

PLANNING THE 'BEEHIVE'

New Johnston School Building Committee swells as first scoop of earth looms

By RORY SCHULER

The committee's much bigger now. The plans are more detailed.

And Johnston's nearing the late stages of design and planning for the town's new huge elementary school and renovated high school.

"As your leadership team that we work with all the time can tell you, there's been a lot of designing and redesigning, and tweaking and squeezing, and working with the site, particularly up the hill to the elementary school," Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, told the Johnston School Building Committee Tuesday night. "There's wetlands. There's grade change to take care of. It's a challenge, but it's one that we've embraced. We're planning a nice little gem at the top of the hill."

Mark Rhoades, another Principal at the SLAM Collaborative — an "architecture firm with integrated construction services, landscape architecture, structural and civil engineering, and interior design" capabilities — told the expanded committee that the pending construction projects will help Johnston "stop the brain drain."



SLAM DANCE: Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, addressed Johnston's newly expanded School Building Committee during a public meeting Tuesday night. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

SCHOOLS - PAGE 10



PRAYERS FOR OUR PROTECTORS:

First grade students Mila Paolucci and Nicholas Innocenti attended St. Rocco School's Veterans Day Prayer Service on Wednesday, Nov. 9. Innocenti held a photo of his great-grandfather, a veteran. For more photos from the event, turn to Page 15. (Photo courtesy Robin Okolowicz of St. Rocco School)

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PREVENTION PACK: Among the people who participated in The Bridge at Cherry Hill's "Lunch and Learn – Scams for Seniors" – were Business Office Director Deanna Lavender, Resident Care Director Amy Brayton, the AG's Elder Abuse Director Investigator Michaela Driscoll, RIAG Peter F. Neronha and Sales/Community Relations Director Michael Mangarasian. (Submitted photo)

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'Lunch & Learn' with the AG teaches seniors how to spot a scam

By PETE FONTAINE

The impressive and informative jacket — or as some people call it — folder contained a wealth of information ranging from "A recovery plan for identity theft" as well as the day's menu, which many people said was "fit for a general."

And the day's headline speaker — Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha — concurred and later complimented The Bridge at Cherry Hill's skilled and award-winning Chef Marvin Carter and his classic kitchen staff for the delicious lunch.

After Neronha and his office's Elder Abuse Investigator Michaela Driscoll completed a thorough program titled "Lunch and Learn," which covered the day's subtitle "Scams for Seniors," The Bridge's new Sales/Community Relations Director Michael Mangarasian announced "Bon Appetit — It's time to eat!"

"Marvin went all out for today's lunch," said Mangarasian as he complimented Carter about the day's six super specials. "He makes every event extra exceptional and today is yet another example of that."

The day's menu began with Shrimp Cocktail served with citrus infused cocktail sauce then offered Caribbean Chicken Skewers that were pan seared Jamaican jerk seasoned chicken medallions served with a mango-pineapple sauce.

Likewise, there was a dish called Tempura Battered Cauliflower, hand-dipped in tempura batter and tossed in a sweet chili sauce followed by Margherita Pizza Bites topped with pepperoni and balsamic reduction.

Meanwhile, several residents "loved" the steak and chef egg rolls filled with ribeye steak, cheddar cheese and house

steak sauce.

The lunch's highlight, though, was simply superb and received rave reviews from everyone in the jam-packed dining room.

"Who doesn't love the Classic New England Lobster Salad Roll?" asked several lunch attendees. "Especially when they're prepared by Marvin."

Carter's creation was fresh citrus infused lobster salad served on a grilled New England strip roll.

The day's presentation was equally impressive and Neronha and Driscoll covered every kind of scam affecting countless senior citizens not only in Rhode Island, but across the country.

"Did you know that one in nine Americans aged 60 or older has been affected by a scam?" read a sub-title on one information piece. "Older adults lose and estimated \$3 billion each year to financial scams as well as a number of ways to prevent elder abuse in Rhode Island."

Neronha also talked about common scams and how to spot them adding, "Scammers can target you in a number of ways: e-mail, phone face to face, social media and he listed Phishing and impostor cams as well as grandparent's scams as three of the seven most common scams."

"Remember!" as the presentation went on "don't send money to anyone you just met or know personally; never give out personal information over the phone and you should know that government officials, including the IRS, will never call you and ask for personal information."

Upon completion of the highly informative and impressive session, Neronha and Driscoll encouraged people to report scams immediately by calling the Office of Attorney General Elder Abuse Unit at 401-274-4400 or riag.ri.gov.

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Say you saw it in the Johnston Sun Rise

JPD hosts spooktacular Trunk or Treat event



CLASSIC COSTUME: Ariana Prignano, 11, had one of the most unique costumes JPD's Trunk or Treat, dressed a Hamburger Whopper.



MIGHTY MICKEY: Giselle Guilmette, 4, joins a happy Mickey Mouse the Cop at JPD's Trunk or Treat, dressed as a Prom Queen and wearing a crown.



FINE FORCE: Gian Madonna, 3, was wearing a plastic firefighter's helmet and costume when he joined JPD Patrolman Lou Cotoia during the JPPD's Trunk or Treat.

By PETE FONTAINE

Cops and Coffee ... Pizza and Police ... Faith and Blue ... Johnston Night Out ... Those are just four titles of the many special social events the Johnston Police Department has hosted for countless children and their families that Chief Joseph P. Razza will tell you "strengthens our community."

However, on October's final Thursday night, a Pre-Halloween happening took on an entirely new look, replete with flashing red lights, costume clad characters of all ages, Northeast Auto Body's famous McQueen Moon Car, and of course, refreshments for everyone.

Even Mickey Mouse the Cop, one of the many creations of Party Characters — a five-star rated business based in Cranston that has brought smiles and fun unlimited to people of all ages in its storied 20-year history — played yet another role in the JPD's most recent success.

The event, which was held in the JPD parking lot, was titled Trunk or Treat, and featured two hours of non-stop fun provided by a half dozen officers and several staffers who enjoyed bringing smiles to the faces of Stephanie, 10, who was dressed as a Prom Queen and Loreyna, 7, who was decked out in a Spider Princess.

One of the night's most unique outfits was worn by Gian Madonna, 3, who joined JPD Patrolman, JHS Resource Officer and assistant Panthers football coach Lou Cotoia next to the much talked about multi-colored McQueen Moon vehicle that drew lots of attention throughout the night.

Madonna, you see, sported a firefighter's uniform and plastic helmet children like Abriella Graziano, 5 — a.k.a. JPD staffer Toni Mullane's cousin — along with other smiling youngsters enjoyed hot apple cider, cookies and popcorn made in a machine, which was located in front of the unique and colorful inflated Haunted House that proud parents used to snap their keepsake photos.

"This is special," was among the many classic comments from adults who praised the "Johnston Police for providing such a special and safe event for kids."

In the middle of it all was JPD Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, Capt. Mike Babbitt, Sgt. Luca Lancellotti, Patrolman Charles Psilopoulos, Patrol Officer Brooke Ardith, Cotoia and Lori Anderson, administrative assistant to Chief Razza.

"This was Spooktacular," Razza mused. "We had a tremendous turnout and we truly appreciate everyone who came and interacted with our officers and volunteers. We are already looking forward to next year's Trunk or Treat."



HAUNTED HAPPENING: This was the scene in front of the JPD's inflatable haunted house where people of all ages gathered for special photos during JPD's Trunk or Treat event. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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Thank you to all the constituents who voted at the polls, during early voting, and by mail. I'm honored to serve District 43 and to have earned your support. — Deb Fellela

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

BEWARE OF TOO MUCH PRESSURE

Did you know that it is possible to use too much pressure while brushing your teeth? Brushing too hard can permanently damage the gums, and surgery may be needed to correct the condition. One telltale sign that you might be brushing too hard is receding gums. Because there is no enamel on your teeth below the gumline, the tooth surface along the gumline may be darker when this area is exposed due to receding gums. Use a toothbrush with extra soft bristles to achieve the correct pressure while brushing. Hold it with three fingers in your non-dominant hand to apply less pressure. You might also choose an electric toothbrush with a pressure sensor that is designed to protect your teeth.

To maintain good dental hygiene and a healthy smile, it is essential to take the necessary steps to prevent both tooth decay and periodontal disease. This includes correctly brushing and flossing and maintaining periodic professional cleanings and exams. Research repeatedly demonstrates that those people who own better dental health live longer, stay healthier longer, and enjoy a better life. If you'd like to maximize your oral health, thereby enhancing every day of your life, why not call us at DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 401-521-3661, for an appointment? We're located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. P.S. Brushing teeth too hard can result in more sensitive teeth, especially when eating and drinking hot or cold items.

www.dentalartsgroupri.com



SUPER SENIORS: Among those members of the JHS Marching Panthers Band pose in front of the Rhode Island Building on the Avenue of New England States in Springfield, Ma. after their recent performance. The group includes, in front: Samantha DiMaoi, Riesa Soth and Mark Brouwer. Standing: Isabella Ribezzo, Wilson El Hage, Aaliyah Gagne, Dominic Whitten, Joshua Galeas, Thaddeus Leomensah, Brandon Hall, Anthony David Guzman and Even Correia. (Submitted photo)

JHS Band blasts Bay State's Big E

By PETE FONTAINE

Culture class. That's what upwards of 50 Johnston High school students recently passed with flying colors in Springfield,

Massachusetts. Moreover, the Panthers well-dressed, super sounding and award-winning marching band did so in front of an estimated 87,604 people who took in Opening Day of the highly acclaimed Eastern State Exposition Fair.

It was first time in two years that the Ron Lamoureux-directed band made what previously had been a long-standing tradition of marching and playing in the Big E's Opening Day Parade.

"We had been 21 consecutive years before the pandemic shut-downs," Lamoureux offered. "It was an incredible challenge to ready in ourselves for this perfor-

mance so early in the school year — this year we only had a handful of class days to work together."

Nonetheless, as the popular JHS Music Department Chairman went on: "The time crunch is a familiar and welcome challenge that gives our veteran musicians a chance to demonstrate their superlative leadership skills and the new students a sense of the urgency that we always want to operate with. It was extremely rewarding to see everyone's hard work pay off and doubly so in front of such a massive audience."

The trip was made possible, as Lamoureux explained, by parent volunteers of the JSMA

(Johnston School Music Association) who make it possible by marching with the group and helping get the uniforms all together in a really brief amount of time.

Likewise, the JSMA arranges the transportation by way of previous fundraising events and as Lamoureux said: "It was a beautiful day for everyone to explore the exhibits at the biggest fair on the East Coast."

The Marching Panthers Band also continued its tradition of marching in the recent and annual Columbus Day on Providence's Federal Hill and receiving rave reviews about "the sharpest looking and great sounding band."



TALENTED TRIO: Katie Loffler, Noelle Patenaude and Nicole Patenaude are all smiles while recently taking in the many impressive exhibits at the Eastern States Explosion in Springfield, Massachusetts. (Submitted photo)

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Bridge at Cherry Hill hosts Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular

By PETE FONTAINE

"You're never too old to celebrate Halloween," people were saying on the last Friday in October, inside and out, at The Bridge at Cherry Hill in Johnston. "It's all treat and treat here!"

That may have been an understatement, however, as The Bridge — which is a Century Park Community offering specialized assisted living-retirement — added yet another special social story filled with people, pumpkins and pictures to its tradition rich history book.

For example, there was family fun and lots of love when Lorenzo Rivelli, 4, showed off his spiffy "Buzz Lightyear" costume to his mother Kelli Rivelli and grandmother, Donna Lussier, a former Our Lady of Grace Church.

Grandmothers, in fact, were abound during the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular The Bridge hosted for friend and families — the community — as well as a pre-Halloween happening.

Deb DelFino, who was accompanied by her son Richard J. DelFino III, was all smiles when her grandsons Richard, 6 1/2, and Luca, 4, took in the many pumpkin carvings that were displayed all over the outdoor patio and they did so decked out in colorful Ninja Turtle costumes wearing masks and waving swords.

The outdoor patio was aglow in orange and black costume clad characters — as well as hay bales and a variety of special effects including scarecrows and a few flying witches along with 18 beautifully carved and carved pumpkins that were supplied by The Bridge's staff and Concord Health Center and featured battery lights.

Even the inside lobby — as well as the spacious sitting area outside the main office and living room — was decked out in all sorts of Halloween items.

In the middle of it all was Linda Garzone, The Bridge's Lifestyle director, who coordinated Friday's funfest that included many fantastic firsts like live music sung by longtime and legendary entertainer Vini Ames.

Perhaps the most unique event came at the photo booth, which was donated by WRIK and created all sorts of excitement, especially when Garzone helped many residents get decked in special garb to have their picture taken.

The night also featured a raffle and WRIK, as Garzone related "gave each resident their picture as a Halloween 2022 remembrance.



CARVED CREATIONS: Therese Winterle, a student at RIC who is an intern at The Bridge at Cherry Hill, and Resident Care Director Amy Brayton show off two of the 18 carved pumpkins at the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular in Johnston.



GRAM'S GUY: Donna Lussier is all smiles and joined by her daughter Kelli Rivelli and grandson Lorenzo Rivelli, 4, who came to the Halloween happening dressed as Buzz Lightyear. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



PICTURE PALS: The Bridge's Lifestyle Director Linda Garzone is joined by Betty after posing at the WRIK Photo Booth at the event.



TURTLE TYKES: The brothers DelFino, Luca (left) and Richard, were ready for action and decked out in their Ninja Turtle outfits for the pre-Halloween event.

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FANTASTIC FROSH: The Class of 2026 float read “Wipe out the Mariners.”

Johnston celebrates 55th Homecoming

By Charles Curci
 Special to the Sun Rise

Homecoming is an ongoing tradition that dates back to 1967 when the high school relocated to this building from what is now Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School.

Students have enthusiastically participated and celebrated the return of alumni to the school through our annual homecoming festivities. This year marked the 55th anniversary of these festivities. Each class participated in many different activities including Battle of the Classes, Spirit Week, Pep Rally, the Annual Float Competition, the Homecoming Parade, Alumni Breakfast, Homecoming Game, and finally the Homecoming Dance.

Saturday, Oct. 29, was the true big day for Johnston students. At the dance on Saturday night, Mr. Russo, JHS Student Council Advisor, announced the winners of these events. He began by proclaiming the winner of the Battle of the Classes, Pep Rally, and Float Competition.

Students celebrated the Pep Rally on Friday, Oct. 28. All fall sports players were organized, and classes decorated the gym

for different themes. This was the prelude to the overnights held by each class to build Johnston’s well-known, legendary floats.

The next morning, floats arrived at the high school by 8:30 a.m. The four paper flower floats that are renowned throughout the state came for all to see at the high school.

The parade then kicked off by 10 a.m. traveling throughout Johnston with many people watching ardently from the sidewalks.

This was then followed by the kickoff of the senior homecoming football game, with Johnston up against the Narragansett Mariners. Jacob Muller and Taylor Powell were also named 2022 Homecoming King & Queen during the halftime ceremony.

The night culminated with the homecoming dance, where students were able to come together as a community and celebrate the day’s success.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Johnston High School Student Charles Curci serves as JHS Student Council President. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by members of the JHS Student Council.



SUPER SOPHS: Class of 2025 float “Stomp ‘em & Chomp ‘em.”



JOLTIN’ JUNIORS: Class of 2024 float “Catch ‘em off Guard.”



SENIOR SPIRIT: The Class of 2023 float read “Blow ‘em out of da water.”

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

A purple wave?

The predictions for a so-called red wave — or even a red tsunami, as some pundits called it — turned out to be more of a purple ripple; a mix of red and blue victories that serves to not shift power too far in either direction.

While at the time of this writing it seems all but confirmed that Republicans will seize the House of Representatives, it's still not known precisely how many seats they will get. It is certainly known, however, that the Republicans performed significantly worse than anticipated and historical data suggested they should, and that Democrats will retain control of the powerful Senate chamber throughout the duration of President Biden's first term in office.

As with all things political in this country right now, how you feel about these developments depends entirely on which side of the political spectrum you find yourself.

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

However, we would argue that a more purple country is one better suited to actually serve the needs of all of its people. Far from perfect, our

electoral system should be forcing politicians of different viewpoints to work together to find compromise that benefits the largest number of people possible, understanding each side may need to make certain concessions to achieve that balance.

If nothing else, this election showed that a majority of the American people do not want to see our country devolve into a place governed by people who seek to propagate divisive rhetoric based on election denying conspiracy theories. Candidates that espoused such views, across the nation, were resoundingly defeated by more moderate challengers in nearly every race where such a candidate was nominated.

This should signal to all the logically-minded representatives and senators in both chambers, on both sides of the aisle, that the majority of Americans want to get back to a place of rational, respectful, bipartisanship — not the type of zero-sum mudslinging that has been the standard since 2016. Passing policy that helps regular people is popular, regardless of which color your bumper stickers are.

The elections also showed promising signs of increased participation in our democracy. Across the country, pre-election polling proved to be unreliable and did not accurately predict the sheer number of people who would turn out for midterms. In 2018, nearly 50 percent of eligible voters turned out to vote, while this year the prediction is closer to 47 or 48 percent. Compare this to 2014, where only 36 percent of eligible voters turned out. A new norm of higher participation can only be good for the country — as politicians elected, and therefore policies that get passed, will more truly reflect an overall will of the people who cast those votes.

Still, all this talk of waves and one side "winning" over the other truly does remain problematic. We should not be looking at our elections as though they were sporting events, with one side representing "the good guys", and the other side "the bad guys." We should be looking at them as competitions among people with ideas on how to affect policy and make meaningful changes.

Perhaps, if we're lucky, we can all ride this purple wave towards a better, more cooperative tomorrow for everyone.



LETTERS

Fung rejected on basis of what GOP planned to do

I was perplexed by the story, "Fung Falls Short." I respect the authors, but was stunned they framed the issue on individual candidates' resumes.

No. I think Mayor Fung's a good guy a, good mayor. But I could not vote for him joining with the current GOP's agenda.

I sent Mayor Fung homemade PostArt three times a week in the last month of the campaign urging him not to join today's anti-democratic GOP. In my last missive to him, post-election, I urged he take on the mantle of a new GOP and manifest a real "loyal opposition." Mayor Fung was not rejected personally, but for what the GOP planned to do.

No thanks to that. I wish Mayor Fung well. I hope he thinks about forging a new RI GOP, whether I agree or not. That he did not win, means he can forge a new way.

Sean Hagberg, Cranston

Time to be grateful and renew the holiday spirit

Elections are over and now we can prepare to renew old traditions and plan new ones so all can enjoy the coming holiday season.

Be aware that the virus is still with us. Since its arrival in 2020, 98 million Americans have had Covid and 38,000 of new weekly infections are still occurring.

With safer means we can still attend the lighting of the village tree, dining with family and friends or attend a holiday performance. Also visit Santa, view outdoor displays or try skating or sledding weather permitting

Show your gratitude to all who serve, protect and provide all the necessary public services. These are the men and women in our military, first responders, medical, municipal and educational services.

Remember the true joy of the holidays is giving within your means to those who sincerely need our help. Make your 2022 holidays one of joy and remembrance.

Bob Sweeney, Warwick



JOHNSTON Sun Rise

Publisher
John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com

Credit Manager
Lynne Taylor

General Manager
Richard G. Fleischer - RichardF@rhodybeat.com

Bookkeeping
Leslie Paz

Advertising Director
Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com

Production Manager
Lisa Bourque Yuetner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com

Editor
Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com

Production Staff
Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com

Sports Editor
Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representative
Natalie Payette - NatalieP@rhodybeat.com

Journalists
Pete Fontaine

Spotlight Profile Writer
Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

Classified Advertising
Ashley Medeiros - AshleyM@rhodybeat.com

Tel: 401-732-3100
Fax: 401-732-3110

Circulation
Leslie Paz

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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

OBSTRUCTING OFFICER

Around 2 p.m., Sept. 13, Johnston Police Sgt. Luca A. Lancellotti Jr. was investigating a hit and run crash involving an attended vehicle. He and another officer responded to Smith Street in North Providence, and a suspect vehicle came out of an address when they arrived. They spoke to the vehicle's owner, who advised that a man he "only knows as Steve" was driving his vehicle at the time of the crash.

The man told police that "Steve" came to his residence and told him he was involved in a crash, but left because "he got nervous." The man went on to say that he didn't know "Steve's" last name and that he left on foot. He said "Steve" had been "doing work for him and was staying with him."

On Sept. 15, Johnston Police checked back and were told that "Steve" had not been back since the crash. The next day, Sept. 16, police once again attempted to find "Steve" on Smith Street in North Providence. This time, they say they were greeted at the door by a man who identified himself as "Steve" and allegedly subsequently admitted to driving the vehicle at the time of the crash.

The man was identified as Stephen Wood through ACI Inmate Release ID. He was placed under arrest and charged with Duty to Stop in Accident with Attended Vehicle.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Around 2:30 p.m., Oct. 8, Johnston Police Patrolman Christopher Rotella was dispatched to a town address to investigate a report of simple assault. Upon arrival, he met with the alleged victim who told police he was assaulted by

the resident living at 14 DiPonte Drive, identified by police as Joseph A. DiBenedetto Jr.

The victim told police that he was backing out when DiBenedetto allegedly stopped his vehicle and the two began to exchange words. After a heated verbal exchange, the victim told police he was slapped in the left ear by DiBenedetto, who was driving a gray truck. The victim told police that he followed the man to his residence and phoned the police.

Additional units arrived on the scene and spoke to DiBenedetto.

The victim identified DiBenedetto as the person who allegedly assaulted him. DiBenedetto was taken into custody, transported to the Johnston Police Department, fingerprinted and photographed and charged with one count of Simple Assault. He received a Third District Court summons to appear.

WILLFUL TRESPASS

Around 12:44 a.m., Oct. 18, Warwick Police were dispatched to the Cranston Police Department to pick up a woman identified as Debra Tereshka, 56, of 46 Scenery Lane, Johnston, who was wanted out of the Warwick Police Department for a misdemeanor Willful Trespass warrant.

Tereshka was held overnight for court in the morning on Oct. 19.

On Oct. 19, Warwick Police Officer Brian J. Holleran was assigned to transport Tereshka to Third District Kent County Court. During her arrest, police say that Tereshka had a black

purse containing various items and a blue transparent container.

"Upon arrival (at) the courthouse, the Rhode Island Sheriffs Department began to in-process Tereshka and located a clear plastic baggie of green-leafy material and clear plastic baggie of white and gray organic material inside her black purse in which multiple cards with (her name) on them were located next to."

The sergeant in charge told police to take the "prohibited items" out of the building once Tereshka was accepted into their custody. Holleran collected the items, believed to be marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms (psilocybin), and return them to the Warwick Police Headquarters where they were entered into evidence, according to the arrest report.

Police did not say if they planned to charge Tereshka for possession of the suspected "prohibited items."

The original trespass warrant stemmed from an incident on Oct. 10 at Walmart, 650 Bald Hill Road. Warwick Police were called to the store around 6:44 p.m., when Tereshka allegedly entered the store to make a return, but had an active No Trespass Order from the store.

Store associates told police that they wished to pursue Willful Trespass charges against Tereshka.

"It should be noted that (a store associate) stated that the return that Tereshka initiated in the store was possibly fraudulent in nature," Warwick Police Officer Charles M. Walker wrote in the arrest report. "(The store's loss prevention associate) stated that he will follow up with more information the next day."

AAA expects 55 million Americans to travel over holiday weekend

AAA predicts 54.6 million people will travel 50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving. That's a 1.5% increase over 2021 and 98% of pre-pandemic volumes. This year is projected to be the third busiest for Thanksgiving travel since AAA started tracking in 2000*.

New England travelers will account for close to 2.5 million of the 54.6 million, up 1.9 percent from a year ago.

"Families and friends are eager to spend time together this Thanksgiving, one of the busiest for travel in the past two decades," says Diana Gugliotta, Director of Public Affairs at AAA Northeast. "Plan ahead and pack your patience, whether you're driving or flying."

Most travelers will drive to their destinations, much like last year. Nearly 49 million people are expected to travel by car. While Thanksgiving road trips have slightly risen - up 0.4% from 2021 - car travel remains 2.5% below 2019 levels. Just over 2.1

New Englanders will travel by car, up slightly from last year.

Air travel is up nearly 8% over 2021, with 4.5 million Americans flying to their Thanksgiving destinations this year. That's an increase of more than 330,000 travelers and nearly 99% of the 2019 volume. "Airport parking spaces fill up fast, so reserve a spot ahead of time and arrive early," Ms. Gugliotta suggests. "Anticipate long TSA lines. If possible, avoid checking a bag to allow for more flexibility if flights are delayed or you need to reschedule."

Americans are also ramping up travel by other modes of transportation. More than 1.4 million travelers are going out of town for Thanksgiving by bus, train, or cruise ship. That's an increase of 23% from 2021 and 96% of the 2019 volume. "With travel restrictions lifted and more people comfortable taking public transportation again, it's no surprise buses, trains, and cruises are coming back in a big

way," Ms. Gugliotta adds. "Regardless of the mode of transportation you have chosen, expect crowds during your trip and at your destination. If your schedule is flexible, consider off-peak travel times during the holiday rush."

*2005 and 2019 have been the busiest years for Thanksgiving travel, respectively, since AAA started tracking in 2000.

Thanksgiving Holiday Travel Period

For purposes of this forecast, the Thanksgiving holiday travel period is defined as the five-day period from Wednesday, November 23 to Sunday, November 27. The Wednesday to Sunday period is consistent with previous years.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 70 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related services.

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 17th, 2022
at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold a meeting on November 17th, 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

Petition of Cranston Enameling, Inc., Owner/Applicant for 1309 Plainfield Street, AP 3 Lot 225, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a special use permit for automobile

sales within the upper level of an existing building.

Petition of Anthony Caprio, Owner/Applicant for 93 George Waterman Road, AP 35 Lot 70, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking to convert an existing commercial building to a two family structure, each one bedroom and to have two residential structures on the same lot.

Petition of Reservoir Adventures, LLC, Owner and Michael Campagne, Applicant, for 1808 Atwood Avenue AP 53 Lot 239, Zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a use variance to subsection 9 Number 13 Storage of the Use Table to store his personal vehicles in a garage and is seeking dimensional variances to triple the size of the existing garage.

Petition of 15 Industrial Lane, LLC, Owner, and Joe Parrillo, Applicant, for 15 Industrial Lane AP 53 Lot 208, Zoned I Industrial. The petitioner is seeking dimensional variances to build a new storage garage and expand an existing storage garage.

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

10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17/22

Johnston Planning Board Meeting
Tuesday December 6th, 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 17-36 – Residences at Hopkins Pond – Request to Modify Final Approval of a Major Land Development. Public Meeting to discuss the request of the Association to modify the Final plan by eliminate and/or relocating guest parking. A.P. 44 Lot 26 located between 620 Central Avenue and I-295. Applicant: Residences at Hopkins Pond condominium Association.

PB 21-47 – Central Avenue Solar/ Residential – A Public Hearing on a Preliminary Plan application to create seven road frontage lots for residential development and one larger lot for a solar field. The property is located at 1252 – 1262 Central Avenue AP 43 Lots 70 & 95 - Zoned: R-40. Applicant: Revity Energy LLC.

PB 21-30 – Hartford Ave Self Storage I - Public Hearing for a proposed Major Land Development and Unified Development Review for a self-storage facility. Located behind 1357 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 25. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: National Development Group. The Applicant is

seeking a Special Use Permit to allow the self-storage facility, dimensional variances to the yard requirements and possibly other variances.

PB 21-44 – Hartford Ave Self Storage II - Public Hearing for a proposed Major Land Development and Unified Development Review for a self-storage facility. Located behind 1347 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 81. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: Commonwealth Investments Group LLC The Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to allow the self-storage facility and may seek dimensional variances to the yard requirements and possibly other variances.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

PB 22-60 – Bird's Eye Vue – Public Meeting on a Master Plan submission for a Major Subdivision creating 8 lots. Located westerly of 17 Wynchwood Place AP 38 Lots 310 & 338. Property is zoned R-10 and R-15. Applicant: Robert E Moll.

PB 22-59 – Advisory Opinion to

the Town Council on the Petition of Robert Cardillo to rezone 180 & 184 Shun Pike from R-40 to Industrial. Council Petition 2022-CP-167. Assessor's Plat 33 Lots 27 and 84.

V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – Discussion

PB 22- 57 The Johnston Comprehensive Plan – Presentation and discussion by/with Weston & Sampson, plan consultant.

VI. 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.

11/17, 11/24, 12/1/22

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OBITUARIES

Jeannine Marie LeFebvre

Lillian DiPaolo



Twenty-three years ago you were called home. Our thoughts are ever of you, You are dearly loved and sadly missed. God willing, we will meet again.

Love — husband Mario; children Debbie, Richard & Diane and John; grandchildren & great-grandchildren

Jeannine Marie (LaFlamme) LeFebvre, 89, passed away November 4, 2022.

Born in Québec, Canada, she was the daughter of the late Ovila and Marie Anne (Jacques) LaFlamme; wife of the late Esmond August LeFebvre; devoted mother of Daniel LeFebvre and his wife Susan (Szluck) Masi-LeFebvre and Linda (LeFebvre) Stuart and her husband Michael Stuart; cherished *mère* of seven grandchildren, Justin LeFebvre, Andrew Civetti, Benjamin LeFebvre, Nicholas Civetti, Stephen Masi, Aiden Civetti, and Christopher Masi; and two great grandchildren, Nathan LeFebvre and Lucas LeFebvre. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.



As a young woman in Canada, Jeannine was a semi-professional tap dancer. She and her dance partner appeared in the local television spotlight. She was a hard-working woman who was employed in the textile industry. This is where she met the love of her life who was 25 years her senior. Esmond "Frenchy" LeFebvre was a traveling textile technician who lived in the United States but spent several months at a time working in the same textile mill as Jeannine. Esmond sent his marriage proposal via telegram inviting her to move to Richmond, Virginia. She immediately quit her job, sold all of her belongings, and got on a plane to meet Esmond. Jeannine did not speak English and trusted that he would be at the airport waiting for her. The rest is history. They were married on October 13, 1960. They bought their forever home in Johnston, RI in 1965. They were married for 32 years.

Jeannine was a stay-at-home mom until her two children were teenagers. She worked at A&H Manufacturing for several years and retired at the age of 83. Jeannine enjoyed yardwork, watching sports on television, going out to dinner, creating puzzles on her iPad, and staying connected with family and friends on Facebook. Jeannine also loved animals. She owned cats and dogs for many years and enjoyed the animals of her family. She enjoyed the many foster dogs of her son and daughter-in-law over the years. Her family meant the world to her.

Visitation will be held Monday, November 14, 2022, from 9:00-10:30 am in the Winfield & Sons Funeral Home, 571 West Greenville Road, Scituate, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Holy Cross Church, 118 King Phillip Street, Providence. Burial will follow in Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, Johnston.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Small Dog Rescue of New England, www.smalldogrescue.org

Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

BROWN AVE TRUNK OR TREAT: Johnston's Brown Avenue Elementary hosted its second annual Brown Ave Trunk or Treat event, coordinated by the school's Brown Avenue PTO. It was held from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21. The school celebrated an amazing turnout this year, with more than 160 students and their families. There were 40 cars owned by parents and teachers that participated in the event. All of the school's students, as well as many of the parents and teachers, were dressed in various Halloween costumes. They also had a special visit from the Sanderson Sisters and Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullio Jr., two Town Council members (Robert Civetti and mayor-elect Joseph Polisenia Jr.), along with the former DPW Director Arnold Vecchione. The school's Principal Helina Dlugon was very busy taking pictures, monitoring the event, and announcing our winners of the best costumes and the best trunks. (Photos courtesy Leah Vecchione)

CAGED: Frank Lombardo Jr., his son Landon in the trunk, and Cayden Farpelha



GHOST WITH THE MOST:

Joseph Polisenia Jr. and family with students Cayden Farpelha, Mason and Luca Androzzio Stephanie Dilibero, Nichole Rappa and Leanne Poole.





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Schools

(Continued from page 1)

“The next step is obtaining permits for the sites and the building with the target of late spring to begin construction on the new building,” Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said in early October.

Johnston’s massive school renovation and new construction project will likely begin by spring. In late September the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) closed on an \$85 million bond issue for the town of Johnston; funding to cover Phase 1 of Johnston’s school capital improvement plan.

“This \$85 million bond issue was sold to investors at a premium of \$8.5 million, generating a total of \$93.5 million to pay for Phase 1 of Johnston’s school facility improvement plan,” said Kim Mooers, Executive Director of RIHEBC. “The 30-year bond has an all-in cost to borrow of 4.63 percent.”

“The architects are currently working on the Phase III submission which substantially moves the design ideas forward,” DiLullo said after the bond closed. “They are proceeding with design adjustments as the building industry continues to be in a variable state.”

Voters overwhelmingly approved a \$215 million school bond issue in early April.

■ SCHOOLS - PAGE 11



SLAM



SLAM

FUTURE GLIMPSES: The SLAM Collaborative – an “architecture firm with integrated construction services, landscape architecture, structural and civil engineering, and interior design” capabilities – presented a slide presentation Tuesday night, detailing changes to plans for the new town wide elementary school and renovations at Johnston High School. (Images courtesy Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr.)

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Warwick Mall | 400 Bald Hill Rd. Warwick RI

♥ Nov 1 – Dec 11 ♥

Schools

(Continued from page 10)

With a Tax Stabilization Agreement now in place with Amazon, the town is expecting millions more in annual tax revenue over the next 20 years. School officials have argued the time is right for a series of new school building projects. High state reimbursements for school building projects are also serving as a key motivator. School officials hope the state may cover close to half of the anticipated total \$215 million price tag.

The district hopes to build a new Early Childhood Center, a new Elementary School for all students in grades 1-4, and make major renovations at the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School and Johnston High School.

On Tuesday night, the School Building Committee received updates on just the new elementary school and renovations to the high school.

The new Johnston Early Childhood Center (ECC) is expected to be built on the current site of the Sarah E. Barnes Elementary School, for approximately 359

pre-K through Kindergarten students, and cost an estimated \$28,600,000 (tentatively slated to open in the summer of 2024).

The school building proposal calls for closing, and then demolishing or selling the town's current elementary schools. Each of those school's principals has been added to the district's School Building Committee, to offer their input during the final design phase.

Barnes Elementary School will likely be demolished to build the new Early Childhood Center. The district plans to vacate the Graniteville ECC Annex, Brown Avenue, Thornton and Winsor Hill elementary schools. The aging buildings may be repurposed, sold by the town or demolished.

The large consolidated, new elementary school was initially pitched to be built for approximately 1,100 students in grades 1-4.

On Tuesday night, however, Ellithorpe and Rhoades told the Building Committee that the new school will be designed to educate around 1,000 students, and that the number is tied to strict funding formulas set by the state.

Some committee members expressed concern that students may return to the district after the facilities overhaul, leaving the district forced to fund another expansion down the road.

"I see us doing this and in five years we have to put on an addition," said Town Council member and new Building Committee member Robert Civetti.

The plans call for building the new Johnston Elementary School on town property just north of the Johnston High School. The land consists of difficult terrain; and true to the neighborhood's "Graniteville" nickname, the soil is full of rock formations.

Ellithorpe and Rhoades said the soil also contains levels of arsenic that may present a problem, based on Rhode Island's strict soil contaminant regulations.

"If you put it in Connecticut, I could eat it," Rhoades told the committee, referring to the site's soil.

According to early proposals, the elementary school will cost an estimated \$84,350,000, and is tentatively scheduled to open in late summer 2024. Building material costs, across the world,



TWEAKING THE DESIGN: School Building Committee Chairman Joseph W. Rotella and Johnston Mayor-elect Joseph Polisena Jr. listen to Tuesday night's update. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

■ SCHOOLS - PAGE 13

ROCKY POINT LICENSE PLATES ARE HERE!

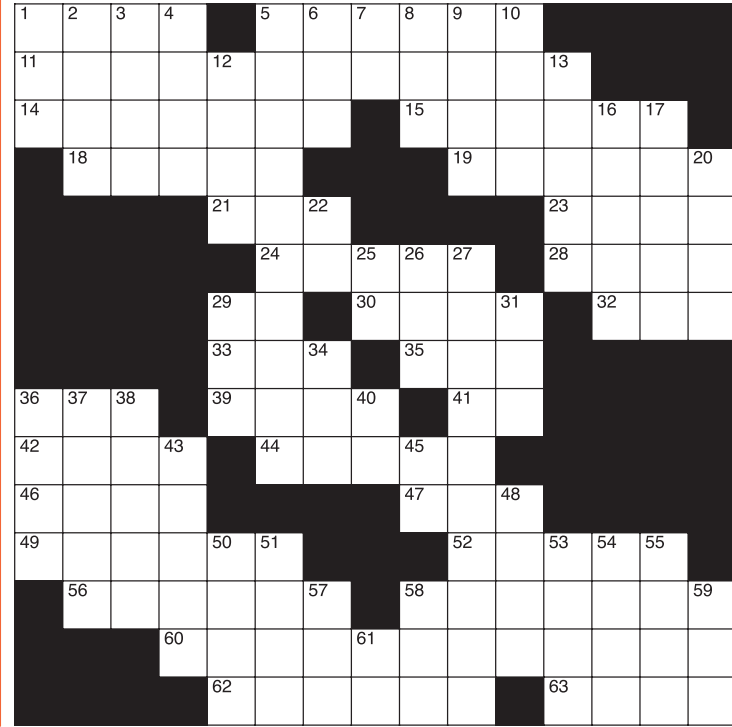
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mountain
- 5. One dependent on something
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Glazed ceramic ware
- 15. Paddling
- 18. Step
- 19. More greasy
- 21. Upper-class young woman
- 23. Light beige
- 24. Belief in a supreme being
- 28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
- 29. A beloved princess
- 30. Transfer property
- 32. Field force unit
- 33. Automated teller
- 35. When you hope to get there
- 36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
- 41. Blood type
- 42. Stringed instrument
- 44. Curses
- 46. Barbary sheep
- 47. Belonging to a thing

CLUES DOWN

- 49. Supporters
- 52. Leaf-footed bug
- 56. A shower of water
- 58. Attribute to
- 60. Intermittent
- 62. Soda waters
- 63. Scottish island
- 25. It gets you into places
- 26. Witness
- 27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
- 29. Father
- 31. Touch gently
- 34. Licensed for Wall Street
- 36. Herring-like fish
- 37. Lute used in N. Indian music
- 38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
- 40. Atomic #62
- 43. Religious
- 45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
- 48. Influential civil rights organization
- 50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
- 51. Turn away
- 53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
- 54. Smooth-feeling fabric
- 55. Competently
- 57. Sea eagle
- 58. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 59. It helps you see
- 61. Emerging technology

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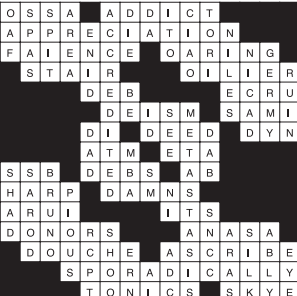
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Johnston Sun Rise

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:




THE PLAN: Johnston's newly expanded School Building Committee received an update on town-wide educational facility upgrades during a public meeting Tuesday night.

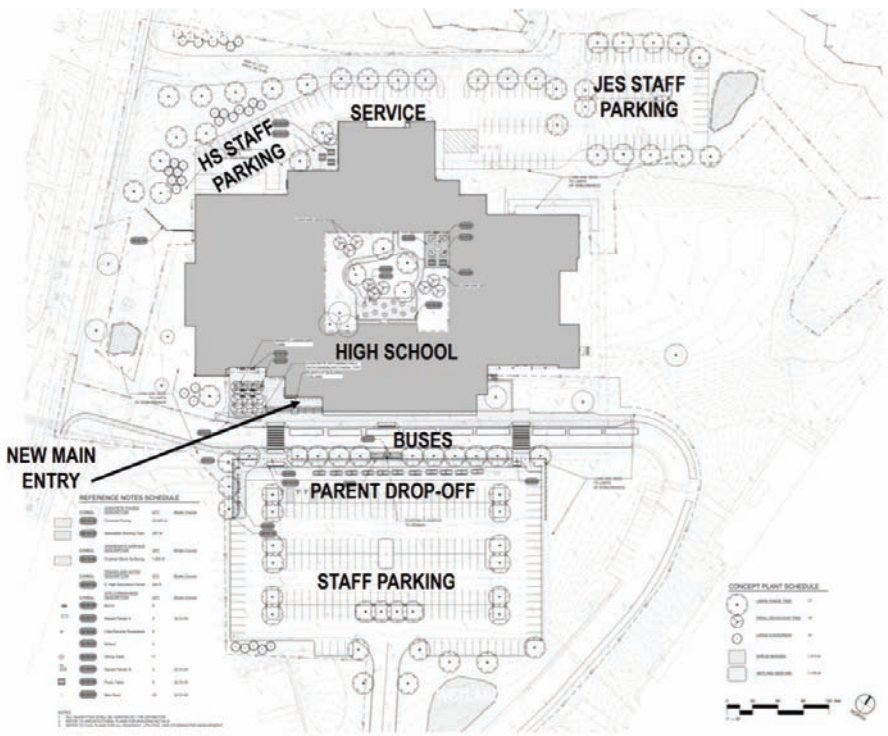
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FUTURE GLIMPSES: The SLAM Collaborative – an “architecture firm with integrated construction services, landscape architecture, structural and civil engineering, and interior design” capabilities – presented a slide presentation Tuesday night, detailing changes to plans for the new town wide elementary school and renovations at Johnston High School. The plans are still tentative as planners tweak the designs and consider the site’s unique terrain. *(Images courtesy Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr.)*

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Johnston High School

SLAM



A TOUCH OF CLASS: The SLAM Collaborative – an “architecture firm with integrated construction services, landscape architecture, structural and civil engineering, and interior design” capabilities – presented a slide presentation Tuesday night, detailing changes to plans for the new town wide elementary school and renovations at Johnston High School. The plans are still tentative as planners tweak the designs and consider the site’s unique terrain. These renderings show what a classroom will hopefully look like in the Johnston High School, above, and in the new town wide Johnston Elementary School, below. (Images courtesy Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr.)

Johnston Elementary School

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1 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 11/7/2022 and subject to change thereafter. \$60,000 minimum daily balance is required during each monthly cycle period to earn interest. Other fees and/or charges may apply and could reduce earnings.
 2 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 11/7/2022 and subject to change thereafter. \$1,000 minimum daily balance is required during each monthly cycle period to earn interest. Fees could reduce earnings. Substantial penalties for early withdrawal.

Schools
 (Continued from page 11)

have been surging since the start of the pandemic, however.
 A pending three-town consolidated animal shelter — for Johnston, Smithfield and North Providence — for example, has experienced an upswing in construction costs of approximately 20 percent, according to Mayor Joseph M. Polisenia.
 The district had planned to the new ECC and elementary school first, and then move on to the high school renovation, and lastly, the middle school project, DiLullo said last year.
 On Tuesday night, though, the new elementary school and the high school renovations have been moved to the top of the priority list.
 The SLAM Collaborative, the firm hired by the school district, has proposed more than \$39 million in renovations to the Ferri Middle School and a \$57 million facelift at the high school.
 At the high school, planners have been trying to maximize parking, update locker room facilities, and revitalize the underutilized outdoor courtyard in the center of the current 50-year-old building.
 The town hopes to open the new middle school in late summer of 2025, and the modernized high school in late summer of 2024.
 The middle school was to be built to accommodate 1,066 students in grades 5-8, and the high school was initially planned to educate approximately 799 students in grades 9-12. The original plans call for new heating, air conditioning, ventilation, science labs and more at both schools. Final upgrades, however, are still being discussed.
 Last year, DiLullo said the current early childhood center, attached to the middle school, will eventually become a fifth grade academy, for the district’s transitional-age students.
 The town’s new School Building Committee includes the following town officials: Joseph W. Rotella (Chairman), Robert A. LaFazia (Vice-

Chairman), Louis Alviano, Francis Cerullo, Robert Civetti, Linda Folcarelli, Doug Jeffrey, Bethany Littlefield, Stephen Mandarelli, Susan Mansolillo, Mayor-elect Joseph Polisenia Jr., Lesli-Ann Powell, Mike Rozzero, Carolyn Thornton-Iannuccilli, Ron Pezzuco and the principals of each district school.
 According to the school’s legal counsel, William J. Conley Jr., the larger committee was state-funding requirement initiated by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).
 A smaller version of the committee last met in August, when SLAM representatives delivered design updates on the elementary and high school projects, like they did Tuesday evening.
 According to the meeting’s minutes, the “Team discussed some structural footprint changes for these buildings that will reduce overall costs but still provide all of the areas necessary to address population needs.”

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spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

There is nothing in the world quite as wonderful as the Downy-fresh smell of clean clothes and clean linens. This familiar aroma evokes images of newly-washed clothes, hung on a clothesline to billow in the wind and dry in the warm summer sun.

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Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about their services, call 401-231-7019.

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PATRIOTIC PRAYERS: St. Rocco School held its Veterans Day Prayer Service Wednesday, Nov. 9 at St. Rocco Church, 931 Atwood Ave., Johnston. Students from St. Rocco School read poems that they wrote, carried photos of loved ones, sang patriotic songs and prayed for all veterans. Also, the school held a "Dress Down Day" for "Operation Christmas Stocking" where students dressed in red, white and blue, along with donating a dollar for the cause. Proceeds will go toward filling stockings for soldiers in the 43rd MP Brigade. (Photos courtesy Robin Okolowicz of St. Rocco School)



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Sports



SPECIAL SALUTE: This is the group of 46 veterans who were honored and played in last week's highly successful 2nd Annual Veterans Day Golf Tournament hosted by Gloucester Country Club. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

GCC golf tourney salutes local vets

2nd annual event raises nearly 2k

By PETE FONTAINE

To say that Gloucester Country Club hosted a super special star-spangled sa-

lute to veterans last Friday would indeed be an understatement.

The historic and picturesque 9-hole layout, which was founded in 1929, was overflowing with its unmatched hospitality amid up a sea of red, white and blue.

For example, the welcoming committee – which was made of GCC members – registered 46 players for the 2nd Annual Veterans Day Golf Tournament that

began with a bountiful continental breakfast and concluded with a delicious and fun-filled dinner catered by Café Vino of Johnston.

Perhaps even more impressive was that GCC wanted “to thank ALL veterans for their service” and did so in a unique setting of centerpieces of mini flags for all branches of the military that were placed on a white linen napkin on red and blue covered round tables.

Ol’ glory was everywhere on the well-maintained course, from the flagpole to greens, that seemed to sparkle during a pomp-and-circumstance ceremony that reflected – as someone suggested – “what our freedom means to us” – raising of the flag by Bob Trahan and Walter Clarke and an extraordinary rendition of the National Anthem sung by Lille Wells,

■ VETS - PAGE 17

Moretti scores 1,000th point

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Former Johnston girls basketball standout and current UMass-Dartmouth guard Jordan Moretti scored her 1,000th college point in the team’s season opener last week.

Moretti needed just seven points heading into the game and would hit that mark late in the first quarter. She would start the season off strong and finish the game with 21 points overall to sail past 1,000.

“It was a great feeling. Seeing the crowd erupt and cheer for me. To see my teammates come and hug me. I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for my teammates and coaches. It was a special moment,” said Moretti, who was also joined by her family, including her grandmother who had not attended a game since prior to the pandemic. “Having my family there and seeing them cheer for me in the front row meant everything to me.”

Moretti was calm heading into the opener and was confident that she would be able to hit the milestone early on.

“Going into it, I felt like ‘I have to get this over with.’ Then I could get that off my shoulders. It was seven points so I knew, ‘I can totally do this,’ last year I needed



THEN AND NOW: Johnston native and UMass-Dartmouth guard Jordan Moretti recently scored her 1,000th college point in the team’s season opener. She also scored 1,000 points while playing for Johnston High School. Joining her at left is her former coach Chris Corsinetti. (Submitted photo)

■ MORETTI - PAGE 19



OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS: Among those who took part in last Friday's Veterans Day Golf Tournament were Mike Calenda, local leader of Wreaths Across America; Ed Duffy, immediate past president of GCC; and Vin LaFazia, tourney organizer.



VALUED VOCALIST: Lilly Wells, a former student at Ponaganset High School, sings a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem prior to the start of last Friday's Veterans Golf Tourney.



WARM WELCOME: New GCC President Cheryl Jason welcomes an impressive field of 64 golfers, volunteers and club members to last Friday's Veterans Day Golf Tournament.

Vets

(Continued from page 16)

a former student at Ponaganset High School.

The day's spotlight was thrust upon 46 veterans who were honored on the ninth green – which ironically was flanked by two sand traps – and before the siren sounded thus signaling it was time to tee off, GCC's new President Cheryl Jason delivered a warm welcome then played each of the country's military theme songs via a sound system.

Likewise, there was another special salute for the veterans, as each cart windshield was adorned with colorful hand painted "Thank You for Your Service" signs from Robin McFadden's third-grade class.

Many golfers, like Bob and Kathie Hughes who were decked out in red, white and blue garb, placed a wreath they made on their cart.

The entire event was without question an excellent example of the GCC and its close-knit membership putting its best foot forward for another important benefit golf tournament.

Although there were some golfers took home a first-place finish, the real winner was two-fold.

"We took in approximately \$1,980,"

said Vin LaFazia, a Vietnam veteran and tourney organizer. "We will be donating \$300 to Spirit of Hope which helps to fee homeless vets on Thanksgiving with the remainder (\$1,680) going to Wreaths Across America which is located at Ponaganset High School and will be held on Dec. 13 at Ponaganset."

LaFazia, who spearheads the highly acclaimed JMCE (Johnston Memorial Center Events) Golf tournament, said "We have lots of people to thank for making today an overwhelming success, most especially GCC and members for hosting this event."

Thus, LaFazia praised the committee that included Cheryl Jason, Robin McFadden, Judi and David Graham who donated the dinner, Linda LaFazia, Eric Gelsomino and Joe Casali who paid for the breakfast, Pro Nick Maresca and immediate past GCC President Ed Duffy.

While speaking on behalf of the committee, LaFazia added: "Also, a special thank you to GCC members, the Pro Nick, Ed Duffy, Kingstown Liquors, Elmwood Sports and Kathy Hughes do their generous raffle donations."

"We couldn't have done this without everyone's help," Linda LaFazia emphasized. "A huge THANK YOU to each and every golfer, committee and GCC members and most especially our veterans who we must never – ever – forget to thank for their service."

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JYF still rolling

Three Johnston Youth Football teams were in playoff action last week and all three walked away with victories to punch their tickets to this weekend's Super Bowls in North Kingstown. The Junior Pee Wee team beat Warwick PAL 14-0, while the Pee Wee club cruised past Providence 40-19. The Junior Varsity team then beat Chariho 33-6. Below are some photos of the action. (Submitted photos)



MOVING THE CHAINS: Ben Young picks up some yards.



SUPER BOWL BOUND: Jameson Tiernan runs the ball.



CHEER THEM ON: JYF cheerleaders on Sunday.

Moretti

(Continued from page 16)

20-something points in the championship game so there was a lot of pressure there. This time, I just came in and played basketball. I had my teammates behind me and it just happened," said Moretti.

This was the second time in her career that she hit 1,000 points, with the first coming during her senior year of high school in Johnston. The difference this time, though, was that she saw it coming.

"In high school, (Coach) Chris (Corsi-

netti) never told me, I didn't know until the day of that I needed only five points. I was never really told but then I was like 'wow.' In college, I had people telling me since all of the stats are right there, so I just wanted to go out there and play basketball," said Moretti.

As she enters her final college season, and now that she has her 1,000th point out of the way, Moretti is focused on bringing a title to the Corsairs.

"It was a great start and just getting the win really set the tone for the season. This is my last year and the goal is no different, we want to be the first team to win a conference title for UMass-Dartmouth," Moretti said.

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ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT: The Material Culture



By Joel Bohy
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Over the weekend I sat down to watch the much-anticipated new adaptation on Netflix. I tried to go into it with an open mind and then compile my thoughts after I watched it. A hard thing to do as many of you know who study martial material culture. But I did it the best I could.

So overall I enjoyed it as entertainment and there are a lot of historically accurate things. I thought the uniforms and equipment were correct for the most part. The scenes where they show the uniforms being taken off the dead and wounded, washed, mended, and reissued was thought provoking. As someone who really likes the Mauser Gewehr 98 infantry rifle, I noticed none of them had a cleaning rod, especially in the scene where they discussed keeping their G98s clean. A minor detail but a simple one to fix. The battle scenes were well done and gave you a sense of the brutal and horrific combat, but you could notice some of the CGI. As mentioned, I liked it as an entertaining movie.

But as far as a comparison to the book, it seemed off. While they added some things that I think enhanced the story, a lot of important things were missing, and it just didn't have the same vibe as the book that the

1930 adaptation seemed to capture very well. The book really pushed the indoctrination of the young students before they went off to war, but the film didn't give as much of an emphasis on that. They even changed the ending and how the main character dies. You could see what point the movie makers were trying to make, however again, it was a major alteration.

Anyway, I would recommend that those who have an interest watch the film and enjoy it for what it is. But if you haven't read the book or watched the 1930 version, do that also. I think you will notice the differences and might even agree that it could have been better if they followed the book a little closer. Just my two pfennings.

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Don't call him a hero, but a veteran

THE SHIP HE SAILED: Harry Olsen pictured with a model of the tanker he served on at the recent Steamship Historical Society of America reception held in recognition of him receiving a Congressional Gold Medal. (Warwick Beacon photos)



Former Merchant Marine awarded Congressional Gold Medal

By JOHN HOWELL

Harry Olsen, who is now 97 years old, builds ships. That was apparent as he sat beside the model of one of the ships he served aboard as a member of the Merchant Marines during World War II. The model, which Harry built, displays minimal armament and a deck laden with pipes, valves and booms. It carried 6 million gallons of aviation fuel, a prime target for Japanese bombers and subs.

But Harry didn't talk about whatever he feared during his service in the Pacific or Atlantic Theaters at a recent reception honoring him at the Steamship Historical Society of America offices in Warwick.



HARRY OSCAR OLSEN

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Merchant Marine to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of the Nation. You undertook a most severe task—one which called for courage and fortitude. Because you demonstrated the resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further serving our country in peace.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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Big dog lovers, meet Mama Cass! This beautiful brindle girl has a huge heart too! When you look into Mama's dark chocolate eyes you can see all the love she has to give. Her journey has not been easy, she was rescued when she was pregnant! After having a litter of twelve puppies and watching them all get adopted now it's her turn to find love! Mama takes a little time to open up but once she does, she loves belly rubs! She also enjoys playing fetch, walks on the leash and car rides. If you have been looking for a loving, loyal companion Mama Cass is the girl for you! Please contact Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 for more information or visit www.heartofri.org You may also go to meet her during their open hours of operation: Wednesday-Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. No appointment is necessary. Mama Cass can't wait to find love!

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

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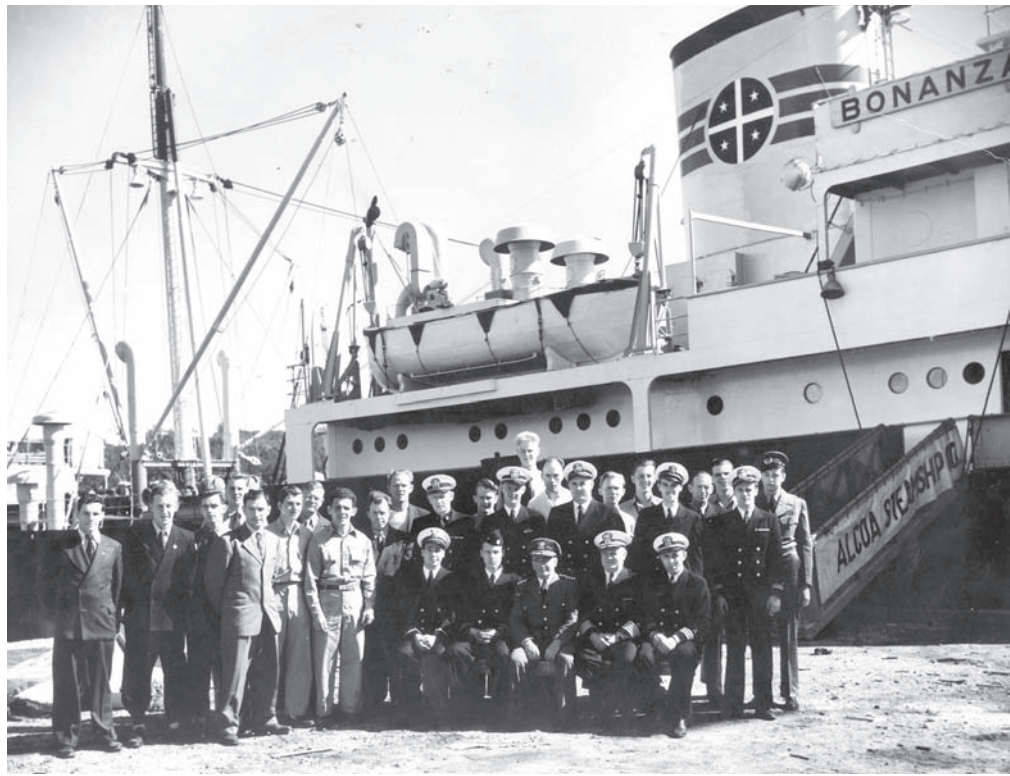
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IN THE WAKE OF THE WAR: Harry Olsen was a crew member aboard the Bonanza, returning from Europe with troops and cargo when they stopped at Bermuda and had this picture taken. Can you pick out Harry? He can, of course.



Medal (Continued from page 21)

He is the recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal. Harry has a vivid recollection of tugs, cargo ships and troop carriers he served aboard, a total of six ships. The reception, as a staff member of the society pointed out, was as much to focus the spotlight on Harry as it was to bring attention to the Merchant Marines who died in greater percentages than any other branch of the armed forces, yet still had to fight for almost 40 years to gain their veteran status. Harry's medal was made possible under the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020 (HR 5671).

Harry can trace his fascination with boats to when he was six years old. His grandfather put him in a boat and taught him how to row at the Washington Park Yacht Club on Mount Hope Bay. Also as a child when his father was captain of the T.J. Williams a tanker owned by the Standard Oil Company he and his mother would take the train where the boat pulled into port. He would walk the decks and was aboard if the boat had to move within the harbor.

His father was fortunate. He was on sick leave when the T. J. Williams was torpedoed without warning off Iceland in 1941 before United States entered the war.

"I always had boats," he said in an interview from his home overlooking Apponaug Cove. He owned sail and power boats and teamed up with Bill Shaw, who went on to design boats for Pearson Yachts, to build a class sailing sloop.

Harry would have probably sent most of his life on a boat if it wasn't for Jackie.

Harry met Jackie skating at Roger Williams Park before joining the Merchant Marines. They remained in contact throughout the war. When he returned home a good deal later than most troops, as he was working on carriers bringing the troops back, he asked Jackie to marry. She agreed but only on condition he didn't return to the sea.

Harry traveled around the world during the war, having served on boats in the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Mediterranean. Harry lists the ports of call as if reading off a schedule, his memory is that sharp. His boat never came under attack although ships in his convoy were hit.

But there were some harrowing times, if not unusual deployments.

Decoy convoy

Prior to D-Day, the tanker he was aboard was dispatched to New Cas-

tle, England, to take on a cargo of slag, a by product of coal mining. A couple of days into to sailing north to Norway they were instructed to return to New Castle. It turns out they were part of a decoy convoy aimed at having the Germans believe the allies were planning to invade from the north.

The irony, says Harry referring to the phrase "it's like bringing coals to New Castle," they returned coals to New Castle.

Being at sea was not without some fearful moments. Harry remembers a hurricane that tossed the boat around and had him more anxious than had the enemy been shooting at them. On another occasion while traveling in a convoy in rough seas, the vessel developed a massive crack because of improperly loaded cargo. The crew quickly used winches and cables to pull the steel back in place as best they could, holding the hull tight enough for the ship to leave the convoy and limp back to port.

It was 1943 and Harry was 17 when he enlisted. He started off as a seaman and following training was offered an array of options. Harry was interested in navigation and ended up on the bridge as a quartermaster.

Unlike veterans of military forces, Merchant Marines were not eligible for the GI Bill and the educational opportunities it provided or for other benefits such as housing assistance.

Harry wanted to be an engineer. He went to work for Scott Testers and then a plastics company before landing at Superior Health Care where he climbed to the executive ranks and traveled the world putting together manufacturing agreements. He retired in 1993. His passion for traveling was shared by Jackie. Having visited so much of the world while working for Superior, the couple decided it was time

to see this country. They bought a motorhome and visited 37 states and used to travel to Florida. After losing Jackie in 2011, Harry took the entire family to Norway, an adventure he speaks fondly of.

Harry lives alone with family close by. He has an extensive family: three daughters and one son; six grandsons and two granddaughters; three great-great-grandsons and four great-great-granddaughters. He still drives the 1966 Buick Skylark he bought new at the East Greenwich Main Street Garage for \$3,0075. He drives an Infinity as his "everyday car."

"Actually, it was \$3,000," Harry says of the Buick recounting how he went to pick up the car but the dealer wanted to keep it to drive in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. As an incentive he cut \$75 from the price.

"It's one of the funny things you remember. I had to go to the parade to see my car," he said. He saw more than that, however. His daughter was also in the parade riding a horse.

Harry is game to do things although he adds, "my mind says to do it and my body is not so willing." He's working on a book about his life with his daughter-in-law, Janice Olsen.

As for the 6 million gallons of high octane aviation fuel his tanker was ready to deliver to the Philippines in preparation of the invasion of Japan, there wasn't room to store it when the war suddenly came to an end. Harry said they "pedaled it" to bases around the world.

Did he ever think of all that fuel he was sitting on top of and what could happen had the boat been hit?

His answer: "I wanted to get it (the delivery) done...I felt it was my duty."

"I don't want to be looked at as a hero," he said in a follow up phone call. "I want to be looked at as a veteran."



PROUD OF HER DAD: Marie Palmer holds the medal her father, Harry Olsen, received for his service during WWII as a member of the Merchant Marines.

Diverse, inclusive 'A Christmas Carol' at Trinity

Theatre Review by
DON FOWLER

We have seen them all. From the early traditional Dickens classic, to Ann Bogart's dark and dreary interpretation, to the first Black Scrooge and the first female Scrooge, to this year's most diverse and inclusive production, we have enjoyed the imaginative spins that Trinity Rep gives to its annual gift to Rhode Island.

Under the direction of Brown/Trinity grad Aileen Wen McGroddy, this year's production follows Trinity's growing emphasis on diversity and inclusion.

Mrs. Scrooge (Phyllis Kay) is a businesswoman and her partner, Marley (Rachel Warren), is likewise. The ghosts of Past, Present and Future are played by women, as are a majority of the cast.

Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit (Luis Rivera Figueroa) and his family are Hispanic and often speak in Spanish.

Her nephew Fred (Gunnar Manchester) is in a gay marriage.

Asian, Hispanic, White and Black adults and children fill color-blind roles.

Casting is approaching the day in the theatre world when that is the norm.

Traditionalists need not worry. The messages of peace, love, tolerance, humanity and all the good feelings surrounding the Christmas season are still there.

The dialogue has been changed a bit. Scrooge's attitude toward the burning of coal becomes a political statement, as does his strong feelings toward the poor.

The play opens on a stark, three level, two trap door set, with seven doors and a white-clad chorus surrounding Scrooge.

Scrooge's journey of self discovery adds color, music and humor as she finally makes amends, and closes with everyone at the table, a wonderful scene that says it all.

There are subtle symbols throughout that the kids may miss. But they will love the turkey that the turkey-girl delivers to the Cratchits.

"A Christmas Carol" is at Trinity Rep through Jan. 1. Call 351-4242 for reservations or go online to www.trinityrep.com.



Above: The cast of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. **At Right:** Phyllis Kay as Ebenezer Scrooge and Angela Brazil as the Ghost of Christmas Present. Original Music by Richard Cumming; Directed by Aileen Wen McGroddy; Music Direction and Arrangements by Andrew Smithson; Choreography by Shura Baryshnikov; Set Design by Tatiana Kahvegian; Costume Design by Camilla Dely; Lighting Design by Keith Parham; Sound Design by Caroline Eng. (Photos by Mark Turek courtesy of trinityrep.com)

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We Make Every Day Veterans Day



AARP - RHODE ISLAND

by CATHERINE TAYLOR

AARP has a long history of proud service to veterans, active military and their families, and we work hard every day to strengthen our outreach and support.

There are nearly six million AARP members who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military, making AARP the country's largest veterans support organization.

According to the latest figures, Rhode Island is home to 70,621 veterans, active military and their families. Some 78% of those who served are 50 and older and within that demographic, 68% are 65 or older. When it comes to health and well-being, 14% of all Rhode Island veterans of all ages have a service-related disability and 27% have used the Veteran's Administration for healthcare.

Rhode Island veterans are diverse in many ways: 29% have a bachelor's degree with 3% enrolled in college; 6% are women; median income is close to \$66,000 and veterans own thousands of thriving Rhode Island businesses. And yet, many struggle.

In 2018, AARP launched an initiative to improve veterans' overall health and well-being as they navigate life's transitions. Our mission is to empower veterans by focusing on key issues, forming supportive collaborations, and providing programming in the areas of Caregiving, Fighting Fraud, Work & Jobs and Connecting to Earned Service Benefits.

AARP Rhode Island hosted a free *Veterans Resources Tele-Town Hall* on Thursday, November 10 at 10 a.m. Our guest, Kasim Yarn, Director of the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services, covered a wide-ranging discussion of available services with answers to specific questions about benefits and resources. You may watch the recording at www.aarp.org/RIReplays.

Meanwhile, I want to direct veterans and their families to the AARP Veterans Resource Center at www.aarp.org/veterans. Here you will find news and formation, and you can download our *Health Benefits Navigator: A Tool to Help Veterans and Their Families Find and Obtain Service-Related Health Benefits*.

While there, you can subscribe to the *AARP Veteran Report*, a free newsletter that salutes your service and celebrates the contributions of military families to our country and our communities. It provides practical help and relevant information. Inspiring stories and news you can use arrive in your inbox twice per month.

Finally, I would like to call your attention the AARP Veterans Fraud Center (www.aarp.org/vetsfraudcenter), an online education and resource site to help protect veterans, service members and their families against fraud.

The statistics are startling. According to an AARP survey, one in three military/veteran adults have lost money to scams that relentlessly target the military. Veterans, active-duty service members and their families are 40% more likely to lose money to scams and fraud than the civilian population. These individuals lost more than \$267 million in 2021, up from \$102 million in 2020 (a 162% increase), according to the Federal Trade Commission.

About one-third to half of those surveyed have encountered these top scams:

- Phony benefit buyouts: Turning over U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pension and/or disability benefits for a supposed lump-sum payment that never materializes (47%).
- Fraudulent records scam: Paying for updated personal military records (32%).
- Fake charitable giving requests: Donating to non-existent veteran charities (32%).

The AARP Veterans Fraud Center's free resources include the new *AARP Watchdog Alert Handbook: Veterans' Edition*, highlighting tips to detect the most common ways con artists target veterans and military families, and *Operation Protect Veterans*, a joint program of the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

On Friday, November 11, we observed Veterans Day, but at AARP every day is time to honor and serve our veterans and military community.

Thank you for your service!



More Fraud-Fighting Resources

Nearly 42 million Americans were victims of identity fraud in 2021, costing consumers \$52 billion in total losses. AARP Rhode Island helps fight fraud and identity theft in many ways, including by supporting free shredding events. It's always wise to safely and properly dispose of paperwork that includes any personal information. There are two no-contact community events on our November calendar – no businesses, please.

- East Providence Senior Center, 610 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, November 19.
- Cumberland City Hall, 1464 Diamond Hill Rd., Cumberland, 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, November 19.

But wait, there's more: Join AARP Rhode Island's free *Holiday Fraud Prevention Tele-Town Hall* with Attorney General Peter Neronha, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 1. Register at www.aarp.org/RIEvents. Remember, if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Stay one step ahead of scammers of all sorts by signing up for free AARP Fraud Watch Alerts at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.



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In Praise of Hallmark Movies



RETIREMENT SPARKS
by ELAINE M. DECKER

Hallmark romantic comedies (rom coms) are becoming more and more popular. Women of all ages and social strata are appreciative watchers. Men have also discovered them. As the population ages, folks are settling in as couch potatoes. I began watching not too long after I retired.

An article in the *NY Times* provided a more erudite explanation. "One of the genre's great pleasures" is books (and movies) with "similar archetypes, similar settings, similar tropes, similar tones... because they offer a piping-hot version of a recipe that readers are perpetually hungry for." Hallmark has a handful of tried and true templates that their rom coms tend to follow. Here are some reasons why I enjoy them.

First off, to quote the *Times*, "Romance is marked by the certainty of the happy ending."

And we're not referring to the sexual definition of that expression. Hallmark rom coms don't have even the subtlest hint that anyone does the horizontal mambo. You can choose to imagine that happens. Hallmark won't dissuade you, but they won't encourage your fantasy. Given today's societal stresses—political, health, financial or other—I and many fans appreciate knowing there will be a happy ending.

The lead is almost always female, and usually a strong woman at that, a big draw for me. I'm not sure how the men feel about this, but the women don't emasculate their male co-stars so I guess that makes their strength acceptable.

Many times, a woman from a big city finds herself in a quaint rural town. Maybe she grew up there; maybe she found herself stranded there after a snowstorm or a car accident that left her with amnesia. By the end of the story, she always realizes that the small town is now home to her. No more big city stress. I grew up in a town of about 50 people but worked in Manhattan for 20 years, so I appreciate the conversion.

Another common template thread is that

there's some misunderstanding between the female and male leads that derails their relationship early on. One of them hears half of some conversation but doesn't stick around to hear how it ends, jumping to a conclusion that the other is totally wrong for them. Eventually this gets straightened out, but not usually until the last 15 minutes of the two-hour movie.

Many of the stories have an artistic aspect, which also appeals to me. Sometimes it's found in the female lead, sometimes in the male she encounters. Photography is a popular theme, and writing. A successful but reclusive writer falls in love with the aspiring author who has tracked him down to interview him in "Just My Type." There have also been bakers, wine makers and chocolatiers. A semi-estranged daughter returns home to help her family, especially an injured father, run (or save) the family business. One time it was a pumpkin farm.

There are frequently widowers who are great fathers raising children on their own, or bachelor uncles who have custody of their late sibling's children (and are clueless what to do with them). The lead woman comes into their lives and "rescues" them. The fathers might be dentists or veterinarians. The women are more often business professionals and less often in any medical field.

One thing Hallmark does well in its rom coms and is doing even more of is offering inclusionary casts. The Anglo lead often has a Black best friend. Secondary characters that are gay (male or female couples) are frequently worked into the story. There's not a big fuss made over them. They're just another part of the cast.

A further template variation has the lead and her male partner being set up on-line by well-meaning family members or friends. "Chance At Romance," has the tween-age son of a widower pretending to be his successful but creatively blocked photographer dad. The son screens the women who reply to his ad and he invites one to visit. She of course thinks it's the dad who invited her. Eventually, she and the son create the Pot



Pie Of The Month Club. This brings the boy out of the funk he's been in since his mother died and his father gets his mojo back taking pictures of the pies and their baker.

In another pairing via on-line family meddling, the main characters have evolving chemistry in "Straight From the Heart". She's an unsuccessful photographer who shoots garbage (literally) at the beginning of the film. By the end, she's creating iconic photos of the American cowboy she's met via the meddling and those earn her a solo show. I'll watch this one until the cows come home. Or more precisely here, wild

horses.

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

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Memories of Youth Sports In Days Gone By...



MY SIDE OF THINGS
by LARRY GRIMALDI

The image evoked memories immediately. There stood Benjamin Jr., my four-year-old grandson, at one of his first soccer games with the ball tucked not-so-discreetly inside his shirt. I guess he figured that possession is nine tenths of soccer law!

His unusual approach to the game reminded me of my son Benjamin in one his first soccer games at about age six. For most of the contest, the neophyte players chased, gathered, and surrounded the ball in a circle that resembled a beehive. Field position was a foreign concept. Then, in a sudden burst, the soccer ball squirted away from the beehive and the circle, in one mass of humanity, moved to surround the ball again. The goalie obviously had other things on his mind as he stood and watched the ball roll lazily into

the net on the very first shot launched in his direction.

Now would be a perfect time to note my stellar record as a soccer coach. I was pressed into service when the regular coach was absent. My knowledge of the game was limited to the rule that only the goalie could touch the ball with his hands. The team won the game in despite my ignorance of the sport and I retired with a winning percentage of 1.000, an accomplishment I am proud of to this very day.

Over the course the years, I coached numerous youth baseball, softball, and basketball teams. I always emphasized learning the game, good sportsmanship, and having fun. I have also spent countless hours watching my children and grandchildren participate in youth and high school sports. Sadly, today's youth sports scene lacks the joy and enthusiasm of days gone by.

Unfortunately, many of today's parents pressure their child to excel in the hopes of getting a college scholarship or a pursuing professional career. More than 90 percent

of kids will not earn athletic scholarships, despite the proliferation of AAU, elite, and traveling teams. In many cases, the athlete will rebel at some point and stop playing sports entirely. For them, the game becomes as enjoyable as a trip to the dentist.

Parents who force a child to specialize in one sport deprive the athlete of an opportunity to try something different, make new friends, and perhaps create some lifetime relationships. And someone needs to explain to me the purpose of having a tournament or traveling team for eight-year-olds. At that age, they should only be interested in visiting the snack bar after the game. Furthermore, parents should refrain from berating game officials. Sportsmanship includes respect for umpires and referees, especially if the official is a volunteer.

I think back to my days as a child and we played our sandlot games without adult supervision; settled our own disputes on the field; and reminded friends at the end of the day. After all, the player you argued with today might be your teammate tomorrow. We

did not keep stats or record wins and losses. There was an exuberance in playing that is missing many times in today's highly organized youth sports factories. I am very sure of one thing. We certainly had more fun.

As I look at Benjamin, Jr. tucking the soccer ball into his shirt and recall the frantic beehive of five-year-olds converging on the soccer ball in one huddled mass of energy, I smile and recall the days when a youth sports game was an occasion for celebrating a win or accepting a loss.

After all is said and done, the true meaning of the game lies in the quality of effort, learning the game, and enjoying the experience.

Larry Grimaldi is a freelance writer from North Providence. Many of his PrimeTime columns, are included in his anthology, "50 Shades of Life, Love, and Laughter," (published with the permission of Beacon Communications). For more information about this publication or his other books, e-mail lvgrimaldi49@gmail.com

Seniors: Come To The Matinee



ACCORDING TO DON
by DON FOWLER

When I was a kid, Wednesday was pizza night.

Why weren't the moms home that afternoon to cook supper? They were all at the Strand Theatre for the Wednesday afternoon movie matinee.

Every week management would give away another piece of a dinnerware set. And every week at least one piece of china would slip off a lap and end up in pieces on the cement floor.

Today movie theatres hold Senior Tuesday or Wednesday matinees at reduced prices to fill the seats while Dad is at work and the kids are in school. It is still pizza night.

When will the arts realize that potential audiences consist of more than "housewives" looking for free dishes?

There are thousands of senior citizens eager for some form of entertainment during the daytime. Many of us don't like to be out late. Or can't drive after dark. Or tend to doze at our normal bed time in a dark theatre.

Live theatre used to be popular on Wednesday afternoon, and might work again today, not only for seniors, but for people not stuck with the outdated 9 to 5 working hours.

The Rhode Island Philharmonic holds six 6:30 p.m. Rush



Hour concerts for those who prefer an earlier Friday night.

Trinity, PPAC and Gamm offer weekend matinees. And the prices are less.

Local colleges and universities often hold concerts or concert rehearsals on weekday afternoons.

Check Assisted Living facilities for their entertainment schedules. They would be happy to entertain you, and show you their facilities while you are there.

Today my entertainment is in the comfort of my living room, watching the beginning of the fifth season of "The Crown" on Netflix, the TV channel that got me through the pandemic.

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Make plans with
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We have so many ways to connect! Enjoy AARP member discounts at Roger Williams Park Zoo Sundays through November 27, and at Island Moving Company's The Nutcracker at Rosecliff Mansion November 23 and 29. Join us online for a Holiday Fraud Prevention Tele-Town Hall on Dec. 1, Everybody Dance!: Discover the Power of Movement on Dec. 14, and our Dec. 15 RI Healthy Cooking demo, featuring a delicious holiday dessert recipe. And on Dec. 16, join all four members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation in a Tele-Town Hall discussion of the Inflation Reduction Act. There's so much to do. Find our complete lineup at www.aarp.org/RIEvents.

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NOVEMBER is Fall Prevention Awareness Month



In your home

- **Bathroom:** Install grab bars in the shower and by the toilet; use shower mats with no-slip grip on the bottom.
- **Bedroom:** Install a night light; avoid tripping by using sheets and blankets that do not reach the floor.
- **Stairs:** Install hand rails; don't leave anything on steps.
- **Kitchen:** Store often-used foods and equipment on easy to reach shelves to avoid the temptation to climb up on a chair or step ladder.

For your health



Have your
eyes checked
regularly.

Track medication
and pay attention for
side effects, especially
dizziness and dehydration.

Have an
annual wellness visit
for a full physical.

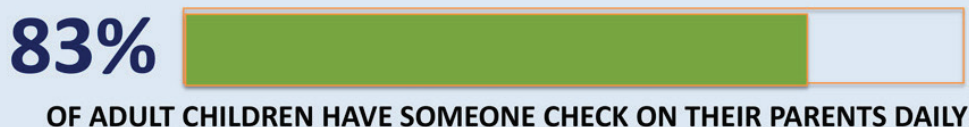
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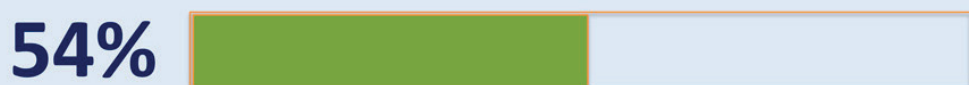
AN OLDER ADULT IS
TREATED IN THE ER
BECAUSE OF A FALL



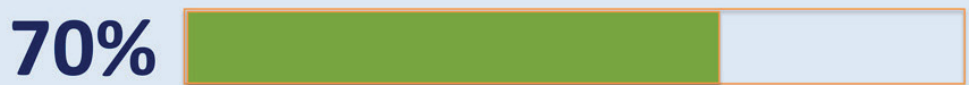
AN OLDER ADULT
DIES FROM A FALL
RELATED INJURY



OF ADULT CHILDREN HAVE SOMEONE CHECK ON THEIR PARENTS DAILY



OF ADULT CHILDREN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PARENTS' FALLING



OF ADULT CHILDREN HAVE WEEKLY CONCERNS ABOUT A PARENT'S FALL RISK

BATHROOM SAFETY

- Keep the bathtub clean. Soap residue or other grime can contribute to slippery conditions in the shower and tub. Cleaning these surfaces frequently can improve traction.
- Declutter the space. Remove extraneous items from the bathroom that can pose as tripping hazards.
- Choose the right bath mat. Bath mats can contribute to slips and falls. For those who cannot live without them, choose a mat with slip-resistant backings and add double-faced tape for added security.
- Limit moisture. Use a weighted shower curtain or install shower doors to prevent water from getting on the floor. Mop up any water or additional condensation to help dry the bathroom. Install an exhaust fan to help vent moisture that can condense and accumulate on the floor and fixtures.
- Improve bathroom lighting. Make sure lighting in the bathroom illuminates all areas.
- Wear non-slip shoes. Wearing non-slip shoes when in the bathroom can reduce the chances of slipping on wet floors.
- Install a walk-in shower or bathtub. These lipless fixtures can assist those who have difficulty entering a standard tub or shower. Grab bars also can help with maneuvering in and out of the shower area.
- Use a raised toilet seat. A raised toilet, or one with a special seat that reduces the distance one has to go to reach a seated position, may help prevent falls.

People 75 and older who fall are 5X more likely to be admitted to a long-term care facility



Cook Up Pumpkin-Inspired Comfort

FAMILY FEATURES

After a cool, blustery day, it's hard to beat a satisfying meal that provides comfort from the inside out. Better yet, turning to a filling dish that's easy to prepare means more time cozying up with a favorite book or movie and less time in the kitchen.

Casseroles and soups are classic options for cooking up comfort at home, and these recipes lean on the reliability of classic Minute Instant White Rice and Instant Jasmine Rice. Known for its light, fluffy texture; short, easy prep; and only 5 minutes of cook time, the rice is perfect for busy families who need quick, satisfying meals.

Simply cooked then dried with nothing added, it's one simple ingredient: rice grown in the United States, meaning whether your loved ones go gluten-free, vegan, vegetarian or anything in between, you can count on these rice varieties all comfort food season long.

If you're looking for a filling feast, you can let your oven do the work with this Pumpkin and Spinach Layered Rice Casserole for an Italian-inspired solution. It doesn't get much creamier than combining sweet pumpkin puree with three gooey cheeses while folding in a protein-rich egg, fresh spinach and fluffy jasmine rice makes it a truly satisfying meal.

Keep that seasonal pumpkin flavor on the menu by serving up Pumpkin Curry Turkey Soup with Rice as a simple recipe that takes only 20 minutes. With the addition of coconut milk, this rich and creamy soup is quick, comforting and tasty for a hot bite on cool, crisp nights.

To find more family-favorite comfort foods, visit MinuteRice.com.



Pumpkin and Spinach Layered Rice Casserole

Pumpkin Curry Turkey Soup with Rice

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6

- 4 cups sodium-reduced turkey broth
- 1 can (14 ounces) pumpkin puree
- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon cayenne powder
- 1 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups shredded, cooked turkey
- 1 can (14 ounces) coconut milk
- 2 cups Minute Instant White Rice

In large saucepan, combine turkey broth, pumpkin puree, curry powder, cayenne powder, ginger, pumpkin pie spice, salt and water. Bring to boil. Stir in turkey and coconut milk; return to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cook 5-8 minutes, or until turkey is heated through. Stir in rice; cover and remove pan from heat. Let stand about 5 minutes until rice is tender.



Pumpkin Curry Turkey Soup with Rice

Pumpkin and Spinach Layered Rice Casserole

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 50 minutes
Servings: 4

- 2 cups Minute Instant Jasmine Rice
- 7 ounces pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons butter, cut into cubes
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1 1/4 teaspoons black pepper, divided
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 5 ounces spinach
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 egg
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided

Prepare rice according to package directions.

Stir in pumpkin puree, cream, butter, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper; set aside.

Preheat oven to 375 F. In large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add spinach and garlic; cook 2-4 minutes, or until wilted. Let cool completely; squeeze out excess moisture. Season with 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.

In medium bowl, combine ricotta, egg and spinach. Stir in 1 cup mozzarella, 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese and remaining salt and pepper.

Layer half of rice mixture in greased 8-inch square baking dish. Top with spinach mixture then top with remaining rice mixture. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan. Cover with foil; bake 30 minutes. Remove foil; bake 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown and bubbling.

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This project is supported by Grant No. 2018-EW-AX-K002 awarded to Saint Elizabeth Community by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

by CHERYL TUDINO
 SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Medicare Part B coverage New start dates for coming in 2023

Changes are coming next year for when Medicare Part B coverage starts. What is not changing:

If you are eligible at age 65, your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP):

- Begins three months before your 65th birthday.
- Includes the month of your 65th birthday.
- Ends three months after your 65th birthday.

If you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B or if you sign up during the first three months of your IEP, your coverage will start the month you're first eligible. If you sign up the month you turn 65, your coverage will start the first day of the following month. This won't change with the new rule.

What is changing:

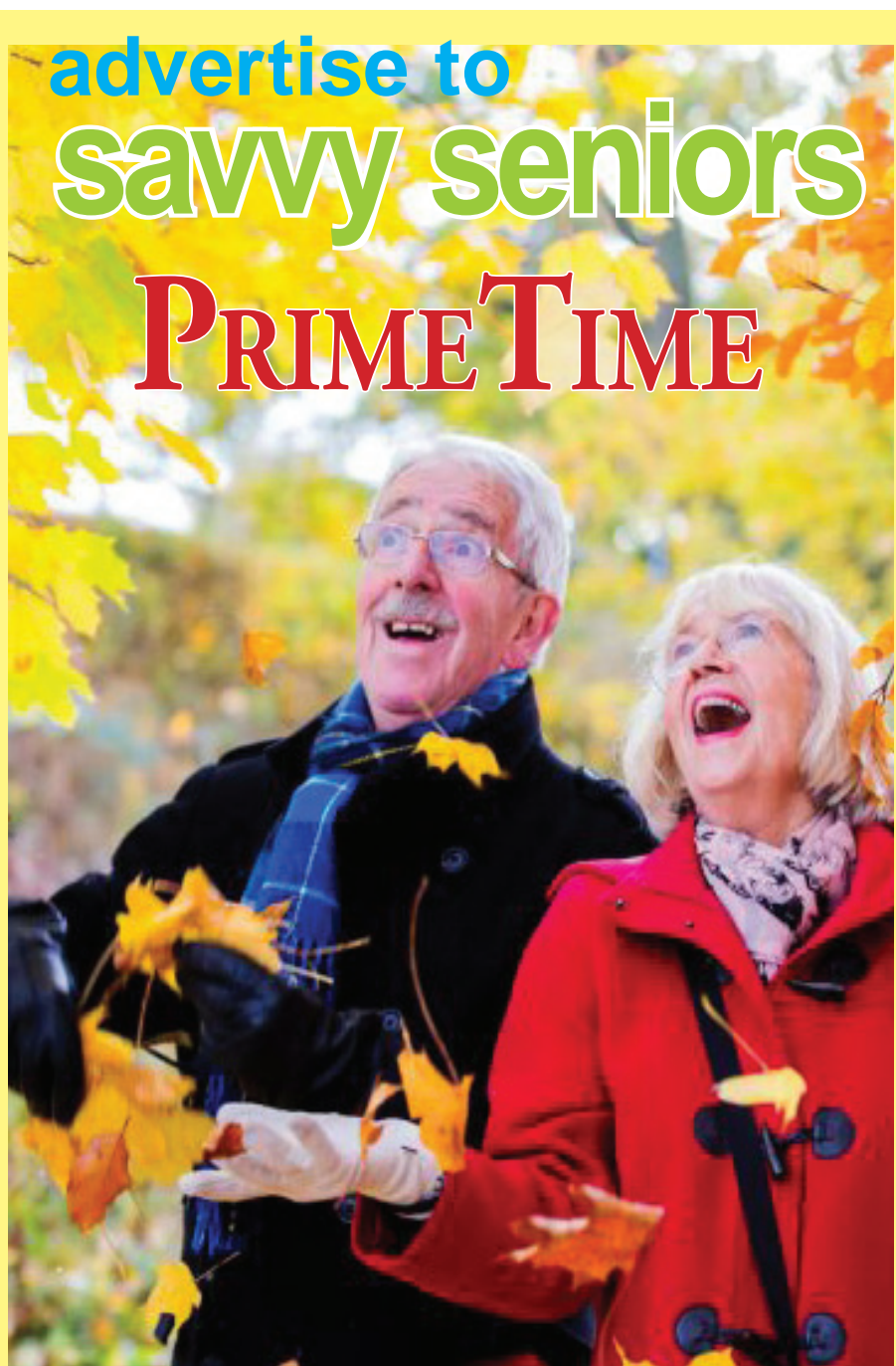
Starting January 1, 2023, your Medicare Part B coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up if you sign up during the last three months of your IEP.

Before this change, if you signed up during the last three months of your IEP, your Medicare Part B coverage

started two to three months after you enrolled.

If you don't sign up for Medicare Part B during your IEP, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period (GEP). The GEP lasts from January 1 through March 31. Starting January 1, 2023, your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

You can learn more about these updates on our Medicare webpage at www.ssa.gov/medicare and our Medicare publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.



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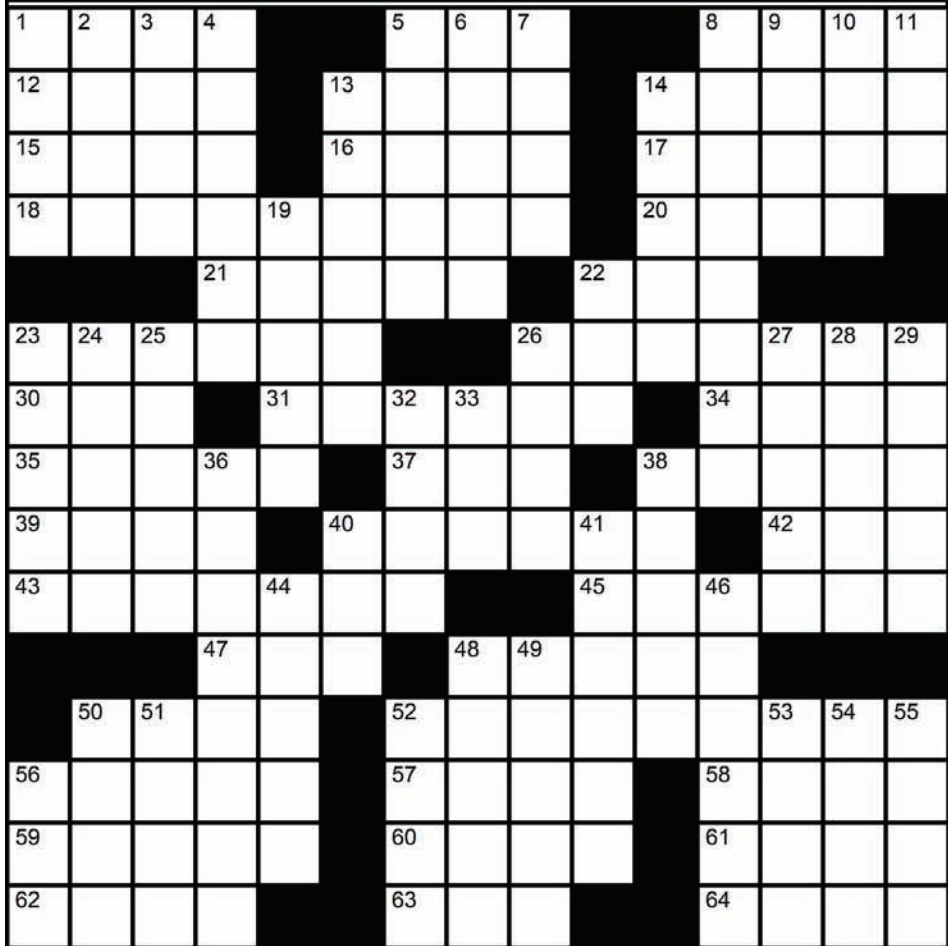
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CROSSWORD



YOUR TAXES

by MEG CHEVALIER

IRS-certified volunteers make a difference for millions of taxpayers

Every year, IRS-certified volunteers help millions of taxpayers across the country file their tax returns. Volunteering is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to make a difference in their community, learn about tax preparation and earn continuing education credits.

There are two IRS volunteer programs

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. While the IRS manages the VITA and TCE programs, the VITA/TCE sites are operated by IRS partners and staffed by volunteers.

- **VITA** offers free help to people who generally earn \$60,000 or less, people with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers.
- **TCE** is mainly for people age 60 or older. Although the program focuses on tax issues unique to seniors, most taxpayers can usually get free assistance.

Volunteering is easy and convenient

- **Volunteers can work flexible hours.** Volunteers can generally choose their own hours and days to volunteer. Tax preparation sites are usually open from late January through the tax filing deadline in April. Some sites are even open all year.
- **Volunteers can work virtually from anywhere.** Some volunteer sites offer virtual help for taxpayers. This allows volunteers to help taxpayers complete their tax returns over the phone or online. Some volunteers will conduct a virtual quality review with the taxpayer before e-filing their tax return.
- **No prior experience needed.** Volunteers receive specialized training to become IRS-certified. They can also choose from a variety of volunteer roles to serve. VITA and TCE programs include volunteers of all backgrounds and ages, as well as individuals who are fluent in other languages.
- **The IRS provides free tax law training and materials.** Volunteers receive training materials at no charge. The tax law training covers how to prepare basic federal tax returns electronically. The training also covers tax topics, such as deductions and credits.
- **Tax pros can earn continuing education credits.** Enrolled agents and non-credentialed tax return preparers can earn continuing education credits when volunteering as a VITA or TCE instructor, quality reviewer or tax return preparer.

For additional information, please visit www.irs.gov/volunteers or send an email to Miguelina.y.chevalier@irs.gov.

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Happy Thanksgiving!

ACROSS

- Poet Angelou
- "Eureka!"
- *Thanksgiving season
- Bug-eyed
- "Tiger Beat" centerfold
- New York's ___ Island
- Simmering feeling
- Combustible rock
- Short for Charlotte
- *Thanksgiving sauce source
- Singer Redding
- Old hat
- Bar in Ireland
- *Macy's tradition
- Gets ready for publication
- Dr. Cornelius of film, e.g.
- What's good for the goose is good for the ___
- Paul Bunyan stories and such
- Parallelogram or heptagon
- Charged particle
- More cunning
- Ant construction
- Fluffy sweater material
- Cribbage piece
- Ancient Mesopotamian civilization
- Maltreat
- Sea, in Spain
- Fraternity K
- Hoodlum
- *Massasoit's people
- Do like QA
- Opposite of written
- Like watching paint dry
- Togetherness
- Move like sludge
- S squared, e.g.
- Eliza follower
- Placeholder surname
- Like hand-me-downs

- "___ Fall in Love" song
- Caustic substance
- Cold brew (2 words)
- Intangible storage
- "The Red ___ of Courage"
- A pop
- Turkish bigwig
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Brazilian coins
- Former U.S. Attorney General Janet
- a.k.a. nutria
- Elms
- Military uniform fabric
- Columbus' vessel
- *TV's National ___ Show on Thanksgiving
- *1621 celebration location
- Planktonic tunicate
- Lungful
- Small wave
- Gangly
- Popular carriage in royal procession
- Semi-desert region in South Africa
- Astonish
- DNA segment
- Final notice
- *"Miracle on 34th Street" star
- Yours and mine
- Sheltered, nautically speaking
- Hefty competitor
- Give a nickname

DOWN

- Painter Chagall
- Lab gel
- Hatha or bikram, e.g.
- "To do" list
- Be gaga over
- Squirrel away
- Comrade in arms
- *Popular Thanksgiving TV entertainment
- Nay sayer

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Timeless Wisdom

MEMOIRS

by SUSAN DEAN



I have a new grandson - 7 lb. 6 oz. Jack arrived on October 26, 2022. I include the year - 2022 - because I have two living relatives who have been here for nearly a century in one case, and more than a century in the other case. Uncle Tom, born in 1923, is 99. Uncle Don, born in 1921, is 101. They were born just after the Spanish flu pandemic. A once in a century occurrence. Jack was born in the aftermath of another global pandemic, nearly one hundred years later.

I lost three aunts within the last year. Aunt Madeline lived to be 91 - she died in July, 2021. Aunt Edna passed at 94 in February, 2022. And Aunt Helen - Uncle Don's wife - was 98 when we lost her in March, 2022.

My aunts and uncles lived through the Great Depression and a world war. They experienced massive shifts in the growth of technology and medicine, and witnessed many other global changes. A century of living.

I hold my new grandson and look into his deep, dark blue eyes. He stares at me briefly, and at one point gazes into my eyes. We share a moment - a moment of connection before he closes his eyes and sighs into sleep. What changes will he witness during his lifetime? What have I learned from my aunts and uncles that I can pass on to Jack, and to my older grandchildren, too? Michael, Abby, and Anthony are 18, 16, and 15. Emilia is 5. What are the lessons learned from a century of living?

Uncle Don talks about working hard and doing one's best, and staying optimistic through all of life's ups and downs. At 101, he's still living at home. He tells me he misses three things - driving (which he gave up voluntarily), playing golf, and woodworking. He's crafted many pieces through the years. I have a porch swing and several of Uncle Don's smaller handmade items. All of us in the family have received these gifts made with loving care.

He talks about the love of his life, my Aunt Helen, with tears behind his smile. He's grateful for the love they shared for 76 years. Even as he misses the independence of his younger years and the loss of his hobbies, as well as missing the companionship of his wife, when I ask him how he's doing, he always has one answer.

"Great!" he says.

And he recently told me that he's still learning every day. That even when something negative happens, or when things don't go as expected, Uncle Don says there's always a lesson to be learned, something to be gained.

"Be open, be curious," he tells me.

Uncle Tom has lived through much personal tragedy - outliving three wives, his daughter, and his son-in-law. At 99, he is a survivor, taking each day as it comes. Uncle Tom loves to talk and has shared many stories with me about our family, his growing up years, and his philosophies about life. He talks about picking

up the trombone in high school and how learning to play it shaped his life. His passion for the trombone and for jazz continued into adulthood, and he became a professional musician.

He still loves to watch jazz bands on YouTube - many from years past featuring musicians from his heyday. He points out the various instruments to me, explains the nuances of jazz composition, and his enthusiasm is infectious.

"Follow your passion," he tells me.

My dear aunts were inspirational, too. Aunt Edna was a writer and an actress who stayed active in both right into her nineties. She wrote several books in her later years and was involved in the theater, acting and mentoring throughout her life.

"Keep doing what you love," she'd say.

Aunt Helen was always laughing and her sense of humor was legendary. She had a joyful love of life and embraced every day with optimism and enthusiasm. She was physically active throughout her years and continued walking daily into her nineties.

"Stay positive and keep moving," she'd say.

And Aunt Madeline lived independently in spite of ever-increasing health issues, but never allowed her reduced mobility to dampen her spirit. She continued to cook her signature recipes while using her walker, and concentrated on what she could do, and not on what she had lost.

"I'm so grateful. So grateful for everything," she'd say.

Looking back, my aunts and uncles have learned what truly matters. From following one's heart, to being open to new experiences, to staying fully engaged with life. From acceptance of loss, to finding the joy within each day. All with an underlying theme of deep gratitude.

I'm grateful for the years I've had with my aunts and uncles, and for the gift of their wisdom. I look into Jack's newborn eyes and wonder where his life's journey will carry him, as well as my older grandchildren, who are beginning to find their paths through the world. I'm grateful that I can share with them the stories and lessons from a century of living - lessons from their family, and timeless wisdom to guide them through their years.

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