Vol. 25, Number 10 · 24 Pages

COMPLIMENTARY

Thursday, April 28, 2022

'DRIVE LIKE YOUR CHILDREN LIVE HERE'

Councilwoman & police chief ask state to check traffic safety issues along Simmonsville

By RORY SCHULER

Stand on Simmonsville Avenue and feel the road rumble as an 18-wheeler flies by, crushing the posted speed limit.

Then get in your car and attempt to pull out. Look left into a bush; peer right into a blind corner. Close your eyes and pop out onto the narrow road, with its steep uphill grade, and packed with impatient motorists cutting through Johnston, from Atwood Avenue to Cranston.

You might make it. You might not. "This is Interstate 295A," joked Roger Bernard, who lives near the intersection of Simmonsville Avenue and Country View Drive. "Believe me!"

Red signs posted on utility poles along the street beg motorists to "Drive Like Your Children Live Here."

Local police and a town councilwoman hope the state may be willing to intercede to make Simmonsville Avenue a safer thoroughfare.

Since April 2018, Johnston Police have written nearly 800 citations along Simmonsville Avenue — nearly 600 for speeding violations.

AVENUE - PAGE 10



DRIVE LIKE YOU LIVE HERE: Red signs posted on utility poles along Simmons-ville Avenue ask motorists to "Drive Like Your Children Live Here." A Johnston councilwoman and the police chief are asking the state to take a closer look at the heavily traveled road. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Getting clipped

Johnston natives among surviving group of local old school barbers

By EMMA BARTLETT and FRANKLIN PAULINO

ixty-one years ago, Henry Cipriano Jr. and Ralph Petronio met on the train to Boston – they were both on their way to Vaughn Barber School. Today, the two men have barber shops that are only a five-minute walk from one another in eastern Cranston.

Both born and raised in Johnston, Ralph decided to go into barbering after graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1961 while Henry, who didn't like school, left at age 16 to learn how to become a barber – he was the youngest student in his class at Vaughn. The trip to and from Boston for their six month barber school program was a long one.

"You'd take the bus from the neighborhood to Downtown Providence. Get on the 6:45 a.m. train which would arrive at 7:45 a.m. Then it was a fifteen minute walk to the school which started at 8 a.m. You got out at 4:30 p.m., took the 5 p.m. train to Rhode Island and the bus to Johnston," said Ralph.

Ralph's father was a barber, and his grandfather was a barber and tailor in Italy. After the six month course, they received their journeyman's license and worked as apprentices for two years. Ralph said barbering was a popular trade in the 60s and changed in the 70s once the Beatles gained popularity. Men started growing out their hair and Ralph – like many other barbers – had to learn how to cut longer hair instead of the traditional haircuts that were short and sculpted around the ears. Ralph said they learned how to cut the shag and razor cutting.

"We had to do it in order to survive in the business," said Ralph.

Ralph started barbering at Archie's Barbershop on Fox Point and, after a year, found his way to Quonset where he worked for six years. He opened his first site in East Providence in 1967 and opened City Hall Barber Salon on Park Avenue in 1980.

PARRERC DACE 10

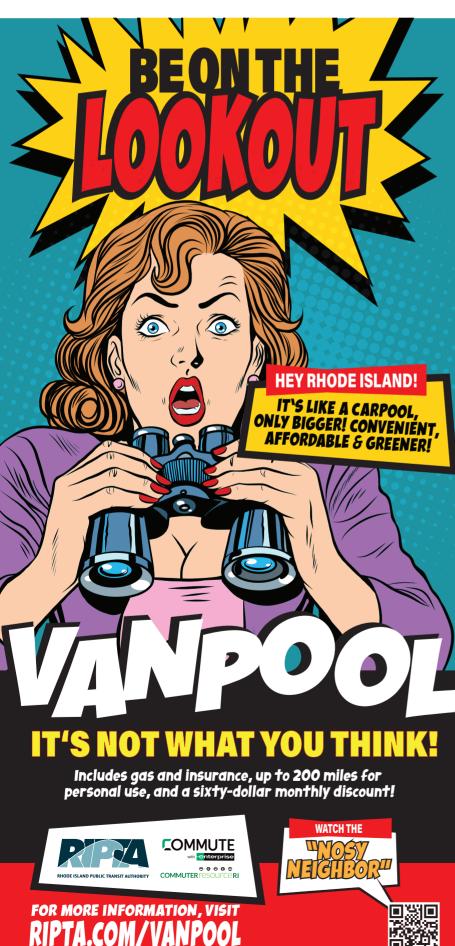


SNIP SNIP: Johnston native Ralph Petronio opened City Hall Barber on Park Avenue in 1980. (Sun Rise photos by Emma Bartlett)



Thursday, April 28, 2022 **Johnston Sun Rise**





FROM THE JOHNSTON LIBRARY



TO TREE, OR NOT TO TREE: The Rhode Island Tree Council will host classes at the library Thursdays in May from 6 to 8 p.m., and one Saturday, June 4. (Submitted photo)

'Appreciate the value of a tree'

By JON ANDERSON Special to the Sun Rise

ost of us appreciate the value of a tree in our yard. Trees can increase your property value and lower your energy cost. They block the wind and might improve air quality in cities. Studies have supported what we know intuitively, that trees make us feel good. So I'm glad we can help provide space for the Rhode Island Tree Council's Tree Stewardship program, as an opportunity for people to learn to plant and care for a tree, and to add a tree to the library grounds.

The land where the library parking lot sits was once carpeted with pine needles, and surrounded by tall trees. When middle schoolers were asked to make projects about the effort to build a new library, some lamented the loss of the miniature forest. Some of the projects were very good, and seemed to show a sincere love of trees. One was diplomatic, noting that trees become books. A poem stoically accepted the trade-off.

Because of the new building, we have much better space for people and programs, and accessibility. The town was able to refurbish the old library as a courthouse at a savings. On the property generally there is landscaping for storm water drainage. And we added a garden, bushes and new trees. Donations and the efforts of our Friends group helped us add plantings. There were memorial gifts, and a planting of bulbs with the assistance of some kids after

The challenge of growing trees in urbanized areas is one special focus of the Rhode Island Tree Council, a nonprofit, educational organization supported by membership, private donations and grants from the US Forest Service. It's mission is to "increase Rhode Island's tree resources."

Their popular Tree Stewardship classes teach about soil, invasive competition, pests, disease and pruning. The Council charges \$50 for members, and at our location they will give that price to OSL library cardholders. Classes will be at the library Thursdays in May from 6 to 8 p.m., and one Saturday, June 4, when we'll plant a tree in the library yard.

You can find out more about the program at the Tree Council website, www. ritree.org. Call the Tree Council to register at 401-764-5885 while there is

Editor's Note: Jon Anderson serves as the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Director. Watch for his column weekly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

'We love our teachers!'

Special to the Sun Rise

The time has come again for Johnston Senior High School to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.

This year it is May 2-6. Each year, the JHS Student Council with participating clubs and groups and sports — put together a week full of treats to honor our teachers.

The Student Council starts the week off by giving each teacher a scroll, with an inscribed pen attached, to each teacher on the Friday before to give them a peek of the treats to come.

All of the classes and participating clubs and sports provide something for all of the teachers. This year some of the gifts include a Del's Lemonade Truck from the Class of 2025, a bagel bar from the Class of 2023, Mocktails courtesy of the Mock

Trial Team, and many more.

a luncheon each year on the Thurs-

day of Teacher Appreciation Week. The library is set up during the lunch period and all food is made by Student Council members and local businesses for teachers to enjoy.

Another event that takes place is a teacher, who is involved and voted on by the Student Council, is presented with a letterman with their name on it for all of their dedication.

Thank you to all of the teachers that put forth the effort to lead and teach students, you all do not go unnoticed. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week from the Johnston Senior High School Student Council!

Editor's Note: Rebecca Clements serves as Student Council President. The Johnston Sun Rise strives to regularly publish stories submitted by members of the Johnston High School Student Council.

Mayor OKs emergency repairs to Town Hall chimney

By RORY SCHULER

On his way into Town Hall, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena started noticing large stones on the ground. He looked up and realized they were falling from Town Hall's roof.

"I don't want the building to

"I don't want the building to go to hell," he said Tuesday. "It represents who we are. It's at the corner of (Routes) 5 and 6. It's very important that we keep it well maintained."

The building's aging chimney had started to crumble, so Polisena said he requested emergency funding for repairs.

The mayor said he felt it was an important fix for public safety and to maintain the integrity of the historic 1930s-era Town Hall.

"No one got hit," Polisena said. "We hired a local business to do the work. They repointed the whole chimney."

Polisena hired East Coast Masonry & Restoration, Inc., of 515 Greenville Ave., Johnston. The bill came to about \$29,630.

Work was performed over the last week, and rear access to the building was limited, but not cut off entirely, Polisena said.

"We had it planned they would stop work, wait to do the business, and resume work (if someone needed to use the wheelchair ramp)," Polisena said. "I don't believe it happened once."

Polisena first noticed the rocks falling from the chimney early one morning before the sun

"It was an emergency," he said. "It was my concern, the way that roof's pitched, rocks were coming off in droves. There were rocks all over the walkway."



EMERGENCY

FIX: Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena hired East Coast Masonry & Restoration, Inc., of 515 Greenville Ave., Johnston, for emergency fixes at Town Hall. The bill, for repointing the 1930s-era chimney, came to about \$29,630. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)





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The Preserve at Briarcliffe

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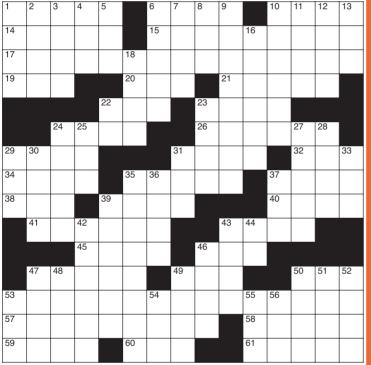




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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. North American people
- Chinese surname
- 10. Fit in at the last minute "Very" in musical terminology
- 15. Underwater displays
- 17. Crosby's bandmates
- 19. Belong to he
- 20. Informed about the latest trends
- Sequences of alternating turns 22. Genus of grasses
- 23. Satisfy
- 24. Petty quarrel
- Made level 26. Ruler of Iran
- Historical region of Syria Food suitable for babies
- Something to lend
- Zone of oceanic trenches 37. Philippine island
- 38. Domesticated animal 39. Plant of the lily family
- 40. Bluish green
- Tomei, actress
- 43. Without (French)

- 45. Lilly and Manning are two
- 46. Apply pressure to

- 47. Divide in half
- 50. Don't know when yet

- 60. Midway between northeast and

- 1. Chop up

- 5. Afflict
- 9. Sudden change
- 10. One picked
- 12. Stiff bristles

- 18. Injection
- 22. Father

- 49. Bad deed
- 53. Hollywood's greatest honor
- 57. Aiming to exhort
- 58. Faked
- 59. A way to pierce
- 61. Points

CLUES DOWN

- Spumante (Italian wine)
- Egyptian goddess
- Split pulses
- Type of area rug
- **Affirmative**

- 11. Debauched man
- 13. Famous arena
- 16. Established rules and methods
- - HERRY HILL MANOR NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

23. Protein-rich liquids

25. Advanced degree

27. Fencing swords

He delivers gifts

Chinese mountain range

Shaft horsepower (abbr.)

Precursor to hemoglobin

Much ___ about nothing Compound fabric (abbr.)

A way to act slowly on

Popular kids' network

Hard compound

Sympathize with

Northeast college

Blood group

49. Dry or withered

51. Reproduced

52. Contributes

(abbr.) 56. Very small

54. Wear

50. Bangladeshi monetary unit

53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)

55. Promotes retention of water

46. Frosted

42.

Ottoman military commanders





OFFICIAL OATH: Mayor Joseph Polisena issues the Oath of Office to Richard J. DelFino III who was recently re-appointed to serve on the prestigious Johnston/ Smithfield Juvenile Hearing Board. (Submitted photo)

Richard J. DelFino III rejoins J/S Juvenile **Hearing Board**

By PETE FONTAINE

Richard J. DelFino III has taken a number of important oaths during his young adult life.

For starters, he followed in his father Richard J. DelFino Jr.'s political footsteps by being elected to back-to-back terms from 2015 to 2019 on the Johnston Town

The son of Richard J. DelFino — who is the Johnston Democratic Committee Chairman, once a member of the School Committee and previously served as Municipal Court Clerk — and Deborah DelFino, Richard III served on the Johnston Prevention Coalition and Regional Prevention Coalition that is an arm of the Tri-County Community Action Agency.

Likewise, DelFino III — who is the current Director of Municipal Affairs and works out of Gov. Daniel McKee's office has also served on the Johnston/ Smithfield Juvenile Hearing Board from 2011 to 2015 before giving up that seat after being elected to the Town Council.

Just last week, DelFino III took another important oath inside Mayor Joseph Polisena's Town Hall Executive Chamber where he was again sworn-in to serve on that seven-member juvenile board beginning immediately and continuing until September 30, 2023.

As the official Oath of Office Certificate, which was prepared by Johnston Town Clerk Vincent P. Baccari Jr. read: "Richard J. DelFino III personally appeared and made solemn oath to be true and faithful until this town, and support the laws and ordinances hereof as well as the laws and Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and of the United States of America and will well and truly execute the office of the Johnston/Juvenile Hearing Board for the term ending on Sep- under the jurisdiction of the Iri-County tember 30, 2023 or until another is en- Community Action Agency."

gaged in my place, or be legally discharged there from."

Thus, after congratulating DelFino III, Polisena declared: "I am confident that Richard (DelFino III) will be a valuable member of the (Johnston/Smithfield) Juvenile Hearing Board. I was happy that he has agreed to join as a board member and I believe he will make valuable contributions to its mission."

DelFino then offered: "It is a privilege to once again serve as a member of the (juvenile hearing) board. I would like to thank Mayor Polisena and the town council for appointing me to the Board and Tri-County for their support."

He also emphasized: I share Mayor Polisena, the council and Tri-County's belief in providing support through community programs for our youth."

DelFino also wanted it known: "In

serving on this board I will take the approach of listening to the youth who appear before the Board with a compassionate understanding that people — especially the youth — make mistakes and deserve a second chance. With that said, I think it's important that the person understand that their actions have consequences and will work with my colleagues to develop meaningful sanctions in hopes of having the youth better understand their choices and prevent them from committing any future offenses."

The important group hears cases referred to them by either the Johnston or Smithfield Police, and tend to involve a minor. It's the duty of the board to hear from the individual and appropriately sanction them for their role.

'The board serves as an alternative means to the judicial system," DelFino explained. "It is not for habitual or repeat offenders. Again, the Board falls

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AG concludes review of state police investigation into Walter 'Bud' Craddock

RORY SCHULER

Black garbage bags covered the windows from the inside of the mysterious business occupying former Cranston Police Chief Walter R. "Bud" Craddock's Broad Street property.

The former top cop — and exswat team member, training officer, narcotics unit supervisor, attorney and eventual head of the Ocean State's Department of Motor Vehicles — will not face charges after raids and arrests on the first floor of his Cranston

In October 2021, Rhode Island State Police concluded a review of Craddock's role in the alleged criminal activities occurring inside his rental properties.

"Two of the three law enforcement actions concerned suspected prostitution and one related to a drug investigation," according to Attorney General Peter F. Neronha.

State Police found "no evidence that Craddock had any criminal liability in connection with the activities taking place in the first-floor unit of his building."

In October 2021, RISP asked Neronha's Office to review its investigation of Craddock.

"Having reviewed the State Police investigation, this Office concludes that we have not been presented with evidence sufficient to establish, beyond a reasonable doubt, the requisite knowledge by Mr. Craddock of the criminal commercial sexual activity occurring on his property such that a criminal prosecution is possible and warranted," Neronha wrote in a letter to State Police Superintendent & Director of Public Safety Col. James M. Manni.

"Certainly, the information presented by the State Police to this Office suggests that there were multiple red flags that should have at least given Mr. Craddock pause concerning the nature of the business operated by his first-floor tenant," Neronha wrote.

He cited several examples: "no official record of a business registered at that location, no massage license displayed inside the unit, no business name on the exterior of the building or door, an interior surveillance camera, and garbage bags taped over the windows."

"These are not the trappings of a legitimate commercial operation," Neronha wrote. "Additionally, it appears that this business paid its rent in cash."

The Attorney General issued a detailed summary of the Office's review of the case in his letter explaining the decision not to pursue charges against Crad-

The Rhode Island Republican Party released a statement Mon-

day:
"Although there may not be enough evidence to charge Craddock with a crime, there is certainly enough evidence to show that Craddock had bad judgment and should be fired from his job. Either Craddock knew there was illegal activity going on his property or he should have known there was.

ney General said in his report. The question now is whether McKee will fire Craddock. If McKee does not fire Craddock, then either McKee is a fool who believes Craddock is completely honest or McKee is fine if a member of his administration turned a blind eye to human trafficking.'

The Investigation

In 2020, the department Craddock ran more two decades earlier secured a search warrant for the first floor of his building at 1732 Broad St., which looks almost like a home and was described in Cranston police reports as "run-down," with overgrown grass."

No marquee advertised a business on the first floor. Only a small fluorescent "OPEN" sign was visible from the street.

"Upon entering the premises, investigators saw the main area where there was a massage chair and a reception desk," according to Neronha's letter. "There were two rooms which had massage beds, minimal lighting, and curtain panels instead of doors. The windows of these rooms were covered up with trash bags, cardboard, and duct tape."

Police noted a "fully furnished bedroom, bathroom, closet full of towels and cleaning products, and a kitchen. They located "\$3,500 in cash on the premises, together with a ledger containing customer names, dates and times of service, and charges."

Police found condoms stashed in at least two hiding spots.

"During the execution of the search warrant, police identified the female sex worker, a Chinese national," according to Neronha. "She was charged with one count of practicing a massage without a license, offered social services, and released. Police attempted to interview her regarding her working conditions, but she declined to cooperate. Police also identified a male patron who claimed he was only there for a massage. He was released at the scene."

During the pandemic, according to investigators, Craddock started collecting the 1732 Broad St. rent in person.

Craddock told police "that prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the rent was paid via direct deposit to his bank account," but during the Covid-19 pandemic, he began to personally collect his monthly rent payment from the first-floor tenant."

Craddock told investigators that he was paid in cash, and he "admitted entering the unit and counting the rent on the kitchen table on several occasions."

"Notably, Mr. Craddock did not explain why he chose to change his practice and personally collect the rent during the Covid-19 pandemic (common sense would dictate that one would want less, not more, personal interaction during this time)," Neronha wrote.

Craddock, who retired from the Cranston Police Department in 2002, was appointed as Director of the DMV by Governor Gina M. Raimondo in 2015. He and his wife, RI House of Representatives Policy Director Lynne



Walter R. "Bud" Craddock

Urbani, purchased 1732 Broad St., Cranston (the property under investigation) in 2016.

"Having reviewed the State Police investigation, this Office concludes that we have not been presented with evidence sufficient to establish, beyond a reasonable doubt, the requisite knowledge by Mr. Craddock of the criminal commercial sexual activity occurring on his property such that a criminal prosecution is possible and warranted," Neronha said via press release on Monday.

Evidence shows that between 2017 and 2021, there were three separate law enforcement actions that took place at the firstfloor unit of property Craddock

In 2017, Cranston Police received multiple complaints regarding suspected prostitution activities taking place at various spas around the city — one of the locations being Therapeutic Spa/Youna Spa at 1732 Broad St.

The location did not possess a license to operate as a spa, and employees did not hold massage therapy licenses, according to Neronha.

Cranston Police and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations conducted a compliance check and charged two women for practicing massage without a license; no evidence shows that Cranston Police notified Craddock about the enforcement action, according to the Attorney General's press re-

In January 2020, the Rhode Island State Police High Intensity Drug Trafficking Task Force (HIDTA) conducted an investigation of an illegal marijuana cultivation operation in Central Falls. During this investigation, police surveillance observed one of the targets of the investigation at 1732 Broad St. In February 2020, State Police executed a search warrant at the property's first floor unit; there is no evidence that State Police notified Craddock about this enforcement action, according to the Attorney General's press re-

In May and June 2021, Cranston Police investigated multiple massage parlors in the city suspected of engaging in commercial sexual activity after receiving complaints from residents.

On May 30, 2021, an undercover Cranston Police officer entered 1732 Broad St. and requested a half-hour massage. The female employee quoted a price of \$40 cash and told the



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Watch Your MOUTH



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

VIRTUAL REALITY GOES DENTAL A recent innovation in dental practices, perceived higher quality of care. No matter how you look at it, the reality is

virtual or augmented reality (VR/AR), can be using virtual reality had a significant impact on pain management in patients. It reported a "consistent drop in perceived pain" when using VR. Using VR in a dental practice also helped to create empathy between the dental professional and the patient, which led to a Sutherland and his student Bob Sproull.

used in a multifaceted approach. When worn that when pain interferes with the enjoyment by a patient, VR or AR headsets provide a of your life, making simple daily acts of living, virtual or digital distraction, especially effective such as talking, sleeping, chewing, and for patients who are anxious or fearful. This yawning, you don't have to just accept it as the distraction provides visual and audio stimulation norm. Turn instead to DENTAL ARTS GROUP the patient can focus on while the dental for a treatment plan for a pain-free future. health professional examines and administers
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CRADDOCK - PAGE 6



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Craddock

(Continued from page 5)

undercover officer that she was paid five dollars a day but was able to keep her tips. She indicated that she worked seven days a week, until late into the night. During the massage, the female employee offered to perform oral sex on the officer in exchange for \$140. The officer declined.

Cranston Police contacted Craddock after the execution of the search warrant and advised him of their findings.

On June 17, Gov. Dan McKee had RISP conduct an investigation to determine if Craddock had any knowledge of, or involvement in, the commercial sex opera-

A Police Veteran

"During the interview, Mr. Craddock recounted his background as a 25-year veteran of the Cranston Police Department," according to the Attorney General's Office letter to RISP.

While with the Cranston Police, Craddock was a patrol officer, member of the swat team, a training officer, narcotics unit supervisor, Deputy Chief and Chief. He retired from the department in 2002, became a member of the Rhode Island Bar in 2000 and worked in private prac-

Craddock was interviewed and said he believed the first floor was used for a commercial space for a business named "Foot Flex Reflexology." When asked about the windows being covered with garbage bags, he said he assumed they were meant to keep the light out. Craddock denied any knowledge of the 2017 investigation and was never advised of red flags.

Cranston Police reached out to Cranston's Building and Zoning Division and the Cranston Fire Department to conduct an inspection of the premises.

"A housing inspector and a member of the fire department's fire prevention unit responded to the scene," according to Neronha's report. "They identified numerous building code and fire safety code violations. They issued separate Notices of Violations to LUC Realty and Mr. Craddock on or about July 22, 2021."

On June 25, 2021, Cranston Police sent Craddock a letter informing him that his tenant, Youna Foot Reflexology, was illegally offering massages without a license and engaging in prostitution activities,' according to the Attorney General's Office letter to RISP.

"The letter informed Mr. Craddock that should he allow this, or any other tenant, to operate an illegal business on his property, he may be liable for a nuisance," Neronha wrote. "The letter also references the fact that Mr. Craddock had taken action to evict the tenant following execution of the search warrant."

Reasonable Doubt?

State Police also interviewed a tenant of the basement apartment of 1732 Broad St. The tenant told investigators that "he suspected there was prostitution activity taking place in the first floor apartment because a lot of 'white guys were walking in and out.'"

The tenant said he had not previously reported his suspicions to the Cranston Police Department or to his landlord.

"In this case, there is little doubt that the first-floor unit of 1732 Broad St. constituted a common nuisance based upon its use for commercial sexual activity," Neronha wrote. "What is lacking, however, is sufficient evidence to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Craddock had actual knowledge that this location was used for this purpose."

Although the State Police investigation revealed plumes of conspiratorial "smoke," the lack of solid evidence could

not prove the existence of a "fire" in court, according to the Attorney General.

"Putting all this together, regarding the critical issue of whether Mr. Craddock had knowledge of the criminal commercial sexual activity occurring at his building at 1732 Broad St., there is ample smoke," Neronha wrote. "Applying, however, the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' standard to these facts, which we as prosecutors must, there is insufficient evidence to establish fire."

"That Mr. Craddock 'should have known' or 'must have known' that commercial sex activity was going on at his 1732 Broad St. property is not the standard that this Office must meet," Neronha wrote to conclude his letter to State Police. "Rather, we must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he did know. And on the evidence presented to us by the Rhode Island State Police, that is not possible. There has been no record, witness, or electronic or other surveillance evidence produced that adequately establishes such knowledge beyond a reasonable doubt."

"Putting all this together, regarding the critical issue of whether Mr. Craddock had knowledge of the criminal commercial sexual activity occurring at his building at 1732 Broad St., there is ample smoke. Applying, however, the 'beyond a reasonable doubt' standard to these facts, which we as prosecutors must, there is insufficient evidence to establish fire."

AG Peter F. Neronha

Post-investigation?

According to his biography on the Rhode Island Department of Revenue's website, Craddock currently supervises operation of the DMV, with duties including: "regulation and enforcement of laws relating to the issuance, suspension and revocation of motor vehicle registration and drivers' licenses; financial responsibility related to motor vehicle ownership and operation; vehicle safety and emission inspections, and other applicable state laws."

Besides the Rhode Island Bar, Craddock is also a member of the Florida Bar, the Rhode Island Federal Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

The former illicit massage parlor at 1732 Broad St. has undergone some renovations since the raid and now has tiny rocks covering the lawn facing Broad. Pieces of young spring grass have started to emerge, poking up through the

A CCAP Child Development Center and playground is directly across the street from the mixed business, residential property at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Broad Street.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

A costly, but necessary shift in perspective

There is no amount of column space that could adequately summarize the gaps in the American healthcare system. They have been well-documented through peerreviewed studies, spoken to for incalculable numbers of hours at Congressional hearings and testified about through the lives and experiences of everyday Americans for numerous generations.

The simple fact of the matter is that we are failing. As a country with access to so much wealth and power, we fail to provide adequate, accessible and affordable healthcare to millions of people across our country every day.

While this sad reality is experienced by many different groups of people, from cancer patients who can't afford treatment to diabetics who are forced to neglect bills in or-

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

der to buy insulin, it is a particular shame to realize how negligent we have been at preventing preventable trage-

dies from occurring to our children, who have no power and no ability to advocate for the improvement of their

You may have seen the recent news that healthcare professionals across the nation and in Rhode Island have declared a mental health emergency, citing the existing weaknesses of healthcare system being exacerbated and entirely collapsed by the wrath of the ongoing pandemic. Hospitalizations for mental health crises have risen dramatically in the years leading up to Covid, and have only gotten worse since it started.

To read a fact as grisly as the one highlighted in the 2019 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey — which showed that 15 percent of kids in Rhode Island high schools had attempted suicide at least once within the last 12 months — and not feel the impetus to change the current status quo should be nothing less than unconsciona-

It is no hidden secret that our inpatient and outpatient mental health facilities are underfunded and understaffed. Employees that work despite those facts out of a sense of moral obligation to try and defy the odds and put themselves through horrible mental stress each day are underpaid and under-appreciated. This does not need to be the case.

Utilizing the once-in-a-generational Covid relief funds should be the start to a drastic shift in our approach to funding our mental healthcare system. So many of the problems that we throw resources at — crime, drug abuse and treatment, homelessness — could be more efficiently combatted with a more effective and legitimate effort to help people at their most vulnerable when there is still time to set them on a better path. We can do that through, in part, by demanding better early intervention in childhood mental health crisis situations, which requires muscle, money, and political will.

When physicians across the country are calling the same cry for help, we need to listen. We must not continue to pay lip service to the concept of "better mental health outcomes" and start putting our money where our mouths are.

Kise

Publisher John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com

Richard G. Fleischer

RichardF@rhodybeat.com Advertising Director

Donna Zarrella - Donna Z@rhodybeat.com

Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com

Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Journalists

Classified Advertising

Sue Howarth-SueH@rhodybeat.com

Circulation

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Pete Fontaine

Credit Manager

Bookkeeping

Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettnei

Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representative

Spotlight Profile Writer

JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

Tel. 401-732-3100

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GUEST OPINION

Keep our veterans' stories alive

By TIM GRAY Special to the Sun Rise

I was six years old when I first picked up a book on World War II and thought to myself, "what incredible

When I was ten years old, my parents asked me what I wanted for my birthday, and I told them "cassette tapes of Edward R. Murrow's radio broadcasts from London during the Blitz."

They didn't blink an eye. They knew me.

I've spent my entire life reading and, for the past 17 years, chronicling in 30+ documentaries, Virtual Reality (VR) videos, and in a large museum, the stories of those who fought, died, survived, and witnessed the events of World War II. What I've learned from that generation is incredible and still resonates with me and you today.

The World War II Generation blueprint, left to those of us by those who were there, includes the following

Work as a team or as Jewish B-17 pilot Bruce Sundlun (shot down over Belgium in 1943) told me, "I'm gonna help you, but I also know you're gonna help me, and together we'll get the job done."

Be humble. The World War II generation saved the world, but they rarely talk about it. No other generation deserves the spotlight on them more, yet they don't want it or need it despite their accomplishments.

Put your country over yourself. As World War II veteran John F. Kennedy famously said, "Ask not what your country can do for you-- ask what you can do for your country."

Keep moving off the beach. No matter what adversity you face in life, keep moving forward. The only way to survive Omaha Beach on D-Day was to move forward, not back, stay still, and move forward. It's the

Recognize the warning signs. Be aware. Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo also left a blueprint. Recognize those signs before forming a cohesive plan and gaining momentum—history rhymes. Before 9/11, there was December 7, 1941, for example. Keep the stories of World War II alive. Teach them in

schools and universities. The lessons learned from that period will go a long way in preparing students for the actual adversity and challenges they will face in life and how to overcome them.

Perhaps a young person will stop and think, "How best do I solve this problem? How would someone who saved the world go about it?"

Editor's Note: Tim Gray is the President & Founder of the World War II Foundation



LETTER

Solar makes more sense on rooftops

We read with great interest Wayne Forrest's Letter to the Editor ("There's a third option beyond solar panels, housing," April 14 edition) regarding the proposed solar project in Johnston. His arguments against decimating a wide swath of land were fact-based and the alternative option was reasonable.

Solar technology makes far more sense being installed on commercial and industrial rooftops than on land that supports natural wildlife, destroying it possibly forever. Also, in doing so. contributing to global warming.

As neighbors in nearby Scituate, not far from the targeted area, especially Hartford Avenue, we appreciate the focused effort to prevent further destruction of a land and its detrimental environmental impact.

Debra Morais and Steve Kass, Scituate

johnstonsunrise.net

SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

Annual May Breakfast and Raffle

The Defenders of Animals will host a May breakfast and raffle for the public on May 1 at Governor Sprague Mansion (1351 Cranston St.). Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased online at defendersofanimals.org. Seating is limited and 100 percent of proceeds go to the organization's emergency care and spay/neuter fund.

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

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 per-

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.

Art Show for Animals

Donate animal-themed art to the Community Art Show which will benefit the Defenders of Animals, Inc. The third annual art show will take place on May 14 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Governor Sprague Mansion at 1351 Cranston St. Defenders of Animals invites you to enjoy free food, wine, music, raffles and animal-themed art by local artists. 100 percent of proceeds go to Defenders of Animals. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at defendersofanimals.org. Show by Margy Feldhuhn. For more information, call 401-



Legal Notice Town of Johnston Notice of Abandonment

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-1 that Buck Hill Road as described in Johnston Town Ordinance 2022-6 has ceased to be useful to the public and is hereby abandoned. Ordinance 2022-6 an Ordinance in abandonment of Buck Hill Road was adopted at a public hearing at the April 11th, 2022 meeting of the Johnston Town Council and is available for review in the office of the Town

Johnston Town Council Robert V. Russo **President**

Attest: Vincent P. Baccari, Jr. **Town Clerk**

4/21, 4/28, 5/5/22

4/28/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

Fire Alarm Testing Services-Town Buildings

The Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Fire Alarm Testing Services-Town Buildings. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning April 28th, 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 11th, 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

Driving for a Cure

Please join the Cranston Country Club for the Gregory Rubino Memorial Golf Tournament on June 25. The club is "Driving for a Cure" at Cranston Country Club, and all proceeds go to benefiting the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. Spots are filling up fast so please register now to secure yours. Leran more and register at grubinomemorialgolf.com.

URI Music Department and Notable Works' Spring 2022 Concert

This event will take place in URI's Recital Hall within the Fine Arts Center on May 15 at 3 p.m. and features the American Band, Directed by Brian Cardany. The American Band will be honored at this event by the RI Music Hall of Fame. The main focus of this event is to illustrate how Rhode Island is dealing with the climate crisis, highlighting revitalization efforts in our communities, as well as practicing current outreach strategies to connect to a wider and more diverse workforce, while broaching the question: "What can each of us do to work together to help build a more sustainable future?" This performance is free and open to the public; however, donations for Notable Works will be graciously accepted. CDC State Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. Complimentary refreshments will be provided following the concert. For more information, please call 401-874-2431 or visit http:// www.uri.edu/music/events or https://notableworks.org.

Pasta Dinner Benefits Homeless

The St. Mary's Feast Society will hold a special pasta and meatball dinner to benefit the family, created around MAE Organization For The Homeless' signature meal, pasta and meat sauce. The event will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on May 14. Tickets are \$25 per person and a table of 10 is \$200. Tickets are available at the Feast Society located on Phenix Ave.

Bring your family for a hearty pasta dinner complete with garlic bread, salad and dessert! They will have Italian music, a photo booth and awesome raffles!

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.

Apple Fest Scheduled

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

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

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.

Mohr Library events Fridays at 5 p.m., we have a craft and discussion pro-

gram for adults who love young adult books, books which often feature young protagonists finding their place in the world. The first book to be discussed is "Vassa in the Night," which reimagines a slavic folktale in modern-day Brooklyn. The Rhode Island Tree Council is offering their Tree Stew-

ardship classes at our library Thursday nights from 6-8 during May, plus Saturday June 4 from 10 to noon to plant a tree on our lawn. There is a charge of \$50 for members and library cardholders. Register with the Rhode Island Tree Council at 401-764-5885 or at www.ritree.org.

For teens, there is a Dungeons & Dragons group meeting each week. Call or email to leave your contact information for For middle-school and high-school-age kids, there are

things to do almost every day after school. Kids can drop in any time between 1 and 5pm April 22,

Friday, for crafts and activities based on "The Bad Guys" series of books by Aaron Blabey. A major motion picture based on these books will be released on that day.

Storytime for ages 2 to 5 is scheduled to begin May 4 at 10:30am. Call to register.

During all hours, the Children's Library has scavenger hunts, I Spy games and craft kits to do in the library or take

Every day, we offer help with computers and technology, either on the spot, by offering to schedule one-on-one sessions, or by trying to find the right class for you.

Through June, Providence Public Library will send one of their specialists to Mohr Library for one-on-one "Digital Navigation" help, by appointment Fridays between 10 am and 1 pm. Speak with one of our librarians.

Mohr Library offers public wifi and computer use, printing and copying at a small charge, faxing at \$1 per page, free scanning, and free notary when available. Contact us to print from your device or from home.

Our book drop is available to return books from any Rhode Island public library or to donate like-new books. Our Friends' Book Sale is ongoing whenever we are open.

Email info@mohrlibrary.org or call 231-4980.

Did you know?

The First of May is known as "May Day" and traditionally involves dancing around a May Pole, crowning a May Queen, Morris Dancing and generally celebrating the oncoming summer. Celebrations and customs differ from country to culture, but the gist of the celebration is the same throughout. (May Fun Facts)

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Office of the Town Clerk **Town of Johnston** 1385 Hartford Avenue Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

Flea Market License-**Public Hearing**

Notice is given pursuant to Section 272-2.1 of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances, that the Johnston Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on Monday May 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a Flea Market License. Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of such license

Applicant: Trade Name:

Location:

Danya Izzo Plainfield Pike Flea Market 2111 Plainfield Pike, Johnston, RI 02919

License Type: Flea Market License-

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

Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk

4/28, 5/5/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday May 3rd, 2022; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

I. CALLTO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

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

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

monthly meeting on April 28, 2022 at

1291 Hartford Avenue Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its 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 Facil-

ity in an R-40 Zone, for a proposed

ground-mounted Solar Array and as-

sociated improvements.

6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center,

1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons

interested in the following propos-

als are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities

are accessible to the handicapped.

Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Of-

fice at least 48 hours in advance

of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equip-ment 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:

File 2022-10 - Petition of Linda

Zaino, Applicant for 3 Rotary Drive, AP 24 Lot 36, zoned R-15. The

Variance Section 340 for a proposed

File 2022-9 - Petition of Off Course

Properties, LLC, Applicant for Plainfield Street/Capitol Street, AP

26 Lot 1, zoned B-2. The petitioner

petitioner is seeking a Dimen

Addition with Two-Car Garage.

New Business

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 improve-

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 groundmounted Solar Array and associated improvements.

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

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

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

JPD and JFD devour Pancakes for Parkins

By PETE FONTAINE

dd the exciting eating event titled Pancakes for Parkinson's to the ongoing list of social success stories at The Bridge at Cherry Hill. Even the colorful and creative invitation which featured a stack or golden brown pancakes topped with a strawberry and two blueberries — attracted an impressive list of first responders as well as family, friends and relatives of residents and staffers at the Century Park's pristine property located at One Cherry Hill Road in Johnston.

For a first time event — which is sure to become an annual affair — Pancakes for Parkinson's generated upwards of \$800 from people who paid \$5 each to enjoy a bountiful buffet breakfast that included pancakes, hash browns, eggs, pastries and of course coffee all prepared by Executive Chef Marvin Carter and his kitchen crew.

Perhaps even more impressive is that the day's ticket was only five bucks for the "all you can eat breakfast" which will benefit the American Parkinson's Disease Association and as Executive Director Maryann Grace so proudly announced, "The Bridge will match every \$5 donation."

"My deepest appreciation and thanks to Maryann Grace, Emily Otis, Chef Marvin and staff at The Bridge at Cherry Hill for the phenomenal pancake breakfast, offered Police Chief Joseph P. Razza who was accompanied Deputy Chief Mark Vieira and JPD officers Patrolman David Chen, Sgt. Joseph Scichilone, Sgt. Luca Lancellotti and Capt. Joseph Salvadore. "This was definitely a great way to raise awareness for Parkinson's disease.

Moreover, Razza wanted it known as he greeted residents and the morning's guests: "Maryann and Emily are huge community supporters; we greatly appreciate all that they do for us and the entire Johnston community.'

The word "supporters," in fact, was a perfect way to describe what Grace described as a "very, very good turnout for a first-time event."

Johnston Police posted the following on the department's community Facebook page: "Our thanks and gratitude to the entire staff and residents at the Bridge at Cherry. Earlier today, we were invited to participate in their Pancakes for Parkinson's breakfast to raise awareness for Parkinson's disease. We appreciate the support they provide to our community and the Johnston Police Department."

In keeping with their ongoing support of The Bridge's events, a number of Johnston Firefighters were on hand and added to the day's impressive

Meanwhile, Otis — who is The Bridge's "Miss Personality" as well as Sales/Community Relations Director — was supported by a host of relatives including her mother Andrea Otis and father Ken Otis who celebrated his 56th birthday.

There was also a dash of youth that added to the day's success, as Meghan Houle and Chelsea Pannone brought along a number of children from the Creative

Early Learning Center. Also, Maria Kishfy, licensed physical educator, was in attendance and shared tips and resources for better managing the disease.

When asked what's next on The Bridge's calendar, Otis simply smiled and said: "Lunch and learn all about assisted living!"

That will take place tomorrow (April 29) when The Bridge staff has invited people to come and enjoy a gourmet lunch to learn about the many luxuries and comforts of assisted living. Seating is limited and people are invited to call 401-233-2880 for reservations or more information.



GRAND GUESTS: While The Bridge at Cherry Hill hosted a unique "Pancakes for Parkinson's" fundraiser last Friday, officials welcomed these children from the Creative Early Learning Center and their teachers Meghan Houle and Chelsea Pannone. The group played games on the outdoor patio and had snacks courtesy of The Bridge in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



CHIEF'S CREW: The Johnston Police department, headed by Chief Joseph Razza, helped support last Friday's unique pancake breakfast at The Bridge at Cherry Hill. The group includes: Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, PDA Licensed Physical Educator Maria Kishfy, Executive Director Maryann Grace, Chief Razza, Emily Otis, Patrolman David Chen, Sgt. Joseph Scichilone, Sgt. Luca Lancellotti and Capt. Joseph Salvadore.



SPECIAL SUPPORT: Among those people who supported The Bridge at Cherry Hill's Pancakes for Parkinson's breakfast and are from left: Kendra Richards, Jane Mcilmail, Maria Kishfy, Jane Marsella, Anthony Marsella, Cecilia Picotto and Andrea



SUPER SUPPORTERS: The Johnston Firefighters helped raise money for the Parkinson's disease Association by attending last Friday's breakfast. The group includes: Lt. Jon Pistacchio, Adam Barros, Anthony aRusso, Lt. Mike Calise, guest Ken Otis, Chef Marvin Carter, Melanie Cross, Chrissy Calitri, Emily Otis and Justin Petrin.

Avenue

(Continued from page 1)

During the same period, 88 crashes have been documenting, along the two-lane road, according Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza.

Johnston Town Council District 1 representative Linda Folcarelli read a letter at last week's regular monthly meeting during the "constituent requests" portion of the meeting.

"Based on concerns for public safety brought to my attention by the constituents who reside on and off of Simmonsville Avenue ... I am requesting that the State Department of Transportation conduct a traffic study and analysis to look into the feasibility of installing speeding calming devices known as 'pinch-points' at various locations along . Simmonsville Avenue," Folcarelli

According to the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), "pinchpoints" refer to "curb extensions (that) may be applied at midblock to slow traffic speeds and add public space.

"When utilized as a traffic calming treatment, mid-block curb extensions" are also called "pinchpoints" or "chokers," according to NACTO. When utilized, the "traffic-calming measure" can be implemented by narrowing the road to one lane, with a sign indicating which oncoming driver should give way.

Speed is an obvious factor along the heavily traveled roadway.

"I also request that the State Department of Transportation install solar powered speed indicators to alert motorist(s) of the posted speed restrictions on Simmonsville Avenue," Folcarelli said. "Additionally, I ask that the Department of Transportation install a rounded mirror in the area of Kimball Avenue to aid the residents at 255 and 257 Simmonsville Ave. when they exit their driveways due to the blind curve in the

If the traffic solely consisted of passenger cars, the safety threat might be easier to handle. However, increased development in the area has led to a surge in tractor trailer traffic. Many trucks are using Simmonsville Avenue as a shortcut.

"Lastly, due to increased tractor trailer traffic heading west on Simmonsville Avenue from Atwood Avenue, I request this portion of the road to be designated as 'No Thru Trucking' and codified by Rhode Island General Law," Folcarelli said. "I have spoken with Chief Razza regarding these concerns and he has indicated to me that he would make himself available to testify before the State Traffic Commission if needed."

Razza has been assembling data from police records while examining safety issues along Simmonsville

"Councilwoman Folcarelli has received numerous complaints regarding speeding motorists on Simmonsville Avenue over the past several years which have been brought to our attention," Razza said on Monday. "In order to address these concerns for public safety raised by her constituents, we have conducted numerous directed speed enforcement campaigns.'

Between April 18, 2018, to the present, Johnston Police "have issued 784 citations on this road and 596 of them have been for speeding," Razza wrote in an email.

"During the same time period, we have document 88 motor vehicle accidents which are mainly occurring at the intersections of Atwood Avenue and Plainfield Street," Razza said. "As you are aware, Simmonsville Avenue is a state road and we are requesting that the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) look at addressing the speeding issue in a more comprehensive manner. Directed speed enforcement is not a panacea to this issue and we are looking for a long term resolution and the requests that the councilwoman has made may help in the long run."





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CARL CASH

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

FAMILY COURT BENCH WARRANT

At 1:02 p.m., April 13, Johnston Police Officer Richard J. Varan spotted a vehicle traveling east on Hartford Avenue with expired regis-

The vehicle was stopped and the driver identified as Pedro Tejada, 12 Rounds Ave., Apt. 2, Providence. A background check revealed Tejada had a suspended license and he was wanted on an active Family Court Bench Warrant. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, processed and later transported to Sixth District Family Court.

He was issued a Third District Court summons to appear in court on a charge of Driving with Suspended License (third and subsequent offense, a misdemeanor). Tejada was also issued summons for Driving with Expired Registration.

BENCH WARRANT

At 2:37 p.m., April 16, Johnston Police responded to 6 York Road to follow-up on an investigation regarding a previous call for service involving a canine bite. While on the scene, police officers made contact with the canine's owner, David W. Carlson, who lives at the address.

A background check revealed Carlson had an active arrest warrant out of Second District Court for failing to appear at a hearing related to a DUI charge out of the Portsmouth Police Department.

Carlson was arrested and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, processed and later transported to the

Around 7:30 p.m., April 17, Johnston Police responded to a motor vehicle crash with unknown injuries. Johnston Fire personnel also responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, police spotted a vehicle that had been backed into a parked vehicle in the Shannon Motors parking lot. A man was slouched behind the wheel of the vehicle that had backed into the other vehicle. Police said he was uncooperative and unable to answer questions.

Police identified the driver as Michael A. Disano, of 90 Irons Ave., Johnston.



Johnston Sun Rise

"Mr. Disano was also in and out of consciousness, with droopy eyelids, and pinpoint pupils," Johnston Police Officer Ashley Vanbemmelen wrote in the incident report. "While requesting from Mr. Disano his personal information, Mr. Disano handed me a pocket knife instead of his Rhode Island Drivers License. When Mr. Disano was asked if he took any narcotic substance or alcoholic beverages ... he was not able to answer my question."

Police asked Disano to submit to a series of Standard Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), but he did not consent.

A Johnston firefighter asked Disano to exit the vehicle, but he was unable to do so on his own, according to the incident report. Johnston firefighters physically removed him from the front seat and placed him on a stretcher.

"Prior to transportation, Mr. Disano was then placed under arrest for suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drug," Vanbemmelen wrote.

Disano also refused to give a blood sample. He was transported to headquarters and processed without inci-

A background check revealed Disano was a probation violator. Disano was charged with Driving Under the Influence (first offense) and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test. He will also receive a citation for Improper Backing Up and Laned Roadway Violation.

DUI CRASH

Around 3:30 p.m., April 11, Johnston Police responded to the intersection of Citizens Bank Way and Greenville Avenue for a report of a motor vehicle crash with no inju-

Upon arrival, Johnston Police Officer David K. Chen located a 2009 Nissan Rogue that had rear driver's side damage to the vehicle.

Police spoke to a driver on the scene and identified him as Michael J. Peixoto, of 25 Shawmut Ave., Apt. 1, Central Falls.

Chen noted in the incident report that Peixoto had droopy eyelids, bloodshot watery eyes, slurred speech and a flushed face. "Mr. Peixoto stated that he

had just left Barrington from a job interview, but did not know where he was at this time," Chen wrote.

Peixoto denied drinking alcohol and submitted to a series of Standard Field Sobriety Tests.

'Based upon my observation with Mr. Peixoto, it was apparent he was impaired and unable to safely operate a motor vehicle at which time he was placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI. At headquarters, Peixoto refused to submit to a Breathalyzer test. He was charged with DUI (first offense, BAC unknown) and received a citation for Entering From Private Road or Driveway.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 9 a.m., April 3, Warwick Police Officer Aaron L. Steere was on a fixed post at 10 Jefferson Boulevard when a vehicle drew his attention. According to the incident report, the black 2011 Acura had "dark aftermarket tint, and the rear plate was not visible even during daylight hours due to a dark tinted plate cover."

Steere initiated a motor vehicle stop southbound near 300 Jefferson Boulevard and made a passenger-side approach to the car.

"Again during daylight hours, Officer Steere was unable to observe inside the vehicle due to the dark aftermarket tint," according to the incident report.

Steere knocked on the rear window and asked the driver to lower all four windows. The driver complied.

and police determined his lipolice.

hicle."

A background check also revealed that Burgess had two prior convictions for Driving on Suspended License (in 2015 and 2018), according to the police incident

Burgess was taken into custody for Driving on Suspended License (Third Offense), a misdemeanor. He was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters, processed and later released.

He will also RI Traffic Tribunal summons for alleged violations of Operating a Motor Vehicle with Unlawful Sunscreen Material and Visibility of Registration Plates.

"A search of the vehicle, based on the odor of marijuana, revealed 27 grams of packaged marijuana," acbe noted that the packages were consistent with sales. marijuana. He advised that he had a California medical marijuana card; however he did not have it on his person

The marijuana was "seized for destruction."



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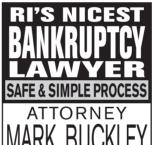
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The driver was identified as Ray Burgess, 29, of 463 Greenville Ave., Johnston, cense had been suspended. Two female passengers were in the vehicle, according to

While speaking to the occupants, Steere said he detected "a strong odor of raw marijuana emanating from the interior of the ve-

cording to police. "It should Burges was asked about the or in the vehicle."



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Barbers

(Continued from page 1)

Ralph's brother, Pat, went to barber school a year after him, in 1962, and now has a business only five minutes away from his brother.

After barber school, Pat started working on Cranston Street and eventually started Shear Dimensions on Reservoir Avenue in 1985, which he co-owns with his brother-in-law. The salon focuses on unisex hairstyles and does everything from hair cutting to shaving beards and providing facials and the business rents chairs to independent

On average, the shop brings in 10 to 15 customers a day. Over the years, Pat has not only developed friendships with customers, but his customers have created their own camaraderie.

Shear Dimensions is open four days a week from

Wednesday to Saturday.

Henry, who owns the Senate Barber Shop on Rolfe Square, starts booking appointments at 7:30 a.m. and takes his last customer at 6 p.m. He provides haircuts for men and is open five days a week. Henry used to work with two other individuals, however, one retired and the other passed away nine years ago. As of now, Henry has no

"If you can stand up, you can go to work," said

Times have changed when it comes to the craft

According to Vinnie Carbone, who owns Vinnie's Barber Shop on Pontiac Avenue, the craft of the older generation of barbers is fading. He explained that older barbers primarily use scissors

and clippers to cut hair, while the younger genera-

tion of barbers primarily use razors.

Carbone has been in the barbering business for 44 years and attended Broms Academy in Worcester, Massachusetts. He drove everyday and met others from Rhode Island and they would be a group of them who would carpool to classes. Now residing in Meshanticut, Carbone and his family immigrated to America from Italy when he was 13 years old. His family came from Caserta, which is south of Naples.

Carbone remembers arriving in the states from Caserta, Italy, and when the plane landed around 9 p.m. He said that was the first time he saw snow, adding that he never got used to it. His family moved into a third floor apartment in Providence and three years later the family bought a house in

"We arrived in Rhode Island at the apartment at 10:30 p.m. the following morning by 7: a.m. my father was in the car with my uncle to go to work," said Carbone.

During his time as a barber, Vinnie has won several awards including the ABC Best of Southern New England and the Providence Journal's People's Choice Award in 2017.

All four barbers said their favorite part of the business is talking with people – many of them mentioning the names of nationally and locally famous individuals whose hair they've cut.

Pat cut the hair of David Quinn's (former head coach of the New York Rangers) and Cranston native. Meanwhile, Ralph said he's cut the hair of several state officials including William Murphey and Matthew Smith.

The barbers did say the pandemic affected business after former Governor Gina Raimondo closed shops at the start of the pandemic.

Ralph's applied for federal unemployment

which helped his business survive.

"If we weren't able to collect, it'd be a different story," Ralph said, noting that it would have been three months without any income.

Since the barbers are at the later stage of their career – and thanks to their retirement plan – they are now able to apply for Medicare and health insurance to receive help from the government. Additionally, grant funds from the city which will be available this summer will be able to boost business. Some of the barbers are already coming up with some remodeling ideas.



CUTTING HAIR SINCE THE 60s: Henry Cipriano Jr. of Senate Barber on Rolfe Square has been in business for 62 years. (Sun Rise photos by Emma Bartlett)



CLIENTS THROUGH THE YEARS: Pat Petronio Jr. of Shear Dimensions hangs a list of the customers he has served over the past 35 years in his barber shop.

TOO SHORT:

Vinnie Carbone seats Cranston's Director of Economic Development Franklin Paulino in the barber chair for a quick trim.



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spotlight on BUSINESS

Atwood Florist

Celebrate your milestone moments with flowers. . . and fireworks



By JENNIFER COATES

An anonymous author once penned the words "In joy and in sadness, flowers are our constant friends." No truer words were ever spoken! Flowers are synonymous with friendship, hope, new life, joy, color, and sunshine. They remind us of all that is beautiful in the world around us. Roses! Lilies! Hydrangeas! Geraniums! Orchids! Snapdragons! Lilies! Flowers are heaven's gifts to us.

We use flowers to mark the milestone moments of our lives ~ to celebrate births, baptisms, first communions, proms, birthdays, graduations, weddings, times of congratulations, and times of loss. Flowers and living plants are tokens of love and appreciation; they are as constant as friends and as enduring as deeply-held family traditions.

No one knows more about the happiness and comfort that flowers can bring than John Dick, the owner of Atwood Florist and the purveyor of joy for 27 years. For his hundreds of customers, John is the one person they can depend on to create a breathtaking arrangement of flowers for a party, to put together a last-minute corsage for a prom date, to assemble a floral display that says "Miss You" or "Get Well," or to gather a breath-taking bouquet of roses for any special occasion! John can do just about anything you need to make your day special, from his \$5.00 "Love Bunches" to his full spread of custom-made centerpieces ~ and more!

As you begin to plan your own significant events this spring, think about Atwood Florist as your go-to destination for "all things" flowers. Although John is skilled at putting arrangements together at the last minute, he does his best work when given advance notice ~ especially as we enter the season of weddings, proms, and Mother's Day (better plan ahead for this one!) John



Find these festive vases and colorful containers at Atwood Florist on Atwood Avenue, just in time for Mother's Day and all your favorite springtime events. They will find a use in your home all year long!

will work with you to create the exact look you are hoping to achieve or, you can put your trust in his years of experience and his creative eye.

John Dick's love of flowers is surpassed only by his genuine affection for his customers, many of whom have been with him since the very start. As always, he thanks those who have stood by him, through good times and bad.

Finally, as the summer months approach, excitement is building at Atwood Florist ~ and not necessarily for the flowers and house plants it is most famous for. John is the premier

destination in town for fireworks of all kinds. These fireworks, including the ever-popular Gender Reveal sets, can now be found all year-round at Atwood Florist so come on in and check out his inventory!

Atwood Florist is located at 1041 Atwood Avenue. John can be reached at 401-274-7300. Visit the website at www.atwoodflorist. com or follow Atwood Florist on Facebook. Pick-up and delivery are available. Same-day delivery is guaranteed if you call before noon. The shop is open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am - 2:00pm.



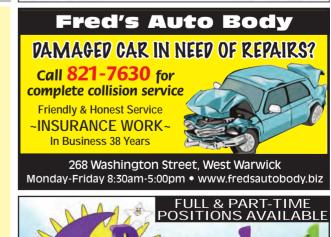








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Spring is here

Are you getting ready to list your home?

By DONNA DeLAURO

You hear it's a seller's market so selling your home should be easy right? Why should you hire a realtor when the market is so hot? Surely you can sell it yourself and save some money.

All you have to do is put a sign on the front lawn, put it on a for sale by owner web site and wait for buyers to come with offers. Seems easy enough.

As a full-time Realtor, of course I will advise you to seek professional service in any situation, and especially in an extreme market whether it favored for seller's or buyer's.

If your home is in decent condition, in a desirable location and priced within fair market value, buyers will be coming through quickly and aggressively hoping to beat the crowd and those multiple offer situations.

There is little doubt you will have buyers and offers. What do you do next? How do you organize the offers to properly analyze them and decide which

is the best one? Are the buyers qualified, what type of financing is the buyer pre approved for, what are the contingencies, is the buyer represented, who prepares the sale agreement, what content do you need in the agreement to protect you as the seller? Where do you go from here? Will you be able to keep your emotions out of your decision making?

Although it is a fact that buyers are plentiful and willing to pay full price or more for your home, once their offer is accepted, they realize they are paying a high price and now expect to get their money's worth.

A buyer has several opportunities throughout the transaction to back out of the deal and get their initial deposit back. How you manage the intricacies of the transaction can determine if you get to

the closing table successfully or not. When you work with a professional to sell your home, your Realtor will... Represent you and assist in making difficult decisions that are in your best

interest, keeping your personal information confidential.

 Prepare a plan to reach your specific end goal. • If you are purchasing another property, it is important to have assistance with that purchase process, making sure there are proper contingencies protecting you from closing your current home before finding a new place. Managing

timeframes for your transition requires strategic planning and coordination. Assess your property's space and condition to advise how best to prepare the property for sale, and where your money is best spent to get a return on your investment.

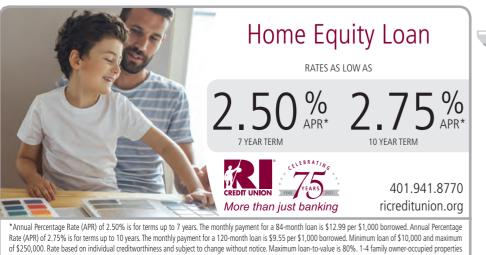
- Prepare all list documents, property disclosures and marketing material.
- Take professional photos and video' of the property
- Submit the property to MLS and all buyer search websites for the best exposure to maximize your buyer pool.

• Install a professional for sale sign at the property. Organize incoming requests for showings and ensure those who are coming

- through your home are qualified to purchase. Provide property flyers and disclosure packets for showings.
- Show the property pointing out the high points and monitoring buyers to protect your personal items and keeping everyone safe. Follow up with buyer's agents for feedback from showings and keep you
- Receive offers (in most cases multiple offers) and organize to review and
- analyze with you to determine which one will get you to the closing table Contact lenders who provided pre approvals to ensure the buyer is still
- qualified to purchase your home. Expedite purchase and sale agreement, receive deposit check, and plan for
- the pending phase of the transaction. Be present for all inspections and negotiate requests for repairs from the
- Be present for the appraiser and deal with any potential issues from under
- value or condition contingencies. Assist you with getting the property ready for closing, providing resources for any repairs to be done, removing unwanted items in the home and the
- Coordinate smoke detector inspection with local fire department and be
- sure all units are in compliance with updated codes. Follow up with all parties involved with the closing process...lender, attorney's etc.
- Be present for final walk through and closing.

If you do decide to work with a Realtor, be sure to research and choose one who can best serve you in one of the biggest transactions you will experience. Good luck!!

Donna DeLauro is a Realtor at RE/MAX Real Estate Center in Coventry. She is also a Senior Real Estate Specialist and the Proud Founder of Mature Matters.



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3 factors to consider before converting an attic

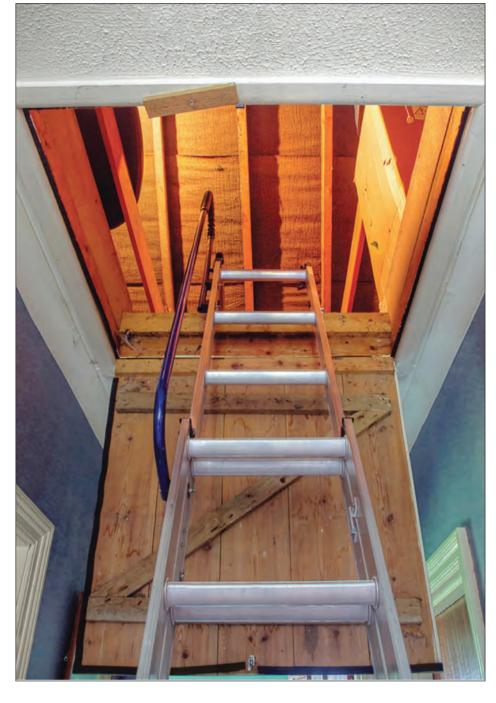
t the onset of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, many homeowners suddenly found themselves in need of more usable square footage in their homes. Required to work from home due to social distancing recommendations, millions of working professionals suddenly found themselves setting up shop at kitchen tables or islands, in alcoves, garages, or even walk-in closets. Those makeshift offices were never supposed to be permanent, but as companies loosen workplace policies and embrace full remote or hybrid working arrangements, professionals are seeking more permanent home office solutions.

Home additions are a possibility for homeowners who need more usable square footage, but add-ons may not be the right option for everyone. If adding on won't work, homeowners may want to look up ... at their attics.

Attics with ample space can make for ideal home offices, as they're away from the hustle and bustle of a home's main floor. That can make it easier to concentrate when everyone is in the house and reduce the likelihood that video calls with colleagues and clients will be interrupted by kids and pets.

Attic conversions are not always possible, and the following are three important factors homeowners may need to consider before they can go forward with such projects.

1. Dimensions: Both the renovation experts at This Old House and the real estate experts at UpNest indicate that at least half of a finished attic must be a minimum of seven feet high and seven feet wide and 70 square feet. Requirements may differ depending on where homeowners live, but that 7-7-70 guideline is generally the mini-



mum requirement. An attic that fails to meet such requirements won't necessarily be a lost cause, but it might be costly to make adjustments that ultimately align with local codes.

2. Access: Access is another aspect that must adhere to local safety guidelines. Many attics are accessible only

through pulldown ladders, but that will have to change if homeowners repurpose their attic spaces. A staircase that complies with local laws will need to be installed, and contractors can work with homeowners to build that and estimate the cost. Homeowners who simply want to put desks in their attics without going with full-fledged conversions are urged to adhere to local access requirements anyway, as they're intended to ensure residents can safely escape attics in the case of a fire or another emergency.

3. Climate control: Attics are converted to provide residents with more livable space. Converted space is only livable if the climate within the attic can be controlled so it's cool in the summer and warm in the winter. An existing HVAC unit needs to efficiently heat and cool an extra room. If it can't, bills might spike because the rest of the home likely won't be as comfortable, forcing homeowners to adjust thermostats to offset that discomfort. That also could affect the unit's life expectancy. Before going forward with an attic renovation, homeowners should contact HVAC professionals to determine if attic spaces can be serviced with the existing units and ductwork, or if an alternative arrangement must be worked out to make the spaces livable.

Attic conversions can be great ways to make existing spaces more livable. Homeowners considering such projects should pay attention to three important variables as they try to determine if attic conversions will work for them.





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Once again, Ido

Interrupted by pandemic, 3rd time is the charm for Cranston couple

By ERIN O'BRIEN

f patience is a virtue, Caitlin and Bryan Schnell are very virtuous indeed. Their two-year-long trip to the altar was filled with detours and speed bumps.

The Cranston born couple grew up only five minutes away from each other, meeting sophomore year, despite attending separate high schools. Caitlin was enrolled at St. Mary's Academy-Bay View, and Bryan at Cranston West. "We always had the same group of friends in Cranston!" Caitlin explains. Among their extended group of friends, their bond strengthened over time.

Caitlin, whose alma mater is Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut, earned her degree in social work and is a preschool teacher at Little Learners Academy of Cranston. Bryan, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, earned his degree in ocean engineering, and is employed as chief technical officer at Audio Concepts, North

The couple's first wedding, April 10, 2020, was not a formal affair, but a short ceremony on Bryan's parents' front lawn. During the height of the pandemic, maskwearing wedding guests surprised the couple to witness the nuptials from their parked cars, in a scene evocative of a drive-in movie.

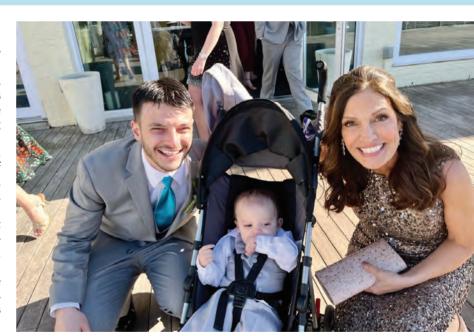
It was year that seemed like two years, when, in the spring of 2020, everything came to a standstill. Out of an abundance of caution, and with federal mandates in place, trips across the globe and even to the grocery store, graduations, and religious ceremonies were limited, postponed, even cancelled.

Their wedding and reception redux was scheduled for July 11, 2021...

Jace Bryan Schnell was born, April 13th, three days after the couple's first wedding anniversary.

Their day was then re-rescheduled for April 22, 2022.

■ **WEDDING** - PAGE 17



Groom Bryan Schnell shares a moment before the ceremony with his mother Jana Schnell, and Jace, his infant son. Jace was born between Bryan and Caitlin's 2020 and 2022 weddings. TOP: Caitlin and Bryan Schnell gather with their parents, wedding attendants, and their French bulldog, Calvin, at **Gurney's Newport Resort on Goat Island.**





Asian Lantern Spectacular returns to Roger Williams Park

By DON FOWLER

The colorful Asian Lantern Spectacular has returned to Roger Williams Park through July 4, where over 50 percent of the exhibits are new, adding a truly spectacular Chinese cultural entertainment show on weekends at 7

The acclaimed Boston Chinese Folk Workshop will make four visits in addition to other local groups. We caught their spectacular 45-minute show, and it is more than worth the price of admission.

The brightly lit Asian lanterns, representing over 2,000 years of tradition, line the entire path of the zoo, with lantern animals mingling among the real-life animals.

Visit the snack bar, adjacent to the stage, where Chinese delicacies include General Tao's chicken, egg rolls, fried rice and dumplings along with the traditional hot dogs and hamburgers.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for children and are only available online. You must sign up for a specific day and time. The exhibit is available Wednesday through Sunday from 6 to 10:30 p.m., with tickets sold until 9:30 p.m. Tickets are non-refundable, and the exhibit is open rain or shine.

Give yourself at least two hours to walk the entire zoo exhibit and see the show. The wide, mostly paved walkways make it easy to maneuver, stop and rest and push wheelchairs.



Even a pandemic shut down couldn't stop the first wedding







■ Wedding (Continued from page 16)

Their new wedding date developed into a picture post card day. Daffodils emerged along the route to Newport, while ships' masts punctuated the skyline. Seagulls soared over the causeway bridge and the dark blue waves, on the approach to Gurney's Newport Resort on Goat Island.

Under the shade of the pine trees at Gurney's, passing cars in the distance sparkled like gems as they crossed the Newport bridge. White hydrangeas and blush colored roses adorned white wooden folding chairs on the lawn.

"Thank you for coming," whispered Jana, warmly, the lovely mother of the groom, on the arm of her husband, David Schnell.

Behind the scenes, the bridesmaids gathered in a cluster, their flowing gowns billowing in the breeze. Two petite flower girls waited in anticipation beside a young ring bearer. Jace, the youngest attendee at his parents' wedding, traveled down the aisle in a pint-sized remote-controlled car.

On the arm of her father, Robert Jackson, Caitlin glowed as she floated across the lawn to her beloved, their infant son, their attendants, and Calvin, their

"After two years we finally got here for the real thing!" began the Reverend John Egan in welcome, eliciting laughter. He then called to mind those lost to the pandemic, offering a moment of quiet

"You cannot call me impatient," Caitlin said with a chuckle, in her vows, "I have waited two years, twelve days, five hours, and many, many minutes for this day!" before closing with, "My mom's wish came true..." she said, as she lovingly gazed into her groom's eyes.

"Caitlin, you gave me the greatest gift...our beautiful son, Jace," Bryan responded in his vows. In tribute to his bride, he shared with confidence that her mom would be proud to know the wonderful mother she had become.

Reverend Egan shared the couple's infectious joy, with the words, "By the power vested in me, I'm happy to, once again," to collective laughter, "pronounce you husband and wife!"

The on-site reception included archival mementos of their first wedding, handmade signs created by their masked and vehicle-bound guests from their 2020 ceremony, a recording of the local TV news report of Bryan and Caitlin at their original nuptials two years ago, and their love story in the Cranston

"I couldn't have asked for a more perfect day," Caitlin beamed, on the day they said, "Yes," all over

One can only imagine what next April will bring for this beautiful young family.



Marshall

two year old Shepherd mix with a sweet temperament, he loves being with people. He also enjoys rides in the car, playing in the yard and walks on the leash. If you've been looking for a great family pet, Marshall is your boy. Please contact One Dog At A Time Rescue at 508-826-3073 for more information about how you can meet Marshall. If you are lucky this handsome boy might just become your new best friend.

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animaltalk1920@gmail.com

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EVENING SKY

Evening Sky find a new groove with 'The Long Weekend' EP

By ROB DUGUAY

Providence's Evening Sky isn't your typical jazz band, and it isn't your typical roots music band either. The quartet of pedal steel guitarist Chris Brooks, drummer Eric Hastings, bassist Joe Potenza and electric guitarist Gino Rosati find a balance between the two styles. At the same time, they also incorporate elements of country, R&B, funk, soul and jam to have a multi-dimensional sound. It's evident with their brand-new EP titled The Long Weekend that came out April 8. Along with the quartet, Phish and Roomful Of Blues collaborator Carl "Geerz" Gerhard contributes his talents on trumpet and flugelhorn while local jazz fixture Ben Shaw comes in on tenor saxophone.

Both Rosati and Hastings handled the production of the EP while North Kingstown native Graham Mellor recorded it with the band at his studio Uptown Sound in Providence. Jack Gauthier then took on the mixing duties at Lake West Recording in West Greenwich while Scott Craggs did the mastering at Old Colony Mastering in North Scituate. Overall, the result is a stellar audio quality that makes it effortless to get lost in the music and immerse your senses in the syncopation of the

"This band has come to be focused on two things: One, developing an ensemble sound that works with original compositions as well as with covers and two, collaborating with guest artists," Potenza says. "This EP showcases both of those efforts. By the time Gino brought in those compositions, we had put in a lot of work on the sound of the band. We two guitars dancing over some interesting grooves with everyone listening while leaving space for each other. We'd also been doing a lot of recording with several singers, as well as flutist Wendy Klein, so we were comfortable with welcoming guests into our sound.'

"The recording went down smoothly because we knew what we were trying to achieve," he adds. "Still when we heard the playbacks we were really pleased, and somewhat surprised, at the results. Playing the material live with Carl & Ben was so much fun."

Rosati composed each song on the record, which is incredible given the complex and cohesive arrangements. He wrote some of them during the height of the pandemic back in April of 2020 when he was cooped up at home and the majority of live music was on hold.

"I wrote 'Where the Sea Meets The Stars' first," He says

'Folk Song #3' because numbers 1 and 2 crashed and burned horribly, but then I eventually changed the song to its current name. Around May I spoke with Graham [Mellor], who is an awesome recording engineer, and I wanted to go to his studio and record some tunes. He has great gear in a great sounding room and because of Covid-19 he was not on the road so he was available. When we spoke, he mentioned that Doug Woolverton was recording his record there and might need some tunes, so I started writing ideas that I thought would sound good on trumpet."

"I ended up coming up with 'Thames Street Crawl' and 'Chicory Coffee'," he adds. "The latter was untitled at the time, but Eric Hastings eventually came up with the name for this tune. Unfortunately, by the time I was done writing these two tunes, Doug had already recorded enough material for his project and didn't need any new material. I then thought I would call my good friend Carl Gerhard and see if he was available, he said he was available and said he would love to do it. We also had just finished recording six songs with Ben Shaw, he wrote these tunes specifically for Evening Sky and I loved the way those tunes came out with his energy."

After Rosati asked Shaw to jump on this project, he knew they were in business. Both Shaw and Gerhard combined their talents excellently and after a few rehearsals they did the recording sessions that resulted in the EP.

'Carl and Ben sounded awesome together in rehearsal, they both had a great sound that blended together perfectly," he mentions about having them involved. "We then rehearsed the tunes a few times and everyone kind of came up with their parts. Once we were satisfied, we went into Graham's studio and recorded all the tunes in one day. Then we got them mixed and mastered, which actually took longer than expected. I think the tunes came out really good and they are fun to play, everybody really stepped up and played great."

Whether it's "Thames Street Crawl," "Sunday Afternoon," "Chicory Coffee" or "Where the Sea Meets The Stars," you can't go wrong with either track off The Long Weekend EP. I personally recommend listening to it from start to finish for the full listening experience, but that's just my approach to these kinds of things. To give the record and listen and make a purchase, log on to Evening Sky's Bandcamp page at eveningsky.bandcamp.com. If you're the type who likes a variety of musical styles riding a steady groove, then you must grab a copy of this

'The Squirrels' mimic humanity at Burbage

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

There is nothing subtle about Christopher Ashley's allegorical play about the world of squirrels.

That's right -- squirrels!

The playwright takes us to the habitat of a family of gray squirrels who live comfortably on their stash of acorns, guarded over by Scurius, their aging patriarch, cleverly portrayed by Vince Petronio.

Director Mark Peckham, back on the local scene after a two-year pandemic hiatus, has given them tails and directed them to act like squirrels.

Everything seems to be going pretty well until a fox squirrel

appears, looking for nuts to feed his

Then another squirrel shows up to stir up trouble between and among the two groups, giving us the main theme of the battles between the haves and the have nots.

And then there is the entire ecosystem and what is happening to

And let us be reminded that "All Squirrels Matter!"

The 90-minute, one-act play deals with a variety of social issues that are all too familiar to we humans. Some are subtle. Others are in your face.

Vowing that the lower-class fox squirrels will "Never get my nuts," Scurius keeps their whereabouts hidden as he becomes older and suffers from squirrel Alzheimer's disease. There is conflict. The ugly state of

prejudice takes root. Greed takes over the "We're all in this together" philosophy.

While the play is filled with humor, the underlying allegory emerges until we and the squirrels realize it

may be too late. The acting and directing are firstrate, (Joe Henderson shines in dual roles) and you will leave the theatre with much to think about (maybe too much) and a greater knowledge of squirrels.

"The Squirrels" is at Burbage Theatre in Pawtucket through May 15. Call 484-0355 for reservations

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The king of vintage and modern toy collecting is



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

In the world of vintage and modern toy collecting there has always been one king. That one king being Star Wars. When I look at the last 45 years of the Star Wars franchise as a whole, nobody has done it better. Outside of the genius that is George Lucas in creating an entire universe of characters, vehicles, planets, religion, and everything in between on the silver screen, the toy line is equally as impressive. First introduced to the market in 1978 by Kenner, the Star Wars toy line was innovative in having their action figures be 3 3/4" tall compared to the industry standard set previously by Mego and Hasbro at 8" and 12" respectively. Prior to Kenner taller action figures carried a higher production cost. Instead of having numerous different figures you would have different costumes and accessories to change your character. Furthermore, the large size made it incredibly difficult to make vehicles to scale. Imagine if all your Star Wars figures a kid were 8" and you wanted the Millennium Falcon? It would have been massive! Kenner's format revolutionized the toy industry in that action figures no longer had clothing like a doll. The 3 3/4" figures were molded plastic, so instead

of buying different outfits you were always buying different toys. On the business side production cost went down and profits were up, everybody in the toy industry was happy. Except Mego, just imagine being the hottest toy maker of the 1970's and turning down the license to Star Wars. Not a good day for them.

Jumping to present day 2022, Star Wars is still one of the hottest brands going. Both in the primary new retail space and secondary vintage collecting. On the vintage side it is honestly hotter than ever before. In my opinion Star Wars has now taken a jump in the marketplace in regard to the seriousness around the hobby. It is no longer just toy collecting, but a true commodity that is now traded like comic books. In 2015 a 1978 Kenner 12 back Luke Skywalker in 85 graded condition would have cost you \$3,000 to \$4,000. Now it is easily \$7,000 to \$10,000 if not more depending on which variation. The other reason why it has become its own NASDAQ is because there are so many different toys available to collect. It is just like comic books. There are very few people in the world who have every 1978 to 1985 Star Wars figure in sealed condition.



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Almost impossible if you want to consider foreign releases. The point is that it's a collector's chase that is extremely hard to find the end. If you are one of the lucky few sitting with a cache of vintage Star Wars at home the market has never been better. When looking to sell always seek out the advice of an auction house first. It is always better to sell through consignment then selling outright, you do not want to sell yourself short. Outside of that happy Star Wars Day! May the 4th be with you, sit back, relax, and get your trilogy





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Sports



MAKING STRIDES: Johnston senior Rachel Ixcotoyac battles for the ball against East Providence last week. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Young Panthers eyeing first win

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls lacrosse team is searching for its first win this season as it has started 0-3 since moving back down to Division III. Although it has been a tough

start for the Panthers, coach Jay Areson has been pleased with the effort and development, especially considering Johnston has one of the state's youngest rosters.

"We have a very young team this year with just two seniors, we also

have nine new players. They're still learning. We still have some things to work on but they will improve as the season moves forward. They've already surpassed their goal total from last year which is

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AWARD WINNERS: Pictured are Academic All-State wrestlers Carlos Monteiro, Willson ElHage, Elijah Odhiambo, Nicholas Harrington and Jared Trotter, from left to right. (Submitted photos)

JHS grapplers pick up awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston High School wrestling team is the pride of Johnston, both on and off the mat. After completing a very successful undefeated Division III championship season, the team picked-up several awards at the RIIL wrestling banquet held at Wright's Farm.

Jose Gonzalez (160 pounds) and Nicholas Harrington (145 pounds) were selected to All-League 2nd Team. Xavier Thomas (126 pounds), Jarred Trotter (138 pounds) and Dylan Martins were selected to All-League 1st Team.

The Academic All-State Award goes to wrestlers who meet the following requirements. 1) Wrestlers must have a 3.5 GPA or an 89.5 average. 2) Wrestlers must have a winning percentage and compete in over 50 percent of the team's league matches. This takes a lot of hard work and dedication in all aspects of the wrestler's life. These wrestlers have to balance their school work, practice and work part time jobs. They truly embody what it is to be a student athlete.

Johnston High School had the most Academic All State award recipients. The following wrestlers have achieved Academic All-State; Logan Martins, Willson ElHage, Carlos Monteiro, Jared Trotter, Nicholas Harrington and Elijah



LEADING THE WAY: All-Leaguers Xavier Thomas, Dylan Martins, Nicholas Harrington and Jared Trotter.

Youth fishing derby returns

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston's Jewel – a.k.a. War Memorial Park – hosted a special "Rite of Spring" that hadn't been held the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dozens of anglers ages 4-to-12 were accompanied by smiling moms and dads - and even grandparents - and formed a human circle around the park's pond. It was in hopes of reeling in the largest and longest fish during what may have been the most impressive Youth Fishing Derby, which was sponsored by Citizens Bank and the Johnston Community Center Association and was organized by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Sometime last week, officials from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management stocked the picturesque pond with a total of 250 fish that ranged from tiny sun fish to trout.

Of that total, countless children - with help from attending adults - baited their hooks and cast their lines



offers a thumbs up for granddaughters Valen Mooney, Elliana Johnson and Chloe Mooney who enjoyed the annual Youth Fishing Derby. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

DERBY - PAGE 22

SUPER STAFF: Nicole Cournoyer (fourth left), Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, is joined by Mike Carlino, Ava Waterman, lyman Musa Jr. and Steven Budnick who helped make Saturday's Youth Fishing Derby a huge success.



SPECIAL SMILE: Marie O'Neill shows off the sun fish she caught then tossed it back into the pond Saturday.



FISHING FUN: Brian Sisto and his son Jaxon, 6, were among the many anglers who cast their lines into the War Memorial Park pond Saturday.



(Continued from page 21)

and by 11 a.m. had reeled in what Nicole Cournoyer, Johnston's Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, announced was a total of 70 fish.

Ironically, it didn't matter to any of the kids whether they caught a sun fish like the one brothers Gianni and Jaxon Mandarelli caught for first place in the Best Looking Fish category respectively and second place for the smallest fish or even Jake Ciruolo's first place for the longest fish caught, as the day's theme was family fun, fishing and continuing an unmatched Johnston tradition.

'We're all having fun!" exclaimed Tom Mooney, who brought his granddaughters Valen Mooney, Elliana Johnson and Chloe Mooney – all age 11 – to the two-hour derby that featured numerous awards for individual achievement with their respective rods and reels. And Cournoyer, with assistance from parks per-

sonnel like Mike Bedrosian, Patty DiMascio, Mike Carlino, Ava Waterman, Iyman Musa Jr. and Steven Budnick, made the day's contest interesting and awarded a total of 22 prizes in eight age cate-For example, Luca, 7, was honors for the first

fish caught Saturday and Breonna, 11, took honors for taking the most fish (10) while cousins Logan (7) and Zander (5) shared honors for the heaviest fish of 1 pound, 5 ounces.

The day was even special for people who didn't fish, as people like Alyssa Lang was all smiles while pushing her son, Luca Lang, around the pristine park's walking tack and stopping to watch other children toss their catches back into the pond.

Winners in the respective categories were: AGES 4-7 YEAR OLDS

Most Fish Caught - First Place, Jameson, 4, four fish and second, Olivia, 6.

Smallest Fish Caught: First Place, Jaylynn 5; second place, Jaxon, 5 and third place Maz, 7.

Best Looking Fish Caught: Gianni, 5.

First Fish of the Day: Luca, 7.

8-12-YEAR OLDS

Longest Fish: First Place, Jake, 10; Second Place, Valen, 11; Third Place, Gianna , 11; Third Place, Molly, 11; and Chloe, 11.

Heaviest Fish Caught: First Place, Loan, 7, Zander, 5; Second Place, Isabella, 12.

Best Looking Fish: First Place, Elianna, 11; Scott, and Zach, 9; Third Place, Luke, 8, and Jacob, 11.



Family Owned I American Made I Award Winning



HAPPY CAMPERS: Richard Reich, RISSA Youth Fishing Camp Director, and RISAA volunteers, instruct campers on how to use a spinning rod and reel. (Submitted photo)

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) will hold their annual youth fishing camp June 28-30, 2022. Funding for the three day camp is provided in part by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The camp will be held at Rocky

Point State Park, Warwick for fifty children seven to twelve years old.

Fishing camp filling up fast

Richard Reich, RISAA camp director and board member, said, "Fishing teaches us patience and how to take care of the environment, but most of all it appeals to our sense of adventure and is a whole lot of fun."

The camp aims to provide children with as much fishing time as possible, yet teach them about the environment and fishing basics. Reich said, "We learned early on that the children love to fish so we optimized fishing time from shore, on private vessels and one day we plan to travel to Pt. Judith to fish on a party boat."

Topics covered over the three-day camp include fish identification,



THROUGH TRAFFIC: Ava Melo battles through a defender last week.

GROUND BALL: Payton McClish battles for a ground ball.

■ Panthers

(Cont. from page 21)

great, and I think moving down to Division III has given them some confidence," Areson said.

Hannah Lavergne and Kaylee Poole have led the offense with three goals each while Courtney Dias, Jayla Mainey, Aubrey Ailen and Rachel Ixcotoyac have scored one each. Goalie Riley Guenette has recorded 32 saves in the cage through three games.

Areson has been pleased with his seniors Ixcotoyac and Dias, who have led by example in the early going.

"They've been great, they've been keeping me on my toes. They are two very smart girls and they have been handling it well especially considering the pandemic last year and now that we're getting off to a slow start this year. They have done everything I've asked, they have no problem with me moving them around to different positions. They're great kids," said Areson, who was also excited to see girls such as Poole make an impact. "Kaylee is another solid player for us, one that I can move anywhere. She doesn't come off the field, she's very, very talented."

With the large core of underclassmen, the Panthers are simply looking to make strides this season and build a strong foundation for the future.

"They're working hard and they're having fun. They're always coming off the field with big smiles on their faces. I can't get mad at that," Areson said. "We are looking forward to the future. The future looks bright with 12 sophomores and two freshmen, so we're looking forward to it."

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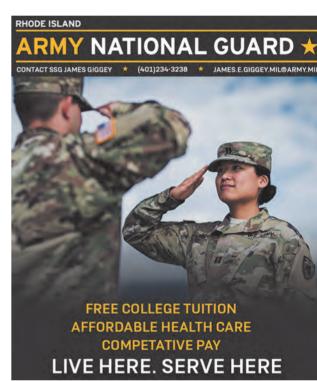


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Camp

(Continued from page 22)

conservation, use of spinning and conventional gear and tackle, basic marine biology, how and why to use different baits and lures, boating safety, casting form shore and fishing from private boats as well as a party/charter boat.

The camp is free and space is limited to fifty campers. For fishing camp details and the sign up form visit https://risaa.org/2022fishing-camp-for-youth/. You can email Richard Reich, camp director, with questions at reich@risaa. org or call the RISAA office at 401-826-2121.

Fly fishing the cinder worm hatch The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice, in partnership with RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), announced its annual Cinder Worm Workshop. This is the program's 13th year and will include two weekday evening classes in fly tying instruction and one weekend evening of fly fishing. The program is free to registrants. Space is limited to 40 students.

The program is for all skill levels. Introduction to practical rigging and casting instruction will be covered for those needing assistance. Fly fishers will then fish the coves of Grassy Point area of Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge.

The program is open to any adult or accompanied children over the age of 10. There will also be an opportunity for kayak fishing - limited to experienced kayakers who have their own vessel. Proper safety equipment is required plus lights for navigation.

All fly tying materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools and equipment, but all necessary fly tying tools and equipment will be loaned to registrants upon re-

The Fly Tying classes will be held Monday, May 2 and May 9. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown, RI. The Fly Fishing portion of the program will take place Saturday, May 14, 4 p.m. until dark at Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Charlestown, RI. For information contact Dave

Pollack at Dpollipo@gmail.com.

Where's the bite? Freshwater trout fishing has

been the big story the past two weeks with ponds being stocked a second time in Rhode Island by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) prior to school vacation week. In Massachusetts MassWildlife socked ponds too and held six troutstocking events that the public could attend to learn about fresh water ecosystems and dump some buckets of fish into local waterways. Conner Glynn of The Tackle Box, Warwick, RI said, "Trout fishing has been very good for customers fishing socked ponds with PowerBait working well for these newly released fish. The largemouth bass bite has been

excellent too at Gorton Pond and Little Pond in Warwick." "Willet Avenue Pond in Riverside has had twenty or so anglers fishing there since the restocking. All seen to be doing very well there," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence said, "Fishing at ponds restocked was outstanding this week." For licensing and stocking information in Rhode Island visit www. dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/index. php. For information on regulations, licenses and an interactive map on Massachusetts stocked waterways visit Freshwater fishing regulations | Mass.gov.

Tautog fishing improved this week with keepers to 25 inches being caught both in the lower Narragansett Bay and in the Providence River at India Point Park (a hot spot)," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle. Jeff Sullivan an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "The Bay warmed up this weekend and fish were being

caught. Things were sketchy last week but opened up nicely and will only get better as the water warms." "Some keepers were taken at the Day Marker at Rumstick Point with a slow bite at Ohio Ledge and at the Spindle," said John Littlefield from Archie's Bait & Tackle. "For the past week or two the bite has been very good at India Point Park, Providence," said Conner Glynn of the Tackle Box. "Fish are taking worms and green crabs both."

The tautog limit in Rhode Island now until May 31 is three fish/person/day, however, only one of the fish can be 21 inches or larger and there is a private angler limit of 10 fish per boat. Greg Vespe, RISAA executive director, said, "Most of the Bay has reached 49 degrees or warmer so the tog bite is beginning to spread throughout the Bay ... jigs seem to be working better than rigs as the fish remain shallow." Vespe fished the Crafty One Customs tautog tournament this weekend with RISAA member Dave Dube.



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