

FLOOD FORECLOSURES

More than \$5M committed to Belfield Drive buyouts

By RORY SCHULER

Mayor Polisena: ‘The use of eminent domain to take these properties is not ideal, and we encourage residents to take this buyout opportunity’

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr.’s office announced more than \$5 million in funding for home buyouts on Belfield Drive, the site of “persistent flooding issues.” Now it’s up to the homeowners. Will they stay or sell?
 “Seeing Belfield Drive submerged under water was surreal — it resembled a lake instead of solid ground,” Polisena said. “Our plan is clear: demolish homes, build detention ponds, and reroute water to prevent such incidents.”
 Polisena’s Deputy Chief of Staff Dominique Turner circulated a press release Monday morning announcing a \$5,171,587.03 funding commitment from the town and federal government.

BUYOUTS - PAGE 11



Putting the park into overdrive

By RORY SCHULER

Big changes are in the works at Johnston’s War Memorial Park. Several sections of the park are currently off-limits for visitors, as the pace of playground and splash pad construction quickens through the spring, possibly in time for summer.
 The town recently announced the closure of a playground in the park. Soon, the park’s available play equipment will cater to a wider audience. Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. worked with Johnston State Rep. Deborah A. Fellela (District 43) and

members of Town Council in his efforts to revive Johnston’s central recreation hub.
 The playground project is just one piece of a full park overhaul, which started in October when the town welcomed the arrival of Providence’s former Christopher Columbus statue (now erected in the center of the Memorial Park pond island).
 “In a collaborative effort between myself, the council and Rep. Fellella, the town is renovating and expanding the

PARK - PAGE 11



THE PLANS: Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. provided schematic drawings detailing the playground expansion and this image of the anticipated new equipment. (Image courtesy Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.) At left, the playground has been fenced off for now. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

AG: Johnston man sentenced to life for 2021 nightclub murder

By RORY SCHULER

Prosecutors argued a Johnston man was in a scuffle outside a Providence club. He walked away from the fight, but “90 seconds later ... returned with a gun.” Now he’ll likely spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Rhode Island Attorney General Peter F. Neronha announced a Johnston man’s life sentence for the 2021 murder of 27-year-old Mario Diaz.

According to a press release from Neronha’s office, Miguel Lacourt, 39, of Johnston, was sentenced Monday in Providence County Superior Court to serve life in prison at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) for the Providence homicide.

Superior Court Justice Robert D. Krause sentenced Lacourt to 60 years in prison, with a consecutive life sentence at the ACI, according to the AG’s Office.

On Jan. 17, following a seven-day trial, a jury found Lacourt guilty of one count of second-degree murder, one count of discharging a firearm while committing a crime of violence resulting in death, and one count of carrying a pistol without a license.

“Mario Diaz is one of many victims that would still be alive if not for the availability of firearms to those ready and willing to use them for violence,” Neronha said. “We must continue to fight for commonsense gun laws and

enforcement to avoid such tragedies. I hope this sentencing provides some closure for the victim’s family and I thank the Providence Police for their commitment to seeking justice on behalf of the victims of violent crime.”

During the trial, the prosecution proved “beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant shot and killed the victim following a dispute at a Providence lounge,” according to the AG’s Office. “In the early morning hours of Aug. 7, 2021, the defendant and two friends attended Fuego Lounge on West Friendship Street in Providence.”
 Investigators used video surveillance to tie Lacourt to the crime.

“At some point, the defendant and

his friend exited the nightclub and lingered outside,” according to the AG’s press release. “While outside the nightclub, the defendant and another individual began an argument that then turned physical. The defendant attempted to restrain one of the people involved but got punched and kicked to the ground. The defendant eventually freed himself from the altercation and walked off towards Elmwood Avenue. Approximately 90 seconds later, the defendant returned with a gun and shot the victim.”

According to the AG’s press release, “investigators recovered several items from the crime scene, including a strand

MURDER - PAGE 11

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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Elizabeth Kue. Elizabeth is a freshman at Johnston High and is a member of the Golf Team and Student Council. Elizabeth also received first place in the Science Fair for her project, "The Effect of Temperature on the Distance of a Golf Ball on a Chip Shot." She currently takes a full honors schedule, while maintaining an A+ in all classes. She is also seen as one of the best freshmen golfers in the state! (Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

Editor's Note: This is the newest installment of an ongoing weekly series highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther within the pages of the Johnston Sun Rise.

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Say you saw it in the
Johnston SunRise

Try spelling 'Wednesday' without
B-I-N-G-O

It's possible, but not as much fun



HER NAME-O: Bev Williams calls the BINGO numbers on the new Wednesday Night Bingo at the JSC. A new "Welcome to Wednesday Night Bingo" sign now hangs along Hartford Avenue inviting new Bingo players to join in on the fun. "In an effort to attract those older adults who may still be working and who might enjoy senior activities in the evening, the Johnston Senior Center is launching a series of new programing in the early evening," said Johnston Senior Center Executive Director Richard J. DelFino Jr. "Bingo, still one of the most well attended events, and whose proceeds goes right back into JSC programming, has 'kicked off' on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Great prizes are available, as well as food, for those coming right from work." Stop by the center at 1291 Hartford Ave. for a tour. Interested members can also call the center at 401-944-3343. (Photos courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



Senior 'Spotlite'

Janice has arrived, and she brought the gals along for the ride

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines on Janice Desjardins, who started coming to the Center about two years ago.

Janice recalls that she and some friends were looking for a place to socialize, meet new people, and enjoy activities in an environment that was friendly and welcoming. She found all of that right here at the Johnston Senior Center, and soon invited some of her closest friends, whose relationships go back to high school, to join her.

This group of friends, who were all classmates at Cranston High School East, now enjoy Bocce, Bingo, lunch and daytrips, as part of their weekly activity. Janice grew up in Cranston, and then raised four children in Warwick.

She worked for the Warwick School Department for 28 years, a job she truly enjoyed. When her children were grown, she moved back to Cranston, which rekindled those high school relationships. And now together, they plan out various activities, which contribute to their enjoyment in these later years.

Janice says she really enjoys life, as she points to the fact that her four children, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, with one more on the way, are all healthy and doing well.

She claims, "We are doing as well as our families are well." That statement is very prevalent here at the JSC. A family's well being is so important to the people we serve here. When the need arises, our staff can be counted on to assist in whatever way necessary, helping you to remove those barriers that prevent you from living life to the fullest. Step through these doors and let us make a difference in your life.

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

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Two swans, one arrow

'He's still swimming around the pond – the poor guy'

By RORY SCHULER

There's a special place at the bottom of Oak Swamp Pond for someone with a bow and quiver full of black arrows with blue and white fletching.

Rhode Island Environmental Police searched the Johnston pond Wednesday morning for a swan someone shot with an arrow.

Sean Carpenter knows the pair of beautiful white birds well. "There are two swans that live and nest on Oak Swamp Pond in Johnston," he said Tuesday afternoon. "Someone has shot the male with a bow and arrow and an arrow is currently protruding from his side. He's still swimming around the pond, the poor guy."

Carpenter shared a photo of the injured bird. He notified the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Environmental Police around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Evan LaCross, Public Affairs and Programming Services Officer for DEM confirmed the department received Carpenter's report.

"Environmental Police Officers from DEM's Division of Law Enforcement will be attempting to locate the swan this morning," LaCross said early Wednesday morning.

Environmental Police may need witnesses to charge the responsible archer.

"Although there is no open season on mute swans in Rhode Island, we would need a witness statement in order to charge for hunting a non-game species," according to LaCross. "The unlawful killing of a swan can result in a misdemeanor charge which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, up to 90 days in prison, or both."

Carpenter lives nearby the pond, and walks his dog along the waterside.

"The swans have been living on the pond for the past 3-4 years and even spend the winter," Carpenter said. "They nest in a swampy cove in the back of the pond that's behind my house."

He visits them practically every day.

"The female sits on the nest and the male wanders the pond — chasing geese," he said. "So he goes all over the pond."

Earlier this week, it was apparent all was not well in the swan's nest.

"Yesterday, they were together at the nest and I immediately noticed the arrow," Carpenter said. "So it must have happened around Monday. He...didn't seem in distress. As you could see it was sticking out of his side. He was eating like normal but occasionally had his head down so not sure if he was getting at it."

Carpenter spotted the injured swan "back in the center of the pond later in the day before sunset."

Rhode Island classifies mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) as an exotic species. According to DEM, the species is "native to Europe and parts of Asia and was introduced into North America as decorative waterfowl for parks, zoos, and private."

Swans form long-lasting bonds and some mate for life. When a swan dies, the surviving bird typically grieves the loss, like people. Sometimes, depending on the survivor's age, the swan will find a new mate or fly off and join a flock. But sometimes, that's it. The end.

Two swans, and maybe many more, with a single arrow.



POOR GUY: A male swan has survived an archer's illicit shot, still swimming on Oak Swamp Pond in Johnston. He's hurt and RI DEM has been informed. Environmental Police were tasked with finding the swan on Wednesday morning. (Photo courtesy Sean Carpenter)



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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

LARCENY

A bus monitor for the Johnston School District has been charged with stealing from a bus driver's purse. Around noon on April 10, Maria Peterson, 62, of Johnston, was arrested on an active Johnston Police Department arrest warrant for larceny, according to Johnston Police.

Earlier this month, on April 3, "Peterson, a bus monitor for the Johnston School District, was captured on video surveillance on a school bus taking money (\$60 cash) from the unattended purse of a bus driver," according to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira. "Peterson was charged with one count of misdemeanor larceny and issued a 3rd District Court arraignment date of April 26."

CONSPIRACY

It all started with a leaky foundation and led to the loss of more than \$60,000 for a Johnston homeowner. Around noon Feb. 8, Johnston Police Patrolman Thomas Santurri was dispatched to a Johnston home following the report of "possible fraud."

The homeowner told police that during the week of Jan. 22, he started "researching and calling" masonry companies regarding a leak he had in the basement foundation of his house. He found a company online and spoke to a representative, who responded to his residence to provide a quote of \$22,000 for work.

Police identified the company as "Active Masonry & Waterproofing."

According to the incident report, company employees arrived on Jan. 29 and began "digging trenches around the foundation of his home." During that time, the homeowner paid the company \$31,000 in five different checks. Eventually, an alleged representative of the company told the homeowner that the crew found "sink holes" under his foundation and "special equipment would be required."

The homeowner was told to "electronically wire" \$30,000 in order to rent said equipment."

The homeowner told police he wanted to file a criminal complaint. He described the men he dealt with as "middle-aged white males who spoke with a European accent."

Eventually, the homeowner and police determined more than \$62,000 worth of checks had been cashed, but the victim "could not provide any vehicle description or registration plates on any of the vehicles that the suspects arrived in," according to the incident report.

The final check, for \$31,000, had been written to the primary suspect, Matthew Silencieux, 34, of 74 Westville St., Apt. 1, Dorchester Center, Massachusetts. Police said they linked a similar case, from Feb. 2, to a man with the same name, with the help of the East Providence Police Department (Silencieux did not match the suspect description given by the Johnston victim).

The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

Johnston Police eventually filed arrest warrants for Silencieux on six felony charges — five charges of Obtaining Money Under False Pretenses and one count of Conspiracy.

Around 8:15 p.m., April 2, the Rhode Island Sheriff's Department transported Silencieux to Johnston Police Headquarters on the six arrest warrants. He was taken into Johnston Police custody, permitted a phone call and held pending arraignment. Silencieux also had an outstanding Lincoln Police Department warrant, according to a supplemental report.

RECKLESS DRIVING

Around 8:30 p.m., April 10, Johnston Police Sgt. Joseph D. Anderson was in the area of 142 Bishop Hill Road when he spotted a white Ford pickup truck traveling north "at an excessively high rate of speed," according to the arrest report.

"Through my training and experience, I believed the vehicle was traveling at approximately 60 mph," Anderson wrote in the report.

Anderson followed the truck, and which appeared to be gaining distance.

"While traveling, I observed my speedometer to reach the speed of 75 mph," Anderson wrote. "While traveling at that speed in an attempt to catch up to the vehicle, I was still unable to close the distance between us."

The vehicle's brake lights were applied in the area of 89 Bishop Hill Road "where the speed hump is located," and the truck once again accelerated.

According to Anderson's report, the pick-up then drove through the intersection of Bishop Hill, Cross and Pine Hill roads, which is a four-way stop. The driver allegedly "slowed to approximately 40 mph and then drove through the intersection without stopping," according to police.

Anderson initiated a traffic stop. "At that time, the vehicle was still traveling at a rate of speed above the posted speed limit," he wrote in

the arrest report. "The vehicle then turned left into the driveway of (address redacted from the report) and came to a complete stop. It should be noted that during this incident, we passed multiple vehicles traveling southbound who pulled to the side of the road as the vehicle passed them. It should also be noted that I also observed at least two pedestrians on the side of the road that we passed during this incident."

Anderson requested another unit on scene as backup. He checked the truck's registration and identified the driver as Justin A. Marfeo, 33, of 15 Arcadia Ave., Johnston.

"Justin began to state that he knew he was driving at a high rate of speed and stated he was doing so because he was having a bad night and was traveling to his family's house ... (on) Bishop Hill Road. Justin also admitted to running the stop sign on Bishop Hill Road. Justin stated he ... believed he was traveling at approximately 60 mph."

Police checked and found Marfeo's driver's license had been expired since March 5 and a Judiciary Public Records check revealed he had two prior convictions of operating a motor vehicle with an expired/suspended license.

Police removed Marfeo from the truck and placed him in hand restraints. He was charged with Reckless Driving and other Offenses Against Public Safety, a misdemeanor.

The vehicle was not towed from the scene because it contained valuables (the homeowner gave permission to leave the vehicle there, for retrieval later).

Marfeo also received citations for Driving with Expired License (third offense), Speeding (11+ mph in Excess of Posted Speed Limit; 75 mph in a posted 25 mph zone) and Obedience to Stop Signs.

LARCENY

At 1:33 p.m., July 28, 2022, a local vehicle owner responded to Johnston Police to report a larceny from their motor vehicle. Some time between July 19-28, 2022, someone entered her unlocked vehicle without her permission and took several items from the trunk.

The list of stolen items included a tool box containing miscellaneous medical supplies (the tool box was valued at \$175 and the supplies around \$1,000).

"Let it be noted that nothing else appears to be missing from the vehicle at this time and no damage was observed," Johnston Police Patrolman Richard J. Varan wrote in the 2022 incident report.

The vehicle owner told police that "she did find a Berkshire Brewing Company coffee house porter can in the cup holder of her vehicle which did not belong to her," according to police.

The can was tagged and logged as evidence.

Eventually police issued an arrest warrant for suspect David R. Viens Jr., 27, of 19 Vacca St., Third Floor Apartment, Johnston on a misdemeanor charge of Larceny Under \$1,500.

On April 3 of this year Johnston Police officers took custody of Viens from Smithfield Police. He was processed and held pending arraignment.

FRAUD

Around 1 p.m., Feb. 25, Johnston Police Patrolman Nicholas Defelice spoke to a victim who reported a larceny. The victim told police someone went to the Home Depot store and used his credit card to purchase toilet paper, paper towels and menthol candy totaling \$61.99. He received a bill in the mail on Feb. 23, and it was marked due by March 16.

By Feb. 28, Johnston police had the signature of a judge on an arrest warrant criminally charging James J. Gomes, 48, of 83 Prospect St., Pawtucket, with one count of Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card.

On April 5, Gomes was in custody and arraigned. The judge set surety bail at \$1,000 and Gomes was held at the ACI in Cranston "as a Superior Court bail violator," according to police reports.

STOLEN GOODS

Around 11:40 a.m., April 10, Johnston Police Patrolman Aaron Blanco was on patrol when he spotted a white Ford pickup truck with a trailer attached traveling east on Putnam Avenue.

A DMV check revealed the trailer was "actively reported stolen out of Coventry Police," according to the police report. Blanco initiated a traffic stop and identified the driver as Milton A. Reyes Cheguen, 38, of 75 North Third St., Meriden, Connecticut.

He told police that he was unaware that the plate was on his trailer. He was also in possession of a cancelled Massachusetts passenger plate, found inside his truck, which was not registered to him.

The driver was taken into custody and charged with Receiving Stolen Goods, a misdemeanor. The vehicles were towed from the scene and the driver received an April 26 court date.

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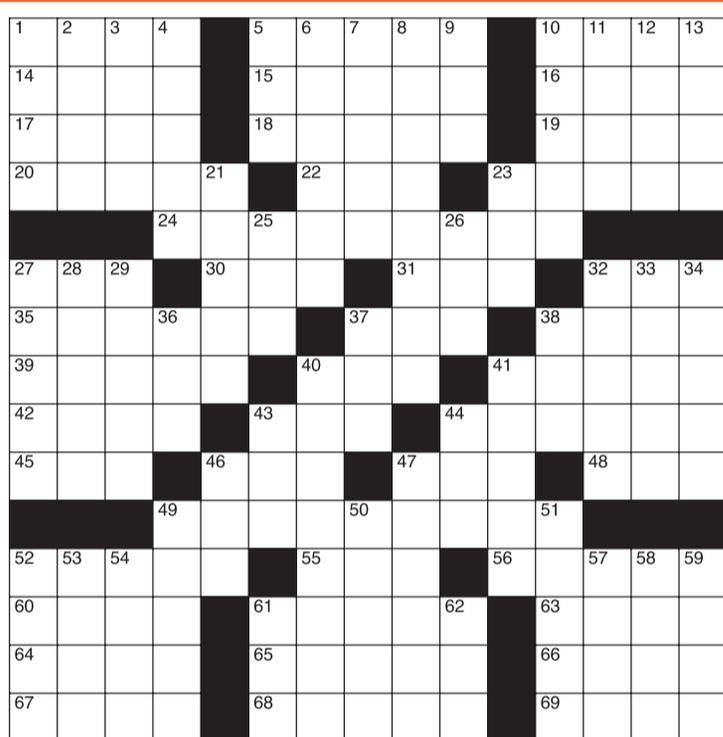
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Grant for the JSC



FOR THE SENIORS: Patti Lombardo, wife of late Johnston state Sen. Frank Lombardo, presented a check to members and staff at the Johnston Senior Center. The Senior Center was the recipient of a Rhode Island State Senate grant in the amount of \$3,000, sponsored by the late senator. Richard J. DelFino Jr., Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, said "We have been very grateful to Sen. Lombardo for his continued support to the seniors of this town, which has allowed us to upgrade and provide new equipment and programming here at the Center. Frank has been a good friend to the senior community." (Courtesy photo)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure
- 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths
- 16. North-central Indian city
- 17. Bungle
- 18. Extremely angry
- 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization
- 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab
- 24. U.S.-born individuals
- 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 31. Don't know when yet
- 32. Payment (abbr.)
- 35. Winged angelic being
- 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious
- 39. Famed wrestler Hulk

- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Stang for sergeant
- 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan
- 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part
- 46. Halfway
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Consume
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
- 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword
- 60. Symbol of a nation
- 61. Frocks
- 63. Used to carry food
- 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge
- 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin
- 68. Greek mythological sorceress
- 69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading man
- 2. Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital
- 5. Japanese title
- 6. Capital of Zimbabwe
- 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid
- 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid
- 25. Partner to flow
- 26. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals
- 29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 32. By or in itself
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface

- 34. Partner to trick
- 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters
- 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 46. Not around
- 47. Flightless bird
- 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- 50. Expressed concern for
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings
- 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor
- 58. British title
- 59. Whiskeys
- 61. ___ Adams: founding father
- 62. Body of wate

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

The Johnston Senior Center serves lunch daily.

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.; Yoga & Pilates w/Fran, 6 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, April 30, Book club w/ Mary, 10 a.m., Convent of Water by Abraham Verges

More at Mohr Library

Registration is opening May 1 for the next series of STEAM and ArtSmart programs with Ms. Melyssa.

- STEAM — Thursdays at 5 p.m. on May 9, 16, 23 and June 6 (No class May 30). Children ages 6 to 9 are invited to experiment, explore and build.
- Art Smart for Ages 8 to 12 — Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., May 8 to June 5. Have fun exploring different art styles, techniques and genres.
- Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7 — Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., May 11 through June 8. Have fun exploring different art styles, techniques and genres.

Story-time resumes Tuesdays, April 30, through the first week in June, with "Babies and Books" at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, and Preschool Storytime, at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, except May 15 when the library will host preschool yoga. Registration is optional for story-time.

Yoga with Ms. Pauline — Preschool Yoga (UPDATED) Wednesdays at 10:30

a.m., May 15 and June 12. Yoga for children ages 5 to 12, Saturdays at 9:30 am, through May 18.

Ms. Pauline is a certified yoga teacher practicing since she was 17 years old. A former school teacher, she began programs to bring yoga to children and teachers in schools throughout Rhode Island. Children will be guided into gentle movement exercises using the power of their imagination. They will also learn breathing techniques that calm and center them. It will be a time of joy, wonder and movement. Register for the class with Mohr Library.

Yoga programs are sponsored by The Tri-County Community Action Agency, Health Equity Zone.

The Library currently has a wait-list for two other guest programs for elementary-age kids, Chess for Grades 1-5, on the first Saturday of the month from 10-11 a.m., and Dungeons and Dragons, for ages 9-12, Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., May 20 and June 17.

See more programs at mohrlibrary.org, where you can also sign up for our email list, or call 401-231-4980. The Library is at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Scituate teacher named Grand Prize Recipient of Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Award

Scituate High School teacher Tara Seger has been selected by the League of Women Voters South County as the grand prize recipient for the Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Award. This honor is accompanied by a \$2,000 reward and a ceremony where Seger will be recognized. The ceremony will be held at the Rhode Island State House at 3:30 p.m. on April 25.

"It is sincerely such an honor to receive the Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Award," said Seger. "There are countless dedicated educators throughout the state of Rhode Island, the country, and the world that are deserving of such an honor. I deeply appreciate that the League of Women Voters has dedicated their time to recognize teachers who put their heart and souls into their work each day."

The award was created as a way to remember Susan B. Wilson, one of the founding members of The League of Women Voters South County. She was a passionate proponent of education and civic engagement, and she was committed to voter service and education. The Susan B. Wilson Award recognizes teachers in Rhode Island who exhibit extraordinary ability and innovation.

"Tara Seger is an inspiration to many students at SHS," said Principal Michael Hassell. "She does an outstanding job teaching our students about their civic rights and responsibilities, and I'm thrilled she is receiving the recognition that she deserves."

Seger has been teaching at SHS for over 15 years. She currently teaches Modern World History, Current Middle East Conflicts, US History II, and US History II Honors. In 2023, she was recognized as Rhode Island Genocide Educator of the Year for her dedication to researching the Middle East and her self-published book Refugee Realities: Voices from the Middle East.

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ALL DONE BY KINDNESS

cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center



Opinion

EDITORIAL

GUEST OPINION

Dental insurance bill puts a smile on our face

The many issues with the American healthcare system are often so cartoonish, so overtly head-scratching and backwards, that it can seem silly and hopeless these days to even point them out. Astronomically high costs, massive amounts of waste and fraud, and millions of people opting to just not go to the doctor rather than deal with it all are simply accepted as features of the system by many — a cliché of incompetence, inefficiency, and greed.

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

But in one small way, at least, it doesn't need to be this way. Specifically for dental care in Rhode Island. That is, at least, if a bill in the general assembly actually gets the traction needed to pass.

The "Rhode Island Fair Share for Dental Care Act", introduced in the House by Rep. Joseph McNamara and in the Senate by Sen. Hanna Gallo, seeks to require dental insurance providers to spend at least 85% of the revenue they receive from customer premiums go towards actual dental care, rather than things like salaries and bonuses for administrators.

By doing so, the hope is that it would reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients, and make dental plans more transparent in terms of how much different services cost, and ultimately make dental care a more desirable and less scary thing for all Rhode Islanders.

The bill has precedent in (where else) neighboring Massachusetts, which passed through voter referendum a similar measure in 2022, and was supported by nearly 3/4 of the voting populace.

This is a good, common sense bill aimed at reducing the ability for insurance carriers to waste money on frivolities and pass off the resulting financial imbalance onto the backs of premium payers.

Nobody should have to choose tooth pain over spending thousands on a dental procedure, and dental insurance holders should feel confident in how much that insurance will pay for their procedures before sitting down in the chair.

We support the Rhode Island Fair Share for Dental Care Act, and implore both chambers to move quickly on getting it to the Governor's desk for the benefit of smiles throughout Rhode Island.

RI BUDGET CHALLENGES, Part 2 K-12 school funding formula isn't working

By MICHAEL DIBIASE

Adopted in 2010, Rhode Island's funding formula for education — the primary mechanism for delivering state education aid to local communities—was moderately successful in increasing the state's share of overall education revenues and in delivering increased aid to poorer districts. But it did not do enough to advance equity. After ten years, some of Rhode Island's poorest districts — both in terms of relative property wealth and students from low-income families — were still among those with the lowest per pupil expenditures in the state. According to one national study, Rhode Island had a greater funding gap between its higher- and lower-poverty districts than all but two states.

While well-intentioned, the General Assembly's recent decisions to hold districts harmless from enrollment declines, along with other changes, have made education funding even less equitable. Case in point: some of our wealthiest districts received the largest percentage increases in per pupil state funding from FY 2022 through FY 2024.

The governor's FY 2025 budget offers some laudable proposed investments in K-12 education. The proposal would almost double categorical spending for multilingual learners, a student population which has grown by nearly 70% since 2015. The proposed investment of \$15 million for math and reading coaches also would give a needed boost for schools still struggling to reclaim learning lost during the pandemic.

However, the governor's budget also proposes yet another major change to the funding formula. Under current law, the core instructional amount—the dollar figure considered to be the minimum amount to educate a child based on an average of educational costs in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire—was set to increase by 6.2% in FY 2025. The governor's proposal would instead cap the increase at 3.9%, based on average inflation over the past five years. Since the funding formula provides bonuses based on the core instructional amount for students in poverty and multilingual learners, the proposed change would have significant downstream effects. This is especially true in our urban core districts (Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket), which rely most heavily on state funding, have among the highest concentrations of students in poverty and multilingual learners, and also have the least capacity to generate property tax revenues to make up for shortfalls in state funding.

In its first ten years, the funding formula drove nearly 60% of total increases in state district aid to urban core districts. Since the pandemic, these districts have received less than half of the increased aid. If the governor's proposal is adopted, urban core districts would receive only \$2.6 million (18.5%) of the \$14.3 million in increased total aid to school districts (which includes the increased spending on multilingual learners). While this low share of new funding results in part from greater enrollment losses in the urban core districts, even accounting for enrollment, Pawtucket, West Warwick, and Woonsocket would receive percentage increases in state aid at or lower than the average percentage increase for more affluent districts.

This persistent disparity in funding between urban core and more affluent districts is compounded by the greater educational challenges and costs associated with educating disadvantaged students and multilingual learners. Studies have suggested that economically disadvantaged students require as much as three times the funding to achieve comparable proficiency as students in more affluent communities. Similar funding needs apply to multilingual learners, who make up a growing number of students in our urban core.

Urban core districts, long underfunded by the state and by their local communities, have been largely shielded recently from the negative effects of formula changes thanks to the massive infusion of pandemic-era federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. However, with this funding expiring, these districts now find themselves in the critical situation of needing to quickly right-size their operations through layoffs, eliminating classrooms, and even closing schools.

It is time to admit that our funding formula for education is broken and needs comprehensive reform. These reforms first and foremost should target more aid to our urban core districts, which have disproportionate numbers of students with the greatest educational needs.

Michael DiBiase is the president and CEO of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy research organization. This is the second of a series on Governor Dan McKee's proposed fiscal 2025 state budget.

LETTER

Thanks for selling out Bologna and Potenza Italian Event

If you're looking to attend the April 28th Italian cultural event at Tomaselli's Restaurant, then your luck has run out. People are being refused tickets, due to overwhelming sales from the community. This event is being sponsored by Spirit of Hope and the Rhode Island Spine and Brian Tumor Foundation.

Lisa A. D'Ambra, executive director of the Rhode Island Spine and Brian Tumor Foundation, and I are from the same Piase in Italy, Panni,

Foggia and share our Italian cultural support through this fundraiser. Steve Macchione also played a big role. We were very happy to get most Italian organizations to participate and received many donations from people who support their causes.

Let's face it, brain cancer and homelessness are two good areas to support.

Funding is always short for those who are in need. Funding from this

event is already earmarked for specific situations, like a child suffering right now in Johnston. Please consider sending in your donations if you are not attending.

Remember, you never know what position you or your family will be in, in the future.

God Bless,

Louis Spremulli, of Johnston, Spirit of Hope founder



Publisher
John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com

Circulation
Leslie Paz

Advertising Director
Donna Zarrella - Donna Z@rhodybeat.com

Credit Manager
Lynne Taylor

Editor
Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com

Bookkeeping
Leslie Paz

Sports Editor
Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Production Manager
Lisa Bourque Yuetner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representatives
Melissa Miller - MelissaM@rhodybeat.com
Linda Nadeau - LindaN@rhodybeat.com
Suzanne Wendoloski - SuzanneW@rhodybeat.com

Production Staff
Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com

Classified Advertising
Ida Zecco - Classifieds@rhodybeat.com

Spotlight Profile Writer
Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

Tel.: 401-732-3100
Fax: 401-732-3110

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THE TV AT THE LOCAL RETIRED TEACHERS UNION HALL AS GINA RAIMONDO APPEARED ON 60 MINUTES THIS WEEK

JOHNSTON HIGH Q3 HONOR ROLL

High Honors

Melissa Aguilar 2025
 Skyla Almeida 2026
 Andre Amato 2027
 Lucas Anderson 2025
 Samaya Anzivino 2027
 Samaya Ariza 2027
 Jenna Aucone 2024
 Kaitlyn Barbosa 2026
 Kevin Biscelli 2024
 Trinity Blondin 2024
 Isabella Boudreau 2027
 Logan Brennan 2024
 l'daizha Brown 2026
 Tyler Buote 2025
 Andrew Cardullo 2026
 Ryan Carvalho 2025
 Matthew Clements 2025
 Elise Connors 2024
 Giuseppe Cucinotta 2025
 Jazmin Cuello-Pineda 2025
 Arianna Dandy 2025
 Adrianna Dinucci 2025
 Lauren Dixon 2025
 Anelee Fernandez 2027
 Cameron Ferrara 2024
 Olivia Forgetta 2026
 Kylie Geremia 2027
 Kinya Glenn 2025
 Ian Gobeille 2027
 Serenity Gonzalez 2024
 Riley Guenette 2024
 Jennifer Guerrero 2027
 Jonathan Guilmette 2024
 Gianna Halliwell 2024
 Isabella Halliwell 2027
 Maximus Halton 2026
 Madison Hogan 2025
 Malikai Hopp 2025
 Brooke Houle 2027
 Vanessa Javery 2025
 Lana Jencks 2027
 Elizabeth Kue 2027
 Dario La Terra Bellina 2027
 Brenton Lang 2025
 Nina Lautieri 2024
 Jaylin Loeum 2024
 Dylan Lussier 2024
 Chelsea Maranhao 2024

Samantha Marcotte 2024
 Logan Martins 2025
 Bennett McClish 2026
 Peyton McClish 2024
 Makayla Melillo 2027
 Dariana Munoz 2025
 Eliyahna Negron 2024
 Brendon Norris 2024
 Janelle Nunez 2025
 Sebastian Orozco 2024
 Elianna Paez 2027
 Bricen Parris 2027
 Loren Pastore 2025
 Nicole Patenaude 2025
 Noelle Patenaude 2025
 Jacob Pettit 2026
 Genesis Pineda 2025
 Matthew Ponte 2025
 Skyla Prata 2025
 Fallon Provoyeur 2026
 Donavin Quinones 2024
 Gianna Ricci 2025
 Alexis Rivera 2026
 Hollan Rodgers 2026
 Yandery Rodriguez 2024
 Leandro Roquez 2026
 Ivana Rua 2027
 Rayven Russell 2026
 Raylin Santos 2024
 Patience Scholl 2026
 Lia Shenk 2027
 Andrew Sia 2024
 Kimberly Sibilia 2025
 Lucas Simpson 2026
 Aiden Soto 2025
 Emmerson Sylvia 2024
 Carl Taglianetti 2024
 Emma Taglianetti 2027
 Luke Taglianetti 2025
 Ayla Tellier 2027
 Branden Testa 2024
 Jayden Testa 2024
 Janie-Alice Thompson 2027
 Kyle Urban 2027
 Cameron Veitch 2026
 Benjamin Verduchi 2026
 Austin Wheeler 2025
 Sofia Williams 2027
 Timothy Xoydara 2027
 Syeda Zainab 2024

Jada DiRaimo 2026
 Alberto Estrada 2024
 Regan Estrella 2024
 Fiona Fairbanks 2027
 Jaelyn Fraser 2027
 Diana Gaitan Flores 2027
 Ayberson Garcia Cruz 2025
 Naomi Garcia Ore 2026
 Annabella Gesualdi 2026
 Amelia Healy 2027
 Walter Homenick 2026
 Mineishka Hunt 2024
 Ariana Iasimone 2024
 Mona Imrane 2026
 Vanessa Jean-Philippe 2027
 Ariana Lara 2027
 Timothy Liang 2026
 Katelyn Loffler 2025
 Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027
 Isabella Maggiacomo 2024
 Jordan Maggiacomo 2027
 Neko Mahony 2025
 Channsophon Mam 2025
 Charlene Maranhao 2027
 Balla Marone 2025
 Isabela Martinez 2027
 Analeah Martins 2027
 Jealeen Mateo 2027
 Julia McLellan 2027
 Arthur Men 2027
 Jiana Mitsoulis 2024
 Karissa Morales 2025
 Hector Munoz-Lopez 2024
 Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025
 Connor Niles 2025
 Randy Ortega 2025
 Jeremy Ovalles 2025
 David Pagliarini 2024
 Alexis (Alex) Pannone 2024
 Anthony Pannone 2027
 Isabella Paulson 2027
 Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025
 Ariana Perron 2026
 McKerry Petit Homme 2027
 Sydney Raposo 2025
 Ariana Rivera 2024
 Delaynee Rodriguez 2027
 Lilianna (Warren) Salois 2025
 Leah Sanchez Perez 2026
 Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026
 Jason Schino 2026
 James Senno 2027
 Nathaniel Smith 2024
 Arleny Solorin Henriquez 2025
 Christian Sonner 2024
 Nixon Soto 2027
 Shylah Soto 2024
 Alexander Subirana 2026
 NeAri Vasquez 2024
 Angel Veillard 2027
 Anthony Vendetti 2026
 Cameron Walker 2024
 Jordan (Fae) Weston 2025
 Thomas Xoydara 2027

Total High Honors: 98

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Auction Legal Notice

To: Karen Tartaglia 14 Roger Rd Johnston RI. A public auction will be held at 775 Hartford Ave Johnston RI on May 4, 2024 at 9:00 am. The vehicle a 2012 Chrysler 1C3CCB-CB3CN139337 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage

4/25/24

Town of Johnston Planning Board REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 6:00 P.M.
 Johnston Senior Center
 1291 Hartford Ave.
 Johnston, RI 02919

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 24-13 – Willy Reyes – 138 Scituate Avenue. AP 25 Lot 4. A Public Hearing on a Minor Land Development with Unified Development Review to establish two lots where both lots require frontage variance.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

PB 23-01- 1725 Plainfield Pike. AP 26 lots 77, 85, 111 and 149. A Public Hearing on a Major Land Development consisting of 12 buildings containing 24 units of

housing. development. The property is located in an R-7 zone.

PB 23- 12 – Zoning Update. Discussion and review of draft zoning ordinance. Major restructuring of the ordinance was required because of the changes and the failure to update the ordinance over the past years when changes were made to state law.

V. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

Presentation. Overview and discussion of state law changes to RIGL 45-23. Land Development and Subdivision Review and RIGL 45-24. Zoning Enabling. Note – revised Land Development Regulations were adopted at the February 6, 2024 meeting

VII. ADJOURNMENT

• The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at <https://clerkshq.com/johnston-ri> or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

• Items not heard by 9:00 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board.

• Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

4/18, 4/25/24

1st Honors

Selena Albanese 2027
 Aubree Allen 2024
 Katlyn Allen 2026
 Morgan Andrews 2027
 Estefania Antelo Suarez 2026
 Aura Blanco Mazariegos 2024
 Kalina Bonetti 2024
 Sadie Bun 2025
 Juan Burgos Vilchez 2027
 Ryan Capraro 2026
 Carolina Cardoso 2024
 Eduardo Castillo Ramirez 2025
 Henri Chan 2025
 Michael Chavier 2024
 Sofia China 2024
 Evan Correia 2024
 Julian Correia 2024
 Timothy Davis 2024
 Hunter D'Elia 2026
 Devin DelSanto 2024
 Alexia DiLorenzo 2024
 Ava DiNobile 2026
 Tyler Diodati 2025

2nd Honors

Michael Abbruzzi 2025
 Talia Abbruzzi 2026
 Marleny Abreu 2027
 Jayvin Adamo 2026
 Santiago Aguilar 2024
 Logan Akins 2025
 Amelia Almonte 2024
 Luis Alvarez 2024

Total 1st Honors: 87

■ JHS Honor Roll

(Continued from page 8)

Christopher Alves 2025
 Roman Amato 2027
 Haylee Andrews 2027
 Willow Andrews 2024
 Ella Annicelli 2027
 Armani Arias 2024
 Ryan Audino 2024
 Angel Avila 2026
 Gabriel Bandoma 2024
 Elianna Baptista 2027
 Gabriella Barata 2026
 Isabella Barata 2025
 Benjamin Bejnar 2025
 Kara Bonetti 2026
 Ethan Bracey 2027
 Jack Bremer 2025
 Caspian Briggs 2027
 Layla Rose Bryand 2027
 Olivia Bryant 2026
 Jayden Cabreja 2024
 Josue Cabrera Ramirez 2025
 Gerson Cabrera 2024
 Dylan Calabro 2026
 Abner Cambranes 2027
 Madison Campano 2027
 Jordan Caparrelli 2027
 Michael Carlino 2024
 Jacob Carr 2024
 Abbigaelle Cenafils 2027
 Dylan Cerio 2025
 Morgan Cerullo 2026
 Christopher Civetti 2024
 Nevaeha Coelho 2027
 Faith Connolly 2027
 Shemorie Constant 2027
 Selvin Cordova Martinez 2024
 Elliot Cortesi 2025
 Landon Costello 2024
 Jonathan Cruz Granados 2026
 Santino Cucinotta 2027
 Chantal DeJesus 2025
 David Delfino 2025
 Nathan Della Morte 2026
 Edison Diaz Gomez 2026
 Anthony DiBiasio 2025
 Skyler Dupre 2024
 Riley Enos 2025
 James Estrada 2025
 Emily Fashjian 2026
 Landon Faucher 2024
 Vanessa Febus 2026
 William Ferrara 2027
 Sophia Finegan 2025
 Steven Finegan 2024
 Logan Finelli 2027
 Kalyn Foster 2025
 Richard Foster 2027
 Robert Franchini 2025
 Irais Franco 2024
 Alistar Roe Fredette 2026
 Deanna Funches 2026
 Evangelia Georgiladakis 2027
 Jesse Geyer 2026
 Amanda Giron Caballero 2025
 Jadyn Giroux 2026
 Kingstan Glenn 2024
 Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027
 Jose Gonzalez Gorrin 2027
 Robert Graham 2025
 Antonio Gray 2024
 Joseph Grenier 2026
 Isabella Grimshaw 2026
 Yadier Grullon 2026
 Danika-Lyn Gruslin 2027
 Jasmin Guerrero 2024

Kenderra Guertin 2025
 Carlos Gutierrez Deleon 2025
 Yeimy Gutierrez Santos 2027
 Angel Guzman 2024
 Zachary Hanna 2025
 Tyler Hartmann 2025
 Logan Hemstreet 2024
 Adam Hernandez 2024
 Adam Heywood 2026
 Jasmine Hill 2027
 Dineishka Hunt 2024
 Olivia lafrate 2026
 Maxx Johnson Goncalves 2027
 Morgan Johnson 2027
 Emily Joseph 2026
 Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025
 Jaylinn Khun 2027
 Alyssa Kleinberg 2026
 Lucio La Terra Bellina 2024
 Devyn Lacasse 2024
 Anthony Lastor Quinonez 2025
 Karen Lastor Rojas 2024
 Hannah Lavergne 2024
 Gabriella Laviano 2027
 Alyssa Leclerc 2025
 Sebastiana Lux Hernandez 2026
 Andrew Lyman 2025
 Angelica Maddaline 2026
 Caroline McCormack 2026
 Manuel Mejia Mejia 2027
 Devin Mejia 2024
 Evan Melvin 2025
 Rachael Mendoza 2026
 Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026
 Gabriela Mercado 2024
 Michael Messina 2026
 Elias Milhouse 2026
 Benjamin Monahan 2024
 Ashley Morales 2025
 Mia Mowry 2024
 Alexandra Musa 2026
 Ahmad Naser 2026
 Jayden Noble 2025
 Davian Nunez 2024
 Brady O'Donnell 2027
 Elijah Omari 2027
 Gianna Orozco 2025
 Courtney Ortega 2027
 Aubree Padula 2027
 Evelyn Pagliarini 2027
 Lexie Palma 2024
 Aiden Pannone 2027
 Brianna Parsons 2024
 Gabriella Pascale 2025
 James Pastore 2024
 Abigail Patnaude 2024
 Cheyenne Pecchia 2026
 Alvin Pena 2026
 Michael Perugino 2024
 Alessandra Pesare 2024
 Caroline Pesenecker 2025
 Brea Pezzullo 2026
 Madison Picchi 2027
 Kaylee Poole 2024
 Jonathan Prata 2026
 Catherine Privitera 2025
 Danny Quinn 2024
 Thainaliz Quinones Cruz 2024
 Leium Quinones 2027
 Joseph Ramos Cardoza 2026
 Michelle Recinos 2024
 Ryan Rentas 2024
 Victoria Repollet 2026
 Tzivya Reyes 2026
 Gabriella Ricci 2027
 Gian Ricci 2027
 Isabella Ricci 2026
 Alayath Rietwijk 2025
 Emmanuel Rios 2025

Joemil Robles Torres 2026
 Brissy Rodriguez 2026
 Henry Rodriguez 2027
 Joaquin Rodriguez 2027
 David Roland 2026
 Demetrius Roman 2024
 Diana Rosales 2024
 Adriana Rossi 2027
 Aiven Rua 2025
 Kiara Sanchez 2026
 Sebastian Sanchez 2027
 Joshua Sanford 2024
 Miguel Santamaria Romero 2025
 Josianny Santana 2027
 Jesse Santillan 2025
 Melissa (Gus) Sauret 2024
 Gianna Sauro 2026
 Shanna Scopelliti 2024
 Hailey Segee 2027
 Malachi Seyon 2024
 Luke Sharpless 2026
 Katelyn Silva 2027
 Alana Smith 2027
 Alexander Smith 2027
 Kenneth Smith 2024
 Skyley Soto 2025
 Brandon Souza 2025
 Kailey Souza 2027
 Jacob Spinella 2024
 Ariana Stoepker 2025
 Faith Summers 2024

■ JHS HONOR ROLL - PAGE 10

Obituaries

Ann Badway

Following a brief period of declining health, our family matriarch, Ann (Moubarak) Badway, 93, passed peacefully on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at the Hope Hospice Center in Providence. A woman of great faith, a wonderful homemaker, and a loyal spouse, Ann and her beloved late husband, prominent pharmacist Elias "Louie" Badway, were long-time Johnston residents and parishioners of St. George Maronite Parish in Cranston.

Born on August 6, 1930 in Kfarsghab, Lebanon, she was a daughter of the late Reverend Antoun and Fafrounia (Samia) Moubarak. She is survived by her children, Regina and Joaquin "Jack" Badway, both of Johnston; grandchildren, Christiane & Elias; and daughter-in-law, Jeanine Ghazaz Badway. Ann was predeceased by her son, Abraham "Abie" Badway, and her siblings: Reverend Youakim, Augustin, Isaac, Therese, Jack, and Charles Moubarak.

Ann's life was devoted to family, faith, and home. She was a Past President of St. George's Holy Rosary Sodality and worked tirelessly for many Parish activities throughout her lifetime. A true patriot, she was fiercely proud of her Lebanese heritage and traditions, and provided inspiration, encouragement, and loving kindness to all whose paths she crossed, endearing herself to many. In her later years, she thoroughly enjoyed the company of others and an occasional trip to the casino. May she now be embraced by our loving God and rest in eternal peace!

Ann's Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. George Maronite Church on Thursday, April 18th, followed by burial in the family plot at St. Ann's Cemetery (Section 38, Lot 49), Cranston, RI. Arrangements were entrusted to the Berarducci Funeral Home in Providence.



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

JHS Honor Roll

(Continued from page 9)

- Alik Symoungkoun 2026
- Jannette Tapia 2024
- Abraham Tillett 2025
- Alyssa Tillson 2024
- Josie Torti 2027
- Lena Torti 2024
- Bobbi'Sue Trahan 2025
- Christopher Valdivieso 2027
- Isabella Vargas 2026
- Sarah Vasquez 2025
- Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027
- Ronald Vento 2026
- Rowan Vien 2027
- Victoria Villafane 2026
- Carldjon'n Volcy 2027
- Ava Waterman 2024
- Ryan Waterman 2027
- Jaiden Weston 2026
- Brendan White 2027
- Nicholas Williams 2025
- Malanya Zanni 2024

Total 2nd Honors: 214

3rd Honors

- Saad Alam 2025

- Vincent Allen 2026
- Lailany Aponte 2027
- Jordyn Araujo Johnson 2024
- Nicki Aucone 2025
- Marlice Baptista 2026
- Kelly Barrenechea 2027
- Ava Becker 2026
- Nicholas Benoit 2026
- Fabricio Brun 2024
- Jonelvis Castro 2027
- Lorenzo Catanzaro 2026
- Aidan Cross 2027
- Janiya Cruz 2026
- Yarielis DeJesus 2026
- Michael Dilorio 2025
- Diana Dourado 2027
- Jayvian Duran 2027
- Alex Fedorchuk 2024
- Gianna Ferranti 2026
- Taylor Ferreira 2024
- Cristian Gonzalez 2025
- Brendon Grace 2025
- Joshua Guimaraes 2027
- Noah Hazebrouck 2027
- Victor Hidalgo-Alvarado 2025
- Dylan Hill 2024
- Logan Horne 2024
- Noah Jemery 2025
- Andre Lataille 2025
- Isabella Liang 2027

- Analese Marcano 2026
- Alan Montenegro 2025
- Antonio Morales 2027
- Jonathan Morris 2025
- Heber Munoz Lopez 2026
- Alma Naser 2027
- Mia (Ryo) Nilsson 2025
- Jahzira Oliver 2024
- Andy Ortiz 2027
- Emilly Paul 2025
- Ellyce Perez 2026
- Anthony Perito 2026
- Johan Rodas Cruz 2024
- Jahaziel Rodriguez 2024
- Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027
- Camila Sanchez Lamarche 2025
- Fabian Saucedo 2027
- Brandon Simonelli 2025
- Yandel Torrico 2027
- Andrew Urizar 2027
- Jared Urizar-Santos 2025
- Leanna Vargas 2026
- Marques Vasquez 2025
- Arianna Velasquez 2024
- Abdiel Vidal 2027
- Anderson Villa 2025
- Riley Whitten 2025
- Logan Woodall 2025
- Janelle Yeomans 2026

Total 3rd Honors: 60

Senior Center hosts scam prevention event

Many individuals over the age of 60 are targeted for scams and fraud. The FBI's Internet Crime Report estimated Americans over the age of 60 lost \$1.7 billion in fraud last year. Older adults are more susceptible to financial exploitation due to a variety of reasons. As a result, the Johnston Senior Center, in conjunction with the Johnston and North Providence Police Departments, will be hosting a presentation entitled Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft Prevention, at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 23, at the Johnston Senior Center, located at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. All are invited to attend.

SCAM ALERT: Johnston Police Captain Joseph McGinn, Special Services Traffic Bureau Commander, and Megan Feeney, Johnston Senior Center Social Service Coordinator, help distribute flyers at the JSC promoting their joint effort to combat exploitation of seniors. *(Courtesy photo)*



Fly nonstop or BreezeThru with **Breeze** from Rhode Island



STATE HOUSE VISIT: Johnston state Rep. Deb Fellela hosted the Johnston High School AP Civics & History students for a mock session on March 24. *(Photo courtesy Rep. Fellela)*

Buyouts

(Continued from page 1)

The mayor's office "successfully secured federal funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to address persistent flooding issues on Belfield Drive," according to the press release. "The federal government has approved the Town of Johnston's application for funding to purchase several homes on Belfield Drive, where residents have long been affected by flooding, leading to severe public safety risks and relentless accessibility issues."

According to the mayor's office, the following Belfield Drive addresses are eligible to participate in this one-time federal buyback program: 51, 62, 63, 77, 78, 82, 87, 96 and 98 Belfield Drive.

Earlier this year, flood waters cut Belfield Drive off from emergency services and Polisena was forced to ask the feds for help. He needed permission to open up a fence along Interstate 295 for emergency access to the stranded homes on Belfield Drive.

The feds granted temporary permission to open up the fence and create an exit/entrance onto Belfield drive from the highway. It served its purpose and was eventually closed.

The ordeal cost taxpayers more than a half million dollars, for construction and emergency personnel staffing.

The federal money and town funds will be used toward "acquisition and restoration efforts, including demolition," according to the press release.

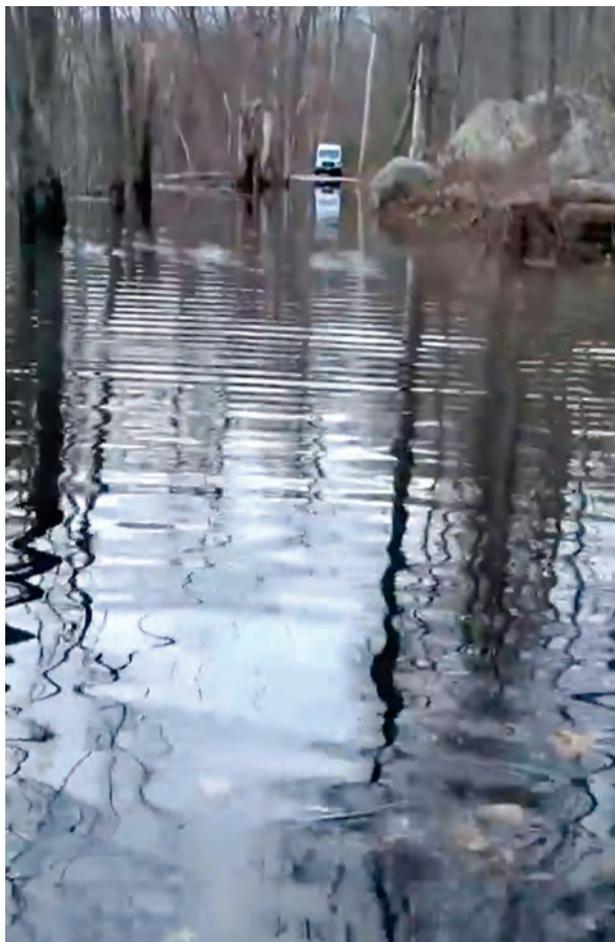
"The mandatory evacuations in January proved how serious this is, with water levels reaching 40 inches, even our military Humvee vehicles struggled to get through without leaving our first responders stranded in the water," Polisena said. "For these safety reasons, we had to mandate evacuations. These buyouts are an essential, one-time opportunity for residents."

The feds plan to cover 75% of the more than \$5 million buyout plan price tag (\$3,878,690.25). According to Turner's press release, the funds "will be allocated to the Town of Johnston as part of the agreement."

"The Town will be responsible for the remaining 25%, amounting to \$1,292,896.75, assuming every property owner agrees to sell," according to the press release. "There will be a \$40 million flood mitigation bond on the ballot in the upcoming November election. If passed by the voters, a portion of the proceeds from that bond will cover the Town's share of the buyout."

On a tour of the site earlier this year, Polisena said "eminent domain" may be an option if Belfield Drive homeowners refuse to sell.

"The use of eminent domain to take these properties



RIISING WATERS: Cynthia Nova, of Belfield Drive in Johnston, provided video of rising floodwaters on her street following the Dec. 18, 2023 storm. (Screenshot courtesy Cynthia Nova)

is not ideal, and we encourage residents to take this buyout opportunity," Polisena said in the press release. "The Town cannot spend more than half a million dollars for one neighborhood, while we have other major flooding problems in the town that have to be addressed as well."

Polisena's office expressed gratitude to federal officials "for their support in addressing the critical issue of flooding in our community."

"These efforts mark a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and well-being of residents on Belfield Drive and safeguarding the integrity of the town's infrastructure," according to the press release. "Residents affected can expect to receive comprehensive information from the Town of Johnston regarding the next steps and procedures involved in the buyout process within the coming weeks."

the public for patience and cooperation.

"Starting today, the playground at Johnston Memorial Park will be temporarily closed for construction," the town posted on social media last week. "We're thrilled to announce that we're expanding and making enhancements to create a new, handicapped accessible playground! The expansion and ADA accessible equipment will allow for both more children and even seniors accompanying their young family members to use the playground."

According to the post, the town anticipates "reopening (the playground) in June," and asked parkgoers to "refrain from entering the playground area."

Making A Splash

Plans call for siting the park's new splash pad near the tank, overtop the disused and neglected senior bocce courts. According to town estimates from last summer, that project was expected to cost around \$300,000 and would also be paid for with ARPA funds.

The mayor and Director of Johnston's Buildings & Grounds Department Christopher M. Correia told Town Council the 50-by-70-foot oasis will include five above ground spray features, nine ground sprays, perimeter fencing and walkways, as

well as a splash-free area for guardians. Polisena said, "barring any setbacks," the splash pad should be ready by "some point in July or August."

Booze, Too

Last week, Town Council held a public hearing to consider allowing vendors to sell beer and wine at food truck events in the park. Last year, council amended the town's food truck ordinance to clear the way for large-scale food truck events. Several successful events followed throughout the summer.

This year, attendees will be able to buy an alcoholic beverage with their meal.

"We return to the lush landscapes of Johnston Memorial Park for our second year," according to an events page created on Facebook for the upcoming events. "This year you can find us on select Thursdays and Saturdays for evening delights. New for 2024 now featuring the edition of beer and wine to elevate your experience. Immerse yourself in the friendly atmosphere of our food truck gatherings, enhanced with the smooth notes of live music. Celebrate the summer evenings with us, where great eats, chilled drinks, and the warmth of community spirit blend into the perfect recipe for unforgettable summer nights."

family and friends of this victim, and all victims of gun violence, are in my thoughts today and every day."

Providence Police Detective Mitchell Guerra, Assistant Attorney General Scott Erickson and Special Assistant Attorney General Ariel Pittner led the investigation and prosecution of the case.

"I commend the outstanding work conducted by the men and women of the Providence Police Department and the Attorney General's Office for bringing this defendant to justice," said Providence Police Chief Col. Oscar L. Perez, Jr. "Gun violence in our communities must be stopped at all costs. The

to the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) Forensic Biology Lab. According to prosecutors, "the defendant's DNA profile matched the profiles extracted from all four items."

Police also used booking photos to match Lacourt's tattoos with still frames from the video surveillance.

Murder

(Continued from page 1)

of hair, a Cincinnati Reds hat and a Motorsport brand sneaker, items which were identified as belonging to the defendant in the video surveillance footage.

They sent the evidence

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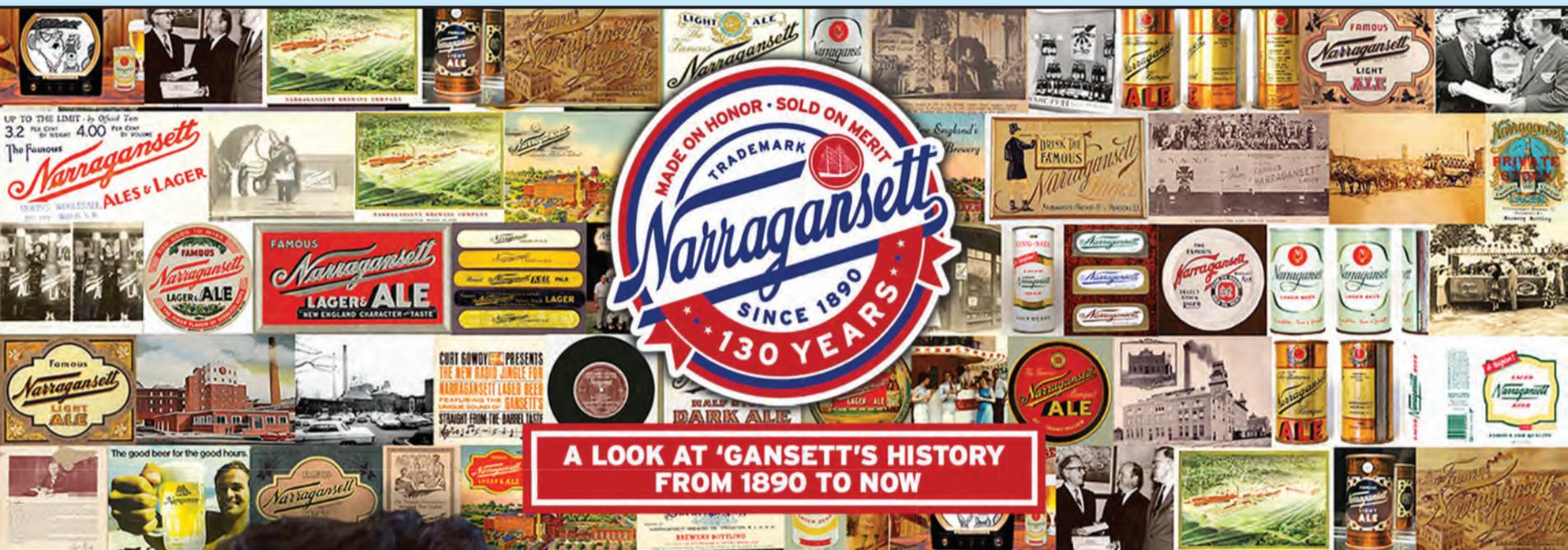
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Gansett has rich history, bright future



James Crooks
 Vice President of Sales and Marketing
 Narragansett Brewing Company
 (Photos by Barbara Polichetti. Above collage courtesy of narragansettbeer.com)

By BARBARA POLICHETTI

It's the folksy, popular slogan that is just part of the rich history of the Narragansett Brewing Company. Founded in 1890, the brewery was once one of Cranston's largest employers and it helped put Rhode Island on the map with its crisp lager beer made with "the sparkling waters of the Scituate Reservoir."

Last week, the Cranston Historical Society featured a presentation on the brewery's history at its general membership meeting at the Sprague Mansion. Sandra Moyer, president of the society, noted that the group, which is marking its 75th anniversary this year, is always looking for interesting historical topics to present to the public. The story of the Narragansett Brewery was a natural fit," she said. "Many of us still have fond memories of the important role (it) played in our city's history," Moyer said.

The fond memories were apparent, as more than 65 people showed up to hear James Crooks, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Narragansett Brewing Company, talk about its long and complex history. It all began, he said, at the turn of the 20th century when a group of German immigrants eschewed the pale ale that was popular in the area and set out to create a taste of home by brewing their own lager beer.

They more than succeeded. At its peak, Narragansett Brewery was producing about 2 million barrels of beer a year and at one time was also the number one selling brand in New England.

Crooks is clearly passionate about the history of the brewery and has an almost-encyclopedic knowledge of it. He talked about its inception, its glory days, its demise, its ongoing resurrection, and its popularity in the 21st century.

The beer is currently brewed in upstate New York, but Crooks and company president Mark Hellendrung are clearly committed to all things Rhode Island. Occasionally sipping from a Narragansett 'Anchor' light lager as he spoke, he invited the crowd to come visit the Narragansett Brewery taproom that overlooks India Point Park in Providence.

The company continues to grow and offers a variety of brews, including a changing menu at the taproom which is only a few miles from the original Cranston site where it all began. Narragansett beers are available primarily on the East Coast, he said, with strong popularity in New York and, of course, Rhode Island. The future looks bright again, he said.

While brewed in New York, beer still rooted in RI

Narragansett

(Continued from page 12)

Here are some of the historical details he shared:

- The brewery was able to survive prohibition by keeping revenue flowing with the production of sodas. It was one of only six breweries in the country to get a special patent that allowed it to be prescribed for medicinal purposes. In particular, Narragansett's malt-rich porter was often a remedy of choice for anemia.
- The "Cat in the Hat" and Narragansett Beer have something in common. After prohibition, Rudolf Haffenreffer Jr. took the helm of the the Narragansett Brewing Company. His son, Rudolf Haffenreffer III, went to Dartmouth College where one of his friends happened to be Theodor cq Geisel, an aspiring author and artist who the world would eventually come to know by his pen name: Dr. Seuss. Geisel did some advertising artwork for the brewery, and traces



SANDRA MOYER

of his distinctive style can be seen on the beer trays and coasters he created.

- In the 1940's Narragansett became the first brewery to sponsor a sports team, and it did it twice. It became the official sponsor of both the Boston Red Sox and Boston Braves, increasing the brewery's visibility and fan base.
- The famous and friendly "Hi Neighbor!" advertising campaign was born in the '40s when the brewing company's advertising manager, Jack Haley, capitalized on a casual greeting used in his own neighborhood.
- Also in the 1940's, Narragansett beer had a hand in supporting the creation of the Jimmy Fund. There had been a national radio broadcast featuring a visit that some Boston Braves baseball players made to young boy fighting cancer. The boy was called 'Jimmy' to protect his identity and the broadcast struck a chord with the public. Narragansett, as the official sponsor of the teams, had sport announces continue to promote the charity at ensuing ballgames. The Braves continued their support until the team moved to Milwaukee in the 1950's. After that, the Boston Red Sox adopted the Jimmy Fund as their official charity.
- The 1950's and 60's saw the heydays of the brewery, and by 1965, three out of every four beers poured in Rhode Island were Narragansett. Annual production, including other brand-name beers, was about 2 million barrels (the equivalent of approximately 60 million gallons).
- It was no accident that Narragansett Beer had an unforgettable supporting role in the movie Jaws. It was the can of beer quaffed and crushed by the character Captain Quint. Director Steve Spielberg wanted every detail to be as locally accurate as possible, so, according to Crooks, he had production crew members ask Massachusetts fishermen what they drank, and the answer was "Gansett."



BalletRI presents "Cinderella"

The glittering rags-to-riches story—
A magical spectacle for the whole family

Get ready to be swept away into a world of enchantment as BalletRI proudly announces its upcoming world premiere production, Cinderella. The glittering rags-to-riches story will be choreographed by the acclaimed Yury Yanowsky. It is a timeless tale for the whole family to enjoy, brought to life with fresh and compelling flair.

"I am delighted to close our season with the unveiling of a World Premiere production of this treasured familyfriendly ballet," said Kathleen Breen Combes, Ballet RI's director. As we continue to reimagine ballet with creativity and creation at our core, this new production will feature fresh and innovative choreography, brilliant sets, and costumes, all against a backdrop of Prokofiev's timeless and whimsical score."

Prepare for an evening filled with sparkling elegance, uproarious comedy, and captivating magic, set to Sergei Prokofiev's timeless score. With a wave of the Fairy Godmother's wand, audiences will be transported to the enchanting ball, where Cinderella's magical transformation takes center stage.

The performance marks Ballet RI's first fully staged non-holiday production at The Vets since 2020, a milestone we hope audiences will celebrate as we bring a season filled with artistic innovation and excellence to a close. Be among the first to witness the debut of Ballet RI's captivating interpretation of Cinderella and immerse yourself in a magical world suitable for audiences of all ages, perfect for a memorable outing with loved ones.

Performances will occur on Friday, May 10th, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11th, at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 12th, at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased as single tickets or as part of a subscription package.

Prepare to be spellbound by BalletRI's Cinderella, The Glittering Rags-To-Riches Story—a magical experience the whole family will cherish!

Event Details: Title: Ballet RI presents CINDERELLA The Glittering Rags-To-Riches Story Dates: May 10-12, 2024 Location: The Vets, One Avenue of the Arts, Providence Performance Dates: Friday, May 10 - 7:30 pm Saturday, May 11 - 1:00 pm Saturday, May 11 - 7:30 pm Sunday, May 12 - 1:00 pm Tickets are on sale now!

The opening night of the Gala follows the May 10 performance. Please note gala tickets and performance admission are sold separately. For more information and photos, please get in touch with abby@rmopr.com. For tickets, visit www.balletri.org (<http://www.balletri.org/>).

About Ballet RI: Ballet RI is dedicated to enriching the cultural landscape of Rhode Island through the art of ballet. With a commitment to artistic excellence, innovation, and accessibility, Ballet RI aims to inspire and captivate audiences of all ages while nurturing the next generation of dancers.



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By **JENNIFER COATES**



Meet the dedicated team of professionals at Specialty Home Care Services, Inc. (left to right) **Alicia Lima (Recruiter/Coordinator)**, **President Anne Shattuck**, **Deb Guglielmo (Office Manager)** and **Mary French, BSN, Registered Nurse**.

There comes a time in life when our own needs, or the needs of our loved ones, exceed our ability, time, and resources to meet them. Perhaps that need is for just light housekeeping and assistance with activities of daily living such as dressing and bathing. Perhaps that need is for doing the laundry or preparing meals and picking up that necessary prescription. Perhaps that need is for companionship and conversation.

As we age, basic tasks that we used to do independently and with ease often become difficult to manage on our own. This is the time to call in the help of Specialty Home Care Services, Inc., an agency that has been caring for people in their homes for over 20 years; an agency that helps carry the weight of aging gracefully with compassion and care.

There is no better team of dedicated professionals than can be found at Specialty Home Care Services (SHCS) with its offices in both Johnston and Worcester, MA. President Anne Shattuck, one of the founders of the agency, leads a closeknit team of women who devote their time and talents to coordinating care for their many clients.

This care begins with a first call to the office where one will hear the friendly voice of office manager Deb Guglielmo. Deb will walk you through the steps of eligibility such as insurance coverage and private pay rates ~ she is an excellent resource for those navigating this experience for their first time or when the client's level of care and need for services have changed.

Once eligibility is determined, a home assessment is scheduled with the client and/or family. The home visit is done by Mary French, a longtime RN who is known for her personal touch. Mary will assess the client's needs and establish an individualized care plan. Though Mary is a

nurse, Specialty Home Care Services does NOT provide medical care of any kind, instead, they provide comfort, basic care, and companionship so their clients can remain in their own home.

Next the client is matched with the best caregiver(s) for their needs. Specialty Home Care Services has many dedicated caregivers who go above and beyond every day for their clients and Alicia Lima, Recruiter/Coordinator, is always searching for more CNAs and Certified Homemakers to provide the care offered by SHCS. She is looking for caregivers who are responsible, reliable, caring,

kind, patient, and passionate about the people they serve.

Specialty Home Care Services is set apart from other agencies because of both this committed team of professionals and the way they care for the clients who come to them by way of personal referral or select insurance providers.

To get more information about how Specialty Home Care Services can help you or your loved one, contact the office at 401-455-0111 or visit them at 1395 Atwood Avenue, Suite 105 in Johnston, RI. To reach them in Worcester, call 508-366-1330.

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Sports

DiGiacomo inspires on and off field

By ALEX SPONSELLER

It has been a busy few weeks for Johnston's Rayna DiGiacomo.

The JHS sophomore is getting prepared to compete in her third Miss Rhode Island's Teen competition as Johnston's representative. The Miss Rhode Island's Teen organization rewards winners with a college scholarship and even pays for college in full should the winner enroll in a selected list of schools provided by the company. The winner also gets to go to Ms. America and receive additional sponsorships on their journey.

DiGiacomo's cause that she is supporting as part of the competition is organ donation and she recently spoke at events put on by Donate Life America and New England Donor Services. Along with her community work, she has also been in the thick of gathering sponsors and working on her talent for the competition on May 12th.

"It's very demanding. You need to have everything in for a specific deadline and if you do sports or work outside of school, you have to do it on top of that. It's very busy getting everything in. I am much more comfortable now (after multiple years), my platform has improved. I have done more events and my public speaking has improved over the past two years," DiGiacomo said of the preparation process, which has been every bit rewarding as it has been challenging. "It's very inspiring. This program helps you with your speech, your confidence, your growth. It prepares you for a whole bunch of things that you wouldn't think you needed to prepare for."

Not only has she been getting ready for the Ms.



BUSY SCHEDULE: Rayna DiGiacomo takes a photo with Gov. Dan McKee as she gets ready to compete in the Miss Rhode Island's Teen event. (Submitted photos)



■ INSPIRES - PAGE 16



ROUNDING THIRD: Matt Clements heads for home. (Photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Panthers get back on track

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Johnston baseball team picked up a much-needed win last week in a 13-5 decision over East Greenwich.

Armani Arias paced the Panther offense, going 3-for-3 with seven runs batted in. Matt Clements went 2-for-4 with three RBI, while Steven Finegan, Dean Paris and Davian Nunez also drove in runs.

Ethan Bracey got the win on the mound for Johnston, tossing five innings and picking up five strikeouts.

Another busy April for Boston sports

Thursday marks one of my favorite days on the sports calendar: The NFL Draft.

This is perhaps the most intriguing draft that the New England Patriots have faced this century as they currently hold the No. 3 overall pick and have a roster that is littered with holes.

The presumed selection in the first round is a quarterback, whether it is LSU's Jayden Daniels, North Carolina's Drake Maye, or Michigan's JJ McCarthy. Although I tend to agree with most mock drafts that forecast a signal caller, the options are fascinating.

Patriot staffers have left the door open for a potential trade back in order to grab some additional picks. That is the right call considering the number of issues this team has and

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

the concerns of the quarterbacks that will be in the conversation.

Daniels is too run-dependent, Maye is too erratic in his processing, McCarthy lacks elite physical tools. All three have enough to be considered in the first round and all three have a chance to become franchise players. However, the Pats are better off kicking the can

■ PITCH - PAGE 16

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TEAMMATES: DiGiacomo with the JHS flag football team.

■ Inspires

(Continued from page 15)

Rhode Island Teen event, but she has also been working as the quarterback of the newly formed JHS girls flag football team. The squad began its preseason on April 11 and will be seeing its first game action in a tournament on May 11th.

DiGiacomo has had a blast being part of the new tradition at the school, and is proud to help make a statement along with her teammates.

"Our team is wonderful. We learned 11 plays from April 11th to now, when we're running scrimmages we get to run the plays. Many people say it's a man's sport, but with our team and the tourna-

ments coming up, we have risen so many different ways," DiGiacomo said. "We became more confident, we have a sisterhood with each other and we enjoy practice so much. We proved that a sport can be made for girls and guys."

Although most underclassmen would be overwhelmed with such a hectic schedule, DiGiacomo has embraced it and made the most of the lessons she has learned along the way.

"Being so busy has pushed me in so many ways, but it has been so many good ways that have helped me learn how to manage my time. It has helped with my confidence, my time management skills, and being open to things. It has been a great experience," DiGiacomo said.



TAKING HOME SOME HARDWARE: Members of the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy show off the trophies they won at the recent Ocean State Grand National Karate Championships. (Submitted photo)

DRKA wins big at Ocean State Grand Nationals

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Don Rodrigues Karate Academy captured 47 trophies and awards at the 42nd Annual Ocean State Grand Nationals, recently held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI. With 36 states and 11 countries in attendance over the three-day event, the competition featured some of the best in the world of Sport Karate.

Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi was inducted into the Ocean State Nationals Hall of Fame at the Nighttime show, which will air on the CW Channel every Saturday morning in the month of May! Special thanks go out to sponsors and supporters – the City of Warwick, Ocean State Collision Center, Paul Mitchell Hair Products, Female Fighters Matter 2, Century Martial Arts, Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation and Asian World of Martial Arts.

With 25 competitors from the Don Rodrigues Karate Academy, they captured 11 First places, seven second places, nine third places, four fourth places, and 16 fifth places for a total of 47 trophies and awards.

■ Pitch

(Continued from page 15)

down the road, grabbing another few picks and rebuilding the rest of the roster.

Drafting a developmental quarterback is essential. If New England drops to later in the first round, one of the aforementioned signal callers may still be available. If not, guys like Bo Nix and Michael Penix will almost certainly still be there to take. Although most scouts are lower on those two, they are not all that far off, if at all, from the other guys listed ahead of them.

New England desperately needs an offensive tackle. It needs a wide receiver, perhaps two. It needs a cornerback, a free safety. All of these needs must be addressed for this team to take a step forward.

Anything past, say, the third round is essentially a flier. No prospect is ever a sure thing, but the hit rate in rounds 1-3 is much better than 4-7. Point being, the Pats need to accumulate an additional pick or two in the first three rounds and address all of these needs. Either way, this season will be a rebuild, but if they can add some good young players at those positions, they could at least be competitive and approach a .500 record.

I understand the urgency to draft a quarterback. I understand that sometimes, you can't mess around and you just need to get the best guy available, even if you are taking a risk.

Well, although I agree with that notion in most cases, I disagree this time around. Caleb Williams is going first overall to Chicago and is the clear-cut best at the position this season. The next five or six guys are all roughly the same. Trade back, take one of those guys, and focus on rebuilding the rest of the roster.

Staying on the national scene, Boston also has the Celtics and Bruins in the first round of their respective playoff runs. I say it all the time, but April is the best month on the professional sports calendar. The NFL Draft, NBA and NHL playoffs, the beginning of the MLB season, The Masters. It's a lot of fun.

Well, back to the C's and B's. My hopes are high for one and not so much the other.

Let's start with the Celtics.

Anything short of a championship win is a failure. The team has pushed all of its chips to the center of the table for the past two seasons and has truly developed the league's best roster. It was reflected in its league-best record this regular season.

The Eastern Conference is weak. The best team other than Boston is Milwaukee, but the Bucks are banged up and haven't had an answer for the Celtics all things considered. Boston should have no trouble winning the conference and reaching the finals.

The one team this season that has really been better than the Celtics has been the defending champion Nuggets in the West. Boston had the better record, but Denver won both meetings.

Denver is almost the anti-Boston. Big, strong, physical and mean. The Celtics are a finesse team that relies on speed, ball movement and sharp shooting. If the ball is not falling, then things get tough for the Celtics, especially against smash-mouth opponents like Denver.

If Denver should get bounced short of the finals, then the Celtics will win it all. If they meet, that becomes a 50-50 bet. If I had to chose right here, right now, I'm going Denver. The Celtics just haven't proven that they can beat them in a seven-game series.

As for the Bruins, I'll be much briefer. I don't believe in them.

Last year's historic collapse ... perhaps the biggest implosion in the history of the sport ... has left a bitter taste in my mouth. Sure, this is a new team, new season, but I can't get past what we witnessed last season. The best regular season team in history bounced in the first round.

Jeremy Swayman and Linus Ullmark are overrated in the net and the Bruins just don't have enough pop in the third and fourth lines to keep up with the elite teams. Although the defense is young and tough, playoff games are won with sharp goaltending and efficient offense. The Bruins will struggle with each no matter how long they last.

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Locals shine at Collier Invitational

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Senior Trinity Hayes (Providence) finished second in the 200 (25.55) and third in the 100m (12.59), while sophomore Haley Oliver (Coventry) and junior Samantha Sainristil (Cranston) established new program records, as the Rhode Island College women's track and field team competed at MIT's Sean Collier Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

It was an individual meet with no team scoring.

Oliver finished second in the 1,500m (4:48.23) with a new program record and placed 19th in the 800m (2:26.14).

Sainristil finished fifth in the hammer (45.49m), eighth in the shot (11.39m) with a new program record and 15th in the discus (32.10m).

Sophomore Bethanie Jean-Philippe (Cranston) finished fourth in the javelin (34.19m) and 10th in the triple jump (9.64m).

Sophomore Milana Melvin (Johnston) finished 18th in the hammer (35.11m).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2024 Little East Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championship on Saturday, April 27 (10 a.m.).

Anchormen win 400 relay event

Sophomore Izaiah Karweh (Providence) finished first in the 4x100m relay (43.39), second in the high jump (1.82m) and 13th in the 100m (11.35) as the Rhode Island College men's track and field team competed at MIT's Sean Collier Invitational on Saturday.

Junior Garrett Jones (Beacon Falls, Conn.) finished fourth in the triple jump (12.90m) and 13th in the long

jump (5.83m)

Sophomore Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown) finished fifth in the hammer (50.88m) and 22nd in the discus (29.97m).

Freshman Gabriel Dosunmu (Providence) finished first in the 4x100m relay (43.39), fourth in the long jump (6.67m) and 26th in the 100m (23.50)

Freshman Will Schiller (Smithfield) finished first in the 4x100m relay (43.39), 10th in the 400m (51.40) and 24th in the 100m (23.45).

Freshman Alexander Pinheiro (Warwick) finished first in the 4x100m relay (43.39), 12th in the 100m (11.34) and 30th in the 100m (23.65).

Senior Christopher McCarthy (Cranston) finished 13th in the hammer (45.22m).

Sophomore Isiah Briggs (Providence) finished 14th in the long jump (5.79m), 23rd in the 100m (11.55) and 31st in the 100m (23.69).

Freshman Trevor Morgan (Smithfield) finished 14th in both the hammer (44.23m) and discus (33.68m).

Freshman Andrew Frezza (Johnston) finished 16th in the 1,500m (4:19.13) and 49th in the 800m (2:12.45).

Sophomore Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown) finished 45th in the 800m (2:02.47).

Freshman Hussein Niyonkuru (Providence) finished 51st in the 800m (2:13.88).

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2024 Little East Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship on Saturday, April 27 (10 a.m.).

RIC softball gets comeback win

Freshman left fielder Melanie Earley (Lumberton, N.J.) knocked in the

game-winning run and sophomore second baseman Noelle Simmons (Goffstown, N.H.) went 4-for-4 as the Rhode Island College softball team came from behind to defeat Southern Maine, 3-2, in the second game of a Little East twinbill and complete a sweep on Saturday afternoon.

The game was a pitchers' duel for the first three innings as both teams were kept scoreless.

Earley put the visitors on top, 1-0, in the fourth, but the Huskies tied it in the home half of the frame and went ahead, 2-1, in the fifth.

In the seventh inning and down a run, senior first baseman Katelyn Ashe (Colchester, Conn.) reached first base on a throwing error, which allowed Simmons to score and tie the game.

Earley hit a single up the middle to send the eventual game-winning run across the plate.

Junior pitcher Taylor Babcock (East Providence) threw six innings and gave up just one earned run (11-0).

After hurling a five-inning, four-hitter in the opener, junior pitcher Abby Kidd (Granby, Conn.) kept USM off the board in the bottom of the seventh to pick up her second save of the season.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will continue Little East play with a doubleheader at home vs. UMass Dartmouth on Tuesday, April 23 (4 p.m.).

Women's lacrosse falls to UMD

Junior midfielder Maggie Schwab (Saunderstown, R.I.) finished with two goals, four draw controls and a pair of ground balls as Rhode Island College fell, 14-5, vs. UMass Dartmouth in Little East action played at Alumni Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The Corsairs built a 3-0 advantage before freshman midfielder Sophie DeFlitch (Hummelstown, Pa.) scored on a free position shot with 6:36 remaining in the first quarter.

Junior midfielder Hannah Marley (Tiverton, R.I.) scored for the Anchorwomen as the hosts went into halftime trailing by four, 6-2.

Schwab tallied to start both the third and fourth quarters and DeFlitch added another free position strike with under a minute left to cap the Anchorwomen's scoring on the day.

Freshman goalkeeper Giana Franco (Salem, Conn.) turned away 13 Corsair offerings, picked up a team-high six ground balls and caused a pair of turnovers in a losing effort (1-7).

DeFlitch added three ground balls and two caused turnovers.

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will continue Little East action at home vs. Southern Maine on Wednesday, April 24 (4 p.m.).

Anchormen come up short

Sophomore second baseman Lucas McElroy (Westport, Mass.) scored the lone run for the Anchormen as the Rhode Island College lost vs. Salve Regina, 4-1, in a rain-shortened contest played at Pontarelli Field on Thursday afternoon.

With RIC trailing, 1-0, in the fourth, McElroy scored on a wild pitch to tie the game up.

The Seahawks snapped the deadlock in the top of the fifth by scoring three times to take a 4-1 lead.

RIC freshman reliever Ethan Harnois (North Smithfield R.I.) pitched the top of the sixth inning in his first collegiate appearance and recorded a strikeout. The game was called early due to heavy rain before the bottom half of the sixth could be played.

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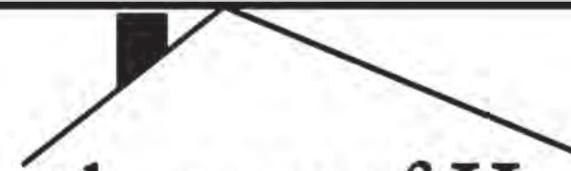
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NOAA says recreational fishing up 22%

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Fisheries Economics of the US, released by NOAA Fisheries, shows recreational fishing in 2022 (the most recent data available) had a dramatic increase compared to 2021. In an advisory last week NOAA said, "Recreational fishing generated \$138 billion in sales impacts marking a 22 percent increase from 2021 to 2022 and remains an important part of the U.S. tourism sector and coastal economies."

In Massachusetts, the sales impact of recreational fishing without durable goods was \$202,000,000 and in Rhode Island it was \$73,000,000.

The most frequently caught fish recreationally in 2022 were seatrout (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico with 70.1 million fish), striped bass (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, 33.5 million fish), and summer flounder (Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, 29 million fish).

The average guide fee expenditures for each state generally increased between the 2017 expenditure survey and the 2022 expenditure survey. The highest average regional guide expenditure was in the North Pacific (\$767), and the lowest average was in New England (\$151).

U.S. commercial and recreational fishing supported 2.3 million full- and part-time jobs in fishing and across the broader economy generating \$321 billion in sales impacts and contributing \$149 bil-

lion to gross domestic product.

Here is a link to the 2022 Fisheries Economics of the US website and report: Fisheries Economics of the United States Report | NOAA Fisheries

Better Bay Alliance workshop on Revolution Wind project

The Better Bay Alliance and Ørsted Marine Affairs will hold a presentation and panel discussion on construction of the Revolution Wind farm on Thursday, April 25, 5 to 6 p.m. at Innovate Newport, 513 Broadway, Newport, RI.

The event will include discussions on the construction of the nearshore power cable as it enters the Bay from the windfarm. To register for the event visit Narragansett Bay Community Series: Revolution Wind Construction and Mariner Tickets, Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 5 PM | Eventbrite.

Seasoned industry professionals, environmental advocates, mariners or those simply curious about the future of offshore wind energy are invited to attend. The event will provide an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge and participate in discussions shaping the future of our oceans and energy landscape.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing. Anglers are encouraged to get out and fish in RI and MA as waterways have been stocked with trout.

Tom Giddings of the

Tackle Box in Warwick, said, "Anglers are fishing stocked ponds for trout and are doing well."

"The largemouth and trout bite has been outstanding this past week. We are just at the beginning of the pre-spawn period, so in a couple of days as the water warms the largemouth bite will do nothing but improve in the shallows. DEM in Rhode Island did a great job stocking once again this year. The trout last week were keying in on natural bait presentations which is unusual for newly stocked fish as they often are first interested in artificial baits until the acclimate," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "Trout waterways still producing for customers include Caruncle Pond, Coventry and Olney Pond, Lincoln Woods."

Striped bass. East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, "School bass are coming into the Canal from Buzzards Bay and some small tautog have been landed."

Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "At the beginning of last week we had migrating striped bass being caught at the West Wall of the Harbor of Refuge and then things slowed for the remainder of the week. Anglers fishing from the beaches are getting sporadic action too." "Migrating striped bass with lice on them are in Narragansett Bay. The

herring came into the Bay, followed by Atlantic menhaden and then the striped bass were right behind them this week. Anglers are catching them in the Providence River, at Haines Park in East Providence and at the breachways along our southern coastal shore," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle.

Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, said, "The striped bass bite are in Mt. Hope Bay and in the East Passage all the way up to the Providence River. We have a lot of adult Atlantic menhaden in the water, more than usual, but what seems to be working for anglers are top water, needle fish and shad lures."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown said about spring bass migrating, "I usually search for structures that are located according to our predominate SW wind. These structures tend to hold bait and make great feeding grounds for migratory fish. Some of these sites include the West Wall, the western sides of the Breachway, and the area in front of Ocean Mist."

Tautog fishing is improving in our Bays and along the coastal shore. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box said, "Customers are catching a lot of short fish in the Providence Fox Point and India Point areas but some nice keepers have been caught at Plum Beach Light in North Kingstown."

"Tautog fishing has been improving with fish



LARGEMOUTH BASS: Expert angler Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren with the 7-pound largemouth bass he caught this week using a spinner bait in a Narragansett, RI pond. (Submitted photo)

being caught in Providence and in our estuaries like the Warren River." said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, said, "The tautog bite is pretty good. Anglers did well catching double digit fish south of Block Island last week, but also anglers are doing well at the breachways with customers catching five to six pound fish. And some anglers are catching an

occasional cod fish when tautog fishing."

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.

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Real Estate Transactions

Coventry

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------|-----------|
| 12 Giovanni Rose Ct | Picard, Steven M | Hutnak, Raymond E and Hutnak, Eileen F | 4/2 | \$259,000 |
| 144-144A Hopkins Hill Rd | Spada, Joseph P and Harris, Evelyn F | Kirtland, Toby | 4/2 | \$180,000 |

Cranston

| ADDRESS | SELLERS | BUYERS | DATE | PRICE |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------|-----------|
| 5 Gray Coach Ln Lot 511 | Petteruti, Arthur | Lorie J Giannini Ft and Donohue, Susan A | 3/28 | \$356,000 |
| 10 East St Lot 104 | Federal Natl Mtg Assn | J&s Invest LLC | 4/3 | \$134,000 |
| 10 East St Lot 310 | Gilbane Pontiac Ave LLC | Murphy, Shane P | 4/1 | \$255,000 |
| 12 Wisteria Ln | Rivera, Jennifer P | Bento, Paul J and Bento, Lisa M | 3/29 | \$475,000 |
| 15 Brandon Rd | Jordan, Thomas S | Skm Enterprises LLC | 3/28 | \$275,000 |
| 20 Friendly Rd | Lambert Jr, Raymond and Lambert, Taylor | Gagnon, Tyler D | 3/29 | \$390,000 |
| 20 Lookout Ave | Neou, Voeun | Prum, Pulkunminea and Neou, Savath | 3/29 | \$270,000 |
| 21-23 Blackamore Ave Lot 644 | McLoughlin, Christopher | Oliver-Oneil, Shannon E and Tarleton, William B | 4/2 | \$545,000 |
| 21-23 Blackamore Ave Lot 643 | McLoughlin, Christopher | Oliver-Oneil, Shannon E and Tarleton, William B | 4/2 | \$545,000 |
| 29 Judge St | Title Invest Co | Rodriguez, Yissel E | 3/28 | \$1 |
| 32 Palmer Ave | Verrecchia Const Mgmt LLC | Coronel, Abel E | 4/1 | \$416,000 |
| 43 Harwood St | Verduchi, Paul T and Verduchi, Michele M | Lopez, Lourdes F | 4/2 | \$384,000 |
| 51 Midland Dr | Jones, Barbara and Jones, Christopher J | Booth, Jeremy and Booth, Janet | 4/4 | \$240,000 |
| 54 Welfare Ave | Hookway, Bruce and Hookway, Nahiah W | Morton, Kimberly | 3/29 | \$370,000 |
| 58 Washington Ave | Underwood Francis R Est and Underwood, Maureen | Fingers & Fries LLC | 3/28 | \$201,000 |
| 60 Laconia Rd | Ponte, Christopher | Zoglio, Frank J | 3/29 | \$375,000 |
| 65 Rockcrest Dr | Cascade Funding Mtg T Hb9 | Boulay, Jason A | 4/4 | \$330,000 |
| 68 Bennington Rd | Quinlan, Marissa A | Mccormick, Timothy T and Yzaguirre, Charles R | 4/3 | \$476,000 |
| 77 Knollwood Ave | Digennaro, Donna V | Ceike, Lauren M | 4/1 | \$430,000 |
| 85 Fiat Ave Lot 2521 | Enright, Timothy J and Enright, Sarah B | Deady, Aaron J and Carson, Cassidy | 4/1 | \$400,000 |
| 85 Fiat Ave Lot 2522 | Enright, Timothy J and Enright, Sarah B | Deady, Aaron J and Carson, Cassidy | 4/1 | \$400,000 |
| 90 Mayfield Ave | Donfrancesco, Sarah | Taylor, Ka-Lynne and Taylor, Sean | 4/5 | \$360,000 |
| 92 Boxwood Ave | Heywood Firt and Hayes, Sandra L | Dejordy, Alexander | 4/2 | \$305,000 |
| 105 Pleasant St | Jimenez, Ruth D and Sandoval, Rafael | Phildor, Nahomie and Phildor, Vickengson | 3/28 | \$497,000 |
| 120 Whipple Ave | Lee, Choong S and Lee, Kyung J | Kinch, Benjamin and Masse, Taylor | 4/2 | \$320,000 |
| 134 Sagamore Rd | Rossi Ft and Rossi, Vincent A | Laurent, Mark G and Siravo, Bianca A | 4/2 | \$550,000 |
| 139 Albert Ave | Oneil 2nd, Michael P and Plancher, Sabrina S | Lyon Kings LLC | 3/28 | \$326,000 |
| 149 Pleasant St Lot 1129 | Valentino, Thomas J | Lorusso, Carmine | 4/2 | \$340,000 |
| 149 Pleasant St Lot 1132 | Valentino, Thomas J | Lorusso, Carmine | 4/2 | \$340,000 |
| 220 Randall St | Buono, Deborah A and Corvese, Kenneth A | Capuano, Joseph F | 4/2 | \$287,000 |
| 221 Wayland Ave Lot 1691 | Reale, Eric | Stamm, James and Stamm, Katherine | 3/29 | \$410,000 |
| 221 Wayland Ave Lot 1692 | Reale, Eric | Stamm, James and Stamm, Katherine | 3/29 | \$410,000 |
| 227 Summit Dr | Julius Levine T and Gens, Dianne E | Nguyen, Juliana L | 4/5 | \$565,200 |
| 257 E View Ave | Day, Elaine and Marcil, James P | Moll, Robert E | 4/2 | \$410,000 |
| 321 Phenix Ave | Rosa, Joseph R and Murray, Marina L | Garces, Hector and Palacio, Diana | 3/29 | \$425,000 |
| 1180 Narragansett Blvd Lot C3 | Bruno, Amy E and Hernandez, Hayden E | Pagsibigan, Roderick | 4/5 | \$410,000 |

East Greenwich

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|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 18 Maplewood Dr | Gillis Ft and Gillis, Eileen | Bolin, Mikaila and Keppel, Philip | 4/1 | \$565,000 |
| 38 Greene St Lot 7 | Wlloughby, Nancy | Costello, Joan | 4/3 | \$462,000 |
| 110 Partridge Run | Casper, Rodd | Donlon, Sean and Donlon, Jane | 4/5 | \$1,125,000 |

Johnston

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|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------|-----------|
| 9 Susan Cir | Carnevale, Lisa and Carnevale, Kevin | Laster, Rajha and Laster, Dmenique | 4/5 | \$460,000 |
| 16 Spruce St | Kmsa LLC | Chaviano, Manuel | 4/5 | \$327,000 |
| 44 Reservoir Ave | Doyon, Mark D and Doyon, Kerstin L | Troxell, Paul C and Troxell, Eric C | 4/8 | \$875,000 |
| 112 George Waterman Rd | Marsella, Rita A | Samos, Peter G and Taylor-Samos, Elizabeth J | 4/9 | \$290,000 |

Warwick

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|------------------------------|---|---|------|-----------|
| 19 Curtis St | Jev Fincl Corp | Ravikumar, Manoj and Kasula, Trisha | 4/1 | \$280,000 |
| 20 Gloucester St | Van Haaren, Sarah E | Mccall, Judith M | 4/4 | \$399,000 |
| 40 Ashwood Cir | Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC | Brennan, Kimberly S | 4/4 | \$492,000 |
| 44 Northup St | Oshea, John T | West Bay Hm Solutions LLC | 4/5 | \$227,000 |
| 52 Merle St | Noka, Justis J and Streeper, Samantha D | Cashin, Colin and Cashin, Anna C | 4/5 | \$415,000 |
| 78 Shenandoah Rd | Worrall, Alan M and Gaudiano, Michael E | Dengel, Alexis | 4/5 | \$445,000 |
| 80 Elite Dr | Morrissey, Sandra J | Simons, Matthew and Dambra, Mikayla | 4/5 | \$380,000 |
| 80 Posnegansett Ave | Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp | Geisser, Matthew W and Geisser, Barbara E | 4/1 | \$1 |
| 99 Everill St | Engelhardt, Robert D | One Main Invest LLC | 4/2 | \$200,000 |
| 100 Wood St | Morris Jr, Leo A | Peloso, Zachary and Peloso, Samantha | 4/1 | \$189,000 |
| 104 Haley Rd | M&m Rlty LLC | Perez, Edwin and Perez, Kerry | 4/2 | \$500,000 |
| 112 Birkshire Dr | Watson, Michael A | Watson, Lisa | 4/5 | \$525,000 |
| 115 Dickens St | Nordeen Jr, Thomas W and Nordeen, Helen V | Horwood, Gilliam V | 4/5 | \$374,100 |
| 131 Brendard Ave | Deluca, Richard J | Ideal Invest LLC | 4/1 | \$288,000 |
| 166 Beach Ave | Cook Jr, Walter A | Rinn, Robert | 4/5 | \$195,000 |
| 196 Wilbur Ave | Demelo, Kim | Paul, Gregory | 4/5 | \$379,900 |
| 200 Post Rd Lot 212 | Jaffa, Abigail | Bartley, Daniel and Bartley, Ellen D | 4/5 | \$261,000 |
| 225 Custer St | Sass, David W | Boissonneault, Joseph | 4/1 | \$385,000 |
| 763 Williamsburg Cir Lot 763 | Favali, Genevieve | Precious, Walter and Precious, Jane | 4/1 | \$221,777 |
| 789 Williamsburg Cir Lot 789 | Gallo, Eileen | Mcdaniels, Elizabeth A | 4/5 | \$380,000 |
| 881 Greenwich Ave Lot A3 | Heiss, Anita J | Currier, Kathleen J | 4/1 | \$385,000 |

West Greenwich

| ADDRESS | SELLERS | BUYERS | DATE | PRICE |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|------|-----------|
| 58 Vale Ct | Coen, Kimberly A | Springer, Stephen S and Springer, Amanda R | 4/4 | \$785,558 |
| 251-B Mishnock Rd | Greenwich Cap Partner LLC | Kendel, Laurel | 4/5 | \$110,000 |

West Warwick

| ADDRESS | SELLERS | BUYERS | DATE | PRICE |
|-----------------------------|--|--|------|-----------|
| 12 Bradley Ct | Caramiciu, Zachary | Gmm Realty LLC | 4/8 | \$340,000 |
| 12 Village Ct Lot 12 | Devoe, Craig A | Medeiros, Leslie A | 4/3 | \$210,000 |
| 27 Vincenzo Dr | Hersey, Laurie and Williams, Linda B | The Agency LLC | 4/3 | \$237,500 |
| 43 Sheffield Ave | Pamela A Petrone Lt and Huntley, Christine D | Gardner, Robin | 4/9 | \$360,000 |
| 52 Peters Ln | V Madeleine Harpor T and Harrop, Peter J | Harop, Kelly R | 4/5 | \$300,000 |
| 66 W Valley Cir Lot 16 | Residences At West Vly In | Culbert, Susan L | 4/9 | \$432,400 |
| 70 W Valley Dr Lot 12 | Residences At West Vly | Kaplan, Cynthia C | 4/5 | \$437,400 |
| 75 W Valley Dr Lot 9 | Residences At West Vly | Paul C & P J Gagnon Irt and Gagnon, Paul C | 4/4 | \$429,900 |
| 94 Tower Rd | Cuevas, Aracely | Donfrancesco, Sarah | 4/5 | \$450,000 |
| 128 Lockwood St | West Warwick Town Of | Gosnold Investments LLC | 4/5 | \$1,306 |
| 650 E Greenwich Ave Lot 408 | Norris, Rita A | Pelletier, Karen | 4/9 | \$240,000 |

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Corral Clutter with a Mudroom



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

FAMILY FEATURES

Often positioned near the primary point of entry, mudrooms are a popular addition to many family homes. These organizational dynamos are the perfect place to catch muddy boots, backpacks, sports equipment and dirty paws before they make it all the way into the main living areas.

Luxurious mudrooms in high-end homes can sometimes boast custom cabinetry, full bathrooms, laundry facilities, showers for pets and direct pantry access.

Regardless of whether your mudroom is an actual room or just a small space near the front door to hang bags and jackets, the

organizational basics are the same:

Corral Clutter: One of the most important items in any mudroom is storage for shoes, pet supplies, backpacks, sporting equipment and other items. If built-in storage isn't in your budget, put up a sturdy shelving unit with a bin or basket for each family member.

Get Hooked: Securely anchor a row of strong hooks along the wall for coats, hats, scarves or other seasonal accessories that may otherwise find themselves dropped on the floor upon arriving home.

Mud Happens: Mudrooms are meant to handle dirt so nix the carpet and lay down tile or hardwood flooring. Pick a stylish rug to catch

dirt in its tracks while also adding a design element to the space.

Shoe Space: Place a wooden bench or sturdy coffee table near the door so everyone has a place to sit while removing shoes. Slide a few baskets or bins underneath as an alternate location for storing backpacks and other gear when not in use.

Take Command: Create a family command center by adding a small cabinet or desk with a corkboard above. It makes for a perfect spot to stash keys, charge cell phones, open mail, sort school papers and post the family calendar.

Find more organization tips and tricks at eLivingtoday.com.

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April 27 & 28

Spring Quilt Fest

The Narragansett Bay Quilters' Association is sponsoring a Spring Quilt Fest to be held on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, Apr. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the West Warwick Civic Center, 100 Factory Street, West Warwick. Quilts galore, Quilt and Basket Raffles. Special Exhibits: Barbara Barber, Quilting Education. Admission: \$10 (Children under 12 free). www.nbqa.org

May 1

Oak Lawn Baptist May Breakfast

The Oaklawn Community Baptist Church will hold its 155th Annual May Breakfast on Wednesday, May 1, from 7 to 11 a.m., at 229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston. Menu: Clam cakes, scrambled eggs, ham, cornbread, coffee, juice and apple pie. Tickets: \$10 pp and \$5 for children under 10 years of age. People will be seated on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information or directions, please contact: 401-944-0864.

May 4

St. Rocco 60th

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.

May 5

Animal Defenders May Breakfast

The Defenders of Animals is sponsoring its annual May breakfast on Sunday, May 5 at the Governor Sprague Mansion, 1351 Cranston St., Cranston, at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance at www.defendersofanimals.org. All net proceeds are used for the group's low-cost spay/neuter and animal emergency medical care for cats and dogs. For more information contact: Dennis at 401-461-1922.

May 11

Historic Yard Sale

On Saturday, May 11, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., the Johnston Historical Society will host a Yard Sale at the JHS Museum, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. Please, no early birds. The Historical Society offers tables to the public for a donation. Those who would like to set up a six-foot table (they must bring their own), can do so for \$25 donation to the JHS. If anyone has questions, they can contact Anthony Ursillo at aursillo401@gmail.com or 401-764-5901.

May 14 - June 5

Driver's Ed Course in ASL

Rhode Island School for the Deaf is taking registration now for RI Driver Education Course and will meet Mon. thru Fri., 3:15 to 5:15 p.m., with one Fri., May 31, at 2:15 - 5:15 p.m., at RI School for the Deaf, 1 Corliss Park, Providence. Course fee is \$100 plus \$10 registration fee = \$110. Total: 33 hours and MUST ATTEND ALL CLASSES! On-line registration is available on the RISD site with a credit card. Make sure to use the class ID #5643. Or register and pay in full through CCRI. Walk-in registration with payment of either cash, check or money order (payable to CCRI) accepted at one of the CWCE (Center for workforce & Community Education) in Lincoln, Providence or Warwick. Textbook required: New "How to Drive: Making Driver Education Fun and Easy!" 15th edition before the first-class meeting. Cost: \$26.95. Available at CCRI Bookstore and AAA. Bookstore does not accept checks as payment: Cash or credit card only. Refund Policy: Must notify at least 48 hours before the start of class. Attendees are responsible for their own transportation.

May 18

Apple Blossom Club Plant Sale

The Apple Blossom Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blackbird Farm, 660 Douglas Pike, Smithfield. Free samples of Organic Fertilizer Tea from "Let It Grow" from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Great selection and pricing on perennials, annuals, herbs and Vegetables. Over 50+ varieties of tomato plants.

Aug. 3

JHS Class of '14 Reunion

The Johnston High School Class of 2014 will be hosting its 10-Year Reunion this summer! The event will be Saturday, Aug. 3, at R1 Entertainment from 5 to 9 p.m. The venue is located at 100 Higgins Ave., Lincoln. Tickets are \$50 a person, which includes food and a drink ticket. The class has an optional "Where are they now?" Form on the website that they encourage fellow alumni to fill out (they to put together a presentation for everyone who participated).

"We hope to see you all at the reunion this summer!" wrote Jordan Villella, the class member organizing the reunion.

Through April 30

Spring Cleaning Drive

Johnston resident Derek La Fazia Jr., 16, a sophomore at La Salle Academy in Providence, has launched a Spring Cleaning Product Drive, benefiting Crossroads Rhode Island.

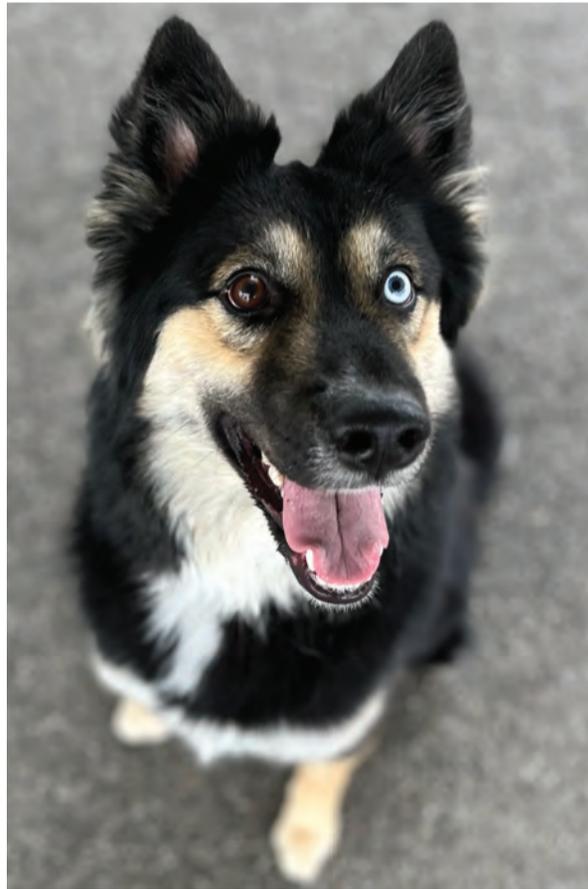
This year, he entered into a partnership with Crossroads RI, and throughout the month of April, he'll host a spring cleaning product drive, that he hopes will become a yearly event. Throughout the month of April he's asking the community to donate household cleaning items or give a contribution to Crossroads in name of the La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive.

La Fazia's asking for "general household cleaning items," including: all purpose cleaning items, toilet cleaner/brushes, glass cleaner, dish soap, scrub brushes, furniture polish, paper towels, dust pans, brooms, mops." Anyone interested in contributing items to the event, can drop items off throughout the month of April at La Fazia Auto Body, 920 Plainfield St., Johnston. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. If you have no time to buy items and drop them off, you can help by mailing checks to Derek at La Fazia Auto Body. (Please make checks out to Crossroads Rhode Island and write "La Fazia Spring Cleaning Drive" on the memo line.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Rio

Rio lights up the room with his big smile and happy energy! Rio is a young mixed breed with a fluffy coat of many colors and eyes to match! He is a two years old and is an active boy so he's looking for an active home! He loves to go on walks, hikes, he loves the water, playful with toys and sits like a perfect gentleman for treats! If you've been looking for a handsome lovable boy, then you just found him! Rio would love to have a fenced in yard because he loves to run. His best home would be adults or older children as he does get a little jumpy when playing. Please contact the Providence Animal Control at PACadoptions@providenceri.gov for more information about how you can meet this magical boy!

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Spring Them Home!

Meet the adoptable animals from Exter Animal Shelter

**Sunday, April 28th
11:00am - 1:00pm**

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Photo credit to Pawprint Studio, CT and
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A Trip to Northern Maine



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



As an auction house, the core part of our business in which we acquire material to sell is by going on house calls. A "house call" is simply when someone makes an appointment for us to come see their collection. If it's local, (under an hour drive) we typically take the chance sight-unseen to go look, as you never know what people have. However, when it's a long distance, even just two hours, we like to see something to let us know it's worth taking a drive for a closer look. As with any business there is nothing more important than time, so that's why we always ask people to send photographs if they're a good distance away.

However, there is sometimes that situation where for whatever reason they cannot send photographs. Usually, the person is older and unfamiliar with digital

photographs and email. That's when the trip becomes a gamble. That's when as an auctioneer and appraiser we need to follow our gut, feel out the phone call, and determine: is it worth it? That's the decision I had to make before driving almost 5 hours to northern Maine

on the Canadian border last week.

The backstory: Last month we received a phone call from a woman with a comic collection in Somerset County Maine. Her husband unfortunately passed away five years ago, leaving her with 21 boxes of comic books and no idea what to do with them. She did not know titles, age, publisher - every detail was a total shot in the dark. The only clue I was given before making the trek was the majority were 10 cents on the cover. That was it - But for me, that was good enough!

Fast forward through six hours of driving and two hours of discovery in the home, and the collection ended up being a treasure trove of Golden Age comics, including numerous E.C. crime and horror books, D.C. hero, and select Silver and Bronze Age keys. The short answer, this collection is awesome!

There was a chance the collection was not going to

be good, but it was the complete opposite and better than expected. What once a woman thought was clutter in her home will now be a near life changing financial nest egg. This is just one story of many we encounter and why it is so important to work with a trusted auction house or appraiser when handling collections, items in storage, or items from the homes of loved ones. You always want to make sure you are properly informed on what you have, because sometimes you never know. It only takes one comic book, trading card, painting, etc. to change your life!



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