



READY TO SEE YOU NOW: Chief Resident Daniel Boateng and Dental Assistant Sheila Fernandez readied the exam room for their next patient inside the dental practice at Tri-County CAA's Johnston HQ. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Filling a vital need

Tri-County CAA assumes ownership of CharterCARE's St. Joseph Pediatric Dental Center, welcomes staff

By RORY SCHULER

Chief Resident Daniel Boateng and Dental Assistant Sheila Fernandez readied the exam room for their next patient. They try to turn the chair over quick. They've got patients waiting.

For the past month, youngsters and their parents have been packing the waiting room, often spilling out into the hallway of the dental practice inside Tri-County Community Action Agency's (CAA) Hartford Avenue headquarters.

The Johnston-based CAA has "assumed ownership" of the former St. Joseph's Pediatric Dental Clinic, which closed its doors earlier this year in Providence after

CharterCARE Health decided not to renew its lease for 2024.

"Our goal is to expand as much as humanly possible," said Tri-County CAA President and CEO Joseph DeSantis.

Tri-County's contractors have been working hard at a new off-site location on Mineral Spring Avenue in North Providence. Meanwhile, the Hartford Avenue dental practice has been welcoming St. Joe's patients, in a state where pediatric dental care can be hard to find.

"In a bold and innovative move, the Tri-County (CAA) has assumed ownership of the long-standing

DENTAL - PAGE 9

Rabid coyote attacks Johnston hiker

By RORY SCHULER

A rabid coyote attacked a hiker in Johnston. He strangled the sick animal.

According to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, shortly after noon Friday, a 58-year-old man was hiking in the wooded area north of Belfield Drive when he encountered the coyote.

"The hiker reported he was able to subdue the coyote by pinning it down by its neck, subsequently suffocating the coyote," Vieira said. "The male sustained a minor injury to his leg and was transported to RI Hospital. The RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) responded and took custody of the coyote carcass for testing in order to determine if it was infected with rabies."

Unfortunately for the hiker, the tests came back positive, according to Evan LaCross, Programming Services Officer, Public Affairs for the Rhode Island DEM.

A dog walker was also attacked in neighboring Scituate the previous day. Scientists suspect both attacks likely involved the same animal.

"The animal from last Friday's attack in Johnston was confirmed to be rabid from RIDOH's laboratory testing," LaCross said Monday afternoon. "DEM expected this result because the attacks were not normal behavior for coyotes."



OCEAN STATE COYOTES: A coyote similar to this animal attacked a hiker in Johnston last Friday, and possibly a dog walker in Scituate the previous day. DEM confirms the animal involved in the Johnston attack tested positive for rabies. (Photo courtesy Dean Birch)

COYOTES - PAGE 6



DIGGING IN: Richard Conca, the former manager at the store, cuts a cake brought by other former Valueland employees. (Sun Rise photo by Adam Zangari)

The value of memories

By ADAM ZANGARI

It's not every day that you see coworkers from a high school job get together and reminisce about their time working in a supermarket together.

Yet, that's exactly what occurred on Jan. 25 at Independence Place in Cranston, where approximately 30 former Valueland employees gathered for a reunion.

Valueland, which was located in Johnston at 1386 Atwood Ave., was a local supermarket chain that advertised themselves as a low-cost supermarket. The food market is now a Burlington Coat Factory.

After two decades in business, the store closed in 1994, due in large part to

increased competition from larger supermarkets such as Stop and Shop.

The reunion was organized by Jennifer Cipalone. A former cashier at the store, Cipalone kept contact with a few other members, and went out with some occasionally. The reunion, however, was the first time in a long time that she had seen so many fellow former coworkers in the same place.

"This feels like a wedding in the family," Cipalone said. "It's so nice to see everyone reconnecting, and continue the special friendships we've had, and that's why I wanted to get everyone together, especially with the way the world is now."

VALUELAND - PAGE 4



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Rhode Island General Treasurer

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Johnston Sun Rise

JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Diana Dourado. Diana is a freshman at Johnston High and was nominated by Mr. Doug Vance. Mr. Vance said, "Diana always goes the extra mile and takes time to ensure that she leaves the classroom better than she found it. She always comes to class with a smile and lifts up her classmates." (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.

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Say you saw it in the **Johnston Sun Rise**

Selfless Anna Santucci keeps herself strong to care for others

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

This week, the Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" shines on Anna Santucci, a 93-year-young member, who has been visiting the center for the past four years.

Anna, who is a life-long Cranston resident, drives herself to the Center a couple of days each week, where she participates in our daily array of exercise classes.

Anna, who along with her husband and sons, owned the former Atwood Liquors in Cranston, for over 50 years. Anna indicated she had knee surgery, but couldn't fully rehabilitate after the operation because she needed to care for her sick husband.

Anna is certainly an example of a loving, caring, and committed family member, putting her family's needs ahead of her own. After her husband's passing, she had to get strong, so she would be there if her family should be in need.

Even today, her schedule is prioritized by the needs of her son, who is residing with her, while recovering from surgery himself. Anna's devotion is selfless, and her goal to remain physically and mentally strong is based on her need to help others. She has met many friends here at the Johnston Senior Center, and if time allows, she enjoys catching lunch with friends after exercise class.

Many members like Anna remain a beacon, who provides an example to those who might say "I can't," that you actually can. Anna remains an inspiration to those who believe that age is just a number.

If you know of someone who is tired or giving up on life, I guarantee you, we will find something here that will enrich their life, even in the smallest way. I have witnessed so many who now have a new attitude toward making the most of life, even in such later years. Please come by and visit us, and meet friends like Anna, who are examples of lives worth living.

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 Spotlight," submitted by the senior center.



Senior 'Spotlite'

STAYING STRONG: This week's Johnston Senior Center "Spotlite" shines on Anna Santucci, a 93-year-young member, who has been visiting the center for the past four years and working on keeping her strength to care for those she loves. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

House OKs Fellela bill targeting overmedicating prescribers

On Friday, Feb. 9, the Rhode Island House of Representatives gave its approval to legislation introduced by Rep. Deborah A. Fellela (D-Dist. 43, Johnston) that strengthens Ryan's Law, a measure that penalizes prescribers who overmedicate with death resulting.

The original act introduced by Representative Fellela and passed by the General Assembly in 2021 increased the maximum fine amount for those found guilty of unprofessional conduct from \$10,000 to \$30,000. It also established a new chapter of the general laws that gives the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline the authority to levy fines.

The legislation Representative Fellela introduced this year (2024-H 7013A) would require any licensing board responsible for governing professional conduct to also impose a probationary period of three years for any licensee found guilty of overprescribing with death resulting. A subsequent violation during the probationary period could result in a suspension or revocation of licensure.

Ryan's Law was named in honor of Ryan Massemini, a Johnston man who died after being overprescribed medication to treat Huntington's disease. Ryan's father Lou advocated tirelessly for the legislation.

"We were successful in 2021 in getting this legislation passed to have more accountability from doctors who overprescribe," said Fellela, who has known the Massemini family for years. "I'm glad to take steps to strengthen this law further to continue to hold prescribers accountable."

The measure now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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WORK FAMILY PICTURE: Former Valueland employees pose for a group photo at their reunion at Independence Place. (Sun Rise photo by Adam Zangari)

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Valueland
(Continued from page 1)

The process of getting everyone back together, Cipalone said, was relatively easy. She was able to find most of her fellow former employees on Facebook, and had been in regular contact with others, meeting a few close Valueland friends for dinner multiple times per year. The only real challenge was looking up female coworkers who had since married, but she was still able to track them down using their maiden names.

The bonds created at the store, Cipalone said, were truly special, and still endured even though it had been almost 30 years since many members had seen each other.

Other attendees, such as Fr. Richard Narciso, the pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Church, attended with friends despite never having worked for Valueland themselves. Fr. Narciso joked he worked for "the enemy," Stop and Shop, but said that he deeply appreciated that former Valueland employees still had enough love for each other and their old job.

"When I reflect on my time working for the grocery store, beautiful memo-

ries, great life skills, family, friends, friendships that were made lasting up until this very day," Narciso said.

Speaking to the crowd on behalf of Cipalone, Narciso said that the experiences that former Valueland employees took away with them helped make them who they are, and told them to make sure to treasure them.

In total, 22 former employees, as well as a few additional friends, showed up, with one attendee coming from as far as Florida. Another had kept her old name tag from her time working there, and wore it to the event.

All of those little touches, Cipalone said, showed the importance of Valueland in the store's former employees' lives, even all these years later. Though life had changed for those who got together again, the nature of the evening resulted in plenty of reminiscing.

Cipalone said that while she was at first worried about low attendance, hosting the event and seeing a room filled with old faces was incredibly rewarding.

"It's a typical Rhode Island story — everybody knows somebody, and that's how the word got out," Cipalone said. "We had a wonderful turnout, and we're going to do it again."

After more than 30 years apart, no one was in a rush to leave.

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PROMOTED: Johnston Police recently celebrated a pair of promotions. "It is with great pride that we announce the recent promotions of Lt. Stephen Altomari to the rank of Captain and Sgt. David Galligan to the rank of the Lieutenant," according to a JPD post on social media. "Their unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and dedication to the community have earned them this prestigious recognition. We have every confidence that Capt. Altomari and Lt. Galligan will continue to serve and protect our community with distinction and honor. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding officers on their well-earned promotions!" (Photos courtesy Johnston Police)



Opinion

EDITORIAL

The season of renewal, new opportunities

As 2024 kicks into gear, we've already seen a glimpse of the tumultuous times ahead.

One section of the state remains cut off from the other, with no clear end to the chaos in sight, while a presidential election with perhaps unparalleled historic stakes looms like a thunderstorm cloud moving slowly but methodically across the bay.

Even still, similar to a silent field covered in a fresh coating of snow, there's something about February and the beginnings of a new year that provide a sense of opportunities and hope renewed.

High school seniors enter the final stretch of their primary school journey, looking ahead to exciting fu-

tures at universities or jumping into career paths that will form the foundation of our workforce for decades to come.

- WHERE TO WRITE:
1944 Warwick Avenue
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RoryS@RhodyBeat.com

Political hopefuls eye their own opportunities to enter the political arena, seeking to turn their ambitious goals into action for the first time, while incumbents seek more time to get their priorities across the goal line before their own moment in time runs out.

At the municipal level, budget season is in full swing, this year with the added difficulty of federal dollars from Covid running dry. For the financially savvy, it is an opportunity to find creative ways to continue delivering the governmental services people rely on to enjoy their lives, and for which the people working in government dedicate their own careers for.

And while the visual observations of a mythical, immortal groundhog are not a scientific basis by which to base our own feelings and plans for the future, we find it a more enjoyable experience to embrace the hope conjured by the thoughts of an early spring; a rebirth of longer, warmer days, and brighter sunrises just over the horizon.

Even as we clear our driveways of soaking wet, heavy snow, it feels as though change and the season of renewal is already among us.

Coming up in next week's Johnston Sun Rise

- The Johnston Charter Review Commission hears a proposal to expand the Johnston School Committee from five to nine members (including five elected from each ward, and four appointed by the mayor and town council).
- Johnston Town Council approves a resolution to send a \$40 million stormwater management general obligation bond to the voters in November.

The RIDOT reacts to the charge that "severe pigeon debris" might have obstructed views of the damage to the George Washington Bridge.



LETTERS

FEMA and state officials on the lookout for fraud

Federal and state disaster officials have recently become aware of scam artists calling Rhode Islanders affected by the September 10-13, 2023 storms and pretending to be FEMA representatives. The con artists will then ask for personal information, such as social security numbers and income and banking information. Giving out this type of information is enough for an unscrupulous person to make a false claim for disaster assistance as well as to commit identity theft.

A FEMA representative who calls an applicant should already have access to personal information to verify.

Also, all FEMA representatives wear a photo ID badge. A FEMA shirt is not absolute proof of identity. If you have questions about whether someone is representing FEMA, call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

Scam artists may pose as government officials, aid workers, charitable organizations or insurance employees. Never trust anyone who

claims to be a disaster assistance employee and asks for money. Local and federal aid workers do not ask for or accept money.

If a FEMA inspector comes to your home and you did not submit an application, your information may have been used to apply without your knowledge. If so, inform the inspector that you did not apply, and they will submit a request to stop further processing of the application.

Anyone who suspects fraud or scams should call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721, TTY call 711. The toll-free number is open 24 hours a day.

FEMA recommends you monitor your credit report for any accounts or changes you do not recognize. If you discover someone is using your information, you will need to take additional steps, including filing a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission through its website: IdentityTheft.gov.

When you rebuild, always use licensed and bonded contractors.

Ask for credentials before you hire, and never pay for work in advance. FEMA does not have "approved" contractors. Beware of contractors who say they're affiliated with FEMA: FEMA does not endorse any business, product or service. Don't sign anything you don't understand, or contracts with blank spaces.

To file a consumer complaint with the RI Attorney General call 401-274-4400 or go to <https://riag.ri.gov/forms/consumer-complaint>.

For the latest information visit 4753 | FEMA.gov. Follow the FEMA Region 1 account at Twitter twitter.com/FEMARegion1 or the Facebook page at facebook.com/FEMA.

For updates on the Rhode Island response and recovery, follow the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency on Twitter and Facebook.

Maria Padron
Media Relations
External Affairs
Federal Emergency
Management Agency

When will Johnston taxpayers see the writing on the wall?

I recently requested information from our Town Clerk's Office regarding the endless inflationary provisions in the contracts of our town employees. Yes, we all have family, friends and neighbors in civil service, but we must acknowledge the need to provide services cost effectively, as many residents are barely getting by via a host of inflationary concerns. Note: recently on Fox News an economist stated when you consider Federal, State and Local Taxes in addition to Licensing Fees, Sales Taxes and Regulatory Taxes that are passed onto consumers, Americans are paying approximately 65 cents on every dollar. Privatization and only providing benefits that reflect 90% of the non-union workforce is long overdue.

The few questions I requested cost \$45 to research. Our town needs to develop a website to enable residents to view the provisions and type any questions regarding costs in which we don't even televise Council or School Committee meetings. However, that will never happen as long as Democrats control our town, as the party and unions are one in the same.

At present we have approximately 380 town employees, including the School Department. However, we now have approximately a total of 641 retirees now costing \$7,449,819 for healthcare and climbing. Yearly Longevity Bonuses average \$3,200; some over \$9,000 which is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Severance Packages upon retirement include up to 180 unused sick days, 64 unused vacation days and 6 unused personal days that has cost taxpayers \$5,813,000 from 2009 to 2023.

Pensions are calculated based on what is averaged over three most productive years. As for Rescue and

Police and the overtime to provide minimum staffing for 20 sick days, three personal days and up to eight weeks vacations, which is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, at only 20 years the average pension is \$55,000 excluding fully paid healthcare till age 65. Note: at age 65 when they go on Medicare, we pay all the co-pays that include Dental and Eye insurance.

As for 15 paid holidays, if a holiday falls on a day they are off they receive an additional day off with pay, referred to as Double Holiday Pay. Note: if police score an 80 at the firing range they receive \$500 for every firearm issued to them annually.

In 2010, excluding state school aid, the town budget was \$78,834,325. In 2023, excluding state school aid, it was 107,295,333; an increase of \$28,461,008. As we continue to overdevelop our town via new industries and multiple housing complexes not one penny goes to lowering taxes, as taxes should be going down substantially.

In closing, there is not enough room in this commentary to highlight the endless provisions, costs and alternatives that could reduce our budget by millions. Lifelong Democrats and eligible nonvoters need to open their eyes, especially when you consider the extreme elements that now control the party. As for dismal public education and concerns many parents have, school vouchers could save additional millions annually.

Peter A. Filippi III,
of Johnston,
a 'Proud Conservative Republican'



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COYOTE VARIETY:

These coyote photos were automatically snapped by trail cameras, and showcase fur color variations seen on some Rhode Island coyotes. (Trail cam photos by Laken Ganoë)



Coyotes

(Continued from page 1)

Should Residents Worry?

Are the pair of recent attacks the start of a trend?

"There are no trends regarding rabid coyote attacks because these incidents are extremely rare," LaCross said. "Although coyotes can carry rabies, all mammals are susceptible to the rabies virus and coyotes have not historically been a frequent host of the virus in Rhode Island."

Vieira can't recall a similar incident in recent history.

"This is the first incident in Johnston of its kind that I'm aware of," the police chief said Monday. "It's always concerning when members of the community have encounters with wildlife such as this."

He asked residents not to call Johnston Animal Control for coyote sightings.

"Our Animal Control Officers only handle issues involving domesticated animals," Vieira said. "All wild animal calls, including those involving coyotes, are referred to the RI (DEM)."

Friday's coyote attack victim called Johnston Police.

"DEM Environmental Police didn't respond to the attack; Johnston Police did," According to DEM's Chief Public Affairs Officer Michael J. Healey. "DEM Police's role was to take the carcass away and ultimately take the head of the animal to RIDOH (Rhode Island Department of Health) Labs for rabies testing. Rabies is a brain disease. Thus, the animal's head needs to be tested. Grisly, but that's how it is."

After receiving prompt treatment, the Johnston hiker should make a full recovery.

"Rabies infection is preventable with proper wound care and a post-exposure vaccine series," according to LaCross. "Infected animals can exhibit a wide range of symptoms, from aggressiveness to aimless wandering, lethargy, weakness of the hind legs, and loss of awareness. Some animals show no symptoms and the only way to confirm rabies is through laboratory testing."

Woodland Connection?

Two attacks in such a short period of time have DEM scientists playing forensic investigators.

"DEM strongly believes that there's most likely a connection between the Scituate and Johnston attacks because although a single coyote attack on a human is rare, two attacks in two days four miles apart in bordering communities is much more than coincidental," LaCross wrote. "To determine if it was the same rabid coyote involved in both incidents, the bite mark measurements could be compared to the injuries of the victims to have a probable answer. These measurements will be taken once the carcass is returned to DEM from RIDOH and we are working to gather more evidence that it is the same animal."

DEM and DOH announced the rabies test results Monday, informing the public that they believe "a single coyote ... was likely involved in (the) separate attacks on people Feb. 8 in Scituate and Feb. 9 in Johnston."

The press release identified the hiker as a "Johnston man who was bitten on the leg killed the coyote near Belfield Drive."

"DEM Environmental Police Officers took the carcass for testing," according to the press release. "RIDOH's Rhode Island State Health Laboratories confirmed the rabies diagnosis. Rabies is a viral disease

acquired from the bite or scratch of a rabid animal. Without a post-exposure vaccine series, virtually all cases are fatal. This post-exposure vaccination should be administered as soon as possible to anyone with a known or likely exposure to rabies, including those who received prior pre-exposure prophylaxis."

State health experts urge "anyone who may have had contact with this animal" to call RIDOH's Center for Acute Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 401-222-2577 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or 401-276-8046 (after hours for treatment guidance).

"Along with my peers at RIDOH, I urge anyone in Scituate and Johnston who may have come into contact with the coyote to call the RIDOH Infectious Disease division," said Rhode Island State Veterinarian Dr. Scott Marshall. "If pet owners in these two communities believe their pet has interacted with coyote, call or visit your veterinarian to make sure your pet's rabies vaccination is current. Rabies is virtually always preventable with the vaccination. Animal owners also need to report the exposure to your local animal control officer."

Advice for Hikers

LaCross reminds residents that coyotes are usually more afraid of humans than humans should be afraid of them.

"Coyotes are naturally shy animals, but unnatural interaction with humans, such as feeding, can cause them to become emboldened," he said. "Coyote sightings are common all over Rhode Island and are not cause for concern; not all coyotes have learned bad behaviors. If the public encounters a coyote while outdoors, it will most likely continue on its way. If the coyote stops or is inquisitive, remain calm, make loud noises, try to look big and intimidating, and slowly back away."

Residents can discourage coyotes from frequenting areas of human habitation by taking a few simple steps.

"Coexistence with the often-misunderstood coyote is possible with education and community effort," LaCross explained. "Eastern coyotes have successfully established themselves throughout Rhode Island: in undeveloped, rural, suburban and urban areas alike and play an important ecological role managing rodent and small mammal populations."

Pet-owners should avoid leaving their domesticated animals outside unattended. People also need to secure their trash.

"All pets should be kept indoors unless supervised," LaCross wrote. "Coyote populations can also increase to unfavorable sizes with human-subsidized food resources, such as unsecured garbage cans and compost piles, or intentional feeding. We encourage residents to do a scan around their homes for anything that might attract coyotes, and remove it, particularly if anyone is feeding stray cats."

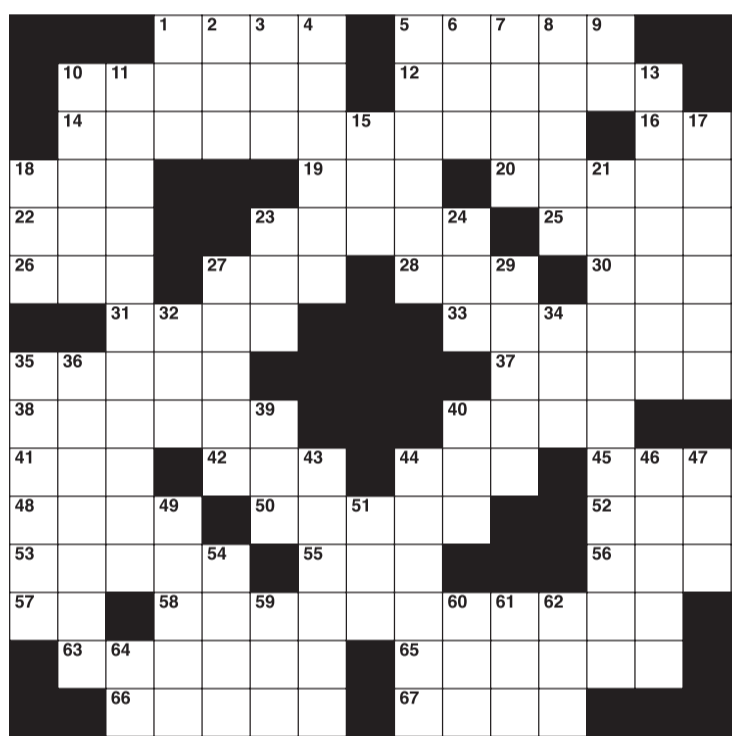
If residents "witness a change in coyote behavior such as approaching people," report the observation to DEM's Division of Law Enforcement at 401-222-3070.

"All dogs, cats, and ferrets are required by state law to have current vaccination against rabies," according to LaCross. "Vaccination of pets prevents them from contracting rabies and prevents people from becoming exposed to rabies through their pets."

People should likely be more wary of attacks from the sky.

"Bats in Rhode Island are also known to be infected with the bat strain of rabies," LaCross explained. "Bat rabies strains are highly transmissible to humans, and preventive vaccination is often recommended for exposure by proximity even without a visible wound, if the bat is not available for testing."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



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- Persian male given name
- Type of protection
- Cloud
- One who returns to life
- Gym class
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- Baby's dining accessory
- Enchantress
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Spiritual leader
- Cavities
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- Foot (Latin)
- Sweet potato
- Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- Land
- More inquisitive
- Dog breed: ___ Apso
- Stood up
- Direct and uninhibited
- Authorless
- Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Macaws

- Actress Remini
- Polynesian wrapped skirt
- City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- Bowling alley must-have
- A way to cool down
- Ethnic group in Asia
- A way to alter
- Set of five
- Removes from the record
- Dummies
- Set period in office

CLUES DOWN

- DC Comics superhero
- Brew
- Play
- Single-celled animals
- Rough to the touch
- Small island (British)
- Often noted alongside cons
- Preparation of rootstock
- Atomic #44
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- About secretary
- Particular groups
- Poke fun at
- Make certain that something occurs

ALWAYS
STAY
HUMBLE



&
KIND

cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center



JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

RECKLESS DRIVING

Around 11 p.m., Jan. 12, Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Levesque was in the parking lot of 1665 Hartford Ave. monitoring traffic when he spotted a silver Volkswagen Golf traveling west with "very dark window tint."

The vehicle turned onto Interstate 295 North, and Levesque followed. Levesque noted in the arrest report that the vehicle "had already accelerated to a high rate of speed and was almost out of my view." The vehicle took the Greenville Avenue exit, and police closed the distance.

Levesque initiated a traffic stop. At the time of the stop, Levesque estimated the driver was traveling around 70 miles per hour (in a posted 35 mph zone).

"The above vehicle then proceeded through the stop sign at the intersection of Greenville Avenue and George Waterman Road without stopping," Levesque wrote.

The vehicle took a sharp right turn onto George Street, striking the curb, causing its tire to deflate. The car came to a stop in the middle of the road.

Levesque exited his cruiser and ordered the driver and a passenger out of the car.

The driver was handcuffed and identified as Steven J. Yaghoobian, 19, of 124 Federal Way, Apt. 201, Johnston.

The vehicle was searched and towed from the scene. The passenger was released on the scene with no criminal charges.

Yaghoobian was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters and booked, processed and eventually released with a Third District Curt summons to appear on charges of Reckless Driving. He was also cited for Unlawful Installation of Windshield Material, Laned Roadway Violations, Speeding (11+ in Excess of Posted Speed Limit), Turn Signal Required, and Obedience to Stop Signs.

DUI

A Johnston man was arrested for DUI in Warwick on Jan. 7.

Around 8 p.m., Warwick Police Officer Katerina M. Athaide was dispatched to the vicinity of West Shore Road and Oakland Beach Avenue, in Warwick, for the report of an "erratic driver."

The reporting party was following the suspect vehicle, a white E350 van, and claimed the van was "all over the road, blowing red lights, hitting snow banks, and driving at inconsistent speeds," according to the arrest report.

Police caught up with the vehicle as it neared Warwick Neck Avenue near Ollies Pub at 941 West Shore Road.

Police identified the driver as Timothy M. Quigley, 53, of 67 Roger Williams Drive, Apt. 292, Johnston.

Police noted that his eyes were bloodshot and watery. They detected "the strong odor" of alcohol.

Quigley told police he was on his way back from Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, where he attended a Patriots game. He said he was driving to Ollies Pub "to have some more drinks."

Police noted an empty 12-ounce can of Amstel Light in the front cup holder.

Police asked Quigley to consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. Following the tests, he was arrested under suspicion of DUI. Following the tests, he was arrested.

Quigley also refused a chemical breath test.

He was charged for DUI of Liquor (BAC unknown, first offense). Police also cited Quigley for Refusal to Submit to a Chemical Test (first offense).

Around 10:30 p.m. he was released to the custody of a sober adult.

SHOPLIFTING

Around 4:44 p.m., Warwick Police responded to Target at 400 Bald Hill Road for the report of a shoplifting incident in progress. On the scene, police spoke to a loss prevention employee who described a female suspect who had allegedly shoplifted from the store about a half hour earlier at another Target store, at 1245 Bald Hill Road.

The suspect was later identified as Zabrina Kirk, 41, of 650 Killingly St., Apt. 2, Johnston. According to the arrest report, Kirk entered the 1245 Bald Hill Road store empty-handed around 3:40 p.m., walked to the small appliance section and placed two bins in the cart, along with various other items.

Police said Kirk passed all points of purchase without making an attempt to pay for the items.

Then Kirk arrived at the 400 Bald Hill Road location, where police had been dispatched.

While police were in the store, Kirk allegedly walked out of the store with a cart full of items. Loss prevention told police that there was a vehicle waiting outside in the parking lot with a male driver "standing by."

"Due to Kirk passing all points of purchase without making an attempt to purchase the items, and her admitting that she did not pay for the items in her cart, I placed Kirk in handcuffs to the rear which were checked for fit and double-locked," Warwick Police Officer Bryan C. Araujo wrote in the arrest report.

Target valued the items Kirk had in the cart at \$668.64. According to police, they found items allegedly stolen from the other Target store inside Kirk's vehicle after she was taken into custody. Target valued those items at

\$211.21, and informed police the store management would like Kirk "trespassed from the store."

Kirk was charged with two counts of misdemeanor Shoplifting and informed of the no trespass order, according to Warwick police.

ELUDING POLICE & RESISTING ARREST

Around 5:10 p.m., Feb. 3, Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau spotted a vehicle traveling north on Killingly Street without its headlamps activated, though it was dark (since sunset at 5:03 p.m., according to police). The vehicle also allegedly crossed the center dividing line while a male passenger "appeared to not be wearing his seatbelt," according to the arrest report.

Gendreau initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of Greenville Avenue and Lee Street.

Police identified the driver as Justine D. Fernandes, 37, of 162 Summit St., Apt. 3, Pawtucket. Police determined the driver's license had been suspended and upon first approaching the motor vehicle, Gendreau noted "a strong odor of fresh marijuana" emanating from the sedan's cabin and a "medium sized bag of marijuana in plain view." The bag appeared to contain less than an ounce.

The driver and a passenger told police there were no other "narcotics" inside the vehicle.

Fernandes' hands were allegedly shaking while she spoke to police, according to the arrest report. Police told Fernandes that she and the passenger, who had an active driver's license, could switch seats and take the vehicle home once the driver was issued a citation.

"As Ms. Fernandes then opened the driver's side door and began to exit the motor vehicle, she took a small pink wallet which she had been guarding in her lap throughout the duration of the motor vehicle stop and attempted to shove it in between her driver's seat and the driver's side floorboard," Gendreau wrote in the report. "As she exited, I also observed what appeared to be a glass pipe used to smoke crack cocaine in the center console cup holder."

Fernandes allegedly gave police consent to search the vehicle. They searched the pink wallet and found "another glass crack cocaine pipe which had been used as well as an abundance of choreboy, an item commonly used with the usage of crack cocaine," according to police.

Police also found a check with an "unknown male's name." Inside a small makeup container police found two unmarked colorful pills, which Fernandes later allegedly admitted were Ecstasy, and a folded piece of paper containing a powdered substance which appeared to be a crushed third pill.

Then police found a clear glass vial which appeared to contain two instant release Adderall pills as well as a "tab of suspected LSD." Inside a purse, police say they found 10 doses of Naloxone. Inside the vehicle, police found five cell phones and a bag of new and unused syringes in the trunk.

Fernandes and the passenger were handcuffed during the traffic stop.

The vehicle was towed from the scene back to the Johnston Police Headquarters for further investigation. The passenger was released from the scene, but Fernandes was taken into custody and booked.

Fernandes was cited for Driving with a Suspended/Canceled/Revoked License (third offense) and No Seat Belt (Passenger 18 and Older), Ti8mes When Lights Required and a Laned Roadway Violation.

Police seized the drugs as evidence. Fernandes was charged with four misdemeanor counts of Possession of Schedule I, II, III, IV, V (10 grams or less).

Around 10:20 p.m., Fernandes was presented to Justice of the Peace Daniel Connors as both a bail and probation violator. She was found in violation of her probation by Special Assistant Attorney General Alexander Lengyel, according to police.

Fernandes was held on \$1,000 surety on the new charges and transported to the Women's Intake Center at the ACI.

RESISTING ARREST

Around 1 p.m., Jan. 30, Johnston Police were dispatched to Sky View Motor Inn at 2880 Hartford Ave., for the report of a disturbance between a man and a woman.

Police observed a man arguing in the area and then spotted the man running west on Hartford Avenue, where he got into a white BMW with Massachusetts plates, which took off at a "high rate of speed" eastbound.

Police initiated a traffic stop, but the vehicle failed to stop. The pursuit was broadcast to dispatch. Meanwhile, the woman involved in the argument refused to cooperate with another officer and began walking east on Hartford Avenue.

The pursuit approached the intersection of Hartford and Reservoir avenues, crossing the double yellow lines into oncoming traffic.

The BMW allegedly swerved back into the eastbound lane, cutting off several vehicles, when the driver lost control and spun numerous times into the grass and landscape of the Progressive Insurance Service Center, 2200 Hartford Ave.

The driver allegedly exited the driver's seat and fled

into the woods while the vehicle continued to roll until it struck the guardrail at the entrance of the center. Johnston Police Patrolman Matthew D. Levesque pursued the driver on foot for about 100 yards, into the woods, drawing his firearm and ordering the fleeing suspect to the ground. The driver allegedly refused, and Levesque "took him down to the ground with open hand controls," according to the arrest report.

He was taken into custody and identified as Nathan James Daigle, 24, of 7 Atwells Ave., Johnston. The vehicle was towed from the scene and turned over to the Johnston Police Detective Division for a follow-up investigation. Daigle was later charged with felony Reckless Eluding (do to a prior conviction), Resisting Arrest, Driving with Suspended License (second offense) and Disorderly Conduct.

Daigle was also issued citations for Operation of an Unregistered Vehicle and Operating a Motor Vehicle without Insurance. At 6:38 p.m. that evening, Daigle was presented as a bail violator to Special Assistant Attorney General Ariel Pittner, where he was found to be in violation for his bail from a previous case, according to police. He was arraigned and received \$2,500 surety bail on the new charges. He was held without bail as a probation violator and transported to the Men's ACI Intake Service Center.

Obituaries

Judith Rebecca Umbriano

Judith Rebecca Umbriano, known to her loved ones as Judy, peacefully passed away on January 15, 2024, in Tempe, AZ, at the age of 85. Born on October 31, 1938, in Providence, RI, to Simon Altman and Esther Castricone. Judy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and recent great-grandmother. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends.



Judy is survived by her loving children: Donna D'Alessio of Maricopa, AZ; Steven Umbriano of Scituate, RI; Paul Umbriano of Scottsdale, AZ; David Umbriano of Tempe, AZ; and Lara Cherone of Malden, MA. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren, Megan Umbriano, Nathan Umbriano, Jonathan Umbriano, Salvatore Cherone, Alanna Warner, Chiara Wilson, and Dante Umbriano, as well as a great grandson Axel Wilson. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Michael Umbriano; her son, Michael A. Umbriano; and her sister, Claire McDonough.

After graduating from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Judy dedicated over 30 years of her life as an ICU Nurse at Kent County Hospital. Her commitment to caring for others was unwavering, and her impact on the lives she touched will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Outside of her career, Judy found immense joy in spending time with her children and grandchildren. She cherished every moment with her family and embraced the role of a nurturing mother and doting grandmother. Judy also had a passion for travel, enjoying many cruises with her family. Whether it was a relaxing day at the beach or dining out, Judy found happiness in the simple pleasures of life. She was an avid reader, with a particular fondness for a good mystery. In addition to her family, she leaves behind her three closest friends, Anna, Elaine, and Patty-affectionately known as "The Golden Girls." These inseparable friends shared countless memorable days dating back to their grade school years, forming a bond that transcended time. Judy's legacy is woven into the fabric of these enduring friendships.

A Mass in honor of Judy will take place at Holy Apostles Church, located at 800 Pippin Orchard Rd., Cranston, RI 02921, on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 10:00 am. The burial will be conducted privately.

Judy's legacy of love, compassion, and dedication will forever be cherished by those who knew her. May her soul find eternal peace.

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 for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

— Thank you

SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

SCOOP OF THE WEEK



May 4

St. Rocco School Celebrates 60 Years

St. Rocco School, 931 Atwood Ave, will host a 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 4. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. A reception will follow in Café Rocco after Mass. Looking for alumni, family and friends to join us in celebrating 60 years! For more information, call St. Rocco school office at 401-944-2993. Tickets are \$5 at the door.



SIX DECADES: Top, during Catholic Schools Week, St. Rocco staff kicked off the festivities with mass on Jan. 29, "celebrating our Parish," which included the presentation of the David DeCosta Scholarship Awards and an open house. The school hosted numerous events for students throughout the week. (Photos courtesy Mrs. Robin Okolowicz, St. Rocco School)

Feb. 20

RI Photographic Society

The Photographic Society of RI will hold a meeting on Tues., Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m., as a social time and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. It will be held at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick. Joe Brady-The Ten Things You Need to Know in Photoshop. You don't need to know everything Photoshop can do to make it a powerful partner for your image editing! You can save time and effort by reserving Photoshop for those edits and adjustments that it does best. We'll start with the basic adjustments using Lightroom and then head into Photoshop as Joe demonstrates the ten tools and techniques that every photographer should know. From basic to advanced uses, we'll share techniques that improve the color, flow, light and composition of your photographs! Future meetings will include live demos, competitions, set-ups for photo ops, image studies and presentations from experts on a vast array of topics for a wide range of skill levels. Whether a member or not, please come and enjoy the program and to see what the club is all about.

Feb. 25

'Plagues in History'

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.

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

RI Driver Education Course in ASL

Rhode Island School for the Deaf is taking registration now for RI Driver Education Course and will meet Mon. thru Fri., 3:15 to 5:15 p.m., with one Fri., May 31, at 2:15 - 5:15 p.m., at RI School for the Deaf, 1 Corliss Park, Providence. Course fee is \$100 plus \$10 registration fee = \$110. Total: 33 hours and MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES! On-line registration is available on the RISD site with a credit card. Make sure to use the class ID #5643. Or register and pay in full through CCRI.

Walk-in registration with payment of either cash, check or money order (payable to CCRI) accepted at one of the CWCE (Center for workforce & Community Education) in Lincoln, Providence or Warwick. Textbook required: New "How to Drive: Making Driver Education Fun and Easy!" 15th edition before the first-class meeting. Cost: \$26.95. Available at CCRI Bookstore and AAA. Bookstore does not accept checks as payment: Cash or credit card only. Refund Policy: Must notify at least 48 hours before the start of class. Attendees are responsible for their own transportation.

NAMI-RI Family Support Groups

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones who are struggling with their mental health. The groups are led by trained facilitators who also have lived experience as family members themselves. The group meetings last about 1.5 hours, and everyone who participates in the meeting gets a chance to share. The other members of the group try to offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their own experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

First Thursday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-starts Aug.)

Second Tuesday at 5 p.m. In-person only at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room. Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middletown.

Third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Meets via Zoom only. Please call 401-331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland.org for the Zoom link.

Fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Hope Valley Grange, 71116 Main St., Hope Valley.

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

In 2021, the Johnston High School Class of 1971 established The Soul of 1971 Scholarship Fund at The Rhode Island Foundation. The Class of '71 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School System to establish a permanent fund. The Fund currently stands at \$23,031. Scholarships have been awarded in 2022 and 2023 to deserving JHS seniors. For additional information or to make a donation, contact Harold J. Hemberger at hembergerharold@gmail.com. All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

Help OSDRI restock their pantry!

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

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■ Dental (Continued from page 1)

and highly esteemed St. Joseph Pediatric Dental Center, previously operated by CharterCARE Health Partners," according to a Tri-County press release. "The strategic move is part of Tri-County's ongoing commitment to increasing access to dental health services to children and families and enhancing dental/oral health integration across the state."

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recently approved the acquisition.

Tri-County promises to "ensure that thousands of Rhode Island children and families will continue to have access to critically needed dental services, particularly for low and moderate-income families."

According to Tri-County, the St. Joseph Dental Center, previously located at 21 Peace St. in Providence, closed its doors on Dec. 31, 2023, when the building lease expired.

"CharterCARE began discussions with Tri-County early in 2023 to ensure a smooth transition of the dental practice, and to minimize any lapse in dental care for established patients," according to the press release. "CharterCARE and Tri-County have had a longstanding and collaborative relationship for various health related initiatives, making Tri-County CAA uniquely positioned to successfully transition the program as well as staff and patients."

The Staff

DeSantis said eight pediatric dental residents from New York University (NYU) Langone, under the supervision of Dr. Daniel J. Kane, have started seeing patients in the 1126 Hartford Ave. building, inside the new Tri-County Pediatric and Family Dental Center which opened on Jan. 1. The St. Joe's dental staff will work from Johnston while the final stages of construction wrap at their new practice, located inside the Medical Arts Building at 1637 Mineral Spring Ave., Suite 101, North Providence.

"The new dental facility is ideally situated for patients with its close proximity to public transportation, and neighboring Providence neighborhoods," according to Tri-County.

St. Joseph's entire staff, including "pediatric and general dental providers, oral surgeon, hygienists, dental assistants, receptionists, and administrative staff were given the opportunity to become Tri-County employees as part of the transition," according to the agency. "Tri-County plans to maintain the dental providers' privileges at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital so that they may continue to offer sedation dentistry and oral surgery for pediatric patients. Sedation dentistry can be a critical service for young patients and/or people with special healthcare needs that are not able to complete dental services otherwise."

Tri-County also welcomes Dr. Kane, the former St. Joseph's Dental Director who will now serve as dental director for Tri-County.

"Rhode Island is experiencing a critical shortage of dental providers in the state, and particularly providers that accept Medicaid or uninsured patients," said Dr. Kane. "As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Tri-County accepts all patients, including those with Medicaid, or those experiencing financial difficulties so I am confident that all patients who received care at St. Joseph's will find a new dental home with Tri-County."

Patients who previously received care at St. Joseph's "are encouraged to transition their care to the new Tri-County Pediatric and Family Dental Center location on Mineral Spring Avenue," according to Tri-County. Tri-County pledges to maintain St. Joseph's "historical dental records going forward."

"We are thrilled to add the Pediatric Dental Residency program to our Health Center," said Brenda Dowlatshahi, Tri-County COO and Health Center Director. "The expertise and innovation brought by Dr. Kane and NYU Langone will undoubtedly elevate our practice, enhancing our ability to deliver comprehensive and cutting-edge dental services. We look forward to the invaluable contributions and shared knowledge that this collaboration will bring, ultimately benefitting the oral health and well-being of our patients."

St. Joseph's patients "experiencing a dental emergency" can schedule an appointment now in Johnston.

A Big Gift

DeSantis thanked Dr. Jerry Kheradi, a private physician, who maintained a medical practice in the space for several years before retiring and donating the space to in the Medical Arts building to Tri-County CAA. The agency estimates the space was "valued at about \$400,000."

Work started last fall, and Tri-County plans to add 13 "new state-of-the-art dental operatories." They hope work will finish this month. The \$6.2 million "was funded by miscellaneous and diverse funding streams" according to Tri-County, including a \$1 million Congressional Directed Spending Grant from Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed.

"Additional funding was secured from the Federal Bureau of Primary Care: Health Resources and Services

Administration, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Tri-County CAA, and other anonymous Donors," according to Tri-County's press release.

"We are excited to welcome the talented team from the St. Joseph Dental Center into the Tri-County family," DeSantis said. "This acquisition aligns with our mission to address the diverse healthcare needs of our community and ensures that high-quality dental services are readily accessible. As service providers our team is our greatest asset, and I'm confident that the Tri-County team, and the St. Joseph team will merge successfully to provide exceptional patient care."

The agency has been raising funds and seeking help from other organizations, "especially for the first year of the project" in an effort "to ensure access to these critical services goes uninterrupted."

Tri-County has also secured a second suite in the Medical Arts building for administrative operations.

"Since the need for family and pediatric dental care is fully expected to grow over the next several months, there is potential to add additional dental operatories in the building to keep up with patient need," according to Tri-County. "The brand new, state-of-the-art facility will be equipped to provide comprehensive and gentle dental care tailored to the unique needs of pediatric patients, offering a comfortable and child-friendly environment."

CharterCARE Exits the Ocean State?

CharterCARE's decision to give up the Providence dental practice fit perfectly with Tri-County's expansion plans, according to DeSantis.

CharterCARE also operates two key Rhode Island healthcare institutions — Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital (owned by Prospect Medical Holdings). On Jan. 29, Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha and RIDOH released an application (with redactions), by Georgia nonprofit the Centurion Foundation, to purchase the two hospitals. The public can comment on the sale, in writing (through Feb. 29) or during a pair of public meetings (dates and times to be announced soon).

"Public comments will be taken into consideration by the Attorney General and RIDOH as they complete their review of this application," according to a press release from Neronha's office. "Following the informational public meetings, the Attorney General and RIDOH will continue their review of the application."

Both the AG and RIDOH need to sign off on the hospital sale, as dictated by the Hospital Conversions Act (HCA). The state agencies "deemed Centurion's application complete in December." The HCA requires completion of the review within 180 days (by June 11).

Centurion missed a September deadline after Neronha and RIDOH Interim Director Utpala Bandy "deemed" Centurion's application "incomplete" in August. The AG's office issued a press release declaring the application did "not contain sufficient information necessary for the State to conduct its review under the HCA." And the AG set a new deadline of Sept. 26, 2023, for "the applying parties" to "correct the deficiencies within 30 working days."

"The parties were notified of the numerous deficiencies in a letter from the Attorney General and the Department of Health," according to Neronha's office. "The letter outlined the application's deficiencies, including the lack of detail surrounding the structure of the entities and how the parties intend to achieve the goals proposed in the Application."

Neronha's has sounded the alarm bells regarding the status of healthcare in the Ocean State.

Following their eventually accepted application submission in December, CharterCARE earned approval from RIDOH to hand St. Joseph over to Tri-County. The head of CharterCARE issued a statement on the dental practice transfer (which also required RIDOH approval).

"CharterCARE is proud to have founded this critically important dental program and to have successfully operated it for many years," said Jeffrey Liebman, CharterCARE CEO. "We are very grateful that Tri-County has taken this program on and we are delighted that dental staff and patients will have access to a beautiful new facility."

About Tri-County

According to Tri-County CAA, "all patients of the new Tri-County Pediatric and Family Dental Center will have access to other (agency) programs as well, such as pediatric medical care, food and heating assistance, Head Start programs, behavioral healthcare for adults and children, employment and training programs, and more."

"Tri-County plans to send their mobile health unit to the Mineral Spring Avenue location twice per week to provide dental patients access to medical care as well," according to the agency.

For more information about Tri-County CAA's Pediatric Dental Clinic visit www.TriCountyRI.org or call 401-519-1940.

Tri-County CAA, "a private, nonprofit, community service agency" founded in 1965 is headquartered in Johnston, and operates 16 locations across the Ocean State.

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By JENNIFER COATES

There is nothing in the world quite as wonderful as the Downy-fresh smell of clean clothes and clean linens. This familiar aroma evokes images of newly-washed clothes, hung on a clothesline to billow in the wind and dry in a warm summer sun.

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Jain's Laundry is a family-run laundromat in Johnston that has been in continuous operation since it was first opened by the Jain family in 1993. It is a place that has earned a reputation for cleanliness, trustworthiness, affordability, consistency, and friendly customer service. It is a place that provides an invaluable service for today's modern family ~ both as a place where one can do all

their wash in "one fell swoop" or take advantage of their convenient, same-day, wash-dry-fold service.

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There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.25 per load. Vending machines are also on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener, or laundry bags.

There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready to meet the needs of both residential and commercial customers.

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

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. 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

More at Mohr Library

The Library will be closed Monday Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.

Kids Vacation Week Programs at Mohr Library will run from Tuesday, Feb. 20, through Friday, Feb. 23.

Lego Club: Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Come play with our 10,000+ LEGO bricks donated by LEGO Systems. Bring a friend or make a new one. Ages 3 and up.

Pete The Cat Storytime: Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Stories, songs, fingerplay and puppets about a favorite cat with colorful buttons for children ages 3 and up with a caregiver.

Art: Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Join Ms. Melyssa for a fun art project. Ages 5 and up.

Yoga: Thursday, Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms Pauline will guide participants into gentle movements and simple breathing techniques. Ages 5 and up. This program is sponsored by TriCounty HEZ.

Magic Show: Thursday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The Great Baldini will entertain families with a show full of non-stop comedy and magic. Registration is required and will open on Feb. 20 at 9:30 a.m. The registration link will appear at <https://mohrlibrary.org/forchildren.php>. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Mohr Library

STEM Challenge: Friday, Feb. 23 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Bring your curiosity and join Ms. Melyssa for a fun STEM project. Ages 5 and up.

See mohrlibrary.org or call 401-231-4980 to register.

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.

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Sports

Panthers aiming for top seed

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls basketball team continues to roll as it enters the final week of the regular season.

With two pivotal matchups remaining, including one against first-place Davies, the Panthers are focused and hungry to get the win and clinch Division IV's top seed. "It's super important. We want that top seed and we're hoping to carry some momentum into the play-offs," said coach Jhamal Diggs.

Davies beat Johnston on opening night when the Panthers were shorthanded. Davies has maintained first place since then and the Panthers have not lost. A Johnston win would help the Panthers leapfrog their way into the top spot.

"[The girls] remember that we lost, but we're a totally different team than the one that played that night. We're very excited and looking forward to playing our best," said Diggs.

The Panthers picked up two wins in the past week, topping Blackstone Valley Prep 53-20 on the road and then beating Block Island on Monday 59-17.

Bella Gesualdi led the team with 18 points against BVP while Jayannah Rollins added 15.

With the final two games carrying such heavy playoff implications, the Panthers are essentially in playoff mode already. Diggs is confident that the team has the mental edge to push forward and get the job done. The team battled third-place Hope in a tight road contest in a recent outing, one in which the Panthers had to complete a comeback to get the victory.

"This team has shown a lot of resilience and a lot of



BIG PLANS AHEAD: Johnston point guard Jayannah Rollins takes the ball up the court against Blackstone Valley Prep last week. The Panthers have two games remaining in the regular season, including a rematch against Davies. The winner could clinch the top seed in the upcoming Division IV playoffs. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

PANTHERS - PAGE 12



Ferri boys, girls enter playoffs undefeated

It's been a historic season for the Ferri Middle School boys and girls basketball teams, as they recently finished their respective regular seasons with perfect records. The playoffs begin this week and each club figures to be the favorite to take home titles. Pictured are the teams showing off some custom made banners to celebrate their stellar campaigns. (Submitted photos)

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CLCF accepting applications for Castiglioni Award

Cranston League for Cranston's Future (CLCF) is accepting applications for its 2024 Leo J. Castiglioni, Jr. Award. CLCF will issue multiple \$1,000 grants to qualifying Cranston residents graduating from any public or private high school or career academy. Leo Castiglioni founded CLCF in 1953 and was the organization's first president. Leo died in 2002, and the following year CLCF established the Castiglioni Award in his honor.

The on-line application is available on the Castiglioni Award Page at www.clcfsports.org. Applicants must have participated in both CLCF sports and high school sports, and have demonstrated outstanding leadership and volunteerism. There are no academic criteria, and future college attendance is not a requirement. Applicants are encouraged to submit additional information about themselves for each of the categories listed on the application.

The application deadline is MARCH 31, 2024. Recipients will be selected in April and announced in May. Any questions may be directed to Tom Aman, Chairperson, Castiglioni Award Committee at castiglioni-award@clcfsports.org.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 11)

grit. Being in a game like that on the road in a hostile atmosphere, this team has shown a lot of grit. When we played Davies the first game, that was a test. They've passed every test and I believe that they're ready. They've been battle tested before," said Diggs.

The team is also excited to make a deep run and add to the town's recent basketball success.

"We try to manifest it, we try to talk about it and it's good to put it into perspective. The girls are excited and a lot of them haven't been in this position before. It's good for the community and good for them to be a part of a winning and championship atmosphere," Diggs said. "It's been a great year."

The Panthers will host Davies on Thursday night and will play the season finale against Providence Country Day on Friday.



PLAYOFF READY: Johnston's Ava Waterman (above) and Hannah Lavergne battle against Blackstone Valley Prep last week.



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Tipping my cap to greatness

Patrick Mahomes led the Kansas City Chiefs to their third Super Bowl title in four years on Sunday, establishing the NFL's latest dynasty and the first since the Patriots in the early 2000's.

As expected, Mahomes' late-game heroics were the difference and we are watching an NFL legend in the prime of his career making history.

Many New England fans rooted against Mahomes and are protective of Tom Brady, who is the unanimous greatest of all time at the moment. Many believe that with this win, Mahomes is encroaching on Brady's legacy and reopening the conversation on who the best to ever do it is.

I understand the worry, and I am as big a Brady supporter as there is. However, I am much more interested in seeing high-level play on the field and letting the results take care of themselves than I am trying to protect Brady's resume.

If we're being honest ... Mahomes is far more talented than Brady. Better arm, better athlete, better on his feet, better playmaker. Brady still holds the edge on IQ and clutch ability, but Mahomes is not even 30 years old yet. His IQ will only increase for the next 10 years and he will have plenty of big moments to prove his clutch, those things will come.

Who is the greatest of all time? It's very obviously Brady. Seven rings versus three. Case closed.

But, I do believe we are watching something special in Mahomes, and a quarterback that has a very real chance of eclipsing Brady. Mahomes is the only current quarterback with a shot at it, and could be the only one for awhile.

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

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Am I worried? Not at all.

We watch sports to see these generational athletes compete and put on big performances on the biggest stages. When we are seeing these players transcend logic the way that Mahomes has been the past few years, we should be thrilled knowing that every Sunday for the next decade will provide us with something entertaining to watch, even if it is for a team that is not our own.

Records are meant to be broken. At some point, especially with the NFL quickly transitioning to a purely offensive sport, Brady is going to be caught up to. I know us diehard Patriot fans are hoping to never have to admit that Brady is not the unquestioned GOAT, but to be rooting against Mahomes and these other quarterbacks takes the fun out of watching the game. It goes against what being a sports fan is all about.

Not to mention the fact that Mahomes, in reality, is still miles away from catching up. He has been the best player in football the past four years and it feels like he has been unstoppable. To catch Brady, he will have to stay at this pace for another 10 or so years. Possible yes, probable no. So before you lose your mind, thinking that Brady's legacy is endangered, take a breath and look at the numbers.

Relax.

My biggest takeaway other than Mahomes' excellence is how far the Patriots are to being a contender again.

What did these two teams have on Sunday? Quality quarterback play, playmakers on offense, sturdy lines on both offense and defense, lockdown players in the defensive secondary, consistent special teams. The Patriots don't have a quarterback, are lacking playmakers, have lines that are littered with impending free agents. Not to mention the fact that they cleared house and completely rebuilt their coaching staff. There will be very little continuity when it comes to leadership, which was necessary, but will certainly be a hurdle the next two seasons.

Even though the 49ers lost, that team would have smoked the Patriots 10 times out of 10. Sure, the Pats have a ton of salary cap space and premium draft picks to work with, but Sunday's game was eye opening when stacking up the Pats to those two clubs. Heavyweight versus featherweight.

Considering everything above, let's not feel negative or insecure about Mahomes and the Chiefs. The hometown team will not be providing many memorable moments for the next few seasons, so we might as well enjoy quality play when it's right in front of us.

Bill O'Brien was just hired to coach Boston College, so if you really can't stomach this new NFL great light up the scoreboard each week, then root for the nearby Eagles and try to ignite some local college football fandom.

I'm only being a little sarcastic.

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Anchorwomen shine at BU

Sophomore Haley Oliver (Coventry, R.I.) broke her own program record in the mile, while also establishing a personal record in the 800m, as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team competed at Boston University's David Hemery Valentine Invitational on Friday afternoon.

THE BASICS

- It was an individual meet with no team scoring and was comprised of mainly Div. I and II institutions.

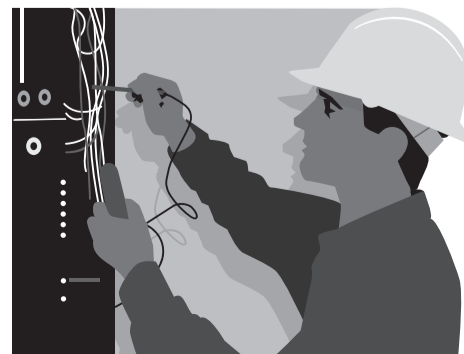
HOW IT HAPPENED

- Junior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston, R.I.) finished seventh in the weight throw (15.37m) and 16th in the shot (10.45m).
- Sophomore Milana Melvin (Johnston, R.I.) finished 17th in the weight throw (8.83m).
- Oliver finished 227th in the mile (5:08.79) and 206th in the 800m (2:19.62).
- Freshman Sela Bastajian (Smithfield, R.I.) finished 179th in the 400m (1:02.35) and 202nd in the 400m (1:04.39).
- Senior Trinity Hayes (Providence, R.I.) finished 195th in the 200m (27.59).
- Freshman Miya Barboza (New Bedford, Mass.) finished 209th in the 400m (1:05.96).

WHAT'S NEXT

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the Little East Championship, hosted by Southern Maine on Saturday, Feb. 17.

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Measuring impacts of offshore wind farms on recreational fishing

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography held an online seminar last Wednesday titled, "Recreational Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy: Understanding the Changing Behavior." About ninety people attended the two and half hour online seminar which will be followed by an in person workshop in the near future.

Online seminar organizer Jennifer McCann, director of U.S. Coastal Programs at the Coastal Resources Center, URI Graduate School of Oceanography and director of Extension Programs for Rhode Island Sea Grant, who kicked off the online seminar, said, "We are here to identify ways of understanding the impact and changes in recreational fishing behavior due to offshore wind energy."

Highlights of the meeting included studies that used data that is in existence today as well as an angler survey that plotted on a nautical chart angler fishing hot spots.

Scott Steinbeck, a NOAA Fisheries economist, shared his study that utilized the database of an angler smartphone fishing application called FishID to identify what was being fished for in wind farm lease areas. Steinbeck is in the process of exploring subsequent studies that also utilize the recreational fishing application FishBrains, which provides photos of your catch, interacts with social media, provides data on existing conditions when your fish was caught i.e., tides, seas, winds, temperature, etc. The data delivered by a second study using FishBrains promises to be very exciting particularly if it can continue to identify the species caught in a wind farm area while making an attempt to estimate extraction rates of fish caught inside and outside of wind farm areas.

Jeffrey Kneebone, Senior Scientist, Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies Program at the New England Aquarium reported on his work that analyzes historical data on Highly Migratory Species (HMS) such as sharks and tuna to identify what species and the number of fish that are being caught in and out of wind farm areas. The beauty of his study approach is that it can be replicated every day, month and year using existing data that anglers are required to report as a condition of their HMS permit.

When asked about the future of this study approach Kneebone said, "We are not funded to do this work moving forward. We have the ability to do it but need funding to continue this work."

A third study produced by the URI Coastal Resources Center on behalf of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council charted responses from three hundred anglers on areas they fished. The study is being used to avoid conflicts early in the development process between fin fishers and aquaculture farm lease area.

The hope is that the study approach can be used offshore to explore potential conflicts between anglers and offshore wind farm lease areas. The concern expressed at the workshop by some participants was will there be enough private anglers and fishing trips to use the same somewhat random approach i.e. participants filling out surveys at fishing shows and access points. Also will the study be able to show if more or less an-



SEA BASS CATCH: Claire Hodson with a healthy black sea bass caught at the Block Island Wind Farm on the charter fishing vessel Snappa. (Submitted photo)

glers are fishing the windfarm area over time and the species they are fishing for.

"We are also using the URI/CRMC study to show anglers new to fishing where hot spots are to enhance their fishing experience," said Scott Travers, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, a study partner.

It is clear to me that no one study approach is going to give us the answers about who fishes in wind farm areas and what they catch. And, most importantly, the purpose of this URI initiative, how are angler behaviors being changed. Are anglers making more trips, fewer trips, catching more fish or less fish due to the construction of a wind farm while accounting for normal stock fluctuations and climate impacts creating the changes. I believe it will likely be a combination of studies that will paint a picture as to what is happening to private recreational fishing in wind farm areas.

Thank you URI Graduate School of Oceanography Coastal Resources Center for this initiative, working on recreational fishing and impacts of offshore wind farms. You have taken up this very controversial charge with respect for all stakeholders. Details on key seminar learnings and discussions that followed will be posted on the URI Coastal Resources Center website once they are processed. More to come on this initiative as it develops.

Striped bass regulation will be one fish 28" to < 31"

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) that regulates striped bass regulations coastwide approved Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic striped bass at its winter meeting on January 24, 2024.

See the full Addendum at 65b27f9aPR02AtlStripedBassAddendumII_Approved.pdf (asmfc.org). The Addendum means a continuation of the 28" to 31" slot limit with a one fish/person/day bag limit like last year.

Most commenters at the meeting favored ocean Option B (28-31" all

modes). Commenters noted this option is the most conservative option with the highest estimated reduction, which is needed to support stock rebuilding.

In a post on their website the American Saltwater Guides Association, said, "This option would best protect the 2015-year class, particularly considering recent low recruitment and the lack of upcoming strong-year classes. Most commenters noted specific, strong opposition to any mode split options."

They noted the entire recreational sector should have the same regulations and participate equally in rebuilding the stock. They also noted that all recreational anglers should have the same fishing opportunity. Some comments expressed concern that even the most conservative options would have a less than 50 percent chance of rebuilding the stock."

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing in stocked ponds for trout and salmon continues to be good. Angler 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, 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.island-current.com and 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@verison.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

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12 Youlden Ave Lot 93	Valelli, Michael J and Valelli, Gina M	Jiang, Qiuse	1/24	\$208,800
15 Cortland Ln	Barbara K Segal RET and Segal, Joan E	Pellett, Daniel S and Pellett, Scott	1/24	\$568,000
35 Harcourt St	Igetti, Giancarlo and Calise, Diana	Noel, Jane	1/26	\$525,000
51 Everbloom Dr	Oneil, Laurie A and Delmastro, Albert	Decologero, William and Iasiello, Cassandra	1/25	\$298,000
52 Balsam Ct	Van Dine, Ronald M and Van Dine, Huey L	Wallace, Colin D	1/23	\$360,000
55 Royal Ave Lot 499	Almeida, Paulo R and Andrade, Nicole F	Cornejo, Guianeya M	1/22	\$405,000
55 Royal Ave Lot 498	Almeida, Paulo R and Andrade, Nicole F	Cornejo, Guianeya M	1/22	\$405,000
55 Royal Ave Lot 500	Almeida, Paulo R and Andrade, Nicole F	Cornejo, Guianeya M	1/22	\$405,000
64 Orchard Dr	Imperatore, Felicia	Tatari, Mohamed and Talli, Rania	1/26	\$475,000
89 Cruz St Lot 90	Sensational Homestays LLC	Morancey, Nicole	1/22	\$400,000
89 Cruz St Lot 89	Sensational Homestays LLC	Morancey, Nicole	1/22	\$400,000
108 Mayfield Ave	Quattrucci, Alyssa H and Purks 4th, Wesley E	Nino, Miguel and Bourassa, Mark	1/23	\$380,000
130 Fordson Ave Lot 8	Jordan Rlty	Twentyeleven LLC	1/22	\$1
162 Bracken St	Phh Mtg Corp	Phh Mtg Corp	1/23	\$363,580
201 Hoffman Ave Lot 21	Durante Derek L Est and Durante, Jolene	Magnone, Daniel E	1/23	\$260,000
239 Doric Ave	Deleon, Ronald R	Antelo, Diego A and Paz, Litz	1/25	\$360,000
459 Hope Rd	Dale Ruth P Est and Nelson, Nancy E	Nelson, Harold A and Nelson, Nancy E	1/26	\$74,800

East Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
79 Duke St Lot 15	Flath, Eric	Sabo, Jeffrey	1/26	\$395,000
335 Frenchtown Rd	Einig, Richard G and Einig, Lynne H	Weng, Qin	1/22	\$645,000

Johnston

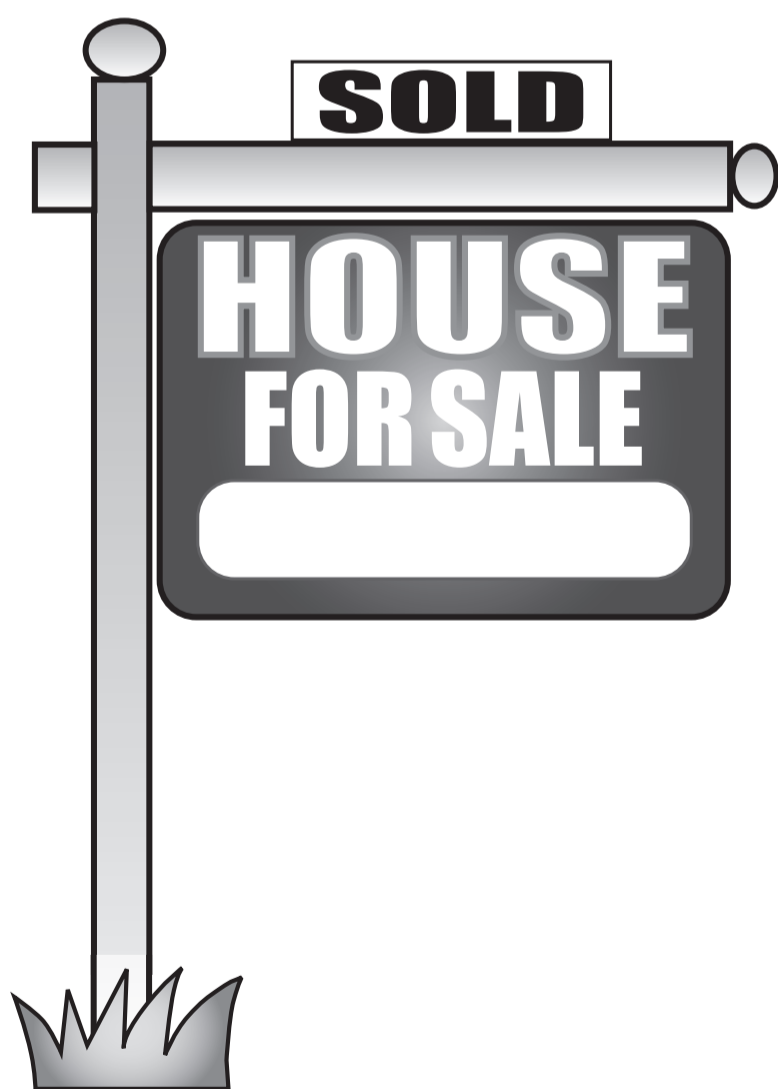
ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
21 Belfield Dr	Federal Natl Mtg Assn	Dimare, Kyle and Dimare, Courtney	1/25	\$425,001
24 Buratti Rd	Paliotte, John T and Paliotte, Elaine	Rainone, Jessica M and Pradhan, Biswas	1/25	\$540,000
28 S Bennett Dr	Diraimo, Sherri and Santander Bank Na	Mjb Properties LLC	1/24	\$125,000
38 Pocasset St	Tirocchi, William J and Tirocchi, Dorothy A	Northup, Allen	1/26	\$400,000
38 S Bennett Dr	Rodas, Hugo L	Rivera, Juan J and Ortiz, Marcelina	1/29	\$455,000
45 Dix Ave	Pietrantozzi, Emilio	Ni Limit Assets LLC	1/26	\$250,000
58 Argonne St	Wood Jr, Steven D	Forsee, Matthew	1/25	\$306,000
107 George Waterman Rd	Patron Investments LLC	Martin, Samuel and Martin, Natalie	1/25	\$399,900

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
11 Tahena Dr	Quinn, Alyssa P and Quinn 3rd, John J	Marzilli, Caryssa R	1/23	\$517,500
20-B Eagle Run Lot 20B20	Mortgage Assets Mgmt LLC	Cascade Funding Mtg T	1/24	\$326,000
44 Euclid Ave	Nautical Hldgs Ltd	Dlp Rlty LLC	1/26	\$188,000
65 Florin St Lot 262	Powerhouse Rlty LLC	Padro Jr, David T	1/25	\$449,500
65 Florin St Lot 261	Powerhouse Rlty LLC	Padro Jr, David T	1/25	\$449,500
72 W Shore Rd Lot 4	Kazantzis, Demetrios	Bucci, Anthony C and Bucci, Lori J	1/23	\$119,000
76 Bluff Ave Lot 9	Scott, Earleen M	Scott Relt and Scott, Earleen M	1/22	\$160,000
76 Bluff Ave Lot 10	Scott, Earleen M	Scott Relt and Scott, Earleen M	1/22	\$160,000
80 Dahlia St	Macomber, Steven D	Ferrara, Jane C	1/22	\$333,400
82 Benedict Rd	Mcassey Jr, James J	D&I Prop Mgmt LLC	1/26	\$275,000
175 Metro Center Blvd Lot 7	Law Off Of Kevin B Murphy	175 Metro Ctr Blvd LLC	1/24	\$225,000
200 Post Rd Lot 112	Familgietti-Guarino, E A	Corley, Timothy J	1/22	\$281,000
394 Sargent St	Duarte, Jeanne L	Desired Dev LLC	1/26	\$260,000
583 Pocasset Ct Lot 583	Judith A Healey Lt and Healey, Judith A	Cooper, Patricia K	1/23	\$308,500
774 Williamsburg Cir Lot 774	Traficante, Meagan C	Loretta A Bixby RET and Bixby, Robert P	1/23	\$230,000
3940 Post Rd Lot 14	Kettelle Samuel B Est and Carroll, Robin	Mainelli, Nico R and Mainelli, Jason R	1/24	\$207,444

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
16 Potter Ave	Urwin John H Est and Urwin Jr, John H	Moio, Anthony and Pereira, Elizabeth	1/26	\$420,000
46 Harley St	Gargano, Katelyn	Buxton, Carol	1/30	\$325,000
650 E Greenwich Ave Lot 7-309	Kaczmarek, Peter G and Kaczmarek, Alison	Kaczmarek, Rose C	1/26	\$180,000
888 Providence St	Janton, Sandra C	Rhode Is Hsng & Mtg Fin C	1/29	\$1
1588 Main St Lot 9	Powers, Zachary A	Pereira, Brooke	1/26	\$183,000



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A conversation with Jason Cabral Executive Director of The Gamm



A self introduction

Jason Cabral was named executive director of The Gamm last August. Since then, as he put it Monday, "my job is like keeping all the balls in the air." His focus has been on the professionalism of administration, meaning he's looking at marketing, the relationship with Gamm patrons and how best to reach a wider audience. What he's discovered is that while there is a core of season ticket holders, the behavior has changed since the pandemic with more people buying tickets a week or a few days in advance. He attributes this to social media, reviews and word of mouth. He said attendance numbers are up from pre-pandemic. The major and most gratifying revelation for him since arriving at The Gamm is its "incredibly loyal patron base."



Ocean State Stories: We always ask about background. Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Fall River, Massachusetts, a stone's throw away from the Ocean State. Growing up, I was deeply influenced by my Portuguese immigrant parents whose journey to the states has been a source of great inspiration to me for many years. Their ability to overcome both social and economic obstacles reveal a spirit that defined my upbringing.

Coming from a working-class family, values of perseverance and ambition were instilled in me from a young age. It humbled me and shaped much of my outlook over the years, helping to cultivate a strong work ethic and a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities I've had in my life and career.

As a first-generation American, the unwavering support of my parents helped lay the foundation for my success. Their support continues to inspire me in my work today, as I look to make a difference within this gorgeous community close to home.

What were your positions before coming to The Gamm? Start with your own acting.

My years as an actor during school and post-grad, were both thrilling and challenging. I was fortunate to play roles ranging from Konstantin in *The Seagull* to Georg in the musical *She Loves Me*. While I have left that work behind to take on the administrative side of the arts, I hold onto two experiences through those years that I cherish.

The first experience was studying abroad in Russia at the Moscow Art Theatre, an intensive program that broadened my perspective on the possibilities of storytelling on stage. The second was working as a teaching artist, which led me on an international tour across four continents teaching English as a second language through theatrical performance and highlighting the transformative power of theater on young lives. These experiences underscored the importance of communication and storytelling, not only on stage but also in life. The way we use our physical selves to bridge gaps of diversity and understanding can truly be beautiful.

Over 10 years ago, I began my work in arts administration on the development team at The Public Theater in New York City. These were the years of *Fun Home* and *Hamilton*, which provided great opportunity for learning and growth. Being surrounded by the truly impressive visionary leaders and collaborators, I quickly built up the skill and knowledge that led me to take on senior positions at Jazz at Lincoln Center in NYC and Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

During the onset of the pandemic, I worked to help Center Theatre Group navigate the challenges facing the theater industry. Deciding it necessary to step away and move back home to Southern New England, I transitioned out of the theater and gained valuable experience working with teams at national non-profit organizations like the ASPCA, NAACP, and Habitat for Humanity International.

This diverse background in theater, both on stage and off, as well as time at these larger advocacy organizations, have uniquely positioned me for this role at The Gamm and where the theater is today. I am continuously inspired by Tony, the staff, and board of directors, and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

When, where and how did Gamm begin?

The Gamm was founded in 1984 as Alias Stage by a small group of actors from the graduating class of Trinity Rep Conservatory. These young artists performed as a collective in abandoned mill buildings in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood for almost a decade. In 1994, backed by a newly formed board of directors, the theater moved to a garage space in the Jewelry District where its reputation for quality acting in challenging and sometimes controversial plays grew. In 1998, the theater was renamed The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre, now known as The Gamm, in honor of the late actress and arts supporter. In 2003, under increased financial pressure and with fewer than 100 loyal season subscribers, the theater made its boldest move yet to a renovated annex of the historic Pawtucket National Guard Armory. With Tony Estrella as its new artistic director and as a newly minted member of Actors' Equity Association, the theater performed for 14 seasons in Pawtucket and grew exponentially in audience size and regional renown. Season 34 (2018-2019) marked The Gamm's first season in its new home at 1245 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick. With more seats, a larger stage and greater comfort for our actors and audience, this newly renovated venue in the center of the state is proving an enhanced experience for everyone.

In a recent review of our production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, The Boston Globe noted, "Nearly 20 years ago, this newspaper claimed that the Gamm was a 'buzz-generating theater' that offered epic shows in an intimate space. It still is." Over the years and through many moves, The Gamm has remained constant in its identity and resolve. Where we began is in its essence where we are now. And that's a beautiful thing.

■ Gamm

(Continued from page 17)

Your mission statement reads: "The Gamm Theatre is proud to tell stories that entertain, provoke, and engage seriously with the most important issues of our time. The Gamm further serves the public with educational programming that enriches the cultural and civic life of our community." Can you please elaborate?

Now in its 39th season, The Gamm brings world-class theater to audiences in Southern New England, including Rhode Island, Connecticut, Greater Boston, Southern Massachusetts and beyond. Drawing on the talent of local and visiting artists, we present an eclectic season of exciting new works and classics made to feel new — from the naturalistic to the epic. We use our intimate space to engage, provoke and entertain audiences with conversation-starting productions that often feel ripped from the headlines or are timeless in their themes and relevance. Humanities forums and post-show talkbacks further enhance engagement with our actors and between audience members. Our robust education programming includes in-school and out-of-school residencies for K-12 students in primarily low-income school districts using a literacy through the arts teaching model. Last year, our education department served over 4,300 students. From our theater, we also offer acting classes for adults, summer camps for elementary

through high school age participants, and a robust student matinee program that invites students to deep dive into our work on stage.

And this also from the Gamm website really caught our attention: "Through a range of robust education and community programs, The Gamm promotes life-long literacy for thousands of school students grades K-12, as well as underserved audience members each year. Humanities forums and post-show talkbacks further enhance the intellectual and cultural life of the community." Again, can you expand?

The Gamm has been a leader in arts education programming in Rhode Island for over 18 years. In that time, the theater's signature program, Promotion Literacy and Arts for Youth (PLAY), has engaged over 50,000 students in grades K-12. PLAY represents the theater's effort to provide arts-rich learning experiences to students both in school and out of school. Through PLAY, any Title I designated school can participate in Gamm education programming free of charge, which is critical as school districts continue to slash and eliminate arts programs to meet tight budgets. Without grant-funded programming from organizations like The Gamm, students would have little to no engagement with the arts.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) revealed that less than 20% of public school students in



Jason Cabral sits on The Gamm stage which is set for their production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" which runs through this weekend. (Beacon Communications photos)

the state's urban core districts were meeting grade-level expectations in ELA/Literacy. These results were among the worst in the region. The long-term impact of illiteracy on these communities could be devastating. The Gamm tackles the literacy challenge with a creative and energized approach. Bringing a story to life through theater sparks enthusiasm and deeper understanding of the text and each other. It helps readers by highlighting the message and ideas that might otherwise be missed, while requiring conversation and interaction with teachers and peers.

On a separate track, we offer a wide array of educational and outreach opportunities for learners of all ages. The Gamm's humanities-based programming includes "Shared Sunday" post-performance talkbacks throughout the theater season. This series of humanities discussions has been part of The Gamm's engagement activities since 2006, and has regularly featured actors, directors, designers, and guest scholars in a public forum-style arrangement. Audiences come to The Gamm to be challenged and engaged; these forums are their chance to challenge and engage in return.

Diversity is a key part of The Gamm's mission. Why is that important in the theater world — and the broader world in general?

At The Gamm, we aim to ensure that diversity remains at the heart of everything we do. We are actively working to foster a sense of belonging for all, be it patrons, employees, artists, or the community at large. I've always been moved by Harry Belafonte's words, "Artists have a valuable function in any society since it is the artist who reveals the society to itself." Theater, by this virtue, prompts us to confront the realities of our community. The work on our stages should help spark civic discourse and debate to find common ground amid our diversity. At The Gamm, we embrace this role wholeheartedly, using the power of storytelling to illuminate the shared human experience and foster connections across divides.

Tell us about some of the many awards that have come Gamm's way.

Over the years, The Gamm

has been honored with numerous awards, reflecting our commitment to excellence in our work. Among our notable achievements are two Elliot Norton Awards from the Boston Theatre Critics' Association: one for Outstanding Production by a Small Company for Clifford Odet's *Awake and Sing!* and another for Outstanding New Script for Paul Grellong's *Radio Free Emerson*, commissioned by The Gamm. Additionally, The Gamm received a special citation from the Elliot Norton Awards in recognition of our 25th anniversary, affirming our status as "a cherished theatrical gem in our region."

In addition to these accolades, The Gamm has received two New England Theatre Conference awards for outstanding achievement in the American Theatre. Each of these awards serve as a testament to the dedication and talent of our artists and staff, and we are so grateful for recognition and support.

In light of the Hollywood strikes last year, we note that "The Gamm is a proud member of New England Area Theatres, a bargaining unit of Actors' Equity Association." What does this mean for players and other production people?

We have an excellent relationship through our bargaining unit with the union and highly value the contribution of the professional actors and stage managers. They really are the life blood of our work and deserve to be compensated and treated accordingly. Human artistic investment is the best investment we can make. Hopefully, of course, we can avoid the kind of acrimony that roiled the film and TV industry for much of last year.

The Gamm now has a permanent home at 1245 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick. What does this mean for the theater — and your audiences?

The transition to our permanent home in Warwick represents a major milestone for The Gamm and our community. With the additional space and upgraded facilities, we have the capacity to expand and professionalize our operations, allowing our talented designers and technicians the freedom to fully realize their creative visions. This flexibility translates into elevated production quality, with the ability to incorporate new elements such as multi-

level sets, trap doors, or alternative space configurations that were impossible in our Pawtucket space.

Beyond our productions, our new location situates us at the heart of the state, offering greater accessibility to audiences across Rhode Island. By bringing our productions closer to home for many, we aim to deepen our connection with the community and broaden our reach, fostering a more inclusive and engaged audience base not only in Providence and Pawtucket, but now Warwick and in South County as well.

The move to Warwick ignites a sense of ambition for the future of The Gamm. While pandemic put a pause on our plans, our new home serves as a catalyst for long-term growth and innovation. With a larger footprint and growing resources, we are inspired to pursue initiatives that will shape the trajectory of The Gamm for years to come.

And finally, tell us about plans for this season's productions.

Our current 39th season has been carefully crafted by Artistic Director Tony Estrella to remind us of unique power and sheer delight of live theater. We wanted to invigorate audiences to come back and experience the live performance again. Based on our growing ticket sales, we are doing just that.

We are midway through the season now and thrilled by the overwhelming response to our current production of Edward Albee's American classic *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* In fact, we extended it through February 25th due to popular demand. I may be biased, but this show is not to be missed!

Looking ahead, our audiences will enjoy the transformative magic of loss and love with William Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night*. And wrapping up the season in May, we'll commemorate the 20th anniversary of John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt: A Parable*. It's a masterpiece whose relevance in our contemporary landscape is as compelling as ever.

Now, for our upcoming 40th anniversary season, our team is working diligently on finalizing the lineup. With Tony's expertise and discerning eye, I have no doubt that this milestone season will be nothing short of extraordinary. You'll have to stay tuned for the announcement

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Paw Print Studio CT

Darlyn

Are you looking for the love of your life? Well, you just found the sweetest girl around, meet Darlyn aka "Darling", she truly is a darling girl! She loves everyone she meets and also likes other friendly pups! Darlyn is a one-year-old mixed breed with a gorgeous cream color coat and a smile that will melt your heart! Contact Anchor Paws Rescue if you'd like to meet her at 401-320-8802. She's ready and waiting to be your new forever friend and will fill your heart and home with love!

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

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The McCoy Stadium PawSox Murals



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

were greats. What a time it was to be alive in RI! Unfortunately, we at Bruneau & Co cannot prevent the demise of McCoy, but we do have a unique and absolutely one-of-a-kind collection from the stadium coming up for auction in March. If you frequented the stadium anytime during the 1980s and 1990s, you probably remember the huge painted murals of players hanging from the entryways. That's right, those very murals, which were removed in 1999 for renovations, will now be offered to the public!

This collection of forty-two life-size murals were painted by local artist and RISD student Carol "Tayo" Heuser during the late 1970's and through the 1980's. The images capture some of the most prominent players of that period who played with the PawSox. Each is painted on a large panel and depicts players in vivid colors, capturing both the nuance of their play and individual characteristics.

Players featured in these murals are: Mike Greenwell, Butch Hobson, Marty Barrett, Oil-Can Boyd, Steve Lyons, Todd Benzinger, Joe Morgan, Jody Reed, Rick Burleson, Brady Anderson, John Valentin, Phil Plantir, Carlos Quintana, Roger Clemens, Jim Rice, Nomar Garciapara, Rich Gedman, Bruce Hurst, Carlton Fisk, Wade Boggs, John Tudor, Gary Allenson, John Marzano, Mio Vaughn, Ellis Burks, Aaron Sele, Ken Ryan, Mark Fidrych, Frank Rodriguez, Cecil Cooper, Butch Hobson, Dick Pole, Jeff Soupan, Glenn Hoffman, Dave Stapleton, John Flaherty, Scott Cooper, Fred Lynn, Chico Walker, & Juan Beniquez.

Carol "Tayo" Heuser was born in Washington D.C. and raised in Africa and Europe. She received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and MFA at Vermont College. Heuser currently lives in Providence, Rhode Island. She has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally including, the Phil-

lips Collection Museum, Washington D.C., the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, the Dorsky Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Chateau de Fernelmont in Belgium, amongst many other public and private collections.

All 42 murals will be on display and available for preview at Bruneau & Co Auctioneers from Tuesday, March 12th to Friday, March 15th between 9am and 4pm. Come down to the gallery in Cranston, Rhode Island for one more look at these local legends. Who knows? Maybe you'll leave a bid and end up taking a piece of McCoy PawSox history home!

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Rhode Island PBS

Proclamation Ale Company celebrates 10th anniversary with a week of events

By ROB DUGUAY

When it comes to craft beer in Rhode Island, the industry was a bit different a decade ago than it currently is today. Many local breweries were still trying to find their footing while experimenting with various tastes and styles. A few of them were in different locations than where they currently are, but they're still making an impact on this very unique culture within The Ocean State. This can be said for Warwick's Proclamation Ale Company, who will be bringing in 10 years of existence from February 20-25. Each day of the celebration will bring something different to the brewery's establishment on 298 Kilvert Street with the constant theme being Proclamation's rejoicing of reaching double digits in years as a business.

For Owner & Creative Director Lori Witham, it's a time of reflection along with it being a celebration. Her husband Dave, who sadly passed away on Christmas Day back in 2020, started Proclamation with an idea in 2014 and since his passing she and the rest of the folks involved with the brewery have carried on his legacy and vision in numerous ways. "Life can be so crazy and because you're always so deep into the weeds of running a business, you can forget to step back and look at what you've ac-



PROCLAMATION ALE COMPANY

complished," she says. "10 years? I truly cannot believe it. I walk into the taproom each day and think back to the day that Dave told me he wanted to start a brewery. I was pregnant and neither of us had any business knowledge, but he had a passion that was hard to deny, so we took the leap and somehow it worked. He made beer and people showed up to drink it, and 10 years later, people are still showing up!"

"We've been thrown every challenge

imaginable over the years, but I'm so proud to be carrying on Dave's legacy and vision each and every day," Witham adds. "A small business making it to 10 is no small feat and that deserves an epic celebration! Our anniversary celebration will take a look back through the years, but will also highlight the love we have for the brewing industry as a whole. We'll be releasing collaborative beers, adding a special round of trivia to see how much people know

about Proclamation, celebrating beers from some of our favorite breweries, and throwing a party where we ask folks to break out all of your oldest Proclamation merch while we introduce our new Plinko host, Vinny Goldman."

On February 20 & 21, Proclamation will be open from 3-8pm with plenty of activities to partake in along with indulging in delicious brews, which include playing arcade and board games. On the 22, McCaughey Standard Trivia will be putting on their weekly trivia night, but this time there's going to be a twist with folks getting to test their knowledge about the brewery. For the 23, a bunch of other great breweries are going to be taking over the taps with Saugy's and Cultro serving up delicious food. The official 10 year anniversary party is going to be happening on the 24 with all sorts of fun taking place with the 25 closing it all out with a classic Sunday afternoon of relaxing and imbibing. As you can tell, there's going to be an abundance of opportunities to head down to Proclamation and ring in a decade of business for the fantastic establishment.

For all the details pertaining to what's usually on tap, Proclamation's online store, frequently asked questions and everything else about the brewery, log on to proclamationaleco.com.



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