

TRACKING AMAZON



HIGH ATOP: This aerial image of the Amazon construction site in Johnston was captured by a drone piloted by Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services, on June 26. For more Amazon photos, turn to Page 4. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)

Cranston 'farm girl' is Carnegie Hall diva

By EMMA BARTLETT

Opera singer Claire Stadtmueller describes herself as a farm girl by day and diva by night. Growing up on a farm in New Jersey, Stadtmueller brought her roots to Western Cranston in 2019 where she now grows vegetables and raises bees. On the flip side, you could also find her on stage at Carnegie Hall in an elaborate outfit singing.

Stadtmueller was the designated soloist since third grade and the lead in the school musicals. She said in high school, her choir director was displeased after finding out that for sophomore year she signed up for woodshop instead of chorus.

"He pulled me out of woodshop, put me back in chorus and found me a voice teacher," said Stadtmueller.

Stadtmueller graduated second in her class and knew she would either go into the academic world or become a musician. After being accepted to two conservatories, she decided to pursue music and attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Since college, she's studied with a number of teachers in New York and Italy; she credits Dimitri Kavrakos for optimizing her voice.

When looking back on her career so far, one major highlight for Stadtmueller was singing Tosca (by Giacomo Puccini) in Central Park with the New York Grand Opera under Maestro Vincent La Selva. From there, La Selva then invited Stadtmueller to sing the part of Amelia in Giuseppe Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera.

Additionally, making her debut in Beethoven's Missa Solemnis at Carnegie Hall was a special moment. Stadtmueller said that this piece is trial by fire and, in standard repertoire, known as the most difficult piece for the chorus, orchestra and soloist.



ON STAGE: One of Stadtmueller's career highlights include singing Tosca (an opera by Giacomo Puccini) in Central Park with New York Grand Opera under Maestro Vincent La Selva. (Submitted photo)

OPERA - PAGE 12



PROUD PARISHIONERS: Rev. Peter J. Gower is joined by Ernie Cabral Jr., Stacey Cabral and Toni Mallane during last week's big birthday bash at Our Lady of Grace Church. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

OLG wishes Father Gower a big 'Happy Birthday'

By PETE FONTAINE

There have never been — as least not in recent memory — so many handshakes, hugs, extraordinary expressions of love and gifts as there were last Wednesday evening at Our Lady of Grace Church's famed Festival Field in Johnston.

There was a food truck courtesy of Harold Rockwell Amusements, music by Timeless, a menu featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and sausage sandwiches with items from Mike at Rhode Island Beef & Veal, a bounce house for children

as well as a big birthday cake from the Bread Boss in Johnston.

It was a celebration unlike any other as many people offered "a marvelous milestone for our beloved priest" — a.k.a. Rev. Peter J. Gower — OLG's popular pastor for the last 10 years. Proud parishioners and a classic committee came together for his 65th birthday party.

Although it was supposed to be a surprise birthday party, as Mike Lombardi said: "I think Father kind of knew some-

OLG - PAGE 13

JPD savors a surprise dose of Del's

By PETE FONTAINE

Few towns and cities have assisted living facilities and nursing homes like there are in Johnston.

The administrators, staff members, as well as residents, are always boasting about the town's first responders — namely, the Johnston Police and Fire Departments.

Those facilities are always hosting what JPD and JFD officers and firefighters will tell you are “awesome and appreciated affairs” such as barbecues and to show their respect and even go as far as holding a surprise visit as there was last week at the Richard D. Tamburini Complex off Atwood Avenue.

Some time in the early afternoon, Josh Gordon drove his Del's Lemonade truck into the Johnston Police parking lot and parked directly outside the entrance.

Gordon, who works for the famous Rhode Island based lemonade company as a “driver-sales” parked his truck outside the entrance and summoned JPD Chief Joseph P. Razza to come to the truck.

“It was a wonderful surprise,” Razza said. “Which was truly and tremendously appreciated by myself and members of the Johnston Police Department. Nothing says summer like a cold and refreshing Del's Lemonade.”

The visit was courtesy of Cherry Hill Manor, and Razza said the surprise was just one example, of many, that illustrates how the facility's “staff and members there provide (support) to us on a continuous basis.”

The chief later performed what he called some “delightful and delicious duty” by joining Gordon inside the truck and serving a dozen or so JPD members a cup of the famed summer drink.

“Cherry Hill Manor, like many other assisted living facilities throughout the town and their residents are huge supporters of the Johnston Police and I, as Chief, greatly appreciate their support and commitment to our community.”



TASTY TREAT: Among those Johnston Police officers and staffers who were treated to some Del's Lemonade last week courtesy of Cherry Hill Manor are from left: Ptlm. Patrick Gendreau, Capt. Michael Babbitt, Ptlm. Arthur Petterutti, Sgt. Remy Mendez, Maj. Mathew Leduc, Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, civilians Anmarie Rossi and Justine Dutilly, Ptlm. Matthew Rado, civilian Maria Saratelli and Capt. Joseph Salvatore.

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Free farmer's market returns to Cranston

By PAM SCHIFF

Under a glorious blue sky with a slight breeze, OneCranston HEZ welcomed the community back to its free farmer's market on July 7 at the Bain Middle School track.

Ivy Swinski, Project Manager for OneCranston HEZ, was pleased with the turn out for the first day.

"We gave out 50 bags, feeding 190 people once factoring in household size," said Swinski.

The produce OnCranston gave out included kale, collard greens, garlic and scape, beets, amaranth, green onions, zucchini, cucumbers, scallions, bok choy and lettuce. In addition to the fresh produce, there were tables set up from local community support organizations.

The Parent Support Network handed out Narcan and information around Substance Use Disorder while the Elizabeth Buffam Chace Center gave out information on working with victims of domestic violence. Lastly, the Center for South East Asians handed out information about its programs and supports.

"Throughout the summer we will also have Cranston Tree Committee, Health Source RI, CCAP's Learn to Earn Program and hopefully some others," Swinski said.

The organization's ultimate goal through hosting the farmer's market is to provide access to fresh foods that people want in the household. According to the organization, 22 percent of OneCranston HEZ residents indicated that they had no access to healthy food; 31 percent did not have access to affordable food and 70 percent had no access to food important to their culture.

OneCranston HEZ purchases \$1,000 of food each week to distribute to families. Sarah Cote, the organization's Initiative Director, said each farmer's market sees between 70 and 100 people and usually there isn't extra food left over. If there is, those items are donated to a local food pantry. Last year, the organization gave away 1,300 bags of produce to Cranston residents.

Cote said 90 percent of the residents who visit the market are from the 02910 and 02920 areas and, since the farmer's market is just for Cranston residents, OneCranston HEZ verifies their residency by asking for their zip code before they collect food.

Last year the organization had different events at the farmer's market including Zumba and Tai chi. This year, Cote said there will be interactive boards with questions for individuals to answer; this past week's question asked families how many times a week they cook their own meals.

Many families were relieved when the market returned this year.

"With inflation on the rise, it's not easy for many families to afford healthy meal options at home. We feel very fortunate to live in a city where residents like ourselves are able to have access to this grant funded farmer's market. Our kids love vegetables and it's a fun weekly experience for the whole family," said Erin Gee.

Gee, Alan Sousa and their children - Avery, 5, and Quinn, 2.5, -- are regular visitors.

Using the ingredients in a simple dish, can sometimes yield the greatest rewards.

"I just sautéed a bunch of the leafy greens up in a pan with olive oil, salt and pepper, and added it to our Indian chicken sauce and served it over rice. We can't wait to go back, and see what's being offered," Gee said.

Another Cranston resident, Jason Golditch, appreciated the opportunity to try new products.

"I would like to thank the organizers of the free farmer's market. I hadn't been to one before, and was amazed by the selection of great produce," said Golditch.

Golditch is also excited to return and try new items.

"I plan on returning each and every time the free market is available. I enjoyed the lettuce and the snow peas. The variety gave me an opportunity to try and cook with items I have never used before. It was fun to experiment with ingredients I had previously not been familiar with," he said.

Chef William J. Lendway from Johnson and Wales University was on hand cooking up tasty samples of what can be done with the ingredients provided. He will continue to be there each week, providing samples and recipes. Local small business Guatemala Coffee Shop and Distribution will also be selling its coffee each week.

The market is free to all Cranston residents and will be open from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday until Sept. 15 (weather permitting) at the Bain Middle School track.

For more information about OneCranston HEZ and its services, contact the organization at CranstonHEZ.org, (401) 714-7004 or infohez@comcap.org.



STOPPING BY FOR FRESH FOOD: Cranston residents stopped by OneCranston HEZ's farmer's market on July 7. The produce included kale, collard greens, garlic and scape, beets, amaranth, green onions, zucchini, cucumbers, scallions, bok choy and lettuce. (Herald photo)

FARM FRESH AND FREE:

Cranston residents line up to get free, fresh produce at the Farmer's Market sponsored by OneCranston HEZ on July 7.

(Submitted photo)



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FROM THE AIR: These images of the Amazon construction site in Johnston were captured by drones piloted by Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services, on June 26. For more information on the Warwick-based company, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newenglandaerialservices. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)

Your Amazon is on its way

By RORY SCHULER

The giant cranes perched on the horizon have lost their wonder. Like trees in the backyard, they've become fixtures. Their function — hoisting steel. The building rises from the center of a formerly forested bald spot on the top of Johnston's head. Only from the air can we gain a true sense of the magnitude of the Amazon project looming on the Hartford Avenue hump. Floors have started to flesh-out the facility's metal skeleton — pale white flesh over gray bones. State officials say the mega-retailer's robotic sorting warehouse will be the biggest building ever constructed in Rhode Island. Famously tight-lipped during the construction process, an Amazon spokesperson has flatly refused site tours prior to completion in late 2023. "We are in the very early stages of construction at this site," Caitlin McLaughlin, Amazon Public Relations New England, said months ago. "There are no photos at this time. We would love to do a hard hat tour with

you closer to the completion date which is scheduled for second half of 2023." In the meantime, the Johnston Sun Rise has agreed to regularly publish aerial photography submissions, captured by a drone pilot. Our goal is to give our readers a better sense of progress at the formerly wooded hilltop along Route 6, near the intersection with Interstate 295. Trevor Bryan, an FAA Licensed and insured drone pilot, the owner and operator of New England Aerial Services (a Warwick-based Residential Real Estate Drone Service Provider), has been visiting the site and capturing a series of breathtaking images from high above, through June and July. We published his first instalment in May. When finished, the building is expected to stand six-stories tall. Its ground floor will ultimately cover approximately 823,522 square feet (and the building's total area is expected to measure around 3,864,972 square feet). Town officials hope the mammoth project will provide a future financial umbrella, shielding Johnston's coffers from recession debt downpours.



FOR MORE INFO: Visit New England Aerial Services' website at www.newenglandaerialservices.com. Visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newenglandaerialservices. For a full gallery of more than a dozen aerial images from the Johnston Amazon construction site, go to the Johnston Sun Rise's website, www.johnstonsunrise.net. (Photos courtesy New England Aerial Services)

BankRI gives community ‘Two Ways to Fight Hunger’

Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) is offering the community two ways to join its efforts to alleviate hunger in the Ocean State this summer. In addition to collecting nonperishable food items at all 20 of its branches statewide through Aug. 19, BankRI will match the first \$5,000 in donations made in support of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s online Summer Funds Drive.

In Johnston, food collected at the Bank’s local branch at 1450 Hartford Avenue will benefit the food pantry program at Tri-County Community Action Agency.

“The rate of food insecurity in Rhode Island has skyrocketed over the past two-plus years; it is unacceptable that one in six of our neighbors struggle to consistently put food on their tables,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, BankRI’s President and CEO. “So whether you’re able to help this summer with a donation of food or funds, every contribution makes a difference for those who need it most.”

For its in-branch food drive, all BankRI locations feature collection bins in their lobbies for donations of nonperishable items. Each branch has also partnered with a pantry that serves its community to ensure the food it collects stays local to feed area residents. In total, 15 pantries are benefitting from the bank’s drive.

With the matching gift challenge in support of the Food Bank, BankRI is aiming to help the organization increase financial donations intended for the purchase of additional food. Thanks to its ability to buy food in bulk, every dollar donated to the Food Bank can be stretched further to help more Rhode Islanders in need. Over the past year, the Food Bank has distributed 15+ million pounds of food – more than any other year in its history.

“The Food Bank is so grateful for BankRI’s support,” said Andrew Schiff, the Food Bank’s CEO. “Inflation has caused many Rhode Islanders to make impossible choices around food. BankRI and its generous customers are helping to ensure that no one has to choose between food and other basic necessities this summer.”

Foods most needed by pantries includes canned and dried beans, nutritious breakfast cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, boxed macaroni and cheese, whole wheat pasta, and tomato sauce. To make a donation of nonperishable food at a BankRI branch, locations and their hours can be found at BankRI.com/locations.



DONATIONS NEEDED: In Johnston, food collected at the Bank’s local branch at 1450 Hartford Avenue will benefit the food pantry program at Tri-County Community Action Agency.

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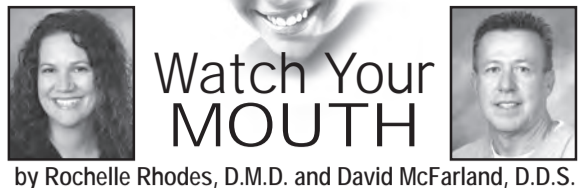
Who this program is NOT for:

1. Homeowners with smaller than average roofs
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Brian Bouthillier – North Kingstown, R.I.

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

CHOOSING AN ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH

Many electric toothbrush models provide a deeper clean than manual ones. Choosing an electric toothbrush is, in some ways, much like choosing a manual toothbrush: the head size should be small enough to reach your back teeth, the bristles should be soft and contoured instead of hard and straight, and the handle should provide a firm grip. But when it comes to head and bristle vibration, an oscillating motion is best. Bristles that simply vibrate provide no benefit over a manual toothbrush. Another feature to look for is a range of settings, such as different cleaning modes, a pressure sensor, and a self-timer. Without these personalized settings, electric toothbrush oscillations may feel uncomfortable or even painful.

There is no magic to achieving optimum dental hygiene success. Almost everyone can do it with a modest amount of time invested daily in brushing and flossing. Keeping up with home dental care as well as scheduling periodic cleanings and wellness exams are two important steps toward accomplishing the goal of a healthy mouth. For full-service dental care for all members of your family, please call 401-521-3661 for an appointment at DENTAL ARTS GROUP. Our office is located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston.

P.S. If you use a battery-powered toothbrush, be sure to change the batteries often or whenever you notice the oscillations begin to slow.

www.dentalartsgroupri.com



COUNCIL CORNER: District 2 Councilman Joseph Polisena Jr., who is a candidate for Mayor, is joined by JDTC members Al Carnevale, Linda Forcarelli, Lauren Garzone and Robert Civetti who recently announced they will be running for election to the Town Council in November. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

JDTC candidate picks attend 'Signing Party'

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a fun and festive mood inside a storefront at 1505 Hartford Ave. in Johnston last Wednesday night.

After Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena and Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard DelFino Jr. stepped to the podium and welcomed more than 100 people, there was a certain and classic positive air during the organization's traditional pre-election "Signing Party."

For starters, DelFino delivered a grand greeting and thank you welcome and asked Polisena to say a few words.

"This is not an exodus speech," Polisena said with a smile. "I want everyone to know the town is financially safe. We are in very good shape and there will not be a tax increase. We all have to work hard to get our team elected."

DelFino then offered: "This is a candidate signature event so our people can get the required number of 50 signatures so they can get on the ballot."

The chairman also indicated these elected officials and candidates "who best represent the interest of Johnston residents" were invited along with their families and friends to sign their official nomination papers.

He also noted that the event was important because many residents are still concerned about opening their doors in the light of the recent pandemic and an emphasis may be "less face-to-face politicking and more social media and direct mailing campaign."

DelFino, who also serves as clerk of the Municipal Court went on: "It is still very important that candidates get their message and record of accomplishments out to the voters."

He also told the standing room-only gathering, which was attended by local office seekers as well as State Senators Frank Ciccone and Frank Lombardo, along with State Representative Greg Costantino — and other state office holders as well as Attorney General Peter — vowed: "We will support a team of candidates that will work with us on behalf of the residents of Johnston."



LINKED LEADERS: Current Johnston School Committee members who are seeking re-election and took part in last week's JDTC Signing Party are, from left: Susan Mansolillo, Dawn Aloisio and Marysue Andreozzi.



GRAND GREETERS: Mayor Joseph Polisena and Chairman Richard J. DelFino Jr. stand at the podium to welcome upwards of 100 people to last week's Johnston Democratic Committee Signing Party.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

A financial infusion, but not a cure

Care New England has announced that they will remain independent and not be pursuing another merger, and are not looking for a suitor who may still be interested in acquiring them.

It is a bit of news that, on the surface, may appear like a victory for a local hospital network staying local and resisting the negative ramifications of a buyout from an out-of-state giant. However, while state legislators have thankfully stymied the bleeding of Care New England in the short term through additional

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funding in the new budget, there remains no clear future forward for the state's second biggest health-

care system to continue operations indefinitely. Financial woes that have compounded in the wake of the pandemic are not going to magically vanish, unlike the temporary infusion of ARPA money that is now helping them stay afloat through turbulent waters. Technology and equipment that comprises the working core of its hospital system will continue to age, facilities will continue to deteriorate, and nothing short of a massive investment in these systems will bring about a true solution.

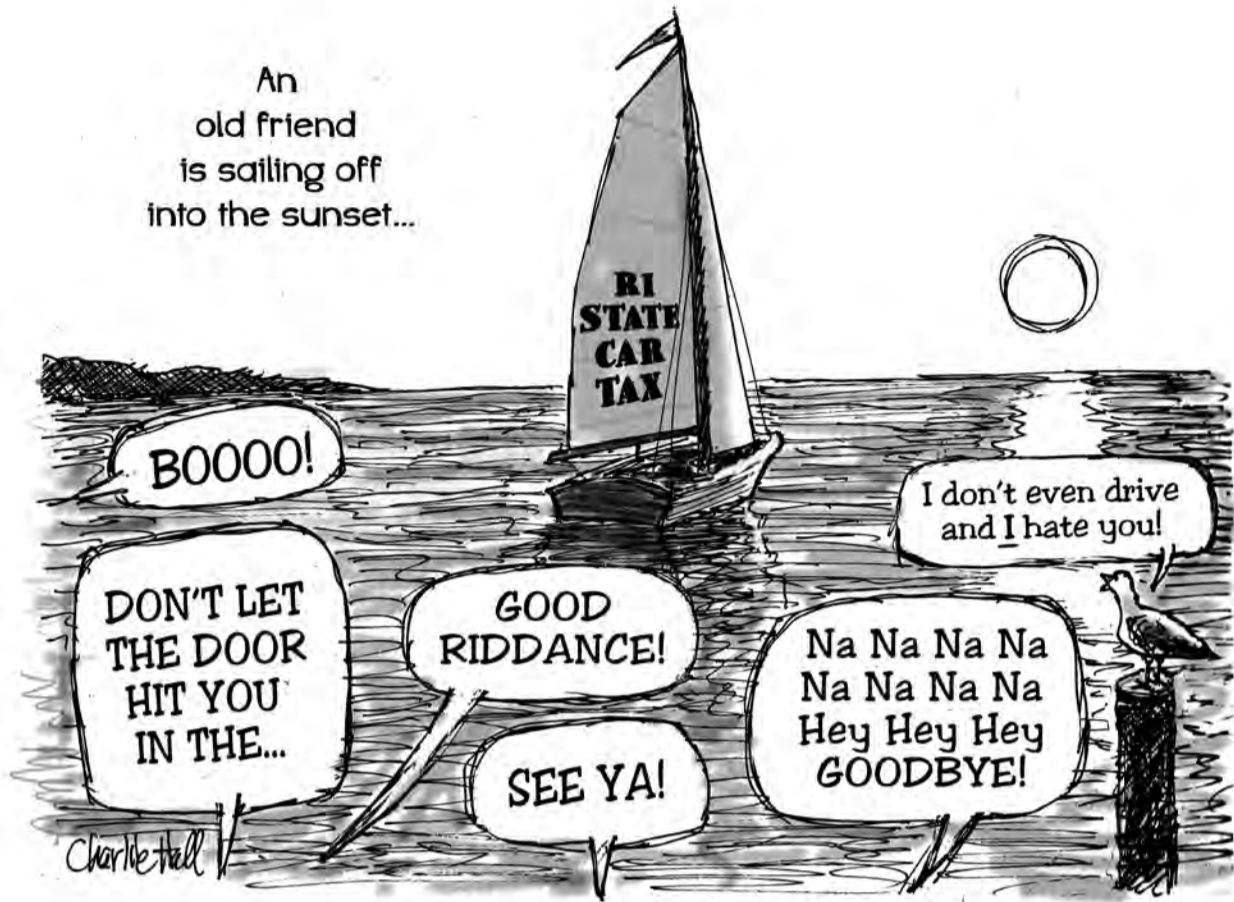
With Care New England's announcement this past week regarding no mergers and no plans for its ultimate acquisition from elsewhere, it is a fair and obvious question to ask where exactly that investment will be coming from, if anywhere. Vague mentions of continuing collaboration with Lifespan and Brown are nice for a press release, but they don't answer the ultimate, pressing questions either.

We would like nothing more than to see Care New England remain a viable and well-respected healthcare system with its facilities and employees based right here in Rhode Island, but a long-term solution to their financial problems must be fully explored before we are ready to sing the praises of short-term solutions such as the one recently announced.

The thousands of people who rely on Care New England for their health outcomes, and as their employer, deserve a full diagnosis and treatment plan, not just a band aid and a lollipop.

We are eager to see whoever replaces Dr. James Fanale as CEO, who skillfully navigated the system through the perils of Covid and secured a safe place for the time being will recognize, as Dr. Fanale has, that there's a lot of work to be done.

An old friend is sailing off into the sunset...



LETTER

Drinking minors a 'major problem'

This past holiday weekend, whether you were stocking up on groceries at Market Basket in Johnston, filling your liquor cabinet in North Providence, or driving up Park Avenue in Cranston you may just have seen a portion of the campaign conducted by the SPC Regional Prevention Coalition coordinated by Tri-County Community Action Agency.

The campaign reminds us of the importance of keeping alcoholic beverages out of the hands of anyone who is under age 21, and emphasizes Rhode Island's Social Host Law, exhibiting the words "United We Stand Against Underage Drinking. We never BUY, PROVIDE, or SUPPLY alcohol to someone under the age of 21." Rhode Island's social host law protects our youth by holding adults responsible for supplying alcohol to minors. Consequences of breaking this law include fines up to \$1,000, a prison sentence of six months for first time offenders and court ordered educational programs.

Underage drinking continues to be a serious public health problem nationally. According to the CDC, youth aged 12-20 drink 11% of alcohol consumed in the United States. Locally, 16.7% of high school students report past 30 day alcohol use, (RISS 2020) and 59% of 18-20 year olds in Rhode Island report receiving alcohol from a friend or relative over the age of 21 (YAS 2020).

Additionally, out of every 10 people who suffer from alcohol addiction, 9 begin drinking before the age of 21. Join us in protecting the future of our youth: talk early and often to the teens in your life and set clear rules and expectations regarding underage alcohol consumption. For more information on how to have these conversations, or to learn more about our coalition's mission to prevent underage drinking, please visit spprevention.org. Together, we can create a happier and healthy community for our teens.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Neil
PFS Grant Coordinator
Tri-County Community
Action Agency
SPC Regional
Prevention Coalition



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JHS Class of '25 washing their way to homecoming

By PETE FONTAINE

“Soap, suds and super sophs!”
That could have easily been the theme of activity going on Saturday morning outside Anthony’s Auto Body at 119 Greenville Ave. in Johnston.

From approximately 9 a.m. until early afternoon, nearly two dozen members of Johnston High School’s Class of 2025 took turns holding handmade signs, washing and hosing off cars for the second time this summer.

The reason?
As people like Stephanie Galasso, who is a kindergarten teacher at Johnston’s Early Childhood Center and serves as the Class of 2025 advisor, will attest: “It can cost lots of money to build any of the Homecoming floats.”

Which is why spirits were running high — as Class President Lucas Anderson and his fellow Panther sophomore didn’t mind giving up a day at the beach or whatever to wash all sorts of vehicles in hopes of raising additional funds to build their 2022 Homecoming float.

As Galasso later explained: “The cost to build last year’s float was approximately \$3,000 plus materials.”

So, for inside of four or five hours, members of the Class of 2025 enjoyed Saturday’s sparkling sunshine to raise revenue for the building of their float which will take place in October and will be yet another highlight of Johnston High School’s unmatched, one-of-a-kind and often envied Homecoming Parade and football game.

Meanwhile, ladies like Stephanie Anderson — a prominent Johnston attorney and mother of Lucas Anderson — along with Lori Richard offered all kinds of assistance to the sophomores and even pitched in to wash cars and accept donations from passing motorists.

At one point, as the students stood cheering and holding their colorful signs in hopes of attracting additional business from people driving by and blowing their horns as a salute to the kids, several adults said: “Hey, we don’t want beeps; we want bucks!”

The Class of 2025’s first car wash was very successful, according to Galasso, who reported: “We made an estimated \$700 plus at our first car wash and it would be great to reach that total today.”

When asked if the Class of 2025 has a theme for this year’s Homecoming float, Lucas Anderson and Vice President Hannah Klein replied with a wide smile on their faces: “We had an air balloon feature last year but we can’t announce what our theme will be this year; that’s always a secret tight up until the (Homecoming) parade forms.”

The Class of 2025 doesn’t have a set amount to wash the cars and as Lucas Anderson said: “We gladly accept any donations and our class thanks people in advance for their help and generosity. We’ll be back here on (Saturday) July 23 for another wash and we hope to see you then.”

Perhaps the event’s biggest booster was Anthony Ferrante, who owns and operates Anthony’s Auto Body, who has offered use of his facility including hoses and water at no cost to the Class of 2025.



OUTSTANDING OFFICERS: Treasurer Selina Santenelli, Rep. Bobbie Sue Trahan, Secretary Katelyn Loffler, Advisor Stephanie Galasso, President Lucas Anderson, Vice President Hannah Klein, Reps. Jared Lee, Logan Martins and Matthew Clements. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



SUPER SOPHS: Among the members of JHS’ Class of 2025 who took part in last Saturday’s car wash and held handmade signs along Greenville Avenue were from left: Melissa Aguilar, Genesis Pineda, Gabriella Pascale, Arianna Dandy, Hailee Joyal-Weiss, Ariana Slopeker and Bobbi Sue Trahan.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on July 28th, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through

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

New Business
File 2022-13 – Petition of Beverly Colombo, Owner/Applicant for 8 Deluca Street, AP 5 Lot 273, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Use Variance 340 Article III Table of Use Regulations for a Proposed Residential Duplex.

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

p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

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

7/14, 7/21, 7/28/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday August 2nd, 2022; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

PB 22-43 – Advisory Opinion – Ordinance 2022-10

PB 22-23 – PWSB Pine Hill Tank – Public Hearing on a proposed Minor Land Development of a new public drinking water supply system storage tank. Located at Cross Road AP 43 Lot 583 – Zoned: R40. Applicant: Peter LePage.

PB 22-24 – Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers – Public Hearing on a Preliminary Plan for a proposed Major Land Development and Unified Development Review. Located at 1386 Atwood Avenue AP 44 Lot 359 – Zoned: B2. Applicant: Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers.

PB 22-31 – Proposed DPW Building – Public Hearing on a Master Plan and Preliminary Plan for the development of a storage garage

located at 100 Irons Avenue AP 34 Lot 530. Zoned I. Applicant: Town of Johnston.

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

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

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

7/14, 7/21, 7/28/22

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Sun Rise Scoops

By Meri R. Kennedy and Rory Schuler

Free Canoe Rides

From 4-6 p.m., Thursdays in July and August, the public is invited to take free canoe rides on the Woonasquatucket River.

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is once again offering free canoe rides on the Woonasquatucket River in Providence on Thursday evenings from 4-6 p.m. throughout July and August. Meet at the Fish ladder at Riverside Park, 50 Aleppo St., Providence. On-site registration is required for adults and children, and all ages are welcome.

The WRWC's experienced paddle team will guide participants up and down the river for about a 10-minute loop, where you will likely see painted turtles basking on the banks and red-winged black birds flying ahead on this surprisingly peaceful stretch of the river.

Paddles and life jackets are provided by the organization. Participants must sign a waiver and wear a life jacket in order to ride. All youth must be accompanied to the launch site by a parent or guardian.

This Community Canoe Program is made possible thanks to the generous support of AARP RI and REI COOP.

School Supply Drive

"Kids, Cops & Classrooms" has launched its 2022 School Supply Drive.

Rhode Island state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies are working together to collect donations of new backpacks and school supplies for Rhode Island school children through the Kids, Cops and Classrooms program.

The Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Rhode Island will accept donations at State Police barracks, local police departments, Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses locations, and other offices across the state. Donations will be distributed to local agencies that work with disadvantaged families throughout the state.

"At back-to-school time families are asked to provide school supplies for their children and their classrooms, creating a tremendous financial burden on families struggling just to make ends meet," said Rhode Island State Police Capt. Kenneth Jones, who is leading this year's "Kids, Cops & Classrooms" campaign. "We hope the backpacks and supplies we collect through this program will help ease some of this burden."

"Kids, Cops and Classrooms is another example of the ways that law enforcement is in our communities every day working to build relationships and partnerships for the betterment of all," said United States Attorney Zachary A. Cunha. "This year, my Office is proud and honored to once again join in the effort to get kids the supplies they need to succeed in school."

"Backpacks and school supplies are critical to students' success in schools, and the costs of these items can be a burden on families throughout the state," said Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha. "My Office is excited to again participate in 'Kids, Cops and Classrooms' which will support families across Rhode Island and help ensure that our students are better prepared and in position to excel in the classroom. The Rhode Island State Police do a tremendous job in organizing this event every year and we are proud to stand with them and our partners in law enforcement once again."

These are some of the supplies being sought through the Kids, Cops, and Classrooms program:

- Backpacks – small, medium, and large
- #2 pencils
- Pens
- Pencil box
- Box of crayons
- Spiral notebooks
- 3-Ring binder (1, 1 1/2, 2 inches)
- Subject dividers
- Book Covers
- Index cards
- Pencil sharpener
- Assignment book/weekly planner
- Ruler (marked in inches and centimeters)
- Protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator
- Calculator
- Dictionary (pocket size)
- Thesaurus (pocket size)
- Mini-stapler and staples
- USB Flash Drive
- Facial tissues
- Antibacterial hand sanitizer
- Box of colored pencils
- Box of washable markers
- Highlighters
- Watercolor paint set
- Pad of coloring paper
- Large pink erasers
- Glue sticks
- Bottle of glue (Elmer's type)

- Safety scissors
- Two-pocket folders
- Composition book
- Wide-rule loose-leaf paper
- Graph paper

Donations can be brought to any State Police barracks, local police departments and any Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses locations. They will be given to the following agencies for distribution to families: Crossroads Rhode Island; Family Service of Rhode Island; Wiggin Village; Children's Friend; the Hispanic Ministerial Association of Rhode Island; Multi-Service Center for All; African Alliance; Mount Hope Neighborhood Association; Chad Brown Alumni Association; and the Center for Southeast Asians.

Paint Recycling Drop-off

From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, July 23, a Paint Recycling Drop-off Event will be held in Cranston.

The free Paint Drop-Off Event is intended for households and businesses. Space is limited. Event registration (on "Eventbrite") is required to attend this event: www.paint-cranston.eventbrite.com.

Households may bring most types of paint, stain, and varnish in any amount. Paint must be in sealed, original container with original manufacturer label. We cannot accept aerosols, solvents, and other hazardous waste. Businesses must qualify as an exempt generator under federal and any analogous state hazardous waste generator rules to use the PaintCare program for oil-based paint, but can still use the program for latex products.

Read a complete list of accepted products, check business limits, register online at www.paint-cranston.eventbrite.com

Pawtuxet Village Summer Concert & Food Trucks

From 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, July 30, Pawtuxet Village will host its Summer Concert & Food Trucks event at the Pawtuxet Village Gazebo.

The event will be organized by Warwick Parks and Recreation and Ocean State Food Truck Festivals. The public is invited to attend.

The event will feature a performance by the Driftwoods.

"Come hang out in the beer garden and grab some food from some of the best food trucks in RI, while listening to the sweet sounds of the Driftwoods," urge event organizers.

Adopt a Texas Dog

Need a pooch?

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, July 17, an Adopt a Texas Dog event will be held by Animal Rescue Kingdom at PetSmart, 1386 Atwood Ave., Suite 40, Johnston.

"Visit us to meet some dogs/puppies we brought for adoption, you can meet and adopt the same day," according to event organizers. "Arrive early!"

Attendees can view the dogs at www.petfinder.com/search/pets-for-adoption.

Pre-adoption is also an option.

Touch-A-Truck Event

Durham School Service will host a Touch-A-Truck event in Johnston from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 6.

Local children and families are invited to check out real-life school buses, fire trucks and apparatus, police cruisers, the Johnston Police Humvee and construction vehicles.

Invited guest stars Tow Mater and Lightning McQueen from Disney Pixar's "Cars" film and television franchise will be on-hand as well.

The event will be held at Johnston Senior High School, 346 Cherry Hill Road. For more information call 401-944-5880 (ext. 303).

JHS Clas of '82 Reunion

The Johnston High School Class of 1982 will hold its 40th Reunion on Oct. 28 at the Alpine Country Club. For more information, email johnstonclass82@gmail.com.

CHSE Class of '65 Reunion

Join the Cranston High School East Class of 65 for a belated 55th reunion on Sept. 17 at the Radisson Hotel (2081 Post Road, Warwick), from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Join the class for dinner, dancing and seeing old friends. Tickets are \$65 per person. For more information contact michaeljsepe@yahoo.com.

More at Mohr Library

Registration is open for the following programs. Some will fill up, so register and save a spot.

The Beanstalk Summer Reading Challenge lets participants log reading, do activities, share reviews with other readers and earn prizes.

- From 4-5 p.m., Wednesdays, July 13 to Aug. 3, Preschool Storytime will be held for children ages 2 and up with a caregiver.
- Two of the library's programs, ArtSmart and Animal Experiences, are currently full and have waiting lists.

- More programs coming up for kids: Magic Show,

Hula Hoops, Computer Coding and Outdoor Fitness Games. See our website for more information.

For adults:

- TJ Heffers will lead a discussion of Anne Tyler's new novel, "French Braid," at 11 a.m. on July 14.

- Emilie Marchetti will lead a discussion of "In Deeper Waters" by F.T. Lukens at 5 p.m., Friday, July 29.

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

These books and the statewide Rhode Island Summer Reading Program are 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.

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.

The library can also help you find electronic books and journals, career and testing guides, self-improvement media and more.

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

The library bookdrop is again out of service, but they expect a new one 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, they'll mail you a newsletter. Mohr Library is at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. Call them at 401-231-4980.

Johnston Parks & Rec Reminder

Just a general reminder to please follow all park rules, especially no smoking and no dogs are allowed at Johnston Memorial Park.

Rec department staff has "noticed an abundance of cigarette butts and dogs recently" and they are asking the public for help keeping the park clean. Signs with the complete list of park rules are posted at each entrance.

Dogs are allowed in the nature trail across the street from the parking lot. No smoking or tobacco use on park grounds. 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 are permitted 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. Fire-place 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.

Apple Fest Scheduled

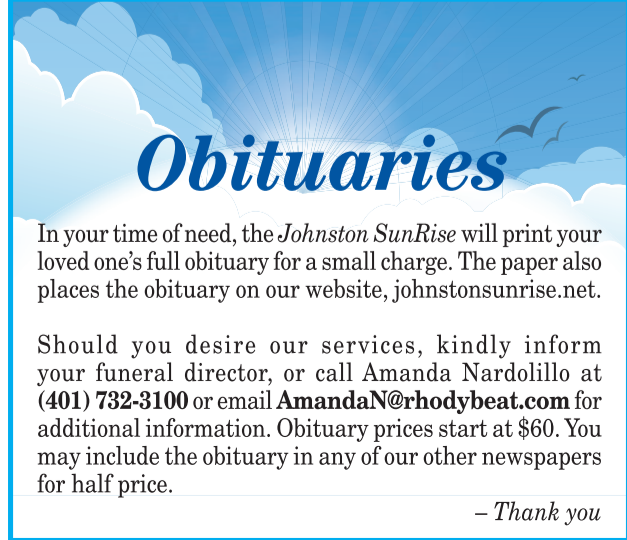
The 34th Annual Apple Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

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.

SCOOPS - PAGE 10



Obituaries

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

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

— Thank you

Johnston man elected 2022-23 RI Bar Association President

Mark B. Morse, Esq., a resident of Johnston, has been elected President of the Rhode Island Bar Association. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island and the New England School of Law where he served as research editor of the New England Law Review.

Morse lectures on a variety of legal issues, including ERISA litigation, evidence, subrogation liens, expert testimony, civil trial practice, the Rhode Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rhode Island domestic law. He has volunteered as a judge to the regional law school mock trial competition, and acted as chief judge for the regional competition on multiple occasions.

He served as editor in chief of the Rhode Island Bar Journal. He is a member of the Animal Law Committee, the Family Court Bench Bar Committee, the Superior Court Bench Bar Committee, and past chair of the Superior Court Bench Bar Committee and Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Morse also chaired the Subcommittee to Review and Revise the Rhode Island Civil Rules of Procedure enacted June 15, 2006. He is a fellow of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation. He is past president of the RI Association for Justice and presently serves on its Board of Governors.

Morse is also active in the American Association for Justice and served as Chair of the State Delegates, and as a member of its Execu-

tive Committee. He has been nominated through peer recognition as a "Super Lawyer" by Thomson Reuters for twelve consecutive years in the state of Rhode Island. Mark was chosen by the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education Commission to be co-editor of the Discovery and Depositions Rhode Island Practice Volume published in September 2010. The publication was honored with an ACLEA's Best Award from the Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) for outstanding achievement in the category of Best Publication.

Morse is legal counsel to Defenders of Animals, the Friends of the Music Mansion, and The Feinstein Foundation. In 2011, he was awarded the Dorothy Lohmann Public Service Award for his work with Defenders of Animals. Morse is married with three children.

Founded in 1898, the Rhode Island Bar Association is a non-profit organization counting all those licensed to practice law in Rhode Island as its members. Currently the membership totals over 6,500 individuals.

BAR PREZ: Mark B. Morse, Esq., a resident of Johnston, has been elected President of the Rhode Island Bar Association. (Submitted photo)



■ Scoops (Continued from page 9)

Johnston Historical Society General Meetings

For July and August, a Summer Hiatus will begin, as Executive Board meetings and General meetings are suspended for the summer. Have fun everyone!

To see photos of past events, visit the Johnston Historical Society Facebook page at www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

The Johnston Historical Society's museum barn is open Tuesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m., for those who would like to visit the museum or examine the society's collection of printed materials. Both the museum and Elijah Angell House continue to be open by appointment — the society always welcomes visits by interested individuals or groups. Just shoot them an email at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, or leave a message at 401-231-3380 to set one up.

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.

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

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.

Johnston Senior Center 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.

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 Green-

wood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting www.ribc.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

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

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

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



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Kent Hospital 'will survive'

By JOHN HOWELL

"Since the Lifespan merger ended, I sort of had in the back of my mind what we needed to do," Dr. James Fanale, president and COO of Care New England, said yesterday in the wake of the announcement that the CNE board unanimously voted to pursue a strategy of operating the health system independently, with enhanced support from various clinical and operating partners to improve liquidity and operational performance.

The announcement was applauded by House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi, who played an integral role with Senate President Domenic Ruggerio in making it happen.

Shekarchi said the agreement ensures "Kent (Hospital) will survive as a non-profit community run hospital." He said the arrangement is aimed at giving the state's second largest hospital a firm financial footing for at least the next six years.

Under the plan, the state has increased Medicaid reimbursements by five percent and provided CNE with \$20 million in ARPA federal funding that, as Fanale explained, "will go to the bottom line." Unlike some other hospitals, Kent maintained operations of all its units throughout the pandemic so as to meet community needs. That decision ended up losing the hospital as much as \$3 million a month largely because of the need to fill staff vacancies with agency or so called traveling nurses.

Fanale said yesterday that Kent has been able to trim its dependency on agency nurses from a high point of 60 to 30. Eliminating the need for traveling nurses would go a long way to putting Kent on a stable operating basis.

"We would rather have 35 more union folks," Fanale said. Fanale has the nod of the United Nurses and Allied Professionals.

"We strongly support the announcement. A community based non-profit free standing Kent Hospital is the best outcome possible," Jack Callaci, director of collective bargaining and organizing for United Nurses and Allied

Professionals, wrote in response to questions. Callaci said Shekarchi "played an important role and he deserves a lot of credit for this announcement."

According to the release, Care New England will work on arrangements with Brown University, its health plans, Lifespan and other local hospitals and health systems, and clinical partners. Fanale does not believe the agreements will require any regulatory approvals from either the Department of Health or the Attorney General. Specifics of what roles the partners would play were not detailed in the release.

"This plan," Charles Reppucci, Care New England's Board of Directors Chairman, and Fanale said in a joint statement, "coupled with the financial support included in the recently-enacted state budget, will help ensure that Care New England will maintain a stable operating platform and continue to fulfill its mission to care for its community of patients and support our staff."

The future of Kent and the role of legislators was the focus of a letter from Trish Criner, RN, president of United Nurses and Allied Professionals Local 5008 published in the May 3 edition of the Warwick Beacon.

Criner wrote that the "vultures were circling from the for profit world" to pull apart CNE and said that there was nothing but "deafening silence" from legislative leaders to the dire situation.

Shekarchi referenced the letter Wednesday, saying that the leadership was following the situation and that this is the outcome.

"I have always recognized the value of Kent Hospital to my home city of Warwick, and it is near and dear to my heart. I worked hard throughout this year's budget process to make certain that Kent will have the resources necessary to continue providing quality health care and to protect the jobs of the dedicated professional staff. The state funding will help Kent and Care New England as it works to build a stronger health care delivery system," Shekarchi said in a statement released yesterday afternoon.



SALVATION: Under a new plan, Kent Hospital in Warwick should survive as a non-profit community run hospital. (Beacon FILE photo)

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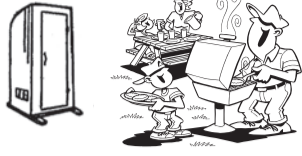
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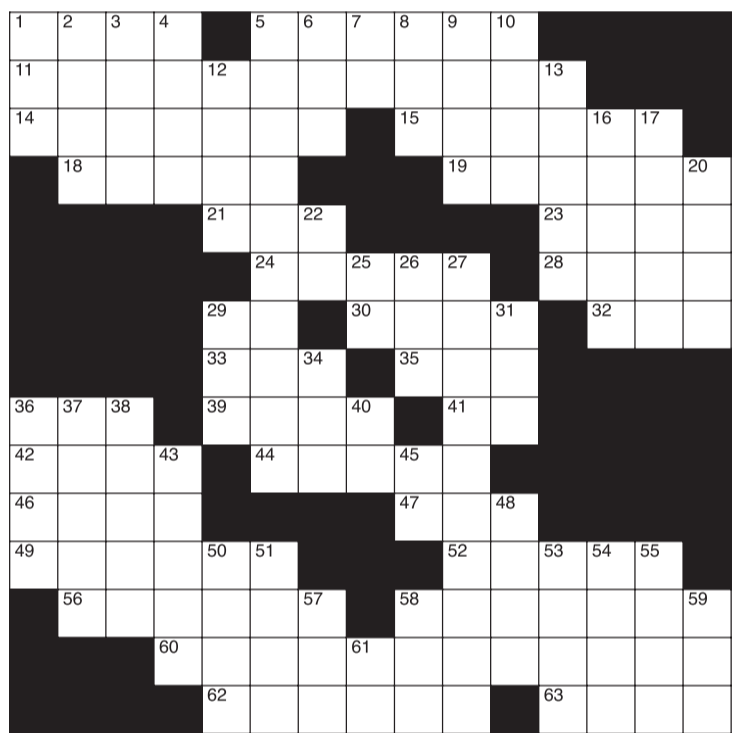
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MAKING FILMS AND SLIDESHOWS: During the pandemic, Stadtmueller created two slideshows and films as a way to “make lemonade from lemons.” Her latest film won awards in Prague, Slovakia, Japan, Milan, Rome and Athens. (Herald photo)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Large, fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. NY Mets legend Tommie
24. Icelandic books
28. Pop
29. Hammer is one
30. Sense of self-importance
32. Thyrotrophic hormone
33. Can't be found
35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports and licenses are two
39. Snake-like fishes
41. Air Force
42. Popular computers
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Wings

CLUES DOWN

1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel large quantities
4. Sea eagle
5. Genetically distinct varieties
6. Dialect of Chinese
7. Famous Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Menace to yards
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Willis and Robert are two
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. It shows who you are
25. The First State (abbr.)
26. Get older
27. Associations
29. Woman (French)
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Leader
37. Plants in the legume family
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior's father
43. Scads
45. Morning
48. Length of a line (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Worn by exposure to the weather
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the ___ degree
59. Residue of something burned
61. It cools your home

Opera

(Continued from page 1)

“Beethoven, as magnificent as his music is, he doesn’t know how to write for the voice,” Stadtmueller said, mentioning that the only opera he wrote was Fidaleo.

She said the debut went well and the moment she got off stage, David Randolph of the St. Cecilia Chorus and Orchestra re-engaged her for the next season for Mozart’s Mass in C Minor and Requiem; Stadtmueller went on to perform eight major works with him.

In addition to performing, Stadtmueller has taught at several colleges – William Paterson University, Assumption College and Rhode Island College – after obtaining a master’s degree from the University of Rhode Island. As an adjunct, she did not have first pick for classes, but said her students started receiving solos over the other singers who were taught by the colleges’ full time professors.

Some of her favorite opera singers include Rosa Ponselle and Maria Callas – mentioning that Callas’s commitment to drama was so compelling that people would sleep on the New York sidewalks just to get a seat at one of her performances.

Due to the pandemic, Stadtmueller lost access to the stage and decided to approach music in a different way. During this time, she made four recordings including two slideshows and films.

“That’s my lemonade out of lemons,” Stadtmueller said.

The first slideshow “Consul” was about governmental tyranny while the next slideshow, “All that Gold” focused on a few billionaires who made incredible surges in wealth during the pandemic while small businesses were shut down.

In Stadtmueller’s most recent film, she sang Ebben! Ne andrò lontana

from “La Wally,” which is an Italian opera aria where a father banishes a young woman because she won’t marry his choice. Stadtmueller then compared this song to the banishment that artists experienced from the stage because of Covid and not getting vaccinated.

“It’s gratifying when other artists have told me when they see it on YouTube, ‘thank you Claire for saying what I would’ve liked to have said,’” Stadtmueller said. “And that brings tears to my eyes because we have suffered and for other artists to feel that I spoke for them is very gratifying.”

Her latest film won awards in Prague, Slovakia, Japan, Milan, Rome and Athens. The filming included one recording session for the music followed by two hours at Lawton Farm, two hours in Blithewold Mansion and 20 minutes in front of Carnegie Hall. Stadtmueller said it takes her several weeks of practicing the repertoire to dissect troubled spots and look at how she would like to improve it.

“We don’t sing in the shower. We perform for people. We share our love for music with people,” Stadtmueller said, mentioning that it is artists’ income and livelihood and Covid mandates were like an amputation.

Stadtmueller’s next project is to create a film that makes a statement on the loss of blue skies and nature from pollution while also questioning how long the pollinators and food supply will endure with pollution.

Additionally, in 2023, Stadtmueller is headed to Seattle to sing several arias as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of a charity that feeds homeless people. She is also playing a part in a Soap Opera podcast, teaching voice lessons and doing voiceover work.

To view her slideshows and films, visit www.ClaireAsABellVO.com.

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PRIEST'S PALS: People like Phyllis Gelsomino, and the Bessette's helped Rev. Peter J. Gower celebrate his 65th birthday milestone last week.

OLG

(Continued from page 1)

thing was up, but we tried to keep it a secret as long as possible.”

Lombardi, who coordinated the grand gala with Nicky Williams, Norm Bessette, Russ Parescandolo, Ken, Mecca Delmonico, Joey burns, Joe Andreozzi and many parishioners, added: “I personally counted the people here and by the end of the evening we had upwards of 200 people show up.”

The reasons were many as Lombardi and others offered “for a beautiful man who has made OLG the tightknit church community he has developed through his tenure here.” And unlike some OLG parishioners, Lombardi left OLG — as people have done — but came back after meeting Father Gower.

“And I’ve been here ever since,” he said.

With special sincerity ringing in his voice, Lombardi added: “Once you meet the man behind the collar, you can do nothing but love him ... A lot of sup-

porters came together for his birthday. He has been a great addition to our parish.”

Meanwhile, long-time time parishioner Joe Grasso said: “Everything was great here tonight. He’s 65 and stepping in the right direction. Father Gower is a great pastor who I’ve known for 35 years. I used to sell him cars. He once told me if they transferred him, he’d quit.”

“Happy Birthday Father Gower!” offered Robert Civetti, an OLG parishioner and member of the Johnston Town Council. “Wishing you all the best and many more happy birthdays.”

As Civetti and others emphasized: “Thank you for all you do for the faith community at Our Lady of Grace Church. Father Gower treats the parish as one big family. The many events and gathering help to keep the faith community at OLG together.”

Several people, who were waiting to exchange embraces and gifts with the popular priest, said: “Father Gower has a parish full here at Our Lady of Grace Church.”



GOWER'S GANG: Members of Rev. Peter J. Gower's family were among the 200 people who attended his 65th birthday party last week. They are, from left: Emily Whelan, Kevin Gower, Rhian Gower, Ryan Gower, Carson Gower (baby), Tom Gower and Liz Gower. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

FRANK'S FRIEND:

Johnston State Sen. Frank Lombardo is all smiles while congratulating Rev. Peter J. Gower at last week's 65th birthday bash.



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By JENNIFER COATES

Ahhhhh . . . summer. Summer is officially here, and so are the days of beachcombing, swimming, sunbathing, sailing and lounging . . . and also sweaty, grass stained and mud-puddle-splattered clothes! With those sunny skies and the beach beckoning you, why get stuck in the laundry room struggling to get rid of those pesky summer stains? Why labor one more minute tackling endless piles of laundry when you could be at the beach? Instead, bring your laundry to the capable and willing hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry on Route 44 in Johnston.

For an incredible .69/pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry ~ all on the same day ~ at this user-friendly, downy-fresh and sparkly clean Laundromat. This budget-conscious price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers. Imagine having this tiresome chore done for you, all for this incredibly low price, so you can spend your time catching up on more pressing (and fun) activities.

If you are more the "do-it-yourself" type of person, you will also find a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers as well as vending machines with extra supplies at this longstanding laundromat in Johnston. There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per load compared to \$2.50 in most other places. You will get your work done in a fraction of the time.

Jain's Laundry also has dryers, including four large capacity ones that hold up to 50 pounds, that utilize a new technology where they spin both clockwise and counterclockwise, thus allowing for more even and



Head to the beach this summer and escape the labor of doing laundry ~ come to Jain's Laundry on Putnam Pike where you can have your laundry washed, dried and folded! Kaushal Jain is seen here with a neatly folded bundle of clothes, ready to be taken home!

efficient drying. This prevents items from getting bunched up in the middle and, for larger items such as comforters and blankets, stops them from getting tangled up and twisted.

Though these upgraded dryers were a big investment, the price of doing laundry here at this neighborhood Laundromat is still the best bang for your buck in Johnston!

Vending machines are also on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags. There is never a need to wait because there are rows and rows of machines ready to go at any given time. Everything you

need is right here at Jain's Laundry.

Residential and commercial customers will always find friendly Kaushal ready to meet their needs. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles, or even leave and return between loads. There is always someone on the premises to guard your clothes. In addition, there is a coin machine on the premises that accepts up to \$20 bills.

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

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Sports

JLL All-Stars in action

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston Little League All-Stars had a busy week as multiple squads are looking to clinch championships this summer.

The 12-year-old All-Stars are headed to the District I Championship game on Wednesday night at Kennedy Field with a chance to advance to the state tournament. The JLL 12's beat Elmwood 15-5 on Monday evening to reach the district final. Corey Ogden led the way going 3-for-4 with two RBI and four runs scored while Jordan Diclo knocked in three runs. Luca Schroer then picked up two RBI on a hit as well.

The 10's took on the winner of Tuesday's losers bracket final between Elmwood and Cranston Western. They won their first game of the tournament 20-0.

The JLL 10-year-old All-Stars also picked up a big win when they cruised past Fox Point 10-0. They were back in action on Tuesday night at Memorial Park to continue their tournament against Elmwood.

The JLL senior team would reach the District I Championship and beat South Kingstown 5-4 in the first game to force the "if" game. However, SK would rebound to get the win to end Johnston's run. The Johnston junior squad took on Elmwood on Monday night as well.

Turn to page 16 for more looks of the action.

Here are the JLL All-Star rosters for the 2022 summer:

JUNIORS: Ryan Waterman, Ronald Vento, Anthony Vendetti, Will Ferrara, Jacob Rankin, Alex Amaral, Nicholas Testa, Owen Polofsky, Jesse Geyer, Christian Ferranti, Nate Wiggins, Antonio Morales and Derek Lafazia.

SENIORS: Logan Martins, Chris Civetti, Nicholas D'Aquila, Kevin Biscelli, Domenic Corona, Paul Scorpio, Dean Paris, Dylan Guernon, Yiannis Fotopoulos, Matthew Clements, Steven Finegan, Armani Arias, Brandon Simonelli and Logan Horne.

10's: Giovanni Labbadia, Eric Ferrara, Michael Iafrate, Michael Orsini, Leo Celani, Joe Splendorio, Ashton Greenhalgh, Jeffrey Cadieux, Gian Negriz, Mason Lombardi, Anden DiLiberio, Evan May and Armani Morales.

12's: Aiden Neil, Joe Maggiacomo, Corey Ogden, Ethan Archambeault, Alex Soto, Lucca Ricci, Jordan Diclo, Max Pilkington, Jalen Johnson, Fotis Fotopoulos, Steven Palardy, Fabian Alemen and Luca Schroer.



BIG HIT: Ryan Waterman after picking up a hit against Elmwood. (Juniors photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



JLL 12's: Corey Ogden (left) and Luca Shroer last week. (Submitted photos)



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JLL 10's: The JLL 10-year-old All-Stars line up prior to a game last week at Memorial Park. (Submitted photo)



ON THE BUMP: JLL junior pitcher Ronald Vento delivers a pitch against Elmwood on Monday.



SWINGING AWAY: Jacob Rankin takes a swing.



CELEBRATION: JLL juniors Alex Amaral and Jesse Geyer celebrate on Monday evening.



AT THE PLATE: JLL's Jordan Diclo at bat in a game last week.



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Rowdy for a summer baseball game

On Saturday morning, the Warwick PAL versus Coventry Connie Mack baseball game was called off in the bottom of the seventh inning after the umpires handed out warnings regarding taunting in the previous inning.

I swung by the game to cover it, expecting the typical low-key summer ball game. It was anything but and turned out to be one of the most bizarre sporting events in my 11 years of covering local athletics.

Let me start off by saying this. Although each team could have handled the situation better, this was clearly a Coventry problem. Sure, I am a Warwick-based reporter, so you can call me a homer ... that is your right, but it is also my right to say what I saw.

From the opening pitch, the Coventry bench was chirping. Whether it was insults, taunts, or even just being loud and distracting, the bench was rowdy to say the least. Not only in the dugout either, in the field, at the plate, it was incessant from the get-go and never ceased.

At least from my perspective, the kids from Coventry did not really say anything egregious, but the amount of chatter was ridiculous. I'm all for cheering your team on, I'm even for the occasional back and forths with the opponent. This on the other hand was obnoxious, no other way to put it.

PAL coach Ed Covin had enough of it in the fifth inning. After pleading to the Coventry coaching staff and to the umpires in the earlier innings to put an end to the nonsense, he was very vocal that Coventry's extracurriculars had gone too far. Then in the sixth, it continued to boil over and the umps had no choice but to issue warnings. In the sixth, they told each dugout that another word out of line from either team would result in a forfeiture for each side.

Then, in the bottom of the seventh, a Coventry player couldn't help himself as he squealed another taunt, this time directly at the umpire, which caused him to throw his arms up and walk off the field.

It only gets crazier from there. As the umpires walked off the field and teams reported to their benches, Coventry parents were outraged. One father walked alongside the umpires to their cars and shouted the entire way, saying that the umpires did the kids wrong. He even got chest to chest at one point and had to be physically restrained.

Then the two coaching staffs met at home plate and also exchanged pleasantries. Coventry's staff made it clear that they felt that Warwick's staff overreacted to the chatter, while Warwick's

My pitch



by
ALEX SPENSSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

staff maintained that they allowed the kids to act classless.

A few more Coventry parents would shout from the Warwick dugout, looking to chew out the PAL staff, claiming that they were out of line and overreacted as well. I didn't hear the PAL coaches say anything to the Coventry players, but a few of the parents from Coventry were enraged that the PAL coaches supposedly shouted at their kids directly. Mickey Stevens is a big facility, so I can't confirm or deny those allegations.

I'm sure your head is spinning reading this, as my head is spinning writing it.

Ultimately, I put the blame on both the Coventry coaches and parents.

Again, the players did not say anything horrible, but we all know the difference between friendly banter and being rude, being just flat out annoying. The fact that the Coventry coaching staff allowed it to continue after tensions rose, after the umpires handed out warnings, showed a total lack of professionalism. The coaches wanted to prove the point that kids should be allowed to speak freely, but took it way too far.

Then as far as the parents go, their conduct was disgusting. Shouting, cursing, being threatening both physically and verbally. Other parents were pulling their phones out, debating whether or not to call the police.

Where could PAL have improved? I think they probably could have ignored the noise better to a degree. It did get hard to brush it off as the game wore on though. Overall, their anger did not help de-escalate the situation. As frustrating as it was, allowing emotions to rise the way they did was probably avoidable at the end of the day.

Using percentages to divvy out blame is simplistic, but that's where I'm going. I'd say the blame was 80 percent Coventry, 20 percent PAL. Everything stemmed from Coventry and got out of hand because of Coventry. PAL did not help the situation during the in-between.

In terms of the standings, it looks like

it is going to go down as a no contest for each team. Not a win or loss. It's a shame too, because it was actually a pretty good game.

Coventry led 4-2 heading into the final inning and PAL had a chance to tie things up when the tying run was at the plate with just one out. Coventry got a stellar pitching performance and PAL showed some grit clawing its way back after falling behind 3-0 early.

In terms of the off the field aftermath, we'll see, but I'm sure things will just blow over. Stuff happens in sports, and to be brutally honest, Connie Mack is just a summer league. I don't think either team would want to see action taken beyond the game going down as a no decision.

In my opinion though, the Coventry parents need to be addressed. The coaching staff lost control of its team, but maybe losing out on a win will be enough to send the necessary message.

As for the parents though, I really don't know how they can be allowed to another game after nearly causing multiple physical altercations. I can say, without question, it was the worst parental behavior I've ever witnessed at a game. I've seen players fight, coaches go at it, but never the parents entering the field and walking umpires to their cars, shouting like lunatics. It went beyond disgusting, it was actually a little disturbing.

My ultimate point is this ... local sports should never see situations like this take place. What a shame for everyone involved, it really was. I understand that we are all human, I certainly have lost my cool for things I shouldn't have ... we all have.

This should be a learning experience for everyone involved that sometimes, proving a point one way or the other is simply not worth it.

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Curtain Call

Here is one last look at the Johnston volleyball seniors who were key to the team's first-ever championship this past spring season. Pictured are seniors Anthony Gawlik, Kasem Sasa, Jeffry Cabrera and Nick Harrington during their Senior Night celebration this past season. (Submitted photo)

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Getting it right for right whales

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

South Fork Wind, a joint venture offshore wind project developed by Ørsted and Eversource, announced earlier this month it has signed an agreement with environmental organizations to further enhance measures designed to protect the North Atlantic right whale during construction and operation of the offshore wind farm.

The agreement with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) expands on the commitment from Ørsted, the leading U.S. offshore wind energy partner, and Eversource, New England's largest energy provider and experts in regional energy transmission, to responsibly build clean energy projects while minimizing and mitigating impacts to marine wildlife and critical habitat.

North Atlantic right whales are one of the most endangered whales on the planet and scientists estimate that fewer than 340 remain. South Fork Wind has committed to measures that will help protect these whales in the project area, where their habitat is increasingly threatened by climate change. For example, South Fork Wind will adopt monitoring measures to help ensure right whales are not in close proximity to the construction site during construction activities, implement mitigation to reduce noise during piling, and evaluate other new monitoring technologies as part of the agreement.

To guard against vessel strikes, the agreement also includes a 10-knot speed limit for all project-related vessels unless an effective adaptive speed management plan is in place. South Fork Wind will test advanced technologies that detect and have the potential to track whales, including thermal cameras, acoustic sensors, and data integration software.

The NWF, NRDC, and CLF are working to advance offshore wind energy as a key resource to combat climate change, aiming to establish the industry in a way that includes protections for vulnerable marine life and habitat. The groups are working across sectors to address impacts to critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, which face serious threats from entanglement in fishing gear and vessel collisions, and shifting prey and habitat availability due to climate change.

Giant Atlantic bluefin tuna angling category closure
 Fishermen aboard Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling or HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels (while fishing recreationally) may not retain, possess, or land large medium or giant Atlantic bluefin tuna measuring 73 inches curved fork length or greater in the northern area effective June 29, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Based on the best available landings information, the 1.8-mt Angling category northern area "trophy" bluefin tuna (measuring 73 inches or greater) sub quota has been reached and exceeded. Note that the Angling category



CATCH AND RELEASE: Tom Peters of Warwick with a striped bass he caught at Block Island's Southwest Ledge when fishing with his brother Allan Peters (also of Warwick). (Submitted photos)

fishery for school, large school, or small medium bluefin tuna (27 to <73 inches) remains open.

Smooth puffer fish can be deadly

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Marine Fisheries and the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) are warning of increased reports of anglers catching Smooth Puffers Fish. Puffers belong to the family Tetradontidae, which is comprised of around 120 known species. Smooth Puffers have a fairly significant range in the western Atlantic Ocean from New England and Bermuda to Argentina, though it's more common in southern waters.

This member of the puffer family is a serious threat to your health if not cleaned properly. The neurotoxins in puffers responsible for illness and death are Tetrodotoxin and Saxitoxin, which adversely affect the human central nervous system. According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these toxins are deadlier than cyanide and there are no known antidotes for these toxins. Also, these toxins cannot be frozen or cooked out. Toxins can be found in all organs of the Smooth Puffer, intestines, and even in the skin.

Do not use Smooth Puffers for bait or chum. If you catch a Smoother Puffer, take this fish off the hook carefully and release it.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, "The striped bass bite continues to be strong out in front of Newport and at Block Island."

Angler Allan Peters and his brother Tom, both of Warwick, fished the Southwest Ledge area of Block Island with eels. Allan said, "No fish until the fleet cleared out around 12:00 p.m. last Thursday, then it heated up. We caught ten stripers, two blues, two sea bass, and one dogfish. Katie Spier caught her first keeper striped bass Friday, a 48-inch fish caught trolling tube and worm off the Sakonnet River fishing with her uncle Greg Spier.

East End Eddie Doherty, said, "(Cape Cod) Canal Rats have become distressed at the news that there have been consistent catches of 30 & 40 pound striped bass in so many other venues, but not the Canal... Steve Ferreira was the only fisherman to catch a fish at the Falmouth Fishermen's Association & Buzzards Bay Anglers Club annual cookout at Aptux-et." "Fishing remains very good for striped bass with lots of schoolie to slot sized fish in the salt ponds and breachways, much larger fish out at Block Island. Live eels remain the top producer for large bass, but they can also be caught trolling or casting lures." said Declan O'Donnell of Misquamicut Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

Summer flounder (fluke) fishing is improving but remains spotty. Anglers are limiting out with smaller fish in the 18-21-inch range. Caught four keepers at the Newport Bridge area Friday in two and a half hours. Norah Ialongo of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, said, "Customers are catching fluke around the Newport and Jamestown Bridge but fluke fishing is spotty."

The fluke bite around Block Island remains spotty. "Reports on fluke fishing have been mixed locally with some people doing well locally and others struggling to find the fish. At Block, the fluke fishing might be a bit better, but you still need to work to find the fish," said Declan O'Donnell of Misquamicut Bait & Tackle.

Black sea bass and scup. Some nice sized 20-plus black sea bass are being caught off the Sakonnet River and in front of Newport this week but they aren't many large black sea bass around. Most fish being taken are shorts. The scup bite remains very story anywhere there is structure like ledges and jetties and water movement.

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

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COLLECTIBLES



Howell Dodd: Illustrator and War Correspondent



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

I picked up a collection of World War II uniforms a while back, and one of them intrigued me. It had war correspondent's insignia on the sleeves of the jacket and a painted helmet with "WAR CORRESPONDENT/U.S." painted on the front, and "DODD" on the right side. War correspondent gear is pretty rare, so it certainly caught my eye. I loaded it up with the other materiel and brought it back to the office. It was a few weeks before I actually had a chance to sit down and spend some time looking at it.

The group consisted of the helmet and a Model 1941 field jacket as I mentioned, but it also had an Eisenhower jacket with correspondent's insignia, as well as a side cap with the same insignia. But the M1 fixed bale helmet intrigued me as it was named on the right side. I took out the lin-

er and saw the front was marked with the same hand-painted correspondent's insignia. It was also marked on the front inside rim of the helmet shell with the same paint "- HOWELL-/DODD/ WAR CORRESPONDENT" which was really cool! A quick search turned up illustrator Howell Dodd whose signature on his artwork is almost identical to the signed helmet shell.

Howell Dodd was born in 1910, and purportedly died in 2005 although there isn't much information about his life out there. I did find a few images of Dodd in uniform, including one with him wearing the helmet. What is known is his illustration work in the 1950s and 60s is quite interesting. He did a lot of covers for Police Detective, True Fact Crime, and many other pulp fiction magazines and periodicals. During World War II he was working for the Associated Press in Normandy and did sketches and drawing of troops in action that seem to appear online from time-to-time. His work is really well done and his pulp work is sometimes racy.

It's always interesting and fun to find a name and find out more about the soldier, or in this case correspondent's life. It helps breathe more life into the objects and makes them more collectable.



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Encountering trail angels

5 weeks & 740 miles by canoe

By JOHN HOWELL

John DaSilva was blessed with trail angels. On June 24 he completed the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, a 740 mile paddle through some of the most wilderness country between Old Forge in upstate New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Canada before crossing Moosehead Lake and arriving at Fort Kent, Maine.

During the five-week trek, DaSilva navigated 23 rivers and streams and 59 lakes. He went through 45 towns and completed 65 portages and swatted untold hundreds, if not more, black flies and mosquitoes. DaSilva, 62 and recently retired as a truck driver, and his wife, Lori, who still works on a per diem basis as a nurse at Rhode Island Hospital, read about the NFCT and knew what it would take. They have made many canoeing and camping trips together and they knew -- despite all the preparation -- there would be unforeseen obstacles on the way.

The dream of doing the NFCT was spawned during the pandemic. While on a Grand Canyon float trip in March 2020, the country shutdown because of Covid-19. As national parks were closed, they took their camper to federal lands that are not regulated and open. It gave John plenty of time to read up on the NFCT.

The NFCT is frequently compared to the Appalachian Trail -- a 2,200-mile endurance walk from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katadin in Maine -- that even an experienced hiker can take four months to complete. For hikers in this country completing the Appalachian Trail in a single outing, rather than in segments over an extended period, maybe taking years, is a personal challenge and significant achievement. Doing the NFCT is comparable for canoers.

That's why George "Jich" Estano called the Beacon two weeks ago. Fellow paddlers, Estano and John have known each other for years. The word went out in the paddle community that John was preparing to do the NFCT. Estano followed his progress on social media and -- when he learned John would complete the last leg of the outing -- he thought Rhode Island should know of the accomplishment. He called the Beacon with details and the request not to contact John until he'd cleared it with Lori.

The call came in late June. Lori had greeted John with a cake and lots of ice cream -- John loves ice cream -- at Fort Kent. It would be okay to call.

John and Lori's garage rivals a sports shop show room and the house a north woods lodge. Shelves line the back wall to the garage. They are sectioned off with sporting gear including sleeping bags, tents, backpacks of various sizes, cooking ware and waterproof apparel. A canoe sits in one bay of the garage. It's the one used on the trip and until John makes repairs it won't be joining the canoes and kayaks he has stored in a couple of lean-tos covered with tarps in his yard. Cross country skis and ski poles poke from between paddles.

John lifts the single-man canoe used for the trip to reveal gouges running the length of the boat from scraping submerged rocks. While durable, the Kevlar had cracked in a couple of places. He used this canoe because it is light although it is not indestructible.

"If caught sideways, it could wrap around a rock," he says. John jumped from the canoe twice while running rapids. They were unplanned swims to catch up to the boat and guide it from behind until he reached shore where he drained and repacked it. In the first dunking, he lost the paddle used for rapids meaning he was forced to use the double-bladed kayak paddle he uses for open water. It was a setback he hadn't anticipated and although he bought another paddle on the way it wasn't like the one claimed by the rapids.

In preparation, John and Lori dehydrated meals and packed food cartons that were mailed to four post offices used as pickup points along the way. He found



RECALLING THE PADDLE: John DaSilva outlines his trip as his wife listens from their home in Warwick. (Beacon Communications photo)



TIME FOR A SNACK: Phoebe and Ben take a break from paddling. At top: Ben and Phoebe lead the way after breaking camp.

Canoe

(Continued from page 21)

himself constantly hungry; craving sugar (crème-filled Oreos that he usually doesn't care for were rapidly consumed). He estimates he burned about 8,000 calories a day, yet over the five weeks lost 10 pounds.

John also carried a satellite phone that enabled him to at least give his position allowing Lori to keep track of his progress from their Warwick home. She was anxious and to keep her mind off what John was encountering, worked on their gardens that reflect the devoted attention she gives them.

John, however, was hardly alone. There were the trail angels and the young couple – Ben and Phoebe – he paired with after the first week. As he puts it Craig, the Saranac River steward, was one of those “trail angels.”

John pulls out a map to illustrate what he faced. The Saranac coils back and forth with a series of rapids. Avoiding them would mean a seven-mile portage, but running the first set of class 2 rapids would cut the portage by a couple of miles. They were followed by class 3 and class 4 rapids.

Having run class 2 and 3 rapids, John figured he could reduce the portage. But how would he know where to get out of the river and begin the portage? John had read up on the trail and carried with him a book detailing the river and

the terrain. A boulder pictured in the book marked the spot.

Surprised by what was around the bend

“I did have some apprehension due to the fact that I would be running it with a loaded non whitewater Kevlar canoe. I couldn't lower my center of gravity by kneeling in it (because of mobility issues due to double knee replacements) and I never ran this canoe in rapids,” he said.

Once in the rapids, there was no turning back. John hugged the right bank on the river. It was going well until he rounded a bend.

In front of him and with little time to react, sticking out 10 feet from shore was a branch about two feet off the water's surface. He managed that only to confront another limb just inches below the surface. It caught the bottom of the canoe.

“This spun me around and had me going backwards down the rapids. I quickly started turning around but unfortunately I dropped into a hole sideways that filled my boat with water. At this point I knew I was in trouble and was going to go over.”

John's survival training kicked in. He jumped into the river to keep the boat upright without losing his gear.

“I got behind the boat and was lucky to be able to get myself and the boat to the edge of the shore and woods pretty much intact.”

With no shore to speak of, John

was standing in an eddy. He had lost his beloved paddle but everything was intact and the boat was full of water. He bailed out the canoe.

As he recalls, he had one of two choices: abandon the canoe and find his way out of the woods or use the kayak paddle. He opted to continue only after paddling to the other side of the river.

He kept an eye out for the paddle, but never found it. But, he found the boulder and the place to start the portage. He affixed a set of wheels to the back of the canoe. The going is tough, “like they were flat tires.”

It was unbearably hot for May with temperatures in the 90s. John had lost his water bottle. He reached a road. It's then that he met the first trail angel: a woman who gave him a bottle of Poland Springs. She returned a half hour later with a gallon of Poland Springs.

John was exhausted and -- to complicate matters -- the sky was darkening with an approaching storm and nightfall. He searched for a place to break camp but to his dismay found only private property signs. He came upon a DPW garage with a huge pile of sand. The building was locked. With thunder rumbling and using a light, he looked for a place to pitch a tent. Amazingly, he spotted a key on a piece of equipment. It fit the door to the garage. Inside he found a mess of parts and tools. He cleared an area and being able to recharge his electronics he bedded down for the night, rain pounding the roof.

Concerned by the loss of the paddle, John reached out to Craig Von Barga, NFCT, Saranac River steward and St. Regis outfitters in Saranac, NY. Yet another trail angel, Craig, who manages the NFCT Saranac campsite, replied first thing the following morning. They arranged to meet at the confluence of the Saranac and N. Branch of the Saranac River Bridge. Craig loaded the canoe and John's gear into his SUV and they drove 30 miles to the outfitters where John bought another paddle. He also brought him to the campsite where he met Ben and Phoebe.

Teaming up

Craig was concerned for the novice canoers. He suggested to John that they pair up. John hadn't planned on teaming up to do the NFCT, this was more of an individual challenge but he was impressed by their enthusiasm and energy. Ben was a biker, Phoebe a tennis player. What they lacked in canoeing skills they make up for in determination.

John reflected on the friendships made on the trail.

Ben Jankowski is 25; Phoebe Gelbard, 24.

“Where most people would fail, they excelled. Not just physically but mentally, too. When things were dire and seemed hopeless, they didn't complain or cry. Instead, there were smiles, laughter and joking,” he said.

John gave them space and let them make their own decisions.

“They would ask for my opinion at times and I would either agree with them or give them an alternative. All I can say is it worked and would travel with them anytime.”

John was impressed by their kindness and thoughtfulness to one another.

“It brought smiles to my face and gave me a renewed faith in this young generation. Some say this young generation is pampered and failing. I say hell no to that. They are just faced with different challenges and will

rise up to face them just as we did,” John said.

They set off together, stayed in touch and watched out for each other.

Wind could be a hazard, especially if it kicked up waves large enough to swamp a canoe. John found himself with such conditions on more than one occasion. He hugged the lee shore of islands in larger lakes where he found himself thinking of how Native Americans, fur trappers and later colonists followed the same trail.

Not all of the watery trail is rivers and streams flowing in one's favor. John said most of Vermont was upstream requiring him in some places to walk in the river, pulling the canoe. He said the crossings into Canada and then back into this country were simple requiring just to check in with border authorities.

John talked of another trail angel encountered on the Clyde River.

“When I think of the Clyde, beauty and the beast come to mind. It's a very pastoral river at times snaking its way through northern Vermont farms and countryside. There is also plenty of abundant wildlife to greet the quiet paddler. In between those pastoral sections are class 1 and 2 rapids that must be either paddled, portaged or lined. Then there are all the beaver dams that never seem to cease that must be climbed over or if you are lucky you can paddle at ramming speed and try to get over that way. And to add to the difficulty is the upriver paddling which never subsides in Vermont or New Hampshire except for the Nulhegan River and a short section of the Connecticut.”

Being thru paddlers, John, Ben and Phoebe had no choice but to keep going. It's on the Clyde that they met Bill Manning whose farm abuts the river. The trio had thought of staying at the Clyde House, a guest house for thru-paddlers, but it was booked. Manning offered to let them camp on the edge of a field and they discovered he also had a self-serve farm stand where they bought some supplies.

They shared stories and soon Manning offered them to use his ATV to drive up to his house where they did their laundry and took showers.

Manning talked about the river and outlined what they could expect to encounter.

“He's an older gentleman,” says John, “who has led an accomplished and interesting life. We could have chatted all afternoon.”

Manning also maintained a NFCT camp on the Clyde just down from his farm that has a picnic table, fire pit and privy John noted.

John had more than stories from his trip. He wore a cap with a GoPro camera to record video and took hundreds of photos that he started downloading as soon as he got home. He's planning to do segments to post on social media and share with his network of paddlers.

Axe with a story

He also returned with an axe that John makes a point of retrieving from inside the house.

There's a story of another trail angel that goes with it, although it takes some time to get to it.

“What about the axe, are you going to get to that?” Lori prompted him.

The story unfolds slowly.

The party is in the wilderness of Maine on the final leg of the trail. John has calculated it's going to take nine days to complete, but to be on the safe side has packed enough food for

12 days. Lousy weather, however, makes for slow going. His supply and that of Ben and Phoebe are running low. They start rationing and wondering if they can stretch it out.

John spells out the conditions they face after reaching Jackman, ME, that is pretty much their last chance to resupply before traversing 200 miles of big lakes and rivers to reach Fort Kent.

“We planned for a rest day in Jackman but squashed it when we saw that we would have only one weather day of opportunity to cross Moosehead Lake, Maine's largest lake.”

“Maine's big lakes were my biggest fear of the trip and it let us know it. I've traveled them many times, from placid mountain forest reflections off the water to a downright angry monster leaving you to think what did I do to piss you off.”

The weather didn't cooperate. Temperatures dropped into the 40s. It was rainy and windy. They didn't know whether it would be better to hunker down or push on even though it was slow going and the angry lakes were risky.

“The infamous mud carry, Chamberlain and Eagle lake crossings and the forecast was not good,” John said.

Lori is growing impatient. John says he's getting to the axe. He continues to set the scene.

“Hyperthermia is the real deal in exposed elements such as these. I had real concerns with my leaky rain gear. We were shut down for one full day and others we made minimal progress. Food was becoming a main concern,” John relates.

They get back on the trail but are pinned down on Thoreau Island in Eagle Lake. They are making their way around the island when they come upon Stephen Leavitt and his dog Penny at a camp. John guesses Leavitt is in his 80s.

“We must have been a pitiful sight,” John says. Leavitt takes them into his camp, supplies them with hot coffee and regales them with stories. He tells them he's been coming to Eagle Lake since he was a boy for week-long fishing trips.

“Lucky for us serendipity brought us together on this day. This would be his last day and night before heading back home on the coast of Maine. He offered us his left over food that he was going to take back home. We paused for a couple of seconds before we said sure and then a lot of thank-yous followed,” said John.

Leavitt had given them a large steak, pancake mix, produce and a half stick of Houlton's butter, which John had to agree is the best butter in the state. Throughout the day they cross between the two camps to swap stories. On one of the visits, Leavitt notices John breaking wood to feed his fire and asks if he has an axe.

John did have an axe but he gave it to one of his first trail angels, Craig. Leavitt gets his axe and when John finishes chopping firewood he returns it.

Leavitt tells him to keep it and seeing that they're near the end of the trail with no more portages and the added weight is of little concern, John willingly accepts it.

But John won't keep it.

He runs his fingers over the weather beaten handle. He plans to sand that, restoring its luster and adding a preservative and then bring it to a friend who can burn in “Stephen Leavitt, 2022 NFCT Trail Angel.”

And then John will make another trip to Maine. This time it will be by car to visit Leavitt and bring him his axe.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Jodi Helger

Scout

Looking for fun and adventure, well so is Scout! He is a ten month old Aussie/Heeler mixed breed with a beautiful coat of many colors! Scout is such a sweet boy, he loves everyone he meets. If you love long walks, car rides and romping around the yard then Scout is the boy for you! He is available for adoption at One Dog at a Time Rescue. You need to call 508-826-3073 to make an appointment to meet him. He would love a big fenced in yard to run around and play fetch too! Just look at those eyes and ears, he just too cute!

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The Stock Market Has Tumbled, Now What?



Jeffrey H. Massey
Certified Financial Planner™
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Do you remember the old song "Pinball Wizard?" Here are some of the lyrics. Try to read this without the song going into your head!

*Ain't got no distractions
Can't hear no buzzers and bells
Don't see no lights a-flashin'
Plays by sense of smell
Always gets a replay
Never seen him fall
That deaf, dumb and blind kid
Sure plays a mean pinball...*

What does that have to do with your investment portfolio? Your retirement plan? Unlike the "deaf, dumb and blind kid" in the song, we, unfortunately have lots of "distractions... buzzers and bells" compliments of the media. If we collectively turned off our news programs for a couple of weeks, I feel as though everybody's stress level will be down quite a bit.

There is so much noise out there when it comes to the stock market, sometimes it's hard for some to maintain composure. Have you watched the news only to feel a bit more anxious than you were before watching or listening to the news? Not surprised!

So, this message is one of maintaining your calmness, ignoring or limiting your exposure to the media when it comes to the stock market. Downturns in the market are part of a market cycle. The stock market doesn't just go up and stay up forever. Just like it hasn't gone down and stayed down forever.

Have we had some tougher times? Certainly, and we don't have to go too far back in time. February/March of 2020 the stock market was down about 35%. The "financial crisis" started in the fourth quarter of 2007, continued through 2008 and into early March of 2009. Before that, we had three back-to-back-to back drops in the market, 2000-2001-2002. After each of those bad episodes, the market, seemingly, heroically recovered and advanced from prior high points. (Yahoo Finance, n.d.)

My point here is that the market will always be moving, up, down, or "side-ways." One of the most important points of this article is to impress upon you that as the market moves, you should not make any emotional moves about your investments. Of course, that assumes that you have a plan in place, preferably a long-term plan. If you are not working with a financial advisor, preferably a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) Professional, I suggest that this might be a good time

to start working with one. One of the primary jobs of the CFP® is to establish a long-term plan for you and your spouse, if married. Of course, "Significant Others" count, too!

Another job is to keep you on track. In volatile times like these, it's their job to help you see through the "noise" and focus on your long-term goals. As the old saying goes "this, too, shall

pass" and the market decline will lessen then turn to a positive direction. Obviously, no one knows exactly when that will be, but, historically, that is exactly what has happened after every other big downturn in the market.

We have seen some softening of the gas prices. I expect that will trickle down to, hopefully, lowering food prices as the cost of transporting food-

stuffs should also go down as diesel costs lower over time. As a kid, I remembered diesel always being much less than gasoline. I don't know why it is so much higher than gasoline at this point.

This article was written just before the second quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers come out. Why is that important? Well, the economists use that number to determine if we have been in a recession. A recession can only be declared after two consecutive quarters of negative GDP figures. The first quarter GDP was negative 1.6%. (MarketWatch.com, n.d.) My guess, and it is only that, a guess, is that the second quarter GDP will be negative as well. That could confirm what most people already FEEL is going on: we have been in a recession thus far in 2022.

If you are not currently working with a professional team that has developed a long-term retirement planning goal, now may be a good time to start! The market has "discounted" the value of most stocks and now may be a good time to reposition assets to take advantage of the recovery, when that occurs. Of course, it is important for you to know the current level of risk within your existing portfolio. I suggest learning that first. At our firm, we use software that analyzes your stock market investments and can quantify the level of risk you have in your current portfolio. This could be really important information for you to have. If you have questions about this article, or your investments, we are here to help.

For more information, contact the team at Massey And Associates, Inc., Retirement Wealth Advisors, at (401) 333-8000 and www.masseyandassociates.com The office is located at 250F Centerville Road in Warwick.

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