

**Nominate your favorite local businesses in**  
**CALL & TIMES**  
**2024 COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS**  
 WoonsocketCall.com/Community

**HEALTH:**  
 Breathing can affect your health  
 Page A2



**SPORTS:**  
 Calabro staying home  
 Page B1



**CHAN'S**  
**ENJOY THE BEST**  
 Won Ton Soup, Crab Rangoon, Boneless Ribs, Teriyaki, Sesame Chicken, General Chicken, 5 Spice Shrimp, Lo Mein, Fried Rice  
**32 SPECIALS COMBO DINNERS**  
**DELICIOUS AND REASONABLY PRICED**  
**FRIDAY, SATURDAY KARAOKE PARTY w/ W/RIK 8-11** | **MAI TAI & SCORPION BOWLS TO GO!**  
**TAKE-OUT 765-1900 DELIVERY 762-1364**  
 267 MAIN STREET WOONSOCKET RHODE ISLAND 02895  
 WWW.CHANSEGGROLLSANDJAZZ.COM

BLACKSTONE VALLEY'S

# CALL & TIMES

Since 1892

www.WoonsocketCall.com

www.PawtucketTimes.com

Since 1885

VOL. CXL NO. 158

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024

NEWSSTAND: \$1.50

## LOOKING BACK & KICKING BACK



Photo by Jon Baker

Steve Cardoso, who retired from Davies Tech on June 14 as the longest-tenured teacher in school history, relaxes on his front porch in Cumberland with his pet beagle Emma.

## Davies Tech teacher reflects on 36 years in education

By JON BAKER

jbaker@pawtuckettimes.com

CUMBERLAND – Steve Cardoso sat back in a chair at his dining room table on Saturday and pondered the answer to these questions: After 36-plus years as an electronics/pre-engineering teacher at the William M. Davies, Jr. Career & Technical High School, what's your secret? How did you get the most out of your students?

Cardoso, who retired officially on June 14, hesitated, then answered, "Treating the kids like they were your own, caring about them like they were your kids. You can't treat them as students and that nothing matters after 2 o'clock. You have

to give them attention, time, show them you care.

"I mean, I'm retired, but I'm still talking to my kids through Microsoft Teams," he added. "I spoke to one young man last night, a senior who was in Atlanta for the National SkillsUSA Competition, and he told me he finished fifth in the country in the electronics category; that was two years in a row he did that, which is pretty awesome.

"He was talking to me all week; he said, 'I think I did pretty good because I had that year of experience from last year.' Still, last night, he seemed a little distraught. He told me he got fifth again, and I said, 'You should be so proud! How many people can say that they got

two fifth-place finishes in a row in their high school career? Not in the state but the country? I love it! Congratulations!"

It's that kind of rapport with and love for his students that kept bringing him back to the institution at 50 Jenckes Hill Road every morning, and it's why he retired as the longest-tenured teacher in its 52-year history.

"Why now?" Cardoso asked about retirement, and he didn't need long to respond.

"Great question. For the same reason I left North Cumberland Middle School as its (head) baseball coach a few years ago; I've worked hard,"

See TEACHER, page A3

## Police bust alleged reckless driver who claims to be on a mission from gods

By RUSS OLIVO

Contributing Writer

WOONSOCKET – In an encounter with a motorist one officer described as "extremely strange," a city man was arrested after traveling faster than 60 mph along Park Ave in the wrong lane and ignoring a red light at a major intersection.

Brad J. Fugere, 45, of 194 Fortin Drive., was taken into custody after he stopped for police near Park Avenue and Smith Street about 1:40 a.m. on July 1. He was charged with reckless driving against public safety.

Officer Andrew Griffith first took note of Fugere's cavalier road etiquette near Hamlet Avenue, when he observed him "traveling much faster" than the 25 mph speed limit as he passed CT Plus, a 24-hour

convenience store. Despite the hour, there were still pedestrians and vehicular traffic associated with the store, but Fugere maneuvered his 2018 Nissan Sentra "with no regard" for them, the officer reported.

As Griffith followed the Sentra at 60 mph, he was unable to close the gap between himself and the vehicle and Fugere was unable to hold the Sentra in the forward lane of travel. Finally, after Fugere passed through a red light without stopping at the intersection of Logee Street, Griffith activated his emergency lights and Fugere eventually stopped for him.

"When asked why he blew through the red light he said, 'I know,' adding that he was 'working for his gods,'" the officer

See DRIVER, page A3

## Man arrested after beating girlfriend with baseball bat, according to police

By RUSS OLIVO

Contributing Writer

WOONSOCKET – A city woman was transported to the hospital after her boyfriend allegedly beat her with a baseball bat, police say.

Brian J. Hicks, 32, of 211 Rathbun St., was charged with aggravated domestic assault with a dangerous weapon, refusal to relinquish a telephone and disorderly conduct in connection with the June 30 attack in a second-floor apartment at 939 Social St.

A neighbor heard the crash of items being

thrown about the apartment and "a lot of yelling" before she called the police about 6 p.m. When officers arrived, a few minutes later, the victim was outside the apartment, "crying hysterically," and Hicks was still inside, refusing to come out.

The victim, 44 years old, later told police that Hicks came home intoxicated and "began to destroy the kitchen and break items." At one point he shoved a kitchen table into her stomach and began throwing things at her. In

See ARREST, page A3

## Author wants to turn Plainville downtown into destination spot

By Mike Kirby

For The Sun Chronicle

Jeff Kinney remembers the day Plainville went from the town where he lived to the town where he will live for the rest of his life.

It was 2005, and there was a parade downtown to celebrate Plainville's centennial. The center was packed with what seemed like most of the 8,000 residents at the time.

"There was a real sense of community that day," Kin-

ney, creator of the hugely popular "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book series, said in a recent interview with The Sun Chronicle. "Neighbors and friends were all talking and enjoying themselves. We felt really connected to the community. And (wife) Julie and I decided then that's the kind of town we want to live in."

And they are about to launch an ambitious, deeply public-spirited effort to provide a major facelift to their adopted hometown.

The Kinneys have purchased seven downtown buildings, including an old factory and drugstore. Some of the buildings have already been gutted.

Demolition will begin at a kickoff event for the project at 10 a.m. Saturday in the large parking lot at routes 1A and 106.

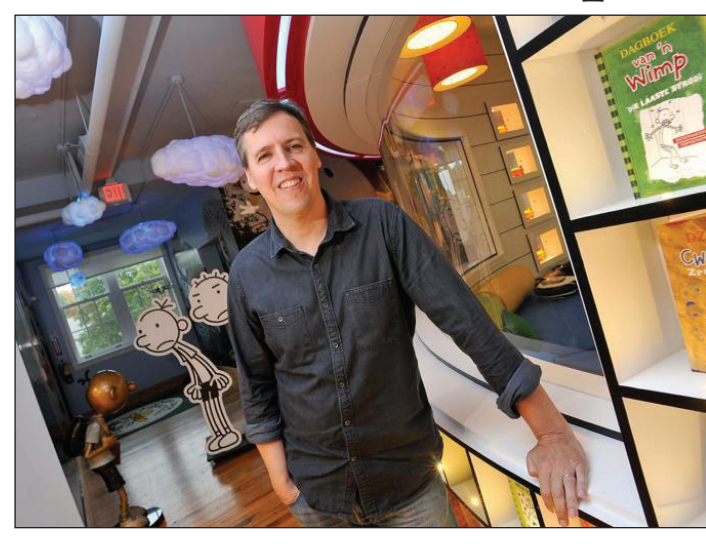
The Kinneys' bold plan will completely overhaul the existing town center, once known for its manufacturing and textile industries, and turn it into a destination spot

for residents and visitors. Once demolition is complete, building plans include an anchor restaurant, beer garden and a town green that could host farmers' markets, concerts, festivals and town gatherings.

See SPOT, page A5

"Wimpy Kid" book series author Jeff Kinney of Plainville has some big plans for the town he lives in.

Photo by Mark Stockwell



**CONTACT US:**

Delivery or subscription:  
401-767-8522  
Place an advertisement:  
401-767-8503  
Report a news event:  
401-767-8550

**INDEX:**

Amusements ..... A7  
 Calendar ..... A8  
 Comics ..... B5  
 Lotteries ..... A3  
 Obituaries ..... A5  
 Opinion ..... A4  
 Sports ..... B1

**WEATHER:**

TODAY  
 High: 82  
 Low: 62



**INSIDE: HEALTH**

**Take a break**  
 Short breaks for relaxation can help your brain  
 Page A2

# STORM WATCHERS



Photos by Joseph Nadeau

Stanley Tree Service arborists Peter Cardin, left, and Shawn Driscoll were pre-positioned at Market Square on Sunday as a line of thunderstorms approached the city. The company has a storm contract with power utility companies to clear trees affecting services when bad weather causes damage. “We’re waiting for the storm to come through,” Driscoll said. The company is a local police tracked one just 17 miles from Woonsocket. “They have us positioned and staged so when the storm comes in we will be able to react quickly,” Driscoll said. Storms are unpredictable, but Driscoll said preparedness is essential. “We have all the right tools and skills to do the job safely,” Driscoll added. An earlier round of storms did cause damage last week when a reported small tornado or microburst brought trees down in Cumberland and North Attleboro.

## Teacher

Continued from page A1

he said. “I’m the luckiest guy in the world because I’m able to make a decision to go this early, at 59 ½. I’m grandfathered in with some of the old pension rules, so my wife Linda and I will be able to go and live a middle-class American lifestyle.”

“I also noticed I’m getting more tired, and I don’t want to start short-cutting the job,” he continued. “I feel my energy level to give it 100 percent day-in and day-out is not what it used to be. If you think of teaching – this is the way I think of it – as each class being a separate show, I’ve done about 38,800 shows. Take away 800 or so if you like for assemblies and other activities, so I’ve done 38,000 shows.”

“I can still do it from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., but my desire to do the school out of business has waned; that’s really where it is. I haven’t lost my fastball yet. I still teach the way I always did, old-school, and it still works. I mean it, it does. But I find myself, it’s just tougher and tougher to crack open the laptop every night and having to correct tests and papers and tweak lesson plans.”

The fact he had major back surgery in Boston last October and spent 13 weeks on the mend didn’t help matters. He nevertheless did say he missed teaching and his kids every day. He admitted he felt bad missing so much school, but

didn’t have a choice due to the time it took to heal.

“If it was just school, I could have kept going another couple of years; I still so love this job,” he said. “There’s nothing better than going in there and being with those kids from 8 to 2. That’s the best part. It’s the after-school stuff. I had to physically give up coaching baseball at North Cumberland, and that wasn’t long after we lost the state middle-school championship down in West Warwick.”

“It was all because of the back.”

Cardoso’s career at Davies never would have happened if it wasn’t for his love of electronics at a young age. It was then that he went to work for Joe Rentes, whose family owned Valley Electronics in Central Falls, as a boy. He swept the floors and did small jobs, but eventually learned the trade from Rentes and his cohorts.

Cardoso later graduated from Cumberland High as a student-athlete in 1982, then decided to enroll at the Rhode Island School of Electronics (RISE) to earn an Associate’s in Electronics Technology. He did that in 1984, and just weeks later he was hired as an audio-visual technician by the Woonsocket School Department.

He was only 19.

“I started getting feelers from Davies in the summer of ’87; that’s when Davies was going to bring in a ninth-grade program,” he said. “Prior to the ’87-’88 school year, it was strictly

10-11-12.”

In the fall of ’87, Cardoso received a phone call from a familiar number. On the other side of the line was then-Davies Principal Jack Keough, who had been told by former mentor Rentes that Cardoso would be a perfect addition to the staff.

“Joe was an electronics teacher at Davies, and he knew, I guess, that I could do what they were looking for,” he said. “At first, I declined. I thought I was too young. I was only 22, and I was unsure. I wasn’t confident, and I had a nice gig in Woonsocket. The more I thought about it, I talked to my wife, and I figured I’d give it a shot.”

“I had to go take a proficiency exam, which I passed, and they gave me an emergency teaching certificate, which automatically renewed every year based on you taking two courses per year.”

He decided to do that, and – while teaching during the day – he would go to night school at Rhode Island College. In 1996, he had enough credits to earn a Bachelor’s in Career & Technical Education. Immediately after that, he re-enrolled at RIC to gain a Master’s in Technical Education, and he achieved that in 1999.

Before that, due to his love for baseball, he led the Davies Tech varsity baseball team for eight years, but gave up the position when his oldest, Jared, was ready to play the family game himself.

When asked how he’s

seen Davies change over the years, he glanced outside his front door and slowly smiled.

“You know, I’m the last link to the glory days, to the originals who opened the building in 1972 – Verne Gaskins, Billy Murphy, who I’m still best friends with,” Cardoso said. “The person who’s nearest to me in tenure is 11 years behind, so there’s been a lot of personnel that’s come and gone.”

“I really think that with me leaving, you lose something institutionally because I know what the school and staff was like back then. People always come up to me and ask me what Davies was like back then. Nobody knows who Verne Gaskins or Bill Murphy are now. The thing about teaching, once you leave, the kids you had remember you, but only that group of kids.”

“Next year, the incoming freshmen aren’t going to know who Mr. Cardoso was,” he added. “I will say the school has changed; I think it’s more business-like today. Years ago, we were finding our way; we were young, and really tight as a staff. We all got along so well, and with the kids, too. I sort of felt like Tom Hanks in The Green Mile in that I have this course that I’m living forever at Davies and all of my contemporaries are gone.”

Cardoso explained he never would have lasted without the help of what he called three mentors, including Rentes, Gaskins and Murphy. He thanked

Rentes not only for being so patient with him as a boy at the family business but also believing in him enough to tout him as a Davies instructor.

“What Verne taught me was how to teach through coaching; he always said it, ‘Teaching is coaching and coaching is teaching,’” he said of Gaskins, the legendary Patriots’ boys’ varsity basketball coach and physical education instructor. “I learned how to teach and coach under Verne, and those were valuable lessons.”

“Billy showed me how to run a program,” he continued. “People have to understand when you teach a skill area, particularly at Davies, it’s like a small business. You have to outfit it with equipment, you need supplies, you have to take care of your workers, who are your students. You need to fill the demand out in industry, help businesses with what you need. You have to form partnerships with businesses.”

“You have to make sure what you’re delivering to your students is what Rhode Island industry needs, and that’s what I learned from Billy.”

When asked about how the students have changed, he said they seemed older then, and there weren’t a lot of “The Breakfast Club” type cliques back then.

“Today, the diversity at Davies? That’s the thing

that really stands out to me, and the thing I love most about it,” he said. “It was a mostly white population when I started, and then there was more of a Hispanic population; now it’s a melting pot. There are a lot of African students now, but I don’t see that.”

“The lens I have, I just see the students in front of me, those who want to learn. I see students who care about their futures.”

Amazingly, he’s served under every principal/director the school has ever had but the first, Norman Eichner. Two in particular he said he felt the most gratitude for included Steve Thornton, a former Minnesota Twins outfielder, and Vickie Gailiard-Garrick.

He also delivered shout-outs to former supervisors Brian Butler, Gerry Manning and, most recently, Susan Votto.

“You know, I spoke to the school’s Board of Directors the other day, and I told them, ‘I’m the luckiest guy in the world,’” he said. “I said, ‘I don’t mean to sound like Lou Gehrig, but I stumbled into this job. I didn’t go searching for this job, it searched me out via Joe Rentes, and it’s given me everything I have in my life, and what my wife and kids have. It’s all due in large part to Davies.’”

“I owe everything to that school.”

## Driver

Continued from page A1

quoted Fugere as saying. “The interaction was extremely

and upon a second officer arriving (Fugere) was removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs.”

Fugere, whose address matches that of the Holiday Inn Express, has never been arrested before, according to the

judiciary web site. He was scheduled to be arraigned in Sixth District Court later on July 1, but no details had been uploaded to the site as of press time.

## Arrest

Continued from page A1

an attempt to protect herself, she fell to the ground, which is when Hicks came after her with a bat and began striking her repeatedly in the leg.

The woman told police she tried to call the police, but Hicks allegedly snatched the phone away from her to prevent her from doing so.

Hicks eventually stopped striking her, but

when he did he went into a bedroom, flipped the bed upside down and began throwing more things.

Through a balcony window, police were able to see Hicks inside the apartment, which was “in complete disarray,” according to Patrolman Cameron Hill’s report.

After police forced their way in, Hicks was located in the kitchen and arrested without further ado.

It’s unclear what may have triggered Hicks’ tumultuous outburst. The

victim, Hicks’ girlfriend for three years, told police he had been acting “weird” and coming home intoxicated for the last several days.

She was transported to Landmark Medical Center for treatment after telling first-responders that her leg was in pain, police reports say.

### LOTTERY NUMBERS

Monday’s RI Daily  
Mid-day: 3-0-4-3  
Evening: 8-5-0-2

Monday’s Mass. Daily  
Mid-day: 8-3-5-1  
Evening: n/a

Sunday’s Mass Cash  
9-14-27-31-32

BLACKSTONE VALLEY'S  
**CALL & TIMES**  
75 Main St., Woonsocket, RI 02895  
www.woonsocketcall.com | www.pawtuckettimes.com  
Newsroom fax: (401) 765-2834  
e-mail: notices@woonsocketcall.com  
sports@woonsocketcall.com

#### SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

CIRCULATION: Per copy - \$1.50 Monday - Friday; \$3.00 Saturday  
Delivery by 8:00 a.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays, holidays.  
Home delivery or billing questions: 401-767-8522

**ADVERTISING**  
Classified: 767-8503  
Display: 767-8503  
Advertising FAX: 767-8509

**BUSINESS OFFICE**  
Classified Billing: 475-1220  
Display Billing: 475-1220

BLACKSTONE VALLEY'S  
**CALL & TIMES**  
Published Monday through Saturday by  
Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers