



## Top of the class

Nine of the top 10 from the Johnston High School Class of 2021 gathered last Friday morning to celebrate their accomplishments during a socially distanced breakfast. Olaitan Olagundoye, who is No. 10 in the class, was unfortunately unable to attend. Pictured from left to right are valedictorian Kayla Aquilante, salutatorian Audry Mahony, Nicholas Petrillo, Grace Centracchio, Trista Clark, Derek Papa, Laila Harrington, Venessa Melgar and Nicholas Cronan. For more photos, turn to page 6. (Submitted photo)

## School Committee weighs firms for new elementary school

By JACOB MARROCCO

The Johnston School Committee heard presentations from three firms during last Thursday's meeting as a different company is sought to oversee the construction and development of a new elementary school.

After cutting ties with Robinson Green Beretta a few months ago, the district is on a constricted timeline to push forward through Phase 2 of the development process. Johnston stands to lose valuable reimbursement funds from the Rhode Island Department of Education if plans are not turned in by September.

During a three-hour meeting on March 25, the board heard proposals from Fielding International, Finegold Alexander and SLAM on what each would bring to the table in terms of design and timelines.

Both Superintendent of Johnston Schools Bernard DiLullo and School Committee Chair Bob La-

Fazia told the Sun Rise this week that they expect a decision by next Tuesday's budget workshop.

"The Fielding group was very innovative and I thought their building designs were very 21st century," DiLullo said. "We definitely liked their ideas and they definitely did some work in terms of what our goals are. The second, Finegold Alexander, they were a much more traditional architect, definitely more traditional classroom spaces. And then SLAM was another architect that we thought was more toward our thinking in terms of what our schools could look like, with common learning spaces, smaller spacing for group work and the ability to change classroom layout."

Members of the School Committee were reticent to reveal their preferences when reached for comment by the Sun Rise this week. LaFazia said he plans to reach out to representatives individually to gauge which firm they liked the most.

"I think [Fielding] and [SLAM] were probably the best out of the bunch, but everybody has a different point of view and what we're going to do is discuss a little more during the course of the week and go over it, one by one, and make our decision probably by the end of the week so we can vote [Tuesday]," LaFazia said, noting that open meeting rules state gathering with a majority of the group outside of formal proceedings is forbidden.

Vice Chair Joseph Rotella said Wednesday that he was keeping his cards close to his vest in terms of which presentation caught his eye, but there was one he had in mind.

"I thought they were excellent," Rotella said. "I thought we saw three great companies. ... It's a great opportunity for us, a once-in-a-lifetime situation for us. I'm really excited about what could be."

■ SCHOOL - PAGE 5

## 'Everybody has to be on board'

Tri-County, other local health agencies receive \$33 million in funding to boost vaccinations

By JACOB MARROCCO

Members of the local health community and state congressional delegation gathered at the Comprehensive Community Action Program's Cranston Street building on Monday to announce \$33.5 million in federal aid for eight centers across Rhode Island as part of the American Rescue Plan.

CCAP will receive \$3 million, while Johnston's Tri-County Community Action Agency was allotted \$1.6 million.

Six other health centers also receiving a wide range of funding: Blackstone Valley Community Health Care in Pawtucket, \$4 million; East Bay Community Action Program in Newport, \$2.4 million; Northwest Community Health Care in Pascoag, \$2.8 million; Providence Community Health Centers, \$9.7 million; Thundermist Health Center in Woonsocket, \$8.4 million; and Wood River Health Services in Hope Valley, \$1.4 million.

The cash infusion is aimed at increasing vaccination rates across the state, especially in underserved communities and among people of color. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation report cited in a press release for Monday's event, only about 8 percent of Black people across the country have



**A UNITED RHODE ISLAND:** "People of color are very important for the vitality of this state," NAACP Providence Branch President Jim Vincent said Monday. "We want to be vaccinated." Rhode Island community health centers are receiving \$33.5 million in federal aid to help close equity gaps across the state. (Sun Rise photo)

■ FUNDING - PAGE 12

## Pezza celebrates 110th birthday with parade, key to the town

What is the secret to living 110 years?

"The secret is to drink Southern Comfort. Drink that, and it will keep you young," said Emma Pezza, Johnston's newest supercentenarian.

Emma has seen a lot since she was born on March 30, 1911. In her lifetime, she's witnessed two world wars, 20 presidents in office, women gain the right to vote, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, the Great Depression and Great Recession, and the Spanish Flu and COVID-19 pandemics.

"God has been very good to me," Emma said.

"To see this day, what else could I expect? He has been excellent to me."

Emma has lived her entire life in Johnston. She grew up in the George Waterman Road area near Highland Memorial Park. She then moved to Lafayette Street before settling into her home on Putnam Pike in 1954. She's been there ever since.

"It feels so good. I have my family here, even the little ones came out," she said.

Emma has two children, Leonard and Virginia, along with six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and six great-

great-grandchildren.

"I'm so proud of her," said her son, Leonard. "She's in good shape and she can tell some great stories."

To celebrate the milestone, the community came out in droves to social-distance celebrate. A motor parade, led by town police and a fire apparatus, included dozens of cars filled with well-wishers and finished with a backhoe and dump truck draped with a huge "happy birthday" banner.

Local officials also came



**BIRTHDAY KEY:** Mayor Joseph Polisena presents Emma Pezza with the key to the town of Johnston on her 110th birthday. (Submitted photo)

■ PEZZA - PAGE 8



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## Trophy finish and much more

Johnston Senior High School finished third in the statewide Rhode Island Academic Decathlon held virtually on March 7, placing behind East Greenwich (second) and Hendricken, which will go on to compete in the nationals this month. During the virtual awards ceremony hosted last week by Channel 12 news anchor Kim Kalunian and featuring comments from Gov. Dan McKee, Johnston students were awarded more than 20 medals for placing in the top three positions in their divisions in different tests. The Decathlon also recognized team coaches Debra Smyth and Kerry Murphy with the Gus Capotosto Award for the team with the most improved score from the 2020 competition. Pictured with Mackenzie Hanna, a junior who won a bronze medal in speech, are Smyth, Murphy and school Principal Donna Pennacchia.. At left, Pennacchia displays all the medals. (Johnston Sun Rise photos by John Howell)

# McKee picks Matos for LG, cites 'inspirational' story

By DANIEL KITTREDGE

Providence City Council President Sabina Matos has, for some time, been seen by many observers as the clear frontrunner in the lieutenant governor sweepstakes.

After all, she has been a frequent, visible presence at Gov. Dan McKee's public events since he assumed the state's top job roughly a month ago.

On Wednesday morning, the long-suspected selection was made official with McKee's formal announcement that he will nominate Matos to fill the post he himself held for six years.

"It's a real American story. It's a tremendous American story ... It's inspirational," McKee said of Matos's journey from the Dominican Republic to the steps of the State House.

"I'm humbled and excited to be here today," said Matos, who, if confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate, will become the first person of color and the second woman to served as lieutenant governor in the state's history.

She added: "The gov-

ernor and I share a common belief that public officials whose experience is grounded in cities and streets and neighborhoods can bring thoughtful and practical leadership to Rhode Island."

Matos, 47, has represented Ward 15 on the Providence City Council since 2010. The ward borders Cranston and includes Olneyville and parts of the Silver Lake and Valley neighborhoods. A Democrat, she became the council's president in 2019.

Matos was born in the Dominican province of Barahona and came to the United States with her family in 1994. After a brief time living in New York City, she moved to Providence. She is a 2001 graduate of Rhode Island College, and she currently lives in Olneyville with her husband and two children.

"As the first Afro-Latina woman nominated to this post, I'm grateful to the governor's commitment to diversity and inclusion," Matos said Wednesday.

Matos cited a number of priorities in her new

partnership with McKee, including ensuring COVID-19 vaccination reaches the state's underserved communities; "addressing the affordable housing crisis"; supporting Rhode Island's small business community; and working to "reverse learning loss" seen among the state's K-12 population during the past year.

The jockeying for the lieutenant governor's office - and speculation over who would be selected for the post - began during the waning weeks of 2020, as reports suggested former Gov. Gina Raimondo was being eyed for a cabinet post in the incoming Biden administration.

In early January, the new president nominated Raimondo to serve as secretary of the Department of Commerce. After a drawn-out process, she won U.S. Senate confirmation on March 2, at which point McKee officially took the reins as governor.

McKee launched an open, if at times uneven, search process to pick his successor as lieutenant governor, welcoming applications from any Rhode Islander interested

in the job. In the end, approximately 80 people applied.

Last week, McKee's office announced that list had been narrowed down to five finalists - Matos, former Central Falls Mayor James Diossa, state Sen. Louis DiPalma, state Rep. Grace Diaz and Rhode Island Democratic Party treasurer Elizabeth Betera-Perik.

The selection of Matos will have a significant impact on politics in Providence, where she was seen as a likely contender in next year's mayoral election.

It also has major statewide implications, given that all five of the state's general offices will be on the ballot in 2022.

McKee, who had long been expected to run for governor, will now seek the Democratic nomination as an unexpected incumbent. Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, General Treasurer Seth Magaziner and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, who are all term-limited in their current roles, are also expected to join the Democratic field.

Matos's selection may

stymie the plans of other lieutenant governor aspirants. It sets up McKee and Matos to effectively run as a ticket next year - a marked change from recent election cycles, and a sharp departure from the often distant, or even strained, relationship between Raimondo and McKee.

It also represents a chance for McKee to potentially broaden his coalition heading into next year's primary - although Steve Frias, a historian and the state's Republican National Committeeman, says the "impact of running mates on the outcome of an election is over-hyped and is rather insignificant."

Additionally, the process of filling the vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office has generated renewed debate over whether the post ought to be filled at all. The late Robert Healey, founder of the Cool Moose Party who once ran for lieutenant governor with the sole objective of eliminating the office, has often been evoked. Frias and others publicly called on McKee not to fill the po-

sition, citing the its relative lack of responsibility - and the roughly \$1 million budget for the office as a whole.

During Wednesday's announcement, McKee said his selection of Matos represents "an opportunity to show how a governor and a lieutenant governor can work together as one team in the best interest of all Rhode Islanders."

Asked by a reported if picking Matos had more to do with political positioning than governing, McKee replied: McKee - "That's ridiculous. This is about the work, and it's not about any political agenda."

Matos also said she views the arrangement as a "partnership."

Asked why should would accept the lieutenant governor nomination rather than remain in Providence and seek the mayor's office, Matos said: "The question is, why not? I think that this is a great opportunity for me to give back to the state."

Matos on Wednesday said she is uncertain when the Senate will take up her nomination.

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# Delfino discusses new leadership position, state of Johnston Dem party

By JACOB MARROCCO

Johnston Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard Delfino Jr. was unanimously elected president of the Rhode Island Association of Democratic City and Town Chairpersons during the group's biennial meeting on March 23.

Delfino told the Sun Rise in a phone call Monday that the mission of the organization is to "create a forum so that the cities' and towns' chairs can be supportive to each other, share ideas, strategies and whatnot in order to enhance the principles of the Democratic Party."

He said the crew travels to cities and towns across the state throughout the year, visiting local restaurants and understanding the community.

"The idea is to find common ground and to support Democratic candidates that are in support of Democratic principles, but more so reflect the communities that we are a part of," Delfino said. "You take issues that are on the forefront of the Democratic Party and the hopes are that you can find the common ground to be supportive. Perhaps what's most important is you identify those Democratic candidates that are consistent with the principles you support."

Delfino opined on the state of the party in Johnston, where every notable

elected position is filled by a Democrat. In November, few of the statewide and Town Council battles were close at the ballot boxes and several candidates ran unopposed in the general election.

He said the candidates the JDTC promotes are "reflective of the principles of our town."

"So for example, the Democratic Party in the town, I think, is very strong and very influential because we identify candidates that are again very consistent with the principles and values of the people we represent ... We're very supportive of working families, things like supporting veterans' issues and supporting first responders, we support quality education. That's a value system in play that is reflective of the people of this town."

The closest race in town last fall, Delfino said, was a direct result of the JDTC's lack of endorsement of the party's candidate. Edward Cardillo Jr. edged out Republican challenger Frank Ricci for former Rep. Stephen Ucci's open District 42 seat, with the vote going to a recount that eventually certified Cardillo as the victor.

The JDTC did not endorse Cardillo as a candidate, and Ricci was able to nearly flip the seat. Delfino said he wasn't pleased with the lack of discussion on issues in District 42 from both Cardillo and Ricci.

"I could tell you a number of issues if you wanted to talk about that race," Delfino said. "I think that Cardillo indicated that the only issue he thought affected the district was speed limit on Hartford Avenue. I could name about 20 issues that I think are important to the people of District 42. Frank Ricci, I'm not sure what his agenda was other than to support Donald Trump ... In that situation, the voters had no choice because of the literally last-minute decision of Rep. Ucci to pull out of the race."



RICHARD DELFINO JR.

Delfino said the JDTC wasn't able to offer its input on a potential replacement for Ucci, since he removed his name from the ballot shortly before the deadline close and Cardillo was the only other candidate with papers filed.

"I think that race was as close as it was because the JDTC did not support Cardillo," Delfino said. "It's important that we choose candidates and we support candidates that are closely aligned with our values and principles, and we would have chosen another candidate to run against Frank Ricci."

He added: "I think that the people in this town are smart enough to realize that if you're going to be a representative either in the State House, on the Town Council, on the School Committee, you need to show a commitment to this community, and if you have that then I think that you become suspect."

One future race is bound to become the buzz

of the JDTC over the next year. Mayor Joseph Polisena is finishing out his last term in office and, after 16 years, Delfino predicted the committee will be "extremely influential" in determining a candidate to replace him.

He said he would like to see a successor whose "values and principles [are] closely aligned" with Polisena, under whose leadership he said the town has "done extremely well."

"When we establish the process for choosing candidates, we not only look at qualifications or commitments, but we look at how well that candidate will work with the team to promote the agenda that the people of this town are looking for," Delfino said. "You'll see in other cities and towns, where there's lots of confrontation and disagreement, and I think that impacts negatively the ability of the city and town leadership to promote the agenda of the community."

## JHS set to vote on Homecoming court

By MICHELINA IRONS

In all these uncertain times, a lot of traditional high school events have been canceled due to COVID-19 this year.

Johnston Senior High School will be having their Homecoming this spring due to not being able to celebrate this past fall. To add a sort of normalcy to this year, JHS is excited to announce that at this year's Homecom-

ing game, we will be announcing our Homecoming king and queen.

This year's Homecoming king candidates include Nicholas Carlino, Nicholas Cronan, Jacob Martins, Nicholas Petrillo and Justin Salvatore.

This year's Homecoming queen candidates include Alisha Biswas, Grace Centracchio, Angelina Dureault, Lala Olagundoye and Sofia Paris.

Students of Johnston

High School voted for our official King and Queen on Tuesday, March 30. To involve all of our fellow students, whether they are a distant learner, or a hybrid student, a Google form was sent out, allowing everyone with the chance to get involved and vote!

Our Homecoming king and queen will be announced at the Johnston Panthers' football game on April 9 at 6 p.m.



# Rest easy at JHS mattress fundraiser

By PETE FONTAINE

Johnston High School’s award-winning music department is about to be cast into the state’s unique fundraising spotlight.

That will happen on Saturday, April 10, when the Ron Lamoureux and Matt Gingras-led JHS music department becomes the first group in Rhode Island to join Custom Fundraising Solutions for what’s being billed as the “Mattress Sale of the Year.” The event was canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For inside of seven hours, the JHS music department and CFS will transform many parts of the high school into a gigantic mattress warehouse that will be open to the public. People in need of a new mattress will, as Lamoureux related, “be able to save big bucks on many name brand products during this one-day sale.”

“This will actually be our fourth shot at this unique fundraiser,” said Lamoureux, who has developed the JHS music department into one of the top programs in New England. “Unfortunately, we had to miss last year because of COVID-19.”

While the pesky pandemic is still prominent, the April 10 mattress sale fundraiser will be held under what Lamoureux called “loads of COVID protections in place, and the spaces that will house 25 different styles of mattresses in the auditorium

foyer and nearby areas will receive constant sanitation and covers will be available for trying out the mattresses.”

When asked if reservations are necessary, the JHS bandleader replied, “They will be available but not necessary.”

The JHS music department has teamed up with CFS in past years, but this time around, the nationally acclaimed fundraising company - which first introduced its concept in Cleveland, Ohio in 2005 and now has over 100 locations and works with more than 2,000 schools nationwide - will launch its 2021 Rhode Island campaign in Johnston.

“This is a very important sale for us!” Jason Glander exclaimed. “It will be our first in-person fundraiser since the pandemic, and it’s through great partners like the Johnston music department directors who are supporting local businesses and the community. We hope to get some great community support during this event and help Ron’s great group meet its fundraising goals.”

Glander announced that CFS will bring in a crew that will set up 25 different style mattresses in various locations throughout JHS on April 10 and the company is fully equipped to run a safe, socially distanced event that adheres to all state and school district guidelines with the mission to help the JHS mu-

sic department reach its annual fundraising goal on April 10.

Meanwhile, as Lamoureux emphasized: “This is still a new kind of fundraiser to folks around here. People have questions, like, where are these mattresses coming from? Are they used? All the major brands you’d find at a box store will be available all at major discounts. These are all brand new factory delivered products that will be on sale April 10.”

Lamoureux, who announced that the April 10 fundraiser will also feature many unique door prizes, including several cash prizes ranging in value up to \$50 as well as high-quality gifts similar to those featured during the recent and highly successful Crazy Calendar Raffle.

“We are happy to be one of the first groups in the state to try CFS out and we could not be happier,” Lamoureux said. “Their efforts have put scholarship money into our accounts each year and we are looking forward to a great sale this time around.”

The JHS music department chair, who takes pride in each and every phase of the Panthers national award-winning program, paused before adding: “CFS offers nothing less than quality mattresses as some of our student’s parents have learned by purchasing mattresses during past years that we’ve held this sale.”

## School

(Continued from page 1)

District 3 representative David Santilli Sr. said the “proposals were good,” and he looked forward to making the final decision next week. District 5’s Susan Mansolillo offered positive remarks on all three presentations, saying it was “very good to hear from three companies who care so deeply about student education and the importance of it moving them into the future.”

“For me that was very important, is that educational piece being able to take our students forward, not just plan for today or next year, but this building and these upgrades have to be able to stand the test of time. I feel as though they gave us that information, they did have limited time.”

She said she hasn’t made her final choice yet, but added she feels more comfortable with firms that have worked in a Rhode Island setting before. She said SLAM’s representatives were “very energetic,” while Finegold Alexander “brought a sense of [being] very organized and pulled together.” Fielding, Mansolillo said, “showed a lot of

their educational components.”

“They all gave us a lot to think about,” Mansolillo said. “We don’t want to wait too long because of the timeframe. I am looking closely, although the second company that presented does a great job [showing] why they’ve been very successful and they could come in if we chose them ... I was very impressed with their presentation, then when I realized they hadn’t done a project in Rhode Island, it just kind of threw me a little. I haven’t made a decision and I want to review the education components. That’s the most important piece.”

A few members of the Johnston Town Council were in attendance for last Thursday’s meeting, including Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr., District 1 Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli and District 5 Councilman Robert Civetti.

Polisena said each group provided “their own unique strengths,” saying any of the potential options would be suitable for the project.

“Fielding presented a more open blueprint, Finegold looked like they presented more traditional but modern, and it seems like SLAM present-

ed a good mix of both,” Polisena said. “I don’t think there’s a wrong answer.”

Folcarelli said she preferred two of the presentations, but declined to say which ones. She said she lives next to century-old Thornton Elementary School and, despite the district’s best efforts to maintain existing structures, it’s time for an upgrade.

“I liked their energy, the two I have in mind,” she said. “I liked their presentation about the future of the schools they’ll be building, the visions for the future and the children. I like their ideas about what they’ll do for the outdoor parts for the children. I thought it was very good, very informative, I’m glad I was a part of it.”

Civetti said each of the groups were qualified, but he believed SLAM is “the best candidate at this point” for its experience working locally.

“I’ve had some experience seeing some of their work in other communities and the timeframes they were able to meet,” he said. “I think they were the only firm that mentioned budgets, so they seemed very conscientious about budgets and coming in under budget.”

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*A bite of normalcy*

While last year's Top 10 breakfast had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, seniors at Johnston High School were able to enjoy a low-key, socially distanced celebration in the library. Spaced 6 feet apart, students conversed and laughed over snacks as they prepare to head into their final few weeks as Panthers. Prior to the gathering, they each posed individually and as a group with balloons representing their ranking in the Top 10. (Photos courtesy of Johnston High School)



# COLLECTIBLES

These are some of the most uncollectible collectibles you want to avoid.

But there is always a small one percent exception.



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

Every week the intention of this column is to educate the reader. Educate them on the hottest things in antiques, collectibles, Pop Culture, fine art, and everything in between with a demand on the secondary market, but this week is slightly different. For all those flea market hunters and estate sale savants, these are some of the most uncollectible collectibles you want to avoid like I ndmines in a field. But like always,there is always a small one percent exception.

1: Floral China- I think the reason why this comes in at number one for me is because it's right in the name, but let's break it down. "Floral" is your adjective affecting the noun of "China". Unfortunately, antique's is not like math were two negatives equal a positive.

China is so unpopular that if you are going to sell it today, it can't be grandma's pink rose pattern. Regardless of pattern there are only a few collectors left, nobody uses the stuff! Your exception would be to look for services crafted by high end 19th century

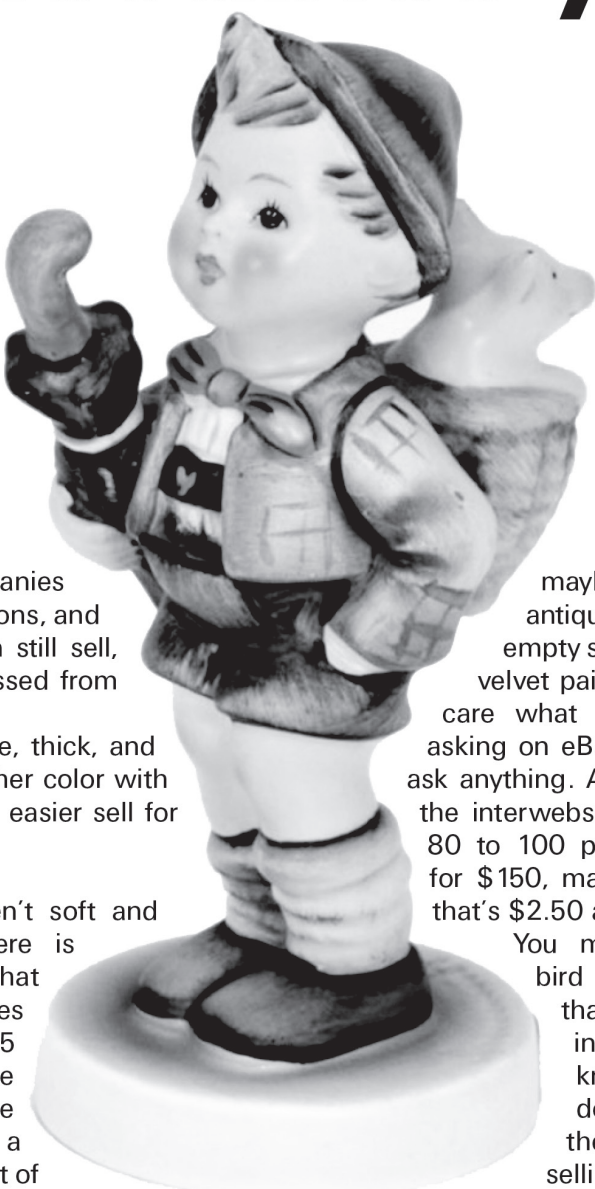


manufactures. Services by companies including Sevres, Meissen, Minton, and other European companies can still sell, but the price is severely depressed from years past.

Try to find plates with a large, thick, and simple cobalt blue border or other color with a fine gilt edge. It'll be a much easier sell for you.

2: Hummel- I know they aren't soft and filled with pellets, but if there is anything in this antique world that is comparable to beanie babies it'd be Hummel figurines. 1985 through 2005 you could make a small fortune, Hummels were more desirable than water in a desert. Today, ninety-nine percent of them make for good practice with a BB gun, especially if they are newer. Your exception, the earliest of Hummels with a full size bee mark are still desirable, but take yesteryears values and cut them by 10. For the remaining Mohicans these and large scale figures are the cream of the crop but condition is everything. Unless you have the Holy Grail any small bit of damage is the kiss of death.

3: Occupied Japan- Knick-knack, dust collector, trinket, and gewgaw are all applicable words to describe this useless garbage. It is the last... and certainly least desirable category on my list, and



maybe as a whole in the antique world right next to empty soda cans and 1970's velvet paintings. I really don't care what you saw someone asking on eBay because you can ask anything. A little navigation of the interwebs will show you that 80 to 100 piece figure lots sell for \$150, maybe \$200. At most that's \$2.50 a figure.

You might catch a rare bird or large funky clock that sells for \$150 individually!!! I don't know about you but I do not want to spend the rest of my life selling things for that.

The antique and auction world is fun, exciting, but dangerous. Take a shot on something, you'll never get hurt entirely, you can't lose it all. However, if you come in for a free appraisal Tuesday, please, I'm begging you, do not bring me occupied Japan farm animals or salt and pepper shakers unless you have a 1,000 piece collection. Then we can do something, otherwise let the kids get creative.



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**Watch Your MOUTH**  
by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.  
**TOOTH CUPPING**  
Dental enamel erosion can cause a number of different problems, including a rare condition called "cupping," which creates cup-like dents and grooves in teeth. Cupped teeth are weakened and can easily develop cracks. Cupped teeth are primarily caused by acid erosion and dental bruxism (the grinding or clenching of teeth), which can be signs of dry mouth or acid reflux disease. Drinks such as fruit juices, soda, and wine can contribute to acid erosion as can acidic foods like citrus fruits. Cupped teeth can be bonded if the erosion has not reached the dentin (the layer directly under tooth enamel), but once it has, the tooth will need a composite filling or a crown to restore its structure. Although there are many ways modern dentistry can mend, correct, or otherwise restore a damaged smile, prevention still remains the best way to keep a smile its sunniest. Is your oral health less than it could be, less than it should be? At DENTAL ARTS GROUP, we can help you achieve and maintain a healthy dental profile. We address all your dental needs, from routine dental care to dental emergencies. Don't miss out on top-notch dental care close by here in Johnston. Call us at 401-521-3661, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8a.m. to 4p.m.; Friday 8a.m. to 12p.m.  
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■ **Pezza**  
(Continued from page 1)

out for the occasion, including Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena and Police Chief Joseph Razza.  
"On behalf of the men and women of the Johnston Police Department, I consider it a great privilege and honor to wish Mrs. Pezza a happy birthday and many more," Chief Razza said.  
Along with a proclamation honoring her life and extending wishes of health happiness, Mayor Polisena presented Emma with the key to the town. Although the mayor said he wanted to give her a "hug and a kiss," he said he couldn't due to COVID regulations but would be back to do so on her 111th birthday.  
"This is a big day for the town, you really don't find outstanding citizens like her. This is a generation that basically made this country what it is today with hard work," Polisena said. "It's amazing, it really is. She has some longevity in her genes, and she's a good person."



**FREE PASS:** Johnston Police Chief Joseph Razza presented Emma with a citation and well wishes. He joked that she could use it as a "get out of jail free card" should she find herself in trouble. (Submitted photo)

**POLICE LOG**

The Police Log is a digest of reports provided by the Johnston Police, Rhode Island State Police and other departments.

**SHOPLIFTING**

Early on the morning of March 8, Rhode Island State Police transported Joshua Olsen, 32, A8 Krzak Road, North Kings-town, to Johnston Police Department headquarters for a warrant out of the station.  
Olsen was charged with felony shoplifting and a misdemeanor for being a habitual offender. Olsen's arrest stemmed from an alleged incident that occurred on the afternoon of March 2, when Detective Thomas Dwyer responded to The Home Depot on 100 Stone Hill Road in reference to a reported shop-

lifting.  
Upon arrival, Dwyer said he met with the loss prevention officer, who said that the store manager notified her that a man exited the business with a shopping carriage full of electrical equipment. She later told Dwyer than the manager immediately identified the man as repeat offender Olsen. The items allegedly stolen by Olsen - which included four rolls of three different types of wire - were valued at more than \$1,200 total.  
Dwyer said that after placing the items in his cart, Olsen proceeded toward the exit, where he walked past the point of purchase without making an attempt to pay for the merchandise. Dwyer said Olsen placed the stolen items in an older model

Dodge pickup truck bearing unknown license plates, and the vehicle fled the scene.  
Home Depot would later issue a no-trespass order for Olsen.

\*\*\*

Patrolmen Cody Weaver and Michael Martufi, along with Detective Thomas Dwyer, responded to The Home Depot at 100 Stone Hill Road for a shoplifting report the afternoon of Feb. 19.  
Upon arrival, Weaver said they met with the loss prevention officer, who said a man she positively identified as Thomas Zarra, 29, 6 Victoria Mount St., Johnston, stole electrical equipment and left just prior to police arrival. She said Zarra walked into the store pushing a carriage, noting that his jacket was open showing a gray hooded sweatshirt. She said she remembered Zarra from a specific shoplifting incident last September, and that he wore the exact same sweatshirt.

She suspected he would shoplift again, so she followed him to the electrical aisle, where she saw him take off his jacket and use it conceal two boxes of GFCI outlets. The total amount of outlets stolen amounted to \$441.44. The loss prevention officer said Zarra placed the jacket containing the outlets in the shopping cart and walked past all points of purchase before fleeing in a gray van. Video surveillance viewed by the officers later confirmed the facts of the story.  
A BCI check conducted by Weaver showed that Zarra had a prior shoplifting conviction in Cranston, for which he pleaded no contest and received a one-year suspended sentence. Weaver also noted that Zarra was issued a no-trespass order for the Home Depot at 100 Stone Hill

Road on Sept. 11, 2020. An arrest warrant and affidavit were prepared for Zarra as a result of the events.  
On the afternoon of March 4, Patrolman Thomas Santurri wrote that Dwyer had detained Zarra at a location redacted from the report. He was charged with felony shoplifting and willful trespassing.

**WARRANT**

Patrolwoman Ashley VanBemmelen and Patrolman Derrick Palazzo were on a fixed post at 1025 Plainfield St. on the evening of March 6 when they saw a vehicle traveling westbound without a front registration plate.  
VanBemmelen said she conducted a motor vehicle stop and spoke with the operator, Daquan Harris, 28, 75 Liegh St., Providence. Harris said he did not have a valid driver's license. A check through RILETS also revealed that he was wanted on an active Superior Court bench warrant for failure to appear stemming from the Providence Police Department charge of possession of a controlled substance. Another check showed his registration had expired, and RI Court Connect revealed this to be his third offense for driving without a license.  
An inventory search of the vehicle found a green leafy substance - which VanBemmelen said was known to her as marijuana through her training and experience at the police academy - located in two large cellophane baggies located inside the glovebox.  
Harris was taken into custody on the warrant and additionally charged with possession of marijuana, more than one ounce, first offense, and driving without a license, third or subsequent offense.

**Town of Johnston**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 24-6-2 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a public hearing at the Johnston Municipal Court, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919, on **April 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm.**  
This will be a virtual meeting which can be accessed using the Zoom virtual meeting platform. The virtual meeting can be attended by visiting <https://zoom.us/> and clicking on "Join Meeting". Enter the following information:  
Webinar ID: 857 5768 4873  
Password: 568750  
If you do not have a computer or mobile device-Dial in by phone:  
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The purpose of the public hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2021-3 (Formerly 2021-CP-22)**, an ordinance regarding the abandonment of a portion of **Elmhurst Avenue**, located on **Assessor's Plat 16**. All persons interested in the above Ordinance may attend the hearing and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.  
Per Order: **Robert V. Russo, President**  
Johnston Town Council  
Attest: **Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.**  
Town Clerk  
3/26, 4/2, 4/9/21



# Easter emergence



**FAMILY FIRST:** Pictured in this file photo from 2017, from left to right, Jack, Matt and Sallyann Dilorio are joined by Race for Matt and Grace co-chair Michael Crawley. Sallyann said family and friends have been “very crucial” to getting through the past year. (File photos)

## A year after pandemic’s onset, local families look forward to more time with loved ones

By JACOB MARROCCO

In a year when seeing loved ones has been a difficult and often dangerous endeavor, family was never more important.

The coronavirus pandemic has gripped the nation for more than a year, as people were urged to stay home and limit their interactions with others while case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths came in massive waves.

Rhode Island isn’t out of the woods yet, but steady vaccination figures have inspired hope for a somewhat normal spring and summer. This Easter will provide some residents with the opportunity to see family for the first time in several months, a stark contrast from last year’s holiday when celebrations were held virtually or from a distance.

The Dilorio family — Matt and parents Jack and Sallyann — will likely enjoy Easter with just one another, but it’s been a turbulent past year getting there. Matt, who suffers from a rare condition known as Friedrich’s ataxia, spent eight days in the hospital last June. Later in 2020, around Christmas, all three contracted COVID-19.

Sallyann said during a phone interview Monday that their sons, Nicholas and Andrew, returned home to help take care of Matt while they were ill.

■ EASTER - PAGE 11

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By JENNIFER COATES

There is nothing more inspiring or more uplifting than the sight of children playing, laughing, and having fun! Children are a reminder of all that is good in the world, and all that our futures could look like. When children are happy and secure, play and learning are a natural outcome. This is exactly how the children who attend Little Angels Daycare feel ~ happy, secure, loved ~ and therefore free to play and to learn.

When working parents are seeking a place where their children can thrive and grow while they are away from them, Little Angels Daycare is the answer to that search. Nestled in a quiet residential neighborhood off Greenville Avenue in Johnston, Little Angels Daycare is a center guided by five core goals, to:

- Create a safe, loving, and nurturing environment,
- Ensure parents of the safety of their children,
- Educate and offer new learning experiences while fostering skills for individual children,
- Encourage children to grow, develop and create a strong self-identity,
- Promote parental involvement.

Overseeing the infants, toddlers, and pre-K children at this sweet childcare center is a team of attentive, patient, trained, experienced and carefully chosen teachers. Each staff member has been hand-selected by Little Angels' owner Carol Breault and the center's administrator, Sarah Tejada. They know how important these teachers are to the children into whose hands they have been trusted, and they take this trust very seriously.

Little Angels Daycare is a place where age-appropriate activities, stimulation, and experiential learning take place every day. The center, which has Bright Star's coveted ratings, has worked tirelessly to create a secure, safe, colorful, joyful,



**A group of curious Pre-K children discover nature as they engage in some hands-on science fun with BUGS (don't worry, they aren't real) – all in a day's work at Little Angels Daycare in Johnston.**

and thoughtful environment. Great effort has been made with every decision, from the state-mandated curriculum goals to the toys, books, and activity centers to the outdoor playground. This is a place with predictable routines where love abounds.

During these challenging days, Carol and Sarah have done everything to accommodate those seeking childcare, beginning with their new "Referral Program." In this program, families who refer other families can receive up to 20% off their own tuition.

Also, if you work part-time, Little Angels is now offering a part-time program for new enrollees (while space is available) – call for hours and rates! Finally, newly enrolling families

will receive ½ off registration and six months of free live-web camera access. Now is the time to spread the news to friends and family who are seeking dependable and enriching childcare.

The staff of Little Angels want to assure current and incoming families that they are extremely vigilant in upholding all the CDC and statewide guidelines for preventing the spread of Covid.

Little Angels Day Care is located at 83 Waterman Avenue. You can reach them at 401-349-0711 or visit their website at [www.littleangelsri.com](http://www.littleangelsri.com). Follow them on Facebook for all the latest, updated news!



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■ **Easter** (Continued from page 9)

“We all had COVID, which was really challenging and tough,” Sallyann said. “Our boys came home from New York and Virginia to help take care of Matt, so they took over his care and that was really a game-changer for everybody. ... [Matt] survived COVID, which was a Christmas miracle for us.”

Sallyann said, and Matt agreed, that they are doing “fairly well” since. They have switched to a new in-home care service, which is on-call 24/7 in case Matt needs assistance at any time of day or night.

“They will come out to the house whenever, day or night, so we really felt like that would be very helpful and advantageous to us to have access to a nurse, if we need somebody at 2 o’clock in the morning,” Sallyann said. “That’s what we’re doing. We had support and love and help and food. I think we still may have chicken soup in our freezer. The outpouring from family and friends has been unbelievable.”

Family has been “very crucial” for the DiLorios during the past year, as Sallyann reiterated that their sons coming home to help was a “game-changer.” They’re unsure if Nicholas will make the trip down from New York for Easter, and Andrew’s presence is unlikely, but they will be there in spirit. Sallyann said Matt’s godmother may stop by.

“We are still being very careful about exposure and a lot of people,” Sallyann said. “Anybody who comes to see Matt, the hospice people or any friends — we had two friends over on Saturday to watch golf and basketball, and everyone is still masked up. Matthew did receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine two Saturdays ago. Jack and I, we have to wait because we had infusions when we had COVID so there’s a 90-day period of waiting before we can get our vaccines.”

Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena said he’s close to his wife’s side of the family, and it’s been “very difficult” to spend time with loved ones during the pandemic. He said Easter this year will be quiet, as he plans on celebrating with his wife, son Joe Jr. and daughter-in-law.

“We still kind of don’t get too close to each other, except for hugs with masks on,” Polisena said. “It’s tough because I’m used to spending time together, whether it’s Christmas, Thanksgiving or Easter, which is a very special holiday in my family.”

Polisena and his wife are both fully vaccinated, while his daughter-in-law has received her first shot. While he still urged caution and safety, he predicted the town would be “stronger than ever” when it emerges from the pandemic.

“We’re just going to be with immediate family [and] maintain the rules that are out there,” Polisena said. “I know we’re going to get up out of this soon. ... I’m very, very happy that Gov. [Dan] McKee, he made a commitment to the teachers [for vaccinations] and he kept his commitment.”

Superintendent of Johnston Schools Bernard DiLullo ringed in Easter from a distance in 2020, as he cooked and delivered meals to various family members. This year, though, he’s looking forward to seeing inoculated relatives.

“I have a rather large family, and my parents are both in their 80s,” he said. “They’ve stayed relatively healthy through the whole pandemic, but visitation is limited. It will be nice when everybody is vaccinated and we can get back together. We are planning a family Easter because by Easter time we will all have had our vaccinations and will be beyond a couple weeks.”



**A QUIET EASTER:** Mayor Joseph Polisena said he would have a small Easter get-together with his wife, son Joe Jr. and daughter-in-law.



### Saint Rocco Church

927 Atwood Avenue, Johnston • 942-5203  
Rev. Angelo N. Carusi, KCHS

**Thursday, April 1 ~ Holy Thursday**  
8:00 AM – Morning Prayer  
7:00 PM – Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
Church will remain open until 12:00 Midnight for Private Adoration

**Friday, April 2 ~ Good Friday**  
8:00 AM – Morning Prayer  
3:00 PM – Stations of the Cross & Procession  
7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion & Veneration of the Cross

**Saturday, April 3 ~ Holy Saturday**  
8:00 AM – Morning Prayer  
7:30 PM – Easter Vigil Mass

**Sunday, April 4 ~ Easter Sunday**  
8:00 AM – Mass  
10:00 AM – Mass  
12:00 PM – Noon Mass

### Our Lady of Grace Church

George Waterman Road, Johnston

#### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**April 1 ~ Holy Thursday**  
7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper

**April 2 ~ Good Friday**  
12:00 Noon – Stations of the Cross  
7:00 PM – Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion & Veneration of the Cross

**April 3 ~ Holy Saturday**  
10:00AM – Easter Egg Hunt in Festival Field  
7:00PM – Easter Vigil

**April 4 ~ Easter Sunday**  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM  
Liturgy of the Lord’s Resurrection  
All Liturgies are livestreamed on Facebook at “ourladyofgraceri” and broadcast to the front parking lot of the church on 90.1FM

### Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston • 944-0864  
www.olcbaptistchurch.com

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church will be celebrating Palm Sunday with live-streaming worship service on Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 9:30 AM.  
We will live-stream our worship service for Maundy Thursday at 6:30PM on April1, 2021 and our Easter Service will be live-streaming on Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 9:30AM.

The services can be accessed through the OLCBC website  
www.olcbaptistchurch.com

# Worship with your family this Easter

### Saint Philip Parish

622 Putnam Pike, Greenville • 949-1500  
SaintPhilip.com

#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

*In person and Online on Youtube.com,  
Parish Channel is  
Saint Philip Parish Greenville RI*

**Holy Thursday - April 1**  
8 AM – Solemn Morning Prayer  
5 PM – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
7 PM – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Friday - April 2**  
8 AM – Solemn Morning Prayer  
12 PM – Stations of the Cross  
3 PM – Stations of the Cross  
5 PM – Service of the Lord’s Passion and Holy Communion  
7 PM – Service of the Lord’s Passion and Holy Communion

**Holy Saturday - April 3**  
8 AM – Solemn Morning Prayer  
8 PM – Easter Vigil in the Holy Night and Easter Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday - April 4**  
Masses at 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

For a schedule of Confession times, please consult our Parish website.

### St. Robert Bellarmine Church

1804 Atwood Avenue, Johnston • 232-5600  
Fr. Richard A. Narciso, Pastor • Deacon Joseph P. Tumminelli  
Fr. John La Pointe, Pastor Emeritus

#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY 2021

Due to capacity limitations we ask that you call ahead for seating for all celebrations.  
Rectory Office: 401-232-5600  
Mask wearing and social distancing will be observed.

**Holy Thursday – April 1**  
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 PM (will be live-streamed)

**Good Friday – April 2**  
Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM (will be live-streamed)  
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion at 7:00 PM (will be live-streamed)

**Easter Vigil - April 3**  
The Church’s greatest and most noble solemnity will be celebrated at 7:00 PM.

**Easter Sunday - April 4**  
Our usual Sunday schedule:  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (will be live-streamed) and 11:30 AM

*If not in person, worship with us by way of our livestream services through the link on our parish website @ strobertsparish.org or through Facebook @ strobertybellarminechurch02919.*

Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is truly risen, Alleluia!





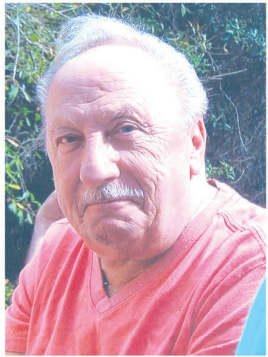
**HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS SERVED:** Providence Community Health Centers CEO Merrill Thomas said the nine community health centers mentioned Monday help more than 200,000 Rhode Islanders. (Sun Rise photos)

Funding

(Continued from page 1)

received their first vaccine dose, and Latinos account for just 9 percent of patients nationwide.

John Piloizzi Jr.  
1st Anniversary



In loving memory of a dear husband and wonderful father and grandfather. Time passes, memories stay, Loved and remembered every day.  
  
Love, Arlene, children and grandchildren

Peter Susi  
First Anniversary



I have lost my soul's companion, A life linked to my own, And day by day I miss him more, As I walk through life alone.  
  
To my husband with so much love. Sindy

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 Web site, johnstonsunrise.net.  
  
Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call Sue Howarth at (401) 732-3100 or email [sueh@rhodybeat.com](mailto:sueh@rhodybeat.com) for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$50. You may place the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price. Thank you.



**'LEADING THE CHARGE':** CCAP Assistant Medical Director Jason Villa has been critical to the organization's efforts over the past year. President and CEO Joanne McGunagle said he has "led the charge getting into these communities" who are underserved.



**GIVING THANKS:** U.S. Sen. Jack Reed and U.S. Rep. Langevin look on as U.S. Rep. David Cicilline offers his remarks at CCAP on Monday. All three lauded Rhode Island's frontline workers for their efforts during the pandemic.

shown increased health disparities in minority and low-income populations, high rates of disease, transportation resources and all the resources have been impacted in these communities," McGunagle said. "This new funding gives us the ability to increase access for these residents."

On a particularly blustery day, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed stepped to the podium and joked about the "winds of change" sweeping through Rhode Island's local health community.

"We serve the most vulnerable people in our communities, and we do it so well," Reed said during his abbreviated remarks. "The good news is that HealthSource Rhode Island has extended its signup deadline till Aug. 13. If there's anyone without insurance, or has difficulty affording insurance, please contact HealthSource RI."

U.S. Rep. James Langevin said the funds from the American Rescue Plan are "absolutely vital to help close the equality gap, the equity gap and make sure the vaccine gets out to all our residents, including people with color and people with disabilities." He also thanked frontline healthcare workers, first responders and grocery store employees for being the "real heroes" of the pandemic.

"Today we are seeing that money make a difference in our community right here," Langevin said. "The work that you [frontline workers] do

each and every day is a blessing for the Ocean State, and I promise to keep providing the resources that you need."

U.S. Rep. David Cicilline said CCAP and other local health organizations around the Ocean State are "the linchpin" of the state's public health system. He said the workers at those centers "represent the best of Rhode Island."

"Their success is key to crushing the virus and getting our lives back to normal," Cicilline said. "As we all know, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the entire country, but that's especially true for communities of color. Black and Latino Americans are about three times as likely as whites to be hospitalized and twice as likely to die from this disease, and that's why the work of CCAP and our other community health centers is so important. Every single day, these health centers provide quality, effective health care for Rhode Islanders."

He referenced President Joe Biden's goal to distribute 200 million vaccinations during his first 100 days in office, noting that CCAP, Providence Community Health Centers and others around the state will be critical partners in reaching that benchmark.

"I look forward to seeing this money put to use and continuing to work with all of you until this crisis is behind us and we can crush this virus," Cicilline said. "This year has challenged all of us, but I think as Rhode Is-

landers always do, we've risen to meet that challenge. Our state is now fifth in the country in terms of the percent of our population that is fully vaccinated, and that is in large part due to folks who work at this facility and at community health centers in the state."

Providence Community Health Centers CEO Merrill Thomas said his staff is working every day to get vaccinate Rhode Islanders, but emphasized that they need more doses. He said he only receives about 100 doses each week, but the infrastructure is in place to handle a larger load.

He said the nearly \$10 million allotted to his organization will go toward hiring 30 people, six of whom are starting soon and two-dozen more are set to come on board during the next two weeks.

"I'm very proud [that] from day one, we all committed in last March that we're not going to close," Thomas said. "It's all you frontline workers, thank you for being out there. At every site, we stayed open. We had to do it for our patients, right? We have over 34 access points in Rhode Island, and community health centers continue to do every day something new. We went to telehealth, but we didn't close, and we kept everything - oral health, optometry. ... This money is going to immediate use. We are moving ahead and getting shots in arms."



# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

# Moratorium is the wrong solution

In the rapidly accelerating debate over charter school expansion in Rhode Island, it has become apparent that we can offer no easy answer to the simple question: Are more charter schools a good thing for students in the state? However, this does not mean that a proposed three-year moratorium on charter school expansion – recently overwhelmingly passed in the Rhode Island Senate – is a good idea.

A significant majority of Rhode Islanders – including a whopping 63 percent of Latinx residents polled by the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University – favor an expansion of charter schools. To get more nuanced, according to polling data conducted by ALG Research and reported by GoLocal Prov, about 90 percent of Rhode Islanders believe parents should have a choice in deciding where their child goes to school, and the amount of people who think charter schools do good (59 percent) is more than double the amount that think they do harm (25 percent) to the overall efficacy of public education in the state.

Charter schools are held to all the same legal obligations as district-led public schools and have high standards of academics – and ultimately have higher rates of satisfaction among parents when compared to the public school systems throughout Rhode Island. When taken at face value, there doesn't seem to be much ground for charter school opponents to stand on.

Of course, things are not always as simple as they may seem – or as simple as charter school and mayoral academy advocates play them off to be.

It is no secret that a majority of public school districts in Rhode Island are chronically under performing and chronically under funded. Rhode Islanders have recently approved hundreds of millions of dollars in borrowing to assure that the buildings they send their children to each day don't have rats or gaping holes in the ceilings. With this in mind, we would opine that the mere presence of a sharp appetite for school choice among fed up Rhode Islanders should not alone be used to justify more charter schools. Just because people want another option, it doesn't necessarily mean it's an overall better option.

Another fact is that public school districts will indeed suffer consequences of more charter schools opening in the state. They lose funding on a per-pupil basis for each student that leaves the district and opts for a charter school, leaving them with even fewer resources to manage their expenses. Arguments that this should force public school districts to “better optimize” their facilities and tighten up their financial belts ignore the fact that there is no rhyme or reason for which students (from where, and from what grades) will be picked in the random lotteries that fill charter seats. It’s just not that simple.

With all of that said and recognized, we cannot see a justifiable reason to place any length moratorium on charter school expansion in Rhode Island. We agree with Gov. McKee's assessment that the idea "makes no sense" at this time.

Rhode Island's educational system has many complex problems – none of which have easy answers. The pandemic has compounded these problems and placed even more burden on families, particularly those of low income. Charter schools, while imperfect, provide an opportunity for a student from a low-income family to receive a better education than they would receive otherwise by going to their local public school, which is a net positive outcome for the state.

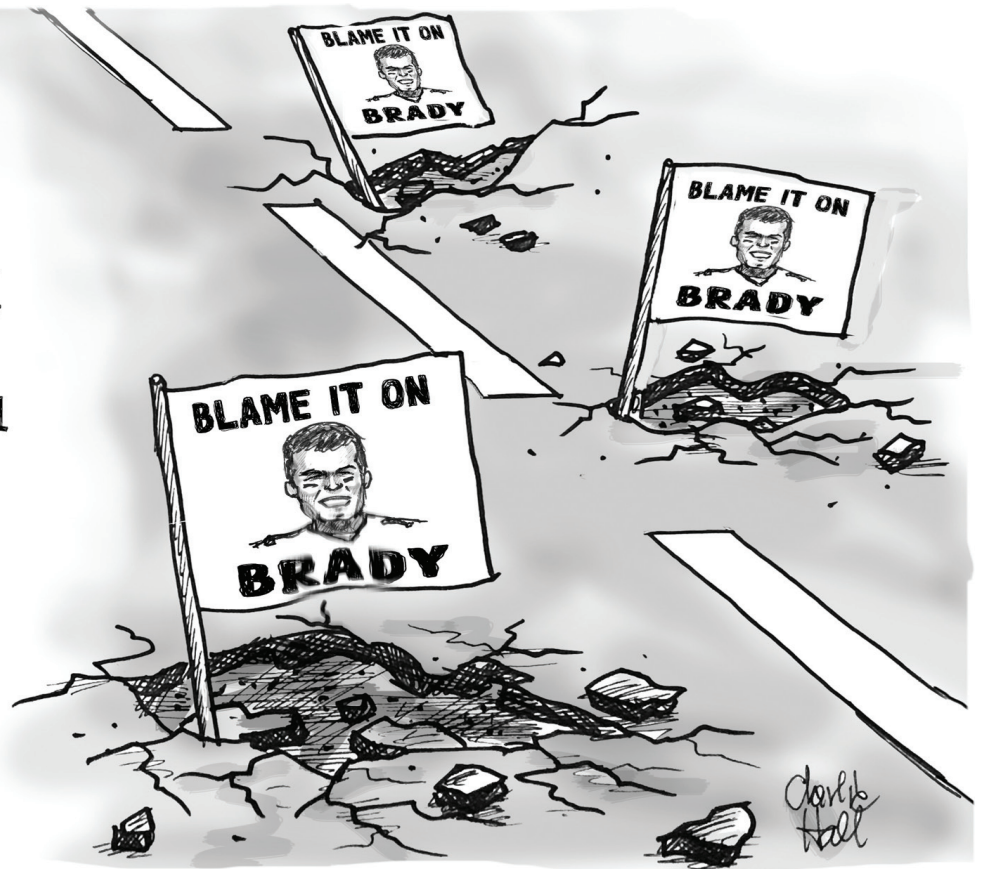
It does not erase the unfortunate fact that there will be students left behind who cannot attend charter schools due to limited space. It does not erase the fact that Rhode Island has a lot of hard years ahead of it while it tries to right decades-worth of wrong decisions and financial mismanagement that rendered its public schools a haunting display of national shame. It is not a perfect solution – because that doesn't exist.

It is our opinion that the legislature is jumping the gun on this particular issue and are actively going against the grain of what the majority of their constituents actually want – likely at the behest of public school advocates such as teachers' unions and superintendents who are, rightfully, advocating against a cause that will directly hurt their financial situation.

However, we would argue that during this specific moment in time where so much harm has been done to students and their families, we cannot ally with the cause of denying students the opportunity to attend a charter school – to likely receive a better education – in order to hypothetically help ailing public school districts in the future.

The legislature would be better served digging in and putting their heads together to work on solutions for why the public school districts are so chronically under funded and how to fix that, and resist the urge to placate those with a larger lobbying presence than the families they are supposed to be representing.

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to win the  
Super Bowl  
puts the  
state  
\$1 million  
in the  
hole.



OP-ED

## *Guns ... the other side of the story*

By **BRENDA JACOB**

When you hear about guns it is generally in the news and involves a horrific crime or tragedy. No one is against gun violence more than a gun owner. First is the sadness we feel for the families living through a tragedy, watching the relentless victimization by the anti-gun movement of the victim and families using them to further their agenda, then comes the onslaught of finger pointing and rhetoric blaming the gun owners for a crime they did not commit.

Countless hours and billions of dollars are spent each year in the name of "common sense" gun reform. This has become a full-time lucrative business for "advocacy" groups across the nation and Rhode Island is no exception. Over \$1.3 million was funneled into Rhode Island in the past two years by Everytown, Bloomberg, Giffords PAC, Planned Parenthood and other elite millionaires committed to taking away guns under the guise of safety, for our own good.

Rhode Island ranks seventh in the nation for gun laws. We do not need more gun laws, we need enforcement in the courts. These laws are unconstitutional and will do nothing to stop criminals.

According to a public records request of Rhode Island Gun Court, only 209 cases were assigned in 2020, 161 cases were disposed. Court records show that most charges were plea bargained. Only two people were sentenced to more than 10 years.

There are harsher penalties suggested in the proposed legislation for law-abiding citizens than imposed on criminals. This

legislation will result in empowering the criminals and punishing constituents. The minority communities will be the most adversely affected by the new offenses, as they are more likely to be charged with these offenses without the resources to defend themselves. Most violent criminals are repeat offenders.

Here is what is overlooked.

There are more gun owners in Rhode Island than people realize, and that number is growing. Over the past five years there have been 155,362 new firearms purchased in the state of Rhode Island, according to the FBI's website. Forty percent were first-time buyers, 40 percent of the new buyers are women and 58 percent were African American. The Second Amendment does not discriminate against race, gender or diversity.

Gun owners are moms, dads, grandparents, brothers and sisters. They are all genders, ethnicities, rich, poor, from every city and town. We are hard workers, blue collar and white collar, retirees and veterans.

Gun owners are a valuable asset to Rhode Island. Millions of dollars come into Rhode Island generated by the 10-11 percent excise tax on firearms, ammo and accessories, which is federally matched. There at least 130 business in our state which are dependent on the firearms industry and which employ over 600 people, generating employment tax, sales tax, property, and fire tax revenue. Manufacturers, platers, gun stores, public ranges, sporting shops, preserves and tourism. A National Shooting Sports Foundation Study of 2019 found that gun owners in

Rhode Island generated \$134,871,000 into the local economy.

The money gun owners generate benefits all Rhode Islanders. The money funds land acquisitions, which has brought Rhode Island up to 60,000 acres of open space and 25 wildlife management areas that we all enjoy for hiking, bird watching, mountain biking, geocaching, horseback riding. There are 202 boat ramps that have been built for the benefit of anglers and boaters with the help of these funds. Many gun owners belong to gun clubs, which also have hundreds of acres of land. These clubs are committed to the environment and work with DEM and NRCS on conservation programs. According to a public records request submitted to DEM since 2018, \$11,668,415 was spent on conservation programs

such as Sea Duck population, wildlife restoration, coyote ecology, deer population monitoring, habitat protections, restoring wildlife habitat and aquatic mammal research, to name a few.

The firearm community is committed to our youth helping them to learn the importance of safety, responsibility and environmental stewardship while providing them with scholarships, internships and competitions including the Junior Olympic Championships.

I hope this brings awareness to the value of gun owners in Rhode Island.

*Brenda Jacob is president of the Federated Rhode Island Sportsmen's Club, secretary and lobbyist for the Rhode Island Revolver and Rifle Association, and president of the Ocean State Junior Rifle Association.*



# JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Hillary Gillinder Photography

Otis

Are you looking for fun and adventure, then Otis might just be waiting for you? He just celebrated his first birthday so he is very much a puppy with puppy energy. Otis also likes other dogs so if you are looking to add another pup to your home then consider meeting Otis. The best type of home for Otis is an active, dog savvy adult only home as Otis is still learning the ropes. He has been working on all of his commands and he is super smart, he will even transition into your home with his current trainer. Otis can also be fostered if you are interested? He is not happy in his current kennel situation so the rescue is in search of a home where he can blossom and relax. Please contact Rhode Home Rescue for more information about Otis to see if you can make this boy a happy pup! Please email them at [rhodehomerescue@gmail.com](mailto:rhodehomerescue@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.rhodehomerescue.org](http://www.rhodehomerescue.org) to fill out an application. Otis needs all of our help so please tell everyone you know about him and help him find his perfect forever home!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)

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ANIMAL TALK

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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By MERI R. KENNEDY

Easter Bunny to visit Johnston

The Easter Bunny will visit Johnston on Saturday, April 13, at Johnston Senior Services for breakfast, treats and more! Sponsored by Citizens Bank, the Bunny will be ready for children from 9 to 11 a.m.

Please bring your camera with you. For more information, call the Johnston Parks and Recreation office at (401) 272-3460 or visit [johnstonrec.com](http://johnstonrec.com).

Summer jobs with DEM

DEM is recruiting qualified lifeguards at beaches, parks, and campgrounds. Full-time lifeguard positions are available at all state swimming areas, including saltwater beaches such as Roger Wheeler and Scarborough, non-surf beaches such as Goddard, and freshwater beaches such as Burlingame Campground and Lincoln Woods State Park. Flexible, 20-hour workweeks are available for lifeguard positions at our busiest swimming areas. Hourly rates for lifeguards range from \$13.25 to \$16.25 an hour, based on location and position level.

All lifeguard candidates must have successfully completed courses and hold valid cards in lifeguard training, first aid, and CPR including infant, child, and adult.

DEM also is seeking park rangers and facilities attendants to work at recreational sites across the state. Park rangers are instrumental to a safe and fun experience at DEM properties. They give directions to beachgoers and park users, help with crowd control, provide security checks for facilities, and are the first responders in the event of emergency.

Hourly rates for park rangers range from \$10.50 to \$11.60. Applicants for facilities attendant and park ranger I must be 16 years of age or older, and applicants to park ranger positions at levels II and III must be 18 years of age or older.

For a complete list of seasonal employment opportunities and to apply, visit [riparks.com/employment](http://riparks.com/employment). Most positions are full-time and include weekend and holiday hours. Applications must be completed online. Paper applications will not be accepted. The state of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity/diversity employer.

With 50 percent fewer teens seeking jobs than 20 years ago, DEM is looking to recruit active older Rhode Islanders and retired military personnel who might want to work part-time work to make up for the lack of younger applicants.

Rhode Island PBS Scholarship

The Rhode Island PBS Foundation Scholarship offers awards to residents of Rhode Island and Bristol County, Massachusetts, who demonstrate promise of a successful career in the fields of broadcasting, communications and/or journalism. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior planning to attend or a student currently enrolled in an accredited four-year post-secondary institution.

Applicants will be asked to provide a recommendation letter from a teacher or professional in the field who can attest to their merit towards a successful career in the noted fields. Awards of up to \$15,000 will be awarded annually and are renewable for an additional three years.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on April 5. Visit [rifoundation.org](http://rifoundation.org) for further details.

Calling all golfers age 65+

Since 1959, The Over 65 Golf League, a nonprofit organization, has worked with the public golf courses in Rhode Island to offer league play for all seniors. The group's bylaws state, "The purpose of the League is to encourage and promote the Game of Golf and kindred activities through friendly competition among its Members."

If you are interested in golfing on Mondays or being a spare in a mixed senior league, please register to come to the group's annual Open Membership Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, at Harbor Lights, 150 Gray St., Warwick, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Preregistration is required due to COVID-19 restrictions on meeting size. The membership dues for season play, playoffs, TBA tournaments, and a banquet with distribution of prizes are \$55 (\$30 for spares not attending the banquet). To pre-register for the meeting, join, or just get more information, contact Carol Desforges at [Desac63@gmail.com](mailto:Desac63@gmail.com) or call (401) 738-0319.

Focus on mental health

NAMI Rhode Island is the state organization affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). They offer an array of education and training programs and services for individuals living with mental illness, family members, schools, providers, and the general public. These programs draw on the experience of individuals with mental illness and family members who have learned to live well with their illnesses and

are eager to help others, as well as the expertise of mental health professionals and educators.

Their programs are free and virtual. For more information on all programs or if you are an interested volunteer, visit [namirhodeisland.org](http://namirhodeisland.org), call (401) 331-3060 or email [info@namirhodeisland.org](mailto:info@namirhodeisland.org).

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across RI through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up, go to [BeKindRI.org](http://BeKindRI.org). Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check. Be Kind RI is open to those in Rhode Island experiencing COVID-19 risk factors, including seniors 65 and older, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of child care, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call 877-958-8785.

RI Housing offers loans

RI Housing's Hardest Hit Fund Rhode Island (HHFRI) program is offering zero interest, forgivable loans to eligible Rhode Island homeowners who became unemployed or underemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to make their mortgage payments.

Loan proceeds may provide eligible homeowners with up to six months of mortgage payment assistance. Learn more about the loan program and eligibility at [rihousing.com/hhfri](http://rihousing.com/hhfri).

Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

Free "Bunnies Galore" craft and activity kits for children are available at the library. Stop by the library to pick up one, or email Ms. Meri meri@[mohrlibrary.org](mailto:mohrlibrary.org) or call 231-4980 to make a reservation.

Looking for '78 Blizzard Photos

The Johnston Historical Society is looking for photos from the Blizzard of 1978 that include recognizable backgrounds in Johnston, such as businesses, landscapes and street signs. Please email them to [JohnstonHistorical1825@gmail.com](mailto:JohnstonHistorical1825@gmail.com).

News from the Mohr Memorial Library

Mohr Library is currently accessible to the public during reduced

hours but continues to offer curbside pickup and other services during its regular schedule. Services include curbside delivery; reference help by phone, email or in person; recommendation lists and one-on-one help to explore interests in reading, viewing and listening; printing from home or your device; use of computers and copier; and a free notary public, evenings and Saturdays by appointment.

Johnston Community Library Book Club

Kids ages 8 to 10 can meet online, by invitation, Thursdays at 3 p.m. to hear readings and discuss books with library trustee and volunteer Denese Carpenter.

Interested in other times or want to suggest a book for discussion? Let them know.

Parents can learn more about sign-up procedures by contacting Library Director Jon Anderson. Email [info@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:info@mohrlibrary.org) or call 401-231-4980, ext. 7.

Support the Johnston Historical Society

The Johnston Historical Society has T-shirts available for sale in sizes small through extra-large in slate blue, sand and a few in light green.

The JHS is an all-volunteer organization. Its museum is not staffed, but they are happy to open up by appointment for a tour of the museum, the house, and to purchase T-shirts and copies of books.

Call 231-3380 and leave a message with the color and size you would like.

Help make a house a home

The Furniture Bank of RI, a nonprofit corporation, needs bureaus, complete twin or double beds, kitchen sets, mattresses, and other household furniture that you no longer need. To help a less fortunate family through your charitable donation of good used furniture, call 831-5511 to arrange for pick up. All donated articles must be in good condition.

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# Sports

## Panthers win opener over Chariho

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The Johnston football team took its first step toward returning to the postseason last weekend, winning its season opener 15-8 against host Chariho.

The Panthers defense was stout in the win and shut down the Chargers offense for the majority of the contest. The Johnston offense on the other hand, had an uphill battle without its top pass catcher

Thomas Zednik. Despite the hole, the other members of the unit stepped up to give Johnston the late victory. Receiver Joey Acciardo hauled in a 20-yard touchdown

pass from quarterback Hunter Remington to give Johnston the early lead in the first quarter. The Panthers offense was stagnant until the fourth quarter, when Remington connected with Deremy Stubbs with less

than five minutes left in regulation to take the lead and maintain it the rest of the way. Johnston improved to 1-0 on the season and will next host Scituate on Friday night for the team's home opener.



**RETURN FIRE:** Gianna Fernandes sends a shot back over the net. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

## Wizards come back to top Lady Panthers

**By RYAN D. MURRAY**

The Lady Panthers, led the West Warwick Wizards two sets to none on Tuesday evening before collapsing mid-match and falling 3-2 (25-18, 25-22, 23-25, 11-25, 13-15) at home during a Division II-A Girls Volleyball showdown. It was Johnston's third match of the season and all three went five sets. This is the first one they lost. And Lady Panthers head coach Greta Lalli believes the



**READY TO SERVE:** Johnston's Tori Viau throws the ball up to serve it against West Warwick last week.

## First week reactions

With the opening weekend of high school football in the books, we are officially in the thick of the third season. As we all know, this third season is going to be fast. It will be all over and done with in roughly a month from now, so don't blink. Before I settle into the meat of this column, let me once again speak on the progress we have made here in the past few weeks. I know, I know, it is a drag having to come to grips with the reality that we are in and the fact that we still have quite a ways to go. However, progress is continuing to be made, and in my opinion, we may just be starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The fall season was choppy. We had to postpone the football and volleyball seasons, fans were not allowed at times, there were quarantines left and right, nothing seemed familiar. The winter continued to be unusual as fans were for the most part not allowed and teams still continued to see their schedules constantly in flux. But this third season seems different already. Fans are, in a limited fashion, back in attendance. The overall numbers and incidents seem to be dropping slightly. We also have experience dealing with the precautions and protocols. Maybe it's also the spring season and the nice weather and all of that good stuff, but things just seem to be better. In my opinion, next fall will be the first season that things will actually look and feel totally normal. This third season is going to be quick and have its trials. The traditional spring season will probably be essentially a continuation of this one. It almost seems as if June is the finish line and we are just trying to reach it before we can regroup in the summer and put everything back together in time for September. There

### My pitch



by  
**ALEX**  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
  
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will be summer sports as well, but in terms of interscholastic athletics, I feel that next fall will be the true restart. Like always, let's make the most of what we have. We get to see these sports and teams back in action, we are climbing our way out of the cold winter, and we seem to be inching our way back to normal slowly but surely. I'm a broken record, I know, but sometimes we all need that reminder. Now, to the fun stuff. My biggest takeaway from this past weekend is probably what we saw from the Hendricken football team. Sure, we figured the Hawks would be just fine with a new quarterback in Zach Lavergne and a new offense, but putting up 42 points against a formidable Burrillville team? Wow. I can't stress this enough. When I say my biggest takeaway, I do not mean merely my biggest surprise. I mean the thing that stood out to me most. I know it is only the first week and the Hawks were expected to win, but I am already all in on Hendricken repeating as champions. There was one real question surrounding this team heading into the year and I feel that it was answered right off the bat. Across town, Toll Gate hit the road and traveled up to Smithfield and got the 19-11 win. Quarterback Greyson Pasquina tossed a pair of touchdowns and the Titan defense was stout. I kind of alluded to this last



■ Lady

(Continued from page 15)

mental part of the game got to her team.

“I thought they had the same energy for the third game, and then I think that it just got in their heads,” Lalli said. “They know what they’re doing. Nobody was hurt. Everyone was fine. It’s just mentally, they couldn’t do it. Eighty-percent mental, twenty-percent physical. So, definitely the mental got the best of them, for sure.”

West Warwick jumped out to a 5-2 lead in the opening set before Johnston sophomore Makayla Scuncio scored three points on serve, and then Talia Laflamme added a block, and Gianna Fernandes a kill, and gave the Lady Panthers a 7-5 lead.

The Wizards evened the game at 7, but then Johnston went on a spurt and saw senior Brynn Roche score four points on its way to a 20-10 advantage.

The Lady Panthers drew set point when Tori Viau, a senior outside hitter, made a dazzling save and dished to Fernandes for a kill. Four plays later, Johnston capped the set with a Laflamme spike, which gave the Lady Panthers a 25-18 win of the first set.

Johnston senior Brooke Marcotte started the second set with two points on serve, and then Roche recorded a kill and grabbed the Lady Panthers a 4-0 advantage.

Midway through the set, Scuncio served and scored and extended the Johnston margin to 10-4.

Soon after, Fernandes assisted to Roche for a kill and that upped the Lady Panther’s lead to 14-7.

Late in the game, the Wizards managed to pull within 23-22, but then West Warwick committed a double-hit penalty and that handed the Lady Panthers set point at 24-22. Roche closed the set with a block on Amaya Louro and gave Johnston a 25-22 win.

Johnston had a chance to put West Warwick away in the third set when the squads were deadlocked at 23, but Roche overshot a kill, and then Hannah Calabro, a sophomore had a return error, and that gave the Wizards a 25-23 victory and kept them breathing.

The Lady Panthers looked out of sorts in the fourth frame. Lalli made some substitutions and thinks that too may have messed with her team’s rhythm.

“Athletes can be very superstitious,” Lalli said. “If one thing changes, the whole dynamic changes. If one thing is different, if there’s somebody in a position that they’re not used to, it really gets in their heads.”

But there’s no denying the talent that Lalli beholds.

“All of them are very solid,” Lalli said. “Physically, they’re really great players. Mentally, I think if it starts, it just kind of snowballs. Three of them are 10<sup>th</sup> graders. So, we’re lucky to have what we have, but we also have to understand that they are young and that they’re not all seniors. So, it was just a tough loss. There’s no rhyme or reason. They weren’t outplayed, they beat themselves mentally.”

In the fifth set, Johnston jumped out to a 5-1 lead, but West Warwick hung around before snagging a 7-6 advantage and never looked back.

Johnston drops to 2-1 with the defeat while West Warwick improves to 3-1.



**BOUNCE BACK:** Johnston’s Brynn Roche returns a shot against West Warwick on Tuesday.

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# Lisi, Macera honored by LEC

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rhode Island College sophomore Jenna Lisi (Cranston) and freshman Lauren Macera (Cranston) were recognized by the Little East for their respective performances in women’s tennis this past week. They each won their respective doubles and singles matches in the Anchorwomen’s season-opening, 9-0, win vs. Castleton on March 27. Lisi, the reigning Little East Player of the Year, was named the Little East Player of the Week. Lisi paired with senior Victoria Vittori (New Bedford, Mass.) for an 8-1 win over Castleton junior Regina Marchese (Sunderland, Vt.) and senior Aliza Bogner (Colchester, Vt.) at first doubles. She then defeated Marchese (6-0, 6-0) at No. 1 singles to clinch the match for the club. Macera was named the Little East Rookie of the Week. Macera and senior Serena Bobola (Cranston) defeated the Spartan freshmen duo of Kayon Morgan (Port St. Lucie, Fla) and Karoline Rettenbacher (Karnten, Austria), 8-0, at No. 3 doubles to open the match. Macera then defeated Mia Manheimer (Norwich, Vt.), (6-0, 6-0) at No. 4 singles.

RIC sweeps NEC

Freshman designated hitter John Willette (Johnston) went 4-for-9 with three runs scored, a double, a grand slam and seven RBI as the Rhode Island College baseball team swept a doubleheader, 12-3; 14-7, from New England College on Friday afternoon at Pontarelli Field. NEC took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first on an RBI single by senior center fielder BJ Minarcin (Naples, Fla.). Sophomore second baseman Devin Parson (Salisbury, MA) contributed in RBI single and freshman shortstop Logan Gadbois (Rochester, N.H.) chipped in with an RBI fielder’s choice to stake the Pilgrims to a 3-0 lead after two innings. RIC got a run back in the second on an RBI double by sophomore left fielder Joey Coro (North Providence).

■ Pitch

(Continued from page 15)

week, but I feel that this Toll Gate team certainly has what it takes to be a playoff club and a potential dark horse considering Pasquina’s experience and their play up front. It’s early on, but so far so good. The Cranston teams got off to a shaky start, with East being shut out 37-0 by East Greenwich and West falling to Central, 26-13. The Bolts, as we know, are in the middle of a big rebuild and still have a very young roster. Not that 37-0 is excusable, but at the end of the day, this team is still working its way up. Let’s see how it responds. As for West, Central was a playoff team and will be a factor in Division I. As I also stated recently, West will be in for some early struggles as it adjusts after losing its leader in Cam Alves. Week 1 was not pretty for the Falcons, but no reason to be panicked or concerned. Moving south, Johnston picked up a close 15-7 win over host Chariho. Prior to the season, Johnston coach Joe Acciardo said that the team knew it had a solid offense but needed to step up on defense. If this past week is any indication, the Panthers are on their way to doing just that. I would not be too concerned about the quiet offensive night, either. Chariho is always a tough draw, and sometimes, the gameflow dictates the scoreboard. Pilgrim’s game was cancelled and the Pats were unable to secure another opponent in time. Not to turn on my previous sentiments and become pessimistic, but get ready for more of this the next few weeks.

Anchorman sophomore starter Connor Davey (Cheshire, Conn.) settled into a nice groove and kept the Pilgrims from adding any further runs. Willette keyed a four-run fourth with a two-run single to put RIC on top, 4-3, and helped put the game out of reach with a massive grand slam to left field in the fifth. Freshman center fielder Cameron Santerre (Bristol) had an RBI double as part of a two-run sixth. Davey earned the win (1-0), allowing three runs on six hits and struck out five in 4.0 innings. Junior reliever Shaun Gamelin (West Kingston) earned the save (1-0), throwing a dominant three innings without allowing a hit and notching seven punchouts. NEC senior starter Joe Pascucci (Wayne, N.J.) took the loss (0-2). After falling behind, 1-0 in the top of the first of Game 2, RIC put across four runs in the bottom of the frame as Willette and sophomore catcher Alex Martinez (Cranston) each smacked RBI doubles. The hosts plated three runners in the fourth, paced by an RBI double by senior second baseman Nate Vigeant (Coventry). A six-run sixth, highlighted by a two-run double by sophomore first baseman Jarrad Grossguth (Coventry) staked the Anchormen to a 13-3 advantage. The Pilgrims made it interesting, plating four runs in the top of the ninth before freshman reliever Anthony Scivola (Johnston) came on to secure the final out. Senior starter Tyler Shemick (Foster) was solid in seven innings of work, allowing three runs on seven hits to go along with nine strikeouts, to earn his first win (1-0). NEC sophomore starter Wyatt Cameron (Salisbury, Vt.) took the loss (0-3). RIC senior third baseman Ray Zincone (West Warwick) went 3-for-6 with two runs scored, a double, two RBI and three walks. Senior shortstop Rommy Morel (Providence) went 4-for-6 with three runs scored and an RBI. Junior right fielder Nick D’Ambra (Coventry) went 2-for-5 with four runs scored and three walks. Minarcin went 3-for-6 with a run scored, a solo homer and two RBI for the visitors.

Although I have a positive outlook on this third season, it has already been made clear in both football and volleyball that the schedules will be a bit all over the place for reasons regarding COVID and beyond. I hope that the eventual playoffs can accommodate these issues, and I believe they will, but hopefully teams can work their ways through it and have a chance. In terms of our volleyball squads, it’s hard not to be impressed overall. Cranston East has been one of the top programs in the state the past decade and came from behind to beat Coventry 3-1 in the opener. With five returning seniors, the Bolts should be right in the thick of things for the long haul. West also topped Barrington, while Toll Gate has jumped out to a strong start as well. Johnston got back to work Tuesday after having its schedule jumbled in the early going while Pilgrim is looking to get back on track after some early struggles. Either way, I have a feeling we will be seeing multiple of our teams reach the postseason and contend for a title. This column is probably littered with overreactions ... but that is just fine. One last note. As I say every season, be sure to support your unified sports. In this season, it is unified volleyball. These sports are so special in terms of connecting students and giving kids a chance to participate in ways that haven’t always been available. These leagues and programs are outstanding and deserve our backing. Even if it is just catching a game or putting the word out, embrace your community’s unified sports.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Now and \_\_\_\_

5. Israeli city \_\_\_\_ Aviv

8. Indicates near

11. Minneapolis suburb

13. Large Australian flightless bird

14. Fine-grained earth

15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop

16. Peacock network

17. TV writer Dunham

18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

20. They \_\_\_\_

21. Muslim ruler title

22. Position given in respect of

25. Explaining further

30. Measuring instrument

31. Romanian monetary unit

32. Council of \_\_\_\_, 1545-1563

33. Savory jelly made with meat stock

38. Journalist Tarbell

41. Most suspenseful

43. Festivity

45. Animal embryos

48. Fertility god

49. Medical patients' choice (abbr.)

50. Type of sword

55. Competition

56. Bird of the cuckoo family

57. Afflicted in mind or body

59. Engineering organization

60. Beverage receptacle

61. Spiritual leader

62. Doctor of Education

63. Where golfers begin

64. Impudence

69. German river

73. Paddle

75. Lizard

76. Shock treatment

78. The common gibbon

79. Brew

80. Usually has a lid

81. Lenses in optical instruments

82. Doctor of Education

83. Where golfers begin

84. Impudence

89. German river

93. Paddle

95. Lizard

96. Shock treatment

98. The common gibbon

99. Brew

100. Usually has a lid

101. Lenses in optical instruments

102. Doctor of Education

103. Where golfers begin

104. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Vietnamese offensive

2. Fast mammal

3. Oh goodness!

4. The back of one's neck

5. One who lives in another's property

6. Involve deeply

7. Alfalfa

8. Tropical tree resin

9. Sudden fear

10. Jewish religious month

12. Veterans battleground

14. Musical symbol

19. German river

23. Paddle

25. Lizard

26. Shock treatment

28. Usually has a lid

29. Lenses in optical instruments

34. Time zone in Samoa (abbr.)

35. Wrinkled dog: Shar \_\_\_\_

36. Denotes equal

37. TV network for children

39. Take the value away from

40. Female graduates

41. Don't know when yet

42. "\_\_\_\_ tæ": Spanish song

44. "Seinfeld" character

45. Bleated

46. Entwined

47. Away from wind

48. Soft creamy white cheese

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris


54. They resist authority (slang)


58. Speak ill of

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# Anglers weigh in on climate change impacts

**By CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

This week anglers and recreational fishing associations from Rhode Island and Massachusetts weighed in on the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) request for initial public input on Section 216 (c) of the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

At press time, NOAA planned to hold their second stakeholder input meeting on April 1, they are also meeting with regional Fisheries Councils throughout the nation, and are asking fisheries stakeholders to email comments by April 2 (email address and information links below).

Anglers are experiencing profound changes from climate impacts of warming water, acidification, lower oxygen, rising sea level and habitat degradation. And, the fish we are catching today are different in type and abundance than what we caught ten years.

Warm water fish have moved into the area in greater abundance such as black sea bass, scup and summer flounder. And, cold water fish such as winter flounder, cod and American lobster have left the area for colder, deeper water.

All of this is leading to less productive stocks and less abundance which could lead to lower catches, less stability, shifting stocks and new bycatch.

Climate impacts have created challenges. Shifting stocks have created a need for reallocation, by states, regions and between sectors. States with quota fish outside their normal geographic range to catch fish and those in areas where there are fish in abundance have little quota. A recreational fishing example is the hope anglers have in regard to the Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Reallocation Amendment. Anglers hope our nation will restore commercial and recreational allocations back to the "real" level they were when allocations were originally estimated (before the MRIP reset).

With multiple regions and sectors vying for the same fish NOAA needs to step in to make decisions if regional councils cannot agree

on allocation issues.

In a letter to NOAA this week the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, which represents 7,500 anglers and 28 affiliated fishing organizations said, "Our national fisheries need to have strong and sustainable science-based management more than ever before. We should not move to weaken standards as some stakeholders have done. Lowering the bar on things like ecological reference points such as biomass thresholds and targets is not the way to go."

East End Eddie Doherty, noted Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, "Last year was not a productive season for striped bass on the canal which may be attributable to the reduction in oxygen rich levels dissipating and a huge increase in the seal population. It wasn't always like this so I think that climate change is driving seals to Cape Cod beaches and the canal ... Seals are estimated to consume 100 pounds of striped bass per day presenting another reason to dread the warmer water."

"We need to both rebuild fish stocks as usual, and work hard to mitigate and anticipate climate impacts," said RISAA.

I believe possible solutions to challenges would be to first make fisheries climate ready by building healthy stocks, end overfishing and rebuild stocks to sustainable levels and beyond providing a climate buffer if needed. Second we need to fill the science gap with enhanced surveys and assessments done more frequently. And third we need more funding for the enhanced science and management programs.

We also need to explore creative ways to anticipate climate impacts, developing "what if" scenarios and a set of leading indicators than ring an alarm when fish stocks or habitat are changing. Indicators could include electronic monitoring of recreational catch & effort in real time watching for major shifts in species caught (or not caught) and their abundance. On the commercial side a leading indicator could be a decline in catch per unit effort from the previous year (or years). We need to elimi-



**OPENING DAY:** Catch a hatchery-raised golden rainbow trout from April 7 through April 20 and receive a free golden trout pin. Take a picture of your catch and send it to [dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov](mailto:dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov). (Submitted photo)

nate liberalizations like extending seasons if the fish are not there we need to stop trying to catch them.

NOAA will be accepting email comments until April 2 at [OceanResources.Climate@noaa.gov](mailto:OceanResources.Climate@noaa.gov). You can also let your New England Fishery Management Council representative ([www.nefmc.org/calendar/april-2021-council-meeting](http://www.nefmc.org/calendar/april-2021-council-meeting)) know how you feel, send them a copy of your email and comments by April 12 as NOAA is scheduled to meet with them for input on April 13.

### Opening Day of trout season is Wednesday, April 7

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced that Rhode Island trout stocked lakes, ponds, rivers and streams will open for fishing at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, April 7. DEM will be filing an emergency regulation opening the freshwater trout fishing season early this year in order eliminate the large crowds that often accompany the traditional Opening Day of trout fishing season in April.

"We're excited to welcome an-

glers to our state's beautiful freshwaters this spring to experience the thrill of reeling in the first trout of the season," said DEM Director Janet Coit.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, fishing should be enjoyed as a solitary experience or with members of your immediate household, not as a group activity. Check [Reopeningri.com](http://Reopeningri.com) and current Executive Orders for current guidance on group sizes for social gatherings. If you arrive at a favorite fishing spot and find that crowds are forming, please leave and choose a different location or return at another time or day. There are many enjoyable fishing locations statewide – try somewhere new. Please note that overnight camping is strictly prohibited at state fishing access areas.

DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife is stocking over 60,000 hatchery-raised rainbow, brook, golden rainbow and brown trout in more than 100 waterways across the state. In addition, 4,000 Sebago salmon will be stocked statewide. Again this year, hatchery-raised golden rainbow trout are being

stocked for Opening Day. These trout are a color variation of a rainbow trout and provide an exciting angling experience. Anglers who catch a golden trout from April 7 through April 20 will receive a free golden trout pin. Take a picture of your catch and send it to [dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov](mailto:dem.fishri@dem.ri.gov).

For a complete list of stocked waters and links to regulations and licenses visit [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/troutwaters.php](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/troutwaters.php).

### Where's the bite?

Freshwater trout season opens Wednesday, April 7. Prior to opening of trout season anglers are targeting largemouth bass, perch and crappie. See above link to a list of Rhode Island stocked ponds that can be fished for trout on April 7 and beyond.

Cod fishing. Party boats fishing for cod this winter (weather permitting include) the Frances Fleet at [www.francesfleet.com](http://www.francesfleet.com), the Seven B's at [www.sevenbs.com](http://www.sevenbs.com), and the Island Current at [www.island-current.com](http://www.island-current.com).



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<b>NOTICES</b> <b>005</b> Announcements <b>010</b> Notices <b>015</b> Devotions <b>030</b> Child Care Offered <b>040</b> Child Care Wanted <b>050</b> Business Services <b>060</b> Lost & Found <b>070</b> Misc. Wanted <b>075</b> Entertainment <b>080</b> Personal Services <b>085</b> Counseling <b>090</b> Classes/Instructions <b>095</b> Tutoring	<b>MERCHANDISE FOR SALE</b> <b>200</b> Bazaars/Flea Markets <b>202</b> Craft Items/Sales <b>205</b> Yard Sales <b>210</b> Free Merchandise <b>215</b> Misc. For Sale <b>220</b> Antiques/Collectibles <b>225</b> Boats & Motors <b>230</b> Building Materials <b>235</b> Coins/Jewelry <b>240</b> Cameras <b>243</b> Business/Office Equipment <b>600 Apartments For Rent</b> <b>270</b> Appliances <b>275</b> Clothing <b>280</b> Bicycles <b>285</b> Sports/Exercise Equipment <b>290</b> Machinery/Tools <b>PETS/ANIMALS</b> <b>300</b> Dogs For Sale <b>310</b> Cats For Sale	<b>320</b> Pets/Animals <b>330</b> Pets Needing Homes <b>340</b> Animal Care <b>350</b> Pet Services <b>370</b> Free To Good Home <b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES</b> <b>400</b> Businesses For Sale <b>405</b> Business Opportunities <b>410</b> Business Opportunities Wanted <b>420</b> Money To Lend <b>490</b> Employment Service <b>EMPLOYMENT</b> <b>500</b> Help Wanted <b>510</b> General Office <b>520</b> Medical Help Wanted <b>530</b> Sales Help Wanted <b>540</b> Jobs/Situations Wanted <b>TRUCK DRIVER/ROLL-OFF</b> OFF: CDL needed part or full-time. Apply at 86 Knight St., Warwick.	<b>630</b> Rooms For Rent <b>635</b> Duplex For Rent <b>640</b> House For Rent <b>645</b> Commercial Rentals <b>650</b> Store/Office For Rent <b>655</b> Storage Space <b>660</b> Vacation Rentals <b>665</b> Marinas <b>670</b> Wanted To Rent <b>680</b> Roommate Wanted <b>690</b> House To Share <b>REAL ESTATE</b> <b>700</b> Commercial For Sale	<b>705</b> Investment Property <b>710</b> Mobile Homes For Sale <b>720</b> Land For Sale <b>730</b> Vacation Property <b>740</b> Florida Property <b>750</b> Real Estate Wanted <b>760</b> Real Estate Financing/Services <b>770</b> Condominiums For Sale <b>780</b> House For Sale <b>790</b> Auctions <b>900 BUSINESS SERVICES</b>
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## 265 Furniture

MAHOGANY HUTCH: Ornate. Elumantes the glass shelves. 62" wide, 86" high. Mint condior. \$450. 401-741-2579.

## 280 Bicycles

NEW BICYCLE: 26", Coaster brakes. Paid \$219.00, will sell for \$120.00. Color Steel Gray with range rims. Call 942-3631.

## 500 Help Wanted

## 405 Business Opportunity

**START A REWARDING Home-based career in Financing. Credit restoration/repair. Bit-coin. High income potential. All training provided. More info, Ben 718-266-9700 or 347-866-5619.**

**Call Classifieds at 732-3100.**

## 500 Help Wanted

## 405 Business Opportunity

## 500 Help Wanted

CLEANER: 6 A.M.-NOON. Monday thru Friday. \$12.50/hr. Must have valid driver's license, reliable vehicle & clean BCI. Prov., Crans. & Warwick. Call Paul 310-1120.

MANUFACTURING: www.Fieldingmfg.com Setup & Process Techs needed 1st & 2nd Shifts. Precision Zinc Diecast-ing. Will train those with strong mechanical aptitude, reliable & motivated, and quality focus. Find your new career! Full-time w/great benefits. Send resume to accounting@fieldingmfg.com

## 645 Commercial Rental

## 500 Help Wanted

TRUCK DRIVER/ROLL-OFF CDL needed part or full-time. Apply at 86 Knight St., Warwick.

## 520 Medical Help Wanted

CNAS - HOME CARE: Flexible schedules, Coventry area. Sign-on Bonus! 943-6230.

## 600 Apartments For Rent

WARWICK: HOXSIE. 4 rooms, 2 beds. 1st floor, appliances. Security deposit. No pets, no utilities. \$950/mo. Call 245-1567.

## 635 Duplex For Rent

CRANSTON: 2 BED, 1.5 baths, Unfurnished, hardwood floors. Washer & dryer, stove, refrigerator. 1-yr lease. \$1000 mo. + utilities. Security. No pets. No smoking. Credit check, BCI, references. Bob 529-5898.

## 645 Commercial Rental

**For Lease - Retail 1121 Warwick Avenue 8,000 S.F. Adjacent to Ocean State Job Lot Sholes Properties 401-463-5600**

## 650 Store/Office For Rent

OFFICE SPACE: For rent in Holistic Health Center on Providence's East Side. Shared waiting room, large (12x16) room, zone heating, good light, good parking. For details, call Mark Brody, MD at 401-861-4643.

## 750 Real Estate Wanted

WE BUY HOUSES: Any condition!! Quick sale!! House needs work? We don't mind. Call 401-595-8703.

# Business Services

## 929 Home Improvements

**Weatherproof Home Improvement**  
Interior/Exterior Painting  
Roofing • Siding Gutters Decks  
**Dennis 732-9218** Reg. #31803

## 933 Electrical

**Valco Electric Residential Specialist**  
Electrical Upgrades  
Trouble Shooting & Repairs  
**Prompt & Courteous Service 401-921-3143**  
Lic. #A3990 AmEx/Disc/MC/Visa Insured

## 936 Handyman

**John's Construction Handyman Services**  
Painting Windows  
Carpentry  
**942-1729**  
15% Off next project w/ad. Reg. #24655 ~ Insured

# Business Services

## 939 Moving & Storage

**R.L. Davis Movers, Inc.**  
Residential - Commercial  
Packing Services & Supplies Available  
5% Senior Discount  
*Serving All of New England*  
**401-463-0006**  
Lic. #MC134 Insured

## 942 Landscape Materials

**CONFREDA FARMS**  
Fertile Farm Loam  
**Screened to 1/2 inch 50/50 Mix**  
Processed Gravel  
**737-7662 827-5000**

## 943 Landscaping

**LAWN CARE SERVICES & Spring Cleanups 699-5114**

## 945 Painting

**C & J Painting**  
Interior/Exterior Powerwashing  
Free Estimates  
Jason • Craig  
**378-8525 • 743-2554**  
Reg. #22833 Insured

**Levine Painting Co., Inc.**  
Commercial ♦ Residential  
Interior & Exterior Painting ♦ Wallpaper  
**Nathan Levine 736-0600**  
Reg. #7140 (Cell) 323-6100 Insured

**Ocean State Painting & Property Maintenance**  
Interior & Exterior Painting  
**Handyman Work Alex 414-9285**  
RI Reg. #44342

**T & T Painting 944-0336**  
**Interior Painting No Deposit Required!**  
Pay upon Completion  
Fully Insured - Free Estimates  
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## 948 Plastering

**Harold Greco Jr. Plaster Perfection**  
ALL Small Repair Specialist  
Emergency Water Damage Repairs  
**Historic Restorations Painting**  
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Integrity & Passion  
**ALL MAINTENANCE**  
Reg. #4114 ★ Member BBB ★ Est. 1946  
Call now! **738-0369**

## 949 Fencing

**Reilly Fence Inc.**  
Professional installations of Vinyl Wood • Aluminum Chainlink Fences  
Insured • Free Estimates  
Call & book an appt. today!  
**228-3647** Reg. #40392

## 953 Oil Tank Removal

**Why wait for your oil tank to leak?**  
Old oil tanks removed  
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Drum Disposal  
Newton B. Washburn, LLC.  
Insured • Reg. #27176 • RI877  
**401-647-9606**

## 963 Roofing

**Rawlinson Home Improvements, Inc. Your Local Roofing & Painting Company**  
A Great Job at a Great Price  
**Small Roof Repairs to Total Replacement 401-529-0649**  
Call Brian for a Free Estimate  
Reg. #10690

## 965 Rubbish Removal

**House Junk Removal**  
Garages Basements  
Small Demolitions  
Reliable Service  
Reg. #2983 & Insured  
**286-0505**

**Spring Cleanups**  
House - Cellars - Yards  
Garages -Moving?  
Anything hauled away, some for FREE!  
30 yrs. - Reliable Service!  
**741-2781** Lic. #37379 - Insured

**Business Services ads start at \$32/wk. in the Johnston Sun Rise, Warwick Beacon & Cranston Herald & run for 4 or more weeks.**



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Fresh Reuben Sandwich w/ Cup of Soup **9<sup>99</sup>**

Small Pasta w/ Choice of (1) Meatball or Chorizo **5<sup>99</sup>**

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