



**A DUSTING OF TRADITION:** Brendan Notarianni shakes some sugar on a completed batch of zeppoles, as his mother Diane Notarianni, and aunt, Paula Arlia, watch on. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

## Solitro's Bakery wins Best Zeppoles Contest



**BEST ZEPPLES WINNER:** The readers of the Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon and Johnston Sun Rise have voted Solitro's Bakery as the producers of the regions Best Zeppoles in Beacon Communications inaugural contest.

By RORY SCHULER

Michael Solitro Jr. left behind one giant "PUDDIN' Hat" to fill.

In the thick of their first zeppole season without him, Solitro's daughters, son and grandchildren have been taking turns filling the Italian flag colored chef's cap.

Solitro's Bakery, a Cranston institution since 1950, has been crowned the region's Best Zeppoles in a contest held by Beacon Communications, publisher of The Cranston Herald, Warwick Beacon and The Johnston Sun Rise.

Michael Solitro Jr. died in November 2021, at 88 years old. He founded the Cranston Street bakery with his three brothers, George, Armando and Larry 72 years ago. The shop first opened across the street, and then built the current location two years later.

"My father was a master baker," said Elena Pennacchini, who now owns Solitro's Bakery. "As the years went on they started training me."

## Are new solar field projects inevitable?

By RORY SCHULER

As kids, Wayne J. Forrest, his brothers and friends, held bike races up and down Winsor Avenue.

"To say there's been a lot of changes on Winsor Avenue in 65 years is an understatement," Forrest told the Johnston Town Council Monday night.

"If a car came by, it was a major event. It was a big deal."

During the meeting, Forrest was one of four town residents to stand and speak out against five new solar fields proposed for Johnston's west-end.

"I'm not sure why the town seems to be on this rapid speed to get every square inch of this town developed," Forrest said. "It's a beautiful area."

## Boards meet to detail massive school overhaul

By RORY SCHULER

The Johnston School Committee and Town Council planned to hold a pair of special meetings, in joint-session, on the evenings of Wednesday, March 16, and Wednesday, March 23, to discuss school building projects.

The town's voters are expected to vote in a bond referendum, deciding whether to fund a \$215 million school facilities overhaul.

The boards announced the meetings late last week.

In February, Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee joined the town's elected officials and school administrators in the basement of Johnston's oldest school, Thornton Elementary, to ceremoniously sign the bill allowing Johnston to seek a bond referendum.

The referendum has been planned for April 5.



**GOLDEN EGG:**

The Emo DiNitto/Rhode Island Football Chapter of the National Football Foundation unveiled its Golden Dozen for 2022, and Johnston wide receiver Joey Acciaro made the cut. The nominees were selected based on performance on both the field and in the classroom, and will given \$1,000 grants toward their respective colleges. To read the full story, turn to Page 19.

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**AWESOME AWARD:** Long-time Johnston Senior High School faculty member Greg Russo (left), who has been known as “Mr. JHS Panther” for years, displays the special proclamation he received from Vice Chairman Joseph Rotella at last week’s school committee meeting. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

# Greg Russo honored for returning normalcy to students’ lives

By PETE FONTAINE

He’s been called a legend as well as one of the most dedicated educators in Johnston High School history. He has established many of the school’s most storied traditions such as Homecoming that now ranks among the envy — and showcase — for all schools in Rhode Island. He has an unmatched legacy that dates back to 1976 when he graduated from Johnston High School and is known by people in neighboring districts as “an educator for all seasons and reasons.”

All of which is why Gregory “Greg” Russo, who heads the Johnston High School Science Department, was summoned to last week’s school committee meeting where he was honored for restoring some normalcy to the students’ social lives.

“Mr. (Greg) Russo is truly the heart and soul of Johnston High school,” Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo told the five school committee members and an attentive audience inside the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School Library. “The many events and traditions that occur here are due to his love for his school and its students.”

DiLullo then declared “each Year Mr. Russo coordinates the Battle of the Classes that creates a special camaraderie throughout the entire student body. The same is true (for) our highly-valued Homecoming, Spirit Week and the Winter Ball to name just a few of the major events.”

Meanwhile, as DiLullo continued heaping words of praise upon the valuable educator, who also serves as an assistant track and field coach in the spring.

“These are all traditions that the students, their families and school

staff look forward to and they are always spectacular events under Mr. Russo’s watch,” DiLullo said.

In addition, Russo serves — and loves doing so he’ll readily attest — the faculty advisor for the always-active JHS Student Council that he has guided since 2003 and in past years as advisor for the classes of 1990, 1994, 1999 and 2003.

Russo has also provided valuable leadership — as well as initiated new programs — as the Faculty Advisor for SADD (Students against Dangerous Decisions) since 1990.

Perhaps one of Russo’s all-time best contributions came many moons ago when he founded Johnston High’s Academic Decathlon Team and directed it from the beginning until 2016.

Given that, as DiLullo emphasized: “The recognition that Vice Chair (Joseph) Rotella and the School Committee bestowed on Mr. Russo is well deserved and a token of our appreciation for everything he does.”

Rotella, who said “I have some delightful duty to perform here tonight,” called Russo to the center of the room where he presented him with a Town of Johnston, Johnston School Committee Proclamation.

“Let it be known to all,” Rotella began with a smile on his face and sincerity ringing in his voice, Greg Russo “is hereby commended by the Johnston School Committee for his unwavering dedication, in his capacity as Student Council Advisor, working diligently with fellow faculty members and student council members, to bring the much-loved and tradition events Homecoming and Winter Ball to Johnston Senior High School amid the challenges of the global pandemic.”



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# 'Super Sarah' Gasbarro honored for heroism

By PETE FONTAINE

Registered nurses Lori Autiello and Valerie Jacavone, who serve as District Co-Health Coordinators for Johnston Public Schools, have no doubt — none whatsoever — that Sarah Gasbarro will someday shine as an accomplished nurse.

The same holds true for Dr. Bernard DiLullo, superintendent of Johnston's schools, who heaped words of praise upon the JHS senior who is being hailed as a hero on Cherry Hill.

Likewise, School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia, Vice Chairman Joseph Rotella, Dawn Aloisio, Marysue Androzzi and Susan Mansolillo were so impressed with Gasbarro's recent actions, they honored her at last week's monthly meeting.

"We are so pleased to honor Sarah Gasbarro at this evening's meeting," DiLullo told an audience of interested school supporters and town residents. "She is a well-rounded student who saw an emergency and jumped in to help a fellow student."

As Autiello and Jacavone, who were among the many people applauding Gasbarro's efforts, said: "We are not sure that even an adult would have stepped up like Sarah did in this emergency situation; she's an amazing young woman. Her actions to help were delivered in a calm, responsible and caring manner."

Meanwhile DiLullo wanted it known about the daughter of Paul and Deana Gasbarro and sister of Olivia Gasbarro: "She is truly an inspiration and role model to all. Her message through her actions is clearly to help whenever you can and not to just be a bystander. I am so proud of her family for raising such a fine young woman."

Although the emergency or student's name that Gasbarro aided in the time of need were not released due strict confidentiality rules, Autiello and Jacavone thanked school committee members and administrators for taking the time to honor Gasbarro.

Thus, one of the moving moments during the brief yet inspiration-filled ceremony came when Mansolillo, a veteran School Committee member, presented Gasbarro with an official proclamation that read: "Let it be known to all that Sarah Gasbarro is hereby recognized for her expeditious assistance during a recent emergency situation at Johnston High School. We honor and applaud the exemplary efforts of students who endeavor to create and uphold a safe and welcoming school environment."

Even after the School Committee meeting was over, many people in the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School Library offered sincere congratulations to Gasbarro who Autiello and Jacavone related "hopes to follow in her mother Deana's footsteps by becoming a nurse."

Thus, the JHS senior and hero — who will graduate from JHS in June — has been accepted and will enroll in the highly-acclaimed Rhode Island College Nursing Program in September.

Through it all, "Super Sarah" as people referred to Gasbarro, sat quietly and calmly listening to speakers and later thanked admirers for their kind words about her actions that — if she didn't step up at the time — could have resulted in a tragedy.



**PROUD PARENTS:** Sarah Gasbarro holds a floral bouquet and proclamations she received from the Johnston School Committee and is joined by her mother Deana, sister Olivia and father Paul Gasbarro. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



## HUMBLE HERO:

Sarah Gasbarro (third left), a JHS senior who was honored by the Johnston School Committee for her heroic actions during an emergency, is joined by Susan Mansolillo and District Co-Health Coordinators Valerie Jacavone and Lori Autiello at last week's ceremony.

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**SPEAKING UP:** Johnston resident Wayne J. Forrest addressed Town Council Monday night. He was one of four residents speaking out against a proposed massive solar field project. (Sun Rise Photo by Rory Schuler)

**Solar**

(Continued from page 1)

Forrest lives at 154 Winsor Ave., on the corner of Winsor and Hopkins.

"My folks built that house in 1957, and I lived there until I was 25," Forrest recalled. "Went off. Got married. Came back four years ago, with my wife, who was kind enough to help me downsize, and carry on my family tradition of living in the house I grew up in."

Cranston-based Green Development has pitched five master plans for five separate solar fields off Elm-grove Avenue, Harilla Lane and Winsor Avenue.

The Johnston Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the master plans, and the proposals are expected to be heard before the Zoning Board meeting on Thursday, March 31.

The five proposed solar fields would be constructed on mostly wooded plots across approximately 325 acres. Local abutters have been raising concerns about the environment and neighboring property values.

Robert J. Civetti, the Town Councilman representing District 5, has been fielding complaints from his constituents regarding the solar field proposal.

On Monday night, Civetti asked Town Solicitor William J. Conley Jr. whether Town Council could legally enact a moratorium on solar development until planning officials could adequately update the Johnston's Comprehensive Plan.

"We heard from four residents this evening," Civetti said. "There is a petition out there ... at last check, there are over 219 signatures from residents in the town of Johnston that have signed it, looking for the council to do something. Mr. Conley, you're the attorney, you can tell us what legally we can do and can't do, but I would think there's some-

thing that can be done to at least halt it until we can look at it."

"A moratorium to interfere with another party's property rights is generally highly disfavored," Conley replied.

Civetti said that it's likely only a matter of time before the solar fields earn full approval of both the Planning and Zoning Boards.

"We all know the Zoning Board, it is an approved use," Civetti said. "So it's probably going to go to Zoning Board, and once it hits Zoning Board, it will get approved. Because again, it is an allowed use based on a zoning ordinance. But right now, where it's still at the master plan level, let's ... pump the breaks a little."

Civetti and neighbors plan to meet with Green Development at one of the sites on March 26.

"I never thought I'd see the day where you'd have ... morning rush hour on Winsor Avenue coming from Connecticut to Citizens Bank," Forrest told Town Council. "And an afternoon rush hour from Citizens Bank back to Connecticut. Winsor Avenue has become a cut-through for people going from Scituate to Greenville, avoiding Route 6, avoiding Route 44."

Traffic congestion, spurred by massive swaths of development, has become a major concern for Johnston residents.

"I hope the Town Council takes a minute, listens to Mr. Civetti's proposal to pump the breaks a little bit," Forrest said. "Let's take a step back. Let's take a deep breath. Let's see what we're doing up here."

Resident Lynn Grissom read from "Element 5" of the town's Comprehensive Plan, which was last updated in 2007.

"Improving the quality of life for local residents by protecting the environment and its natural resources," she said. "Preserving the historic and archeological sites. Maintaining and improving open space conservation resources. Pre-

serving land in its natural state. And minimizing negative impacts upon the environment during property development."

She asked town officials to look more closely at efforts in cities like Warwick, where a solar moratorium was enacted, but official development applications had yet to be filed.

"They're restricting solar development to developed commercial and industrial areas; large parking lots, rooftops, solar canopies and parking lots," Grissom said. "They've done this in Vermont, they've done this all over. They're putting solar canopies on high school parking lots, rather than mowing down trees to develop and throw up these solar arrays."

A different Rhode Island based company recently announced a rooftop solar project on the rooves of Ocean State Job Lot stores, including the Johnston location. Rooftop solar arrays provide many of the same benefits as solar fields, but make use of unused space and do not require cutting down trees.

Grissom also questioned the health and safety implications of large solar fields in close proximity to homeowners.

"The Rollingwood area where I live would be engulfed in an entire horseshoe of these things," Grissom said. "Is that safe for our residents? We don't know. We need a study."

She asked for help from Town Council.

"Like Warwick, I believe we need the involvement and encouragement of all residents in the formulation, review and adoption or amendment of the Comprehensive Plan," Grissom urged. "And I ask for your help before we don't have any of this open land left in the town."

Town Council President Robert Russo reminded the audience that the proposed solar projects are not under direct consideration by Town

# Solar

(Continued from page 4)

Council. The decision will be up to the Planning and Zoning boards — two entities that merely enforce the town's Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances.

The five projects include — a 1.0 Megawatt solar field, called, GD Johnston Elmgrove II, at 25 Elmgrove Ave. (AP 51 Lot 4, zoned R40); GD Johnston Harilla I, a 2.25 MW solar field at 28 Harilla Lane (AP 51 Lots 9 & 11, zoned R40); GD Johnston Winsor I, a 4.0 MW solar field at 46 Winsor Ave. (AP 60 Lot 4, zoned R40); GD Johnston Winsor II, a proposed 8.0 MW solar field at 86 Winsor Ave (AP 60 Lots 2, 20, 86, zoned R20 & R40); and GD Johnston Winsor III, a proposed 24.0 MW solar field at 112 Winsor Ave. (AP 59 Lot 15, zoned R40).

One of the proposed projects, if approved, will be constructed just 200 feet from Chris and Bonnie Dibble's property line. The proposed access road will be built a mere 50 feet from his house.

"I'm not just worried about NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) type issues," Chris Dibble told Town Council. "This is bigger. These projects will cut and develop the only large forested areas in town that are not Snake Den or the Amazon site off of Hartford Ave."

Like many in town, the Dibbles chose their new home based in large part by the property's surroundings. They said they knew there was some risk of development. They hoped, however, their new neighbors might be young families, rather than industrial solar panels.

"These ... forested areas are important to maintaining Johnston's rural nature and atmosphere," Chris Dibble said. "They're important, to health, air quality and animal habitats ... That said, it is in the town's Comprehensive Plan to preserve open forest spaces. The area off Winsor Ave. ... was spe-

cifically identified as a target for conservation."

Dibble and Grissom called on town officials to revise the Comprehensive Plan.

"The town's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2007," Dibble said. "We have been paying attention to the proceedings of this board and the town's other boards, zoning and planning."

For years, the town's governing boards have promised revisions to Johnston's major planning document.

"The existing plan does not discuss solar governance," Dibble said. "It wasn't a major consideration 15 years ago ... There are a lot of ways you can interpret a 600 page document."

Civetti agrees there is language in the current plan that calls for the preservation of open space. However, the town never acted to take the land now proposed for development, into trust, leaving elected officials little power in the decision-making process.

"Before making an irreversible decision, with decades of impact, the town must ensure its policies and regulations are clearly stated," Dibble argued. "Other municipalities in Rhode Island ... have enacted various forms of restrictions, bans, moratoriums and the like against these types of projects. Instead of leaving these decisions up to groups like planning and zoning, the town's elected representatives, you know, the group of you, owe this town a set of clear policies and regulations. Otherwise, the planning and zoning board don't have the regulatory framework to do anything other than allow these types of projects."

Russo reiterated that the Town Council will not be voting on the proposed solar fields.

"Though these projects are not directly within the purview of this Council, I encourage you to interject yourself to give the residents the time they need to fully understand these projects and their potential impacts," Dibble said. "And not just the residents, but to

make sure that you all in planning and zoning fully understand this issue and its ramifications."

Conley said he was not at the Planning Board meeting where Green Development pitched the solar fields. He pledged to research the topic.

"It's unlikely that the council could take any action that interferes," Conley told Town Council.

"I do need to educate myself a little bit about where they are in the process," he added.

State Sen. Frank Lombardo III wrote a letter to the Johnston Planning Board raising "serious concerns regarding the proposed solar farm in and around the Winsor Farm area."

"Numerous residents have reached out to me to express their reservations regarding the proposal," Lombardo wrote. "I urge the Board to give appropriate weight to these objections and to disapprove of the proposals."

Lombardo asked the Planning Board to consider a series of bullet points.

"To my knowledge, there have been no safeguards put in place to protect the quality of life for abutting properties," Lombardo wrote. "No buffers are outlined between the edge of a proposed solar farm and the neighboring properties. Will setbacks be established to prevent interference with neighboring neighborhoods? These protections for the residents of our community are absolutely critical, and sorely lacking."

Lombardo said the town needs to ascertain a "more complete understanding of the environmental consequences."

"How much of the 400 acres of woodland and farmland will be clear cut?" Lombardo asked. "Has an environmental assessment been conducted, and what would the ramifications be not just on the loss of open space but also runoff and pollution? How much of the tree canopy will remain intact?"

Green Development has suggested it may be willing to hand the land back to the town after leasing it for about 25 years.

"No plan exists to transfer the prop-

erty back to the town at the end of its useful life, such as a transfer to the town to hold as open space," Lombardo wrote. "While such a plan would not satisfy the serious concerns I raise, it would at least demonstrate a modicum of good faith."

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisen argued that the solar fields would bring numerous advantages to the town. He said "solar's your best neighbor," and praised Green Development's past renewable energy developments in Johnston — the Johnston-Scituate Solar Project (a 4.675 MW solar project on 17 acres along Scituate Avenue) and the Johnston Wind Project (seven 3-MW wind turbines along Plainfield Pike and Shun Turnpike).

Kevin Morin, Director of Engineering & Project Development for Green Development, delivered his company's solar field pitch to the Planning Board. He assured the board that the solar fields would require minimum attention from town services and due to local ordinance, each solar field will generate money for the town's scholarship fund.

Polisen argues that solar fields would be a better choice for the parcels in question, than homes, for example. Homes would require additional town services, like police, fire and refuse hauling. Young families would also lead to an influx of more students into the town's public school system.

Civetti said his constituents would rather see homes next door, than industrial solar panels.

"The bottom line is that this is not the best use for this land," Lombardo warned in his letter. "A better use would be to transfer the land to the Johnston Land Trust. Still better may be the development of housing, which would help address the state's housing crisis and also bring into town the kind of vibrancy that fosters economic development and supports local small businesses. In fact, studies are clear that the economic benefits of a town housing young families by far outweigh any costs."

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District 3:	Joseph M. Polisen, Jr.	401-787-0919	josephpolisenajr@gmail.com
District 4:	Robert V. Russo	401-751-6100	rvrlaw@aol.com
District 5:	Robert J. Civetti	401-439-8945	civettidistrict5@cox.net

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# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

## WANTED

The Johnston Police Department seeks the public's assistance in locating Danny Tager, 37, who has several outstanding warrants stemming from alleged violations of no contact orders.

Tager may be operating a 2011 silver/grey BMW with Massachusetts license plate 8VT875, or a black 2003 Hyundai with Rhode Island license plate OU 321.

Those who have information regarding the suspect are asked to contact Johnston Police Department at 401-231-4210 and ask for the Detective Division.



TAGER

## MAILBOX DAMAGE

At 5:33 p.m., Dec. 17, Johnston Police Officer Manuel Perez was dispatched to 25 Carriage Way in reference to property damage. Upon arrival, Perez spoke with the reporting party. The witness told police that around 5:15 p.m. a light skinned Hispanic man with a long black ponytail rang the doorbell at his residence. The man, later simply identified as "Angel M.," was holding a pizza box from Rosa Mia's Pizza, located at 133 Greenville Ave.

The witness told police that "Angel" had the incorrect delivery address and asked for assistance with lo-

cating the correct home before leaving the residence, Perez wrote in the incident report.

Shortly after speaking with the delivery man, the witness told police that he heard a loud noise come from the front of his residence. Upon investigating, the witness saw a white vehicle backing out of his driveway, and damage to a lamp post and mailbox. The witness told police the driver did not stop after hitting and damaging the post and mailbox.

The witness and property owner contacted the neighbor living at the address for which the delivery man had been searching. He told police the neighbor confirmed ordering a pizza through the DoorDash affiliate food deliver app Slice. Slice advised the victim that they would be conducting an investigation of the delivery driver who they simply identified as "Angel M."

A canvass of the immediate area revealed a camera surveillance system nearby. The report was forwarded to the Special Services to follow-up.

## SHOPLIFTING

Around 10 a.m., Jan. 28, while on patrol in the area of 2880 Hartford Ave., Johnston Police Officer Cody Weaver saw a man who matched the description of a wanted suspect walking west on Hartford Avenue. Sandro Crugnale, residing at the Bel-Air Motel, 2154 Hartford Ave., Apt. 9, Johnston, was wanted by Johnston Police on three counts of Misdemeanor Shoplifting.

"It should be noted I have had prior contacts with Mr. Crugnale and also recognized him from a briefing in roll call," Weaver wrote.

Weaver made contact and positively identified Crugnale through his driver's license. He was cuffed and placed in the rear of the cruiser and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters. He was processed and released with a mandatory Third District Court date of Jan. 31. The charges stem from an incident around 12:25 p.m., Jan. 21, when Johnston Police Officer Matthew Winsor investigated a larceny complaint at a local store.

The store provided Johnston Police with surveillance footage of Crugnale allegedly taking packs of cigarettes on several occasions.

## DUI

At 1:06 a.m., Jan. 1, Warwick Police Officer Keara M. Enos was on routine patrol on Airport Road. The roads were wet and there was thick fog and mist hanging in the air. Due to the New Years holiday, heavy traffic still traveled the roads of Warwick surrounding Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport.

"As I traveled west on Airport Road from the area of

Warwick Avenue, I approached a vehicle which was traveling erratically," Enos wrote in the police incident report.

The vehicle was identified as a silver 2021 Ford EcoSport with Rhode Island plates. Enos estimated the vehicle's speed over the posted 35 mph limit.

"The Ford was traveling west in the right-hand lane of travel, at which point it began closing in on a vehicle which was traveling in the same direction ahead of it," Enos wrote in the police incident report. "The Ford began following the vehicle ahead of it too closely, and I observed the vehicle brake abruptly numerous times to avoid striking it. The Ford was traveling so close to the vehicle in front of it, that the space between the two vehicles was approximately equal to or less than a single car-length."

Enos said the vehicle was also swerving back and forth, crossing the white fog line on the right, and also the dotted line on the left. Enos initiated a traffic stop, but wrote that the vehicle did not immediately stop, but kept traveling for about a half-mile. After sounding the siren "numerous" times, the vehicle finally stopped abruptly.

Police identified the driver as Elyssa Renzi, 29, of 1603 Plainfield Pike, Johnston.

"While standing at the driver's side window, I heard loud music playing on the stereo," Enos wrote. "I also observed Renzi's eyes to be extremely glossy and bloodshot. I asked Renzi for her driver's license and registration, and she had difficulty recognizing the appropriate documents to provide me with. She attempted to hand me her gold AAA membership card instead of her license, but was able to correct herself."

As Enos spoke to the driver, the officer wrote that she detected a "strong odor of alcoholic beverage emanating from her breath" and "observed her speech to be mumbled and slurred."

Renzi allegedly admitted to having drinks that night, according to police. Once she stepped out of the vehicle, Renzi allegedly became "verbally argumentative" and "appeared extremely unsteady on her feet."

"She left her driver's side door open to passing traffic, which I had to close for her," Enos wrote.

Renzi consented to an array of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. Renzi also consented to a chemical blood test.

"At this time, the DUI charge is pending results of the blood kit," Enos wrote.

Renzi was charged with two moving violations — Interval Between Vehicles and Laned Roadway Violation — and mailed a municipal traffic summons. On Jan. 6, Warwick Police charged Renzi with DUI of Liquor, a misdemeanor.

## Johnston Police Sgt. LeClair retires after 18 years

After 18 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the town and its residents, Sgt. Brian LeClair has retired from the Johnston Police Department.

"Brian has done his job with professionalism, with dedication, and with honor," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza during LeClair's recent retirement ceremony held at police headquarters. "He has been a constant in a storm, and he's done everything that he's been tasked to do and more."

According to Razza, Sgt. LeClair was a tremendous resource to the department before his retirement on March 15. Razza credited LeClair's contributions towards multiple major facility upgrades and improvement projects spanning several years, as well as his commitment to his profession.

"A lot of the things you see around this station and this department is

because of Brian, he's a wealth of knowledge and brings a lot to the table," said Razza. "Anytime that you can see someone walk out the door that's had a career the way that Brian has, it's truly inspirational. He's part of a dying breed of officers that you don't really see in this day and age."

While recognizing LeClair's achievements, the chief also recognized the sacrifices his family made during his tenure.

"I'd like to congratulate not only Brian on his retirement, but I need to congratulate his family too. It is really the family of any police officer that sees them through their career," said Razza. "You need the love, support, and endorsement of your family in order to be successful. Without that, you can't aspire to do great things."

LeClair reminisced about his roles with the department, including ten

years with the Operations and Training Division and the Administration Division. He also reflected on the arrests that he made, the close calls that he and his fellow officers endured, and how much his family had grown during his career.

"This is bittersweet, but there have been a lot of good times. I knew on my first night that I was going to love this job," said LeClair. "To everyone here, I appreciate everything that you've done for me, the respect that you've given me and I hope I've given that respect back."

LeClair was presented with a plaque honoring his police work and service, along with other personalized retirement gifts during the ceremony.

"It's been a great run, and I will miss everybody," said LeClair. "Take care of each other, take care of your families, and most of all take care of yourselves."



**FAMILY SUPPORT:** Sgt. Brian LeClair was proudly joined by his wife, Donna, and son, Adam, during his retirement ceremony.

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# Opinion

GUEST OPINION

## Call for Universal pre-K

By State Sen. Hanna M. Gallo

Early education can be a transformative force in a child's life. Research has demonstrated the immense value of prekindergarten programs. In these settings, children find structure, support and enrichment, setting them up for success in K-12 schooling and beyond. That yields so many other benefits for families and communities – and, ultimately, for all of us. Access to this essential resource should never depend on where a child lives or whether a family can afford it. Unfortunately, right now, that is too often the case. What's more, at our current pace, it will be decades before universal pre-Kindergarten access becomes a reality in Rhode Island. Our children and families cannot wait. Now is the time to take action and dramatically ramp up our progress toward universal pre-K. Working with the Senate's leadership, I've introduced the Rhode Island Prekindergarten Act to help us realize an ambitious but attainable goal: universal pre-K access for all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2028. How would we get there? Over the course of five years, we will significantly expand capacity in our pre-K system. That starts with the addition of 4,000 new seats in the first year, a quarter of which will be reserved for 3-year-olds. We will take a mixed-delivery approach to this expansion, utilizing both public classrooms and private pre-K providers. Through other legislation unveiled alongside the Prekindergarten Act, we will take a unified approach to early childhood care and education. Another bill I've introduced would create a new Office of Early Childhood Development and Learning. That office would administer all of Rhode Island's early child care and pre-K programs, providing an enhanced level of focus and involving key stakeholders in policymaking as we ramp up our pre-K system.

It's time for Rhode Island to take a more urgent approach to early childhood care and education. We need a more unified focus on the programs we provide our children in their youngest years, which are so critical for their development.

Through a bill sponsored by Sen. Alana DiMario, we will create Early Learning Hubs across the state to offer expertise and assistance to providers. These Hubs will catalyze innovation and forge partnerships across our communities.

We will also invest in our early educator and child care workforce through Sen. Sandra Cano's Early Educator Investment Act. By focusing on raising wages to meet national benchmarks, we can ensure our early childhood service providers can attract and retain the dedicated, talented staffers they need.

But the cornerstone – the basic foundation for future success – lies in ensuring universal access to quality pre-Kindergarten classrooms. This will strengthen Rhode Island's workforce. It is a crucial step toward providing our children with an educational system that truly prepares them for the 21st century – and for success in a knowledge-based economy that's changing rapidly every day.

There are many other long-term benefits, too.

Pre-K also provides important support for families by allowing more parents and guardians to return to work.

Because of the better outcomes pre-K creates for kids, it will help reduce strain on vital services and save money.

And it will help us address disparities that have existed in our communities for far too long.

Several years ago, I was proud to play a role in expanding all-day kindergarten to all communities in Rhode Island.

We have seen the positive effects of that throughout our state.

Now, I am immensely proud to be sponsoring the Rhode Island Pre-kindergarten Act.

Together, let's set the course for a brighter future – for all our children.

*Editor's Note: State Sen. Hanna M. Gallo is a Democrat representing District 27 (Cranston, West Warwick) in the Rhode Island Senate. She is Senate President Pro Tempore and Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Education.*

## HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY!

Your official state bird is actually a Rhode Island "Green" today...

...So let me enjoy my corned beef and cabbage...



...But save me a "zeppole" for dessert if you catch my drift!

*John Howell*

## Let's hunt for the Gaspee

Some years ago, the date buried in the sands of my memory, I got one of those calls that made me wonder if there was some truth to the tale I was being told. The caller said "you would recognize me if you saw me, but I'm not going to give you my name."

Of course, he now had my full attention. What dark secret did he have? I expected it had something to do with city or state government.

"Oh," I replied, waiting to hear what more he had to say. He paused, then adding for effect, "I probably shouldn't be telling you this." Ok, I thought, this is either going to take me on a wild goose chase or, indeed, this was something.

Then he blurted it out, "I know where the Gaspee is." This was hardly a revelation. Lots of people know where the Gaspee is. If anything is left of the British schooner that was burned to the waterline in 1772, it's somewhere in the silt off Gaspee Point. After all that's why it was named Gaspee Point.

"It's not where you think," he replied. "It's washed up on Greene Island."

Now, if that were the case, it would have been found a century ago. I asked if he had seen it. "No, but a friend saw it," came the reply.

I thanked the anonymous caller and thought the next time I'm on the bay, I'm going to check it out. At that time there was a Greene Island off Cole Farm and the mouth of Occupasstuxet Cove. The island was far from the wooded 12 acres pictured at the turn of the century, but it was still a sandy prominence even at moon high tides. Today it's not much more than a sandbar at moon low tides.

I did find emerging from the sands some large timbers from a vessel of sorts. I called city historian Henry Brown whose home overlooks the cove and the island. He knew immediately what I was talking about. A barge had been scuttled on the island and now after all these years it was being washed free of sand.

Mystery solved. But was it? Was this a barge; where did it come from and how did it end up on Greene Island?

Some years later when much more of the hull was exposed, Dr. Kathy Abbass of the Rhode Island Marine Archeology Project launched the "Not the Gaspee Project." That wreck and what's left of another vessel nearby became the training ground for her class of volunteers including Rep. Joe McNamara. For the past several years with the exception of 2020, her group of seasoned protégés have measured the skeletal remains of the ships and then searched shipping records, newspapers and even letters to pin down their history. Henry Brown's accounts provided leads.

The lure of finding the Gaspee was but a flicker on the distant horizon. Was anything left from the incident dubbed the "first blow for freedom" that hap-

## This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

pened 250 years ago this June 9? Dr. Abbass and her disciples wondered the same thing and last summer they launched The Gaspee Project spending a morning taking measurements of the point as a first step to identifying potential search areas. This seemed to me to be a futile effort. Who was to know that the Gaspee Point of today is the same point of 250 years ago, after all in less than 35 years Greene Island went from high ground, albeit sand, to a smudge at low tide. But, as I have learned, Dr. Abbass doesn't flirt with facts. She looks to nail them down.

Last fall, Joe McNamara told me she had arranged for an off shore sonar side scan of the area she and her volunteer followers had taken measurements. The scan came up with "two targets" fitting the dimensions of the Gaspee. To follow up, Dr. Abbass rallied her academic colleagues and called upon divers to investigate further. They put together a mission, which unfortunately was abandoned due to bad weather and the fact that many of these people had to return to their jobs rather than pursue questionable targets.

But the hunt for the Gaspee, as ridiculous as some believe it is (there have been other attempts), has now ignited fervor to mount a deliberative well-executed search for the Gaspee. Dr. Abbass, whose accomplishments include efforts to document a vessel off Goat Island in Newport as Captain Cook's Endeavour, has developed a 10-day plan to dive on the targets. Simultaneously, there is a growing group that knows of the effort and are seeking to raise \$50,000 to execute the plan this spring. Money is being made. It looks like it will happen.

What's exciting is that the exploration has the potential of catapulting the Gaspee incident to center stage as the nation gears up to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Naturally, if something from the Gaspee is found even a few links of anchor chain or a timber preserved in the mud, it would make national news.

Not surprisingly, some of the people I've shared this story with immediately think of the media hype Geraldo Rivera created around the televised opening of Al Capone's vault in 1986 which was such a let down when it proved to be empty. This is all going to look pretty foolish if those targets turn out to be remnants of discarded craft like those off Greene Island. Imagine the response if divers come up with a chunk of iron thought to be a canon that is identified as the rear axle of a 1954 Chevy.

Honestly, so what? This is the burning of the Gaspee we're talking about; an incident that has a significant role in our history. Here is a chance to broadcast our legacy at a time – the 250th – when it can capture national attention.

## JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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## Legal Notice Town of Johnston Notice of Abandonment

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-1 that Rome Avenue as described in Johnston Town Ordinance 2022-2 has ceased to be useful to the public and is hereby abandoned. Ordinance 2022-2 an Ordinance in abandonment of Rome Avenue was adopted at a public hearing at the February 14th, 2022 meeting of the Johnston Town Council and is available for review in the office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council  
Robert V. Russo  
President

Attest:  
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.  
Town Clerk

3/10, 3/17, 3/24/22



The following question will appear on the ballot for the April 5, 2022 Town of Johnston special election.

### QUESTION 1

SHOULD THE TOWN OF JOHNSTON BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$215,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY ANY GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND?

Approval and issuance of the requested bond would provide funding to finance a series of school construction, renovation, and repair projects, including consolidating and restructuring Pre-K through Grade 5 by constructing a new Early Childhood Center for Pre-K and Kindergarten and also constructing a new elementary school for all students in Grades 1-4. The Middle School and High School would be renovated to "like new" condition, with a 5th grade academy being located at the Middle School and expanded Pathways contents spaces as well as a 9th grade academy at the High School. The funding would also include capital improvement projects.

The estimated total cost of the projects, including financing, legal and other costs is \$242,454,290 based on an estimated interest rate of 4% over a 30 year term. Net Debt Service assumes the minimum amount of state aid reimbursement of 35%, however the project is designed to achieve a 57% state aid reimbursement.

The estimated useful life of the project is 50 years. Construction would commence on or about January, 2023 and be completed on or about August, 2025.

**NOTICE: Voter fraud is a felony and pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-26-1, every person who is convicted of voter fraud shall be imprisoned for a term of up to 10 years, or fined between \$1,000 and \$5,000, or both, for each offense.**

**You must be registered to vote from your actual place of residence.**

Johnston Board of Canvassers

3/17/22

## Schools

(Continued from page 1)

The district plans to construct a new Early Childhood Center and a new Elementary School, and make major renovations at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School and the Johnston High School, if voters approve bond funding.

The Thornton Elementary was originally erected in 1890, but burned down in 1919. The building was rebuilt at its current 4 School St. location in 1920 and opened to Johnston students in 1921.

Graniteville Elementary was built in 1930, 90 years ago. Brown Avenue Elementary was built in 1934, 87 years ago. Winsor Hill and Barnes elementary schools were constructed in 1953, 68 years ago.

Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School was built in 1960 (61 years ago) and Johnston Senior High was built in 1968 (53 years ago).

"They're just old," Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said. "You can only put so much caulking around the windows."

Johnston's state Sen. Frank Lombardo III (District 25) and state Rep. Deb Fellela (District 43), both received ceremonial copies of the bond legislation.

"This school bond bill came to fruition when I received a council resolution in which the superintendent and the school committee had met with myself and Senator Lombardo to explain to us the goal of this legislation," Fellela said. "After we

heard their thoughts, Senator Lombardo and I had our bills drafted."

Polisena and Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. testified, in-person, before the state's Finance Committee.

"The following week, the committee voted to approve the bill and it came to the floor for a full vote, where it was unanimously supported by the house," Fellela said.

The town expects to get more than 50 percent reimbursement from the state for the massive building project.

School planners hope to construct a fifth-grade academy, attached to the newly renovated middle school.

The small neighborhood elementary schools will close, and the students will be moved to a town-wide elementary center. If the bond passes, town officials will hold discussions to determine the fate of the buildings.

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

In October, the School Committee voted to retain the SLAM Collaborative architectural firm to take the district into Stage III of the school construction process. At its Dec. 21 meeting, the Johnston School Committee passed a resolution supporting the \$215 million bond.

The new ECC will cost an estimated \$28,600,000 and is tenta-

tively slated to open in the summer of 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both Wednesday night meetings have been scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Johnston High School Auditorium (March 16 and March 23).

The agendas for March 16 and March 23 both contain a single presentation item: "SLAM and Colliers Project Leaders: Presentation/Discussion of the Proposed New School Construction Projects and Existing School Renovations."

# LEGAL NOTICES

### Public Auction Legal Notice

Form of notice under RI General Laws 39-12.1 to 12.1-5

TO: Jeff Archenbault, 16 Herbert St Greenville, RI 02828. A public auction will be held at 100 South St, Johnston, RI on March 26, 2022 at 9:00 AM. The Vehicle a 2006 Ford VIN #1FTNE24W26HA14686 belonging to the above. The auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

3/17/22

### PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday April 5th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave.  
Johnston, RI 02919

#### AGENDA

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

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

**PB 22-20 – The Farmlands – Public Meeting on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed 4-lot Minor Subdivision on a private road. Located at 1257 Central Avenue AP 43 Lot 96. Zoned R-40. Applicant A.G. Construction**

**PB 20-22 – Deer Run Road & Orchard Avenue – Public Meeting on a Major Subdivision. Located at AP 59 Lots 8 & 268. Zoned R-40. Applicant Mark Cavanagh.**

**PB 22-19 – Stone Meadow Estates – Public Meeting on a Final Plan for a 3-lot Minor Subdivision on a private road. Located at 38 & 40 Pine Hill Road AP 45 Lots 3 & 515. Zoned R-40. Applicant Ernest N. Watson Jr.**

**PB 21-25 – Establishment of bond amount for Juliet Court**

#### 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.

3/17, 3/24, 3/31/22

### JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 31st, 2022  
at 6:30 PM  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on March 31, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

#### New Business

**File 2022-8 – Petition of Ray D'Amico/Greg & Lorraine Natale, Applicant for Emerald Lane, AP 60 Lot 74, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance Section 340 for a proposed Single Family Dwelling.**

**File 2022-9 – Petition of Off Course Properties, LLC, Applicant for Plainfield Street/Capitol Street, AP 26 Lot 1, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance Section 340 for a proposed Single Family Dwelling.**

**File 2022-3 – Petition of Johnston Winsor I, LLC/Ernie & Donna Ricci Jr., Applicant for Winsor Avenue, AP 60 Lot 4, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.**

**File 2022-4 – Petition of Johnston**

**Winsor II, LLC/Allan Hill, Applicant/Owner for 86 Winsor Avenue, AP 60 Lot 2, 20, 86, zoned R-40 & R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.**

**File 2022-5 – Petition of Johnston Winsor III, LLC/The Steere Family Trust, Applicant/Owner for 112 Winsor Avenue, AP 59 Lot 15, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.**

**File 2022-6 – Petition of Johnston Harilla I, LLC/28 Harilla Johnston Realty, LLC, Applicant/Owner for 28 Harilla Lane & Off Greenville Avenue, AP 51 Lot 11 & 9, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.**

**File 2022-7 – Petition of Johnston Elm Grove/Domenic & Michelle Lancelotta/, Applicant/Owner for 25 Elm Grove Avenue, AP 51 Lot 4, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.**

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

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

3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/22

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**SUPER STUDENTS:**

Johnston School Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo (left) and School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia, join JHS students Janet Clements, James Guilmette, Neko Mahony, Ayomide Olagundoye, Alessandra Pesare and Cameron Tum who were honored during last week's meeting for finishing first in the school's Science Fair. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)



# RIDE seeks input on proposed graduation requirements

By ALEX MALM

The Rhode Island Department of Education has a proposal to change graduation requirements starting with the class of 2027.

On March 22 from 4 to 6 p.m., the public will have their first chance to be heard with a hybrid meeting scheduled to take place at CCRI in Warwick.

If approved, the new requirements would be aligned for what is required to be accepted into the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

One of the major proposed changes would require students to take two years of "world language."

Currently students aren't required to take any foreign language classes in order to graduate.

Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo did not respond to repeated requests for comment this week.

In a phone interview Monday, Warwick Superintendent Lynn Dambruch expressed her concerns regarding the requirement.

"There's not enough certified foreign language teachers in Rhode Island," said Dambruch.

Cranston Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse said that the concern is one shared in Cranston as well.

"We're having great difficulty finding staff in the area," said Nota-Masse.

Aside from not being able to find enough staff, Warwick Assistant Superintendent William McCaffrey pointed out that by having

the requirement it means that students will be limited to the number of electives that they can take.

"We always like to give them some choice because some students have a passion for art or for music and it would be a shame if they don't have that option anymore," said Dambruch.

Lisa Schultz, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment for Warwick said she doesn't view having enough applicants as being a problem in order to fill the world language classes however, she said that the issue may be whether or not those who apply are certified.

"We could always emergency certify," said Schultz.

Schultz said that in some circumstances – including recently – that is what needs to be done.

"That's going to be an interesting point of contention," said Schultz.

Asked if RIDE has any proposal to address the lack of world language teachers in the state, Victor Morente, a spokesperson for RIDE in an email said "We hear that concern and we are actively working with our higher education institutions and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to address the issue."

"It's deeply important that we find a solution that prepares our students to go to college if they choose to, and both Rhode Island College and University of RI require that incoming students have credits in world language," said Morente. "We must have a conversation about the impact this is having on

our students educational opportunities available to them after high school, especially for economically disadvantaged students and students of color."

A second change in the proposal is to clarify what science and math courses students are required to take.

While students will still need to take four math and three science courses by the time they graduate it clarifies that two of the science classes that students take need to be lab based, and students need to take algebra 1, 2 and geometry.

Nota-Masse said the district is already doing many of the things RIDE has proposed. The only requirement the school would potentially need to include is the computer science component. Cranston also has a lot of programs that prepare students for the workforce after graduation and additional requirements could make it hard for students to explore these pathway programs since they would be "competing for time."

"I think we need to invest more time and effort into resources and into programs that allow students to graduate from high school and enter a career that is high-wage high-demand sector looking for many employment," Nota-Masse said. She said the additional requirements could make it difficult for

students to explore that path to take these additional requirements, saying that students are "competing for time."

It was pointed out on Monday that financial literacy will be required for students to graduate starting in 2024. The requirement came after the General Assembly passed legislation last year requiring it.

"That's exciting for our students so they can get some real world application," said Schultz.

**Union responds**

Warwick Teachers Union President Darlene Netchoh in a phone interview Monday said "RIDE has lost touch with what actually goes on in schools."

"RIDE is great about creating unfunded mandates," said Netchoh.

Netchoh said on Monday that last year the District cut a portion of the world language teachers before the District knew about the new requirements.

"Now they are going to try to add people back and cut from somewhere else it doesn't make sense," said Netchoh.

While in most circum-

stances language in the Union contract only allows for 40 teachers to receive layoff notices per year and only allows for 20 teachers to be ultimately cut, Netchoh said she doesn't want to see anyone lose their job in order to fulfill the world language courses being taught.

"I don't want to lose anybody," said Netchoh.

Asked on Monday night how many cuts were made to the world language department last year, Kim Ruggieri Director of Human Resources said "We look at student need when determining staffing for the following year."

"We consider how many students are enrolled in a certain subject in each school and determine how many sections are needed to meet the needs of the students," said Ruggieri. "Last spring, in preparing for the 2021-2022 school year, the foreign language department consisting of 24 teachers was reduced by 2."

Ruggieri said that both reductions were made at the middle school level.

Netchoh argued that more flexibility should be offered for students rather than less.

"Offering a variety of courses for students to elect is better than locking students into specific course requirements," said Netchoh.

Like the Administration, Netchoh pointed out that by having more requirements it means less flexibility for students' schedules.

"The more requirements they have the less choices that students have," said Netchoh.

In a press release it was explained that RIDE hosted a series of Reimagining High School working group meetings from June to November 2021 to help RIDE learn how to reimagine the high school experience and graduation requirements to better meet the needs of all of our students.

"During these meetings, students, families, and educators from across the state shared and engaged with relevant data and experiences from our schools on how to improve the high school experience," the press release read. "Meeting attendees shared feedback, participated in breakout groups, and generated ideas that shaped RIDE's recommendations to the K-12 Council."

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MARCH 17, 2012-2022



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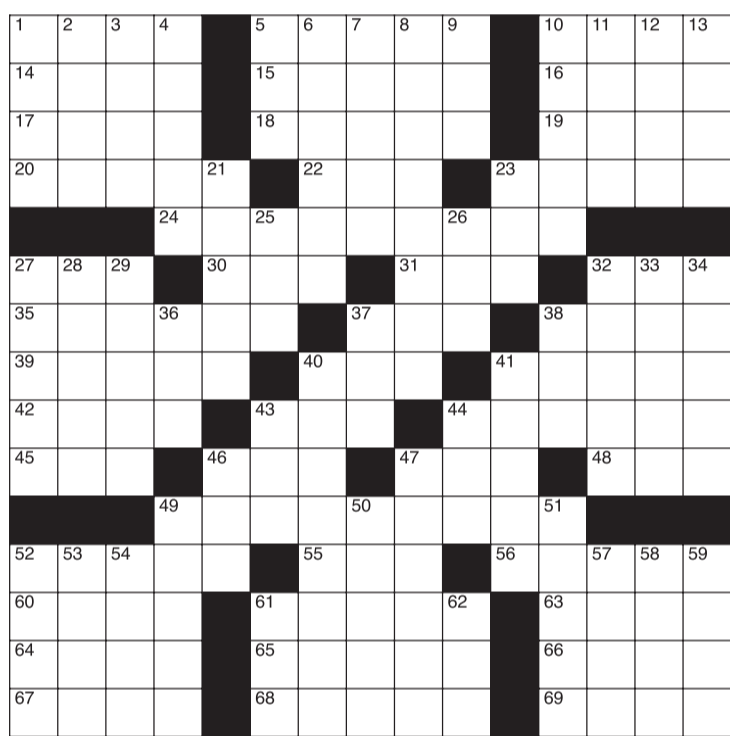
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**BIG HAT TO FILL:** Current owner of Solitro's Bakery, Elena Pennacchini, and her sister, Diane Notarianni, pose for a photo with their late father's "PUDDIN' Hat." (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER**



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Type of footwear
5. Studies a lot all at once
10. Adventure story
14. Hundred thousand
15. Former U.S. Vice President
16. Ruler
17. Indian city
18. Similar
19. Ship as cargo
20. Volcanic craters
22. Boxing's "GOAT"
23. Bullfighting maneuvers
24. London soccer team
27. Score perfectly
30. No (Scottish)
31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
32. Woman (French)
35. Unwanted attic "decor"
37. Peter Griffin's daughter
38. Broad, shallow crater
39. Large instruments
40. Low bank or reef
41. \_\_\_ and Venzetti
42. Oil group
43. Father
44. Aggressive men
45. Pairs well with green
46. Travelers need it
47. Digital audiotape

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Type of sauce
2. Pattern of notes
3. Plant with long seedpods
4. Map out
5. Numbers cruncher
6. Make a mental connection
7. Italian tenor
8. N. America's highest mountain peak
9. Witness
10. Arabic given name
11. Music awards
12. "The Immoralist" author
13. Area units

21. Units of loudness
23. Political action committee
25. Bar bill
26. Witch
27. A theatrical performer
28. 2-door car
29. \_\_\_ and flowed
32. Papier-\_\_\_, art medium
33. City in Georgia
34. Irregular
36. College sports conference
37. Angry
38. Partner to cheese
40. S. American mammal
41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
43. Split pulses
44. Disfigure
46. Cow noise
47. Erase
49. Chadic language
50. Reward for doing well
51. Paid TV
52. Millisecond
53. Other
54. Colombian city
57. Necklace part
58. Every one of two or more people
59. Regrets
61. They come after "A"
62. Horse noise

**Best**

(Continued from page 1)

In the Best Zeppoles Contest, Solitro's Bakery competed against Johnston's Original Italian Bakery, Palmieri's Bakery and Bread Boss; Cranston's DeLuise Bakery, Buono's Bakery and Calvitto's Pizza & Bakery; and Warwick's A&J Bakery.

Readers voted for one bakery per ballot, and entries were dropped off or mailed to the Beacon Communications newsroom, left at Johnston's Tailor on the Avenue, 1395 Atwood Ave., or emailed to our staff.

The secret to a good zeppole? Pennacchini insists it's all about the cream-filling.

"Oh, it's the cream; definitely, small batches of cream," she said. "We make it from scratch. It's mostly just eggs, sugar, vanilla, milk ..."

Pennacchini trailed off before divulging the full recipe.

"Scratch baking is not easy to come by," she said, from behind the glass counter of the 1594 Cranston St. pastry and bread shop. "It's hard work; long hours."

By the time the business founder and family patriarch passed away last year, he had raised a kitchen full of children

who were proud to carry on their father's legacy. Some of those kids have had kids of their own now, and baking behind the scenes at Solitro's has become a cooperative, family affair.

"On all the holidays, all my sisters come in to help," Pennacchini said.

On Tuesday morning, Pennacchini and two of her sisters, Diane Notarianni and Paula Arlia were busy stocking the display case with wine biscuits and elephant ears, fresh-baked rolls and of course, the season's specialty, zeppoles.

Michael Solitro III was hiding in the back, toiling with flour and eggs, and dressed in a mostly white powdered sugar tuxedo.

Most of the Solitro siblings live in Cranston.

Brendan Notarianni, Diane's son, was stationed at a long table topped with antique scales, filling fresh pastry shells, dusting and topping them with cherries.

Missing today, but often working at the bakery through the holidays, two more sisters, Michelle Fitzgerald and Francesca Solitro, both live in Johnston.

While Elena and her husband, Eddie Pennacchini, are the current owners of Solitro's Bakery, the whole family shares the burden of assembling 18,000-20,000

zeppoles each year, between February and St. Joseph's Day.

The zeppole choices are simple at Solitro's.

"We make baked and fried," Pennacchini said in the back, rolling subtly purple piles of dough into small circular twisted wine biscuits. "We just stick with the traditional pastry and cream."

Before his death, Michael Solitro Jr. would wear a fading fluffy baker's hat emblazoned with the word "PUDDIN'," as he stuffed the zeppole shells with fresh cream filling. The hat remains behind the counter; the chunky lump of fabric will always be one of the bakery's prized possessions.

Some days Brendan dons the PUDDIN' hat. And other days it's Michelle's honor.

As they gather to create enough zeppoles to fill a zeppelin, the Solitro's admit this year's St. Joseph's Day will be bittersweet. Passing the PUDDIN' hat helps them take a moment to remember the four founders who taught them the family business.

"Dad loved St. Joseph's Day," Pennacchini recalled. "He loved wearing his PUDDIN' hat."

Now, several Solitro generations are taking turns trying to fill it.

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**FOUNDING BROTHERS:** From left to right, Michael Solitro Jr. stands with his brothers George, Armando and Larry. The founders of Solitro's Bakery in Cranston have all passed away, but their relatives have kept the family business alive. (Courtesy photo)



**FULLY STOCKED:** Above, Diane Notarianni carries a tray of finished zeppoles from the kitchen to the display cases at Solitro's Bakery, 1594 Cranston St., Cranston. Below, the final step: a cherry on top. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



**WINE, DON'T WHINE:** Diane Pennacchini stood in the back of her family bakery, Solitro's, rolling purple piles of dough into small circular twisted wine biscuits.

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**ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:**

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L	A	K	H	P	E	N	C	E	A	M	I	R
A	G	R	A	A	L	I	K	E	L	A	D	E
M	A	A	R	S	A	L	I	P	A	S	E	S
T	O	T	T	E	N	H	A	M				
A	C	E	N	A	E	L	A	C	M	M	E	
C	O	B	W	E	B	M	E	G	M	A	A	R
T	U	B	A	S	C	A	Y	S	A	C	C	O
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**Watch Your MOUTH**  
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.  
**ROOT CANALS ARE NO JOKE**  
 Root canals have often been used as a punchline in jokes to illustrate something unpleasant and painful. Although that may have been the case decades ago, with today's advancements in technology and anesthetics, root canal treatment is a routine, straightforward procedure that relieves dental pain while saving a tooth from extraction. Root canals becomes necessary when there is inflammation or infection in the roots of a tooth. During the procedure, the pulp inside the tooth is removed, the root canal is cleaned and disinfected, and a filling is placed to seal the spaces. Saving a natural tooth is always preferable to extraction, making root canals a safe and suitable option since root canal-treated teeth can last a lifetime. Although root canal therapy once had the reputation of being painful, almost anyone who has experienced this procedure recently can affirm that today's techniques make root canal a virtually painless, effective treatment. If you are experiencing oral pain or have unusual symptoms, call your dentist. Be aware of threats to your health, and take steps to prevent problems from occurring in the first place. If you don't have a family dentist at this time, we invite your call at DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 401-521-3661. We are A Collaborative Practice Committed to Excellence at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston.  
 P. S. The first recorded effort of treatment with a root canal dates back to 1776 when English dentist Robert Woodfendale developed a method of treating diseased teeth by cauterizing infected pulp to close off the tooth from infection.  
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# spotlight ON BUSINESS

## Fred's Auto Body

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**You can't miss this eye-popping auto body shop on Washington Street, home to the longstanding business Fred's Auto Body shop. Fred Phillips, the owner and operator of the shop, lives by this motto: "Our reputation is built upon quality work."**

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By JENNIFER COATES

For Fred Phillips, the longtime owner of Fred's Auto Body, there is simply no substitute for hard work, integrity, honesty, and good old-fashioned customer service. After 39 remarkable years in the business, Fred's character and ethics have come to define him almost more than the high quality of workmanship that he is also known for. In this competitive business, what has given him "staying power" is his commitment to excellence and to putting the goodwill of his customers over his own self-interests.

Fred Phillips has been a mechanic his whole adult life. He opened his first auto body shop in Coventry in 1983 and moved to his current location in West Warwick six years later in 1989.

At the time, his shop was a non-descript white building. This sufficed until a slump in business triggered an idea. Fred decided to stand out on busy Washington Street by painting his building a mellow shade of yellow, hoping it might attract some attention.

As the months and years went by, people began to take notice of Fred's Auto Body shop.

That "mellow yellow" eventually turned bolder and bolder to the bright, lemon-yellow that it is today! Now there is no missing this bustling repair shop in the city – and once you meet Fred, you know that it is a lot more than a yellow building that has kept customers coming here generation after generation.

For Fred, it is ~ and always has been ~ about satisfying his customers. He genuinely cares about them and treats them like family, with every expectation of helping them get back on the road as soon as possible.

Fred knows that there are few things his customers depend on more than their vehicles.

They need them for family and work lives; they need them for travel and transportation. They need them almost every day, so when they are damaged and undriveable, this presents a major disruption. Fred knows how important your vehicles are to your livelihoods and to the day-to-day operations of your home. This is why he takes your trust and your business so seriously.

As the shop owner, Fred oversees every detail of your vehicle repair. He manages all the paperwork and communication with the insurance companies. He will make

sure you have the most honest and transparent assessment of the damage and what it will cost to repair it to 100% of its original condition. Working alongside Fred is his loyal employee and expert auto body technician, Jason Colomb, whose steadfastness and talent have been a mainstay of Fred's Auto Body for over twenty-four years.

If you have a car or truck that has been involved in an accident or has sustained any damage, give Fred Phillips a call at 401-821-7630 or visit his shop at 268 Washington Street. You won't miss him in the bright yellow building! You can also visit his website at [www.fredsautobody.biz](http://www.fredsautobody.biz)

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(10-week commitment)

# SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

## NAMI-RI

A free Virtual Family-To-Family course begins April 13.

The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is now accepting registration for our Spring 2022 virtual Family-to-Family course which begins on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. This is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have lived experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org) or call 401-331-3060 or email [beth@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:beth@namirhodeisland.org).

## From the Mohr Library

Library Programs & News: As we approach Spring, the Library is resuming much of their traditional programming. At the same time, we have a couple problems.

Storytime for ages 2 and up is back! Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Please contact us to register.

Book sale: The Friends of Mohr Library sponsor a book sale ongoing during our open hours, and there are extra offerings for a limited time. Please support the Friends, so they can support us with exciting programs for all ages. Reply to this email to learn more about the Friends.

Afterschool: Mohr Library has afterschool activities for middle-school and teenage kids almost every day. For young children, Mohr Library also has a craft table, as well as scavenger hunts, i-spy games, and take-home craft kits.

Book Return: Please note we've had some technical difficulties with their outdoor book drop, and it is currently closed. There are no overdue fines on material returned at our location, but you do have to come while we're open.

Copies and Prints: They also have a copier out of order but note that there is another in the lower level. If you use it to print to their printers from your own device or from home, please remember to use the lower level printer ID, 102915, and to let us know it's coming. Reply to this email for more information.

Notary is available most evenings Monday through Thursday 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call ahead to confirm.

Computer and Device Help is a regular service and they will soon have extra help in the form of one-to-one help sessions. More information will be available

soon.

As always, we want to know what you'd like in terms of events and resources and will do our best to provide or refer. Reply to this email or contact them in the library by calling 231-4980.

## Youth Arts Scholarships 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 [ppacri.org/artsscholarships](http://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.

## 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/welcme.asp?url=riseniorsoftball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcme.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).

## 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 [www.skillsforri.com/prepareri](http://www.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)

## Johnston Senior Center offers services

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

## Reminder from Parks & Rec

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

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

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

for employees. If you have any questions, please call 401-272-3460.

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

## Tour the Johnston Historical Society

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

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 231-3380 or at [johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com), [www.johnston-historical.org](http://www.johnston-historical.org) or [www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical).

## Did you know?

Bring on March 20, 2022! You may have heard that the spring equinox is the official first day of spring, and it's true that this auspicious event traditionally marked the start of spring for many different cultures as well as the start of the new year on ancient Indian and Persian calendars. Even today, the spring (or "vernal") equinox, is often used to indicate the first day of spring. What it really signifies, though, is the astronomical start of spring as opposed to the meteorological one. Meteorological seasons are grouped by months and are based on weather and temperature shifts. Meteorologists and climatologists agree that the first real day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere should be March 1. (Source: Spring 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.



## Attention Town of Johnston Pet Owners

# Rabies Inoculation Clinic

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This clinic is utilizing Animal Welfare Grant Funds and the vaccine is free of charge

Dog Licenses are available as of April 1st and can be obtained during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays) at the Office of the Office of the Town Clerk, Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 (Rabies Certificate required). The License fee is \$5.00

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.,  
Town Clerk

3/17/22



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# Stepping out for St. Paddy

## In-person performances are back

By EMMA BARTLETT

Usually by the first of the year, Damsha Dance Studio has a full dance ticket.

But the last two years have been anything but ordinary. The studio went virtual and events celebrating St. Patrick's Day were canceled. However, the studio never lost the love of dancing. Once allowed to resume classes, routines and entire performances were videotaped to be shared.

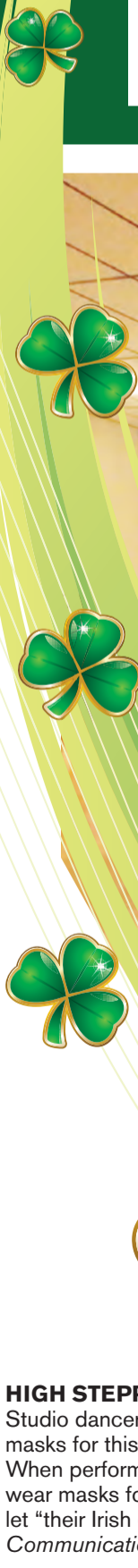
Thankfully, that has changed and as gatherings once again started happening, requests for Irish step dancing poured in. It happened quickly.

Studio owners Gráinne Conley and Colleen Kenyon weren't prepared for the sudden demand, although it was a relief to have a sense of normalcy return. On Saturday, they staged back-to-back performances at the William Shields American Legion Post and the Tri City Elks in Warwick. The 18 dancers wore masks just to be safe.

"Smile with your eyes," says Kenyon to which Conley adds, "Irish eyes are always smiling."



**HIGH STEPPING:** Damsha Studio dancers removed their masks for this demonstration. When performing shows they wear masks for the moment and let "their Irish eyes smile." (Beacon Communications photos)



Damhsa won't be doing any parades but they will visit some nursing homes and on St. Patrick's Day perform at 4 p.m. at the Warwick Mall.

Irish dancing brought Conley and Kenyon together 18 years ago. Conley, whose family immigrated to this country from Ireland, was living in Boston when the pair crossed paths at the Harp and Shamrock in Warwick. "It was friendship right away," says Conley.

Marianne Beirne, Kenyon's mother, knows the studio as well as the girls. She's been the "gal Friday" who manages the books, schedules performances and even drives the van. After Covid-19 shutdown the state, Damska closed the studio as there was no point to renting a building that couldn't be used. Now that they are back in person, the studio rents space at the Elks or on Bald Hill Road across from Target for lessons and practice.

What's been tough during the virtual period is introducing dancing to the little kids, says Beirne. Students range from three years old to 18. The studio also has adult classes.

Purposely Conley and Kenyon have avoided competitions. They are not looking to be in that league and refer to their shows as "culture and educational performances." The shows are lively with the rhythm of clicking hard shoes or the soft shoe dances where legs fly and curly hair whether wigs or the real thing bounce in time with the jig or reel. It's fast, choreographed and precise and one wonders following a 35 to 40-minute performance whether students have the stamina to slip out of their stiffened elaborately hand decorated costumes that can cost upwards of \$1,200 and drive across town for upwards of eight performances on a pre-Covid St. Patrick's Day.

Beirne is surprised by the question.

"They love it," she says. "It keeps them going."

The studio traveled to Ireland in 2014 where they performed at a variety of venues. They had planned another trip for 2020 but the pandemic ruled that out. Kenyon would like to go back but for the moment the focus is on the students and recovering so much of what was lost by not being in person.

There are other considerations and responsibilities, too. Conley is the education program manager at Save the Bay where she has worked for 18 years. Until recently Kenyon taught second grade at St. Peter School. She is now working in productions at PBS.

Then there are the kids.

Kenyon learned she was pregnant the day Conley delivered her second child. A pandemic baby, Nora Kenyon who is now 15 months has had her exposure to Irish music and mother's tapping feet. She's not on her toes yet, but she proudly wears her shoes.

Coventry's Kelly School of Irish Dance is also back to performing in-person events for St. Patrick's Day. For dancers, the day is an opportunity to share their passion for dance and Irish culture.

"St. Patrick's Day is much more than leprechauns and green beer," said Kathleen Chilton, director and lead instructor.

Chilton and her sister Meghan Kelly established their Coventry studio on Sandy Bottom Road in 2011. Prior to that, Kelly (KSID owner and artistic director) taught Irish dance at the Irish Ceilidhe Club of Rhode Island. The dance studio has a range of classes, from youngsters all the way up to adult classes.

Due to the pandemic, KSID's last in-person showcase was their 2019 Merry and Bright holiday show. Only recently did dancers return to the stage by performing at the Providence Art Club on Feb. 19.

Dancers are excited to return to the stage and will visit locations throughout the state with stops at several nursing homes and girl scout troops.

"Making them [seniors] feel good makes me feel good," said Bridget Peterson, a member of KSID's Moy Company, which is filled with dancers ages 10 to 12.

In past St. Patrick's Day performances, KSID would have 60 dancers at one venue. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the largest group of dancers they will take is 16 - most places will be between six and eight dancers.

The pandemic has not deterred dancers' motivation. Kelly and Chilton said their dancers have been resilient in reaching their individual goals, dancing in full masks and going from Zoom dance classes to being back in person. The dance studio recently lifted its mask policy this past week.

"It [dancing] makes me happy," said dancer Caroline Colligan. "I've been dancing for a couple of years, and it brought out personal traits that I have now."

Dancers will finally get to share their passion for Irish culture, saying it is 'their time of year.' This includes lacing up their ghillies and hard shoes and putting on their school dresses or solo dresses to perform an assortment of reels, jigs, slip jigs, set dances and more.



**JUMPING BACK INTO PERFORMANCES:** (From left to right) Moira Dadekian, Bridget Peterson, Maggie Peterson and Brigid Dadekian from the Kelly School of Irish Dance perform at the Providence Art Club this past February. This was their first in-person show since the start of the pandemic.



**LOOKING FORWARD TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY:** KSID dancers Avery Bouvier (left) and Cailleen Hughes prepare are preparing their March shows.



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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Talia

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Senior girl looking for a comfy place to lay and enjoy her golden years. Sweet Talia's story is a sad one, her owner passed away and she finds herself in the shelter. She would love a home with a single lady who wants a loyal companion. She enjoys attention, treats and walks on the leash. If you have a fenced in yard she would love that too! If you've been looking to change a life and help a dog in need please contact the Cranston Animal Shelter for more information about Talia. You can call 401-464-8700 or visit the shelter at 920 Phenix Ave Cranston, RI. Please note that the shelter is open by appointment only. Talia will be waiting and hoping that you'll be coming for her!

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# Dave Alves showcases his talents with debut album

By ROB DUGUAY

Providence via New Bedford singer-songwriter Dave Alves has performed in various establishments throughout New England. This includes local spots such as the Tavern On Main in East Greenwich and Black Oak Kitchen & Drinks in Coventry along with places on opposite sides of the region including Stowe Cider in the ski town of Stowe, Vermont and Nomans on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. Through his steady amount of gigs that often has him performing multiple times a week, he's been able to harness his craft while playing both covers and originals. For the original side of his music, he's going to be releasing his debut album *Widdershins* on March 20. There's an acoustic foundation that's consistently present within the record with electric riffs weaving in and out of various tracks.

Some of the best things take a while to come to fruition and this is the case with Alves' debut. It took him nearly four years to complete the whole thing, but the attention to detail in each song proves that he really focused on making this album a fine piece of artistic work. There's a variety of aural characteristics within the album, such as the sounds of seagulls squawking by the harbor, howling wind blowing through the air, walking feet crushing the leaves on the ground and rain hitting against the window. These qualities take the senses on a voyage and with eyes closed the listener is transported to another place. Art is pure and genuine when it's a reflection of where the artist either comes from or has been and *Widdershins* is a stellar example when it comes to Alves' identity as a musician.

While listening further as the songs go along, a major fact that's evident is this isn't your typical singer-songwriter album. A lot of singer-songwriters go into a recording session while aiming to have an organic approach. They want the listener to hear every strum, chord, progression and lyric with nothing getting in the way. There's nothing wrong with that but Alves stands apart from this approach by including ethereal & atmospheric elements



DAVE ALVES (Photo by Jay Davani)

which accent the music. It's different from the norm, but more importantly it has a substance that few contemporaries can match.

"Overture" is an instrumental track that exemplifies Alves' talents on a six-string. A third of the way through there's some beats and claps coming in as the infectious tones take hold. The dynamic between the acoustic and electric is evident within "Sundown" with "Repeat Steps 1-3" having a similar quality taking place as well. The difference is the former having the amplification coming straight on halfway through while the latter has the electric guitars in the background while the acoustic is in the

forefront. Other songs that are highlights within *Widdershins* include "Tree Of Life", "You And Me Blues" and "Emotional And Unavailable".

On the night of the album's release, Alves will be ringing it in with a party at Askew on 150 Chestnut Street in Providence. Fellow local singer-songwriters Lauren King, Molly O'Leary and David Summit will be rounding out the bill. If you can't make the show to grab a physical copy, log on to [davealvesmusic.com](http://davealvesmusic.com) to see where you can purchase and stream it. Make sure you give *Widdershins* a listen when it comes out, it's real songwriting in its most authentic form.



By DON FOWLER

I'm enjoying my morning cup of coffee in my J.P. Spoonem's mug, reminiscing about the many breakfasts I enjoyed at the Cranston restaurant and missing Joe's corned beef hash and home fries and Pat's smile as she refreshed my coffee.

Where have all my favorite restaurants gone? I'm at the point in my life where my original doctors,

dentist, pharmacist and restaurant owners and chefs have all retired or passed on.

While Rhode Island has some great seafood restaurants, I miss Horton's on Six Corners in East Providence. While nowhere near the shore, the family-owned business had the best and most fairly priced seafood in the state.

I miss the Ming Garden's messy but tasty chicken wings.

But most of all, I miss the prices: Fish for a quarter, with French fries for the same price at dozens of neighborhood fish and chip places. Quahog pie and a salad with Roquefort for a buck at Twin Oaks. A fish sandwich for a buck -- and twice as big for another buck at McDonald's.

Surveys have shown that most people frequent restaurants within five to ten miles of their house. With the price of gas so outrageous, we are fortunate that there are so many good restaurants in our area.

One of the popular spots for seniors is the Crow's Nest. The restaurant has been sold to the owner of two popular Italian restaurants on Federal Hill. Rumors floated that the seafood menu would disappear, and we would have yet one more Italian restaurant in Warwick.

Not so, says the owner. Just be certain that my favorite fried scallop and clam dish is still on the menu.

Rim Nahm, the cozy little Thai restaurant in Pawtuxet Village, has changed ownership. We wish them well. So many fine restaurants. So little time.



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**NETFLIX**  
**THE ADAM PROJECT**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 (Sci-Fi Family Film)

Netflix scores big with this exciting, original sci-fi film that will be enjoyed by the whole family.

Ryan Reynolds stars as Adam, a renegade space pilot who time travels back to when he was a 12-year-old boy.

He is on a mission to eliminate time travel, which he father (Mark Ruffalo) had invented and was now being used for the wrong reasons by Ruffalo's former partner (Catherine Keener).

Adam's younger self (a charming Walker Scobell) discovers his older self in his shed. The future Adam is searching for his missing and assumed dead wife (Zoe Saldana).

The plot thickens, but never gets too complicated, as young Adam, who is bullied in school, bonds with his macho future self.

Jennifer Garner plays Adam's widowed mother, who is having trouble keeping it all together.

To tell you more would be spoiling the twists and turns in the best time-travel movie I have ever seen since "Back to the Future."

The acting is great. The writing is clever and believable. The messages about loving your family and living in the present are loud and clear.

This is one great movie.



Walker Scobell stars with Ryan Reynolds in the Netflix movie *The Adam Project*.

**PIECES OF HER**  
 \*\*\* 1/2  
 (Thriller)

Toni Colette stars as a suburban divorced mother with an incredible past that is slowly revealed as her grown daughter (Bella Heathcote) digs deeper and deeper.

The shocking opening scene lays the groundwork for this eight-episode thriller that is filled with flashbacks and loads of twists and turns.

Colette, one of my favorite actors, is great as Laura, a woman born into wealth (in Rhode Island?) who gets involved with the wrong people who haunt her throughout her life.

**THE LAST KINGDOM**  
 \*\*\* 1/2  
 (Epic Tale)

This epic tale of pagans fighting Christians and Danes fighting the English continues for another season.

Uhtred continues fighting to get back his land, wealth and title that was taken from him. Alongside Brida, his faithful companion, in spite of their religious differences. One worships the gods; the other worships God.

There are lots of bloody battles, interesting characters, and changing allegiances leading up to an exciting final battle.

Stay tuned, because there is surely more to come.



Alexander Dreyfuss stars as Uhtred in *The Last Kingdom*.

# Avon to show Oscar Short Film Nominees

By **DON FOWLER**

Every year for the past 17 years, the Avon Cinema has shown the nominated short films for the Academy Awards, which will be shown on TV Sunday evening, March 27.

Several of the nominees were shown at the Rhode Island International Film Festival this past summer.

The nominated animation films will be shown this weekend, March 18-20 at 4:10 p.m. and 6:20 p.m.

Documentary short films will be shown on Monday and Tuesday, March 21 and 22 at 3:05 p.m. and 6:20.

Live Action films will be shown on Wednesday and Thursday, March 23 and 24 at 3:05 p.m. and 6:20 p.m.



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# COLLECTIBLES



## Trading CARDS

In today's collecting world it is an undeniable truth that size matters. Yes, I know it sounds unfortunate, but people do not like big things, it is the truth. It is very rare to find a millennial, or even someone from generation X who like's collecting anything at all let alone furniture, so what do we collect? We have learned about comics, toys, and video games which are all typically small(er) and lighter than your average antique. Granted video games can get clunky at time with the older systems or if you choose to buy an arcade machine for the bachelor pad but you get my point. So what is today's transient millennial friendly collectible? The answer is TCG.

TCG which stands for Trading Card Game is a term used to describe a body of cards which are produced for people to both collect and play as a structured game. It's a two for one item, a collectible which originally had a purpose. Most will argue trading cards have been collected forever, over a hundred years even when factoring in baseball cards. Baseball cards have been around for over a hundred years beginning in the late 1800's, but the first TCG was only released in 1993 with Magic: The Gathering. So we are talking a very young market that is on the rise. Your big three for TCG are Magic: The Gathering (1993), Yu-Gi-Oh (1999) and of course, the craze which set the world on fire, Pokemon (1996).

Now don't freak out and go crazy looking through your basement (All though you should!) but if you are a child of the 90's and later odds are you



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



collected one if not all of these three card games. 99 and 9/10th percent of all cards are nearly worthless, and by worthless I mean \$2.00 or less, but there is that 0.1% like in all collectibles that is just insanely valuable. Here is the breakdown. For

Magic there are approximately 20 cards to really keep an eye out for, but the number one is the Black Lotus from the original Beta set with a black boarder, in near perfect condition the card at auction easily brings \$30,000+ when graded. Even if you have the original unlimited release with the white boarder it can be an \$8,000 card in the right setting. The same rule of thumb applies to both Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh having approximately 20 or so cards really worth cake. For Yu-Gi-Oh the fan favorite has always been Blue Eyes White Dragon. For a first edition non-starter deck card in 10 out of 10 condition you're looking at about \$4,000-\$6,000 at auction. That's a lot of money to think the card is only from 2002. Last but not least for the one who just has to catch them all the first edition shadowless Charizard is the crown jewel of Pokemon, and in perfect 10 out of 10 condition you have a \$25,000+ card, but have just a 9 and you're looking at about \$2,500. So you can see how important condition is. If you stumble across your old binder of cards your best bet is to contact a Pop Culture specialist, you'll drive yourself crazy. There are so many variants and factors to consider it'll be impossible to know what cards you truly have, and you don't want to make a mistake.

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# Sports



OFF TO COLLEGE: Johnston's Joey Acciardo last season. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

## Acciardo makes the Golden Dozen

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Emo DiNitto/Rhode Island Football Chapter of the National Football Foundation unveiled its

Golden Dozen for 2022, and Johnston wide receiver Joey Acciardo made the cut.

The annual recipients of this award are chosen based on perfor-

mance on the gridiron as well as in the classroom, with a required minimum grade average of B-plus to go

■ DOZEN - PAGE 21

## An epic end to the winter season

And just like that, winter sports are in the books.

Let me dive into how our final teams fared this past weekend and then give you my final thoughts on the season before we flip the page toward the spring.

Let's start with Hendricken hockey.

The Hawks were a steady force all season long and were always in the mix as one of the state's best teams. It was clear come playoff time that it was a three-team race for the championship: Hendricken, La Salle and East Greenwich.

Although those were the three teams, it felt like La Salle's year. The Rams were unbeaten in league play and trounced everyone they faced. Hendricken did not care as it skated to a two-game sweep in the semis to shock the state. Was it a shock that the Hawks won? No, but for them to do it with relative ease absolutely was.

Then fast forward to the state championship series against EG.

The two teams split the regular season meetings and on paper were an even match. What that led to was one of the most exciting finals that we have had in recent memory, with the Hawks taking home the Game 1 shootout win then earning a hard-fought win in Game 2 to wrap up the title.

Although the final score of Game 2 was 5-2, it was far from a lopsided win as the score would indicate. The

### My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

teams were tied going into the final period and EG would score in the final four minutes to make it a one-goal game late. Hendricken exploded in the final two minutes to run away with it.

As I said last week, I do feel a little sorry for La Salle. That team was loaded, had arguably the best goalie in the state, had experience, depth, momentum. It was wild to see them fall flat in the playoffs. But overall, sometimes records don't paint the full picture, and after seeing the quality of these two teams in action, I think they were very worthy representatives.

That is another thing that stood out to me, the quality of play.

Each team was fast, efficient, and made few mistakes. Each goalie came up big, neither team ever panicked. It was some of the best high school hockey I have ever watched.

Perhaps the biggest story that came from the finals was the tragic news that West Warwick hockey player Matt Denison passed away weeks after he and a

■ PITCH - PAGE 21

## JHS sets spring coaching roster

By PETE FONTAINE

Item 10, which was listed as "Superintendent's Recommendations" for last week's bi-monthly Johnston School Committee meeting, certified the appointments of the men and women will lead the district's spring sports squads

In all, a total of 19 educators were approved for coaching positions at Johnston High School and Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School during the upcoming the 2022 seasons which will begin soon.

What was also listed as number 22-03-04 was unanimously approved by the five-member school board that includes Chairman Robert LaFazia, Vice Chairman Joseph Rotella, Dawn Aloisio Marisue Andreozzi and Susan Mansolillo.

"This is always and exciting time of year for each and every male and female athlete - and their teams," said LaFazia with a smile on his face while offering his best wishes for the 2022 season. "We are always proud of all our coaches and respective athletes."

The list began with veteran JHS physical education

■ ROSTER - PAGE 21



BACK AT IT: Johnston High School has solidified its coaching roster for the upcoming spring sports season. Among the pack is David Iannuccilli, who will be returning as the school's softball coach. Iannuccilli helped the Panthers get back to the playoff last season after taking multiple years off. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

# 5 Knights earn postseason honors

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The CCRI Lady Knights basketball team enjoyed tremendous success during the 2021-22 basketball season. The Lady Knights had a 17-7 overall record and were a perfect 9-0 in Region XXI play.

Their success did not stop there as they went on to win the Region XXI and East District Championship which earned them a berth in the 2022 NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Tournament.

In addition to their team success many players and coaches from the CCRI squad earned individual honors. For the first time in CCRI history the entire starting line-up earned All-Region XXI basketball honors. Freshman Center Maggie Schwab (Narragansett) earned First Team All-Region XXI honors. Freshman co-captain Guard, Michelle Moreno (Providence), freshman Guard Elizabeth Bruno (Providence), fresh-

man Guard Chloe Rayko (Coventry) and freshman Forward Ashley Lima (Cape Verde) all earned Second Team All-Region XXI honors.

In addition, Head Coach Doug Haynes was honored with Region XXI/East District Coach of the Year. Many CCRI loyal fans may be disappointed that more players were not on the First Team however, having all five starters all being honored speaks more to how excellent and dynamic the 2021-22 Lady Knights squad was.

Haynes along with his staff of Joel Tuoni, Denise Scott and Victoria Wilkerson led their Lady Knights to an impressive 17-7 overall record which included a perfect 9-0 record in Region XXI play. In addition, the Lady Knights won the Region XXI/East District Championship by defeating Massasoit 82-62 and Springfield Tech 71-43. With their District Championship CCRI earned a berth in the 2022 NJCAA Women's Division III Tournament.

# Jersey Mike's 12th Annual 'Month of Giving' celebrates Special Olympics athletes nationwide

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games is joining forces with Jersey Mike's locations throughout Rhode Island for its 12th Annual March "Month of Giving" campaign. During the month of March, customers can make a donation at any Jersey Mike's restaurant to help 30 local Team Rhode Island athletes, coaches and volunteers and the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, held June 5-12, in Orlando, Fla. Athletes will compete in 19 sports including athletics, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, basketball, flag football and many more.

The Month of Giving campaign will culminate with Jersey Mike's "Day of Giving" on Wednesday, March 30, when local Jersey Mike's restaurants will give 100 percent of the day's sales - not just profit - to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games and the local state Programs attending the USA Games.

For the first time in the 12-year history of Month of Giving, Jersey Mike's owners and operators nationwide will support a single cause. The company hopes to surpass last year's record-breaking \$15 million raised for charity. Jersey Mike's Month of Giving has raised more than \$47 million for local charities since it began in 2011.

"We've been involved with Special Olym-

pics since 1975, and it is an honor for Jersey Mike's to be the presenting partner of the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games," said Peter Cancro, Jersey Mike's founder and CEO. "We support the organization's mission to foster inclusivity, and help its athletes shine on and off the field. I invite everyone to join us and celebrate our country's Special Olympics athletes during Month of Giving."

Every four years, more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states unite to compete in one of the most beloved and inspiring sporting events in the US - the Special Olympics USA Games. It is all part of a global movement using sports to end discrimination and empower people with intellectual disabilities. Jersey Mike's is the presenting sponsor of the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

Throughout March, customers can make donations through the Jersey Mike's mobile app or in-store. On Day of Giving, Jersey Mike's restaurants will donate their resources and every single dollar that comes in - whether in-store, on-line or through the app - to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games and the local state Programs attending the USA Games.

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# CCRI wraps up national tourney run

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The CCRI Knights basketball team continued paly in the 2022 NJCAA Basketball Division III National Tournament on Saturday by facing the tournament's No. 1 seed Blue Devils of Riverland Community College in the 5th/6th place game. In a match-up of titans the NJCAA Basketball Tournament Committee though may make it to the final we had two of the top five teams I the country facing off to see who could finish their season with a victory and claim 5th place at the National Tournament.

The Knights lost a heartbreaker to the Blue Devils 76-75. With the loss the Knights end their season with a 23-5 record and finish sixth at the 2022 NJCAA Division III Basketball National Tournament.

After the All-Star level introductions, it took both teams a couple minutes to get into a rhythm. After 2:30 minutes Riverland had a 4-0 lead. The Knights battled back to tie the game 6-6 after four free throws from Theo Jadotte (Providence) and a basket by Levi King (Westerly). Back-to-back 3-pointers by Riverland extended their lead to six points 12-6 with 15 minutes left.

The Knights had answers as well and continued to battle with the Blue Devils and cut their lead to one point 15-14 with 12:52 and a media timeout.

The teams were beginning to settle into the game and with 7:10 left King cut the Blue Devil lead to just three points with the score 23-26, followed shortly by a Mitchel Noresca put back made it 26-25 Riverland with 6:30 left in the half. The Knights were facing a very high-powered Blue Devils squad but at the half they only trailed 39-35.

At the half the Knights are being led by RJ Pina with 10 first half points with two rebounds and two assist, Jadotte who has eight points two rebounds and an assist and Levi King added seven points and five rebounds while Noresca added six points with four rebounds. Both teams have been pushing the ball up and down the court but have not been as efficient as they would like. The Knights are benefitting from 12 points off turnovers while Riverland has done an excellent job sharing the ball with 14 first half assists.

The Knights started the second half with a 6-2 run to cut the Riverland lead to 41-39 with 17 minutes left. At the 15:45 mark we were

tied 44-44 after a basket from Pina.

The Blue Devils made a basket and a 3-pointer to extend their lead back to five points 49-44 with 14:57 remaining in the game. The Knights cut the Blue Devil lead to three points again 53-50 on a jumper from Jadotte with 12 minutes remaining. However, very time the Knights got close the Blue Devils would make a 3-pointer, Lajarrison Spinks was feeling it shooting 3-for-4 from the land of plenty. But your CCRI Knights do not quit, and Noresca made a basket with 9:36 left once again cut the Riverland lead to two points 58-56.

Mike Resnick tied the score at 58 with 7:50 remaining. A couple minutes past with some up-and-down play by both teams but within a 25-second span The Blue Devils sank back-to-back threes to take a 64-58 lead with 5:40 remaining the game and a media timeout. Noresca cut the lead to 64-60 with 5:00 left but another 3-pointer from Riverland once again extended their lead to seven points 67-60 with 4:27 left.

A Jadotte dunk on a feed from Levi King cut the lead to five points 67-65 with 3:35 remaining in the game. With 31.8 remaining the game CCRI trails Riverland 74-69 after a basket from Teo Jadotte. The Knights cut the lead to three points 75-72 after a 3-pointer from Pina with 23.2 left in the game forcing a Riverland timeout. After a made free throw from Riverland the score was 76-72 Blue Devils. Luke Fusaro was found open and drained a HUGE 3-pointer and was fouled to cut the lead to 75-76 with 4.5 left and a free throw still to come, timeout Riverland.

Unfortunately, Fusaro could not convert the free throw and complete the 4-point play, rebound Riverland with 1.7 remaining, Knights had to foul sending The Blue Devils to the line where they made 1-2, rebounded by Jadotte with 1.4 remaining, timeout CCRI. The Knights drew up a final play to inbound to RJ Pina who heaved it from half court but came-up just short. Knights fall by the final count of 76-75.

The Knights were led by Pina who had a game-high 22 points, including two 3-pointers with three steals, two rebounds, and two assists. Jadotte scored 19 points with 14 rebounds with two steals a blocked shot, and an assist. Noresca added 15 points with nine rebounds and a steal. King added 10 points, eight rebounds, five assists and a steal.

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## ■ Dozen

(Continued from page 19)

along with at least All-Division honors.

Members of the Golden Dozen will be given \$1,000 grants toward their respective colleges in a ceremonial dinner on May 2 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

"I'm very honored to be a part of it and to be named with other student-athletes that have been successful both on the field and academically," said Acciardo, who will be attending Santa Monica College in the fall and looks to walk on to the football team.

As a football player and dancer, balancing his scheduling was key in finding success during his high school career.

"The biggest challenge was time management. I also dance and I teach classes and take classes on the side with football. The challenge was the amount of work more so than the subjects. School work always had to come first; I always had to do my school work after practice," Acciardo said.

As he gets prepared to take that next step, Acciardo will remember the value in seeing both ends of the spectrum of success on the gridiron. Acciardo was a key piece to Johnston's turnaround, as the Panthers snapped a lengthy postseason drought to reach the playoffs during both his junior and senior campaigns. The Panthers reached the Division III Super Bowl his junior year.

"It's great to know what it's like to be on a losing team and a winning team. I was fortunate to be on a winning team my final high school years. I know what it's like to hate losing but I also know how it feels to win, it's much more fun to win," said Acciardo.

Acciardo will also miss the Johnston community – especially his father Joe Acciardo Sr., who served as his coach for much of his playing career.

"My dad was my head coach so I'm obviously going to miss him moving to California. I'll miss my parents, my friends, growing up in Johnston. I was always on the sideline with my dad, looking up to him and wanting to be a high school player for him," Acciardo said. "Moving across the country is a big next step but I'm looking forward to it."

## ■ Roster

(Continued from page 19)

teacher Joe Acciardo who will again serve as head coach for the JHS baseball Panthers. He'll be assisted by Paul Robitaille who'll also direct the junior varsity squad.

In all, Johnston High School will field a total of seven boys and girls teams that will compete for top honors in their respective divisions of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, which governs all school sports in the state.

Thus, the JHS spring sports teams and coaching staffs include:

Golf: Jason Corsini; Girls Lacrosse: Joseph Areson, head coach and Amanda Areson, head jayvee and assistant varsity coach; Girls Fast-Pitch Softball: David Iannucilli Sr., head coach; Christiane Campopiano, head jayvee and assistant varsity coach; Boys' Tennis: Anthony Lancellotti, head coach.

Christian Young will serve as JHS' boys' varsity had coach while the girl's side will be headed by Cheryl Marfeo. Greg Russo and Louis DiMaio, who has long-time handled the teams' field events will work with both the boys and girls teams.

In Boys Volleyball, Greta Lalli will serve as head coach and Margaret "Peg" Guilmette taking on the roles of head junior varsity and assistant varsity coach.



**IN THE DUGOUT:** Joe Acciardo, who will return as Johnston's head baseball coach. (Sun Rise file photo)

The lone vacancy that remains is naming of the head baseball coach at Ferri while Mario Nasisi will direct the girls' fast-pitch softball squad. Brian Iafrate and Greta Lalli will coach the boys and girls track and field teams respectively with

Monique Desmarais serving head girls' volleyball coach.

It is expected that the springs sports teams schedules will be finalized soon, as someone suggested, "as long as the weather cooperates."

## ■ Pitch

(Continued from page 19)

teammate sustained injuries in a car accident when they were struck by a drunk driver. The news broke during Game 1 and the players - many of who knew Dennison - found out shortly after the win.

It was an emotional weekend for the RI hockey community and each team honored Dennison in its own way. The Hawks won and not a single player or coach failed to mention that their win was dedicated to him, but at the end of the day, each team played for Dennison and it was a beautiful thing to see.

Sports really do seem to bring the best out of people and the community together. This is a horrible situation, a terrible loss of life. The local hockey community is tight-knit, so to see everyone come together and enjoy such an outstanding series while also remembering Dennison was quite the story.

Next up is Hendricken basketball, which pulled off consecutive upsets by topping No. 1 La Salle in the state semis then No. 2 Classical in the finals.

For Hendricken standards, this was a down year prior to the state tournament. The Hawks lost to La Salle then Classical twice in the regular season, along with a few other uncharacteristic losses along

the way. Then, the Hawks fell in the Division I Championship to the Purple to make it three-straight defeats.

It seemed like a La Salle-Classical state title was meant to be, but the Hawks did not care. No one counted them out, but it was the first time in a while that they were not the odds-on favorite.

I did a little Final Four preview early last week and I swung by the team's practice to speak with coach Jamal Gomes and a couple of the players. They were in the middle of installing their game plan for La Salle, and watching them work made me have a feeling in my gut that this was going to happen.

They seemed calm, focused, and very aware of not only what La Salle brought to the table, but what their weaknesses in their first meeting were. Hendricken had a full week to prepare, which is scary considering how well-coached the team is.

I never put it on paper, so you'll have to take me at my word. I fully believed Hendricken would win these two games when leaving that practice. They had a week to prepare and get healthy. They seemed to have all the answers on how to beat La Salle, and I really had my doubts that Classical could pull off a fourth straight win. The stars just seemed to be aligning.

So, credit to the Hawks for re-

mind the state why they are the best team. Despite an inconsistent regular season, despite having six games postponed, despite having just one senior in the starting lineup, the Hawks got it done. Again, the majority of the team will be back next year, so it is pretty safe to say it will be the favorite heading into 2022-23.

The last team was the Cranston West girls basketball club, which came up short in the Final Four round against Juanita Sanchez.

The Falcons were the Cinderella team of the tournament, taking an 11th seed into the bracket and beating East Providence and Rogers to reach the Final Four. West held a lead in the fourth quarter and almost made it a third consecutive upset win, but the Cavaliers came up with the big plays in the final four minutes to take the win.

Midway through the regular season, West seemed to be a middle-tier team that would be bounced early from the playoffs. Now, the Falcons are a top-four team in the state and will be returning about half of its lineup. There will be big shoes to fill, no doubt, but West will be one of the most interesting teams heading into next season. It was a fun ride.





Thank you to our athletes, coaches and fans for another great season. Let's get ready for the spring.

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# Climate impacts on fishing and boating

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Climate change is impacting our coastal shoreline, habitat and the fish we love to catch, eat and/or release. If you are interested in what is changing, and how to employ strategies and actions to address climate changes, you will want to attend this free online Climate Fishinar on Wednesday, March 23 and April 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Last week Climate Fishinar partners led by the Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography announced a free online Climate Fishinar series titled, "Climate Change Effects on Recreational Fishing and Boating: Opportunities and Actions".

It is a two-part webinar series that will engage northeast recreational anglers, boaters, and climate experts. They will discuss how climate change is affecting traditional uses – both good and bad. Strategies and actions that individuals, governments, and industry are taking to respond to these changes will also be discussed.

As part of the Climate Fishinar series organizers are holding a photo contest. Send in your photos that depict positive or negative climate impacts on fish, habitat, or resource users and you will have a chance to win one of two \$250 cash card prizes. Photos could include a habitat change, fish that have left the area, fish here or here in greater abundance due to climate impacts, etc.

Organizers plan to screen photos during each session. Session I deadline is Friday, March 18, Session II and the final deadline is Wednesday, April 6. To enter, please send photographs to me, Dave Monti at dmontifish@verizon.net, as I have been asked to coordinate entries. Each photo should be accompanied by the name of the photographer, where the photo was taken, and a brief one to two sentence description of the photograph.

To take a look at the list of charter captains, fishing sharpies and climate scientists participating, or to register for Session I on March 23 visit <https://seagrants.gso.uri.edu/webinar-series-climate-change-effects-on-recreational-fishing-and-boating/>.

Event participants include the University of Rhode Island (URI) Graduate School of Oceanography, Coastal Resources Center, Rhode Island Sea Grant, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Ørsted, American Saltwater Guides Association, Ocean Conservancy, Rhode Island Marine Trades Association, and Safe Harbor Marinas.

## Saltwater Fishing Show big success

The excitement started to build at around 11 a.m. Friday. The line to get in to the New England Saltwater Fishing Show stretched the length of the Rhode Island Convention Center around the corner to the Omni Hotel and then winded in zig zag fashion to accommodate all those wanting to get into the Show at 12 noon. The show is sponsored by the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA).

As the crowd at the entrance stood in line they watched the Fish-



**BEST DAY EVER:** Elisa Cahill and her brother Matt Conti said they had one of their best days ever. Their booth was buzzing with customers all day Saturday at the Fishing Show. (Submitted photos)

ing Show Launch Event. Those participating to open the show included Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator of NOAA (and former RI DEM Director); Terrance Gray, Acting Director of the Department of Environmental Management; RI State Representatives Deborah Ruggiero and Terri Cortvriend (both of them are shore access champions); Greg Vespe, Executive Director and Dawn Filliatreault Wood, Board President or RISAA; and Lynn Medeiros, long time RISAA volunteer and wife of the late Stephen Medeiros, RISSA founding president and Fishing Show director.

The Launch Event included the sounding of vessel horns, one long and three short blasts, symbolic of a vessel leaving its dock as it backs into an alleyway.

Once open, the excitement filled the exhibition hall as thousands of people attended the three day Fishing Show.

## What I liked at the Show?

There was a lot to like at the show, as it is the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast. The Show featured tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, engines, accessories, clothing and much more. About 275 booths and hundreds of manufacturers were represented at the show.

## The Kayak Centre of RI, North Kingstown, RI

Kayaks are still one of the fastest growing segments of boating. I particularly liked the Hobie Mirage Lynx shown at the Kayak Centre booth. Chuck Jay, Hobie Northeast Sales Representative, slapped the side of the Hobie Mirage Lynx and said, "What makes this boat different is that it has a solid core, it's 36 inches wide for great stability, 11 feet long and weighs only 47 pounds." Fully rigged the boat is only 63 pounds. Christopher Cattucci, a fishing sharpie and pro guide for the Centre and Hobie said, "Once I was introduced to kayak fishing I was hooked and have been fishing fresh and saltwater on kayaks ever since." The Hobie Mirage Lynx has a suggested retail price of \$2,995. However, The Kayak Centre has a range of boats and price points. Visit them at [www.kayakcentre.com](http://www.kayakcentre.com) or at 70 Brown Street, North Kingstown (Wickford), RI.

## Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, RI

Elisa Cahill and her brother Matt Conti had one of their best days ever Saturday at the show. Their large end cap booth had hundreds of customers buzzing in and out of it. "I'd like a reel to match up with this rod," said Joel Salafia of Durham, CT. "We have a broad range of reels to match," said Matt Conti of Snug Harbor. Joel settled on a \$210 Penn Squall bait caster reel and left the booth happy with his match. Elisha Cahill said, "It has been very busy, it's been an outstanding Show."

## Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, RI

"We had a terrific Show," said Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle. "Customers each day were ready to buy. Our sales volume was way up. You could tell there was a lot of pent up demand out there." When ask what was new at the show Neil said, "We introduced the new St. Croix Seage Surf Spinning Rods at the show. They are available in 7 to 12 foot lengths and are made with a newly engineered carbon fiber that is both stonger in flexural strength and lighter than previous rods. They range in price from \$210 to \$380. And, have a St. Croix 15-year warranty."

## Saltwater Edge, Middletown, RI

Louis Schlaker, an associate at the Saltwater Edge said, "Top water lures are my favorites for early spring striped bass fishing. Lures four to five inches tike Yo Zuri's Hydro Pencil top water "Walk the Dog" style lure is great. They are available in four colors ... black/silver, sardine, bone and mullet." They were listed at \$14.49 on the Saltwater Edge website. Schlaker said, "I also like using a soft plastic, such as a 7 1/2 inch slug-go and the Shimano Coltsniper Splash Walker is also a great spring top water lure." It was listed at about \$18.99 on the Saltwater Edge website. Visit [www.saltwateredge.com](http://www.saltwateredge.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@verison.net](mailto:dmontifish@verison.net) or visit [www.noflufekfishing.com](http://www.noflufekfishing.com).

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## Everyone's **IRISH** on **St. Patrick's Day!**



*May the road rise up to meet you,  
 May the wind always be at your back,  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face and  
 rains fall soft upon your fields.*



### LOVELY DAY FOR A GUINNESS

- Dry stout characterized by the flavor of roasted barley and a thick creamy head that is the result of beer being mixed with nitrogen when served
- The creator, Arthur Guinness, started brewing ales in 1759
- Guinness has fewer calories per pint than milk and orange juice
- About 40 percent of Guinness' worldwide market is brewed and sold in Africa

### WAKE UP & SMELL THE IRISH COFFEE

- The Irish coffee cocktail is made from hot coffee, Irish whiskey and sugar, topped with thick cream
- Irish coffee was officially invented and named by the head chef at the Shannon International Airport in the 1940s
- The heavy cream is often replaced with liqueurs like Baileys Irish Cream
- The Irish cream used in Baileys amounts to 4.3 percent of Ireland's total milk production

### FUN IRISH FACTS

Each year on St. Patrick's Day, the Chicago River is dyed green as part of their weekend-long celebration.

Church authorities have moved the Roman Catholic celebration of the feast day when it falls during Holy Week. St. Patrick's Day will not fall during Holy Week again until 2160.

New London, Wis. is officially named "New Dublin" each year during the week of St. Patrick's Day

The Government of Ireland has registered the shamrock as a trademark

Before the 20th century, St. Patrick was more commonly shown wearing blue - not green - and the same shade of blue is used on ancient Irish flags.

People of Irish descent are the second largest self-reported ethnic in the United States behind German-Americans

Ireland is ranked second in the world for highest annual alcohol consumption per capita according to the most recent data from the World Health Organization. The U.S. is ranked 43rd.

## Easy Irish Soda Bread

Whether you're Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is a time for Celtic celebrations - so try your luck with a classic like Irish Soda Bread, a popular Irish recipe with a hint of sweetness from cinnamon and raisins.

"Irish Soda Bread gets its name from the fact that it uses baking soda instead of yeast - which means making it is really as simple as mixing the ingredients together and baking it," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens.

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons caraway seed
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup raisins or currants
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Lightly grease 9-inch round cake pan.
- Mix flour, sugar, caraway seed, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Stir in raisins.
- Mix buttermilk, eggs and vanilla in medium bowl; stir into dry ingredients.
- Spread in prepared pan.
- Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. • Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

Source: McCormick

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MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN

# Making Memories

Emilia is four years old. My youngest grandchild. She is the daughter of my middle daughter, Joy. Joy and her husband, Matt, and Emilia live in Texas, so we only see them a few times a year.

Last July we all gathered for a reunion in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. My other two daughters, Rachel and Gretchen, and their families joined us along with my brother and a few assorted cousins. My nephew flew in from Atlanta and Joy, Matt, and Emilia flew in from Dallas.

I took a lot of pictures of everyone doing various activities so that I could print them out and put them in an album. Yes, I am one of those hold-outs who still puts pictures into photo albums.

Emilia experienced the mountains of New Hampshire. From there she visited with us back in Rhode Island having fun at the beach before heading back to Texas.

We saw Emilia again in December. She was the flower girl in my youngest daughter's wedding. Her mother, Joy, was also in the wedding and involved in all the preparations, so Emilia and I spent a lot of time together. I was the mother of the bride as well as the chief babysitter.

After everyone had returned home from the wedding weekend, I noticed that Emilia had left one of her toys behind. A tiny plastic pink pig - about two inches tall - from her "Peppa Pig" collection. Peppa Pig hails from England, which explains why Emilia talked about "going on holiday" and "needing a plaster" for her scraped knee while we were acting out the endless scenarios that Emilia's four-year-old

imagination conjured up during our time together. I thought about just sending Peppa back to Emilia by mail, but then I had an idea.

I spent a few days placing Peppa in various places throughout the house and I took pictures of her doing things that Emilia had enjoyed. Since it was December and the house was decorated for Christmas, Peppa was seen playing with the snowglobes, and visiting with the nutcrackers, and she fit right in with the pint-sized figurines and bears on the window sills. She was also spotted going into the miniature theater where "The Nutcracker" was playing according to the sign on its tiny marquee.

Peppa stared out the window - amazed at the snow, and stood on the piano keys preparing to play Christmas carols, and was even found climbing on the Christmas tree for a close-up view of the star at the top.

Peppa peeked into the Christmas stockings and had lunch - grilled cheese and strawberries - and read "The Night Before Christmas".

I decided to write a story using these pictures. As I was thinking about Peppa's "holiday" I thought about Emilia's vacation with us back in

July. So I selected pictures from New Hampshire and Rhode Island that featured Emilia, and combining them with Peppa's pictures, I came up with "The Adventures of Emilia and Peppa on Holiday".

Emilia's pictures showed her swimming, playing in the sand with her cousins, and eating ice cream. My favorite was the picture I had taken of her from the chairlift at Waterville Valley. Joy and I tried to convince Emilia to ride up with us. She took one look at it and said, "No, it's too high and scary!"

So Joy and I rode up together. And Emilia was right. On our way back down the mountain the chairlift began to swing and bounce erratically. I would not have been a very good example of bravery for Emilia, as I really do have a fear of heights. Hyperventilating Nanas with eyes squeezed shut and wailing about wanting to get off would not have been a scene I'd want her to witness. Once the chairlift stabilized and continued its downward journey (and I had bravely opened my eyes), I spotted Emilia at the bottom waiting with her cousins for our arrival. I took a picture of her waving to us as we descended. Sometimes four-year-olds are wise beyond their years.

Between Peppa's holiday and Emilia's vacation, I had forty-eight pictures in all. I wrote a few sentences about each picture and typed them into story form. I wasn't sure how to display the pictures, but one day I happened to run into the Dollar Store. Walking down a random aisle I saw a lone small photo album that held fifty pictures. It was soft and pliable - just right for little hands - pink and decorated with hearts, unicorns, and rainbows. It was the



“Yes, I am one of those holdouts who still puts pictures into photo albums.”

only one like it on the shelf - as if it had been waiting just for me - and for only a dollar - it was perfect.

Emilia loved it. So much so that she asked her parents to read the story to her daily - many, many times daily - while she took charge of the photo album - turning the pages to match the text. I offered to read it to her on Facetime, to give her parents a break.

On Christmas I shared it with my older grandchildren, Michael, Abby, and Anthony since they were featured in many of the pictures with Emilia. Being teenagers, they exchanged knowing glances with each other, but I also saw a few smiles escaping from their indulgently attentive faces, too.

Perhaps they were remembering when they were little and the times we spent together. "Making memories" is what we used to call our shared adventures when they were Emilia's age.

Right now Emilia is reveling in the fun of her recent past. Maybe someday years from now she'll pull out a dusty pink photo album decorated with hearts, unicorns, and rainbows and find the faded typed pages that went with it. Maybe she'll remember and laugh and reminisce about how she and Nana made memories so many years ago.

Memories can be fleeting - like ocean waves that appear and recede.

Each one disappears and another takes its place. I want to preserve as many of those ocean wave memories as I can to treasure in the years ahead, and for my grandchildren to treasure, too, as they grow into adulthood and travel through their years.

Emilia asked me to write another story. She wants it to be about her recent flower girl experience in her Aunt Gretchen's wedding. Of course I said I would and I will need to get on it - we'll be seeing her again in April.

Her mother had one request. "Perhaps you could make it.....a bit shorter this time?"

I told her I'd try - but who knows? Emilia and I agree that we can never have too many shared memories to cherish and she wants me to remember to include all of them, so that she'll remember, too.

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RETIREMENT SPARKS

by ELAINE M. DECKER

# How Well Do You Know Your Columnist?

Presenting a series of questions to see how well you know your Retirement Sparks columnist, Elaine Decker. Take this self-scoring quiz and compare your results to answers below. There may be more than one answer for each question.

**1. Which of the following careers/professions did Elaine never consider?**

- Archeologist
- Community Organizer
- Computer Programmer
- Catholic Nun
- Product Manager
- Politician

**2. Which of the following did Elaine ever wear to work at Colgate Palmolive in NYC?**

- Button-front mini skirt over hot pants romper
- Chalk stripe 3-piece suit
- Fishnet stockings
- Joan and David Pumps
- Over-the-knee Boots
- White blouse with pussycat bow

**3. Never Have I Ever...**

- Done karaoke
- Gotten a tattoo
- Hitchhiked
- Played beer pong
- Smoked marijuana
- Worn Crocs

**4. Bones Elaine has broken and how**

- Ankle snow skiing
- Arm falling from a swing
- Arm ice skating
- Foot grocery shopping
- Foot hanging out laundry
- Nose water skiing

**5. Elaine's Claims To Fame: Unusual skills and accomplishments**

- Had 2 essays published in the Sunday New York Times
- Hand made outfits that won first prize 13 times for Colgate's Charity Doll Pageant
- Received Brown University's Nan Tracy Award for alumni service to class
- Marched with a band in parades, including Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City
- Once caught a fish with a worm tied to a fishing line (no lure or sinker)
- Won Most Original at a Halloween party dressed as a cat with a huge hair ball

**6. Which of the following are NOT names of cats Elaine has ever owned?**

- Daisy Hyacinth
- Lily Magnolia
- Luke the Magnificent
- Pansy Gardenia
- Thomas of the Train Tracks
- Tulip Wisteria

**7. Which of the following musical instruments has Elaine NOT played?**

- Accordion
- Alto Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Flutophone
- Oboe
- Piano

**ANSWERS:**

1. Elaine never considered being a community organizer or a politician. Others were career paths she followed or considered at least briefly when she was young.

2. Elaine wore a button-front mini skirt over a hot pants romper, a chalk stripe 3-piece suit and a white blouse with pussycat bow. Talk about a split personality! (She couldn't afford Joan and David pumps.)

3. Elaine never did any of the things listed in item 3. Really.

4. Clumsy Elaine broke all those bones listed except an ankle snow skiing.

5. All are Elaine's claims to fame except that she didn't win most original for that cat costume.

6. These are the actual names of Elaine's first six cats. Bonus points if you know the names of the three cats she has now. (Email her for answers.)

7. Elaine has not played accordion or clarinet. Her brother tried out the accordion. Flutophone was in fourth grade. She currently plays alto saxophone in a community band.

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 Elaine M. Decker's books include *Retirement Downsizing—A Humorous Guide*, *Retirement Sparks*, *Retirement Sparks Again*, *Retirement Sparks Redux* and *CANCER: A Coping Guide*. Her essays appear in the anthologies: *80 Things To Do When You Turn 80* and *70 Things To Do When You Turn 70*. All are available on Amazon. Contact her at: [emdecker@ix.netcom.com](mailto:emdecker@ix.netcom.com)



AARP - RHODE ISLAND

by CATHERINE TAYLOR

# Let RI Vote!

Elections in 2020 were unlike anything Rhode Island voters had experienced before. In response to the pandemic, state leaders put in place a number of common-sense measures to ensure that COVID-19 didn't keep us and our neighbors from exercising our most basic right to vote: expanding mail ballot dropboxes, making the emergency voting process more like real early voting, ending the unnecessary requirement that voters have the signature of two witnesses or a notary on their mail ballot vote, and more.

And the results spoke for themselves. The 2020 elections saw Rhode Island's highest turnout ever, even amidst a public health crisis. Despite their success, these reforms were only temporary, and expired at the end of 2020. And yet, the COVID crisis still sweeps across our communities years later, showing little signs of stopping.

I'm happy to share that AARP Rhode Island—on behalf of our 132,000 members across the state—is proud to be a key supporter of this year's Let RI Vote Act.

At AARP, our members' health and safety is our top priority, which is why we are a leader in the effort to make the changes that made the 2020 elections such a success permanent, through the Let RI Vote Act. According to AARP Rhode Island's recent Vital Voices Survey, two-thirds (66%) of Rhode Island voters age 45+ strongly or somewhat support making permanent provisions to allow voters more choices in the way we can vote. And those choices are personally important: 55% of Rhode Island registered voters age 45+ prefer to vote at their polling place on election day in general elections, while 43% prefer to vote early.

We know that older adults are smart, committed citizens, and pandemic or not, deserve the ability to choose how you want to vote: whether early in-person, by mail, or on election day. And you deserve to have the process of voting be as straightforward, common-sense, and secure as possible.

**This year's Let RI Vote bills would make voting in our state better and more secure than ever. They would:**

- Allow a voter to apply for a mail ballot online
- Shorten the deadline to request a Braille ballot
- Expand who is eligible to be on the 'permanent mail ballot application list' to include long-term nursing home residents
- Make permanent the secure mail ballot dropboxes that were used in every community in 2020
- And, of course, End the requirement that mail ballots be signed by two witnesses or a notary public, which we know has been a barrier for so many of our members across the state to exercise their voting rights in past years.

AARP is proud to join the dozens of organizations who are supporting these bills.

And we hope you'll take action too. Text "LETRIVOTE" to 30403, and get involved. Contact your lawmaker. Talk to your neighbors, and explain that the Let RI Vote Act is the best way to ensure all Rhode Islanders have accessible, secure voting options.

The 2022 elections are right around the corner. So let's pass the Let RI Vote Act as soon as possible; it's what AARP members, Rhode Island's older adults, and voters across our state deserve.

**Coming Soon: Your Garden**

If you're like me, the arrival of March means your mind is on your garden – dreaming of what to plant this year, and impatient to get started. AARP Rhode Island is gearing up for the growing season with the spring edition of our popular series of online workshops with experts from the URI Master Gardener program. This spring's topics include seed starting, bug and pest control and time-tested secrets to produce your most bountiful vegetable garden ever. The free, live three-part online series kicks off April 5. Register at [www.aarp.org/RIEvents](http://www.aarp.org/RIEvents). You can watch recordings of last fall's workshops, featuring sessions on pollinators, container gardens, and late-season plantings, by visiting the AARPRI Replay Center at [www.aarp.org/RIReplays](http://www.aarp.org/RIReplays). There are many more videos – on healthy cooking (what to do with all those veggies?), livable communities, and more -- to check out there, too.

Community gardens are important features of age-friendly, livable communities that get people of all ages and abilities outside and bring them together to grow and share food. That's why the AARP Community Challenge Grants program supports projects like community gardens and outdoor spaces that make our neighborhoods great places to live. Applications for 2022 quick-action Community Challenge grants are open to non-profit organizations and government entities now through March 22. Learn more, see videos describing past winning projects -- such as Southside Community Land Trust's intergenerational garden project with St. Martin de Porres Center -- and apply at [www.aarp.org/RILivable](http://www.aarp.org/RILivable).

Catherine Taylor is State Director of AARP Rhode Island

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## SOCIAL SECURITY

by CHERYL TUDINO  
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

# Defend against scammers who target Social Security

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents or other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions.

Here are three things you should do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information or payment of any kind.
- Report the scam at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov) to immediately notify the law enforcement team in our Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says there's a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from us or law enforcement about Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov).

# SCAM ALERT



Securing today and tomorrow

The Social Security Administration will never threaten, scare, or pressure you to take an immediate action.



### If you receive a call, text, or email that...

- Threatens to **suspend your Social Security number**, even if they have part or all of your Social Security number
- Warns of **arrest or legal action**
- Demands or requests **immediate payment**
- Requires payment by **gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency, or by mailing cash**
- Pressures you for **personal information**
- Requests **secrecy**
- Threatens to **seize your bank account**
- Promises to **increase your Social Security benefit**
- Tries to gain your trust by providing **fake "documentation," false "evidence," or the name of a real government official**

...it is a **scam!**

**Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore Them!**

### Protect yourself and others from Social Security-related scams

- **Try to stay calm.** Do not provide anyone with money or personal information when you feel pressured, threatened, or scared.
- **Hang up or ignore it.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email, hang up or do not respond. Government employees will not threaten you, demand immediate payment, or try to gain your trust by sending you pictures or documents.
- **Report Social Security-related scams.** If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email that mentions Social Security, ignore it and report it to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Do not be embarrassed if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss.
- **Get up-to-date information.** Follow SSA OIG on Twitter @TheSSAOIG and Facebook @SSA Office of the Inspector General for the latest information on Social Security-related scams. Visit the Federal Trade Commission for information on other government scams.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit [oig.ssa.gov/scam](http://oig.ssa.gov/scam) for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

Social Security Administration | Publication No. 05-10597 | September 2021 | Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense



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## YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

# Start the 2022 tax year off right by checking withholdings

One way people can get the new tax year off to a good start is by checking their federal income tax withholding. They can do this using the Tax Withholding Estimator on IRS.gov.

This online tool helps employees avoid having too much or too little tax withheld from their wages. It also helps self-employed people, who have wage income, estimate tax payments that they should make to avoid unexpected results at tax time. Having too little withheld can result in a tax bill or even a penalty at tax time. Having too much withheld results in less money in their pocket. The estimator can help them get to a balance of zero or a desired refund amount.

### Taxpayers can use the results from the Tax Withholding Estimator to determine if they should:

- Complete a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate and submit it to their employer.
- Make an additional or estimated tax payment to the IRS.

### The Tax Withholding Estimator asks taxpayers to estimate:

- Their 2022 income.
- The number of children they will claim for the child tax credit and earned income tax credit.
- Other items that will affect their 2022 tax return when they file in 2023.

The Tax Withholding Estimator does not ask for personally identifiable information, such as a name, Social Se-



curity number, address, and bank account numbers. The IRS doesn't save or record the information entered in the Estimator.

### Before using the Estimator, it can be helpful for taxpayers to gather applicable income documents including:

- Their pay stubs
- Forms W-2 from employers to estimate their annual income
- Forms 1099 from banks, issuing agencies and other payers including unemployment compensation, dividends, distributions from a pension, annuity, or retirement plan

- Form 1099-K, 1099-MISC, W-2 or other income statement for workers in the gig economy
- Form 1099-INT for interest received
- Other income documents and records of virtual currency transactions

These documents are not needed to use the estimator but having them handy will help taxpayers estimate 2022 income and answer other questions asked during the process.

The Tax Withholding Estimator results will only be as accurate as the information entered by the taxpayer. People with only pension income should not use the Estimator. Those with wage income can account for current or future pension income. People with more complex tax situations should use the instructions in Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax. This includes taxpayers who owe alternative minimum tax or certain other taxes, and people with long-term capital gains or qualified dividends. For additional information please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)



SENIOR ISSUES

by LARRY GRIMALDI

# You've Got A Friend and The Three Amigos

(With apologies to Carole King and James Taylor, Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, and Martin Short)

The word "friendship" is rooted in the Old English word, "freondscipe," signifying a mutual liking or regard. Musical catalogues are full of songs about friendship such as "You've Got a Friend in Me," (Randy Newman), "Thank You for Being a Friend," (Andrew Gold), "Lean on Me," (Bill Withers), "That's What Friends Are For," (Stevie Wonder), and the aforementioned, "You've Got a Friend."

Family members are friends on an intimate level (except for a disgruntled Italian relative who casts the evil-eye on you for a perceived slight or long-forgotten insult). I am very fortunate to have a caring, loving and supportive immediate family. I am also surrounded by a legion of compassionate, empathetic, and extraordinary in-laws who adopted me as a sibling more than 50 years ago. We have celebrated life's joys, triumphs and milestones together, and consoled each other when confronted with life's challenges.

My three children and five grandchildren are the gold standards of my friendships. We share special bonds that are a source of constant joy. At the pinnacle of the friendship mountain stands my wife Kathy. We have worked together, raised our children, laughed, cried, argued, apologized, compromised, traveled, and shared our lives with a mutual respect and faithfulness that is all too uncommon in today's disposable world. Most importantly, she has cared, nurtured, endured, and loved me unconditionally during the roughest times of my life. Her quiet courage and inner strength are embodied in Bill Withers' "Lean on Me."

Fortune may favor you with a small, loyal circle of true friends. Sometimes it takes a crisis to realize how grateful you are for their presence and to appreciate their sincere concern for your well-being. They stand by you; check on you frequently to boost your morale when you are out-of-sorts, and inspire you to better health. I don't want to embarrass them, so I'll just refer to them as the Three Amigos. I know they will recognize themselves.

I met Amigo One in 1962 as a freshman at Classical High School. We worked hard to handle the rigors of a strenuous college preparatory curriculum. In retrospect, Classical High School Academic Boot Camp was the perfect training ground for higher education. (But I'm getting ahead of myself). Amigo One and I double-dated for high school dances, spent many Sundays at South County beaches, and speculated about life and our futures. We moved uptown (or down south if you prefer) to the University of Rhode Island in 1966. I preferred a relaxed approach my journalism studies and was eager to explore the opportunities of my new-found freedom. He applied extraordinary effort to his engineering courses. I do take credit, however, for his first inebriation on Colt 45 malt liquor at one of the regular weekend parties in my off-campus room. While he was more conservative than me, our lives moved on surprising similar paths after graduation. We were both married within two years and were best men at each other's wedding. We both had three children and became homeowners.

Obligations of growing families and establishing our respective careers curtailed time spent together. With retirement and other obligations in the rear-view mirror, we reinvigorated our friendship. After my recent surgeries, Amigo One called and e-mailed me often, asking about my recovery progress and lifting my spirits. This friendship of more than 60 years is a perfect reflection of Randy Newman's, "You've Got a Friend in Me."

I met Amigo Two when I began coaching my son's Little League team in the mid-1980s. We shared similar perspectives about youth sports, such as learning the game, good sportsmanship, and, above all, having fun. He was a charter member of the Friday Night After Little League Games "Conference" at a local pub. As the adage goes, "The proof is in the pudding." More than 30 years later, when we see one our former players, they greet us enthusiastically and spend a few moments reminiscing about games played at Lee Romano field. I realized that we had instilled the correct perspective one night when one of my players asked if the team would be still be treated to ice cream AFTER we had lost a game. Over the years, this friendship bloomed into cruises, trips to California wine country, tours of France and Italy, the Saratoga Race Track, among other travels, and countless celebrations (some for no reason at all) at each other's houses. As with Amigo One, he has made it a point to call and check on me numerous times during my recent illness.

For Amigo Two, "Thank You for Being a Friend," by Andrew Gold is appropriate.

I met Amigo Three via the same Little League connection as Amigo Two. He was also a member of the Friday Night "Conference." As with Amigo Two, the friendship bloomed into cruises, a tour of Italy, trips to Saratoga and more gatherings at each other's houses. The friendship has spanned over three decades with one interesting twist—a sharp division of political views. I fall on the left of the political spectrum. He is on the right. Last summer, were enjoying a cold one after a golf game when we began a boisterous discussion about the 45th president. As the third member of our threesome listened to a debate marked by increasing volume, the gentleman at the next table was so entertained that he sent us a beer. Even this heated exchange did not our fracture our friendship. We talked ourselves out and then scheduled our 10:36 Thursday tee time with no bruised egos. As with the other Amigos, he called frequently while I was ill. As winter approached, we talked about our mutual snowbird sabbaticals in south Florida. For Amigo Three, I chose "That's What Friends are For," by Stevie Wonder.

By now, it's obvious that "You've Got a Friend" applies to each of these special persons in my life.

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Comments can be e-mailed to lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com.

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# from IRISH pastures comes a pot of gold

FAMILY FEATURES

**Y**es, there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It's found in each blade of grass growing in Ireland's lush pastures. Small herds of cows graze freely, and the milk, rich in beta-carotene from the grass, produces butter and cheeses of an exceptionally golden hue.

Thousands of years before the Irish discovered potatoes, dairy cows, milk and butter were being woven into the fabric of Irish society, according to the Cork Butter Museum in Cork City, Ireland. The Cork Butter Exchange, a market created by the merchants of Cork City in 1769, was in its time, the largest butter market in the world, exporting as far away as Europe and America.

Today, dairy products continue to play an important role in Irish cooking. Cooperatives of farmers, creameries and cheesemakers provide delicious Irish butter and cheeses throughout the U.S. under the Kerrygold label.

Here are some iconic recipes from some stars of Irish cooking, using Kerrygold cheeses and butter. To learn more about Kerrygold, and for where-to-buy information, visit [www.kerrygold.com/usa](http://www.kerrygold.com/usa).

## Roasted Root Vegetable Soup

Serves 4 to 6

"You can substitute pumpkin, turnip or celeriac for the swede (rutabaga), or just use a mixture — this is a very flexible recipe."

— Neven Maguire, chef/owner of the renowned MacNean House and Restaurant in Blacklion, County Cavan, Ireland; popular TV cooking star and cookbook author

- 1 small swede (rutabaga) cut into cubes
- 2 carrots, cut into cubes
- 1 parsnip, cut into cubes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) Kerrygold Irish Butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 quart (4 cups) vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup single cream (or substitute half and half)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place swede, carrots and parsnip on baking sheet and drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Season generously and roast for 25 to 30 minutes until golden brown and tender, shaking baking sheet occasionally to ensure even cooking.

Meanwhile, heat remaining tablespoon olive oil and butter in large heavy-based pot, and add onion, celery, garlic and thyme. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes until softened but not browned, stirring occasionally.

Add roasted root vegetables to pan and then pour in stock. Bring gently to boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes until completely tender, stirring occasionally. Purée with a hand blender until completely smooth.

To serve, stir cream into soup. Gently heat through and season to taste, then ladle into warmed bowls.

**Note:** You don't have to add the cream if you're watching the calories, but you might need a little extra stock to thin the soup.



Brown Soda Bread, Roasted Root Vegetable Soup and Cheese Toasties

## Cheese Toasties

Serves 4 to 6

- 4 tablespoons (1/4 cup) Kerrygold Irish Butter
- 8 slices firm, country-style white bread
- 1 package (7 ounces) Kerrygold Dubliner Cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon snipped fresh chives
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Butter bread and arrange cheese over half of the slices, buttered side down. Sprinkle with chives and cover with remaining slices, buttered side up.

Preheat a griddle or large non-stick frying pan and cook sandwiches two at a time 2 minutes each side until golden brown and cheese has melted. Keep hot.

To serve, cut the cheese toasties into fingers.

## Brown Soda Bread

Makes 2 loaves

"This is an all-purpose and relatively fool-proof recipe based on several I collected while researching 'The Country Cooking of Ireland.'"

— author Colman Andrews, whose Irish cookbook won the 2010 James Beard Foundation award for Best International Cookbook and Cookbook of the Year

- 3 1/2 cups stone-ground whole wheat flour, preferably Irish or Irish-style
- 1 1/2 cups unbleached white flour, preferably Irish, or pastry flour, plus more for dusting
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon softened Kerrygold Irish Butter, plus more for greasing
- 1 3/4 to 2 cups room-temperature buttermilk

Preheat oven to 375°F. Mix wheat flour, white flour, baking soda and salt together in a medium bowl. Work butter into mixture with your fingers.

Form a well in the middle of flour mixture and pour buttermilk into the well. Form your hand into a rigid claw and stir dough slowly but steadily in a spiral motion, starting in the middle and working outwards. Dough should be soft but not too wet or sticky. (Start with 1 3/4 cups buttermilk, gradually adding, if necessary, to achieve the right consistency.)

Turn dough out onto a floured board. Flour your hands lightly, then shape dough into a flat rectangle about 2 inches high. Cut dough in half lengthwise with a wet knife, then gently push each half into a lightly greased glass or foil loaf pan. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until the tops of the loaves are nicely browned.

Serve this bread with plenty of Kerrygold Irish Butter.

## Dubliner Shepherd's Pie

Makes 4 to 6 servings

"Our family loves a hearty shepherd's pie after a long day working on the farm. Because our cows produce milk to make Kerrygold Dubliner Cheese, we like to add some shredded Dubliner to the potato crust." — Donal Murphy, Kerrygold dairy farmer, Bandon, County Cork, Ireland

### Potato Topping:

- 1 1/4 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 tablespoons Kerrygold Irish Butter
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 cup shredded Kerrygold Dubliner Cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### Filling:

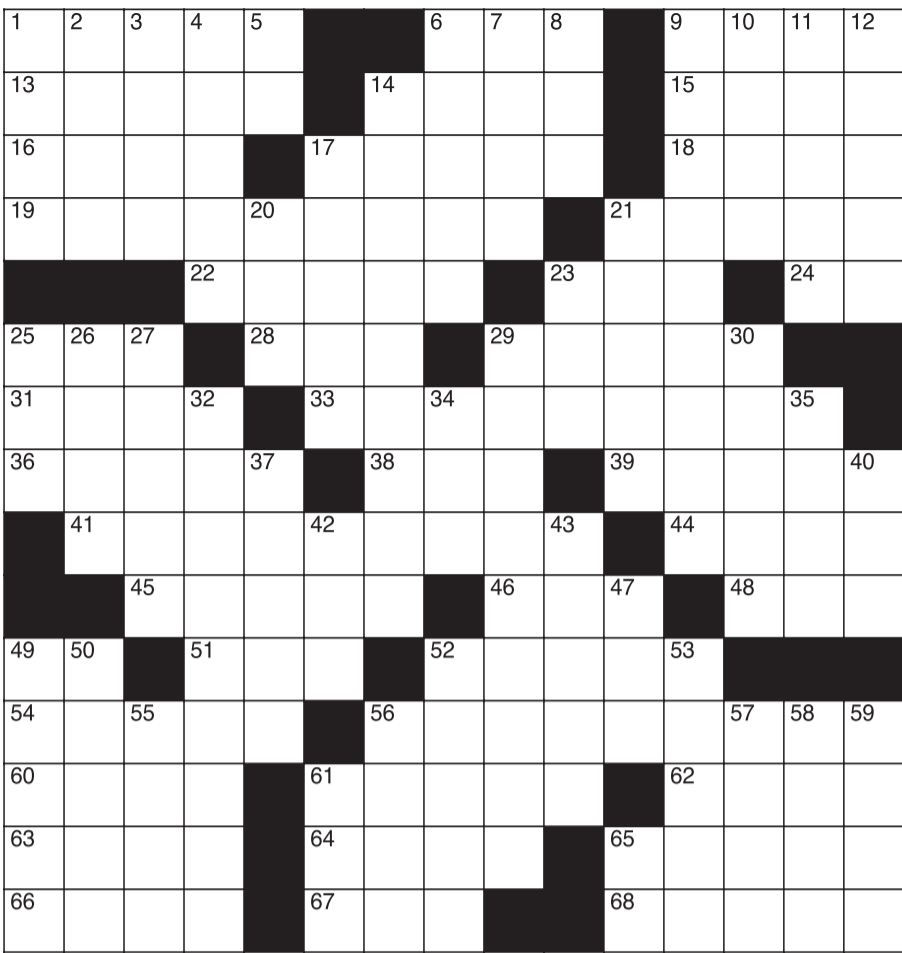
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 2 tablespoons Kerrygold Irish Butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4 small carrots, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 3/4 cup Guinness Stout
- 3/4 cup beef stock
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup frozen peas, thawed

Preheat oven to 375°F and lightly butter an 11- x 7-inch baking dish. Cook potatoes in boiling water for 15 minutes or until very tender; drain well. Mash with butter and milk until smooth, then stir in cheese and salt and set aside.

Crumble beef into a medium skillet and cook until no longer pink; remove from skillet and set aside. In same skillet, melt butter. Add onion and carrots; cook for 10 minutes over medium heat to soften, stirring occasionally. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute more.

Add Guinness, stock, thyme and salt; cook and stir until mixture is slightly thickened then stir in peas and cooked beef. Spoon into prepared baking dish then spread potato mixture over the top. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until top is lightly browned.





**CLUES ACROSS**

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Punctuation mark        | 39. The body's main artery           |
| 6. Married woman           | 41. Altered the original state       |
| 9. Nocturnal rodent        | 44. Alleges                          |
| 13. Suffix                 | 45. Short-billed rails               |
| 14. A way to disappoint    | 46. Northern Thai province           |
| 15. Saddle horse           | 48. Albanian monetary unit           |
| 16. West African country   | 49. Who the Wolverines play for      |
| 17. Philippine island      | 51. Oath                             |
| 18. "Girls" creator Dunham | 52. Astronomical period              |
| 19. A type of twin         | 54. A single unit                    |
| 21. Groans                 | 56. Presides over                    |
| 22. Infections             | 60. Spoiled tot                      |
| 23. What a beaver makes    | 61. Hillsides                        |
| 24. Thou                   | 62. Fertility god                    |
| 25. Make a mistake         | 63. Assuage                          |
| 28. Receive                | 64. Signs a contract                 |
| 29. Dresses                | 65. Ancient Greek war dance          |
| 31. Burn the surface of    | 66. Allows                           |
| 33. Where coaches observe  | 67. Lunar crater                     |
| 36. Ceremonial offices     | 68. Crash a motorcycle (Brit. slang) |
| 38. Paddle                 |                                      |

**CLUES DOWN**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Loose-fitting undergarment  | 30. Name given to plant group              |
| 2. Western Romanian city       | 32. Improves                               |
| 3. Unit of length              | 34. Patriotic women                        |
| 4. Type of electricity         | 35. Inflamed swelling on the eyelid        |
| 5. Article                     | 37. Instrument in Indian music             |
| 6. Mothers                     | 40. Request                                |
| 7. Monetary unit               | 42. Make into leather without using tannin |
| 8. Single Lens Reflex          | 43. Defies                                 |
| 9. Tan-colored horses          | 47. Neither                                |
| 10. Region                     | 49. Flower cluster                         |
| 11. Cautious in spending money | 50. Phonological unit                      |
| 12. Belittle                   | 52. Leaves in water                        |
| 14. Sarcastic                  | 53. Cavalry-sword                          |
| 17. Fathers                    | 55. Famed American cartoonist              |
| 20. Clothes                    | 56. Messenger ribonucleic acid             |
| 21. Opera's Callas             | 57. Scarlett's home                        |
| 23. Lentil dish                | 58. Make                                   |
| 25. Energy-saving module       | 59. Stony waste matter                     |
| 26. Make sense of a language   | 61. What to do at auction                  |
| 27. Hurries through            | 65. Incorrect letters                      |
| 29. Songs to one's lover       |  |

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ACCORDING TO DON  
 by DON FOWLER

## Telephone Help For The Hearing Impaired

“Could you please repeat that?” I would often say to the person on the other end of the phone call.

Even with my hearing aids, I would often have a problem understanding the words.

My ENT doctor had the perfect solution: A CaptionCall phone.

Similar to captioned television, CaptionCall provides written captions on a large, easy-to-read screen. It works like a regular telephone, using a handset or built in speaker.

A letter from your doctor sets the process in motion, all available through a special grant.

An installer/instructor came to my house and set the phone up, teaching me how to use its many features and then providing me with a manual containing all the information that I will forget when he leaves. The manual is, like the display screen, even in large print. How did they know?

Want to hear the really good news? It is all FREE!

As a provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. federal government established a fund to give individuals with hearing loss access to captioned telephone service at no cost.

The many features include the speaker phone, which allows my wife to participate in the call from her chair, volume control, a missed call button, so that you can return calls with one touch of a button, and a phone book built into the machine.

The phone is invaluable to me, as I often do telephone interviews for Prime Time. During some of the interviews, I will talk to people with specific accents, resulting in the King's English getting murdered.

“Don” often becomes “Dawn” while “Joyce” came out “Juice”.

Note: There is at least one other company providing this service, and the phones are available for purchase for those who do not qualify.

## Right at Home of Rhode Island receives 2022 Best of Home Care® Award

In-home care services, and the caregivers who provide those services, have been critical to the peace of mind of families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, local Right at Home offices have been an in-home care solution to families and have created secure employment for caregivers. In recognition of those efforts, Right at Home of Warwick, Rhode Island, a local office, received the 2022 Best of Home Care® – Employer of Choice Award from Home Care Pulse®, a leading experience management firm in the home care industry that performs satisfaction research and quality assurance.

The Best of Home Care – Employer of Choice Award is based on the results of caregiver experience surveys. Among the qualifications, providers must have their caregivers surveyed by Home Care Pulse for at least six consecutive months and have an overall satisfaction score of 8.75 or higher.

Right at Home owners Naomi Cotrone and her brother Asher Fink are incredibly excited to receive this award. They opened their Right at Home business in 2014 and are grateful to be involved in the local community by providing an outstanding work setting for their caregivers. Naomi and Asher are extremely humbled by this recognition especially given the experience of the past couple of years with COVID-19.

“We’re excited to congratulate Right at Home of Rhode Island for their well-deserved achievement: earning the Best of Home Care – Employer of Choice Award,” said Todd Austin, President of Home Care Pulse. “Since this award is based on employee feedback, it shows the dedication Right at Home of Rhode Island has to providing their employees with a great working experience, ensuring clients have well-trained, compassionate caregivers.”

Right at Home partners with Home Care Pulse to gather feedback from clients and caregivers via live phone interviews each month. Because Home Care Pulse is an independent third-party company, it is able to collect honest and unbiased feedback. Great care starts with happy caregivers, and the Employer of Choice Award validates that Right at Home’s caregivers like working for the home care agency, which translates into exceptional care for clients.

### ABOUT RIGHT AT HOME

The Warwick, Rhode Island office of Right at Home is a locally owned and operated franchise office of Right at Home, LLC, serving the communities of Kent County and Providence County. For more information, contact Right at Home of Warwick, Rhode Island at [www.rahri.com](http://www.rahri.com), at 401-383-1950 or by email at [tricia@rahri.com](mailto:tricia@rahri.com)



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I	D	E	N	T	I	C	A	L		M	O	A	N	S	
			S	O	R	E	S		D	A	M		Y	E	
E	R	R		G	E	T		S	A	R	I	S			
S	E	A	R		S	I	D	E	L	I	N	E	S		
M	A	C	E	S		O	A	R		A	O	R	T	A	
		D	E	N	A	T	U	R	E	D		S	A	Y	S
		S	O	R	A	S		N	A	N		L	E	K	
U	M		V	O	W		S	A	R	O	S				
M	O	N	A	D		M	O	D	E	R	A	T	E	S	
B	R	A	T		B	R	A	E	S		B	A	A	L	
E	A	S	E		I	N	K	S		S	E	R	R	A	
L	E	T	S		D	A	S		P	R	A	N	G		

*Around the World*



## Uncorked!

A Food & Wine Event to Benefit



Saturday, April 9, 2022

Pawtucket Armory Arts Center

Tickets at [ripbs.org](http://ripbs.org)

Celebrity Guest

Maria Lawton

*Maria's Portuguese Table*

Event Sponsors

