

Masks for students left up to parents

By RORY SCHULER

Distance learning and mask mandates have come to an end in Johnston.

The Johnston School Committee voted unanimously Tuesday night to let parents decide whether to mask their children for school.

And synchronous distance

learning for Johnston's students will no longer be an option.

"People are just getting so tired of this situation," said School Committee Chairman Bob LaFazia on Wednesday morning. "They feel like their hands are bound. We're giving them the opportunity to make the decision for their own children."

LaFazia said the school department, led by Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr., will monitor reported COVID-19 cases in the schools, and report back to the committee.

DiLullo clarified the school system's mask guidelines for the scheduled start of the new school year on Sept. 1.

"The School Committee strongly suggested mask wearing in schools, but did not come down on the side of mandating them," DiLullo explained. "This kind of is in line with what the governor and the Department of Health is saying; no one has mandated masks for students. You would think that if it were important enough, the

DOH would mandate masks in schools. The committee just followed what the governor has stated."

DiLullo acknowledged strong feelings on both sides of the student-masking debate.

"I think that there are people on both sides of this issue," he

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UNLEASH THE FEAST

Saint Rocco's Feast was expected to kick off Thursday night and continue through this weekend. Earlier this week, the Orient Express Chinese Dragon mini-coaster, above, sat patiently awaiting its first eager riders. At left, Dave Charron, father of David Charron of Rockwell Amusements, helped set up booths under the big top behind St. Rocco's Church in Johnston on Monday. For more coverage, turn to Page 8. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Market Basket confirms Aug. 20 opening

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston residents have been waiting for the new grocery store in town to open its doors.

The company announced Thursday morning that a date has finally been set.

"We have been granted our certificate of occupancy permit," said Market Basket Operations Manager David K. McLean. "We are looking at a grand opening date of Friday, Aug. 20. Friday, Aug. 20 is a go!"

The store's parent company has been working hard to secure required business permits.

On Thursday morning, Aug. 12, members of the Johnston Planning Board toured the site and gave their blessing to the operation.

"It was a matter of confirming; checking off," McLean said. "They said we are good to go. Outstanding."

Following the Johnston Planning Board's final walk-through of the store, a certificate of occupancy has officially been granted, McLean explained.

McLean and the new store's manager, Kevin Perno, appeared before Town Council Tuesday night to secure business operating, restaurant and tobacco licenses.

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Henry Fellela sentenced to 4 years years in fraud case

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston man Henry A. Fellela Jr. has been sentenced to four years in prison for stealing identities and credit card fraud.

This was Fellela's fourth federal conviction. He will report back to federal prison in September.

"It wasn't great police work that got me arrested," Fellela said Monday. "Watch out who you trust in life."

He is the husband of state Rep. Deborah Fellela, D-Johnston.

In his latest criminal case, Fellela was sentenced Wednesday, Aug. 4, by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey A. Meyer in New

Haven, Conn., to 48 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release.

"Number one; It's not a violent crime," Fellela said nearly a week after his most recent sentencing. "I was not involved in identity theft. That's wrong."

Fellela had been found guilty of credit card fraud and identity theft offenses, and violating the conditions of his supervised release from a prior federal conviction, according to a press release from Leonard C. Boyle, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut.

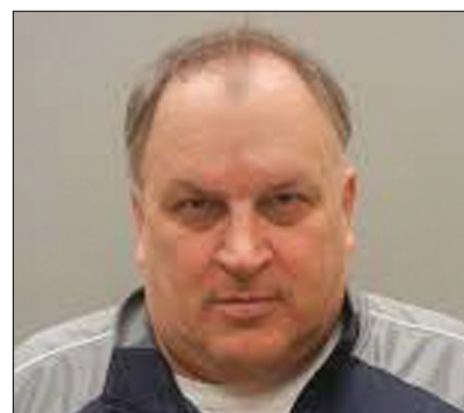
Fellela, 63, has already served time on similar offenses.

He said he prefers federal prison to state institutions.

"Federal jails are way better," he said.

Fellela had been free, previously released from federal prison in March 2018, following a 48-month sentence handed down by the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island for credit card fraud, aggravated identity theft and other offenses, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Connecticut.

"The people in the community who know me know the kind of guy I am," Fellela said. "People know me. I have a



Henry A. Fellela Jr.

■ SENTENCED - PAGE 10

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SPOTTED: The spotted lanternfly has a spotted pattern, on its wings. An adult SLF has unique colors, including scarlet underwings and yellow markings on the abdomen. (Photo courtesy RI DEM)

Spotted lanternfly spotted in RI

By RORY SCHULER

For years, residents in states south of New England have been on a mission to squash the spotted lanternfly (SLF).

For the first time, the winged pest has flown, or hitchhiked, its way to Rhode Island; a single destructive critter has been spotted in Warwick.

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced this week that the SLF, "an exotic pest that targets various plants and trees, has been detected for the first time in Rhode Island."

"Native to Asia, SLF is most commonly associated with 'Tree of Heaven' (Ailanthus altissima) plants and also feeds on a wide variety of agricultural crops such as grape, apple and hops; and several native species of plants and trees including maple, walnut and willow," according to the DEM.

The DEM circulated a press release Monday warning residents to watch out for the insect.

"A single SLF was found in an industrial/commercial area in Warwick near Jefferson Blvd. and a photo of the insect was sent to DEM through its online agricultural pest alert system," according to the press release. "DEM's Division of Agriculture confirmed the sighting on Aug. 2 and is asking the public to report any suspected sightings."

Residents can report sightings online.

"No known population of SLF is currently present in this area," according to the DEM. "DEM will be conducting an extensive survey of the area based on US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommendations to determine if there is any further presence of the invasive insect and will be providing outreach materials to businesses in the area."

For years, the pest has been spotted in a handful of Mid-Atlantic states, originating in Pennsylvania, and spreading to New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia (with isolated single spotted sightings in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts).

"In Rhode Island, more than 800 acres of agricultural lands including vineyards, orchards and berry farms are at risk of being infested with SLF, so it's critical that we take

the necessary steps to detect and stop the spread of this invasive pest, particularly since it has now been found in our state," said Cynthia Kwolek, senior environmental planner and RI CAPS state survey coordinator in DEM's Division of Agriculture.

In an effort to combat the introduction of SLF to the New England landscape, in 2019, the DEM partnered with the University of Rhode Island (URI), conducting a state-wide survey of local vineyards and areas with large populations of "Tree of Heaven" plants.

"Earlier this year and also in 2020, DEM and URI held a series of public workshops to help municipalities, the grower industry, and residents prepare for and respond to this invasive pest, should it be detected in the state," according to the DEM press release.

The SLF is a unique insect, easily distinguishable from native moths.

"In addition to its spotted patterning, the adult SLF's unique colors feature scarlet underwings, yellow markings on the abdomen, and tan semi-transparent forewings," according to the DEM. "Adult lanternflies are about an inch long and are active from August until the first hard freeze, which typically occurs from late October into November."

It is possible that the sample spotted in Warwick hitched a ride to the Ocean State, according to DEM scientists.

"Although SLF can fly distances on its own, these pests are excellent hitch hikers and mainly spread through human movement," according to the agency. "Their inconspicuous egg masses can be laid on pallets, vehicles and other goods, so it is important to inspect shipping materials and adhere to travel restrictions when moving through areas that are under quarantine for SLF."

The Rhode Island DEM offered the following tips to help stop the spread of SLF:

- Inspect firewood, vehicles, outdoor furniture, and camping gear for egg masses, nymphs, and adults.
- If you visit states with SLF, check all your gear and equipment before leaving and scrape off any egg masses.

According to the DEM,

the species was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has quickly spread through surrounding states.

"An invasive plant-hopper that is currently infesting portions of the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, SLF has established populations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia with individual finds in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts," according to a DEM press release. "In Pennsylvania, where the pest has been spreading for over six years, there has been significant yield loss in vineyards and the insect has become a public nuisance."

In Pennsylvania, state environmental officials recommended residents kill the insect when sighted.

"Since no SLF specimens have been submitted to or found by DEM in RI, we are asking the public, in addition to submitting photos and reporting the location of suspected sightings in RI using the online SLF reporting tool, to capture a specimen if possible for identification by DEM," according to Gail Mastrati, Rhode Island DEM spokeswoman.

"Specimens should be enclosed in a container and frozen. Guidance from Pennsylvania for killing SLF is based on the existence of established populations of SLF there."

So far, at the time of this report, only one suspect insect had been discovered in the Ocean State.

"Besides the report of a single adult SLF, no population has been found and reported in RI," Mastrati said.

The SLF is similar to other invasive species, because it can lead to crop and tree damage. The insect has different characteristics, however, which make its destruction unique.

"All stages of SLF feed on and can stress certain plants and trees," Mastrati explained. "Life stages of the SLF, a plant hopper bug, are egg, nymph and adult. They are not caterpillars and not moths."

Winged adult SLF can fly, so may be found in any location, laying eggs on outdoor objects, or feeding on host plants, whereas wingless nymphs would be found feeding on host plants."

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 induction into the RI Comedy Hall of Fame!
 7pm. \$25pp.



Nov. 14 at Warwick Knights of Columbus
LENNY CLARKE & JIMMY SHUBERT!
 7pm. \$25pp.

Sept. 5 & Oct. 10, Pub on Park in Cranston
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Sept. 23, Oct. 28, & Dec. 15 Lemongrass in Warwick
"All You Can Eat-All You Can Laugh" Dinner-Comedy Shows!
 \$40pp includes buffet & show. 6:30pm.

Sept. 24 Savini's Pomodoro Italian Kitchen and Bar in Woonsocket.
Laughs & Music!
 Singing great Steven Palumbo with comics John Perrotta & Rockin' Joe Hebert!
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Sept. 25 at Bella Cucina at the Kelly Gazzero Post in Cranston
"All You Can Eat-All You Can Laugh" Dinner-Comedy Show!
 Special Guest Singer Jake Kambo, plus 6 hilarious comics! 6:30pm.
 \$40pp includes Italian buffet & show.

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

BENCH WARRANT

At 5 p.m. on July 24, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a maroon Lexus pass his fixed post at 1072 Plainfield St., but "did not observe the operator wearing his seatbelt."

Santurri detained the vehicle in the area of 1156 Plainfield St. and made contact with the driver, who was identified as Ritchie Abellard, of 29 March St., Apt. J., Providence.

After checking the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, Santurri discovered Abellard had an active Third District Court bench warrant. The original charge was Driving with a Suspended/Revoked License from the North Providence Police, according to the police incident report.

Abellard was taken into custody and transported to headquarters where he was processed and held pending arraignment.

Abellard's car was towed from the scene, and searched. The search "did not result in any items of value or contraband," Santurri wrote in the report.

Abellard was issued a Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Court Summons for not wearing his seatbelt.

On Saturday, July 24, Abellard was arraigned. He paid \$100 cash to cover the \$1,000 surety bail that had been set on the warrant and was released with a new pre-trial conference date of Aug. 19 in Third District Court.

VEHICLE FRAUD

At approximately 9:51 a.m., on July 20, Rhode Island State Police transported Calnisha Scurry, of 45 Salmon Ave., Apt. 202, Providence, to Johnston Police Headquarters in reference to an active Johnston Police arrest warrant for Obtaining Vehicles with Intent to Defraud.

Johnston Police Officer Manuel Perez searched Scurry and placed her in cell No. 4. Scurry was later released with a Third District Court summons.

The warrant stemmed from an incident reported at 11 a.m., on Jan. 14, when Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri was dispatched to Enterprise Rent-a-Car, 1674 Hartford Ave., for the report of an overdue rental.

The Enterprise manager told Santurri that Scurry rented a 2019 white Ford Fusion with Massachusetts plates, but the vehicle was not returned.

The manager told police that the business made multiple attempts to make contact with Scurry, but were unsuccessful. The case was forwarded to the Detective Bureau for further investigation.

On Jan. 14, a Providence Police dispatcher informed Johnston Police that their department had recovered a vehicle matching the description

of the rental agency car.

The car was found in the area of Warren Street and Elmwood Avenue by Fleet Services, a re-possession and towing contractor for Enterprise Rent-a-Car. The vehicle was found without keys, parked and unattended. Police said the vehicle had no damage and still had both plates affixed.

VEHICLE FRAUD

Around 11:30 a.m., July 20, Johnston Police Officer Manuel Perez was dispatched to Enterprise Rent-a-Car, 1674 Hartford Ave., for the report of an overdue rental.

The Enterprise manager told police that he rented a 2021 Toyota Tacoma with Massachusetts plates to a woman, identified as Leah M. Fiocco, 37 Lafayette St., Johnston, on June 29.

The manager told police that Fiocco had last made a payment for the vehicle on July 1, but had failed to make any follow-up payments or return the vehicle after that date, according to the police report.

The manager said that he attempted to contact Fiocco several times but was unsuccessful. Police tried Fiocco's landline telephone but were also unable to contact Fiocco.

The Enterprise manager told police that he wished to pursue criminal charges against Fiocco. The case was forwarded to the Detective Division for follow-up.

An arrest warrant was issued.

Around 8:45 a.m., on July 23, Johnston Police Officer Arthur Petteruti was advised that the Providence Police Department located the vehicle in the city at 5:56 p.m. on July 22.

On July 27, Johnston Police responded to 37 Lafayette St. and apprehended Fiocco on the outstanding warrant for Obtaining Vehicles with Intent to Defraud. Fiocco was advised of her rights, transported back to headquarters and held pending arraignment.

Johnston Police Detective Thomas M. Dwyer said Fiocco was "forwarded the opportunity to speak with this detective regarding this incident however refused to do so."

SHOPLIFTING

At 2:15 p.m., on July 26, Johnston Police Officer Adam M. Parkinson responded to Home Depot, 100 Stone Hill Drive, in reference to a report of shoplifting. Dispatch told Parkinson that a carload of suspects exited the parking lot in an older model green Honda Accord with dark window tint.

While en route to Home Depot, another Johnston Police officer reported that he observed the vehicle driving eastbound down Stone Hill Drive. The vehicle was pulled over at 1379 Atwood Av-

enue, near the entrance to Taco Bell, after it was slowed by heavy traffic.

The driver, Stacie Rodriguez, of 374 Ash St., Brockton, was removed from the vehicle, and police began their investigation, according to the police incident report.

Johnston Police spoke to a loss prevention officer at the store, who told him that a young female wearing striped shorts attempted to steal a cartload of merchandise, including assorted Makita and Dewalt tools, by exiting through the garden entrance, according to the police report.

The suspect pushed the merchandise through the entrance/exit and past the point of purchase without making any effort to pay, police said.

The store loss prevention officer confronted the woman and asked about a purchase receipt, but the woman abruptly abandoned the carriage containing the merchandise and sprinted to an awaiting vehicle, the green Honda Accord, police said.

Rodriguez was later returned to the store for a "show-up" at which time the loss prevention officer positively identified her as the suspect in question.

The loss prevention officer told police that she immediately recognized Rodriguez, because "she's shoplifted in the past," according to the police report.

During the July 26 incident, however, Rodriguez allegedly stole a Makita Trimmer (valued at \$298), a Makita Trim Kit (valued at \$299), a Makita Circular Saw (valued at \$269), and Miracle Grow (\$9.98).

Photos from past-alleged shoplifting attempts, including a July 23 incident, were also provided to police.

The loss prevention officer told police she would like to press criminal charges.

Rodriguez was taken into custody for misdemeanor shoplifting and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, according to the police report. Police said Rodriguez has six prior arrests, according to a Bureau of Criminal Identification background check.

Rodriguez was arraigned and released on \$1,000 personal recognizance with a District Court date to appear on Oct. 4.

ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER

Around 4:22 p.m., July 18, several Johnston Police officers responded to 20 Park St. for the report of a violation of a no contact order. Upon arrival, police were informed that the alleged suspect had contacted a protected party with a no contact order in place.

The victim told police that the suspect, identified as Devan Richard Tallo, of 20 Park St., Apt.

125, Johnston, ran toward Atwood Avenue wearing a white T-shirt and dark colored shorts.

While searching the area for Tallo, Police Officer Nicholas A. Manocchio spotted him walking south on Rachela Street toward the parking lot at 1573 Plainfield St.

Manocchio parked his cruiser in the parking lot and exited the vehicle.

He told Tallo to put down his beer bottle and place his hands on the cruiser. Tallo complied with his order, and as Manocchio took control of both of Tallo's arms, in an attempt to place him under arrest, "he began to pull away from me," Manocchio wrote in the police incident report.

"I calmly told Mr. Tallo to not resist and that he was under arrest," Manocchio wrote in the police report. "Mr. Tallo then attempted to aggressively pull his arms away from me. At this time, I wrestled Mr. Tallo to the ground in order to [make] the arrest. Mr. Tallo began to wrestle with me on the ground while I repeatedly told him to stop resisting."

Other officers arrived on the scene moments later. They offered assistance.

"Mr. Tallo continued to violently resist arrest, until we were able to forcibly secure him in handcuffs," Manocchio wrote in the police report. "It should be noted that I sustained a minor abrasion on my left forearm and minor scratches behind my head from Mr. Tallo's hands during this incident."

Tallo was cuffed. Police checked on Tallo's health, and he verbally confirmed that he was in good health, Manocchio wrote in the police report.

Manocchio said he noticed minor abrasions on Tallo's head, arms, knees and back, according to the police report.

Manocchio read Tallo his rights and then trans-

ported him to Johnston Police Headquarters.

Johnston Fire Department personnel responded to the police department to treat Tallo for his injuries. Tallo signed a medical waiver from with the Fire Department. Tallo was processed without further incident and secured in cell No. 3.

Tallo was charged with Violation of a No Contact Order, three counts of Simple Assault or Battery on a Police Officer and a count of Resisting Arrest, all misdemeanors.

BENCH WARRANT

Around 10 p.m., on July 1, while at a fixed post at the intersection of Leading and Laurel streets, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a white Volkswagen with Rhode Island plates allegedly fail to stop at the stop sign.

Santurri detained the vehicle in the area of 16 Leading St., and made contact with the driver, identified as Angel E. Toj, of 68 Glenbridge Ave., Providence.

A check with the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS) revealed Toj had an active Superior Court full bench warrant for carrying a pistol without a license, out of the Providence Police Department.

Toj was placed under arrest, secured in handcuffs and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters.

He was processed and held pending arraignment.

DMV files also revealed that Toj had a suspended driver's license, for failure to appear in court on June 4.

Toj was issued a District Court Notice to Appear for Driving with Suspended License, Second Offense, with a mandatory court date of Oct. 4.

Toj signed and acknowledged the form, and was also issued a

Johnston Municipal Court Summons for Obedience to Stop Sign.

The vehicle was towed from the scene, searched, and no items or value or contraband were located, Santurri wrote in the police report.

Toj was held pending transport to the ACI Intake Center.

Around 5:30 p.m., June 29, while on a fixed post at 525 Kilingly St., Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a silver Chevrolet Cobalt with Rhode Island plates travel south on Kilingly Street past his location.

As the car passed by, Santurri wrote in the police incident report that he "did not observe the operator wearing his seatbelt."

Santurri detained the vehicle in the area of 504 Kilingly St. and made contact with the driver, identified as Michael R. Beaumier, of 194 Dora St., Providence.

A check with RILETS revealed Beaumier had two active bench warrants from Providence Superior Court.

The warrants stemmed from two different police departments. The first warrant was for a charge of Possession of Schedule 1, from the Warwick Police Department; the second warrant was for a Manufacturing/Delivery/Possession with intent to Deliver charge from the Providence Police Department, Santurri wrote in the police report.

Beaumier was then taken into custody, transported to Police Headquarters, processed and later transported to the ACI Men's Intake.

Beaumier's vehicle was towed from the scene, searched and no contraband was found, according to the police report.

Beaumier was also issued a Johnston Municipal Court Summons for not wearing his seatbelt.

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Johnston Sun Rise

FROM THE JOHNSTON LIBRARY

'If you own it you can get spaghetti on it'

By JON ANDERSON
 Special to the Sun Rise

For the week of Aug. 16-20, the library is making about twice as many books available for our ongoing book sale, as we roughly sort a generous supply of donated books, now buried in a heap of boxes taking up space in our meeting room.

There are more than the usual number of bestselling books in excellent condition, paperback literary classics, children's and coffee table books.

Our library holds about 50,000 books, and is full. People want to read what's new. If a book is in good condition but sits unused, maybe it can speak to someone in a new home. If you own it you can get spaghetti on it. Or fill the margins with your own thoughts.

In days past, book sales were big social events. The Friends of the Library put tables and tents outside during the weekend of the Apple Fest and other times in hopes that the cars coming up from the park would stop.

It was an extra opportunity for Friends to talk up plans to build the new library building, which is now in its eleventh year. The Library got support and we got to know people.

That kind of event requires a lot of help. The ongoing sale has been an easier way to offer books every day, and it's appreciated.

The prices are so low you can't call it a business. But it's still the Friends' major fundraiser, and has made many extra programs happen. And it puts more books in people's hands.

When we can make thousands of books newly visible, it's exciting. If you're looking for a particular thing, you have to dig. But book sales can be a time for one of my favorite aspects of libraries. By accident you find something special to you.

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

Watch Your MOUTH
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.
COSMETIC DENTISTRY LEADING THE INDUSTRY IN GROWTH
 Cosmetic dentistry is the fastest growing niche in the dental industry. With today's state-of-the-art technology, such as 3D printing and innovations in veneers, more patients than ever are investing in their smiles. Contributing factors to this recent trend include younger people getting enhancing implants, accessibility of quick and easy whitening procedures, highly durable porcelain veneers, high-tech ceramic restoration materials, and smile-changing gum contouring. Dentists employing digital dental software and 3D printing can now provide patients with realistic and tangible visuals of anticipated results, making it possible to see the dramatic difference these procedures can achieve. Many dental practices are now offering flexible financing options to make cosmetic treatment plans, often not covered by insurance, a more feasible and affordable investment. When you look at yourself in the mirror, do you wish you liked your smile more? If so, why not make a change for the better? Teeth can be whitened, reshaped, replaced, veneered, or bonded, and their appearance improved by several methods of today's cosmetic dentistry. In fact, it is truly amazing what can be accomplished in a short time that can enhance your appearance for the rest of your life. Comprehensive, quality, gentle dental care for patients of all ages is available here at DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. And new patients are always welcome—call 401-521-3661 for an appointment.
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Giving medical equipment a second life and those who need it dignity & independence

By TARA MONASTESSE

While everyday life for many has seemingly returned to normal in the wake of the pandemic, the increased demand for medical equipment hasn't slowed down.

That's why the Robert J. Allen Masonic Medical Distribution Center, located on Long Street at the Masonic Youth Park's second entrance gate, has seen its dedicated group of volunteers maintain their hard efforts to keep up with the pace.

"There are more demands for our service than ever in the past," said George Donahue, current acting director of the center since 2017. "There are times where we just get inundated."

Every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, the center opens its doors to provide medical equipment free of charge to anyone who needs it on a first-come, first-serve basis, no questions asked. During this time, community members can show up freely to access a variety of equipment including wheelchairs, canes, shower seats, transport chairs, walkers and more. The equipment, provided entirely through donations, has seen high demand since the pandemic hit in March of 2020. Before then, the demand for medical beds was low, but Donahue says that virtually all of them are currently being used. While providing a ballpark figure for the center's weekly traffic is difficult, Donahue asserted that the slack times were much less common than the busy times.

During that same Friday morning timeframe, the center is open to donations of equipment by drop-off, no appointment necessary. Equipment is often provided when surgery patients

have recovered and no longer have a use for it, and is borrowed and returned on a regular basis. It is through these donations that the center has thrived, expanding its offerings to provide a large variety of mobility aids for no cost.

"This service is open to all. Any and all can use our facilities, free of charge," said Donahue.

Volunteers for the program, all members of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, are frequently retired and serve on a part-time basis. During their time at the center on Friday mornings, they work to match new arrivals with equipment and demonstrate how to use it safely. In recent years, the only time the program hasn't operated was when Christmas or New Year's Day happened to fall on a Friday. Otherwise, the medical center remains open year round.

Robert J. Allen, who founded the program in 2002, says that the core group of volunteers who work with the center is "pretty smart on it" when it comes to their assistance.

"We thought it was the right thing to do," said Allen. "A lot of people couldn't afford it, and they should live with dignity. We charge nothing for whatever we loan."

While he has stepped back as director, Allen still volunteers regularly at the center. He says that, while the scope of the project has expanded in the last few decades, the mission stays the same – to provide quality medical equipment to those in need who may not be able to otherwise afford it.

Allen, who was a structural engineer for the new Jamestown Bridge, not only has a passion to help people but the tools to put the program to-

gether. As the Grand Master of the State Grand Lodge at the time, he advanced the concept of accepting donations of used medical equipment, repairing it if needed and making it available at no charge to those needing it. What he learned is that although insurance covers the cost of some equipment, it leaves patients with having to open their wallets.

Initially, the center operated from tight quarters at the Masonic park and was open weekdays, but Allen learned that was difficult. He designed a mezzanine to accommodate donations, but that, too, was confined. Operations were moved to the garage/warehouse where they are today.

The center depends on donations. "We don't buy a thing; we don't ask anyone for a nickel," said Allen.

For a while, the center accepted motorized scooters. Donahue explained repairs to the scooters can be complicated. That's now left to professionals.


While the center's services remain in high demand due to the pandemic, Allen feels good about how they've persevered through the more intense phases.

"We made it. I think we made it through it," he said.

Allen believes we should all live in dignity.

"It's not a question of who we are, we're all brothers," he said.

The center accepts donations of virtually any equipment, save for stair lifts and electric scooters. For questions about accessing the center or providing a donation, those interested may contact the center at (401) 435-4650 for office or (401) 451-0184 for cell, as well as grandlodge@rimasons.org.

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PRESTIGIOUS AWARD: The Johnston Police Department recently celebrated reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The award confirms that the department operates to the highest law enforcement standards. Pictured are Major Matthew LeDuc, Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, Chief Joseph Razza, Captain Matthew Benson, Major Thomas Dolan, and Captain Joseph Salvatore. (Submitted photo)

Johnston Police Department earns national reaccreditation

The Johnston Police Department continues to meet and exceed the rigorous national accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), and recently earned reaccreditation from the agency.

The reaccreditation distinguishes the department as having met the highest law enforcement standards of conduct and service while maintaining a commitment to achieve professional excellence by using best practices.

"I am proud of the men and women of the Johnston Police Department who have wholeheartedly accepted the accreditation process and the rigors associated with it," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza. "Accreditation is just another validation that we will continue to provide the most current and professional police services to this community."

The department's reaccreditation award places the organization in an elite class of law enforcement agencies. The initiative is a testament to the professionalism and commitment of Johnston's police officers to public service and increased accountability.

CALEA is a credentialing authority composed of associations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

Accreditation from the commission is highly sought after by police departments across the country. It is a continuous process and requires all department files to remain updated and ready for annual compliance reviews. The commission allows public safety agencies to voluntarily meet an established set of hundreds of professional standards.

Those standards require the department to maintain written directives that define authority, performance, and

responsibilities, be subject to independent reviews by subject matter experts, and to expand community relationship-building, among other assessment measures.

Johnston's accreditation process was spearheaded by Captain Matthew Benson, who serves as accreditation manager and the commander of the department's operations and training division.

"Accreditation is an extremely prestigious designation, it demonstrates a commitment to excellence that only a small percentage of police agencies nationwide ascend to. We are extremely fortunate in Rhode Island to have such a strong accreditation program with the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC) as it truly prepares our agencies for the rigor that CALEA presents," said Benson. "Assessors from across the country marvel at the example Rhode Island agencies set as leaders in policing best practice, and I'm proud to be a member of the Johnston Police Department, with the substantial role we hold in that reputation."

The Johnston Police Department first received CALEA accreditation in 2017, which remains in effect for four years. The accreditation process is labor intensive, requiring months of preparation that included providing proofs of compliance to standards in the form of records, video and audio recordings, and inspections.

While previous years saw the department undergo on-site assessments conducted by an independent and experienced team of assessors from CALEA, the recent pandemic presented unforeseen challenges in the accreditation process.

"The new remote assessment model presented some interesting challenges and logistical obstacles, but the department was well prepared and staunchly supported by the town in order to succeed. We received tremendous feedback from the assessment team, not just for what we presented for com-

pliance verification, but also for the creativity in how we presented it," said Benson. "A YouTube video tour of the station was provided to the assessment team in lieu of a walking tour, along with virtual "press conference-like" interviews of necessary stakeholders and community partners as examples. It was really well received and appreciated by the assessment team."

In addition to the CALEA accreditation, the Johnston Police Department earned Rhode Island accreditation through the RIPAC in 2015, and has maintained that status ever since. Captain Benson, who also serves as a member of the RIPAC Commission and as an assessor of police departments throughout the state, was recently named as Assessor of the Year by RIPAC. The captain is also an assessor for CALEA and has completed several assessments of agencies around the country from Maryland to Illinois.

"I am very fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to be an assessor for both RIPAC and CALEA, and to work with some of the best law enforcement and municipal leaders this state and country have to offer," said Benson. "I truly believe that my travels have afforded our department with a tremendous advantage in both programmatic accreditation compliance and operational best practices."

Such accreditation benefits the town of Johnston in terms of liability. The scrutiny that the department faced ensures that the agency is operating using best practices governed by industry standard policies. The department has once again proved, by way of external review and assessment, that it operates to the highest standards.

"The citizens of Johnston should know that their police department is and always will be held to the highest standard possible and maintaining accreditation is evidence of that commitment," said Razza.

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Amazon, 'Project Schooner' questions persist

By RORY SCHULER

Amy Dixon has been following "Project Schooner" as closely as most Johnston residents.

The development, likely to become a giant Amazon distribution center, popped up before the Johnston Planning Board in late winter.

Last month, the Planning Board gave the project another green light, accepting the preliminary plan pitched by applicant Bluewater Property Group.

And soon, only if the company wants a tax incentive plan, the project might appear before Johnston Town Council.

But it might not. According to Town Council President Robert Russo and Assistant Town Solicitor Dylan Conley, "Schooner" could start construction tomorrow, if they want to pay the same tax rate as ev-

ery other business in town.

Dixon scored a spot on Tuesday night's Town Council agenda, filing a timely request with the town clerk prior to publication of the meeting's agenda.

She arrived with a long list of questions. Over about 20 minutes, she made her case, seeking more information on the project, as Russo, Conley and Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr. took turns responding.

"I've been unsuccessful in my efforts to obtain any meaningful data regarding 'Project Schooner' despite repeated attempts," Dixon said. "Responses I have received so far are: 'I don't know,' 'I can't say' or 'I don't have that information.'"

District 2 Town Council Member Lauren Garzone directed Dixon to a Johnston Sun Rise article titled

"Mayor: Project promises 'financial stability,'" published July 30, which featured an interview with Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, and explored the project's potential, yet included few concrete details (the mayor wouldn't confirm whether Amazon was the company proposing the six-story retail distribution facility, but promised the deal would be "very lucrative" for the town).

Dixon read the article, one of several published on the project. Like most attempted summations of the massive development proposed for construction near the intersection of routes 6 and 295, she found many details lacking. Dixon still had questions.

Town Council members said Tuesday night that they also don't have most of the answers to Dixon's questions. They assured her, however, that when

the details are available, they will be shared with the public.

"So, I read the article and here is my takeaway," Dixon told Town Council Tuesday night. "There is no timeline or details, documents aren't in, it will unravel quickly, it's a great deal but there are no specifics, the company name cannot be released at this time and neither can the tax structure, no mention of environmental or traffic studies and who ordered them, no firm numbers on jobs or what kinds, and no commitment to union labor."

Russo and Polisena Jr. pointed to traffic and environmental studies available on the Planning Board's website. The other questions, however, hung in the air.

"Hardly a treasure trove of information," Dixon said. "In fact, I now have more questions than I did before, but I was told that there would be no future public forum on this topic. That is why I'm standing here tonight and it's the last thing I have time for, which is why I entrusted this council to responsibly handle important decisions regarding the community."

Although the Planning Board did thoroughly examine thousands of pages of documents related to the project, they only determined whether the project fit the letter of local zoning and planning laws. And several times during the July 20 public hearing before the Planning Board, Chairman John Laurito referred critical questions asked by members of the public to the Town Council.

"As a businesswoman, I can confidently say that I've never entered into any agreement simply relying on the word of another," Dixon told the board. "I need to know pertinent details of the deal and then, subsequently, see it formalized in writing."

Dixon presented a list of controversial town development projects, including the Central Landfill.

"In this case, that feeling is amplified when none of the prior town deals have ever had a significantly positive impact on my life or even lowered my taxes," Dixon told the council. "The lack of transparency about this deal and the potential lack of representation from this council begs

the question, can we trust you?"

Johnston residents do get free trash pick-up for hosting the landfill. The landfill will eventually close, however, and some town officials have said they hope Amazon may help fill the town's future financial gap.

Dixon said she looked up the definition of a town council, and she read what she found aloud: "Specifically, Councils are required to: act as a representative, as informed and responsible decision-makers in the interests of its community."

Town Council has yet to take a single vote on "Project Schooner." Russo almost slipped when referencing the project on Tuesday night, beginning the word "Amazon," but cutting himself short to use the only approved code word for the project: "Schooner."

"Now there is no formal qualification to be a Town Council member," Dixon said. "You are inserted into that position under the notion that you will properly serve the very people who put you there."

Russo stopped Dixon to question her criticism of past developments in town.

"What other municipality in Rhode Island has as much development as Johnston?" Russo asked.

Dixon said she has no problem with development, but wishes the town benefited more from the projects that do come to fruition.

Conley pointed to proposed highway improvements, already slated for 2025, but moved up to accommodate "Project Schooner," including a median barrier and jug handles on Route 6.

"Johnston residents must have input since we are the ones who will be impacted," Dixon told the Town Council. "The town has had substantially more time to digest this protect than the residents will ever have and that's not fair. I'm 100 percent pro-development, but I do have standards. We already carry the burden of the landfill, the recycling center, a windfarm, a solar farm, and the Citizens (Bank) campus and yet my taxes just went up and now there seems to be a strong effort to suppress any public input."

The last budget approved by Johnston Town

Council implemented the first property tax increase in four years.

Town Council members and Dixon tossed some information back and forth. They confirmed that the company, possibly Amazon, would be required to come before the board before any sort of tax break was granted.

Mayor Polisena and his son, the Town Council vice president, have issued slightly different timelines for advertisement of a public meeting dealing with that issue.

The mayor, who has been handling the brunt of negotiations with the unnamed company, has said once he receives a packet of documents from Bluewater, he'll have the town's legal counsel review them, and then turn a meeting around quickly, in as little as 48 hours (the minimum time required by state law to advertise a public meeting).

Polisena Jr. said he'd like the meeting advertised at least a week in advance, and clarified his father was simply referring to the minimum time required by law.

"I don't think we've ever held a meeting with just 48 hours notice," Polisena Jr. said. "That has never happened."

Polisena Jr. and Russo both assured Dixon that the public will have more opportunity to speak on the project, before the Town Council votes on it; if they vote on it.

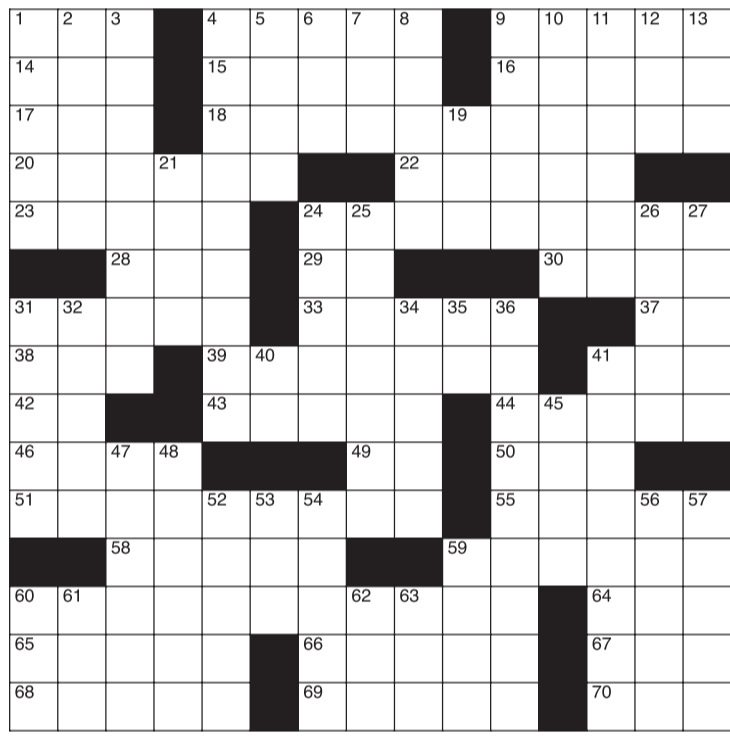
"I hope the remarks made by the council vice president were sincere and that everyone should be heard because he was right, this is our town and there are many upset residents who feel that this project is being jammed down their proverbial throats," Dixon said. "This has created distrust amongst an already skeptical community who has become weary of our ever growing, industrial facade."

Dixon went way over her allotted three-minute speaking time. She was the second speaker of the night who commanded more than three minutes of Town Council's time.

Dixon agreed that the successful public address was a win for the uninformed public.

Russo thanked her for her comments and the meeting was adjourned shortly after.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Calls balls and strikes
4. Turkish officer
9. Repaired shoe
14. Grass genus
15. Small, sealed vial
16. Primp
17. Immoral act
18. A tool to communicate
20. Crumbles away
22. Egg-like
23. Districts (abbr.)
24. Dressed
28. Small island (British)
29. Dialect of Chinese
30. Force unit
31. Borderlines
33. Norse gods
37. Morning
38. Fiddler crabs
39. Tell a story
41. Consumed
42. Atomic #58
43. About old Norse poems
44. Fencing swords
46. One-time Tigers third baseman
49. Southpaw (abbr.)
50. Neither

CLUES DOWN

1. Unhappy
2. Silk fabric
3. Unbroken view of a region
4. Middle Eastern territory
5. ___ and Andy, TV show
6. Central processing unit
7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
9. Weapon
10. Delivered a speech
11. Probably going to happen
12. Midway between northeast and east

13. Danish krone
19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
21. Fall slowly in drops
24. Bestow an honor upon
25. Childish silly
26. Related on the mother's side
27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent
32. Tribe of ancient Britons
34. Financial firm Goldman ___
35. Stephen King thriller
36. Went in again
40. Commercial
41. Poking holes in the ground
45. Prisoners of war
47. Pursued pleasure
48. "Seinfeld" character
52. Body of water
53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)
54. People who utilize
56. Nostrils
57. Inner mass of some fungi
59. Honor lavishly
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Turn down
62. Small round mark
63. Expected at a certain time

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QUESTIONS POSED:

Johnston resident Amy Dixon addressed the Town Council Tuesday night, asking questions about 'Project Schooner,' the new Amazon distribution facility proposed for a wooded location near the intersection of routes 6 and 295. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)





KATIE'S KORNER: JHS Class of 2025 President Katie Loffler and her fellow students Lucas Anderson, Marcel Johnson, Chantel DeJesus and Bobbiesue Tranhan enjoy a lighter moment during their first-ever fundraiser they hope will generate enough revenue to build their 2021 Homecoming float. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Class of '25 washes cars for float funds

By PETE FONTAINE

If enthusiasm offers any measuring stick, the Class of 2025 may just build the biggest and best float for Johnston High School's 2021 Homecoming.

Led by President Katie Loffler and Vice President Lucas Anderson, the freshman class that graduated from Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School in the spring, held the first of four car washes Saturday they hope will generate enough revenue to purchase supplies needed to build what they hope will be a prize-winning float.

Thanks to the generosity of Anthony Ferranti, who owns and operates Anthony's Auto Body Inc. at 119 Greenville Ave. in Johnston, the incoming freshmen began what will be their four-year journey on Cherry Hill working five-hours plus washing a number of vehicles including a Johnston Fire Department Rescue – and raising the first \$700 that will be used to build one of four JHS Homecoming floats that will cost several thousand dollars to construct.

The Class of 2025 work force, which also included Secretary Marcel Johnson, Chantel DeJesus and Bobbiesue Tranhan during the morning shift and other students in the afternoon, were backed by Anderson's mother and Attorney Stephanie Anderson, Lori Richard and Ferranti's daughter Kristen McAteer, who gave up her morning to open the auto body and even helped hook up the water hoses.

Moreover, the three women also took turns spelling the students' names and held colorful handmade signs that attracted motorists driving up-and-down Greenville Avenue.

Although there was no set fee to have a vehicle washed, people who pulled into Anthony's Auto Body were what Stephanie Anderson called "more than generous with their donations."

So, once a vehicle pulled into the front of Ferranti's shop, the students went to work and even used long-handle brushes and extra-large sponges to wash every part of a car, SUV or truck including wheel coverings.

It was the first success story for Advisor Chrissy Young's upstart high school students who a number of motorists mentioned had as much – and even more – enthusiasm than a rookie who was making his Major League Baseball debut.

"These kids are making this lots of fun," said Kristen McAteer, who enjoyed her morning coffee that dear ol' dad brought when he stopped by to make sure everything was going smoothly and the students had enough tools for their fund-raising efforts. "We're happy and proud to help the kids."

To which Anthony Ferranti, who even had his car washed and made a special donation, added: "I welcome the students and I'm looking forward to hosting three more car washes so that can build a beautiful (Homecoming) float."

Although no date for the 2021 Homecoming Celebration and town-wide parade – which was wiped out last year because of the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic – has been set, Anthony's Auto Body will host the Class of 2025 Car Washes on Saturday – Aug. 21, Sept. 11 and Sept. 18 – from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and accept any and all donations that will lead to building their first-ever float.

For people not familiar with the JHS Homecoming, it is well-known throughout the state as a model – and only student event of its kind – that features the traditional all-night building party the night before the annual parade.

As yet another example of how well organized the Class of 2025 is, the students have already been granted space by Chris Hurd inside one of Hurd Auto Group's spacious facilities on Hartford Avenue.



MIGHTY MISSION:

Johnston Firefighters Pvt. TJ Balkun and Rescue Lt. Mark Livingston are joined by JHS Class of 2025 Vice President Lucas Anderson who hosed down this vehicle during the freshmen's successful fund-raising car wash.

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STRONG SUPPORT: Jeremy Bousquet nails a portion of the Women's Guild Straw Game both as Bruce Baker and David Charron make sure the ladder doesn't move Monday night while setting up under the "Big Top" for this weekend's Saint Rocco's Feast and Festival. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Saint Rocco's Feast returns

By PETE FONTAINE

It was 5 o'clock Monday evening and Jeremy Bousquet had just finished climbing a ladder and began hammering nails into a corner of two pieces of long lumber when someone asked: "What are you guys doing?"

Bousquet was joined by Bruce Baker and David Charron – who made sure the ladder didn't move – quickly replied: "We're building the frame for the Straw Game!"

The Straw Game, for people who've never attended what this weekend will be the 81st Saint Rocco's Church Feast and Festival, is one of many traditions of the family, fun and food fest hosted by the Women's Guild and featuring more than 100,000 hand-rolled straws and upwards of 500 prizes.

It's also one of the many offerings hundreds upon hundreds of Rhode Islanders will enjoy, after the feast began Thursday night, and will continue through Sunday night at the Roman Catholic parish grounds located at 927 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

Meanwhile, veteran Co-Chairman

Richard Montella, who shares that honor with the ageless John Ricci – along with CFA (Church Friends Association) President-elect Dan Parrillo – walked swiftly under the 90-foot wide and 120-foot long "Big Top" that will house everything from extraordinary eats, all of which will be homemade, to excellent entertainment, a number of food, pastry, games and religious booths during the next three days making sure everything was in place.

Meanwhile, workers for Harold Fera's famed Rockwell Amusements were setting up various rides and games the traveling carnival will have open for people of all ages during the feast and festival that returns after being cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Perhaps that's why there were, as someone suggested, "Volunteers Unlimited" all over the Saint Rocco's grounds earlier this week to prepare for what Rev. Angelo N. Carusi, Montella, Ricci and others hope will be as record setting crowd.

Proud parishioners of all ages – like Wayne Martini and his wife Jennifer, to youngsters like Saint

Rocco's School student Alessandro Fava along with Alisha, Elijah and Joseph Mitchell – performed a number of duties readying for this weekend's feast and festival.

In keeping with tradition, there will be a religious side to the four-day event highlighted by Sunday's 11 a.m. Saint Rocco's Feast Mass that will be followed by the annual procession.

"Our doors are wide open." Montella offered with a special welcome ring to his voice. "Please come and enjoy our feast and festival; there will be plenty of great food."

Thus, Montella added: "We'll have our popular doughboys, pasta with meatballs and sausage, rib eye steak sandwiches, hamburgers and hot dogs, Italian sandwiches of meatballs eggplant, sausage with peppers and onions and we sell three sausage sandwiches every minute of the feast."

There will also be French fries, chicken tenders, rabi and provolone, stuffies and as Montella exclaimed: "All our food items are handmade, nothing is purchased frozen. There will also be a wide assortment of homemade cookies and pasties."

SPECIAL STAFF:
 Saint Rocco's CFA President-elect Dan Parrillo, his son Mitchell Parrillo, Sister Donna, Co-Chairman Richard Montella, Jennifer and Wayne Martini take a break while setting up the Religious Booth that is just part of this weekend's Feast and Festival that runs through Sunday night.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Voluntary valor

For more than 500 days, health professionals and essential workers have been living and working through an unprecedented period of constant, unrelenting chaos.

The toll that this pandemic has placed upon them cannot likely be measured in purely tangible ways. Physically, they are exhausted, of course. But mentally, they will likely suffer the consequences of this non-stop marathon for many more years to come in ways that are not yet readily apparent. The relentless threat of sickness and death surrounding you has a way of messing with your psyche that will not be easy to undo.

The work and drive of these individuals, as we stare down an unthinkable second wave of infections, restrictions and hospitalizations, is nothing less than angelic. We will need to ramp up support for them in every possible way possible as summer folds away into flu season.

But there is an additional bright spot of humanity among this darkness. In addition to those selfless individuals who have made helping others a career, there are many thousands of volunteers across the state that have been stepping above and beyond normal societal expectations in order to help run test sites, initially, and now the many vaccination clinics that have popped up throughout Rhode Island.

These people are not paid, and they are certainly not often thanked for the voluntary sacrifice of their time or safety. Members of the public may simply assume they are compensated healthcare workers, either paid through local means or by the federal government. But likely the only reward these volunteers receive for their actions is the knowledge that, in some way, they've done something to help make the world better during one of its worst chapters.

We can't help but openly wonder what internal factors found within the chemistry of different people can create such different outcomes — where some can ingest all the information around them and conclude that they would rather fight and scream and throw a tantrum when a business owner politely asks them to wear a mask, and why others will take that same external information, and conclude that they would like to sacrifice an entire weekend day to donate their time and help make sure their neighbors are vaccinated against a terrible illness.

(See the story in today's issue on the vaccination clinic conducted by the Disaster Assistance Medical Team/Medical Reserve Corps this past Saturday at the Knight Campus of CCRI. Corps volunteers have logged more than 200,000 in conducting vaccination clinics and test sites throughout the state.)

Truthfully, we wish that this formula — whether it's created through a combination of upbringing, perspective received through living a certain kind of life, something wholly genetic and intangible or a combination of all those factors — could be synthesized and put into its own type of vaccine.

If enough people possessed the drive and benevolent empathy to voluntarily help others at the expense of their own safety and self-interests, it might just be the cure for all of Earth's problems, not just COVID.

Go to RIResponds.org if you're interested in signing up to be a community healthcare volunteer.

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What's wrong with this picture?



OP-ED

As Delta surges, a Johnston native's perspective from Italy

Hello Johnstonites, I was in Rome, Italy when COVID-19 arrived, and wrote a series of letters that were published in the Johnston Sun Rise. I shared how surreal the experience was, but also included uplifting news, like entire neighborhoods singing from our windows and terraces. Everyone needed these uplifting events, as we had no idea of how long the lockdown would last.

Within two weeks of Feb. 22, 2020, when the Prime Minister first told us about COVID-19, almost everything came to a halt. Only medical facilities, grocery stores, pharmacies and other necessary services continued. Hospitals everywhere were filled to the brim and in some areas, grocery store lines were as long as a football field, but people complied with the rules and there was a kind of peace.

We were also patient because, within weeks, we all knew someone in the hospital; someone on oxygen. This reality, which touched all Italians, is why very few people in Italy are protesting the vaccine. Covid 19 was too real not to take seriously, especially after last year's second wave, created by summer vacationers, who did not wear masks or respect distances.

I personally know 11 people who had COVID-19: 4 were hospitalized and on oxygen for over a month; a 34 year-old, amateur athlete, cousin, did not need oxygen but had to stay home for 2 months,

and every muscle and joint in his body hurt, and the headaches were so severe they caused nausea; 1 gal has completely lost her sense of smell; others had milder cases but felt weak and unwell for months; 2 older folks died.

For all indoor public places in Italy, a mask is required, and as of 6 August unvaccinated people are not allowed in restaurants, theaters or to attend sport or musical events. While these rules seem severe, the majority see this as the only way to end what has been 18 months of on-and-off Lockdowns.

People want an end COVID, an end to wearing masks, and for the economy to return to normal, and see vaccination as the only solution to what will be an otherwise endless health threat. And because of this, there is a sense of impatience for those not vaccinated.

Every year, a member of the American Womens' Club hosts a wine & cheese garden party at her villa on the Appian Way. This year she has stipulated that only vaccinated people may attend. Outdoors, Italians are not required to wear a mask, and although many at the party will still wear one, others will want to feel safe and trust that the hostess has vetted the guests.

Over 40 million of Italy's 60 million population have had at least their first shot. Teens are now being scheduled, and certainly there are concerns about children, but kids want to return to school and sports

and a social life, while being safe.

Even immigrants - including all those illegal ones coming across the Mediterranean - are being vaccinated. And if anyone thinks America has an immigration problem, you should know that Europe has a much more difficult situation. The US invasion of Iraq, the Syrian and other wars have turned millions of middle class people into homeless refugees, and they are all headed for Europe. It's a gigantic crisis.

Americans against vaccination, claim liberty but are also afraid of the unknown effects of vaccina-

tion. Everyone has fears but people need to question their concerns, and be sure that they are scientifically based and not just Media hype.

DC radio host, Dick Farrell, who was against vaccines, just died from Covid. He learned too late that he had been misinformed. Liberty and freedom are vital rights, but if ignoring the science risks killing a child, or someone going through Chemotherapy and cannot be vaccinated, or you, then maybe liberty is overrated.

Vivian Weaver
Johnston native
living in Italy



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■ Sentenced

(Continued from page 1)

lot of friends in the community. I live in the house I was born in."

Boyle confirmed the most recent case is Fellela's fourth federal conviction.

"Between March 2018 and March 2019, while he was on federal supervised release, Fellela stole credit cards from residents of Connecticut and other states and used the cards to make approximately \$48,000 in fraudulent purchases at various retail stores in Connecticut and elsewhere," according to a press release from Boyle's office. "On Nov. 5, 2019, Fellela pleaded guilty to one count of access device fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft."

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Margaret Donovan and Sarala Nagala.

"Fellela was detained from March 8, 2019, to March 23, 2020, when he was released on bond," according to the U.S. Attorney's press release. "Judge Meyer ordered him to report to prison on Sept. 20, 2021."

In 2014, Henry Fellela also pleaded guilty to several charges, including illegally collecting thousands in Social Security benefits.

Fellela Jr., then 56, entered a plea in federal court in 2014 on charges including aggravated identity theft, credit card fraud, Social Security fraud and theft of government funds.

Prosecutors said Fellela used a stolen credit card to buy thousands of dollars worth of elec-

tronics and clothing in 2007, and collected more than \$58,000 in supplemental Social Security benefits from 2004 to 2012. Fellela claimed to have no fixed address while actually living with his wife and children in Johnston, according to a story in the Johnston Sun Rise archives.

"This is the fourth time," Fellela said of his criminal history, referring to his fourth federal conviction. "I used to run dice games, craps games. I was always on the left side of the street. No extortion. No violence. No guns. No drugs. I've never smoked a marijuana cigarette in my life."

Previously, for several years, Fellela owned TJ's, a clothing store at 1 George Waterman Road in Johnston. He said he sold Jordache jeans.

Fellela issued a warning for others, repeatedly urging his

fellow residents to "watch who you trust," but would not explain further.

Fellela admitted his past convictions indicate he has fallen into a habitual criminal cycle.

"You get involved in something and it becomes a cycle," Fellela said. "I should have gone to college. But you can't look in the rearview mirror."

Rep. Fellela has stood by her husband's side in some court appearances. She has defended her spouse in the past, and insists her husband's legal troubles do not impact her work in the General Assembly.

She has been repeatedly re-elected despite her husband's criminal history.

In 2013, she gave the following statement to the Johnston Sun Rise: "Everybody is their own person. I go to work every day and I go to the State House

every day so I feel like I do what I'm supposed to do. Henry's a good person. He's a good family man, and people who know him know that he's a good person. He wouldn't refuse a friend a favor."

Reached for comment Friday morning, Rep. Fellela said she "really had nothing to say at this point. I have no comment at this time."

Her husband, however, said it doesn't seem he has become a political liability for Rep. Fellela.

"It's happened before," Henry Fellela said. "It has nothing to do with her. You can't ship blame from me to her. But I'm sure there's a percentage of people who hold what I do against her."

When asked if he had any ties to organized crime, Fellela answered with a question: "Would I tell you if I did?"

■ Store

(Continued from page 1)

After unanimously voting to grant the company most of the licenses they need to do business in Johnston, Town Council President Robert Russo asked Perno and McLean when the store would open.

Perno answered, "As

soon as we get the occupancy certificate." Two days later, the certificate was granted.

Meanwhile, new Market Basket employees have been training at the Warwick store.

Workers have been stocking the no-longer empty shelves with non-perishable goods.

"The town of Johnston has been super to work

with," McLean said. "I just hope when everyone comes to visit Market Basket it's well beyond their expectations."

The store will open to town officials for an ex-

clusive tour on Thursday, Aug. 19, and then the registers will be open to the public on Friday, Aug. 20.

Perno dropped an invitation to Town Council members when he addressed

them Tuesday night.

Seven rows of brand new shopping carts await the store's first shoppers. More than 18 registers will be fully manned, lit and ready for commerce.

Last week, Market Basket owned and operated 85 stores in New England. Next week, with the opening of the Johnston location, the company welcomes Store No. 86.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Ralphie

Photo credit: LM Productions

Ralphie has the best smile and the biggest heart to match! He's a spunky eight year old who loves attention and lots of snuggles. Ralphie is in search of a home where he can be the only pet so he can be your whole world. Do you love to go for walks, then Ralphie is the guy for you! For more information about Ralphie please contact the folks at Handsome Dan Rescue via email at allison.k.rogers@gmail.com Ralphie will be waiting to light up your life!

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

Blake J Events Presents:

Heart of RI Festival

Date: August 14, 2021
Time: 1pm to 7pm
Location: Heart of RI
44 Worthington Rd.
Cranston, RI 02920

Admission: \$5 for adults and \$1 for kids under 10

There'll be music!

DJ DAWG

Don't miss it!

For more information or questions please contact blakej.models@gmail.com



OPENING SOON: The Johnston Market Basket is set to be open by next week. (Sun Rise file photo)

LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday August 24th, 2021;
6:00 P.M.
IN PERSON
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

PB 17-36 - Hopkins Pond - Public Meeting to discuss the REVISED Site Layout. Located behind 620 Central Avenue. AP 44 Lot 26 - Zoned PD. A Public Meeting to discuss a development where the final construction differs from what was approved and a possible vote to approve the change plans.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
1. Comprehensive Plan Update
2. Bishop Heights Subdivision – Call of the Improvement Guarantee

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.

8/6, 8/13, 8/20/21

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, August 26th, 2021
at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is here by given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on August 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

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

New Business
File 2021-18 – Petition of Leevan Sano/Xavier Investments, Owner/Applicant for 577 Killingly Street,

AP 13 Lot 170, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special User Permit 340-75 for a proposal of scooter rentals and sales of associated items.

File 2021-21 – Petition of Daniel Venditelli/Divine Investments, Inc., Owner/Applicant for Scituate Avenue, AP 44 Lots 396, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance 340 rear yard requirement. Proposed Single Family Dwelling.

File 2021-22 – Petition of Thomas Mitsun, Owner/Applicant for Ludlow Street, AP 10 Lots 336, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance section 340. Proposed Single Family Dwelling.

File 2019-34 – Extension of Special use permit granted on November 8, 2019. 279 Scituate Avenue. Plat 44 Lot 263.

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

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

8/13, 8/20/21

SUN RISE SCOOPS

By MERI R. KENNEDY

MS Dream Center seeks 'Exceptional Individual' nominees

The MS Dream Center is looking to reward outstanding individuals in the community by recognizing their efforts to "make a difference," and we need your help! Nominate someone for the "Exceptional Individual Contest" and tell us why you think that person is deserving of being acknowledged.

Three people will be chosen and each will receive two tickets to the upcoming "An Evening to Remember" event on Saturday, Sept. 25, starting at 6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Each person will receive special recognition at the event.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, Sept. 1, via online submission at msdreamcenter.org; please include contact information of nominator and nominee as winners will be contacted directly. Winners will be determined by representatives of the MS Dream Center and Accessible RI.

Bowl for Kids' Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island will host its fifth annual Bowl for Kids' Sake

(BFKS) event on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lang's Bowlamama in Cranston.

Participants can sign up in teams of five to participate in a private bowling party, and raise donations from family, friends and colleagues leading up to the event – with a fundraising goal of \$100 for each participant.

You'll also have the chance to win raffle prizes ... and really great karma for giving back to local kids!

No experience is required – just a desire to have fun and support youth mentoring. All of the proceeds from this event stay in Rhode Island and help Big Brothers Big Sisters fulfill its mission. Donate today or register your team at secure.qgiv.com/event/bbsri2021.

Providence Brigade Band

This year marks the 25th year for the Providence Brigade Band. The original band was founded in 1846 and performed until around 1890. The band reemerged 150 years after its original founding to perform again.

The band portrays a brass band from 1850 to 1875 and performs music from before, during and after the American Civil War. They play authentic musical arrangements from the period and use original instruments from

the era that the band provides. Also, they wear authentically reproduced uniforms typically worn by militia or military bands at that time.

The Providence Brigade Band, which is a registered nonprofit organization, will hold open rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. during the month of August. Brass players, especially trumpet players, are encouraged to attend and check us out. The rehearsal location is in Cranston. For more information about the band, visit pbband.org or call (401) 374-4718. There is no fee to join, and all ages are encouraged to apply.

Garden City concert rescheduled

Last week's Garden City Center Summer Concert Series event, which was rained out, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 25, at 6:30 p.m. The evening will feature tribute band performances of Elton John and Billy Joel music.

On Wednesday, Aug. 11, the concert series will host '80s Night featuring the band Fast Times. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Gazebo. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to Thursday, Aug. 12, at the same time.

To learn more, visit gardencitycenter.com.

St. Mary's Road Race postponed

This year's 49th annual St. Mary's Feast Society 5.5-Mile Road Race, originally scheduled for Aug. 14, has been postponed. The St. Mary's Feast Society is exploring the availability of dates in September. Follow the society on Facebook for additional updates.

Church seeking vendors for bazaar

Our Lady of Grace Church, located at 4 Lafayette St. in Johnston, would like invite vendors to participate in its Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 17. There will be crafters, vendors, a penny social, food and more. For information, contact Pat Leon at (401) 529-7592.

Did you know?

In August 1762, the sandwich, as we know it, was created when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two pieces of bread. (*August Fun Facts*)

SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Sun Rise.

Masks

(Continued from page 1)

said. "A lot of people feel it should be left to individual discretion, but I have heard from parents who want masks, who want us to help keep their children safe."

In the coming weeks, DiLullo said he will be watching public health data closely.

"One of the things we need to do, both our committee and the school district, is keep an eye on what happens over the next few weeks," DiLullo said.

If the data indicates warning signs, "we will absolutely reconsider where we stand," DiLullo explained.

"Kids have been through a lot," LaFazia said. "Parents have been through a lot. We've been through a lot."

LaFazia said he heard from only one side of the debate over children wearing masks in Johnston schools.

"I'll be honest with you," LaFazia said. "I didn't get one call. And the parents I did speak to, they didn't want the kids wearing masks at schools."

The school system will still require children to wear masks on school buses, LaFazia said.

"We all spoke on the issue," LaFazia said. "When we voted on it, it was unanimous. One member was out sick, but he would have voted with us."

Johnston parent Jennifer Hall told the School Committee that she has "two young children eligible for schools in Johnston this year but I had some concerns regarding masks on children and the safety of it."

"That wearing a mask for six to seven hours per day is not something we're comfortable with," Hall said. "I've done tons of research on the efficacy and safety of masks on kids and feel strongly on where there is risk, there must be a choice."

One of Hall's children "has special needs and one of the services he desperately needs is speech therapy," she said.

"Last year we chose virtual because they wanted him masked for preschool and he's (not) going to wear one," Hall said. "While the

therapist and special education teachers went above and beyond for us, we all agreed that it's not the same as in-person and I want that for him this year."

The School Committee was tasked with approving the revised 2021-22 school calendar at Tuesday night's meeting.

Johnston Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting at the same time, on the same day, after bumping the board's regular meeting from Monday due to the state holiday.

Residents of Johnston were forced to choose which meeting they wanted to attend.

Mask mandates were not listed on the School Committee agenda, except during the "speakers" portion, where Hall was scheduled to discuss "masks and school opening."

Hall stood behind a lectern and addressed the School Committee. She provided the Sun Rise with a summation of her remarks.

"Our other kiddo wants to try school this year but only if she doesn't have to wear a mask," Hall told the Sun Rise. "I told her I would attend a School Committee meeting and ask the committee members and the superintendent if it could please be a choice so that the families who want to wear one can and the families who don't want to can have the option."

Each school district in the state is having a similar debate, since no statewide mask mandate has been issued.

LaFazia said the School Committee had to step up and tackle the issue, since guidance has not been consistent from state and federal health officials.

"The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH), they're strongly recommending, but not mandating masks for students," LaFazia said. "Basically we're going to leave it up to the parents."

After the meeting, Hall said she was mostly pleased with the School Committee's decision.

"I've been receiving messages from parents who are very unhappy with me," she

said Tuesday night. "But also on a positive note, parents who are thanking me. They outweigh the people who are unhappy."

LaFazia praised town-wide efforts to vaccinate educators, and said that 90 percent of school staff has been vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We have a pretty high vaccination rate in the town," LaFazia said. "We went all out ... We have better than 90 percent of our staff vaccinated."

The Rhode Island DOH has publicly announced that the "Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of the virus that causes COVID-19 is now the dominant variant in Rhode Island."

"The Delta variant spreads more easily among all people, including younger groups," according to the Rhode Island DOH. "Vaccination is especially important for everyone 12 years of age and older who are in school communities. For children younger than 12 who are not yet eligible for vaccine, other preventative tools like masks, physical distancing, and testing are critical."

The department, however, has not instructed schools to make masks mandatory.

"The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recommends all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, including people who are fully vaccinated, wear a mask indoors," according to the agency's web site.

The DOH urges eligible residents to get vaccinated.

"Getting your COVID-19 vaccine is the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and the people around you from the Delta variant," according to the DOH. "Wearing a mask can help limit or prevent the spread of the Delta variant."

This latest mutation of the COVID-19 virus has health officials reconsidering past guidance. However, the public has grown weary from the pandemic and social restrictions.

"The Delta variant is much more aggressive than other variants we've seen because it spreads more easily and quickly and may cause more serious illness," according to

the DOH. "While someone who had one of the other variants of the virus might get 1 or 2 other people sick, someone with the Delta variant could get 6 or 7 other people sick."

Tightly packed classrooms could pose a unique danger to students, especially those too young for vaccinations.

"Unvaccinated people are most at risk of getting and spreading the Delta variant," according to the Rhode Island DOH. "The highest spread of cases and most severe outcomes are happening in places with low vaccination rates. If you're not yet fully vaccinated, getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and weekly testing are more important than ever to stop the variant from spreading and to protect the progress we've made."

Public information regarding who gets sick and how best to protect yourself has evolved on a daily basis since the start of the pandemic.

"I feel when this pandemic began, we didn't know a lot about how the virus worked and transmission, etc.," Hall said. "And lots of careful precautions were made, but now we know children are not known super spreaders of the virus and keeping them masked in my opinion doesn't make sense."

Although other states, mostly southern states with low vaccination rates, have reported exponential upticks in hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients, and larger percentages of young people have been getting very sick, life has been struggling to return to normal in the Ocean State.

Bars are open. Surviving restaurants have re-opened. Patrons are packing movie theaters again.

"All summer kids have been in camps and playgrounds, churches and other type of situations without a mask," Hall said. "Why not school, where they can see others' faces and emotions and breath normally?"

Hall said she has been talking with other like-minded parents, and has even had discussions with members of organized anti-mask groups protesting mask mandates across the

state and the nation.

"I've met so many families across the state who share my view, which is masks being optional and the parents choice," Hall said. "Tons of school districts across the state have already voted parents' choice. Some have chosen to mandate masks. Having any school take a stand of 'masks mandatory or children can't come to school' would be wrong and feels discriminatory in my opinion."

No parents spoke in favor of mask mandates at Tuesday's meeting. LaFazia said the lack of voices on the mandate-side of the argument helped convince him to vote for parental choice.

"Quite a few parents were there last night, and they told us to leave it up to them," LaFazia said Wednesday morning. "The problem is, you hear so many things you don't know what to believe any more."

Hall hopes her fellow parents respect her feelings on this issue.

"There are plenty of families who want to remain vigilant and cautious with kids in schools and I respect their right to choose masks for their children," Hall said. "I ask they respect our choice as well."

The Cranston and Warwick school committees may vote on mask mandates for students at their meetings next week, to be held Monday and Thursday, respectively.

In the meantime, school officials will be watching data following a planned church feast in Johnston and some

other large community gatherings.

"If the numbers spike, now I don't have a cut-off number, but if those numbers increase drastically in Johnston," DiLullo said. "The health department does report by community. If we need to reconvene the School Committee prior to school opening, we will absolutely do that."

The School Committee also voted unanimously to accept DiLullo's school opening plan and calendar.

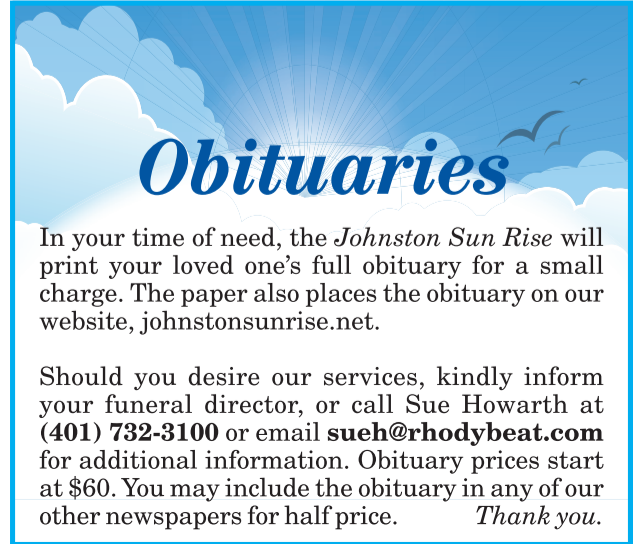
The meeting agenda announced: "The new first day of school will be Sept. 1, 2021, and the last day of school will be scheduled for June 15, 2022, and all students are expected to attend in-person."

Last year's at-home learning options will not be available this school year in Johnston.

"Obviously if there's extenuating circumstances, we will make accommodations for those students," DiLullo said. "But the option will not necessarily be sitting in front of a computer all day. We will offer support for those students; distance learning offered by another institution, or in another way, but it won't be the synchronous learning that occurred last year."

Last year's hybrid approach to public school education worked well for some, but not others.

"It was a challenge for kids and a challenge for parents," DiLullo said. "Some kids did very well in it; other kids struggled ... Our plan is to have all students back in the classroom; we firmly believe that's the best option."



Obituaries

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

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call Sue Howarth at (401) 732-3100 or email sueh@rhodybeat.com for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price. *Thank you.*

Scituate

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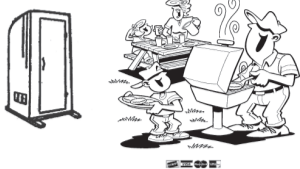
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BACKYARD SPACE The Cygnus Wall

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

The Cygnus Wall is approximately 20 light years in length and known as a star forming region.

It's an emission nebula in the constellation Cygnus close to Deneb, the brightest star of the Cygnus Constellation.

The North America Nebula resembles the continent of North America and, if you look closely, you can even make out the Gulf of Mexico.

The nebula lies roughly 2,590 light-years from Earth and stretches 90 light-years from North to South!

It also covers an area in the sky that more than 10 times the area of the full moon.

I took this Image over the course of two nights using my H-alpha and Oxygen-iii filters with my dedicated astrophotography camera.

I combined the two filters into and RGB image to create an HOO (H-alpha+ Oiii+ Oiii) image (the reds representing HA, and blues representing Oiii). I used an astronomical photo editing software to stack and bring out the details and nebulosity.

These images were captured from my backyard in Johnston.

Technical Card:

- Imaging telescopes or lenses: William Optics Zenith 73 II
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- Guiding 2.62 PHD2.62 · Deep Sky Stacker
- Filters: Astronomik OIII 1.25" 6nm · Astronomik Ha 1.25" 6nm
- Dates: Aug. 2, 2021
- Frames: 20x600" (3h 20')
- Integration: 3h 20'
- Avg. Moon age: 23.88 days
- Avg. Moon phase: 32.03%

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.

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By JENNIFER COATES

There is going to come a time when you can no longer avoid it. That pile of laundry in the corner, growing every day while you find excuses to ignore it. But it is not going away, and eventually, it will overtake your room or leave you without a single clean garment to wear. Laundry is like that – it is never-ending. Now, there is a possibility for escape! Why labor ONE MORE MINUTE this summer tackling the inevitable chore of endless laundry when you have the willing and able hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry to rescue you?

For an incredible .69/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day - at this user-friendly, clean and efficient laundromat in Johnston. Besides the convenience of this great service, this blockbuster price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by day's end – all for \$6.90. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for \$10.35. What a bargain!

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". If you don't have enough quarters, no worries ~ there is a change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill available here.

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Meet Kaushal Jain, co-owner of Jain's Laundry ~ a fully-equipped laundromat on Route 44 where customers can do their own wash or take advantage of Kaushal's meticulous wash/dry and fold services.

load compared to \$2.50 in most other places. There are state-of-the-art dryers which are incredibly efficient, rotating both clockwise and counter-clockwise to prevent the bunching and twisting that can make drying uneven in conventional dryers.

Vending machines are also on-site if you need to restock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags. There is never a need to wait because there are rows and rows of machines ready to go at any given time. Everything you need is right here at Jain's Laundry.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is even a Dunkin' Donuts next door if you want a cup of brew while you wait.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about their services, call 401-231-7019.

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Sports

Fantasy Friends



DRAFT NIGHT: Members of the Marg's Fantasy Football League during their annual draft day celebration. (Submitted photos)

Eight locals celebrate fantasy football with big bash

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The NFL preseason is set to get underway this week with regular

season action less than a month away.

Millions of people in the country and around the world are also joining in the fun, competing in their annual fantasy football leagues.

One local league decided to stand out in its recent draft, as eight kids that just graduated high school came together and went all-out for their draft night.

The league is called Marg's Fantasy Football League, named after St. Margaret School in East Providence - the location where many

of its members first met years ago. Now, the league is entering its sixth season as an entity while its combatants' friendships go back much further.

"It's great, it's kind of what keeps us all together. We are all so busy, we have jobs, I have two jobs. It's really the one day that we know that we can all see each other so it's great to do every year," said league member and defending champ

FANTASY- PAGE 17

Saying bye to the Olympics

I know that I am probably going to receive a ton of flack for this column, but I can't hold back any further. I am so glad that the Olympics are over.

Do I hate the Olympics? No, as a sports nut, there is always something that intrigues me enough to pay attention to. However, overall, I have never been much of a fan of the games and there are years like this past one that simply do not grab me.

The classic debate is summer versus winter. Which is better?

If I had to choose, I'd go winter. I absolutely adore the men's and women's hockey tournaments. I find it so fascinating watching an internationally played sport take place at the highest level. I know that all of the sports played are international, duh, but hockey is massive.

I also love the history of hockey at the Olympics, including and especially the 1980 US team that shocked the world. There have also been some fantastic games against Canada.

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEX@RHODYBEAT.COM

Not to make this all about hockey, but all things considered, I would pick winter.

So not only was this my less preferred season, but there really was not a single storyline that interested me.

Simone Biles' injury issues were unfortunate, but not really a story that I was reading into a whole lot. The US men's basketball team, to no one's surprise, won gold. Once again, I was really not that invested in the team since it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that it would

PITCH- PAGE 15

RI Hockey HOF virtual induction set for Aug. 28

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The RI Hockey Hall of Fame has announced that the enshrinements of its Classes of 2020 and 2021 will be broadcast on WSBE TV36 on Saturday, Aug. 28 at 10 pm.

The safely pre-recorded TV Enshrinement Special has been produced in lieu of the previously scheduled in-person induction events postponed by the pandemic.

"We've been working on this production since February," noted Hall of Fame chairman, Vincent Cimini. "Inductee acceptance speeches have been taped from all over the country at venues associated with each inductee's hockey career."

Along with videos capturing the highlights of each inductee's hockey journey, congratulatory messages from past enshrinees and some of the game's most famous personalities will also be featured

in the program.

Class of 2020 inductees include Tim Army, David Capuano, Lou Cimini, Jack Ferreira, Jim Fullerton, Paul Guay, and Garth Snow. The 2021 HOF Class includes George Army, Bob Gaudreau, Art Lesieur and David Quinn. The Malcolm Greene Chace Trophy, awarded for "Lifetime Contribution of a Rhode Islander to the Game of Hockey", will be presented to Barrington's Sylvester "Buster" Clegg.

Cimini also noted that camera-phone videos from family, friends and fans have been collected over the past four months to allow them to be part of the celebration as part of a custom audience created for each inductee.

The 90-minute TV special, hosted by Dale Arnold, will be also be re-broadcast several times on WSBE and the WSBE "Learn Channel". It will also be available "On Demand" and on the Hall's website RIHHOF.com.



LEADING THE WAY: NESN's Dale Arnold, here on the Hall of Fame broadcast set, will emcee the inductions. (Photo courtesy of the RI Hockey Hall of Fame)

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Get ready for the speedsters

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Chub mackerel have appeared in local waters with some bonito mixed in. Gear and tackle used to target chub mackerel, bonito and false albacore is similar. So starting now I am ready to cast to these speedsters (all in the tuna family) if we see them on the surface.

From now through September I will have two or three rigged rods ready to go if we should come across schools of these fish on the surface. They are all St. Croix Mojo rods rigged with Shimano Stradic reels and 20-pound test braid with 15 and 20-pound fluorocarbon leaders. They are ready to fish with direct tied epoxy jigs and some with shiny metal lures that resembled sand eels such as Deadly Dicks and the ever faithful Kastmaster lures. If you want to be ready to target these fast movers your saltwater bait & tackle shop

can help.

Peter Jenkins, owner of the Saltwater Edge in Middletown, RI and president of the American Saltwater Guides Association, said, "Chub mackerel are becoming regular visitors in mid-Summer in Southern New England. They can be found frothily feeding on the same baits that cause the "bass rafts"; typically bay anchovies or sand eels. Chasing chubs are a fun prelude to the exciting times ahead created by bonito and then (fingers crossed) false albacore." To find out more about how to target chub mackerel, bonito and false albacore visit www.saltwateredge.com.

Chub mackerel are good to eat and so are bonito. But false albacore are usually not eaten. Anglers often have difficulty distinguishing between bonito and false albacore. The way I remember is a rhyme first shared with me by Steve Medeiros,

president of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association. Steve said, "Bonito have teeth and are good to eat." This stuck with me as it is easy to remember.

Local bonito and false albacore expert Susan Lema said "Use as little hardware as possible. We tie directly to a 25-pound fluorocarbon leader with a uni knot and no swivel. This keeps things simple with no hardware flashing in the water to spook the fish. These fish are ram feeders. They open their mouths and hit the bait at high speed so things are moving."

Roger Lema (Susan's husband) said, "Fish the outgoing tide in front of rivers, coves and ponds as the water and bait have to be moving. When we go out we have five rods ready to go. Some prepared to cast silver lures like Deadly Dicks and Kastmaster lures. But, we are also ready to troll (at four knots) with broken back lures, shallow swimming and deep

swimming lures to use depending on where the fish are in the water column." And, one last tip, "You have to anticipate where these speedsters will surface again and be there when they do. So we like to fish the sides of the schools rather than getting out in front of them," said Roger Lema.

Dolphins at the mouth of the Narragansett Bay

Last week at 6:30 a.m. (on our way to Block Island) I came across a pod of a couple of hundred dolphins off Scarborough Beach, Narragansett. When bluefin tuna fishing, it's one of the signs you look for before you put in your bluefin tuna spread (rigs) to catch them. Dolphin and bluefin tuna often eat the same thing and are chasing the same bait. But the dolphin are smart enough not to go for the tuna rigs.

Pitch

(Cont. from page 14)

win again. Even when it started slow and dropped a few games, did we really believe that the team would not turn it around when it had to?

Some years the Olympics have some real juice, at least enough to keep me engaged, and others do not. The past two weeks really wore on me. I was so sick of opening ESPN or Yahoo or whatever and seeing the Olympics shoved down my throat, especially when beyond Biles and basketball, it seemed that there was nothing noteworthy.

Again, it's the Olympics, every single item is noteworthy, but I am just not that into it for the most part.

There were also a few things that I feel could have really been intriguing but were pretty much ignored.

First off, this summer marked the debut of skateboarding at the Olympics. I am not a skateboard fanatic or anything, but I can't believe that a debut sport, especially one like skateboarding, was not heavily covered.

I know tons of skateboarding fans but heard next to nothing about the past two weeks. Wow, that could have been something special, but there was such little coverage. What a blown opportunity.

Boxing as well, I heard so little about the tournaments prior to the final matches. Nothing about the buildup, the competitors from any country. Boxing is one of the oldest and most celebrated sports in the world and has been a staple in the Olympics for generations. In my opinion, the coverage was virtually nonexistent which was a let down.

If I had to put into words why I am not a big Olympics fan, I would have to say that it is because it is usually just too much to digest and too difficult to follow, especially when they take place across the globe.

There are so many sports, so many events, so many of which are not mainstream in our country. The times of the events are all over the map, the coverage is choppy. It's just a lot to handle and the fact that there are times when they're played literally on the other side of the world makes it tough. I felt like every story I read was old news by the time it came across my screen.

Let me reiterate, this is not me saying I hate the Olympics or feel that the games have major flaws. It's just me saying that I am not a big fan and there are some years like this where I simply cannot get into it. I am thrilled that they are behind us and hopefully the next winter games will deliver.

With August comes football, and with football comes fantasy football, which over the past two decades has become one of the most popular sporting activities in the country.

This past weekend, a group of eight local high schoolers held an in-person draft, where they all sat in a room with their computers, cooked up some grub, dressed in suits and selected their teams. You can find the full story in our Johnston Sun Rise publication.

There are stories like this that make fantasy football an amazing experience ... or should I say craze? I don't know, but I have always loved participating and have always wanted to be part of a league like this one.

There are many, many other hard core leagues like this one throughout the country and their stories and traditions are fabulous. Whether it be the defending champion getting to establish unique rules, or the last place team getting a punishment. Fantasy football has become a staple in football fandom that is only continuing to grow thanks to leagues like this one.

Not to be overly sentimental over a game and a sport, but that is why football is my favorite sport. There is no sport in the US that brings people to-

gether like football, and in my eyes, it has overtaken baseball as America's Pastime.

When speaking to one of the league organizers, he mentioned that this league will help these kids remain close friends as they all just graduated from high school. That is what it is all about, not just having fun in the moment, but creating new memories and celebrating old ones.

I am excited to play fantasy football this season and to watch football at all levels. There is no sport like it.

Also, I would absolutely recommend fantasy football to anyone. I know some of the older generations have shied away because of the technology aspect, but it really has become extremely user friendly over the past few years whether you use ESPN, NFL, or what have

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Duckpin Bowling Tour stops in Johnston

The Duckpin Professional Bowlers Association's Pro Tour is underway, making its rounds throughout the northeast. The DPBA visited Town Hall Lanes in Johnston last week, hosting some of the area's top bowlers. Winning the tournament was Jesse Dietsch. Below are some photos of the action.



TOURNEY CHAMP: Jesse Dietsch after winning. (Submitted photo)



SLINGING IT: Kayla Holbrook winds up. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)



BOWL AWAY: Will Rigney shoots the ball.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Mia Femino eyeing down the lane.

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REIGNING CHAMP: The Marg's Fantasy Football League defending champion George Turnbull makes a statement prior to the first overall pick of the 2021 draft (above). A look at some of the grub served at the league's draft, which included chicken wings (at right).



■ Fantasy

(Continued from page 14)

George Turnbull.

To celebrate draft night, the kids all joined together, dressed to the nines while enjoying a backyard barbeque with their heads buried in their laptops as the picks were made. Like the NFL Draft, the participants would head to a podium that was set up to announce each selection. From there, the kids would talk about the happenings while filling out their lineups.

"We see it as a fun way to get everybody together to hang out. We like to make it into a big event, it's been a lot of fun to do once a year. It's like a holiday for us. We try to keep it fun, that's what it's all about," said Joey Legault.

This was the second year that the St. Marg's crew held the fantasy draft bash.

"A few years ago we had a couple new guys join the league, and we thought that it would be a good idea to have a big draft night where we can all draft together and make it like a real NFL Draft. We thought it would be fun," said Turnbull, who walked away from this year's draft with players including Dalvin Cook, Jonathan Taylor, DK Metcalf and Tom Brady. The league intends on maintaining this

annual tradition and hopes to establish a few more fun rituals in the future. Many leagues have traditions such as allowing champions to create rules, as well as punishing the team that finishes in last place.

There is only one problem with the latter, though.

"We want to do a punishment for the last place team, but unfortunately our friend Sam White gets last place every year so we don't want to do that to him," said Legault.

Perhaps the best part of this league is the way it keeps the friendship alive, especially with all eight members heading in different directions for college.

"It was a little sad, especially since I'm leaving first. It meant a lot to me to be able to be with those guys before I go. It's going to mean a lot to me doing this from now on," said Turnbull.

Legault added: "For sure, this is going to help us stay together. I know a lot of us will be able to hang out on Sundays to watch the games, but either way it will always give us something to talk about with one another."

The members of the Marg's Fantasy Football League include: Jeffrey Pimental, Joey Legault, Riley Whitehead, George Turnbull, Sam White, Elijah DaCosta, Anthony Marsella and David Chase.

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FINANCIAL TIPS for Parents to Teach Their Children

FAMILY FEATURES

Children often dream of the day they can call themselves grown-ups, but few look forward to – let alone think about – the financial realities of independence. It’s never too early to start teaching your children how to save money and spend responsibly.

“As parents, our job is to set our children up for success,” Bank of America’s Head of Deposit Products Erin McCullen said. “Giving our kids a strong foundation of financial skills like budgeting and saving is a key part in ensuring they thrive as adults and can concentrate on the things they love.”

Consider these financial tips from McCullen:

Establish a budget. Budgeting is a lifelong skill. Teaching young adults how to budget can help them plan spending, save money, create goals and address financial anxiety. According to a Bank of America survey, 52% of Americans said they didn’t start budgeting until they began their first full-time job.

If your kids are on the younger side, they likely don’t have a steady income, but you can still help them practice budgeting with allowances or gifts from relatives or friends. Keep it simple: teach them to track the money they receive and separate it into spend-now and spend-later categories.

Later, when you’re helping your kids create an adult budget, you’ll need to expand those categories to track expenses like housing costs and groceries. From there, measure these categories against their total monthly income. Ideally, they should have more money coming in than going out. This process can help identify must-have vs. want-to-have purchases while highlighting areas to cut back on spending or finding room to save.

Save regularly and consistently. Making consistent, automatic contributions to a savings account can create a mindset that will be valuable as your children get older.

“It is never too early to open a savings account,” McCullen said. “Even if your children don’t yet have any bills or financial obligations, teach them to set aside some of the money from their allowance or even gifts from family or

friends. Helping children learn to save early-on, even for a small purchase, can help them develop a consistent savings habit over time.”

Young adults should also consider programs like Keep the Change, which helps build savings automatically by rounding up debit card purchases to the nearest dollar amount and transferring the change from a checking account to a savings account.

Make a finance checklist. Young adults have a lot on their minds at the end of their final semester at school. As they begin to transition from student life to the working world, one way to help them stay on track is to prepare a checklist of things to do before they graduate and start their jobs.

This list can include creating a budgeting and tracking strategy, opening a savings account to begin setting aside money from future paychecks or checking in with a financial planner to discuss transitions and what’s to come.

Taking time now to teach your children strong financial habits can help them develop lifelong financial skills and prepare them for their next adventure. The healthy habits they build today can help carry them to tomorrow and beyond.

Emphasize the importance of safe credit. Young adulthood is the right time to begin building credit because establishing good credit takes time. Building credit from a young age can help pave the way for major purchases and life moments, since credit impacts future living arrangements, the ability to purchase a car and even employment opportunities.

Teach your children about the steps they can take to start building credit like planning their credit card usage, never spending outside their means and paying off their credit card bills on-time and in-full. They can also earn rewards while spending by ensuring their credit card rewards their spending. An option like the Bank of America Customized Cash Rewards card offers flexibility to earn rewards in the category of your choice and can help maximize rewards while building credit.

Find more tips for teaching your children financial skills at [BetterMoneyHabits.BankofAmerica.com](https://www.bettermoneyhabits.bankofamerica.com).



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Financial Lessons at Every Age

From preschool through college, every stage of school is designed to prepare kids for life-long success, but learning about finances is one area that can be especially impactful for children in the long term.

Consider these ways kids can learn about money throughout childhood as recommended by the experts at Bank of America:

Elementary School – Focus on basics like saving small change and planning how to spend it. As kids begin to learn fundamental math, you can introduce them to the concept of making a spending plan. Apply these lessons to toys or gifts they want and teach them to set aside money until they have enough to buy the toy of their dreams.

Middle School – Those early mathematical lessons around spending can be expanded to include real-life decision making and budget creation, including what should be accounted for and considered before making a purchase. Before children go to the mall with their friends, highlight the thought process involved in spending before they make impulse purchases.

High School – As adulthood begins to draw nearer, it’s worth exploring the fundamentals of credit scores, credit cards, investing, saving for retirement, homeownership and more so that, upon graduation, teens can start putting those lessons into practice. High school seniors should also educate themselves on student loans, as debt often becomes a reality for those who attend college, and understanding the facts can help them make more informed choices.

Bonus tip: If your high schoolers have jobs, even if it’s just part-time, it can be helpful to discuss taxes and how to manage receiving consistent income. It can guide them in creating balanced and accurate budgets in the future.

College – Build credit by opening a credit card account to help achieve goals later in life, such as purchasing a home. With a career just a few years away (or less), college is also a smart time to begin reading into the basics of 401(k)s, starting an emergency fund or even learning the basics of investing.

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Putting Guardrails on your investments!



Jeffrey H. Massey
Certified Financial Planner™
Massey and Associates

I was interviewed recently on The Rhode Show on Channel 12 to discuss the appropriate level of risk that our investments would be exposed to. Needless to say, the acceptable level of risk is based on your age and the proximity to when you will need the money. That need could be for college tuition, purchasing your home or investment property, or for many, saving for retirement.

As our team specializes in guiding our clients towards their retirement, our focus is to reduce risk versus taking on too much risk. Let's talk about some differences.

If you are younger, chances are you can withstand more volatility in the stock market. Generally speaking, a younger person that is starting to invest in their company's retirement plan, should be more comfortable taking risk as that account is primarily going to support them in their retirement years. Therefore, as a younger person, you should be better able to deal with the ups and downs of the stock market. Obviously, that is not the case for some!

The more important part is that you continue to contribute into your retirement plan with every paycheck. If possible, when the stock market does go down, you should increase your contributions. This allows you to buy more shares at lower prices as the market is going down. Once you see the market having a bad stretch, you should increase your contributions.

There is a simple rule of thumb still taught by the Certified Financial Planner(tm) Board of Standards, it's called the rule of 100. Simply subtract your age from 100 and the result should be the maximum percentage that you should have at risk in the stock market. Again, this is a "rule of thumb" and a good starting point. As an example, let's use an age of 35, so, 100-35=65. This simple rule suggests that a 35-year old would typically have 65% of their money invested in the stock market.

Another example would be someone that is 60 years of age; they would typically have about 40% of their money at risk in the stock market. This is a "rule of thumb" so the actual amount that you put at risk in the market, based on this math, could vary.

You might be wondering what to do with the rest of the money. Our philosophy is to put "guardrails" on the portion that is not invested in the stock market. In this example, many stock brokers might recommend that 40% of your money be invested in bonds or other forms of fixed income. That is the method used by many brokers and has been for decades.

About 3 1/2 years ago, Roger Ibbotson, Professor Emeritus at Yale, led a team of researchers to determine if bonds were still the better option for the 40% in our example. After studying about 90 years of stock market history, it appears that bonds may not be the best place for this money.

Specifically, they addressed the likelihood of interest rates going up in the future. Interest rates have been down since the "great recession" in 2008. The Fed has indicated that they will raise rates if they feel that inflation is getting too heated. The projection as of this writing is that the Fed will raise rates in 2023, however, some think it could be as early as the fourth quarter

of 2022, which is not that far away!

Why would rising interest rates be significant? Historically, as interest rates go up, the market value of bonds goes down. So, when interest rates go up, your bond market value, if you had to sell it, would be less. This was the reason that the Yale report indicated that Fixed Index Annuities (FIAs) might be considered as an alternative to putting money into bonds.

We prefer putting "guardrails" around our clients' portfolio. Would you drive over the Newport bridge if it had no guardrails? I think most of us would not! Having those guardrails in place provides us with comfort as we cross that bridge. We feel that putting "guardrails" in place for your portfolio is also a good idea!

If we assume that interest rates will go up in the not-too-distant future, FIAs allow money to be placed in a protected contract that would not experience a loss if the stock market goes down in value. These contracts allow you to track the market, and there are many different ways to do this without having direct stock market exposure. The trade off for the protection provided by the insurance company is that you will not receive all of the stock market growth; in essence, there is a "cap" or a participation rate that determines the amount of gain you will achieve if the market goes up during your contract year. The protections offered through these contracts are backed by the financial strength and claims paying ability of the insurance carrier.

We like to consider Fixed Index Annuities as the "guardrails" that allow our clients to track the stock market and share in the ups of the stock market without experiencing a loss if the stock market goes down. These contracts are typically for longer periods of time which fit nicely into retirement planning as we hope you will be in retirement for many decades! FIAs allow you to take out a percentage of money each year, after the first anniversary, with no penalty. Surrender charges, or early withdrawal penalties, vary from company to company and typically reduce over the term of the contract. Always ask for details when these contracts are being suggested by your advisor.

We feel that putting "guardrails" around your money is a prudent decision, especially given the length of time that the stock market has been going up. The S&P 500 is up approximately 600% since the low in March of 2009. Prudence suggests protecting some of those gains!

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¹(Roger G. Ibbotson, January 2018) Yale School of Management Fixed Indexed Annuities: Consider the Alternative Zebra Capital Management

²(Standards, 2013) cfp.net Standards of Professional Conduct

"Financial Guardrails" CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR PORTFOLIO

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Apple Guacamole

FAMILY FEATURES

Summer days are often spent with family and friends, soaking in the sun's rays and enjoying outdoor living with warm-weather activities. Complement this year's summertime excitement with food that matches your enthusiasm for the season. Your menu can start with a fruity dip and a salad before diving into steak for the main course and a kid-friendly treat to top it all off. These recipes make the most of what summer has to offer with fresh fruits and veggies, bright and refreshing greens, tender cuts of meat and frozen treats that celebrate those memorable moments together. Find more summer recipe inspiration at Culinary.net.

Dip Up a Good Time

Whether your summer days include planning extravagant meals or your on-the-go lifestyle calls for quick and easy recipes, simple snacks can fit a wide variety of menus. Dips are a perfect solution for afternoon pick-me-ups or evening appetizers when the whole family comes together.

This Apple Guacamole can be made in mere minutes, making it an ideal shareable among loved ones, by combining mashed avocados and seasonings with chopped Granny Smith apple pieces. Visit Culinary.net for more snack ideas.

Apple Guacamole

Recipe adapted from the Meredith Corporation
Prep time: 10 minutes
Servings: 8-10

- 3 ripe avocados, halved and pitted
- 1/2 cup finely chopped Vidalia onion
- 1/2 cup snipped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, juice only

bottled hot pepper sauce, to taste
1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and finely chopped
kosher salt, to taste
tortilla chips

In bowl, use fork to mash avocados, onion, cilantro, lime juice and hot pepper sauce to desired consistency. Stir in apple and season with salt, to taste. Serve with tortilla chips.

A Truly Memorable Summer Menu



Steak Banh Mi

Savor a Bite of Steak

A hearty flavor profile and perfectly prepared, high-quality meat can make a summer meal truly spectacular, especially when paired with fresh veggies in a protein-packed sandwich.

Inspired by Vietnamese tradition, this Steak Banh Mi recipe – which features tender grass-fed flat iron steak, pickled carrots, bright lettuce and crunchy cucumbers – is sure to be a crowd-pleaser at your next summer gathering. Take your taste buds to new heights with Silver Fern Farms natural cuts of 100% grass-fed beef from New Zealand, which is minimally processed with no added growth hormones or antibiotics. There, the animals roam and graze freely over lush green hills and pastures, resulting in lean, flavorful, nutritious meat that tastes just as nature intended. Visit silverfernfarms.com for more inspiration.

Steak Banh Mi

Prep time: 2 hours
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 2

- 10 ounces Silver Fern Farms New Zealand grass-fed beef flat iron steak
- 2 teaspoons hoisin sauce
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon, plus 1/2 cup, rice vinegar, divided
- 1/8 teaspoon five-spice powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 small carrot, cut into matchsticks
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 Vietnamese baguettes or dinner rolls

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 4 Batavia lettuce leaves
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1 Persian cucumber, sliced

Remove steak from packaging and set aside 10 minutes. Once steak reaches room temperature, place steak in deep plate or storage container. In small bowl, combine hoisin sauce, soy sauce, honey, fish sauce, garlic, 1 teaspoon rice vinegar and five-spice powder; pour over steak. Cover and marinate in fridge at least 2 hours, or overnight.

In small pot over medium heat, heat remaining rice vinegar, sugar and salt. Cook and stir until sugar and salt dissolve. Remove from heat and let cool.

Place carrots in deep plate or storage container. Pour cooled pickling liquid over carrots. Set aside to marinate.

Remove steak from marinade and pat dry. Reserve marinade.

Heat oven to 325 F.

Heat heavy-bottomed pan over high heat and add oil. Once oil begins to smoke, add steak. Sear both sides, about 1 minute per side. Lower heat to medium.

Add reserved marinade and water to pan. Cook, covered, 3 minutes, removing lid to flip meat occasionally. Remove lid and let sauce reduce 1 minute, or until slightly thickened.

Transfer steak and sauce to large plate and let rest 10 minutes before slicing.

Toast baguettes in oven 5 minutes. Let cool 5-10 minutes.

Slice baguettes along middle without cutting through.

Slice steak into thin pieces.

Spread mayonnaise on baguettes and add 1-2 lettuce leaves to each. Layer steak on lettuce leaves followed by cilantro, cucumbers and pickled carrots. Slice baguette into two sandwiches.

Go for Satisfying Summer Greens

Many summer meals start with a simple yet satisfying appetizer: salad. This year, make sure you set the table with a bright, delightful bowl of greens that sets the tone for an enjoyable and festive meal with loved ones.

This Apple, Strawberry, Blueberry Salad calls for an array of fruits, including a homemade blueberry dressing, paired with Fresh Express 5-Lettuce Mix for a fresh and flavorful base with pecan halves to add crunch. The salads are thoroughly washed, rinsed and gently dried then sealed in Keep-Crisp bags to maintain freshness. Find more salad inspiration at freshexpress.com.

Apple, Strawberry, Blueberry Salad

Total Time: 30 minutes
Servings: 6

- Blueberry Dressing:
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
 - 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons honey

- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 2 large apples
- 2 packages (6 ounces each) Fresh Express 5-Lettuce Mix
- 1 pint strawberries, cut in half
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1/2 cup pecan halves, toasted
- blueberry dressing

To make blueberry dressing: In blender, process blueberries, balsamic vinegar, honey, lemon juice, olive oil and salt and pepper, to taste, until smooth. Set aside.

To prepare salad: Cut apples into 1/4-inch thick slices. Using 1-1/2-inch diameter star-shaped cutter, cut apple slices into stars.

Place lettuce mix in large bowl; add apples, strawberries and blueberries. Sprinkle with pecans. Before serving, drizzle each salad with blueberry dressing.



Apple, Strawberry, Blueberry Salad

Sweet, Summery Treats

After some fun in the pool and time spent in the sun, a cooling treat is often the perfect way to cap off a summer day. Fresh fruits make those sweet eats even tastier and easier by making dessert in the morning and letting it freeze while you enjoy the warmth outdoors.

These Watermelon Berry Frozen Pops make dessert about as simple as possible by blending watermelon, blueberries, raspberries and honey before adding to ice pop molds and freezing throughout the day. With the addition of refreshing watermelon, you're opting for a flavorful fruit that includes just 80 calories and no fat while providing an excellent source of vitamin C (25%) and higher levels of lycopene (12.7 milligrams per 2-cup serving) – an antioxidant being studied for its role in sun protection – than any other fresh fruit or vegetable.

To find more summertime snacks, meals and treats, visit watermelon.org.

Watermelon Berry Frozen Pops

Servings: 8

- 6 cups watermelon
- 1 cup blueberries, divided
- 1 cup raspberries, divided
- 3 tablespoons honey

In blender, blend watermelon, 1/2 cup blueberries, 1/2 cup raspberries and honey until smooth. Press through fine mesh strainer to remove pulp and seeds.

Fill ice pop molds 3/4 full with liquid. Add remaining whole blueberries and raspberries to molds. Insert sticks and freeze at least 4 hours, or until completely frozen.



Watermelon Berry Frozen Pops

COLLECTIBLES

Two Very Lucky Hindenburg Survivors and an Amazing Artifact

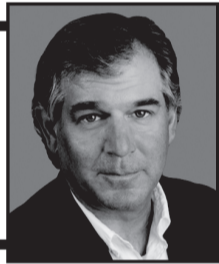


I normally talk about cool early items in my blog, but the other day one of the most amazing artifacts with just as amazing a story came along.

Chief Petty Officer Thomas J. Evans, United States Coast Guard, was stationed at Ocean City N.J. when early on the morning of May 6th, 1937, a message from the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst requested men for active duty for when the Hindenburg arrived at the airbase. The mammoth German dirigible was scheduled to moor at 4pm. Due to a local storm the landing was postponed till 7pm. During this time the big zeppelin cruised to New York city and back. Shortly after 7pm the Hindenburg, with its mooring lines dangling over the sides, edged slowly toward the mooring mast. At 7:21 two explosions were heard, and the Hindenburg erupted into flames. Chief Evans was standing directly underneath the ship as it fell toward the ground. As he ran, trying to escape the falling debris, another man bumped into him, sending him running the length of the ship. As he ran, he could hear the tail section behind him crash to the ground. He sped up and his biggest fear at that moment occurred when part of the superstructure hit his heel taking him to his knee. As he pushed himself up off the ground, he saw a smoldering shiny object directly below that he scooped up as he expected the ship to come crash down on him. Just to his side was the cockpit that saved his life long enough to pivot there as he dashed out from under the crashing ship.



Hindenburg First Officer Captain Albert Sammt



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

Without thought he pocketed his find, and his work detail now became a search and rescue mission. Hours later he stepped off to the side to investigate what he risked his life to obtain. It was a cap insignia from one of the officers. He also acquired a small section of the Hindenburg superstructure and two small stones from the crash site.

So Chief Petty Officer Evans barely escaped being killed by the burning hulk of the Hindenburg and picked up an amazing artifact, but whom might it have belonged to from the crew? Luckily for us, the first officer of the ship, Captain Albert Sammt, left a record in his autobiography and he mentions losing his cap insignia "Once I'd gotten the last of the flames put out, I opened first one eye, and then the other: I could see! Then I reached for my ears: they were still there too. Fortunately, my hat was still sitting on my head, although the insignia on the front had been torn off at

some point during my escape. I had pulled my hat down tightly over my ears, which protected my eyes and ears - otherwise I would have been far more badly burned."

It isn't often that an object comes in with such wonderful history!



Chief Petty Officer Thomas J. Evans

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