

Polisena balances his last town budget

MAYOR: No tax increase after 'very good year'

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, in his final year as the town's chief executive, has successfully balanced the town budget without a tax increase.

"We passed the budget," Polisena said. "No tax increase, and we still maintained all of the services the town provides. We had a very good year."

In fact, taxes will decrease slightly, according to the unanimously adopted \$120,547,767 town budget.

Johnston Town Council and the School Committee, with the help of a big boost in state aid, have agreed to adopt the proposed 2022-23 town budget.

The budget hearing was held on Wednesday, July 13, at the Town of Johnston Municipal Court. Polisena said no town residents, besides elected officials and department heads, attended the meeting.

"I think that's because people have faith and trust in their government and in their council members," Polisena said. "It went well. The School Committee seemed to be happy. They got the necessary funds they needed. The state aid increase helped them out. And they were able to shave the budget down."

The House Finance Committee approved a big boost to local state aid for education in mid-June. Johnston's slice of the state aid pie grew by at least \$756,306

(bringing the state aid total for Johnston Schools to at least \$20,507,201).

The boost in state aid was announced the evening of the June 14 School Committee meeting, where Johnston Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. and the elected board were attempting to reconcile a sizeable deficit (around \$1.3 million).

"Yes I saw this update last night," DiLullo said on June 15. "We will verify that number ... and this helps a great deal."

Polisena is serving his final term as mayor of Johnston. Last year, he reluctantly endorsed a small tax increase to cover a deficit in school spending. This year, however, he pledged to reject any recommendations for a tax increase to cover the education deficit.

BUDGET - PAGE 6

Johnston 12's take District I



THE CHAMPS: For the first time since 2009, the Johnston Little League 12 year old All-Star team won the District I Championship, beating Elmwood in the 10-4 victory and punching its ticket to the state tournament. See recap on Page 15.



First splash in long lost sunken Gaspee search

By JOHN HOWELL

Gaspee Point has hidden its secrets well, although divers found a "cultural item," a brick, as they prepared over the weekend for a more extensive search this week in the hunt for remnants of the HMS Gaspee that colonists burned 250 years ago.

In an email Dr. Kathy Abbass, principal investigator of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, said dives on Saturday and Sunday were designed to set up equipment to control "the first ground-truthing" of a target identified by sonar sensing last year. Abbass was aboard the research vessel both days.

"The area at Gaspee Point is challenging, even though the divers were working in only 20' of water. The tide was against the river current, and the wind was brisk, too, and with almost 0' visibility, the diving was slow. We discovered that slack tide was better, but visibility then was even worse. Such early dives are about learning how to have access to a location so we can do good research, but mainly to ensure that our teams are safe," said Abbass.

As the research vessel was on station, a group of volunteers, graduates of RIMAP training, manned a tent setback from the Gaspee Point beach to welcome spectators interested in the search, answer questions and provide informational flyers. Volunteers also manned a gate granting vehicular access to a field for parking near the beach.

ON THE POINT: The research vessel was positioned off Gaspee Point on Sunday as divers set up coordinates to examine two targets later this week.

SUNK - PAGE 11

Scituate

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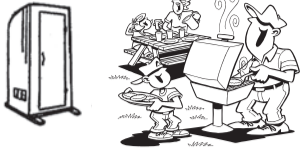
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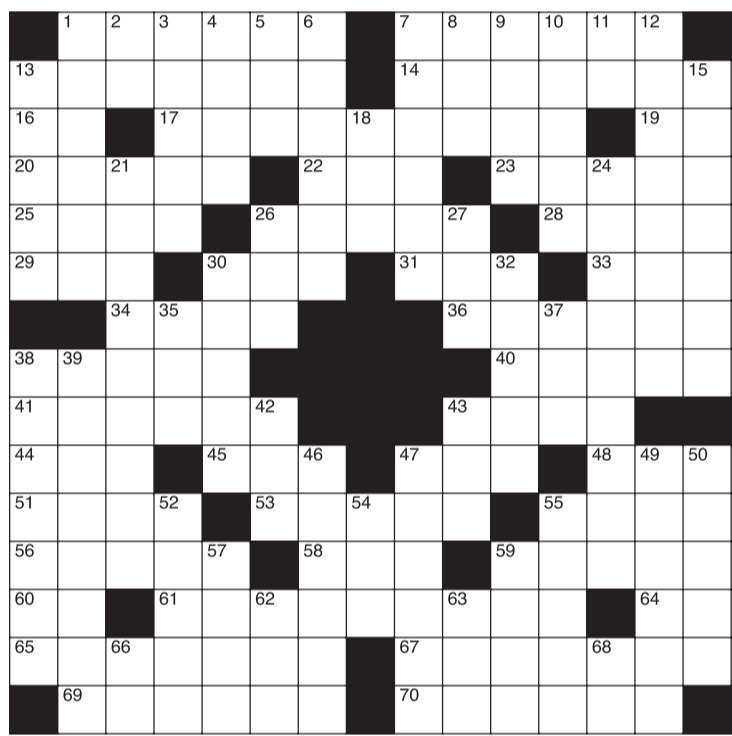
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CLUES ACROSS

- Eurasian shrubs
- Strikes and rebounds
- Group of advisers
- Modern necessity
- Top lawyer in the land
- Philadelphia university
- Of I
- Functions as a laser
- Basketball phenomenon Jeremy
- Famed island
- Parent-teacher groups
- Distributes
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Ad __
- Circulation problem (abbr.)
- Brother or sister
- A famous "Squad"
- Stage actor Anthony
- Violent seizure of property
- Saclike cavities
- Sound units
- Counts on
- Dad
- Woman (French)
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Polish Baltic peninsula
- Recipe measurement
- Requests out of dire need

CLUES DOWN

- Flowing
- Computer department
- Lasts
- DiFranco and Samsonyan are two
- __ de sac
- Merchant
- Hosts film festival
- State of agitation of fuss
- Away to praise
- Opaque gems
- McKinley is one
- Smallest interval in classical Western music
- Famed designer Lauren

- Occupies
- Small island (British)
- Misuse of the sacred
- Covers with a thin sheet
- Most valuable player
- Title of respect
- Investigated discreetly
- Belonging to the bottom layer
- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Music genre
- Indicates one is in mourning
- Secured forever
- Bodily cavity
- A dog is one
- Chose to do something
- Annoy persistently
- Large hotel rooms
- Beg
- Docket
- Subway dwelling rodent
- Sources
- Mild Dutch cheese
- Spanish city
- Consumed
- Ballplayer's tool
- Midway between north and east
- Atomic #3



MOUNTAIN TOPPERS: Rebekkah Condon, Ailani Reed and Emily Packer, members of Girl Scouts Troop 171 Johnston, ascended Mt. Monadnock recently. (Submitted photos)

Johnston Girl Scouts ascend Mt. Monadnock

While tent-camping recently in Rindge, NH, Girl Scouts of Troop 171 Johnston, and their dedicated leaders ascended Mt. Monadnock on trails once used by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. They were rewarded with breathtaking views atop the 3,165-foot summit.

The hike is one of several the scouts planned as part of their Senior Trail Adventure badge. To prepare, Troop 171 attended several hiking workshops hosted by Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England. The experienced leaders at GSSNE coached them on how to plan and prepare a successful hike incorporating the seven Leave No Trace hiking etiquette principals. The scouts were also responsible for the meals for the two-night trip, planning, buying, and cooking (and clean up!) on their own. Girl-led is a hallmark of Girl Scouting which strives to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



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Italo-American Club holds annual clambake & cookout

By PETE FONTAINE

Perhaps Johnston resident George Lazzareschi Jr., the popular president of the Italo-American Club of Rhode Island, said it best about the Providence-based group's annual clambake and cookout.

"It's nice to know countless dignitaries always attend many of our functions," Lazzareschi offered. "We recognize them as honorary members."

Which explains why Gov. Daniel McKee as well as Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos headed the list of visitors — and guests — last Friday night for the Italo-American Club's annual super special social.

"Governor McKee is a strong supporter of our Italian heritage," Lazzareschi, who is also known as "Big Dog" for his powerlifting championships and serves as Superintendent of Police and Fire Public Safety in Providence wanted it known. "We appreciate the interest he has shown in our events and club."

The Italo-American Club of Rhode Island — which once the well-known Berarducci Funeral Home — was founded in 1896 and as Lazzareschi boasted, "We are the oldest organization of its kind in the country."

That also explains why last Friday night's event attracted a gathering estimated at 150 people and was held outside in the Italo-American Club's parking lot at 477 Broadway in Providence.

One reason in particular the fun and fantastic food fest was held outdoors is because there were so many people that it could not have been hosted inside at Maria's Cucina, the club's award-winning restaurant, was closed for its annual summer vacation.

So, as Lazzareschi offered: "As we have done for our past club cookouts and clambakes, we brought in Mickey's Clamshack of Cumberland that served an extremely generous all-you-can-eat menu consisting of red or white chowder, clam cakes, chicken tenders, hamburgers or cheeseburgers and hot dogs."

"Everyone loved the dessert," Lazzareschi said with his usual special smile on his face. "Who doesn't like freshly made strawberry shortcake with whipped cream?"

Likewise, the night was also highlighted by the Italo-American Club's always awesome hospitality from its outstanding officers, many of whom are Johnston residents such as Gina Sabitoni-Arakelian, Peter Montaquila Jr., Stephen "Sheik" Mallane, Donna Folcarelli and Lazzareschi.

Moreover, many Johnston residents who are also club members enjoyed conversation, camaraderie and cooking like Richard J. DelFino III, former Town Councilman who is Director of Constituent Affairs for Gov. McKee. DelFino said: "The strawberry shortcake was delicious."

His father Richard J. DelFino Jr., who like his son is a frequent visitor to the club and attends monthly and social gatherings (he also serves as President of the RI City and Town Democratic Chairs Association), emphasized: "What a great night; good food, good friends, Dan and Sabina who relate well with working families and are both well-respected by Italian communities throughout the state."



LOCAL LINK: Above, many Johnston residents like Richard DelFino III and Jr., Stephen Mallane, John D'Errico, Don Oliver, Mike Maddalena and Paul Giarusso join Gov. Dan McKee and Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos during last Friday night's fun and food-filled event.



TASTY TREATS: At right, Former Johnston Town Councilman Richard J. DelFino III shows off the cheeseburgers and hot dogs he and 150 people enjoyed last Friday night during the Italo-American Club's cookout/clambake in Providence.



WARM WELCOME: At right, Italo-American Club President and Johnston resident George Lazzareschi Jr. welcomes Gov. Dan McKee and Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos to last Friday night's cookout and clambake in Providence. (Photos courtesy of Ron Cece)



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Classic Blend headlines region’s summer events

By PETE FONTAINE

The sounds of golden oldies doo wop music will echo across Twin River Monday night when the Town of North Providence and its Mayor Charles Lombardi begin what promises to be a fun-filled Summer Concert Series.

“We call it Music in the Park,” offered Jeannie Vickers, who serves as Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. “Everyone is looking forward to opening night and we’ll have five different groups through Aug. 20.”

Perhaps Vickers’ enthusiasm — as well as other town officials — is because Monday night’s headliner will be Classic Blend, one of the state’s best and most popular quintets will be performing their great doo wop music from 6 to 8 p.m. on the stage at the Overlook Camp Meehan Amphitheater inside Gov. Notte Park.

“There’s no admission charge,” said Vickers. “All people need to do is bring their chairs and blankets, we’ll provide the beautiful grass and music and our concession stand will be open. Pray for good weather!”

Classic Blend, as many people will attest, packed the picturesque park last year and another large audience is expected to take in the first of five summer concerts.

The group, which has performed at many different venues and events in both Rhode Island and Connecticut, includes Maria Russo, Peter Goneconte, Ron Iacabucci, Jack Mento and noted North Providence native Ron Giorgio — Classic Blend’s youngest member — who has become well-known in recent years for his Frank Sinatra-like voice and performances.

Classic Blend, which was filmed for a television Netflix movie, has played before sold out audiences throughout Rhode Island and is scheduled to make another special appearance at unique fund-raising event for the Johnston Democratic Town Committee in August.

“Those people have a great, great following,” area residents who have taken in countless Classic Blend



CRAVING CROONERS? Classic Blend, a highly-accomplished and popular quintet will kick off the North Providence Summer Concert Series on Monday evening, July 25 inside Gov. Notte Park. The talented group include, from left: Ron Giorgio, Jack Mento, Maria Russo, Ron Iacabucci and Peter Goneconte. (Photo by Nancy Houde)

performances will attest. “The help revive the beautiful music of the headlining group0s of the 1950s, 60s and more.”

Meanwhile, as Goneconte pointed out “we are really looking for to the (July) 25th. Everyone had a great time last year and we’re excited to be launching this year’s (North Providence) Summer Concert Series. Please, come one ... come all ... bring your snacks and enjoy the night.”

Given that, Vickers announced that “Timeless,” which was a huge hit during its appearance for Rev. Pete J. Gower’s 65th birthday bash at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston will be on stage Monday night, Aug. 1.

The remaining three dates and groups are: Cool Beans, Aug. 8; Image, Aug. 15 and Roger Ceresi and the All-Starz Band on Aug. 29. For further information call Vickers at 401-719-1633.



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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG



Michael F. Sabitoni

DUI

At 12:07 a.m., Sunday, July 17, Rhode Island State Troopers arrested Michael F. Sabitoni, 55, of 22 Peppermint Lane, Johnston, for Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor and/or Drugs (first offense, BAC unknown) and Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test, according to Rhode Island State Police.

The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop on Route 6, in the town of Johnston.

Sabitoni is a prominent labor leader in the state. He was vocal in his support for the Amazon warehouse project in Johnston (and the hiring of union labor to construct the mega-facility).

Michael F. Sabitoni, serves as President of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC). Sabitoni has volunteered with numerous town projects and organizations.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena had words of support Tuesday for Sabitoni following his arrest.

"Obviously it was a mistake," Polisena said. "Mike is a great guy. He's done a lot for the town of Johnston, and youth sports."

Sabitoni was allegedly driving 81 mph in a 55 mph zone when he was stopped by State Police, according to published R.I. Traffic Tribunal Records.

Sabitoni was transported to Rhode Island State Police Headquarters where he was processed, arraigned by a Justice of the Peace, and released into the custody of a responsible adult, according to RISP spokesperson Maj. Laurie Ludovici.

SHOPLIFTING

Johnston Police Detective Thomas M. Dwyer responded to a Johnston store in reference to a reported shoplifting. Upon arrival a loss prevention manager told police that around 4:17 p.m. on Oct. 7, 2021, a man entered the business and proceeded to the hardware department where he picked up a Dewalt miter saw (valued at \$629) and placed it in his cart.

At 4:25 p.m., that same man was "captured on video surveillance pulling the cart with the saw past the point of purchase exiting the store without making any attempt to purchase the item," according to the incident report.

Police discovered that on Oct. 11, 2021, Providence Police arrested a man matching the suspect's description at a Providence store. Police identified the man as Orlando Rafeal Goris, of 52 Dover St., Apt. 1, Providence. Goris was arrested on the scene in Providence and charged with shoplifting. He also had an active Superior Court bench warrant.

Police confirmed through database images that Goris was allegedly the suspect wanted in the Johnston case. "NCIC on Mr. Goris was negative," Dwyer wrote. "He has 14 previous charges on his RI BCI."

All attempts to contact Goris were unsuccessful, so an affidavit and arrest warrant was prepared, charging him with Shoplifting.

CONSPIRACY

Around 3 p.m., June 22, Johnston Police Officer Richard J. Varan was dispatched to a store in town following the report of a shoplifting incident in progress.

While en route, dispatch advised the suspect's vehicle was a white Dodge Caravan with Connecticut plates, traveling east and occupied by two men. Varan spotted the vehicle traveling south on Atwood Avenue near the intersection with Central Avenue, when the vehicle took a left turn onto Central and continued east, according to the arrest report.

Varan activated his emergency lights and siren and detained the vehicle.

As he approached the vehicle, Varan wrote that he "observed in plain view in the rear of the caravan a Ryobi pressure washer and Dewalt hedge trimmer."

Police identified the driver as Patrick Kennedy, of 241

High St., Baltic, Connecticut, and the passenger as Leonard Buchert, of 32 Huntington Place, Norwich, Connecticut.

The driver asked police why he was detained. Varan told him that he was investigating a shoplifting "and his vehicle matches the suspect vehicle description."

Varan wrote in the report that Buchert admitted to stealing from the store. Both parties were detained on the scene and police investigated further.

Police discovered that the following items were stolen from the store: a Ryobi pressure washer (valued at \$449), a Dewalt 20V max hedge trimmer (\$219), Husky contractor bags (\$29.97), Clorox bleach bottles (\$10.34) and Fabuloso (\$15.96).

"Let it be noted that after doing an inventory of the suspect vehicle all items listed above were in fact recovered," Varan wrote.

Both Kennedy and Buchert were arrested at the scene. Kennedy was charged with Shoplifting, Conspiracy, and Operating a Motor Vehicle on a Suspended License, according to police.

Buchert was charged with Shoplifting and Conspiracy. Both were transported to Johnston Police Headquarters and processed.

Patrick was also cited for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

DUI

At 4:13 p.m. on July 15, Cranston Police arrested Christopher Castrignano, 34, of 1865 Atwood Ave., Johnston, on charges of DUI - BAC Unknown. The arrest was the result of an accident that occurred at Phenix Avenue and West Hill Drive. He was held as a Bail Violator.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 4:30 p.m., June 21, Johnston Police Officer Kevin W. Lyons responded to a motor vehicle crash at the intersection of Putnam and Collins avenues.

After an NCIC/RILETS check of a driver in the crash, police discovered her Rhode Island driver's license had been suspended.

"BCI checks revealed several past convictions, third and subsequent offenses," Lyons wrote in the summons report.

The driver was identified as Lisa Vasconcelos, of 3 Angell St., Apt. 1, Johnston.

She was charged with Driving after Denial/Revocation/Suspension (third offense, a misdemeanor) and released at the scene with a Third District Court notice to appear on July 25. Her vehicle was driven from the scene by a family member.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 3:23 p.m., June 29, Johnston Police Officer Patrick Gendreau responded to a motor vehicle crash at 2154 Hartford Ave. On the scene, he identified the driver of one of the vehicles as Eliseo Ruiz Hernandez, of 187 Wallace St., First Floor, Providence.

A Rhode Island DMV check revealed that Hernandez was allegedly operating the vehicle with a suspended license. Further checks revealed two previous offenses, according to police.

Hernandez was given a Third District Court summons to appear in court. The vehicle he was driving sustained significant damage and was towed from the scene.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

While patrolling Killingly Street around 10:45 a.m. on July 1, Johnston Police Officer Michael A. Protano spotted a Honda Accord with a Rhode Island trailer registration plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle. The plate also had an expired yellow registration sticker (April 2021).

The car suddenly turned right onto Borden Avenue and Protano stopped the car at the intersection with Alcazar.

"I approached the operator who was extremely nervous and talking very low to me when I asked if he had a driver's license," Protano wrote in the report.

The man was later identified as James Y. Dolo, of 84 Warrington St., Providence. Dolo told police that he was "currently going to the R.I. DMV to 'fix' his license, however I explained to him that he must attend whatever court dates he was given for the offenses," Protano wrote in the summons report.

DMV files revealed Dolo had a suspended Rhode Island driver's license, according to police. The trailer registration affixed to the car belonged to someone else. When asked why he was driving the vehicle with a trailer plate he did not have an answer, Protano wrote in the report.

"Mr. Dolo later replied that he did not know where the registration plate came from," Protano wrote.

Police contacted the owner of the trailer, and they told police that they own property in Narragansett where they keep a trailer on site. They noticed that the plate had been "ripped off." The original plate owners were told they could pick up the plate at Johnston Police Headquarters. They were advised to contact the Narragansett Police Department if they wished to file a larceny report.

Johnston Police charged Dolo with Driving with a Suspended License (third offense) and also cited for Improper Use of Evidence of Registration. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

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

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Budget

(Continued from page 1)

"I gave them a balanced budget," Polisena said. "It was my last budget believe it or not."

Town Council members voted 4-0 (President Robert Russo did not attend the meeting).

"Fast forward, 16 years later, and the town has a strong surplus, our bond rating remains high — it has actually gone up four or five notches. We didn't use any COVID money or ARPA money."

Larger cities nearby, like Cranston and Warwick, used sizeable contributions from their allotted ARPA funds. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provided \$350 billion in additional funding to state and local governments.

Johnston received nearly \$9 million in federal ARPA funding following the pandemic. Polisena has received Town Council's blessing to spend the money on three large garages (for the Department of Public Works, Police and Fire departments) and athletics field improvements throughout the town.

"We're using the ARPA money for infrastructure, and to renovate some fields for all of our sports teams," Polisena said. "We'll make a strong investment. We didn't have to use any ARPA money to fill holes. We have strong numbers. We've made cuts. We've made sacrifices. The town is in very strong financial shape. With Amazon starting to kick in — Amazon's going to pay for the bond for the schools — we're still going to do infrastructure improvements."

It's a point of pride for Polisena that

Town Hall remained open throughout the pandemic.

"I'm very happy too, that we never closed our doors for five minutes," Polisena recalled. "Other cities and towns closed for a year. That's because of the strong workforce and department heads we have here in Johnston. This year we had a very good solid year. And we have been very aggressive with collecting taxes."

Johnston taxpayers should see a small decrease in their tax bills.

"It's a 0.05 percent reduction — that's small, but still a reduction," Polisena said. "And of course, this year there's no car tax. This was a good strong financial year for the town; with the responsible growth and development."

Johnston will decrease its total property tax levy to \$72,362,216 in the 2022-23 budget year. The total property tax levy will be \$72,400,437 (a 0.05% decrease).

The following tax rates will take effect: Property tax rate of \$23.24 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential real estate, \$28.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for commercial real estate and \$64.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for tangible personal property as compared to the current property tax rates of \$23.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for residential real estate, \$28.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for commercial real estate and \$64.34 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for tangible personal property, according to legal advertisements purchased by the town.

The town expected to collect \$77,852,651 in 2021-22, and expects to only collect \$75,754,070 in 2022-23.

REPORT TO TAXPAYERS ON CURRENT AND PROPOSED BUDGET

	Current - Budget 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
Expenditures:	Operating	Operating
Education	\$59,557,316	\$60,116,216
General	6,331,724	7,313,070
Public Services	5,226,491	5,606,433
Police Protection	18,290,149	19,167,064
Fire Protection	21,515,171	22,619,742
Parks & Recreation	1,096,853	1,157,527
Public Libraries	643,074	577,695
Other Departments	236,134	236,134
Debt Service	3,815,157	3,753,886
Total Expenditures:	\$116,712,069	\$120,547,767
Revenues:		
Local Property Taxes	\$77,852,651	\$75,754,070
General State Aid	7,685,998	11,353,735
State-School Construction	170,109	178,472
State-School Aid & Music	19,948,301	20,507,201
Other Revenues	11,055,010	11,794,054
Fund Balance Appropriation		960,235
Total Revenues	\$116,712,069	\$120,547,767

Certification:

This is to certify that the data contained in this report is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: June 30, 2022

Mayor Joseph M. Polisena

LEGAL NOTICES

PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD

Notice of Public Meeting and Environmental Assessment

A Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2022 from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Johnston Public Library (Marian Mohr Library) located at 1 Memorial Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. The meeting will inform Johnston residents of the Pine Hill Tank improvement and the environmental assessment. An environmental assessment will be prepared on the construction of a new water storage tank located off Cross Road in Johnston, RI. Attendance and feedback would be appreciated. Please note: The library limits attendance to 40 people.

7/21/22

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

AMENDED AGENDA

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

PB 22-44 – Mill Street Apartments – Public Meeting on a proposed conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 64 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 – Property is zoned – PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

PB 22-12 – Wildflowers Estates – Public Hearing on a proposed

Preliminary Plan for a 5-lot Major Subdivision. Located at 1757 Plainfield Pike AP 27 Lots 2 & 146 – Zoned B2 & R20 – Applicant: College Hill Realty Trust.

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.

PB 22-46 – Bootstrap Fertilizer – Public Meeting on a Site Plan Review for the leasing of 4,500 square foot building for manufacturing fertilizer located at 6 Sunnyside Avenue AP 13 Lot 401. Zoned I. Applicant: Bootstrap Compost, Inc.

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.

7/21, 7/28/22



Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a Public Hearing **August 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court, located at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2022-15 (formerly 2022-CP-86)** to amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map, as summarized here.

Applicant: Hartford Realty Holdings, LLC
Assessor's Plat: 54
Assessor's Lots: 97
Presenting Classification: B-3
Proposed Change to: B-2
Said lot being located on: Hartford Avenue

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

Per Order:
Robert V. Russo
Johnston Town Council

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

7/21, 7/28, 8/4/22

**HARTFORD AVENUE
JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND
AP 54, LOT 97**

JCE
JOHNSTON COMMUNITY ENGINEERS, INC.
100 IRONS AVENUE, JOHNSTON, RI 02919
(401) 792-9642



Legal Notice Town of Johnston Adopted Ordinances

At a recent meeting of The Johnston Town Council, the Council did adopt the following Ordinance effective immediately:

Ordinance 2022-12

An Ordinance appropriating \$120,547,767 for the support and adoption of the town governmental budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, adopting the budget, including tax levy, personnel classification and salary plan for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Said Ordinance is on file and available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo
President

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

7/21/22

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Witness history at Gaspee Point

You have a unique opportunity right now to bear witness to something once in a lifetime. If you ever dreamed as a kid about finding buried treasure, you'll especially not want to miss out on a chance to see this real-life treasure hunt unfold.

Sure, the chances of finding anything related to the HMS Gaspee off the coast of modern Warwick are slim – and nobody is pretending otherwise – but just as millions of people scratch off lottery tickets each day hoping for a shot at some life-changing amount of cash; it's the allure of that small chance that you might win that makes it all the more exciting. And in the case of the hunt for the Gaspee, you don't even need to pay for the experience. All the better in today's inflation-ravaged world.

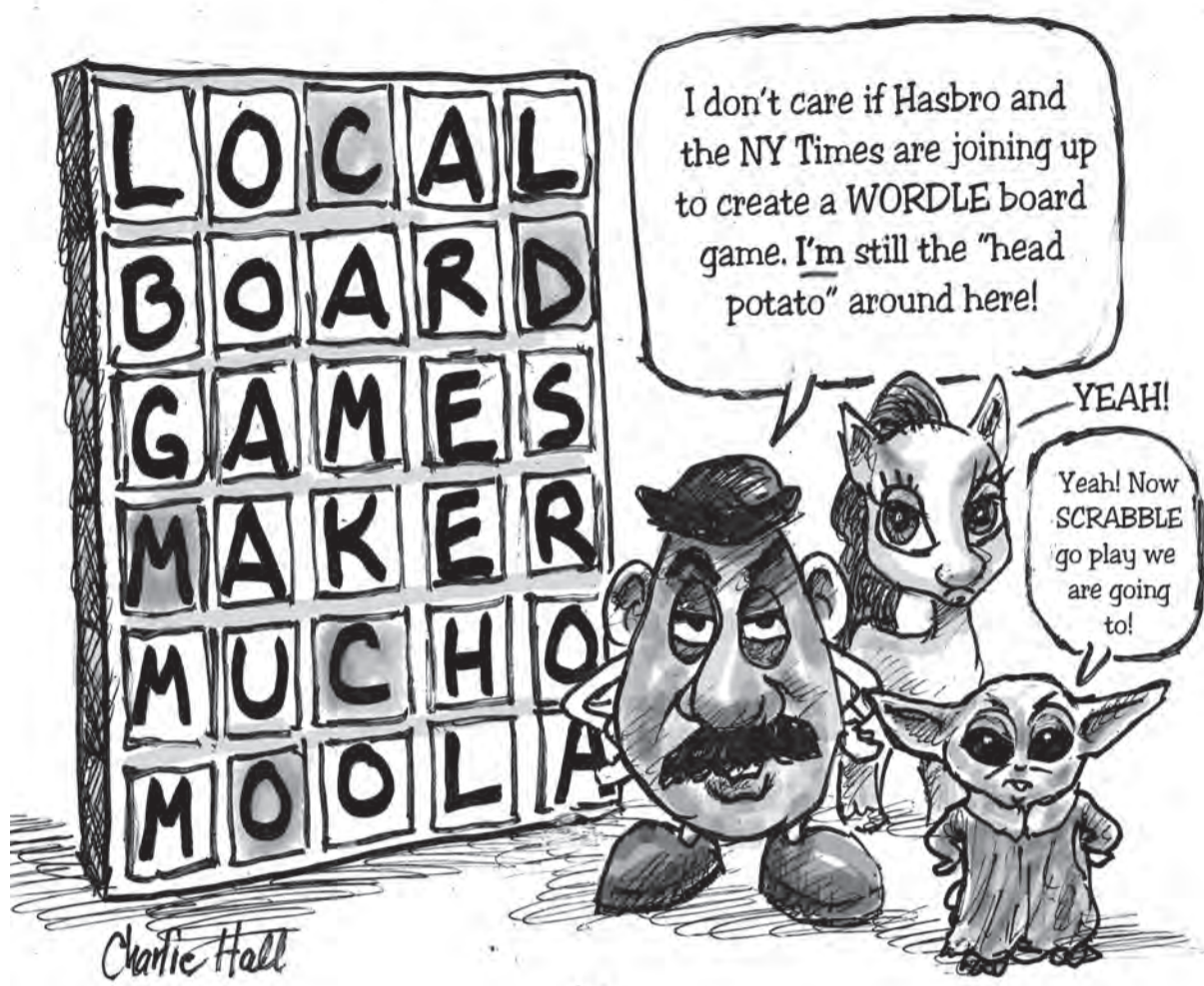
The team that has been assembled by Dr. Kathy Abbas represents a gold standard for community volunteerism. They are disciplined, dedicated, and passionate for the work they do, regardless of the low percentage of success and in lieu of a paycheck. The private donations that have funded this endeavor, too, represent a kind of excitement for uncovering some of our own most valued and hallowed history – an inspiring bit of optimism born from the excitement of potentially discovering something hitherto unearthed.

And although we are aware – in the event something that can be tangibly connected to the Gaspee actually is uncovered – that it will not be some grand structure resembling a picture book pirate ship, the enormity of such a discovery would send shockwaves well beyond Narragansett Bay. What is being searched for is one of the earliest connections we have to the American Revolution that paved the way for our country as we know it; all of the good, the bad, the ugly, and the heroic.

So what exactly do you have to lose? At the very worst, you'll be able to spend some time chatting with enthusiastic members of your community in a beautiful setting during the brief period of time where the wind coming off Gaspee Point in Warwick is welcome and refreshing rather than bone chilling. Take the whole family, because you never know what might inspire the next generation of explorers and truth seekers.

We will keep our expectations low, but our hopes and spirits high, for some big news to come out of this hunt in the weeks ahead.

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



LETTERS

State Rep. Gregory Costantino, District 44, announces re-election campaign

Representative Gregory Costantino of District 44 serving the residents of Lincoln, Smithfield and Johnston has announced his campaign for re-election. Costantino stated "It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the residents of District 44 and I wish to continue to advocate on their behalf."

Costantino continues to refuse to accept any campaign donations. He has fought for a government that is both transparent and responsive to the residents of District 44. During his tenure Greg worked to eliminate the automobile tax. This tax has been a burden on Rhode Island taxpayers for too many years. Costantino has stood up for those that have served our country by supporting legislation that has eliminated the tax on veterans' pensions.

Representative Costantino was responsible for negotiating with state leadership to ensure that the residents of Lincoln received an additional \$200,000 in annual funding as a result of the casino being located in the Town of Lincoln. As a successful entrepreneur, Costantino, firmly believes in the value of education. He has co-sponsored legislation for millions of dollars in bonds that permitted Smithfield, Lincoln and Johnston to make much needed renovations to schools. These renovations have created state-of-the-art schools for all three towns.

Rep. Costantino has also been an advocate for upgrades to existing infrastructure within his district. He successfully lobbied the Department of Transportation to resurface Greenville Avenue two years ahead of schedule and for the installation of traffic lights on Breakneck Hill Road(Route 146 intersections).

In addition, Costantino, has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the residents of his district when called upon. He fought alongside his constituents in Johnston as they opposed the construction of a solar wind project.

Costantino stated: "If re-elected I will continue to fight for the residents of District 44 to ensure that you receive responsive government. I respectfully ask for your support during the upcoming election season."

Please feel to reach me on my cell phone at 401-426-0824 with any questions or email me at repcostantino@aol.com. I always answer my phone and never forget that I am here to serve you.

**RI State Rep. Gregory Costantino
Democrat, District-44**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Incumbent State Rep. Gregory J. Costantino, a Democrat representing District 44 (Lincoln, Smithfield and Johnston), will likely have some Primary competition: Brian M. Auston and Jina N. Petrarca, both Democrats, have declared candidacies. The winner will likely face Republican Peter Anthony Tremontozzi in the General Election.

SECOND EDITOR'S NOTE: If you're running for office in Johnston, send us your photo and your declaration speech. We pledge to provide even coverage to all candidates seeking local office. We also encourage letters to the editor by candidates on a variety of topics, including campaign platforms. Send photos, speeches and letters to Johnston Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.

What does Gorbea really think?

If gubernatorial candidate Nellie Gorbea's actions as governor reflect what she is espousing as a candidate, Rhode Island is in deep trouble should she be elected.

When exhorted to issue an executive order overturning the state law prohibiting the use of public funds for abortions for state employees and Medicaid recipients, Governor McKee said that he "... cannot use an executive order to reverse the expressed prohibitions codified in statute."

Of course, McKee is correct. Our constitutional form of government with its three co-equal branches of government, prohibits any one branch from overruling another unless a judge finds a law to be unconstitutional. While a governor can

veto legislation, he clearly cannot decide on his own to reverse a legislative decision already signed into law.

Gorbea's response to McKee's explanation: "Crickets."

If this is what Gorbea thinks of our constitutional process, then Rhode Island is in big trouble if she is elected governor.

**Lonnie Barham
Warwick**

EDITOR'S NOTE: How do you feel about the candidates running for office in Johnston? Send us your letters of support or criticism. Send letters to Johnston Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com.

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By Meri R. Kennedy
and Rory Schuler

Holidaze Harvest Bazaar & Craft Fair

The Holidaze Harvest Bazaar & Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, at Our Lady of Grace Church, 15 George Waterman Road in Johnston.

Events will include the "Penny Social, Food, Raffles, Sweet Treats, Crafts & More," according to organizers, who are also "calling all Vendors/Crafters." For additional information call Patricia Leoncavallo at 401-529-7592.

OSDRI Needs Volunteers

The message atop a recent Operation Stand Down RI (OSDRI) bulletin sounded the alarm: "We need your help!"

OSDRI needs volunteers for a number of different roles for their Veteran Assistance Event on Sept. 15 and 16.

If you have any questions please contact 401-383-4730 or osdri@osdri.org.

OSDRI is located at 1010 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

Local organizations can sponsor an OSDRI Tent at the event.

Sponsorship Benefits, following a \$250 contribution, sponsors a service provider tent at the event. The "business name & logo featured on a service provider tent and the event banner; seen by veterans, volunteers, service providers, and community officials," according to organizers.

"Make a difference in the lives of hundreds of veterans!"

E-mail with a high-quality company logo to sponsorships@osdri.org no later than Monday, Sept. 5.

St. Bartholomew Summer Festival

The St. Bartholomew Summer Festival will be held from 5-10 p.m., Friday, July 29; 5-10 p.m., Saturday, July 30; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 31.

The Gemini Band performs Saturday night. Rides and games will be provided by Rockwell Amusements.

Organizers say "Italian, Spanish and American foods (will be) available for purchase." Admission is free, and the festival will be open "rain or shine."

For more information call 401-944-4466 or visit www.stbartschurchri.org.

St. Bartholomew Church is located at 297 Laurel Hill Ave., Providence.

Call for Artists

The RI State Arts Council has announced a "Call for Artists" for the galleries at Block Island Airport and GREEN SPACE at Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport. The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m., Oct. 10.

The RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) is accepting applications for artists for 2023 exhibitions at the two galleries, which are a partnership with the RI Airport Corporation (RI-AC).

The "Call for Artists" will consider artists who work in all media and ap-

licants must be Rhode Island residents, but "no students, please."

The GREEN SPACE Gallery includes several large walls and open spaces that are suitable for large-scale works. The gallery selects nine artists to exhibit in three group shows per year. The Block Island Airport Gallery is best suited for smaller scale works and hosts single artist exhibitions, four times per year.

"GREEN SPACE and the Block Island Airport Gallery provide Rhode Island artists the opportunity to share their work with an ever-changing audience of local, national and international travelers," said Lynne McCormack, Executive Director of RISCA, "RISCA is pleased to continue this important partnership with RIAC, promoting outstanding work by artists living and working in the Ocean State."

The selection of artists will be by a review panel, which will include practicing artists, arts professionals and community members. Artists included in the 2023 exhibitions will receive a \$300 stipend for participating in the program.

Artists who have exhibited previously at one of the galleries are ineligible for new consideration for a period of two years. RISCA encourages artists who have applied in the past and have not been selected to apply again.

If selected, artists agree to suitably frame, wire or otherwise prepare their artwork for display at their own expense. Artwork is hung at gallery coordinator's discretion, and gallery coordinator reserves the right of final selection of artwork and approval of installation. Artwork is not insured by the galleries during exhibition; artists are encouraged to carry their own insurance. Artwork may be listed for sale if desired, and any sales are direct without commission to the galleries.

To apply, follow these links:

TF Green Greenspace Gallery: <https://forms.gle/BUVB1knCD-VRqLQZy8>

Block Island: <https://forms.gle/wXn2F7CTDEz9Sqr8>

Read more: <https://risca.online/resources/airport-galleries/>

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 pro-

vided 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."

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 ½, 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

Pawtucket Village Summer Concert & Food Trucks

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

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).

Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

Thank You



BRIARCLIFFE

THE PRESERVE AT BRIARCLIFFE

for your continued loyalty



Call us at 732-3100 to advertise your business

SUN RISE SCOOPS

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 8)

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 michaelsepe@yahoo.com.

More at Mohr Library

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

The Beanstack 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:

- 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. Fireplace use is prohibited. For your safety, please do not climb trees or fences. The park closes at 10 p.m. No overnight parking. No foul language or loud music. Field use is by permit only.

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

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.

Johnston Historical Society News

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 offers classes & services

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

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

Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood donations. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only accepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival.

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting www.rIBC.org.

Walk and Talk at Rocky Point

Come join the "Rocky Point Pacers" for a walk around Rocky Point

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

Prepare RI High School Internships Program

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

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

Softball Tryouts

CLCF Bombers 2023 travel tryouts will be held this August at Brayton Park. 14U and 18U tryouts will be held Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. 12U tryouts will be held Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. 10U tryouts will be held Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. All age makeups will be held Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Contact Caroline Crudale at carolinecrudale@yahoo.com for any further information.

Steve Smith and the Naked

Steve Smith and Naked will play at St. Mary's Feast Society (15 Phenix Ave., Cranston) on July 23 at 8 p.m. There will be food, a cash bar and free parking across the street.

Backpack Giveaway

Join Verizon Wireless Zone in Garden City Center on July 31 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for their School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. On average, families spend about \$789 on school supplies each year. 1 in 5 school-aged children lives in poverty. Verizon will be giving away free backpacks filled with school supplies - one backpack per child - while supplies last. Plus, attend a backpack giveaway and get entered to win one of five \$10,000 college scholarships.

Shakespeare Under The Stars

What Cheer Shakespeare? Theatre Co. will present Shakespeare under the Stars at Governor Sprague Mansion (1351 Cranston St.). These shows are great for all those who love Shakespeare, and even better for those who struggle with the language. In Act one, the company will perform part of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," that explains all of

■ SCOOPS - PAGE 10



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SUN RISE SCOOPS

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 9)

Shakespeare's plays in 45 minutes. In Act two, the company will perform a hilarious parody of Hamlet, "Something's Rotten in the State of Denmark," written by local playwright Joseph Wallace. The plays will start at 7 p.m. and will run July 22-23, July 29-30 and Aug. 5-6. Tickets are \$10; Call 508-933-4233 for more information.

Art Educator Showcase

Warwick Center for the Arts (WCA) is seeking original works for its upcoming RI Art Educator's Showcase, an exhibition featuring artwork from those individuals who teach art to others. This show is intended to celebrate these educators. This show is open to all art educators in RI, including PreK-12, college/university and adult art education. Works must be original and completed during the last 12 months. Works previously shown by the WCA will not be accepted. As for fees, RIAEA members can submit up to three images, paid for by RIAEA. WCA members can submit one image for \$15 or two or three images for \$35. All others can submit one image for \$20 or two or three images for \$40. First, second, and third places will receive cash awards. The entry deadline is July 24. For questions, contact Aileen at exhibits@warwickcfa.org or 401-737-0010.

Free Farmer's Market

OneCranston HEZ will sponsor a free farmer's market starting July 7. The mar-

ket will start at 5 p.m. and run until 6:30 p.m. at the track next to Bain Middle School. The market will be free for all Cranston residents. The only questions asked will be what zip code they live in and if their child goes to school where school they attend.

Sounds of Korea

Sounds of Korea will take place on Aug 14 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the McVinny Auditorium in Providence. The event includes traditional music and dance in celebration of Korean Independence Day. Admission is free and Korean food will be served.

Comedy Course

If you've ever thought of giving stand up comedy a try, now's your chance. This \$200 Comedy Course kicks off Sept. 12 for six weeks in Warwick (except Columbus Day). The instructors are John Perrotta, Coleen Galvin Yaroshenko and Rockin' Joe Hebert. At the end of the course, you'll take the stage in our graduation show at Rhode Island's newest comedy hot spot, the Comedy Park in Cranston. We anticipate a full class, so sign up early by calling the Comedy Factory at 401-639-7726 or www.comedyfactoryri.com, richof.org.

Editor's Note: Send submissions to rorys@rhodybeat.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and 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.

RI National Guard brings back Leapfest after 2-year hiatus

The Rhode Island National Guard is bringing back Leapfest, the largest and longest running international static line parachute training event and competition in the world, to Adams Farm in Exeter, on Aug. 6, after being forced to cancel the event in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID.

The purpose of Leapfest is to foster international partnerships and develop spirit de corps within the worldwide Airborne community while performing the primary missions of paratroopers.

"We are proud to be bringing this worldwide tradition back to Rhode Island," said Col. John MacDonald, 56th Troop Command Commander and host of Leapfest 2022. "It is critical, now more than ever, to reaffirm and strengthen relationships with our international partners."

Paratrooper teams from the Netherlands, South Africa, the United Kingdom,

Germany and New Zealand are all scheduled to participate in Leapfest 2022. Prior Leapfests have included teams from Tunisia, Honduras, Egypt, South Africa, Poland, Italy, New Zealand, The Netherlands, and more.

Paratroopers exit the CH-47 Chinook helicopter at around 1500 feet utilizing the MC-6 parachute and will attempt to land as close as possible to one of three "X"s marked on the drop zone. Once the paratrooper lands on the ground their time starts and runs until the jumper touches the X. The team with the lowest combined time wins the competition. There are both individual and team achievements.

The public is invited to attend at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, on Adams Farm at 300 Hog House Hill Road, Exeter, Rhode Island. The event is family friendly and free.

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Sunk

(Continued from page 1)

Logistics of the expedition including the dockage of vessels at Pettis Boatyard in nearby Pawtuxet Cove, establishing the operations at the point, invitation of elected officials (Governor McKee got the close-up tour Tuesday) and assembly of equipment including a Porta-John was worked out after a group raised more than \$35,000 in private, corporate and foundation donations to mount the search. In a surprise move, as funding for the first phase of a search had already been raised, Saint Johns Lodge #1 Providence, F. & A. M. came in with an additional \$15,000 earlier this month.

Many of the raiders of the Gaspee, including John Brown and Abraham Whipple, were known members of Saint Johns Lodge.

"The Lodge takes great pride in the pivotal role its colonial-era members played in sparking the movement for American Independence," reads a release dated July 13.

"Freemasons are dedicated to supporting our communities through charity and philanthropic work and have been doing so in Rhode Island for more than 250 years," said Joshua Irizarry, Past Master of Saint Johns Lodge. "Our Lodge is honored to partner with RIMAP to preserve this important moment in our community, state, and national history."

So, is there any significance to a brick?

Abbass explained it may have no bearing on the search. She said the first few days are devoted to establishing search control areas. More remote sensing was set for this Tuesday and Wednesday with divers returning to the water Thursday.

"The sonar image of this area is very subtle, showing objects that don't stand very proud from the bottom, so if we find more such rocks, then we will have answered the question of 'what is that funny texture in the sonar image?' The brick is the first cultural item noted in the 2022 Gaspee Point study, but it was not collected and without looking at it closely, we can't yet tell if it is a modern brick like those used elsewhere in lobster traps, a construction brick that might have come from a building on shore that was washed away in an earlier hurricane, other trash dumped in the river, or perhaps a brick that could have been used as the foundation for an historic wooden ship's cauldron or forge. So although we have no data yet to say anything about this particular object, the first two days of set-up have told us a lot about what we can expect going forward," Abbass said.

Is the team focused on the two potential targets identified last year?

"The target we began over the weekend deserves careful mapping since it appears to be a disturbed area and possibly where an earlier archaeological excavation might have been done," Abbass said.

She said from the sonar reading the second target "is clearly a vessel but we won't get to that until the first target is complete."

Every evening, Principal Investigator Abbass sends a summary of the day's work to the shore-side team at the RIMAP Research Station at Gaspee Point, along with a plan for what will happen the following day. Those interested to know what is going on may visit the Research Station from 11-4 to hear that summary and view whatever activity is happening.



HATS ON: Dr. Kathy Abbass, principal investigator for the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project gave out hats to her volunteers on Friday as they gathered at Gaspee Point to prepare for the hunt for the HMS Gaspee. Here she presents Warwic Historian Henry Brown with a hat. (Warwic Beacon photos)



HAT TRICK: Volunteers in the search for the Gaspee gather before moving equipment to establish a station on Gaspee Point Friday morning.



GOOD THING IT WAS LOW TIDE: Volunteers carrying a tent, tables, chairs and equipment walk toward Gaspee Point on Friday.

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Air cargo takes off

RIAC to build new \$100M + facility south of terminal

By JOHN HOWELL

When the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) drafted a 20-year master plan for Green Airport in 2019, it was thought expansion of air cargo facilities to the south of the terminal in what is now a long term parking lot was years away.

Then the pandemic hit and with it an explosion in online shopping.

In 2019, a total of 27.8 million pounds of cargo flowed in and out of Green. By 2020, that climbed to 31.2 million pounds and last year it hit 37.4 million pounds. Still proportionally to the three other major New England airports, Boston, Manchester and Bradley, Green's share of the region's total air cargo amounted to 2.1 percent. Boston was the dominant player in 2020 with 58.4 percent of the total.

RIAC is looking for a bigger share of the air cargo business as it will create more jobs and enhance airport revenues that took a dive with the pandemic and loss of flights and passengers. The impact was felt across the board from parking revenues to concessions and landing fees.

Air cargo is the new opportunity although passenger traffic, especially leisure flying has rebounded faster than when forecast as Covid-related restrictions were lifted.

To provide the two carriers serving the airport – UPS and FedEx – and to attract additional carriers, RIAC acted to update and expand facilities. Mayor Frank Picozzi and Councilman Tim Howe, whose ward includes the airport, have been briefed on the plan and, so far, have expressed concerns over ground traffic and potential impact to residents on Strawberry Field Road West, but embrace the economic benefits of more robust air cargo.

The most vocal critic, however, is Richard Langseth who has closely followed airport developments for years. He regularly attends RIAC board meetings, filed requests for information and authored a letter published in the July 7 Warwick Beacon. Langseth hasn't questioned the need for improved cargo facilities that are largely housed in Hangar 2, a 36,000 square foot building erected in 1942 and used by FedEx. In order to gain additional space, FedEx has an estimated 18,000 square feet in tractor trailer trucks it uses for storage as well as areas for the sorting of goods that are then loaded on aircraft according to Yil Sureham, RIAC vice president of property & business development.

The truck trailers are used for sorting and packing areas regardless of snow, rain or blazing heat, said Sureham. UPS, on the other hand, pre-

packs units at its Jefferson Boulevard center that are then delivered to the airport to be packed in the bellies of 757 and the wider 767. The process is reversed with incoming cargo.

Langseth likened the proposed air cargo facilities south of the terminal to the classic Kevin Costner movie Field of Dreams and that RIAC officials are looking to make Warwick the air freight hub of New England. He accused RIAC of downplaying their intentions claiming "no new planes" to avoid an Environmental Impact Statement that involves public input and studies that could significantly extend the process and conceivably cause revisions and a reduced plan.

In a response also published in the July 7 Beacon, John J. Goodman, RIAC assistant vice president of media and public relations, accused Langseth of spreading misinformation. He said Langseth's characterization of the cargo facilities as a "cargo hub" is out of line. He also panned speculation that the improvements are linked to the 500,000 square foot warehouse being built off Commerce Drive by NorthPoint Development. NorthPoint has not identified prospective tenants for the warehouse that it virtually across the street from the airport.

Currently between the two carriers there are five arrivals and departures daily.

Sureham said there would be seven arrival and departures with completion of Phase 1 of the new facilities.

The hangar and ramps used for cargo operations are leased to Atlantic Aviation that in turn leases to FedEx and UPS. Sureham said RIAC is working on lease agreements with UPS and FedEx for the new cargo facilities with a projected completion of the first of two phases in the second quarter of 2025. A second building would go up with the second phase for a combined total of 131,000 square feet.

The facilities would be built and leased by RIAC, as opposed to having RIAC lease the land and a third party building and leasing the buildings. Sureham noted that Rhode Island law would prohibit a third party from leasing RIAC land for more than 30 years, which serves as a deterrent to investors.

80-year old hangar to go

The plan calls for the demolition of the 1942 hangar and the relocation of all air cargo operations to south of the terminal. That would open up space along Airport Road that would be go to a FBO, fixed base operator and to consolidate non passenger airport activities, including general



aviation away from the terminal.

Impact of the air cargo operations on local traffic was of major concern to City Planning and the mayor. They were adamant that there not be an egress or entrance to the development from Main Avenue as that would add traffic to an already constricted road and roads feeding into it. The plan calls for access and egress from a road running along the inside boundary of the site to the Airport Connector.

What of the lost long-term parking by construction of the cargo pad and facilities?

Sureham points out that RIAC owns a vacant lot next to Post Road, and could build another parking garage if needed. However, he notes with the advent of Uber and Lyft parking demand has softened and could go away permanently.

As for the impact to the residential community abutting Strawberry Field Road West, Sureham said the proposal calls for a "noise and visual buffer" consisting of a berm, topped by a wall and then with landscaping and plantings facing the neighborhood. He said flight operations would be during the day.

Cost of the first phase of the facility was projected at \$100 million prior to the pandemic but, with inflation, Sureham puts the increase at 30 to 40 percent; it's basically an unknown at this time.

That doesn't appear to have

slowed things down.

Jessica Damicis, PE, RIAC director of engineering said the first of public hearings to outline the "conceptual plan" would be held later this summer or early fall. More detailed plans would follow. She said an environmental assessment – not the more in-depth environmental impact statement Langseth talks about – would provide projected noise impacts and offer mitigating measures.

According to data provided by RIAC, there were 1,869 air cargo aircraft arrivals at Green in 2021 -- an average of 5.1 per day. With completion of Phase 1 of the south cargo facility, that is projected to increase to 2,496 in 2025 or 6.8 a day.

Might this development alter or even preclude Breeze Airways' consideration of Green as an operations center? An operations center would mean Breeze aircraft – talk is of four planes – would be stationed here with crews making Warwick their base of operations.

Goodman said the relocation of air cargo and development of facilities wouldn't affect Breeze. He noted that the much heralded non-stop Breeze service to LAX, which had been planned for this June, is now scheduled for February 2023. He pointed out that the service to have stated in June was seasonal, but now it appears with a February start it will be year round.



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Speaker lauded for helping Kent Hospital 'stand alone'

By JOHN HOWELL

Legislative action enabling Kent Hospital and its larger entity, Care New England, to remain a sustainable non-profit institution came down to two considerations for House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi: community health care and jobs.

"You have both here," Shekarchi told an assembly of Kent Hospital employees, union officials and Charles Reppucci, chair of the CNE Board of Directors Tuesday morning from the hospital board room.

Shekarchi played a key role in the allocation of \$11 million to CNE of the \$45 million that the state budgeted from State Fiscal Recovery funds to support hospitals. Overall, Shekarchi said financial assistance to CNE is "north of \$20 million."

"This is not a gift," said Shekarchi, "you earned it." He added it was fortunate the state had the funds to help.

In a show of appreciation, CNE brought together its people, giving Shekarchi a tour of the hospital and a welcome spotlight in his bid for reelection. The Warwick representative faces a Democratic primary and should he win that a contest from a Republican in the General Election. Speakers applauded Shekarchi's leadership but offered few specifics other than citing cooperative efforts with Brown University and other healthcare institutions to keep CNE and Kent Hospital independent.

While he didn't recite the details, Shekarchi provided an outline of state budget actions impacting CNE. He said State Fiscal Recovery funds are a one-time appropriation but that legislation improving reimbursements will not only help CNE but healthcare systems statewide for years to come. This includes inpatient and outpatient 5 percent rate increases at an added \$12.5 million system wide above what the law would have required; an increase in managed care payments for pregnancy and birth expenses by 20 percent at an added cost of \$14.5 million of which \$5.7 million would come from the general fund and the inclusion of funding for graduate medical education of which \$1 million would go to CNE and Lifespan each and \$500,000 to Landmark Hospital.

Legislators also required the federal Medicaid agency, CMS, the process to assess the state hospital license fee.

"As part of this budget we realigned our uncompensated care payments to fiscal years of the grant awards - this undoes an accounting maneuver from the last fiscal year that will make longer term creative hospital financing solutions possible," reads the memo.

CNE board chair Reppucci thanked Shekarchi for his wise counsel and spoke of deliberations leading up to the vote to stay independent.

"It was the right thing to do," he said.

After the Federal Trade Commission and Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha nixed the merger of CNE and Lifespan principally because of the commanding size of the combined systems, CNE was approached by for profit healthcare systems. This sparked concerns the system would be split up, of the loss of jobs and loss of services.

In a letter published in the Beacon, Kent ICU nurse and president of the nurses union at the hospital, Trish Criner MSN, RN, BC, accused legislators of being silent on the precarious situation at Kent (the hospital was losing between \$2 million and \$3 million monthly) and called on them to act. The letter didn't go unnoticed. Shekarchi made that point when CNE announced the vote to remain independent and he disclosed legislative actions benefit healthcare systems. And he mentioned Criner again on Tuesday.

Speaking Tuesday Criner said, "This is great news! Instead of selling our hospital to a for profit chain that will only serve to line the pockets of out of state for profit hospital chains, enrich executives and pay dividends of Wall Street venture capital firms at the expense of quality patient care, employee pay, benefits and staffing levels, we can continue to serve our community as a Rhode Island based non-profit hospital. Our only mission is to continue to provide the great quality of patient care our community has relied upon."

She said a top priority for the union for the past five years has been "keeping our hospital out of the hands of greedy for profit hospital chains."

Dr. Paari Gopalakrishnan, president and chief operating officer of Kent Hospital, lauded the hospital staff and the support of the General Assembly. Unlike other medical institutions, Kent did not close units during the pandemic in an effort to provide a galaxy of medical services to the community even though usage dropped and the hospital was faced with providing services without the volume to offset costs.

Lynn Blais RN, president of United Nurses and Healthcare Professionals (UNAP), the state's largest health care union, made no bones over declaring the union's endorsement of Shekarchi for reelection. Shekarchi didn't let her words go unnoticed.

"Thank you," he said, "I need it."

Apart from politics, Shekarchi said legislators recognized the "common good" of preserving the institutions and "bringing people together to get things done."

CNE board member Joseph McGair summed up remarks: "At the end of the day we stand alone."

"Standing alone is the best thing," affirmed Maribeth Williamson, vice chair of the CNE board.

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SUDS SESSION: This will be the scene again this Saturday - July 23 - when the Johnston High School Class Of 2025 holds another car wash from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in hopes of raising additional funds to build its float for the Panthers one-on-a-kind Homecoming parade and celebration. The event will be held at Anthony's Auto Body at 119 Greenville Avenue. There's no set fee and all donations will be greatly appreciated. Above, sophomore Matt Ponte washes another vehicle as volunteer Lori Richard washes away the suds with a hose supplied by host Anthony Ferrante. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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By JENNIFER COATES

When asked about aging, the American writer and activist Betty Freidan replied: "Aging is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength." If Betty Freidan was alive today, she would impart this same wisdom to the residents of Briarcliffe's newest installation, The Preserve at Briarcliffe. This modern and elegantly-appointed residence in Johnston wholly embodies the philosophy that aging with grace and dignity is nothing but a "new stage of opportunity and strength."

When Akshay Talwar, the president of and driving force behind The Preserve, first envisioned this "supportive independent and assisted living" residence, his motivation was to provide a place where its residents could lead fulfilling and vibrant lives as they entered this new stage. His motto might be summed up in these words: "The day is yours! The choice is yours!"

The Preserve at Briarcliffe is ALL about choices and self-determination ~ and the options are endless. The Preserve is a retirement community whose residents can choose between six different floorplan options from studio-size to one bedrooms. They can choose to spend time gardening, pursuing hobbies, shopping in town, dining in its beautifully decorated dining room or enjoying a meal in their own personal kitchenette. They can choose to get their hair done at the Preserve's salon or schedule an outing to their own salon. Residents can choose to walk with friends around the Preserve's well-groomed grounds or exercise in its fitness center. The list goes on and on!

The freedom to make these choices is unimpeded by a fear of compromising one's health or safety. This is an environment that favors health, safety, independence, socialization, and joy.

The Preserve's sixty-six apartments and amenities were designed to meet the specific needs of those who are either completely independent or those who require assistance with



This gracious and now year-old residence is part of the Briarcliffe campus in Johnston. The Preserve at Briarcliffe is a state-of-the-art, catered community where residents live a life of security, socialization, and activity. Schedule your own personal tour by calling 401-944-2450.

such basic needs as medication management or help with simple activities of daily living. Each apartment has a kitchenette (complete with quartz countertops, smaller-scale refrigerators, and a microwave), "European-style" bathrooms for safe and easy barrier-free access, wheelchair-width doors for those with mobility challenges, and large windows that let in plenty of natural light. The two-story building has two elevators, wide hallways bookended by plate-glass windows and lined with sturdy handrails.

Beyond these accommodations, The Preserve offers an array of highly personalized amenities and services such as:

Restaurant-style dining, weekly housekeeping, laundry and linen services, state-of-the-art call and monitoring systems, nursing services, and personalized care plans. This truly is the ultimate in senior living.

If you or a loved one is seeking a lifestyle of comfort, security, peace of mind and new opportunities, now is the time to schedule your in-person tour of this residence located at 49 Old Pocasset Road in Johnston. To arrange for your tour or to ask any questions you might have about everything from availability to levels of care offered at The Preserve, call 401.944.2450 or visit their informative website at www.briarclifferi.com.



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Sports

District Champs



GETTING THE WIN: Members of the JLL 12's celebrate after winning the District Championship last week. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

JLL 12's win first district championship since 2009

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston Little League 12 year old All-Star team topped Elmwood 10-4 to win the District I Championship last week at Memorial Park. It was Johnston's first District title since 2009.

Johnston fired on all cylinders to earn the win and was led by pitcher Luca Schroer on the mound. Schroer was lights out for much of his outing, pitching five innings and allowing just three runs while striking out eight batters.

Johnston took a 2-0 lead in the second inning and would tack on three more runs in the third to go up 5-0. Elmwood would respond with a pair of runs to get back within striking distance, but Johnston would add five insurance runs in the top of the sixth inning to put the game out of reach.

Elmwood scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the sixth but was unable to



BIG TIME OUTING: Johnston pitcher Luca Schroer delivers a pitch against Elmwood in the District I Championship game at Memorial Park last week.

Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament this weekend

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

There is still time to register and participate in the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament this Saturday, June 23 from 5:33 a.m. to Sunday, July 24, 2022, 12 p.m. Catch & release or keep your legal catch to eat. Photo entries with Tournament measuring device with no need to attend a weigh-in.

Shore, fly fishing, youth and boat divisions. Striped bass and bluefish for all divisions. Plus black sea bass and fluke for boat and youth divisions. Also a team prize with photo division prizes (BI Wind Farm in background) for best fish, scenic and team photos.

Block Island Fishworks is Tournament host with all Tournament fees being donated to the Block Island Fire & Rescue. \$10,000 in cash prizes, tackle shop gift cards and swag. Tournament co-sponsors include Ørsted, owner of the Block Island Wind Farm, and land based tackle shops The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

"After Party" Sunday, July 24, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Capt. Nick's Bar & Grille, Block Island. Check with Old Harbor Harbormaster for availability of temporary dockage/mooring for the Party After. Over \$2,000 in tackle shop gift cards as door prizes.

It is not necessary to attend the After Party to claim Tournament prizes, they will be mailed to winners not in attendance. Register online at www.SandyPointCo.com/bi-inshore-tourney and pick-up your participant/captain's bag at co-sponsor tackle shops.

Striped bass seminar ... old salts & young guns

Old salts and young guns will take the stage to talk about striped bass strategies and tactics they employ to catch monster striped bass.

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) will hold a striped bass Seminar on Monday, July 25, 7 p.m. at the West Warwick Elks Lodge.

The panel of experts will include "Old Salts" including Peter Vican, the current State of RI record holder, and his partner and big bass expert Don Smith. Additionally, a pair of "Young Guns" will present too, charter captains Kurt Rivard and Brandon Hagopian, who are fast carving out reputations as the next generation of big bass experts.

Don Smith and Peter Vican will share their perspectives on what it was like years ago, how they settled on the techniques that worked for them, what others were doing at that time, and how they continue to approach striper fishing today. Then hear from the young guns, Kurt Rivard and Brandon Hagopian, on what techniques they gravitated towards, what new twists they have to add and how they have been able to distance themselves from many of their peers.

The seminar will be held at the Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI, Monday, July 25 at 7 p.m. A \$10 donation to the RISAA Scholarship Fund is requested for non-members, RISAA members attend free. The Elks Lodge kitchen will have food available starting at 5:30 p.m. For information contact Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, at 401-826-2121.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "The striped bass bite is still outstanding, particularly at Block Island with eels."

Noah Ialongo of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, said, "The striped bass bite off Newport and at Block Island continues to be very good."

"Lots of school bass to slot size are being caught in Rhode Island salt ponds and off the breachways in South Coun-



NEWPORT FLUKE: Phoebe Turner of Cumberland with a fluke (summer flounder) she caught last week when fishing with her father, Keith Turner. (Submitted photo)

ty. Much larger fish are out at local reefs and at Block Island. Fish are feeding on all sorts of bait including sand eels, sup, seabass, squid and shrimp. Live eels remains the top producer for large bass but they are also being caught trolling or casting lures," said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle said, "This time of year with the warming water the striped bass bite has moved somewhat to a dawn and dusk/nighttime bite. The bite is strong out in front of Newport and customers continue to catch some 50-pound fish at Block Island. The bass are feeding on sand eels so anglers are using soft plastic, needle fish lures with a good bite off Narragansett Beach and Pt. Judith. And, both small and large bluefish are being caught just about everywhere."

Summer flounder (fluke), black sea bass and scup. Summer flounder fishing continues to improve but not booming. The Rhode Island regulation is four fish/person/day with a minimum size of 18 inches. Capt. Tom Pelletier of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, said, "The bite off the Sakonnet River for fluke has been OK with a very strong black sea bass bite there. The black sea bass bite along our southern coastal beaches has been improving with customers catching fluke around the Newport and Jamestown Bridge, but overall fluke fishing is not great."

The fluke bite around Block Island remains spotty. Conti of Snug Harbor Marina said, "The fluke bite along the southern coastal shore from Watch Hill to Pt. Judith is actually a bit better than

Block Island if conditions are right (with wind & tide in line)."

"Reports on fluke fishing have been mixed locally with some people doing well locally and others struggling to find the fish... you still need to work to find the fish," said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle. Some nice sized 20 plus black sea bass continue to be caught off the Sakonnet River and in front of Newport this week. The scup bite remains very story anywhere there is structure like ledges and jetties and water movement.

Offshore. "The school bluefin tuna bite has been very spotty, but giants are being caught. The yellow fin tuna bite was good this week at the Horns and the Dump," said Conti of Snug Harbor Marina. Angler John Stavrakas said, "We were able to put three small yellowfin in the box trolling around the Dump today (Sunday)."

Recreational fishing regulation measures for Georges Bank cod (cod caught south of Cape Cod) have changed. The minimum size is 22 inches with a maximum size of 28 inches so we now have a slot limit. The possession limit is five fish/person/day with a closed season May 1 to July 31 with an open season August 1 to April 30.

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.noflukefishing.com.

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NICE SNAG: Gio Labbadia grabs the ball in the infield last week.

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JLL 10's eyeing title

The Johnston Little League 10 year old All-Star team was in the thick of its district tournament last week and punched its ticket to this week's District I Championship game against Cranston Western. Here is a look at some of the action. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



ON THE HILL: Johnston's Eric Ferrera delivers a pitch.

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HAULING IT IN: Johnston's Jeffrey Cadieux makes a play in the field.

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INFIELD: Johnston's Fotis Fotopoulos makes a throw to first base.



BEHIND THE PLATE: Corey Ogden works behind the plate last week.

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■ **JLL**
(Continued from page 15)
press JLL.
JLL got contributions at the plate throughout its lineup, with nine players either scoring or knocking in runs. Jordan Diclo led the team with three hits and two RBI while Schroer helped his own cause with two hits and an RBI.
Lucca Ricci pitched the sixth inning and allowed no earned runs while recording a strikeout.
"It's unbelievable because none of these kids were born when Johnston last won the District championship. It makes this one the sweetest that there's ever been. The kids played great, it's a great group of

kids and I have had most of them since they were 6 years old. I knew this was coming for them," said JLL coach Jamie Ricci. "They lost their 10-year-old season to COVID and that was a season in which we thought they could do it, but they waited until the big show. I am happy for them, they love each other and they're great kids."
Between defending champion North Providence, Elmwood and the two Cranston clubs, JLL had its work cut out for it in the district tournament, but would answer the bell and go undefeated.
"This year was tough. Elmwood combined with Washington Park, Cranston West is always tough, North Providence gave us both a battle, at the end of the day, we're a

tough team. They can hit, they've got pitching, and our subs are as good as anyone which makes us really deep. This is definitely the deepest team that I've ever coached," said Ricci, who hopes the team's slate of games will help it carry the momentum into the next leg of the race. "We're just going to work hard. We had five scrimmages and four district games. That's nine games, and every game I have seen them get better and better."
The JLL 12's included: 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.

COLLECTIBLES



THE WU-TANG CLAN



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



Fun fact: Wu-Tang actually holds the record for the most expensive individual album ever sold! In 2015 the one-and-only copy of *Once Upon a Time in Shaolin*, their seventh album, sold at auction for 2 million dollars. They wanted it to be considered a rare piece of art, which explains the extremely limited production run. Encased in silver, it last sold in 2021 for 4 million dollars, and it's probably the ultimate Wu-Tang collector's item!

In addition to musical ventures, Wu-Tang dabbled in video gaming, and even boast their very own PlayStation fighting game "Wu-Tang: Shaolin Style" and custom game controller. Perhaps most notably and most memorably, Wu-Tang developed their own clothing line (before it was cool or normal for everyone to do) called Wu Wear, which was popular enough to justify opening several anchor stores and was offered in select chains as well. It didn't stop there either, Wu-Tang also dabbled in collaborations with popular brands like Nike, further cementing their place in popular culture.

Now that you know a bit more about the Wu-Tang Clan, keep following Bruneau & Co. as we start rolling out the killer collection coming up for auction this summer!

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It's not often we have the opportunity to feature musicians in our articles, but since we've recently acquired a killer collection of Wu-Tang Clan merch and memorabilia, now seems like a good time to start! We'll talk more about the collection later, but for those wondering who or what a Wu-Tang Clan is, we're starting with a little backstory. It was 1992 in New York when a group of young men came together to form what became the Wu-Tang Clan; a nine (later ten) member hip-hop group that put the East Coast on the map at a time when the rap scene was dominated by West Coast artists. One element of the Wu-Tang brand and sound we appreciate here at Bruneau and Co. is the group's love of and appreciation for Japanese pop culture. Their name, Wu-Tang, (though they've also made quite a few backronyms) is pulled from the 1983 martial arts movie *Shaolin and Wu Tang*, and their music features kung fu sound integration. Their 1993 album *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)* carries a *Shaolin vs. Wu-Tang* theme and is considered by many to be the greatest hip hop album of all time. Packed with raw, gritty, and harmonious beats, it soared to the top of the

charts and sold millions worldwide. If you've never heard Wu-Tang's music, you really should! Aside from being a talented group of musicians, the Wu-Tang members were brilliant marketers. From the beginning they understood the value of their talent and would only sign with a label that would allow them to pursue solo careers with the Wu-Tang name. For over a decade their brand and sounds were everywhere and their logo, the stylized "W," is recognizable across the globe.

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Biking for a cause



Cranston, Warwick cyclists will join thousands to raise funds for cancer research

By EMMA BARTLETT

Linda Burrows, 64, always liked biking. At first, her parents wouldn't let her have a bike but, she finally got one by age 11.

"It felt like I had a pair of wings," said Linda.

Linda will now ride in the upcoming Massachusetts-based Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) Aug. 6. PMC is an annual bike-a-thon that started in 1980 to raise money for cancer research for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber). The event has 16 bike routes that range from 25 to 210 miles and every rider-raised dollar goes to Dana-Farber. This year, PMC's goal is to top last year's record-breaking gift and raise \$66 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber.

Linda started biking PMC several years ago after being diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma that affects one in three million people and is even rarer in women. Linda was already a 17-year breast cancer survivor and said the new diagnosis was hard and had its own emotional experience. Since PMC offered a method of self care while using energy to help forward the cause of cancer research, Linda decided to give the race a go.



READY TO BIKE: Linda Burrows will participate in this year's Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) by biking from Wellesley to Patriot Place on a 50-mile route. Her goal each year is to increase the distance she rides within the race. Here she is biking in Vermont three weekends before PMC. (Submitted photo)



FOR HER GRANDFATHER: Sofia Mancini is biking in honor of her grandfather, Lucio Mancini, who passed away this past March from Stage IV Renal Cell Carcinoma and received treatment from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. (Submitted photo)

A Roomful of Blues

I have lived a wonderful, eventful life. The one that has not managed to make its way onto my busy calendar is an outdoor concert. About twenty years ago I did manage to attend one at Roger Williams Park at the Temple of Music with a few nurses from work. They brought snacks and wine and comfortable folding chairs. Unschooling in the practice of outdoor performances, I went sans food, drink and chair and sat on the grassy hillside until my bottom was sore and I fervently wished that the concert wasn't two hours long. Fast forward to last Thursday. Hubby and I, vacationing in New Hampshire, decided to attend a concert of a Roomful of Blues, (a Rhode Island group, none-the-less) at Cranmore Mountain. He saw it advertised in the local newspaper, and we decided to try out this new activity. That particular day, rain dotted the landscape, off and on, for the better part of the day and we did not confirm our plans until the weather app on his phone showed clear skies for the evening. In preparation for this event, we had gone shopping to multiple stores for comfortable chairs, uncharacteristically not purchasing the cheapest ones, but

Life Matters



with
LINDA PETERSEN

buying ones with padded seats and easy assembly. (There is nothing I hate worse than trying to fit a canvas folding chair back into its pouch, practically standing on my head, and having it get stuck.) Because our expenses at this age are minimal, the least we could do was acquire cozy chairs on which to sit for hours.

We drove to the ski resort and paid our ten-dollar, senior citizen entrance fee, tickled that we get a discount for being old. Searching the large, grassy area, not yet filled with other people, we placed

our chairs on the edge of the ski slope facing the stage. With plenty of time to grab something to eat, Hubby delighted in eating a smoked sausage sandwich with peppers and onions and my choice of a Caesar salad wrap was perfect. As we both munched away, it was easy to notice that most of the concert participants had brought coolers full of food. The couple in front of us had shrimp cocktail with all the trimmings, bottles of wine coolers, and what looked like little scrumptious cherry cheesecakes. The couple next to us brought crackers with fancy cheeses, meats, and other condiments such as olives, with strawberries and grapes for dessert. Sitting near these food connoisseurs inspired me to use my imagination to bring a fancy spread the next time we attend a concert.

The variety of food choices matched the assortment of chairs that multiplied on the lawn. Some people had "backpack" chairs, fold-up chairs that were worn as backpacks so their hands would be free to carry the cooler, or wave freely at fellow friends also attending the concert. These were sturdy and comfortable, and most of them had a side table on which to

put their nourishment. Some people had folding camp chairs, and some had old-fashioned webbed chairs. Only one poor fellow sat on the ground.

Once fed and situated, the concert began. I am embarrassed to say that I had never seen a Roomful of Blues concert previously, and their exceptional tunes rocked my world. They were SO GOOD and the time flew by! They were captivating from beginning to end. Even though the concert was outside where Wi-Fi was readily available, I had no desire to look at my phone, instead letting the songs mesmerize me. Our toes, along with the toes of every other participant, tapped in tune to the music, and Hubby's shoe fell off with his enthusiastic beats. I jokingly told him he could join the impromptu dancers by the side of the stage, but he reneged.

Near the end of the concert, Hubby gently took ahold of my hand, kissed it and held it. He was happy, as was I. Although there was some regret that we had not previously gone to such concerts, we both smiled knowing that this would be a favored activity in the future.

■ Biking (Continued from page 21)

Her training for PMC is very casual. As someone who likes mountain biking, road biking and gravel biking, she will usually ride a casual 30 miles. In the upcoming challenge, she plans to bike the 50-mile Wellesley to Patriot Place route which she would like to complete in four hours. Being a social person, she usually talks to people along the ride but is also content with listening to the sound of her bike, body and breathing.

While Linda participated in the virtual PMC races during the pandemic, she is looking forward to returning to the in-person setting and biking with the thousands of riders at the massive starting point.

Bike riding has become a lifestyle for Linda. As someone who said she would rather give up her bike rather than her car, Linda did just that for seven years when she moved to Maryland. After being out of state for 13 years, she moved back to Cranston and now works for East Bay Community Action.

While many of the riders are cancer survivors, many individuals ride in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer. Cranston's Sofia Mancini and Warwick's Caroline Taylor are two individuals cycling in honor of loved ones who have passed.

Sofia, 21, is riding in PMC in memory of her nonno, Lucio Mancini.

"For me, the ride is just a small sacrifice to make compared to battling cancer like he did. My



nonno was and always will be a role model in my life, so I ride for him," said Sofia.

Lucio suffered from Stage IV Renal Cell Carcinoma and received treatment from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Mancini said her trials prolonged his life for four years.

While this will be her first time participating in PMC, Mancini has been riding her whole life.

"In my early teens, I set out one day to find the end of the bike path in Western Coventry. I had never ridden outside of the Cranston area before, but I was curious to see what I was capable of. After a few days, I made my way across

RI to the CT border and back. I was amazed how much ground I could cover on two wheels and how great it made me feel. Ever since then, riding bikes has been my thing," Sofia said.

In 2020, she started working for Trek Bicycle and her coworkers taught her what it takes to ride as much as she does now.

"I bought my first road bike almost immediately, and I went from a causal hybrid rider to a full on roadie. Before long I got into mountain biking, which is a ton of fun as well," Sofia said. "Riding has become a part of me, and I'm better for it."

Sofia has participated in a few triathlons and duathlons. Her goal is to complete a 100-mile ride in seven hours; she is biking the Wellesley Century which is a loop that starts at Babson College, goes to Rehoboth and back to the college. The fundraising minimum for the Wellesley Century is \$3,000 per rider. So far, she's raised \$6,000, so her dad will ride as well; Sofia will continue her fundraising until the end of the summer.

Riding six days a week, Sofia said she takes a laid back approach to training.

"It's all about having fun and feeling good. If I like what I'm doing, I'm very likely to keep it

up," Sofia said.

Sofia is most looking forward to the spirit surrounding the ride and said she's heard that there's great energy on the sidelines.

Sofia has lived in Cranston her whole life. She attended Cranston West, and is now a student at URI where she will graduate in spring of 2023 with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. She will then continue onto a master's degree in structural engineering.

Caroline, 19, participated in her first PMC five years ago with the team We Will. Her aunt, Alison Francassa, started the team after being diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. Alison passed away last year and Caroline and others will ride in her honor. The first year, there were four of them who biked, this year there will be over 20.

"It's important for people to know that it's an amazing experience and empowering to ride next to so many strong people," said Caroline, adding that those they are riding next to have either had cancer or known someone was affected by it.

Her training consists of riding her bike around Narragansett and going to the Point Judith Lighthouse. This year, Caroline will participate in the 50 mile route from Babson College in

Wellesley to Patriot Place and will raise \$2,000 for her ride.

Rather than focusing on a time to complete the challenge in, Caroline is looking at crossing the finish line with the rest of her team and taking in the experience along the way. Additionally, she said she is most looking forward to being with the team and alongside survivors and fighters while also listening to individuals on the sidelines cheer them on.

Growing up near Governor Francis Farms, Caroline is currently living in Bonnet Shores and attends Fairfield University where she's studying business.

The eight Cranston riders include Linda Burrows, Anthony Caldamone, Nikki Coppa, Natalina Earls, Liz Harvey, Sheila Hooeboom, Sofia Mancini and Eugene Whalen. Warwick riders include Caroline Taylor and Erin Talyor.

According to the organization, the first PMC had 36 riders, 10 volunteers and raised \$10,200 for Dana-Farber, where founder Billy Starr's mother was treated. Billy was 25 years old when his mother, Betty Starr, died from melanoma at 49 years old. Today, thousands of riders and volunteers come from 43 states and 12 countries to participate in the annual event.



See it at the with Joyce & Don Fowler



Movies

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Daisy Edgar-Jones in Where The Crawdads Sing

WARWICK SHOWCASE

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

(Adapted from Delia Owens' powerful novel)

Even if you see this powerful movie, you still need to read the book about a young girl who grows up in the bayous by herself, facing the prejudices of the "normal" townsfolk.

While the novel gets inside Kya's head and deals with her emotions, the movie concentrates more on the teenage love affair and the "Marsh Girl" accused of murder and her ultimate trial.

The big pluses in the movie are the wonderful shots of the bayou and the birds and animals that inhabit it.

Daisy Edgar-Jones plays the teenage/young adult Kya, having been abandoned at a young age by her parents and siblings, left to fend for herself in a small cabin on the banks of Barkley Cove.

The chronology of events is different from the book, as we learn at the outset that a teenage boy has been found dead in the swamp and assumed to have been murdered.

The Marsh Girl is suspected, arrested and held in jail (a devastating experience for this free-spirited soul).

Retired lawyer Tom Milton (David Strathairn) defends her.

While the trial takes up a good portion of the movie, it is the flashbacks dealing with Kya's early years – followed by her solitary years living and surviving – that are most interesting and inspiring.

She is befriended by the Black couple who run the modest local store, harassed by the locals, both young and old, abandoned by her first love, abused by her second and threatened to be driven off her land.

Kya shows up for school with no shoes, harassed by her fellow students, and never returns. Tate, a local boy heading off to college, befriends her and teaches

her to read. She becomes a self-made artist of the flora and fauna of the area.

The trial often gets in the way of the better moments of the amazing story of a young survivor who overcomes adversity.

Seeing it on the big screen with the sounds of nature brings the book to life.

MRS. HARRIS GOES TO PARIS

*** 1/2 (Joyce) *** (Don)

I won't say this is a "woman's movie," but I was the only male in the theatre. And I will say that a movie about fashion isn't my favorite subject. Despite that, the performance by Lesley Manville as Ada Harris, as a British house cleaner is absolutely charming.

Set in the 50s, the movie shows the major class differences that existed in both England and Paris.

Ada was a dreamer. Living modestly, she was a lover of high couture and dreamed of having a Christian Dior dress, even if her only chance to wear it was in her small flat.

Saving her money, plus having a little luck, she accumulates enough to travel to Paris and bid on a dress at the House of Dior.

Ada takes Paris by storm, both charming some of the Dior employees and being scoffed at by the upper class customers. Isabelle Huppert, the only actress we recognized, plays the haughty manager.

Ada befriends the Dior accountant, helping him in his courtship with Leslie, one of the models, plus an upper class marquis who shows her the finer points of Paris, in contrast to the garbage strike that has crippled the city.

Ada gets involved in a labor dispute and even gives Christian Dior a lesson in employee relations.

The film is made better by the wonderful Leslie Manville. Joyce liked it a bit more, but I won't call it a woman's movie.



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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Lesley Manville as Ada Harris in Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris



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Sun Protection and Safety Tips for Seniors

July is UV Safety Month. Stay safe in the summer sun with these tips.

As we age, the risk of developing skin cancer increases. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, over half of skin cancer deaths are adults over the age of 65. It is important to prevent sun damage. During the summer months, ultraviolet (UV) rays increase in strength. Extended time outdoors without proper sun protection can lead to sunburn, dehydration and even skin cancer.

Follow these tips to stay safe in the sun.

1. Apply sunscreen

Before going outside, apply sunscreen with broad spectrum protection and a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. SPF 30 sunscreen will protect your skin against sunburn while broad spectrum protection defends against all types of sun rays. Reapply every two hours for the best protection.

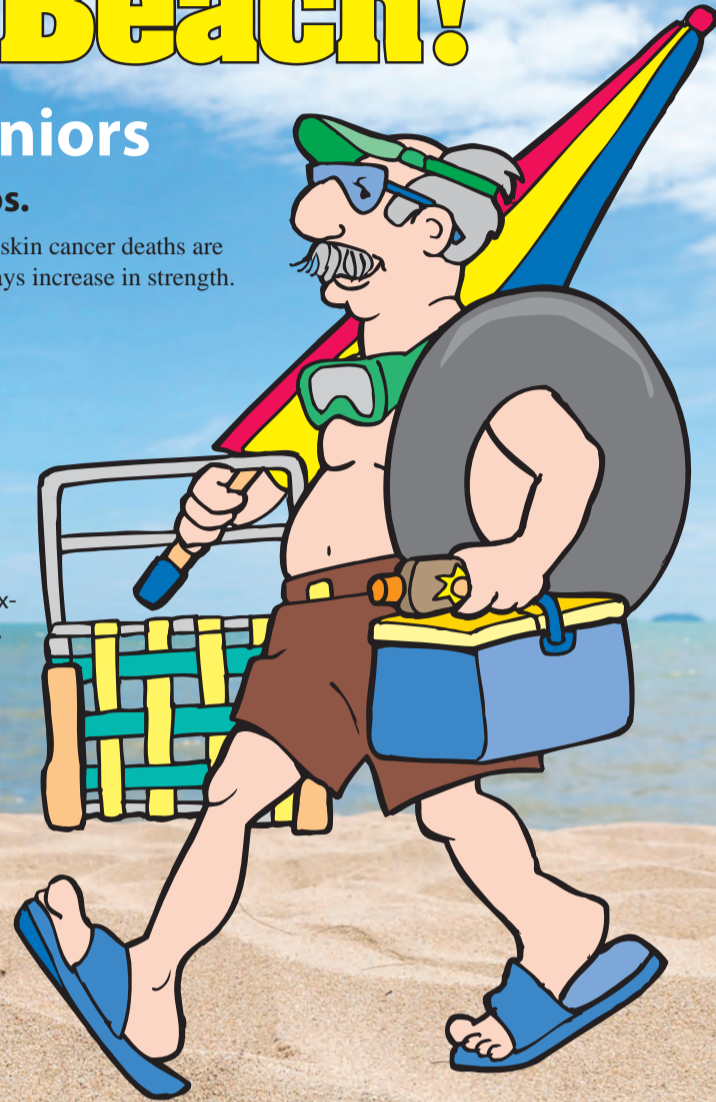
2. Wear protective clothing

Clothing and accessories can offer protection against the sun. Wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses shield your face. If it is not too hot, wear long sleeved shirts and pants for additional protection.

3. Spend time in the shade

When you spend time outside, try to find a spot in the shade, such as under a tree or a covered porch. Minimize direct sun exposure from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. when the sun is the strongest.

Enjoy your outdoor time this summer and stay safe.



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ACCORDING TO DON

by DON FOWLER

Ask Alexa

My wife talks to Alexa more than she talks to me.

Alexa sits by her side, waiting to be called upon to fill those square boxes in her cross-road puzzles.

I won't say Joyce is addicted, but she gets very frustrated when Alexa can't come up with the correct answer.

Webster and Roget are no longer constant companions, gathering dust on the bookshelf.

My son in law gives Alexa a run for her money when it comes to sports trivia. Batting averages, World Series winners, Super Bowl champs, NBA records, hockey assists-all are at his fingertips. My daughter has a doctorate in Nursing. Alexa is her mentor when it comes to checking medical issues.

Arguments are quickly solved at family gatherings as members race to Alexa to check a date, a name or a place. No longer do we hear the words of our former teachers: "Look it up!" The response is now: "Ask Alexa!"

Seniors Love Alexa

Alexa has become a wonderful resource for seniors as we occasionally struggle to remember certain facts, dates, words, phrases and moments from the past.

Recalling a town we visited, a restaurant we enjoyed, the name of a movie, song or book can be retrieved in seconds by Alexa.

Every day new tasks are being added to her already busy schedule. She can wake us up, turn on lights, play our favorite music and read us novels. And that's only the beginning.

She can also be funny. Ask her "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" and smile at her answer.

Don't use foul language with her, or you will get a scolding.

Be polite, and she will respond politely.

The only thing she can't give you is a hug.

Social media: It's not just for kids anymore

Perhaps due to the popularity of social media among a generation of young people who grew up with it, platforms such as Instagram and Facebook are often associated with people born in the 21st century. However, a 2018 study from the Pew Institute found that 65 percent of adults between the ages of 50 and 64 used Facebook and 68 percent used YouTube.

Social media is often on the receiving end of negative attention, but it's also a potentially valuable tool that can help men and women over 50 stay connected with their communities. That's not always so easy for adults who no longer have children at home. And as its name suggests, social media can help users connect with others who share their interests. Such connections also can be hard to make for adults over 50.

Adults over 50 may be more comfortable with social media now than they were a decade ago, but it's still a good idea to brush up on basic security measures that can help men and women protect their privacy as they utilize platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- Protect your personal information. No social media user has the right to access your personal information, including your address, date of birth or other data unique to you. Avoid interacting with anyone who requests personal information, employing the function to block such users from connecting with you when possible. It's also important to keep information about travel plans private. For example, sharing details of an upcoming vacation can serve notice to potential criminals that no one will be in your house, making it a potential target for burglars.

- Aim for quality, not quantity, when building social media networks. Avoid accepting friend requests from individuals you don't know. Cyber criminals often gain access to victims via social media, so limit your social media network to people you know and trust.

- Turn off location information. The technology behind social media is impressive and even makes it possible to determine where users are when they tweet or post to other platforms. But many users, especially those concerned about their privacy, don't want to share location information with anyone, much less strangers. Turn off location information and routinely double check to make sure it's still turned off.

- Discuss others' privacy concerns before posting to social media. Social media isn't for everyone, and some people may not want photos of themselves or their children posted to platforms like Facebook or Instagram. Prior to posting pictures or information about other people, confirm that they're OK with you doing so.

Adults over 50 are engaging with social media. But no matter how comfortable users become, it's still best to keep various social media safety protocols in mind. LP227089

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MEMOIRS
by SUSAN DEAN



Do birds know they can fly? They flit across the sky in pairs, in groups, and sometimes alone. They seem to always know where they are going. Singing and conversing together with intent and purpose. Their world hasn't changed. Do they know that ours has? They go about their business as if there's no pandemic, no riots, no civil unrest, no mass shootings.

Listening to them now, I can hear loud non-stop chirping coming from the treetops filling the sky far to my right. And softer intermittent peeps and trills whistling from the towering canopies standing on the opposite side of the field of tall trees. A chorus of birdsong high above our daily living - singing back and forth to each other. What are they discussing?

A squirrel scampers up the gnarled trunk of an ancient maple tree to join them - chittering and chattering, noisily adding to their conversation. A determined "caw-caw" echoes across the sky - distant at first, getting louder and louder as it approaches. The source of the calling isn't visible.

From the collection of trees directly overhead, the caller sits hidden somewhere in the branches, letting all know of its arrival and continuing to cackle as if announcing its intention to stay. All other birdsong goes quiet - silenced by the dominant call of the unseen visitor. But just as quickly, the noisy squawking begins to fade away into the distance and becomes softer and softer. The variety of peeps, cheeps, twitters, and trills starts up again from all directions. The overbearing guest has moved on, following its own inner compass.

The local conversation of birdsong gains momentum and resumes its collection of calls - a convention of different voices above. I wonder what they are discussing - so many various songs from so many different species. What is on their agenda today?

Next to the trees where the birds have gathered to solve the pressing issues of their day, tiger lilies have bloomed. Their orange heads weave back and forth consulting with each other. Bright petals bobbing, they bend together and touch as if sharing a brief secret before turning away to feel the sun on their faces. Then, thinking of something else to say, they turn back to each other to impart a piece of wisdom known only within their world.

Wild raspberries creep along the fence, traveling intently towards a destination known only to themselves. Their origins are a mystery, too. They seemingly appeared out of nowhere last summer, but I am happy to be a witness to their return.

The stately aged trees with their leafy canopied crowns soaring high and with their branches like out-stretched arms holding court, serve as sanctuaries for birds

to sit, flit, sing, and chirp, and for chattering squirrels to race up and down and up again before finding a lofty limb on which to perch. All hidden within the leaves swaying and dancing in the gentle summer winds.

Flowers and plants - an endless variety of colors and sizes - all nodding knowingly in the breeze. Birds of all kinds singing their signature songs. What secrets do these denizens of the natural world hold?

Perhaps there are lessons here. Truths about coexistence, living together harmoniously no matter one's size or the colors of one's feathers or petals. No matter what songs one sings - all belong and life goes on.

Maybe it's simply to live fully in the moment, whatever that moment holds for us, to stay present and engaged, curious, and grateful to be part of this world. Part of the great mystery of life.

Do birds know they can fly? They seem to trust that they will forever fill the skies. We can trust that we all have a place in this world, our world, and that the sun will continue to rise and set, giving us precious days and nights to cherish and giving us the wondrous experience of simply living.



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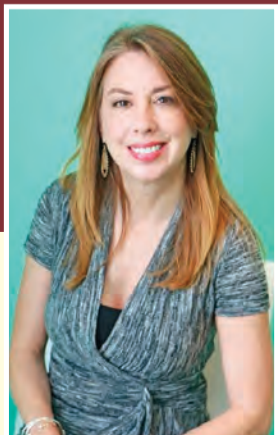


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A Moment In Time Can Change Your Life

It all happened so suddenly. I was in Miriam Hospital (my fourth visit in the last six months) recuperating from yet another gastro-intestinal endoscopy to replace a dislodged bile duct stent. Sitting in my hospital bed (still as uncomfortable a rack as ever), I was reading about the corrupt, criminal exploits of Boston's William and James "Whitey" Bulger when I felt a strange sensation. My right hand began to go numb and numbness was creeping up my arm. I immediately rang the nurses' station for help. My life-changing moment was happening. I had a mild stroke.

Nurses, doctors, and emergency personnel converged in my room with amazing speed. Hearing my symptoms, they asked me to perform a number of tasks such as smiling, talking, resistance tests on my hands and feet, asking for my name and date of birth, and the day and date. and other inquiries. Fortunately, I never lost consciousness or my ability to speak.

I was swiftly transported, escorted by a phalanx of medical personnel, to the imaging department for a CAT scan. The scan confirmed the diagnosis. The skill and efficiency of the emergency personnel, utilizing procedures doubtlessly honed by countless practice, inspired a calmness in me I would not have anticipated. I have no doubt that their swift response minimized the damage.

A couple of days later, I was discharged from the hospital with a list of new medications, a schedule of follow-up medical appointments, and the assurance that a nurse and physical therapist would be making home visits to help in my recovery. I had entered a new world.

The after-effects from the stroke are fairly minimal. The loss of some strength, flexibility, agility, and fine mo-



MY SIDE OF THINGS by LARRY GRIMALDI

tor skills in my right hand make it a little difficult to write. My signature, which would cause the Sisters of Mercy from Tyler School to cringe even before the stroke, has become even harder to decipher. I practice writing my name several times a day as part of my therapy.

I have also noticed that some everyday tasks that I performed without thinking have become a little more difficult. Buttoning a shirt, shaving, reaching up to get something off a shelf, or even holding a coffee cup in my right hand can now be challenging. Each day, I am learning to adapt to my new reality.

A physical therapist has designed a program of exercise to improve my dexterity, strength and range of motion in my right hand and arm. The exercises must be done twice each day. They are now an essential elements in my daily routine. Although I have placed myself on the softball disabled list for the season, I am still hoping to play some golf this summer. In my new world, I am constantly testing myself with small tasks see what limitations I may have, and just as importantly, what abilities I have retained.

I have physical and emotional challenges ahead of me; but with every challenge comes opportunity. I have the opportunity to show renewed appreciation to my family and

friends for their continued love and support. I have the opportunity to resist the natural instinct to isolate myself; because I know that my social life needs to be kept vibrant and given a chance to thrive. I have the opportunity and ability to continue writing columns on a wide range of topics and to offer my perspectives. I have the opportunity to pay more attention to my physical well-being. I have the opportunity to cultivate my spiritual well-being. I have the opportunity to remember that tomorrow is promised to no one and to make the most of each day.

The most daunting challenge I face, however, is not allowing my life to be defined by one moment in time. It's a goal that demands patience, resolve, and effort to make my recovery as complete as possible. Wish me luck.

UPDATE: The life and times of a columnist sometimes produce very interesting and surprising twists and turns. In the May column, I described my immersion into the world of hearing aids. Due to the limited dexterity in my right hand and a thorough removal of ear wax, my hearing has improved. At some point, I will still need hearing aids; but due to my current situation, I have to postpone the inevitable.

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

NEW Facebook FONTS



RETIREMENT SPARKS by ELAINE M. DECKER

Things I post on Facebook are sometimes met with complaints from friends who don't understand that a lot of my comments are satirical. I usually reply: "Sorry. I forgot to use the satire font." (Cut me some slack when I say "font" instead of "typeface.") Facebook doesn't have a satire font. It has lots of emojis but only one font, a plain sans serif. One mean spirited complaint was a comment on what should have been a non-offensive post. I decided it was time to create some new fonts for Facebook.

For all of them, I used Facebook behavior as my guide. I realized that their app will automatically substitute some of these for you, whether you want them to or not. Others will be under your own control as to whether to leave the default FB font or replace it with one of your own choosing. Once you input your keyword, FB will automatically substitute for you. Of course, the satire font was first on my list.

Here's an apt definition of "satire" that I found by Googling: "The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues." Boy, does that ever describe so many of my FB posts! I'm taking particular note of the word "exaggeration" in this definition. So FB's new Satire Font can be any serif, 16 point, bold typeface, such as Cambria or Times.

A font that is sometimes confused with satire, or at least motivated by similar feelings, the new angry font should be sans serif and always bolded. When you're angry, get

right to the point, and help your reader get there, too. No getting distracted by squiggly lines at the ends of the letters. Verdana is a great choice for venting.

Are you planning to post on FB but you're tuckered out? Go for the new "tired" FB font. Don't overthink it. Sans serif Arial is easy to find, up near the beginning of the font alphabet. Go with whatever type size is the default in what you're writing. It will probably be 10 or 12. You'll want to lie down, so use the italic option.

Having a sad day? Just use whatever font is in front of you as you start typing. Chances are it will be serif if you're composing on a word processor. If you're writing on line, it will likely be sans serif. It's OK to mix them. The sad FB font is flexible if nothing else.

Feeling silly? Comic sans is the perfect choice for this. Most people use it for all the wrong reasons, but silly is what it was intended for. I'm not sure if all platforms provide this option, but I believe that most do. If yours doesn't, you're entitled to use angry for this. Or sad. Whatever works.

The last FB substitution font under your own control is for when you've been insulted. Like the angry font, insulted is always bolded. However, it's serif, because you want to take up as much time as possible from those who are reading your rant. It's also a larger type size, because you want to be sure nothing gets overlooked.

Moving on to automatic substitution fonts, Facebook decides to take control of your posts whenever the spirit moves it. Animal Rescue Substitution Fonts are what you'll see most often with my new Font Substitution op-

tion. Facebook will automatically substitute the faces of animals that need homes or are in danger, for the vowels in any words you type. Here are the substitutions you'll see initially: A = cat; E = squirrel; I = rabbit; O = dog; U = raccoon. So "face" will read: "f [cat pix] c [squirrel pix]". More animals for various consonants will likely follow.

The final font substitution that is under Facebook control is "Fake News". If FB determines that your original post is not true or not correct, it will be changed to the Fake News font, aka Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire. You might see a flame coming out of one of the letters. Or FB might treat all the letters as though they're on fire. If your system isn't receptive to Facebook's artsy attempts, you'll just see a gray haze surrounding the fake news post.

I realize this is a lot to process in one post. If Facebook seems especially confusing in the future, don't blame me. Blame my FB friends who didn't know what "satire" meant.

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

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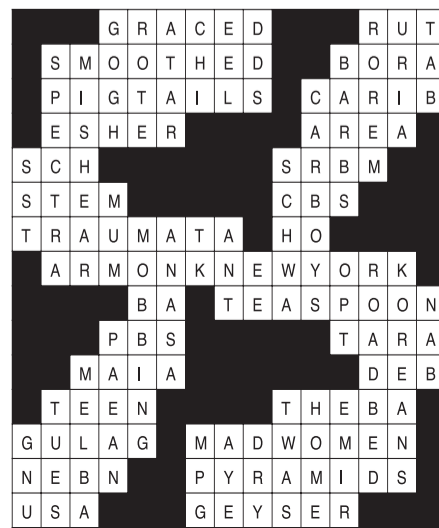
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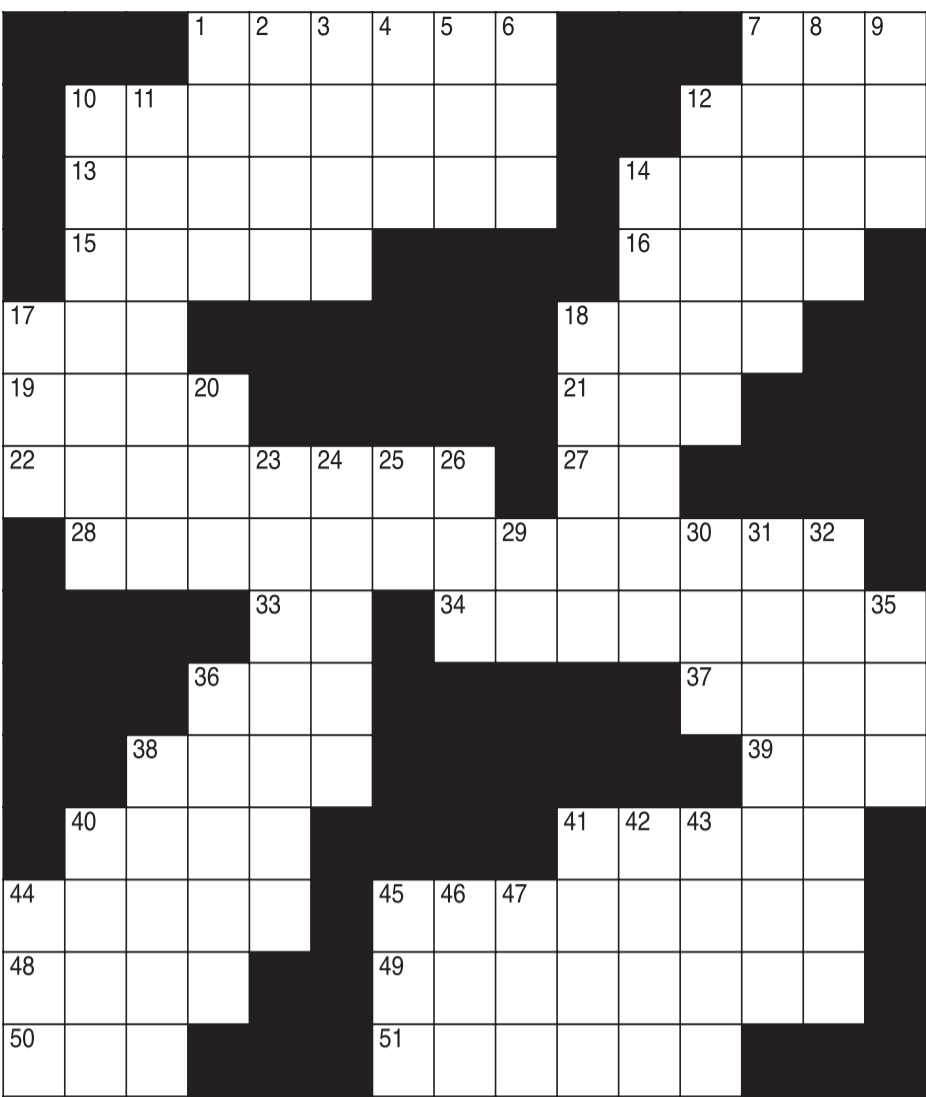
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Said blessing before a meal
7. A wheel furrow
10. Removed wrinkles
12. Cold Adriatic wind
13. Double braids
14. Indigenous South Americans
15. Claremonte Landscape Garden city
16. Expanse of a surface
17. Schedule (abbr.)
18. Nuclear near reach weapon
19. Flower stalk
21. Ed Murrow's network
22. Serious injury
27. Atomic #67 (abbr.)
28. IBM's home town
33. Undergraduate degree
34. Small cutlery for fluids
36. Non commercial network
37. Scarlett's home
38. Mother of Hermes
39. A young woman
40. 13-19
41. White garden snail genus
44. Network of Russian prison camps
45. Insane females
48. Northeast by North (abbr.)
49. Figures with triangular faces
50. N. American republic (abbr.)
51. Old Faithful

3. Essential oil from flowers
4. 22nd Greek letter
5. Snakelike fish
6. Tooth caregiver
7. 'Air Music' composer
8. Lord of Searing Flames
9. The bill in a restaurant
10. Rainbows and ranges
11. Misunderstand speech
12. Cutting remarks
14. Bottles for corrosives
17. Very fast airplane
18. Neutral middle vowel
20. Not inclined to speak
23. Thronging
24. Squash bug genus
25. Bangladesh currency (abbr.)
26. Emmet
29. Poet ___ Cummings
30. Make a choice
31. Highway foundation
32. Citizens of Seoul
35. Grab
36. Panegyric
38. Peach _____, dessert
40. Weekday (abbr.)
41. '_____ the night before Christmas'
42. Family residence
43. Muslim ruler title
44. Large African antelope
45. Gas usage measurement
46. Yes vote
47. Not wet

CLUES DOWN

1. Painter Vincent Van ____
2. Memorization

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Savory, Plant-Based Summer Entertaining

FAMILY FEATURES

Inviting loved ones and neighbors for a backyard barbecue is a timeless summer tradition bringing together favorite foods and friendly conversation. At your next cookout, remember to make the experience warm and welcoming for everyone, including those looking to incorporate more plant-based foods into their diets, by offering up a variety of options at the table.

You can make it easy to enjoy a meatless summer soiree loaded with flavor by using an option like Sweet Earth Plant-Based Chik'n, a ready-to-eat solution offering an excellent source of protein per serving, made with vegan ingredients. The pre-marinated options mean less time spent cooking and more time catching up with friends and family in the summer sun while eating delicious meals.

Perfect for enjoying in a variety of ways, it's a bold and savory centerpiece in these Vegan Pulled Chipotle Chik'n Sliders that combine a sweet and spicy chipotle-maple sauce with fresh veggies for a saucy bite full of plant-based protein. Put a taste bud-tingling twist on fajita night with Jerk Chik'n Fajitas with Black Rice, an easy way to channel your inner chef and serve up a flavorful, plant-based meal.

Find more delicious plant-based recipes and products at sweetearthfoods.com.

Vegan Pulled Chipotle Chik'n Sliders

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 10-12

- 3 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup veggie broth
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 pinch kosher salt
- 1 pinch pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 lemon, juice only
- 1 package (8 ounces) Sweet Earth Chipotle Chik'n

12 vegan brioche slider buns

Vegan Spicy Mayo:

- 1/2 cup vegan mayo
- 2 tablespoons vegan sour cream
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

- 2 tablespoons cilantro, finely minced
- 2 teaspoons fajita seasoning
- 1 lime, juice only

Optional toppings:

- 1 jar pickle chips
- 1/2 cup purple shredded cabbage
- 1/2 cup jalapeno peppers
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup diced tomatoes

In blender, puree peppers with ketchup, maple syrup, broth, allspice and brown sugar. Set aside.

In pan over medium heat, add oil. Once oil begins to shimmer, add onion and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally.

Once onions become translucent, around 5 minutes, add garlic. After 1 minute, add pepper puree blend to pan along with lemon juice and stir to combine.

Once mixed, fold in chipotle plant-based "chicken" and cook 3-4 minutes until heated through.

To make vegan spicy mayo: In bowl, mix mayo, sour cream, peppers, cilantro, fajita seasoning and lime juice.

Spread vegan spicy mayo on buns and add plant-based "chicken" mixture. Top with pickle chips, cabbage, jalapenos, carrots and tomatoes, as desired.



Jerk Chik'n Fajitas with Black Rice

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 2-3

Marinade:

- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon avocado oil or olive oil
- 1 Scotch bonnet pepper
- 2 tablespoons Jamaican jerk seasoning
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 salt, to taste
- 1 pepper, to taste

Fajita Fixings:

- 1 package (8 ounces) Sweet Earth Mindful Chik'n Strips
- 1/2 teaspoon avocado oil
- 1/2 white onion, chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped

- 1/2 yellow pepper, chopped
- flour tortillas, warmed
- black rice, cooked

Mango Salsa:

- 1 chopped mango
- 3 teaspoons lime juice
- 2 teaspoons chopped cilantro
- 1/4 cup red onion, chopped
- 1 small red bell pepper, chopped

To make marinade: In blender, blend brown sugar, lime juice, soy sauce, oil, bonnet pepper, Jamaican jerk seasoning, garlic and salt and pepper, to taste, until smooth.

To make fajitas: Marinate plant-based "chicken" in jerk sauce for 1 hour.

In grill pan on stove over medium heat, heat oil. Cook plant-based "chicken" until heated through. In separate pan, add splash of oil and cook white onion, bell pepper and yellow pepper. Add plant-based "chicken" to veggies and cook 1-2 minutes.

To make mango salsa: In bowl, mix mango, lime juice, cilantro, red onion and red bell pepper.

Add jerk plant-based "chicken" and mango salsa to tortillas. Serve with black rice.

Sweet Summer Treats that Beat the Heat

FAMILY FEATURES

Whether your family's ideal summer day consists of swimming, hiking, biking or simply enjoying the sunshine, all that time in the heat calls for a sweet way to cool off. It's hard to beat a homemade treat loaded with favorite summertime flavors that's as cold and creamy as it is sweet and delicious.

For a lighter, better-for-you solution, this Watermelon Gelato has about half the fat and fewer calories than traditional ice cream but with equally mouthwatering flavor. In fact, the word "gelato" means "ice cream" in Italian, and while the two frozen desserts have much in common, gelato is typically lower in fat with more density.

If you're looking for an added touch of tastiness, try adding a few chocolate chips to the mix in the last few minutes of churning in your ice cream maker, or simply add some on top before serving.

When a summer weekend offers opportunities for morning kitchen lessons with the kiddos, they can help measure ingredients for Watermelon Ice Cream Bars and watch the magic happen as you mix up a watermelon curd, homemade crust and whipped cream. Once your creation freezes completely throughout the day, turn out and cut into bars for a cold afternoon treat following all that fun in the sun.

While sweet and tasty, these desserts also provide a bite of hydration with the power of watermelon, which is 92% water for a delicious way to rehydrate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, daily fluid intake is defined as the amount of water consumed from foods, plain drinking water and other beverages, meaning you don't have to rely only on what you drink to meet your fluid needs.

Because what you eat also provides a significant portion of daily fluids, fruits and vegetables like watermelon can help you and your family stay hydrated for whatever summer days bring your way.

Find more sweet summer recipe ideas at Watermelon.org.



Watermelon Ice Cream Bars

Servings: 8

Watermelon Curd:

- 3/4 cup watermelon juice
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 pinch salt
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), cut into small cubes

Crust:

- 8 graham crackers, crushed
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 pinch salt
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted and cooled
- basil leaves, for garnish

Whipped Cream:

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

To make watermelon curd: In medium, heavy-bottomed saucepan, combine watermelon juice, lime juice, honey and salt. Stir to combine then add eggs.

Place pan over medium heat and cook, adding cubed butter to pan and stirring constantly, until mixture

thickens and coats back of wooden spoon. Immediately remove from heat and carefully pour through fine mesh sieve. Cool completely in refrigerator.

To make crust: Preheat oven to 350 F.

In food processor, pulse graham crackers until rough crumbs form. Add honey, salt and melted butter; pulse until mixture resembles wet sand.

Line 8-by-8-inch pan with parchment paper then press graham cracker mixture into bottom of pan in even layer. Bake crust about 10 minutes, or until just beginning to brown. Allow crust to cool completely.

To make whipped cream: When crust and curd are completely cooled, in large bowl, whip cream until stiff peaks form.

Gently push cream to one side of bowl and pour in watermelon curd. Using spatula, gently fold cream and watermelon curd together until no streaks are visible.

Pour creamy watermelon mixture over graham cracker crust. Freeze dessert completely, 4-6 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, loosen sides with small spatula or butter knife. Turn out onto cutting board and use large spatula to flip so graham cracker crust is on bottom. Cut into eight bars and top each with basil leaf.

Watermelon Gelato

Servings: 8

- 2 cups pureed watermelon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup fat-free half-and-half
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup whipping cream

In blender, blend watermelon, sugar, cornstarch, half-and-half, lemon juice and whipping cream until smooth.

Using ice cream maker, process gelato according to manufacturer's instructions.



YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

How to file a final tax return for someone who has passed away

When someone dies, their surviving spouse or representative files the deceased person's final tax return. On the final tax return, the surviving spouse or representative will note that the person has died. The IRS doesn't need any other notification of the death. Usually, the representative filing the final tax return is named in the person's will or appointed by a court. Sometimes when there isn't a surviving spouse or appointed representative, a personal representative will file the final return.

Here are some things to know about filing the final return

- The IRS considers someone married for the entire year that their husband or wife died if they don't remarry during that year.
- The surviving spouse is eligible to use filing status married filing jointly or married filing separately.
- The final return is due by the regular April tax date unless the surviving spouse or representative has an extension to file.

Who should sign the return

When e-filing, the surviving spouse or representative should follow the directions provided by the software for the correct signature and notation requirements. For paper returns, the filer should write the word deceased, the deceased person's name and the date of death across the top. Here's who should sign the return:

- Any appointed representative must sign the return. If it's a joint return, the surviving spouse must also sign it.
- If there isn't an appointed representative, the surviving spouse filing a joint return should sign the return and write in the signature area labeled, filing as surviving spouse.
- If there's no appointed representative and no surviving spouse, the person in charge of the deceased person's property must file and sign the return as "personal representative."

Other documents to include

- Court-appointed representatives should attach a copy of the court document showing their appointment.
- Representatives who aren't court-appointed must include Form 1310, Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer to claim any refund. Surviving spouses and court-appointed representatives don't need to complete this form.

The IRS doesn't need a copy of the death certificate or other proof of death.

If tax is due, the filer should submit payment with the return or visit the payments page of IRS.gov for other payment options. If they can't pay the amount due immediately, they may qualify for a payment plan or installment agreement.

Qualifying widow or widower

Surviving spouses with dependent children may be able to file as a Qualifying Widow(er) for two years after their spouse's death. This filing status allows them to use joint return tax rates and the highest standard deduction amount if they don't itemize deductions.

For additional information please visit IRS.gov.

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Safer, More Convenient Elections

Elections in 2020 were unlike anything Rhode Island voters had experienced before. In response to the pandemic, state leaders put in place common-sense measures to ensure that COVID-19 didn't keep us and our neighbors from exercising our most basic right to vote.

People liked these options, and with June 2022's enactment of the RI Vote Act, voters can look forward to safer and more convenient voting options in this year's September Primary and November General Elections.

AARP Rhode Island worked alongside a broad coalition of activists that pushed hard for passage in the General Assembly. I'd especially like to thank our steadfast corps of AARP state advocacy volunteers who urged lawmakers to make permanent the changes that served the public so well two years ago.

AARP advocated strongly for passing the Act because it is so important to our members to expand all forms of safe and convenient voting. In our Vital Voices Survey of Rhode Islanders 45 and older conducted at the end of last year, we learned that two-thirds of people surveyed supported these permanent provisions to allow voters choices in the way we vote.

These choices are personal. Fifty-five percent of Rhode Island voters who are older prefer to go to their polling place on election days and 43 percent said they prefer to vote early. Let RI Vote will ensure people have the flexibility they say they need to make their voices heard.

"Voters are going to have an easier time voting in September and November and all elections after that," Rob Rock, Director of Elections in the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office, told me in a recent radio appearance. "One of the biggest parts of the Let Rhode Island Vote Act is that the former mail ballot requirement to have two witnesses or a notary sign your mail ballot envelope is no longer a requirement. Rhode Island and Alabama were the only two states that had that requirement before the governor signed the new law in June."

The requirement, waived for Rhode Island voters in the 2020 Presidential Preference election, the Primary, and the General Election, survived a court challenge at the time.

"The law also codifies early voting," Rock further explained. "Previously, early voting was known as the 'emergency mail ballot process,' which was rather misnamed in our opinion. You didn't need an 'emergency' to vote early in Rhode Island. Now, we're calling it what it actually is."

The new law also allows a voter to apply for a mail ballot online; shortens the deadline to request a Braille ballot; expands who is eligible to be on the 'permanent mail ballot application list' to include long-term nursing home residents; and makes permanent the secure mail ballot dropboxes that were used in every community in 2020.



AARP - RHODE ISLAND
by CATHERINE TAYLOR

Rob Rock was very helpful in explaining all the changes and answering questions during

a June AARP Rhode Island Tele-Town Hall. If you missed it, you can listen to a recording we have posted at www.aarp.org/RIReplays. He'll join us on July 14 at 10 a.m. for a webinar on when, where and how to vote. Register at www.aarp.org/RIEvents.

Also, AARP has launched a "How to Vote in Rhode Island" web page, www.aarp.org/RIVotes, where you can find registration deadlines, how to request a mail ballot and much more.

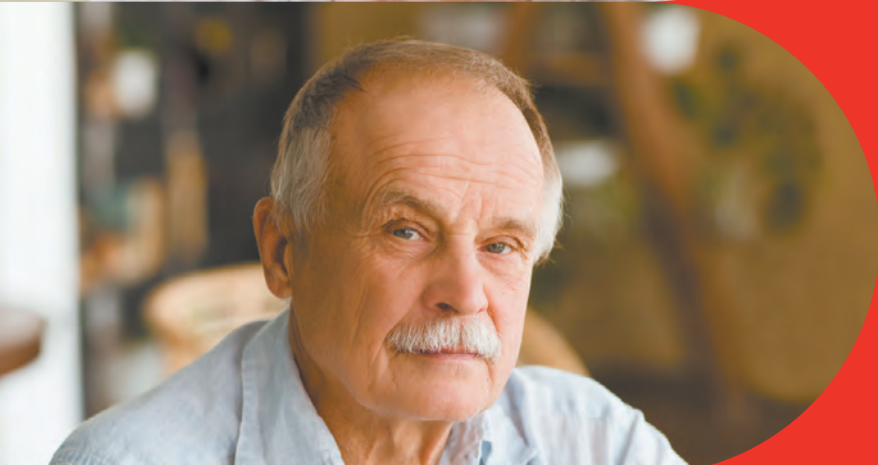
Leading up to the September 13 Primary and the November 8 General Elections, you'll be hearing a lot about what's at stake. The future of Social Security and Medicare will be in the hands of the next Congress. In Rhode Island, we will be calling on candidates to tell us where they stand on key issues affecting older constituents and their family members, including what we were told in our Vital Voices survey: shoring up our financial security, developing creative solutions to the direct care worker shortage, improving access to an array of affordable/accessible housing options, increasing support for family caregivers, and building more livable communities for all ages and abilities.

The 50+ are going to decide the next election. Together we've won the fight to make voting safer and easier. Now AARP Rhode Island is here for you with the latest information on where, when, and how to vote at aarp.org/RIVotes. Make sure you're ready to make your voice heard on election day. You're more important than ever.



KEY PRIMARY DATES

- Aug. 14: Last day to register**
- Aug. 23: Last day to request mail ballot**
- Aug. 24: Early voting begins**
- Sept. 13: Primary election**



Know the when, where, and how. Then vote.

Voting is your most important right. It gives you the power to decide what our future looks like. But you have to be in the know to vote. Election laws and voting places can change. That's why AARP Rhode Island has collected all the most up-to-date election information to make sure that the voices of voters 50-plus are heard. Make sure you're prepared to vote, and know all the safe and secure voting options included in the AARP Rhode Island-backed Let RI Vote Act signed into law in June. Get all the latest election information at aarp.org/RIvotes.



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