



ACTING DEBUT: Aria Mia Loberti will make her acting debut in the leading role of Marie-Laure Leblanc in Netflix's adaptation of "All The Light We Cannot See." Landing the role has been described as "authentic casting," since Loberti is legally blind, and the character she will play is also blind. (Photo by Ryan Collerd, courtesy of Netflix)

JHS boys hoops shut down after social media exchange

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Pilgrim and Johnston High School boys basketball teams were set to square off for an evening match in Warwick on Tuesday, but that afternoon, the game was postponed due to malicious interactions between the student bodies that surfaced on social media.

The incident began when Johnston students began making disparaging comments regarding former Pilgrim principal Gerry Habershaw, who passed away in November of a heart attack following a battle with COVID-19.

Students from Pilgrim took notice and began exchanging messages with those from Johnston. Once the interactions threatened potential violence at the scheduled event, Johnston Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo sent out an email expressing his decision to postpone the game until further notice.

"Unfortunately, we have learned that a few of our students had planned on attending the game with the intention of harassing the Pilgrim community. Recently, that school lost its longtime and much beloved Principal to the COVID virus. Some of our students have posted very negative images of that principal which has caused outrage in the Pilgrim community," the email read. "Our understanding of the plan for tonight's game was for students to wear black to mock the funeral of this individual. To maintain the safety of all, this game was postponed to a later date."

HOOPS - PAGE 8

Legally blind Johnston native makes 'authentic' Netflix debut

By RORY SCHULER



A SCHOLAR TOO: Johnston resident and URI graduate Aria Mia Loberti, pictured here with her guide dog Ingrid, traveled to London on a Fulbright grant, and is now working on her doctorate at Penn State. (Photo courtesy URI)

She can't see well, but she's intelligent and even pretty good at math. Now she's trying out acting, and soon she'll make her debut on a television near you.

Aria Mia Loberti struggled as a tiny third-grader in a Johnston elementary school — legally blind, but spunky and intelligent.

She learned to advocate, first for herself, and later for others. It took years to find her voice, but once it was discovered, she took her message to the world.

The Johnston native will star in an upcoming Netflix mini-series, and for at least four episodes, she'll possess the eyes and ears of millions of projected viewers.

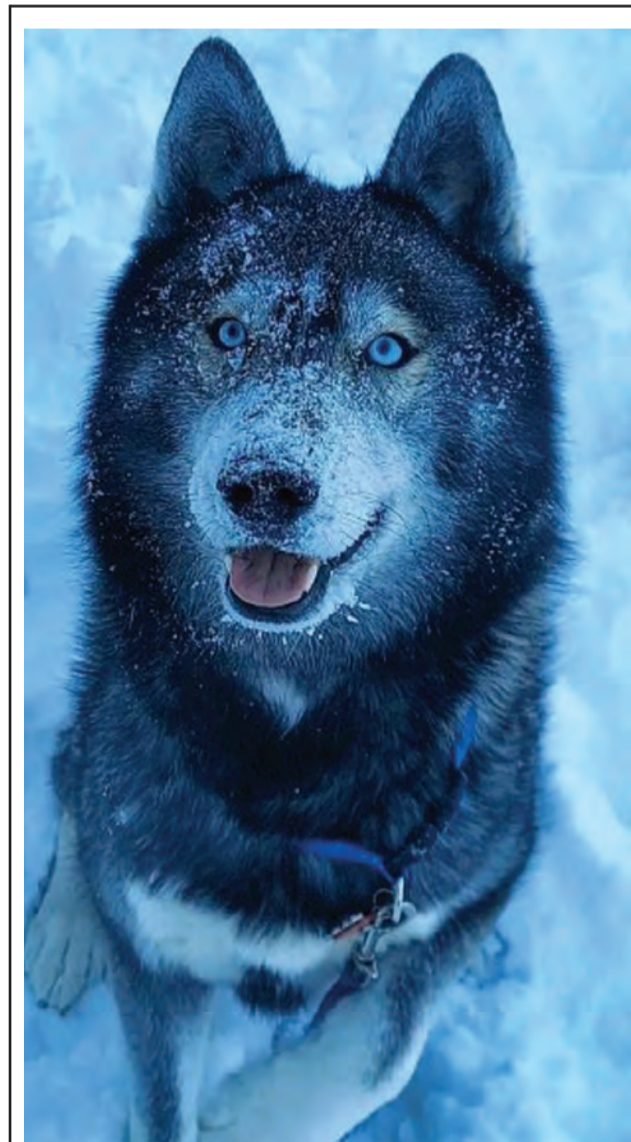
Loberti recalls spending school recess in a room, by herself, while the other kids played outside.

"My early years of elementary school were challenging," Loberti told an audience at the University of Rhode Island four years ago. "My needs were not met in the classroom, even though they were protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act and by my Individualized Education Plan."

Loberti, a 2020 URI graduate, shared her story at a TEDxURI talk in 2018.

"As a result, I would experience debilitating fatigue and frustration," she recalled. "Even though these services were really very simple — like a seat at the front of the classroom, enlarged handouts on anti-glare paper, use of a white cane, it was a rarity that I ever received them."

Loberti recalled difficult memories from elementary school; challenges that helped shape her future self. She attended Winsor Hill Elementary School for her first few



SNOW BANDIT: Kristin R. Bekier's husky Bandit loves the snow. For more photos from the storm, turn to Page 2. (Submitted photo)

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SLEDDING CREW: Johnston youngsters Ethan Archambault, Carter Palardy, Steven Palardy, Michael DeAngelis and Jalen Johnson didn't mind Sunday's 20-degree chill and had fun sliding down the hill outside the indoor recreation center off Atwood Avenue. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Johnston digs out from under more than 20 powdery inches

By PETE FONTAINE

'Twas a snow-covered and safe Sunday in Johnston.

Although there weren't many vehicles on the roads, people young and old alike were part of the clean-up from the weekend's Blizzard of 2022.

Perhaps first and foremost were duties performed by Johnston Firefighters who were armed with shovels — and boundless energy — and cleared mini-mountains of snow that resulted after town, state and independent contractors plowed their way through more than 20 inches of snow that old man weather dumped in Johnston.

At approximately noon, a Johnston Fire Department vehicle was parked on Hartford Avenue across from Pat's Italian Restaurant where Lt. Paul Pontarelli and Firefighter

Chris Brandmeier shoveled snow away from the hydrant.

That scene was repeated time-and-again by on duty firefighters throughout the day.

There was yet another special scene inside Johnston War Memorial Park where Scott Fellela, a staffer for the recreation department, was operating a spiffy-looking New Holland mini-bucket vehicle to clear a path so walkers could resume their routines walking around the mile-and-half walking track at Johnston's Jewel.

Several other recreation department workers used shovels and did so despite the day's freezing 20-degree temperatures.

Meanwhile, school department workers plowed and cleared snow, leaving the parking lots and entrances to Johnston High School safe.

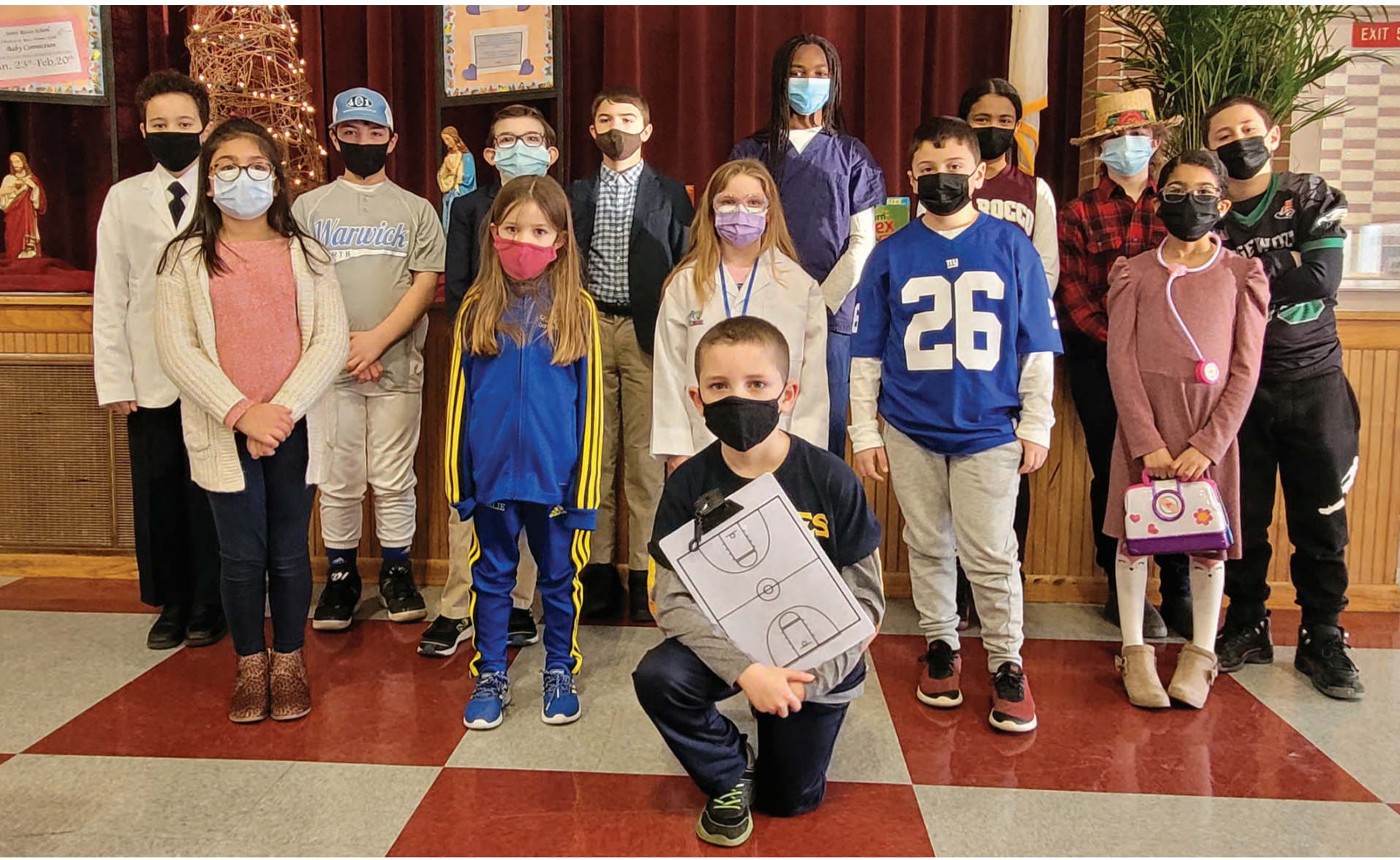
Even Dave Cournoyer, Director of Facilities and Transportation for the Johnston School Department, praised super staffers like Anthony Costa, Anthony Fellela, Bob Deming and John Ricci as they cleared huge drifts away from JHS entrances with shovels and snow blowers.

But it wasn't all work Sunday in Johnston.

Four children — Ethan Archambault, 11, Carter Palardy, 7, Steven Palardy, 12, Michael DeAngelis, 10, and Jalen Johnson, 11 — took advantage of the snow using a mini-toboggan, colorful inner tube and sliding board during fun-filled treks down a mini-hill outside The Indoor Johnston Recreation Center where their smiling fathers looked on while remembering the snow and safe days of their childhoods.



JUST IN CASE: Lt. Paul Pontarelli (left) and Chris Brandmeier — as well as other Johnston Firefighters — made sure fire hydrants in Johnston were free from snow during their shifts Sunday. For more snow photos, turn to Page 9. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



FAITH BUDDIES: Sixth and second grade students at Saint Rocco's School dressed for Career Day to help kick off this year's Catholic School Week at the Johnston school. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Career Day kicks off Catholic Schools Week

By RORY SCHULER

Julia Moretti, 7, held the laminated sky blue laboratory pass out straight.

"I want to be a scientist," said the Saint Rocco School second-grader who dressed in a white lab coat emblazoned with a test-tube and light bulb researcher's patch.

"My cousin is a scientist," she said. "I think she makes vaccines."

The mandatory facemask, pink with white trim, fit the possible future physicist's Career Day costume.

"I like studying stuff," Moretti said. "And I like trying to understand things."

She stood next to her "faith buddy," a fellow Cranston girl, 11-year-old Adrianna Insana, a sixth-grader.

Insana wore a straw hat and flannel shirt.

"I want to raise cattle and grow crops," said the future farmer. "If there are no farmers, they can't supply and stock stores. If no one stocks stores, there's no food to buy."

The "faith buddies" program at St. Rocco pairs sixth-graders with younger protégés from the second grade class. They team up and pursue activities together, like Monday's Career Day.

Science fair-like inspiration projects filled the activity room, all specimens from this year's St. Rocco School Annual Invention Convention.

The Invention Convention and Career Day helped kick off Catholic Schools Week at the Johnston School.

Principal Regina M. Hand shared a packed calendar of activities planned for this week; each day labeled with a theme. Monday's them was "Our Community."

The Career Day dress-up allowed students to dress as the occupation they would like to pursue as adults. Students wrote about their career choice the week before in English Language Arts class, shared their work with their classrooms, and then met up with their Faith Buddies to explore vocational possibilities together.

Monday also featured a food drive, ice cream social and the beginning of a book fair.

On Tuesday, students explored "Our School & Students," starting with School Spirit Day, when students were allowed to ditch the uniforms and don instead their gym uniform or Spirit Wear. St. Rocco's athletes were allowed to wear their SRS sports shirts, jackets and pants.

Tuesday also featured an assembly with BWANA Iguana and St. Rocco School Jeopardy for grade 5-8. Students also wrote thank you letters to parents.

Wednesday's theme, "Our Nation," allowed students to wear appropriate red, white or blue clothing rather than school uniforms.

Students created cards for local veterans, to be distributed through Johnston-based Operation Stand Down Rhode Island. Some students also marched in a school parade, with music, streamers,



THE FUTURE: Future farmer 11-year-old Adrianna Insana, a sixth-grader, and her "faith buddy" 7-year-old Julia Moretti, a second-grader and future scientist, pose for a photo together after sharing their career aspirations with each other. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

ROCCO - PAGE 4



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FUTURE POTUS: Sixth-grader Alessandro Cassisi-Wood, 11, of Providence, a sixth-grader at Saint Rocco School, wore a sports coat and tie to Career Day. He wants to be President of the United States when he grows up. Turn to Page 5 for more photos from Saint Rocco School. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ Rocco

(Continued from page 3)

pompoms and signs. Grades 4-8 held a spelling bee.

Thursday's theme, "Vocations," was planned to feature Vocation Talks in Café Rocco.

"We're lucky enough to have three wonderful sisters here," Hand said on Monday. "They'll share their thoughts on 'vocation' with the students."

Thursday will also be "Crazy Hat or Hair Day," and students can wear silly hats or a creative hairstyle to accent the return of their school uniforms.

Friday will celebrate "Our Teachers & Staff," according to Hand.

First Friday Mass will be held prior to staggered dance parties at Café Rocco, for grades pre-K through 4. Older students will participate in classroom activities.

The school's 175 students will end the week with an early dismissal Friday.

Typically, Catholic Schools Week kicks off on Sunday. This past weekend's blizzard, however, altered the schedule a bit. Last Sunday's theme, "Our Parish and School," has been rescheduled to this Sunday, Feb. 6.

The "Opening of Catholic Schools Week Mass" will be held to close the week, beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Following mass, the school will host an appointment-only Open House. Parents can call the school at 944-2993 to make an appointment to tour the

school Sunday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"We have a lot to get in this week," Hand said.

Catholic Schools Weeks is an annual celebration that dates back to 1974, Hand said, following dipping Catholic School enrollments in the early 1970s.

"The schools were overflowing in the Fifties and Sixties," Hand said. "But by the mid-1970s, there was a drop off. Catholic Schools Week is not just about the school. It's about how the school fits into the community."

The St. Rocco student body is mainly composed of students living in Johnston (about 60 percent), but the rest come to the school from neighboring towns and cities like Cranston, Warwick, Coventry, North Providence, Smithfield and North Smithfield. A regional bussing program provides transportation across the surrounding communities, to St. Rocco School and its adjacent church in Johnston.

Sixth-grader Alessandro Cassisi-Wood, 11, wore a sharp sports coat and tie to Career Day.

He stepped to the front of the room and proudly declared his occupational aspiration.

"I would like to be President of the United States," he said proudly. "I don't want to see this country go down. It's the land of the free. I want to uphold the Constitution."

The Providence youngster took a place on stage and posed for a photograph by the American flag.



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INVENTION CONVENTION: The Saint Rocco School Annual Invention Convention helped kick off this year's Catholic Schools Week. Student Josianny Santana showed off her project. (Photo courtesy Robin Okolowicz)



TAKEOUT TAXI: Saint Rocco School student Jolie Caparco shows off her invention at the Annual Invention Convention at Saint Rocco School. For more photos from Catholic School's Week, see next week's edition of the Johnston Sun Rise. (Photo courtesy Robin Okolowicz)

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

MIND THE GAP: WHAT IS A DIASTEMA?

A gap between teeth is called a diastema. While it poses no dental or medical threat, a diastema is sometimes a concern for patients for cosmetic reasons. Most often appearing in young children, a diastema usually closes when permanent adult teeth come in. Spaces that are wider than 0.5 millimeters are considered to be a diastema. Generally caused by the difference between the size of teeth relative to the jaw, the condition is often genetic. A smaller tooth means more space between the teeth, most commonly, the upper lateral incisors, which creates a gap between the front teeth. Gum disease can also be responsible for tooth migration as inflammation damages the bone supporting the teeth.

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Stalking perfect pies on the 'Pizza Hunt' safari

By EMMA BARTLETT

Since the start of the pandemic, Knightsville resident Brian Sclama, 46, and his family have tried over 100 pizzerias across Rhode Island. Two or three nights a week, the family of four will order from independent pizzerias across the state – mentioning Nino's Pizza, Tommy's Pizza and Catanzaro's Pizzeria as a few of their more local go-to's. With pizza shops struggling due to Covid-19, Brian and his wife, Vanessa, along with some of their friends, thought of a unique way to support the pizzerias: start a Facebook group that recommended pizzerias. Brian and Vanessa then created the group Rhode Island Pizza Fans in January 2021, which to date has 1,500 members.

But how did they get started?

In the early stages, Brian and Vanessa held several pizza parties with their friends. They gathered pizza from six to ten pizzerias in the vicinity and reviewed the different kinds – often taking a picture and posting it to the Facebook group. While they began in Cranston, there were only so many pizzerias to sample.

"We started in Cranston — that was the base of operations — and moved from there out," said Brian.

The family ventured to pizzerias in Warwick, Providence and North Kingstown to name a few. The four always came to a consensus on choosing a location and had fun with the process by selecting a town and picking a pizzeria from that area.

Brian and Vanessa invited their friends into the Rhode Island Pizza Fans group, who in turn invited their own friends. There were only three group rules to follow: no negativity, no cursing and no slamming places. Brian said if a place didn't have good pizza, don't review it because the point of the Facebook group was to uplift businesses, not hurt them.

"We're trying to get small places on the map so they keep rolling ... I know these people work hard and long hours, and it's easy to go out of business," Brian said.

Brian has a personal connection to pizzerias since his dad ran a Pizza Hut for

many years and worked long hours. Brian's dad wanted to open his own pizzeria and tried two times, but the places went under. Brian's cousin also took a shot at starting his own place, but that business went under as well. From witnessing first-hand how his dad could work up to 16 hours a day, Brian knew how much work went into running and maintaining a pizzeria and wanted to help in the little ways he could throughout the pandemic.

In the spring and early summer of 2021, Rhode Island Pizza Fans took off as Brian and Vanessa's reviews became more intricate. The criteria focused on describing the sauce's taste and what the pizza reminded them of. Others online began engaging in the group and left their own pizzeria recommendations.

"It started to go bananas," Brian said. "There are some places people have posted in the Facebook Group that help some lesser-known pizzerias get new visitors. Little niche places people may not know — and we'll now go out of our way to visit."

Brian also mentioned that Rhode Island has more pizzerias per capita than any other state.

As more people joined and left reviews of different pizzerias to visit across Rhode Island, some members started messaging Brian — requesting videos and merchandise. Brian's two sons, Noah and Caleb, helped their dad create a TikTok account and any videos would be uploaded to Facebook and TikTok. YouTubers and podcasters have even reached out to Brian about collaborating, and Brian has collaborated with another local Facebook group called Another Slice of Warwick.

As for merchandise, the family took the suggestion to heart and launched an assortment of products including water bottles, t-shirts, kids clothing, sweatshirts and more. Several friends asked for crop tops, which resulted in the "Pizza Queen" and "Eat Pizza" options. One extremely popular product has a goofy picture of Brian with a pizza in front of him — the Rhode Island Pizza Fan members love it!

Even with the merchandise, the family's focus con-



TRY A SLICE: Brian and his wife, Vanessa, started the Facebook group Rhode Island Pizza Fans which gives recommendations on great pizzerias across the state.

tinues to be about supporting others. Any profit from merch is donated to one of three charities: The National Children's Cancer Society, Bob Woodruff Foundation and Veterans of Foreign Wars. All have personal connections, with Brian having served in the military and his mother also having had cancer.

Brian works as a government contractor for the air force and grew up in both Cranston and Warwick. He attended Christopher Rhodes Elementary School, Aldrich Elementary School and Bishop Hendricken High School. Vanessa is a coordinator for Cranston Public Schools and grew up in Cranston where she attended Garden City Elementary School, Western Hills Middle School and Cranston High School West. They have lived in Cranston for 18 years.

On top of ordering pizza from local areas, Brian and Vanessa have made pizza in their oven, the grill, and homemade pizza in their outside oven. The family hopes to keep the Facebook group going with the main intention of continuing to support the state's pizzerias.

Brian & Vanessa's picks

Pizzerias in Cranston, Johnston and Warwick that everyone should try:

Lou Umberto's Italian Kitchen (1606 Cranston St., Cranston, RI) 401-432-6267; Rosa Mia Pizza (133 Greenville Avenue, Johnston, RI) 401-231-9770; and Pizza King (1800 Post Rd, Warwick, RI) 401-732-1338.

Pizza that embodies Rhode Island:

Casertas, Casertas, Casertas! (121 Spruce Street, Providence, RI) 401-621-3618.

Ideal place to pick up a classic slice of cheese pizza:

This is an easy one for sure, Nino's Pizza (500 Atwood Ave., Cranston, RI 02920). Customers can get circle or square pies and they offer a large menu and spacious dining room. 401-942-3137.

R.I. pizzeria that's a hidden gem:

NK Chicago Pizza (7673 Post Road, North Kingstown, RI). We found this place in December 2021 after a wrestling tournament at NK High School, just caught sight of it from the corner of our eyes. 401-295-1550.

Pizza to try if you're feeling a bit daring:

Fellini Pizzeria (2190 Broad St., Cranston, RI) This place has fantastic pizza, but if you want to try something a bit on the odd side, you will have to wait for the Thanksgiving Holiday season, when they offer Thanksgiving pizza. 401-467-5992.

Pizzeria to order from if you're having a party:

There are a lot of places that fit into this category, but if I had to go with one place over the rest, it would be Pizza King (1800 Post Road, Warwick, RI). The pizzas are big, filling and absolutely delicious. This location is a big favorite in Warwick, so I'm told. 401-732-1338.

JHS to hold annual Science Fair next week

By Janet Clements
Special to the Sun Rise

The annual Johnston Senior High School Science Fair is being held this year on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022.

The Science Fair will take place in the JHS Library/Media Center. Each year students enrolled in various science courses partake in the Science Fair, which includes conducting an experiment, composing a paper and presenting their work with a backboard.

Many students who exemplify great work have their projects displayed in the Science Fair for the rest of the school to see, and those who show potential in moving on to the state level Science Fair are judged by faculty and staff through a presentation.

The winners are decided by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons and special prizes are given including, Honorable Mention, Best Physical Science Project, Best Biology Project, Best Chemistry Project, Best Backboard, Most Creative Idea, and Best Data Collection.

This year the state wide Science Fair will be held on March 12-13, in-person, at CCRI in Warwick.

Editor's Note: Janet Clements serves as Johnston High School Student Council Corresponding Secretary. The Sun Rise regularly publishes stories from members of the JHS student body.

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Opinion

Collaboration the key to besting Blizzard of '22

EDITORIAL

We suppose it wouldn't be a new year in post-pandemic America without some serious action early on in the calendar.

Citizens across the Eastern Seaboard got their fill (and then some) of wintry wonder after this past weekend's storm lived up to its reputation and dumped as much as two feet of snow across the state, with some snow drifts deep enough to swallow a compact sedan.

Still, for all of its undisputed ferociousness, the storm did little in the way of causing actual damage or inconveniencing Rhode Islanders — save for the unlucky bunch who had to try and convince their canine pals to hop through an ocean of snow to go to the bathroom.

Power outages were rare and isolated, and people were wise enough to stay off the roads, which were rendered all but invisible during the height of storm.

Some of this fortunate outcome can be attributed to luck and the benevolence of Mother Nature. The weather stayed cold enough so that the voluminous snow was dry, light and powdery. Combined with a consistent, strong wind, the combination of forces kept trees from becoming inundated with heavy snow load, sparing electrical boxes and wires from collapsing branches and keeping the lights (and heat) on for lucky Rhode Islanders.

But as deserving of gratitude for the lack of calamity during this historic storm (the fourth-highest snowfall in the area by recent historical accounts) is the collaboration of people to get through it safely.

We cannot laud the efforts of municipal DPW workers enough for their dedication and determination to get out, early and often, and keep roads as clear as possible despite the horrible driving conditions. Local volunteers and firefighters ensure that fire hydrants are dug out, and police push through the conditions to ensure anyone in need of assistance or stranded on the roads were safely buoyed back to somewhere warm. Regular citizens, particularly those with snowblowers, who did their part to keep sidewalks clear and help out neighbors who may be unable to shovel for themselves also warrant a shout out.

Not that it was a tremendously difficult call, but those in governmental positions also deserve some praise for recognizing the severity of the storm and declaring a travel ban, and likewise regular citizens deserve praise for adhering to that ban and not defying orders and common sense.

And although they can take a pounding from residents, deservedly or otherwise, National Grid gets a nod too for keeping the power on and boilers firing. We're delighted to have seen all these factors combine to allow us to simply admire the sheer amount of snow that now decorates the state like a chilly blanket.

AND A LOOK BACK AT THE BLIZZARD...



GUEST OPINION

Teachers ask for same compassion they give students

By TIMOTHY KENNEY

In the midst of the pandemic in 2020, you could not go on Facebook or TikTok or Instagram without seeing videos from frazzled parents sharing their gratitude for teachers and the jobs that they do. There was a groundswell of support as people became more aware of the multitude of responsibilities teachers and schools are entrusted with to help America function.

Today, as the pandemic continues and takes turn after turn, things have dramatically changed. Now, you would be hard pressed to go on social media and not find some mean-spirited comment directed at teachers. Gone are the references to heroes. Instead, teachers are being told that they are lazy, that they are not doing enough, and - most disheartening of them all - that they just don't care.

Yes, everyone wants the pandemic to end, no group more so than teachers. Teachers want to see the faces of their students again as well. Teachers want to teach in-person every day. Teachers want the ability to collaborate to create content that is meaningful to the students they know so well. Most importantly, teachers want their classrooms to be safe. They want their classrooms to be refuges for all their students, both physically and emotionally, where they can explore their passions and their interests without fear of getting themselves or others sick. No one is arguing any of that.

Yet just because we want something does not mean we can have it.

Yes, teachers want to see the faces of their students. They want to see the looks of confusion when students do not understand just as much as they

want to see the smiles when everything begins to click. Seeing faces helps build relationships and all teachers - all of them! - entered the classroom accepting the role relationships have in helping students learn and grow as individuals. Those relationships actually recharge and reinvigorate teachers more than any test scores. Yet teachers are also concerned about the safety of their students - every single one of them. So, if the guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the administration says that students should wear masks, then relationships must be sacrificed for safety. And teachers accept that at the cost of their own ability to recharge.

Yes, teachers want to teach in person every day. They want all their students present because they understand that to be the best way to teach. Being present allows students to learn from one another and also about one another more so than being on a screen. Teachers understand that students need to interact with each other so that they can grow and mature. Yet teachers are also concerned about the safety of their students - every single one of them. So, if the guidance from the CDC and the administration says that schools need to move to emergency remote teaching and teachers need to adjust immediately an assignment or a task that can be conveyed remotely, despite the loss of passion and energy the assignment would typically elicit if the students were in person, then being in person must be sacrificed for safety. And teachers accept that at the cost of their energy and their passion.

Yes, teachers want to collaborate with colleagues to create content that is meaningful to the students they know

so well. Teachers who went through the shutdown of 2020 often speak of how they needed to reassess their curriculum and focus on what was essential to their students, what really mattered to their students. Many spoke of eagerly awaiting the end to the pandemic so that they could help shape a new curriculum that would meet the needs of their students. Yet teachers are being given online platforms and state-sponsored curricula that are "high quality," the implication being that what teachers did before was not. They are being tasked to implement materials that ask for conformity at the expense of creativity. Materials that ignore the needs of their individual students at that moment in their lives. And teachers are being told to accept that at the cost of their spirits.

Teachers are not asking for accolades on social media or half-hearted platitudes shared via email. What they are asking for is administrators and school committees to stop speaking of "learning loss" when no one has determined how much learning should be expected during emergency remote teaching. They are asking for people to stop speaking of how much they appreciate all that teachers do, but then not give them the time and resources to do it all effectively. They are asking for the same grace and compassion that extend to their students who are dealing with health and family crises that affect their performance. Yet what they are really asking for is one thing:

They are asking to be heard.

The question is: is anyone really listening?

Editor's Note: Timothy Kenney, is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Rhode Island's School of Education.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Spremulli family offers thanks for 'positive story'

Thank you to Pete Fontaine, Father Peter Gower and Mayor Joseph Polisenena.

I speak from my heart regarding the recent article referring to Joseph Spremulli and The Pannese Society ("Pannese Society honors Joe Spremulli," Jan. 27 edition). When the article came out, I brought it to my dad at the kitchen table. He just looked and was overwhelmed.

What a positive impact it made on a man suffering with many ailments. What a difference it makes to have a writer who can put things together to affect a person during hard times.

The great thing about the Sun Rise is that they are always writing positive articles and making someone feel better about themselves. This is so important, rather than watching all the negativity from the news on television.

We would also like to thank all those who attended from eight Italian organizations, relatives, friends and elected officials. One of my dad's wishes was the Columbus Day Parade and statue, which he hopes can be resolved soon.

Great job Pete Fontaine!

Louis J. Spremulli
Johnston



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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 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on **February 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**

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. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

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 Meeting". Enter the following information:

Webinar ID: 826 7098 4802

Password: 011272

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

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

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

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

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

Hoops

(Continued from page 1)

The email later urged parents to speak with their children regarding their behavior, and stated that students may be prohibited from attending away events in the future.

Tuesday's events followed another situation that occurred prior to the team's game against Cranston West on Jan. 14. It was reported that members of the Johnston student section were preparing to heckle the West coaching staff by using poster boards that displayed images of their family members during the game. The West

program issued a complaint in the days leading up to the event and the apparent plans dissolved.

No members of the Johnston team were involved in the exchanges on Tuesday, and coach Mike Bedrosian apologized on behalf of his club.

"It doesn't represent the culture of our basketball team. (Pilgrim) has every right to be disgusted, and we apologize to the Warwick and Pilgrim community for the things that were said. In no way, shape or form does it represent our team," Bedrosian said.

Bedrosian added that he intends on personally apologizing to the Pilgrim administration and athlet-

ics department, and hopes that his players are not impacted by this situation.

"We have a good bunch of kids in our program, and they are taking the brunt of this. I hope that people understand that although it was our students, it was not our players that put that stuff online. We don't want to have a target on our backs for the remainder of our away games, we don't want our team to have a bad rep because of what members of the student body put online," Bedrosian said. "If it was (our players), they would be off the team. Hopefully the school does its job and reprimands the people responsible."

Former varsity head coach and current assistant, Mark Livingston, echoed Bedrosian's sentiments on Twitter as well.

"We as a program do not condone this type of behavior. Our administration, coaches, players and parents are disgusted by these actions. This does not, by any means, represent the young men and culture on the Johnston High school boys basketball team," Livingston said.

A makeup date has not been established, but sources say that the schools are eyeing a potential Feb. 11 meeting at Pilgrim. It has not been decided whether or not fans will be allowed in attendance.

LEGAL NOTICES

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/81525316492?pwd=VzIxZHpRUUVBUQZ2ZtempRQUxiQ3U3Zz09>

VIA TELEPHONE:
One tap mobile: US: +16465588656, 81525316492#, ..., *787275# or +13017158592, 81525316492#, ..., *787275#

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

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

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

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 Harilla I, LLC

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 Win-

sor Avenue AP 60 Lot 4 - Zoned R40. Applicant: Johnston Winsor I, LLC

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 Winsor 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 Street

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

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

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 Perry

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-Ponte

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: Dennis Cardillo

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

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.

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

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Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

Fire Protection System Installation Rainone Gym

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for **Fire Protection System Installation- Rainone Gym**. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning February 3rd, 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 **10:15 am, February 23rd, 2022** at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference at 45 Mill Street, Johnston, RI 02919 on February 9th, 2022 at 9:30 am.

Due to the Governor's Executive Order related to the pandemic, the bid opening is also available virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The virtual opening can be attended by going to <https://zoom.us/> and clicking on "Join a meeting". Enter the following meeting information:
Meeting ID: 862 1436 1798
Password: 719316

If you do not have a computer or mobile device-Dial in by phone:
833 548 0282 US Toll-free- 877-853-5247(Toll Free)

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 bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director

2/3/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

Fire Alarm Testing Services

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for **Fire Alarm Testing Services**. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning February 3rd, 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 14th, 2022** at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference at starting at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 on February 9th, 2022 at 10:00 am.

Due to the Governor's Executive Order related to the pandemic, the bid opening is also available virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The virtual opening can be attended by going to <https://zoom.us/> and clicking on "Join a meeting". Enter the following meeting information:
Meeting ID: 891 4676 9410
Password: 365075

If you do not have a computer or mobile device-Dial in by phone:
833 548 0282 US Toll-free- 877-853-5247(Toll Free)

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Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director

2/3/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

HVAC Mechanical System Installation- Rainone Gym

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Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director

2/3/22

Snow-tos



SNOW HOME: Emma and Ava Vasconcelos, 5-year-old twins, made an igloo. (Submitted photo)

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the blizzard dumped feet of snow over Johnston and the rest of the Ocean State, the Sun Rise sounded the call for photo submissions from the storm and its aftermath. We received enough submissions for at least two editions, so if you don't see yours here, please check next week's paper. If you'd still like to send us your "snow-tos," please email them to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.



SNOW GO: Aiden Vasconcelos, 9, gets ready to hit the new slopes outside his Johnston home. (Submitted photo)



SUPER STAFF: Johnston School Department staffers Anthony Costa, Anthony Fel-
lola, Bob Deming and John Ricci enjoy a break during Sunday's snow-clearing stint
outside JHS. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)



SNOW LOVE LOST: Cole Buscemi, 5, spent the weekend "loving the snow," ac-
cording to his mother. (Submitted photo)

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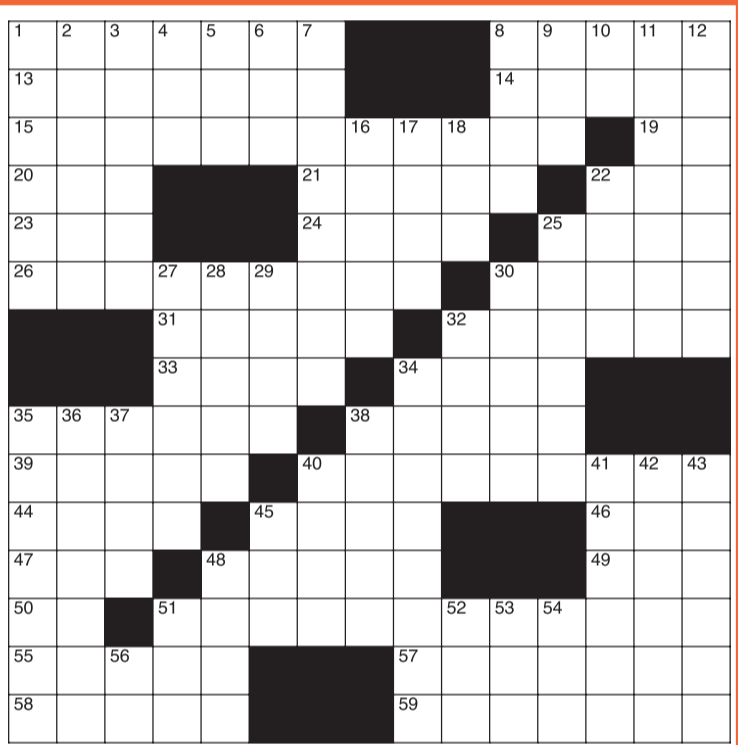
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ACCREDITED BUSINESS **A+**



PEACE OF MIND: Aria conducts at a yoga class at URI in 2017 with her guide dog, Ingrid, at her side. (URI photo by Michael Salerno)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. ___ de Mornay, actress
- 8. Surrenders
- 13. Omission
- 14. The white poplar
- 15. They become butterflies
- 19. Used to chop
- 20. Select
- 21. Volcanic craters
- 22. Consumer price index
- 23. Utilize
- 24. "True Blood" actress Paquin
- 25. Got up
- 26. Sank in
- 30. Retail
- 31. Giants
- 32. Most bald
- 33. Changes color
- 34. Unit of loudness
- 35. Undresses
- 38. Fathers
- 39. Learned skill
- 40. Remove qualification
- 44. Covered with frost
- 45. Speak up
- 46. Nowhere to be found

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Get back
- 2. Pass or go by
- 3. Having a sharp taste
- 4. Midway between east and southeast
- 5. Cairo Regional Airport
- 6. Peace officer
- 7. Brings to life
- 8. Automotive vehicles
- 9. One point south of due east
- 10. Football position
- 11. Goes by
- 12. Most attractive
- 16. Road divisions
- 17. Not the sea

CLUES ACROSS

- 18. Small, faint constellation
- 22. Cabbage
- 25. Least frequent
- 27. Change slightly
- 28. A country in NE Africa
- 29. Metric units of measure
- 30. More coherent
- 32. Make uninteresting
- 34. Nausea
- 35. Institution of Oceanography
- 36. Of little value
- 37. Hindu model of the ideal man
- 38. Biblical exclamation
- 40. You throw it at a board
- 41. Be about to happen
- 42. Brutal
- 43. Opened one's mouth widely
- 45. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 48. Saturate
- 51. The woman
- 52. Someone who is highly skilled
- 53. A way to launch an attack on
- 54. Where golfers begin
- 56. Atomic number 58



WE ARE: Aria Mia Loberti poses with her mother, Audrey, and her guide dog Ingrid, taken in front of the Nittany Lion on the Penn State campus last October. (Photo courtesy Audrey Loberti)



TED TALK: Aria Mia Loberti introduces her guide dog Ingrid as she takes part in a TEDxURI event in 2018. Loberti will make her acting debut in the leading role of Marie-Laure Leblanc in Netflix's adaptation of "All The Light We Cannot See." (Photo courtesy URI)

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TED TALK: Aria Mia Loberti takes part in a TEDxURI event in 2018. (Photo courtesy URI)

Netflix

(Continued from page 1)

years of schooling.

"One of the more dramatic turns was in second and third grade when I would be shut alone and isolated in a room during recess," Loberti told the URI audience. "I was not allowed to go outside on a playground with the other children because I was considered a liability. So this was challenging. But as you could imagine, I couldn't stay silent. Neither could my parents. So they formulated a plan, so that I could receive my legally obligated free and appropriate public education under the law."

Loberti was born with a very rare genetic eye condition called achromatopsia.

"This basically means that I am completely color blind, am very near-sighted, and am quite light sensitive," Loberti said. "So that in bright lights like these, or in outdoor lighting, without my dark glasses, I am completely blinded."

The Role

Loberti will make her acting debut in the leading role of Marie-Laure LeBlanc in Netflix's adaptation of "All The Light We Cannot See," according to a December casting announcement released by the content-streaming platform.

The character she will portray is also blind.

Loberti is not a conventional Netflix star. She has little training and won the role over thousands of others.

"We searched the world and reviewed thousands of auditions," Executive Producer and Director Shawn Levy said in the Netflix announcement. "We never thought our path would lead to someone who has not only never acted professionally, but never auditioned before. It was a jaw-drop moment when we first saw Aria Mia Loberti, who is both a natural performer and an advocate for disability equity and representation. I can't wait to tell this beautiful story with her at the center."

Loberti has stopped giving interviews until closer to the mini-series release date. For now, she has been referring interview-requests to her TEDxURI talk.

"I've overcome the prejudice — sometimes the oppression — that I face with a disability," Loberti told the URI audience. "Back in my elementary school years, I was pretty much made to feel as if my voice did not matter by those people in that school department. I was made to feel as though my voice and my mission was worthless."

The Scholar

In 2020, as a senior studying philosophy, communication studies and political science, Loberti was one of five URI students awarded Fulbright grants to conduct research abroad.

She pursued a Master's of Research degree in rhetoric at Royal Holloway, University of London, during her Fulbright year, focusing on how females are portrayed in Ancient Greek texts.

During her many years spent as a disability activist, including serving as

the first legally blind youth delegate to the United Nations and a delegate to the U.N. International Human Rights Summit, Loberti was also a U.S. representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women Youth Forum.

"Since I have been an activist for as long as I can remember, I have always been curious about how we use language to cultivate justice and understanding, with which my grant program (was) uniquely equipped to address," she said at the time.

Following her time in London, Loberti traveled to the Keystone State to work on a Doctorate in rhetoric at Pennsylvania State University. He hopes for a career in academic research, while continuing gender- and disability-rights activism.

Loberti spoke to her former alma mater regarding the Netflix role.

"I was so shocked," she told URI for an alumni feature. "It's just ludicrous. There were thousands of people [who auditioned] and it's a lead role. It was such a fun audition process and it was very empowering. That's all I was seeking — a new experience, a challenge. I didn't expect anything more to come of it. I think it was just pure shock when I learned."

Overcoming Obstacles

Loberti credits her entire life experience, family and university faculty, for helping mold her into the woman she has become.

"Growing up with a disability was of course understandably challenging sometimes," Loberti told the URI audience. "But those challenges brought me many vital lessons."

Loberti's parents, Audrey and Paul, served as powerful advocates for their daughter, but they felt left down by the town's public school system.

"To make matters worse, teachers and administrators often misunderstood the idea of disability," Loberti recalled. "I remember one administrator saying to me that she was surprised that I could be both legally blind and intelligent. Another said to me with my mom in the room that it was not worth the school department's investment to enlarge or modify my mathematics materials because I'm a girl. Girls aren't supposed to be good at math. And I'm blind, so what would I be doing with math anyway?"

Halfway through her third grade year, Loberti's family embraced a different approach to education.

"I was homeschooled, from the middle of third grade, onward through my senior year of high school, through online curriculums, and it was amazing," Loberti said in 2018. "To top it all off, I received a 98 percent average at the end of high school and all my mathematics courses, proving that even for blind girls, math is really cool and really helpful."

Her Voice

Loberti excelled, but not everyone with a disability has advocates at home, or parents able and willing to compensate for public school shortcomings.

"I realized I was one of the lucky ones," Loberti told the crowd. "And the moral of the story is that I learned from a very young age that our society

sees disability in a somewhat negative light. And that young people especially with disabilities, especially young people and women, are often not taught or encouraged to use their voice. I was. My parents taught me how to advocate for myself. They taught me the laws that protected me. And that is my power."

Loberti's mother has never doubted her daughter's potential.

"Paul and I are proud of Aria Mia and all of her accomplishments, including those in her academic career and her advocacy for disability equity," said her mother, Audrey Loberti. "We are thrilled for her as she embarks upon this exciting new chapter in her life as an authentically cast actress. By simply living her authentic life, she has the potential to change stigma and stereotypes, and we applaud her."

Glaring Omissions

Audrey Loberti also stressed the importance of "a crucial portion of Aria Mia's life (from 1999-2018)" that has been omitted from many stories recently published about the budding actress.

"As a result of noncompliance in the classroom setting, Aria was homeschooled from third grade onward," her mother said on Monday. "Her TedxURI speech, 'The Power of Solidarity and Silence' highlights some of our experience with the public school system."

Aria Mia Loberti wants to change the world.

"There are so many people, especially in the developing world, who are not nearly as lucky," she said from the stage at URI. "From a young age, I was an advocate. First for myself, and then locally and statewide, and more recently I became an international advocate, which was always a dream of mine."

Loberti said she used to dream about her "current reality, about a place where I could be accepted, as a whole person, as someone with hopes and dreams, not just as that token disabled person or as the person with eyes that just work a little bit differently."

Netflix has also announced that Mark Ruffalo (Marvel's Incredible Hulk) will play Daniel Leblanc, Loberti's character's father. He works at the Museum of Natural History in Paris as a locksmith, and in the mini-series and novel, builds a small version of their town to help his daughter navigate the world after losing her sight.

"And I know that I wouldn't be standing here today if I didn't have grit and perseverance and all those things; those are great," she said. "But I know I would most definitely, 100 percent never be standing here, literally and figuratively, if it was not for people like my parents, my professors here at URI, and the people who saw something in me and have allowed me to pursue my personal definition of success; who did not stay silent."

She urged others to find their voices and open their mouths.

"Do not stay silent," she said. "One voice can make an incredible impact, but no one can achieve anything alone. And I am living proof of that."

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E	L	I	S	I	O	N			A	B	E	L	E		
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	S		A	X	
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						D	Y	E	S	S	O	N	E		
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I	V	A		S	A	R	A	N			P	E	W		
P	I	S	O	U	T	H	E	A	S	T	E	R	N		
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spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

When Kaushal and Sripal Jain moved to America from India in 1976, they came with little but a dream and an uncompromising work ethic. They settled into life in our country and eventually welcomed a young son. They named him Akshay whose name means "eternal, immortal and indestructible" in Sanskrit ~ perfect words to describe their now incredibly accomplished and impressive son.

The same year that Akshay was born, the Jain's landed upon an opportunity to own and operate a laundromat on Route 44 in Johnston; thus was born Jain's Laundry. Now, twenty-seven years later, the laundromat is going as strong as ever, as is their successful son. Akshay is now working on his PhD in BioTech at Harvard University while doing cancer research at nearby Dana-Farber Research Hospital. Both Akshay and his parents are the personification of the "American Dream."

Today, customers of Jain's Laundry will find a full-service "wash-dry-fold" laundromat. If you don't want to consume your time wrestling with piles of clothes, bring your laundry in and trust it to the care of Kaushal Jain. She has committed 27 years of her life to serving her customers. She is meticulous and consistent. She will wash, soften, and dry your clothes, then fold them and wrap them up to go ~ all within a few hours. This is an amazing convenience, all for only .69cents/pound. The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by day's end – all for less than \$7.00. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for under \$11.00.

If you are more of a do-it-yourselfer, then you will find a large room full of coin-operated washers and dryers. There



Meet Kaushal Jain who, along with her husband Sripal, owns and operates Jain's Laundry on Rte. 44 in Johnston. Together, they have raised a successful son who is a source of great pride as a PhD candidate and researcher at Dana-Farber Research Hospital.

are folding tables for easy sorting and folding. Don't have enough quarters? No worries ~ there is a change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill available here.

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

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

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Fall Prevention



With declining temperatures and winter coming, it's a good time to talk about fall prevention, especially when walking outdoors in winter conditions. According to the National Institutes of Health, almost 1.6 million older adults visit emergency rooms across the United States for fall-related injuries. The risk of falling increases with age, and with winter conditions. A fall can lead to injury, functional disability and even death in older adults; complications such as hip fracture, head injury or brain bleeding are of major concerns. These events lead to emergency room visits, surgery, prolonged rehabilitation and could even result in permanent disability. Prevention is the key, and there are actions we can take to reduce the risk of falling ourselves and older family members or loved ones while out and about this winter.

Snow and ice present challenges for all ages, but particularly for older adults. For example, as we age, we experience vision changes, loss of balance, decreases in sensation in our feet, and take medications that can contribute to dizziness or unsteadiness. The good news is that there are ways to compensate for these risk factors and help us still get out and enjoy activities no matter the time of year. Examples include making sure to hydrate and keep your fluids up in case of medications that contribute to low blood pressure, changing positions slowly from sitting to standing then walking is another good tip to



Staying Healthy

by
ANA TUYA FULTON,
MD, MBA

avoid dizziness with position changes. Seeing your eye doctor and keeping glasses up to date and wearing comfortable and low-heeled shoes can help with vision and sensation changes. Finally, using adaptive equipment such as canes or walkers when prescribed by your doctor or physical therapist will also reduce the risk of falls.




Regarding the seasonal risks, being aware and taking things slow and carefully in the winter can help prevent falls. It's always a good idea to dress for the weather and to consider footwear carefully. Low, rubber soled shoes or boots will give better traction and

prevent falls. Additionally, taking things slow and allowing extra time is recommended. Clear walkways or hire someone to help maintain sidewalks and driveways, use sand or kitty litter to help with traction, and use handrails for extra support. When out for walks, have a phone or watch with calling function to obtain help, just in case. When not at home and out on errands take care getting out of the car and on sidewalks and walkways where there could be untreated areas. Avoid carrying too many things and not being able to see where you are stepping. If the conditions are poor or stormy consider using the now ubiquitous delivery services to bring in groceries, medications or other necessities to avoid being out and about in icy or snowy conditions. These commonsense tips apply to all of us, but particularly to older adults.

Being at higher risk of falls doesn't mean avoiding outdoor walks or activities, in fact staying active and mobile can help prevent falls, as can keeping up your exercise routines as the weather changes. Consider indoor exercises on stormy winter days and keep those outdoor walks going in the winter with the proper outerwear and footwear when roads and sidewalks are clear again. Staying flexible and being open to changing routines is key in the winter months to keeping active while staying safe!

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, MBA is Executive Chief, Geriatrics & Palliative Care at Care New England Health System and Chief Medical Officer at Integra Community Care Network, LLC.

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There's no masking shortfalls of teaching in these times

By TIMOTHY KENNEY

Lisa, a science teacher for 20 years, walks into her school about one hour before her school day actually begins, still wearing two masks. Walking through the halls, she waves to masked colleagues who are also hurrying along to their own classrooms with little time to talk. She seldom interacts with her colleagues, much different than before COVID-19. She misses those interactions as they always provided a laugh, or a chance to share ideas, or a time to build collegiality. Things are different now. Teachers for various reasons remain in their rooms much more, isolated from each other.

As she flips on the light to her classroom, she immediately notices that the wastebaskets have not been emptied from the day before. She sighs but knows the reason is a number of custodians were sick the day before due to COVID. After taking the wastebaskets out and emptying them in the dumpster, she returns and assumes that since the wastebaskets were not emptied, the desks have probably not been wiped down as well. So, she grabs the Lysol wipes brought from home and takes 10 minutes to wipe down the desks. Already she can feel her anxiety building as the time she planned on organizing for the day slips away.

Once behind her desk, she checks her district website for the names on the "Be in the Know" list: the list of students quarantining due to health reasons. Lisa checks to see if the names on the list match those of the students from any of her classes. She sees that a number are from her classes, which means that she now needs to teach students in person and at home simultaneously by live-streaming her class. She groans. This was the day her students were to do one of her favorite labs of the year. She quickly reimagines how to have those students at home participate as much as possible. She planned on presenting the lab using PowerPoint, but now wonders how effective the presentation will be while live streaming and monitoring students at home on her single laptop. She modifies her lesson and sets up the technology to best teach students at home and at school. She realizes the only way she can teach both groups effectively is by remaining at her desk, limiting her ability to interact with the students who are the classroom. Lisa quickly discards the creative aspect of the lesson always enjoyed by her students to meet the practical needs of this hybrid classroom.

Next, she scours through her emails, trying to answer questions from parents who wonder about new guidelines and from the students who were out the day before asking "What did I miss?", even though she spent hours the night before posting everything on Google Classroom. Frustrated, she responds to each student and each parent with needed grace and compassion. Seeing she has a few minutes left, she examines the binder given to her about the new curriculum the state mandated this year, which will be discussed at her department meeting at the end of the day, rather than student work. The feedback for her students will wait until her planning period.

The bell rings and masked students enter the classroom. She welcomes them as usual. All enter looking down on their cell phones. Only a few say hello back. As she watches them enter, she can already see there are more students absent than the ones on the list. She glances at her email, watching the emails appear from students telling her that they won't be in and if she can share the Google Meet with them. District policy is that only students on the list should be hybrid, but Lisa does not want to see any of her students fall behind, so she sends the link to them. Just as she is about to begin, the phone rings. Without picking up, Lisa knows the office is calling to ask if she can cover a class during her planning period again. She agrees, knowing she will not be able to give feedback to students. *After all*, she thinks, *we are all in this together.*

She looks up, tells her students to put their phones away and watches icons rather than student faces appear on screen. Here, at the midpoint of the year, she still wonders if she will ever recognize these students when they are not wearing masks. She longs for those times when she knew their faces- and she knew them. The same thought runs through her head as it does now every day, and with more frequency: "How much longer can I do this?"

She takes a moment to reach deep within to find the passion for teaching so that she can compensate once again for the realities of COVID:

"Good morning everyone! Let's get started."

Timothy Kenney is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Rhode Island's School of Education. To write this story he interviewed two teachers, both with the first name of Lisa. He purposely omitted last names.

FOCUS ON Education

EDITOR'S NOTE: In planning stories to accompany this section, Beacon Communications posed the question "how has the pandemic" affected the operation of higher education and teachers. URI responded and offered these perspectives. We extend our gratitude to Dave Lavallee, URI Assistant Director of Communications Department of Marketing and Communications who coordinated this project.

The indomitable URI spirit

University of Rhode Island graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences celebrate their accomplishments on a beautiful day in May 2021 at Meade Stadium. (URI photo by Nora Lewis)



Keeping it safe during a pandemic, yet maintaining an in-person experience

By DAVID LAVALLEE



David Lavallee
(URI photo by Nora Lewis)

Yes, we're still wearing masks indoors at the University of Rhode Island, still running asymptomatic and symptomatic testing operations and vaccination clinics. Many people are physically and emotionally exhausted from two years of dealing with the pandemic.

But if you look inside our dining halls (where students can take their masks off while eating), or see them walking outdoors without masks, you'll see smiles and hear laughter. In our classrooms, you will see and hear animated discussions among faculty and students.

Thanks to our masking, vaccination and booster mandates (95 percent of our students, faculty and staff were fully vaccinated by the end of the fall semester), we have been fortunate to see very low COVID-19 transmission rates throughout the pandemic, including the past semester. Our testing positivity rate remained below 2% and often was below 1% for several consecutive weeks, except during the arrival of the Omicron variant in mid-December. Since the beginning of the pandemic, URI Health Services has conducted 215,253 COVID-19 tests, and processed 19,000 immunization records for COVID-19 vaccinations and exemptions for faculty, staff and students.

Getting to this point required nearly everyone at the University--students, faculty, staff and administrators to work nights, weekends and holidays, often at the expense of time with families and much needed vacation.

The story began early in 2020 when University health officials started monitoring a strange new virus developing in China. Members of a University team working to get seven students safely home from China in late January 2020 didn't know it at the time, but they were building a collaborative model that continues to serve the University well. Starting Jan. 29, 2020, the team gathered in the University's Emergency Operations Center to get those first students back to the United States, and later the remaining study-abroad students safely home.

During those hectic early days, staff called students a world away, reassured parents, helped book flights, answered questions about how study-abroad students could continue their academic progress when they returned, issued frequent communications to the community and media, and dealt with technology issues.

As the pandemic worsened and difficult decisions arose, that collaborative model was key to converting 3,000 in-person classes online during the spring 2020 semester and preparing classrooms with the latest technol-

ogy for remote and hybrid learning the following fall.

An unprecedented crisis

In its more than 130-year history, the University has mourned its war dead, survived the Great Depression, been a part of the civil rights movement, and participated in protests against wars, gun violence, discrimination and intolerance.

But the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in the deaths of over 886,000 people in the United States, and over 3,316 in Rhode Island, may have tested the University's resolve like nothing else. An unprecedented level of teamwork and round-the-clock efforts allowed the University to return to an in-person experience, augmented by remote learning, in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, and a full return to in-person classes and activities this past fall. As widespread vaccination began and the University continued to keep the virus at bay, it held in-person commencement ceremonies for its 2021 graduates at Meade Stadium last May. Nine separate joyful ceremonies for each of its academic colleges and the graduate school were celebrated.

As promised, the Class of 2020, which was unable to have in-person ceremonies that spring, had its own in-person commencement in the Ryan Center on Oct. 1, 2021.

The 2021 and 2020 commencements, held just

months apart, represented huge wins for URI, but the University can also celebrate its service to people around the state, the nation and the world.

Faculty, staff, and students made plastic face shields; staffed a field hospital, testing and vaccination sites (including those at URI); developed URI's own hand sanitizer; delivered meals to needy seniors; sewed face coverings, and created a just-in-time manufacturing center to convert sleep apnea machines into supplementary breathing machines. Students collected personal protective equipment for health care workers, kept the campus informed on the latest developments, and cared for each other.

Two years into the pandemic, URI is still battling to stay ahead of this virus. But we finished a successful fall semester, during which students excelled in classrooms and laboratories and a nearly normal campus experience. We open the spring semester with a bustling campus, students and faculty back refreshed from winter break and activities in full swing.

In his benison to the Class of 2020, President Marc Parlange used some inspirational quotes from "Chariots of Fire," which still ring true today. In the movie, one athlete is almost paralyzed by fear and victimized by anti-Semitism, and the other draws on his faith to face his challenges.

"Who among you has

not faced down fear during this tumultuous time of pandemic, civil and political unrest, academic and social challenges during periods of isolation and remote learning?" Parlange said. "And yet, you were not and are not afraid to win, to succeed and to successfully complete your academic quest. And where did that strength come from? It came from within all of you, bolstered by the love of your family and friends. When you had doubts, you strengthened your effort, when you couldn't envision a finish line, you retained your faith. And in the end, you were victorious."

As we complete our first month of the spring semester, we promise to our entire community and the State of Rhode Island, that we will continue to be models of teamwork, innovation and grit as we fight for victory.

Dave Lavalley is URI Assistant Director of Communications and COVID-19 Public Information Officer



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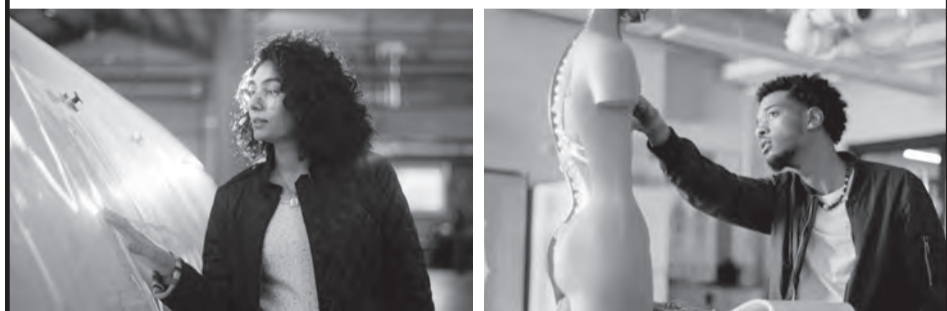
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Valentine's Day

DINING GUIDE



Iggy's Calamari

Rhode Island's calamari featured on Road Food

By DON FOWLER

There is a new show on PBS that is gaining popularity, and Rhode Island is featured in the third episode. "Roadfood: Discovering America One Dish at a Time" is the latest food show in a plethora of food shows...and it's a good one.

Featuring everything from Louisiana gumbo and Texas barbeque, host Misha Collins has discovered Rhode Island calamari -- thanks to our own Calamari Kid, Rep. Joseph McNamara of Warwick.

Warwick's representative praises the mighty squid to the hilt, and even cracks a joke about it being "squid pro quo."

In a scene with Collins and McNamara, the TV host is visually surprised to learn from the Warwick Representative that calamari is the official state appetizer.

The episode features O'Rourke's and Iggy's in Warwick, two of the most popular restaurants in the state where calamari is featured.

Collins takes us to Fearless Fish, a direct-to-consumer fish market, where Stu Meltzer shows him his delicacy, a warm squid salad, and to Sea Fresh a Fish Processing Plant. He also interviews squid fisher man, Capt. Jason Sawyer.

There are beautiful scenes of the Rhode Island coastline, and interesting conversations with the locals.

The program can be seen on both Rhode Island and Boston PBH channels. Check it out online at RoadFood.com.



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COLLECTIBLES



ROBOTS IN DISGUISE



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

One topic that I will never get tired of writing about is Transformers. They are by far, hands down, no questions asked my favorite toy line of all time. Hence why I still have a little over 2,000 different figures in my parents' basement. It is what started it all for me. But regardless of my love they have had a pretty volatile market over the past decade and are finally back stronger than ever with records being set. I honestly feel like I'm back in 2007 at BotCon in Providence waiting for the first Transformers movie to be released. While some interests within the field have changed, the overall point is prices are on fire! Let me explain.

If you were to ask any diehard Transformers collector what all the rage was ten years ago, they would say Japanese market exclusive figures. The original Transformers toy line lasted in the United States from 1984 to 1990, but the last two years were very pitiful. It included small micro masters,

Pretenders, and these horrible Action Masters which were non-transforming Transformers. Does that even make any sense! The last good toys were really released in 1988 for the United States. However, the toy line ran in Japan until 1992 releasing some of the coolest figures, recolors, and completely brand-new robots with entirely new features. Any fans reading this ever hear of a Brainmaster or Breastforce? It will blow your mind.

However, jumping to present day 2022 European and Japanese market exclusives have been cheaper than ever before. It is still what I personally love to collect, which means it is a good time to buy. But, if you have the original U.S. release 1984 to 1987 figures, anything that relates to the original animated film, you're in the money. It blows my mind honestly, because the original American G1 figures have been reissued countless times by Hasbro and Takara. That is why they were depressed for so long! People were tired of them. Now, they're back and all the rage. Especially sealed G1, it has reached a new peak.

I decided to write about our dear Robots in Disguise because upcoming at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers in our February sale we have a great collection of unused G1 transformers. Nothing that is factory sealed, but all unused with brand new contents. Certainly, a rare find. If you are sitting on a hoard of toys at home and looking to sell auction will always be your best bet. Don't sell yourself short by selling outright to a store or dealer. Working on a consignment basis makes it a team effort, the more you make the more the auction house makes. It's a win-win for everybody.



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ToadStool avoids the vices with 'Keeping Clean'

By ROB DUGUAY

We live in a society where temptation is all around us. From the storefront window to a television commercial to a giant billboard, we are confronted with choices of whether to indulge or take part in something that often has negative effects. These effects can materialize when something is done irresponsibly with the user being addicted to the false rush they feel from it. Millions of people deal with this every day and a lot of them often succumb to this dangerous lifestyle. Examining this with an introspective point of view, West Warwick hip hop artist ToadStool released a new EP titled Keeping Clean back on New Year's Eve.

The moniker of Mike Jencks goes in-depth in the struggles of addiction via personal experiences and coming out on the other side sober and healthy. He also collaborated with Providence rapper Jesse The Tree and local multi-instrumentalist Tetcon on a couple tracks.

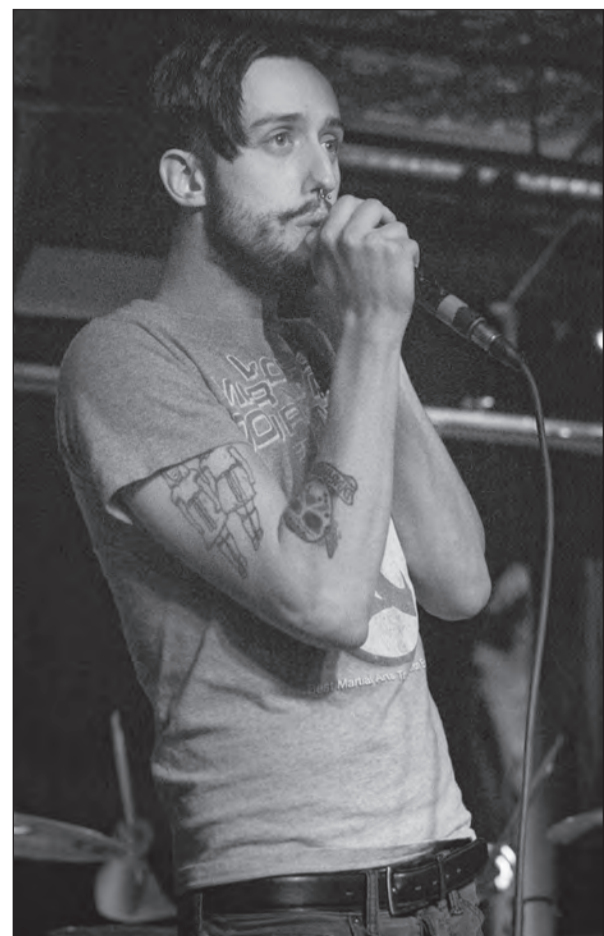
"This is an album based around trying to keep the straight and narrow, while towing the line on what a person living with addiction goes through daily," ToadStool mentions in the liner notes. "Lots of temptation, conflicting and overall struggle, but s**t gets better."

Most of the record is made up of quick hitters with a majority of the songs barely going past the two minute mark. There's also a bunch of samples evoking '50s era public service announcements and infomercials that gives it somewhat of a hokey vibe. With that being present, I'm pretty sure that it's included as an attempt to parody the ineffectiveness of those messages. The

beats convey a tone that at times is forceful and at times laid back as the lyrics relay a subtle melancholiness that's fueled by the subject matter. This record has a lot to offer in a short amount of time and it's a testament to ToadStool's ability to create in compact fashion.

Kicking things off with those vintage samples is "Mourning Routine" with a sick beat behind it. An introduction to ToadStool's song structure and while relaying thoughts on the growth of the cannabis industry over the past decade, "Finessa Carlton" has wonderful production courtesy of Jesse The Tree. "Hitting The Slopes" has the horns coming in with the charisma flowing and "Docking Station" features a verse from Jesse The Tree with Tetcon handling the beats. Another charismatic one is "Em Ef" followed by "Lawnmowers // Less Cravins" serving as the longest track on the EP with psychedelic elements. "New Devils" concludes a stellar array of music with a forceful finale anchored by ToadStool's lyrical delivery.

This record is exclusively available on ToadStool's Bandcamp page at xxxtoadstoolxxx.bandcamp.com. Just be on the lookout for the one with the cover of a drawing of a toad with a party hat on it done with a sharpie on what looks like a brown paper bag. When you find it, give it a click, let it stream and perhaps make a purchase. It's another installment by one of the most talented and prolific rappers in all of Rhode Island.



ToadStool

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Stephanie Aragao

Leona

Torti lovers, check out this beauty named Leona! She is a three year old typical Torti, sweet and swatty!! Leona is best suited for an adult only home and she also wants to be the one and only princess, so no other animals. If you'd like more information about Leona please contact Scruffy Paws Animal Rescue via email scruffypawsanimalrescue@gmail.com You can also visit their website www.scruffypawsanimalrescue.org The shelter is located at 2944 Post Road Warwick, RI but is only open by appointment. Your new best friend Leona will be waiting to meet you!

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



Gamm's 'An Octoroon'— overwhelming & thought provoking

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Warwick's Gamm Theatre opens the new year with a "reinterpretation" of a famous Victorian melodrama that examines race and representation in America.

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' play deconstructs Dion Boucicault's 1859 play about life on a cotton plantation in the antebellum south.

Director Joe Wilson Jr. pulls a few rabbits out of his hat in telling the story, shades of Adrian Hall's early Trinity days and productions at the former Alias Stage.

Wilson starts by reconstructing the playing space. Audiences enter by the left side of the theater, sitting on both sides of the stage and long runway, with the original seating off to the right, representing a cotton field.

Marc Pierre enters as the author, asking the audience "What makes you happy?" He explains that he is angry at white people and immediately covers his face with white stage cream.

A few metaphorical and metaphysical discussions happen between him and an Indian, or should we say Native American (Jeff Church), who covers his face with red and dons a war bonnet. We are introduced to Jason Quinn's character,

who covers himself in blackface.

There's a bee metaphor and further discussions about acting stereotypes and eventually we get to the melodramatic play with characters playing against type.

The title of the play is based on one of the characters, Zoe (Shelley Fort) who is an octoroon, defined as one eighth black.

She is a slave to be sold, but this becomes a problem when she becomes romantically involved with the plantation owner, played by Pierre.

I have to admit that I got lost a few times in the rhetoric, but the issue of the role of race both in the theatre and in reality is loud and clear. The play becomes very political -- especially at the end when the old South transitions to the Trump era.

There is a lot to absorb in this long two-act play, and while it speaks directly to the audience, depending on who they are will determine how you interpret it.

There is no doubt that this is an important American play, one that has been praised by scholars and critics.

How they Gamm audiences will embrace it is yet to be seen.

"An Octoroon" is at Gamm Theatre through February 20. Tickets are \$49-\$69. Call 723-4266 for reservations.

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Sports



TO THE HOOP: Hunter Remington works his way through the paint. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)

Brady leaves historic legacy

Tom Brady announced his retirement on Tuesday morning after various reports circulated over the weekend of his decision.

This wraps up one of the greatest careers in the history of North American sports, and easily the greatest career on the gridiron.

Two decades, seven Super Bowls between two teams, multiple MVPs, multiple Super Bowl MVPs, Pro Bowls, All-Pros, more broken records than can be counted. He is simply the greatest to ever do it.

A lifelong sports nut, I have seen enough retirements and big news stories to rarely feel emotionally impacted. When I was a kid, sports was such an emotional thing for me which is why to this day I love them so much. It has been quite some time that I have felt that emotion, good or bad, and with this news, it truly is the end of an era.

It's one of the oldest clichés in the book - "The end of an era." With Brady though, that is exactly what it was for the NFL ... an era.

No quarterback was as dominant over the course of a two-decade period, no player captivated the league the way he did, and no one can say that they even touched the success that he did now that it is all said and done.

Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky, Babe Ruth, Muhammad Ali ... Brady is in that same breath, perhaps even above it. His legacy of success is remarkable, something we may never see again.

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
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The winning was just ridiculous. Three titles in his first four years. Sure, the Patriots were a defensive-minded team during that run, but he played his role perfectly and came up with plenty of big moments. By the end of that initial dynasty, he was not just a role player.

Then in the middle years, he took off to become one of the most prolific passers in the game and made the postseason on an annual basis, anything short of a Super Bowl was a let down.

Then in his final years in New England, winning three more titles in a five-year span. He was no longer just an outstanding quarterback, he was immortal, the perfect player that had skill, experience, and an undeniable will to win. Calling him the most clutch player in history would be an understatement.

I had the honor of watching Brady live a handful of times, but two of which were incredible performances that I will never forget.

The first was in 2012 against San Francisco. The 49'ers had the league's

Panthers cruise past NP to stay afloat

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys basketball team rolled to a 65-48 win over visiting North Providence last week on Cherry Hill.

The Panthers have hit a hot streak as of late, winning

three of four contests and reinserting themselves in the playoff picture.

Point guard Derek Salvatore led Johnston with a game-high 20 points in the win, while CJ Ragosta added 13 and Hunter Remington 12.

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 21

■ PITCH - PAGE 20

Cranston Sports Card Show returns

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Cranston Sports Card Show™ (CSCS™) is off to its grandest debut in 46 years since it premiered in 1976. It has been an annual event on the Super Bowl Weekend since Terry Bradshaw and the Pittsburgh Steelers took on Roger Staubach and the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl X but this year is the first year it will not be on a Super Bowl weekend.

There is no sport collecting show in New England that comes near the longevity of this sports collecting classic. It is older than the National and one of the top 5 oldest shows in the country. It still maintains its theme as an affordable event for everyone, including collector and dealer, with proceeds benefiting the charity of two churches which is the

■ CARD - PAGE 20



BACK AT IT: Cranston Sports Card Show founder Tom McDonough (left) along with former city mayor Allan Fung (center) and current promoter Mike Mangasarian (right). (Submitted photo)

Pirates top Martens

FROM STAFF REPORTS

This past Sunday the No. 20 Providence Pirates hosted the Bennington Martens of Vermont to face off for the third time this season. With this win the Pirates now move to 10-2 on the season and look to move up in the rankings.

This was a very fast-paced, high scoring, and physical game that the Pirates had control of right from the opening tip. Posting a franchise high 149 points against the familiar foe and scoring a franchise record 47 points alone in the second quarter.

Pirates' Guard/Forward Tom Garrick Jr. the Player of the Game award. Scoring a team high of 44 points along with 9 rebounds and 3 steals.

The Pirates now turn their focus to next week's away matchup against the Herkimer Originals. The Originals, a familiar opponent, are a talented team towards the top of the Northeast Region. This is a big road game for the Pirates as they look to continue this win streak.

■ Card

(Continued from page 19)

Immaculate Conception Church in Cranston, for helping those in need and Sts. Vartanatz Armenian Youth Federation athletes in Providence, who travel to a Olympic style National competition on Labor Day weekend every year, and the Coventry High School Hall of Fame.

This year, a 4th charity has been added as long time collector of racing memorabilia, John Marandola, has donated most of his collection of replica and diecast cars to be put in the shows silent auction with proceeds going to his charity, Little Sisters of the Poor in Pawtucket, and to the sponsored charities as well. John has been a lifelong supporter of the show and

has been a frequent guest throughout the decades.

So far as to autograph guests include father son duo Dave and Mike Stenhouse. Dave was the first rookie pitcher to start an All-Star game and only Mark Fidrych 25 years later was able to duplicate the feat. Mike was a two-time All American and Captain of the Harvard baseball team and was a first round draft pick. They will appear on Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and autograph prices range from \$3-\$7.50 depending on items. Baseball's last 30 game winner, Denny McLain, will be signing autographs all day on Saturday and be offering personal memorabilia for sale as well with more guests to follow.

It is taking place at its recently adopted new location, which is the Coventry High School Gym, 40 Reservoir Rd., Coventry. This new location can support the shows rapid growth to which the show promoter hopes to be at the facilities capacity of 250 tables in 2025.

What you can expect to see for purchase besides modern and vintage sports cards will be RI Reds hockey memorabilia, incredible autographs, vintage equipment in all sports, graded cards, pennants, non sports cards, tobacco cards, wax boxes and packs, hobby supplies, vintage photo's, yearbooks, programs, ticket stubs, regional issues, comic books, and a whole lot more.

The hot ticket items from last year's show included just about anything in current product such as basket-

ball cards, Shohei Ohtani rookies or rookies from any sport along with Pokémon. Vintage is always strong. The show promotes Rhode Island sports which is rich in its heritage going back in professional sports to the 1870's when Providence had a baseball team in the National League and won two World Championship titles within their short period of existence.

Entrance to the show and show hours are as follows;

Date: Sat. Sun Feb. 5 Feb. 6, 2022. Time: Saturday 9-5, Sunday 8:30 - 3:00 admission is \$5 each day & \$7 for a 2 day pass. Say, Put me on your mailing list and get a \$1 discount off your admission on non discounted pricing. Discounted admission for seniors 65 & older, Veterans, and children under 12 is \$3, Children 5 and under are free.

A very special popular feature being offered for the second time will be a \$20 early bird admission for 8a.m. on Saturday for collectors who would like to get on the show floor before the doors open to the public. A collector will have early access to collectibles for one hour without the crowds. "I believe this was an industry first when we first did it 2 years ago and it will continue in 2022 because of its popularity" said Mike Mangasarian. You can buy tickets and sign up for the card pitching contest here: <https://givebutter.com/CSCS2022>

Attendance is expected to exceed the 2,200 admissions paid in 2020 and reaching 3,000 is not out of the question.

Heavy discounted rates

for overnight accommodations are available from the Hampton Inn, Best Western, and Super 8 for \$75 a night for 2 people and includes full breakfast and other amenities just a few miles from the School. If anyone needs the special rates they need to contact Mike Mangasarian for details. Email: MikeMango@msn.com Tel: 401-601-5703

There will be raffles and door prizes going on all day for Saturday and in the morning on Sunday and in the raffle. Through the generosity of many of our dealers this auction is possible but in particular autograph expert authenticator Rich Bond has offered all of these items once again which we are eternally grateful for;

Pete Rose and Wade Boggs posed autographed 8x10 photo; Cal Ripken, Jr. autographed hardcover book; Bobby Orr autographed hardcover book; Raphael Devers vintage signed 2015 Futures Game 11x14 photo; Patriots linebacker Dont'a Hightower 2019 signed insert card; Patriots rookie 2021 Rhamondre Stevenson signed insert card.

Raffle drawing is 12 noon on Sunday and one ticket gets you an opportunity in all items in the raffle. You can, also, buy raffle tickets online and see pictures of these items by clicking this link, <https://givebutter.com/cscsraffle> if you cannot attend because you live at an extended distance from the show. Minimal shipping charges will apply.

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 19)

best defense and eventually went on to reach the Super Bowl. It was cold, freezing rain, and the Pats were down 21 points heading into the fourth quarter.

It just wasn't their night. They were getting shellacked by what appeared to be the newest power in the league.

Then, I blinked.

Somehow, some way, Brady and the Pats stormed back with 24 points in the final quarter to take the lead. Unfortunately, the 49'ers scored the game-winning touchdown in the final minute.

As gut-wrenching it was, I was in awe of what transpired. It was a whirlwind, but walking back to the car, it hit me that I just had the chance to watch one of the greatest athletes ever do their thing. It was almost like an out-of-body experience that night.

The next was in 2015, when the Pats hosted the Ravens for the AFC Divisional round.

It was 5 degrees at halftime, freezing to the bone. The Pats trailed by 14 points twice and just seemed to be a step behind all night.

I knew better at that point, I knew that the game was never truly over.

Sure enough, Brady did not disappoint as he helped climb the team out of those two deficits and go on to take the lead and win in the fourth quarter. The team went on to win the Super Bowl that season, and that performance was one of the most memorable parts of that campaign.

Of course, we saw plenty of performances like that from the couch. Between being down 28-3 in the Atlanta Super Bowl, falling behind by multiple scores to Seattle in that one. So many others, it was a privilege to have someone like Brady under center, someone that you knew would give you a chance to win no matter what the score was ... literally.

He also proved every doubter wrong that he encountered.

For those who said he could only win with a great defense behind him or that the video taping scandal led to his success ... he went on to win four more titles as the best player on the field.

For those who said that he only won because of the deflated footballs. He went on to win four more titles without that being an issue.

For those who said he only won because of Bill Belichick and being part of the Patriots' system, he went on to win in Tampa Bay his first year there. He shut down any argument that could be made against him.

As a 29-year-old Patriots fan, Brady was pretty much all I ever knew. Sure, I remember Drew Bledsoe, vaguely remember Pete Carroll coaching. But Brady was it, winning football was all I ever really experienced as a Patriots fan.

I know that Brady and the team didn't see eye to eye in the end which led to him moving south to Tampa. You would have never known that, though. He was always professional, always stuck to football. Those reports came out after the fact for the most part.

All in all, in my opinion, he is the greatest athlete ever. I am admittedly biased as a native New Englander, but there is plenty of evidence to back my case.

Now, he hands the reins to the next generation. Patrick Mahomes, Joe Burrow, Josh Allen, these guys will have the next crack at recreating the magic.

The talent in the league is as good as it has ever been, and all of those quarterbacks are special and will leave behind extraordinary legacies.

However, they will likely pale in comparison to Brady's, as every other player's has.

Congratulations on your retirement, on the greatest career the sport has ever seen, and being one of the most influential athletes ever.



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PLAYOFF PUSH: Johnston's CJ Ragosta (above) and Teddy Leomensah take on North Providence last week at home.



■ Panthers

(Continued from page 19)

After a shaky start to the season, the Panthers switched their gameplan a bit and pulled themselves back to .500 with a 6-6 record.

"We've just changed our identity a little bit. We had a slower start than we wanted to, so we are really focusing on transitions and defense which is something that we weren't emphasizing as much in the beginning. Since we've found our new identity we have rattled off some (wins). Every team has to face adversity at some point in the season and ours happened to be early. Everyone is buying in and accepting their roles, so we're looking to build on it every day," said Johnston coach Mike Bedrosian.

Bedrosian has also been pleased with Salvatore, who has been one of the top performers in the division to this point.

"Derek brings it every night. I'm very lucky to have him as a point guard, he's

not a person that I ever have to worry about. He's an assistant coach, as we say. He moves guys to where they need to be, he makes things a lot easier for us as coaches. He's only a junior, but he brings it every night. His basketball IQ, his skill, he's the best player on the floor," said Bedrosian.

The team will face arguably its toughest stretch of the regular season in the next two weeks. Between a crammed schedule and big games against teams like Wheeler and Rogers, Bedrosian feels his club is ready for the task at hand.

"The guys on the team like Derek, Hunter, CJ, this is not new to them. Last year during the COVID year, we had to shut down and we played eight games in 10 days. It's not something that they're not accustomed to," Bedrosian said. "We have some tough games against teams toward the top of the standings, but if we can win a few of these that would be great. I tell them that we want to win every week, and if we do that, we'll be where we want to be."

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WIND FARM: A look at the Block Island wind arm. (Submitted photo)

NOAA and BOEM sign wind energy development agreement

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

On Jan. 12, 2022, NOAA and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management signed an interagency memorandum to advance wind energy while protecting biodiversity and promoting cooperative ocean use. The new agreement underscores the agencies' commitment to responsibly deploy 30 gigawatts of wind energy production capacity in federal waters by 2030. It leverages the responsibilities, expertise, and relationships of both agencies to support this goal.

"This new agreement is a positive step in ensuring that we fully leverage the resources and expertise at both agencies to achieve our mutual goals of expanding renewable energy and protecting and stewarding sustainably our marine resources," said Janet Coit, NOAA's Acting Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. "It's critical for our coastal communities and it's important that we do things with a long view."

The agreement identifies a number of areas for potential collaboration among NOAA and BOEM including:

A commitment to identify and consistently use the best-available science and, as appropriate and authorized, Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge to support regulatory decisions and other actions, in adherence with applicable laws

Improving efficiency of environmental review and authorization processes for offshore wind permitting, and reducing inconsistencies across different authorities

Research, planning, and regulatory mechanisms providing for new jobs, advancing scientific understanding of the potential impacts of offshore wind development, and for equitable economic development, environmental justice, and sustainability

Surveying, spatial modeling, mapping, oceanographic assessments, and characterization of ocean regions and jurisdictional boundaries.

For additional information visit MOU NOAA BOEM SIGNED - 011222.pdf.

Climate change scenario planning webinars

Over the past year, East Coast fishery management bodies have been collaborating on a climate change scenario planning initiative designed to prepare fishing communities and fishery managers for an era of climate change. The goals of this project are to assess how climate change might affect stock distribution and availability of East Coast marine fisheries over the next 20 years and to identify the implications for fishery management and governance.

Last summer and fall, many stakeholders participated in the Scoping phase of the project by attending introductory scoping webinars and providing input through an online questionnaire. A summary of the scoping process and input received is available at: ECSP+Scoping+Summary_Dec+2021_final.pdf (squarespace.com)

The next step in the scenario planning process is the Exploration phase. Building on the input gathered during scoping, this phase will include a series of three webinars which will focus on identifying and analyzing the major drivers of change in greater depth. Once again, stakeholder involvement is key, and the webinars are open to the public. The outcomes of these webinars will form the "building blocks" for a future scenario creation workshop to be held in spring 2022.

Webinar #1: Oceanographic Drivers of Change Feb. 14, 2022, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

This webinar will look in detail at the trends in oceanography that are poised to shape East Coast fisheries over the next 20 years, such as changing ocean temperature, acidification, sea level rise, ocean currents and other developments. How predictable are these trends, and what impact might they have?

Webinar #2: Biological

Drivers of Change Feb. 23, 2022, 3-4:30 p.m.

This webinar will explore expected and possible biological trends, including changes in the geographic range, distribution, and productivity of stocks, as well as changes in habitat, predator/prey relationships, and other ecosystem dynamics. What are the prospects for how these factors might develop and interact over the next 20 years?

Webinar #3: Social and economic Drivers of Change March 2, 2022, 3-4:30 p.m.

This webinar will focus on social and economic trends that may affect fisheries, such as changing consumer demand and food production, other competing ocean uses (e.g., offshore energy and aquaculture), loss of working waterfronts, and other developments. How important will these factors be in shaping fisheries in the next 20 years?

Additional information is available on the Climate Change Scenario Planning Web Page.

Where's the bite?

Cod and haddock. 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. To fish for haddock in Massachusetts google haddock fishing Newburyport or Gloucester, MA. Contact Manolin Charters who spoke at a RISAA seminar this week about haddock fishing can be contacted at manolincharters@gmail.com.

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

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.com.

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