Vol. 24, Number 49 · 24 Pages

COMPLIMENTARY

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Now, look for the

paper on **Thursdays** each week.

Board alleges 'misconduct' by ex-member

Santilli faces potential **School** Committeesanctioned investigation

By RORY SCHULER

A recently resigned School Committee member faces "allegations of misconduct." The accusers are his

former fellow School Committee members.

What kind of miscon-

That's a public mys-

The School Committee Chairman, the Committee's legal counsel and the superintendent all refuse to comment.

David Santilli resigned his seat on the School Committee last month. He didn't say why publicly. His resignation letter was a single line.

Following a failed special School Committee meeting Tuesday night, Santilli spoke in a brief interview through his attorney J. Dixon-Acosta.

■ SANTILLI - PAGE 11



IN THE AUDIENCE: On Tuesday, now former School Committee member David Santilli, at right, sat quietly behind his attorney, J. Dixon-Acosta. The School Committee may vote to hire an attorney to investigate "allegations of misconduct" against Santilli. School officials will not elaborate on the allegations and Santilli's lawyer said he and his client are "in the dark." (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

\$215 million school bond vote likely delayed to April

By RORY SCHULER

The vote to fund a massive school building project in Johnston will be held at least one month later than previously expected.

As the Johnston School District moves into Phase III of a total townwide school facility overhaul, the voters will ultimately decide whether tax

dollars will fund the \$215 million proj-

Once the state legislature approves a bond referendum, the town can hold a vote 60 days later.

"I think April ... that's tentatively where it will be," Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said Tuesday night. "So because the Legislature is not in full session it got

a little delayed in terms of being heard on the floor. So I don't think it's going to go onto the floor until possibly next week. And you need 60 days in between passing the legislature and the vote.'

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

School and the Johnston High School, if voters approve bond funding.

The School Committee was expected to vote Tuesday night to "authorize Colliers International to draft an RFP and go out to bid for Construction Manager at Risk for the school construction projects approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education."

BOND - PAGE 6



FREE TESTS: Left to right, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, Town Council Vice-President Joseph Polisena Jr. and Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee passsed out take-home Covid test kits at Johnston High on Saturday. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Thousands of Covid take-home test kits distributed in Johnston

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston's COVID-19 take home test supply has finally matched the town's recently soaring demand.

Town officials gathered Saturday morning in the Johnston High School parking lot to distribute thousands of

"It was very well organized," Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said Monday. "We gave out around 7,000 tests. We had three lanes, with three different points of distribution. Today we dropped more tests off at

Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee met Polisena in the parking lot Saturday morning to help hand out tests.

Although the mercury only crept up to about 16 degrees, and the wind chill made it feel at least 10 degrees colder, McKee stuck around for the entire two-hour test

TESTS - PAGE 5

Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, January 27, 2022

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SPECIAL SITE: This is the statute of La Madonna del Bosco – patron saint of the Pannese Society – that Joseph Spremulli had refurbished and on behalf of the Italian-American non-profit and had it presented to its home at Our lady of Grace Church in Johnston. (*Photos courtesy Ron Cece*)

Joe Spremulli is a GOOD MAN!

By PETE FONTAINE

It was perhaps Rev. Peter J. Gower, the popular pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston, who best characterized Joseph "Joe" Spremulli during the recent tribute that included a host of dignitaries and members of Rhode Island's foremost Italian-American non-profit organizations.

"I have been called upon to share some input on Joe Spremulli," Father Gower began. "The first thing that comes to my mind is a good man. Now, in our day it is the habit of many to inflate or exaggerate the qualities of a person to the point where you can barely recognize who they are talking about."

Thus, sincerity and special meaning ringing in his voice, Father Gower sternly stated: "But I am not doing that — Joe Spremulli is a GOOD MAN!"

After which the long-serving pastor, who has implanted many ways to bring the highly-active OLG community together for religious worshiping and unique social events, queried: "Now, you may wonder how I can make such a statement; how I can say with certainty that Joseph Spremulli is a Good Man? I say it because of his love for his church, his wife, his family and his heritage."

Father Gower also related about how he came to witness this when Joe Spremulli continue to give of himself — tirelessly — to help anyone in need and how he would go out of his way to respond when "asked for assistance of any kind."

Although Spremulli has many unmatched contributions for his fellow man, church and community, one thing in particular was apparent from when he reorganized the Pannese Society of Rhode Island — which was actually founded in 1909 — back in 2013.

Spremulli, who is known for his deep dedication to the patron saint "La Madonna Del Bosco of Panni," discovered that a statute built in the early 1900s that came from Italy and had been inside Holy Ghost Church on Federal Hill, was found in a nearby garage and in dire need of restoration and refurbishing.

Thus, Spremulli went to work and enlisted the services of fellow Italo-Americans and soon the statue was looking like new and he called Father Gower to arrange a heart-felt donation and rededication of the patron saint statute at Our Lady of Grace Church where "LaMadonna Del Bosco" has been housed ever since.

Enter Louis Spremulli, Joe's son who was one of five reorganizing Pannesse Society members, who explained that La Madonna del Bosco means "The Mother of the Woods."

After which Father Gower emphasized: "Joe Spremulli was one of the man who worked nonstop to provide for his family, to help the church, provide for the needy and support the Pannese Society. So, you want to know why I can say with certainty he was a good man? Because Joe always put himself aside to work for others, most especially those in need, i.e., the hungry, the homeless, the less fortunate."

Father Gower then suggested, with a special smile on his face: "Ask his friends, ask the many people who knew him if he was a good man. Ask the people who passed him just in inside (OLG) each week as they came into the church, never complaining though he was in much more pain that most; ask the owns who were inspired by his selflessness and hope for others. Ask members of the Pannese Society; ask them if he was a good man and they will answer with a resounding YES!"

The OLG pastor when paused while still recanting the countless contributions of the iconic parishioner saying: "I have witnessed first-hand this Good Man in action. He would be in my office often always looking for ways to help with his time, talent and treasure."

Pannese Society honors Joe Spremulli

By PETE FONTAINE

The Pannese Society of Rhode Island honored a living legend, a marvelous and mighty man, who at a sold out event inside Tomaselli's at the famed Rosario Club, people proclaimed is "Not Your Average Joe!"

Few people, in fact, have done more to promote and perpetuate the club's Italian-American heritage than Joseph "Joe" Spremulli, who founded the Pannese Society's Rhode Island chapter back in 2013 and will reach a mighty milestone on Feb. 2 when he turns 90 years young.

"Everyone learned lessons — and listened with our ears always wide open – when Joe spoke or presented an idea to have a special fundraiser to help people in need as well as put food on their family tables," said David Venditelli. "Everyone loves Joe; he was my mentor and I am extremely proud to be his immediate suc-

Venditelli, who is the current Pannese Society president, along with his fellow officers and members organized and hosted an appreciation dinner that attracted a sellout cow of more than 150 people and featured 10 special speakers, a special prayer from Monsignor Montecalvo and was emceed by WPRI-TV personality Mike Montecalvo. The event paid tribute to the highly-respected Johnston resident who was born in 1932 and grew up on Providence's Federal Hill.

"Today we are honoring Joe for his strong dedication to our Italian heritage," offered Lou Mansolillo, who has been by Spremuli's side throughout a number of highly successful fund-raising and food events for the Pannese Society, which was founded back in 1909 and reorganized in 2013. "Joe is indeed the epitome of a role

model and proud Italian-American citizen."

During his time as Pannese president Spremulli's efforts have resulted in several outstanding achievements such as establishment of a sister city relationship between Panni, Italy and Johnston; fundraising for local charities and, of course, the

incredibly successful student program.

The student exchange program, in fact, was also bolstered by Joe's son Louis Spremulli, who made four pilgrimages to Panni, Italy with other Pannese Society members and set in stone the educational experiences for students that was relived, in part, when the tiny Italian town's Mayor Amadeo DeCotis — who sent special congratulations that was read during the dinner — visited Johnston to sign the Sister City pact with Mayor Joseph Polisena.

Polisena, in fact, held a standing room only press conference with Rhode Island's top elected officials to welcome DeCotis for the special signing of the Sister City agreement that came to being from Joe Spremulli's love for his late father Luigi Spremulli's native land and of course his Italian heritage.

Amid some of the conversation dinner-goers enjoyed was what Joe Spremulli did

"Some of Dad's passions other than the Pannese Society was talking about his

ob in public property for the city of Providence when he worked for former Major Joseph Paolino and the late Mayor Vincent A. 'Buddy' Cianci," according to his son. He was also campaign manager for long-time Providence Councilwomen Jose-

phine DiRuzzo and still managed to spend time with the family, namely his wife Eleanor and sons Louis and Joseph. Described as a "man for all seasons and reasons," Joe Spremulli also managed

upkeep, repairs of Providence City Hall, public swimming pools, the police and fire stations. He also worked at Lessona Corporation in Warwick and during those times never failed to help countless people in the state's Italian-American commu-

Perhaps that's why top-ranking officials from Rhode Island's iconic Italian-American clubs — to which Joe Spremulli had membership for 70 years — were among

the special speakers at the appreciation dinner.

For example, Johnston resident George Lazzareschi, president of the RI Italo American Club, Italian Veterans Post 8 President and State Sen. Frank Ciccone, Young Pannese Society Club President Jason Patrone, Prata Society President Ray Fenaro, Sons of Italy President Gary DeSauro, Rosario Club President Joe Santilli, Pannese President David Venditelli and State Rep. Edward Cardillo all hailed Spremulli "as a great representative and role model for all Italian American citizens."

Yet another excellent example of Joe Spremulli's accomplishments came when Mayor Joseph M. Polisena made not one, but two presentations to a man he described as a "great community leader and great international ambassador for the Town of Johnston and the entire Rhode Island Italian-American community.'

Polisena's presentations, in fact, drew the sound of heart-warming applause during his reading of an Official Commendation that read, in part: "As Mayor, it is always an honor to recognize special resident's and it is with profound appreciation in extending warm wishes to you upon your retirement from the Pannese Society of Rhode Island where you provided selfless service and dedication in promoting and highlight Italian Heritage.

As the Mayor said, "I am honored to be here today for this wonderful and cer-

tainly well-deserved appreciation dinner."

Polisena then told an applauding audience he has a special presentation, one he emphasized "is reserved for special citizens and their extraordinary accomplishments and contributions," and soon opened a small wooden box that contained the

prestigious key for the Town of Johnston.

During his final remarks, Venditelli praised the organizing committee — Jason Parenteau, Louis Spremulli, Lou Mansolillo, Stephen Russo and Andrea Paglia for their tireless efforts for the dinner and concluded saying: "Joe's legacy will live forever and his devotion to instilling our Italian heritage for future generations has certainly been exemplary.

"Tutti grazie!"



FAMILY FIRST: Joseph "Joe" Spremulli, his wife Eleanor and son Louis Spremulli and his wife Carla Spremulli are all smiles during the special appreciation dinner for the soon-to-be 90-year-old icon. (Photos courtesy Ron Cece)



TERRIFIC TRIBUTRE: Mayor Joseph Polisena presents Joseph "Joe" Spremulli with a Key to the Town of Johnston during a sold-out dinner at Tomaselli's at the Rosario Club.



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to raise a record for their upcoming Calendar Raffle that will help benefit two college scholarships in June for deserving JHS graduates. (Sun Rise FILE photo by Johnston PTSO Calendar Raffle helps fund local scholarships

By PETE FONTAINE

It's a tradition that through the years has helped Johnston High School graduates fund their college educations.

It's also a spirited show of support from the

Johnston business community that people like Lance Niles says "wouldn't be possible without

the generosity of our local merchants."

Likewise, it's officially called the Johnston PTSO (Parent-Teacher-Student Organization) Calendar Raffle that will feature a number of valuable prizes such as \$50 gift certificates to places like Dave's Marketplace, My Cousin Vinny's Rentals and the iconic automobile Club AAA.

"Our dedicated volunteer members have been selling the calendars for \$10 each and on March 1, 2022 we have a special drawing for drawing for 28 prizes," said Niles, who recently succeeded the legendary Melissa Patrone as the non-profit group's president. "We will continue to sell calendars through February in hopes of boosting our annual scholarship presentations."

In keeping with its storied tradition, the PTSO

will present the college scholarships in June to "two deserving graduating seniors," Niles explained. "We will also help fund activities, programs and staff support at Johnston High School."

As for the important scholarships, Niles said the well-organized and dedicated PTSO will enlist the support of JHS faculty members who will help choose the 2022 scholarship recipients.

Moreover, Niles wanted it known that "all of the calendar raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and every day's prizes will support the greater Johnston community.

He also emphasized that "we will continue to sell calendars through the end of February and when we hold the big drawing on March 1 all winners will be notified on that day.

"We are also looking forward to the support of Johnston families so please — take a chance on 28 days of great prizes and in advance, we want to thank everyone for their support," Niles said.

The first two prizes are listed as a \$50 gift certificate to famed My Cousin Vinny's Rentals of Johnston and Dave's Marketplace. There are also other — or contribute to the scholarship fund — should valuable amounts of \$25 gift cards and Niles — as contact he members listed above.

well as the PTSO's membership — have worked hard in securing each and every one of the 28 priz-

The complete list of participating businesses includes: My Cousin Vinny's Rentals, Dave's Marketplace, Target, Icandy Bella Ink, Stop & Shop, Bar 101, The Originals Italian Bakery, Town Hall Lanes, Knead donuts, Enza's Hair Studio, AAA Gift Memberships, English Muffin, Great Escape Room, Touchstone Crystal, Chelo's, Amazon, Battle Grounds, Alter Ego and BJ's.

Among the PTSO adult volunteers who are selling the calendars and have worked on such

recent successes as the annual Holly Fair that had a record-setting 56 vendors are: retiring

President Melissa Patrone and Debbie McHale, Angela Niles, Carolyn Iannucilli, Missy Pistocco, Rachel Salvatore, Tanya Martins, Jennifer Irons, Susana Simpson, Rachel Aucone, Tracey Audet, Lisa Calabro, Karen Laflamme and Tiffany DiBi-

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Watch Your



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

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HEAVY LOAD: Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza carries boxes full of take-home Covid testing kits during Saturday's drive-through Point of Distribution (POD). (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Tests

(Continued from page 1)

"Saturday's distribution of CO-VID-19 at home rapid test kits went very well, especially from a logistical point of view," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza. "Johnston's Point of Distribution (POD) plan worked flawlessly, despite the frigid temperatures."

Polisena estimated around 3,000 cars drove through the POD Satur-

"Although the turnout and demand for the kits from Johnston residents was high, the wait time was extremely short due the efficiency

in which the test kits were distributed," Razza said. "I truly appreciated the support and assistance from our dedicated elected officials and volunteers who made this community

distribution event a huge success." A long line stretched into the parking lot from Cherry Hill Road and Atwood Avenue, but those queued up for tests reported a mere 10-15 minute wait-time.

School Committee and Town Council members helped distribute small orange and white boxes to Johnston residents who turned out for the take-home test kits — each kit contained two tests.

Last week, Polisena and other elected officials also passed out kits at local senior citizen living facilities, nursing homes and veterans groups like Operation Stand Down Rhode Island. A few remaining cases of kits were spread out among church congregations in town fol-

lowing Saturday's distribution. "Our municipal leaders across all 39 cities and towns have been invaluable partners with my Administration throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," McKee said. "Our state ĥas shown tremendous resiliency over the last two years, and our cities and towns played a big role in that effort — the smooth distribution of rapid test kits in Johnston with Mayor Polisena is a perfect example. As a former Mayor, I understand the importance of connecting in on the local level and that's why our team is committed to working closely with municipal leaders throughout our pandemic response and recovery."

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If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen at

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Elementary School



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

Bond

(Continued from page 1)

However, due to technology issues, the meeting was canceled and rescheduled for next week.

The district initially pitched the school projects in late summer, and the process has moved rapidly through both Town Council and the School Commit-

"We are now moving into Stage III, really starts to develop the design of the buildings," Di-Lullo said.

Now, it's in the hands of state legislators.

"We were on a tight time-frame," DiLullo explained Tuesday night. "We got approval in December. The legislature didn't go back until last week. The mayor and I went to testify to the finance committee in terms of the need, so that's kind of like the timing of it all. Nothing really was delayed."

In October, the School Committee voted to retain the SLAM Collaborative architectural firm to take the district into Stage III of the school construction pro-

At its Dec. 21 meeting, the Johnston School Committee passed a resolution supporting the \$215 million bond.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said the recent spike in COVID-19 has slowed down the

"It's because of COVID," he said Saturday, while standing in the high school parking lot. "We're expecting to hold the vote in early April now instead of March.

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 of 2024 unveiling, and the middle school repairs should be complete by late summer of 2025.

Johnston Early Childhood



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

Upinion

Anything earned can be taken away

EDITORIAL

Political discourse shouldn't be enough to strip an honor-

ary degree holder of his symbolic sheepskin.

Federal criminal convictions, religious bigotry and incitement of insurrection, however, are qualifying revocation prerequisites.

Last week, the University of Rhode Island yanked honorary legrees previously awarded to retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

"I find the 'cancel culture' crusade on the campus of the University of Rhode Island, led by (URI) President Marc Parlange, to be absolutely disgusting and disgraceful," said Republican state Rep. Robert Quattrocchi (District 41-Scituate and a por tion of Cranston). "Rhode Island's great patriot and war hero, General Michael Flynn, served our country with honor."

The URI Honorary Degree Committee deliberated in De ember 2021 and forwarded its recommendation to Parlange who endorsed the committee's recommendation. School trustees then voted to approve pulling the degrees.

The Committee listed five major justifications:

First, Flynn pleaded guilty twice to a felony count of "willully and knowingly" lying to the FBI.

Second, in June 2021, at a conference in Dallas, Texas, Flynn uggested a military coup was needed in the U.S

Third, in November 2021, during a rally in San Antonio, Texas, Flynn called for the establishment of "one religion" in the U.S.

Fourth, Giuliani participated in the Jan. 6, 2021 rally that incited the assault on the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

And fifth, Giuliani has been suspended from practicing law n Washington, D.C. and New York after spewing unproven and unfounded claims of rampant fraud during the 2020 presidential election.

Parlange said the two men "no longer represent the highest evel of our values and standards that were evident when we first bestowed the degree.

"The recommendation by URI to discredit General Flynn solely based on political discourse, lacks the fundamental intellectual capacity and inclusivity for a modern institution of higher learning and must be overturned immediately," Quattrocchi alleges. "Rhode Island was founded on the principles of independent thinking. It is a shame that URI has forgotten our core values.'

Quattrocchi ignores Flynn's criminal convictions and the Jan. 6 Insurrection in the press release he distributed with fellow Republican state Rep. Sherry Roberts (District 29-West Greenwich and Coventry).

In 2003, URI awarded Giuliani with a Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa "based on his demonstrated leadership in the vake of the September 11, 2001 attacks."

Then, in 2014, URI awarded Flynn, a 1981 URI graduate and three-star Army general, an Honorary Doctorate of Hu-

Occasionally, humans are capable of great bravery and grave dishonesty in the same lifetime.

"As a civic institution, URI has the privilege and responsipility to sustain and preserve American democracy by inspiring and modeling good citizenship," Parlange said. "Revoking these honorary degrees reinforces our values and allows us to lead with truth and integrity.'

Degrees should be earned. In life, all that we earn can be taken away in a heartbeat if we make poor decisions. Students of the future must learn the importance of sound decisionmaking. Pulling Flynn and Giuliani's honorary degrees was a sound decision. They earned it.



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URI revokes honorary degrees awarded to Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn and disbarred lawyer Rudy Giuliani



Station Memorial Park is a living monument

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Feb. 20, 2022, will mark 19 years since the horrific Station Nightclub fire which caused 100 people to die and 200 hundred more to be injured. This appalling, catastrophe also caused thousands more to experience the crush of debilitating, psychological and emotional despair.

But, this is not just about the 100 lives taken or the 200 people who were so seriously injured or even the thousands of family members, friends and co-workers, who have been devastated by the fourth largest Nightclub fire in American his-

You see, the families of the deceased Station Fire victims don't need this memorial to remember their loved ones. They have the warm glowing places of remembrance in their hearts and minds. They have Headstones and Cemetery plots. The 200 most injured and scarred survivors of the Station fire don't need this park to remind them of what they have been through, they have mirrors for that. No, the people who most need this park are our children and the generations to follow. The Station Memorial Park is a living monument to the life lesson, that if elected officials and those charged with our safety don't do their jobs, people die.

This monument serves as an ongoing admonition to young people who may aspire to public service that the decisions they make during their tenure, can save lives. A future Fire Marshall who visits this site or sees it online, will be forewarned about the power they will hold to make the choices that can avoid destruction and death.

When a teenager, who plans to study law, visits this site they will learn what happens when an unprincipled Attorney General or a connected Judge allows corruption and politics to deny justice to the people they swore to serve and protect. Yes, this park is all of that and much more. It is also a salute and sincere, thank you to the many first responders, Fire,

Police, medical personnel, the councilors and clergy, who all came together on that horrible, cold winter night, to do their job by delivering comfort, compassion and

This Memorial is vitally important not only to the families of the deceased, the survivors and the heroic first responders but to everyone, whose life has been scarred by what can only be described as a nightmare from which we cannot awake.

Dave Kane **Johnston**



Candidates line up for D-2 Congressional race

By ALEX MALM

It's been a week since United States Congressman Jim Langevin stunned the Rhode Island political world when he announced that he wouldn't seek a 12th term in the U.S. House of Representatives this fall.

Many candidates are considering a run for the vacant seat. And several have considered a run, but decided to stay out of the race.

Even Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said he was asked by "a group of businessmen" to run for the seat.

"I've been asked to run, but that's not in the cards right now," Polisena said Monday. "On the second day, some businessmen came to me and said, 'You're a moderate Democrat. You should run.' But I have a new grandson I want to enjoy."

Since Langevin's announcement, one of the biggest questions across Rhode Island has been who will be running in the first open Congressional seat in Rhode Island since 2010.

The list of those considering or who are running for sure includes a number of people from Warwick and Cranston including Joy Fox, the former editor of the Cranston Herald who said she is seriously considering a run for Congress, and Ed Pacheco a Warwick resident who announced his bid for the seat on Monday.

Confirmed to run

Bob Lancia, a former State Representative for Cranston who ran against Langevin last year, will be running again in 2022. Lancia announced last February before Langevin made his announcement.

"I was asked a while back. What's the biggest problem with the government?" said Lancia. " My answer, 'selfishness vs. selflessness'

I remain active in the community because I personally believe that public service never ends. "There is no doubt in my mind that I am the best person to help lead Rhode Island through these tough times. Following the announcement almost one year ago that I would once again be running for Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District, I have worked tirelessly to prove that I am a leader people can trust. As the only Republican candidate to officially enter this race (FEC Filing), I look forward to continuing that work into November.'

The first to enter the Democratic Primary wasn't an elected official past or pres-

Omar Bah the founder and executive director of Refugee Dream Center and a refugee from The Gambia in West Africa announced that he plans on running fit Congress over the weekend.

"I wish to confirm that I plan to run for US Congress. When Congressman Langevin recently announced his retirement, I saw a great opportunity to once again manifest the amazing opportunities I have had in this country since my arrival here as a refugee," said Bah in a statement. "I will run as a Democrat but my hope is to help in uniting the country, represent the diversity and experiences of people in this country, and to build and promote a moderate tone in Washington. There are numerous issues to tackle such as safe and affordable housing, healthcare, education, homelessness, crime, and climate change. I am not a career politician and therefore hope to help minimize the political polarization and promote the interest of the American people, especially Rhode Islanders. I also hope to be a source of inspiration for folks from various ethnicities who might as a result have the audacity to try out the American Dream and the possibilities abound."

Pacheco, a former State Representative and Chair of the Rhode Island Democratic Party announced that he would be a candidate for the race on Monday.

At the age of 19 Pacheco was the youngest elected official in Rhode Island history, according to his announcement when he joined the Burrillville School Committee. Following that he became State Representative for Burrillville and Glocester.

"This is a pivotal moment in our country's history. Every day it feels as though we are being pulled further apart and the very fabric of our democracy is under attack. It's as though politicians in Washington have forgotten us and are more interested in political gamesmanship than focusing on the people who elected them. Now more

than ever, we can no longer sit on the sidelines," said Pacheco. "We must come together to advocate for what is best for our community, our state and our nation."

Pacheco currently resides in the Riverview neighborhood of Warwick with his wife and two kids. His daughter, a graduate of Warwick Neck Elementary School attends Warwick Veterans Middle School and his son attends International Charter School in Pawtucket.

In his announcement Pacheco listed 50 people who are supporting him including elected officials past and present, along with community members.

On the list of those who have said they will be supporting Pacheco is Warwick City Councilman Anthony Sinapi along with former State Representative from Warwick Frank Ferri.

RACE - PAGE 12

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW **MEETING AGENDA** Thursday, January 27th, 2022 at 6:30PM

Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 02919

Because of COVID-19 and the current executive order, the Zoning Board will adhere to the following

- The applicant must advise the Zoning Office 24 hours in advance of all individuals attending on the applicant's behalf. The attendee's name and phone number will be required.
- All applications are scheduled for a specific time. All parties are advised that the hearing for a specific case may start later than advertised but in no situation will the application be heard prior to the time posted. If you arrive prior to the case being called,

you must wait in your car or outside the senior center and remain socially

- · No one will be admitted to the Senior Center until the specific case, for which they are attending the meeting, is called.
- All individuals, upon entering the senior center must register, giving name, address and phone number. Staff will screen all who enter the
- A face mask must be worn at all times. When a person is recognized to speak, the individual, upon arriving at the podium, may remove the mask to speak to the board. The mask must be put back on before walking away from the podium.
- All individuals must maintain the minimum of six (6) foot social dis-
- No furniture may be moved by an

Request for Proposals

Town of Johnston

Court Floor Renovation-

Rainone Gym

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Court Floor Renovation-

Rainone Gym. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston

Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston,

RI 02919 beginning January 27th, 2022 weekdays between

the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Specs are also available on

the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. Sealed bids

will be accepted until 10:00 am, February 23rd, 2022 at the

Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be

opened publicly at that time via a virtual meeting using the Zoom

meeting platform. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference

at Rainone Gym, 45 Mill Street, Johnston, RI 02919 on February

2nd, 2022 at 9:30 am. The virtual opening can be attended by

going to https://zoom.us/ and clicking on "Join a meeting". Enter

If you do not have a computer or mobile device-Dial in by phone:

The Town of Johnston reserves the right to reject any or all

responses or parts thereof, to waive any informality in them,

or accept any bid deemed in the best interest of the Town. The

Town of Johnston will offer interpreters for the hearing impaired

provided the request is at least three (3) days prior to scheduled

833 548 0282 US Toll-free- 877-853-5247(Toll Free)

the following meeting information:

bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Meeting ID: 881 4823 7190

Password: 708411

Additionally, the general public may be permitted subject to conditions listed above and subject to maximum allowable space per Executive Order 20-58. Updated: EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-01. Anyone may participate in the meeting electronically as

Via Computer: https://us02web. zoom.us/j/89225681046?pwd=S3gx RENOSnZYNDR1NWoybDR3dGp6

Via Telephone: Or One tap mobile: US: +13017158592,,8922568104 6#,,,,*829613# or +13126266799,,8

9225681046#,,,,*829613# Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current

location): US: +1 301 715 8592 312 626 6799 or +1 646 8 8656 or +1 253 215

Meeting ID: 892 2568 1046 Passcode: 829613

at 7:00 pm.

NOTE: Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for emeetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings &

https://www.townofjohnstonri.com/

New Business File 2022-1 - Petition of Melissa

Korsak, Applicant for Forest Hill Drive, AP 39 Lot 256, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance for a Proposed Single-Family Dwelling.

File 2022-2 – Petition of Johnston Asphalt LLC, Applicant for 100 Allendale Avenue, AP 36 Lot 77, zoned Industrial. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit Section 340-75 for Installation of Two Hot Mix Asphalt Storage Silos.

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

The Zoning 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 Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

Town of Johnston

Notice of

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General

Laws § 24-6-2 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a

public hearing at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 At-

wood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on February 14, 2022

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed

Ordinance 2022-2 (Formerly 2021-CP-168), an ordinance

regarding the abandonment of a portion of Rome Avenue,

located on Assessor's Plat 5. All persons interested in the

above Ordinance may attend the hearing and be heard. In-

dividuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing im-

paired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two

This meeting can also be accessed virtually by using the

Zoom virtual meeting platform. The virtual meeting can be

attended by visiting https://zoom.us/ and clicking on "Join

If you do not have a computer or mobile device-Dial in by

833 548 0282 (Toll Free)- 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

(72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Meeting". Enter the following information:

Webinar ID: 826 7098 4802

Robert V. Russo, President

Johnston Town Council

Password: 011272

phone:

1/27, 2/3, 2/10/22

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

NOTE: New items that have not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m. may be rescheduled for a subsequent or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.

1/13, 1/20, 1/27/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday February 15th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 02919

PLEASE NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNORS **EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-01 PUBLIC MEETINGS MUST BE** AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY IF THE ORDER IS EXTENDED BEYOND FEBRUARY 15TH, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM:

VIA COMPUTER:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8152531 6492?pwd=VzIXdHpRUVBUQ2Zte mpRQUxiQ3U3Zz09

VIA TELEPHONE:

One tap mobile: US: +164655886 56,,81525316492#,,,,*787275# +13017158592,,81525316492#,,,,

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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

Meeting ID: 815 2531 6492 Passcode: 787275

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE PLANNING OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY. CALL THE PLANNING OFFICE AT (401) 231-4000.

AGENDA

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **III. NEW BUSINESS**

PB 22-02 - GD Johnston Harilla I – Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a proposed 2.25 MW solar field. Located at 28 Harilla Lane AP 51 Lots 9 & 11 -Zoned R40. Applicant: Johnston

Attest:

Town Clerk

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.

PB 22-03 - GD Johnston Winsor I – Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a proposed 4.0 MW solar field. Located at 46 Winsor Avenue AP 60 Lot 4 -Zoned R40. Applicant: Johnston Winsor

PB 22-04 - GD Johnston Winsor II - Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a proposed 8.0 MW solar field. Located at 86 Winsor Avenue AP 60 Lots 2, 20, 86 –Zoned R20 & R40. Applicant: Johnston Winsor II, LLC

PB 22-05 - GD Johnston Winson III - Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a proposed 24.0 MW solar field. Located at 112 Winsor Avenue AP 59 Lot 15 -Zoned R40. Applicant: Johnston Winsor III, LLC

PB 21-48 - Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to abandon a portion of Genoa

PB 22-08 - Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to abandon a portion of Mathew

PB 22-13 - Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to abandon a portion of Buck Hill

PB 19-56 - Meadowbrook Estates Establishment of bond amount for Cross Road.

PB 22-06 – Meadowbrook Estates Phase 2A & 3A - Public Meeting on Phase 2 of a proposed Minor Subdivision for the creation of 1 buildable lot Cross Road and Phase 3 the creation of 1 lot Central Pike. Located at Central Pike AP 43/4 Lot 90 (Sub Lots 6 & 18) Zoned R40. Applicant: Steven

PB 22-11 - Stonebridge Phase II Public Meeting on a proposed Preliminary Plan for a 3-lot Minor Subdivision. Located at Orchard Ave AP 59 Lot 338 - Zoned R40. Applicant: Peter and Pamela Del-

PB 22-12 - Wildflowers Estates Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a 5-lot Major Subdivision. Located at 1757 Plainfield Pike AP 27 Lots 2 & 146 -Zoned B2 & R20 - Applicant:

IV.ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

Dennis Cardillo

1/27, 2/3, 2/10/22

1. Comprehensive Plan Update 2. 2022 Schedule of Meetings Discussion

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.

I. CALLTO ORDER & ROLL CALL

PB 21-04 - Cherry Blossom Estates - Public Hearing on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed 8-lot Major Subdivision on a new street. Located at 3 & 5 Granite Street AP 5 Lot 388. Zoned R-20. Applicant: Abatecola Realty.

PB 22-01 - GD Johnston Elmgrove II - Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan for a proposed 1.0 MW solar field. Located at 25 Elmgrove Avenue AP 51 Lot 4 -Zoned R40. Applicant: Johnston Elmgrove II, LLC

Harilla I, LLC

Joseph Chiodo, CPA Finance Director 1/27/22

Sun Rise Scoops

By Meri R. Kennedy

Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only accepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival.

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick.

Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Theatre by the Sea announced local auditions this weekend

Theatre By The Sea announces Non-Equity Adult Auditions for its 2022 Summer Season. Seeking strong non-union singers, dancers, actors, and actor/musicians. We are especially seeking mature character actors for featured roles throughout the season. Performers must be available for all rehearsal and performance dates. Local talent is strongly encouraged to audition for the following productions: Million Dollar Quartet to be presented from May 25 – June 18; Footloose to be presented from June 22 – July 16; Cinderella to be presented from July 20 – August 13; Kinky Boots to be presented from August 17 – September 11.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29 and Sunday, Jan. 30, at URI – Fine Arts Building, 105 Upper College Rd, Kingston, RI 02881.Parking and entrance

behind building.

Beginning this week, auditions are by appointment only. Space is limited. Auditionees may only attend one audition session.

Proof of Covid Vaccination and a valid ID are required and temperatures will be taken prior to admittance.

Auditionees should bring a current headshot and resume stapled together back-to-back. An accompanist will be provided but will not transpose – a cappella is not encouraged. Actor/Musicians interested in Million Dollar Quartet, should sign-up for a non-dancing appointment and prepare a brief demonstration in the style of the role you are seeking. These auditions are for adults only (18 years and older).

They are operating at a very strict, limited capacity. Those auditioning may not enter the building until 15 minutes prior to their scheduled session. Masks will be required at all times, unless instructed to remove it during your audition. Once your audition is complete, you will be asked to leave the building immediately.

Additional information and character breakdowns are available at www.TheatreByTheSea.com. Please email casting.tbts@gmail.com with any questions.

Theatre By The Sea is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. Performers of all ethnicities and backgrounds are strongly encouraged to attend this audition.

Johnston Senior Center offers services

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

Reminder from Parks & Rec

Just a reminder of some of the rules and regulations at Johnston Memorial Park. There are no dogs allowed in the park or walking tracks. Dogs are allowed in the nature trail across the street from our parking lot; No smoking or tobacco use, No bikes, scooters, skateboard, etc. are allowed on the walking track that surrounds the pond. They may be used on the center path of the park, Please do not feed the ducks, birds, or any wildlife,

Please keep the park clean by using the available trash barrels, Absolutely no alcoholic beverages on town property. No vehicles allowed in the park; No swimming or boating in the pond; No open flames or charcoal grills. Gas grills are permitted; Fireplace use is prohibited, For your safety, please do not climb trees or fences; The park closes at 10 p.m. Recreation Department organized activities may continue; No overnight parking; No foul language or loud music; Field use is

by permit only.

Also, please be mindful of parking. Please display a handicap placard if you park in a handicap space. The area behind the office is reserved for employees. If you

have any questions, please call 401-272-3460.

The restrooms at Johnston Memorial Park are now closed for the Winter will reopen in the Spring.

Updated news from Johnston Senior Center Updates

Activities and classes are being held daily at the Johnston Senior Center to include Monday-Friday "Walk away the "LBS"; Monday, Aerobics & Boot Camp, Arts & Crafts and Hi Lo Jack and on Wednesdays, they also offer Quilting, Zumba and Fit and Strong as well as Poker and Hi Lo Jack; on Thursday, Mar Jong, Boot Camp and Yoga and on Fridays Line Dancing and Chair Yoga.

They were happy that Bingo will return on Feb 3 and Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.

A Valentine Party and Luncheon will be held Feb. 14. The Paint and Wine Night has been changed from Jan 26 to Feb. 16. Luncheon is \$20 per person and call 401-944-3343 for tickets or for more information.

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

Just a reminder that Tuesdays, 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 231-3380 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, www.johnstonhistorical.org or www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

The Return of Saturday Drop-In Crafts at Mohr Library

This week, the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library will resume Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do some crafts in the library or take some home with you. They are located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Mindfulness Meditation

Mindfulness Meditation will be held at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd. in Warwick on the first and third Mondays of each month. It is free and open to the public.

Their mindfulness meditation is led by Paulette Miller. The sessions offer a westernized, secular version of Vipassana, also known as insight, open-hearted, and analytic meditation. Sessions often include guided breathing meditation, movement meditation, loving-kindness meditation, and music meditation. The meditation exercises are guided and no experience is necessary.

For further information: www.warwickcfa.org or 401-737-0010.

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to Mohr Library.

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

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

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

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across RI through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up go to www.BeKindRI.org. Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check.

Be Kind RI is open to those in RI experiencing CO-VID-19 risk factors including seniors 65+, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of childcare, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call 877-958-8785.

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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

News from the Mohr Memorial Library

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

Johnston Community Library Book Club

Children ages 8 to 10 can meet online, by invitation, Thursdays at 3 p.m. to hear readings and discuss books with library trustee and volunteer Denese Carpenter.

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

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

Help make a house a home

The Furniture Bank of RI, a nonprofit corporation, needs bureaus, complete twin or double beds, kitchen sets, mattresses, and other household furniture that you no longer need. To help a less fortunate family through your charitable donation of good used furniture, call 831-5511 to arrange for pick up. All donated articles must be in good condition.

Did you know?

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks – if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. (Source: February Fun Facts).

Submit items via 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.

OBITUARIES

Mark A. Silviera

Mark A. Silviera, 42, of Johnston RI, passed away Saturday, January, 15, 2022 in Providence. He was the husband of Victoria L. Inamorati. He was born in Providence RI, son of the late Gilbert and Sandra (Pistocco) Silviera and lived in Providence RI and Johnston RI.

He was educated in the Providence schools. He was employed at various construction companies in the Framingham area.



He was a member of the Knights of Columbus #1528 and was a 2nd degree knight. In addition to his wife he is survived by his daughter Olivia Silviera. He was predeceased by his sister Tammy Silviera.

The funeral Mass will be held Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 11A.M. at the St. Timothy's Church 1799 Warwick Ave. Warwick RI. Calling hours will be held at the church from 10 to 11 A.M. The burial will follow in the St. Mary's Cemetery on Cedar St in Milford. Arrangements are under the direction of the Consigli-Ruggerio Funeral Home 46 Water St. Please visit us at – www.consigliruggeriofuneralhome.

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

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call Amanda Nardolillo at (401) 732-3100 or email AmandaN@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

johnstonsunrise.net

otlightonBUSINESS

Dream Big Academy, Gymnastics & Ninja

Register today for upcoming classes for all ages



By JENNIFER COATES

What do you get when you take a longtime gymnastics coach, a state-of-the-art gym, and a throng of energetic young gymnasts and athletes and put them all together? You get Dream Big Gymnastics, of course!

Big Gymnastics Dream is a fully-equipped modern gym in Cranston that is owned by Shannon Cornicelli. Cornicelli, who was herself an accomplished competitive gymnast, has used her many years of experience in the gym to create a place where prospective athletes of all ages can come to feel the excitement and thrill of the sport of gymnastics. Her classes are not only instructive, they are also fun. Her classes are not only competitive, they are also about "gymnasts supporting gymnasts." They are not only about skill-building, they are also about team building.

Along with traditional gymnastic classes, there are

are equally as challenging and motivating. This is an obstacle course-based program that incorporates basic gymnastics skills, conditioning, flexibility.

those who For love gymnastics and Ninja-style workouts/training, Dream Big Gymnastics provides the perfect setting. Dream Big's mission is to "provide children with a positive and fun-filled atmosphere that enables them to create their own goals and then empowers them to go after their dreams. This builds powerful, determined and confident qualities that will be embedded in their character." This philosophy guides every decision made by Cornicelli and her fellow coaches.

The team of talented coaches at Dream Big Gymnastics are already gearing up for the spring semester. They are preparing to meet incoming gymnasts and Ninja athletes who are ready to work hard and play hard. There is a diverse list of classes available for gymnasts of all ages and levels with new

classes being added all the time to accommodate a growing demand. These classes include everything from mommyand-me classes of crawling "Tumbling Tots" and older "Dreamers" who are learning fundamentals (from forward rolls to pull-overs, and more) to competitive high school-age participants.

At Dream Big Academy, gymnastics are meant to be fun, unifying and growthpromoting. The way they accomplish these goals is through planned activities such as their popular Cartwheel and Pullover clinics (February 5th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm) and Back Handspring clinics (from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, following the Cartwheel/Pullover clinics).

There are even Parent's Nights Out for your child to attend while you head out for a night on the town. Parent's Nights Out are held from 5:00pm to 10:00pm once a month including next month on the night of February 19th.

Need a place to celebrate a birthday party this winter? Consider hosting a truly safe and unforgettable celebration with the help of the talented and supportive team at Dream Big! Call for details and to reserve your special day.

For more details and to register for classes, check out Dream Big's website at www. dreambiggym.com or call 401-Parkway Way in Cranston.



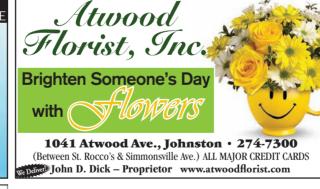
228-8946. Dream Big Academy Meet some of the talented athletes at Dream Big Gymnastics (taken in 2021), is located at 41 Comstock gymnasts (left to right) Aria Ulak, Gianna Desmarais, and Brooklyn Richard. Register your future athlete for one of the many classes offered this spring!





1307 Hartford Ave Johnston, RI 02919 401-450-0122 Broadwaytireri.com M-F 7:30 - 5pm Sat. 7:30 - 1pm







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iwilliams@lazori.org

www.lazori.org

Prices

■ Santilli

(Continued from page 1)

"We're in the dark, regarding the allegations," Dixon-Acosta said in a sinking Ferri Middle School elevator. "My understanding is that ... Mr. Santilli has long alleged the board has not been keeping in its duties regarding the Open Meetings Act, and that he had been vocal in that

The Johnston School District is planning to overhaul all of the town's school buildings, if a \$215 million bond passes voters in several months. The project has moved along quickly, and as a sitting Committee member, Santilli had asked for more transparency in the decision-making pro-

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said the town was "on a tight timeframe" and Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena has urged rapid passing of school building plans to take advantage of presently generous state reimbursements for major projects.

The Johnston School Committee gathered Tuesday night to discuss in private, and vote in public to hire lawyers to investigate Santilli, who was not named on the agenda.

However, no votes occurred. No executive sessions were held.

Due to technical difficulties (a faulty Zoom link), the emergency meeting was canceled, and will likely be rescheduled for next week

The night's agenda called for a closeddoor "discussion and/or vote" on two topics: whether to initiate "investigative proceedings of former Committee member related to allegations of misconduct" and "engagement of independent legal counsel for the purpose of initiating investigative proceedings of former Committee member related to allegations of

Santilli, the "former Committee member," sat in the audience with his attorney.

"We first learned of these supposed allegations regarding his tenure practically two months ago," Dixon-Acosta said. "We informed the board of Mr. Santilli's intent to vigorously defend his record as an honorable steward of the School Committee. To date we've received no further information regarding the supposed allegations, which we think are likely spurious.

Santilli and his attorney said they expected a vote on Tuesday night's agenda items back in December 2021, prior to the Committee member's resignation.

"They were poised to hold the meeting in December while he was still on the board," Dixon-Acosta said. "And we let them know that he intended to attend and participate, when we were informed that the meeting would no longer occur, because of his impending resignation."

Santilli submitted his resignation letter on Dec. 22; his resignation was effective

"Mind you, he was still a member of the board then, so he would have been privy, and been able to participate in executive session," Dixon-Acosta said. "Now that he's not on the board, he's not privy to the executive sessions, and I think that that was a calculated move on the part of the board."

If the School Committee had decided in executive session Tuesday night to investigate Santilli, they were set to vote in public session on engaging "Benjamin M. Scungio, Esquire, of Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAlllister, LLP for the purpose of initiating investigative proceedings of former Committee member related to allegations of misconduct," during the "Superintendent's Action Items" portion of the meeting.

Polisena swore in Santilli's replacement on the Committee, Marysue Andreozzi,

Santilli initially found himself back on the board to fill a vacancy when chairwoman Janice D. Mele passed away in April 2019. Santilli was picked to finish the two years remaining on her term and was then elected to the District 3 seat for a full term in 2020.

At the time of his resignation, he was less than halfway through the four-year term, which will expire in 2024

Santilli previously served three twoyear terms on the Johnston Town Council, and also served two previous four-year terms — one as vice chairman — on the School Committee.

"David did a very admirable job when he was on the School Committee," Polisena said two weeks ago. "He did a very good job when he was on the council. So he's going to be missed. Public service to the town doesn't go unnoticed. We appreciate that."

On Tuesday night, Santilli sat quietly in the row behind his attorney, who brought a large, heavy box of files into the Ferri Middle School Library. The box occupied

For the first time in years, Santilli was part of the audience, facing his former fellow board members.

'Unfortunately we had some technical difficulties this evening and were not able to open the Zoom meeting, as scheduled, for the Special School Committee meeting at 6 p.m.," wrote Angela A. Brasil, Confidential Administrative Assistant to the Superintendents and School Committee Secretary, in an email after the meeting. "Since the meeting must offer a virtual option, according to Governor McKee's Executive Order under the Open Meetings Act (OMA), we were unable to go forward. Therefore, this meeting must be

Brasil said the meeting will be posted on the RI Secretary of State website Wednesday, and will likely be set for 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 31.

Nobody on the board or in the district's administrative office would speak on the

"I'm sorry but I can't give any information since the discussion is listed for Executive Session," DiLullo wrote in an email

On Saturday, in the Johnston High School parking lot, School Committee Chairman Robert Lafazia refused to com-

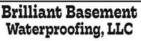
After Tuesday night's attempted meeting, the School Committee's legal counsel, William J. Conley Jr., offered only "not comment" on the "allegations of misconduct" facing Santilli.

'So right now it seems their only question is whether to investigate or not investigate," Dixon-Acosta said. "I can't imagine what they're investigating about someone who is no longer on the board. If we knew more, we'd likely have more



FORMER MEMBER: In May 2019, former Johnston Town Council member David Santilli took the oath of office for his School Committee seat from Mayor Joseph Polisena during a special ceremony inside the Municipal Courthouse on Atwood Avenue. Santilli resigned the seat effective Dec. 31, 2021. (Sun Rise FILE photo)





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Dr. Michael Lin, a general surgeon, is based at Fatima Hospital with offices in Johnston, Cranston, Smithfield and Warwick. He joins us from Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Oregon. Board certified in general surgery, with special interest in laparoscopic hernia and foregut procedures (anti-reflux, para-esophageal hernias), Dr. Lin is a graduate of Middlebury College and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He completed his residency in general

surgery at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware and a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy GI Surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma Washington. He can be reached at 401-943-8824.



Dr. Guy R. Nicastri, FACS, board certified in general surgery, has more than 30 years of experience, most recently was with Care New England, and has a special focus on breast surgery, surgical oncology and minimally invasive surgery. A graduate of Boston College, he received both his medical degree and his masters of Science in Physiology from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is also an Associate Professor of Surgery and family Medicine at the

Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He has offices in Cranston at 401-943-8824 and Johnston at 401-521-6080.



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■ Race

(Continued from page 8)

Former Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, who ran unsuccessfully against Lanegevin in the 2000 Democratic Primary will serve as the campaign's Honorary Chairperson.

"I am proud to support Ed Pacheco in his campaign for Rhode Island's second congressional district," said Taveras. "I have known Ed for years, he is a person of integrity that will fight for us in Washington and will always listen to the diverse voices across our community."

State Senator Jessica de la Cruz also announced that she would be a contender in the race.

Considering

There are a number of different candidates currently considering a bid on both sides of the aisle.

For the Republicans former Cranston Mayor Allan Fung said that he is seriously considering a run for the seat.

"It's been a whirlwind since Congressman Langevin's surprise announcement. Since then I've been talking to people nationally and locally about the Congressional race and am taking a serious look at the entire chessboard. I will take some time to thoughtfully think about this race," said Fung. "One thing I know already is that many Rhode Islanders, especially those in the district, are frustrated with everything going on right now and are desperately yearning for change."

In Warwick former State Senator, and current Toll Gate High School teacher James Sheehan said that he was considering a run last week. Sheehan in a statement last week said that he is "taking some time to discuss a possible run with my family, friends and others," as he considers a run for the seat.

"My passion for public service rose out of a deep and abiding concern about how our government best served the interests of the people of nation [and state]," said Sheehan. "But, after the attack on our United States Capitol – an apparent attempt to block the certification of the election of Joe Biden – improving our government alone seems woefully inadequate. We must safeguard our democratic system of government. Our American Republic is in peril."

"Accordingly, voters of District 2, need to elect a congressman whose power of persuasion can pierce through the media echo chambers to help rebuild a consensus of facts upon which common ground may be found," Sheehan's statement went on to read. "We also need a congressman who is capable and willing to compromise and whose ideals can remind his/her colleagues what truly makes America great: our shared history, diversity and Constitution."

Fox, who grew up in Cranston and currently lives in Warwick, has been in the thick of Rhode Island politics for years, most recently serving as the Director of Communications to Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo.

Before that she was Raimondo's Transition Director and a Deputy Campaign Manager. She also served as a Deputy Chief of Staff handling communications when Raimondo served as Rhode Island General Treasurer. Fox has also served as the Director of Communications and Community Relations for Langevin and as the Senior Information/Public Relations Specialist for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Now Fox is CEO of Clarendon Group. She

also serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for Sophia Academy in Providence.

State Senator Josh Miller as of Monday said that he is continuing to consider a run.

"I continue to seriously consider a campaign to represent Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District," said Miller. "Over the last few days I've discussed the possibility with family and friends, and I've been humbled by the many people who have reached out to offer support and have encouraged me to run. I believe the person who represents this Congressional district should have experience working to build consensus among people with differing opinions, understands and embraces the Rhode Island values of hard work and commitment to community, and be ready to work tirelessly for the economic well-being of all people in our state. In the coming days, I will continue to consider my candidacy with my family and will make a determination based on how I can best serve the people of State Senator Sam Bell from Providence

State Senator Sam Bell from Providence is also considering a run but is waiting on a diagnosis for his six weeks old son who was born with health complications before he makes the decision.

Dylan Conley, who ran unsuccessfully last year against Langevin in the Democratic Primary said on Monday that he hasn't made a decision on whether or not he's going to run.

Out

On Friday Warwick City Council President Steve McAllister announced that he wouldn't be entering the race.

"I was pleasantly surprised how many people from Warwick asked me to consider running for Congress. As City Council President we are doing big things here in Warwick, so I am going to run for re-election to the city council," said McAllister. "But, I look forward to watching that race and working with the next Congressman or Congresswoman to help strengthen Warwick and our state."

Another Warwick elected official who was considering a run was House District 24 Rep. Evan Shanley.

On Monday Shanley approunced that he

On Monday Shanley announced that he was no longer considering noting that it would be difficult to leave the State.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi last

week said that he wouldn't be running for the seat. Some thought that he could be a frontrunner in the race if he decided to run. Cranston School Committee member David Alden Sears said on social media Tuesday

seat.
(Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler contributed to

that he was no longer considering a bid for the

Senior Center asks community to help show some love for nursing home residents

The JSC is asking the community for help to bring some cheer to those who are residing in a Nursing Home on Valentine's Day. This day is set aside to show LOVE, FRIENDSHIP and ADMIRATION for one another. Therefore, we would love to put a smile on the faces of the wonderful men and women who are very deserving of a time to show they are being remembered. What a better time than on this VALENTINES DAY!

For the next two weeks, members of the JSC will be writing and signing Valentine Cards for local Nursing Home residents to show they are loved. You can also become a part of showing your love to them by bringing a signed Valentine card to the center. The cards will be distributed on Friday, Feb. 11.

This will be a meaningful expression of love and kindness. At the beginning of the pandemic many of the residents were not able to have family and friends visit in person. That may have changed for some, but we feel it's a great opportunity to bring some cheer to many of the residents at this

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Please drop your signed Card or Cards into the Card box in the Lobby at the Center between 10 a.m. and & 2 p.m. daily until Feb. 10. Please call with any questions to 401-944-3343.

The Johnston Senior Center address is 1291

Hartford Ave. On Monday, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, the JSC will be Hosting a Valentine Party/Luncheon. Beginning at 11 a.m. the members will celebrate a time of shar-

the members will celebrate a time of sharing kindness and friendship. The goal is to create an atmosphere of happiness, of coming together, enjoying socializing, of course eating, and having fun!

We have asked all who attend to celebrate the day by wearing something red or pink to show their LOVE.

À variety of pastries, cookies and punch will be served as they listen to a combination of music along with some LOVE SONGS for their enjoyment and maybe even win a prize. Lunch will be served at noon. The donation is just \$3. If you are interested in coming please contact the Center at 401-944-3343 to register by Feb. 10.





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School choices

National School Choice Week advocates for letting parents decide where their children learn



By EMMA BARTLETT

hen Sandra Olivo Peterson looked to put her son, Darien, in school at age four, she searched for a place that could accommodate her son's needs. Being born around the cutoff date that would make him wait another year before entering school, Olivo Peterson found her way to Bishop McVinney School in Providence. She asked if it was possible to enroll her son a little early because she thought he was ready and the school tested him to make sure. From there, he went on to attend Catholic school from grades K through 8.

"It was a wonderful experience. Not because it's a Catholic school, but because it was a smaller community and provided open doors," said Olivo Peterson, who now lives in Cranston with her family.

Olivo Peterson is now part of Rhode Island Families for School Choice and is an advocate for raising the awareness that parents have the choice in the schools that their children attend.

School choice refers to a process which allows families to choose the educational option (K through 12) that best suits their children. According to National School Choice Week, every child is unique and may require a different learning environment to be successful.

The Rhode Island Families for School Choice is made of fifteen volunteers, including Ed Bapista of Cranston. He said the organization began eight to nine years ago because parents wanted to be empowered to choose the best education system for their child since they are the prime educators of their kids. Bapista said 28 out of 50 states offer school choice, yet Rhode Island has a limited program. It is only accessible through lottery systems - which means not every child will be able to attend - or individuals must pay a fee to send their child to a different school.

Bapista said that before the recent Covid spike, the organization was to hold an event on school choice with 12 schools and keynote speaker Denisha Merriweather who is an active voice for the American Federation of Children. Merriweather grew up in Florida and her siblings before her did poorly in school. The teachers didn't expect much when Merriweather came around and she ended up flunking the third grade and having to take it twice. Merriweather's godmother asked to take her in and applied to a program. Merriweather not only started to excel, but passed the third grade, went onto middle school, high school and graduated college with a master's degree in social work.

"The situation turned around positively by the simple act of being put in a school where she belonged," said Bapista.

Rhode Island has a variety of school options for the 160,000+ children living in the state. With choices of public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools and homeschooling, there are many options that parents should be aware of when selecting what is best for their child.

Bapista said that school choice encourages healthy competition among schools.

"They [schools] step up their game and become inviting and enticing. Everybody does better," Bapista said.

Bapista hopes that outreach about school choice sparks an interest in the minds of parents because people may not realize that they have this choice. He believes that individuals have the right to demand more educational options

In Rhode Island, there are a total of 66 public education agencies (or



EDUCATION SUCCESS: Sandra Olivo Peterson's son, Darien, participated in school choice where he attended Bishop McVinney School in Providence. (Submitted photo)

districts) in the state. They consist of 32 regular school districts; four regional school districts; four state-operated schools; one regional collaborative LEA and 23 charters.

According to the Private School Review, as of the 2022 school year "there are 172 private schools serving 22,194 students in Rhode Island"

5 common learning disabilities

Students are often told that hard work is the path to success. Individuals who have learning disabilities may have to work even harder than their peers to be

The Learning Disabilities Association of America says learning disabilities occur due to neurobiological and/or genetic factors that alter the way the brain functions. This can affect one or more cognitive processes related to learning and interfere with various skills, potentially preventing a person from acquiring the same amount of knowledge as others of the same age.

There are many learning disabilities, and the following are five of the most common, according to LD Resources Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps find solutions to those who are affected by learning

1. Dyslexia: This learning disability can impede a person's ability to read and comprehend text. Students may have trouble with phonemic awareness, or the way to break down words. Similar



problems with phonological processing, or distinguishing between similar word sounds, can occur as well.

ADHD: Attention hyperactivity disorder is marked by behaviors that make it difficult to pay attention and stay on task. The Masters in Special Education, a resource for finding work and study in special education concentrations, says there is debate over whether ADHD is a learning disability. But there is no denying that ADHD can impede success in school settings.

3. Auditory processing disorder/ language processing disorder: APD affects how sounds are processed and interpreted by the brain, advises

WebMD. A person may not be able to recognize slight differences between the sounds in words and may not be able to distinguish the direction sounds are coming from. That's challenging in a classroom setting. LPD is a form of APD that affects how one attaches meaning to sound groups that form words, sentences and so on. An audiologist can diagnose APD.

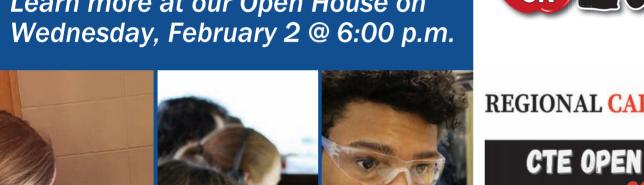
4. Dyscalculia: LDRF says dyscalculia makes it challenging to understand even basic mathematical concepts, such as time, measuring and estimating. A person with dyscalculia may have difficulty following order of operations. And since math skills build on one another, a student quickly with dyscalculia can fall behind.

5. Dysgraphia: A person with dysgraphia may not be able to write legibly. He or she may take a long time to write, hold writing implements improperly and/or struggle with putting thoughts onto a page.

Additional symptoms of learning disorders include failing to tell left from right, difficulty recognizing patterns, lack of coordination, difficulty doing tasks with the hands, and challenges associated with concepts of time. Educators and health care providers often collaborate to help those with learning disabilities get the services they need to be successful in the classroom.

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to ace college entry exams



Photo courtesy of Getty Imag

AMILY FEATURES

Because most colleges and universities require applicants to submit ACT or SAT results as part of admissions consideration, prepping for the test itself can be a critical component of that process.

While it can oftentimes be hard to deal with the anxiety that comes with a rigorous test meant to show your mastery of certain subjects and concepts, such as reading and mathematics, consider these test prep tips to help boost your score while simultaneously lowering

Register Early

To allow yourself as much flexibility as possible, taking college entrance exams during your junior year of high school is encouraged. If you don't get an ideal score, you can refine your approach and retake the exam with a better idea of what to expect.

Take a Practice Test

Any test prep plan should start with a practice SAT or ACT exam. Taking practice tests under realistic conditions can help you gain a better understanding of the content of the test, improve your time management and help combat test anxiety. You can use your practice test as a baseline to set goals and focus the rest of your prep on areas you would like to improve before the real thing.

Sign Up for a Prep Course

If you find studying on your own difficult or not as successful as you'd hoped, a prep course can put you through the paces and hold you accountable. Complete with homework and in-class practice, prep classes can range from small groups to larger classes taught by test experts. Some school districts even offer after-school programs dedicated to ACT or SAT prep.

Gather Supplies

To help reduce test day stress, gather everything you'll need the night before. Check the list of banned items - cellphones aren't permitted - to make sure you don't accidentally bring something you're not allowed to have. Ensure your bag is packed with your admission ticket, valid photo identification, several sharpened pencils with erasers, an approved calculator (with fresh batteries) and a watch, if allowed.

Get a Good Night's Sleep and Eat Breakfast

While it can be tempting to stay up late the night before the test to cram, you're likely to perform better with a full night's sleep. Sleep is important for retention, and eating a balanced breakfast before heading out the door can aid in your ability to focus. To make your morning easier, prep breakfast before bed to keep an early morning from starting even earlier.

Remember, the college admissions process involves more than just test scores. Visit eLivingtoday.com for more education tips and information.

Source: eLivingtoday.com

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How to choose the best wallpaper design for any space

hinking about using wallpaper to transform your walls from drab to fab? You're in good company. Wallpaper's popularity is on the rise in both residential and commercial spaces and gaining an edge over paint.

Why? Experts believe this trend reflects a growing recognition of wallpaper's unique benefits. It's cost-effective, protects the wall surface from accidental marks and scratches, and offers personalized self-expression at a reasonable price.

"We experienced consistent monthover-month wallpaper sales increases throughout 2021. We attribute this to consumers' growing desire to customize their spaces with designs that reflect their personal style and aesthetic preferences, while retaining the option to change things up as frequently as desired with removable wallpaper," says Michael Jones, general manager, Spoonflower, a leading custom, printon-demand wallpaper and home decor digital marketplace.

According to Jones, there are a few things to keep in mind when choosing the right wallpaper for your space. Here, he offers a few insights to help you get started:

Type

First, determine how long you'd like the wallpaper to remain on your walls. Some types of wallpaper are more suitable for long-term use and others are best for those who wish to change their designs with the seasons or on a whim. For this reason, Spoonflower offers



three types of wallpaper:

1. Prepasted Removable Smooth: Long-lasting, but fully removable (and recyclable), this option is great for

homes, rental spaces, accent walls or temporary art installations.

2. Peel and Stick Removable Woven: Removable and repositionable, this option won't leave a residue behind. Whether you're renting or you love to stay on-trend, temporary wallpaper is a great alternative to traditional wall coverings.

3. Traditional Pebble: This traditional wallpaper has a subtle leathered texture, matte finish, is paste-activated and is highly durable. Not only is it PVC-free, it is also moisture resistant.

Design

To take the guesswork out of wallpaper design selection, consider heading to a wallpaper digital marketplace. In the case of Spoonflower, which features over 1 million designs, the biggest challenge you'll face is the enormity of selection. However, you can easily narrow down your choices by searching for designs based on category keywords, color or by styles, such as Mid-Century Modern, Cottagecore or Paisley. For those with a specific design already envisioned, the site even allows you to upload your own design and have it custom printed on wallpa-

Before committing, consider ordering two or three swatches so you can compare them in your own space and assess the best fit. This can help ensure your final design selection is completely tailored to your preferences. To learn more and to get the process started, visit spoonflower.com.

Thanks to new wallpaper technology and an ever-growing library of designs available, making a customized impact on the look and feel of your spaces has never been easier.



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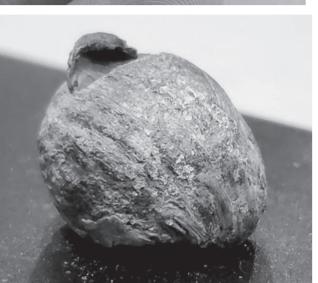
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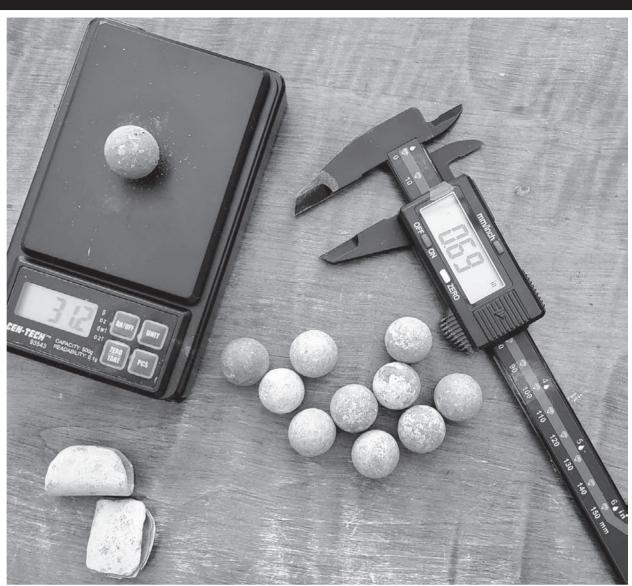


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LEARNING ABOUT BRITISH MUSKET AMMUNITION



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

Last time I talked about another fantastic British Pattern 1742 musket that we have. I think as a collector of muskets it is important to understand how they function and what happens when they are fired other than the obvious. While working on our bullet strike study of objects and structures hit by musket fire on April 19, 1775, we were seeing some slight variation in the size of British musket ball holes. Was this because of people touching the bullet holes over the years, or was there some variation in the standard British musket ball of the Revolutionary era? I had always heard that a British musket ball was .69 caliber and when spoken about it was with great exactness. But is there a way to check this data and is it even important? In my mind

yes to both!

So where would I find original British musket balls from the Revolution? Luckily for me I had helped catalog musket balls found on at least four archaeological digs. I also knew of a collection of dropped, or unfired musket balls found on a British fort site in the Caribbean. This last site was only occupied by British forces for a four- or five-year period. I had also studied the only two objects that survive from the so-called "Boston Massacre" on March 5, 1770, two fired British musket balls! So, I began to enter the find location or catalog numbers, weight, and if dropped, the size using calipers into an Excel spreadsheet. Those that were fired and had some deformation we added a 1-3 scale at the end to describe how deformed they were. As the numbers built up the lack of exactness in size and weight came to light. As of now the ball range from around .67 caliber to .72 caliber with an average of

Granted some of the differences are small, but they are still differences that can affect the ballistics and make for minor differences in the size of a hole bullet-struck objects. Though I have a pretty good sample I need to record more.

In the fall of 1781 during the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, some British transports were sunk in the York River so they wouldn't be captured but also to block the river from French ships entering the area.

Archaeological work was done on some of the ships, and on the Betsy, a transport, a cask of about 10,000 musket balls were found. Getting a sample of some of these may give some really good baseline data for this project. Time to setup a trip to Richmond and visit more lead balls!

As a friendly reminder, metal detecting on National Park Service property is illegal. The abovementioned balls were found during permitted and supervised projects by the National Park Service or state sanctioned projects on various sites.



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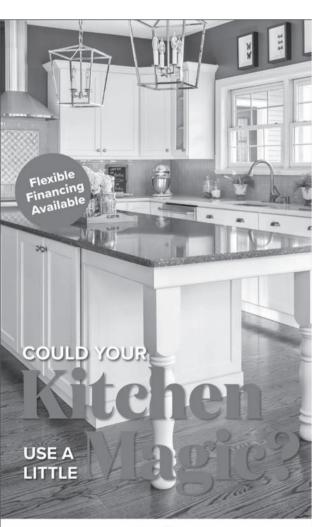


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The company of 'Tiny Beautiful Things' (Photo by Mark Turek)

Trinity's 'Tiny Beautiful Things': A Tiny Beautiful Play

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Set designer Baron E. Pugh grabs our attention as we enter Trinity Rep's Dowling Theatre and figure out that we are in a post office. And once again those permanent pillars are integrated into the design.

We are introduced to the play by Gunnar Manchester, the promising actor/musician from Cranston who has caught our attention in a variety of "off-Trinity" productions.

We then meet Sugar (Angela Brazil), the new advice columnist who puts a part of herself into every response.

"Tiny Beautiful Things" then introduces the audience to the letter writers, a motley crew of people with problems they rely on Sugar to solve for them.

Brazil has been with the company for as long as I can remember, finally getting a starring role that she deserves as the advice giver who draws on her own experiences to help the people who pour out their souls to her.

The ensemble cast of Stephen Berenson, Phyllis Kay,

Brian Mceleney, Marcel Mascaro and newcomer Jenna Lea Scott play a variety of characters relying on a person they don't know to answer their questions.

Sugar gets emotionally and personally involved in every letter, always ending with an emphasis on forgiveness, love for one another and self and going on despite obstacles.

While I have to admit that Joyce liked the play, based on actual letters written to Cheryl Strayed based on her book and adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalas, better than I, I did enjoy the ensemble acting and the energy that Brazil brought to her exhausting role.

I wish it had a bit more humor in it.

Timing is right for a play that realizes that we all have problems to deal with, and we all could use a little empathy, love and most of all, hope.

"Tiny Beautiful Things" is at Trinity Rep through February 13. Call 351-4242 for reservations. Masks and proof of vaccinations are required.

WARWICK SHOWCASE

THE KING'S DAUGHTER (Lovely Fairy Tale)

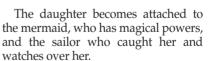
A PG rated fairy tale. Complete with a mermaid and a love affair that makes for a delightful movie for the entire

Pierce Brosnan plays King Louis XIV, a self-centered monarch who wants to guarantee his immortality by sacrificing a mermaid at the time of a solar eclipse.

Meanwhile, he brings his illegitimate daughter who has been raised in a convent to the palace at Versailles to be married into money, saving France from going broke.

There are beautiful scenes of the palace and surrounding gardens and





How can she save the mermaid and find true love?

That's the fairy tale story, which is beautifully told, with spaces filled in by narrator Julie Andrews.

The language and humor add to enjoyment, with nary a naughty word spoken.



It's a bit corny, but we both loved it.

AVON

PARALLEL MOTHERS * * * 1/2 (Joyce) * * * (Don)

Almodovar, the award-winning Spanish director, gives us another Spanish soap opera with a bit of politics thrown in.

Two single women (Penelope Cruz and Milena Smit) share a hospital room as they are about to give birth.

Middle-aged Janis (Cruz) had a onenight stand with an anthropologist and welcomes a child. Ana (Smit) is a teenager who doesn't know who the father was and is reluctant to have the

The babies get switched, starting a complicated life for the two women.

Joyce liked the story, which has a few twists and turns, while I found it a bit slow and lacking emotion.

Perhaps that is the result of trying to read the subtitles and missing some of the expressions and body language.

There is a sub-plot about the villagers who are deeply affected by the Spanish Civil War, and all their relatives who were buried in the local fields. That's where the anthropologist comes in.



Kaya **Scodelario** and Pierce Brosnan in The King's Daughter.

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19

Sports



POINT GUARD: Johnston's Emily lannuccilli calls a play on Monday. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Johnston/NP co-op finding its way

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston and North Providence girls basketball programs joined forces this winter season to create a new co-op, and nave enjoyed their first season together despite some challenges they have faced on the court.

The Panthers tipped the season off with a 1-9 record and hosted Tiverton on Monday evening. The visiting Tigers would take the 46-32 win.

Emily Iannuccilli led the Panthers with 17 points scored while Ava Waterman added five and Alena Rizzo four.

"We've been so lucky, the girls have been so open and receptive to this process. They've come together and embraced being one team," said Johnston/NP coach Meg Reall. "In terms of the wins and losses, it's been a bumpy



BOXING OUT: A Johnston forward looks to rebound.

Midseason observations

I figured this week would be a good one to My pitch give some midseason thoughts on our high school teams considering we are right around the midway point of the regular season. It's crazy to think that we are already to this point. Between the holiday break and teams missing portions of time due to the pandemic, it feels like we are just getting started.

Some teams and sports have played more than others, but I am confident enough in the sample size to at least give you some opinions and observations from what I have seen to this point. Here have been a few of my takeaways:

Although the Bishop basketball Hendricken team is still one of the top heavyweights in the state, the Hawks have gotten off to a slow start ... for Hendricken standards, of

Between losses to powerhouses Classical and La Salle as well as another to East Providence, the Hawks have struggled to put it all together against the other elite teams. It's early in the season and each game was close, but usually Hendricken wins those games.

The Hawks are unusually young this season and only have one starter, David Lynch, who has seen significant varsity minutes. Between that and the team missing six games due to postponements, I guess a slow start is not



SPONSELLER

surprising.

As always, it's not how you start, it's how you finish, and no team has been better at finishing in the past decade-plus than Hendricken. However, the climb to the top appears to be a little bit steeper than usual this winter.

Perhaps our top girls basketball team to this point has been Toll Gate, who entered this week with a 9-1 league record.

The Titans have been a playoff team for the past couple seasons but never really got over the hump to being a true contender. It always felt like they were just a player away.

Toll Gate got just that player in Woonsocket import Bri Simono, who has been stellar at the point guard position. Between her impact, along with the fast rise of Adeline Areson and the return of Sydnee Perreault and Amanda Preston, this team appears to be for real and will certainly be a factor come playoff time. We'll see how

PITCH - PAGE 20



Panther grapplers rolling on the mat

The Johnston wrestling team is back in action this winter and is rolling, winning all of its dual matches entering this week. The Panthers took on Davies, Westerly and Narragansett on Tuesday evening, but the results were not available at press time. For more photos of the action, turn to page 20. Pictured above is Dylan Martins in a recent match. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.

■ Pitch

(Continued from page 19)

the second half of the regular season plays out. Toll Gate won't be sneaking up on anyone moving forward and the war of attrition is always tricky, but I have a feeling that Toll Gate is already primed for a big run.

I have been impressed with each of our girls teams from Cranston.

After making its unlikely run in 2020-21, the East girls returned strong and have put together a solid start this season. East entered the week with a 6-3 league record and sat comfortably in playoff position.

The West girls have had a bit of a roller coaster season to this point. The one encouraging sign, though, is that the Falcons have beaten the teams that they should be beating and have lost to the top clubs. Of course, that means West still has another step or two to take before we can call it a contender, but if it can take that step forward in its final few games, then I don't hate the idea of calling it a dark

horse.

As for hockey, I spent quite a bit of time breaking it down last week so I won't go as far into depth but I will give a few thoughts.

Hendricken appears to be right in the championship mix, if not the favorite to win it all. The Hawks have been stellar to this point with only one loss, and got some big wins including a lopsided 5-2 decision over Mount recently.

I spoke about it last week, but between the Hawks, La Salle, Mount, and a couple other squads, this division will be a dog fight. To this point, Hendricken and La Salle have been the top two teams and it will not surprise me to see them as the final ones standing come championship time.

Overall, I like the Warwick co-op as well. Pilgrim and Toll Gate joined forces last season and then got bumped up to DI this winter. Although the team entered the week winless, all but maybe one or two games were tight contests. Even this past weekend against Hendricken, Warwick trailed by just one score in the third

period before falling 3-1.

To be honest, the team has actually fared better than I thought it would early on. I figured by season's end it would figure things out, but it is already holding its own against some of the top teams around. This is another club that appears to be just a step or two away from being a title contender.

As for the defending DII champion Cranston co-op, they have held steady in the middle of the standings. I have no doubt that it will be a factor come playoff time, but the road to the title is far from guaranteed.

One team that I believe is the favorite to win a title at this point is the Cranston West wrestling team ... which entered this week unbeaten and only having been tied once on a night that it was shorthanded.

The Falcons are deep, experienced, and have potential state champions in most weight divisions. Early in the winter coach Tom Lynch said that the goal was a top-5, maybe even top-3 finish at states. With some of the teams they have beaten,

including Bishop Hendricken, I think it's a pretty safe bet that they will be there in the end.

The Johnston wrestling team as well.

The Panthers have somehow managed to fly under the radar this winter, but was also unbeaten heading into this week's slate of contests. The team may be small, but it looks set to make some noise down the stretch.

One last team I wanted to touch on is the Hendricken swim team. The Hawks

One last team I wanted to touch on is the Hendricken swim team. The Hawks have ruled the pool for the past three decades, and although I'd say they are still the favorite this winter, they did suffer a rare defeat to Barrington to start the season.

With the departure CJ Sheldon - who was one of the greatest swimmers in state history, Hendricken has some holes to fill. With guys like Nick and Tim Andrews, the Hawks will be fine. But, I do think the early season loss and the departure of Sheldon is something to consider when assessing the team's ceiling. Again, I am sticking with Hendricken for the title, though.

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UNBEATEN: Johnston's Antonio Bracey takes an opponent's back.



DOUBLE LEG: Johnston's Nick Harrington secures a takedown.



UP THE COURT: Alena Rizzo takes the ball through traffic and up the court.

■ Co-op

(Continued from page 19)

season for us. They're still feeling each other out, we're still trying to figure out what works best for us but we have so much potential. We've seen glimpses of it, we've seen the potential that we do have. Now it's about putting it all together on a more consistent basis.'

Senior leaders Iannuccilli, a Johnston product, and Rizzo, from North Providence, have stepped up as the two clubs get to know one another.

"(Iannuccilli's) great, she's one of the best kids I've ever coached. It's like having another coach on the floor with the girls, she's not afraid to speak up, she leads by example and the girls take to that," Reall said. "Same with Alena Rizzo. I am a new coach to her, things could definitely have been rocky but she has been so open and understanding as well. They've been the core of our team and keeping the girls focused on why we're doing what we're doing.

Reall has also been pleased with the development of some of the younger players as well, including Waterman, who has been a productive starter during her sophomore season.

'Considering our numbers, we have had to ask some younger girls to step up and Ava is in our starting lineup. She place-started for us last year, and she has taken a leadership role on the floor. She steps up, hits big shots for us in big games. We've thrown the younger girls in the fire and they've learned quickly," Reall said

The Panthers faced Coventry on Tuesday evening, but the results were not available at press time. The team will next face Cranston East this Friday night on the road for a 7 p.m. tip off.

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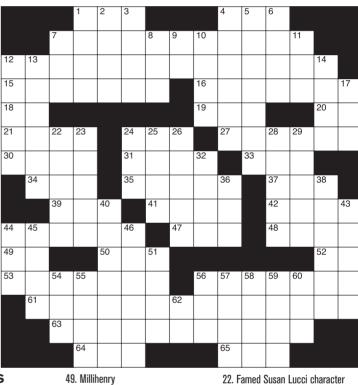
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- 7. Rigid external covering in some
- animals 12. Promotional materials
- 15. More high-pitched
- 16. Widely cultivated cereal 18. Dormitory employee
- 19. Bad act
- 20. One's mother
- 21. Scored perfectly 24. Space station
- 27. Exchange for money 30. Edible seaweed
- 31. Iranian city
- 33. Lakers' crosstown rivals
- 34. Nothing
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - student, learns healing
- 41. Matchstick games
- 42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two
- 44. Distant planet
- 47. A type of residue
- 48. Punk art icon Jimmy De_

- 49. Millihenry
- 50. Canadian media firm
- 52. Type of withdrawal
- 53. Spicy
- 56. Dish of minced meat or fish
- 61. Noted previously
- 63. Happily
- 64. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 65. Not present

CLUES DOWN

- 1. In a way, brought to an end 2. Scandalized actress Loughlin
- 3. This (Spanish) 4. Essay
- 5. Continuing indefinitely 6. Tool for lifting food
- 7. Partner to Adam
- 8. Dry white wine drink
- 9. Spanish be
- 10. Smaller quantity
- large series 12. (Scottish) island
- 13. Church officer
- 14. Large wrestler
- 17. Polite address for women

- 32. Database management system 36. Similar
- 38. Move up and down playfully
- 40. Alfalfa

_ Kane'

23. Mason ___ Line

24. Disfigure

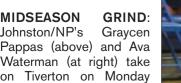
25. Asian nation

26. Rage (Span.)

29. Opera solo

28. Khoikhoin peoples

- 43. Satisfied 44. Baseball official
- 45. Large, flightless bird of S. America
- 46. Money given in support
- 51. Flower cluster 54. Beginning military rank
- 55. Russian weight measurement
- 56. Explosive
- 58. Midskirt
- 59. Weapon featuring balls
- 60. Used of a number or amount not
 - specified
- 62. Unit of measurement



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BUSINESS Fishing show gearing up

By CAPT, DAVE MONTI

Let the New England Saltwater Fishing Show, being held March 11-13 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, help you gear-up for the fishing season. The Show is back as the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast with tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

Greg Vespe, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (show sponsor), said, "We are about two months out and have sold 260 booths. Our twelve large spaces for boats and large displays against the back wall of the exhibition hall are all taken. However, we still have booths available. Many of our exhibitors are offering exclusive Show Specials so anglers should take advance of these specials."

"Our seminar committee has refocused on "How to" seminars keying on strategies and tactics to target species we as anglers love to catch, eat or release ... striped bass, summer flounder, tautog and a host of others. We have a special focus on species that are in abundance in our area due to warming water. Species like black sea bass and we hope to key on new abundant species like false albacore and bluefin tuna as they are closer to shore than ever before and anglers who have not targeted them before are starting to fish for them," said

Seminar topics will include everything from offshore Canyon tactics to inshore tips and tricks for black sea bass. Speakers will cover locations from Boston Harbor to the Connecticut River and everything in between. Accomplished charter captains, authors and local sharpies all pitching in to cover topics of interest.

Visit RISAA's page for updates on seminar topics and speakers as the schedule gets fleshed out. By taking a little time to plan your show visit you can make sure you are at the show for the presentations you want to see and visit the booths that have products you want to check out and buy.

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center Friday, March 11, 12-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 12, 9-7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Children under 12 admitted free and on Sunday, March 12, Family Day, all women are admitted free. Visit the Kids Casting Area on Saturday and Sunday.

All adults who enter the show can register to win a Free Fishing Charter Trip with Capt. B.J. Silvia of Flippin' Out Charters. Additionally, you can purchase a limited entry ticket to win a second fishing charter with Booked Off Charters as well as a custom Crafty One fishing rod (one rod for each

Tickets at the door are \$12. Friday is Military Appreciation Day. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the first 250 Veterans and Active Duty personnel that arrive on Friday will be admitted free.



flounder (fluke) said, "The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is back again this year on March 11-13 at the Rhode Island Convention Center." (Submitted photos)

Fishing licenses online

Anglers are reminded to renew their fresh and saltwater fishing licenses. In Massachusetts to purchased licenses online visit Mass-FishHunt: Buy Fishing or Hunting Licenses | Mass.gov. In Rhode Island the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) reminds anglers that the freshwater fishing season runs from March 1 through February 28. Regardless of when they were purchased. To purchased licenses online in Rhode Island visit Fishing Licenses-Rhode Island -Department of Environmental Management (ri.gov).

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In a press advisory this week NOAA said, "These historic laws make a tremendous difference in the lives of Americans ... But, even greater challenges lie ahead as we face the challenges of climate change and its impacts on the ocean, coasts and wildlife."

NOAA is asking all to browse their 50 Years of Ocean and Coastal Conservation website to view 50 Ways to Love Your Coast and Ocean, a new video, that summaries all the four acts, and resources for NOAA partners.

Where's the bite?

Cod. Capt. Frank Blount of the Frances Fleet party boat, Pt. Judith, RI, said, "The weather has been working against us and we have not been out for cod since December. A few boats have tried and have caught very few fish." Party boats fishing for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island weather permitting include the Frances Fleet at www.francesfleet. com, the Seven B's at www.sevenbs.com, and the Island Current at www.islandcurrent.com .

Freshwater. As temperatures rise and fall this week check safe ice conditions with cities and

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

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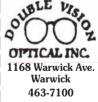


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