

'DUMP THAT WATER!'

Brown Ave. kids 'Pay to Pour' for Special Olympics

By RORY SCHULER

Elit Sarli stepped on the tiny stool, steadied on each side by a familiar teacher. Together they lifted a heavy bucket filled with ice water over the head of Brown Avenue School Principal Helina Dlugon.

Sarli, a third-grader, giggled and grinned. Last Wednesday, he was the king of the school, having raised more than any other student toward the school's own version of "The Polar Plunge" called "Pay to Pour."

The school had hoped to raise \$1,000 to help increase awareness for Special Olympics RI.

Sarli, as the school's top student fundraiser, had his choice of five faculty members. He raised more than \$1,200 on his own, and chose the school's fearless leader as his ice water target.

Teachers Amanda Sloan and Bryana Ruisi helped Sarli hoist the bucket high. Dlugon gasped. And the final pour of the day swept over the school's top administrator, who smiled and struggled to sweep the water from her eyes.

Math Interventionist Cindy Joyce helped to compile some notes on the Brown Avenue Polar Plunge.

Joyce and the rest of the school's Inclusion Core Team, which includes Dlugon, faculty members Deana Lavoie and Amanda Sloan, and Special Olympics Team Member Tanya Creamer, have been working toward becoming a Unified Champion School, through a partnership with the Special Olympics of Rhode Island (SORI).



HEAD OF THE CLASS: Students lined up to soak teachers and most of all, the Brown Avenue School's Principal Helina Dlugon. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

POUR - PAGE 12



FEDERAL GRANT: Rep. James Langevin announced a \$1.1 million federal grant to "rehabilitate and restore" Johnston's Youth Soccer Complex. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Johnston lands \$1.1 million grant for new soccer complex

By RORY SCHULER

Rhode Island and Johnston's top politicians gathered inside the town's Johnston Indoor Recreation Center Saturday afternoon. Members and coaches of local soccer teams packed the blue bleachers lined up on the gym floor.

"We've got some great news," announced Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena.

Polisena wouldn't reveal the reason for the assembly before the event. Instead, he packed the auditorium with Ocean State dignitaries like Gov. Dan McKee, Attorney General Peter Neronha, Rep. James Langevin, Sen. Jack Reed, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins, a Johnston native.

GRANT - PAGE 4

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG



Raymond A. Grundy

FELONY ASSAULT

Around 1 p.m., Feb. 28, members of third watch were notified by communications personnel that Scituate Police and Rhode Island State Police were in pursuit of a stolen motor vehicle.

The vehicle was described as a black Volvo S80 with Massachusetts plates, which had been entered into NCIC as stolen by the Uxbridge Police Department earlier that day.

Communications personnel reported that the vehicle was now traveling east on Hartford Avenue and had crossed into Johnston.

Johnston Police positioned a marked cruiser in the area of 2100 Hartford Ave., facing eastbound.

"Shortly after I observed the suspect vehicle drive past my location and enter the westbound lane of travel," Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri wrote in the incident report.

The suspect starting traveling the wrong way on Hartford Avenue, so Johnston Police initiated a pursuit and took over as lead vehicles.

"As the second car I began broadcasting the direction, speed and traffic conditions, as well as the fact the vehicle was traveling on the wrong side of Hartford Avenue," Santurri wrote. "At this time the suspect vehicle was traveling in excess of 65 MPH in a posted 35 MPH zone."

As the pursuit approached the intersection of Hartford Avenue and the Interstate-295 South ramp, the vehicle veered back into the eastbound lanes and accelerated to around 80 MPH.

The pursuit continued east until the intersection with Atwood Avenue, when the vehicle nearly struck a third Johnston Police cruiser that had attempted to join the chase.

"While I was in the area of 1495 Hartford Ave., facing west, I observed the suspect vehicle traveling east at a high rate of speed," Johnston Police Officer Michael E. Andreozzi wrote in his incident report narrative. "Suddenly, and without warning, the suspect vehicle left the eastbound lane of travel and was heading directly at my police vehicle. To avoid a head-on collision with the suspect vehicle, I immediately turned to-

wards the right lane narrowly missing being struck by the suspect vehicle."

The near-miss led to an upgrade in criminal charges.

"At that time I was able to advise officers over the police radio that the suspect's violent actions now consisted of Assault with a Deadly Weapon (motor vehicle)," Andreozzi wrote.

In the vicinity of 1300 Hartford Ave., the suspect's vehicle collided with another vehicle as it was attempting to turn left onto Hartford Avenue. A cruiser was also damaged in the collision, by a tire that was dislodged from the civilian vehicle struck by the suspect.

"As a result of the collision the suspect vehicle became disabled and came to rest in the area of 1277 Hartford Ave.," Santurri wrote. "I then observed a malke exit the driver's side of the vehicle and attempt to run from the location. At this time I drew my Department issued weapon and ordered the suspect to the ground, to which he complied."

The driver was identified as Raymond A. Grundy, of 136 Daniel Ave., Providence. Grundy also had a female passenger in the chase vehicle. She was not identified by police in the redacted police incident report.

Grundy was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, where he was processed and held pending arraignment.

A criminal background check revealed Grundy had two active bench warrants — the first out of Providence Superior Court for failure to appear at a Restitution Payment hearing, and resulting bench warrant.

Johnston Police charged Grundy with Felony Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle (Second Offense), Reckless Driving and Eluding Police in a High Speed Pursuit, Operating with a Suspended License (Third Offense), Duty to Stop in Accident Resulting in Personal Injury and Resisting Arrest.

Grundy also received traffic citations for Obedience to a Traffic Control Device, Operating Left of Center, and Speeding.

ARREST WARRANT

At 1:23 a.m., March 14, Johnston Police Officer

Manuel Perez was on a fixed post along Plainfield Street when he observed a grey Toyota traveling east with an expired registration.

After initiating a traffic stop, Perez identified the driver as Justiniano Hernandez, 21 Thurber St., Pawtucket. He was issued a citation for Driving with Expired Registration.

A background check revealed that Hernandez was wanted in reference to a Third District Court Warrant out of the Pawtucket Police Department.

He was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed and secured in a cell. At 2:43 a.m., Hernandez was transported to the ACI male intake center to await arraignment.

At 10:45 p.m., March 14, while on a fixed post along Plainfield Street, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a silver car drive eastbound with heavily tinted windows. Santurri initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the driver.

The driver was not identified in the redacted police incident report.

Another occupant in the vehicle, however, was identified as Savannah Douangsavanh, of 34 Dorchester Ave., Apt. 1, Providence. A background check revealed that Douangsavanh had an active arrest warrant out of the Pawtucket Police Department for Domestic Breaking and Entering and Domestic Disorderly Conduct.

He was taken into custody and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed and later turned over to Pawtucket Police.

LARCENY

Around 11 a.m., March 2, a local business owner arrived at the Johnston Police Headquarters to make a larceny complaint against a customer. The business owner's identity was redacted from the police incident report.

The business owner told police that one of his customers picked up and placed several sports trading cards in his sweatshirt and pants pocket. The shop owner estimated the value of the stolen cards around \$60, and told police he could identify the suspect as Jeffrey Velleca, of 26 Campbell St., West Warwick. The customer had shopped at the store on previous occasions.

The business owner showed police video on his cell phone from the incident. The owner told police he would like to pursue criminal charges. The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

On March 14, Velleca was arrested, charged with Larceny (under \$1,500) and released with a Third District Court notice to appear on April 4. Velleca had been picked up by Rhode Island State Police from the Hope Valley Barracks.

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FRESH ZEP: Above and below, the Johnston Senior Center helped its members celebrate St. Joseph's Day last week by passing out fresh zeppole from the Original Italian Bakery. For more photos from the event, turn to Page 6. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Johnston Senior Center passes out Zeppole



ST. PADDY'S CELEBRATION: The Johnston Senior Center held a St. Patrick's Day celebration last Thursday for its members, who ate themed treats and sipped on green punch. For more photos from the event, turn to Page 6. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Lucky to have a senior center like this



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HONK HONK: Geese made the most of Johnston's soccer field Saturday, as Rep. James Langevin announced a \$1.1 million federal grant to "rehabilitate and restore" Johnston's Youth Soccer Complex. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Rank the candidates

Second Congressional District SURVEY

Can you name the 11 candidates running for the Second Congressional District? We've got the list on our poll, now it's up to you to rank them in order of your preference. We'll be publishing the results in April.

Take our survey @
johnstonsunrise.net

■ Grant

(Continued from page 1)

He welcomed Langevin to the lectern. "There's a person who led this charge," Polisen said, referring to Langevin, who has announced he's serving his final term as the Congressman representing Rhode Island's second district.

"Last week ... Congress passed and the President signed, a spending package to fund the entire federal government for the rest of the year," Langevin told the crowd. "'The For the People Package,' as we call it ... includes funding for education, national security ... cyber security, assistance for Ukraine, and countless other urgent national priorities."

Some of those "national priorities" have focused inward, in the restoration of earmarks, which send funding back to towns and cities for local projects.

"But we're here today, because the 'For the People Package' also funds community projects ... we're bringing back community funded projects; projects that strengthen our cities, our towns, and our neighborhoods," Langevin said. "I'm thrilled to share with you, that I was able, along with my colleagues in the Delegation, Sen. Reed, Sen. Whitehouse, Congressman (David) Cicilline, that I was able to secure a \$1.1 million grant for the town of Johnston to fully rehabilitate and restore the soccer complex."

Roaring applause sounded from the audience.

"When we work on appropriation issues, we all work together as a Delegation," Langevin said. "I was proud to secure this grant. This funding is going to support the removal of the current grass field, the sod, the underground sprinklers. Replace them with brand new, pad-

ded artificial turf field, plus the goals and striping. So it's really going to make the complex spectacular I believe. And when the project is finished you'll have a state-of-the-art facility."

Few other project details were available Saturday.

The politicians in the crowd, seated with Johnston's local School Committee and Town Council members, and Johnston Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr., took turns speaking at the lectern.

McKee addressed the audience. "Maybe this new turf will help them avoid injuries," he said, speaking directly to the players and coaches. "What a pleasure it's going to be for the young kids in this town to ... play soccer on a turf field. It's going to raise up the enjoyment, it's going to raise up the dedication of the coaches and all the teams that are participating."

Reed and Whitehouse also announced round \$5 million in expected federal funding to help fight flooding issues in both Johnston and Cranston. The delegation promised more details on those upcoming projects in the near future.

"Congratulations on your new facility," Gov. McKee told the crowd. "I have no doubt that all of you will play hard and make wonderful memories here. But you'll continue to make the people of Johnston, the people of Rhode Island, incredibly proud ... I can't wait to visit the new field."

Polisen thanked the federal delegation for securing the funds.

The town's current fields surround the 1741 Atwood Ave. Indoor Recreation Center, which has been named for Polisen, who also donated the facility's scoreboard.

"It's really remarkable," Polisen said to conclude the speaking program.

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INTERESTED AUDIENCE: Players and coaches packed the stands as Rep. James Langevin announced a \$1.1 million federal grant to fix Johnston's soccer complex. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

DelFino enjoys 'Pizza & Beer Night' with Gov. Dan McKee

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a unique night of networking two weeks ago inside the huge red-brick one-time manufacturing plant which was built in 1898 and now houses The Guild Brewery at 461 Main St. in Pawtucket.

Many people came from all corners of the state — from Woonsocket to Westerly and Glocester to Tiverton as well as Narragansett to Newport and beyond — per invitations from Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee.

"You and your fellow Democratic City and Town Chairs are cordially invited to a Pizza and Beer Night with Gov. McKee," read the printed ticket. "The menu will be craft beer — brewed on site — and flatbread pizza. This invitation is extended to you and respective vice chair and other committee leaders as well."

As Johnston resident Richard J. DelFino Jr., who is president of the Rhode Island Association of Democratic City and Town Chairs, explained: "This event is to give an opportunity to chairs and their spouses or significant others to socialize with each other, our Governor and Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos."

DelFino, who doubles as Chairman of the Johnston Democratic Committee and Municipal Court Clerk, delivered a brief but warm welcome saying, "Tonight is hosted by Gov. Dan McKee and First Lady Susan. Thank you for coming and please enjoy the evening."

Meanwhile, DelFino — who was accompanied by his wife Deborah — also issued a huge thank you to Jeremy Duffy, Co-Founder/Managing Partner of The Guild Brewery for rolling out the red carpet to host the event. Duffy, people recanted, was once an executive with Duffy & Shanley Public Relations/Advertising, the Providence-based firm that first marketed the now extraordinary Big East Conference.

For inside of two hours, some 60 people enjoyed classic camaraderie and, as DelFino mused: "Some real good-tasting high quality craft beer, pizza and pretzels as well as important and interesting conversations with Gov. McKee and Lt. Gov. Matos."

"This is the first time our city and town chairs group has done this," DelFino said of the unusual yet successful event that featured representation from all 39 cities and towns in the state. "This has been a great opportunity for people to chat with our Governor and Lt. Gov. Matos."

The night was earmarked with brief remarks from the Governor who spoke of his accomplishments while emphasizing his stance and support of small businesses throughout the state: "I'm a kid from Rhode Island who has been a Mayor, Lt. Governor and now Governor." Later, he said he hopes to meet individually with the respective committees seek-



PARTY PEOPLE: Gov. Dan McKee and First Lady Susan McKee are joined by Johnston Democratic Committee Chairman Richard DelFino and his wife Deborah of Johnston, Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos and her husband Patrick Ward during last week's unique networking night inside The Guild Brewery Pawtucket. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



LOCAL LINK: Johnston businesswoman Vanessa Gonzalez is all smiles while joining Gov. Dan McKee during last week's unique networking night held at The Guild Brewery in Pawtucket.



SUPER SUPPORTER: Long-time Westery Democratic Town Chair Robert Ritacco enjoys a lighter moment with Gov. Dan McKee and First Lady Susan McKee during last week's unique beer and pizza party in Pawtucket.

ing their valued endorsements.

As DelFino explained: "The RIADCTC will vote to endorse both state and candidates for federal office some time in May, which is prior to the State Party Con-

vention that will be held in June. The RIADCTC is a coveted endorsement because it will give momentum to candidates seeking the party endorsement and all city and town chairs have a vote at the state convention."

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

R	U	E	R		M	S	T		R	A	T				
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Watch Your MOUTH

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

BRUSH UP ON YOUR TONGUE

Tongue brushing, a trending topic in oral health, is an easy, quick step to add to daily brushing and flossing routines. Lightly scraping or brushing the tongue aids in removing plaque and bacteria, thus minimizing risks of gingivitis and other periodontal diseases. Tongue brushing or scraping helps improve taste, freshens breath, and eliminates harmful bacteria to the gums, thereby preventing cavities. A light scraping of the tongue after regular brushing and flossing involves applying light pressure to the scraper across the surface of the tongue several times, from back to front. Signs of an unhealthy tongue, such as pain, discoloration, or tenderness for an extended period of time indicate the need for appointment to visit the dentist.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY: The Johnston Senior Center held a St. Patrick's Day celebration last Thursday for its members, who ate themed treats and sipped on green punch. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



ST. JOSEPH'S SPLURGE: The Johnston Senior Center helped its members celebrate St. Joseph's Day last week by passing out fresh zeppole from the Original Italian Bakery. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

NICHOLAS A. FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL Q2 HONOR ROLL

High Honor Roll

Skyla Almeida
 Juliette Amaya
 Matthew Andrews
 Ella Annicelli
 Samaya Anzivino
 Areli Archila Harrison
 Oscar Arriaza
 Kaitlyn Barbosa
 Nicholas Benoit
 Colin Bishop
 Haley Boudreau
 Isabella Boudreau
 Liam Brennan
 Tyler Brunelle
 Ryan Capraro
 Madisyn Card
 Autumn Cartwright
 Morgan Cerullo
 Erika Chuk
 Alyssa Cimino
 Cody Cook
 Nicholas Cote
 Santino Cucinotta
 Jacob DeLeon
 Dimazlia DiBiasio
 Michael Fantini
 Vanessa Febus
 Hunter Feinstein
 Gianna Ferranti
 William Ferrara
 Fotis Fotopoulos
 Annabella Gesualdi
 Ian Gobeille
 Aiden Grace
 Joseph Grenier
 Brooke Houle
 Isabella Jean
 Dalai Johnson
 Maddox Johnson
 Matthew Jones
 Sparrow Katowicz
 Elizabeth Kue
 Kamryn Kue
 Derek LaFazia
 Aristotle Landim
 Brianna Lapati
 Timothy Liang
 Analeah Martins
 Bennett McClish
 Arthur Men
 Ernesto Mercado Anez
 Giana Mercurio
 Jonah Metts
 Samaya Montrond
 Hayden Morin
 Maria-Fernanda Oliva
 Liliana Ortellado
 Janessa Padilla
 Anthony Pannone
 Brendan Parsons
 Xavier Penn
 Jacob Pettit
 Brea Pezzullo
 Fallon Provoyeur
 Angie Quiroa
 Victoria Repollet
 Isabella Ricci

Isabelle Ricci
 Alexis Rivera
 Hollan Rodgers
 Jacob Rosa
 Mia Rubino
 Gabriella Russillo
 Averi Senecal
 Isabella Serpa
 Lucas Simpson
 Kaleigh-James Slader
 Aubrey Soares
 Aidan Sou
 Alexander Subirana
 Jack Tabla
 Emma Taglianetti
 Jayeden Thayorath
 Isla Troxell
 Ava Turgeon
 Cameron Veitch
 Anthony Vendetti
 Victoria Villafane
 Ashlyn Wheeler
 Sofia Williams
 Thomas Xoydara
 Timothy Xoydara
 Clark Znoj

Gianna Desmarais
 Fernando Diaz
 Christopher DiPanni
 Madeleine DiPanni
 Andrea Duffany
 Matthew Duquette-Siswick
 Fiona Fairbanks
 Zoe Fairbanks
 Mason Fenaux
 Joshua Figueroa
 Logan Finelli
 Julian Fonseca
 Gina Ford
 James Forgetta
 Olivia Forgetta
 Mardel Fosu
 Haileigh-Rose (Alister) Fredette
 Lucas Frisella
 Deanna Funches
 Frank Galeas
 Jazlyn Garcia
 Giovanni Gauthier
 Sirra Gaye
 Sofya Gonsalves
 Avery Gordon
 Jason Greene
 Isabella Grimshaw
 Abigail Grullon
 Chelsea Guy
 Jhasmin Heredia
 Hayley Hetu
 Anthony Hopp
 Olivia Iafrate
 Vanessa Jean-Philippe
 Emily Joseph
 Syvianna Jules
 Alyssa Kleinberg
 Tiyan Kong
 Karissa Kopka
 Dario La Terra Bellina
 Christopher Landaverde
 Jewel Langlois
 Michael Lariviere
 Lila Lautieri
 Macy Leone
 Arianna Leonesio
 Thomas L'Europa
 Mackenzie Lopes
 Casandra Lopez
 Angelica Maddaline
 Freddy Magana Landaverde
 Joseph Marandola
 Analese Marcano
 Isabela Martinez
 Diego Martins
 Caroline McCormack
 Rachael Mendoza
 Alexandra Mollock
 Melissa Emely Monteiro
 Nelvin Montero
 Ezekiel Montoya
 Noah Morgado
 Marissa Morsilli
 Heber Munoz Lopez
 Frank Nasisi
 Susan Nassi
 Zariah Nhar Matko
 Kaiya Nop
 Gabriela Noriega Garcia

Corey Ogden
 Daniel Ordenez-Flores
 Linda Orozco
 Olivia Pacheco
 Aubree Padula
 Savannah Paquin
 Bricen Parris
 Jeel Patel
 Alvin Pena
 Ariana Perron
 Lea Petrillo
 Nikko Pezza
 Quintin Picon
 Gianna Pilloni
 Enzo Pistacchio
 Owen Polofsky
 Mason Provoyeur
 Isaiah Ramirez
 Joseph Ramos Cardoza
 Tzivya Reyes
 Gian Ricci
 Adriana Riggen
 Derryck Roberts
 Brissy Rodriguez
 Carolyn Rosales
 Adriana Rossi
 Sophia Rubino
 Rayven Russell
 Brooklyn Russillo
 Skylar Russo
 Alex Salamone
 Isabella Salazar
 Elena Sampson
 Anthony Sanchez Perez
 Leah Sanchez Perez
 Kiara Sanchez
 Tyler Santilli-Pace
 Lorelai Sarli
 Madelyn Sarli
 Hailey Segee
 James Senno
 Mason Shanley
 Derek Simas
 Brianna Simmons
 Alexander Smith
 Nicholas Smith
 Mia Soprano
 Jose Soto
 Anthony Sposito
 Tristan Stevens
 Hailey Teague
 Kirk Tetteh
 Kyle Urban
 Madison Valenzuela
 Loyal Vanstone
 Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino
 Adam Venditelli
 Luke Ventura
 Abdiel Vidal
 Gabriel Visnicky
 Carldjon'n Volcy
 Ella Ware
 Ryan Waterman
 Aidan Wentworth
 Jaiden Weston
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 Madison Winsor
 Matthew Winsor
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Honor Roll

Makenzie Albuquerque
 Paige Albuquerque
 Malaika Ali
 Katlyn Allen
 Alexander Amaral
 Marco Aucone
 Gabriella Barata
 Ava Becker
 Ida Bensouda
 Sean Bolton
 Kara Bonetti
 Kyle Boswell
 Benjamin Botelho
 Juan Brache
 I'daizha Brown
 Lucy Bryand
 Olivia Bryant
 Juliana Buscemi
 Dylan Calabro
 Madison Campano
 Joella Carpentieri
 Lorenzo Catanzaro
 Alexa Chavez
 Michael Chounlamany
 Sierra Colavita
 Sophia Colucci
 Amy Corsetti
 Jon Costa
 Aidan Cross
 Michael Cucca
 Daniel Curiel
 Nickola D'Aquila
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Search for the Gaspee

Group looks to finance RI underwater exploration in hopes of discovering lost historical British ship

By JOHN HOWELL

A group interested in raising \$50,000 to conduct a thorough search for whatever remains of the HMS Gaspee that colonists set a fire off Namquid Point on June 9, 1772, is scheduled to meet Thursday morning at the Aspray Boat-house in Pawtuxet Park to hear Dr. Kathy Abbass of the Rhode Island Marine Archeology Project.

Dr. Abbass of the Rhode Island Marine Archeology Project is no stranger to the discovery and identification of colonial era wrecks in Rhode Island waters, having identified a hull off Goat Island in Newport as the Endeavour that was later named the Earl of Sandwich. The Endeavor was the vessel sailed by Captain Cook who is credited with the discovery of Australia.

Locally, Dr. Abbass headed up the Not the Gaspee Project that over the past five years has sought to identify two clearly visible wrecks off Gaspee Point during moon low tides. What's left of the ships – one is on what remains of Greene Island and the other is in the shallows of the point – have served as the training grounds for about 40 people who have taken Dr. Abbass' course.

On March 15, Dr. Abbass outlined efforts to document the vessels during a presentation at the Warwick Public Library. Rep. Joseph McNamara, who she described as the "sparkplug" of the project, served as the master of ceremonies and is now one of the core group seeking to

fund a search for the Gaspee on the 250th anniversary of what has become known as the "first blow for freedom."

Dr. Abbass has submitted a detailed request for funding on the General Assembly website including a \$32,000 budget for rental of equipment and vessels for 10-day exploration of Gaspee Point.

She is not entering this project with any illusions.

As Dr. John Concannon said at the library meeting, the morning following the burning of the Gaspee, the Beaver was dispatched to salvage what it could from the Gaspee including canon and other hardware. From documents dating to the time, Concannon said there are reports of a local farmer also retrieving planking from the ship.

Abbass agrees there may be little to find, the boat having burned and whatever remained having been quickly picked over. Observing that as a vessel burns it becomes lighter and hence more exposed, she suggested all that may remain, if anything, are some charred timbers preserved in the silt or scattered ballast stones. Offering hope is a side sonar scan taken of the point last summer indicating two targets. Abbass scheduled dives on the sites last fall but that had to be canceled because of the weather.

Gov. Dan McKee, who has an interest in Rhode Island history, is expected to attend the Thursday meeting, McNamara said. Already

the group has received more than \$12,000 in commitments to underwrite the search.

Whether remains or the Gaspee are found or not, the search as the nation gears up to celebrate 250 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence has the potential of shining a spotlight on the story of the burning of the Gaspee. The Gaspee was in pursuit of the colonial ship Hannah and ran aground on the shoals off Warwick. The Hannah proceeded to Providence where the word was quickly spread the British ship was aground. John Brown rallied about 60 volunteers to row long boats to confront her. Despite King George's handsome reward, no one divulged who was responsible. The Gaspee crew and its captain William Dudington who was shot during the incident were taken ashore. A colonial surgeon cared for Dudington's wound. Following an inquest of the incident to went on to command another ship.

Assuming the funding is secured, the search for the Gaspee could start as soon as May and coincide with this year's 250th celebration that is highlighted with the parade June 11 starting 10 a.m. and the burning of the Gaspee the following day.

The celebration starts May 21 with a proclamation and includes and village walking tour and arts and crafts festival the following weekend with block party. A symphony in the park will be held June 4 that will close with fireworks.



AT HOME TESTS: Gregory Hook from Tri-County Community Action passed out at-home COVID tests to Johnston Senior Center members. (Submitted photo)

Johnston Senior Center & Tri-County pass out at-home COVID tests

By DENISE BELL
Special to the Sun Rise

On March 3, at-home Covid Test Kits were distributed to members of the Johnston Senior Center. This was a program in collaboration with Tri-County Community Action and the JSC working together. Gregory Hook, Community Outreach Specialist, from the Tri-County Health Equity Zone was on hand for several hours giving out the test kits.

The plan is to continue to be safe by having an at Home test rightly

available if you are in question of having been in contact with someone who has Covid or if you have symptoms yourself.

Many of the seniors were glad that they could pick up a kit while at the center participating in activities or having lunch that day. Many members stated that this was very convenient instead of having to go elsewhere if needing to take a test.

Editor's Note: Denise Bell serves as Assistant Director of the Johnston Senior Center.

Johnston Fire Chief holds 9-1-1 presentation at the JSC

By DENISE BELL
Special to the Sun Rise

Another great presentation was given by the Johnston Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb on Friday, March 11.

He returned along with EMT's to discuss "What Happens when you call 911" and are in need of medical attention. They presented a demonstration to defuse many fears people have from making the call, to taking the ride in the ambulance.

We have noticed that if there is a fall or an injury at the Senior Center the first thing that we hear from a member is "please don't call for the rescue" or "I don't want them to take me to the hospital."

Chief Lamb and the team gave some very vital information. They discussed what type of equipment would be brought to the house, along with the reasons why it all was needed.

They explained that the fire truck comes first. They are not sure what is needed until they make an assessment of what exactly is going on; the goal is to have everything that is possibly needed right there.

One very important question was answered, "When should I call 911?"

If you think you should, then never wait, always make the call, Lamb told the crowd.

The purpose for the presentation was to have anyone who needs medical attention to feel safe, comfortable, and not be afraid to call for help.



911 101: Johnston Fire Chief Peter J. Lamb delivered a presentation for members at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave. (Submitted photos)

Editor's Note: Denise Bell serves as Assistant Director of the Johnston Senior Center.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Potholes and the season of renewal

It's that joyful time of year again. A time when winter-traumatized Rhode Islanders can begin to put the snow shovel back in its spot amidst the clutter in the back of the garage, and hang the winter coats up deep inside closets for their long-awaited hibernation period. A time to breathe in the fresh spring air and dream of warm, livable days spent outside for months to come.

The spring season is one of rebirth and renewal, where flower stems peak up from the soil and the thought of a morning spent walking the dog generates far less feelings of animosity towards our furry friends.

Of course, it's not all sunshine and rainbows this time of year. Spring is notoriously the season of the pothole in Rhode Island, after the fluctuations in freezing and non-freezing temperatures has wreaked havoc on the asphalt for a full five months or so. We've no doubt that plenty of readers have already had a nail biting moment where you notice one of those road craters just a split second too late, followed by a bracing for impact and a quick prayer that you haven't popped a tire or cracked an axle.

This spring we should all be thankful that our tax dollars go towards public works departments to fix the roads, even if it never seems to happen as fast as we would like. Imagine a world where such work was solely privatized, and your ability to pay for such remediations dictated whether or not a pothole on your street got filled. Despite all the grumblings, we are fortunate to live in municipalities where traversable roads are a part of the deal of living in them.

Additionally we are fortunate that this spring, compared to the past two, seems to be shaping up into one where we can turn down the thermostat on Covid fears a notch or two. With so many Rhode Islanders vaccinated and boosted, and with the warm weather bringing an end to the worst of the seasonal sick season, our learned measures of hand sanitizing and avoiding overly-crowded spaces should help steer us away from unexpected spikes and further disruptions to business and life — knock on wood, of course.

We should count these blessings and our other good fortunes particularly during this season, not only for getting through another winter of the pandemic, but for being residents of a country where we are safe from foreign aggression and the horror of war on our doorstep. If you have the means to support any Ukrainian aid organizations, now would be the time to open your checkbook and your heart to support those going through something unimaginable at the moment — something far beyond the annoyance of blowing a tire on a pothole.

CONGRESS CHIPS IN \$5M TO HELP CYCLISTS GET TO THE OTHER SIDE



LETTERS

'Once-in-a-generation opportunity' for schools

Education is the fundamental building block for society. Not just reading, writing and math, but also art, vocational and technical studies are all crucial for children to learn, grow, gain practical experience and set the foundation for a successful life and career, no matter where their individual path takes them.

We, here in Johnston, have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide our children with the schools they deserve.

Thornton was built 1921 when the town's population was 6,855 (it is now 30,000 today). Graniteville was built in 1930, almost a decade before the start of World War II. Brown Avenue was built in 1934 in the middle of the Great Depression. Winsor Hill and Barnes schools were constructed in 1953, the first year of the Eisenhower Presidency.

These examples not only help illustrate how old these schools actually are but also just how much society and our town has changed since their construc-

tion. Students and teachers are doing the best they can in these 70 to 100-year-old buildings, but it is impractical to expect them to reach their full potential within them.

Rather than put new money in almost century-old buildings, the best path forward is to build new schools not only for the children of today, but also for the children of the future.

With the town's successful new business growth over the past two decades, it's time to use that revenue from these businesses and invest it back into our community.

Even if you do not have children in the school system the correlation between schools and property values is undeniable — better schools equate to increased property values.

Additionally, Ferri Middle School and Johnston High School will be reconditioned to "like new" facilities, providing important vocational and technical pathways for children. Very rarely does

an opportunity present itself to reconstruct an entire community's school system.

This is a plan that positively impacts not just every school age child, from pre-K through grade 12, but also every resident of our town.

With generous school construction reimbursement rates, the time to act is now. On Tuesday, April 5, our town will take perhaps the most important vote in its history — the school construction bond. I would urge everyone to come out and support this proposal and vote yes on the school construction bond.

Joe Polisena Jr.
Johnston Town Council
Vice-President, District 3

Editor's Note: Next week, the Johnston Sun Rise will take an in-depth look at the latest plans for the town-wide school building overhaul. The next edition will hit the streets March 31, just prior to the April 5 bond vote.

Use rooftops, not woodland, for solar projects

Our town of Johnston is becoming more and more developed.

With the construction of the new Amazon warehouse and the steady progression of small housing developments, the town is losing its rural nature and its natural forested areas.

Recently, Green Development, a Cranston-based developer of solar and wind power sites, has proposed five large solar fields in western Johnston. Two of the proposed areas are east of Greenville Avenue near the Smithfield town line. The other three are south of Hopkins Avenue, east of Hopkins Avenue, and nearly surrounding the Rollingwood development.

The town lacks effective regulation for these types of projects. Companies like Green Development know they can propose projects and get them built without any large roadblocks from the town.

There are no published restrictions on where commercial solar developments can go and how they are laid

down and constructed, so our large undeveloped residential areas (zoned R-20 and R-40) provide the space needed for large solar projects. These projects require Special Use Permits, but the standard for the Zoning Board to issue Special Use Permits is not very high.

A recent study by URI, analyzing 400,000 property transactions, concludes that houses within 0.1 miles (528 feet) of commercial solar developments see an average reduction in property value of 7% and houses within a mile can see an average reduction of 1.7%.

There are nearly 100 abutters adjacent to these solar field lots, so the town could see a broad depreciation of housing values as a direct result of these projects. Johnston owes it to us residents to protect our investments. Special Use Permit ordinances require "that granting of the special use permit will be environmentally compatible with neighboring properties and the protection of property values." These projects do not meet this requirement.

One of the functions of the town's Planning Board is to prepare and adopt the Comprehensive Development Plan, which is a lengthy document establishing standards and expectations for land use and development. When projects are proposed to the Board, the Board makes a ruling as to the project's alignment with the Plan. Johnston's Comprehensive Plan was last published in January 2007.

Solar development is not addressed in the plan — there is not guidance for or against such projects — but the Board concluded that the project is in alignment with the Plan. One of the key themes in the Plan is the importance of maintaining the town's rural nature and natural areas for the enjoyment of the residents. These projects would clear over 150 acres of largely wooded land, with installation of the panels inside chain-link fences. The Planning Board determined that these projects are in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, but they are not. In fact, the 2007 Comprehensive

Plan identifies the area south of Winsor as land that the town should purchase to preclude development. The town never made this purchase, which is why the land is still available for development.

The Planning Board assures the town that a new Comprehensive Plan is in development. These projects should not be permitted to proceed until the new Plan is approved and they can be confirmed to be in compliance or not.

The town owes its Boards, and its residents, clear regulations for major development projects. It is not fair to the residents that because of an outdated Comprehensive Plan and lax land use regulations, their property values and quality of life may suffer. Johnston is a special town in rapidly-developing Rhode Island. These solar projects do not need to be built in residential areas. Put them elsewhere, on rooftops or in areas zoned for commercial and industrial uses.

Chris Dibble
Johnston

Publisher John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
General Manager Richard G. Fleischer - RichardF@rhodybeat.com	Bookkeeping Leslie Paz
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuetner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Editor Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Advertising Representative Natalie Payette - NatalieP@rhodybeat.com
Journalists Pete Fontaine	Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com
Classified Advertising Sue Howarth - SueH@rhodybeat.com	
Circulation Leslie Paz	Tel: 401-732-3100 Fax: 401-732-3110

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

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.

Arts Scholarships for youth now open to register

Do you know a student aged 11 - 14 who loves to create and to perform? Encourage them to apply to our ARTS Scholarships 2022 program! Applications and guidelines are now available at 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/welcome.asp?url=riseseniorsoftball 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 appoint-

ment 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.

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

Apple Fest Scheduled

The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for: Saturday, Sept 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days.

The event will be held at the Johnston Memorial Park - 1583 Hartford Ave. in Johnston. Register: 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.

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

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

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 231-3380 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, www.johnstonhistorical.org or www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

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

Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and carry out other fundraising activities to allow Mohr Library to increase services and programs. The Friends welcome new members who are willing to support either through donations, membership dues, or through volunteering their time.

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


Help make a house a home

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

Did you know?

The White House Easter Egg Roll officially dates back to 1878 and the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes, but firsthand accounts suggest that informal festivities began with egg-rolling parties under President Abraham Lincoln. (Source Easter Bunny Fun Facts)

Send submissions to 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.




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



Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-2 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a public hearing at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on **April 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2022-6 (Formerly 2022-CP-6)**, an ordinance regarding the abandonment of a portion of **Buck Hill Road**, located on **Assessor's Plat 30**. All persons interested in the above Ordinance may attend the hearing and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

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

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

3/24, 3/31, 4/7/22

johnstonsunrise.net

LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday April 5th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

REVISED 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 Hearing 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

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

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

V. ADJOURNMENT

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.

3/24, 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 Elmgrove/Domenic & Michelle Lancelotta, Applicant/Owner for 25 Elmgrove 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

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

Docket No. ES18D2270DR
Essex Probate and Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem MA 01970

Richard D Medrano Novas vs. Isaura M Pimentel

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

**Richard D Medrano Novas
21 Henry Avenue, Apt. 3
Lynn, MA 01902**

your answer, if any, on or before **04/15/2022**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

**WITNESS, Jennifer M R Ulwick,
First Justice of this Court.**

Date: March 7, 2022

Pamela A. Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate

3/24/22

Winsor Hill welcomes special guests for Reading Week

By PETE FONTAINE

Students at Winsor Hill Elementary School last week learned valuable lessons about life during what many people categorized as one of the most successful and informative Reading Week in the school's history.

The week-long event, which featured a different theme each day and included Principal Amy Burns, Student Support Coordinator Melinda Witt-Izzo, Winsor Hill's PTO, guest readers from the community including proud parents, police officers, firefighters, television celebrities and a now-famous dog that prevented a tragedy by finding a boy who has been missing for 36 hours.

"Our PTO came up with the amazing theme for the week — 'Read Now, Succeed Later' — our students enjoyed special presentations as well as spirit days," Burns explained. "We are so grateful to the many community members who volunteered to make Reading Week such a wonderful, rich experience for our students."

As the first-year principal — who spent last year as an assistant principal at JHS — went on: "The presentation by Rhode Island State Police Cpt. Daniel O'Neill and K-9 Ruby truly highlighted the importance of persistence and following your dreams. We're all excited to watch the movie now that we've personally met the real-life inspiration."

Last Thursday, large groups of Winsor Hill students led by their teachers, filled nearly every available seat in the cafeteria watching with keen interest — as well as listening — to Trooper O'Neill talk about how he was told he'd never be a state policeman and explain how Ruby was given up for adoption five times because of behavioral problems and has since become the headliner of a Netflix film titled "Rescued by Ruby" that memorializes the relationship between the trooper and the Australian Shepherd/Border Collie.

It was that story, Winsor Hill's faculty concurred, that perhaps best described the final day of Reading Week Spirit Day — "When I Grow Up" — and featured students dressed as the career to which they aspire.

"We had several community members in uniform to greet students with high fives as they arrived at school," Burns said with a smile on her face. "It was a great way to end an eventful Ready Week. We're continuously reinforcing the impact that reading has on future success."

Likewise, each of O'Neill's impressive presentations concluded with an interesting question and answer session between the trooper and students who marveled at the one-time 2018 Dog of the Year.

O'Neill's talk, that came with Ruby by his side, also reinforced and age-old adage: "You can be anything you want to be" along with a one-time sports cliché "You can't quit, you have to keep playing."

Which is exactly what O'Neill did. He said he had a lot of difficulties in school and struggled with reading yet always tried his best and persevered through difficulties. He set a goal that he was going to be a Trooper, even though he was told he'd never become one.

"Danny took that negativity and turned it into a positive," Witt-Izzo offered. "He (was) accepted to the RI State Police Academy on his first try and at conclusion of the academy was awarded the prestigious Lt. David Diaz Award for being chosen by his classmates as the most selfless trooper."

As for Ruby, who was a shelter dog for eight months and she was given up for adoption five times because her behavior couldn't be fixed and was almost put down five times. Ruby's storied success includes a tear-jerking story of finding the boy who had been missing for 36 hours and was ironically the son of a lady who



GRAND GUESTS: Rhode Island State Trooper Cpl. Daniel O'Neill and K-9 Officer Ruby were guests of honor during Winsor Hill's Reading Week. They're joined by the Student Support Coordinator and students Cory Veitch and Lorelii Znoj. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

once cared for Ruby at the shelter.

Thus, that lady contacted RI State Police in hopes they would take her on as part of the K-9 unit and they did and led to Ruby completing 540 hours of training and becoming a certified K9 officer.

All of which led O'Neill and Ruby to landing the National Search Dog of the Year and being flown to Beverly Hills where their amazing story and journey

was recognized and put into a film titled "Rescued by Ruby."

The film teaches larger-than-life-lessons and tells the story of Trooper O'Neill and a dog named Ruby. Their story also captured the hearts of students, staff and faculty during what now ranks as one of the most extraordinary Reading Weeks in the history of Johnston's Winsor Hill Elementary School.



HELPING HANDS: Johnston High Students Jenna Poland, Alan Pineda, Charlie Curci and Jackson Troxwell were among the many different people who participated in Winsor Hill School's impressive Reading Week.




AWESOME ALUM: Johnston native and former Winsor Hill student Anthony Macari, who is now a popular meteorologist at WJAR-TV Channel 10, was among the celebrities at Winsor Hill School's Reading Week and joins Melinda Witt-Izzo, Principal Amy Burns, Donna Pingitore, Judy Centracchio and Dina Needham.

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WET HEAD ADMIN: Above and below, Students lined up to soak teachers and most of all, the Brown Avenue School's Principal Helina Dlugon. For more photos, turn to Pages 13 & 15. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

■ **Pour**
 (Continued from page 1)

"In becoming a Unified Champion School, faculty and students are promoting social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sports and other activities," according to SORI.

"This is a distinction very few elementary schools have," Dlugon reminded her students as they gathered outside the school at 2 p.m. last Wednesday.

The students sat grouped by classroom and grade. Those who helped raise money received a cup. As each class was called, the students stood in line, dipping their cups into large buckets of ice water.

Five faculty member sat nervously waiting in a row of chairs. Each wore a transparent plastic poncho, which did little to shield them from the imminent soaking barrage.

According to the school's Inclusion Core Team, the faculty and students have been striving to create a culture of inclusion throughout the building.

Their ultimate goal is to cultivate a school "where everyone feels loved, accepted, and valued" and "differences are celebrated."

"To accomplish this, we've created a Brown Ave Unified Student

Leadership Team, a Partner-Buddy Program during recess and physical education classes, as well as many lessons that teach, encourage, and celebrate everyone's individual uniqueness," according to a statement from the Inclusion Core Team. "A handful of the fifth-grade students use their recess time to partner with our life skills students to help encourage and work on basic sport skills. And, the students and staff recently worked on celebrating each other's uniqueness by highlighting everyone's strengths, interests, and character traits through a school puzzle piece displayed on the school bulletin board. Students and Staff are learning the value of celebrating everyone's differences and by doing so, together, we make everyone stronger."

With the school's young population, the team decided to modify a time-honored Special Olympics event by creating "Pay to Pour."

The more you raised for the cause, the more water you scored to pour.

"Students who donated over \$50 were able to also pour a large pitcher of water over a staff member's head," according to the rules. "The student who donated the largest amount of money to the fundraiser was able to pour a large bucket of ice water over a faculty/staff volunteer of their choosing."

Students sat quietly, holding signs declaring their support for

inclusion. A low rumble of talking and giggling was quickly brought under control with a little counting by one staff member, who's voice quickly got everyone's attention.

The school day had just ended. The sun was shining. And teachers were about to get doused.

Dlugon stood in front of the students to deliver the day's "Pay to Pour" instructions.

Suddenly, a spontaneous chant erupted from the collective student body:

"Dump that water! Dump that water! Dump that water!"

The first four victims — some of the school's favorite teachers — took their seats. And then, to add an additional surprise, Dlugon donned a poncho and joined the soon-to-be soggy educators.

"What's so amazing is that many Brown Avenue students shared that they were donating their own allowance, Tooth Fairy money, lemonade stand money, etc.," Joyce wrote. "Many students asked family members for donations. We are so proud of our Brown Avenue Students. These kids are beyond generous, full of love, and want to raise awareness for Special Olympics RI and more importantly, want their school to be known for its inclusive culture."

All together, Joyce said the "Brown Avenue Family" raised more than \$4,800 for SORI.





THE WINNER: Above and below, third-grader Elliot Sarli, with the assistance of PE/Health teacher Amanda Sloan and teacher Bryana Ruisi, pour water over Principal Helina Dlugon. Sarli raised more than \$1,200 on his own; more than any other student. For more photos, turn to Pages 13 & 15. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



TOO MUCH HOMEWORK? Students lined up to soak teachers, one cup, pitcher and bucket at a time, to raise money for Special Olympics Rhode Island.

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spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

The iconic musician David Bowie once wrote of aging gracefully: "Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been." The notion of "aging" as synonymous with "becoming" and evolving with grace and dignity is the enduring philosophy of Akshay Talwar, the founder and director of The Preserve at Briarcliffe. Truly, it is Talwar's overarching belief that, even as we age, life is still full of opportunities for growth, meaningful relationships, personal happiness, fulfillment and becoming the best versions of ourselves.

This belief was a compelling force behind the conception, design, construction and completion of The Preserve, an Assisted and Independent Living Residence on the Briarcliffe campus in Johnston. Today, the increasing number of residents who have made The Preserve their home continue to live their lives with a sense of purpose, contentment and "becoming."

Every detail of this senior living community was intentionally designed to make residents and guests alike feel at home. Many special architectural features were incorporated into the design of this innovative residential complex. Though some of these might go unnoticed by the casual observer, they nonetheless exceed the "norm" and go beyond the standards of the industry. Some of these features include:

Access to outdoors: All apartments come with individual patios, balconies, Juliet balconies or casement windows.

Natural light: Wide corridors with handrails, bookended by large windows, let in abundant daylight.

Climate controls: Each apartment has individual heating and air conditioning controls.

Barrier-free showers: safe and easy access to full-size showers



The lobby to The Preserve at Briarcliffe provides the perfect "sense of arrival" for residents who live in this state-of-the-art, catered community in Johnston. Here, President and CEO Akshay Talwar visits with some of the newest residents. Call 401-944-2450 to schedule your personal tour!

Generator: May seem like a minor detail, but with New England weather, this is important. There is a back-up generator large enough to power the entire building for approximately one week.

Elevators: Two large elevators for both safety and peace of mind

Beyond these design features, The Preserve offers an array of highly personalized amenities and services such as: Restaurant-style dining, weekly housekeeping, laundry and linen services, state-of-the-art call and monitoring systems, scheduled

transportation to appointments and outings. Everything that someone who wants to enjoy a truly fulfilling life and the freedom to "become the person they were always meant to be" is found here at The Preserve at Briarcliffe.

Now is a great time to schedule your in-person tour of this exciting residence at 54 Old Pocasset Road. Come to this beautiful setting amid the peaceful woods of Johnston and make yourself at home.

To arrange for your tour, call 401.944.2450 or visit Briarcliffe online at www.briarclifferi.com.

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SOLID PLEDGE: Ms. Crosby's and Mrs. Ruisi's first grade classes say the Brown Avenue Pledge before the water pouring began. (Submitted photo)



UNITED WE STAND: Fourth-grader Kenny Davila holds a sign declaring Brown Avenue's students are "Standing Together." (Submitted photo)



LITTLE BIT WET? First graders pour water over PE/Health Teacher Amanda Sloan. (Submitted photo)



GET READY TO GET SOAKED: Kaylie Gamez, Teacher Aide Laura Petrozzi, Elliot Sarli and Jayvion Rhau pose for a photo with teacher Bryana Ruisi. (Submitted photo)

Sports



DREAM COME TRUE: Johnston's Justin Mazzulla last week. (Photos by Nick LoVerde)

Mazzulla lives March Madness dream

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The No. 13 University of Vermont men's basketball team returned to the NCAA National Tournament

and fell to No. 4 Arkansas 75-71. UVM had another impressive season, taking home the America East Conference title to qualify for March Madness once again.

Emerging as one of the Cata-mounts' top players this season was Johnston native and Bishop Hen-

■ DREAM - PAGE 18

A shoutout to some locals

Spring practices begin this week, so we are wrapping up the brief respite between seasons. Obviously I am referring to the end of winter and start of spring.

One thing that I enjoy about these short breaks is that they allow me to kind of look out the window and take a look at what is going on off the field, off the court, ice, what have you. Athletes accomplish so much more than what we see during the competition.

During the past week or so, I have used this time to catch up on some of the happenings with our locals, and I am going to use this column as a way to give a few of them shoutouts.

First, we had two of our guys make the prestigious Golden Dozen for football. The Golden Dozen is an annual scholarship given by the Emo DiNitto/Rhode Island Football Chapter of the National Football Foundation. The recipients of this award are chosen based on performance on the gridiron as well as in the classroom, with a required minimum grade average of B-plus to go along with at least All-Division honors. Those selected to 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 War-

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

wick.

Pilgrim's Connor Widmer and Johnston's Joey Acciardo were the two guys in our coverage area that made the cut.

This is always a great honor for those student athletes and it is nice to see their hard work be rewarded. I say it all the time, but there are few things in life as challenging as being a student-athlete. Between the six or so hours spent in the classroom, plus the additional hours doing homework. Combine that with practices, games, weight room workouts, traveling to events, many days these kids struggle just to find the time to eat dinner.

For these kids to not only accomplish that, but to excel both academically and athletically, it shows a tremendous deal of commitment, smarts and talent. These kids deserve so much credit.

I am also looking forward to seeing how these two kids do on the

■ PITCH - PAGE 18

Rockets enjoy fun-filled pasta party

By PETE FONTAINE

No team, people in area softball circles, will tell you does it better than the U-18 Rhode Island Rockets, a traveling team that represents the Lisa Calabro-led Johnston Girls Softball League.

That fact surfaced in many forms last Wednesday night inside the famed Santa Maria Di Prata Club located at 31 Walnut Grover Avenue in Cranston.

Amid a backdrop that featured seven spiffy tall trophies and one towering award with four gold columns for winning a state championship and everything from red and blue linen napkins to white tablecloths, the Rockets celebrated their 2021 season in style during a fun-filled pasta dinner-fundraiser.

However, the event was no ordinary pasta party.

Instead, the night was ear-marked with super spirit and terrific team togetherness that led head coach Derek Calabro's traveling team to win seven of the 10 tournaments the Rockets entered and rack up a season total of 58 impressive victories after missing much of 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



TERRIFIC TRIBUTE: Emily Pierce, who once wore number 32 while playing for the RI Rockets, is surrounded by her former teammates during last week's surprise ceremony making her an honorary lifetime member. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

■ ROCKETS - PAGE 17



CAPTAINS CORNER: Rockets tri-captains Hannah Calabro, Victoria Butler and Falyn Lusignan ae all smiles during last week's traveling team pasta party.



GRAMP'S GIRL: Phil Kershaw, a former long-time coach and athletic director at West Warwick High School, his wife Rolaine, daughter Kecia Kershaw-Pierce and Emily Pierce enjoy a lighter moment during the RI Rockets wrap-up dinner.



PROUD PARENTS: Johnston Girls Softball League President Lisa Calabro and her husband Derek who manages the RI Rockets, are joined by their daughter Hannah during last week's 2021 season celebration.

Rockets

(Continued from page 16)

Backed by an audience of proud parents, friends of the JGSL and special sponsors, 11 members of Calabro's classy club sat together at a long-banquet table wearing their accented game jersey and began the evening singing Happy Birthday to tri-captain Falyn Lusignan, who received not one but two colorful cakes that everyone inside the filled and famed Italian-American social club enjoyed.

Likewise, there were no floral centerpieces. Instead, each table was adorned with not one but two famed colorful photographs – one of the team and another of candid's from the highly-successful season – that many people took home as keepsakes of the special party.

Derek Calabro, meanwhile, served as the night's busy emcee that included announcing the winning numbers for seven valuable raffle prizes that drawn by the players and at ranged from a wide screen television to a weekend stay at Foxwoods Resort & Casino in Ledyard, Ct. an over-sized gift baskets filled with Rhode Island Scratch Tickets.

"It's obvious a lot of work went into the planning of this dinner," several guests concurred. "The salad is great and so is the meatballs and pasta; I've heard a lot about Ralph's Catering and I can see why the food is highly-rated; even the dinner rolls are warm."

Yet another example of how the Rockets are a close knit group and have enjoyed near unmatched success that includes raising thousands of dollars for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Research Foundation came during a surprise ceremony for Emily Pierce.

The talented high school junior, who played first base for the Rockets but didn't return in 2021 due to a busy schedule, received a standing ovation when her beloved team presented her with a framed jersey featuring No. 32 and making her an honorary lifetime team member.

Needless to say, Pierce was surprised and was hugged by teammates but the happiest people in the room was her mother - Kecia Kershaw Pierce - a one-time Coventry High softball standout who played on CGSL team that went to a national Tournament in Lubbock, TX.

Also sharing in Emily's mighty moment was Rolaine Kershaw, her grandmother and Grandfather Phil Kershaw a one-time coach and athletic director at West Warwick High School.

So, with the 2021 season now officially books, he Rockets are looking forward to 2022 – a season that holds high promise will be filled with the love and respect tri-captains Falyn Lusignan, Hanna Calabro and Victoria Butler along with Becky Baggesson, Elaina Furtado-Rahill, Micheline Irons, Janina Mazzulla, Kaylee Bradley, Jenna Malloy, Maddie Nicholas and Brianna Grenier displayed during last week's pasta party.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One who regrets
- 5. Time zone
- 8. Subway dweller
- 11. Bend in a river
- 13. Alias
- 14. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- 15. Very (music)
- 16. Zero
- 17. Phil __, former CIA
- 18. Competitions
- 20. Unwell
- 21. Puts in place
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Allows light to pass through
- 30. Climbed quickly
- 31. We all have it
- 32. There's a North & South
- 33. Emaciation
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Very dark colors
- 43. Unwanted
- 45. Grants
- 48. Three visited Jesus
- 49. Wife of Amun
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy

CLUES DOWN

- 55. A Spanish river
- 56. I (German)
- 57. French opera composer
- 59. Six (Spanish)
- 60. Last letter
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Noah had one
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. Tall plant
- 24. Stationary portion of a generator
- 25. Expression of disappointment
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Where birds fly
- 28. Midway between north and northeast
- 29. Chaotic states
- 34. Comedic actress Gasteyer
- 35. Kids' dining accessory
- 36. Snake-like fish
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. Assign lifelike qualities to
- 40. One who cites
- 41. Midway between east and southeast
- 42. North wind
- 44. One or the other
- 45. Cavalry sword
- 46. Of the Hungarian language
- 47. Life stories
- 48. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. French cleric
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Free from

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■ Dream

(Continued from page 16)

dricken alum Justin Mazzulla. The senior guard started 26 games, averaging 7.6 points and 3.4 rebounds. He finished with 13 points in the game against Arkansas last week.

"We thought that we could go further in our run in March Madness, that's what we are hoping for, but unfortunately it didn't go that way. Despite that, I think we succeeded in all of our goals that we had. (UVM) Coach (John) Becker laid out our goals, we wanted to achieve them and we did," said Mazzulla.

Mazzulla began his college career at George Washington University but would transfer to UVM after two seasons. Ultimately, the move paid off as Mazzulla had the chance to play in one of the country's biggest annual sporting events.

"It was a blessing in disguise. Choosing Vermont was one of the best decisions I ever made in college basketball. I entered such a great culture and atmosphere where the coaches love you and want to see you succeed with everyone around you. Making that

decision was fairly easy," said Mazzulla.

Mazzulla comes from one of the Rhode Island's most storied basketball families, with his late father Dan playing professionally then becoming one of the greatest high school coaches in state history at Johnston. His older brother Joe also played collegiately, and is currently an assistant coach with the Boston Celtics.

"It was full circle. I spent so much time at March Madness but I was in the stands watching my brother. Growing up, that's everything that you dream of with March Madness. People making brackets, when you play basketball that's all you talk about. When standing on the court with the March Madness logo in the middle, there's nothing better than that," said Mazzulla.

Mazzulla plans on either playing overseas upon graduating, or joining the coaching ranks. He is looking forward to taking the next step and thanks his father for his success in the sport.

"It shows how much our dad instilled in us with basketball," said Mazzulla. "How his teachings have led us two brothers to so much in basketball."



AT THE LINE: Justin Mazzulla gets set to shoot a free throw last week during the national tournament.

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 16)

college stage. Acciardo is planning on heading out to California while Widmer will be going to Delaware to compete in lacrosse. Either way, these guys had great high school careers and deserve the help that the scholarship will provide.

We also had a college signing at Pilgrim last week as girls soccer standout Alanna Coffie signed to play for Division I Providence College.

The Pilgrim girls soccer team has been one of the best in the state over the past decade, churning out wins and playoff appearances on an annual basis. Coffie has been one of the best players to hit the field for the Pats in the past few years and this commitment is not at all surprising.

One thing that I value or I guess I should say I would value, if I was a coach is consistency. That is one thing that has always stood out to me about Alanna ... she always appeared in the box scores and always seemed to make an impact. Did not matter if it was regular season, playoffs. Whether she was scoring a goal, coming up with a big assist, making a defensive stop, she was always right where she needed to be making plays.

Pilgrim has had a few girls reach the college level in recent years and Coffie is now the newest name added to the list. I am excited to see how she stands up to the Division I competition. When the Pats moved up to Division I two seasons ago, it did not matter as Coffie only seemed to get better. I think people sometimes underestimate how good Rhode Island soccer is ... as someone that has covered sports in Massachusetts, Maine and RI, I think Rhody is the best.

Coffie is one of the regions best players and I am pretty confident that she will find success up the road in Providence. Congrats on the signing.

Another Warwick athlete made headlines, as Rocky Hill's Denzel Correia was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for boys basketball. This was the first time that a Rocky Hill player received this honor.

Considering the size of the school and the fact that the Mariners play mostly out of state, Rocky Hill is oftentimes overlooked. I will admit that I am guilty of that as much as anyone.

For Correia to win this award is not only a huge accomplishment for him, but it also puts Rocky Hill on the map.

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By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

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To enter, please send photographs to me, Dave Monti at dmontifish@verizon.net by April 7. 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.

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 the free online Climate Fishinar "Climate Change Effects on Recreational Fishing and Boating: Opportunities and Actions" on Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Series is part of the 2022 Baird Symposium being produced by Sea Grant at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

To take a look at the list of charter captains, fishing sharpies and climate scientists participating, or to register for Session II on April 13 visit Baird Sea Grant Symposium (uri.edu).

Trout Unlimited fundraising banquet and auction

Rhode Island Trout Unlimited Charter No. 225 will hold its Annual Fundraising Banquet and Auction on

Saturday, March 26, 2022, 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Quonset "O" Club, North Kingstown, RI. For directions, please visit <http://www.quonsetclub.com/directions.html>.

The Banquet will feature an early evening dinner buffet with multiple entree choices, a family style salad and dessert. A cash bar will be available for the beverage of your choice. There will be numerous bucket raffles, door prizes, silent auction and live auction items. Some of the great items available at listed below.

Deerfield River - Pheasant Tail Tours full day float trip for two (2) anglers on the Deerfield or other nearby river.

Cape Cod - Chase Strippers with Fearless Fly Fishing's Cynthia Harkness for four (4) hours for one angler.

Rhode Island - A half day, early season, Saltwater Light Tackle or Fly Fishing with Captain Eric Thomas on TEEZER

Multiple Single and Double handed casting lessons by FFI Certified Casting Instructors from Rhode Island, Connecticut

and New York.

Cinder Worm Hatch on Ninigret Pond - Charter for one angler with Captain Jim Barr of Skinny Water Charters

Dozens of fresh and salt water flies tied by fellow members and friends, plus rods, reels and other gear

Tickets are \$35.00 for adults and \$17.50 for children 15 and under. Contact Susan Estabrook at susan@ysrinc.com with questions, please put in the subject line of your email TU#225. Purchase tickets online in advance at <https://secure.etransfer.com/RICTU/Dinner.cfm>.

Creating rigs and jigs seminar, Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Who hasn't been out fishing and thought, "If my jig just had a bit more flash, a slightly different color or a longer skirt it would be perfect." If you want to make or enhance old jigs to catch fish, you should attend the "Creating rigs and jigs" online RI Saltwater Anglers Association seminar Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Now is your chance to see how long time "Do it yourselfers" Captain Rich Hittinger and Bob Murray both tie rigs and make jigs. Rich and Bob have put together a seminar that includes rig tying and also takes you through the process, selecting paint color, tying skirts and pouring the lead to create and tweak jigs to your own specifications and fishing style.

RISAA members attend free. Non-members are welcome with a \$10 donation to the RISAA Scholarship Fund. Membership is \$50/person/year. For information contact Greg Vespe, Executive Director, at 401-826-2121 or vespe@risaa.org.

Where's the bite?

"Freshwater fishing for largemouth bass is picking up. With a couple of warm days last week anglers were hooking up with largemouth with shiners. And, Monday morning with the nice weather we had anglers giving it a try too," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside, RI. "The supply chain for gear and tackle does seem to be a bit better this year. We just ordered combination rod and reel rigs, PowerBait in multiple colors, and hooks for opening day and everything came in." Opening Day of trout season is the second Saturday of April, this year that's Saturday, April 9.

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



RIGS AND JIGS SEMINAR: Captain Rich Hittinger and Bob Murray, owners of the fishing vessel Skipjack, will give a seminar Monday on how to make or enhance your fishing rigs and jigs. (Submitted photo)

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WHALES FEEDING: Whales are feeding closer to shore (here on Atlantic menhaden) as their food has moved due to climate impacts. (Photo by John McMurray)

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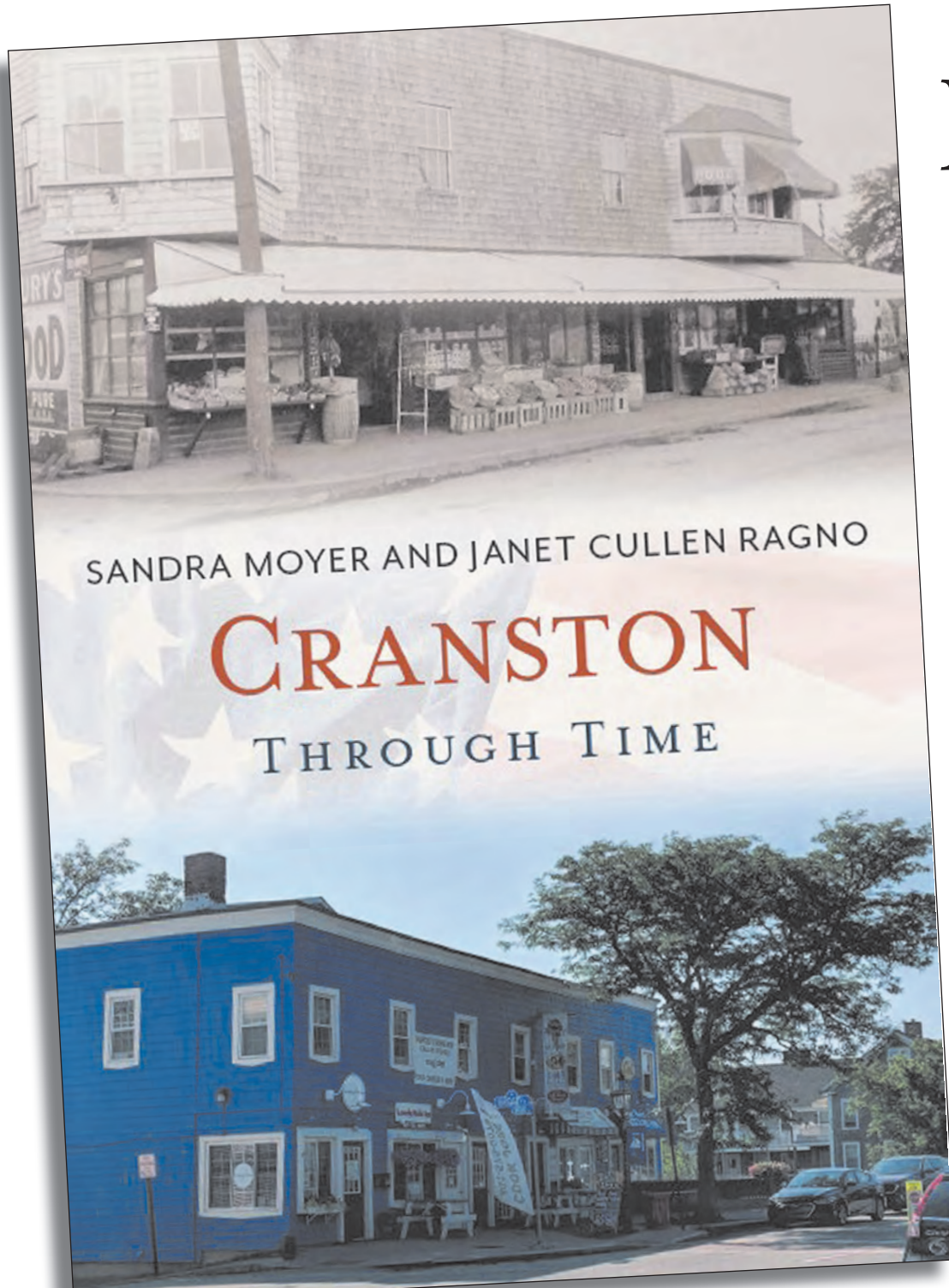
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Cranston book transports readers through time

You know what it is now, but what once was there?

By EMMA BARTLETT



Do you know what the Garden City center was before the stores were built? Well, Sandra Moyer, the Cranston Historical Society (CHS) President, can tell you the answer.

"It was a coal mine," said Moyer, who has lived in Cranston her whole life.

Moyer and CHS member Janet Ragno recently co-authored "Cranston Through Time," a 96 page book of then and now photographs of places throughout Cranston. The images show how areas within the city have evolved – followed by captions describing the photos' history. All photos come from CHS's collection.

"It's surprising how many buildings are still there but have been changed," Moyer said.

Moyer and Ragno started working on the book in 2018 and focused on sections of the city including Eden Park, Garden City, Pawtuxet Village, Oaklawn and Auburn. The book was published in December 2019, followed by one book signing event. The historical society planned to host a presentation and book signing in 2020, but the pandemic quickly put a halt to their plans. After two years, the authors finally held their book presentation and signing on March 15 at Sprague Mansion.

At the March event, Moyer and Rango spoke about the book making process and held a Cranston quiz with images of places around Cranston and seeing if individuals could recognize them. Moyer, who would like to have a presentation at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center, said it would be an interesting quiz for the senior population who might remember some of the places from their youth.

As for some of the changes over the years, Moyer referenced how the Pawtuxet fish market in Pawtuxet Village now holds small shops including Dear Hearts Ice Cream. Additionally, the old city hall in Knightsville was torn down and is now the location of the Knightsville gazebo. Additionally, there were a lot of old taverns in Cranston and the current 99 Restaurant sits in the location of an old tavern.

"It's still serving travelers," Moyer said.

"Cranston Through Time" is the second book that Moyer has co-authored. The first, "Cranston Revisited," was published in 2014 which Moyer co-authored with current CHS vice-president Tom Worthington. That book focuses on topics such as the area's recreation, manufacturing and agriculture.

Moyer said the first book turned out to be a difficult process and said never again would she write another one. Five years later, however, she found herself with another completed book.

She said the second book was easier to curate thanks to Jim Hall who uploaded the photos in the historical society's computer system. Moyer said for the first book, the photos were kept in the organization's attic which was sweltering in the summer and freezing in the winter.

As for the March 15 event, Moyer said the historical society had a respectable turnout for the first book signing since 2019 – the range of individuals went from age 13 to 86.

Moyer and Ragno hope people who remember Cranston from their youth, as well as younger people interested in what existed before them, will all enjoy the book's then and now photographs.

Individuals can purchase a copy of "Cranston Through Time" for \$20 at the Cranston Historical Society by calling 401-944-9226. All the proceeds from sales of this book will be donated to the organization to help in its mission to protect, preserve and promote this city's history. Moyer said they would like to host several book signings and presentations, possibly at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center and Cranston Public Library.



SIGNED PERSONALLY: Co-authors, Janet Ragno and Sandra Moyer, sign copies of their book, "Cranston Through Time," for Debra Brown and John O'Leary on March 15. All proceeds go to benefit the Cranston Historical Society. Copies can be purchased through the Society'

Johnston man has too many wives

Edwin James Bowled was born in England and came to America in 1884 when he was just 12 years old. The son of James and Elizabeth Bowled, he later took up the occupation of fashion knitting and began working at the British Hosiery Company in Johnston. The factory had been started by Robert Cooper, who had also come from England in 1884, bringing with him all the machinery needed to manufacture cashmere and cotton hosiery as well as over 100 Englishmen who wanted to work for him.

During the summer of 1893, Edwin met Elizabeth Westerville, the beautiful 20-year-old daughter of Foster farmer Robert Westerville and his wife

Jane. The young woman fell in love with the handsome Englishman and he asked her to marry him. On Jan. 20, 1894, the two exchanged vows as Elizabeth prepared for a life of loving bliss. Things did not go according to plan, however. It was said that Elizabeth was unhappy over the marital situation and, nine months after becoming her husband, Edwin disappeared.

As Elizabeth and her parents made attempts to locate Edwin, they were shocked to discover that he had once returned to England after his initial arrival in America, married and fathered two children. Leaving his family overseas, he had simply come back to America and married again.

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

If that information was not enough to shock and anger Elizabeth's parents, their investigation would later turn up even more disturbing facts. Still searching for him one year and two months after the disappearance, they learned he was in

Fort Wayne, Ind. and had married yet again, to a young woman named Grace.

With all of their research in hand, Robert and Jane went to the police and asked that Edwin be arrested. The police chief explained that he was unable to do that but he agreed that he would help to bring Edwin back to Rhode Island to face the legal ramifications of bigamy.

Elizabeth and Edwin were soon divorced and, in 1896, she married stationary engineer Harry Booth and settled in Cranston. Grace also divorced Edwin, on Oct. 21, 1899. Eight months later, he married Bertha Whitehead in Franklin New Hampshire.

Following another divorce,

Edwin married Mabel Addison in Franklin on Feb. 19, 1905. Another disappearance followed and, on Nov. 23, 1911, Mabel filed for divorce on the grounds of "willing absence".

In 1914, in Berks, Penn., Edwin married Marie Klink. They moved into a home together with his two new stepdaughters while he continued knitting for a living at a local hosiery mill. He died there in Berks at the age of 57 on April 7, 1929 of heart disease, which he had been suffering from for five years. He was buried there in Penn. before he had any opportunity to take on a seventh wife.

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

NETFLIX

RESCUED BY RUBY

*** 1/2

(Tale of Warwick Rescue Dog)

Based on a true story, a local state trooper rescues a Warwick shelter dog that (after some agonizing attempts to train her) becomes a hero; the movie plays out like an old-fashioned Lassie movie.



Although the events happened in Rhode Island, the movie was filmed in Vancouver and premiered recently at the East Greenwich Odeum.

Grant Gustin plays Daniel, a young Type A state trooper who dreams of joining the K9 unit.

There are no openings and dogs cost more

than what is in the budget, so Daniel takes Ruby from the local shelter.

Ruby turns out to be an uncontrollable, untrainable problem dog who had been brought back to the shelter eight times and was about to be put down when Daniel came to the rescue.

Ruby and Daniel slowly bond, as the owner's wife encourages Daniel to have patience in training Ruby. The dog goes on become a hero in true Lassie fashion.

The movie has a great lesson about believing in yourself and overcoming disabilities (Daniel has dyslexia).

ANIMALS - BIG CATS

Netflix's Animal series contains some of the best up-close nature photography we have ever seen.

The first of the latest four-part series features the big cats, ranging from the lions of Africa to the snow leopards of the Himalayas.

We witness the exciting and violent hunts of the majestic animals from the time their mothers train them to the killing of their prey.

We learn about the different physical attributes necessary to succeed in different environments.

We are reminded that it is the mother who trains her cubs to kill while the father's role is to protect them.

Hunting alone has given way to hunting in prides, as the environment is changing, and human hunters have interfered with the laws of survival.

The documentary is more violent than "The Godfather" as we watch the kill and the subsequent feast. Close-ups of the big cats with blood dripping down their faces may be a bit too much for the squeamish, but hey, the wild creatures must eat to survive.

BAD VEGAN

**

(Documentary)

The story of "New York's Hottest Vegan," Sarma Melngailis, is reenacted in vignettes that are filled with that famous four-letter word to the point of absurdity.

Sarma opened a fashionable vegan restaurant that became trendy for the in-crowd. She made lots of money.

See it at the
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Movies

Sarma fell in love with Shane, who had a shady background and many aliases. She laundered money to cover Shane's gambling debts and, after doing many dumb things at his beck and call, went into hiding with him and left creditors without the millions they lent her.

Was she conned or was she part of a con job herself.

By the end of the series, I just wanted her to go away permanently.

Three more hour-long docs include Dogs, Marsupials, and Octopus.

AMAZON

BEING THE RICARDOS

Javier Bardem stars as Desi Arnaz and Nicole Kidman plays Lucille Ball, both nominated for Best Actor and Best Actress in this year's Academy Awards.

The movie, unlike Amy Poehler's documentary, focuses on the rehearsal and production of one episode of "I Love Lucy" and the relationship between the Cuban band leader and his actress wife.

It is a time when the House on Unamerican Activities labels Lucy a communist by and, when Lucy is pregnant, CBS won't mention the word or follow her pregnancy as part of the popular show.

The acting is great, especially as they replicate the

live weekly shows.

You will learn a few things about the couple and their road to divorce.

Amazon follows the movie with some classic "I Love Lucy" TV shows.

ACADEMY AWARDS

While we are not fans of award shows, we still watch them every year.

We will never agree that there is one Best Actor or one Best Picture.

This year, there are ten nominees for Best Picture, and we will never understand how "Dune" and "Licorice Pizza" made the list.

"West Side Story" seems to be a shoo-in, but there are a few others that we enjoyed in this slim year for Oscar-quality films.

If you haven't seen the following, put them on your list:

"Nightmare Alley" with Rhode Island's Richard Jenkins in a key supporting role.

"Coda," the story of a girl raised in a deaf family.

"Power of the Dog," a modern Western.

We haven't seen "Macbeth," but any performance by Denzel Washington has to be a contender.

We thought that Benedict Cumberbatch was great in "Power of the Dog."

We liked every performance by the nominated actresses and could not pick anyone who rose above the rest.

As of this writing, we have only seen the nominations for Best Animated Short Film and the only one that was enjoyable and understandable was the British entry "Robin Robin."

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

Gelato

Ahoy! Meet Gelato! He is a young Rottweiler with a huge smile and a big heart to match! Gelato's smile says it all, love me! He is smart, playful and ready for his forever home. He is available for adoption at Providence Animal Control and they are currently open by appointment only so you can contact them via email for more information and to set up an appointment to meet Gelato. Email: provanimalcontrol@gmail.com They are located at 200 Terminal Rd/Adoption Way Providence RI.

Gelato is ready to set sail with you!

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

Photo credit: Jen Reynolds



Rodney Witherspoon II as Vic and Donnla Hughes as Darja in Ironbound at The Gamm. (Photo by Cat Laine/Painted Foot)



Donnla Hughes as Darja and Gunnar Manchester as Maks. (Photo by Cat Laine/Painted Foot)



Steve Kidd as Tommy and Donnla Hughes as Darja. (Photo by Cat Laine/Painted Foot)

Powerful performances in Gamm's 'Ironbound'

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

Darja (Donnla Hughes) sits on a bench at a bus stop in New Jersey, crying for a better life after immigrating from Poland and running from three failed marriages.

We meet Tommy, (Steve Kidd) husband #3, as he shouts profanities at her, ordering her to "Get in the car!"

Darja is down on her luck. The American Dream isn't what she expected as she struggles through bad relationships, low paying, bottom level jobs and the realization that money, not love, is what she needs to survive.

Playwright Martyna Majok has structured the play over 22 years in the tough life of a woman struggling to survive in world where she is overlooked, abused and finding herself at a point in her life where she knows not where to turn.

Pay attention to the shifts in time as Darja tries to deal with Tommy and Maks, (Gunnar Manchester), her first husband, who has brought her to America where he hopes to pursue a career in music.

The one-act play is filled with allegories and metaphors, as the author makes statements on the

difficulties of immigrants, especially women, in an uncaring world. The fact that the play opens at the same time as Russia invades Ukraine is an eerie coincidence.

Darja's world is interrupted by a stranger who offers temporary help, which she rejects because it offers no long-range solution. Talk about metaphors!

Rodney Witherspoon II has a pivotal role as Vic, giving a perfect performance filled with both joy and poignancy.

Poignancy is the word. In spite of her rashness and anger, you will care deeply for Darja and the problems of the underserved people struggling to survive.

Kidd makes Tommy a fascinating character. He cares, but he doesn't know what to do. Manchester has the role of the Polish immigrant dreamer down Pat. He knows what he wants to do. Hughes wears her insecurities on her sleeve as she faces the harsh realities of life.

Rachel Walsh directs the play up close and personal, putting the characters right in front of a bleak gray wall and forcing the audience to feel their pain.

"Ironbound" is a play that will stay with you long after the lights go out. It is at Warwick's Gamm Theatre through April 10. Call 723-4266.

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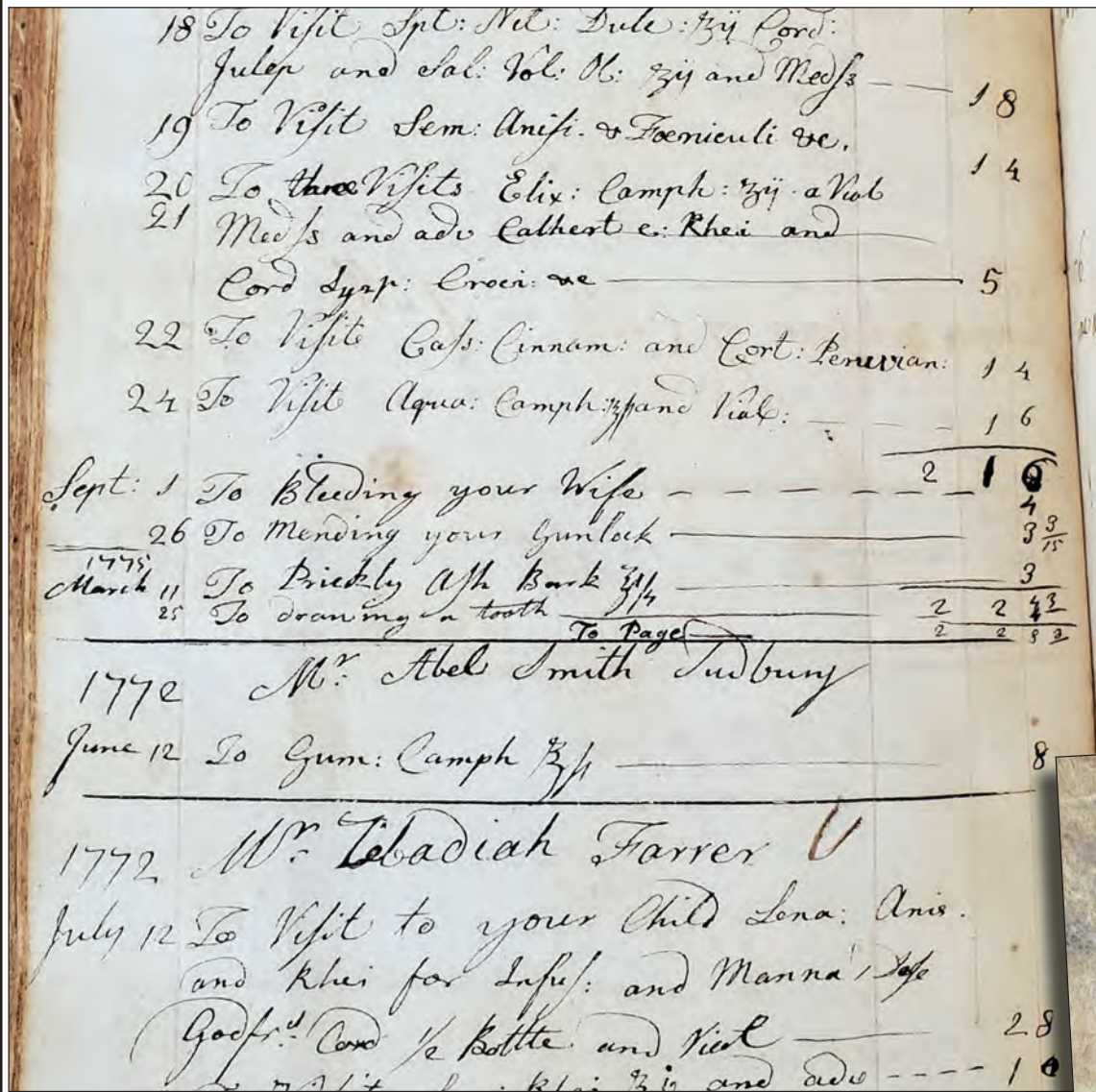
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COLLECTIBLES

A Colonial Doctor and Gunsmith's Account Books



By Joel Bohy
Historic Arms & Militaria
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time of the so-called "Powder Alarm" in Charlestown, Massachusetts, quite a few of his patients are having him fix their guns. It is also around this time that the Town of Sudbury hires him for 9 days to repair the town-owned guns to make sure they are ready for service.

Having grown up in the neighboring town of Concord and studying local town records as well as those in the Massachusetts Archives Collection, I recognize many of the names of the folks he either took care of or repaired their firearms. One was Aaron Haynes, a captain in one of Sudbury's militia companies. On March 22, 1775, he sent in a return of his company and stated he had 60 "men- well Provided with fire armes." According to the pages in the Mosman book, Haynes had issues with his own gun and on April 8, 1775, just 11 days prior to the outbreak of the war he wrote "1775 April 8 To mending your gun and finding a Lock." It seems the gun lock must have been in such bad shape that it couldn't be repaired and had to find a new one and fit it to his gun.

Other patients' entries record things like "To bleeding your wife" and in the next entry "to mending your gun lock." Although this listing isn't repairing a gun, another patient was Benjamin Berry from

Sudbury. I had copies of all his petitions for loses from the Massachusetts State Archives. Berry lost his arm as a sailor on Benedict Arnold's Lake Champlain fleet on October 11, 1776. After he recovered enough to go home, he went back to Sudbury and was taken care of by Dr. Mosman.

Objects, as well as books and documents can really help to give us a look into the lives of those who came before us. The Mosman account books are another example of this fascinating period.

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What is a HELOC?

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Bank of America says a home equity line of credit, often referred to as a HELOC, is a line of credit secured by your home. It is a revolving credit line that can be used for various expenses. The Credit Union of Southern California reports that a HELOC credit line is issued by a lender and has a limit and variable interest rate that is secured by the equity in your home.

A HELOC is similar to a credit card in that they both provide revolving credit. Investopedia says revolving credit is an agreement that permits an account holder to borrow money repeatedly up to a set dollar limit while also repaying a portion of the current balance due in regular payments over time. But unlike credit cards that may have high interest rates, the interest rates of HELOCs often are lower — a significant advantage when paying off large amounts of borrowed money.

Home equity accessed through a HELOC can be a great source of value for future renovations, large purchases such as cars, educational expenses, and alternative debt repayment. The credit limit of a HELOC depends on your credit standing and unpaid debts. It also is determined by the market value of the home and how much you owe on your mortgage. According to Credit Karma, banks tend to limit the amount borrowed to no more than 85 percent of the appraised value of the home, minus what is owed on the mortgage. HELOC terms also vary, but they can run for as long as 30 years.

Even though there are many benefits to HELOCs, there is a downside to using a home as collateral. Investopedia says home equity lenders place a second lien on the home (in addition to the first mortgage lien). Defaulting on HELOC payments can result in legal action and a home being repossessed. Another potential pitfall is a lender may reduce or freeze your credit line after missed payments. Even though banks attempt to limit how much can be borrowed through HELOCs to help avoid potentially negative situations, they are not without risk.

Borrowers considering a HELOC have other options, including home equity loans. Homeowners can speak with financial advisors to learn more about their options for maximizing equity in their homes. SH222673



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Signs of *winter* **LAWN DAMAGE**



Snow-covered lawns can be pretty, but heavy snowfall can contribute to winter lawn damage.

Mother Nature can be harsh on a lawn, and it's up to homeowners to nurse their lawns back to health after they endure the elements. That's often the case when winter ends and homeowners uncover signs of damage to their lawns.

Homeowners cannot begin to repair winter lawn damage until they learn to identify it, and the following are some telltale signs that winter took a harsh toll on a landscape.

- **Wilted grass:** Many things can cause grass to wilt over the course of winter, so homeowners may have to put on their sleuth's cap to determine why grass that was healthy as recently as late fall is now wilted as the spring bloom begins. Grass that's adjacent to walkways and driveways might have wilted due to the application of de-icing solutions. Such products can prevent the formation of ice on driveways and walkways. However, when they're tracked onto the grass by people or animals or blown there by winter winds, grass can wilt. A deep watering in spring can flush any lingering solution from the lawn. In future winters, homeowners can be as careful as possible when applying de-icing solutions, making a con-

certed effort to avoid spreading any onto the grass and limited applications to areas of the driveway and walkways that are not close to the grass.

- **Brown patches:** The National Association of Landscape Professionals notes that brown patches in a lawn often develop after heavy snowfall. Such patches tend to develop where large piles of shoveled snow were deposited, so homeowners can inspect alongside driveways and walkways. The NALP advises homeowners to rake away part of the brown patches first. If green tissue is emerging beneath, then the lawn will likely be fine in due time. However, if the area beneath is not green and surrounding areas are already turning green, homeowners may need to rake up dead tissue before applying topsoil to the affected spots. Once topsoil is spread, some grass seed can be spread and the grass should regain its green glory.

- **Gray or pink grass:** Another indicator of winter lawn damage linked to snow is gray or pink grass. The NALP reports that this is a byproduct of snow mold caused by lingering snow. Action may be unnecessary, as the NALP notes these circular patterns often go away on their own. If not, raking the affected areas might be enough to get the lawn on the

road to recovery. If the issue continues to linger after raking, a topsoil application and subsequent seeding may be necessary.

These are three common signs of winter lawn damage in areas where snowfall is significant during the coldest months of the year. Homeowners concerned about their damaged lawns are urged to contact a local landscape professional to correct any issues that linger into spring. GT224832



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