

# Chief Rainone Gym resurrected

## DIGREGORIO COURT



By PETE FONTAINE

Few towns or cities in Rhode Island have human resources like Johnston, who always band together, especially when it comes providing first class sports and recreational facilities.

Which is why people of all ages turned back the hands of time Saturday morning and reminisced about their younger years of playing basketball at "The Dome." The Dome?

GYM - PAGE 8

# 'More deer here now than when the Pilgrims arrived'

## Whitetail harvests on-track for year packed with venison feasts

By RORY SCHULER

His sparkling white tail bounced up and down a Warwick city street like the lone working tail light of a small vehicle hitting speed humps at nearly 40 miles per hour.

The spike buck avoided the steady traffic on Warwick Avenue, bolted down Wayne Street, through a backyard, finding safety in the grassy field surrounding the quiet Vernon Street Playground.

He stood still for more than 10 minutes, catching his breath near a rusted old Little League backstop. His bright white tail caught fire in the late morning sun; a flash of glowing bleach staining the dark winter tree line.

Deer are thriving in the Ocean State; in cities, suburban neighborhoods and woodland alike. And as the state's herd swells, over the past decade, hunters have been harvesting more deer in Rhode Island than ever before in the modern era.

"Every night, they're all over the place — even on the ballfield at City Park," said Warwick resident and local wildlife enthusiast Art Dunn. "This year I've seen so many it's unbelievable."

### Copious Venison

In 1977, statewide, Rhode Island hunters reported harvesting 157 deer. That number peaked

DEER - PAGE 21



**101 PIEBALDS:** This little piebald deer, a relative genetic rarity, lives with his spotted family near Warwick City Park. City resident and wildlife enthusiast Art Dunn has been photographing members of the family, but unable to catch them all together in a single frame. (Photo submitted by Art Dunn)

# Cranston coach hired as new JHS Athletic Director

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston High School Athletics department will be appointing Cranston's Justin Erickson as its new athletics director next week following the recent retirement of Keith Cory, who was the Panthers' AD since 2014.

Erickson, 38, has served as Cranston's middle school athletic director since 2017, where he oversaw the sports department of four schools. He is a Cranston West graduate and has coached lacrosse and football at his alma mater in that time as well.

Erickson received the first ever Michael Palmer award in 2002, which is given to players that demonstrate selfless play on the field. He is also part of the executive board for the Cranston Hall of Fame, Cranston Athletics Hall of Fame, and CLCF.

When the job posting became available last month, Erickson jumped at the chance to take it.

"Cranston was a part-time job, Johnston was a full-time position. The opportunity was too good to pass up. At Cranston, I learned a lot, I learned about working with the leagues, bussing. (Cranston Athletic Director) Mike Traficante has been a great mentor and taught me everything and really took me under his wing. Seven years ago I never pictured that I would be an athletic director. I was happily coaching football and lacrosse at Cranston West. With this I can give back to the children in the community and help them out," said Erickson.

Some of Erickson's goals include bringing new uniforms to Johnston's teams and also raising the level of competition. None of Johnston's teams compete at the Division I level and many have dropped to the Division III and IV ranks over the past few seasons. Johnston has historically had Division I teams, including the basketball programs. The boys



Justin Erickson

AD - PAGE 10



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**THIS WEEK'S POTW:** Mrs. Lisa Freselone nominated Brandon Norris for Panther of the Week. Brandon is a junior at Johnston High School. Some of his favorite things about the high school are the teachers and working the school store. In Mrs. Freselone's words, "Brandon is a phenomenal student. He puts forth tremendous effort each and every class. He listens attentively to lessons and directions, and always gets straight to work on all tasks given to him. His work is always thorough, and it is clear that he put the time and effort into it. When he finishes his assignments, he is always willing to help his peers." (Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Assistant Principal)

**Editor's Note:** This is the first installment of a new weekly series, highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther on Page 2 of the Johnston Sun Rise.

## GETTING THERE

### AAA: Gas prices down 12 cents from last week

Rhode Island's average gas price is down 12 cents from last week, averaging \$3.33 per gallon. Monday's price is 44 cents lower than a month ago, and 5 cents lower than December 19, 2021. Rhode Island's average gas price is 19 cents higher than the national average.

"The cost of oil, gasoline's main ingredient, has been hovering in the low-to-mid \$70s per barrel, and that's \$50 less than the peak last spring," said Diana Gugliotta, Director of Public Affairs for AAA Northeast. "Combined with low seasonal demand, gas prices could slide a bit more before leveling off."

AAA Northeast's December 19 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be 12 cents lower than last week, averaging \$3.14 a gallon. Monday's national average price is 54 cents lower than a month ago and 16 cents lower than this day last year.

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# 'It's the greatest feeling in the world'

## JFD gives more back to the community

By PETE FONTAINE

To say that Local 1950 — the union for the Johnston Association of Firefighters — is perhaps the most unique non-profit when it comes helping those in need would be an understatement.

Fresh from yet another special story of giving, a record 41 thanksgiving food and turkey baskets to families in need, Local 1950 upheld its terrific tradition of adopting families and helping to make their Christmases merry.

"We have been doing this for over 20 years," Richard Boehm, a JFD battalion chief, said while showing off valuable gift cards he and other Local 1950 members were taking to two Johnston schools. "This year we will donate over \$2,000 in gift cards from Stop & Shop and Target to approximately 20 families."

Those gift cards, in fact, are made possible through the generosity of all Local 1950 members who personally donate money to purchase the gift cards as well as the food and turkey baskets.

"We truly believe in giving back to our community," Boehm went on. "We've been told by many families how blessed they are that we help them during the holiday season. But to be honest, we truly feel blessed for our jobs and to be in a place where we can give back. It's the greatest feeling in the world."

Even the gift card distribution is unique. For over a decade, Local 1950 has adopted families from Winsor Hill Elementary School by working closely with teacher Dina Needham, who coordinates the Food Cupboard and who he said, "is absolutely amazing with the work she does."

Likewise, Boehm coordinates the same gift giving with Selene Clark, a social worker at Thornton Elementary School, who he emphasized "cares very much for each and every student."



**GRAND GIVERS:** Above, Johnston Firefighter Ryan Richer, Capt. Craig Stevens, Battalion Chief Richard Boehm and Firefighter Derek Sousa are all smiles while presenting gift cards to Thornton School Teaching Assistant Beth Guisti and Social Worker Selene Clark that will help families in need for Christmas. (Submitted photos)



**HOLIDAY HELP:** At right, Winsor Hill Elementary School teacher Dina Needham has plenty of reason to smile after she received Stop & Shop and Target gift cards from JFD Battalion Chief Richard Boehm that will be given to children from needy families in time for Christmas.

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# JHS holds Winter Ball at the Omni Hotel

By **RAYLIN SANTOS**  
 Special to the Sun Rise

**O**n Dec. 16, Johnston High School held its annual Winter Ball in the Omni Hotel. The ball doors opened for the students to come in at 8 p.m. The theme for this year's ball was "Red and Gold." The room was decorated from top to bottom. This year's Homecoming King, Jacob Muller, continued Johnston's tradition of reading "The Night Before Christmas." After the reading, 10 students' names were randomly chosen, and they could pick a gift. These students either picked out one of the good gifts, which included gift cards to Brewed Awakenings, Chipotle, TJ Maxx, Cindy's Diner, Chelo's, and a Johnston Sweatshirt. Or a bad joke gift — adult diapers, toilet paper, a dictionary, a onesie, and a picture of a mystery person. Then came everyone's favorite part, the announcement of this year's Winter Ball King and Queen. The queen nominations for this year were Katie Lofler, Ariana Medeiros, Ava Melo, Makayla Osinger, and Lena Torti. The king nominations for this year were Lucas Anderson, Noah Lavergne, Jacob Muller, Derek Salvatore, and Sunny Sysomphou. This year's Winter Ball King and Queen were Derek Salvatore and Ava Melo. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's winter ball a success.

**Editor's Note:** Raylin Santos serves as Junior Representative and Recording Secretary for the Johnston High School Student Council. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes content submitted by the JHS Student Council. Attention students! If you have photographs from this year's Winter Ball, email them to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at [rorys@rhodybeat.com](mailto:rorys@rhodybeat.com), and if we get enough of them, we'll print a page from the Red & Gold evening.

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# A mayoral visit on her 103rd birthday

By EMMA BARTLETT

At 103 years old, Antoinette McGovern is a huge Red Socks fan. Mayor Ken Hopkins discovered this when he visited her at Cra-Mar Meadows on Seven Mile Road for her birthday and saw the baseball poster on her wall. Showing her excitement for the sport, Antoinette started singing "Take me out to the Ball Game."

On Dec. 8, Hopkins presented Antoinette with a citation as a dozen guests gathered at the nursing home to celebrate the birthday girl. Antoinette was all dressed up with her birthday tiara, painted nails and a blue outfit – her favorite color. The nursing home provided pastries and the facility's hairdresser came in a day early just to do Antoinette's hair for the special occasion. Pat Brzosteki, Antoinette's daughter, said her mom was very thankful for the mayor's visit and also thanked Jami Midence and Sue Mcoy for the work they put into the event to make Antoinette's day special.

Antoinette was born to Medora and Aime Dionne on Nov. 30, 1919. She was one of six kids – having three sisters and two brothers. Growing up in Providence, she attended Our Lady of Lourdes School. Pat said her mom loved school and going to Providence's Nickerson House for sewing lessons. Antoinette won an award for one of the outfits she made and would eventually use her skills to create clothes for her three daughters: Joan, Maureen and Pat. Coming from a French and Irish background, Antoinette spoke French and English – today she will still sing French hymns.

A lifelong Rhode Islander, Antoinette met her future husband – James McGovern – at Roger Williams Park. The couple married on Nov. 28, 1940, and spent 64 years together. They lived in a three-tenement home on Lockwood Street in Providence where they raised their children. James was drafted during World War II and spent his military career in the Navy as a Seabee. He returned home and was awarded with a Purple Heart. Pat said he was happy to be home with family and return to work.

Pat said Antoinette was a wonderful mother. When the kids were in school, she worked at various jewelry shops; her last job was working at Providence's Imperial Knife Company. The family



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins, a Johnston native, wishes Antoinette McGovern, a former 30-year Johnston resident, a happy birthday at Cra-Mar Meadows. (Submitted photo)

CENTURY - PAGE 6

## EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

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**103 YEARS YOUNG:** Mayor Ken Hopkins stopped by Cra-Mar Meadows on Dec. 8 to celebrate Antoinette McGovern's 103rd birthday. From left: Pat Brzosteki, Antoinette McGovern and Mayor Ken Hopkins. *(Submitted photo)*

■ **Century**

(Continued from page 5)

left Lockwood Street and moved into Antoinette's mother's home to assist her. After she passed, Antoinette and James moved into a house on Hartford Avenue in Johnston where their residence overlooked the water. The property belonged to their eldest daughter, Joan. During their time there, Pat said her mom enjoyed going to the Johnston Senior Center with one of her friends. She also spent time with her two older sisters Dora Gagne and Malvina Champagne; they loved going out to eat and would take Antoinette to the Lincoln race track.

James and Antoinette traveled to various places like Hawaii, Nashville and Paris – always bringing home souvenir plates. James passed away in 2004, and Antoinette remained in Johnston until age 95. She eventually moved into an assisted living facility in Coventry so she was closer to Pat. With dementia setting in at 97 years old, Antoinette moved to Cra-Mar Meadows in September

2020. Pat added that her mom walks without a walker and is a sweet and polite lady who thanks the Cra-Mar Meadows staff for everything.

Pat said her mom had a big 100th celebration which included a celebration mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish (OLC) in Coventry where Pat attends church. Antoinette has made a lasting impression, with Pat saying people who got to know Antoinette always ask how she's doing.

Today, Antoinette has five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She did lose one daughter, one grandson and her siblings but knows she has lots of loved ones in Heaven waiting. Pat said Antoinette jokes: "God doesn't want me and neither does the Devil." In the meantime, God has given her strong legs to keep on kicking and sometimes she'll even do some dancing with the Cra-Mar Meadows staff.

"So much more could be said about Antoinette but most important during the years not always easy she showed love and caring for her family and friends," said Pat.



**GIFT FROM THE CITY:** Antoinette McGovern receives a special citation from the City of Cranston celebrating her 103rd birthday. *(Submitted photo)*

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# Steamy service with a smile



**HOT CIDER:** Above, volunteer server Diane Mackie drove the hot cider cart at the Johnston Senior Center tree lighting earlier this month. Below, she stopped by the table where Sally Hicks, of Scituate, was sitting, chatting with friends and her sister, who was visiting from out of town. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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**Watch Your MOUTH**

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

**DENTAL PICKS VS WATER FLOSSERS VS INTERDENTAL BRUSHES**

Dentists often recommend a minimum once-daily interdental cleaning (cleaning between your teeth). There are several ways to do an interdental cleaning at home, and traditional flossing is just one option. Floss picks attach floss to a device that allows you to hold a handle as you floss, rather than holding the floss itself. These are a good option for hard-to-reach spots or for people with dexterity limitations. Water flossers use a pressurized stream of water to clean between teeth. The pulsating water compresses and decompresses the gums, forcing bacteria out. Interdental brushes are the most effective interdental cleaning tool and use a small fiber or rubber brush that fits between teeth. They come in different sizes for more effective cleaning. Keeping your gums healthy and strong by conscientiously giving them the attention they need is your best defense against the harmful buildup of plaque that can ruin your brilliant smile. And not only do floss, either alone or on a floss pick, water flossers, and interdental brushes do a thorough job of cleaning between teeth, their gentle massage provides the bonus of also make your gums feel good. At DENTAL ARTS GROUP, we'll do all we can to bring your oral health to its maximum potential. Time for some serious consideration to your teeth and gums? Call us at 401-521-3661 for an appointment at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. P.S. Although water flossers are not considered to be effective at removing plaque, studies suggest they may still be more effective than traditional flossing.

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## ■ Gym

(Continued from page 1)

That was the official name of ageless Rainone Gymnasium that was almost knocked down.

But why? The building contains so much history. Saturday, amid a standing room only crowd, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena hosted — and emceed — a history-filled re-dedication of Rainone Gym.

The gymnasium was established in 1965 and is located off Mill Street. The mayor also unveiled DiGregorio Court which, which he called an “extraordinary labor of love for this town, our recreational community and our youth.”

The mayor went on: “As many of you here — including myself — remember, the old Rainone gym ... today, we sit in a totally reinvented Rainone Gymnasium.”

Thus, after Pastor Chris Abhulime of King’s Tabernacle Church delivered an inspirational opening prayer, Polisena — wearing a collector’s sweatshirt with the words “Rainone Gymnasium – The Dome, Est. 1965” emblazoned on the front — said: “Let me introduce you to the person who had the idea for this project.”

Town Council Vice President and Mayor-elect Joseph Polisena Jr. attended the opening.

“We’ve upgraded so many of our facilities over the years, whether it was minor upgrades to fields or major construction like the Mazzulla Indoor Recreation Center, we gathered many stakeholders and the collaboration between private business owners, union workers and the town was absolutely seamless,” said the mayor-elect. “So many people in our community stepped up to volunteer not only materials but even more importantly ... time, and it shows, just how much how much they care about our community, its infrastructure and its residents.”

As was the case with many people Saturday, Polisena Jr. remembered: “I played in this gym and on the court outside countless times when I was younger and the difference between then and now ... this place is unrecognizable. I hope this serves as a model, not (just) for Johnston but for other municipalities in the state. When elected officials and residents work together with a sense of pride, dedication and community — we can solve any problem, build any building and ultimately unlock our unlimited potential.”

As Town Council President Robert V. Russo re-emphasized: “Sure, we could have torn this place down. But why? There’s so much history here. Like many people (here) today, I played here and so did my brother and many friends.”

Back then, someone at the event suggested, “The Dome” looked more like a dark and dingy gym. It had the sort of “in-need-of-repair” restrooms like you’d expect to see in a movie or inner New York City neighborhood basketball gym where a lot of college and NBA stars got started on the courts.

Perhaps Rico DiGregorio, who owns DiGregorio Construction, was the project’s major donor and had the most unique statement of the day when he said, “The first time I walked in here I thought I was in Madison Square Garden. Years ago I was here playing basketball on a Sunday morning when my daughter was born.”

DiGregorio went on: “I believe and know that I am not alone in saying this, but Rainone Gym formed and shaped many of the people here today. There are no other communities like Johnston, and I feel this facility is fundamental to our small town.”

Back when he was only 8-years-old, he said his Uncle Jack randomly “picked me up one night and said Rico, you’re going to play basketball with your cousin Rob tonight. I was so excited, yet nervous, all at the same time.”

That was 45 years ago and DiGregorio went on to play at the youth, middle school and high school levels. He said his first coach ex-Marine Vin LaFazia, “helped develop leadership skills and guided many young athletes into the men they are today, and for that, I am forever grateful.”

Like many people Saturday, DiGregorio and his friend Michael Sabitoni, said: “We all spent countless hours in this gym as kids; even as adult playing in the men’s league. This is my way of saying ‘thank you’ to the Johnston Community.”

To which Sabitoni, the highly respected executive of RI-based Laborers International Union of North America, added: “I’m so dam proud to be part of this project. I really wish Danny (Mazzulla, the late Recreation Director and high school and college hoop standout) was here to be with us and see this beautiful facility.”

Sabitoni, who like DiGregorio and others, are proud of their Johnston heritage.

As they concluded: “When we’re asked to help, everyone steps up; that result is right here and that’s why we now have this beautiful facility. Basketball, and this gym, are a part of me — just as I know how important is to many that are here today.”



**MEMORABLE MOMENT:** Joe Splendorio, who played at Rainone Gym during his younger years, brought his son JJ — a student at Brown Avenue School, and armed with his basketball — to witness the re-dedication of the now fantastic facility on Mill Street. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



**MARVELOUS MARQUEE:** This is the sign located outside the entrance to Rainone Gym — a.k.a. The Dome — which now has a state of the art playing surface with outlines in Panther Blue.

**SPECIAL SPEAKERS:** At right, Pastor Chris Abhulime of King’s Tabernacle Church in Johnston joins his friend Mayor Joseph Polisena during Saturday’s re-dedication of Rainone Gym. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

**AWESOME APPRECIATION:** On the cover, the new and shiny basketball court inside Rainone Gym is officially named the “DiGregorio Court” in honor of the countless contributions and money Rico DiGregorio and his company put into the project. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)





# Got time for a pickup game?

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a unique pickup basketball game at approximately 11 o'clock Saturday morning inside Rainone Gym.

The players — and participants — ranged in age, from their late 20's to 50 and beyond, as they relived the glory days playing either middle school, high school or recreation games at Rainone Gymnasium.

"Panther Blue is everywhere," was among the many comments. "Look at the tip off circle ... foul line lane — baseline ... wow, this place is amazing."

It's that way, as people like Secretary of State Gregg Amore and Gorge Carvalho, who serves as state director for U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse assessed, "because when it comes to community pride and building the best sports and recreation facilities (Johnston) is in a league of its own."

In fact, the headliners at Saturday's Re-Dedication of Rainone Gym and unveiling of DiGregorio Court just so happen to be native Johnstonians who have distinguished their small suburban town in the political arena and corporate world, as well as the building and construction trades, just to name a few.

Heading the list was DiGregorio Construction owner Rico DiGregorio, who learned to play basketball at "The Dome" and whose company was responsible for \$388,181 in cash and in-kind work and contributions toward its rehabilitation.

Enter Mike Sabitoni, another one-time Panther and president of the Rhode Island Building Trades, whose organization generated \$60,000 for the extraordinary project.

Then there was "Mr. Johnston Generosity Joe Vinagro Jr." who donated thousands upon thousands of in-kind contributions.

Likewise, the RI Laborers Unified Trust donated \$40,000 and the RI Chapter Associated General Contractors of America added another \$10,000 to the total, while another \$10,000 came from one of the RI laborers organizations.

"Over \$60,000 in cash donations — not to mention the hundreds of thousands of dollars in in-kind work was all part of rebuilding this historic gym," Mayor Joseph Polisena proudly noted.

He also praised former Johnston Building official Ben Nacenzi, Recreation Director Chris Correia, along with the Corsinetti family-owned Hartford Paving Company, while also touting the Baccala family owned concrete company and the Local 57 Engineers, all based in Johnston.



**CLASSIC CONTRIBUTORS:** Mayor-elect Joseph Polisena Jr. (center), whose idea it was to reinvent Rainone Gym, is joined by major donors Jay Baccala, Rico DiGregorio, Michael Sabitoni and Joseph Vinagro during Saturday's special re-dedication ceremony. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

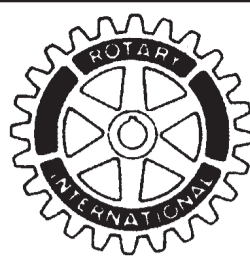
## Memories from The Dome:

'The first time I walked in here I thought I was in Madison Square Garden'  
 — Rico DiGregorio

**MAYOR'S MARK:** At right, through the generosity of Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena, the "new" Rainone Gym has an official electric scoreboard he purchased during the rebuilding project. It was the second such gift he gave to the town, the first being a scoreboard inside the Daniel E. Mazzulla Jr. Indoor Recreation Center.







### 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**

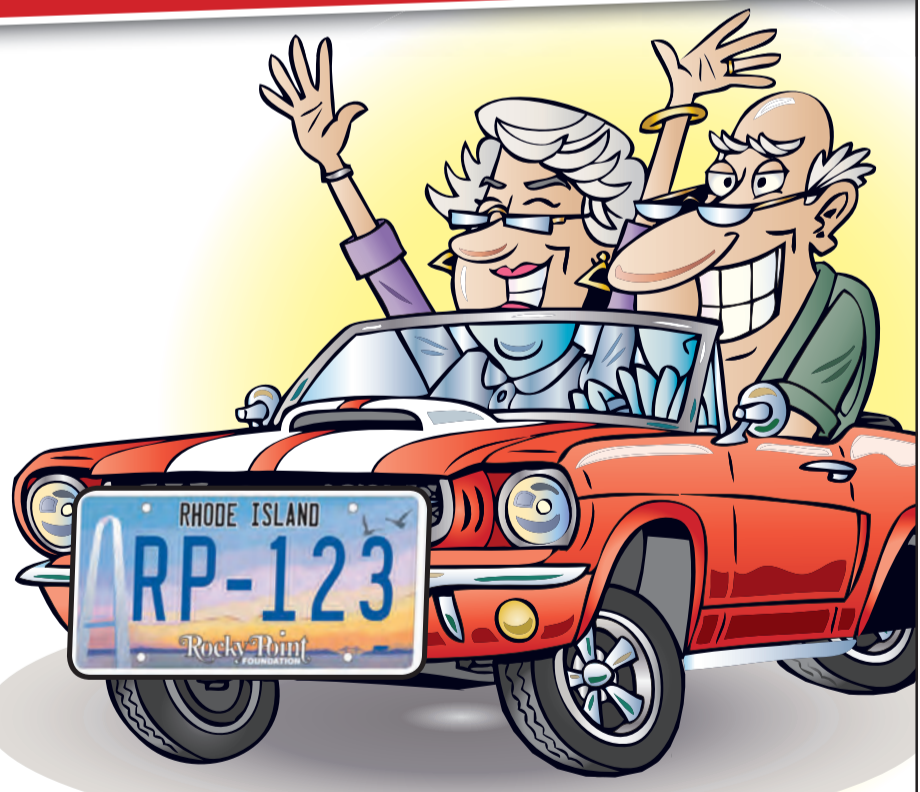
Applications and additional information are available on [www.WarwickRotaryRI.com](http://www.WarwickRotaryRI.com)  
**Community - Grants**



**WARM HANDS & HEARTS:** Christine Stack, Customer Service Lead at Johnstons Ocean State Job Lot, shows off the store's Warm Hands Warm Hearts Winter Clothing Drive bin. Shoppers can donate new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for children at need at all Ocean State Job Lot locations. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

# 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.**



### AD

(Continued from page 1)

currently compete in Division II and the girls Division IV.

"First thing we're doing is trying to get new matching uniforms, trying to get that Johnston Columbia blue. We want that school pride. Also, in Cranston, our teams are in the higher divisions. I think with the right tools, we can be neck and neck with those teams," said Erickson.

The biggest hurdle lately has been the rising number of student-athletes selecting private schools over public programs. Erickson is looking to retain as many students as possible and believes that the high school offers enough amenities to get the job

done. Johnston's facilities have hosted tournaments such as the Rhode Island Interscholastic League soccer championships since Cory's arrival, as well as middle school basketball championships and various youth tournaments.

"We need to establish that Johnston pride, we need to make that Panther pride stand out. We need to show that we have top-notch facilities, we have a top-notch athletic program, and it all starts by reaching out to both the middle school and high school," said Erickson.

**Editor's Note:** As for his coaching duties in Cranston, Erickson will be stepping away from the lacrosse program to focus his full attention on Johnston athletics.



# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Where's the holiday spirit?

It's the week before Christmas, and all through the state, you might fairly assume it was just another date.

Terrible rhymes aside, we can't help but notice a palpable lack of holiday spirit during what is normally the most cheery and uplifting time of year.

Sure, there are normal holiday activities going on in the form of tree lightings, holiday concerts, and charitable endeavors put on by the hardworking volunteers and dedicated non-profit staffs throughout our communities, but are we alone in feeling as though this holiday season has sort of rocketed past without the usual type of fanfare or excitement?

Is Covid to blame? Or the recession? Or is it just the normal course of societal division that has permeated our culture and felt especially prevalent in this election year? Perhaps it is a combination of all of these things, or something else entirely.

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

It's certainly not hard to find reasons to be glum and lacking in festivity, with the cost of living, heating, and groceries increasing, and the sad reminder of how much work we have left to do for many Rhode Islanders who find themselves without ample means to sleep in a warm room at night. Worldwide there is war, uncertainty, and desperation felt by many millions.

But even acknowledging all of this, there are a bounty of reasons to feel merry and bright. We have endured a lot in the past few years, which is worthy of celebration in its own right. For those who need a sign that things may get better, scientific breakthroughs on nuclear fusion can provide hope for a future free of the kind of strife caused by insufficient and inefficient means of energy production.

For inspiration locally, take a trip to any of our wonderful senior centers, where generations of people come together to share in festive lunches and regale stories of past holidays with one another — gathering and being together as was intended for this time of year.

As we should all have learned by now, the true spirit of the holidays comes not from without, but from within. Find a way — a cause you can volunteer time towards, a nonprofit that deserves your attention or donation — to give back to the place you call home. Only through enough of these actions can the holiday season truly feel like the most wonderful time of the year.



## Ornaments that never lose their sheen

By ERIN O'BRIEN

I remember lying underneath the Christmas tree, listening to the Johnny Mathis Christmas album, looking up at the shiny metallic orbs. In one my face was green, another, gold, and another, red. My mom's Christmas ornaments held a special fascination for me.

Before the Elf on the Shelf, there were my mom's elves with impish grins and pointy ears and noses, dressed in red and green felt. It was always tempting to unfold their legs, their knees tucked under their chins, to make them walk. Tiny Mr. and Mrs. Santas came in three pairs, with him hoisting a Christmas tree over his shoulder, and her with hands in a warm muff. One Mrs. Santa still wore her wire frame glasses.

There were six large glass orbs, hand painted in vibrant hues. The one with the lady in the pleated fuchsia dress held a banner that read, "Merry Christmas." My mom had bought them when she was 18.

When I opened the boxes the other day, I was struck how the old ornaments differed from my memory. The elves wore faded suits, although their painted faces still looked brand new. The Mr. and Mrs. Santas, I discovered, were affixed to tiny coasters, and the Mrs. Santas wore scarves made of corn husks.

The original box which contained the hand painted orna-



**CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:** Treasures from the past join our trees today. (Submitted photo)

ments disintegrates a little further each time it is opened. The outside of the box is marked "Poland," and the price sticker from the Sav-On Drugs store read \$1.89. Only three of the six sections still contain an ornament. This was the precious cargo I brought home from California in my carry-on luggage last month.

It is a strange place to have arrived, to see a new family's cars at your old house, where you'd memorized every crack in the sidewalk, your parents' possessions parceled out. It's funny the things that suddenly seem important, like old Christmas orna-

ments.

They came out every year, and I was eager to see my old friends: the elves, the Mr. and Mrs. Santas, and the big bright globes with the lady in the pleated fuchsia dress. Butter was on the table for dinner instead of margarine, Johnny Mathis was singing "White Christmas," my mom's wine cake was in the oven, and my dad had strung the colored bulbs on our house and our Christmas tree.

When I walked in the front room today, I breathed deeply to inhale the pine scent. For the last few years I've had an affinity for little felt mouse ornaments. Mice look more appealing when dressed in sweaters, holding snowballs or wearing skis. (Some are holding bottlebrush Christmas trees like the old Mr. Santas.) I may have overdone it with the mice this year. It almost looks like an infestation.

Alongside my felt mice are my old friends, the elves, and the Mr. and Mrs. Santas. Faded as they are, they conjure up images of my parents, and the dining room table set for company. Johnny Mathis is there, and I might park under the tree until company arrives, and gaze up at the ornaments and lights. It's the season when everything old seems new again.

*A California transplant, Erin O'Brien lives in Warwick and is an occasional contributor to these newspapers.*

## JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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### LETTERS

## Remember to be grateful

The true meaning of the Christmas Season has been diluted over the past many years with a commercial effort to give and receive only physical gifts. That may be a good reason for our very young family members but as adults

we are asked to reach out to those less fortunate and others who may have serious need for our assistance.

Yes, the holiday lights, performances and dining are a wonderful way to enjoy these winter holidays. Yet for some the true

meaning was born over 2000 years ago and still remains present in our everyday lives.

Be grateful for those who give daily to our personal safety and welfare by their presence. These are the men and women in

our military, first responders and medical teams. Also, civil and private enterprises that provide the necessary products and services for us to enjoy "It's a wonderful life".

**Bob Sweeney  
Warwick**



# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

### 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 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 Gloucester.

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

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

land Hospital's Neuropsychology Program. If interested, contact the study coordinator Dr. Kim Chapman at 401-829-4310.

### 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.

### Youth Ushers Program

Are you a high school student aged 16-18 who loves theater? If so, you can learn about professional theater and see shows for free - plus earn community service hours. It's easy and fun! For details visit [gammtheatre.org/youthushers](http://gammtheatre.org/youthushers). Roles include: scanning tickets, directing patrons in the lobby and the theater, stuffing and/or passing out programs, seating patrons and answering patron's questions. In return, you have the option to earn community service hours and see Gamm productions for free! Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Lauryn Sasso

at 401-723-4266 x 163 or volunteer@gammtheatre.org with any questions. Performance Dates: It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, Dec. 9 - 24, 2022, Faith Healer, Jan. 12 - 29, 2023, Bad Jews, March 2 - 26, 2023, The Children, April 27 - May 14, 2023.

### Warm Clothing Drive

Councilwoman Aniece Germain - in partnership with the Artists' Exchange and Hope and Change for Haiti - will host a clothing drive for neighbors in need on Dec. 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. They will be collecting warm clothes such as coats, gloves, socks and hats. The drop off location will be at the Artists' Exchange (50 Rolfe Square). Please reach out to [aniecegermain2@gmail.com](mailto:aniecegermain2@gmail.com) with questions.

### Vintage Hollywood NYE Ball

Welcome 2023 with a vintage Hollywood-era ball at the Historic Park Theatre and Event Center on Dec. 31. The event starts at 9 p.m. and ends at 1 a.m. There will be DJ Kabeza, OG Pauly D and special guests! Dancing, hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and more. Costumes/1920's-1940's outfits and accessories are encouraged and welcome, cocktail attire dress code. Tickets can be purchased online at [theparkri.com/event/vintage-hollywood-nye-ball/](http://theparkri.com/event/vintage-hollywood-nye-ball/).

**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 non-profit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

## Public Notice Town of Johnston Public Hearing

Pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 Public Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing for the consideration of:

**Ordinance 2023-1; (Formerly known as Ordinance 2022-10) - An Ordinance in amendment of Article II, section 340-4 and Article III, Section 340-8 of the Town of Johnston Code of Ordinances. Said Ordinance proposes to add definitions of Accessory Solar Energy Systems and Solar Energy Systems and also proposes use regulations for Accessory Solar Energy Systems and Solar Energy Systems for each zoning district.**

**THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON:**

**January 10th, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

**AT THE JOHNSTON MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING  
1600 ATWOOD AVENUE, JOHNSTON, RI 02919**

The proposed Ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing. Said proposed Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Clerk for examination.

The meeting place is accessible to the handicapped in conformance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-2. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting date.

**Johnston Town Council**  
**Robert V. Russo**  
**President**

**Attest:**  
**Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.**  
**Town Clerk**

## LEGAL NOTICES

### Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Matthew Peckham 94 Prospect st Warwick, RI, Wells Fargo Collect Agent po Box 9000 Lutherville, MD, ACAR Leasing 4001 Embarcadero Arlington, TXA PUBLIC AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 775 Hartford Ave JOHNSTON, RI ON December 31, 2022 AT 900 AM. THE VEHICLE A 2019 Chevrolet VIN # 3GNAXHEV7KS595886 BELONGING TO THE ABOVE . THE AUCTION BEING HELD IS TO SATISFY TOWING AND STORAGE AND FEES.

12/22/22

**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

**Planning Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
6:00 P.M.  
Johnston Senior Center  
1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919**

### AGENDA

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL  
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
III. APPROVAL OF 2023 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS  
IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**PB 17-36 - Residences at Hopkins Pond - Request to Modify Final Approval of a Major Land Development. Public Meeting to discuss the request of the Association to modify the Final plan by eliminate and/or relocating guest parking. A.P. 44 Lot 26 located between 620 Central Avenue and**

**I-295. Applicant: Residences at Hopkins Pond condominium Association.**

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

**PB 21-30 - Hartford Ave Self Storage I - Public Hearing for a proposed Major Land Development and Unified Development Review for a self-storage facility. Located behind 1357 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 25. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: National Development and Unified Development Review for a self-storage facility. Located behind 1347 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 81. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: Commonwealth Investments Group LLC The Applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit to allow the self-storage facility, dimensional variances to the yard requirements and possibly other variances.**

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

**PB 21-25 - Vel-Tree Minor Subdivision - Substitution of Bond.**

### V. NEW BUSINESS

**PB 22-09 - FedEx Distribution Facility - Public Meeting on the proposed expansion of parking facilities in accordance with Section**

**340-27. Located at 6 Green Earth Avenue AP 31 Lot 62.**

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

**PB 22-59 - Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the Petition of Robert Carrillo to rezone 180 & 184 Shun Pike from R-40 to Industrial. Council Petition 2022-CP-167. Assessor's Plat 33 Lots 27 and 84.**

**PB 22-61 - Rustic View Condominiums - Public Meeting on a Master Plan submission for a Major Land Development creating 28 dwelling units. Located at 1765 Atwood Avenue AP 47 lot 38. Property is Zoned R-7. Applicant: Churchill & Banks, LLC.**

### VI. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - Discussion

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

### VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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



# HELPFUL ANGELS



**LITTLE LESSONS:** Above, as part of the Little Angels Academy's theme for November was "giving thanks" and the toddler and preschool students took part in a food drive to help the local community collect non-perishables for donation to Operation Stand Down RI, a veterans organization located on Hartford Avenue in Johnston. According to the school's staff, "Young children often grasp nothing from the images of turkeys and Pilgrims that surround this holiday time. The purpose of this project was to teach the children about giving back to the community. Doing things for others is important and makes us feel good inside." The children involved in the collection ranged from 18 months to age 5 and attend Little Angels Academy, located at 415 Central Ave., Johnston. Shown here with the children are Little Angels staff members Toddler Teacher Paula Ricci and Childcare Administrator Karen Esposito. On the day this photo was taken, the academy's children came to school in their pajamas, and to celebrate Thanksgiving they had a marching parade the event ended with a friendship feast. (Photo submitted by Karen Esposito)

# Holiday REMEMBRANCES



**Maryann Vita**  
 Remembering a Wonderful Daughter at Christmas and Always  
 Christmastime is here again and as the day draws near. My heart is filled with sadness knowing you're no longer here. You were the jewel in our hearts, You were loved in every way Now you're gone, you're truly missed especially on Christmas day... You had a certain sparkle and you brightened up our world, Spreading happiness and kindness since you were a little girl. Daughter, Christmas is not the same without you in our lives, But you will never be forgotten as our love for you still lives on.

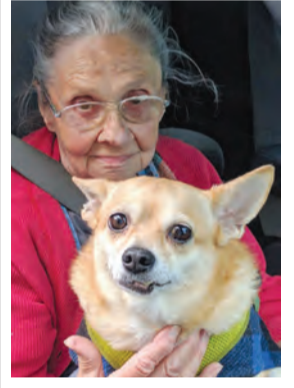
Love ~ Mom & Dad and Michael

Anniversary December 24 and Christmas Remembrance



**Tommy Caramante Jr.**  
 Forever Loved, Forever Missed  
 LOVE, MOM & DAD, JOEY & KELLY, MICHAEL & KRISTEN, MASON & MADISON XXX 000

**Margarete H. Hosemann**  
 Christmas Remembrance



Missing you throughout the year Especially during Christmas time. We know you are watching us from above.

Loved always and forever, family, friends and Peanut

# Obituaries

## Lois J. Imondi



Lois J. Imondi, 87, of Johnston, died on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at Cherry Hill Manor surrounded by her family. She was the wife of Angelo Imondi for 61 years. Born in Teaneck, NJ she was the daughter of the late Charles and Gertrude (Pfaff) Gisselbrecht and sister of the late Melody McLaughlin. Lois loved her family and enjoyed doing puzzles, playing bingo, and eating sweets. Besides her husband, she is survived by five daughters, Arlene Lima, Deborah Mariotti and her husband Roy, Charlotte DeFusco and her husband Raymond, Brenda Loffredo and her husband Marco, and Lois O'Brien, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Lois' family would like to express gratitude to the staff of Cherry Hill Manor and Beacon Hospice for their compassionate care. Services and burial in Highland Memorial Park were private. For online condolences, visit [robbinsfuneralhome.com](http://robbinsfuneralhome.com)



**Denise P. Valletta** 4th Anniversary  
**Ralph R. aRusso** 23rd Anniversary



Love and miss you, Love Diana

# Department of Public Safety issues reminder of 3G phaseout and its impact on 911 calls

The Rhode Island Department of Public Safety today reminded Rhode Islanders with 3G phones that they may not be able to connect to 911 as mobile carriers complete the phase out of their 3G networks at the end of the year. "If you have an older mobile phone, be aware that you may need to get a new phone to ensure that you have coverage and access to 911," said Arthur Martins, Director of E-911. "While this phase out will affect a small percentage of phones, we want to make sure that those who are impacted understand that they will not be able to connect with 911 after December 31, 2022." As of December 31, 2022, the major cell phone carriers will have completed the shut down of their 3G networks to accommodate more advanced network services. Many older cell phones will be unable to use data or to make or receive calls and texts, including calls to 911. This will affect 3G mobile phones and certain older 4G mobile phones that do not support Voice over LTE (VoLTE or HD Voice). Rhode Islanders are advised to contact their mobile phone provider for more information about how their phones may be impacted by the 3G phaseout.

## Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

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# 'Your home away from home'

## Johnston Senior Center hosts Christmas Party

By PETE FONTAINE

**T**he Hub!  
That's what Richard J. DelFino Jr. has plans to make the Johnston Senior Center during his tenure as Executive Director of the nationally accredited facility at 1291 Hartford Ave.

"I'm very excited to be here!" DelFino exclaimed during his first-ever welcome address at last week's JSC Christmas Party. "I can't tell you how impressed I am with this center. We want to make it a happy place; your home away from home!"

DelFino's message was reinforced tenfold by District 2 Councilman and Mayor-elect Joseph Polisena Jr. during what may have been the most impressive and fun-filled-filled Christmas Party in recent JSC memory.

"Everyone is always welcome here," Polisena emphasized. "This is a great facility that can be utilized for so many, many events. As Richard said we want to make this a special place; your home away from home!"

From there, Polisena went from table-to-table shaking hands and chatting with all the day's luncheon attendees who filled every available set inside the JSC's spacious all-pur-

pose room.  
The JSC Christmas Party also drew rave reviews from Linda Folcarelli, District 1 Johnston Town Councilwoman, who observed: "This is no ordinary holiday party. The entertainment is great, the food's good and I can't believe it's all served by so many volunteers."

Although the speaking program was brief, DelFino Jr. called upon Mayor Joseph Polisena who related: "Today is extra special. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday but more importantly, I want to thank everyone for all the support you have given me during my time as mayor. This will be one of my last public visits, but again I can't thank you all for your super and special support during my tenure."

The mayor then heaped words of praise upon the Matt Gingras-led JHS Concert Chorus that treated people to their smooth and talented sounds of 10 different holiday selections.

A JHS jazz combo consisting of Wilson El Hage, Alberto Estrada, Joseph Galenas, David Pagliarini, Johnathan Guilmette and Gingras did three numbers followed by a Folk Combo of Domenic Whitten, Gingras and Benjamin Monahan doing "Jingle Bells."

JSC - PAGE 15



**PERFECT POUR:** Decked in her holiday garb Cathie Jeffrey was among the many people who helped make last week's JSC Christmas Party extra special.



**SPECIAL SOUNDS:** These are members of the award-winning JHS Concert Chorus who made last week's JSC Christmas Party extra special during 10 impressive numbers. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



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**WARM WELCOME:** During his table-to-table trek, Mayor-elect Joseph Polisena Jr. enjoys a lighter moment with Patricia Baxter and Evelyn Cedroni during the JSC's Christmas Party. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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**JSC**  
(Continued from page 14)

The Treble Choir and Select Choir added two special pieces while the Concert Chorus completed the special program Eric Whitacre's "Glow," Mark Burrows' "A Light of Hope," "A Song of Peace" and finally Andy Beck's beloved "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus."

After yet more applause, Gregory Ayriyan, a talented violinist, treated the audience to more popular Christmas songs including "Silent Night" that was followed by a multi-prize raffle drawing conducted by JSC Assistant Director Denise Bell for a number of gift cards what were donated by local businesses.

The special event included Bob Balmforth, a long-time popular member/talented pianist who has played at the center in recent years while enjoying classic camaraderie. That example may be the epitome of Delfino's plan to make the JSC everyone's "home away from home."



**SILENT NIGHT STRINGS:** Accomplished violinist Gregory Ayriyan treated attendees at the JSC Christmas Party to popular Christmas songs included a beautiful rendition of "Silent Night."

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**HOLIDAY HAPPINESS:** Ladies like Julie Russo, Claire Champagne, Judy Maccarone, AnnMarie Matarece, Cheryl Carlucci and Dawn Gaffney were among the many people who enjoyed the music, fun, food and raffles during the JSC Christmas Party.

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**PRECIOUS MOMENT:** Luca DelFino (left) and his brother Richard DelFino IV stand beside Santa Claus who is holding their three-month-old brother Domenic during a recent Saturday with Santa event. Mayor Joseph Polisena and the Johnston Recreation Department sponsored the annual holiday event at the Senior Center. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

# 'It's Baby's First Christmas'

By PETE FONTAINE

**C**onnie Francis' legendary holiday hit "It's Baby's First Christmas" was indeed appropriate on a recent Saturday when Santa Claus came to town courtesy of Mayor Joseph Polisena and Johnston's Recreation Department.

Countless children took turns sitting on Santa's knee and telling Kris Kringle what they wanted for Christmas, as smiling parents used cell phones and cameras to record the extra special holiday happening.

Although he's too young to actually realize what was going on, it was indeed baby's first Christmas for Domenic DelFino.

With his brothers Richard and Luca looking on, the three-month-old son of Richard DelFino III and Vanessa Gonzalez was the center of attention as Santa Claus held him in his arms offering lots of love as he sat in a large chair beside a well-decorated Christmas tree inside the Johnston Senior Center's spacious all-purpose room.

"Now that's extra special," many people offered as Santa Claus issued his familiar chant "Ho, Ho, Ho!" while cuddling Domenic as many members of his family looked on. "Now that's a special moment and milestone."

Meanwhile, many parents and relatives enjoyed the age-old event that jolly old Saint Nick made countless children feel special for inside of two hours.

In the middle of it all was Nicole Cournoyer, Johnston's Assistant Director of Recreation, who coordinated a Snowball Relay to see what team could pile up the most snowballs.

The unique and fun-filled test featured ping pong and cotton balls while a second game was to see how many snowmen — tin cans covered in snowmen décor — the kids could knock down. Many children also loved a third game, a spoon and gumdrop race.

As has been a tradition through the years when the Johnston Community Center Association was the host, people enjoyed hot chocolate, chocolate chip muffins, holiday cookies, along with apple juice and water.

"We were happy with the turnout," Cournoyer offered. "Everyone had fun and a special time for the children, their parents, and in some cases grandparents."

**FAMILY FUN:** At left, the Tomasso's — Walter, Jack, John and Winnie — were among the many families that enjoyed Saturday's special visit from Santa Claus at the Johnston Senior Center.

**SPECIAL SCENE:** Below, Nicole Cournoyer, assistant recreation director in Johnston, is joined by Rylie Seabuth, James Seabuth, Aniello D'Ambra and Antonio D'Ambra after the children participated in some unique games and enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and cupcakes.



## ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

## CHARLIE

Poor Charlie was found abandoned in a motel room due to his owner being taken to the hospital. This boy stayed alone waiting and hoping for his owner to return all while the motel staff tended to him. Unfortunately, his owner never returned, and Charlie found himself at the Warwick Animal Shelter in search of a new home. He is a very handsome six year old Tuxedo with striking light green eyes and a fluffy tail. He is an independent boy so no other pets for him. He'll want all of your attention to himself. Charlie is best suited for an adult home, he will make a wonderful companion! Maybe you've been searching for a furry friend to spend your life with, Charlie might be waiting for you? Please contact the Warwick Animal Shelter at 401-468-4377 for more information about how you can meet Charlie.

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)







# Penny Wars help Ferri raise \$2,000 for local families

By Stephanie Rego  
Special to the Sun Rise

Every year, the staff and students at Ferri Middle School (FMS) hold different fundraisers to generate money for families that could use some help during the holidays. One of the campaign strategies that is used is called Penny Wars. The Penny Wars fundraiser is an effort to raise money for our adopt-a-family program here at FMS. Penny Wars is a fun way to get students involved in doing something positive for their community. All proceeds go to provide families in need with Christmas gifts and essentials for their holiday meals.

Are you curious to know how the Penny Wars fundraiser works? Every team (blue or white) has an empty collection container in their homeroom. Students drop pennies in their own homeroom container, while dropping silver coins/cash in their rival homerooms' containers. At the end of the fundraiser, each homeroom will count the number of pennies in their container, and then subtract the amount of silver coins and dollars dropped in by other students. The idea is to have as many pennies as possible to offset the silver/dollars dropped in by their rivals. The winning homeroom will be rewarded by their teacher and the money collected will help families in a pinch.

This year, FMS was able to accumulate over \$2,000 in donations from students, staff, and the community. The capital generated will assist over 30 families. Bags, boxes, gift cards, and containers are elegantly wrapped and stacked in piles in the room of Karen Pezzullo, who has been the organizer of the event for over 20 years. Ms. Pezzullo stated that "she enjoys spearheading this venture. This is a Ferri community project that includes members of the Ferri faculty, administration, central administration, former students, as well as various donors throughout the town. The families are chosen by a lottery run at the school. This year, as a community we were able to take care of 34 families. It seems as though every year there is more of a need to help families make their holidays just a little brighter."

Editor's Note: Stephanie Rego is a Ferri Middle School 6B Science Teacher.



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### CLUES ACROSS

- Take weapons away from
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Actress Lathan
- Baseball's strikeout king
- British codebreaker Turing
- One who lives by disreputable dealings
- Tropical American plant
- Opposite of right
- Importance
- Monetary units
- Lawmen
- Cool!
- Affirmative answer
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Muslim nobleman
- About aviation
- Scientific instrument
- Protests strongly
- Not polished

- Grab
- Alias
- Large wrestler
- Relative quantities
- One who is big and awkward
- Sunscreen rating
- Atomic #90
- Mock
- Whales
- Peoples
- A state of being unclothed
- Ottoman military commanders
- Gatherer of fallen leaves
- Norse personification of old age
- Muslim mystic
- German river
- Measuring instrument
- Have witnessed
- Disallow
- Proverb

### CLUES DOWN

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- The back side of the neck
- A type of imine
- Black bird
- Partner to "Pa"
- Puts together in time
- Lucid
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Demonstrates the truth of
- Ancient Greek City
- Nishi language
- Slang for fidgety
- Southwestern farmers
- Metric weight unit
- Instant replay in soccer
- Less polished
- Popular pickup truck model
- Slang for a cigarette
- Large pile
- Solid geometric figure

- One from the Big Apple
- Male admirers
- Balsam is one
- Local area network
- Canadian law enforcers
- Koran chapters
- Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
- Certificate (abbr.)
- An official who carries a mace of office
- Briefly in fashion
- Volcanic ash
- Dutch city
- Made of wood
- Legendary golfer
- Restaurant
- None
- Spanish city
- Stony waste matter
- Father
- Confederate soldier
- The ancient Egyptian sun god

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## And that's a wrap!!!



As we wind down 2022, I thought we'd take a look back at what we've discussed in real estate throughout the year.

We started out with record low inventory across the residential categories, and threatening increases to interest rates for buyers. We talked about strategies for buyers in a very competitive environment and educated sellers navigating their home sales.

Another topic we reviewed was how to plan and qualify for a mortgage and the various types of financing opportunities, especially with the changing rate dynamics this year.

Home maintenance and safety is always a beneficial conversation as a homeowner, so we touched on those topics as well.

Technology continues to provide great conveniences in searching for a home to purchase, building homes through 3D technology, as well as various products throughout the home, as we've discussed. It will be interesting to see and learn what other new developments will come available as we progress.

And here we are in December already. The year certainly flew by quickly.

Below is a brief report provided by RI Realtors to



**Donna DeLauro**  
 Senior Real Estate Specialist  
 RE/MAX Real Estate Center  
 Founder of Mature Matters

sum up where we are, and what to expect in 2023. I want to thank you all for a great 2022 and wish you a Happy Healthy and Prosperous New Year ahead!!

*Enjoy your Holidays!! Donna*

**RI REALTORS**

Rhode Island's home sale trends remain steady. At \$405,000 the median sales price of single-family homes rose 7.3%. The ratio of list price to sales price remained stable at 100%.

*The number of single-family homes on the market*

fell 7.9% year-over-year, not surprising given rising interest rates and fewer options available for sellers to move to.

Sales activity dropped 20.1% from the prior year while pending sales – those sales under contract but not through the closing process dropped 40.9% from the previous year. Pending sales are the leading indicator of sales activity in the near future.

"We're seeing an interesting real estate market right now. On the one hand, sales activity has fallen to about the same level as we saw during the economic shutdown of 2020. On the other hand, even with sales dropping, inventory is so tight that prices aren't plummeting. The good news is that inflation started to come down and if that continues, we should see a drop in rates. That will jump start the market again but even with that, we still have a supply problem to correct before we will see a balanced market again," said Bryant Da Cruz, President of Rhode Island Association of Realtors.

**Donna DeLauro**  
 Realtor at RE/MAX Real Estate Center  
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By JENNIFER COATES

The busy holiday season is upon us, and as usual, time is the one thing we need the most of, and yet have the least of. As your "to-do" list grows, so do the piles of laundry accumulating in your hampers. With time fleeting and lists growing, it is more important than ever to enlist the help of Jain's Laundry in Johnston. Why spend the little time you DO have this time of year laboring over a pile of laundry when you have the able, efficient and willing hands of Kaushal Jain to help you carry the load?

For an incredible .69/pound, you can have your laundry washed, softened, dried, and even folded at Jain's Laundry. What an incredible time-saver! Besides the convenience of this great service, this incredible price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! When life is already so full and free time is such a rarity, there are few reasons why NOT to take advantage of this amazing, same-day service.

Jain's Laundry, conveniently located at 39 Putnam Pike in Johnston, is a full-service Laundromat. For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find here both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". Don't have enough quarters? No worries, the Jain's have got you covered. A change machine (accepts up to a \$20.00 bill) is available on the premises.

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Jain's Laundry also has the most efficient dryers on the market. Each dryer utilizes a new technology where they spin both clockwise and counter-clockwise, thus allowing for more even and efficient drying. This prevents items from getting bunched up in the middle and, for larger items such as comforters and blankets, stops them from getting tangled up and twisted. The machines are also much more effective at preventing wrinkles.

This family-owned and operated business had been offering these convenient services for over 20 years. There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready

to meet the needs of all their residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is always someone there to keep an eye on your clothes or help you as needed.

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

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**PASS THE BUCK:**

At left, a young spike buck dared to run the city streets of Warwick and took refuge in the former baseball field near the Vernon Street Playground. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



**BIG BUCKS:** At right, last week, Art Dunn photographed these deer, munching in a field next to a pair of turkeys, in Warwick's City Park. (Photo submitted by Art Dunn)

**Deer**

(Continued from page 1)

to around 3,000 harvested whitetails in 2008, and has since leveled off to around 2,000 annually, according to the latest Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) 2021-22 Deer Harvest Report.

Last year's Ocean State hunting season yielded more than "39 tons of consumable venison, equivalent to about 157,000 meals," according to the report.

According to a Wall Street Journal survey of state officials and hunting groups ("Hunting Deer in Mating Season Helps Make It One of the Best Years," Dec. 4 edition), the nation's "deer hunting season is shaping up as one of the best ever this year, boosted by an early Thanksgiving start, larger than usual herds and favorable weather."

Although DFW won't release Rhode Island's most recent hunting data until early 2023, DEM spokesman Jay Wegimont said this year's harvest has been high, so far.

"DEM won't know if Rhode Island's deer harvest is following the trends mentioned in the Wall Street Journal article until the New Year," Wegimont explained. "We can say that from date-to-date comparisons, the deer harvest is up this year but the remainder of the year (post-gun season) is highly variable. In RI, the 2022-23 deer season runs from Sept. 10, 2022 (youth weekend), to Feb. 28, 2023. While it is still too early to estimate if RI will have a record year for deer harvest, we are on track to have an increase compared to the 2021-22 season, in which deer hunters reported harvesting 2,164 deer statewide."

**Spotting the Spotted**

"This year, by far, there's many, many more than I used to see — many more than last year," Dunn said. "I see 10 to 12 every night, easily. They lay down right inside the ball field. I see them jump over the six foot fence like nothing."

Dunn has been shooting photographs of the deer he spots. Recently, he spotted a family of spotted piebald deer — a relative genetic rarity, with dark spots on a white coat — within the Warwick city limits.

One of the smallest of the piebald family approached Dunn. He admired its almost Dalmatian-like hide.

"There's three or four of them always out there," Dunn said. "The little one; that thing comes right up to you. Almost like a pet."

At least one other piebald deer was spotted in "northern Rhode Island" this year, according to local television news reports.

"Piebald animals, including deer, are rare," Wegimont said, after conferring with state biologists. "DEM usually receives 2-5 piebald deer reports a year. Piebald deer have blotches of white coloration on portions of their hide that are usually dark in color, normal brown eyes and nose, and black hooves like a normal white-tailed deer. Piebald deer can have varying amounts of white hair. This contrasts with an albino deer, which has an almost all-white coat, a pink nose, and pinkish hooves."

Piebald deer are members of an elu-

sive class of genetic anomalies roaming our woods and neighborhoods. Many chronic outdoorsmen hunt for a lifetime without spotting a piebald or albino deer in the wild.

"Like albinism, piebaldism is a recessive genetic trait, meaning both parents must carry the trait to have albino or piebald offspring," Wegimont explained. "The genes responsible for piebald and albino deer are not dominant and often-times the deer carrying these genes are biologically inferior to others in the deer herd. Piebaldism occurs in around one percent of the white-tailed deer population, or in other words, around one of every 1,000 deer is a piebald. Albino deer are much rarer than piebald deer; about one in every 30,000 deer is albino."

**Black Powder & White Tails**

Wildlife enthusiast Paul Landry lives off Hartford Avenue in Johnston. He's noticing the same trends in his neighborhood and surrounding areas.

"You see a lot of deer if you go to the right place," Landry explained. "Johnston's loaded with deer — Johnston, Scituate, Foster — they're all loaded with deer. There's more deer here now than when the Pilgrims arrived."

According to research posted on Small State Big History, a Rhode Island history website ("When Deer Became Extinct in Rhode Island" by Christian McBurney), the Ocean State's deer population was nearly wiped out centuries ago, but has made an almost miraculous recovery.

"I was shocked to learn that by the late 1700s and well into the late 1800s, deer were extinct in Rhode Island," McBurney wrote.

The author dug into Roger Williams's early descriptions of local wildlife ("A Key to the Language of America," 1643) and "how Native peoples hunted them."

"Before the arrival of Europeans, Indians hunted for game only as they needed food and clothing," McBurney wrote. "For generations there was a balance between large mammals and human hunters. The arrival of white settlers radically altered that balance, in Rhode Island, as elsewhere in New England and the rest of the East Coast of North America."

An influx of settlers, new commerce and new weapons transformed the region's animal population.

"The fur trade introduced by white Europeans led Indians to increase their hunting of mammals, particularly beaver used for hats in Europe, McBurney wrote. "Guns introduced by Europeans made killing easier for Indians and whites alike. The populations of fur-bearing animals, such as beaver, fox and mink, were decimated. White settlers then began clearing the land to create farms. Numerous forests were cut down and plowed into farms. Many mammals were hunted almost to the brink of extinction including, it is hard to believe today, deer."

Hunting regulations and wildlife management have led to a booming modern day Rhode Island deer herd.

"Here in Johnston, there's lots of big bucks," Landry said. "First of all they're smart. They adapt to where they live. They adapt to living in places that you wouldn't think they could live in."

The 2021-22 DFW Deer Harvest Report recounts the state's efforts to regenerate the Rhode Island deer herd, going

back to the 1950s.

"Since the first regulated hunting season in Rhode Island in 1954, there have been tremendous changes in Rhode Island's deer population, deer harvest, land use, habitat types, hunter effort, and public perception of wildlife and hunters," wrote DEM wildlife biologist and report author Dylan Ferreira. "The statewide harvest in 1977 was 157 deer; since then, harvest increased until 2008, peaking at around 3,000 deer. Since 2008, there has been a slight decline to (around) 2,200 deer harvested annually."

**Killing Fields**

Most deer were shot, killed, claimed and reported from private land in Rhode Island. According to the DFW report, 72 percent (1,566) of "all deer harvested in RI are harvested on private land," while the remainder was taken from state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), federal properties, undeveloped State Parks, and cooperative properties (co-ops) open to hunting.

Hunters reported taking 101 deer from the Arcadia Management Area — overlapping portions of Richmond, Exeter, Hopkinton, and West Greenwich — the highest tally of all state hunting areas.

"The DFW has worked closely with private property owners such as land trusts, The Nature Conservancy, and others to open their lands to deer hunting," Ferreira wrote. "This is typically allowed to reduce deer densities at the property to mitigate the impacts of high deer densities on habitat."

Deer season in Rhode Island begins with archery (including crossbows), and runs from mid-September through the end of January. Designated time periods allow hunters to utilize a range of weapons, from bow and arrow, to rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders. Hunters are allowed to bag "two antlered and multiple antlerless deer across the state." Rhode Island also now permits hunting on Sundays.

During the 2021-22 deer season, hunters reported harvesting 2,164 deer statewide, an 8 percent decrease from the 2020-21 season harvest of 2,348 deer. Of the year's harvest, 1,215 (56 percent) were antlered and 949 (44 percent) were antlerless, "the first time since 2010 the antlered harvest exceeded the antlerless harvest."

"(The) season ended with the largest difference between male (56%) and female (44%) harvest since 2010," Ferreira wrote. "In addition, the adult male to adult female ratio during check stations was 1.0 to 4.7. The average from the past 10 years was 1.0 to 2.3 female to males. All methods of harvest saw a decrease in harvest except for the muzzleloader harvest. Last season, the archery harvest surpassed the muzzleloader harvest for the time on record, however this year the muzzleloader harvest was highest."

Responsive Management's most recent survey of Rhode Island hunters revealed 55 percent of the state's outdoorsmen "hunt to provide food for their families," according to the report.

"Wildlife is a renewable resource that when managed properly can provide sustenance in the form of wild, local, sustainable protein year after year to its consumers," Ferreira wrote. "For each deer harvested, approximately 30 percent of its field dressed body weight is available as consumable venison."

The state has been testing deer samples for Chronic Wasting Disease for the past two decades.

So far, "CWD has not been detected in any samples submitted for testing during the 20 years of CWD surveillance," according to Ferreira.

Last year, the state sold 7,559 (not including previously sold, permanent, over-65 licenses) hunting or hunting and fishing combination licenses, according to the report. The state also sold 20,232 deer permits (17,600 sold to state residents, with 2,632 purchased by non-residents).

"Most hunters, both residents and non-residents, purchased two deer permits," Ferreira wrote. "There were 1,396 successful deer hunters in Rhode Island, with the majority (89%) of hunters harvesting two deer or less. Resident hunters still harvest the most deer in the state, accounting for 1,855 deer, while non-resident hunters harvested 309 deer."

The average Rhode Island hunter was 48 years old, and "continues to rise annually," according to the report.

"In 10-20 years, most of today's hunters will age out, leaving behind a small group of hunters to carry the hunting tradition and financially support wildlife conservation," Ferreira wrote.

Hunting license sales have dropped 34 percent since 2000, when the state licensed 11,528 hunters and nearly 19,000 deer permits.

"However, there was an increase in this year's deer hunters (7%) and deer permit (1%) sales," according to Ferreira. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rhode Islanders sought ways to get outside and connect with nature; this small increase in deer hunters and permit sales may be connected to this trend."

**Vehicular Deer-slaughter**

National public safety groups estimate vehicles collide with around 1.5 million deer annually in the United States. In Rhode Island in 2021, the state reported 1,285 "deer auto strikes," up 10 percent over 2020.

"In 2021, the number of reported deer auto strikes was equivalent to 59% of the total reported hunter harvest," Ferreira wrote, leading to an increase in bag limits in some regions of the state.

Dunn recalled twice in the past few years when he's been unlucky enough to collide with two pairs of speeding hooves and a white tail.

"In Narragansett one night, on my way to the beach, a deer jumped over a fence and landed on my roof and windshield," Dunn said. "It rolled off, stood up and ran into the woods. They're tough as nails. A year later, I hit another at the Yawgoo Ski Area ... They're breeding like crazy."

Landry has been enjoying the wildlife that seems to be pouring from the wilderness lately — part wildlife habitat restoration success story, part wildlife habitat clearance and destruction tale.

"I recently spotted a bobcat," Landry said. "It was a whole bobcat family; a mother and three little ones."

Landry doesn't drive at night anymore. But if he did, he says he'd watch his speed.

"If I do drive, I'll go slow," he said. "The trouble is, if you see one coming across the road, you can bet there's some more right behind them."



# Sports

## Lady Panthers tip off season 2-0

JHS girls making noise in new division

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls basketball team is off to a nice start in the new Division IV this winter season as it won its first two league games to improve to 2-0.

The Panthers won a thriller last weekend when they beat visiting Providence Country Day 38-36. Steph Bruno would sink the game-winner with 10 seconds left to snag the win for Johnston.

"We're off to a good start. Not where we want to be by the time we finish the season, but we're making progress towards that. In our first couple of games, we've played a good first half but struggled in the second or vice versa. We're looking to play a full 32 minutes as a team without any sort of drop off. I think that it's good that we have been exposed to these tight games early in the season. Being in those situations only helps our confidence," said Johnston coach Meg Reall.

The Panthers are back to being a one-school team after co-op'ing with North



TEAM CAPTAIN: Johnston captain Hannah Calabro works past a defender last week. (Photos by Mike Zawistoski)

■ GIRLS - PAGE 25



TO THE HOOP: Johnston's Derek Salvatore drives to the hoop on Monday. (Photo by Ryan D. Murray)

## JHS boys stay hot with win over West

By RYAN D. MURRAY

The Johnston Panthers went to Cranston High School West on Monday night and pummeled the Falcons 92-73 in front of a packed house during a Boys Division II Basketball showdown.

Johnston was led by junior guards Anthony Corsinetti and Derek Salvatore. Corsinetti finished the contest with 22 points and Salvatore chipped in 17 points.

"Anthony is a leader on this team and he's our scorer," Panthers head coach Mike Bedrosian said. "He's our guy. He gets things going offensively, and when he's on, he's tough to stop. And he has a lot of range. More importantly than anything, he's a leader on this team, and he's the glue that keeps us going."

"He and Derek Salvatore, those two guys are our guys," Bedrosian said. "We run through them two. So, as well as they're playing, the team's going to follow suit. And it's been showing early on in the season."

Johnston also saw two other players reach double-digits in scoring with Neri Vasquez, a junior forward, recording 12 points, and Brandon Testa, a sophomore guard, adding 11 points.

"The two best practices that we had all year were the days before games," Bedrosian said. "And these guys buy into the game plan of what we expect."

"We have an identity that we found earlier this year than we did last year," Bedrosian explained. "Last year, we didn't find our identity until about nine or ten games in. This year, we knew our identity from Day 1 and the guys are proving it. We could have scored 120 points tonight if we wanted to."

■

BOYS - PAGE 24



# Holiday gifts for anglers

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Here are some last minute suggestions on holiday gifts for anglers. From stocking stuffers to rods and reels bait & tackle shop owners have suggestions. Most local tackle shops are open right up to and including Christmas Eve day and have qualified staff to help you make a selection that fits your budget. They are in business to make anglers successful, so I have always found them to be very helpful.

Fishing lures and rigs from \$5 to \$30 are great gifts and stocking stuffers. Bait rigs and jigs used to catch bottom fish like summer flounder, black sea bass and tautog that anglers love to catch and eat make great gifts. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown said, "We have some new fluke rigs from H & H (they make flounder pounder rigs) and Buddy Rigs."

"We sold a lot of rubber shads, poppers and lures as stocking stuffers," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside. Jonathan Woodman of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly, said, "Fishing lures to catch striped bass, bluefish, false albacore and more both from shore or boats make great gifts. SP Minnow, Super Stride lures and soft plastic lures from Joebaggs range from about \$20 to \$30."

Waterproof charts about \$60. I use these to plan my fishing trips the day before fishing to find structure for tautog fishing or to select spots for fluke fishing. The charts I have include Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island and Block Island Sound in a handy large spiral bound book with soft plastic case. These waterproof charts are great on the boat and cover fishing areas in complete detail, and pinpoint dozens of fishing areas and the fish caught in each area. Choose areas from Maine to the Bahamas, and points inland too. Available at West Marine stores or online at [www.westmarine.com](http://www.westmarine.com).

Membership in the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RI-SAA), \$50. Purchase a gift membership for a family member or friend. The association is created by and for recreational saltwater anglers and the monthly seminars, magazine and education programs on fishing techniques and tactics are outstanding. Visit [www.risaa.org](http://www.risaa.org).

General fishing or learn how to fish charters, \$350 to \$800 (depending on number of people, species targeted, boat size, duration of trip, etc.). Hire a charter to help teach adults or children how to fish or to take experienced anglers fishing. Visit [www.rifishing.com](http://www.rifishing.com), the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association website for a list of boats and captains. Can also find party boat trips there for under \$100 to \$135 per person.

StickTite Lenses, from \$19.99, even if they arrive after the holidays. This item is from Todd Corayer's "Holiday Gift Guide for Anglers" in the RI Saltwater Anglers December magazine issue. If your angler fishes with sunglasses but also needs cheaters, StickTite lenses are a game changer. Available in magnifications from 1.25 to 3.0, they arrive smartly packaged and are easily applied. Find that sweet spot on the bottom of your favorite glasses, apply, wait a few minutes then ditch those cheaters. If you have a collection



**CATCH AND RELEASE:** Ninety percent (90 %) of striped bass caught by recreational anglers are released alive. (Photo from the American Saltwater Guides Association)

of fancy shades for all occasions, change your outlook in minutes and even swap lenses between glasses. Starting at \$19.99 [www.sticktitelens.com](http://www.sticktitelens.com).

### Striped bass on the chopping block again

Massachusetts and Rhode Island have held webinar hearings to discuss commercial quota transfers for striped bass between coastal states as outlined in Addendum 1. The aim of the Addendum to the striped bass management plan is to maximize the commercial harvest of striped bass by allowing states to transfer unused commercial quota to other states that currently maximize their allotment. This proposal is largely supported by striped bass commercial fishers

In an announcement from the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA), Tony Friedrich, Vice President, said, "Anglers need to attend this hearing on Monday and voice their concern over commercial transfers. According to the 2022 Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update, the stock remains overfished. Therefore, efforts to intentionally increase striped bass removals are antithetical towards rebuilding goals and objectives."

"Commercial quota transfers have long been rejected by the Striped Bass Management Board. They were once rejected in the past due to the stock being overfished," said Friedrich. "Historically, the commercial quota has gone underutilized. Increasing commercial landings, at such a pivotal time for the stock as today, will go against assumptions made by managers and disrupt projections on the stock and rebuilding success."

The ASGA said in an advisory, "Bottom line—the striped bass stock is still overfished and rebuilding success

hinges on maintaining low fishing mortality rates while poor recruitment persists, purposefully increasing commercial landings is not rationale and the Board should oppose this action."

You can still comment online until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2023 and should be sent to [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum I).

### 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 [www.dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/freshwater-fishing-faqs](http://www.dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/freshwater-fishing-faqs); and in Massachusetts visit [www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information](http://www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information).

Striped bass fishing has slowed a great deal. "We still have plenty of peanut bunker around with bait being pushed up on the shore but anglers have not been hooking up at all with no great reports from shore anglers or

those fishing salt ponds," said Jonathan Woodman of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Cod, tautog and black sea bass are general being target together on party boats. Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown said, "The Island Current got out a couple of times last week and came back late afternoon. The bite seemed to come later in the day for them." 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@verizon.net](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).

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'OUR GUY': Anthony Corsinetti dribbles up the floor.

## Boys

(Continued from page 22)

West junior forward Jaymien Aponte topped all scorers with 23 points.

"Jaymien is an absolute pleasure to coach," Falcons head coach James Sweeney said. "He works hard every single day. He is coachable. He does everything he's supposed to do, and to me, he leads by example almost better than anyone else in our program, on how to approach every single day's practice and games. And he's a hell of a player. He's getting better and better and better, and he's given us chances to win, and he's a major part of this team. I love coaching him and we need him. So, he's been phenomenal this year, and I know he's going to have a breakout junior season, and I just love to root for that kid."

Adreyann Perez, a junior guard, added nine points for West, while Anthony Veltri, a senior guard, and Ryan Zarrella, a junior guard, rounded out the Falcons scoring with eight points and seven points, respectively.

The game began with Johnston's Salvatore and West's Nick Masse trading buckets, but the Panthers assumed complete control after that.

Vasquez made a layup, following a feed from Salvatore, and that put the Panthers on top 4-2.

Next, Corsinetti made a pair of free throws and extended the Johnston advantage to four.

Soon after, Corsinetti buried back-to-back treys from the top of the arc, before Salvatore added a 3-ball, and then a put back, and increased the Johnston cushion to 19-4.

The Panthers continued to pad their lead in the second quarter.

Corsinetti started the frame with a four-point play where he made a 3-point shot while he was fouled, and then added a free throw, which extended the Johnston buffer to 25-6.

Johnston ballooned its lead to 41-15 with under three minutes to play in the first half when Vasquez sank a 3-pointer.

The Panthers closed the third quarter with an 11-2 run and held its largest lead of the game at 74-37, briefly, before bringing a 35-point lead into the final frame.

West went on a 6-0 run midway through the fourth frame, featuring a put back from Aponte, a running bank-shot from Alex Ceseretti, and a layup from Hudson Carvalho, which inched the Falcons within 79-46.

Perez scored back-to-back buckets for West with 1:21 remaining in the contest and that cut the Falcons deficit to 87-67.

Then, with 23.8 seconds on the clock Aponte scored an old-fashioned 3-point play and got West within 92-73, and that's how it ended.

Johnston sat at 3-0 in the league after Monday night's win. The Panthers played again on Wednesday at home versus Hope, but the score was unavailable at press time.

West fell to 1-2 in the league with the Monday night defeat.

"Obviously, it's disappointing when it comes to results," Sweeney said. "Any time you play at home in front of a packed crowd, you want to give everything you can for a chance to win, and you want to put a good product out on the court."

"But we're really focused on just being better every day," Sweeney said. "Learning from our mistakes, learning from what we didn't do tonight. We have good senior leadership. We have good camaraderie with our players, and I know we're going to come back to practice tomorrow and give it everything we have. And it hurts to lose. It's not fun. Especially, in your home gym. But the reality is, it's one loss and we've got a big game Wednesday at Mt. Hope and we've got to move forward."

The result for Wednesday's game was unavailable at press time.

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HARD IN THE PAINT: Neari Vasquez battles through defenders.





**EYES ON THE PRIZE:** Hannah Lavergne looks to make a play.



**HANDLE:** Vanessa Febus dribbles the ball against PCD.



**KEY RETURNER:** Ava Waterman works her way through traffic.

**Girls**  
(Continued from page 22)

Providence last winter. After a down season in 2021-22, the Panthers are looking to turn things around and make a statement in their new division.

"It's less hectic, it makes things (easier) logistics wise. The girls program at Johnston over the past couple of years has struggled so we're trying to restore that Johnston pride," said Reall. "I think us being back by ourselves and hopefully having a successful season will help do that. These seniors are my first four-year seniors, so it's important that they see the hard work that they've been putting

in is paying off."

Bruno and Hannah Calabro are the team's two senior captains this season. The Panthers also return key players like Ava Waterman, Hannah Lavergne, Riley Guenette and Aubree Allen, while freshman Annabella Gesualdi has made an early impact as well.

Reall has been pleased with the senior leadership.

"I met with (Bruno and Calabro) at the beginning of the season and told them what I expect from them, and they've been doing an amazing job as my two captains. They are leading by example and reiterating to the team what our common goal is. Our returning players have done a great job," said Reall.

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**NEW YEAR, SAME TRADITION:** This is a look at the field that made last year's Polar Golf outing a big success. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

## JMCE ready for 8th annual Polar Golf Tourney

### Proceeds to benefit Hasbro

By **PETE FONTAINE**

It has been called "Freezin' for a Reason" as well as other unique titles and is perhaps the most unique and unusual New Year's Day celebration in the state.

"We never can predict what the weather will be!" exclaimed Judi Graham with her usual pleasing smile on her face. "You never know what the weather will be on New Year's Day; especially 'round here."

Nonetheless, Graham and her group of close-knit friends who make up the highly acclaimed Johnston Memorial Cancer Events (JMCE) - along with many members of historic Gloucester Country Club - are getting ready to tee it up for the 8th Annual Polar Golf Tournament set for January 1, 2023 at the nine-hole layout.

But the annual event, which will again benefit Hasbro Children's Hospital Cancer Research, will only be a three-hole event that will start at 10

a.m. January 1.

"We encourage people to either wear or bring a t-shirt, but players might have to bundle up depending on the weather," Graham mused. "As has been our Polar Golf Tourney tradition, we'll only play three holes and players can only use three clubs."

Graham also added: "We encourage golfers to enter as an individual, six-some or any combination. "Come and enjoy snacks, light refreshments and raffles but please - remember to bring your own booze."

Registration is only \$25 per golfer and the public is invited to play and as Graham another GCC members want it known, "we welcome people that don't play golf to step by Gloucester Country Club and make a donation."

All of the day's proceeds, which last year totaled \$1,000 from a field of only 26 players, will benefit Hasbro Children's Hospital and its Hematology and Oncology units as well as other areas that help children who are battling cancer.

Graham said any and all checks should be made payable to the JMCE (Johnston Memorial Cancer Events). For more information or two reserve a playing spot please call Graham at judi@grahambuilders.com.



### 'Tis the season to be holly

The Johnston boys basketball team lent a helping hand at the recent Holly Fair at the high school, arriving prior to the event to help vendors set up shop in the school cafeteria. (Submitted photo)

# BUSINESS SERVICES

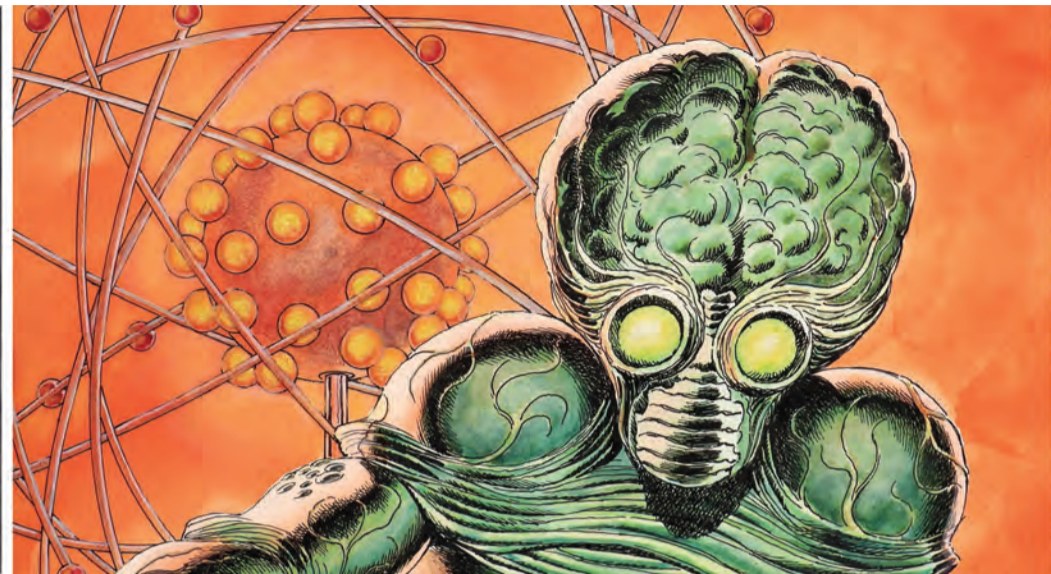
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# COLLECTIBLES



## METALUNA MUTANT



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

the collector community too! So now that you are all caught up, let's take you back in time.

The year is 1974 in Brooklyn, New York at the Aurora Plastics Corporation where Andy was working with his friend (and later Marvel Comics colleague) Dave Cockrum. The Comic, Monster, and Prehistoric model kits they created had been a long running success, but they needed a new line of model kits for store shelves. The plan was to introduce a line of science fiction film inspired kits; these included the War of the Worlds spaceship, Gort from *The Day The Earth Stood Still*, and Robby the Robot with the Metaluna Mutant from *This Island Earth*. Alas, that plan never came to be, and for decades it was believed none of these models ever made it to development.

Then, in 2001 a prototype of the Metaluna Mutant surfaced online for sale followed by an illustration mockup of the design by Dave Cockrum. Presumably it was originally a guide for the sculptor to follow in the production process. During this time, the modeling community also became aware of the original production box art by Dave Cockrum, which in Andy Yanchus had in his possession. It was a piece that would ultimately be published in the Atlantis limited edition reissue. Present day, the Metaluna Mutant is one of the most famed models as the Aurora kit that never was - but was always wanted.

This New Year's Day at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers, we are excited to announce we will be offering that original (one of a kind!) production box art of the Metaluna

Mutant by Dave Cockrum from the collection of Andy Yanchus. Utilizing ink and watercolor, Dave Cockrum brought the mutant to life on paper with an ominous red background, and it displays beautifully!

Comics and collectibles remain one of the hottest markets through these strange economic times. If you have a collection, we are here to help; consigning at auction and having your collection managed is the only way to maximize its potential value - You never know what you might have hidden away in a box!



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# RhodyLife

## Tis the Season



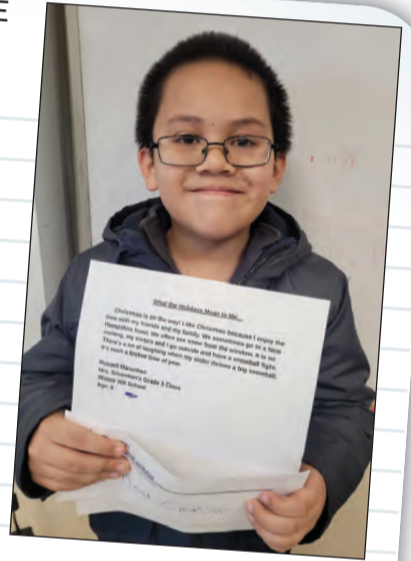
### What Kids Wish for at this Time of Year HOLIDAY CONTEST WINNERS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This year, the Johnston Sun Rise hosted a holiday essay contest, asking children to share Christmas and holiday memories, and tell us the season's true meaning. We reached out to the principals of each Johnston elementary school. Three Johnston schools – Brown Avenue Elementary, Winsor Hill Elementary and Saint Rocco School – participated in the contest. Our goal was simple. The Sun Rise hoped to introduce its readers and the community to youthful perspectives on the meaning of the holidays. We had three winners from each participating school – six winners total. We had three categories: Most Creative, Most Humorous and Most Heartwarming (and two winners in each category). Students were instructed to keep their submissions under 100 words. We promised to publish the winning entries in this week's edition of the Johnston Sun Rise. The winners were contacted at school on Monday, and received their prize packages – Showcase Cinema movie passes and concessions for four. We told each young wordsmith to go out and treat their families to a night at the movies. rs and a few Honorable Mentions.

#### MOST CREATIVE

“What the Holidays Mean to Me...”

By Russell Maranhao  
Winsor Hill  
Elementary School  
Mrs. Silverman's  
Grade 3 Class

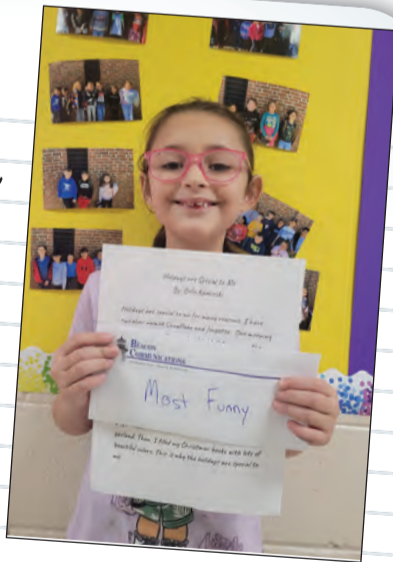


Christmas is on the way! I like Christmas because I enjoy the time with my friends and my family. We sometimes go to a New Hampshire hotel. We often see snow from the window. It is so inviting, my sisters and I go outside and have a snowball fight. There's a lot of laughing when my sister throws a big snowball. It's such a festive time of the year.

#### MOST HUMOROUS

“Holidays are Special to Me”

By Bella Kaminski  
Brown Avenue  
Elementary  
Tiffany Lujan's  
Grade 3 class

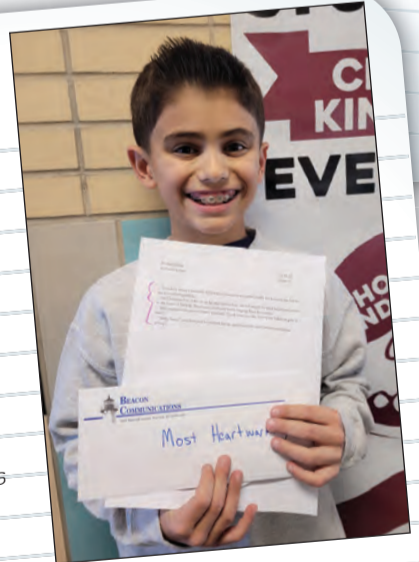


Holidays are special to me for many reasons. I have two elves named Snowflake and Jinglette. One morning when I woke up, I saw shredded toilet paper in the kitchen. My elves were sitting in the toilet paper. Then, my mom made a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs. I loved the smell of Christmas cookies as I baked and decorated them with my family. As soon as we finished the cookies, we began to decorate the house with Christmas things. I sprinkled ornaments on the tree and wrapped it in garland. Then, I filled my Christmas books with lots of beautiful colors. This is why the holidays are special to me.

#### MOST CREATIVE

“Catching Santa”

By Michael Orsini  
St. Rocco School  
Grade 5



Two days before Christmas, John was on a mission to capture Santa. He was only ten but he had a lot of imagination. On Christmas Eve, John set up his plan before bed. He fell asleep for three hours and awoke to the sound of his trap. Downstairs, he found Santa hanging from the ceiling! John explained the plan to Santa, who said, “Look what you did. Now I can't deliver gifts to kids!” “Sorry Santa,” said John and he realized that he had missed the true Christmas meaning: giving.



Contest (Continued from page 29)

sophie Tessier  
 wen I was 6 I  
 was decorating  
 my christmas tree and ite  
 was we got it done  
 and the ordmans are glas  
 so my sister she wanted  
 to run around the christmas  
 tree man Dad told her stop  
 she didn't listen and she fall  
 in the christmas tree  
 and glass got in her  
 foot we had to go to the  
 doctor and we laphe now

MOST HUMOROUS

"What the Holidays mean to me"

By Sophie Tessier  
Brown Avenue Elementary  
Tara Iacobo's Grade 3 class

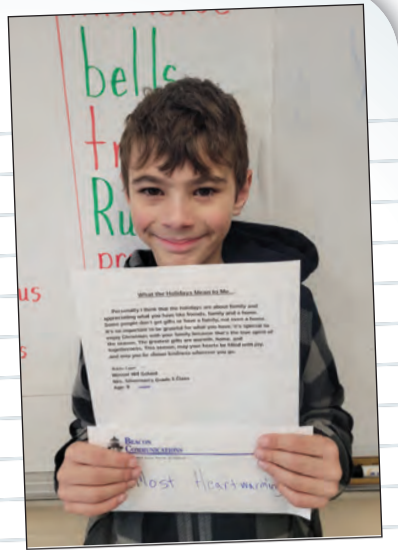


CONTEST - PAGE 32

MOST HEARTWARMING

"What the Holidays Mean to Me ..."

By Ashton Laput  
Winsor Hill  
Elementary School  
Mrs. Silverman's  
Grade 3 class

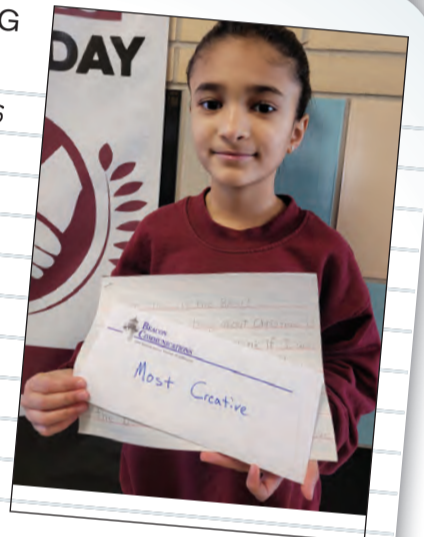


Personally I think that the holidays are bout family and appreciating what you have like friends, family and a home. Some people don't get gifts or have a family, not even a home. It's so important to be grateful for what you have. It's special to enjoy Christmas with your family because that's the true spirit of togetherness. This season, may your hearts be filled with joy, and may you be shown kindness wherever you go.

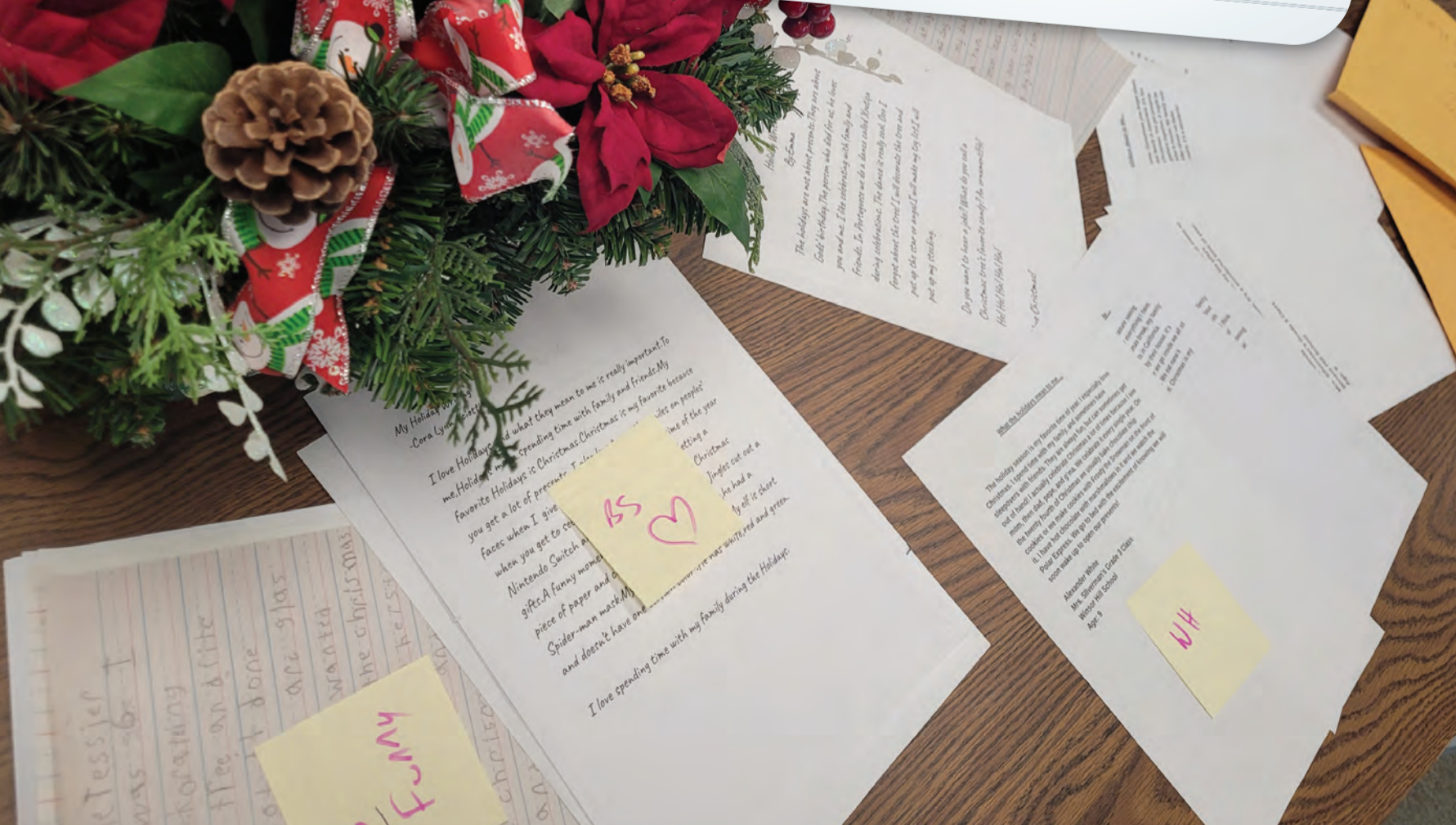
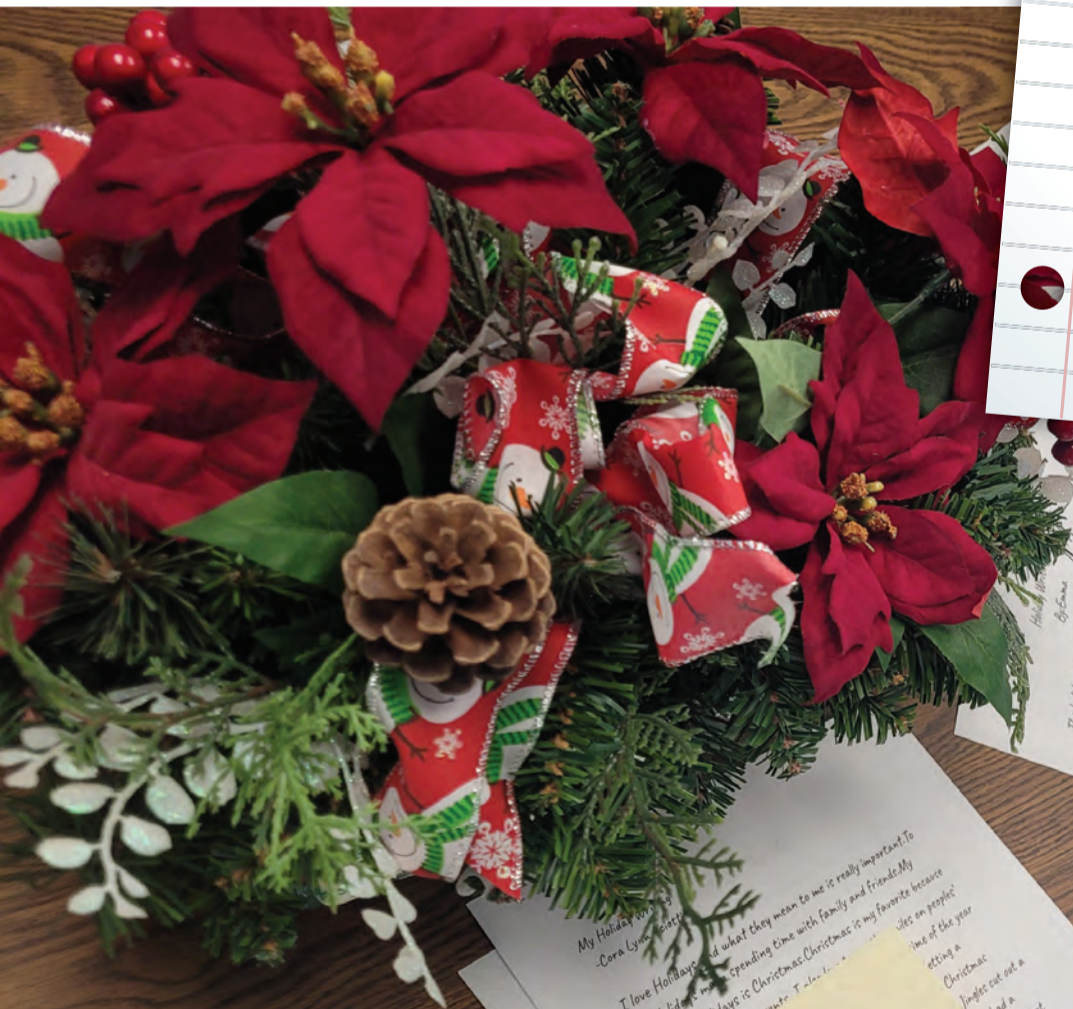
MOST HEARTWARMING

"Christmas is the Best!"

By Avril Pina Mejia,  
St. Rocco School  
Grade 2 class



My favorite thing about Christmas is the birth of Jesus. I think if I was there when Jesus was born Mary would have a big smile. I will never forget that. Jesus was born. It was the best thing that happened. I love Christmas so much. It is so much fun to give. I thank Jesus for coming on Christmas. It is nice to be with your family. Everybody is so friendly and giving. I love it and it is awesome. You have to be kind, nice and caring. We all come together to loving and celebrate. Everyone is smiling. This is Christmas!





# Maddie McGill exhibits a cohesive range with debut album

By ROB DUGUAY

The craft of songwriting is akin to numerous other creative mediums, such as coming up with the vision for a painting or the idea for a film and putting it on canvas for the former and on screen for the latter. The composition for a song can be wide-ranging and when it's part of an album it can be similar to a chapter in a book. There's room for versatility with a consistent foundation being the jump off point for each installment. For Providence singer-songwriter Maddie McGill, she did her own take on this process for her debut full-length "Surrender" that came out on December 10. Her skills on piano are the anchor for each track with stellar instrumentation and arrangements giving her music a well-rounded feel, tone and quality.

While the making of the album took only a couple months, everything that happened leading up to the time in the recording studio took a whole lot longer. Some songs off of the album are nearly a decade old while others were written a year or two ago.

"I wrote these songs acoustically on piano over the years," McGill says about the making of the album. "The earliest, 'Waiting For', I wrote in 2015, and 'Hope Street', 'Millennial Waltz' and 'It's Fine' were all written specifically for a band & ensemble in late 2021 while all the others came to me here & there over the years. The years definitely contributed to the different genre and style influences throughout the album as I went through different interests and periods of life.

The songs got developed and went through a couple of iterations in different bands until Alex Colburn on guitar & brass, John McCarthy on bass and Al Lombardi on drums & percussion honed in their parts and made the tracks what they are. It's humbling for me that such excellent musicians took on my songs with care and dedication every step of the way."

"We went in with our parts more-or-less written and ready to go," she adds, "but luckily we were open to exploration and happy accidents in the studio as well. The main thing about building tracks is that we don't step all over each other, so we developed arrangements that kept songs neat & tidy and allowed all of the parts to shine in their own ways; which were all put together



with care and perfection by our producing engineer George Dussault. George provided the ideal environment and expertise for us to do all of that and provided his insight on production when we needed it, and otherwise let us figure out our parts/arrangement decisions."

Based out of his studio at Galilee Productions in Cumberland, Dussault's production on the album takes it to an excellent level of sound. Nothing sounds off and it all sounds modern, this album isn't trying to be a blast from the past or something that it's not. It's a genuinely great collection of songs with some of them leaning towards jazz & blues while others have more of a pop & alt-rock vibe. The variety that's present is what I enjoy the most about "Surrender" along with how McGill sings. Her voice is excellent while serving as the key element that sets the mood of the entire record.

"Millennial Waltz" has a very

rhythmic structure while incorporating steady doses of harmony and a kind of catchiness that sneaks up on the senses. The sax being played in the background really makes it stand out along with the funky guitar solo. The lead single off of the album, "Hope Street" has a really cool drum beat at the beginning and it's the best example of McGill's vocal brilliance while "It's Fine" features a cool dynamic between the bass line and guitar. Other highlights off of the album include "Myth", "Got It Going On" and "Waiting For". While I did just mention a bunch of songs, I do suggest listening to the record from beginning to end for the complete listening experience.

For that particular experience, you can check out "Surrender" via Maddie McGill's Bandcamp page at [maddiemcgillband.bandcamp.com](http://maddiemcgillband.bandcamp.com). It's an excellent album with an abundance of musical versatility that can't be overlooked.

# Festival Ballet's 'Nutcracker' is awesome

Review by DON FOWLER

While I have seen "The Nutcracker" over a dozen times, I have never seen a production as polished, powerful and impressive as Festival Ballet's version playing through Sunday at the Vets.

Or as one young lady, dressed in her best party dress told her mother, "That was awesome."

My recommendation: Stop reading this. Go to the phone. Call 800-515-2171 for any tickets you can get.

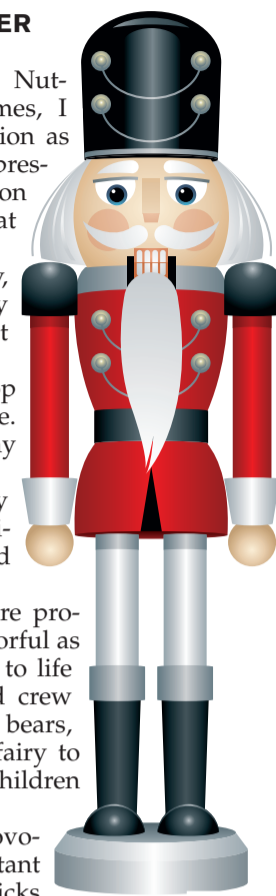
The production fills every square inch of the auditorium, and every seat is a good one.

The sets and costumes are professionally made and as colorful as the Nutcracker who comes to life for Clara and the cast and crew of hundreds, from dancing bears, mice and the sugar plum fairy to the multitude of young children who fill the stage.

Cranston's Marvin Novogrodski is the Magic Consultant for some neat little magic tricks that has Clara and the kids in the audience cheering.

There is a Boston influence in this version, including Boston Ballet guest artists, choreographer Yuri Yanowsky, and Director Kathleen Breen Combes who was a principal dancer in the Boston Ballet before becoming Festival Ballet Providence Executive Director in 2019.

If "The Nutcracker" doesn't get you in the holiday spirit, nothing will.



# Newport Film Festival crosses Bridge to Warwick

By DON FOWLER

The Newport Film Festival is branching out through Rhode Island, screening the Cannes and Sundance Festivals Best Documentary at Warwick's Gamm Theatre last week.

"All That Breathes" tells the story of two New Delhi brothers who have dedicated their lives to saving Kites, birds that are important to the ecosystem.

The documentary uses the struggles of the scientists and working class fighting climate change under difficult conditions. War, sickness and poverty hold back finding no cures as the crew works in bombed out buildings and garbage heaps.

"All That Breathes" is a moving, educational film that calls people to action by telling the story without "Talking Heads," charts and graphs. The characters are very real, shot in real life.

The quality of the film is excellent (Why it won the awards, with special attention to the background sounds, especially the birds).

The film will be shown on HBO Max.

For more information on joining Newport Film and attending their many films and programs go to [info@newportfilm.com](mailto:info@newportfilm.com). Filmmakers and experts in the film's subject lead brief discussions following the films.

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## Contest

(Continued from page 30)

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following are unedited entries to this year's Sun Rise Holiday Essay Contest. There were so many excellent selections that we wanted to devote some space to essays worthy of Honorable Mentions. Look in next week's edition for more Honorable Mentions from Winsor Hill Elementary and St. Rocco School.

#### BROWN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

##### "Diwali"

By Ananthan Puppala

The holidays mean something different to me than to my friends. Diwali is a festival that means good wins over evil. This festival is about two gods from the forest, Rama and Lakshmana. Rama is good with a bow and arrow and he is a burst of RAGE!!! Lakshmana is good with meditation, and the bow and arrow. My mom tells the story of the gods every Diwali. Two horses carry the two gods on a chariot.

This last Dawali was the best day in my whole life.

My mom cooked a feast of rice, curry and lots more. After we ate our dinner, we did fireworks.

Diwali is special to me and my culture.

##### "My Christmas Story"

By Olivia Chaves

During the winter we celebrate Christmas. One Christmas morning I woke up and skipped to my parent's room to watch Home Alone with my brother, Charlie. After my sister Molly

woke up, we slid downstairs to open gifts and take pictures. Soon after that, we got dressed and went to my Gigi and Pop's.

When all my family members arrived, it was time to eat dinner. For dessert, we had a scrumptious vanilla cake. My cousin Ava, came up with the idea to play Christmas Freeze Dance. The room was filled with laughter and joy.

My family finished with Secret Santa. Being with my family on Christmas is what the meaning of Christmas is all about.

##### "My Holiday Writing"

By Miranda Morales

For the holidays I go to Costa Rica to visit my family. On Christmas Eve me and my cousins are the first ones at the table. For Christmas Eve dinner we have steak, corn, carrots, rice, and other foods. On Christmas morning I'm sometimes the first one awake but sometimes my cousins are the first ones awake. Then my mom, dad, and my cousin's parents woke up. Then we all go the beach.

##### "Holiday Witting"

By Alexander Marrero

To me the holidays mean family, joy, candy giving and getting presents. When I open my gifts, I Love playing with them.

We sometimes watch Christmas movies. I also play with my little brother.

My Elf Christopher made a mess and did something funny. The first night Christopher came to my house, he parachuted down and got stuck on my garland!

Every New Year's Eve I'm always excited to celebrate the new year.

##### "The Holidays of Christmas and Easter"

By Luke Celeste

Holidays are special to me because of Christmas. I like the decorations, the tree, the ornaments, the stockings, the presents, and SANTA and all the other traditions you celebrate on Christmas. But to me, the true meaning of Christmas is being with JESUS the son of GOD. Did you know that Easter and Christmas are both about God and Jesus? Easter is when Jesus rose from the dead. Christmas is Jesus's birthday. I hope you learned what the true meaning of the holidays means to me.

##### "The Meaning of the Holiday Season"

By Logan Magidin

Holidays are special because you can spend time with your family. Having fun with your family, and enjoying time with loved ones make it special. My favorite holiday is Christmas. Elves are special on Christmas because they can see if you're nice or bad. My favorite part

about Christmas is when Santa makes my family smile and happy. I have an elf named Cornelius Pumpernickel. He is one of my favorite parts about Christmas. When I woke up one morning he was on top of the tree. That's why holidays are special to me.

##### "My Holiday Writing"

By Cora Lynn Sciotti

I love Holidays and what they mean to me is really important. To me, Holidays mean spending time with family and friends. My favorite Holidays is Christmas. Christmas is my favorite because you get a lot of presents. I also love to see the smiles on peoples' faces when I give them a gift. This is the only time of the year when you get to see most of my family members. Getting a Nintendo Switch and a Tv have been my favorite Christmas gifts. A funny moment I remember is when my elf, Jingles cut out a piece of paper and colored it in. When he was done, he had a Spider-man mask. My elf doesn't look like any elf. My elf is short and doesn't have one certain color. He has white, red and green. I love spending time with my family during the Holidays.

*It takes partners to spread the bright light on achievement*

Beacon Communications extends its appreciation to the elementary school principals, teachers and students who joined in highlighting the spirit of the holidays in our essay contest. And a special thank you to our partners including the Warwick Mall, Showcase Cinemas, Roger Williams Park Zoo and Bank Newport who made this a special event for our winners whose words captured the meaning of the season...and gave us reason to reflect and chuckle.

Thank You to All Our Partners



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