



EGG-CEPTIONAL: Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston has several more than 70-year-old two-story chicken houses. The farm has about 20,000 chickens. Of those, around 7-8,000 are egg-laying hens, according to owner Adam Baffoni. The chickens lay approximately 3-4,000 eggs per day. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Counting them before they hatch

By RORY SCHULER

In 1935, Giuseppe Baffoni founded a chicken farm in the heart of Johnston, and 88 years later his great grandson's still tending the flock.

Adam Baffoni walked out his farm store and down the long dirt driveway to his farm's two-story chicken coops. Recent rains have muddied the path. The soggy earth clings to Baffoni's boots.

A vivid chicken mural overlooks the road, watching Baffoni's journey. The all-seeing chicken was painted by artist Tate Won Chen on the outside wall of the top floor of a chicken coop that was partially destroyed by fire in April 2021.



EGGING ON THE COMPETITION: Fourth-generation poultry farmer Adam Baffoni, of Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston, holds three fresh eggs laid by a few of his nearly 8,000 egg-laying Rhode Island Red hens. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

FARM - PAGE 11

Waiting for the market to crack

By DANIEL J. HOLMES

You can still get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant — but you might pay a slight upcharge for eggs.

"This is the first time in quite a while that we've had to raise menu prices," said owner Catherine Fonesca (the titular Alice is her dog). "In this business, you just have to go with the flow as prices bounce on eggs, meat, coffee — everything, really."

The ongoing egg shortage has led to shellshock for consumers facing record prices, as well as challenges for local businesses. This is especially true of breakfast spots, which frequently buy them in bulk. Like Alice's, the Cozy Grill on Warwick Avenue has had to adjust prices in response to the market.

"We go through 600-700 dozen eggs a week," said owner Tommy Pildarian.

"The price on each of those dozens has jumped up from \$1 a year and a half ago to around \$4.95 for my last shipment. We've had to raise our prices a little, but all of our customers have really been understanding about the whole situation. They're facing the same problem at the grocery store."

An increasing number of consumers have been calling for government intervention, however, with emerging allegations that national egg producers may have hatched a plot to increase profits.

MARKET - PAGE 10

'Bobcat sightings are a rare and exciting event'

By RORY SCHULER

Driving through Johnston, Art Dunn looked left to the breakdown lane and his gaze met the animal's dead eyes.

It was a bobcat, freshly killed by a passing vehicle; in tact and mostly unscathed.

"I knew what it was right away," he recalled from his drive north on Interstate 295 roughly two weeks ago. Dunn was headed to a friend's house in Smithfield when the Warwick resident and local wildlife enthusiast spotted the roadkill.

"I recognized the head on it — the face," Dunn said. He has a habit of identifying the dead animals he passes while traveling Rhode Island's highways. "This was the first time I've seen a dead bobcat."

Dunn's not alone. He's one of a growing list of local observers reporting bobcat sightings throughout Rhode Island.

Just one bobcat sighting was reported to DEM in 2010; by 2018 that number climbed to a record-high 119 reported sightings.

"As far as trends go, it is clear that we are receiving more reports of bobcat sightings throughout the year," said DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) biologist Morgan Lucot. "The sightings reports peaked in 2018. We aren't quite sure why."

Ocean State bobcat sightings in general have been on the rise, however the DEM scientists say more sightings don't necessarily mean the animal's local population is booming.

Dunn turned his truck around and went back for the carcass.

"I was hoping they could study it and learn more about him," Dunn said. "I've never seen one close up like that."

BOBCATS - PAGE 5



CAT'S IN THE TRUCK: Warwick resident and wildlife enthusiast Arthur Dunn spotted this dead bobcat on the side of Interstate 295 in Johnston. He picked it up to take to RI DEM scientists, hoping they could learn something about the animal. Bobcat sightings are on the rise in Rhode Island, and researchers are looking into the reasons why. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Aiven Rua. Aiven is a sophomore who made 2nd Honors. After high school, he hopes to be an artist. Aiven was nominated by Ms. Terry Dunham and Ms. Harley Valvo. Ms. Dunham said, "Aiven is always attentive, supportive, and participates in class. He also has an exceptional work ethic!" Ms. Valco said, "Aiven is ALWAYS such a hard worker! He puts forth 100% effort every single day! He is such a pleasure in class and always has a smile on his face! I am extremely proud of Aiven!" (Photos 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 Science Fair planned for Feb. 9

By **DEREK SALVATORE**
Special to the Sun Rise

Johnston High School's Science Fair will be held on Feb.

Students of Johnston High School taking a science class will first develop an idea for their own science fair project.

They will then perform the experiment, keeping track of everything they do along the way. They will develop this experiment into a paper that consists of an abstract, a hypothesis, data, pictures, and a conclusion.

The final step of the science fair process is to create a backboard that clearly describes the project and how it worked. Students will use this backboard to present their experiment to their classmates.

Each year, students from every grade are chosen to participate, whether their projects will be put on display

in the library for viewing or judged by teachers and administrators within the school.

If a student's project is chosen to be judged, they will give a presentation to three different judges, and based on the scores they receive, they will be ranked. First, second and third place awards are given out to each category of projects. For example, there will be a 1st place winner for microbiology and a 1st place winner for biochemistry.

Some students may also get the opportunity to attend the Rhode Island State Science Fair for their projects to be judged there.

Editor's Note: Derek Salvatore serves as Senior Class Representative on the Johnston High School Student Council. The Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by members of the Student Council.

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Providence public safety building named for Johnston man

By PETE FONTAINE

“George Lazzareschi Jr. is a very strong man physically,” Richard J. DelFino Jr. declared the other day, then added “but with a huge heart and even a stronger love for all others!”

Which may have been why DelFino and many other area residents have said in recent weeks, “George is now officially a living legend.”

That recently became fact when former Providence Mayor Jorge O. Elorza, on recommendations from Ward 8 Councilman James Taylor and Michael Correia of Ward 6 announced the Providence Fire and Public Safety Building at 382 Dexter St. in the capital city would be named in honor of Lazzareschi.

“This building is dedicated in recognition of Mr. Lazzareschi’s 30 years of exceptional service to the City of Providence, and with gratitude for exemplary service, commitment and dedication to the delivery of excellent public safety services for all residents.”

That statement is prominently displayed on a beautiful blue plaque that is affixed to the building that is now known as the George Lazzareschi Jr. Fire and Police Public Safety Maintenance Building.

“George is a great friend always looking to lend a helping hand to others,” DelFino, who doubles as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center and current Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee emphasized. “George is one of a kind guy and if he’s in your life in some way, you are better off because it.”

Perhaps another reason the highly respected Lazzareschi, whose official title is Superintendent of Police and Fire Public Safety, has been re-elected to the prestigious post of president of the Italo-American Club of Rhode Island in each of the past five years and has been an active member of the non-profit for the past 25 years.

That also speaks volumes about a man who at age 65 shows no signs of slowing down and volunteering for some important charitable groups.

For example, Lazzareschi is a five-time World Champion Bench Presser and has also won many state, regional and national titles. He is also President-Owner of the Elite Powerlifting Federation and The Dog House Powerlifting Organization for Children’s Charities that will hold its next competition on Saturday, Feb.11 at the famed Ocean State Gym on Mill Street in Johnston.

He also performs yet another duty serving on the Johnston Planning Board.

Although he has a busy and demanding public service schedule, Lazzareschi enjoys volunteering his time along with his son George Antonio Lazzareschi, as a volunteer coach with the Johnston Youth Football Panthers.

He loves working with the Panthers coaches and players.

George hopes his son and grandsons, Ezekiel and Enzo, will someday follow in his footsteps.

He was a gridiron standout at Mount Pleasant High School under legendary Kilties coaches Irv Nelson and Sparky Reardon back before his 1976 graduation from the one-time Rhode Island schoolboy football powerhouse.

Immediately becoming one of only six dozen Providence icons to have a public building named in their honor, Lazzareschi issued a heartfelt thank you to Elorza and many decorated members of the city’s police and fire departments.

Above all else, people who attended the impressive dedication ceremony let it be known: “George has always extended his hand, heart and home to others.”

He was accompanied by his wife Lori, son Sloan and backed by many elected and/or appointed Providence and Johnston officials.

“It was an honor to be invited to the building dedication in recognition of George Lazzareschi’s 30 years of exceptional public service to the City of Providence’s police and fire public safety divisions,” said Linda Folcarelli. “It is a great honor for such a great and caring man.”

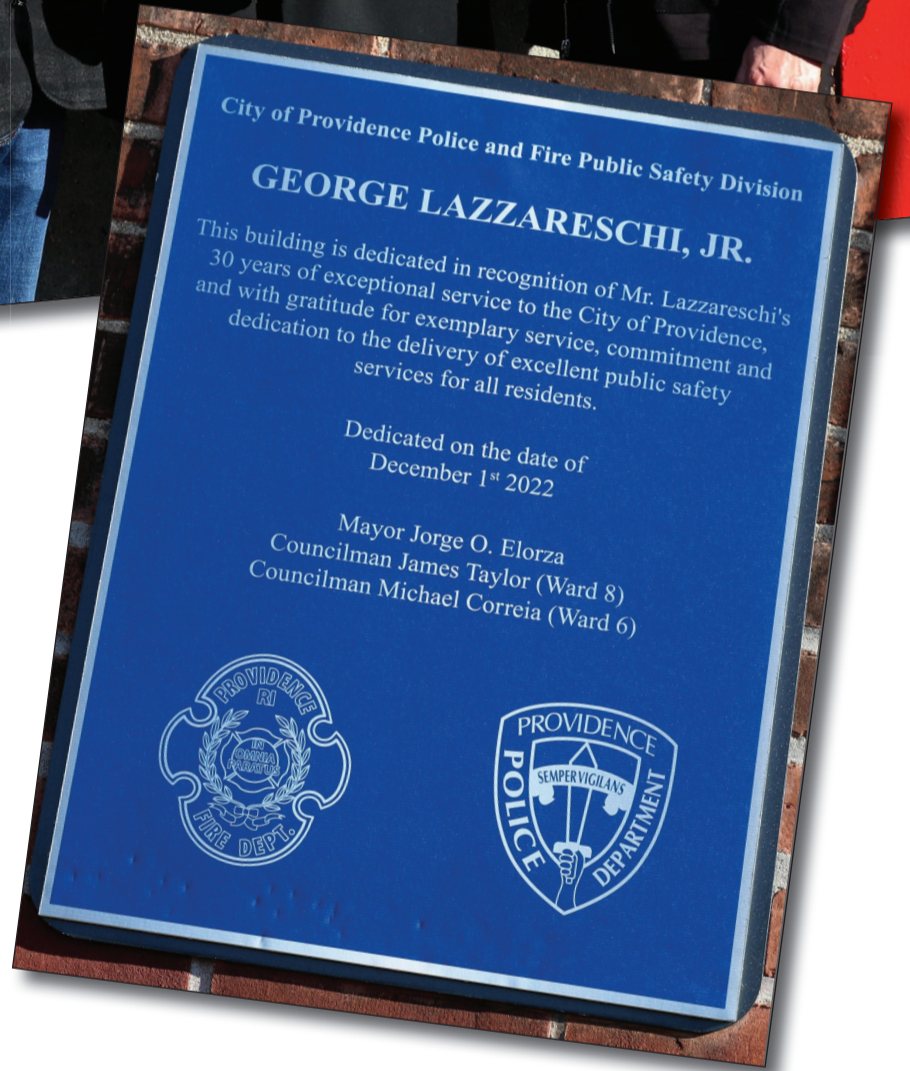
Folcarelli, who serves on Johnston Town Council, representing District One, went on: “I have known George for many (years) through us both being members of the Italo-American Club ... (He) does a great job at anything he does, most especially being very dedicated to his fantastic family.”

Since receiving the prestigious honor, he has received countless congratulatory messages and statements. He shared one of his favorites: “It’s wonderful when groups or cities and town honor a deserving citizen when he’s still alive to enjoy his prominent place in history.”



LIVING LEGEND:

George Lazzareschi Jr., veteran Superintendent of Police and Fire Public Safety in Providence, now has a building named after him. Above, he’s joined outside the “George Lazzareschi Jr. Fire and Police Public Safety Maintenance Building” by his wife Lori and son Sloan, who have been his strongest supporters. Inset, this plaque, adorned with seals of the Providence Police and Fire Departments, has been affixed to the building in Lazareschi’s honor. (Submitted photos)



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SISTER'S SPECIAL: Leila Rihani, 7, and Nevaeh Rihani, 9, are holding a box of Little Fighters stuffed animals they each purchased for youngsters at Hasbro a Hasbro Children's Hospitals in Providence.

'I am a little fighter with Hugs and Love'

By **PETE FONTAINE**

To say that Christina Rondeau has a huge heart would be an understatement.

The famed world champion kickboxer-fitness trainer has always been known for her generosity and giving.

A few years back, for example, when Rondeau's Kickboxing/Fitness was located on Killingly Street in Johnston, Rondeau was upset, angry in fact, when a student told her about the wide-screen television that had been stolen from the community room at a Woonsocket subsidized apartment complex.

Add to that, the Super Bowl was only a week away and that meant residents would not be able to watch the world championship football game.

Thus, Rondeau quickly organized a fundraising event at her Johnston facility that was quickly sold-out, filled with friends of non-members making donations to help purchase a new television for the housing complex where she had ties.

Rondeau began shopping and in a matter of days she purchased a wide-screen television with money collected and took the remaining costs out of her pocket, as well as funding the hook-up installation charge.

That has been a Rondeau trademark through the years that recently resurfaced via a heartwarming program for youngsters who are battling cancer at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

"Our goal was to bring smiles to chil-

dren's faces and take their minds off as to why they are in the hospital," Rondeau offered. "We also wanted to give the children a furry friend they could hug while lying in their beds."

So, in typical Rondeau fashion, funds to make the purchase were donated by members of Rondeau's Kickboxing and a special event titled the "Heavy Bag Competition" at her facility on 1408 Atwood Ave. along with a "Winter Crafts Arts and Crafts Fair."

Armed with what they called "Little Fighter Stuffed Animals," members and friends from Rondeau's walked into Hasbro Children's Hospital carrying boxes declaring: "You are loved!"

There was another message stating: "I am a little fighter with Hugs and Love."

"When a child opened the box out popped an adorable stuffed animal with boxing gloves wrapped around it," said smiling Rondeau staffer Becky Rhodes. "There was also an autographed card from Rondeau that brought smiles to the children's faces and many hospital staffers who were impressed with the gifts of warmth and love."

STRONG GENEROSITY: This is the "Little Fighter" stuffed animal members and friends of Christina Rondeau's Kickboxing/Fitness recently purchased for patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital. (Submitted photos)



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BOBCAT RESEARCH: Warwick resident and wildlife enthusiast Arthur Dunn spotted this dead bobcat on the side of Interstate 295 in Johnston. He picked it up to take to RI DEM scientists, hoping they could learn something about the animal. Bobcat sightings are on the rise in Rhode Island, and researchers are looking into the reasons why. The DEM researcher who will be studying the bobcat said she sadly has more than one bobcat roadkill to examine. *(Sun Rise photo by John Howell)*



Bobcats

(Continued from page 1)

He loaded the bobcat into the back of his pickup truck and contacted DEM. A few days later, he arranged to drop the body off in Richmond where a DEM scientist took possession, to ultimately examine the dead animal. Lucot said necropsy results are pending.

In 2010, DEM received just one report of a bobcat spotted in Rhode Island. Better technology, state agency requests to the public for bobcat sighting reports and a likely growing population have led to a gradual but exponential increase in bobcat reports.

In 2015, DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) received 29 bobcat reports. By 2017, DEM received 101 reports, followed by 119 reports in 2018. In 2021, the last complete year for which DEM could provide information, the number slipped slightly to 86 bobcat reports.

"Obviously these numbers don't correspond directly with populations, but research done by URI and DFW suggests that the bobcat population in Rhode Island (like most states within this species range) is on the rise," wrote Sarah Riley, DFW's chief implementation aide. "Some influences on these numbers may include: greater human activity outdoors and in RI in the summer months, seasonal activity of bobcats through the breeding and dispersal seasons, media articles and social media posts about bobcats, prey population numbers, etc."

Bobcat reports have been coming in from across the state.

Several months ago, Johnston wildlife enthusiast Paul Landry, who lives off Hartford Avenue, caught a rare glimpse of four

bobcats at once.

"I recently spotted a bobcat," Landry told the Johnston Sun Rise in December 2022. "It was a whole bobcat family; a mother and three little ones."

Riley said DFW has received reports from "Providence, Kent, and Washington counties, with most coming from Washington County in 2022 (roughly 67%, Providence county ~30%, Kent ~3%)."

Bobcat reports range year-to-year and seem to come in monthly, with no distinct seasonal ebbs or flows. The state's northern region may be lush with bobcats, but they've possibly been better at avoiding snoopy neighbors.

"We certainly get bobcat reports in northern Rhode Island," Lucot said. "If the population continues to grow we may see more and more reports from that area. Bobcats are fairly secretive animals and so it could be that they already occupy northern Rhode Island and residents don't see them as much."

Swelling populations of animals lower on the food chain may be helping to fuel a bobcat boon.

The whitetail deer population has been on the rise.

"The two could very well be connected," Lucot said. "Bobcats can take down deer, even in the snow. We are not specifically researching that question, but it is possible we will in the future."

While little is known about Rhode Island's bobcat population, state-sponsored research hopes to solve some of the secretive animal's local mysteries.

"Bobcats are an important part of our ecosystem, and greater number of bobcats is a sign that Rhode Island's habitats are doing well enough to support them," Riley explained. "The main food source for bobcats is rabbits and other small mam-

mals, and greater numbers of small mammals typically means we'll see more of the animals that need them to survive. Because small mammals often make use of the backyard habitat we create, sometimes that brings in other wildlife as well."

Bobcats sightings do not directly correlate to population peaks and valleys for several reasons. Bobcats are shy and elusive creatures and regularly willingly travel greater distances than most Rhode Island humans.

"Typically, bobcats are very wary of people and will run away if approached or startled by loud noise," Riley said. "They don't typically stick around a neighborhood for very long and their reclusive nature and relatively large range means they often go unnoticed. Bobcats very rarely pose a threat to pets, but it's always a good idea to be outside with pets and have them on leash to prevent them from interacting with any kind of wildlife (skunk, rabbit, bobcat, fox, etc.). In my personal opinion, bobcat sightings are a rare and exciting event. I've only seen one in the wild in Rhode Island so far."

Based on a growing body of evidence, Rhode Island's bobcat population seems to be growing, though specifics remain unknown.

"As far as why their population is growing, it's really up in the air at this point," Lucot said. "We aren't totally sure and it could be due to a number of factors. There may be increased prey populations in Rhode Island; they may be part of a larger population in Connecticut or Massachusetts that has branched out into Rhode Island looking for space and resources. We will need to continue to monitor and study the bobcats here in Rhode Island before we have a more definite answer."

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Watch Your MOUTH
 by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.
CAUSES OF BAD BREATH
 Bad breath, also called halitosis, is caused by the bacteria that grow in our mouths on bits of food that get stuck between teeth. The bacteria release sulfur compounds that cause your breath to smell bad. Contrary to common belief, you can't counteract bad breath by using mouthwash; you must brush for two minutes twice a day and floss daily. In addition to regular brushing, daily flossing is the best way to avoid bad breath because it removes food particles from in between teeth. Certain pungent foods such as onions and garlic may also cause bad breath because their oils are carried into the lungs and then recycled into your mouth through the respiratory system.
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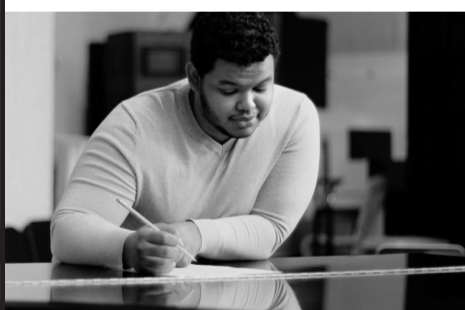
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SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

The Johnston High School Class of 1971 is raising donations for The Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. A generous donor has offered a \$4,000 challenge! The donor will match all gifts to the Fund up to a total of \$4,000. The Class of 1971 initiated the fund on the occasion of its 50th reunion in 2021. Each year a scholarship will be awarded to a Johnston High School Senior planning to attend a college, university, trade or technical school. Donations are tax according to your filing status. To donate, go to the following website: www.rifoundation.org/funds/soul-of-1971-scholarship-fund.

RIDE accepting Summer Meals Program applications

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) is now accepting applications for organizations interested in participating in the 2023 Summer Food Service Program for children. The program, financed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service, provides free meals to children from targeted communities and is designed to maintain and expand non-profit food programs for children during the summer months.

"The Summer Food Service Program is vital for our children and families, ensuring they have access to free, nutritious meals over the summer," said Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green. "We look forward to watching children have fun, accelerate their learning, and enjoy healthy meals over the summer. We encourage local organizations interested in helping us address hunger to apply to participate in the program."

To participate in the summer program, sponsors must be public or private non-profit school food authorities, organizations, residential summer camps, non-residential day camps, or units of local or state governments. To be approved, a site must serve an area with at least 50 percent of the children eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or qualify as a residential camp or a nonresidential day camp. Meals must be made available to all children enrolled in the program without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

For more information on the program, call the Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Statewide Efficiencies, at 401-222-8701. Applications for participation during the 2023 summer season must be completed and approved prior to June 15, 2023; interested organizations should reach out to RIDE no later than May 1, 2023 to start the application process.

Tri-County Employees Honored by the Rhode Island Community Action Association

Two Tri-County staff members were recognized last week by the Rhode Island Community Action Association (RICAA). Suzanne Carson, Assistant Director of Tri-County's Senior & Disabled Adult Services Program, and Ehren Hunt, Housing Navigator for the Tri-County Family Care Community Partnership Program both were recognized for their dedication to community action, and for going above and beyond in serving community members throughout 2022.

Also recognized during the RICAA's annual meeting on Jan. 24 was the Tri-County Health Mobile! The Health Mobile will increase access to primary care and other health services for countless Rhode Islanders.

Dave Banno, Director of Special Projects for Tri-County, presented the Community Needs Assessment to representatives of community action organizations, and community partner organizations.

Head Start

The Tri-County Head Start and Early Head Start early childhood education classrooms are recruiting for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. Class-

rooms are available in Johnston, North Providence, Burrillville, Charlestown, North Kingstown, and Wakefield. To submit an application for any of our Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms, go to Tri-County's website.

Accepting New Patients

Tri-County Health Centers, located at 1126 Hartford Ave., Johnston and at 33 Maple Ave. in North Providence are both accepting new patients. Tri-County Health Centers provide comprehensive primary care services, behavioral health counseling and treatment, and substance use treatment for people of all ages. Contact them today at 401-519-1940 for an appointment.

GED Preparation Classes

The Tri-County Employment & Training Program offers GED Preparation Classes at 3 Career Center locations. The GED prep classes offer personalized instruction for students in a classroom setting. Individual tutoring is available to help students learn in their own style, leading to successful completion of the class, and a high rate of passing the GED exam on the first try.

Day and evening classes are available at Career Center locations: 33 Maple Avenue, North Providence; 415 Tower Hill Road, North Kingstown; 23 Friendship Street, Westerly (located in the Westerly Education Center). Contact them for more information, at 401-519-1929.

United Against Hate

Tri-County Family Care Community Partnership Program (FCCP) is partnering up with the Chariho Basic Needs and Support Network to sponsor United Against Hate, a community event to provide education about hate crimes and risk factors, and what we can do to report suspected hate crimes or incidents.

The United Against Hate event is scheduled for March 2, from 9-12 a.m. at the University of RI Memorial Ballroom. Speakers include representatives from the FBI, the RI Attorney General's Office, and the Richmond Town Police Department. Following the speaking program, there will be a panel discussion, and Q&A session.

The Chariho Basic Needs and Support Network organizes community partners and resources to address child abuse and neglect in the Chariho region.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

More than 1 in 4 US households struggle with their home energy bills. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help keep the heat on. The Tri-County LIHEAP Program helps to cover the cost of home heating bills for those that qualify.

Visit www.tricountyri.com for more information about the LIHEAP program, and other weatherization programs that can help to reduce your home energy bills. To submit an application for LIHEAP, or to see if you qualify, contact them at 401-519-1913. The Tri-County LIHEAP program has locations in North Providence and North Kingstown.

More at Mohr Library

Mohr Library will host a book discussion of Prince Harry's phenomenally popular memoir, "Spare," led by Denese Carpenter, a British-born Johnston resident who is knowledgeable about the Royal Family. The date has yet to be decided. Let the Library know you're interested.

Storytime for preschoolers is offered Wednesdays at 10:30. There are after-school activities nearly every day, including varied programs for middle and high-school age kids and crafts for younger kids.

For adults, the crochet group continues to meet Fridays at 10 a.m.

Mohr Library is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays 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 Ave. in Johnston. Call 401-231-4980, email info@mohrlibrary.org, or visit their website at mohrlibrary.org.

SUN RISE SCOOPS

Call for Nature Poetry

Notable Works Publication and Distribution Co. Inc. has sounded a 'Call for Nature Poetry. The submissions deadline is Feb. 15.

"We're reaching out to key educators, writers and libraries in Rhode Island as a reminder of our call for nature poems, which will end in less than four weeks!" according to a press release from Notable Works. "We've stopped in personally at several RI schools and libraries and appreciated the warm welcome received. We'd be grateful for any added help in spreading the word about our call for poetry, or to send in your own poems."

In collaboration with Crosswinds Poetry Journal, Notable Works will be publishing a large number of poets in "Voices of the Earth, the Future of our Planet III," planned for release in late spring of 2023. Poets accepted for publication will receive a complimentary copy, as will public libraries in Rhode Island. The publication will include poet biographies and a resource guide of Rhode Island environmental agencies, along with contact information for those wishing to volunteer and take the next step.

For guidelines and to submit your poems, visit: notableworks.org or e-mail Noreen Inglesi at noreeninglesi@cox.net. Funding provided in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.

Audubon Summer Camp Scholarships

Audubon summer camps engage children in nature - all summer long. Kids get outside exploring fields, forests, ponds, streams, and the coast of Narragansett Bay. Campers enjoy hikes, live animal visits, ponding excursions, netting at the shore, messy crafts, games, and more! Friendships are made as kids discover the natural world together and are engaged with creative camp themes and hands-on science. It's what summer should be: tons of outdoor fun!

Audubon believes that EVERY child should have the opportunity to attend summer camp, so the organization offers generous scholarships for camps in Bristol, RI and Seekonk, MA.

For more information and to apply for Audubon camp scholarships, visit audubonsummercamp.com or call 401-949-5454 (ext. 3014).

Camp registration opens to the public on Feb. 11.

Audubon camps are located in Bristol and Seekonk, Mass.

The Audubon Caratunk Wildlife Refuge, Seekonk: From the big white barn to the meandering trails and crystal-clear brooks, Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, MA is a perfect destination for outdoor exploration, ponding, and nature discovery. With nearly 200 acres of natural habitat, the location provides a safe and inviting environment for hikes, hands-on science, and plenty of outdoor fun! Caratunk is located just minutes from Providence, Central Falls, and Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium, Bristol: A gateway to Narragansett Bay, the Audubon Nature Center and Aquarium in Bristol is a popular camp destination for families in the East Bay area.

Campers have opportunities to explore the 28-acre McIntosh Wildlife Refuge, the Audubon Palmieri Pollinator Garden, fresh and saltwater wetlands, fields, forest, and the shore of Narragansett Bay. The location provides a safe and inviting natural environment for hands-on science, marine life discoveries, field explorations, and plenty of outdoor fun.

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.

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/train-

ings. 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 dates:

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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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CAREER FAIR

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FEBRUARY 7

12-4:30 pm

South County Hospital Lobby
100 Kenyon Avenue, Wakefield

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 8

12-4:30 pm

South County Health
Medical & Wellness Center
268 Post Road, Westerly

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RESUME AND
INTERVIEW
ON THE SPOT

SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH

HIRING ALL POSITIONS

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Nursing Assistant	Billing Specialist
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Surgical Tech	Coding Specialist
Administrative	Central Sterile

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REPAYMENT PROGRAM**
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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Operation Pawsibility

Kailani

When you meet this beautiful girl Kailani you can tell that her heart is full of love! She has been through so much in her short life and is so hopeful that the perfect person will see her and fall in love too! She is one of the lucky ones that was rescued by Operation Pawsibility and being diagnosed with Spina Bifida. Her health has improved so much, and she has such a zest for life!! She's in search of someone who loves the beach! Kailani wants to be with you as much as possible! Her best home would be adults only or older teenagers and no other pets. If you are looking to truly change a life, please contact the rescue via their social media or email operationpawsibility@gmail.com Kailani hopes to be your new best friend!!

If you have been thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at



animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Tabby Lovers!!

This sweet polydactyl girl is ready to be loved! She is a petite girl with sparkling green eyes that'll melt your heart! She loves tender pets and has a soft purr that lets you know how happy she is! Please contact the Pawtucket Animal Control for more information at 401-722-4243. She currently does not have a name so if you call just give the description above. You can say you saw her in the Animal Talk column. If you or someone you know is looking to adopt a wonderful cat, then go see her!

Rhode Island police leaders condemn murder in Memphis

By RORY SCHULER

Rhode Island's law enforcement leaders agree: Tyre Nichols should not be dead.

Ocean State police chiefs have universally condemned the beating death in Tennessee, roughly 1,200 miles south, which was captured on video and resulted in criminal charges against the involved officers.

Lt. Col. Darnell S. Weaver, the first person of color to lead the Rhode Island State Police (RISP), sent condolences to the Nichols family and released an unequivocal statement.

"The Rhode Island State Police strongly condemns the sickening violence perpetrated by the five Memphis officers who brutally beat Tyre Nichols," Weaver, a 28-year RISP trooper, said. "The investigation, indictment and subsequent criminal charges against these five officers was absolutely the right course of action. Law enforcement officers are sworn to protect the members of the community they serve. Not only did they fail to discharge their duties, but their wanton disregard for his suffering was inhumane. Their actions do not reflect the values or training of our profession in any way. We send our deepest condolences to the Nichols family and will keep them in our thoughts and in our hearts as they mourn Tyre."

Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira shared his reaction to the video footage of Nichols' beating death.

"Having viewed the recently released body camera footage from the Memphis Police Department, I am deeply shocked and saddened by the actions of the officers involved," Vieira said Monday. "I, and the entire Johnston Police Department, offer condolences to the family of Tyre Nichols. The inhumane actions of the Memphis police officers were not reflective of the ideals the officers of the Johnston Police Department have sworn to uphold. We are committed to serve and protect our community and its residents based on fairness, equality, and dignity. I believe that justice through the judicial system will be found for Tyre Nichols and his family."

The Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association (RIPCA) released a statement following the video release:

"The actions of the five former Memphis Police officers demonstrated a lack of humanity, a breach of morals, and a blatant disregard for the oath law enforcement officers take to protect and serve. Their actions do not represent Rhode Island's police officers, nor the progress that we have made in the profession across our state in recent years."

The Jan. 7 Memphis case follows a spate of similar fatal police brutality reports from across the country. In this case, however, while the victim was Black, so are the police officers charged in his beating. The killing has triggered a complicated wave of reactions.

"Exemplary police officers seek to make their community a little bit better everyday, and do their job guided by a clear set of values and morals," the RIPCA statement continues. "However, their success is also dependent on having access to proper training and working under appropriate supervision. In Rhode Island, we work everyday to ensure our residents are served professionally and compassionately by officers who are well-trained, of

high character and committed to public safety for all. As police chiefs, it is our duty to make sure that we are hiring and developing officers who meet the high standards of behavior that we expect and that our residents deserve. It is also our responsibility to make available the modern training opportunities and resources our officers and command staff need to provide professional, high-quality service."

RIPCA has been completing a job task analysis, "which will clearly outline the duties, responsibilities and professional expectations for potential police officers in Rhode Island," according to the agency. "Once completed, it will help us assess and modify our current police recruit training curriculum in accordance with those identified expectations."

Representatives from the state's Chiefs Association also met with Gov. Dan McKee "to discuss the possibility for a professional training facility that would serve all of Rhode Island's police recruits, as well as offer in-service training for current officers and department leadership."

"The initiatives that we are pursuing will continue to build on the progress that we have made, with the goal of ensuring that we in Rhode Island are hiring and developing officers and future police leaders who will be assets to their communities and agencies, and will carry the law enforcement profession forward," according to RIPCA. "Rhode Island's law enforcement agencies work everyday to keep their communities safe, and the members of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association remain committed to ensuring this work is done to the highest degree of professionalism and excellence."

The five officers shown on video beating Nichols have been fired and charged with murder.

Last week, Memphis Police strategically released the video after schools let out for the day, and most businesses were closed. Cities across the nation prepared for potential violence following the dissemination.

"I join my fellow Chiefs and the RI Police Chiefs Association in condemning the brutal beating of Tyre Nichols by Memphis Police Officers," said Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael J. Winquist. "The video incident is difficult to watch and is not emblematic of the large majority of police officers who serve across the country with the utmost professionalism and integrity. In Cranston and Rhode Island as a whole, police leadership has invested in the very best training and education. We are dedicated to continuing to evolve to exceed the high expectations that are required to earn and maintain public trust. Recruiting and retaining officers committed to community-focused policing must be a priority. State investment for a modern facility to train our police academies and offer continuing education is a critical component in ensuring we attract the very best candidates to our profession."

The Ocean State's law enforcement community, and particularly its chiefs, spent time reflecting on the killing in Memphis.

Warwick Police Chief Col. Bradford Connor also echoed RIPCA's sentiments.

"What occurred in Memphis was not a representation of the fine women and men that wear the uniform and swore an oath to serve and protect the citizens of Rhode Island," Connor said Monday. "In

Warwick we pride ourselves on recruiting only the finest individuals with high moral standards and instilling them with the values of our agency. Like our partners we then provide them with modernized training and hold them to a high ethical standard."

Chiefs are also asking themselves: What next?

"Moving forward we will continue to work with our community partners to help strengthen the relationship between the community and its police department and honor our commitment of transparency and professionalism," Connor said. "We will also be looking at ways to better train our new officers and further our efforts for in-service training for our more experienced officers. We hope to do this through the development of a professional training facility that would serve all of Rhode Island."

The Memphis murder has furthered a nationwide conversation on police violence.

US Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) released a statement.

"I am sickened by the heinous murder of Tyre Nichols," Reed said. "The former police officers involved have been fired and charged with murder. Others who failed to intervene should be held accountable as well. Justice must be served. More work and reform is needed to prevent excessive force and police brutality and build trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve and protect. We must demand transparency and accountability and take a more holistic, community-driven approach to public safety."

Reed acknowledged past victims of police violence, and called for change.

"Our hearts are with the Nichols family and other families who have lost loved ones to police brutality. We need to stop people who abuse power and positions of trust," Reed said. "Those same people do a disservice to committed and honorable law enforcement personnel. This is a time for the community to come together peacefully and for state legislatures and Congress to enact lasting, meaningful change. The anger and outrage is understandable, but I join the Nichols family in urging demonstrations to be peaceful."

ACLU of Rhode Island Executive Director Steven Brown argued the time for change arrived years ago.

"It has been almost three years since the death of George Floyd, yet no meaningful police reform legislation has been adopted in Rhode Island since then," Brown said Monday. The tragic death of Tyre Nichols only heightens the urgent need for action this session."

He called out the legislature's failure to act on numerous pieces of police reform legislation.

"For at least a few years, bills to promote police reform have been introduced but gone nowhere," Brown said. "If the police are serious about promoting greater oversight and accountability, 2023 should be the year that legislation is finally passed to promote greater access to police investigations of officer misconduct, to reinstate required data collection of traffic stops to address the serious racial disparities that exist in that police practice, and to reform the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. It is time to stop talking about the need for reform and to finally actually enact some."

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Let's not overlook our often overlooked libraries

It has only become more apparent in recent years how important the open availability of reliable information is to maintaining a healthy democracy. For this reason, among the hundreds of priorities that will be balanced by local and state politicians heading into another budget season, we would advocate those decision makers to not forget about our local libraries.

Libraries have become so much more than just a place to check out books from around the world — they are bastions of culture and knowledge,

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

open to the public for no fee.

The list of services provided by libraries is exhaustive. They provide a safe space to study for kids, internet access to those without reliable computers, expansive programming for everyone from kids to senior citizens including everything from coding to yoga, they are meeting spaces for political debates and community groups to organize and affect change, and as we have seen throughout the pandemic, they have even adapted to be community hubs where COVID tests and masks are distributed.

All of these services — some of which are critically important, but others which are simply vibrant additions to make any community feel more like a home such as the Banjo Bob Dixieland Jazz Band concert held Sunday at the Warwick Central Library — are administered and overseen by a small array of staff and volunteers who dedicate their time to helping expand the minds and experiences of others.

It may not be readily apparent at first glance, but the ongoing operation of a library is expensive, exhaustive work. They maintain hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature in print and digital formats that translate to millions of hours of entertainment and learning for people of all ages throughout our communities. They provide a space to gather, learn, share, and grow as individuals and as a collective society.

These institutions deserve tangible, steady financial support in addition to relying on winning competitive grants — the Champlin Foundation has been a steadfast supporter — in order to make critical infrastructural fixes and keep the lights on. They deserve an investment from our communities, and they have invested heartily into their communities.



GUEST OPINION

JDTC Chairman: In 14 years, 'I cannot recall a single Republican running for local office'

I was somewhat confused by the guest opinion which appeared in a recent issue of the Sun Rise, "JRTC: "Johnston Town Council has failed us." (Thursday, Jan. 26 edition)

As the outgoing Chairman of the Johnston Democratic Town Committee (JDTC), this presents a good opportunity to offer some final political observations.

Johnston voters deserve more credit, than believing that they choose candidates based on political affiliation alone. Johnston voters chose to support all local Democratic candidates for office, while they chose Republican candidates for state and federal office.

What Johnston voters have proven again and again, they do not support a one party affiliation when casting their vote. What are important are the qualities and principles those candidates stand for, and their list of accomplishments and commitment to this community.

I doubt you could really tell the difference between Democrats and Republicans running for local office in town. Johnston Democrats support working families, first responders and all those involved in public safety. We believe quality education and health care for all are human rights. We support our veterans, excellent recreational opportunities for youth and adults, along with

exceptional services for our older citizens.

I doubt our Republican counterparts would disagree. What has happened over the years, and has impacted local Democratic parties, is how we have been defined by national politics and the national media.

That has not been a good thing for Johnston Democrats. Our local Democrats are not involved in discussions related to abortion, defunding law enforcement, or a disorderly and unmanaged entrance into this country.

In fact, our local Democrats would likely find themselves out of step with state and national Democrats. The Johnston Republican Party speak to the issue of accountability, yet no names appear in the opinion, and is signed Johnston Republican Town Committee. So much for accountability.

Now with regard to the issue in focus, the JRTC claim "the town council has failed us." The present Johnston Town Council is made up of (5) endorsed Democrats. The fact that (4) council members chose not to second a motion, appears to suggest they were not in agreement. Isn't that the way our Democracy works.

The JRTC suggests we need to elect Republicans in order to balance government. What we saw were members of the same party on different sides

of an issue. Running for public office, regardless of affiliation, is a significant sacrifice of time and energy, and impacts your family in many ways.

In my (14) years as JDTC chair, I cannot recall a single Republican running for local office. It is certainly easy sitting on the sidelines and criticizing well intentioned public officials. The JRTC claims "we need people to be held accountable." We certainly would not disagree, and every two years Johnston voters get an opportunity to hold its elected officials accountable.

That is the Democratic process. We certainly will not all agree on every issue, but I can assure you Johnston elected officials (all Democrats) are easy to locate and contact. I also will attest to the fact that they are all working "for the good of their community."

That is not just a statement the JRTC gets the privilege to use in "their opinion," it's Johnston Democratic elected officials who are in the arena, who's names are not anonymous, who can be contacted by their constituents, and who if they succeed or fail, will be held accountable by the voters every two years.

Richard J. DeFino Jr.
Outgoing Johnston
Democratic Town
Committee Chairman

JOHNSTON Sun Rise

Publisher John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
General Manager Richard G. Fleischer - RichardF@rhodybeat.com	Bookkeeping Leslie Paz
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - Donna.Z@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettner - 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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RI REDS: Nearly 20,000 chickens reside at Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston. Of those birds, nearly 8,000 egg-laying Rhode Island Red hens produce nearly 4,000 eggs daily. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Market

(Continued from page 1)

Sen. Jack Reed issued a statement this week decrying “price-gouging and other deceptive practices by the country’s largest egg producers that appear to be contributing to cost increases for American consumers.” Reed called upon the Federal Trade Commission to open an investigation into what his office referred to as “fowl play.”

According to Reed, egg prices have increased by 138% in the past year, with the average price of a dozen in Rhode Island currently at \$5.10. Profit margins for major egg producers like Cal-Maine Foods (which accounts for 20% of the national egg market) have soared during this period: a year ago, the business was actually losing money each quarter to the tune of \$17 million. Cal-Maine reported a profit of over \$320 million for the last quarter.

Representatives from the industry’s leading compa-

nies blame the price hike on recent outbreaks of avian flu, saying that it decimated the country’s workforce of laying hens. In his statement, however, Reed cited a US Department of Agriculture report suggesting that the increased prices are not proportional to the decreased flock sizes, and that the biggest companies in the industry do not appear to be making efforts to increase production in order to offset the rising prices.

“When this started around Thanksgiving, my first thought was that the egg companies had found an opportunity to boost their profits a bit,” said Bill Meschino, a manager at Sandy Lane Meat Market. The market orders a bit fewer than 300 cartons of eggs each week, although Meschino estimates that egg sales have declined by about 50% since prices spiked.

“When inflation gets as bad as it is now, companies can start using it as an excuse to raise prices, thinking that people might not notice because everything else is more expensive, too. The decreased sales are starting to send a message to suppliers, though — keep in mind that eggs are perishable, so if you don’t sell all of your inventory, you can’t just hang on to it for later. Customers buying fewer eggs is forcing the market to stabilize as the demand dies down.”

Sandy Lane Meat Market purchases their eggs from a farm in New Hampshire, which was not heavily impacted by the avian flu epidemic which has been ravaging US and European chicken populations since October, 2021. An estimated 60 million birds throughout North America have been killed by the H5N1 subtype of the virus, which can also be communicated to humans.

Complicated market

Some commentators have suggested that claims of collusive egg pricing are not all they’re cracked up to be, however.

“Honestly, it’s foolish to think that you can point at a single farm or egg producer and blame them for the whole market,” said Bob Stamp of Stamp Egg Farm in Johnston. Stamp is in the unique position of being on both sides of the egg market: although the roughly 3,000 chickens on his farm produce brown eggs for local distribution, he also orders shipments of white eggs from other local farms to sell in the Stamp Farm Store.

“You’d think this is my chance to strike it big on eggs after 59 years in the business, but the market is more complicated than that,” he said. “The Urner Barry Report identifies the price points on eggs according to inventory and sales across entire networks of farms. There’s no way for a single culprit to drive up the price across the whole market like that.”

According to the Urner Barry Consulting Group, there are several conditions driving up the egg market. The most significant of these is the avian flu epidemic, which has affected roughly 13% of egg-laying hens in the country. Other factors include higher costs for fuel and feed, as well as increased wages for farm workers.

Senator Reed was expected to visit Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston on Monday, Jan. 30, for a tour, but the event was postponed due to the funeral of former South Kingstown Police Chief Vincent Vespia Jr.

“The senator’s office reached out and seemed really interested in learning more about the jump in prices and why it hasn’t affected us the same way as the big companies,” said fourth-generation poultry farmer Adam Baffoni. So far, the Baffoni’s 7,000-8,000 egg-laying hens remain safe from the flu and have been laying at the expected rate.

“The challenges a local egg farm faces are going to be different than on the national level, but they’re also going to be more serious. If an avian flu outbreak wipes out a big, commercial flock in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, it’s going to take time for the next generation of hens to mature and lay eggs, so that will lead to a shortfall which creates big challenges, even for a major company. But for a small, family farm, that same situation would be a death sentence. No matter how much you prepare, it basically comes down to luck: all you need is for the wrong goose to fly over your farm, and the droppings can start an outbreak that it’s impossible to recover from.”

Despite their potentially precarious situation, Baffoni says that the farm’s prices have only experienced a minor impact from the nationwide scramble on eggs.

“Prices for locally-grown eggs were already a bit higher than the national businesses, so although we’ve faced a bit of an increase, the price hike has actually brought our prices closer to those of the big companies,” he said. “That’s part of the reason I think prices stopped climbing once they hit that level. I don’t see them going up any higher than they are now, and I’d actually expect the prices to start dropping over the next month or two as the market levels out.”

Jason Oliver also sees a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel — appropriate, perhaps, given the name of his restaurant on West Shore Road. “So far we’ve been able to avoid raising our prices at Sunnyside and have just been absorbing the difference,” he said. According to Oliver, 90% of the breakfasts ordered at his restaurant involve eggs in some fashion.

“It’s been difficult. But the price on the last shipment I ordered was 25% lower than the last one, which was a bit lower than the one before that. So if we hang in there, I think things will be back to normal soon.”

LEGAL NOTICES

**Planning Board
Regularly Scheduled Meeting**
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. OLD BUSINESS

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

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

PB 22-56 – Hang 10 Car Wash – Public Hearing on the Master Plan Submission for a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review. Zoned B-2 and R-15. Located at 8 Putnam Avenue AP 38 Lots 158, 159 & 164. The applicant is seeking to develop a car wash. A special use permit is required in accordance with use table Subsection 9. Number 11 for a car wash in a B-2 zone and a use variance is required to operate in the R-15 Zone. Other variances may be required.

PB 23-02 – Advisory Opinion on a request to rezone 369 Greenville Avenue from R-40 and R20 to R-15. A Public Meeting.

**V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PB 22- 57-The Johnston Comprehensive Plan – Presentation and discussion.**

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

1/19, 1/26, 2/2/23



GRADE A: Fourth-generation poultry farmer Adam Baffoni, of Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston, still uses a mechanical egg-grader from the 1950s, to sort and grade his fresh farm eggs. He said he has been using the machine since he was five years old. Below, the Rhode Island Reds rule the roost. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

■ Farm

(Continued from page 1)

Baffoni knocked down part of the coop, but still uses the rest of the building.

Nearly 20,000 chickens populate Baffoni Poultry Farm in Johnston. The flock includes 7,000-8,000 egg-laying hens capable of producing 3,000-4,000 eggs each day.

Baffoni stopped by a small a small coop to visit his six pet hens.

A few local fraternity boys gifted Baffoni a half-dozen baby chicks they no longer needed. Baffoni's not sure where they got them, or why they had them. But the six chicks bloomed into two brown-bodied Rhode Island Reds, two speckled Barred Rock hens and a pair of stark white Leghorns.

He's given them names, but the names change daily.

Baffoni laughs as the Rhode Island Red he's holding flaps her way free. A flurry of dust and feather fills the air.

He closes the door and continues up the path, through truck tread puddles, never looking down.

Several years back, Baffoni couldn't remember what year exactly, he calculated the cost of producing a dozen eggs on his farm.

"It came out to about two dollars per dozen," he said. "It's quite a bit more now."

Baffoni Poultry Farm sells its fresh brown eggs to local markets and restaurants. Their eggs currently retail for around \$6 per dozen.

The egg-laying hens reside in several more than 70-year-old two-story chicken coops. You can't build them like that any more.

"These are grandfathered in," Baffoni said.

Tiny birds fly in and out of the coop entrances, carrying tiny twigs to contribute to their dense nests built in the crevices formed by the barn's seasoned rafters.

Barn swallows?

"I'm not sure what they are," Baffoni laughed.

He searched the hen house — packed with Rhode Island Reds — for a few fresh eggs. He found three and held them fearlessly in one hand. The hens gathered at his feet like eager parishioners around the minister at a baptism.

"All our eggs are brown," he said. "I'm not sure where all the white eggs come from."

He carried the eggs back down the muddy path, to a building next to the farm store. On the way he passed his wife, Adriana, as she pushed a stroller carrying the farm's future fifth generation flock master, their two-month-old daughter Serafina. Baffoni stopped to shake her tiny dimpled hand. He'd see them soon.

Back to the eggs.

The national egg market may be a bit turbulent, but Baffoni said things remain fairly constant on his farm. Avian flu has decimated flocks across the globe. Baffoni's thankful his birds have been healthy.

An outbreak would be devastating.

"We'd have to close for 150 days," he said. "We'd be screwed. We've been lucky ... When they get sick, they cough and their cones turn purple."

It's a nightmare.

Baffoni opened a door to reveal stacks of empty cartons and a large lethal-looking metal table. He walked across the room, a bit of old eggshell stuck to the bottom of his boot.

He plugged a cord into an outlet and an antique mechanical feat of post-war engineering growled to life.

Baffoni has been collecting and grading eggs since he's at least five-years-old. His earliest memories — climbing up to the vintage egg-grader and gently placing each brown shell into the spinning metal coil and watching the eggs roll to their like-sized cousins.

"That's one of the best," he said, lifting a bulging brown egg up to the light. They both glowed. "That's a double-yolk for sure."





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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

WARRANT ARRESTS

Around 10:30 p.m., Jan. 7, Johnston Police Patrolman Thomas Santurri spotted a 2016 Dodge Charger with Florida plates travel past his location westbound on Greenville Avenue. The vehicle allegedly "crossed the double yellow line" while rounding a corner, according to the arrest report.

Santurri initiated a traffic stop on Killingly Street, and identified the driver as Renoult Victorin, of 30 Grafton St., North Providence.

DMV files revealed that Victorin had a suspended driver's license and an active Third District Court bench warrant for failing to appear at a Technical Violation Hearing. Santurri noted in his report that the "original charge was domestic disorderly conduct out of the Warwick Police Department."

Victorin was taken into custody and transported back to Johnston Police Headquarters. His vehicle was towed from the scene and he also received traffic citations for Driving with Suspended License and Laned Roadway Violation.

At 12:57 p.m., Jan. 20, Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau arrested Fernando Vasquez, of 35 Hillside Ave., Apt. 2, Johnston, on an active arrest warrant. According to police, Vasquez had an active Superior Court Full Bench Warrant for failing to appear for disposition "stemming from narcotics related charges out of the Providence Police Department."

Vasquez was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed and later transported to the Men's Intake Center at the ACI.

Around 10:13 a.m., Jan. 22, Johnston Police Patrol-

man Michael A. Protano was driving down Plainfield Street when he spotted Donald Iasimone traveling on a bicycle. Protano noted in the arrest report that he was aware Iasimone had an outstanding Superior Court Full Bench Warrant for Failure to Appear in court. He was taken into custody and later transported to the Men's Intake Center at the ACI.

DUI

Around 7:20 p.m., Dec. 30, 2022, Johnston Police responded to a reported motor vehicle crash with injuries on Central Avenue.

Johnston Fire Department personnel were already on the scene administering aid to both drivers.

As Johnston Police Patrolman Derrick Palazzo started to investigate the collision, he was flagged down by a witness who was inside his residence. The witness told police that he saw the one of the vehicles, a blue Nissan, traveling westbound in the eastbound lane of travel, striking the other vehicle, a gray Volkswagen.

A witness also told police that the driver of the blue Nissan "appeared to be intoxicated."

Police spoke to the driver, who they identified as Peter F. Battersby, of 108 Pennacook Circle, Wells, Maine. In the arrest report, police note that Battersby was "smelling strongly of alcohol." The asked him if he had been drinking, to which he allegedly replied, "a little."

"I began speaking to Mr. Battersby who was unsteady on his feet, had bloodshot red eyes and a red face, and had heavily slurred speech," Palazzo wrote in the arrest report. "It should be noted that Mr. Battersby also had a wet stain in his crouch

(sic), indicative of urinating himself."

Police asked Battersby to submit to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. He consented, and police began performing the tests.

"Mr. Battersby was very unsteady on his feet and would not comply with the testing by continually moving his head or not following the tip of my pen at all," Palazzo wrote. "During the testing, Mr. Battersby kept asking me what had happened to him and his vehicle, being confused that he had been involved in a collision."

Police eventually stopped the tests and arrested Battersby for suspicion of DUI. He was charged with DUI/Drugs/Alcohol (first offense, BAC unknown, a misdemeanor) and cited for Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test.

VANDALISM

Around 4:30 p.m., on Oct. 24, 2022, a woman arrived at Johnston Police Headquarters to report she had been the victim of "possible vandalism to her vehicle and swing set."

She told police that on Sept. 27 she noticed what appeared to be blue paint on the passenger's side rear quarter of her vehicle, and she also noticed on Oct. 23 that a rope had been cut on her swing set.

She told police that she thought she knew who was responsible, following a series of recent arguments with a Johnston woman. Police spoke to the woman, and she denied the allegations. The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detectives Division for further investigation.

Johnston Police eventually decided to charge the woman, identified as Donna C. Mullenhour, of 762 Greenville Ave., Apt. 5, Johnston, with two misde-

meanor counts of Vandalism/Malicious Injury to Property.

At 12:28 p.m., Jan. 10, Mullenhour arrived at the Johnston Police Headquarters to turn herself in on the active warrants. She was processed and released with a Third District Court summons to appear.

BREAKING & ENTERING

Around 11 a.m., Sept. 13, 2022, Johnston Police responded to a recently vacated home in town to investigate the report of a possible breaking and entering.

A witness told police that he had been checking on the property, which had just had work done, and found the interior bedroom door was missing. It had been removed from the hinges, and several lightbulbs were missing from the bathroom's vanity lighting.

After checking surveillance, a man was seen walking outside. The witness identified the man and told police that there had been "numerous issues" with him in the past.

The witness told police that he wished to pursue a criminal complaint for Unlawful Breaking and Entering of Dwelling House. Police issued a warrant for the man seen on the surveillance footage, and identified him as Michael Christopher Guadagno, of 124 Federal Way, Apt. 303, Johnston.

On Jan. 15, Johnston Police responded to the Woonsocket Police Department Headquarters to take custody of Guadagno, who was wanted on the outstanding Johnston warrants. Guadagno was processed and arraigned by J.P. Frank Saccoccio. He was issued \$10,000 PR bail and remanded to the ACI due to a probation violation, according to police.

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- Flawless Beauty Salon (53 Sandy Bottom Road, Coventry)
- Massey & Associates (250F Centerville Road, Warwick)
- Project Undercover Warehouse (50 Greco Lane, Warwick)
- Warwick Beacon (1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick)
- Warwick City Hall Annex - Sawtooth Building (65 Centerville Road, Warwick)
- Warwick Parks & Recreation (Thayer Arena, 975 Sandy Lane, Warwick)
- Warwick Police Department (99 Veterans Memorial Drive, Warwick)
- Warwick Public Library (600 Sandy Lane, Warwick)
- We Make RI (200 First Avenue, Cranston)



TIME SERVED: The Johnston Police Department announced the retirement of a senior member of the town Detective Unit. "It is bittersweet that we announce the retirement of Detective Thomas Dwyer," JPD announced on their Facebook page. "Detective Dwyer proudly served the residents of the Town of Johnston with distinction for the last 23 years. With his retirement the Johnston Police Department is losing one of our most experienced and highly decorated detectives. During his career, Detective Dwyer solved many notable cases that affected the lives of countless Johnston residents. Through his professional accomplishments, he has earned the respect of our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners. The entire Johnston Police family wish him all the best in his new professional endeavors, and salute him for a job well done." (Photo courtesy the Johnston Police Facebook page)



HONORED: Scituate High School student Alyssa Davidson competed, placed fourth, and earned scholarship funds in the Lieutenant Governor's Entrepreneurship Challenge at Rhode Island College. (Submitted photo)

Scituate student earns scholarship money at Entrepreneurship Challenge

Sun Rise Staff Reports

On Saturday, Jan. 28, Scituate High School student Alyssa Davidson competed, placed fourth, and earned scholarship funds in the Lieutenant Governor's Entrepreneurship Challenge at Rhode Island College. Davidson was selected to participate in the challenge after submitting her business plan, which she designed during her Entrepreneurship class at Scituate High School. "My business plan is called Crow's Nest," said Davidson. "Crow's Nest is a business that would be aimed at refurbishing and reselling art supplies at a discounted price to make purchasing quality supplies more affordable."

Out of dozens of business plan submissions, Davidson was 1 of 5 students who had the opportunity to pitch her business proposal and compete for scholarship funds at the in-person event in Alger Hall at Rhode Island College. All five students were granted scholarship funds that ranged in price from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

The scholarship funds were provided by the Credit Unions of Rhode Island and local businesses including Massey and Associates, Dr. Day Care, and the Rhode Island Association of Realtors. The funds are distributed through Millennial RI, a local non-profit that encourages young professionals to build their careers in Rhode Island.

"This is the first time a student at Scituate High School was selected to participate in this competition," said SHS Principal Michael Hassell. "Alyssa is a student in our Entrepreneurship Pathway where all students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and learn skills critical to starting and growing a new business. She has done an exceptional job using those skills here to develop a successful business proposal."

"I am deeply proud of today's contestants, all of whom made compelling and interesting presentations. I hope that, in addition to the scholarships they won, our students have come away more enthusiastic than ever about becoming entrepreneurs," said Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos. "Today showed that the future of Rhode Island's small business community is bright!"

The Lieutenant Governor's Entrepreneurship Challenge is Rhode Island's first statewide business pitch competition aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and promoting business ownership in the state of Rhode Island. Through this program students in Rhode Island can compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships to use at post-secondary institutions.

"The student contestants are the small business owners of the future, who will ensure that Rhode Island's economic momentum continues into the next generation," said Gov. Dan McKee. "They are driving the

state's economic engine with their brilliant business ventures and I know they are destined for great things. Since starting this challenge in 2018 when I was Lt. Governor, we've seen students tap into their creativity and ideas to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarship money. Every year, I'm reminded that the state's small business community is in great hands with these talented student entrepreneurs. I thank Lt. Governor Matos for continuing the Entrepreneurship Challenge for the next generation of students."

For more information about Scituate High School, connect with Principal Michael Hassell, Michael.Hassell@ScituateSchoolsRI.net or call at 401-647-4120.

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MEDPLAN ADVISORS

OLG serves up 'Pasta & Polenta' aplenty

By PETE FONTAINE

Church, community, camaraderie and fantastic food.

Those were some of the ingredients that went into Our Lady of Grace Church's annual Pasta and Polenta Dinner — a.k.a. a Rite of Winter — that also featured Padre Pete's Primavera Potion and was held inside the Roman Catholic parish's famed Fioretti Hall in Johnston.

The kitchen crew, as OLG's popular pastor Rev. Peter J. Gower pointed out, was armed with their pots, pans and their culinary skills and Friday morning began working all day preparing what many people concurred was a "delicious and healthy Italian dinner" consisting of pasta, polenta, meatballs, sausage, chicken, pizza chips and salad.

Even the dessert, which was apple turnovers and cupcakes, received rave reviews from a number of guests.

Upwards of 100 proud parishioners attended OLG's 4 o'clock mass, and then walked down the stairs into the multi-use hall, which was adorned with red, white and green plastic table coverings along with a bottle of red and white wine made by Father Gower, who ladies like Marilyn Walaska emphasized "has a unique way of bringing the church community together with unique events like this. He makes every one special!"

The annual event, which also served as an official kick-off for the season, with three more fun-filled social gatherings planned over the next few months: OLG's annual Super Bowl Party, set for Feb. 12, the March 18 St. Joseph's Day Dinner and the annual Primavera on May 21.

Each event will include fine food and raffle prizes.

Likewise, Mike Lombardi — one of OLG's famed long-time volunteer chefs — will make his famous sauce that people enjoyed during Saturday night's Pasta and Polenta Dinner.

"This was a huge success for our parish," said Father Gower as he went from table-to-table thanking each attendee. "At the end of the evening people were all smiles — especially those who went home with great raffle items from our prizes galore table."

In keeping with tradition, long-time time OLG volunteers Joe Andreozzi and Jen Burns secured an impressive list of raffle prizes ranging from an Air Fryer donated by Cherry Hill Manor, Liquor baskets from Knight's Liquors and Anchor Bay at Pocasset both of Johnston, Stop and Shop Gift Cards and delicious chicken tenders prepared by Chef Marvin at the Bridge at Cherry Hill.



SUPER SERVERS: Among those OLG parishioners who helped make Saturday night's Pasta and Polenta Dinner a huge success were Dolores Brette, Ken Lanni, Annette Lanni, Michelle Lanciaux, Wendy Giorgio, Dena Santos and Rev. Peter J. Gower. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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CHEF'S CORNER: Long-time OLG volunteer Chef Mike Lombardi makes sure the special sauce is ready to serve for last Saturday night's Pasta and Polenta Dinner.



PERFECT PRIZE: Richard Quetta is all smiles as he holds the gift-wrapped bucket of Stella Artois Belgian beer he won after Saturday night's Pasta and Polenta Dinner. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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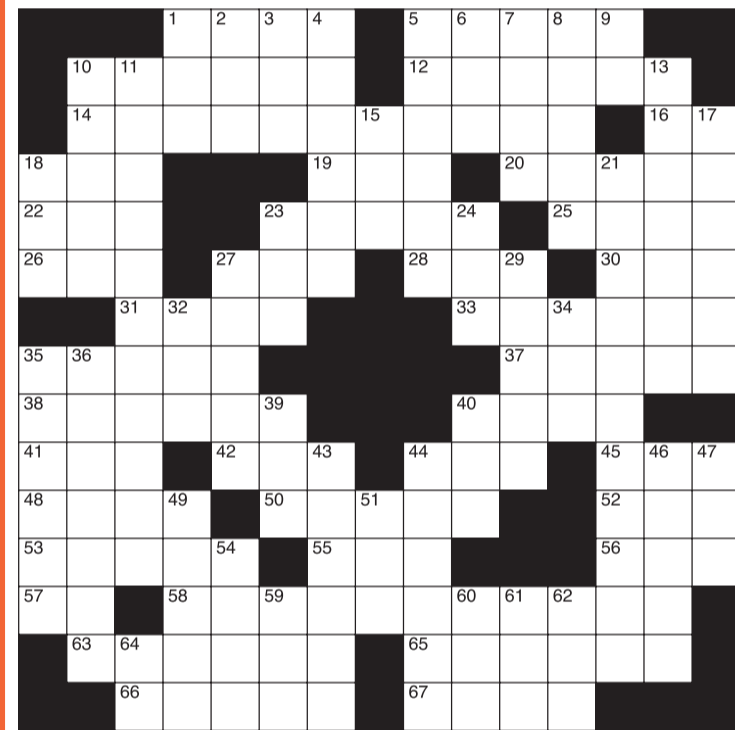
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Luxury jewelry designer
10. Goddess of wisdom
12. Convert into a particular form
14. Working-class people
16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
18. A princess can detect its presence
19. Red-brown sea bream
20. Defunct retail empire
22. Vase
23. Demeter's equivalent
25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
26. French and Belgian river
27. Small amount
28. High schoolers' test
30. Animal's foot
31. Some is red
33. Per ___ : each
35. Swedish jazz pop duo
37. Plate for Eucharist
38. Train line
40. Russian pop duo
41. Stake
42. Plant by scattering
44. Female sibling
45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
48. Popular cookie brand

50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
52. A team's best pitcher
53. Vomits
55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
56. Men's fashion accessory
57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
58. Expensive cut of steak
63. Popular James Cameron film
65. A ___ : relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
66. Kids' snow toys
67. Flip side to yin

15. Swiss river
17. Island
18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
23. Garfield is one
24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
29. Small savory Spanish dishes
32. Body part
34. Touch lightly
35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
36. ___ Hess: oil company
39. Antelope with a reddish coat
40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
43. Pink Floyd's Roger
44. Short and thick
46. Small, sac-like cavities
47. Performer ___ -Lo
49. Entrails of animal used as food
51. ___ King Cole, musician
54. Where construction is done
59. Chap
60. Investment vehicle
61. Often mixed with tonic
62. Holiday beverage egg ___
64. Against

CLUES DOWN

1. Global public health agency
2. Snake-like fish
3. Midway between northeast and east
4. Dabbed
5. TV show
6. Folk singer DiFranco
7. Canadian flyers
8. Of the dowry
9. Commercial
10. The act of imitating
11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
13. Lands of an emir

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By JENNIFER COATES

For working parents everywhere, there is no more important decision to be made than to whom they will be entrusting their child's care and supervision while they are apart from them. Pressing questions such as "Will my child be safe? Will my child get the attention and individual care he/she needs? Will my child get the developmentally-appropriate learning opportunities he/she needs? Will my child be disciplined with love? Will my child be happy?" must all be satisfactorily answered when parents make this decision.

Dreamland Learning Center in Johnston will answer these questions for you and bring you the peace of mind you need as you search for the best childcare option for your child. This busy center is a bright, welcoming, and progressive center located in the heart of Johnston.

Dreamland Learning Center is a family-owned and operated learning center whose guiding philosophy is stated in their website: "We aim to provide quality care that will inspire each child to explore and discover the infinite possibilities available to them through the power of learning. Our environment was created to enhance a child's natural curiosity and desire to learn. At our center, opportunities are provided to help children prepare to make the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical adjustments needed in life. We believe children learn best from their own experiences."

Their mission statement also clearly outlines their objectives: "We aim to provide safe, affordable, high-quality childcare for all families. In doing so, we support them in their efforts to reach their goals. Dreamland provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum for children ages 6 weeks to twelve years. The Dreamland staff is committed to the families we serve, providing support and encouragement to promote children's desire to be



Dreamland Learning Center, located on Hartford Avenue, is a happy, busy place where children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old will play, learn, socialize, explore, sing, create and dream every day!

life-long learners."

As parents visit the center, they will find attentive caregivers tending to a sunny room of infants while elsewhere, toddlers are toddling, preschoolers are exploring, and rooms await the before & after-school crowd of students which arrives here every day. Each day at this sparkling clean, regularly sanitized and whimsically decorated center is filled with activity, learning, discovering and yes, even dreaming!

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict guidelines of the RI Early Learning & Development Standards while all staff are licensed; many are also CPR

certified. The staff work as a team with one goal in mind, to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this very special stewardship. The center is also highly "Bright Star" rated.

If you are looking for safe, loving and dependable childcare for your child, come take a tour of this happy learning center. The center is open all year round, including a fun-filled summer program.

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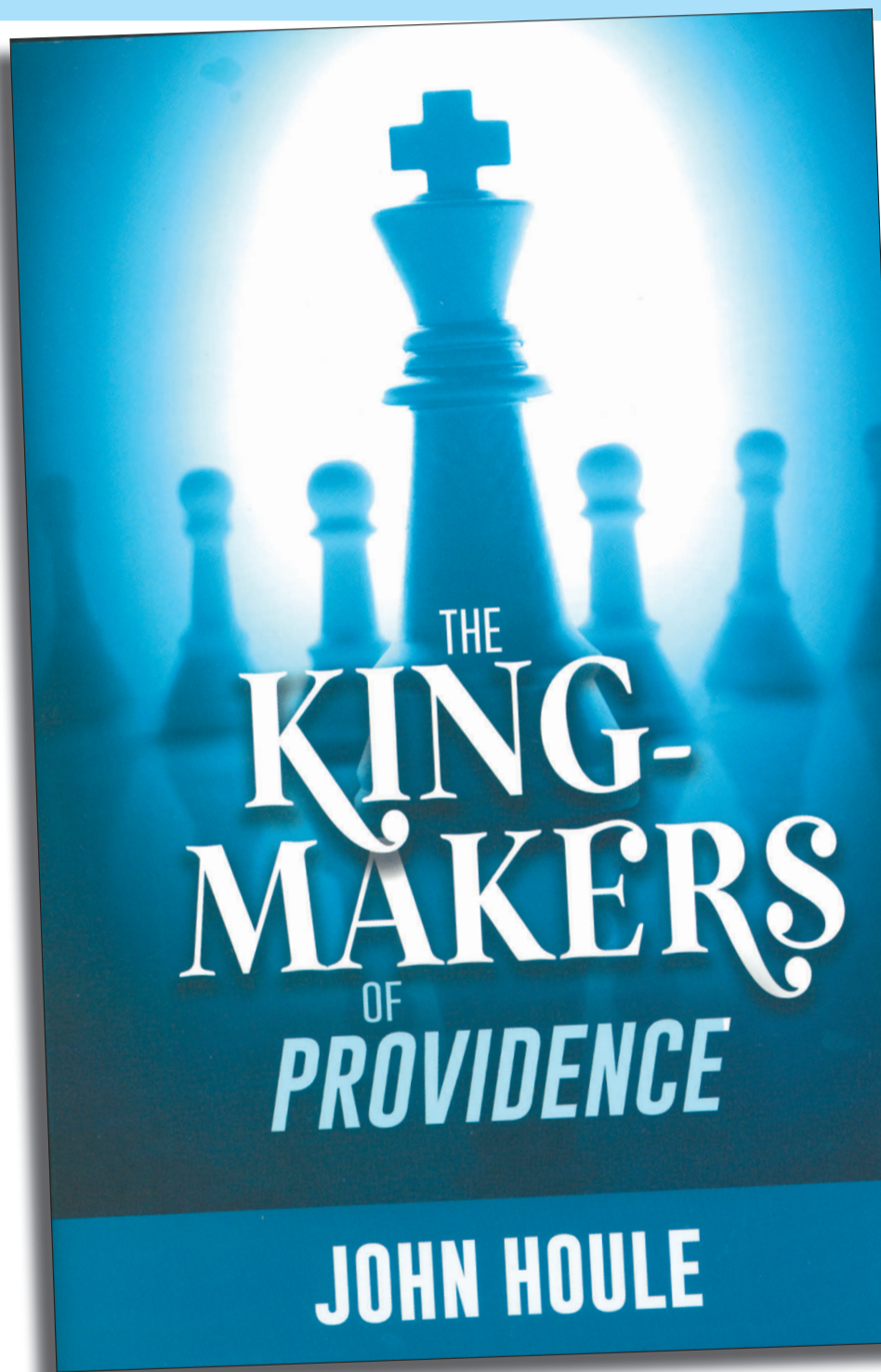
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It is also a story about the underbelly of what really goes on in political campaigns that can only be told by someone who not only witnessed it first hand, but someone who actually had a hand in many of those campaigns along the way.

The 304-page tome is well worth reading I enjoyed every minute of it.

A little background on author John Houle, who now lives in Cranston with his wife Susan and children Jenna and Christopher.

John, the son of Elaine (who taught in the Warwick School system for over 40 years) and Carl, a network engineer who unfortunately passed (the book is dedicated to him), grew up in the Gaspee Plateau section of Warwick along with his brother Paul (who is now a neuro-surgeon).

John attended Pilgrim High School and later received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1994 from Boston College.

After launching his career in the newsroom of the Beacon, he worked in the public relations and communications business, starting his own firm in 2002 called JH Communications (which is now rebranded as Main St. Media).

Along the way he became prolific at writing blogs, a nice writing respite from the commercial copy, brochures and websites that were such an integral part of his core business.

He also wondered if he were capable of writing a novel, so he decided "what the heck" and gave it a go.

Meeting with Mike



by J. MICHAEL LEVESQUE



■ BOOK - PAGE 24



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Sports



GETTING THE WIN: Johnston's Gino DeSimone gets his hand raised. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Panthers fall to Lions, Mariners

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston wrestling team was back in action last week when it hosted Lincoln and Narragansett

for league matches. The Lions would take home the 59-21 win while the Mariners won, 57-21.

Logan Martins won by fall in the 120-pound division for Johnston

against Lincoln, while Gino DeSimone won by fall at 132 pounds. Luke Sharpless got a win at 145 pounds while Dylan Martins took

FALL - PAGE 20

Cranston Card Show this weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

1976 was the year we celebrated as a country our 200th birthday and Jimmy Carter was elected president. Apple and Microsoft incorporated that year and Steve Wozniak and Steven Jobs sold their first Apple computer for \$666.66 because as Wozniak explained he liked

SHOW - PAGE 19



BACK AT IT: Rich Budnick from America's Pastime at the Cranston Sports Card Show. (Submitted photos)

My midseason takeaways

It's hard to believe that we are midway through the winter season. Like every season, it is time to do midway evaluations of our clubs and programs.

Here are some of my big takeaways at the midway point of the 2022-23 winter sports season:

In terms of basketball, Hendricken is well ahead of the pack to this point and figures to be the odds on favorite to win both the Division I title and the open state championship in March.

With a win over La Salle then a lopsided defeat over Central last week, coupled with teams like Classical taking a step back this year, things are looking great for the Hawks who are unbeaten and continue to roll.

Azmar Abdullah and Eze Wali has been every

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

bit the dynamic duo that we expected them to be while guys like Mike Paquette, Matt Brock and Devin Lynch have filled the roles that they have been asked to fill. Everything is working in the Hawks' favor and they have taken it to the competition night in and night out. It's hard to picture any team other than may-

PITCH - PAGE 19



New friend

Local hoops fan Luca DelFino made a new friend at this past weekend's URI men's basketball game when he crossed paths with mascot Rhody the Ram. The two pals took a photo during the game in which the home team grabbed the 72-70 win over La Salle. (Submitted photo)

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RIC track shines at BU

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Freshman Haley Oliver (Coventry) broke the program record in the mile as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team participated in Boston University's John Thomas Terrier Classic on Saturday afternoon.

It was an individual event with no team scoring. The event was comprised of mostly Div. I competition.

Oliver finished 69th in the 800m (2:27.26) and 96th in the mile (5:18.78). Graduate Melissa Mejia (Providence) finished second in the weight throw (16.01m).

Sophomore Samantha Sainristil (Providence) placed fifth in the weight throw (15.22m) and 17th in the shot (9.33m). Sophomore Hayley Chartier (North Scituate) finished 12th in the weight throw (13.70m) and 18th in the shot (9.27m).

Freshman Milana Melvin (Johnston) finished 22nd in the shot (8.64m) and 27th in the weight throw (9.35m). Freshman Amanda Hebert (Coventry) placed 92nd in the 800m (2:41.56). Freshman Sasha Sainristil (Providence) placed 129th in the 200m (29.80).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the New England Open Championship, held at the New Balance Center in Boston, Mass. on Feb. 2-3.

Junior Steven Doss (West Warwick) broke the program record in the 400m as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team participated in the John Thomas Terrier Classic on Saturday afternoon.

It was an individual event with no

team scoring. The event was comprised of mostly Div. I competition.

Doss finished 14th in the 400m (48.51). Junior Michaelson Salomon (Providence) finished third in the weight throw (16.54m).

Senior Edward Garofalo (Newport) placed eighth in the triple jump (13.56m). Freshman Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) placed 10th in the weight throw (14.12m).

Freshman Kordell O'Brien (Newport) placed 10th in the pole vault (3.50m). Freshman Brandon Mota (West Warwick) finished 11th in the weight throw (13.74m).

Freshman Ryan Hazard (Wakefield) placed 12th in the weight throw (13.65m) and 13th in the shot (14.00m).

Junior Christopher McCarthy (Cranston) placed 13th in the weight throw (13.59m). Sophomore Mahari Nayte (Providence) placed 16th in the 400m (48.84) and 51st in the 200m (22.83).

Freshman Dante DiGregorio (Smithfield) finished 34th in the 1,000m (2:44.04). Freshman Juan Reyes (Providence) finished 98th in the 400m (53.07) and 118th in the 200m (25.13).

Senior Andre Solomon-Messier (North Providence) placed 128th in the 800m (2:11.97) and 150th in the 3,000m (9:14.63).

Senior Austin Michael (Swansea, Mass.) finished 213th in the mile (4:38.78).

RIC swim falls

Junior Anna Vygoder (Lincoln) took home a first place and a pair of second place finishes as the Rhode Island Col-

Pitch

(Continued from page 18)

be La Salle getting a win over them at this point.

In Division II, Johnston has claimed first place and is a perfect 12-0 in league play as of this writing. The Panthers had a lot of momentum heading into this season with a strong core returning, but I'm not sure if anyone saw this level of dominance coming.

Between Derek Salvatore, Anthony Corsinetti and Neari Vasquez, Johnston boasts perhaps the best three-man core in the division. Recently, Hendricken transfer Camani Batista returned to the lineup and will be a big addition as well. Johnston is on a tear right now and has to be considered the favorite to win the Division II crown. The Panthers went 7-3 in the summer taking on some Division I teams, so they could absolutely be a factor in the open state tournament as well.

Another Division II team to watch out for is Cranston West, who has won two straight games to get to 5-4 in league play. The Falcons got off to a slow start this season and will have to be better to be a real contender, but the rest of the schedule is favorable and West needs to use it to build some momentum by playoff time. Don't sleep on this group.

As for Pilgrim, who early on looked like it was poised to take a step forward and make a run at a Division II playoff berth; things have been tough as three of its starters have

been lost for the season due to injuries.

That is what makes sports, especially at the high school level, so unforgiving. Every year, the roster resets and you only get kids for four years at a time. Any time an important player is lost for a lengthy period of time, it can put the entire program back a ways. We'll see how Pilgrim responds next winter, but this season dealt it a tough blow.

As for girls basketball, it has been a great season for our teams.

Pilgrim has been a force in Division III and has been atop the standings since the early going, while Toll Gate recently took first place by half a game despite losing its top player in Adeline Areson.

Faith Meade and Gianna Ramos have been fantastic for the Pats while a crop of youngsters have played admirably behind them. Bri Simono has broken out as one of the top offensive producers in the division for the Titans. This rivalry will be a fun one to follow as the playoff races heat up in the next few weeks.

Then in Division IV, Johnston has also been strong. The Panthers were in fourth place heading into the week. The good news and the bad news for Johnston is that its lone losses were to the three teams ahead of it in the standings.

On the one hand, the Panthers have proven to be a playoff team at the midway point. On the other, they need to take another step forward to compete with those elite

clubs. If the Panthers can take that next step in these final games, then maybe they will be dark horses come postseason play.

As expected, the Division I hockey race has been perhaps the most fun of any sport this winter.

Hendricken is fighting to maintain first place and looks to be in good position to make a playoff run and defend its title.

However, the Warwick co-op team has stolen the show and is all of a sudden a contender.

Charlie Clements, Richie Cavanaugh, Ryan Barlow, Ethan Pezzullo, and many other players have been outstanding and Warwick has perhaps the deepest lineup in the state. Experience will be the biggest question as this team exited early in the playoffs last year, but as of now, this team is legit.

Hendricken, Warwick, Cumberland, La Salle, this is going to come down to the wire.

As for some of our other teams, it looks like Hendricken, Cranston East and West and Toll Gate wrestling will all have grapplers competing for spots at the state championship. Hendricken track is also shaping up to have another big finish, as well as its swim team, which is coming off a disappointing state championship loss last year.

We'll see how things shake out here the next few weeks, but as you all know, it goes by fast and before you know it, we will be in the thick of the tournaments. See you there.

lege women's swimming team went 0-2 on the day at a double dual meet hosted by Keene State on Saturday afternoon.

Vygoder placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:16.63), second in both the 50-yard breaststroke (34.81) and the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:57.01) and fourth in the 100-yard IM (1:11.63).

Junior Meghan Laflamme (Smithfield) finished second in the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:57.01), third in both the 50-yard freestyle (28.04) and the 200-yard freestyle (2:18.48) and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:10.20).

Junior Olivia DeLuca (Providence) finished second in the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:57.01), fifth in the 100-yard butterfly (1:14.03) and sixth in both the 50-yard butterfly (32.77) and the 100-yard freestyle (1:02.61).

Junior Marta Matzko (Rumford) finished second in the 200-yard freestyle

relay (1:57.01), fourth in both the 200-yard medley relay (2:42.84) and the 1,000 yard freestyle (14:45.78) and sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:32.57).

Junior Rebecca Fyrer (Cranston) finished fourth in both the 200-yard medley relay (2:42.84) and the 500-yard freestyle (6:36.33), fifth in the 50-yard backstroke (35.86) and seventh in the 50-yard freestyle (30.81).

Junior Ciara Ahern (Bristol) placed fourth in the 200-yard medley relay (2:42.84), seventh in both the 50-yard backstroke (44.77) and in the 500-yard freestyle (8:21.69) and eighth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:35.22).

Freshman Olivia Landry (Lincoln) placed fourth in the 200-yard medley relay (2:42.84), sixth in the 100-yard butterfly (1:46.66), eighth in the 50-yard butterfly (47.78) and ninth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:28.70).

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■ Fall

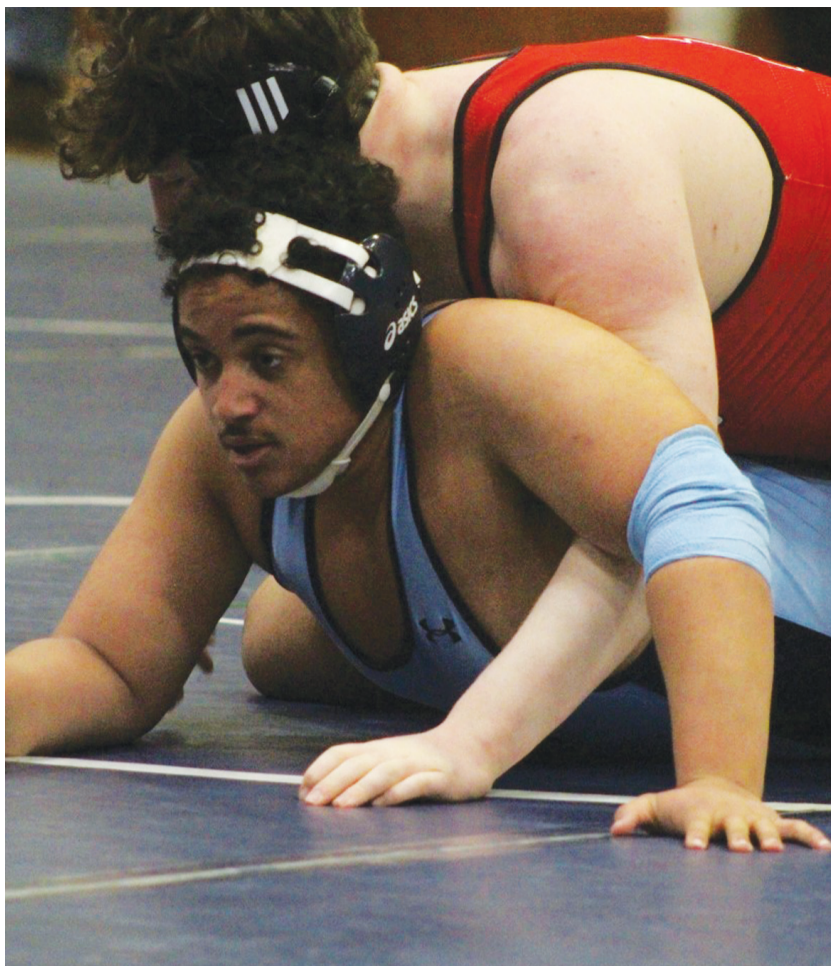
(Continued from page 18)

home a win at 160 pounds in an 8-4 decision. Elijah Odhiambo won by fall at 220 pounds to round out the day for the Panthers.

Logan Martins later won against Narragansett by fall while DeSimone also picked up another win. Sharpless won by fall against Narragansett while Odhiambo won by an 11-9 decision.

Prior to last week's match, the Panthers were last in action against Tolman. Johnston came up short by a score of 42-30. Logan Martins, Sharpless, Dylan Martins, Odhiambo and Landon Faucher all picked up wins to lead Johnston.

The Panthers were in action on Tuesday night when they faced Davies Career and Tech. They will next be hitting the mat on Thursday when they travel to take on Middletown and Mt. Pleasant.



HITTING THE MAT: Johnston's Elijah Odhiambo (left) and Luke Sharpless (right) last week.



■ Show

(Continued from page 18)

repeating numbers, but more importantly, to the sports collecting hobby The Cranston Sports Card Show made its debut as well.

"We like perpetual numbers instead and the 47th Cranston Sports Card Show has followed 46 previous ones and is still a classic in the industry," noted promoter Mike Mangasarian. "Apple may be a little bit bigger than our show" laughed the Mangasarian, "but communications with dealers and collectors will be prominent all day long in a numerous capacity at our show with Apple iPhones."

There is no sport collecting show in New England that comes near the longevity of this sports collecting classic. It is older than the National and is the oldest charity run sports card show in North America. It still maintains its theme as an affordable destination event for collector and dealer as a fun hobby experience with proceeds benefiting the charities of two churches which is the Immaculate Conception Church in Cranston, RI for helping those in need and Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Youth Federation athletes in Providence, RI who travel to a new destination city each year to defray expenses as a Olympic style National competition on Labor Day weekend, and the Coventry High School Athletic Hall of Fame are the three charities.

So far, the autograph guests on the hockey stage is USA hockey Hall of Famer Paul Stewart who is returning and will be featured with Boston Bruin and Providence and Boston Bruin and Philadelphia Flyer 15-year hockey veteran Chris Winnes will join the stars along with 10-year professional veteran and P-Bruin Howie Rosenblatt. Mail order on all athletes is available as well as dealer inquiries.

In the heart of winter with flu, Covid, and more please confirm with promoter the appearance of any guest that

illness may prevent them from appearing a few days before the event. If this occurs we will arrange a private signing to get your items autographed as soon as possible.

The quality of the dealers on the floor come from 11 states which are MD, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, NH, ME, IN, and VT and represent over 1,700 years of sports collectibles business experience. "I recruited the best dealers outside our local market from 11 different states and the other 50 percent are our spectacular RI, MA and CT locals who were the foundation of the shows beginnings," Mangasarian explained.

What you can expect to see for purchase besides modern and vintage sports cards will be RI Reds hockey memorabilia, incredible autographs, vintage equipment in all sports, graded cards, Pokémon, pennants, non sports cards, tobacco cards, wax boxes and packs, hobby supplies, vintage photo's, yearbooks, programs, ticket stubs, regional issues, comic books, and a whole lot more. An example of an extraordinary item that came up for sale at the last show in February was a Jackie Robinson autographed High School yearbook being one of his earliest known signatures.

The show is today at 150 tables which is Feb. 4 & 5, 2023.

"I am so excited to announce that the biggest request by our customers through all of our social media outlets was to have card grading companies at the show and has finally come true after four years of trying! Not only did we land one or two but we have all three of the major graders having representation for their companies at the show in February!" said Mangasarian. The newest and biggest addition to The Cranston Sports Card Show that has never appeared previously is that a representative for PSA, SGC, and Beckett Grading will be handled by Nash Cards headquartered in Philadelphia, PA and submissions are estimated to be at a

three-week turnaround. Review orders can be created ahead of time

There will be for all baseball fans an original 8x2 foot piece of Fenway Park's Green Monster to have your picture taken in front of for free from the 2003 renovation of the scoreboards with a paid admission.

Entrance to the show and show hours are as follows;

Date: Sat. Feb. 4 & Sun. Feb 5, 2023.

Time: Saturday 9-5 (Early Bird admission 8am), Sunday 8:30 - 3:00

Where: Coventry High School Gym, 40 Reservoir Rd., Coventry RI. This new location can support the shows rapid growth to which the show promoter hopes to be at the facilities full capacity of 250 tables in 2025.

admission is \$6 each day & \$8 for a 2 day pass. Say, "Put me on your mailing list" and get a \$1 discount off your one day admission only on non discounted pricing. For discounted pricing say "Put me on your mailing list" and get a free gift such as a pack of cards or the equivalent as supplies last.

Discounted admission for seniors 65 & older, Veterans, and children 12 and under is \$3, Children 5 and under are free. Discounted 2 day admission tickets are \$5 for both days. A very special popular feature being offered for the fourth time will be a \$20 early bird admission for 8 a.m. on Saturday for collectors who would like to get on the show floor before the doors open to the public. A collector will have early entry to collectibles for one hour before the general public has access.

"I believe this was an industry first when we first did it five years ago and it will continue in 2023 because of its popularity" said Mangasarian. Buying tickets online can be purchased at <https://givebutler.com/csccs2023> to avoid lines at the door.

Attendance is expected to exceed the 1,500 admissions paid in 2022 as attendance records were broken for a two day show on the first day within the first five hours of Saturday.



PROMOTER: Mike Mangasarian with his 17-year-old daughter Margo in 2012 at the West Valley Inn.



HALL OF FAMER: Hockey Hall of Famer Paul Stewart is returning



CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Original Cranston Sports Card Show promoter Tom McDonough (left) and Mike Mangasarian (right). In between both of them is former Mayor of Cranston Allan Fung who is a frequent visitor.

Learning more about false albacore

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

False albacore have grown in stature as a highly targeted recreational sport fish. These speedsters have thrilled shore and boat anglers, and have become a valuable addition to the recreational community. The bait or forage profile for false albacore are here in greater abundance due to climate change and warming water, and have brought a greater abundance of these fish to the northeast region.

During the 2022 University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Baird Symposium on "Climate impacts on recreational fishing and boating," anglers, charter captains and scientists alike participating as panelists pointed to false albacore as a data poor recreational fish that has little commercial fishing value. Supporting sponsors of the Symposium included Ocean Conservancy, a leader in sustainable climate ready fisheries advocacy, and Ørsted, wind farm developer and owner of the Bock Island Wind Farm.

Doing something about data poor false albacore got Ørsted's attention. Often times recreational species that are not commercially harvested have taken a back seat to commercially harvested species with little research being done or explored by fish managers and supporting scientists.

The American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA), a Baird Symposium participant, identified this need too and did something about data poor false albacore with Ørsted and other sponsors. This year ASGA spearheaded The Albie Project, where 63 acoustic tags were deployed into false albacore that were throughout Nantucket Sound. The aim of the study was to learn more about false albacore movement and mortality.

The study was spearheaded by Dr. Jeffrey Kneebone of the New England Aquarium who has conducted acoustic tag studies on sharks, bluefin tuna, yellow fin tuna and a number of other species.

Tony Friedrich, Vice President and Policy Director of the ASGA said, "A quarter of a million-dollar project comes with a great deal of responsibility. The folks at the New England Aquarium had to develop, design, and build a contraption that would immobilize and properly position the albies for tag surgery while flushing sea water over their gills."

In addition to Ørsted, wind farm developer Vineyard Wind and fishing gear and tackle manufacturers/businesses such as Costa, Old Maine Outfitters, Cheeky, Hogy, Simms, Van Stall, The Saltwater Edge and the New England Aquarium became study sponsors.

Friedrich said, "We had some big con-



ALBACORE SURGERY: The New England Aquarium developed, designed, and built a contraption that would immobilize and properly position albies for tag surgery while flushing sea water over their gills. (Photos from the ASGA)

cerns as we heard from doubters who claimed "False albacore bleed everywhere, most fish die when they are caught. These fish will die too," and "A tag that size is going to impede a fast-moving fish's movement."

"Many said the project would not work," said Friedrich. "So when we received an email from Dr. Jeff Kneebone in early December that was busting at the seams with data, our jaws dropped. The tagging effort worked – even better than we could've ever imagined."

Dr. Jeff Kneebone said, "We had 57 fish, about 90 percent survive and start sending us data. The project focusing on Nantucket Sound worked well allowing us to place receivers throughout the Sound. Even though some were miles apart, fish were sending us a lot of data. These fish are truly energizer bunnies, they keep moving. So in addition to proving these fish can be successfully tagged with acoustic telemetry tags, we were able to see just how much they move around."

Friedrich said, "In one two week period in September, 50 separate fish had a total of 4,935 detections. We had as many as 601 detections from one fish. These preliminary results are so robust we have aligned study sponsors for another year and will be doing it again in 2023."

Dr. Kneebone concluded, "We plan to

add accelerators into the mix in 2023 so we can tell just how fast the fish move and to make sure they are alive and not dead in the belly of a shark or some other fish. We also plan to extend our study as last year when we stopped the study at the end of October we still had quite a few false albacore in the region."

Hats off to the American Saltwater Guides Association for doing the false albacore study. It has and will continue to demonstrate the value of doing research on data poor recreational species. The study will lead us to protect these and other species in the future growing them to abundance so there are more of them in the water for recreational anglers to catch, release and/or eat (depending on the species).

Join the Albie Tag Team and support ASGA's efforts to learn more about and protect false albacore for generations to come. Sponsorship supports one of the acoustic telemetry tags attached to a little tunny – deployed by ASGA in partnership with the New England Aquarium. All Tag Teams sponsors will receive an exclusive Albie Project "Tag Team" hooded tech shirt produced by SIMMS.

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 Jan. 1 in coastal 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 fresh water 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 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. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina said, "Party boats are catching a nice mix of cod and very large bergalls (also known as cunner or choggies) so they are fishing."

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.noflufefishing.com.



FALSE ALBACORE: Tom Hood with a false albacore.

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YOU PEOPLE

See it at the
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Movies

WARWICK SHOWCASE

MAYBE I DO

** 1/2
(Dumb RomCom)

Grace (Diane Keaton) and Sam (William H. Macy), two lonely people in unhappy marriages meet and spend a happy platonic relationship together one evening.

Howard (Richard Gere) and Monica (Susan Sarandon) have been spending evenings together having sex in fancy hotel rooms.

Michelle (Emma Watson) and Allen (Luke Rueny) are young lovers who have just had a spat.

What do these couples have in common?

Well, when they all in up in the same house for dinner one evening, you will find out.

"Maybe I Do" has one of the silliest, most ridiculous plots we have ever seen. It is contrived, outrageous, and hard to believe.

And yet, we found ourselves laughing hilariously at times.

Gere and Sarandon are still sexy "at their ages".

Keaton and Macy are still as whimsical and lovable as ever.

Rueny and Watson are as attractive and cutesy as they can be.

So, if you want a few laughs watching watchable actors, and have nothing better to do during a season that is short on watchable movies, go see it.

NETFLIX

CHASING CORAL

Hopefully, this Netflix documentary will move people to action.

Scientists and activists work together to study the effects that global warming is having on the world's coral reefs.

Scuba divers with sophisticated cameras and equipment study the coral reefs in Australia, Hawaii and

other locations around the world, discovering their deaths (they are living beings).

We witness the beauty of the reefs in all its splendid color and the variety of fish they attract.

The dedicated activists spend hours filming the rapid deterioration of the reefs due to climate change and the effect it has on the ecosystem.

Reefs die slow deaths, bleaching white before crumbling and dying.

Scientists around the world are sounding the alarm by filming the reefs and attempting to get the attention of world leaders and educating children.

Having snorkeled in the Great Barrier Reef, St. Thomas and St. John, and witnessing what is happening today in the Caribbean, the film had a strong impact on me.

THE MONSTER OF WALL STREET

Another frightening documentary from Netflix, as it documents the rise and fall of Bernie Madoff.

Labeled a "financial psychopath", this man bilked the public out of 64 billion dollars.

How he could have fooled so many people for so long is hard to believe, but the doc shows how he did it.

HATCHET WIELDING HITCHHIKER

Amazing documentary about Kai, a free-spirited young man who carries his few possessions in a backpack as he hitchhikes across the country.

Kai takes a ride from a guy in a pickup back in 2013. They get in an accident. The driver attacks a woman and Kai hits him over the head three times with his hatchet.

Kai becomes a hero when a reporter interviews him. Newspaper, magazine and internet articles pick up on the story. The erratic spaceshot becomes a folk legend overnight He also becomes a loose cannon

Has the media created a monster? The hero becomes a killer, and all hell breaks loose. There's a moral there someplace.

THE ELEPHANT WHISPERERS

The great thing about Netflix is finding little gems about subjects you have never thought about.

This 40 minute documentary tells (shows is a better word) the story of an elderly South Indian couple who care for two baby elephants at an Elephant Rehabilitation Camp.

Many baby elephants get separated from their parents and cannot provide for themselves. Many come to the camp injured and/or sick.

The caretakers treat the elephants like they were their children and they become attached to each other. This beautifully filmed story will warm your heart.

YOU PEOPLE

(Rom/Com)

Jonah Hill plays Jewish podcaster Ezra Hill. Lauren London plays Black Muslim designer Amira Mohammed.

He jumps in her car thinking she is an Uber driver. After a very awkward moment, he invites her to lunch and they surprisingly hit it off.

The odd couple (Besides being black and white/Jew and Muslim/sophisticated and unsophisticated) discover that they have much in common and fall in love.

They plan "Meet the Parents" nights, which are total disasters.

Her parents (Eddie Murphy and Nia Long) are bullish in their Muslim culture and black heritage.

His parents (Julia Louis-Dreyfus and David Duchovny) try way too hard to be cool and hip. Everyone is a stereotype to the point of being ridiculous.

The two announce that they are going to marry. Jewish or Muslim wedding?

Her father does everything in his power to stop the wedding, eventually succeeding.

Will love conquer cultural differences?

What do you think?

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Dip your spoon into a creamy mushroom meal

METRO

Soup can be a delicious meal for lunch or dinner or even make for a comforting snack. The versatility of soup undoubtedly contributes to its appeal. Just about any ingredient can go into a soup to yield the ideal result.

The benefits of soup do not end with flavor alone. A bowl of soup can be filling, helping to corral hunger and reduce overeating. Plenty of studies also link soup to increased wellness and recovery from respiratory illnesses. Soup also is a perfect comfort food on a cold day. It warms from the inside out, helping to chase away chills from damp or frosty conditions.

Mushrooms can be the star of soups, adding earthy notes to the broth. Enjoy this creamy recipe for "Easy Mushroom Soup" courtesy of the Mushroom Council.



Easy Mushroom Soup

Yield: 3-4

3 tablespoons
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 shallot, finely chopped
4 ounces crimini mushrooms, chopped
4 ounces white button mushrooms, chopped
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
3 cups chicken stock
¼ teaspoon fine sea salt, or to taste
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper, or to taste
Sliced sautéed mushrooms for garnish, optional
Chopped parsley for garnish, optional

1. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large pot such as a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and shallot, cook for 1 minute, until they begin to soften. Add the mushrooms and cook for about 3 minutes, until tender and browned. Transfer all the contents of the pot to a bowl.

2. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter to the pot. Once melted, sprinkle in the flour and whisk it quickly into a paste. Reduce the heat to medium. Add the stock a little at a time, whisking out the clumps between each addition.

3. Increase the heat back to medium-high and allow the soup to simmer well for 3 minutes. Add the mushrooms back to the pot and continue to cook for 2 minutes more. The stock will thicken slightly to be somewhat creamy.

4. Let cook for 3 to 4 minutes, then ladle into bowls. Garnish with mushrooms and parsley, if desired.

Remembering the Holocaust first in 'Never Again' series

By DON FOWLER

A group gathered at Cranston's William Hall Library last week in commemoration of the Holocaust, viewing excerpts from Ken Burns' PBS Special, "The US and the Holocaust"

While many books and films have been written and produced about the holocaust, few deal with involvement of the United States in the events leading up to the tragic event that resulted in the murder of more than six million Jews.

The PBS series dealt with the involvement or lack of involvement from elected officials and ordinary citizens in providing immigration opportunities for the Jewish citizens to escape the massive destruction of Hitler's forces.

The evening was presented in cooperation with the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, Bristol Community College, and the Holocaust and Genocide Center at Roger Williams College, with three scholars and educators in the field leading a lively discussion following the film.

Rabbi Sarah Mack of Temple Beth El, Michael Bryant, history professor at Bryant University, and Ron Weisberger, Executive Director of the Holocaust and Genocide Center discussed America's attitudes and actions related to immigration laws as they relate today with what is happening in our country.

The human struggle for the right to exist and the failure of many politicians to provide a life line for them has many similarities with race issues.

Dr. Weisberger said it is important to see the failures as well as the successes in these efforts.

"We need to educate our young people to become missionaries."

The commemoration continues with the Baxt Lecture Series presentation of "Never Again? Antisemitism's Explosive Return and My Parents' Painful Legacy", presented by Deborah Gastfreund Schuss, the daughter of Holocaust survivors and an award-winning journalist who has written and lectured extensively on antisemitism.

The lecture will be held on Sunday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Dwares JCC, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

Book

(Continued from page 17)

To see that he was a natural would be less than accurate. "I tried a couple novels before. I started right out of college, but I never finished it."

This novel was 15 years in the making.

It's genesis was the behind-the-scenes machinations of the 2002 Providence Mayoral campaign, which featured Providence State Senator David Iglizoi, former Mayor Joseph Paolino, Representative David Cicilline and Attorney Kevin McKenna, which was won by Representative Cicilline.

John was a consultant to the Iglizoi campaign and after the crushing loss (take it from me, all losses are crushing – regardless of what the print media story says) he said he was "burnt out" and decided to travel to Europe to "detox" (in the political sense).

He started in Paris and made his way to Prague (I'm not going to give any part of the story line away, but Prague plays strongly into the plot line) and started writing the book then.

He would stay there until he ran out of money.

When John returned to Rhode Island, he launched JH Communications and Henry (excuse me John) was well on his way. He decided that the first priority

was to build his business.

But the "writers calling" would not let him go, so he decided to "dust off the old novel" that he finished in Prague and sent it to the literary agents. "I got rejected everywhere!"

So he kept improving it and changing it and one day he joined the Agency Management Group (an industry group related to his business) and met "a guy in the group that published a book at "Book Press Publishing." He would take some good advice and submit his work.

He would go through a few rounds of editing, with the book initially entitled "End Game," which in this version the plot took place in the mythical city of Silver Lake.

The publishers thought that it needed a closer Providence identity, so they changed the name to "The King-Makers of Providence."

Asked about the obvious similarities in the book to people we all know, he said, "obviously there are things taken or inspired about what I read and lived about Mayor Cianci, but his character is just a composite of things I heard. Things I read. He is a tragic hero. Someone who had great ideas and great potential that went astray. He squandered it."

"People will think Henry is me. There are some similarities but I didn't go to Georgetown Law." He laughed and said "but I did go to BC (Boston College) and I did confide in the Jesuit priests" like in the book.

"Also, I didn't marry a tobacco heiress, but I did marry an incredible woman who is a teacher!"

He said "my intention was to show how it (political campaigns) really is. If it takes a weekend or a week to read it, I want people to be informed and entertained, but also take something away. My concern is that people might think it is negative but it's not. It's about the connections among people."

I asked when he knew he had it in him to pen such a twisting, turning plot line.

He answered "I really wondered – am I a writer? Am I wasting my time? Should I be at the office doing my mailers and brochures rather than writing this? But I knew it was going to be ok



John with his wife Susan



John with his wife Susan and children Christopher and Jenna.

when I actually had a printed copy in my hand. And then the outpouring of support from family and friends has been phenomenal!"

I had one last question for John before we parted.

"Is the moral of the story, be careful about meeting a beautiful woman sitting alone at a bar in Prague?"

He laughed and said, "That's the first time I have ever heard that take!"

John Houle is launching "The King-Makers of Providence" at the Alpine Country Club on Wednesday, February 8th from 4 to 7 p.m.

Books will be available for purchase there (and I am sure John will sign them) or you can contact John at JohnHoule.net to order one.

It's well worth it.

It's exciting to see a former Beacon cub reporter walking alongside Baldacci and Grisham. And John is already half way through his next novel.

J. Michael Levesque, a former West Warwick Mayor is a regular columnist for these newspapers. If you have an idea for Mike for a future interview, email him at: jmichael-levesque@verizon.net.

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JOHN E. HUSZER



Father of the Wickford Art Festival



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

If you're familiar with Rhode Island, you're probably familiar with the Wickford Art Festival. But are you familiar with the festival's unofficial founder, John E. Huszer? As you know I am passionate about art and artists, and with a recent collection we've received at Bruneau and Co, I cannot pass up the opportunity to talk about this Rhode Island artist with such a crucial role in Rhode Island art history!

After studying at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League of New York, John Huszer (1912-1983) moved to Rhode Island to live, teach, and create. He was known as an independent and reclusive artist, spending years dividing his time between a tiny island in Wickford Harbor and teaching from downtown Wickford. A man of small means, Huszer painted on newsprint because it was readily available; If you've got a sharp eye, you can even spot some vintage Rhode Island newspapers

in the background of his work! In fact, the whole reason the Wickford Art Festival came to be is because he took to selling his paintings on the streets of Wickford in the 1950's. Little did he know his business technique would become wildly popular!

John's selling success inspired other local artists to bring their work to the street, and in 1962 the Wickford Art Association officially established the Wickford Art Festival,

which draws dozens of artists and hundreds of attendees to Wilson Park in Wickford every year. While he was a private man and didn't intend it, John Huszer thus became known as the "Father" of the annual event. Can you believe (July 8-9) 2023 will mark the festival's 60th anniversary! If you've never been and you love art, you should definitely check it out.

John E. Huszer's art came to us at the auction house through his family's estate, and I've had an opportunity to view the bulk of his work. The paintings are bright and bold and vary in subject matter from scenic landscapes to nudes with plenty of variety to suit different tastes; Most include a "John E. Huszer Estate" stamp on the verso. We had a few cross the block in our last Fine Art Auction and the most popular piece depicted a snarling tiger crouching over a partially devoured woman - so when I say there is a John Huszer artwork to suit every taste, I'm not kidding! If you look carefully, you might recognize some Rhode Island landscapes since he was fond of painting the beauty surrounding him in our state!

Don't worry if you missed out on this important Rhode Island artist's work at auction, we've got more coming. If you're interested in learning more, don't hesitate to reach out at 401.533.9980!



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A new year, a new beginning.

With the arrival of 2023, many of us use this annual marker to stop and think about where we have been, and where we're going. It's a chance to reflect on our wellbeing and to make plans to improve the quality of our lives by improving our health.

For many, weight loss is a health improvement goal. It's a formidable challenge, because our body's weight regulation mechanisms are so complex. The dangers of elevated body weight often sneak into life slowly. The number on the scale may be just the first sign of serious health issues on the horizon.

First, let's talk about the **dangers of obesity**. The metabolic dysfunction that occurs in obesity often leads to something we call "metabolic syndrome." This is a cluster of conditions increasing the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and other serious chronic health conditions.

Obesity is not a disease of a number on a scale, it is a disease of our body's metabolism. Metabolism is the set of life-sustaining chemical reactions that regulate our body's energy consumption, energy expenditure, and energy storage.

So, what can you do to combat

Staying Healthy



by
DR. JORDAN
HEBERT

Medical Director of
Robotic Surgery at
Kent Hospital,
Care New England Center
for Surgical Weight Loss

obesity and start living a healthier life?

Decades of studies have shown that the most effective and longest lasting treatment option is weight loss surgery – aka: bariatric surgery or metabolic surgery.

While all these names refer to the same set of surgical procedures, I feel that the term "metabolic surgery" best encompasses the true purpose and potential of what surgical weight loss offers to patients.

More than just a procedure to lower weight; metabolic surgery is truly about lowering the serious risks of chronic medical conditions and premature death that occur with obesity. On average, patients with

obesity die several years earlier than patients without obesity.

Surgical weight loss has also been shown to improve severe medical conditions including, but not limited to, high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea, infertility, depression, degenerative joint disease, cancer, and more.

The complexity of obesity and metabolic syndrome treatment deserves the support of a multidisciplinary team. At the Center for Surgical Weight Loss at Care New England, patients have a comprehensive center for beginning their surgical weight loss journey— starting with checking your body mass index (BMI), informational webinar, and an individualized consultation with one of our accredited bariatric surgeons.

To get started on your weight-loss surgery journey visit: <https://www.carenewengland.org/bariatric/>

Disclaimer: While I am a doctor, I am not your doctor. The content in this blog is for informational and educational purposes only and should not serve as medical advice, consultation, or diagnosis. If you have a medical concern, please consult your healthcare provider, or seek immediate medical treatment.

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By placing the opposite foot forward the pelvis and lower trunk is fixed in position so that the opposite hand and upper trunk can best perform the action allowing for minimal strain and maximal stability on the spine to "Avoid Neck and Back Injury."

One obvious example is: Opening a Door with the right hand. First place the left foot forward as the right hand reaches to push or grasp the door handle.

Another example is picking up a piece of paper from the floor with the right hand. First place the left foot forward close to the piece of paper. Reach forward with the right hand as you bend at the hips and knees, keeping your spine straight (ears kept in-line with the shoulders and hips).

By best example is shoveling. When holding the shovel with the left hand closest to the spade (lower end of the shovel) the right foot is kept forward as the leading



DR. ROBERT A. L'EUROPA
DC, PT

foot. This keeps your lower pelvis and base of your spine properly positioned and stabilized as the opposite upper trunk and hand leans forward performing the shovel action. The same holds true for sweeping. The lower hand on the broomstick is matched with the opposite foot forward.

"Proper Body Mechanics or body balance is learned and practiced and necessary for maximal work efficiency with minimal biomechanical strain. Keeping a wide base of support, maintaining the spine is neutral (straight) and using the opposite hand and foot rule ensures maximum neck and back stability during the reaching activity. Upper and lower trunk counter rotation is encouraged during the action which maintains the spinal joints, ligaments and

muscles in best alignment ensuring work efficiency with minimal spine strain.

Unfortunately, unless you prepare yourself before the movement or activity (use the opposite hand and foot rule and maintaining neutral spine), you are most likely to perform the action incorrectly and more likely to strain your neck and back. This is so because our motor development process involves the coordination and integration of individual movement reflexes that must be integrated (balanced) at the spinal cord and brain level. During strenuous or repetitive activities of daily living these reflexive movements dominate our actions making us susceptible to physical inefficiency and neck and back strain. Therefore understanding and implementing the "opposite hand and foot rule" along with a prepared wide base of support (opposite foot forward) while maintaining a neutral (straight) spine (ears in line with the shoulders and hips) will ensure safety and minimize neck and back injury.

Dr. L'Europa is clinical director of Spinetech located in Knightsville Cranston. Dr. L'Europa is in his 35th year of private practice as a Doctor of Chiropractic and Registered Physical Therapist and considered an expert in clinical biomechanics and kinematics.

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Facts about women's heart health

METRO
 If asked to name the No. 1 killer of women, many people might be excused for providing an incorrect answer. Various issues affect women's health, and some issues garner more attention than others. But nothing kills more women each year than cardiovascular disease, which the American Heart Association notes causes one in three deaths of women each year.

That cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women each year is not the only surprising fact in regard to women and heart health. The following are some additional interesting facts, courtesy of the American Heart Association and other sources.

- The 2019 Global Burden of Disease study from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimated there are 275 million women around the world with cardiovascular disease.

- Awareness among women regarding the threat posed by heart disease has decreased dramatically in recent years. In 2020, a special report from the AHA indicated that, in 2009, 65 percent of women were aware that heart disease is their leading cause of death. By 2019, that figure had dropped to 44 percent.

- Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of new moms. The AHA notes that could be linked to a host of variables, including obesity. Data from a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that examined pregnancies in 48 states and the District of Columbia found that pre-pregnancy obesity increased by 8 percent between 2011 and 2015. During that same period, severe pre-pregnancy obesity increased by 14 percent. Obesity is considered a significant risk factor for heart disease.

- The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada reports that the No. 1 cause of premature death in women in Canada is heart disease and stroke.

- More than half of all high blood pressure deaths are in women. The AHA reports that nearly 52 percent of deaths caused by hypertension (high blood pressure) occur in women.

- Nearly 58 percent of Black women have hypertension. That's the highest percentage among women of any race or ethnicity.

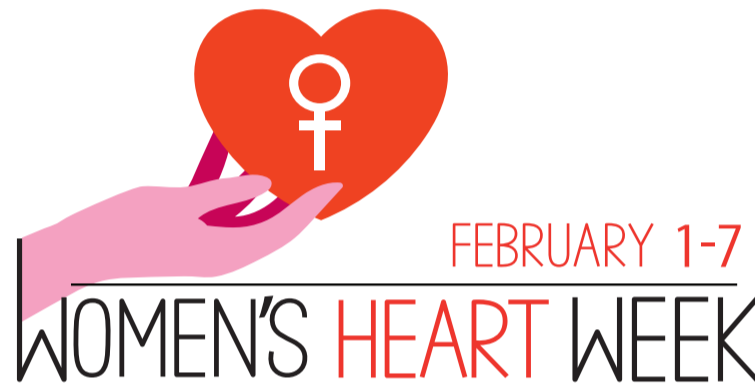
- Despite the significant percentage of global heart disease deaths affecting women, a 2021 study published in the journal *The Lancet* found that cardiovascular disease in women is understudied, under-recognized, underdiagnosed, and undertreated.

- The Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre reports that menopause before the age of 45 is linked to a 50 percent higher risk of heart disease.

- The World Health Organization reports that one-third of all ischaemic heart disease diagnoses across the globe are attributable to high cholesterol. According to the CWHHC, one in two women have elevated cholesterol.



- A 2017 study of more than 19,000 people who had cardiac events found that only 39 percent of women received CPR from bystanders in public compared to 45 percent of men. Researchers linked that disparity to fears of being accused of inappropriate touching, potential lawsuits and concerns that administering CPR to women could cause physical injury.



American adults' hearts are much older than they should be

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average adult in the United States has a heart that is seven years older than it should be. "Heart age" is a metric used by the CDC to determine if an individual is at greater risk for heart disease than they should be at any given point during their adult lives. Factors such as body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, whether or not a person smokes or has smoked in the past, and if that person has diabetes all help to determine heart age. The CDC indicates that millions of people in their 40s and 50s who live in the United States have high blood pressure and more than 35 million U.S. adults are current smokers. Those variables increase heart age, making individuals more vulnerable to heart disease even in middle-age. Individuals interested in getting an estimate of their heart age can visit the Heart Foundation at heartfoundation.org.au/heart-age-calculator. Adults also are urged to speak with their physicians about their risk for heart disease and what they can do to lower that risk.

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ToadStool unleashes a monster with 'Labthrashr'

By ROB DUGUAY

There's a case to be made that Providence hip hop artist ToadStool has gotten to a level to where he's one of the most prolific artists in all of Rhode Island. This case can even be made for the rapper's standing within the New England region as a whole. Not everyone can say that they have nine albums under their belt, but Mike Jencks can make that claim through this artistic endeavor. His latest installment is "Labthrashr", which he self-released on January 27 via all streaming platforms. The album pays tribute to vintage monster flicks and '80s horror motifs with these aesthetics being echoed via the beats, rhymes and samples.

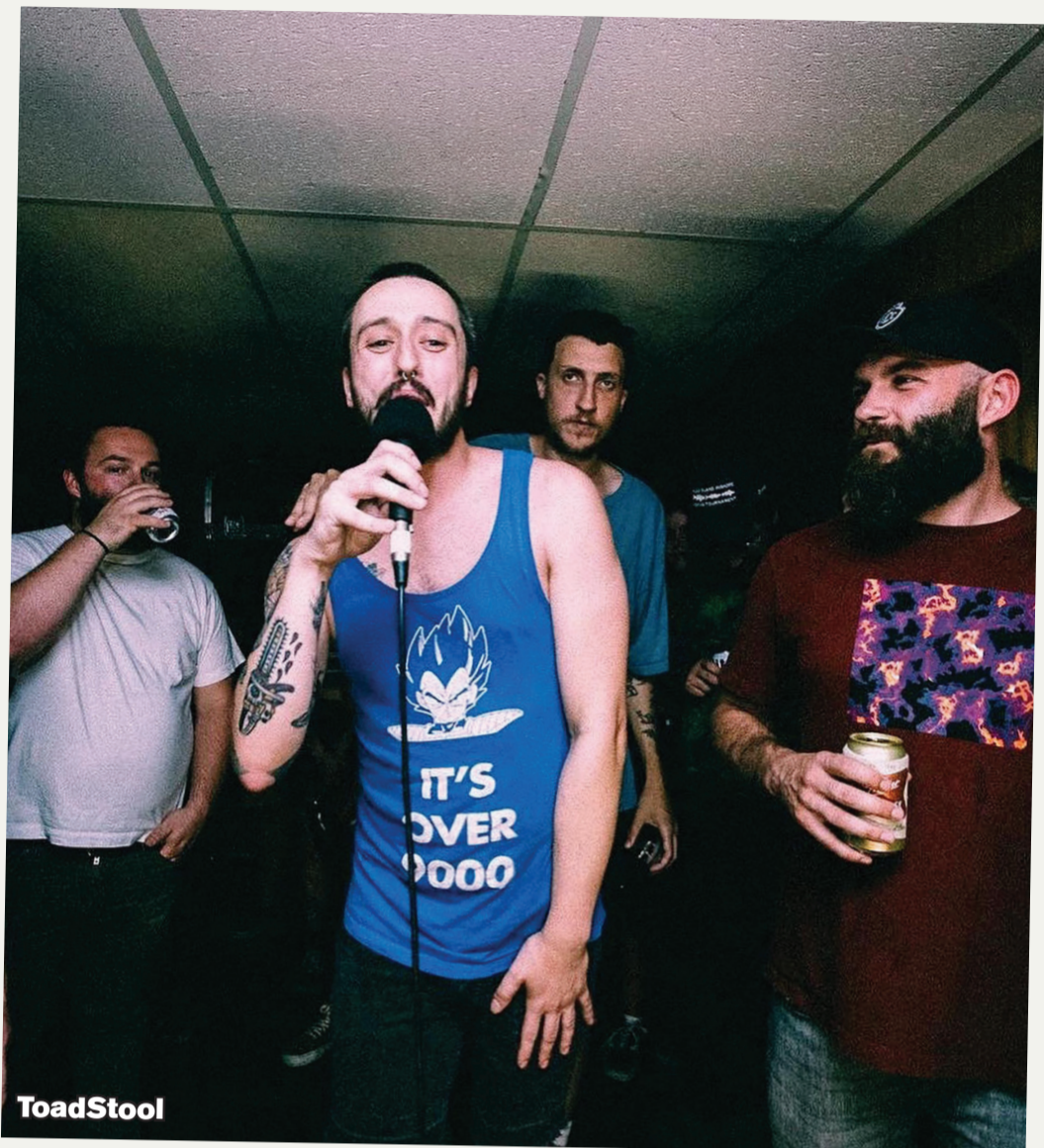
Along with the music, this theme is relevant in the album cover featuring a classic visual of Frankenstein drawn up by the art platform Pulp Prints, Portland, Maine based poet & rapper Myles Bullen and local prog-soul act Bochek in a collaborative effort. It also signifies a slight change in vision for Jencks pertaining to where he wants to take his craft going forward.

"I am the mad doctor here," He says about the record. "The hard cuts and stitched edits on the album are intentionally there to symbolize the stitching up of a crazy body to make this monster known as 'Labthrashr'. This is one of the first projects that really feels right and is the absolute direction I should be going in. Whether that translates with other people, I don't know. For me, it was a very fulfilling project and I hope people can see that, and see the change I'm going through right now."

Those cuts and edits include a wide variety of samples from the talk shows "The Late Show with David Letterman" & "The Dick Cavett Show", the Mel Brooks film "Young Frankenstein" and horns & orchestral elements. Together these convey a multi-dimensional structure that goes along with the "stitching up" while maintaining a distinct cohesiveness. The latter is apparent due to Jencks' rhyming skills, his stellar delivery and the overall arrangements of the songs. From start to finish "Labthrashr" is an excellent album. Out of the nine records in the discography, this could be the best ToadStool release yet.

"Please Welcome" has some of those samples I just mentioned starting it off as a nod to experimental singer-songwriter Tom Waits comes in towards the end. Those horns are evident within "Synapses" over a steady beat and a flow that Jencks rides throughout the whole song. I love the beat in "Frank", it hits hard with genuine emphasis while establishing an edge that only Jencks can forge. "Chemical X" has a synthy vibe going on that provides a departure from the rest of the album. Other highlights include "Beaker Breaker", "Sajak", "Yung Dctr" and "Rejector" which features Jencks' Toad & The Stooligans bandmate and frequent collaborator Dan Pomfret lending his rhyming talents.

Like I said at the beginning, you can give "Labthrashr" a listen via your favorite music streaming platform to check it out. If you're



the cool type who actually likes to purchase music, you can buy the album digitally via ToadStool's Bandcamp page at xxxtoadstoolxxx.bandcamp.com. To keep tabs on what Jencks has going on in the future, follow ToadStool's Facebook page and give it a like at facebook.com/LLStoolJ. Now you should go give "Labthrashr" a listen. It's really good hip hop that's ideal for both the purist and the novice.



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