

RI launches immediate school safety review

By RORY SCHULER

While every school in the nation struggles to keep its children safe, state and local officials will partner to launch an immediate school safety review.

"I'm planning on meeting with my safety team on Friday to discuss needs for our schools," Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr.

said last week.

On Monday night, DiLullo said he could not divulge any details from the meeting (the safety team's discussions are secret by statute), but he did reveal that Johnston may seek state funds for school safety repairs and upgrades.

The state is offering up to \$500,000 in emergency approval for school safety repairs and upgrades in the wake of the Uvalde, Texas elementary school

massacre and other recent mass shootings across the country.

Last week, Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee, the Rhode Island State Police (RISP), and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) announced "further collaboration between superintendents and local law enforcement agencies to identify potential school safety issues and to fund any necessary repairs or upgrades."

"Public safety, and especially the safety of our children, must be our highest priority," McKee said. "The best way for us to ensure that what happened in Uvalde cannot happen here is to make serious investments in repairs and security upgrades. Rhode Island families deserve that peace of mind."

SCHOOLS - PAGE 8

Guns, cannabis discussed during Law Day

By RORY SCHULER

Earlier this year, Johnston Police heard rumors circulating around the school system, regarding possible drug use among high school students.

On Law Day, Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza stood in the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School Library, facing a large group of civics students.

A member of the audience asked Razza: "Have you had experience of marijuana being suspected in schools?"

Razza took a deep breath and told them about the recent suspicions, and the actions his department took following what seemed like credible accusations.

"We had some ... what I'll call some unsubstantiated rumors of some juveniles bringing marijuana into the high school very recently," Razza told the students during last month's Law Day event. "What we did do, is, I coordinated my efforts with (Johnston Schools Superintendent) Dr. (Bernard) DiLullo, and discussed how we were going to approach the situation. We used some drug-sniffing dogs from some other jurisdictions. We did a locker search, in expectations of possibly detecting marijuana in some lockers. And that didn't come into fruition."

The students sat in silence. A realization seemed to sweep the room. The law affects them. These students, quickly outgrowing childhood, are bound to encounter law enforcement at some point in the near future. And as members of society, they'll need to familiarize themselves with the local, state and federal laws.

Even as the laws are rapidly changing around all of us, Ferri Middle School Civics Teacher Columbia "Cully" Fleming gathered three legal professionals to help shed some light on the legal process and criminal justice system.

"Every year eighth grade students from Team 8 white participate in Law Day," Fleming explained. "They are visited by a Superior Court Judge, lawyer and a police officer. What students are taught in Civics class really pertains to the outside world (society)."

LAW DAY - PAGE 15



End of the road

TOUGH LOSS: The second-seeded Johnston baseball team was eliminated from the Division II playoffs after getting upset by visiting Chariho 3-1 last weekend. The Panthers won their preliminary matchup against North Providence days prior. For a recap, turn to Page 17. Shown here, Johnston pitcher Jeremy Urena delivers a solid throw. (*Johnston Sun Rise photo*)



TOO SOON: Joseph Pingitore III passed away suddenly last October at the tender age of 60. (*Sun Rise FILE photo*)

Ocean State Vintage Haulers remember late leader

By PETE FONTAINE

Never before — at least not in recent memory — has an annual Ocean State Vintage Haulers event been filled with as much love, respect and memorials as there were during Sunday's 28th Spring Show held inside Johnston War Memorial Park.

Those things came in the form of water being pumped from the park pond and into two firefighting apparatus that sent steams of water flying out of hoses and into mid-air, even spraying people who were walking through the pristine park looking over each and every vintage vehicle.

That also came from owners of 77 privately owned vintage trucks, which ranged from old-time U.S. Army vehicles to old-time and even modern-day hauling trucks to a number of antique fire apparatus that impressed show-goers of all ages.

Sunday's show, held under sparkling sunshine, was dedicated to the late Joseph Pingitore III, who passed away suddenly last October at the tender age of 60 years. He had served for years as president of the OSVH Rhode Island Chapter of the American Truck Hauler Society.

"Joe is looking down at us, smiling, about what's going on here today," was a common statement from men, women and officials of people from the Rhode Island Chapter of the Antique Fire Apparatus Society like Richard Quetta, who has been a family face at all OSVH events. "We all miss Joe very, very much."

To which Ron Rossi, who owns and operates famed Rossi's Christmas Tree Farm on Phenix Avenue in Cranston, added: "Joe was a friend to all of us; we're happy with the way people turned out; it's a great show of respect in his honor and memory."

HAULERS - PAGE 4

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CAPTAIN'S CORNER: Newly-promoted Johnston Police Captain Mike Babbitt (left) is joined by Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, Mayor Joseph M. Polisena and Chief Joseph P. Razza at last week's swearing in ceremony. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Babbitt promoted to JPD Captain

By PETE FONTAINE

Some 18 years ago, Mike Babbitt began his career with the Johnston Police Department.

Since then, the Pawtucket native, who is the son of the

late James Babbitt and Lenore Babbitt-Rise, worked his way up the ladder to the rank of lieutenant.

Last week, with an audience of JPD families and friends looking on, the one-time multi-sports standout from Saint Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, was promoted to the prestigious rank of Police Captain.

The promotion came with several special moments. After he administered the Oath of Office to Babbitt, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said: "This is truly and exciting time. (Police) promotions are very important. They don't just come with a pay raise — it means more and more responsibility."

Meanwhile, Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza offered: "Today means a lot to me; I'm proud to say that I trained ... Captain Babbitt and he is certainly worthy of this rise in rank!"

Razza also noted: "In addition to being a sports standout, Babbitt excelled as an Honor Roll student. He went on to graduate with his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Social Work from Rhode Island College in 2004, the same year he attended the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and began his career as a Johnston Police Officer.

Babbitt worked in the Pa-

trol Division from 2004 to 2011 and during that time became a Field Training Officer and obtained numerous department ribbons and commendations for high profile arrests and life-saving efforts.

He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2011 and served as shift supervisor on all shifts until his promotion to lieutenant in 2014. From 2014 to 2020, he served as Watch Commander on all three shifts.

Then, back in 2020, he transferred to the Special Services Division,

"During that time, then Lt. Babbitt ... displayed dedication and passion to the residents of Johnston by participating in a number of community-based events," Razza added.

Now, Babbitt is the Johnston Police Department's all-important sex offender coordinator and liaison to the Hope Initiative, where he reaches out and helps victims and families suffering from drug addiction as a result of the opioid epidemic.

"Mike is an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan!" Razza mused with a smile. "He is also the devoted partner to Natalie Calabro and proud father of their two-month-old son Blake. Congratulations Captain Babbitt."



PROUD POP: Mike Babbitt is all smiles after his partner Natalie Calabro — who is holding the couple's two-month-old son Blake — pinned on his new badge as he was promoted to Johnston Police Department Captain.

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Johnston man serves as Gaspee Days Parade Grand Marshal

By ALEX MALM



When Ron Barnes was a high school student at Cranston East, he marched in the Gaspee Days Parade as a member of the band. Since then, he has marched in the parade almost every year as a member of the Pawtuxet Rangers, a militia group that was chartered in 1774 “to protect the thriving seaport of Pawtuxet, and at various times throughout the Revolutionary War manned the fort on Pawtuxet Neck, a function vital to the defense of both Pawtuxet and Providence.”

For the past 18 years Barnes, currently a Johnston resident, has been the commander of the Rangers and this year will be the grand marshal for the Gaspee Days Parade, Saturday, June 11.

“At first I was really speechless and then I said absolutely I would do it,” said Barnes. “It’s a big year I couldn’t say no.”

Barnes, a Johnston resident, joins the ranks of those who led the parade including gold medal Olympian Sara DeCosta, media personalities including Walter “Salty” Brine and Channel 10 Anchorman Gene Valicenti and philanthropists like Alan Shawn Feinstein.

Since joining the Rangers 35 years ago, Barnes has only missed the parade three times, twice to attend his sons’ high school graduations and once because he had chicken pox.

“Marching down the parkway with however many thousands of people watching the parade... is a sense of pride. The Rangers represent Pawtuxet Village,” said Barnes.

Barnes, who has a passion for history, said that one of the things he likes most about the parade is that it sticks to its colonial roots.

“The Gaspee Days Committee always makes sure the tradition of colonials is a big focus of the parade,” said Barnes. “They really remember the roots of the parade.”

Tina Bingham, Chair of the parade chose Barnes as marshal because he has been involved for many years, in fact she remembered when he assumed command of the Rangers in 2004.

“He seemed like a good choice and a good fit,” she said.

In 2020 when the parade was canceled due to the covid-19 pandemic Barnes said that the Rangers wearing masks visited the Gaspee Point overlook, the cemetery in Pawtuxet Village, and Trinity Church for abbreviated ceremonies at each location which was broadcast on Facebook.

“We observed it in our own private way,” said Barnes.

When the Rangers marched last year in the parade Barnes said it was special.

“I think a lot of us got the chills marching down the Parkway,” said Barnes.

This being the 250th anniversary of the burning promises to be even more special.



TOP BRASS: Johnston resident Col. Ron Barnes, Commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers, walks with British Naval Commander Steven White, of Her Majesty’s Royal Navy.

CHALLENGE COIN: Col. Ron Barnes, Commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers, holds a challenge coin. Barnes presented a similar coin to Britain’s Consul General for New England Dr. Peter Abbott OBE, during an announcement event for an underwater search for the Gaspee’s remains. If Barnes challenges Abbott to show the coin while out for drinks, and Abbott can’t produce it, the tab’s on the Brits. If he challenges and Abbott produces the coin, drinks are on the Pawtuxet Rangers. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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<p><i>Sunday in the Park</i></p> <p>Sunday June 12 at 12 pm Pawtuxet Park</p>	<p><i>Burning of the Gaspee</i></p> <p>Sunday June 12 at 4 pm Pawtuxet Cove</p>
<p><i>Gaspee Days Raffle</i></p>	<p><i>Colonial Encampment</i></p>

More information on this event and a full calendar at Gaspee.com





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Johnston Sun Rise



GRAND SHOW: The Ocean State Vintage Haulers held their 28th Spring Show held inside Johnston War Memorial Park last Sunday. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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Haulers

(Continued from page 1)

The late Pingitore was represented by his brother David Pingitore, a veteran Johnston Firefighter who serves as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 1950 and sister Francine Pingitore, an executive at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

When David Pingitore took the microphone from the Arrudas — Senior and Junior — who were the day's disc jockeys and pumped oldies music into the air, he began thanking everyone who was in attendance at the four-hour event. "Thank you ... thank you ... thank you," Pingitore exclaimed with emotions

ringing in his voice as he talked about his late brother. "We hope everyone had a great time today; we'll be doing this again next year as well as in the fall."

Pingitore, who was wearing a Joe Pingitore & Sons Construction and Paving t-shirt and baseball cap, paused before closing out his mighty message saying: "This was indeed a great show; and again, our family thanks everyone here today. The only thing that would have made it better was if Joe was here!"

Rossi, who now serves as OSVHJ president (David Pingitore was promoted to vice president and Margaret Philbrook is now secretary), announced: "We've sold out of show commemorative t-shirts; everyone wanted a keepsake of today as another way to remember our beloved friend, Joe (Pingitore)!"



HAULERS PRESIDENT: Ron Rossi, president of the Ocean State Vintage Haulers, enjoys a lighter moment next to his huge truck that was among the 77 vintage vehicles that on display at Sunday's 28th Annual Antique Truck Show inside Johnston War Memorial Park.

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A few extra whiskers raised a bunch of extra dollars

For the sixth year, the officers of the Johnston Police Department participated in No Shave November, where participants forgo shaving to raise cancer awareness. Members of the department raised \$1,200 for Operation Stand Down Rhode Island through the event.

“Operation Stand Down Rhode Island does so much for those veterans that have served our country and we are proud to provide them with a small token of our gratitude and appreciation,” said Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza.

In addition to the funds raised from No Shave November, Chief Razza and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 307 each contributed an additional \$250, bringing the total to \$1,700, which was presented to the organization just prior to Memorial Day, to assist veterans during the upcoming summer months.

“On this Memorial Day, the members of the Johnston Police Department humbly thank those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom and liberties,” said Chief Razza.



DITCH THE RAZOR: Once again, the officers of the Johnston Police Department participated in No Shave November, where participants forgo shaving to raise cancer awareness. (Photo courtesy Johnston Police)

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following police log information has been taken from public record police incident and arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department.

HABITUAL SHOPLIFTING

At 1:03 p.m., May 14, Johnston Police responded to a store in town to investigate a report of shoplifting in progress.

"Note: The criminal incident was being actively conveyed to our Communications Personnel via landline by the witness/business loss prevention officer ... relaying it to responding officers," Johnston Police Officer Adam M. Parkinson wrote in the arrest report.

Johnston Police redacted the name of the business from the report.

Around 11:55 a.m., that morning, a "familiar male party/suspect" entered the business through the main/middle entrance. A store loss prevention employee recognized the man from a past incident and "discretely followed" him "to the hardware department, where she watched him forcibly remove a Milwaukee Impact Drill (valued at \$299) from a secured case," Parkinson wrote. "He then removed the drill from the merchandise box and stuffed it into his pants to conceal (it)."

The witness followed him past all points of purchase, but he made no effort to pay for the "drill in his pants," Parkinson wrote.

Loss prevention employees confronted the man outside the store as police converged on the suspect.

"He was taken into custody without incident and the drill was recovered," Parkinson wrote.

The man has been identified as Jonathan M. O'Connell, of 32 Saint Mary St., West Warwick.

The business told police that they wanted to pursue criminal charges and requested that a trespass complaint be filed against O'Connell.

"I advised Jonathan that he was no longer welcome on the premises and failure to comply with the order would result in his arrest," Parkinson wrote.

He was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters, processed, advised of his Constitutional Rights, and secured in a cell.

"Due to (O'Connell's) extensive larceny and shoplifting convictions on his BCI record, he will be charged as a Shoplifting (Felony) and Habitual Offender," Parkinson wrote in the report.

O'Connell was arraigned later that day and given a Sixth District Court trial date.

"O'Connell was a probation violator and was remanded to the ACI," according to Johnston Police Detective Michael G. Edwards.

FELONY SHOPLIFTING

At 1:57 p.m., May 19, Johnston Police Officer Richard J. Varan was conducting a business check in the front parking lot of a store in town, when he was approached by a witness who said she saw a man enter the store and proceed to the plumbing department, where he allegedly selected a Rheem 40-gallon hot water tank (valued at \$679) and proceeded to the main entry/exit door without paying.

Johnston Police redacted the name of the business from the report.

The woman confronted the man and identified herself as one of the store's loss prevention officers. She told police that the man cooperated and came back inside the store with her.

The man was identified as Mark Suzzi, of 148 Atwells Ave., Apt. 3,

Providence. The business told police that they wanted to pursue criminal charges and requested that a trespass complaint be filed against Suzzi.

Suzzi was placed under arrest for Felony Shoplifting, transported to Johnston Police Headquarters and held pending arraignment. Suzzi "has a BCI consisting of (33) charges," Varan wrote in the arrest report.

Suzzi was arraigned at 7:30 p.m. later that day, assigned a court date and released on \$1,000 personal recognizance.

WARRANT ARREST

At 8:20 a.m., May 20, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri was dispatched to the area of 6 Mulberry Circle to investigate a report of a "suspicious female in the area."

"It should be noted that Communication Personnel advised that they had received multiple calls on this female, and that she was seen sleeping in someone's front yard as well as going through trash cans in the area."

Santurri located a woman matching the description and spoke to her. She was identified as Erica L. Mello, of 11 Mulberry Circle, Johnston. After a RILETS check, Santurri discovered Mello had several outstanding warrants.

The warrants included an East Providence Police arrest warrant for Larceny; a Superior Court Bench Warrant for failing to appear at a Cost Review following an initial Providence Police arrest and charge for Possession of Schedule I drugs; and an additional Superior Court Bench Warrant for failing to appear at a Cost Review following an initial Pawtucket Police arrest and charge for Possession of Schedule I.

Mello as taken into custody, transported back to police headquarters, processed and later turned over to the East Providence Police Department.

BREAKING & ENTERING

At 5:55 a.m., May 24, Johnston Police Officer Derick Ofori was dispatched to a home where a suspect entered an open garage and stole a bicycle. The suspect was described as wearing "dark colored clothing with a blue face mask on."

"He was last observed in the area of Goldsmith Street on the bike path," Ofori wrote in the arrest report.

While on a fixed post along Manton Avenue, Ofori "observed a male wearing dark colored hooded with a black beanie hat and orange gloves matching the description exit the bike path area on foot running."

Ofori detained the suspect, and identified the man as Anthony Lopez, 38 Veazie St., Providence.

Lopez told police that he "was attempting to go home after going for a walk on the bike path."

Another officer arrived on the scene with the victim, who positively identified Lopez as the suspect he allegedly "observed leaving his house with his bicycle."

After searching the suspect, police found a blue face mask, like the one the suspect had been described wearing.

"It should be noted while Mr. Lopez was being transported in my cruiser he stated, 'My bad man I saw the garage door open and saw the bicycle, I just wanted to get home faster.'"

Lopez was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was charged with Breaking & Entering Dwelling House W/O Consent.

FELONY SHOPLIFTING

A loss prevention manager from a store in town arrived at Johnston Police Headquarters on Dec. 20 to report three separate shoplifting complaints from Dec. 6, Dec. 9 and Dec. 11. The store loss prevention employee told police that on Dec. 15 the same suspect suspected in the three earlier incidents was arrested in a Providence store and charged by Providence Police.

Johnston Police redacted the name of both businesses from the report.

The store representative told police that the suspect, identified as Deangelo J. Vaughan, 17 Sanford Ave., Apt. 20, Pawtucket, entered the store three times in early December, and allegedly shoplifted several items.

At 8:55 p.m., Dec. 6, Vaughan allegedly took a 40-gallon gas water heater from the plumbing department (valued at \$1,199) and then walked past all points of purchase without paying, according to the store loss prevention manager.

At 1:38 p.m., Dec. 9, Vaughan allegedly loaded a Generac generator (valued at \$559) and then walked past all points of purchase without paying, according to the store loss prevention manager.

And then at 4:44 p.m., Dec. 11, he allegedly loaded three Generac generators (valued at \$559 each) and then walked past all points of purchase without paying, according to the store loss prevention manager.

The store provided video surveillance of all three incidents. Vaughan was identified via surveillance images. Johnston Police prepared an affidavit and arrest warrant for Vaughn charging him with one count of Felony Shoplifting and two counts of Misdemeanor Shoplifting.

On May 24, Vaughan was arraigned on the shoplifting charges, and presented as a bail violator. A violation hearing was set for June 2. He was not processed immediately because he was already incarcerated at the ACI.

SHOPLIFTING

While patrolling a local store parking lot, Johnston Police Detective Thomas M. Dwyer "observed a short male who was wearing a blue jeans and a red hat running from the store pushing a shopping carriage full of electrical wire.

The man stopped at the drivers of a white Mitsubishi SUV parked in the parking lot, unloaded the full carriage into the vehicle and got into the rear drivers side.

The SUV started toward the exit, and Dwyer activated the emergency lights on his assigned undercover police car, stopping the vehicle before it left the lot.

The vehicle driver told police that they had no idea the man who was in the rear of the vehicle had intentions of shoplifting, according to the arrest report.

The man in the back was identified as Jose Benito Malave, of 1 Valley St., Apt. 1206, Providence. He was arrested on the scene and charged with Shoplifting. The merchandise consisted of 16 rolls of electrical wire valued at \$2,618.88.

The business told police that they wanted to pursue criminal charges and requested that a trespass complaint be filed against Malave. Police said Malave had one previous charge on his Florida BCI for larceny. He was processed and released with a Third District Court summons to appear on June 27.

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 3. RHODE ISLAND ADVANTAGE: applies to any Rhode Island Students attending school in any state or Non-Rhode Island Students attending a school in Rhode Island who select an Immediate or Deferred Repayment loan.

Johnston Public Library's Summer Reading Program launches June 13

This year's Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Summer Reading Program has been dedicated to Andrew Greene and begins on June 13. Library patrons can register on Beanstack, by going to mohrlibrary.beanstack.org.

The Library's Children's Librarian Meri Carney has provided a full summer schedule of events for children of all ages.

Animal Experiences

At 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 27, the library will host Dave Marchetti's "Animal Experiences."

Carney says guest can expect "hands-on fun with a variety of reptiles and some small mammals. You can meet, pet and even hold snakes, turtles, lizards, and more." The event is for children ages 4 and up with a grown-up. Registration is required.

Animal Songs Sing 'n Signing

At 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 29, Julie Garnett will perform "Animal Songs Sing 'n Signing."

"Julie Garnett, an award-winning songwriter, teacher and performer, will share original songs from her book, Animal Songs and will be available for book purchasing and signing," according to Carney. The event is for children ages 1 to 6 years old with a caregiver. Registration is required.

Read to Teddy

At 10:30 a.m., Thursdays, June 30, July 7, Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, the library's Children's Room will host "Read to Teddy."

"Our furry friend Teddy and his handler Ms. Pinto will join us to listen to stories read by children," according to Carney. The event is for children age 3 and up with an adult. Registration is required.

Eat the Rainbow

At 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 6, Farm Fresh RI presents "Eat the Rainbow."

"In this interactive experience families will learn about our local food sources through games, fun activities, and a hands-on cooking demo of assembling and tasting spring rolls," Carney wrote. The event is for families with children ages 6 and up. Registration is required.

Fitness Adventure

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 11 (rain date July 18), youngsters 4 and up (with an adult) can stop by the Library for a "Fitness Adventure." "Join Heather Sischo for an exciting 45 minutes of games and movement-based activities to energize the whole family," Carney said. Registration is required.

Magic Show with Russ De Simone

At 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 25, library visitors can enjoy a "Magic Show with Russ De Simone." Carney describes it as a "45-minute, high energy magic show which combines audience participation and comedy with good ole family fun!" The event is for children ages 4 and up with a grown-up. Registration is required.

Intro to Coding with Dash and Dot

The Children's Room will host "Intro to Coding with Dash and Dot," at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug 1. After a quick intro to Blockly, participants will try their new skills by coding the library's robots — Dash and Dot — to move and talk. The event is for children ages 7 to 12. Registration is required.

At 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 15, the library will host "Dancin' with Hoops."

Both demonstration and hands-on, this program is a blend of creative movement, dance, exercise, and cooperative play," Carney wrote. "Hula hoops will be provided." The event is for patrons of all ages (with an adult). Registration is required.

How the reading program works:

Starting on June 13, parents can sign up the whole family for Summer Reading on Beanstack.

Beanstack is a web-based reading challenge. Children, Teens and Adults can track reading minutes, write reviews, and participate in fun activities to earn badges and digital raffle tickets.

Children who complete the reading challenge by reading or listening to books, e-books, magazines, graphic novels or audio books throughout the summer and completing related activities will receive a free donated book and digital raffle tickets for various prizes donated by the Friends of

the Library.

How do I sign up?

1. Go to mohrlibrary.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack app.
2. Click on "Register an individual or a family."
3. You can link several family members and access their accounts with one login.
4. Log your minutes of reading, do fun activities and earn digital raffle tickets for a variety of prizes, donated by the Friends of the Mohr Library.

The library also hosts "Weekly Children's Programs."

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays, June 27 to Aug. 15, and 2 to 5 p.m., Fridays, June 24 to Aug. 12, families can stop in for "Family Drop-in Crafts" — several self-guided projects for children and parents to do together.

The event will be for ages 3 and up with a grown-up. There is no need to register for "Family Drop-in Crafts."

The library will host Lego Club from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays, July 5 to Aug. 16. Carney invites families to "come play with our Legos. Bring a friend or make a new one." The Lego Club is for children ages 5 and up with a caregiver. No need to register.

Preschool Storytime

At 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, July 13 to Aug. 10, the library will host "Preschool Storytime." Attendees can expect "stories, songs, rhymes and puppets for toddlers and preschoolers and their grown-ups." The Storytimes are for children ages 2 and up with a caregiver. Registration is required.

Art Smart

From 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesdays, July 6 to Aug. 3, visit and enjoy "Art Smart." "Participants will explore the works of famous artists by doing hands-on projects with Ms. Melyssa." The course is for children ages 8 to 12. Registration is required.

Read to Teddy

At 10:30 a.m., Thursdays, June 30 to Aug. 11, visitors can "Read to Teddy," and various other programs for school-aged children with a grown-up. Registration is required.

Editor's Note: The statewide Rhode Island Summer Reading Program is supported by the RI Office of Library and Information Services with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Local support includes The Friends of Mohr Library, Tri-County HEZ and generous gifts in Memory of Andrew Greene. For more library news, turn to Page 11.

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\$55pp includes all you can eat Italian buffet & show!

6/26: Chelo's-Warwick
Afternoon Dinner Comedy Show with singer Steven Palumbo plus John Perrotta along some great comics!
\$45pp includes buffet & show!

7/28: Lemongrass
All You Can Eat-All You Can Laugh Dinner-Comedy Show!
\$45pp includes buffet & show!

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

THE BEST BRUSHING METHOD

Most people know to brush their teeth twice a day for a duration of two minutes. However, it's easy to forget the best brushing method and default to lazy habits. Start by choosing a soft-bristled brush with a good handle grip. Place the brush at a 45-degree angle toward your gums so that the bristles are just under the gumline. Use a gentle but firm pressure to brush back and forth for 15 to 20 strokes before moving on to the next section. Brush the outer surface of the teeth first before moving to the inner surface. Then use a vertical motion to brush the insides of the front teeth. Finally, brush the surface of the molars and tongue.

A very good lesson to remember is that prevention is key to optimum dental health. Through good habits like conscientiously and properly brushing and flossing, you have a lot of control over your dental health. One of the most important services we offer at DENTAL ARTS GROUP is a plan for preventive dental care, including counseling the proper way to brush and floss, as well as recommendations for oral hygiene products and how to use them. For an appointment, please call us at 401-521-3661, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston.

P.S. If you're not sure how much pressure is too much when brushing your teeth, try brushing with your non-dominant hand, which should apply a safe but effective amount of pressure.

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SCHOOL'S OUT: The Class of 2022 has been dismissed for the final time. (Photo courtesy Johnston High School Student Council)

JHS CLASS OF 2022: 'Memories that last forever'

By Charlene Hohlmaier
Special to the Sun Rise

The graduating class of 2022 celebrated their official last day at JHS on Friday, May 27. Many seniors gathered in the parking lot at 6 a.m. to have breakfast with each other before their last day. These seniors made the most of their last day of high school forever as they wore their "Decision Day" T-shirts to school. Hugs, goodbyes, and tears filled the hallways as the seniors took in their final moments as a class. At the end of the day, Mrs. Natasha Zito (Senior Class Advisor) came onto the loud speaker and declared one final goodbye, stating: "And now for the last time, the Class of 2022 is officially dismissed."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Charlene Hohlmaier serves as the Senior Class President for the Johnston High School Class of 2022. The Sun Rise regularly publishes stories from the halls of Johnston Senior High School.

Schools

(Continued from page 1)

"Every leader of a local education agency in the state will conduct walkthroughs of the school facilities in their district and complete a comprehensive survey of potential emergency hazards, including reviews of doors and windows, car access, landscape features, lighting, alarm and camera systems, and communications systems," according to a press release from McKee's office. "These walkthroughs and corresponding reports will be shared with RIDE and the School Safety Committee by Friday, June 10."

Lt. Governor Sabina Matos, who recently visited Johnston Schools, addressed parental anxiety following traumatic shooting events.

"As the mother of two school-aged children, I can relate to the feeling of uncertainty and worry parents are feeling right now in the wake of the Uvalde mass shooting," Matos said. "This is why we must be proactive in addressing school safety and supporting our local school districts with the resources necessary to secure our schools and protect our students. I want to thank our district leaders, principals, educators, and support staff for working with us on this very

important initiative."

The RISP last week also released details about the agency's "ongoing efforts to support school safety in Rhode Island cities and towns."

"The Rhode Island State Police oversee the Rhode Island School Safety Committee, which meets monthly and provides at least two trainings a year," according to a RISP press release. "Other participants in the Committee include the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Superintendents Association, BHD-DH, the Rhode Island State Fire Marshal and school security personnel. The mission of the Rhode Island School Safety Committee is to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff in all Rhode Island Schools."

"There is nothing more important than the safety and well-being of our children," said Colonel Darnell S. Weaver, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and Director of the Department of Public Safety. "The Rhode Island State Police works with state and local public safety partners to ensure that all stakeholders are trained and prepared. Most importantly, we focus on prevention through intelligence gathering, actively engaging

school officials with training, and conducting security assessments. As we mourn the victims of gun violence, we want to assure families that we have no greater priority than ensuring that our children are safe in their classrooms. We ask all Rhode Islanders to be vigilant and to remember that if you 'see something, say something,' so we can work together to keep our communities safe."

According to RISP, the School Safety Committee is now collecting and reviewing All Hazards Site Safety Survey Reports from each public school in the State.

"These reports will identify safety deficiencies and help administrators and public safety officials make decisions on how best to mitigate any gaps in safety," according to RISP. "The Rhode Island State Police encourages school officials to work with local and state law enforcement partners to conduct active shooter training and preparedness. Schools are advised to train evacuation procedures and have shelter-in-place plans. Multiple evacuation routes should be clearly marked with appropriate signage and rallying points well-known to participants."

In August, the state's School Safety Committee plans to host its annual school safety conference.

"Schools where potential hazards are found will be encouraged to work with local law enforcement and their school safety teams to identify solutions to those hazards, including determining the time and cost of implementation," according to a joint press release from McKee's office and RIDE. "RIDE will authorize up to \$500,000 in emergency approval through the School Building Authority for each district to make whatever additional security upgrades their school facilities need and be reimbursed after the work is complete."

"School safety is vital, and it starts with ensuring that our facilities are well-maintained and following the most recent guidance from law enforcement experts," said Rhode Island Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green. "We are grateful to our local education leaders for their swift and thorough response to this call to action from the Governor. Rhode Island students and families should feel safe knowing that such dedicated and dependable educators lead their district."

School administrators will surely welcome an influx of funds to cover safety improvements.

"School superintendents across Rhode Island are in

agreement the safety of our children is of ultimate importance," said Rhode Island School Superintendents Association President Kathryn Crowley. "The security of our schools is nothing new to us. We have been working diligently to assure the safety of our students and staffs since Sandy Hook. We will use the comprehensive survey to identify any security issues we have not addressed and welcome the additional resources being provided by the State to address those issues. Our students and their parents need to be assured our schools are safe havens."

The day after the Uvalde massacre, Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza pledged to work closely with school administrators.

"I've been in contact with the superintendent of schools regarding this most recent, tragic and senseless act of school violence," Razza said. "I've communicated to him and you may let parents know that there will be an increased police presence at all schools throughout the school district ... In addition to our two SRO's (School Resource Officers) deployed at our middle school and high school other security measures have been implemented over the years to ensure public safety at our schools."

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Gun violence goes to core of American values

Are you willing to live in a world where you need to be able to exercise lethal force at a moment's notice in order to feel safe?

This question may very well be the only one that matters in the ongoing debate regarding gun culture and gun violence in America — a country reeling from its most recent unimaginable tragedy that unfolded at an elementary school in Texas, where 19 children and two adults were senselessly slain.

We would contend that the fact that mass shootings (incidents where four or more people are killed in one shooting) continue to occur at a mind-boggling rate of about 19 per year since 2009, and that over 110 people die from gun violence each day in this country, is no longer the symptom of some kind of undiagnosed problem — rather, it is the simple conclusion of the values and decisions we have chosen for decades and centuries leading up to this point.

The gun violence problem in America is not the result of too few regulations, or too many guns, or a failure of the federal government to prioritize mental health outcomes — it is a deadly combination of all of these factors, based in the very DNA of our country and pre-ordained from the moment we gained independence through a violent revolution.

We can debate until we're blue in the face about how banning high-capacity magazines, assault rifles, and implementing better background checks, passing red flag laws (like Rhode Island has done), or increasing the age at which you can buy a firearm will solve the situation. While all of these measures may move the needle towards less death, particularly in domestic violence situations, to imagine that these measures will stop the needless carnage is nothing less than wishful thinking.

Pandora's Box has been opened ever since 2008, when the Supreme Court ruled in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment was actually not written in order to ensure that people should be able to keep and bear arms in order to maintain a "well regulated Militia," which the framers deemed "necessary to the security of a free State." Instead, a conservative majority decided that the Second Amendment actually meant people should be allowed to carry firearms for personal protection, and we will continue to deal with the fallout from that expansive decision for decades to come.

Because at the end of the day, this argument hits a stopping point as soon as you get to the core philosophical difference between control advocates and opponents. Gun control advocates believe that the world is more dangerous when there are more guns, and opponents to gun control believe that safety is impossible without having access to guns.

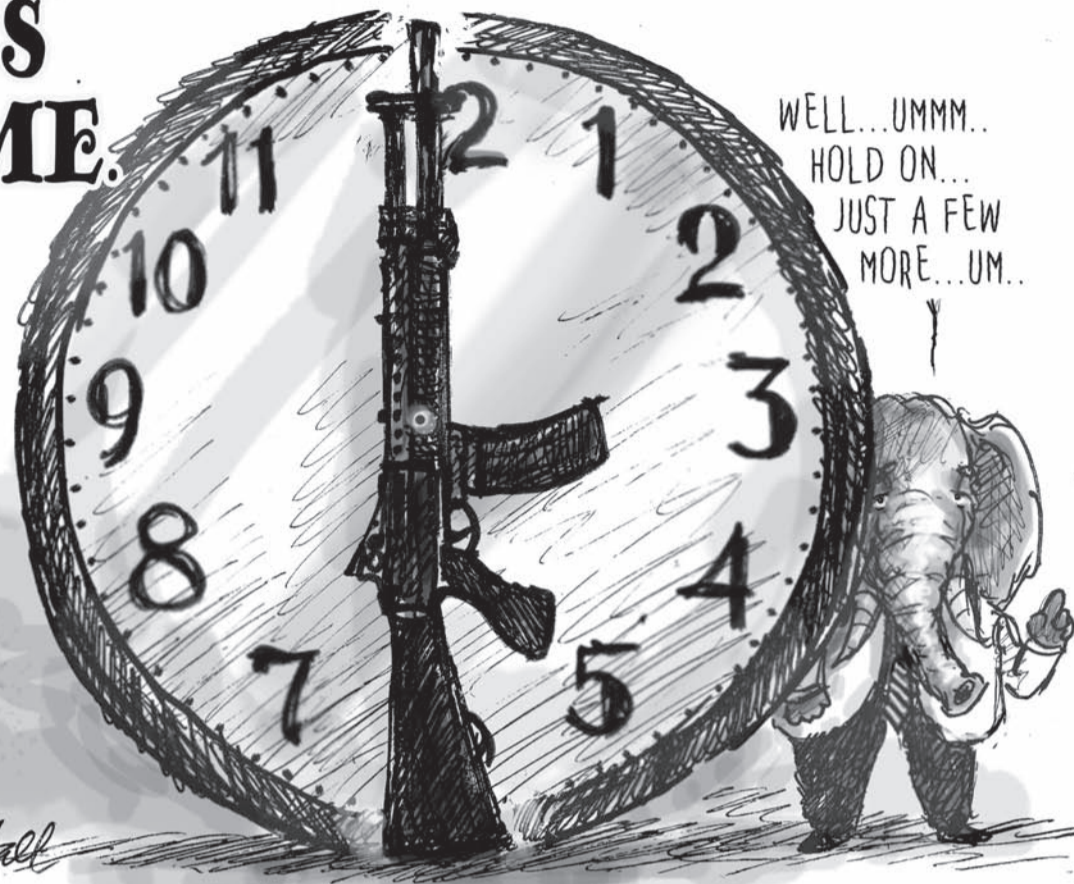
How can we bridge such a wildly different philosophical gap? Our Congressional representatives certainly haven't figured out the answer to that question. Studies that have clearly shown the "good guy with a gun" theory to be nothing more than a fantasy have certainly not mattered. Nor has the clear data that more guns lead to more deaths by gun violence, a causal relationship that should by no means be controversial.

This isn't meant to be a defeatist position. Regulations to make guns harder to access — or impossible to access for those who have shown clear signs of being a danger to society — are the lowest hanging, most sensible fruit which should be implemented immediately at the federal level.

But beyond regulations, this problem is a deeply personal one. Individuals must decide what kind of country they want to live in, and what kind of world they want to leave behind. The world we are in now, the product of our decisions and beliefs, is one where kids and innocent people are slaughtered by military-grade weapons while simply trying to exist and thrive in what many believe is the greatest country in the world. Is there a way to fix this without turning every civilian, teacher, and bus driver into an armed vigilante?

Personally, we would contend that living in a world where you're so scared of being hurt or killed that you must carry a deadly weapon on your hip to do something as trivial as running your weekend errands is not "living free" at all.

IT'S TIME.



LETTER

'A town's sovereign responsibility is to provide for its residents'

Local governments owe their residents laws, ordinances, and other policies that ensure land development projects are executed in the best interests of the people. A town's sovereign responsibility is to provide for its residents. This responsibility requires government to balance population growth, economic development, open space, quality of life, and other factors. The recent (and still ongoing) issue with proposed utility-scale solar developments in Johnston have highlighted gaps in Johnston's zoning and land use regulations that require improvements.

Johnston does not have guidance for solar projects in its Comprehensive Land Development Plan or in its Zoning Ordinances. Because of this lack of regulation, the town's boards are put in difficult positions when asked to adjudicate the veracity of proposed projects. It is clear that utility-scale solar projects are not legally permitted under the town's regulations. However, they are not explicitly prohibited. Rather, there is no ordinance that allows them to be built. But solar projects should be permitted — with appropriate siting and associated controls.

Johnston's Comprehensive Land Development Plan was updated most recently in 2007 and approved in 2009. By Rhode Island State Law, it expired in 2014. However, in the absence of a replacement, it remains effective. There is no mention of Solar development projects in the 546 pages in this document. Because solar projects were not as ubiquitous 15 years ago as they are now, this lack of guidance is not surprising.

The State Municipal Planning Department lists the approval status of all Rhode Island Comprehensive Plans. Of the 39 communities, 26 have fully approved plans, 11 have expired plans, and 2 have plans that were denied approval by the State. In one example of poor maintenance, West Greenwich's plan was approved by the town in 1995 and denied by the State; their new plan is in development now. West Greenwich has enacted solar ordinances. Portsmouth's Comprehensive Plan expired in 2007 and the new plan is now in review by the State. Johnston has not even published draft sections of a new plan.

State guidance for Comprehensive Plan development now recommends incorporation of solar siting guidance. Consequently, the communities which have updated their Plans in the last five to seven years explicitly address solar developments.

It is instructive to assess how our neighboring communities handle solar projects, so Johnston can adapt useful practices.

In Burrillville, Solar projects are allowed in General Commercial zones via Special Use Permit. The Burrillville Comprehensive Plan commits to not put solar in forested land; little to no tree removal is preferred.

Similarly, Cumberland states that it is inappropriate for land to be cleared of vegetation for solar projects. Cumberland's ordinances do not allow commercial solar, but the Comprehensive Plan states that they should be allowed where appropriate in scale and sensitive to the surrounding context. Smithfield discourages deforestation for solar projects.

Glocester allows for solar to be installed in most zones, but details specific requirements based on the size and type of installation. These ordinances are very specific and clearly consider many factors, including the character of the town and residents' concerns.

Glocester's solar ordinance defines "utility-scale" solar developments, the largest categorization, as between 4.6 and 20 acres. Land coverage greater than 20 acres is prohibited. For comparison, the proposed Winsor II site in Johnston is 31 acres and the Winsor III site is 76.5 acres. Both would be prohibited in Glocester. The total area of all five proposed Johnston projects is 133.15 acres within the fenced boundaries. The solar panels would occupy less area, but even more area would be cleared beyond the fence.

As I have shown in this brief overview, neighboring Rhode Island communities offer a variety of approaches to the solar issue. Johnston would be wise to analyze and compare the approaches taken, particularly in Glocester, to inform the new Comprehensive Plan and associated ordinances.

Johnston should permit new solar projects. However, these facilities should be discouraged in residentially zoned areas and strict limitations on deforestation must be established.

At the very minimum, Johnston must establish regulations which state if these types of facilities are permitted and where. We the residents deserve at least that much from our elected representatives and appointed officials.

Further, the Comprehensive Plan revision process requires input from the community - working groups, hearings, draft text, comment periods, and so forth. Residents have demonstrated recently that they have significant interest in how town land is used. The Planning Board, which commissions the Comprehensive Plan revision, must make this process transparent and should begin to solicit input from residents. This process is lengthy, so public engagement should start soon. Time is of the essence, as developers have clearly shown interest in the town's land resources.

We Johnston residents should all contact our elected representatives to encourage them to make this process transparent, effective, thoughtful, and timely. Johnston's future is on the line.

Chris Dibble, Johnston

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Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-2 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a public hearing at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on **June 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2022-7 (Formerly 2021-CP-182)**, an ordinance regarding the abandonment of a portion of **Genoa Street**, located on **Assessor's Plat 5**. All persons interested in the above Ordinance may attend the hearing and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

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

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

5/26, 6/2, 6/9/22



Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-2 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a public hearing at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on **June 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2022-8 (Formerly 2021-CP-194)**, an ordinance regarding the abandonment of a portion of **Mathew Drive**, located on **Assessor's Plat 57**. All persons interested in the above Ordinance may attend the hearing and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

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

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

5/26, 6/2, 6/9/22



Request for Proposals Town of Johnston

Purchase of Three Metal Storage Containers for the Recreation Department

The Town of Johnston is requesting bids for the **Purchase of Three Metal Storage Containers for the Recreation Department**. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning June 9, 2022 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, subject to State Holidays. Specs are also available on the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. Sealed bids will be accepted until **10:00 am, June 17th, 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

6/9/22



SPECIAL SENDOFF: This is the huge banner that spans the entire front entrance at Johnston High School, offering members of the Class of 2022 congratulations prior to the Friday, June 10 graduation ceremony that will be held at The Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, beginning at 6:30 p.m. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Auction Legal Notice

Ave Johnston RI. On June 11, 2022 at 900 Am. The vehicle 2007 BMW WB4HN8354DT65677 belonging to the above. The auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage.

To: Denine Silva 206 Camp St Providence RI, Santander Consumer PO Box 25120 Lehigh Valley, PA. A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford

6/9/22

TOWN OF JOHNSTON OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

COLLECTOR'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE FOR TAXES DUE AND UNPAID

Johnston Municipal Court
1600 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
June 23, 2022

The undersigned, Finance Director/Collector of the Town of Johnston, hereby gives notice that he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919, on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., the various parcels of real estate or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the taxes which constitute a lien thereon set forth in the original advertisement of May 26, 2022 in THE SUNRISE of that date to which reference is hereby made

Property upon which taxes have been paid since the advertisement first appeared, will not, of course, be included in the sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, if the real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by the Town of Johnston and has not been assigned, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the Treasurer of the Town of Johnston the sum for which the real estate was purchased, plus a ten percent (10%) penalty of the purchase price if redeemed within six (6) months after the date of the sale. Beginning with the seventh (7th) month forward, an additional one percent (1%) of the purchase price for each succeeding month will be added, together will all charges lawfully added for intervening taxes plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and expenses assessed after the Collector's Sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-21, if the real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by someone other than the Town of Johnston, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the purchaser or his or her legal representatives, assigns or to the person or persons to whom assignment of the tax title has been made by the Town of Johnston, or the Treasurer, the original sum and any intervening taxes having been paid to the municipality plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and costs, plus a penalty as provided in Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, or in the case of an assignee of a tax title from the Town of Johnston, the amount stated in the instrument of assignment, plus the above-mentioned penalty.

The right of redemption may be exercised only by those entitled to notice of the Sale pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-10 and Section 44-9-11, and may be exercised at any time prior to the entry of Final Judgment in an action to foreclose the right of redemption filed pursuant to Rhode Island General Law Section 44-9-25. You are encouraged to review Rhode Island General Laws pertaining to tax sales and/or consult with an attorney concerning your rights.

Joseph Chiodo
Finance Director/Director

6/2, 6/9, 6/16/22



Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a Public Hearing Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Johnston Municipal Court, located at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2022-9 (formerly 2022-CP-50)** to amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map, as summarized here.

Applicant: David & Paula Corsi
Assessor's Plat: 6
Assessor's Lots: 44
Present Classification: R-20
Proposed Change to: B-1

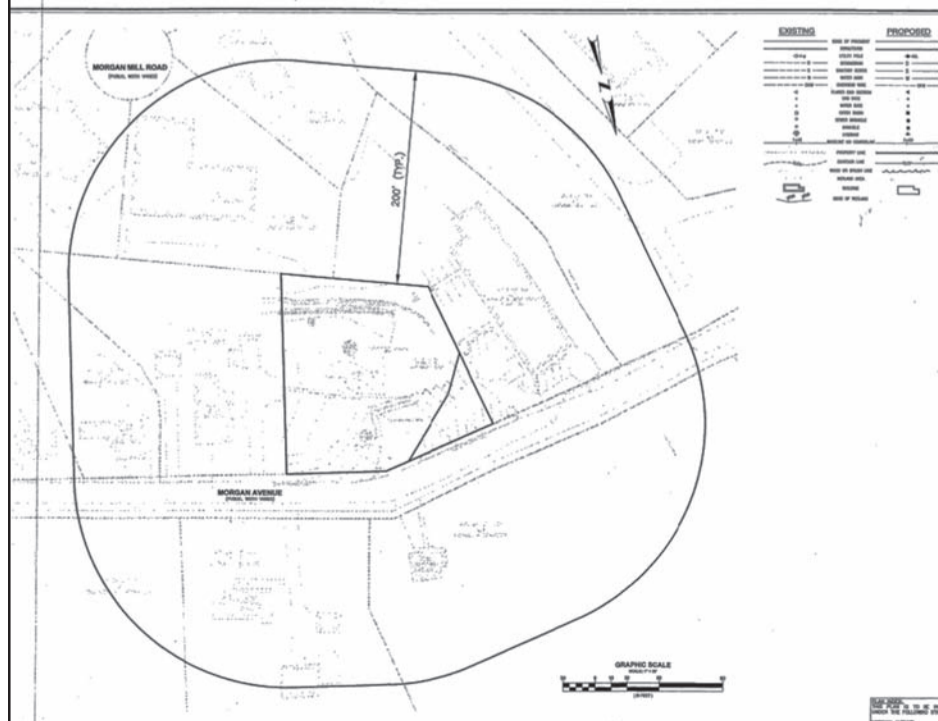
Said lot being located on: Between 278 and 300 Morgan Avenue

The proposed Ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Said proposed Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Clerk for examination. Any alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of the hearing. All persons interested in the above application are requested to attend said meeting and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Per Order:
Robert V. Russo
Johnston Town Council

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

5/26, 6/2, 6/9/22



ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER!

To place your ad, call

732-3100

Sun Rise Scoops

By Meri R. Kennedy

Apple Fest Scheduled

The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11. The festival will run 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.

The annual Apple Festival has been called by many a "Time-Honored Community Tradition & Fun for Everyone." As always, this year's fest will feature its "Artisan Row" — filled with beautiful handcrafted items, Pony Rides, and more.

The Annual Apple Festival will run for two days at Johnston Memorial Park, 1583 Hartford Ave. The event is free and open to the Public.

More at Mohr Library

Flyers for children's summer programs are available at Mohr Library, which you can pick up at the library. Various kids' programs will include animals, a magician, dancing, fitness and computer coding.

The library will also have its annual summer reading programs for kids, teens and adults. Sign up beginning June 13 at mohrlibrary.beanstack.org. Library staff can help you sign up.

Mohr Library will host a book discussion of Anne Tyler's new novel, "French Braid," led by the Adult Services Librarian, TJ Heffers, on July 14 at 11 am. Contact TJ for a book soon.

Want to run your own book club? We can supply you with a bag of five copies of "Fly Girl," the new memoir by bestselling author and Rhode Island resident Ann Hood.

Friday book discussion for adults who love YA books June 17 at 5 pm: "Lore Olympus," a contemporary retelling, in graphic novel form, of the myth of Hades and Persephone. Register by emailing or calling.

Mohr Library offers on-the-spot computer help and can schedule longer sessions for individuals needing more help. Librarians can also help you find classes at other locations.

There is a wealth of online services offered by Rhode Island libraries, like access to electronic versions of books, magazines and research journals, career and testing guides, self-improvement media and more. Library staff can help you navigate these resources.

Mohr Library offers use of computers, printers and scanners. The library will send faxes for \$1 a page, and has free Notary service evenings and Saturday mornings (call ahead).

The library book-drop is again out of service but a new one is expected by the end of June.

The book sale happens every day.

Mohr Library posts hours, services and programs at mohrlibrary.org, where you can also sign up for updates. If you don't get them electronically, the library can mail you a newsletter.

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

Annual Angels Giving Back Charity 5K Run/Walk

Angels Giving Back, a Rhode Island 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to building community through giving back, will hold its annual 5k run/walk on Saturday, June 11.

Participants are welcomed to join together at 10 a.m. on June 11 at 685 Greenville Ave One Citizens Bank Way for the event. Angels Giving Back is associated with the convenience store chain Seasons Corner Market.

This charity pays tribute to Mario and Valia Coletta, founders of Colbea Enterprises and Seasons Corner Market. Their generous impact on the community and local organizations touched many lives. Angels Giving Back was formed to honor their legacy and support the charities near and dear to their hearts. 100% of the proceeds go to these three charities: the Alzheimer's Association, the PKD Foundation (Polycystic Kidney Disease), and The Tomorrow Fund.

This event is family friendly, with all ages welcome! You can pre-register online for \$35 or sign up on race day for \$50. For youth ages 12 and under, online registration is \$10. All participants will receive a moisture wicking shirt and swag bag. Finishers will receive a medal. Complimentary light snacks and drinks will be provided during/after the race.

To register for the race, visit: www.active.com/johnston-ri/running/distance-running-races/angels-giving-back-5k-2022.

Check In and on-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The race starts at 10 a.m. Sponsorship opportunities and donations for giveaway items are available until May 31. All sponsors will receive signage recognition and be highlighted on the event website. Individuals and/or companies that are interested may contact us by email at hello@angelsgivingback.com or visit their website angelsgivingback.com/ for more information. Angels Giving Back is a non-profit formed in honor

and memory of Mario and Valia Coletta, the founders of Colbea Enterprises/Seasons Corner Market. This charitable organization was formed to honor their legacy and generosity. Angels Giving Back holds several events year-round from their annual 5k run to their charity golf tournament. These events help raise money to support the charities near and dear to the Coletta's hearts. For more information, visit: www.angelsgivingback.com/

Johnston Historical Society General Meetings

The next General Meeting of the Johnston Historical Society will be held at 7 p.m., June 19. 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.

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Johnston Historical Society Museum Barn, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, and are free and open to the public. Events are subject to change. For more information, call 401-231-3380.

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.

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."

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. Learn 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

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.skills-forri.com/prepareri for more information.

Free Virtual Family-To-Family

The "NAMI-RI: Free Virtual Family-To-Family" course begins June 15. The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is now accepting registration for our Summer virtual Family-to-Family course which begins on Wednesday, June 15. This is a free, 8-session, educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have lived experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

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

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 nonprofit 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.

Obituaries

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

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

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1

Vaccination

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2

Ventilation

Outdoor or well-ventilated areas are safest.

3

Masking

Wear a high-quality mask in crowded indoor settings.



DETECT

4

Symptom screening

Watch for symptoms after travel or indoor gatherings.

5

Testing

Get tested if you have symptoms or are exposed.



TREAT

6

Isolation

Stay away from others if you test positive.

7

Treatment

Ask a healthcare provider about treatment if you test positive.

LIFE SKILL DRILL



REAL-LIFE LESSON: The life skills students at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School got an opportunity to check out a local fire truck. See pages 13 & 14 for more photos from the event. (Photos courtesy A. Wheaton, Library Media Specialist at Ferri Middle School)





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REAL-LIFE LESSON: The life skills students at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School got an opportunity to check out a local fire truck. See page 14 for more photos from the event. (Photos courtesy A. Wheaton, Library Media Specialist at Ferri Middle School)



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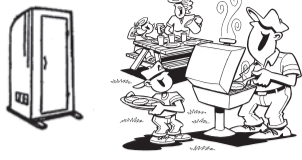
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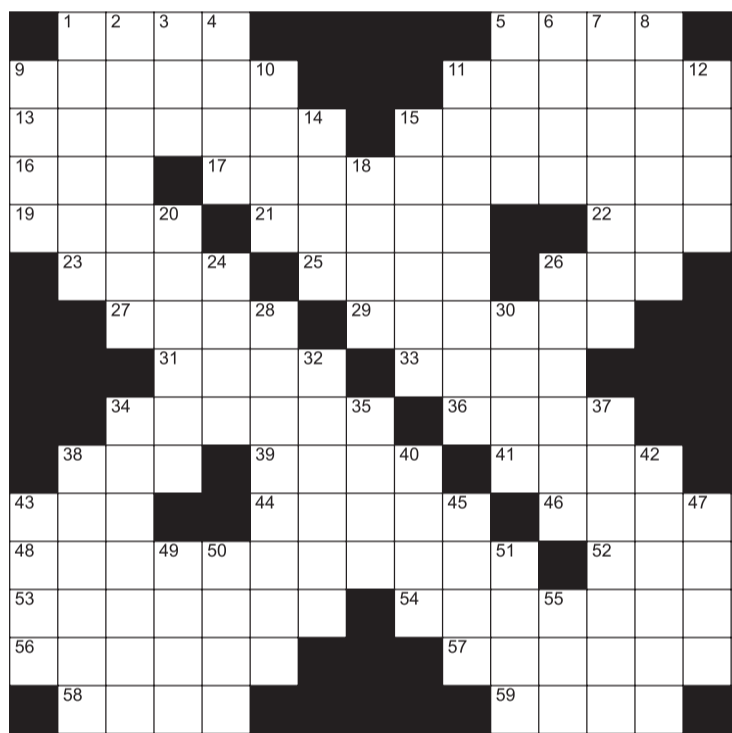
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REAL-LIFE LESSON: The life skills students at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School got an opportunity to check out a local fire truck. (Photos courtesy A. Wheaton, Library Media Specialist at Ferri Middle School)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Slovenian mountain
5. Growl
9. Where things stand
11. Made a sharp sound
13. Female spirit in Irish folklore
15. Deteriorate with age
16. A way to save for retirement
17. The Big Apple
19. Intestinal pouches
21. City in New Hampshire
22. Giving a bad impression
23. Samsung laptops
25. Without (French)
26. Scientist's tool (abbr.)
27. System of one more computers
29. Captures
31. Authentic
33. Female mammal's nipple
34. Pandemonium
36. Satisfy
38. Arrived extinct
39. Shipborne radar (abbr.)
41. Network of nerves
43. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Looks at for a long time
2. Solution for diseases
3. Belonging to a thing
4. Former Packers fullback
5. Contemptible person
6. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
7. Helps
8. Final section of the large intestine
9. Invests in little enterprises
10. Look for
11. Unbeliefs

12. Susan and Tom are two
14. Female sheep
15. A poet writes it
18. Affirmatives
20. "Full House" actress Barber
24. Traveled rapidly
26. Long upholstered seat
28. Set wages
30. Peter Gabriel song
32. Sides of a jacket
34. More beautiful
35. Actress Kate
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Indicate
40. The cost of a room
42. Gets rid of something
43. Impudence
45. No No No
47. Drunkards
49. Middle eastern country
50. High energy lasers (abbr.)
51. Primary component of ribosomes
55. An informal debt instrument



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Law Day
(Continued from page 1)

Razza joined Rhode Island Superior Court Associate Justice Joseph A. Montalbano and Johnston Town Council Vice President and mayoral candidate Joseph Polisena Jr., participating in this semester's Law Day. They delivered lectures and fielded questions.

"Interacting with our youth is extremely important and when given the opportunity to speak about the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights and our legal system at Ferri Middle School on Law Day, I was more than thrilled," Razza said. "I was honored to give my law enforcement perspective and speak along with (Judge) Montalbano and (Joe) Polisena Jr., an attorney with experience with the Rhode Island Attorney General's office."

The questions weren't all softballs, but the legal minds in the room did their best to deliver solid, truthful hits.

"I think the three of us were able to provide valuable insight and a unique perspective of the law and our own individual experiences in its application and importance," Razza said.

One student raised his hand with a question: "How often, when you pull someone over, and you suspect they are DUI ... is it mainly because of marijuana or alcohol?"

The question carried particular weight, as the Rhode Island General Assembly was on the cusp of legalizing recreational adult cannabis use in the Ocean State. On Law Day, the legislation had not yet passed. But it would just a couple weeks later.

"The majority of our DUIs are alcohol related," Razza said, going on to explain the DUI investigation process. "If they are suspected of (driving under the influence of) some other type of illegal substance, and we're not able to detect through the use of a Breathalyzer, and they consent to blood, then we'll take them for a blood test ... And we'll determine that. Now, the way the law is written, if there's substantial injury or death, we can actually get a search warrant for that blood."

One of the biggest challenges law enforcement may face, now that cannabis use has been legalized, is the enforcement of DUI laws when it can be impossible to tell how recently someone consumed or smoked cannabis (the drug's active ingredients can remain in a user's system for a month after ingestion).

"You get stopped for suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, the officer will ask you to consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests ... if you pass, then good," Razza told the students. "If you don't pass, they're going to read you your rights. They're called 'rights for use at the scene.' Basically, it's almost like Miranda rights. You're taken back to the station. You're asked to consent to a breath

test. If you don't take the breath test, then it goes down as a refusal. Then you're going to go to court and we're going to dual charge you for refusal and DUI. And then we'll let the defense work it out."

Those steps become more complicated when marijuana is the suspected intoxicating substance. Police and prosecutors are currently struggling with reconciling new cannabis legislation with existing criminal statutes.

One student shyly raised his hand, and asked quietly: "Can't you just like, stop the marijuana coming into America itself, by you know, strengthening the security?"

"I know maybe you people never heard about this before," Razza replied. "They used to call it the 'War on Drugs.' But, quite frankly, you know why they call it 'weed,' right? It literally grows like a weed. And ... all you need is one seed of this thing, and you can grow it just about anywhere. Some people grow it in their house; they grow it legally."

And some people grow cannabis in their homes outside the realms of law.

"We've hit a few houses in

Johnston where they have had illegal marijuana grows," Razza told the students. "Really, they're setting up a greenhouse in their house, and their growing the stuff. So, it's very accessible. It's not that it's coming in from out of America. It's all around us. To your point, being able to control it is very difficult."

Razza told the students that a "confidential tip" may lead to "surveillance," and eventually a search warrant and possible arrest.

"When we will actually hit a house, or an illegal grow — we call it, we'll take everything down to the wall sockets," Razza said.

Law Day 2022 happened just a couple weeks prior to one of the nation's worst school mass shootings. On May 24, a gunman killed 19 students and two teachers in a massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

The Uvalde mass shooting was far from the first of its kind in the United States — though it is surely one of the most horrific. Two weeks before the tragedy, students at Ferri Middle School were already pondering gun violence.

"There have been a lot of shootings lately," one student said to Razza. "Like, are you



TOUGH QUESTIONS: Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza fielded tough questions from Ferri Middle School civics students during Law Day. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

doing anything to stop them?"

Razza took a moment and weighed his words carefully.

"If you're talking about the number of guns out there ... We're very fortunate that we don't have some of the, we'll call them, crimes of gun violence, or shootings in Johnston, rather than some other municipalities, or cities or towns," Razza said. "But yeah, gun violence is definitely up. Access to guns is definitely up. Access to illegal

guns is definitely up."

The room briefly discussed the Second Amendment, and the need to balance gun rights with the rights of students to live and learn in an atmosphere free of mortal fear.

"And really, a lot of it is due to the fact that there are more and more guns out there, and more and more people are purchasing guns," Razza explained to the class. "I can tell you this right now, that there's a background

check done actually (purchase a gun). We average maybe 60 gun checks a month. Which, back a few years ago (was far less)."

Society's changing. Its laws are changing. And the students — who themselves are changing rapidly, mentally and physically — will likely have many more legal questions as they grow and eventually search to find a place in their community.

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spotlight ON BUSINESS



Check out these beautiful uniforms, designed to support the Ukrainian Women's Jr. and Sr. National Gymnastic Team. A portion of all Dream Big Athletic purchases will help support the Ukrainian Gymnastics Team.

Dream Big Athletic

Finding ways to help their fellow gymnasts in Ukraine



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By JENNIFER COATES

There is something remarkable and powerful when a community bonds together to show solidarity in times of hardship and crisis. Such is the case with the worldwide community of gymnasts who, despite the competitive nature of their sport, have united to support their fellow gymnasts in the war-torn country of Ukraine. Shannon Cornicelli, a lifelong

gymnast, owner of Dream Big Gymnastics and Dream Big Athletic, cares about these foreign athletes ~ and she is doing something about it.

As many know, the situation in Ukraine is still worsening. The Junior and Senior National Gymnastics teams have not been left unscathed. Their coach and mentor, Coach Iulia Kaiukova (aka "Yulia") explains: "I am very worried about the girls whose families are still in Ukraine. I see the gymnasts' moods; they are very changeable and I try to lift their spirits and support them. They are very strong. We all hope for the best. We all want to return home as soon as possible to our most beloved Ukraine."

Cornicelli's popular Dream Big Gymnastics & Ninja Warrior is a fully-equipped modern gym in Cranston but it is through the uniform company that she created, Dream Big Athletics, that she is doing the most good. It is through this growing business that she is trying to make some inroads in a heartbreaking situation. Recently, Shannon and the gyms' athletes added lots of handwritten cards and well wishes to a big package that was sent to the Ukrainian gymnasts who are now training in Buchholz, Germany. The package also included all the work-out gear the team would need for their training. Cornicelli wasn't about to sit idly by when she had the power, the means, and the will to make a difference.

In an effort to bolster the spirits of these gymnasts, Shannon Cornicelli and her team at Dream Big Athletic have committed to donating a portion of the proceeds from all sales at the academy towards outfitting the Ukrainian Women's Jr. and Sr. National Gymnastics Team. In fact, Dream Big Athletic will be outfitting the team for all their international competitions this summer, as well as the upcoming competitive season.

For those interested in participating in this great effort, they can purchase a Ukrainian "Peace tank" through <https://dreambigathletic.com/ukrainian-peace-tank/>. Furthermore, gymnastic clubs throughout the country can start designing their competitive uniforms by visiting <https://dreambigathletic.com/custom.design/>.

If you have a budding athlete and prospective gymnast (or Ninja Warrior) in your home, consider checking out the classes and summer camps now open for enrollment at Dream Big Gymnastics & Ninja. While you are at it, why not purchase a Peace Tank and make a difference of your own.

For more details and to register for classes, check out Dream Big's informative website at www.dreambiggym.com or call 401-228-8946. Dream Big Academy is located at 41 Comstock Parkway Way in Cranston. You can follow them on social media as well!

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Sports

Chargers upset Panthers in quarters

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The visiting No. 6 Chariho baseball team held off No. 2 Johnston 3-1 in the Division II Quarterfinals last Saturday at War Memorial Park to end the Panthers' season.

Down 3-1, the Panthers had a chance to do some damage when they loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh with two outs. However, Chariho's third basemen would scoop up a hard grounder and make the tough throw to first to end the game.

The Panthers had multiple opportunities to add runs throughout the contest, but the Chariho defense made a handful of big plays to stymie the Johnston offense.

"(Chariho) played great defense. The third basemen made a couple of great plays, the first basemen made a great play. In a different scenario, maybe that ball gets by (in the bottom of the seventh). You don't want to play cautiously, but we wanted to keep things close and look to get runs here and there. But they made plays. You've got to give it to them. It was a big game and they made big plays," said Johnston coach Joe Acciaro after the loss.



ON THE BUMP: Johnston senior relief pitcher Cam Salois deals against Chariho last week. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

● UPSET - PAGE 19

PROUD PANTHERS:

Among the many JHS alumni who helped make the Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament a special success were: Len Andrews, Brian Crum, Carmine DeLuca, Jim Hopkins, John Graham and Allan McGillivray. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



Annual Mazzie golf tourney a success

By PETE FONTAINE

They honored a late and former teacher-coach countless people often referred to as "The Renaissance Man."

In fact, Cranston Country Club located at 69 Burlingame Road looked more like a number of small reunions rather than a golf tournament.

Perhaps Ed Skovron and Dan Pisaturo – who played shortstop and third base respectively for Johnston High School's 1963 state champion baseball team – were perfect examples of the field of 80 golfers who showed up for the annual Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament.

"We've got alumni and friends from years past," offered Jim Hopkins, a former JHS teacher and coach who chairs the Prestigious Athletic Hall of Fame he late

● MAZZIE - PAGE 18



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AWESOME ALUMS: One-time JHS sports standouts David Russo and Jim Picchi enjoy a lighter moment before teeing off in Saturday's Mazzie Memorial Tournament.

Mazzie

(Continued from page 17)

Mazzie founded. "This is truly a special day filled with proud Panthers."

A total of 80 golfers, many of whom who so proudly wore the Columbia Blue and White, enjoyed the 18-hole event that was a mighty memorial to a man who was Mr. JHS before he succumbed go a battle with lung cancer back on Oct. 1, 2015.

Since then, Hopkins and the Hall of Fame Committee have held the golf ground that benefits the now prestigious Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Scholarships that is annually presented to a boy and girl in the JHS Senior Class.

The tournament's success, which Hopkins said is largely due to the harking efforts of former Panther Jon Graham, ensures that the Mazzie Memorial Scholarships – which were recently awarded to MacKenzie Hanna and Mohamed Abaheram – will be back again next year.

Likewise, some of the tournament proceeds will be used to cover the cost of the annual Athletic Hall of fame Induction

Ceremony which is held in October. No has been set for this year's events.

The playing field included a number of former Panther All-Staters like Ray DeFusco, Bob Bigelli, Eric Skovron and Eddie Skovron and one-time JHS sports standouts like Davie Russo and Jim Picci.

Each player received a special gift package that included an embroidered hand towel, ball marker and beverage glass the committee purchased from another JHS alumni – Len Andrews – who at one time played in both the offensive and defensive line for the football Panthers and now owns and operates Stitches Sporting Goods on Killingly Street in Johnston.

Even the tourney check in committee epitomized the many family and friends who have made the tourney a super success and continue to support the tourney, hall of Fame and Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Scholarship.

That valuable volunteer staff included Lois Hopkins, Lee Mazzie, Cathy Gasken, Becky Mazzie Ansaldi, Samantha Mazzie and her baby Mack and Kira Mazzie.

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CHAMPS CORNER: Dan Pisaturo (left) and Ed Skovron, who starred on JHS 1963 state championship baseball team, were among the many Panthers who played in Saturday's golf event.



THE THROW TO FIRST: Johnston shortstop Aidan McGarry makes a play to first base last weekend.

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GRUNDER: Johnston's David Allen fields a ground ball.

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■ Upset

(Continued from page 17)

The game was scoreless through three innings but Chariho would take a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth on a sacrifice fly.

The Panthers responded in the ensuing half inning with Dante Ricci knocking a run home to make it 1-1. Chariho would take the 3-1 lead in the fifth inning on a Johnston throwing error and a sacrifice groundout.

Cam Salois led the way for Johnston at the plate going 2-for-4. Jeremy Urena pitched five innings for the Panthers, allowing just one earned run on six hits while striking out six batters. Salois pitched two innings in relief and allowed no runs while striking out two batters.

"They hit in bunches. Whatever their secret is, they've made it work. We had Jeremy pitching and we always play better with him, but we have to put some runs up," said Acciardo, who felt that his team's late season hitting woes were costly down the stretch. "The last few

games, we weren't hitting like we were earlier in the season. Sometimes we sputtered, it is what it is. At the end, only one team is going to feel good at the end of the season. They were there, gave it a shot and just came up a little short."

The Panthers finished the season with a 15-5 overall record and a 14-4 league record. They are set to lose two key guys in Urena and Salois and will be looking for some of the younger kids to step up next spring.

"You can't make up for (the loss) of a guy like Jeremy. Some guys are going to have to step up. Fortunately, these guys made it here and saw what they have to do," Acciardo said. "They just have to learn from it and get better. They can't feel bad for themselves because no one else is going to. They need to step up because they have to."

The Panthers did pick up a 6-2 win over North Providence in the preliminary round. Salois and Joseph Silvia each recorded two RBI while Davian Nunez and Derek Salvatore knocked in runs as well. Urena pitched all seven innings, allowing two runs on four hits while striking out 11 batters.

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JHS Teachers take home Battle of the Classes crown

By PETE FONTAINE

When it comes to promoting school spirit, Johnston High School is in a league of its own.

The perfect example came during the recent and first-ever "Battle of the Classes Students vs. Teachers" that was held before an appreciative crowd of spectators inside Mayor Joseph Polisena.

Some students paid \$5 each to participate while others matched that amount just to watch their classmates compete against the teachers in a total of \$10 unique events that once concluded will boost the coffers of the always-active super successful JHS Student Council's future events.

"This night was special, extra special," offered Greg Russo, who chairs the JHS Science Department and serves as Faculty Advisor for the Student Council and SADD (Students Against Dangerous Decisions). "Many of the teachers and administrators pitched in to judge the events, collect tickets and event make food."

Although the teachers won the night's final event - the always-popular and laughter-filled Tug of War - the Class of 2022 was crowned the champion with the Class of 2023 taking second. The teacher's took third place while the sophomore and freshmen classes finished fourth the fifth respectively.

Russo, who served as the night's emcee and provided everything from play-by-play during all events as well as color commentary about many of the individual competitors, issued a host of "Thank Yous" and Congratulations to all the participants and said "we'll be back again next year with event."

Among his messages of "Thanks" Russo cited Athletic Director Keith Cory, Principal Dr. Donna Pennachia, Vice Principal Mrs. Volante along with Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Ayotte, Miss Teolis, Mr. DiPanni, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Simeone, Ms. Hawryluk, Ms. Quantmeyer, Mrs. Sousa, Mrs. D'Urso, Mrs. Martel, Mrs. Trahan and Mrs. Giorgi.

"A special thanks to Mrs. Allsop for her delicious meatballs, Mrs. Lombardo for her macaroni salad, Mr. lasimone for his chili and running the fryer, Mrs. Del-Ponte for ticket collection and Mr. Fellela and Mr. Deming for always being there to help the students and teachers," Russo concluded.



FIERY FROSH: The Class of 2025 placed fifth against the other three classes at JHS and teachers.



JOLTIN' JUNIORS: The Class of 2023 took second place overall in the recent Battle of the Classes Teachers vs. Students.



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CHAMPIONSHIP CAST: The Class of 2022 finished in First Place after the recent Battle of the Classes Students vs. Teachers. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



PENNACHIA'S PACK: The JHS Teachers-Staff-Admins were third overall.



SUPER SOPHS: The Class of 2024 was third.

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MEMORIAL VISION: The “Rhode Island Remembers COVID-19 Memorial” will be installed on the Rhode Island State House south lawn at the end of this month. This graphic representation shows what the memorial will likely look like – with almost 4,000 flags (as of last Friday, 3,584 Rhode Islanders have died from COVID-19 infections) one for every COVID-19 death in Rhode Island. (Photo courtesy Fred Faria)

COVID-19 Memorial organizers searching for scouts to help remember those lost to the pandemic

By RORY SCHULER

Nearly 4,000 Ocean State residents have died from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Fred Faria and Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski have joined forces to spearhead a statewide COVID-19 flag memorial, which will feature a small white flag for each of the Rhode Island souls lost to the virus.

The memorial plans are well underway, but Faria is searching for local scouts to help set up the memorial, on the Rhode Island State House south lawn at the end of June.

“I have reached out to the offices of the Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts with limited success for assistance in the installation of almost 4,000 flags for this memorial,” Faria said this week.

Interested scout troops can contact Faria at home by calling 401-828-5355, or his cell phone, at 401-743-5548.

“To honor those in Rhode Island who have died from COVID-19 and to support healing, the Rhode Island Council of Churches is presenting ‘In America: Rhode Island Remembers’ on the Rhode Island State House lawn,” according to a press release from the council. “This sobering



SUSAN BRENNAN FIRSTENBERG

who wish, may dedicate a flag to the memory of a lost loved one. Acknowledging the sensitivity of the issue, ongoing staffing by interfaith clergy will be available throughout the installation’s presence to offer pastoral support to those whose grief is great or even yet to be recognized.”

The exhibit will remain on display through a closing gathering planned for 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 2.

“Following the closing gathering flags will be collected by designated representatives from the individual towns and cities of Rhode Island for local memorials,” according to the Rhode Island Council of Churches.

Faria hopes he can find enough interested scouts to help make the memorial a reflective success.

“In Rhode Island alone we have lost almost 4,000 wonderful people to COVID-19,” Faria wrote. “It is our hope that this will be a special memorial for families to find some solace at the state and local level. We are requesting the Boy & Girl Scouts assist with the installation of the flags (at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 25) to help make it a multigenerational community based event. Also, as 1 in 3 families have been affected by COVID-19 deaths, this hits home for many

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Viola Davis' 'Finding Me'

Book Review by
DON FOWLER

Growing up dark Black and poor molded the life of Rhode Island's Viola Davis.

The actress tells her powerful story in an emotionally written book, recommended by Oprah's Book Club, and quickly reaching bestseller status.

Viola's story begins with her growing up in a poor, abusive family in Central Falls, Rhode Island, and glued me to the pages until the final chapter when she

literally finds herself.

The Tony, Emmy and Oscar winning artist lets you into her life and her thoughts as she fights her way out of poverty and prejudice letting us feel her pain. She explains the negative feelings that society thrusts upon her for being too Black and too poor.

Abused by her alcoholic father, she grew to forgive him and others who were unkind and uncaring toward her.

School was her salvation, as she and her older sister excelled in spite of the effort it took to get there,

stay awake and learn while hunger haunted her.

Rhode Island's Upward Bound program opened the world up to Viola, and she followed her sister, Deloris, to Rhode Island College. She had trouble fitting in because "...I was dark skinned, didn't dress worth a damn, and had no swag."

It was at RIC that her desire to be an actress got its start. A six-week program at Circle in the Square in New York City followed.

Viola credits many Rhode Islanders with helping her along the way, including RIC's Bill Hutchinson and RI Council on the Arts head Iona Dobbins.

There are many references to her roles at Trinity Rep, including her first, at the age of eleven, in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone."

After four years at Juilliard, she returned to Rhode Island and became a company member at Trinity. She worked as a marketer at PPAC, selling subscriptions on the telephone.

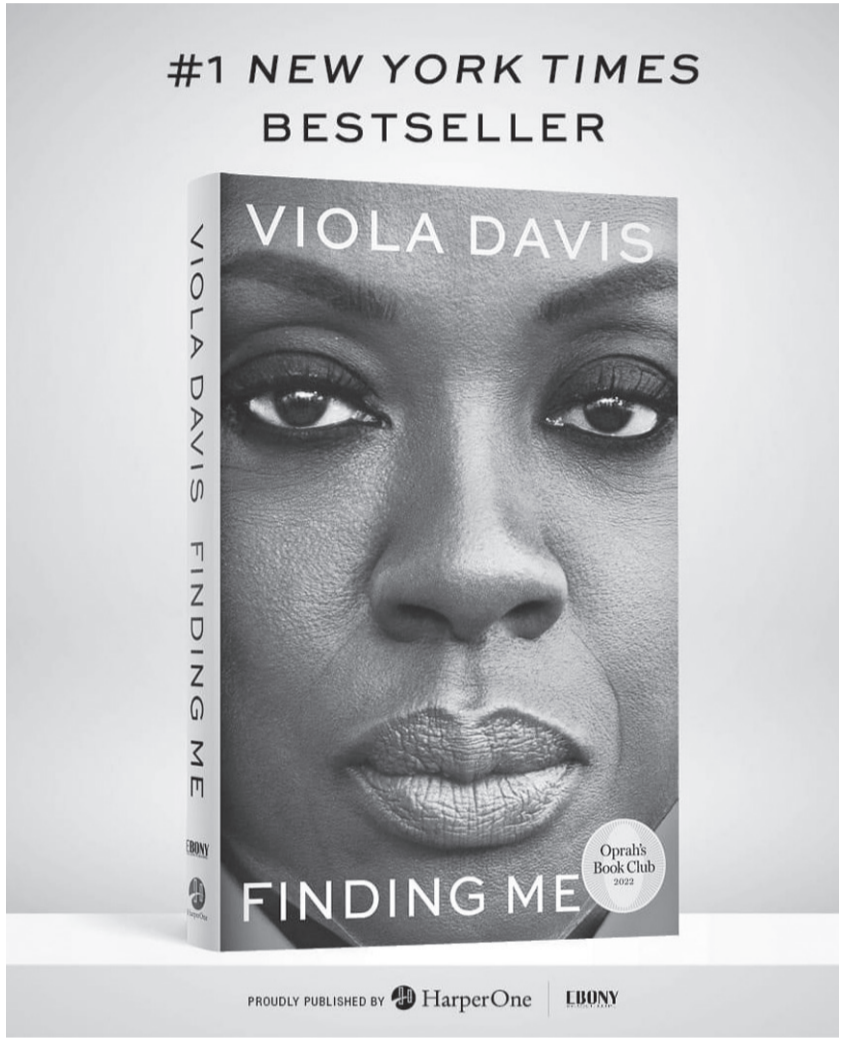
In 1994 she played the major role of Isabella at Trinity.

(I wrote in my review: Viola Davis, a wonderful, expressive actress, who makes the role of Isabella an unforgettable one. With her large, expressive eyes, and the technique of crying on cue perfected, Davis puts her body and soul into the character.)

The remaining chapters chronicle her growth as an actress and a person, as she slowly advances her career on stage and in Hollywood.

Her success was far from overnight, and it was relatively recent that she became a star, with "How to Get Away With Murder," "Fences" and "Doubt."

"Finding Me" is one powerful read. Knowing that Davis is from Rhode Island makes it even more personal a read. Her views on being Black and poor gave me a much clearer insight into what that must have been like and how it shaped her future.



A great way to clean out a closet

Life Matters



with
LINDA PETERSEN

There is a big, yellow, donation bin in the parking lot of the church to which I belong. The bestowed clothing is sorted by volunteers, put on hangers, and tastefully displayed on racks in our thrift store.

On the first Saturday of every month, a Super Sale is held where all clothing sells for \$1. While this may seem like a ridiculously cheap price, if \$300 is earned, that means that 300 pieces of clothing are gone to make way for 300 more, and the money earned is shared with the community for unmet needs. It is a win-win situation all around but may be the biggest win for savvy shoppers.

The bequeathing community who fills this donation bin is largely on the wealthier side of the spectrum, thus the store is filled with name-brand, quality, and vintage clothing. A bright green Izod golf shirt hangs beside spotlessly clean white Ralph Lauren golf shorts. A bright yellow Nautica Polo knit shirt still has the \$49.99 price tag dangling from the nape, and a light blue Michal Kors jacket hangs nearby. A well dressed, non-golfing golfer obviously donated these never used items, accompanied by a Titleist hat to match, which sat in a rack above the clothing.

The amount of men's clothing dwarfs in comparison to the quality women's clothing hanging on a multitude of racks in another room. A brightly colored, elegant box-

jacket suit from the 60's adorned the mannequin and would have looked best accompanied by a bright yellow pillbox hat with an orange flower. Alas, the only pillbox hat in the store was a boring navy blue with a white flower, although its mere appearance thrilled many a shopper who tried it on just for laughs. It did match several quality navy blue dresses made by Ann Klein and Talbots, but no one made that connection. These dresses, size two, were of limited interest to the thrift store shoppers, most of whom were a size twelve or larger. One mini-dress, opulently sporting orange and pink flowers and huge, flared sleeves was reminiscent of something Goldie Hawn would have worn on the television show "Laugh In" and would make a great Halloween costume for a discerning shopper.

Men's two- and three-piece suits were in abundance, regularly

donated by families who needed to clean out closets after the loss of a grandfather. They were accompanied by ugly ties of every color and shape, and winged tipped oxford shoes. Were another "Godfather" movie to be made in Rhode Island, the thrift shop could easily outfit the actors.

The section with skirts spanned all of the generations, starting with the straight, tweed material that reached the knees, the full skirts of the 50's, (with one actually adorned with a pink poodle,) the long, Bohemian style skirts of the 60's, along with the miniskirts that still seem to be the style among teenagers.

The most space was dedicated to ever-popular jeans. Six full racks of the iconic denim-wear boasted jeans in every size and shape. Bell bottoms and flared bottoms joined boot-cut and skinny leg dungarees, size two up to size twenty-two. As quickly as these items sold out, they were replaced by the ever-flowing river of jeans that had been placed in the donation bin.

Any church donation bin welcomes clean, quality clothing that can be resold for a charitable cause. What easier way is there to make an endowment for the good of the community? It not only benefits others, but it is a great way to clean out closets and basements, which leaves more room for any new purchases....

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Meaghan Susi

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Left Lane Cruiser bring their blues to Askew

By ROB DUGUAY

Blues music has different tones to it. There's that clean, polished tone making the solos sound like they came from the heavens. Then there's that dirty, distorted tone that makes you want to drink a six pack, smoke a cig and chill out on your couch or porch. Fort Wayne, Indiana's Left Lane Cruiser lean toward the latter with Brenn Beck on drums and Joe Evans IV on slide guitar and vocals. They're going to be getting loud at Askew on 150 Chestnut Street in Providence on June 10. Local acts Helen & The Trash Pandas and Adapter Adapter will be adding to the amplification.

Evans and I had a talk ahead of the show about finding his own style, his particular kind of guitar, being in a working band and new music that'll be released soon.

Rob Duguay: How would you describe your musical upbringing? Did you get into blues music at an early age or did you not get into it until later in your life?

Joe Evans IV: My dad was a big blues fan and his best friend, who I consider my uncle, was as well. They were big blues guys and I got to grow up listening to their two favorite artists, Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf. That was kind of the background music of my childhood, even before I became in love with it. That was the foundation I got from my dad and as an adult I found my own style of blues that I like, which is more specifically from the North Mississippi Hill



Left Lane Cruiser

Country like R.L. Burnside and Junior Kimbrough. I listen to a lot of other stuff out there as well like Mdou Moctar out of West Africa and a lot of the old guys my dad didn't necessarily listen to all the time like Hound Dog Taylor and John Lee Hooker.

RD: You play a slide and a dobro guitar, which are pretty unique instruments. What is it about those guitars that makes you prefer to play them rather than a typical six-string?

JE: It's classic for that blues steel guitar sound. When we first started, my wife had bought me two electric resonators and they're kind of a hybrid in the sense that they're a dobro style but in an electric guitar body. That was the main instrument that I played in the beginning of the band and on many records but unfortunately they didn't last the test of time. I still got one of them, the other one I accidentally drove

over with a van coming out of a house party. I still have all my steels and I play those live because we're pretty heavy and loud. I do play six-string electric and acoustic guitars but I write using the steel bodies and the only surviving electric resonator I have.

RD: When it comes to you and Brenn being a duo, how do you fill in the low end to get a fuller sound? Do you tune your guitar a certain way or does Brenn use his bass drum a lot more than usual?

JE: First of all, he's a heavy hitting drummer and he keeps his stuff real loose. He's not really technical, he likes it nasty and rattling which adds to the sound. I'd say the biggest feature of it is that I'm in all open tuning, it's a lower tuning so it's fuller and the vast majority of our stuff has me fingerpicking in a style that for the bass line my thumb is pulsing constantly. We started as a three piece but because

of that style the bass doesn't stand out because it's doing the exact same thing my thumb is, which can be frustrating for bass players. In all honesty, it wasn't too necessary because we're both really tight by ourselves and it kind of became obvious that we were doing our thing as a duo so that's how it all happened.

RD: In the band's 18 year history, you've released 11 albums, which is pretty impressive for that amount of time. What would you say inspires this prolific output?

JE: To be on the road constantly, which is what we used to do before COVID-19, you gotta have a new record out at least every year or every two years. Especially if you want to get overseas, which we've done quite a bit over the last decade. We've played close to 500 shows in Europe now and you don't just get to keep going back on the same record. Not to mention, we're a working band so new music is always in the works and we write primarily on the road. I write riffs every single day of my life, things have obviously slowed down since the pandemic because the whole machine got put on pause but we're getting back at it and we're five or six songs into the next record.

RD: Can we expect that record to come out later this year or next year? When are you thinking?

JE: Just not to b.s. or anything, I figure next year just because we're both stuck in full-time jobs but it'll be out as soon as possible. I'd say next year, for sure.

■ Memorial (Continued from page 21)

younger folks with losing grandparents, parents, relatives and friends."

Faria and the Council of Churches are also looking for local first responders to help bring the memorial to each of the Ocean State's municipalities.

"At the end of the week, July 2, after the Closing

Gathering, the plan is to bring the flags to the 39 cities and towns so they may have it at the local level," Faria wrote. "We are requesting local first responders assist in de-installation of the flags as they carry them to their 39 cities and towns for their own local personal memorials."

For more information, visit www.CouncilofChurchesRI.org, or the artist's website, www.suzannefirstenberg.com/in-america-remember-suzanne-firstenberg/.



NATIONAL ECHO: In fall, 2020, artist, Susan Brennan Firstenberg "created an installation, ultimately composed of 267,000 white flags at the DC Armory Parade Ground, to make visible the human toll of the continuing pandemic." The "artistic memorial" was on view for several months. The RI Council of Churches will be bringing the Ocean State's version of the memorial to the Rhode Island State House south lawn. (Photos courtesy Susan Brennan Firstenberg)

COLLECTIBLES



The Lesser-Known Robots of Yesterday



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

In the collectible toy world when you hear 1980's you automatically think of Transformers, Gobots, Voltron, or maybe even Robotech. All of which were fantastic toy lines that correlated with an animated cartoon on television. However, how many of you reading this today remember playing with GoDaikin? If you do, you were one of the luckiest children in the neighborhood. GoDaikin was a distinctive toy line of Japanese diecast super robots released by Bandai America in 1982. The first series included ten of the most popular Deluxe scale Chogokin figures released in Japan by Popy. The toys would be shipped from Japan already in their Styrofoam insert then boxed at the Bandai headquarters in New Jersey where they would receive the North American packaging. Now, if you were one of the lucky few who's parents would spend forty to eighty dollars on a robot you still might be asking who these guys are! The answer is pretty easy, you shouldn't know. Tetsujin-28, Combattara, Voltes V, Daimos, God Marz, the list goes on. All amazing toys and characters that were given zero context in the United States, which ultimately led to the failure of the GoDaikin toy line.

Jumping to present day as much as I truly love Transformers and their impact on my childhood, it does not get any better than GoDaikin. The history, design, the quality of the toys, I get excited just writing this article. I say history because almost everyone recognizes Voltron, but you should know him as GoLion. The Matchbox Voltron was released in 1984 alongside the cartoon, but we actually had "Voltron" in this country



two years before! I hope you can follow that! Plus, the part that everyone wants to hear is that if you have or find a GoDaikin in the box today they are some of the most valuable 1980's toys. A complete mint-in-box Tetsujin-28 will easily cost you \$2,000 to \$3,000 today depending on condition, a Voltes V, Combattara, or GoLion \$1,000 to \$1,500. They were expensive in 1982 and they're way more expensive today. I don't collect many things, but when any mint, unused GoDaikin appears on the market that is something I need to take home for the personal collection.



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for further information please contact: Mr. Mike Luckman Forbidden Planet 621 Broadway New York, NY 10003 Tel. (212) 473-1576

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The Silver Lining

Needless to say, the stock market has taken us on a wild ride thus far this year.

I recall my mom always saying "look for the silver lining" in any challenging situation.

So, let's take my mom's advice and dive into two areas that I feel may qualify as the "silver lining" in this volatile stock market. From a tax planning perspective, when your investments go down in value, it might, and I stress *might*, make sense to convert a portion of your traditional IRA into a ROTH IRA. You could do the same with a pre-tax retirement account, such as a 401k, 403B, etc. and convert to a ROTH account within the retirement plan, if available.

Why do I say that it "might" be a good idea versus stating that it is a good idea? What are the considerations? The most obvious consideration is converting pre-tax money into a ROTH account creates a taxable event. So, the first consideration is how you will pay the tax. The preferred method is to use your bank money that has been taxed already. To clarify, if you converted, as an example, \$50,000 into a ROTH IRA, that \$50,000 is now income taxable. If you are in the 22% tax bracket, the federal income tax due would be \$11,000 (plus your state income tax). It is much better to use after-tax bank money to pay that tax.

Consider the alternative of not using bank money: you convert \$50,000 of traditional IRA money into a ROTH IRA. The federal tax bill is \$11,000, but you would have to withdraw an additional \$11,000 to pay the income tax bill on the \$50,000. That creates an additional federal tax bill of \$2,420 on that \$11,000. This becomes too expensive and inefficient. As you can see, typically that math doesn't work in your best interest!

Another consideration pertains to gifting. The annual gifting amount has been raised up to \$16,000. If you gift more than \$16,000, you will have to file a gift tax form with the IRS -- Form 709. There is no gift tax due on this type of gift (\$16,000) and there is a lot of confusion around gifting, which I will explain shortly. (IRS, n.d.)

Why can gifting of shares of highly appreciated stock be significant? Well, let's say that you have some highly appreciated shares of a stock. The current reduced value of that stock allows you to gift more shares of that stock and stay under the \$16,000 annual gift limit. So, when the share value recovers, your gift is worth more than

the \$16,000 annual limit! Keep in mind that the value of the stock is determined on the date of the transfer.

There is a lot of confusion around the gifting rules. When you make gifts during your lifetime, theoretically, you reduce the amount that you can pass at your death without your estate being taxable at the federal level. The \$16,000 gift amount will not reduce the amount that you can pass on when you die without a federal estate tax.

Now that the federal exemption amount is a smidge (I know that's a technical term) over \$12 million,



Jeffrey H. Massey
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most will not have to be concerned about gifting much larger amounts over the \$16,000 figure. If a gift is greater than \$16,000, you would file the gift tax form with the IRS; no tax would be due as long as the gift is under \$12 million. (IRS, n.d.) As you can see, most people could make some very generous gifts way above the \$16,000 amount without being concerned with

a federal estate tax. Always work with a professional to help ensure that any gifting will not trigger a tax.

Here is another potentially great idea when gifting highly appreciated shares of stock. Let's say you want to

help your child or grandchild with college tuition. Your options are -- write a check or use some highly appreciated stock as a gift. You may be wondering what the big difference would be.

Here is the big difference. Instead of selling the stock and paying a capital gains tax of 15% and possibly the "Medicare surcharge of 3.8% or 20% capital gains tax plus the surcharge, you may be able to gift the shares of stock to a college age child, let them sell the stock and if they are in the lower two tax brackets, they would be able to sell the stock shares and pay zero tax! Yes, you read that correctly, zero capital gains tax! (IRS, n.d.)

There are many advantages of working with a financial planning team versus investment brokers. As financial planners, we focus on the entire financial picture, not just the investments.

We have other tax-efficient strategies. The larger your IRA/retirement plan balance, the more valuable these strategies can be, in most cases. Everyone's financial situation is different, so it's important to work through yours to help maximize your tax savings!

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Grocery Store Savings Hacks

FAMILY FEATURES

As people continue to eat more meals at home, shoppers everywhere are feeling the pinch of increasing prices on nearly every item at the grocery store. With almost one-third of Americans spending at least \$100 per week on groceries, many are now looking for ways to cut costs without sacrificing quality.

In fact, 7 in 10 people (71%) are more likely to shop on a budget now than prior to the pandemic, according to a survey released by Malt-O-Meal, with parents being 21% more likely than non-parents.

As you look for ways to save at the grocery store, consider these tactics:

Create a Budget

While you may have a number in mind you hope to spend weekly (or monthly) on groceries, it may not be sustainable. Start by determining how much you spend over the course of a few weeks and use that number to identify patterns in your spending and set a more accurate grocery budget. From there, it may be easier to find places to adjust, like buying certain items in bulk or switching to value brands.

Make a List

Creating a weekly meal plan and grocery list before you leave the house can reduce the chances of buying things you don't need. Knowing exactly what you need for weekly meals and to replenish essentials - and sticking to that list - can help ensure you don't spend money on products you won't use.

Seek Out Value

The top two factors consumers prioritize when grocery shopping are quality (34%) and price (30%), according to the survey. To help save money on their weekly grocery bills while still buying high-quality products, one of the top tactics shoppers have used is purchasing food from value brands. One such option is bagged cereal from Malt-O-Meal, which is available in 36 ready-to-eat flavors so you can find a variety that appeals to each family member at an affordable price. With a commitment to quality and great taste, families can count on the wide selection packaged in re-sealable bags with a fun and colorful new look.

"Our survey found cold cereal is the No. 1 choice for breakfast during busy mornings," said Mike Porter, Malt-O-Meal brand director. "We've always been committed to providing top-quality cereal at an affordable price per serving. We know this is more important than ever right now as shoppers and their families strive to start their mornings with a convenient breakfast while keeping a close eye on the budget."



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Shop Alone

When shopping with other members of your family, like your children or significant other, the odds of straying from your list can increase. To help limit the chance of being coaxed into buying things you don't actually need, go alone and stick to your list.

Scan Sales Flyers

Grocery stores run various promotions each week that can help you save on everything from meat and eggs to ice cream and other frozen foods. A simple way to save is checking the weekly ads at the grocery stores in your area. Shopping at a different store than usual may allow you to take advantage of different sales, and those items are often located in prominent areas of the store, like near the entrance or at the end of aisles, to make them easy to find.

Use Rebate Apps

While rebates don't always provide the same up-front savings of some other methods, such as traditional coupons, you may see a greater savings in the long run. With a variety of free options out there, you can register and start earning cash back almost immediately. For greatest savings, pair rebate app savings with store loyalty discounts and credit card cash back rewards.

Look for In-Season Produce

When you're shopping on a budget, sticking to in-season produce can get you the most bang for your buck. When fresh fruits and vegetables are out of season, stores typically charge

more for them since they're not as readily available. Planning your meals around in-season produce can not only help save money, but also put the best-tasting fruits and veggies on the table.

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