing rodent
- 14. Raises the stakes
- 16. Measure of illumination
- 18. Cast out
- 19. One who is staid
- 20. A word used for emphasis
- 22. Military missions
- 23. Wet with rain
- 25. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 26. Word element meaning ear
- 27. ___ student,
- 28. Blood relation
- 30. Make into leather
- 31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 33. Containing salt
- 35. A seat
- 37. A type of fine pottery
- 38. You're caught red-___!
- 40. "Heat" director Michael
- 41. Expression of creative skill
- 42. Title of respect
- 44. Crony

- 45. Payroll experts
- 48. Actress Remini
- 50. Famed consumer advocate
- 52. Indigenous Thai person
- 53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- 55. Cooking tool
- 56. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 57. The seventh note of a major scale
- 58. Transfer from private to state ownership
- 63. A set of five
- 65. Removes
- 66. Foolish persons
- 67. Lower parts of a wall

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Old EU money
- 2. Some put it on steak
- 3. Sign language
- 4. Sowed on the ground
- 5. Tags
- 6. Everyone has one
- 7. Arguments
- 8. N. African capital
- 9. Midgame (abbr.)
- 10. Change as needed
- 11. Functioning as a consonant
- 13. An island in the north Atlantic
- 15. Carpenter's tool
- 17. Small football player
- 18. Ghosts say it
- 21. Explain through logic
- 23. Having ten
- 24. Criticize
- 27. Arms of the sea
- 29. Belonging to a bottom layer
- 32. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)
- 35. Swiss cottage
- 36. Cleft lip
- 39. Loud, unpleasant noise
- 40. Disfigure
- 43. Kayakers traverse them
- 44. Authored
- 46. Small freshwater fishes
- 47. Macabre poet
- 49. Carthaginian statesman
- 51. Principle underlying the universe
- 54. Common Japanese surname
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Small constellation
- 61. Chap
- 62. Equal
- 64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

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AROUND THE HORN: Vets' Michael Bryson makes a throw to first.

Cod, haddock regulations unchanged for now

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Recreational measures for cod and haddock will remain unchanged for the start of the 2022 fishing year. The New England Fishery Management Council has recommended changes to recreational Gulf of Maine cod and haddock measures, and included changes to recreational Georges Bank cod measures (cod caught off Rhode Island) in Framework 63; however, regulatory actions considering those changes are still pending. As a result, 2021 recreational and for-hire regulations for Northeast multispecies (groundfish) stocks will remain in effect. Changes recommended by the Council may be implemented later in the 2022 fishing year.

A summary of the current regulations for recreational and for-hire vessels harvesting groundfish is available online at Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) | NOAA Fisheries. However, highlights for the Gulf of Maine cod (north of Cape Cod) are a minimum size of 21 inches, one fish/person/day, September 15 - 30 and April 1 - 14 for private vessels. Charter and Party boats still have the one fish/person/day limit at 21-inch minimum, however, the season runs from September 8 - October 7 and April 1 - 14. Outside the Gulf of Maine (south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island) the possession limit for now is still 10 fish/person/day, 21-inch minimum size with an open season all year.

The minimum size for haddock in the Gulf of Maine is a 17 inches, with a 15 fish/person/day limit, May 1 to February 28/29 and April 1 to April 30. Outside the Gulf of Maine there is no catch limit, the season is open all year but the minimum size is 18 inches.

Bluefin tuna retention limit adjusted

The bite for both school bluefin tuna and giants was outstanding last year. The fish were close to shore, many caught just one to two miles off Narragansett, and they were here in great abundance. With the enhanced bluefin bite (many believe it is due to warming water bringing in bait) the number of anglers targeting them has increased. Anglers must have a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit to fish for bluefin and report their catch within 24 hours.

NOAA Fisheries is adjusting Atlantic bluefin tuna daily retention limits for recreational fishermen. The adjusted limits are effective May 6, 2022, through December 31, 2022, unless modified by later action.

The important thing to note is "unless modified" as bluefin tuna and other HMS permitted species often have retention limit changes during the season as catch data is good due to the 24 hour reporting requirement. This allows fish managers to adjust harvest limits accordingly.

The new adjusted retention limit for permitted private vessels per day/trip is two school bluefin tuna between 27 to <47 inches and one large school/small medium bluefin 47 to <73 inches. Permitted charter boats are allowed three school bluefin 27 to <47 inches and one large school/small medium bluefin 47 to <73 inches.

To obtain a HMS permit and report catches visit the HMS Permit Shop or call 888-872-8862.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater. John Dionne of Smithfield, RI caught a 7.6-pound largemouth when fishing Bowdish Lake Chepachet, RI. John said, "I caught

the fish using a chatterbait with a swimbait trailer last Friday." Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "Fish are in the pre-spawn mode gravitating to low water that is warm so the largemouth bass is still very good and this week pickerel and pike fishing really picked up too."

"Anglers are still catching trout in stocked ponds and the largemouth pre-spawn bite is very good." said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren.

"Tautog fishing in the Bay and at India Point Park, Providence remains very strong." said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence. Capt. Mike Littlefield of Archangel Charters, Newport said, "The tautog bite has been outstanding this spring. Anglers are catching fish on mussel beds in the 20 to 30 foot range using green crabs. Most everyone seems to be catching their limit." Declan O'Donnell of Misquamicut Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Customers are catching keeper tautog off the breachways and along the Narragansett shoreline." Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick said, "Customers fishing the Rocky Point Fishing Pier and along the coast there are catching some nice tautog in the 18 to 20 inch range."

Striped bass. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, said, "The striped bass bite is good with some nice fish being caught when feeding schools of herring and Atlantic menhaden are on the surface. Areas off Newport and Pt. Judith Light are producing." "The bass bite in the Bay is excellent with Greenwich Bay producing now too as well as the West Passage. Mostly school bass with keepers in the 30-inch range mixed in," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box. Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, "The cinder worm hatch has started in some South County salt ponds with the bass bite there pretty good. Fishing is also good with slot fish being taken from the West Wall, local breachways, beaches and ponds. The outgoing tide seems to be producing more fish than the incoming tide." East End Eddie Doherty said, "Some brave smaller school size bass are enduring the cool water temps and entering the Cape Cod Canal from the west end." "Anglers are catching school striped bass with keepers mixed in on the Seekonk River as well as the lower Providence River and upper and mid Narragansett Bay areas. Mt. Hope Bay is producing bass for anglers too." said Henault of Ocean State.

"Squid fishing has been insane. Best bets this week included the Sakonnet and Newport areas with a strong bite in Hyannis, MA as well," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. Capt. Mike Littlefield of Archangel Charters, Newport, said, "Squid fishing has been very good at the Sakonnet River, off Newport and at Jamestown. Last week I fished with Greg Vespe, 'The Squid Whisperer', and we filled five full (five gallon) buckets in about five hours."

"Scup fishing is picking up in Narragansett Bay with large sup in the 14 to 15 inch range being caught at Rocky Point." said Tom Giddings.


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 and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net or visit www.noflukesfishing.com.




GALLONS: Mike Littlefield of Archangel Charters said, "Last week we had Greg Vespe of Tiverton, 'The Squid Whisperer', on board and we caught five (gallons) pales of squid." (Submitted photo)



BASS BITE: John Dionne of Smithfield, RI with the 7.6 pound largemouth bass he caught last week at Bowdish Lake, Chepachet, RI.




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Pitch

(Continued from page 27)

a dominant team that gets a head start and become the first real title favorite. As big as these tears are, far too often do we see these teams either lose focus or get blindsided by the dark horse.

However, I think this team is winning the title this spring. It is just a special group that is head and shoulders above the competition. They have cruised past Toll Gate twice, Providence Country Day twice, Burrillville, Cranston West, and by wide margins, it hasn't been close.

So, although I am not saying the title is in the bag, its about as close as it can be mid-way through the season.

Across the city, the Toll Gate girls have been on a tear of their own. After dropping their season opener, the Titans have rattled off seven consecutive wins and only Portsmouth sits above them in the standings.

The Titans fell in the championship last year and then were bumped up to Division II. You'd never realize it based on their performance, as they have fit right in and have been a force. Adeline Areson has been ev-

ery bit the player that we anticipated - which is one of the best in the state.

Toll Gate has a tough test against Bay View coming up as well as a rematch against Burrillville, the Titans don't have an easy road ahead of them. However, it's hard not to be impressed with how well they have fared moving up a division.

The Division I baseball race is going to be another dogfight this season and no team has really grabbed control of it.

Hendricken is a perennial favorite and has been solid, Pilgrim followed up last year's big run and is right in the thick of things, as are both Cranston East and West.

Right now, North Kingstown and Portsmouth are atop the standings, but I really don't think that they are any better than the next few teams down the ladder. NK's pitching is elite, but I do feel like it can be hit.

Between playoff seeding and what will eventually be postseason matchups, this is going to be a tight, unpredictable race the rest of the way. Any of the teams I just mentioned could conceivably take home a championship.

Then in Division II, Johnston has been excellent to this point and sits in second place overall. The Panthers schedule gets a

bit tougher in the second half, so we'll see how they make out, but either way they have been impressive.

Pilgrim softball finished last week in first place in Division I with just one loss and appears to be the favorite to win it all. This team's run last year resembled the boys lacrosse squad ... it was the favorite heading into the playoffs and came up just short.

The Pats have all the tools to win ... an elite pitcher in Alyssa Twomey and a deep lineup behind her. I'm a big believer in playoff experience, and these returners got a taste of it last year at RIC.

Coventry is right there to defend its title, La Salle and Bay View are having big years ... you also can't count Cranston West out.

Like baseball, this Division I race is going to be interesting and close moving forward. Toll Gate is also hanging steady in Division II and could very well host a playoff game, while Johnston is also maintaining its spot in the playoff race.

The Johnston boys volleyball team has been our best to this point. The Panthers have just one loss and have a three-headed monster that is primed to make a run.

The team's lone loss came to first-place Lincoln, who they will take on once again in the regular season. St. Ray's is still a fac-

tor, but it seems like the Lions and Panthers are on a collision course to be the last two clubs standing.

The Pilgrim boys have also jumped out to a solid start in Division II. Although the Pats have not been the best team in Division II, they are certainly in this thing and sit in third place. Hendricken and Cranston East are each in the playoff picture in Division I, but at the end of the day, I'm not sure who is going to La Salle when it means the most. Not that I am counting the Bolts or Hawks out, or teams like Chariho and NK, but the Rams are the favorite at this point.

The Hendricken outdoor track and field team is doing what it always does ... it's winning consistently and has possible state champions in just about every event. I'm sure it will come down to the Hawks and Rams once again. On the girls side, you can never sleep on Cranston West.

Lastly, although none of our boys tennis teams appear to be ready to compete for championship, West has held steady and should be able to make the playoffs. Who knows what will happen from there?

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transmissions often postpone the necessary work on their vehicles because of the perceived expense. Quaker Transmissions offers financing through Synchrony Financial. Do not wait until you are facing a crisis. Call and speak with office manager Barbara George to explore your options.

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Locals earn region honors for CCRI

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Five members of the Community College of Rhode Island baseball team earned All-NJCAA Region XXI honors for the 2022 season.

Outfielder and captain James Coleman (Pawtucket) and second baseman Caleb Harris (Cranston) earned First Team honors. Harris also earned Second Team honors as a pitcher along with teammates Tyler Monahan (Woonsocket) and Jacob Sanantonio (Cranston). Outfielder Dylan Barlow (Warwick) won a Gold Glove Award.

The Knights finished 12-22 in 2022 and advanced to the Region XXI Championship this past weekend in Massachusetts, where they faced top-seeded and No. 3

nationally-ranked Northern Essex Community College.

Coleman finished second on the team with a .423 batting average and slugged .692 with two home runs, 16 RBI, and a team-leading three triples in 25 games. Harris batted .398 and drove in 15 runs in 29 games while finishing 1-1 as a starter with a team-best 4.55 ERA and 22 strikeouts in 29 2/3 innings pitched.

Monahan had a breakout season, leading the Knights in batting average (.462), home runs (5), doubles (17), and RBI (31) while splitting time between catcher and outfield. Sanantonio started 29 games as a utility infielder and drove in six runs with a team-high 19 walks – and a .392 on-base percentage – in 75 at-bats. Barlow played in 25 games and posted a stellar .964 fielding percentage.

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Julia Maker



Zach Scotti with family and Coach Nick Durand



Dante Faria and Coach Mike Kenney



Madison Clark and family

Titans

(Continued from page 27)

that. . . He has led offseason conditioning the whole time he's been with us. Even as an underclassman, guys looked to him to find out what they should be doing to prepare. On the field, he's a leader, small in stature, but he's a little buzz saw that runs around and controls the game. A constant leader. He does it right in school. He's an Academic All-Division player and I expect great things out of him. He's going to do really well up there and I'm very proud of him."

Julia Maker, also a captain, plays shortstop and second base, and will join Faria at New England College next year where she will compete in softball.

"Julia has been a leader both on and off the field," Shana Willis, the Lady Titans softball manager said. "Her dedication to the sport and the team is top-notch. She's going to have a great future playing softball in college. The effort that this girl has for the game is just second to none, and I couldn't have chosen a better person to go on to college this year and play softball. She really deserves this and I'm so proud of her."

Madison Clark, a midfielder and captain, will attend American International College to play lacrosse for the Yellow Jackets, who reside in D-II. Clark is a 4-year starter and has played in three championship games.

"Maddie has done a tremendous job," Jim Areson, the Lady Titans LAX coach said. "I'm very proud of her. I wish they all played like her and prac-

ticed like her. She's always set the tone at practice and always gave 100 percent. I know she's going to be successful at AIC and it's been my pleasure to coach her for four years."

Captain Zach Scotti, a pitcher and first baseman, will head to Worcester State University to play in D-III for the Lancers. Scotti throws left and bats right.

"Zach is a baseball junkie, always looking to learn more about the game," Titans baseball manager Nick Durand said. "He is dedicated to his craft and wants to exceed his own expectations. Whether it's been hitting or pitching, he's been a positive influence on the program. The program has gotten better because of him. His attitude, his work ethic, he pushes guys to be a little bit better, which is a huge positive."

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Pats

(Continued from page 27)

cord intact.

"Toll Gate came out very strong and it was back-and-forth until midway through the second quarter. We had to make some adjustments early, and from there we just had to control their offense and settle in," said Pilgrim coach Alex Gregson.

Braxton Bragg had a monster performance for the Pats, leading the way with a game-high 10 goals. Ethan Pezzullo added four goals while Ryan Barlow recorded a hat trick. Charlie Clements also scored a goal in the victory. Connor Widmer and Connor Williams each chipped in three assists while goalie Jacob Brennan made seven saves in the cage.

Toll Gate was led by Nate O'Keefe with a pair of goals while Sean Mullaney, Jacob Pickering and Cooper Grossguth all added one each.

The Pats have boasted the state's best offense to this point, much thanks to its two-headed monster up front.

"We have a lot of talent. Ethan Pezzullo is one of the best shooters that I have ever seen, his placement and form is amazing. Then Braxton Bragg is probably the hardest shooter that I've ever seen. His shots are just so fast I don't think other goalies can keep up with it," said Gregson, who has also been pleased with



RIVALRY: Pilgrim's Brady Burke takes the ball up the field.

guys like Clements, Barlow and others. "Our guys are also running the plays and are always on the same page. All six guys know where they are supposed to be and what to do with the ball, they are getting it done."

As the Pats get set for the home stretch of the regular season, Gregson hopes his guys stay the course and keep their foot on the gas.

"It's going to take more of the same. Running the plays, belief in each other, and making the next play. That's all you have to worry about, just making the next play. Not worrying about the next game, not worrying about the playoffs, staying in the moment," Gregson said.

Gregson also hit a nice milestone recently, picking up his 50th win as a head coach in seven seasons combined between Vets and Pilgrim.

"It was amazing, I wasn't really thinking about it too much, I lost track, so I was surprised. After every game we give a game ball out and I was looking for it, but the kids already had it and gave it to me for my 50th win. It's been fun, and I have loved every team that I've ever coached, but this team is special," said Gregson.

The Pats went on to beat Cranston West 11-5 on Monday. Bragg and Barlow finished with four goals each while Pezzullo added two and Tyler Fuller one. Brady Burke and Clements each picked up assists while Brennan recorded 10 saves.