



Analysis: Trump short on foreign policy wins

INSIDE, 2A

The Providence Journal

DISTINGUISHED NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 | PROVIDENCEJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

POLITICAL SCENE



State Rep. David Morales, left, is challenging incumbent Mayor Brett Smiley in the Democratic primary to lead Providence. KRIS CRAIG/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL AND DAVID DELPOIO/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL ; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL BRAMMER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Revival in the works for Camp Canonicus

New owners to bring retreats back this fall

Antonia Noori Farzan
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A group planning to revitalize Camp Canonicus has closed on the 300-acre property in Exeter and North Kingstown.

Records show that Canonicus Ministries paid \$500,000 to purchase the camp – which is valued at over \$3 million – from American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island on Aug. 14.

“We’re very excited,” said Tony Pappas, who serves on the board of Canonicus Ministries. “It’s been a two-year-plus journey. There were moments we were quite discouraged, and now, all of a sudden, we are home.”

Canonicus Ministries is a relatively new nonprofit led by members of the Baptist community who want to bring back religious retreats, summer camps, conferences and other events at Camp Canonicus.

The group formed after ABCORI, an association of 67 Baptist churches in Rhode Island, announced plans to sell the bucolic, wooded property – which in turn sparked a movement to save it.

Camp’s future was uncertain after vote to sell property

Rhode Island’s Baptists have used Canonicus as a Christian camp and retreat since the 1940s, and generations of campers remember it as a formative experience.

“In our denomination, particularly, Camp Canonicus has been the central place by which we identify ourselves,” Charles Hartman, the camp’s pastor for 40 years, told The Providence Journal in 2024.

However, by 2024, the camp was

See **CANONICUS**, Page 4A

CAPITAL FIGHT

Where Providence Mayor Brett Smiley, David Morales stand on the issues

Patrick Anderson Providence Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Providence mayoral campaign between Brett Smiley and David Morales is an old-school clash of ideas. • Democratic socialist Morales is headlining a push by Providence’s political left to take control of City Hall, where it already has a council majority, and make it the latest blue city municipal government to embrace a new form of progressive populism.

Smiley is a well-known figure in Rhode Island’s Democratic establishment, a former consultant and top aide to Gina Raimondo who grabbed national attention during last winter’s Brown University shooter manhunt and may be surprised to find himself in a tough re-election scrap.

A New York City fundraiser where Morales supporter and Reclaim RI organizer Dan Denvir said, “David is going to turn Providence, Rhode Island, into a laboratory for municipal socialism” has featured prominently in Smiley attack ads.

Is Morales the next Zohran Mamdani? All politics is local, but this campaign really revolves around real estate.

Smiley, whose husband works in the industry, wants private investment and residential development to help drive

See **ISSUES**, Page 6A

‘Pizza Strip Fund’ hopes to bring neighbors together

Antonia Noori Farzan
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new initiative called “The Pizza Strip Fund” is offering grants that can be used to purchase snacks and supplies for small-scale neighborhood gatherings in the Providence suburbs.

“Pizza strips are the original Rhode Island low-lift gathering food – they’re easy to serve, easy to eat, and a guaranteed crowd-pleaser,” the website explains. “You can use the fund to grab some party pizza from a favorite local bakery, or to cover any easy-lift snack you’d like.”

The fund will provide between \$50 to

\$150 for gatherings of 10 people or more “that bring people together who might not otherwise connect,” the website says. It’s particularly aimed at car-dependent suburbs where residents can easily become isolated from another.

“For many of us, it’s easy to go days without doing more than waving to our neighbors,” organizer Jillian Finkle said

in a statement. “If this description applies to you, our fund is for you and your neighbors!”

People interested in hosting a community gathering can learn more and apply for funding at pizza-strips.lovable.app.

See **PIZZA STRIPS**, Page 5A

Paul Masse 35 YEARS

BUICK GMC

PAUL MASSE BUICK GMC SOUTH
SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI, USA 02874
(401) 360-3000 (t) (401) 667-7096 (f)

STABILITRAK
REMOTE STARTER SYSTEM
KEYLESS START
APPLE CARPLAY
BUICK QUIETTUNING
REAR DUAL USB PORTS
6 SPEAKER AUDIO SYSTEM
LED HEADLAMPS
HEATED OUTSIDE MIRRORS
FORWARD COLLISION ALERT
LANE KEEP ASSIST
HD REAR VISION CAMERA

2026 ENVISTA PREFERRED

MSRP: \$27,485
DEALER DOC AND TITLE PREP FEE: +\$399
PAUL MASSE DISCOUNT: -\$500
One Price FOR EVERYONE: \$27,384
CONQUEST OFFER: -\$1,000

FINAL SALE One Price \$26,384

ASK ABOUT 1.9%

LEASE **\$298** x24 MOS. w/
OPTION **\$3,988** TOTAL DUE

LEASES: 10,000 MILES PER YEAR - SALES TAX AND DOC FEE EXTRA - MUST HAVE A CURRENT GM/CONQUEST LEASE IN HOUSEHOLD

8 AT THIS ONE PRICE | 81 AVAILABLE INCLUDING SPORT TOURING AND AVENIR

BUICK

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to providencejournal.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 198 | No. 30
To subscribe 401-277-7600
©2026 \$3.00

