



**FLIPPING OUT:** Winsor Hill Elementary Principal Amy Burns, and school secretary Donna Pingitore, flipped pancakes for the school's staff on Tuesday as part of the school's Pancake Day breakfast. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

## FLIPPING OUT

Winsor Hill principal flips flapjacks for faculty

By RORY SCHULER

Amy Burns stood at the tiny griddle, giggling and struggling with a spatula. "I was in charge of adding the water," she said, shaking a small yellow vessel of batter. "Apparently that was a mistake." The batter ran out forming a pool of pale liquid. Bubbles quickly formed. The sides curled slightly and turned golden brown. Burns slipped the spatula underneath, and flipped about three-quarters of the disc, accidentally leaving just one edge tucked underneath. A few flicks of her wrist, and the pancake had finally settled raw-side down. She scooped it off the sizzling silver surface and onto a pile of finished flapjacks, most slightly bigger than a silver dollar. "This has been a tradition in my family for years," Burns said while manning a griddle in the Winsor Hill Elementary School cafeteria. "Every year, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, about 60 of us get together and have pancakes."

FLIP - PAGE 13

## School mask policy revised

By RORY SCHULER

Starting Monday, March 7, masks will be optional for students and staff in Johnston's public schools.

The School Committee met Tuesday night to discuss a revised mask policy.

Only one town resident spoke prior to the vote.

Parent Chris Cahill virtually attended the meeting via Zoom.

"I want to be able to remove masks from my children as much as anyone else, but especially in Johnston, it's just not that time," Cahill told the committee. "Johnston has the fourth highest rate of infection in Rhode Island. And only slightly behind Providence, and that district has decided to keep the mask mandate at this time."

Cahill referred to statistics from the Rhode Island Department of Health, and recommended Johnston pause for two weeks before relaxing the current mask mandate in schools.

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. introduced a proposed revised mask policy Tuesday night.

MASKS - PAGE 5

## AG fights NEC sale to PPL

By RORY SCHULER

Will the sale of the Ocean State's electric provider to Pennsylvania's top power company result in higher electric bills?

A state utility regulatory agency says they're convinced the sale will be in the public's "best interest."

The Rhode Island Attorney General, however, has filed a lawsuit arguing his office isn't convinced the state's power customers will benefit.

Last week, the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (RIDPUC) approved the sale of Narragansett Electric Company (NEC), which provides power to practically every customer in the Ocean State.

In an attempt to stop the sale, Attorney General Peter F. Neronha has filed an appeal, arguing the transaction may not be "in the best interest of Rhode Islanders."

Nearly all Rhode Island power customers buy electricity from a single source, the NEC, currently owned by National Grid.

Pennsylvania Power & Light (PPL), an Allentown,

PPL - PAGE 6

## Corsinetti leads RIC to LEC title

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Rhode Island College women's basketball team rolled past visiting UMass-Dartmouth 70-55 last weekend to win its fourth-ever Little East Conference Championship.

Leading the way for the Anchorwomen was junior guard Antonia Corsinetti, who logged a career-high 27 points and was named the tournament's MVP.

"It was a big game and we all had to come out and play as hard as we could. I couldn't have done it without my teammates, that's for sure. They've got my back and I've got theirs," said Corsinetti.

The Johnston native was thrilled to have a breakout performance in a season in which she saw her minutes steadily increase, as well as her overall statistics as she became a staple in the RIC lineup.

"It's a big accomplishment for me. You just work hard and produce whatever is needed and asked from (RIC) Coach (Jenna) Cosgrove. Play defense, rebound and just do whatever you're being asked. The biggest challenge for me was defense. I knew that I could put the ball in the basket, but Coach

Cosgrove really challenged me to step up defensively and I was able to," Corsinetti said.

With the win, RIC qualified for the NCAA Division III National Tournament. The Anchorwomen will be taking on powerhouse St. John Fisher in the opening round, which is set to begin on Friday.

Corsinetti and company are thrilled to return to the tournament after last year's was canceled due to the pandemic.

"It's very exciting, it's very rewarding. We've been working very hard since we got to school. Working out, playing pick up, everyone doing what they could before we started on Oct. 15. Unfortunately, we didn't have a tournament last year, so that was our ultimate goal. Getting to the tournament and we accomplished that," said Corsinetti. "We are on a high right now and it was really exciting to be in the film room watching our name be called. We're just excited to be there and to hopefully come out with a win."

Joining her in the action on Saturday were fellow Johnston natives Jordan Moretti and Kaylin Zalewski, who suited up for UMass-Dartmouth.

MVP - PAGE 7



**AT THE LINE:** Antonia Corsinetti gets set to shoot a free throw. (Submitted photo)

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**CORSETTI'S CARING:** Ashley Corsetti, who once had a dream to open her own business back when she graduated from Johnston High school in 2012, holds some of the 35 gift certificates she presented to her former colleague last week during a visit to the Briarcliffe Campus. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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## Former Briarcliffe student employee returns to give something back

By PETE FONTAINE

It's safe to say Ashley Corsetti is the epitome of two famous record titles: "I'm only dreamin'" and You Gotta Have Heart!"

Just ask Stefany Reed, who serves as Marketing Director as the Briarcliffe Campus where Corsetti once worked during her undergraduate days at Johnston High School.

"Ashley has always had a big heart," Reed boasted about the 2012 JHS grad. "She was always respectful and fun when she worked here at Briarcliffe Gardens Memory Care Assisted Living Residence while working part-time afternoons and weekends."

Reed also explained that "Ashley also had many other qualities such as engaging with residents and showing them the utmost respect during her years at Briarcliffe."

Those traits surfaced a decade ago when Corsetti told Reed she had a dream to someday own her own business.

"Fast forward 10 years," Reed mused after Corsetti visited Briarcliffe with some gifts for some special staffers. "Everyone — and I mean each and every employee here — is extremely proud of what Ashley has accomplished on her way to becoming a respected entrepreneur."

After Corsetti graduated from JHS then completed training at Bancroft School of Massage Therapy in Worcester, Massachusetts, and after graduation became a licensed massage therapist. She then enrolled and graduated from the highly-acclaimed Elizabeth Grady School of Esthetics in Medford, Mass., which led to her becoming a licensed Esthetician.

Corsetti's post-JHS education and hard work, as Reed was saying with a wide smile on her face the other day when her former employee visited Briarcliffe: "Ashley is no longer dreaming; she has opened her own business, Providence Therapeutic Massage and Aesthetics that is housed in Suite 101 located at 205 Waterman St. in Providence."

Reed also emphasized that "throughout the pandemic, Ashley's thoughts have always been with her former colleagues while often imaging their kindness and exemplary work ethics during the COVID-19 crisis."

So, it came as no surprise to Reed when Corsetti called her and said she wanted to do something to help her former colleagues feel good and wanted to provide them with some special stress relief.

"It was absolutely amazing and heartwarming," Reed continued. "Ashley came her with 35 gift certificates for Briarcliffe Garden associates who are the hard-working professional who weathered the storm of the past two plus years as a professional that they have always been."

Corsetti presented Reed with 35 half-half hour massage gift certificates for Briarcliffe staff and she said in her usual sincere tone of voice: "It's my mission to help make your journey easier, whether it be to soften muscle tension or help you glow from the inside out. If you have a tendency to put yourself last, my goal is to help empower you and give you the individualized attention you deserve."

Reed, meanwhile, later related: "The sounds of delight could be heard when Ashley presented the gift certificates to our beloved caregivers. She is always remembered by her one-time colleagues here and many of them expressed saying they can't wait to visit her to visit her (at Providence Therapeutic Massage and Aesthetics) and thank her in person of for this wonderful act of kindness."

Ashley is the daughter of Kenneth and Zenaida and brother of Kenny Corsetti, and has a sister, Amy Corsetti, all of Johnston.

# Have you flown the coop?

## The Chicken Coop offers wings and all sorts of tasty things

By PETE FONTAINE

The Chicken Coop Kitchen and Bar is much, much more than Johnston's newest business. In just a few short months, owners Tonya Antonelli and her fiancé Mathew Ferruolo along with Meliza Ferruolo and her husband Robert have transformed the 1,600-square foot storefront in the Town Hall Lanes Plaza off Atwood Avenue into an iconic eating and drinking establishment.

For Antonelli, as well as her sister-in-law Meliza, it's the realization of a dream — owning their own business.

For Mathew and Robert Ferruolo — steeped with experience in their respective general contracting businesses — The Coop is a showplace of their years of wonderful work.

Moreover, from the time people enter The Coop, it's obvious the proud proprietors have created a special welcome feeling furnished with high-top tables and stools, couches, chalkboard menus, unique wall-hangings as well as a total of eight wide-screen televisions.

How did this proud partnership come about?

For starters, let it be known the sisters-in-law are no strangers to public relations, experience in the food and beverage business, as well as classic customer relations.

Antonelli, who grew up in Johnston and went to Winsor Hill Elementary School, Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School before graduating from JHS, previously worked for 27 years at famed Quiddnessett Country Club where she started at age 16 and performed a myriad of duties from her days in the coat room to becoming food-beverage-members dining room/office manager to planning weddings.

As for Meliza, she also has vast restaurant experience from serving to administration and at one time wanted to open her own breakfast business. For the past two decades she has enjoyed a successful career with the nationally-acclaimed Liberty Title & Escrow Company.

Meanwhile, the brothers Ferruolo have been involved in residential/commercial construction for the last 25 years and have also had a long-time dreamed of owning their own bar.

When opportunity arose in Johnston to own their own restaurant, as Meliza was saying the other morning: "We jumped at it!"

"Mathew and Robert were keys in the demo/remodel and concept of The Coop," Meliza and Tonya emphasized while musing: "They have also found their calling in the kitchen and bar respectively when they're not working their full-time careers."

An example of their skills comes in many forms inside The Coop, which has a total seating capacity of 60 people. Since the doors opened in late November, patrons can be found seated at the pub-style tables in the bar/dining area, which were homemade by the brothers Ferruolo. The lounge features black leather futons and coffee tables.

"We definitely had an advantage with our in-house contractors who specialize in commercial build-outs such as restaurants," the sisters-in-law noted. "We were also prepared to invest a lot of sweat equity to bring our concept to life."

Patrons range from veterans and first responders who are offered a ten percent discount. The eatery features fun signs like the "The Hen Den" to Coop Specials listed in colored chalk, featuring entrees, sandwiches and many wing items.



**COOP PROPRIETORS:**  
In just a few month, Melisa and Robert Ferruolo, Tonya Antonelli and Mathew Ferruolo have created quite the unique eating and drinking experience inside The Chicken Coop Kitchen and Bar at 1463 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.



COOP - PAGE 4

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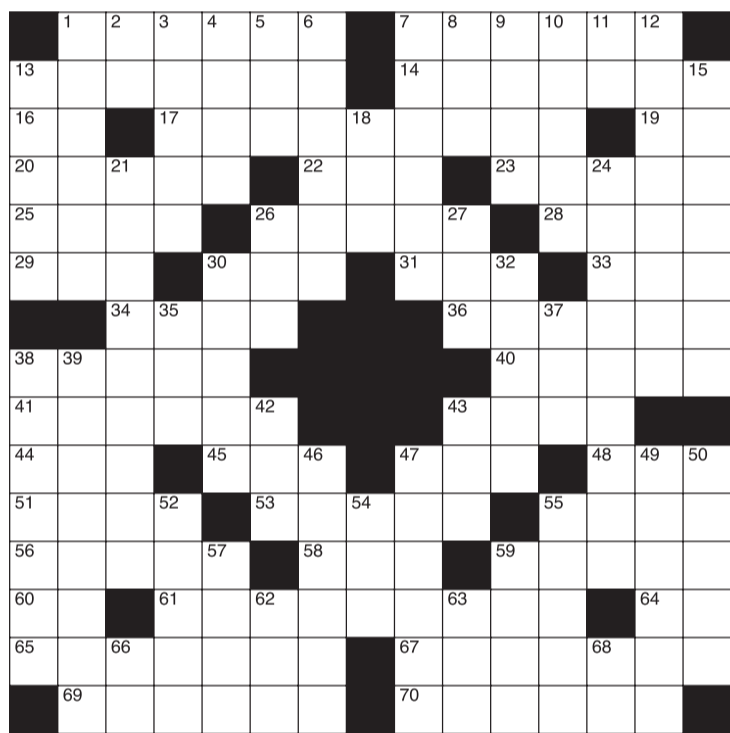
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Neckwear
- 7. Fish parts
- 13. Cooking
- 14. Quality
- 16. Rural delivery
- 17. Popular superhero
- 19. Partner to Pa
- 20. Shivering fits
- 22. Wrath
- 23. Linguistics pioneer
- 25. Large integers
- 26. A way to prepare food
- 28. Group of badgers
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Rock out
- 31. Danish krone
- 33. Take from with force
- 34. Baroque musical instrument
- 36. Zodiac sign
- 38. Hebrew alphabet letter
- 40. Independent member of a clone
- 41. Type of garment
- 43. Satisfy
- 44. One point south of due east
- 45. A way to wipe out
- 47. Moved quickly on foot
- 48. Bar bill

- 51. An idiot
- 53. Performed with the voice silent
- 55. Body fluids
- 56. Rhythmic patterns
- 58. "\_\_\_ my i's"
- 59. Type of wrap
- 60. It shows who you are
- 61. Carousel
- 64. Type of college degree
- 65. Molding
- 67. Closes again
- 69. Verses
- 70. Surface

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Short, thick stick
- 2. Rhode Island
- 3. Animals of the horse family
- 4. Very important persons
- 5. Folk singer Di Franco
- 6. Boredom
- 7. Long speech
- 8. Footballer Newton
- 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 10. Linear accelerator
- 11. One quintillion bytes
- 12. Smallest interval in Western music
- 13. Box
- 15. Cheese dish
- 18. Make a mistake
- 21. Done by all people or things
- 24. Circumference
- 26. Chum
- 27. Electrocardiogram
- 30. Sandwich chain Jimmy \_\_\_
- 32. Showed old movie
- 35. Important event on Wall St.
- 37. Where wrestlers work
- 38. Free from contamination
- 39. Eastern Canada coastal region
- 42. Slang for gun
- 43. High schoolers' test
- 46. Fathers
- 47. Call it a career
- 49. Productive
- 50. Musical groups
- 52. Yellowish-brown
- 54. Lowest point of a ridge
- 55. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 57. Fill up
- 59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
- 62. Frost
- 63. Jewel
- 66. Atomic #45
- 68. Top lawyer



**FEATHERLESS FARE:** The Chicken Coop menu includes tasty options from loaded beak fries, crispy cauli bites, Skinny Chicken along with uniquely named Vera Wing and Sir Clucks-a-Lot. (Submitted photo)

**Coop**

(Continued from page 3)

Each meal is reasonably priced and prepared by Chef Justin Ferreira.

The same holds true for the bar, which is managed by Justin Lemieux, one of the area's most-popular and well-known mixologists, who is an extension of the owners' pleasant and pleasing personalities.

As for the name, Tonya and Meliza explained: "We wanted a name that would signify a gathering place; a place for people to feel comfortable to relax, dine causally, drink and just gather with friends. That's a straightforward description of what we offer — a small kitchen where we curate our amazing food and a full bar to perch at while watching your favorite sports games or just socializing with friends."

The Coop offers appetizers, salads, burgers and sandwiches, wings with or without bones, tenders and a variety of sauces and dry rubs.

As several patrons suggested during a recent visit: "We enjoyed the house-made fried pickles and house-made potato chips."

During a recent visit we observed people chatting about the loaded beak fries, crispy cauli bites, Skinny Chicken along with uniquely named Vera Wing and Sir Clucks-a-Lot.

The Chicken Coop Kitchen and Bar is open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. and there's parking aplenty in the spacious Town Hall Lanes Plaza parking lot.

So, in addition to taking pride in serving quality food and drinks, the owner will tell you: "We aim to give that family community vibe when our customers come into The Coop and we are proud to service the Town of Johnston and intend to give back in a number of ways."

Perhaps the words "Good Food, Good Drinks, Good Friends, Good Times," which imprinted on the front window — and in gold script lettering — is what Tonya Antonelli, Mathew Ferruolo, Meliza and Robert Ferruolo and The Chicken

**CHEF'S CORNER:**

Talented chef Justin Ferreira is joined by The Coop owners Meliza Ferruolo (left) and Tonya Antonelli after discussing such specials as loaded fries with Mozambique sauce, fried cauliflower bites and different wing sauces that are served seven days a week. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)



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**MASK MEETING:** On Monday night, the Johnston School Committee voted unanimously to approve the revised mask policy, which will take affect on Monday, March 7. A small crowd packed the Ferri Middle School library for the meeting Tuesday night. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

## ■ Masks

(Continued from page 1)

Ultimately, the policy called for making masks optional for students and staff, in school, but keeps the mandate in place on school buses.

"Masks are required on transportation based on the mandate of the Transportation Security Administration," DiLullo said. "Those mandates are still in place, on all public transportation, including school buses ... until March 18."

DiLullo delivered the district's latest student vaccination numbers by school: Sarah Dyer Barnes School, 34 percent vaccinated (29 percent fully vaccinated); Brown Avenue Elementary, 33 percent vaccinated (29 percent fully); Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School, 54 percent vaccinated (50 percent fully); Johnston High School, 69 percent vaccinated (66 percent fully); Thornton Elementary, 33 percent vaccinated (28 percent fully); Winsor Hill Elementary, 42 percent vaccinated (36 percent fully); and the Early Childhood Center, 19 percent vaccinated (15 percent fully).

DiLullo also boiled down the most recent data on infection rates in each school.

"In the last seven days, Brown Avenue, the ECC, Graniteville, Thornton and Winsor Hill all had zero cases," DiLullo said. "Johnston Senior High School, Nicholas Ferri Middle School and Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School had fewer than five cases in the last seven days. We've had no staff cases in the last seven days, of COVID infection."

Data across the state has been trending in the right direction. State agencies have given schools new suggestions for handling this phase of the pandemic.

"Right now, the Rhode Island Department of Health is recommending that we move away from contact tracing, which means we won't trace students who could possibly be infected," DiLullo said Tuesday night. "Instead, what we're practicing, is monitoring symptoms to stay. So students, even though may have come in contact with someone who's positive, if they're not showing symptoms they can come to school."

The policy differs slightly if students contract COVID.

"Students who are isolated, probably are isolated for five days if they're testing positive for COVID," DiLullo said. "And then, returning to school, they still must wear a mask for five days after."

The board briefly discussed the new policy details.

"So as far as policy goes, what we would think of in terms of a proposal, would be face coverings are recommended but not required for students, faculty and staff in schools," DiLullo explained. "KN95 face coverings will be available for students and staff when they need them. Should conditions change, and infections rise significantly, the committee will reconvene to assess whether masks should be required at any point. Federal law still governs the masks on transportation services. If the Transportation Security Administration also moves away from the mask mandate, the

district will support the decision."

Over the summer, before Gov. Dan McKee issued a statewide mask mandate for schools, school committees across the Ocean State held at-times raucous meetings in which parents ferociously argued both for and against mandatory face-coverings.

The Johnston School Committee voted to adopt a similar, voluntary mask policy. McKee's eventual executive order, however, overrode the Johnston policy.

Two weeks ago, McKee decided once again to send the decision back to local school committees.

Johnston school Committee Member Susan M. Mansolillo had argued in the past to keep the mask mandate in place, especially as infection rates soared.

"I just feel that at this time, from what I have read and what I have learned, and the change in the CDC guidelines ... parents have been given the option to have their ... school age children vaccinated," Mansolillo said Tuesday night. "If parents are extremely concerned, they can have their children vaccinated and they can continue to mask their children. I feel as though parents who don't want to mask their children should not be required to, due to the low transmission rates at this time. So, I feel ... at this time, since the transmission rates are so low, that we should not continue to mandate masks in the school system. When the numbers were going up, I felt differently."

McKee's recent mask policy revision called for the possible lifting of school-wide mandates after Friday, March 4.

School Committee member Joseph W. Rotella suggested the policy should kick in the following Monday, March 7, to give the district the opportunity to give facilities another deep clean. He also wanted to add a "bullying" caveat to the policy.

"I really feel that any kid who comes to school, who wants to wear a mask should not be bothered; shouldn't be bullied," Rotella said Tuesday night. "Every kid should have the option to come to school and not be bullied. Also, we should be able to provide masks for everyone who comes to school who wants one."

Parents hoping the mask mandate would fall packed the Ferri Middle School library for Tuesday night's meeting. Most did not wear masks, despite the surviving mandate, three days before the policy's expiration. None stood to speak during the meeting. Some quietly questioned, from the audience, the district's decision to maintain the requirement for mask wearing by students while on school buses.

Mask rules outside of schools - in stores and most public spaces - dropped weeks ago; except in cases of public transportation.

Students will still be required to wear masks on school buses, and Johnston School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia reiterated DiLullo's position that it's beyond the district's control.

"Also, the busing is out of our jurisdiction ... we don't make that decision," LaFazia said.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the revised mask policy, which will take affect on Monday, March 7.

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

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Sun. Mar. 20- **GEORGE'S of Galilee**, Narr. 12:30  
Sun. Mar. 27- Finn's **HARBORSIDE**, E. Green. 12:30  
Sat. April 2- **CARRIAGE INN**, No. Kingstown 4:30  
Sun. April 3- **TWIN OAKS**, Cranston 12:30  
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**POWER GIANT:** A Pennsylvania-based power provider is in discussion to buy the Ocean State's primary electric service, the Narragansett Electric Company (NEC), from its current owner, National Grid.

**■ PPL**  
(Continued from page 1)

Pennsylvania-based power provider, wants to buy NEC.

"My Office has filed a motion in Rhode Island Superior Court to appeal and stay (the Feb. 23) decision by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers to approve the sale of Narragansett Electric to Pennsylvania-based PPL," Neronha said in a statement on Thursday, Feb. 24. "This proposed transaction would have enormous consequences for all Rhode Islanders, and we will continue to advocate to ensure an electric and gas utility that is in the best interests of Rhode Islanders and that complies with Rhode Island law."

PPL received unanimous approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to acquire NEC from National Grid USA in September 2021, for \$5.3 billion.

If approved, NEC will become the sole subsidiary of a newly formed PPL Rhode Island Holdings, which will then become an indirect subsidiary to PPL. The deal also involves the transfer of some overseas utility assets.

Witnesses for PPL and the opposition delivered testimony before the RIDPUC from Monday, Dec. 13, through Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021.

The agency performed "a thorough examination of the record that included participation of nine parties, 17 witnesses who offered testimony, thousands of pages of discovery, four public hearings, many public comments, post hearing briefs, and reply briefs," according to Thomas F. Kogut, RIDPUC Associate Administrator.

Several local environmental advocacy groups and Neronha's office have objected to the sale. State law

required PPL to prove the transaction would be "in the best interests" of Rhode Island residents.

The term "best interests," however, has been interpreted differently on all sides.

"The Division finds that after a thorough examination of the record in this docket, including the many public comments that were offered, the evidence demonstrates: (1) that the facilities for furnishing service to the public will not thereby be diminished [if the Petition is approved], and (2) that the purchase... [and] sale... and the terms thereof are consistent with the public interest," according to the RIDPUC report and petition order.

Neronha's court filing disagrees. "As detailed in court filings, my Office has appealed the decision on the grounds that it does not sufficiently provide assurances that the sale is in the best interests of Rhode Islanders," Neronha said.

The Attorney General will argue in court that PPL has yet to prove customers will not experience "degradation of services or significant rate increases."

Neronha also insists PPL must show the company "is capable of creating an effective storm response without increasing costs to ratepayers" and "can provide necessary IT services without increasing costs to ratepayers."

Neronha said his office also shares the concerns of local environmentalists, arguing PPL must prove it can "effectively work with the state to meet emissions and other goals required by the Act on Climate."

Neronha's office — and advocacy groups like CLF, Green Energy and the Acadia Center — have raised "public interest" concerns connected to "PPL's willingness to acquiesce to the State's aggressive decarbonization goals," Kogut said.

"However, the Division finds that each of their demands would rise to the level of imposing a net benefit standard on PPL," Kogut explained in a statement distributed to the media. "None of their recommended conditions for approval are required under existing statutory law; they seek to impose conditions on the sale that not even National Grid is required to follow at this time."

PPL has pledged to "enthusiastically abide by all regulatory requirements designed to advance the State's environmental goals," according to Kogut.

"These requirements will be imposed by the Commission, with Division participation," Kogut wrote. "In the meantime, PPL has committed to step into National Grid's shoes with respect to all existing programs and initiatives, including its energy efficiency programs and renewable energy procurement processes. PPL has also made several long-term commitments in support of its efforts to comply with the Act on Climate and to demonstrate its pursuit of a robust renewable energy agenda."

Besides environmental worries, Neronha has also raised other concerns with the transaction.

"Additionally, the decision did not consider whether PPL had a viable post-transaction financial plan, nor was one submitted," Neronha said. "I am not alone in raising these issues — the DPUC's own attorneys and experts expressed serious unresolved concerns about this transaction during the hearing before the DPUC. Furthermore, I am concerned about the legal standard that was used by the hearing officer in reaching the decision — a legal standard that creates a low threshold for approval of these significant transactions that would potentially leave Rhode Islanders at future risk."

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**MVP:** Antonia Corsinetti accepts the Little East Conference tournament MVP award last Saturday afternoon after the team beat UMass-Dartmouth. (Submitted photos)

**■ MVP**

(Continued from page 1)

Corsinetti enjoyed being able to take on her old friends and continue a rivalry that has existed for a number of years, as she graduated from Bay View while the two others attended Johnston High.

"It's always a great experience, Kaylin and Jordan are great. Since high school we have always played each other and it is always a battle. I love it. We love when the whole town of Johnston comes to our games, doesn't matter if it's at RIC or Dartmouth, it's always a great atmosphere," said Corsinetti.

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# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

## CYBERSTALKING

At 11:30 a.m., Jan. 8, Johnston Police were dispatched to Ocean State Gym, 10 Morgan Mill Road, to attempt to locate a suspect wanted by the department for Domestic Cyberstalking and Domestic Cyberharassment.

Upon arrival, Johnston Police located the suspect, Danny J. Tager, of 48 Howarth Ave., South Attleboro, inside the gym. He was taken into custody without incident, and transported to police headquarters, processed and held pending arraignment. Tager was arraigned and released on \$1,000 personal recognizance. He was issued a Third Division District Court date to appear on Jan. 17.

## BENCH WARRANT

Around 10:50 a.m., Jan. 13, Johnston Police Officer Cody Weaver was on a fixed post at 178 George Waterman Road when he observed a blue Lexus allegedly traveling at a high rate of speed (approximately 40 mph), according to the incident report.

Weaver initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of George Waterman Road and Sheridan Street.

Police identified the driver as Bryant D. Sanchez, of 100 Elliot Ave., Apt. 95, North Providence, and discovered he had an active Superior Court bench warrant for failure to appear in court on a Carrying a Pistol Without a Permit charge.

Sanchez was cuffed and secured in the back of the cruiser, and transported back to Johnston Police Headquarters. Sanchez was also cited for Speeding.

## SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 5:30 p.m., Jan. 13, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri was on a fixed post at 1074 Plainfield St., when he observed a red Nissan Titan travel past his location eastbound, without a front registration plate.

Santurri stopped the vehicle near 920 Plainfield St., and identified the driver as Ronald R. Dutra III, of 14 Hickory Road, Coventry. Police learned Dutra had an active arrest warrant out of the Coventry Police Department for Simple Assault. His driver's license had also been suspended. The vehicle's registration was also suspended.

Dutra was taken into custody without incident, according to police. He was issued a Third District Court notice to appear in court for Driving with a Suspended License (third offense).

A background check also revealed a passenger in Dutra's car, Nicole Fraser, homeless, of Cranston, had an outstanding Superior Court bench warrant for failing to appear at arraignment for a charge of Passing Counterfeit Currency from the Cranston Police Department.

Both vehicle occupants were transported to police headquarters, where Dutra was turned over to Coventry Police, and Fraser was taken to the ACI Women's Intake Facility.

Dutra was also issued Rhode Is-

land Traffic Tribunal summons for Display of Plates and Operating of Vehicle When Registration is Suspended citations.

## BREAKING & ENTERING

Around 1 p.m., Jan. 14, Johnston Police responded to the wooded area off Fletcher Avenue adjacent to Saint Ann's Cemetery to look for Donald Iasimone, who was wanted by Johnston Police on Break and Enter Dwelling Without Consent and Vandalism charges.

Iasimone of 1164 Plainfield St., Johnston, was located in the woods and taken into custody without further incident. He was cuffed and transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and held pending arraignment.

The charges stem from an incident at 2:27 p.m., Jan. 6, when Johnston Police responded to an unoccupied residence under renovation. The owner of the property told police the house has been vacant, and no workers have been there for approximately two weeks. When the owner entered the house on Jan. 3 to check on the property, she found approximately three inches of water flooding the cellar floor.

"She then heard a loud noise from upstairs," Johnston Police Officer David T. Slinko Jr. wrote in the incident report. "She climbed the stairs and observed a white male party running down the stairs from the upstairs apartment. The white male was wearing black jogging pants, a blue hooded sweatshirt, with the hood on, a gold necklace and sneakers."

The man was empty-handed as he ran from the house, but sounded like he was slurring his words as he kept repeating that he was sorry, the owner told police.

The owner found many copper pipes in the home were damaged, and she told police she would like to pursue a criminal complaint. The case was forwarded to Johnston Detectives for investigation.

A witness gave police a photo of the suspect from surveillance video covering a nearby parking lot. Numerous Johnston Police and Rhode Island State Police units, including a canine unit, searched the area for the suspect.

"State Police located the suspect in the area of Nardollilo Street a foot chase ensued and the suspect was able to flee from police," Slinko wrote.

Eventually Johnston Police identified the suspect as Iasimone. After his arrest on Jan. 14, Iasimone was arraigned and bail was set at \$5,000 with surety and he was held as a Superior Court Violator.

## DRAG RACING

At 10:59 p.m., Jan. 20, Johnston Police responded to America's Best Value Inn, Room No. 107, at 50 Hartford Ave., Scituate, to locate a male suspect wanted on multiple active warrants.

The suspect was identified as Joshua David Tangui, 112 Roosevelt St.,

First Floor Apartment, Providence.

Tangui was wanted on misdemeanor charges, including Reckless Driving, Duty to Stop in Accident with Attended Vehicle, Driving Without a License, and bench warrants issued from the Sixth and Third District Courts.

In the police incident report, Johnston Police said they received a tip from a reliable source that Tangui was staying at the America's Best Value Inn.

"At one point we were in the midst (of) knocking when the door abruptly swing open and revealed Joshua, who I recognized through previous contacts, standing there looking puzzled," Johnston Police Officer Adam M. Parkinson wrote in the report.

Tangui allegedly jammed the door partially shut, but police were able to take him into custody with "minimal resistance."

Tangui had an active warrant for a violation of a court order stemming from a Cranston Police Department incident and bench warrants stemming from an Expired License charge issued by Rhode Island State Police Lincoln Barracks, and a Warwick Police charge of Access to Computer for Fraud.

Tangui was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, processed and secured in a cell.

## SHOPLIFTING

At 3:41 p.m., Jan. 20, Warwick Police officers traveled to the Johnston Police headquarters to take custody of Johnston man wanted by the Warwick Police Department for felony shoplifting.

Police identified the man as Richard William Baccaire, 43, of 35 Union Ave., Johnston.

Warwick Police had been looking for Baccaire since responding to Macy's, 400 Bald Hill Road, at 1:18 p.m., Dec. 6, 2021.

A Macy's loss prevention officer told police that a man fitting Baccaire's description entered the store carrying a large reusable Job Lot bag, and wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and jeans, and had a tattoo on his right forearm.

"The male quickly selected four men's long sleeve shirts before concealing them into his bag," Warwick Police Officer Evan E. Johnson wrote in the police incident report. "The male then proceeded past all final points of sale without attempting to purchase the merchandise he concealed and exited through the northwest door. The subject then got into the drivers seat of a dark gray Toyota Camry with tinted windows and a tinted license plate cover."

The car took off on Route 2 toward Cranston, according to police.

The total value of the four items was \$180. Macy's loss prevention told police they would like to file criminal charges.

Police shared images from video surveillance with other police agencies in an attempt to identify the suspect. On Jan. 5, a Johnston Police Detective contacted Warwick Police to identify the man as Baccaire.

Warwick Police had arrested Baccaire in 2015, and the department had photos on file.

Baccaire was charged with Shoplifting (value over \$100, second offense), according to police.

Johnston Police took Baccaire into custody around 10:30 a.m. Jan. 20, after Johnston Police Officer Merrick A. Cook responded to the area of Cherry Hill Road for a report of an erratic driver.

"I canvassed the area and located the vehicle parked unattended in front of 35 Union Ave.," Cook wrote in the Johnston Police incident report. "I spoke with Baccaire at the residence and informed him of the reason why I was looking for him. Baccaire denied erratic operation of his vehicle."

Procedural checks revealed Baccaire's active arrest warrant issued by Warwick Police.

## OBSTRUCTING OFFICER

Around 9:10 p.m., Feb. 9, Johnston Police Officer Cody Weaver was on a fixed post in the area of 1075 Plainfield St., when he observed a green Toyota Camry traveling eastbound on Plainfield with no front registration plate and an expired inspection sticker. Weaver initiated a traffic stop.

Police attempted to identify the driver, who told them he didn't have his license on him.

The driver gave police a name, however, after "cross agency checks" police discovered the name they were given identified a different individual. The false name corresponded to another man in the system who has a "wave tattoo on his forearm." The driver, however, police said, had a "Super Mario" themed Nintendo tattoo on his forearm. Once again, after "cross agency checks on the vehicle, police discovered a recent contact with Luis C. Ranero, of 985 Hartford Ave., Apt. 2B, Johnston.

According to records, Ranero had a tattoo like the one spotted on the driver's arm.

Police gave the driver one last chance to identify himself, at which point he admitted to being Ranero. He told police he initially gave the wrong name because he had an active warrant issued by Providence Police. Police confirmed the warrant, which was issued for a charge of Domestic Simple Assault.

Ranero was taken into custody and charged with Obstructing an Officer in Execution of Duty. He was later released into Providence Police custody. Ranero will also receive citations for Display of Plates and Violation of Inspection Laws.

## TRESPASS

At 9:45 a.m. on Feb. 22, Cranston Police arrested Joshua J. Mello, 46, of 37 Lafayette St., Johnston, on a Cranston Police Arrest Warrant for Willful Trespass in School Building (three counts) and Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty as a result of the suspect turning himself in at Cranston Police Headquarters. Mello was transferred to Third District Court.

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# Opinion

## The legacy of Jim Langevin

## What's happening in Ukraine 'is surreal'

For 22 continuous years, Rep. James Langevin has represented Rhode Island in Washington with steady calmness and determination.

His rise to the halls of Congress is a story of perseverance, and his impact on politics can not only be seen in the votes he was party to, bills he sponsored and co-sponsored, or committees he has chaired or been a part of — it can also be seen in ways wholly intangible to those who have never had to wrestle with something as challenging as a physical disability.

Imagine the feeling that a young child confined to a wheelchair might receive upon seeing Rep. Langevin deliver a speech from the halls of Congress, physically embodying the classic American ideal that you can accomplish anything, despite all odds, if you work to achieve that goal. Political ideals aside, this symbol has undoubtedly served as inspiration for many aspiring young Americans who face any number of difficulties.

Langevin's legacy can also be seen physically in the adjustments that were required to enable him to access and deliver speeches from the Capitol. ADA improvements were made so that Langevin, the first quadriplegic to serve in Congress, could do his job. Due to his trailblazing, even an institution as historic and traditional as the U.S. government needed to adapt and evolve, contributing to positive progress for

generations that will come after him.

There are plenty of cynical thinkers who lump all politicians into the same category — entitled, self-serving, greedy opportunists who care more about grabbing power and absorbing taxpayer dollars for their own good than any one common cause. But we find it hard to believe that Rep. Langevin, someone who has championed the rights of disabled citizens, the uninsured, and the nation's military veterans, can be so easily judged and dismissed. Spending so much of one's life dedicated to trying to make things better for other people should not be callously tossed aside in the name of serving a cynical world view about our imperfect political system.

Indeed, the legacy of Langevin is one of a truly American success story. It is a story of promise that took a tragic turn at just 16 years old while on a path to become a law enforcement officer, only to be able to successfully pivot into a political career that, after more than two decades, has left his colleagues with nothing but positive things to say about his service.

While you may disagree or agree with individual votes or his stance on certain issues, the country needs more politicians of Langevin's breed, and whoever successfully climbs the ladder to his seat should try mightily to embody the spirit of his service.

### STORY OF THE WEEK:

"It's absolutely soul-crushing, heart-breaking, the Rev. Borislav Kroner, pastor of St. Michael's Ukrainian Church in Woonsocket, tells my colleague Joe Tasca, regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "Words fail to express how horrified I am to see what is going on. Of course, it was expected. However, it is very different to expect and wait and know something will happen and then actually seeing the bombs explode and seeing people die. Especially for me, someone who was born and raised in Ukraine, it's a surreal experience. It's nothing short of horrifying .... This desire for independence, this desire for freedom, this desire for a nation of our own for a sense of dignity and national identity, doesn't sit right with Mr. Putin, who has lamented the fall of the Soviet Union. He has said it was the greatest geopolitical tragedy within his lifetime. He's made it his life's mission to bring all the former (Soviet) republics back into the sphere of Russian influence. This is just the next step for him. He is interested in reestablishing the former Soviet Union as it was before the fall of the Iron Curtain."

### THE RACE FOR GOVERNOR:

Gov. Dan McKee's campaign launch last week showed off the incumbent's advantages in the race for governor. With the number of COVID infections steadily dropping in Rhode Island, McKee took a page from Ronald Reagan's playbook in arguing that residents are better off now than before he took office. He said his administration has fostered progress in other areas, by "helping businesses stay open, kept our kids safely in school, we got families back to work and our economy running." The former Cumberland mayor was surrounded by municipal leaders — including the mayors of East Providence, North Providence, Johnston and Woonsocket. And McKee's launch event took place at Igus, a growing manufacturer in East Providence, itself something of a bellwether in statewide elections. The challenge for McKee's rival Democrats — Matt Brown, Helena Foulkes, Nellie Gorbea and Luis Daniel Munoz — is convincing voters to eject McKee

## TALKING POLITICS



by  
**IAN DONNIS**

from the governor's office. For now, Gorbea calls herself the top competitor to McKee, although Foulkes, who has yet to air television ads, remains an X factor in the race due in part due to her deep pockets.

CD2: Another week and more developments in the busy competition for the seat being vacated next year by U.S. Rep. Jim Langevin. Sarah Morgenthau jumped into the race. She has quite the lineage in Democratic politics (her grandfather, Henry Morgenthau Jr., served as Treasury secretary to FDR), although she's registered to vote in Rhode Island more recently. Also worth watching is David Segal, the former Providence city councilor and ex-state rep., who ran for CD1 in 2010 and is contemplating a CD2 run. Segal went on to become one of the founders of Demand Progress, a progressive advocacy group that claims affiliation with more than 1.5 million supporters — a broad base of possible support. There are now six announced Democratic candidates — including Omar Bar, Joy Fox, Seth Magaziner, Michael Neary, and Ed Pacheco — meaning the primary winner could lead the field with perhaps 25 percent of the vote. Of course, there's always the possibility of other shifts in the field.

## Early intervention now will pay off for generations of Rhode Island's children

By **JOSEPH ROBITAILLE**

In Rhode Island, we strongly believe that every young child should get off to the right start in life—a start where children and families are supported during the early years of development, a formative time that is crucial for bonding, socialization, and success. We want our infants and toddlers to be prepared for school so that their future is

filled with unlimited possibilities. We also know that sometimes their development is compromised, and we have built a system that works to improve child and family development.

That is why for more than 30 years, Rhode Island has provided Early Intervention (EI), a free federal public education program offered through the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Early Intervention is for children under three years old who have or are at risk of a developmental delay or disability. Statewide, more than 4,100 infants and toddlers receive EI services.

In Warwick, the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center's EI program supports more than 275 children. Our highly trained, educated professionals work with each child and their family to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan that sets learning goals and identifies the services needed to achieve them.

Trudeau's wide array of EI supports focus on the following important skills: physical and cognitive; communication; self-help; adaptive; and social emotional. Our specialists also connect families with supportive resources including childcare and preschool programs.

Early Intervention is essential to our youngest and most vulnerable children. When children under three-years old who are experiencing developmental challenges do not receive timely, high-quality services, they fall further behind. The brain grows rapidly, starting before birth and continuing into early childhood. Early Intervention is crucial to the children who need it.

Unfortunately, Trudeau's ability to serve Warwick and the surrounding area's young children is now threatened. We are unable to offer competitive wages in comparison to other sectors, due to stagnant state reimbursement rates for Early Intervention services. These rates were initially set in 2002, cut in 2009, and have not been increased for over 20 years.

As competition across New England builds for high-

quality professional staff, Early Intervention simply cannot keep up. The result is the loss of Early Intervention professionals to schools, outpatient practices, and a variety of other higher-paying positions.

Due to reduced staff, the Trudeau Center and EI providers across Rhode Island have been forced to implement a state-run referral process, which essentially places new children and families in need of services, on a state-run wait list. These children cannot wait. The window of opportunity to make a difference in their lives is closing with each day that passes without services.

Fortunately, Governor McKee, Speaker Shekarchi, and Senate President Ruggerio have recognized the crisis that is facing EI providers. Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation authorizing \$3.64 million in federal CARES Act funding to assist providers to recruit and retain specialists, avoid closures, and provide continued services to Rhode Island's children with developmental needs.

These funds have been helpful to "keep the lights on" for EI providers during an incredibly challenging time. However, this is one-time, temporary funding, which mainly serves the purpose of replacing lost revenue. The real long-term solution to reinvesting in EI will be increasing reimbursement rates to a level that truly supports our EI programs.

As the General Assembly gets back to work crafting a budget for 2023, with the benefit of over \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds and a \$600 million state budget surplus, now is the time to invest in increased reimbursement rates for Early Intervention providers so they can sustain these critical services for our state's youngest learners.

This is a smart investment that will truly pay dividends for Rhode Island's children for generations to come.

*Joseph Robitaille is Vice President of Children's Services at the J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center.*



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**THE VICTIM:** An arrest has been made in the accidental shooting death of teenager, Dillon Viens, a Johnston resident.

# Gun owner arrested after accidental shooting death of Johnston teen

By RORY SCHULER

An arrest has been made in the accidental shooting death of a Johnston teenager.

Johnston Police arrested Marios M. Kirios, 29, of Cedar St., Johnston, as part of an "ongoing investigation into the shooting death of Dillon Viens, a Johnston resident and student" at William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School, according to Chief Joseph P. Razza.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, Razza confirmed Johnston Police were "investigating the death of a juvenile male from an apparent gunshot wound."

"We are treating the incident as accidental and those involved our fully cooperating with investigators," Razza said Sunday.

Kirios has been charged with four misdemeanor counts of violating a state law that requires Safe Storage of a Firearm (RIGL 11-47-60.1).

"Kirios, who was not at home at the time of the shooting, had legally possessed the firearms that were later seized as part of this investigation," according to Johnston Police.

Kirios was arraigned Wednesday at Kent County Courthouse and has been held as a Superior Court violator, according to Johnston Police.

His next court appearance will be on March 14.

"The Johnston Police Department extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Dillion," according to a JPD press release. "The family has set up a GoFundMePage for additional support. Please visit <https://t.co/r6rGuQSug>."



## Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

### Fire Alarm Testing Services-Re-bid

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Fire Alarm Testing Services-Re-bid. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning March 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](http://www.townofjohnstonri.com). Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 am, March 24th, 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 starting at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 on March 10th, 2022 at 9:00 am.

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

# Bryant University hosts 39th Rhode Island Academic Decathlon this Sunday

Twelve high schools and more than 130 students will compete Sunday in the 39th annual Rhode Island Academic Decathlon, which for a first time will be hosted by Bryant University.

The in-person daylong competition covers ten subject areas including speech and interview that are judged by panels of volunteers. More than 100 volunteers will have roles in staging the competition that concludes with a Super Quiz where student teams answer questions before an audience. The quiz is followed by an awards ceremony.

Nine member Decathlon teams are made up of students with grade point averages of A, B and C. Team members can win individual medals in each of the subject areas that make up the event. The team with the best overall score wins the competition and represents the state in the nationals.

Schools with teams this year

include returning state champs Bishop Hendricken, Classical, Cranston West, East Greenwich, Johnston, LaSalle, North Kingstown, North Providence, Pilgrim, South Kingstown, Toll Gate and Wheeler.

Hendricken introduced the Decathlon to Rhode Island when the school was invited to compete in the spring of 1983 event that had been founded a couple of years earlier in California. Several Hendricken students won medals that made headlines on their return to the Ocean State, igniting interest in conducting a state competition which happened in December 1983.

For a first time last March the competition was held remotely with the speech and interview segments conducted over Zoom. The national competition was likewise held remotely as it will be this year.

"We are extremely grateful to

Bryant stepping forward to host this year's event. It wouldn't be happening in person otherwise," said Decathlon executive director Frank Lenox. Given the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 and the uncertainty of conditions at this time, CCRI where the competition has been held since was founded in 1983 could not commit last summer. Had restrictions not eased, the decathlon had the option of going remotely.

The Decathlon is generously supported by individual donors, State and House legislative grants and corporations including AT&T, Bally's, Cox Communications, BankRI, BankNewport, Washington Trust, the Journal Charitable Foundation and the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority.

The Super Quiz and awards ceremony, starting at 4:15 p.m. this Sunday is open to the public.

**Got something to sell???**  
**Advertise in the Classifieds**  
**Call 732-3100 today!**

## LEGAL NOTICES

### PUBLIC AUCTION – DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

G. Metz Moving of Johnston RI, 26 King Street, demands full payment from the following storage tenants storing property and owing the following:

Joe Benevides units 12, 13, 14, 201, 196, 270, Mike Carderelli unit 165, Christie Gore units 79,102,220,221, Ira Holtz & Associates unit 164, amount due \$3,053.90. Clinton Cowen Units 31,34,189, Nicola Cipolla/Ann Murphy unit 124, Ramirez & Lidia Garcia units 39,40, J.A. Passarelli unit 136, Mark Lake units 191,212,310,311, amount due \$12,095.81. Allen Johnson units 170,171,172, Elizabeth Viera unit 215, Jo-el Correia units 230,231, amount due \$614.96. Wendy Malo unit 54, & 1 Pallet 4x8 amount due 278.25. Belview unit 125, Chris Shields unit 173, Michaels unit 128, Westcott - piano, Bob Forest - 1 Couch, Radzillo - Entertainment Center.

If payments are not made in full by March 10, 2022, including current amounts due at the time of payment, an auction will be held at G. Metz Moving, 1110 Central Ave., Pawtucket RI, on March 12, 2022, pursuant to the lien set forth in your rental agreement and in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 6A-7 - Documents of Title Section 6A-7-210 - Enforcement of Warehouse's liens.

2/24, 3/3, 3/10/22

### PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday March 3rd, 2022  
6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Municipal Court  
1600 Atwood Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919  
In Person and via ZOOM

**Via Computer:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85614175130?pwd=Y3BjZzQ5RVlqWWWhXSWhuZm9ON3dkQT09>

**iPhone one tap:** +13126266799 or +16465588656

**Via Telephone:** +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656  
**Meeting ID:** 856 1417 5130

Passcode: 910786

**NOTE:** Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for e-meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com>

### AGENDA

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

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

### IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

- The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

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

2/24, 3/3/22

### PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday March 15th, 2022  
6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919  
In Person and via ZOOM

**Via Computer:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82286716874?pwd=NXhWbmFmOWI5enJ5cmE1a2Fhb3Ztdz09>

**iPhone one tap:** +13126266799 or +16465588656

**Via Telephone:** +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

**Meeting ID:** 822 8671 6874  
**Passcode:** 537536

**NOTE:** Please check out the "ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS for e-meetings held via Zoom" on the Town's web page under Meetings & Events. <https://www.townofjohnstonri.com>

### AGENDA

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

**PB 22-16 – Advisory Opinion – Sale of Town Land**

**PB 21-21 - Establish bond amount for Sciacca-Veltri Administrative Subdivision**

**PB 20-39 – A. Duie Pyle Building Expansion – 4 Green Earth Avenue AP 30 Lot 63 – Waiver Request of Site Plan Review Process**

**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

### V. ADJOURNMENT

- The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.
- Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.
- Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

2/24, 3/3, 3/10/22

# SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

## Saint Patrick's Day Dinner

Join Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on March 12 at 6:30 p.m. for a St. Patrick's Day dinner. The church is located at 54 Cedar Swamp Road, Smithfield. There will be a free will offering. Please call the church at 232-7575 for reservations.

## Arts Scholarships for youth now open to register

Do you know a student aged 11 - 14 who loves to create and to perform? Encourage them to apply to our ARTS Scholarships 2022 program! Applications and guidelines are now available at [www.ppacri.org/artsscholarships](http://www.ppacri.org/artsscholarships).

The ARTS Scholarships 2022 program, sponsored by the Textron Charitable Trust and the PPAC Annual Fund with support from WPRI 12 and Ocean State Charities Trust, offers young artists an opportunity to participate in local summer arts education program that will broaden their experience in their chosen area of study.

Qualified students must be aged 11-14 by June 1 of this year and reside in and attend school in Rhode Island.

## Let's bowl

The General Federation of Women's Clubs, Cranston Community Women's Club would like you to join them for "Bowling for a Cause" to benefit the Cranston Family Center on Saturday March 19 at Lang's Bowlarama, 225 Niantic Ave., Cranston.

Registration starts at 10 a.m., bowling 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 per bowler and includes two hours of bowling, shoes, two slices of pizza and a drink. All your donations will benefit the center which works with families to remove obstacles that inhibit their ability to actively participate in their child's education. Raffles and 50/50. If interested, call (401) 451-5073 or send your check to Lisa Giannini, 21 Gordon Street, Cranston, RI 02910. Make checks payable to GFWC-CCWC. Make a difference and help families in need.

## Wedding Showcase

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston will be hosting the 2022 Wedding Showcase on Saturday, March 5, from noon to 4 p.m.

Network with your fellow professionals in the wedding and event industries and meet with future couples who are interested in learning more about your unique services!

For more information regarding exhibitor opportunities, please contact Hillary Williamson at 401-785-4333, or via this email: [hillary@rhodesonthepawtuxet.com](mailto:hillary@rhodesonthepawtuxet.com).

## Bowling for Animals

Bowling for Animals to benefit Defenders of Animals on March 6, between 2 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall Lanes at 1463 Atwood Ave. in Johnston.

\$20 per person, includes two hours of bowling, one pizza and pitcher of soda or lemonade for each lane. Please call 401-461-1922 for reservations or send \$20 via the internet at [defendersofanimals.org](http://defendersofanimals.org).

## Rhode Island Senior Softball League

The Rhode Island Senior Softball League, who has over 350 players on 20 teams, is currently seeking players ages 50 and over for the upcoming season.

The season will run from the beginning of May until the end of September, including playoffs, and no games will be scheduled on July 4. Games are played on Sunday, double headers.

Masks and/or pitcher's screen will be mandatory, and the league will use the same 11 fields as it did last season. Fields are located in East Providence, Cranston, Johnston, Woonsocket, North Kingston, Barrington and Western Cranston.

Visit [www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=riseniorsoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=riseniorsoftball) for more information. Please fill out player inquiry form, the commissioner will contact you.

## Consider donating blood

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

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

Sign up by visiting [www.ribc.org](http://www.ribc.org).

## Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

Come join the "Rocky Point Pacers" for a walk around Rocky Point every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m., weather permitting. They meet at the gate on Rocky Point Avenue. Get some sunshine and burn off some holiday pounds.

## Prepare RI High School Internships Program

Calling all RI public high school juniors: The 2022 PrepareRI High school Internship Program is accepting applications to participate in on-site/in-person, PAID summer experiential learning internships with local employers across the state.

This program will help you earn, learn, and connect with employers across Rhode Island. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Visit <https://skillsforri.com/prepareri> for more information.

## Apple Fest Scheduled

The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for: Saturday, Sept 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days. The event will be held at the Johnston Memorial Park - 1583 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

Register: [www.members.nrichamber.com/.../the-34th-annual-apple](http://www.members.nrichamber.com/.../the-34th-annual-apple)

## Did you know?

The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the United States was held in Boston (1737). The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in New York in the 1760's (Source St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts)

Send submissions to [SunriseScoops@aol.com](mailto:SunriseScoops@aol.com). Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

# OBITUARIES

## Joseph Spremulli

Joseph Spremulli, of Johnston, formerly of Providence and Fort Lauderdale, Florida over the past 30 years, passed away on February 28.

He was the beloved son of Luigi and Costanza (Moreno) Spremulli. He was the husband of Eleanor (Grasso) for 66 years. Joe served in the National Guard and later enlisted in the Army during the Korean War. He was an active member of the Young Pannese Social Club and served as President of the Pannese Society and the Pannese Social Club. He also belonged to the Maria DiPrata Society, the Elks, and Sons of Italy Piava Lodge. Joe was also Manager of the Olneyville Little League and President of the 15th Ward Democratic Association. He served as a member of the Italian American War Veterans and was a long-time member of the local chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He also belonged to the Rosario Society. Generous to a fault, Joe was an amiable guy who was best known for always helping people and fundraising for many worthy causes. He was most proud of his family and supported them in all their endeavors.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his loving sons Louis Spremulli and wife Carla (Mazzarella) and Joseph Spremulli and wife Judith (Ferri), grandchildren Joseph John Spremulli, wife Christa, Jennafer Spremulli May, husband Robert, and Matthew Louis Spremulli, along with his loving great-grandchildren Milo John Spremulli and Marcus and Lucas May. He was predeceased by his siblings Mary Palana, Louise Spremulli Chiaromonte, Anthony Spremulli, and John Spremulli.

Joe worked 24 years for the Leesona Corporation and served as Vice President of the IAM Machinist Union. He also worked as a Buildings Coordinator for the City of Providence prior to his retirement in 2004. His funeral will be held on Friday at 9:30 a.m from "WOODLAWN" Funeral Home 600 Pontiac Ave. Cranston, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Grace Church, Johnston. Burial with Military Honors will follow at St. Ann's Cemetery. VISITATION THURSDAY FROM 4 TO 7 P.M. Family would like masks to be worn.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Our Lady of Grace Church, 4 Lafayette St #2712, Johnston, RI 02919. Please share memories at [www.WoodlawnGattone.com](http://www.WoodlawnGattone.com).



## William T Nero



William T Nero, 87 of Cranston and formerly of Johnston, passed away on Monday, February 7, 2022. He is predeceased by his first wife of 37 years, Anne M. Nero and his wife of six years, Regina Haddad Nero.

William was born in Providence on February 1, 1935, the son of the late Joseph and Henrietta Nero. He graduated from LaSalle Academy and Providence College.

William is survived by his six children, Nancy Panciocco and her husband Richard of Johnston, William T. Nero, Jr. and his wife Rebecca of Coventry, Joseph Nero and his wife Cory of Lincoln, Daniel Nero and his wife Kim of Los Altos, California, Patrick Nero and his husband John Freed of Wilton Manors, Florida and Christopher Nero and his wife Lynne of Olivenhain, California. He also leaves behind 12 grandchildren, Alyssa and Richard Panciocco and Luca, Nicholas, Joseph Jr., Marissa, Matthew, Anne, Kyle, Cameron, Britt and Cole Nero. He is also survived by Regina's four children, Kathryn Balogh, Valerie Cassidy, Missy Haddad Onorato and Frederick Haddad II and their spouses and their nine children. William was predeceased by his siblings: Mary Oberg, Peter Nero, Anthony Nero, Clare Iarocci, John Nero, Joseph Nero and Arlene Tomassi.

William spent most of his professional career at his Alma Mater Providence College, where after receiving his undergraduate degree, he also earned a Master's Degree. He spent 26 years in administrative roles at PC, rising to the level of Vice President of Development in 1982. During his tenure as VP of Development, annual fund raising grew from less than \$50,000 to more than \$3.5 million. He was recognized more than a dozen times by the National Council for the Advancement and Support of Education for the college's fundraising success. William took on a new role at the college in 1988 when he was named Vice President for Business Affairs. He remained in this role until his retirement in 1993. During his tenure at the college he was honored with numerous awards including the Rev. Dore Award by the local Providence area alumni association and the Father Begley Award by the National Alumni Association. William was a long-time parishioner at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Johnston. In over 50 years of service to the parish, he served in many roles including commentator, Eucharistic Minister and Trustee. William was also the Chairman of the Town of Johnston's Board of Canvassers. Hewas appointed by then Governor Bruce Sundlun to The RI Ethics Commission and served several years on the John E. Fogarty Foundation.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 1804 Atwood Avenue, Johnston. Cemetery services will be private. Visiting hours will take place on Friday, February 11 from 4-7 pm in the NARDOLILLO FUNERAL HOME & Crematory, 1278 Park Avenue, Cranston (MASKS ARE REQUIRED).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the St. Robert Bellarmine Food Closet and the Veterans Administration Hospital of R.I.'s Dialysis Unit - Attention: Sarah Stevenson.-

[www.johnstonsunrise.net](http://www.johnstonsunrise.net)

## In Memoriam

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## David M. DiPaolo

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

2018 March 5 2022



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But in our hearts you are always there  
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We miss you more than anyone knows  
With tender love and deep regret  
We who love you will never forget

Lovingly -  
Mom & Step-Dad Walter

## Obituaries

In your time of need, the *Johnston SunRise* will print your loved one's full obituary for a small charge. The paper also places the obituary on our website, [johnstonsunrise.net](http://johnstonsunrise.net).

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call Amanda Nardolillo at (401) 732-3100 or email [AmandaN@rhodybeat.com](mailto:AmandaN@rhodybeat.com) for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

- Thank you

# spotlight ON BUSINESS

## LAZO, Forged in Love, Advocacy for Good Multi-lingual brokerage services for those with disabilities



**We provide brokerage services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

5 George Waterman Rd., Johnston, RI 02919  
**401-233-0314**  
 iwilliams@lazori.org      www.lazori.org

By JENNIFER COATES

It shouldn't be surprising to anyone that individuals with disabilities want the same things that everyone else wants to lead a fulfilling life. These include independence, meaningful employment, enduring relationships, secure housing, and the ability to live a life of choice and opportunity. Those in the disabled community and their families often need more targeted support as they seek to achieve these things and navigate their way around the resources and services available to them. Education, support, advocacy, and guidance build the bridge between those searching for help and those needing help in this process.

Enter Iraida Williams of the Johnston-based organization, LAZO. Iraida Williams, the Executive Director of LAZO, founded the organization in June of 2021 after a lifetime spanning twenty-plus years of work as an advocate for those with disabilities. Williams is as passionate today about her work, which is both professional and personal, as she ever has been.

Williams and her close-knit, multi-lingual team of employees, work tirelessly to fulfill the mission of LAZO which can be summed up in this statement: "Today, and every day, we use our collective knowledge, experience and love to help individuals access the services they want and need to live their best lives."

LAZO offers this to its clients: "LAZO has over 25 years of experience developing and managing individual's services and workers in a person-centered, culturally sensitive manner. LAZO's brokers will provide you with user-friendly information, guidance, and technical assistance to organize, access and use opportunities, services, resources in their community to help them live a self-determined life."

What exactly are the "brokerage services" LAZO provides? A support broker is someone who helps to arrange services for an adult with intellectual or developmental disabilities (beginning as young as 18 years old and still within the public school system) as have been outlined in their Individual Service Plan (ISP). This



Meet Iraida Williams, the founder of LAZO, an advocacy organization based in Johnston. LAZO provides personalized brokerage services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Their services extend SEVEN days a week. Find them at [www.lazori.org](http://www.lazori.org) to learn more.

can often be an overwhelming process complicated by language/cultural barriers, diminished family resources, availability, and lack of knowledge and/or support through more conventional routes. LAZO can help.

The brokerage services provided at LAZO are "non-clinical services" designed to assist individuals in managing their "Self-Directed services" funding. This is pivotal to establishing a system of support that is responsive to both the needs of the individual and their desires for help. The work of LAZO is to assist those receiving financial support to direct those funds in a way that allows them more choice and control, giving them more freedom and self-direction.

The purposes of LAZO are, first and foremost, personal and person-centered. The combined knowledge, talents, dedication, and efforts of this team of advocates are completely devoted to this philosophy.

Referrals to LAZO can be made through a school or transition team, a state-assigned social worker, a family member, or more importantly, YOU. Call LAZO today at 401-233-0314 to get started or visit their informative website at [www.lazori.org](http://www.lazori.org). Their welcoming office is located at 5 George Waterman Road in Johnston.

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**FAT TUESDAY: Top and bottom,** the Winsor Hill Elementary staff was treated to a pancake feast on Tuesday morning before students arrived. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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Dr. Jason Michaels MD, FAAD, Mohs Surgeon	Dr. Matthew Willett MD, FAAD	Dr. Amylyne Frankel	April Brosnan FNP-C	Jennifer Fisher MMSC, PA-C

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Say you saw it in the Johnston Sun Rise

**Flip**  
(Continued from page 1)

As Winsor Elementary's new principal, Burns decided to bring her family tradition to her new family at the school, making pancakes for the building's 50 staff members. Prior to taking the post at Winsor Hill, Burns served as assistant principal at Johnston High School. Then, in August, she accepted the principal's position at Winsor Hill.

Prior to working in Johnston, Burns served as principal at the Robert F. Kennedy School in Providence, where she befriended school secretary (and Johnston state Rep.) Deb Fellela.

Fellela joined Burns Tuesday morning to help pass out pancakes before students arrived for the day.

The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is celebrated differently across cultures. Traditionally referred to as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday, various Christian denominations often celebrate by indulging in favorite, fattening foods before the Lenten fast begins.

"Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday." In Italy, they celebrate "Martedì Grasso." The Pennsylvania Dutch celebrate Fastnacht Day, or Donut Day ("fastnacht" roughly translates to "fasting night"). The Polish call it Paczki Day.

Across the United States, the day has been dubbed National Pancake Day.

And in the Winsor Hill cafeteria, staff members indulged before the school day began.



**Struggling with pain, chronic disease or being a caretaker?**

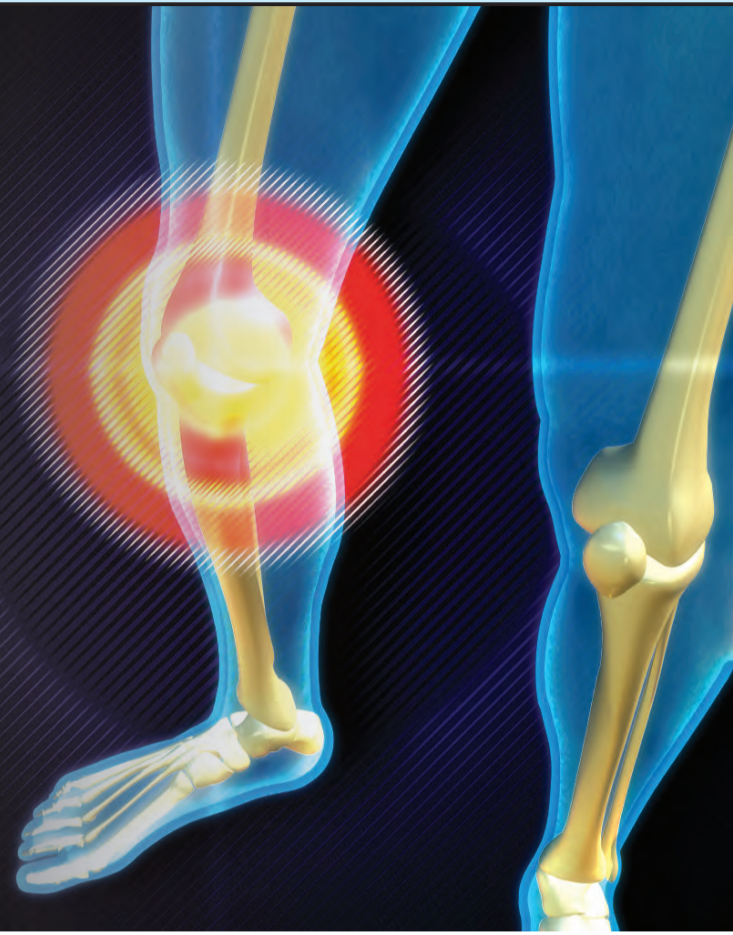
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# RhodyHealth

## Having a Total Knee Replacement in the Next 2 Months?



### 3 essential tips to speed your recovery and keep you out of the nursing home!

Have you gotten to the point where you've had it with your knee pain? Have simple activities like going for a walk or going up and down your stairs become excruciating?

If you've reached this stage with your knee pain, a Total Knee Replacement (TKR) may be just what you need. For about 90% of people, this type of surgery is very effective at dramatically reducing their pain, and most of them return to the activities they enjoy after completing their rehab. Sounds great, right? But like most major surgeries, a portion of people will experience complications.

The most common complication following a TKR is what we refer to as "Stiff Knee Syndrome" (or in medical terms "arthrofibrosis"). Following surgery, scar tissue can build around the knee. People who experience this condition end up with a permanent loss of either bending or straightening their surgical knee, which is associated with long-term pain. The good news about Stiff Knee Syndrome is this: for many people it's avoidable.

While there are factors outside your control, such as your body's tendency to lay down excess scar tissue, **there is one extremely important factor that you can control:** the condition of your knee heading into surgery.

Most people don't tend to think about what they



**JESSICA L. PAPA, PT, DPT**  
OWNER OF  
ARANCIA PHYSICAL THERAPY

should be doing heading into their TKR surgery. Instead, they're focused on what will happen during and after surgery, which is understandable. However, a study published by the *Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery* in 2014 found a 29% reduction in post-operative costs for those people who participated in "pre-hab" prior to TKR surgery. These same people had significantly shorter length of stays in the hospital, and fewer of them needed to go to a skilled nursing facility.

If you're planning on having a total knee replacement in the next 2 months, now is the ideal time for you to start getting your knee ready for a speedy recovery! Here are 3 essential tips that will help you cut down your rehab time/cost and help you avoid stiff knee syndrome:

**1. Improve your knee flexibility as much as possible.** One of the hardest things to accomplish after TKR surgery is getting your knee to fully bend and straighten. The more flexibility (range of motion) you

have prior to surgery, the easier it will be to gain full motion during rehab.


**2. Increase your quadriceps muscle strength.** Your "quad" muscles take a real beating during TKR surgery and can be difficult to activate during rehab. However, if you have good control of your quad muscles before heading into surgery, you'll have a much easier time getting them to activate following surgery. This will help you become more active sooner.

**3. Keep Active!** If walking is too painful prior to surgery, consider either exercising in a pool or riding a stationary bike. You're going to want as much strength and flexibility in your knees and hips during your post-op phase, which will again make your recovery quicker and less painful.


Having a TKR is a major surgery and typically requires 3-6 months of rehabilitation and physical therapy. So if you've decided you're ready for this surgery, start improving your recovery right now by following the 3 tips outlined above.

Good luck!

Dr. Jess  
Jessica L. Papa, PT, DPT  
Owner of Arancia Physical Therapy  
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# Invisible, Odorless...but Deadly



## Staying Healthy

by  
VINCENT VARAMO, DO

If you are like me, you enjoy all the wonderful things that winter brings, sledding, building snow persons, skiing, drinking hot cocoa, etc. There is one thing that we really don't take into consideration when cold weather presents itself – carbon monoxide. The human body is an incredible thing and can endure great stress through the winter, however, this may come as a shock to most of you, the body is unable to endure extremes of temperature for extended periods of time. A solution to the inconvenience of the cold is necessary, and that comes in the form of preventing heat loss (ie clothing, gloves) and heating the environment in which we are present (furnace, radiator, gas heater). Unfortunately, heating our environment can lead to unintended exposure to a very deadly toxin: **carbon monoxide**.

What is carbon monoxide (CO) exactly? It is a gas that is invisible and odorless to humans. This is not to be confused with hydrogen sulfide, a deadly gas that smells like rotten eggs. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of incomplete fuel combustion and is often emitted from household items such as vehicle exhaust, ovens, inadequately serviced home furnaces, space heaters, and small gas engines that you find in-home generators, snowblowers, and lawnmowers. In studies, people are most likely to have their unintended CO exposure while at home.

Why is carbon monoxide so deadly? Hemoglobin is the molecular structure in our red blood cells that carries oxygen molecules. When we breathe in carbon monoxide they attach to the hemoglobin just like oxygen does. Unlike oxygen, however, carbon monoxide provides no benefit to our body's tissues. In addition to this, the carbon monoxide molecules essentially "stay put" and do not let oxygen reattach to the hemoglobin. This leads to our red blood cells carrying less oxygen to our tissues (brain, heart, muscles, etc.). How long can you hold your breath? It's a bit more complicated than this hypothetical question, but you get the idea: our body needs a constant supply of oxygen for survival.

Carbon monoxide exposures account for tens of thousands of Emergency Department visits annually, with thousands being hospitalized for significant exposures. Persons under the age of 44 make up the majority of these visits, but older patients make up larger percentiles of persons requiring admission to the hospital. We are at an increased risk of its exposure here in New England, as persons that live in colder parts of the country often have higher risk activities that lead to exposure.

### What can I do to prevent CO exposure to myself and my family?

- Step number one is to ensure you have working carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home. Check each year that they are in working condition. These can be picked up at hardware stores anywhere.
- Having your home heating system serviced annually if they utilize natural gas, coal, or oil/fuel. According to the CDC, these account for the 2nd greatest number of unintended CO exposures.
- NEVER run an internal combustion car in your garage with the door closed. Keep in mind that even with the garage doors open fumes including CO may still enter your home.
- Do not place your fuel combustion generators in your garage or abutting your home, regardless of whether you have the garage door open or not. Per the CDC statistics, fuel-burning generators are the number one reason for unintended CO exposures. *Consumer Report* recommends always placing your generator 20 feet or more from your home, with the exhaust facing away from the home.
- Ensure your chimney is free of buildup or debris.
- NEVER use a fuel-burning grill indoors for cooking, and do not use your oven for heating your home.

### What symptoms could I have if I have a carbon monoxide exposure?

They can be vague, but may include:

- Headache, dizziness, confusion



- Nausea, vomiting
- Rapid heart rate, chest pain, shortness of breath
- In severe exposures you can, unfortunately, have a heart attack, seizure, coma, or even die
- Some persons may exhibit "cherry red" lips, but this is not a common finding, nor is it necessary for diagnosis

### What should I do if I suspect a carbon monoxide environment is present or my CO detector is going off?

- Gather all family members in your home (including pets), leave your home and IMMEDIATELY CALL 911.
- Pets, lending to their smaller body size, as well as children will often have symptoms before adults, but this is not foolproof.
- Your local Fire Department with evaluating the home (or business) for CO elevations utilizing specialized equipment. If your family has had an exposure, they may recommend evaluation at your nearest Emergency Department.
- What do the Emergency Medical Services team and the Emergency Department do to treat CO exposure?
- Whether suspected or a confirmed exposure we often start with supplemental oxygen therapy, ie non-rebreather oxygen mask. Saturating your blood with supplemental oxygen will help displace the carbon monoxide molecules off of the hemoglobin faster, allowing your red blood cells to carry oxygen again to your body's tissues.

• We may check blood work, including a test where we can see what the actual saturation of carbon monoxide is in your blood. Other tests we may perform look for evidence of organ damage as a result of a lack of oxygen reaching our tissues. We may also perform an ECG of your heart if you are having any signs or symptoms the CO exposure is affecting your heart.

• If you are very ill, we may consider a therapy called Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. This treatment involves you sitting in a comfortable chamber where pressure is increased around you, thus speeding the CO molecules' displacement even faster. Many cases will not require this therapy. Fortunately, there is one treatment center in Rhode Island: **Kent Hospital. Kent Wound Recovery and Hyperbaric Medicine** program has been in place for over a decade now and is the only emergent hyperbaric program in Rhode Island. In fact, there are only 2 emergent hyperbaric medicine treatment centers in all of New England, the other being Mass Eye and Ear in Boston. Both Kent and Mass Eye and Ear take turns for emergent hyperbaric coverage for the whole of New England.

In conclusion, carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that we most often encounter at home. Our lifestyle in the Northeast United States often puts us at an increased risk of exposure. It is for this reason that we must be aware of the dangers it possesses to us and our family. Fortunately, exposure is often preventable if we follow the well-established safety guidelines (CDC). Stay safe out there this winter!

*Vincent Varamo, DO, is a board-certified Emergency Medicine Physician at Kent Hospital, an academic teaching institution in Warwick, RI. He has a special interest in EMS and toxicology.*

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# RhodyLife

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## It's March

and time for

# zeppoles

Bakeries get jump on St. Joseph's Day, bake & freeze thousands of the delights

By EMMA BARTLETT

It's all hands on deck during zeppole making season, according to Eleana Pennacchini, owner of Solitro's Bakery in Cranston. With three generations of Solitro's bakers on the premise each day, she said all her nieces, nephews, sisters and son-in-law come in around the St. Joseph's Day celebration to help with the long pastry-making process. The family-owned business has served the Cranston community for 50 years.

"Overall, the season probably sells 15 to 20 thousand," said Pennacchini, noting that the bakery starts selling zeppoles in mid-February and carries them until Mother's Day.

Zeppoles were created by Don Pasquale Pintauro in the 1800s and have become part of the Feast of St. Joseph, which takes place each year on March 19. Saint Joseph is credited for preventing a famine during the Middle Ages in Sicily, Italy, and resulted in a large feast honoring him for answering people's prayers.



**PEAK INTO THE OVEN:** The Original Italian Bakery Owner, Donald DePetrillo, checks on zeppoles that were in the oven. He puts them back in since they're not quite ready.



Pennacchini's father and three uncles taught her how to make zeppoles growing up. It's a time-consuming process that can take up to an hour and a half between making the shell and cream and then filling the pastry.

With the biggest influx of customers coming in on the weekends, Pennacchini said the store's fried zeppoles are more popular than their baked zeppoles. Solitro's Bakery will sell three of the fried zeppoles for every one of the baked pastries, and both are filled with the traditional yellow cream.

Before Covid, Pennacchini said businesses would buy zeppoles for the office but didn't see that happening during the pandemic. Still, there were nursing homes that placed orders so they could distribute the desserts to patients. Since Solitro's just started selling for the season, Pennacchini said it's too early to tell what the store will see in terms of customers this year.

## Zeppoles near you

### The Original Italian Bakery

915 Atwood Ave., Johnston  
401-919-5777  
<https://www.theoriginalitalianbakery.com/>

### Solitro's Bakery

1594 Cranston St., Cranston  
401-942-9840  
<https://solitrosbakery.wixsite.com/solitrosbakery>

### DeLuise Bakery

701 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston  
401-943-4567  
<https://deluisebakerycranston.wordpress.com/>

### Antonio's Bakery

2448 West Shore Road, Warwick  
401-738-3727  
<http://www.antoniosbakery.net/>

### Le Favorite Bakery

949-951 Namquid Drive, Warwick  
401-463-3133  
<https://www.lefavoritebakery.com/>

Over on West Shore Road, Antonio's Bakery & Charlie's Deli is selling traditional zeppoles alongside more daring flavors. Strawberry, chocolate and Irish cream are among their specialty options. Employee Shannon McCarthy said the chocolate zeppoles taste like a chocolate cream pie and introduce individuals to the traditional zeppoles. Meanwhile, the bakery's Irish cream zeppole is a top seller due to its sweet and creamy taste. The business started its zeppole adaptations by looking at flavors customers preferred (strawberry being one of them) and using them in their pastry.

During a seven-day span, Antonio's Bakery & Charlie's Deli will sell 1,200 zeppoles, with most customers buying four or six at a time. That number escalates come the week of St. Joseph's Day with individuals coming in to purchase two or three dozen zeppoles at a time. Of all the days, St. Joseph's Day is the busiest, with McCarthy noting its craziness. After that, the bakery will wind down and keep going until they've used the remainder of their supplies.

The locally owned business has been under the same ownership for 33 years,

providing customers with a variety of desserts, pies, breads, calzones, pizza and more.

At another location twenty minutes away from Antonio's & Charlie's Deli on a Saturday morning, The Original Italian Bakery's parking lot is full with customers squeezing inside. While the shop's display case shows off the bakery's six zeppole options, the basement's freezer is filled with 500 zeppoles and 40 tubs of cream for future pastries.

The Original Italian bakery sells traditional zeppoles year round, owner Donald DePetrillo said the company serves their specialty flavors from the day after Super Bowl Sunday until Easter. These flavors include pistachio, ricotta, strawberry, chocolate and Bailey's Irish cream with Bailey's Irish Cream Liqueur. During this time, they produce 1,000 zeppoles a day and last year sold 55,000 zeppoles.

DePetrillo has been doing this for 56 years and the zeppole recipe goes back 85 years.

He mentioned that the cost of flour, oil and shortening has almost doubled, causing the price of zeppoles, which now range between \$4 and \$5 to rise since last year - but not by much. DePetrillo doesn't want to overprice the items and said it will just mean the store will make a smaller profit than in past years. Due to the price increase, he said some bakeries have chosen not to sell zeppoles this year. He said he's not going to let his customers down.

DePetrillo noted that business is seeing an increase in the number of nursing homes or places ordering large quantities of zeppoles. The bakery recently received an order of 400 zeppoles and another 250 from a different location. Usually they serve between 10 and 12 nursing homes.

With a staff of 41 people, The Original Italian Bakery is working around the clock seven days a week to produce bread, pizza, calzones and - of course - zeppoles.



**STAYING COOL:** In The Original Italian Bakery's freezer are roughly 500 zeppoles ready to be eaten.

# VOTING BALLOT

## Best Zeppoles Contest



Cast your vote for the best Zeppoles:

- Original Italian Bakery
- Palmieri's Bakery
- Bread Boss
- Calvitto's Bakery
- Solitro's Bakery
- DeLuise Bakery
- Buono's Bakery
- A & J Bakery

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**EMAIL BALLOTS TO:** nataliep@rhodybeat.com

Winner announced in the March 17th issue of the Cranston Herald & Johnston SunRise



**SIX SAVORY FLAVORS:** In addition to the traditional zeppole, The Original Italian Bakery also sells pistachio, chocolate, ricotta, chocolate and Bailey's Irish Cream flavors.

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## FAMILY FEATURES

**G**ive your family meals a powerful boost from breakfast to dinner with better-for-you recipes that pack a protein punch. Revamping the at-home menu with nutrition in mind can still include delicious dishes morning, noon and night.

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Start the morning with Peanut Butter Cookie Oatmeal for a ready-to-go breakfast then recharge with Fresh Veggie Spring Roll Bites with Peanut Sauce as an afternoon snack. When it's time for fueling up the family at the dinner table, pair Thai Chicken and Pork Skewers with Brussels Sprouts with Peanut Chipotle Vinaigrette for a protein-packed meal.

Find more nutritious family-friendly recipes at [gapeanuts.com](http://gapeanuts.com).

### Thai Chicken and Pork Skewers

Recipe courtesy of the Georgia Peanut Commission

- 1 tablespoon minced ginger
- 6 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 cups creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon chili oil
- 1/2 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 1/2 pounds pork tenderloin

In mixing bowl, combine ginger, garlic, peanut butter, broth, soy sauce, chili oil, lime juice, honey and cilantro. Mix well and season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Cut chicken and pork into strips and thread onto skewers. In non-metal container, marinate meat in half of peanut butter sauce 1-2 hours in refrigerator. Reserve remaining sauce for dipping.

Heat oven to broil.

Broil skewered meats until done, turning once. In pot, bring remaining sauce to boil and serve warm as dipping sauce.



Thai Chicken and Pork Skewers



Brussels Sprouts with Peanut Chipotle Vinaigrette

### Brussels Sprouts with Peanut Chipotle Vinaigrette

Recipe courtesy of Parker Wallace ([parkersplate.com](http://parkersplate.com)) on behalf of the Georgia Peanut Commission

- 2 pounds Brussels sprouts, halved
- peanut oil
- 2 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons water
- 3 teaspoons champagne vinegar
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/8 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- 1 pinch kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
- orange or mandarin segments, for garnish
- fresh orange or mandarin juice, for garnish
- crispy fried shallots, for garnish
- crumbled French feta, for garnish
- chopped fresh mint, for garnish

Preheat air fryer to 400 F.

Lightly brush Brussels sprouts with peanut oil and place in fryer basket. Cook 10-15 minutes, shaking halfway through.

In small bowl, whisk peanut butter, water, champagne vinegar, honey, chipotle chili powder and 1 pinch salt until well combined.

Once cooked, remove Brussels sprouts from air fryer and place in bowl. Toss in chipotle peanut vinaigrette until well combined. Season with salt, to taste.

Garnish with orange segments, orange juice, crispy fried shallots, feta and mint.

### Fresh Veggie Spring Roll Bites with Peanut Sauce

Recipe courtesy of Rachael White ([setthetableblog.com](http://setthetableblog.com)) on behalf of the Georgia Peanut Commission

- Hot water
- 6 rice papers
- 3 mini cucumbers, peeled into ribbons
- 1/4 head red cabbage, finely shredded
- 1 large carrot, shredded
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1/3 cup cilantro leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1/3 cup mint leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1 large ripe avocado, peeled and sliced

#### Peanut Sauce:

- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon mirin
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

- 1/3 cup Georgia Peanuts, plus additional for garnish, divided

#### lime wedges, for garnish

Fill large bowl about halfway with hot water. Soak each rice paper in water 15 seconds until malleable. Place rice paper on clean work surface. Place four cucumber ribbons in single layer in center of rice paper. Perpendicular to cucumber, add strip of red cabbage, carrots, 1/2 cup basil leaves, 1/3 cup cilantro leaves, 1/3 cup mint leaves and avocado.

To roll, fold edges of rice paper over each end of filling. Working with side of rice paper closest to you, tuck rice paper around filling and roll tightly.

To cut rolls into bites, use sharp knife and gently move it back and forth. Arrange bites on platter. Repeat with remaining rice papers and filling ingredients.

To make sauce: In small bowl, whisk peanut butter, soy sauce, mirin, fish sauce, 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes and lime juice.

Toast 1/3 cup peanuts by placing in dry pan over medium heat. Move peanuts around until fragrant and toasted, 3-5 minutes. Roughly chop and add to sauce.

Serve spring roll bites on large platter with sauce. Garnish with additional herbs, lime wedges, red pepper flakes and peanuts.



Fresh Veggie Spring Roll Bites with Peanut Sauce



Peanut Butter Cookie Oatmeal

### Peanut Butter Cookie Oatmeal

Recipe courtesy of the Georgia Peanut Commission

- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons chunky peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 1 banana, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

In medium saucepan, combine oats, water and salt.

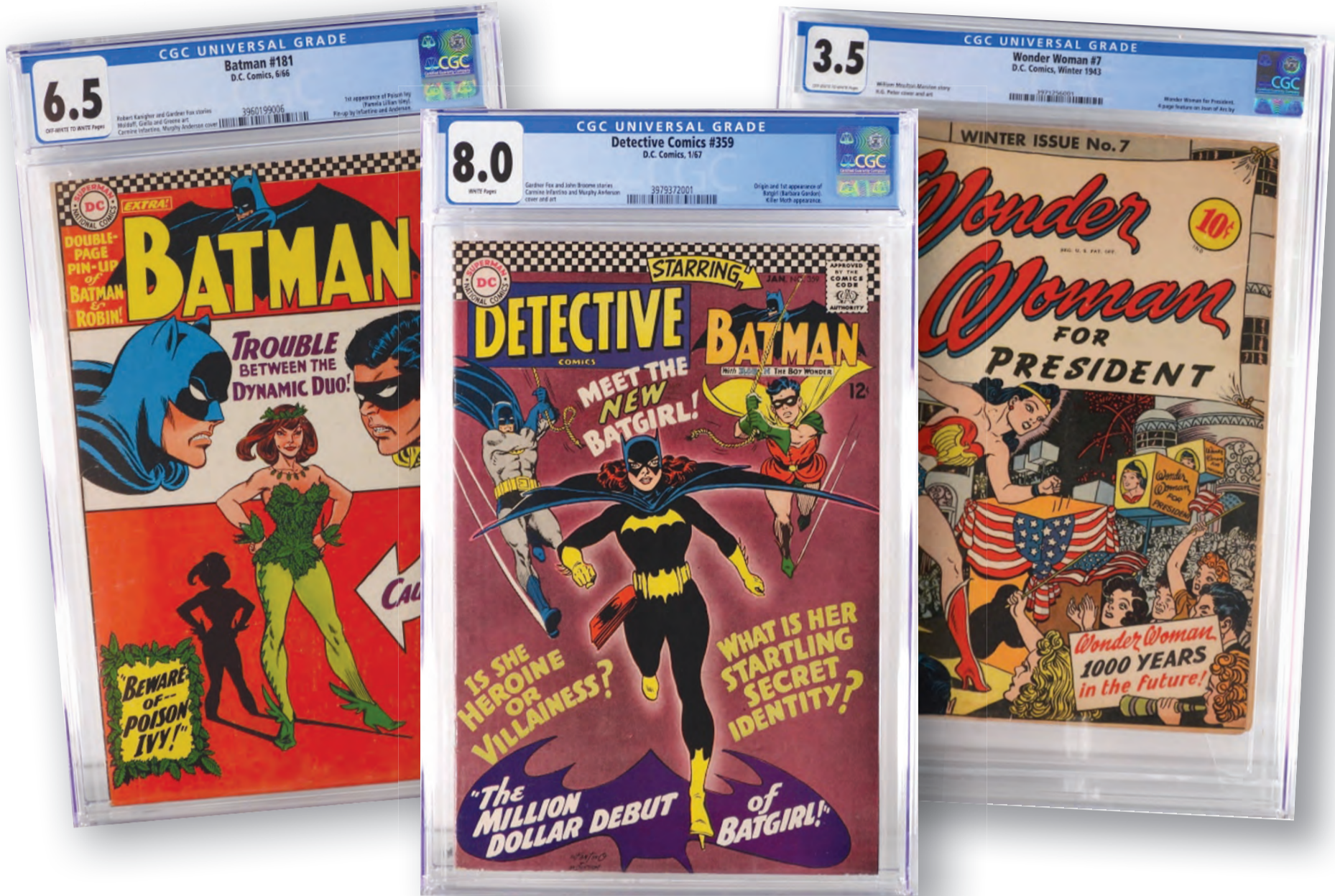
Bring to boil then reduce heat to medium. Cook 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Stir until peanut butter melts.

Add brown sugar, raisins, banana, cinnamon and vanilla extract; stir.

Divide oatmeal into two bowls. Top each bowl with 1/4 cup milk and 1 teaspoon maple syrup.

# COLLECTIBLES



## WHITE HOT FOR HEROINES



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

cade. It's easy to see why there is heightened interest in their related comic books today. However, before the MCU and the modern renditions of these Marvel characters, the credit is due to D.C. for creating the original group of bad to the bone women. Hawk Girl and Wonder Woman date back to 1940 and 1941 respectively, and Poison Ivy, Batgirl, Supergirl, Lois Lane, Black Canary, Star Sapphire, and the list goes on date back to the early Silver Age. All of these characters and their related comics are white hot in the marketplace today. If there was ever a time to sell, now is the time.

When it comes to selling your comic collection the best choice you can make is to work with an auction house on consignment. With comics you need to spend money to make it, and having the proper

books cleaned, pressed, and graded is necessary to maximize their value. We do that for you. If you sell your books outright, you are selling yourself short. This past Saturday at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers we hosted our Winter Comic, TCG, and Toy auction with an all-star female lead auction. Both Poison Ivy and Batgirl set records for their respective grades. These were just a few items of interest out of the 427 lots offered in the auction. If you ever need it, we are here to help you.

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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Sarah Fitzgerald

## Olive

Have you been searching for an adorable gray fluffball? Then here's Olive, she's an eight month old kitten who was found living outside sometime ago and has blossomed into a lovely young lady. She is best suited for an adult home as she is still learning to love and trust but she does like attention. She will be adopted quickly for sure so if you are interested please contact Scruffy Paws Animal Rescue at [scruffypawsanimalrescue@gmail.com](mailto:scruffypawsanimalrescue@gmail.com) You can also visit their website for more information at [www.scruffypawsanimalrescue.org](http://www.scruffypawsanimalrescue.org) Be sure to email right away or you will miss out on this beauty!

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




Photo credit: Tracy Kardys

## Finn

Who's a good boy? Well Finn is obviously! This young pup is only eight months old and he has been bounced around, it's so unfair. He needs a stable, loving home where he can continue to grow, learn and be loved with all of his quirks! Finn is looking for an experienced adult home with a fenced in back yard as he loves to romp around. He would even do well with another playful, friendly dog. If all of these things fit your life and you can't resist Finn's cuteness then please contact Rhode Home Rescue at [processors@rhodehomerescue.org](mailto:processors@rhodehomerescue.org) You can also visit their website at [www.rhodehomerescue.org](http://www.rhodehomerescue.org) Finn and his funny ears will be waiting to fill your heart and home with love and a bit of puppy energy!

# Amii Dawes feels melancholy with Neck Verses EP

By ROB DUGUAY

Music is a reflection of a person's soul and it's what makes this art form so powerful and relatable. When the artist is pouring their feelings into a song it can make a lasting impression on the listener. It can be something to lean on when a loved one's shoulder isn't around and it has the ability to get someone out of the rut they're in. Amii Dawes from Northampton, England harnesses the power of music in a way that resonates a unique indie pop style. Her Neck Verses EP that came out via the Cranston based record label Pitch & Prose on February 25 exemplifies this approach and result.

Dawes has been writing and performing music around the United Kingdom and Europe for over a decade and her exquisite voice makes her songs stand out. It's not overly operatic while exuding harmony in a way that isn't overbearing. Her voice naturally finds a balance and it's a quality I find to be very pleasant. She also is a multi-instrumentalist as well with her talents being conveyed via her skills on guitar and piano. Both instruments have a presence in her EP in a purely organic way.

What I enjoy about this record is the genuine strength behind the music. A lot of emotion-filled music can be whiny or just depressing with Dawes being the antithesis through her resilient and triumphant tone. There's a vibe of perseverance and overcoming the internal strife that comes from heartbreak, unfortunate circumstances and whatever else life can throw someone's way. It's very refreshing and it's a different take on music that



AMII DAWES

sparks a sensation while having a lot of heart. It's a great array of songwriting with a lot of substance backing up each track.

There's a really interesting beat anchoring "Neck Verse" while the chorus shines with harmony. Dawes' arrangements on piano play a major part in "Uninspired Part II (I Don't Feel Okay)" as a rock solid drum beat makes its presence in the background. "Powdered Dreams" has the guitar coming in with steady chords and then the piano returns to create a subtle dynamic. The most inventive song on the record is "Russian Roulette" due to how it has a carnival aes-

thetic to it and it also has a certain macabre quality. Concluding the EP is "A Thank You Note", a genuine ballad that serves as the epitome of the record's overall theme.

Dawes has a show coming up and it's at the Moustache Bar in the Dalston area of East London on March 20. Unless you're going to cross the Atlantic to vacation in England, then you're pretty much not going to be able to make the show. Let's hope she flies over to these parts some day so she can be part of one of Pitch & Prose's showcases they've been putting on at Dusk on 301 Harris Avenue in Providence. Until that day comes, stream and purchase a copy of the Neck Verses EP via Pitch & Prose's Bandcamp page at [pitchandprose.bandcamp.com](http://pitchandprose.bandcamp.com). To follow Dawes on social media, like her Facebook page at [facebook.com/amiidawesmusic](https://facebook.com/amiidawesmusic), follow her on Twitter at [twitter.com/amii\\_dawes](https://twitter.com/amii_dawes) and follow her on Instagram at [instagram.com/amii\\_dawes](https://instagram.com/amii_dawes).

# Mysterious nomads in Johnston

A 31-year-old woman had walked from Wauregan, Conn. to Johnston in search of work. Her 11-year-old son and her 14-year-old daughter trudged along behind her. When the sun began to sink later that day, May 12, 1896, the woman led her children into Waterman's Woods, off Manton Avenue. They settled onto the ground and slumbered through the summer night.

In the morning, the trio rose and the woman walked her children to the nearest stream where they washed themselves as best they could. Their stomachs growling and their pockets empty, they knocked on the doors of Johnston residents and were kindly given enough food to sustain them through the day ahead.

The woman held great hope that she would find work at one of the mills in Olneyville. But at each mill she visited, she was told there was no work available. As they pushed themselves down one road after another, the sun began to set on another day.

The children were led into another wooded area and a spot was located in which to sleep. But the dark brought forth a chill and the woman knew they could not spend the night outside. With the children in tow, she left the woods and walked to the train tracks where a freight car stood idle. Its door was open and promised shelter from the cold. The three of them climbed inside and fell asleep.

A railroad employee passed by the car a short time later and remembered he had left the door open. Knowing that someone, may-

## Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

be a hobo or an intoxicated person sleeping off the night's beverages would be inside, he immediately went to the police.

When officers arrived and discovered the occupants, they asked the woman if she was drunk. She assured them she was not and went on to explain their plight. She identified herself as 31-year-old Emma Poquette, and her children as Wilfred and Rosa. The officers transported her and the children to the local charity building, run by the town's overseer of the poor. The O.P. recognized the woman right away. She had been in need of charity in the past.

Many years earlier, she had been at the charity building with the two children and a man identified as her husband. They had given their names as Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shaker. The woman told the overseer that she was born in Concord, New Hampshire and had married Joseph when she was 16 years old. That evening, they claimed they had no place to stay and asked for lodging. She and the children were allowed to sleep there but the man was taken to the police station to

spend the night. The following morning, all four of them left the area together.

Several years later, the woman and children arrived at the charity building again. This time a different man accompanied them and was identified as her husband Albert Poquette. She explained that Joseph had died nine years earlier in Fall River. The following year, she stated, she married again there. The couple claimed they were traveling from Pascoag to Moosup and needed lodging for the night.

Three months later, the same four came again to the charity building, asking for lodging as they traveled from Bristol to Hope. Only five weeks had passed since that time and now the woman and children had returned.

The woman told the overseer of the poor that Albert had left her and may have returned to Quebec where he was born. She and the children were given a night's lodging and the following day were transported to the area of Merino Mills in Providence where a job was waiting.

The woman was noted as being very attractive and appearing to be younger than the age she provided. She and the children were very clean, well-dressed and healthy. Strangely, no records of birth, death, residence or marriage can be located for any of the individuals whose names were given to the police or the overseer of the poor each time "Emma" appeared at the charity building with her children in tow.

*Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.*

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Classic Romantic Tale of Unrequited Love

Edmund Rostand's classic tale of unrequited love is brilliantly recreated by director Joe Wright in the best movie we have seen this year.

I give it one of my rare five-star ratings, while stingy Joyce settles at four.

Peter Dinklage plays a perfect Cyrano, complete with a small body and a big heart.

You know the story: Cyrano is secretly in love with the fair Roxanne (Haley Bennett), who is madly in love with Christian (Kelvin Harrison Jr.).

Cyrano befriends Christian, serving as his intermediary and writing his love letters to Roxanne.

While Cyrano cannot compare with Christian's physical attributes, he becomes his heart and soul, as Roxanne falls for his romantic and poetic writing.

What Cyrano lacks in size, he makes up for in his sword fighting and bravery. You don't want to mess with the little guy, as displayed in the rollicking opening scene.

The scenery, costumes, music, acting and directing are all outstanding.

While not your typical Broadway musical, it may be looked at as a stage musical, where the lyrics to the songs supplement the dialogue by expressing the characters' inner feelings.

Dinklage is a superior actor. Since I first saw him in a little film titled "The Station Master," I knew he was destined for great things. He is so expressive with his body, especially his eyes, and his ability to articulate every syllable.

His scenes opposite Bennett are priceless, as he shows his love for her in agonizing fashion.

There are several mesmerizing scenes in the movie, especially the balcony scene with Roxanne, Christian and Cyrano holding fort.

Bennett plays Roxanne as a bit of a flake. It takes the final scene to bring her to a touch of reality. She is not the beauty Cyrano and Christian see her but has that unusual attractiveness that draw them to her.

Why can't they make more movies like this?

Rated PG-13 with violence and some minor profanity.



**NETFLIX**

Gas, food, rent and now Netflix prices keep rising as people make tough decisions on how to spend their money.

I ordered the basic Netflix program, which will now cost me \$9.99 a month.

Between the pandemic, the cold weather and an illness that kept me homebound for a couple of months, I watched a lot of Netflix and Amazon Prime and got my money's worth.

Being new to the two programs gave me many options as I watched past years' top programs, following suggestions of long-time viewers.

Watching foreign movies and TV series with closed caption has been a treat.

**BABYLON BERLIN** is in its third season. It follows detective commissioner George Rath as he moves to Berlin during the Golden Twenties, as the city is going through a radical change.

Night life has become a popular diversion, bringing with it prostitution, drugs, crime and political corruption. Rath is following a porno ring run by the Berlin Mafia, getting involved with blackmail and every conceivable vice.

**VIKING VALLHALA** continues a popular show, now in its sixth season. The Vikings previously had been slaughtered and driven from England. They regroup and plan an all-out attack on London, led by Leif Ericson and his sister Freydis.

The problem is that the Vikings are divided between the Pagans and the Christians, who hate each other as they collectively hate the English.

There are lots of bloody battles and a bit of history thrown in, plus some spectacular costuming.

**RITA**, a dramady about a Danish schoolteacher, is in its sixth season. Rita is a popular teacher with her students, while being criticized by her peers for her unorthodox message. She also has trouble managing her personal life.

**SPACE FORCE** is back for its second season, with the crew having returned from a disastrous journey to the moon where it survived a confrontation with the Chinese.

Steve Carell plays the leader of Space Force, with John Malkovich the planner of a future trip to Mars that has been threatened with funding cuts.

I find the humor on this series a bit sophomoric.

**UNTIL LIFE DO US PART** is a Portuguese series about a three-generation family of wedding planners.

It is another dramady that deals with the problems within the family and among the families of those having their weddings planned. I didn't find it particularly funny.

**YOUNG WALLANDER** is a Swedish series in its second year about a young rookie cop who lives in the ghetto among many immigrants who are unwelcome by most Swedes and mistreated by the cops. Sound familiar?

A boy is murdered, and an immigrant is suspected. Young Wallander is on the case.

**FALLET** is another Swedish crime drama about an inept policeman who teams up with a female cop with a past to solve a murder.

**AMAZON PRIME**

**THE MARVELOUS MRS MAISEL** is currently in its fifth and final season.

The award-winning comedy is about a wealthy, young Jewish woman in the late fifties whose husband has left her as she attempts to redefine herself as a stand-up comedienne.

It is very well done, which is why it has survived so long. Costuming, period music, funny lines and fifties nostalgia all add to the fun.

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# Sports

## Panthers make noise at states

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston High School wrestlers Logan Martins and Xavier Thomas now rank among the Rhode Island Interscholastic League's BEST of 2022!

Although perennial power Coventry High School won last weekend's annual state tournament, Johnston enjoy team and individual success finishing in 15th place among 36 teams while Martins and Thomas captured medals by way of what Head Coach John Antonucci called "strong and solid performances in the always-tough wrestle-back brackets."

"I am really proud of the way Logan wrestled this weekend," Antonucci offered. "I think he was a little overwhelmed with being in his first high school varsity state tournament and came out a little tentative. He was a little down after a first round loss but I knew he had the ability to come back; he was able to focus on what was in front of him and wrestled a great tournament."

Martins finished fourth in the 113-pound weight class and was all smiles as he stood on the Olympic podium to receive his first-ever varsity medal.

After losing his opening



**PROUD PANTHERS:** Johnston High School wrestlers Xavier Thomas and Logan Martins are all smiles after capturing medals in last weekend's highly-competitive RIIL state tournament. (Submitted photo)

STATES - PAGE 25



**HEARTY HOOPSTERS:** Among those JHS students who engaged in non-competitive basketball during Hops for Heart are, in front from left: Matt Clements, Ryan Schino, Joe Bloom, Phil Constantini, Anthony Gavek, Derek Salvatore, Dylan Robbins and Cameron Mattson. Top: Faculty members Joe Acciaro and Ellen Quantmeyer, Tyler Holton, Joe Bastianelli, Anthony Corsinetti, Joe Vento, Chris Civetti, Hunter Remington, Mark Brower, CJ Ragosta, Anthony Guzman, TJ Leomensah, Davon Cole and Brandon Lang. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

## Hoops for Heart a big success

Although Johnston schools weren't in session last week for the annual Mid-Winter Recess, some students and faculty member at JHS were still celebrating the super special success after the annual "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser.

"Once again, congratulations for our SADD (Students against Dangerous Decisions)," offered Greg Russo, who chairs the Johnston High School Science Department and serves as the group's faculty advisor. "As usual, our kids again did a super special job and raised \$1,200 that will benefitted the American Heart Association."

The purpose of the event, as Russo emphasized, "Is to promote heart healthy activities and raise money for the AHA at the same time."

These pictures are from some of the events such as basketball and related sports like volleyball, badminton and old-fashioned jump rope and each was required to raise a minimum of \$20 each in order to participate. For more photos of the event, check out page 24.

# Learning how to cast with spinning rod and reel

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Learning how to cast a spinning rod and reel takes practice. The more you do it, the better you get. But knowing the basics can go a long way.

Capt. Ken Cooper, a fellow fishing writer and an active Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association member loves to take his grandchildren fishing. And, when it came time for them to graduate from bottom fishing for scup to casting lures for stripers and blues, he wanted to help them become proficient casters.

Capt. Cooper put together a seven count methodology for casting spin tackle that was easy for them to master and produced fine casts in fairly short order. He would practice on a quiet beach and counted out loud together at each step. Here are the steps he laid out for them:

1. Grasp the rod with your index finger ahead of the reel seat. Position the rod slightly away from your body, not tucked in tight to your body.

2. Make sure the lure is overhanging the rod tip by about two feet and that the bail is properly positioned in the vertical alignment.

3. Open the bail with your free hand,

4. Grasp the line with the index finger or your rod hand.

5. With your free hand, grasp the rod near the butt of the rod handle. *Now look behind you to make sure there are no people or obstructions with which you could possibly make contact.*

6. Bring the rod back over your shoulder and cast it forward using one speedy, continuous motion, back and then immediately forward, with wrist snap, releasing the line from your index finger when the rod is in about the 10 o'clock position on its forward motion. *Power comes from pulling down and in rapidly with the hand that is grasping the rod butt and not from pushing forward*

*with the hand that is grasping the rod at the reel seat.*

7. Remove your free hand from the rod butt, use it to close the bail, and then begin reeling.

Capt. Ken said, "Over the years, as my grandkids' friends or other novice children and adults came to fish with me, I found that it was often even better to start them out with just a rod, no reel, and focus mainly on the rod and hand motions described in Count 6. Once that's mastered, we would add the reel and begin the full seven count training."

Capt. Ken said, "The key to success seems to be breaking down the cast into its elements and counting off each step together and out loud until a fluid rhythm develops."

## RI Marine Fisheries Council Meets Monday, March 7

The Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council will meet Monday, March 7, 6 p.m. at the URI Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI. You may also join the meeting online via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85051936166>.

The agenda will include 2022 management regulations for both recreational and commercial tautog, the commercial tautog tagging program, the commercial aggregate program for summer flounder and black sea bass and the summer flounder exemption certificate program.

Other recreational management regulations will be reviewed at a future RIMFC meeting.

Recreational anglers in Rhode Island have been advocating for new tautog regulations to protect this slow grown species. Although stock assessment data is good anglers fear that we are doing damage to this fishery by taking to many large female fish with great spawning potential. Anglers and charter captains at the meeting expressed concern



**PRACTICING YOUR CAST:** Capt. Ken Cooper with his granddaughter Rayna (then 7 years old) practicing casting in Jamestown with the Newport Bridge in the background. (Submitted photo)

about high numbers of fish being caught and killed that are not reflective in data in part due to the high volume of out of state for hire vessel fishing our waters.

At the public hearing in February the RI Saltwater Anglers Association proposed limiting each angler to no more than one fish over 21 inches and reducing the "bonus" fall season from a bag of five to a bag of four fish per person (this was proposal No. 1 at the hearing). Many charter captains, RISAA members, the Island Current party boat and Freedom Boat Club spoke in favor of this proposal saying how important it is to protect this fishery.

Although the public comment period on proposals has passed, charter captains and anglers are encouraged to attend the Council meeting to demonstrate support for their preferred regulation options if further public

input is desired by the Council at the meeting.

For details on the meeting agenda and background information visit [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries/rimfc/index.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries/rimfc/index.php).

### Where's the bite?

**Freshwater.** Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "We sold shiners for ice fishing to customers when we had ice. Now things are in flux. As it warms fishing will start to pick up again." "As temperatures rise we are starting to see some open water in ponds, like Onley Pond at Lincoln Woods. Fishing at Massachusetts and Rhode Island ponds that had safe ice was outstanding this year. Caruncle Pond in Coventry had been yielding some nice bass for anglers through the ice," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside, RI. Al-len Newell of Red Top Sporting

Goods, Buzzards Bay, said, "Not much ice on the Cape at this point, a lot of open water in area ponds and not many anglers are fishing. A couple of warm days in the next three or four weeks and things will open up quite a bit."

**Cod.** Party boats fishing for cod south of Cape Cod and off Rhode Island weather permitting include the Frances Fleet at [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com), the Seven B's at [www.sevenbs.com](http://www.sevenbs.com), and the Island Current at [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com).

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



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# RIC standouts receive league honors

Rhode Island College junior guard Antonia Corsinetti (Johnston, R.I.), freshman forward Angelina Nardolillo (Hinsdale, N.H.), junior guard Jeniyah Jones (Randolph, Mass.) and Head Coach Jenna Cosgrove were each recognized by the Little East for their respective performances during the 2021-22 women's basketball season.

Corsinetti was named Second Team All-Little East. She played in 28 games, starting 22 of them. Corsinetti averaged 9.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg and 2.1 apg. She was named the 2022 Little East Women's Basketball Championship's Most Outstanding Player after averaging 14.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg and 1.5 apg in the club's three tourney wins. Corsinetti was named the LEC's Player of the Week twice on the season.

Nardolillo was named Second Team All-Little East and the 2022 Little East

Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year. She played in 26 games, starting 21 of them. Nardolillo averaged 10.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg and 1.2 apg. She was named the LEC's Rookie of the Week six times on the season.

Jones was named to the league's 2021-22 All-Defensive Team. She played in 28 games, starting 23 of them. Jones averaged 6.3 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 2.0 apg and 2.1 spg. She was named the LEC's Player of the Week once on the season.

Cosgrove was named the Little East Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. It is the third straight season that she has received this award. Cosgrove has led the Anchorwomen to a 23-5 overall record and a 15-1 (first place) mark in the Little East. The Anchorwomen won the league's Regular Season Championship and captured the program's second consecutive and fourth LEC title.



**HAPPY HEARTS:** Johnston High cheerleaders Charlene Hohlmaier, Kelly Dargy and Sophia Ribezzo are all smiles during the recent SADD-sponsored event Hoops for Heart.

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**LINKED LEADERS:** SADD President Charlie Curci and JHS Science Department Chair/SADD Advisor Greg Russo enjoy a lighter moment after the super successful Hoops for Heart fundraiser.





ON THE PODIUM: Logan Martins and Xavier Thomas receive their medals at states. (Submitted photos)



ON THE MAT: Elijah Odhiambo. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

## States

(Continued from page 22)

match – which so often happens with first-time state tourney entries – Martins turned in performances Antonucci described as “impressive” and even avenged some earlier season loses.

Among those wins was a victory over Lincoln’s Zachary Henault who had pinned Martins just a week earlier in the sectional tournament.

“Logan wrestles well positionally and pinned Henault in the second period that put him in the medal round,” the coach went on. “He then proceeded to redeem his first found loss when he again faced North Providence’s Micah Soe and scored a huge 13-3 victory which elevated him into the consolation finals.”

In the consolation finals, Martins again wrestled well but came up a little short to Cameron Davis, a talented sophomore from Cranston West, losing a close 3-1

decision.

Thomas, meanwhile, began the tourney with a major decision over his Barrington opponent before falling into the consolation round after losing to Hayden Myers, the dominate junior from the state champion Oakers.

The Panther captain then wrestled his way back with a convincing victory by fall vs. Cumberland’s Andrew Kelly that put him into the medal round and taking out the other two seeded wrestlers – namely number two seed William Lechner of Ponaganset – who he defeated 6-4.

“Xavier then lost a couple of very close matches and finished in sixth place in the very competitive 26-pound weight class,” Antonucci boasted of the Panther senior. “I really couldn’t be happier for Xavier; he has had some tough luck in previous years with injuries keeping him out of the state tournament but this times was able to stay healthy6 enough and show what kind of competitor he is – and has always been.”

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# CCRI reaches national tourney

The No. 5 ranked (NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Poll 2/22/22) CCRI Knights men's basketball team hosted the blue Knights of Northern Essex Community College for the East District Championship Sunday afternoon. The CCRI Knights beat the NECC Blue Knights 79-67. With the victory CCRI improves to 22-3 on the season and advance to the NJCAA Division III National Tournament in Rockford, IL March 9-12. In addition, CCRI Knights Head Coach Rick Harris earned his 300th career victory at the helm of the Knights!

This was the third meeting of the year for the CCRI Knights and NECC Blue Knights. CCRI won the first contest 94-51 in Haverhill, MA December 4th but lost to NECC 71-70 February 1st, which was the last game that CCRI lost this season so sweet revenge was on the minds of the CCRI Knights in the District Championship showdown.

Both teams were playing very hard and with tremendous energy but it was the CCRI Knights who were playing more effectively in the

first half. The CCRI Knights utilize a balanced attack to jump ahead of Northern Essex 47-32 at the halftime break. The Knights were led in the first half by Mike Resnick (Gloucester, RI) with 10 points. Resnick was assisted by Levi King (Westerly, RI) who added eight points. Co-captains Luke Fusaro (Charlestown, RI) and Mitchel Noresca (East Providence, RI) added seven points apiece. However, though CCRI had a nice lead at the break they were also experiencing a great deal of foul trouble.

However, the Knights had two aces up their sleeve in point guard RJ Pina (East Providence, RI) who scored 11 of his 17 point in the second half by penetrating to the basket and getting Northern Essex players in foul trouble. Pina was helped by the Knights District Championship ignitor Michael Harris who dropped 13 second half points for CCRI including three second half 3-pointers, made his free throws and took a crucial offensive charge which fouled out NECC point guard Daniel Almarante late in the game. The

CCRI Knights would hold off the NECC Knights to secure the East District Championship by the final score of 79-67.

Leading the way for the Knights was freshman guard Michael Harris who had himself a weekend with back-to-back 18 point games. On Sunday Harris had 18 points with four 3-pointers, five assists, two rebounds an offensive charge taken. The heroic Harris was helped by point guard RJ Pina who had a Double-Double scoring 17 points with 10 rebounds while adding two assist and a blocked shot. Co-captain Mitchel Noresca had a Double-Double with 10 points and 15 rebounds awhile adding two assist and a blocked shot. Noresca leads the Nation in all Rebounding categories and has extended his CCRI career rebounding record to be the only player in CCRI history with over 900 rebounds, he now has 930 for career (761 was former record of Stretch Edwards). Mike Resnick scored 10 points with two steals and an assist. Levi King had 9 points, two blocked shots.

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We can bring to your location for monthly rental.  
Very competitive, fast & reliable service. Call for our pricing & incentive programs for long term use.  
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