

Polisena expects \$12 million from stimulus

By JACOB MARROCCO

Mayor Joseph Polisena said he expects the town to receive \$12 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan, but didn't commit to any projects until "I get the check in my hand."

Polisena said he believes the money will come in two payments – one this year and another in 2022 – and upon its delivery he will meet

with the Town Council to discuss the most prudent ways of spending it.

He said he has some ideas in mind for the money, but declined to discuss specifics beyond saying they would "have a positive effect on the 30,000 residents of this town." He also said he hoped the potential initiatives would have a "long-lasting impact" over the next several decades.

"The old saying, 'The

check's in the mail,' once I get the check in my hand, then I'll believe it. I know Washington, they're constantly fighting back and forth, so who knows what's going to end up happening," Polisena said during a phone interview on Tuesday. "I'm just looking forward to sitting with the council members, discuss with them, and I think they'll be very happy when they find out what my plans would like

to be. I think they'll agree, I know they'll agree because it's a good way to get the most impact out of the money."

Polisena said he and his administration are going to start working on their budget soon, with the intention of holding a public workshop with the Johnston School Committee to address its \$1.6 million shortfall. He said the discussion would focus on "what they're going

to do with the money and where the money's going to go."

"They passed the budget with the \$1.6 million increase, but I don't think they addressed the structural deficit of \$2 million," Polisena said. "I'm willing to compromise with the School Committee, we work together. We're not North Korea and South Korea so to speak, so I'll sit down with them and the council and we'll

come up with a solution that is advantageous to the taxpayers, because bottom-line, this is all falls on the taxpayers."

The mayor said residents need to be cognizant of the landfill closing in the next decade, a move that will strip Johnston of \$5 million in payments and free tipping. The town has no shortage of possible new revenue

■ POLISENA - PAGE 9



A toast to Tony

Above, Mayor Joseph Polisena offers remarks on outgoing Johnston Senior Center director Anthony Zompa, who is retiring at the end of this month, at a special luncheon on Wednesday. For more photos, turn to page 6. (Sun Rise photos)



MIGHTY MISSION: Among those staffers from The Bridge at Cherry Hill who participated in last week's 51st anniversary of Earth Day are, from left, Marvin Carter, Liz White, Executive Director Maryann Grace and Cullen McKain. (Submitted photo)

Community comes together to clean up Johnston Memorial Park on Earth Day

By PETE FONTAINE

Marvin Carter, the highly acclaimed chef who doubles as food service director at The Bridge at Cherry Hill, wore an entirely different hat last Thursday while performing a number of outdoor duties.

Carter went out to Johnston War Memorial Park to rake leaves and pile them into extra-large disposal bags, while Executive Director Maryann Grace, The Bridge's new sales director Cullen McKain and business office director Liz White performed other such yard-work duties in the nationwide observance of Earth Day 2021.

Equally as impressive was that the day's chilly temperatures, which felt even colder because of the brisk breeze that swept through the fields, didn't impede Grace's gang. They worked for more than two

hours cleaning up the park.

"We were proud to be part of Earth Day, and to join sister communities throughout the country for this important annual event that began in 1970 as an environmental movement," Grace said.

Carter, meanwhile, said, "I'll take the warmth of our kitchen anytime, but truthfully, we all enjoyed having rakes in hand to clean up parts of the park even though the wind made chasing down the leaves a little difficult."

Everyone from the "Team at The Bridge" to Gov. Dan McKee participated in last Thursday's

Earth Day 2021, which is held to improve air and water quality, clean up contaminated lands, conserve open space, increase recreational opportunities, and take action to confront climate change and enhance Rhode Islanders quality of life.

"Earth Day is a time to get outdoors and explore our state's abundant natural resources, from the rolling hills of the Blackstone Valley to the sandy shores of Aquidneck Island, to the sparkling waters that grace southern Rhode Island," McKee

■ PARK - PAGE 9

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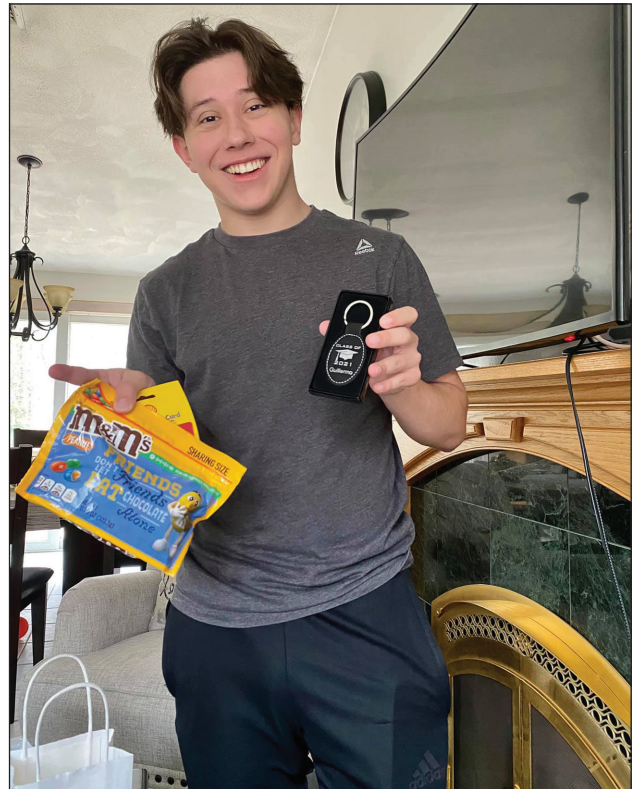
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A fond farewell

Pictures have poured into the Johnston High School Adopt-A-Senior Facebook page over the past few weeks, as students in their last year roaming the halls at JHS receive gifts and well wishes from those who chose to "adopt" them. Whether it's candy, a pair of socks or a gift card to a local coffee shop, seniors are beaming in every photo posted to the page as comments below offer them congratulations as graduation nears. These are just a small selection of pictures posted to the group, with students and their parents giving thanks to their benefactors for the gracious gifts. (Photos courtesy of JHS Adopt-A-Senior Facebook page)

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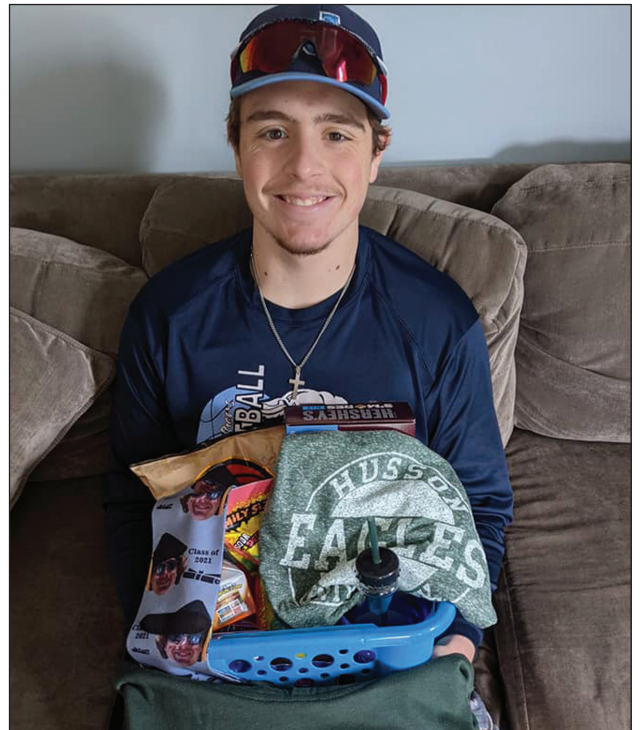
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Magaziner strives to ensure recovery of small businesses

By JOHN HOWELL

General Treasurer Seth Magaziner had a surprise for the Warwick Rotary Club, although he didn't let the cat out of the bag until he talked about his program to reunite individuals, businesses and even non-profits with unclaimed property. Since initiating the online program, findrimoney.com that Magaziner confesses sounds fake, more than \$73 million has been reunited with its rightful owners.

Before joining the service club's weekly Thursday Zoom meeting, Magaziner did a bit of online sleuthing, finding the club had \$156 in unclaimed property. He vowed to get out a check.

Not strangely given the times, Magaziner opened his talk with the impact of the pandemic and why recovery of small business is critical to the state's economy.

"Small business is absolutely vital to Rhode Island," he said.

Before the pandemic he said nearly 99 percent of the businesses in Rhode Island employed

fewer than 500 people and a majority of the private sector workforce was employed at those small businesses.

He said since the shutdown last March, small business revenues dropped 50 percent and the actual number of small businesses with sales declined by 40 percent.

"So more than four out of 10 small businesses in Rhode Island basically went out of operation during 2020. It's a staggering number."

"Looking forward, the question is not whether or not there will be an economic recovery, there will be a recovery, it's already happening, people are already starting to go out more spend money more consumer spending has rebounded already to pre pandemic levels. The question is who is going to benefit from that recovery, because at the same time that small business revenue was down 50 percent last year, Amazon's revenue was up 38 percent... the question is who will benefit because of the only beneficiaries are the

primary beneficiaries are the big chain stores and the big online retailers. And we don't rebuild a real small business ecosystem in Rhode Island, then we lose something we lose not only the jobs and the revenue, but we lose a part of our identity and part of our culture as Rhode Island."

Magaziner said his office is looking to make it easier for existing small businesses to survive and for new ones to grow.

To do that Magaziner said the office has been moving millions of dollars of state money to local banks and credit unions.

"Because those local institutions know their communities, they can be more nimble in working with smaller businesses and more flexible in taking a risk on somebody who's starting a business for the first time."

To illustrate, Magaziner said if a local community bank or credit union makes a loan, say \$100,000, to someone starting a small business the Treasurer's office will move \$100,000 in state money to the financial institution.

"If it is a loan to a first

time entrepreneur, a veteran owned business or a woman or minority owned business, we'll do a two to one match," he said

Since the beginning of the program Magaziner said the state has moved more than \$40 million to support more than 350 small business loans.

Magaziner said his office has introduced a whole series of bills to help existing small businesses and make it easier for people to start businesses.

He singled out legislation to exempt federal Payroll Protection Program loans that are exempt from federal taxation exempt from state taxation.

Here Magazine differs with Gov. Dan McKee who is looking to tax loans of more than \$150,000. McKee argues not only does the state need the tax revenues to balance the budget, but also that companies with greater than \$150,000 loans are likely to be larger and profitable companies.

Magaziner said, "At that level (\$150,000), it still includes a lot of small businesses, res-

taurants, donut shops, small retailers, coffee shops, and so we're trying to get those taxes waived because we believe that Rhode Islanders deserve the same treatment that small businesses and 40 other states are getting."

Another bill, he said, would make it easier for people to start new small businesses in Rhode Island or reopen closed businesses.

"So for example," he said, "we have one bill and that says if you were a small business owner and you had to shut down and you're on unemployment, we will let you keep your unemployment benefits for a couple months while you reopen. So instead of those benefits shutting off on day one, you'll have a runway of a couple of months as you're ramping up to make it easier to go back."

Among other programs of the Treasurer's office, Magaziner touched on the crime victims' compensation fund that help victims from a violent crime cover up to \$25,000 in expenses incurred in

connection with the crime. He funds can be used to cover lost wages, transportation, medical expenses, counseling and relocation among other things.

He said the fund had special relevance to Warwick in that it was available to the 60 people who were forced from their Les Chateaux apartments by arson.

Not all the meeting was devoted to economic recovery. Politics and Mazaziner's plans, as he is term limited came up. He was asked if he would run for governor in 2022.

He talked about his love for Rhode Island and how he wants to continue working on programs to help the state.

And where does that leave it?

"The short answer is I haven't decided yet," he said.

Club President Dan Scanlon thanked Magaziner for finding the club's unclaimed money, adding that during the meeting he went on the site, making application for personal unclaimed property he discovered.



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CHAMP'S CORNER: Famed U.S. champion kickboxer and 5th Degree Black Belt Christina Rondeau (right) and Becky Rhodes enjoy a special moment inside the ring during Saturday's special open house. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Rondeau's Kickboxing open house a knockout success

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a flurry of activity this weekend in and around of Christina Rondeau's well-designed and impressively stocked kickboxing training/fitness facility located at 1408 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

Rondeau, who is perhaps Rhode Island's most famed female athlete when it comes to the grueling sport of competitive kickboxing and in-the-ring matches, showed off her newest location in grand style Saturday during a five-hour open house that included everything from visiting vendors to matches featuring both girls and boys.

Outside, vendors like

Haley DeFontes were selling a variety of personalized products and enjoying the camaraderie that has always been the earmark of any Rondeau event.

People of all ages even posed between two giant-size wings that are pained on the north side of Rondeau's spacious facility, her other and much smaller training facility being located on Killingly Street.

Meanwhile, Becky Rhodes — an accomplished kickboxing instructor and trainer — issued orders through a headset microphone as more than a dozen women of different ages moved swiftly about to lively music while level-

ing punch after punch into a hanging bag.

Yet, none of those boxers slacked off, following each and every one of Rhodes' commands while gaining the admiration of Rondeau.

Rondeau took time to introduce any kickboxing newcomers — as well as people who stopped by just to take in the open house — to what has become Rhode Island's most heart-warming charity. She founded "Knock Out Wishes," which enables the U.S. champion kickboxer to give back to the community in a number of ways.

"Knock Out Wishes has and continues to help others who are going through hardships to

make a different in their lives," Rhodes explained. "Christina raised funds by holding events such as today's open house and kickboxing demonstrations and exhibition fights."

A few years back, Rondeau found out thieves had broken into a senior apartment complex in Woonsocket and stolen a giant television that was the only screen for some to watch in the community room.

She later held an exhibition at the Killingly Street location and soon thereafter purchased an even larger widescreen than the one that was stolen. It came just in time for the residents to gather and watch the Super Bowl.



TERRIFIC TARGETS: One of the early highlights of Saturday's open house was upwards of a dozen women moving swiftly about to lively music while slugging away at the hanging bags inside Christina Rondeau's new facility in Johnston.

Will Chauvin verdict mark a paradigm shift?

TALKING POLITICS



by
IAN
DONNIS

Whether the conviction of Derek Chauvin in the death of George Floyd represents a paradigm shift will take time to tell. For many, the conviction represents a long overdue step toward greater accountability.

"No verdict will ease the pain of the Floyd family, but a guilty verdict is a step in the right direction," Harrison Tuttle, executive director of the BLM RI PAC, said in a statement. "We have a long way to go before the U.S. Justice System comes close to something we can call 'justice.' We won't rest and we won't be silent until justice is finally, actually served."

The Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, via statement, said, "The verdict is a sign that there is accountability for those who take the life of another, and an affirmation that Black Lives Matter."

Another takeaway is how the video of Floyd's death was crucial. The graphic depiction of what happened was so brutal that it sparked widespread condemnation, and Chauvin's trial was notable for the number of fellow officers who testified against him.

But making change requires sustained effort, as seen by the longstanding difficulty of altering the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights in Rhode Island. And while the Providence Police Department has come a long way from the corruption, collusion and political influence of the Buddy Cianci era, concerns about police-community relations persist in some parts of the city.

Meanwhile, Rhode Island's Black/Latino Caucus was expected to unveil its legislative priorities this week.

You could almost hear the entire state of Rhode Island exhaling as Gov. Dan McKee announced plans to relax a series of pandemic-related restrictions by Memorial Day weekend.

"I'd say it's a little early to put a 'mission accomplished' sign up but we're getting ready to order that sign," McKee said during his weekly briefing.

McKee's announcement delighted the Rhode Island Hospitality Association and the Rhode Islanders who've chafed from what they consider the heavy hand of government. Yet Rhode Island still ranks well above the U.S. average for per-capita infections, some consider the reopening premature, and the politics of vaccine hesitancy is a growing concern.

One of the great Rhode Island political mysteries heading into 2022: Who will run for governor as a Republican?

House Minority Leader Blake Filippi is a plausible candidate, although he has downplayed speculation on that subject. Allan Fung, the GOP's standard-bearer from 2014 and 2018, recently took a job with Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara. And it remains unclear if an obscure political neophyte will emerge, a la Don Carcieri in 2002, to run the Republican table.

For now, the pandemic has for the last year squelched in-person networking, corporate consolidation has reduced the local business ranks that produced Carcieri, and Gov. McKee looks strong heading into 2022, with an ability to draw from independent and moderate GOP voters.

Across the partisan aisle, the factional fights among Rhode Island Democrats aren't about to fade away. Different climate coalitions are jockeying for State House influence, as Celia Hack reported for EcoRI. A bigger progressive caucus in the Rhode Island Senate represents a change from the past. And Reclaim RI, representing the left wing of Democrats, staged a 4/20 Statehouse rally in support of union rights for cannabis industry workers, expunging criminal records involving marijuana and setting aside a significant portion of the industry for working class people, people of color and people harmed by the war on drugs.

The momentum in a growing number of states has shifted toward legalizing recreational marijuana. In Rhode Island, it's harder for elected officials to oppose this when Massachusetts has legalization and Connecticut may be moving in that direction.

Count Rep. Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung (R-Cranston) among the skeptics, however.

"My main concern comes back to the public safety aspect," Fenton-Fung said on Political

Roundtable, and how it's difficult to enforce driving under the influence charges against stoned motorists.

The Cranston Republican questions whether the infrastructure exists to respond to an increase in marijuana use and whether it will foster more use of other drugs. (Fenton-Fung said she is a big supporter of medical marijuana).

The Rhode Island Foundation is leading an effort to gather views on how the state should spend the roughly \$1 billion expected in discretionary American Rescue Plan Act funds. The foundation will work with RIPEC and the Economic Progress Institute to collect these views over the next six months.

"The Foundation, with input from EPI and RIPEC, has recruited a steering committee in order to inform and assist the process of determining these critical spending recommendations," Neil Steinberg, president and CEO of the foundation, said in a statement. "We have assembled a diverse, representative, local steering committee to brainstorm and oversee a virtual public engagement process, and to ultimately formulate a set of recommended investments for consideration by the Governor and the General Assembly."

Gina Raimondo remains front and center as a very visible member of the Biden's administration economic team.

She is sounding an alarm about the national security threat posed by the lack of semiconductor production in the U.S. The former Rhode Island governor is bearish on the GOP's alternative infrastructure plan. And she's weighing in on relations between the U.S. and the rising power of China.

"We're very clear-eyed on the magnitude of the threat that China poses and we're prepared," Raimondo said last week in an interview with NPR.

Rhode Island media notes: Kudos and congrats to Jacob Marrocco as he moves from the Johnston Sun Rise to the New Harbor Group ... Congrats to old friend Pam Watts on her new role as co-host of the weekly newsmagazine at RI-PBS ... The time is right for a public campaign to get Ted Nesi in place (network affiliation issues notwithstanding) as a guest host of "Jeopardy!" ... Anchor

Rising, which used to duke it out with Matt Jerzyk's RI Future for the hearts and minds of the Rhody blogosphere, is back online ... Providence Media has announced a new subscription service for Providence Monthly and its other publications ... The ProJo has seemingly woken to how there's a newspaper war taking place in Rhode Island, judging by how the PJ is tweeting about deals on subscriptions. Not for Nothing, the Journal had one of its better Sunday A1s in recent memory earlier this month with the first installment of Alex Kuffner's excellent series on the disappearance of the winter flounder from Narragansett Bay, a timely Patrick Anderson piece on the outlook for bringing some vitality back to downtown Providence, and one of Mark Patinkin's evocative columns.

Frank Montanaro, a state employee since 1987, became something of an albatross for former House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, thanks to an arrangement in which he got nearly \$50,000 in free tuition at Rhode Island College. Montanaro served Mattiello as director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services, the hiring and spending arm of the General Assembly. Now, with House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi running the House, Montanaro is no longer working for the legislature, said spokesman Larry Berman.

You know interesting things are happening with the Red Sox when the data-info site FiveThirtyEight.com takes notice: "Truly, Boston fans have seen their team ride one of the weirdest roller-coasters in baseball history. If we add up their absolute season-over-season changes in winning percentage since 2011 — plugging in our forecast model for 2021's numbers — the Red Sox are currently in the second-most volatile 10-year stretch of season-to-season changes of any team since World War II, trailing only the Seattle Mariners from 2000 through 2010."

DC statehood seems highly uncertain due to the politics of the U.S. Senate. At the same time, regardless of the merits of the DC issue, would we in RI really want to relinquish our status as the smallest state?

Ian Donnis is the political reporter for The Public's Radio. He can be reached at idonnis@ripr.org. Follow him on Twitter (@IanDon).

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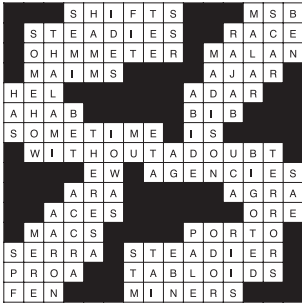
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 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

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 P.S. Burning mouth syndrome can occur in anyone, but women beginning or going through menopause are the most likely to experience it.

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Man of the hour

Outgoing Johnston Senior Center Director Anthony Zompa was treated to a special luncheon Wednesday afternoon, attended by a few dozen guests and local dignitaries. Mayor Joseph Polisena, Police Chief Joseph Razza, center coordinator Denise Bell and new Director Matthew Bolton each offered remarks on Zompa's two-decade tenure at the JSC. Polisena presented Zompa with a citation from the town honoring his 20 years of serving Johnston's seniors, helping take the center from a basement office on Priscilla Lane to the current location on Hartford Avenue. At the conclusion of their brief speeches, guests were invited to pick from various snacks at the front of the room. (Sun Rise photos)

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

The fate of RI's small businesses

What a difference a year makes. One year ago, Rhode Island was locked down in state-mandated quarantine and non-essential businesses that couldn't operate remotely were closed indefinitely, with no idea when they might be able to re-open – if they could reopen at all.

A year ago, not much was definitively known about COVID-19, how it spread or how it could be treated. Testing was nowhere near as available as experts advised would be necessary to control its spread. A vaccine was purely hypothetical, and the populace was essentially living day-to-day in between various states of uncertainty and fear.

And yet, one year later, here we are. Restrictions are being relaxed, rapid-result testing is available basically around the clock throughout the state and, amazingly, a significant portion of Rhode Islanders have been vaccinated – with all but the youngest members of

• WHERE TO WRITE:
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
JacobM@RhodyBeat.com

our state eligible to receive one if they wish (and they should, by the way). Somehow, the promise of a 2021 summer season resembling a state of pre-pandemic normalcy doesn't seem out of the question anymore.

However, the situation for small businesses in Rhode Island has not yet progressed to such a point of optimism.

Federal stimulus dollars granted through the Paycheck Protection Program and subsequent direct financial infusions to citizens' bank accounts has breathed life into a flat lining economy and certainly saved hundreds of Rhode Island small businesses in the process – but it does not erase the fact that for hundreds of other small businesses, the pandemic struck a deadly blow that has contributed towards an uncertain destiny for the Ocean State's economic identity moving forward.

As outlined by General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, a possible 2022 gubernatorial candidate, during his recent appearance at the Warwick Rotary Club, Rhode Island is uniquely dependent on its small businesses – with nearly 99 percent of businesses in the state employing 500 or fewer employees prior to the pandemic.

So much of Rhode Island's economy depends on those little mom and pop shops that dot our main streets and oceanside tourist destinations – the coffee shops and bakeries, repair shops, independently-owned boutiques, restaurants and beauty shops. It is part of the cultural fabric here to shop small and think about your neighbors when going out to make a purchase or find a service.

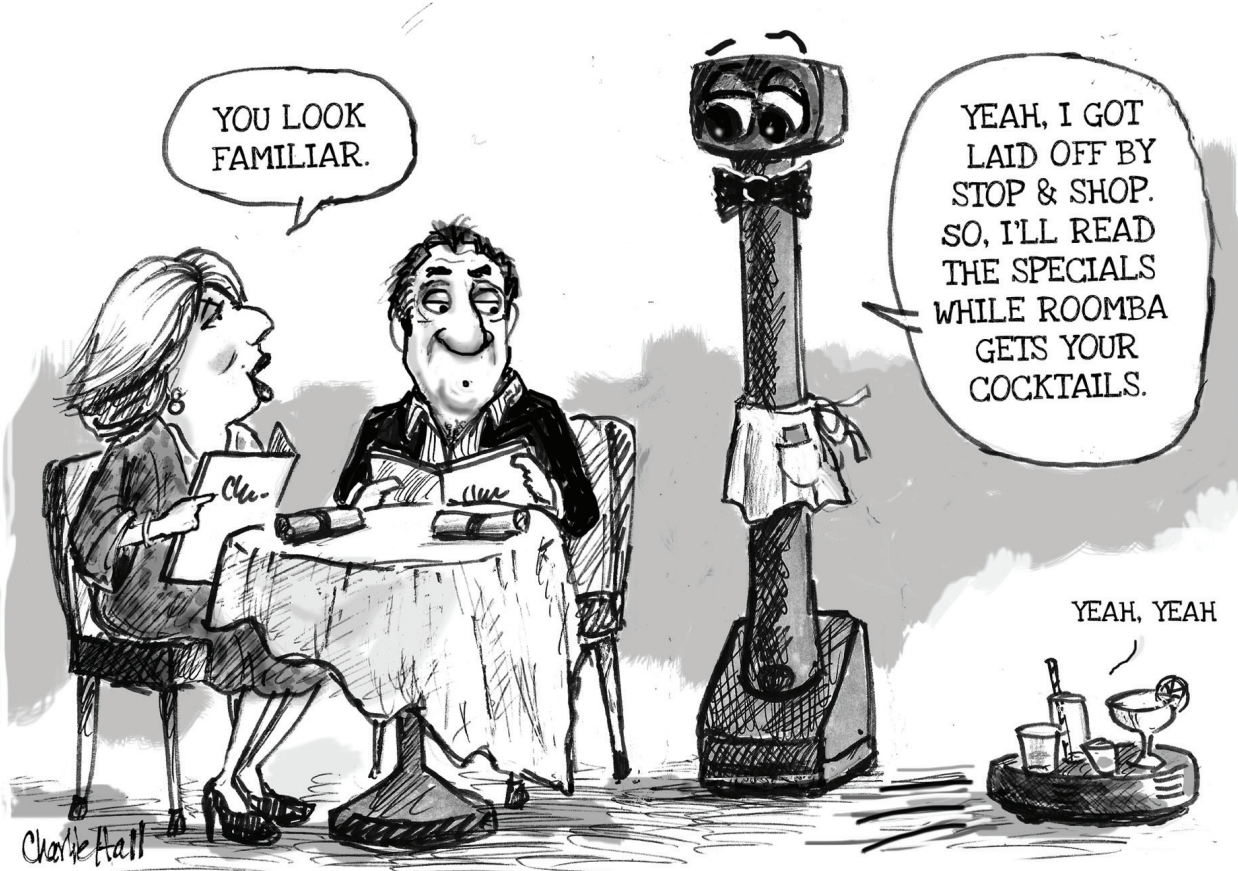
But since March, Magaziner cited, revenues for small businesses have dropped 50 percent and the number of small businesses making sales declined by 40 percent – basically meaning that for every 10 small businesses in the state, four didn't survive the pandemic's wrath.

We agree with Magaziner that Rhode Island can, and will, recover from this dark moment in history. Somehow, we always find a way to persevere despite the obstacles. However, whether we will remain a state that cherishes and props up its small businesses is yet to be determined.

As easy as it is to target governmental institutions with the success or failure of that endeavor – and we concur with the push back against Gov. McKee's proposal to tax PPP loans above \$150,000 – the ultimate success or failure of small business in Rhode Island will be up to the residents of Rhode Island.

The other noteworthy statistic Magaziner revealed during his Rotary Club appearance was that while small business revenue was down 50 percent, Amazon's revenue increased by 38 percent. Of course, this increase in online shopping should be expected during a time when a majority of people could not safely venture out to shop small and locally. However, if that becomes the new normal, Rhode Island's identity as a small business state will truly be in jeopardy.

Rhode Islanders have long been advocates for their communities and small business success stories. While the state and federal government should be providing aid to assist small business owners through this unprecedented hardship, it will be the responsibility of regular Rhode Islanders to shirk the convenient allure of the Amazons of the world if they truly hope to bring the economy, as we once knew it, back to life.



OP-ED

Housing 'czar' would streamline efforts

By REP. K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI

For years, housing advocates have been sounding the alarm that Rhode Island is facing a severe housing shortage. We simply don't have enough housing to meet the needs of our growing workforce, and too much of our existing housing is unaffordable for too many families.

Rhode Island has numerous dedicated housing advocates, many of whom have been doing yeoman's work for years with limited resources. However, there is no single person or agency charged with synthesizing efforts, directing policy and leading the work.

At the State House, we are moving quickly to address this issue.

Recently, I introduced legislation to create a deputy secretary of commerce and housing. I have compared this role to a "team captain" and testified recently before the House Finance Committee to advocate for the funding necessary to create this position, which would report directly to the secretary of commerce. We have other team captains in state government – agency directors and administrators – to advocate for and manage issues of high importance, including education, health and labor. If we want to truly make housing a priority, we need to have a central point person leading and coordinating those efforts.

Rhode Island's housing czar would also develop a matrix for accountability: as the captain of our housing team, this individual would be responsible for

benchmarking progress, but would also hold legislators and state agencies accountable.

There's no one silver bullet to solve Rhode Island's housing crisis. Rather, it will take a series of steps, and a commitment over time, to keep housing at the forefront of our consciousness.

The housing czar legislation is one piece in a seven-bill package of housing legislation aimed at making housing more available and affordable in Rhode Island. Just recently the House passed, and the Governor signed, legislation to prohibit discrimination against renters based on their source of income. I am proud to have advocated for the Fair Housing Practices Act for the past several years. My colleagues recognize the importance of this issue and share my sense of urgency: four other bills from our housing legislative package have already passed in the House. Our aim is to strategically approach the housing crisis from multiple angles by encouraging development while reducing barriers for people to find homes.

Additionally, Governor McKee has pledged in his budget to create a permanent funding stream for the construction of affordable housing by implementing a higher tax rate for homes selling for more than \$700,000.

Voters recently approved a \$65 million bond to invest in affordable housing. Senator Jack Reed was instrumental in securing \$400 million in rental assistance for Rhode Island, which will

go a long way in helping both landlords and tenants. And, Rhode Island will receive about \$1.78 billion from the federal American Rescue Plan, which is truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

It is also important to note that President Biden, as part of his American Jobs Act, has proposed a \$5 billion competitive grants program to incentivize municipalities to eliminate barriers to producing affordable housing, such as "exclusionary zoning and harmful land use policies." Rhode Island's housing czar could ensure that we maximize opportunities like this. The federal funding coming our way is a temporary, one-time fix; however, if we coordinate our efforts to maximize our

investments, we have an opportunity to affect change in Rhode Island for generations to come.

It will take an "all hands on deck approach" to find sustainable solutions to Rhode Island's housing crisis, and we must capitalize on the opportunities before us. As a state, we need to ensure that we are coordinating our efforts, streamlining processes, and maximizing our impact. It is not enough to allocate money to the issue and say "problem solved." In order to make our state's housing goals achievable, we need to have the organization and capacity to carry this effort over the finish line.

K. Joseph Shekarchi, a Democrat from Warwick, is the Speaker of the House.

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By MERI R. KENNEDY

Ways you can help the Johnston Historical Society

The Find on 6, 2953 Hartford Ave., is now accepting consignment items on behalf of the Johnston Historical Society. That means you can donate some gently used white elephant items and, if they sell, the society gets 60 percent of the proceeds. Each person may bring two boxes of goods at a time, Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appropriate items include antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing or handbags (in good condition), jewelry, kitchenware, furniture and more. Nothing broken or soiled is accepted.

RI Housing offers loans

RI Housing's Hardest Hit Fund Rhode Island (HHFRI) program is offering zero interest, forgivable loans to eligible Rhode Island homeowners who be-

came unemployed or underemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to make their mortgage payments.

Loan proceeds may provide eligible homeowners with up to six months of mortgage payment assistance. Learn more about the loan program and eligibility at rihousing.com/hhfr.

EG Art Club

The East Greenwich Art Club was formed in 1959 by local artists who came together to support each other while developing their art. It is a vibrant organization today, promoting the production, exhibition, and sale of its member's art. Membership is available to both beginners, as well as seasoned artists. During the monthly meetings, demonstrations are given by various artists to help members improve their skills and learn about other approaches to create interesting works of art.

The club is friendly

and membership is not limited to East Greenwich residents. Anyone who enjoys painting, photography, pottery, glasswork, sculpting, or just wants to learn about art, is encouraged to join. Meetings are conducted in a fun atmosphere, providing both technical support and camaraderie.

The East Greenwich Art Club is not currently meeting because of COVID-19 restrictions from the Rhode Island Department of Health directives. However, their board members are working together on Zoom to plan for the time when they will be able to resume indoors.

They have just scheduled a Spring Plein Air Meet Up at Goddard Park on Thursday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All levels and media are welcome! If you would like to join in, contact them at pr@eastgreenwichartclub.org.

Membership inquiries may be sent to membership@eastgreenwichartclub.org, or visit our website eastgreenwichartclub.org, where you will find a form to sign up and updated information.

FEMA funeral assistance

People can apply for FEMA Funeral Assistance now by calling (844) 684-6333. Families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 will be eligible for up to \$9,000 in reimbursement. There is no income cap, so nearly all families are eligible.

Interested applicants should start collecting their documents now. For more details on what you'll need, please visit fema.gov.

Playgrounds open in Memorial Park

The playgrounds are now open at the Johnston Memorial Park, and please remember that masks are required to be worn at all times. Please be advised that the restrooms remain closed at this time.

Summer jobs with DEM

DEM is recruiting qualified lifeguards at beaches, parks, and campgrounds. Full-time lifeguard positions are available at all state swimming areas, including saltwater beaches such as Roger Wheeler and Scarborough, non-surf beaches such as Goddard, and freshwater beaches such as Burlingame Campground and Lincoln Woods State

Park. Flexible, 20-hour workweeks are available for lifeguard positions at our busiest swimming areas. Hourly rates for lifeguards range from \$13.25 to \$16.25 an hour, based on location and position level.

All lifeguard candidates must have successfully completed courses and hold valid cards in lifeguard training, first aid, and CPR including infant, child, and adult.

DEM also is seeking park rangers and facilities attendants to work at recreational sites across the state. Park rangers are instrumental to a safe and fun experience at DEM properties. They give directions to beachgoers and park users, help with crowd control, provide security checks for facilities, and are the first responders in the event of emergency.

Hourly rates for park rangers range from \$10.50 to \$11.60. Applicants for facilities attendant and park ranger I must be 16 years of age or older, and applicants to park ranger positions at levels II and III must be 18 years of age or older.

For a complete list of seasonal employment opportunities and to apply, visit riparks.com/employment. Most positions are full-time and include weekend and holiday hours. Applications must be completed online. Paper applications will not be accepted. The state of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity/diversity employer.

With 50 percent fewer teens seeking jobs than 20 years ago, DEM is looking to recruit active older Rhode Islanders and retired military personnel who might want to work part-time work to make up for the lack of younger applicants.

For more information, visit riparks.com/employment.php.

Focus on mental health

NAMI Rhode Island is the state organization affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They offer an array of education and training programs and services for individuals living with mental illness, family members, schools, providers, and the general public. These programs draw on the experience of individuals with mental illness and family members who have learned to live well with their illnesses and are eager to help others, as well as the expertise of mental health professionals and

educators.

Their programs are free and virtual. For more information on all programs or if you are an interested volunteer, visit namirhodeisland.org or call (401) 331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland.org.

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across RI through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up go to BeKindRI.org. Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check. Be Kind RI is open to those in RI experiencing COVID-19 risk factors including seniors 65-plus, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of childcare, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call (877) 958-8785.

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

Free craft and activity kits for children are available at the library. Stop by the library to pick up one, or email [Ms. Meri.meri@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:Ms.Meri.meri@mohrlibrary.org) or call 231-4980 to make a reservation.

Johnston Senior Center offers services

If you need any help with heating, housing, etc., during this cold winter or any other time, contact the Johnston Senior Center Social Services Department by calling 944-3343. Madeline or Amy will be happy to help you.

News from the Mohr Memorial Library

Mohr Library is currently accessible to the public during reduced hours but continues to offer curbside pickup and other services during its regular schedule. Services include curbside delivery; reference help by phone, email or in person; recommendation lists and one-on-one help to explore interests in reading, viewing and listening; printing from home or your device; use of computers and copier; and a free notary public, evenings and Saturdays by appointment.

Johnston Community Library Book Club

Kids ages 8 to 10 can

meet online, by invitation, Thursdays at 3 p.m. to hear readings and discuss books with library trustee and volunteer Denese Carpenter.

Interested in other times or want to suggest a book for discussion? Let them know.

Parents can learn more about sign-up procedures by contacting Library Director Jon Anderson. Email info@mohrlibrary.org or call 401-231-4980, ext. 7.

Support the Johnston Historical Society

The Johnston Historical Society has T-shirts available for sale in sizes small through extra-large in slate blue, sand and a few in light green.

The JHS is an all-volunteer organization. Its museum is not staffed, but they are happy to open up by appointment for a tour of the museum, the house, and to purchase T-shirts and copies of books.

Call 231-3380 and leave a message with the color and size you would like.

Teen virtual programming during COVID-19

The Mohr Library is currently offering virtual versions of some of its teen programs as well as drop-in chats. They are all invite-only programs, so please contact the teen librarian at marissa@mohrlibrary.org to register or if you have any questions.

Art Club meets every Tuesday at 3 p.m. History Club meets monthly on the first Wednesday at 3 p.m. Drop-in chat days differ weekly, so please ask when registering.

Help make a house a home

The Furniture Bank of RI, a nonprofit corporation, needs bureaus, complete twin or double beds, kitchen sets, mattresses, and other household furniture that you no longer need.

To help a less fortunate family through your charitable donation of good used furniture, call (401) 831-5511 to arrange for pick up. All donated articles must be in good condition.

SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION LEGAL NOTICE

FORM OF NOTICE UNDER RI GENERAL LAWS 39-12.1 TO 12.1-15

TO: Commerce Insurance Box 32 N.Billerica MA 01862-0032. A PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 100 SOUTH ST JOHNSTON RI 02919 , On May 8th,2021 at 900 AM.THE VEHICLE A 2007 Honda Vln# 1HGC-M56417A222688 BELONGING TO THE ABOVE. THE AUCTION BEING HELD TO SATISFY TOWING AND STORAGE FEES.

4/30/21

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday May 4th, 2021; 6:00 P.M.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Via Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81546278065>

Passcode: 909334

iPhone one-tap: +16465588656

Via Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 81546278065

Passcode: 909334

NOTE: Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/>

Item 1 - Scheduled for 6:00 PM PB 20-35 - Seasons Corner Market

Expansion - Preliminary Plan and Unified Development Review for a Minor Land Development. Located at 525 Killingly Street - Plat 13 Lots 397 & 485 - Zoned B-2 - a 1.4-acre parcel. Applicant: Colbea Enterprises, LLC. A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development and the proposed expansion of an existing special use permit to increase the number of islands for gas service, a variance request to relocate an existing non-conforming free-standing sign, relocation of an existing drive through sign and expansion of a canopy sign.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Item 2 - Scheduled for 6:15 PM PB 21-19 - Regina Drive Subdivision - Preliminary Plan of a 3 lot Minor Subdivision - Located at the corner of Simmonsville Avenue and Regina Drive - AP 28 Lots 107 & 173 - Zoned R-20 - Applicant: Arthur L. Carruolo and 1025 LLC - Engineer: N. Veltri Survey, INC. A public meeting on the proposed 3 lot subdivision.

NOTE - The Full Plan set is available for review in the Planning Office 100 Irons Avenue Monday through Friday, 8AM to noon and 1PM to 3PM.

Planning Board documents are available for review and/or purchase 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 1st floor, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston. New items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be rescheduled for a subsequent special meeting at the discretion of the Board. Facilities are handicap accessible. Inter-preter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

4/16, 4/23, 4/30/21



Legal Notice Town of Johnston Notice of Abandonment

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-1 that Elmhurst Avenue as described in Johnston Town Ordinance 2021-3 has ceased to be useful to the public and is hereby abandoned. Ordinance 2021-3 an Ordinance in abandonment of Elmhurst Avenue was adopted at a public hearing at the April 12th, 2021 meeting of the Johnston Town Council and is available for review in the office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo
President

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

4/23, 4/30, 5/7/21



DELIGHTFUL DUTY: Employees from The Bridge at Cherry Hill took pride in working for two-plus hours, despite last Thursday's gusty wind and cold temperatures, to clean up parts of Johnston War Memorial Park. (Submitted photo)

■ Park

(Continued from page 1)

said. "As Rhode Islanders, we're fortunate to have an abundance of parks, beaches, management areas and bike paths where families can

picnic, walk, bike, fish or just enjoy the beauty of our state's environment."

The governor, who offered high praise to "each and every Rhode Islander that participated in Earth Day," concluded: "On this,

the 51st anniversary of Earth Day, we can all take pride in knowing that the steps we are taking to preserve and protect our precious natural resources will benefit Rhode Islanders now and well into the future."

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■ Polisena

(Continued from page 1)

streams, with Encompass Health ready to build its latest rehabilitation facility and continued work on Project Schooner.

"Obviously, hopefully if that comes to fruition, I can be very comfortable saying it will be a really good deal for us and the future of our town," Polisena said of Project Schooner. "Like I said, we need new schools. You can either go to the taxpayers and ask them to pony up, or we can find other revenue from businesses coming in to our town and stabilizing our tax base. That's why we haven't had a tax increase in four years."

The mayor said he is aware the town will have to build more schools in the next few years, and he said he wants to avoid going to the taxpayers to accomplish that goal.

"I'm preparing for the future. I'm preparing for Johnston's future. I may be in St. Anne's Cemetery when this all comes to fruition, but at least I can rest nice and easy knowing that we planned financially for the town's future," Polisena said. "We just can't plan for today [alone]."

While Town Hall never closed for business,

Polisena said residents are eager to "open up now" when it comes to local businesses and the Johnston Senior Center. He's hopeful that continued vaccinations will soon lead to herd immunity, and he lauded Gov. Dan McKee for ramping up the process.

"I want to get these programs going for these seniors," Polisena said. "They deserve it, and they've been kind of cooped up and isolated for over a year now. I'm very impressed and proud of Dan McKee, who has kept his words to get people vaccinated, especially the teachers. He kept his word, he did the teachers. The teachers should be very happy that he kind of put his neck out there and said we've got to get

the teachers done, it's important, because we want to get the kids back to school and want to make sure that the kids stay safe as well as the teachers staying safe."

Polisena said operations have been running smoothly since the Johnston Recreation Center pod became a regional inoculation site. He said there have been "no hiccups" and continued to call the local hub the "gold standard" for Rhode Island.

"We're getting a lot of compliments from people out of town who are coming into our community and obviously going through the process," Polisena said. "They've been very happy with the professionalism of the firefighters, as well as the town employees who are

helping them re-register. So it's going very well. I'm proud of our firefighters, our police officers and the municipal employees that have been helping. Sometimes it seems too good to be true, but they've been flawless."

Polisena said the pod would remain open as long as the state needs it to be, adding that he's been told it will likely be operational through at

least June. In the event of its closure, he said it would be ready to reopen in short order if necessary.

The mayor said he's spoken with a vice president at Citizens Bank who inquired about vaccinating employees, and Polisena said that is being arranged. He said McKee has mentioned inoculating employees at large companies, whether they come to the pod or volun-

teers visit their workplace.

"My firefighters and my police officers are well experienced with setting it up," Polisena said. "My DPW guys are the ones who set it up and break it down, so I'll follow the governor's lead. He's the leader of our state, I trust him. I had a personal conversation with him on Sunday, and he wants us to start to go into some of the businesses."

'Going big' with the Gaspee Days Parade

By JOHN HOWELL

Ready for a parade? A parade like you have known in years past, with the Mummers, the Clydesdales, the fife and drums, the canons, the Shriners in their little cars, the bands, the Scouts – and, of course, the elected officials?

The Gaspee Days Committee is going for the full show.

"The outpouring of support has been overwhelming," said Gina Dooley, committee chair. She is "very optimistic" of reaching a fundraising goal of \$50,000, and based on the governor's lifting of restrictions on outdoor gatherings as of May 28, the committee "went big."

Initially, the committee envisioned a scaled-back parade for Saturday, June 12, with a reduced budget of \$35,000 without some of the bigger-ticket participants like the Mummers and the Clydesdales.

It was a long shot.

While there was a strong response to a GoFundMe appeal, raising \$11,000 in a couple of weeks, the committee was far from raising what is needed for even an abbreviated parade. In addition to paying groups to be in the parade, the committee was faced with \$5,000 to paint the red, white and blue stripe for the parade

route and the cost of police details and portable toilets.

Dooley met with Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi to spell out the situation. Unless they could raise the \$35,000, even a shorter version of the parade would have to be canceled. In prior years, the Arts & Crafts Festival held over Memorial Day weekend raised the lion's share of the \$50,000 for the parade. Because of the pandemic, the committee postponed this year's festival to September.

Picozzi had his media director Liz Tufts shoot a video of Dooley outlining he precarious nature of the parade that posted on the city and Warwick Beacon websites, as well as social media. That was shared thousands of times. GoFundMe donations picked up. The Warwick Beacon and Cranston Herald launched a campaign to give \$20 of every new subscription to the drive. Individual donations came in, and then some major commitments arrived.

An anonymous donor pledged \$10,000. Navigant Credit Union donated \$5,000, and state Rep. Joseph McNamara talked of a \$10,000 legislative grant.

Last week in a conference call, the committee voted to go with the full parade.

"We've gotten a lot

of positive feedback," Dooley said. "We threw all caution to the wind and went for the bigger parade."

The committee hasn't abandoned all caution.

For the moment, Dooley said, the committee is keeping the 5K road race held the morning of the parade a virtual event.

As of Monday, the GoFundMe had raised slightly more than \$23,000 and Dooley was waiting for pledges to come in. She said she also needs to check now that outdoor gathering restrictions are being eased whether the parade requires state approval.

Since the governor's announcement Thursday, the committee is also looking into doing a "one-day something" on Saturday, May 29, to maintain a Gaspee Day activity on Memorial Day weekend. Dooley suggested it could be a food and music event in Pawtuxet Park.

The burning of the Gaspee in Pawtuxet Cove customarily brings the Gaspee Days celebration to a close the day after the parade. This year, it is planned to follow the parade.

"If we're drawing a crowd, we're doing it all in one day," Dooley said.

"What's heartwarming is that the community really loves this parade," she said.

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Obituaries

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Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call Sue Howarth at (401) 732-3100 or email sueh@rhodybeat.com for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$50. You may place the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price. *Thank you.*

spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

Spring has officially made its long-awaited and much-anticipated arrival in New England! Rhode Islanders everywhere are watching with cautious optimism as the springtime events of our memories slowly return. We cheer on the Little League teams that have taken to the fields, the golf tournaments which are being scheduled, the long-postponed weddings which are finally appearing on the calendar and the charity events so many depend on as they slowly resume.

As you are busy planning your next event, business meeting or fundraiser this spring, consider letting RhodyPrints Promotional Products make your re-entrance into the world especially memorable. As you are exploring ways to grow your business or company this spring, consider going that extra distance to make your company stand out in a crowd. As you are putting the finishing touches on your special event, consider sending your guests home with a keepsake of your event that they will actually want to keep!

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Sports

Panthers win finale



PLAYOFF READY: Johnston's Deremy Stubbs picks up some yards against Tiverton. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

JHS rolls past Tiverton, into playoffs

By ALEX SPONSELLER

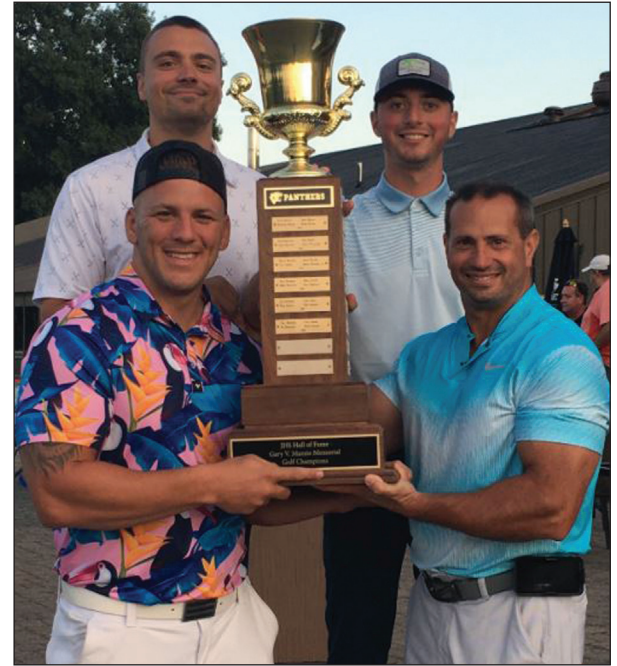
The Johnston football team continued to impress last week, rolling to a 38-6 win over visiting Tiverton to improve to 3-0 on the season and qualify for this week's postseason tournament.

The Panthers jumped out to a quick lead when Jacob Martins rushed for a score on the opening possession. Joe Forte would then haul in an interception on the ensuing Tiverton drive, and Johnston would double its lead when Deremy Stubbs rushed for a score on the first play of possession to



SCRAMBLE: Johnston quarterback Hunter Remington picks up some yards on a run last week against Tiverton.

PANTHERS- PAGE 13



CHAMPS: Joseph Scotti, David DeCesare, Ryan Anderson, and Gian Bianchi, who are the reigning Mazzie Memorial Golf champions.

Mazzie golf tourney set for June 5th

By PETE FONTAINE

Calling A-L-L Johnson Panthers current and alumni - as well as golfers and people who enjoy helping produce record revenue that funds an important and pres-

tigious ceremony along with scholarships for college-bound students.

Its called the 11th Annual Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tourna-

MAZZIE- PAGE 14

Paye ready for next level

Editor's note: This column was originally written prior to Thursday night's NFL Draft.

One of the biggest nights in the history of Rhode Island sports is coming this Thursday, as Providence native and Bishop Hendricken alum Kwity Paye will (almost certainly) be selected in the first round of the NFL draft.

This will be the first time in nearly 90 years that a Rhode Islander has been selected in the first round and Paye will be

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
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on the short list of locals to ever get drafted.

Even if in some shock-

PITCH- PAGE 14

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'Make it rain with gale force winds'

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"I'm going to try to come close to the pylon," said Capt. Patrick Cassidy, Cape Cod charter captain and captain's school instructor for the New England Maritime Academy. "OK, can we pick up the seas, let it gust to 35 miles an hour and then make it rain," said Capt. Paul Eidman, a charter captain from New Jersey where the Ocean Wind farm is being built off Atlantic City. Capt. Paul Forsberg, owner/operator of the Freeport, New York based Viking party boat fleet, said, "We started to sway as the seas picked up. Those not use to piloting in open ocean actually started to get a little woozy. Piloting a vessel with this simulator is very realistic."

I wouldn't recommend trying to come close to a turbine pylon in a wind farm for the fun of it, but the charter captains and fishermen I experienced the Revolution Wind Farm simulator with were all putting the simulator through its paces pushing it to the max. The Revolution wind farm is an 88 turbine wind farm planned to be built 15 to 20 miles off Newport, RI. Ørsted, developer of the wind farm, has developed a simulator to provide mariners with a realistic experience as to how it would be to pilot through a utility scale wind farm.

Participants I attended the simulator session with were accomplished fishers and/or charter captains. The simulator wind farm utilized the preferred Coast Guard approved array with the turbine pylons spaced one nautical mile apart (1.15 statures miles).

The simulator was designed and developed by the U.S. Marine Resources Center (USMRC) in Middletown, RI. The Center is an independent, non-profit marine operations and maritime research center and education institution. They focus on navigation and operational safety. Vessel captains train there on simulators much the same way airplane pilots use flight simulation to learn and practice flying aircraft. The USMRC was commissioned to build the simulator by Ørsted, windfarm developer and owner of the Block Island Wind Farm, South Fork and Revolution wind farms.

Through the demonstration Ørsted hopes to educate mariners about wind farm arrays and recommended layouts as well as construction, operations and emergency procedures. The simulator

also provided mariners with the opportunity to operate vessels in a variety of conditions providing a realistic, first-hand understanding of scale and navigability of operational turbine arrays.

During a follow-up debriefing RISAA member, fishing journalist and expert fishing guide Todd Corayer of Rhode Island said, "The movement at the helm was very realistic, you could actually feel the seas under your feet, then when the rain, high seas, wind and fog came you had to rely on instruments to pilot through the wind farm."

Participants piloted a 72-foot fishing trawler as well as a 33 foot center console though the wind farm. When piloting the center console (which is more like the vessel I would be piloting in the wind farm) at 40 miles per hour the piloting time between pylons spaced one mile apart was three to four times faster than the trawler. This spacing provided ample room for maneuvering even when captains tried to pilot close to the pylons it took a long time to get close to them.

Even at this faster speed I felt safe and had ample time to navigate with no safety concerns that I was coming too close. In bad weather with high seas and winds you simply slow down, just as you would if in bad weather anywhere. The faster speeds of the simulator did not present challenges for other captains in the simulator room as well.

Another initial concern I had was the ability to navigate within the one mile corridor created by the array. I was pleased to find out that when faced with oncoming vessels including pleasure craft, fishing trawlers even a Coast Guard cutter, spacing between turbines provided ample space for maneuvering, vessel avoidance and safety.

If you fish or navigate offshore you should give the simulator a try. As I found it goes a long way to prepare you, giving you a realistic experience, in a variety of conditions, piloting your way through a windfarm.

If you are interested in getting a feel for what it is like to use the simulator you can screen a short video taken by Capt. Paul Forsberg about his experience using the simulator. Visit <https://offshorewfs.com/navigating-an-offshore-wind-farm-video/>.

For information about the simulator contact Ross Pearsall, Ørsted fisheries relations manager, at ROSPE@orsted.com.



TAKING CAPTAINS TO SCHOOL: Capt. Patrick Cassidy, charter captain and captain's school instructor, maneuvers around a pylon in the Revolution wind farm using a training simulator.

Snug Harbor Marina used tackle sale

Visit www.facebook.com/snug.marina for information on the Snug Harbor Marina "NU-2-U" used tackle sale Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 2, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown said, "Some cool items are coming in the door so you won't want to miss this year's sale." Anglers can either get a 100 percent credit toward store purchases from the tackle they sell at the sale, or they can take the cash with Snug Harbor receiving a 20 percent commission. Call 401.783.7766 to reach Snug Harbor.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater. Visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/troutwaters.php> for a complete list of trout stocked ponds in RI. In Massachusetts visit www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information. "At Willet Avenue Pond, Riverside, anglers are still hooking up with trout with a few salmon mixed in, but no reports of Golden Trout being caught there. And, the largemouth bass bite at Slater Park Pond, Pawtucket has been good too with it yielding a 5.25 pound largemouth last week," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside. Ken Ferrara of Ray's Bait & Tackle, Warwick said, "All the South County ponds that have been

stocked with are still yielding trout for customers."

Tautog. Elisa Cahill of Sung Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "One of our customers who commercially fishes took a couple of days to get ten fish at the breachways. But, the Laura Ann party boat (25 person capacity, takes singles) had been doing pretty good with tautog and cod south of Block Island." "Customers are hooking up with keeper tautog off Jamestown and Newport," said Ken Ferrara of Ray's Bait & Tackle.

Striped bass. "The fish were very, very small at first but now they are catching good sized school bass at the West Wall (of the Harbor of Refuge)," said Elisa Cahill of Sung Harbor. "Anglers continue to catch small school bass in the Providence River at Sabin Point, with the bite in coves and estuaries still very slow. Maybe this week with warmer weather the fishing will get better. Water temperature was 46 degrees earlier this week at Narragansett. Historical 54 and 55 degrees has been a good spring time striped bass temperature.

Dave Monti holds a captain's master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verison.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.



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BIG TACKLE: Johnston linebacker Ryan Schino celebrates a tackle.



GRINDING IT OUT: Johnston's Joey Acciaro fights for some yards.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 11)

make it 12-0.

The Panther offense stayed hot in the second quarter when Remington connected with Dillon Stubbs in the first minute to extend the lead to 19-0. Remington would then connect with Thomas Zednik on a big touchdown pass on the next Panther drive to make it 26-0.

Remington rushed for one last score late in the half to make it 32-0 at the break.

"That's a good start for any game," said Johnston head coach Joe Acciaro, who was happy to spread the ball and put it in the hands of his seniors on senior night. "We wanted to play to win, we wanted to put a few scores up (early), we wanted to move the ball around. If possible, inside the realm of winning, we wanted to get the ball to our seniors and get them a few touchdowns. That worked well for us. Then when it got up there in score we let some of the younger guys play which is good for them too."

Dillon Stubbs would take over at quarterback midway through the third quarter and rushed for a score to ex-

tend the lead to 38-0. Tiverton managed to rush for a score in the fourth to avoid the shutout and set the score to 38-6.

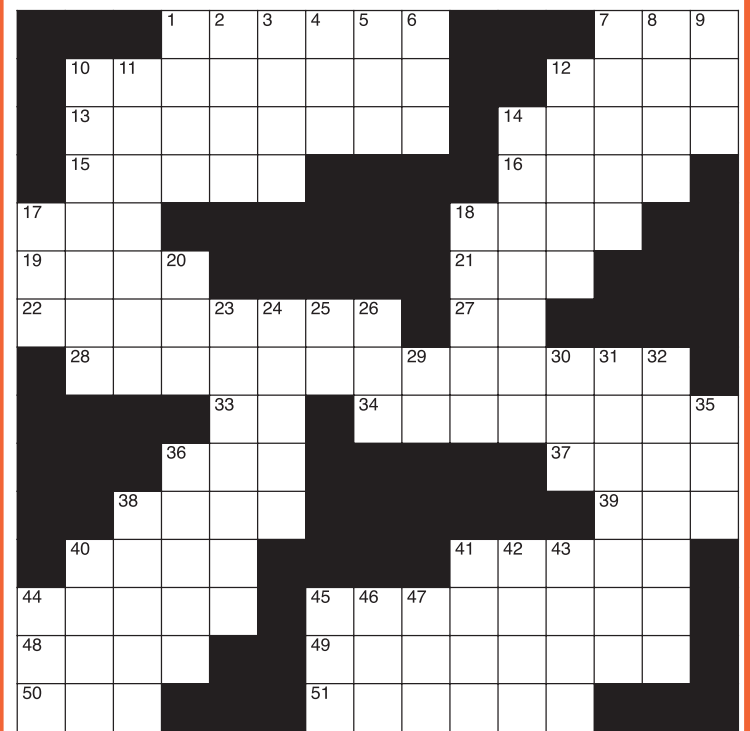
The Johnston defense was also stout through the contest and had relentless pressure up front.

"We played well, but like anything, you have to go back to the film and find the small mistakes that add up to big ones. We've still got some things to polish up, we made some mistakes. The good thing about a game like this though is that we were able to polish a few things which is good since next week is win or go home there is no tomorrow if you lose," said Acciaro, referencing the playoffs. We can't have those mistakes. In the playoffs and hopefully the Super Bowl, you have to be perfect.

This will end the Panthers lengthy playoff drought, and Acciaro is proud of the seniors that helped the team get back to the big dance.

"We've talked about (this season), we told them that this isn't a normal scenario, everything is rushed. Miscues are to be expected but we just need to clean them up as much as possible and come back stronger next week. The kids have done a great job though, we're happy to be out here, we're excited."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Switches
- 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
- 10. Sweeties
- 12. Competition
- 13. Measures electrical resistance
- 14. Psychotherapy researcher
- 15. Causes injury to
- 16. Open
- 17. Polish peninsula
- 18. Hebrew calendar month
- 19. Whale ship captain
- 21. Children's accessory
- 22. Unknown point
- 27. Exists
- 28. Extremely confident
- 33. Expression of disgust
- 34. The government has many
- 36. Small constellation
- 37. Northern Indian city
- 38. The best pitchers
- 39. Naturally occurring solid
- 40. Apple computers

- 41. Portuguese city
- 44. Ancient Greek war dance
- 45. More reliable
- 48. Sailboat
- 49. Newspapers
- 50. Frequently flooded area
- 51. They dig for coal

- 18. Accept
- 20. Stake
- 23. Former British PM May
- 24. US battleships circa 1939
- 25. Greek alphabet letter
- 26. When you hope to get there
- 29. Top lawyer
- 30. Fiddler crabs
- 31. Intolerant
- 32. Persons that cause extreme fear
- 35. Car mechanics group
- 36. Capital of Ghana
- 38. Famed ballplayer Hank
- 40. Emphasizes insignificance
- 41. Light-colored
- 42. Distinctive smell
- 43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
- 44. Sunscreen rating
- 45. Short-term memory
- 46. Japanese delicacy
- 47. One point north of due east

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partial
- 2. "Mad Men" leading man
- 3. The ___ of March
- 4. Healthy
- 5. Where golfers begin
- 6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- 7. Of the cheek
- 8. Injury reminder
- 9. Statesman Franklin
- 10. For an unknown reason
- 11. Brain parts
- 12. Islamic calendar month
- 14. Avenue where ad men work
- 17. Possesses

CHERRY HILL TRIVIA

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 11)

ing scenario he falls to the second round, this is still a big deal, but let's stick with first round scenario here.

There have obviously been some great athletes to come from the Ocean State and go on to have excellent professional careers. Rocco Baldelli, Will Blackmon, and many more. I think what separates Paye from the rest though is the age in which he is becoming a national figure as well as the crazy potential he holds in his talent.

Football is America's game. Sorry, baseball, but you are now in the back seat. Let's be honest.

Paye has become one of the top defensive players in this draft and is widely regarded as a top-20 pick, some have him as high as the early teens.

He's big, strong, fast, explosive, and comes from one of the best programs in the country at Michigan. He can line up on the inside or outside of the line, has a high IQ, and is a high-level prospect in every sense of the word.

Thursday will mark a historic night for Rhode Island. One of its own is going to be on the national stage, kicking off a career in the country's most watched sport.

I have gone on and on in the past about local athletes going pro and how important it is for the state. I'll do it again here, only for a little bit.

As we know, Rhode Island is a small state that is often overlooked when it comes to high school athletes. Kids around here have to work twice as hard to get half the attention of most other states.

Paye was one of the uncommon athletes to be sought out and recruited. Not only did he live up to the attention he re-

ceived, he exceeded it, and is now on his way to a potentially big time professional career.

Since I have been here covering sports over the past three years, it seems like we have inched our way closer to a major breakthrough, and this should be it.

Paye's likely first-round drafting will show the country that not only good athletes can be found in Rhode Island but great, sport-changing ones can, too.

Hopefully this will only continue the momentum that has been built over the course of the past decade or so and we start seeing more stories like this come from our own backyard.

Tune in and enjoy. The NFL Draft is one of my favorite nights on the sports calendar each year, so having this twist will make it even better. It's another spring event, reminding us that summer is right around the corner. It's a fun night where we get introduced to football's soon-to-be stars. It's just a fun weekend all around.

The other thing to watch will be the Patriots. What will they do with the 15th overall selection? Maybe they're the ones who pick Paye and his story comes full circle. That would be something special to see.

In my eyes, the Patriots probably won't trade up for a quarterback, and they probably will draft a player that no one sees coming. They have a knack for doing that and I expect no different.

Other big news to break last week was the announcement that wrestling and competitive cheer - two sports considered to be high risk - will be cleared to compete this spring season.

To be honest with you, I really never understood why competitive cheer was considered high risk. Football a game with con-

stant contact, tackling, blocking. A game that revolves around 22 players competing with the same ball, with crowded sidelines, shared equipment, all of that. That is considered more risky than cheerleading?

Basketball. A game with contact, sharing one ball, players sweating on one another, crowded at the free throw line, boxing out under the hoop. That is more risky?

This is not me complaining, it's just me being utterly confused by the high risk designation. Regardless, cheer is back which is great to see.

As for wrestling, this is a sport with an obvious high risk designation. I won't bore you with the specifics on that one.

Having said that, like most wrestling fans in the state, I had some real doubts about this spring season. Even the people in the wrestling community that I spoke to that were optimistic, there was always a bit of doubt.

I'll even go as far as to say that I am surprised that there is a season at all. I really did not expect there to be. So, for those grapplers that are itching to hit the mat, I am happy for you and am excited to get a season in.

I know that there have been some talks regarding possible outdoor wrestling matches. I covered an outdoor tournament in Maine a few years back and I loved it. I thought it was a great idea and these outdoor tournaments have become more popular.

The only issue that they ran into was the mats getting hot. It was in July and about 80 or so degrees, but the solution was spraying them off between rounds with cold water which did the trick. No big deal.

It sounds like it will all be indoor and will resemble the norm which is fine as well. Whatever works.

■ Mazzie

(Continued from page 11)

ment that will tee it up on Saturday, June 5 at the famed and well-groomed Cranston Country Club off Burlingame Road and promises to be the biggest and best event since what people have called a terrific tribute to a man who loved serving as a teacher, coach and athletic administrator at Johnston High School for in excess of three decades.

The once popular and highly-respected Mazzie, who passed at age 69 on Oct. 1, 2015 after losing a battle with cancer, was also a golf coach at JHS where perhaps his single greatest contribution was founding the now prestigious Johnston High School Athletic Hall of Fame back in 2011.

Thus, the Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament helps fund the annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony as well as college scholarships in his name for deserving JHS college-bound Panthers.

Meanwhile, the Hall continues to honor those one-time Panthers and Lady Panthers who distinguished their alma mater in a number of Rhode Island Interscholastic League sports during their careers on Cherry Hill.

Members of the organizing committee, which is under the direction of hard-working chairman John Graham, will tell you the memorial golf tourney also serves as a JHS Reunion because Panther grads from a number of different years and even their friends as well as residents have signed on to help support what funds the an-

nual induction ceremony and Mazzie Memorial Scholarship.

The 2021 edition marks the second time in as many years that the ever-expanding event will be played at Cranston Country Club, which was first played at picturesque Gloucester Country Club in Burrillville.

Entry fee has been set at \$120 per player and includes an official tournament gift as well as lunch at the turn. The scramble format again be used for scoring and Graham announced tee off has been for 1:30 p.m. preceded by the always fun-filled registration at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a multi-prized raffle that will generate additional revenue and people can also donate prizes for that event as well.

Graham also asked that all checks be made payable to the JHS Athletic Hall of fame and sent to him at 12 Brentwood Drive, Johnston, RI 02919. People who are planning to pre-register should email Samantha Mazzie the late Gary's daughter who is also a committee member at smazzie34@gmail.com with their shirt size by May 5, 2021.

People may also reach Graham at (401) 497-1027 or Sam Mazzie at (702) 336-3658.

"Everyone is really looking forward to this year's tournament," said James "Jim" Hopkins, a one-time teacher-coach at JHS who worked side-by-side with the late Mazzie. "We were inseparable for the 33 years Gary was a teacher, coach, athletic director and fantastic friend of all Panthers, young and old alike."

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Saving masks and lives



Aurelio invents N95 mask preserver to ensure coverings stay undamaged, protective as pandemic persists



PANDEMIC PERSEVERANCE: CharterCare nurse Timothy Aurelio invented the N95 Mask Preserver after speaking to a security guard who kept his crushed mask in a brown paper bag around his belt loop. The N95 Mask Preserver is portable, durable and features technology that resists microbes, mildew, fungus and mold. (Photos courtesy N95 Mask Preserver website)

By JACOB MARROCO

CharterCare ER nurse Timothy Aurelio was working a shift in the COVID-19 unit last July when he noticed a security guard with a brown paper bag intertwined with his belt loop.

Joking with the man, Aurelio asked if he had his lunch attached to his waist, but it was his N95 mask. Aurelio asked to see it, and knew upon observing the crushed face covering that it wasn't going to protect the guard at all.

That led him to search around the department, seeing colleagues leave their masks on desks or hanging from hooks next to the printer. He said one nurse had three of them in her duffle bag, and those were damaged beyond practical use as well.

He went home and started putting an idea on paper - a mask preserver that would be "portable, durable" and infused with anti-microbial, anti-mold, anti-fungal and anti-mildew technology. The N95 Mask Preserver was born and launched March 29, and dozens of states have already placed their orders.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Hillary Gillinder Photography

Gus

Attention big dog lovers, you'll be gushing over Gus!! Meet Gus and all of his happiness, he is available for adoption at the Warwick Animal Shelter. You will fall in love with this big slobber puss! Gus deserves everything life has to offer, especially lots of love! He is six years old and when he was turned into the shelter he had some skin and eye issues but is getting the best care, now he is feeling and looking great! If you are a big dog lover and would like more information about Gus, please contact the shelter for more information at 401-468-4377. Please keep in mind that the shelter is still open by appointment only. Gus and his big smile will be waiting to meet you!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at **animaltalk1920@gmail.com** 

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Masks

(Continued from page 17)

"I got in touch with an engineer, he helped me put it into a CAD file," Aurelio said during a phone interview earlier this month. "Took a few months to find a manufacturer here in New England that could make it with plastic injection molding, and we got it done. We got a prototype, we put some samples out, had some people test it, came up with a design, it works. ...when you put your mask in there, nothing's going to grow, it's not going to stink on you. It's not going to get crushed, most importantly. And it's going to offer the protection that it was designed to do, with COVID or any other airborne disease that we have to use N95 for."

Aurelio, who has worked in the industry for 27 years, said he never "thought I would ever see or go through anything like" the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that, even as vaccination figures grow and fewer people die, people must remain vigilant about wearing their masks, washing their hands and social distancing.

He pointed to younger folks - who may be attending parties and going on spring break - potentially spreading the virus asymptotically to their older loved ones.

"In one word, challenging. It's been challenging," Aurelio said of the past year. "People just coming in so sick. In the beginning it was mostly elderly from the nursing homes and elderly population, and then as the year's progressed we're seeing younger folks, people in their 20s and 30s coming in just awfully, awfully sick and requiring pretty intense medical care. It's not going away. Every day I go to work, I do 12-hour shifts, and let me tell you, it's not going away. It's here."

He said if people continue to shirk the rules, mask-wearing could become the new normal well beyond the end of the crisis. He said that large gatherings - whether they take place at funerals, sports arenas or clubs - will invite the opportunity for COVID to spread as long as attendees aren't cognizant of the risk.

"People aren't following the rules," Aurelio said. "They're not following

directions. They're so exhausted from the regulations and the rules ... I think people are so fed up with that, and this is just what I hear and what I see from patients and from my colleagues, and myself, it's gone on for so long that I think we're getting complacent with safety, and plus these new variants that are coming into play is not helping the situation either. They spread twice as fast, up to five times as fast, which is just complicating things. Now we're opening up travel again."

He said that Rhode Islanders should get vaccinated "as soon as you can," and he advocated for educating the hesitant portion of the population still uneasy about getting their shots.

"Vaccines work. We've got to educate the populations that are on the fence or afraid to get vaccinated," Aurelio said. "We have to all do our part to educate those folks and show them the science that the vaccines are safe and they work, and some protection - even if all these vaccines are only good for six months of protection, six months is six months. Ninety percent is better than no protection at all in my opinion. I see what this virus can do to somebody in real life, and it's not fun. It's not pretty at all. It's not a fun way to end your life on a ventilator, alone, in a hospital, in an ICU unit or in an ER. It's just not the way you want to go."

Those who want more information or would like to place an order can visit www.n95maskpreserver.com, which Aurelio said is a "full e-commerce site" that accepts all forms of payment. He thanked Rhode Island Hub - which according to its website is "a network of innovators, investors, students, citizens and those interested in building our economy through new ideas" - for its help in getting the business off the ground.

"I've never invented anything in my life," he said. "This is a new adventure for me, and if I didn't have Rhode Island Hub and the mentoring team that I have, I wouldn't have come this far. A lot of people I have to thank, and this product is not only going to protect frontline health care workers' masks, but it's also going to save the hospital systems money in N95 purchases, because there's a lot of waste that goes on."

"I don't understand why this didn't happen before, I'm glad that I'm the one who thought of it, and being here in Rhode Island and working in a Rhode Island emergency department, I'm grateful, but this is long overdue."

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SPRING IS HERE! *Achoo!* Along With the Harshest Allergy Season Yet



Experts predict allergy season to be exceptionally severe this spring, according to the Allergy & Asthma Network. Rising global temperatures and a forecast of warm, dry air this spring after a winter of heavy snow could significantly increase pollen production. This comes after a year many people spent mostly indoors in quarantine.

As you head outside to enjoy the spring weather, allergens like pollen may come as a shock to the system. Spring allergens, which can lead to chronic and troublesome symptoms, such as respiratory irritation, itchy eyes, and nasal congestion, impact millions of Americans.

“After over a year spent in the confines of our homes during the pandemic, we want to spend as much time outdoors as we can this spring,” says nationally renowned natural health physician and best-selling author, Dr. Fred Pescatore. “Don’t let allergies ruin your long-awaited spring. There are steps you can take to alleviate your allergy symptoms.”



Dr. Fred Pescatore

- **Rinse Your Eyes.** Allergies can cause burning, itching, and tearing in our eyes as well as swelling of the eyelids. Washing your eyes with clean water or an eye wetting product moistens them to provide relief when they are dry and irritated. It also removes allergens that cause eye inflammation.

- **Wash Your Clothes Often.** When worn outdoors, your clothes can carry small particles back into your home and cause more exposure and allergic reaction. Washing your clothes and taking a shower after outdoor activity can remove lingering allergens.

- **Manage Your Stress Levels.** Stress can be a powerful force on your physical and mental well-being, and it can pile on quickly. Stress hormones can negatively impact the immune system, increase oxidative stress levels, and inflame seasonal allergy symptoms. When you start to feel stressed, stop and take a breath. If you can, take a walk. Getting quality sleep also helps reduce the effects of stress.

With a tough allergy season ahead, remember these tips to manage your allergy symptoms and enjoy the spring season you deserve.

(StatePoint)

Allergies or COVID-19?

As winter gave way to spring, nature did not give any signs in relation to what the people of the world were going through. As trees and flowers bloomed just like they do every spring, the people accustomed to witnessing the awe-inspiring transformation on display each spring were experiencing a transformation of their own.

Social distancing measures enacted during the COVID-19 outbreak in late-winter 2020 forced many people to stay home, only venturing outside to run routine errands like buying groceries or filling prescriptions. People were urged to stay home to help prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading, and those recommendations included people exhibiting mild symptoms of illness.

As spring hit its stride and pollen counts climbed, many people wondered if certain symptoms they were experiencing were byproducts of seasonal allergies or the COVID-19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that it’s easy to mistake common allergy symptoms for COVID-19, and that’s especially so given the level of concern many people have about the novel coronavirus that has already claimed thousands of victims across the globe. But it’s important that people recognize the symptoms of allergies and COVID-19 are different. The following are some symptoms of allergies and some of COVID-19, courtesy of the CDC and the Mayo Clinic.

ALLERGY SYMPTOMS

- Itchy eyes
- Stuffy nose
- Sneezing

Doctors advise people who are exhibiting potential allergy symptoms to pay attention to their body temperatures. People with allergies very rarely experience fever, so the absence of fever, even if other symptoms of allergies are present, might indicate that a person is suffering from allergies and not COVID-19. In addition, allergy symptoms tend to be mild and recur year after year around the same time, such as when plants bloom in spring and summer. So if symptoms that are currently present are the same ones a person confronts every year, then he or she is likely suffering from allergies and not COVID-19. People can err on the side of caution by discussing their symptoms and history with their physicians.

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS

- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Cough

Some asthma sufferers experience shortness of breath as a result of allergies, so people with asthma should consider that before assuming they have COVID-19. Discussing shortness of breath with a physician can help asthma sufferers gain more clarity on their condition.

While symptoms of allergies and COVID-19 are different, the CDC notes that people suffering from the flu may experience the same symptoms experienced by people with the coronavirus. Symptoms such as fever, fatigue, body aches, and cough can affect both flu and COVID-19 sufferers, so people experiencing these symptoms should contact their physicians.

It’s easy to mistake common allergy symptoms as indicative of the presence of the COVID-19 virus. But the symptoms of each condition are quite different. Learn more at www.cdc.gov. TF206008

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Carla Hall Shares Fun and Tasty Carrot Recipes Perfect for Spring

To celebrate spring, Carla Hall, renowned chef, author, and television host, offers two delicious recipes that make carrots the star ingredient of the season.

“The thing I love most about the humble carrot is its versatility. It can be a snack, a salad, a dessert, a side dish or the basis for most soups and sauces,” says Hall.

McCormick spices agrees, reporting that recipe searches for roasting carrots is trending over the past year in internet searches and on their website, making it the perfect choice for vibrant spring dishes.

With roasted veggies on people’s minds, Hall created Roasted Carrots-in-a Blanket – a fun, carrot-y spin on the traditional pigs-in-a-blanket. The roasted carrots, seasoned with paprika, ground mustard, and rosemary, are wrapped in a light and flaky pastry.

CARROTS-IN-A-BLANKET

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Organic Ground Coriander
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Mustard
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Rosemary Leaves, lightly crushed
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper Grinder
- 1 package (16 ounces) baby carrots
- 3 cans (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent roll dough

CARROT MUSTARD SAUCE

- 2 1/2 cup French’s Stone Ground Dijon Mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper Grinder
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Pure Lemon Extract
- 1/4 cup water



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Mix butter, orange juice, honey, spices, salt and pepper in large bowl. Add carrots; toss to coat well. Arrange carrots in single layer on large parchment-lined sheet pan.
2. Roast 20 to 25 minutes or just until tender. Allow to cool slightly.
3. For the Carrot Mustard Sauce, transfer 1/2 cup of the roasted carrots to blender container or food processor. Add mustard, spices, extract and water. Cover. Purée until completely smooth. Set aside.
4. Unroll crescent dough onto clean surface (do not separate triangles). Brush about 2 tablespoons of the Carrot Mustard Sauce evenly over each sheet of crescent dough. Reserve remaining sauce for serving. Use a pizza cutter to cut along perforations, then cut each triangle lengthwise into three separate triangles. Place one cooled carrot on the wide side of each dough triangle, then roll towards pointy ends to wrap carrots in dough. Place wrapped carrots tail-end down about 1 inch apart on parchment-lined sheet pan.
5. Bake 12 to 15 minutes until dough is golden brown, rotating pan halfway through cooking. Serve warm with remaining sauce for dipping. Makes 32 servings.



Hall also came up with a Warm Carrot Salad with Creamy Lemon Dressing.

Layers of roasted carrots are lightly spiced with cayenne and black pepper to complement naturally sweet Granny Smith apples, golden raisins, and pineapple. A simple, creamy lemon dressing drizzled on top adds a slightly tangy pop to finish this bright and colorful dish.

Here, Hall shares some clever tips for creating carrot-inspired meals:

- To make the most of your time in the kitchen, peel your carrots using up and down strokes to make sure there are no wasted movements, and you get the job done faster.
- Or buy carrot sticks or baby

carrots to reduce prep and peeling time. You can quickly dice them at home for soups and stews.

- Carrots are beautiful and can be the star of your dish. Adding multi-hued carrots will make simple dishes appear fancy.
- You can use spices, herbs, and other ingredients as supporting cast members to add great flavor and make your dish taste even more amazing.

For Hall’s exclusive carrot recipes along with additional springtime dishes, visit www.mccormick.com.

This spring enjoy delicious foods with people you love. By utilizing the versatile carrot, you can put fun and tasty twists on classic recipes that will make any occasion special.



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SENIOR ISSUES
by LARRY GRIMALDI

A Year In The Covid Universe Bubble

Our April 2020 return to North Providence from Florida was uncertain. The COVID-19 outbreak had locked down Rhode Island and Fort Lauderdale was a ghost town. For all practical purposes, were in a suspended reality. And while Southbound Route 95 was eerily empty, Route 95 northbound lanes were clogged with Canadians trying to get home before their borders closed. Behemoth drug companies were racing to develop effective vaccines and therapeutic treatments. Public health officials were battling reams of misinformation, widely broadcast conspiracy theories, and blatant quackery peddled by pseudo medical “professionals.” An unsettled atmosphere hung over the national mood.

We returned to Rhode Island in late April and endured two-week home quarantine. During our self-imposed exile, my daughter Kate and son-in-law Ray served as our personal grocery and medication delivery service. Contact with our grandchildren Kailyn, Sophia, and Nicholas was limited to phone calls, text messages, facetime encounters, and drive-by waving parades. The pandemic also prevented us from visiting our 18-month-old grandson Benjamin, Jr. in New Jersey.

My wife Kathy and I had contracted a mild case of the COVID-19 virus in October and spent our 50th wedding anniversary on November 7 in quarantine. The annual LaVoice Family Christmas celebration was cancelled. Birthday parties were also postponed or cancelled. Our Sunday family dinners were suspended. And my senior softball season did not begin, albeit with a limited schedule and reduced participation, until very late June.

The spring semester ushered in virtual learning for Kailyn, Sophia, and Nicho-

las. The girls lost those once in a lifetime events such as their high school junior prom, as well as their varsity softball season. If you are even vaguely familiar with the universe teenagers, you know that virtual learning deprived them of the all-important aspect of the high school experience-social interaction. Eleven-year-old Nicholas lost much of his spring hockey and fall tournament schedule to the COVID-19 pandemic. His lacrosse debut was also delayed until this spring; and he also missed being with his fourth-grade classmates. Like the vast majority of kids, the resilience of youth carried them through the gauntlet of COVID challenges.

In July, we caught a glimpse of the post-pandemic universe and what a return to normalcy would bring when we hosted a belated Easter egg, birthday, school promotion extravaganza in our backyard. It was a chance to catch up, enjoy the summer weather, and be with one another again. We realized that being able to just be together is an immeasurable gift.

Hit the fast-forward button to 2021, and you will see a much different landscape. Kailyn, Sophia, and Nicholas are back in school. The girls are looking forward to a senior prom (perhaps), their high school softball season, graduation, and college selections. Our cheerleader Sophia cheered for girls soccer team and she returned for a spring football season. Nicholas was able to resume playing hockey and is looking forward to his first season of lacrosse. Ben, Renee, and Benjamin, Jr., now two and a half, spent Easter with us in Fort Lauderdale and our son Matthew flew to Florida from Las Vegas to join us for two brief vacations.

Kathy and I were able to get both vaccine doses during while we were in Florida. Fortunately, we experienced no side effects. While we have confidence in the efficacy of the vaccine, we still wear masks and use social distancing practices. In fact, even here in Florida (outside of the annual beach bacchanalia of spring break) social distancing and mask wearing is pretty much standard practice. We are still leery of large crowd; so we traded our annual Key West birthday holiday for a few days in the quieter Florida Keys village of Islamorada.

Barring additional virus outbreaks, I am looking forward to full senior softball and golf seasons. Kathy is anticipating a summer of Wednesday outings and lunch with her golfing buddies, and day trips to South County beaches. We await the arrival of a new granddaughter in August, courtesy of Ben and Renee. And our son Matthew is planning to return home for an extended summer vacation. I see another grand birthday, graduation, anniversary, Fourth of July, Easter Egg hunt family extravaganza in our future.

If any positive has emerged from a year in the COVID Bubble Universe, it has manifested itself in the simple appreciation of being together as a family. A year in the COVID Bubble Universe has reminded us that mutual love, support and compassion are important tools in battling life’s inevitable challenges. Our collective experiences have proven that even a pandemic cannot diminish the powers of a loving family dedicated to a common welfare.

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer living in North Providence. Comments can be e-mailed to lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com



RETIREMENT SPARKS
by ELAINE M. DECKER

Awareness Months for Seniors

As I was sitting through chemotherapy for treatment of my lung cancer, I noticed a message on the nurse’s computer opposite my chair. It read: “March is colorectal awareness month.” I thought: “I’ll bet every month is a different disease.” Which led to: “Wouldn’t it be fun to do an awareness calendar especially for seniors?” So, here goes, complete with acronyms to easily remember them by.

JANUARY starts a new year and it’s a no-brainer that this is the time to Book your Doctors’ Appointments for the year. Don’t forget your dentist and recurring tests and procedures. With the long lead times for everything medical, BDA month is the most essential entry in your annual calendar.

FEBRUARY signals Velcro Assessment Time. Have you reached the point where you should be wearing shoes and clothes with Velcro closures? VAT is when you need to assess your wardrobe with this important safety check in mind.

MARCH heralds Gold Bond Awareness, the ever-popular talcum powder for seniors (though I’m clueless as to why). When my husband and I made trips to India, Gold Bond powder was always the number one item on his sister’s “please bring” list. Celebrate GBA with gusto!

APRIL is a good time for spring cleaning. I’m making it the month to Reposition and Rotate your Throw Rugs. These are also called Scatter Rugs, depending on where you live. RRTRSR projects help keep rugs from curling up on one side, eliminating trip-and-fall hazards for seniors.

MAY is your opportunity to Count Your Liver Spots before your time in the sun presents other spots that could confuse you. CYLS month is a right of passage for seniors to keep track of how much that skin scourge progresses from year to year. Doing this in May gives you a few weeks to figure out how to cover them up before you begin your outside activities in earnest.

JUNE is when Summer approaches, and it’s time to Buff those Heels and Elbows that have become hardened and flaky throughout Winter. BHE awareness hits at the beginning of short-sleeved shirts and sandals season. Make sure you’re in your buffest shape possible so neighbors don’t tut-tut when you walk by.

JULY pits neighbors against one another in a variety of navigational and speed challenges in the Hoveround Competition. Not for the faint of heart, training for the HOVCOM begins in August of the previous year. Northerners travel south to train in winter to maintain their competitive edge.

AUGUST, aka Fiber Fest month, is a celebration of Prunes & Figs. They make up the heart of this fiber-focused month-long PFFF extravaganza. It’s guaranteed to help every participant get a move on. Look for free samples of non-sugar Shredded Wheat miniatures at events in your neighborhood.

SEPTEMBER is the month to Toss those Bed, Bath and Beyond Coupons stashed somewhere on your kitchen counter. Even though they don’t expire, you can use only so many of either type during your lifetime. So, make TBBBC into a celebration. Mail some to your sister and your niece. By the time you’ve posted their envelopes, you’ll have at least two more BBB coupons in your own mail.

OCTOBER is a great time to hold a Mah Jong Tournament. Every senior community I’ve been to has several groups of regular Mah Jong players, so a month dedicated to a MJT makes a lot of sense. Be sure to agree on tournament rules in advance. MJTs can get nasty.

NOVEMBER is a good month for a Return Label Purge. We all get multiple mailings from charities that send those cute labels for your outgoing mail. You likely have several years’ worth in a cubbyhole in your desk. Time to do an annual RLP. Toss all the ones where your name is misspelled; (you know you have those). Also ones with print type so small you can’t even read your address with your best cheater glasses on.

DECEMBER is when you should schedule your annual Underwear Assessment. As part of your UA, pay particular attention to briefs whose elastic has started to sag. Also the ones where your thumbs have poked holes through the side seams as you pulled them on or off. And of course, all those whites that are now yellow or gray must go. Make a list of what you want replaced. Then send it to your family so they can give you what you need for holiday gifts. They’ll appreciate the suggestions.

There it is. BDA, VAT, GBA, RRTRSR, CYLS, BHE, HOVCOM, PFFF, TBBBC, MJT, RLP, UA. A year of awareness months especially for seniors. And you didn’t even have to go through chemotherapy to receive it!

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Elaine M. Decker’s newest book is Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide. Her other books include Retirement Sparks, Retirement Sparks Again, Retirement Sparks Redux and CANCER: A Coping Guide. Her essays appear in the anthologies: 80 Things To Do When You Turn 80 and 70 Things To Do When You Turn 70. All are available on Amazon.com. Contact her at: emdecker@ix.netcom.com

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Pasta e Fagioli Soup



Quinoa Chicken Vegetable Salad



Pea and Corn Risotto



PANTRY ESSENTIALS FOR Nutritious Homemade Meals

FAMILY FEATURES

Pasta e Fagioli Soup

Recipe created by Kelsey Nixon
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Servings: 4

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 ounces chopped pancetta (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 2 (15-ounce) cans cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced fire-roasted tomatoes
- 3 (14.5-ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups ditalini pasta (short tubular pasta)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, for garnish

In large heavy-bottomed pot, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Brown pancetta bits just until they start to crisp before adding onion, garlic and thyme. Season with salt and pepper, and saute until fragrant and golden brown.

Add canned beans, tomatoes and chicken broth. Bring soup to rapid boil before adding pasta. Reduce to simmer and cook soup covered, stirring occasionally for 8-10 minutes or until pasta is cooked al dente.

Season with salt and pepper to taste before serving. Garnish with Parmesan cheese and serve with crusty bread.

Note: You can substitute bacon for pancetta, if desired.

Quinoa Chicken Vegetable Salad

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

- 1 (14.5-ounce) can chicken broth
- 1 cup quinoa
- 1 (14-ounce) can diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 (10-ounce) can chicken breast, drained and flaked
- 1 (8-ounce) can cut green beans, drained
- 1 (8.75-ounce) can corn, drained
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

In medium saucepan over high heat, heat chicken broth and quinoa to boiling. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

In large bowl, combine cooled quinoa, diced tomatoes, chicken breast, green beans, corn, olive oil, lemon juice, parsley and pepper; toss to mix well.

Pea and Corn Risotto

Servings: 4

- 4 cups canned low sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 cup Arborio rice
- 1 (11-ounce) can no salt added whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1 (8.5-ounce) can low sodium peas, drained
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

In 2-quart saucepan over high heat, heat chicken broth to simmering; keep warm.

Meanwhile, in 3-quart saucepan over medium heat, in hot olive oil, cook onion until tender-crisp, stirring occasionally. Add rice and cook for 2 minutes until coated with oil. Gradually add chicken broth, 1/2 cup at a time, until absorbed, stirring frequently. Continue adding remaining broth, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring occasionally, cooking rice until al dente, about 25 minutes.

Stir in corn, peas, Parmesan cheese and butter to heat through. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately.

Almond Cherry Tres Leches Cake

Recipe created by Kelsey Nixon
Servings: 12

Cake:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 5 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can pitted cherries, thoroughly drained

Tres leches mixture:

- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 (12-ounce) can evaporated milk
- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk

Icing:

- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream, chilled
- 4 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds, toasted

For cake, preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 9-by-13-inch cake pan.

Whisk together flour, baking powder and salt into large mixing bowl.

Cream butter, sugar and eggs with electric mixer on high until yolks turn pale yellow. Mix in almond extract. Slowly incorporate dry ingredients into wet ingredients until fully combined — avoid over-mixing. Pour into prepared pan, evenly spreading batter out.

Bake until cake has cooked through, 30 minutes. Cool slightly, then pierce surface of cake with fork several times.

Combine heavy cream, evaporated milk and condensed milk in small bowl or pitcher. Drizzle milk mixture over top and allow cake to sit and absorb milk mixture.

For icing, whip together heavy cream, sugar and almond extract. Spread evenly over top of soaked cake. Top with toasted almonds. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.

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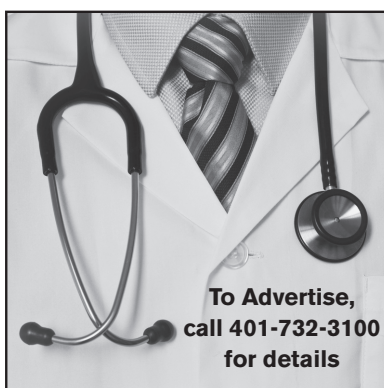
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Creative Mother's Day celebration and gift ideas

On Sunday, May 9, 2021, millions of people will celebrate the special women in their lives, particularly the mothers, grandmothers and stepmothers who often tirelessly care for those they love.

Created by Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century and designated an official United States holiday in 1914, Mother's Day is a special day in many families. Apart from birthdays, primary female caregivers may not always get the recognition they deserve, nor be entitled to a day to kick back and relax and let others take the helm. Mother's Day entitles them to something special.

Even though the way people have been living has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mother's Day may be the first holiday on the calendar when the world can finally regain some sense of normalcy. But caution should still prevail during Mother's Day celebrations. Thankfully, there are plenty of creative ways to celebrate mothers and mother figures this year.

- Dine truly 'al fresco.' Outdoor dining has become commonplace, and even before it was a safety measure, enjoying a meal on a sun-soaked patio or overlooking a body of water was popular. If you're worried about limited restaurant space or crowds, plan a picnic at a scenic location, such as a botanical garden or county park. Include Mom's favorite foods and enjoy the fresh air and delicious foods together.

- Create a photo slideshow. Digital photos have eclipsed prints in many people's hearts. But too often digital photos never get seen after they're initially taken. That can change when you compile a slideshow of favorite photos from childhood and even present-day photos that Mom is sure to appreciate. Use sentimental music or Mom's favorite songs as the soundtrack, and include some inspirational quotations or personal voiceovers. This is one gift that can be shared in person or over group meeting apps.

- Get involved together. An especially meaningful way to honor a mother who is always giving her time and love is to become involved in a difference-making organization. Joint volunteerism is a great way to spend more time together working toward a worthy goal.

- Enjoy her hobbies and interests. Devote a day or more to trying Mom's interests and hobbies, whether they include hitting the links, knitting, singing in the church choir, or digging in her garden.

- Send an edible gift. If you can't be there to celebrate with Mom in person, have a special meal delivered to her door. Then enjoy the same foods with her via Google Meet, Facetime or Zoom. Don't forget a tasty cocktail so you can toast the special woman in your life.

Mother's Day celebrations can be unique, heartfelt and customized based on family needs. TF215954



Must-Have Gear for Your Outdoor Trips and Adventures

If you're like many Americans, your family has spent the past year discovering -- or rediscovering -- the joys of vacationing in the great outdoors.

Nearly half of all campers either started camping for the first time in 2020 or restarted after having not camped in recent years, according to KOA's North American Camping Report. Plus, a recent GoRVing.com study conducted by Ipsos reveals RV ownership is at a record high, with 11.2 million American households owning an RV in 2021, up 62% over a 20-year period.

Whether you're a seasoned RV enthusiast or a first-time camper, being prepared to hit the road is essential. In time for the warmer months ahead, here are some tips to tackle all your excursions into the great outdoors with confidence.

Drinkable Water

For obvious reasons, ensuring you have a surplus of drinkable water for the duration of your trip needs to be a top priority. As you plan, take a cue from experts in preparedness, the U.S. Armed Forces, and put Scepter Military Water Cans on your "must-have" list of gear. Standard issue to the U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces, these easy-to-carry, virtually indestructible containers are up to the task of camping trips, sports expeditions, boating and more. They're also BPA-free to keep chemicals, odors and tastes out of your water, as well as corrosion- and fungus-resistant, so your drinking water is clean and safe. A quick-pour option makes it possible to empty up to 5 gallons of water in under seven seconds through the 4-inch wide cap opening. Or, you can set up the container for practical personal use at your campsite conveniently, thanks to an optional dispenser spout for when you need to fill cups or bottles.

Hassle-Free Refuels

Making the best use of your supplies and avoiding waste is key to successful adventures, especially when you're far from creature comforts. However, fuel containers can be heavy and often bulky to use, increasing the likelihood of spills. Having a comfortable and convenient way of refueling sporting equipment, recreation vehicles and other gear can make your travel prep and on-the-go fill-ups clean, fast and hassle-free. Check out durable, easy-to-manage fuel storage options, like those from Scepter SmartControl. The line-up is available in 1-, 2- and 5-gallon sizes for gasoline, diesel and kerosene, and come in different shapes and with different handle options to fit the application, for controllable flow and no-mess usage.

From rugged off-roading escapades to serene nature hikes, all your outdoor activities will be much more enjoyable when you have the confidence that comes with the right gear and preparation strategies.



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Saints Peter & Paul Mausoleum

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In the heart of St. Ann's Cemetery, Saint Peter and Paul Mausoleum will open this spring as a final resting place for thousands of faithful Catholics.

The 22,000 square-foot mausoleum complex will house 2,086 casket spaces, 552 marble front niches and 122 glass-front niches, according to Anthony Carpinello, director of Catholic cemeteries for the Diocese of Providence. Carpinello said about 300 casket cases have been sold thus far, but niches having been selling more since cremation has become more popular over the past several years. McClesky Mausoleums, who builds about 60 percent of all Catholic mausoleums across the country according to Carpinello, are build-

ing the new mausoleum, and it was designed by Cemetery Design Associates.

The cemetery already hosts six mausolea, but five are at capacity. The sixth is a holding crypt for about 100 remains that will be placed in the new mausoleum, according to the Rhode Island Catholic. Carpinello said that St. Ann's mausoleums are the only ones in the state under the Diocese's control.

"It started out of a need for mausoleum space," Carpinello said. "When I first arrived here there was very little availability. The Catholic cemeteries were in a transition period They didn't want to start a new project until a new director was named. By the time I got settled, there was an even greater need for mausoleum space."

Construction of the mausoleum began in April 2019, and Carpinello said that the project cost about \$11 million. The Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence inspired the design, which Carpinello said highlights the mausoleum's connection to Catholicism.

"Catholic cemeteries are consecrated ground," Carpinello said. "Being consecrated ground, it is an extension of our church. Our Catholic faith teaches our faithful to live our lives in communion with the church and in death return to those grounds. So from the out-

side, it doesn't look like your normal mausoleum, it looks like a church. That's what makes it different since we are an extension of our churches."

Upon arriving at the mausoleum, the mausoleum's two front towers will also hold companion couch crypts and individual crypts. The chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be located in the center of the mausoleum. Its nave will be lined with both individual and companion crypts.

There will also be two family rooms in the alcove on the back wall on both sides of the chapel mural. These rooms have companion couch crypts that are seven levels high for a total of 14 casket spaces. These rooms are private so only family members can access them and will each have the family name inscribed on its gate.

Each area is named for various local Catholic parishes and will have a stained-glass window dedicated to its namesake. All of the artwork throughout the mausoleum came from the former Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Federal Hill.

The corridors contain side-by-side crypts, true companion crypts and single crypts depending on location. Carpinello said that people may choose to place their remains in the corridor correlated with their parish,

or in one that is named after a saint they had a particular fondness for.

"We put a strong emphasis on giving every area a true meaning and having it depicted by artwork," Carpinello said regarding the naming and theming of the corridors. "We didn't want anybody to feel that one area was better than another."

The mausoleum will also have outdoor crypts in three courtyards. While two of the courtyards will only offer true companion crypts, the third offers single crypts, side-by-side crypts and true companion crypts.

For those who want a resting place that is still outdoors but not too exposed, the mausoleum will have four covered cloister areas named after the four Gospel writers. There will be all kinds of crypts here, as well as statutes of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Carpinello said that the mausoleum's scope and design make it unique.

"It's one of a kind for anything in Rhode Island, and I'm told that it is the second largest in all of New England," Carpinello said.

Those who wish to purchase a casket or crypt can call 401.742.0796 or email bherrendioceseofprovidence.org. Carpinello said that casket spaces start at \$8,500, but the price may increase depending on where it is in the mausoleum.

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SENIOR ISSUES

Nursing homes see 96 percent decline in COVID cases since vaccine rollout

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), representing more than 14,000 nursing homes and long term care facilities across the country that provide care to approximately five million people each year, released a report showing nursing homes in the U.S. continue to see a rapid decline in new COVID-19 cases thanks to initial vaccine allocations prioritized for nursing homes and called on Congress to consider the industry's Care For Our Seniors Act to address systemic issues facing the nursing home sector and prevent another COVID-type crisis.

Recent CMS data shows that nursing homes have seen a 96 percent decline in new COVID cases among residents since the peak during the week of December 20 of last year when there were more than 30,000 new resident cases. Along with the lowest number of new COVID cases, AHCA/NCAL's new report shows COVID related deaths in nursing homes declined by 91 percent since December 20, 2020.

"We are not out of the woods yet, but these numbers are incredibly encouraging and a major morale booster for frontline caregivers who have been working tirelessly for more than a year to protect our residents," said Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. "This trend shows that when long term care is prioritized, as with the national vaccine rollout, we can protect our vulnerable elderly population. Now we need Congress to prioritize our nursing homes for the long-term by considering the initiatives in the Care For Our Seniors Act to improve the quality of care for our residents."

AHCA and LeadingAge, recently released the reform agenda, the Care For Our Seniors Act, to address long-standing challenges affecting the quality of care provided in America's nursing homes. The organizations say the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated systemic issues impacting the nursing home sector, such as workforce shortages, aging physical plants and underfunded government reimbursements for care.

The Care For Our Seniors Act focuses on four key areas for improvement, which include enhancing the quality of care with enhanced standards for infection preventionists, requiring that each nurs-

ing home have a registered nurse on-staff, 24 hours per day and requiring a minimum 30-day supply of personal protective equipment in all nursing homes. The initiative also calls for a multi-phase, tiered approach to attract, retain and develop more long term care professionals leveraging federal, state and academic institutions.

While recommending several new ways to improve oversight and processes to support better care and protect residents, the Care For Our Seniors Act also aims to modernize nursing homes by looking at how the industry could shift to more private rooms, promoting resident privacy and supporting infection control best practices.

AHCA and LeadingAge say reform will be costly, but is long overdue. The nursing home sector has been facing a financial crisis for years even before COVID due to low Medicaid reimbursements, the primary coverage for nursing home residents. The Care For Our Seniors Act calls for an increase in federal Medicaid funds provided to states and bringing the Medicaid rate up to equal the cost of care. Currently, Medicaid only covers 70 to 80 percent of the costs to care for a nursing home resident.

"With a growing elderly population soon needing our services, the moment is now. We must pay tribute to all those who lost their lives to this vicious virus and resolve to bring forth a brighter future," concluded Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. "We have already seen what progress can be made when policymakers come together to make long term care residents a priority and through these reforms, we can significantly improve the quality of care for our current residents and generations to come."

To learn more about the Care For Our Seniors Act, please visit www.ahcancal.org/solutions.

ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represents more than 14,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahcancal.org or www.ncal.org.



ACCORDING TO DON
by DON FOWLER

Recalling Restaurants of the Eighties

Thanks to the readers who called and e-mailed with their memories of long-gone restaurants.

Carol Nelson fondly remembers Johnsons Hummocks on Allens Ave., where she had her first date with her now husband 67 years ago.

"He tells people that the reason he married me was because I was the only girl he took out who finished her meal and was eyeing his," she said.

We also remember the giant mural over the huge bar.

Lori Eldridge used to go to the Cocke 'n' Kettle in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. "They had continental cuisine served by friendly waiters in a luxurious home," she remembered. Best of all, a server would bring hot popovers right from the oven o the table." She also remembers the Seven Seas in Warwick, near Rocky Point for its great seafood "in the rough".

As I looked back at my entertainment columns of the 1980's, I recalled so many outstanding restaurants that are no longer with us.

Topping the list was the Ming Garden in downtown Providence, where I frequently left my office in the Howard building to go next door for the best chicken wings in the world, covered in a thick, tasty sauce that I have never found duplicated. The Ming was the King of all Asian restaurants.

Remember Mario's at 325 Warwick Ave., just over the Cranston line, where Howdy Hamburgers was and the Stop and Shop is now?

Another reader reminded me of the Sandpiper at 1935 West Shore Rd, where twin lobsters were \$9.95.

A relative recalled called Micheletti's at 23 Rathbone St. in the old Providence Market District. Tony Micheletti was always there to greet you and suggest his favorite veal dishes. On evening we were seating in from of the gilded mirror in the elegant dining room. Joyce cracked a lobster tail and the juice

Sprayed all over the mirror. Our kids couldn't stop laughing as Joyce turned redder than the lobster.

Our favorite Newport restaurant was Salas. It was also the only one we could afford on the island. They had the best, sweetest lobster in Newport. Tables were close together in the upstairs dining room. We noticed a huge platter of lo mein at the next table. The group noticed us noticing them, sent the platter to our table and invited us to help ourselves. We did, and returned for more.

Ned Grace was responsible for some of the best restaurants in the area. The entrepreneur started with the Old Grist Mill and then founded Hemenway's, by far one of the finest restaurants to open in Providence. . . until he added the Capitol Grille. He went on to open Bugaboo Creek in Warwick and Seekonk, and added our favorite, Ocean Express on Allens Ave.

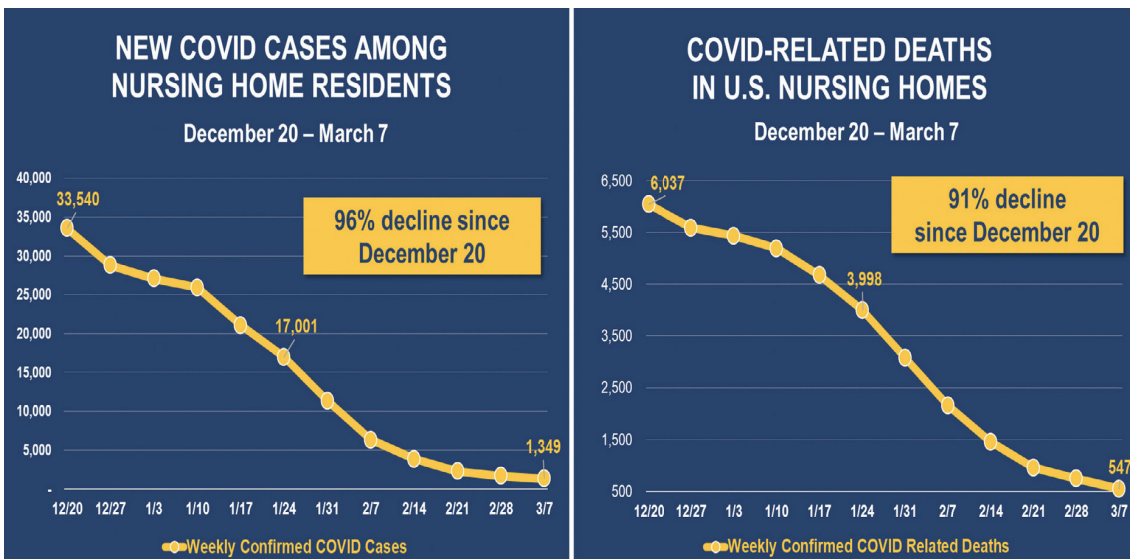
We fondly remember Vincents Marcello's at 146 Gansett St., across from Hugh B. Bain school, a true Italian family restaurant where a family of four could afford to eat.

Remember the Old Diamond in Knightsville? Henry Alves was one of the great Italian chefs in the state. It was sort lived, but the Barnsider Key West made a splash inside Rhode Island Mall with its gourmet burgers, pineapple pizzas and Hawaiian drinks.

Remember Rafael's, the upscale Providence restaurant run by chef Rafael, the Johnson and Wales grad from Edgewood? My friend, the late Sheldon Sollosy took me there and insisted that we share a squid appetizer. I mentioned it in my review and he called to tell me that he hoped his rabbi didn't see it.

Readers reminded me of two popular Italian restaurants, now long gone, in Warwick: Mama Chiello and Mama Spumoni.

Tom's Bao Bao was a unique restaurant on Providence's Westminster St. that sold Chinese dumplings. The trained bao bao makers displayed their talents in the front window for passersby. Most people find them "interesting", but complained about the small portion of ingredients. They didn't last long.





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COLLECTIBLES

Spring Cleaning?

Careful Now – Don't Throw That Out!

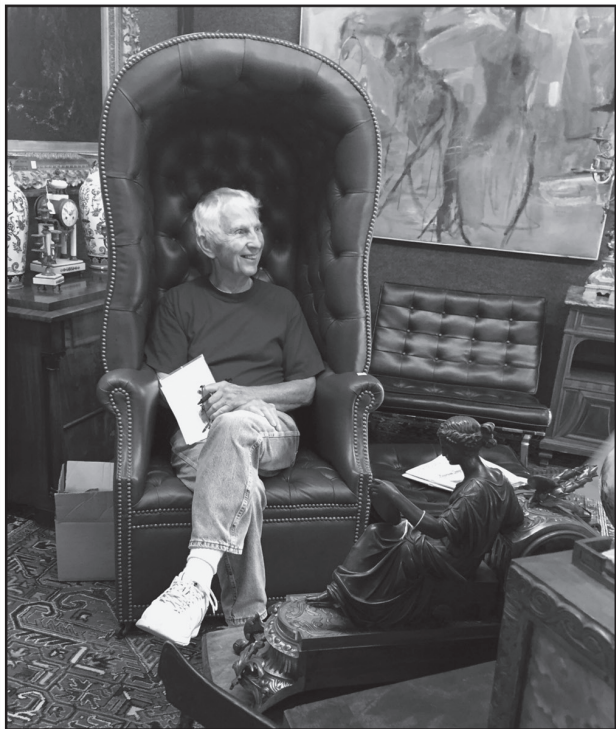


By Travis Landry
Auctioneer & Specialist
Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
Cranston, RI

It's that time. Spring! And we sure are glad to see it come. We've waited long enough. So, all that clutter, from Christmas, the holidays, and the long winter, have gathered in your basement and garage – and now it's time to attack all of that – get organized – and throw stuff out...

But wait! The first step is to make a plan. Even if it's so bad that you hire a dumpster or Got Junk crew, you'll want to do that first pass yourself. Look things over. Open boxes. Sort through. Talk to your kids – "if you don't want this, I'm throwing it out" – is a good threat line to mobilize kids to help sort through – but you really shouldn't you're your own threat literally. Especially where old games, toys, and memorabilia is concerned.

Today, almost anything could be collectible to a certain point. Obviously, if you did nothing but save used Kit Kat wrappers then odds are you are not sitting on a hidden treasure, but you'd be surprised what your grandfather's collection of wrappers would be worth.



So, the good news is the really old stuff – hidden underneath the kids' art projects – might be where you'll find treasure.

Dealing with an estate whether it's a family member or friend can be a difficult and emotional process. For most, it starts out as a tedious and slow one eventually leading to the mentality of get all this stuff out, I don't care, and the list goes on. This mindset is what brings everyone to the clean out phase, but it is paramount to get a trusted expert and auction house involved if you think you have items that need a professional opinion.

The auction world in most circumstances is consignment based, so involving an auction house first is solely to your benefit. It is the house's job to dig through and find that needle in the haystack because they only make money by making you money. The second factor is that a professional will be able to make an assessment much faster than the average home owner. Specialists are specialists for a reason, through years of experience they are able to give real time assessments of your articles without the deterrent of emotional attachment or stress.

Simple spring cleaning – and whole house estate cleaning can be exhausting and overwhelming. But once you make that pass through and sort through the obvious toss outs, what might still appear to be several months' worth of work can typically be executed in an orderly and expeditious way – and maybe in a day or two.

When this phase two is done, a good professional auctioneer will not leave you with a pile of unusable items – they'll have resources to call in to take it all away – be it simple trash removal or the dumpster in the driveway. And just because an item might not be valuable for a consignment auction – someone may need it – we know charities that provide furnishings to the homeless, or even clothes that can be donated – from winter coats – to prom dresses.

As we tell people – break the spring cleaning – estate cleaning – down into manageable steps. Take a breath, relax, and let the professionals do their job. And don't do what we see all the time – clean before we get there! Do not worry, it's just stuff! And we're used to it – we'd



rather go through that old set of drawers with you than come in after that little treasure of a mid-century pen holder has been tossed.

Just think how good you'll feel when it's all done – you can literally – and figuratively – open the windows and breath in the spring air – knowing you have new usable space in your home, items have been lovingly placed for auction, or donated to a good cause. Hopefully you'll have fun in the process, too. Memory lane is a wonderful thing to travel down – and we, as appraisers and auctioneers – are honored to be invited in for the ride.



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