

Amazon? What's in a name?

'Project Schooner' gets board's OK; online retail giant's name not mentioned

By RORY SCHULER

As Jeff Bezos shot into space, the company he founded attempted to land a new retail distribution facility on a 196-acre Johnston woodland parcel.

The agenda for Tuesday night's Johnston Planning Board meeting did not mention the word "Amazon." The world's richest man did not attend the meeting, but his behemoth retail empire was the elephant in the room.

"I feel the whole thing has been a big smokescreen," said Johnston resident Michael Simone, a former Town Council member sitting in the audience. "Why don't they just say it's an Amazon [facility]? I don't think people realize the magnitude of this project."

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Michael Simone

The applicant was listed on the agenda as Bluewater Property Group, a New York City and Pennsylvania-based firm "focused exclusively on the industrial real estate sector across the Northeastern United States, specializing in the entitlement, acquisition, development, financing, and leasing of logistics properties," according to its website.

"I feel it's a done deal," Simone said. "I don't see how this is good for the town."

Bluewater refers to its proposal to build a six-story retail distribution facility with a ground floor area of approximately 823,522 square feet, and a total area of approximately 3,864,972 square feet, only as "Project Schooner."

No Bluewater representatives would say the word "Amazon" at the hearing.

The codename "Project Schooner," according to several town officials who spoke under condition of anonymity, refers to what may be Amazon's largest facility on the planet once it's built.

"It is kind of ironic that Jeff Bezos is trying to get to space while we're here, looking at something that's possibly going to be an Amazon facility," Planning Board Chairman John Laurito said after the meeting. "It's been said that it's an Amazon facility, but I've never been told that directly."

Despite the veil of secrecy, the Planning Board accepted Bluewater's preliminary plan Tuesday night with a unanimous vote.



GIANT STRIDE: Red Godin, a Johnston resident and owner of Giant Stride Dive Shop in Warwick, opposes the project. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



PROJECT SCHOONER: A "major land development" is planned for a stretch of mostly upland forested terrain at 2120 Hartford Ave. (Route 6), just west of the intersection with Interstate 295.



LOCAL UNION JOBS: More than 100 members and leaders of local trade unions attended the public hearing Tuesday, voicing support for the proposed six-story retail distribution facility. The unions hope construction of the facility will provide work for their members.



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READY. AIM. WATER: Matthew O'Leary spent an afternoon with his sons, Noah, 5, and Kayden, 3, at Johnston's War Memorial park. The trio filled water pistols and had a small battle, though the dad caught most of the friendly fire. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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Johnston Police set to host National Night Out event

Johnston will join more than 38 million people across 16 thousand communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide by celebrating National Night Out on August 3 at Johnston War Memorial Park from 5 to 8 p.m.

National Night Out is an annual campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer places to live and work. The event is designed to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while creating a sense of community, especially given the events of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are so looking forward to this event this year and we were very disappointed that last year we needed to cancel, but we're back and bigger than ever," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza.

Johnston will celebrate National Night Out by hosting a cookout with complimentary food and drink, a bounce house, a monster truck and touch a truck event, along with a special guest from Paw Patrol. Admission is free, and the Johnston Police Department encourages all residents to come to Johnston War Memorial Park to meet members of the police and fire departments.

The Johnston Police Department considers National Night Out to be a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive and

informal circumstances, with a goal of building and expanding community partnerships.

"This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity," said National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin. "National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen."

National Night Out is nationally sponsored by NATW, Ring, New York Life, Starbucks, Associa, AT&T, Academy Sports & Outdoors and co-sponsored locally by the Johnston Police Department.

"The members of the Johnston Police Department welcome everyone to this year's National Night Out and we look forward to seeing you," said Razza.

For those who would like contribute a donation to the event, or to reserve an exhibition space, please contact Captain Joseph Salvadore at jsalvadore@johnstonpd.com. For more information on National Night Out, please visit natw.org.

In an effort to assist the state with its goal of vaccinating more Rhode Islanders against COVID-19, Johnston has also partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Health to host a free vaccination clinic during National Night Out festivities. No appointment is necessary.



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Kevin Sprague – Warwick, R.I.**

**“I don’t know how we could have done this without you”
Dave Gervais – Cranston, R.I.**

**“It’s not too good to be true, Thank God”
Debbie Mariotti – Johnston, R.I.**

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Brian Bouthillier – North Kingstown, R.I.**

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GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY



CHILDREN'S CEMETERY: Johnston Historical Society President Elise Carlson surveys the surviving grave markers, seen here through a crumbling old snow fence that surrounds the burial ground. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

A mighty oak guards The Children's Cemetery

By RORY SCHULER

A row of tiny headstones secluded in the woods of Snake Den State Park has been nicknamed "The Children's Cemetery."

Six tiny markers stood in a row (although one is now just a small hole; a broken stone is currently in the custody of the Johnston Historical Society's Cemetery Committee, under repair).

The children all died young, in their first year of life. They were the sons and daughters of Harris Brown and his wife Lavina Place. Their tiny bodies were laid to rest in Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 93. Overgrown shrubs and gnarled old trees hide the burial ground.

"It's almost better that you can't see these from the path," said Johnston Historical Society President Elise Carlson. "Oh, there it is."

Carlson took a left off a small road used by the African Alliance of Rhode Island, a group that farms land in a small portion of the state park.

"These are pretty well hidden," Carlson said, pushing thorny vines and gripping branches out of the way.

Bordered by a deteriorating snow fence of unknown origin, six graves have been planted in a row at the base of a mighty oak tree.

The funerals were likely held when the tree was barely a sapling.

The distance between the headstones and tiny footstones is a mere couple feet, illustrating the diminutive size of the lost souls interred in the ground.

Harris Brown lived from 1815-1888, outliving six of his eight children, and his wife, who died in 1865.

"Harris Brown was born March 19, 1815, in the town of Johnston, was reared there, and received such educational advantages as were common to the youth of the period," according to the 1908 book "Representative Men and Old Families of RI" (the book can be found in the Johnston Historical Society's collection).

"In his youth he learned the trade of a millwright and later that of a wheelwright, continuing to follow the latter vocation all his life, for nearly or quite 45 years being thus employed in the town of Olneyville, where he became known to a wide and varied acquaintance," according to the book.

The Olneyville neighborhood, now within the Providence city limits, was once a section of Johnston.

"His honesty was proverbial, his word his bond, his moral life as clean and irreproachable as his business integrity," according to "Representative Men." "Though he did not make friends and acquaintances rapidly he built well, and none knew him but to respect him."



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Cemetery

(Continued from page 4)

The book details Brown's lack of political aspiration.

"In his manner he was quiet and unassuming, but he took much interest in the affairs of his community and was repeatedly sought as a candidate for office, though he turned a deaf ear to such solicitations except in one instance, when he ran on an independent ticket with little or no hope of election and polled a most satisfactory vote, running much ahead of his ticket," according to "Representative Men."

Harris attended the Free Will Baptist Church, and was described as "a man slightly under medium height but of strong frame, and weighed over 200 pounds throughout his mature life."

"He had great strength, but his great physical ruggedness was no more remarkable than his strong character, and both were equally recognized and respected," according to "Representative Men." "He was a man singularly attached to his home and devoted to his duty, and throughout his long and useful career he was always to be found at his place of business during working hours and at his home during his leisure time."

Brown's was first married on Nov. 8, 1838, to Lavina Place.

Place was born Dec. 12, 1818, the daughter of Hazard and Phebe Place.

After she died 1865, Brown eventually remarried.

"For his second wife he married Susan P. Phillips, who was born Dec. 21, 1817, and who survives him, Mr. Brown, having passed away Sept. 20, 1888," according to "Representative Men." "Though 90 years old Mrs. Brown is remarkably well preserved, and both mentally and physically as active as many who are many years her junior."

Although the spellings and exact number of his children differs in historical texts, from the granite tombstones, all of the children were the result of Brown's first marriage.

Two survived to adulthood: Chauncey, born Nov. 15, 1843, went on to reside in Voluntown, Conn.; and Charles, born Nov. 8, 1858, lived in Providence.

While living in Johnston, Harris and Lavina lost six children and buried them side-by-side in the Children's Cemetery, Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 93: George Henry, born June 13, 1839, died Aug. 28, 1839; Mary Elizabeth, born May 3, 1840, died July 26, 1840; Mary Elizabeth, born and died some time in 1848; Margaret (or Maryett), born Dec. 31, 1846, died May 10, 1849; Antoinette, twin of Margaret, died March 24, 1849; and Lester, born Oct. 16, 1850, died Nov. 8, 1850.



CHILDREN'S CEMETERY: Johnston Historical Society President Elise Carlson visits the Children's Cemetery, or Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 93 in Snake Den State Park. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third installment of a weekly series looking into the conditions and history of the town's nearly 100 historic cemeteries. The Johnston Historical Society needs help. Anybody interested in volunteering to help maintain an old cemetery in town, by mowing the grass and/or clearing weeds and debris, is urged to contact the Society by calling 401-231-3380.

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After budget cuts, Johnston's library perseveres

By RORY SCHULER

Libraries are incredibly important to the communities they serve. Volunteers are incredibly important to the libraries they serve. Following a decision by town government to cut the budget at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, the need for volunteers, and patrons, has never been so great. "With less budget, it's of course a challenge, but I'm confident we can find

ways to give people what they need," said library director Jon Anderson. "We were always looking for new ways to expand, rather than scale back service, and we may not be able to do everything we had hoped." Kathie Lombardo sat in the children's department of the library on Tuesday morning, using scissors to cut shapes in orange construction paper. Lombardo has been instrumental in crafting brightly colored, instructional bulletin board displays throughout

the library. "I was so impressed when I first started coming here," she said, seated next to Children's Librarian Meri Carney. "There are so many programs for children of all different ages." As a child, Lombardo loved her local library. "When I was growing up, I lived in the library," she recalled. "But I never had all the resources they have here." The town budget, approved last month, included increases for the fire,

police and school departments. As he implemented the town's first property tax increase since 2017, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said he was forced to make some cuts as well, to balance the budget. The library budget faced a bigger cut than any other department. Anderson saw town funds shrink 17 percent, which equates to about \$130,000 less funding this year than last.

LIBRARY - PAGE 7

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Krystel Feghali, MD, is an Endocrinologist treating a wide range of issues including diabetes, osteoporosis, adrenal diseases, and transgender medicine. She completed her fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Baystate Medical Center and her residency at Roger Williams Medical Center and Boston University. She is also fluent in Arabic and French. Her practice is located at 50 Maude Street in Providence, 456-5716.



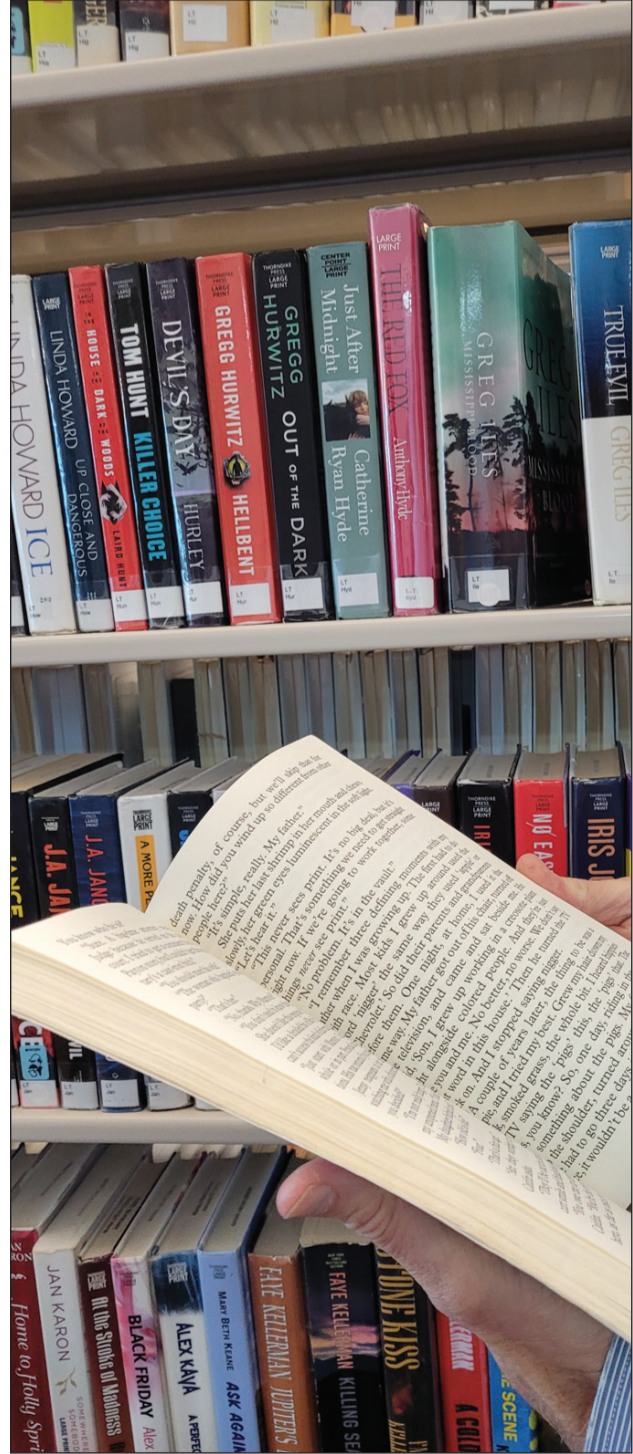
Abed Hout, MD, is a Primary Care Physician with a special interest in general health and lifestyle maintenance, sports medicine and dermatology procedures. He is a graduate of St. George's University of London and completed his residency in Family Medicine at Mercy Health - St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital in Ohio, where he served as Chief Resident. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He is joining the practice of Dr. Frank Fraioli at 41 Sanderson Road in Smithfield, 349-2203.



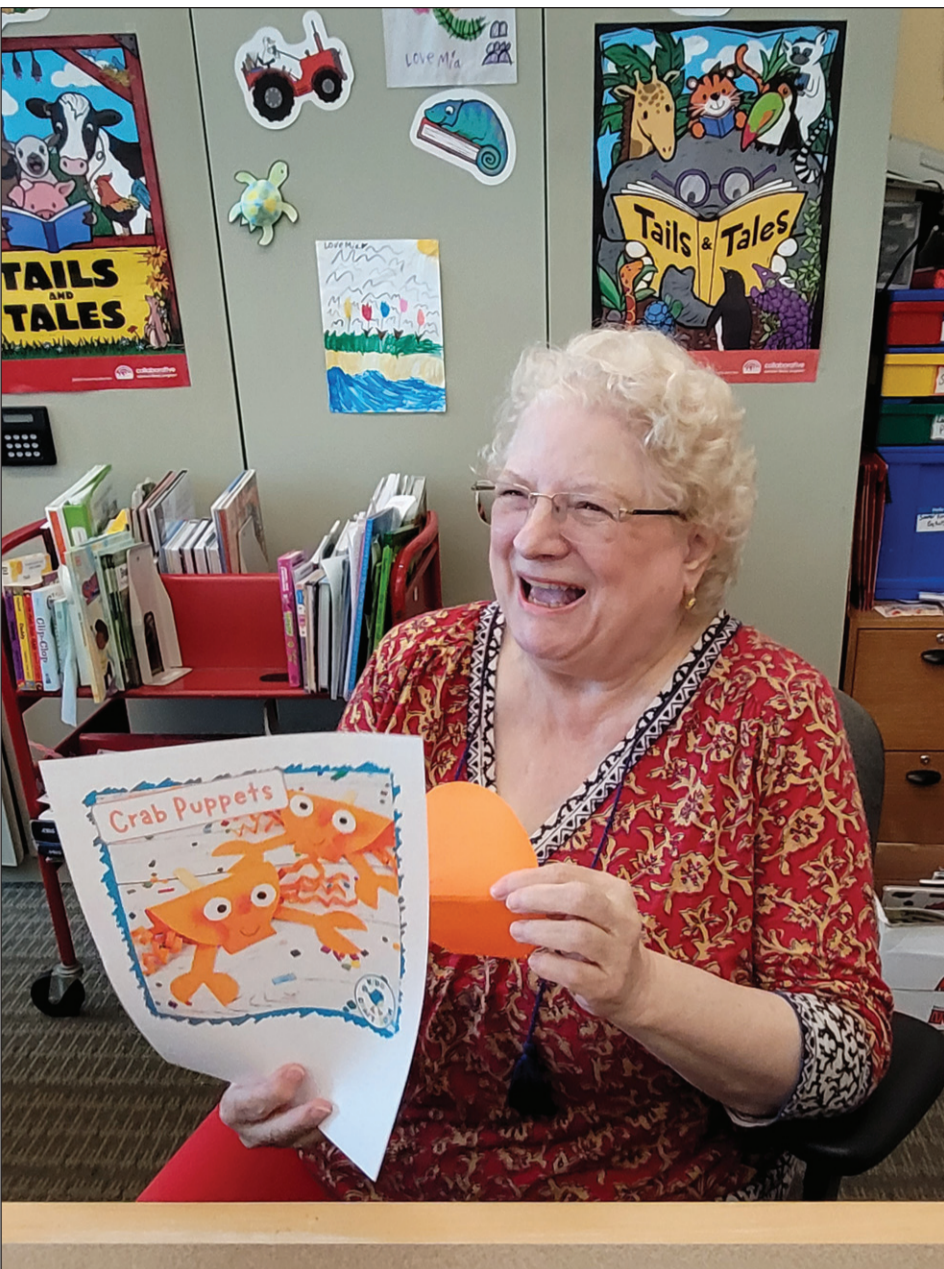
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READ THE LARGE PRINT: Library Director Jon Anderson flips through a large print volume in the stacks of the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



PRICELESS VOLUNTEERS: Kathie Lombardo has been volunteering her time at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library for more than six years. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Library

(Continued from page 6)

After he presented his budget proposal, Polisena said several open positions in the library department will remain unfilled through 2022.

"The Library eliminated one full-time position, Assistant Director," Anderson said this week. "Some part-time clerical positions that were vacant will remain unfilled."

Finally fully reopened after the COVID pandemic, the library has seen print circulation drop by approximately half over the past year.

"Print circulation is falling off in all libraries," he said, while giving a tour of the library facilities. "I'm sure it will increase again."

The library has started hosting its reading program again, and story hours are back on the schedule.

The library's full slate of programs, however, has yet to be finalized.

"Exactly what we do remains to be decided," Anderson said. "I would like to hear from the public if there is anything they'd like us to do, and we'll try."

Anderson remained optimistic, despite the budget cuts.

"We have to be positive and patient," he said. "We'll do the best we can with what we have."

The library has 12 employees, six part-time and six full-time.

"We will definitely continue to provide the many programs and services described on our website, and hope to add to those," Anderson said, reciting the library's mission statement. "Our mission is still to 'provide resources for patrons to gain enrichment, become informed, and pursue their goals' and all library staff will work hard to satisfy that mission."

ON THE WEB

For more information about programs at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library, visit mohrlibrary.org.

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As of June 28th, come in:
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 (Saturday hours resume after Labor Day.)

The Library is closed for holidays:
 Monday, July 5th, to observe Independence Day
 Monday, August 9th, Victory Day
 Monday, September 6th, Labor Day.

(The Library is closed Sundays.)

NEW HOURS: Throughout the pandemic, hours of operation at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library have fluctuated a bit, but have finally stabilized. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Princess

Pretty, pretty Princess! She is just a young pup about six months old so lots of puppy energy. Princess is a Hound mix with a gorgeous tri-color coat and dark brown eyes that are filled with love! If you have been looking to adopt a sweetheart then Princess may be the girl for you? She is a bit shy at first but warms up very quickly and loves attention, she also likes other playful dogs. You can find out more information about Princess from Save One Soul Animal Rescue League at (401) 206-0727 or via email at info@sosarl.org Their website is www.sosarl.org for more specific adoption information. Princess will bring you many years of fun and laughter, contact Save One Soul today!

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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BACKYARD SPACE



The Bat Nebula, NGC 6992

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

The Bat Nebula, also known as the Eastern Veil Nebula, is in the constellation Cygnus and is a large supernova remnant.

The rich Hydrogen alpha, Sulphur II and Oxygen III gas's make it a popular target for astrophotographers using narrowband filters.

The Eastern Veil nebula is only a part of that supernova remnant, The Cygnus Loop is an entire nebula region located within this constellation.

The supernova that created these ionized gas clouds was about 20

times more massive than our own Sun and has thought to have exploded 10,000- 20,000 years ago.

The nebula region is located about 1,400 light-years from Earth and covers an area in the sky about five times bigger than the moon!

The weather in Johnston has been very uncooperative for Astrophotography. Between the rain and clouds it's tough to get a good night of imaging in.

I was only able to set up my telescope two times so far this month, but thankfully I was able to get some new data!

This Image was taken over the course of two imaging sessions.

One with the Hydrogen- Alpha filter (Reds), and another with the Oxygen-III filter (Blues).

I combined these two channels into an RGB image using an astronomical editing software to bring out the nebulosity, details, and color. This image was taken from my backyard in Johnston.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lucas "Luc" Maguire captured this image from his backyard in Johnston. He will be submitting his deep space images to the Sun Rise for publication each week. Maguire's photography can also be found at his Instagram account @oceanstateastro and his Twitter feed @OceanStateAstro.

On Netflix

THE COOK OF CASTAMAR

This Spanish melodrama has a little bit of everything – intrigue, a love story, sex, violence, history, politics and the “upstairs/downstairs” relationships between the wealthy and their servants.

The series has too many characters to keep track of and sometimes it is difficult to determine who are the villains and who are the heroes.

If you like love stories, the one that develops between the cook of the title and the lord of the manor is a good one.

Diego has lost his wife to an accident that turns out not to be so accidental. His mother wants him to remarry and brings a questionable woman into his life. Meanwhile, he becomes infatuated with the pretty young cook, who prepares fabulous meals.

Diego has an adopted Black brother, unheard of in those times.

The cook has a blind father who is doomed to be hung for a murder he did not commit. The servants all have interesting pasts that are slowly revealed. The king is an idiot.

The main theme is that the past always comes back to haunt you, but goodness will prevail.

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Fowler

Movies



While the series is a bit heavy handed, it will hold your interest as you root for the cook.

THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES

Like the Turner Classic Movies network, Netflix occasionally brings back classic movies.

This 1976 Western starring Clint Eastwood has it all – action, adventure, compassion, love, revenge and humor.

Josey watches renegades from the Union army murder his family. The southern militia are invited to surrender to the Union army as the war ends, but are then annihilated.

Josey escapes after a bloody battle and is doggedly pursued with a big bounty on his head. He avoids capture, picking up strays along the way. An aged Indian chief, a frightened young soldier, an abused Indian woman, a dog, and an entire family end up following him to what they hope will be a paradise-like home-

stead.

They are attacked by Mexican Comancheros before they reach their destination, where they make piece with the Comanche tribe, only to face the final showdown with the law.

One of the best westerns ever made.

At the Warwick Showcase

ROADRUNNER: ANTHONY BOURDAIN ****

We first encountered this brash, articulate chef/writer/TV host/world traveler when he gave a lecture at PPAC.

Unaware at the time of his rise from dishwasher to sought-after chef to author of “Kitchen Confidential” to world famous TV star, we were impressed with his talk and Q&A session.

We started watching his TV adventures as he followed the food around

the world. His mantra was to be a traveler, not a tourist.

Bourdain took us to countries like France and Spain, dining at world-renowned restaurants. Then he was back introducing us to African and Asian cuisine in small villages.

The documentary is a compelling story of his life, with all of its ups and downs, using his writings and recording thoughts (we later learn that his voice was duplicated at times through an artificial intelligence technique).

His story is told through the eyes of his closest friends and two wives, learning much about his highs and lows as he suffered with manic depression.

Shots of his many trips around the world brought back many of the TV shows that appeared almost nightly on CNN.

Send the young ones to watch LeBron James and cartoon characters in “Space Jam” or teens to watch the gruesome “Escape Plan.”

Project

(Continued from page 1)

The proposal will now move on to Town Council, where many Johnston residents are hoping to learn details beyond the site map, traffic studies and storm water mitigation.

More than 160 people attended Tuesday's more than four-hour hearing at the Johnston Senior Center.

Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb attended to help keep track of the number of attendees, with an assistant at the door who counted people as they entered and left the building.

The fire code only allows 230 occupants in the Senior Center at one time, and Lamb said he was prepared to shut the doors if necessary.

More than 100 of the attendees were members of local building trade unions.

An electric sign-paneled truck parked in the lot outside flashed messages like "Rhode Island Building Trades Unions SUPPORT PROJECT SCHOONER" and "Economic Development = GOOD LOCAL UNION JOBS."

According to the Planning Board agenda, Bluewater was "seeking approval of the major land development Preliminary Plan and the granting of and reaffirmation of dimensional variances from certain provisions of the Zoning Ordinance pursuant to Unified Development Review."

Bluewater also requested "waivers from certain requirements of the Land Development & Subdivision Review Regulations and (requested) that the Final Review be delegated to staff."

All of Bluewater's requests were granted by several unanimous Planning Board votes. At the end of the more than four-hour marathon meeting, some board members and a few attendees issued a round of applause.

The "major land development" is planned for a stretch of mostly upland forested terrain at 2120 Hartford Ave. (Route 6), just west of the intersection with Interstate 295.

Paul J. Bannon, an associate with the Lincoln firm BETA, testified on the applicant's behalf regarding planned traffic improvements in the area.

He said many roads surrounding the facility will be made safer, with the addition of a jersey barrier down the center of Route 6, new traffic lights and jughandles.

At least one business, an auto body shop, will be acquired, as well as strips of land from several properties fronting the roadways, Bannon said.

The state Department of Transportation had planned some of the improvements for 2025, Bannon testified, but the applicant has pledged to work with the state to make road upgrades sooner, coinciding with the project.

Bannon said the changes to surrounding roads will provide a "great enhancement of public safety."



SHOW OF SUPPORT: An electric sign-paneled truck parked in the lot outside flashed messages like "Rhode Island Building Trades Unions SUPPORT PROJECT SCHOONER" and "Economic Development = GOOD LOCAL UNION JOBS." (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

A stretch of Belfield Drive will be "re-aligned," Bannon said. The road will be routed around a historic cemetery.

The development lot's proximity to Interstate 295 was a major selling point for developers. Town officials hope the project may help secure long-term financial stability for the town.

Nicole Reilly, a civil engineer with DiPrete Engineering, told the Planning Board that the retail distribution facility will occupy less than 10 percent of the overall site, and employee parking, streets and truck parking will occupy another 21 percent of the land.

She said 43 percent of the site, including woodlands and wetlands, will remain "untouched." Protected wetlands occupy approximately 21 percent of the site, and the development required permits and approval from the state Department of Environmental Management.

Reilly told the board that the developers are "not proposing to clear-cut the entire frontage of the parcel."

Critics fear an increase in noise, light, traffic and destruction of wildlife habitat may be a price too high to pay.

Bluewater witnesses at Tuesday's hearing estimated traffic on local roads may swell by an additional 500 trucks per day, plus the vehicles of around 1,000 workers commuting to and from the facility.

"This will directly affect me," said Red Godin of Christopher Drive. "But I still believe in democracy. That's why I'm here."

Godin held a large white sign during the hearing. In black letters, his protest declared: "We don't want Amazon to ruin our Town of Johnston."

Godin owns Giant Stride Dive Shop in Warwick and said he drives past the proposed site several times each day. He recalled long delays during construction of the huge Citizens Bank campus nearby.

"While they were building Citizens Bank, it took me an hour to get to work every day," he said.

When he testified, he ended by asking a pointed question: "I want to know how this is going to benefit the citizens of Johnston."

Planning Board members said that question will need to be answered by Town Council.

Johnston resident John Dubois, of Belfield Drive, worries about displaced wildlife encroaching into nearby neighborhoods.

"I disagree with this whole thing," he said. "Route 6 is too busy for that location. We've got black bears running around. They should build this thing near in the industrial park, or near the landfill."

Dubois raised his hand to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

"Why do we have to help the big corporations, the Amazons of the world?" Dubois testified after taking an oath to tell the truth. "They have put a lot of small businesses out of business."

Alvin Reyes, a Johnston resident and president/development coordinator for Local Union 99, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, also testified at the hearing.

He said he loves taking his children around town and showing off the projects he helped build.

"There are 100 electricians in Johnston alone that could work on this project," Reyes said. "This could catapult us to a whole new level."

Representatives from at least five other building trades unions also testified, voicing full support for the project.

One Planning Board member, Robert Pingitore, clapped loudly after each union leader testified.

Attorney John J. Bolton represented Bluewater at the meeting. He interviewed "expert witnesses" provided by the applicant.

A week before the hearing, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisenia refused to discuss the details of the proposal.

"I have no comment on that right now," he said when asked why the planned facility has been code-named "Project Schooner."

"The Planning Board needs to make an independent decision based on the facts," he said. "Whoever attends the meeting, they should listen to the facts, look at all the testimony. I still remember my mom

telling me to take out a pad, draw a line down the center, and list the pros and cons. Don't listen to social media rumors."

Polisenia did not attend Tuesday night's hearing.

Roughly a dozen men and women attended the hearing representing Bluewater and DiPrete Engineering. Around half testified on behalf of the applicant.

Scott Rabideau, a wildlife expert and President of Natural Resource Services, based in Harrisville, told the board that the project would lead to the loss of around "60 acres of forested uplands."

"There is a loss of habitat," he admitted.

However, Rabideau expects the displaced wildlife to relocate to other areas of the land that will remain mostly untouched.

He estimated the loss of hardwood forest due to the project will be just under 18 percent of the full 196-acre parcel, and wetlands in the area will be unharmed by the project.

Bolton began his presentation by reminding the board that the land in question is currently zoned B3-Interchange Business, which is "tailored for exactly this type of use."

After the hearing was adjourned, Bolton collected his materials from a testimony table in front of the Planning Board and a stenographer, and prepared to leave.

When asked directly, the law partner with the Providence firm Hinckley Allen would not identify Amazon as the company looking to build in Johnston.

"My client is Bluewater Property," he said. "That's who I'm representing."

According to the company's website, Bluewater "successfully developed, acquired, managed and sold in excess of \$10 billion of value and 130 million (square feet) of industrial assets over the past 30 years."

Approached after the hearing, A. Donald Chase, a Bluewater Property Group partner, also refused to identify the client looking to build in Johnston.

"We're not going to comment to the press about the project," he said. "I'll just reiterate again, we're not going to make a comment identifying them."

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Watch Your MOUTH
by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

SENSITIVE TEETH

Sweet treats and frozen desserts can be a delicious indulgence for many people, but for millions of others, the mere thought of biting into something cold or sugary can cause them to cringe. Even hot foods and beverages can cause major tooth pain in some people. This is due to tooth enamel that has been worn down or cracked, and there are some remedies to try to resolve the problem. First, make a dentist appointment to ensure the problem is not more serious. In addition, avoid or limit all acidic and sugary foods and beverages since they can aggravate the issue. Changing toothpaste to one designed for sensitive teeth is another option, as is using a soft-bristled toothbrush. Keeping up with regular dental checkups will give your dentist the opportunity to keep an eye on your health as well as any possible areas of developing dental problems. And if you conscientiously follow your dentist's recommendations for at-home care, you will be more likely to have fewer potential problems. When was your last dental visit? Now would be a good time to schedule your next exam. If you don't have a family dentist, we are accepting new patients at DENTAL ARTS GROUP. Located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston, we welcome your call at 401-521-3661.

P.S. You may think that the harder you scrub your teeth the cleaner and healthier they will be, but aggressive brushing can wear away tooth enamel, leading to sensitivity and even cavities.

www.dentalartsgroupri.com

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Dave Witham

Proclamation to celebrate legacy of late co-founder at Daveapalooza

By ROB DUGUAY

When Proclamation Ale Company proprietor and co-founder Dave Witham passed away from cancer on Christmas Day last year, it shook Rhode Island's craft beer industry to its core. It left the brewery without its face and the community without one of its most vocal supporters.

When folks used to come check out the brewery's home base at 298 Kilvert St. in Warwick to drink, socialize and play arcade games, Witham would be there doing various give-aways or having contestants try their luck at Plinko. He also used his creative spirit to keep Proclamation's business alive during the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting former Gov. Gina Raimondo's famous phrase - "Knock it off!" - as the name of an ale in collaboration with the gift shop Frog & Toad in Providence, which drove sales of over 200 cases a day.

Ever since his passing, Witham's spirit has definitely been missed, but the brewery he helped start is celebrating him on Saturday, July 24, starting at noon.

The event is called Daveapalooza and it's happening at Proclamation's home base, with live music, lobster, skateboarding and, of course, beer. It's the proper way to celebrate Witham's life, an event that wasn't possible when COVID-19 was still a major obstacle for any sort of social gathering this past winter.

"We are throwing this event as a way to celebrate Dave's life and legacy," said Dave's wife, Lori, who is the current owner of the brewery. "Due to COVID-19, we weren't able to do any kind of

memorial after he passed away this winter, so we thought why not throw a fun celebration now that we can safely be outside together? Dave would never have wanted a sad and somber memorial where everyone quietly stands around. The only fitting way to celebrate his life is by joining together beer, live music, a skate ramp, food and a whole lot of friends. We will have collaboration beers with Civil Skate Shop, which has three locations in East Greenwich, Providence and Westerly, and Highroller Lobster Company from Portland, Maine."

She added: "They will be alongside our other beers and guest taps from Bissell Brothers in Maine, Vitamin Sea in Massachusetts and Kent Falls and Fox Farm which are both in Connecticut. We will have a half pipe up for seasoned skateboarders. We will have food from Highroller as well as local vendors with Our Table serving BBQ, Sunnyside serving sandwiches, The Wright Scoop serving ice cream and Lulu's Little Pancakes serving dessert pancakes. Last, but not least, we'll have live music from some of Dave's former bands and best friends."

Witham was also part of the local music community as a music teacher along with being a member of the Providence hip-hop band Symmetry. The band will be performing along with frontman Mike Slap doing a set and the B-52's tribute act B-Hive will open up the music at 2 p.m. DJ Loeki is going to be on the 1's and 2's filling the gap in between performances.

"Dave will always be someone who means a lot to me, and his friendship has had a big im-

pact on me," Symmetry drummer Alex Chapman said about the upcoming event. "I can't speak for anyone else, but I'm sure that many other people who knew him feel the same way. Even as our lives went in different directions over time, he was still a hilarious, insightful and supportive friend to me. Reuniting with Symmetry will be a blast because they are some of my best friends. I'm excited that we'll be playing together again, but it's also bittersweet when I remember the reason why we'll be there."

He added: "When I think about how they put the day together, it strikes me that everything will be all about having fun. Even though Dave will be remembered as someone who was seriously devoted to his family, friends, and his crafts such as brewing and music, I think that most of us will above all else remember him as someone who loved to have fun. That's the guy that I remember. We're all very lucky if we get to have someone like Dave in our lives. I'm just happy that I was fortunate enough to have him in mine, and that I get to help his family and the brewery in the small way that I can."

Daveapalooza is free and all ages but you need to be 21-plus to drink for obvious reasons. Anyone who shows up to skate must be vetted and they have to sign a waiver for the purpose of safety and liability. Even if you didn't know Witham, you probably had one of the beers he came up with the idea for. Spend your Saturday afternoon by making a stop at 298 Kilvert St. in Warwick for a celebration of a guy who always sought out the fun in life.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

A billion ways to change the future of Rhode Island

What would you do with a billion dollars? Although many of us have probably contemplated the possibilities that would accompany such a sum of money – the hard reality is that most of us probably don't fully realize just how much money a billion dollars really is. We simply lack appreciable context for such a gargantuan figure.

A good reference point can be obtained utilizing the Eiffel Tower, which has 1,665 steps up to its highest point (which isn't available to the public, but just for the sake of argument, picture it is). If each step upwards got you one step closer to \$1 billion – every individual step would need to be worth \$600,600. With two steps, you're already a millionaire. But it would take each and every one of those 1,665 to reach one billion dollars. Imagine earning a million dollars. Now do it one thousand times. That's a billion.

But for all the wonder it may inspire within an individual with that kind of money – look at space-conquering Jeff Bezos, who sits atop the equivalent of 205 Eiffel Towers if you consider the metaphor above – for the states and communities receiving money through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), it might be inspiring a bit more anxiety than excitement at the moment.

This is because all parties involved – from politicians to local advocacy groups, to the nonprofit organizations and corporate lobbyists who all want a piece of this money – understand how this kind of investment opportunity will likely never happen again in any of our lifetimes. It's an unprecedented opportunity, so the expectations become likewise unprecedented in what we hope to accomplish and reap from that opportunity.

This is why we're happy to see The Rhode Island Foundation taking a leading role in trying to gather together a group of forward-thinking individuals, with the ability for public input outside of their steering committee, in order to figure out how Rhode Island should turn its \$1 billion in ARPA money into an investment vehicle that will provide benefits for all within the state for decades to come.

While the actual recommendations to be brought up for discussion from the Foundation won't be coming until after this summer, it is refreshing to see a nonprofit as prolific as the Rhode Island Foundation taking charge and emphasizing the importance of thinking big with this kind of money – not just using it as a means to plug short-term holes in pandemic-ravaged budgets and calling it a day. It is even more encouraging to see that they have assembled a team of diverse individuals who have concepts such as improving equity, sustainability and creating prolonged impact in the front of mind in their considerations.

The pandemic adversely affected individuals of low income and minority neighborhoods – it is only right that the money being provided by the federal government to try and help states recover from the damage incurred by COVID-19 would go towards bolstering those same demographics. A rising tide floats all boats, and lifting up those at the bottom who have suffered the worst will only serve to benefit our entire society by providing them a renewed opportunity to engage in our communities and economy.

Recent headlines and reactionary opinions have indicated that crime has gotten out of control in our communities across the nation. Well, we have a huge chunk of money coming available to possibly make some structural, long-term improvements regarding our affordable housing, early educational and mental health infrastructure moving forward. Investment in each of those areas would pay dividends down the line in providing more opportunity, addressing critical needs and, eventually, decreasing crime. Rather than looking at short-term, reactionary policies – such as increasing the number of police officers on street corners – ARPA money provides the perfect opportunity to think deeper about these real problems and make real, long-term changes.

The same logic can be applied towards all our major problems – whether it's economic development in our cities, combating climate change or addressing our physical infrastructural deficiencies. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make our state better – and benefit everybody by doing so.

We hope that the Rhode Island Foundation's efforts will make an impact on those who will ultimately control the purse strings of this money – in each community that receives it. Rhode Islanders deserve that level of thought and consideration.

Le Registre

Yes, madame we DO have next Monday open at 3:15. We'll see you then.

So that's a party of one at noon, on the 23rd of next month....

I'm Sorry but no, I don't think our Snackbar can do a vegetarian lunch for you...



The RI DMV reports they are making their reservation system permanent and are hiring 3 more people to run it.

OP-ED

Connecticut and RI are right to be skeptical of TCI

By JONATHAN SHAEER

The furious reaction of environmental advocates that followed the Rhode Island and Connecticut legislatures' decision not to take up bills on the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) was unsurprising. After all, rare is the climate policy they won't support or deem existentially critical. But these state legislatures should be commended, not criticized, for recognizing the deep flaws of the program and not bowing to the manufactured frenzy.

The truth is not every climate policy is a good one, and TCI is one such policy.

Concocted by the Georgetown Climate Center, a Washington D.C. think tank, without any industry input and marketed by state environmental departments as a pro-climate fee on gasoline distributors, TCI, in reality, is nothing more than a money-raising scheme that forever jettisons legislative oversight on the price and availability of gasoline and diesel.

TCI would require distributors of motor fuel to purchase allowance credits for every gallon of motor fuel they sell into participating states. Each year for the next 10 years, allowance credit availability is reduced by three percent making gasoline and diesel more and more scarce. That means we can expect supply outages if consumption doesn't fall

by at least three percent per year. And wouldn't you know it, the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects only a six percent reduction in consumption, meaning we can expect such outages sooner rather than later.

Supporters of TCI are quick to attack the motor fuel industry, legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle and industry lobbyists whose role it is to educate our elected officials, so they make informed decisions. But because the industry didn't have a role in the development of TCI, we are now forced to point out its flaws. And there are quite a few.

One pro-TCI Connecticut editorial confronted Senate President Martin Looney for "failing future generations of Connecticut by his complete lack of understanding on the science of the climate and buying the Republican talking points that this is a tax." The piece also said he "should have acted on behalf of the disenfranchised instead of protecting the powerful gas lobby."

Caustic words, but does this person understand how the program actually works? Have they read the overly complex 160-plus page model rule? Do they care to understand the complex and hypercompetitive fueling industry? Or would they care or be impacted when motor fuel outages occur because of a

flawed allowance auction process? Highly doubtful. Fortunately, our elected leaders have a responsibility to suppress emotion, holistically evaluate legislation and determine whether the consequences are worth it.

Everyone should be wary of TCI, because everyone uses motor fuels and most will for the foreseeable future. It's how we get to work, visit our parents and children, and how most products and services get to us. TCI has not been well thought out and lacks a shared vision on how best to effectively

reduce transportation sector emissions.

No program, particularly one that impacts a critical infrastructure product, should require so much spin to gain support. But that is exactly what proponents have been doing for the last year. Fortunately, the instincts of the Rhode Island and Connecticut legislatures are spot on with their skepticism. We owe them a great deal of gratitude, not grief.

Jonathan Shaer is director of the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association.



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Shekarchi: Staving off tax hikes a success for Assembly

By JOHN HOWELL

What legislation didn't pass is as important as what was enacted, House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi told members of the Warwick Rotary Club Thursday.

Legislators did not approve the so-called "tax the rich" plan or a sugar tax on drinks despite intensive lobbying and support from progressive Democrats.

"A lot of people ask, well, what did you do? I like to say what we didn't do. We didn't do a lot of taxes. And there was a lot of pressure from many, many members of the caucus who wanted to raise taxes on the rich. But when you dig into that and find out what it is, it's really raising taxes on small business," he said.

Shekarchi said federal funds enabled the passage of budgets – last year and this year – without raising any taxes. The tax on beverages containing sugar, Shekarchi said, would have hurt small businesses.

But as the infusion of federal funds related to the pandemic enabled no tax increase budgets and the next steps in elimination of the car tax,

the speaker was asked, doesn't it create a situation where the state will be faced with having to raise taxes in years when federal COVID funding dries up?

Shekarchi said the state is waiting for guidance from the U.S. Treasury on how it can use \$2 billion in COVID-related funding.

"Because if you don't follow the guidance, you lose the opportunity to surrender it, or even actually, God forbid, have to give it back. So, we're gonna wait for guidance and make sure we do it right," he said.

"I like to say, I don't want to spend that money, I want to invest that money. We don't have a plan for that. I know the governor has some ideas of where he wants to, as he calls them buckets of money where he wants to put it in there. In the budget we passed three weeks ago ... we made it very clear, the governor can't spend that money unless he goes through the legislative process. And that's not some kind of a power grab ... I just want that we go through the legislative process."

He said he doesn't want to see the federal funding just go to fixing pot-

holes, but to sustainable programs to help people. He said he is aware many non-profits are interested in sharing in the funding.

He noted that the Rhode Island Foundation is soliciting ideas on how the money should be spent and that Brown University has conducted a research poll on the best areas to spend it.

"We're all open, can you contact your state representative, state senator, if you have any great ideas, what should be done with it," he said.

Shekarchi termed the session – which eventually had lawmakers returning to the State House and the removal of plexiglass enclosures around desks – highly productive. Legislation he highlighted relative to the pandemic included Zoom and online municipal and state meetings, the sale by restaurants and bars of cocktails to go and a work share program that enables people to go back to work yet collect unemployment benefits until September.

He said he inherited the IGT Twin River deal, but couldn't go along with it.

"We got a much better deal for the state, significantly better in terms of higher wages, more front



Shekarchi

money, more penalties," he said.

Other highlights of the session were the Rhode Island Promise Program guaranteeing two years of free CCRI tuition, the funding of body cameras for law enforcement officers and limitations to the Pathways Program to prevent abuse of the program

enabling high school students to attend schools outside their home district. He said some parents use the program so their children can play on the athletic teams of other schools, while the home districts are faced with paying tuition to the other districts.

Shekarchi is uncertain

whether the House would reconvene in September as has been speculated. If it does, he said it would be an "open session." He foresees the legalization of recreational marijuana and the law enforcement bill of rights as major issues. He said lawmakers can close to striking down the bill of rights.

The speaker said he is opposed to legalizing recreational marijuana for the sake of legalization. He said legalization raises questions over who is going to control marijuana – who is going to sell it and who's going to license it.

"There are many different proposals surrounding marijuana," he said. "The issue is doing it right."

He said he wants to ensure the state gets its fair share of marijuana revenue while addressing concerns voiced by medical professionals and the insurance industry.

As for the law enforcement bill of rights, Shekarchi said lawmakers came close to abolishing it.

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, July 29th, 2021 at 6:30 PM
In Person at the Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue
And
Via Video Conference

Via Computer:
<https://zoom.us/j/93980114415>

Via Telephone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 939 8011 4415
Passcode: 552420

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

Old Business

Case to be heard at 6:35 PM - File 2021-9 – Petition of Mohamad Yasser & Rhonda Sasa, Owner/Applicant for 1056 Atwood Avenue, AP 24 Lots 9, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional variance to create 2 lots that do not conform to lot requirements and a Use Variance to Construct a Two-Family Dwelling on one of the newly created Lots.

New Business

Case to be heard at 6:45 PM - File 2021-18 – Petition of Leevan Sano/Xavier Investments, Owner/Applicant for 577 Killingly Street, AP 13 Lot 170, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special User Permit 340-75 for a proposal of scooter rentals and sales of associated items.

Case to be heard at 6:55 PM - File 2021-19 – Petition of Melanie Cerullo, Owner/Applicant for 115 Brown Avenue, AP 60 Lot 102, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance from Section 340 Side Yard Setbacks for a proposed addition.

Case to be heard at 7:05 PM - File 2021-15 – Petition of Paul Giarusso, Owner/Applicant for 41 Tartaglia Street, AP 27 Lots 60, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special use Permit 340-75, Dimensional Variance 340-74 and 340-63 for proposed restoration of second lot.

The Board convened as the Board of Appeals:

File 2021-15 National Development Group, Inc, Owner/Applicant; 1357 Hartford Avenue; AP 20 Lot 25; B-2 Zone; Appellants petition to the Building Officials violation notice.

File 2021-20 Peter Delponte Owner; 115 Winsor Avenue; AP 59 Lot 123; R-40 Zone; Appellants petition to the Building Officials violation notice.

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

Per order of the Zoning Board of Review
 Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

7/16, 7/23/21

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday August 3rd, 2021; 6:00 P.M.
IN PERSON & VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

In addition, the meeting will be on ZOOM so that those unable to attend the meeting in person may participate. To participate in the meeting electronically, please connect to the meeting in one of the following ways:

Via Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82999832115>

iPhone one-tap:
 +13017158592 then enter Meeting ID and Passcode

Via Telephone:
 +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 829 9983 2115
Passcode: 300057

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

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 - Scheduled for 6:00 PM
PB 21-02 - Pillozzi Private Road Subdivision - Preliminary Plan and Public Meeting of a Minor Subdivision. Located at 30 Hopkins Avenue AP 57 Lot 77 - Zoned R-40. Applicant Anthony and Emilio Pillozzi. A Public Meeting on a proposed 2 lot subdivision where one lot will be accessed off of a private road and the other lot will have access to a Town Road. A variance has been granted by the Zoning Board to permit one lot to be under-sized.

Item 2 – Scheduled for 6:20PM
PB 21-22 - 31 Starr Street Rezoning from R-20 to I - Industrial. - A Public Meeting to make an Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the requested change. Located at 31 Starr Street AP 5 Lot 370. Applicant - Jefferey Cadieux. A public meeting to discuss and advise the Town Council as to whether the proposed zone change is in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan and/or best land use practices.

Item 3 – Scheduled for 6:40PM
PB 21-18 – Giarrusso Meadows - Preliminary Plan and Public Meeting of a Minor Subdivision. Located at 104 Peck Hill Road AP 43 Lot 151 - Zoned R-40. Applicant Antonio Giarrusso. A Public Meeting on a proposed 5 lot minor subdivision where all lots will be accessed off of a Town Road.

Item 4 – Scheduled for 7:00PM
PB 21-25 – Vel-Tree Scituate Ave Subdivision – Preliminary Plan and Public Meeting of Private Road Minor Subdivision. Located adjacent to and behind 137 Scituate Avenue. AP 44 Lot 18 – Zoned R-40. Applicant Nicholas Veltri. A Public Meeting on a proposed 4 lot minor subdivision where all lots will be accessed off of a Town Road. One lot is the site of the previously approved GD Johnston-Scituate solar field. The three remaining lots are to be developed as single-family housing.

Item 5 – Scheduled for 7:20PM
PB 21-27 – Central Pike Subdivision – Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a Minor Subdivision. Located at 1257 Central Pike. AP 43 Lot 96 – Zoned R-40. Applicant - A.G. Construction. A Public Meeting on a proposed 4 lot minor subdivision where all lots will be accessed off of a Private Road.

Item 6 – Scheduled for 7:40PM
PB 20-23 – Taylor Rd Development – Public Hearing on a proposed 6 lot Conservation Development Preliminary Plan. Located at 34 Taylor Road. AP 30 Lot 16 – Zoned R-40. A Public Hearing on a proposed 6 lot subdivision with open space.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
1. Comprehensive Plan Update

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 and on the Town's webpage under Quick Links.

7/23, 7/30/21

AROUND TOWN JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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Johnston has lots of stories and we want to help you share them!

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Rory Schuler, Editor
 RoryS@rhodybeat.com
johnstonsunrise.net

submissions are not guaranteed to be published

Sun Rise Scoops

By **MERI R. KENNEDY**

National Night Out

Mayor Joseph Polisena, Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza and members of the Johnston Police Department are proud to announce the 2021 National Night Out, to be held at Johnston Memorial Park on Aug. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event will feature complementary food and drinks, exhibits, and entertainment for all ages. Join in for this occasion designed to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a sense of community that's been missed during the past year.

If you would like to contribute a donation, or to reserve an exhibition space, please contact Capt. Joseph Salvadore at jsalvadore@johnstonpd.com.

Williams Park Zoo at Garden City Center to learn more about the wild world of animals.

Programs will offer opportunities for adult/child pairs to make discoveries together and will include a lesson, activity and a meet-and-greet with one of the zoo's ambassador animals.

Sessions are hosted at the Garden City Center Gazebo and are 45 minutes long.

One ticket – which costs \$10 – includes admission for one child and their parent or guardian. If you have multiple children attending this event, please purchase another ticket for each child. Spots are limited and registration is required.

Upcoming dates are July 28 and Aug. 4 and 11. All times are 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/animal-encounters-with-roger-williams-zoo-tickets-161249161583.

Johnston Senior Center back in action

The dining room at the Johnston Senior Center is now open daily, Monday to Friday, at noon. For reservations, call Brenda at 944-3343, ext. 109.

A trip to Myrtle Beach is planned for six days and five nights, Sept. 12-17, at the price of \$998 per person (double occupancy) and \$1,287 for single occupancy. Contact Ellen at 944-3343 for further information.

On a weekly basis, the center offers the following activities.

Mondays: Walk away the pounds from 9-9:30 a.m. and crafts at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays: Bocce from 9:30-11 a.m. and Tai Chi at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Quilting at 9:30 a.m., bocce at 9:30 a.m., Zumba from 10-10:45 a.m. and Chair Strong & Fit at 11 a.m.

Thursdays: Walk away the pounds at 9:30 a.m., bocce from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Fridays: Line Dancing from 10-10:45 a.m. and Zumba from 11-11:45 a.m.

Summer hours and programs at the library

The Library is now open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for holidays on Aug. 9, and Sept. 6.

Saturday hours resume in September after Labor Day.

Sign up for Summer Reading programs and prizes for adults, teens, or children.

Small quiet rooms are open and the Meeting Room is available as of July 15.

Johnston Senior Center offers services

If you need any help with heating, housing, etc., during this cold winter or humidity 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.

Animals to arrive in Garden City Center

Join educators from Roger

legends of music.

Aug. 11 will bring '80s Night featuring Fast Times. Get the out the hairspray and neon clothes – they are taking it back to the 1980s with your favorite jams, vintage games pre-show and more.

The pre-show entertainment begins at 5 p.m. Showtime is at 6:30 p.m. Swing by early to experience this night out you won't want to miss.

All Garden City Center Summer Concerts are free to attend. General admission seating is located south of the Gazebo. Pack a picnic, grab your family and enjoy the show.

Looking for the VIP concert experience? Purchase a VIP ticket and receive select seating located in the Gazebo parking lot (closest to Newport Creamery – no need to bring your own chair!) with complimentary appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, and a special gift from Garden City Center. VIP tickets are \$15 and benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Purchase your VIP ticket by contacting the Garden City Center. Visit gardencitycenter.com for more information.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert for the week will be moved to Thursday.

Audi Warwick is excited to be a part of Garden City Center's favorite summer tradition.

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to Mohr Library.

Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and carry out other fundraising activities to allow Mohr Library to increase services and programs.

The Friends welcome new members who are willing to provide support through donations, membership dues, or volunteering their time.

To find out more, contact the library director at 231-4980 (press 7).

Mental health education

Anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, post traumatic stress, suicide – all are topics many people prefer not to discuss, so the heartbreak and stigma continue.

If you have a loved fam-

ily member or a friend who is struggling with a mental health issue, then the Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness can help. NAMI-RI (namirhodeisland.org) provides free and virtual education, support and resources. It is currently accepting registrations for its upcoming Family-to-Family course.

For more information, call (401) 331-3060 or mail beth@namirhodeisland.org.

CCAP Chip for Charity golf tournament

Save the date – CCAP has announced plans to hold its 2021 Chip for Charity golf tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Harbor Light Golf Club in Warwick. Sponsorships and foursomes are available. For more details, contact CCAP's Lee Beliveau at (401) 562-8353 or lbeliveau@comcap.org.

As a nonprofit community action program, CCAP needs to raise funds to assist families it serves. A large number of families CCAP serves have lost their jobs, suffered an illness, or experienced a different type of crisis, usually through no fault of their own. Last year, CCAP touched the lives of more than 40,000 people and provided over \$1.2 million in uncompensated services.

Chip for Charity, presented by Neighborhood Health and Mutual of America, is CCAP's largest fundraiser during the year to benefit its programs and services.

Over 65 Golf League

Attention all golfers 65 and older – if you are interested in golfing in a mixed league, the Over 65 Golf League, on Mondays at Harbor Lights, 150 Gray St., Warwick, please contact Carol Desforges at Desac63@gmail.com. Please indicate your name, phone number and email in your message.

To be a member or a spare (sub) in the league, you pay dues which include season play (May- Sept. 13, 2021),

playoffs (Sept. 20- Oct. 4), scramble tournament (Oct. 13) and a banquet with distribution of prizes (Oct. 13). The membership dues are \$55, or \$30 for spares not attending the banquet.

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island experiencing COVID-19 risk factors, including seniors 65 and older, 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.

Craft and activity kits

Free craft and activity kits for children are available at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library. Stop by the library to pick up one, or e-mail 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.

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.

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 831-5511 to arrange for pickup. All donated articles must be in good condition.

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.

Did you know?

In 1905, 11-year-old Frank Epperson left a cup filled with powdered soda, water and a stirring stick on his San Francisco porch. That night, low temperatures caused the mixture to freeze, and a summertime staple was born. Today, two billion Popsicles are sold every year. (Source: *Summer Fun Facts*)

SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and non-profit 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.



Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston Sun Rise* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, johnstonsunrise.net.

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 \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price. *Thank you.*



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By JENNIFER COATES

independent pharmacists in Maryland and New York; he is also married to a Yale-educated clinical pharmacist, his wife Hania. Following his graduation, Akbar worked for five years at a CVS in Connecticut. While there, he filled thousands of prescriptions but left this well-known retail store feeling more learned, but less connected to his profession ~ and his customers. This experience led to the realization of Atwood Pharmacy.

Atwood Pharmacy opened its doors in late June. Today, the pharmacy literally gleams with newness with its sparkling white walls, meticulously stocked shelves, and open-to-view, secure section for your prescription medications.

Atwood Pharmacy offers so much more than one might expect. This is a one-stop shop for everything that larger chains offer, but on a smaller, more personal scale. In fact, if there is anything a customer doesn't find within the walls of the pharmacy, Akbar will get it within 24 hours.

This is one of the things that sets independent pharmacist's apart – they are in close contact with what their customers need. The store has everything one might need, from first-aid, to compression-wear, to medical devices to over-the-counter medications, and more.

Most importantly, Atwood Pharmacy has Dr. Akbar and his able Pharmacy Tech, Cranston-native Jester Lippert. This dynamic duo is completely invested in the care and safety of their customers. They are also joined by longtime pharmacist Greg Natale who serves as a part-time pharmacist and consultant. Their goal is to turn what is thought of as an "Option Three" into the ONLY option for the residents of their community, one that will endure the test of time. . . and competition.

This longevity begins with providing outstanding customer services such as home deliveries, confidential consultations, and an impeccable record of safety and professionalism.

Atwood Pharmacy is located at 1302 Atwood Avenue (Unit 2) on the corner of Central Avenue. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 7:00pm, Saturdays, 9:00am – 3:00pm. To learn more, visit them at www.AtwoodPharmacy.com. Call 401-300-4443 today to begin the easy process of transferring your prescriptions.



Meet Dr. Zahan Akbar and Pharmacy Tech/Marketing Manager Jester Lippert of Atwood Pharmacy. Visit this new independent pharmacy and see why an independent pharmacy can make a world of difference in your life.

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It ain't easy being green in Johnston, or anywhere else

By RORY SCHULER

Look carefully before you tread.

There could be a tiny critter in your path.

It's amphibian season, and Johnston is crawling with frogs and toads.

A bumpy little fellow crawled through the lumpy ground in Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 7, near the intersection of George Waterman Road and Route 44.

"That one is an American toad," said Herpetologist Scott W. Buchanan, a scientist working with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The Eastern American Toad, or *Anaxyrus Americana*, can be found throughout Rhode Island, except the small bay islands and Block Island, according to DEM reference materials.

The toads breed wherever they can find water but are mainly terrestrial, and can be found in both forests and fields.

"American toads eat worms and other invertebrates," according to DEM. "American toads enter a state of dormancy in the winter, digging their way into the soil beneath the frost line. They emerge and migrate to breeding grounds in April and breed from mid-April to early June. Tadpoles metamorphose between June and August. American toads re-enter hibernation around October."

The DEM has identified seven species of frogs and three species of toads in the Ocean state.

"The most apparent difference between frogs and toads is the mucus covering on frogs that protects their smooth, permeable skin from drying out," according to a DEM reference sheet. "Toads have bumpy skin that is more tolerant of dry conditions.

Toads also have parotoid glands, which frogs lack, located on the back of their heads. These glands produce a toxic substance that deters predators from eating them."

Look to the lily pads in the pond at Johnston's War Memorial Park for the slimier variety.

Early this week, one critter could be seen sunbathing at the water's surface, a dark tail still present between its back legs.

"The absence of a dorsal lateral ridge indicates that this is a bullfrog," Buchanan explained. "Green frogs can have a very similar appearance but have a pronounced ridge of skin running along the side of their body."

The frog spotted at Memorial Park was just recently a tadpole.

"It is in a late stage of metamorphosis and yes, still has a tail," Buchanan said. "It's difficult for me to tell whether it's a male of female without having in hand and at such an early stage of metamorphosis."

The American Bullfrog, or *Lithobates catesbeianus*, is one of the most aquatic frogs in the state, according to the DEM.

"They can be found in permanent and temporary waterbodies throughout Rhode Island, except on Block Island. "Bullfrogs will eat anything they can, including other frogs, mice, fish and snakes."

In the winter, American bullfrogs enter dormancy by resting on the bottom of ponds, emerging in late March or early April.

They tend to breed from May to August, and re-enter hibernation in late October, according to the DEM.

"Tadpoles will overwinter for 1-2 years in Northern populations before metamorphosing into adults," according to a DEM reference guide.

While some species re-

main plentiful, some frogs and toads are in danger of extinction.

"Though unique in their adaptations, both frogs and toads are greatly impacted by numerous threats and Anurans are among the most threatened vertebrate taxa," according to DEM. "Recent population declines and extinctions have been occurring world-wide; our own populations of spadefoot toads and Northern leopard frogs are threatened in Rhode Island."

Land development is one of the animal's biggest threats.

"Highly developed areas such as Providence, Cranston, Warwick and Woonsocket lack a complete amphibian fauna, and Fowler's toads and Northern leopard frogs are no longer found on Aquidneck Island," according to the DEM. "To preserve these animals, we must look to protect and connect their habitats and work toward a clean and healthy ecosystem."

Habitat loss, fragmentation, pollution, disease and predators like cats and raccoons are among the biggest threats to frogs and toads.

The DEM reminds Ocean State residents that it is illegal to catch a wild toad or frog and keep it as a pet.

Local creature lovers, however, can use an app DEM developed called Herp Observer, which allows Rhode Islander's to submit observations of amphibians and reptiles they see in the wild.

ON THE WEB

Download an app DEM developed called Herp Observer, which allows Rhode Islander's to submit observations of amphibians and reptiles they see in the wild. To learn more, visit dem.ri.gov.



BULLY FOR YOU: An American bullfrog chills on the waters's surface in the pond at Johnston's War Memorial Park. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



UGLY AMERICANS: An Eastern American toad crawled among the grass, weeds and headstones at Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 7, near the intersection of George Waterman Road and Route 44. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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THE MADONNA: The traditional carrying of the Madonna is seen during the St. Mary's Feast procession, held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday.



LOCAL HEADLINERS: One of the headliners at St. Mary's Feast was the local band Mad Hatter, which performed Saturday night on the main stage.

Buona festa!

The 116th St. Mary's Feast, sponsored by the St. Mary's Feast Society, went off without a hitch over the past weekend. The Knightsville neighborhood in Cranston joined in with the candlelight procession on Friday night and the streets were lined with people for the procession late Sunday morning. Children of all ages were able to enjoy rides and amusements, including carnival games, and visitors enjoyed a wide range of Italian and festival food options. Musical performances took place each evening at the main stage in the field behind the Gazebo. It is estimated that thousands of visitors attended the four-day event. (Sun Rise photos by Steve Popiel)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Fashion accessory
- 5. Subatomic particle
- 10. Ethnic group of the Philippines
- 14. Popular cookie
- 15. Fabric
- 16. Alcoholic liquor
- 17. Peter __, Dutch portrait painter
- 18. Longtime Chicago mayor
- 19. A famous "Lady"
- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Polio vaccine developer
- 24. Songs sung in open air
- 27. Military movements
- 30. Male parent
- 31. Beloved hot beverage
- 32. Female sibling
- 35. Tackled the QB
- 37. Set a dog on someone
- 38. Long live! (Spanish)
- 39. Porticos
- 40. Pouch
- 41. Smooth fabric
- 42. Enough (archaic)
- 43. Institute legal proceedings against
- 44. Scarred
- 45. Draw from
- 46. Brother or sister
- 47. Body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fifth notes of major scales
- 2. Region
- 3. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 4. Georgetown athletes
- 5. They follow A
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Hairdressers' domain
- 8. Extravagantly theatric
- 9. End-blown flute
- 10. Heroic tales
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Members of a priestly caste

- 13. Southern Ghana people
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Body of water
- 25. Awesome!
- 26. Calendar month
- 27. Native of region in Caucasus
- 28. Indian city
- 29. Exclusive
- 32. Alaskan town
- 33. Covered with ivy
- 34. Loose granular substances
- 36. Native American tribe
- 37. Written American English
- 38. Holiday (informal)
- 40. Add up
- 41. Small brown and gray rails
- 43. Get off your feet
- 44. Express disgust
- 46. Surface of the ground
- 47. Put into a silo
- 49. Belief
- 50. British noblemen
- 51. Tennis game
- 52. Dry, protective crust
- 53. Swiss river
- 54. Large integers
- 57. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 58. Every one of two or more
- 59. "Deadpool" actor Reynolds
- 61. Earlier
- 62. Peter's last name



GETTING READY: Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins waits with the crowd outside St. Mary's Church in Knightsville for the beginning of the candlelight procession held Friday evening.

RI Head Start programs awarded \$3M to support return to full in-person learning

Rhode Island's legislative delegation, U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressmen Jim Langevin and David Cicilline recently announced that seven Head Start programs in Rhode Island have received a total of over \$3 million from the American Rescue Plan.

Among the recipients, Johnston-based Tri-County Community Action Agency will receive \$339,806.

The funds will support the return to fully operational, in-person Head Start services for the children under the age of five who have been most affected by inequities exposed by the pandemic.

The Rhode Island Head Start programs receiving funding are:

- Service, Providence – \$1,306,578
- * Tri-County Community Action Agency, Johnston – \$339,806
- * Comprehensive Community Action, Cranston – \$232,121
- * Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association, Woonsocket – \$217,763
- * Meeting Street, Providence – \$86,148
- * East Bay Community Action Program, East Providence/Newport – \$406,810
- * Community Help & Involvement In Low Income Decisions, Warwick – \$442,705

Chief Executive Officer of Children's Friend. "This funding will allow us to prepare for a full and safe re-opening of classrooms in September. Equally as important, this funding will allow Children's Friend to operate our largest Summer Program ever, serving 400 children in-person, to make up for some of the learning loss that occurred throughout the pandemic."

Nationally, \$1 billion is being awarded to Head Start programs across the country to build back from the pandemic. ARP funds will support programming that prioritizes children who were not able to receive any in-person services during the pandemic, as well as rising kindergartners, children with disabilities, and children experiencing food or housing insecurity.

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WORD OF THE WEEK:

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Sports



SILVER: The Johnston Little League 11's after the District I Championship. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Runners up

The Johnston Little League 11-year-old All-Star team fell to Cranston Western 12-3 in the District I Championship game last weekend on the road. The Johnston 11's finished the tournament as District runners up. Scoring runs for Johnston were Harry Ogden, Max Pilkington and Nolan Pietros. Members of the Johnston 11's included: Anthony Pannone, Eddie Pannone, Harry Ogden, Jamie Ricci (manager), Mark Pietros, Nolan Pietros, Fotis Fotopoulos, Lyalo Harrison, Aiden Neil, Max Pilkington, Jordan D'Elia, Joe Maggiacomo, Lucca Ricci, Corey Ogden, Fabian Aleman, Eric Ferrara, Alex Soto, Jalen Johnson. For more photos of the action, check out page 19.



ON THE MOUND: Johnston pitcher Aiden Neil.

A crazy time of year

Last weekend I was covering some Little League All-Star action and had a funny exchange with the home plate umpire of one of the games I was at. I was stationed behind home plate, getting photos of the pitchers. In between innings, the umpire would walk over to take a few sips of his Gatorade and we would chat each other up.

Between one of the innings, he mentioned that he had multiple games to umpire after the one we were at. It was a hot, muggy Saturday. When he told me that, I said to him, "try to have fun and stay cool." His response? "How could I not? I love this time of year, it's crazy. The kids are having fun, the parents are out of their minds, there is nothing like it."

That response really resonated with me. I too love this time of year and have fun covering the All-Star tournaments, but this umpire was truly passionate about it. Even beyond our conversations, he was chatting with kids heading up to bat, talking with the coaches, fans, I think he may have been having more fun than anyone there.

In the sports world, the summer is usually considered the down part of the year. True, in terms of the schedule, it is primarily baseball and softball. In terms of the community gathering and just overall passion for the product? It may be the busiest time of year.

We just wrapped up the district tournaments and many of our teams got the job done and will be competing in states. Congrats to all of our teams that advanced and congrats to the teams that came up short. Being named an All-Star

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

and competing is an accomplishment.

Also, I have had many coaches and parents reaching out in the past couple of weeks giving me tips and information. I truly appreciate the help keeping me in the loop. Please always feel free to contact us moving forward.

Next item that I wanted to touch on was Cranston East hiring, or I guess promoting, Isaiah McDaniel as its new football head coach.

Longtime coach Tom Centore stepped away last month in order to have some time to himself and take a breather. He left behind a fantastic resume that would be hard for anyone to follow.

McDaniel will certainly be up for the challenge.

In my opinion, the best coaches at the high school level are the ones that are totally invested in not only the team, but the school and the community. McDaniel is an East grad, coaches the basketball team, is involved in other projects within Cranston such as the Parks and Recreation Department. He is a Cranstonian through and through.

Another aspect that I think is key here is his age.

McDaniel is in his 30's which I think is a huge asset to this hiring. As most

PITCH- PAGE 19

Gershkoff set for playoff run

By ALEX SPONSELLER

With the American Legion playoffs starting this weekend, Gershkoff Auburn Post 20 is set to make another run at a state championship.

It has been a hectic few weeks of action for the state's legion teams. Between a late start to the season as well as frequent weather postponements, teams like Gershkoff have been forced to adapt and find a rhythm on the fly.

Gershkoff sat at 6-4-1 on Tuesday which was good for third place in the eight-team slate. The team has picked

up a few key wins, including a big win over Warwick Tree Post.

"It's been a unique season between the late start due to high school running late and having eight rain outs. We are going to be playing every day right up until the end of the season which makes it tough, but you just need to make sure your team is ready to go for playoffs," said Gershkoff manager Dave Schiappa. Gershkoff has reached the finals in the past three sea-

PLAYOFF- PAGE 18



PLAYOFF READY: Gershkoff's Ayden Bliss delivers a pitch against R&R Construction last week at Cranston Stadium. Gershkoff is battling for a top seed in the Rhode Island American Legion baseball playoffs and is ready to make another run at a championship. The postseason is set to begin this weekend. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)



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THE THROW TO FIRST: Gershkoff's Jason Patalano makes a play from third base.

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SHORTSTOP: A Gershkoff infielder makes a play last week.

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Playoff

(Continued from page 17)

sons and is looking to get over the hump this time around. A handful of key starters return from last year's group and have been making an impact each game, especially the pitchers and catchers.

"We have a good core of kids that returned from last year. Guys like Max Marchetti, Massimo Feroce. One of our catchers returned in Aaron Coccoli, our other catcher came from Cranston East is Devantes Viveiros. Catching has been a big strength of ours. They both have been unreal," Schiappa said. "Massimo has pitched well. Nick Fortes is new and has pitched. (Jason) Patalano I feel is one of the best pitchers in the state, he came on strong toward the end of last year in Legion. Ayden Bliss, Nate Poshkus, Anthony

DeCotis, Caleb Harris, Chris Torres, we have a strong core of pitchers."

The standings have been changing each week and have been a dog fight in the top half of the list. Schiappa expects the playoffs to be tightly contested and feels that his team is in a good spot heading into the tournament.

"We have a pretty good feel for what we will be facing. Every team is good, but even the teams that are not quite as good at least have one strong pitcher. It should be a good playoff, most of the games have been pretty competitive," said Schiappa, who has seen his players be motivated this summer. "It's a different feel, but the returning kids definitely remember the last couple years. They are always hungry to win a championship. We always feel that we will be one of the final teams, we always seem to be one of the final four. They're ready to compete."

Pitch

(Continued from page 17)

of you know, the Thunderbolts have had a tough stretch the past few seasons and have failed to reach the playoffs after a lengthy run as one of the premier teams in the state.

Youth is the biggest reason. Two seasons ago this team was the youngest in Division I. This past spring, it was still one of the younger units. The inexperience showed as the Bolts stumbled. Although they improved and showed signs of life at times down the stretch, it is clear that this team is still a year or two away from being a contender again.

Do I think that Centore struggled to relate to the younger crowd? Absolutely not, I have said that on the record. His players respected him and bought into the program, they were just too young.

That said, could a younger set of eyes create a different atmosphere, new bonds? I think there is a chance of that being the case.

It may be the perfect situation. McDaniel has been a part of this team for years now and knows each and every one of the players that he is going to be leading. He has coached them hands on and knows their strengths and weaknesses. On top of that, he is a little bit younger and could provide some fresh perspective while continuing to execute the established principles that have been working.

I also think that his reach throughout the school will help. The numbers have been on the decline in the program the past two seasons as well, but with his exposure to so many things Cranston, maybe he will be able to provide a shot in the arm to the team's recruitment.

Overall, I think East is going with the right guy. I was not at all surprised by the promotion, it seemed like a matter of when rather than if. McDaniel has coached some pretty top-notch teams on the basketball court, so let's see how he makes out on the gridiron.

One last thing that I have always respected about him is that he is a straight shooter. Win or lose, he is never emotional, always direct, and sticks to the facts of what happened throughout the game. Behind closed doors, I'm sure he's a little more animated, but on the outside surface, he is a cool customer and a tone setter. I think that will work well with this team.

Last thing I wanted to touch on regards the incident at the Washington Nationals game last week.

Midway through the game, there was a shooting just outside of the stadium. Four people were injured, and the sounds of gunfire were heard throughout the stadium which sent everyone into a panic.

Players were hiding in the dugouts, as well as some fans that jumped onto the field to find shelter. Others were hiding under their seats, some fled the arena through the concourse. The PA announcer had to tell everyone to remain calm and stay in the building. The game was then postponed until the next day.

What a scary scene.

In today's world, it's easy to disregard potential public threats and go about your business. I do it all the time, never do I step into a crowded setting fearing for my safety in that way, it just doesn't occur to me.

Unfortunately, incidents happen all the time throughout the world and this was a horrifying occurrence.

Never take anything for granted, because things can change instantly. I feel sorry for the injured victims, as well as the thousands of people that had to experience that.



TOE THE RUBBER: Johnston's Fotis Fotopoulos delivers a pitch.



AT THE DISH: Johnston's Alex Soto at the plate.



BASEPATHS: Johnston's Nolan Pietros runs the bases last weekend.

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Cod fishing basics

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Get a jump on the cod fishing season this fall and winter with some expert advice from anglers Bob Murray and Rich Hittinger at a Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) seminar Monday, July 26 at 7 p.m.

Both Bob and Rich are RISAA board members who have fished off Rhode Island for cod for many years. Atlantic cod has almost disappeared from George's Bank, but there is a cod fishery close to shore. Cod fishing occurs at Cox Ledge, the East Fishing Grounds (about four miles east of Block Island) and Sharks Ledge (just about three miles south of the Block Island Wind Farm). Cod fishing occurs over the humps and bumps right in the Block Island Wind Farm area. And, in the past couple of years anglers have been delighted with the enhance cod bite right off Newport. So cod fishing is occurring in a lot of places close to shore.

Learn the basics on how to fish cod including tips on tackle, jigs, baits and how you can find the locations and bottom structure that can hold cod.

Rich Hittinger said to find cod, it is very useful to have a good fish finder. "Cod have a developed swim bladder and they show up well on a good fish finder. Many trips we have spent 30 minutes driving around the area until we see good piles of fish and when we stop right on them we hit them immediately."

RISAA members attend free. Non-members are welcome with a \$10 donation to the RISAA Scholarship Fund. Membership is \$50/person/year. For information contact Steve Medeiros, president, at 401.826.2121 or steve@risaa.org.

Where's the bite?

The bluefin tuna bite remains strong with Mahi, bonito and mackerel being caught too. Mike Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters said, "The bluefin tuna bite is outstanding. With the front that

moved in last week we thought the fishing would get better or worse. It is definitely better. I was out fishing at the Block Island Wind Farm at the beginning of the week and saw bluefin tuna busting the surface all around turbine No. 5. The water in the area is warm, 70 degrees, so conditions are right. Many are catching small school tuna but there are some larger fish in the 110 pound range mixed in with them. These fish are spooling recreational anglers but some commercial fishers who are prepared for the large fish are landing them." Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle said, "Both chub mackerel and king mackerel are being caught as well as bonito." Fish are being caught both east and west of Beavertail Point along the coastal shores. "One angler caught a king mackerel in the Bay. And, the tuna bite remains strong, particularly when the water is clear. Angler James Monti fished with his sons Jude and Rowan for bluefin. Rowan (eleven years old) said, "I only want to fish for bluefin tuna for the rest of my life." Fishing hot shot angler Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren said, "The bluefin tuna bite has been great. We hooked up at Cox Ledge last week boating a couple of nice fish."

Scup and black sea bass. "Scup are being caught all the way up to Save the Bay which is unusual," said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle. Scup fishing along America Ledge and Great Ledge on the northwest side of Jamestown has been very good as well just about anywhere in the Bay where there is structure and water movement.

Fluke fishing seems a bit better at places like Fire Island with Block Island fluke fishing shutting down a bit. The fish are either in large, in the 25-inch range at Block Island, or they are all shorts. The fish closer to shore are in the 20-inch range and are more consistent," said Mike Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters. "The fluke bite has been good along the coastal shore but you have to stick with it to



BLUEFIN MAGIC: Jude and Rowan Monti with summer flounder. This weekend, they landed bluefin tuna. Rowan said, "I only want to fish for bluefin tuna for the rest of my life." (Submitted photo)

catch them. Pt. Judith, Narragansett has been good, even the southwest side of Block Island with fish being fround off Newport to the Sakonnet River," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle.

Striped bass fishing at Block Island is still very good with very large fish being caught there as well as off the reefs off Fishers Island and Watch Hill. Eels seem to be working for those fishing the reef areas," said Mike Wade of Watch Hill. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "Striped bass and bluefish fishing from

Newport to the Sakonnet River has been outstanding. Anglers are hooking up with fish 20 to 40 pounds using eels or trolling with tub & worm or umbrella rigs from 9er's Lures. And the Cape Cod Cannel has exploded with squid and mackerel bringing the big fish into the Canal."

Freshwater fishing has been active with shiner being the bait of choice for many. Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, said, "Top water fishing for largemouth bass with frogs in lily pad areas is working for anglers as well as

large swim baits for largemouth bass. The best time of day is dawn or dusk when things are the coolest. Things are a bit hot now for trout fishing."

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@verizon.net or visit www.noflufishing.com.

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Happy 'losers'

At local TOPS chapter, participants find support group that's 'more like a family'

By ARDEN BASTIA



BEFORE AND AFTER: Amy Bernard (top) and Heidi Niederberger, seen in these before and after pictures, are the 2019 and 2020 Queens, respectively, of Oakland Beach Chapter 44 of Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, or TOPS.

As Nicole Johnson-Morais puts it, Oakland Beach's local chapter of TOPS "is full of losers." But don't worry, she means that in the best way.

Oakland Beach Chapter 44 of Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), led by chapter leader, state publicity person and state advocate Johnson-Morais, is proud to have not one, but two Queens, members who have been recognized for the most weight lost in the past year.

In an interview, Johnson-Morais explained that the local TOPS chapter in Oakland Beach has "two awesome state queens." Amy Bernard is the 2019 Queen and Heidi Niederberger is the 2020 Queen.

"This is a really big accomplishment," said Johnson-Morais, whose mother, Jean Bellevoine, was crowned the state Queen in 2005.

Niederberger "was supposed to have been honored at the International Recognition Day, but due to COVID, they canceled the event again," said Johnson-Morais.

The International Recognition Day (IRD) was set to be held at Niagara Falls this year, bringing together TOPS members from the United States and Canada to celebrate, as Johnson-Morais says, "the biggest losers."

According to Johnson-Morais, Bernard lost 54.2 pounds to her goal, and Niederberger lost 99.4 pounds to her goal.

Once TOPS members achieve their goal weight, they become known as KOPS, Keeping Pounds Off Sensibly.

To recognize both women for their achievements, the TOPS group held a ceremony at their meeting at St. Rita Church. The meeting featured a visit from Joan Tinkham, the coordinator for TOPS U.S., who presented Niederberger with a crown and sash.

"She's shy, and doesn't want anything big," said Johnson-Morais. "Amy was the one who would've wanted something larger."

Johnson-Morais says the TOPS groups are more than weight loss groups, but are also "supportive families."

"Every group is great, but mine is more like a family," she said, noting that the Oakland Beach TOPS chapter does weekend retreats, most recently to New Hampshire where the group "did a bunch of activities to promote healthy living."

"We currently have 17 [members] on the roster, and we did lose some to COVID," she explained, hoping to draw new members in by promoting the successes of the state Queens.

For TOPS members, it's not just about losing weight, but about giving back to the community.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the local chapter of TOPS took part in community service activities and expos, but have since found themselves searching for events to promote the group at.

"We used to do the Women's Expo and the Wedding Expo, and the balloon festival, but really haven't found anything coming up," Johnson-Morais said. "We are a small nonprofit, so all our advertising is word of mouth."

"Obviously not during COVID, but our chapter is pretty busy," she explained. Together, the group participates in Alzheimer's walks, Oakland Beach clean ups, adopt-a-family projects during the holidays, and working with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, which Johnson-Morais says was "a fun and unique experience that taught us a lot."

Other projects taken on by TOPS include hosting a drive to collect duffel bags and personal care items for children in foster care, after learning that many kids use plastic garbage bags to pack and move their belongings.

"We've done quite a bit, and we're probably the most active chapter out of the seven statewide," she said.

The TOPS chapter is on the hunt for a community service project to tackle this year.

Johnson-Morais says the biggest gain for TOPS members isn't a goal weight, but "definitely confidence. I've seen that in every member."

Johnson-Morais explained that Amy Bernard, the 2019 Queen, wasn't always as outgoing as she is.

"Amy was super, super shy," Johnson-Morais said. "And when I met her she told me she didn't have any adult friends. She told me I was her first adult friend."

What sets TOPS apart from other weight loss programs, Johnson-Morais says, "is that we don't give any specific diet plans or anything like that. We teach people how to do it on their own. We offer weekly weigh-ins, and accountability to show up every week for the meeting and do what you need to do to meet your goal."

The Oakland Beach TOPS chapter 44 is open to anyone currently on a weight loss journey. The group meets on Wednesday nights at St. Rita's Church basement at 722 Oakland Beach Ave. Weigh-ins are 4:45 to 5:10 p.m. and the meeting runs from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. It costs \$32 in yearly dues. For more information, contact Nicole Johnson-Morais at (401) 332-7616 or nicoleistops2015@yahoo.com. To find other chapters or for more information about TOPS, visit tops.org.

"As we always say in TOPS, we have a lot of losers in our chapter and we're happy about that," said Johnson-Morais, laughing. "It's a great thing to hear 'You're such a loser.'"

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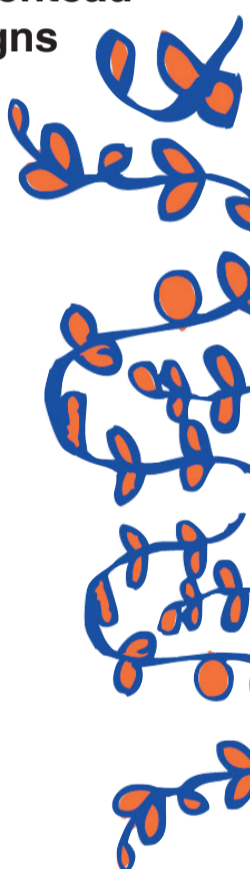


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Client: Sally M. Cranston RI
Single family home
Kitchen Renovation
Completion Time: 4 months

Michelle met with her client who expressed her desire to update her "non-functional kitchen". Sally found it very difficult to clean her tiled countertops. She was also ready to say goodbye to her oak cabinets and hunter green wallpaper.

Michelle met with her kitchen designer, contractor, tile installer/painter, electrician and plumber, to go over the new layout for the renovation.

The goal was to create a lighter brighter feel, more storage, and a peninsula large enough to for entertaining guests.

They chose cream color cabinets. Subway tile and beautiful glass accent tile was installed behind the stove and at the coffee station. Her old tiled floor was removed and wood plank tile was added in designated spaces.

Cambria countertops and funky glass overhead pendant lights were installed to complete the peninsula. The wall color is a soft green/gray (Pearl Gray by Sherwin Williams).

The client requested that the project be completed by Christmas Eve. It was finished that afternoon! Just in the nick of time.

For questions on your upcoming projects, call 401.954.2065 or email info@MichelleLeeDesigns.com. See more of Michelle's work at www.michelleleedesigns.com



Photo Credit: Grace Lentini

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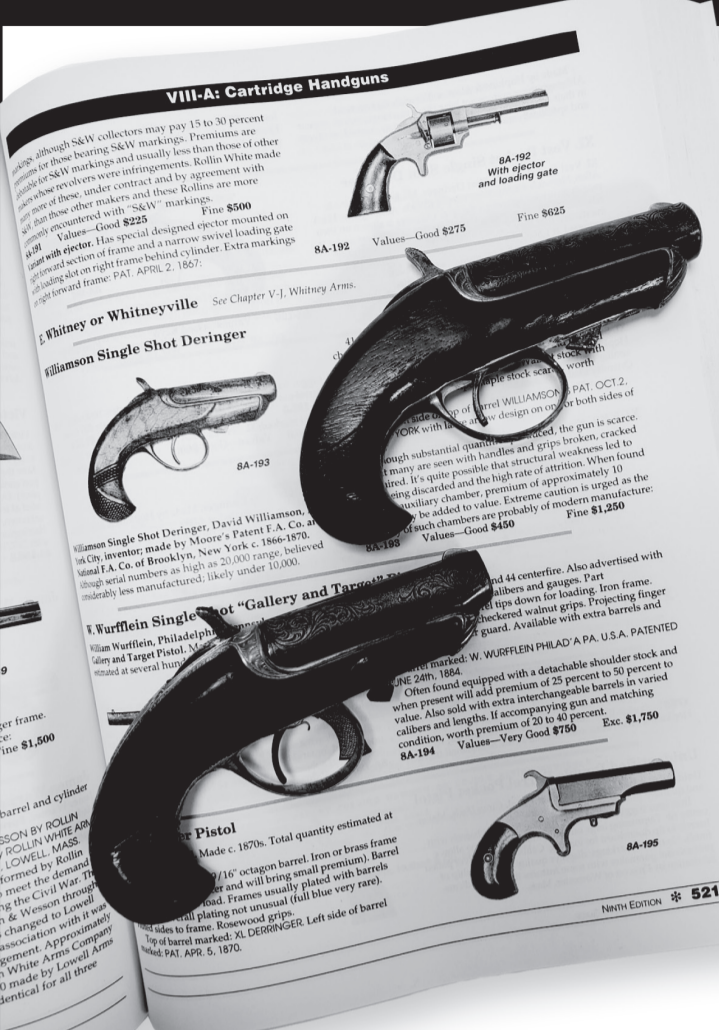
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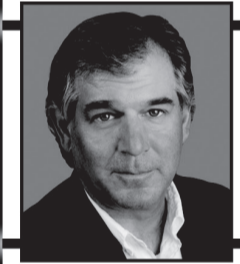
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COLLECTIBLES



How Do I Identify What I have?



By Joel Bohy
Historic Arms & Militaria
 Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers
 Cranston, RI

I am asked this question many times. While it is a rather large question given the amount of collectable military items and arms, it is valid. Things can certainly be found on the internet, but some things really need a book to get the information. Nobody knows everything (except my wife), but I'll try to give some ideas and reference material that may help.

For American antique arms, the first place I look to identify a gun I don't know or a specific model is Flayderman's Guide To Antique American Firearms by the late Norm Flayderman. The last edition is the 9th printed in 2007 and while the pricing may not be current it is filled with information to figure out what you have. I use this one all the time as a starting point as it is easy to search if you find a manufacturer's name on an antique arm. But there are more than just American antique firearms.

Rhode Island is home to one of the most prolific publishers of research material for arms, swords, and militaria. Mowbray Publishing is located in Woonsocket and is run by second generation historic arms publisher, Stuart Mowbray. Between

he and his late father Andrew, they have published an amazing amount of reference material on all sorts of things. As I catalog, I find the majority of books I pull off the shelf for more information are published by Mowbray. Swords from the 17th century through the 19th century are covered in numerous volumes, muskets from the French and Indian Wars through the Civil War period, European firearms, weapons of World War I and II, as well as shotguns, Colt's, Volcanic Arms, and many, many others. All of Mowbray's books have hi resolution photographs that make identification easy and cover every detail imaginable.

If you have more than just a passing interest in learning more, Mowbray also publishes a fantastic magazine six times a year called Man at Arms Magazine for the Gun And Sword Collector with interesting articles on all sorts of arms as well as what shows are coming up and other related events.

Many of the articles are written by world-famous authors as well as museum professionals from all over the world and I look forward to reading every issue. Mowbray's website is www.gunandswordcollector.com

As I mentioned before, I do also use the internet to help

identify or clarify some of the items I am researching. Sometimes a quick internet search with a keyword can help get the ball rolling and is a good way to start. Just be careful of some of the pricing you see. Anyone can ask anything for an item and sometimes the numbers are not realistic and in line with the current market.



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A Perfect Pairing for Summer Supper

FAMILY FEATURES

Few moments make summers quite as special as family meals, whether you're soaking up the sun's rays on the patio or beating the heat at the dining room table. You can make evenings the highlight of the day with loved ones by centering dinner around the flavors of the season.

Fish, for example, is a popular choice for many with its lighter texture and a flavor profile that's easily paired with a variety of veggies. These Blackened Salmon Sliders with Pickled Beet Relish can feed a family in a fun, handheld way with Aunt Nellie's Pickled Beets serving as a perfect partner for the fish fillets.

No summer dinner is complete without a side dish like this BLT Potato Salad. A trio of classic warm-weather ingredients – bacon, lettuce, tomato – blend together with READ German Potato Salad and a homemade vinegar-based dressing for a delightful spin on a family favorite.

To find more summer-inspired meal ideas perfect for sharing with family and friends, visit readsalads.com and auntnellies.com.

Blackened Salmon Sliders with Pickled Beet Relish

Recipe courtesy of tarateaspoon.com
Prep time: 40 minutes
Yield: 12 sliders (2 per serving)

- 4 single-serve cups Aunt Nellie's Diced Pickled Beets
- 1 finely chopped scallion (about 2 tablespoons)
- 1/2 cup shredded radishes
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup finely crumbled feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 2 teaspoons chopped oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 2 pounds salmon fillets, skinless
- 3 tablespoons blackened seasoning
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 12 slider buns
- 1 cup baby arugula

Drain beets well. In medium bowl, combine diced beets, scallions and radishes. Set aside.

In small bowl, combine yogurt, feta, parsley and oregano. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt and black pepper. Set aside.

Cut salmon into 12 roughly 2 1/2-inch squares, about 1/2-inch thick. Slice thick parts of fillets in half to make thinner, if needed.

Sprinkle fillets with salt, to taste, on both sides. Sprinkle evenly with blackened seasoning until well coated.

Heat nonstick skillet or cast-iron pan over medium heat and add oil. Add salmon, in batches if needed, and cook, turning once, until salmon is crisped and almost cooked through, about 1 1/2 minutes per side. Remove and let rest.

Spread each slider bun with about 1 tablespoon yogurt sauce. Layer arugula, salmon and beet relish on each slider and serve.



Blackened Salmon Sliders with Pickled Beet Relish



BLT Potato Salad

BLT Potato Salad

Recipe courtesy of eazypeazymealz.com
Prep time: 20 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 can (15 ounces) READ German Potato Salad
- 3 Roma tomatoes, diced
- 1/4 cup finely diced red onion
- 2 cups baby arugula
- 6 slices crisp-cooked bacon, crumbled

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Place potato salad in large bowl. Gently stir in diced tomatoes and onion.

Add arugula; stir gently to combine. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon.

To make dressing: In bowl, combine apple cider vinegar, olive oil, salt, garlic powder and black pepper. Drizzle over potato salad to serve.

Dressing:
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar

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