



Why beating North Smithfield mattered to Toll Gate Titans

SPORTS, 1B

The Providence Journal

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WAITING FOR TAKEOFF



A Flock Safety drone lifts off from its dock. Warwick police require special approvals to operate drones in the same airspace as T.F. Green International Airport. PROVIDED BY FLOCK SAFETY

Airport complicates Warwick police drone program

Mark Reynolds Providence Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

WARWICK – Warwick police are deep into a complex project to give local officers drone support and real-time situational awareness as they respond to calls.

However, they’ve faced a unique challenge launching the program: The city is home to the busiest airport in Rhode Island.

In March, Warwick’s police chief, Col. Michael G. Lima, guardedly expressed his hope of establishing a “Drone as First Responder,” or DFR, program within a span of about two months.

That timeline hasn’t held, but Lima said that based on recent progress, he once again has reason

to hope that the program can launch within the next two months.

“That’s the plan,” said Lima, who is seeking his own remote pilot certificate, as he pursues the project.

The establishment of first-response drone operations in Rhode Island in 2026 is a historic development with the potential for substantial public safety implications.

Providence’s program, which launched early in June, has already shown that drones can change public safety outcomes in significant ways as fast-paced events unfold.

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“We’ll hopefully come to some common ground on where we can be.”

Col. Michael G. Lima, Warwick’s police chief

Republican Talan sees a narrow path to victory in Providence mayor’s race

Colin Hogan

Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Providence mayor’s race has already seen one paradigm-toppling, generation-shifting election result this year.

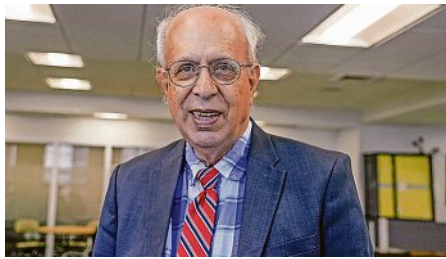
Dave Talan, the 77-year-old Republican candidate for mayor, is hoping for just one more.

After 28-year-old David Morales’ vic-

tory in the Democratic primary, Talan now sees a path – narrow though it may be – to unify fractious political parties, inspire rivals toward collaboration and to reimagine (once more) the politics of Rhode Island’s capital city.

“If Mayor [Brett] Smiley had won renomination, which I thought he would, I realistically would have had no path to victory,” Talan said in a recent interview

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Dave Talan is the Republican candidate for Providence mayor. DAVID DELPOIO/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Man, 61, charged in 1985 slaying

DNA analysis cited as breakthrough in case

Mark Reynolds

Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 61-year-old former Newport man was arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and charged with murder in the 1985 strangling of a 22-year-old Jamestown woman, Hillary L. Hellewell, whose body was left on a Newport sidewalk, Attorney General Peter F. Neronha announced, citing recent DNA analysis as the major breakthrough in the 41-year-old case.

Prosecutors learned on Sept. 24 that a 2026 DNA profile from the suspect, William Morton, is consistent with a 1985 DNA profile from the victim’s pants, as well as a blue T-shirt found near her body, Neronha said.

The DNA profile from Morton, he said, came from a bottle that the Smithfield man drank from as he and his fiancée took in a concert at the Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket on Aug. 21.

Flanked by Newport Police Chief Ryan Duffy and members of the attorney general’s cold case unit, Neronha announced the case against Morton at

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TO THE READERS

Providence Journal shifts to digital for some holidays

Lynne Sullivan

Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Starting Monday, Oct. 12 – Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day – The Providence Journal will not publish and deliver a print edition of the newspaper on select holidays.

But we still will be publishing the eNewspaper, the digital replica of the printed paper that you all know and love, all 365 days a year.

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