

Introducing the new Mayor Polisena



NEW MAYOR: Joseph Polisena Jr. took the oath of office on the evening of Monday, Jan. 9, becoming Johnston's new mayor. His father, the now former mayor, swore in the mayor-elect. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)



APPLE LANDS NEAR: No longer mayor, Joseph M. Polisena wept as his son took the lectern to deliver his mayoral inauguration speech. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

From father to son, Joe Sr. swears in Joe Jr.

By PETE FONTAINE

A standing room-only crowd estimated at more than 450 people packed the Johnston High School auditorium to see long-time Mayor Joseph Polisena pass the town's leadership torch to his son, Joseph Michael Polisena Jr.

Much like Johnston's unprecedented economic development during recent years, Monday night's Mayoral Inauguration was what many attendees agreed was one of the most impressive ceremonies in town history.

From the time Mayor Joseph Polisena Sr. began his quick wit and fun filled role as Master of Ceremonies, Inauguration 2023 will long be remembered for its many milestones, standing ovations, on-going applause, a special show of love for Johnston, music from Johnston High School's national award-winning concert band and talented vocalists of the Treble Choir.

The processional line of march — which was preceded by Bagpiper Chief Robert Bradley, leading Johnston's new first family, Mayor Joseph Michael Polisena Jr. his wife Samantha Polisena and Joseph Michael Polisena III — included four dozen dignitaries who were seated on stage for the lively program that was a showcase of what many people called "Johnston Pride at an all-time high."

From the time Rev. Peter J. Gower delivered a moving invocation until Johnston Police and Fire Department Color Guards retired the colors, the

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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Katelyn Loffler. Katelyn was nominated by Mr. Ed Saravo. Mr. Saravo said that "Katelyn shows up to class every day ready to work, and has shown continuous improvement throughout the year, on already very good work." As well as doing great in Biology, Katelyn is also a 1st Honors student and the Class of 2025 Secretary. Aside from Student Council, she is also involved in Yearbook Club and Select Choir, while being a member of Music Honor Society. (Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Assistant Principal)

Editor's Note: This is the newest installment of an ongoing 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.

JHS students enter 'Midterm Exams Week'

By **KAYLEE POOLE**
Special to the Sun Rise

Johnston Senior High School students have midterms coming up. These midterms will be held from Tuesday, Jan. 17 to Friday, Jan. 20. On Tuesday, Jan. 17, exam levels 7 and 6 will be held. On Wednesday, Jan. 18, exam levels 5 and 4 will take place. On Thursday, Jan. 19, exam levels 3 and 2 will be held. And then on Friday, Jan. 20, the final day of exams, exam

level one, will take place and any make-up exams that students may need to take will also be held. Students have been studying very hard and reviewing the past week to help prepare for these exams.

Editor's Note: The preceding story was written by Kaylee Poole, the Johnston High School Student Council Junior Representative. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by members of the JHS Student Council.



NEW CHIEF: Former Johnston Police Deputy Chief Mark A. Vieira was promoted to Police Chief Monday night. His family accompanied him on stage for his swearing-in. The auditorium was packed with the Ocean State's top law enforcement officials, and nearly the entire JPD rank and file. Below left, uniformed police packed the auditorium entrances to watch the ceremony. Below, Rev. Peter J. Gower of Our Lady of Grace Church, joined the procession of law enforcement, before they entered the auditorium. (*Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler*)

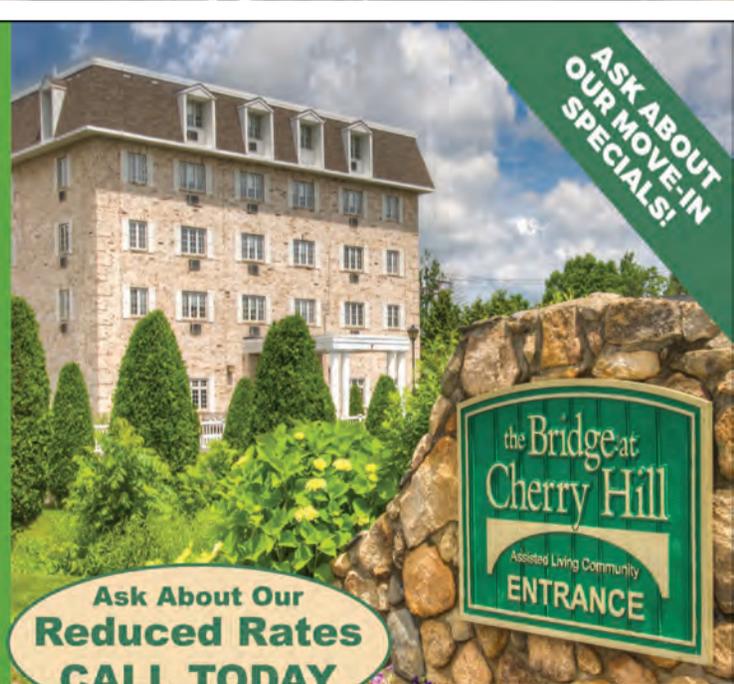


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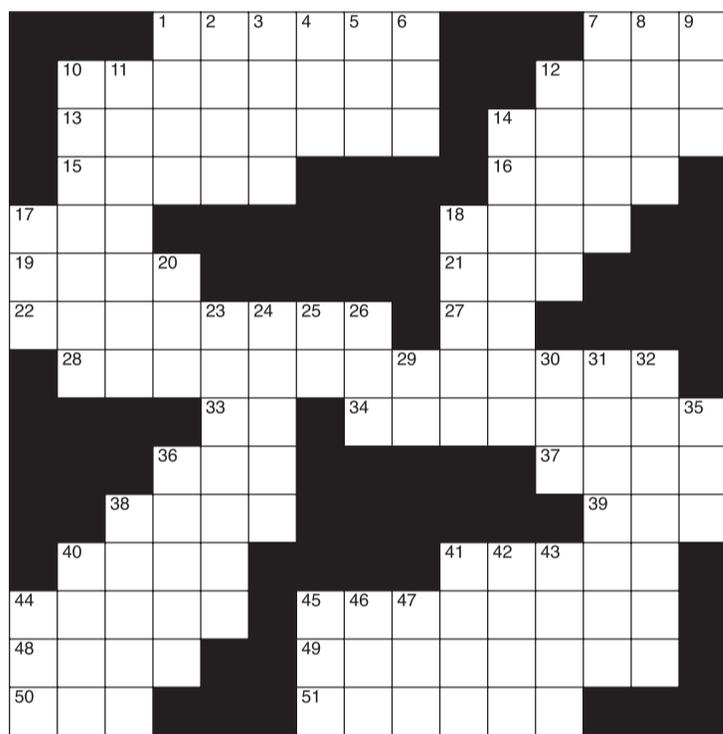




DEPUTY CHIEF PROMOTED

JPD: Former Johnston Police Deputy Chief Mark A. Vieira was promoted to Police Chief Monday night. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Respiratory disorder
- 7. Bulgarian mountain peak
- 10. Group of important people
- 12. South American nation
- 13. Amazes
- 14. ___-Castell, makers of pens
- 15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
- 16. Early medieval alphabet
- 17. Legislator (slang)
- 18. Tasty crustacean
- 19. Course of action
- 21. Airborne (abbr.)
- 22. Permanent church appointment
- 27. Larry and Curly's pal
- 28. Famed American journalist
- 33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
- 34. In a way, vanished
- 36. Afflict in mind or body
- 37. Egyptian Sun god
- 38. Source of the Blue Nile
- 39. Egyptian unit of weight

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Wager
- 2. Classical portico
- 3. As a result
- 4. Bird
- 5. A type of "Squad"
- 6. Autonomic nervous system
- 7. Dish with food on a stick
- 8. City northwest of Provo
- 9. C. European river
- 10. One out of jail
- 11. Henry Clay estate
- 12. Heathen
- 14. Refrained

- 17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 18. "The Stranger" author
- 20. Not old
- 23. Periods of starvation
- 24. Language of tribe in India
- 25. Savings account
- 26. Pitching stat
- 29. Megabyte
- 30. Ribonucleic acid
- 31. A place to put your feet
- 32. The fun part of a week
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Partner to "oohed"
- 38. African nation
- 40. Breezed through
- 41. Sets out
- 42. Other
- 43. Not fattening
- 44. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 45. Central Time
- 46. Former EU monetary unit
- 47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Gabby

Gabby is actually kind of quiet at the shelter but for a good treat she will let you know that she can be gabby! This gorgeous Tuxedo came in with her buddy Barrett who is just as handsome as she is beautiful, so if you are looking for a bonded pair that's great but they also can be adopted out separately. Gabby is six years old and just look at those whiskers and those sparkling eyes! Gabby would enjoy a quiet adult home, she's looking for loving companionship. If you'd like to meet Gabby and Barrett, please contact the Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 or visit their website a www.heartofri.org for more information. Gabby and Barrett will be waiting to share their hearts with you!

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



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Johnston police receive first body-worn cameras



COUNCIL UPDATE: Then Johnston Police Deputy Chief Mark Vieira (who has since been sworn in as Chief) and Major Matthew G. LeDuc (now Deputy Chief), attended the Dec. 12 Town Council meeting to announce progress in the move toward body-worn cameras (BWCs) in Johnston. Former Mayor Joseph M. Polisena introduced them during the meeting, to announce the expected rollout of body-worn cameras for officers patrolling Johnston. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Chief Vieira: 'Hopeful the rollout of the program will begin sometime in April'

By RORY SCHULER

The technology is starting to arrive, and soon Johnston police expect to be recording interactions with the public while on duty.

By April, uniform-worn cameras may be rolling and the state will be picking up most of the \$482,649.82 tab.

Then Johnston Police Deputy Chief Mark Vieira (who has since been sworn in as Chief) and Major Matthew G. LeDuc, Uniformed Division Commander, attended the Dec. 12 Town Council meeting to announce progress in the move toward body-worn cameras (BWCs).

"Relative to the body-worn camera program, we are in the process of receiving the body-worn cameras and supporting equipment from the vendor, AXON," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said last month via email. At the time, Vieira was the department's Deputy Chief. LeDuc has been sworn-in as Deputy Chief.

According to the resolution, unanimously approved by town council, the five-year camera program will cost \$482,649.82 (\$96,529.70 for the first

year and \$96,530.03 per year for each of the remaining four years). The state has agreed to reimburse Johnston \$80,500 per year for the program (\$402,500).

The state expects to cover 46 BWCs in Johnston with the \$402,500 in grant funding.

Town Council resolved to authorize outgoing Mayor Joseph M. Polisena to enter into the agreement with Axon Enterprises, Inc. to provide the "Body 1 Camera Program" for the department.

The Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, Rhode Island State Police and the state's Police Chiefs Association (RIPCA) all signed off on the program after an extensive public comment period.

In June 2021, Gov. Dan McKee signed legislation creating the Statewide Body-Worn Camera Program, aiming "to equip every frontline police officer" with BWCs.

Neighboring cities like Cranston and Warwick have started rolling out BWCs, and those departments have also contracted with Axon.

"Once all equipment is received, arrangements will be made for representatives from

AXON to begin training our officers in the use of the body-worn camera equipment," Vieira explained. "A timetable of when the program's rollout will begin is not definitively known as AXON has to coordinate trainings among numerous police agencies throughout the state. Nonetheless, we are hopeful the rollout of the program will begin sometime in April."

In October, state, federal and local law enforcement leaders announced \$16 million in grants for Ocean State police departments for body-worn cameras. The grants are expected to fund the purchase of 1,773 cameras for 42 local law enforcement organizations across the state.

"Police departments will now purchase and operate the cameras governed by a recently finalized statewide policy that sets comprehensive standards for the use of the cameras," according to an Oct. 22 press release from Attorney General Peter F. Neronha's office.

"In an increasingly technological age, where judges, juries and the public expect to see the evidence on which they are to make

decisions and render judgments, making body-worn cameras broadly available makes perfect sense," Neronha said. "With (the October) funding announcement, we have removed a substantial monetary barrier for many municipalities that continuously juggle critical priorities."

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Watch Your MOUTH
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.
AMALGAM OR COMPOSITE FILLINGS?
 There are several different types of materials used to fill cavities, but the two most often used are amalgam and composite. Amalgam (silver) was primarily used for many years, but composite fillings (plastic) are now more widely used due to their look and durability. Composite fillings appear more natural because they can be tinted to match tooth color. They are made from a mix of plastic resin and powdered glass. In addition to fillings, composites can be used for veneers, inlays, crowns, and chipped teeth. However, amalgam fillings are also very durable, have an easier installation process, and cost less. They also last longer: a composite filling may last around ten years, while an amalgam filling can last for fifteen.
 If you would like to learn about the kinds of materials we use for repairing cavities, be sure to discuss your questions with us at DENTAL ARTS GROUP. A Collaborative Practice Committed to Excellence. We bring you our dental column in order to keep you up-to-date on the latest materials, research, innovations, and procedures available in dentistry today and to inform our readers how the many benefits of modern oral care can enhance their lives via a stunning smile. New patients are always welcome at our state-of-the-art office at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Please call 401-521-3661 for an appointment.
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Sun. Jan. 29- COPPERFIELDS, Jnstr. 12pm
Sun. Feb. 19- HAVERSHAM, Wstrly. 12pm
Sun. Feb. 26- VALLEY C.C. Wrwk. 12pm

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TOWN COUNCIL



GET IN LINE: More than a dozen Johnston residents lined up, all speaking in favor of a town ordinance intended to pause solar development in Johnston's residential neighborhoods. A motion was made by Town Council Member Robert J. Civetti, but died for lack of a second. The entire audience booed the decision and mocked the council members who would not second the motion. Without a motion, the council did not vote on the ordinance. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, January 26th, 2023
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 January 26th, 2023 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 C & T Motors, c/o Juan Castillo, Applicant, Xavier Investments, LLC, Owner, for 577 Killingly Street, AP 13 Lot 170, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit for automotive repair in accordance with subsection 9 use code 7 of the Table of Uses and a Special Use Permit for automotive sales in accordance with subsection 10 use code 10 of the Table of Uses.

Petition of Paul Giarusso, Owner/Applicant for 41 Tartaglia Street, AP 27 Lots 60, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit 340-75, Dimensional Variance 340-74 and 340-63 for relief from merger.

Petition of Karen L. Esposito, Owner/Applicant for 42 Tartaglia Street, AP 27 Lot 94, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit 340-75, Dimensional Variance 340-74 and 340-63 for relief from merger.

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

1/12, 1/19, 1/26/23

Say you saw it in the
Johnston SunRise

Solar ordinance dies without a vote

By RORY SCHULER

For just a moment Tuesday night, Town Council chambers fell silent.

Town Council Member Robert J. Civetti made a motion to approve an ordinance crafted to temporarily halt solar development in Johnston's residential neighborhoods.

He looked to his fellow council members — Lauren A. Garzone to his left (District 2), President Robert V. Russo in the center (District 4), and across the room to Linda Folcarelli (District 1) and Alfred T. Carnevale (District 3) — for a second.

The other four council members said nothing. The audience started to bubble.

Civetti's motion eventually died for lack of a second. No vote would occur. The council members avoided taking a position on an issue that has motivated entire neighborhoods in Johnston to band together, hire legal counsel, and attempt to fight several proposed solar array projects pitched for residentially zoned wooded areas in town.

The issue is complicated. The ordinance wasn't expected to stop pending solar projects, according to Civetti. It was aimed at future projects that may exploit a loophole in Johnston's zoning laws, which seems to allow a special-use permit for industrial solar arrays in otherwise residential neighborhoods.

More than a dozen Johnston residents lined up to speak in favor of the ordinance.

Only Civetti and Russo asked questions of the speakers, and the town's Assistant Solicitor Dylan Conley. Garzone, Folcarelli and Carnevale said nothing during the hearing. They stated no position. They asked no questions.

Residents have been urging town planning officials to update Johnston's outdated Comprehensive Plan (last tweaked in 2007), which doesn't address modern solar arrays or their construction in Johnston's residential neighborhoods.

"If you think about any city or town's growth over time, basically what happens over time, is town's grow," Conley said. "More things get built. What you see as the result of a comprehensive plan process, as a general rule of thumb, are an increase in the amount of space that's available for commercial uses; and an increase in residential density. So what happens as a result of the comprehensive plan process is almost never a restriction on uses in areas, but a process that identifies areas that are more ripe for growth ... Does a moratorium lead to the comprehensive plan process, which leads to restrictions? I would guard people against

that interpretation. Because it is not up to the town of Johnston unilaterally."

The state has final say over the town's comprehensive plan, according to Conley. Conley told Town Council that the ordinance could lead to liability and litigation.

Summit Street resident James McHale stood to speak. He said he has worked in construction and for utility companies. He referenced the Iron Mine Hill Road solar development in North Smithfield. He said he doesn't want to see that kind of development in Johnston and urged Town Council to enact the ordinance.

"I like solar energy, but boy is it ugly ... I don't see any plan," he said. "Plastic fires, they don't go out with water ... you need foam. You think about that. It was dry this past summer ... if it was to catch on fire, it's going to burn for days. It's going to be national news."

When his motion went without a second, Civetti asked Conley if there was any way they could still take a vote.

"There is no vote when there is no second," Conley replied. "So procedurally it dies."

"So basically it's a four-to-one against, because without getting a second," Civetti started to say, explaining the situation to the audience.

"There is no vote," Conley interrupted him.

From the audience, one woman cried out: "Somebody please!"

Others in the crowd followed: "This town will never change."

"Shameful."

"You should be ashamed of yourself."

"Wow."

"Not one of you represent the town," said Paul Zaneccchin. He stood up and started to walk out.

As the council adjourned the meeting, a line of taxpayers walked out of the council meeting, angry and vocal.

"Anybody want to buy a house?" yelled Catherine Phillips, of Wood Drive.

Johnston's new mayor, Joe Polisena Jr., who was sworn in the night before, did not attend Tuesday's public hearing and Town Council meeting.

Editor's Note: See next week's edition of the Johnston Sun Rise for an in-depth look at solar development in Johnston residential neighborhoods, the cash and campaign contributions behind the developments and Tuesday night's public hearing. Also, turn to Page 7 for a related Letter to the Editor.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Where the dollar meets the road

If you ever want to make your head spin, taking a look at Rhode Island DOT's 2022 Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) ought to do the trick.

The 73-page document outlines the entirety of the state's strategy in fixing, updating, and maintaining its thousands of miles of roadway and hundreds of bridges — from the most minute of details regarding what makes a bridge be determined as in "poor" or "fair" condition, to a detailed projection of how much money needs to be spent in order to keep our state's transportation system functioning.

Needless to say, much of what you'll find inside the TAMP will go over the head of anyone without multiple degrees in engineering, finance, and intergovernmental relations — but it does do a sufficient job of putting into perspective the absolutely gargantuan task that RIDOT has in trying to right an infrastructural ship that any layman's eyes can see has been out to drift for decades prior to the passage of the RhodeWorks legislation in 2016. Even for the smallest state in the nation, the staggering amount of complexity within that problem is sobering.

Also sobering is financial information found within the TAMP. According to DOT's projection of its expected, reliable revenue streams compared to the projected expenses for repairing the most crucial roads and bridges between now and 2031, Rhode Island will be coming up short in cash in a big way. The TAMP projects a more than \$620 million funding gap for road repairs between now and 2031, and a more than \$1.1 billion funding gap to repair our most deficient bridges within the same span.

There are countless variables within the funding portion of this problem. Revenue projections are just that; projections. Revenue can certainly come from unexpected places, such as any number of different types of grants, or through unprecedented federal spending packages, like the recent infrastructure bill that was signed by President Biden. At the same time, expenses and costs of construction can fluctuate wildly year to year. It's an ever-moving target that, again, would require a keen financial mind to dissect.

What we can certainly ascertain even with our limited knowledge of complex infrastructural financing is that losing a dedicated funding source — as Rhode Island has lost since its truck tolling program was shut down as unconstitutional — will only make things more difficult, regardless of how tiny that revenue source may be in the grand scheme of a long-term project where financial need is measured in billions, rather than millions.

What we also know is that the average resident will not be able to avoid this massive infrastructure problem. They will face it consistently in the coming years by way of roads under construction, new detours popping up, and the prevalence of orange Jersey barriers that create makeshift, often confusing lanes of travel on routes they have to take every day.

Rhode Islanders will not likely be able to avoid dealing with this problem through their pocketbooks either. Voters should become prepared for bond referendums in all coming elections that ask for their support to fund transportation-related issues with more tax dollars, as there will never be an adequate amount of federal grants available to close such a significant funding gap as RIDOT has identified in their own calculations.

All of this said, we cannot avoid the problem. Deferred maintenance on roads and bridges only leads to more expenses. The temporary inconvenience of increased traffic and highways lined with orange-blazed debris and detour signs is a necessary pain point we must all endure towards a better future for us all, and it is an investment that although we may not be happy to make, we would be shortsighted to deny.

We implore our local legislative and public service leaders to put their collective heads together in finding creative but sustainable ways to lessen the burden on the taxpaying citizen while making these necessary fixes to our infrastructure.

LETTER

'Could not be more disappointed in their lack of action'

On Jan. 10 a public hearing was held before the Johnston Town Council to address an ordinance which would ban large solar developments in residential neighborhoods.

Councilman Robert Civetti introduced this ordinance to help the residents of not just the west end but any homeowner in town from being subject to "special use permits" from the Zoning Board to allow such development.

This had been languishing for six months before the council and finally was heard. Residents spoke for adopting such an ordinance as a project of unbelievable size and scope had been promised to Green Energy.

Just imagine 350 acres of residentially zoned property gone. The project would have allowed the clear-cutting of at least 200 acres.

If you are wondering what that might look like take a ride down Interstate 95. On the right side of the road in West Greenwich you will see 200 acres of nothing. Soon it will be 200 acres of shiny panels.

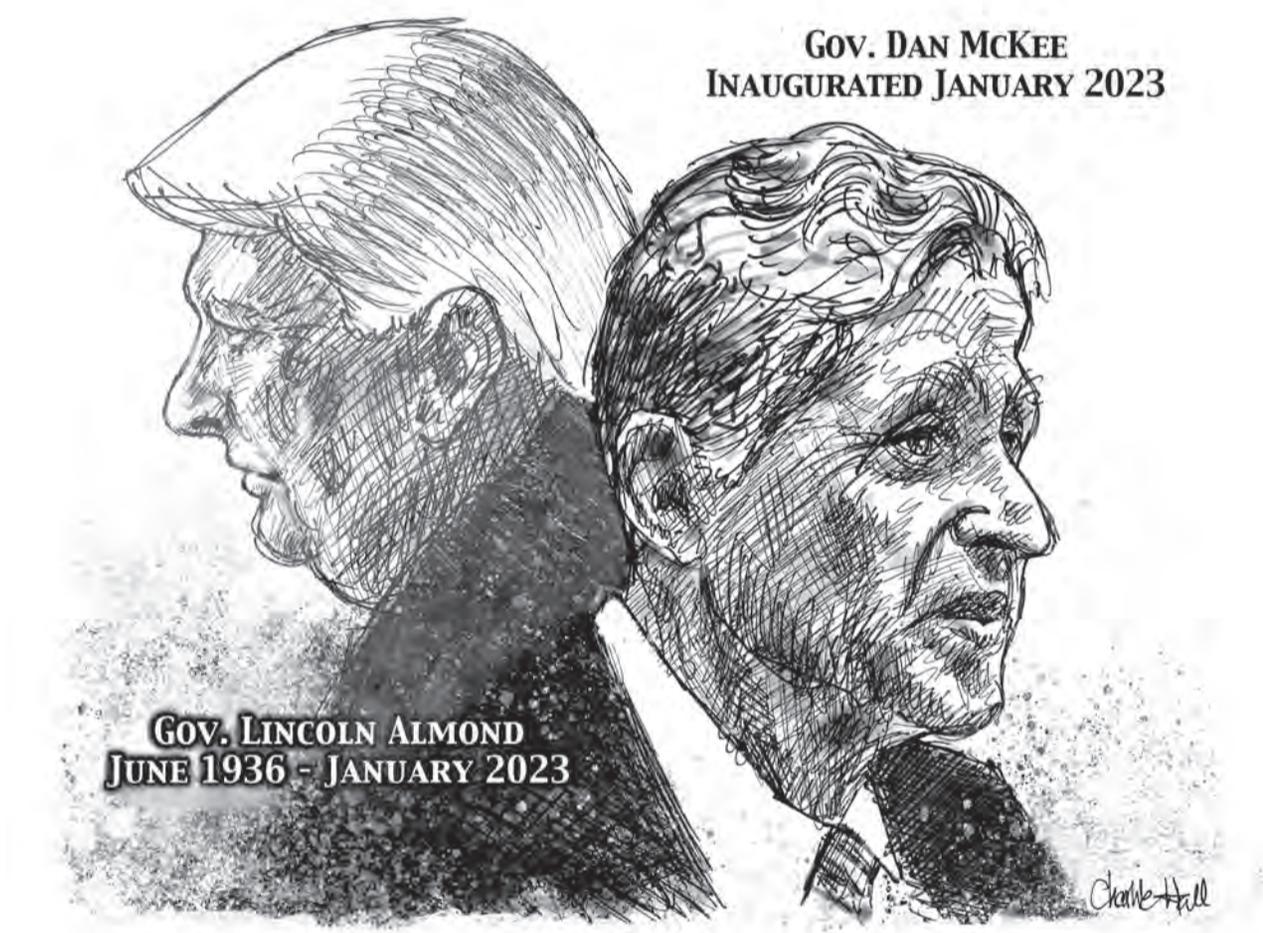
We are in need of alternative energy, but these developments should not come at the expense of the surrounding homeowners.

After hearing from the residents that attended, Mr. Civetti asked for a motion to introduce the ordinance. Not one of them spoke.

Ms. Garzone, Ms. Folcarelli, Mr. Carnevale and Mr. Russo sat in silence.

I could not be more disappointed in their lack of action. It was a lesson in political discourse. Silence speaks volumes.

Karen Chadwick, Johnston



GUEST OPINION

Is school choice the path to success in Rhode Island?

By SHELBY DOYLE

You likely don't need me to tell you that children all over the country are suffering the academic consequences of the pandemic, and Rhode Island is not an exception. A 2022 survey revealed that 52% of American families were looking for a new school. To put it in personal terms, in a classroom of 25 students, 13 families are not satisfied with the education their children are receiving.

A great K-12 education for every child is no small undertaking, and we know there are many learning environments that help different students achieve their potential. Every child is different, with different abilities, talents, personalities, and needs. Rhode Island families need the flexibility to choose the school that will set their child up for success, whether it's their zoned traditional public school, or a public charter school, public magnet school, private school, online learning option, or homeschooling.

If it's been a while since you had school-age children, you may not realize just how different the landscape of options is than it was a decade ago. A 2022 survey from The Harris Poll revealed that since the pandemic, homeschooling and public charter school were the first and second most popular options for parents who decided to switch their child's school. What's more, around 6 in 10 parents said their child was happier with this change. On the other hand, interest in open enrollment in traditional public schools, as well as magnet schools remains high. Private school choice programs have expanded in many states in the last few years, and learning pods and microschoools are a new and growing option.

But time is of the essence. Due to the explosion of education options in many places, application deadlines often fall as early as January for the upcoming school year. The upcoming National School Choice Week (January 22-28, 2023) will streamline things for

parents through a national public awareness campaign and thousands of events hosted by schools around the country. Parents who have chosen a school they love can also empower others by sharing their own experiences.

All families can help their kids to achieve academic success, the first step is to choose the perfect school fit, and the best way to do it is by being aware of the local options and regulations. To learn about the academic alternatives in Rhode Island, parents can visit schoolchoiceweek.com/rhode-island.

When parents in Rhode Island and across the country are exploring and choosing schools later this month, I hope they can count on all of our support.

Editor's Note: *Shelby Doyle is the vice president of public awareness at the National School Choice Awareness Foundation, which helps U.S. families to explore their K-12 education options and choose a great school for their children.*



Publisher John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
General Manager Richard G. Fleischer - RichardF@rhodybeat.com	Bookkeeping Leslie Paz
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuetner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Editor Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Advertising Representative Natalie Payette - NatalieP@rhodybeat.com
Journalists Pete Fontaine	Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com
Classified Advertising Ashley Medeiros - AshleyM@rhodybeat.com	Tel. 401-732-3100 Fax: 401-732-3110
Circulation Leslie Paz	

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

NAMI-RI: Registration open for Family-to-Family course

The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness is now accepting registration for our next virtual Family-to-Family course which begins Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. This is a free, 8-session educational program for families, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have lived experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises. For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

April's 401Gives

Rhode Island's largest single day of giving to support and uplift the state's nonprofit sector raised \$3.1 million for 507 organizations in 2022. Now, it's back!

After a record-breaking year that saw more than 13,000 Rhode Islanders come together to make donations totaling \$3.1 million in support of hundreds of local nonprofits, 401Gives is gearing up for a return on April 1 with sights set higher than ever. Nonprofits who wish to participate and raise funds for their work are invited to register now and can do so at 401gives.org. Already, 208 nonprofits have signed up, putting this year's pace ahead of 2022.

Powered by United Way of Rhode Island, 401Gives was created as a unified day of giving to both support the state's nonprofit community and uplift the vital work of a sector that touches nearly every Rhode Islander. It provides an easy way for people to donate directly to any of hundreds of nonprofits and has led to more than \$6.6 million in donations since making its inaugural appearance in 2020.

Upon registering, nonprofits will see an option to participate in 401Gives' Mentor/Mentee program, which is being piloted for the first time in 2023. Organizations that have participated in 401Gives in prior years can choose to mentor a nonprofit that has signed up for the first time and indicated they would like a mentor. The deadline for the Mentor/Mentee program is Jan. 18 and mentor/mentee matches will be contacted soon after.

"This is the first year we are partnering with 401Gives and we

are excited to share the impact that Companion Animal Foundation funding has for people who cannot otherwise access veterinary care for their pets," said M. Christie Smith, chair of the CAF board of directors. "Each year we serve more than 500 Rhode Islanders and their pets, and we look forward to engaging more supporters – through 401Gives – in our work."

New and returning nonprofit are invited to attend any of a number of 401Gives trainings and workshops geared toward sharing insights and best practices. A schedule of sessions and how to sign up can be found at 401gives.org/info/trainings. Additionally, the trainings page features a library of helpful on-demand videos, and a toolkit for organizations can be found at 401gives.org/info/nonprofit-toolkit.

For more information about 401Gives, or if there are questions, contact Caitlynn Douglas at (401) 444-0720, or email 401Gives@unitedwayri.org.

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

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

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

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

loop up and around Steere Hill before heading back.

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

For more details and to register, visit WRWC.ORG/EVENTS.

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, 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.

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.

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 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The library is located at 1 Memorial Avenue in Johnston. Visit their website: 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.

Caregivers

Are you caring for someone with dementia who exhibits difficult to manage behaviors? You may be eligible to participate in a research study seeking advice and feedback from caregivers about what types of supports are needed. Enrolled participants will be compensated for their time. The study will take place (video call) through Rhode Island

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

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. 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: Faith Healer, Jan. 12 - 29, 2023, Bad Jews, March 2 - 26, 2023, The Children, April 27 - May 14, 2023.

West Bay Chorale Seeks Singers

West Bay Chorale will hold its spring 2023 season kickoff and registration meeting on Jan. 16 at 7 p.m., with registration starting at 6:30. The meeting will take place at St. Kevin Church, located at 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick. Current singers, as well as those interested in joining the Chorale, are invited to register and learn the details of the upcoming concert season. Information regarding COVID related rules will be shared. Artistic director Eric W. Van Dervort will lead us, and the chorale's board of directors will process registrations and pass out music. All current singers and those interested in joining must be vaccinated and boosted as rec-

ommended and everyone must show proof of vaccination. Masks will either be required or recommended, depending on Covid trends. In particular, we are seeking Soprano and Tenor voices. Our concert, Earth and Sky, will be held May 7 and will feature Haydn's The Heavens are Telling, Sisi Ni Moja, Yonda' Come Day, For the Beauty of the Earth, as well as a new arrangement of Morning Has Broken. Feel free to listen to pieces from our previous concerts on our West Bay Chorale Facebook page. Please email us at info@westbaychorale.org if you are interested in joining us.

Faith Chapel's Youth Group

Faith Chapel (located at 43 Scituate Ave., Cranston) holds a weekly youth group for teens ages 14 through 18 on Monday nights at 6 p.m. There will be games, snacks, fellowship and fun.

Dungeons and Dragons

Join OneCranston Health Equity Zone on Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for Dungeon and Dragons at the Huddle Center (70 Gansett Ave., Cranston). The games will take place on the second Saturday of every month. There will be one room for youth and one room for their guardians. Guardians are required to stay if their youth is participating. However, they are also welcome to join the youth. Ages 10 and older are welcome.

Free Movie Night

The Gamm Theatre (1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick) is hosting free movie nights where individuals can enjoy their favorite films in stadium theatre seating. The theatre will show "The Prestige" at 7 p.m. on Jan. 16. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase at concessions. No tickets necessary.

RBG Contest

How Has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) Inspired Me? RWU Law Announces RBG Contest for K-12 Students – Rhode Island elementary, middle and high school students are invited to submit drawings, essays on how iconic U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired them. Visit law.rwu.edu/events/essayart-contest-how-has-justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-rbg-inspired-me for details. Contest Deadline: Jan. 31, 2023 by 5 p.m. Questions may be directed to RBGessay@rwu.edu.

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



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WHO'S WHO: Mayors from all over the state were on-hand Monday night to show support for Johnston's new Mayor Joseph Polisen Jr. They joined Rhode Island's two senators and a long list of Ocean State politicians. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

POLICE: 'Overtired' Amazon site worker found asleep behind the wheel, charged with DUI

By RORY SCHULER

An Amazon construction site worker was arrested after police found him asleep behind the wheel of his vehicle, stopped in the middle of a Johnston road.

Around 6 a.m., Dec. 16, Johnston Patrolman Patrick Gendreau responded to the area of 26 Putnam Ave. for the report of a driver asleep behind the wheel of their vehicle in the middle of the road.

According to the arrest report, Gendreau discovered a 2010 Toyota Highlander stopped in the middle of the road on the eastbound side. He engaged his emergency lights and sirens while approaching the vehicle "in and attempt to create space between the vehicle and traffic which had built up behind it."

Gendreau looked inside the vehicle and found the driver asleep, with the car in drive and his foot on the brake. The doors were locked. Gendreau positioned his cruiser in front of the SUV "before again exiting and attempting to awaken the operator."

"As I continued to knock and the driver remained unconscious, Ptlm. Anderson as well as the Johnston Fire Department arrived on scene," Gendreau wrote in the arrest report.

Police approached the passenger side window, and using a flashlight, broke the window of the motor vehicle and unlocked the door before opening it. The driver finally woke up.

"I advised the operator to put the motor vehicle

in park (and) he complied, and then requested that he turn off the engine and provide an identification card," Gendreau wrote.

Police identified the driver as Jason P. Roy, of 146 Victory Highway, Burrillville.

Police say they noticed an opened package of Samuel Adams Lager in the front passenger seat, with several beverages missing. Gendreau noted the "over powering smell of alcohol."

Roy allegedly had "mumbled speech and blood-shot eyes." Police asked him if he was drinking.

"Mr. Roy responded in stating that he had consumed several beers throughout the course of the night, although he advised me that he was not intoxicated but rather was over tired from working at Amazon," Gendreau wrote.

Police asked Roy to submit to a series of standardized field sobriety tests and he consented. Following the tests, Gendreau placed Roy "under arrest for the suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs."

He was handcuffed, read his rights and transported to the Johnston Police Headquarters. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Roy consented to a chemical breath test. Police say the results showed a BAC of 0.167 on the first test, and 0.165 on the second. Roy was charged with DUI of Liquor or Drugs (first offense, 0.15 or greater), and received citations for Prohibit Park/Stop Roadway Side of Vehicle Stop/Park at Edge/Curb of Street and Operate Vehicle with Unsealed Alcoholic Beverage (first offense).

Obituaries

Christopher Joseph Gregelevich

A beloved husband, father and grandfather, Christopher Joseph Gregelevich, 59, of Johnston, passed away, at home, after a two-year illness, on January 7th, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. He was a son of the late Earl and Louise (Cornell) Swift. He is survived by his devoted spouse, Tobey (Pina) Gregelevich in addition to his children, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Kasondra Gregelevich Jr., of West Warwick. Mr. Michael Pina of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Haely Pina of Coventry, Mr. and Mrs. Stacey Lee and Steven Either of Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. Kayla and Robert Aquire of Slaterville. He is also survived by his ten precious grandchildren by whom he will be sorely missed. Chris was predeceased by his son Anthony Pina.



Chris was the light of my life, my one in a million, a guy's guy who worked hard on his life's passion of restoring antique automobiles. He was a family man and loved to take his family on yearly camping and fishing trips. He was smart and handsome with a great personality and incredible sense of humor. He will be remembered for his big, beautiful smile and huge heart to match. He was kind and loving, always willing and happy to show off his cooking skills whether it was for a holiday feast or a campfire delight. His spirit and love kept us going through good times and bad times, he loved life and showed all of us, through his example, how to appreciate it as well. he loved dressing up for Halloween and even won a few contests, he loved dressing up in Christmas costumes, he made the best of everyday regardless of any circumstances. He was our guiding light, our love and strength. So long for now, until we meet again.

Services for Christopher will be held at the Berarducci Home, burial will be in St Ann's Cemetery. Services will be private at Christopher's request. Friends and relatives may leave a condolence for his family.

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

IDENTY FRAUD

Around 1:45 p.m., Dec. 21, Johnston Police responded to an unidentified in town bank (police redacted the name of the bank in the public arrest report) after a teller reported a woman was allegedly attempting to pass a fraudulent check, while also using a stolen debit card and driver's license.

The caller informed police that the suspect was currently in the drive-through teller lane, operating a white SUV. She was described as a white female with blonde hair.

Johnston Police Administrative Division Commander Capt. Joseph Salvatore followed the vehicle from the bank parking lot, onto Atwood Avenue northbound, then onto Route 6 eastbound, according to the incident report.

Police initiated a motor vehicle stop and identified the suspect as Melissa Escomilha, of 192 Pond St., Woonsocket. She

was taken into custody.

Upon arrival at the bank, Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew V. Leveillee met with the branch manager and the teller. They told police that the suspect handed the teller a license, bank debit card and a check for \$3,000. Police collected documentary evidence and surveillance images at the scene.

Escomilha was placed under arrest and charged with Forgery (felony), Identity Fraud (first offense; felony), Obtaining Money Under False Pretenses (attempted; a felony), and Receiving Stolen Goods (misdemeanor).

WARRANT ARREST

At 4:56 p.m. on Jan. 3, Crans-ton Police arrested Alexandra Pontarelli, 28, of 5 Tarragon Drive, Johnston, on an Outstanding Arrest Warrant issued by the West Warwick Police Department. The arrest was the result of a motor vehicle stop in

the area of Randall Street and Kingwood Street. Pontarelli was transferred over to the West Warwick Police Department.

RISP NEW YEARS DUI REPORT

The Rhode Island State Police (RISP) announced troopers made 13 DUI arrests over the New Year's Holiday Weekend.

During the course of the New Year's holiday weekend, the State Police report that 13 individuals were arrested for Driving Under the Influence, according to a press release.

State Troopers said they also investigated 54 motor vehicle crashes and issued 424 summons for traffic violations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following police log information has been taken from public record police incident and arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.

♥ **Margarete H. Hosemann** ♥
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Obituaries

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

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

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GET READY: Outgoing mayor Joseph M. Polisena called the room to order as friends, family and political allies posed for photos before Monday's ceremony. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

Both mayors thank the night's Transition Team

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a classic case of what re-elected Johnston Town Council President Robert V. Russo called "Confidence in our Community" during Monday night's inauguration of Mayor Joseph Michael Polisena Jr.

That trait, Russo emphasized while he listed the town's economic expansions under the leadership of outgoing Mayor Joseph Polisena, shows how the town's elected officials are working together for Johnston. None of this could have been possible without people and companies "having confidence in our community," he said.

Which may explain why people like Gary Salzillo, who owns and operates Northeast Auto Body and has helped countless sports groups in town, said as he took in Monday night's special ceremony: "I've never - ever - seen so many people in this auditorium."

A standing room-only crowd packed into every seat and nook-and cranny of the Johnston High School Auditorium, which was continuously filled with applause, as well as standing ovations. The entire event's planning began many months ago with the formation of the Mayoral Transition Team.

"We had some curve balls along the way," Polisena Jr. offered. "But everything worked. I want to thank everyone for their help leading up to tonight."

The Mayoral Transition Team was led, in part, by now retired and decorated Police Chief Richard S. Tamburini and included Polisena Jr., Stephen Mandarelli, Taylor A. Russo, Douglas Jeffrey and Sean J. Clough.

Likewise, the Inaugural Committee was made up of Bethany Alviano, Agnes Mancini, Gini Martellini and Edith Restrepo, and received countless compliments from a number of the night's attendees.

Now former Mayor Joseph M. Polisena and his wife Lucy, the parents of the new mayor, invited everyone to a food and fun-filled reception. They issued countless words of gratitude, and directed their thanks toward individuals like Fire Chief Robert Bradley Jr. of the Mansfield Fire Department, and included JSD Facilities Director Jerri Cantone and her staff, John Rick of Atwood Florist, JPD Major Thomas Dolan and the Johnston Police Explorers, the Ron Lamoureux directed JHS band, Matt Gingras-led Treble Choir, The Social Kitchen Catering, and the JFD and JPD Color Guards.



SOCIAL SERVERS: Among the many people who helped make Monday Night's Mayoral Inauguration a success were Brittany Rice, Shannon Hamm-Lombardi, Emma DeSalvo from Pete Matteo's Social Kitchen. At the reception following the ceremony, they served guests delicious foods prepared by Chef Jamie Beaulieu. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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PROUD PROFESSOR: Among the dignitaries who praised Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. Monday night was U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, who was his professor during his studies at the Roger Williams University School of Law. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

SEN. WHITEHOUSE: 'Proud to have had you as a student'

By PETE FONTAINE

From Bishop Hendricken High School to Johnston Town Hall.

That's the path Joseph Michael Polisena Jr. traveled to Monday night's historic swearing-in after successfully succeeding his father as Mayor of the Town of Johnston, where they both were born.

Along the way, Polisena Jr. earned three law degrees that included studying at Roger Williams University School of Law under former U.S. Attorney, the Ocean State's 71st Attorney General and current U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, who was among the special speakers during Monday's highly impressive ceremony.

"I'm very proud to have had you as a student," Whitehouse said. "I'm looking forward to following your days as mayor and I'm confident you will succeed and continue to distinguish Johnston just as your father did."

Polisena Jr., who as a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association, enrolled in Rhode Island College in 2009 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in 2012 following his graduation from

Bishop Hendricken. His next stop was the Roger Williams University of School of Law where he earned the prestigious Juris Doctor in 2015 then enrolled in Providence College and earned a Master of Business Administration Degree in 2021.

In 2016 Polisena Jr. started as a staff attorney with the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office and worked in Courtroom 4G (pretrial calendar) in Providence County handling anywhere between 10-50 cases per day.

Then, in October 2017, he moved to Kent County Courtroom 2D handling District Court in Courtroom 2B in front of Rhode Island District Court Administrative Judge Elaine T. Bucci, handling the District Court state calendar.

While in Kent County, he also handled Superior Court violations, and then in August 2018 he was reassigned to Newport County to handle misdemeanors and felonies.

Polisena Jr. also served as Town Council Vice President following his election in 2018 and was a Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Cranston and opened his private practice, the Law Offices of Joseph Polisena Jr.

On Monday morning, he moved into the office his father has occupied for 16 years — now known as the Executive Chamber of Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.

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New Fire Chief sworn-in

JFD: Johnston's new Fire Chief David Iannuccilli took the oath of office Monday night, replacing Peter Lamb.
(Sun Rise photo by John Howell)



NEW LEADERSHIP:

Johnston Fire Chief David Iannuccilli and Assistant Chief Richard K. Boehm took the oath together at the ceremony. Before the inauguration began, they posed for a photo with the Johnston Fire Department Color Guard.
(Photo courtesy Jonathan V. Pistacchio, Vice President Johnston Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1950)



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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON: Joseph Polisen Jr. is all smiles alongside by his father long-time Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisen prior to Monday's inauguration. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

In his own words, the 2023 Mayoral Inauguration Address

By Joseph M. Polisen Jr.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I stand before you tonight with a mandate. Not a mandate for myself, a last name or any particular individual, but a mandate for a message.

That message is clear, it's concise, it's essential. It's a message I ran on and a message I will govern on: stable taxes, good public education, effective public safety efficient town services. These issues, they serve as the bedrock foundation for any government. But in addition to a message, which is what we, as public servants say, it matters just as much how we say it. Why? Because as leaders, what we say is heard. Our words, language, tone, all of it is consumed, digested and analyzed. It serves as policy initiatives, talking points and headlines.

But we have reached an inflection point in our society. Politics has now bled into the workplace, the classroom, sporting events, and just about every fabric of our life. It has all consumed ordinary individuals ended enduring friendships and even caused irreparable fissures in families. We must ask ourselves, how did we get here? You don't have to look far to figure it out It's because now, we seem to pay attention to those who are the loudest, rather than wisest, among us. And it's dangerous to mistake speaking without thought, for speaking the truth. But, too often, those in positions of power they give too much credence a loud minority.

A minority not defined by race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, but a minority defined by lacking logic in its simplest form. They seek to spread chaos, lies and distrust between the general public and those who represent them, offering statements and notions so outlandish, you can't tell if you're listening seriousness or satire. Those who once only lurked within the bowels of talk radio and the darkest corners of the internet for the first time they have risen to the surface of our society.

Their views now affirmed and grievances now validated.

But born out of this loud minority is hope, it lies within not just me, but many of us here tonight – the exhausted majority. We are a coalition of individuals, who originate from different backgrounds and cultures, but, unlike the others we crave normalcy, not chaos, we are not defined by one political party or one individual, instead, what unites us is a collective belief that when we use our commonalities to define us, rather than our differences,

there is no obstacle too big, no task too difficult and no dream out of reach. We seek to ease pain of others rather than weaponize it. We search for compromise instead of conflict. We believe in equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome. And we are forever bound by our pursuit of freedom, opportunity and prosperity. It is these principles that will propel us into a brighter future.

A future of where each tomorrow looks better than today.

It is for this future I will work to achieve. I will do it with respect, empathy and understanding. Rather than prey on your grievance and anger, I will play to your hope and strength. Focusing on what unites us, not divides us. And I will do everything can to fight those who wish to invoke chaos rather than seek order. As you've seen with the decisions made so far, do not mistake my lack of propensity to speak, as lack of ability to act, as my strength will be achieved through decisiveness and stability, not indecision and bluster.

My success will be achieved not only through my actions, but the actions of those I surround myself with, for not just myself, but any leader is only as good those who surround them. I will look to be judged by not only through my successes, but how I respond to my failures. I will be the constant reminder that while we may differ on many issues, we all share the same core principles. To live our lives with the freedom we have been granted in pursuit of the happiness we all deserve. And I believe that pursuit of prosperity doesn't start at the top, but rather at the bottom, with mayors, town managers, local council and school committee members. And it starts with the four core principles I stated earlier with the aforementioned all playing a critical role. My sole effort is on improving your quality of life here in Johnston, focusing only on things within my control. With stable property taxes, you can keep more of your hard-earned income. With good public education you can have hope in the generation that follows. With strong public safety you can have the comfort to walk your neighborhood at night, or know that if you suffer a health emergency, qualified professionals are just minutes away. With efficient town services and infrastructure, you don't have to worry about a flooded house, a decrepit road, or a snow filled street jeopardizing your safety. That is the real foundation of prosperity. And with a solid foundation – our great American experiment, the greatest creation we've ever been given - will never fail.

Editor's Note: This address was delivered at the inaugural ceremony held on the evening of Jan. 9, 2023, in the Johnston High School auditorium. This is the unedited text provided by the newly sworn-in Johnston mayor.

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By JENNIFER COATES

When Kaushal and Sripal Jain moved to America from India in 1976, they came with little but a dream and an uncompromising work ethic. They settled into life in our country and eventually welcomed a young son. They named him Akshay whose name means "eternal, immortal and indestructible" in Sanskrit ~ perfect words to describe their now incredibly accomplished and impressive son.

The same year that Akshay was born, the Jain's landed upon an opportunity to own and operate a laundromat on Route 44 in Johnston; thus was born Jain's Laundry. Now, twenty-eight years later, the laundromat is going as strong as ever, as is their successful son. Akshay is now working on his PhD in BioTech at Harvard University while doing cancer research at nearby Dana-Farber Research Hospital. Both Akshay and his parents are the personification of the "American Dream."

Today, customers of Jain's Laundry will find a full-service "wash-dry-fold" laundromat. If you don't want to consume your time wrestling with piles of clothes, bring your laundry in and trust it to the care of Kaushal Jain. She has committed 28 years of her life to serving her customers. She is meticulous and consistent. She will wash, soften, and dry your clothes, then fold them and wrap them up to go ~ all within a few hours. This is an amazing convenience, all for only .69cents/pound. The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by day's end – all for less than \$7.00. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for under \$11.00.

If you are more of a do-it-yourselfer, then you will find a



Meet Kaushal Jain who, along with her husband Sripal, owns and operates Jain's Laundry on Rte. 44 in Johnston. You will find everything you need here to clean your laundry in 2023.

large room full of coin-operated washers and dryers. There are folding tables for easy sorting and folding. Don't have enough quarters? No worries ~ there is a change machine that accepts up to a \$20.00 bill available here.

There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per load compared to \$2.50 in most other places. New state-of-the-art dryers are installed which are incredibly efficient, rotating both clockwise and counter-clockwise to prevent the bunching and twisting that can make drying uneven in

conventional dryers.

Vending machines are also on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags. There is never a need to wait because there are rows and rows of machines ready to go at any given time. Everything you need is right here at Jain's Laundry.

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

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Mayor

(Continued from page 1)

night was a "Who's Who in Rhode Island" as people joined together to usher in the Joseph Michael Polisenena Jr. era out of respect for what RI Senate President Dominick J. Ruggiero assessed was "his father's tenure as a dedicated distinguished public servant."

The night was also filled with history, as Mayor Polisenena Sr. administered a moving and heart-warming Oath of Office to his beloved son Joseph Michael Polisenena Jr. that ended with a love-filled hug and embrace.

Almost as soon as he finished the swearing in, which marked the first time in the state's history a father swore in his son, the standing room-only crowd sent applause and cheers echoing throughout the auditorium.

Polisenena Jr. then stepped to the lectern and issued a heart-felt "thank you" and began his first-ever mayoral address.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you tonight with a mandate. Not a mandate for myself, a last name of any particular individual but a mandate for a message that is clear, it's concise, it's essential. It's a message I ran on and a message I will govern on: stable taxes, good public education, effective public safety and efficient town services."

He then paused before adding: "These issues, they serve as the bedrock foundation for any government."

After elaborating on numerous subjects, Mayor Polisenena Jr. concluded: "With efficient town services and infrastructure you don't have to worry about a flooded house, a decrepit road or snow filled street jeopardizing your public safety. That is the real foundation of prosperity. And with a solid foundation, our great American experiment, the greatest creation we've ever been given - will never fail."

The speaking program also included U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha, who heaped words of praise upon Polisenena Jr. and toasted Polisenena Sr. for "transforming Johnston into one of the most thriving, no tax increase and on-going economic development in the state."

As several speakers related, "this transfer of power from father to son just doesn't happen and that's what make tonight so special."

It was special for Mark A. Vieira, who was promoted to Police Chief, and Matthew G. Leduc as Deputy Chief. Likewise, David Iannuccilli was named Johnston Fire Chief with Richard K. Boehm as Assistant Chief.

Robert V. Russo was re-elected Town Council President and Lauren Garzone moved into the vice president's post which was occupied by Polisenena Jr., who is succeeded by Al Carnevale who took his fist-ever Oath of Office. Town Council was rounded out by veteran members Robert Civetti and Linda Folacrelli.

Former Johnston Housing Director David aRusso was named Municipal Court Judge. Frank Manni was appointed Auxiliary Municipal Court Judge. And Priscilla Facha DiMaio was appointed Johnston's Probate Court Judge.

Vince Baccari was once again sworn-in as Johnston's Town Clerk.

Perhaps Russo, who recanted 20 major milestones that took place during Mayor Polisenena's highly successful tenure, said it best about Inauguration 2023.

"This is a great night," Russo began. "How proud must it be to transfer the reins of government to your child - Joe and Lucy congratulations you have created a legacy of public service to our community."

Russo, who issued thanks to the entire town, emphasized that being an elected officials is no easy task. He then turned to Polisenena Jr. saying: "Joe Jr. I wish you all the luck and good will in taking on your new job. To our family I thank you, as well as our own families - for sacrificing every day in allowing us to be Public Servants."

The veteran Town Council President then offered: "Joe, I know one person that is extremely proud tonight and that is Grandma Julie looking on you from heaven."

Russo also declared: "Our new mayor will continue to bring Johnston forward with new energy, new ideas and a focus on increasing the quality of life of our residents."



SPECIAL SON: Lucy Polisenena is all smiles as she joins her son - Mayor Joseph Polisenena Jr. - who was sworn in at an inauguration ceremony Monday night. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)



OATH TAKEN: Now former Mayor Joseph M. Polisenena delivers the oath of office to his son, Joe Polisenena Jr., whose family accompanied him on-stage in the Johnston High School auditorium. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



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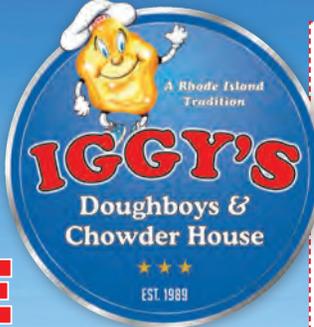
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Sports

Panthers clinch playoff berth

JHS hoops rolls to 7-0 start

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys basketball team rolled to two more wins, beating Providence Country Day 82-38 last week then cruising to an 84-32 decision over Times2 Academy on Monday. The wins improved the team's record to a perfect 7-0 in league play which clinched the Panthers a playoff berth.

Anthony Corsinetti stayed hot and led the team with 19 points against PCD while TJ Leomensah added 15 points on five 3-pointers. Cameron Walker, Derek Salvatore and Brandon Testa all added 10 points as well.

Coach Mike Bedrosian was thrilled to see his club clinch a postseason appearance early this season, especially with Camani Batista closing in on his return to action. Batista has been sidelined to this point as he is going through transfer protocols after returning home from Bishop Hendricken.

"Our goal is to make the playoffs, so that is our first check mark. This is a big week with three games, including games against Shea and Tolman who are two of the top teams in our division. If we can get those wins, get to 9-0 with Camani Batista returning,



DRIVING TO THE BASKET: Johnston's Anthony Corsinetti drives to the hoop against PCD last week. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



Martins takes 2nd in Westerly

Johnston High School wrestler Logan Martins had another big performance last weekend, taking second at 120 pounds at the Chad Antoch Memorial Tournament in Westerly. It was the sophomore grappler's second, second place finish this season. Martins finished fourth at states last year as a freshman and is hoping to not only take his division this time around, but to also qualify for the upcoming New England championships. (Submitted photos)

■ CLINCH - PAGE 19

Truss next in line to hear name called

The Georgia Bulldogs rolled to a historic 65-7 National Championship win over TCU on Monday evening. It was their second straight national title and the second championship for Rhode Island native Xavier Truss, who was the team's starting left guard.

The Bishop Hendricken grad really made his presence felt this season for Georgia. He was recruited as a tackle and got his first taste of action in spurts last year as a sophomore. As a junior this season, he transitioned inside to guard and by Monday's game, had a firm grasp on the starting spot.

We've seen more and more locals reach the professional level across many sports in the last few years and it appears that Truss is next in line. He will be back in Georgia for his senior season, but it is hard to picture a scenario in which he is not drafted in the 2024 NFL Draft.

He will be a two-year starter for the best program in college football and perhaps the best offense. He is only improving and will have another season of work under his belt. I'm not sure how high he'll go, but I think if he continues this path, he will certainly hear his name called to the podium in the spring of 2024.

As always, anytime a local makes noise on the national stage, I have to take a moment to give them a shout out. Rhode Island is not exactly a football hotbed like Texas, Florida, California, so for one of our guys to get recruited to a major FBS school like Georgia and earn a starting spot, the odds are against it.

That's one thing that I believe gets lost often when it comes to college recruits at the Division I level. We see kids all the time get recruited to these programs, but so often they fail to reach the field in their short four-year opportunity. The

My pitch



by
ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

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college experience goes by fast, and every year these programs are recruiting, recruiting, recruiting. You have such a short window to make a splash, and Truss did just that.

I think the question now becomes, will he stay inside or work his way back to the tackle position next fall? There is more money for tackles as it is a premium position in today's NFL, but at the same time, if he is putting in the work on the inside and finding success, maybe he should continue to grind there. There is a reason he was kicked inside. Maybe the staff felt he was better off there, maybe they just had more tackles than guards, who knows. Either way, it will be interesting to see where he lands next fall.

Will Blackmon, Kwity Paye, Xavier Truss, Jason Onye, Hendricken continues to churn out these Division I recruits and we are seeing them continue to shine when given their chance. Onye is next in line as he just finished his freshman season with the Fighting Irish. Will he be the next Hawk to garner draft buzz?

Congrats to Truss and the Bulldogs. What an impressive performance on the

biggest stage.

As for the Patriots, what a disappointing finish to another disappointing year.

Not that anyone expected them to beat both the Dolphins and Bills to close out the year, but it was another frustrating game on Sunday in which the Pats once again let their self-inflicted errors take away another game. Ultimately, they missed out on the playoffs by one game. Looking back at some of the losses, it is maddening considering a handful of those could have been victories.

Although I was certainly rooting for a Patriots win and playoff berth, I guess the one bright side is that the team will now be more motivated to take action this offseason. Win or lose on Sunday, New England was not going to go very far in the playoffs, it just was not that team this year.

So, where do the Pats go from here?

It's obvious. To start, the offense needs a major overhaul. A new offensive coordinator, one or two new receivers, a line-

man or two. Although the stats may suggest that two or three offenses were worse than the Pats in 2022, I really struggle to see how that is possible. This offense was inept nearly every week this season.

Defensively, the team actually showed pretty well this fall. Matthew Judon, Deatrich Wise, Josh Uche, those guys gave the Patriots a legitimate defensive front. The secondary, although not great, was able to hold its own. I think the focus this offseason has to be almost entirely on the coaching staff and offense.

I'd say now after three seasons, two of which they failed to reach the postseason, we can say the Patriots dynasty is finished. In reality, it was finished the day that Tom Brady walked out the door, but it is clear that this team needs more than just a quick reset and a few tweaks. It needs to rebuild half of its roster just to be competitive.

CCRI remains at No. 4

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Community College of Rhode Island women's basketball team remains ranked No. 4 in the latest NJCAA Division III national poll following Sunday's 82-70 win over Southern Maine Community College at the Warwick Field House.

The Knights have won seven in a row dating back to mid-November and remain unbeaten in Region XXI play at 4-0. CCRI has been firmly planted at No. 4 in the NJCAA since the Week 6 rankings were released December 12. Unbeaten Rochester is currently No. 1 in the nation followed by Owens and Minnesota West at No. 2 and 3, respectively.

The Knights remain one the nation's top offensive teams; they are currently ranked 10th in the nation in points per game (75.4) and second in both field-goal percentage (47.8) and three-point field-goal percentage (35.4).

That shooting prowess was on display again in Sunday's win as sophomore guard Chloe Rayko (Coventry, RI) connected on 4-of-7 from three-point range to lead the Knights with a game-high 24 points. Rayko is shooting 45.2 percent from beyond the arc, which is No. 1 in the nation.

Also in Sunday's win, sophomore center Maggie Schwab (Narragansett, RI) finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds, reaching double figures in scoring for the 11th time in 12 games while posting her eighth double-double of the season. Schwab is currently sixth in the nation in field-goal percentage (57.6).

The Knights returned to action on Tuesday against Bristol Community College in search of their eighth consecutive win.

RIC falls to Western New England
Junior Meghan Laflamme (Smithfield, R.I.) picked up a pair of victories as the Rhode Island College women's swimming team fell at Western New England, 116-73, on Sunday afternoon.

Laflamme finished first in both the 50-yard backstroke (34.15) and the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.77) and sec-

ond in both the 50-yard freestyle (27.72) and in the 50-yard butterfly (32.17).

Junior Olivia DeLuca (Providence, R.I.) finished first in both the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.77) and the 200-yard freestyle (2:16.15) and second in both the 50-yard breaststroke (37.66) and the 100-yard freestyle (1:01.86).

Junior Rebecca Fyrer (Cranston, R.I.) finished first in the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.77), second in both the 100-yard IM (1:23.30) and the 500-yard freestyle (6:57.37) and third in the 50-yard butterfly (38.42).

Junior Marta Matzko (Rumford, R.I.) finished first in the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.77), third in both the 50-yard breaststroke (45.05) and the 200-yard freestyle (2:43.70) and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:11.95).

Junior Ciara Ahern (Bristol, R.I.) placed fourth in the 50-yard backstroke (47.35), fifth in both the 50-yard freestyle (39.16) and the 100-yard IM (1:47.69) and sixth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:30.72).

Freshman Olivia Landry (Lincoln, R.I.) placed fifth in the 50-yard butterfly (49.31) and sixth in both the 50-yard freestyle (41.28) and in the 100-yard IM (1:48.42).

CLCF lacrosse returns this spring

Cranston League for Cranston's Future (CLCF) will once again offer youth lacrosse for boys and girls in grades Pre-K to 8. Teams are planned for five different age groups for both boys and girls. The season will run from April 1st through early June. Practices will be one to two times per week. CLCF teams will play games on Saturday mornings in the Rhode Island Youth Lacrosse League (RIYLL).

The CLCF teams will draw from participants who live or go to school in Zip Codes: 02831, 02905, 02907, 02910, 02920, & 02921. Registration is available at www.clcfsports.org.

Please email lacrosse@clcfsports.org for more information. Lacrosse coaches and others interested in assisting with the program are also invited to email lacrosse@clcfsports.org.

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STRIPED BASS: Peter Jenkins with striped bass, owner of The Saltwater Edge, is co-sponsoring a ten-week on-line seminar series on striped bass fishing with Surfcaster's Journal. (Submitted photo)

Possible discharge of nuclear wastewater into Cape Cod Bay

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

At press time the Cape Cod Salties Sports Fishing Club plans to hold a community forum on the possible discharge of nuclear wastewater from the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant into Cape Cod Bay. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6 p.m. at the Yarmouth Senior Center, West Yarmouth, MA. The form will be followed by an effort to engage anglers and fishing associations to sign on to a position letter opposing the possible discharge.

In a letter to Governor Maura Healy, P. Jonathan Ungerland II, president of the Cape Cod Salties, said, "As you're likely aware, Holtec International, the current operator of the Plymouth Nuclear Plant (and overseer of its decommissioning) has openly and publicly discussed the potential release of radioactively contaminated wastewater into Cape Cod Bay. This is totally unacceptable to our club of concerned and informed members, on many levels."

Ungerland said, "Our guest speaker at the forum, Diane Turco of Cape Downwinders, will provide important updates and pertinent educational content on the issue. For information and a primer on the Holtec issue, visit [https://www.cape-](https://www.cape-downwinders.info/about-4-1)

[downwinders.info/about-4-1](https://www.cape-downwinders.info/about-4-1)."

Representatives from regional fishing associations that would be affected by such a discharge, including leaders from the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association as well as residents and political representatives were expected to attend the form.

Putting the rakes on Holtec

A Dec. 14, 2022 article in www.WickedLocal.com by David Smith said in a December letter, James Chow, deputy director of the EPA Region 1's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, said any moves to release water before a new permit is issued would subject the company (Holtec) to fines and possible criminal charges.

He also told the company it needed to provide 90 days written notice to the agency if it planned any such discharges. "Advance notification would allow EPA to take all appropriate action to ensure that federal law is being duly observed," the letter said. "To be clear, this notification/reporting obligation should not be interpreted by Holtec as authorizing such discharges."

For additional information and follow up actions an-

glers and fishing organizations can take, contact Jonathan Ungerland, president of the Cape Cod Salties Sports Fishing Club at pjungerland@gmail.com.

Surf scenarios seminar series

Surfcaster's Journal is teaming up with The Saltwater Edge, Middletown for a ten-week Zoom seminar series on surfcasting with Surfcaster's Journal mangling editor Jerry Audet.

The series includes six live Zoom instructional seminars and four live Zoom interview sessions plus pre-recorded multi part foundational seminars, each session is two to four hours long. Seminars are Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. starting Jan. 11 and running until April 5. The cost is \$99 for the entire series, or \$16 each.

Seminar schedule:
Jan. 11: Soft-Plastic, Darters, and Gliders
Jan. 18 Sand Beaches
Jan. 25 Toby Lapinski & Jay Hanecak
Feb. 8 Boulder Fields
Feb. 15 Steve McKenna
Mar. 1Calm Nights, Back-Bays, and Estuaries
Mar. 8 Shell E. Caris
Mar. 22 Storms & The Fall Run
Mar. 29 Bill Wetzel
Apr. 5 Targeting Trophy Fish
Sessions can be rescreened

until April 19. For details on the series and to register visit www.indeepoutdoors.com/seminarseries.

Commercial license renewal period extended

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is announcing today that it will extend the renewal period of commercial fishing licenses previously set to expire Jan. 13, until Jan. 31, 2023. DEM is experiencing a license renewal backlog as it continues to transition from combining several outdated licensing systems into one modern computing platform called Rhode Island Outdoors (RIO). The platform is designed to handle nearly all the agency's outdoors licensing and permitting services.

While DEM continues to integrate data from the old IT systems to the new, it is asking users to renew by mail or in person at the DEM Office of Boat Registration and Licensing located at 235 Promenade Street, Room 360, Providence, RI, 02908 or call 401-222-6647. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where's the bite

Saltwater and freshwater licenses. Anglers are reminded to renew their licenses for salt and fresh water for 2023. Saltwater licenses renew annually on January 1 in coast-

al states, most coastal states have license reciprocity. For example, if you have a RI license you can fish in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine. For freshwater 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; and in Massachusetts visit www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information.

Cod, tautog and black sea bass. Tautog and black sea bass seasons have ended. However, cod fishing south of Cape Cod is still open. Party boats fishing for cod this winter include the Frances Fleet at www.francesfleet.com and the Island Current at 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 or visit www.nofluekfishing.com.



TOUGH DEFENSE: Derek Salvatore defends a PCD guard last week.



BEYOND THE ARC: Neari Vasquez gets set to put up a shot.

■ Clinch

(Continued from page 16)

then we will be in the driver's seat," said Bedrosian.

Although the Panthers have grabbed first place in Division II with a playoff appearance in the bag, Bedrosian plans on pushing the players and expects them to demand the best from one another.

"From my perspective, it's about holding them accountable in practice and not letting them get comfortable. When you become comfortable in practice that is when things become lackadaisical. The coaching staff has done a good job of holding them accountable not

only at practice but even in the games that we win big. We preach doing the little things that will help get us over the top," said Bedrosian. "Executing our sets, rotating on our defensive zones and man to man. It's about making sure our coaches and leaders on the team are holding everyone accountable and they've done a really good job of doing that."

The Panthers will be busy with Shea and Tolman this week and will be ready to welcome Batista back next Tuesday. Batista will play a big role early on for the Panthers.

"He's going to get big minutes right away. He's been so patient with his situation and has probably

been handling the situation better than the adults have. He has made such an impact on this team even though he has not even stepped on the floor yet in a game. With the leadership that he brings to practice every day, he makes everyone better. We're looking forward to getting him back, his energy is contagious," said Bedrosian, who expects his transition into the lineup to be a seamless one. "The chemistry is there. Derek, Anthony and Neari (Vasquez) have been playing with him since they were in seventh grade. There isn't going to be a big adjustment with him playing those minutes. Derek and Anthony as captains are on board with it so we're excited. He's paid his dues."

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RhodyMoney

How to confront frequent increases in costs of living

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Prices on the majority of goods and services have increased significantly over the last year-plus. Financial analysts report that inflation has reached heights that haven't been seen in 41 years. According to the United States Department of Labor, the consumer price index, which measures changes in how much Americans pay for good and services, rose 0.4 percent in September.

As prices soared, families' budgets were being pushed. What can people do in the face of rising costs on items they need, including those who may be on fixed incomes? These suggestions may help.

- **Frequently review your budget.** Keep track of how much items cost right now. Document all spending by writing down a list of weekly expenses or utilizing any number of free budgeting apps available. Tracking what is going out may make it easier to cut costs on less essential items, such as streaming services or gym memberships.

- **Contact service providers.** You may be able to negotiate better deals with a service provider, such as a mobile phone company or a cable television provider, if they learn you are considering leaving. If they can't work out a deal, go with the less expensive provider. You can always switch back at the end of the term if you desire.

- **Stop automatic payments.** Having subscriptions and other bills automatically deducted from your checking account is convenient, but those rising costs may be overlooked. By viewing your bill and paying it each month, you can see where costs have increased and where you might need to rethink services.

- **Carpool to work or school.** Reduce expenditures on gasoline by sharing the costs with another person. Determine if public transportation is more cost-effective than driving to work or school each day.

- **Consider alternative retailers.** Brand loyalty to one supermarket or a particular retailer is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Nowadays it is wise to comparison shop across various stores to figure out where you're getting the best deal. Venture into stores you may not have considered previously. Divide your shopping list by store category, visiting several for different items if it leads to big savings.

- **Unplug, literally and figuratively.** Cut down on energy costs by unplugging items when not in use. Reduce dependence on devices to further stem costs on electricity and gas-powered appliances.

Prices continue to rise and consumers can explore various ways to stick to their spending budgets.



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RhodyLife

Dillon Klena reflects on PPAC's 'Jagged Little Pill'

By DON FOWLER

Something quite different in original Broadway musicals is coming to the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) from Jan. 17 to the 22.

Actor Dillon Klena, who plays the role of Nick Healy, the son in the "perfectly imperfect" Healy family, describes the intense story as "staying in touch with many things that people don't want to hear, but we wouldn't be human if we weren't imperfect."

Klena had his own imperfect start to his acting career, graduating with a Musical Theatre degree from Cal State just as the pandemic hit and theatres closed.

"I didn't have a life," he said. "I had to learn who I was. I got a job at Bose to pay the bills, and then found a job at a restaurant where I did a "meet and greet" thing playing different characters like Edward Scissorhands. It was a great opportunity to practice my acting skills."

From there, he got a job at Disneyland as a magician in the Magic Kingdom. In 2020 he played the Beast in a Zoom production of "Beauty and the Beast", did a two-man musical, "Story of My Life," "Mamma Mia," "Newsies" and is now touring the country with "Jagged Little Pill."

"It has been a real education, and I realize how lucky I was to survive the pandemic and end up with this wonderful role in this great musical," Klena said.

The musical is based on the music of Alanis Morissette and, besides winning a Grammy, has attracted young people to the theatre.

While Klena agrees that it has been a big hit with the young crowd, he finds that adults learn much about the dynamics of family issues and cultural change.

The original musical is in Providence from Jan. 17-22. Call 421-ARTS for tickets.



Dillon Klena and company of the North American Tour of JAGGED LITTLE PILL (Photo by Matthew Murphy, Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade, 2022)



Lauren Chanel and the company of the North American Tour of JAGGED LITTLE PILL. (Photo by Matthew Murphy, Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade, 2022)



Jade McLeod and the North American Touring Company of JAGGED LITTLE PILL. (Photo by Matthew Murphy, Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade, 2022)

COLLECTIBLES



CARTRIDGE BOXES of the American Revolution

I've mentioned canteens before, but one of the valued collectables of the American Revolution is the cartridge box, used to keep paper cartridges out of the weather and protected. There are all different types and styles. The Americans adapted and updated the style they used to better protect the ammunition during the course of the war.

In the British army of the period, a cartridge box is worn around the waist on a belt and holds 18 rounds, although in 1771, a box for light infantry was issued that carried 9 rounds, and a "pouch and strap" is a box worn over the shoulder. Provincial forces at the outbreak of the war didn't differentiate between a cartridge box or a pouch and strap. Documents of the period just call them cartouche or cartridge boxes.

On December 21, 1774, before the war had broken out, the Continental Congress had recommended regulations be published in Provincial newspapers, including Boston. Amongst other rules and regulations, they stated that they were to "make themselves masters of the military exercise[.] That each man to



By Joel Bohy
Historic Arms & Militaria
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be provided with a well fixed firelock and bayonet, half a pound of powder, two pounds of lead, and a cartouche-box or powder horn, and a bag for ball, and be in readiness to act at any emergency."

The early style American boxes are fairly simple. They consisted of two pieces of thin sheep or calfskin cut flat at the top and about half-round on the bottom, sewn with the face in, soaked and turned right side out. A heavier leather flap and strap is attached, and a 19-round pine block, although some extant examples have 17 rounds. This style of box was copied from the earlier British designs of the French & Indian War period. The British had realized

the flaws of that design and had updated to another style of pouch and strap by 1768. Without an inner flap or ears on either side of the box, water could get in and destroy the cartridges. Because of this issue, a new style of box was produced, and an agreement was made with maker Nathan Smith "March 28, 1777, agreed with the Board of War to make them in a Fort night five hundred Cartouch Boxes agreeable to the pattern shown with the addition of an ear at each end to defend the Cartridges from the weather."

The Continental army experimented with different types of boxes, including one of tin later in the war, but it didn't seem to stick, and many were sold off once the war had ended. In 1778, Massachusetts contracted with a London born saddler and chaise maker named John Sebring for another type of box of a style that would last till the end of the American Revolution. It contained a wooden box at the bottom with a tinned-iron container on top of it to hold the cartridges.

One of the most prized are leather boxes made by the Continental government frequently called "new constructed" box that was a blend of British and French types with a wooden block that held 29 cartridges and are frequently marked "U.STATES".



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Authentic Peruvian dishes at Los Andes

Restaurant Review by DON FOWLER

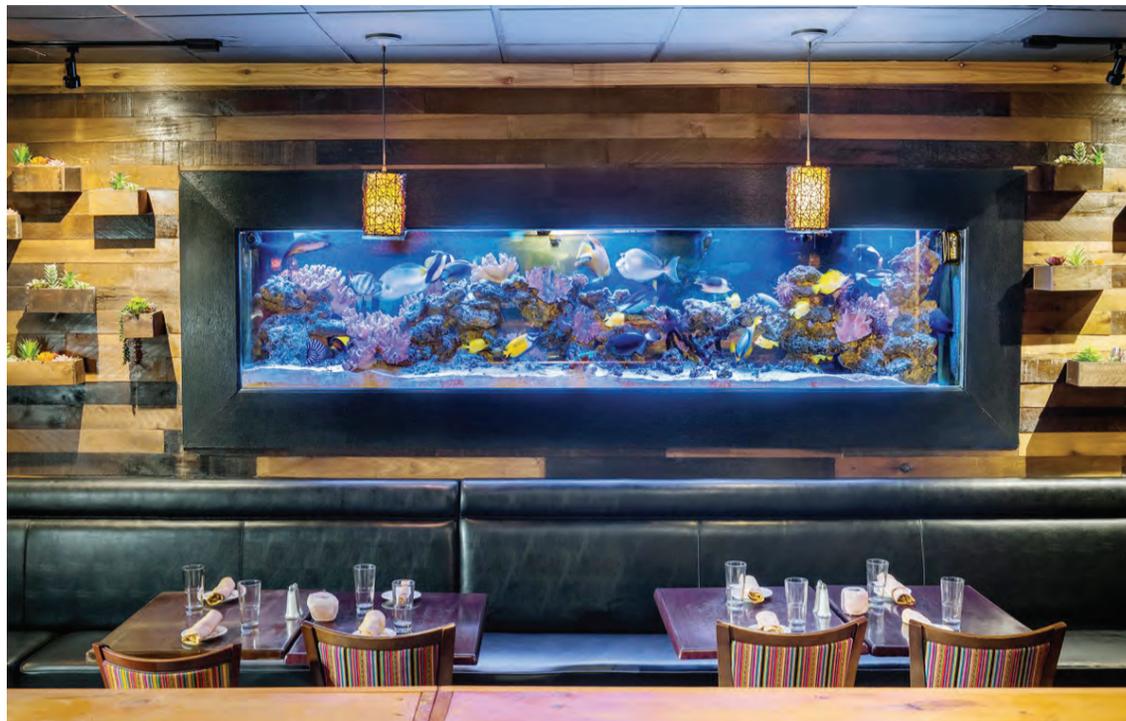
There were no guinea pig dishes on the menu at Los Andes like we enjoyed on our vacation in Peru, but there was squid and octopus and rib eye and plantain and dozens of other Peruvian and Bolivian delicacies to choose from.

Daughter Robin took us to 903 Chalkstone St., Providence, in one of the most unusual spots for a high-end ethnic dining experience, nestled among three-deckers, small shops and bars.

After valet parking in a lot across the street, signs led us to the entrance at a series of doors in an old brick building with hallways in directions that lead to a variety of rooms and a wide hallway, all scattered with tables that can seat 240... more when the weather leads to outdoor dining.

We ate in one of the hallways next to the huge fishpond. Rain fell on plastic ceilings. Lights bounced off clear plastic walls, creating a kaleidoscope atmosphere.

Service was immediate and friendly, with water and



(Photo courtesy of losandesri.com)

menus immediately brought to the table and a knowledgeable waiter patiently there to explain Spanish words we had never heard before. The rolls were warm and fresh, accompanied by warm oil.

The four of us skipped the long list of Peruvian cocktails and went for our traditional drinks. I always judge the bar-

tender by his/her martini and this one passed with flying colors.

The appetizer list was long and varied. Robin, who had been there before, suggested the chicken and sort rib empanadas, (\$4 each) served hot with a crispy crust and accompanying sauces, plus a quinoa salad with veggies, mixed in

a sweet, tasty dressing, which we shared (\$15).

I had the paella, Peruvian version, loaded with flavored rice, hot sausage, and a generous quantity of squid, octopus, clams, mussels, chicken. (And other morsels of the sea I couldn't pronounce \$31.)

Mike had a roasted pork dish (\$25) over rice and veg-

gies that melted in your mouth (he gave me a small piece).

Robin chose the Black Angus (16 oz. - \$39) rib eye steak over a different flavored rice with plantains and topped with a fried egg. Mike ate the egg. She gave me a bigger piece, always taking care of Dad. It was tender, juicy and accompanied with a spice I couldn't identify, but loved.

Joyce won the prize for most variety, ordering Los Andes special 903 Tasting, which consisted of three overflowing dishes. First was the ceviche, a mixture of chilled Peruvian fish that was her favorite. The second was a dish of fried fish, and the third a paella style dish of rice, shellfish, chicken, squid, shrimp and octopus. (\$40) She ate the "Take home" for the next two days.

Los Andes opens at 3 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday with a special brunch on Sunday. Go online to check out special times.

The restaurant has become one of the popular destinations in Rhode Island so reservations are strongly recommended Call 649-4911 or make them online.



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