



## East Greenwich boys tennis team finds perfect ending

SPORTS, 1B

# The Providence Journal

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Tin Roof performs 1920s jazz on a porch on Hope Street during Porchfest. Music spanning from punk rock to children's music could be heard from houses on Providence's East Side. PHOTOS BY WHEELER COWPERTHWAITTE/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

## Schools to revert to local control

### Handoff to Providence earlier than expected

**Wheeler Cowperthwaite**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PROVIDENCE – The state will hand back local control of the Providence Public School District on June 30, a year earlier than planned, after legislation was submitted to force the return to local control.

The move to give the Providence schools back on June 30 came as a surprise, as it had been scheduled for a handoff a year later, in June 2027, according to a memo released earlier in May.

Providence schools have been under state control since 2019. The transition will involve giving the School Board, which currently holds only an advisory role, final authority over the Providence Public School Department's budget.

Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green made the recommendation in the form of an order to turn over the schools during the May 26 meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 6A

# Neighborhood beats

## Despite a little rain, Porchfest a hit on Providence's East Side

**Wheeler Cowperthwaite**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PROVIDENCE – Rain and cool weather for the second year in a row did not deter musicians or revelers who showed up to Providence's Porchfest on the East Side.

The music festival featured musicians, most local or from surrounding areas, playing free concerts on porches and in driveways on main and side streets on the East Side.

The festival involved closing some residential streets, so people can crowd in the street in front of the houses.

The Porchfest lineup this year ranged from 1920s jazz to "indie rock with teeth," to children's music, to punk, to hip hop, to "dad grass" to rap to "a funky pirate party experience" to "ultimate frisbee players performing original frisbee-themed songs."

This year marked the fourth time the festival has been held, and plans are in the works for it again in 2027.

New this year was a Porchfest app, for Android and Apple, which helped map where performances were happening.

The event was organized by volunteers in the neighborhood.



Crowds gather on a street on Providence's East Side to listen to a band during this year's Porchfest on May 30. This was the fourth year of the festival.



A member of Tin Roof plays the clarinet at Porchfest.

## Barrington voters baffled by lack of ballot options

**Antonia Noori Farzan**  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

At Barrington's first-ever Financial Town Referendum, 57% of voters approved the town's proposed budget for the upcoming year.

No one voted against it. They couldn't, because there was only one option on the ballot: "Accept."

Now, some baffled residents are wondering why the town bothered holding the May 27 referendum at all.

"I just think it's idiotic that we're going to go to the trouble of holding a vote

See **BARRINGTON**, Page 7A

**Paul Masse** 35 YEARS  
CHEVROLET

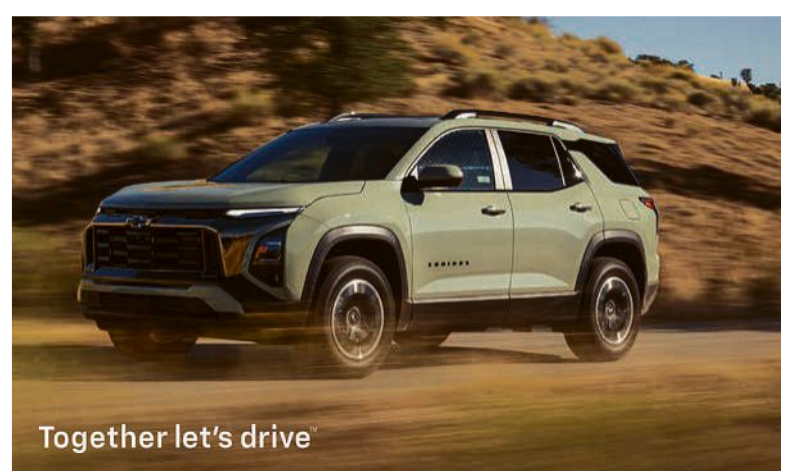
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