



Accidents waiting to happen

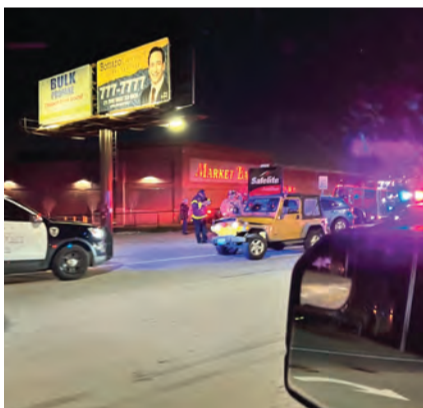
USELESS SIGNS: According to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, signs like these are unenforceable, giving police little leverage to stop vehicles from entering the wrong Market Basket entrance. Motorists either don't see them, or ignore them. (Photo courtesy Alex Psznowsky)

Market Basket traffic frustrates neighbors

By RORY SCHULER

As residents prepared to leave their Hargreaves Street homes for the Jan. 8 Town Council meeting, they heard the familiar crunch of metal, plastic and reflector glass. Then, the sirens got louder until the early evening sunset was replaced by flashing police and fire gumballs.

A vehicle turning left onto Hartford Avenue from Hargreaves Street was struck on the driver's side by a vehicle traveling west on Hartford Avenue, according to Johnston Chief Police Mark A. Vieira.



FED UP: Residents photographed the flashing lights responding to a crash outside Market Basket on Hartford Avenue. Confusing road arrows and a backway shortcut have led to countless near-collisions and neighboring residents are fed up with the situation. (Photo courtesy Deb and Mike Keough)

MARKET BASKET - PAGE 5

40 Johnston educators 'essentially' laid off

12% of school staff get 'employment non-renewals'

By RORY SCHULER

The "non-renewal" list included the names of 40 Johnston educators.

"Special Educator, Ferri Middle School ... Guidance Counselor at Barnes School ... Math Teacher, Johnston High School ... Social Worker, Brown Avenue ..." Johnston Public Schools Superintendent

Bernard DiLullo Jr. read off a 40-name list, following each name with the teacher's position.

DiLullo read the list to start last week's Special School Committee meeting.

The meeting agenda's first action item was the "employment non-renewals for

TEACHERS - PAGE 11

HARDWOOD HEARTBREAK



HOOPS & DREAMS: The top-ranked Johnston girls basketball team was upset by Hope in the Division IV Championship, putting an end to its huge bounce back season. Read the full story on Page 15. Shown here, Johnston player Jayannah Rollins led the team with 20 points, despite the disappointing loss. (Sun Rise photo)

Medal Collectors

Johnston's Academic Decathlon team places fifth; wins 18 medals

By JOHN HOWELL

Students from 15 Ocean State high schools struck gold, silver and bronze in the 41st annual Rhode Island Academic Decathlon held Sunday at Bryant University.

"We ran out of medals," said an astonished Frank Lenox, Sunday night following an awards ceremony where North Kingstown took the honors of representing the state in the United States Academic Decathlon to be held April 25-27 in Pittsburgh.

This was a first of firsts for North Kingstown in the competition open to all Rhode Island high schools.



SUPER QUIZZERS: Johnston High School's Academic Decathlon team posed for a photo before heading to the Super Quiz competition. They won the Super Quiz! (Sun Rise photos by Steve Popiel)

MEDALS - PAGE 8

JHS

Panther of the Week

POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Ryder Dawson. Ryder is a freshman at Johnston High. He was nominated by his History teacher, Ms. Ami Gada. Ms. Gada said, "Ryder is a standout student. He has become one of the hardest working students in his History class. His attitude is amazing, his work ethic is off the charts and he is just really reaching his potential in World History." (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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She keeps the Giving Quilts Club in stitches

Lanzi takes a patchwork approach to chronicling fellow members' lives

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlight this week shines on Marie Lanzi, who began coming to the Center when this new building opened around 2008.

Marie came on board as a receptionist and health service coordinator. Marie, who lived her whole life in Chepachet and Greenville has enjoyed all her time here at the JSC.

For 25 years, she was employed at the Providence Journal Company, where she partnered with the Providence Police in 1993 to start a Santa's Workshop for disadvantaged children in Providence.

In that first year, gifts were handed out to 50 children. In a short period of time, Marie's efforts help reach over 1,000 needy children at Christmas.

Marie's continue to offer suggestions and institute programs here at the Senior Center. A "narrative and photo" project called "The Way We Were" chronicled various Senior Center members, tracing their history in the town, their contributions, including family, and up to their later years.

These portfolios are currently available at the entrance of the Center for all to enjoy and offer an interesting historical perspective of the Johnston Senior Center.

Today, with a number of other members, Marie is part of the "Giving Quilts Club" that donates beautiful quilts, handmade on-site, to various charitable organizations. Marie is truly a "giver" at heart and can be relied on for a warm smile and a kind heart.

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.

QUALITY QUILTER: This week's Johnston Senior Center Spotlight shines on Marie Lanzi, a member since 2008. Lanzi not only helps to lead the Giving Quilts Club, she's chronicled the lives of her friends and fellow members in a project called "The Way We Were." (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



Senior 'Spotlite'

Johnston Pet Owners Rabies Inoculation Clinic Date And Dog Licensing Information

The Town of Johnston will hold a Rabies Clinic for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets three (3) months of age and older at The North Providence Recreation Dept., 2 Governor Notte Pkwy, Building #2, North Providence, Rhode Island, 02904 on **Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The cost for each inoculated will be ten dollars (\$10.00) cash only, no personal checks accepted. Proof of previous vaccine (Certificate Only) is required.

Dog Licenses are available as of April 1st at any time and can be obtained by visiting the Town of Johnston's online licensing portal at this link: <https://johnstonri.portal.opengov.com/categories/1084> (Rabies Certificate required)

Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.,
Town Clerk

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UNPACKING HISTORY



THE UNVEILING: Judge Francis "Frank" X. Flaherty, a former Warwick Mayor and retired Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, assembled an essential appendix of Warwick history buffs. They gathered Friday to unpack a pair of mystery boxes. (Warwick Beacon photos by Rory Schuler)

Warwick historians open, digest contents of two mystery boxes

By **JOHN HOWELL
&
RORY SCHULER**

Judge Francis "Frank" X. Flaherty carried a pair of huge sealed cardboard boxes into Warwick City Hall's subterranean conference room.

Flaherty, a former Warwick Mayor and retired Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, kept the boxes taped shut for nearly two weeks. Inside, items of historical significance were promised, but their exact nature and provenance remained a mystery until last week.

A little recreational tennis, Flaherty's old house and the city's rich industrial past each played a role in the eventual unveiling — the opening of the mysterious boxes Friday morning in City Hall.

Way Back When

The story gets its start back in the early manufacturing days of Rhode Island, after Samuel Slater built the first textile mill on the Blackstone River, spawning more mills along the banks of rivers in cities and villages across the Ocean State.

Apponaug, Natick and Pontiac appeared and swelled like sore blemishes on the banks of the Pawtuxet — mill villages stacked with rows of worker housing, clustered near the pulsating mills. While exploitation of waterways dates back to the region's earliest civilizations, some visionaries looked inland where the water doesn't flow directly.

There was an exception and a forerunner to the mills that sprung from centers lacking rivers. Thomas Jefferson Hill recognized and then capitalized on the fact there was a lot of open, easily developable land in Warwick along the recently laid railroad.

Hill built what is believed to be one of Rhode Island's first stream driven mills, Elizabeth Mill, which he named after his wife. The railroad gave him access to coal and a means to transport goods to market.

A village named Hillsgrove grew up alongside the mill. The name was used for the airport that sprang from the farm fields on Occupastuxet Road (now Airport Road). Hill's role in the development of Warwick is recorded in the books of the late Don D'Amato and others, but as Fla-

herty noted last week, he's not quite a household name in the city.

Flaherty was reminded of Hill's enterprises when contacted by Jonathan Farnsworth, a Hill descendent with whom he plays tennis in a Saturday morning league. Farnsworth mistakenly thought Flaherty once lived in a house belonging to Hill. (That wasn't the case.) It turns out, however, that another descendant to Hill, Miriam Houghton, who lives in California, had contacted him because she had a couple of boxes of Hill memorabilia she felt might be of interest to Warwick historians. The boxes were shipped and received and opened ceremoniously Friday.

Houses For Five Daughters

"He had five daughters," Flaherty said, referring to Hill. "And as they got married, he built a house for each of them along Apponaug Cove."

Flaherty named a list of residents he knew who went on to live in the surviving homes. The street was marked with a pair of stone pillars and a gate.

Farnsworth couldn't have made a better contact than Flaherty, who in addition to his years in public service is a member of the Warwick Historical Cemeteries Commission. Flaherty told Pegee Malcolm, who sprang into action. And he eventually connected with Houghton, who sent him the boxes.

After their arrival, Flaherty assembled an essential appendix of Warwick history buffs — Malcolm, the Chairperson of the Warwick Historical Cemeteries Commission and Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Commission; Felicia Castiglioni Gardella, President of the Warwick Historical Society; current Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi; City Archivist Jackie Picozzi; and Mark Brown, Vice-Chairman of the Warwick Historical Cemeteries Commission.

"But we don't know what's in it," Flaherty told the small group gathered late Friday morning; the sealed boxes covering a large portion of the City Hall basement conference table. "I said, 'Do you think I should open it?' And (Pegee) said, 'No.' She said make it like Geraldo Rivera and Al Capone's vault ... And that was empty when they opened it. We could be embarrassed. There could be nothing in here but a bunch of old sweaters."



THE OPTIONS ARGUED: Market Basket's traffic engineer discusses options with Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira at the Jan. 8 meeting, which took place hours after a crash outside the Market Basket store. (Sun Rise Photo by Rory Schuler)

■ **Market Basket**
(Continued from page 1)

Residents have been begging for changes at the intersection for more than a year, since the bustling Market Basket replaced a former BJ's warehouse. When the building was a BJ's, a swinging gate kept line-cutters from making a west-bound left-hand turn, behind the building, into the parking lot.

That entrance is clearly marked with "do not enter" signs, but the lines on the road are confusing, and busy shoppers can't seem to resist heading off the line at the traffic signal ahead, where they're supposed to enter.

The rear entrance was meant for truck traffic making deliveries to the supermarket.

Problem is, entrances to both a small strip mall and Hargreaves Street are located adjacent to the back entrance. And when residents try to legally enter or exit their street, they often meet angry Market Basket customers making an illegal turn behind the store.

Sometimes the near-collisions escalate into screaming matches.

Deb and Mike Keough have been collecting photo and video evidence. They say they're worried a tragedy's just waiting to happen, while the store chain tries to work out a few traffic design alternatives with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT).

The residents attend every Town Council meeting. The Keoughs are often joined by neighbors Alex Psznowsky and Lisa Iafrate, co-owner of nearby business Lighting and Design by J & K Electric.

"We are all concerned for everyone's safety on Hartford Avenue," said Iafrate. "It is nearly impossible to get in and out of our parking lot because the turn lane is being used by Market Basket customers going into a service entry only entrance. I am aware that it was suggested to cut through our parking lot to avoid the center lane confusion and that's unacceptable to our business. We also rent to a daycare and this puts the children at risk."

Market Basket has been responsive, sending traffic engineers to Johnston Town Council meetings twice over the

past year. The engineers say they're willing to consider several options — though they've been reluctant to replace the gate that kept short-cutters out when BJ's operated on the Hartford Avenue property.

Public Safety Jeopardized?

Police are monitoring the situation. "It's my understanding that Market Basket, through the RI DOT, intends to permit and install modifications to this section of the roadway consisting of a left-turn lane for Hargreaves Street and a raised rumble strip at the market's service entrance," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said recently when asked for an update on the situation.

Vieira has pushed back on several options proposed by Market Basket. Residents have asked police why they don't just watch the area from a fixed post and change motorist behavior via enforcement.

"The potential future installation of a special left-turn lane, as proposed by Market Basket, and the subsequent motor vehicle enforcement by police of such a turn lane would certainly help mitigate this issue," the chief argues. "However, the signs located on Market Basket's property at the entrance in question that state, 'DO NOT ENTER, DELIVERY & SERVICE VEHICLES ONLY BEYOND THIS POINT' are not enforceable by police. The state traffic code only pertains to motor vehicle violations that occur on public roadways and do not pertain to private property or signs posted on private property. As a result, I believe a more viable and permanent solution would be to prevent customers from being able to access the parking lot through the delivery/service vehicle entrance by way of a barrier, possibly a fence."

Psznowsky addressed Town Council that night, Jan. 8, a couple hours after the crash.

"This evening, there was another accident," he said. "Someone was pulling out of Hargreaves Street ... A white ... transit van was in the middle lane. My neighbor witnessed this as he was trying to turn in — waiting to make a left-hand turn into Hargreaves Street ... then realized that he was making a left-hand turn,

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BJ'S WAS BETTER:

Before Market Basket, the former BJ's Wholesale Club operated over the same footprint. While they operated at the site, a gate kept non-truck traffic from utilizing the rear entrance.

That gate was removed prior to Market Basket's 2022 opening. (Old Google Earth photo)



Market Basket

(Continued from page 5)

he cut back into the travel lane, going westbound, and struck the vehicle that was pulling out of Hargreaves Street. No injuries. Police were there. Fire was there. Both vehicles had to be towed from the scene."

Close Calls Daily

The crashes are common, but the near-collisions are constant.

"This I believe is number three or four now, that's happened since Market Basket began servicing in August of 2022," Psznowsky argued. "You can paint all the lines you want ... but you all know this is what will happen and continue to happen. I think if DOT got involved in this, and changed that curb cut, there would be no need to change the lines and the striping, because people will drive right over that."

The residents' frustrations tend to revolve back to DOT. They've been reaching out

"I'm sure DOT has money to do that," Psznowsky said. "If they can spend \$50,000 a day to run a ferry, I'm sure they can spend a few thousand dollars to put in a curb cut." (The Jan. 8 meeting closely followed the start of the ongoing Washington Bridge fiasco in Providence, when ferries were utilized to help cut down on commuter traffic.)

Future Fatality Feared

Hargreaves Street is east of the Market Basket entrance by only a few feet. There's a strip mall adjacent to the entrance.

Market Basket's traffic engineers say that a "raised mountable delta island" would prevent westbound left turns and "allow left and right out, but

only a right in."

Anything that alters Hartford Avenue (state Route 6), however must filter through DOT.

"We are not in favor of the latest proposal," Deb and Mike Keough wrote via email. "If the gate does not block traffic coming in off the street, it will not be beneficial because the middle turn lane will still be backed up."

Last month, Christina Arsenis, an employee of J & K Electric, made an urgent plea for help.

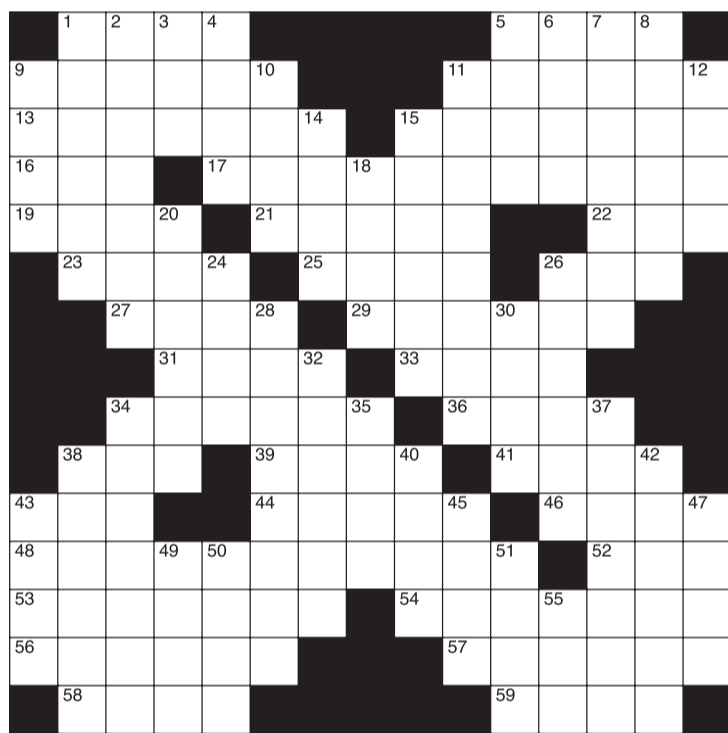
"The current situation poses a significant risk to public safety, as vehicles are consistently entering the area designated for trucks only and leading to accidents, and potentially severe injuries," she wrote via email. "I have personally experienced that hazardous conditions caused by the layout and lack of affective signage. Despite the presence of signs indicating that only trucks should enter, many drivers are either unaware of those signs or choose to disregard them. This has resulted in dangerous situations where vehicles are coming head on towards each other, putting the lives of individuals, including myself, at great risk."

She has urged Market Basket and the state to consider implementing three measures to fix the situation —installation of a gate system, improve signage visibility and install traffic flow indicators (clear and prominent arrows to help drivers navigate the area safely and reduce the risk of head-on collisions).

Deb Keough's mother also lives on the street. Deb's sister, Lisa Acciardo, visits often.

"My family, myself and residents of Hargreaves Street deal with these stressful, scary incidents just trying to get home," she said recently. "We are worried about our 80-year-old mother. It is very dangerous. If something isn't done soon, there could be a fatal accident."

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta

38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one
57. Ointments
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Abandoning animals never the answer

If ever there was a worthy cause for taking righteous outrage to the vitriolic world of social media, the recent string of animal abandonment cases in Warwick in recent weeks and months certainly fits the bill.

It is difficult to imagine the depraved mentality required to allow any animal to knowingly suffer, but it brings about a specific sense of anger to see that the animals, which have included primarily dogs and domesticated rabbits, all had homes at one point before being found; in some cases emaciated and on the brink of death, and in the case of one poor husky, dead from heat stroke.

You can argue that some people go too far with how much they anthropomorphize pets, with some treating them as equally as they would a human child; even going so far as to call them their children. For the record, we don't think that's going too far; a good dog or other pet can be a better companion than most people if you treat them with kindness and respect.

However one thing that cannot be argued is that becoming the owner of any animal comes with it a minimum level of responsibility. When you take another living being under your care, the unspoken and sacred contract you enter states you are to ensure that animal at the very least enjoys an existence free from fear, pain, hunger, or excessive stress. As beings that cannot rely on themselves for their own wellbeing, it is the very basic duty we are charged with when we bring them into our homes and into our families. It is the payment for which you will receive a lifetime of unconditional love and appreciation in return, and one worth making.

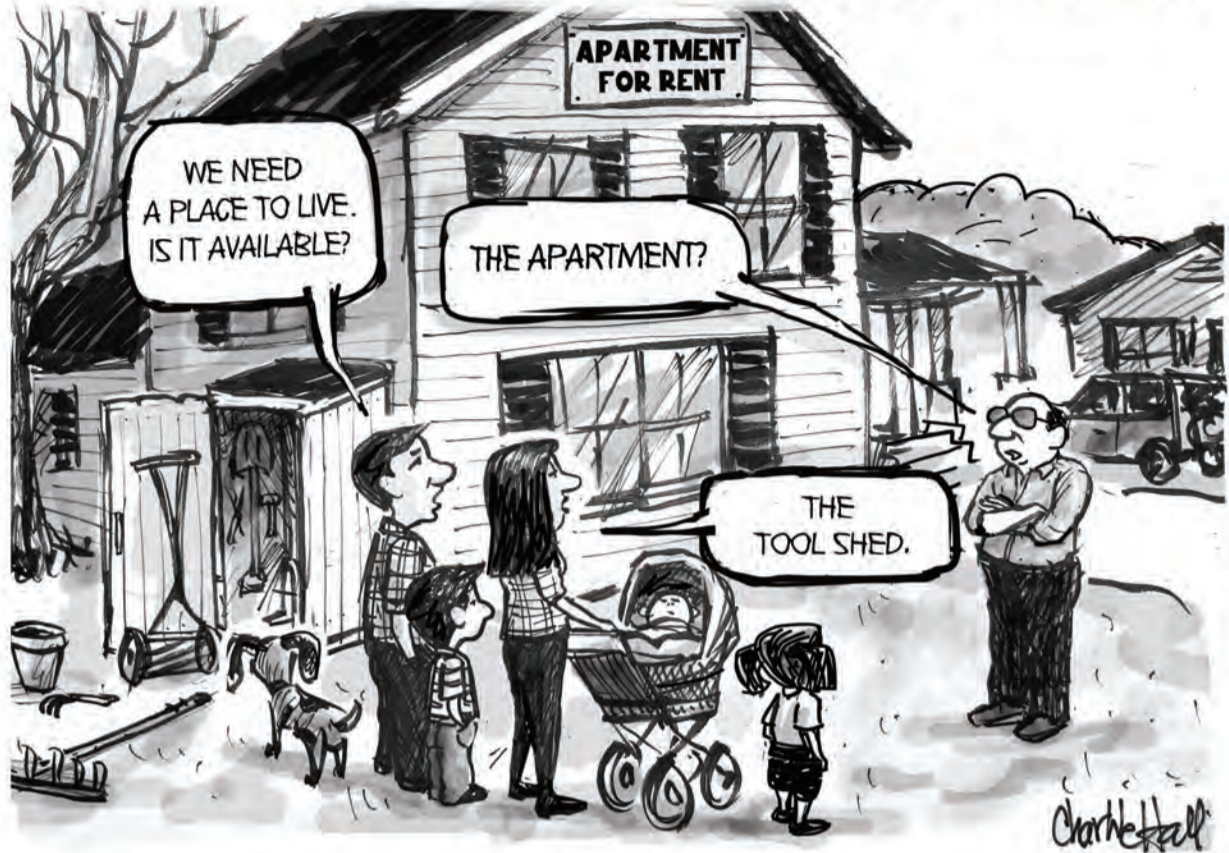
Pet ownership is not for everyone, and that can be a difficult lesson to learn. Some people, out of embarrassment, frustration, stubbornness, or a combination of these factors, would apparently rather opt to release the animal into the wild and wash their hands of what they consider to be the problem at hand. How they move forward and live with themselves after that, we would argue, is a matter better understood by professional psychologists rather than animal-loving journalists.

But the inhumanity angle of this issue is only one part. In our communities, big-hearted people who run and volunteer at animal shelters do incredibly difficult, time-consuming work for very little pay (most, in fact, don't get paid at all) in order to try and pick up the slack for others who do wrong by animals. They bring them into shelters, get them updated on vaccines and treat their medical needs, and then go through the arduous process of trying to find good homes for them.

The last thing that these organizations should be doing is putting up reward money from their shoestring budgets to try and achieve justice for animals who have been victimized by selfish, heartless, and thoughtless individuals.

If you are having second thoughts about your ability to care for a pet you've adopted or purchased, reach out to a shelter. Call the Rhode Island ASPCA. Ask a friend if there's anyone interested in adopting that pet. Abandoning them out of convenience, and letting fate dictate what happens to them, is unnecessary, cruel, and thankfully in Rhode Island, it is a crime.

THE SEARCH FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN RI CONTINUES



LETTERS

RI needs to support its early educators

In a recent commentary, early education advocates Lisa Hildebrand and Khadija Lewis Khan drew a very appropriate comparison between Rhode Island's child care resources and the Washington Bridge, noting that both are critical infrastructure whose challenges create serious obstacles to working Rhode Islanders.

We couldn't agree more, and are just as committed to strengthening early education programs in our state as we are to ensuring a safe and swift solution to the bridge fiasco. But unlike the problems that led to the failure of the bridge, the causes and solutions to our child care problems are quite clear.

Simply put, it's funding. It's virtually impossible to provide the high-quality child care that working families need at a price they can afford. The result is a tug-of-war that no one is winning — families cannot afford child care and early educators cannot afford to live on their income, which is generally lower than entry-level fast food wages.

That is why we are making the Rhode Island Early Educator Compensation Stabilization Act (2024-H 7251, 2024-S 2038) one of our highest priorities this legislative session. Our bill would sustain and strengthen existing workforce development and compensation programs for educators working in licensed child care and early learn-

ing programs statewide, funding the continuation of workforce development and retention bonuses for our state's dedicated, valuable, yet incredibly underpaid early educators. The bill would continue the Child Care WAGE\$ salary supplement program, as well as a pandemic-era quarterly retention bonus of \$750 for the lowest wage early educators who work directly with children and have been consistently employed in the same program.

These programs have helped retain early education staff since the pandemic. Our state will face a child care crisis if funding ends this year.

We have been working to bolster support from our legislative colleagues and our chambers' leadership for this important measure to help ensure that the devoted staff members of child care and early learning programs can afford to keep the jobs they love. If they can't afford to work, neither can the families who depend on them.

Rhode Island House Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Rep. Susan R. Donovan (D-District 69, Bristol, Portsmouth) & Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Sen. Sandra Cano (D-District 8, Pawtucket).

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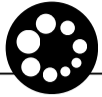


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FIFTH PLACE OVERALL: Johnston High School's Academic Decathlon team and coaches pose for a photo with their plaques and medals after Sunday's competition. (Photos by Steve Popiel)

Medals

(Continued from page 1)

North Kingstown also took first in the Super Quiz of the event tying with Johnston High School. Toll Gate placed second in the Super Quiz followed by Cranston West.

Wheeler School placed second overall, followed by last year's winning team East Greenwich in third and Bishop Hendricken in fourth. Johnston placed fifth with team members taking home 18 medals.

"We had so many ties," Lenox said explaining the volume of medals awarded to competitors in each of the decathlon's three divisions representing students with A, B and C grade point averages. In addition to multiple choice questions, students are graded on essay and speech and interview. Super Quiz results are not included in determining the state winner.

Based on averages over 40 years, RIAD orders about 135 medals, of which 110 are dated and the balance undated to be used in the event of ties. Over the years a reserve of more than 40 medals were reserved for ties. That medal reserve was drained this year.

Not all of the awards went to students.

Cranston West Coach Christine Luther-Morris was presented the Augustine Capotosto Coach of the Year Award.

Capotosto, Chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Higher Education/Secondary Education was a founder of the Rhode Island competition, serving as the organization's vice president before his death.

In making the presentation, Cranston Sen. Hanna Gallo, a member of the decathlon board, said Morris, "personifies the word coach. She builds confidence and motivation through direction, inspiration and devotion to team members and the team. Perhaps most telling, West students picked her to start an Academic Decathlon team in 2008. She has admirably carried that banner ever since."

The following Johnston students received 2024 Academic Decathlon medals: Jannelle Nunez, gold in literature, silver in music and bronze in math; Arianna Dandy, gold in literature, silver in speech and interview; Elliott Cartesi, gold in music and silver in art; Sofia China bronze medals in literature, math, and speech; Logan Brennan, bronze medals in speech and music; Robert Graham, gold in music; Cameron Ferrara, a bronze in economics; Connor Niles, a bronze in economics; and alternate team member Neko Mahony won a silver medal in social science and a bronze in science.



MEDAL DETECTOR: Johnston High Academic Decathlon team member Janelle Nunez poses with her medals, won during Sunday's state competition. She won three medals – Gold for Literature, Silver for Music, and Bronze for Math. (Photos by Steve Popiel)



TEAM DESIGNER: Janelle Nunez and Coach Kerry Murphy pose for a photo in the official Johnston High Academic Decathlon sweatshirt, which Nunez designed. (Photos by Steve Popiel)

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-Sun. March 17- CROW'S NEST, Wrvk. St. Paddy's Themed Show 12:30

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Sun Rise Scoops

Sun Rise Staff Reports

March 9

Historical Hope

The Hope Historical Society invites all to their March meeting during which they will “Celebrate Women’s History Month.” The program will honor women through the ages recognizing both local and national heroines. Who is a heroine? A heroine is a woman noted for courageous acts or nobility of character. Given that definition, if there is a particular heroine that guests wish to honor at the meeting, they are invited to contribute the woman’s name and share the story of why she is a heroine. The meeting will be held on Saturday, Mar. 9, at 2 p.m., in the Howland Barn, 35 Ryefield Road, Hope. All are welcome!

To learn more about the Hope Historical Society please visit our active Facebook page “Hope Historical Society, Hope, RI”, to see postings, pictures, videos, event information, and shared appreciation for all things historic to Hope and surrounding areas!

March 23

Rabies Clinic

Mark your calendars, pet owners! The Towns of Johnston and North Providence are teaming up for the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association’s (RIVMA) annual rabies clinic on Saturday, March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Building, 2 Gov. Notte Parkway, Building 2, North Providence.

- Here are the important details:
- ALL dogs must be LEASHED.
 - ALL cats must be in CARRIERS
 - FEE: \$10 (CASH ONLY)
 - Three-year vaccines once proof (RABIES CERTIFICATE ONLY) is shown of a CURRENT vaccination.
 - RIVMA Clinics are open to ALL Rhode Island residents, so you do not have to reside in North Providence or Johnston to attend.

March 27

Empty Bowls

The Empty Bowls benefit features tastings from more than 30 local eateries. Tickets are on sale now for the Wednesday, March 27 fundraiser, which will support Rhode Islanders in need of food assistance.

The event will be held at WaterFire Arts Center, as the Rhode Island Community Food Bank hosts its popular Empty Bowls fundraiser for the first time since 2019. Tickets include unlimited tastings from 30+ local

restaurants, plus an artisan-made bowl for guests to take home as a reminder of how their support will help fill the empty bowls in our community.

Restaurants offering tastings include favorites such as Coast Guard House, Legal Sea Foods, Mills Tavern, Newport Vineyards, Plant City and many more. Beer, wine and signature cocktails will be available for purchase.

With help from Serving Bowl Sponsor Stop & Shop, Mixing Bowl Sponsors IGT and Marcum Accountants, and Pasta Bowl Sponsor Washington Trust, the Food Bank hopes to raise \$200,000 from the event which will help the Food Bank continue to provide Rhode Islanders in need with healthy, nutritious food.

“After a 5-year hiatus, we’re thrilled to welcome our community back to Empty Bowls,” said CEO Andrew Schiff. “This is a great opportunity to celebrate Rhode Island’s culinary and artistic talent while supporting our neighbors in need.”

The event will be held March 27 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley St. in Providence. Tickets may be purchased at rifoobank.org/empty-bowls-2024/. The Rhode Island Community Food Bank distributes food to 80,000 struggling Rhode Islanders each month through a statewide network of 143 member agencies including food pantries, meal sites, shelters, youth programs and senior centers.

March 30

Easter Bunny

On Saturday, March 30, the Easter Bunny is coming to Johnston!

Enjoy pastries and refreshments with the Easter Bunny from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Harford Ave., Johnston.

The event is free and each child will receive a gift from the Easter Bunny. Please bring a camera. The Rec Department issued a special thank you to event sponsor Citizens Bank. For more information, visit johnstonrec.com.

April 3

‘Sicilian Inheritance’

The Rhode Island Region of the National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW) will host an upcoming “Reading with Robin” book event featuring noted Italian American author, podcast creator and award-winning journalist Jo Piazza who will discuss her latest novel, “The Sicilian Inheritance.” The event will be held on Wednesday, April 3, with registration at 5:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. event, at the Providence Public Library, 150 Empire St. Tickets are \$35 and include an autographed copy of “The Sicilian Inheritance.” Proceeds from the event will benefit Books Are Wings. Gently used children’s books will be collected. Tickets may be purchased online.

May 4

St. Rocco’s 60!

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.

Soul of ‘71

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 donate, contact Harold J. Hemberger at hembergerharold@gmail.com. All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

Restock OSDRI’s food 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.

SCOOP OF THE WEEK

March 11

JLL Signups

Johnston Little League’s getting ready for spring baseball.

“We are in our last days of Little League and Senior League registrations,” the organization posted on its social media accounts. “Please sign up today. Tryouts are next week! Don’t get stranded on 3rd base all season ... Play ball!”

Go to www.jllri.com to sign up for 2024 JLL Spring Baseball.

The Johnston Little League Organization serves boys and girls ages 7 through 16. This site is dedicated to the players playing Little League Baseball. This league is comprised of 3 Divisions: Minors AAA (7-8/9-11), Majors (9-12), and Juniors/Seniors (13-16) organized under Little League Baseball Inc.

Contact JLL at johnstonrillittleleague@gmail.com with any questions. Registration closes on March 11.

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David M. DiPaolo

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Lovingly - Mom & Step-Dad Walter

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

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Meet Kimberly Sherman-Leon, the owner of Minuteman Press shops in both Johnston and Pawtucket. This long-standing business is marking its 25th year in Johnston - come by on April 1st from noon to 2pm to join the celebration!

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By JENNIFER COATES

When a business has endured and prospered for twenty-five years, one might wonder, what is the secret to its success? The obvious things come to mind: Superior customer service. Consistent, quality workmanship. Reliability and dependability. Energetic and experienced employees. Keeping current on industry trends. And finally, don't forget the hard work, sacrifice, and devotion of the key people ~ the owners and their staff.

If ever there was an explanation for the longevity and vitality of local business Minuteman Press, it would be that it possesses all these attributes. Celebrating twenty-five years at its current location, this is a business that has survived a worldwide pandemic, an economy that fluctuates like the New England weather, and rivalry from big box competitors. Today, it is still going strong!

Minuteman Press is a longstanding company and national brand that has been providing design, printing, and promotional services to its many loyal customers since 1973. The success of the Minuteman Press on Plainfield Pike is attributed not only to

the reputation of its national brand but also to the dedication and skills of its most recent owner and talented graphic designer, Kimberly Sherman-Leon. Kimberly is one of four entrepreneurial women who own and operate five Minuteman Press shops in Rhode Island ~ Kimberly also owns the shop in Pawtucket which is managed by her equally dedicated husband, Jorge Leon. She is a consummate professional who has invested her heart and soul in this busy shop.

Kimberly has a long history in the design and graphics industry. In fact, she has been working in the field since she was 15 years old. She worked for years as a designer and store manager for the owners of this Minuteman Press shop from whom she purchased it in 2016. Her customers describe her as dynamic, both in effort and personality. It is easy to see that she is deeply invested in her customers' experiences at the shop whether it is for extensive design work, various printing needs or the marketing of their own businesses. Truly, their success is her success.

Kimberly and her team work tirelessly from the conceptualization to the completion of your project. Their custom work is detailed and meticulous, knowing that so much depends on building your brand's identity. Under her direction, Minuteman Press can accomplish anything you need, from business cards to banners, brochures to promotional products, large format signage to storefront window and vehicle graphics. They do it all.

Come celebrate 25 years of excellence at Minuteman Press on April 1st from noon to 2:00pm. Enjoy refreshments provided by vendors from the nearby community. All are welcome to stop by to say hello, to meet the staff and to learn how they can best serve you.

Minuteman Press is located at 1999 Plainfield Pike. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm. Questions? Check them out at www.minmanri.com, call 401-944-0667 or email at print@minmanri.com.

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, March 12, Ballroom Dancing, from 1-3 p.m. (Come join the fun!)
- Monday, March 18, Biomes Marine Biology Center, 10 a.m. (\$5 per person)
- Tuesday, March 26, Book Club with Mary, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 26, Lunch & Movie (\$10 per person)
- Wednesday, March 27, Mystery Lunch (\$10 per person)
- Wednesday, March 27, Paint with Sue, 6 p.m. (\$20 per person)

More at Mohr Library

Join Ms. Melyssa for STEAM on Thursdays through April 4.

STEAM: Thursdays at 5 p.m., March 14 through April 4

Children ages 6 to 9 are invited to experiment, explore and build with Ms. Melyssa.

Art Smart for Ages 8 to 12: Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 pm, March 13 to April 10

Have fun exploring different art styles, techniques and genres.

Register at <https://mohrlibrary.org/forchildren.php>.

Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7: Continues Saturdays, March 19 and March 30 through April 20 (no class March 23). Choose from two sessions, from 2 to 3 pm, or 3:30 to 4:30.

Have fun exploring different art styles, techniques and genres

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

There is an ongoing book sale in the lower level, whenever the library's 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.

Required registration opens March 6 for art and science programs for elementary-school-age kids with Ms. Melyssa.

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Teachers

(Continued from page 1)

the submitted list of certified staff members." According to DiLullo, "a non-renewal is essentially a lay off."

These 40 teachers will no longer have a job in Johnston at the end of this school year. The longer-than-usual list of "non-renewals" included both limited-time positions and roles no longer paid for by federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

"MLL Teacher, Winsor Hill," DiLullo continued, reading the names and the positions that have been cut from the faculty of Johnston's schools — around 12 percent of the total teaching staff, according to the superintendent. "Science Teacher, Johnston High School ... Geometry Teacher, Ferri Middle School ... Geography Teacher, Ferri Middle School ... Science Teacher, Johnston High School ... Special Educator, Ferri Middle School ... Music Teacher at Barnes and ECC ... MLL Teacher, Barnes and Winsor ... Special Educator, Brown Avenue ... Planet and Culture Coordinator, Johnston High School ... Special Educator, Winsor ... Special Educator, Brown Avenue ... Johnston High School science teacher ... MLL, Thornton ... Science Teacher, Ferri Middle School ... Barnes Elementary School, Grade 3 teacher ... and ... Special Educator at Barnes."

The positions included those hired to teach Johnston's booming Multi-Lingual Learner (MLL) population, and core STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) course teachers.

"I read these in order of their seniority," DiLullo told the four members of the school committee and the audience, which was comprised mostly of staff and union officials there to discuss a grievance and collective bargaining agreement during executive session.

The School Committee — Chairman Robert LaFazia, Vice-Chairman Joseph Rotella, Dawn M. Aloisio and MarySue Andreozzi (member Susan M. Mansolillo was absent) — offered no discussion before they voted unanimously to approve the list of "non-renewals." All five of the members were emailed requests for comment after the Tuesday, Feb. 27 meeting. None responded.

"There were 40 names on the list," DiLullo confirmed after the meeting. When asked if "non-renewals are similar to lay-offs", DiLullo answered: "A non-renewal is essentially a lay off."

"The non-renewals are a combination of funding issues," DiLullo explained. "Some were teachers who were in one year positions and some were funded through ESSER grants which will end in September."

The district is also in the middle of a year-long budget crunch. They asked the town for over \$4 million more funding for this year, over last year, but received less than half of their funding request. School finances have been the subject of prolonged audits and examinations by accountants and lawyers hired by Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., who has attempted a "financial takeover" of the schools (by the town).

"We are currently working on our Fiscal Year 25 budget and will identify needed positions for next year and there will be call backs for some of the certified staff that were non-renewed," DiLullo said.

The list of 40 staff members represented a significant portion of the district's total faculty.

"It's about 12% of the staff," DiLullo said. "Last year there were about 30 non-renewals." And, according to DiLullo, last year, "20 certified staff

members returned to fill vacant positions."

"The difference this year is the ending of the ESSER funding and the elimination of those positions," DiLullo said after last Tuesday's meeting. "Other than that the process is typical."

The 40 "non-renewals" will be "effective at the end of the current school year," DiLullo clarified earlier this week.

"Recalls are done when our position budget is finalized, typically between mid May and mid June," he explained. "Our teachers are paid through the summer and are not eligible for unemployment."

When informed of the "non-renewals," Polisena asked if the affected positions were created by ESSER funds. He researched the agenda item and replied again, later the next day.

"These were in fact ESSER employees," Polisena explained. "This is a move that will be made by ev-

ery school department across the state and country. The federal government provided federal funds to all school districts for hiring support staff to combat learning loss that occurred during the pandemic. These ESSER grant funds from the federal government are now gone and are not being renewed."

Polisena's not a fan of signing the town up for what he considers future unfunded mandates.

"This was one of two reasons why I did not join Learn365," Polisena said, referencing a program championed by Gov. Dan McKee. The decision possibly cost Johnston some short-term grant money, but Polisena argues it will save the town in the long-run. "Similar to ESSER, I am not of the belief those state funds will remain in perpetuity. If they ... don't, those programs will abruptly end and the employees hired for them will be laid off."



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RhodyHealth & Wellness

Debunking 5 Common Myths About **Weight Loss Medications**



In the quest to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, many individuals consider weight loss medications as part of their strategy.

With the growing popularity of these medications, a lot of information has become available from both reputable and non-reputable sources. You may have heard of these medications, which include glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist injections, also known as “GLP-1s” including medications like Wegovy and Ozempic. These medications generally work by reducing overactive hunger signals in the brain.

In this article, we’ll review five common myths about weight loss medications to provide a clearer understanding of their role in a comprehensive weight management plan.

Myth 1: Weight loss medications are a "Magic Pill"

Weight loss drugs can be excellent tools for curbing appetite and reducing overall calorie intake, but their effects are neither instant nor effortless.

As a society, we are generally overfed and undernourished. This means that we are generally eating a high proportion of foods with a high density of calories, but relatively low density of nutrients. For example, a bag of chips has a lot of calories but is devoid of any healthful nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, and fiber that help prevent and reverse chronic disease. Weight loss medications only help to curb the caloric excess. To be well nourished requires thoughtful attention to eating nutrient-dense foods.

Weight loss medications are designed to be part of a comprehensive approach that includes a balanced diet, regular physical activity, and lifestyle modifications. As with most major goal-setting journeys in life, it takes hard work and some trial and error to reach your goals, no matter what the tools. Realistically, obtaining new injectable medications like Wegovy and Zepbound, even for people who are great candidates, is exceptionally difficult. Insurance coverage is generally poor and out-of-pocket expenses can be \$1000-1500/month. Beyond that, supply shortages across the country have made it difficult to find at pharmacies.

If able to successfully start one of these medicines, about half of people will experience some degree of nausea in addition to other possible side effects such as constipation or diarrhea. Serious side effects are rare but possible, and we have strategies to help minimize side effects, but this again takes some patience.

If folks desire to stop the medication, they can do so safely,



Staying Healthy

by **MAX COHEN, MD**
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ly, but will generally regain the weight that was lost. For this reason, long-term treatment is typically thought to be necessary. These newer medications offer incredible benefits to many patients, and studies show patients are the most likely to continue these at 1 year compared to other types of weight loss medications, but they are not the best option for everyone and they are certainly not a quick fix. Intentionally losing weight is a tough process, regardless of the method. It takes time and it takes a team approach.

Myth 2: "I need an injection medicine to lose weight."

The promise of 15-25% body weight loss that comes with these new injectable medicines is exciting and is a welcome tool in the weight management tool belt. What’s important to remember though, is that plenty of research shows even 5-10% body weight loss can have dramatic improvement in blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and improve knee arthritis pain and sleep apnea among other conditions. Many people will experience this 5% weight loss with lifestyle modifications alone, and several older and cheaper medicines can help add 3-5% weight loss.

Myth 3: "Trouble losing weight means you're not trying hard enough."

For many years, patients struggling with weight loss have been told it’s their fault and that it’s a failure of willpower. Not only is this unhelpful, it’s inaccurate. With advances in medical science, we have learned significantly more about how the body changes with excess weight and how these chemical and structural changes make it considerably harder to lose weight and maintain weight loss. Finding the right treatment plan is rooted in lifestyle changes which oftentimes many people have tried - exercise programs, meal plans, restrictive diets - but if these changes are not sustainable, they are unlikely to provide benefits over the long term. Some people may also believe that weight loss

medications are only meant for those with a lot of excess weight. However, these medications are often prescribed for individuals with a body mass index (BMI) above 30 or those with a BMI above 27 with obesity-related conditions like diabetes, arthritis, and sleep apnea. In these circumstances, medication can help give patients a needed boost when weight loss has plateaued.

Myth 4: "Injections are scary and painful."

There are definitely scary needles out there, but the injection devices many companies have developed are not those. For the most part, people do great with self-administering GLP-1 injections. The pens where the medication is stored are made with very small needles that go just under the skin and they are used in areas of the body where the skin is less sensitive to pain. In studies, participants rated the pain of a semaglutide injection as a 5 on a 100-point scale.

Myth 5: "Weight loss supplements are safe because they aren't drugs."

Nearly 6 out of every 10 adults report using a supplement of some kind. These supplements are generally thought to be completely safe because they’re not labeled as a “drug”, however, the lack of regulation leaves consumers unsure what they’re consuming. For example, research shows that many of the most common supplements provide no benefit, may not contain any of the intended ingredients, may have contaminants like heavy metals, and may include unapproved prescription medicines that aren’t listed on the ingredients, such as a weight loss drug called Sibutramine that was removed from US markets in 2010 due to health concerns.

Always ask your doctor about the supplements you are interested in taking, and if you are taking one, look for the USP (United States Pharmacopeia) seal on the bottle for confidence that a third party has at least verified the manufacturing of that supplement.

Weight loss is complicated. It’s important to have accurate information about your health and your options, and not having all the right details makes it tougher to make the best decision for you.

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HE'S BACK BY *popular* DEMAND

Jerry Peshka takes a second run as Gaspee Days president, looks to engage more volunteers

It is often said that history repeats itself. I respectfully suggest that history has a little fun doing it sometimes.

In June of 1772, when John Brown and Abraham Whipple and the boys met at Sabin's Tavern in Providence (which was located at what is now South Main and Planet streets) to plan what would ultimately be the burning of His Majesty's Ship Gaspee off what we now call Gaspee Point in Warwick, little did we know that history would repeat itself in 1990 when former President of the Gaspee Days Committee Mark Russell and the boys had a beer with Jerry Peshka at Pennies Bar in Providence, where Mark asked Jerry to volunteer on the Committee that burns the Gaspee every year.

No, there are no injuries these days, and there is no retribution from the Brits, but nonetheless, the ceremonial Gaspee would burn again with banners flying, muskets loaded, parade groups marching and a grand ole time had by all.

Thousands of onlookers and participants bask in the revelry of the history of the incident that at least local claim to be a catalyst for the American Revolution.

Sorry, Boston, but your Tea Party pranksters came 18 months later. Abraham Whipple and the boys fired the first shot against the British Navy. And, because, during that era, most history books were printed in Boston (a little home field advantage!), "history" might have been recorded a little differently if this were not the case.

Which leads us back to Jerry Peshka, the only Gaspee Day Committee President to serve a second term.

Starting in 1966, under the leadership of Forrest Sprague, the Gaspee Days Committee is known throughout the country, and beyond, for its weeks long commemoration of the burning incorporating many family-style events, like a road race, arts and crafts festival, concert, parties galore and that fantastic parade complete with Colonel Ron Barnes and the Pawtuxet Rangers.

Meeting with Mike



by J. MICHAEL LEVESQUE

That takes dedication and the good work of many volunteers, year-round, led of course by Jerry.

A little background on Jerry. Born in Berlin, Connecticut, Jerry attended Berlin schools, including Berlin High School.

He would then attend CCRI, leaving to take a position in his field of interest (computer systems), technical support and operating systems at the Outlet Department Store in Providence. Jerry left the Outlet to take a new and challenging position at Hasbro, where he oversaw their telecommunications systems worldwide.

He is married to the former Patricia Furman, and lives in Cranston with their daughter Sarah.

He works for the City of Cranston as an Accounts Payable/Pension Clerk.

His introduction to all things Gaspee (he never heard of the ship or the story growing up) came, as mentioned when Mark Russell asked him if he was interested in "helping with a parade?"

That was about 34 years ago. He immediately went to work and tried to help in any way that he could. In 2018, he became President, and had some clear goals, including "beefing up" the volunteer corps which he explained has about 65 people, 20 of whom are extremely active.

As in all committees these days, it isn't easy to find new members, but the constant outreach is working.

There are three new board members, who Jerry relishes for their "new ideas."

"I've been on so long that it's hard to break away from the "old ways. Luckily, I have a wife who was in agreement. She (also a volunteer) is a big help!"

Sports

Hope upsets Johnston

Top-seeded Panthers fall short as Blue Wave claims DIV title

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The top-seeded Johnston girls basketball team was upset 45-42 by No. 3 Hope in the Division IV Championship on Monday at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence.

The Panthers had beaten the Blue Wave in each previous meeting this season and won all their contests but the season opener – a game in which the Panthers were down their top player in Jayannah Rollins.

Monday looked like it was going to be another blowout win for the Panthers, who led 12-3 in the opening minutes of the first quarter. Hope, though, would rebound in the second and go on a 9-0 run to put it within striking distance. The Blue Wave continued to chip away at the Johnston advantage in the second half and wound up leading by as many as five points in the fourth quarter.

Bella Gesualdi hit a game-tying 3-pointer with 26 seconds remaining in the fourth to give the Panthers one last shot at forcing overtime. However, a Johnston foul sent Hope's Jorday Johnson to the line where she would hit the go-ahead shot, and then Sofia Galvis would get back to the line seconds later to sink another pair of shots to put the game away.

Rollins led the way for Johnston with 20



CHAMPIONSHIP CLASH: Olivia lafrate tries to hold on as Hope defenders attack. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

PANTHERS - PAGE 16



No. 1 Lincoln ousts JHS boys

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston boys basketball team's Division II title reign came to a close last weekend when unbeaten, top-seeded Lincoln rolled to a 55-40 win in the semifinals.

The Lions were in control throughout the first half and would enter the fourth quarter ahead. The Panther shooters would get hot though and get within three points twice in the final eight minutes. The Lions, led by Wayne McNamara, would hold off the late Johnston rally and run away with the win in the final minutes.

Jayden Testa led Johnston with 17 points scored.

Johnston entered the playoffs as the No. 4 seed. Lincoln advanced to the DII Championship against Tolman on Tuesday evening, but the results were not available at press time. Johnston will hit the road to face East Providence in the opening round of the state tournament.

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THROUGH TRAFFIC: Bella Gesualdi works through the Hope defense.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 15)

points while Gesualdi added 11 and Ava Waterman eight.

"It was a good basketball game. It was a hard-fought game for both teams. Losing by one possession is tough, there are a lot of things that we could look back on and think we should have done differently, but it was a winning season and they have nothing to hang their heads about," said Johnston coach Jhamal Diggs. "A lot of people didn't believe in this team at the beginning of the season, so for them to play the way they did and make it to the AMP, I couldn't have asked for anything more."

Johnston has been rebuilding its program the past few seasons and is hoping to get back to the Division I level that is was at just three seasons ago. Diggs was proud of his seniors, including Rollins, Waterman and Aubree Allen, for helping him get things back on track in his first year as the team's coach.

"They did a great job in getting the program back in the right direction. They bought into what I brought to the table for them and they ran with it. These seniors were awesome. They came in every day and did what they needed to get Johnston basketball ball back to where it needed to be," said Diggs.

Gesualdi will be an important piece for the future and is set to be the team's leader for the next two seasons. Diggs hopes that she builds on this winter's strong performance as she takes the reins.

"Bella is an awesome player. I think once we get her to realize that and be more confident, the sky is the limit," Diggs said. "Hopefully that happens in the next two years. We have a lot of good young players so we just have to put in the work. We have to get back to work and figure things out."



UP THE COURT: Ava Waterman makes a play on Monday.

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College roundup: CCRI women win Region XXI

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Community College of Rhode Island is heading back to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Women's Basketball National Championships for the third year in a row thanks to a spirited comeback in Sunday's Region XXI championship game.

The top-seeded Knights faced a rare halftime deficit against No. 2 seed Northern Essex Community College, but found their rhythm in the third quarter and pulled away quickly and held on for a 65-48 win to capture their third consecutive regional title and punch their ticket to the nationals for the third time in as many years.

Freshman guard Angelisse Melendez (North Providence, RI) led CCRI with 19 points on 6-of-13 shooting and sophomore guard Nysia Ortiz (Providence, RI) finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds. The Knights shot poorly through most of the first half and trailed 22-21 at the break before going on a 24-5 run in the third quarter to retake the lead for good.

The D-III National Championships will be held in Rochester, MN, for the second year in a row from March 13-16. The Knights will learn their seed and opening-round opponent during Wednesday's official NJCAA D-III Women's Basketball Selection Show live on the NJCAA Network. CCRI is one of 12 teams competing for a national title and one of eight teams to earn an automatic bid by winning its conference tournament.

Other district winners include Dallas College Cedar Valley, Prince George's, Onondaga, Rowan College of South Jersey Gloucester, Anoka-Ramsey, Minnesota West, and Monroe College-Bronx. Last year, CCRI earned the No. 6 seed in the tournament and beat No. 11 Onondaga in the opening round. In 2021-22, the Knights earned the No. 10 seed. This year's team finished 20-7 overall and entered this past weekend ranked No. 11 in the NJCAA D-III national poll. The four at-large bids will also be announced during Wednesday's selection show.

CCRI's defense fueled the second-half surge in Sunday's win. The Knights forced 12 turnovers, which turned into a bevy of transition baskets during the third-quarter rally. All told, CCRI shot just 35 percent from the field and 31 percent from three-point range – a stark contrast to their 54 and 39 percent shooting from the field and from three-point range, respectively, in their 84-15 semifinal win over No. 4 seed Roxbury Community College on Saturday – but limited Northern Essex to just 26 percent from the field.

Freshman center Stephanie Walker (Providence, RI) and freshman guard Tatiana Pereira (Providence, RI) each finished with 11 points. Northern Essex, which outlasted No. 3 seed Massachusetts on Saturday in a double-overtime thriller, finished its season 12-9 as the regional runner-up after returning to intercollegiate competition for the first time in 13 years.

In addition to winning its third consecutive regional cham-

pionship, CCRI finished 15-0 against league opponents in 2023-24 – including the postseason – which extends its streak of consecutive conference wins to 37 dating back to 2021-22. Over the past three years, the Knights are 60-21, including the postseason.

Tucker, Gates nab NCGA honors

Rhode Island College senior Emma Tucker (Pompton Plains, N.J.) and fifth-year Kelsey Gates (Orangeville, Pa.) were recognized by the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) for their performance in a quad-meet hosted by Bridgeport on Sunday, March 3.

Tucker was named the NCGA East Region Specialist of the Week. She tied for second on floor (9.900), tied for fourth on beam (9.725) and finished ninth on vault (9.725). Tucker became the third Anchorwoman in program history, and the second this season, to post a 9.900 on floor in a meet.

Gates was named the NCGA East Region All-Around Gymnast of the Week. She tied with Tucker to place second on floor (9.900), which equaled her previous high-mark, was fifth in the all-around (38.450), 14th on bars (9.525), tied for 15th on beam (9.575) and tied for 21st on vault (9.450).

Head Coach Monica Mesalles Nasi's team established new program records on floor (49.250) and for a team score (191.175) with a fourth place finish vs. all Div. I and II opposition on Sunday.

In upcoming action, Rhode

Island College will compete at the 2024 National Collegiate Gymnastics East Region Championship, hosted by Ithaca on Saturday, March 9 (1 p.m.).

RIC set for NCAA tourney

No. 3 Rhode Island College (29-0) will host No. 19 Washington and Lee (28-2) in the sectional semifinals of the 2024 NCAA Div. III Women's Basketball Championship on Friday, March 8 (8 p.m.) at The Murray Center.

Tickets for the game will go on sale on Monday, March 4 (noon) and can be purchased in the Athletic Department office located in The Murray Center or by calling (401) 456-8007. Tickets for the general public are \$15 and \$10 for students.

RIC will also host Bates (24-5) vs. No. 7 Wartburg (27-2) in the other semifinal on Friday, March 8 (5:30 p.m.). The winners will meet in the sectional finals at RIC on Saturday, March 9 (7:30 p.m.) with the winner going to the NCAA Div. III Final Four, which is held in Columbus, Ohio on March 14-16.

Head Coach Jenna Cosgrove's Anchorwomen downed St. Joseph's (ME), 56-37, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on March 1 and then bested St. John Fisher, 66-43, in the second round on March 2 to reach the Sweet 16 for the second straight season.

Junior forward Angelina Nardolillo (Hinsdale, N.H.) was dominant in the paint with a team-high 19 points and nine rebounds as No. 3 Rhode Island College advanced to the NCAA Div. III Women's Basketball

Championship Sectional Semifinal for the second straight season with a 66-43 win over St. John Fisher in second round tournament play held at The Murray Center on Saturday night.

The first half was a rock fight between both clubs, which had won their previous matchups a night earlier at The Murray Center. A layup by fifth-year center Neleesha Meunier (Leominster, Mass.) put RIC ahead by two, 12-10, at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw junior guard Madison Medbury (Scituate, R.I.) bury a long three-pointer as the shot clock expired to keep the hosts ahead, 24-22, with 2:22 left in the stanza. The Cardinals tied the game, 24-24, but fifth-year guard Jeniyah Jones (Randolph, Mass.) canned a jumper to close out the opening 20 minutes with the host holding a 27-24 advantage.

The opening six minutes of the third quarter proved to be the decisive point in the game as RIC erupted for a 13-0 run to build a 40-25 lead and double-digit advantage that St. John Fisher would never recover from.

In the fourth quarter, a three-pointer and jumper by graduate guard Sophia Guerrier (Waltham, Mass.) and free throws by both fifth-year guard Olivia Middleton (Barrington, R.I.) and junior forward Maggie Schwab (Saunderstown, R.I.), gave the Anchorwomen their largest lead (30 points), 63-35, with just over two minutes left to play.

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New England Saltwater Fishing Show this week

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is Friday, March 8 to Sunday, March 11 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI.

If you like to fish on the salt you are in for a big treat. The show is the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast. The Show features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, engines, accessories, clothing and much more. Over three hundred fishing related manufactures are represented at the show.

"You won't want to miss the show specials offered by exhibitors and the great 'how to' seminars being offered by some of our areas top fishers," said Scott Travers, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, Show sponsors. "Learn strategies and tactics to target the species that we all love to catch, eat or release... striped bass, summer flounder, tautog and a host of others,"

Fishing Show seminars are being given by experts on a wide range of fishing topics from how to catch larger summer flounder to in shore fishing with light tackle from shore, kayak or boat. Learn about fishing tactics and strategies from top fishermen and charter captains.

I will be speaking at the Show twice on tips from the experts on How to Catch Larger Fluke offered Friday, March 8 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. Also, Attleboro native East End Eddie Doherty will speak Saturday, March 9 at 12 noon on Surfcasters Paradise: Cape Cod Canal Striped Bass which will include many colorful photos from his first book Seven Miles After Sundown. Visit Speakers - NE Saltwater Fishing Show (nesaltwatershow.com) for a complete list of topics, speakers and presentation times.

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI on Friday, March 8 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 at the door, children 11 and under are admitted free and can visit the kid's casting area. Friday, March 8 is veterans' day, the Veterans Administration is sponsoring the first 200 veterans or active duty personnel attending the show. Sunday, March 10 is Family Day with all women admitted free.

All adults who enter the show can register to win a Free Fishing Charter Trip with Big Game Sportfishing Charters- visit them in Booths 921-22 for a conversation! In addition, you



PRESENTER: "How to catch larger fluke' will be one of the presentations given by Capt. Dave Monti at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show this week. Over 15 seminars, visit www.nesaltwatershow.com. (Submitted photo)

can purchase raffle tickets for several rods from Crafty One Customs, with the rods displayed at the RISAA membership booths (1322-1325). Visit www.nesaltwatershow.com for show details.

Cape Cod Salties still hooking up anglers

The Cape Cod Salties held their first ever Open House Wednesday, February 28. About 150 people attended the evening event that featured a Boy Scott color guard, displays from area businesses and partners, a fund raising raffle and potluck dinner at the Yarmouth Senior Center.

The Cape Cod Salties is a fishing association of primarily recreational anglers although it was founded in 1959 as a commercial striped bass association. Today the club is open to all.

"We had a great open house that served as a venue for new members to get to know the Salties and for existing members to reconnect during the winter with collaborators, partner organizations and local businesses," said Jon Ungerland, President of the

Cape Cod Salties.

A variety of organizations and businesses attended the open house including the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, Cape Cod Trout Unlimited, Cape Downwinders, Waquoit Bay Fish Company, Ocean Conservancy, the Barnstable Association of Recreational Shellfishing, AnglerCatch (a smartphone fishing application), and a host of others.

Hats off to the Cape Cod Salties and their president Jon Ungerland for a great community event. Anyone who enjoys fishing and learning more from fellow anglers is urged to join the Cape Cod Salties. Visit www.capecodsalties.org.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing. Anglers are advised that the trout fishing season ended February 29 and reopens again on Saturday, April 13 in Rhode Island and at some Massachusetts waterways. It is time to renew or get freshwater fishing license and trout stamps for the new season too. For freshwater fishing information in Connecticut visit <https://portal.ct.gov/>

DEEP/Fishing/Freshwater/Freshwater-Fishing; in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov; and in Rhode Island www.dem.ri.gov/fishing.

Saltwater fishing has been limited. Some anglers continue to catch school striped bass in estuaries. If you want to try your hand at cod fishing the bite has not been good. But hopefully it will improve with improved weather. You should call ahead to make a party boat reservation as they often do not fish due to weather. Visit www.islandcurrent.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 master captain's license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verizon.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

Real Estate Transactions

Coventry

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
17 Nancy St	3 Kids LLC	Platt, Jacqueline L and Platt, Christopher B	2/16	\$373,000
22 Ironwood Dr	Birrell, Christopher and Birrell, Elizabeth	Yan, Hongbin	2/15	\$589,000
142 Princeton Ave	Lavallee, Kathleen L	Taylor, Kristine L and Morse, Marcus A	2/14	\$350,000

Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
13 Linden Ave	Saraiva Rose A Est and Saraiva, Ernest	Connor, Caitlin N	2/15	\$365,000
38 Water Fall Way Lot 38	Perry, Joseph D	Agresta, Adriana and Agresta, Matthew	2/12	\$615,000
44 Pengrove St Lot 392	Bassi, Frederick V	Martines, Keifer	2/16	\$370,000
44 Pengrove St Lot 393	Bassi, Frederick V	Martines, Keifer	2/16	\$370,000
46 Hazelwood St Lot 439	De Foods LLC	Lenus, Jerry and Lenus, Elorie L	2/16	\$405,000
46 Hazelwood St Lot 438	De Foods LLC	Lenus, Jerry and Lenus, Elorie L	2/16	\$405,000
56 Sweet Fern Dr	Phipps, Mathew D and Ferreira, Brittany L	Ohnmacht, Eric W and Covey, Kelly J	2/16	\$524,000
76 Seaview Ave Lot 16	John M Tarro RET and Tarro, John M	Peter J Tarakajian RET and Tarakajian, Peter J	2/16	\$2,832,000
76 Seaview Ave Lot 17	John M Tarro RET and Tarro, John M	Peter J Tarakajian RET and Tarakajian, Peter J	2/16	\$2,832,000
76 Seaview Ave Lot 15	John M Tarro RET and Tarro, John M	Peter J Tarakajian RET and Tarakajian, Peter J	2/16	\$2,832,000
87 Waterman Ave Lot 133,	Ambrosia, Andrew P	Rodriguez, Fidel C	2/16	\$530,000
87 Waterman Ave Lot 134	Ambrosia, Andrew P	Rodriguez, Fidel C	2/16	\$530,000
163 Magnolia St	Division St Prop LLC	Corey, Katherine E	2/16	\$407,500
192 Alpine Estates Dr	Paolissi, Stephanie	Mushtaq, Saima and Yasin, Atif	2/15	\$715,000
245-247 Hazleton St Lot 188	McMullen, Patrick and McMullen, Ellamarie	Bimanathi, Raja S and Kondai, Akhila	2/12	\$525,000
245-247 Hazleton St Lot 187	McMullen, Patrick and McMullen, Ellamarie	Bimanathi, Raja S and Kondai, Akhila	2/12	\$525,000
1444 Plainfield Pike	Korsak Ent LLC	Dyer, Jeffrey P	2/16	\$350,000

Exeter

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
645 10 Rod Rd	Mouchon, Karleen	Pedroza, Xavier A	2/16	\$475,000
702 Gardner Rd	Bettye, Lisa A	Dicenzo, Jacob D and Nademlynsky, Stephanie N	2/16	\$450,000

Johnston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
5 Allendale Ave	J Investments LLC	Khiev, Simon S and Sok, Lina	2/14	\$590,000
9 Taylor Rd	7 1 2 Taylor Rd LLC	Shannahan, Austin	2/20	\$369,900
305 Rosemont Ave	Vargas, David G	Silvera Leal, Erica L	2/15	\$308,000
494 Woonasquatucket Ave Lot 119	Snyder, Sandra M	401 Homebuyers LLC	2/20	\$195,000

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
5 Packard Ave	Rhode Island Hsng & Mtg F	Carr, Michael J and Carr, Carolyn A	2/16	\$1
8 Slater Ave Lot 10	Hardisty, Christopher I and Hardisty, Susan H	Ri Custom Bldrs LLC	2/15	\$100,000
8 Slater Ave Lot 11	Hardisty, Christopher I and Hardisty, Susan H	Ri Custom Bldrs LLC	2/15	\$100,000
8 Slater Ave Lot 12	Hardisty, Christopher I and Hardisty, Susan H	Ri Custom Bldrs LLC	2/15	\$100,000
32 Edison St	Arnold St Rlty LLC	Kizilkula, Cemil	2/12	\$385,000
41 Lansing Ave	Three Kids LLC	Jacavone, Evan V	2/16	\$245,000
77 Washington St Lot 199	Heise, Carl R and Heise, Megan	Sarah M Burrows Lt and Burrows, Sarah M	2/12	\$416,000
77 Washington St Lot 200	Heise, Carl R and Heise, Megan	Sarah M Burrows Lt and Burrows, Sarah M	2/12	\$416,000

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
95 Uphill Ave Lot 66	Sloney, Ann and Sloney, Michael	Moxon, Elizabeth	2/15	\$405,000
95 Uphill Ave Lot 65	Sloney, Ann and Sloney, Michael	Moxon, Elizabeth	2/15	\$405,000
109 Diamond Hill Rd	109 Diamond Hill Rd LLC	Mouchon, Karleen	2/16	\$400,000
114 Landon Rd	Butkiewicz, Marcin	Degagne, Shane P and Degagne, Shana L	2/15	\$405,000
133 Jennie Ln	Robert J Jr & Patricia A and Reilly, Diane M	Coble, Melissa-Lynn R	2/16	\$340,000
147 Pinegrove Ave Lot 136	Carcieri, Anthony	Clifford, Cassandra	2/12	\$368,900
147 Pinegrove Ave Lot 137	Carcieri, Anthony	Clifford, Cassandra	2/12	\$368,900
148 Wingate Ave Lot 338	Imrane, Hicham	Iavarone, Matthew H and Sabitoni, Albert R	2/14	\$305,000
148 Wingate Ave Lot 341	Imrane, Hicham	Iavarone, Matthew H and Sabitoni, Albert R	2/14	\$305,000
148 Wingate Ave Lot 340	Imrane, Hicham	Iavarone, Matthew H and Sabitoni, Albert R	2/14	\$305,000
148 Wingate Ave Lot 339	Imrane, Hicham	Iavarone, Matthew H and Sabitoni, Albert R	2/14	\$305,000
148 Wingate Ave Lot 337	Imrane, Hicham	Iavarone, Matthew H and Sabitoni, Albert R	2/14	\$305,000
151 Timberline Rd	Caruso, Joanne M and Caruso, Mabel T	Touchdown Rlty Grp LLC	2/16	\$425,000
175 Crestwood Rd Lot 33	Cabral, Evan	Romano, Robert S	2/16	\$368,800
175 Crestwood Rd Lot 34	Cabral, Evan	Romano, Robert S	2/16	\$368,800
184 Heritage Dr	Sawicki, Benjamin and Healey, Abigail	Reid, Danielle and Reid, Ryan	2/13	\$650,000
210 Potters Ave Lot 518	Benevides, Robin and Benevides, Michael	Sloney, Michael P and Sloney, Ann L	2/16	\$640,000
210 Potters Ave Lot 517	Benevides, Robin and Benevides, Michael	Sloney, Michael P and Sloney, Ann L	2/16	\$640,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 274	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Angelo Gordon Re Inc	2/12	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 245	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Angelo Gordon Re Inc	2/12	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 274	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Ag-Sc Centerville Rd Owne	2/14	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 245	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Ag-Sc Centerville Rd Owne	2/14	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 319	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Angelo Gordon Re Inc	2/12	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 244	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Angelo Gordon Re Inc	2/12	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 244	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Ag-Sc Centerville Rd Owne	2/14	\$8,080,000
227 Centerville Rd Lot 319	Old Key West Rlty LLC	Ag-Sc Centerville Rd Owne	2/14	\$8,080,000
249 Tennyson Rd	Labree, Jason	Giorgio, Kristin R	2/16	\$332,000
256 Vineyard Rd	Carney, Beverly J	Carney, Chelsea E	2/16	\$310,000
881 Greenwich Ave Lot 24	Reid, Ryan J and Reid, Danielle L	Pulliam, Jonathan R	2/13	\$400,000
3399 Post Rd Lot 19	Lawton, Steven and Lawton, Jacquelyn	Adefiyiju, Theresa	2/12	\$223,800
4080 Post Rd Lot 10	Debartolo, Gina-Marie	Petrucillo, Joseph and Petrucillo, Rachel	2/15	\$245,000

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
W Valley Condo Lot 17	Residences Inc	Dowd, Lisa J and Dowd, Patrick J	2/14	\$437,000
W Valley Condo Lot 14	Residences Inc	Durante, Jolene E and Durante, Vincent T	2/16	\$433,900
W Valley Condo Lot 19	Breto, Nicholas E	West Vally Inn Inc	2/15	\$432,900
W Valley Condo Lot 13	Residences Inc	Durante, Anthony J	2/16	\$433,900
13 Ames St	Laurenco, Jason	Jd Property Investments	2/16	\$220,000
18 Tampa St	Cormier Ft and Cormier, Kathleen M	Musaez, Nasradin	2/15	\$341,000
39 Mill St	Dumont, Robert	Flores, Jodilyn	2/20	\$315,000
40 Deerfield Dr	Alberto & Rubio T and Toevs, Nancy	C & R Contracting & Const	2/16	\$165,000
54 River St Lot 10	Kazantzis, Demetrios	Townsend, Nella	2/16	\$150,000
68 Hathaway Dr	Studley, Wendy A and Powell, Teresa	Cheam, Sambo and Nuom, Samban	2/15	\$460,000

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College rockers St. Joe & The Dorms bring upbeat rock & roll with new EP

By ROB DUGUAY

Some people might not realize this, but there's a case to be made that colleges and universities all over the country have had a direct impact on rock music for nearly half a century. Back in the '80s, bands like R.E.M., Bad Religion, Social Distortion, Sonic Youth, Throwing Muses and even Soundgarden and Nirvana among many others were getting exposure and airplay from college radio stations while being overlooked by mainstream media outlets. In turn, this created a unique subculture that's still present today, even though it's a lot different than what it was like during those earlier times. Take St. Joe & The Dorms for example, this band consisting of Providence College students Griffin May, Jack Downey, TJ Johnson and Cat Mazo have a cool sound that evokes pop rhythms, groovy riffs and infectious energy. All of this and more is evident in their "In Context" EP that came out back on January 29.

The quartet has a diverse array of influences that ranges between punk rock icons the Ramones, hard rock rabble rousers AC/DC, funk phenom Cory Wong and '60s mod legends The Who, and all of them are noticeable within the EP. At the same time, this band isn't ripping anyone off while abiding by a genuine powerpop style. This is both refreshing and exciting due to the sheer originality that May, Downey, Johnson and Mazo create through their music. It's cohesive and fluid with a no nonsense vibe being conveyed. If you're the type who likes harmonious vocals, tightly knit bass & drums and energetic guitars, then that's exactly what you're going to get when you listen to this EP.

"Second Person" has a vocal dynamic occurring between May and Downey where they weave their singing voicings while either combining to create harmonies or alternating lead duties. With more of a punk vibe, "True Story" has driving guitars and rapid fire drums coming at the senses right from the get go. "Socks" embraces the funk influence with Downey's bass anchoring the entire track as May's guitar rides over it in jazzy fashion. For a change of pace, May



ST. JOE & THE DORMS
(Submitted photo)

jumps behind the kit for "Chatterbox" while exhibiting his multi-instrumental talents. Closing the EP out is "RIPTA to Your House" and anyone who has had to depend on Rhode Island's public transportation to meet up with someone can relate to this song.

To check out the "In Context" EP from St. Joe & The Dorms, log on to the band's Bandcamp page at stjoeandthedorms.bandcamp.com to give it a stream and perhaps even make a purchase. To keep tabs on

what they have going on in terms of shows and other developments, follow them on Instagram at [instagram.com/st.joeandthedorms](https://www.instagram.com/st.joeandthedorms). While considering seeing these college kids at a local music venue, make sure to give their latest record a listen. It's really good rock & roll music that covers a lot of bases. It's also the kind of music that's very accessible to anyone regardless of age or background.

Jury frees man charged with murder after hearing his story

Lizzie McDaniels packed her belongings and quickly left the elaborate 1,800-acre Rancocas Stables in Johnstown, New Jersey, where she lived. She couldn't get to Rhode Island fast enough to suit her. Having finally arrived at the State Prison in Cranston, she told attorney John Brennan that he was to spare no expense in defending her fiancé, James Mathes, against a charge of murder.

A native of New York, James was employed as a stable boy at the 37-acre Narragansett Race Track in Cranston. The job had caused him immense anxiety and emotional upheaval due to the ongoing actions of a co-worker named Monk Saunders. Monk didn't like James and went out of his way to make each work day as tumultuous as possible for him, regularly inciting the other track employees to harass James as well.

On the morning of June 9, 1894, James stopped into the restaurant on the race track grounds, owned by Edward Chapman, to have his breakfast. While there,

he was conversing with a waiter about the cost of soft drinks when Monk and another employee, David Stewart, appeared and began hurling insults at James, who didn't respond. Quickly becoming upset at being ignored, Monk picked up a drinking glass and heaved it at James. James didn't want to engage in any altercations with Monk so got up to leave but Monk was able to slug him with a bottle before he departed. His hand slashed open quite badly, James exited the restaurant, dripping blood. He was afraid of Monk and everyone knew it.

Monk hadn't quite had enough fun. He later rounded up several other employees and informed them that he would take their lives unless they assisted him in killing James. Once they sighted James, they began chasing him. Monk bent down to pick up a stick and ran fast enough to catch up with James, hitting him over the head with it. James kept running and entered the track's blacksmith shop where a man named Thomas Doyle, from Co-

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

ney Island, was standing. James begged him to prevent Monk and his cronies from hurting him. Seeing others in the blacksmith shop when he entered, Monk backed down. But he left James with some parting words. "If I get you up to the shed, I'll cut your damn heart out."

With tears of torment and fear running down his face, James left the race track for a short amount of time then re-turned. The local country club was holding a running meet there that day. When he returned, he entered one of the three stables on the property to resume his work. Not much time had passed be-

fore Monk and another man appeared, both holding rocks. They began throwing the rocks at James and he ran from the area.

Later in the day, James entered the stable again to show a man one of the horses. He had no idea that Monk was in there waiting for him. Monk raised a large club high in the air but was grounded by three gunshots through the right lung before he could bring the weapon down on James. Tired of being fearful, James had gone into town a short time earlier and purchased a revolver. As people raced to the scene of the gunshots, one man got down and asked the bloody victim, "What's your name?"

"Monk," he whispered, as his last breath left his body.

James turned and handed the weapon to a man named Ralph Black. "It was his life or mine," he explained. "I had to do it."

James made no attempt to run. He asked only that he be protected from Monk's friends before the police could get there to arrest him. He then voluntarily confessed to the shooting, was

arraigned on a charge of murder and held without bail.

No one claimed the body of Monk Saunders and he was finally buried in the pauper's lot at North End Cemetery. At 5:20 on the evening of Oct. 10, a jury retreated to a back room to decide the fate of James. They reached a decision before midnight and, the following morning at 9:30, announced they had found James not guilty as he had killed Monk in self-defense.

James when very calm when he stood and faced the jury. "Mr. Foreman and gentlemen of the jury," he said in a clear voice. "I thank you as only a man can who has been in the terrible position I was placed in." He then shook the hand of each and every one of them before leaving the courthouse as a free man. Upon being told that his revolver would be returned to him, he stated that he would like to give it to the Rhode Island Attorney General to use in an enclosed exhibit maintained by the State.

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

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Scooting around a Mexican resort

I am basking in the Mexican sun as I write this, albeit safely sitting under a bamboo umbrella to avoid getting a sunburn. Watching people from my seat is quite entertaining, with people of all sizes and nationalities, and all levels of modesty, prancing before me on the hot cement surrounding the pool. A bathing suit wearing Muslim family includes a mother dressed head to toe in a burkini, eliminating the need for all of that sunblock. An abundance of women wear skimpy bikini tops along with bikini bottoms that expose their buttocks, with some bottoms amazingly firm and taut and others a little lumpier. As is their custom, many European men wear very skimpy bikini bottoms, including the elderly men. However, mostly it is a huge variety of people and bathing suits of various fits, sizes, colors, and shapes. I feel comfortable in my super-sized black bathing suit. Also with us in Mexico are my children Marie and Steven, along with his daughter, Rosie, and his very soon to be wife, who will be

getting married at the end of the week. Francis has flown in from California to be the best man. The pools here are awesome, and Francis, Rosie, Marie, and I love to frolic in the water with me wearing a big, floppy hat, lots of sunscreen and sunglasses. (When putting on the sunscreen, I couldn't help but envy the woman in the burkini who only had to do her face and hands.) We float on big inner tubes in one of the main pools, lounge down the lazy river, swim under bridges and waterfalls, and sit on the stools of the swim up bar. It was there that I learned about frozen mango margaritas, a recommended drink. Not a big drinker, this delightful drink had never before passed my lips. I learned that too many delicious mango margaritas can make one a little drunk.

We also enjoy swimming in the ocean, where the waves are impressively large. We keep our inner tubes around our waists and excitedly ride the waves up and down. Rosie is careful to keep her feet off the ground, as

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

she is terrified that she might accidentally step on a crab, or a lobster and they would bite her toe off.

The lavish dinner spread spreads at this all-inclusive resort surpasses all expectations with an array of delicacies, from succulent lobster tails served with an extra cup of butter, (my FAVORITE) to classic Beef Wellington. The vast selection of fruits includes some exotic varieties I had never eaten before, mango, papaya, guava, pitaya, mamey sapote, prickly pear and cherimoya, and will never eat again as most of them were bitter and unpleasant. There's also a dedicated section for assorted

bread and rolls, a huge salad bar stocked with unique toppings and vegetables, and a tempting array of mini desserts. Naturally, I indulged too much, adding a few more inches to my already ample waist.

Hubby makes sure to bring dinner rolls back to the hotel room to feed his new best friend, a large male peacock he named Sam who is waiting for him every morning on our first-floor balcony. We had been to this resort two years ago with my daughter's family and he had made friends with another peacock, which he insists is the same one. It is heartwarming that this big, older guy delights in his special relationship with this bird. He wants to come back again next year to see him again.

The one thing I enjoy the most is riding around on my Air Wheels. It is the carry-on suitcase that turns into a scooter at the flip of a switch. Sitting on top of it, with my feet comfortably perched on the footrest and hands at the steering handle, I zip around the resort like a man-

ic race car driver. I generally wear my bathing suit and a large, black tentish cover-up that flows around me like a witches' outfit as they ride on their brooms. Everywhere I go, people look and stare. Some people laugh, a lot of people ask me where I purchased it, (Amazon), and many people want to borrow it. It does have its drawbacks...it is good on a smooth, flat surface, but does not do hills, both up and down, very safely. One day, I was headed to our sitting spot near the pool, with 4 beach towels around my neck, and two very large tubes in my arms. As I went up the incline to get to the pool, the scooter peetered out a few inches from the top. "Oh! Oh!" I thought as it started to fall over sideways. Fortunately, the two tubes broke my fall, and I burst into laughter as people came running over to help.

We have been having great fun, and Stevens wedding is tomorrow. I am sure it will be full of many new topics for next week's column!

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Coco

Coco is in search of a loving, kind and patient home! She would also love to have a doggie friend to help build her confidence. She is shy when you first meet her, but she has so much love inside those gorgeous, soulful eyes! She is a two year old mixed breed with gorgeous coloring, and she is just longing to be loved! She is available Friends of Homeless Animals, INC of RI if you'd like to meet this beautiful girl, please email kaysamlyss@gmail.com for more information. We ask that you also please tell people about and show them her beautiful photo to help her find her perfect match! Coco is ready and waiting to start her life with you!

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



Peshka

(Continued from page 14)

Jerry gets high praise for his outreach efforts from a well-known volunteer, Warwick State Representative Joe McNamara, who said, "Jerry has been a Gaspee Days Committee member for decades. He is not only a past president but has worked on every subcommittee, Arts and Crafts, Parade and Fundraising. Many people don't realize that the Gaspee Days events take all year to plan, and it takes a dedicated team of community volunteers to make them successful.

Jerry has been a valued member of the team and always has a smile on his face and helps others to have a little fun, while working to improve our celebration. We are lucky to have Jerry and members of the Gaspee Days Committee highlighting Rhode Islanders' proper place in history as the "First Blow for Freedom."

Asked to describe some events and some planned future events, Jerry said, "At the forefront is that we promote the Burning of the Gaspee. We try to educate and entertain." He continued, "During my first term we started a Christmas Party for children. Unfortunately, I had a health matter and couldn't even attend. This year we are moving the Block Party to Friday night, complete with the popular band - Neal & The Vipers, and of course some beer."

The Arts and Crafts programs will still be held on Saturday through Monday.

Continuing the theme of new events he said, "this year we also helped with the Warwick City Christmas Parade, which was run by Gina Dooley, a past President of the Gaspee Days Committee."

"We lease the Aspray Boat House from the City of Warwick and hold our meetings there. Back in 1989 when we got the first lease, we commenced refurbishing the entire building, complete with new electrical, plumbing etc. We even refurbished the bathrooms."

Asked what the driving factor was to keep volunteering, he said, "people like being involved in community projects. We are in our 59th year. 28 years ago, the budget was around \$50 thousand dollars. This year's budget is \$190 thousand, which reflects the times.

The parade alone will cost us somewhere between \$75 and \$80 thousand. Port A John's for the parade adds another \$6 thousand and the road stripe itself costs about \$6 thousand."

A tax-free organization, Jerry said that donations are the lifeblood of the com-



mittee.

"We will take donations for everything but the parade. We don't want to commercialize it. We invite certain elected officials, but it is not open to candidates for public office. We try to keep in non-political."

Another source of income is the new Gaspee Days license plates that you can get from the State Department of Motor Vehicles (my wife Celeste and I love ours).

There are a lot of people who are delighted that Jerry stepped up to take an unprecedented second term as President.

Among them his old friend and former Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, who said, "the fact that Jerry Peshka agreed to come back as President of the Gaspee Days Committee shows the commitment that people have for this annual celebration. Jerry will be focusing on expanding the membership to a new generation of residents and build on the strong tradition of more than 50 years of community celebration. The 2024 parade will mark the 252nd anniversary of the first battle of the American Revolution and Pawtuxet Village will once again celebrate on a grand scale."

(I'm sure Scott has forgiven Jerry for accidentally locking his mother in the Boat House while it was under construction).

Scott's right.

A new generation is already volunteering.

Jerry's daughter is currently Co-Chair of the Parade and will run it next year. He is also hopeful that the "new generation", or as he says "kids in their 30s" will step up to the plate and pitch in.

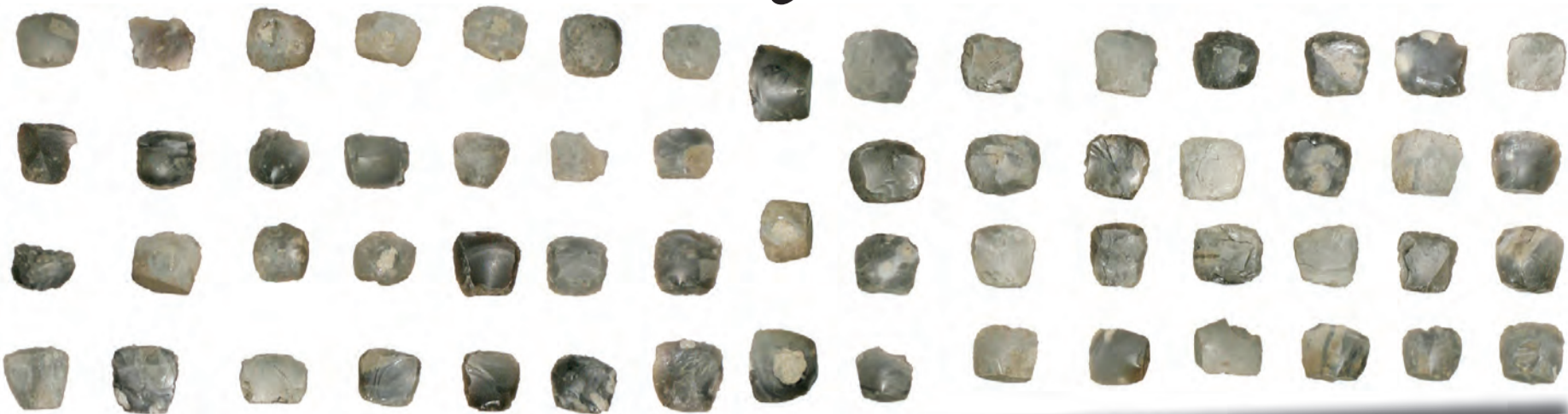
If you want to be one of the "new kids" or older kids volunteering for a great cause, the committee meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at the Aspray Boat House in Pawtuxet Village.

Or just jump on their website at www.gaspee.com and let them know.

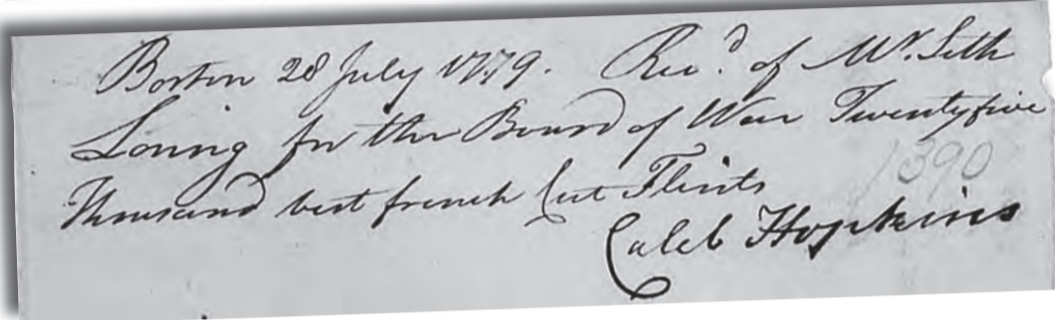
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Where Did They Come From?



Musket Flints in Massachusetts



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

again as they are important to answering the question.

In 1934, Smith noticed a field had been plowed in Concord for the first time in his life, so he received permission and began searching in the freshly tilled soil for Native American objects. What he found were musket flints. He went back the next day after it had rained, and "gun flints seemed to be everywhere, and they stood out amongst the dark, wet ground like glittering jewels." He soon realized this ground was the staging area for minute and militia men on the morning of April 19, 1775, before they marched to the north bridge and returned fire on the British soldiers positioned there. Within a short amount of time, he had found about 100 in two rows, roughly 50 feet apart, facing down towards the bridge. Although no written record of this exists, the men must have been ordered to change

their flints.

The flints were presented to friends of Smith over the years, but most of them are now in the collection of the Concord Museum. I've spent some time studying them and the majority are all English gun spalls with a couple of French blade-type flints. I've done newspaper searches to see what was available for sale here in Massachusetts, and literally tons of English flints were imported here between the years 1750 and 1775. There are also mentions of thousands of French flints captured during the French and Indian War which were for sale. An advertisement dated January 12, 1756, lists both English and French gun flints for sale, amongst lead, shot, powder, and many other items. These advertisements continued up to the start of the Revolution.

As a part of the militia laws in Massachusetts, each man was to have flints fit for his

gun. A 1739 newspaper article related that the province law required each man to have twelve flints. The town of Salem published the laws for their men in March 1775, and it stated a half a dozen per man.

After importation of arms and other material from England stopped, we began to purchase those materials from the French, so along with many thousands of arms, flints were shipped here also. Thus, while other colonies may have sourced flint locally, there really was no need for those in the Massachusetts area to do so with so many thousands being imported over the years. They were readily available!

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NETFLIX

SPACEMAN

(Dull Psycho-Space Movie)

Adam Sandler has been flooding the media lately promoting his space sci-fi movie and trying to advance his image as a serious actor.

Unfortunately, "Spaceman" does little to enhance his career.

Sandler plays a Czech astronaut half way through his journey to the outer limits when he learns that his pregnant wife (Carey Mulligan) wants a divorce.

With six months more to complete his mission, Jakob starts to lose it.

Sleepless nights, horrible dreams, and then the appearance of a giant spider from another planet giving Dr. Phil-like advice are a bit too much to take.

Jakob goes on his own "voyage of self-discovery" as he eventually realizes the reasons he has agreed to leave his pregnant wife alone for a year and spend his time alone.

The giant spider (Voice of Paul Dano) makes for an interesting psychiatrist but looks so ridiculous and unrealistic that it is hard to take this movie seriously.

Sandler starts out with a heavy accent that gets lost in space as this dull, tedious movie slowly moves to the outer limits for its ridiculous conclusion.

See it at the

Movies

with
Joyce & Don
Fowler



THE TOURIST

*** 1/2

The Australian series is back for its second year, and it is as exciting as the first.

The protagonist who lost his memory in a car crash discovers who he is, causing him to continue to be on the run, aided by the local female cop.

This is pure escapism, with lots of twists and turns.

WARWICK SHOWCASE

DUNE 2

(Long, Slow Sequel)

If you are unfamiliar with Frank Herbert's sprawling novel and the original "Dune" you will find yourself lost in the sequel.

Timothée Chalamet plays Atreides, who somehow ended up living with a band of Fremen, fighting the spice harvesting Harkonnen.

Some believe he is the Messiah; others are convinced he is a phony.

The long movie opens with a long

battle involving those giant worms that produce the coveted spice.

The movie has a bit of romance, multitudes of swordplay, battle scenes requiring a "cast of thousands," political intrigue, and not one laughable line. This is serious business, folks.

We had seen the original, and that was enough sand for Joyce, but I chose to sit

through the sequel, trying desperately to keep up with other characters, like Christopher Walken who comes and goes with little warning.

Atreides believes he is the right one to lead the revolution as more battles that range from hand-to-hand combat to weird flying machines and crude weapons kill a multitude of turban covered combatants.

I have to admit that I had problems keeping up with which side was winning and why, but I do not claim to be a fan of the genre.

Admittedly, the special effects are spectacular.

Watch out for those worms.



Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya in Dune 2.



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