

\$215M SCHOOL BOND PASSES

Light turnout overwhelmingly favored funding for new schools

By RORY SCHULER

Kayla Brown took her ballot to a secluded voting booth in the middle school gymnasium.

While standing underneath a basketball hoop, she filled in the oval next to "Approve."

Brown was carrying the future of Johnston with her, in her belly and in the backseat of the car waiting outside. Her 2-year-old son Jack sat in a car seat in the back with Kayla's mother, Laura Brown.

"My son will go to these schools," Kalya said while climbing behind the wheel. "And I'm having another in October. Honestly, this will be best for everyone."

"It's a benefit to the town," Laura Brown shouted from the backseat. She planned to cast her vote in favor of the \$215 million school bond later Tuesday afternoon.

A slow trickle of Johnston voters turned out to cast ballots from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in a special referendum on funding for new school construction. Unofficial results were announced around 9 p.m.

Only 5.33 percent, or 1,278 of the town's 23,980 registered voters, marked ballots.

According to Tuesday night's uncertified results, 1,100 (or 86.07 percent) voted in favor of a \$215 million bond to fund construction of a new Early Childhood Center and Elementary School, and major renovations at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School and the Johnston High School. Only 178 voters (13.93 percent) voted to reject the bond.

Tuesday's vote total may not include early voting and a handful of mail-in ballots.

"With the passing of the bond, the first phase of the construction will be the new elementary school," said Johnston Public Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. "All schools will remain open as we complete this project."

The plans call for closing and then eventually demolishing, re-purposing or selling all of the town's current elementary schools — Graniteville ECC Annex, Barnes, Brown Avenue, Thornton and Winsor Hill. A bigger, consolidated, new elementary school will be built to educate around 1,100 students in grades 1-4, on three floors, and is planned for construction on town property just north of the Johnston High School.

The elementary school is expected to cost an estimated \$84,350,000.



CIVIC DUTY: A Johnston mother brought her son to the polls to vote on a \$215 million bond to fund new school building projects. The referendum passed overwhelmingly. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

VOTE - PAGE 12



GETTING STARTED: After beating the odds and picking up a playoff victory in 2021, the Johnston softball team is back to work this season and is looking to make a deep run with a large number of returning players in the mix. Shown here, Arianna Velasquez makes a play at a recent scrimmage. For more on this story, turn to Page 19. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

Solar field vote delayed

By RORY SCHULER

The Johnston Zoning Board has decided to postpone a decision on five new solar fields in town.

The board was set to weigh the merits of a special use application by Cranston-based Green Development at its regular meeting last week.

However, an attorney representing a group of Johnston residents — neighbors and abutters of the land proposed for development — requested a continuance.

The meeting on Thursday, March 31, at the Johnston Senior Center, was packed with residents eager to be heard on the proposal.

According to Green Development, the five solar fields will be

constructed on land totaling 324.86 acres. Of those 324.86 acres, approximately 133.15 acres will be surrounded by fencing, with solar panels occupying around 41 percent of the acreage.

A substantial area will be cleared of trees, and some topography altered, across the five parcels in Johnston's west-end.

Surveyors have been out tying pink ribbons to trees along the likely fence-line. Property-owners along Rollingwood Drive have been spotting specks of pink from their backyards. Many want to know more details about the buffer between the land developers plan to clear and residential property lines.

The audience started Thurs-

day's meeting with audible hostility. The Zoning Board spoke from a long table at one end of the Senior Center's main activity room. They spoke quietly, and there were no microphones.

"We can't hear you," shouted one resident. Others joined in.

The Zoning Board's solicitor, attorney Joseph R. Ballirano, interrupted the shouts.

"Is there a motion to just suspend the rules and take up the solar farms?" He asked the board.

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

"Do you have a microphone?" One woman asked loudly. "We're having trouble hearing."

SOLAR - PAGE 6



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MIGHTY MUSICIANS: JHS percussionist Johnathan Guilmette and Trumpet player Gerson Cabrera show off their mattress outfits to promote Saturday's sale that helped fund the music department's trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. The students left at 5 a.m. Thursday morning. (Submitted photo)

Off to Virginia

55 JHS students head to Music in the Parks Festival

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Fresh from Saturday's highly-successful 5th Annual Mattress Sale, 55 students that participate in Johnston High School's national award-winning music program, left Cherry Hill this morning for Williamsburg, Virginia where they'll compete in the Music in the Parks Festival.

At approximately 5 a.m. Director Ron Lamoureux and Vocalist Leader Matt Gingras and JHS students boarded a double-decker Dattco Charter Company bus for what will be five full days of competition, meeting students from other school districts and getting an education in history about days of a by-gone era.

Lamoureux explained that the traveling party will stop for a nice lunch, courtesy of the Johnston School Music Association and later in the day have a pizza party when they check in and do some team exercises after dinner.

After which, it's all business on Friday beginning with rehearsals before a big lunch then competing for top honors from 4 to 7 pm. at two different high schools in the Williamsburg area.

"Saturday will be spent at Busch Gardens, Europe where the kids will have well-deserved fun time and attend the awards ceremony with other participants from around the country," Lamoureux offered. "Sunday will be special, as well."

That's when the JHS traveling troupe will visit historic Williamsburg where the staff is all in period clothing and doing daily work of people from the colonial era and as Lamoureux emphasized "the kids will learn a great deal and it's loads of fun at the same time."

Saturday will include yet another social experience when the JHS group travels on the Spirit of Norfolk for a dinner/dancing cruise that is always a favorite of all the kids and will include fine-dining aboard a luxury craft.

The JHS Music group will travel back to Johnston Monday and resume classes on Tuesday and as Lamoureux noted: "Hopefully with some super and special awards."



FIRM FUN: The Oakley family from Narragansett – Justin, Jamie, Zach, Miles and Fiona – offered a thumbs about this mattress they tried out Saturday during the JHS Music Department’s 5th Annual Mattress Sale. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

‘Going to the mattresses’ Johnston School Music Association celebrates fundraising success

By PETE FONTAINE

Bethany Littlefield, president of the Johnston School Music Association (JSMA) was all smiles as she watched the Oakley family climb onto a king-size mattress late Saturday morning inside the JHS cafeteria.

“They came here from Narragansett looking for a mattress,” Littlefield explained. “Apparently, they like what is on display here.”

Which was, for all intents and purposes, a total of 29 different-sized top-of-the-line beds that were on sale — at special prices that included delivery — during the JHS Music Department’s 5th Annual Mattress Sale.

For some seven hours, CFS (Custom Fundraising Solutions), a national company that began in Cleveland, Ohio in 2005 and has been one of the nation’s top high school fundraising groups ever since, transformed the JHS cafeteria into a huge showroom featuring everything from mattresses, covers, protectors, pillows and other accessories.

Jason Glander, a CFS executive who owns the franchise for Rhode Island, Southeastern Massachusetts and parts of Connecticut, spent much of his time explaining the different mattresses to people like the Oakleys during the seven-hour sale that benefits the JHS Music Department’s programs and the prestigious Rachel E. Carson Memorial Scholarship.

Glander’s brother Matt Glander and Kate Finnegan, who made up the day’s sales force, welcomed all shoppers during the event that resulted in yet another success story for the always-active JHS Music Department.

Meanwhile JHS Music Department Chair

Ron Lamoureux offered: “We are blessed with an abundance of kind and caring volunteers who are consistently generous with their time and energy to help at this and other events that benefit our student musicians and vocalists.”

Lamoureux also wanted it known that Jason (Glander) is great to work with. He’s been doing this for a number of years and knows how to guide us through the day — he does everything to help us have super success.”

The idea of the mattress fundraiser came from Matt Gingras, who heads all aspects of the JHS Music Department’s Select Chorus, Choir and all-singing group.

Gingras first learned of CFS when he went shopping for a new bed during a similar sale that was held and host by the Cranston School Music Association and after discussing the program with Lamoureux, the two decided to try the idea at Johnston High School.

“That was five years ago and we’ve had success during each and every sale,” Gingras said. “It’s without a doubt a different and fun way to fundraise.”

To which Lamoureux noted: “Matt and I try to take a big perspective look at a great deal of our events and fundraisers. We are always trying to set up our future endeavors with the seeds we are planting now and now and we’ve learned a great deal about that kind of thinking from Jason (Glander).”

Meanwhile, Jason Glander announced “the Johnston Music Department will realize over \$2,000 and we are proud to work with such a supportive group and to offset their scholarship costs. We will be back next year again teaming up with this outstanding group at Johnston High School.”



LINKED LEADERS: CFS Sales Staffers Matt Glander (left) and Kate Finnegan (right) join JSMA President Bethany Littlefield and Secretary Sheila Haley beside one of the 7-foot tall promotional posters on display during Saturday’s mattress sale.



SPECIAL SEAT: Makaila Fosu, 15, a sophomore at Johnston High School and talented alto singer with various JHS choruses, enjoys a lighter moment during Saturday’s mattress sale.

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The good, the bad, and cutting a rug



BEST COWGIRLS: Best friends Julianna Stonis and Brooke Charpentier strike a pose last weekend. Thornton Elementary School held a family dance on Sunday, March 27 at the Cranston Country Club. The event had a Western theme. (Submitted photos)



PIGGY BACK: Michael De Angelis gets a piggy back ride from Hayden Rose. Students enjoyed a cowboy and cowgirl-themed event last weekend.



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NCUA LENDER



GET IN LINE: Sunday's conga line was a memorable experience for students at Thornton Elementary's family dance.



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STARTING UP A POSSE: Ibrahima Fall, Jacob Stonis, Michael DeAngelis, Emanuel Herrera, Hayden Rose and Luis Araujo pose for a photo.

AG warns Rhode Islanders to be vigilant against IRS tax scams

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha issued a warning to Rhode Islanders to remain vigilant against Internal Revenue Service (IRS) imposter scams during the current tax season as state and federal tax deadlines approach during the month of April. The Office of the Attorney General has received multiple reports of phone and email IRS imposter scams that attempt to solicit personal and payment information from individuals.

Scammers use a variety of methods in their attempts to victimize Rhode Islanders, including phone calls, texts, emails, regular mail, and social media messaging. The common elements of these imposter scams are: 1) a solicitation made to appear as if generated from a familiar government or business entity, like the IRS, and 2) a request for personal information or payment.

"Unfortunately, these types of imposter scams are all too prevalent. The best way Rhode Islanders can avoid falling victim to a scam is to stay educated about the methods and themes

scammers employ," Neronha said in a press release from his office. "Each year during 'tax season,' we see an uptick in IRS imposter scams directed at earnest taxpayers who are simply trying to do the right thing. Rhode Islanders can always turn to this office for advice and information if they are faced with a possible scam situation."

Imposter scams are commonplace — messages pretending to originate from a familiar or trusted source can convey a false sense of confidence to the recipient who in turn may be more likely to respond to a request and share personal or even payment information. Scammers are keen to take advantage of current trends and tailor their scams to target individuals — such as IRS scams during "tax season."

Rhode Islanders should keep the following tips in mind when presented with messages purporting to be from a familiar government or business entity:

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or

financial information. The IRS will also not call to demand immediate payment or threaten law enforcement action.

Be a skeptic — if the form of communication, type of language or grammar, or basic reason for the request does not seem to be right, assume you are dealing with a scam attempt.

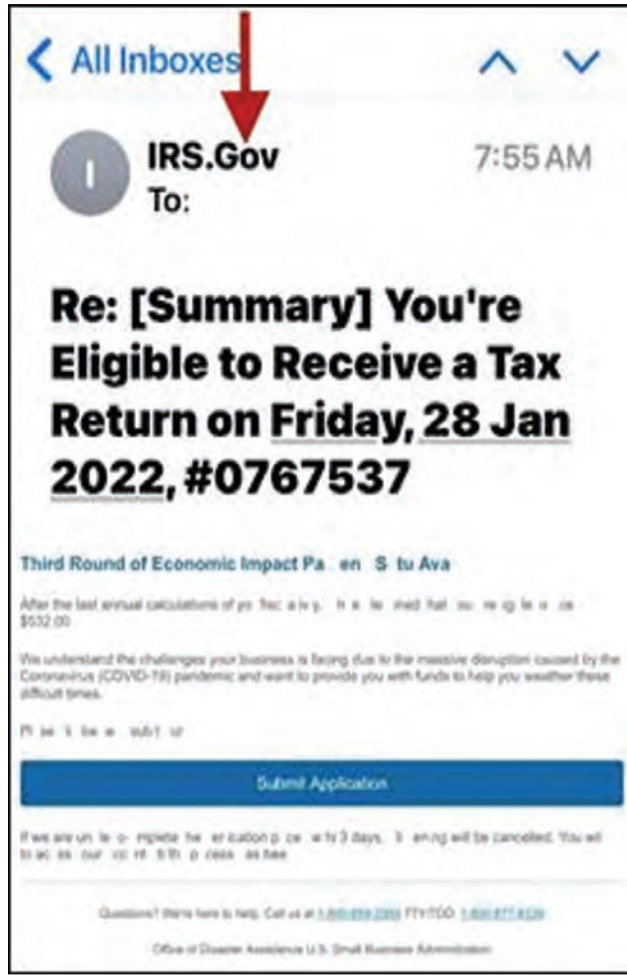
Ignore — decline an unfamiliar call or delete a suspicious email and under no circumstances reply or call back.

If you do answer a call or open an email, do not engage — do not answer questions or click any links.

Communicate with the familiar government or business entity using contact information provided on bills, statements, cards, or official websites.

When in doubt, contact the Office of the Attorney General for advice on how to deal with potential scams.

To report the scam to the Attorney General's consumer protection team, call 401-274-4400 or visit riag.ri.gov. Consumers are also encouraged to consult www.irs.gov for additional IRS imposter scam information.



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Watch Your MOUTH

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

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We hope you won't let discolored, stained, chipped or otherwise less than perfect teeth keep you from smiling. There are many ways cosmetic dentistry can work its magic to turn your smile into one you'll be proud to show. For tooth-whitening, veneers, bonding, and other innovative cosmetic avenues toward a happier smile, please call DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 401-521-3661, for an appointment. We provide complete, state-of-the-art oral care in a friendly, relaxing environment at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. We accept most insurance plans.

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TIME SERVED:

Civilian employee Kathy Bedrosian has proudly served the members of Johnston community with dedication and distinction for the past 17 years, according to the Johnston Police Department. The department wished Bedrosian "all the best as she officially retires from the Johnston Police Department."

The department has a message for their now-former employee: "While we are saddened that we will no longer see her every day, we are pleased that she will continue to work in a part-time capacity for the department going forward. Please join us in wishing Kathy a happy retirement!"

(Photos courtesy Johnston Police)



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HIGHER LEARNING: Johnston Police Department's Deputy Chief Mark Vieira recently completed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New England Regional Command College, and Captains Matthew Benson and Joseph Salvadore, completed Roger Williams University's Justice System Training and Research Institute Command Training Series: Executive Development Course. These programs provide the department's command staff with critical skills and effective leadership tools necessary to better serve the community, according to Johnston Police. *(Photo courtesy Johnston Police)*

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Single family zoning bill requires more focus

A bill recently introduced to the Rhode Island legislature by advocates for more affordable and less institutionally problematic housing throughout the state's most populated communities — though certainly admirable in its aspirations — will never progress without a significant adjustment and narrowing of focus.

Bill H-6638 seeks to prohibit municipalities in Rhode Island consisting of 20,000 people or more from authorizing any single family zoning, and allow for the construction of so-called "middle housing" developments consisting of various types of multi-family housing where they may once have been prevented from being built before.

The intentions behind the bill appear to be from a place of benevolence. The bill's sponsors believe this forcing of municipalities' hands is a means to expedite the construction of more housing units to address the state's well-documented shortage of housing stock. By boosting the amount of multi-family homes throughout the state's bigger communities, naturally, more people would theoretically be able to acquire a place to live. Which we would argue is a good thing.

Further, they argue, prohibiting zoning that only allows for single-family homes will alleviate a key component of structural racism that has worked throughout prior generations to segregate the haves (mostly white homeowners and their subsequent generations), from the have-nots (mostly non-white residents who have been systemically disadvantaged and forced to live in under-served communities where more affordable, but less desirable multi-family zoning is permitted). This, too, strikes us as a good thing to strive towards.

Unfortunately, this bill (currently being held for more study), is unlikely ever to see a vote, considering how extraordinarily broad and impactful its passage would be. The implications of this bill are massive, and would essentially require affected municipalities to completely delete their comprehensive plans and start over from scratch with a brand-new vision for housing density, transportation requirements, public safety implications, and zoning — and complete those revisions by June of 2023. Such a task is, putting it nicely, unrealistic.

A bill with these goals is more likely to succeed by finding ways to incentivize the creation of zoning where the construction of multi-family housing projects may be subsidized or otherwise fast-tracked, providing municipalities with the appeal of boosting its property tax revenue through an increase of residents, as well as incentivizing developers to build in areas they perhaps might not otherwise have considered.

To suggest that housing zoning practices should be the same in Warwick, Johnston or Providence as they are in places like Bristol, Westerly or South Kingstown suggests a lack of understanding in how different each of these communities are, and what challenges they face. To implement a one-size-fits-all approach to drastically different places suggests a bill that requires a significant narrowing and clarification of focus.

While the goal of providing more affordable places to live while also alleviating an historic system of unequal zoning and opportunity is a noble goal, the approach taken in this bill is unlikely to bring anyone to the table for serious discussion.

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GUEST OP

Seeking opportunities for all

By Richard Charest and Kevin Savage

The most contentious topic in the home shared by the Jenkins siblings might be who does the cooking. Two of the brothers, Alton and George, say those duties are shared. Their sister, Beverly, tells a different story.

"I do the grocery shopping," she says. "I do the cooking."

Culinary contributions aside, the Jenkins siblings agree on most things. They enjoy living in Newport. They enjoy taking vacations together. Perhaps most of all, they enjoy the satisfaction that comes from working.

This might seem trivial, except that the five siblings and one daughter who share the home handed down by the Jenkins' parents have intellectual developmental disabilities. This means their employment status and their independent lifestyles exemplify what is possible when people have the right opportunities.

Three of the siblings, and Beverly's daughter, Mary, work five days a week at the Newport Naval Base, providing cleaning and custodial services through an employment program at the James L. Maher Center, a nonprofit based in Middletown. The work is part-time, but in addition to the pay, it affords Beverly, George, Mark and Mary with a sense of purpose and belonging.

"This means everything to them," says a Maher Center supervisor, Mark Theodore, holding a naval base I.D. badge like the ones the Jenkins have. "They don't just work there. They want to be there."

As we work to strengthen Rhode Island's services and supports for more than 4,000 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, one of our primary goals at the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals is to help people pursue their interests and use their skills and talents to live as

independently as possible. This fulfills a universal human desire to contribute, and it is important to reflect on this as we observe Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, held each March to raise awareness about the need for inclusion and opportunity.

Rhode Island is making progress in this area, through efforts ranging from employment counseling that is tailored to individual interests, to greater financial investments in the services provided by nonprofits such as the Maher Center. But we know there is work to do.

Nationwide, people with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be unemployed, according to the U.S Department of Labor. That's far too high. There are many people with intellectual or developmental disabilities who want to work, and they should have options that allow them to work. When they do, it's good for everyone, including employers.

At the naval base, says Theodore, the Jenkins are on a first-name basis with many staff. He also says working with the Jenkins is "one of the best things that's happened" to him,

because of their enthusiasm and their work ethic.

"They have fun, and at the end of the day, the work is done," he said.

Not that work is everything. As each of the Jenkins knows, it's also important to get out and socialize. They are active in the Newport community, going to dances and parades and other events, and some of them also enjoy going out to eat and going to the beach.

Alton, who is 70, has retired from his work at the base, as has another sibling, Carl, who is 68. But with more time on his hands, Alton enjoys going for walks, and he's also found that he enjoys helping his neighbors "when they need it." It might be carrying groceries or bringing a barrel to the street.

As with his work at the base, his efforts demonstrate that people who find satisfaction in their work only need to have the opportunity.

Editor's Note: Richard Charest is Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH). Kevin Savage is Director of BHDDH's Division of Developmental Disabilities.

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join in on April 16 at 9:30-11:30 a.m. for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Johnston Senior Center. The event will be brought to you by the Johnston Parks and Recreation Department, and everyone is invited to attend.

Johnston Senior Center back in full force

At the Johnston Senior Center, all exercise classes have resumed, and new classes have been added too. Call the center for information.

They are offering a Photography starting on April 12 at 1:30 p.m. Please call center for information at 944-3343. The class features on-location shoots and three classroom sessions. The charge is \$10 per session.

There are still seats available for the Pennsylvania Dutch trip on May 23-25; double occupancy \$499 and \$599 single occupant.

The Newport Playhouse is back. The first performance is Tuesday July 12, with "Murder at Howard Johnsons," which features a lobster dinner with the play for \$95 per person.

NAMI-RI: Free Virtual Family-To-Family course begins April 13

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

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

For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

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=riseniorsoftball for more information. Please fill out player inquiry form, the commissioner will contact you.

Consider donating blood

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

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

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

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

Apple Fest Scheduled

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

The event will be held at the Johnston Memorial Park - 1583 Hartford Ave. in Johnston. Register: members.nrichamber.com/.../the-34th-annual-apple

Johnston Senior Center offers services

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

Reminder from Parks & Rec

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

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

Also, please be mindful of parking. Please display a handicap placard if you park in a handicap space. The area behind the office is reserved for employees. If you have any questions, please call 401-272-3460.

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/johnston-historical.

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.

RI Pre-K lottery applications

The 2022-23 RI Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign-Up form is now available! Please note that this is not the RI Pre-K Lottery application. This form will sign you up to stay informed of the lottery opening in late spring. You will only need to complete and submit this form once!

You can access the RI Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign-Up in three locations:

1. By visiting <http://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdn.../viewform> to go directly to the Google Form;
2. By visiting the RIDE homepage and clicking the round "Pre-K Lottery Email Notification Sign Up" badge on the right toolbar and
3. By visiting the RI Pre-K webpage on the RIDE website and clicking the "Lottery Application" menu to reveal the link to the form

To be eligible for Pre-K, your child must be four by Sept. 1.

Did you know?

The legend of the Easter bunny bringing eggs appears to have been brought to the United States by settlers from Germany. The German tradition of the Easter bunny (or Oschter Haws) migrated to America in the 1700s, accompanying German immigrants, many of whom settled in Pennsylvania.

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.

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

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Solar

(Continued from page 1)

"You should have microphones!" One man shouted.

"This is a public meeting, we need to be able to hear what's transpiring," Another man said, his voice booming.

"Well move up, you're way in the back," a board member shouted back. "Don't be yelling at us. We just started."

Attorney Matthew J. Landry, of the Providence law firm Blish & Cavanaugh LLP, stood in the front of the room, to the right of the audience. He was recently retained to represent a group of neighbors who oppose the solar fields.

Attorney Al Russo, representing Green Development, stood to the right of the crowd.

The two lawyers tried to introduce themselves but had a hard time talking over the crowd. Some residents, many of whom had not hired an attorney, worried aloud that they were about to lose their chance to speak. Confusion ensued, but eventually the three lawyers broke through.

"I represent a small group of abutters that about various projects that are being proposed by Green Development," Landry said as the crowd slowly calmed. "We are respectfully asking for a continuance. I did speak to Mr. Russo today. I understand he has no objection to my request. I apologize for the timeliness of the request. I would certainly give the board much more notice ... I've just recently been retained, and getting up to speed. So we'd like an opportunity to review this submission and present an appropriate response."

Ballirano called one of Landry's clients up and asked him if he received notice.

"Let me speak for my client," Landry interrupted. "We have discussed the notice issue with the town. I've discussed it with Mr. Russo. We believe there was defective notice as to my client, because he was not named in the abutters list that was submitted. He recently purchased this property."

"We're going to continue this in a public meeting," Ballirano said. "So this notice carries."

Town Councilman Robert Civetti stood up from the crowd and asked to speak.

He was sworn-in and stood at the lectern in the center of the room, facing the Zoning Board.

"During this whole process, I spoke to many residents as we walked the properties," Civetti said. "And I appreciate Mr. Russo and his clients walking the properties with us, but there's a lot of residents out there that say they never received the notice."

Civetti's district covers the area in question, and he represents the constitu-

ents who will be affected most by the proposed solar developments. He and a few dozen neighbors spent a recent Saturday touring the potential development sites.

"I would like to request the notices are sent," Civetti told the board. "I would like those notices to be sent certified mail, so that we do have the cards certifying that they were sent to the residents."

Russo answered. "The problem with that is that there are over 500 abutters to these five projects," Russo told Civetti. "Certified mail is \$7 ..."

The crowd erupted in jeers and laughter.

"With all due respect, if they can't afford to pay that price, then they shouldn't be trying to put solar panels in the town," Civetti responded. "Everyone here at the risk of losing property value. Plain and simple. There are studies out there that show property values decrease with this going in a residential area. So you know where I stand. I'm not hiding anything. If they can't meet that requirement, I think we have a bigger problem here."

"I'm not saying we can't meet that requirement," Russo replied. "I'm just saying that we don't want to spend money that we don't need to spend. Everyone involved in this project knows about it. They're all here tonight."

The crowd stirred again. "You just said there's 500 people," Civetti argued. "There's not 500 people here. There's a lot of residents ... that did not know about this."

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

Solar development is a special use for residential zones and permitted under Johnston's zoning laws.

Johnston resident Rosemarie Ranzie stood and asked to speak. She was sworn in and took her place at the lectern.

"I moved into my house on Meadowbrook (Drive), which unfortunately I found out yesterday, thanks to my neighbors there was a meeting and this was being done," Ranzie told the board. "This whole thing abuts my property. I just bought it in June, and I was not told, one, when I brought the property, and, two, I have not received one letter or notice. So this is all news to me."

Ranzie spotted a man, possibly surveying, in her backyard several months ago.

"What he was surveying for, I did not know," Ranzie said. "This is one, an insult, because I haven't been notified. And two, it affects me. It is my backyard. And I don't want to see rubbish in my backyard. I bought this property specifically because it was a nice residential area, and the houses are spaced out. The last thing I want to hear or see is solar panels in my yard."

Although Johnston planning officials documented the importance of preserving land like the parcels now identified for development, during the last update of the Johnston Comprehensive Plan in 2007, the town's elected officials never moved to purchase or take possession of any of that land. Instead, the parcels remained in private hands and those owners have decided to sell.

Green Development and Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena have both argued that the land in question will likely be developed no matter what happens to the solar field proposal.

Polisena insists solar fields will make better neighbors than new houses, and tax town resources far less. Green Development has pledged to turn the land over to the Johnston Land Trust and lease the properties off the town for an agreed period of time (likely 20-25 years). Once the company decommissions the arrays, the land will remain under the Land Trust's ownership, and future elected officials will determine the sites' ultimate future.

Resident Paul Francis voiced concerns for the environment and property values. He referenced other projects by solar development companies in the state, and brought the issue home to Hartford Avenue, the ongoing construction site of a future Amazon mega-facility.

"If anybody thinks that it's a good idea, take a ride over here to Route 6 and go up to where they're doing the project for ... Amazon, it's disgusting what they're doing," Francis told the board.

Francis then turned to address the developers.

"You guys wipe everything out," he said. "There's nothing left. You're going to depreciate our properties better than \$5,000 a piece, within a mile radius of that facility you want to install. I can guarantee you it's not in your backyard. But you're going to put it in ours."

If the Zoning Board gives its blessing, the plans move back to the Planning Board for a final set of conditions and approvals.

The board voted unanimously to delay the proceedings to its next monthly meeting and then took a five-minute recess before finishing off the rest of the evening's agenda.



CONCERNED CITIZENS: On Thursday, March 31, concerned residents and abutters gathered at the Johnston Senior Center for a Zoning Board meeting. On the agenda, Cranston-based Green Development, planned to pitch their proposal for five new solar fields in western Johnston. The Johnston Zoning Board will likely vote on Special Use Permits for the project at their next monthly meeting. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)




TOWN COUNCIL REP: Town Councilman Robert Civetti stood up from the crowd and asked to speak. He insisted the developers pay to notify every abutter of the project and future meetings, via certified mail.



SITE TOUR: On a recent Saturday, Green Development's Kevin Morin, Director of Engineering & Project Development, and John McCauley, Director of Sales, gave interested residents a tour through the woodlands the firm plans to develop into five solar fields if the town gives its approval.

William Geremia
 Happy Birthday in Heaven
 APRIL 10
 Fifth Anniversary
 APRIL 12



Loved and missed ~
 Wife Linda, Son Billy &
 Family

Obituaries

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

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

— Thank you

spotlight ON BUSINESS

Dreamland Learning Center

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NOW ENROLLING
6 Weeks – 12 Years Old

By JENNIFER COATES

Dreamland Learning Center, a creative and cheerful childcare center in Johnston, is a bright and welcoming place where learning is fun and where every space was designed to enrich the growing minds of the many children who come here. This learning center was opened in 2015 and has been evolving and expanding ever since to meet the needs of today's modern family.

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners, while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music and story time. The outside playgrounds provide the

perfect place for youngsters to run off all that childhood energy; they are even divided for children of different age groups. The after-school room is replete with long tables for homework time.

With the weather finally warming, spring is in the air and the staff here is busy planning seasonal activities for all the busy bodies here!

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict standards of the state while all staff are licensed and CPR certified. The staff here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship.

The team at Dreamland is always vigilant in their efforts to stave off all sicknesses, but most especially Covid infections. All common spaces are regularly sanitized with an emphasis on frequent hand washing! You can be assured that your child is in a safe,

secure, and happy place!

If you are looking for childcare this summer or are just interested in giving your child a fun place to spend time with friends, check out the Summer Camps starting soon at Dreamland Learning Center. When school ends, your child can enjoy hours of play, outdoor activities and of course, lots of learning. Call or visit their website in the weeks ahead to learn more ~ time to plan ahead!

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12 years of age. After school programs are in session. The Center is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, to discuss your questions or concerns, call Simone or Sheena in the office at 401-280-1400 or visit their website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com.

Be sure to check out the other Dreamland Learning Centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

As times are evolving, the team at Dreamland is looking to grow. They are now hiring high quality teachers and aides for every position at the center. Give Simone or Sheena a call if you love children and want to work with them in this supportive and important line of work.



Imagine your child playing out in the spring sunshine on this colorful and inviting playground at Dreamland Learning Center in Johnston ~ perfect for kids of all ages!

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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

CHILD MOLESTATION

On March 30, the State-wide Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Andrew Hardy, 55, of Johnston, with one count of First-degree Child Molestation, three counts of Second-degree Child Molestation, two counts of Indecent Solicitation of a Minor, and one count of Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, according to the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office.

"The alleged acts occurred in the town of Johnston on various dates between May 1, 2018, and July 11, 2019," according to a press release from Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha's Office. "The Rhode Island State Police conducted the investigation."

Hardy is scheduled to be arraigned on April 20 in Providence County Superior Court.

ELDER ASSAULT

At 10:26 a.m., March 28, Johnston Police Officer David K. Chen was dispatched to 51 Taylor Road for an assault investigation.

Upon arrival, Chen spoke to the victim who said his landlord, Louis P. Caparrelli, of 51 Taylor Road, Johnston, came to his residence and requested that he vacate the property.

The victim told Caparrelli "that he was the legal resident of the trailer home and that if Caparrelli wanted to evict him from the property he needed to go through civil court," Chen wrote in the incident report. The victim told police that Caparrelli "struck him in the head with a closed fist and threw him down to the floor."

Chen noted that he observed "an injury consistent with the alleged assault, as there was blood coming from his right ear and facial area." The victim also had "blood coming from an abrasion on his neck."

The victim was over 60 years old, "enhancing the assault to a felony," Chen wrote in the incident report.

"Based on the totality of the circumstance, there was probable cause to charge Caparrelli with assault on a person over the age of 60 with bodily injury," Chen wrote.

The victim told police he wanted to pursue criminal charges.

Chen responded to Caparrelli's home, next door.

"Upon arrival, I observed Caparrelli standing outside in the front yard," Chen wrote. "I advised Caparrelli why the police were on scene and ordered him to place his hands behind his back, and he was compliant."

Caparrelli was arrested. "During the arrest

procedures, Caparrelli made a spontaneous utterance, without having been questioned, as he said, 'I'm the landlord, I told him he had to leave!'" Chen wrote. "This utterance confirms that Caparrelli was at the scene of the crime when (the victim) was assaulted, and that he had an argument with (the victim) regarding forced eviction."

Chen also noted in the report that Caparrelli had a bandage on his right hand.

Caparrelli was transported to Police Headquarters where he was searched, processed, secured in a cell and then transported to Third District Court. He was charged with Assault on a Person Over 60 Causing Bodily Injury, a felony, and Disorderly Conduct, a misdemeanor.

ASSAULT & BATTERY

Around 5:50 p.m., March 10, Johnston Police responded to Sheridan Street for the report of a man brandishing a handgun after a road rage incident.

The alleged victim at the scene told police that a blue sedan, with heavy window tint, bearing RI passenger plates (the victim caught a partial plate number), drove through a stop sign on Delmont Avenue at Sheridan Street and almost struck his vehicle.

The victim said that he reminded the driver of the stop sign and told him to slow down, but the driver exited his vehicle and went into the trunk. The driver then drove up to the victim and brandished a black handgun and asked, "What do you wanna do?" in a threatening tone with the window down.

The suspect left the scene and took a left onto George Waterman Road.

Johnston Police Officer Cody Weaver asked the victim if they had had any prior contact with the man, and they said no, but they could identify him if they saw him again.

Police were able to match the vehicle and description to a man who lives nearby, Ronny Sanford, of 28 Lafayette St., Johnston. Officers responded to Sanford's home in an attempt to meet with him. His vehicle was parked in front of the house.

Police were unable to find Sanford, so they transported the victim to the address where he positively identified Sanford's vehicle as the suspect's.

Sanford's parents told police that he had left the house on foot prior to their arrival.

The victim told police he would like to pursue criminal charges. Police

checked DMV records and discovered Sanford's vehicle registration was canceled. The vehicle was towed from the scene to Johnston Police Headquarters.

Emergency dispatch personnel broadcasted a BOLO (Be On the Look-Out) to surrounding agencies for Sanford, who was wanted for questioning and may be in possession of a firearm.

The investigation was turned over to the Johnston Police Detective Division.

Sanford was eventually located, arrested and arraigned on March 17. Sanford was charged with Assault & Battery - Dangerous Weapon and Carrying a Pistol Without a License. He also faces a misdemeanor Disorderly Conduct charge. Surety bail was set at \$10,000, according to Johnston Police.

Sanford was "presented as a District Court bail violator on two cases," according to Johnston Police.

BENCH WARRANTS

Around noon, March 8, Johnston Police Officer Nick J. Bordieri was on a fixed post at 21 Greenville Ave., when he observed a black Acura TSX traveling north with heavily tinted windows, no front registration plate and an expired inspection sticker.

Bordieri initiated a traffic stop near 83 Greenville Ave. and identified the driver as Kelvin Belliard, of 672 Prairie Ave., Apt. 619, Providence.

Rhode Island DMV checks revealed the vehicle registration was suspended and a criminal background check revealed Belliard had three active bench warrants out of Superior Court for failing to appear in court for restitution payment hearings.

Belliard was arrested and transported back to headquarters, processed and allowed to make a phone call. He was cited with Operation of Vehicle when Registration is Suspended and Violation of Inspection Laws. He was transported to Superior Court.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 5:30 p.m., March 8, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri was on a fixed post at 1074 Plainfield St., when he observed a silver Jeep Laredo travel past west-bound without a front registration plate affixed.

Santurri detained the vehicle near the intersection of Plainfield and Walnut streets and made contact with the driver, identified as Jolanna L. Prout, of 48 Pinehurst Ave., Apt. 1, Providence.

A criminal background check revealed that Prout had an active arrest warrant from the Woonsock-

et Police Department for Vandalism. She was taken into custody and transported to police headquarters where she was processed and later turned over to Woonsocket Police.

Prout was also issued a District Court notice to appear on a charge of Driving with a Suspended License (first offense), and a Johnston Municipal Court summons for Display of Plates.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

At 5:05 p.m., Jan. 11, an alleged assault victim stopped by Johnston Police Headquarters to report a disturbance that had just taken place in the parking lot of Market Basket, 1300 Hartford Ave.

The victim told police she was followed into the parking lot by a woman, who approached her after she exited her vehicle. The victim told police that the woman said, "I've been waiting for this," and proceeded to pull her hair and punch her. She told police she was punched on the left side of her face and body several times during the assault, and was bitten on her left ring finger, causing her nail to break.

The victim told police she shouted at the woman that she was calling police, which caused her to get back into her car and flee the area.

Police had been previously dispatched to the parking lot of Market Basket to investigate a reported argument between two unknown females, but found nothing at the time.

The alleged attacker was identified as Issa Guzman, of 138 Whitmarsh St., Apt. 11, Providence.

The victim told police that she wished to pursue a criminal complaint against Guzman. Police photographed the victim's injuries.

"It should be noted that Market Basket does have video surveillance of the parking lot, however it is unknown if the incident was captured on video surveillance," Johnston Police Officer Derrick Palazzo wrote in the incident report. "This incident will be forwarded to the Detective Division for a follow-up investigation."

Police issued arrest warrants for Guzman on misdemeanor charges of Simple Assault or Battery and Disorderly Conduct.

At 5:23 p.m., March 15, Johnston Police responded to the East Providence Police Department to take custody of Guzman, who was transported back to Johnston Police Headquarters, searched, processed and secured in a cell. By 6:17 p.m. that day, Guzman was released with a District Court Summons to appear on April 4.

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

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(Continued from page 1)

"The target for completion is Fall 2024," DiLullo said. "We anticipate that that will be when students in grades 1-4 move into the new school. At that point the vacated elementary schools will be used as swing space for the on-going projects."

The small neighborhood elementary schools will close, and the students will be moved to the town-wide elementary center. If the bond passes, town officials will hold discussions to determine the fate of the old, closed school buildings. They may be torn down or converted into senior housing, according to Mayor Joseph M. Polisena.

Plans call for major renovations at the existing Ferri Middle School and Johnston High School.

"Renovation work at the high school then the middle school will be done on vacation periods and after school hours so that students will not be disrupted during the course of the school day," DiLullo explained. "Once the new elementary school is completed, the plan is for the demolition of the Sarah Dyer Barnes School and the construction of the Early Childhood Center which will house grades Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. At this point we are looking forward to the fall of 2025 for all projects to be completed and all students and staff in their



CONSIDERING THE FUTURE: Kayla Brown has a young son, and another baby on the way. She voted in favor of the school bond Tuesday because she wants her kids to have the best schools possible. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ VOTE - PAGE 13

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Vote
(Continued from page 12)

updated and new classrooms.”
A new ECC building is expected to cost an estimated \$28,600,000.
“I am thrilled for the town and its residents,” said Johnston Town Council Vice-President Joe Polisena Jr. “New schools will help our children succeed in the classroom and raise property values for homeowners. This is the absolute best way to use the revenue from all the new businesses that have come to Johnston over the recent years.”
Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner praised the “86 percent of Johnston voters) who approved the “\$215 million proposal to finance the largest modernization of education facilities in the town’s history.”
As co-chairman of the Rhode Island School Building Task Force, Magaziner led the development of a plan to repair or replace Rhode Island’s public school buildings. Johnston took advantage of state incentives, and town officials hope to recover more than 50 percent of the project costs via state-funded reimbursements.
Voters approved the statewide school construction program in 2018. According to Magaziner, Rhode Island has already allocated \$1.7 billion in funding to repair or replace 189 school buildings across 28 districts in Rhode Island.
The affected schools educate more than 101,800 students annually, and school building and renovation projects have created more than 28,000

jobs, according to Magaziner.
“All students deserve to attend schools that are safe, warm, dry and equipped for 21st-century learning and Rhode Islanders understand that investing in our schools and in our students is how we build a strong economy for the future,” Magaziner said. “High-quality school facilities not only lead to better attendance, reading levels, and test scores, but the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the effect school buildings have on the physical health of students as well.”
The approval of Johnston’s bond will lead to “the closure and consolidation of four elementary schools into one new state-of-the-art school with a new gymnasium, media center, and science and technology labs to support art, music, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) education,” according to Magaziner. The funding will also help support a “new and expanded career and technical training programming for high school students.”
Magaziner recently introduced legislation (S2596, H7125) with sponsors Sen. Hanna Gallo, (District 27, Cranston, West Warwick), Sen. Sandra Cano, (District 8, Pawtucket), and Rep. Brandon Potter, (District 16, Cranston) “to extend the availability of enhanced state funding for early childhood education facilities, career and technical education facilities, and STEAM facilities.”
This year, Ocean State voters will likely weigh in on a \$300 million statewide bond proposal included in the proposed legislation, which “also contains significant new incentives for energy efficiency and renewable

energy improvements to public school buildings.”
The bill aims to help the state achieve its Act on Climate goals calling for a “net-zero emission economy, in addition to new incentives for school districts to employ local contractors and minority business enterprises on school construction projects,” according to Magaziner’s office.
The Johnston School Committee and Town Council held a pair of special informational meetings, in joint-session, on the evenings of Wednesday, March 16, and Wednesday, March 23, to discuss the proposed school building projects.
Polisena Jr., who has confirmed his candidacy for mayor, said the costs to taxpayers for the bond referendum will be negligible. He helped to develop an overall funding plan, devising a way to do all of the school building projects at once.
Town officials expect new developments in town, and the tax dollars they generate — including the Amazon warehouse under construction along Hartford Avenue — will cover annual bond payments.
“We are affecting every student in Johnston,” DiLullo said at the first informational meeting on March 16. “From pre-Kindergarten, our 3-year-olds, all the way up to our 17-18-year olds. We’re looking forward to that.”
Terence Ketchel, poll moderator for the two precincts voting inside the Ferri Middle School gymnasium, looked around the empty gym with concern. It was 10 a.m., and after two hours, only 18 people had cast ballots in the gym.
“I wish people would pay attention,” he said.



LONELY POLLS: A long row of lonely voting booths sat empty most of the day Tuesday. Only 5.33 percent, or 1,278 of the town’s 23,980 registered voters, marked ballots on Tuesday. Early and mail-in voting turnout was also very low, according to town officials. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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Are you or someone you are living with suffering from chronic back pain?



JESSICA L. PAPA, PT, DPT
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Maybe you are putting it down to age, stress, being too sedentary or having no time to exercise. You might have been told by friends or even healthcare providers that there is nothing to do, but rest and take medication. If this is you read on.....

Back pain will affect about 80% of people at some point during their lives and it is the leading cause of disability worldwide. It can take people out of work and away from the activities they enjoy. Obviously, missing work can have a financial impact, but it can also affect your image of self-worth. Missing out on activities like hiking, running, biking, skiing, golfing or just hanging out playing with kids or grandkids can rob you of your "joie de vivre"! Don't let back pain put you on the sidelines where you just WATCH others live without participating yourself. Being able to stand in line at a grocery store, sit for longer than 20 minutes at a restaurant with friends, or going for a walk with your husband/wife (or even your dog) are things that you SHOULD be able to do - and being over 40 is no excuse!


It is easy to elect to put off getting help as long as you can "struggle on" at 70%, but this is not the best way to take care of your back or yourself in general. Let's take a minute to think about body mechanics or alignment. You bring your car in to have its tires changed and alignment checked. If you did not, and tire alignment were not good, you might notice a vibration, the car pulling to one side and eventually you will see uneven wear on the tires.

Your body is no different! If your alignment is off, you may notice you are stronger on one side of your body than the other, it may be easier to balance on one leg than the other, yoga poses may be easier on one side than the other and over time you may start to notice aches in your joints or your muscles may feel overworked. It is easier to fix these problems BEFORE the wear and tear really sets in.

Living in the information era, everyone has information (or mis-information) about how to treat your own back pain. However, not all information is created equal! For instance, many people advocate for having stronger "six-pack" abs in order to cure back pain - this is sadly not entirely correct. Your "six-pack" abs, despite looking great and being fantastic movers of your trunk are not very good stabilizers of your spine - this is a task that the deeper muscles of your abdominal wall are far better suited to.

Our clinic has been helping people with back pain like yours from the start. We are a holistic clinic that is more about the quality vs quantity. We only have capacity to treat a certain number of people in any given day, but there are still many more people in our community, like you, who need help. In order to help even more people, we wrote a Back Pain Report with 6 easy tips for how to make small changes to your daily routines that can have a dramatic effect on your back pain - go to www.aranciapt.com to claim your FREE copy now. If your back pain is more complex, or if you have additional questions, we have a CONQUER BACK PAIN ONLINE COURSE now available to anyone who suffers from chronic back pain Contact info@aranciapt.com to learn more.


ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Jessica L. Papa is one of New England's leading physical therapists and founder of Arancia Physical Therapy, in RI, a clinic specializing in helping adults over age forty live an active and mobile lifestyle well into their 60s, 70s, 80s, and beyond.



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The use of technology in suicide prediction and prevention?



For more than a decade, the suicide rate in the United States has been on the rise. As of 2019, the last year for which CDC data are available, suicide remained the second to fifth most common cause of death for individuals between the ages of 10 to 54. While there is some encouraging data to suggest that death by suicide has been less frequent during the COVID-19 pandemic, suicide still accounts for roughly 20% of all injury-related deaths, which is more than twice the rate of homicide.

There are many reasons why suicide is a complex problem to solve. Suicide is an overdetermined behavior, which simply means that there are many different ways that an individual can develop risk for suicide. For example, some people might experience traumatic life experiences, others might have difficulty managing or regulating their emotions, and still others might struggle with substance use or dependence. Unfortunately, this is far from a complete list, and most people at risk for suicide have a combination of factors that contribute to their unique experience of suicide.

Further complicating the detection and treatment of suicide is the manner in which most treatment for suicide is delivered. Most people receiving treatment see a therapist every week or two, sometimes in combination with medication. While this type of treatment can be helpful for a great many people, some of the people at greatest risk for suicide need help at times when a therapist might not be available. Likewise, people at risk for suicide sometimes miss or deny the subtle warning signs that they may be headed for a suicide-related crisis in the future. In short, there are gaps in both our understanding of suicide risk as well as our ability to deliver treatments when and where they are needed the most.

One promising solution to these problems lies in the use of technology, specifically smartphones, smartwatches, and activity monitors, to predict and respond to suicide risk. Using technology, we are able to address many of the limitations of traditional detection and treatment of suicide risk.

Eye-tracking technology, which uses a camera to observe how a person's eye looks at images on a



Staying Healthy

by
MICHAEL F. ARMEY, PhD
RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGIST
BUTLER HOSPITAL

computer screen, can provide important information such as the location and amount of time an individual views part of an image. Working with patients who have been recently hospitalized for suicide risk, our team has found that these eye movements are associated with risk for suicide attempts up to six months later. This technology is particularly useful as it requires no feedback or response from the person observing images, meaning that it can potentially detect risk that individuals are either unaware of or unwilling to disclose to others.

Another promising technology is called ecological momentary assessment, or EMA. Through EMA, research participants or patients install an application on their smartphone that asks a series of questions throughout the day. These questions, assessing emotion, thoughts, and behaviors, provide unique and individualized insights about a person's life experiences. In our research, we have asked patients who are being discharged from a psychiatric hospital for suicide risk to participate in EMA for three weeks. This research has so far yielded two important findings. First, patients tend to experience increasing negative emotions in the weeks following hospital discharge that strongly predict increases in thinking about suicide. These increases correspond to prior research finding that risk for rehospitalization peaks roughly two weeks following hospital discharge, providing one explanation for these rehospitalizations. Second, positive emotions like happiness seem to be protective against suicidal thinking – that is, individuals who reported higher levels of positive emotions reported less thinking about suicide and were, in turn, less likely to be re-hospitalized.

Granted, these findings might seem obvious;

however, this technology is innovative and potentially impactful as it allows us to better understand not just if, but when, individuals experience increased risk for suicide, potentially permitting the delivery of treatments outside of the therapist's office when they are needed the most. These treatments, known as ecological momentary interventions, are a new and growing area of research, with great potential to improve our treatment of suicide risk.

One final technology worth mentioning is called digital phenotyping. A phenotype is defined as a set of behaviors that theoretically relate to an individual's biological makeup or genetics. Through digital phenotyping, or the use of digital data to infer biological processes, data from smartphone, smartwatch, or activity tracker sensors (i.e., motion/activity, heart rate, location, light levels, sleep, audio data, and social media and/or text messaging data) is used to construct a behavioral profile by identifying which digital data are most strongly predictive of suicidal behavior. As with eye-tracking data, the benefit of digital phenotyping is that data are collected passively, without the knowledge of the person being profiled.

Despite the benefits, it is clear that the use of technology to predict and track human behavior such as suicide also has enormous potential for abuse. Social media companies such as Facebook have been criticized by consumer groups and scientists for using this sort of data without permission from users. As scientists and clinicians alike embrace these promising technologies, it is important that potential patients and research participants understand the goals of the research and consent to the collection of these data. However, despite these risks, the use of technology in the prediction of suicide risk is an important and growing area of clinical research with great potential to improve treatments and save lives.

Michael F. Arme, PhD is a Research Psychologist at Butler Hospital and Associate Professor (Research), Associate Director of the Consortium for Research Innovation in Suicide Prevention (CRISP) at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

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Emma to soon soar as an **EAGLE SCOUT**

By ALEX MALM



For her Eagle Project, Emma Capirchio spearheaded the construction of turtle enclosures which were donated to the Audubon Society in Smithfield.

Soon to be Eagle Scout Emma Capirchio pictured with her dad Tom Capirchio and brother Derek.



Emma Capirchio pictured with other members of her Troop after a 20 mile hike.



For years, Emma Capirchio attended Boy Scouts meetings. Her younger twin brothers were Scouts and her father was involved. It meant that she also attended the meetings.

While at the meetings, Emma would do the activities just like the boys did but — unlike them — she didn't earn any merit badges.

Then in 2019, Troop 3 Gaspee Plateau in Warwick was formed. It meant that she had the chance to join the girls' troop.

"This is great I can totally do that," Emma recalls thinking to herself when the announcement was made.

Troop 3 Gaspee is an offspring of the Troop 4 Gaspee which Emma referred to as the "brother group." There are six members of Troop 3, and soon Emma will be the first female Eagle Scout in her troop.

Also attaining the rank of Eagle locally are Morgan Nathan of Warwick Troop 77 and Morgan Bitgood of Cranston Troop 13.

Emma said that going into Scouts she wasn't much of an outdoor person. She said that she is an outdoor person in the sense that she would go in her backyard and look for frogs but wasn't much of a camper.

"It scared me a little bit," she said.

Her reservations didn't stop Emma from going on her first camping trip. She said that she enjoyed the company of the other girls in her troop.

Emma wasn't a fan of hiking either. She said that her first big hike was 13 miles.

Growing up, Emma said she wasn't allowed to have McDonalds. Her incentive for completing hikes was being able to go there after.

To become an Eagle Scout, one of the requirements is completing an Eagle Project.

With a love for animals, Emma recruited her colleagues in Scouts and the leaders to help construct turtle enclosures which were donated to the Audubon Society in Smithfield.

The enclosures were constructed using Plexiglas so the wildlife can be viewed properly at all angles. With the new enclosures, students will get an up close and detailed view of turtles as the Audubon educates them on their local wildlife.

The Audubon Society previously used a kiddie pool to display the turtles. The enclosures needed to be easily transportable to make the lives of the handlers and the turtles easier between different locations which is an improvement compared to what the Audubon Society had before.

In total, Emma said she spent about 55 hours on the project which included planning and gathering materials.

Emma explained that she viewed starting Scouts later than others as a disadvantage. She said that most boys have from 11 to 18 years old to become an Eagle Scout. In her case, she didn't start until she was 15 and a half.

Nonetheless, Emma was able to earn the 21 merit badges as required.

"There's a lot of work that goes into it," said Emma.

With her project completed and badges earned it means that the only thing standing in her way is passing her board of review.

One of the things that Emma liked most about Scouts was being able to meet different people. She said that two girls in the Troop are from Warwick, one from East Providence and two other girls go to Cranston West with Emma.

Emma said that she even had a classmate in the Troop. One day during school when the Troop first formed she heard one of her friends talking about joining an all girls Boy Scouts Troop and after talking they realized that they were in the same Troop but hadn't been to a meeting together yet.

"We didn't even realize that," said Emma.

To this day, despite her moving away, Emma said that they talk all the time.

Emma recommends Scouts.

"It's a fun experience and also you get different things for it."

Emma said she got a scholarship for one of the colleges she applied for and thinks that putting her future Eagle Scout award on her resume helped her secure the financial award.

"It shows a lot about a person if you can make it that far," said Emma.

Graduating this year from Cranston West, Emma plans to attend New England Institute of Technology for software engineering and web design but hasn't made a final decision on her future yet.



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NETFLIX

TICK, TICK...BOOM

(Innovative musical about Jonathan Larson)



Andrew Garfield stars in *Tick, Tick... Boom*.

Andrew Garfield received an Oscar Best Actor nomination for his role as Jonathan, the playwright of "Rent."

Jonathan was turning 30 in the '90s, living a Bohemian lifestyle and working in a diner while trying to write the Great American Broadway Musical in a rundown apartment with his gay roommate.

Jonathan works day and night to complete the musical (not "Rent") in time for his workshop before the one and only Sondheim and other pillars of the Broadway big shots.

There are obstacles in his way, including being broke, many of his friends dying of AIDS and a girlfriend who has been offered a dancing position at Jacobs Pillow in the Berkshires.

The movie is woven together brilliantly with scenes of Jonathan composing the musical, actors rehearsing to dialogue and clever music he composed, and all of this wrapped in an actual stage production.

Garfield gives a passionate performance of an agonizing artist trying to survive and succeed.

We missed this great film when it first came out and were happy to see it back on Netflix.



Volodymyr Zelenskyy starred in *Servant of the People* before being elected President of Ukraine.

SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE

*** 1/2

(Ukrainian TV series)

Before Volodymyr Zelenskyy became the leader of the Ukraine, he was a promising actor and comedian in his native country.

Zelenskyy produced a popular TV show beginning in 2015 that poked fun at the government and political leaders, starring as a history teacher whom his students enter him in the race for president.

He wins.

Life imitates art in this clever, funny and inside peek at Ukrainian politics, politicians and people.

WINDFALL

(Eerie, suspenseful, episodic thriller)

Dinner was ready, but I couldn't turn off this eerie, suspenseful, episodic thriller that had me completely engrossed.

A man breaks into an isolated millionaire's home.

The couple returns as he is ransacking the house. He locks them in the sauna. They escape and are recaptured.

They will be let go unharmed in a negotiated \$500,000 ransom to be delivered to following day.

Who is this man and why is he doing this?

Who are the couple and what secrets are they hiding?

They must spend 24 hours together waiting for the ransom.

Lots of things happen to add to the suspense before the shocking and surprising ending.

Great writing!

April in years past

By DON FOWLER

20 Years Ago

"Burn the Floor" was a two-hour dance extravaganza at PPAC.

Danny Buraczeski brought his Jazzdance to Rhode Island College. We miss the great arts entertainment that John Custer used to bring to the state college.

"Aida" was at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

IMAX was showing "IMAX Space Station 3D," narrated by Tom Cruise, which I said was spectacular. The closest I'll ever get to outer space.

I reviewed Antonio's Pizza, next door to the Avon Cinema, where we still stop for a slice after the movie.

Gamm produced "The Weir," a talky Irish play starring Sam Babbitt, Tony Estrella, Chris Byrnes and Michael Healy. Second Story Theatre was still

producing their one-act plays. I wrote "Paula Faber, a student at 2nd Story, shows great promise in her second role at the theatre." Paula has gone on to do great work at several local theatres.

40 Years Ago

Academy Players presented "Fiddler on the Roof" at Swift Gym in East Greenwich, starring Cranston residents Anthony Paris and Vita Smith.

"Das Boot," the anti-war German film, was at the Warwick Mall.

Marvin Hamlisch was at the Ocean State. Gary Bonds was at RIC. David Bromberg was at Brown. Rick Springfield was at the Providence Civic Center. Paul Anka was at the Oceans State Theatre.

"A Little Night Music" was at CCRI.

"Victor, Victoria" starring Julie Andrews, directed by her husband, Blake Edwards, was one of my favorite movies of all time.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Ruby

The weather is getting warmer and now is the perfect time to adopt a puppy! This is sweet Ruby and she is cute, playful and lovable! She and her littermates are all ready to start their journey to a loving forever home! You can view the puppies at EGAPL The Heart of RI 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open on Wednesday 3-7, Thursday and Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. You can call 401-467-3670 for more information or visit their website at www.heartofri.org Please stop by and fall in love!

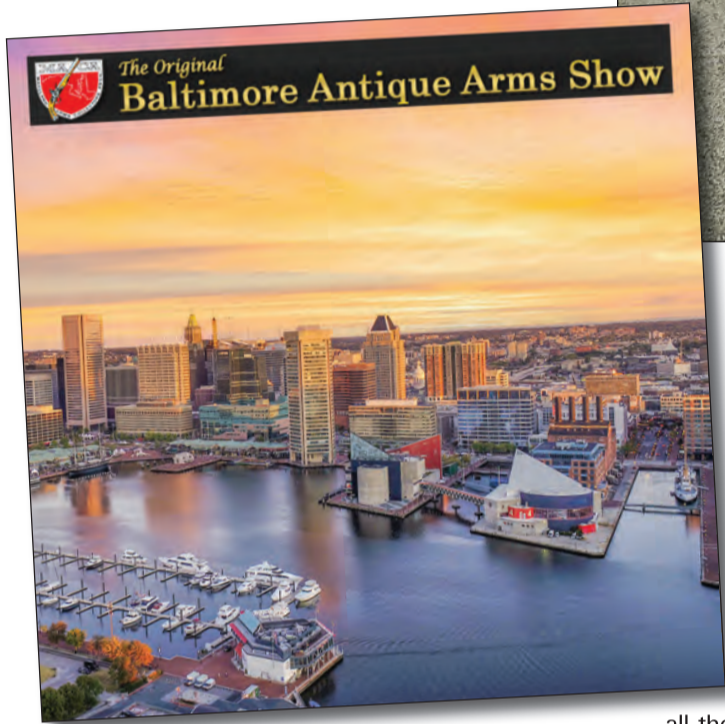
If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



COLLECTIBLES

The Baltimore Antique Arms Show



in order. I hadn't seen some of the folks who were there for a long time, and it was so good to see people again walking up the line. I was setup with a friend and his Siege of Boston powder horn display which I had helped research, so between talking to folks about the powder horns and the history of the owners who originally carried them, I managed to wander around and see the tables and tables of interesting historical arms and objects.

Saturday morning the show opened to the public and I was curious to see how long the lines were outside, so I took a peek and like the dealer line the day before it snaked all the way up the road and the massive parking lot looked full. As people flowed in the hall it became hard to really see all of the things on people's tables as there were so many folks! I did manage to work my way around



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

and saw some pretty cool things. As I mentioned above, the show also has display tables for people to share their collections and favorite objects and there were some fantastic displays! From prototype guns, Revolutionary War powder horns, to a sword, belt, and other items carried by Confederate general William Mahone. A lot of money and effort went into these displays and from talking to folks at the Siege of Boston horn display, people enjoy looking at some of these great historical items and learning about them.

While I enjoy seeing all of this stuff and picking up a few things for my collection, the best part of the show was seeing old friends and catching up in person, something we hadn't really been able to do for a few years. If you want to go to a great show with a large variety of material, look up the Baltimore show online and put it in your calendar for next March. I don't think you will be sorry.

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I always look forward to getting through the winter and on to spring. For me, the Baltimore Antique Arms show near the end of March is the start of the new season. Sadly because of COVID there hasn't been a Baltimore show for three years. Finally on March 18, 19, and 20 it was back on again. I had a feeling given the fact that it hadn't been held for three years that it would be packed with dealers and eager buyers, and I wasn't wrong.

I normally drive down and get there for dealer setup on Friday. This time was no different. The line for dealers snaked up the road waiting to get in and get their tables

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Sports



LEADING THE WAY: Johnston senior Emily Iannuccilli at a recent scrimmage. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Panthers eyeing playoff return

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**

The Johnston softball team is getting its season going this week and is looking forward to improving on

last year's playoff run. The Lady Panthers got off to a slow start in 2021 and finished the regular season with a modest 6-10 record. However, Johnston caught

fire down the stretch to qualify for the Division II postseason and pulled off an opening round upset

● **PANTHERS - PAGE 22**

Giving parents their due

Last week, Chad Finn of the Boston Globe wrote a column on his high school daughter wrapping up her final season of sports. It was a wonderful tribute to his daughter but the angle he took was toward the impact that high school sports makes on parents.

As you can imagine, he dug into the highs and lows of watching your child compete in sports. You love watching them play and succeed, and feel for them when they come up short and are disappointed. You not only grow closer in your relationship with your child, but you also encounter hundreds of other people along the way and make friendships that last forever, whether it is with other kids, parents, coaches.

I find the topic to be interesting and one that is not covered enough. The student-athletes deserve the attention, but sometimes the parents get lost in the shuffle. These are the ones that make it happen from the youth level on up. Parents ensure that their kids can play, the coaches help facilitate, and the students must hold up their end of the bargain.

For anyone that has not read this column, I'd highly suggest doing so. It was a moving piece that really resonated with me, and I am not a parent.

I guess this also leads me to sharing some personal news, but my wife and I are expecting our first child in June. I have told the people around me that I have spoken to but

My pitch



by
ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

have yet to reveal it in my column, so here it is. We are having a boy and are looking forward to it every second of the day.

Reading Finn's column made me even more excited. My boy will be a few years away from hitting the field, but I feel blessed that my life as a sports dad is just beginning, and I am thrilled to know that I will be experiencing all of those feelings that Finn touched on.

Moving forward, I will absolutely keep this topic in mind in my coverage. I think that it is important to give parents their due and I feel like it could open the door for some great content, especially at the end of the school year when the seniors are wrapping things up. There is nothing like a family story in the sport world, and Finn's column was a terrific piece with some great insight. Definitely worth a read.

Now that spring sports are finally underway, I can start giving you some takes and opinions. My first one has to do with Toll Gate sophomore lacrosse player Adeline Arsen.

● **PITCH - PAGE 20**

Community clean-up

JHS baseball preps field for Opening Day

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Johnston High's baseball Panthers participated in what people called one of the most unique and unusual preseason practices in recent memory.

For starters, head coach Joe Acciaro scrapped the fungo bat he uses for infield and outfield drills and had an air blower

strapped to his back. Meanwhile, members of the Panthers 2022 varsity were without any bats, balls or gloves and instead used items like rakes, shovels and even wheelbarrows to ready their field for the upcoming campaign.

Amid a flurry of activity all over the field, someone suggested to Acciaro that "the air blower was perhaps an omen for the season," and proclaimed, "the Panthers might blow away their opponent and capture the 2022 division

● **CLEAN-UP - PAGE 21**



DIAMOND DUTY: It was all work and no play Saturday for Johnston High's baseball players who took part in the 6-hour community clean-up at famed Engineers Field. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Opening Day this Saturday

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Opening Day of the freshwater fishing season in Rhode Island is 6 a.m. this Saturday, April 9. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has stocked 100 waterways many with brook, brown, tiger and rainbow trout as well as Sebago salmon in select areas in advance of the season.

Hatchery-raised golden rainbow trout are being stocked in waterways throughout Rhode Island for Opening Day. These trout are a color variation of a rainbow trout and provide an exciting angling experience with golden trout pins awarded to those that catch these fish the first three weeks after opening day. Simply take a picture and send it to dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov with contact information to be eligible for the pin.

For licensing information and a list of waterways that are being stocked by DEM visit their website at www.dem.ri.gov/pro

grams/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/index.php.

A 2022 fishing license (\$18) is required for anglers 15 years of age and older. A Trout Conservation Stamp (\$5.50) is also required of anyone wishing to keep or possess a trout or to fish in a catch-and-release or "fly-fishing only" area. Trout Stamps are not required for persons possessing trout taken from a lake or pond that shares a border with Rhode Island.

Online fishing licenses and the Trout Conservation Stamp also can be obtained via an authorized agent. The minimum size for trout taken from the water of Rhode Island is 8 inches, measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The daily creel and possession limit for trout is five from April 9, 2022, through Nov. 30, 2022, and two from Dec. 1, 2022, through Feb. 28, 2023.

NOAA Recreational Summit focuses on

climate impacts

This week I was at the NOAA Recreational Fishing Summit in Crystal City, Virginia. The Summit happens every five years to gather input from anglers to help establish a strategic direction for NOAA Fisheries recreational fishing research, programs and policies. It was great to have our national fishing agenda in line with input heard at the first session of the 2022 Baird Symposium held last week.

Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at NOAA (and former RI DEM director), led a panel discussion on Climate Resilient Fisheries.

Administrator Coit, said, "I ask you to engage in conversations, be respectful, and have a frank back and forth on the issues. Be creative ... I assure you this Summit is not just about dialogue, it's about action."

Topics covered at the summit include climate impacts on fishing and habitat and how to work toward climate resilient fisheries; the balancing of ocean uses including fishing, offshore wind energy and aquaculture; recreational data collection and use; and management reform. NOAA plans to publish a report on the Summit.

Those interested in participating in a discussion on climate impacts on fishing and boating can attend Session II of the 2022 Baird Symposium.

Session II will be held Wednesday, April 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This webinar, "Climate Change Opportunities for Anglers and Boaters," will engage anglers, boaters and climate experts in discussions about how anglers are adapting with the science panel addressing 'Big strategies for climate resiliency.' To register for the event visit Effects of Climate Change on Recreational Fishing and Boating - Session II Tickets, Wed, Apr 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite. Event supporters include RI Sea Grant at URI, Ørsted, the Ocean Conservancy and a host of others.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater. In Rhode Island opening day of trout season is Saturday, April 9. Rhode Island is ready with trout stocked in 100 waterways. For regulations, license information and stocked ponds visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/index.php. Joe Castaldi of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle of North Kingstown, said, "Customers are getting ready for opening day, but those fishing fresh water are yield-

ing largemouth and pickerel in area lakes and ponds."

"Anglers are doing well fishing area ponds for pickerel and largemouth bass and all are waiting for opening day of trout season Saturday. We have plenty of baits and gear and this year we are an office State of Rhode Island weigh station," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick. "We are selling licenses but have had a few customers that did not want to put their social security number down on the application so they did not get a license. Customers are buying Power Baits for opening day and shiners to target largemouth bass this week," said Manny Macedo of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren.

John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside, said, "Freshwater fishing for largemouth and pickerel has been good the past couple of weeks. And, we are hoping for a great opening day weekend. So far traffic has been better than average."

The 2022 spring stocking is nearly complete in Massachusetts. Stocking in southeastern waters began in March with other regions of the state following as weather conditions permitted. The freshwater fishing season in Massachusetts opened January 1 or April 1 in most places. For information on Massachusetts freshwater regulations, licenses and an interactive map that shows which ponds have been stocked visit Freshwater fishing regulations | Mass.gov. Gunner Stevens of Red Top Sporting Goods, Buzzards Bay, MA, said, "The trout bite at ponds stocked with trout is very, very good. John's Pond, Mashpee and Peter's Pond, Sandwich are producing for customers. The largemouth and perch bite are slow but are expected to pick up as the water warms. They are just starting to move around a bit in shallow water."

Saltwater

Tautog season opened April 1. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box said, "One of our customers limited out with tautog at Beaver-tail Point, Jamestown this week. So the fish are there." "We sold a bushel of crabs to one customer and they reported no bites at all. Things are still too cold. The water temperature off Newport was still 42 degrees," said Manny Macedo of Lucky bait & Tackle. John Littlefield of Archie's said "Four anglers gave tautog fishing a try and did not get any bites."

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Pitch

(Continued from page 19)

As a freshman, Areson was an impact player in both basketball and lacrosse. It was clear right off the bat that the Titans had a special player that they would be able to build around in each sport.

This past winter, Areson broke out in basketball and became arguably the top player in Division III and one of the premier athletes in the state. She played multiple positions for Toll Gate and flat out carried the Titans for portions of the winter.

Last weekend, Toll Gate traveled to Cranston Stadium to participate in the lacrosse Injury Fund contests, and my biggest takeaway was how dominant she was again.

Every few years, you'll see a high schooler who just stands out. You can't explain why, or how, but you know a special talent when you see it. That is how Areson appeared on Saturday afternoon.

It was an exhibition, but when Areson had the ball, there was no stopping her. She always found a way to the cage

and always got a shot off. When playing defense, she was always in the right place at the right time, she was vocal and communicating, it was hard to miss her.

It was really impressive to see the jump she took on the basketball court this winter and it looks like she is on track to do the same thing on the lacrosse field. It's staggering seeing a player be so dominant, but then to realize that she is only a sophomore was insane.

Areson is a special talent whose ceiling is incredibly high. When she hits her peak, the state will be in for something special that only comes around every so often. Toll Gate will be right back in the mix this spring as well, much thanks to her.

Lastly, I will give you my Boston Red Sox outlook for the season as things get started this week.

The Sox had a solid campaign in 2021, reaching the playoffs and making it to the ALCS. All things considered, I believe that the team is about the same as it was last year and will have similar results.

In terms of the lineup, Boston's is elite. Xander Bogaerts, Rafael Devers, JD Martinez, Trevor Story, that is a ton of firepower. The Red Sox should easily be a top-five offensive unit this year.

Like last year though, I have some serious concerns about the team's pitching both in terms of the starting rotation and bullpen.

Chris Sale is out for the first two months, and he did not appear to be fully rejuvenated when he returned from Tommy John surgery last summer. From there, your only sure thing is Nathan Eovaldi, and even he is more of a middle-of-the-rotation type of guy. Like last year, it also seems like the bullpen will be organized on the fly with no real hierarchy.

Due to the team's fantastic lineup, it will always have a chance to win and should be a top-five team in the American League. However, there are just too many factors for me to say anything more. I think a playoff appearance is in the cards, but from there, their chances are modest at best if you ask me.

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GREAT GROUNDS CREW: Among those people who led Saturday's unique clean-up day are: James McHale, Chris Correia, Gary Rianna, Councilman Robert Civetti, Mark Pietros, Joe Acciardo and Paul Robitaille.

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HELPING HANDS: Local 57 staffers Josh Beauregard and Ben Robinson fill this bucket cat with more of the special infield mix that was put down Saturday in Johnston.



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SUPER SUPPORTERS: Local 57 apprentice instructor Richard Kells, Jared Siniscalchi, Ariana Vieira, apprentice instructor Jim McHale, Zach Medeiros and Joseph Aroyan take a break from "work day" to enjoy a lighter moment in front of the scoreboard they sponsored at Engineers Field.

Clean-up

(Continued from page 19)

title." The War Memorial Park surface was also covered with upwards of four dozen-plus volunteers for what Johnston Councilman Robert J. "Bob" Civetti noted "was the community coming together for a special work day to bring the field back to when it was one of the most envied ball yards of its kind in the state."

Civetti, a longtime youth baseball coach who played for JHS many moons ago, met with Recreation Director Chris Correia and School Spt. Dr. Bernard DiLullo to float the idea of a plan to clean up Engineer's Field which is home of the JHS and Ferri Middle School baseball teams as well as the Johnston League's Senior and Junior Division circuits.

"The plan was to get all parties involved in the clean up efforts so that we could all take an ownership interest in the facility and the players could take pride in the field they call home," Civetti offered. "Everyone was in agreement that it would be a great community project and the ball was in motion."

Civetti, who has been a JLL volunteer and coach for 41 years and counting, contacted Acciardo and Ferri Coach Mike Iafrate and asked them to have their players on site for Saturday's six-hour field cleanup.

In addition, Civetti reached out to the Johnston-based Local 57 Union, specifically James McHale, who has always been a huge supporter of the town's

youth sports programs who works as an instructor at Local 57.

Moreover, McHale got Richard Kells – another union instructor – who also showed up Saturday along with some of the apprentices who worked on their field which was built by the union and is officially named Engineers Field.

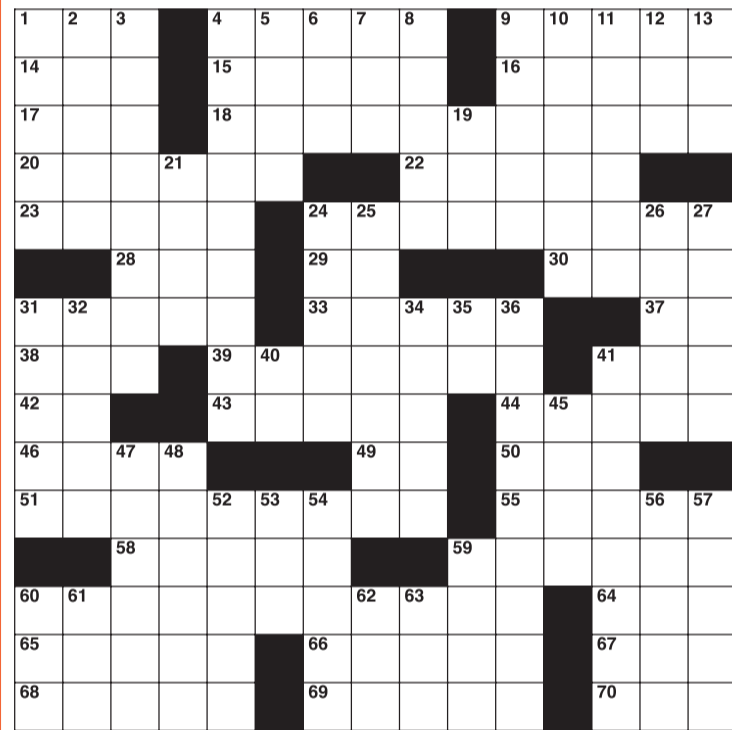
The clean-up crew, which also included Correia and a number of recreation staffers, along with JLL President Mark Pietros, Junior-Senior League Commissioner Gary Rianna, Panther players and even some parents, performed a myriad of duties and by days end had filled over 200 huge bags with leaves and other debris.

One of the work day's most important projects was spreading a special infield mix purchased from a firm located in Stoughton, Ma.

"There is still a lot of work to be done but without the help of the community and our friends from Local 57, the field probably would not have been ready for the April 8 high school opener against West Warwick," said Civetti. "We all agree that Local 57 Engineers Field was once a gem where it would host interscholastic and Legion League state tournaments. We need to restore the field to what it once was as well as a plan how we can maintain it. So, if we build and maintain it, people will want to play baseball in Johnston War Memorial Park at Local 57 Engineers. Field."

Thus, McHale, Civetti, coaches Acciardo and Iafrate vowed to continuing working with Correia to get the field restored to one of the best baseball facilities in the state.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Celebrations
- 9. Pulpits
- 14. Pin
- 15. Rare laughing
- 16. Parts of the circulatory system
- 17. Financial term
- 18. Pearl Jam frontman
- 20. Cores of vascular plants
- 22. Strong sharp smell or taste
- 23. City in S. Korea
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Short message at the end of an email
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Boys and men
- 37. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. A way to arrange
- 41. Body cavity
- 42. The Great Lake State
- 43. A type of seal
- 44. Stop for a moment
- 46. Ancient kingdom

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary muscular contraction
- 2. PA transit system
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. Sweet greenish fruit
- 5. Lends support to
- 6. Chap
- 7. Singer Di Franco
- 8. Water at boiling temperature diffused in the atmosphere
- 9. Asserts to be the case
- 10. Doctor (Spanish)
- 11. Auction attendee

- 12. Characterized by unity
- 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 19. Way to analyze video (abbr.)
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Tree resin
- 25. The academic world
- 26. Khoikhoi peoples
- 27. Infer from data
- 31. Arrives
- 32. Apart
- 34. Takes on cargo
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Takes apart
- 40. Dorm official
- 41. Secondary or explanatory descriptor
- 45. Relating to wings
- 47. Speaker
- 48. Situated in the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Alaska nursing group (abbr.)
- 54. Beloveds
- 56. Establish by law or with authority
- 57. Border river between India and Nepal
- 59. Millisecond
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ____
- 62. ESPN broadcaster Bob
- 63. A place to stay

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■ Panthers

(Continued from page 19)

over Prout to advance to the quarterfinals.

Johnston returns roughly half of its starting lineup from last season and much of its bench pieces in hopes of making another run.

"We are just trying to carry everything over from last year. Other than a few teams, we have seen all of the teams that we will be facing this year so we just can't get full of ourselves, but we have to keep our confidence. All the girls that we will be facing are high schoolers like we are, so we just need to play like we belong there," said senior Emily Iannuccilli.

Coach David Iannuccilli returns to the dugout this spring and will once again be relying on his upperclassmen. He also feels that last year's playoff experience will pay dividends this campaign.

"It was huge. They responded really well to it and we were able to steal a game. We were able to steal that game because they worked hard and were motivated," said David Iannuccilli. "We're going to go as far as the seniors take us. I said that last year too. I am big on leadership, and we have a few girls that are true leaders on this team. They are looking forward to the season. They work very hard in practice and they work on the fundamentals all the time. They are a great group of kids and they're enjoyable to coach."



THE THROW TO HOME: First baseman Courtney Beaulieu throws to home.

The returning core of girls will also use their familiarity with one another to their benefit.

"Since a lot of us have been playing together for the last few years and some of us have been playing together since middle school, I feel that we have a lot of chemistry this year. We know how each other play and we know what to do in certain situations, so that chemistry will help us this year," said senior Charlene Hohlmaier.

Fellow senior Courtney Beaulieu added: "With so many girls coming

back, we have that chemistry and we know each other. There are some areas that may be a little iffy, but we are all used to playing together."

As this senior core gets set to play its final high school season, girls like Victoria Butler are happy to be back to a full spring slate of games to finish it off.

"We didn't have a sophomore season and then our junior year was cut short because of COVID. I'm just happy to be back out here and excited to be able to play a full season," said Butler.

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- 10 AM Monday for Cranston Herald (Thursday), Warwick Beacon (Thursday) & Johnston Sun Rise (Thursday)

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We make every effort to carefully proofread all advertisements, however, we ask you to check your ad the first time it appears. If you find an error, call 732-3100 so that we may correct it in the next publication. Beacon Communications shall not be liable for errors or omissions in, or failure to insert, any advertisement for which it may be responsible beyond the cost of the actual space occupied by the item in which error or omission or failure to insert occurred. Advertiser will be entitled to refund of advertisement price or insertion in next issue at advertiser's option.

ADVERTISING COSTS:

LINE-BY-LINE:

1 Week — Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise 4 lines - \$25.00; each additional line \$4.00

4 Weeks or More — Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise 4 lines - \$23.00 per week; each additional line \$4.00

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY:

1 Week — Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise \$35.00 per column inch.

BUSINESS SERVICE ADS:

\$32.00 per column inch - Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise Ad Must Run 4 Consecutive Weeks.

Add the RI Reminder:

\$8.00 per column inch. Ad Must Run 4 Consecutive Weeks.

Email ads to: AmandaN@rhodybeat.com

CREDIT POLICY We accept all major credit cards. We will bill line-by-line classified ads (with the exception of YARD SALE ADS) to customers adding \$1.50 billing fee. Business Service ads must be prepaid until a Credit Application has been approved and account established.

Autos For Sale

Chevrolet Impala 2012 mint condition! \$6,995 Seen at 1108 Park Ave or call 368-2909

Autos Wanted

Cars and Trucks wanted — Any condition - \$300 and up; \$ Cash Paid \$ Call 401-943-6625 Lic# 200

Devotions

Thank you St Padre Pio for the miracle of healing my son, my husband and me. Thank you St Benedict for protecting my family. Linda

Duplex For Rent

CRANSTON: 2 BED, 1.5 baths. Unfurnished, hardwood floors. Washer & Dryer, stove, refrigerator, 1-yr lease. \$1000 mo. + utilities. Security. No pets. No smoking. Credit check, BCI, references. Bob 529-5898.

Help Wanted

PT Concierge needed for assisted living community. Wednesday 5:00pm – 7:30pm and Saturday & Sunday, 1:30pm – 7:30pm. Must have good communication skills and telephone etiquette. Knowledge of Word-Excel-Outlook. Please pick up application at Halcyon at West Bay, 2783 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI. EOE

Advertising Account Executive - West Bay - Local Newspaper Company looking for an advertising sales representative to service the Cranston/Johnston area. Knowledge of this area and its businesses is preferred. Computer Skills (Outlook, Word, Excel) helpful. The ideal candidate should possess strong organizational skills. Assertiveness and professionalism in the workplace is a must. They should be willing to work in an office environment as well as on the road. Sales experience helpful. But will train the ideal candidate. Must have your own vehicle and be willing to spend time on the road as well as in the office. Flexibility is key in this position. Base Salary + Commission. Interested candidates can send their resume to donnaz@rhodybeat.com.

Help Wanted



JAY PACKAGING GROUP

\$900 SIGNING BONUS*

**Signing Bonus is available to new employees for the successful completion of their new position as a packer or material handler.*

Located in Warwick, RI, we are a leader in the printing and packaging industry, providing our customers with packaging solutions that stretch the limits of technology while delivering products in a timely, consistent and cost-competitive manner. Our customer base is growing and we need motivated individuals to join our team and help to create innovative visual display packaging. These positions are full time and not seasonal positions.

Hand Packers
1st, 2nd & 3rd Shift

Material Handlers
1st, 2nd & 3rd Shift

Press Feeder
off shifts

Quality Assurance Manager

1st Pressman - off shifts

2nd Pressman

Thermoforming Operator

We offer a competitive benefit package including Blue Cross Blue Shield and Dental, VSP eye care, company-paid life insurance, 401(k), savings plan, vacation/holidays, and employee recognition programs in addition to a safe, clean working environment.

Mena Raso, Senior Human Resources
100 Warwick Industrial Drive, Warwick, RI 02886
Fax: 401.244.1398 • e-mail: mraso@jaypack.com

500 Help Wanted

500 Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Carpet Cleaning Trainee - \$16/HR. Full time days. Valid drivers license. Clean BCI. Full benefits, excellent working conditions. Call Joe 401-258-9648

Ice Rink positions. Rink Attendant / Maintenance / Cleaners / Zamboni Operator at both our North Smithfield and Pawtucket facilities. Qualified applicants for this position must be clean, reliable and customer oriented. Applicant must be able to pass a background check. Hours are extremely flexible. We are looking to fill both Full Time and Part Time positions. Salary is based on experience. Email: Rick@phchockey.com

Peoples Liquor Warehouse is looking for a Full-time Cashier. Must have prev exp, be dependable/organized and 21+. Requires prev merchandising exp (ordering/stock), superior customer service and friendly, outgoing attitude. Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm. Apply in-store 1350 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI

Advertising Deadline is Monday at 10 AM

To place your ad by phone, call Amanda at **732-3100**

Housecleaning

Looking to clean your home weekly or every other week. Reliable. 25 years experience. Fully vaccinated. Call 401-339-4048

Misc. For Sale

Book Release 2021 Baseball From Providence To Prominence By Dan D'Alessio. ISBN# 978-1-6624-3862-2 for hard copy. Also an E-Book and paperback.

ARBORVITAE Privacy Hedge Trees

8-Foot Dark American Arborvitae (Premium)
NOW ONLY **\$195** each

FREE Delivery
FREE installation
Selling fast!

518-536-1367
Lowcosttreefarm.com

Real Estate Wanted

WE BUY HOUSES: Any condition!! Quick sale!! House needs work? We don't mind. Call 401-595-8703

Advertising Account Executive - National/Major Accounts - Local Newspaper Company seeking a seasoned professional for a print and digital sales position, cultivating new business and servicing current national, regional and major local accounts. The ideal candidate would possess strong organizational skills. Assertiveness and strong communication skills are a must. Computer Skills (Outlook, Word, Excel) helpful. Base Salary + Commission. Must have your own vehicle and be willing to spend time on the road as well as in an office setting. Interested candidates can send their resume to donnaz@rhodybeat.com.

Classifieds

Sun Rise 401-732-3100

4 Lines / \$25⁰⁰ Includes Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald and Johnston Sun Rise
Run your ad for 4 weeks or more and Save \$2.00 per week.
 Bold Face First Line of ad for \$4.00 per week

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

USE 1 BLOCK FOR EACH LETTER, NUMBER OR PUNCTUATION MARK. LEAVE ONE BLANK BLOCK BETWEEN EACH WORD OR AFTER EACH PUNCTUATION MARK. (MINIMUM AD - 4 LINES)												
1)												CATEGORY _____ \$25.00/Week – \$29.00/Week with Bold \$29.00/Week – \$33.00/Week with Bold \$33/Week – \$37/Week with Bold
2)												
3)												
4)												
5)												
6)												

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CHECK # _____
OF WEEKS AD IS TO RUN _____
CARD # _____ EXP. DATE: _____ SEC. CODE _____

MAIL TO: Beacon Communications
1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889 **OR** e-mail to: AmandaN@rhodybeat.com
Attn: CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINE:
Monday 10 AM



HIRING
•
SELLING
•
BUYING

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Statewide Coverage

REACH OVER 125,000 HOMES

Help Wanted
Real Estate
Autos
Items For Sale

732-3100



Save Time.
Save Money.

INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.



Shop Locally!

WET BASEMENT - MOLD?
 • PUMPS INSTALLED • UNDER FLOOR DRAINAGE
 • MOLD REMEDIATION • FOUNDATION & BULKHEAD REPAIRS
 LET A PROFESSIONAL SOLVE YOUR BASEMENT WATER PROBLEMS
 Quality Workmanship • Reasonable Pricing

(401) 516-3641
www.DivConServices.com
 Diversified Services RI Reg. #9386

PROPANE FILLING STATION

621-8129 Call Phil

ALL PROPANE TANKS FILLED HERE

- Open 7 days a week
- Open all year
- English & Spanish

Be Safe - GRILL!

904 Manton Ave. • Providence (IN FRONT OF STOP & SHOP)
 Phil.Johnston32@gmail.com • www.jfcpropane.com

CASH FOR GOLD

BUYING and SELLING
 Gold • Silver • Diamonds • Jewelry • Coins
OLD, NEW OR BROKEN - WE BUY IT ALL!

HIGHEST PRICES PAID! Sell with confidence to a LICENSED precious metal dealer.

Atwood Coin and Jewelry
 LIC. #201901-001
 1450 Atwood Ave, Suite 10, Johnston, RI 02919
401.525.CASH (2274)
 MON. 10AM-6PM • TUES.-SAT. 9:30AM-6:30PM • CLOSED SUNDAY

SEE OUR AD ON THE COLLECTIBLES PAGE

M&M's DINER
 NOW OPEN at 7am!!
401-270-7371
 Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
 1031 Plainfield Street
 Johnston, RI 02919
 Open Daily 7AM-8PM

3 EGGS & TOAST \$1.49
PASTA WITH 1 MEATBALL \$5.99
FISH & CHIPS \$7.99
1LB. T-BONE DINNER \$17.99

Place Your Ad Today

Reach LOCAL Customers!

ONLY \$15⁰⁰ PER WEEK
 (10-week commitment)

3.42"x2" ad
 FREE COLOR WHEN AVAILABLE

Nardone Painting Co.
 INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WORK
 Roofing, Siding and Windows
 NOW OFFERING: Carpentry, Kitchen & Bath Remodeling & Hardwood Floors
 Over 40 Years Experience — Quality Work
 LICENSED & INSURED
401-943-1675
 Luciano Nardone 27 Tweed Street, Cranston
 Mention This Ad For **\$500 OFF** Exterior Painting Jobs (\$2500 & Over)

RI Real Estate SERVICES
 Jennifer Russo
 REALTOR®
 401.529.4736
 jen@401sold.com

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GRAHAM INSURANCE, INC.
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 Agent, Vincent S. Podmaska Insurance Agency
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1465 Atwood Avenue • Johnston, RI 02919
 Tel: 401-273-8700 • Fax: 401-273-0477

