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FROM ABOVE: These images of the Amazon construction site in Johnston were captured by drones piloted by Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services, on May 15. For more information on the Warwick-based company, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newenglandaerialservices. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)

Drone images offer bird's eye view of the 'project on the hill'

By RORY SCHULER

The cranes stand at attention — sharp, pointed monoliths of “progress.”

The metal skeleton has taken shape, forming the profile of what promises to be the largest building ever constructed in Rhode Island.

Amazon has refused to give tours of the construction site looming on Johnston's horizon.

“We are in the very early stages of construction at this site,” said Caitlin McLaughlin, Amazon Public Relations New England. “There are no photos at this time. We would love to do a hard hat tour with you closer to the completion date which is scheduled for second half of 2023.”

In the meantime, the Johnston Sun Rise has agreed to publish aerial photography submissions, captured by a drone pilot, to give our readers a better sense of progress at the formerly wooded hilltop along Route 6, near its intersection with Interstate 295.

Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services (a Warwick-based Residential Real Estate Drone Service Provider), captured a series of breathtaking images from high above the construction site on May 15.

The loss of green hits you first — and then the overwhelming scale of the building.





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CLASSIC COVER: This is the Jon Pistacchio-designed cover for OLG's unique 58-page program/ad book for Sunday's 11th annual Our Lady of Grace Primavera that was paid for the by Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950.

Firefighters union provides program for Primavera

By **PETE FONTAINE**

The Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950 made what people called "a huge and extraordinary statement" to help honor one of their own — a.k.a. Mayor Joseph M. Polisena — who before his highly-successful run in the political arena wore many hats, including that of an EMT, for nearly 22 years with the JFD while also serving as a registered nurse.

For starters, officers of Local 1950 personally purchased a ticket for Sunday's 11th annual Our Lady of Grace Primavera, which was held for the first time in two years because of COVID-19.

Thus, because of his countless contributions to his native Johnston — as well as at the state level where he served as a senator and his unmatched record — Polisena was honored with the prestigious title of Grand Marshall for Sunday's Primavera that attracted a sellout crowd of 260 people to OLG's Fioretti Hall.

Moreover, as one of Local 1950's most generous acts in recent memory, the Johnston Association of Firefighters — as was well documented on the cover of a colorful, classic and glossy 58-page program — the union paid for printing of the advertising booklet.

As equally impressive was that Vice President Lt. Jon Pistacchio de-

signed the cover and page 2 that read, in part: "Congratulations Mayor Joseph M. Polisena" and featured the IAFF logo and officers beginning with President Keith Calci and included Pistacchio, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Pingitore and Executive Board Members Chairman John Jaspardo, Sal Martira, Pat Brockway, Don Roberts and Chris DelFino.

The program, which featured congratulatory messages to Polisena from cover to cover, was printed by The Hoskins Press of North Providence and as their advertisement read: "In loving memory of our mother and father Antonietta and Gerald Pepe and our sister Arlene 'Pepe' Kires" and a moving message that read "With All Our Love ... Gerald, Judy and Jimmy."

So, because printing of the glossy page program was paid for by Local 1950 — which has been rated time and again as the most active and giving group of firefighters in the state — profits from the record-setting Primavera will further help boost the event's profit that OLG uses to operate the always-active Johnston-based Roman Catholic Parish.

Polisena, who is also a registered nurse, is still a professor for the EMT program at CCRI as well as coordinator of the college's Training Center. He has served as Johnston's Mayor since 2007. His tenure will end this year.

johnstonsunrise.net

Primavera packs Fioretti Hall

Mayor honored as Grand Marshall

By PETE FONTAINE

Perhaps never before — not even in the 102-year-plus history of Johnston-based Our Lady of Grace Church — has Fioretti Hall been filled with as much admiration, love and respect as there was for Sunday's 11th Annual Primavera.

A record-setting crowd of 260-people sat at long tables, which were covered in white linens and adorned with live green plants, two loaves of freshly baked Italian bread, small packages of pizza chips and a bottle of red and white wine all amid a backdrop of Italian flags, to help honor the extraordinary event's 2022 Grand Marshall, a.k.a. Mayor Joseph M. Polisenena.

There was a colorful 58-page program filled with page-after-page of congratulatory and heart-warming messages for a mighty man — a living legend — who has a history of public service that began as a firefighter, continued as a registered nurse and includes serving in the state legislature and finally working hard as the tireless mayor to improve and expand the community he so truly loves.

Moreover, the Primavera — which many people referred to as a "phenomenal food fest" had four different courses that showcased 30 area restaurants mostly in the friendly confines of Johnston and nearly 60 different offerings from appetizers to main courses to delicious desserts.

In the middle of it all was Rev. Peter J. Gower, who has served as OLG's popular pastor for the last night years and Joe Andreozzi, one of the parish's proud parishioners and chairman who worked tirelessly the past five months to make Sunday's Primavera an event people will be talking about for months to come.

"Joe A. does it all for us!" Father Gower exclaimed. "He lined up countless raffle prizes, vendors, volunteers ... we are all proud to be part of Team OLG."

Which is why people told Father Gower "we all had a great time" at the long-awaited celebration which was forced to take a two-year hiatus because of COVID-19. "Our parish family enjoyed an after-



GENERATION GANG: It was a proud moment for Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisenena Sunday as he was honored as Grand Marshall of OLG's Primavera and is joined by family members Ted and Fran Duluk, his son Joseph Polisenena Jr. and his wife Samantha and grandson Joseph Michael Polisenena III. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

noon of great food, music and fellowship. The day sizzled with excitement as we were able to finally get together and celebrate and celebrate we did."

Mike Montecalvo, news anchor for WPRI-TV and Fox News, served as master of ceremonies and added what many concurred was "a touch of class" with his special stories and introductions of guest speakers like Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha, North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi and Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza.

"Today I'm Italian," Neronha, who is of Portuguese decent, mused. "When I was first elected (Attorney General) it was Mayor Polisenena who pointed me in the right direction. Congratulations Mayor ...

I know you're in your final term, but I know you are not retiring."

Lombardi, who spoke about his long friendship and many close community works with Polisenena, said it best while emphasizing: "Joe has always been passionate about Johnston."

To which Razza offered: "I'm truly honored and humbled to speak about Mayor Polisenena, the mayor of this great town we call home. As Chief of Police for the past two years, I've really gotten to see what an energetic, diligent and results driven individual the Mayor truly is. Mayor Polisenena is an individual who puts the needs of his residents and employees

PRIMAVERA - PAGE 15



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SERVICE RECOGNIZED: Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza (right) is joined by Deputy Chief Mark Vieira in honoring Captain Matthew Benson's retirement after 18 years of service. (Submitted photos)

Johnston Police Capt. Matthew Benson retires

Johnston Police Department Captain Matthew Benson has retired after more than 18 years of distinguished service to the town and its residents following his selection as Cumberland's new chief of police.

"Matt has been a constant in the department, he's always found new and better ways to do things, he's always put his best foot forward, and he's led with distinction, honor, and dedication," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza during a retirement ceremony held at the Johnston Senior Center. "I know that he will do very well as chief of Cumberland and I thank him for his years of dedication and service to not only the Johnston Police Department but to the community of Johnston. He's been a true asset and he will continue to be a true asset."

Capt. Benson served as the commander of Johnston's Administrative Division. There he was charged with the department's accreditation, budget and grant writing, training, policy development, and administrative functions, amongst others.

Prior to becoming a captain, Benson served as the uniform division watch commander, uniform division supervisor, and sergeant supervisor of operations and training. He holds a bachelor's in criminal justice and a master's in criminal justice from Roger Williams University, as well as a doctor of education degree from Johnson & Wales University. He has received numerous citations, awards, and recognition for excellence during his tenure.

In 2021, Benson was named Assessor of the Year by the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC), for assisting police departments throughout Rhode Island with accreditation related activities such as policy development, ways to prove compliance, file construction, and oversight of early intervention programs.

"Captain Benson, who also serves as a member of the RIPAC Commission, is the epitome of what the Commission stands for and expects of those tasked with guiding our members through a successful assessment as an assessor," said RIPAC Executive Director Christine Crocker, who nominated Benson for the award. "I know that without his guidance and support, many of our members would not have had a successful assessment."

During the retirement ceremony, Benson was presented with a plaque by Chief Razza, as well as tokens of appreciation from Detective James Seymore, president of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 307 – where Benson served as vice president.

"In the 21 years that I've been here now, there's nobody who has done more for the department than Matt," said Seymore. "He has put his heart and soul into this place and has done everything he can possibly do."

In remarks to attendees, Benson said his retirement was bittersweet, but that he was "thankful to be able to live my dream of being a police officer amongst some of the finest men and women this profession has to offer." He asked members of the department take care, support, and protect one another.

"I love you all for all that you have done for, and with, me over the past two decades. I've said many times, in this profession, we tend to spend more time with our co-workers than we do with our immediate family, and although we sometimes act with dysfunction, we are all still family at the end of the day," said Benson. "Keep backing each other up on the street and in life, keep remaining vigilant against challenging odds, no matter if the right way forward is the hardest, and keep breaking bread no matter what."



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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

HABITUAL SHOPLIFTING

At 5:45 P.M., May 1, Johnston Police officers responded to Providence Police Headquarters to take custody of Daniel L. Campos, of 737 Cranston St., Apt. 3, Providence, who had active warrants out of Johnston for Shoplifting-Felony and Shoplifting-Habitual Offender. Campos was transported back to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed and secured in a cell.

BANKING LAWS VIOLATION

Around 9:27 a.m., May 3, Johnston Police Officer Edward Gonzalez stopped a blue 2016 Toyota for speeding on Hartford Avenue. The driver was identified as Brandon Billian, of 75 Nantucket Drive, Mystic, Connecticut. Billian had an active arrest warrant out of Westerly Police Department for Violation of Banking Laws. Billian was taken into custody and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters for processing and was subsequently turned over to Westerly Police for further investigation. He was also issued a traffic summons for Speeding. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

ARREST WARRANT

Around 10:30 p.m., May 12, while working a fixed post at the Bel-Air Motor Inn, 2154 Hartford Ave., Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri observed a red Dodge Nitro exit the parking lot without an inspection sticker on the front windshield. The vehicle was detained in the area of 2100 Hartford Ave., and made contact with the driver, Dennis Horton. Santurri identified a passenger in the vehicle as Tiffany Wilding, of 2154 Hartford Ave., Apt. 6, Johnston. A check through DMV records indicated that the vehicle's registration was suspended. A subsequent check

through the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System showed that Wilding had an active arrest warrant out of Cranston Police Department.

Wilding was taken into custody, transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to Cranston Police. Horton was issued a Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal summons for Operation of Vehicle When Registration is Suspended and No Inspection Sticker.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Around 9 p.m., Johnston Police responded to 107 Reservoir Ave. to investigate a report of two men arguing in the roadway. Upon arrival, police spoke to an individual on the scene who told them Joseph J. Starnino, of 107 Reservoir Ave., Johnston, allegedly shined a laser through his windshield, was yelling at their vehicle while in the roadway, and punched the hood of his vehicle.

The victim told police Starnino shoved him as he exited his vehicle. Police spoke to passengers in the victim's car who corroborated the stories. Starnino was cuffed and placed in the back of a cruiser. He was transported to be processed, permitted to make a phone call and secured in a cell. He was charged with Simple Assault or Battery and Vandalism.

Starnino was arraigned by a Justice of the Peace and released on \$1,000 personal recognizance. He was given a Third District Court date of May 30.

RECKLESS DRIVING

Around 9 p.m., May 11, Johnston Police officers responded to the parking lot of Market Basket, 1300 Hartford Ave., to investigate reports of an ongoing disturbance.

After speaking to witnesses, Richard A. Clark III, of 96 Leading St., Johnston, was arrested and charged with Reckless Driving and Disorderly Conduct. Clark was transported to headquarters, processed and later released with a Third District Court summons.

Clark allegedly, according to witness statements included in the police incident report, "drove recklessly through the parking lot" at a high rate of speed, causing several pedestrians to jump out of the way and running over curbs before striking the rear bumper of another vehicle.

ARREST WARRANTS

At 8:42 a.m. on May 3, Cranston Police arrested William Jordan, 29, of 14 Paradise Lane, Johnston, on a Cranston Police Department A&A warrant for Violation of Family Court Restraining Order. The arrest was the result of William Jordan turning himself in at headquarters. Jordan was transported to Third District Court for arraignment.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

At 12:26 a.m. on May 3, Cranston Police arrested Emmanuel Ramos, 37, of 1229 Plainfield St., Apt. 123, Johnston, on charges of Domestic Disorderly Conduct. The arrest was the result of a disturbance at 28 Cedar St. Ramos awaited arraignment.

DRUG POSSESSION

At 11:01 a.m. on March 7, Cranston Police arrested Deon J. Pratt, 20, of 14 Black Berry Knoll Way, Apt. 2, Johnston on charges of Possession of Schedule II & Possession of Schedule IV as a result of a suspicious person call at 85 Briggs St. Pratt awaited arraignment as violator.

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'I see that force burning brightly in you'

JHS students inducted into National Honor Society

By PETE FONTAINE

From the time Emilia Ruggiero lit a candle until Tri-M vocalists Trinity Blondin, Melanie Capraro, Destinee Costa, Julie Droukas and Abigail Salas sang the recessional song, Johnston High School celebrated what Principal Dr. Donna Pennacchia called "One of my most favorite nights of the year!"

It was an evening filled with pomp and circumstance, special speeches and a host of academic achievements more commonly known as the JHS Chapter of the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

Proud parents — and in some cases grandparents and friends listened and watched a total of 61 students receive their induction into the prestigious National Honor Society as well as being honored for membership in the Rhode Island Honor Society.

"Membership of the (JHS) Chapter of the NHS has been earned by the effective demonstration of the four qualities held in high esteem by the Society," Ruggiero, who serves as faculty advisor, began. "We will soon light the candles that represent the four qualities — Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Service — held in high esteem by the NHS."

The middle candle, which she lighted, represents the torch which is the NHS symbol.

Then, one-by-one, department heads Dina Avila (World Languages), Lisa Fresolone (English), Ronald Lamoureux (Music) and Jason Achilli (Mathematics) who serve on the NHS Faculty Council, each lit candles and offered a brief but impressive delivery about their respective academic areas.

In the middle of the exciting evening was Glorianna Crichlow, a senior who served as president of the JHS NHS Chapter during the current school year.

"I have been so proud of each and every NHS member standing before me," Crichlow told an attentive audience. "It has been an honor to serve as president this year, watching these young people continue to make their community a better place. We spoke earlier about what the NHS torch means, and I see that force burning brightly in you."

Amid the thunderous sound of applause, she added: "I see such a burning passion that will continue into your futures. Each of you have shown such hard work and dedication and we thank you. We thank you for being the very definition of what honor is."

Crichlow's speech was what many people said was nothing less than "extraordinary as well as an example of the NHS members who tonight have been inducted into the National Honor Society."

She then emphasized: "I would also like to give a thank you to Mrs. Ruggiero, to who we owe many of our successes. She is the reason that this organization is what it is, with her constant dedication and planning. All of her successful outreaches and communication have allowed each of us to serve our community to our fullest potential."

Ruggiero later offered: "Members, may the positive attitude, strength and good will that you have demonstrated over the few years remain with you throughout your lives. You are a resilient group and have made everyone here tonight very proud. Congratulations!"

To which Dr. Bernard DiLullo, superintendent of Johnson Public Schools, offered: "We are all so proud of the students who were honored here tonight. These students are serious about their studies but also their interest in civic affairs and leadership opportunities. They fully deserve this recognition. It was pleasure to take part in such a special occasion and to be able to congratulate our students and their parents in person."

DiLullo and Assistant Superintendent Julie Zarrella helped present the prestigious NHS awards while Greg Russo, who is steeped with as much history in JHS from his days as a student to serving as Science Department chairman and faculty advisor, SADD and Student Council, had the honor of inducting 61 students into the RI Honor Society.

Likewise, three other students — namely NHS officers Emily Patenaude (Vice President), Mackenzie Hanna (Historian) and Nicholas Harrington (Parliamentarian) — also played a part in the night's success.

The same held true for juniors — President Talia Laflamme, Vice President Charles Curci, Historian Allison Benoit and Parliamentarian Jackson Troxell — who will lead the JHS NHS chapter in 2023.



HONORED INDUCTEES: From left to right, Jaylen Molina, Makayla Scuncio, Talia Laflamme, Joshua Philbrick, James Guilmette, Allison Benoit and Willson El Hage, are all newly inducted NHS members. (Photo courtesy Johnston High Student Council)

Service, character, scholar & citizenship

By Talia Laflamme
Special to the Sun Rise

Johnston Senior High School's National Honor Society induction ceremony took place on Thursday, May 5, to celebrate the hard work and dedication of students from the classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Being the first full ceremony since 2019, many were thrilled to bring the annual event back to its standard regimen. The ceremony serves as a way to recognize the members of the National Honor Society on their accomplishments in the past year. In order to become members, students had to maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average as well as complete twenty hours of community service. They also had to be enrolled in at least 2 honors courses, a part of two extracurricular activities, and have a leadership position or write about how they exude leader-

ship qualities.

Students walked into the ceremony to the music of certain members who also participate in the high school's band.

Emilia Ruggiero, the advisor of the society, spoke to congratulate the upcoming, current, and retiring participants. Members of the teacher committee also spoke about the pillars that the society strive to meet, those being scholarship, citizenship, leadership, character, and service. Before students started to make their way to the stage, the master of ceremony, as well as president of the National Honor Society, Glorianna Crichlow led the group in declaring the organization's membership pledge.

Soon enough, the class of 2022 students received their certificates of achievement followed by the class of 2023 and then 2024 after.

HONOR - PAGE 7



SUPER SIX: Among the boys who were inducted to the prestigious JHS National Honor Society last week are from left: Mohammed Abaherah, Joseph Vento (RIHS), Joseph Silvia, Joseph Thomas, Carlos Monteiro and Kasem Sasa. (Photos courtesy Emilia Ruggiero)

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HONORED: Rebecca Clements, Sophia Ribezzo, Janet Clements, Emily Iannuccilli and Kelly Dargy pause after the induction ceremony for a photograph.

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 The Annual meeting of the members of Highland Memorial Park is rescheduled for Tuesday May 24, 2022 in the renovated chapel at 5:00pm for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting.
 Joseph R. Swift
 President

Watch Your MOUTH
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.
TOOTH ENAMEL EROSION
 Did you know that tooth enamel is the hardest tissue in the body? Enamel is the thin, outer coating on your teeth, which helps protect them from daily use, bacteria, and chemicals. However, as tough as enamel is, it can still erode, chip, and crack. Enamel is not made from living cells, so it cannot regenerate itself once it's damaged. Enamel erosion occurs when a person consumes too many acidic foods and drinks or eats starchy foods that convert to acids after consumption. The best ways to protect enamel is to limit acidic drinks, foods, and starches; rinse your mouth with plain water after eating or drinking acidic or starchy foods; and receive regular cleanings from a dental professional.
 Has tooth enamel erosion taken a toll on your teeth, causing them to be yellowed and overly sensitive? If you're not happy with your smile, we hope you won't be shy about examining the many options now available for turning it into one you'll be proud to show. Our interest in you extends beyond just fixing your teeth—we want you to feel totally unselfconscious about your mouth so that you will have every reason to break into a smile. Call DENTAL ARTS GROUP for an appointment to discuss your particular dental needs at 401-521-3661, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. P.S. Saliva helps protect enamel by coating teeth in a healthy layer of calcium and minerals.
 www.dentalartsgroupri.com

Honor
 (Continued from page 1)

Before bringing the ceremony to a close, Ruggiero announced those who served their time as officers in the past year for the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society in which they were able to stand and receive the crowd's applause. Following this, the current senior officers were able to pass down their roles to the upcoming students through the act of passing candles to their successors as they made their way to the seats that the seniors had sat in.



LINKED LEADERS: The 2023 officers of the Johnston High Chapter of the National Honor Society will be under the direction of Parliamentarian Jackson Troxell, Historian Allison Benoit, Vice President Charles Curci and President Allison Benoit who took their oaths during last week's impressive induction ceremony.

Crichlow then gave a speech about what the group had accomplished in the past year which included park clean-ups, car drives for charity, giving clothes to families in need, along with singing Christmas carols on tape and sending them to local nursing homes due to the fact they couldn't visit in person because of pandemic protocols. Crichlow also spoke about how the group met the pillars of what it means to be a member and how they all match to the definition of honor. As the ceremony concluded, students exited to a recessional song performed by members from the school's chorus and met their proud families in the hallway where refreshments were available.

NATIONAL NICHE:
 Glorianna Crichlow, president of the JHS National Honor Society, is joined by Assistant Supt. Julie Zarrella, Advisor Emilia Ruggiero and Supt. Dr. Bernard DiLullo at last week's National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



Editor's Note: Talia Laflamme is the newly inducted National Honor Society President. The Johnston Sun Rise strives to regularly publish stories submitted by members of the Johnston High School Student Council.

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Breeze eyes Green as operations base

By JOHN HOWELL

This was like few other airport announcements, because it wasn't billed as an announcement.

The cameras and reporters were there, but a lineup of officials to welcome the man the media was there to hear was missing Friday.

"David's over there," said Ifikhar Ahmad, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Corporation, pointing to a tall, white hair man in a rumpled gray suit leaning on a credenza sipping black coffee from a paper cup.

David Neeleman, founder of JetBlue who sold the company and went on to start Breeze Airways appeared in no rush to get things started. The "news" that the airline would commence non-stop service to five destinations starting this and next month had been announced in March.

But now the founder and president of the airlines was here in person.

Neeleman was open to chitchat and answering questions one on one and later when facing the cameras.

Why Rhode Island? What brought Breeze here?

Having lived in Connecticut (he and his wife raised their 10 children in the Nutmeg State) he said he likes this part of the country. Later he delved into the market numbers and the opportunities, but first he likes Rhode Island.

"I love everything (about New England) but the Patriots," Neeleman told reporters. There were laughs and nods of understanding. Neeleman's nephew, Zack Wilson, was drafted No. 2 in 2021 by the New York Jets.

By the time the interview was over, Neeleman confirmed reports the airline would likely pick Green as one of six operation bases across the country. That would be a first in the 91-year history of the airport.

Ahmad said no airline has used Rhode Island as a base of operation. Needleman was cautious not to interchange base of operations and hub. As a base of operation, planes would be stationed here — probably starting with four — meaning they would "sleep here" overnight and be ready first thing in the morning. It could also mean a dramatic increase in daily flights from Green — as much as 20 — and non-stop service to new destinations.

Neeleman spoke without notes about the possibility of delays in scheduled new service including Green's first non-stop flight to Los Angeles. He said 80 pilots have completed training and the planes are ready and waiting, but that staff shortages and absences caused by illnesses has left the FAA with only one inspector capable of signing off on the planes.

He couldn't say how long certification could take, "it is in the FAA's hands," he said. The airline has delayed until June non-stop service to Jacksonville that was to have started this month, due to a shortage of planes.

Although he didn't disclose bookings to LAX, Neeleman is encouraged that the 36 first class seats on the inaugural flight were rapidly snapped up. He said the airline would give the service six months to a year to develop a market. Studies show there's demand for the non-stop service to Los Angeles, Ahmad said. He added that 50 percent of passengers flying to Los Angeles out of Boston are driving past Green to get to Boston.

Neeleman couldn't imagine why non-stop to LAX



FLYING'S A BREEZE: Breeze Airways considers making Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport one of its operation bases. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

wouldn't be a success, "when you get people there twice as fast and at half the cost."

Ahmad said RIAC was talking with Neeleman when he was exploring the viability of creating the airline in early 2020, only at that time it was going to be named "Moxy."

The airline's name was changed to "Breeze" when it was discovered the proposed name conflicted with an existing hotel chain. Despite the name switch, the strategy stayed the same — an airline offering low cost point-to-point fares and adjusting to demand.

Neeleman looks to keep costs down, a point he illustrated when an unnamed airport courting the airline unrolled a \$40 million addition to accommodate them. Neeleman was not interested realizing that the airport was looking to Breeze to pay the tab through its lease.

Ahmad said Green has ample space for Breeze. Ahmad said that Green's cost per passenger, which is calculated by dividing airline costs at Green by the number of enplanements (act or process of boarding an aircraft) is between \$6.50 and \$7 — where that number is about four times that at Boston. It's what Neeleman is looking for.

According to airline industry publications, Neeleman aims to keep costs down with efficient operations such as customer apps that reduce the need for representatives and leasing 118-seat Embraer E195 jets from Azul (a Brazilian airline Neeleman founded) as well as 108-seat E190s from Nordic Aviation Capital, giving the fledgling airline a fleet of 18 planes. Leasing the aircraft avoided delays in delivery without incurring debt. Also in 2020 he agreed to purchase 60 new Airbus A220-300 jets; each holds 160 passengers.

Neeleman offered a mini course in the economics

of fuel costs. Although the per barrel cost of oil has gone up in proportionally small increments, he said the refined fuel cost has gone from \$20 to \$70 a barrel, forcing the airlines to bump up fares. He said the airlines have bumped fares to cover the cost.

"It's all just math," he said.

The numbers at Green are soaring.

In the midst of the pandemic, Ahmad forecast it could take 10 years before 2019 levels of traffic — about 4 million enplaning and arriving passengers — returned.

He said the airport had seven airlines offering non-stop service to 17 destinations in 2016. Today 11 airlines are providing non-stop service to 33 destinations.

Passenger growth has been on a steady dramatic climb. In February 2022, 208,747 passengers — arrivals and departures — were recorded, a 158 percent increase from February 2021, and 79 percent of the total for February 2019. March traffic totaled 285,155, a 112 percent increase from 2021 and 83 percent of 2019 traffic.

Ahmad sees opportunity for additional growth.

"This is not the time to take the foot off the gas," he said.

By this point the room had cleared of cameras and reporters. Neeleman was still there. He was seated with airport and Breeze staff taking a lunch break with an innovator in the airline industry.

Breeze Airways began flying from Rhode Island in the summer of 2021 and currently offers three non-stop destinations from PVD, including service to Charleston, SC (CHS), Norfolk, VA (ORF) and Pittsburgh, PA (PIT).

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, May 26th, 2022 at 6:30 PM Johnston Senior Center 1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on May 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

New Business
File 2022-10 – Petition of David & Ashley Cournoyer, Applicant for 23 Mulberry Circle, AP 48 Lot 131, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance Section 340 for a proposed 20x24 Addition.

File 2022-11 – Petition of William Vigeant Revocable Trust of 2019, Applicant for 25 Armento Street, AP 35 Lot 77, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a Use Variance Section 340 for a proposed Landscaping Business and Storage.

File 2021-07 – Justice Realty, LLC, Applicant seeks to vest extra time to start construction on a variance

granted last year.

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

5/12, 5/19, 5/26/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday June 7th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
 Johnston Senior Center
 1291 Hartford Ave.
 Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

PB 22-21 – Balletto Condominiums – Public Meeting on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed 13 residential unit Major Land Development. Public Hearing was closed on May 3rd, 2022. Located at 280-282 Simmonsville Avenue AP 25 Lot 5 - Zoned: Planned Development. Applicant: Gary Balletto.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

PB 22-17 - Flash Car Wash – Pub-

lic Hearing on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed car wash Major Land Development. Located at 1705 Hartford Avenue AP 53/80 Lots 281 & 282. Zoned B-2. Applicant: VP Development.

PB 22-18 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council and Master Plan Review on the request for a Zone Change from R-40 to Planned District located at 198 Shun Pike AP 33 Lot 63. Applicant: Trinity Properties of RI, LLC.

PB 22-26 – Seasons Corner Market – Public Hearing on a Site Plan Review located at 521 & 525 Killingly Street AP 13 Lots 397 & formerly 485 – Zoned B-2. Applicant: Colbea Enterprises, LLC.

PB 22-27 – 15 Industrial Lane – Public Meeting on a Concept Plan of a Major Land Development for a proposed indoor storage facility for business vehicles and equipment. Located at 15 Industrial Lane AP 53 Lot 208. Zoned I. Applicant: Joseph Parrillo.

PB 22- 28 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council and Master Plan Review on the request for a Zone Change from B-3 to B-2 located on Hartford Avenue AP 54 Lot 97. Applicant: Hartford Realty Holdings, LLC.

PB 22-29 – Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request of relinquishment of control of the George C. Calef School. Located at 7 Waveland Street AP 15 Lot 70.

PB 22-31 – Proposed DPW Building – Public Meeting on a Master Plan for the development of a storage garage located at 100 Irons Avenue AP 34 Lot 530. Zoned I. Applicant: Town of Johnston.

PB 22-32 – Proposed Fire Department Building – Public Meeting on a Master Plan for the development of a storage garage located at 1520 Atwood Avenue AP 53 Lot 178. Zoned B-2. Applicant: Town of Johnston.

PB 22-33 – Proposed Police Department Building – Public Meeting on a Master Plan for the development of a storage garage located at 1651 Atwood Avenue AP 47 Lot 9. Zoned R-20. Applicant: Town of Johnston.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

• The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.
 • Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.
 • Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

5/19, 5/26, 6/2/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

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

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Highway Safety Improvements to Hartford Avenue (Route 6) PAPA No. 21-73. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning May 19th, 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, June 9th, 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

Opinion

EDITORIAL

We should learn from Ruby's example

The passing of State Police K9 Ruby is indeed something to mourn.

Ruby's story, inspirational enough to land her national acclaim and a Netflix movie that came out this past March, is one of those rare examples of a heart-warming story with no ulterior or cynical angle. This dog, who was about to be given up on and euthanized, would go on to become a dutiful officer and actually directly save a teenager's life — the son of the very same woman who had tried to keep her from being euthanized in the first place. You just can't make it up, and it rightfully tugs at the heartstrings to see that her story has ended.

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

But the lessons we can and should learn from her story do not have to end with Ruby's passing. State

Police Col. Darnell Weaver said it best himself in a statement following the announcement of the somber news.

"She became a symbol of hope for all shelter dogs, showing the world what a shelter dog can do when just given love and the chance to shine."

That symbol does not need to apply only to a lovable pup with a tearjerking story. Given the right conditions, support and motivation, we would posit that humanity would be much better off if more people were given "love and the chance to shine."

It is easy for us to rally support behind homeless dogs finding homes and a purpose, but you find far more disagreement and cynicism when discussing problems associated with homeless human beings, and how the blight of homelessness should be dealt with is discussed often with a backdrop of pity and judgment rather than one of optimism and potential.

The same can be said for a slew of issues regarding our most vulnerable fellow people: the handicapped, the mentally ill and victims of substance abuse, those experiencing abject poverty, and on and on. When we see a defenseless and helpless animal, our brains naturally slide towards empathy and a desire to help. When we see the same traits in a human, a natural tendency is to wonder where they went wrong, or how cumbersome and expensive and difficult it is to accommodate those individuals into our "normal" society.

This is a national shame — one that is not the fault of any one individual or group, but at the same time it is a responsibility to be borne by all of us as a collective society. We must be judged not by how successful some of us can become, but by how effectively we help out those who languish in the margins of society, and how meaningful our efforts are to ensure they are not tossed aside and forgotten, like Ruby almost was.

Everyone can do their own small part to make this change, and if enough people do, we can celebrate more stories like Ruby's in our own neighborhoods, among our own fellow human beings.



COL. DARNELL WEAVER BECOMES SUPERINTENDENT OF THE RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE

GUEST OP

How will our children grade us?

By ANDREW SCHIFF

As we approach the end of the school year, students from elementary to high school are preparing for final exams. They are hoping for high marks. The best students like to show how much they've learned.

What if we asked children to grade us, the adults, on how we're meeting their basic needs?

One in four households with children in Rhode Island is food insecure, meaning they struggle to afford adequate food. To feed their children, thousands of parents seek food assistance each month at food pantries that are member agencies of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

If it were not for COVID-19 relief measures passed by Congress, the prevalence of food insecurity would be even higher. Government programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT), National School Lunch and Breakfast, and the Child Tax Credit provided critical aid that prevented widespread hunger.

The question is how much have

we learned in the past two years? Let's see:

Beginning in 2020, SNAP benefits were increased through an emergency allotment that gave families an extra \$95 per month. This modest increase is helping families keep up with the rapidly rising cost of food, but it goes away when the health emergency ends. Grade: C-

Pandemic-EBT provides extra benefits for families to purchase food when schools are closed for summer vacation and their children miss out on school breakfast and lunch. During the summer of 2021, the monthly P-EBT benefit was \$187.50 per child in Rhode Island. This critical help will not be continued after this summer. Grade: C-

School lunch and breakfast have been free for all students since the outbreak of COVID-19. Even though we realize the importance of good nutrition for children's health and learning, the universal free school meals program terminates with the end of this school year. Grade: D

Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit to give families an extra \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 per child

under age six). The program significantly reduced child hunger and poverty. And yet, we did not have the political will to continue the policy into 2023. Grade: F

The good news is that we have a chance to improve our grades.

In September, the White House will host a Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. This is an opportunity to advocate for SNAP benefit levels to match the real cost of food and for P-EBT benefits to become a regular part of every summer.

In Rhode Island, we can follow the example of Maine and California and make school meals free for all students. And we can urge our Congressional Delegation to work with their colleagues to reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit for low-income families.

No child should go hungry in Rhode Island and no child needs to. This is one problem that we know how to solve. It's up to us, the adults, to do better.

Editor's Note: Andrew Schiff is CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

MEANWHILE IN PAWTUCKET, INFLATION CAUSING DEFLATION



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WICKED WARNING:

Members of the SADD (Students Against Dangerous Decisions) Chapter at Johnston High School created this scene inside the main lobby as a warning for the upcoming prom season and reinforcing that ageless adage “Do Not Drive and Drink” – anytime! SADD is led by President and Faculty Advisor Greg Russo. (Sun Rise photo by Pete fontaine)

“There’s not enough certified foreign language teachers in RI”

Cost, staffing has some Ocean State school committees concerned after proposed RIDE grad requirements

By ALEX MALM

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education is set to vote on a proposal soon from the Rhode Island Department of Education to change graduation requirements starting with the class of 2027.

The Warwick School Committee on Tuesday voted on a resolution that would ask the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to “defer any action on the proposed High School graduation requirements until the Department reports to them on the costs to LEAs of its implementation.”

Vice Chair David Testa asked that the resolution be put on the agenda. He said they got language from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, which provided language that school committees could use if they decided to put a resolution forward.

“We’re concerned about additional costs, and we’re concerned if any of these things are going to be inte-

grated into the basic education plan,” said Testa.

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

Currently students aren’t required to take any modern language classes in order to graduate.

“If you’re going to require that then you’re going to need language teachers,” said Testa.

Warwick Superintendent Lynn Dambruch previously told the Beacon “there’s not enough certified foreign language teachers in Rhode Island.”

Cranston Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse said that she is also concerned with staffing.

“We’re having great difficulty finding staff in the area,” said Nota-Masse.

School Committee Chair Daniel Wall said Cranston’s school committee is not planning on developing a resolution like Warwick.

In response to the concerns over foreign language staff in the state Victor Morente, a spokesperson for RIDE said via an email in March “We hear that concern and we are actively working with our higher education institutions and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to address the issue.”

“It’s deeply important that we find a solution that prepares our students to go to college if they choose to,

and both Rhode Island College and University of RI require that incoming students have credits in world language,” said Morente. “We must have a conversation about the impact this is having on our students educational opportunities available to them after high school, especially for economically disadvantaged students and students of color.”

According to a presentation provided by Warwick Assistant Superintendent Bill McCaffrey, the proposed requirements would require 20 credits in the following areas:

- 4 credits in ELA
- 4 credits in mathematics, including Algebra I, II, and Geometry
- 3 credits in science, including two lab courses
- 3 credits in history/Social Studies
- 2 credits in Modern World Language (same language)
- 1 additional college preparatory credit
- 3 credits in art, computer science, PE/Health

Aside from the lack of staffing for foreign language another area of concern that was pointed out by McCaffrey is that it “affords little time for planning, staffing, supplies, and facilities needed.”

In a statement ahead of the School Committee meeting Darlene Netcoh said that she is in full support of the resolution.

“While the new curricula that the General Assembly mandated in 2021 are valuable, RIDE’s latest schemes will result in yet more unfunded mandates and demonstrate a disregard for the harsh fiscal realities that public schools face,” said Netcoh. “Other school committees should follow the lead of the WSC, whose request of a fiscal impact statement from RIDE is very wise, and if RIDE desires LEAs to implement its proposals, then RIDE should provide the funding.”

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– Thank you

Donald & Ella Harter

10 YEARS ~ 15 YEARS

In Loving Memory of Mom & Dad

Those we love don't go away; They walk beside us every day;
 Unseen, unheard but always near; Still loved, still missed but very dear.

WITH LOVE FROM
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Working for the earth

The Bridge at Cherry Hill Assisted Living Facility in Johnston joined forces with the Johnston Police Department to celebrate Earth Day last weekend at Johnston War Memorial Park. Locals gathered to clean up the area including the World War Monument as well as the grandstand surrounding the baseball fields.

In addition to the pancake breakfast, officials from the Bridge at Cherry Hill participated in their annual Earth Day cleanup inside Johnston War Memorial Park.



EARTH DAY: Top right, Deanna Lavendier, Rick Bigelli, Maryann Grace and Rhonda Simmons help clean up Johnston to celebrate Earth Day. Top left, Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza visited the clean up efforts. He posed for a photo with Julius Kolawole, Executive Director of The African Alliance. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Highland Memorial Park Cemetery

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SPECIALS

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Highland Memorial Park Cemetery

Memorial Day Weekend Schedule

Friday May 27 thru Monday May 30

from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

APPOINTMENTS ONLY

**One Rhode Island Ave
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401-231-9120**



FOR MORE INFO: The Amazon construction project in Johnston is visible from nearly every angle approaching town. For more photos, visit New England Aerial Services' website at www.newenglandaerialservices.com. Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newenglandaerialservices. For a full gallery of more than a dozen aerial images from the Johnston Amazon construction site, go to the Johnston Sun Rise's website, www.Johnstonsunrise.net. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)



Arts & Crafts FESTIVAL

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BIRD'S EYE: These images of the Amazon construction site in Johnston were captured by drones piloted by Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services, on May 15. For more information on the Warwick-based company, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newenglandaerialservices. For more aerial photos from the Amazon site, go to www.johnstonsunrise.net. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)

■ **Amazon**
(Continued from page 1)

Amazon has been erecting its six-story retail distribution facility. The building's ground floor will ultimately cover approximately 823,522 square feet, and the facility will eventually cover a total area of approximately 3,864,972 square feet.

Critics of the project sounded alarm bells over the inevitable loss of wildlife habitat in town. Project proponents, however, welcomed an influx of jobs (both construction jobs before opening, and warehouse jobs after) and an injection of tax payments.

Only time will tell if the financial benefits outweigh the environmental detriments.

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RI State Police announce death of K-9 Ruby

By RORY SCHULER

She was a hero, a movie star and a mutt. Ruby lived a full life and saved the lives of others. The Rhode Island State Police have announced the passing of K-9 Ruby, age 11 1/2 years.

She was euthanized on Friday, May 13 "following a sudden, acute, and untreatable illness," according to a RISP press release.

"Today the Rhode Island State Police family is mourning the death of K-9 Ruby," said Colonel Darnell S. Weaver, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and Director of the Department of Public Safety. "Her partnership with Corporal O'Neil was a special one and their search and rescue work in our K-9 Unit was a great service to the Rhode Islanders who have needed their help. Her award-winning rescue inspired us and we are grateful for her years of service."

K-9 Ruby was handled by Rhode Island State Police Corporal Daniel O'Neil, and worked out of the Scituate State Police barracks. The partners served together since 2011.

"Our condolences go out to Rhode Island State Police K-9 Ruby, who served the state with distinction 11 years," the Johnston Police said in a post on the department's Facebook page. "Our thoughts go out to the RISP, Corporal O'Neil, and his family."

Ruby was a mixed-breed dog — part Australian Shepard, part Border Collie — adopted from the Rhode Island SPCA and became one of the Ocean State's first shelter dogs to train and serve with the Rhode Island State Police, according to the press release.

During her career, she and O'Neil participated in numerous search and rescue missions as part of the K-9 Unit. O'Neil and Ruby also volunteered to take part in the Community, Diversity and Equity Unit, traveling to schools and local events.

"K-9 Ruby dedicated her life to serve the citizens of Rhode Island and make a positive impact on every person she ever interacted with," Weaver said. "She became a symbol of hope for all shelter dogs, showing the world what a shelter dog can do when just given love and the chance to shine. She had a full, happy, and wonderful life, not only as a trooper, but as part of a loving family. She worked right until the end and never gave up doing what she loved most — making people smile."

According to RISP, in Glocester in late 2017 Ruby "successfully located a lost and distressed teenager who was the son of a shelter volunteer who had cared for her as a puppy."

"As a result of this rescue, Ruby was named American Humane Hero Dog Search and Rescue Dog of the Year in 2018," State Police said in the press release. "Her story was made into the 2022 Netflix move, 'Rescued by Ruby.'"

She also helped in recovery efforts following the most recent Newport cliff collapse.

In 2020, Ruby and O'Neil were injured in a crash in Warwick after a vehicle struck their cruiser from behind while it was pulled off to this side of Interstate 95 north for a traffic stop.

"Ruby lived with Corporal O'Neil and his family," according to RISP. "She will be honored privately."

RISP also posted a remembrance on their Facebook page:

"We're saddened to announce the passing of K-9 Ruby following a sudden, acute, and untreatable illness. Ruby was rescued from the RISPCA and served admirably for 11 years. Please keep Corporal O'Neil, his family, and the entire K-9 family in your thoughts."

To conclude the agency's statements on the loss of Ruby, State Police noted Corporal O'Neil is not available for interviews.

"We ask that member of the media respect the O'Neil family's privacy at this time," they requested of outlets covering the story.



DEVOTED DOG: The Ocean State is mourning the loss of Rhode Island State Police K-9 Officer Ruby, who has died after a short, acute illness. (Photos courtesy RISP)



MOVIE STAR MUTT: At left, Ruby's story was told in the Netflix film "Rescued by Ruby" released earlier this year. At right, Ruby and her handler Corporal Daniel O'Neil worked out of the Scituate State Police barracks, and served together since 2011. They recently visited Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts.

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TERRIFIC TOAST: These proud OLG parishioners were among the 260 people who enjoyed a variety of fantastic food, music and fun at Sunday's 11th annual Primavera. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

PRIMAVERA STARS:

Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena, who was honored Sunday as Grand Marshall of OLG's 11th annual Primavera, is joined by Rev. Peter J. Cower and Channel 12 New Anchor Mike Montecalvo who served as emcee. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



GRAND GUESTS: At right, Robert V. Russo (center), president of the Johnston Town Council, joins RI Attorney General Peter Neronha and former Johnston Police Chief Richard S. Tamburini during Sunday's OLG Primavera.

Primavera
(Continued from page 3)

of Johnston above everything else, except maybe his grandson Joseph Michael Polisena III. The mayor is a no-nonsense, roll-up-your-selves type of guy who leads from the front and doesn't take 'no' for an answer."

Razza, in closing, said: "I'd also like to congratulate his family and thank them for sharing him with us, the people of Johnston. But most of all, I'd like to humbly thank him for being our mayor."

The speaking program also included Montecalvo requesting Joseph Polisena Jr. come to the podium and tell what it was like to be the mayor's son.

"He's a real authentic guy who tells it like it is!" Joe Jr. offered. "Everything he's touched, he's made it better." Then he closed, with sincerity and emotions ringing in his voice: "I'm proud to have you as my father!"

Thus, Mayor Polisena — as he sat beside his wonderful wife Lucy — wore a wide smile on his face while also cherishing what he earlier called "a truly great honor" that had been bestowed upon him for his contributions to the Town of Johnston and its residents.



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By JENNIFER COATES

It's finally spring! Even though we get some chilly days from time to time, there are finally flowers, and sunshine, and chirping birds, and more hours of daylight . . . AND, there is also mud, and grass stains, and piles of dirty, sweaty clothes. No doubt about it, with warm weather comes more time spent outside, and with more time spent outside comes more LAUNDRY! Spring sports and spring excursions and spring holidays all equal more need (and less time) for those unavoidable chores – like doing the wash!

Why battle the laundry this spring when you have the able and ready hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry? Jain's Laundry is a busy and convenient Laundromat located right off Route 44 in Johnston. For an incredible .69 per pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day - at this user-friendly, clean and efficient Laundromat.

Not only is this an amazing time-saving service, but this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by the end of baseball practice – all for \$6.90. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for less than \$11.00! In the age of rising inflation, it is nice to know that Jain's Laundry has made such a necessary chore so affordable.

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". If you are short quarters, the Jain's have got you covered. A change



With all the stresses on your time this spring, rely on the dependable and time-saving help of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry. Let her lighten your load at this busy time of year.

machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill is available here.

There are also large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per load compared to \$2.50 in most other places. The laundromat boasts state-of-the-art dryers which are incredibly efficient, rotating both clockwise and counter-clockwise to prevent that annoying bunching and twisting that make drying uneven in conventional dryers. Such a bang for your hard-earned buck.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff

here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is always someone there to keep an eye on your clothes or help you as needed.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza. It is handicap accessible, and open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the services that are available, call 401-231-7019.

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Sports



WELCOME HOME: Members of the Johnston baseball team wait to celebrate a home run from senior Jeremy Urena last week against West Warwick. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

JHS students, faculty to face off in fun-filled battle

By PETE FONTAINE

If you'd like to take in a new, exciting unique Johnston High School event, plan on being at Mayor Joseph M. Polisenia Stadium next Wednesday night beginning at 5:30 when the always-active Student Council adds yet another chapter to the Panthers tradition-rich history book.

This one will be named "Spring Battle of the Teachers vs. Students" and feature a total of five teams that will compete in such fun-filled events as the ageless Tug of War, Over-and-Under, One-Mile Relay, Sack Race, Bucket Brigade and more.

According to senior Janet Clements, the JHS Student Council is coordinating the event and hopes to raise some necessary revenue by charging \$5 per ticket.

"The kids wanted to do something special," explained Greg Russo, who chairs Johnston High's Science Department serves as faculty advisor for the Student Council as well as SADD (Students against Dangerous Decisions). "We've been holding our popular Battle of the Classes every October for years, but this will be the first time we've featured teachers in the actual competition."

All of which, as the popular and long-time JHS faculty member noted, "Has created quite the buzz here on Cherry Hill."

Four student teams will represent JHS' senior, junior, sophomore and freshmen classes while a total of 18 teachers – nine men and as many women – have signed on to represent the faculty squad.

The "Girls' Team" will include Chrissy Young, Brianna Cardillo, Vanessa Faiola, Lauren Fagundes, Ashley Deleo, Emilia Rugeiro, Isabelle Russo, Janet Martel and Lisa Frelstone.

Thus, the "Boys Squad" will feature Mike Harwood, Lou Cotoia, Mike Iafraite, Ed Saravo, Matt Nearney, David Keith, Scott Leonard, Acciaro and Justin Pimental into the mix.

There's no reserved seats and parking of course, will be free for people to take in yet another chapter of Panther Pride next Wednesday night (May 25) beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Panthers on roll as playoffs loom

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston baseball team has been one of the hottest clubs in Division II this spring and sat in sec-

ond place with a 11-2 record earlier this week.

After dropping its second game of the year in a 17-8 loss to Chariho, the Panthers would turn around

and rattle off 10-straight wins. The Panthers' streak came to an end on Monday when they lost to Tiverton 9-6, however, they still hung on to

● PANTHERS - PAGE 18

Johnston/East/NP lacrosse co-op remains in playoff hunt

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Cranston East/Johnston/North Providence boys lacrosse co-op traveled to East Providence last week and picked up a 13-11 win in a pivotal late-season matchup against the Townies.

The two clubs were tied 9-9 with four minutes remaining in regulation, but the Bolts would get three unanswered goals in less than two minutes to grab the late 12-9 lead. The Bolts would hold on in the final two minutes to close out the victory.

James Dufault led the way with a whopping eight goals scored against East Providence, while Robson Pinto added two. D'Qwon Foster, Antonello Lucchetti and Jayden Chagnon all scored one each. Dufault and

● LAX - PAGE 19



GETTING THE WIN: Johnston/East/NP's James Dufault works his way around the cage against East Providence last week. Dufault led the team with eight goals scored. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

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PICK OFF: Johnston first baseman Joseph Silvia attempts to pick off a runner.

■ **Panthers**
 (Continued from page 17)

second place in the crowded DII standings.

"We never really looked at the games ahead, we took them one game at a time. We made sure that anytime we made a mistake that we covered it, we made sure everyone was on the same page and they really grew as a team. It's the little things too, they are doing all of the little things which is what we emphasize," said Johnston coach Joe Acciardo.

"After we lost to Chariho, we talked about it and felt that we should have won that game but our bats just didn't come alive. Since then, we have been working hard and playing as a team. We have a bunch of (seniors), it's our last year and we want to win a championship. Every game that we play, we play like we want to win the whole thing," added senior Jeremy Urena.

Urena has been a force on both

the mound and at the plate for Johnston this season. Urena is currently leading the team in batting average, home runs, runs scored and on base percentage. He is also leading the team in ERA on the mound.

"Jeremy has made a big impact. Not only does he have the velocity but he is very consistent with his command. There are never wild pitches, pitches over to the fence, pitches in the dirt, he's always in or around the strike zone. He's got a good variety of pitches, uses his offspeed stuff well. He's the whole package," Acciardo said.

Other key pieces include Derek Salvatore and Joe Vento.

"Derek has also done a great job behind (Urena) and has also played well at shortstop. He's got some good offspeed stuff and keeps the batters off balance as well. Another leader is Joe Vento who has been hitting the ball well," said Acciardo.

Since the early loss to Chariho, the Johnston bats have taken off, averaging nearly seven runs per contest. Run support has been key

for Urena on the bump as well.

"I pitch better when I know that I can give up one or two runs and still be up. It gives me confidence on the mound," Urena said.

The Panthers will take on perhaps their toughest stretch of the season to close the regular slate, which includes two games against first-place Westerly. Acciardo hopes that the loss to Tiverton will help the team refocus as it heads into the postseason.

"Maybe it was a bump that we needed, maybe it was a wake up call," said Acciardo. "When you get into the playoffs you are facing the better teams. This is going to give us a preview of what we're going to see. We're going to treat (the upcoming Westerly game) like any other game, but we're also going to treat it like the championship because we may see them again (in the playoffs)."

Urena added: "We have to play every game like it's our last. We're excited to face (Westerly), it should be a good game."



ON THE HILL: Johnston pitcher Aidan McGarry delivers a pitch.



MIDDIE: East midfielder Kale Benton takes the ball up the field.

Lax

(Continued from page 17)

Kale Benton each recorded two assists in the win while Lucchetti and Orion Alexioff added one each.

Goalie Dante Peredes-Martinez finished with 11 saves in the cage.

The Bolts have a relatively inexperienced roster this spring, with many of the players coming from other sports to try lacrosse. They have learned the game quickly and have quietly inched their way into the Division IV playoff picture in the final week of regular season action.

"We have no lacrosse experience on

this team, they've learned it all this year. It's a credit to them, they're 5-5 this year which is huge. They want to learn the sport, it's the dedication. The coaches teach them the basics and they want to learn them," said East/Johnston/NP assistant coach Matt Davis.

The Bolts entered this week with their final two matchups to be played, and faced Scituate on Monday.

With just Tiverton later this week, the Bolts are looking to finish the regular season on a high note and be prepared for the upcoming postseason.

"These kids are excited to win. If we make the playoffs, we make the playoffs. They're just excited to be playing and to learn the sport. We should make the playoffs," said Davis.



IN THE ZONE: Robson Pinto takes the ball into the EP zone last week.

Scituate

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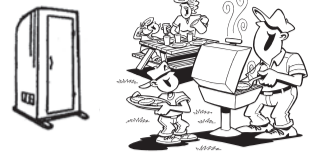
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AnglerCatch is a good catch for anglers

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Ever wonder how many striped bass you caught last June, or when the summer flounder (fluke) bite kicked in for you the past few years.

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Now you can get your historical fishing information (like a log book) complete with photos of the fish you caught. You can also find out tides, wind, and sea conditions anywhere through buoy weather with your smartphone or tablet in one simple app called AnglerCatch.

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Download the AnglerCatch app for free at your favorite app store. The company that designed the software, Harbor Light Software, has an outstanding help line if you should run into any difficulties. All of this is free as AnglerCatch is a pilot project developed by the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA), DEM, and Harbor Light Software. Visit Marine Reporting Software | anglercatch (harborlightsoftware.com).

Nantucket Shoals fluke seminar

Greg Vespe, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA), said, "When it comes to fabled fluke grounds, no location has garnered more attention recently than Nantucket Shoals. Deep water, strong currents and long steam ride are the norm but if you want a chance at a double digit personal best fluke don't miss our seminar on Fishing Nantucket Shoals, Monday, May 23, 7 p.m. at the West Warwick Elks Lodge."

Capt. TJ Harris will be the guest speaker, he is a Nantucket Shoals fluke expert and member of the Aquidneck Island Striper Team as well as RISAA. Capt. Harris will address how to plan your trip, what size fluke to expect, what gear to bring along as well as the strategies and tactics to employ to catch these large fish.

AnglerCatch, the software mentioned above, will be highlighted at the start of the session.

The seminar starts at 7 p.m., however, you can order food off the Elks Lodge kitchen menu starting at 5:30 p.m. Non-members are asked to make a \$10 donation to the RISAA Foundation. RISAA members admitted free. The Elks Lodge is at 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater. The freshwater bite for largemouth bass was outstanding this week as the fish are feeding still in the pre-spawn mode. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "The bite for largemouth has been early morning or at sundown using swimbait." John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside, said "The trout bite is still good for anglers at stocked ponds. Customers are still catching trout at Willet Avenue Pond, Riverside but have said Brickyard Pond was murky this week and the bite was not good."

Tautog fishing slaked off a bit with all

the wind we had last week making it difficult for anglers to fish from boats and shore and making the water turbid and cloudy. Prior to high winds and seas last week angler Karlis Kaugars of West Warwick landed a ten pound tautog at Bonnet Shores. Karlis said, "We fished the Ohio Ledge area and had no luck and then traveled down the Bay to the Bonnet Shores area and got one bite, a plump ten pound tautog." John Littlefield of Archie's Bait, said, "Customer Albert Bettencourt fished the Warren River area catching 22 fish, and keeping six, releasing all the female fish. Boat anglers are doing much better than shore anglers." "Now that all that wind has slowed down the tautog bite is expected to improve this week." said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait.

Striped bass/bluefish. "Striped bass fishing was slow in the Bay this weekend but things are expected to pick up dramatically with all this nice weather and warm temperatures. Slot size bass are being caught with small soft plastic baits and the baits the bass are chasing are small too. Best chances for a large bass are in the upper Bay area using poggies (Atlantic menhaden) if you can snag any." The bluefish bite was on in Wickford Harbor Sunday. Kayak anglers were treated to a school of bluefish inside the Harbor breakwater feeding on the surface. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "Customers are catching bluefish in the Bay which is a bit early." East End Eddie Doherty said, "Jack Barton caught his first slot of the season last week just before dawn near the railroad bridge on the Cape Cod Canal. The satisfied Canal Rat said it was so nice to feel a real tug on his rod after a five month hiatus. There was an unconfirmed report of a 40-inch striped bass caught in the west end so hopefully this fish will be leading the parade of other plus slot fish into the Canal." "Striped bass fishing was off last weekend but earlier in the



TEN POUNDER: Karlis Kaugars with a tautog he caught last week at Bonnet Shores, Narragansett. (Submitted photos)

week anglers were doing good using soft plastics like Slug-Go lures and Storm Shades. Some anglers were catching fish at Sabin Point and others at Barrington Beach (where they used whole squig for bait)."

"Fluke (summer flounder)/squeteague fishing is picking up along the coastal shore, much earlier than usual," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait. "The squeteague are biting in Greenwich Bay and in the Barrington River where an angler caught a nice fish from the bridge. Fish to 30 inches have been caught in the area," said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

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

Is it time to move the Super Bowls?

My pitch



by
ALEX
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SPORTS EDITOR

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Last week on Twitter, I saw an interesting topic be discussed.

Pilgrim football head coach Blake Simpson posted saying that he felt that the high school football state championships should no longer be held at Cranston Stadium as they are each year. He suggested having them moved to a college facility to give kids that big-time atmosphere.

I really don't mean any offense to our Cranston readers out there, but I totally agree.

I love Cranston Stadium. It's well-kept with plenty of seating, abundant parking, centrally located in the state, I totally understand why it is the host site.

However, so many sports compete in the state championship in college arenas, and football should be no different.

Hockey gets Providence College, basketball gets Boss Arena, softball gets Rhode Island College, baseball gets McCoy, so many of these sports get that big-arena feel and atmosphere.

Why not football?

Between the football championships, the normal football schedule, as well as the other sports that take place at Cranston Stadium, it seems like pretty much every high schooler in Rhode Island competes there at one point or another. Not literally, of course, but a pretty high percentage.

Again, this take has nothing to do with Cranston Stadium, it's more about the other places.

Imagine a night game under the lights at URI's Meade Stadium, in that beautiful facility? Or seeing an afternoon Super Bowl at Brown? I love that Ivy League atmosphere and that would be a terrific event to watch. Bryant also has a great facility.

This is a lighter topic for me, it is not

like I have this burning desire to take the Super Bowls away from Cranston Stadium. It is just a thought, something to chew on moving forward. Again, Cranston Stadium is historic, in great shape and provides all the necessary amenities to effectively host big events, but how exciting would it be for the kids and fans to take the field at one of these larger facilities?

Speaking of championships at college facilities, I am super excited for next month's softball championships at Rhode Island College.

Last week I had the pleasure of covering the Pilgrim-La Salle game in Providence. Both teams are Division I powers with championship aspirations, and the visiting Pats cruised to a 10-2 win.

Any team in Division I can be beat on any day, so it was not a shocking result, but an 8-point win over the Rams is certainly impressive.

Alyssa Twomey was an All-State player last year as a sophomore and this spring as a junior, I think the case can be made that she is the best overall player in the state.

Twomey did what she seems to always do ... she took the game over against La Salle. First inning, she hits a two-run homer to centerfield. Then

in the circle, she was lights out for six of the seven innings she pitched. Against a lineup as deep and experienced as La Salle's, that is no easy feat.

The Division I softball race is always one of my favorites to follow each year. If I had to rank, I'd say it's 1) football, 2) basketball, 3) softball.

What I love about Division I softball is that these teams are all pretty similar in terms of strength ... the top four or five teams, there usually is very little separation. Seedings don't matter a whole lot, it really boils down to who the best team is in the playoffs.

Look at last year; Pilgrim looked like the odds on favorite to win it all. In my eyes, if it was not Pilgrim, then it certainly had to be St. Ray's.

In the end, it was Coventry, and those girls really did appear to be the best team at the end of the day.

This race is shaping up to be another dogfight. Pilgrim, La Salle, Coventry, Bay View appear to be the frontrunners, but teams like Cranston West, St. Ray's and Moses Brown are not far behind them. It should be a blast to watch, especially once we actually do get to RIC and see the gauntlet played out.

In terms of Division II, I'm thrilled to see Toll Gate having the year that it is having to this point. The Titans are right in the thick of things with East Greenwich, West Warwick and Ponganset. Mt. Hope, Westerly and Prout are also on tears in the other side of Division II.

Two playoff brackets to follow in June for softball? Sign me up.

Even beyond Pilgrim and Toll Gate, both Cranston West and Johnston are very much alive in their divisions. They are both in the same boat ... they are each toward the top of that second tier, which is not a bad place to be at this point.

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy

Vintage Truck Show

From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., on June 5, Rhode Island Vintage Haulers will hold a vintage truck show at Johnston Memorial Park.

Johnston Historical Society General Meetings

At 7 p.m., May 25, the Johnston Historical Society will hold its monthly General Meeting (a speaker is TBD).

At 7 p.m., June 29, the society will host its next General Meeting. The speaker will be author and historian Marty Podskoch, who will talk about his new travel book, "The Rhode Island 39 Club," that encourages people to visit all 39 towns and villages in Rhode Island.

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.

Memorial Day Service

On May 28, Johnston will pause for a Memorial Day Service.

The service will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 28 at Johnston Memorial Park. The town will honor the 42 Johnston residents who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Annual Chowder and Clamcake Dinner

At 6 p.m., Saturday, June 25, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 54 Cedar Swamp Road, Smithfield, RI will hold a chowder and clamcake dinner. There will also be coleslaw and hot dogs for kids. For dessert there will be strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream.

The cost for Adults is \$15, \$8 for 5-12 years old, and under 5 eat free. Please call 232-7575 for reservations by June 13.

Neighborhood Watch

The 2022 season of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch has officially kicked off. This Neighborhood Watch brings together residents who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with members of the police department. The program pairs residents with Johnston Police officers in an effort to open up communication, meet other neighbors and create partnerships that help build community resiliency. According to the Johnston Police Department, "We appreciate everyone who came out and walked with us."

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NAMI-RI will hold "Bridging the Gaps" Conference May 25

NAMI Rhode Island is the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization.

NAMI-RI's Bridging the Gaps Annual Conference brings together heroes and allies in the mental health community. Discuss the issues side-by-side with peers, family members, mental health professionals, advocates, legislators, volunteers, and friends. This year, the Bridging the Gaps conference will be held virtually on May 25.

REGISTER TODAY! NAMI Members attend for free. \$10 for non-members. For more information on Mental Health awareness Month and/or to register for the upcoming Bridging the Gaps Conference, please visit www.namirhodeisland.org/btg/, call NAMI-RI at (401) 331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

Pre-K Lottery

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

Reminder from Parks & Rec

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

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

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

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.

Johnston Senior Center offers classes & services

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

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

Arts Scholarships for youth now open to register

Do you know a student aged 11 - 14 who loves to create and to perform? Encourage them to apply to our ARTS Scholarships 2022 program! Applications and guidelines are now available at ppacri.org/artsscholarships.

The ARTS Scholarships 2022 program, sponsored by the Textron Charitable Trust and the PPAC Annual Fund with support from WPRI 12 and Ocean State Charities Trust, offers young artists an opportunity to participate in local summer arts education program that will broaden their experience in their chosen area of study.

Qualified students must be aged 11 - 14 by June 1 of this year and reside in and attend school in Rhode Island.

Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood donations. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only accepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival. Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

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

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

SCOOPS - PAGE 23

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 21)

Apple Fest Scheduled

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

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

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

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

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

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

Mohr Library events

Fridays at 5 p.m., the library has a craft and discussion program 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 folk-tale in modern-day Brooklyn.

The Rhode Island Tree Council is offering their Tree Stewardship classes at the library Thursday nights from 6-8 during May, plus Saturday, June 4, from 10 to noon, to plant a tree on the library's 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 Emilie.

For middle-school and high-school-age kids, there are things to do almost every day after school.

Storytime for ages 2 to 5 began May 4 at 10:30 a.m. 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 home.

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 a.m. and 1 p.m. Speak with one of the 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.

Small history boost from the state



PRESERVING HISTORY: Johnston State Rep. Deb Fellela (center) presented a grant check to the Johnston Historical Society during their yard sale this past Saturday, May 14. At left, Johnston Historical Society Recording Secretary Carl Johnson, and at right, Anthony Ursillo, society trustee, accepted the check. Ursillo said the \$1,000 state grant will help fund repairs to the Elijah-Angel House. "We are very grateful to our councilwoman Deb Fellela for her understanding of how important the JHS is to the town of Johnston," Ursillo said. (Submitted photo)

Contact us to print from your device or from home.

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

For more information, email info@mohrlibrary.org or call 231-4980.

Editor's Note: Send submissions to rorys@rhodybeat.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and non-profit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

Johnston's Neighborhood Watch



WATCHING OUT FOR YOU: The 2022 season of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch has officially kicked off. This Neighborhood Watch brings together residents who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with members of the JPD, according to a post on the department's Facebook page. The program pairs residents with Johnston Police officers in an effort to open up communication, meet other neighbors and create partnerships that help build community resiliency. "We appreciate everyone who came out and walked with us," Johnston Police said in their post, which they always conclude with the JPD motto: "Working Together ~ Making a Difference." (Photo courtesy Johnston Police)

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A new season of Antiques Roadshow



By Travis Landry
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time, which was fantastic as we all sometimes have cross-over things come in and having them right next door was a huge help. It truly is a team effort.

It takes a long day of taping to get three episodes done at each city we visit, and Nashville was no different. There was pretty much a steady stream of guests through the day to keep us busy, and in no time at all it was about 7:00 at night and time to pack it in and head back to the hotel. While extremely tired, it was a positive experience and a great day.

The entire crew is amazing. They are consummate professionals and run everything seamlessly all day long. It is really interesting to see everything happen during the day, be a part of it, then see it on TV months later. What you don't see on camera is the crew and everything they are doing to make the show as good as it is. I can't say enough great things about all of them.

I obviously can't talk about what we did see and what was taped. You'll have to tune in next season to see that. But there are episodes we taped last fall that are airing now, so check it out!



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A welcome home for Purple Martins



Photo courtesy of purplemartin.org

Largest of swallows has its friends as it faces loss of habitat, decline in insects, competition

By JOHN HOWELL

Lois Graydon is a landlord, but she doesn't charge any rent. She is hopeful others will do as she does for if they don't, she fears the Purple Martin will go the way of the dodo and the carrier pigeon.

There's no count on the number of Purple Martins, however, according to estimates their ranks have been cut by half due a number of factors including loss of habitat, insecticides, the introduction of non-native house sparrows and starlings that compete for nesting locations and a decline in insects -- a major source of food says Joe Siegrist, President of the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

Graydon, who lives on Warwick Cove and has a Purple Martin house at the end of her dock, remembers the return of the Purple Martins as a child in mid-April. They were a sign that warmer weather was on the way.

On a visit to her home last Wednesday evening, a cool and windy day, the bird house, a metal post with gourd-like balls hanging from it at various angles, looked abandoned. Graydon had put out the welcome mat. The lodges, each for a pair of breeding birds, are lined with pine needles to form a comfortable bed. Having spotted a few Purple Martins earlier this year, scouts for the rest of the birds migrating from Amazonia in Brazil, she wasn't surprised when three of the birds zoomed onto the scene like jet fighters. Purple Martins are the largest of the swallow family. The birds landed briefly, checking out accommodations before resuming their erratic flight, all of it at high speed.

■ BIRDS - PAGE 26



APARTMENTS WITH A GREAT VIEW: The newest of residences for colonizing Purple Martins is the birdhouse Lois Graydon paid for at the Warwick Cove overlook on Warwick Neck Avenue. If people think they are seeing a Purple Martin perched on one of the abodes, it's likely they have spotted to decoy designed to attract the birds.



OUT TO HELP THE PURPLE MARTINS: Lois Graydon, who remembers the return of Purple Martins as the harbinger of spring, is one of a cadre of people across the country looking to provide the birds housing and a place to raise a family after their flight from Amazonia. (Warwick Beacon photos)

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable

Cheyenne



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Summer is almost here and Cheyenne is looking to add some fun to your life by joining you in all of your fun activities! She is playful, loving and so deserving all of all the good things life has to offer! Cheyenne loves people, she also likes other dogs and loves life! Just look at her pretty face, she's a five year old Terrier mix and she's ready to find her forever home! Please contact Operation Pawsibility via their Facebook page or email them at operationpawsibility@gmail.com Cheyenne will get adopted quickly so please email now!

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



Hysterically funny 'Midsummer Night' at Gamm

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

The Gamm closes its 37th season with a chaotic interpretation of the hysterically funny "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Fred Sullivan Jr., who has appeared in the Shakespeare comedy five times.

We have seen the play many times, from high school productions to the pros. While it usually tends to reach for some of its humor, never have I seen it reach so high (and so low) for a laugh.

Sullivan is known for his physical humor, a technique he instills to the nth degree in his actors.

Every word and every phrase has a physical component added. Languages accompanied by some kind of movement – be it a raising of the eyebrows, hand gesture or racing up a steep ramp.

No one does it better than Nora Eschenheimer as Helena, a Boston actress who is making her mark as one of Gamm's best. Whenever she was on stage, my eyes followed her every move. Whatever she said or did conjured laughter.

Helena is one of four young lovers who seek refuge in the woods where the fairies play tricks on them that lead to chaos in their relationships.

This has to be one of – if not the largest – casts ever assembled at Gamm. There is no leading actor. Every person has their moment in the sun, or should I say, "under the moon".

The members of the court open and close the story, setting the stage for the two pairs of lovers. Then there are the fairies who live in the forest and get enjoyment from playing tricks on the foolish humans.

And then we have the amateur actors, led by Tony Estrella's Bottom, who becomes a bit of an ass. Veteran actor Jim O'Brien and RI Comedy Hall of Fame recipient Frank O'Donnell add their talents to the troupe.

Talk about physical humor, watch O'Donnell when he plays a wall. That's right, a wall.

My only complaint, and it is against the playwright, not the production, is that the Bard doesn't know when to end the play. It goes on a bit too long after it seems like everything has been resolved. But that is a minor complaint when you realize that your gut is sore from laughing so much. And that you have seen a Shakespearean play that is easily accessible.

Birds

(Continued from page 25)

"They're like old friends that come back to visit us," Graydon said enthusiastically.

Siegrist, reached at association offices in Erie, PA, said the highest rate of mortality is within the first year. He estimates those that make it the first year live to be three or four years although the association recorded one bird of 10 years as determined from his banded leg. From Amazonia, the birds fly north to breed and raise their chicks in North America and parts of Canada, a trip that can be upwards of 4,000 miles. In mid-August or so, the Purple Martins head back to the tropics, flying during the day and eating insects without landing.

"They see the Earth's magnetic field," said Siegrist. He explains studies of the birds show they are capable of detecting the magnetic field giving them an uncanny ability to navigate.

"It's a jungle bird that happens to come up here to have babies," he said.

Whether Purple Martins will find Rhode Island's newest penthouses remains to be seen. With the assistance of the Department of Public Works, housing for a colony was setup at the Warwick Cove overlook Tuesday morning. It wasn't the easiest of houses to erect with the wind making it all the more challenging to follow instructions. Graydon bought the house. She is hopeful Warwick Garden Club members that put so much into creating and maintaining the overlook will similarly take an interest in the birds and their preservation. She urges people to be patient as sometimes it can be years before Purple Martins set up house. It was a four year wait before the Martins took up the Graydon's invitation.

Graydon has discovered Purple Martins are social birds and quickly adjust to the presence of humans allowing them to make weekly home inspections to count eggs and even do some house cleaning if mites are detected. In such cases, Graydon provides a fresh coating of pine needles. She never uses deterrents or insecticides.

Siegrist called Graydon one of a cadre of citizen scientists whose collection of data is vital to understanding the bird and identifying trends. He said the internet has enabled the association to establish a network providing real time information that previously took weeks to share.

Graydon confesses to being a Purple Martins addict.

"Watching this (the spats between birds over selecting an apartment, their flight and building a family – the Purple Martin soap opera) is my television," she said. She takes delight in watching the birds poke their heads into nearby houses "like the nosey neighbor saying, 'you had five and I have six.'"

What motivates Graydon is that without help from humans, the birds could eventually die out. She said there are seven colonies for Purple Martin in Rhode Island -- not that all of them are occupied.

Siegrist said the association celebrating its 35th anniversary this year mails a quarterly magazine and has 5,000 members in this country and Canada. It is supported through memberships of \$28 a year, donations and grants. He believes a good part of the decline in Purple Martins is a reduction in insects.

"When was the last time you had to clean off the bugs from your windshield?" he asks. He attributes that to human activity as well as climate change. Nonetheless, he advocates for more Purple Martin houses.

"Think of them more as airplanes than helicopters," he says recommending that a house be positioned in an open "flyway." In addition, an open area gives Purple Martins a better chance of spotting hawks. While many assume being swallows, Purple Martins like being on a pond or near open water, Siegrist said that's not the case. The association website provides information on the bird and the houses.

The Graydons, who have a place in Florida, have also provided accommodations for birds unwilling to make the long flight to Rhode Island to visit them. Graydon said being the Gold Coast said some Purple Martin houses can be palatial, not that the birds are fuzzy.

Graydon confesses that her goal is to "make Warwick the Purple Martin capitol of Rhode Island."

For that to happen Graydon is looking to recruit fellow landlords and the birds will need to learn that Warwick is the flight capitol of the state.

To follow along with the Purple Martins' migration and learn more about how you can help ensure the future of Purple Martins, visit www.purplemartin.org. In addition, people interested in learning more about how to attract and care for Purple Martins can receive a free booklet by contacting the Purple Martin Conservation Association by emailing info@purplemartin.org or calling 814-833-7656.

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Self-help and the meaning of life

People these days seem to be always searching for something better or a purpose in life. Many look at self-help books, of which there are more than twenty million titles in circulation.

The Power of Positive Thinking, by Norman Vincent Peale and *Who Moved My Cheese* by Spencer Johnson are two of my favorites. The number one book is *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie. Although my eyes have never gazed upon this book, I seem to be able to win friends and influence people none-the-less.

My attempts to look better are more insubstantial. For instance, I admire women who wear make-up, especially beautiful make-up. My oldest daughter is a make-up artist, and her talented hands could make a pig look pretty. She did my make-up once and the results smile back from my Facebook page every day. Doing make-up is a chore at my age, with declining close vision and hand tremors that smear it all over the place. When I had an important meeting at work the other day, I splurged and spent time putting on mascara. Pleased with the results, I put on my glasses and my efforts were magnified. Unfortunately, later in the day with my glasses

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

off, I felt something in my eye, and rubbed vigorously before remembering the mascara, which by that time was smudged into raccoon eyes; so much for my attempt to look prettier. Many people, myself included, want to be more physically fit, but I have the ridiculous excuse that my work schedule does not allow the time to exercise. In response, someone gave me a "portable fitness pedal stationary under desk indoor exercise machine", that is, a set of bicycle pedals that can be used while seated at a desk. Just looking at it made me drive to Healthtrax to talk about a membership.

Losing weight is a big challenge. I love the ads for the weight loss product that was embraced by every panelist on Shark Tank, a television show that rewards entrepreneurs with lucrative contracts for their inventions. TruKeto is pub-

licized to flush out harmful toxins, block excess fat production, curb appetite, improve mood and sense of well being, improve sleep, lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol and regular blood sugar levels. Oh, and people who used it lost more than twenty pounds a month. Somehow it sounds too good to be true and I am not sure it is trustworthy. In a different tract, I will be forming a more traditional method for weight loss by combining eating fewer calories, exercising, and creating group encouragement by starting a Biggest Loser-like weight loss contest with all of my "friends". (It will be done virtually, and anyone can join the fun. More details will follow next month.)

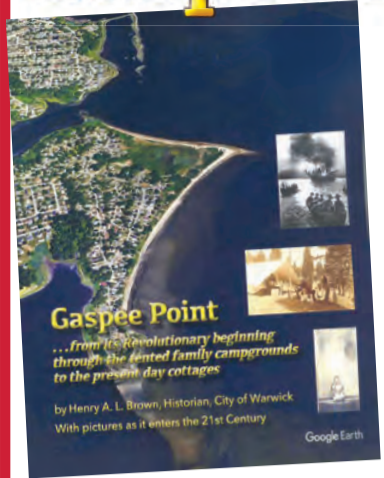
People often want to improve their lives by living in bigger, more beautiful houses. We were fortunate to be able to buy our ranch house on a pond for a mere \$35,000 more than 40 years ago. It has served our family well with its four bedrooms and two bathrooms, but now it seems too large for just two of us. It crossed our minds to look for something smaller and cozier, but when doing so, we came across much smaller homes priced higher than our home is worth! With home prices being so high, it is a wonder that anyone

can afford more than a shack in the woods.

Many people are searching for the bigger answers, such as the meaning of life. For answers to questions like this, it is helpful to believe in or belong to some type of religious organization such as a local church or temple. All religions and philosophies of which I am aware lead in some way to God. They stress the basic values of compassion, solidarity, and the Golden Rule of respect for our fellow humans. I suspect it would be extremely difficult to feel positive about the meaning of life without this type of connection.

Whether we are looking for self-improvement, better looks, a slimmer body, bigger, better houses, or the meaning of life, let us provide encouragement to others who are on the search for the same things.

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Ariel Hill shows a new kind of soul with 'Moonstruck'

By ROB DUGUAY

There are certain artists who can instantly grab your attention with their voice. There are classic examples such as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye and Elvis Presley. There's also modern examples like Amy Winehouse, Beyoncé, Adele, Erykah Badu and John Legend. The way they sing can strike a chord with the listener and leave a lasting impression. Houston singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Ariel Hill pulls this off in her own way with her new album *Moonstruck* that came out via the Cranston based record label Pitch & Prose on May 17.

The record is a result of two years worth of songwriting and production conducted by Hill herself. The auidial quality is incredible with each song sounding like it's a Top 40 hit and I'm not exaggerating. While listening, it's apparent that a high level of effort got put into every note, lyric and beat. This is very much appreciated while leaving yours truly a bit stunned due to the impressiveness. It's not every day you hear a complete DIY effort sounding this clean, professional and profound and Hill deserves a lot of praise.

Musically there's a different take on pop music being exhibited. A blend of neo-soul, trip hop, R&B and electrofunk makes this record jump out to the senses. It's music that grabs hold of the ears, takes the whole body by storm and doesn't let go. Honest, personal themes and a heartfelt vibe keep it real from start to finish. You gotta love it when a creative person puts their complete heart into their work and *Moonstruck* is a prime example.

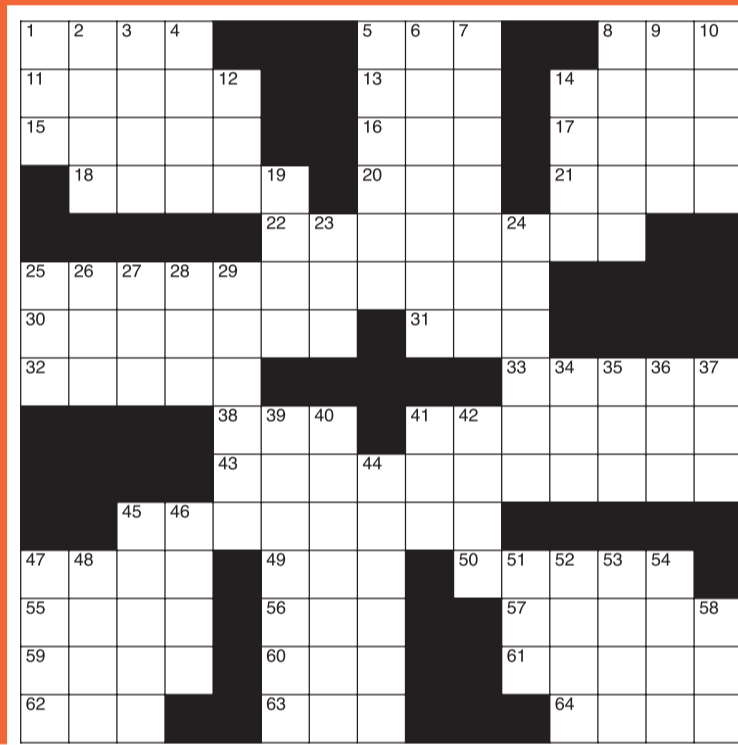
"First" is the debut single off of the album and after diving into it I totally understand why. It's a gem of a track that's a soulful ballad while also



possessing the ability to get stuck in the mind. Around a minute in, the beat hits in "Made Up" and the harmonies arrive for a song all about the complexities of relationships. Getting a little funky is "Dark Room" with a groovy structure and a few guitar strums being present. Other notable songs include "Back To Me", "Dream In Peace" and "Honeycomb".

Moonstruck could be the best album Pitch & Prose has released through their label so far. I'm also going to be keeping tabs on Hill via the internet to see what she does next. To do the same thing, you can give the album a listen and surf the web. Stream and purchase a deluxe edition of the new album via the label's Bandcamp page at pitchandprose.bandcamp.com. Then log on to Hill's website at arielhillmusic.com and follow her all over social media.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Scream loudly
5. Antidepressant (abbr.)
8. The bill in a restaurant
11. Oblong pulpits
13. Adult female chicken
14. Abnormal breathing
15. Financial obligations
16. Belonging to a thing
17. Winged
18. Peoples
20. College hoops tournament
21. An informal body of friends
22. Region of the world
25. In an early way
30. Connected by kinship
31. Type of tree
32. Official order
33. Foundation for an idea
38. Small, faint constellation
41. Book lovers
43. Vegetable
45. Cabbage variety
47. A way to heal
49. Illuminated
50. Dish that features a stick

55. Insurance-related costs (abbr.)
56. Solid water
57. Soldier's gear
59. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
60. Former measure of length
61. Arabic name meaning "spring"
62. Doctors' group
63. Actress Susan
64. Appropriate

CLUES DOWN

1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock group
4. College army
5. Black eye
6. One who stopped working
7. Teach a value
8. Rhythmic patterns
9. "MASH" actor Alda
10. "Friday Night Lights" director
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Indian musical pattern
19. Fulfill a desire
23. Water soaked soil
24. Brass instrument
25. Before
26. Popular color
27. Peyton's little brother
28. Partner to cheese
29. Put onto
34. "Much ___ about nothing"
35. A way to mend
36. Anger
37. Soviet Socialist Republic
39. Mobilized
40. Resembles an earlobe
41. Cut of meat
42. Nigerian people
44. Recently
45. Square stone building at Mecca
46. Adhere to orders
47. Adventure story
48. Marine bivalve mollusk
51. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
52. Actor Pitt
53. Tibetan village
54. A way to change by heating
58. A beam of sunshine

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Contemporary Theater Company to present 'The Voice of Gertrude Stein'



Rachel Hanauer

On Thursday May 26th and Saturday June 4th at 7 PM in Wakefield, RI, The Contemporary Theater Company will present "The Voice of Gertrude Stein," featuring the best of local New England talent. The program will feature a selection of art songs with text by Stein from LGBTQIA+ composers such as Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, and Felix Jarrar, as well as Rorem's opera *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*.

With these performances, co-producers Rachel Hanauer and Caroline Spaeth especially aim to provide a voice to the LGBTQIA+ arts community. Hanauer, a professor at Providence College, hopes to bring opera to Rhode Island collegiate voice students who may not get many chances to see the vocal arts performed live. "We also hope that this evening will provide a safe haven for LGBTQIA+ and non-binary audiences, especially as the past few years in American political life have been so fraught," Spaeth says.

Spaeth and Hanauer will sing the roles of Jenny and Helen in *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*. Filling out the cast are tenor Michael Gonzalez, soprano Sara De-Long, and mezzo-soprano Jade Espina. Mezzo-soprano Julie Rumbold will sing the role of Stein herself in selections from Peter Dayton's *May She | She May* in the program's first half, and will assume the role of Sylvia in *Three Sisters* on June 4th.

Tickets are \$10 - \$30 and can be purchased at <https://www.contemporarytheatercompany.com/springboard-schedule>. Spaeth and Hanauer also have a ko-fi page for those who wish to make contributions to the project: <https://ko-fi.com/gertrudestein>



Caroline Spaeth



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Growing Older, But Not Growing Old

"There is a fountain of youth: it's in your mind, your talents, the creativity that you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age."

-SOPHIA LOREN

In full disclosure, this is not the first time I have used Loren's quote. She is not only elegant, graceful and regal, she is also very wise. More to the point, I could not find a single observation that would be more appropriate for this column.



MY SIDE OF THINGS

by LARRY GRIMALDI

I am 73 years old and have been retired since 2015. While seven decades plus of life might seem ancient to the younger crowd, I intend to follow the advice of Sophia Loren and not abandon my creative instincts. I have resolved "to truly defeat age," but with some necessary concessions to reality.

I have worn glasses since I was about 10; so the aging process is not responsible for my near-sightedness. I can dry my hair (what remains of it) with a small wash cloth. My teeth need more attention and my visits to a squadron of medical specialists have become more frequent. My tee shots don't travel as far as they used to, but strangely enough, they are a little straighter. I have adjusted my previous 12:00 or 1:00 a.m. bedtime to a more reasonable 11:00 p.m. or so, and look forward to those late afternoon naps. I value peace and quiet than more chaos and I'm trying to learn patience (despite a universe replete with incompetent customer service staff and a seemingly unchecked spread of general stupidity). I confess to very limited success in this goal. I am also trying to not "sweat the small stuff" and live by the credo of "Keep it simple stupid."

But I have surrendered to a stark and undeniable fact that it's time to cross the sensory Rubicon into territory that I have been avoiding for a few years...The Land of the Hearing Aid! My reasons are surprisingly simple. The television consistently emits muffled sounds and it's not due to a malfunction in ALL the house sets. I've recently resorted to using the closed captioning option. I hear only about a third of movie dialogue and at a

recent comedy show I strained to hear the jokes, undoubtedly missing quite a few, even though they were delivered with considerable enthusiasm and style and by a raucous Italian comedian!

In large arenas or gatherings of several people, sounds and conversations dissipate into an amorphous cloud of jumbled gobbledygook. I miss listening to the sermons of our parish priest on Sundays. He delivers short, but practical remarks with pastoral comedic timing that would make any professional comedian proud. The congregation often chuckles at his unique interpretations of Scripture. (For now, I'll have to take their word for it). It will also be a relief to not feign hearing a conversation by pasting a non-committal look on my face. At times, I have embarrassingly offered comments on what I THOUGHT I heard. These feeble attempts at transitional hearing have often led to very interesting facial contortions and quizzical looks.

However, my reasons for crossing over into The Land of the Hearing Aid are much more personal. First and foremost, I want to relieve my wife of the obligation to repeat things two or three times. I'm sure that she'll welcome the conservation of her verbal energies. I am also missing out on the numerous dinner and family time exchanges with my children, grandchildren, and friends. It's a bit disconcerting to admit that I have not heard the latest family news on many occasions. With an extended family of approximately 70, that's a lot of information gaps. My children and grandchildren have graciously avoided making an issue of my hearing. But they should not have to tiptoe around my auditory deficiency.

The Grand Hearing Aid Transition is necessary because I no longer want the language, texture and richness of life slip silently past me. I don't want to miss any more moments of joy and I do want to take full advantage of the opportunities to show my family and friends how much they mean to me. While I don't have a choice about growing older, I do have a choice not to grow old in a virtual sound isolation booth.

Following the advice Sophia Loren, I've determined that my Fountain of Youth that is in my mind, my talents, and my creativity are my guides to a fuller life. I want to share that Fountain of Youth with those I love.

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

Check out Larry Grimaldi's new publication, *Wandering Across America* at Amazon.com. or Stillwaterpress.com



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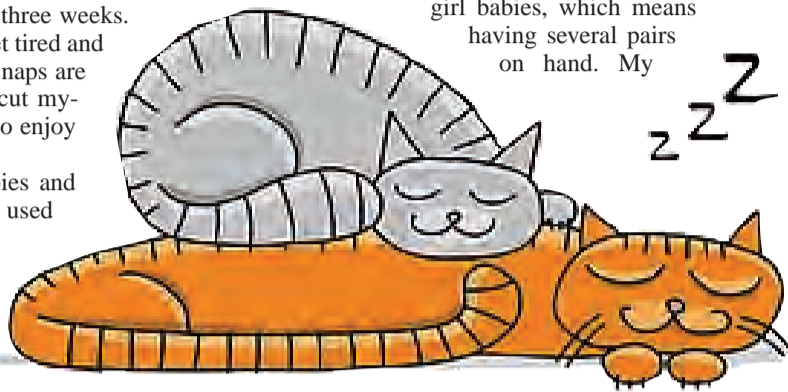
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Cut Yourself Some Slack



RETIREMENT SPARKS by ELAINE M. DECKER

booties for new grandparents among my neighbors and acquaintances. I prefer to have a few pairs ready for when I learn about a new arrival. I crochet them in funky colors, but they're still oriented to boy or girl babies, which means having several pairs on hand. My



stockpile is almost out, especially for boys. Fortunately, there are no deliveries pending as far as I know. Other delayed distaff projects include piles of mending, both mine and my husband's.

It dawned on me that over time our interests and our priorities can change. So I don't feel guilty about ignoring any of these anymore. Instead, I'm often stretched out on the family room couch with two cats on top of me and Hallmark channel on TV (often a mystery, but sometimes

a RomCom). And probably something I've already seen. Which is a good thing, because I often wind up napping through the ending.

Simply put, I've decided to cut myself some slack. I realize that at my age and with my health issues, I'm entitled to whatever down time I decide I need. Or want. It can be therapeutic, but it doesn't have to be. I encourage all of you to try this.

You may be thinking: "Oh, I'm not that old." Or: "I'm not sick." You don't need to be old or sick to benefit from doing what will make you happy rather than what you feel obligated to do. I was emailing with a friend recently while stretched out on our new couch. She's much younger than I am. She and her sister had been at a movie where no one else was masked and a lot of folks were coughing. The two of them decided the environment was too risky, so they just walked out and went shopping instead.

I see this as another example of cutting yourself some slack, doing what you want to in the moment, rather than being concerned with what you "should" be doing, whatever the reason. Not worrying about what others might think about you, living in a "no judgment" zone is liberating. It doesn't take much practice, but a comfortable couch is helpful to the process. And you don't even need cats lying on top of you to enjoy it.

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

Celebrate Summer Holidays

Summer holidays often revolve around being together, but whether your family and friends are near or far, there are plenty of fun and unique ways to celebrate these holidays in-person or virtually. Here's a little history on a few annual summer occasions, and ideas for amping up the festivities.

Host a Memorial Day Celebration of Life. While Memorial Day weekend is often the unofficial start to summer filled with camping trips, beach parties and barbecues, it's important to remember that we commemorate this day to honor the legacy of those who have served and lost their lives in the U.S. Military. You can embrace the bond with your family by having a traditional backyard party or picnic in remembrance of those close to you who have served. Honor them by serving their favorite foods, playing their favorite games, or even writing your favorite memories down on a piece of paper and sharing them with the group.

Honor Juneteenth by Showing Your Appreciation for Black Culture. Juneteenth takes place on June 19 and commemorates the emancipation of thousands of slaves who were not aware of their freedom until that date in 1865. On this date, Union General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free. And in 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday in the United States. Many honor Juneteenth with educational and family gatherings, supporting Black-owned businesses, and by visiting museums and exhibits dedicated to Black culture. You can also send a personalized message of love and inspiration. And who better to deliver your message than Grammy Award-winning artist Alicia Keys? Her completely customizable SmashUp video

greeting is specifically designed to celebrate the Juneteenth holiday.

Create a Custom Dad-Approved Experience this Father's Day. What better way to show your appreciation for the father figure in your life than by creating a day all about him? Think about his favorite hobbies and design an itinerary sure to receive the Dad seal of approval. Whether it's a fishing trip, creating your own backyard mini-golf course, or going on a brewery tour in search of the best local IPA, it's sure to be a Father's Day he'll remember. If you can't be with Dad, sending a personalized video or ecard is a great way to show you care. These greetings are made just for him, and you can even add a gift card to one of his favorite stores.

Get Crafty for Fourth of July. Fourth of July is the peak of summer and commemorates the Continental Congress formally accepting the Declaration of Independence of the United States in 1776. Often enjoyed with food, fireworks, and parades, it's a bash that's anticipated all summer long. Get into the patriotic mood by creating some original décor or USA-themed foods for your cookout or fireworks watch party. Try your hand at designing items like patriotic napkin rings, American Flag-inspired desserts, painting outdoor items such as flowerpots red, white, and blue, or even making your own sparklers and lanterns to hand out to guests when they arrive. Then, after guests have settled into the festivities, add an extra layer of fun by using filter-like Selfie SmashUps to turn yourself and guests into Uncle Sam.

Each summer holiday is an opportunity to bring people together to make new memories. By thinking outside the box, you can truly make a splash this summer. (StatePoint)



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MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN



Magic of the Woods

Being in the woods was like being in another world - another universe.

There was a time when kids came home from school, changed out of their school clothes and into their play clothes, and rushed outside to spend the 2 or 3 hours before dinner - or supper, as it was called in our house - to meet up with their neighborhood friends. There was freedom in kicking off the polished school shoes and hanging up the starched shirts and itchy dresses and slipping into worn sneakers and patched dungarees. And then heading outside to find kids of all ages emerging from their back doors. There was always someone to play ball or hopscotch with or a group to join for an impromptu neighborhood-wide game of hide and seek, or any number of active games invented on the spot.

Summers were all-day affairs, with the neighborhood mothers calling out as the screen doors slammed, "Be home for lunch" followed by "Be home for supper" and ending with "Be home when the streetlights come on".

We grew up in a section of Warwick, not too far from the tiny airport, which was called Hillsgrove before it became T.F. Green. The collection of houses were small ranches and capes, with an occasional old and weathered colonial tucked in-between. A few of the older houses looked like original farmhouses from back when the land was all farmland and woods. We lived at the edge of a cul de sac next to a field where corn and turnip were still grown. We played in the field regularly, although there were rumors of always having to watch for the farmer who was said to come charging out of the farmhouse on the far side of the field wildly waving a shotgun. I never witnessed this, but made sure I never strayed too far from the side our house was on, just in case.

Most of the time, though, we gathered in the woods. The woods was a huge uncultivated forest that bordered our neighborhood. The backyards of the outermost houses ended where the woods began. Down a ravine, covered in bushes and brambles and tall, tall trees. In places the ground was mushy and moist with a small creek visible in some seasons, dry in others.

Being in the woods was like being in another world - another universe. Listening to the wind in the trees, we climbed high up on the branches that we hoped wouldn't break. We played tag and hide and seek through the tall grasses and underbrush, while bird calls squawked and serenaded our games. The smells and sounds of nature surrounded us and held us in a cocoon for hours of pretend play with no adult supervision or interference. The adults most likely didn't even know exactly where we were at any given time.

But somehow the mothers knew to stick their heads out of their back doors and yell their child's name, and somehow, the faraway call was either heard or relayed into the deep woods where we were playing, and the friend whose mother was calling would leave with a "see ya later" and head home.

There was a huge tree in the center of the woods that we called "Big Red". It was prob-

ably a red maple, but I was too young at the time to know its real name. Big Red was always the central meeting spot and from there we would follow the paths we knew by heart.

There was a pond in the center of the woods. Getting to it in the spring and summer meant finding

solid pieces of ground or secure rocks to step on to avoid getting sucked down into the marshy muck that led down to the water's edge. We actually thought it was quicksand and had genuine fears of being slowly swallowed down into oblivion never to be seen again.

In the winter we spent cold afternoons skating on the frozen pond. Again, no adult supervision. Did anyone ever check the ice for a safe depth of thickness? We'd just grab our skates and go. We would even start a campfire next to the pond to warm ourselves. None of this seemed strange or dangerous at the time.

One of my clearest memories in the woods took place on a summer afternoon when I was about 6 or 7. We were all in the woods, deep in play of some sort, when someone yelled, "Snake!" Everyone took off in a rush - running through the brush and trees through the muddy marsh and up the ravine towards the field. I began to run, too, but I wasn't able to keep up. I saw the group of kids getting smaller and smaller as the distance between us grew. I imagined being left behind to be swallowed up by the giant serpent that I was sure must be emerging from the pond just behind me and slithering after me. Just as real panic began to set in, my brother, 2 years older, turned around and came back. He hoisted me up on his back and took off running. Although slowed significantly by my weight on his back, we made it safely out of the woods that day.

I've been back to my old neighborhood and development has taken over. The original houses are still there, but they are enlarged and added onto, leaving very little green space. The corn and turnip field is now covered with new houses. The woods are gone - victim to a highway cutting through its heart.

Whenever I drive on that highway I think about those long-ago days and the lessons learned in those carefree times. Self-reliance, getting along with others, exercising imagination and expressing creativity, learning to find our own fun in the simplicity of nature, and freedom to just be ourselves - to be kids.

Two of my daughters and three of my grandchildren live in my old neighborhood. My grandchildren cannot have the same experiences that I had, but every generation has different circumstances and life experiences in which to learn life's lessons.

But I can tell them about the woods and the field that used to exist near their houses and maybe that's enough. Enough to know that their Nana was a child once, who lived there, too, with stories to tell. Starting with a brother's love for a little sister back when their neighborhood was a wooded sanctuary filled with the magic of childhood.

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Add Apples to Your Brunch Buffet

As part of a balanced brunch, these Apple Strudel Pancakes feature whole grains rich in fiber, minerals and vitamins to provide energy for you and your guests. With a rich, nutty flavor, buckwheat flour complements the sweet taste of apples and maple syrup for a twist on traditional pancakes. Find more nutritious recipes at aicr.org.

Apple Strudel Pancakes

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research
Servings: 8

Apple Strudel Mixture:

- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup thoroughly chopped walnuts
- 1 large apple, peeled, cored and chopped

Batter:

- 1 cup buckwheat flour
- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups 1 percent buttermilk
- 1/4 cup safflower oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- nonstick cooking spray

maple syrup

To make apple strudel mixture: Boil water; add raisins. Remove from heat and let steep until raisins are plump and reconstituted, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.

In shallow pan over medium heat, add butter. Once butter melts and is bubbling, stir in brown sugar and cinnamon. Cook about 3 minutes until sugar starts to dissolve. Add walnuts, apples and raisins. Cook apples until just tender when pierced with fork, about 4 minutes. Set aside to cool completely.

To make batter: In large bowl, mix flours, sugar, cinnamon, baking soda and salt. In separate bowl, beat eggs lightly and mix with buttermilk, oil and vanilla extract.

Pour wet ingredients into dry, mixing as little as possible. Add apple strudel mixture and fold all ingredients together. Set aside.

Heat nonstick pan or griddle over medium heat. Grease pan lightly with nonstick cooking spray. Once pan is hot, ladle about 1/4 cup batter per pancake taking care not to overcrowd pan. After 2-3 minutes, flip pancakes once.

Serve pancakes warm with syrup.

Go BIG on Brunch

FAMILY FEATURES

Building out a full menu to please your brunch guests with simple, tasty recipes can help create a fun, flavorful atmosphere when it's time for a morning bite.

By making a variety of dishes to accommodate an array of personal tastes, you can give friends and family the flavors they desire. With choices like Apple Strudel Pancakes and Mini Hash Brown Casseroles, you can fulfill a multitude of food groups from

grains and fruits to dairy and meat. Allow the adults at your gathering to top off the meal with a spicy take on this Watermelon Bloody Mary, featuring simple preparation and a handful of garnish options.

Find more brunch recipes at Culinary.net.

A Small Brunch Bite

A full brunch menu calls for small bites on the side to complement the multitude of flavors brought on by a variety of brunch dishes.

For a clever option that's quick to make, these Mini Hash Brown Casseroles provide a morsel bursting with flavor to pair with just about any morning meal. Made with refrigerated Simply Potatoes Shredded Hash Browns, which are pre-shredded for a faster fridge to fork kitchen experience, you can make a batch of the tasty cups in less than an hour.

Find more brunch solutions and recipes at simplypotatoes.com.

Mini Hash Brown Casseroles

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Servings: 24

- 1 package refrigerated Simply Potatoes Shredded Hash Browns
- 1 pound Bob Evans Farms Original Sausage Roll
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup ham, cubed
- 1 cup red pepper, diced
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 350 F.

Remove hash browns from refrigerator and let rest.

In skillet, cook sausage according to package directions.

Lightly grease two 12-cup muffin tins. In bowl, whisk eggs and milk. Add hash browns, butter, ham, red pepper, black pepper and cheese; mix.

Fill muffin tins 2/3 full. Bake 27-30 minutes. Serve warm.



Sipping on Sweet and Spicy

Take your brunch the extra mile with a twist on the traditional mid-morning beverage. By adding jalapeno and horseradish to this Watermelon Bloody Mary, you'll have a spicy, tasty version of a traditional brunch drink ready for your guests.

With watermelon balancing out the jalapeno, it's an ideal balance of spicy and sweet with just the right amount of kick. Find more brunch recipes at watermelon.org.

Watermelon Bloody Mary

Recipe courtesy of the National Watermelon Promotion Board
Yield: 4 cocktails

- 2 cups seedless watermelon, cubed
- 1 medium jalapeno pepper, stem removed, chopped
- 2 limes, juice only
- 6 ounces low-sodium tomato juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon horseradish

- hot sauce, to taste
- 1/3 cup vodka
- lime wedges
- chili lime salt
- ice

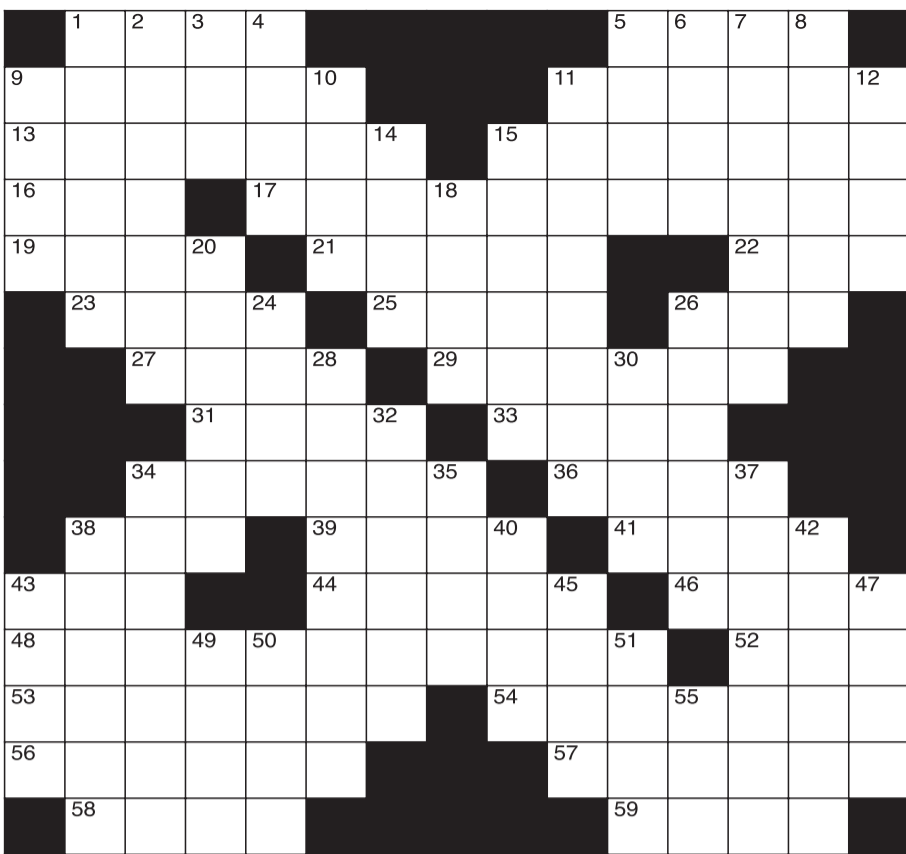
- 4 bamboo skewers (6 inches long)
- watermelon wedges (optional)
- prosciutto (optional)
- cucumber slices (optional)
- jalapeno slices (optional)
- green olives (optional)

In blender, blend watermelon cubes and jalapeno pepper until completely smooth. Pour mixture through fine sieve set over pitcher.

Add lime juice, salt, pepper, fish sauce, horseradish and hot sauce, to taste, to pitcher; stir to combine. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Add vodka and stir.

Line rims of four glasses with lime juice from lime wedges; dip in chili lime salt poured on plate. Carefully put ice in each glass and divide Watermelon Bloody Mary mixture evenly.

Add garnishes, as desired, by skewering watermelon wedges, prosciutto, cucumber, jalapeno and green olives. Place garnishes in glasses and serve.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. As fast as can be done
- 5. WC's
- 9. Religious retreat
- 11. Warfare
- 13. One you wouldn't expect
- 15. Disease-causing microorganisms
- 16. For each
- 17. Grammatical term
- 19. One point east of southeast
- 21. ___ Dern, actress
- 22. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
- 23. Shampoo
- 25. Scale drawing of a structure
- 26. An enclosure for confining livestock
- 27. Goat-like mammal
- 29. Cigar
- 31. Appear
- 33. "Westworld" actress ___ Rachel Wood
- 34. Leaked through
- 36. The highest adult male singing voice
- 38. Musical group ___ Soundsystem
- 39. Aurochs
- 41. Crazy (Spanish)
- 43 Swiss river
- 44. Strains
- 46. Frock
- 48. Found in most body tissues
- 52. Cool!
- 53. Reasons behind
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Removes
- 57. Repents
- 58. Energy
- 59. Tailless amphibian

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Not awake
- 2. Type of dessert
- 3. They ___
- 4. Retired Coast Guard admiral
- 5. Gene positions
- 6. Exclude
- 7. One who is bound
- 8. Where drinks are served
- 9. Small vipers
- 10. Blackbird
- 11. Adventurer
- 12. Shade
- 14. A way to gain
- 15. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 18. Monetary units
- 20. Removed
- 24. "My country, tis of ___"
- 26. Horses
- 28. Drives back by force
- 30. Bold, impudent behavior
- 32. Rates
- 34. Types of nerves in males
- 35. A ridge of sand created by the wind
- 37. Wind instrument
- 38. Pakistani city
- 40. Dry or withered
- 42. Delivered a speech
- 43. Peak
- 45. Small waterbird
- 47. Days falling in mid-month
- 49. Elvis' daughter
- 50. Flat and smooth
- 51. Dallas Cowboys great Leon
- 55. What cows say

DID YOU KNOW? Early-onset dementia and Alzheimer's disease in individuals under the age of 65 are on the rise. According to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health IndexSM, roughly 131,000 Americans between the ages of 30 and 64 were diagnosed with early-onset dementia or Alzheimer's disease in 2017. That's a 200% increase since 2013. Diagnosis rates of individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 were especially high in 2017 compared to 2013. Within that age group in 2013, 2.7 out of every 100,000 people were diagnosed with early-onset dementia or Alzheimer's disease. That number rose to 10.9 out of every 100,000 people in 2017, marking a 311 percent increase in just four years.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

by CHERYL TUDINO
SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Do you qualify for Social Security Spouse's benefits?



Social Security benefits are a crucial part of millions of Americans' retirement income. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child younger than age 16, or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you'll receive your full spouse's benefit amount, which is up to one-half the amount your spouse can receive.

You'll also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit.

For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. You can find out more by visiting www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/div-spouse.html for more information.

YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

Open and carefully read any mail from the IRS

The IRS mails letters or notices to taxpayers for a variety of reasons including:

- They have a balance due.
- They are due a larger or smaller refund.
- The agency has a question about their tax return.
- They need to verify identity.
- The agency needs additional information.
- The agency changed their tax return.

If a taxpayer receives an IRS letter or notice, they should:

• **Not ignore it.** Most IRS letters and notices are about federal tax returns or tax accounts. The notice or letter will explain the reason for the contact and gives instructions on what to do.

• **Not panic.** The IRS and its authorized private collection agencies generally contact taxpayers by mail. Most of the time, all the taxpayer needs to do is read the letter carefully and take the appropriate action.

• **Read the notice carefully and completely.** If the IRS changed the tax return, the taxpayer should compare the information provided in the notice or letter with the information in their original return. In general, there is no need to contact the IRS if the taxpayer agrees with the notice.

• **Respond timely.** If the notice or letter requires a response by a specific date, taxpayers should reply in a timely manner to:

- o avoid delays in processing their tax return
- o minimize additional interest and penalty charges
- o preserve their appeal rights if they don't agree

• **Pay amount due.** Taxpayers should pay as much as they can, even if they can't pay the full amount. People can pay online or apply online for a payment agreement, including installment agreements, or an Offer in Compromise. The agency offers several payment options on IRS.gov.

• **Keep a copy of the notice or letter.** It's important that taxpayers keep a copy of all notices or letters with other tax records. They may need these documents later.

• **Remember there is usually no need to call the IRS.** If a taxpayer must contact the IRS by phone, they should use the number in the upper right-hand corner of the notice. The taxpayer should have a copy of their tax return and letter when calling. Typically, taxpayers only need to contact the agency if they don't agree with the information, if the IRS requests additional information, or if the taxpayer has a balance due. Taxpayers can also write to the agency at the address on the notice or letter. Taxpayer replies are worked on a first-come, first-served basis and will be

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WORDS

- ADENOIDS
- ALLERGEN
- ALLERGIST
- ANAPHYLAXIS
- ANGIOEDEMA
- ANTIBODIES
- ANTIGEN
- ANTI HISTAMINE
- ASTHMA
- CONGESTION
- COUGHING
- DANDER
- DECONGESTANT
- DERMATITIS
- DUST
- FOODS
- HAY FEVER
- HEPA
- HISTAMINE
- HIVES
- IMMUNOTHERAPY
- INDEX
- INFLAMMATION
- INHALER
- IRRITATING
- LUNGS
- MITES
- MOLD
- MUCUS
- NOSE
- PRESSURE
- REACTION
- RELIEF
- SINUS
- SNEEZING
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AARP - RHODE ISLAND
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

How to Sustain a Healthy Brain

As we live longer, the risk for cognitive decline does increase. And this has people worrying more than ever about their own risk for dementia and memory loss. Indeed, the 2021 AARP Vital Voices Survey found that 93% of Rhode Islanders surveyed reported that staying mentally sharp is extremely or very important -- the number one health concern cited by respondents.

Fortunately, when it comes to brain health, we're learning more about what really works -- and the good news is that so much of it is in our control.

Join AARP Rhode Island on June 2 at 10 am at a free a Tele-Town Hall to learn about the latest brain health research and ask your questions. Our guest will be Sarah Lenz Lock, Executive Director of the Global Council on Brain Health (GCBH), an independent collaborative convened by AARP.

Partnering with AgeUK to expand its international reach, the GCBH gathers groups of top scientists, doctors, scholars and policy experts from around the world to create scientific reviews with evidenced-based recommendations in understandable context. Since 2016, the GCBH has published reports (the latest, on "How To Sustain Healthy Behaviors", was released in March) answering some of the most common questions people have about how to keep their brains healthy.

VID-19 pandemic imposed limits on in-person social interactions, we found new virtual ways to be with family, friends, and our community, thus avoiding isolation. We can keep those virtual connections going even as we finally get out and about.

Managing Stress is the third pillar. Stress management includes regular exercise, smiling and laughing, distracting ourselves with music and reading, and spending time outdoors in green spaces. Other ways to manage stress are confiding in friends, quieting your mind, limiting screen time, and taking deep breaths.

The fourth pillar is **Ongoing Exercise**, which doesn't have to be extensive. Just get moving. Experts recommend at least 150 minutes of exercise per week, which can be broken down to 30 minutes per day, five days per week. Walking for endurance is the easiest way to start, but you also can incorporate strength training, flexibility, and balance activities into your exercise routine.

Restorative Sleep, the fifth pillar, is essential to overall mental and physical health. Most adults need 7-8 hours of sleep in a 24-hour period. Sticking to a regular sleep-wake schedule, even on the weekends, is recommended.

Based on current brain research, vetted by AARP's GCBH and AARP's Staying Sharp program, scientists have identified 6 Lifestyle Pillars that support brain health.

The first is **Engage Your Brain**, or learn new things. This doesn't need to be academic learning. Just stimulate your brain by staying curious, pursuing new interests, and challenging your thinking. Some examples are reading, taking classes, learning a musical instrument or language, and practicing complex crafts.

The second pillar is **Be Social**, or stay socially engaged. Studies show that people with good social networks live longer and are physically and mentally stronger than those who are socially isolated. As the CO-

The sixth pillar is **Eating Right**. What you eat has a big impact on your brain. A brain-healthy diet limits meat and sweets and emphasizes fish, nuts, beans, grains, leafy green vegetables, and healthy fats such as olive oil.

You'll have the opportunity to learn more and ask your questions of Sarah Lenz Lock at AARP Rhode Island's June Tele-Town Hall. Mark your calendar for 10 a.m., Thursday, June 2. The event is free for AARP members and non-members. Register at www.aarp.org/RIEvents.

I look forward to connecting with you!

Catherine Taylor is AARP Rhode Island State Director.



How to Sustain a Healthy Brain

Researchers know what supports brain health, but how do we make that happen? Sarah Lenz Lock, Executive Director, Global Council on Brain Health has answers. Join a free AARP Rhode Island tele-town hall to learn practical strategies to develop and maintain healthy brain habits at any age.

Brain Health Tele-Town Hall
Thursday, June 2 | 10 a.m.

For more information or to register, visit aarp.org/RIEvents

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ACCORDING TO DON

by DON FOWLER

May I Help You?

An Octogenarian's Guide To Accepting Help Graciously

"Excuse me Sir, may I help you?"

She couldn't have been more than twenty-one, and weighed all of 100 pounds. She had watched me struggling to get out of my seat as the movie ended.

Offers of assistance are becoming more frequent as my age slows my body down.

People are opening doors, steadying my arm, carrying my packages, and holding me steady, often without my even asking.

Living on this earth for over 80 years does something to our sense of gravity. We walk slower, struggle to stand up straight, and are in danger of falling more frequently.

My wife and I make quite a pair, she at 81, lugging around a portable oxygen tank, and me at 84, needing a cane to steady this body that only a couple of years ago played tennis twice a week.

We are determined to stay as active as possible, doing our own shopping, dining out, and enjoying the arts.

We are pleasantly surprised at the response of younger people-some much younger-who insist on helping us up and down stairs and in and out of buildings.

At first we resisted, but quickly succumbed to the cheerfully and sincerely given help.

The slogan of the Boy Scouts is "Do a Good Turn Daily", usually depicted by a Scout helping a little old lady across the street.

We are fortunate to live on a neighborhood where our neighbors take the good turns seriously.

One of the three neighbors with snow blowers is plowing out our driveway immediately after a snowstorm, while another is shoveling my porch and walks.

His son cuts my lawn, refusing money until I insisted.

We, too, can find ways to help our younger friends:

Give advice and mentor, when asked.

Offer to watch and feed pets or pick up mail and packages when neighbors go away.

Keep an eye on their house.

Clean out your "junk" and give that old baseball bat, sled, Boy Scout equipment, doll, to the neighbor's kid.

Surprise a teenager. Open a door for them.

How's The Weather?

More than politics, health and family, weather ranks number one on the list of topics discussed by seniors.

Visitors to home-bound and hospitalized seniors are asked "How's the weather outside?" even before they are asked "How are you?"

The late Doug White once told me that surveys listed the weather as the number one reason people gave for watching TV news.

There are 24-hour weather channels, weather blogs, and online sites.

There are dedicated weather watchers in every corner of the globe.

There are irritating television anchors who steal the professional meteorologists time and thunder, sharing their thoughts on the weather, and chastising them if the weather is bad, like it's their fault.

There are more weather reporters on the local news shows than news reporters.

What's the big deal?

All you need to do is look out the window to see if it is raining or snowing.

Check to see if you lost any tree limbs or garbage cans and you'll know if it is windy.

Listen for snow blowers and you'll know if it is snowing.

Find your dog or cat in bed with you and you'll know if it is thundering and lightning.

Boy Scouts have the best way for telling the weather: The Weather Rock.

They tie a rock to a hanging branch. If the rock is wet, it's raining.

If it is swinging back and forth, it's windy.

If covered with snow, it's snowing. If dry and warm, it's warm and sunny.

My father had his own method. When a storm was brewing, his lumbago acted up.

Rhode Island's motto-*Hope*- is derived from "Hope the weather changes tomorrow."

And it will, because the follow up line is,

"If you don't like the weather just wait until tomorrow"...when it will go from the forties to the seventies.

More and more college students are choosing meteorology as their major, hoping to land a job standing in front of a blue screen, pointing out the weather on a non-existent map.

Now, if the anchors would only shut up and let them do their job.

Hi-Neighbor!

You know the brand. Now know the **backstory**



**WEDNESDAY 8 PM
MAY 25, 2022**

on air | stream
live watch party



Rhode Island PBS ripbs.org/hineighbor

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