

## Johnston Senior Center director fired

### Democratic Town Committee head hired

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston's Mayor-elect has axed the Senior Center director and filled the role with the town's soon-to-be-former Democratic Town Committee chairman.

"During the transition period, I have a great opportunity to be responsive to constituent feedback and implement change," said Town Council Vice President and incoming Mayor Joe Polisena Jr. "All the decisions I make to retain, terminate and make appointments are reflective of that feedback."

Polisena cleared his carefully worded statement with the town's legal counsel before releasing it.

On Monday night, the Town Council tackled the "Appoint-

ment of Executive Director to the Johnston Senior Center" at its regular monthly meeting.

The job title has been tweaked slightly, but the post is responsible for all oversight at the bustling Senior Center on Hartford Avenue.

Now former Johnston Senior Center Director Matt Bolton was hired less than two years ago, when Anthony Zompa retired after two decades at the helm.

Town Council has now appointed Richard J. DelFino Jr., Chairman of the 55-member Johnston Democratic Town Committee, as Senior Center Executive Director. DelFino said he has no plans to run for re-election to the political position

#### OUSTED:

Now former Johnston Senior Center Director Matt Bolton appeared at the center's tree lighting two weeks ago. Several days later, he was fired and escorted from the building. (Sun Rise FILE photo)



DIRECTOR - PAGE 6

# THE SNOWMAN SHOWMAN



**ATWOOD AVE'S BIGGEST INFLATABLE:** Gary Marandola has flipped the switch on the Christmas light display outside his Atwood Avenue home. He estimates the display has "around 50,000" lights. This week, he added a 20-feet high inflatable snowman. For more photos from Marandola's winter wonderland, turn to Page 11. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

## Sicknesses surge & merge in Rhode Island

**Kent ER Chief: 'Weary what winter might bring'**

By RORY SCHULER

Are you sick and tired of being sick? Maybe you should stop reading.

By now you've probably heard of the looming "tridemic," or triple-pandemic. Get ready for the next scary numerical prefix: "quademic."

Laura Forman, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Kent Hospital, says the situation may be even worse than the already daunting triple threat of influenza, RSV and COVID.

"I would actually call it a quademic, added the significant spike of mental illness and behavioral health emergencies," Forman said Tuesday, adding that the trend in mental health emergencies appears "pandemic related."

That's four major health emergencies hitting Ocean State hospitals at once.

Joseph Wendelken, Public Information Officer for the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), warned that "health officials nationally and locally anticipate this be-

ing a bad year for respiratory viruses."

"We saw an early spike in cases of RSV, a common virus that can be serious for some higher risk children and adults," Wendelken said Monday. "Cases of RSV usually peak in Rhode Island in early January. Fortunately, we seem to be coming down from that peak. Flu is circulating in Rhode Island now as well."

Schools have been seeing an increase in school-wide absenteeism.

SICK - PAGE 8

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**GRAND GIVERS:** Rescue Lt. Adam Ponbriant, Battalion Chief Tom McCormick and Local 1950 Executive Board member firefighter Don Roberts show off some of the turkeys Local 1950 gave to needy families last week. (Photos courtesy Jonathan V. Pistacchio)

## Firefighters provide feasts for more than 40 Johnston families

By PETE FONTAINE

When it comes to caring and sharing, few organizations, if any, do it better than the Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950.

Johnston Fire Department Rescue Division Captain Cherra Wheeler initiated the tradition a dozen years ago, and over Thanksgiving the effort set an all-time record, providing 41 food baskets along with a turkey and desserts for Johnston families that otherwise would not have had a traditional holiday feast on the table for dinner.

"We were blessed that we were able to (feed) that many families this year," Wheeler said, her voice cracking with the emotions of joy. "That's a long, long way from the five baskets we delivered 12 years ago."

In keeping with their unmatched tradition, every member of the Johnston Fire Department made the record donations possible and many firefighters helped assemble each basket, all filled with everything needed for families to have a turkey feast.

The baskets included corn, green beans, carrots, potatoes, stuffing, gravy and other fixings along with an assortment of special desserts and of course a turkey.

As equally impressive was that all the goodies were packed into an oversized plastic laundry basket that Wheeler said, "Each of the families could keep and we even provided a tin to cook the dinner and families can keep

for ... any other holiday."

When asked how the program began, Wheeler offered: "We love helping a lot of people and we are very thankful we've been able to do this every year."

Moreover, Wheeler noted how and why she started the unique Thanksgiving tradition: "Back then we knew there was a need in the community so (as) a way to create goodwill and public relations we launched the (food) drive and it has been well received ever since."

But Wheeler does more than just coordinate the food drive; she also does most of the shopping and looks for the best places to shop.

"We buy the turkeys from Stop & Shop," she said. "They give us a really good price and as a way to save money we buy items from places like Dollar Tree."

From there, it's back to the JFD headquarters where the baskets are filled and ready to be picked up by representatives from various schools from an anonymous list provided each year by the Johnston School Department.

"Cherra has been running this important campaign for many years," offered Jon Pistacchio, vice president of the Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950.

"She does a phenomenal job, and we are proud that all the food items are made possible by donations from each and every firefighter."



**BOUNTIFUL BASKETS:** These are some of the record 41 baskets the Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950 distributed so families in need could have a Thanksgiving dinner.

# Police & Firefighters kickoff Toys for Tots Drive



**BEYOND PUBLIC SAFETY:** Among those police and fire union members who took part in Saturday's Toys for Tots kickoff were, from left: Sgt. Joe Scichilone, Matt Rado, Ashley VanBemmelen, Matt Murphy, Lt. Steve Altomari, Stephanie Harris, Lt. Jon Pistaacchio, Chris DelFino, Corey McNulty, Adam Barros, Tom McCormick, Anthony Colello, Sal Martira, Mike Montecalvo, Scott Badillo and Lt. Jim DeSilva. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

## 'I'm hoping we have the largest turnout – and toy collection – ever!'

By PETE FONTAINE

There will be a milestone celebration of sorts when the Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950 and Johnston Police Local 307 co-host Johnston's annual Toys for Tots Drive. Although the important event has been held for many years, the 2022 edition will actually celebrate two anniversaries; the two unions' twelfth straight toy collection will be held on the exact date Stephanie Harris opened the popular String Bar & Grille at 183 George Waterman Road in Johnston. "I think it's pretty cool they decided to do this year's toy drive on the same date I opened five years ago," Harris said about the Dec. 20 event while sitting on a tricycle during Saturday morning's special kickoff at JFD headquarters on Atwood Avenue. "I'm hoping we have the largest turnout – and toy collection – ever!"

Admission is, as always, free and the Fire and Police Unions are asking for people to bring at least one new, unwrapped toy and enjoy a complimentary buffet courtesy of Harris. "We will also have drink specials so please — come and enjoy the night — and help the Firefighters and Police uphold the tradition of filing the backend of a JFD Rescue," she said. In keeping with tradition, Saturday morning's official toy drive kickoff featured many of the toys, games, dolls and bikes that have already been donated as they have in previous years with the hope of many more generous donations to follow. Ten members of Local 1950 and five members of Local 307 took part in Saturday's Toy for Tots Drive kickoff and they gathered around a decorated Christmas tree amid many gifts that will again help the United States Marine Corps help children in needy families have a Merry Christmas.

Local 1950 attendees were Lt. Jim DeSilva, Lt. Jon Pistachio, Battalion Chief Tom McCormick, Capt. Sal Martira, and Firefighters Anthony Colello, Chris DelFino, Corey McNulty, Adam Barros, Mike Montecalvo and Scott Badillo. JPD 307 officers on hand were Sgt. Jape Scichilone, Lt. Steve Altomari, Matt Rado, Ashley VanBemmelen and Matt Murphy. While members of both locals gathered around a decorated Christmas tree, there were five candy canes features alongside the Richard Gemma Memorial Tree that was planted three years ago in memory of the late and highly respected firefighter who passed away on Aug. 27, 2019. Thus, people from both unions — as well as Harris — announced that Toys for Tots boxes have been placed at the fire and police headquarters as well as Strings Bar & Grille that each of the 16 attendees said they hope will be overflowing with toys and givers before Dec. 20.

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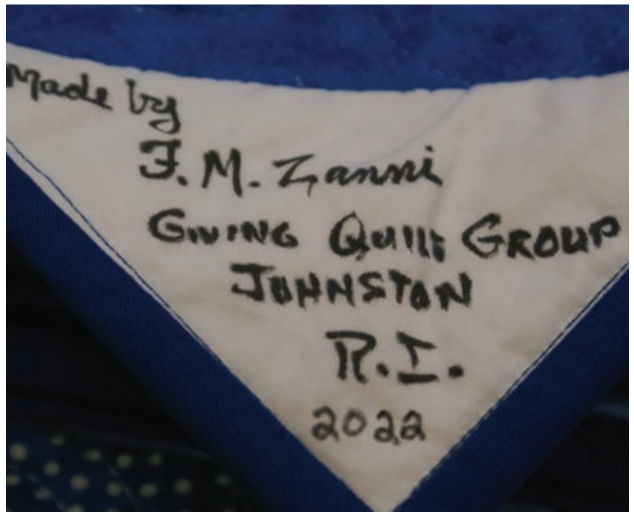
**GIVING QUILTS:** Marie Lanzi, Evelyn Cedroni and Francisca Zanni pose with this year's crop of quilts. The Johnston Senior Center's Giving Quilt Group estimates they've donated around 600 quilts since the club's founding in 2009. (Sun Rise photos by Steve Popiel)

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# Still stitching together



**SIGNED WORKS OF ART:** Every quilt bears a signature from the person who made it. (Sun Rise photos by Steve Popiel)

## Johnston Senior Center's Giving Quilt Group has donated more than 600 covers since 2009

**By RORY SCHULER**

The stitching ladies at the Johnston Senior Center have patched together more than 600 quilts since 2009. The small Giving Quilt Group of five quilters are all over 80 years old, and two have passed their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

The quilters gathered the handmade covers and hoped to again donate them to Children's Friend and Services' Project Connect. Families in need will receive the quilts just in time for the holidays and plummeting temperatures.

The group's more than 600 quilts have all been donated to local community service organizations and churches. They feature a wide variety of designs, for all ages and genders. Quilters Marie Lanzi, Evelyn Cedroni and Francisca Zanni gathered to show off 2022's batch of quilts. Countless hours of work go into each piece, but the quilters rarely grow too attached to their master patchworks, despite signing each work of stitched art. "We also take donations," Lanzi said last year. "We can always use more fabric, thread and batting." As long as they have a robust material supply, the members of the Giving Quilt Group will gladly donate their time and talent to creating new quilts for the region's families in-need. **Editor's Note:** Go to our website, [johnstonsunrise.net](http://johnstonsunrise.net), for more quilt photos.

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# DelFino surprised with crystal plaque after 35 years of service

By PETE FONTAINE

Since 1988, Richard J. DelFino Jr. has compiled an impressive record for helping his fellow man and woman.

The Johnston native, who is steeped in community service, is a 1977 graduate of Johnston High School and has worn many hats, including Chairman of the Tri-County Community Action Agency Board of Directors.

Thus, it came as no surprise to anyone — except DelFino himself — when his long-time friend and Tri-County CEO/President Joseph DeSantis presented him with a crystal plaque in recognition of his dedication and service for an extraordinary span of 35 years with the model non-profit agency.

“Richard has been a pillar for Tri-County Community Action Agency, both professionally and personally,” DeSantis said after the surprise presentation. “He has been an outstanding Chair, leader and man of his word.”

Moreover, as DeSantis wanted it known: “Richard excelled as Board Chair, and as an active member of his community, bridged the gap between the mayor’s office, state government and Tri-County AAA.”

DeSantis was somewhat saddened when DelFino decided to step down as Board Chairman. The President/CEO offered: “Richard will be greatly missed as Board Chair, but I couldn’t be happier he will that we will remain on the Tri-County Board as a director.”

DeSantis went on saying: “Richard

genuinely cared about the agency’s mission: to empower and create opportunity for vulnerable individuals and families in our community to become socially and economically self-sufficient through integrated social, educational, health, prevention and other basic needs.”

DelFino, who has a degree in Social Work and has served as Clerk of the Municipal Court for years, began his career as a young and ambitious probation officer back in 1988 when he was elected to the Johnston School Committee.

“He was an advocate for individuals and families served by our agency, particularly those residing in Johnston and he was never shy about speaking his mind or what he thought was good for the agency,” DeSantis said.

In addition to being a loving husband and caring father of two sons, DelFino prided himself in volunteering as a youth baseball coach and being involved in the political arena, an area that he built the JDTC (Johnston Democratic Town Committee) into a model group for other communities in the state.

As a member of the School Committee, he said he set out to assist the community in providing and implementing plans on behalf of students and families in the district. That desire and commitment put him in direct relation with former JHS classmate Brenda (Parsons) Dowlitashi and longtime social advocate/Johnston native DeSantis, who ran the Tri-County agency.

Back then, the three Johnstonians



**AWESOME AWARD:** Richard J. DelFino Jr., who is stepping down as Board Chairman of the Tri-County Community Action Agency after what has been an impressive run of 35 years. Here, he accepts the Crystal Award from President/CEO Joseph DeSantis with Chief Operating Officer Brenda Parsons Dowlitashi looking on. (Submitted photo)

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## EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

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D	A	U	N	T	V	E	T	S	A	E	K			
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**NEW DIRECTOR:** Above, Richard J. DelFino Jr. has been appointed Johnston Senior Center Executive Director. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

**Director**  
 (Continued from page 1)

in the New Year when his term expires. DelFino worked as Johnston Municipal Court Administrator and, until recently, served as Chairman of the Tri-County Community Action Agency Board of Directors.

"My background is in social work," DelFino said. "My early years were (spent) working with seniors ... going back to the late 70s ... I'm excited about this new appointment. Because I think ... I could bring a lot of ideas to strengthen the programming and the services that seniors can engage. So, I'm looking forward to it."

On Monday afternoon, in Bolton's former office, DelFino was sitting at the desk, sorting through stacks of paper, trying to make sense of the Senior Center's records.

"I got a call from the mayor on Monday of last week, which basically indicated they were relieving (Matt Bolton) of his duties, and they asked me if I would be able to assume his responsibilities here in this capacity," DelFino said from behind the director's desk. "I would leave my responsibilities at the Municipal Court ... They indicated that they thought I'd be a good fit. I thought I would be too."

DelFino plans to meet with the town's finance director as soon as possible to get a "very very accurate shot of the financial status of the Senior Center ... I'll be really really transparent about that."

Bolton, 27 at the time of his hiring, was a fairly recent Villanova University graduate, with a degree in sociology. The Cranston native and resident had previously worked at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center.

Bolton started in Johnston on Jan. 3, 2021, in a lesser role, and trained under Zompa and late Assistant Director Mildred Santilli (Santilli died unexpectedly in March 2021 at age 71).

Zompa announced his retirement and Bolton was eventually appointed to the post by current Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, father of the incoming mayor. The hiring was approved by Town Council.

"I started in January, I think the first day was Jan. 3, and basically from then on Tony had indicated that he was leaning toward retiring and I had an idea that maybe this could be my job, and from the beginning I tried to learn from

everyone that I could," Bolton said in a 2021 interview with the Johnston Sun Rise. "We helped with vaccination roll-out through Johnston, helped out through vaccination clinics, so basically anything that I could, I observed."

Bolton did not respond to a request for comment following his termination last week. At the time of his firing he was working to plan Wednesday afternoon's Senior Center Christmas Party. On Wednesday morning, more than a week later, the center's staff was busy setting up for the festivities.

Bolton is the son of Attorney John J. Bolton, a Partner with the Providence firm Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP. John Bolton represented Bluewater Property Group when they appeared before the Johnston Planning and Zoning Boards, pitching the project that eventually became the Amazon robotic fulfillment center currently under construction off Hartford Avenue, several miles north of the Senior Center.

The deal resulted in a lucrative tax deal for Amazon, and the assurance of millions in tax dollars annually for Johnston. Town officials have indicated the funds from Amazon will cover the bond payments for the town-wide school facilities overhaul. After its completion, the Amazon structure is expected to be the Ocean State's largest building.

All parties involved insist Matt Bolton's hiring was unrelated to the pending Amazon project, which was working its way through the town's regulatory boards simultaneously, and that the timing of the hiring is coincidental.

John Bolton returned a call for comment on his son's firing Tuesday afternoon.

"I can tell you that Matt was told by both the Mayor-elect and the current chief of staff (Polisena's Chief of Staff Doug Jeffrey) that this was a decision strictly having to do with the transition to a new administration and had nothing to do with his work performance," John Bolton said. "The chief of staff also told Matthew that he had done a good job. My personal conversation with the chief of staff was the same."

Sources at the Senior Center confirm a ranking officer with the Johnston Police Department was in Matt Bolton's director's office last Monday, in plain clothes, and eventually escorted him from the building.

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**APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR:** Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisen, at right, called Richard J. DelFino Jr. before Town Council on Monday night. DelFino, at left, has been appointed the new Johnston Senior Center Executive Director following last week's firing of Matt Bolton. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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**Director**

(Continued from page 6)

Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza would not confirm the presence of an officer at the termination.

"I have no comment regarding this matter," Razza said Tuesday.

Sources have confirmed that the presence of a town police officer following a municipal employee's termination, to escort the former employee off town property, is fairly common practice.

Matt Bolton led the Senior Center from behind the scenes through the remainder of the pandemic to this year's tree lighting in the cafeteria before BINGO two weeks ago. He plugged in the tree and posed in front of it with Center Coordinator Denise Bell and her daughter, Center Supervisor Jacqueline Bell-Conroy.

Senior Center employees didn't want to talk about Matt Bolton's firing. Everyone interviewed said they were reluctant to go on-the-record, but sources confirmed the termination was a shock to the staff.

"I'm lucky that we have the staff here that we do, a really devoted staff, and I think what makes it important is we know that the place has been a destination in the community before and all of the seniors need in-person communication in their lives," Bolton said in 2021, shortly after he was promoted. "I think with COVID, a lot of people eliminated that. It's something that makes it easier knowing the center, knowing that once we get to the other side of the coronavirus, we can excel at what we do best — helping seniors have a good time from the moment they walk in the door."

Bolton told the Sun Rise he didn't see any problems with taking over the center at only 27 years old. He said he brought a "youthful perspective" to the table.

What's the current status of the Johnston Senior Center? Is it financially sound? Are membership numbers and event attendance increasing?

DelFino said he doesn't know yet, but he'll soon find out, and share the answers publicly.

"The honest answer is that I'm accessing every aspect of the services that are provided, the opportunities that are afforded to the seniors," DelFino said this week. "The staff here appear very committed, very dedicated; a group of very dedi-

cated volunteers and what-not. I've spent a lot of time in the main area there. I've had lunch with the seniors. I've been observing. And there's been no shortage of people with opinions, that have something to say about ... how we can do things to improve services."

For now, DelFino's taking the new job one box at a time.

"We'll continue to access and see where we think we can strengthen," DelFino said. "I have a lot of ideas about how we can improve our numbers here. I would like this location to provide significant services to the elderly besides the recreational and social. I'm looking forward to that."



**FIRED:** Now former Johnston Senior Center Director Matt Bolton appeared at the center's tree lighting two weeks ago. Several days later, he was fired and escorted from the building. (Sun Rise FILE photo)

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Reservations, Dates, Bookings at  
**AGINGDISGRACEFULLY.NET**



## Warwick Rotary Now Accepting Applications For Charitable Grants

Warwick Rotary is soliciting grant applications to support Non-Profits located in or serving the Warwick Community and/or its residents.

Projects/programs must be consistent with the policies and programs of the Rotary Club of Warwick and benefit the local community.

Grant applications are due by  
**January 31, 2023**

Applications and additional information are available on  
**www.WarwickRotaryRI.com**  
**Community - Grants**

## ■ Sick

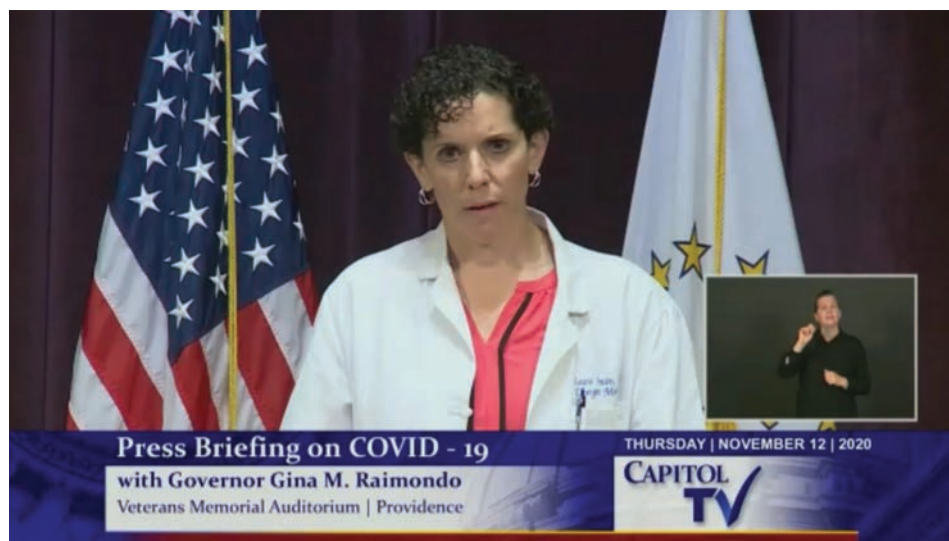
(Continued from page 1)

"We are definitely seeing more absences than usual with both teachers and students," Johnston Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said Monday. "The primary cause has been flu."

On Tuesday night, DiLullo informed the School Committee that the district was in great need of substitute teachers, and would temporarily increase daily substitute pay from \$100 to \$130.

According to Darlene Amalfitano, Cranston Public Schools nursing program supervisor, the city has experienced a manageable spike in cases of illness, but the district is doing well overall.

"We've had an increase in absences, but overall we're not doing too badly," agreed Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools Jeannine Notamasse. "It's out there. We know it'll be worse this year because we've had masks on for the past three years, but I'd say



**DIRE WARNING:** Dr. Laura Forman, chief of emergency medicine at Kent Hospital, provided broadcast updates during the earliest days of the pandemic. As medical director of the Cranston field hospital site in November 2020, she warned Rhode Island that COVID-19 had "pressed us to the brink." This week, Dr. Forman said we still don't know what COVID might do next. (SCREENSHOT / CAPITOL TV)

we are probably following the trends of the state."

Added to those concerns, following the isolation and societal changes resulting from the COVID pandemic, and a shortage of mental healthcare providers, emergency workers particularly have been seeing a rapid rise in mental health emergencies at local hospitals.

"We're all weary what winter might bring," Forman said. "We get more concerned the more people (gather) inside; relaxation of mask mandates and precautions in general. It's not a far reach (to predict) numbers will spike."

Public health data confirms three different illnesses, each with respiratory symptoms (and other symptoms unique to each illness), have been sweeping through the nation, and Rhode Island particularly, forming a so-called "tridemic." In November, PBS reported that "more than three-quarters of pediatric hospital beds nationwide are occupied, seniors are hospitalized at a higher rate for respiratory illness and flu hospitalizations are at a decade-level high."

Forman said the staff at Kent is busy, but keeping pace.

"In the hospital, we're doing well," she explained. "Overall, nationwide there have been staffing constraints. There are still long waits to get in to see primary care doctors."

The next few months may be difficult for both patients and healthcare providers.

"The percentage of patients presenting to primary care providers with influenza-like illness is already above what we have seen at this time during the last few flu seasons," Wendelken explained. "And of course, hospitals are still treating patients with COVID-19, and we could see an increase in cases in the coming weeks and months."

The COVID pandemic, still changing and unpredictable, merged with rising RSV cases and the annual flu season.

"Early in the fall, RSV numbers started spiking,"

Forman explained. "We knew flu season was right around the corner."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), respiratory syncytial virus (or RSV) is "a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults. RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than 1 year of age in the United States."

The CDC has warned clinicians and public health professionals to "be aware of increases in respiratory viruses, including RSV." "CDC surveillance has shown an increase in RSV detections and RSV-associated emergency department visits and hospitalizations in multiple U.S. regions, with some regions nearing seasonal peak levels," according to the agency.

While RSV has primarily afflicted the young, severe influenza and COVID typically prove most deadly for infected elderly.

According to RIDOH, one person has died from the influenza so far in the 2022-23 flu season. The patient was "an adult over 65 years of age." RIDOH started reporting influenza-associated deaths in 2013.

A recent report ("Rhode Island Weekly Influenza Surveillance Update, 2022-23 Influenza Season," Nov 27-Dec. 3) prepared by Abby Berns, Public Health Epidemiologist with Rhode Island's Center for Acute Infectious Disease Epidemiology, declared "the activity level of influenza-like illness in Rhode Island is high."

"Influenza circulation is increasing in Rhode Island," Berns wrote. "Since Oct. 2 ... there have been 182 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 1 influenza-associated death. There have been 19 non-COVID respiratory outbreaks at congregate living facilities. There have been 535 positive influenza speci-

mens at the State Health Laboratories. Multiple strains of influenza are currently circulating in Rhode Island; Influenza A (H3N2) is the predominant strain."

"We're seeing very, very high numbers of influenza," Forman said. "And we're still seeing a fair amount of COVID."

Which illness should people worry about most? Forman answered it's "difficult to say."

"There's a lot more data on influenza," she said. "We've been dealing with it for a lot more years. Influenza can be quite deadly; it varies year-to-year, strain-to-strain. But COVID is of significant concern. We don't know what COVID might do next."

COVID killed 11 Rhode Island residents during the last week reported by RIDOH on Dec. 8.

RIDOH reports 1,652 new COVID cases among Ocean State residents last week (out of 15,877 tested). So far, throughout the COVID pandemic, the virus has claimed the lives of 3,762 Rhode Islanders.

The state lists Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, ranking their COVID statistics. Out of the Ocean State's 39 municipalities, Cranston ranks fifth, Johnston sixth, and Warwick nineteenth, in COVID-19 cases per 100,000.

The state also ranks each municipality by total deaths in each city or town. In that ranking, Warwick ranks third in Rhode Island (with 267 COVID deaths); Cranston ranks fifth (with 234); and Johnston ranks sixth again (with 208), according to RIDOH.

Halfway through December, public health officials are watching the data closely and offering advice to those about to gather with family.

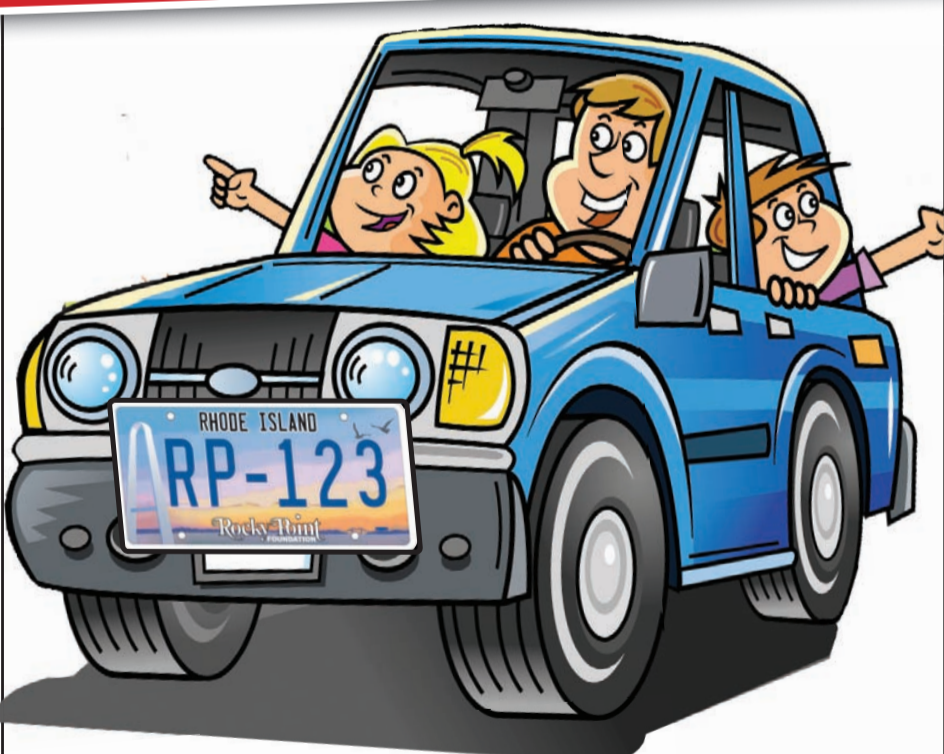
"I always try to remind people to stay safe," Forman said. "The holidays are coming up; be mindful of what you're exposed to."

Wendelken said "there are steps everyone should be taking to help themselves be healthy and safe."

(Check the RIDOH "healthy checklist" online, at [www.johnstonsunrise.net](http://www.johnstonsunrise.net).)

# ROCKY POINT LICENSE PLATES ARE HERE!

## Get Yours Now!



Thanks to legislation approved this year, the DMV is now producing Rocky Point license plates. For new orders, visit the Rocky Point Foundation website at [rockypointfoundation.org](http://rockypointfoundation.org) where you will find an order form to be returned to the DMV with payment. At this time, plates are available for passenger registrations only

**Display your love and support of a place made for memories.**



# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Home(less) for the holidays

With the ongoing plight of hundreds of Rhode Islanders without a stable place to live front and center in ongoing news coverage, we can't help but wonder what combination of factors is contributing to this problem not being solved, or at least mitigated as the weather drops into deadly degrees.

The actual numbers, to us, are largely irrelevant in regards to how many people are left out in the cold. Rhode Island, as the smallest state in the nation, should not have difficulty identifying actively or at-risk homeless individuals and families and establishing temporary accommodations sufficient for those who find themselves

outdoors during the brutal winter months — and yet we do.

Governor Dan McKee has included money in the budget to assist these people, and has made public announcements of making more shelter beds available by Thanksgiving — and yet the problem persists. This is not to lay the blame of the entire complex situation at one person's feet, but we do feel obligated to ask where the disconnect is occurring here between the clearly-stated will to help these people, and the lack of actual observed impact on the streets.

Is it a lack of available places to set up shelters? That seems hard to believe given the number of state-owned properties and vacant private properties. We would certainly hope that there are some goodhearted property owners out there willing to entertain a sort of deal with the state to provide space. Maybe it is due to a lack of human capital to actually run and administer these shelters? Or is it a classic NIMBY issue regarding an unwillingness of communities to be the ones opening their arms and accepting a group of people who are often unfairly stereotyped as "dangerous", as we have disappointingly seen among some political leaders in Cranston. Perhaps it is a combination of all of these factors, among others.

It is not as though the solution is tremendously difficult to imagine. We need more structures where people can get out of the cold, store some of their things, and be reassured that they are not in danger. Those structures may be large and open to dozens at once, they may be tiny and intended for two, or somewhere in between. But they need to be built, renovated, or established all the same. And the clock is ticking, because it isn't getting any warmer.



Does anyone have a solution?

## Moving in the progressive direction ...

**STORY OF THE WEEK:** The General Assembly's steady march in a more progressive direction over recent election cycles brings to mind a metaphor — how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. That speaks to the incremental nature of change and how some districts pose a challenge for progressives despite Democrats' overwhelming dominance in Rhode Island politics. Now, with the House of Representatives closely divided on the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act — which would extend coverage for women on Medicaid and the state employee health plan — Democratic pickups by Reps-elect Tina Spears of Charlestown and Megan Cotter of Exeter (and Brandon Voas' win over conservative Democrat Jim McLaughlin in Cumberland) could potentially make the difference. In Cotter's case, an e-bike was the secret sauce in her 32-vote defeat of Rep. Justin Price (R-Richmond). "That was super helpful, it really added to the success," Cotter said during an interview on Political Roundtable. "We have a lot of long drive-ways [in the rural towns that make up House District 39, Exeter, Hopkinton and Richmond] and it's intrusive to see a car you don't know come down the driveway, like, who the heck is this? Especially in our area, you don't often get people at the door. So the bike was, you know, wholesome. And, and I think a lot of people, you know, it started a lot of conversations." Price, the only RI lawmaker to attend former President Trump's rally on Jan. 6, still came close to winning, and a third candidate attracted 10% of the vote. Cotter said some voters ruled out considering her since she is a Democrat. Still, even with an embrace of such policies as expanding Medicare and

### TALKING POLITICS



by  
IAN  
DONNIS

boosting state support for daycare, she said she tried to avoid partisanship while campaigning. "I'm Megan. I'm a mother. I am a wife. I am a squid lady," she said, referring to her work as a saleswoman for a seafood company. "I'm someone who is very active in this community. And I want your vote because I want to give you good representation at the Statehouse." Cotter shared a compelling personal story — how her community responded with help after her family's house burned down. And while Price attracted attention by buying into a conspiracy theory about Jan. 6, Cotter said she didn't bring that up in campaign mailers or while knocking on voters' doors. "I wanted to give people someone to vote for, not someone to vote against," she said.

**AS THE PROJO TURNS:** It would have once been inconceivable that the corporate parent of The Providence Journal would axe the newspaper's top editor in a cost-cutting move. But Belo's bygone ownership of the Projo — heavily criticized at the time — looks like the good old days. As part of a 6% news division cost-cut across Gannett, Executive Editor David Ng, a former top editor at the New York Daily News, has been let go after less than two years on the job. This contin-

ues the dismantling of Rhode Island's statewide daily, which no longer offers its own in-house editorial after previous layoffs.

**CITY HAUL:** The inaugural for Providence Mayor-elect Brett Smiley is on for 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2 at the Providence Public Library, followed by an open house and reception at City Hall. A 7 pm celebration at the WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley St., is also planned, and RSVP is required.

**TAKE OF THE WEEK:** Various views from a variety of Rhode Islanders.

**Strategist and consultant CARA CROMWELL:** In Rhode Island, the 2022 election quickly moved to the rearview with few surprises at the ballot box and no seismic shifts in leadership or to the political leanings in the State House. In fact, Rhode Island's most significant electoral result may have happened in Massachusetts where the "millionaire's tax" ballot question passed (coincidentally) by 4%. The new law adds a 4% tax on income above \$1 million to the current flat rate of 5%, starting in 2023. While no one expects a surge of new residents moving across the border on January 1, the new tax gives Rhode Island something it hasn't had in recent memory: a competitive tax advantage over Massachusetts. Rhode Island leaders have the opportunity to capitalize on this unexpected gift from our neighbors in Taxachusetts and tout our new-found competitiveness.

**ELSEWHERE DOWNTOWN:** Sad news for book-lovers: Cellar Stories, the fantastic downtown Providence used bookstore is closing at the end of January. Via Facebook: "Although it is very sad to say goodbye to Cellar Stories, I know Mike [Chandlely, the longtime proprietor,

who died a few years ago] would be happy to see us keeping his legacy alive and proud to see all that we've accomplished. I don't think anyone thought the store would make it 40 years, or that it would become such an important place to so many people. It will always be a special place to me, and I know I will never take for granted everything I've learned here. We hope you will keep this place in your hearts too. Come say your farewells, share with us your stories and your memories, hug your favorite shelf, use up your store credit and redeem your gift certificates before it's too late. Always support your local bookstores, be nice to your booksellers, and most importantly BUY BOOKS."

**KICKER:** The 2013 Red Sox will always have a special place in my heart. That was when a few years of fighting cancer finally caught up with my mom. She was — and is — my hero: a woman who lived with great joy and curiosity and appetite for life. Mom was still doing well when I called her after the Boston Marathon Day attack in April 2013 to let her know I was okay after leaving Fenway. But things got worse as the year continued. With their never-say-die attitude, the '13 Sox provided some light during a tough time. As a 20-year-old rookie, Xander Bogaerts played an important role in the Sox' post-season drive. "We are drawn to him because he represents boundless possibilities, a youthful exuberance untainted by frustration, disillusionment or disappointment," ESPN's Jackie Macmullen wrote at the time. So thank you, Xander Bogaerts, and Godspeed.

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# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

### CELEBRATE THE SEASON

#### Operation: Santa Paws

Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Johnston, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, has launched "Operation: Santa Paws" to collect pet supplies and donate them to a local animal shelter. Through Dec. 20, the skilled nursing facility at 80 Morgan Ave., welcomes donated items such as blankets and bed sheets, dog and cat beds, towels and washcloths, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming supplies, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls. For more information, visit [MorganRehab.com](http://MorganRehab.com).

#### Holiday Concert

The Rotary Club of Cranston will present a holiday concert featuring Cranston High School East and West at 7 p.m. on Dec. 19 at the Historic Park Theatre. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased online at [TheParkRI.com](http://TheParkRI.com).

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Explore the 'Woony'

You can "Join the Woony Team!" "Please donate to the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to help us continue to restore the Woonasquatucket River and Greenway," the organization asks. "Your donations also provide cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for youth, adults, and families. Thank you!" Pre-registration is required for the hikes. The Explore the Woonasquatucket Recreation Series is made possible with support from REI Co-op.

More hikes have been planned for future months: Hike Powder Mill Ledges at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 17. This site, headquarters of the RI Audubon Society, is home to 100 acres of habitat graced with deep woodlands and interesting rock outcroppings. These 2.5 miles of trails are home to many species of birds and the site is the headquarters of the Audubon Society of RI.

Hike the Stillwater Scenic Trail at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan 7: This roughly 2 mile round trip walk will follow along sections of the Woonasquatucket, including Stillwater Pond. You'll see some of the buildings remaining from Stillwater Village, some remnants of the railroad spur that served the mill complex, and pass by dams that created these ponds – reminders of RI's thriving industrial past.

Hike Olivia's Forest Hike at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21: This is a short, 0.7 mile hike, but it is delightful and has some tricky spots to traverse. So, wear your hiking boots and get ready to enjoy the serenity of this quiet, peaceful, lovely path.

Hike Steere Hill Conservation Area at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Join them on this a casual 3-mile hike through the woods and meadows of the Steere Hill Farm Conservation Area in Glocester.

Hike Fort Wildlife Refuge in North Smithfield at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 4. Located near Primrose Pond, this 3 mile hike is very near the northernmost part of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed. This loop trail is part of an Audubon site, so wildlife abounds.

Hike Heritage Park Conservation Area at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 18: This is a lovely, wide path with rolling hills. On the walk through this section of the Glocester Land Trust's 447 acre property, the group will amble through beautiful forest land, pass majestic rock ledges and loop up and around Steere Hill before heading back.

Hike Connors Farm Conservation Area at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 1. Located in Smithfield, Connors Farm is a 2.9 mile loop trail that passes by cranberry bogs, small brooks and ponds and features a picnic area at the top of a look-out spot. It's a beautiful rocky terrain, with ups and downs — there will be some uphill traversing on rocks.

For more details and to register, visit [WRWC.ORG/EVENTS](http://WRWC.ORG/EVENTS).

#### Johnston Historical Society Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Johnston Historical Society Museum Barn, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, and are free and open to the public. Events are subject to change.

BY APPOINTMENT: Please note Both the Johnston Historical Society museum and the Elijah Angell House are open by appointment. The Johnston Historical Society always welcome visits by interested individuals or groups. Just shoot them an email at [johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com), or leave a message at 401-231-3380 to set one up. To see photos of past events, visit the Johnston Historical Society Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical](http://www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical).

#### More at Mohr Library

Mohr Library offers special activities for middle-school and high-school age kids most afternoons. For more information contact Young Adult Librarian Marissa Galonski at 401-231-4980 or email [marissa@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:marissa@mohrlibrary.org).

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library is now open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Monday through Thursday from 9a.m. to 8 p.m. The library is located at 1 Memorial Avenue in Johnston. Visit their website: [mohrlibrary.org](http://mohrlibrary.org).

#### Neighborhood Watch

The 2022 season of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch has officially kicked off. This Neighborhood Watch brings together residents who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with members of the police department. The program pairs residents with Johnston Police officers in an effort to open up communication, meet other neighbors and create partnerships that help build community resiliency.

#### Consider donating blood

The Rhode Island Blood Center is in need of blood donations. Individuals wishing to donate must book an appointment at the donation center; walk-ins are only ac-

cepted if safe distancing allows at the person's time of arrival.

Nearby areas to donate include The Shops at Greenwood, which is located at 615 Greenwich Ave., in Warwick. Sign up by visiting [www.ribc.org](http://www.ribc.org).

#### Caregivers

Are you caring for someone with dementia who exhibits difficult to manage behaviors? You may be eligible to participate in a research study seeking advice and feedback from caregivers about what types of supports are needed. Enrolled participants will be compensated for their time. The study will take place (video call) through Rhode Island Hospital's Neuropsychology Program. If interested, contact the study coordinator Dr. Kim Chapman at 401-829-4310.

#### OLLI Classes for Adults 50+

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Rhode Island continues its registration for the fall semester. OLLI at URI provides classes for adults aged 50 and better. Students can enjoy a variety of classes, in person and via ZOOM, simply for the joy of learning – no tests, no grades. Learn more about OLLI by visiting [uri.edu/olli](http://uri.edu/olli) or call the office at 874-4197.

A few selections for the upcoming semester include Conversational Italian, Digital Photography, Broadway Musicals, and a special course, "Who Really Killed Michael Jordan's Father?" OLLI classes meet at 210 Flagg Road with ample parking right outside the door.

#### RI Landfill hosts Recycling Right Event

During a "special holiday event" sponsored by the state's landfill, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Inc., you will not only learn how to Recycle Right here in RI, but you will have all of your holiday recycling questions answered!

You recycle, right? But do you recycle right? Join them at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15, for a virtual presentation to learn the basics of RI's mixed recycling program to be a great recycler!

If you've ever wondered what the recycling symbol means on different products, how to properly dispose of used pizza boxes, or what actually happens to your recycling when it leaves the curb, you'll have these questions and more answered during Recycling Right in Rhode Island... and Going Beyond the Bin! Register online for this free presentation.

#### PrepareRI Internship Program

The 2023 applications are now open for the PrepareRI High School Summer Internship Program. If you are, or have, a rising senior this summer, this paid opportunity is an excellent one for college or career resumes. Students attend a one week paid (\$15/hr.) boot camp which prepares them for interviews and work-related skills as well as helps them to determine things like their strengths and weaknesses, and then are matched to a full-time, paid (\$15/hr.), five-week summer internship that gives them hands-on, real world work experience in a possible career interest. Hundreds of students across RI participate in these internships and the application process is a multi-phased process including submitting essays, a resume, participating in an orientation and interviews. It is an amazing opportunity for all students. If you are in need of appropriate work clothes, technology or transportation, PrepareRI will work with you.

#### Super Smash Tournament

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join One Up Games for a Super Smash Bros Tournament on Dec. 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Cranston's Central Library. All gaming equipment will be provided and there will have snacks. Registration is required and more information can be found at [events.cranstonlibrary.org/event/9682829](http://events.cranstonlibrary.org/event/9682829).

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

#### Constable Sale

By virtue and in pursuance of an execution, No. 3CA-2022-05833 issued out of the Rhode Island District Court, 3rd Division, holden at Warwick, the 21st day of November, 2022 and returnable to said Court on the 22 day of November, 2023, upon a judgment rendered by said court on the 1st day of November 2022, in favor 1200 Hartford Ave., LLC, plaintiff, and against Tasha Gallagher defendant.

Items held in Basement Storage Unit 1A located at 1200 Hartford Ave. Johnston, RI.

Notice is hereby given that I will sell all the right, title and interest of the within named defendant, at public auction, to be held at 1200 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI. 02919, on the 3rd day of January, 2023 at 10 o'clock and 00 minutes am for the satisfaction of the said execution, debt, interest on the same, costs of suit, my own fees and all contingent expenses, as is. Attorney Steve Conti reserves the right to bid at this sale. Cash or certified check, subject to any liens or encumbrances. Must be removed within 72 hours of sale unless other arrangements are made with owner.

Shirley Cairnes  
State Constable 6095

12/15/22

#### JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, December 29th, 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 December 29th, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are

requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext. 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

#### New Business

**Petition of Paula and Vito DeSimone, Owners/Applicants for 6 Freedom Court, AP 19 Lot 274, zoned R-15. The petitioner is seeking a side yard Dimensional Variance to attach a garage to the single family structure.**

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

**Appeal of a zoning violation notice by Boston Equipment LLC, Owner/Applicant for 1835 Plainfield Pike, AP 29 Lot 1, zoned R-20.**

**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

12/15, 12/22, 12/29/22

# Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

Thank You

**C** HERRY HILL MANOR  
Nursing and Rehabilitation Center



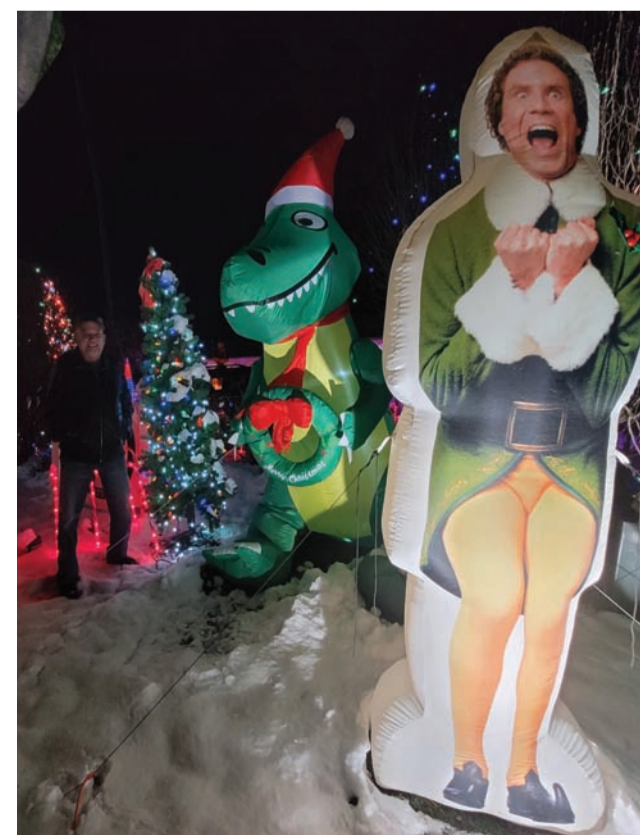
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# Atwood Avenue's 'Snowman Showman'

**G**ary Marandola walked around his Atwood Avenue yard, adjusting snow-caked inflatables. He walked next door and shook the snow off his neighbor's inflatable snowman, which had buckled under the fresh flakes. For years, the Johnston man has worked hard to make his front lawn a holiday spectacle. He estimates the display has "around 50,000" lights — none of those "imported Italian twinkle lights." This week, he added a new giant "pièce de résistance" — a 20-foot high inflatable snowman now rules Atwood Avenue. Marandola encourages visitors. He has Christmas music gently playing from speakers stashed behind Olaf, Buddy the Elf and Clark Griswold. For more photos from Marandola's winter wonderland, go to the Johnston Sun Rise's website. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

**Editor's Note:** The Johnston Sun Rise would like to publish photos from the best light displays around town. If you or your neighbor has gone all out, please shoot a photo and send it to the Sun Rise. You can send it via Facebook, or email the Sun Rise Editor, Rory Schuler, at rorys@rhodybeat.com. If we get enough entries, we'll devote a few pages to them in print.



## Fruit Favorites Gift Box

ONLY \$24.99\*  
Special, limited-time offer!

SAVE \$13!  
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# JHS WINTER CONCERT



**SEASONAL SERENADE:** The JHS Brass Choir, which is made up of Evan Correia, Brandon Hall, Mark Brouwer, Jesse Santillan and Ariana Rivera, turned in a prolific performance during last week's Winter Concert. (Photos courtesy Mare' Studios)

## Hey 'Baby It's Cold Outside,' but warm in the auditorium

By PETE FONTAINE

The Johnston High School Music Department's annual Winter Concert had just ended when School Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo offered: "I am so proud to be working with these very talented teachers and students; I'm already looking forward to their next performance."

On a night when around 325 people packed the school auditorium, JHS vocalists and musicians combined their talents and put on what many people called a "musical masterpiece."

"We all enjoyed this very diverse and entering music program under the direction of Matthew Gingras and Ronald Lamoureux," DiLullo went on. "Every piece by the full chorus and select chorus offered special selections of songs that included holiday music and cultural pieces; the students certainly put everyone in the holiday spirit."

The concert had everything a music aficionado could want to hear: There were singing selections, band groups that included brass and woodwind teams that performed many holiday classics.

Moreover, the "JHS Music Rite of December" included countless cheers and applause from the audience including the chorus finale — "Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus." And as DiLullo said with a wide smile on his face, "the solo pieces ended in even more appreciated applause."

Likewise, people were impressed with the "special sounds" of the Lamoureux-directed full band that performed a pleasing medley of holiday songs familiar to everyone.

"And they were all professionally done," DiLullo went on. "It was great to have everyone in the Auditorium to experience the result of hard work and dedication by our students and teachers."

To which Lamoureux said: "Matt (Gingras) and I were really pleased with the performance. The kids have been really focused and it was extremely rewarding for them to have

a fantastic audience to sing and play for."

Perhaps the reason for the music department's ongoing success is, as Lamoureux assessed: "We have spent a great deal of energy of time helping our kids understand what we are talking about by staying focused backstage, acting professionally throughout and executing stage change and technical jobs very well."

All of which many concert-goers offered: "It's obvious the students take pride in every aspect of putting on a concert."

It was a night when the Concert Chorus, Select Choir Treble Choir took the stage as did a folk group, clarinet ensemble, trumpet ensemble and low brass ensemble. And they all shined.

Students Wilson El Hage, Joshua Geleas, Alberto Estrada and Jonathan Guilmette received praise for their renditions of "Baby It's Cold Outside," "Last Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" that had an added sound from David Pagliarini, whose beautiful piano sounds added to those numbers.

Moreover, banjo player Dominic Whitten has, as Lamoureux noted, "become a crowd favorite in the last several months. His banjo skills and singing "Jingle Bells" impressed the crowd and included his friends Kyle Vargas, Jonathan Guilmette and Ben Monahan joining as instrumentalists, with Matt Gingras adding more sounds with an upright base."

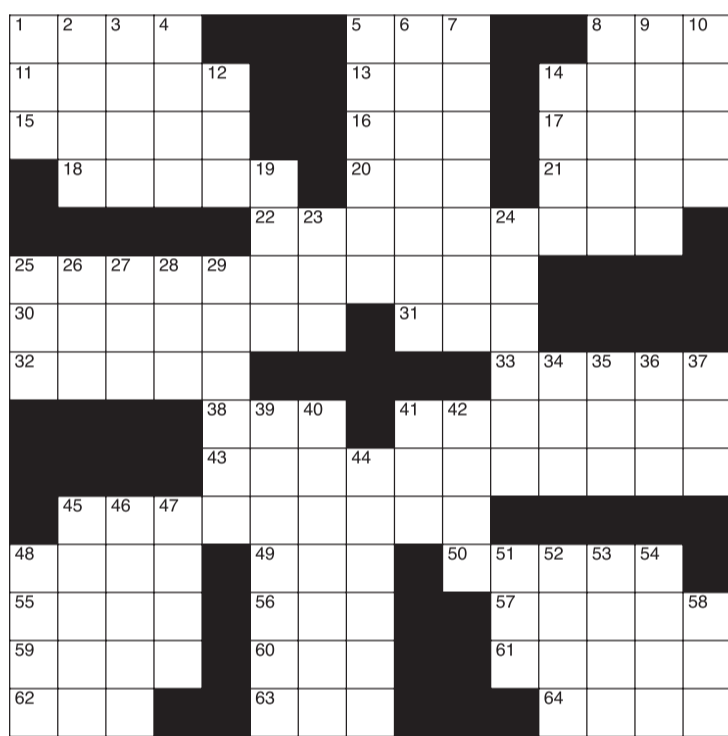
Yet another shining moment was the first half finale being a collaborative between members of the Taunton Civic Chorus conducted by Christopher Hoskins — as well as the JHS chorus — who did his student-teacher training placement with Gingras earlier this year.

As has been the tradition, the JHS band closed the evening with "Christmas Village" by Randall D. Standridge, which was introduced by JHS freshman Jonathan Prata. The song has become Lamoureux's favorite, one he concluded "we will have in our repertoire for years to come."



**WINTER WONDERS:** JHS violasts Katie Loeffler (left front) and Marcel Johnson Goncalves eagerly await their introduction by Conductor Christopher Hoskins during last week's Winter Concert. (Photo courtesy Mare' Studios)

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8. Touch lightly
11. Relating to bees
13. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano
14. Mosuo culture religion
15. Italian village
16. Stiff bristle
17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
18. Cause to lose courage
20. Examines animals
21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
22. Gets rid of
25. Having easily perceived thoughts
30. Removed surgically
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Popular airline
33. Antelopes
38. Peacock network
41. Utter repeatedly
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Father
49. Popular BBQ dish

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1. State attorneys
2. Imitated
3. Latvian capital
4. Irish goddess
5. Taste
6. Dried
7. Spanish saloon
8. Mother of Perseus
9. Evergreen coniferous trees
10. Refuse to comply
12. Negative
14. Hyphen
19. A way to record
23. Not good

24. One who tends the furnace
25. Small amount
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. The whole quantity
28. \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
29. One's opinion
34. Holds ashes
35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
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37. Legislator (abbr.)
39. Concentrated bombardment
40. Took for oneself
41. Nigerian City
42. Thousands of pounds
44. Inspired
45. Secret clique
46. Expression
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Comedian Carvey
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
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**CLASSIC CONDUCTOR:** Taunton Chorus Director Christopher Hoskins, who did his student-teacher training at JHS, thanks accompanist Jan Navarro with the combined group in the background. (Photos courtesy Mare' Studios)



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The Johnston Sun Rise with the support of its sponsors have invited elementary school students to share their aspirations and stories about the holiday season.

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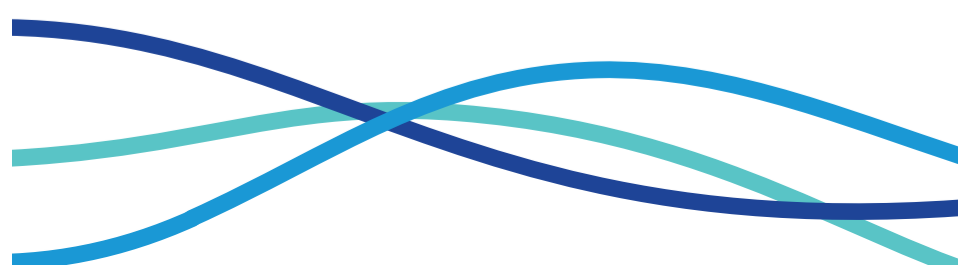
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By JENNIFER COATES

As you drive down busy Cranston Street, if you are not careful, you might miss a modest building that is home to one of the city's best kept secrets, Alluring Visions Wellness Center. This tidy and welcoming store is where men and women alike can find a revolutionary product line known as FARMASI.

FARMASI products were developed by Dr. Cevdet Tuna, a prominent doctor who established one of the first pharmaceutical factories in Turkey over seventy years ago. In 1950, Dr. Tuna's work expanded into the beauty and health sector when he founded the official brand FARMASI. Today, his formulations are synonymous with the terms innovative, reliable, and sustainable. They are considered "cutting edge" in the health and beauty industry.

The reputation of FARMASI rides as much on what they DON'T contain as what they do contain. Their formulations "exclude ingredients that are undesirable for our health and the planet." All FARMASI products are all dermatologically tested, non-GMO (non-genetically modified), and are predominantly vegan. What they do NOT contain are heavy metals, parabens, gluten, or the harsh foaming agent Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS). They are also NOT tested on animals. These products are the answer to those seeking glowing, vibrant, and healthy skin in a responsible way, and to those who want to feel beautiful and radiant from the inside out.

Today, FARMASI is run by Dr. Tuna's sons Emre and Sinana Tuna. They continue to represent the integrity and mission of their father's work and are very selective about who they entrust this hard-won reputation to. Enter Wayne and Michael Medeiros, the co-owners of Alluring Visions Wellness Center where FARMASI products are exclusively sold.

Alluring Visions Wellness Center is the "vision-come-to-life"



Meet Wayne (l) & Michael Medeiros (r), the owners of Alluring Visions Wellness Center, the only retail store in the USA which sells the internationally-known FARMASI products. They are seen here flanking the grandson of FARMASI's founder, Emre Tuna.

of Wayne and Michael Medeiros. Supported and sanctioned by the Tuna brothers, these partners-in-life and business owners opened the wellness center in July of 2021. It is the first and only one of its kind dedicated specifically to selling FARMASI products in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Alluring Visions Wellness Center is stocked with floor-to-ceiling shelves of FARMASI products. Clients will find everything from skin care products to their equally as environmentally-conscious household cleaners here. Whether you need makeup, facial cleansers, makeup removers, toothpaste, soap, haircare and fragrances for men and women, you will find them here.

If you have any questions, Wayne and Michael have been

extensively trained on all FARMASI products and they will guide you through.

As if it could get any better at Alluring Visions, you will also find a full "bar" of custom-made drinks here, all made with FARMASI products. All the drink mixes contain collagen. These include coffee, energizing teas and flavored shakes. What a healthy way to start your day!

Alluring Visions Wellness Center is located at 1563 Cranston Street. Find them at Facebook (Alluring Visions Wellness Center) and Instagram (@AlluringVisions1563). For all your questions, including hours, call 401-942-0150. Open seven days a week.

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**FAMILY FUN:** Emma Cross, a fifth-grader at Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School, enjoyed helping her mother Melanie Cross serve guests at last Thursday's Holiday Party.

# Bridge at Cherry Hill hosts 2022 Friends & Family Holiday Party

By PETE FONTAINE

There was hospitality at the highest-level last Thursday night inside The Bridge at Cherry Hill.

On a night titled the "2022 Friends and Family Holiday Party," there was music by Luke Jackson of Premier Entertainment, elegant food stations and holiday beverages along with an extraordinary ice sculpture named Rudolph amid a host of decorations including a well-decorat-

ed Christmas tree.

From the time Executive Director Maryann Grace and Director of Resident Care Amy Brayton lit luminaries that lined the entrance, the entire staff at the Century Park property welcomed friends and relatives to what many people called "the perfect party."

Sales/Community Relations Director Mike Mangasarian poured and served special wines and beers from a small bar set up in the library-reading room and Ann Marie Cardillo pointed people toward

various food stops in the lobby, as well as the impressively decorated main dining room.

Cardillo, who is The Bridge's dining room

■ PARTY - PAGE 16

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**SUPER SERVER:** Mike Mangasarian, popular Sales/Community Relations Director at The Bridge, is all smiles while serving Liz Scorpio, Dawn Giarusso and her father Steve Giarusso a drink during last Thursday's holiday party.

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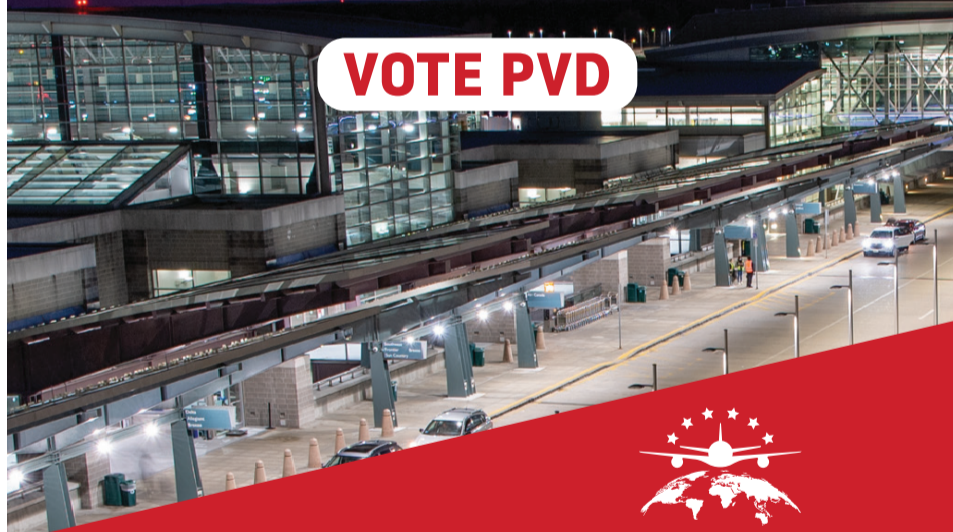
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**SPECIAL STAFF:** Among the Bridge at Cherry Hill super staffers who made last Thursday's Friends and Family Holiday Party shine bright are, from left, Maintenance Director Rick Bigelli, Executive Chef Marvin Carter, Executive Director Maryann Grace, Dining Room Supervisor Ann Marie Cardillo and Business Office Director Deanna Lavender. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

■ **Party**

(Continued from page 15)

supervisor, made sure people's plates were filled with everything from chilled shrimp with cocktail sauce, beef wellington and lobster Rangoon.

Perhaps the night's MVP was Marvin Carter. The Bridge's talented executive chef whose staff prepared and served special appetizers, two carving stations, crudit , a cheese and cracker table and assorted desserts.

"What a party!" exclaimed visitors who stopped by after spending some time with their loved ones. "This is good like you'd expect to have at a five-star restaurant."

Carter's crew, in fact, may have outdone itself with the night's mouth-watering menu that included stuffed mushrooms, spanakopita, crusted chicken fingers, grilled pizzas, wrapped scallops and bacon, Italian rollups, pork dumplings, stuffed clams, Cuban pork sandwiches and "Bridge mac" sliders.

There were two carving stations, for ham and flank steak, penne with sauce and oven roasted potatoes, followed by dessert. As if the party-goers still had room.

Grace, meanwhile, served her always special warm welcomes to each and every guest — and of course the residents — while wishing everyone the "merriest of Christmases" and more importantly "great health in 2023."



**PARTY CROONERS:** Luke Jackson of famed Premier Entertainment, joins Ria Kowal, John and Dana Fabrizio at their tables while singing in the dining room during last Thursday's super holiday bash.

■ **Award**

(Continued from page 5)

set out on a mission with a vision to service families in Johnston in a cooperative effort that has joined the three for nearly four decades and has resulted in Tri-County growing from one location to 14 across the state.

The trio's first success came back in the 1980s when they came up with an answer to what was coming a "new" problem — children coming home, where both parents were still at work. Together, they developed a plan to provide after school daycare for all children in Johnston. The program was a huge success and provided an opportunity for school age children to get adult supervision after school and assistance with their stud-

ies.

From there, Tri-County worked with the school department to create a mental health and substance abuse prevention task force, which today ranks among the best in the state. They also established the state's first juvenile hearing board allowing first-time offenders to be spared the grief of being referred to the RI Family Court, with DelFino serving as the first chair.

All of which is why, as DeSantis said: "Richard has been a trusted voice and a friend since I first met him in the early 80's. I will always value the confidence Richard had in me to make Agency decisions. He offered insight without micromanaging and knew what his role as chair (entailed). He led his fellow board members with kindness and thoughtfulness."

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10:30 PM - Mass

**December 25 - Christmas Day**

10:00 AM - Mass

Mass WILL NOT be celebrated at 8:00 AM nor at 11:30 AM

**December 31 - New Year's Eve**

5:00 PM - Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

**January 1 - New Year's Day**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

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**Saturday, December 24**

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11:30 PM - Christmas Carols  
12:00 AM - Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**

**Sunday, December 25**

8:00 AM (Bilingual Italian/English) - 11:00 AM

**New Year's Eve**

**Saturday, December 31**

5:00 PM - Vigil Mass

**New Year's Day**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM



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# Sports

## Panthers start 2-1



**LEADING SCORER:** Neari Vasquez drives to the hoop on Tuesday night. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

## Johnston hoops beats Toll Gate in first league game

By ALEX SPONSELLER

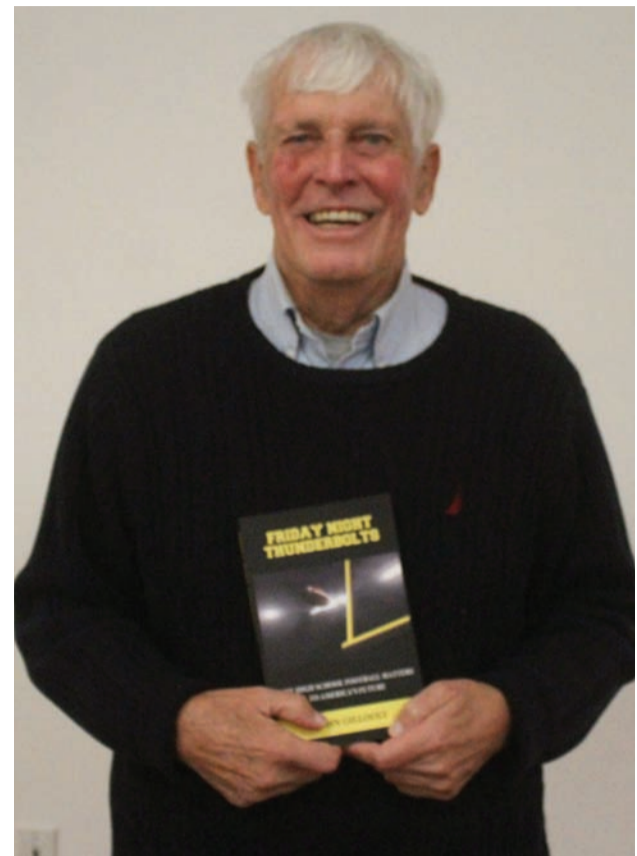
The Johnston boys basketball team traveled to Toll Gate and ran away with a 68-40 win in its first league game of the winter season.

The Panthers rolled to a 24-8 lead in the first quarter, but the Titans would turn things around and cut into the lead with Johnston entering halftime ahead 30-20. Johnston's offense would take off in the third quarter and run away with it by the start of the fourth.

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 19



**STRONG START:** Johnston's Branden Testa looks for space to work on Tuesday night against Toll Gate. The Panthers would surge in the second half to run away with their first league win of the season.



**BOOK TOUR:** John Gillooly shows off his latest book at an event last Saturday. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

## Gillooly promotes new book on 2018 East football team

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Local sports writer John Gillooly has been making his rounds promoting his new book "Friday Night Thunderbolts," in which he chronicles the 2018 Cranston High School East football team's season.

Gillooly is an award-winning writer who covered high school sports for the *Providence Journal* for 50 years. He retired in 2018 and would get to work on this project just a week later. This is his second book, coming 17

■ GILLOOLY - PAGE 20

## Ready for another winter sports season

Winter sports got underway last week and a handful of our teams opened their campaigns for what is my personal favorite season of sports.

Football is my favorite sport to cover, but winter holds my favorite collection of sports. Basketball on both the boys and girls

■ PITCH - PAGE 23

### My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER  
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BACK COURT: Johnston's Derek Salvatore (left) and Anthony Corsinetti on Tuesday night against Toll Gate.

## ■ Panthers

(Continued from page 18)

The Johnston and Toll Gate benches would enter the game to close things out in the final eight minutes of play.

"At the halftime we switched our defense in order to get a little more energy which we lacked in the first half. That's on them to figure it out. We get them prepared to play and it's on them to come out with good energy going forward. It's good to get the kinks out early on, at halftime we made some adjustments, but we've got

to piece it all together for four quarters. We can't just step on the court and beat anybody. The kids got a wakeup call tonight," said Johnston coach Mike Bedrosian.

Neari Vasquez led the Panthers with 19 points while Anthony Corsinetti added 12 and Omar Grullon eight. Liam Leahy and Jackson Cehelsky led Toll Gate with nine points while Dylan Perreault chipped in eight.

Bedrosian was pleased with Vasquez's performance on the glass and expects the senior forward to make a big impact throughout the year as the team's top big man.

"He was really good on the glass tonight. That's what we expect from him. He has really good strength and size to take that step forward in DII. We're expecting him to take a big jump this year and he really stepped up tonight on the glass," said Bedrosian.

Corsinetti was also productive in transition, taking multiple breakaways the distance to wear out the Toll Gate defense down the stretch.

"We try to get steals. The identity of our team is to run. Turn teams over and run. We did a really good job of that in the second half. The defense clamped down and it showed," said

Bedrosian.

The Panthers improved to 1-0 in league play with the win and 2-1 overall. After two Division I contests to start the year and the win on Tuesday night, Bedrosian and his staff have already seen an improved offensive attack compared to last year's group.

"We move the ball a lot better this year than we did last year. We threw in a couple of new offenses, so the ball movement I have noticed is a lot better. Finding the gaps, getting to the open man, we've gotten a lot better," Bedrosian said. "Trusting our offense will be the biggest key."

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# Corsinetti leads RIC to another win

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior guard Antonia Corsinetti (Johnston) scored a game-high 21 points as the Rhode Island College women's basketball team defeated Keene State, 56-42, in Little East action played at Spaulding Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon.

The first quarter was a defensive battle, with the first field goal of the game coming from KSU sophomore guard Elizabeth Gonyea (Eagle River, Alaska) with 7:00 remaining to give the Owls a 4-0 lead.

RIC would score 10 unanswered points and would lead after the first break by five, 10-5. The effort extended RIC's streak of holding opponents to under 10 points in the first quarter to six straight games.

The offense picked up in the

second quarter, with Corsinetti and classmate forward Izabelle Booth (Newport) each striking from distance in the frame. RIC led, 29-24, going into the second half.

The third quarter started with Booth and Corsinetti each hitting three-point shots and the Anchorwomen increased their lead to nine points, 44-35, before the final quarter.

The Anchorwomen's defense was on full display to close the game, as the visitors held the Owls to just seven points over the final 10 minutes. Corsinetti scored six points in the closing stanza.

Corsinetti added five rebounds and three assists to her 21 points, while Booth grabbed seven rebounds, handed out three assists and swiped two steals.

KSU sophomore guard Aryana Murray (Nashua, N.H.) led the hosts with 16 points.

## CCRI women jump to No. 4

With another decisive victory Saturday on the road, the Community College of Rhode Island women's basketball team moved up one spot to No. 4 in the nation in this week's NJCAA Division III poll.

The red-hot Knights are now 9-1 overall and have won five consecutive games, including Saturday's 68-49 win over non-conference foe Passaic County Community College. CCRI's only loss came on November 13 against Division II Community College of Baltimore County Essex. The Knights are a perfect 3-0 in Region XXI play and look to continue the streak Thursday on

the road against regional rival Holyoke Community College.

In Saturday's win, sophomore center Maggie Schwab (Narragansett) continued her torrid pace with 21 points on 7-of-10 shooting while sophomore guard Michelle Moreno (Providence) finished with 17 points on a blistering 8-for-10 from the field with a season-high 18 rebounds. Schwab is currently ranked sixth in the nation in field-goal percentage (61.0), fourth in free-throw percentage (87.9), and 25th in rebounds per game (10.0), averaging a double-double in 10 starts in 2022.

Overall, the Knights are one of the nation's best shooting teams, ranking third overall in field-goal percentage (48.5) and fourth in three-pointers made per game (8.1) while scoring 75.6 points,

which ranks ninth among D-III teams. The Knights also clean up on the boards, outrebounding their opponents by an average of 14.6 rebounds per game, also ninth in the nation.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will continue Little East play at UMass Boston on Saturday, Dec. 17 (1 p.m.).

## RIC men fall

Freshman guard Devon Jenkins (Durham, N.C.) scored a career-high 15 points as the Rhode Island College men's basketball team fell at No. 8 Keene State, 98-60, in Little East action played at Spaulding Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon.

It took the No. 8-ranked Owls just over 10 minutes to build a 26-point, 37-11, lead over the Anchorwomen.

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TAKING QUESTIONS: John Gillooly speaks at the Cranston Library last Saturday.

## ■ Gillooly

(Continued from page 18)

years after his first book titled "Pride on the Mount," which focused on the Mount Saint Charles hockey program.

"Friday Night Thunderbolts" gives readers an inside look at the making of the 2018 Thunderbolt team and focuses on the stories behind the coaches and players both on and off the field. Gillooly is a longtime friend of the head coach at the time, Tom Centore, and pitched the idea at the Big Cheese in Cranston the night before the first day of training camp in 2018. Centore agreed to grant Gillooly access to the team for the season and the rest was history.

Gillooly appeared at the Cranston Library at Garden City to discuss his book with the public, answer reader questions and sign copies on Saturday afternoon.

"The reality is that a lot of young student-athletes, mainly males, play high school football. Having football help pay for college is great, by in my mind high school football needs to be about a lot more than just paving the way for college scholarships. I hope that this book shows that high school football is about so much more than just getting a scholarship," said Gillooly on why he chose to write the story.

Not only does the book discuss the team-related topics of that season, but it

also dove into the lives of the players at home. Gillooly also discusses the broader topics of the team and school, including how Cranston East was the state's most diverse school and team that season. He also dives into the impact that concussions have on the sport, and even gives some historical insight on the team, including the history of the Centore coaching family which included Tom's father, Tony, who was a legendary coach at Johnston.

"I felt what I needed to do to write this story was by telling the backstories of some of the players, and I didn't know what those backstories were, I hadn't met any of them personally, I had just seen them out there and knew what was happening. Then combine those stories with how the day-to-day activities in 2018 were affecting their lives," said Gillooly.

Gillooly said that one of the biggest things he learned through the experience was how much these players truly cared about the team and enjoyed playing the game.

"Football is the ultimate high school team sport. The basic premise of football is that on every play of every game, each of the 22 players has a specific assignment. To me, that was the ultimate challenge that high school sports has to offer," said Gillooly. "They have fun, they really like it. I was kind of amazed that they loved it so much."

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# Where are we with global warming?

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

To refresh our collective memories limiting the earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) has been the goal of climate advocates globally. The problem is we have already warmed by more than 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial temperatures. According to a Dec. 1, 2022 Washington Post article titled "We looked at 1,200 possibilities for the planet's future. These are our best hope," we will be hard pressed to achieve this goal.

Keeping warming below this 1.5 degrees Celsius would avoid further destabilization of fish and habitat as we would be able to "preserve coral reefs, preserve the Arctic's protective sea ice layer and avoid further destabilization of Antarctica and Greenland staving off drastic sea level rise," said the Washington Post article written by Chris Mooney, Naema Ahmed and John Muyskens.

The trio are ringing an alarm. They examine over 1,200 different scenarios for climate change over the coming century with temperatures rise as high as 5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, only 230 paths leave our planet below 1.5 degrees Celsius before the end to the century. Out of these only 26 paths allow for "low" overshoot initially but they "rely on negative emissions technologies to reach net zero around mid-century and then go farther."

The Washington Post said, "At the U.N. Climate Change Conference late last month, world leaders reaffirmed the 1.5C goal. But these scenarios show that without dramatic action — action the leaders did not commit to taking — it most likely will not be possible. Or at least, not without a major overshoot first. That is where the world is currently heading."

See the article at How we can keep global warming below the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal - Washington Post.

## New England Saltwater Fishing Show, March 10-12, 2023

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) announced the return the New England Saltwater Fishing Show Friday, March 10 to Sunday, March 12, 2023 at the RI Convention Center in Providence, RI.

If you like to fish on the salt you are in for a big treat. The show is the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast. The Show features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, engines, accessories, clothing and much more. Over three hundred fishing related manufactures are represented at the show.

"You won't want to miss the show specials offered by exhibitors and the great "how to" seminars being offered by some of our areas top fishers," said Greg Vespe, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. "Learn strategies and tactics to target the species that we all love to catch, eat or release ... striped bass, summer floun-

der, tautog and a host of others."

Vespe said, "With three months until Showtime, about 70 percent of the booths have been sold and more are going every week. Don't wait and lose the chance to exhibit your products and services to the more than 12,000 to 15,000 visitors expected to attend this year's Show."

Exhibitors include charter services, tackle shops, rod and reel manufacturers, marine electronics, new and used boat dealers, marine plastics and metal fabricators, fishing publications, outdoor clothing, offshore wind developers, fish and wildlife regulators, towing services, non-profit organizations, marine artwork, jewelry and food vendors.

For information contact Greg Vespe at 401-826-2121.

## Bottom fishing seminar, Monday, Dec. 26, 7 p.m.

If you are an angler that likes to fish for tasty bottom fish such as tautog, black sea bass, summer flounder or cod, then you won't want to miss the Dec. 26, 7 p.m. RI Saltwater Anglers Association seminar at the Coventry Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI.

Panelists at the seminar will include charter captains EJ Harris, John Lee, BJ Silvia and Daphne Foster.

Dinner served by the Elks Lodge caterer between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Cost of dinner is separate. Public is invited to attend with a \$10 donation to the scholarship fund, RI-SAA members no charge. For information contact Greg Vespe at 401.826.2121.

## Where's the bite?

Freshwater. Anglers are reminded to renew their licenses for salt and fresh water for 2023. For licensing information and a list of trout stocked ponds in Rhode Island visit RI Freshwater Fisheries Updates & Frequently Asked Questions | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management; and in Massachusetts visit [www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information](http://www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information).

Holiday gifts and gift certificates for anglers are available at local bait & tackle shops at all price points. Consult with shop owners as they can make helpful suggestions.

Cod fishing off Rhode Island and Massachusetts south of Cape Cod is a good bet in winter months. Party boats fishing for cod this winter include the Frances Fleet at [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com), the Seven B's at [www.sevenbs.com](http://www.sevenbs.com), and the Island Current at [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com). Rates vary but are about \$135 per adult for a full day of fishing, call to check schedules and make a reservation.

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



PRIZE CATCH: Capt. BJ Silvia of Flippin' Out Charters with a prize tautog. Capt. Silvia will be one of the guest panelists at the RI Saltwater Anglers seminar on bottom fishing, Monday, Dec. 26. (Submitted photo)

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# RIC shines in Boston

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sophomore Justin Dorsey (Warwick) established a new program record in the 5,000m as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team competed at the Beacon Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

The event was an individual event with no team scoring. The meet was hosted by UMass Boston and was held at The Track at New Balance.

Sophomore Mahari Nayte (Providence) placed first in the 800m (1:53.82). Freshman Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished fourth in the weight throw (15.34m).

Freshman Ryan Hazard (Wakefield) placed fifth in the shot (14.88m) and 15th in the weight throw (13.89m). Senior Edward Garofalo (Newport) finished fifth in the triple

jump (13.03m).

Dorsey placed 12th in the 5,000m (15:45.56), 26th in the mile (4:39.32).

Freshman Brandon Motta (West Warwick) placed 14th in the weight throw (14.12m).

Senior Andre Solomon-Messier (North Providence) placed 14th in the 5,000m (16:12.41). Freshman Dante DiGregorio (Smithfield) finished 18th in the 1,000m (2:43.23).

Freshman Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished 18th in the long jump (5.45m). Senior Austin Michael (Swansea, Mass.) finished 18th in the 800m (2:08.40) and 41st in the mile (4:54.64).

Freshman Juan Reyes (Providence) placed 19th in the 800m (2:09.55).

Freshman Aiden Powers (Smithfield) finished 20th in the 3,000m (9:46.07). Freshman Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 20th in the long

jump (5.31m) and 53rd in the 200m (24.34).

Junior Christopher McCarthy (Cranston) placed 21st in the weight throw (11.38m).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the Tufts Junbo Invite on Saturday, Jan. 14 (10 a.m.).

Junior Emily Vogt (Fairfield, Conn.) finished fourth in the 5,000m as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team competed at the Beacon Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Vogt finished fourth in the 5,000m (20:09.79).

Freshman Haley Oliver (Coventry) finished fifth in the mile (5:22.55) and 12th in the 3,000m (10:59.10).

Sophomore Hayley Chartier (North Scituate) finished sixth in the weight throw (13.77m) and 18th in the shot (9.46m).

## ■ Pitch

(Continued from page 18)

side is fun to follow and has a great tournament, hockey has one of the best environments on a nightly basis, wrestling and swimming have great followings. It's the longest season, but for me, the most fun.

Here are some of my thoughts on the upcoming winter and some of our teams.

Hendricken basketball will repeat as state champions. Book it.

Azmar Abdullah and Eze Wali return and will be the best one-two punch in the state. They were among the best last season and will be better this year. Michael Paquette will be back, making the Hawks' back court perhaps the best I have covered in my four years here.

It won't be easy, it never is in basketball and there will be some other great teams this winter, but the Hawks will get it done.

The Johnston boys will have a big year in Division II. The Panthers went 7-3 in the summer league in which they took on some of the top teams in the state, including some Division I clubs. Although the Panthers were handed a lopsided loss to La Salle over the weekend, they did beat Smithfield on opening night and have all the makings of a top-tier team within their division.

Derek Salvatore returns at the point with Anthony Corsinetti serving as his sidekick. Neri Vasquez should make a big impact underneath as well. Johnston has experience, depth, versatility. The Panthers should roll.

The Cranston West girls team will have some questions to face this winter after losing a big senior core. The Falcons went on an unlikely run last winter and made it to the state Final Four, which was incredible to watch.

West returns girls like Maia Riccio, but will be relying on some underclassmen to make a difference. On opening night, West pulled off a big comeback win in the final minute of the game and was propelled by multiple freshmen. If the young Falcons can continue to do that, they will have a chance to get back into the playoffs.

The Toll Gate girls will also have a few uncertainties. The Titans were one of the best teams in Division III last season and at one point looked primed to make a deep run. Toll Gate made the playoffs and qualified for the state tournament but suffered an early exit.

This season, they have a new coach in Jim Areson and will be without top player Adeline Areson after she suf-

fered a knee injury prior to the fall soccer season. Let's see what Toll Gate looks like.

I expect the Bishop Hendricken hockey team to be right back in the mix for a championship. La Salle was the heavy favorite going into the playoffs last year and was undefeated in the regular season. The Hawks got hot in the playoffs, knocked off the Rams and went on to beat a very talented East Greenwich club.

Hendricken was deep last year and even had a few underclassmen step up. La Salle was the senior-heavy team that looked destined to win it all, but the Hawks were able to get it done despite some inexperience in areas.

Well, although Hendricken did lose a good senior core, it will be returning players like Jack LaRose, Griffin Crain and Matt Giuliano. There is plenty of big game experience in that group and I don't see a huge drop off this season.

The Warwick co-op had a rough go last year in its first season in Division I, finishing the regular season in last place. Warwick had a very young club and admitted that it was looking ahead to this season.

Well, so far, so good, as Warwick won its first game and its key players all stepped up. Richie Cavanagh, Ryan Barlow, Ethan Pezzullo, Cooper Grossguth, guys like that give Warwick a nice core that I believe will take a big step forward this season. Will the team be on the same level as Hendricken or La Salle? That may be a big ask, but I do think this is a top half team that may be able to make those clubs sweat by year's end.

I am looking forward to seeing how the Hendricken swimming team responds after losing the state title last season after years of dominance. It was only the second time in three decades that the Hawks came up short, so it is unusual territory for them heading into this winter. Cranston West also had a nice season last year on both sides, so maybe West will get into the mix as well.

The Hendricken and West wrestling teams will be top-five again in my opinion, while the Hawks will be in another tight race with La Salle for indoor track. It's unbelievable how consistent the Hawks and Rams are each winter. Regardless of the advantages that the private schools have, it's pretty remarkable.

My predicted champions at this moment will be: Hendricken basketball, swimming and track. Teams with true championship chances are: Hendricken hockey, West wrestling, Johnston boys basketball.

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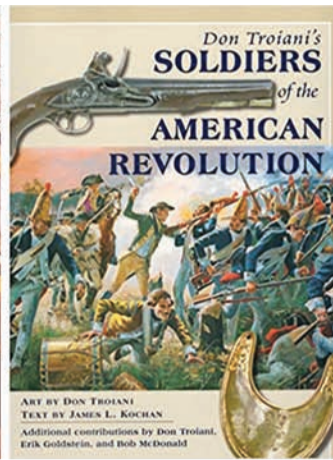
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look when worn by the models. Archives all over the world are scoured for documentation, as well as newspapers and other places that period documents can be found. His paintings intertwined with the objects really help to bring this important period to life.

The objects shown are extremely rare and many of them are from his own extensive collection. Some from other private collections and institutions are used which help to show a wide variety of things that were carried, worn, or used during the war. It's laid out in sections, or chapters, starting with The British army, then The Loyalist, German, and Native American Allies, and ends with The Patriots and their Allies.

It isn't just filled with guns, although there are some amazing muskets and pistols pictured. There are flags, canteens, buttons, a lot of swords, leather accoutrements, and even a dog collar marked to the British 43rd Regiment of Foot. There are also a few objects that are very moving like the bullet-struck round hat that was worn by Captain Phineas Meigs when he was shot and killed during a British raid on Madison, Connecticut in 1782. There is also an image of striped linen waistcoat and linen shirt worn by Colonel William Ledyard when he was stabbed with his own sword after he surrendered to the Loyalist forces at Ft. Griswold in New London, Connecticut in 1781.

Flipping through the book to write this blog, I even found a picture of a much younger me painted almost 30 years ago when I modeled for one of the figures, a light infantryman of the New Jersey or New York line as he would have looked in 1782.

All-in-all, this book is a worthy addition to the reference library of anyone with an interest in the American Revolution, and most certainly to those who love material culture.



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# RhodyLife

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## Training K9s for warriors one treat at a time

**A HOWLING WELCOME:** A visitor to one of several doggie rooms in Dogtopia on Jefferson Boulevard leads his friends in greeting a new arrival – the Beacon reporter. (Beacon Communications photos)



## 'Pupkin' treats, 'Hairy Potter' help raise funds for service dogs for vets

By JOHN HOWELL

What does it take to raise \$6,000 to sponsor a service dog for a military veteran?

The answer, as Jessica Mushinsky and Brittany Magnusson know, is doggie activities and treats.

That may sound too simple and it is. The two share a creative streak and love for canines that have them coming up with the dog corn maze, the snowball fight and the Halloween parade and such tasty dog snacks as Pupkin, made with pumpkin of course, bone yard and Greek yogurt. The December calendar of doggie events at Dogtopia of Warwick includes the frozen bubble day and two frozen treats on the first day of winter and the Reindeer Run on the 27th.

And how does that all raise enough money to sponsor a service dog for a military veteran through the Dogtopia Foundation?

The treats and activities are all ways for dog owners to give their pets a little something extra while supporting K9s for Warriors. The organization, which has a goal at ending veteran suicides, provides highly-trained service dogs to military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma. With the majority of dogs coming from high-kill rescue shelters, this innovative program allows the K9/Warrior team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery.

Jessica and Brittany make giving to the cause easy and fun. For \$2 to \$5, dogs get to participate in the extra activities or chomp down the treats with the money going to the foundation.

So far, Dogtopia on Jefferson Boulevard – the former Bug-A-Boo Creek or the Red coach Grille going way back – has sponsored three service dogs and is nearing the half way mark of sponsoring a fourth.



**MAKING DONATING TO A CAUSE FUN FOR CANINES:** Jessica Mushinsky and the folks at Dogtopia always come up with a fun way for per owners to donate the Dogtopia Foundation and its program of providing service dogs to veterans.

**WARWICK SHOWCASE**

**SPOILER ALERT**

\*\*\* 1/2 (Joyce) \*\*\* (Don)  
(Gay RomCom)

Everyone will tell you to bring your handkerchief.

Why? The spoiler alert title and the opening scene tells you that one of the main characters dies.

We are then introduced to the two gay men who meet in a bar, fall in love and marry.

Spoiler alert: One gets inoperable cancer.

Michael (Jim Parsons) is a workaholic, stay-at-home writer for TV Guide.

Kit is a handsome, athletic, swinging party-goer, who has never told his parents (Sally Field and Bill Irwin) that he is gay.

Like any couple coming from different backgrounds and with different personalities, they have their ups and downs.

Couples therapy leads to a separation, until tragedy brings them together again.

It's a pretty familiar story that has been done with a heterosexual couple many times.

But the title tells you that this one has a new and unique approach and a clever double ending that will spare the lesser romantics from using their handkerchiefs.

See it at the

with  
Joyce & Don  
Fowler

**MOVIES**



The scene where Kit tells his parents that he is gay and Michael is his lover is classic. Keep your eyes on Sally Field.

The scenes with various doctors who have different opinions are emotionally wrenching.

A surprise scene at the end is original, throwing the movie into another dimension.

While a bit uneven in places, there are some touching moments that will make you laugh and cry (or at least cause a lump in your throat).

**NETFLIX**

**PINOCCHIO**

\*\* 1/2

(Dark, Political Telling of Classic)

Guillermo del Toro sees the classic story as it was originally written, before Disney got a hold of it.

It is dark preachy, and filled with religious and political overtones, to the point of scaring younger children and, at times, going over their heads with its moral lessons.

It is told with Jim Henson puppets and disturbing background music. Characters occasionally break into somber songs.

Geppetto has lost his young son when his church is bombed. He is a woodcarver, so he carves himself a replacement, telling the wooden creature that his nose will grow if he tells a lie.

The story is told by J. Cricket, an ugly, serious, black insect, who does everything he can to protect him.

He has the usual adventures with the carnival roadies and the whale, and some dark moments with the war.

Lengthy confrontations with death will be way over the heads of children and the ending may leave them confused.

**HARRY AND MEGHAN**

\*\*\*\*

(H & M's documentary)

We watched the first four episodes of Harry and Meghan's view of their courtship and treatment by the Royal Family, right up to the Royal Wedding.

Harry talks about their "Great Love Story" ... and it is. He wants to tell the world "Who we are" and says it is all about "protecting the kids."

Assuming that the Royal Couple are always telling the truth, or their interpretation of the truth, it is quite a disturbing tale.

The press, particularly the paparazzi, is the enemy, but the Royal Family are close behind. And leading the charge is the ugly face of racial prejudice.

If you are interested in British history, a fan of "The Crown," or just want to see a shockingly slick documentary, "Harry and Meghan" is a must see.

We learn how they met, how they secretly dated, keeping their relationship from their families and the tabloids, spent time in Africa, "getting to know each other before the world and the media," how they survived a difficult long distant relationship, and how their backgrounds and interests in service to others brought them close together.

I can't wait to see what is coming.

**ANIMAL TALK**  
By Karen Kalunian  
Local Adoptable Loveable

**Eggs**



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

This fun-loving, sweet girl is hoping to make her holiday wish of a forever family come true this holiday season! Eggs is her name and belly rubs are her game! She is a young mixed breed with a gorgeous black coat and dark dreamy eyes that will steal your heart! Her best home would be one with a fenced in yard so that she could run around and play! She also might like to have a playful doggie friend to show her the ropes as she is a little shy. If you'd like more information about Eggs, please contact Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 or visit their website at [www.heartofri.org](http://www.heartofri.org) You can also visit the shelter in person, they are located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. Their hours of operation are as follows: Wednesday-Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2 no appointment is necessary. Eggs will be waiting to meet you, so stop by soon!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at

[animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)



**Dogs**  
(Continued from page 25)

According to a release, the Dogtopia Foundation enables dogs to positively change the world, and providing service dogs to veterans is just one of the three key pillars of the foundation. Since its inception in 2017, the foundation has helped sponsor more than 230 service dogs for veterans nationwide and raised more than \$1.4 million.

"We are committed to uniting service dogs with veterans in need and could not have done it without the generosity of our amazing pet parents and community," said Dogtopia of Warwick owner, David Giardino, in a statement. "We will be partnering with K9s for Warriors again and we look forward to shar-

ing more details soon about the dog we helped sponsor."

Dogtopia of Warwick is an expansive operation with 35 employees and provides day care for upwards of 130 dogs daily. Dogs are separated by size, temperament and age. There is perpetual monitoring and with an app owners can check to see what their pet is doing and whether they're taking part in the Hairy Potter activity.

Zoey, the first dog Dogtopia of Warwick helped sponsor was paired locally with Navy Veteran Michelle and continues to do well.

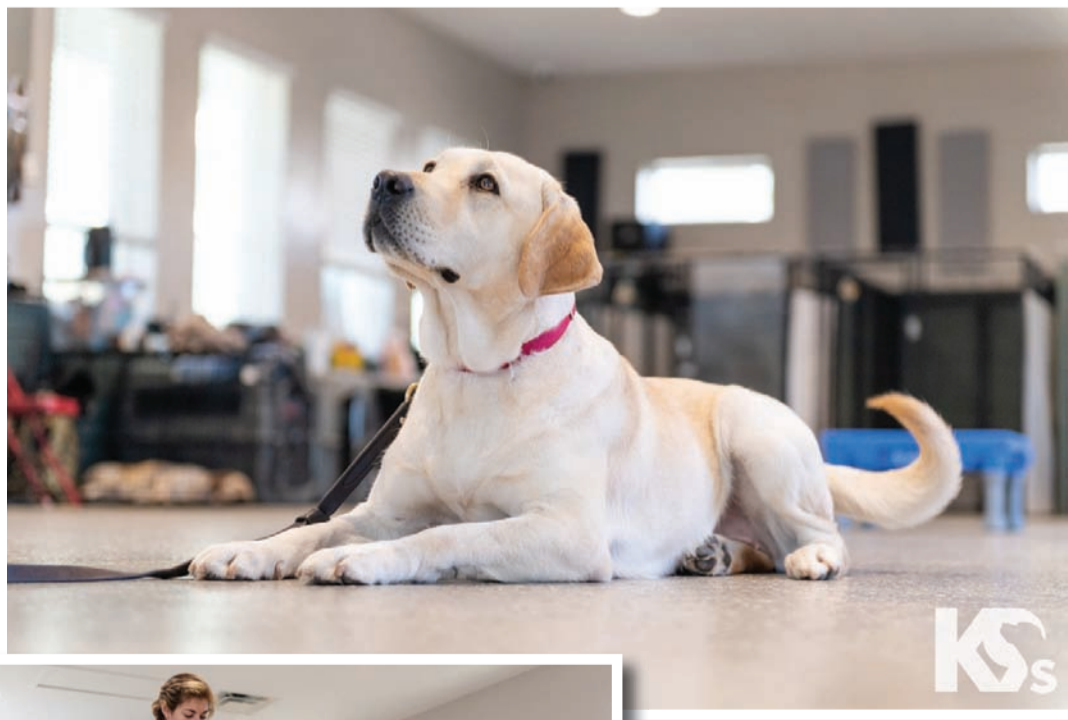
The second service dog that Dogtopia of Warwick helped sponsor, Maggie, just passed her final skills testing at K9s for Warriors, the nation's largest provider of trained service dogs for military veterans suffering from invisible wounds of

war. She was recently paired with her Warrior Dylan, a Navy veteran from Florida.

Dogtopia of Warwick opened in March 2020.

Day care at Dogtopia Warwick ranges from \$40 one day a week to unlimited weekly care for \$173.75. Overnight stays are \$27.50 and \$47.50 for a suite.

According to Dogtopia literature, "pet parents have the assurance of leaving their beloved furry family members in the hands of trained professionals in an environment created with the safety of dogs in mind, including an open-play environment with comfortable rubber flooring to ease joints and paws, top quality meals and snacks, as well as webcams for pet parents to check in on their pups."



**Recent graduate Maggie, the second service dog sponsored by Dogtopia, was paired with Warrior Dylan, a Navy veteran from Florida. (Photos courtesy of Dogtopia for K9s For Warriors)**

# RhodyMoney

## Calculating Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs and Retirement Plans to Change in 2022



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

As the year comes to an end and we celebrate with our family and friends, it's important to ensure that you have complied with any Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA or retirement plan. Failing to take out the RMD can result in a 50% penalty! That is not a typo, 50%! Read on for more important changes.

The IRS has issued new Life Expectancy Tables for 2022. (IRS, 2021) Every individual subject to annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) will be affected. Whether someone is taking lifetime RMDs from their own IRA or taking RMDs on an inherited account, the RMD calculation will change. While most custodians will automatically implement the new tables and make the necessary adjustments internally, it is important for advisors, IRA owners and plan participants to understand the mechanics of these changes. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the account owner to take out the proper Required Minimum Distribution.

After more than a year of waiting, the finalized [Life Expectancy] tables finally went into effect on January 1, 2022.

The Three Tables, despite the recent drop in overall life expectancy due to the pandemic, on average and over time, life expectancies have increased. Due to this increase, the IRS believed it was time to update the existing tables, which have been in effect for two decades. Note that the new tables do not reflect drastic changes. The boost in life expectancy factors range from no change for the oldest Americans up to an increase of 2.2 years for a newborn. Nevertheless, these slight

alterations to the tables will result in somewhat smaller RMDs for just about everyone.

All three RMD life expectancy tables were revised: (IRS, 2021)

**1. Uniform Lifetime Table:** Used to calculate lifetime RMDs for an account owner's own IRA or retirement plan.

**2. Joint (and Last Survivor) Life Expectancy Table:** Used instead of the Uniform Lifetime Table when a spouse is the sole IRA or plan beneficiary, and that spouse is more than 10 years younger than the IRA owner or plan participant.

**3. Single Life Expectancy Table:** Under the SECURE Act, only used to calculate post-death RMDs for "eligible designated beneficiaries" (i.e., surviving spouse; minor child of the account owner/participant; chronically ill or disabled individual; those beneficiaries who are not more than 10 years younger than the owner/participant). The Single Life Expectancy Table is also used if an IRA owner dies after the required beginning date (RBD) (April 1 of the year following the year the IRA owner turns age 72) without naming a living beneficiary, i.e., the "ghost rule." Additionally, this table is used to calculate annual RMDs from inherited IRAs for beneficiaries who inherited prior to the SECURE Act in 2020.

The Single Life Table is never used by IRA owners or plan participants to calculate lifetime required distributions. The new tables may also be used to calculate 72(t) periodic payments. Under the Internal Revenue Code 72(t) an individual is allowed to withdraw money from pre-tax accounts prior to the age of 59 and 1/2 without the 10% early withdrawal penalty. The payments must stay in place for a minimum of 5 years or until the individual becomes 59 1/2, whichever is longer. These payments can be calculated in different ways, annuitization, amortization and required minimum distribution, from this chart. It is important to work

with an advisor that has experience calculating these payments.

The easiest change to implement is for those account owners taking lifetime RMDs based on the Uniform Lifetime Table. The Uniform Lifetime Table is a "recalculating" table. This means that each year a person will go back to the table to find his age and corresponding life expectancy factor. This new factor is then divided into the December 31 account balance from the previous year to compute the RMD. Since those individuals using the Uniform Lifetime Table are recalculating every year, identifying the appropriate number is straightforward; just go to the chart based on your age as of December 31st of the RMD year.

The former RMD age rule was your first year of distribution was based on your age 70 and 1/2, now it is the year you turn 72. Congress finally dropped off the 1/2 year.

Those individuals that had, or will have, their 72nd birthday in 2022 will have their first RMD due for 2022. However, the first RMD is permitted to be delayed until April 1 of the following year. Any first-time RMD taker who delays the initial RMD to the following year must take two RMDs in that following year. (IRS, 2021)

As always, I recommend that you work with an experienced financial advisor when dealing with your retirement

planning and IRA/retirement plan distribution options. Special thanks to the Ed Slott and Company, LLC CPAs that provided a great deal of this very technical content.

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# 'It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play' returns

Join Gamm Theatre for the retelling of this holiday classic

By EMMA BARTLETT

"We are live in five, four, three, two...."  
The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre's production of "It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" returned to the stage in Warwick this past weekend and will run now through Dec. 24. A unique twist on the classic film, actors and actresses find themselves at the WGAM radio station reading the script on air while it is broadcasted throughout Warwick, Rhode Island. Seven cast members along with one Foley artist transport the audience from the radio station to the 1940s town of Bedford Falls where George Bailey's story unfolds.

George, who is down on his luck and contemplates suicide, receives help from Clarence – an angel waiting for his wings. After learning about George's childhood, Clarence shows him what life would be like if he never existed.

In the fourth annual performance of the play, several actors and actresses returned to the stage – including Lynsey Ford (who plays Mary Hatch and Rose Bailey) and Fred Sullivan Jr. (who plays Clarence, Henry Potter and others). Ford captured the audience's attention through her line delivery and expressions where one can tell how much she loves George. Sullivan received many laughs for Potter's line delivery as a greedy old man. With several almost back to back lines between Potter and Clarence, Sullivan did an impressive job switching characters. Additional veterans to the play include Helena Tafuri (Violet Bick, Janie Bailey and others) and Richard Noble (Joseph, Billy Bailey and others).

This year, Jeff Church took on the role of George Bailey which Gamm's Artistic Director Tony Estrella has played



Helena Tafuri as Violet Bick, Rodney Witherspoon II as Harry Bailey, Lynsey Ford as Mary Hatch, Jeff Church as George Bailey, Fred Sullivan, Jr. as Henry F. Potter, Richard Noble as Billy Bailey (Photo by Sean McConaghy for Gamm Theatre)

for the last three years; Church voiced Harry Bailey, Ernie Bishop and others in last year's performance. Church is an earnest George Bailey – revealing how much George wants to leave Bedford Falls and see the world. The audience feels his struggle but also shares in his excitement when things start looking up. New to the performance this year are Will Malloy (Foley artist), Milly Massey (announcer and Zuzu Bailey) and Rodney Witherspoon II.

The production features several interactive portions for audience members including a sing along at the beginning of

the play which will get individuals into the holiday spirit. The cast also hands out message cards prior to the play which are read over the radio station's airwaves. Many of the notes are short, sweet and filled with holiday cheer.

While there is no intermission, the radio station does take commercial breaks that leave Bedford Falls in a suspenseful state – making individuals want to immediately return to the story. The commercials are comical and include witty jingles.

"It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" will play now through Dec. 24 at

the Gamm Theatre (1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI, 02886). As a side note, the Dec. 17 matinee performance will be a masked matinee. This is the only performance where guests are required to wear a mask in the building.

Tickets are between \$55 and \$75 for general admission, \$20 for children/students and \$30 for rush tickets; there are also discounts for groups of 10 or more. The play is 90 minutes long and individuals can find out more information about the production by visiting gammtheatre.org or calling 401-723-4266.



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