

‘Back to the drawing board’

Eighth-grade students to move to new JHS in 2027

By RORY SCHULER

They literally went “back to the drawing board.” Johnston’s grand plan to upgrade all the town’s public school buildings changed radically Tuesday night. While the new elementary school project will proceed, the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School renovation and new Early Childhood Center have been scrapped. Instead, the town’s eighth-graders will be moving to a new Johnston High School building, planned for construction surrounding the existing gym and opening to students in Fall 2027.

“We are going to build a new high school,” Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. told a joint meeting of the School Committee and Town Council Tuesday evening.

NEW JHS: Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, unveils the earliest plans of a planned new Johnston High School. Note the portion of the existing high school to be demolished in red, and the newly built structure in blue. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



NEW JHS - PAGE 9

A little bit more library

Page 3



School Safety Now, not later

Group calls for an armed officer in every Ocean State school

By RORY SCHULER



He can imagine what it would be like, hiding in a classroom as gunshots echo through school hallways. “I’m in a classroom and I hear a guy walking down the corridor and he’s shooting ... What do I want between me and him?” asked grandfather and retired Warwick Police Capt. Tim Colgan. “I don’t want a social worker; I don’t want a psychiatrist; I don’t want the principal. I want a cop between me and him. And I think most people feel that way. I think they do.” If you’re an American, this is an issue you’ve spent some time pondering.

DON'T WAIT: Retired Warwick Police Capt. Tim Colgan has founded School Safety Now, a growing organization that aims to put an armed police officer in every RI school. (Sun Rise photo by John Howell)

SAFETY - PAGE 8

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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Catrina Zinni. Catrina is a senior at JHS and is also the class Valedictorian. She was also an active member of the Girls' Soccer Team. Next year Catrina will be attending UConn for Nursing! Catrina was nominated by Ms. Laurie Whitman. Ms. Whitman said, "Catrina spreads sunshine everywhere she goes! She is unerringly respectful, helpful, and dedicated. In everything she does, whether it be school work, sports, or extracurriculars, Catrina dedicates herself wholeheartedly. She does not believe in shortcuts because she takes pride in knowing she has earned every bit of her accomplishments. I am so happy to have had the opportunity to meet Catrina this year!" (Photos submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School 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.

Say you saw it in the Johnston SunRise

SUN RISE SNAPSHOTS



REFLECTING ON LITERATURE:
A handful of boy scouts and cub scouts celebrated the opening of Johnston's littlest library earlier this week. Boy Scout Aidan Deathos, at right, assembled the little library with his grandfather Donald Dennehy, at left. The pair are shown here, reflected in the glass window of the Little Free Library they assembled and erected at 1770 Atwood Ave. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Little library opens on Atwood Avenue



SMALL STACKS: At right, fellow scouts – brother Jamison Deathos, Antonio Bressette and Andre Slinko – helped Aidan Deathos stock the new little library. At left, Johnston Police Detective and Cub Master for Pack 20 Johnston, David Slinko, posed for a photo with the scouts and Aidan's proud mom Susan Deathos. The little library is located at 1770 Atwood Ave., outside Enza's Hair Studio (salon owner Vincenza Slinko purchased the little library kit from which the give-a-book-take-a-book was built). (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:



Canine Country Club opens

Canine Country Club is a brand-new state of the art full-service dog daycare facility located at 1309 Plainfield St. in Johnston. Their amenities include dog daycare, grooming, dog training and a self-serve wash for your convenience. In addition, they also sell a wide variety of all natural healthy cookies and pastry treats for your fur babies.

Canine Country Club would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the organization "Friends of Homeless Animals of Rhode Island" their volunteers, families that came to adopt, and all involved who helped make their May 6 Grand Opening adoption event a complete success.

Dana Antonelli, the owner of Canine Country Club, would like to give a special "Thank You" to Herb Thomas Construction and his crew for doing an amazing job on the design and buildout. Mike Dermody from Atwood Tattoo in Johnston for his artistic abilities that are beyond compare. His attention to details in the murals that he painted throughout the facility are captivating and always part of the daily discussions. Tony Calabrese for being very patient throughout this project. Most importantly owner Dana Antonelli would like to thank Dean Antonelli of Antonelli & Sons Construction for doing the entire project for her so she can have her dream job, which is anything involving dogs.

FOREVER HOMES: Below, Hannah Perkins posed with the pups up for adoption at the grand opening event. For more information on the adoption agency, go to FOHARI.org. Above, the staff at Canine Country Club, from left to right: Taya Piccione (owner of Tails by Taya), a groomer; Dana Antonelli, owner of Canine Country Club; Dog Trainer Dave Parente, Hannah Perkins and Colleen Thompson. (Submitted photos courtesy Jacqueline Gerchman)



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OPEN TO ALL:
Canine Country Club at 1309 Plainfield St. in Johnston opened for business on May 6. (Submitted photos courtesy Jacqueline Gerchman)



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SUN RISE SCOOPS

May 16, Don't Let Mice Destroy Your Family Treasures

Phoebe Bean and Dana Monroe of the RI Historical Society will give practical advice on how to cull through, organize and preserve your family photos, diaries, letters and more. Tuesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. This is a virtual program and is sponsored by the East Greenwich Historic Preservation Society. It is free and open to the public. For the Zoom connection go to info@eghps.org. Contact information will be emailed to you before the program begins.

May 16 Bronx Zoo Trip

AARP Chapter 2210 Bronx Zoo Trip on Tuesday, May 16. Bus pickup from the Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 7 a.m., return time is approximately 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$114/person. For more information call Maureen at 828-5188. Please contact Maureen for final payment.

May 19 Gus vs. Hoses Charity Game

Local 307 Johnston Police Department and Local 1950 Johnston Fire Department will hold its first annual Gus vs. Hoses charity basketball game at the Johnston Senior High School Gymnasium, 345 Cherry Hill Rd, Johnston. Friday, May 19, 6 p.m. tip-off. Half time game: Johnston High School Teachers vs. Johnston High School Students. JPD and JFD Touch-a-Truck Event at 5 p.m. Entry donation: \$5.00. All proceeds to Local 307 and Local 1950 Charitable Funds, previous donations include, but not limited to, local charities and youth sports.

May 20 & 21 Chorus of Kent County Spring Concert

"The Music in Me," will

be presented on Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. at West Warwick High School Auditorium, 1 Webster Knight Drive, West Warwick. Tickets: \$17 advance/\$20 day of event/\$10 Children 10 and under (under 2 years, free) For tickets or more information visit: www.chorusofkentcounty.com or call: 401-862-3105.

May 31 'Band of Brothers'

The Johnston Historical Society Museum, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston, will host an event exploring the Johnston connection to the "Band of Brothers," a group of World War II veterans who fought their way across Europe and were immortalized in a book by Stephen Ambrose and an HBO series on Wednesday, May 31, at 7 p.m. George Luz Jr., was blessed by an early introduction to the men of Company E, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division, in 1965 at the 101st Airborne Reunion. Luz was nine years old at the time, and that started a journey that his father, George Luz, began in August 1942 at Toccoa, Georgia. George Luz Jr. will be delivering a presentation on his father. Call the museum at 401-231-3380.

June 9 Cranston High East Class of '73 Reunion

Cranston High School East, Class of 1973 will hold its 50th Year Reunion on Friday, June 9, at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Avenue, Warwick. Cash bar: 6 - 7 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. \$75 per person. For more information, contact: AC 401-559-6627.

Now thru June 15 Youth Track & Field

It's time to register for Johnston Youth Track &

Field. The Johnston Recreation Department is also looking for volunteer coaches and sponsors. Register your child and get involved in the community. Anyone interested in signing up can stop by the Johnston Recreation Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The program costs \$65 per individual, and \$40 for each additional sibling. Checks and money orders are accepted (checks should be made payable to JYSA). The program is available to boys and girls currently in grades 1-8. For more information (including schedules, registration forms, and more) go to johnstonrec.com.

June 23 JHS 50th Year Reunion

The Inspiration of '73 will celebrate its 50th year reunion on Friday, June 23. It will be held at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave., Warwick. If you are in contact with any classmates, spread the word. For more information, check out the JHS Class of 1973 Facebook page or call Donna at 401-497-9292.

Jan. 1 - June 31 St. Francis Xavier Academy Scholarship Applications

The St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association is accepting scholarship applications from Jan. 1, until July 31. Forms are available on their two Facebook pages, by mail at SXA. P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, 02920, or contact a board member.

More at Mohr Library
Saturdays, 2 p.m. Art-Smart classes starting in May, for ages 5 to 8.
Wednesdays, 4 p.m. Art-Smart classes starting in May for ages 8 to 12.
Mondays, through

May 22, 2 p.m. Yoga is extended through May 22. Open to all ages. Call the library to register. Sponsored by Tri-County HEZ, this class is taught by a certified professional and is free. This is a great opportunity to get introduced to yoga and maybe win a prize.

Wednesdays thru May 24, 10:30 a.m., regular storytime for preschoolers will be offered.

Tuesday, June 20, "Read Across Rhode Island" programming to read and discuss True Biz, a bestselling book which the publisher calls "an unforgettable journey into the deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection." Register by calling Meg at 231-4980, and press 6 for the reference

The library is located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. For information on all library events, services and hours of operation, visit their website, www.mohrlibrary.org or email info@mohrlibrary.org.

■ SCOOPS - PAGE 6

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 5/28: **Pub on Park-Cranston**
 6/4: **Fresco-Cranston** (afternoon)
 6/11: **Copperfields-Johnston** (afternoon)
 6/17: **Bishop Hill Tavern-Johnston** (outdoor Laughs & Music Dinner-Comedy Show)
 6/22, 8/24, 10/19, & 12/14: **Lemongrass-Warwick**
 6/24: **Bella Restaurant - Burrillville**
 6/24: **Boomerangs-West Warwick**
 6/25: **Chelo's-Warwick** (afternoon)

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May 11, Community Cat Center of Johnston Anniversary Celebration The Community Cat Center of Johnston will celebrate its anniversary on Thursday, May 11 from 4 - 7 p.m., at Market Beer, Wine & Spirits, 11 Commerce Way, Johnston. Enjoy savories, sweets, wine and spirits. Tickets: \$25.00 at www.Pawswatch.org.

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

RECOMMENDED MOUTHWASHES

Dentists recommend that patients rinse with mouthwash daily but also caution that mouthwash does not replace brushing or flossing. However, it does improve oral hygiene by protecting against tooth decay, plaque, gum disease, and bad breath. Common ingredients in mouthwash include peroxide for whitening and fluoride to protect tooth enamel. Essential oils are also used to fight bacteria and plaque buildup. Chlorhexidine is added to some mouthwashes to fight plaque and gingivitis, while cetylpyridinium chloride may be used to fight bad breath. Choose a mouthwash that includes these ingredients to cover the full gamut of oral protection. Look for the American Dental Association (ADA) seal of approval, which guarantees that the product meets specific guidelines for safety and efficacy.

The best way to zero in on a mouthwash is probably

through trial and error. Considering the abundance of products on the market today, we'll be happy to make recommendations so that you can make an informed decision. Since patient education is an important part of our practice, we're always ready to answer your questions about dental care. Please call us, DENTAL ARTS GROUP, if you are concerned about any aspect of your dental health or if you would like to make an appointment. A Collaborative Practice Committed to Excellence, our number is 401-521-3661, and we're located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston.

P.S. Some toothpastes contain ingredients like calcium chloride that bond with fluoride ions, making mouthwash less effective. In these cases, you can rinse with mouthwash before brushing or with water after brushing, just before using mouthwash.

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GRAND OLD PARTY PARTY: The Johnston Republican Town Committee said it held a successful comedy show and silent auction fundraiser on May 7. (Photo courtesy the JRTC)

JRTC hosts comedy show fundraiser

By SANDRA TAYLOR
Special to the Sun Rise

On Sunday, May 7, the Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC) held a successful Comedy Show and Silent Auction at the Cranston Kelley Gazerro VFW Post 2812.

Everyone that attended the show said, "We had a great time! We had never laughed so much!"

Funny 4 Funds comedians Bill Simas, Rockin' Joe Hebert, and Mike Murray were hilarious and made it a fun event. They are a fantastic group and it was a privilege to have them.

The fundraiser will help with the JRTC operating

costs and grassroots efforts to grow the committee.

The JRTC is actively looking for viable Republican Candidates to run for local office. The committee makes every effort to support the local Johnston Republican candidates during their campaign.

The JRTC wants to thank everyone that attended and or donated. It wouldn't have been a success without the committee working well together and the attendance from our family and friends.

If you are interested in getting involved, please visit johnstonri.gov or email info@johnstonri.gov.

Editor's Note: Sandra Taylor serves as Chairwoman of the Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC).

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 5)

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

The Johnston Senior Center is better than ever. Offering more exercise programs and trips every week; Hi Lo Jack, Monday & Wednesday and Poker on Wednesday. Arts & Crafts, Wednesday, Tia Chi on Tuesday. The Senior Center also has a book Club the last Tuesday once a month. There is no charge for Senior Center activities. They offer Bingo on Thursday and Friday. Lunch is served daily at 12 p.m. (with a suggested donation of \$3).

A reminder, on May23, the Johnston Senior Center is having a Wellness & Resource Fair Free to all. There will be Raffles, Giveaways and a Free Screening.

A Social worker/Medicare Counselor is also provided 5 days a week. Contact Madeline Ravenelle at 944-3343. Feel free to come in for a tour of the facility at 1291

Hartford Ave.

Upcoming Senior Center trips:

Monday, May 15: Free Trip to the Christmas Tree Shop.

Monday, May 22: Free Trip to Iggy's Choder House. Food available for purchase

Wednesday, May 24: Lighthouse Cruise, in Newport \$40 pp

Wednesday, May 31: Mystery lunch \$10 pp

Wednesday, May 31: Paint & Wine 6:00pm \$20 PP

Thursday, June15: The Memories of Patsy, Whites of Westport Dinner & Show \$79 pp

Tuesday, June 20: Newport Playhouse, (Spreading it around) Lobster Fest Dinner show, \$95 pp

Wednesday, June 28: Mystery lunch \$10.00pp

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.

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.

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 Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at idaz@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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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Empathy won the day, so let's learn from that

It's undeniably heartwarming to see the efforts of so many individuals volunteer their time and energy to help out somebody in the way that around 50 off-duty firefighters helped a local man clean up his yard and make repairs to his home as he faced fines and the impending condemnation of his property.

And although William Moquin's story is one that pulls particularly hard at the heartstrings — a widowed veteran, threatened with losing the home he's had for the better part of half a century, who wants to comply with local law but simply doesn't have the financial means or physical strength to do so — we can't help but wonder how many people in the community face or will face a similar crisis and won't be so lucky to receive so much benevolent support to enable them to stay.

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

Minimum housing requirements are in place for valid reasons. Property owners should be expected to maintain a certain level of decency with their dwellings, for the safety and health of both neighbors and the property's occupants alike. Perhaps our issue is not the overall goal or purpose for the existence of minimum housing requirements, but instead the rigidity with which they are currently maintained.

In the case of Mr. Moquin, it appears the constable acted with profound empathy, going well above and beyond her job description to seek help for someone who obviously needed it, and went so far as to actively ask for it. But to expect this type of altruistic behavior from those who are tasked with being the hammer to pound out non-conforming nails within the city is unreasonable, and unrealistic.

Nonconforming homeowners who negligently and purposefully allow their properties to degrade to a deplorable degree should face penalties, eviction, and condemnation, but only if it has become clear that they have no real desire to do the right thing. Such homeowners should not be placed in the same category as residents who have become unable to take care of their homes — whether due to age, disabilities, financial reasons or because they just physically cannot do it anymore.

Municipalities should consider the creation of a program where homeowners who have gotten in over their head can formally apply for assistance, perhaps through a partnership with local contractors to perform repairs or exterior landscaping on homes that are close to being condemned. The city could allocate a certain amount to this fund during budget time, or apply for outside grant funding, and award the grants after an application and interview process to ensure the money is going to where it would be appreciated, and needed.

We had a group of wonderful people willing to help someone out of a jam this time, and that deserves recognition and celebration. But what about the next time?



LETTERS

'Mother's Day, a special day to celebrate'

Mother's Day is an event which is celebrated all over the world to express admiration, tribute, and love toward some of the most important people in our lives: our mothers, grandmothers and guardians who have become mother figures. Many families get together to celebrate the contribution of mothers and recognize the effortless love between them and their children, while most

importantly, acknowledging their role in our society.

Their ideas and beliefs molded us into who we are today.

"Their ideas and beliefs molded us into who we are today."

On Mother's Day, always remember to hug your mother tight while showing her how much she is appreciated, and how much she means to you.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers from our community. Never forget that you are the rock that paves the way for your children's path.

From your friends at JRTOC (the Johnston Republican Town Committee)



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**SENATE
MAJORITY WHIP
MARYELLEN
GOODWIN**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 1964
TO APRIL 15, 2023**



Safety

(Continued from page 1)

How do we stop mass shootings in schools? How do we keep our children safe and alive through the school day, so they all come home?

About a month ago, Colgan founded an organization called School Safety Now, which proposes a solution to the nation's school shooting epidemic.

The group's membership ranks have swollen past 500, and Colgan says people are starting to pay attention to and work toward achieving their mission statement: "ensure a law enforcement officer at our elementary and secondary schools so our staff can teach, and our children can learn without fear for their safety."

How many officers would be required to patrol all of the Ocean State's schools? How much would it cost? Would Rhode Island be able to recruit, train and sustain that many armed officers in perpetuity?

A very rough estimate, considering around 400 public and private schools in the state, around 180 days per year, at a rate of around \$43 per hour (average pay for a Warwick police officer), Colgan estimates staffing every school in Rhode Island with an armed officer could cost as much as \$24 million.

"Obviously this rate could be much less," Colgan said. "I feel safe saying cost would be about 24 million at prevailing rate."

The details have yet to be worked out, but the proposal has already piqued the interest of local law enforcement, education and municipal leaders.

In reference to "cost, manpower issues," etc., Colgan argues the "same obstacles existed with TSA and court officers protecting federal judges."

"If the desire to protect our kids is there, these are easily overcome," he said. "\$23 million and steady implementation is better than just waiting for it to happen."

The Details

"Increased visibility or presence of a police officer at a school is a strong deterrent to anyone considering harming students or staff," said Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael J. Winqvist. "In active shooter situations, reduced response times of trained and well-equipped police officers neutralizing a threat correlate to lives being saved. Minutes and even seconds count! That is why I conceptually support School Safety Now's mission."

While Winqvist supports the mission, major obstacles stand in the way.

"Hiring and training enough Officers and finding the funding to post a police officer at every school across the state is a high hurdle that would take several years to achieve," Winqvist explained. "A more viable approach in the short term is to provide each municipality funding to add additional school resource officers to their school districts in consultation with their respective school superintendents."

Cranston Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins praised the police department's relationship with city's public schools.

"Our school resource officers already do a fantastic job," Hopkins said on Monday, raising doubts Colgan's goal is achievable, due to current recruiting and staffing shortages.

"We would need more than 20 new officers (in Cranston alone)," Hopkins said. "It may not be feasible. There is already a shortage."

Some towns are already beefing up school security. Johnston Mayor Joseph

Polisena Jr. recently proposed doubling the town's police presence at Johnston High School.

"I support any initiative to put more police officers in schools," Polisena Jr. said earlier this week. "In fact, last month I directed the police department to put a second School Resource Officer in the high school. That second SRO will be starting May 12 and remain there permanently. In addition to providing more security it also gives the kids a chance to build relationships with officers and departments."

The Vulnerable

Colgan argues that when certain sectors of society are deemed vulnerable, they're typically protected. He asks why we don't protect schools the way we protect airports and sporting events.

"You go to the airport to take your kid to Disney, there's armed officers there," he said. "You go to a Taylor Swift concert, there's armed officers there. You go to the Boston Marathon, there's armed officers there. You go to a high school football game, there's an armed officer walking in the crowd ... Unfortunately, we live in a world where that is what is required. There's no doubt about it. If we do it for the courthouses; we do it for the State House; we do it for the airports ..."

Then perhaps we should provide the same protection for our children, while they're in school.

"The only way that I can think of, and most people can think of, is put a cop in the school; whose job is to protect the kids," Colgan explained. "When you think about it, airports were a target, we put cops there. Governor feels like the State House and the courts are a target, we put cops there. Gillette Stadium has a football game, they're afraid it might be a target, we put cops there. Well guess what, schools are a target now too."

Apolitical Effort

American debates over gun control and the Second Amendment have been raging since the nation's inception. School Safety Now hopes to stay above the current argumentative atmosphere, and reach people on both sides of the political spectrum.

Following the March 27 shooting at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, Colgan had enough. He felt compelled to act in some way.

"We just started about four weeks ago ... after the Tennessee shooting," Colgan recalled. "We said, 'Enough is enough; what can we do to protect our kids?' ... Republicans, Democrats, Liberals, Progressives, Conservatives ... are all welcome and all part of the group, because we're not arguing over the Second Amendment. We're not arguing over what type of weapons to ban; what not to ban; the right to defend."

Johnston Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. recently read about the mission of School Safety Now.

"I believe that we must do everything possible to keep our students and staff safe every day," DiLullo said this week. "We have had a very positive relationship with the Johnston Police Department and are thankful that we have our School Resource Officers in the middle and high schools. They have become a support and engage with our students in a meaningful way."

School Resources

DiLullo reacted to Polisena's recent announcement.

"The Town of Johnston just informed us that they are assigning an additional officer to our schools," DiLullo said. "I know school safety is constantly on every school administrator's mind every day and we seek ways to always keep our students safe. I welcome our school resource officers in our school as they add a high level of safety and protection."

Colgan argues each school should have that "high level of safety and protection" throughout each school day.

Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira sees great potential in Colgan's proposal. In the meantime, however, his department plans to focus on their existing School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

"(SROs) are valuable assets who play an integral part in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the schools they serve," Vieira said. "SROs provide a visible presence at schools that can deter crime and immediately investigate suspicious activity. It is certainly comforting for parents to know that a law enforcement officer is at their child's school who can respond to a threat."

Adding a shooter to the mix changes the entire school safety equation. The main advantage to having an armed officer in every school would be the elimination of response time. The officer would already be on the scene.

"In the event of an active shooter, having an armed police officer in every school would improve law enforcement's ability to immediately respond to and stop a shooting as quickly as possible minimizing the harm to victims," Vieira said.

Value-Added

While the Johnston Police Department has an SRO assigned to both the high school and middle school, Vieira said the town "recognizes the value of these officers and is appointing a third SRO who will also be assigned to the high school starting on Friday of this week."

"The obvious challenge to placing an armed police officer in every Rhode Island school is the considerable amount of funding that would be required," Vieira said.

Jennifer L. Cowart, Communications Specialist for Cranston Public Schools, provided a statement echoing many of the same concerns as Winqvist and Hopkins.

"Cranston Public Schools has a very strong partnership with the Cranston Police Department and we have a team of School Resource Officers (SRO) who are armed police officers," according to the statement signed by the Cranston Public Schools Leadership Team. "These officers are housed in our high schools and they share the responsibility of patrolling our middle schools and our elementary schools on a rotating basis as well. They are also trained to work with children, and to deal with students who have mental health challenges, who are on the autism spectrum, and they partner well with our school building administrators."

"That said, we would be grateful for additional support as well as additional funding which would allow us to have trained School Resource Officers housed in each of our 23 schools rather than on a rotating basis," the statement continues. "In a district as large as ours, this initiative would be extremely costly and would involve a large number of officers, all of whom would need additional training in order to work in a school setting."

Colgan has been working with several state legislators, hoping to help draft and

introduce supportive legislation.

"Although we support in principle the legislation that retired Warwick Police Captain Tim Colgan and School Safety Now are advocating for, the funding for and the training of school-based officers are a critical piece of any plan that would be put in place," wrote the Cranston Public Schools Leadership Team. "These officers would not only need to be trained in responding to school shootings, but would also need to be trained as our SROs are, as a police officer working in a school setting, and working alongside our students and our staff in our school communities. Being a partner in our school communities is very important to us."

Law enforcement and education leaders in Johnston, Cranston and Warwick all seem to concur with School Safety Now's goals, but they also each acknowledge the apparent challenges standing in the way.

"The Warwick Police Department would be in support of this idea in theory," said Warwick Police Deputy Chief Commander Michael Lima. "We recognize there would be many challenges to getting this proposal off the ground, including staffing issues, fiscal issues, etc. However, we welcome the opportunity to have an open discussion on ways to continue to keep our schools safe."

Anyone interested in joining the effort can sign School Safety Now's online petition (schoolsafetynow.com).

Shelter in Place

Ask a modern school-age student about the regular safety drills they experience at school.

If you're old enough, you may remember drills meant to prepare for an incoming nuclear bomb. In many sectors of the nation, school students are taught to hide in doorways and under desks during tornado drills. And every kid has been hurried outside during a routine fire drill.

Nationwide, over the past two decades, however, youngsters have been drilling to prepare for a previously nonexistent threat: the armed assailant.

"Columbine was 24 years ago," Colgan recalled. "When I think about it, I go, 'Oh my God, that's a long time.' And really what's changed? Other than people being so divisive and polarized ... How can we protect our kids in the meantime? ... Let's put a cop there who's job is to protect the school. And that's really what this group wants to do. We don't want to judge anyone on their issues of gun control; let those fights continue."

Colgan sat back in his chair and picked up a small cardboard sign bearing the name of his organization in bright red letters with a short message, "Law enforcement officers in all our schools!"

"Do you know what drives me nuts?" Colgan asked. "They have this thing ... shelter in place. So it sounds good, and I don't know if I want this in the story ... it's something personal. I go, 'What is that?' You know what it is? It's hiding in your room and waiting for something to happen. That's what 'shelter in place' is."

Colgan argues that an armed officer should be nearby if the kids you love are ever forced to shelter in place. He's tired of waiting for something to happen.

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■ New JHS (Continued from page 1)

Polisena cited \$50 million in unexpected school costs as the driving force behind the alterations of the original plan — a new Early Childhood Center as well as a new town wide elementary school, and major renovations to the middle and high schools — pitched to voters before they approved a \$215 million bond referendum.

“Unfortunately COVID happened and changed the game for us significantly,” Polisena told the packed house of school faculty, administrators and members of the School Building Committee. “It was \$30 million in increased construction costs for all those projects. And an additional \$20 million in interest costs, pre and post COVID. So a total of \$50 million.”

The new plan calls for the creation of an “eighth grade academy” within the new high school building.

As a town councilman, Polisena first proposed the complete overhaul of every school in town, in essence, impacting the educational experience of every public school student in Johnston. He helped shepherd the referendum through the ballot box, alongside his father, former Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, promising a “no tax increase bond” that would be fully funded by the incoming Amazon project.

“We have started a process, and we’re well in the middle of it, of a new elementary school that is going up, full steam ahead,” Polisena said. “But what we had to do is figure out the second half of the project. And there were two options. So option one was to cut the project by the overages ... and hope we have somewhat decent schools. Or option number two, which is to go back to the drawing board on the second half and come up with something new. I opted for the latter.”

They mayor’s team has been meeting behind closed doors with the architects and financial planners, looking for a solution to the \$50 million in cost and interest rate overruns.

“So what I did is I brought my administration together,” Polisena explained.

Ultimately, he asked, “How can we allocate this money so the citizens of Johnston can really utilize it to the best of their abilities?”

“And the plan that we have come up with is to, again, full steam ahead on the elementary school, but in lieu of a new Early Childhood Center and upgrades to

Ferri and Johnston High, we are going to build a new high school,” Polisena announced. “And I know it seems very grand, and a lot of you are probably asking yourself how are we building a new high school now? It seems like a very very pricey project. And you’ll see from the people that come up here tonight, it’s simply a reallocation of the dollars.”

Polisena reiterated his promise that Johnston taxpayers will not see a rate increase linked to the school bond.

“I have to do this project within the specific amount of the bond,” he told the committees. “That bond was structured so it would be a no tax increase bond. As everyone knows, the Amazon money will be funding all of this.”

Polisena committed all of the income generated by the Amazon project off Hartford Avenue, which has yet to set a firm opening date, to fund the bond payments.

“So I am allocating all the Amazon money for this project; at least all of the Amazon money during my tenure as mayor, for eight years, and I really think it’s for good use,” Polisena said. “I think the high school is our flagship school in the town. And I know there have been significant problems with losing kids that go from here to other high schools.”

Holly Demers Sawyer, associate director of project management for Colliers, the town’s capital project managers, said the cost of the entire project — including just the new elementary and high schools — has been estimated around \$220.3 million (about \$22.4 million more than the town has left to spend from the bond). The town’s financial advisers plan to use a variety of “funding mechanisms” to cover the difference.

The town expects to get more than \$100 million in state reimbursements for the project.

Plans for the new high school still need to clear some Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) hurdles. The architectural drafts are early and representatives from the SLAM Collaborative (the town’s hired architectural and design firm) said workers drilled test bores at the site over the past week, checking to see if the ground could support the new high school.

If all goes as planned, Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, provided new estimates for opening the new buildings — Fall 2026 for the new elementary school and Fall 2027 for the new high school.

Editor’s Note: Watch for future stories with more details from Johnston’s evolving school projects.



COURSE CORRECTION:

Above right, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. announces big changes in the school construction plans. Below left, Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, unveils the earliest rendering of a planned new Johnston High School. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Obituaries

Lillian R. DeMaio

Lillian R. DeMaio, 93, died Thursday, May 4, 2023. She was the wife of the late Vincent DeMaio, Jr. Born in Central Falls, she was a daughter of the late Oscar and Margaret (Boisvert) Lafreniere. She was the loving mother of Roland DeMaio (Diana Walsh), Linda Bruscini (Albert), Thomas O. DeMaio, and the late Vincent DeMaio. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her granddaughter Dina DeMaio and her sister Constance DeToro.



Her funeral will be private at the convenience of the family. To post a message of condolence, visit www.TheQuinn-FuneralHome.com.

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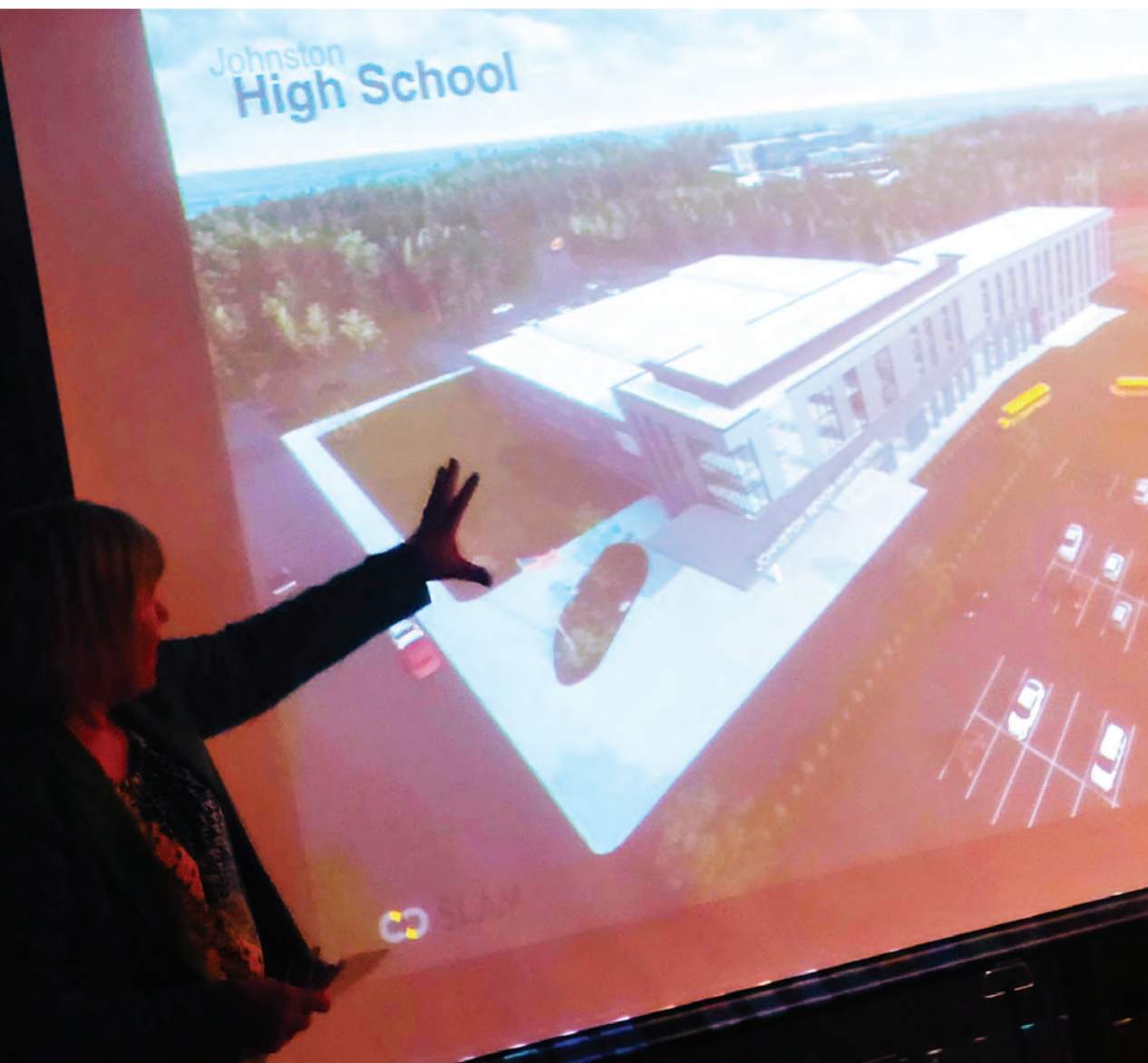
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HIGHLAND MEMORIAL PARK

The Annual meeting of the members of Highland Memorial Park is rescheduled for Tuesday May 16, 2023 in the renovated chapel at 5:00pm for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Joseph R. Swift
President



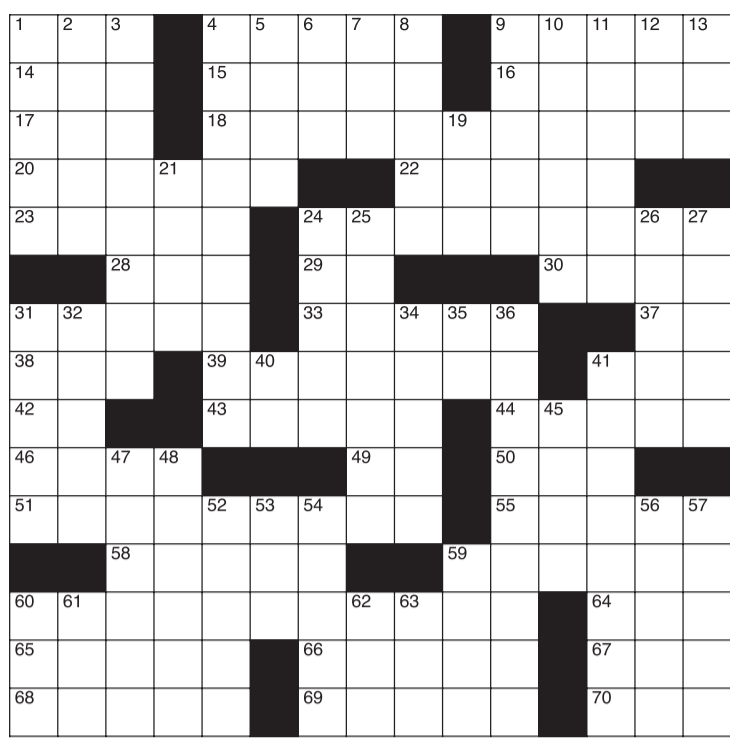
Obituaries

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

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– Thank you

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Fathers
- 9. Wine grape
- 14. Al Bundy's wife
- 15. Organic compound
- 16. Venezuelan state
- 17. Interest term
- 18. Experts
- 20. Central cores of stems
- 22. Smooth and glossy
- 23. One-time S. Korean city
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Short message at the end of an email
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Oh, God!
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Men
- 37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 42. The Great Lake State
- 43. Dog-__: to mark a page
- 44. Stop moving
- 46. Ancient Dead Sea region

49. Of I

- 50. Clerical vestment
- 51. Songs sung to a lover
- 55. Charges
- 58. Popular design program manufacturer
- 59. Where to park a boat
- 60. One who values reason
- 64. Slang for cigarette
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Screen material
- 68. Country music legend Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
- 2. Philly's rail service
- 3. Leaves a place
- 4. No longer be a part in
- 5. Guitar players use them
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 8. Shaking of the earth
- 9. Strong winds
- 10. For each one
- 11. A bog

12. The creation of beautiful or significant things

- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Pie ___ mode
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
- 25. Learning environment
- 26. Khoikhoi peoples
- 27. Bring out or develop
- 31. Shows up
- 32. Theatrical device
- 34. Loads
- 35. Popular Hollywood alien
- 36. Distinguishes
- 40. College dorm worker
- 41. Secondary or explanatory title
- 45. Resembling wings
- 47. One who delivers a speech
- 48. In the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Airborne (abbr.)
- 54. Beloveds
- 56. Ordain
- 57. Breed of small cattle
- 59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ___
- 62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
- 63. A place to stay



TRIP-TAKERS: These are the Johnston Senior Center buses that will carry members to various locations in the state to enjoy everything from lunch to shopping and more. Volunteer drivers are also needed. If interested, call Executive Director Richard DelFino at 401-944-3343. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

Celebrating Older Americans Month by providing more action & opportunity

By PETE FONTAINE

Each May the Administration for Community Living holds a celebration titled "Older Americans Month" (OAM) with this year's theme "Aging UNBOUND."

That's exactly what began on May 1 and will continue through May 31 at the nationally accredited Johnston Senior Center located at 1291 Hartford Ave. (Route 6).

Richard J. DelFino Jr., who has already initiated many exciting events and programs during his brief yet highly active tenure as Executive Director, said "we'll be offering everything from free trips to various locations in the state as well as a Healthy Expo right here at the Center."

"During OAM we will make special recognition of the countless contributions that older adults are making in our communities," DelFino explained. "We want to help people change the narrative on aging."

DelFino announced "with the help of Social Work students at Rhode Island College we have set out to recruit older adults in our community by visiting senior living sites around town and providing information on all the physical, intellectual and social activities available here at the JSC."

An example of the many social aspects will be free trips on JSC buses aimed at bringing people to the center and enjoying a day around the state.

That program began Monday with the first of those treks during a special visit to iconic Wright's Dairy Farm and Bakery located at 200 Woonsocket Hill Road in North Smithfield. (For more details on the trips, see Sun Rise Scoops on Page 6.)

"We have also planned a trip to beautiful Beavertail in Jamestown and everyone's favorite — the Christmas Tree Shop in Warwick," DelFino added.

The Christmas Tree Shop visit is scheduled for Monday (May 15) and people interested should call Ellen Trementozzi at 401-944-3343. Yet another trip will take seniors to famed Iggy's Chowder House May 21.

DelFino then offered, his voice ringing with enthusiasm, the JSC Healthy Expo will be held on Monday, May 22 and include over 40 vendors who have already signed up as well as 25 sponsors all aimed at providing information for older adults.

The JSC will continue to offer free coffee and treats each morning as well as free exercise classes throughout May.

Moreover, the JSC is seeking volunteer drivers to add even more trips to the 2023 schedule.

DelFino said volunteer drivers do not need a CDL license and urged interested drivers to call him at 401-944-3343.

Upcoming Johnston Senior Center trips:

- **Monday, May 15:** Free Trip to the Christmas Tree Shop.
- **Monday, May 22:** Free Trip to Iggy's Choder House. Food available for purchase
- **Wednesday, May 24:** Lighthouse Cruise, in Newport \$40 pp
- **Wednesday, May 31:** Mystery lunch \$10 pp
- **Wednesday, May 31:** Paint & Wine 6 p.m. \$20 pp
- **Thursday, June 15:** The Memories of Patsy, Whites of Westport Dinner & Show \$79 pp
- **Tuesday, June 20:** Newport Playhouse, (Spreading it around) Lobster Fest Dinner show, \$95 pp
- **Wednesday June 28:** Mystery lunch \$10 pp

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Warwick

- Beacon Communications
- Warwick Mall - Customer Service Desk
- Seasons Corner Market - Post Road & Warwick Ave.
- Dave's Marketplace - Hoxsie
- Tumbletown Laundromat
- Warwick Public Library
- Greenwood Credit Union

West Warwick

- Tumbletown 2 Laundromat

JSC Senior Spotlight



Bob Balmforth

Pawtucket native finds 'home away from home' at the JSC

By **ARIEL DORSEY**
Special to the Sun Rise

Bob Balmforth is a familiar face at the Johnston Senior Center and another Rhode Island native in the community.

He grew up in Pawtucket, and was heavily involved in Boys Scouts for five years as a kid.

Being outdoors and camping at Yawgoog Reservation in Rockville, was one of his favorite activities in the program.

After graduating from Davies Career and Technical High School in 1973, Bob explored interests in the Army and even studied to become a priest.

Today, Bob is heavily involved with different activities within the center.

Aside from his love of bocce ball, he also enjoys the piano, mostly taking any opportunity to play at the center.

Bob says that Johnston Senior Center is like a "home away from home" where he's experienced a community of unity and great friendships. No matter what life brings, Bob is grateful to everyone at the Johnston Senior Center who is always there for him!

Editor's Note: JSC Senior Spotlight is a new regular series in the Johnston Watch for submitted dispatches from the Johnston Senior Center written by JSC intern Ariel Dorsey, weekly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

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By JENNIFER COATES



With all the stresses on your time this spring, rely on the dependable and time-saving help of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry. Let her lighten your load at this busy time of year.

Spring is in the air! Even though we get some spring downpours from time to time, there are finally flowers, and sunshine, and chirping birds, and more hours of daylight . . . AND, there is also mud, and grass stains, and piles of dirty, sweaty clothes. No doubt about it, with warm weather comes more time spent outside, and with more time spent outside comes more LAUNDRY! Spring sports and spring excursions and spring holidays all equal more need (and less time) for those unavoidable chores – like doing the wash!

Why battle the laundry this spring when you have the able and ready hands of Kaushal Jain of Jain's Laundry? Jain's Laundry is a busy and convenient Laundromat located right off Route 44 in Johnston. For an incredible .69 per pound, Kaushal will wash, soften, dry, and even fold your laundry – all in one day - at this user-friendly, clean and efficient Laundromat.

Not only is this an amazing time-saving service, but this price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! The math is simple enough – ten pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off in the morning and ready to go by the end of baseball practice – all for \$6.90. Fifteen pounds of dirty clothes, dropped off on the way to work and ready to go by dinner – all for less than \$11.00! In the age of rising inflation, it is nice to know that Jain's Laundry has made such a necessary chore so affordable.

For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal here at Jain's Laundry as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". If you are short quarters, the Jain's have got you covered.

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

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State-of-the-art 1895 school incinerated restroom waste

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN



The weather was unkind on the afternoon of March 23, 1894 but it didn't impede the dedication exercises planned at Johnston's new Plain Farm School which fronted Johnston and Concord Streets. Speeches and song inspired and entertained the large crowd that gathered before the keys to the building were presented to the trustees.

The old Plain Farm School had been outgrown by the number of students in District 15 needing an education. In addition, the building itself was outdated and unhealthy. During the late 1880s, several students were sent home sick after inhaling coal gas which had escaped from stove used to heat the building. Conversations regarding the erection of a new school didn't come until 1892, however. Overcrowding had necessitated that many district 15 students had to attend classes in one of three different church rooms being borrowed for the purpose.

The new school, which had been completed at a cost \$30,000, had officially opened for classes in Feb. of that year. The architect, 24-year-old Daniel Howard Thornton, who also designed the wood-shingled Gothic-style St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Centerdale, had the exterior completed in brick with dark brown trim. The interior was ash and hard pine and an elegant portico announced the front entrance.

Standing at 77 feet wide and 108 feet long, the school consisted of three floors with two wide stairways at each end of the building. The top floor was almost entirely claimed by an assembly room

built to comfortably seat up to 800 students, with windows running along both sides. A stage and a small lobby at each end of the assembly room finished out the third story.

The first and second floors of the school were constructed exactly the same. A wide hall ran the length of each floor, outfitted with sinks and running water at specific intervals. Modern faucets contained self-closing mechanisms which insured that water would never accidentally be left running.

On each side of the first and second floors were two classrooms and two recitation rooms. The 32-square-foot classrooms were bright and airy thanks to ventilators, which were installed by the Fuller & Warren Ventilating Company of Boston, to allow the teachers to control the temperature in each classroom. Slate blackboards were affixed to the walls of each classroom, circling the room while desks, provided by the new United States School Furniture Company in New York, were set out in an orderly fashion. Each of the first two floors also contained a

cloakroom where students could leave their coats.

The large cement-floor basement was divided into separate bathroom facilities for boys and girls. On the boys side were urinals attached to the walls and closeted toilets. Closeted toilets were also on the girls side. The bathrooms were designed so that, each night, iron covers had to be put over the toilets and a fire ignited in the furnace. The heat from the fire passed under a grate which contained the collected excrement and destroyed it, sending the fumes swiftly out through a chimney. The recent invention was another modern addition to the school, negating any need for installing a septic system.

Two additional furnaces heated the halls and the top floor of the building while two others warmed the classrooms. Two smaller sized furnaces heated the closets containing the toilets. The trustees expected to go through about 80 tons of coal over the winter to heat the school.

The carpentry for the new building

was provided by Sweet & Winsor of Smithfield, while masonry was done by 42-year-old William Elton Waterman and painting by J. T. Cullison. Teachers at the new school included Mattie Williams, Phebe King, Anna Matteson and Ruth Hayes. The principal was William Steere and his office could be found on the first floor near the main entrance.

One month after the school's dedication, the school committee voted to change its name from Plain Farm School to Concord School. It was also voted to erect a flag pole in the school yard with which to raise the American flag which was going to be presented by the Washington Council of American Mechanics on Memorial Day. The students registered at the school numbered 864.

The following year, it was proposed that a public street be built midway between Laurel Hill Avenue and Webster Avenue so that Concord School students could reach the facility easier. Proposals were also made for a retaining wall and granite steps on the property.

The first month of 1898, several parents contacted Johnston town officials concerning alleged abuse taking place at Concord School. Student Henry McLaughlin had entered the school after recess, chewing a peanut that another boy had given him. He was whipped by a teacher so badly that he was unable to use his blistered and bruised right hand. Twelve-year-old Dennis Kelly had been locked into a room as punishment until he lost control of his bladder. Student Philip Clarke was violently kicked by a teacher. John McLaughlin was also whipped ferociously while Harry Lovegrove and Hiram Thornton were confined in a clothespress until both had nearly suffocated.

Later that year, it was voted to rename Concord Street. It would now be known as Roosevelt Street, and Concord School would become Roosevelt Street School. By the end of the 1960s, the school was no longer being used and, in 1971, the structure was removed.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Stacey

Tuxedo lovers, look at this gorgeous girl named Stacey! Her beauty speaks for itself, and her sweet temperament is also amazing. Stacey is young and ready to join your home, she will fill your heart with lots of love. You can meet her at EGAPL Heart of RI Animal Rescue League located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open to the public on Wednesday-Friday from 12:00-2:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00 so feel free to stop by. You can also call 401-467-3670 for more information. Be sure to go see her right away if you are interested as this sweetheart will be adopted very quickly!

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Buttonwoods Brewery rings in Mother's Day with a mini market

By ROB DUGUAY

Mother's Day is a celebration of all mothers and what they do for their families, but there's a chance that people are still trying to figure out what to get mom when the occasion arrives on May 14.

Sure, you could take her out to her favorite restaurant or get her some DVDs of her favorite TV shows and movies, but what about the personal touch? Sometimes a handmade artisanal gift is exactly what's required, and, fortunately, Buttonwoods Brewery is going to have an abundance of them available for purchase at their annex on 530 Wellington Avenue in Cranston. Branded with the slogan "sip & shop," there will be a Mother's Day Mini Market taking place on May 13 that's ideal for any last-minute matriarchal shopping. From 1-6pm, a curated array of local artists & vendors will be showing off their creations with a wide variety to choose from.

The mini market is the perfect fusion of folks who like to make valuable objects through their inventiveness and imagination and people who enjoy imbibing craft beers, especially during a Saturday afternoon. It promises to be a unique experience with the opportunity for attendees to buy a gift that's truly one of a kind.

"The Mother's Day Mini Market is a great way to spend an afternoon getting last-minute gifts for that mother figure in your life while treating yourself to something nice too," Tasting Room Manager Jennie Paquin says about the event. "We will have seven local artisans sell-



BUTTONWOODS BREWERY

ing things like greeting cards, jewelry, aromatherapy products, unique home decor, handmade soaps and handmade custom dog leashes for the fur-moms! Local florists from Wren Floral Designs will be here too selling beautiful fresh bouquets and dried floral arrangements."

Along with Wren Floral Designs, Beach Witch Bars will be selling handmade soaps and vintage gifts. Roo Dog will have handmade and custom dog leashes available for any mother who also owns a pup, they also offer dog sitting and walking services for any mom who needs assistance with their furry pet. Any comic book lover is bound to enjoy what Tracimoc has to offer with their upcycled gifts and art made from actual comic books. Anyone who likes a laugh should check out the sassy greeting cards from Papermoon Marketplace. There's tarot in-

spired herbal products from Cedez Tarot and stained glass window ornaments, art and jewelry from Matty Lin Creates that will be available as well.

As with every event at Buttonwoods Brewery, housemates Origin Beer Project will also be serving their own array of brews. Screaming Unicorn, who are the new pop-up kitchen on the premises, will be serving up food for anyone who's hungry. If you're a fan of fried chicken sandwiches, nachos and fries, then they're just what you've been looking for. Speaking of looking, stop by the Mother's Day Mini Market for that perfect gift you've been looking to get mom. If you're simply looking for something to do and you're 21 or older, just show up regardless for a beer or two while being immersed in what should be a wicked cool time.

A mother's unconditional love

Life Matters



with
LINDA PETERSEN

Mother's Day is once again upon us, bringing memories of my own mother. She was always upbeat and happy, with never a bad word to say about anyone or anything. She cheerfully practiced frugality, as was my father's wish. Shopping at Ames for school clothes, she would amiably point out something positive about a cheap, ugly shirt that was the only thing we could afford. "Look," she'd say, "the sleeves have cute buttons on them!" With her enthusiasm, I'd learn to love that shirt and wear it proudly, (even though my classmates probably had pity on me.) We would buy 2 outfits for school, one that I would wear twice a week and one for three times a week, and I would feel honored doing so. It is ironic that her positive vibe rubbed off on me, making it impossible for me to be ashamed or dissatisfied.

For many years, my mother was a volunteer. As the President of the PTA at Oakland Beach School, she regaled in sponsoring fun activities for the students, and editing the newsletter in an upbeat manner. ("Spring has sprung, the grass is riz. I wonder where the flowers is.") As a Girl Scout Leader, she would arrange weekend forays to Camp Hoffman, teaching us about cooking a whole meal in aluminum foil over the campfire. We would enthusiastically march in the Veterans' Day Parade in time to the music from the Hendrickson band, high stepping it like horses prancing. My mom was great fun!

My mom rose above the many troubles she experienced. No one

knew that her parents were so self-absorbed that they sent her to live with an aunt who already had 8 children because having a child crimped their style for their weekend nights out. This aunt went to work as a maid every day and the children were locked out of the house. They shared meager meals and wore tattered hand-me-down clothing. Then her parents bought a farm and brought my mother back to live with them so she could pick cucumbers in their vast garden. She would earn five cents for every blister. There was the time that she was a maid of honor for her cousin and best friend. She wore another hand-me-down dress that did not quite fit but had to do because her parents said they could not afford to buy her a new one, and the nickels she earned did not add up to enough to buy one on her own. Standing there at the end of the aisle in the church wearing her ill-fitting outfit, she was mortified to see her parents walk in with brand new clothing, including her dad in a new suit and her mom

in a new dress with a newly purchased elegant mink coat.

As a teen and young adult, my mom belonged to the USO where the military men at the weekly festivities were just glad to have someone to dance with and didn't care about her clothing. She fell in love with my father just before he shipped out overseas for the war. When he returned, she married the love of her life, even though the atrocities he witnessed had changed him and he no longer loved to dance, or even go to parties for that matter.

He became a recluse, and she joined him because she loved him and she was his wife, after all. After ten years of trying, I was born, and she was overjoyed. (My father, not so much, as he saw me as competition for my mother's time.) A few years later, tragedy struck, and my brother was born severely disabled due to Rubella Syndrome. My dad and the doctors urged my mom to "put him away", as was the custom in the 1950s. However, for the first time in her life, my mom selfishly refused and spent the rest of her mothering years trying to focus on keeping my dad happy while caring for a daughter and extremely needy son.

For someone with such a history, my mother could have been bitter, angry, and resentful, but instead she had an inner spiritual peace, a tranquility that enveloped her and helped her love life and unconditionally love her husband, her son and me. For that love, I will be forever grateful. Happy Mother's Day, mom!



SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE

The Super Mario Bros. Movie

★★★★

By ED KDONIAN

I was apprehensive about this one. I mean for anyone who has grown up playing the many "Super Mario Bros." games, the fear that the use of characters and lore will end up being overdone is valid. However, despite a few instances of 'it's here because it's from Mario,' I think the movie was rather well done.

In many ways, the opening of this movie is a tribute to the live action "Super Mario Bros. Movie" released in 1993. Two brothers, struggling to make their name as famous plumbers in New York, desperately rely on hard work and a flashy commercial to give them a leg up on the competition. While trying to save the city from a plumbing emergency, they suddenly find themselves traveling through a magic pipe and entering the magical world that we all know, and love, from the video games.

Chris Pratt and Charlie Day, who voice Mario and Luigi respectively, are able to deliver just enough flavor from the games to pay tribute to the original characters without overdoing it and making it feel cheesy. Mario's traditional catchphrase makes its appearance enough to make its mark, though viewers may have felt it was a little too much by the third time they heard "Mamma Mia." Despite, the mildly egregious use of catchphrases, the movie did a great job of utilizing features of the game in a dynamic and entertaining way.

Almost from the first moment of the film, there is a fascinating integration of video game mechanics

and the idea that these characters are living a traditional life. While Mario and Luigi struggle to get their plumbing business off the ground, they still find themselves rushing through the busy streets of New York as if traversing the obstacles of a side-scroller.

By the time the Mario has entered the mushroom kingdom the movie has already given the viewer a deep feeling that they are entering the world of a video game. In a weird twist of fate, the physics of the world through the pipe are only marginally more game-like than those in the world of Earth. Yes there are power-ups like fire flowers and magic mushrooms, but they take a back seat to the clear and genuine physicality of Mario having to overcome obstacles through force of will and his never-give-up attitude.

Despite its attention to detail and traditional elements of the Mario world, the movie also managed to diverge from the traditional story of saving the princess. In fact, in this iteration of Mario, the princess is a key member of the team doing the saving. From the moment Mario first meets Princess Peach she is shown to be a strong and capable female lead in her own right.

As leader of the Mushroom Kingdom, it is Peach's job to protect her people, the toads, and secure their safety from the evil forces of Bowser. A job she does with no small amount of talent and physical skill. She demonstrates these skills while giving Mario a crash course in how to live in a video game world as

she dips, dodges and zooms her way through an obstacle course complete with mechanical piranha plants, floating blocks of brick and dangerous Bullet Bills.

With Bowser on his way to the Mushroom Kingdom, and hope growing dimmer by the moment, Peach decides to seek out the help of the Kong Kingdom. It is here that Mario's traditional rival, and sometimes friend, first makes an appearance in the film. Voiced by Seth Rogan, Donkey Kong manages to bring comedy, strength and just enough animosity to really breathe life into the complex relationship the pair has had over the life of the franchise.

With all the players on the field, the animated story of Mario and Luigi's entry into the video game world that brought their names to people planet-wide is a fantastical journey through countless references to the entire franchise of games. Every character manages to fully represent the games they first appeared in while still evolving and growing in a natural way that helps the movie to feel more an homage than a rehashing of the original media. While references to the cornucopia of material available in the Mario universe may be laid on a bit thick at times, the movie still manages to bring a fresh flavor to the expansive background that all the games provide. Whether you're a dedicated fan of "Super Mario Bros.," or just a fan of animated films, the movie provides a little something for everyone and any age.

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3

(So-so sci-fi Finale)

We got hooked on the fascinating, funny creatures in the first two "Guardians", especially Groot, the tree-like character voiced by Vin Diesel and Rocket the racoon, voiced by Bradley Cooper.

Both play major roles in Volume 3, and they are fun to watch.

It's just a shame that they are not enough to carry this discombobulated movie that has our farcical guardians flying all around the universe searching for a cure for Rocky who is close to death.

The battles grow tedious as the search goes on way too long.

The Star-Lord (Chris Pratt) has his own personal battles with women, while attempting to lead his motley crew to save the world . . . or at least save Rocket before retiring and turning over the reins to (You'll probably guess who.)

The humor is still there. There's the dog who just wants her master to say, "Good Dog!"

There's Groot who in a touching scene, finally says something other than "I am Groot".

And there are some clever one-liners scattered throughout the mayhem.

The highlight of the movie goes to the designers and mask makers who come out with the most outlandish costumes and heads. Every creature has a different and wildly unique head.

Marvel fans know that you must sit through the endless credits to receive a clue as to what is coming next. While we have been forewarned that this is supposed to

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with Joyce & Don Fowler

be the finale of the Guardians series, the final words suggest there is more coming.

NETFLIX

QUEEN CHARLOTTE: A Bridgerton Story

If you liked Bridgerton, you'll love this six-episode prequel.

India Amertiefio plays the young German who weds King George (Cory Mylchrest) in an arranged marriage, planned to guarantee an heir and continuation of a long line of Georges.

The marriage is part of a plan to create the "Great Experiment" which combines two races of English society, united but not equal.

The subtleties of racism are close to the surface, as entitlement carries titles, but little else.

The story centers around Charlotte, the young lady (17 years old when she marries George) who gains her independence and helps the mentally ill king survive. Much attention is given to how society and medicine view and treat mental illness.

The period piece displays beautiful costumes and silly customs. Politics is forefront and royalty towers over the common folk. There is romance, intrigue and mystery, all wrapped up in a clever look at how English royalty evolved.

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Sports



FRIENDLY FOES: Among the 160 golfers who played in Saturday's 16th annual JMCE Memorial Golf Tournament were: Mike DiRocco, Chris Miller, Arthur Pitassi, Mike St. Angelo, Michael St. Angelo, Michael Picerno, Ryan Parker and Jasper Bruinslot. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

JMCE's 16th annual golf outing smashes records

By PETE FONTAINE

"Memorial Lane," as some people call the walkway in front of the Connecticut National Golf Clubhouse, never looked brighter than it did Saturday during the Johnston Memorial Cancer Events 16th annual benefit tournament.

As Linda LaFazia, who is among the JMCE's close-knit friends who founded the golf go-round, was saying: "We were amazed at the amount of memorial and other business signs. It was breathtaking to see them all on display."

There were over 200 signs that supporters purchased for \$50 each, that



CARING COUPLES: Among the generous people who played and helped the JMCE raise \$28,000 for Hasbro Children's Hospital are Bob and Shirley Mancini and Denise and Tom Breckel.

■ JMCE - PAGE 18

Much to learn from Celtics' playoff run

The Boston Celtics came up short in Game 4 of their series against the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday afternoon, but my biggest takeaway had nothing to do with what happened on the court.

It was a great game. Philly was in control deep in the fourth quarter, but the Celtics turned things around to force overtime.

In the waning seconds of the fourth quarter, Boston had an opportunity to complete the comeback and hit a buzzer-beating shot. Marcus Smart grabbed the pass, threw the shot up, but ultimately it would miss and the

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

teams settled for the extra period.

76ers fans were relieved, Celtics fans were angry. The final moments leading up to the shot were frantic, the players rushed to get

■ PITCH - PAGE 19



DIVISION CHAMP: Taylor Powell, who won the 200 meter dash. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Panthers compete at division meet

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston boys and girls outdoor track and field teams competed at last weekend's division championships and a handful of athletes shined.

Senior Taylor Powell won the girls 200 meter dash and also took eighth in the 100 dash on the girls side. Justin Espinal finished ninth in the 200 dash for the boys while Brandon Sousa placed 12th in the discus throw.

For more photos of the action, check out page 19.

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Striped bass emergency action taken

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Last Tuesday the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved a new emergency slot size limit to be implemented this year of 28 to less than 31 inches, one fish/person/day. Presently we have a 28 to less than 35-inch slot size.

The emergency action was necessary because of last year's striped bass catch rates which were found to have increased by over 1,000,000 bass from the prior year. This increase caused a significant reduction in probability of the current rebuilding plan as required by law to effectively rebuild the stock.

The action requires States to implement the new 31-inch maximum size as soon as possible and no later than July 2, 2023. At press time Rhode Island nor Massachusetts had announced when the new slot size regulation would be implemented.

In a separate action the striped bass board plans to initiated an Addendum to develop a striped bass plan that would rebuild the stock by 2029. Mote to come as this develops. Visit the Guides Association at <https://saltwaterguidesassociation.com> for up to date information on how they are following developments.

Freshwater fly-fishing workshop

The DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its Annual Adult Introduction to Freshwater Fly-Fishing program for ages 17 and older this month. Hosted by the Division's Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) program, the workshop will be held at Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI on Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The workshop is \$30.00/person and includes lunch and all fly fishing equipment. The program will cover Basic Entomology, Fly Tying, Fly Casting, Basic Knots, and fish in a freshly stocked trout pond after lunch. To register contact Kimberly Sullivan at Kimberly.Sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call 401.539. 0037. Volunteers to help run the program should call Kimberly to register as well.

NOAA's economic workshop points to electronic data collection

Last week NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recreational Economic Constituent Workshop was held in Tampa, Florida with an online option which I attended.

Private anglers, the charter fishing industry, NOAA and regional scientists/economists, fish mangers and fishing industry leaders attended the two day workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to enhance the understanding of how economics plays a role in management decisions and identity gaps; how can stakeholders improve recreational fishing economic data collection; and identify tangible ways anglers can help collect data and share information in the future.

Doug Lipton, NOAA's chief economist for the NMFS said, "I believe electronic data recording and gathering methods discussed at the workshop can help identify climate impacts on recreational fishing as well as who fishers in offshore wind farm areas."

I agree, we need new methods like electronic data gathering by anglers to get a real time assessment of climate impacts on fish stocks. I believe that recreational fishing and offshore wind developers would benefit from scientific data on who fishes in a wind farm lease area, what they catch and the economic impact of the catch.

A report is expected to be posted on NOAA's website. A Google folder link that contains the workshop agenda and presentations is at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1B4EgPWozB8rUfLjYLeTD6iqOkNtaM5a>.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass. Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, East End Eddie Doherty, said, "Striped bass fishing is heating up on the Canal with large fish being caught by many. Angler Kenny Nevens of Sagamore Beach caught ten slots so 34 1/2 inches that was fooled by a bone-colored Daiwa SP Minnow." Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence said, "The striped bass bite continues to be outstanding in the East Passage from Poposquash Point, Bristol all the way up the Providence and Seekonk Rivers." Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren caught a 35-pound striped bass in Narragansett Bay last week. Jeff said, "The bass fishing continues to improve in the Bay with some large fish being caught." Fred DeFinis of Middletown who fished last week with Jim Lundy said, "East Passage loaded with stripers from the marina in Melville up to Colt Park and the Barrington shore. Also Warwick Neck extending to Seminary Cove and Rocky Point as well. Soft plastics such as the Fin-S or Cocahoe minnow work well."

I fished Saturday with Steve Burstein of North Kingstown. We caught multiple bass to 30 inches with tube and worm in Greenwich Bay and when fishing Monday the gator bluefish were there too. Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Fishing for stripers continues to be great with fish taking a variety of baits. Bass up to around 38 inches are being caught from the surf to back in the ponds. Fly fisherman have been having great success fooling fish with smaller silverside and shrimp presentations."

Tautog. Tautog fishing remains very good in the Providence River and in both the West and East Passages of the Bay. O'Donnell said, "Tautog fishing is getting into full swing here on the south shore with the fish moving into the shallows to spawn. This gives shore anglers a great opportunity and they wont say no to a clam or sandworm dropped in front of them. If you are traveling through the backwaters this weekend keep your eyes peeled for cinder warm hatches 'spawning'."

Freshwater. Stocked ponds continue to produce nice trout anglers of all ages. "The prespawn largemouth bass bite is very strong so fishing freshwater is outstanding with many anglers using shiners at this point in time," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick. For license and stocking information in RI visit www.dem.ri.gov/fishing and in MA www.mass.gov/service-details/trout-stocking-report.

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



TUBE IN WORM: Capt. Dave Monti and his fishing party caught spring striped bass to 30 inches. Saturday in Greenwich Bay in front of Buttonwoods using tube in worm. Monday the gator bluefish were there too.



BIG BASS: Fred DeFinis of Middletown caught multiple bass in the East Passage last week to 34 inches. Soft plastic lures are working well. (Submitted photos)

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CLASSIC COOKS: The JMCE's pre tee-off food fest cooks were Lori Guernon, Julianne DeAngelis, Lisa St. Angelo, Joe Grasso, Phyllis Gelsomino, Debbie Johnson, Michelle Caprarco and Jen Johnson.

JMCE

(Continued from page 16)

lined the putting green and clubhouse areas that go a long way in helping Hasbro Children's Hospital, the JMCE's long-time beneficiary.

Likewise, there were 28 major sponsors that paid \$500 each to help the all-volunteer non-profit smash all records to uphold its extraordinary giving that is closing in on the \$400,000 mark in the past 12 years.

And to think as many committee members emphasized: "We had a waiting list of 40-plus golfers."

As it was, the JMCE's 16th tournament featured 160 players who enjoyed the mega-foods pre-tee off luncheon and valuable raffle prizes that help boost the total amount of money raised every year.

"The tournament was a huge success," said Vin LaFazia, the event's longtime tireless chairman. "We were sold out – again – and the weather was perfect, the food was great, and the camaraderie was at an all-time high."

Each golfer was given a shirt, ball markers, along with cigars that were a huge hit.

"We are so thankful to all who come out and support us - but especially thankful to our major sponsors," LaFazia went on while praising Graham Builders, Affiliated Insurance Managers, A & A Wrecking, Muldowney Physical Therapy, DiGregorio Corporation the families and many others."

LaFazia also noted that Bentley Construction/RICON generously supplied a sleeve of Srixon golf balls for each player.

Likewise, LaFazia as well as each committee member wanted it known: "To have Ray Johnson on the committee. Ray, along with Michael Sabitoni and the laborer's union have been a great supporter to the JMCE and

Hasbro Children's Hospital over the years."

Ray's father Raymond in fact, is one of six people for whom the popular tourney is played. The others are Sal Gelsomino, Anna Marzulli, Laura DeAngelis, John Furia and Frances Grasso. Moreover, many members of their families have led to overwhelming success through the years.

All of which as Judi Graham - who along with her husband David owns and operates Graham Builders and are among the founding members says by way of her now famous slogan "One SWING at a time" to the continue JMCE's fight to helping children beat their bouts with cancer!

Saturday, those super special swings helped raise an extraordinary total of \$28,000 for Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Like the fantastic food and record number of sponsors, a total of 17 people were among the winners in Saturday's tournament.

At days end, the veteran foursome of Jack Greenhalgh, Kel Greenhalgh, Kody Greenhalgh and Jim Stevens played their way into the Open Division Championship circle for the second time in as many years shooting 13 under par 71 for 58.

There were also some familiar names – and faces – in the Co-Ed Division – as Dewey Uriati, Tracy Uriati, Walter Geer and Michel Nanni successfully defended their 2022 crown.

Cal Calabro of the Goodfellas Motorcycle Club fame whose annual ride continues to raise big bucks for Hasbro Children's Hospital led his fun-loving foursome to the Senior Division title.

Shirley Mancini took home the Longest Drive for Women's while John Graham, who is among people who volunteer for the JMCE, won the Man's Longest Drive.

Tony Pacitto won Longest Drive for Seniors Pat Vallier won Closest the Pin for men and Tom Mooney staked claim to the Seniors title.



FAMILIAR FACES: The brothers Civetti – councilman Bob (left) and David (right), John Mello and Francisco the Barber were among the many repeat players at the JMCE 16th annual golf tournament. (Submitted photo)



SUPER SPECIAL SUPPORTERS: Joe Caprarco (left), Michael Sabitono and Ray Johnston of the famed Laborers Union international were three huge reasons behind the success of the JMCE Golf tournament.

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RIGHT ON TRACK: Lauren Dixon competes in a sprints event.



RELAY TEAM: Brandon Sousa and Michael Cepeda work together in a relay.

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Pitch

(Continued from page 16)

that one last shot off.

As the broadcast began showing the slow-motion replays, one thing stood out to me. Once the final shot bounced off the rim, Celtics coach (and of course, Rhode Island native) Joe Mazzulla had a big smile on his face, chuckled and clapped as his team trotted off the court to prepare its game plan for overtime.

The brief moment stood out to me because it was a nice reminder of what sports are about, having fun and enjoying the moment.

Most coaches in that situation would be bothered, ready to pick apart the final moments to pinpoint why the shot was rushed and a bit sloppy. Mazzulla on the other hand was just having a blast competing with his team on the big stage. Sure, he would have liked to see the shot go in, especially considering the team went on to lose, but it was refreshing to see such a positive reaction to such a pivotal point in a playoff game.

I am proud to say that I have a very healthy obsession with sports. Long gone are the days that I get infuriated by a loss or totally exhilarated with a win. It's probably because I am around sports every day, but I have become kind of callused.

That may sound bad, but it's the exact opposite. It has made me focus on the bigger picture rather than the straight up results game to game. Don't get me wrong, some losses still sting, some wins will lift my spirits for a day or two, but generally speaking, I focus more on the broad scope.

When I am in the field covering events, especially during the playoffs, I always take a moment to take a breath and look around to take it all in. Although I may not be as invested as I used to be, it is always a nice shot of adrenaline watching a post-season nail biter, and it is always a nice reminder that there is nothing more fun than being present at one of these events. Certain games bring out every emotion for me, excitement, nerves, nostalgia, peace. That's what it is all about.

So, seeing Mazzulla's reaction was such a satisfying few seconds. This is his first playoff experience as a head coach, so I am sure he was thinking along the same lines.

Instead of wondering, "Why did that shot not go in?" it appeared that he was thinking more along the lines of, "This is a blast."

I hate the phrase, "It's only a game." I have always hated it because to minimize sports that way is insulting to those playing and watching. Sure, sports should not be taken too seriously when there are far more important things in life to worry about. But at the end of the day, athletes work hard, have the courage to perform, as do the coaches. Fans devote their time and money to cheer these teams on. It may not be life or death, but it is more than just a game.

But to see Mazzulla enjoying the moment that way was great. It was a nice display of leadership and sportsmanship.

Before I sign off, here, I do want to stick with the Celtics and harp on another lesson.

In both the final moments of regulation and overtime, the Celtics had possession with a chance to either win or tie the game. Mazzulla did not call a timeout to draw up a play in either spot and instead let the team play it through.

The Celtics failed to convert on either try and Mazzulla has since gotten some heat for his decision. Most believe that he should have stopped the clock and took a moment to work through the situation. He has also admitted that he probably should have called timeout.

When he decided to let the team play through, I said out loud with those watching, "Good, just go for it."

There are few things in sports that drive me crazy the way that paralysis by analysis does. There are times when teams are almost too calculated, take too many timeouts, overthink things. Not enough coaches do what Mazzulla did, which is have faith in their team and stick to the game plan.

I know, the decisions did not pay off and in hindsight, maybe they would have been better off. I will say, though, I loved Mazzulla's decision to see things through, rely on his players and keep their foot on the gas.

Sometimes in sports, you just need to attack. You need to go for it.

I'd urge any coach to take a look at Mazzulla's approach and consider it moving forward. It's easy to jump straight to the results, but the approach was correct. It's playoff time, you have the other team on the ropes, go for it.

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Hasbro and Mattel



A Tale of Two Toy Titans

For nearly a century, two giants have fought to dominate the American toy industry in a never ending battle of creativity and innovation. Those two giants are none other than Hasbro and Mattel. Both hold an incredible amount of market share in the space and are undoubtedly the industry leaders today. Not that it matters, but my personal favorite is Hasbro (granted I'm biased as I love Transformers), but I've got respect for both brands.

Hasbro is known for G.I. Joe, Transformers, My Little Pony, and Star Wars to name a humble few, while Mattel's titan brands include Barbie, Hot Wheels, and Uno. Hasbro is widely considered the bigger brand, which is reflected in their stock prices. As of Monday May 1st, Hasbro is valued at \$59.22 a share while Mattel is only \$18.00 per share. As always, pop culture plays a major role in a brand's popularity, and Hasbro has certainly had more cin-



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

ematic hits than Mattel to date. BUT, put all this information aside for a moment, because this article is not only about the history of two companies - it's about their future. Last month it

was made known to the public that Hasbro and Mattel would be making an absolutely historic move to collaborate with some of their biggest toy franchises. In a behind-closed-doors showing at the Nuremberg International Toy Fair it was announced that Barbie Monopoly along with Transformers Hot Wheels and Uno are in the works. It is a move bringing rivals together, and it has never been done before!

While it might not sound like a big deal to the average person, I assure you that to toy collectors such as myself, its mind blowing! Collaborations are a popular theme between brands in the 21st century, but never did I (or anyone) actually expect these two toy titans to come together. I'm so excited to see where this goes in the future. Will the collab make me love Mattel more than Hasbro? Maybe not... but I can't wait to see what those Transformers Hot Wheels are all about!

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Whether you're saving to buy a home, putting money in your child's college fund or just trying to cover higher costs for necessities, you may be looking for ways to keep more money in your wallet so you can spend on the things that matter most. And you're not alone.

In fact, a recent national survey from Experian found that 66% of respondents are actively looking for ways to trim expenses from their monthly budget.

There is no better time than the present to get started. The basics of saving money lay a great foundation for stretching your dollars and taking control of your finances. This includes budgeting, paying off debt, establishing savings goals, automating savings and cutting back on unnecessary expenses.

However, you may not know there are other less obvious ways to keep more money in your wallet. Don't leave money on the table, here are three creative ways to save more now:

- **Shop around to save on monthly bills:** Most people spend time shopping around for a new TV or other purchase to get the best price, but overlook the opportunity to save by comparing monthly bill providers. Experian has an auto insurance comparison shopping service that can help you potentially save up to \$900 per year on your policy. The service provides you with multiple, tailored rates from up to 40 leading and well-established auto insurance carriers,



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allowing you to find a policy that meets your needs.

- **Look for ways to maximize credit card rewards:** You can save big and manage spending at no cost with the right credit cards and reward programs. To help you find the best card, whether you want cash back or no APR terms, Experian offers a free marketplace that leverages your financial information against lenders' requirements to match you with tailored offers.

- **Try negotiating rates:** Negotiating monthly bills is crucial for finding extra savings. Take a look at your payment terms and plans to see if you can renegotiate for lower rates on expenses like cable or cell service. If you feel that calling service providers is tedious and time consuming, there are services that can help. A new feature available in a paid Experian CreditWorks Premium Membership negotiates lower rates on eligible monthly bills on your behalf so you can stop overpaying. Those who

use this feature see an average savings of \$263. If you'd like to negotiate directly with your provider, make sure you ask them about all the offers they are willing to extend to you so you know all your options and get the new, accepted offer in writing.

"Even when times aren't tough, it is always good to practice budgeting and money-saving habits to position yourself in the best way possible before you need it," said Andrea Woroch, a nationally recognized consumer finance and money-saving expert. "Tapping into these tools from Experian can help you save in ways you may not have been aware of and help you keep your finances on track now and in the future."

There are more ways Woroch recommends to save, including reducing your monthly spend on debt by consolidating credit card debt to a 0% balance transfer card and avoiding impulse shopping by deleting payment and shipping details stored in online retail accounts, as well as unsubscribing from store emails. To be more strategic at the grocery store and cut wasteful purchases, you might also consider meal planning.

To learn more about saving and Experian resources, visit Experian.com/savings.

It's always important to find ways to save. Leveraging available tools and being strategic can help you get control of your expenses and keep more money in your wallet.



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Financial strategies that can help seniors grow their money

METRO

Investing is often portrayed as something people need not worry about after retirement. The theory that people should avoid risk as they approach and reach retirement age makes sense, as the unknown of investing can expose aging individuals to losses that compromise their ability to live comfortably on fixed incomes.

Though conventional wisdom regarding financial risk and aging still makes sense, the effects of inflation over the last year-plus have highlighted how important it can be for seniors to keep growing their money even after they retire. Fortunately, various strategies can help seniors grow their money without exposing them to considerable risk.

- **Look into high-yield savings accounts.** Interest on savings accounts was once a great way for individuals to grow their money. But interest rates on standard, no-minimum-balance accounts are now so low that the growth in interest is negligible. However, individuals with sizable savings, such as seniors, can explore high-yield savings accounts. High-yield savings accounts offer much higher interest rates than standard accounts. The rules governing eligibility to open such accounts differ between financial institutions, but many mandate that account holders have high minimum balances, typically in the neighborhood of \$250,000. So long as account holders maintain that minimum balance, they can accrue penalty-free interest without exposing their money to the risks of the market.

- **Consider other exclusive bank accounts.** High-yield savings accounts are not the only way seniors' banks may be able to help grow their money



without necessarily taking on market-related risk. Products such as Chase Private Client CheckingSM offer exclusive perks, including a dedicated client advisor who can work with seniors as they navigate life changes, including retirement.

- **Consider low-risk investments.** Risk aversion is not the same thing as risk avoidance. It's wise for seniors to be averse to risk, but they can still consider low-risk investments like short-

term bonds as a means to growing their money in retirement. Low-risk investments can be vulnerable to inflation, not unlike money sitting in a savings account. However, certain short-term bonds, such as Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, are designed to mirror inflation, which makes them an option worthy of consideration for seniors who have been concerned by the ways inflation has affected their financial status in recent years. According

to the Department of the Treasury, the principal of a TIPS can go up or down over its term. When the bond reaches maturity, if the principal is higher than the original amount, bond holders get the increased amount. If the principal is lower at maturity, bond holders still get the original amount.

Seniors looking to grow their money after retirement can consider a host of options that can make them less vulnerable to inflation.

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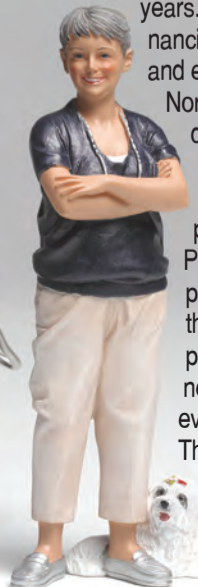
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METRO

Older adults hoping to retire this year may have a new factor to consider. Aspiring retirees may have to play it very smart to ensure they can maximize their savings for the long haul. It's a one-two punch caused by continuously rising costs of everyday items and a bearish market for bonds — one of the most common hedges retirement plans use to offset stock declines. Bonds have been suffering historic losses, according to data from Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. The typical rule of thumb used to be to spend no more than 4 percent of a portfolio's original value each year to plan for retirement.

With no gains or losses, that money would last around 25 years. However, experts at The American College of Financial Services say that, in today's economy, 4 percent and even 3 percent may be too aggressive. According to Nora Dowd Eisenhower, executive director at the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Aging, higher food prices, longer life expectancies and higher rents/housing costs often lead to financial challenges for people in retirement. Data from the U.S. Current Population Survey shows a trend in the number of people no longer in retirement. In September 2022, the unretirement rate was 2.6 percent, up from 2.4 percent in August. Wealth advisors indicate retirees need to look long and hard at their spending habits, even spending less than their wealth could support. This can help them ride out the ups and downs of the market that affect prices on goods and services. Working with a good financial advisor also can help retirees manage their savings to maximize their money for the years to come.





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