

Is another property tax hike likely?

School department faces \$1.4M shortfall

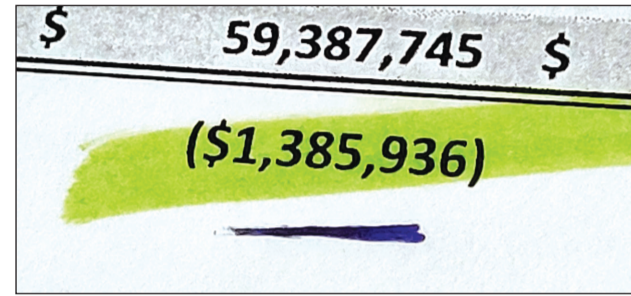
By RORY SCHULER

The Johnston School Department needs nearly \$1.4 million to balance next year's budget. Last year, facing a similar situation, Johnston Town Council approved a tax hike. How will Johnston balance the school budget this year?

"I'm not familiar with this since the school is independent from our side, but I'll see it when they present their budget," said mayoral candidate and Johnston Town Council Vice-President Joe Polisena Jr. "Whatever their final number is, I will not vote for any tax increase on the residents. It's burdensome and unnecessary, particularly in today's times of high inflation. Not happening."

"The town appropriation remains the same," Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. told the School Committee at their budget workshop on April 4. "We haven't heard of an increase yet."

The School Committee voted unanimously Tuesday night, April 12, "to accept the Proposed Johnston Public School Operating Budget for SY 2022-2023."



OFF TO TOWN COUNCIL: The Johnston School Committee voted unanimously Tuesday night, April 12, to accept the proposed Johnston Public School Operating Budget for SY 2022-23. The School Department needs nearly \$1.4 million to balance next year's budget. Last year, Town Council raised taxes to cover the shortfall. What will happen this year?

BUDGET - PAGE 11

Tipsy? Then call an Uber

By RORY SCHULER

Storm clouds rolled across the sky Tuesday, and fat droplets started to fall on the windshield of Johnston Police Officer Matt Leveillee's sport utility cruiser.

He was watching the traffic blur past on Hartford Avenue. His eyes were trained on the drivers and their wheels.

Did the tires cross the center line? Is the driver texting behind the wheel?

Just a few days ago Johnston Police arrested a man for driving under the influence at 3 p.m. on a town street.

In 2021, 16 drivers were arrested for DUI in Johnston, according to Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza. Johnston Police arrested 13 alleged drunken drivers in 2020, and 18 in 2019.

Once an arrest has been made, however, the damage has already been done.

Some in local law enforcement and substance abuse prevention are

DUI - PAGE 6



FIXED POST: Johnston Police Officer Matt Leveillee watches for signs of distracted and/or impaired driving while on a traffic post along Hartford Avenue. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Bill proposed to stop catalytic converter thefts

By ALEX MALM and RORY SCHULER

At 9 a.m. on Oct. 12, 2021, a Johnston Senior Center employee tried starting one of the center's transportation vans, but it made a loud, unusual noise.

Upon inspecting the undercarriage, the problem was obvious. Someone had swiped the van's catalytic converter. The incident remains unsolved, and caused more than \$1,500 damage. Taxpayers were forced to cover the bill.

The crime is becoming far too common across the Ocean State and the rest of the country. Replacements can easily cost more than \$1,000 for parts alone, and thieves often cause extensive damage while hastily carving catalytic converters from underneath unattended vehicles.

Not one but two catalytic converters were stolen off cars parked at Legal Motors on busy West Shore Road in Warwick

around 9:30 on a recent clear morning.

The used car dealership is owned by state Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr.'s family. Last week, he introduced legislation in hopes of keeping others from experiencing the same situation.

If approved, the legislation would require the purchaser of a used catalytic converter to obtain a copy of the registration of the vehicle from which it was removed and provide a copy to law enforcement.

"If they don't have the registration they can't accept it," said Solomon.

Solomon isn't alone. In Warwick, 113 thefts occurred between April 2021 and March 2022, according to the city's Police Department.

"This legislation will crack down on a crime that is extremely costly to car owners," said Solomon. "The perpetrators of this crime get pennies on the dollar for these converters while the cost of replacing them can be well over \$1,000,

especially if the car is damaged while criminals attempt to remove the converters quickly. This legislation would put the burden of responsibility on those who (are) actually accepting the catalytic converters to make sure they're coming from legitimate sources. It will hold those who receive the converters to a high standard, so they exercise a little social responsibility when dealing with those selling converters."

The issue of catalytic converters being stolen isn't just a Warwick or state problem; it is also a national issue Solomon said during an interview last week.

Since last April, there have been 125 reported theft incidents in Cranston with 441 individual converters stolen according to Col. Michael Winquist.

Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza in an email Tuesday said "as you know, these thefts are occurring throughout the State and all of New England as the main components that make up the con-

verters, platinum, palladium and rhodium have seen a significant increase in their price over the last several years."

Razza said that since Jan. 1, 2021, the department had 41 reports of stolen catalytic converters.

"The thefts usually occur in the late evening to early morning hours and days of the weeks and months are random, with no real day of the week or month that is more prevalent than others," said Razza. "Thefts are random and seen throughout the town in our residential and business districts and I have noticed a slight decline in thefts over the last few months."

Razza said the department recommends that people park their vehicles in a well lit area as well as install surveillance outside of their residence or business.

"There are other preventative measure

THEFTS - PAGE 8

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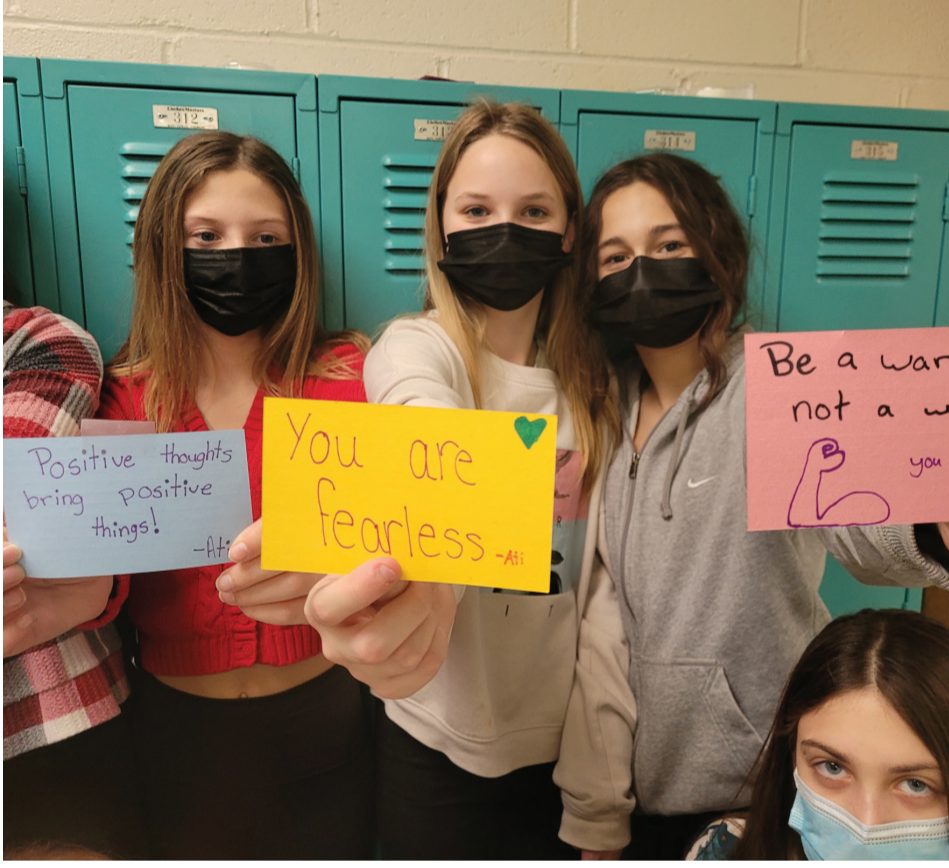
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FRIENDLY REMINDERS: Student members of the Above The Influence organization at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School affixed Post-It notes with positive messages to their classmates' lockers. See Page 3 for more details. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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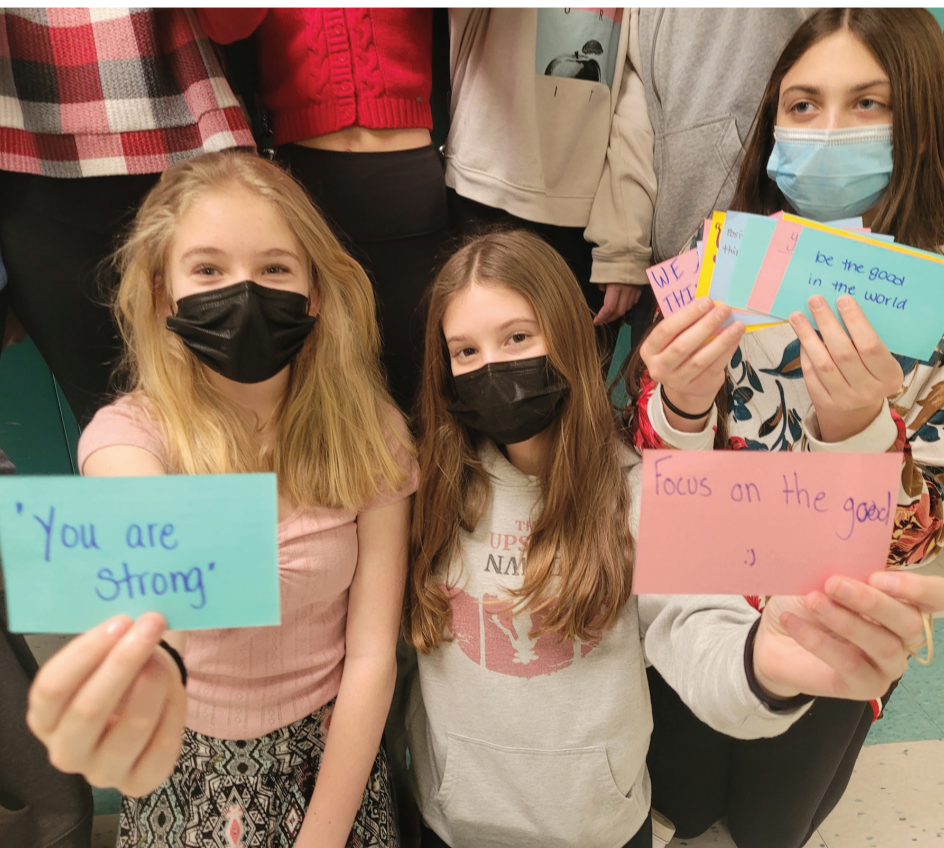
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PEER MEMO: Student members of the Above The Influence organization at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School affixed Post-It notes with positive messages to their classmates' lockers. The notes were intended as a pick-me-up for students as they arrived for classes. The initiative was just one of many undertaken by the club this school year, as the district climbed out of the pandemic and life returned to normalcy. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Sticky pick-me-ups



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Senate president urges phasing out car tax now

By RORY SCHULER and JOHN HOWELL

No Ocean State resident relishes the receipt of their local car tax bill. If you own a car in Rhode Island, it's possible you've seen your last vehicle tax bill. Yet, as much as no one likes paying taxes Warwick City Finance Director Peder Schaefer thinks it's a bad idea.

On Monday, the Rhode Island State Senate president suggested speeding up a car-tax phase-out to help balance the rising cost of living. If nothing is done this legislative session and no other changes are made, the excise tax would end in FY 2024.

Senate President Dominick Ruggerio, a North Providence Democrat, spoke at the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce's "Eggs & Issues" event, and revealed the proposal for a speedy spike of the unpopular gas tax that is collected by municipalities.

"We also need to recognize that Rhode Islanders are feeling the pinch of higher costs," Ruggerio told the audience. "While by many measures the economy is thriving, and Rhode Island is a national leader in economic recovery, inflationary concerns are very real, and they are being felt by Rhode Islanders."

Schaefer had several takes on the plan to expedite the phase out.

First, he observed, since former House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello launched the plan for the state to reimburse cities and towns what they had been collecting in car taxes, car values have shot up. He said that used car values alone have increased 40 percent. His point is that if realistic values were used, municipalities would be collecting added tax revenues.

"I feel we are not getting fully reimbursed," he said. "We would have a bonanza."

Lawmakers passed legislation to phase the tax out over a six-year period in 2017 (two years remain). Ruggerio wants to speed that up, expecting multiple funding windfalls in the next year's state budget.

"One step that I think we are equipped to take — and that I believe we should take — is to accelerate the car tax phase-out," Ruggerio told the crowd as the smell of omelets and moderate politics hung in the air. "This will provide lasting relief for everyday Rhode Islanders."

The senate leader also insists legislators are "also working to provide additional tax relief for our veterans."

Ruggerio then went on to warn of apathy at the polls and the radical left.

"There are candidates running for office who are downright hostile to business," Ruggerio said. "The Rhode Island Political Coop is fielding candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and legislative seats. They are calling for increased taxes. They are calling for a \$19 minimum wage, despite the fact that we just increased the minimum wage to \$15. Many of their members want to defund the police, which would have disastrous consequences for our small businesses and our neighborhoods."

He urged voters to cast ballots in this year's Democratic primaries. He warned his potential "radical" opponents could pick up unexpected wins if voter apathy keeps voters away from the primary polls.

"They are vocal, and their radical ideas get a lot of media attention," Ruggerio said. "So it is absolutely vital that we also hear from you. We need you to participate in the electoral process. And we need you to participate in elections — including primaries."

"If you choose to sit out primaries — especially the Democratic primary — then you could be left with only the most extreme candidates in the General Election ... candidates who don't reflect the values of most Rhode Islanders," Ruggerio told the chamber.

While he hadn't heard what Ruggerio had to say, Schaefer thinks progressive Democrats would endorse his views on



Senate President Dominick Ruggerio

the car tax if it wasn't such a political hot potato.

Schaefer agrees that municipal car taxes were high when Mattiello stepped in to correct the situation, but now that they have been reduced he's not for eliminating them entirely.

"I would say mission accomplished," Schaefer said. But by removing the tax, municipalities lose an option to collect revenue for a number of purposes from repaving roads to public safety measures. Additionally, he sees automobile excise taxes as discouraging car ownership and as enticement to use public transportation and improving the environment. He said the excise tax is also a means of renters and those who don't own real estate, which serves as the basis of revenues collected by the city, to help pay for services. It is also a means for elected officials to have contact with these people.

This year Warwick's motor vehicle levy — the rate is \$34 per \$1,000 of vehicle valuation — totaled \$22 million of which the state paid \$12 million. If the tax were fully phased out, the state would be reimbursing the \$22 million every year going forward.

According to a spokesman for Ruggerio if there is agreement on fully phasing out the tax, it would require an additional \$63.2 million above what the Governor has budgeted.

Meanwhile, Ruggerio and other State House leaders will soon be splitting up a plump budget fattened further by more than \$1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act appropriations awaiting distribution.

Ruggerio, speaking to a room full of business owners, stressed the importance of helping to improve Rhode Island's business climate.

"Working with the Governor and the House, on our first day of session this year we appropriated \$32 million in small business assistance, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, through the 'down payment' budget bill," Ruggerio said. "This builds on federal funding we appropriated last June, as well as prior funding allocated to assist small businesses during the pandemic. It includes grants to help businesses build their capacity and make needed investments."

Although the pandemic seems to be fading from public consciousness, its wide-reaching affects are still revealing themselves on a daily basis.

"It is more important than ever that we continue to work to improve our business climate, and to foster job creation in our state," Ruggerio said. "Our focus in the Senate remains on finding ways to boost our economy and help people get back to work ... and that starts with keeping our small businesses open, easing the burdens they face, and empowering them to innovate and adapt."



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Sun Rise Scoops

By Meri R. Kennedy

Youth Fishing Derby

On April 23, Johnston Department of Parks & Recreation will hold their Youth Fishing Derby in Johnston Memorial Park. For children ages 4-12, please arrive between 9 to 11 a.m. There is no fee to enter. Awards will be distributed for individual achievement. For more information, contact 272-3460 or johnstonrec.com.Youth.

Change at Memorial Park

It must be Spring! The public restrooms are now open at Johnston Memorial Park (at the center of the park at the Vet's Pavilion). Restrooms will be open Monday-Friday, 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Saturday 7:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., and Sunday 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

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 the 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. 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.

Pre-K Lottery

The RI State Pre-K lottery is now open. This lottery will run until July 6 so you know a child who would be 4 before Spt. 1 may qualify. To apply, visit www3.ride.gov./PKL.

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.

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.

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.

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

Apple Fest Scheduled

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

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

Johnston Senior Center offers services

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

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

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

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

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

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

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

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

Did you know?

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Keep your day and celebrate and quite often the day (or around that day) there are cleanups (Source: Earth Day Facts).

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

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INCREASED PATROLS: Johnston Police will be "deploying additional patrols throughout the month sporadically," according to Chief Joseph P. Razza. Local police are teaming up with state and federal agencies to spread the message that there are no excuses for driving impaired. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ DUI (Continued from page 1)

hoping to curb destructive behavior before a crime has been committed. They're hoping to spread the word that impaired driving is a 100 percent avoidable infraction.

"We have increased patrols throughout the month April to enforce distracted

driving and we are also looking for impaired drivers as well," Razza said Tuesday.

In 2019, Johnston Police cited 35 drivers for texting while driving, and 40 drivers for using a mobile phone while driving. In 2020, they wrote 20 citations for texting and 24 for mobile phone usage. And in 2021, the department cited 20 for texting and 30 for using a phone while behind the wheel.

"We are encouraging the public to put the phone down and pay attention to the road behind the wheel," Razza said. "Also, if you are going to consume alcohol and drive, do it responsibly and designate a driver or use a ride service."

On Tuesday morning, Razza met with Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, Patricia Sweet, Director of the Southern Providence County Prevention Coalition (which covers Johnston, North Providence and Cranston), and Arthur J. Martins, Coordinator for the Impaired Driving Engagement Council (of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association).

"The SPC Regional Coalition is partnering with the Impaired Driving Engagement Council (IDEC) for the state of RI who is partnering with the RI Department of Transportation Office on Highway Safety and the RI Police Chief's Association," Sweet explained.

The organizations are joining forces to stop impaired driving before tragedies occur.

"The goal is to approach the problem from a community centered method that seeks to change destructive behaviors," Sweet explained. "Impaired driving is not only a public safety problem it is a public health problem."

The new state council has been working with local coalitions against impaired driving.

"If we can collectively gain greater awareness and spread the word of the IDEC efforts, it will help reach the goal to keep everyone in RI safe on the road," said Sweet, who also serves as Director of Prevention Programs & SPC Regional Prevention Task Force.

Martins is the retired Chief of the North Providence Police Department, and previously served with the Pawtucket Police for 28 years.

"Rhode Island has been identified as a mid-range state that has a high percentage of its roadway fatalities related to impaired driving. Rhode Island consistently is around that 40 percent range. And to be designated as a low-range state, you have to be below 30 percent. Most of the rest of the country, average, is about 30 percent of roadway fatalities related to impaired driving."

The Ocean State has a lot of work to do.

"Here in Rhode Island, I know we're at 40 percent, but we have the lofty goal of having zero deaths related to impaired driving," Martins said. "Now that might take some time to get there,

but through education, awareness, prevention, counseling and a strong social media campaign we hope to educate people on the dangers of impaired driving — not only alcohol, but also prescription drugs, and with the impending legalization of recreational marijuana, that's a concern."

The message is simple:

"If you choose to drink alcohol, don't do it to excess and then drive," Martins urged drinkers. "Have a plan in place, whether it's a designated driver, calling a ride-share, an Uber, or calling a friend, just don't make the mistake of getting behind the wheel and driving intoxicated."

Martins recounted numerous recent examples of tragedy triggered by drunken drivers.

"We've seen some tragic incidents, just from the first of this year," Martins said. "That young girl, Olivia Passeretti was killed, on Route 95, as the result of an individual who made some bad choices. We had a young lady who was killed in Lincoln, her fiancé was driving. He hit a tree on Cobble Hill Road and he fled, and they ended up apprehending him later, and there was evidence that he may have been impaired."

April is also national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the Johnston Police Department has been "increasing our enforcement efforts throughout the town focusing on texting while driving and holding a cell phone while driving," according to the department. "No text message or phone call is worth the potential damage it could cause on the road."

"Additionally, we will be deploying additional patrols throughout the month sporadically," Razza said. "We will also be updating our Facebook page on a weekly basis to get the message out to the public."

Martins hopes cooperation between agencies on so many levels will help persuade drivers to make solid decisions.

"We're working with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the local prevention coalitions, the local police departments, just to get the message out," Sweet said. "Driving impaired is dangerous. Make better choices. And let's stop the trend and save lives instead of engaging in this risky dangerous behavior that has a tendency to ruin lives and cause a lot of societal harm."

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Catalytic converter legislation should pass

The economic pains caused by the pandemic have been visible throughout society throughout the past two years. Food insecurity and housing insecurity are ongoing issues of concern, all of which has been exacerbated by rising inflation and higher cost of commodities, such as gas, due in part to the conflict in Ukraine.

All of these factors, along with the thousands who lost their employment and have been unable to gain it back in an equitable manner since the lockdowns two years ago began, have resulted in many individuals becoming desperate for money however they can get it. And unfortunately, in such positions, many may turn to criminal acts to get by.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the theft of catalytic converters from unoccupied vehicles has become increasingly common throughout the past couple years. In terms of crimes of opportunity, they are remarkably easy to pull off. In terms of money made versus the effort required to obtain them, they are a low-risk, high-reward criminal endeavor.

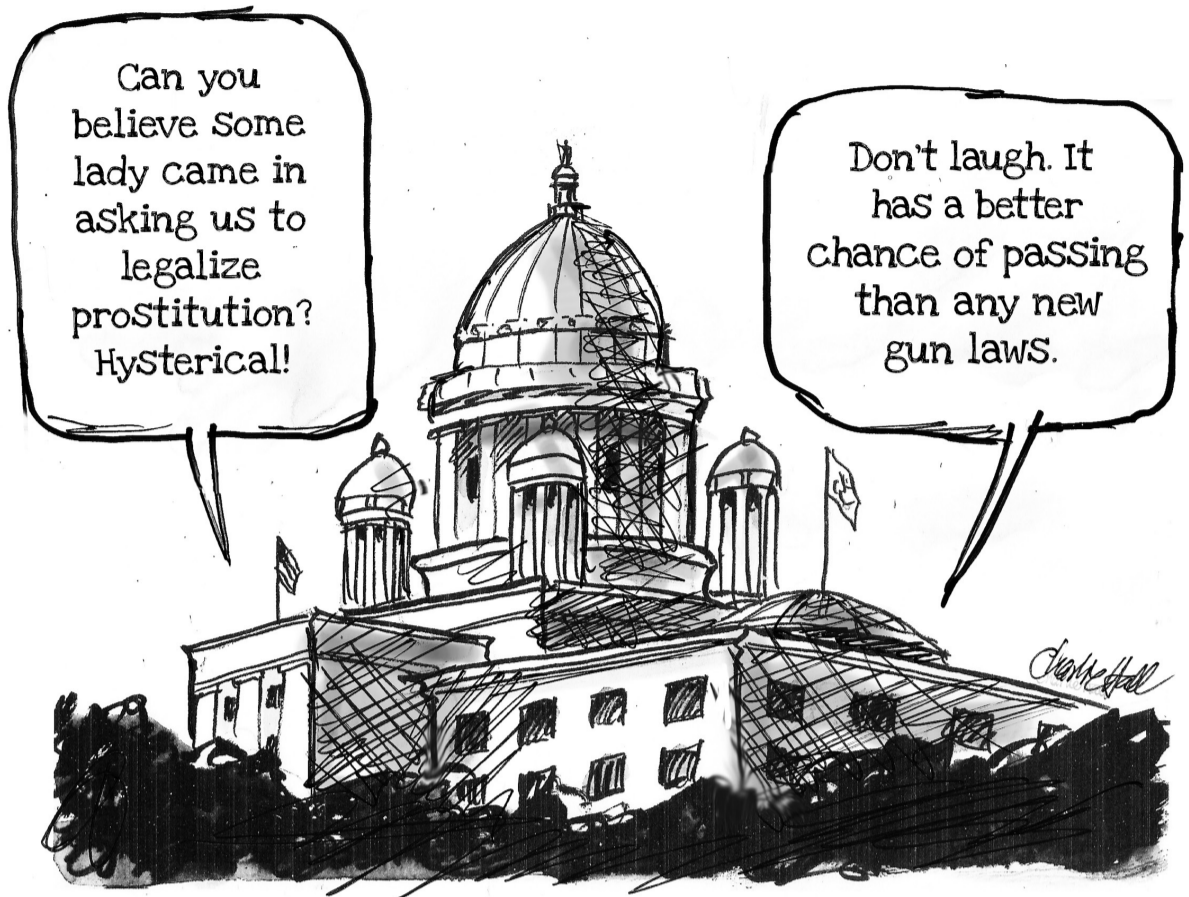
We have no doubt that police will play a role in being more vigilant about these thefts, but we can do more. While thieves of catalytic converters must be apprehended, a bill introduced by Rep. Solomon Jr. can make strides to prevent the easy sale of these stolen parts that make them such an attractive item of theft.

Rep. Solomon's bill would add a layer of red tape to ensure that the purchasers of catalytic converters must first secure a copy of the vehicle's registration that the converter came from. In practice, this bill would hopefully prevent stolen catalytic converters from being easily offloaded to garages and parts shops throughout the state.

Of course, no legislation is perfect. Nothing in the bill would prevent an unscrupulous car parts dealer from purchasing a black market catalytic converter without acquiring the proper paperwork, and then harvesting the precious metals (rhodium, palladium and platinum) that lie within them for a quick profit themselves. However, the hope would be that by making this practice illegal, it would make them think twice so as to not risk their own skin following someone else's brazen crime.

But we must also not lose sight of the fact that the best means of preventing crime is to alleviate people from the poverty that incentivizes them to engage in such reckless behavior in the first place. We have a long way to go in order to achieve that goal, but hopefully supporting Rep. Solomon's bill and passing it through the State House will curb this troubling trend of thefts — and save many hardworking Rhode Islanders the nightmare of finding their vehicle ransacked and in need of expensive repair.

• WHERE TO WRITE:
1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
RoryS@RhodyBeat.com



LETTERS

There's a third option beyond solar panels, housing

The debate on whether to allow the demolition of 325 acres of woodlands and former farmland for the construction of solar panels in five residential neighborhoods has been myopically and disingenuously framed as a choice between endless parallel rows of solar panels or massive housing developments. There is a third option: Following the town's Comprehensive Plan, which strongly encourages the preservation of this precious land to maintain a high quality of life for all Johnston residents.

This not-so-veiled threat that housing will overrun this undeveloped land and strain town services, if the solar developments are rejected, is greatly overstated. As an example, the 158-acre parcel on Winsor Avenue that represents the Winsor III solar proposal has been for sale for two years with no takers. I suspect no housing developer has offered to buy the land on which the other four solar projects would sit either. Johnston's schools and fire and police departments cannot be adversely affected by something that does not exist.

The town Comprehensive Plan specifically acknowledges the 230 or so acres that border Winsor Avenue, Hopkins Avenue, and Rollingwood Drive for its "value for conservation and open space ... its predominantly undeveloped state, its proximity to the Scituate [Reservoir] Watershed area ... and its location adjacent to the heavily developed and developing area of Hartford Avenue." Instead of unsightly solar panels, this land could benefit the entire town with the advent of walking trails, family picnic areas, and open space for light recreational use, while simultaneously maintaining the current natural habitat for the deer, fox, wild turkeys, other birds, and foliage that already exist and thrive here.

While Green Development has offered to remove the solar panels and return the land to the town after 20 to 25 years, why should we wait more than two decades to get the properties back after they have already been decimated? Let's not sugarcoat these proposals. Once these trees and wildlife are gone, it will take more than a few decades after the solar panels are removed to reforest and repopulate this acreage.

Can the town afford to pay for and maintain the preservation of this land? Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti told the town Planning Board at its March 3rd meeting that Johnston has a \$38 million budget surplus. While not all of these funds should be allocated for such an initiative, a portion of the money would be an excellent start to the process of nature conservation and allow time for the exploration of grant money and other funding sources. Most importantly, all Johnston residents and the town's quality of life would benefit from this plan.

To be sure, solar technology has its place in helping to supply energy when the panels are placed on commercial and industrial land and on rooftops. There is nothing "green" about crowbarring solar panels into residential neighborhoods, especially when it means the destruction of 325 acres of woodlands and natural wildlife habitat.

Wayne J. Forrest, of Johnston

Editor's Note: Next week, the Johnston Sun Rise will take a closer look at efforts to enact a solar development moratorium in town. Johnston officials disagree whether an ordinance would affect the proposed five-field Green Development project. However, the process to draft and debate the ordinance will begin immediately.



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■ Thefts
(Continued from page 1)

that can be explored like having the converter welded to the vehicle's frame and having the vehicle identification number engraved onto the converter," said Razza. "These thefts, like all property crime offenses that occur in town are investigated to the fullest extent possible and we encourage the public to report any and all suspicious activity. If any member of the public has information that may aid our investigations, they are encouraged to call us and they can offer the information confidentially."

Solomon said that when someone wakes up in the morning to take their children to school or gets out of work, starts up their car to an extremely loud noise because their catalytic converter is gone, it can be a devastating experience.

According to the Universal Technical Institute, a catalytic converter uses a chamber called a catalyst to "change the harmful compounds from an engine's emissions into safe gases, like steam. It works to split up the unsafe molecules in the gases that a car produces before they get released into the air."

"Taking these converters really hurts the most vulnerable in our society — people going to work every day, single mothers living paycheck to paycheck who now have an additional huge expense they can't afford," said Solomon.

Aside from Solomon's

legislation, there are two other bills that have been introduced in the General Assembly this year: one by Rep. John Lombardi, and the other by Rep. Edward Cardillo.

Cardillo's legislation would "make the possession of a catalytic converter by any person, other than a salvage yard, muffler shop or automobile or truck repair shop, presumptive evidence that the converter was stolen."

Under the legislation theft of a converter would be as a misdemeanor if its value is less than \$1,000, and a felony if higher.

Lombardi's legislation would make theft of a catalytic converter a felony and would require recycling service providers to maintain certain records relative to catalytic converters.

"We're working together on trying to merge languages and come up with the best bill possible," said Solomon.

Warwick Police Col. Bradford Connor related an incident where security cameras in a mall parking lot recorded a car pulling into a parking space and while the driver watched, the passenger rolled onto the pavement underneath the adjoining vehicle with a Sawsall and cut out the converter in a few minutes. Police were able to identify the thieves and make arrests, but the suspects — one with a prior criminal record for stealing converters — could only be charged with a misdemeanor. One of the suspects was caught stealing a converter again soon after.

Older adults warned during seminar on detecting fraud

By ALEX MALM

"Don't answer the phone." That's one of the key pieces of advice that Assistant Attorney General Molly Kapstein Cote told about a dozen people during a presentation to help older adults avoid falling victim to fraud at the Pilgrim Senior Citizen Center last week.

Attorney General Peter Neronha said one of his priorities since being elected is making sure Rhode Island residents have the tools they need to protect themselves, including against fraud.

Neronha told the crowd that it is easy to be scammed by scammers — especially when it comes to phone scams, which is why it was pointed out a number of times during the presentation that it's important to not answer calls from unrecognizable numbers.

"These guys are really, really good," said Neronha.

Neronha also explained that many of the crimes are hard to prove or prosecute because most of the scammers aren't in Rhode Island and in some cases aren't even in extraditable countries.

Neronha said it is important to contact the police department or his

office if someone thinks they were scammed. He said not only will it help his staff detect new scams, but they are also still able to help after the scam occurs.

But the most important thing is detecting when something is a scam.

"The whole key to protecting yourself and your family is to be aware that it is a scam in the first place," Neronha said.

Mayor Frank Picozzi gave an example of a local incident of a senior being taken advantage of. He said that about 10 months ago, an older adult was attempting to take a large amount of money out of the bank. The bank manager noticed, investigated and was able to stop a scam.

Picozzi said the police department takes scams extremely seriously and that many people within the city are there to help older adults if they fall victim to scams.

"You have an army of people waiting to help you," said Picozzi.

Kapstein Cote said that around 75 percent of the cases that the Elder Abuse Unit prosecutes are for local incidents of financial exploitation. She said that usually it involves some type of family member or caretakers.

"Those are the really heartbreaking cases," said Kapstein Cote.

One of the types of examples that Kapstein Cote told those in attendance to look for is making arrangements with someone they know for banking. She said in some cases a child or caretaker will have an arrangement with an older adult to use a certain amount of funds for things like medicine or groceries. She said if that individual is on the older adult's bank account, there is little that can be done if the person uses it for their own gains because the bank sees anyone on the account as an owner of the account.

"They don't care about what kind of private agreement you have," Kapstein Cote said. "When you put somebody on your bank account they are an owner just as they are and they can do whatever they want with your money."

Kapstein Cote said that the same applies for power of attorneys saying that it is important to have someone trustworthy before giving that person authority to make decisions.

To contact the Elder Abuse Unit with the Attorney General Office call (401) 222-2566 or (401) 274-4400, ext. 2269.

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LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, April 28th, 2022
at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on April 28, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center,

1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through

"Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

New Business
File 2022-10 – Petition of Linda Zaino, Applicant for 3 Rotary Drive, AP 24 Lot 36, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance Section 340 for a proposed

Addition with Two-Car Garage.

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

File 2022-3 – Petition of Johnston

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

File 2022-4 – Petition of Johnston Winsor II, LLC/Allan Hill, Applicant/Owner for 86 Winsor Avenue, AP 60 Lot 2, 20, 86, zoned R-40 & R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -subsection 5 – Public Utility Uses #2- electric Power Generating Facility in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed ground-mounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

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

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

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

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are avail-

able for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

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

4/14, 4/21, 4/28/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday May 3rd, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

PB 21-48 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to abandon a portion of Genoa Street

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

PB 22-18 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request for a Zone Change from R-40 to Planned District located at 198 Shun Pike – AP 33 Lot 63

PB 22-22 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request for a Zone Change from R-20 to B-1 located between 278 & 300 Morgan Avenue – AP 6 Lot 44 & a small portion of AP 6 Lot 154

PB 22-21 – Balletto Condominiums – Public Hearing on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed 13 residential unit Major Land Development. Located at 280-282 Simmonsville Avenue AP 25 Lot 5 - Zoned R-20. Applicant: Gary Balletto

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

V. ADJOURNMENT

4/14, 4/21, 4/28/22



Request for Proposals
Town of Johnston

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR PAINTING
RAINONE GYM

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Exterior and Interior Painting- Rainone Gym. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning April 14th, 2022 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Specs are also available on the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **April 20, 2022 at 9:30 am** at the Rainone Gym located at 45 Mill Street, Johnston RI 02919. Sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 am, April 27th, 2022** at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time. The Town of Johnston reserves the right to reject any or all responses or parts thereof, to waive any informality in them, or accept any bid deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Johnston will offer interpreters for the hearing impaired provided the request is at least three (3) days prior to scheduled bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director



Request for Proposals
Town of Johnston

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
TO HARTFORD AVENUE (ROUTE 6)
PAPA No. 21-73

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Highway Safety Improvements to Hartford Avenue (Route 6) PAPA No. 21-73. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning April 14th, 2022 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Specs are also available on the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. Sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 am, May 5th, 2022** at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time. The Town of Johnston reserves the right to reject any or all responses or parts thereof, to waive any informality in them, or accept any bid deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Johnston will offer interpreters for the hearing impaired provided the request is at least three (3) days prior to scheduled bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director

4/14/22

4/14/22

Name of the game and a victory cry

Thornton Elementary hosts BINGO night

By PETE FONTAINE

"B-I-N-G-O!"
That's the name of an ageless game of chance with cards and numbered squares — played by people of all ages in countless social settings — and often featuring fun prizes for filling a full line.

It's also the winner's victory cry. For the Thornton Elementary School PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), a BINGO game anchored a unique fundraiser held last Friday night inside the Johnston High School Cafeteria. It was the first time the event had returned after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As proof of the event's popularity, nearly 150 people — children, parents, Thornton staffers, faculty and volunteers — sat at long cafeteria tables enjoying unmatched camaraderie and impressively fun-filled family event.

In the middle of it all were two wonderful women — Thornton's fifth grade teacher Kelley-Cerbo-Charpentier and Dana Stonis, a parent volunteer.

Likewise, Louise Denham — the long-time principal at Thornton Elementary School — welcomed her beloved students and their parents and like everyone in attendance enjoyed listening to Grade 5 Teacher Colleen Muller call out the night's numbers that were affixed to the balls inside the bingo barrel and drawn by student Ibrahim Fall.

"Everyone is having fun!" Stonis exclaimed while going from to station-to-station. Each station featured a variety of snacks as well as pizza, and were staffed by members of Thornton Elementary School's Student Council, who were decked out in special matching T-shirts and also keeping a keen eye on their respective and sometimes winning bingo cards.

It was perhaps among the best Thornton Elementary School Family Nights, as many people among the always-smiling players concurred.

"We're certainly glad to be able to have our annual family bingo night again," Stonis offered. "The past two years we couldn't have this because of COVID-19. Thank you to everyone who came here tonight and played and supported the night; all money we raised will benefit different PTO programs and events we have for our children at Thornton Elementary School."

Stonis also praised the Thornton Elementary School's Student Council members — who were wearing specially-designed 2022 black T-shirts with white lettering — for their two-fold efforts of passing out food and the night's valuable prizes.

The fun-filled Family Bingo Night returned to the Johnston elementary school's social scene and set the tone for future programs. Last Friday night offered seven valuable donated raffle prizes, and organizers hope that number may double or even triple for the 2023 event.



GOOD EXAMPLES: Thornton Elementary School Student Council members Julianna Stonis, Brooke Charpentier and Sokhna Fall are joined by parent volunteer Dana Stonis and Principal Louise Denham at last Friday's Bingo Night. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



BINGO BUDDIES: The Maddens, Rebecca and Rory, and Carissa Carey and Hailee Loudon enjoy a break during last Friday's Family Bingo Night in Johnston.



CARD CARRIERS: Dana Stonis, Kelley Cerbo-Charpentier and April Rose hand out bingo cards.



FAMILY FUN: People like Mary DeAngelis, Ralph DeAngelis, Sherry Araujo, Luis Araujo, Quintin Picon, Monica Picon, Megan Crete, Callie Crete, Michael DeAngelis and Hayden Rose were among the nearly 150 people who enjoyed the return of Thornton Elementary School's Bingo Night.



CLASSIC CALLER: Colleen Muller, a fifth grade teacher at Thornton Elementary School turned caller for last Friday's Bingo Night and announced numbers drawn by student Ibrahim Fall.

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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:


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A	R	A			D	A	L	E	A								
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Thursday, April 14
 Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM
 Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7:00 PM
 Church will remain open until 12:00 Midnight for Adoration

Friday, April 15
 Morning Prayer ~ 8:00 AM
 Stations of the Cross & Procession ~ 3:00 PM
 Liturgy of the Passion & Veneration of the Cross ~ 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 16
 Morning Prayer ~ 8:00 AM
 Solemn Easter Vigil Mass ~ 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 17
 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Worship with your family this Easter

St. Robert Bellarmine Church
 1804 Atwood Avenue, Johnston • 232-5600

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY 2022

Holy Thursday - April 14
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM

Good Friday - April 15
 Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM
 Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil - April 16
 The Church's greatest and most noble solemnity will be celebrated at 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday - April 17
 Our usual Sunday schedule:
 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

FUNDING EXPRESSION: State Rep. Deborah Fellela (D-Johnston) delivered a grant check for \$1,000 to Kerry Murphy, an art teacher at Johnston High School, for the JHS art department.

"I have been giving them a grant for several years now to help them with many projects that they can move forward with," Fellela said. Among other things, the grant may help fund the department's advanced digital art program. **(Submitted photo)**

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Watch Your MOUTH
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

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Necessity is often called "the mother of invention," and during the recent challenges in providing routine healthcare, groundbreaking innovations have aided the practice of dentistry. Teledentistry is a recent innovation involving a dental health professional consultation via technology and digital tools such as video, to better serve their patients. Recent studies proved that teledentistry eliminated the unnecessary stress of getting to the dentist for many patients, especially those without reliable means of transportation or not living in close proximity to quality dental care. Teledentistry features also help determine if there is a dental emergency requiring an immediate office visit or if a patient's condition can wait until his or her next routine dental checkup.

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P.S. In July of 1994, teledentistry got its first true opportunity when pictures of 15 patients' mouths were transmitted from Fort McPherson, Georgia, to Fort Gordon, roughly 120 miles away.

www.dentalartsgroupri.com



PASS THE BUDGET: School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia and Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. preside over Tuesday night's meeting. The committee voted unanimously to send the district's proposed budget to Town Council, requesting nearly \$1.4 million to balance the books. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Budget

(Continued from page 1)

The budget will now be sent to Town Council.

The school department's proposed 2022-23 budget plans for \$60,773,681 in total expenses (more than \$15 million for operating expenses, and \$45 million for salaries and benefits).

Rhode Island State Aid will likely cover \$19,778,730 and the district expects around \$1 million in "miscellaneous revenue." The town's appropriation toward the school budget is expected to be \$38,529,015.

On Tuesday, April 5, a small portion (slightly more than 5 percent) of Johnston's registered voters turned out to vote in a \$215 million bond referendum to fund a transformative school building project in town.

Polisena Jr. and his father, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, have both stated publicly that the tax burden will be "negligible" if voters approved the bond. It passed with approximately 86 percent of voters' approval.

Last June, Polisena requested a 2.74 percent property tax increase and Town Council unanimously approved the hike.

It was the first property tax increase in Johnston since 2017.

The proposal increased taxes to \$23.24 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential real estate, \$28.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for commercial real estate and \$64.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for tangible personal property.

At the time, Polisena said increases in "unavoidable" costs in the school budget were mostly responsible for the needed tax revenue.

"I have a responsibility that the school department gets what they need," he said last June. "The school had put in a \$1,600,000 increase, and we're going to give them a million."

This year, the district will request \$1,385,936 to balance the budget.

Mayor Polisena has not returned calls and a text message requesting comment on a possible tax hike in his last year as mayor.

Town Council member Robert Civetti said he has yet to see a copy of the proposed budget.

"I would be happy to comment when I know more, but since I have not seen their proposed budget I cannot comment at this time," he wrote last week via email.

Last June, Polisena said the school department was facing "rising costs beyond their control." On Monday night, the DiLullo echoed the prior year's budget hurdles.

In 2021-22, the rising educational costs included an 18.5 percent jump in health care expenses and about \$3 million to cover students who travel outside of the district for schooling.

This year, inflated expenses from newly approved salary contracts and out-of-district tuition have pushed the budget into the red.

For regular education, the district expects to pay \$2,583,000 on vocational tuition and \$619,500 on charter school tuition (for a total of \$3,202,500). That's about \$23,500 more than the school department requested last year.

For special education, the district expects to pay \$3,373,977 (\$448,919 more than requested last year).

"I think that this budget is probably as close to the bone as we could possibly

ask for," School Committee Member Joseph W. Rotella said to DiLullo at the budget workshop. "We know how hard you work on it. We really appreciate it. It's just unfortunate that the out-of-district wasn't so high, you would be \$3 million (ahead)."

"One of the things communities should know about out-of-district placements, especially in special education, is that the state determines the cost-per-pupil when they send the student out of district," DiLullo explained. "So for example, we would get a letter from the DCYF that said they were placing student X in out-of-district placement. You are responsible to pay \$110,000 for that student. So we have no control over that. They make that decision. DCYF makes that decision, sends the kid out, and then they send us a bill."

"As of right now, I don't really think there's much more we can do," Rotella said.

"Other than budget for it," DiLullo responded.

Insurance costs also skyrocketed. School Department Business Manager Lesli-Ann Powell told the committee that insurance rates have increased, mainly due to stricter cyber-security requirements.

"We were required this year to get cyber-security insurance," she said.

School Committee Chairman Robert LaFazia broached the topic of staffing and deeper budget cuts.

"Right now, if we have to make any cuts whatsoever, what departments do you think we would have to look into?" LaFazia asked DiLullo.

"So, the salaries are the salaries ... We would probably look at special education," DiLullo answered. "Although that would be an unreasonable cut, because we want to make sure we have enough money there. Probably a little bit off transportation. We could do that. We certainly can go back and take a look at this, if we want to have another meeting."

LaFazia asked how this year's special education matched up to budgeted expenses.

"Were we pretty much in line? Did we go over?" He asked.

"We are actually, if we look at what we've encumbered right now, year-to-date, we're going to go over our budget because of the out-of-district tuition," Powell said. "And that's the only reason. Everything else is in line."

LaFazia made a motion to put the budget proposal on the School Committee meeting agenda for Tuesday, April 12. The proposed budget was unanimously approved Tuesday.

"Send it down to Town Hall, and take it from that point on ... We're kind of like hand-cuffed ... unless we can make some large cuts," LaFazia said. "It's almost impossible to come up with that million."

"When you look at our year-to-date budget, budget to actual, most of our expenses are below what we budgeted for with the exception of things like out-of-district placement, special education, overtime, and then of course, benefit costs are always a moving target," DiLullo said.

"Did we freeze everything?" LaFazia asked.

"We're frozen right now," Powell responded, adding that there's "not a single department that's over 60 percent of their spending right now. There's no over-spending."



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By JENNIFER COATES

It doesn't take much to figure out what is important to Fred Phillips, the owner of Fred's Auto Body, when you glance around his office: photographs of his family, pictures of all the soccer teams he has sponsored over the years, certificates of achievements he has received, and piles of papers that show what a busy man he is.

It also doesn't take long to figure out why Fred Phillips has run a successful business since 1983 when you see how he interacts with one of his customers. He is friendly, genuine, familiar ~ just an ordinary guy who still values hard work, integrity, honesty, and good old-fashioned customer service.

After thirty-nine years in the auto body repair business, Fred's character and ethics have come to define him almost more than the high quality of workmanship that he is also known for. In this competitive business, what has given him "staying power" is the commitment he has to excellence and to putting the goodwill of his customers over his own self-interests. In his words: "That's the only way I know how to treat people. Right. That is just how I was brought up!"

If there is one thing that keeps Fred going, it's the knowledge he has of how important our vehicles are to our livelihoods and to the day-to-day operations of our homes. This is why he takes your trust and your business so seriously. For Fred, it is ~ and always has been ~ about satisfying his customers. Working alongside Fred is his loyal employee and expert auto body technician, Jason Colomb, whose steadfastness and talent have been a mainstay of Fred's Auto Body for over twenty-three years. As the shop's owner, Fred oversees every detail of

your vehicle repair. He manages all the paperwork and communication with the insurance companies. He will make sure you have the most honest and transparent assessment of the damage and what it will cost to repair it to 100% of its original condition.

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exterior and more mechanical work is involved, Fred will bring that vehicle to a dealership to check on all its safety systems. They always double-check their work at Fred's Auto Body.

If your car or truck needs auto body work, from those unsightly scratches and dents to more severe damage, give Fred Phillips a call at 401-821-7630 or visit his shop at 268 Washington Street in West Warwick. You won't miss his bright yellow building! Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. You can also visit his website at www.fredsautobodyri.com.

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'April Happenings' at Johnston High School

By Selina Santanelli
Special to the Sun Rise

April is quite a busy month for the students and staff of Johnston High School. There are many upcoming events such as; the sophomore semi-formal, PSATs, SATs, an Easter egg hunt, and a trip to Virginia for the chorus

and band. The glamorous sophomore semi-formal will also be held this Thursday, April 14. The dance is taking place at the wonderful Twelve Acres venue in Smithfield. The attire is very semi-formal. Different ensembles that could be seen at this event include sundresses, khaki pants, and button down shirts.

The Johnston Se-

nior High School PSAT and SAT school day was on Wednesday, April 13. Freshmen and seniors stayed home, while the sophomores and juniors were in school working hard on their PSAT & SATs.

The JHS Student Council is also holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt! Thanks to the hard work of council members we were

able to gather different prizes that students can try to win in this Easter competition! Students will try to grab as many eggs as their hands can hold and then get to unveil and enjoy the amazing prizes that lay within them!

The JHS chorus & choir as well as the band will be traveling to Williamsburg, Virginia this month! After receiving an

award of superior, the highest achievement possible, from their big competition here in Rhode Island, they will be competing against a variety of different choirs and bands throughout the nation. They will depart for their competition on April 7 and arrive back in Rhode Island on April 11.

Overall, JHS is working very hard to

continue their sense of community and school spirit as we venture into the fourth quarter and final stretch of the 2021-22 school year!

Editor's Note: Selina Santanelli is a member of the JHS Student Council. The Johnston Sun Rise strives to regularly publish stories submitted by members of Johnston High's top students.

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NATIONAL AWARD: From left to right, Pat Castillo – National Coalition Institute Director, Jeannie Hovland – CADCA Board Member, Andrea Paiva, Kaitlyn Maggiore, Patricia Sweet – Johnston Prevention Coalition and General Barrye Price – CADCA President & CEO. (Submitted photo)

Johnston Prevention Coalition receives national award

On Monday, Jan. 31, the Johnston Prevention Coalition was one of 178 community coalitions honored during a graduation ceremony at CADCA's (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) 32nd Annual National Leadership Forum, just outside of Washington, D.C.

The coalitions received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy, a rigorous training program designed to increase the effectiveness of community substance use and misuse prevention leaders.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award which will enhance our efforts within the community," according to a statement from the coalition.

The coalition recently launched a youth marijuana campaign by having Johnny's Ambassadors, Laura Stack, present to parents in the community. Laura will also present to all Ferri Middle Schools students. A PSA was developed for Snap Chat and TikTok along with a billboard to send the message to youth that marijuana is addictive.

CADCA's National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive, year-long training pro-

gram developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute. The NCA incorporates three, week-long classroom sessions, a web-based distance learning component, an online workstation where participants network and share planning products and free ongoing coalition development technical assistance. To graduate, coalitions must complete a rigorous curriculum. They must participate in all components of the NCA and complete five essential planning products that serve as the foundation of their comprehensive plan for community change.


CADCA's Graduate Coalition Academy (GCA) completed its inaugural year and was designed to take coalitions to the next step of tracking implementation and reporting the long, intermediate and short-term outcomes of their efforts. Participants of the GCA were taught and mentored to enhance their effect in the community by improving their community assessment and logic models, developing comprehensive strategies targeting local conditions and monitoring and tracking coalition and community implementation efforts to achieve coalition objectives.

CADCA's National Leader-

ship Forum is a four-day event packed with opportunities to learn the latest strategies to address substance use and misuse. Attendees have the opportunity to hear and learn from nationally prevention experts, federal administrators and concerned policymakers. Forum brings together approximately 2,500 attendees representing coalitions from all regions of the country and internationally, government leaders, youth, prevention specialists, addiction treatment professionals, addiction recovery advocates, researchers, educators, law enforcement professionals and faith-based leaders. It is the largest training event for the prevention field.

The mission of the Johnston Prevention Coalition is to promote substance abuse awareness, education, and prevention in the Johnston community.

The mission of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) is to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities globally. This is accomplished by providing coalition development assistance and training, public policy advocacy, special events, media strategies and marketing programs.



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RIPTA mask mandate extended through April 18

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) is advising passengers that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended the federal mandate requiring face masks to be worn when using public transportation — including trains and buses. The mandate, which has been in place since Feb. 1, 2021, has now been extended through April 18, 2022.

The TSA issued a statement stating that they "will extend the security directive for mask use on public transportation and transportation hubs for one month, through April 18th." The security directive states that face masks remain a requirement for passengers and employees on "all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-

road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems."

"RIPTA is committed to following TSA guidelines to keep our employees and passengers safe while we continue to navigate through this pandemic," said Scott Avedisian, RIPTA's Chief Executive Officer.

Passengers under the age of two and those who have a disability that prevents them from safely wearing a mask are exempt on RIPTA buses. Those who cannot comply due to a disability must contact RIPTA prior to traveling on board any of its vehicles. They must seek an exemption in advance by calling Customer Service at 401-784-9500, ext. 2012. For general information on traveling safely with RIPTA during the pandemic, please visit RIPTA.com/covid-19/.

RhodyMoney

Investing in volatile times—Like the lyrics in the song by The Clash...*should I stay or should I go?*

Many people are pondering their course of action given the recent turmoil in geopolitical affairs where Russia has invaded Ukraine and the volatility of the stock market.

Which makes the most sense to you? Getting out of the stock market because there has been volatility, or staying the course and letting the market settle down before making emotional decisions that could be detrimental to your financial health?

Well, let's take a walk down the memory lane of stock market gyrations. If we go back to 2000, the first of a 3-year decline in the stock market, that lost approximately 10% of value. Followed by 2001 with a 13% loss, followed by 2003 with a 23% loss. Those were three tough years to live through, especially if you were withdrawing cash to pay your bills in retirement. Which, we don't recommend. (https://ycharts.com/indicators/sp_500_annual, n.d.)

That 3-year loss of value was disconcerting, to say the least. However, if you bailed out of the market at the end of that third year, you would have missed the massive recovery that unfolded over the next four years.

Sadly, there was yet another period of large declines in the market that started in the fourth quarter of 2007 and ended in the "trough" as it is called (the bottom of a market decline before the market starts recovering) on March 6 of 2009. The S&P 500, at its low point, was 666.80, which again was a rough ride. The market finally recovered in 2013 from its high point in 2007.

At the end of 2021, the S&P 500 was listed as 4,766.18 from the low of 666.80. That is an increase of over 700% in 12 years! So, no surprise that the market is slowing down a bit. (https://ycharts.com/indicators/sp_500_annual, n.d.) (See the chart below)

What this history lesson teaches us is that it is far more important to have time IN the market, not TIMING the market. The typical advice is to stay the course and let the market forces trim some of this hyper-growth to position for future growth.

We call this type of market gyration the "adult" roller coaster, and we prefer to reduce the level of risk within our clients' portfolios. We prefer to put them on the "kiddie" roller coaster of risk. Our bias is to help reduce risk.

Let's look at a simple example, not saying this is right for everyone, it just makes the math easy here. If you were to put one half of your portfolio in the



Jeffrey H. Massey
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stock market and the other half in a protected position, that cannot lose value when the market goes down, here is an example of what would happen. Let's say the stock market is down 10%, but your portfolio is down 8%. Well, if one half of your money is down 8% and the other half isn't down at all, then you are down 4% on your entire portfolio. Is a 4% downturn in value too much for you? If it is, simply put more money into protected positions. Ultimately, the amount that you want protected is up to you, after all, it is your money!

In our opinion, this type of strategy allows for half the money to be in the market for long-term growth while protecting the other half against market losses. We refer to this strategy as the "kiddie" roller coaster as we have a bias against too much stock market risk. (https://ycharts.com/indicators/sp_500_annual)

Date	Value	Date	Value
December 31, 2021	4766.18	December 31, 2009	1115.10
December 31, 2020	3756.07	December 31, 2008	903.25
December 31, 2019	3230.78	December 31, 2007	1468.36
December 31, 2018	2506.85	December 31, 2006	1418.30
December 31, 2017	2673.61	December 31, 2005	1248.29
December 31, 2016	2238.83	December 31, 2004	1211.92
December 31, 2015	2043.94	December 31, 2003	1111.92
December 31, 2014	2058.90	December 31, 2002	879.82
December 31, 2013	1848.36	December 31, 2001	1148.08
December 31, 2012	1426.19	December 31, 2000	1320.28
December 31, 2011	1257.60	December 31, 1999	1469.25
December 31, 2010	1257.64	December 31, 1998	1229.23

https://ycharts.com/indicators/sp_500_annual

Please note, it is not possible to invest directly into the S&P 500® Index; this measure is provided solely as a gauge of overall market performance. Standard & Poor's: "Standard & Poor's®," "S&P®," and "S&P 500®" are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("S&P"). The historical performance of the S&P 500 is not intended as an indication of its future performance and is not guaranteed. This chart is not intended to provide investment, tax or legal advice. Be sure to consult a qualified professional about your individual situation. This chart does not take into account investment fees, so actual results may be different than depicted above. Hypothetical examples are provided for illustrative purposes only; it does not represent a real-life scenario and should not be construed as advice designed to meet the particular needs of an individual's situation. Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. Any references to protection benefits, safety, security, lifetime income generally refer to fixed insurance products, never securities or investment products. Insurance and annuity product guarantees are backed by the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Massey & Associates, Inc is an independent financial services firm that utilizes a variety of investment and insurance products. Investment advisory services offered only by duly registered individuals through AE Wealth Management, LLC (AEWM). AEWM and Massey & Associates, Inc are not affiliated companies. Neither the firm nor its agents or representatives may give tax or legal advice. Individuals should consult with a qualified professional for guidance before making any purchasing decisions. 1270612 – 03/22

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Meet Frankie The Flashlight Fish



OCEAN STATE AUTHOR: Katie Hevey sat for an interview among the stacks of children's books downstairs at the Marion J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston. She brought copies of her two books, "Frankie The Flashlight Fish" and "Sharks Don't Sleep." (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

By RORY SCHULER

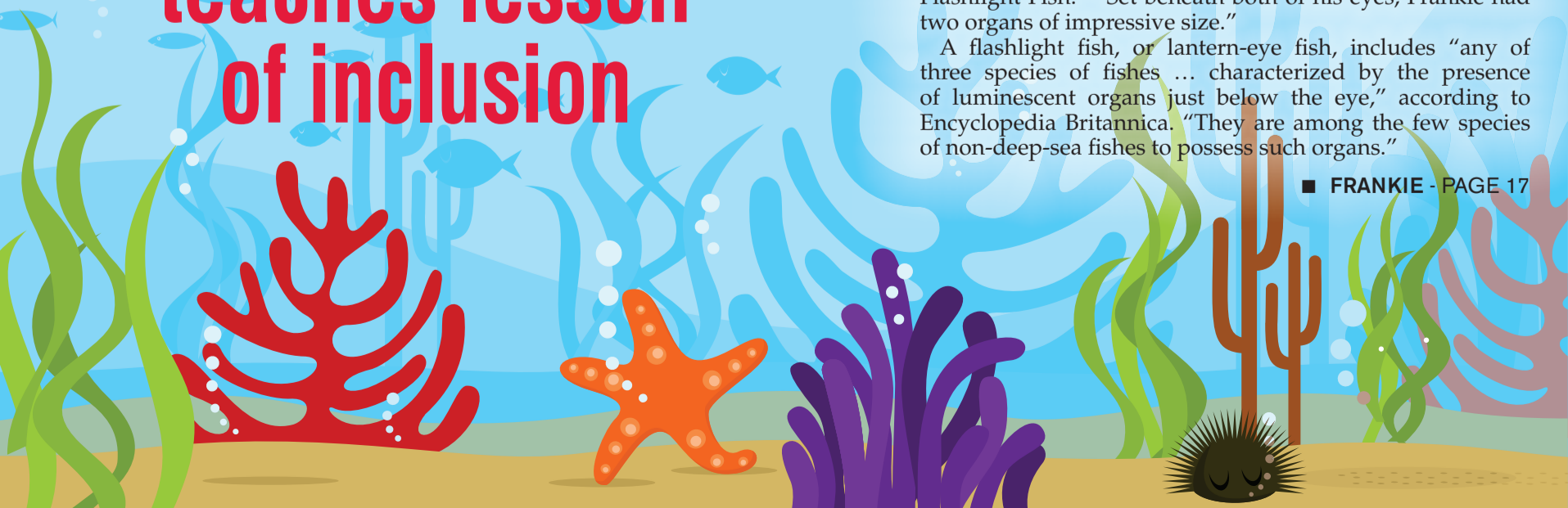
Johnston author hopes children's story teaches lesson of inclusion

Every child is unique; every human being distinctive. People, however, don't always celebrate our differences. Johnston children's book author Katie Hevey hopes a tale about a misfit fish will teach a lesson about inclusion.

Frankie the flashlight fish had something extra. He had fins, gills and a heart, just like all the other fish. "Something also set Frankie apart," Hevey writes in her second book, named for its protagonist, "Frankie The Flashlight Fish." "Set beneath both of his eyes, Frankie had two organs of impressive size."

A flashlight fish, or lantern-eye fish, includes "any of three species of fishes ... characterized by the presence of luminescent organs just below the eye," according to Encyclopedia Britannica. "They are among the few species of non-deep-sea fishes to possess such organs."

■ FRANKIE - PAGE 17



■ **Frankie** (Continued from page 16)

Poor Frankie takes a ribbing from the other species swimming around his school. Eventually, following a Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer-esque experience, all the other fish in the sea realize Frankie's peculiar characteristic makes him a special, integral part of their community.

"The fish are swept away in a storm, and Frankie uses his lights," Hevey said during an interview among the stacks of children's books downstairs at the Marion J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston. "It's a little bit like Rudolph. I want this book to help kids understand they're all unique."

Hevey, a National Board Certified Special Educator in science teaches at Cranston West.

"Having grown up in the Ocean State, it seems



BETTIE BLUE WHO? Katie Hevey based Bettie Blue, one of the main characters in "Sharks Don't Sleep," on her daughter Caroline.

only natural that Katie's first book would celebrate the diversity of sea life," according to the author's biography at the end of "Frankie The Flashlight Fish." "Katie has a BA in Journalism from the University of Rhode Island. She started writing and illustrating children's books as a way to simultaneously educate and entertain her daughter. Katie's mission in sharing these books with others, is to spark curiosity, make information accessible, and invite young readers to share in her love of learning."

Flashlight fish are all small, and reach a maximum length of about 12 inches. They look a little bit like a dark goldfish with glowing cheeks.

So, flashlight fish aren't big and they aren't scary. But they can use their iridescent faces to illuminate dark underwater environments and communicate with other sea life.

"Bioluminescent bacteria create the light continuously, but each species has its own mechanism for decreasing the luminescence when swimming," according to Encyclopedia Britannica. "Some fishes create a blinking effect by alternately covering and uncovering the light."

"There are differences between people too," Hevey said. "Everyone learns differently and acts differently. That's something to celebrate. The world needs all type of people."

And the sea needs all types of fish.

Hevey has been teaching for 12 years (two in Cranston and the rest in Providence).

"This is something I'm telling my students every day," Hevey said. "I want them to have more self-confidence."

Hevey's first book, "Sharks Don't Sleep," also featured an underwater setting and a cast of aquatic characters. She has been writing for three years, and publishes her books through Pen It! Publications. Her first two books are available for sale at www.katiehevey.com, and for online purchase at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Hevey, a Providence native and Johnston resident, lives with her husband Corey, 5-year-old daughter Caroline, and their mutt Dahlia.

She based Bettie Blue, one of the main characters in "Sharks Don't Sleep," on her daughter. Hevey also illustrates the books herself, using a variety of computer programs.

"I wanted the books to come to life myself," she said.

Hevey hopes readers find a bit of truth between the covers of her books. They're not merely fish stories.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Laurel Leaf Photography

Moose

Moose has the legs of a supermodel and a fun loving temperament. He is a one year old mixed breed, who would love a big fenced in yard to run around and play with you! He loves affection and might even do well in a home with another playful pup. No kitties for Moose. Moose is also best suited for an active adult home or older/teen children only. If his handsome face pulls at your heartstrings then be sure to contact the rescue and maybe you'll be the lucky one who get to bring him home! Moose is waiting at Heart Of RI 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open Wed 3-7, Thursday and Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. Please call 401-467-3670 or visit www.heartofri.org for more information about Moose.

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



The Jewish WWII soldiers of Johnston

During World War II, while an anti-Semitic dictator brought death and destruction to millions of innocent people, over 550,000 Jewish-American men and women enlisted for military service and bravely stood up to the threat, with another one-million serving in allied forces. For them, more than anyone else, this war was personal.

Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

Robert Walter Judisch, of Johnston, was 29 years old when he enlisted in the Army Air Forces on May 8, 1942. Standing at 5'10 and weighing 139 pounds, he was the son of Carl and Annie Judisch. His parents had come to America from Germany and his father worked as a house carpenter to support the family.

Judisch resided with his wife Justine on Borden Avenue in Johnston. At the time he joined the military, he was employed as a solicitor for Max Silverstein & Son, a publishing company in Providence which produced maps, postcards and magazines.

As part of the 8th Tactical Air Communications Squadron, Judisch was awarded a Purple Heart. He died on Sept. 5, 1944 and was buried in Ardennes American Cemetery, 12 miles south of Gloucester.

of heroes are aligned in rows to form a massive Greek cross, with 65% of those buried there having been airmen of the United States Army Air Forces.

Among America's casualties of World War II were over 38,000 of Jewish

faith. Of those, 11,000 lost their lives. Over 26,000 received citations for valor and merit, including over 14,000 Purple Hearts.

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



SMILES AT THE END OF WWII: Author Kelly Sullivan was unable to locate photos of the men featured in this week's column. It seems only appropriate, however, that we use this photo of concentration camp prisoners after their release at the close of the war. (Photo courtesy of Department of Defense National Archives)



Brandi was born in Tipton County, Tennessee in 2011. Beagle, Border Collie, Lab mix, she was adopted by Jim and Iwona Paolucci in September of 2012 in Warwick, RI, as part of a rescue effort through PAWS New England.

Jim and Iwona's love for Brandi inspired a decade of philanthropic efforts related to animals and animal rescue efforts through The Brandi Project (thebrandiproject.com). To date, through generous donations from our loving community, Brandi has helped raise over \$50,000.00 for PAWS New England, East Greenwich Animal Protection League, RISPCA, and several other smaller organizations with similar missions and passion for animals.

Brandi passed away peacefully at home on Monday, April 4, 2022, surrounded by her loving family, after a difficult battle with Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome (S.A.R.D.S.).

A memorial breakfast will be held at Cowesett Inn on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 8AM-11AM. All proceeds from the brunch will go towards S.A.R.D.S. research. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased online, at the door, or at Cowesett Inn, 226 Cowesett Ave., West Warwick, RI 02893. Additional donations towards S.A.R.D.S. research can be made at ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation at www.visionforanimals.org.

COLLECTIBLES



WICKED COMIC CON



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

a select group of comic highlights. Let's just say we bring some real eye candy for fans to appreciate. Which even though we had a Marvel Mystery Comics #9 on display worth \$30,000-\$50,000 the fan favorite that stopped everyone was Amazing Spider-Man #129, the first appearance of the Punisher. Only graded a CGC 3.5 and worth about \$800 to \$1,200, it stopped more people than one of the rarest Golden Age comics. Just shows how important relatability is to comic collecting. But just as important as advertising our upcoming auction, we were also there to advertise our services, take consignments, and seek out that next great collection.

The undoubtable highlight of the day is when an older gentleman, about 70 years old walked up to the booth with his son to discuss his collection. He had only two sample books with him, a Tales of Suspense #39 and Fantastic Four #2 both in very nice condition, and both high value books. After explaining our service, I tell him that conservatively before grading his first appearance of Iron Man (TOS #39) would be \$18,000 to \$24,000. He and his

to a dealer two booths over for \$5,000. I went on to review the entire spreadsheet of his collection followed by making an appointment for them to consign. When selling your collection of comics, you never want to sell outright, it is always best to work with an auction house to truly monetize your collection. Putting it through the proper process of cleaning, pressing, and grading is crucial. You do not want to sell yourself short, when the time comes we are here to help.

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son burst out in laughter of joy, as they had almost sold it

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Sports



SUPER SUPPORTERS: The foursome of Eric Giorgio, David DeCesare, Dave Raposa and Tom Rayko are just one of the many golf groups that enjoyed the JMCE Memorial Tournament. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

New rule in high school baseball over the top

In two different cases this spring, I have seen baseball umpires warn teams about the new rules regarding cheering during the game.

Now to be clear, I am not sure if these are hard rules that have been spelled out in the rule-book or if they are sort of, should I say new etiquette standards that are being enforced.

To explain the new protocol, players that are in the dugout are no longer allowed to make noise while the opposing pitcher is in the middle of their windup to throw the pitch. Once the ball has left their hand and before they begin their windup, the kids are allowed to cheer, yell, make noise, whatever. Once the pitcher is in motion though, silence is required.

As you probably can imagine, the response from the coaches was confusion at first, then disbelief. I, myself, was perplexed by the whole situation. It made me ask myself: Have we finally softened to the point that we have to ban kids from cheering on their teammates?

If the rule was something to the effect of, kids can't holler directly at the pitcher or they weren't allowed to use profanity, something like that, I could understand. From my observation, it seems to be that kids are simply not allowed to make noise in the middle of a pitcher's windup, period.

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEX@
RHODYBEAT.COM

From the time kids are in tee-ball, they are taught to cheer on their teammates when they are batting. It's one of the oldest and purest forms of sportsmanship that you will find in America. Cheering from the dugout for your teammate is something that nearly every child has been taught to do.

Now, that is being disallowed. For what reason? Because it's distracting for pitchers? Ridiculous.

Here's the thing, I understand that these are high schoolers that we're talking about here. I get that these kids are not fully matured adults, and I also understand that having fun is what it's all about. But at the end of the day, if the opposing team making noise is enough of a disturbance to prevent you from being able to pitch the ball, then maybe you should find another position or sport to play. Especially if we're talking about players with college aspirations, the noise is all part of it and you need to work through it.

■ PITCH - PAGE 20

JMCE sets date for 15th annual golf event

By PETE FONTAINE

The Johnston Memorial Cancer Events Memorial Golf Tournament, which will be held on Saturday, May 7 at famed Connecticut National Golf Club in Putnam, Ct., will have a different look for its 15th annual edition.

In short, there will be only one session – not two like the previous few years – and will welcome, 40 foursomes instead of last year's total of 60 – but the main goal will continue to raise record revenue for the Oncology and Hema-



MIGHTY MESSAGE: Chairman Vin LaFazia (left) and committee member Joe Grasso stand beside a Hasbro Children's Hospital sign.

■ JMCE - PAGE 22

Tri-City Elks trout derby returns

By PETE FONTAINE

It's a storied family and fun-filled tradition that's back after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As a recent Tri-City Elks bulletin began: "The Trout Derby is back!"

So this Saturday – April 16 – the banks of Lodge 14's picturesque and famed Golden Pond that's located on Rossi Drive will be lined with proud parents whose children will participate in Tri-City's Rite of Spring in hopes of reeling in the largest fish and winning a prize.

The prize? Enter Thomas Giddings, owner of the Tacklebox located off West Short Road in the Conimicut section of Warwick, who has donated two fishing poles that will go to the angler who catches the largest fish in one of two age categories.

Thus, Lodge 14 officials announced that the Trout Derby – which will be held rain or shine and is open to any and all youth anglers free of charge – will feature one division for boys and girls ages 5-to-8 and another for kids ages 9-to-12. All anglers must have their own



GRIFF'S GANG: Griff Williams (center back) is pictured with many of the children who cast their lines into Golden Pond during the Tri-City Elks 11th Annual Kids Trout Derby in 2019. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

■ ELKS - PAGE 20

Elks

(Continued from page 19)

fishing pole and bait and fishing will begin at 7 a.m. and wind up around 11 o'clock.

"This is no ordinary Trout Derby," a Lodge 14 volunteer emphasized. "It's yet another example of the Tri-City Elks ongoing support of our youth, as every child that enters will receive a trophy so we're asking parents to sign-up their children by Friday, April 15."

As yet another example of Tri-City's unmatched hospitality which includes hosting yearly soccer and basketball competitions, the 2022 Trout Derby will begin with a light breakfast consisting of hot chocolate, coffee and donuts.

Even after fishing participants will be treated to lunch - hot dogs, chips and soda - cooked by two of Lodge 14's Past Exalted Rulers Lori Eaton and Robert Harington.

Saturday's Trout Derby will also have a new look this year, as veteran weigh master Griff Williams, Tri-City's popular "Mr. Trout" in recent years - has retired.

"He was a fixture for years," someone suggested about Williams whose chant was always "F-I-S-H" whenever a boy or girl

hooked onto a trout and he'd scoot off to weigh that fish."

This time around, David Brown and Merrick Leach will tackle the fin-filled chore of determining the largest fish. They'll do so not by weight, but instead by measuring the length of each trout.

The four-hour event will be highlighted - in part - by an awards and trophy presentation ceremony inside Lodge 14's spacious downstairs all-purpose room.

There is no entry fee - whatsoever - and the Trout Derby is open to children 5 to 12 years old who must bring their own fishing pole and of course bait.

"Everything is in place," a Lodge 14 official noted. "As noted it's rain or shine and hopefully it won't 2019 that featured inclement weather and kept the day's catches down to only 11 trout that this week was stocked in Golden Pond by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management that stocks all fresh waterways throughout the state for the annual trout fishing season.

The Trout Derby is also supported by the Rhode Island Fish & Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration. As noted, there's no entry fee and there will be plenty parking in Lodge 14's two spacious lots.



GRAMP'S GUY: Leo Blanchette enjoys the 11th Annual Tri-City Elks Kids Trout Derby with his grandson Brendan Rainone, 5, and son-in-law John Rainone.

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WINNER: Deb Mangina is joined by Mia Ancil (left), Nora Peluso (center) and Lilly Ancil who won top honors in the 11th Annual Kids Trout Derby at Lodge 14.

Pitch

(Continued from page 19)

Again, there are definitely times when teams are going out of their way to get in the opposing pitcher's head. It's absolutely a tactic that can be taken too far. To outlaw all noise though is silly and is taking away from the game.

The numbers in baseball over the past decade have been steadily declining in favor of other sports that have been emerging. Am I saying that this new procedure is contributing to the downfall of America's Pastime? Well, no, but it certainly doesn't help.

You saw it in the labor negotiations in the MLB this past winter. Players at that level have routinely shown that they are difficult to please and have become entitled. The owners travel on the other side of the two-way street, but still, baseball players have egos that exceed most other athletes, in my opinion anyway.

It is thanks to rules like these. Oh, it's not fair for pitchers to have to battle through a dozen kids getting rowdy on the sidelines? Boo hoo, get real. If crowds bother you, then maybe you shouldn't play sports where there will always be one watching.

I just found it interesting and a little sad to be honest with you. In a world where we are censored enough as is, we are now going to be telling teenage kids when and when not to cheer their teammates on during a baseball game? Give me a break.

I am sorry to be so negative, but I have one more gripe that I need to touch on here and this goes out to the coaches in our coverage area. Some of them, not all.

At the beginning of each season, finding numerical rosters is always tough. I get it, coaches are more concerned about

putting a team together and preparing it for the start of the season. Sometimes technical difficulties arise, sometimes there are unforeseen issues in finalizing rosters, I totally understand.

Having said that, I implore coaches to upload their numerical - numerical being the key word - roster to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website. This is the league website that includes schools, schedules, and rosters, all of the important information needed for media members like myself to cover their teams.

It is becoming more and more difficult to find these rosters online. Many coaches use sites like MaxPreps and GameChanger. Each of those sites are user friendly, but nothing is more frustrating than scrambling through multiple websites every time you are simply trying to find the name of a player.

Sure, the coaches are always willing to accommodate you, it's not like I have been in a situation where I can't figure it out. But I am asking as a favor, if you could upload a numerical roster to the RIIL site as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you'd like to send me the roster directly, my email is alexs@rhodybeat.com. Many coaches already have my phone number as well.

The same thing goes for any scores, stats, updates. I try my best to follow teams on social media when I am unable to make an event, but I am almost always able to fit in any scores and stats that coaches, players or parents would like to submit. Again, my email is always open, and there is almost always space each week to include an update on your club.

Thank you all for helping out and allowing me to have the best job in the world. Let's have a great spring.

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Panthers on the track

The Johnston outdoor track and field teams got their seasons underway recently and are looking to make a push toward states. Here are some shots of the action at a recent meet. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



HIGH JUMP: Xavier Thomas competes in the high jump.



SPRING FORWARD: Ariana Medeiros competes in the long jump.

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												52	
			51										

CLUES ACROSS

- Runs PCs
- An entertaining, eccentric person
- Small, faint constellation
- Indigo bush
- Not excessive
- African antelope
- A way to fly a glider
- Tough softly
- In the course of
- Early Mesoamerican people
- A way to drop down
- Mistake!
- Housing developments
- Baseball stat
- No (Scottish)
- Type of cuisine
- British Army infantrymen (abbr.)
- Marry
- Buffer solution
- Legendary rock band
- Recording industry show
- A way to consume
- Lake in Botswana
- Political action committee
- Field force unit (abbr.)
- Very eager
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Nocturnal insect
- Challenged to perform
- Thus far
- Famed NYC arena
- Commercials
- Dash
- Sufferings
- Clearinghouse (abbr.)
- Indian title of respect
- Poems meant to be sung
- Actor Cooper
- Luke's mentor ___-Wan
- Clumsy person
- Figures
- Polish Baltic coast peninsula
- Old cloth
- Explosive
- Automobiles
- 007's creator
- The Volunteer State
- Old Irish alphabet
- Japanese city
- Portrayed emotion
- Observers
- Mimicked
- Polite reference to a woman
- Male parent
- Peter Griffin's daughter

CLUES DOWN

- Small, purple-black fruit
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Highly seasoned sausage
- Split pulses
- Northwestern Mexico town
- Edible fruit
- Upper-class southern young woman
- Sums up
- The most worthless part

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JMCE
(Continued from page 19)

tology Units at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. The reason? It is sometimes difficult for a golf course to have two sessions – featuring a total of 240 golfers – so the JMCE decided to hold one overall event with 160 players in 2022. Few people, if any, would dispute that the tournament is one of the most popular in Rhode Island and has raised over \$230,000 for Hasbro Children's Hospital. It has grown in popularity because of its unique presentation of food, fun, fellowship and fantastic fundraising. So, the JMCE considered all factors and came up with the fairest way possible to welcome golfers for the May 7 event.

"The format we used was first taking on family members as well as our sponsors," Vin LaFazia, the tireless chairman, offered. "Likewise, we'll welcome those players who have participated in the tourney for 10 years." LaFazia also announced that entry fee will be \$130 per players and includes the 12 noon lunch that will range from the signature sausage and pepper sandwiches to hot wieners to Ruth Furia's famed shower, many giveaways, giant raffle, 1 o'clock shotgun start food and beverages throughout the course and the traditional trophy presentations. In keeping with its main mission, the JMCE golf go-round will again be played in memory of the late Raymond Johnson, John Furia, Frances



FUNDRAISERS: Micky Geer, Lori Caracciolo, Audry Jorge and Tammy Diggle are among the many repeat players in the JMCE's golf event.

Grasso, Sal Gelsomino Anna Mazzulla and Laura DeAngelis who were all part of the close-knit group of friend who founded the prestigious and highly-successful event. The JMCE is also accepting sponsorships that are priced at \$500 and in recent years have continued to grow because of the tournament's mission to fight cancer that strikes children. LaFazia also announced that business tee signs are again priced at \$100 each while the always-popular memorial tee signs are only \$50. "Tee sponsorships are always welcome," he noted. "They are an inexpensive and effective way to promote your business and show that you support this community endeavor. Also, the memorial tee signs are – and have been – a wonderful way to remember your loved ones." Thus, golfers who'd like to be part of the heart-warming 15th celebration should register as soon as possible and may do so by calling Linda LaFazia (401- 233-2564) or Judi Graham (401-497-2954). Both ladies, who have played a prominent role in the JMCE's unmatched success story in all previous events, are also accepting sponsorships as well as business and memorial tee signs, all of which will be displayed at Connecticut National Golf Club on Saturday, May 7.

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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

Classified Advertising Deadline is 10 AM Monday

Help Wanted



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\$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.

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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

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

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DEADLINE: MONDAY at 10 AM

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