

## Two new schools expected by 2027



**NEW JHS:** Cathie Ellithorpe, Principal of the SLAM Collaborative, unveiled the newest renderings of a planned newly constructed Johnston High School. (*Sun Rise* photo by Rory Schuler)

Planners expect to finish a new elementary center by 2026 and a new JHS soon after

By RORY SCHULER

Although plans have fluctuated since voters approved a \$215 million school construction bond, Johnston should have two brand new schools by 2027.

On Tuesday night, during a special joint Johnston School Committee and School Building Committee meeting, the members of both boards present voted unanimously to send a \$128,791,940 plan (Stage II) to build a new Johnston Senior High School to the

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

And construction crews hope to start clearing land for the new Johnston Elementary Center by the end of February (or early March at the latest).

"I went back to the drawing board and we crafted a plan that allows us to build a new elementary school and new high school for the same amount as the original bond," Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. said before Tuesday

SCHOOLS - PAGE 4

## Portnoy, pizza portraiture & D. Palmieri's signature strips

How a pizza review magnate can make or break mom & pop with a single bite, while their kid's in the back painting pizza portraits with olives & peppers

By RORY SCHULER

Beautiful pizza, like art, is subjective. Take Rhode Island's Italian bakery specialty — pizza strips (or party pizza or party strips ... or bakery pizza or red strips or whatever you called them when you were coming of age in the Ocean State).

"One thing I've noticed, everyone has a different idea what pizza strips are supposed to be based on the pizza parties you went to growing up; everyone has their own turf," said Eric Palmieri of D. Palmieri's Bakery in Johnston. "Pizza strips should be the official state snack of Rhode Island. The perfect Rhode Island meal includes pizza strips, a New York system wiener, Iggy's doughboys, a nice cold bottle of Yacht Club soda and a glass of coffee milk for dessert."

Palmieri's not just a pizza proprietor. He considers himself a pizza artist, and his prized pizza portraits have captured the likenesses of pop culture legends like late actor James Gandolfini (Tony Soprano), late comedian George Carlin, action star Sylvester Stallone and infamous accused Fall River murderess Lizzie Borden.

Now his pepper palette, olive oils and anchovy brushes have taken aim at pizza connoisseur "one bite, everyone knows the rules" reviewer Dave Portnoy (of Barstool Sports fame).

### Portnoy in Providence

Portnoy visited D. Palmieri's on Killingly Street and Merlino's Pizzeria in Cranston last week (he also stopped by Francesco's and Nice Slice pizzerias in Providence).

At D. Palmieri's, he received a box of little rectangles, carefully sliced and topped with tangy marinara, supported by a deliciously chewy olive oil-basted undercarriage, fired on the hot stones of the bakery's gas-powered brick oven.

Portnoy's pizza reviews can make or break a small town or big city pizzeria.

Ocean State outsiders never like "pizza strips" at first. They're an acquired taste — like truffles or scrap-ple.



**ACQUIRED TASTE:** Above, Eric Palmieri, of D. Palmieri's Bakery in Johnston, holds a box of the shop's famous pizza strips. If you grew up in the Ocean State, chances are you've got strong opinions regarding which bakery serves the best little rectangles. (*Sun Rise* photo by Rory Schuler) Palmieri also crafts portraits with pizza (bottom right). He recently met one of his subjects, pizza reviewer and Barstool Sports magnate Dave Portnoy (bottom left). (*Submitted photos*)



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**JHS**

**The Seniors**



# Panthers of the Week

**POTW:** This week's Panthers of the Week are all of our students who had less than one absence for the first semester. These students had zero absences and less than four tardies/early dismissals. The entire Johnston High community is extremely proud of their accomplishments. (Photo 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 within the pages of the Johnston Sun Rise.



**The Juniors**



**The Sophomores**



**The Freshmen**

# Senior 'Spotlite'



# No doubt about it, Ellen is indispensable

By RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.  
Special to the Sun Rise

**T**he Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines, on our much loved and respected Activities Director here at the JSC, Ellen Trementozi.

About nine years ago, Ellen was asked to join the staff here, working in the Center's Café. When an opening in activities came about, Ellen was the perfect choice because of her organizational and social skills, but mostly how the staff and members here noted her "kindness" and friendly demeanor.

Today, Ellen is responsible for helping coordinate all the wonderful things happening here at the Johnston Senior Center. Bingo games, exercise classes, card playing, day and overnight trips, and more, all involve Ellen. Ellen has many volunteers who assist her, along with Pat, another activities staff assistant, who we rely on so importantly.

Ellen is still excited when planning an event she knows the members will enjoy. We here at the JSC are lucky to have such a dedicated advocate for all members of our senior community, who loves her job, and her extended family here at the JSC.

**Editor's Note:** Richard J. DelFino Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes a senior profile, called "Senior Spotlite," submitted by the senior center.

**INDISPENSABLE ELLEN:** This week's Johnston Senior Center Spotlite shines on much loved and respected Activities Director Ellen Trementozi. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

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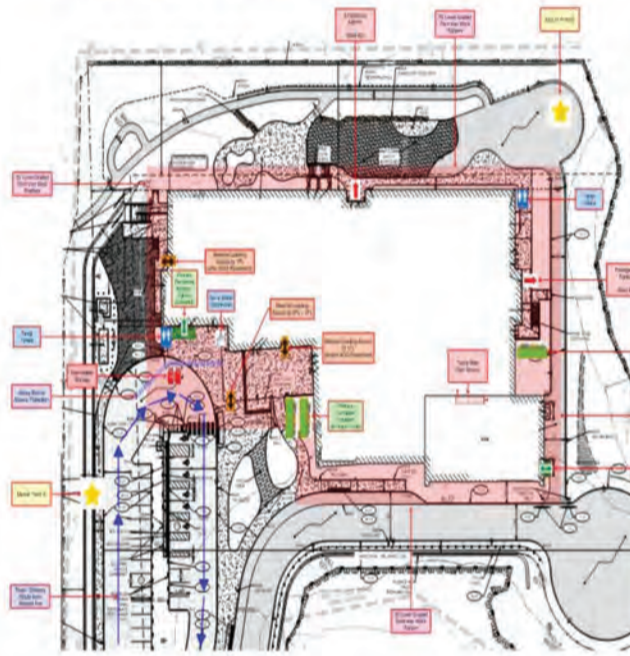


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**Construction Logistics Plan**



**Site Logistics Plan Notes:**

- Construction start: February 2024
- Construction Duration: 24 Months
- Work Hours: 7:00AM – 3:30PM
- A pre-existing conditions survey will be offered to residents abutting the project site.
- Dust control will be provided
- No idling policy will be enforced
- Construction traffic and deliveries from Atwood Ave.

**THE LOGISTICS:**  
The Johnston School Committee met last week to approve preliminary contracts for work to begin at the new elementary school. (Courtesy images)

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**Schools**

(Continued from page 1)

night's meeting. "It's not a bad 'Plan B.' A new elementary school and a new high school should serve this community for the next few generations."

As a town councilor, Polisena Jr. helped devise a plan to significantly renovate schools at every student age-level in town. That was the plan voters overwhelmingly approved by ballot referendum in 2022.

"The original plan, pre-COVID, was to build a new early child center, a new elementary school, renovations to Ferri (Middle School) and renovations to Johnston High," Polisena explained Tuesday. "With the sharp increase in cost of materials and labor lost-COVID, we cannot do that plan for the original amount of (around) \$220 million. I'm not doing what other communities want to, which is going back out to bond again for more money, asking for more money from the taxpayers because the plan is specifically crafted for the annual debt obligation payment to be under the annual Amazon TSA (Tax Stabilization Agreement) payments."

The town faced ballooning construction costs and interest rates, forcing several iterations of the original school building project. Meanwhile, planners faced strict RIDE deadlines for plan submissions.

"We are still going forward with my secondary plan of building a new elementary school and new high school," Polisena wrote via email Tuesday. "They should start clearing the land for the elementary school either this month or next month."

The School Committee also met last week to get the wheels turning on construction vehicles at the future site of Johnston's new town-wide elementary school (most of the town's current elementary schools will close and either be sold or retrofit for other uses).

"The Jan. 30 meeting was to approve

preliminary contracts for work to begin at the new elementary school," according to Johnston Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. "There was also a presentation on the final plan for the building exterior."

The new elementary center will be built on a hill overlooking the current high school.

The newest plans for the high school were presented Tuesday night by Cathie Ellithorpe, principal of the SLAM Collaborative, who unveiled updated renderings.

"Yes, the current high school will be demolished and a new one will be built," according to Polisena.

Ellithorpe explained that the new high school construction will start prior to demolition of the old high school. The new building will be situated between the current building and the athletic complex. Both buildings will share the current high school gymnasium (which will be renovated but not newly built, since according to planners, the old gym is bigger than RIDE would permit for new construction).

After the new high school is erected, the old high school will be razed, to make way for parking lots and access roads.

Ellithorpe said the new high school will include a newly constructed auditorium with seating for just under 400, a sloped floor and a raised, deeper stage.

She told the committees that the new high school should open in the fall of 2027 and the new elementary school in the fall of 2026.

Financial incentives have slowed the start of construction of the town's new elementary center.

"I took our time with the elementary school because with the current rate environment we are making a substantial amount of interest on the \$85 million we borrowed for it," Polisena explained. "To date we've made about \$5 million, which we will turn around and use to make the debt payments on the bond itself. So we are using interest made on the debt to pay for the annual debt payment itself."

# Johnston voters will likely face a 'flood bond' in the fall, though state & federal grants may soften the blow

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston's impending flood bond may be a little less hefty thanks to some help from state and federal agencies.

While sections of Johnston are still drying out, both the state and federal governments have announced grants to help the town fight future flood damage.

"We were awarded \$2.08 million from the federal government, through Sen. (Jack) Reed, and \$340k from the state, through RIIB (Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank)," according to Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr.

Gov. Dan McKee's office announced Johnston's \$340,000 grant for "stormwater management" along Atwood and Hartford avenues last week.

"This is a long-term project that will take years," Polisena explained. "Now that we know how much we will receive in grants we can determine the scope of the project. If we were receiving no additional funds from the federal government or state that would significantly change what we'd be able to do."

Other sections of town may require home buyouts, according to the mayor (a program funded, in large part, by federal grants). Those determinations are expected by summer.

"But again, now that we have that information we can come up with a design and add the projected cost to the town in a prospective stormwater management bond," Polisena explained. "An example of what I'm saying is if we were receiving no additional funds, we may only be able to do a \$3 million dollar fix. Since we know we're receiving additional funds, now we know we might be able to do a \$5 million fix. I want to secure all the outside funding we can first then determine the scope and breadth of the projects."

RIIB awarded Johnston what it calls a \$340,000 "Municipal Resilience Program Action Grant for stormwater upgrades to help mitigate flooding on Atwood Ave and Hartford Ave."

"The purpose of this project is to address heavy flooding associated with the Pocasset River Watershed at Johnston's Town Center intersection of Hartford and Atwood Avenues, which has worsened significantly in

recent years due to increased precipitation and storm intensity," according to the grant description. "The area just south of Hartford Avenue and Atwood Avenue intersection is impacted where the Pocasset River passes under Atwood Avenue through a bridge/culvert structure. Stormwater flooding creates significant safety hazards in this area and extends up to the Route 6 ramps, causing traffic on surrounding roads, including Route 295 to be slowed to a crawl. This project will fund the design for green stormwater solutions to address the flooding problems associated with the Pocasset River Watershed. Phase II of the project will be construction of stormwater solutions."

The engineering work has already begun.

"No one engineering firm could do all project work for the entire town, it would take too long, so we will divide it amongst multiple engineering firms," Polisena said. "Di-Prete has a few neighborhoods in the town, Fuss & O'Neill has others, etc."

McKee and RIIB announced \$12 million in action grants for "Municipal Resilience Projects" across 20 Rhode Island communities, "funding from the 2022 voter-approved Green Bond," aimed at helping "cities and towns to implement resilience projects to address the impacts of climate change."

"Investing in Rhode Island's communities isn't just a prudent decision but a crucial step in securing a resilient future," McKee said in the press release. "The impacts of flooding and storms have been wide-ranging throughout our state, but with this funding from the voter-approved Green Bond, we can mitigate those risks, improve our response, and adapt to meet the climate change challenge."

According to the governor's office, the Green Bond will utilize \$16 million "to help communities restore and improve vulnerable coastal habitats, river and stream floodplains, and infrastructure. It also includes \$5 million for a small business energy loan program to provide zero-interest and below-market loans for clean energy projects."

"In just the last few weeks, communities across Rhode Island have experienced the effects of extreme storms, severe flooding, and coastal erosion, all of which are anticipated

to increase due to the impacts of climate change," William Fazioli, Executive Director of Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, said in the press release. "Rhode Island needs to invest in resilient infrastructure solutions now, and that is exactly what this \$12 million in 20 Municipal Resilience Program Action Grants will allow 19 communities across our state to do. We look forward to continuing to work with our city and town partners through the Municipal Resilience Program, and to partnering with our state and federal leaders to create a sustainable financial framework to address the mounting challenges posed by acute and chronic climate related events."

On Wednesday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced nearly \$2 million for Federal Disaster Assistance for Rhode Islanders affected by September storms.

"A little over 30 days after President Joe Biden declared a major disaster for the state of Rhode Island for the severe storms, flooding and tornado winds that occurred Sept. 10-13, 2023, \$1,929,949 in federal assistance has been provided by FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to support the state's recovery," according to FEMA.

Ocean State homeowners and renters in Providence County, "whose homes and property were damaged by the storms have until March 7," to apply for federal assistance.

According to FEMA, 364 eligible Rhode Island homeowners and renters have been helped with "uninsured storm-related losses." FEMA housing grants totaling \$1,548,638 will "help pay for home repair, home replacement and rental assistance for temporary housing," and \$86,821 has been delivered for "Other Needs Assistance grants to help pay for personal property replacement and other serious storm-related needs such as moving and storage fees, transportation, childcare, and medical and dental expenses."

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and FEMA opened, staffed and operated two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Providence County, including an office at the Johnston Senior Center on Hartford Avenue, "to provide one-on-one assistance to survivors." According to FEMA, more 200 "survivors have visited these centers."

# National accreditation team invites public comment on the Johnston Police Department

From a JPD Press Release

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) seeks the public's feedback regarding the Johnston Police Department during their reaccreditation process.

Verification by CALEA that the Johnston Police Department meets the commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain and retain accreditation — a highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence. During the reaccreditation process, CALEA examines all aspects of the Johnston Police Department's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services, amongst others.

As part of the assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments that address the department's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the standards is available at Johnston Police headquarters via local contact, Civilian Tim Forsberg, Accreditation Manager, at 401-757-3137, or by email at tforsberg@johnstonpd.com.

CALEA maintains an online access portal which allows for comment and feedback regarding candidate agencies seeking initial accreditation or reaccreditation status. The link for this portal can be found on the CALEA corporate website, <https://cimrs2.calea.org/583>. This link is provided as an opportunity for public comments, commendations, and other information regarding the Johnston Police Department's quality of service or other information relevant to the accreditation process.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Johnston Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write to: CALEA, 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

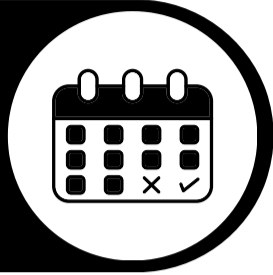
Accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must participate in annual remote web-based assessments attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding CALEA, please write the commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155; call (703) 352-4225 or email [calea@calea.org](mailto:calea@calea.org)

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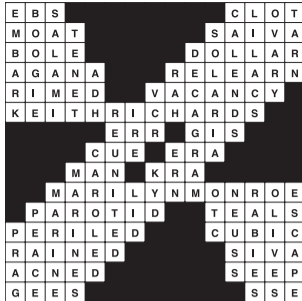
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**ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:**



**PROUD PRESENTERS:** Among those people who participated in the recent JHS Blood Drive held in memory of the late Matthew Dennison are Glenn Halvorson of the RI Blood Center; Brendan Lang, junior class VP; Mark Dennison, Katie Dennison, Alexia DiLorenzo, SC President; Alessandria Pesare, Senior Class President; Matthew Clements, SC corresponding secretary; Raylan Santos, SADD President; Logan Martins, Junior Class President and Greg Russo, Student Council and SADD advisor. (Submitted photos)



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Rhode Island General Treasurer

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# They bled for a good cause

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston High School did it again. As has been the case in recent years, JHS has ranked among the top five high schools in Rhode Island in terms of holding highly important blood drives. This time, the Panthers blood drive may have been the best ever, as JHS honored the late West Warwick High School hockey captain Matthew Dennison who was the victim of a drunken driving accident in February of 2022 and collected blood in his memory. The JHS Student Council and SADD (Students Against Dangerous Decisions) coordinated a special event and invited Matthew's father Mark Dennison and his daughter Katie to come and address about the student body about the ongoing need for blood everywhere. As long-time JHS faculty member and SC/SADD Advisor Greg Russo and other JHS faculty members will attest, the address was both inspirational and ex-

tremely educational as well as stressing the importance for high school juniors and seniors concerning donating blood. Mark Dennison told an attentive audience about how Matthew lived for 27 days after the accident, and he required numerous blood donations. Despite valiant efforts he tragically succumbed to his injuries and his tragic passing left a huge void in the Town of West Warwick as well as the state's high school hockey community. Ever since, the Dennison family has made it a mission to visit groups at the high school level around the state, addressing enraptured groups of students. "We would like to thank Mark and Katie Dennison for their courage and determination in spreading the word about the importance of blood donations," Russo said to conclude the inspirational and heartfelt assembly. "We were honored to present this event in memory of Matthew Dennison. It was an honor for Johnston High School to participate in this valuable program."

**PROUD PANTHER:** JHS student Tyler Holton relaxes while donating blood during the recent drive held in memory of the late Matthew Dennison of West Warwick who was killed by a drunken driver in February 2022.



**GRAND GIFT:** James Pastore was one of many JHS students who donated blood. He's attended by a phlebotomist from the RI Blood Center.



## Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a Public Hearing **February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court, located at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2024-1 (formerly 2023-CP-160)** to amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map, as summarized here.

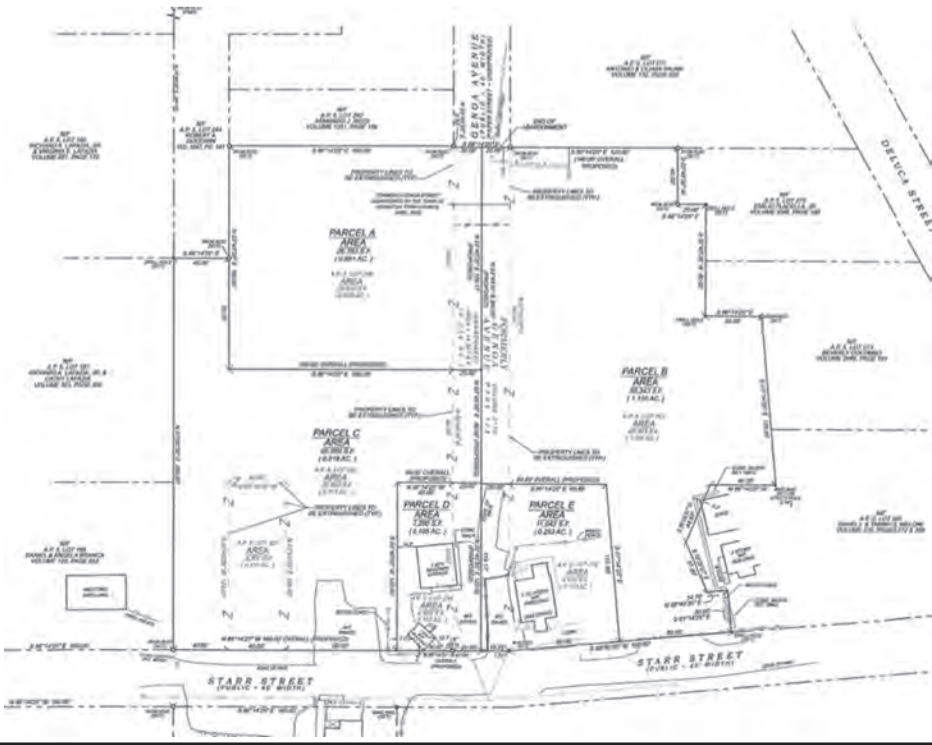
- Applicant:** Peter St. Lawrence, III
- Assessor's Plat:** 5
- Assessor's Lots:** 231, 232, 234, 238, 262 & 263
- Present Classification:** R-20
- Proposed Change to:** Industrial-L
- Said lot being located on:** Starr Street

The proposed Ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Said proposed Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Clerk for examination. Any alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of the hearing. All persons interested in the above application are requested to attend said meeting and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Per Order:  
**Robert V. Russo**  
Johnston Town Council

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

1/25, 2/1, 2/8/24



# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Public access should be free

In the past week, news broke that different press outlets were charged differing amounts of money to access public records associated with the inspection and closure of the Washington Bridge. And last month, Rhode Island Resource and Recovery demanded Beacon Communications pre-pay \$900 for a public records request (we've appealed that decision with the RI Attorney General).

Thankfully, Gov. Dan McKee made the correct decision to quickly order the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to refund the other outlets for the documents they rightfully requested on behalf of the public; whose tax dollars fund every position held by DOT, and whose tax dollars will be picking up the tab for whatever remediation method becomes required in the coming months (and maybe years) for the resolution to the bridge's calamitous condition.

Being able to access records kept by publicly-funded government agencies is not a "nice to have" feature of a functioning democracy; it is part of the bedrock that keeps our government accountable to the people who they are charged with serving every day.

The argument that different press outlets requested different swaths of records — some more easily obtainable, some more voluminous and arduous to produce — does not cut it, in our view. While the current Access to Public Records Act (APRA) certainly declares that a public agency is within their rights to charge citizens and news outlets a price for the time spent gathering documents (and redacting pieces that aren't subject to the law), when different outlets are charged differing amounts, it creates a troubling image of inequity that damages the public trust in one of our most crucial elements of democracy.

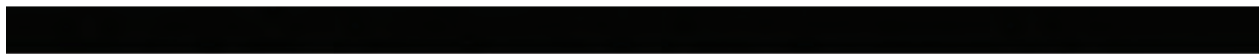
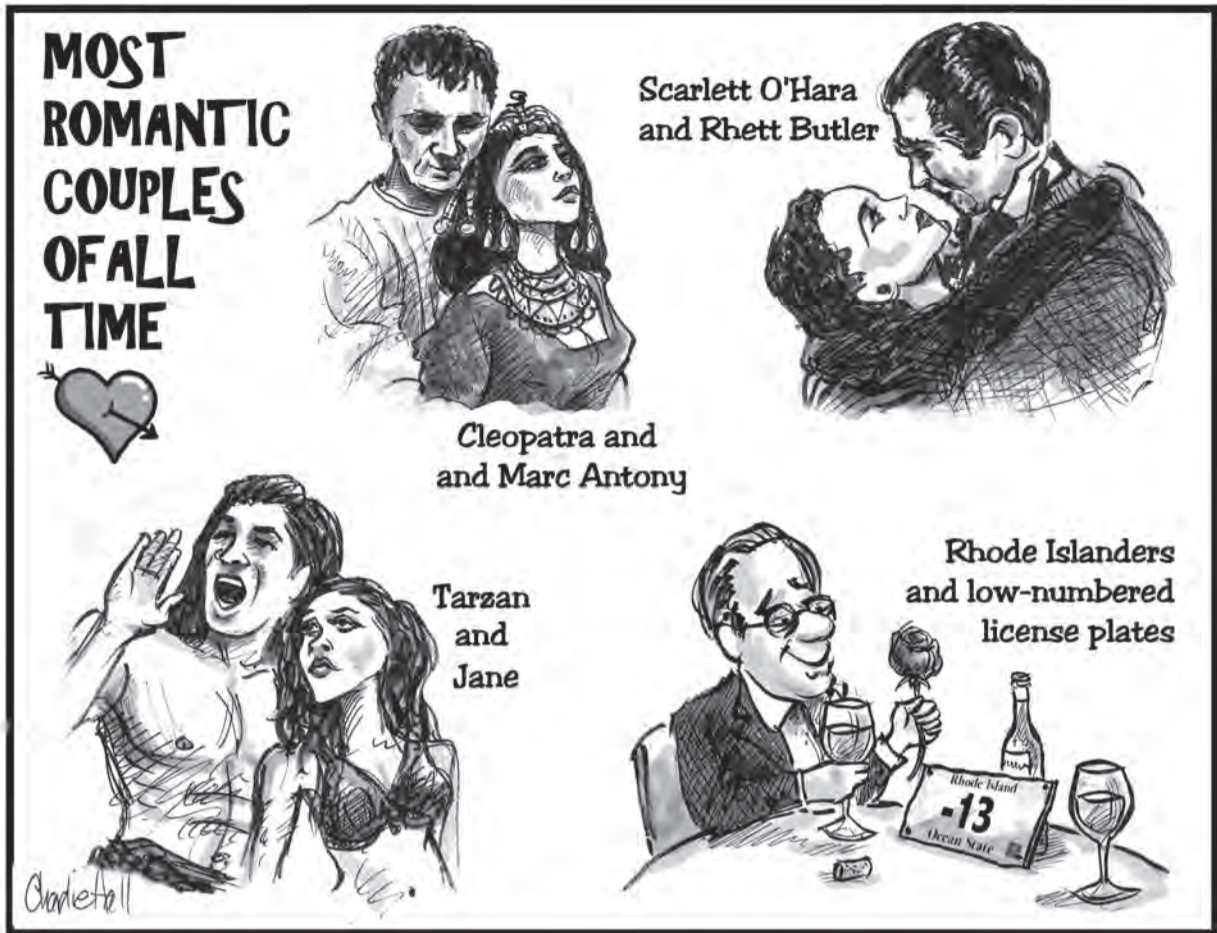
This recent incident, while it was handled in a prompt and reasonable manner by Gov. McKee, shows how important it is to take a look at the APRA as a piece of legislation, and tighten up some areas where it can be improved.

For one, if we are going to continue the practice of charging for access to public records, the law should have a well-defined set of criteria to determine when a request will incur fees, and a formula associated with it to determine how much that fee will be.

For example, "X number of pages equals Y amount of money," or "X amount of hours spent gathering the records (which should also be logged by the agency producing the record), equals Y amount of money." There should also be a hard cap to how much a records request can cost, as no public citizen or media outlet should be forced to pay what amounts to more than a week of wages for a journalist simply by doing their job.

Of course, this could be simplified further by doing away with charging fees for accessing records in the first place. Why, exactly, should members of the public (and journalists working on behalf of the public), pay to access records that are legally allowable for them to view in the first place?

Many government agencies in our own coverage area don't charge for accessing records, and we applaud that effort, as it is in the spirit of keeping government accountable and transparent. How about we make that the new normal?



And at the Super Bowl, fans start cheering to spur on their faves.



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# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

### Feb. 10 Pasta Dinner

Former Coventry High School Navy JROTC Cadets will host a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser in memory of Lucas Finegan (Class of 2019) on Feb. 10 from 6-11 p.m. at the VFW Post 9404, 29 South Main St. in Coventry. Menu includes chicken, pasta, salad, rolls & desserts. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20 per person. All are invited to enjoy a night of great food, raffles and memories. Contact Dotie at 401-451-0632 with any questions.

### Feb. 10 Valentine's Dinner Dance

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the West Warwick-Coventry Emblem Club 454 is holding a Valentine's Dinner Dance, with "No Host Cocktails" starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The menu includes: sal-

ad, stuffed boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, bread and butter, coffee and dessert. The event will also include music, dancing and raffles. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be prepaid. No tickets will be sold at door. The event is being held at the West Warwick Elks Lodge 1697, 60 Clyde St., West Warwick. For Tickets call Linda at 401-497-3680.

### Feb. 10 Hope Memorabilia & Artifacts

The Hope Historical Society, "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts" will be held on Sat., Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Howland Barn on 35 Ryefield Road in Hope. All are welcome! The "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts" topic is an Open Forum meeting. Open Forum is an interactive meeting where members and attendees become a living history by sharing pictures, artifacts, stories, etc. related to the program topic. Intrigued by the topic but cannot attend "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts"?

No worries! You can still share in being part of the living history by posting a picture and/or story on our Facebook page "Hope Historical Society, Hope, RI". Pictures and stories must be posted at least 72 hours before the meeting to be included at the Open Forum. Not a Facebook user? Pictures or stories can be emailed to the HHS at hopehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

### Feb. 14 Senior Center Lunch

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 11:15 a.m., the Johnston Senior Center will host a Valentines Day Lunch, Party, and Entertainment. The Johnston Senior Center welcomes Steve Anthony!

### Attn. Johnston flood victims

Residents impacted by recent flooding events should document damages for potential federal reimbursement. Send this documentation to Johnston EMA Director, Chief Mark A. Vieira, at ema@johnstonpd.com (include photographs).

### Help OSDRI restock their food pantry for veterans!

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry needs a major restocking. See a list of needed nonperishable items in the photo.

Like many people, OSDRI's clients have been faced with some real obstacles these past couple of years. With your help, they pledge to always be there to give a hand up for veterans and their families in need.

Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OSDRI's main office, 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the OSDRI office at 401-383-4730.

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

## SCOOP OF THE WEEK



**SICK SPEECH:** Beth Shinn will discuss "Plagues in History" during a presentation at the Johnston Historical Society headquarters are located at 101 Putnam Pike, at 2 p.m., on Sunday, Feb. 25. (Courtesy photo)

### Feb. 25 Historical Society hosts 'Plagues in History: Change Agents'

The Johnston Historical Society will host its next event at 2 p.m., on Sunday, Feb. 25.

The presentation, titled "Plagues in History: Change Agents of History," will be delivered by Beth Shinn, of Bristol.

During the talk, Shinn plans to discuss Biblical Plagues and outcomes, and present an overview of types of plagues (which will include specific plagues in BC: Athens; plagues in early AD history, Justinian smallpox; plagues in Middle Ages; 20th century plagues like influenza and HIV; COVID and its continuing impact today).

Shinn earned her PhD at The University of Edinburgh. She attended 1985 M.A.T.S. in World Mission/ Evangelism, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, graduating Magna cum Laude. And she earned her B.A. in East Asian Studies from Colby College in 1977, focusing on Educational and Professional Development.

From 2003-2011, Shinn conducted Ph.D. by research in the area of Christian Missions in the Early Middle Ages at Edinburgh University in the College of Humanities and Social Science in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology. The title of her dissertation was "Christian Mission in the Early Middle Ages: An Examination of Mission, Baptism, Conversion, and Saints' Lives from the Perspective of Missiology."

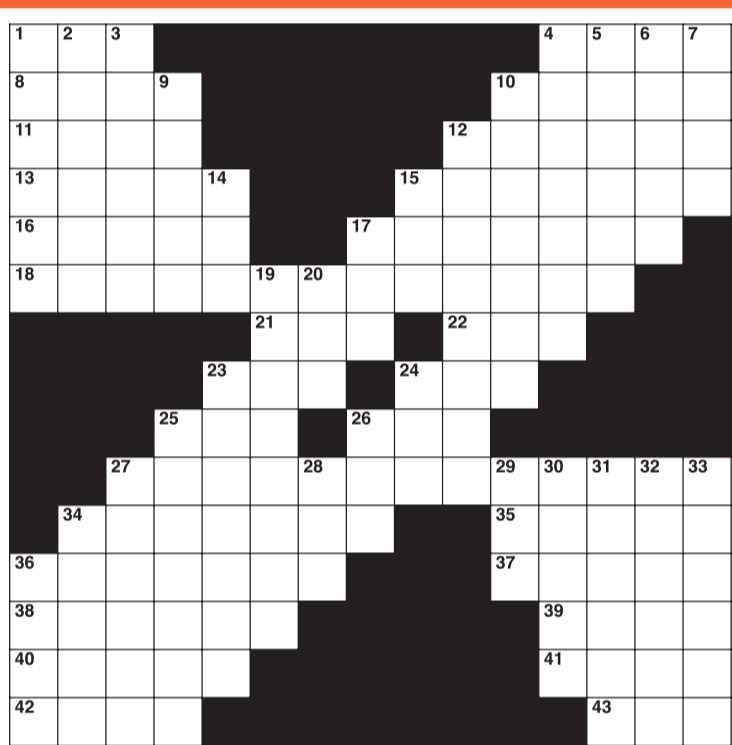
Shinn's academic studies have taken her all over the world, and she teaches at several institutions of higher education.

She's currently an adjunct professor at Bryant University, teaching courses like Emerging Europe and Charlemagne to 1600. She's also an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University, teaching courses including Western Civilization 1 and 2; Core 102: Challenge of Democracy, and online courses, The History of Alternative Democracy; American Colonial History to Reconstruction; Imperialism; Global History; First Year Seminar: Capturing History; Spies in WW2; Emerging Europe: Charlemagne to 1600.

Since 2011, Shinn has also been an adjunct professor at Rhode Island College, where she teaches the following courses: Western Civilization from Ancient to Present; The West and the World to 1600; US History and the World; Europe and the World 1600 to present; and History 103.

The Johnston Historical Society headquarters are located at 101 Putnam Pike in Johnston. Their events are free and open to the public.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching statistic
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief

- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee \_\_\_
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back together
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

# GOOD TO BE KIND





# St. Rocco School Celebrating 60 Years



By RORY SCHULER

This year, St. Rocco School in Johnston, celebrates its 60th anniversary.

Last week, during Catholic Schools Week, St. Rocco staff kicked off the festivities with numerous events for students, including the annual Invention Convention (held the previous Friday).

The Opening of Catholic Schools week was marked with a mass on Jan. 29, "celebrating our Parish," which included the presentation of the David DeCosta Scholarship Awards and an open house.

Then, on Monday, Jan. 29, the school held a Career Day Dress for all grades. The theme for the day was "Celebrating Your Community." Students also created appreciation cards for members of the St. Rocco School community. A food drive kicked also kicked off.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 was School Spirit Day, with a school-wide assembly at 9 a.m. featuring "Amazing Hero Art" with Rob Surette.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the theme was "Celebrate the Nation," and students were encouraged to wear red, white or blue clothing to school. The day was capped with a spelling bee at 4 p.m.

The school observed the theme "Celebrating Vocations" on Thursday, Feb. 1. Students made cards and acknowledged the school's Sisters, Fr. Carusi and Deacon Bob. Thursday was also pajama day, and ended with a Karate Assembly (by the Feinstein Foundation), which looked at the dueling topics of "bullying" and "respect" for various grades.

Following mass on Friday morning, Feb. 2, the school observed the theme "Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers" as it held a Dance Party at Café Rocco, a snowball activity in the church hall, and freeze pops for all (in grades 5-8). The week ended with an early dismissal.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Later this spring, St. Rocco School plans to host an alumni event. Watch for details in a future edition of the Johnston Sun Rise. Also, watch for more photo pages from Catholic Schools Week at St. Rocco in future editions.



# Obituaries

## Rory Allen DeShaies

A beloved son, father, and brother, Rory Allen DeShaies, 66, of Johnston passed away peacefully at home on February 2, 2024. Born October 6, 1957, he was the beloved son of Roberta (Bobbi) Rivelli of Johnston and the late Robert DeShaies, Sr. He is survived by his only son Rory Michael DeShaies of Johnston; three sisters, Renee Authier of North Providence, Roberta DeShaies of Melbourne, Florida, and Denise Spaziano of North Providence; and three brothers, Edgar DeShaies of Columbia, James DeShaies of Johnston, and Robert Gaudreau of Las Vegas, NV. He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert DeShaies Jr., and Anthony DeShaies.



A devoted son and father, he was handsome, smart, and very talented. A loving and caring man, he had a great sense of humor with a self-deprecating style and was known for his joking around and making others laugh and feel at home in his company.

After high school, he attended and graduated from the Arthur Angelo School of Hair Design, which began his long and illustrious career in the beauty and hair care industry. He was an award-winning Certified Master Colorist/Stylist at Elle & Co. Salon, specializing in all aspects of hair design. He was a three time, award-winning stylist and colorist: in 1986 for free-style hair cutting; in 1990 for haircutting and coloring; in 2004 for the International Color Conference. From 1990 until 1995 he held the position of Artistic Director for Rome's Tocco Magico hair color. From 1999 until 2003 he was color director for Dellaria Salons. He also performed as a platform artist for Redken, ABA Hair Care, Image Labs, Tocco Magico, and Dellaria Salons.

His work and style eventually earned him the esteemed recognition by Colorton, of which he was very proud. His impeccable taste and style brought him to the world of beauty pageants, winning him the prestigious 'Mr. Atlantic Award' where he captured the categories of Best Dressed, Most Photogenic, and Mr. Congeniality. Rory's personality and talent brought him much success and notoriety as he cultivated a very devoted, decades-long following and client base. He was the sole proprietor of his own hair salon, Ecosensual Salon in Providence, for many years.

When he wasn't working, he loved to be with his family and relax near the water enjoying both salt- and freshwater fishing. He also enjoyed music of every genre, but his favorites were old-school disco and modern pop. His artistic talents expanded to the kitchen as well, as he loved to bake breads of all kinds.

A true artist, father, and friend, he was loved by many by whom he'll be sorely missed but fondly remembered. May he rest in eternal peace until we meet again.

Relatives & friends are cordially invited to attend Visitation & Services for Rory on Friday, February 9th, from 4:00 until 6:00p.m. at the Berarducci Home, corner of Grove & Knight Streets in historic Federal Hill, Providence, RI. Burial will be respectfully private.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Rory Allen DeShaies, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

## Lecia Pennine

8/30/1966 - 2/8/1987



Your presence we miss  
Your memory we treasure  
Loving you always  
Forgetting you never

With Love,  
Mom, Stephen and  
Tony

## Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

# Pizza

(Continued from page 1)

"It's cool if he didn't like them, just like every other out-of-stater," Palmieri joked. "That's part of the mythos of the pizza strip."

Eric's father Stephen stepped out of the bakery during Portnoy's review. He asked the pizza prince to pause while the bakery crafted a pie he'd appreciate.

Portnoy, a prickly pizza stickler, is a fan of the New Haven (Connecticut) school of pizza. Portnoy's adamant that he only likes plain cheese slices (like Kevin McAllister in Home Alone) with a sturdy undercarriage (only a little "flop" is acceptable).

"He takes it so seriously," Palmieri said. "That's part of the joke."

### 'It's cold!' (It's supposed to be!)

Portnoy will occasionally review an atypical slice with toppings; a section of deep dish or a thick Sicilian square (but he delivers those scores with a big asterisk, on a separate sliding scale).

The Palmieris didn't expect Portnoy to appreciate their pizza strips. He asked them if they're "supposed to be cold."

Pizza strips are typically served room temperature (best the day they're made).

Just damn good sauce on some doubly damn good pizza dough. (No cheese. No toppings. No garish garnish.) That's it. That's the ingredient list.

You have to use the best ingredients," Palmieri explained. "Some have a crispier crust. Some chewy. As long as you use the best ingredients ... the sauce is the most important part of the strip."

Palmieri's oils their pan with the blood of olives. Bakes the strips. And then sets their bottoms on a hot brick (they understand the importance of a healthy "undercarriage"). The pizza's sliced into strips, boxed and separated with sheets of translucent paper that magically bids adieu to each slice without removing the red, nightshade ambrosia on top.

It's an old recipe. "We've been doing this as a family since 1923," Eric said, seated in the bakery's back office. His dad was in the kitchen.

### A Dying Artform?

Eric Palmieri works in a perishable medium. Pizza art looks best immediately after it's created. Baking changes the pie, like old age changes the faces of his real-life subjects. Refrigeration also sucks the luster from the finished edible canvas.

"The toppings shrivel in the refrigerator," he said. "They lose their vibrancy."

The pizza artist only has time to craft a maximum of one pre-ordered pizza painting per day. The price ranges from \$99 to \$199, and can easily take four hours to create.

"It's got to be done that day, or it won't be as good," he warned.

Searching for ways to preserve his art form, Palmieri has decided to marry technology with his passion for pizza portraiture. His best pies can now be purchased as NFTs (non-fungible tokens, which are limited, digital images that utilize unique digital identifiers, recorded on a blockchain, which can ultimately be used to certify ownership and authenticity).



**TILE TRIGGERS A SMILE:** A friend of Eric Palmieri, of D. Palmieri's Bakery in Johnston, immortalized a quote from Dave Portnoy's visit on a ceramic tile, which will now be kept in a place of honor. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



**PIZZA ART:** Eric Palmieri crafts portraits with pizza. He's tackled an array of subjects from infamous Fall River murderess Lizzie Borden (right) and TV mobster Tony Soprano (left), to pizza reviewer and Barstool Sports magazine Dave Portnoy (on the front page). (Submitted photos)

PIZZA - PAGE 11

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**SERVICE WITH A SMILE:** D. Palmieri's Bakery recently celebrated six decades on Killingly Street in Johnston. They serve all kinds of pizza (not just the cold, cheeseless stuff). (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

## ■ Pizza

(Continued from page 10)

It may be the only NFT that makes any sense (a perishable art, which by definition can only be viewed and then consumed once).

Palmieri auctioned off his Portnoy/Barstool Sports pizza as an NFT (he donated the funds raised to Portnoy's charity, the Barstool Fund, a "non-profit 30-day monetary fund to help small businesses ... survive shutdown orders caused by the pandemic"). The pizza auction raised more than \$400 in crypto, which he converted into cash and contributed to the Fund.

Palmieri, like many other pizza proprietors, considers Portnoy a "true champion for small business."

He first sent Portnoy a framed copy of his pizza portrait during the Covid-19 lockdown. The now-famous pizza expert returned the favor with a visit during his Providence tour last week (he was already in town for Barstool's Rough N' Rowdy fight event at the Amica Mutual Pavilion).

### Everyone Knows the Rules

"Alright, pizza review time," Portnoy said to start his review on a Johnston sidewalk. "D. Palmieri's Bakery. Somebody DM'd me. I did the research. I'm like, 'We got to give it a shot.' I mentioned it to a couple of people. They gave me knowing glances ... Yup, that's Providence. That's Rhode Island. Here we go. What do they call them? Strips?"

His often-wrong cameraman corrected him while shooting — "sheets."

"No you're off today ... 'Sheets' is how you order it, but if you go there, 'give me a strip,'" Portnoy said. "It's kind of cold. I don't know if it's supposed to be cold."

He took his single bite.

"Yeah, this is just tomato sauce on bread. This ain't my vibe," he was brutally honest. "It's a very cool place; a bakery. But ... not like a normal ..."

A Johnston heckler weighed in.

"It's not like a normal, you know ... I did the strip thing," Portnoy responded to the passer-by who was asking for his score. "Yeah, well they told me, for Providence, to do this."

Stephen Palmieri's familiar with Portnoy's tastes. He popped out of the bakery in his marinara-stained apron. He shook Portnoy's hand.

"So should I have done this one?" Portnoy asked Stephen Palmieri.

"That's a Rhode Island thing," the pizza-maker replied, resigned, but confident and knowing.

"So, that's the Rhode Island thing ... I had to do the Rhode Island thing," Portnoy said. "It's an acquired taste. Are they always cold?"

"We've got a good hot pizza," the elder Palmieri answered. He wanted to chase down the reviewer to ensure he

also tried a slice of the bakery's other pizza offering, typically called "Home-style" in the shop — thin and round, like a cartoon pizza.

"Do you?" Portnoy asked.

"I can put it in for you."

Portnoy asked how long it would take. Stephen Palmieri assured him it would be about 10 minutes.

"Oh, come on, you're here," the baker argued with a smile.

"Alright, fine, do it," Portnoy said, pointing to the open box of pizza strips. "Because I don't like this ... This is like a 5.8 to me. I'm gonna give him a chance to give me a real pizza. This is not ... this ... if this is Providence food, then everyone's going hungry." (A friend of Palmieri's immortalized that quote on a ceramic tile, which the pizza shop plans to display proudly in a place of honor.)

Portnoy reluctantly stayed; he waited on the sidewalk. Meanwhile, Eric Palmieri posed for a photo with his pizza-praising idol.

Portnoy asked the elder Palmieri how long the bakery's been in business. He answered, "Around 60 years." (The original family location, however, dates back a century and was first located in Providence.)

He gave Portnoy the classic round pie.

### The Pizza Prophet

Stephen and Eric Palmieri stood back to watch. They stopped breathing for a minute. Portnoy has become a powerful presence in social media. His pizza reviews generate millions of views and thousands of interactions. A coveted 9 (out of 10) or higher can lead to block-length lines and trigger hours-long wait times for subsequent pie orders.

Palmieri's doesn't really need the help. Their business foundation is solid. They even thrived through the pandemic and emerged healthier on the other side.

"Here we go, here's the full pie," Portnoy said with a bigger, flatter pizza box balanced on his right hand. "Now we got the owner, 60 years, (and) the son; they're staring me down. Keep that in mind."

Portnoy flipped the box open and grabbed a slice with his left hand. After only a moment to cool, he dove in, taking his signature first bite (he chomped with reckless disregard for the roof of his mouth). He doesn't mind the cheese dribble or talking with his mouth full.

"It's good stuff," he said, breaking his own rule and going back for a second bite. "I'll go 7.5 on it. I think it's a good, quality pizza."

"Thank you for everything you do for small businesses," Eric Palmieri told Portnoy after the review.

Back in his office, the fourth-generation pizza artist reflected on the star-struck encounter and his blossoming passion for pizza handicraft.

He asked the real question — the only question: "If you can't have fun with pizza, what good is it?"

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By JENNIFER COATES

Dreamland Learning Center, a creative and cheerful childcare center in Johnston, is a bright and welcoming place where learning is fun and where every space was designed to enrich the growing minds of the many children who come here. This learning center was opened in 2015 and has been evolving and expanding ever since to meet the needs of today's modern family.

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners, while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music, and story time. The outside playgrounds provide the perfect place for youngsters to run off all that childhood energy. The after-school room is set up with long tables for homework time.

As parents visit the center, they will find attentive

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

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict standards of the state while all staff are licensed and CPR certified. The staff here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship. The center is also highly "Bright Star" rated.

The team at Dreamland is always vigilant in their efforts to stave off all sicknesses. All common spaces are regularly sanitized with an emphasis on frequent hand washing! You can be assured that your child is in a safe, secure, and happy place!

Dreamland Learning Center is accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12 years of age. After school programs are in session. The center is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, to discuss your questions or concerns, call the office at 401-280-1400 or visit their website at [dreamlandlearningcenter.com](http://dreamlandlearningcenter.com). Rhode Island state subsidies are accepted!

Be sure to check out the other Dreamland Learning Centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

As times are evolving, the team at Dreamland is looking to grow. If you love children and want to work with them in this supportive and important line of work, give the office a call today.

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# More at Mohr Library

Mohr Library is offering extended programs for elementary-age kids afterschool.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is an opportunity for children to "experiment, explore and build" with Ms. Melyssa.

Registration began Jan. 3 for the following elementary-school-age programs with Ms. Melyssa:

Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m., to Feb. 10, Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7.

See [mohrlibrary.org](http://mohrlibrary.org) or call 401-231-4980 to register.

Registration is ongoing for a variety of programs and events at the Mohr Library, 1 Memorial Ave, Johnston.

The Library offers help with technology, information, and finding books and media. They have fax service, self-service copying and public computers, and a Notary Public most evenings (call ahead to confirm).

You can reserve quiet rooms and meeting space.

Drawing for adults will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Knitting and Crochet Group meets Fridays at 10 a.m.

Activities for middle-school and high-school age kids will be offered many afternoons. Kids should talk with our Young Adult Librarian, Marissa, for more information.

The Children's Library always has drop-in, self-directed activities for kids and families like crafts and scavenger hunts.

There is an ongoing book sale in the lower level, whenever we are open.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Johnston Senior Center Highlights

From the Staff

Our Senior Center gives our all, to make our members feel welcome and enjoy the time they spend here.

Along with the activities, lunch is served daily. Bingo is every Thursday and Friday at 2 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Together we will bring our Center back to life and make it better than ever. Thank you to all our members.

### Weekly Fun

- Monday — Arts and Crafts
- Monday & Wednesday — Hi Lo Jack
- Tuesday — Quilting
- Wednesday — Poker
- Thursday — Mar Jong
- Thursday & Friday — Bingo

### Upcoming Activities

- Mondays — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Arts & Crafts, 10:30 a.m.; Hi Lo Jack, 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Quilting, 9:30 a.m.; Zumba, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong -Chair, 11 a.m.
- Thursday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 9:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, 10 a.m.; Bone Builders, 11 a.m.
- Friday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Line Dancing, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong-Chair, 11 a.m.

### Trips & Events

- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m., Decorating for Valentines Day,
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, Ballroom Dancing, 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 14, 11:15 a.m., Valentines Day Lunch, Party, and Entertainment. The Johnston Senior Center welcomes Steve Anthony!
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, Painting with Lorraine, from 1-3 p.m. Enjoy coffee and pastry. Come and join in our painting class to show your talent. (\$20 per person)
- Monday, Feb. 26, Newport, Lunch & Shopping, 10:30 a.m. (\$5 per person)
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, Book Club with Mary
- Wednesday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m., Mystery Lunch (\$10 per person)
- Upcoming Trips TBA

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And no matter what treatment works for you, Ortho Rhode Island's comprehensive, collaborative, and multimodal approach to spine care offers the opportunity to find your optimal care pathway – which means your first step toward getting back to what you love may be closer than you think. Learn how spine care at Ortho Rhode Island can help you get past your back and neck pain by calling to schedule an appointment with Ortho Rhode Island at 401.777.7000, or visiting [orthopedicsri.com/spine](http://orthopedicsri.com/spine).

## Understanding Freezing Injuries



### Staying Healthy

by ZACHARY LIPSMAN, MD  
EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN, KENT HOSPITAL

The cold weather has certainly arrived and with it comes an increased risk of cold-related injury. While it is important to keep in mind that cold-related injury can occur in just about any month of the year depending on the conditions, January - March is the most critical time to be vigilant. In the spirit of a healthy and safe winter season, let us review two common conditions: "frostbite" and the less familiar "frostnip".

#### What is frostnip and how does it differ from frostbite?

Frostnip is a mild cold-induced condition consisting of pallor of the affected area with associated tingling or mild pain. The key with frostnip is that it is quickly reversible with rewarming.

Frostbite, on the other hand, is the result of tissue injury due to freezing and rewarming. In addition to direct injury to the tissue cells, small blood vessels feeding the tissues are likely damaged causing resultant inflammation, blood clotting, and subsequent poor blood supply to the tissues.

Frostbite most commonly affects the head, hands, and feet. It can occur extremely quickly (within seconds to minutes) when touching icy metal surfaces or in high wind or high altitude conditions.

The degree of frostbite can be difficult to determine by visual inspection at the outset of the injury event and can range anywhere from superficial skin involvement to deep injury to muscle and bone. Early signs of frostbite may be challenging to identify in darker skin tones. Patients typically report cold, numbness, and clumsiness of the affected area. The skin is typically discolored and may be hard or waxy to the touch. Blistering may be evident if the area has begun thawing.

#### What are the risk factors for frostnip and frostbite?

Risk factors include activities or occupations with increased cold exposure including military, outdoor winter athletics, the elderly, the homeless, and those who abuse drugs and alcohol. Exhaustion, dehydration, and malnutrition may result in decreased ability to respond to cold conditions.

#### What can you do to prevent cold weather injury?

Adequate layered clothing for the conditions is key. A good base layer should have properties to wick moisture away from the body. Avoid layering too tightly; layers should be somewhat loose to allow air to warm between the layers. The top layer should be impervious to wind. Be sure your face is also covered. Excessive sweating of the hands and feet can lead to frostbite so gloves and socks should also have moisture-wicking capabilities.

#### What is the treatment for frostbite?

If you believe you have suffered frostbite you must seek emergency medical attention right away. In the interim, be sure to remove wet and constrictive clothing and protect the affected area against wind. Do not rub the area as it can cause further injury. If possible, immobilize and elevate the area.

Use caution when considering rewarming before presentation to the hospital. Do not warm the affected area if you believe that it may be subject to refreezing as that will likely cause severe damage. Rewarming can be quite painful. If you do choose to begin the process of reheating while en route to the hospital, gently immerse the affected area in warm, body-temperature water. Do NOT use hot water and do not use dry heat.

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## Tall Teenagers push their electrifying sound forward with 'Chasm' EP



TALL TEENAGERS

By **ROB DUGUAY**

If you're ever looking to gauge how fast time flies, take a look at the years it's been since a local band played their first show. For the Providence alt-rock act Tall Teenagers, it's getting awfully close to a decade since the quartet of co-guitarists and co-vocalists Damian Puerini and Chelsea Paulhus, bassist Shannon Puerini and drummer Shaun Chevalier got together. Throughout that course of time, they've created some kickass songs that's ideal for anyone who digs the stylings of the Pixies and Nick Cave. They've also become one of the top bands in the local scene through their stellar recordings and live performances. Speaking of recordings, the latest installment of their creative output is the "Chasm" EP that

was released back on January 7.

To create the EP, Tall Teenagers teamed up with sound engineer and record producer extraordinaire Sammy D'Ambruoso at Andem Street Studios in their home city. As with a lot of other recordings D'Ambruoso has been a part of, the quality of the tracks is outstanding with the amplified instrumentation and harmonious vocals forging a substantial essence.

"We had these five songs in our set that weren't recorded, and Sammy had been asking us about recording with him for years," Damian, a Cranston native, says about the making of the record. "We are really happy with the sound of it; we think it sounds a lot like us and what we wanted. It helped that Sammy likes the band a lot and was

very enthusiastic about the process.

Chelsea noticed that the songs in a certain order had a bit of a narrative so we sequenced them to tell that story."

That narrative starts off with "Hot Trash Breath" having kickass beats from the drums and fantastic riffs from the guitars. "April" has the bass serving as the cohesive anchor while the dual six-strings establish slight twangs and rhythmic chords. With a somber beginning, "Never Leaving" exemplifies the harmonious vocals I mentioned with the drums having a rock-solid presence. "Kids Are Gone" has similar characteristics to the previous song while embracing more of a '60s pop vibe. Closing out the EP is "Faye", which has a Seattle grunge aesthetic that I absolutely love.

When it comes to Tall Teenagers, the

guitar technique and the vocal dynamic from both Damian and Paulhus is what makes them stand out. You can't overlook the tightly knit syncopation courtesy of Shannon and Chevalier either. In fact, you can't go wrong with any of this band's releases, but to check out the new EP you can find it and give it a stream by looking it up on Spotify. While you're at it, follow Tall Teenagers on Facebook at facebook.com/TallTeenagers and on Instagram at instagram.com/tallteenagers. Then go see them play at Askew located on 150 Chestnut Street in Providence on February 23 with fellow Providencians Light Speak and Dr. Jones. You'll probably hear a few songs off of the new release live on stage, so attending is highly recommended.

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# Sports

## Playoff-bound Panthers look to 'get going'

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys basketball team is grinding through the Division II dogfight and is nearing the home stretch of the regular season.

After dropping three straight contests to the division's top-three teams (Lincoln, St. Ray's, Tolman), the Panthers would bounce back to collect a pair of wins against Rogers and Cranston West. The team then took on Burrillville on the road on Monday night and the Broncos would grab the win, taking control of fourth place while Johnston was bumped to fifth.

With three games remaining in the regular season, the Panthers will be urgent to win against opponents that are behind them in the standings in hopes of jumping back into the top four and clinching better seeding for the playoffs.

The Panthers most recently played Burrillville and the Broncos would



**DRIVING FORWARD:** Johnston's Neari Vasquez drives through defenders against Cranston West last week. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)



## Ponte shines at class meet

Johnston was represented at the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Indoor Track and Field Class Championships last week by freshman thrower Jayden Ponte. Ponte had a solid outing, taking home a top-10 finish in the shot put as he clinched ninth place overall. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

## Salzillo game dinner serves up family fun

By PETE FONTAINE

Like fine wine, the Richard D. "Ricky" Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner gets better with age.

Just ask Jim Boxser, a Warwick resident who took in Sunday's fundraiser-dinner which was a tribute to the late basketball standout-musician who passed away at the age of 24 back on Feb. 10, 1976 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Route 295 during his way home to Johnston.

"I've been to a lot of game dinners," said Boxser, "but this is the best I've ever been to. The food is phenomenal."

Likewise, Warwick residents Chris Raymond, Jamie Channell and Mike Pare and John Torregrossi of North Providence echoed those same sentiments about the



### CHAIR'S CORNER:

Johnston Town Councilman Robert Civetti (left) and his brother David (right) get a warm welcome from Steve Placella, who has long served as chairman of the Ricky Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

SALZILLO - PAGE 16

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**PERFECT PATRONS:** The brothers Chatelle – Dennis (left) and Fran (center) and Jack O'Donoghue are among the many regulars that have supported and enjoyed the camaraderie of the Ricky Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner.

### Salzillo

(Continued from page 15)

24th annual game dinner which was prepared by Chef Ralph DeFusco of Ralph's Catering and served by the super staff led by Brianna Messa-Mastronardi.

Upwards of 200 people purchased tickets at \$40 each and enjoyed an abundance of specially cooked recipes that began with Game Soup and included Antipasta with Calzones, Pasta with Venison Meatballs and Sausage and Wild Board and Peas.

The smorgasbord concluded with Venison Marsala, Game Hen and Venison Meatloaf with Oven Roasted Potatoes.

In keeping with terrific tradition, the 24th annual dinner which began in 1998 and was held inside the Kelley-Gazzerro VFW Post off Plainfield Street and now makes its home at the Santa Maria Di Prata Club at 31 Walnut Grove in Cranston, featured a multi-gift raffle that featured high-priced prizes like a fully stocked three-shelf wine rack and wood pallet pizza oven, just to name a few.

"The prizes are phenomenal," assessed Robert Civetti, a District 5 Johnston Town Councilman who along with his brother David Civetti of Dependable Cleaning buys a 10-seat table every year. "There's no other raffle like this anywhere."

As Chairman Steve Placella related it's the extraordinary friendship and generosity of Johnston natives the brothers Fede – Frank and Nick – who own and operate

Kingstown Liquors on Post Road in North Kingstown and have secured valuable prizes from their respective and generous distributors that makes this dinner an extraordinary event.

"It's the raffle that makes this dinner a success," Placella told an applauding audience as people awaited purchasing tickets. "We appreciate your generosity and through the years we've been able to give scholarships in Ricky's name and make donations to Hasbro Children's Hospital, FARA, ALS, Needy Veterans and other important non-profits."

Sunday's dinner also featured a heartwarming sense of family, as Mason De-Christofaro – Placella's grandson – again had the honor of calling the winning ticket numbers for the six grand raffle prizes which were valued between \$200 and \$500.

There was yet another generous act of giving in addition to people purchasing numerous raffle tickets. And that was a special collection and show of thanks to the terrific wait staff that kept the hot food coming and coming all afternoon.

So, the tradition of the Ricky Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner, which Sunday featured excitement and classic camaraderie plus for inside of three hours, is in the books and as Placella and Co-Chair Vin LaFazia emphasized "everyone that comes to this event is always extra, extra generous. We can't thank you enough for our support and we look forward to seeing everyone back here for the Silver Anniversary dinner."



### VALUABLE VOLUNTEER:

Johnston native Frank Fede, who along with his brother Nick owns and operates Kingstown Liquors in North Kingstown, holds a bottle of expensive wine that was among the many value prizes in Sunday's mega-item raffle during the Ricky Salzillo Memorial Game Dinner.



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FAN SECTION: Ryan Audino puts up a shot in front of the student section.

## ■ Panthers

(Continued from page 15)

take control early and walk away with the 64-54 win. Branden Testa led the Panthers with 16 points while Neari Vasquez added 14. Jayden Testa and Mike Carlino each reached double figures with 10 points each.

"Division II is very competitive, the top eight or nine teams can beat each other on any given night. The Burrillville game was our worst of the year, we just came out flat. That's a tough environment at the Bronco Dome, they do a good job with their home court advantage," said Johnston coach Mike Bedrosian.

Johnston erased an early deficit to Cranston West the prior game and would roll to a 71-55 win. Jayden Testa had a

monster outing, leading the way with a game-high 33 points, including seven 3-pointers. Carlino finished with 12 points while Branden Testa chipped in 10.

"Every night from here on out is going to be a rock fight. We need to be locked in, firing on all cylinders. We can't just be turning it on and turning it off which is what we have been doing. Every game is like a playoff game so we have to bring it," said Bedrosian, who has been stressing starting games faster. "It's going to be about how we start games. Starting fast. Even in games that we've won, we haven't been doing that. Cranston West jumped out to a 12-0 run. We'll figure it out, they have the experience, no game is going to be too big for them. The Burrillville game was a kick in the butt for them, we need to get going."



IN THE PAINT: Branden Testa works through a West defender.

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# Fish pot survey a win-win situation

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

It is not often you get a win, win when engaging in fisheries research. But the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation (CFRF) is trying to find out what impact offshore wind farms have on black sea bass and just completed their third year of a South Fork Wind Farm fish pot monitoring survey. The wind farm is 19 to 24 miles southeast of Point Judith, Rhode Island.

The information will be invaluable for both recreational and commercial fishing. The survey is now complete for the Construction Phase of the project and will continue to the operational phase so fish abundance before, during and after construction can be measured.

The second "win" about this project is that in 2023 they were able to donate over 2,000 pounds of black sea bass and scup through the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island's Seafood Donation Program, and they are looking forward to donating more fish that would otherwise be discarded in the future.

The CFRF said, "The fish pot survey, which can be seen at SF-WF: Fish Pot Survey — CFRF (cfr-foundation.org), is monitoring the potential impacts of offshore wind development on finfish species like black sea bass and scup. We set our fish pot trawls only a few hundred feet from the base of the turbines, and it has been interesting watching the turbine construction progress throughout the year. Working alongside construction activities has been challenging, but we are very grateful to Joe Baker and Evan Adams of the F/V Harvest Moon for making this year go as smoothly as possible!"

The fish pot survey is one of the studies taking place at South Fork Wind Farm as part of their research and monitoring plan that was approved in 2020, three years before construction started in 2023.

The research and monitoring plan put in place by Ørsted at the South Fork Wind Farm is a good example of industry cooperation with anglers to establish research and monitoring plan protocols. The plan is evidence that government, fishing interests, developers and scientists can work together for the benefit of all the people of the United States of America.

The South Fork Wind Farm research and monitoring plan included support for two ongoing studies that are recreational fishing focused and four new studies that fishermen advocated for through the Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) of the Coastal Resource Management Council of Rhode Island in 2020.

Also in May of 2020, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in conjunction with the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, announced five studies it will be funding in offshore wind farm areas. The aim of these studies is to measure positive or negative impacts across a broader region and not necessarily in just one wind farm. Measuring the cumulative positive or negative impacts of multiple wind



**WIND FARM:** The Commercial Fisheries Research Center is studying the impacts of the South Fork Wind Farm on black sea bass and scup. The F/V Harvest Moon set and collected fish pots during the construction phase. (Submitted photo)

farms is something all are interested in.

Highlights of the monitoring plan included a gillnet survey that will target winter skates and monkfish; a beam trawl survey to study demersal fish and invertebrates because it is easier to maneuver in tight spaces where a limited amount of seabed can be sampled safely; a ventless trap survey will be conducted to collect data on lobster and crab resources; the ventless fish pot survey mentioned above to study black sea bass, scup and tautog, which are not often represented well in trawl surveys, so the idea is to use fish pots, which are more suited for complex sea bottoms; and a passive acoustic telemetry study tagging species of fish with acoustic transmitters, their movements and habitat use will be tracked using receivers on fixed buoys, as well as an autonomous glider vessel that travels the ocean.

More to come on this and other fish and habitat research as it is completed in wind farm areas.

### Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing in stocked ponds for trout and salmon continues to be good. Angler Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, War-

ren, said, "Fishing for trout has been outstanding with some very large rainbow and brook trout being caught. And the white perch bite has been pretty good too."

For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov and in Rhode Island visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing), or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

Saltwater fishing has been limited with high winds and storms. However, anglers continue to catch school striped bass. If you want to try your hand at cod fishing call ahead to make a party boat reservation, vessels will sail once the weather clears. Visit [www.islandcurrent.com](http://www.islandcurrent.com) and [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com). Full day rates for vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

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

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20 Whitford St	Ecm Properties LLC	Rrj Management LLC	1/19	\$215,000
40 Coventry Dr	Odonnell, Jamie J and Odonnell Jr, Robert E	Hartnett, David J	1/16	\$348,000
100-102 Boston St	Danielson, Linda J	Deperalta, Elida M	1/16	\$425,000
234 Howard Ave	Rodriguez, Enrique	Collins, Melissa W and Collins, Julie E	1/19	\$392,000
285 Hill St Lot 10	Longo, Annmarie	Desimone, Kathy L	1/19	\$249,900
517 Knotty Oak Rd	Spagnola, Douglas A	Trammell, Christopher	1/16	\$335,000
781 Maple Valley Rd	New Century Hm Equity Loa and Deutsche Bk Natl T Co Tr	Og Prop Solutions LLC	1/19	\$275,000
980 Plainfield Pike	Sandy Palm Family Lp	Parenteau, Gary and Parenteau, Roger	1/17	\$415,000

## Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
15 Dwight St Lot 9	Wylie, Robert J	Grasso, Richard	1/16	\$340,000
15 Dwight St Lot 8	Wylie, Robert J	Grasso, Richard	1/16	\$340,000
43 Lakeside Ave Lot 395	Rison Cynthia A Est and Nicolace, Cynthia	Trouve, Brad	1/19	\$330,000
43 Lakeside Ave Lot 400	Rison Cynthia A Est and Nicolace, Cynthia	Trouve, Brad	1/19	\$330,000
43 Lakeside Ave Lot 396	Rison Cynthia A Est and Nicolace, Cynthia	Trouve, Brad	1/19	\$330,000
53 Sweet Meadow Dr	Colgan, Sandra J	Alvarado, Enrique J and Sum, Jasmine N	1/19	\$410,000
66 Euston Ave	Belsky Jr, John J and Belsky, Erica	Hagopian, Narine and Hagopian, Sarkis	1/16	\$176,493
117 Greenwood St	Greenwood Garden Prop LLC	Wang, Qiu E and Yang, Xi C	1/16	\$320,000
118 Crothers Ave Lot 191	Sharon A Baptista Lt and Baptista, Jennifer A	Radtko, Ryan E	1/16	\$438,000
208 Pontiac Ave	J&s Invest LLC	Hernandez, Karla	1/17	\$625,000
213 Cheshire Dr Lot 213 \$360,000	Ciccarone Cheshire Irt and Ciccarone, Anthony P	Scolardi, Paul	1/19	
318 Phenix Ave	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	Gorton, James K	1/19	\$1
318 Phenix Ave	Gorton, James K	Timberline Prop Grp Inc	1/19	\$180,000

## East Greenwich

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279 Pequot Trl	Jiang, Hui and Piao, Honglian	Song, Xin	1/16	\$525,000

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6 Blaine St	Biviano, Fabian and Rosso, Katusa T	Kirios Realty LLC	1/18	\$307,393
18 Auburn Ave	Cipriano Eleanor Est and Fernandes, Diane M	Marcia, Jerson J	1/22	\$368,000
24 Pine Hill Rd	Ocean State Homes LLC	Goble, Brian L and Goble, Leah L	1/23	\$385,000
35 Burnett St	Smith, Margaret J and Bianca, Rayleene J	Cityview Homes Inc	1/18	\$300,000

## Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
3 Pasco Cir	Wheeler, Carol A and Parker, Robert W	Eischeid, Cole and Thakar, Krupali	1/19	\$800,000
17 Granger Ct	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	Boyes, Ruth E	1/17	\$1
19 Sevilla Ave Lot 221	Greenwood, Joyce M and Greenwood, Glen F	Melhem, Imad E	1/16	\$250,000
19 Sevilla Ave Lot 220	Greenwood, Joyce M and Greenwood, Glen F	Melhem, Imad E	1/16	\$250,000
20 Burton St	Song, Xin	Jinhui Invest LLC	1/17	\$450,000
30 Pettaconsett Ave	Ricci, Benjamin	Drescher, Brandon	1/16	\$355,000
54 Steele Ave Lot 41	Thomas, Candace L and Thomas, James A	Izzo, Christopher	1/19	\$122,000
54 Steele Ave Lot 42	Thomas, Candace L and Thomas, James A	Izzo, Christopher	1/19	\$122,000
57 Dawson Ave Lot 38	Cahoon, Christopher A	Mello, John F	1/19	\$342,500
57 Dawson Ave Lot 39	Cahoon, Christopher A	Mello, John F	1/19	\$342,500
59 Timberline Rd	Smith Firt and Smith, Robert F	Cambio, Tracy	1/19	\$525,000
60 Bayonne Ave	Breban, Christopher	Lopes, Ryan and Penta, Shai-Lea	1/16	\$302,000
119 Model Ave	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	1/19	\$300,664
136 Riverside Ave Lot 78	Mernick, Mary C	Prestige Worldwide Invest	1/18	\$235,000
136 Riverside Ave Lot 75	Mernick, Mary C	Prestige Worldwide Invest	1/18	\$235,000
137 Hemlock Ave Lot 27	Kowalik, David	Kowalik, Lisa and Dauray, Cheryl	1/19	\$251,000
137 Hemlock Ave Lot 26	Kowalik, David	Kowalik, Lisa and Dauray, Cheryl	1/19	\$251,000
142 Green River Ave	Ferreira, Egidio J	Ferreira, Domingos D	1/16	\$300,000
156 Weeden Dr	Smith, Donna M	Speaker, Stephanie R and Tallon, Kevin T	1/19	\$392,000
181 Payton Ave Lot 101	Underwood, Seth C and Carroll, Lisa L	Mitchell Jr, John and Mitchell, Elizabeth	1/16	\$415,000
181 Payton Ave Lot 104	Underwood, Seth C and Carroll, Lisa L	Mitchell Jr, John and Mitchell, Elizabeth	1/16	\$415,000
269 Bellman Ave	United Bldrs LLC	Gradley, Spencer and Gradley, Barbara C	1/19	\$474,900
271 Stillwater Dr	Joseph Frank Est and Joseph, Steven	Refinement LLC	1/19	\$310,000
3800 Post Rd Lot 9, Mcdonough, Kim		Sawyer, Chad and Sawyer, Brittany A	1/16	\$530,000

## West Warwick

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2 Bowen Ct	Lawton, Steven and Lawton, Jacquelin	Keystone Investments LLC	1/22	\$312,000
8 Carlson Cir \$285,000	Armstrong Franeces M Est and Armstrong, Gregory A	Handy, Rebecca J	1/19	
13 Harley St	Laplante, Emile and Federal Natl Mtg Asso	Zannini, Michael	1/17	\$248,000
20 Lafayette St	Townsend, John W	Barrios, Silvana M	1/19	\$380,000
25 Tampa St	Herschel H Vaughn Lt and Courmoyer, Peter	Wright, Christopher D and Wright, Christine P	1/17	\$317,000
37 Carlson Cir	Damore Jr William M Est and Sullivan, Daria	Longo, Annmarie	1/19	\$360,000
48 Pawtuxet Ter	Carreiro, Joseph F and Carreiro, Eduarda M	Drainville, Kevin	1/17	\$275,000
57 Kristee Cir Lot 57	Saenz, Erwing	Mulholland, Michael	1/18	\$240,042
72 Winthrop Ave	Simas, Jacqueline L	Baxter, William R	1/19	\$310,000
78 Gough Ave	Audette-Ghenne, Michelle R	Parente, Stephen P and Patao, Maxwell A	1/18	\$289,900



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## Using Experimental Archaeology to Learn More About Flintlock Firearms, Part II



**By Joel Bohy**  
*Historic Arms & Militaria*  
 Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers  
 Cranston, RI

As I wrote about in my last blog, we had been preparing for a number of years to hold a live-fire study. We had purchased or had made all of the materials we needed, and it was time to pick a date. Since all of this material is going to be published soon, we had planned on doing it in the spring. Then the publication date changed, and it was decided we needed to do it in December. Not the perfect time to be doing this outside in Massachusetts, but we knew we had to make it happen. We set the dates, prayed for good weather, and crossed our fingers.

On December 12-13, 2023, we set up at the Whitinsville Fish and Game club and began our work. It was cold, but no snow or rain, which was a miracle. The first day after getting the

high-speed cameras up working and calibrated, we fired a custom-built reproduction British Pattern 1756 Long Land musket firing a nominal .69 caliber ball at the three house panels and a shutter. These shots were basic. We fired two shots at each, recording slow-motion video. This camera setup also allowed the velocity to be determined as it hit the house panels. Each reacted as we thought they would. A fairly round entry hole with wood blow out in the back.

The next shots were going to be tougher to recreate with historical accuracy. We calculated the distance based upon a primary account of James Hayward to a British soldier when they both fired at each other on April 19, 1775, with the British soldier killed outright, and Hayward shot through his powder horn and mortally wounded. We set the horn up with cloth replicating layers of clothing with ballistics gelatin behind it. Could we even hit the horn? Luckily, the shooter we picked was very good and was able to hit both horns! The video is horrific seeing what the ball and horn shards would have done to Hayward's body. When we finished for the day, we went back to my house and pulled the ball, horn shards, and cloth fragments out of



the wound track created by the ball.

The second day we had a series of videos we wanted to record of the lock on the muskets firing in slow motion, and for this we had a ballistics gelatin head and torso with bone simu-

lant skull. While this wasn't a part of our bullet struck object study, we wanted to replicate the wound John Robbins received on April 19th on Lexington Green. He was badly wounded by a British ball that struck his neck and came out of his lower jaw shattering it to pieces. We were able to hit it and record the data. Another horrific wound!

All of the information we gathered will be published in a book on the subject coming out in early 2025, as well as a report with all of the ballistics information. Doing these studies really has helped me understand these weapons in a much more dimensional way!

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# Red velvet for your Valentine

FAMILY FEATURES

**O**n the sweetest day of the year, a day full of flowers, love and sweets, Valentine's Day is the ultimate opportunity to try a different dessert meant for two.

It's hard to resist a perfectly blended, rose-red, luscious Red Velvet Mug Cake.

It's the perfect size, with just a handful of instructions, and it's easily cooked before your eyes in the microwave. That's right, the microwave.

This mug cake is a simple way to make something delicious and keep the portions small. Whether you have a small party, just you and your loved one or just simply want something easy and small, this quick treat is designed just for you.

Start by mixing all the dry ingredients into a large mug, including flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt.

Then add milk, melted butter, vanilla and red food coloring. Use a spoon and stir the ingredients together until blended.

Mix powdered sugar and cream cheese then drop the mixture into the cake batter and mix once more. Microwave the mug for up to 3 minutes until your cake is baked.

Valentine's Day means sharing with someone how much you care, and it's difficult to find a better way than to share something sweet.

This dessert has Valentine's Day written all over it, however, it can be enjoyed anytime throughout the year and is perfect for a late-night snack if you're craving something sugary-sweet.

Find more recipes and dessert ideas for every celebration at Culinary.net.



## Red Velvet Mug Cake

Servings: 1

- |     |                        |    |                                   |
|-----|------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 6   | tablespoons flour      | 2  | tablespoons butter, melted        |
| 2   | tablespoons sugar      | 2  | teaspoons vanilla extract         |
| 1   | teaspoon cocoa powder  | 30 | drops red food coloring           |
| 1/4 | teaspoon baking powder | 3  | tablespoons powdered sugar        |
| 1/8 | teaspoon salt          | 1  | tablespoon cream cheese, softened |
| 1/3 | cup milk               |    |                                   |

In 12-ounce mug, whisk flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Add milk, butter, vanilla and food coloring; mix until blended.

In small bowl, mix powdered sugar and cream cheese until smooth.

Drop cream cheese mixture into cake batter. Press into batter until covered.

Microwave up to 3 minutes until cake is done.

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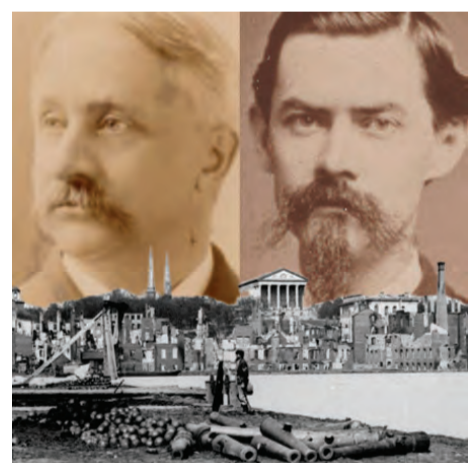
## Lippitt House Museum and Virginia's Maymont Mansion present a virtual program "Two Men Who Made Their Future: Virginia & Rhode Island After the Civil War"

Providence's Lippitt House Museum and Virginia's Maymont Mansion team up to explore the lives of two modern post-Civil War business leaders in a special virtual program February 22.

The period immediately after the Civil War saw increased manufacturing and investment opportunities in both the North and South, and Providence's Charles Lippitt and Richmond, Virginia's James Dooley built their families' wealth while increasing their influence during this time. In this hour-long program, Carrie Taylor, Lippitt House Museum's Director, and Katherine Garrett-Cox, Maymont's Curator and Director of Historical Resources and Collections, will address the question: How did the power Lippitt and Dooley gained through business impact their local communities, families, and homes?

"The time after the Civil War was a time of big changes in America. We are excited to partner with another museum to explore commonalities and differences between Rhode Island and other parts of the country," says Taylor. "Even though the political economies of Providence and Richmond, Virginia were different, they were both manufacturing centers. We can see the impact that businessmen Charles Lippitt and James Dooley had on their communities through their houses, the political offices they held, philanthropy, and the social roles of their families."

"Two Men Who Made Their Future: Virginia & Rhode Island After the Civil War" will be held via Zoom on Thurs-



day, February 22, 2024, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The program is FREE and preregistration is required by visiting [www.presidentverri.org/calendar](http://www.presidentverri.org/calendar).

About Lippitt House Museum: Preserve Rhode Island's 1865 Lippitt House Museum offers guided tours on the first Thursday of each month; Fridays and select Saturdays May through October; summer concerts in the garden, and a variety of online programs and resources. Designated a National Historic Landmark, Lippitt House has one of the best-preserved Victorian interiors in America, allowing visitors to step into Providence's Golden Age. Following the Lippitt family's example of public service, the Museum's cultural programming promotes civic engagement, the arts, and sharing Providence's remarkable history. [www.LippittHouse.org](http://www.LippittHouse.org)



# Historical actresses splendidly portrayed in Burbage's "Playhouse Creatures"

Theatre Review by **DON FOWLER**

They're back! After a pandemic hiatus, WOMEN-SWORKRI Theatre Collaborative is back, this time on Pawtucket's Burbage Theatre stage, where five actresses over the age of 40 give excellent performances in April DeAngelis' "Playhouse Creatures". The historical play takes place in 1669 in London's Kings Company Playhouse, a former bear pit.

Based on real life actresses of the time, the play humorously and poignantly portrays emergence and lives of actresses as they fight for their rights and recognition.

We see them on stage speaking the words of Shakespeare and other playwrights of the era, taking male and female roles.

Paul Faber plays Mrs. Betterton, wife of the owner, who appears to be in charge, but is controlled by her husband who is often quoted but never seen.

Faber represents the aging actress who never gets that big role, works for low wages, and attempts to teach the others the proper rules of acting. A scene where

she shows the newest cast member the proper positioning of her head is hysterical.

Lynne Collinson, WOMENSWORKRI producer, is marvelous as Doll, destined for bit parts and sweeping the floor, but wiser than all the others.

Rae Mancini and Autumn Jefferson play two actresses who speak familiar lines, at times acting a bit over the top

Enter Nell Gwyn (Lorraine Guerra), a 16-year-old who makes her living selling oranges but wants to be an actress. Jealousy gets in the way of performances, as Nell becomes a star.

Collaborative member MJ Daly gets the play moving and the players in sync, moving smoothly from stage to dressing room.

Collinson has found the perfect play for her ensemble, proving that there is a place on stage for women over forty. Now we need playwrights who can match their talents with good, meaningful, and provocative plays.

"Playhouse Creatures" is at Burbage Playhouse, 59 Blackstone Ave., Pawtucket through February 25. For tickets, call 484-0355 or visit burbagetheatre.org.

# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable

## Beau



Photo Credit: Paw Print Studio CT

Beau is just a puppy at only ten months old, he has so much to learn but is very eager. He is a small mixed breed with the most adorable ears and the sweetest albeit shy temperament, Beau wants to be your boy! His perfect household would be an adult home, preferably with another playful pup to show him the ropes and a patient home. Once he knows you his true personality shines through, but it does take him time to warm up to new people especially men. If you think you have the love, time and patience to win over Beau's heart please contact Save one Soul Animal League via their website [www.sosarl.org](http://www.sosarl.org) or email for more information [info@sosarl.org](mailto:info@sosarl.org)

**Maybe you and Beau are meant to be!**

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

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



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# See it at the Movies

with Joyce & Don Fowler



## WARWICK SHOWCASE

### SCRAMBLED

\*\*\*

(All About Preserving Eggs)

Leah McKendrick stars as Nellie Robinson, a 34-year-old single woman who is bridesmaid to many of her friends, but never a bride.

Nellie worries that she is at a point in her life where she may not be able to have a baby. She is a jewelry designer, not making much money, so she borrows money from her brother to pursue preserving her eggs.

Nellie is a bit scrambled in her head, hence the dumb film title. She reconnects with all of her old boyfriends, hoping that one of them may connect and become a potential father.

Every encounter turns into a disaster. "Scrambled" is a weak comedy, depending on the one premise and playing out like an educational ad for preserving eggs.

## NETFLIX

### THE GREATEST NIGHT IN POP

\*\*\*\*\*

(Recording of "We Are the World")

Way back in 1985 several caring musicians wanted to do something for the starving children of Africa.

Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones and others pulled off an impossible fete—they assembled close to 50 top musicians and as many technicians to write and record "We Are the World" in one long night to raise millions for their efforts.

Richie was emceeding the American Music Awards in L.A. that evening, so the difficult task of getting the best of the best was made easier. Following the televised show, they all secretly headed for an undisclosed studio to record the song.

This terrific documentary takes us through the process and provides us with a rare opportunity to see the musicians up close and personal.

Harry Belafonte, Willie Nelson, Huey Lewis, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Dionne Warwick, and dozens more "checked their egos at the door" and produced this classic song.

If you are a pop music fan, you've got to see this documentary.



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