

BOND, SCHOOL BOND

\$215M sought for building projects



Early Childhood Center (ECC)

STATUS: New building

LOCATION: May be built on the current site of the Sarah E. Barnes Elementary School

STUDENT BODY: Approximately 359 pre-K through Kindergarten students

PRICE TAG: \$28,600,000

OPENING DATE: Tentatively slated to open in the summer of 2024.



Johnston Elementary School

STATUS: New building

LOCATION: Town property just north of the Johnston High School

STUDENT BODY: 1,100 students in grades 1-4

PRICE TAG: \$84,350,000

OPENING DATE: Tentatively scheduled to open in late summer 2024.



Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School

STATUS: Renovations

LOCATION: Expansion of the current Middle School at 10 Memorial Ave.

STUDENT BODY: 1,066 students in grades 5-8

PRICE TAG: \$39 million

OPENING DATE: Tentatively scheduled to open in late summer of 2025



Johnston High School

STATUS: Renovations

LOCATION: Expansion of the current high school at 345 Cherry Hill Road

STUDENT BODY: Approximately 799 students in grades 9-12

PRICE TAG: \$57 million

OPENING DATE: Tentatively scheduled to open in late summer of 2024.

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston taxpayers will likely go to the ballot box in March to decide whether to fund \$215 million in new school building projects.

The School Committee voted Wednesday night to retain the SLAM Collaborative architectural firm to take them into Stage III of the school construction process.

And following a vote by the Town Council Wednesday night, Johnston will now seek legislation from the Rhode Island General Assembly, which will clear the path to taking a \$215 million bond to the town's voters in a referendum.

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said voters would likely cast their votes on the bond

in a referendum held some time in March.

"This is an exciting time for all of us," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena. "I know \$215 million sounds like a lot, but quite frankly it's not, if you look at the reimbursements."

Polisena urged Town Council and the School Committee to act quickly, in order to snag a favorable reimbursement ratio from the state and favorable interest rates on borrowing.

"We're looking at 56-57 percent reimbursement on the dollar," Polisena said.

The district hopes to build a new Early Childhood Center and a new Elementary School, make major renovations at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School and the Johnston High School.

"This is long overdue," Polisena told the joint session of both local governmental boards. "You know, we're sitting in a building here now, that next year, will be 50 years I graduated from this school."

Town Council and the School Committee held the rare joint session of both boards in the auditorium of the aging high school. Both boards announced the meeting on Monday, just 48 hours prior to the meeting, the minimum amount of lead-time required by law.

The meeting was sparsely attended by the public. Only a handful of auditorium seats were filled. Nobody stood to speak out against the project during the School Committee meeting, which began at 6:15 p.m., and there was no

public comment permitted during the Town Council portion, which started at 7 p.m.

Johnston resident Debbie McCauley arrived late and missed the meeting. She said she had questions, and hoped to speak out against the project before votes were taken.

"I wanted to hear them explain how they're going to pay for it," she said, standing outside the aging high school. "\$215 million is a lot of money. I'm a senior citizen and I have no children."

McCauley entered the school to seek out her Town Council representative.

"I've still got some questions," she said, heading for the door.

The town needs legislation passed in order to take the

bond vote to the people.

"This is great," Polisena said. "I think, I'm sure, our delegation, both our senators and our reps will be glad to put this in. And we're just looking forward to moving ahead and getting reimbursement from the Rhode Island Department of Education."

The construction project would be the town's biggest education facility overhaul in its history.

The town's legal counsel, William J. Conley Jr., was on hand to answer questions on the impending bond issue vote.

"It's supported by legislation that we will request of the General Assemblies as soon as they go into session," Conley explained. "We appreciate having council act

upon this now, so that there is no delay, as soon as the General Assembly goes back into session."

Polisena seemed to be optimistic the state legislature may go back into session early.

"Mr. Conley, if they happen to go back, let's say, in a month, a couple of weeks or so, we can get this passed then also, right?" Polisena asked. "I'm sure our senators and our reps will put this in quickly."

District 5 Town Council Member Robert Civetti sought clarification on the town's debt limit. He suspected seeking legislation for approval would override any potential debt limit hurdles. Conley told him that was correct.

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Rose Magness turns 100 years old this October. She is a resident at the Aime J. Forand retirement home in Johnston. She posed for a photo with her daughter Jewel Bubben. (Submitted photo)

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Panthers dress up for Spirit Week

By JANET CLEMENTS
Student Council
Corresponding Secretary

Spirit Week 2021 is coming up at Johnston High School!

Spirit Week took place this week, Oct. 18-22, leading up to our homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 23.

This year's spirit days were as follows: Monday, Oct. 18, Pattern Day (Seniors: Camo, Juniors: Plaid, Sophomores: Tie Dye, Freshmen: Stripes); Tuesday, Oct. 19, Pirate Day; Wednesday, Oct. 20, Western Day; Thursday, Oct. 21, First Responder Day; Friday, Oct. 22, Blue & White Day.

Every day of that week students in each class dressed up in order to show their school spirit. Members of JHS Student Council visited each homeroom every

morning that week, and tallied up each student who dressed up.

At the end of the day we announced the most spirited class for that day, after all of the homeroom tallies were added up.

On each day of Spirit Week teachers voted for the Best Dressed Student for that day.

One boy and one girl with the best outfits, according to the theme, were chosen and given gift cards for showing the most spirit.

The points classes earned from Spirit Week also go toward the Most Spirited Class Award, which is given out at the end of the year. Each year Student Council tallies up all of the Spirit Days in that school year and takes the class with the most points on a fun trip.

Editor's Note: Members of the Johnston High School Student Council regularly submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.



FLOAT FORCE: It has been a busy and fun-filled week for these members of Johnston High's Class of 2025 who tomorrow will unveil unique and colorful floats like the ones built by students in the Senior, Junior and Sophomore classes. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

JHS celebrates 54th Homecoming

By CHARLENE HOHLMAIER
Senior Class President

This upcoming weekend, on Oct. 23, Johnston Senior High School will be hosting its 54th homecoming anniversary.

Due to COVID stopping us from fulfilling our usual activities for homecoming last year, we plan to make this weekend a phenomenal success!

All four classes have been working hard since the summer to make their floats that will be presented and

judged in the parade.

We will be inviting the 2020 homecoming king, Justin Salvatore, and homecoming queen, Lala Olagundoye, to be a part of the parade and get a sense of what they missed out on last year.

The parade will start at 10 a.m. and the football game will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The following names are candidates for homecoming royalty this year: Joseph Acciaro, Jose Gonzalez, Carlos Monteiro, Ryan Schino, Joseph Vento, Janet Clements, Glorianna Crichlow,

Charlene Hohlmaier, Rileigh Richards and Emily Iannuccilli.

This year's homecoming king and queen will be announced during halftime of the game.

Following the game will be the homecoming dance starting at 8 p.m.

It will be a great weekend for all students and parents, and whoever else comes and supports JHS!

Editor's Note: Members of the Johnston High School Student Council regularly submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.

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Johnston High classes battle each other

By PETE FONTAINE

"Panther Pride" was everywhere inside Mayor Joseph M. Polisen Stadium last Wednesday night during yet another super student success story for the 2021 edition of "Battle of the Classes."

Proud parents and family members, scores of students along with an extraordinary show of support from the Johnston High School faculty led by Principal Dr. Donna Pennacchia made up the audience for what many people concurred was "a specular night of athletic competition" highlighted by unmatched enthusiasm that shined brighter than the arc-light inside the state-of-the-art artificial turf stadium.

"What a show of school spirit!" exclaimed Robert "Bob" Deming, a custodian/field attendant who takes special care of Polisen Stadium. "You could say this is spirit unlimited here tonight."

JHS Science Department Chairperson/long-time organizer Greg Russo said, "This is one of the best nights of the year; it's all about our students."

It was also an event featuring teams of selected students from the classes of 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, who were backed by groups of countless cheering classmates and were decked out in specially designed T-shirts replete with either their names or nicknames on the back.

JHS' unique "Battle of the Classes" is a well-organized special school social event that serves as the official kick-off for "Spirit Week" and features a total of 18 competitions and set of

rules that are all outlined in a printed booklet for members of all teams who, as the cover so aptly reads "must have a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian to participate in the Battle of the Classes."

Last Wednesday night's edition began with the one-mile relay that featured teams of four boys and four girls who were required to complete four laps around the stadium track,

That relay, which was backed the loud sounds of cheers, was only the beginning for events such as the Saran Saran Wrap, Sack Race, Walk the Plank, Hula Madness, Animals on the Run, Ready Steady, Over/Under, Reindeer Run, Eat and Run, Dizzy Izzy, Plunder Pass, Parachute Pop, Tug of War and Attendance of the Classes.

"Attendance counts as an event based on the percentage of the class that attends the battle," Russo explained. "Tickets purchased for family members and friends during school will also count but tickets purchased at the gate will not count and all team members must purchase a ticket."

Russo, who is known for using his on-going creativity for students at his alma mater also makes the "Battle of the Classes" extra special by providing play-by-play commentary throughout each of the 15 uniquely named and designed events.

"I don't think there is an event like this at any other school in the state," was a common cry from the night's spectators, and as Deming stated at night's end: "Then again, there's nothing that comes close to matching Panther Pride!"



JOLTIN' JUNIORS: The Class of 2023's team competed under his slogan "The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory" last Wednesday night. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



FLYING FROSH: The Class of 2025 came up with "We are writing our story" for the "Battle of the Classes" last week.



SUPER SENIORS: These are the Class of 2022 students whose theme was "In this moment now, capture it, remember it" for the Battle of the Classes.



SPECIAL SOPHS: "Improvise, Adapt, Overcome" was the Class of 2024's theme last week.

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Panthers 'more excited than ever' for Homecoming

By PETE FONTAINE

Homecoming! That word, which is featured in oversized Panther blue letters and displayed on a white banner that stretches across the entrance of Johnston High School, says it best about the most unique and unmatched tradition as far as school social and sports events in Rhode Island are concerned.

There's a week full of events entitled "Spirit Week" that began Monday and will continue through Saturday evening with the always fun-filled homecoming dance and this year in keeping with tradition was coordinated and presented the JHS Student Council. This year's council is led by President Rebecca Clements, Vice President Charles Curci, Corresponding Secretary Janet Clements and Recording

Secretary Melanie Capraro. Spirit Week has also included different themes for each day — Pattern Day, Pirate Day, Western Day, First Responders Day, Blue & White Day White Day — and has a competition for the best creative costumes worn by students in all four JHS classes with the results announced at halftime of Saturday's football game vs. Pilgrim High's Patriots.

"Each year we depend on the faculty to vote for their choice of best dressed student during Spirit Week," Russo explained. "The winning student receives a cash prize on behalf of the Student Council."

Yet another terrific treasure of Homecoming is students building their themed floats for Saturday's parade that steps off at 10 a.m. from the JHS parking lot and includes mighty musicians of the

award-winning Marching Panther Band, musicians, spectacular student-decorated floats and countless spectators who will watch what people have through the years called "Johnston's answer to the famed Rose Bowl Parade."

Likewise, JHS Homecoming is known as a "Rite of Fall on Cherry Hill" with the crowning King and Queen that will have been determined by a secret ballot vote.

In the middle of it all is Johnston High School's "Mr. Popular Panther" — a.k.a. Greg Russo — who chairs the JHS Science Department Chair and serves as Student Council Advisor and has again helped coordinate the 2021 chapter of Panther Pride that many people proclaim is a tradition unlike any other throughout the state's school community.

"Everyone is more excited than ever about



CLASSIC CANDIDATES: Students who make up the Homecoming Queen Court are, from left: Clarianna Crichlow, Emily Iannuccilli, Janet Clements, Charlene Hohlmaier and Rileigh Richard. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Homecoming," Russo, who decked out in a spiffy pirate's costume for Tuesday's theme day, offered. "We couldn't have Homecoming last year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This time, everything and everyone is really excited."

Russo also said that the winning float will be announced at halftime of the Panther vs. Patriots contest and on display outside Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Stadium after the parade and football game.

"The Homecoming Dance will be held from 8 to 11 p.m.," Russo said. "And, we're all hoping it will be a victory dance, as well."



PANTHER PIRATES: The 2021 Homecoming King will be selected by a secret ballot. From left: Joe Vento, Ryan Schino, Jose Gonzalez, Joey Acciardo and Carlos Monteiro.



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Weak link in supply chain: Truck companies flat out, if they can find drivers

By JOHN HOWELL

Ryan Roche opened the DL Terminals office in Cranston at 3:30 a.m. Friday to schedule that day's deliveries. He was hoping to leave by 5 o'clock that afternoon knowing that he would be back by 4 a.m. on Saturday. That didn't happen.

DL Terminals is one link in the chain of companies — some only with one truck, some with fleets as large as that operated by UPS — that feed the supply chain, from supermarkets to auto supplies.

Pre-pandemic, Roche was putting in 55-hour weeks. Now it's 70 to 75 hours.

The same is true with other trucking companies as they try to deliver products that are in demand while wondering how they are going to deal with the thousands of containers waiting for transport, not to mention freighters waiting to be offloaded at major ports on the east and west coasts.

Chris Maxwell, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Trucking Association, hasn't seen the issues facing the industry on this scale since he took the job 10 years ago. Demand for trucks, truck drivers and equipment is outstripping supply.

He said in an interview Friday that in the past year, 55,000 truck drivers left the industry nationwide. Overall, he estimated there are 3.5 million to 4 million drivers.

"We're in a crisis of astronomical proportions. There's a mass exodus [of drivers]," he said.

While on a percentage basis 55,000 isn't a huge number — less than 2 percent — Maxwell fears unless the industry takes steps to replenish the ranks, the shortages seen today along with breakdowns in the supply chain will only get worse. Also, as the competition for drivers heats up, he's concerned some companies could relax requirements on drivers. Currently the industry is 60,000 to 100,000 drivers shy of what's needed, he said.

"The [driver] supply chain is not a good formula for safety on roads," he said.

What's causing driver shortages

Maxwell said three factors are contributing to the shortage of drivers — those who "walk out" because of mounting regulations and the hours, because of health reasons, and retirement.

Maxwell said drivers are required not to exceed 14 hours on duty and 11 hours of driving. Once they reach those thresholds, they are to have 10 hours off. Roadside inspections, he said, can result in lost pay for drivers who are paid by the job.

Furthermore, he sees strict driver testing requirements as conflicting with an overall greater acceptance of marijuana use across the nation.

"As we legalize marijuana, it doesn't correlate with the industry," he said.



TERMINAL WHEELHOUSE: Ryan Roche of DL Terminals in Cranston is seen in the company terminal, where he can be found most early morning hours scheduling the day's pickups and deliveries across Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. (Sun Rise photo)

Maxwell doesn't advocate relaxing marijuana restrictions on drivers, but notes they are a deterrent in attracting drivers. However, he does advocate lowering the minimum age requirement for interstate operation of commercial motor vehicles, which is currently 21 years old. As the Safe Drive Act in the U.S. House of Representatives proposes, he endorses lowering the minimum to 18 for applicants who have a minimum of 400 hours of training under the supervision of an experienced driver and satisfy 11 benchmarks.

To bring it home, Maxwell talks of driving a shiny new truck, parking it in front of Central High School and telling seniors they could make \$80,000 driving it. He said kids are interested until they hear they must wait until they're 21.

"We can't afford to lose anyone," Roche said of his drivers. He is operating nine straight and five trailer trucks from the Cranston terminal, mostly in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Mark Greene, who runs Westwood Cartage from the same Cranston location, said the company is "taking one day at a time. Like everyone else, we can't find enough drivers."

Westwood has 50 drivers. Greene said they could use another five to 10. "The company's greatest asset right now is its drivers."

Greene said while the demand for drivers presents problems, "It's nice that the pendulum is kind of swinging back [to the driver]." He is seeing increased driver wages, yet at the same time reluctance on the part of some drivers who made more on unemployment benefits or are simply looking for other forms of work.

Roche said he has been fortunate not to lose drivers, and to retain them he pays close attention to wages and benefits. He and his father kept all their drivers on the payroll during the shutdown and refused to lay off workers who said they could make more on unemployment benefits.

It was especially bleak for a four- to six-week period immediately following the shutdown, and then it started to pick up. He said the company qualified for forgiveness of both Payroll Protection Program loans it received, which has helped.

Depending on what's expected of them — some drivers break down what they are delivering while others simply roll off the freight carried — wages can range from \$25 to \$38 an hour, Roche said.

Truck companies facing shortages, too

He called the volume of freight "incredible," although some customers are getting deliveries of only a single pallet when they usually got six or seven. Because there's no inventory of product, companies are taking what they can get.

"We're having a hard time keeping up. [Freight] comes in waves. It's crazy. This is the busiest it's been in years and years."

DL provides "drop trailers" to some customers. When filled and ready for delivery, the company sends over a tractor to make the pickup.

Roche is also feeling the pinch from the kinks in the supply chain. He said there is a shortage of equipment and parts. He's had problems getting electric powered hand lifts and he won't get delivery on a new truck recently ordered until next September. Fearing the situation won't improve, the company signed lease agreements this week for trucks to be delivered in 2023.

Meanwhile, to his dismay and that of his customers, fuel costs continue to climb. On Friday, he was paying \$3.29 a gallon for diesel compared to \$3.12 the week before. He said the fuel surcharge passed along to the customer is now 28 percent as compared to 11 percent earlier in the year.

Might driverless trucks address the shortage of drivers someday?

Maxwell thinks not. He sees technology as changing the role of the driver,

but because of custody and security reasons, "you're still going to have drivers behind the wheel."

Greene agrees. He sees driver-less trucks on long hauls, but with drivers when it comes to making deliveries.

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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Big role

Calla Fonseca, 12, of Johnston, will play Tiny Tim in this year's Trinity Rep's performances of "A Christmas Carol."

Calla is the daughter of lifelong Johnston residents Lindsay and Mario Fonseca.

The shows will run from Nov. 4 through Jan. 2, with in-person and streaming dates.

For more information, visit trinityrep.com/show/a-christmas-carol-2021.

Fonseca appeared in the play when she was 9 years old, and was cast again this year, as Tiny Tim, at age 12.

The Trinity Rep's "A Christmas Carol," celebrates the novel by Charles Dickens, with original music by Richard Cumming, and directed by Joe Wilson Jr. In-person shows will be held from Nov. 4-Jan. 2, 2022, and streaming performances will be held from Dec. 6-Jan. 16, 2022.

"Rhode Island's family holiday tradition returns!" according to the website. "Reimagined anew every year, this glorious telling of the classic story evokes the magic and hope of the season and its contemporary relevance. Guided by Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, and ultimately inspired by his community, Ebenezer Scrooge embarks on a heartwarming journey toward redemption."

The Trinity Rep theater is located at 201 Washington St., Providence. Reach the ticket office by calling 401-351-4242.

(Submitted photo)



Watch Your MOUTH

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

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P.S. Since the 1950s, engineer and inventor Jun-ichi Nishizawa, creator of electronic inventions such as dental and medical laser technology, has also contributed significantly to fiber-optic communication, internet technology, and the information age.

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Matos, RI Blue Star Moms announce 19th Operation Holiday Cheer

Last week, Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos was joined by Gov. Dan McKee, Sen. Jack Reed, Maj. Gen. Christopher Callahan, Rhode Island Blue Star Moms, elected officials, military leaders, and business leaders to announce the 19th annual Operation Holiday Cheer.

"I know how difficult it is to be away from your loved ones during the holiday season," Matos said. "By working with our Blue Star Moms, we are ensuring that every Rhode Islander that is serving our country out of state or overseas gets a piece of Rhode Island this holiday season. It's a small but meaningful way to thank our active duty service members serving our country this holiday season. I hope you will join me in spreading some holiday cheer to our Rhode Islanders unable to spend the holidays with their loved ones."

This annual event, started by former lieutenant governor Charles Fogarty, calls for volunteers and business leaders to help send a piece of home to our Rhode Island military personnel who will be serving out of state or overseas this holiday season.

As always, organizers need family members and friends to provide their loved ones' names and address to ensure that all Rhode Islanders serving during this time are included. Please send them to Grace Sneesby in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor at (401) 222-2731 or ltgov@ltgov.ri.gov.

Mary Grace Marceau, president of Rhode Island Blue Star Moms,

shared, "As a Blue Star Mother, we don't support just our own child, rather we do for all of the children serving out of state or even out of the country. These boxes represent acknowledgment from all of us here to our Rhode Island active duty soldiers that we are aware of their personal sacrifice of being away from home during the Holidays. We show them we are thinking of and care about them by sending a 'Lil bit of Rhody' tucked inside a box to wherever they may be stationed."

Blue Star Moms need specific items to fill the boxes for our active military personnel. A complete list of items requested and quantities needed can be found at this link: bit.ly/RIOHC21.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all monies raised will go toward the RI Military Relief Fund, which helps active Rhode Island service members in all branches of the United States military: Rhode Island National Guard, Air Force, and Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army and Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, and Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve, Navy and Navy Reserve, and Space Force.

Matos continued, "I want to thank our Operation Holiday Cheer partners: the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross, Rhode Island Blue Star Moms, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 9-1, Rhode Island Military Family Programs, and the United States Postal Service. As well as our cor-

porate sponsors: Amica Mutual Insurance, Adler, Pollock & Sheehan P.C., The Home Depot (Coventry), Duffy & Shanley, Stop & Shop, The Girl Scouts of Northeastern Rhode Island, Saddlebags for Soldiers, Finlay Extracts & Ingredients, and Navigant Credit Union. Your partnership and funding help our military personnel more than you know. Thank you for being so generous in this effort."

Items for military personnel can be dropped off at the Schofield Armory on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. until noon. The Armory is located at 705 New London Ave. in Cranston, directly across from the DMV.

Desired individual or snack size items needed for at least 150 service members are listed below:

Drink mixes: Individual powdered drink mixes, drink mix bottles like MIO

Snacks: Boxed mug cake mixes, Rice Krispies Treats, boxed cookies, boxed crackers, Pringles, Cheeze-It, Cracker Jack, Pepperidge farms Goldfish and Pretzels, other chips and pretzels, fruit snacks, protein bars, granola bars, trail mix, nuts, seeds, and jerky (NO PORK)

Candy: M&M's, Reese's Pieces, Starburst, small candy canes, gum, Cow Tales, Skittles, Mike and Ike, Air Heads, Twizzlers, Tootsie Rolls, Runtz, Werther's, Riesen, Nerds, Jolly Ranchers, gummy candy, and hard candy

*Please NO chocolate except for M&M's, no lollipops or taffy, and nothing homemade.

Moms Mentoring Moms

Spotlight on the role of a RI Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

By JANE FRANCIS
Special to the Sun Rise

More than half of the infants in the country participate in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Programs, and the United States Department of Agriculture is shining a spotlight on the important role of the WIC Program's Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.

In Rhode Island, mom of eight Elaine DeSisto, who is a State of RI licensed International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), has been helping moms breastfeed since 1997, when she started her career as a Peer Counselor for WIC at Westbay Community Action in Warwick.

She now works at Tri-County Community Action in Johnston.

"When I was pregnant with my seventh child, my husband who is a baker, got laid off and someone told me about WIC," DeSisto said. "After my eighth child the coordinator, who knew I had exclusively breastfed each of my babies, asked if I'd be interested in joining a new program where moms who have been successful with breastfeeding can mentor other moms as Peer Counselors and I just blossomed into this job. I love it."

DeSisto trained to become a Certified Lactation Counselor and has earned the highest level of lactation training as an IBCLC.

Not a family tradition

DeSisto is the first in her family to breastfeed.

"My mom formula fed and when I said I was going to breastfeed my first child, my mother was upset as she saw her role as helping to feed the baby diminished," DeSisto said. "But there are so many ways grandparents can support a family — taking the baby after it's fed for walks, changing baby, rocking baby and just loving on mom and helping prepare meals. You know, just being part of the team."

DeSisto said despite grandma's initial fears, having seen eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren happily breastfeed, it's become normalized. She's settled into her role and is comfortable with all the breastfeeding in the family.

As a WIC Peer Counselor, DeSisto is currently supporting 63 pregnant and 58 breastfeeding participants.

"I always give out both my work and personal cell numbers so that moms can connect anytime," DeSisto said. "Sometimes a mom might be in crisis. I've had a dad call at 11:30 at night saying mom and baby are crying and he did not know what to do, so I had him put mom on the phone and we chatted and then we Face Timed to see what was happening. Mom and baby were okay. I just reviewed feeding cues and breastfeeding

management, and reminded mom that baby wakes frequently and it's normal and can be overwhelming."

DeSisto said she's always taken phone calls 24/7, "because I have been there, and some babies are a little more challenging than others. I have lots of stories and experiences to be able to share with our moms."

Virtual instruction

Before the pandemic DeSisto did a lot of home visits with moms. Now it's mostly via phone or video call. Before reaching out to new moms, DeSisto does her research to find out if they are a prenatal mom or breastfeeding mom and what their goals are.

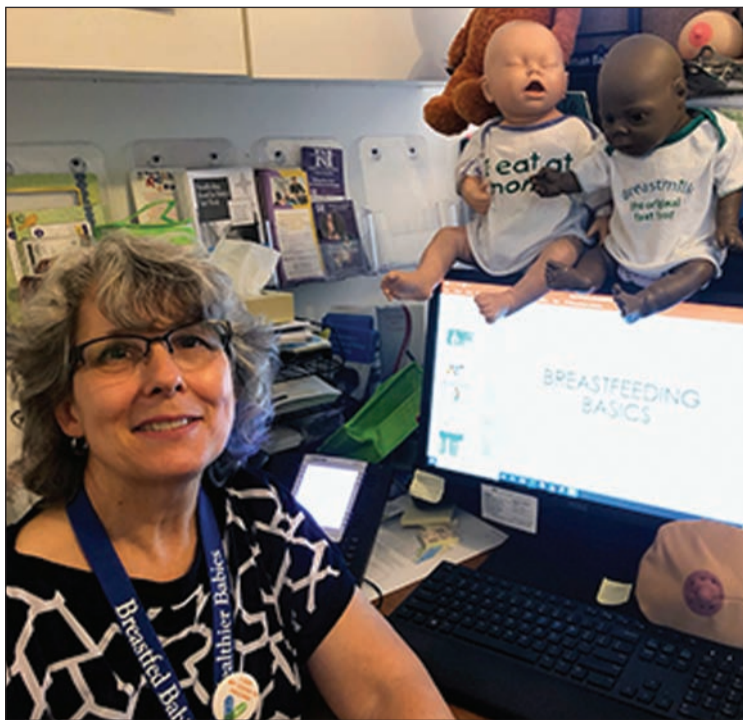
"My job is to educate and empower moms so they can make a better-informed choice on how they want to feed their baby," DeSisto said.

"The Rhode Island WIC Program is fortunate, being such a small state, to have a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor at every WIC Agency," said Ann Barone, WIC Director for Rhode Island. "This level of care and rapport helps support families during stressful moments in the first few weeks after birth. During the pandemic, Rhode Island WIC was able to pivot services to virtual contacts, which kept that same level of support."

"I'm here to support their goals and to find out what I can do to make their life a little easier," DeSisto said. "Their goal might be to breastfeed for three days. I've had moms who intend to breastfeed for a month, then keep going. There are times I'm there simply to listen. With COVID, families are juggling a lot, and I'll stay on the phone with them helping to sort it all out. Sometimes they just need that social connection of speaking with someone."

Dispelling misinformation is another important part of the job, according to DeSisto.

"When you're pregnant you're going to hear all kinds of birth and breastfeeding stories from well-meaning friends and family, and I've also seen a lot of families turning to the internet," said DeSisto. "Some of the information is just wrong. Many hospitals are not doing in-person birth or breastfeeding classes right now, so I direct them to virtual programs out there so they can have safe, accurate information without having to leave their homes. Healthy Babies, Happy Moms, which is a wonderful organization WIC partners with in Rhode Island, offers free virtual support groups that we have been referring our families to. And they have hospital grade breast pumps for moms in need. I had a mom that needed a hospital grade pump right away for her baby with a Cleft Palate, and we were able, through



PROVIDING SUPPORT: Warwick mom Elaine DeSisto, Tri-County Community Action WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, works in Johnston. (Submitted photo)

this partnership, to expedite that resource to her."

WIC has a language line to connect with clients as well.

"I have someone scheduled today who speaks Creole, so we'll have an interpreter on the phone," DeSisto said. "It's a great resource in helping us connect with families and has the added benefit of educating the interpreter as well and helping to normalize breastfeeding."

DeSisto, who trains, mentors and provides guidance to all WIC Peer Counselors in the Rhode Island, credits her colleagues in the WIC Office and her relationship with Pediatricians, Midwives and Obstetricians with successfully serving moms and babies.

"You learn from each other," said DeSisto. "I'm not embarrassed to say I don't know. And I think that's what makes a good Peer Counselor as well, to always be willing to listen and learn and to seek help if you need it."

One mom to another

Her experience has helped her build trust with moms.

"I always tell my moms it never has to be all or nothing," DeSisto said. "It's what works best for you and your baby. You have to be sensitive to a mom's decision to breastfeed or not. You don't know what they've been through. I've had moms living in homeless shelters and in abusive relationships. Breastfeeding might not work right now. There's always more to the story. It's important to be an active listener to really find out what's going on and how you can help. My goal is to make a mom feel she is the best mom in the world and be confident in her ability to care for her baby, regardless of how she

feeds her child."

DeSisto asks open-ended questions to gather more information.

"Some moms are pregnant unexpectedly; some have been trying through multiple miscarriages," DeSisto said. "Who is their support system? I ask if they are working or going to school. I'm trying to get as much information as I can to be sensitive to their individual situations and tailor my breastfeeding education and support to their needs."

DeSisto points out breastfeeding isn't just about nutrition. "While the antibodies in breast milk help babies stay healthier, breastfeeding is such an intimate, personal bond," DeSisto said. "You are snuggled with baby with their little fingers around your hand, and they look up at you and you know you are doing your best to care for and protect them."

"I feel very blessed because I've had so many experiences, not only personally, but through the families I serve as a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor. I'm devoted to these families and make myself available at any time," said DeSisto, giving the example, "I had a mom call when I was on vacation; by the tone in her voice, I knew I had to call her back immediately. She had breastfed her first two babies for three years, but her third baby had a medical issue that caused difficulty with breastfeeding. I assured her that she'd be working with a team of people to get her and baby through this. I got her to manually express and put droplets of breast milk in the baby's mouth and gave tips on positioning baby and pumping. She was an experienced mom in a moment of shock, and we had built that relationship where she knew she could call me

anytime. I always take calls from my moms; my husband is used to it and is very supportive. He's been the biggest champion of my breastfeeding journey."

DeSisto said she is proud to work for a program with the goal of serving families and giving them the very best. "My husband and I always wanted a big family," said DeSisto, "and I feel with each family there's a chance of paying it forward, building a network of mentors from one mom to the next."

WIC and Breastfeeding

A major goal of the WIC Program is to improve the health of infants through breastfeeding; WIC staff encourage and support a mother's individual breastfeeding goals and provide breastfeeding educational materials, counseling and guidance. Research suggests that breastfeeding lowers a baby's risk of certain infections and diseases, including ear infections, asthma, lower respiratory infections, diarrhea and vomiting, childhood obesity, eczema, type 2 diabetes, childhood leukemia or SIDS. Breastfeeding gives babies a healthy start in life. But it's not just good for babies — it's good for mom too. Breastfeeding can help moms recover more quickly from childbirth.

"WIC is a trusted resource with many moms and caregivers turning to WIC for information on feeding their baby, second only to their doctors," said Lizbeth Silbermann, Northeast Regional Administrator for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children — better known as WIC — serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care.

For more information

More information about WIC can be found at www.fns.usda.gov/WIC. In Rhode Island, contact the Department of Health at <https://health.ri.gov> to find out more about WIC services. For WIC breastfeeding resources, visit wicbreastfeeding.fns.usda.gov.

Editor's Note: Jane Francis works in Communications for the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service throughout the Northeast. She can be reached by phone at 617-565-6476, or by email, jane.francis@usda.gov.

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COLLECTIBLES

Historical Art and Objects



Over thirty years ago I became friends with militaria collector and historical artist Don Troiani. I used to go to his studio and study military objects in his collection and model for a painting or two while I was there. It was always interesting to work with him and then see the finished battle scene or figure study. As I got older, I began reproducing clothing and equipment for his models to wear and became more a part of some of the preparation that it took to put out such well researched work. I also began to collect a few of his original figure studies for myself.

Last week I drove to Philadelphia for the opening reception of an exhibition of his work at the Museum of the American Revolution titled "Liberty: Don Troiani's Paintings of the Revolutionary War." I was blown away by how well the museum put together the exhibit. Forty-six of his paintings all in one place with original objects from his study collection on display in cases around the art. I loaned a couple of my paintings but those were paltry compared to some loaned by other collectors.



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

The exhibit is laid out by time frame. It starts with the Boston Massacre and works through the start of the war on April 19, 1775, at Lexington Common and the North Bridge in Concord, and ends with the British surrender after the Battle of Yorktown. While I love his larger paintings, I enjoyed the smaller in-

detail figure studies sprinkled in between. These smaller studies give a more in depth and detailed look at the uniform, arms, and equipment carried by the armies at different times during the war. An exhibit like this helps you visualize what you have read and brings it to life.

There was also a book published to go along with it. It's an exhibit catalog but in hardcover showing all of the paintings, objects, but also includes artists comments that describe some of the research and techniques he used.

The museum itself is spectacular! It is well laid out with absolutely wonderful objects and educational displays. You work your way through the entire war and end in front of an auditorium. Inside is the Washington tent display and presentation that I can't describe. All I can say is go see it.

The Troiani exhibit is up until September 5, 2022. If you are going to be near Philadelphia, stop at the museum and soak it all in. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

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Joel with Don Troiani at the Museum of the American Revolution.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Making the most of an enormous opportunity

There's no easy way to divvy up a \$1 billion pie. There will always be complaints about someone getting a larger piece than someone else, or some getting none at all. However, in terms of problems to have, it's for sure better to argue over how to spend \$1 billion in available money than not have that money at all.

Such is the situation that the General Assembly and Gov. Dan McKee now face as we approach the pivotal decision-making time when it comes to spending the first allocation of American Rescue Plan

• WHERE TO WRITE:
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Warwick, RI 02889
RoryS@RhodyBeat.com

funding, which comes in at around \$1.1 billion.

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi has openly

discussed the conundrum of how to decide who is worthy, and who is more worthy than others, to receive this money, and how much. Hearings at the House and Senate will hopefully shed more light on the most pressing needs within the state, and guide policymakers in their difficult job to assign values to issues associated with human needs and challenges wrought or exacerbated by the pandemic.

McKee has gone a step further to use the investment of ARPA money as a springboard to launch a comprehensive sort of 10-year plan, with the goal of using this once-in-a-century kind of federal stimulus to promote investments that will pay dividends economically and socially down the line. This is the right approach to take, and we're happy to see that kind of forward thinking from our governor.

But the proof will be seen throughout this process. In a state as small as Rhode Island, special interests linked to those with the ability to levy influence will always become an issue when deciding who is more worthy than others to receive dollars. Legislators must resist the urge to pull favors or display favoritism towards causes they care about personally or financially, and defer to the overwhelming consensus of the public. This is too important of an opportunity for egos or agendas to get in the way.

We hope that the people of Rhode Island will take part in these conversations, at the State House or at community meetings for the governor's RI 2030 plan (one of which is coming up on Nov. 2 at CCRI in Warwick). Only through vocal advocacy will there emerge a clear consensus upon which the state can channel this money to create the most possible good, for the most possible people.

We look forward to seeing the results of these conversations and will be watching closely as recommendations for spending become known.



OP-ED

Investing in RI's growing older population

By MAUREEN MAIGRET

As Gov. McKee develops the RI 2030 Plan and he and the legislature consider investing the \$1.1 billion in American Rescue Plan funds, attention must be given to our demographics and the voices and needs of all our residents – young and old and persons of all backgrounds must be heard. The investments made should be informed, equitable and transformational and lead to Building a Better Rhode Island.

As leaders of entities interested in the well-being of our older population, we urge state government leaders to examine the data and listen to our seniors, their families and caregivers. This will inform planning for the types of services and investments needed to support our older population and their wishes to thrive, remain living at home and the community as desired, and access quality facility care when needed.

The state's older population is growing. Currently persons 65+ comprise 17.6% of our residents. In some communities persons age 65+ have already reached 20% and by 2030 persons 65+ will reach 25% (R.I. Office of Healthy Aging.) Like the rest of the state, our older residents have become more diverse. They contribute enormously to the state's social and economic fabric and quality of life. Yet, the data shows more are poorer and face economic insecurity. In 2020,

one out of four older Rhode Islanders had income at or below the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,880. Basic expenses for a single older homeowner in good health and without a mortgage are \$22,188 according to the Elder Index with higher costs for those who rent or have mortgages.

Informed by data and by listening to older persons with whom we work, we ask state leaders to consider the following recommendations as they develop policy and funding plans.

1. Adopt a goal of making the state livable and friendly for all ages. Community features like safe streets with adequate public transportation options, affordable housing and accessible public spaces are good for everyone and serve to stimulate our economy.

2. Provide funding to expand cost-effective programs such as local community senior centers that work to keep older adults healthy, informed and connected, and programs of mutual assistance like local Villages that help older adults to be able to live independently at home.

3. Recognize the value of our caregiver workforce by providing a living wage for long-term service workers. The Administration on Community Living reports almost 70% of persons age 65 today will need some type of long term care – help to live at home or to receive facility care. Long-term care provid-

ers are challenged by the shortage of direct care workers. Addressing the worker shortage by investing in a living wage initiative will help ensure an adequate workforce to meet both current and increasing needs.

4. Target robust outreach efforts to areas with higher percentages of lower-income older adults and higher numbers of persons of color and limited English. Where one lives is a major factor in systemic inequalities for older adults. We need to better inform all residents of the many existing assistance programs and also to learn from them what is important in terms of their needs.

5. Promote and invest in programs such as respite services and caregiver training and improve supports for caregivers of all ages in recognition of their value and the work they do all of which is unpaid.

Rhode Island has an opportunity to make long-lasting improvements in the quality of life for our residents especially those with lower incomes and those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In the long run such investments will Build a Better Rhode Island for all ages.

Now working as an aging policy consultant, Maureen Maigret of Warwick is a former State Representative. Her colleagues, Bill Flynn from the Senior Agenda Coalition of RI and Caroline Gangji from the Village Common of RI, contributed to this commentary.

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Bond

(Continued from page 1)

Polisena repeated his call to act fast. "The interest rates are starting to go up," Polisena said into a microphone while standing in front of the stage. "We want to try to do this, as quickly as possible, so our interest rates aren't crazy. So I'll say a Hail Mary, that the General Assembly goes back early."

Polisena did some quick math. "From what I understand, if we are reimbursed 57 cents on the dollar, I think it's only going to cost us around \$93 million," he told the boards.

Derek Osterman, Director at Colliers Project Leaders, told the School Committee that they're getting a good deal on design services. "The motion before you is the award of design ser-

vices for Stage III, the total amount is in the amount of \$14,666,100," he told the School Committee. "This represents, depending upon which project, between the high sevens and low eight percent of the construction costs... We've seen (architectural services for other school building projects) up as high as 10, or even 12 percent."

He called the percentage ratio "a great value."

District 3 School Committee Member David Santilli has been the town's only elected representative who has expressed concerns publicly. Last month he said the School Committee has had little to no chance to weigh in on project details. Last night, he asked Osterman for more documentation.

"Can we get some documentation as to what you are doing?" He asked. He then told Osterman to "make sure that it's sent to the school de-

partment."

Santilli has clearly stated that he supports the school project, but that he wished the process had been more transparent. He voted with the rest of the School Committee to "approve architectural services for Stage III of the School Construction Project."

Town Council unanimously issued a resolution "supporting and approving the Johnston Public School District's Necessity of School Construction Application to RIDE for Stage II approval." The school district had already submitted Stage II to RIDE, but needed Town Council's stamp of approval, according to DiLullo.

Town Council voted unanimously on a resolution "memorializing the General Assembly to enact Legislation authorizing the Town, with the approval of the qualified electors, to issue bonds and

notes in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifteen Million Dollars (\$215,000,000) for the Purpose of Construction, Additions, Renovation, Improvement, Alteration, Repair Furnishing And Equipping Of Schools and School Facilities."

Early plans drawn up by the SLAM Collaborative call for building the new Johnston Early Childhood Center (ECC) on the current site of the Sarah E. Barnes Elementary School, which will be demolished.

The new ECC will cost an estimated \$28,600,000 and is tentatively slated to open in the summer of 2024.

The plans call for closing and then demolishing or selling all of the town's current elementary schools — Graniteville ECC Annex, Barnes, Brown Avenue, Thornton and Winsor Hill.

The large consolidated, new elementary school will

be built to educate 1,100 students in grades 1-4, and is planned for construction on town property just north of the Johnston High School.

The elementary school will cost an estimated \$84,350,000, and is tentatively scheduled to open in late summer 2024.

The district will likely tackle the new ECC and elementary school first, and then move on to the high school renovation, and then the middle school project, according to DiLullo.

SLAM has proposed more than \$39 million in renovations to the Ferri Middle School and a \$57 million facelift at the high school.

The high school is slated for a late summer 2024 unveiling, and the middle school repairs should be complete by late summer 2025.

The architecture firm, SLAM, made a visual presentation of the plans at a

joint meeting between the Town Council and School Committee last month.

"SLAM, that's a very unusual name," Polisena said Wednesday night. "It's an acronym for something?"

"It is," said a voice in the crowd, a representative from the firm.

"What is it for?" Polisena asked.

"Stecker Labau Arneill McManus," the voice answered.

"Okay," Polisena replied.

Outside the meeting, the mayor's son, Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr., said he expects the bond issue will earn the approval of Johnston voters when they go to the polls.

"I do," he said. "I think people realize the importance of schools in the community, whether you have children in the school system or not. Better schools mean higher property values."

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(401) 351-6618**

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under

Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license and also, if

granted, said license shall also be considered for renewal for the 2021-2022 license term.

Applicant: Meliza E. Ferruolo
Business Name: The Chicken Coop Kitchen and Bar, LLC
d/b/a The Chicken Coop Kitchen and Bar
Location: 1463 Atwood Avenue, Suite E
Johnston, RI 02919
License Type: Class BV Full - Liquor License

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license.

Per Order:
Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

10/22, 10/29/21

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, October 28th, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on October 28, 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:

New Business
File 2021-37 – Petition of John M. Verdecchia, Owner/Applicant for 12 Betsy Williams Circle, AP 59 Lot 206, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance 340 Article III Table of Dimensional Regulations for a proposed addition.

File 2021-38 – Petition of Louise Desimone, Owner/Applicant for 11 Neutaconkanut Road, AP 11 Lots 9, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance to create two undersized lots, and to create a Single Family Dwelling.

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

10/15, 10/22/21

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday November 2nd, 2021;
6:00 P.M.
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 20-44 - Mill Street Apartments - Public Hearing on a proposed conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 634 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 - Property is zoned - PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC

PB 21-47 - Central Avenue Solar/ Residential - A Public Meeting on a Major Land Development Master Plan for a proposed seven lot subdivision and solar field. Located at 1252 to 1260 Central Avenue AP 43 Lots 70 and 95. Property is Zoned R-40. Applicant is Revity Energy.

PB 21-42 - NorthPoint Stonehill - Public Meeting on a Major Land Development Master Plan for a proposed warehouse facility. Located at off of Stonehill Drive between the Home Depot and the BJs AP 44 Lot 66. Property is zoned B-3. Applicant NorthPoint Development.

PB 21-29 - Belknap Farm Drive Extension - Public Meeting on a Master Plan of a proposed 20 lot Major Subdivision. - AP 48 Lots 10 and 232 - Property Zoned - R-40. Applicant: Boulder Farm Development.

PB 21-30 - National Development Group Self-Storage - Public Meeting for a proposed Major Land Development of a self-storage facility. Located at 1357 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 24. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: National Development Group.

PB 21-44 - Hartford Ave Self Storage - Public Meeting for a proposed Major Land Development of a self-storage facility. Located behind 1347 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 81. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: National Development Group.

PB 21-46 - Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to abandon a portion of Rome Avenue, a paper street.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
1. Comprehensive Plan Update

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Planning Board 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 Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston. Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board. Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

10/15, 10/22, 10/29/21

**Office of the Town Clerk
Town of Johnston
1385 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island
02919
(401) 351-6618**

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, §3-5-8 that the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Chapter 5 of the RIGL, shall hold a public hearing at the Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue,

Johnston, RI on Monday November 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following applications for liquor license renewals:

Class A Liquor Store 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Tri Town Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Tri Town Wine & Spirits 39 Putnam Pike
2. Knight's Wine & Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Knights Liquor Warehouse 1450 Hartford Avenue
3. Market Beer Wine Spirits, LLC d/b/a Market Fine Wine & Spirits 11 Commerce Way
4. G & S Liquors, Inc. d/b/a Johnston Fine Wine Beer & Spirits 2951 Hartford Avenue

Class B Limited 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Archangel Michael d/b/a La Nouva Pizzeria 1417 Atwood Avenue
2. Baja's Tex Mex Express, LLC d/b/a Baja's Grill Express 1417 Atwood Avenue

Class BYOB 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Cafe Vino 235 Greenville Avenue

Class BV- Full 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Bishop Hill Tavern 2868 Hartford Avenue
2. Fried Enterprise's, Inc. d/b/a Mr. Biggs Saloon 1463A Atwood Avenue
3. Coliseum Sports Bar & Grille, Inc. d/b/a J.J. Coliseum 23 Greenville Avenue
4. Timberwolf, LLC d/b/a Wings On 5 1463 #F Atwood Avenue
5. Luigi's Gourmet Express, Inc. d/b/a Luigi's Gourmet Express 1359 Hartford Avenue
6. Family Dining Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Uncle Tony's Pizza & Pasta 46 Putnam Pike
7. Fu Ming Chinese Restaurant, Inc. 9 Greenville Avenue
8. Strings Bar & Grill, LLC d/b/a Strings Bar & Grill 183 George Waterman Road
9. Toro Restaurant, LLC d/b/a Cancun Family Mexican Restaurant 175 Putnam Pike
10. Roman Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a Atwood Grill 1413 Atwood Avenue
11. Rosa Mia Ristorante, Inc. d/b/a Silvio's Restaurant & Bar 133 Greenville Avenue
12. HNR, LLC. d/b/a Sura Restaurant 300 George Waterman Road
13. Town Hall Lanes, Inc. d/b/a Town Hall Lanes 1463 Atwood Avenue
14. Emmily's, LLC d/b/a Emmily's Family Style Restaurant 103 Putnam Avenue
15. 101 Bar & Grill, Inc. d/b/a Bar 101 1478 Atwood Avenue
16. TCP Enterprises, LLC d/b/a The Ave Bar & Grill 1428 Hartford Avenue
17. AGZ Enterprises, Inc d/b/a Escada Restaurant and Bar 39 Putnam Avenue #3&4
18. Real's Fine Italian Cuisine Restaurant 79 Putnam Avenue
19. F. Saia Restaurants, LLC. d/b/a Pat's Italian Restaurant 1200 Hartford Avenue
20. Hei Palace, Inc. d/b/a Hei Place 1 Commerce Way
21. Sengduang, LLC

d/b/a Bangkok Republik 1369 Hartford Avenue

Class C- Club 2021-2022 Licenses

22. An-Jon, Inc. d/b/a Johna's 659 Killingly Street
23. KNS, Inc. d/b/a Red Ginger Restaurant 560 Killingly Street
24. Cherry Hill Grille 223 B Greenville Avenue
25. JJ Group, Inc d/b/a Bon Asian Bistro 1386 Atwood Avenue
26. El Paisano Panaderia & Restaurante, LLC d/b/a El Paisano Panaderia & Restaurante 928 Plainfield Street
27. Duffs, LLC d/b/a Dr. Duffs Lost and Found Project 198 Putnam Pike
28. Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill 1386 Atwood Avenue
29. Torre Corp III d/b/a Trattoria Romana 1571 Atwood Avenue
30. J. Palmieri Pizzeria & Ice Cream, Inc d/b/a J. Palmieri Pizzeria 1999 Plainfield Pike
31. Pizzeria Romana Corp d/b/a Pizzeria Romana 1571 Atwood Avenue
32. Brewed Awakenings, Inc 1395 Atwood Avenue
33. Thapa Family, LLC d/b/a The Punjab Indian Cuisine 1565 Plainfield Pike
34. A Center Stage Co, LLC d/b/a The 78 Pub at This Guy's Pizza 80 Greenville Avenue
35. Parsadanyan Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Pizza Palace 1587 Plainfield Pike
36. CW Building, LLC d/b/a Run-Em-Racks, Bar & Grill & Billiards 928 Plainfield Street
37. Copperfield's, Inc d/b/a Copperfield's Bar & Grill 678 Killingly Street

Class D- Club 2021-2022 Licenses

1. ArtJim, LLC d/b/a Dad's Place 1465 Atwood Avenue

Class D- Club 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Willy & Silvia, LLC. d/b/a Club Bebeto 31 Greenville Avenue
2. Maria SS Della Difesa Society 15 Lafayette Street

Class BV Full Extension- Patio 2021-2022 Licenses

1. Bishop Hill Tavern 2868 Hartford Avenue
2. Coliseum Sports Bar & Grille, Inc. d/b/a J.J. Coliseum 23 Greenville Avenue
3. Family Dining Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Uncle Tony's Pizza & Pasta 46 Putnam Avenue
4. An-Jon, Inc d/b/a Johna's 659 Killingly Street
5. Roman Enterprise, Inc d/b/a Atwood Grill 1413 Atwood Avenue
6. Duffs, LLC d/b/a Dr. Duffs Lost and Found Project 198 Putnam Pike

Individuals requesting Interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting date at 351-6618.

Per Order
Robert V. Russo, President
Johnston Town Council

10/15, 10/22/21

ANIMAL TALK
By Karen Kalunian
Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Hillary Gillinder

Meet AJ

AJ has all of the best qualities of a puppy that you can ask for, he's goofy, fun, sweet, playful and loving! He is going to be a big boy as he is a Great Dane/Lab mix. AJ is only six months old so very much a puppy but wants to learn! If you've been looking to adopt a handsome young boy then contact the folks at Rhode Home Rescue to find out how you can meet AJ! Please email them for more information at hillary.rhodehomerescue@gmail.com or visit their website at www.rhodehomerescue.org AJ will be waiting to run right into your heart and home!

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



SUN RISE SCOOPS

Veterans Day recognition ceremony

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. join in for a celebration of veterans, the Marine Corps' birthday, the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the dedication of the New Johnston Hose 1 Volunteer Firefighter's Memorial, hosted by Mayor Joseph Polisena, the town of Johnston and the Parks & Recreation Department at Johnston War Memorial Park. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and refreshments will follow.

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

Just a reminder that Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. are open hours at the Johnston Historical Society. Tour the museum! Tour the Elijah Angell House! Ask all the questions you ever wanted to ask about Johnston history! All are welcome.

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 943-6961 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com. To learn more, visit johnstonhistorical.org or [facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](https://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical).

Charlie's Ghost Party

The Cranston Historical Society will host its annual Charlie's Ghost Party on Friday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sprague Mansion, located at 1352 Cranston St. in Cranston.

Featured will be Jared the Magician and Mentalist, who will provide an all-new show! Card readers will be on hand. Roam the spooky mansion rooms if you dare! A ghostly good time! Light refreshments will be served.

Call (401) 944-9226 to reserve your place or purchase tickets via cranstonhistorical-society.org.

Trunk or Treat

St. Robert's Bellarmine will be holding a Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the church, located at 1804 Atwood Ave. in Johnston. The public is invited to the event with free admission, food, music, games and crafts.

Prizes will be awarded for "Most Creative," "Funniest Costume," "Best Saint Costume" and "Best Decorated Trunk."

If you would like to enter your decorated car, contact Dina Veiga at srbccd2020@gmail.com or Kathleen Rubino at krubino67@comcast.net by Oct. 27.

Youth basketball opens for registration

Youth basketball registrations are now being accepted at the Recreation Department in Johnston. Please visit johnstonrec.com for more information, and to download/print the forms. Forms and payments can be dropped off at the recreation office at Johnston Memorial Park, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Checks and money orders preferred. They do not accept credit card payments. Please remember if a player

is interested in playing travel basketball, they must be registered with the rec program.

Bingo is back

Bingo games have returned to the Johnston Senior Center.

At 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, Johnston Senior Center members can try their luck on the Bingo cards again.

During the pandemic, the games had ceased, and were badly missed. Last week, a successful Dress-Down fundraiser resulted in free Del's Lemonade for participants.

Johnston Senior Center updates

Things are once again in full swing at the Johnston Senior Center. The following is list of classes and activities held daily.

On Mondays, Walk away the Pounds, Aerobics & Boot Camp, Arts & Crafts and Hi Lo Jack.

It is Walk away the Pounds and Bocce on Tuesdays, and on Wednesdays it will be Bocce, Quilting, Zumba and Fit and Strong as well as Hi Lo Jack and Poker.

On Thursdays it is Walk away the Pounds, Bocce, Marg Jong, Yoga and Bingo, and on Fridays it is Line Dancing, Zumba and Bingo.

Co-ed volleyball

The Johnston Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the co-ed middle school volleyball program. It is open to Johnston residents currently in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade. The program will be held at the Johnston High School gymnasium. Participants will meet three times per week for four weeks. For more information, pricing and times/dates, please visit johnston-rec.com.

Outdoor 'Hocus Pocus' screening to benefit blanket drive

Cranston Cares and Emily's Blanket Drive will present a "Movies in the Park" event on Sunday, Oct. 24, starting at 6 p.m. at the Atwood Avenue softball field in Cranston. The movie "Hocus Pocus" will be shown on the big screen. Admission is free, but attendees are asked to bring a blanket donation to help those in need.

Emily's Blanket Drive is organized by Emily Sanita, who was inspired by a conversation with Shawn O'Rourke at the Providence Rescue Mission about the needs and struggles of the state's homeless population. She collected over 200 blankets for those in need and she is continuing her mission with the goal to collect 1,000 blankets. Blankets can also be dropped off at The Thirsty Braver as of Oct. 3.

Confreda's Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is back at Confreda Greenhouses & Farms, located at 2150 Scituate Ave. in Cranston.

This year's festival theme is "Rhode Island Strong." The activities include hayrides,

the Corn MAiZE, the Animal Backyard and Pumpkin Patch.

For full information on the Fall Festival, visit confredas-fallfest.com.

Tomorrow Fund Fantasy Ball

The Tomorrow Fund's 33rd annual Fantasy Ball will take place on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston. All proceeds will benefit The Tomorrow Fund, the only local nonprofit organization that provides daily financial and emotional support to children with cancer and their families who are treated at The Tomorrow Fund Clinic at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Join in for a lavish and magical evening of dinner, dancing, spectacular live and silent auctions featuring getaways, sports memorabilia, artwork, fine wine and so much more. This year's theme, "Arabian Nights" reminds us of just how magical children are. While respecting and keeping in mind everyone's safety and health who will be present at this year's Fantasy Ball, we will be requesting all attendees to either have been vaccinated or have received a negative COVID test result within 72 hours prior to the event. Former and current Tomorrow Fund patients will be in attendance; we would like to keep a safe environment not only for you but for our Tomorrow Fund Children.

Due to advances in treatment, 8 out of 10 children battling cancer will win their fight- but all 10 children and their families need help beyond medical care and for this reason The Tomorrow Fund exists. To date, over 2,000 children and their families have received financial and emotional support from The Tomorrow Fund. Together we can make a better TOMORROW for the children and their families who need our help.

For more information about The Tomorrow Fund and the upcoming Fantasy Ball, contact our office at (401) 444-8811 or visit tomorrow-fund.org.

'Divine Providence' author talk and book signing

The Cranston Public Library welcomes Rhode Island author Joe Broadmeadow to the Central library on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 6:30 p.m. for an author event and book signing. Broadmeadow will discuss his latest book, "Divine Providence: The Mayor, the Mob, and the Man in the Middle," co-authored with Pat Cortellessa.

Broadmeadow retired with the rank of captain from the East Providence Police Department after 20 years. He also worked in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and on special assignment to the FBI Drug Task Force.

He is the author of numerous fiction and nonfiction books. In January 2019, he started JEBWizard Publishing, a hybrid publishing company working with new and emerging authors. By applying the lessons of his

experience in the ever-changing world of publishing, he helps guide authors to their own publishing success. He also writes for two blogs and as a guest columnist for The Providence Journal and Go-LocalProv.com.

This program is free and open to the public and copies of the book will be for sale. Registration is required via cranstonlibrary.org.

Winter Survival Backpack drive for RI's homeless

From now until Sunday, Nov. 7, the Rhode Island Dream Center will be collecting items for its Hope for the Homeless Winter Survival Backpack drive for Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness. This year during Thanksgiving, organizers will be distributing 300-400 backpacks filled with winter essentials for the state's homeless community.

Items needed include winter hats (adult), winter scarves (adult), winter gloves (adult), new socks, full-size body wash, combs, full-size shampoo, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, razors, face masks, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, toothbrushes and body wipes.

Items should be brought to 330 Park Ave. in Cranston by Nov. 7. To learn more, visit ridreamcenter.com.

Did you know?

The largest pumpkin in the United States in 2021 (so far) weighs 2,121.5 pounds, grown by Edwin Pierpont of Jefferson, Maine. The global/worldwide champion largest pumpkin for 2021 is 2,700 pounds (794.5 kg) in Tuscany, Italy, grown by Italian farmer Stefano Cutrupi. (Source: 2021 Pumpkin 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 Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

OBITUARY

Constance A. Tomasetti

TOMASETTI, Constance "Connie" A. (Palleschi), age 80, a lifelong resident of Johnston, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 15, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. She was the wife of the late Leo T. Tomasetti and daughter of the late Luigi and Carmela (Carrazzo) Palleschi.



Mrs. Tomasetti was a graduate of St. Xavier Academy Class of 1957. She was employed as an administrative assistant in the banking industry for Bank of America for many years before retiring. Mrs. Tomasetti was an avid bowler and enjoyed baking, cooking, gardening, and sewing. She was devoted to her family and cherished the many beautiful memories she shared with her grandchildren involving crafts, making meatballs and pies, and the always-present egg biscuits. Known as "Chick" to her adored late husband Leo, she never missed one of his many road races.

Mrs. Tomasetti was the beloved mother of Stephen L. Tomasetti, Sr. of Lincoln, and Julie L. Shekarchi (husband, John) of Jamestown; loving "Nana" of Daniel P. Rooney of Providence, Stephen L. Tomasetti, Jr. (wife, Marissa) of Lincoln, Nicholas S. Tomasetti (wife, Milan) of Lincoln, Samantha G. Shekarchi and Sophia N. Shekarchi, both of Jamestown; and caring youngest sister of the late Louis Palleschi, Estelle Boland, Elaine Palleschi, and Donald Palleschi. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation from 8:30 am -10 am on Friday, October 22, 2021 in the TUCKER-QUINN Funeral Chapel, 643 Putnam Pike (Rt.44) Greenville. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 am at Our Lady of Grace Church, 4 Lafayette St., Johnston. Her burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to Our Lady of Grace Church, 4 Lafayette St., Johnston, RI 02919, will be appreciated.

Kindly visit the Tucker-Quinn Funeral Chapel website for information and online condolences, www.The-QuinnFuneralHome.com.

Obituaries

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

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

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101 PUMPKINS: Middle School Librarian Ashley Wheaton led the inaugural Book Character Pumpkin Contest rollout this year. To set an example, she crafted a Cruella de Vil gourd from the Serena Valentino book "Evil Thing," which focuses an entire book around the villain from Dodie Smith's 1956 novel "The Hundred and One Dalmatians," and the subsequent Disney film adaptation. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Ferri Middle School holds inaugural Book Character Pumpkin Contest

By RORY SCHULER

Not since the Legend of Sleepy Hollow have pumpkins and protagonists been so closely

linked.

Ferri Middle School students have been altering, painting and crafting pumpkins and gourds to look like their favorite book characters.

The creations are on display in the school's library, and awards are expected to be handed out today for "Most Creative," "Crowd Favorite" and "Principal's Pick."

Seventh-grader Juliana Buscemi stood next to her one-eyed pumpkin sculpture inspired by "Wonder," a book by R.J. Palacio.

"I love this book and the movie," she said. "I read it with my mom in the fourth grade and thought it was cool. It's about a boy who was born with a deformity on his face. He doesn't have a lot of friends; he's an outcast. But then he goes to a camp and finds friends who appreciate the true value of friendship."

Seventh-grader Emma Taglianetti turned her pumpkin into a smiling, lazy pooch with big floppy ears, a character from "Lila and Hadley," by au-

thor Kody Keplinger.

"I found this book inspirational," she said, cradling her creation in her arms. "It's about a blind girl who goes to a shelter and finds a dog who hates everybody. They form a bond and they help each other work through their issues."

Eighth-grader Yarielis DeJesus picked a common theme, Harry Potter. At least three projects on display focused on the young wizard in J.K. Rowling's epic series.

"I like how Harry Potter had a lot of troubles and he overcomes them with the help of his friends," DeJesus said, pointing out the pumpkins authentic wand, glasses and hand-crafted Sorting Hat.

Other versions on display featured a separate small white pumpkin portraying Potter's trusty companion snowy owl Hedwig.

Seventh-grader Madison Card picked up her huge pumpkin and held it high. The face was distinctly pale with button eyes.

"I chose 'Coraline,'" she

said while posing for a photo. "I actually liked the movie more than the book because it was more visual and had so much more detail. I like scary things and Coraline is a great character. She's a girl who doesn't listen to her mom. She finds a doorway in her room that leads to another world where her parents are nicer. But they also try to replace her eyes with buttons."

"Coraline" is a dark fantasy children's novella written by British author Neil Gaiman and published in 2002. The 2009 stop-motion animated film was directed by "Nightmare Before Christmas" auteur Henry Selick, and has become a creepy modern classic.

A Nancy Drew Mystery, "The Whispering Statue," written by Carolyn Keene, inspired sixth-grader Chelsea Guy's masterpiece.

"I picked this book because I thought the way the author chose her words was very unique," Guy explained. "I loved the mystery."

One student used a little magic while crafting her made-up melon.

Sixth-grader Valentina Rincon twisted the tale of a children's classic in which pumpkins already played a pivotal role. She chose Cinderella as the inspiration for her pumpkin project.

Rincon painted her Jack-O-Lantern baby blue and dressed the gourd in a flowing matching gown.

"In Cinderella, she was supposed to go to the ball but didn't have transportation," Rincon said. "Her fairy godmother turned a pumpkin into a carriage. So I decided to turn a pumpkin into Cinderella."

Editor's Note: Look for an update on this story, featuring the contest winners, in next week's edition.



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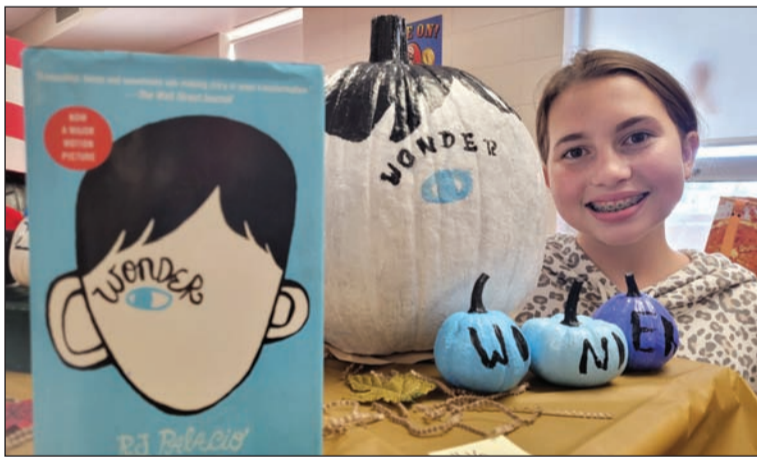


LILA & HADLEY: Seventh-grader Emma Taglianetti turned her pumpkin into a canine character from "Lila and Hadley," by author Kody Keplinger.



GODMOTHER FAIRY: Sixth-grader Valentina Rincon turned a pumpkin into Cinderella.

INSPIRING STORIES: Seventh-grader Juliana Buscemi stood next to her one-eyed pumpkin sculpture inspired by "Wonder," a book by R.J. Palacio.



NO MUGGLES: Eighth-grader Yarielis DeJesus created a Harry Potter pumpkin wearing a handmade Sorting Hat.



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UWM (In-Person Seminars)

945 Reservoir Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910

Thurs. Oct. 28th @ 5:30pm

Wed. Nov. 3rd @ 5:30pm

Fri. Nov. 5th @ 1pm

Mon. Nov. 8th @ 10am

Tues. Nov. 9th @ 5:30pm

Fri. Nov. 12th @ 1pm

Mon. Nov. 15th @ 10am

Fri. Nov. 19th @ 1pm

Sat. Nov. 20th @ 10:30am

Mon. Nov. 22nd @ 10am

Wed. Dec. 1st @ 5:30pm

Fri. Dec. 3rd @ 1pm

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(In-Person Seminars)

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Wed. Oct. 27th @ 10:30am & 2pm

Wed. Nov. 3rd @ 10:30am & 2pm

Wed. Nov. 17th @ 10:30am & 2pm

Wed. Nov. 24th @ 10:30am & 2pm

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FROM THE JOHNSTON LIBRARY Sing the history of music

By JON ANDERSON
Special to the Sun Rise

Music in the 1920s and 30s spread through new technologies, such as network radio and audio recording, that helped make musicians into national or international stars.

Though many listened to the radio, people also heard unique live performances, and whether it was heard in a bar or from across the country, the sounds of music contributed to a rich time of experimentation.

In a new book "The Musical Human," Michael Spitzer writes about how music is basic to human nature, and not just a domain of geniuses who perform for an audience.

There may be a culture with no word for music where dances and songs are so tightly interwoven into the lives of the people they don't think about it.

David Byrne, in "How Music Works," makes an analogous point about the Japanese, who before they had a word for art, made an art form out of daily rituals.

Citing a number of writers, he theorizes that music education has overemphasized appreciation, and strayed from teaching musical skills that can support the development of parts of our brains that do creative problem solving.

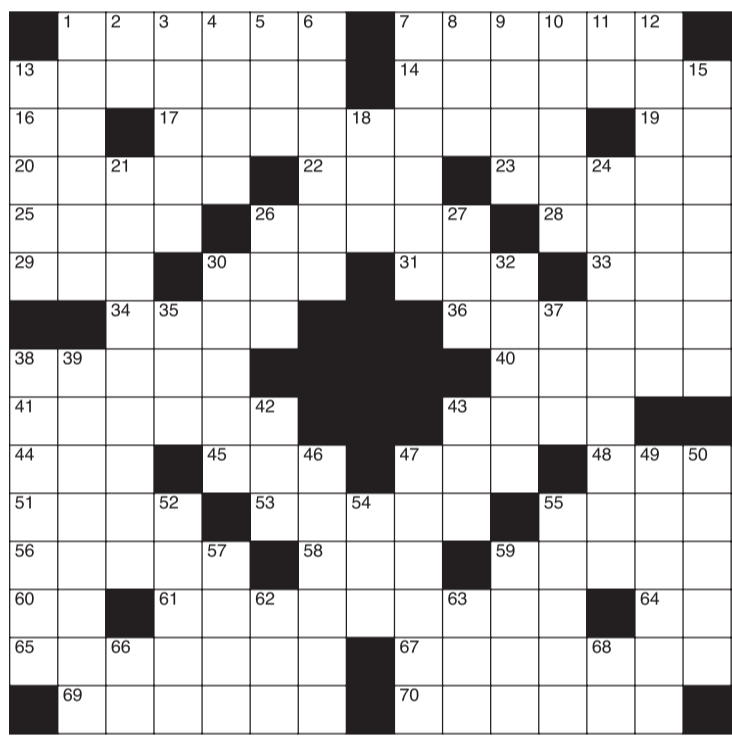
Byrne also feels that with an over-emphasis on the division between musician and listener, we have under-valued popular music, and further alienated ourselves from an important outlet for positive self-expression.

Popular music and its interaction with history continues to be our theme in videos and conversations with Lloyd Kaplan and Tom Shaker at Mohr Library.

As we've heard in the last program, the twenties and thirties were a wild time for the interaction between audience and performer. On Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 6:30, they'll be talking about music of the 30s, including American folk music along with other forms.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Break
7. Ruled Russia
13. Having several lobes
14. Walked around proudly
16. Atomic #77
17. Largest living land animals
19. The Great Lakes State
20. A type of toast
22. Partner to feather
23. Bristlelike
25. Bowfin
26. Distributes
28. Hairlike structure
29. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
30. Where wrestlers work
31. Blood relation
33. A great deal
34. Round Dutch cheese
36. Move further away from
38. Type of wrap
40. Furies
41. Removes from the record
43. Young salmon
44. Feline
45. Skin decor
47. Disfigure
48. They ___

51. Formal term for "on"
53. Weight of precious stones
55. Traveled rapidly
56. Long-winged aquatic bird
58. Prickly husk
59. Expressed pleasure
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Most irritable
64. Virginia
65. Optimistic
67. Humorous works
69. Arranged systematically
70. Emerges

CLUES DOWN

1. Wives of a polygamous man
2. Where hurt ballplayers land
3. Single-celled animal
4. Rhythmic pattern
5. One from Utah
6. A group of seven
7. Refrains from inflicting
8. Light brown
9. Humanistic discipline
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. It says who you are
12. Roundworm
13. Group of Native Americans

15. Makes wider
18. Headgear
21. One who sets others free
24. Form of communication
26. A Brit's mother
27. Title of respect
30. Famed modernist painter
32. One-time province of British India
35. Prosecutors
37. Motor vehicle
38. Non-religious
39. Native Americans of Colorado and Wyoming
42. Pouch
43. Touch gently
46. Chose
47. Actress Tomei
49. Former Broncos coach Dan
50. Icelandic poems
52. More decent
54. Grillmasters use it
55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
57. Expression of annoyance
59. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
62. Consumed
63. Body part
66. Thus
68. Rupee



FAMILY FUN: The Moralet family made sure to bring a blanket to sit on during last week's Boo & View hosted by Garden City Center. Pictured with their parents, Gillian and Randy, are 4-year-old Reese and 6-year-old Sloane.

Boo & View in Garden City

Last week, Garden City Center hosted a family-friendly Halloween movie night, called Boo & View, which included activities for children of all ages and a double feature of the Halloween classics "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas." There were plenty of treats, games and family photo opportunities. (Sun Rise photo by Steve Popiel)

POLICE LOG

BENCH WARRANT

At 4:45 p.m. on Sept. 25, while on a fixed post at 1072 Plainfield St., Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a silver Honda Civic with Rhode Island plates travel past his location east-bound. "It should be noted I did not observe the male operator wearing his seatbelt," Santurri wrote in the police incident report. "I subsequently detained the vehicle in the area of Plainfield Street and Sil-

ver Lake Avenue in the City of Providence."

Santurri made contact with the driver, identified as Ricardo Maldonado, of 435 Gannet Court, Kissimmee, Florida.

A check with the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (RILETS) revealed Maldonado had an active Third District Court bench warrant for failure to appear at an arraignment.

"It should be noted the originating charge was shoplifting from the Cranston Police Department,"

Santurri wrote.

The driver also did not possess a valid driver's license and was issued a notice to appear at Third District Court on Nov. 1, for driving without a license, according to police.

Maldonado was taken into custody and transported back to police headquarters where he was processed and later transported to the ACI Men's Intake Center. He was also issued a Johnston Municipal Court Summons for not wearing his seatbelt, Santurri wrote in the report.

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HEAVY HAULERS: The famous Mack trucks, which date back many moons and were used for big construction jobs, were huge hits for young old alike who took in Sunday's Ocean State Vintage Haulers Fall Round-up. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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Ocean State Vintage Haulers Association presents annual Fall Round-up Show

By PETE FONTAINE

Ron Rossi's famed Christmas Tree Farm, located at 1936 Phenix Ave. in Cranston took on an entirely different look under Sunday's sparkling sunshine.

The decorations however, were not multi-colored lights or items used decorate the gloriously green variety of trees that were all over the 100-acre farm.

Instead, some 60-plus vintage vehicles, like old-time Mack trucks, ageless fire apparatus as well as colorful antique pick-up trucks featuring those once-popular wide white-wall tires were all part of the Ocean State Vintage Haulers Association's annual Fall Round-up Show and multi-food Steak Fry that attracted a near record 160 members.

"What a special setting!" exclaimed Dave Pingitore, a Johnston firefighter who doubles as Local 1950's treasurer. "Great weather, great food and great people ... this is like one-big happy fam-

ily enjoying a step back in time when all these trucks were valuable parts of our landscape."

One of those mighty machines was a 1942 Chain-driven Sterling that belongs to Pingitore's brother Joe, President of Pingitore & Sons Paving and Construction, who serves as president of the unique Ocean State Vintage Haulers.

"This is one of the best (fall) shows we've ever had," said Joe Pingitore, who showed off his family-owned antique fire truck along with a 1942 Chain-Driven Sterling. "We had fantastic attendance today; yesterday (Saturday) almost two dozen members stepped up to set up tables and chairs and the tent."

Meanwhile, as Fran Pingitore — Joe and Dave's sister who is the Children's Adolescent Psychiatric Clinical Nurse/Specialist at Hasbro Children's Hospital — offered: "This is a great family-like event for all members of the (Ocean State) Vintage

Haulers. This day is always special."

And, as Rossi, who is the OSVH long-time vice president offered while loading people into a four-passenger golf cart he usually uses to take visitors around the farm so they can select and tag that perfect Christmas tree, offered: "This is a great day for our club and members."

Rossi also offered hay rides in an open air, one-time wagon that was constantly filled with people of all ages like Karl Russo and his family who enjoyed the old-time mode of travel.

Sunday's Fall Round-up also featured fine foods such as hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage and pepper sandwiches as well as thick, tender sirloin steaks accompanied by beans and salad that were prepared and cooked by the day's volunteer chefs Andrew Rossi and the brothers Pingitore — Jonathan and Dylan — sons of OSVH President Joe Pingitore.

"Today's proceeds will help fund our club through the winter months," said Joe Pingitore. "We didn't do all that well at our spring show (held inside Johnston War Memorial Park) but today was one of our largest turnouts ever and we thank everyone who helped make this special."

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PREXY'S PALS: The Pingitores — siblings Joe, Fran, and Dave — enjoy Sunday's sparkling sun in front of the family owned 1942 Chain-Driven Sterling which was among the more than 60 vintage vehicles on display during Sunday's Ocean State Vintage Haulers Fall Round-up at Ron Rossi's Christmas Tree Farm in Cranston.

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Donna DeLauro
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Many maturing adults have been ready to make a transition from the larger family home to a more simplified lifestyle, but timing has been difficult with limited housing options and health risks due to Covid-19.

Active adults may want to downsize to a smaller one level home with less land, or a condominium. Some may decide to rent rather than own to avoid maintaining property at all, while others wish to move to a warmer climate...with no snow, ice or cold!! Folks needing medical care or assistance with daily activities will look for assisted living communities or extended care options.

Over the last year and a half, the transition opportunities have been a challenge. As a Senior Real Estate Specialist, I have encountered situations where clients have the desire, and need in some cases, to begin their transition process, but it was not safe to do so. For homeowners, many would benefit from a vibrant seller's real estate market with the ability to sell their homes with nice financial returns in a short time but were stifled with suitable housing options due to the lack of available properties to purchase, and few renting options as well. Due to the pandemic health risks, many senior communities had restricted new residents from moving in.

In 2020 R.I. health and safety guidelines warned Realtors and homeowners it was best to avoid having prospective buyers coming through the home, especially for those occupied by a senior, or those with health issues. In a real estate transaction there would be buyers, realtors, inspectors, appraisers, and others needed inside the home to complete the purchase transaction. At that point the transition, in many cases, was put on hold. My best advice was to use the downtime to prepare for the move when it was safe to do so. Go through the years of accumulation in closets and the basement, and start to sort items to sell, give away, and toss leaving just what will be needed for that downsize.

I also advised, as in most senior real estate sales, discussing the upcoming property sale with a financial planner and elder law attorney to prepare for the sale. A well thought out plan will allow for a stress-free transition both financially and physically. Looking at who is currently on the deed, what is the best way to hold title, are there liens on the property, etc. Getting your financial affairs in order can take time, and time seemed to be available for many in 2020 through 2021.

As the vaccine came available, some felt comfortable to start the moving process, and ran into roadblocks with acceptable housing options for their move.

There are signs over the last months the housing market is beginning to relax. With is an increased number of listings for sale, a little longer days on the



market, and extended care communities accepting new incoming resident, perhaps the transition may be easier. I am feeling more optimistic advising clients to go ahead and make that move. A typical sale from list to close may be 60-90 days depending on property location, price, and condition. In many cases if listed now you can close by year's end.

Feeling the chill in the air might be the reminder that the time may be now to make that move before the snow and ice arrive.

I don't usually like to sound alarms, but although there are still more buyers than sellers looking to purchase with historically low interest rates, the shift is inevitable, and the window of opportunity may be closing soon. Consult a professional to start your plan if you haven't already done so.

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Home cleaning hacks for fall



FAMILY FEATURES

Cooler fall temperatures mean you're likely to spend more time indoors. Taking time to spruce up inside and out can make you more comfortable and give you peace of mind that your home is tidy, clean and prepared to weather the months ahead.

Tidy Outdoor Spaces

Before stashing your lawn care equipment, give your home and landscape some end-of-season attention. Use a power washer to clean lawn furniture and store it away from the elements or use covers to protect it. Clean out gutters and remove debris from flower beds to encourage proper drainage.

Check for Repair Projects

Give your home a thorough inspection to identify any problems that need attention before cold weather sets in. Look for concerns like loose shutters or siding, cracked or loose shingles, cracks and gaps around doors and windows that may allow moisture or cold air to creep in. Severe weather and cycles of freezing and thawing can exacerbate these problems, so it's best to make repairs before they result in major damage.

Eliminate Dirt and Dust

Moving indoors, take time to remove any dirt and grime that has accumulated. Wash textiles like curtains and rugs. Wipe down

kitchen and bathroom surfaces with an antibacterial solution. Dust other parts of the house, including blinds, windowsills, baseboards and other hard-to-reach places.

When it comes to vacuuming, make sure to keep floors clean and free of outside dirt all season long with an all-around cleaner that can vacuum and mop simultaneously, like the DEEBOT OZMO T8 AIVI. It provides convenient, efficient, hands-free cleaning you can control via smart home devices. With a built-in HD camera, the AI-powered robot identifies common household obstacles and intelligently determines how to clean around them, while also providing on-demand home monitoring. Complete with laser mapping and navigation technology to scan and map your floors for faster cleaning and fewer missed spots, it is also compatible with an optional, automatic emptying station that allows for up to 30 days of fully maintenance-free cleaning.

Promote Air Quality

In addition to keeping floors clean and allergens under control, there are other steps you can take to promote better air quality while you're spending more time indoors. Scheduling service for your furnace can help ensure it's in good condition before cold weather hits. This is also a good time to replace your air filter and consider a duct cleaning. Take time to clean ceiling fans and reverse the blades so the air circulates but fans don't create a chilling effect.

Swap Seasonal Essentials

A new season brings change, whether it's simply swapping out your wardrobe or gearing up for a busy season of school activities and sports. Make time to put away out-of-season clothes and other

necessities to make room for the things you'll need for the autumn months. Keep only the things you need and store the rest to help keep clutter under control.

Find more tips for efficient fall home maintenance and cleaning at ecovacs.com.

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By JENNIFER COATES

The author L.M. Montgomery once penned the words "I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers!" No one could agree with Montgomery more than longtime florist John Dick. October is a month when it seems as though New England puts on its best show, with all the vibrant colors of fall and that scent in the air that signals that the earth is preparing to rest for a season.

October is also the month when people get in the holiday spirit - especially the delightfully spooky holiday of Halloween! Out come the stalks of hay, the barrels of mums and the bright orange pumpkins. It is a feast for the senses!

John Dick, the owner of Johnston's popular floral shop, Atwood Florist, has expanded his repertoire this fall to help capture the fun and festivities of Halloween. In addition to the beautiful and custom-made floral arrangements that he is so famous for, John has created a "shop within the shop" for all his playful Halloween novelties and decorations.

Visitors to Atwood Florist can find not only his usual display of colorful containers and autumn flowers but now a whimsical selection of novelties. These novelties make the perfect accent to your Halloween parties and your Halloween decorations. There are smoke balls that add just the right amount of spookiness to an eerie monster set-up or zombie display in your yard (these come in three options, including different colors or just smoke). There are boxes of "snaps" to give a little pop to your steps on a dark night!

If you want to end your party with a bang, you can also find an assortment of fireworks such as the Black Magic fountain, among others. With proper supervision,



Come to Atwood Florist on Atwood Avenue to check out their fun assortment of Halloween novelties including these smoke balls, "snaps" and fireworks! Add some SPOOKY to your Halloween displays and parties.

these novelties can make your Halloween get-together unforgettable and the talk of the town.

Of course, you can always depend on John to deliver his signature floral arrangements. Customers can call John with their specific wishes or just visit his florist shop on Atwood Avenue. No matter the occasion, he can create a masterpiece just for you. If you are looking for something a little more "long-lasting" than a floral arrangement, you will also find plenty of live house plants (including the popular "dish gardens" and peace lilies) at the shop. There is really something for everyone here!

Just this month, John also took part in a special program called "Petal it Forward". This is a day when participating florists give away two bouquets of flowers, one for you to keep and the other to give away to a loved one. What a way to spread happiness!

Atwood Florist is located at 1041 Atwood Avenue and can be reached at 401-274-7300. Find them at www.atwoodflorist.com or on Facebook. They are open Mon-Fri from 9:00-5:00pm and Saturday from 9:00-2:00pm. Same day delivery is guaranteed if you call by noon. Call the shop for details!

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Sports



GETTING THE WIN: Joey Acciaro leaps over a defender. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Central pushes Hawks to limit

The Bishop Hendricken football team edged Central 14-8 in a tightly-contested battle on Monday evening to stay undefeated in league play this fall.

The Hawks have not lost a game to a public school in nine seasons and it looked like the visiting Knights were on their way to doing just that with Hendricken trailing with less than two minutes remaining in regulation.

Sure enough, Hendricken quarterback David Lynch marched the offense down the field and led the team to a win with seven seconds remaining.

In the three-plus years that I have been in Rhode Island, a regular topic of conversation is what to do with the Hendricken and La Salle football teams.

As you all know, these two clubs have dominated the state over the past decade and really have been untested, excluding their head to head matchups and the occasional close game against teams like Central, North Kingstown and so on.

Some local fans believe that the Hawks and Rams should not be allowed to face public schools, some believe that they should only face a select few teams, some believe they should not even be in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League at all. I have heard it all at this point.

I have said this before and I will say it now ... there will be a day that a public school breaks through and takes over. When will that be? Who knows. But I promise,

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPENSSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
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RHODYBEAT.COM

at some point, a public school team will do it.

I get it, it has been nine years since it has happened and regardless of how close Monday's game was, Hendricken still got the win. Don't get me wrong, either, it's not like I am rooting against the Hawks. I am just a firm believer that every great run ends at some point.

I understand why people get so outraged with the whole private versus public school debate. I get it, I really do. But at the end of the day, Bishop Hendricken is a Rhode Island school and in my opinion, should be allowed to face other Rhode Island teams and not have to bend over backwards to appease every person with a complaint.

North Kingstown led the Hawks by 14 points at halftime in their game last season. The Skippers also came within arms reach the year before of pulling off the upset. Central had a chance with under a minute left on Monday. Not that the list is very long of times a public school has almost pulled off the upset, but my point is that it

PITCH - PAGE 21

Panthers snap skid with 37-0 win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston football team cruised to a 37-0 win over host Central Falls/Blackstone Valley Prep last week at Macomber Sta-

dium. The Panthers set the tone on both sides of the ball early as they rolled to their fourth win of the season to improve to 4-3 overall.

Quarterback Hunter Remington went 8-for-10 passing for 189 yards

and three touchdown passes. Remington also rushed for a score as well. Joey Acciaro continued to impress in his role this season and hauled in a pair of touchdowns

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 20

Friendly battle

Johnston High School recently held its Battle of the Classes inside Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Stadium. Among the Johnston High School faculty members who helped make last week's annual Battle of the Classes an overwhelming success are, from left: Lou DiMaio, Linda Nixon, Toni Scavitti, Erin Ferraro, Jen Girasole, Matt Neeney, Principal Dr. Donna Pennachia and Ron Lamoureux. For more photos, check out page 21. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)





DROPPING BACK: Johnston quarterback Hunter Remington.



UP THE GUT: Johnston's Steven Finegan picks up some yards.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 19)

while Steven Finegan added another. Remington picked up 64 yards on the ground while Finegan finished with 103 yards receiving. Acciardo recorded 178 all purpose yards.

Ryan Schino led the Panthers on defense, racking up seven total tackles. Remington hauled in an interception for the Panthers on defense. Acciardo added another score when he returned a punt the distance to find the end zone.

The Panthers will next take on Pilgrim when they host the Patriots this Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff.



IN PURSUIT: Johnston's Noah Lavergne hunts down a ball carrier.

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■ Pitch
(Continued from page 19)

will happen at some point. Unfortunately, moving forward for the rest of the state, I am sure that Hendricken is going to bring its best after nearly dropping the game which would have been a potential eliminator for the state championship. Central is one of the best five teams in the state at the moment, and Hendricken took its best shot and got it done.

Hendricken has had a brutal schedule to this point, facing two out of state powerhouse programs and then a team like Central. It's been tough sledding and we've seen Hendricken have more downs than we're used to.

However, the Hawks are now fully back in the Rhode Island portion of their schedule and will shift their entire focus toward winning another state championship. The Hawks will bring their best after the close call on Monday, but believe me when I say that a public school team will get it done.

This all leads me to my next point which I have also harped on in the past, but feel I

need to bring it up again. I really can't stand the state's playoff format in which it has one state championship game and then separate playoff brackets for each division.

The entire point of this system is to essentially allow Hendricken and La Salle to play one another since it has become a borderline given that it will come down to those two anyway, while letting all the other divisions duke it out for a Super Bowl title.

I just hate the system for so many reasons. First off, I don't like how we don't get to see the Hawks and Rams, or whoever makes it to the game, go on an actual playoff run. You want to see a public school team pull off the upset? Then don't eliminate them from getting the chance to. Whoever the Hawks face in the playoffs would be a tough team.

The other thing that I hate about it is that the margin for error is basically zero. With the loss to the Hawks, the Knights are all but eliminated for a chance at the state championship. They lost to South Kingstown as well, but in my opinion, losing two games against top-tier competition shouldn't eliminate you from a chance to make a run. Maybe I am being too nice?

I think the best option is to simply have division Super Bowls and place Hendricken and La Salle in Division I. The twist I would make though would be to switch up the seeding matchups.

Traditionally, the top seed faces the lowest seed, the second seed takes on the second to lowest and so on. Maybe, in this fantasyland scenario, have four teams make the playoffs in Division I and have the first and second seeds face each other with the third and fourth seeds in the other game. Then have the winners battle in the Super Bowl.

I also wouldn't mind an NFL-like format of having six teams with the top two clubs getting byes, or even the bottom two getting byes. I know that that would kind of punish the top teams for playing well, but is that really much more unusual than just selecting two teams to forego the playoffs and take a direct flight to the big game?

Now I am just rambling, but overall, I feel that the current playoff format is a bit messy. Not messy, but imperfect, flawed.

My original point, though, is that although Monday did not give us the answer as to when a public school team will take over, it at least showed that it will happen eventually.

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SUPER STUDENT STAFF: Many, many Johnston High students helped staff the annual and highly-successful Battle of the Classes held inside Mayor Joseph M. Poliseina Stadium. Above, Allison Benoit, Melanie Capraro, Michelina Irons, Ava Waterman and Trinity Blodin enjoy a lighter moment prior to the multi-competition games.



BOB'S BUDDIES: Robert "Bob" Deming, (middle), field attendant/custodian for JHS' state-of-the-art Joseph M. Poliseina Stadium, is joined by Phil Costantini (left) and JLPD Resource Officer/Assistant Football Coach Lou Cotoia during last week's Battle of the Classes.

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Hagopian, Lombardo land 1,000-pound tuna

No Fluke



BY CAPTAIN
DAVE MONTI

Brandon Hagopian and his girlfriend Jenna Lombardo, both of Cranston, caught a 1,000-pound, 124-inch bluefin tuna Sunday, October 17 fishing off Cape Cod.

They caught the tuna not on a large sport fishing boat but on Brandon's 24-foot Cobia center console boat. The fish took seven hours to land.

Jack Hagopian, Brandon's father said, "The bluefin stayed deep and they chased it around most of the time (so the line did not break). They also had to navigate it out of a lobster pot at one point. They were able to harpoon it approximately fifteen feet from the boat."

Congratulations Brandon and Jenna, this is a very nice fish.

Fall fishing is hot

The month of October is a great fishing month. Anglers have a lot of specie choices to target. Striped bass mixed in with bluefish are still running strong, tautog fishing is cranking up, the cod fishing bite off Rhode Island is good, we have bluefin tuna still being caught in Massachusetts and Rhode Island waters. And, the warming water (due to climate change) continues to bring us an abundance of black sea bass.

That's six popular recreational species to target, so get your gear and go fishing while the weather is still mild.

East End Eddie Doherty of Mattapoisett (formerly from Attleboro) said, "The Cape Cod Canal continues to produce fat quality stripers of 30 pounds and more around the clock. Pencils at first light score best as large fish ride the east & west tides back & forth while feasting on huge schools of bunker. Kenny Nevens of Bourne caught a 43-inch striped bass this week on the Canal using a green FishLab lure."

Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, "The striped bass bite along the southern coastal shore of Rhode Island has been very good. Anglers are hooking up with some large fish at Pt. Judith as well as from the estuary jetties and the beaches."

Shore or boat, tautog fishing still a good bet

Tautog fishing continues to be very good. Here's what one expert has to say.

Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle said, "If you are fishing from shore and not getting bites you have to keep moving and try different spots every couple of minutes. You move much more so than fishing from a boat." Boats move as they swing back and forth on anchor due to wind and current. But when you are on shore you are stationary, not moving, so you have to find the fish. Hayes said, "Put that crab in front of the fish, the big mistake many shore anglers make is staying in one spot too long."

"Conventional high/low rigs work best because there is a lot of heavy structure when fishing from shore. Small jigs get tied up more frequently as there are a lot of cracks and crevices for them to fall into compared to convention rigs."

Hayes said, "Some of my favorite places to fish for tautog from shore include Ocean Drive at Brenton Reef, Newport as well as Ft. Wetherill, Ft. Getty and of course Beavertail Point, Jamestown. Black Point in Narragansett is a good spot too."

"From a boat the Bay provides a multitude of places to fish. There's structure all around compared to our sandy beach coastline. Favorite places include Plum Lighthouse next to the Jamestown Bridge, Whale Rock, and structure off Narragansett at the mouth of the Narrow River and ledges off Beavertail Point."

Other good tautog spots include the Coddington Cove jetty in Portsmouth, around Hope Island, General Rock in North Kingstown, Brenton Reef and Seal Ledge area off Newport, the bolder field off Scarborough, Ohio Ledge in the East Passage and any other place there is structure, debris, rock clusters, wrecks, etc.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, false albacore. The bite has been mixed along the southern coastal shore from Westerly to the Sakonnet River with anglers catching bass and blues with some false albacore mixed in as the fish feed on large schools of bait everywhere. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "The striped bass bite along the southern coastal beaches and jetties is very good. Customers are catching fish in the 40-inch range so the fall migration has started. The striper fishing off Block Island is not as good. We are also experiences a good false albacore bite. Customers Sue and Roger Lema caught eight nice false alba-



CATCH OF A LIFETIME: Jenna Lombardo and Brandon Hagopian of Cranston, with the 1,000-pound bluefin tuna they caught off Cape Cod. (Submitted photo)

core this weekend." "The bluefish and striped bass are on the surface in the Bay, just watch for the birds on the surface. Anglers are catching school bass but you never know there are some schools with 20-pound bass in them too," said Ken Landry of Ray's Bait & Tackle, Warwick.

Tautog and cod. Tautog fishing remains very strong and is getting better every day as the weather starts to cool things down as the water has been very warm. I fished off Newport this weekend and did well. Ken Landry of Ray's Bait & Tackle said, "In the Bay and out in front the story is pretty much the same. One day customers are catching shorts and the next day all nice keepers. This happened to a customer who fishing Rocky Point on a regular basis." Angler Charlie Prisco of Warwick and his fishing partner caught four nice keepers with the largest in the low twenty inch range at General Rock in North Kings-

town. "The charter boats have been fishing for tautog off Newport to stay out of some of the high wind and seas we have been getting and they are doing pretty good there. The fish are still in close so Pt. Judith is producing tautog too. With a few cold days this week they may go deeper now," said Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor.

Freshwater fishing continued to be good this week in ponds and waterways stocked with trout by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

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

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Making the rounds with the 101



By ERIN O'BRIEN

If you look closely as you pass the single-story building on Post Road in the shadows of the power lines, you can almost make out the words in faded white paint: "Lewis W. Rounds and Harold L. Rounds."

In the village's heyday, this father and son's humble Apponaug Garage, established in 1915, was the birthplace of the fabled "101," a 1937 Ford coupe, legendary in New England stock car racing history.

The 101's driver, Don Rounds, in his white helmet, goggles, and sporting his customary Hood's Dairy uniform, clocked thousands of miles on dirt racetracks from the early 1950s to the early 1970s, generating a following that has lasted to this day.

Today, the ancient roof of the garage slopes like a horse's back, and a couple of old cars on the property are entombed in ivy. Underneath the faux brick exterior you can see the shops's original wood siding. Three red chairs still sit where they were placed in front of 3081 Post Road, where many a customer waited for his car or visited with the Rounds family.

Yet from this very spot, in a village turned crossroads, emerged a championship race car that contributed to storied New England racing history.

The family name

After Israel Rounds built his garage, and a subsequent misunderstanding, he and his son Lewis weren't on speaking terms. "That's why there were two garages in Apponaug – Israel's in the confines of the hotel, and the other on Post Road," explains Israel's great-grandson, Billy Rounds. Israel's Economy Garage and a three-story hotel stood where Apponaug Color and Hobby Shop is located in one of the village's traffic rotaries. Adds Billy, "My father, Harold, remembers visiting his grandfather's shop."

"Part English and part Swamp Yankee," both Billy and his cousin Don Rounds Jr., describe their family's heritage. The Rounds name, of English extraction, has its roots in Middle English and Old French, from the Latin "rota," or wheel, the early version of the Rounds surname denoting either a rotund person, or in the Rounds family's case, a wheelwright, builder of wooden wagon wheels.



↑ Harold Rounds, family friend "Big Wayne" Voelker, and Lewis Rounds with the historic 101 at the Apponaug Garage on Post Road.

↗ Souvenirs such as small plastic cars and this collectible Don Rounds button were available for purchase at the races.

Right: Recalling those glory days Don Rounds revisited his old race car with his brother and fellow mechanic, Harold Rounds, at "Race-A-Rama" in Springfield, Massachusetts. →



101
(Continued from page 23)

Wheels would figure prominently in the Rounds family for generations. (A little family lore: a variation of the Rounds name drops the S, the result of a family disagreement; "some silly Swamp Yankee thing," Billy shrugs. You'll find the "Round" name on a cousin's auto garage in North Scituate.)

At the races

Brothers Harold and Don Rounds returned home to Warwick in 1948 after serving overseas in the U.S. Navy. Together with their father, Lewis, they set to work building a race car in the Apponaug Garage. Emblazoned with their sponsor's name - "IGA Market," which was located on the site of the present day Walgreen's - the 101 was built during the winter of 1950, in anticipation of the 1951 racing season. That year, Don won the Waterford Speedbowl in Connecticut, his first feature race.

"Back then," as Ted Rounds describes, "there was no 95 freeway, only main roads: Route 101 and Route 6, windy, hilly roads. It was a Herculean effort to get a car to the racetrack."

Enter Lewis Rounds and the family car, a 1956 Mercury Montclair.

"In the early days, races were held at old horse tracks, at the fairgrounds. They weren't built exclusively for car racing," Billy points out.

New England Auto Racing Hall of Fame inductee Bob Silvia muses, "We must be thankful for horses!" The New England racing historian continues, "The first oval racetrack in the U.S. was built in 1896, Narragansett Park, a horse track in Cranston." He smiles at the memory of experiencing his first visit as a small child. "The earthen embankment, the bleachers, turn one in the original track - I felt the energy!"

Silvia's business card features a photo of Rhode Island's Lonsdale Sports Arena, which was built primarily for racing. "It regularly drew crowds of 20,000 to 30,000 fans, especially during the stock car era."

His basement collection bursting at the seams, Silvia and co-founder Ric Marisacal created the Pronyne Motorsports Museum, "New England's only auto racing museum." Located in Pawtucket, the 7,400-square-foot space is dedicated to a collection of vintage racing cars and the preservation of racing memorabilia of all kinds. Even in tiny Rhode Island, "There was a lot of talent here."

Among Silvia's racing collection are several photos of Don Rounds and the famous 101. While writing for a racing magazine, Silvia borrowed Don's personal photographs for his article. Silvia took the original photos to CVS to have them duplicated, when he walked by a Ford pickup, the truck bed and back seat full of tools. There was only room inside for the driver. Upon entering the store, he saw Don himself. "Is that your car?!" he exclaimed.

Silvia first watched Don Rounds race in the late 1960s in Lakeville, Massachusetts. "It was quite the place. There were no guardrails, only haystacks. It was rustic, low-key - Swamp Yankee."

He continued to follow Don's career for years.

Built to win

"My father was in the Sportman's Division," says Ted.

Don Jr. adds, "The Modified Division cars were faster, with bigger engines. At a feature, it could be a mixed race. Eventually, the Modified Division was eliminated."

"No one had a mirror!" interjects Ted, "You didn't know if someone was coming up behind you."

"They were illegal at a lot of races," Don Jr. explains.

"The newer version of the 101 was built for the 1964 racing season," Ted says. Grandfather Lewis had been cautious, with steel up front for the radiator up high. His son Don stripped it down for weight and lowered it to make the 101 more competitive. "They bumped heads a lot," Ted admits.

"My dad went to the Father & Son [Café] every morning for breakfast for years." Its former spot is the corner of Pawtucket Credit Union parking lot on Post Road in the Apponaug traffic circle. The new version of the 101 bore the diner's name on the passenger side door, easily visible to fans in the grandstands.

"Scott's Oil Service" was hand-painted on Don's driver's side door.

"George Scott worked at the Post Office in Apponaug," Billy says, as he shares another anecdote. "The Apponaug Garage had a contract with the Post Office; oil changes, towing, repairing, and painting," by Lewis. Billy points out with a chuckle, "United States Post Office Blue and White are on the 101!" Why "Bluebird Jr." is painted on the passenger door remains a mystery.

Lewis looked at the 101 through the lens of restoration. "A driver usually entered via window, but the 101 had a full door," Billy and Ted corroborate. Don's leather belt through the window secured it afterwards.

According to Billy, for any welding, it was done from the inside, so the seams would still show, for a cleaner look. "Lewis could never step away from the restoration part."

Billy shares more details about the 101: "Don left the full radio face in it. Lewis came up with the idea to flip up one side of the windshield to clean it. He was very resourceful! There was a screen in front of the radiator to prevent dirt from clogging it."



BRINGING 101 HOME: Inspired by the stories of Don Rounds, Jeff Goldstein tracked down the car he raced and brought it home to Warwick.



A DEVOTEE OF HISTORY: Bob Silvia, an inductee of the New England Auto Racing Hall of Fame helped find the car.

The family car

"He always had two races," says Billy of his Uncle Don, "one to get to the track, and then the race. He wouldn't get there until ten minutes before the race!"

"My Uncle Harold did the towing, and Leon usually picked my father up at Hood's and drove him," Don Jr. recounts. Grandma Idella rode along in Harold's Mercury Montclair, attending all the races.

A day at the races was truly a family affair. Ted Rounds, Don Jr.'s brother, fondly remembers a trip to West Lebanon, New York. "Five of us piled in the back of a station wagon - in 1965, maybe, I was 6 years old - on a Saturday night, with my cousins, coming home at 3 o'clock in the morning..." His voice trails off at the memory.

Don's sister Elaine knitted her father Lewis a thick gold sweater with an image of the 101 on the back to wear at the races. "'Uncle Frenchy,' Leo Meunier, did all the welding," Billy adds. Family friend "Big Wayne" Voelker provided ground support at every race, as a one-man pit crew.

The man behind the wheel

In 2001, Don Rounds was inducted into the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame, but his legacy extends far beyond racing.

He was a man among men, both on and off the track. United States Navy veteran, son, brother husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Don influenced people he never knew. Tributes poured in at his passing in 2019.

At his home, Ted Rounds, whose license plate reads ROUNDS, gingerly opens an envelope, postmarked "Florida," unfolding a letter penned on several sheets of a narrow writing tablet. "My father touched a lot of people," he says thoughtfully, "more than we knew."

"In the 1950s I was a very poor kid with virtually no solid men in my family.

I was lucky, however, to have one very

nice man who would take me to the races if I mowed his lawn and kept the race car shop clean.

In 1957 or 1958 we went to Stateline Speedway in Burlington, Vermont. I saw a really good race where a beautiful blue coupe, #101 Father and Sons Special led the race for the second half of the 50 lap race. On the last turn another lapped car hit a hole and locked onto the 101. Steve Danish passed Don and I think Don wound up about 8th.

After the race the other driver came over and apologized. Although very upset Don said, "I know you hit a hole but you should have slowed. But there is always next week. See you later."

The other driver went on to be a national champ - and I - as "corny" as it sounds, decided I wanted to be a real man just like Don Rounds. I never got in trouble again - won scholarships and TAUGHT for 37 years.

Years later I saw one of the "101s" in a dirt museum. I just stood there and thought about how smart I was at 12 years old wanting to be like MISTER Don Rounds.

I will never forget him."

The letter was signed, "Orson P. Griffiths."

A homecoming

As Ted tells it, Lewis and Harold sold the 101 in 1974 to a woman in Connecticut who, as a 10-year-old, once told her dad, "I'm going to buy that car!" And she did. Racing enthusiast turned owner, she was a carefully possessive caretaker, keeping it in her garage for eight years.

It changed hands to Jim Banks from Chelsea, New York, in 1982. "Chelsea is about as big as Apponaug. He was the best caretaker of the car," Billy says decisively. "He'd been looking for it, chassed it down, and bought it."

In 1990, Banks asked Don to be the pace car driver in his old 101 at a Lebanon Valley race. "Forty cars behind him - it was amazing," recalls Ted with a grin. "Afterwards he was bombarded with questions!" Jim owned the 101 for about 20 years.

It finally ended up elsewhere in New York, in the possession of Mel Ogden in 1992. Mel showed up in Apponaug one day, found a gas station to ask directions, and was directed to the Apponaug Garage, Don Jr. relates.

"It had been 16 years since the family had seen the 101, at the Springfield, Massachusetts Fair," Ted shares.

In 2014, then-owner Ogden "set up a racetrack outside his yard, a huge farm," for Don to take the 101 for a spin, Ted remembers.

"Mike and I couldn't rub two dimes together," their cousin Billy says wistfully of his and his brother's wish. "I always wanted to buy it."

Jeff Goldstein and Billy Rounds paths had crossed several times, even before realizing they shared a local bicycle shop in common. One day, over a few beers and talk about cars, "Billy's stories were punctuated by stories of the 101," Jeff says. As Billy extolled the virtues of "My Uncle Don," and described how "My grandpa built that car," and recalled attending the races as a child, Jeff grew more and more curious.

"What ever happened to the 101?" he asked Billy. Sadly, he revealed it had been sold, and belonged to a man in New York.

Jeff gently pried for the current owner's name: Mel Ogden.



↑ The faithful 1956 Mercury Montclair towed the 101 to its races. Idella Rounds, Lewis's mother, seen through the passenger side window, always attended the races.

Wheels of all kinds figured prominently in the Rounds family. A young Billy Rounds tows his father Harold around in his own set of wheels in 1954. ↓



↑ Israel Rounds, an unidentified woman, and 16-year-old Lewis Rounds at Apponaug's Economy Garage around 1920.

101
(Continued from page 24)

"The Rounds family is a very close family, and the car was a unifying piece in their lives," observes Jeff. "I love local history," he continues, "and automobiles – local automobile history!"

"I Googled Mel on a whim, and found him, a collector of vintage race cars." Jeff placed a cold call, and Mel answered the phone.

Jeff: I'm from Rhode Island. I understand you have the 101.

Mel: Yes ...

Jeff: What are your plans?

Mel: I'm 86 ... I'd like to see it go back to Warwick, Rhode Island.

Jeff: I'd like to come this weekend with my trailer.

"I didn't even tell Billy. I called him and

told him, 'I have a surprise. Come to the garage.' I told him to close his eyes and walk with me ..."

"How did you do that?!" Billy cried when he opened his eyes, slapping his hands on his legs. "How did you do that?!" Jeff remembers the look in his eyes.

"Every day for the following week he wanted to polish and clean the car with me. We got it to run. All his friends pitched in." As a footnote, Jeff adds, "Billy knew who painted the ads on the car."

"I had no idea how much this car meant – or how big the family was!" Jeff laughs. "Every now and then I get a call; 'Do you have the 101 here?' (Or a little girl: 'Do you have my grandpa's car?')"

Ted came bearing the history of the car, in "snapshots of dirt races, trophies," and other memorabilia. "I thanked him profusely, and put them on display.

Then Don Jr. arrived with more, "photo al-

bums of the family through the generations, including Grandpa building the car."

Part of the community

"The Apponaug Old Timers Association meets once a month. There are no minutes, and no dues. It's about 60 guys who either grew up in Apponaug or had businesses here, including the Coutu family, owners of the old Father & Son [Café]. They meet at the Firemen's Hall in East Greenwich," Jeff paused, and ended with, "Billy said, 'You're invited – but bring the 101!'"

Jeff arrived early for the meeting, parking the 101 in such a way that one had to walk completely around it to enter the building. Imagine the looks on the Apponaug Old Timers' faces, and the expressions of the Coutu family members remembering the "valuable advertising" as Jeff calls it, of their neighborhood restaurant!

Over 70 years later, the 101, born in an auto garage in Warwick's Apponaug Village, and traversing many miles, has found its way back home to Warwick.



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