

Mayor: Project promises 'financial stability' for town

By RORY SCHULER

Will developers build an Amazon in the jungles of Johnston? The timeline has yet to be settled, but Johnston's mayor expects details will soon emerge. "I don't know the date yet," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisen. "I'm waiting for the

documents to come in. Once they come in, we'll be a step closer."

Polisen will only refer to the massive retail distribution center proposed for a wooded parcel in Johnston as "Project Schooner."

Everyone else in town calls it "Amazon."

Polisen will not confirm or deny whether Amazon is the entity behind the effort to build a six-story retail distribution facility near the intersection of Routes 6 and 295.

The building will have a ground floor area of approximately 823,522 square feet, and a total area of approximately

3,864,972 square feet.

Polisen will say, however, that the deal will be "very lucrative" for the town, and should provide Johnston with "financial stability for the next 20 years."

Polisen said he is waiting for a package of documents from the officially unnamed retail behemoth, detailing an agreement

between the company and the town.

Polisen said he'll have the town's legal counsel review the documents, and then if the documents include the details he expects, he'll refer the matter to town council.

AMAZON - PAGE 10



Sharing stories, songs & laughs



WENT TO THE MARKET? Children's Librarian Meri Carney shows her little piggies to 4-year-old Luca Marcoccio. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

By RORY SCHULER

Children's Librarian Meri Carney held out her gloved hand; on each finger, a little piggy.

The youngsters scattered across the lawn outside the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library chuckled and rolled with laughter.

Jordyn and Alexandra Sczerbinski sat on a blanket with their cousins Luca and Avery Marcoccio.

Their mothers Tara Sczerbinski and Meghan Marcoccio shared a blanket next to them.

"We love story time," Tara Sczerbinski said as Carney passed out brightly colored scarves to each child in attendance. "It's fun for the kids. It's a social activity, and with COVID, we wanted to get some normalcy back."

Story hours have returned to Johnston's library. They usually take place outside, and then move indoors for arts and crafts.

STORY - PAGE 10

Johnston among RI communities hardest hit by COVID

By RORY SCHULER

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Johnston hard.

According to data from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), Johnston ranked fourth in the state for COVID infection rates.

Based on the most recent available U.S. Census data, Johnston's town population hovers around 29,322 people.

According to the RIDOH, 4,815 COVID-19 cases were reported in Johnston.

That means roughly 16 percent of Johnston residents tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

The RIDOH ranks towns and cities

in the Ocean State by the rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people.

In that ranking, Johnston infection rates fell behind only three other municipalities: Central Falls, Providence and Smithfield.

Johnston reported 323 hospitalizations due to COVID cases, a rate of 1,105 per 100,000 population.

The RIDOH data indicates Johnston lost 161 residents to fatal cases of the virus. The RIDOH reported the town's death rate per 100,000 people was 551 fatal cases of COVID-19.

The data reflects reported cases from March 2020 to the present.

At a recent Johnston Town Council meeting, Mayor Joseph M. Polisen said Johnston "was hit hard" by the pandemic.

As a mayor, and a registered nurse, he has a few opinions why the virus affected Johnston more than other towns.

"Our high elderly population, that's number one," Polisen said this week. "Some survived, and some passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with their families."

Once vaccines became available, the tide started to turn in Johnston. However, convincing town residents to get the vaccine required a lot of hard work by town officials.

"Some were reluctant to get vaccinated," Polisen said. "But then we held events and I did robocalls, and I think once people realized it was safe,

COVID - PAGE 12

Case counts in town's schools outpace RI average

By RORY SCHULER

How many COVID cases did each Johnston School have last school year?

Which schools had the highest infection rates? Which schools had the lowest?

What may be in store for students in Johnston Schools next year?

Will masks be required?

Will life be back to normal?

There's no lack of questions facing parents and school administrators as they look toward the 2021-22 school year.

SCHOOLS - PAGE 11



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In the swing of things

Christina DiLorenzo pushed her children, Giovanni, 3, and Nicky, 1, on the swings at Johnston's War Memorial Park, earlier this week. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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Increasing number of Rhode Island residents diagnosed with Legionnaire's Disease

By RORY SCHULER

Rhode Island health officials have announced a 300 percent increase in reported cases of Legionnaire's Disease (LD) in the state.

"Between 2014 and 2020, there was an average of 10 cases during the months of June and July each year, ranging from 0-11 cases in a single month," according to the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

The RIDOH has announced 23 cases have been reported in Providence County.

So far, from June 2 to July 26 this year, there have been 30 cases of Legionnaire's disease reported in Rhode Island. Of those, 29 have illness onset dates between June 17 and July 21, according to the RIDOH.

Of the 30 people diagnosed, 28 have been hospitalized.

"No common source of exposure has been identified, although an investigation is ongoing," according to a RIDOH press release.

Providence County has seen the highest number of cases, according to Annemarie Beardsworth, RIDOH Provider and Internal Communications.

"We can tell you that 23 of the reported cases are in people who live in Providence County," Beardsworth said. "No reported cases in people who live in Bristol County, and fewer than five reported cases in each of the following counties: Kent County, Newport County, and Washington County."

RIDOH's Small Num-

bers Policy prevents staff from reporting case numbers fewer than five.

"Keep in mind that a significant portion of the State's population lives in Providence County, so to see the majority of these cases there is not unexpected," Beardsworth said.

Cranston and Johnston are located in Providence County.

"This is another example that underscores the value of RIDOH's routine monitoring for communicable diseases," said Director of Health Nicole Alexander-Scott. "We know that Legionella bacteria grow best in complex water systems that are not well maintained. When this water becomes aerosolized in small droplets, such as in a cooling tower, shower, or decorative fountain, people can accidentally breathe in the contaminated water. This is of particular concern now as some buildings' water systems have been offline for a prolonged period due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are just now returning to service."

According to RIDOH, symptoms of LD start two to 10 days after breathing in the bacteria, and symptoms can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches.

LD is commonly spread from a contaminated water source through the air, and cannot spread from person to person, according to a RIDOH press release.

Patients diagnosed with LD are treated with antibiotics, and most need to

be admitted to the hospital, but often make a full recovery, according to the RIDOH.

"However, approximately one in 10 people who get LD will die," according to a RIDOH press release. "If a person with Legionnaire's disease is diagnosed and starts taking antibiotics early on in their illness, it is less likely they will have serious complications like lung failure or death."

"Legionella is especially a concern in buildings that primarily house people older than 65, buildings with multiple housing units and a centralized hot water system (like hotels or high-rise apartment complexes), and buildings higher than 10 stories," according to the RIDOH.

Things Rhode Islanders can do to prevent the spread of LD include:

- If you live in a building that primarily houses people older than 65, a building with multiple housing units and a centralized hot water system (like hotels or high-rise apartment complexes), or a building higher than 10 stories, ask if there is a Legionella Water Management Program in place.

- In homes or other types of buildings, follow the manufacturer's directions about how to clean and disinfect hot tubs, whirlpools, showerheads, and breathing equipment like CPAP machines, to help stop bacteria from growing.

SOURCE: RIDOH

Saint Rocco's Feast and Festival returns July 30

By PETE FONTAINE

The south section of Atwood Avenue is lined with American and Italian flags.

However, it's the iconic banner - hung over the heavily traveled road around this time every year - that is living proof the ageless Saint Rocco's Feast and Festival will be back in 2021 after last year's hiatus caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In fact, the ageless fun, family and fantastic food fest will make its 81st appearance on Thursday, Aug. 12 and continue through Sunday, Aug. 15 on the grounds at Saint Rocco's Roman Catholic Church, located at 927 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

But before any of the extraordinary eats are served and those popular carnival rides and game-booths open, the feast and festival will continue an important tradition that began back in 1940.

On Monday, Aug. 9, the first of three Triduum masses will begin 7 p.m. and continue each evening through Wednesday, Aug. 11.

The Saint Rocco Feast Mass is set for Sunday, Aug. 15 at 11 a.m. and will be followed by a procession led by the Rhode Island Veterans Band.

"The Triduum of masses will culminate with the annual Candlelight Procession," said Richard Montella, who has long shared the event's co-chairmanship with the ageless John Ricci. "This is always a special part of the mass nights."

When asked to preview the feast and festival, Montella replied: "We'll be back bigger and better than ever."

"Our proud parishioners have already been working tirelessly to make sure 2021 is a huge success," he said.

Moreover, the 2021 feast and festival will be a parish presentation with a number of groups at Saint Rocco's - namely the Holy Name Society, Women's Guild, Church Friends Association (CFA) - joining forces to make sure there's an abundance of homemade foods and pastry during the four days. They'll be offering everything from live music each of the four nights, as well as the famous dough-boys made from scratch daily with dough donated by Don DePetrillo of The Original Italian Bakery.

"A lot of work has already gone into preparing for this year's feast and fes-



DIVINE DUTY: Richard Montella (left), long-serving co-chairman of the now 81-year-old Saint Rocco's Fest and Festival, is joined by Seminarian Stephan Coutcher outside the Roman Catholic Church conveniently located on the corner of Plainfield Pike and Atwood Avenue in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

tival," Montella went on. "For example, members of our Women's Guild have already hand rolled over 100,000 straws for their annual booth and will offer over 500 prizes. Through the years, our ladies have (hand) rolled over one million straws."

Montella also encouraged other ladies in the parish to contact Arlene Troia 401-944-0483 if they're interested in helping the Women's Guild Straw Draw.

Yet another example of divine dedication, as Montella called it, comes from Bake Sale Chairperson Lisa Ciunci, who is seeking volunteers to bake goods for the caloric counter that in year's past has been sold out.

"We are looking for more volunteers to bake," said Ciunci. "Any and all basked goods would be wonderful. We need many cakes, pies, cookies and desserts ... also, please label what each of the donations and whether or not they contain nuts. Anyone with questions can call me at 401-862-6183."

So, as has been the case in the Saint Rocco's Feast and

Festival through the years, the theme will again be food ... food ... food with ice cold beer and wine, excellent entertainment every night as well as Sunday afternoon and evening.

Although a fireworks display is not on this year's schedule, Montella said "we've got added attractions thanks to the thinking of Harold Fera of Rockwell Amusement. He's bringing in more rides and more games for more fun; we are sure people will like that the carnival has to offer this time around."

For entertainment, Christiana & Derek will kick off the four nights on Thursday, with all events and booths opening from 6 to 10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday's hours are also 6 to 10 p.m. with Sunday offering a full schedule beginning at 1 p.m. and closing at 10 p.m.

Second to None will perform Friday, the always popular Ambrosiani will be on stage Saturday evening, with Starzz Entertainment and R&J Review sharing Sunday afternoon's spots, and Gemini closing out the event Sunday evening.



CLASSIC COLORS: Telephone poles located along the southern section of Atwood Avenue are adorned with American and Italian flags that are always flying during the annual Saint Rocco's Feast and Festival that will return on Thursday, Aug. 12.

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MASTERING FINGERPRINTS: Members of a previous Citizens Police Academy learned how to properly take and roll fingerprints during their nine weeks with the Johnston Police Department. (Submitted photo)

Johnston Police to offer Citizens Police Academy

The Johnston Police Department is gearing up for their Citizens Police Academy, with recruitment set to begin on Aug. 4.

The academy is part of the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with the community and to help residents become more familiar with police proceedings. It is designed to increase understanding of law enforcement's responsibilities and provide attendees with a glimpse of what life is like behind a badge.

"This academy will provide

Johnston residents the opportunity to interact with the officers of the Johnston Police Department and see a small glimpse of what being a police officer is all about," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza.

The nine week program will offer an overview of major law enforcement topics, including patrol operations, traffic enforcement, crime scene processing, special responses, emergency management, operations and training, criminal law and prosecution.

"Participants can expect to

conduct motor vehicle stops with Johnston Police cruisers, learn about and physically handle police equipment, and learn the process of removing impaired operators from the roadway to name a few of the many topics that will be covered," said Captain Joseph Salvatore, who will help facilitate the academy.

The academy will be held every Tuesday beginning September 7, with classes running from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Johnston Police headquarters. Admission to the academy is free, but class

size is limited to 20 people, and residents are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.

"Members of the department are looking forward for residents to gain an insight on what officers do on a daily basis," said Salvatore.

Requirements to take part in the academy include a criminal background check and license check. Applicants must be 18 years old and a Johnston to participate.

"Law enforcement is ever evolving and does not take place

in a vacuum, it is very challenging, but can be a highly rewarding career," said Razza. "We encourage our residents to take this opportunity to interact with our officers and see what policing is like."

Applications may be picked up at the Johnston Police Department's headquarters, located at 1651 Atwood Ave., between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. beginning August 4. For more information, those interested may call 231-4210, extension 3127, to speak with Captain Joseph Salvatore.

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GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY

Cemetery 63, a plot of mysteries with more questions than answers

By RORY SCHULER

Some cemeteries tell their own story. The headstones deliver the names of the interred; the dates of birth and death. The monument style or type of stone can provide insight into the socio-economic status of the buried.

Grand, polished, ornate granite: wealthy. Small concrete marker with hand carved inscriptions: poor.

An engraved design can provide a glimpse into the personality of the dead. But some cemeteries provide more questions than answers.

"There are mysteries here," said Johnston Historical Society President Elise Carlson, as she ducked under the forest canopy covering Cemetery No. 63.

Around 50 tiny pink flags stand out against the brown leafy ground. Each flag marks a stone; a suspected burial plot.

"It's hard to say when this cemetery was in use," Carlson said, reading off a few legible dates. "Every pink flag you see marks a stone."

Many are just chunks of granite; conspicuous in their placement.

Volunteers have had a difficult time discerning graves from random rocks.

"Sometimes you can tell because they're placed almost in rows," Carlson said.

Several clues suggest Johnston's Historical Cemetery No. 63 was primarily in use during the early 19th Century.

The tiny graveyard off Hartford Avenue occupies a small section of land at the edge of Snake Den State Park.

"This is one of six cemeteries in Snake Den," Carlson said.

The historical cemetery sign has thoroughly rusted; the elements have crafted a smear of brown, rather than an original bearer of information.

Carlson referred to Cemetery No. 63 as the John B. Brown Lot, though it's unlikely Brown is buried there.

A stone marks the grave of Brown's son, John Allen, however.

John Allen, son of John B. and Milly Brown, died March 7, 1819, at the age of 15 weeks.

One polished headstone stands in memory of the Brown Family; rather than describing a single individual buried underground, it lists the family's lineage like an engraved family tree.

Many stones lay flat on the ground. Some are tiny, the size of tissue box.

A few scarred by inscriptions; lichen growth making legibility difficult.

Some are merely marked by initials; most likely footstones.

Not all footstones have a headstone in Cemetery 63. And not all headstones have a footstone.

The site had been completely overrun by vegetation for at least 100 years.

The volunteers of the Historical Society's Cemetery Committee, however, have brought some respect back to the burial ground, working hard to Heimlich the choking weeds.

They planted the pink flags and have been trying to maintain the cemetery.

"This may be a headstone," Carlson said, bending down to inspect a fairly flat, but unassuming rock. "Just when you think you've found them all, look, there's another."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth 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.



MYSTERY PLOTS: Johnston Historical Society President Elise Carlson surveys the conditions at Johnston Historical Cemetery No. 63. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)





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*Over the Rainbow
graduates first class*

Over the Rainbow Learning Centers celebrated their first RI State Pre-K graduations on Friday, June 25 in Johnston, and on Saturday, June 26 in Providence.

The children sang songs, read poems, and enjoyed a carnival themed celebration. Parents and families witnessed this great accomplishment.

Organizers said they were grateful for the parents' trust in the preschool's programs.

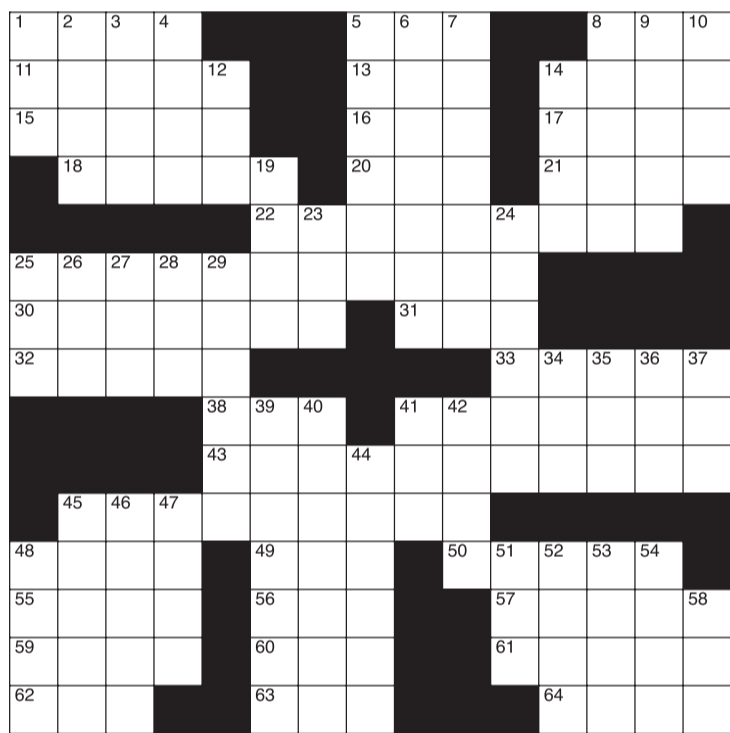
The RI State PreK lottery is currently accepting applications and it is FREE for children who will be 4 by Sept. 1.

For more information, contact Over the Rainbow centers at 401-383-4664 or 401-383-0068.

(Photos courtesy Minerva Waldron, Over the Rainbow Learning Center)



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Language group with Iranian influence
- 5. No seats available
- 8. Health insurance organization
- 11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 13. Defunct European economic organization
- 14. Dutch word for "language"
- 15. Hard to penetrate
- 16. When you'll get there
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Small fishes
- 20. Dry white wine drink
- 21. Turkish city
- 22. U.S.-born people
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Major nerve in human body
- 31. Type of recording
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Alters
- 38. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 41. Venezuelan capital
- 43. Free of deceit
- 45. Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- 48. Competition

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Father
- 2. Performed perfectly
- 3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 4. Thin, compact object
- 5. One attempting to find something
- 6. No longer working
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Book of Genesis character
- 9. Volcanic craters
- 10. Brand of American automobile (slang)
- 12. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___
- 14. Bangladeshi monetary unit
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of genes
- 24. Et ___ : indicates further
- 25. Pacific Standard Time
- 26. S. American wood sorrel
- 27. Women's ___ movement
- 28. Chinese hoopster Ming
- 29. Layers of rock
- 34. Patriotic women's group
- 35. Solid water
- 36. Shade of brown
- 37. Very fast airplane
- 39. Put clothes on
- 40. Quality of one's character
- 41. Time zone
- 42. Primates
- 44. Pleasantly
- 45. Metrical feet
- 46. Rogue
- 47. German river
- 48. Relieves from
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Those who resist authority
- 58. Criticize

CHERRY HILL SCRAMBLE

WORD OF THE WEEK:

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BACKYARD SPACE

IC 1805, The Heart Nebula

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

The Heart Nebula is an emission nebula made up of hydrogen gas located in the constellation Cassiopeia. It was discovered by William Herschel on Nov. 3, 1787 and is located 7,500 light-years away from Earth. The center part of the nebula, known as Melotte 15, contains stars 50 times the size of our own Sun. This image was composed of four separate panels to create one mosaic image. It was taken over the course of four nights in January 2020 with a one-shot color cooled camera and Optolong L-eXtreme Narrowband filter to block out all but the H-alpha and O-iii light. I used an astronomical editing software to bring out the details and nebulosity, then stitched them together to create one complete image.

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.

Reading, a rewarding experience

Reading is its own reward, but we might also give you a prize.

Public libraries everywhere are in the midst of a Summer Reading Program, something we do each year, partly to give kids something to do, and to keep minds developing over the summer break.

Libraries promote reading throughout the year, but this is the time we normally have our biggest events, and try to incentivize everyone to report reading.

Adults are also included, and though kids have ended until Aug. 12, adults can join at Mohr Library up to Sept. 21, to be entered into a drawing for

From the library



with
JON
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the adult prize, which is their choice of a book from a list of notable works.

Sharing reviews or thoughts can help others find new material and get more out of the reading experience. For the same reason, we hope for par-

ticipation in discussions, lectures and readings that we offer in the coming months.

Prizes and many programs are thanks to the volunteer-led nonprofit Friends of the Mohr Public Library, to which we'd like to lead more volunteers.

We have a summer reading reporting tool, as well as much of the raw material for very popular take-home craft kits we produce, thanks to the state Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), which in turn directs funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). OLIS provides Rhode Island's public li-

braries with 20-25 percent of their operational costs, plus a great deal of non-material support through the past year.

Reading gives me a prized feeling, even when it's not a happy one, of connection. Reading offers especially much for those with a long way to go, and for all of us it keeps our minds sharp and our eyes looking forward. That's why every town in Rhode Island has a public library.

Editor's Note: Jon Anderson serves as the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Director. Watch for his column weekly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

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VJ Day anniversary event planned a Graniteville Veterans Monuments

By PETE FONTAINE

One of Johnston's most meaningful and memorable memorial events will be held on Saturday morning Aug. 14, at the Graniteville Veterans Monuments located next to the Johnston Fire Department's Station No. 2 off Putnam Pike on Route 44.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the Graniteville World War II Veterans Association will remember — as messages atop the five well-maintained monuments so well state — "Our young men and women from the village who served with honor in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Korean War."

"This will be our 21st year honoring our Graniteville World War II veterans," said Marie Carlino, secretary for the non-profit's Board of Trustees. "This is also a ceremony for their relatives and friends to commemorate VJ-Day to-

gether at the monuments."

A total of 175 deceased veterans will be honored during the traditional pomp and circumstance ceremony including the Pledge of Allegiance, prayers, placement of wreaths and flowers as well as three special readings to honor Julio Rotondo, reflect upon Pearl Harbor and honor the 11 Graniteville residents who were killed in action.

That list, which was supplied by the Graniteville Veterans Foundation, includes: Ralph "June" Bridges, John K. Burrows, Walter Charbonneau, Alfred Chartier, Raymond Draper, George Harrington Jr., William Hickey, Raymond J. Heather Jr., James Paterson, Joseph Roy Searle and William Thorpe Jr.

Tony Carlino will, as he has done in recent years, deliver the event's greeting as well as serve as Master of Ceremonies. Marie Carlino-Butera will offer the special reading about



MIGHTY MEMORIAL: These monuments are a tribute to the men and women who so bravely served in the United States Armed Forces and are deceased. All those people listed on the five memorials will be honored on Saturday, Aug. 14, VJ Day, during a special 10 a.m. ceremony at the park located off Route 44 next to the Johnston Fire Station. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

Rotondo, a long-time Johnstonian who lived just a few months shy of his 101st birthday and Steven Morra will speak about

the 11 Graniteville natives who were killed in action.

The event will also include a remembrance of the four foundation

founders — Sylvia Forest, Angelo Casale, William Northup and Bob Jackson — who like other veterans are remembered in

Graniteville Went to War (a special book that also serves as a lasting tribute for those veterans who served the country with honor).

In addition to Marie Carlino, the group's Board of Trustees that has planned the tribute, includes: Laure Charnley-Panicucci, chairperson; Karen Lee Casale and Donald Catley.

There will be limited seating under the canopy tent although people are urged to bring their own lawn chairs that can also be set up inside Monument Park, which is also located at the corner of Mathewson Street and Putnam Pike.

The Johnston Historical Society Museum Barn will be open after the ceremony for light refreshments and viewing the exhibits. Officials have asked attendees to practice social distancing and bring a mask. If someone is fully vaccinated, he or she does not have to wear a mask.

The Bridge celebrates another grand gala

By PETE FONTAINE

The executives of Cleveland, Tenn. based Century Park Associates would have been proud — perhaps more so than ever — of what went on last Thursday at their prized property located off Cherry Hill Avenue in Johnston.

With famed disc jockey "Eddie the Fixer" providing a magical musical backdrop that residents even danced to with their walkers, Executive Director Maryann Grace and the super special staff of The Bridge at Cherry Hill hosted a fun and food-filled gala to commemorate the Grand Reopening/25th Anniversary of the highly-acclaimed retirement facility and nursing home.

"What a great, great party!" exclaimed Linda Folcarelli, the District 1 Town Council resident who has developed many relationships with the residents through her now three-year coordination with the JPD's Walk with Cops program. "There is plenty of fine food here and it's obvious the people who work here are very attentive to each and every resident."

To which Grace added: "I would like a big shout out to Heather Northup, our Lifestyles Director, and the entire staff for putting this event together. The weather was beautiful and the smiles on the faces for being able to finally be out was priceless."

Grace also heaped words of praise upon Marvin Carter, The Bridge's Culinary Director — a.k.a. extraordinary executive chef — saying: "As always he didn't miss a beat with the wonderful appetizers he made especially for this occasion."

Carter created a menu



OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS: Linda Folcarelli (third left), who represents District 1 on the Johnston Town Council, was among the special invited guests to last week's grand opening of The Bridge at Cherry Hill. Also on hand were Donna Folcarelli, JPD Patrolmen Anthony St. Laurent and Nicholas Manocchio and Captain Troy Maddocks.

that included an endless serving of lobster fritters, crab rangoons, potato and bacon logs, spanakopita (spinach pie), stuffed mushrooms, corned beef eggrolls, beef wellington's bacon cheeseburger sliders, bacon wrapped chicken and mini chicken parmesan bites.

Add to that Sales/Community Relations dynamo Cullen McKain and Dining Room Hostess Ann Marie Cardilli spreading joy and goodwill as well as even making sure residents and

guests had plenty of food, the event included a special raffle for residents only, lawn games, horseshoes and the now popular corn-hole contests.

Meanwhile, as McKain noted: "This was special; we had families of residents turn out along with local medical professionals, town officials, media and members of our local community. A special THANK YOU to our valuable First Responders — Johnston Police — for sending a special detail

that further enhanced this party."

"The people here really go all out to host a special party no matter what the occasion," offered Johnston Police Capt. Troy Maddocks, who led the delegation that included Patrolmen Anthony St. Laurent and Nicholas Manocchio. "Like Cullen (McKain) said: 'As the evening was coming to an end, no one was ready for the festivities to end and are all looking forward to the next event to begin.'"



CIMAGLIA'S CORNER: Cullen McKain, who doubles as Sales/Community Relations Director at The Bridge at Cherry Hill, enjoys a lighter moment with popular residents Jane Cimaglia during last week's 25th anniversary grand-reopening. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Teolinda "Tilly" Corvese
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2017 - 2021



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In your time of need, the Johnston SunRise 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.



WARM WELCOME: Maryann Grace, Executive Director at The Bridge at Cherry Hill, welcomes Sales Director Emily Otis to last Thursday's gala celebration of the 25th anniversary of the award-winning retirement center-assisted living facility in Johnston.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Cautious approach to a murky new chapter

We've seen this play out before, but there was real hope we might not go through it again. It's disheartening—sickening, really—and yes, a bit scary, too.

COVID-19 cases are on the rise again, fueled by the continued spread of what's been dubbed the delta variant of the coronavirus. This mutation, which has been surging across the globe, is significantly more transmissible than earlier strains, putting unvaccinated people at particular risk. So-called "breakthrough" infections of fully vaccinated people remain rare but have been documented.

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance advising a return to indoor masking—even for fully vaccinated people—in places where the rate of transmission of the virus is currently designated as "substantial" or "high." Previously, the CDC issued guidance calling for mask wearing by all people in K-12 schools this fall.

Rhode Island, based on data available through the state Department of Health, falls into the "substantial" transmission category, with nearly 61 new cases per 100,000 residents during the past week.

The positivity rate, as of the July 27 data update, stood at 2.7 percent—below the 5 percent threshold long viewed as a key indicator, but up significantly from recent weeks. New hospital admissions remain low, but have ticked up slightly.

The good news? Rhode Island remains among the leaders nationally in terms of vaccination rates. As of July 27, according to the Department of Health, 61.2 percent of all Rhode Islanders—and 71.9 percent over the age of 18—are fully vaccinated.

On Wednesday, as this piece was written, Gov. Dan McKee had yet to make an anticipated announcement regarding whether he would follow the CDC's new masking guidance. Based on his comments to members of the media Tuesday, however, he is deeply reluctant to reimpose masking requirements.

"Our data does not show a reason to pull an alarm without a fire," he said during a regular press conference with Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos.

It's a difficult position for McKee, perhaps the most challenging he's faced since taking office in March. For months, he has been able to embrace what is, for him, an extremely comfortable (and, frankly, politically beneficial) role—lifter of mandates, bearer of good news, champion of reopening and recovery.

Now, the picture is again muddled. As at so many prior points in the last 18 months, optimism has been clouded by uncertainty and anxiety.

Does the protection provided by vaccinations fade, and if so, how quickly? Will booster shots be needed? Are more dangerous variants on the way, perhaps even versions of the virus impervious to vaccines? And how can we convince those who continue to refuse vaccination that they've made the wrong choice, both for themselves and the community at large?

Former Gov. Gina Raimondo, to her credit, acted swiftly at the outset of the pandemic. She faced a far more precarious situation and an unconscionable vacuum of leadership at the federal level. Over time, her approach to the crisis clearly wore on many Rhode Islanders, and her early popularity ebbed.

The terrain on which McKee now stands has shifted dramatically from those early days. He, too, faces a number of thorny issues and decisions, from mask wearing to whether state employees ought to be subject to a vaccine mandate (as Rhode Island's two largest health systems, Care New England and Lifespan, have this week announced for their own workers). Thankfully for us all, more functional federal leadership is now in place.

With COVID continuing to sicken our neighbors, the state's economy continuing a slow recovery, and an election campaign just months away, there's a lot at stake for Rhode Island as a whole and for the still-young McKee administration.

By the time this is published, we'll know more about how our governor is proceeding on some of these issues. Reports Wednesday afternoon suggested McKee would back the CDC's school masking mandate, but he seemed unlikely to fully embrace the indoor mask requirement for fully vaccinated Rhode Islanders. He also appears loath, at this point, to adopt a vaccination requirement for state workers, pointing to the state's continued high ranking nationally.

For now, we view McKee's cautious approach—following the federal government's lead, but not unquestioningly—as prudent. We urge him to continue taking whatever steps are possible to increase the ranks of the fully vaccinated in our state. That, above all else, is the way to stave off any backsliding as this new, murky chapter of the pandemic wears on.

OP-ED

We can prevent suicide on bridges

By HERB WEISS

As the General Assembly goes into recess until the fall, Rep. Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Dist. 22, Warwick) sees H-5053, to require safety barriers or netting on the three bridges that connect Aquidneck and Conanicut Islands to the mainland of Rhode Island, as in hiatus. The bill in House Corporations never came out of committee but that isn't stopping the House sponsor from working to see the legislative intent fulfilled.

According to Solomon, the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority currently has a number of suicide prevention measures in place, including a smart surveillance system allowing authorities to act quickly, but virtually no way to physically deter a determined jumper. The Rhode Island Samaritans also has signs posted at the bridge entrances with information to access RI's 911 system for emergencies or The Samaritans one to one hotline, where individuals can speak to someone.

But determined people do jump, Solomon notes, explaining the need for passage of H-5053.

"Too many people have committed suicide on those bridges in the last decade," said Solomon in a statement released when the bill was introduced last January. "Due to technological advances, there are various types of barriers and netting available to increase safety without hindering access for routine inspection and maintenance of the bridges," he said.

"It's not only a serious problem, but an alarmingly frequent one," said Solomon explaining why he introduced his bill. "Last year alone, the Portsmouth Police responded to the Mount Hope Bridge 36 times. And the cost of suicide goes far beyond the individual. It affects friends, families, first responders and health care professionals. Those who survive the fall all say the same thing: they feel instant regret the moment their feet leave the railing."

Sen. Louis P. DiPalma's (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Newport, Tiverton, Little Compton), companion measure, S-117 met the same fate by not being voted out of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee.

If the General Assembly had passed these bills during this legislative session, Rhode Island would have taken a leadership position and joined other states such as New York, California and Florida and countries around the world that have moved to put physical safety barriers on the bridges to deter suicides.

Raising the visibility of the need for physical barriers

Melissa Cotta of Tiverton and Bryan Ganley of Bristol founded Bridging the Gap

for Safety and Healing. Their Facebook page says its mission is to "raise suicide awareness & prevention, increase cycling & pedestrian safety on our bridges & offer support to all the survivors of those lost including families and loved ones, witnesses, first responders and our entire community. Our top goals include preventing bridge suicides by advocating for restricting easy access to means of suicide in general & installation of bridge safety barriers."

According to Cotta, who witnessed a suicide from the Mount Hope Bridge, and Ganley, a 40-year Samaritan volunteer and survivor of suicide by loved ones and friends, last year COVID-19 derailed the passage of legislation introduced by Solomon and DiPalma to bring suicide prevention barriers to Rhode Island's bridges. This year, with legislation reintroduced, they turned to social media and Facebook to urge Rhode Islanders to call for lawmakers to install physical barriers on the state's unprotected bridges.

"The time is now! Take the means for suicide away!"—they say. We don't want to lose any more people to these bridges," referring to suicides on the Jamestown-Verrazano, Claiborne Pell, Mt. Hope and Sakonnet River Bridges.

Corp of Engineers: Barriers work on Cape Cod's Bridges

According to a 1983 memorandum "Information Awards" for the "Installation of Suicide Deterrent Fencing" on the Bourne & Sagamore Highway Bridges at the Cape Cod Canal barriers were installed at the request of The Samaritans of Cape Cod, led by Monica Dickens, great-granddaughter of Charles Dickens and a driving force in the creation of The Samaritans in Boston, on Cape Cod and in Rhode Island.

According to additional information provided by the Army Corp of Engineers, managers of the Cape Cod Canal and the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges "during a 28-year period after the fencing was installed, between 1984 and 2012, a total of 7 persons committed suicide from the bridges. A far lower rate of incidence than what was recorded for the years before the fencing was installed as part of the major rehabilitation project started in 1979."

From 2013 to April 2021, the Army Corps is aware of "two attempts that were prevented thanks to the quick actions of state and local law enforcement officers. The presence of fencing may not only deter attempts from occurring, but it can also delay an attempt long enough to give law enforcement a chance to successfully respond to an incident when one does occur." (Note: This is not conclusive information as reports may have gone to state or local police.)

"In RI, from 2009-2018, we know of at least 33 deaths from our bridges and from November 2020 to July 2, 2021, we are aware of at least 8 persons lost from the bridges," say Cotta and Ganley.

"Many suicides can't be predicted or prevented, but suicides from bridges is something we can prevent with the installation of Suicide Prevention Barriers on our state's three major bridges," noted Ganley in written testimony to support H 5053.

Ganley added: "As a Hotline/Listening volunteer, we are trained to first remove the means of suicide. A bridge with 135' drop and only a 3' rail, is like handing a suicidal person a loaded gun. These bridges are all loaded guns. We need to take away the gun."

The final push ...

With the Rhode Island General Assembly in recess, just days ago ABC 6 reported that Solomon and DiPalma are still seeking ways to fund the installation of barriers on Rhode Island bridges to prevent suicide. Solomon tells ABC6 in a statement:

"Although the General Assembly is currently in recess, we are still working behind the scenes with the RI Bridge and Turnpike Authority and the RI Department of Transportation on moving things forward. With one-time federal funding becoming available in the federal infrastructure bill, it is our hope that some of the funding can be allocated to both the design and implementation of suicide prevention barriers or netting.

"Although we are moving in the right direction this is not a time to become complacent. Melissa Cotta and Bryan Ganley have done an outstanding job working on this from day one. They are continuing to raise awareness on this issue and show that it is a priority in Rhode Island. Rhode Island would not be

the first state to implement these barriers. Those states that do have barriers show how effective they are. I will continue to push for this legislation with the intent of getting it passed when we reconvene this fall."

Sign the petition ...

"The petition for safety/suicide prevention barriers is intended to increase awareness of this issue and show residents of Rhode Island, as well as the surrounding areas that use our bridges all the time are in support of these barriers," says Cotta.

The public's call for installing safety/suicide prevention barriers has gained a powerful advocate. House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-District 23, Warwick), states, "I admire Representative Solomon's passion and commitment to this issue. We will continue to work with him."

At press time, 2,630 have signed Cotta and Ganley's petition to add barriers to Rhode Island's unprotected bridges. They hope to add thousands more to send a message to the congressional delegation, the governor and the General Assembly to act to add physical barriers to Mount Hope, Pell, Jamestown and Sakonnet Bridges. To view and sign this petition, go to tinyurl.com/ribridgingthegap.

Suicide emergency? Call 911. Need to Talk? Call The Samaritans of Rhode Island at 401.272.4044 or 1.800.365.4044. Learn more at samaritansri.org.

Herb Weiss has enjoyed a distinguished 41-year career in journalism, earning a national reputation as an expert on aging, health care and medical issues. Over 780 articles that he has authored or coauthored have appeared in national, state and local publications. Gov. Gina Raimondo appointed him to the Rhode Island Advisory Commission on aging. Herb and his wife, Patty Zacks, reside in Pawtucket.

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

TEETHING IS TOUGH

Even the sweetest, most cheerful babies are going to become irritable, crying infants when they start the teething process because they are in pain and they don't know why. It can be equally frustrating for parents when they are unable to soothe their screaming tots, but there are some time-tested and dentist approved things you can do to help teething babies. Cold is the key. Try frozen teething rings and pacifiers. If you feel these may be too hard, try a clean, cold wash cloth or compress. If the pain is persistent, use the recommended dose of baby acetaminophen (Tylenol). Once those teeth start popping up, be sure to schedule baby's first dental appointment.

Teething time is the perfect time to address any concerns you may have about your children's teeth and gums. At DENTAL ARTS GROUP, our philosophy is not only to treat dental needs, but more importantly, to educate our patients to prevent future problems. To this end, our mission is to provide open and free communication and the highest standard of personalized care in an environment of health, mutual understanding, and respect. We see patients of all ages here at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Please call 401-521-3661 for an appointment Monday-Thursday 8a.m. to 4p.m.; Friday 8a.m. to 12p.m.

P.S. Using alcohol on infants' gums is never recommended as it can numb their throats and make swallowing difficult and possibly become a choking hazard.

www.dentalartsgroupri.com



BIG DRAW: Scores of union members were on hand for last week's Planning Board meeting regarding the "Project Schooner" development. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ Amazon

(Continued from page 1)

Johnston Town Council will open the floor to debate and then vote on whether to move forward, permitting "Project Schooner" to move beyond the planning phase, and into the building phase.

The entire process could unravel quickly, possibly in as little time as a 48-hour window.

"I think council will be very pleased with the agreement," Polisen said. "It will be good for education, public safety, for our seniors and for our youth. I can tell you that."

On July 20, the Johnston Planning Board gave Bluewater Property Group the green light to proceed with "Project Schooner."

Only members of the public, in attendance both to voice support and sound alarms, said the word "Amazon" at the more than 4-hour meeting.

Polisen did not attend the meeting.

"I didn't participate because I appoint the planning board," Polisen said. "I've been working on this for a while. I can tell you that it's going to be very very lucrative for the town. And if Project Schooner didn't come to Johnston, it would go up the road to Smithfield, or to another town somewhere off the highway."

Developers told the planning board that the "major land development" proposed for a stretch of mostly upland forested terrain at 2120 Hartford Ave. (Route 6), just west of the intersection with Route 295, will provide jobs to an estimated 1,000 workers.

"I think we're actually looking at closer to 2,000 jobs," Polisen said. "And this state needs the jobs. People lost a lot of jobs in the hospitality industry over the last year; a lot of restaurants closed and will never open again."

More than 100 local trades union members attended the planning board meeting. Several spoke during the public comment portion.

No agreement has been finalized, however, to build the distribution center using union labor.

"That will be up to Project Schooner and the members of the trades unions," Polisen said. "I'm confident they'll work out an agreement. I want to see it built by members of the union. I want to see the Rhode Island men and women that are in the trades unions build it. They have a vested interest. But that's totally up to Bluewater and the trades unions."

Polisen said the unnamed company plans to spend "roughly, between 450-500 million dollars" on the facility.

"That's my rough 'guesstimation,'" Polisen said. "They want to start right away quite frankly."

Schooner wants to be up and running."

The building project is expected to take between 17 and 20 months to complete, but could be operational some time in 2023.

Polisen would offer few details, but assured critics that the company will contribute to Johnston's tax base.

"They will definitely pay taxes," he said. "I can't say how much or what percentage, but they will pay taxes."

Polisen compared the project to the huge Citizens Bank campus built several years ago, also off Route 295, which now employs approximately 3,500 people.

"Some people thought the world would come to an end with Citizens," he said. "It didn't. This is another situation where the world is not going to end. This agreement with schooner is much much more lucrative."

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 its built.

Polisen wants his constituents to know that he has been fighting for "safeguards" throughout the agreement.

"I think people will be very excited," he said. "In my opinion, this is probably the best compensation package anyone could ever get."

■ Story

(Continued from page 1)

Michelle Cole shared a blanket with her 3-year-old son James. It was their first story time at the library.

"I've been trying to get James around some other kids," she said. "He needs practice just sitting and listening."

Carney approached with bird puppets on each hand.

James reached toward them, his hands full of imaginary worms.

"What do you have to feed them?" Carney asked.

"Worms!" James shouted. "Worms!"

Children's Story Time will be held at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday, through Aug. 10 at the library. School Age Story Time, for slightly older kids, is held at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday, through

Aug. 11.

On Mondays, parents can bring their children to the library for either indoor (throughout the day) or outdoor (from 4-6 p.m.) craft time.

Melissa Marcello brought her children Mia, 6, Genesis, 2, and Cameron, 1, to Children's Story Time this week. They're regulars at the event.

"We've been coming since Mia was nine months old," Melissa

Marcello said. "We're bookworms. These kids must read 10-20 books per week. The whole staff at this library is wonderful. They did curbside pickup for us all year, but it's great to be back here."

IF YOU GO:

Children's Story Time, 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday, through Aug. 10

School Age Story Time, 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday, through Aug. 11

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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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.

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Schools

(Continued from page 1)

A few of the answers were delivered at the last regular School Committee meeting, when Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. delivered his End-of-Year Report.

“School Administrators, this School Committee, nurses, teachers and support staff came together to have a solid opening plan,” DiLullo said of last year’s pre-opening preparations.

The COVID pandemic made the typically routine school opening more challenging than ever. Many had hoped the pandemic would be behind us by now.

Mutant strains of the virus, however, have led to shifting recommendations from federal and state health officials.

Two years ago, public schooling was chaotic, as in-person classes shifted to at-home learning.

The 2020-21 school year was more conventional, with a hybrid approach, featuring both at-home learning and in-person education.

“Facilities were maintained and provided clean and safe environments,” DiLullo told the School Committee. “Most classrooms in the district have been repainted. Additional facilities equipment and a van were obtained through COVID funds. All rooms have air purifiers in place. Nursing offices have been updated or expanded to provide safe zones for students and staff. Ongoing meetings have occurred to gather information on new and updated facility planning.”

According to the RIDOH, approximately 5,730 to 5,734 COVID cases were reported among students in Rhode Island public and private schools last year, and around 415 to 419 cases among school staff.

“Data reflect any student or staff association with school and does not indicate in-school transmission of COVID-19 as cases may have been exposed outside of school,” according to the RIDOH. “School association is determined based on school scheduling portal and case investigation.”

According to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), 139,184 students were enrolled in schools statewide in October of last year.

Based on that total statewide enrollment figure, and statewide COVID case rates in schools, around 4 percent of Ocean State students tested positive for COVID during last school year.

DiLullo submitted a report detailing COVID cases in each of the district’s schools.

Two schools reported COVID cases hovering around 9 percent of the student body, approximately twice the state average.

Brown Avenue School, which had 214 students enrolled at the end of the school year, reported 15 to 19 COVID cases last year among students (5 to 9 among staff).



BACK IN MASKS: State officials on Wednesday announced masks will be recommended for all people in K-12 schools this fall. (File photo)

The Winsor Hill School, which had 372 students enrolled, reported 30-34 cases among students (10 to 14) among staff.

Johnston Senior High School, which had 761 students enrolled, reported 50 to 54 student COVID cases (10 to 14 staff cases). The infection rate at the high school affected around 7 percent of the total student body.

Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School, which had 766 students enrolled, reported 40 to 44 COVID cases among students (10 to 14 cases among staff). The middle school infection rate was around 6 percent of the total student body.

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) and the Sarah Dyer Barnes School both had COVID infection rates at around 5 percent of their student populations.

The ECC, which had 190 students enrolled, reported 5 to 9 student cases and 5 to 9 staff cases.

The Barnes School, which had 283 students enrolled, reported 10 to 14 cases among students and fewer than five staff cases.

The Thornton School, which had 338 students enrolled, reported 10 to 14 cases among students (fewer than five cases among staff).

The infection rate at the Thornton School affected around 4 percent of the total student body.

The Graniteville School had the lowest COVID infection rate in the Johnston School System, with only about 3 percent of its students testing positive.

The Graniteville School, which had 115 students enrolled last year, reported fewer than five cases among students and fewer than five cases among staff. “There was no identi-

fied break out in any of our schools,” DiLullo said this week. “Our precautions will continue with the air purifiers in each room, regular cleaning and disinfecting of the buildings, having hand sanitizers in each classroom. We have planned for a district nurse to ensure we always have nurse coverage.”

The St. Rocco School, in Johnston, which had 154 students enrolled last year, reported 15 to 19 COVID cases among students, and fewer than five among staff, according to the RIDOH.

The infection rate at the St. Rocco School affected around 12 percent of the Catholic School’s total student body.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has revised its guidance for masks in schools.

“Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people,” according to the CDC website. “CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.”

Gov. Dan McKee and the state’s Department of Health on Wednesday announced Rhode Island will follow new CDC guidelines recommending universal masking in K-12 schools this fall.

Earlier Wednesday, DiLullo said next year’s mask policy in Johnston Schools has yet to be decided.

“We have not decided on a specific plan for masks yet as the guidance is continually updated,” the superintendent said.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

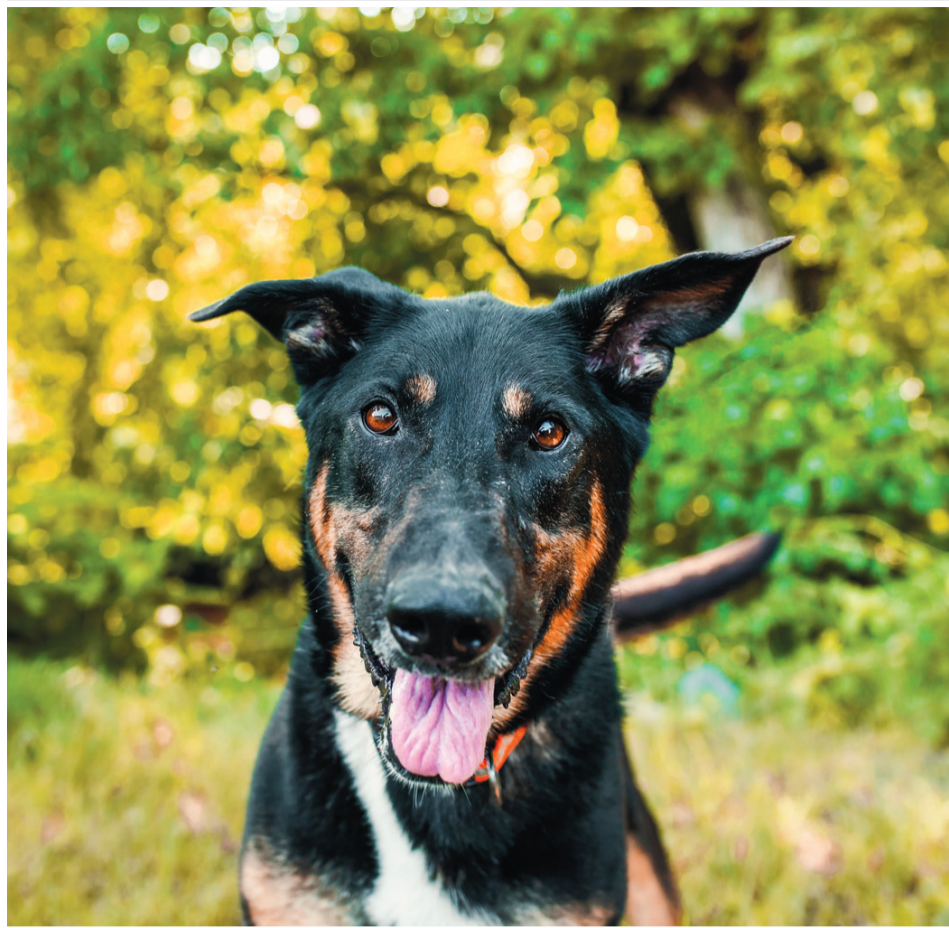


Photo credit: Bootsberry Photography

Alex

Are you looking for a loving companion? Well Alex is too! She is an eight year old Shepherd mix who loves attention. Alex is looking for a home where she can hang out with her people, take nice walks and snuggle in a comfy doggie bed! Alex deserves to be in a home and getting lots of love, she can't wait for her special someone to come in and give her that chance. Please contact EGAPL The Heart of RI at 401-467-3670 if you'd like to open your heart and home to this beautiful girl. They are located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open on Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday and Friday 12:00-2:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00 so feel free to stop in. You can help change Alex's life for the better by spreading the word about her too!

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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COVID

(Continued from page 1)

they got the vaccine. I think people were reluctant to get the vaccine, and now they're more comfortable getting the vaccine."

According to Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza, the town held highly successful regional POD (Point of Distribution) events.

Razza estimates that between the regional PODs hosted by the town, clinics for residents over 75 years old and school personnel, approximately 13,000 people were vaccinated in Johnston.

Johnston Police will host National Night Out on Aug. 3 at Johnston War Memorial Park from 5 to 8 p.m.

In an effort to help Rhode Island reach its goal of vaccinating more Rhode Islanders against COVID-19, Johnston has partnered with the RIDOH to host a free vaccination clinic during the festivities. No appointment is necessary.

"I know that they're still offering vaccinations, and residents can get vaccinated at the National Night Out with the police," Polisen said.

He added, that if needed, "we're ready, willing and able to reopen our PODs."

"I think it was all about timing," Polisen said. "Once we got rolling, after a week or so, people couldn't get appointments. Our spots were filling up in about 10 minutes. The more people got vaccinated, we started seeing a decline in the number of people getting infected."

Polisen said inconsistent messages from the federal

government have complicated matters.

"I think the federal government is making things harder," Polisen said. "Now they're saying, recommending, to wear a mask indoors even if you're vaccinated. I think the federal government is sending mixed signals."

The federal Centers for Disease Control has changed its guidance regarding mask-wearing for the general public, and in schools, several times.

"My heart goes out to these young children who have to wear masks," Polisen said. "It's a type of isolation. It's very difficult. But it's a pandemic."

Polisen has spoke to Razza and Johnston Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb, regarding another round of clinics if clear data is released regarding vaccination booster shots.

"If they come out with a booster, we'll be the first to open up a clinic for booster shots," Polisen said.

Ranking high on the state's list of COVID infections weighs heavily on the mayor's mind.

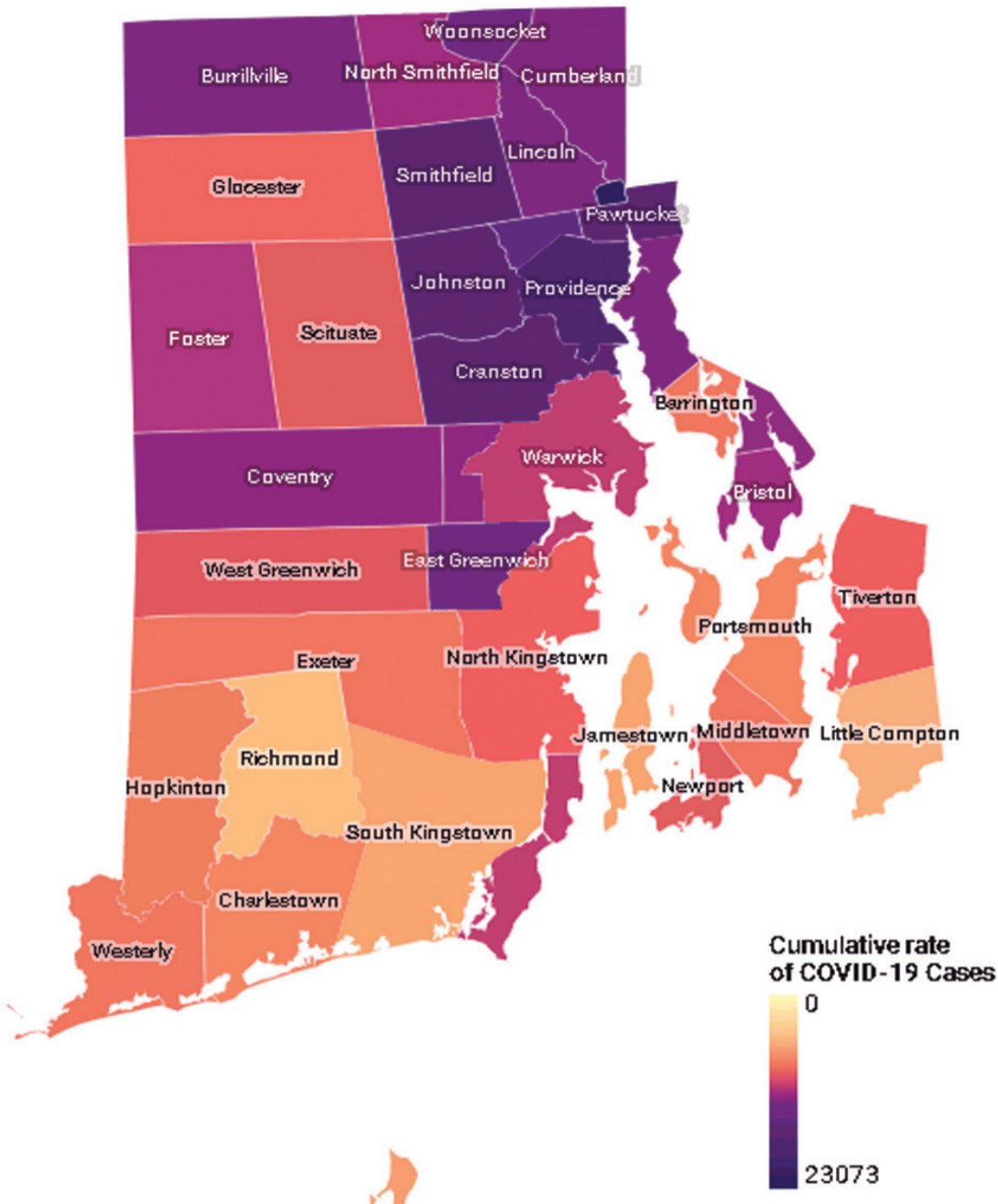
"This has been trial and error," Polisen said. "It's something we've never really seen. It's concerning. There's no doubt about it."

He said he supports vaccination mandates, but also supports his constituents' right to choose for themselves whether they should get the shot.

"The vaccine has saved a lot of lives," Polisen said. "I would like to see more people get vaccinated, but that's their choice. Though I don't have a problem with mandating it."

Total Rate of COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 Population (by City / Town)

Data are from March 2020 to present



(Graphic courtesy the Rhode Island Department of Health)



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THE SMALLEST

Gian's Treasures offers a bit of everything

By RORY SCHULER

Drive down George Waterman Road any day of the week, and you'll likely catch a glimpse of Gian Souza outside his store, Gian's Treasures.

If you've walked inside, you know the inventory will be a surprise; the shelves stocked with new items each day.

If you've asked the price of an item, you'll find it's usually less than you expected, and haggling is welcome.

Souza has been running a small antique and second-hand shop at the same location for the past seven years.

Split in two, one half of the store features mostly new and used goods; tools, DVDs, toys, electronics and collectibles.

The other half, run by Souza's niece Kim Tillinghast, features mostly antiques and oddities.

"My half is everything, soup to nuts," Souza said, seated at his desk. "Her half is mostly antiques and odd stuff."

Souza's buddy Steven Martone helps him manage the store.

Together, Souza, Martone and Tillinghast run a unique operation, unlike any other in town, or the rest of the Ocean State.

- Business Name:** Gian's Treasure
- Owner's Name:** Gian Souza
- Business Address:** 95 George Waterman Road
- Length of Operation:** 7 years
- Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 7 days a week
- Business Phone Number:** 401-439-2898
- Business Description:** Unique retail operation. Buying and selling "everything, soup to nuts."
- Owner's Address:** 23 Golini Drive, Johnston
- Entrepreneur's Quote:** "All prices are cheap and negotiable!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first installment of an ongoing series focusing on Johnston's smallest businesses. "The Smallest" will profile proprietors with few or no employees, how they make a buck, the challenges they face, and why they decided to start their own business in Johnston. If you know a business owner who deserves a profile, or would like to see a story about your business, please contact Johnston Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.



TREASURE HUNT: Gian Souza, owner of Gian's Treasures, stands guard outside his Johnston store. The shop is two stores in one: oddities and antiques (below) and soup to nuts (bottom left). (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

It may seem like a simple detail to most, but for Akshay Talwar, the President and CEO of Briarcliffe, the live-edge table that sits in this new residence's lobby has deep significance. The Preserve at Briarcliffe, an Assisted and Supportive Independent Living Residence in Johnston, has been the years-long passion of Talwar who has nurtured the project along from its very conception. Today, this table represents so much more than a design element in a room, it has a life story of its own that connects it in a special way to this newly-completed senior residence.

The wood was a gift to Akshay from his father, given to him many years ago. The wood, now a gorgeous piece of furniture art, is from his father's lumber business in their homeland of India. It is made of a cross-section cut of "Puka wood"; it is solid and durable and has seen the passage of many years of time.

Those years of time have been marked on this now polished and preserved slab of wood by the rings that formed as the tree matured. Like the lives of The Preserve's new residents, those rings symbolize a life well-lived, rich with history and untold stories of joy, celebration, hardship, and growth. It is a reminder to Akshay of his father, of how far he has come in his own life, and of all the promise that lies ahead for those who have now made The Preserve their home.

The Preserve at Briarcliffe officially opened its doors in May of this year. As with the other residences on this sprawling campus, this latest installment is the result of years of thoughtful planning. Each of this residence's 66 apartments is designed to meet the specific needs of those who are either completely independent or those who require assistance with such basic needs as medication



Akshay Talwar, the President and CEO of Briarcliffe, (center) has gathered with Preserve residents in the residence's welcoming lobby which is anchored by this live-edge puka wood table ~ given to Akshay as a special gift by his father.

management or help with simple activities of daily living. It is the ultimate senior living; Briarcliffe is now a Continuing Cared Retirement Community (CCRC).

The Preserve's apartments come in six different floor plans from studio-size units to one bedrooms. Many units feature private patios, balconies and Juliette balconies. Each apartment has a kitchenette, "European-style" bathrooms for safe and easy barrier-free access and wheelchair-width doors for those with mobility challenges. Easy access to the beautiful outdoors was an important design priority.

There are countless amenities available to residents here,

making life exquisitely more enjoyable and stress-free. New members of The Preserve community seem to walk with an extra lift in their steps and their contentment with this new style of living is manifest in their posture, their countenances, and their entire outlooks!

Now is the time to schedule your own in-person tour of this new and exciting residence at 54 Old Pocasset Road. If you are seeking a lifestyle of comfort, security and peace of mind, arrange for your tour by calling 401.944.2450. For more information, visit their new website, www.briarclifferi.com.

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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.

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 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 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.

Help the Historical Society

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

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

Update on Garden City Concert Series

Your favorite summer tradition is back at Garden City Center. Join in on Wednesday nights in July and August for good tunes, family fun, and memories that will last well beyond the dog days of summer.

On Aug. 4, the night will feature Elton John vs. Billy Joel, which is a good old fashion night on the boardwalk, with midway games, fun food and a dueling piano show with songs from two 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 non-profit 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).

'Resilience' at Warwick Center for the Arts

Warwick Center for the Arts, located at 3259 Post Road in Warwick, will host "Resilience: a Juried Exhibit for Native American Artists" from July 31 through Sept. 4. An opening reception, free and open to the public, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 5.

This exhibit is a collaborative partnership between the Warwick Center for the Arts, Tomaquag Museum, and RISCA's Atrium Gallery Traveling Exhibits. It is being curated by Angel Beth Smith of the Narragansett tribe, a professional artist with more than 30 years' experience providing artistic content, teaching, and marketing support to academic institutions, churches and private organizations.

For more information, visit warwickcfa.org.

Shakespeare Under the Stars

"Shakespeare Under the Stars" will come to Cranston on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13-14, at the Governor Sprague Mansion, located on Cranston Street.

What Cheer, Shakespeare? Theatre Company, founded by Cranston resident Joseph Wallace and his partner Karen Valcourt, will be staging Shakespeare's comedy "Two Gents of Verona" at 7 p.m. both nights, weather permitting.

The company has been producing "Shakespeare Under the Stars" in various locations throughout southern New England. It is the longest continuously running Shakespeare company now performing in Rhode Island. With a style that can be best described as "irreverent," the company strives to bring Shakespeare to everybody, regardless of their previous experience or knowledge. While remaining true to the text, the actors wear modern clothes, and there's almost no scenery. The focus is on entertaining the audience with some of the greatest works ever produced.

Several members of Wallace's and Valcourt's Company are former students from the drama program at Cranston High School East, where Wallace has taught for 31 years. Several Rhode Island theater veterans also make up the cast and crew, including director Christopher Ferreira, who has worked for most of the amateur theater companies in the state.

Tickets for the event cost \$20 online at eventbrite.com and \$22 at the door. Children 14 and under will be admitted free of charge. For more information, call or text (508) 933-4233.

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COLLECTIBLES



Summer Heat Keeping a Market

ABLAZE



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

even \$25 dollars can sell for hundreds if not thousands. We ask ourselves why, but the reasoning is really clear when you think about it.

COVID-19 was a horrible, tragic happening that I can not wait to see completely behind us. It destroyed a lot of lives. However, it also brought the biggest economic boom to the collectible comic industry I have ever seen. People were bored at home with nothing to do. You couldn't go out to eat, the movies, or vacation; and Marvel was dominating the streaming service land. People who now had additional expendable income were looking for something, and a large population found interest in comics. The short is that the pandemic created an exponential increase in demand while supply stayed the same. The beauty is even though we are returning to normal

life, the collecting bug is a hard one to shake. Additionally, once you're invested in a market, it's in your best interest to see that market flourish. The collecting must go on! But let's look at some numbers to show you what I'm talking about.

It may not have been the most expensive book of the day, but the greatest percentage increase in value was lot 79: Amazing Spider-Man Annual #1 (1964) graded a 6.5. The day of the auction market average was \$1,920.00 based on 7 transactions with the last one approximately 3 weeks earlier. That day our copy hammered down for \$3,800.00 when it crossed the auction block. That's a 97% gain in less than a month! There are not too many antiques or collectibles with that kind of selling potential. If you are at home reading this and looking down at a pile of comics, you have always wanted

to move. It's a good time, you don't want to be at the other side of the peak when values start to slump. You need to strike while the iron is hot. The important thing to remember is a comic collection needs to be properly managed to maximize your return. You do not want to sell yourself short, especially by selling them outright. Comics need to be pressed, graded, and advertised properly. Your best bet is to always work with an auction house on consignment. That way it's a team effort instead of a one-way street.

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'Just believe in yourself'



'MEANT TO HAPPEN': The connection between author Lauren Ruggiano and illustrator Chris Woodhouse began online. Recently, their book, "Please Keep Your Distance," was released through Barnes & Noble. (Beacon Communications photo)

Cranston author, illustrator embark on rewarding collaboration with pandemic-focused children's book

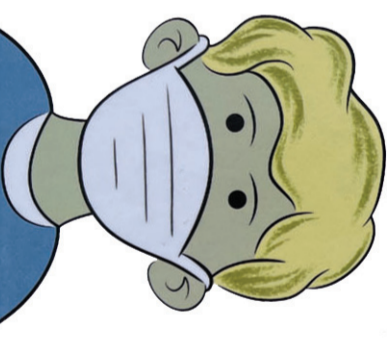
By DANIEL KITTREDGE

As a first-time author, Lauren Ruggiano has found a new way to channel her voice.

Chris Woodhouse, meanwhile, has used his skills as an illustrator to bring her words to life visually.

The two Cranston residents partnered for the children's book "Please Keep Your Distance," release in June, which seeks to impart lessons about being respectful and practicing good hygiene when it comes to the pandemic. Their collaboration has proved rewarding creatively – and they hope their story helps inspire others to pursue their dreams.

"You can do anything you put your mind said of her advice to oth- authors. "Whatever it is, if u're diligent and you want to do it, I believe you can do anything that you want to do in life."



Last summer, Ruggiano, who previously worked as an assistant manager, found herself out of work time off, she said, afforded

her the chance to "take a little detour" and pursue writing – something she has done through journaling over the years but never pursued in a professional capacity.

When considering ideas, she said, the book's subject and title "just came to me." An online description for the book reads: "A first-time reader, children's book guide for the Covid-19 virus."

Ruggiano describes it this way: "It's basically a children's book guide about handwashing, checking up on loved ones if they're sick, just kind of like a straight to the point book."

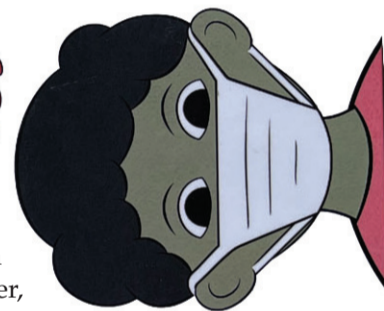
"Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn," the 10-page book begins. It goes on to include messages about hand-washing and social distancing.

"Know that better days are ahead," another passage reads, "and remember that true friends stay together."

Even as the pandemic has receded locally and restrictions have been lifted, the author and illustrator hope the book can provide a useful resource for families and educators – especially given the spread of the delta variant, the continued lack of a vaccine for young children, and the uncertainty over what school will look like in the fall.

Woodhouse, too, was at a transitional point when he connected with Ruggiano. His career has involved time as a graphic designer, including several years at ESPN in Connecticut, followed by a pivot to museum management, which he came to Rhode Island

to study. The financial crisis of 2008, however, forced an end to a job in that field, and he has since pursued more freelance work while serving as a caretaker for a family member.



"It was just a perfect time for me to have a side project," Woodhouse said of last summer, when he connected with Ruggiano.

The endeavor was a first for Woodhouse, who has done book covers for other independent authors but hadn't previously illustrated a full book like "Please Keep Your Distance."

The connection between Ruggiano and Woodhouse was serendipitous. Ruggiano said she had been searching online for illustrators when she came across Woodhouse's name and work. Given their shared Cranston residency, meeting up was simple.

"I looked at Chris's artwork, and I thought it was just eclectic and just really, really talented," Ruggiano said. After he developed some initial concepts, her belief that she had found her collaborator was solidified.

"I just thought it was amazing," she said. "I was like, 'OK, this is meant to happen.'"

"It was a great experience," Woodhouse said. "It is my passion to draw, to illustrate."

Ruggiano and Woodhouse chose to publish their book through Barnes & Noble, and it is available now through the company's website, barnesandnoble.com. A few copies are also available at Twice Told Tales in Pawtuxet Village, with plans to distribute additional copies to local gift shops and bookstores. Family and friends have been "super supportive," they said, and there are hopes a publishing company may pick the book up.

Woodhouse urged other authors and illustrators to "do your homework on the publishers" and "find the right publisher that fits what you're looking for." He also urged illustrators in particular to engage in self-promotion, as he does via Instagram (@chriswoodhouse_art) and through his website, chriswoodhouse.com.

Ruggiano, the mother of a 5-year-old boy, said she plans to work on other children's books with a focus on dealing with sensitive or difficult topics.

"I think in the future, for sure, there's going to be a round two of a book," she said.

Ruggiano also shared her advice for others seeking to pursue their writing.

"Basically, my advice would be, just get yourself out there," she said. "Make phone calls. Be diligent. Work hard ... I think networking is the best thing you can do, and word of mouth, and just believe in yourself."



Sports



DISTRICT CHAMPS: The Johnston Little League senior team that won the district title. (Submitted photos)

District Champs

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston Little League senior team had an impressive summer season, winning the District I championship and competing in the state tournament. The team kicked off the district tournament with an 8-0 shutout win over Cranston East. Pitcher Cam Frenier went the distance, holding East to one hit while strik-



ON THE MOUND: Johnston's Cam Frenier delivers a pitch in the District I tournament.

CHAMPS- PAGE 20

Getting back on the water

The CJ Buckley Regatta made its return this week in East Greenwich Bay after being shelved in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a welcomed return to what has become one of the biggest events in Rhode Island sailing over the past two decades.

CJ Buckley was an avid sailor who loved competing and being out on the water. Two weeks before his 16th birthday, he was diagnosed with brain cancer and passed away after a 16-month battle.

In the following summer in 2003, CJ's parents Carter and Lucy, as well as other friends and family in the local sailing community established the first ever memorial regatta in his honor. Other than 2020, the event has taken place each year and has grown a tremendous following.

The regatta serves as the Club 420 Association's National Junior Team Race Championship and also raises funds for the CJ Buckley and Regatta Foundation, which also sponsors an annual scholarship for a selected local sailor among other things. This annual regatta is run entirely by volunteers, many of which have been involved since the first year.

This is my fourth summer in Rhode Island and my third time covering the event. I have always enjoyed being down in the bay, saying hello to Carter and Lucy, some of the familiar volunteers and watching the kids set sail. Luckily, we have been blessed with nice weather

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

each year which has also made things pleasurable.

More than anything, though, it is always such a warm atmosphere being around people that care so much about an event and are so passionate about it. I know that any memorial event starts as a passion project, but this really is one of the kindest atmospheres that I have been around in my career.

Like many things in the past year or two, I didn't realize how much I missed covering this event until I returned to the scene on Monday morning. It is always a fun thing to be a part of and take in.

This year's regatta also kind of encapsulates what the entire thing is about: Making the most of a tough situation, adapting, and continuing to fight.

As you would expect, the pandemic has impacted the regatta in a few ways; the overall format as well as some of the out of water activities have been modified. But overall, there was still a large crowd of people from all over the world (literally),

PITCH- PAGE 19

JMCE co-ed golf tourney set to return

By PETE FONTAINE

Records, people in a number of sports will attest, are made to be broken.

That's especially true for ladies like Judi Graham and Linda LaFazia - as well as the all-volunteer non-profit known as the highly-acclaimed Johnston Memorial Cancer Events that continues to smash its all-time fundraising records every year.

The main reason for the JMCE's storied success is actually two-fold: first,

friends in a small, close-knit group of people who enjoy playing golf and are hopeful and second, as Graham says with a special sincerity ringing in her voice, "We all can only hope that someday there will be a cure!"

Perhaps that's why Graham and her JMCE golf gang - as well as the generous members of famed and picturesque Gloucester Country Club which was founded in 1929 and sits

JMCE- PAGE 19



CHATELLE'S CORNER: Richard DiOrto, Henry Roy and the brothers Chatelle, Dennis and Fran, were among the many golfers who teed it up in last year's highly-successful, record-breaking JMCE Golf Tourney. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



MEMORIAL MOMENT: Mike Mazzulla (center) hugs his niece Janna Mazzulla, granddaughter of the late Anna Mazzulla, and Matt Pagnozzi who worked the Food Hole during last year's golf tournament.

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JMCE
 (Continued from page 18)

on the shore of Waterman Lake in Chepachet – will attempt to break yet another record on Sunday, Sept. 26 during the 7th Annual Co-Ed Memorial Golf Tournament.

Although that may be a tall order, considering that last year's tourney raised a record \$10,772 which was \$2,100 more than the 2019 event, Graham's golfers have their sights set on another record year that will result in the JMCE's on-going commitment to the Hematology-Oncology Department at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

In the last dozen years, the JMCE has raised an extraordinary total of nearly \$300,000 that's used, as LaFazia recently offered: "To help those children who have unfortunately been stricken with cancer and are being treated at Hasbro Children's Hospital."

So, if you'd like to become one of the JMCE's heartwarming heroes and helpers, consider signing up for the 18-hole, 7th Annual Co-Ed Memorial Golf Tourney that will tee off on one o'clock at Glocester Country

Club after yet another of the non-profit's famous pre-event luncheons.

Entry fee is \$100 per golfer and the scramble format will be used in this year's tourney, which will have a field of only 72 golfers. Graham and LaFazia are also requesting all checks be made payable to the JMCE – which is a 501c3 organization – and sent to David and Judi Graham, 97 Pineledge Road in Glocester, RI 02828.

"We are again excited about this year's tournament," Graham noted with a special smile on her face noting that dinner will be served after the event at GCC. "Many of the (GCC) members play in the tourney and Golf Pro Stan Baluik and Course Superintendent Ralph Simonelli always roll out the welcome mat for us."

If you're not a golfer and would like to help boost the JMCE's coffers, Graham and LaFazia announced that they will welcome any and all memorial and business tee signs which are priced at just \$60 per sign.

For more information, please call Graham at (401) 497-2954 or LaFazia at (401) 233-2564 every dollar that's raised goes to help children in the Hematology-Oncology Department at Hasbro Children's Hospital where the mission is: "Every Child, Every Day."

Pitch
 (Continued from page 18)

kids were on the water, and everyone was simply happy to be back at it while honoring CJ who was as big a sailing fan as any.

I am thrilled to see everyone involved, especially Carter and Lucy, be able to return to action and put on this event that means so much to so many. Summer is starting to feel more like summer again.

Our Little League teams that remain had a somewhat mixed bag this past week in the state tournaments. Warwick Continental teams are in the hunt but have been knocked into the losers brackets, same with Cranston East and one of our Cranston Western teams, while another is continuing to dominate through the next leg of the race.

This is why I love Little League, well, one of the reasons why I love it. Our teams for the most part cruised to district championships the past few weeks. The ones that took home titles were largely untested and rolled.

Now, every district champion throughout the state is top-notch and has a chance at a state title. This is really where we separate the good teams from the great ones.

I love double elimination tournaments. Between single elimination, double elimination, and series play, I think double is the way to go.

The obvious reason why I am not a fan of single elimination is because a team can have one off day and get bounced. Some sports, like football for example, are a little more consistent. I feel that single elimination is the way to go, even if we weren't taking into account the physical toll of it being a full contact sport.

Baseball on the other hand is super volatile. One bad inning, one bad pitch, one big hit can do a team in which makes single elimination a tough format to work through.

In terms of series, I am also not a big fan because I find it to be incredibly dull ... well, at times.

I like seeing as many teams square off against one another as possible. If two teams eventually meet up again for a rematch, so be it, and in fact, I think that makes a more dramatic storyline anyway.

Team A loses to Team B. Team B continues to roll while Team A goes on to dust itself off, win a few games and earn a chance to avenge the loss. Much more compelling than if they just jumped right back into a rematch the next day.

So, this is my long, roundabout way of saying that the Little League

tournaments are doing it right and continue to be one of the better play-offs to cover each year. We'll see how these remaining teams make out the rest of the week. It's a shame that only the 12's will get an opportunity to compete at the regional level thanks to this incredibly frustrating pandemic, but hey, something is better than nothing right?

Last thing I want to touch on is the Red Sox. Boy, was I wrong about them heading into the season.

In spring training, I mocked the Red Sox on the record. Their lineup had a few stars but also a few scrubs, the pitching rotation was a joke, and the bullpen was non-existent. I said they'd be lucky to be .500.

Now, as we approach the trade deadline, they are a first-place team that is a near-lock to reach the post-season. They had a fantastic come from behind win over New York and also have ace Chris Sale on the verge of returning from Tommy John surgery.

I still am skeptical of the overall pitching as well as some of the back end talent in the lineup. One thing is for sure, though: This team has heart and a winning mentality. The play-offs will be the real test, and I still do not like their odds, but they continue to prove me wrong and it's impossible to not be impressed.

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BIG STAGE: Johnston's Jonah Pecchia (left) and Dylan Martins during the team's run to the District I title.

Champs

(Continued from page 18)

ing out eight batters.

Johnston's offense was led by Dylan Martins, who went 3-for-4 with two doubles and three runs scored. Martins hit a double to right field and Jonah Pecchia followed up with a double to left to put the Johnston All-Stars up 1-0 after the first inning.

The Johnston bats exploded in the fourth when Giancarlo Villavicencio, Antonio De'Falco, Aiden McGarry, Craig Scorpio and Steven Finegan all got

hits to score four runs and extend the lead to 5-0. Johnston would put up another three runs en route to the victory.

Johnston then took home a 6-3 win over Elmwood in the next round. Pitcher Jonah Pecchia went seven innings, allowing three runs on six hits.

Down 6-3 in the top of the seventh, Elmwood was working on a comeback with runners on second and third. Elwood's designated hitter would hit a rocket into the left center gap, but Johnston's Armani Arias made a diving catch to end the game.

Finegan Jr. led Johnston at the plate with a 3-for-3 outing, while Chris Civetti went 2-for-4. Dylan Guernon and Davi-

an Nunez each scored runs in the win. Johnston finished the District tournament by rolling to a 10-0 win over Elmwood in the championship match.

Frenier took the ball for Johnston and pitched five hits while giving up just one hit. Johnston was up just 1-0 in the fourth before its offense took off. Xander Polofsky, Kevin Biscelli, Finegan Jr., Martins, Villavicencio, Civetti and Guernon all scored runs to run away with the victory.

"Our team motto throughout the run was, 'None of us are as good as all of us.' That really helped the team camaraderie. The support the kids had in the dugout, they deserve kudos. The way that these

kids became a team, it was a testament to their selflessness and team spirit. These kids are all good players, All-Star individuals, so for them to come in and play as a team and win their district says a lot about them," said manager Steve Finegan.

Pictured is the Johnston Little League senior All-Star team, which included: Giancarlo Villavicencio, Aiden McGarry, Cameron Frenier, Dylan Martins, Xander Polofsky, Antonio DeFalco, Armani Arias, Davian Nunez, Dylan Guernon, Jonah Pecchia, Kevin Biscelli, Christopher Civetti, Steven Finegan Jr., Logan Horne, Craig Scorpio. Coaches Steven Finegan, John Paris, Robert Civetti.

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Block Island Inshore Tourney a big success

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament made a powerful return this weekend. Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks, Tournament host, said, "We had great weather Saturday and most were able to fish Sunday morning. We had good Island participation and a strong presence from mainland anglers with about seventy boat and shore anglers participating."

To encourage mainland participation, the tournament had four co-sponsor tackle shops (each donated five \$100 door prize gift certificates) including Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly. Over \$10,000 in prize money, tackle shop gift cards and tournament swag were awarded at the Tournament which was sponsored by Ørsted and their Block Island Wind Farm.

At the awards ceremony held Sunday at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island, Willi said, "Thanks to the Ørsted sponsorship we were able to donate 100 percent of the entry fees with a matching donation from Block Island Fishworks to the Block Island Fire & Rescue Department."

Ross Pearsall, Fisheries Stakeholder Relations Manager for Ørsted, said, "Sponsoring the Tournament allowed Ørsted to demonstrate our support of recreational fishing on and off Island. We thank Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks for continuing to hold the Tournament as it celebrates the Island's relationship to fishing and offshore wind. We are happy that our sponsorship has helped the Tournament make a donation to such a cornerstone of the community, the Block Island Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department."

Beth Rousseau, Keisha Brown and Greta Hines of the Fire & Rescue Department were present at the event to receive a \$3,250 donation check from Block Island Fishworks.

"The fishing was very good with some striped bass, bluefish, fluke and black sea bass edging out other fish by just a half inch," said Capt. Willi.

First place team honors went to Richard Lipsitz of North Kingstown and his team "Frayed Knot", the team scored most points in the overall Tournament taking a second and fourth place in the bluefish category, fist in the striped bass category with 47.5-inch fish, and a third place black sea bass."

Richard Lipsitz said, "The Tournament was great and all had a lot of fun. If we knew about the Tournament earlier we would have stayed on Is-

land, or maybe I need to buy a larger boat."

Boat division first place fluke went to the "Fluke It" team with a 21.75-inch fish and first place black sea bass to team "Outer Limits" with a 20-inch fish. The boat bluefish division was taken by team "Hook'm". Team member John O'Keefe of Jamestown caught a gator size bluefish that was 35 inches to take first place (the Rhode Island record is 39 inches).

The shore division had great representation for Block Island and mainland anglers. Shore angler Max Eicoff of Block Island said, "We fished all night and worked pretty hard at it." Eicoff took first place bluefish from shore with a 25-inch fish and second place striped bass with a 31-inch fish. First place striped bass shore division went to Sam Hughes with a 35-inch fish.

There were two youth (under 13 years old) division winners in the black sea bass (Hines) and bluefish (Willi) boat divisions. Both are Block Island youth.

A special tournament photo division had three prizes including the most scenic, best team photo and best fish photo all had to be taken with the windfarm in the background. The most scenic and best team photos were won by Matt Haczynski of team "Fluke It" and the best fish photo was taken by Jim Stevens of team "Hook'm."

Willi said, "This was a length only Tournament. When registering online participants downloaded our Tournament app developed by Taylor Ingraham of Tightlined Slam on their smartphone. When they wanted to make a Tournament entry they took a photo of their catch up against the Tournament supplied ruler and send their entry into the Tournament electronically encouraging catch & release."

A complete list of winners will be posted online at <https://www.sandypoint-co.com/bi-inshore-tourney>.

Striped bass studies aim to enhance fishery

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is conducting a study on striped bass release mortality that aims to supply fishery managers with good data so that they can implement rules that will maintain a robust and sustainable striped bass population. The study is using acoustic tags with accelerometers.

Michael Armstrong, PhD, Assistant Director of DMF said, "A vast array of acoustic receivers all along the Northeast U.S. can detect the acoustic signal from a tagged bass and record not only it's location but also deduce if the fish is dead or alive by detecting tailbeats recorded by the accelerometer. Through these studies we hope to re-

evaluate and validate (or change) the currently used 9 percent release mortality."

Where's the bite?

"The bluefin tuna bite is still very good. This week a customer caught a 40-pound fish jigging. The bite this week was south of the Gully," said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence. Social media reports a continued strong bluefin bite south of Block Island.

Striped bass and bluefish. "Early last week the water in Narragansett Bay was a bit dirty from all the rain. But from Barrington Beach this weekend anglers caught keeper striped bass (28 to less than 35 inches) and a lot of school bass," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside." We came into a school of striped bass off Narragansett Beach feeding on the surface but could not hook up. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, said, "There are still keeper striped bass being caught in the Providence River and customers caught striped bass on the surface off Newport this weekend." Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks reported clean water at Block Island. "We have had little rain so the water is clear hear. The bite around Block Island has been outstanding." East End Eddie Doherty said, "The Cape Cod Canal has slowed down considerably, but some stripers above slot up to 39 inches were landed at the east end on jigs and the west rising tide has been productive at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy on some afternoons."

Bonito and mackerel. "Bonito and cub maceral bite was good along the coastal shore this weekend," said Henault of Ocean State. We caught a mackerel off Narragansett Saturday when fluke fishing."

Scup fishing remains good at Colt State Park, Ohio Ledge, Hope Island and off the western side of Jamestown John Littlefield of Archie's said, "This weekend the scup bite at Sabin Point and Kettle Point was good with angler catching 10 or 12 nice keepers."

Freshwater largemouth bass fishing is still good with and anglers using minnows and soft plastics to catch them," said Henault of Ocean State tackle.

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.noflukefishing.com.

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Dog Days of Summer!

A person's desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration. Understanding dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated.

Prevent Dehydration During the Dog Days Of Summer

These symptoms include:

- thirst
- less frequent urination
- dry skin
- fatigue
- light-headedness
- dizziness
- confusion
- dry mouth and mucous membranes
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin that does not flatten when pinched and released.

How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pedialyte is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration. TF197101

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RETIREMENT SPARKS
 by ELAINE M. DECKER

Woke Baby Names for Political Junkies

Recently I came across a phrase in an opinion column that sent me to Google to understand it. It was something like "Jones for Internet." To me, Jones had always been someone's surname. Or someone middle class folks tried to keep up with. Turns out, today "Jones" is a craving for something, or an addiction, especially heroin. In the opinion piece, it seemed to be about notoriety.

Bad enough we had to get used to common nouns that are now babies' names, like Apple (Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's girl), Blue Ivy (Beyoncé and Jay Z's bundle of joy), and Fuschia, (Sting's color-competitive daughter with Frances Tomelty). Now we have to keep updated on "normal" people's names that have completely different meanings. As long as we're subjected to this name muddle, I've put together a list of woke baby names (and corresponding nicknames) for parents who are Jones on politics.

Filibuster Nicknames Filly if it's a girl; Buster if it's a boy

This term has always stirred up controversy, so it's a terrific choice for parents who want to annoy those in their political circle who hold views contrary to their own. The boy's nickname is especially appropriate.

Cancel Culture Nickname Ceci (pronounced see-see)

A timely name for 2021, and another choice that will stir up controversy if that's what floats the parents' boat. The nickname will help the child make friends at school, especially with those who are Latinx. They'll assume you're always agreeing with them.

Gerry Mandering Nickname G-Man

This is one of my favorite woke names. It's a great unisex name. It has the benefit of allowing a girl to go by just Gerry, if she doesn't warm to being called a G-man.

Budget Reconciliation Nickname Budgie Ree

Another timely name for 2021, guaranteed to be a favorite of Democrats who have given up trying to get bipartisan support. Which brings us to the next entry.

Bipartisan Nickname Bippa (pronounced like Pippa, Kate Middleton's sister)

Another favorite of Democrats, especially those who feel Biden is being dissed by Mitch McConnell. Parents who chose this name should definitely not use Bi as a nickname. Sexual orientation is too complicated already these days.

Infrastructure Nickname Inf (kind of like Alf the alien)

This name should have a long shelf life. Infrastructure projects take years to complete. And they don't begin until a bill has been passed (and signed) to provide their funding. Enough said.

De-escalation Nickname Decal

De-escalation has come into its own in 2021 because of all the police involved shooting deaths. Get some decals made

for bumper stickers and rear windshields to remind everyone how important it is to de-escalate.

Hegemony Nickname Heggy

This choice should be favored by far right advocates of white male supremacy. It's much subtler than naming your kid Nazi and more pleasant sounding than Boogaloo. It will generate less conflict, since most folks won't know what hegemony means anyway.

Stare Decisis Nickname Steady

Those who are obsessed with Supreme Court cases and concerned about the rightward tilt of the current bench should like this name. It suggests having a steady hand on the tiller, following legal precedents for issues decided in the past.

Finally, here are two suggestions for sets of twins, a more and more common occurrence, especially for older couples using in vitro fertilization.

Ear-Mark and Pork-Barrel Nicknames Emmy and Pibble

These names are inspired by the budget appropriations process. Items get added to a bill that have nothing to do with the budget's primary purpose. They're allowed in because earmarks bring the pork back home for the legislators who otherwise would refuse to vote in favor of the bill. The nicknames are especially appropriate. Legislators are often deserving of Emmy awards for their oratory. They've also been known to behave like pit bulls to get what they want. If only they were as cute as Pibbles...

Disen and Franchise Nicknames Dizzy and Frankie

These two come into play in 2021 because of all the state-wide changes to voter registration rules. Republicans insist these will make voting safer and reduce fraud. Democrats claim all these changes are simply ways to disenfranchise voters of color. Frankly (Frankie), the back and forth on this is leaving many of us Dizzy.

No doubt many of you have already thought of more woke names to add to this list. I have ten alternates that I didn't use. I decided this list would provide more than enough choices for woke parents. I assumed that adding more would just put the rest of us to sleep. Maybe that wouldn't have been so bad after all.

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

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- SUNTAN
- SWEATING
- SWIMMING
- SWIMSUIT
- TEMPERATURE
- TOWEL
- TRAVEL
- UMBRELLA
- VACATION

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

SENIOR ISSUES

by LARRY GRIMALDI



Ten Ordinary Things I Never Mastered

For most people, ordinary tasks are accomplished without stress or excessive physical exertion. They are performed with precision and efficiency born of natural ability and constant repetition. For many of us however, some of these everyday chores present formidable challenges. It's with a measure of embarrassment and considerable humility that I've come to realize, in spite of my 70 plus decades, I've never learned some very basic skills. With these realizations in mind, I reveal Ten Ordinary Things I Never Mastered.

I never mastered the art of tying double knots in my shoe laces. My sneakers sport huge loops and long strands flopping over the tongues. I can't explain why shoe manufacturers string laces exceeding the length of a Brazilian rain forest anaconda into sneakers with only six eyelet holes on each side. Thus far, I have miraculously avoided broken ankles or other not-so-easily explained injuries.

I have never mastered the art of folding shirts correctly. My bureau drawer contains several top-secret versions of creative folding techniques. When we travel, I hide my shirts at the bottom of the suitcase to camouflage my unique methodologies from my

wife. The deception is much easier than trying to explain my system or motivation.

I have never mastered the skills required to program remote controls and other electronic devices. I have officially ceded this chore to my wife because she has endless patience and an admirable optimism that she will eventually succeed. Twice a year, she expertly and effortlessly adjusts the digital clocks in our cars for daylight savings and standard times.

I have never discovered the secret codes necessary to complete online applications. Even after careful and deliberate observation of the rules (and despite being aided by pre-populated entries), I am always put on notice for committing multiple errors, (and potential legal misdemeanors) when I hit the "Submit" button. The error messages are displayed in strident, large, red-letter reprimands. In most cases, I abandon the quest so as not to risk additional embarrassment, frustration, or potential apprehension by cyber police.

I have never mastered the skills needed for step-by-step assembly. First of all, most "assembly required," step-by-step merchandise contains far too many steps and far too much assembly. Secondly, I believe the "steps"

are written by devious company employees who revel in the images of mechanically-challenged civilians like me attempting to decipher their byzantine directions and befuddling diagrams. I have developed a series of strategies to combat this problem. First, I try to purchase the already-assembled floor model. Next, I plead ignorance (which is true) and ask the vendor to assemble the item. Third, I agree to make the purchase only if my wife agrees to assembly. My newest strategy is to invoke a ban on items that may be delivered or purchased unassembled. I have yet to test this edict and will admit that it has no chance of being enforced.

Despite numerous practice sessions and countless hours spent watching instructional videos, I have never mastered the art of the chip shot. My golf scores will attest to this flaw (among others) in my game.

I have never mastered the skill, nor acquired the courage necessary, to keep my head under water while snorkeling. I rapidly run out of air. My breathing pattern while snorkeling is a series of desperate gasps. Accordingly, I resort to brief underwater plunges and hope that a few brightly colored tropical fish will understand my deficiencies and obligingly swim by me for a glance.

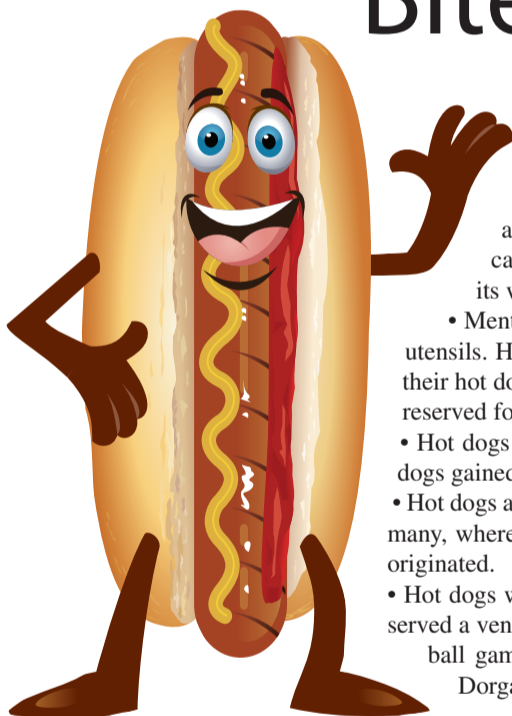
I can never remember which clothes are washed in hot water and which need to be washed in cold water. The truth be told, this alleged brain cramp has enabled me to avoid this chore for more than 50 years.

Perhaps due to my short attention span, I have ALMOST never mastered the skill of trimming the hedges without severing the extension cord. My ineptitude has kept employees of electric supply houses busy over the years.

As if you have not already guessed, number one on the list of Ten Ordinary Things I Never Mastered is patience. I'm convinced that when The Good Lord distributed this coveted characteristic, I didn't bother to wait around for my allocation. I have made and broken numerous resolutions to work on my patience. With the required work on this virtue, I could no doubt pare down the list of the previous nine Ordinary Things. All it would take is countless repetition of the mantra, "Take a breath and take your time." Wish me luck.

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

Bite into these hot dog facts!



Hot dogs are the yin to the hamburger's yang. Franks and burgers are a common pair at barbecues and ballparks, and rightfully so. Handheld, portable meals, they pack a convenient and flavorful punch. Few foods may seem as American as hot dogs. However, hot dogs are derivative of European sausages. This fact and more can shed light on the humble hot dog, which is sure to find its way to a grill near you this summer.

- Mental Floss says it's pretentious to consume a hot dog with utensils. Hot dog etiquette experts also insist adults should not top their hot dogs with ketchup, which they suggest is a topping strictly reserved for children.
- Hot dogs are often associated with New York City. However, hot dogs gained popularity across the country in the 20th century.
- Hot dogs are often called frankfurters. This refers to Frankfurt, Germany, where pork sausages similar to hot dogs are believed to have originated.
- Hot dogs were given their name by cartoonist Tad Dorgan. He observed a vendor selling "hot dachshund sausage dogs" during a baseball game at New York City's Polo Grounds. As legend has it, Dorgan couldn't spell the name of the dog, instead writing

only "hot dogs." The name eventually caught on.

- Despite several jokes as well as speculation regarding what hot dogs contain, hot dogs are cured and cooked sausages that contain mainly pork, beef, chicken, and turkey. The meats come from the muscle of the animals. If a product contains organ meats, it must be declared on the packaging.
- In 1867, Charles Feltman made a cart with a stove on it, which he used to boil sausages. The cart also had compartments to keep buns fresh. Carts that sell hot dogs on the street are now seen in cities across the country.
- Hot dogs are a NASA-approved food for astronauts.
- While hot dogs are sold at many venues, data indicates that the popular convenience store chain 7-Eleven sells the most grilled hot dogs in North America, with 100 million sold annually.
- Relish, sauerkraut and even ketchup are popular hot dog toppings. But mustard is by far the most popular.
- Why are there typically 10 hot dogs per pack and only eight buns per bag? When hot dogs were first introduced, they were sold at varying quantities at the butcher shop. Hot dogs were eventually standardized to packages of 10, but buns are baked in clusters of four in popular pans designed to hold eight rolls.

OVEN-FREE SUMMER DINNER IDEAS

Mid- to late-summer is appropriately known as "the dog days of summer" because it can be so doggone hot. The humid, sticky conditions of late summer can make people feel sluggish and looking for ways to cool down. The idea of warming up the house by turning on the oven to cook a meal may be especially unappealing. Recipes that require little to no cooking — and no stove — can be a home cook's best friend as summer progresses. Here are a few ideas to get started. Grilled paninis Gather some favorite sandwich fixings, such as sliced meats, vegetables and cheeses, and head to the grill. Put ingredients between two slices of crusty bread and place on the grill over low or indirect heat. Weigh down

the sandwiches with cast-iron pans to flatten out the sandwiches. Savory salads Cool salads can be refreshing and light on hot summer evenings. Salads can range from tradition lettuce- or greens-based salads to pasta salads and chicken or tuna salads. Mix ingredients in advance and store them in the refrigerator. Serve chilled with toppings like shredded cheese, bacon bits and croutons to dress up the salads. Cold buffet Summer is a time to avoid hearty, belly-filling meals. Instead, produce a spread of finger foods, ranging from crackers and cheese to vegetables and dips. Fresh fruit also can accompany buffet-style meals, as can slices of Italian bread and homemade tomato bruschetta. When the weather is hot, think cool, no-fuss meals that keep the stove off but bellies full.

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MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN

Memoirs of Judy

Loving Friendship Eternal

I was five months pregnant with my first baby when I met Judy. One Sunday my husband and I visited a neighborhood church. The first person who greeted me was Judy. She was short, thin, small-boned, and bird-like, with bright eyes that danced. She was an older lady. Older at that time meant she looked closer to my mother's age than mine. I was 26 - Judy was 53. Judy radiated friendliness and welcoming acceptance. She came right over to me and introduced herself, asking about my pregnancy. She told me that she had four children, the youngest was 19. She laughed at that. No solemn comments about age or time gone by, or words of wisdom imparted on my upcoming birth experience. How happy she was to meet me. How happy she was for me in general. I remember thinking - how odd that this older lady extended herself to me.

We joined the church and I joined the choir. Judy was in the choir, too. Eventually several of us from choir joined a community chorus. Five of us carpooled together every Monday night for rehearsals. Judy was the oldest in our little group of five - I was the youngest. One year, our chorus spent a summer weekend performing on Martha's Vineyard. It was Judy's idea to indulge in ice cream before our concert that first year. Ice cream for dinner became a tradition. The years passed and by the time this became an annual summer get-away I was in my thirties with three daughters. I was also divorced. Judy was in her sixties and widowed.

Time went by and Judy and I continued to sing together. One summer our chorus hosted a girls' chorus from Belgium. Judy and I waited with the girls while they boarded their bus to the airport on their last day. When all of the host families had left, Judy and I lingered, alone in the parking lot. The sun was beginning to set.

Judy said, "We can't just go home - we need to do something. Let's go to the beach."

"What will we do when we get there?" I asked.

"I guess we'll know when we get there," Judy answered. "Let's just go - I'll drive."

I had developed a back problem that morning. What began as a tweak had grown into a spasm that had gotten worse throughout the day. I would be fine one minute, then the next minute a twisting, searing pain would leave me speechless, gasping, and white-knuckled until it passed.

Judy was sympathetic and told me she'd drive gently. I had to stop talking when a spasm came on and did lamaze breathing to get through it. It was very much like childbirth - Judy was my coach.

Judy was from Michigan and had this very mid-western way of saying "golly" and "gee" all the time.

"Golly, Susan, that must be painful," she'd say.

"I'm fine," I'd answer through clenched teeth.

"Oh, gee-golly, that looks like a bad one," she'd say.

We got to the beach and it was full dark, but the moon was rising.

"Let's walk on the beach," Judy suggested. "It might help your back."

"Should we?" I asked. "If we get into trouble I'm not going to be able to run away, never mind protect you."

"Well, I'm a lot older than you," Judy answered. "And I can't run either. So we're each on our own to try to bumble away from anyone who wants to have their way with us."

We broke into laughter that sent me into another back spasm and Judy "golly gee-ing" all over the place.

Full dark now, we stood watching the diamond sparkle of the moon on the crashing waves. Utter magic - the two of us in this vast universe - quiet now - me in my forties and Judy in her seventies, sharing this timeless moment - a billion bright stars above, the sound of the surf, moonlight dancing. When we started walking we began laughing again.

"I suppose we should have brought flashlights," Judy said.

"I guess that wasn't too smart of us," I answered.

"No, I guess not, but gee, this was fun!" Judy said and the laughter started up again.

"I guess no one wanted to have their way with us," Judy observed.

"No, but what a pair we are," I said.

"Yes, I'm old - you're incapacitated - what a pair," Judy said.

We laughed all the way home.

The years went by and our group of five car-poolers on Monday nights for chorus rehearsals dwindled to four, and then to three, and at times it was just Judy and me.

Once, before an afternoon concert, Judy invited me to her house for lunch. After eating, I needed to change into my chorus outfit. Judy offered me her bedroom and it was homey, inviting, unpretentious, and real. I felt warm and comfy as I laid my concert clothes on her old-fashioned bedspread and dug my bare feet into her worn carpet. Her furnishings were old, but cared for, and I felt cared for, too.

Judy was a stay-at-home mother to her four little ones. When I was pregnant with my third and my older two were 3 and 5, Judy told me about a time when her children were young. She was inside with the youngest, a newborn, and keeping an eye on the older ones in the backyard through the window. She watched the kids wallowing in the mud under their swing set. At the time, she thought, how will I get them all cleaned up before dinner when I've got the baby here, too?

Judy smiled as she remembered that long-ago dilemma and then said, "But it really wasn't all that big of a concern, was it? It was a small thing, looking back. I don't think I ever did get the kids properly cleaned up that day."

I never really asked Judy for advice or about her life. She just told me things. She moved to Rhode Island from Michi-

gan as a young bride - knowing no one. She had two sisters and told me stories about what it was like being one of three girls. I have two brothers, and although I have three daughters, I could never really know what it was like to grow up in a family of girls. Judy, with her stories, gave me that perspective.

When I remarried, Judy came to my wedding.

I was invited to Judy's 80th birthday party. Surrounded by family and friends, Judy treated everyone like an honored guest. Still full of "golly gees", her small frame leaned forward ever so slightly, and her dark hair showed only traces of gray. Judy told me she never dyed her hair and I knew, without a doubt, that she was telling me the truth.

In December, 2011, Judy drove the two of us to our Christmas concert dress rehearsal. We were going to be singing in a different venue and we both thought we knew where it was.

"We can park in my hairdresser's parking lot," Judy said. "It's right next to the church."

"Great," I answered.

Only we had the wrong church. The right church was "just up the road", I was sure.

"We can walk," I said. "Unless you want to drive."

"No, no, let's walk," said Judy.

It was pouring, cold, and windy and we only had one umbrella between us.

It turned out to be a very long walk. The wind inverted our umbrella, whipped the rain into our faces, and slobbered over our shoes. It was dark, wet, and stormy. We laughed the whole way.

At the end of the rehearsal, I asked Judy, "Should we ask someone to give us a ride back to the car?"

"No," said Judy. "Let's walk."

So we bundled up again, shook out our old umbrella, and started out.

"Golly, it's really raining now," Judy commented.

Really raining? It was a hurricane - and this time the water was above our ankles and we were walking against the wind - heads bent to shield our faces.

"Maybe this wasn't such a good idea," I shouted above the wind.

I could only hear Judy laughing.

We were still laughing when we reached the car.

"What a pair we are, Judy," I said.

"We are a pair indeed," she agreed.

The following weekend Judy called and told me that she wasn't going to sing in the concert because she wasn't feeling well, but not to worry. She'd be fine.

She thought she might come and listen, but I didn't spot her in the audience.

With our concerts finished for the sea-

son and rehearsals suspended for the winter break, Judy and I didn't see each other for several weeks. But in January, 2012, I called Judy to see who was driving that next week as chorus rehearsals were set to begin. Judy told me that she wasn't going to start the season just yet, that she had some medical issues she needed to deal with. Nothing serious, she assured me.

Judy had always been healthy and fit - on no medications, unlike so many of her same-age friends. She told me once that the only pill she took regularly was a calcium supplement.

Judy never came back to chorus. She had been diagnosed with colon cancer that had metastasized. She had surgery and treatment over a period of months that winter and spring and spent time in a nursing facility. Finally, she asked her family to take her home.

That May my husband and I went to New Hampshire for a tennis weekend. It was my birthday and I wanted to spend it in the mountains doing something I loved, something active that I could still enjoy at age 59. It was a beautiful, busy, and fun-filled weekend.

When we got home there was a message on my voicemail. Judy had died - on my birthday. She was a month short of 86. Everyone thought it was awful that Judy had died on my birthday. But it made me smile. I looked at it as a wink from Judy, a private joke between the two of us, a final goodbye, her last "golly gee", and really, an honor. I was honored that she chose a day meaningful to me.

There were 27 years between us in age. She was part of my mother's generation. I was older than one of her daughters by three days. But the soft, gentle, and tender friendship that we shared for more than thirty years was solid and sustaining - held together by moments of laughter, shared experiences, and impromptu chats - never forced, hardly planned. Judy had an open heart and taught me to open mine. The opening of hearts is love in its purest form.

A year after Judy's death I had dinner with a friend and we were talking about people who had passed and about old times.

I told my friend, "If I could hear from one person on the 'Other Side' - I'd like to hear from Judy."

Then we went on to other topics.

The next day I pulled into the parking lot at work and slowed to say "hi" to Gus, the security guard at the gate, as I always do.

"Hi, Gus," I said.

"Hi, Judy," he answered.

"Judy?? Where did that come from?" Gus asked as he came running out of the guard booth full of apology.

Standing next to my car Gus said, "I don't know why I called you Judy! I'm so sorry! I don't even know anyone named Judy! I know you are Susan! Please, don't mind me!"

I could almost see Judy standing behind Gus, eyes dancing, laughing, and "golly gee-ing" all over the place. I could feel Judy's heart touching mine just as I had felt its loving warmth through the years we shared together. And I knew, without a doubt, that true loving friendship never dies.

I never really asked Judy for advice or about her life. She just told me things

A Natural Solution for Summer Hydration

FAMILY FEATURES

Fun in the summer sun can mean anything from poolside play and outdoor exercise to simply relaxing in the shade. While these activities make the season special for people of all ages, the heat also leads to the inevitable: sweat.

Electrolytes, critical for the human body to function, are lost via sweat throughout the day. Drinking plenty of fluids, such as water, helps keep you hydrated. However, adding 100% orange juice to your diet can help replace those lost electrolytes in addition to aiding hydration. According to a study published in the "Journal of Nutrition and Health Sciences," drinking 100% orange juice following exercise contributes to hydration equally as well as water and sports drinks, making the beverage a viable alternative for recovery.

"Electrolytes include nutrients such as potassium, sodium, magnesium and calcium," said Dr. Rosa Walsh, scientific research director at the Florida Department of Citrus. "In fluids, these nutrients carry an electric charge, which allows muscles to contract and nerves to transmit signals, and are critical for the human body to function. Plain water contains few if any electrolytes, so you must replace lost electrolytes by consuming foods or beverages that contain these nutrients. Drinking fluids that contain both water and electrolytes, such as 100% orange juice, may help support hydration."

In fact, 100% orange juice contains about 90% water and can contribute to overall water intake. With no added sugar,

it's an ideal way to support hydration by drinking it on its own or by adding it to recipes like this Healthy Broccoli Salad with Miso Orange Dressing or Pineapple Orange Smoothie.

Consider these major electrolytes found in orange juice:

- **Potassium:** The major electrolyte within all cells, it helps balance fluid in the body with a strong relationship to sodium, the major electrolyte in the blood and outside the cells. Potassium is especially important for regulating heart rhythm and function. An 8-ounce glass of 100% orange juice provides 10% of the recommended daily value for potassium.
- **Magnesium:** The fourth-most abundant mineral in the body and essential in the regulation of muscle contraction, cardiac excitability, blood pressure and other vital processes. An 8-ounce glass of 100% orange juice contains 6% of the recommended daily value for magnesium.
- **Calcium:** Found in fortified varieties of orange juice, calcium plays an important role in muscle contraction, nerve transmission and the contraction and relaxation of the cardiovascular system. As an excellent source of calcium, an 8-ounce serving of fortified orange juice provides 30% of the recommended daily value.

Visit floridajuice.com to find more recipes that aid in summer hydration.



Pineapple Orange Smoothie

Servings: 2

- 1 cup Florida Orange Juice
- 1/2 cup plain almond milk
- 1 frozen banana
- 1 cup frozen pineapple
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 scoop walnuts
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne
- 2-3 ice cubes
- 1 scoop plain protein powder (optional)

In large blender, blend orange juice, almond milk, frozen banana, frozen pineapple, turmeric, walnuts, cayenne, ice cubes and protein powder, if desired, until smooth. Portion into two small glasses.



Healthy Broccoli Salad with Miso Orange Dressing

Servings: 1

Salad:

- 2 heads broccoli, cut into small florets
- 2 cups purple cabbage, chopped
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup chopped green onions

Miso Orange Dressing:

- 1 cup Florida Orange Juice

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 tablespoons miso
- 2 tablespoons almond butter
- 1 shallot

To make salad: In bowl, toss broccoli, cabbage, raisins, almonds and green onions.

To make miso orange dressing: In food processor or blender, pulse orange juice, canola oil, miso, almond butter and shallot until smooth.

Pour dressing over salad, tossing to coat. Serve immediately or chill in refrigerator.



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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

\$226 million funding increase request for fiscal year 2023

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) today released their annual professional judgement budget for Alzheimer's and dementia research, requesting an additional \$226 million is needed in fiscal year 2023. The funding request was announced during the annual Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services meeting.

"There is significant momentum in the fight against Alzheimer's and other dementia, and the professional judgement budget underscores that leading scientists and researchers are committed to making critical strides that will lead to knowledge about prevention, more effective treatments, and ultimately a cure," said Robert Egge, Alzheimer's Association Chief Public Policy Officer and Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) Executive Director. "We are grateful that Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion, and consistently recognized how vital it is that NIH receives the necessary investment required to accelerate progress against Alzheimer's."

This is the seventh professional judgement budget for Alzheimer's released by the NIH. In 2014, the Alzheimer's Association and AIM championed and secured support for the passage of the Alzheimer's Accountability Act, which en-

ures Congress hears directly from NIH scientists on the resources needed to address the Alzheimer's crisis. Alzheimer's is only the third disease to have a professional judgement budget.

Alzheimer's research funding has seen a seven-fold increase since the passage of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) in 2011. Today, funding for Alzheimer's and dementia research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is \$3.2 billion. With strong funding, scientists are able to work at a more rapid pace to advance basic disease knowledge, explore ways to reduce risk, uncover new biomarkers for early diagnosis and drug targeting, and develop potential treatments.

Today more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, and 11 million more providing unpaid care. And, at a cost of \$355 billion a year, Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the nation.

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. For more information, visit www.alz.org or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry

Enrolling in the Special Needs Emergency Registry lets police, fire, and other first responders in your community better prepare for and respond to your needs during a hurricane, storm, or other emergency.

Many people may need extra help during a time of emergency, including people who:

- Use life support systems such as oxygen, respirator, ventilator, dialysis, pacemaker, or who have chronic conditions and require treatment (e.g., diabetics requiring insulin);
- Have mobility needs and use a wheelchair, scooter, walker, cane, or other mobility device;
- Are visually impaired, blind, hard of hearing, or Deaf;
- Have speech, cognitive, developmental or behavioral health disabilities; or
- Use assistive animals or a prosthesis.

The information submitted to the Rhode Island Special Needs Emergency Registry is shared with local and state first responders and emergency management officials. Your information is held confidentially and only accessed to assist in your safety and well-being. The Department of Health and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency have worked with E-911 to notify first responders when they are responding to a household that may have someone enrolled in the Registry.

While enrolling in the special needs registry does not guarantee assistance, this notification allows first responders additional time to consider how to best respond to that incident. Please note that strict confidentiality is maintained at all times and only those who have a reason to access the information are authorized to do so.

Visit <https://health.ri.gov/emergency/about/specialneedsregistry/> to enroll,

YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

IRS reminds people to prepare for natural disasters

The Internal Revenue Service reminds everyone that the hurricane season is already here to be in the alert. Now is the time to create or review emergency preparedness plans for surviving natural disasters.

In the last year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared major disasters following hurricanes, tropical storms, tornados, severe storms, flooding, wildfires, and an earthquake. Individuals, organizations, and businesses should take time now to make or update their emergency plans.

Secure key documents and make copies

Taxpayers should place original documents such as tax returns, birth certificates, deeds, titles, and insurance policies inside waterproof containers in a secure space. Duplicates of these documents should be kept with a trusted person outside the area of the taxpayer. Scanning them for backup storage on electronic media such as a flash drive is another option that provides security and portability.

Document valuables and equipment

Current photos or videos of a home or business's contents can help support claims for insurance or tax benefits after a disaster. All property, especially expensive and high value items, should be recorded. The IRS disaster-loss workbooks in Publication 584 can help individuals and businesses compile lists of belongings or business equipment.

Employers should check fiduciary bonds

Employers who use payroll service providers should ask the provider if it has a fiduciary bond in place. The bond could protect the employer in the event of default by the payroll service provider. The IRS reminds employers to carefully choose their payroll service providers.

Rebuilding documents

Reconstructing records after a disaster may be required for tax purposes, getting federal assistance or insurance reimbursement. Those who have lost some or all their records during a disaster can visit IRS's Reconstructing Records webpage as one of their first steps.

IRS stands ready

After FEMA issues a disaster declaration, the IRS may postpone certain tax-filing and tax-payment deadlines for taxpayers who reside or have a business in the disaster area. There is no need to call the IRS to request this relief. The IRS automatically identifies taxpayers located in the covered disaster area and applies filing and payment relief. Those impacted by a disaster with tax-related questions can contact the IRS at 866-562-5227 to speak with an IRS specialist trained to handle disaster-related issues.

Taxpayers who do not reside in a covered disaster area but suffered impact from a disaster should call 866-562-5227 to find out if they qualify for disaster tax relief and to discuss other available options.

Find complete disaster assistance and emergency relief details for both individuals and businesses on our Around the Nation webpage on IRS.gov. The FEMA Prepare for Disasters web page includes information to Build a Kit of emergency supplies.

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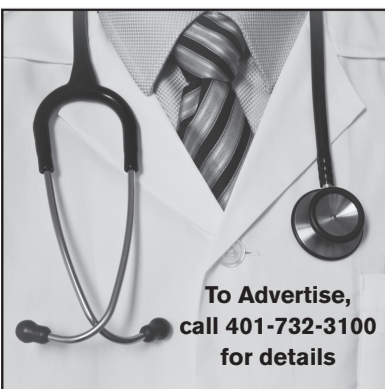
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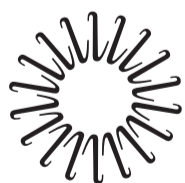
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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!

PROTECTING YOUR PETS IN HOT WEATHER

Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors.

It's best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That's important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

RECOGNIZE HEAT STROKE

Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as

pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It's important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a body temperature of 104 F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet's feet, head, neck, and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

BE CAUTIOUS OF HOT SURFACES

Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when you scurry barefoot across hot sand en route to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down

on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of 95 F in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125 F, red brick at 135 F, blacktop at 140 F, and grass at 102 F. Individuals who think a car is safer for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152 F on seat surfaces.

PROVIDE EXTRA WATER

It's likely you will need to fill your pets' water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

AVOID CUTTING FUR TOO SHORT

If a veterinarian suggests a hair cut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

OUTDOOR HAZARDS

Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

Pets need extra care during the warm weather to avoid damage and sickness from the sun, heat and more.

Dogs get sunburned too

Human beings are accustomed to taking certain measures to protect themselves when spending time in the sun. Applying and reapplying sunscreen, avoiding the

outdoors during certain times of the day and drinking plenty of water while outside are just a few of the ways people can safely soak up summer sun.

But what about dogs? Should dog owners be equally protective of their four-legged friends before letting them run around in the backyard or fraternize with fellow canines at the nearest dog park?

According to the American Kennel Club, dogs can get sunburned just like their human counterparts. In addition, the AKC notes that sunburn can make dogs more vulnerable to certain types of skin cancer, including squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanomas and hemangiomas.

Sunburn also can exacerbate preexisting conditions like autoimmune disorders and dermatitis.

While no dog is immune to sunburn, some are

more vulnerable than others. The AKC notes that hairless breeds like the American Hairless Terrier need sun protection whenever they will be outside for extended periods of time. In addition, dogs with white or thin coats and those with light-pigmented noses and eyelids also are especially vulnerable to sunburn.

The AKC also says that dogs with thick coats of hair are not immune to sunburn, as many such dogs shed their coats during especially warm weather, thereby making them more vulnerable to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Dog owners can speak with their veterinarians to determine how vulnerable their dogs are to sunburn.

Dogs can benefit from sunscreen just like their owners. However, dog owners must only apply dog-

specific sunscreens to their furry friends. The AKC advises dog owners to avoid applying sunscreens that contain zinc oxide or para-aminobenzoic acid, or PABA, to their dogs, as these can be toxic when ingested. The AKC also recommends using waterproof sunscreens with a minimum sun protection factor, or SPF, of 30.

Before applying sunscreen to a dog's entire body, pick an area of its body to apply a small amount. Then wait a little while to see if the sunscreen causes an allergic reaction. Apply the sunscreen about 20 minutes before going outside. Apply the product anywhere pigment is light, and also make sure to get vulnerable areas like the bridge of the nose, ear tips and the skin around the lips, groin and inner thighs.



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