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Ryan DeLeon Aguilar and Brianna Garcia are Davies Tech's valedictorian and salutatorian for 2024.

## Aguilar, Garcia are top scholars in Davies Tech Class of 2024

By JON BAKER

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LINCOLN – The best way to describe the difference in final weighted grade point average between Davies Tech students Ryan DeLeon Aguilar and Brianna Garcia is this: Miniscule.

Garcia, of North Providence, discovered back in January that she had produced a 4.45 GPA through her first two quarters of her senior year, but that Aguilar had managed a 4.49, a scant four-hundredths of a point above.

That minute amount gave Aguilar the valedictorian honors for the Patriots' Class of 2024, and Garcia had to settle for the salutatorian laurel.

"Oh, I knew it was close, but I'm not mad at all; I'm happy Ryan got first," said Garcia, a Pre-Engineering major at Davies. "All I could think of was my sophomore year, when I got an 80 in an English class. I thought, 'If only I got an 85 or 90.'"

Added Aguilar, a Johnston resident: "She was telling me about it, and I was thinking, 'That's crazy!' When I was a sophomore, I learned about my ranking, and at that time, I was No. 2 and she was No. 1; we were battling for first place, and over time I kept trying to push myself to try to get the highest score I could my junior year, and that's when I earned the top spot.

"I've had this mentality of pushing myself academically very hard

since elementary school. My parents used to push me and support me, so I kept thinking, 'I'm going to try my best to be the best student I can be. I did that because my parents never finished high school, so I wanted to be one who had success in high school. I figured if I pushed myself then, I could push myself in college or in any career I wished to pursue.'

If one thing's a given, both Aguilar and Garcia share the same types of discipline and motivation it takes to succeed in academics, but they also bring them to other facets of their lives. Both earned status in the National, Rhode Island and National Technical honor societies

See DAVIES, page A3

## Woonsocket hosts inaugural Economic Development Summit

By STELLA LORENCE  
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WOONSOCKET – Over 100 people registered for Woonsocket's first Economic Development Summit, a Planning Department event to support current and potential businesses owners in the city.

Two recent additions to the Planning Department, John Ahumada, business growth and recovery administrator, and Emily Haining-Sheehan, small business outreach coordinator, spearheaded the sold-out event.

"I want us to succeed,"

Haining-Sheehan said. "I want our businesses to succeed. We're told many times we're the forgotten city and the fact that 45 new businesses have opened in the last year and a half – it says a lot. It says a lot for what we have to offer."

With almost the entire City Council, the Mayor and most of the Planning Board in attendance, the event was advertised as an opportunity for new business owners or people interested in opening a business to ask questions and network with property

See SUMMIT, page A2

## Pawtucket man charged with assault with BB gun

By JON BAKER

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PAWTUCKET – Police took into custody Jordan Chestnut, 25, of 53 Johnson St. (third floor), Pawtucket, on Monday afternoon for felony assault/using a device similar in appearance to a firearm and vandalism, a misdemeanor.

At 12:45 p.m., Patrolman James Spellman responded to the suspect's address after receiving a report of someone shooting a BB gun from an open window and striking passers-by. When he arrived, he spoke with a victim, a 45-year-old woman, who said she had been shot in the back of the neck by a

BB from an unknown subject. She also stated it had come from an open second-floor window at 53 Johnson St.

Soon after, another woman, also 45, introduced herself and told Spellman her car's windshield had been hit by two BB pellets. The officer viewed the damages and verified them, so took photos for evidence.

Spellman asked one of the victims to identify the window in question, and she pointed out the location, which happened to be open on the "B" side of the building.

He walked to the apartment door and introduced

See CHARGE, page A3



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**INSIDE: TRAVEL**

Flight costs will be rising  
Expect ticket prices to rise as new regulations take effect  
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## WOONSOCKET POLICE LOG

**WOONSOCKET** – The Woonsocket Police Department logged the following arrests, April 19-22:

- Blake Giuffrida, 51 Cato St., arrested on a warrant, April 19, 2:30 a.m., 16 Greene St.
- Joshua L. Lambert, 94 Alice Ave., third-degree sexual assault, April 19, 6:10 a.m., South Street
- Hongtong Khongsouvantham, no permanent address, Woonsocket, indecent exposure, April 19, 8:04 a.m., 246 South Main St.
- Ricardo Quinones, 460 Pine St., Providence, fugitive from justice, April 19, 10:45 a.m., 96 Burnside Ave.
- Kelsey Espinal Perez, 20 Jenard Leonard Dr., Pawtucket, passing of counterfeit certificates, bills or notes, obstructing police, April 19, 11:45 a.m., Citizens Bank
- Michael Acevedo Rivera, no permanent address, Woonsocket, violation of a no-contact order (two counts), domestic disorderly conduct, April 19, 1:14 p.m., Action Based



- Enterprises, 277 Wood Ave.
- Emanuel Costa, 95 Manville Road, arrested on a warrant, April 19, 3:50 p.m., Community Care Alliance, 245 Main St.
- Willie-James Garret Creichan, 308 Wood Ave., domestic assault by strangulation, domestic simple assault, domestic vandalism, domestic disorderly conduct, April 19, 8:02 p.m., 308 Wood Ave.
- Luis Orlando Virella Jr., 528 Fairmount St., eluding law enforcement in a high-speed pursuit, driving on a suspended license, April 19, 8:49 p.m., Blackstone Terrace, 170 Cumberland St.
- Phetsamone Kongmanivong, 198 Cecile St., disorderly conduct, April 19, 10:01 p.m., Brunswick Bowl, 1666 Diamond Hill Road
- Mino M. Darasouk, 48 Ella Ave., disorderly conduct, April 19, 10:08 p.m., Brunswick Bowl, 1666 Diamond Hill Road
- Cory J. Gaskell, 790 Elm St., driving under the influ-

- ence, BAC unknown, refusal to submit to a chemical test, April 21, 6:44 a.m., Cass Park
  - Marlon Tenesaca Camas, 98 Purchase St., Milford, Ma., driving without the consent of owner, April 21, 7:45 a.m., 425 Diamond Hill Road
  - Michael Martin, 291 Bernon St., possession of a controlled substance, warrant, April 21, 10:39 p.m., 74 Prospect St.
  - Angela Laplante, 337 Dulude Ave., possession of a controlled substance (two counts), April 21, 11 p.m., 74 Prospect St.
- WOONSOCKET** – The following arrests were logged by the Woonsocket Police Department, April 22-25:
- Alander Velez Colon, 160 Bourdon Blvd., firing in a compact area, disorderly conduct, vandalism, using a firearm during a crime of violence, carrying a concealed handgun without a permit, felony assault, possession of a large capacity feeding device, April 22, 2:48 p.m., 151 Bourdon Blvd.
  - Jonathan J. Jolin, 223 Park Ave., obstructing police, resisting arrest, April 22, 9:04 p.m., 223 Park Ave.

- Nadia Morais, 11 Williams Ave., East Providence, simple assault, April 23, 9 a.m., 579 Front St.
- Victoria Leboeuf, 24 Knight St., domestic assault, April 23, 9:48 a.m., 24 Knight St.
- William John Keenan Jr., 499 Mason St., domestic assault, possession of a controlled substance, obstructing police, warrant, April 23, 10:11 p.m., 499 Mason St.
- Hector Luis Rodriguez, 149 Second Ave., arrested on a warrant, April 23, 6:07 p.m., 36 Blackstone St.
- Kayleigh E. Richard, 37 Richelieu St., shoplifting April 23, 2:42 p.m., 1054 Cass Ave., CVS
- Richard Chauvette, 103 Brook St., violation of a no-contact order, April 23, 7:03 p.m., 103 Brook St.
- Kyle Baxter, no permanent address, Woonsocket, injuring or tampering with vehicles (two counts), larceny under \$1,500 (two counts), weapons other than firearms prohibited, April 24, 1:54 a.m., 131 Fifth Ave.
- Anthony T. Toney, 95 Orchard St., domestic felony as-

- sault, domestic simple assault, disorderly conduct, April 24, 6:26 a.m., 95 Orchard St.
- Jeffrey Aram William Ozanian, 372 Robinson St., possession of a controlled substance, April 24, 9:25 a.m., Robinson Street
- Kimberly M. Thistle, 551 Bernon St., duty to render assistance, April 24, 10:54 a.m., 166 Maple St.
- Alesia M. Croyle, 23 Clinton St., domestic assault on a person over 60 causing bodily injury, April 24, 9 a.m., Blackstone Apartments, 23 Clinton St.
- Monica L. Almonte, 366 Village Road, violation of a no-contact order, April 24, 2:05 p.m., 166 Valley St.
- Richard L. McCage Jr., 132 First Ave., domestic assault, disorderly conduct, April 24, 3:04 p.m., 132 First Ave.
- Jacqueline Montanez, 78 Oak St., domestic assault, April 24, 11:25 p.m., 78 Oak St.
- Devin Cronshaw, 240 Rockridge Drive, domestic assault, domestic disorderly conduct, April 24, 11:34 p.m., 240 Rockridge Drive

## Museum of Work & Culture children's baking workshop returns

### Gingersnaps Bakery Chef Leads Spring Cupcake Decorating Class

Museum of Work & Culture, a division of the Rhode Island Historical Society, will offer its annual Children's Baking Workshop on Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m. This year's event will focus on the themes of the spring season and will feature a 'bird's nest

cupcake' decorating demonstration with Gingersnaps Bakery chef and owner Kayla Morris. Participants will also enjoy interactive games such as baking bingo and a guided tour of the museum's latest permanent exhibit *Flowing Through Time: Nature,*

Industry, and Communities of the Blackstone River, led by museum educators. Each baker will receive a chef's hat, apron, recipe card, pre-printed activity materials, as well as a cupcake and all the necessary decorating supplies from

Gingersnaps Bakery. Tickets are \$22 and provide entry to one child participant and a parent or guardian. Space is limited and early registration is strongly encouraged. Tickets are available for purchase at [rihs.simplenetix.org](http://rihs.simplenetix.org).

## Charge

Continued from page A1

himself to Chestnut's mom, explained the circumstances for the visit, then asked to speak with her son, who immediately came to the door.

"I asked Jorden if he had a BB gun, and he stated

he had just been shooting it from the window of his bedroom," Spellman wrote in his report. "I asked him if he could show me the BB gun, and Jorden escorted me to his bedroom and provided me the BB rifle. I seized the gun as evidence. I then asked him to escort me outside."

He explained to the officer he didn't know that

he had struck anyone or anything, and Spellman told him that he had indeed struck one woman in the neck and another's car windshield, that there was property damage as a result. Chestnut, however, said he meant no harm.

"After giving him a chance to explain his side to the victims, I asked Jorden to step aside with

Officers Nicholas Weakley and Christopher Baldwin," Spellman wrote. "I asked (a victim) if he was the suspect she had observed, and she said he had been wearing a white baseball cap. It should be noted that Jorden did have a white baseball cap on when I encountered him inside of the apartment."

He asked both women if

they wanted to press criminal charges, and both said they did, then completed witness statements.

Weakley and Baldwin then transported Chestnut back to the station for processing.

The victim who was struck in the neck sustained only a welt to her neck, but Spellman she was shook by the incident.

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## Davies

Continued from page A1

and represented the school's Music Club (both are flutists).

Just recently, Aguilar discovered that he had won the gold medal in the Medical Math category at the SkillsUSA Rhode Island State Championships, and will now represent his family, school and state at the SkillsUSA Nationals event in Atlanta between June 24-28.

"It's very cool; I think it's going to be a really good experience for me," said Aguilar, the son of proud parents Carlos DeLeon and Rudith Aguilar. "I'm nervous, but also excited to go. I want to do the best I can. I've been studying math a lot, and I'm going to keep studying because I want to do well in the competition."

While attending high school, he's also been taking classes at New England Tech; he says he's already accumulated about 40 college credits, and he's taking another five multiple-credit courses now.

As for his future, he already knows he will contin-

ue his academic endeavors at New England Tech, as he wants to study nursing.

"After I earn my Bachelor's, I'd really like to go to medical school," he said. "I'm honestly thinking about Brown. My family isn't in the medical field, but when I was younger, my older brother, Robert, was diagnosed with diabetes; he was at the hospital and suffering terribly. He had really high blood sugar, so I've thought since then that I want to help people get through those conditions."

When asked what he'll miss most about Davies, he didn't hesitate.

"Creating friendships and learning with them, especially my classmates in Health Careers," he said. "My freshman year was the COVID year, so I didn't really talk to anyone because I couldn't. My sophomore year? I was talking to everybody in Health Careers; we'd talk and laugh. I think that's what I'll remember most is learning with them, growing up with them, confiding in them."

As for Garcia, the daughter of Salvatore Garcia and Julieta Orozco, she loves her time working on and

performing in the "Davies Got Talent!" variety show, but also racked up tons of awards and honors in her time on Jenckes Hill Road.

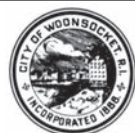
An accomplished flutist, she's captured four R.I. Music Educators' Association Solo and Ensemble medals, including three excellent one superior, which is the best one can get; various shop certifications; and she is also now a certified FANUC operator, meaning she can operate an industrial robotic arm. She learned that while taking a course at New England Tech this past fall.

Garcia also spent four years as a R.I. Philharmonic Music School Wind En-

semble Winds, which is the most advanced youth wind ensemble, and was the third chair as a junior. She's also been in the RIMEA Senior All-State Band, competed in the SkillsUSA R.I. Championships in Robotics & Automation as a sophomore.

She's taken part in the Young Entrepreneurs of Providence program at Brown, did a Prepare RI internship where she served as a teacher's assistant in a summer school program for struggling students and works in her family business.

Garcia is still undecided where she wants to attend college, but does know she



### Woonsocket Water Division Hydrant Flushing Public Notification

The Woonsocket Water Division will be performing its Spring Unidirectional Flushing Program **between April 16, 2024, to June 26, 2024.** The flushing schedule will start weekly on Tuesday nights beginning at **9:00 PM** and continue working until about **6:00 AM** on Wednesday.

- Phase 1 (April 16 to May 1)**  
Elm Street & Wood Avenue  
Diamond Hill Road & Social Street  
Cumberland Street & Cass Avenue  
Privilege Street, East School Street, and Rathbun Street
- Phase 2 (May 7 to May 29)**  
North Main Street, Prospect Street, Gaskill Street  
Summer Street, Winter Street  
Clinton Street, Main Street, and Cumberland Street  
Blackstone Street, Arnold Street, Spring Street, Harris Avenue
- Phase 3 (June 4 to June 11)**  
Fairmount Street, River Street, First Avenue  
Island Place, Truman Drive  
Winter Street, Prospect Street, Harris Avenue  
Singleton Street
- Phase 4 (June 18 to June 26)**  
Upper Diamond Hill Road  
Mendon Road  
Elder Ballou Road

In addition to the main streets listed above, side streets in the areas will also be flushed.

Customers may experience discolored water and lower than normal pressure. If you experience discolored water, please run your COLD water for a short time to clear the lines. Store clean water in containers for usage during these hours. We would like to sincerely thank our customers for their patience and understanding while the flushing crews are working hard to maintain the city's distribution lines.

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#### Thursday's Lucky 4 Life

3-9-21-31-41  
LB 8

#### Friday's Mass. Daily

Mid-day: 9-5-6-2  
Evening: n/a

#### Thursday's Mass Cash

7-8-14-32-34

#### Thursday's Wild Money

1-17-24-34-37 EB 25