

PRIMARY DAY

A good day for incumbents ...

Johnston state rep & state senator hold onto their seats

By RORY SCHULER

The first half of Primary Day was soggy and slow.

Local candidates earned votes by standing under umbrellas outside polling places. Supporters really showed their loyalty, their shoes soaked and signs softened.

Turnout was uniformly slow across Johnston, as a steady downpour helped to keep voters from casting ballots. But as the sun peeked out from the clouds, a steady stream of citizens walked into schools, union shops and apartment complex lobbies, to check the box next to their candidates of choice.

Several key state legislative races were settled Tuesday.

According to unofficial voting results, incumbent State Rep. Edward T. Cardillo Jr., District 42-Johnston & Cranston, will likely hold onto the seat, after earning 41.3 percent of the vote (628 votes).

Cardillo faced fellow Democrats Kelsey Kristine Coletta and Dennis Cardillo Jr.

Coletta came in a close second, winning 35.9 percent of the vote (546 votes).



POLL DANCING: According to unofficial voting results, incumbent State Rep. Edward T. Cardillo Jr., District 42-Johnston & Cranston (at left), will likely hold onto the seat. Cardillo cast his vote at the Simmons Village housing complex. Sen. Frank Lombardo III will also likely hold onto his District 25 seat following a Primary win over challenger, former office-holder Christopher B. Maselli, at right. Maselli tried to stay dry under an umbrella outside Ferri Middle School on Tuesday morning. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

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'His legacy will endure'



NAMESAKE: This is the bronze plaque affixed to the entrance of the Johnston Indoor Recreation Center that was named in honor and memory of the late Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr. on Saturday.

Johnston sports facility renamed 'Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr. Indoor Recreation Center'

By PETE FONTAINE

The standing room only crowd — which included men, women and children of all ages — spoke volumes about the life and legacy of the late Daniel Edward "Danny" Mazzulla Jr.

Speaker after speaker eulogized a mighty and marvelous man who was described as a coach's coach, hall of famer and "a remarkable man" who Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena emphasized "dedicated his life to youth sports in our town and touched the lives of so many girls and boys."

Which is why, among a myriad of things, people from all over Rhode Island turned out for the renaming and dedication of the Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr. Indoor Recreation Center that he helped design. The building has, during its relatively young history, served as a multi-purpose facility for everything from sporting events to COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

It was the recent pandemic, as Polisena pointed out during a heartwarming welcome speech, "that prevented us from having this

MAZZULLA - PAGE 10



APPLE-TASTIC: The Johnston Apple Fest was packed with attendees last Saturday and Sunday. Go to the Johnston Sun Rise website (johnstonsunrise.net) for a photo gallery from the event, and look for a full Apple Fest photo page in next week's edition. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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OSDRI fire results in arson indictment

By RORY SCHULER

A Johnston man has been charged with first degree arson following a February fire at a veterans housing complex.

Around 4:30 p.m., Feb. 18, Johnston Police Patrolman Thomas Santurri was dispatched to Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) at 1010 Hartford Ave. to investigate a reported structure fire.

Upon arrival, Johnston Fire Department personnel were on-scene attempting to extinguish the flames.

A resident inside the third housing unit at OSDRI had called police after he started to smell smoke and then went outside and saw smoke coming from the "roof area," according to police.

Police spoke to the caller and a neighbor. The neighbor, Ronald L. Andrews, told police he could hear "snapping" in the walls from inside his apartment. Andrews and the resident living next door were not injured in the fire. They were both provided with temporary housing for the night by OSDRI staff.

At the time, Fire Marshal Thomas Marcello told police the "cause of the fire was unknown but not deemed to be suspicious," according to the incident report.

Police were later called back to the scene when Andrews, who they called a "person of interest," returned to his apartment and attempted to enter.

"Upon arrival I met with Mr. Andrews who stated that he was there trying to get some of his belongings out of his apartment," Johnston Police Patrolman Kevin Brady wrote in a supplementary report on Feb. 19. "Mr. Andrews advised that he contacted members of Operation Stand Down who gave him permission to go into his apartment to gather his things."

Brady told Andrews that a sergeant was responding to the scene, but Andrews alleg-

edly replied, "I'm not talking to any Detectives without a lawyer."

"It should be noted that I made no indication to Mr. Andrews that there would be any formal questioning taking place," Brady wrote. "Mr. Andrews did provide me with a handwritten witness statement detailing the events that transpired."

Following an investigation into the fire's origins, Andrews, 42, of 1010 Hartford Ave. Apt. 4, Johnston, was arrested at 2:45 p.m. on March 21 on an active Johnston Police warrant for arson.

Months later, Andrews was indicted on a charge of first-degree arson, following a decision by the grand jury.

Johnston Police and the Rhode Island Attorney General's office will not comment further on the investigation or pending prosecution.

On Sept. 1, the Providence County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Andrews with one count of first-degree arson, connected to an "alleged act (that) occurred in the town of Johnston sometime on" Feb. 18. The Johnston Police Department conducted the investigation.

Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza referred all comment on the case to Attorney General Peter F. Neronha's Office.

"The AG's department is handling the case and they should comment," Razza said last Thursday. Razza later provided several incident and arrest reports connected to the case.

Andrews is scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 21 in Providence County Superior Court.

"The alleged act occurred sometime on February 18, 2022 at 1010 Hartford Ave., a structure owned by Operation Stand Down," according to Brian Hodge, a spokesman for the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office. "As this is a pending case, there is nothing further we can add at this time."

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MEET & GREET: Supporters and candidates, from left to right, Laura Colannino (NFRW), Ashly Kalus, Stephanie Calise (NFRW), Susi Simpson (JRTC), and Nick Grasso. (Photo courtesy JRTC Committee)

Republican candidates hold Apple Festival meet and greet

Nick Grasso, Republican candidate for House of Representatives, District 43-Johnston, campaigned with Ashley Kalus, candidate for RI Governor, at the Annual Johnston Apple Festival on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Both Grasso and Kalus spent the morning meeting with voters, shaking hands and listening to concerns, according to a press release from the Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC). The main concerns

of voters are the Rhode Island economy, the cost of energy and the over-development of Johnston.

"Clearly the voters of Johnston and Rhode Island are fed up with being over taxed, and ignored by the Democrats on Smith Hill and Town Hall," Grasso said. "The working class cannot afford to pay the freight for every social program dreamt up by the Democrats. People can't afford to pay their energy bills or buy food because of

runaway inflation. I pledge to listen to the concerns of everyone in both my district and all of Johnston. Unlike my opponent, I will never vote for the politically correct solution, I will always vote for the solution that's right for Johnston."

Members of the Johnston Republican Town Committee were joined at Apple Fest by members from the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) - RI Chapter.

'Finest Italian restaurant for four days in the state'

By PETE FONTAINE

Volunteerism at its finest was featured last weekend during the annual Our Lady of Grace Church's annual and more than century old Italian Feast and Festival in Johnston.

Rev. Peter J. Gower, who has been the driving force behind the Roman Catholic Parish's countless super special success stories during his tenure, heaped words of praise upon what he emphasized were the "136-plus valuable volunteers" who made the 102nd four-day extravaganza — that featured the finest food this side of Boston's North End — the biggest and best ever."

"We want to express a deep sense of gratitude for all those who gave of themselves day after day making this all a reality," Father Gower went on. "So many people working in the kitchen for months prior to last weekend and then each and every night working the booths putting out the food."

Make that fantastic food beyond belief!

The 2022 Italian Feast and Festival, which was also highlighted by carnival rides including flying elephants, a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel and many other colorful attractions such as the train that thrilled young and old alike, ranged from mac and cheese balls, sausage and peppers, arancini, tripe, sufritto, veal and mushrooms, steaks, hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta and meatballs, lasagna and man more caloric creations prepared, cooked and served by proud OLG parishioners.

"Our list of food goes on and on," mused Father Gower. "This is all homemade and we truly think that this is the finest Italian restaurant for four days in the state of Rhode Island."

Likewise, one common cry from last Thursday night to early Sunday evening was that the doughboys looked larger — and more golden crown — than they have in recent memory.

"Once you top the doughboys with either powdered or regular sugar, they taste even better," was the chat over and over during the four-day food fest. "It's obvious they use fresh dough every day; this is some kind of extraordinary smorgasbord of foods."

Father Gower then added: "It was a banner year and we are so grateful for all who participated and came out; we could not believe the crowds of people that were present and it's all about celebrating who we are as a parish family at Our Lady of Grace and recognizing our Italian heritage."

After which Father Gower pointed out, "We were very moved by the annual Procession in the streets that was highlighted by the carrying our statute of Madonna Della DiFesa for that tradition."

Father Gower then explained: "This all happens because of leadership, and we want to recognize one person in particular — Joanne Burley — who was the chairperson of this year's event. Throughout the years we have always had co-chairs and Joanne came through as the lone chair. She did so in a shining way to make it all come together for Team OLG, a.k.a. Gower's Gang and resulted in another success story at Our Lady of Grace Church in Johnston."



KITCHEN KREW: Among the many volunteers who helped make last weekend's OLG Italian Festival an overwhelming success, were Sandra Comella, Sherri DiSanto, Joanne Resnick, Missy Defusco, Stacey Cabral, Joanne Resnick, Riley Guenette, Mackenzie Defusco, Elaine Cabral, Stacy Guenette, Joe Micheletti, Dave Vis-cera, Ron, Jeff Mancini, and Renee Rinaldi. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

TASTY TREATS:

This scene was repeated time and again last weekend by people like Tyler Archambault and Di-ana Gorkin who enjoyed the many fine foods under the Big Top during OLG's Italian Festival.



HANGING WITH THE CHEF: Rev. Peter J. Gower joins volunteer chef Joseph Patterson as he takes a tray of lasagna out of a portable oven during last weekend's OLG Italian Festival in Johnston.

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ON VIDEO: The victim's family provided video footage of the alleged assault to a Rhode Island ABC 6 television news reporter. The reporter posted the video on social media. In the video, two children start fighting underneath a basketball hoop. Eventually, as one child gains the advantage, an adult male who was watching the fight, jumps into the brawl and tackles one of the children, falling on the street. The video posted on social media ends immediately after. (Screen shots)

Johnston man charged with child abuse after breaking up fight between kids

Incident captured on video, shows suspect allegedly tackle child during street brawl

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Police have arrested a Johnston man and charged him with child abuse after he broke up a fight between two children and allegedly assaulted one of them.

David A. DelGreco, 35, of Johnston, has been charged with one count of Child Abuse (a felony) and one count of Obstruction of an Officer (a misdemeanor).

DelGreco was arrested and charged after allegedly "assaulting a juvenile boy who was 11 yrs. of age," according to Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza.

"He was released on \$10,000 PR before a JP and his next District Court Kent date is on Oct. 21," Razza wrote via email.

The victim's family provided video footage of the alleged assault to a Rhode Island ABC 6 television news reporter. The reporter posted the video on social media. The reporter also posted a photo of injuries allegedly suffered by the 11-year-old victim.

Johnston Police did not identify the juvenile victim.

In the video, two children start fighting underneath a basketball hoop. Eventually, as one child gains the advantage, an adult male who was watching the fight, jumps into the brawl and tackles one of the children, falling on the street. The video posted on social media ends immediately after.



CHARGED: David A. DelGreco, 35, of Johnston, has been charged with one count of Child Abuse (a felony) and one count of Obstruction of an Officer (a misdemeanor). (Photo courtesy Johnston Police)



BREAKUP OR TAKEDOWN? The suspect appears to watch the fight, until one child gained the advantage. Then he forcefully took down one of the children, onto the street, causing injuries to the boy's face and head.

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

INTENT TO DEFRAUD

At 9:38 a.m., May 25, Johnston Police Patrolman David K. Chen investigated the report of a "motor vehicle not being returned."

Chen spoke to the calling party, a branch manager at a local rental agency. The victim has alleged that Frankelis J. Paulino Vegas, of 99 Julian St., Apt. 1, Providence, rented a white Toyota Corolla with Georgia plates, but failed to return it by April 27 as expected.

The victim told police that the last payment received was on March 21.

The case was forwarded to the Detective Division for further investigation.

At 9 a.m., June 13, Johnston Police Patrolman Arthur Petteruti responded to the agency in reference to the car being returned, after it was entered into the NCIC as stolen.

The caller told police that the vehicle was returned around 3 p.m. on June 10, and that there was "no damage to the vehicle" and "both registration plates were still affixed."

The victim told police they would like to "pursue criminal charges in this matter," and Pau-

lino Vegas had an active Johnston Police Department warrant for Obtaining Vehicles with Intent to Defraud.

Around 4:24 p.m., July 20, Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau responded to the North Smithfield Police Department for the transport of Paulino Vegas, who had been detained in that town.

Paulino Vegas was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed and later released with a Third District Court Summons to appear in court on Aug. 29.

DRIVING WITHOUT LICENSE

Around 1:07 p.m., July 21, while on a fixed post near 1025 Plainfield St., Johnston Police Sgt. Remy Mendez observed a vehicle traveling west on Plainfield Street and the driver was allegedly not wearing a seatbelt.

Mendez initiated a traffic stop and identified the driver as Alex Perez Navedo, of 94 Whittier Ave., Apt. 2, Providence.

"A check on the operator of the vehicle, Alex Perez Navedo, revealed he did not possess an active R.I. driver's license," Mendez

wrote in the arrest report.

Perez Navedo received a Third District Court Notice to Appear in court for Driving Without a License (third or subsequent offense) and a citation for No Seat Belt-Operator. Perez Navedo was released from the scene and the vehicle was driven away by the owner, who did possess an active Rhode Island driver's license.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

At 1:31 a.m., July 20, Johnston Police Patrolman Manuel Perez was on a fixed traffic post at the intersection of Greenville Avenue and George Waterman Road when he observed a red 2009 Toyota Corolla with heavy window tint travelling south on George Waterman.

Perez initiated a traffic stop and identified the driver as William A. Osorio, of 19 Melton St., Apt. 3, of Pawtucket. A check with RILETS revealed Osorio did not possess an active Rhode Island driver's license, according to the arrest report. Osorio was cited for Unlawful Install of Windshield and Window (owner) and issued a Third District Court Summons for Driving with a Suspended License (third offense).

The vehicle was driven away by the owner, who responded to the scene and possessed an active Rhode Island driver's license.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

At 3 p.m., June 22, a victim responded to the Johnston Police Headquarters to report an assault that occurred earlier that day, around 12:30 p.m.

The victim told police that a coworker pulled her hair and struck her in the head with a closed fist approximately 2-3 times following a verbal argument. She told police that she would like to press charges against the coworker.

Police identified the coworker as Linda Cadet, of 103 Gesler St., Apt. E24, Providence. Police issued a warrant for Cadet's arrest on charges of Simple Assault or Battery.

At 1:42 a.m., July 30, Johnston Police responded to the North Providence Police Headquarters to pick up Cadet, who was apprehended and held on the Johnston arrest warrant. She was processed and allowed to make a phone call. She was released from custody around 2:45 a.m. with a Third District Court summons.

LARCENY

Around 5:15 a.m., Aug. 12, Johnston Police Patrolman Edward Gonzalez responded to a Johnston home to investigate the report of a larceny from a motor vehicle.

The victim told police that when he walked outside to his company work vehicle, which was parked in his driveway, he found the rear window smashed and the following items were missing: tool bag containing assorted hand tools; oxy acetylene torch; Pro press zoom lock with attachments; Milwaukee cordless drill, grinder, power band saw and two Milwaukee Sawzall (one cordless and one with a cord); Dewalt pneumatic drill; and an oil pump.

The victim told police that the vehicle was parked in the driveway between 6 p.m., Aug. 11 and 5 a.m., Aug. 12.

Police investigated and arrested a suspect in the case. Police identified the suspect as Arthur A. Hopkins, 183 Camp St., Apt. 3, of Providence. Hopkins was charged with Larceny Over \$1,500. He was presented as a probation and bail violator, and given \$5,000 bail after arraignment, according to the arrest report.

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Who won Johnston's vote?

Congress District 2 (CD2)

Republican Allan W. Fung*	625 (in Johnston)	100.0%
Democrat Seth M. Magaziner*	1965	57.4%
David A. Segal	453	13.2%
Sarah E. Morgenthau	421	12.3%
Joy Fox	338	9.9%
Spencer E. Dickinson	137	4.0%
Omar Bah	108	3.2%

Governor

Republican Ashley Marie Kalus*	556	85.3%
Jonathan J. Riccitelli	96	14.7%

Democrat Daniel J. McKee*	1634	45.1%
Helena Buonanno Foulkes	1040	28.7%
Nellie M. Gorbea	615	17.0%
Matthew A. Brown	222	6.1%
Luis Daniel Munoz	116	3.2%

Lieutenant Governor

Republican Aaron C. Guckian*	408	65.1%
Paul E. Pence	219	34.9%

Democrat Deborah Ruggiero	1596	46.6%
Sabina Matos*	1373	40.1%
Cynthia M. Mendes	456	13.3%

Secretary of State

Republican Pat V. Cortellessa*	581	100.0%
Democrat Gregg Amore*	2167	67.9%
Stephanie E. Beaute	1026	32.1%

Attorney General

Republican Charles C. Calenda*	583	100.0%
Democrat Peter F. Neronha*	2816	100.0%

General Treasurer

Republican James L. Lathrop*	572	100.0%
Democrat James A. Diossa*	1745	52.4%
Stefan I. Pryor	1582	47.6%

Senator District 7

Democrat Frank Anthony Ciccone*	177	64.8%
Arthur C. Flanders, III	96	35.2%

Senator District 25

Democrat Frank Lombardo, III*	1967	59.8%
Christopher B. Maselli	1322	40.2%

Representative District 42

Republican Harold K. Borders Jr.*	194	100.0%
Democrat Edward T. Cardillo Jr.*	506	41.2%
Kelsey Kristine Coletta	425	34.6%
Dennis Cardillo Jr.	296	24.1%

Representative District 43

Republican Nicola Antonio Grasso*	256	100.0%
Democrat Deborah Ann Fellela*	1344	100.0%



SETTING AN EXAMPLE: Kimberly Hopkins cast her vote at the Nicholas A. Ferris Middle School during Tuesday's Primary Election. She brought her children, Kaylee, 10, and Brady, 7, to experience democracy in action. They proudly displayed their "I Voted" stickers after taking their turn at the voting booth. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Representative District 44

Republican Peter Anthony Trementozzi*	47	100.0%
Democrat Gregory J. Costantino*	251	100.0%

Town Council Johnston District 1

Democrat Linda L. Folcarelli*	464	79.6%
Richard A. Parrella	119	20.4%

Town Council Johnston District 2

Democrat Lauren A. Garzone*	374	56.0%
Joseph A. Comella	294	44.0%

Town Council Johnston District 3

Democrat Alfred T. Carnevale*	500	67.6%
Robert N. Simmons Jr.	240	32.4%

School Committee Johnston District 5

Democrat Susan M. Mansolillo*	532	64.1%
Lois A. Mazzulla Marandola	298	35.9%

DEM Senatorial District Committee District 25

Democrat (7 to elect)		
Frank Lombardo, IV*	1761	18.8%
Jennifer A. Russo*	1640	17.5%
Derek R. LaFazia*	1419	15.2%
Anthony D. Pillozzi*	1152	12.3%
John J. Bevilacqua	996	10.6%
Thomas K. Lopardo*	985	10.5%
Raymond J. Arruda	776	8.3%
Mark R. Pietros (DEM)	636	6.8%

DEM State Committeewoman District 42

Democrat Linda L. Folcarelli	692	60.3%
Christen R. Ciarlo*	456	39.7%

* Endorsed Candidate

SOURCE: Vote counts are from Johnston only. Statewide race results will differ. These are unofficial results posted on the Rhode Island Secretary of State website, as of 6 a.m., Sept. 14, with 100 percent of Johnston's precincts reporting.

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How did Rhode Island vote?

Statewide Summary

Congress District 1

Republican
Allen R. Waters* 6907 100.0%

Democrat
David N. Cicilline* 45302 100.0%

Congress District 2

Republican
Allan W. Fung* 11909 100.0%

Democrat
Seth M. Magaziner* 29295 54.0%
David A. Segal 8718 16.1%
Sarah E. Morgenthau 6527 12.0%
Joy Fox 5941 10.9%
Omar Bah 2511 4.6%
Spencer E. Dickinson 1296 2.4%

Governor

Republican
Ashley Marie Kalus* 16947 83.7%
Jonathan J. Riccitelli 3308 16.3%

Democrat
Daniel J. McKee* 36229 32.8%
Helena Buonanno Foulkes 33190 30.1%
Nellie M. Gorbea 28812 26.1%
Matthew A. Brown 8744 7.9%
Luis Daniel Munoz 3422 3.1%

Lieutenant Governor

Republican
Aaron C. Guckian* 13259 67.8%
Paul E. Pence 6291 32.2%

Democrat
Sabina Matos* 49116 47.0%
Deborah Ruggiero 34763 33.2%
Cynthia M. Mendes 20672 19.8%

Secretary of State

Republican
Pat V. Cortellessa* 18064 100.0%

Democrat
Gregg Amore* 63336 64.2%
Stephanie E. Beaute 35308 35.8%

Attorney General

Republican
Charles C. Calenda* 18311 100.0%

Democrat
Peter F. Neronha* 91971 100.0%

General Treasurer

Republican
James L. Lathrop* 18234 100.0%

Democrat
James A. Diossa* 56597 55.5%
Stefan I. Pryor 45417 44.5%

Senator District 7

Democrat
Frank Anthony Ciccone* 1311 66.9%
Arthur C. Flanders, III 650 33.1%

Representative District 42

Republican
Harold K. Borders Jr.* 277 100.0%

Democrat
Edward T. Cardillo Jr.* 628 41.3%
Kelsey Kristine Coletta 546 35.9%
Dennis Cardillo Jr. 346 22.8%

Representative District 44

Republican
Peter Anthony Tremontozzi* 398 100.0%

Democrat
Gregory J. Costantino* 1452 100.0%

State Committeewoman District 42

Democrat
Linda L. Folcarelli 804 56.9%
Christen R. Ciarlo* 610 43.1%

* Endorsed Candidate

Editor's Note: Reporting progress is based on receipt of polling place results. Totals displayed may include Early Voting and Mail Ballot category results. Unofficial results posted on the Rhode Island Secretary of State website, as of 6 a.m., Sept. 14, with 391 of 395 Rhode Island polling places reporting (98%).

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

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On Friday night, **September 16, 2022**, RIDOT will install a lane split on I-95 north after the downtown Providence exit.

The high speed lane will move onto the new bridge. This will be a through lane to I-95 and travelers will not be able to exit at state offices or Route 146.

The other lanes will shift in about two weeks. All lanes will go through to I-95 north. Go to ridot.net/ProvidenceViaduct for news and updates.

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AGING DISGRACEFULLY

Doreen Collins and Charlie Hall's musical, comical look at growing old

Sun. Sept. 25- WHITE'S, Westport 12:30
 Thurs. Sept 29- DANTE'S, East Grmch. Show only.
 Sat. Oct 8- COURTHOUSE CENTER, Kingston
 Tues. Oct 11- CHAPEL GRILLE, Cranston
 Tues. Oct 18- The GEORGE on Washington
 Sun. Oct. 23- SAFEHOUSE, East Grmch. 1pm

Reserve/info at agingdisgracefully.net



Primary

(Continued from page 1)

"While last night wasn't a victory for our campaign, it's clear that the majority of voters in District 42 are seeking change and expect real results from their representative — including expanding affordable child care, investing in mental health care, and ensuring our kids have a true 'right to education,'" Coletta said Wednesday morning. "It was an honor to run and receive so much kind support from my neighbors. Thank you to the hundreds of Johnston and Cranston neighbors I met who opened their doors for me and believed in our vision. And finally, congratulations to Rep. Ed Cardillo. I'll see him at the State House to make sure real work gets done."

Rep. Cardillo's nephew, Dennis Cardillo Jr., earned just 22.8 percent of the tally (346 votes). The two Cardillos have been locked in a battle over residency, which has just been handed back to the Johnston Board of Canvassers.

Rep. Cardillo alleges his nephew does not live in the district, but ran for office using a fake address. Dennis Cardillo Jr. insists he lives in the district and can prove it with copious documentation.

Three times, the Board of Canvassers has denied claims by Rep. Cardillo that his nephew does not live within the district. Last week, the state Board of Elections (BOE) handed the case back to the Board of Canvassers (JBOC) for a full hearing on the complaint. The BOE voted unanimously that the Johnston board erred by not finding Cardillo's complaint met the lowest threshold of evidence required for a hearing on the matter.

The JBOC has not yet scheduled the hearing. Now that Dennis Cardillo Jr. has been eliminated from the race, the future of the residency challenge gets a bit foggy. Rep. Cardillo has said that the claim had little to do with the election, and more to do with an alleged felony act (if his nephew does in fact live outside the district but claimed otherwise on candidacy forms).

Rep. Edward Cardillo will now face Republican Harold K. Borders Jr. in the General Election race for the District 42 Representative seat in November.

Sen. Frank Lombardo III will also likely hold onto his District 25 seat following a Primary win over challenger, former office-holder Christopher B. Maselli.

Lombardo won 59.8 percent of the vote (1,967 votes), compared to Maselli's 40.2 percent (1,322).

"I have been involved in politics for a long time, I am grateful for the over 1,300 people who had faith in me to be their next Senator," Maselli said

Wednesday morning. "I know I had an uphill battle running against a 12-year incumbent. Now that the election is over I look forward to spending time with my family. At this time, I do not know what the future holds. Today, it is back to work at my law practice and I wish Senator Lombardo well in the future."

Lombardo did not respond to requests for comment on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Several town government races were settled Tuesday.

The incumbent won the Primary race for the Johnston Town Council District 1 seat. Democrat Linda L. Folcarelli won 79.6 percent of the vote (464 votes), and challenger Richard A. Parrella received 20.4 percent of the vote (119 votes).

The incumbent also held onto the Johnston Town Council District 2 seat. Democrat Lauren A. Garzone won 56 percent of the vote (374 votes), to Joseph A. Comella's 44 percent share (294 votes).

An opening was created in District 3 on Johnston Town Council when Vice President Joe Polisena Jr. decided not to run for reelection, but instead sparked the race for mayor. Democrat Alfred T. Carnevale won 67.6 percent (500 votes) of the vote in the race to replace Polisena Jr. on Town Council. He beat challenger Robert N. Simmons Jr., who won 32.4 percent of the vote (240 votes).

District 5 School Committee member Democrat Susan M. Mansolillo held onto her seat with 64.1 percent of the vote (532 votes). She faced challenger Lois A. Mazzulla Marandola, who won 35.9 percent of the tally (298 votes).

On Wednesday morn-

ing, the BOE sent out a reminder to candidates that the deadline to request a recount was Wednesday at 4 p.m.

"Candidates seeking a recount must physically deliver a notarized letter to the Board of Elections headquarters," according to the BOE.

While voters cast their ballots Tuesday, state election officials were watching as campaigners encroached on the polling place entries.

Poll workers at the Local 57 Training Facility on Central Avenue said they marked a boundary for campaigners to stay behind, using chalk, but the heavy rains washed the lines away.

Outside the Johnston High School around 1 p.m. a state election worker and a Johnston volunteer held a tape measure 50 feet from the poll entrance, and spray-painted a boundary line for aggressive campaigners.

The town's Board of Canvassers and the state Board of Elections both said they could not provide accurate voter turnout data, town-wide, from Tuesday's election. Unofficial estimates from several town polling places indicated turnout was light in the morning but picked up substantially in the evening.

"Other people in the world can get shot when they go out and vote," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena. "Over here, we have free elections. There are a lot of people working very hard on this election. It's the democratic process."

Polisena said that 550 residents voted early at Town Hall.

Editor's Note: For full unofficial election results, turn to pages 6 & 7.

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PROUD DAD: Frank Lombardo Jr. stood outside the Local 57 Training Facility polling place on Central Avenue, campaigning for his son Sen. Frank Lombardo III, who won the Democratic primary to hold onto his District 25 seat. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Can we learn from the Royals?

Although we are a hyper-local newspaper focused on the day-to-day events occurring in our communities, we would feel remiss to not provide some sort of comment on the historically significant passing of Queen Elizabeth II — who led the British Royal Family for over 70 years and has been widely praised for her steadying presence through some of the most tumultuous decades of the latter 20th and early 21st centuries.

Although we, as Americans, are not likely to understand the exact perspective of Brits who have lived under Queen Elizabeth's reign, this does not mean we are incapable of understanding the importance of having figureheads who rise above the minutiae of divisive politics and provide a sort of calming, neutral force that can be so important for a nation's continued perseverance.

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

For this, the Queen should be honored. Despite the obvious difficulty of separating politics from a position

of at least perceived power, she managed to do so, except for a few rare occasions, such as her disapproval of apartheid in South Africa. The potential for such a figurehead to become disruptive to the political process as a whole through their popular influence is one that cannot be understated, and it is difficult to imagine such a figurehead could exist in today's politically charged climate without trying to exercise that power for their own benefit or agenda.

However, there is always another side. The Queen, and the Royal Family as a whole, represent something else far less easy to honor, but equally important to recognize — the troubling history and implications of colonial monarchy. For this, critics of Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family are justified in their contrarian views of her legacy.

Colonial Britain oversaw a vast empire, subjugating millions of people to their rules and customs, and in some cases perpetrating horrible acts against them. While in some cases, such as the colonization of Kenya, the British authorities have admitted fault and paid reparations to survivors, they have kept mum on countless other instances where their desires for expansion of territory and influence have left shockwaves of shattered lives and cultures in their wake.

None of this is the direct fault of Queen Elizabeth, mind you, but she remains inextricably linked to that tradition and shameful history all the same, and it should not be swept under the rug in the wake of her passing.

Perhaps the best way to understand and process the death of England's longstanding monarch is to view it with healthy perspective — to simultaneously honor the woman who, by all accounts was a loving, empathetic person that could relate to anybody and make them feel cared for, and rebuke the outdated, destructive force of colonialism that she represented.

Perhaps we can move forward understanding that even from a broken system, good leaders and people can emerge. Let us remember the good, and the bad, in order to forge ahead and create a better world.



LETTERS

Let's all pay payable utility bills

Must your electric bill go up this winter an extra \$50/month?

Or will our PUC (Public Utilities Commission) stop punishing some of us for being poor, and stop protecting RI Energy's near-10% profit?

Let's look for a minute at the big picture: PUBLIC UTILITIES — what a great idea!

Legally guarantee one company a monopoly — and a reasonable profit — in exchange for its reliably supplying a service (such as water or gas or electricity) that's essential to everyone in a certain geographic area. That's why almost everyone in RI gets electricity if not gas from what is now known as RI Energy. (They bought out National Grid.) We can't switch to another supplier.

Yes, prices are now inflated but does that monopoly need a 50% rate hike?

No, because our PUC has gradually near-doubled its profit margin to over 10 percent. (How much interest does your investment or your savings account pay?) Why, moreover, just hold our breath awaiting this huge rate hike's social tsunami?

This 50% rate-hike request offers RI the perfect opportunity to replace our current impracticable-because-unpayable system of a few meager rate reductions, winter moratoriums, and shutoffs. Now more than ever, our PUC needs to enact PIPP: the Percentage of Income Payment Plan.

How well I remember one lady's response when I explained to her that she'd be expected to pay each month a reasonable percentage, say 10%, of her then-\$600/month income: "I could PAY that! I could budget it!"

And I can pay it too. For less than the price of a cup of coffee each month, I'll gladly enable human dignity in Rhode Island.

Our PUC is holding a public hearing in Warwick this Friday at 9 a.m. at 87 Jefferson Blvd. Your voice matters: by email now (PUC/PublicComments@PUC.ri.gov), or by zoom or in person.

And what a great time it is to serve on RI's Public Utilities Commission!

Marie Hennedy
East Greenwich

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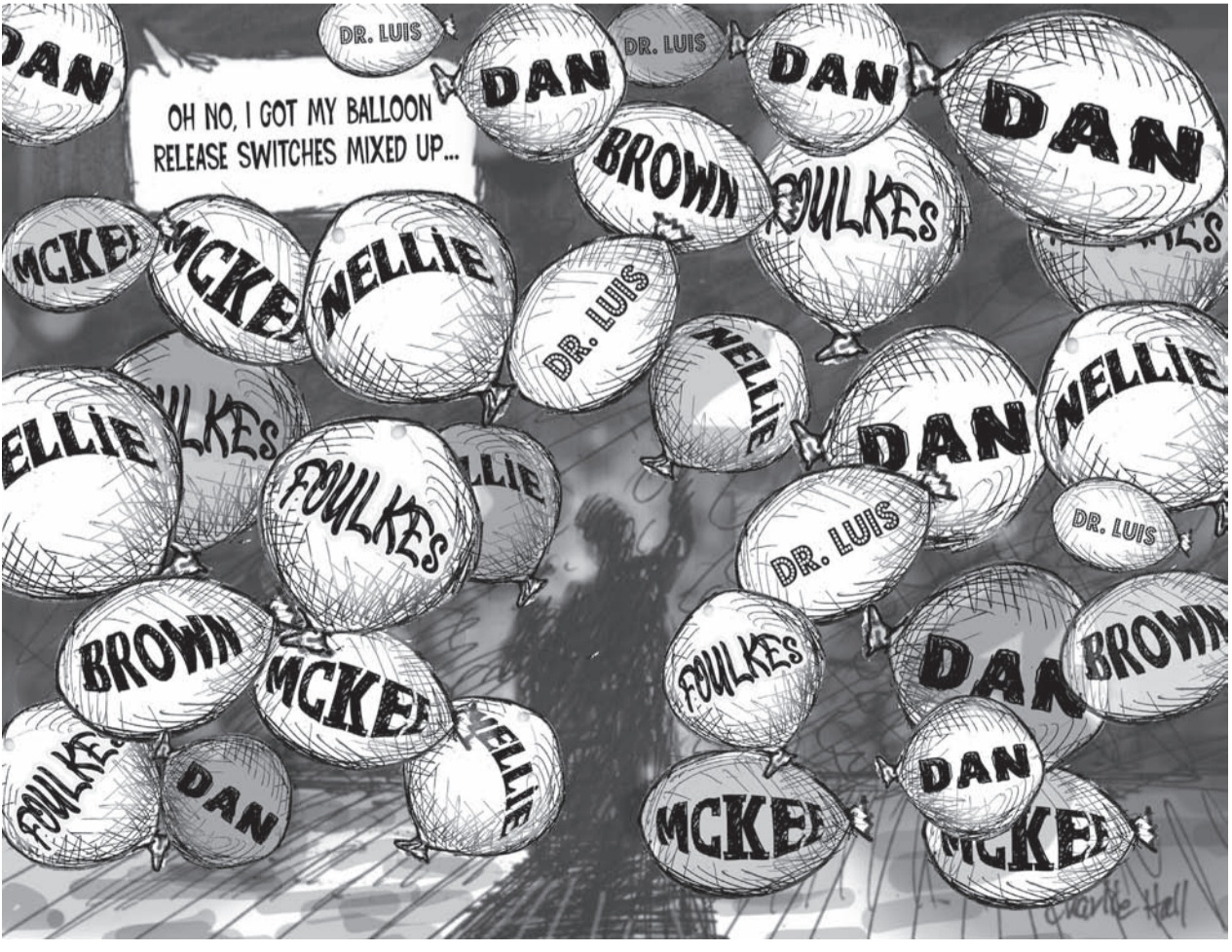
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Mazzulla

(Continued from page 1)

deserving dedication two years ago.”
 However, Saturday’s ceremony had just as much significance — and perhaps even more — because of what the late Mazzulla’s one and only agenda was, as Polisena wanted it known “to take care of his family and take care of the children who wanted to play sports.”

“A child’s ability did not matter to Danny,” said Polisena, “It was all about the children having fun and learning the respect of the sport they were participating in and respecting all the players regardless of their ability.”

Polisena, who also served as the day’s emcee, added: “This is truly well-deserved dedication for a man who was loved by all — even the referees!”

That’s why, as Polisena offered: “When I had vision of building this facility, Danny was he first person I approached because he was my recreation director and I remember how his face lit up; he was ecstatic.”

Enter Joseph Polisena Jr., the mayor’s son/Town Council Vice President, who Danny’s sister Lois Mazzulla-Marandola thanked “for his unselfish action and having the vision for naming this incredible building in honor my brother (Danny). So on behalf of my entire family, I thank him for this coveted honor.”

“Sports ... the greatest meritocracy of our time. It doesn’t matter where you come from, who you know or what you believe in ... if you have talent and work to Harness that talent you’ll succeed. Danny knew that better than anyone. Look at his children (Joey and Justin just to name a few) and the success they have achieved. And it’s not just his children its thousands of children many of us now adults with children of our own.”

He then added: “I thought dedicating this building in Dann’s name was one of the best ways we could honor and remember him; to show our appreciation for everything he’s done for us. But the truth is, Danny doesn’t need a building named after him for his true legacy to endure. More important, his legacy will endure through his children and the thousands of other children he’s impacted by teaching us we must push ourselves to our limit.”

Those sentiments and other accolades were among the many that special speakers such as Gov. Dan McKee, U.S. Sena-

tors Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, Attorney General Peter Neronha, Treasurer Seth Magaziner and others offered about a man, who as the mayor said, “his proudest accomplishment was being a father and grandfather. I am a firm believer in God; I know Danny is in heaven looking down at us, organizing games just as he did during an extraordinary life of caring and love for people of all ages, regardless of their talents.”

“This is a historic day in Johnston,” said Town Council President Robert V. Russo. “Danny was a lifelong resident of Johnston who I had the privilege of working with over 25 years. He was a fellow alum of JHS and Bryant University (and) I also had the opportunity to watch him take command of the basketball court.”

“For decades Dan and his father were a major force behind Johnston Youth Sports and, like his father, Danny was a no-nonsense guy. They were intense leaders. Following in his father’s footsteps and working under the guidance of former rec director Vin LaFazia he took the reins and always managed to do more.”

Now, Dan has his own sports complex where he can watch down on Johnston Youth Sports as they learn the fundamentals and fulfill their sports dreams.

Meanwhile, District 5 Councilman Robert J. Civetti, who has been a valued volunteer youth sports coach for upwards of four decades, offered: “It is hard to believe that Dan Mazzulla Jr. has already been gone over two years. He was an asset to the town and great mentor/coach to many children. I think that Dan’s son Joseph said I best: Dan was someone who always looked to help others, especially the children and young athletes in town.”

Civetti, who enjoys one of the longest careers in Johnson Little League history, added: “I had the pleasure of working with Dan directly through my many years of volunteering; there is no doubt that Dan was here for the kids and not personal accolades. It is a terrific honor to rename this building in his honor for all he did for the children and residents of Johnston.”

He paused for a moment, his voice filled with emotion then added: “My only regret is that Dan was not able to retire as he planned, and we were not able to recognize him for his dedication and commitment prior to his passing. May Coach Dan be looking down from heaven and smiling upon us all, Rest in Peace Coach!”



FIRST FAMILY: This is the large and proud family of the late Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr., namesake of Johnston's indoor recreation center. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



SPECIAL SPEAKERS: Several special speakers and elected officials praised the late Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr. for his many outstanding contributions to youth sports in Rhode Island last Saturday.



FAMILY FIRST: The late Daniel E. Mazzulla was proud of his children — Justin, Gianna and Joey — who are carrying out his legacy in the world of sports.

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 29th, 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 September 29th, 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 2022-16 – Petition of John Rosa, Owner/Applicant for 98 Greenville Ave, AP 16 Lot 353, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a use variance for Commercial Storage of Vehicles- Dump Truck and Pickup Trucks.

File 2022-17 – Petition of Pamela and Kevin Sampson, Owner/Applicant for 1311 Central Pike, AP 43 Lot 670, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance of section 340-25C for construction of a detached garage and cold storage.

File 2022-18 – Petition of Lamar Advertising Company, Applicant for 1232 Hartford Avenue, AP 20 Lot 299, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a use variance section 340-42A for modification for an existing billboard with electronic/digital advertising panel.

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

9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29/22

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday October 4th, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
 Johnston Senior Center
 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

PB 22- 48 The Johnston Comprehensive Plan – Presentation and discussion by/with Weston & Sampson, plan consultant.

NOTE: The discussion of the Comprehensive Plan will last until 7:00 PM. The Planning Commission will begin hearing applications at that time.

PB 17-48 – Reinstatement of Belfield Acres. Applicant is seeking authorization to record the final plan which should have been recorded by January 31st, 2020.

PB 20-44 – 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- 53 – Bella Woods Court – Request for acceptance of improvements and release of bond.

PB 22-52 – Reyes Subdivision – Public Meeting on a Final Plan for a proposed 2-lot Minor Subdivision. Located at 138 Scituate Avenue AP 25 Lot 4. Zoned R-20. Applicant: Willy Reyes.

PB 22-49 – Town Hall Plaza – Minor Land Development and Unified Development Review. Public Hearing of the proposed redevelopment of the existing plaza and the request for a Special Use Permit for a Drive Thru use. A.P. 20 Lots 77 and a portion of 209. 1515 Atwood Avenue.

PB 22-54 – Coastal1 Credit Union – Minor Land Development and Unified Development Review. Public Hearing of the proposed redevelopment of the existing plaza and the request for a Special Use Permit for a Drive Thru use. A.P. 22 Lots 54 and a portion of 209. 1515 Atwood Avenue.

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.

9/15, 9/22, 9/29/22

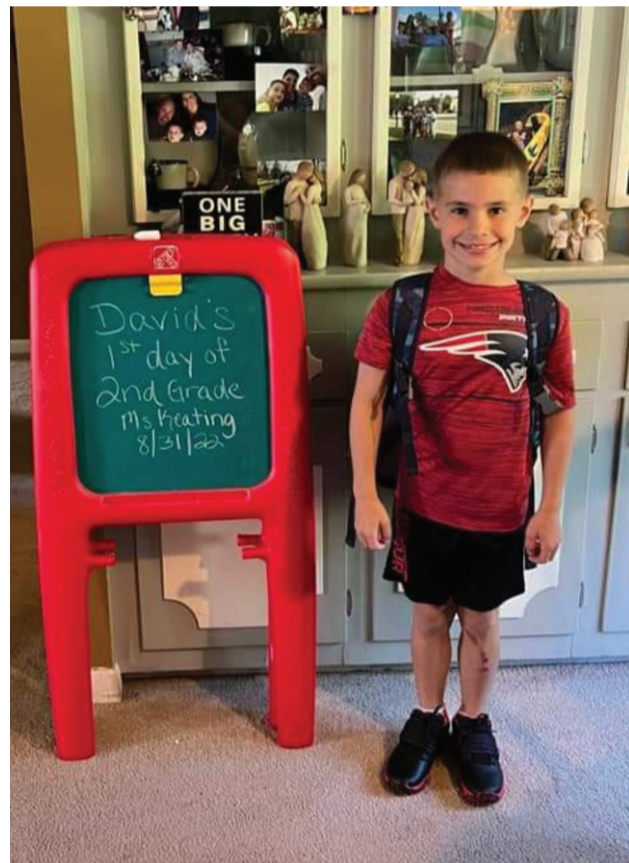
Johnston Goes Back to School



Emelyn Coggins, Fifth Grade, Winsor Hill Elementary

Stella, Pre-K, and Anthony Pezzillo, First Grade

Gianna Brodeur, 12th Grade, JHS Class of 2023



Lucas Anderson, 10th Grade

Alexzander Junior, Second Grade

David Fontaine, Second Grade, Winsor Hill



Brothers Ryder, Fifth Grade, and Brody, Second Grade, Winsor Hill Elementary

Daneshia Hicks, Third Grade, Thorton Elementary

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Ariana Barboza, Sixth Grade



Mason Poole, Fifth Grade, Brown Avenue Elementary

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again, the Johnston Sun Rise asked, and our readers answered loudly. We urged parents to post their youngsters' first day of school photographs on our Facebook page, and more than 50 responded. We have a deep well of photos to publish, so check our pages for the next few weeks. We'll do our best to run each and every one, but it will take several editions. If you missed our online appeal, please feel free to email your photos to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler, rorys@rhodybeat.com. Don't forget a caption (please include your child's full name and grade).

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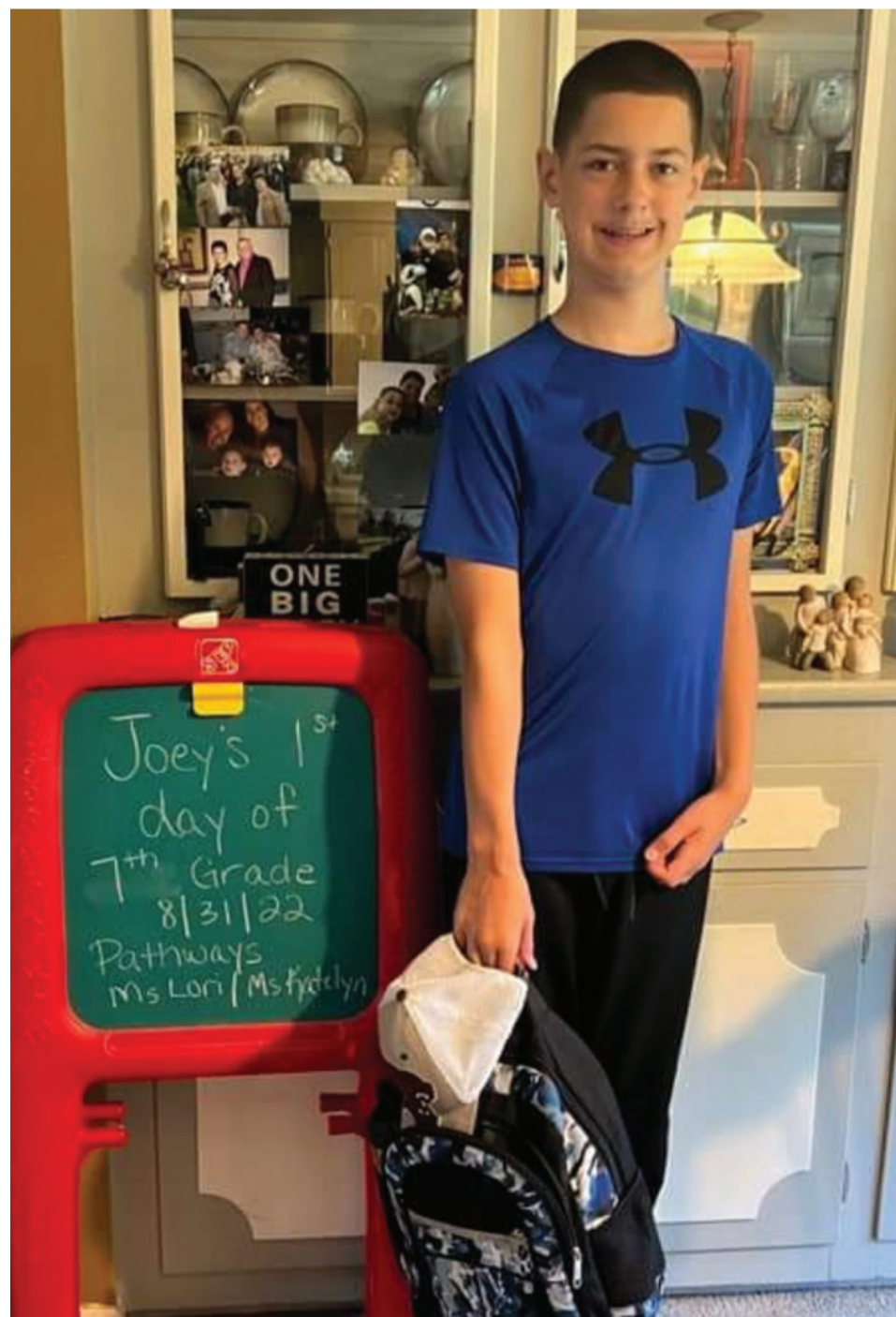
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Joey Fontaine, ready for Seventh Grade at Pathways



Aidan Cross, Eighth Grade, Ferri Middle School





Noah, Fifth Grade, Liam, Pre-K, and Lucas, Third Grade



Gavin Poole, Second Grade, Brown Avenue Elementary

Special Guests
Ashley Kalus and Allan Fung

A Dinner with Friends

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Our Annual Event

Come & join the **Johnston Republican Town Committee** to meet and chat with our Johnston candidates as well as our special guest speakers . . .

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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

A	N	S				C	A	M	P											
D	A	H	S			P	A	R	E	U										
S	U	R	A			B	A	D	M	A	N									
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42																	43

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Autonomic nervous system
 - Kids love it in summer
 - Dashes
 - Polynesian sarong
 - Chapter of the Koran
 - Evildoer
 - Japanese commercial city
 - A way of binding
 - Early Christianity French historian
 - Kids' term for bugs
 - Beloved family holiday activity
 - Work unit
 - Bundle
 - A number or amount not specified
 - Military official (abbr.)
 - Queens ballplayer
 - Type of gibbon
 - Norma Jean's stage name

- CLUES DOWN**
- Accumulate on the surface of
 - Not a good feeling
 - Got smaller
 - Helped a golfer get around
 - Military forces
 - Partner to ways
 - Low, one-horse sleigh

- Places
- Bluish greens
- Argued publicly
- Having the shape of a cube
- They star at weddings
- Indian god associated with reproduction
- Ocean sunfishes
- Slowly leak through
- Plant part
- Midway between south and southeast
- Japanese seaport
- Inclined to favor
- Avid reader
- Lead singer of Heart
- Pigeon sound
- Vital part
- People who are not Jewish
- Shed tears
- Pokes holes in the ground
- Beverage receptacle
- Stone used to surface roads
- French-Belgian river
- Type of phone
- Long-lasting light bulb
- Type of medication (abbr.)
- German city
- Animal disease
- They're in martinis
- Get away from
- Dormouse
- Database management system



Gabriella, Third Grade, Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary



Second-Grader Ashton and Leah Laput, Third Grade, Winsor Hill Elementary

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Olivia Motta, Fourth Grade, Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary



BUS STOP CREW: Andrew Coelho, Third Grade, Lucas Buscemi, Third Grade, Cole Buscemi, First Grade, Torrin Kalnietis, Fifth Grade, Shane Esposito, Third Grade, Lachlan Kalnietis, First Grade, gather at the bus stop heading to Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary. (Submitted photos)

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Checklist for Retirement PART I



Jeffrey H. Massey
Certified Financial Planner™
Massey and Associates, Inc.

As I have mentioned on my weekly radio show, I like checklists! Especially if I am working on a project at home, and I must run to the hardware store to pick up some items needed for the project.

Checklists are often good reminders for us all and a retirement checklist may help you stay on track and achieve your retirement goals. Why not be prepared as best you can for your retirement? After all, it's a pretty important time of your life! One that you've worked so hard, for so many years to achieve – so why not plan for it and make your retirement one to enjoy?

Sometimes life gets busy and retirement planning might not start as early as it could or should have. It's never too late to get started, so let's look at a quick retirement planning checklist to help you along the way.

Lifestyle Expenses: We believe that one of the best ways to plan for retirement is to start by determining your current lifestyle expense.

A simple way to do this is to look at your current monthly lifestyle expenses and, depending on how many years you are from retirement, making adjustments and estimating how they may change in retirement. For example, will your house be paid off when you retire so your expenses will no longer include a mortgage payment for principal and interest? Have you factored expenses for future inflation, especially given today's high inflation rate?

We offer a one-page Income Gap Assessment worksheet that can help you determine your annual lifestyle expense. Simply go to your monthly checking account statement and record on the Income Gap Assessment worksheet the total dollar amount that left your checking account for each month.

It is important to do a 12-month cycle to ensure capturing any annual expenses. Also, you should deduct any "one-time" expenses, and we encourage clients to include annual travel/vacation amounts to help budget for an enjoyable retirement. Most of our clients tell us this takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

Determine how to take advantage of

the many ways to save for retirement: There are many retirement savings vehicles to choose from to save for retirement. There are workplace retirement savings programs such as 403bs (for non-profits), 457s (for state or municipal employees), and 401K's (for public and private companies). One of the cornerstones of retirement planning is determining how much money to save and where to save it. Workplace retirement plans, such as those listed above, allow elective deferral amounts for the 2022 tax year of \$20,500, if you are under age 50 and \$27,000 if you are age 50 or over.

If you or your spouse don't have a workplace retirement plan, you may open an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) for each of you (even if only one is working) depending on income amounts and tax filing status.

IRA contribution limits for 2022 are \$6,000 if you are under age 50 and \$7,000 if you are age 50 and over.

Another very important item in your retirement planning is your healthcare coverage.

Determine and evaluate your options for healthcare including individual and family needs, level of care you can afford and where it will come from. Will your employer provide health insurance during your retire-

ment years? Do you have Tri-care for military retirees or the Veteran Administration Medical Center, or will you go onto Medicare with an Advantage or supplemental plan?

Oftentimes, having to wait until age 65 when Medicare health insurance benefits are available is one of the more important determining factors as to when to retire. To help alleviate this crunch, it may be very helpful to fund Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) (if available) over the preceding years before retirement to help bridge the health insurance gap until Medicare eligibility at age 65. HSA individual coverage contribution limits are \$3,650 and family coverage contribution limits are \$7,300 for 2022. Also, there is a \$1,000 "catch up" if you are over age 55. There are specific requirements for eligibility for a Health Savings Account, so check with your employer's human resources department for the details.

Stay tuned next month for Part II of the Checklist for Retirement! Planning for your retirement is very important, so consider working with a professional advisor, preferably a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional. You can find a local CFP® by going to www.cfp.net and click on the "find a CFP® professional" button in the upper right corner.

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

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How to be a smart credit consumer

METRO

Financial planning encompasses a host of strategies designed to help people enjoy the fruits of their labors. Financial planning is often associated with saving for retirement. However, smart credit management is an integral component of financial planning that can begin paying dividends long before adults are ready to retire.

Capital One notes that the benefits of a good credit score include lower credit card and mortgage interest rates, which can save individuals tens of thousands of dollars over the life of their home loans. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission reports that the better an individual's credit history, the easier it is for that person to establish utility services, including electricity and internet service.

With so much to gain, individuals should do everything they can to be smart credit consumers. These strategies can help consumers use credit to their advantage as they look to gain from this vital component of financial planning.

• **Recognize the factors that affect your score.** A credit score is generated using a formula that takes various factors into consideration. These factors include payment history, credit utilization rate, length of credit history, and credit inquiries, among others. Each variable is important, but paying balances in full and on time each month is a great way to build a strong financial reputation in the eyes of creditors. In addition, avoid overutilization of credit, especially if you can't pay balances in full each month.

• **Check credit before looking for a job.** One easily overlooked benefit of being a smart credit consumer is its impact on individuals' ability to find a good job. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau urges individuals to check their credit reports before they begin looking for a job so they can correct any mistakes that may be on their reports. That's because some employers look at applicants' credit reports as part of their background checks. Smart credit consumers recognize that monitoring their credit is just as important as utilizing it wisely. Consumers can access reports from each of the three main credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) for free once every 12 months.

• **Don't wing it.** Much like successful retirement planning is often the culmination of decades of hard work, strategizing and saving, becoming a smart credit consumer involves commitment to a well-developed plan to utilize credit. Impulsive use of credit can quickly compromise individuals' credit histories and financial reputations, so develop a plan to use credit wisely and stick to that plan. A successful credit utilization strategy should be rooted in paying bills on time, and ideally in full, each month to avoid potentially costly interest charges. Identify any bad credit utilization habits and do your best to eliminate them. If necessary, work with a financial planner to develop your credit utilization strategy.

Various strategies can help individuals become smart credit consumers and reap the rewards that a strong financial reputation has to offer. TF223795

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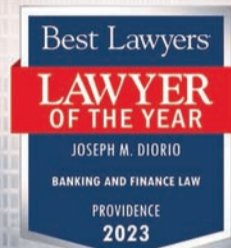
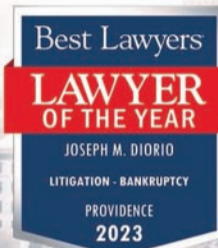
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Sports



DROPPING BACK: Johnston's Neri Vasquez drops back to pass. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



ALONG THE SIDELINE: Johnston's Caleb Guimaraes takes the ball up the sideline.

Panthers looking for first win

The Johnston boys soccer team fell in its home opener 4-3 to visiting Mt. Pleasant last week. Senior Dylan Robbins led the way for Johnston, scoring two penalty kick goals while Marlon Soto added another. The Panthers fell to Middletown 10-0 the following game to fall to 0-2 to start the season. For more photos, check out page 20. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



CLEAR THE ZONE: Johnston's Jacob Muller boots the ball out of the zone.

Lions roll past Panthers in opener

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston football team dropped its season opener in a 40-14 decision to the host Lincoln Lions last Friday night.

Johnston trailed 7-0 early but would see quarterback Neri Vasquez connect with Dylan Martins for a deep touchdown pass with 29 seconds left in the second to

take an 8-7 lead at the halftime break. Steven Finegan would score on the 2-point conversion.

It would be all Lincoln in the second half as the Lions put up 14 points in the third quarter followed by 19 more in the fourth. The Lincoln rushing attack caused fits for the Johnston defense throughout the second half which led to the lopsided defeat down the stretch.

OPENER - PAGE 21



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Initial thoughts after first week

We are through the first week of the fall sports season, and although that is not nearly enough time to truly gauge where our teams are at, it at least give us a brief glimpse and I am always excited to evaluate from the sidelines.

Here are some of the takeaways that I have gathered through a week of action:

For football, a few of our teams have a few things to figure out.

Pilgrim got beat 47-0 by East Providence in its non-league season opener. The Pats were playing up a division on the road, so a loss was not shocking, but 47-0 does indicate that there are a few things that need to be settled.

From watching on the sidelines, it seemed like Pilgrim was on the right track but would get in its way when the drive was at the make-or-break point. Quarterback Chace Roberts looked the part as he did in his moments of play last season as a backup. He has a good arm, is athletic, can make accurate throws all around the field. There were times where he and the team was rolling along and slinging it, but then, something would happen. A sack, a miscommunication, a missed opportunity.

Pilgrim had a lot of turnover this season and we are seeing the Pats working through some early season woes. Again, there were some things to like despite the 47-point loss, but Pilgrim needs to find its footing.

Similarly, very similarly in fact, Johnston fell to Lincoln 40-14 and is rebuilding. The Panthers defense had a strong first half and shut down the Lions, they looked to be in midseason form.

The offense struggled all night, but had a glimpse of hope when quarterback Neri Vasquez threw a gorgeous touchdown in the second quarter to give the Panthers the halftime lead.

But that all changed in the second half when Lincoln committed to rushing the ball and scored at will, all while the Johnston offense could not move the chains. It was totally shut down for the final 24 minutes of action.

The Panthers graduated their quarterback and top wide receiver from last season. The defense showed enough in the first half to feel OK about, but the offense needs to find answers.

As I write this, I realize that it is becoming a theme that a few of our teams are having issues offensively,

My pitch



by
ALEX SPENSSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

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because the Cranston East football team also struggled against Coventry in its opener. The final score was 38-12, but the Bolts did not score their points on offense.

The East offense is a bit more experienced than the previous teams mentioned. It has largely the same core as last season and when you watch them compete, the athleticism and speed is apparent. The Bolts should be able to put up some points.

On the flipside, despite the points scored, the Bolts made some plays on defense with Naz Milien's pick-six and the team also returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

Overall, if you have talent as East does, you will find ways to compete. It was the first game of the season against a very good Coventry team, so it's not time to hit the panic button or to think that East has insurmountable issues. The splash plays that were made are a great sign, but once again, the offense needs to spread its wings because there is so much skill on that side of the ball.

The Pilgrim girls soccer team beat La Salle 3-1 in the opener, and just like that, it is back on top for another season.

It really is impressive how deep and talented this program is perennially. For a public school team, it is almost unheard of, there are maybe one of two other teams that are on that level.

Pilgrim graduated its star goalie and its top two offensive weapons from last season. Doesn't matter, there is a new crop of girls that is clearly ready to pick up right where they left off.

We knew that this team would be competitive and a contender, but to beat La Salle on the road by two goals? Impressive.

One thing that a number of Warwick residents have spoken to me about since I have been to Rhode Island is the lack of youth sports programs avail-

able within the city. There are the obvious ones like baseball, football and soccer. And wouldn't you know, those are the teams that are successful most years in the city. Look at the Pilgrim and Toll Gate girls soccer teams ... some of the best public school programs in the state and of course, most of the girls come from Warwick Firefighters. Just something to think about.

I also covered the Pilgrim-Toll Gate field hockey team and my biggest takeaway was that Pilgrim appears to be back after going 6-9 last season.

Toll Gate is young and rebuilding, so a 3-0 win for the Pats doesn't all of a sudden move the needle to championship-level, but the team did seem to play with poise and confidence that it did not have last year.

Not that 6-9 is bad by any means, but for Pilgrim's standards, it's a down year. Elizabeth Cavanagh returns with a few other strong assets. I think we

are about to see a nice bounce back year for the Pats.

Speaking of bounce back years, it seems like through two games that the Cranston East boys soccer team is back to being a contender.

Last season, the team saw five of its starters injured at once and the team was essentially a .500 club and limped into the playoffs where it was eliminated early.

This year, although there was some turnover, the team is healthy and confident and won its first two games by a combined score of 4-1.

I covered a late season game of theirs against West Warwick last year and it was not pretty. It was a close game, but the Bolts were in their own head, lacked composure, and saw the game slip away late. Well, they just beat West Warwick 1-0 to improve to 2-0. That's a good sign.

RIC gets first win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sophomore goalkeeper Wesley Perrotto (Pembroke, Mass.) registered his first career win as the Rhode Island College men's soccer team downed Nichols, 3-1, at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

The Bison scored first in the 19th minute when freshman forward Brady Stevenson (Middletown, Conn.) and senior midfielder Nikolas Padilla (Worcester, Mass.) peppered the net with a flurry of shots.

Stevenson took a shot that was saved by RIC junior goalkeeper Jake Reed (Cumberland). Padilla then rebounded a follow-up shot that had hit off of the crossbar and Stevenson was home to knock the ball in and give the visitors a 1-0 advantage.

RIC would even the game eight minutes later when sophomore midfielder Anthony Recinos (Providence) lined up for a penalty kick after a foul in the box and beat Nichols' sophomore goalkeeper Franco Barreto Santana (Leominster, Mass.) in the 27th minute.

Just before the first half concluded, the Anchormen set up for yet another penalty kick after an additional foul in the box. Senior forward Edward Pereira (Warwick) converted the attempt for his first career goal.

RIC would take that lead into the second half. RIC led in shots (10-9) after 45 minutes.

The Anchormen weren't done scoring, however, as they netted their third goal in the 71st minute off of a free kick by sophomore midfielder Jesus Guarcas (Providence).

Recinos, Pereira and Guarcas each scored their first goals of the season.

Perrotto came in for Reed in the 27th minute with the score tied and earned the win (1-0). He made six saves, while Reed made five before he exited.

Barreto Santana made two saves and took the loss (1-1). Freshman goalkeeper Derek Axon (Foxboro, Mass.) played the second half and made five saves.

The win marked the first collegiate win for RIC Head Coach Kyle Froberg.

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THROUGH TRAFFIC: Dylan Robbins works his way past defenders.



FOOTWORK: Johnston's Mark Brouwer

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UP THE FIELD: Johnston's Marlon Soto.

Opener

(Continued from page 18)

"They made some adjustments that exposed us. We were trying to make some adjustments on the fly but they just weren't working. We were pulling guys off, trying to explain things, sometimes a timeout just isn't enough. You need to be able to adjust on the fly and we struggled with everything we had," said Johnston head coach Joe Acciaro.

Dean Paris recovered a fumble and returned it for a touchdown with 1:29 remaining in the fourth quarter to get the Panthers back on the board.

The Panthers graduated a large core of upperclassmen over the offseason and are still looking to settle their roster with newcomers. Acciaro felt that the team's youth made it tough to overcome some adversity in the loss.

"(Lincoln has) a good line, a good team. When they found something that was working, we couldn't find the right adjustment and get back on track. We tried to move some guys around, send some blitzes from different areas, but it came to a point where they figured it out and we were playing cat and mouse but we were the mouse," said Acciaro. "We're young and we need to be able to overcome adversity a little bit better. We ran into a tough line and they exposed our inexperience. It's a tough sport. When the going got rough, we backed off a little bit. We'll learn from it."

The Panthers fell to 0-1 on the season and will be taking on Rogers in a non-league matchup this Friday night.



SCRAMBLE: Johnston's Matthew Clements looks to pass the ball.

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'The shark kept trying to get under the boat'

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"We were fishing southeast of Newport in sight of land and picking up some nice cod, fluke and sea bass in about ninety feet of water," said Greg Vespe, executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA). So when his crew said, "let's try catching another shark," Vespe said, "easier said than done."

Vespe had caught his first thresher shark seven days ago, they were within 100 yards of that location, right at a water temperature break, in the 19' center console he custom built three years ago.

Vespe and his crew, all RISAA members, Todd Corayer, Phil Duckett Jr. and Dave Dube were using a scored frigate mackerel for bait that they caught earlier in the day.

"Within 40 minutes the fish hit and it stayed down. Down for two hours so we really didn't know what it was? It kept trying to get under the boat. Dave Dube was at the helm and he did a good job keeping it away," said Vespe. "That left me, Todd and Phil to take turns on the reel, in 30-minute intervals."

The fish came up and all were surprised. It was another thresher and measured eleven feet and four inches and weighed about 325 pounds. Vespe said, "We were using a 16/0 circle hook, with three feet of wire and a 12' 400 mono leader."

Recreational fishermen must have an Atlantic HMS permit to harvest Atlantic common thresher sharks in federal waters. NOAA's website says, "U.S. wild-caught Atlantic common thresher shark is a smart seafood choice because it is sustainably managed and responsibly harvested under U.S. regulations."

And, according to Vespe, "Thresher are delicious and taste very much like swordfish. Needless to say our families will be eating well for a while."

Congratulations Greg and crew, this was a very nice fish.

International Fly Fishing Film Festival screening

The Rhode Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited will host a screening of the 2022 International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4™) on Friday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. at the Varnum Amory, 6 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI.

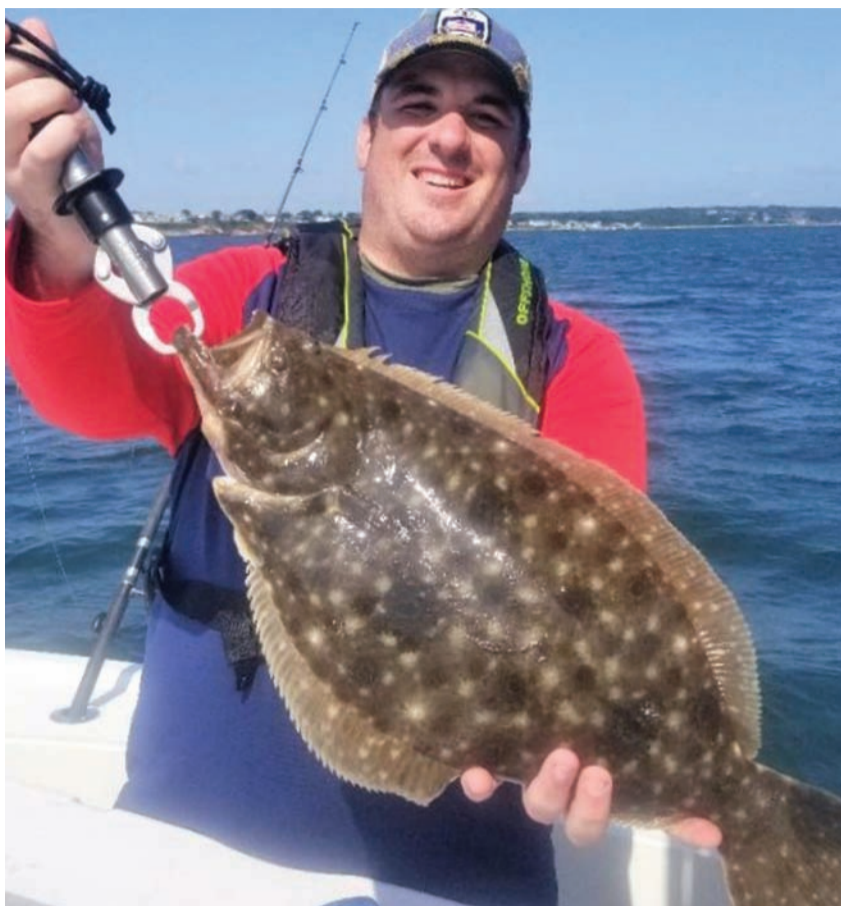
IF4™ consists of eight short and feature length films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing.

Doors open at 6 p.m. so you can tour the Varnum Amory which houses the largest collection of Rhode Island military history on display in the world spanning from the Revolutionary War through to the present day.

Fly-Fishing Film Festival screening starts at 7 p.m. Food and cash bar available. Tickets \$20.00, purchase at <https://secure.etransfer.com/RICU/FlyFishingFilmFest>.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Bluefish continue to be caught in our Bays, estuaries and along the coastal shore. We found bluefish on the surface in the West Passage of Narragansett Bay most of the



BIG FLUKE: Jake Howard of Minnesota with his first ever summer flounder, a 22-inch fluke caught at Austin Hollow, Jamestown, drifting down the bank in 65 feet of water. (Submitted photo)

week when transiting the area.

Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "Top water lures worked well out in front of Newport last week where I caught a 53-pound striped bass."

Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, RI, said, "Large bass to 30 pounds are now in the Providence River all the way up to the Hurricane Barrier with large bluefish popping up everywhere. Snapper blues are in most coves and harbors."

"The bass bite exploded this weekend in the Providence River. One customer caught seventeen striped bass, two were slot fish (28 to <35 inches) and two above the slot size. The bite was good at Sabin Point, Kettle Point and at Barrington Beach," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside.

Declan Thomas O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown said, "The salt pond and Breachway continuing to produce some nice sized fish. Surfcasters have been doing well on Yo-Zuri Mag-Darters and Super Strike Bullets. Fishing live eels in the pond has been producing bass up to around 15 pounds."

Fluke, black sea bass and scup. Summer flounder bite continues to be OK with keeper fish being caught in the lower Bay, out in front from Pt. Judith to Watch Hill and in the Block Island Wind Farm area. Scup fishing continues to be good particularly in areas with structure and water movement i.e. ledges, bridge abutments, jetties, etc.

Fluke fishing was a slow pick in the lower Bay south of the bridges but Friday angler Jake Howard of Minnesota caught a 22-inch fluke drifting down the edge at Austin Hollow, Jamestown. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box said, "Customers are catching fluke to 22 inches at Conimicut Light with a strong scup bite too."

John Litchfield of Archie's Bait said, "The scup bite remains very strong along the East Providence and Barrington shoreline."

Tautog fishing is starting to

come alive as anglers begin targeting them. The water is still very warm but anglers are hooking up with some nice keepers off Newport and in the lower Bay. "Those who have been targeting tautog are doing well with fish in relatively shallow water right now," said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

False albacore and tuna. School and giant bluefin tuna have been close to shore. Tuna fishing expert Richard Pastore said, "I fished the giant bite off Scarborough Beach Sunday in 100 feet of water. Set up north of fleet and live lined the squid and the mackerel with no luck. Boat just south of me pulls in and immediately hooks up. Twenty-four tuna were caught to the point a hold was put on buying them because there were so many. Plenty of chatter on the radio about people fighting fish for hours and then chaffing off or asking others to move during the fight. Yellow fin bite is still on in the gully and tuna ridge which has been joined by some bluefin."

"False albacore have been pretty thick with some really nice sized fish being caught from shore at the wall. Tuna fishing continues to produce well for yellowfin and bluefin tuna from areas south of Block Island," said O'Donnell.

Freshwater fishing has improved greatly now that the water is cooling a bit. "Lake Tiogue and Caruncle Pond, Coventry are producing for customers. And in Warwick, Gorton's Pond and Warwick Lake have been producing with 3.5 to 5-pound largemouth bass taken by customers from Warwick Lake." said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box.

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

COLLECTIBLES



A Bit About Guy C. Wiggins



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

a painting is coming up for auction at Bruneau & Co. that I wish I could add to my collection. It is a stunning winter scene depicting 5th avenue in Midtown, Manhattan with flags waving prominently over the street below by impressionist artist Guy Carleton Wiggins NA.

Guy is legendary when it comes to scenes like this. A Brooklyn native, he was all too familiar with the bustling streets of New York City. Anyone who has ever been there during wintertime knows his depictions of the blustery snow give you all the chilly feels without having to venture out on your own.

Great art transports you, and the streetscapes of Guy C. Wiggins are no exception to that!

While he also painted scenic landscapes, his city skylines of the early 20th century are his most notable works. If you ever visited the Art Institute of Chicago, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, or the National

Gallery of Art in Washington, DC you might have seen

his pieces in person. His use of color in his unique impressionistic style is without comparison!

So, while I unfortunately cannot add a Guy Wiggins painting to my art collection anytime soon, I cannot encourage you enough to add one to yours if you have the opportunity (like on October 24th at Bruneau and Co). New York City is forever iconic in American culture, which means these paintings will forever be iconic on the walls of your home!



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By JENNIFER COATES

There is no substitute for a place that nurtures your child's confidence and sense of well-being. With all the pressures of school, there is also no substitute for a place that provides healthy fun and an opportunity to stretch your child's skills (and muscles!) Dream Big Gymnastics is just this place!

Dream Big Gymnastics is a fully-equipped, modern gym in Cranston that is owned by Shannon Cornicelli. Cornicelli, who was herself an accomplished competitive gymnast, has used her many years of experience in the gym to create a place where prospective athletes of all ages can come to feel the excitement and thrill of the sport of gymnastics. Her classes are not only instructive, they are also fun. Her classes are not only competitive, they are also about "gymnasts supporting gymnasts." They are not only about skill-building, they are also about team building.

The team of talented coaches at Dream Big Gymnastics have been gearing up for the fall term all summer. They are excited to host new and former gymnasts and Ninja athletes who are ready to work hard and play hard. There is a diverse list of classes available for gymnasts and Ninja athletes of all ages and levels with new classes being added all the time to accommodate a growing demand. Visit their website to check out all these classes and enroll.

For those who love gymnastics and Ninja-style workouts/training, Dream Big Gymnastics provides the perfect setting. Dream Big's mission is to "provide children with a positive and fun-filled atmosphere that enables them to create their own goals and then empowers them to go after their dreams. This builds powerful, determined, and confidence qualities that will be embedded in their character." This philosophy guides



Dream Big Gymnastics on Comstock Parkway in Cranston is a wholesome place for young gymnasts and Ninja Warriors just like the ones seen here with owner and longtime gymnast Shannon Cornicelli.

every decision made by Cornicelli and her fellow coaches.

What makes Dream Big Academy unique is its' objective that gymnastics, while still competitive, are meant to be fun, unifying and growth-promoting. One of the ways this goal is accomplished is through planned activities that go above and beyond, activities such as their popular Cartwheel and Pullover clinics and Back Handspring clinics which begin again THIS Saturday, the 17th. These provide an additional way to improve individual skills but also to build a team spirit at the gym.

There are even Parent's Nights Out for your child to

attend while you head out for a night on the town. Parent's Nights Out are held from 5:00pm to 10:00pm once a month including the next one on October 22nd.

Be sure to visit the gym's website to learn more about upcoming meets such as the Halloween Meet on the weekend of October 15th & 16th and the Turkey Tumble on the 12th & 13th of November.

For more details and to register for fall classes, check out their website at www.dreambiggym.com or call 401-228-8946. Dream Big Gym is located at 41 Comstock Parkway Way in Cranston. Follow the gym on Facebook and Instagram.

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FOX
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*With
K-9 Fox
lost,
Paul Wells
breaks in
a new
partner*

By **RORY SCHULER**

After three years on the beat, Fox was called to the scene of a Rhode Island State Police traffic stop.

The car had New York plates that didn't match the vehicle. Officers on the scene had started searching the vehicle. One of them removed a case of Ensure and set it aside, along the road.

Fox climbed into the trunk. Immediately, he was onto something. He started tearing at the trunk lining, signaling the residual scent of an illicit substance. And then he locked onto the case of seemingly innocuous Ensure meal supplements.

"He started biting it," Paul Wells said, remembering Fox the day following the retired Warwick K-9 officer's death. "There were narcotics in the center of the case, surrounded by cans."

That single bust took narcotics valued at approximately \$3.6 million off the street.

Wells served 29 years as a Warwick Police patrolman, but his partner Fox had 56 years on the force — dog years.

Wells lost his partner Fox two weeks ago. Fox was a German Shepherd, born in 2010. The feisty purebred joined the force in 2012 and served through Wells' retirement.

"That's a lot of years in dog years," Wells said.

All that time, but "no pension," Wells laughed, fondly remembering his late best friend.

Wells and Fox were on the Warwick beat together for nearly seven years, until the pair re-

tired in February 2019. They were amazing years full of high-profile drug busts and live police television appearances.

Soon after retirement, Wells returned to work for the University of Rhode Island Police Department. He's been training his new partner, Taz, a now four-year-old German Shepherd, since the K-9 was a puppy.

"A lot of it is how we train them," Wells said. "Train them right and good things will happen."

The bond between Taz and Wells grows with each investigation and each run through the K-9 obstacle course (in the shadow of the Adult Correctional Institution in Cranston). But Wells is still recovering from the loss of his last partner.

"It's tough," Wells explained, just a day following Fox's death. "I remember the day I brought Fox home. We selected him — picked him ... he laid down next to me and rolled over for me to scratch his belly ... When we got home, he licked my daughter's face."

Fox was a model K-9 officer.

"We look for dogs with that kind of temperament," Wells explained. "They need to be friendly with people, but they can flip the switch when they need to."

Primarily, Wells and Fox did patrol work and focused on narcotics busts. Fox could sniff out suspects, missing evidence and handguns.

"We did a lot of work with the DEA (the federal Drug Enforcement Agency)," Wells said. "We were both assigned to the DEA on a regular basis. We seized a lot of narcotics in our time together."

Watch K-9 Fox's numerous small screen appearances on LivePD:
<https://youtu.be/zEcaxJmFqYw>



TOP COPs: Fox helped to seize more than \$5.6 million in narcotics, more than \$500,000 cash, and assisted in 14 fugitive and suspect apprehensions, during his seven years with the Warwick Police Department and aiding DEA investigations. He and his partner, Patrolman Paul Wells, retired from the WPD in 2019. Fox had been living with Wells since.



RIP FOX: Retired Warwick Police K-9 officer Fox died two weeks ago, just a few weeks after his twelfth birthday. (Submitted photos)



TRAINING FOR DUTY: K-9 Taz and his handler, URI PD Patrolman Paul Wells, work the obstacle course outside the ACI in Cranston. A successful police dog undergoes constant training to keep its skills sharp.

TRAFFIC STOP: Taz leaps through the open window of a car door on the K-9 training course. Dogs in police service face seriously strenuous training that ultimately takes a toll on their bodies. Taz has been training for duty since he was just a few months old. (Beacon Communications photos by Rory Schuler)

Over his career, Fox helped to seize more than \$5.6 million in narcotics, more than \$500,000 cash, and assisted in 14 fugitive and suspect apprehensions, according to Wells.

"Only one apprehension resulted in a physical altercation," he recalled. "The other 13 just gave up."

Nearly four years ago, Fox and Wells appeared on LivePD episodes filmed on the streets of Warwick.

"We tracked a guy who allegedly beat up his girlfriend," Wells said. "It was simply amazing. It's cool to find narcotics, but to find a human being ..."

Fox made countless public appearances. He was a goodwill ambassador for the police; Fox charmed people everywhere he went. Marching in Gaspee Days Parades. Visiting schools. Participating in community K-9 demonstrations.

"It is with a heavy heart the Warwick Police Department announces the passing of Retired K9 Fox," Warwick Police announced on their Facebook page. "Officer Paul Wells and K9 Fox became partners in March 2012 and worked together until their retirement in February 2019. K9 Fox assisted numerous local, state, and federal agencies. He was also deputized by DEA. K9 Fox became famous when he appeared numerous times on LivePD. Our sympathy goes out to Paul, his wife Amy, and their children. Fox will be missed by everyone here at the police department as well as the community. RIP Fox."

Fox's physical health started to deteriorate slowly since his retirement. The dog officer was living at home with Wells. He was more than just a partner, or a dog. Fox was part of the family.

"He's had some rear hip issues over the past few years," Wells said. "He was struggling to walk some days. Last Friday, he slipped going down two stairs ... I had to pick him up to go outside."

Wells was reluctant, but said he eventually felt compelled to "make the ultimate decision."

"If he can't be a dog, it's not fair he suffers," Wells said.

The day after Fox's last, Wells stood outside the tall barbed wire fences surrounding the maximum security prison in Cranston.

He ran his new partner Taz up and down wooden obstacles and through long black tubes. Taz leapt through windowless severed stand-alone car doors.

The dog would complete an obstacle, and then eagerly return to Wells' side. Wells gave Taz quiet commands in German and the dog, a bundle of strength and vibrating energy, would comply and collapse in a pile of fur at his best friend's feet.

"Their bodies physically take a beating over their years of service," Wells said.

Wells, Taz and Fox have given it all for the populations they protect; they've committed their lives to protecting and serving. Man and dogs. Partners against crime.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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