

Finally, the Amazon details revealed

By RORY SCHULER

Undeveloped, the section of forest where Amazon plans to build a facility in Johnston generates \$60,084 in annual tax revenue for the town.

After a “new, state-of-the-art Amazon Robotics Sortable Ful-

fillment Center” is built and opened, that figure is expected to increase by more than 12,000 percent.

Johnston may receive more than \$170 million in tax dollars and additional benefits over two decades from the proposed Amazon facility, if the Town

Council approves a series of resolutions next Wednesday.

The resolutions include a 20-year Tax Stabilization Agreement, and a list of other appropriations, to be spread throughout the town, including funding for new school programs, road improvements, bus

rides for employees and a boost to Johnston’s public safety budget.

The Town Council will hold a public hearing and special meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in the Johnston High School Auditorium, 345 Cherry Hill Road.

A School Committee meeting slated for 6 p.m., prior to the Town Council meeting, will discuss proposals for new school building projects.

Only one item is listed on the School Committee meeting

■ AMAZON - PAGE 10

How 'bout them apples?



Appleland will provide apples and baked goods at the 33rd Annual Apple Festival this weekend in Johnston. For full details, check out our Apple Festival special section starting on Page 15. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

New and better schools on the horizon?

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Schools may be consolidated and upgraded following a proposed \$190 million overhaul of facilities throughout the district.

Prior to Wednesday night’s Johnston Town Council public hearing and special meeting, the School Committee will meet for a public visual presentation of proposed new school buildings and old building upgrades.

One item is listed on the School Committee meeting agenda: “Presentation of the phase II school building construction plans by SLAM for submission to the Rhode Island Department of Education.”

The School Committee and the audience will view a presentation detailing plans for a new early childhood center, a new town-wide elementary school, and renovations for the middle and high schools.

“We wanted to do a joint meeting so both committees could hear the information on the facilities upgrades for the district,” said Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. “The architectural firm, the SLAM Collaborative, has put together a visual presentation.”

The School Committee meeting has been slated for 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 15, an hour prior to the scheduled Town Council meeting on the agreement between Johnston and Amazon.

Although the tax agreement with Amazon is not directly tied to school funding, a successful agreement could drastically boost the town’s tax base, providing more cash for school building projects.

The meeting will be held in the Johnston High School Auditorium, 345 Cherry Hill Road.

The district is examining multiple options, but ultimately hopes to build two new schools: a new early childhood center for preschool and Kindergarten students, and a new elementary school for grades one through four.

The district would also like to renovate the middle school and the high school, installing new heating, air condition, ventilation, science labs and more.

“The current early childhood center, which is attached to the middle school, will become a fifth grade academy,” DiLullo said. “Essentially it will become a self-contained facility for our fifth grade classes.”

■ SCHOOLS - PAGE 27

Rehab center argument goes to Superior Court

By RORY SCHULER

The legal struggle to open a for-profit rehabilitation center in Johnston continues.

Encompass Health has appealed a decision by a state hearing officer that rejected a Department of Health-issued Certificate of Need (CON) for the facility.

The case now goes to Superior Court.

“Nobody likes competition I guess,” said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena, shortly after the hearing officer’s report was released. “I would have trusted the director of public health to make the decision.”

Polisena has long been a proponent of the planned

hospital, proposed for Hartford Avenue, just past the Interstate 295 overpass, near the site of the proposed Amazon distribution facility.

“Encompass has filed an appeal,” Rhode Island Department of Health Public Information Officer Joseph Wendelken said last week. “It will be taken to superior court.”

Department of Health Director Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott approved the initial application for the \$42 million 50-bed inpatient rehab facility in 2020.

“Encompass Health looks forward to building a rehabilitation hospital in Johnston,” according to a statement from Alabama-based Encompass Health Corp., provided Tuesday

by the company’s Senior Manager of Public Relations, Danielle Hall. “There is a significant need for inpatient rehabilitation services in Rhode Island.”

An argument over the state’s “need” for the facility has been at the center of debates connected to the hospital, between the town, the state, and

healthcare advocates on both sides of the issue.

“The Executive Director of the state’s Certificate of Need (CON) agency recommended that Encompass Health receive a CON to proceed with the construction of a 50-bed rehabilitation hospital,” according to the statement

■ REHAB - PAGE 27

Scituate

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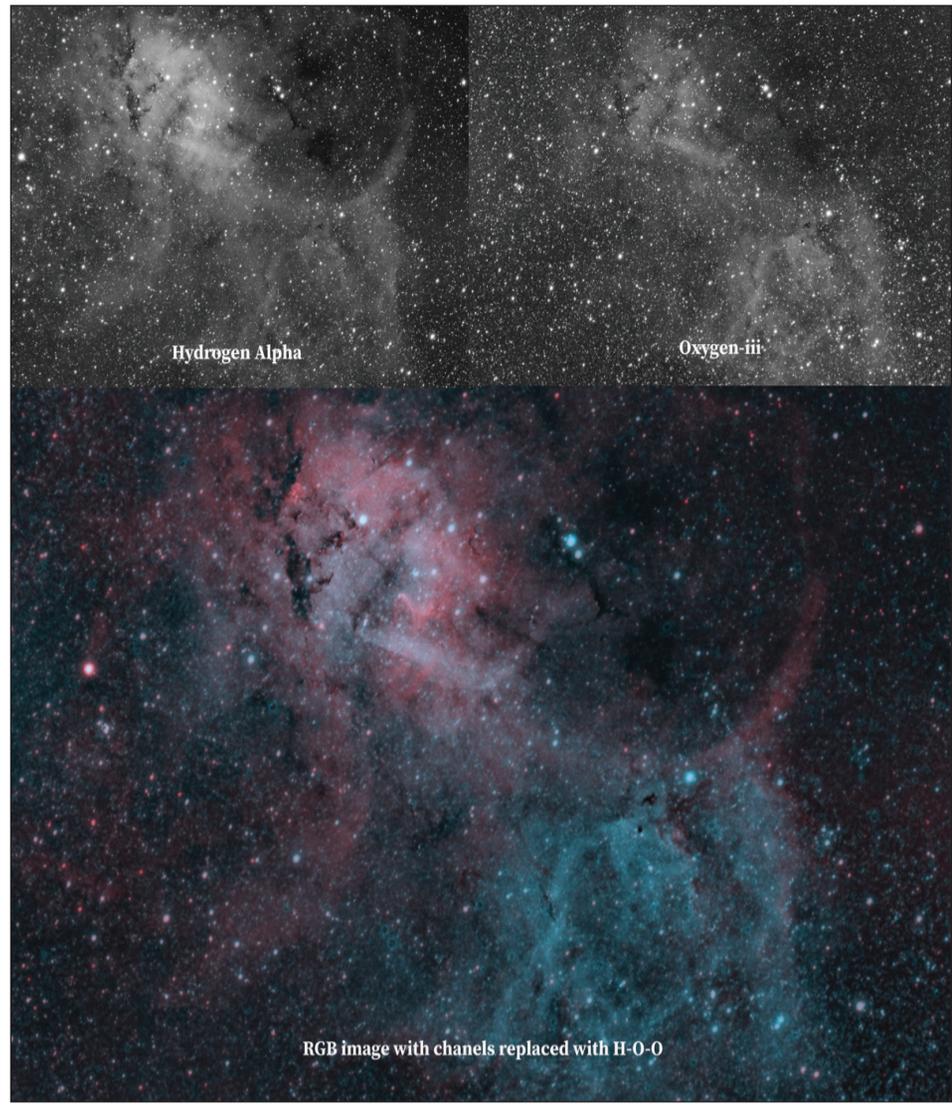
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BACKYARD SPACE



The Tiger King (SH2-132)

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

Here is a target in our northern hemisphere that is new to me as of last week. The Lion Nebula is a very faint emission nebula located in the constellation Cepheus. It is roughly estimated to be 10,000-12,000 light-years from Earth and is considered to be very faint. The best time for observation is between July and December.

Today I have decided to show you the image that I'm working on currently. I plan on shooting the Lion Nebula for 30 hours using a Hydrogen Alpha (HA), Oxygen-iii (O-iii), and Sulpher-ii (S-ii) Filters.

This image is just composed of Ha (Top-Left), and Oiii (Top-Right) giving you an HOO composite. I spent two nights shooting the individual filters and still have the S-ii to image. Once I have the data needed to complete the 30 hour project, I will end up with an SHO composite, otherwise known as the "Hubble Palette."

This image was captured from my backyard in Johnston.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lucas "Luc" Maguire captured this image from his backyard in Johnston. He will be submitting his deep space images to the Sun Rise for publication each week.

Doctors recommend monoclonal antibody treatment (MABS) for COVID-19.

Many people start feeling better the next day.

Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that fight viruses, such as the virus that causes COVID-19. The treatment is fast, easy, and highly effective. It helps keep you from getting sicker and being hospitalized.

The earlier you start treatment after your symptoms begin the more effective it is, so get tested as soon as you have COVID-19 symptoms.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE, ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF MABS IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

Visit covid.ri.gov/treatment to learn more.



Dressing Down to support Johnston seniors

Local business, Pappas of Atwood Avenue, invited their employees to donate to a nonprofit in the area. Throughout the months of June, July and August the Pappas staff participated in a casual Friday with a weekly donation. With the donations they collected, they chose to contribute to the Johnston Senior Center (JSC).

The JSC has been welcoming members back into the building. One of the most popular activities is now happening. BINGO is back on Thursdays and Fridays!

The staff at the Senior Center decided to treat their Bingo members to a refreshing Del's lemonade using the funds from Pappas. Being that it happened to be a 93-degree weather day the lemonade was a welcomed delight. Josh of Del's on Hartford Avenue was happy to take part by delivering the fresh treat to the Center.

Pappas has two locations on 1539 and 1524 Atwood Ave. here in John-

ston. They treat patients of all ages from children to geriatric. Specialties that are in the majority of our locations include: Aquatic Therapy, Balance, Dizziness and Fall Prevention, Concussion Therapy, Hand Therapy and Custom Splinting, Work Conditioning and Functional Work Evaluations, LSVT (Parkinsons

Therapy), Manual Therapy, Occupational Therapy for Cancer Survivors, Orthopedic Therapy, Pelvic Floor and Womens Health, TMJ Therapy, Dry Needling, Sports and Performance Training, and Vestibular Therapy (Vertigo).

For more information, contact Pappas at 401-383-5299.



DRESSED UP: From Left to right. JSC: Matt Bolton director; Denise Bell, assistant director; and from Pappas, Christine Thrift and Laura Luzier (Submitted photo)

Our Lady of Grace readies for 101st Feast and Festival

By PETE FONTAINE

Armed with 140-plus volunteers, "Team Our Lady of Grace" will present the Roman Catholic Parish's 101st LaMadonna della DiFesa Feast and Festival that officially opened last night at Festival Field off Sheridan Street in Johnston.

Festivities will range from what's known as "some of the best homemade and cooked Italian food in Rhode Island" as well as mega raffles — featuring upwards of 50 prizes — including two wide-screen televisions, women's and men's jewelry, straw and basket games, pull tabs, a ping pong pull and entertainment all held underneath a giant "Big Top" that covers a good portion of the church grounds.

Likewise, famed Rockwell Amusements — an amusements company owned by Harold Fera — has set up many different rides and booths for games of chance featuring prizes from Teddy Bears for children and inflated life-like characters along with carnival rides.

Perhaps OLG's annual and ambitious undertaking was best summed up in the words "Best Feast Ever" that were screen printed on parishioner Linda Bessette's T-shirt.

Although the fun-filled family and food fest seems to get better with age, en-

thusiasm and excitement is running high from everyone to OLG's popular pastor Rev. Peter J. Gower to Chairlady Joanne Burley to a myriad of volunteers who'll man a host of food and game booths for the event that continues through Sunday.

There was yet another tell-tale sign of the pride and passion parishioners have had for OLG, that being the words "Mangia, Mangia" Father Gower issued whenever someone walked into the kitchen at Fioretti Hall Tuesday to make either a delivery or donation for one of the many raffles.

"Please, help yourself," said Father Gower. "We've got sausage, peppers and onions with fresh rolls, soup and different kinds of pizza; please make a plate and join us."

Gower issued that statement during a luncheon that had a two-fold meaning and honored one of OLG's long-time volunteers extraordinaire Marilyn Domenic.

It actually happened during yet another long volunteer work day, which began at 6 a.m. and continued well into the late afternoon. It was also a brief, yet heartwarming ceremony during which a dozen or so people sang "Happy Birthday" to Domenic and presented her with a delicious Boston Crème Cake.

Thus, members of OLG's



BURLEY'S BUDDIES: OLG Feast and Festival Chairwoman Joanne Burley (top center) is joined by Linda Bessette, Dom Rogue, Margie Rogue, Marilyn Domenico and Betsy Reilly who enjoyed a luncheon during Tuesday's work session. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

work force, who had just finished filling countless trays of green and red peppers they cut, were back at work preparing for the large crowds that will flock to Festival Field and enjoy everything from delicious doughboys to macaroni

and meatball dinners, lasagna, veal and mushrooms, soffritto, tripe, arancini, chowder and clam cakes and a host of Italian sandwiches ranging from eggplant to steak, rabe and sausage and much, much more.

"We'll also have apple crisp with ice cream, cookies cake and pastries," said Burley.

She also pointed out there will be a beer garden serving bottled beer, wines and wine coolers to go with special menus like tonight's

Fish and Chips and Linguini and clams. Tomorrow, it's Polenta and Sunday the feature will be OLG's famous lasagna dinner with salad. Festival hours run today and tomorrow, from 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



VALUABLE VOLS: Among the countless volunteers who have worked planning and gearing up for Our Lady of Grace's 101st Feast and Festival are, from left: Rebecca Baggesen, Darleen Rampini, All Colannino and Laura Colannino.



PLENTIFUL PRIZES: Our Lady of Grace Rev. Peter J. Gower (left), Joe Andreozzi and Normand Bessette enjoy a lighter moment while standing near some of the more than 50 prizes that people will win from now until Sunday at Festival Field in Johnston.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Public Auction Legal Notice

Form of notice under RI General Laws 39-12.1 to 12.1-15

To: Ruben D. Antelo 465 Union Ave Providence, RI . A public auction will be held at 100 South Street Johnston, RI 02919 on September 18, 2021 at 9am . The vehicle a 2007 Toyota VIN# 2T1BR32EX7C777908 belonging to the above. The auction being held to satisfy towing and storage fees.

9/10/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless are proposing to collocate antennas on an existing 115-ft water tank located at 75 Pocasset St, Johnston, Providence Co., RI 02919 (41° 47' 50.64" N / 71° 28' 37.2" W). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: K. Eisele, Terracon, 844 N Lenola Rd, Ste 1, Moorestown, NJ 08057, 856-813-3267 or Kathy.eisele@terracon.com

9/10/21

PLANNING BOARD MEETING Tuesday September 14th, 2021; 6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

REVISED AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 21-31 - Winsor Woods - Public Meeting on a proposed 2-lot Minor Subdivision. Located at 28 Bridle Way. AP 48 Lot 595. Applicant: Pezzuco Brothers Development Corp.

PB 21-29 - Belknap Farm Drive Extension - Public Meeting on a Master Plan of a proposed 20 lot Major Subdivision. - AP 48 Lots 10 and 232 - Property Zoned - R-40. Applicant: Boulder Farm Development.

PB 21-35 - The TMC Key West Plat - Public Meeting on a proposed 2-lot Minor Subdivision. Located at 67 Bingley Terrace and 1347 Plainfield Street AP 3 lot 391. Applicant TMC Key West, LLC.

PB 21-25 - Vel-Tree - Scituate Avenue - Public Hearing on a proposed 4-lot Major Subdivision. Located behind 137 Scituate Avenue. AP 44 Lot 18. Applicant Nicolas Veltri.

PB 21-36 - KAP Construction - Central Pike - Public Meeting on a Preliminary Plan of a three-lot Minor Subdivision. Located at 1295 Central Pike and Cross Road. AP 43 Lot 170. Applicant: KAP Construction Corp.

PB 21-32 - An Advisory Opinion to the Town Council on the request to purchase 24 Hedley Street AP 14 Lot 359. Applicant Marvin Gustavo Portillo.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

1. Comprehensive Plan Update

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston. Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board. Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

9/10/21

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 30th, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on September 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

New Business

File 2021-35 – Petition of Parkside Holdings, LLC/Lyft, Inc., Owner/Applicant for 1530 Hartford Avenue, AP 44 Lot 84, zoned B-2. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit 340-75 for a proposed Vehicle Rental Agency.

File 2021-36 – Petition of Gary & Laura Young, Owner/Applicant for 192 Scituate Avenue, AP 28 Lots 211, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Use Variance 340-24-1 Accessory Dwelling. Proposed In-Law Addition.

Prior to adjournment the board shall convene as the Board of Appeals and hear the following matter:

File 2021–20 Peter Delponte Owner; 115 Winsor Avenue; AP 59 Lot 123; R-40 Zone; Appellants petition to the Building Officials violation notice.

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

Per order of the Zoning Board of Review
Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

9/10, 9/17, 9/24/21

TOWN OF JOHNSTON OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

COLLECTOR'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE FOR TAXES DUE AND UNPAID

Johnston Municipal Court
1600 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
October 7, 2021

The undersigned, Finance Director/Collector of the Town of Johnston, hereby gives notice that he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Johnston Municipal Court, in said Town on the 7th day of October, A.D. 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Local Time, the following described parcels of real estate (for the levy upon which notice hereby given) or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the taxes which constitute a lien thereon, assessed December 31, 2017 and/or prior years, together with the cost and charges incident to this sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, if the real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by the Town of Johnston and has not been assigned, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the Treasurer of the Town of Johnston the sum for which the real estate was purchased, plus a ten percent (10%) penalty of the purchase price if redeemed within six (6) months after the date of the sale. Beginning with the seventh (7th) month forward, an additional one percent (1%) of the purchase price for each succeeding month will be added, together with all charges lawfully added for intervening taxes plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and expenses assessed after the Collector's Sale.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-21, if the real estate in which you have a substantial interest is purchased by someone other than the Town of Johnston, you may redeem the real estate by paying or tendering to the purchaser or his or her legal representatives, assigns or to the person or persons to whom assignment of the tax title has been made by the Town of Johnston, or the Treasurer, the original sum and any intervening taxes having been paid to the municipality plus interest thereon at a rate of one percent (1%) per month and costs, plus a penalty as provided in Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-19, or in the case of an assignee of a tax title from the Town of Johnston, the amount stated in the instrument of assignment, plus the above-mentioned penalty.

The right of redemption may be exercised only by those entitled to notice of the Sale pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 44-9-10 and Section 44-9-11, and may be exercised at any time prior to the entry of Final Judgment in an action to foreclose the right of redemption filed pursuant to Rhode Island General Law Section 44-9-25. You are encouraged to review Rhode Island General Laws pertaining to tax sales and/or consult with an attorney concerning you rights.

Pre-qualification of bidders, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 44-9-13 shall be conducted on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Tax Collector's Office, Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. Mail in registrations will be provided upon request. All forms must be received by the Town of Johnston at least two (2) days prior to the tax sale. No bidder registration forms will be accepted the day of the tax sale. The Town of Johnston reserves the right to accept or reject bidder registration forms for failure to register pursuant to the instructions. The Town of Johnston further reserves the right to deny access to the auction in the interest of safety, law, regulation, or otherwise.

Each of the following described parcels will be sold for the nonpayment of the taxes assessed December 31, 2017, and/or as to certain of said parcels for the taxes assessed in prior years. Information as to the nature of the said taxes and assessment due on the several parcels may be obtained from the undersigned and will be announced at the sale.

For a more particular description of said estates, reference is made to the Assessor's Plats as the same appeared December 31, 2017, in the office of the Town of Assessor or Assessors of said Town.

TERMS: CASH OR BANK CHECK ONLY.

PER ORDER
Joseph Chiодо
Finance Director
Tax Collector

TERMS: CASH OR BANK CHECK ONLY.

ASSESSED OWNER	PLAT/LOT	PROPERTY ADDRESS
M E ADAMS REALTY CORP	43-114	@ PECK HILL ROAD
M E ADAMS REALTY CORP	43-163	91 PECK HILL ROAD
ADVANCED PROPERTIES INC	20-182	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
ALBA SAMUEL	39-93	7 MATHEWSON STREET
ALMEIDA EGAS ESTATE	59-159	@ LAKESIDE DRIVE
ALMEIDA EGAS ESTATE	59-158	@ LAKESIDE DRIVE
ALMEIDA RICHARD E	59-93	9 LAKESIDE DRIVE
ALVIN STREET ASSOC INC II	53-53	@ BELFIELD DRIVE
AMERICAN BUILDING CO	13-463	@ MARIA AVENUE
AMERICAN BUILDING CO	13-464	@ MARIA AVENUE
AMERICAN BUILDING CO	13-466	@ MARIA AVENUE
AMERICAN BUILDING CO	13-467	@ MARIA AVENUE
ANDREOLI GIUSEPPE	19-168	@ EAGLE STREET
ANDRIOLE IDAA	19-169	@ EAGLE STREET
ARAKELIAN JOHN SR & JOHN JR TC	5-369	66 MILL STREET
ARCHAND DIANA A LE	44-179	137 SCITUATE AVENUE
ASHLEY REALTY/R JENSEN	23-152	@ ANN DRIVE
BALDWIN MARGARET M ESTATE	63-133	@ HILL TOP DRIVE
BALDWIN MARGARET M ESTATE	63-134	@ BEECHNUT DRIVE
BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON	26-1	@ PLAINFIELD PIKE
BRIER GEORGIANA H	42-88	@ SPA STREET
BUCKLEY PATRICK	13-193	43 DYERVILLE AVEUNUE
BUTERA SALVATORE	38-209	@ OVERLOOK STREET
CF INVESTMENTS LLC	43-9	@ CENTRAL AVENUE
CADIEUX A 50% & GAUVIN Y 50%	65-42	@ RUSSELL DRIVE
CANNISTRACI JOSEPH	22-461	@ MORELAND STREET
CAPARRELLI ARTHUR LIFE EST	30-44	2005 PLAINFIELD PIKE
CARLSON DAN	6-92	@ MELODY LANE
CARPIONATO ALFRED TRSUTEE	44-89	@ATWOOD AVENUE
CARPIONATO ALFRED	44-94	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
CARPIONATO ALFRED	44-95	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
CASEY RONALD J ESTATE	42-71	@ ANGLEWOOD AVENUE
CASEY RONALD J ESTATE	42-72	@ ANGLEWOOD AVE
CASSIERE JOSEPH N	2-93	72 MAPLE AVENUE
CHAMPION RAE	9-375	@ BELLEVUE AVENUE
CICCONO ANGELO	65-44	@ RUSSELL DRIVE
CITRONE GAETANO W & RICHARD JT	8-70	@ GOLDEN AVE
CITRONE GAETANO W & RICHARD JT	9-255	@ GOLDEN AVENUE
CITRONE WILLIAM II & RENEE TE	9-256	@ GOLDEN AVE
CIVITTOLO DOMENIC E ET UX ADELINE T	55-43	@ APPLE BLOSSOM DR
NGRID POWER LLC	55-172	@ POPPY HILL DR
COLARDO THOMAS & HELEN	38-208	@ OVERLOOK STR
DELIA ANNE C/O STEVE IZZI	18-42	@ COLUMBUS AVENUE
DIORENZO ANTHONY	38-148	@ GEO WATERMAN RD
DIORENZO ANTONETTA 1/2 INT &	55-35	@ GREENVILLE AVE
DOWNCITY CAPITAL PARTNERS	53-50	87 BELFIELD DR
EASTERN INVESTMENTS	27-229	@ BIRCH ST
EASTERN INVESTMENTS CONCEPTS INC	21-492	@ WOODLAND STREET
FAITH PROPERTIES LLC	57-140	2992 HARTFORD AVENUE

FALVO VINCENT	22-460	@ MORELAND STREET
FALVO VINCENT	22-45 7	@ MORELAND STREET
FRANCIS ROBERT & BALMFORTH DOREEN	51-3	7 ELMGROVE AVENUE
GALLAGHER JAMES TRSUTEE	53-191	1837 ATWOOD AVENUE
GIARRUSSO STEVEN C & DONNA M, TRUSTEES	53-50	87 BELFIELD DRIVE
GRANDE GUIDO A G ET UX	12-467	@ SO FAIRVIEW STREET
GREEN ACRES REALTY	21-473	@ WOODLAND STREET
GREEN ACRES REALTY	21-474	@ WOODLAND STREET
GREEN ACRES REALTY	48-37	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
GREEN ACRES REALTY	48-157	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
GREEN ACRES REALTY	54-56	@ HARTFORD AVENUE
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC	48-157	@ ATWOOD AVENUE
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC	19-147	@ EAGLE STREET
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC	43-340	@ CENTRAL PIKE
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC	23-3	@ ANN DRIVE
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC	39-272	@ CHESTNUT STREET
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC.	57-348	@ OFF ELMDLAE AVE
GREEN ACRES REALTY INC.	21-431	@ NEWBURG STREET
ATTN: GAYLE VENTI	21-436	@ NEWBURG STREET
GURAVSKAS WALTER V	4-12	30 MILL STREET
IANNUCCILLI GERALD D	57-302	2839 HARTFORD AVENUE
IANOCELLI NELLIE HEIRS	24-7	@ SCITUATE AVENUE
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	14-260	@ HEDLEY AVENUE
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	15-36	@ OFF OSTEND STREET
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	18-26	@ COLUMBUS AVENUE
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	19-20 9	@ VALLELLI STREET
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	19-210	@ VALLELLI STREET
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	19-220	@ VALLELLI STREET
INTEGRITY INVESTMENTS INC	61-133	@ MEETING STREET
JACAVONE MARY ESTATE	33-63	198 SHUN PIKE
JOHNSTON 9	43-530	@ SHORE DRIVE
KHALIL ZIAD	44-30	@ CENTRAL AVENUE
KUY THA & THAN JT	5-20	@ ROME AVENUE
KUY THA & THAN JT	5-21	@ ROME AVENUE
KUY THA & THAN JT	5-22	@ ROME AVNEU E
L.C.P. CORP.	35-185	@ ON ALLENDALE POND
LEONARD DAVID A & MICHEAL D JT	15-361	65 KING STREET
LOMBARDI LYNN DORIS	65-46	@ RUSSELL DRIVE
LOUIS CALCAGNI & SONS INC	16-245	@ JACKSON AVENUE
LOUIS CALCAGNI & SONS INC	19-176	@ EAGLE STREET
MANCINI ARMANDO JO-ANN & JOSEPH A	59-171	@ LAKESIDE DRIVE
MANZI JOSEPH	65-73	16 VALLEY DRIVE
MAYER JON	52-4	CARPENTER DR. REAR
MELIDOSSIAN MALCOLM ET ALS	54-29	@ BELFIELD DRIVE
MILL STREET REALTY LLC	4-1	@ SCITUATE AVENUE
MIRABELLA ANNA	21-456	@ MORELAND STREET
MITSON THOMAS	10-336	@ LUDLOW STREET
MONTELLA LUCIO T JR 1/2 INT &	19-219	@ STREET
MOORE JULIE K	51-31	821 GREENVILLE AVE
MOSCHETTI VITTORIA	26-3	@ CAPITOL STREET
MOSCHETTI VITTORIA	26-70	@ JAMES STREET
NAJM JOSEPH & JOSEPHINE TE	43-215	@ CENTRAL PIKE
NGRID POWER LLC	55-171	@ POPPY HILL DRIVE
NORIGIAN KENNETH	54-28	@ BELFIELD DRIVE
178 WATERMAN ASSOCIATES LLC	35-223	@ GEO WATERMAN RD
178 WATERMAN ASSOCIATES LLC	37-63	178 GEORGE WATERMAN RD
178 WATERMAN ASSOCIATES LLC	35-1	@ GEORGE WATERMAN RD
P.D.M ASSOCIATES INC	41-6	@ DARTMOOR STREET
OZZI REALTY ASSOCIATES LLC	13-313	@ LEAH STREET
P.D.M ASSOCIATES INC	41-7	@ ARAGON AVENUE
P.D.M ASSOCIATES INC	41-8	@ RALPH STREET
PAGLIARINI CHRISTINE ANNE	63-1	@ HILL TOP DRIVE
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	46-4	@ BYRD STREET
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	46-3	@ BYRD STREET
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	9-1	@ DOWNING DRIVE
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	7-35	@ SYLVIA AVENUE
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	9-114	@ PINEWOOD AVENUE
PALAZZI LUCY, CARLISLE, PALAZZI 1/3 INT	9-354	@ DOWNING DRIVE
PALLAZZO RUSSELL	14-392	@ GREENVILLE AVENUE
PALUMBO ARTHUR	3-3	@ LUTHER COURT
PAQUETTE JOSEPH C ET UX GRACE L	18-40	@ COLUMBUS AVENUE
PARRILLO GERALD A II &	3-405	14 PRISCILLA LANE
PASSARELLA ANTONIO M	28-135	25 REGINA DRIVE
PECUNIOSO ANTONIO & CONSTANTIN	19-196	@ COLUMBUS AVENUE
PELLEGRINO FLORENCE ESTATE	21-293	@ WOODLAND STREET
PELLEGRINO FLORENCE ESTATE	21-298	@ WOODLAND STREET
PELLEGRINO FLORENCE ESTATE	21-304	@ WOODLAND STREET
PELLEGRINO FLORENCE ESTATE	21-315	@ WOODLAND STREET
PEZZA LEONARD & SQUIZZERO VIRGINIA	61-111	@ LAKE SHORE DRIVE
PHOENIX-GAMBINO RIGP	38-187	@ WHIPPLE AVENUE
PHOENIX-GAMBINO RIGP	38-190	@ WHIPPLE AVENUE
PICERNO JOYCE	53-61	@ BELFIELD DRIVE
PILOZZI ROBERT W	20-320	@ CANDICE CT
PREMIUM HOMEBUILDERS LLC	16-254	@ JACKSON AVENUE
R & T REALTY INC	4-278	@ MILL STREET
R & T REALTY INC	4-279	@ MILL STREET
R & T REALTY INC	4-315	73 MILL STREET
R & T REALTY INC	4-316	@ MILL STREET
RICH CARMELA LIFE ESTATE	4-292	1547 PLAINFIELD STREET
CARLSON DAN	6-92	@ MELODY LANE
ROBIDEAU ERNEST ET UX DOLORES K JT	62-109	@ HILLTOP DRIVE
ROSSI KATHLEEN A 1/5 INT & ETALS	43-252	@ RESERVOIR AVENUE
RUCCO DOMENIC A & BORKOWSKI THOMAS S.	25-241	@ SIMMONSVILLE AVENUE
SCHWARTZ & OCONNOR	10-336	@ LUDLOW STREET
SCIACCA ANTHONY ET UX FILOMENA JT	6-98	@ MELODY LANE
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SCIACCA ANTHONY ET UX FILOMENA JT	6-100	@ MELODY LANE
SCOCA EDWARD	21-458	@ MORELAND STREET
SHELTON PALMI ESTATE	65-74	@ VALLEY DRIVE
SMITH H RAYMOND	19-214	@ VALLELLI STREET
STABILE EDMUND W & CARL E	46-74	2436 HARTFORD AVENUE
STANDARD TITLE & ESCROW CORP	7-165	@ SPRAGUE CIRCLE
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	21-316	@ AUDUBON STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	21-321	@ AUDUBON STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	21-326	@ AUDUBON STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	42-6	@ ANGLEWOOD STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	42-7	@ ANGLEWOOD STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	42-14	@ ANGLEWOOD STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	5-86	@ NAPLES AVENUE
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SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	21-482	@ WOODLAND STREET
SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	21-486	@ WOODLAND STREET
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SUBURBAN LAND CO C/O RAY REEDY	38-77	@ CHARLES AVENUE
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SZELAG FRANK C ET UX JOSEPHINE F JT	45-352	@ DAYTON AVENUE
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VERA CRUZ SHABO LLC	53-33	1510 ATWOOD AVENUE
VESPIA THOMAS R & DOLORES K	42-67	@ DARTMOOR STREET
WINACCO ROSE C ESTATE	8-261	9 ORLEANS STREET
WARDICK JAMES & LORENA ROSE	54-5	@ BELFIELD DRIVE
WARDICK LORENA R	18-25	@ COLUMBUS AVENUE
WARDICK LORENA R	40-127	@ RIVERSIDE AVENUE
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Warwick VFW Post being rededicated in memory of Cranston's DeCiccio

By SUN RISE STAFF

A Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Warwick will be rededicated in honor of a late U.S. Army veteran from Cranston on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Warwick Memorial VFW Post 272, located at 840 West Shore Road in the Conimicut neighborhood, will formally become known as the Sgt. Adam S. DeCiccio Warwick Memorial Post 272.

"Adam was a remarkable man who loved his country," an announcement regarding the rededication reads.

The event begins at 1 p.m., and members of the public are invited to attend. Free parking will be available at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, located at 135 Beach Ave.

DeCiccio, who passed away late last year at age 37, served in Afghanistan and Iraq. A 2001 graduate of Cranston High School West, he began basic training in Georgia four days before the 9/11 attacks.

According to a biography, DeCiccio served for six years with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division, including deployments during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received numerous commendations over the course of his service.

"Adam struggled in his



DeCiccio

transition back to civilian life – the repercussions of sending a teenager to war," the biography reads. "He sought something that would fill the void of the military and that would give his life meaning."

DeCiccio earned a bachelor's degree from Johnson & Wales University in 2012 and began working with the nonprofit organization Veterans Inc., assisting veterans with securing housing and employment. He was promoted to a supervisory with the organization, according to the biography, and also became an accredited service officer with the VFW in Rhode Island, helping veterans secure benefits.

"He was also actively involved in his VFW Post activities, heading an annual turkey drive which donated turkeys and gift cards to lend aid to veterans during the Thanksgiving holiday," the biography reads.

In 2019, DeCiccio earned a master's degree in clinical mental health and rehabilitation counseling from Salve Regina University. From there, he became a research health science specialist with the Providence VA Medical Center, focusing on treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Adam was a leader – he guided men safely through some of the worst situations imaginable with confidence and poise," the biography reads. "He dedicated his post-military life to other veterans and did so with enthusiasm and honor. He never hesitated when a fellow veteran needed help, even if that meant driving to New Jersey in the middle of the night to help a suicidal veteran, or searching for a veteran living in the woods to help him receive medical care. His countless selfless acts of kindness to his fellow veterans were the foundation of his character and how he chose to live his life of service. His deeds always spoke abundantly louder than his words."

DeCiccio was honored in Cranston earlier this year by the group Cranston Cares, which dedicated the Fourth of July fireworks display at the Atwood Avenue softball field in his memory.

For more information, visit vfw272.org or follow Sgt. Adam DeCiccio Warwick Memorial Post 272 on Facebook.




THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE REDEDICATION OF THE
SGT ADAM S. DECICCIO WARWICK MEMORIAL POST 272
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 AT 1:00 PM**

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UNITED STATES ARMY, 2ND
BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY,
1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM,
10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION
(LIGHT) AND WAS DEPLOYED
TO BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND
IRAQ. ADAM LOST HIS FIGHT
WITH THE EFFECTS OF WAR
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VETERANS**

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Fire Department scores \$178,994 grant

In an effort to enhance public safety and improve emergency response capabilities across the state, U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Congressmen Jim Langevin and David Cicilline have announced \$5,495,328 in federal funding to help nineteen fire departments and fire districts across the state purchase new equipment and training.

The Johnston Fire Department will receive \$178,994 for an air compressor system and cardiac monitors/defibrillators.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also awarded federal fire grants to other Ocean State fire departments and fire districts including Bristol, Central Falls, East Greenwich, East Providence, Lincoln, Narragansett, Newport, North Kingstown, Pascoag, Portsmouth, Providence, Prudence Island, Rhode Island Firefighting Academy in Exeter, Warwick, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

"The delegation works hard to deliver federal dollars to support the

work of Rhode Island firefighters," Whitehouse said. "I'm pleased these awards will cover new trucks, training, and life-saving equipment for these departments."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program helps fire departments purchase equipment and emergency vehicles and provides training and other firefighting and fire prevention activities.

Additionally, about \$15,000 in AFG COVID-19 Supplemental grants were awarded to Bristol (\$10,938), Saylesville Fire District (\$1,670), and the Prudence Island Volunteer Fire Department (\$2,850) to acquire personal protective equipment (PPE) and related supplies to the fire service community to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"This is a big win for these communities," Reed said. "Our firefighters do so much to help keep people safe and these new federal funds will help ensure local fire departments are fully equipped and trained. I am grateful to our first responders and will continue working to ensure that Congress provides them with the

support they need. These grants will help lift the budgetary burden on local governments and better protect the health and safety of the public and firefighters."

Sen. Reed is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee that oversees FEMA funding who leads annual workshops to help Rhode Island fire departments compete for these federal funds.

"Communities are safer and fire departments are better equipped thanks to the millions of dollars in federal funding that my colleagues and I have delivered," Langevin said. "Our courageous firefighters risk their own safety every day to protect the rest of us. They deserve the very best training, equipment, and recruiting tools money can buy."

Since 2001, Rhode Island fire departments and other first responders across the state have successfully secured over \$115M million in AFG awards to pay for equipment upgrades, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, fire prevention programs, and hiring new firefighters.



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Cranston Greek Festival ready to go

By PETE FONTAINE

The Cranston Greek Festival, which will open its 35th annual running this Friday at 5 o'clock at 175 Oaklawn Ave., will feature several new twists while also serving as a mighty memorial to one of Church of the Annunciation's most beloved parishioners, iconic and long-time chef Harry Bablenis, 88, who sadly passed away on Jan. 28, 2020.

"Harry was loved and cherished by everyone," said general chairman Theofanis "Frank" Markos. "It was an honor and pleasure working with him in the kitchen for many food events; we all learned so much from Harry and were saddened by his unexpected passing."

As for the three-day festival's new twists, Markos – who is joined by co-chairs Kevin Phelan, Evan Andrikos and Gina Liakos – spoke of the online food order processing, which he "will result in quicker service."

The online ordering – which was part of a former food event – begins with using the camera on your smartphone to scan a QR code or visiting greekfestexpress.com, then selecting your food items and purchasing with a credit card. Then enter the "Online Order Pick-up" line and provide your name to check in and make your way to the designated waiting area while your order is being prepared.

In keeping with tradition, the 2021 festival will roast lamb, pork and chicken souvlaki dinners as well as roast chicken and Pastitsio. The gyro sandwich will also be in high demand, while sides like Greek-style potatoes, rice pilaf, Dolmades (grape leaves stuffed with rice) and Greek salad are on the menu.

A la carte offerings include spanakopita (spinach pie), Tyropita (cheese pie), pork and chicken souvlaki, roast chicken and pastitsio. There will also be grilled hot dogs, French fries, pita bread, Tzatziki sauce, soda and water and of course a full bar with Greek and American wines and beers, mixed drinks and liqueurs.

The Greek Pastry Shoppe's offerings have been prepared by two groups of people that Koula Rougas, the long-serving and respected chairperson, said fall into two categories: "The many wonderful women of our parish who have been baking for years and younger people who are learning the ropes from veteran volunteers."

This year's Greek Pastry Shoppe has also received valuable help from ladies like Krissy Narcisi and Danielle Marland, who are neighbors of Rougas's son, Dr. Steven Rougas, and daughter-in-law, Trisia. They double as committee co-chairs.



PROUD PACKERS: Cranston Greek Festival co-chairman Kevin Phelan and pastry chair Koula Rougas were busy this week packing away some of the 15,000 Koulourakia, traditional Greek coffee cookies, that will be among countless sweets this weekend. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

"They became interested upon learning about our festival," Rougas said. "They came forward and wanted to join in the fun."

So all systems are go on Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

"Our parishioners and volunteers are excited to host the festival and have been planning and working hard for months," said Father Andrew George, popular pastor at Church of the Annunciation. Meanwhile, Assistant Priest Father Nick Lanzourakis stated: "We are in awe of everyone that makes the festival as great as it is."

And that includes avoiding traffic and parking jams on and around Oaklawn Avenue as members of the Cranston Police Department are on duty and help traffic move freely. There's also parking and free shuttle service available from Cranston High School West off Curtis Street. Buses will leave every 10 minutes until closing.

Likewise, there will be live Greek music and traditional performances by Annunciation's famous Odyssey Dance Troupe, which will perform in unique costumes on Friday at 7 p.m. as well as Saturday and Sunday at both 4 and 7 p.m. There will also be Greek imports and church tours, a special bookstore and admission is free.

People who'd like more information should call the parish at (401) 942-4188.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Storytime helps children grow and learn

By JON ANDERSON
Special to the Sun Rise

Storytime at libraries can contribute to children's early efforts to learn to read.

A good storyteller or picture-book reader engages the audience, so that children learn from an early age that listening to stories and reading are active experiences.

With effort, they can be made into significant learning experiences. At early ages not as much for information or knowledge, as to think about the pictures and the letters, as books demand of us more than moving pictures.

As parents at home, we can push the pause button, or let the child do so, to help make absorbing the story a creative act. Reading, viewing and listening, we interact with the book, sometimes with a storyteller, and with our own feelings.

Reading to your own child at home on a regular basis can be great family time, as it is an opportunity to gain insight into what's going on inside them, and can help children better understand their own emotions. And so it contributes not only to their understanding of art and storytelling, and of their own imaginative role in reading, but to their emotional development.

We offer storytime with humbler aspirations as well, like to give parents something to do with their preschoolers, and in the hopes you'll take a pile of books home, and if we accomplish that maybe it's enough.

You can approach your own reading with kids in simple but very positive ways, too.

There is an excellent article on this by parent, elementary school teacher and scholar

Deborah Farmer Kris at pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive. See other articles she links to as well, for ideas about how you can enrich this time with your child.

And please come to our storytime for ages 3-5, which resumes this September. Miss Meri will be away on vacation, but Miss Arlene will be providing storytime, and crafts afterwards. (Crafts also help us grow inside.)

Storytime for ages 3-5 will be September 15 & 22, 10:30 on Wednesdays. Later dates to be determined. Unvaccinated children and adults are asked to wear a mask in accordance with recommendations from the state.

Editor's Note: Jon Anderson serves as the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Director. Watch for his column weekly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

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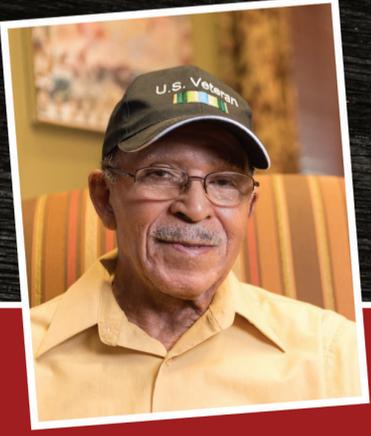


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Golfing for Matt

The fourth annual Race for Matt and Grace Golf Tournament raised approximately \$16,000 (after expenses) for the fight against Friedreich's ataxia (FA).

All funds raised benefited the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) and the tournament was held in honor of its late namesake, Matthew Dilorio, who died on July Fourth, after living with the disease since 1994.

The tournament was held at Connecticut National Golf Course on Friday, Aug. 20.



DANGEROUS DRIVERS: From left to right, David Pingitore, David Iannuccilli, Richard Boehm, Keith Calci, Tom Balkun, Adam Pontbriant and Anthony Colella played to honor Matt Dilorio. (Submitted photos)



AN INSPIRATION: Alex Fielding points to photo of Matt Dilorio.



ABOVE PAR: From left to right, Alex Fielding, Jack Dilorio, Steve Westell, Mike Interlini, Vincent LaFazia pose for a group photo.



SHOOTING EAGLES: From left to right, John Healey, Tom Goodwin, Eamonn Hartnett and Matt Cubellis played in the tournament.

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FUN FLEET: Members of Cub Scout Pack 20 of Johnston are set to embark on a kayak trip at famous Narrow River in Narragansett. (Submitted photos)

Cub Scout Pack 20 schedules events for prospective members

By PETE FONTAINE

“Do your best,” reads part of a Cub Scouts of America message that concludes with “Have fun doing it!”

Moreover, families whose children like catching a fish, riding bicycles or simply setting up tents can find a myriad of wholesome, old-time activities offered by the highly-active Cub Scout Pack 20 of Johnston.

“We have many different fun filled activities year round,” explained Susan DeAthos, a proud parent and dedicated volunteer. “Our Scout pack has gone kayaking on Narrow River in Narragansett and the girls and boys have enjoyed other special events such as Trunk or Treat with costumes.”

When asked if she meant to say girls and boys, DeAthos emphasized: “Cub Scout Pack 20 is open to girls and boys in kindergarten through Grade 5.”

Next weekend — on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19 — Pack 20 will host two registration events where parents can bring their children and as DeAthos noted “learn more of what Cub Scout Pack 20 is all about.”

The Saturday, Sept. 18 registration will be held at famous Camp Champlain located a 223 Scituate Ave. in Cranston starting at 10 a.m. while the Sunday, Sept. 19 session will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, and is called the Smithfield Sportsman Club Fun Day, at 14 Walter Carey Road in Smithfield.

DeAthos said the Sunday program will offer children an opportunity to play in the inflatable Gaga Pit while their parents learn about other events such as camping, hiking, visiting a corn maze, visiting museums and a host of other events.

There’s also another side to Cub Scouting, as other adult leaders will tell parents, during which children participate in educational programs that offer each and every Cub Scout a chance to earn merit badges and higher ranks within the organization.

Anyone who’d like more information about Cub Scout Pack 20 is invited to call DeAthos at 401-524-3824.



TRUNK OR TREAT: Getting all decked out in caps, their uniforms and even some masks, this is one of the many fun-and-family oriented events hosted by Cub Scout Pack 20 of Johnston.

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(Continued from page 1)

agenda: "Presentation of the phase II school building construction plans by SLAM for submission to the Rhode Island Department of Education."

The School Committee and the audience will view a presentation on proposed school building projects in town - a new early childhood center, a new town-wide elementary school, and renovations for the middle and high school.

"We wanted to do a joint meeting so both committees hear the information on the facilities upgrades for the district," said Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. "The architectural firm, the SLAM Collaborative, will put together a visual presentation."

An expansion in Johnston's tax base, following the construction of a new Amazon facility, will likely help to fund new school building projects.

Secret's out

Despite a heavy reliance on robotic technology, the six-story, 3,864,972 square-foot Amazon facility promises to employ 1,500 to 2,000 people.

Documents filed with the Rhode Island Secretary of State's office detail the Tax Stabilization Agreement and promised payments to the town, the school district and the state.

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said Tuesday that the pending agreement with the town is "the best deal Amazon has given out so far."

Prior to legal advertising for next Wednesday's meetings, town officials, documents and Polisena have not used the word "Amazon" while discussing the project.

The codename "Project Schooner" had been substituted, until a tentative agreement with the giant online retailer could be reached.

On Tuesday, Polisena said he had signed a non-disclosure agreement, or NDA, with Amazon, promising not to discuss the project publicly. He also disclosed that Amazon first reached out to him regarding the new facility "more than two years ago."

"For some reason, this is what they normally do to keep the negotiations more intense," Polisena said in his Town Hall office on Tuesday.

Tax breaks

The company hopes to secure a tax agreement with the town, promising a series

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

EXHIBIT A

Item	Amount Payable	Payment Due Date	Frequency	Agreement Reference
RIPTA bus passes	Up to \$90,000.00	One (1) year subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations within the Facility.	Annual	Section A(3)
Traffic Mitigation Study	\$100,000.00	Earlier of: i. One (1) year subsequent to the Facility operating at substantially full capacity; or ii. Three (3) years subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations at the Facility.	One-time	Section A(4)
Post-Construction Traffic Mitigation Equipment and Improvements	Up to \$1,000,000.00	One (1) year following the completion of the traffic mitigation study.	One-time	Section A(5)
Initial Funding — Johnston High School Pathway Program	\$400,000.00	Upon the commencement of the Tax Treaty Agreement (Jan. 1, 2024).	One-time	Section B(2)
Annual Funding — Johnston High School Pathway Program	\$582,500.00	Upon the commencement of the Tax Treaty Agreement (Jan. 1, 2024).	Annual	Section B(2)
Rhode Island Municipal Education and Training Initiatives	\$250,000.00	Upon the commencement of the Tax Treaty Agreement (Jan. 1, 2024).	Five (5) Annual Installments	Section B(3)
Public Safety Operations	\$538,000.00	Upon the commencement of the Tax Treaty Agreement (Jan. 1, 2024).	Ten (10) Annual Installments	Section C(1)
Johnston Youth Sports	\$50,000.00	One (1) year subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations within the Facility.	One-time	Section D(1)
Johnston Senior Center	\$100,000.00	One (1) year subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations within the Facility.	One-time	Section D(2)
Johnston Municipal Land Trust	\$250,000.00	One (1) year subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations within the Facility.	One-time	Section E(1)
Johnston Memorial Park	\$100,000.00	One (1) year subsequent to the commencement of full delivery operations within the Facility.	One-time	Section E(2)
Rhode Island's Small Business	\$550,000.00	Upon the commencement of the Tax Treaty	Five (5) Annual	Section F(1)

BY THE NUMBERS: This chart from the proposed tax agreement with Amazon outlines various payments that would be included.

of 20 annual tax payments averaging more than \$7.2 million each year for the next two decades.

The company will receive a significant savings on tangible taxes, but promises to make stable annual payments, starting with a potential \$5.7 million the first year, with a fixed annual 2.5 percent increase, raising the annual payment to more than \$9 million by the 20th year.

Amazon will make the stabilized annual payments "in lieu of any and all other real and personal property taxes and assessments," according to the tax agreement.

"This agreement represents an average tax revenue of \$7,280,227.42 over the 20-year term of this agreement, representing a \$7,220,143.42 or 12,016% average increase in tax revenue over the current tax revenue for the property," according to the tax agreement.

Polisena, in his final term serving as Johnston's mayor, hopes the Amazon agreement will leave a lasting legacy of financial security for the town.

"If they had to pay full boat, they wouldn't come to Rhode Island," he said. "I'll be in St. Anne's Cemetery and this town will still have financial stability."

Town Council is expected to vote Wednesday on a resolution authorizing Polisena to enter into a Community Partnership Agreement

(CPA) between the town and Amazon, for the project planned for 2120 Hartford Ave.

Besides immediate financial gains, "the location of the Facility in the Town will enhance the business reputation of the Town, and will increase economic opportunity in the Town through the patronage of local small businesses and collateral new and increased employment created to support the Facility," according to proposed Resolution No. 2021-29.

The resolution details the agreement between Johnston and Amazon.com Services LLC, a Delaware limited liability company planning to build its newest facility across a forested section of lots off Hartford Avenue, near the road's intersection with Route 295.

The documents describe the 195-acre section of mostly woodland as "a challenging site for development."

Without the Amazon deal, "that property would never get developed," Polisena said.

A preliminary site plan, environmental and traffic studies have already cleared the Johnston Planning Board.

Amazon could start building immediately if they wanted to pay the same tax rates as any other Johnston business. However, construction has been awaiting a tax agreement between the

company and the town.

Community funding

The agreement lists a dozen promised allocations to Johnston for a variety of community improvements.

The first section of Resolution No. 2021-30 tackles traffic concerns at the site and future road improvements.

A proposed Construction Funding Agreement between Amazon and the town promises funding for "certain off-site roadway improvements to the surrounding roadways, such improvements being identified by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation as being necessary prior to the proposal for the Project."

Hartford Avenue is also Route 6, a state highway plagued by safety concerns long before any public utterance of the Amazon project.

A Route 6 center barrier and jug handles, as well as Belfield Drive alterations, are planned for surrounding roads.

If and when the Amazon facility opens, the more than 1,500 projected employees will need to commute to the site somehow. A large influx of tractor-trailers - estimates range from 300-600 a day - will also be making their way to the facility.

"Amazon shall encourage its employees and visitors of the Facility to carpool, and use public transportation and car sharing services," ac-

ording to the CPA.

Amazon will spend up to \$90,000 annually to purchase RIPTA bus passes for employees of the facility (based on actual employee demand) during the first 10 years of operation.

Polisena said the bus passes will help commuters from Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket make their way to the Johnston facility.

Then, one to three years following the opening of the facility, Amazon will contribute "up to \$100,000 for a traffic mitigation study to measure volumes and levels of service at peak periods (taking into account peak seasonal patterns) to determine any traffic and transit improvements that may be warranted to mitigate the Facility's impacts on area roadways, and to enhance access to the Facility and the quality of traffic circulation for residents and other businesses."

Within one year after completion of the traffic study, Amazon will pledge to contribute up to \$1,000,000 for "post construction traffic mitigation equipment and improvements."

Institutional windfall

The next section of the CPA describes Amazon-funded employment training and education opportunities.

The company will hold at least three hiring events to promote job openings, and promises to hold the "first job fair" in Johnston.

Over the 20-year life of the tax agreement, Amazon will contribute \$582,500 annually toward funding a "Johnston High School Pathway Program, including, but not limited to a P-Tech career pathway program for Johnston High School students."

P-Tech refers to Pathways in Technology Early College High School, according to DiLullo.

If the agreements are approved, Amazon will also make a \$400,000 one-time payment to cover the program's initiation costs.

"Basically, the focus of

that program will be on both business and health care," DiLullo said.

Those two career paths have been identified by the state as fields in high demand.

The company will also promise to make five annual payments of \$250,000 (totaling \$1,250,000) toward Rhode Island Municipal Education and Training Initiatives.

Public safety budgets in town will also receive a slice of the pie. Amazon will make 10 annual \$538,000 payments to the town's "public safety operations."

The money will be split between the police and fire departments, Polisena said. And with the additional funding, the mayor expects to add at least one more firefighter to each shift covering the Hartford Avenue west-end fire station.

Amazon has promised to support several other community institutions following approval of the tax agreement.

Johnston youth sports will receive a \$50,000 payment following "commencement of full delivery operations" at the facility.

The Johnston Senior Center will receive a \$100,000 payment.

"We have no comment at this time because we just found out this week," Johnston Senior Center Director Matt Bolton said Tuesday. "We're excited at the possibility to use that money to help the seniors."

Bolton and administrators at the Senior Center plan to discuss possible ways to spend the money, if the agreement is ratified.

The Johnston Municipal Land Trust stands to gain \$250,000 from the deal.

And Johnston Memorial Park will receive a \$100,000 payment from Amazon.

The company has also pledged \$2,750,000 (payable in \$550,000 annual installments) toward Rhode Island's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP), the state's primary small business assistance program.

Obituaries

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

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

Raymond & Christina Mandarelli



Because God knew your work was o'er,
Your children taught, and grown,
He called you both to come and dwell,
Where no more work is done;
Where the golden sun doth never set,
And the sky's forever blue;
It's there, we hope in God's good time,
Dear parents, to be with you.

LOVED AND MISSED,
SON BOBBY AND ROBERT JR. & STEPHAN

James L. Angell Sr.



You're not forgotten father, dear,
Nor ever shall you be;
As long as life and memory last
I shall remember thee.

YOUR LOVING DAUGHTER,
BARBIE GIRL

Back TO SCHOOL

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Wednesday, Sept. 1, Johnston's kids returned to school. That same morning, the Johnston Sun Rise asked the parents of Johnston to send us back to school photos. So many of you responded that we've been overwhelmed with submissions. At last count, we received more than 80 photographs. So we're trying to get them all published. You'll find around 40 in this week's edition. We'll aim to get the rest in next week. Thank you so much for your outstanding response. It's been a tough couple years, and we hope these pages help pour a little sunlight through the clouds. In the meantime, check our website, www.johnstonsunrise.net, for a huge photo gallery. And if you didn't get your child's First Day Photo to us yet, there's still time. Email submissions to the editor at rorys@rhodybeat.com.



Gino and Raymond DeSimone, Eighth and Seventh Grades



Giovanni Gauthier, Eighth Grade



Hailey Sanchez, Second Grade



Hunter Desrosiers, Fifth Grade



Isabella Ferri, 11th Grade



Jaelyn Jordan, Sixth Grade



James, Olivia and Zachary Forgetta, Sixth, Eighth and Third Grades



PAST & PRESENT: Joey Acciardo, now a senior, poses with his faithful black lab Jaxy.



Alana Domingos, Third Grade



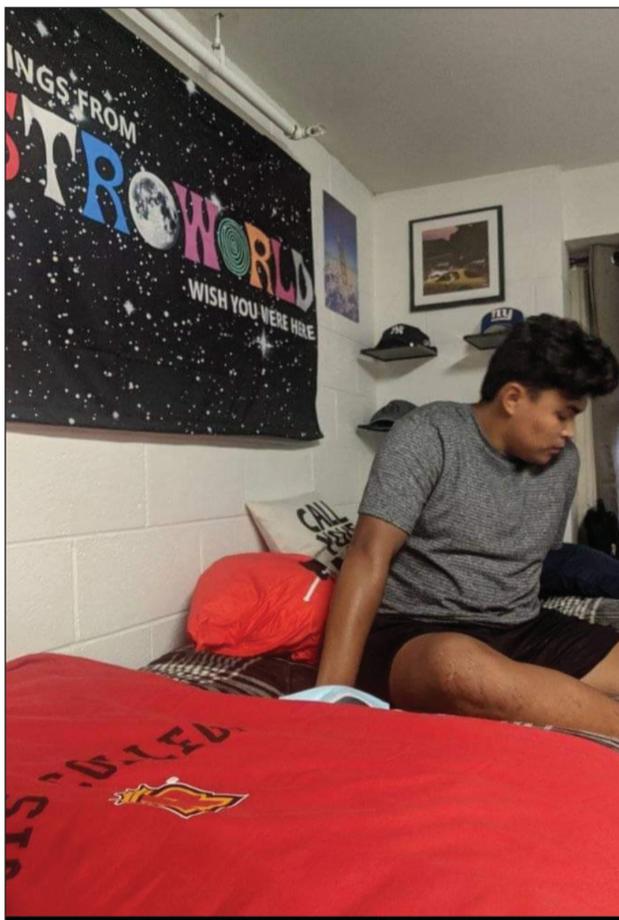
Alessia & Brody Dutilly, Sixth and Seventh Grade



Alexander Santaniello, First Grade



Aliviah Balasco, Fourth Grade



Anthony Marsella, first year at Regis Catholic College



Anthony Perito, Eighth Grade



Eric and Ariana Barboza, Third and Fifth Grade



Aubree Allen and Malanya Zanni, Tenth Grade



Ava Mello, Eighth Grade



Ava Soave, Eighth Grade, St. Rocco School



Brandon Hall, 11th Grade



Brianna Lapati, Eighth Grade



Brooke Charpentier, Fifth Grade



Brooklyn and Gabby Russillo, Sixth and Eighth Grade



Chantelle Lacasse, Eighth Grade



Daylin, David Jr. and Caylee Allen, Fifth, First and First Grades



Ali and Derek La Fazia, Fourth and Eighth Grades



Devyn Lacasse, Tenth Grade



Dominic Lacasse, Fifth Grade



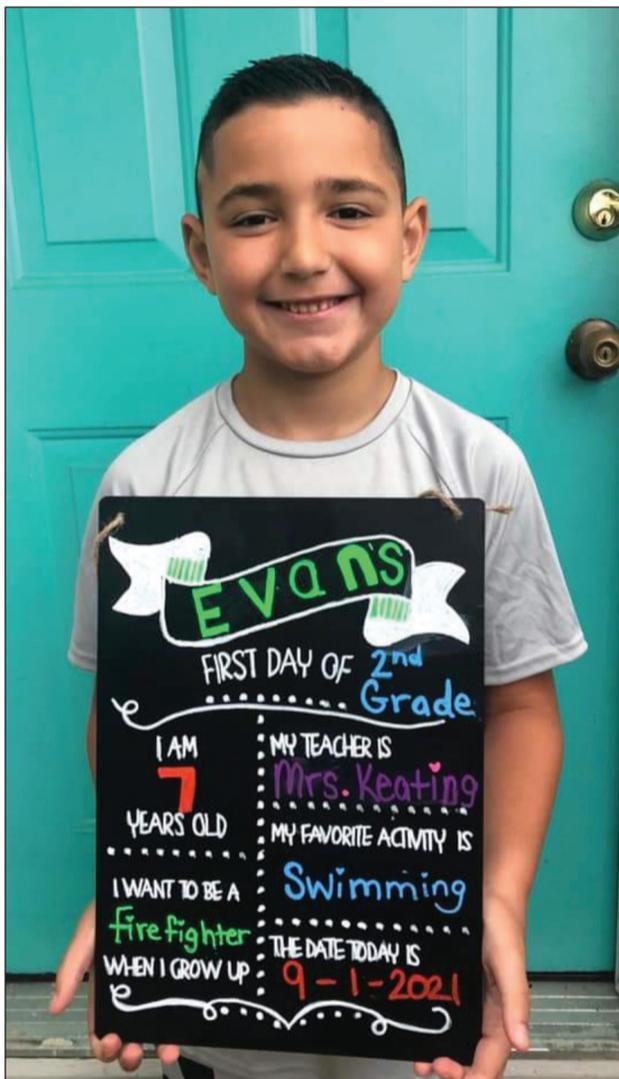
Dor Gemma and Santino Gauthier, First and Second Grades



Elliot Sarli's teacher welcomes him back!



Emma LaNinfa, Fourth Grade



Evan Pistocco, Second Grade



Evan Stonis, Eighth Grade



Garen Johnson, Fifth Grade



Giavana Catullo, Third Grade



Gianna Wholey, Fourth Grade



The Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce
and The Washington Trust Company
present



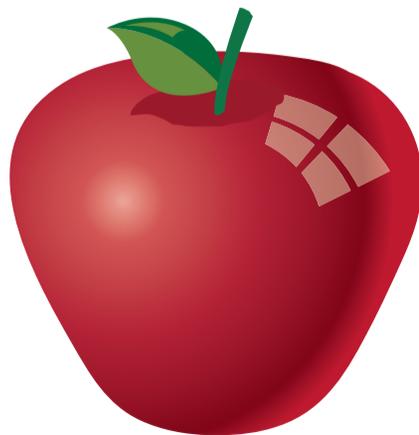
September
11 & 12
2021

Johnston Memorial Park
1583 Hartford Avenue – Johnston, RI
10:00 – 5:00

*This is a time honored community tradition
and is free and open to the public.*



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WASHINGTON
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APPLE FESTIVAL



DONUTS & DUMPLINGS: Appleland employee Sara Groves looks through the back of a display case at the orchard store, which sells fresh apple cider donuts and apple dumplings, and will be bringing their tasty treats to this year's Johnston Apple Festival. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

A Change of Season

Watch for her original floral displays at the Johnston Apple Festival

A Change of Season 

In Between Flowers, Nature and the Inspirational Thought...

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Darlene Fleming
Johnston, RI
(401)741-2579
darleneflemingsam@gmail.com

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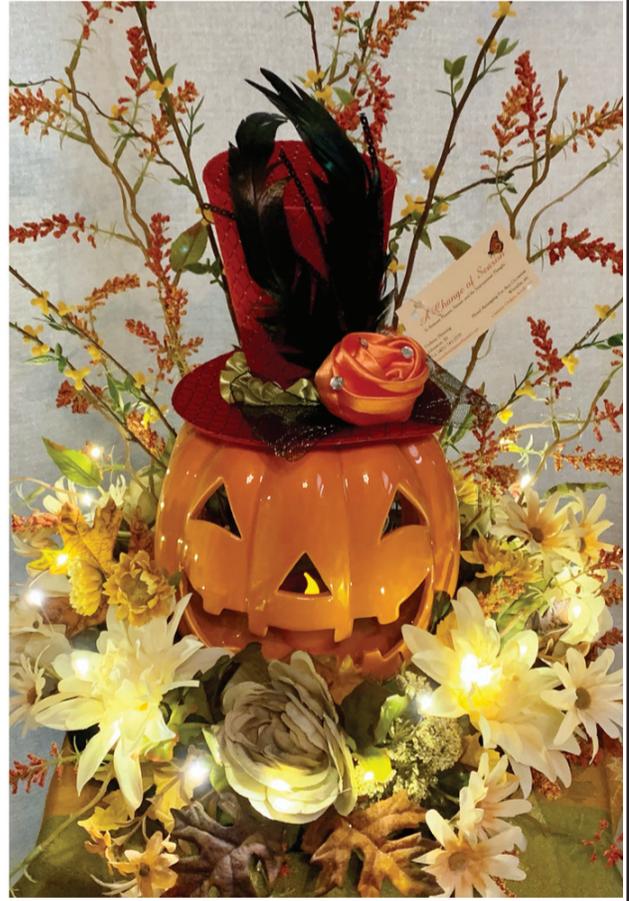
By JENNIFER COATES

For Darlene Fleming, inspiration comes from sources all around her, from the delicate wings of a butterfly to the bold colors of flowers which bloom all around her to her faith in God. She draws inspiration from the perfect symmetries that exist in nature and from the imperfections that exist in that same nature. She surrounds herself with the beauty of the natural world which she then translates into her signature pieces of floral art.

When Darlene Fleming was in the height of her career in retail, she honed her talent for creating unique silk floral arrangements while at her job. When her life took a turn a few years ago, her love of this creative work continued and evolved into the home-based business she runs today. Her business is called A Change of Season.

As a floral designer, Darlene will make silk flower arrangements for every occasion, for every corner of your home and for every season! In her words, Darlene explains: "I believe every season deserves a new look!" Whether it is an autumn wreath complete with woodland creatures, a sparkly Christmas tree bedecked with doves and poinsettias or a sentimental display for a gravestone, Darlene can make it just for your needs. She regularly updates her creations to reflect the season and to keep it timely and fresh.

There are several things that make Darlene's work so recognizable. She can take an otherwise unrelated collection of flowers and greenery and make them into something colorful, bright, and most importantly, personal. When Darlene makes her customized arrangements and artwork, she takes extra time to learn about the recipient. She asks, do they love sports? Food? Travel? Animals? Do



Fans and loyal followers of floral arranger and gardener Darlene Fleming will recognize her customized work when they see her at this year's Johnston Apple Festival and Scituate Art Festival. See you there!

they have a hobby or a passion? What makes them special and one-of-a-kind? Taking this information, Darlene takes her arrangements to a new level by personalizing them with trinkets, notions and accessories that reflect that recipient and their loves and passions.

Darlene's talents extend beyond silk floral arrangements and into your live gardens! She will transition your containers and garden boxes from summer to autumn (and more!) Out go the geraniums and in come the autumn leaves, pumpkins and gourds! She is also a skilled photographer who also sells magnets which showcase her photography work and inspirational messages.

After years of self-discovery, Darlene does everything with a purpose. In her words: "It took me 20+ years to get to where I am today. I am still learning and growing." Over those years, Darlene's work has been admired and followed by many loyal customers who can now find A Change of Season at local craft fairs such as the upcoming Johnston Apple Festival in September and the Scituate Art Festival over Columbus Day weekend.

To see updated samples of Darlene Fleming's work, visit A Change of Season on Facebook or call her at 401-741-2579. She looks forward to seeing you at these popular autumn festivals!

APPLE FESTIVAL



RIPE FOR PICKING: Mary Lou D'Andrea and her husband Lou own Appleland Orchards in Smithfield. She reaches up to pick a ripe apple this week, in preparation for this weekend's Apple Festival in Johnston. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

33rd annual Apple Festival returns Saturday

By RORY SCHULER

The apples are fat and ready for plucking.

The vendors are stocked and ready for selling.

Are you hungry and ready for stuffing?

The annual harvest season has arrived. And with the end of summer, the 33rd annual Apple Festival has also returned.

The Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce and The Washington Trust Company will sponsor a fresh take on the festival on Saturday, Sept. 11 and Sunday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Johnston Memorial Park, 1583 Hartford Ave.

The time-honored community tradition is free and open to the public.

"We love seeing our old friends," said

Mary Lou D'Andrea, who with her husband Lou owns Appleland Orchards in Smithfield, the lone orchard involved in this year's Apple Festival. "We're looking forward to meeting new friends."

Appleland will be selling several varieties of apples, cider donuts, dumplings, pies, gourmet chocolate covered apples, hot and cold cider.

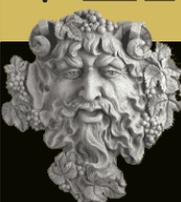
The orchard owners will be assisted by cousin Alex DeNoncour and his fiancé Kaylee Hannagan, both Johnston residents.

After the festival ends, D'Andrea invites the public to the orchard at 135 Smith Ave., where pick your own hours last from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day through Christmas.

■ APPLES - PAGE 18



VERDE Vineyards



Verde Vineyards was born out of a passion for the Earth's bounty. Our picturesque Johnston vineyard overlooks Moswansicut Lake in Scituate, RI.

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To learn more, visit ownyourhealthri.org or call the Community Health Network at 401-432-7217



Own Your Health
RHODE ISLAND

APPLE FESTIVAL

Apples (Continued from page 17)

D'Andrea said we have entered prime apple-picking season, which typically lasts from mid-September through mid-October.

The orchard grows many different apple varieties, as well as peaches, and offers a plethora of baked goods and apple products in their orchard store.

Vendors will again line Artisan Row at the Apple Festival.

Attendees will have the opportunity to shop at a variety of vendor booths offering everything from seasonal home décor to unique gift items, according to the NRI Chamber.

"This will be the one-stop shop for your holiday shopping," according to a press release. "Did we mention food? Don't cook all weekend — there will be sausage & peppers, hot dogs, burgers, pizza, homemade ice cream and of course the festival favorite fresh apple cider doughnuts."

The Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce represents businesses in Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield, and Woonsocket. The NRI Chamber also leads the Chamber of Commerce Coalition, representing nine area chambers of commerce from the Ocean State.

The Coalition is one of the largest business advocates in the state of Rhode Island and represents more than 6,500 businesses and 70,000 employees statewide.

Students from School of Rock will perform on-stage at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11.

The event organizers promise a good time, ripe for the picking.



AN APPLE A DAY: Appleland makes gourmet chocolate covered candy apples, fresh apple cider donuts and much more. The tasty little circles will be available for sale at this weekend's Apple Festival in Johnston. The festival returns this year for the 33rd time at Johnston Memorial Park. (Submitted photos)



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

We must not forget the lessons of 9/11

Twenty years ago this Saturday, the world changed forever following an unthinkable act of terrorism.

In the years since, an entire generation of kids born prior to the attacks have grown up in a country locked in a perpetual state of war. Some of those same kids have gone off to fight in conflicts on foreign soil directly related to that momentous event that predates their birth.

Now that the United States occupation in Afghanistan has come to an end, so close to the 20th anniversary of the event that initiated our presence there, it conjures many difficult questions – with few answers – about the purpose of that conflict and the consequences it has wrought on millions of people.

The same extremist government that aided and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the attacks are back in power, emboldened by their ability to outlast a multi-decade occupation and somehow come back stronger and more determined than ever to rule the area with a theocratic, iron fist which threatens the lives of women, religious minorities and anybody who assisted the allied invasion throughout the past 20 years.

We find it necessary to state that there is no defending the way in which the evacuation of Afghanistan occurred. It reflected a crucial lack of leadership and showed a blatant disregard for the well being of those who are now rightfully fearful for their lives under Taliban rule.

However, we must also call to attention the blatant hypocrisy of those who dare try to pretend that the debacle in Afghanistan is the result of one president, or one administration, and not a bipartisan failure from the beginning to adequately assess the situation and implement means by which to measure success – or what an acceptable end goal could even look like.

In the days and weeks and months following 9/11, America was united as one country and one people, justified in its anger and optimistic that not only would our democracy prevail, but that something positive could emerge from something so devastating.

We have forgotten that lesson today. It is a continuous national shame to see our people so consistently divided on issues that, 20 years ago, would not be even slightly politicized – like trusting medical professionals and scientific institutions, and neighbors considering neighbors their enemy based on what flag they fly on their lawn outside.

Popular culture depicts winners of wars often in concrete ways. Allies defeat the Axis; humanity triumphs against an invading force from outer space; superhero beats super villain. But 9/11 and the failure in Afghanistan should teach us once and for all that the true strength of America lies not only in our military might, but in the strength of our democratic system and the cohesion of our populace.

If the latter two of those forces continue to falter or eventually crumble, we will have failed to honor the memory of all those who were so horribly taken from us 20 years ago.

20 YEARS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is Amazon a good fit for Johnston?

To the editor,
I just read your article re: the Amazon project.

A few weeks ago, we were in central Italy, when we saw a huge development. It was an Amazon distribution center, with warehouses that went on and on, as did the office buildings. It was staggering in size.

So is the project good for Johnston?

My view is that it has to offer, not just plenty of construction jobs, but decently paid jobs for future em-

ployees.

As construction will disrupt local traffic and access roads, especially Route 6, they need to be expanded before construction even begins. Route 6 is already too narrow for the amount of traffic it carries.

It was clear that all the roads around the Italian Amazon site had been widened and meticulously surfaced to support heavy duty traffic.

Lastly, the project should not be funded by the town or state, nor

should the town offer property tax breaks. Amazon is a rich company. A single share of stock is worth \$3,463. Amazon should not be a burden to Johnstonites, but an asset to the community.

Vivian Weaver
Johnston native
living in Italy

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

Jewish residents shouldn't have to choose between faith and Amazon meeting

To the editor,
Recently I found out that the one major meeting on the massive Amazon proposed project where public comments could be made in front of the Town Council was going to be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m.

This is the exact start of Yom Kippur, the holiest of holidays for Jew-

ish people across the state.

It is inconsiderate and inappropriate for a meeting with this kind of relevance that goes far beyond the Johnston border to be scheduled on such an important Holiday.

I am assuming Town Council members had access to a calendar when they scheduled the meeting. Ignorance is no excuse!

But hey, let's make sure anyone who wants a religious exemption to not get the COVID VACCINE are front and center in our minds.

I urge the Johnston Town Council to change the date and not exclude every member of the Jewish faith from attending.

Lauren Niedel
Gloicester, RI

JOHNSTON Sun Rise

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Coming Soon to a town near you?

Sports



Panthers kick off season

The Johnston girls soccer team is back in action this fall, competing in the preseason as well as its opener on Tuesday evening against Westerly. The Bulldogs would roll to the 10-1 win over the Lady Panthers. Johnston fell to 0-1 and faced Narragansett on Thursday, but the results were not available at press time. Pictured is Johnston's Catrina Zinni chasing down the ball last week. For more photos of the team's season to this point, check out page 22. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

Nothing like a full house

Last Friday was the start of the high school football season. Teams played in their Injury Fund exhibitions, so although the results did not count toward the standings, it was the first time that teams were able to compete against other squads in live action.

I won't talk about being back to normal much more. I have been saying it in my work the past few weeks and although I am enjoying returning to the norm, I understand that it is getting repetitive, I get it.

But let me just say one more time. Man, did I miss the fall football season.

On Friday evening I covered the Pilgrim football game against East Greenwich. It was an outstanding game that really reinforced my love for high school football.

East Greenwich was coming off of a very successful spring while Pilgrim was winless at that time. Sure, the game was an exhibition and many of the starters were pulled in the second half, but this was a game that East Greenwich, on paper at least, should have won.

The Avengers jumped out to a quick 13-0 lead and held onto the advantage heading into halftime. Pilgrim would return the second-half kickoff for a touchdown and its second offensive unit would lead a drive late in the fourth quarter to eventually erase the deficit and pull off the comeback win.

Again, this game did not

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

count, but it was one of those moments that could have been a tone setter for this team the rest of the way. Regardless of who was on the field and what was at stake, Pilgrim was the underdog heading into the matchup and showed toughness in every sense of the word to pull off the upset.

It was a great game to cover and a fun story to be a part of. Many of the kids that were in the center of the comeback were bench guys, some may barely see the field the rest of the season. So for them to get their moment in the sun and have that experience was outstanding.

Speaking of experience, what an incredible environment it was as well.

Back in the spring, stands were only partially full, there were restrictions, people were still not comfortable being in crowded areas.

Now, everyone is back, and for the first time since 2019, it felt like high school

■ PITCH- PAGE 21

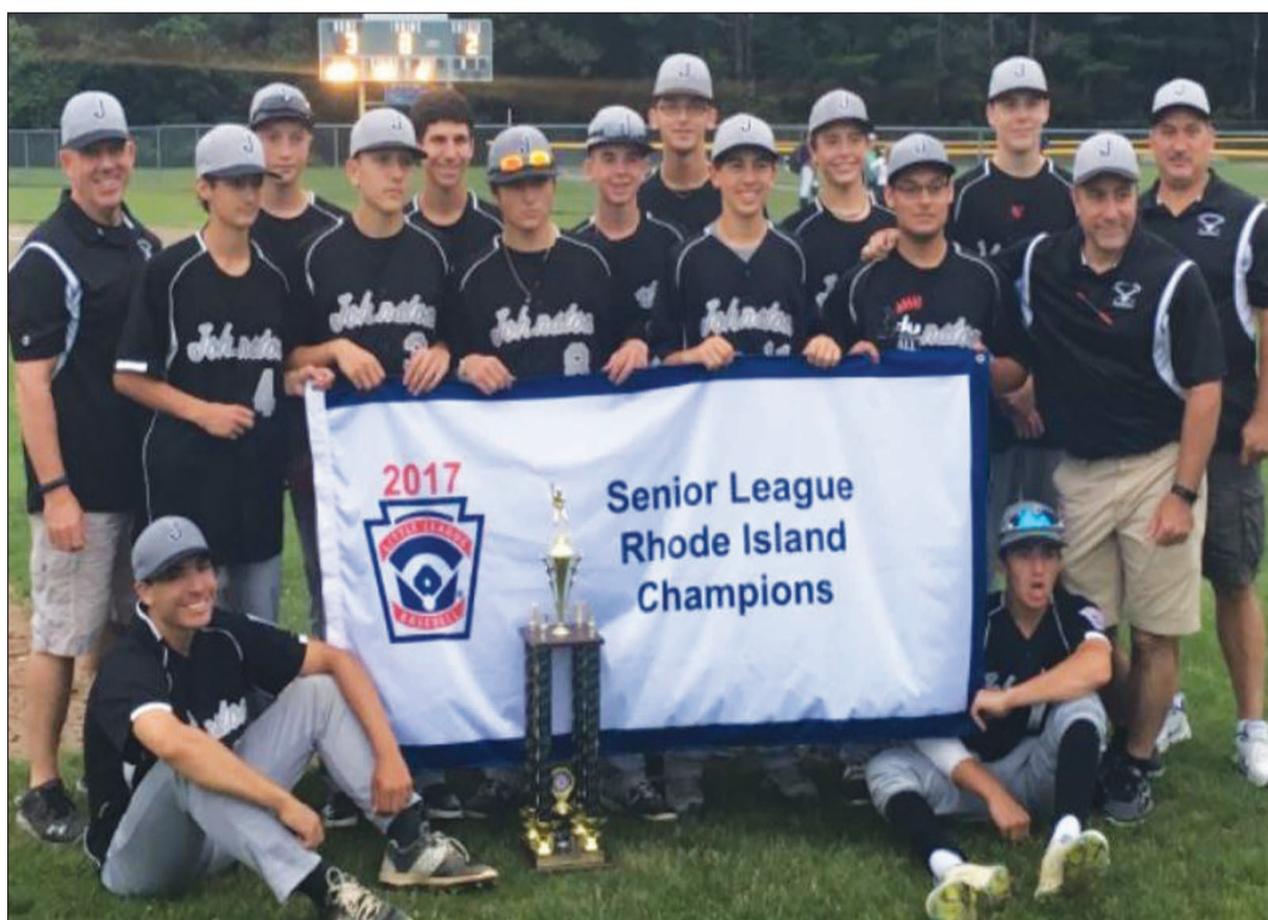
Remembering the 2017 state champs

By GARY RIANNA

I was thrilled with the turnout we had on a short three-day notice ... we had about 55 people, including players and family members. The response was very special and was a testament to baseball in Johnston.

The 2017 Senior League RI State Championship team was a special group ... starting with my two coaches Bob Civetti and Mike Castelli, they were key with practices, game preparation, strategies and everything in between ... couldn't have pulled that season off without them.

The parents, who sacrificed many days and nights of practices that were scheduled for two hours and more



■ CHAMPS- PAGE 21

STATE CHAMPS: The 2017 RI Senior League champions from Johnston. (Submitted photos)

Pitch

(Continued from page 20)

football and the community was truly back. It was as much fun as I've had covering a game in months.

Whenever I would check in to Twitter, it was clear that most of the games around the state were rocking as well. Cranston West was blowing up all over social media for the crowd it had at its game against Coventry. With the team playing on its brand new field for the first fall season, I feel like packed stands will be the norm which will be blast for the Falcons and the Cranston community.

There's something about fall football that is right. I said it last week, but although the spring season scratched the itch and provided players with a chance to compete, nothing beats football in fall, the way it is supposed to be.

It is great to be back out there and I am looking forward to hopefully seeing packed stands for the rest of the way and beyond.

The NFL season is kicking off this week so I wanted to go on record with a few of my predictions.

Last season, I predicted that the Buccaneers would go 12-4 and win the Super Bowl. They went on to go 11-5 and win the Super Bowl, so I like to pat myself on the back for that more often than I should.

The problem though? I only put my Patriots prediction on paper, so I feel cheap taking a victory lap. Please believe me when I say that I am being honest regarding my Bucs prediction.

So, to start, I believe Tampa Bay and Tom Brady will go 15-2 and repeat as champs. Honestly, I feel that 17-0 is on the table as Tampa has the easiest strength of schedule, but predicting a perfect season is a little too rich for my blood. Regardless,

15-2, Super Bowl champs. As for the Patriots, I expect them to take a step forward this season.

Considering the mass amount of money the team spent to fill holes as well as having an upgrade at quarterback in Mac Jones, I can't wrap my head around a scenario in which they are not at the very least a game or two better than 2020.

The offense should be able to operate the way that Josh McDaniels wants it to, and the defense is deep and versatile. Stephon Gilmore missing the first six games is going to hurt, and I am sure that Jones will make his rookie mistakes under center.

Overall, though, between the upgrades they have made on each side of the ball and the fact that they do not have a very daunting schedule, either, I do believe that New Englanders are going to have a much more enjoyable football season this time around.

I believe the Pats will go 11-6. There are a couple of games, like the one against Tampa, where I feel they have virtually no chance of winning. There are a few more close ones that I could see going either way.

I believe if this team stays healthy and can overcome a potentially slow start, then it will have a chance to be a dark horse in the AFC down the stretch and into the playoffs. Dark horse as in possible Super Bowl contenders? No, but a team that may be able to make the playoffs and win a game.

The future is bright for the Pats if you ask me. I do believe in Jones, at least enough that I believe that he can be a reliable NFL quarterback in time. They will not be winning six Super Bowls in 20 years again, but I do think the team will be a competitive organization for while, and this year will be its comeback to relevance after a year away.



NOWADAYS: The 2017 champs in a recent photo.

Champs

(Continued from page 20)

than not, extended to 2 1/2 to three hours.

Then there were the players.

This group of players, who many are still very close friends today, were the epitome of the word "Team". This team was not the fastest, was not best hitting, or the best pitching ... however this team had something more than any other team I've been associated with, and that was heart.

This team didn't know what the word quit even meant ... during this magical season, winning games at their last at bats along with walk-off victories was quite common ... including the walk off to win the RI State Championship.

These players have transformed from very good baseball players to young men starting the next chapter of their lives.

The 2019 Junior League RI State Championship team, while a different style of baseball, was also a very special group of players...

Again, it always starts with coaching ... Gary Salzillo and Zach Rianna were instrumental in the success of this team to say the least. Coach Gary was all for the kids...always made sure, whether on the field or off the field, all were taken care of ... including myself ... he'd always calm me down when needed.

Coach Zach, being only a few years older than most of the players, closed the gap and worked effortlessly tweak-

ing the specifics that are required to get to this level.

Again, parents were unbelievable throughout the entire run of All-Stars, including about 70 Rhode Islanders making the trip to New Jersey for regionals.

The players ... saying they were the good is an understatement.

While we didn't start out perfect, things quickly turned for the better.

In the very first inning of our very first game we found ourselves losing 7-0. I assured them that we will have seven innings to score and we went on to win 12-9, outscoring our opponent 12-2 over the remaining innings.

This team never fell behind in a game after that first inning and never lost a game. In the RI State Tournament, we beat each district champion.

Going into the 2019 Junior All-Star Tournament, all I heard was we were the favorite to win it all. Well, they were right.

Lastly, both the Senior 2017 RI State Champs and the Junior 2019 RI State Champs were both very special in their own way. For me personally, I will never forget my all star parents, my coaches and most of all, my players. Thank you all for the opportunity as it was a privilege and an honor to be associated with all of you.

Members of the 2017 championship team included: Robert Civetti, David Iannuccilli, Miguel Perez, Justin Salvatore, Luke Vincent, Joseph Popolla, Tyler Roche, Ryan Allen, Rudy Landin, Matt Loffredo, Michael Castelli, Josh Tonucci, Alex Rodriguez and Eric O'Connor.



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42														43

CLUES ACROSS

1. It governs Federer and Nadal's sport
4. Golden apple tree
8. Central Mexican river
10. Horn
11. Egg-shaped
12. With tooth
13. French modernist painter
15. Disprove
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Baby shoes
18. Make the grade
21. Type of screen
22. Christian fraternal organization (abbr.)
23. Computer giant
24. When you hope to get there
25. Corporate executive title (abbr.)
26. Shout of welcome or farewell
27. Imaginary awards for good deeds

34. A citizen of Iran
35. It can be sounded
36. Making dirty
37. Romanian city
38. Baking ingredient
39. Share a common boundary with
40. Succulent plants
41. Penny
42. Jr. U.S. Senator Paul
43. "Laurie Partridge" actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

1. A type of bomb
2. Pacific island country
3. Earth is one
4. A place to gather around
5. Expressed opposite views
6. Group that lives near Siberia
7. Ore deposit
9. Language related to Eskimo
10. Narrative piece of music

12. The distance covered by normal stride
14. Glycoprotein hormone (abbr.)
15. Mathematical term (abbr.)
17. Popular beer
19. Jabbing
20. Historic Swedish castle
23. Humorous expressions
24. Christmas and New Year's Day each have one
25. Filled up
26. Nerve that serves the forearm (abbr.)
27. One of British descent
28. A way to get at
29. Food-related allergic reaction
30. Group of arteries near the pelvis
31. Picked up
32. Being three in one
33. Obscene
34. Dravidian language
36. Growl

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CCRI wins opener

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The CCRI Knights men's soccer team defeated the Mustangs of Central Maine 4-2. With the victory CCRI begins the 2021 season with a 1-0 record.

The Knights were eager to play after over 500 days without a game due to the pandemic. In the third minute, freshman defender Cristian Justiniano (Providence, RI) played a dangerous ball into the 18 yard box and Wilson Penafiel (Providence, RI) capitalized as the ball bounced into his path. Penafiel touched the ball past the Mustang goalkeeper to put the Knights ahead 1-0.

Before the half, freshman forward Joe Dorce slotted one past the goalkeeper after receiving a nice pass from defender Matt Gibeau (Warwick, RI).

About 13 minutes into the second half Daniel Tinico (Providence, RI) played a nice through ball into Wilson Penafiel who was able to tally his second goal of the day to give CCRI a 3-1 lead. With about 10 minutes left in the game Tinico was rewarded with a pass from Aaron Ramos (Warwick, RI) which gave the Knights a commanding 4-1 lead.



BEST FOOT FORWARD: Johnston's Alexia DiLorenzo.

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TOUGH BATTLE: Johnston's Kaylee Poole.

Bluefish Amendment aims to rebuild the fishery

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The coastwide regulation for bluefish is three fish/person/day (this is for skipjacks too, which are immature bluefish). The three fish limit was imposed as the most recent updated stock assessment conducted by NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center indicated bluefish are overfished. The stock assessment triggered Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Management Plan to rebuild the stock.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (who co-manage bluefish coastwide) submitted Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Management Plan to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for review and approval. And on Wednesday, September 1, NOAA posted the Amendment for public comment.

Bluefish provide a great fishery for recreational anglers. And, Amendment 7 aims to implement a rebuilding plan for the species as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (the fishing law of this nation). Anglers are urged to comment on the proposed Amendment. Details can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/NOAA-NMFS-2021-0071-0001>.

Amendment 7 highlights: update the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan goals and objectives from those established in 1991 to better reflect today's fishery; re-allocate bluefish quota between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors to more accurately reflect recent catch and landings data in the fishery; re-allocate bluefish commercial quota to the states from Maine to Florida based on the most recent 10 years of landings data (2009-2018); implement a 7-year rebuilding plan using a constant fishing mortality model where fishing mortality (F) = 0.154; revise measures to allow the sector quota transfer to be bi-directional (from commercial to recreational or vice versa); and revise administrative measures in the specifications process to allow for the accounting of sector-specific management uncertainty.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish, false albacore and bonito. Anglers were treated this week to a lot of surface site fishing for striped bass, bluefish, false albacore with some bonito. Jeff Sullivan an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "We have a lot of bait around particularly in the lower Bay and along the coastal shore. Snapper blues, bay anchovies and peanut bunker (immature Atlantic menhaden) were in the mix. So



GOOD STRIPER BITE: Gil Bell with a keeper striped bass said, "There was so much bait in the water so I decided not to match the hatch and used a 6-inch plug with success." (Submitted photo)

anglers are casting to schools on the surface with success. This week we spotted a school of bonito at the West Wall (at the Harbor of Refuge) but could not hook up as they were feeding on a thin school of peanut bunker. We have also been very successful catching striped bass with eels fishing structure in Narragansett Bay in about 30 feet of water."

John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle said, "Two customers hooked up with keeper bass trolling tube & worm in the area between Conimicut Point, Barrington Beach and Colt State Park. The first customer (with three on his boat) hooked up with nine keepers, three were within the slot limit (28 to less than 35 inches) and six fish over the slot limit. Another customer with two anglers on his vessel landed six fish, keeping two slot sized fish."

East End Eddie Doherty said, "Mostly smaller stripers are keying in on the abundant bait in the Cape Cod Canal. I was lucky enough to fool a 42-inch on the ebb with a white Hurler Canal Killer just after slack near the Bourne Bridge. A delicious black sea bass fell for the same jig while staging on the shelf close to the edge of the rip rap stone bank." Expert shore angler Gil

Bell said, "Many pods of 2 1/2-inch peanut bunker, immature menhaden, swimming in close before sunrise. I caught a striped bass by NOT matching the hatch on a four ounce six inch plug. This could be the start of the fall run."

Angler Dave Gordon on the RI Saltwater Anglers Association blog, said, "Narragansett Bay is dumping acres upon acres of bait out and the Bay is chock full of fish feeding on them. Big gnarly blues, big schools of bass varying from two feet to up to 40-plus inches everywhere down from the Newport and Jamestown Bridges out to the reefs and south shore."

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "This morning (Tuesday) a customer caught a keeper striped bass at Weekapaug with a needlefish lure. There was almost too much bait in the water this weekend. When this happens my strategy to target fish on the move (striped bass, bonito, false albacore) is to distinguish your bait, try something larger or a different color so it gets recognized."

Summer flounder, black area bass and scup. John Littlefield of Archie's said, "Customers are still catching keeper fluke (over 19 inches) in the Rocky Point, Conimicut

Light area with large scup in the mix." We could have limited out with good size scup this weekend fishing the General Rock, North Kingstown area. "Anglers are catching their limit of black sea bass out in front but are going through a good number of smaller fish too. The larger black sea bass are at Block Island," said Henault of Ocean State Tackle. Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "Nice keeper black sea bass are being caught out in front of Newport."

"**Tautog** fishing is slow. I think the water is still a bit to warm," said Jeff Sullivan. "I believe the tautog bite will pick up in two weeks," said John Littlefield of Archie's. "Although it may be 52 degrees in the morning the water is still very warm."

"**Bluefin tuna**, actually small giants, are being caught about four miles south of Beavertail," said Henault of Ocean State. Overall the school bluefin tuna bite has slowed a bit compare to last month.

Freshwater anglers is focusing on largemouth bass. "Customers are have success fishing Only Pond at Lincoln Woods," said John Littlefield of Archie's. Henault of Ocean State Tackle said, "Right now the trout bite is not good, most are targeting largemouth bass."

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What do Hurricanes and Retirement have in Common?

As I listened to the weather forecasters tracking the storm named Henri, I could not help but think about retirement planning and how similar it could be to preparing for a hurricane. With the improvements in science, the meteorologists can notify us literally weeks in advance that a serious storm is coming our way.

Then, it is up to us to decide what to do to prepare for the storm. There seems to be two groups on opposite ends of the preparation scale; those that over prepare, board up their windows and leave town and those that will hunker down and ride out the storm regardless of the severity and multiple warnings. Of course, there are different groups in between the two extremes. Where would you be on this scale?

Let's compare the two extremes and compare them to retirement planning. How far in advance do we typically start hearing about a hurricane possibly forming and possibly coming our way? If I recall correctly, it was a couple of weeks when the meteorologists began tracking the initial stages of Henri.

What steps did you take? Typically, we would look around the yard and pick up loose items and bring them to safety, gather up the seat cushions, bring in the umbrellas, etc. How is that like retirement planning? Well, our first instinct is to protect things. When it comes to retirement it is important to protect your retirement savings. Having too much risk in your portfolio is generally not recommended as you near your retirement date. Too often we meet with couples and individuals that have excessive risk in their portfolios even though they may be ready to retire in just a few months or within a couple years away from retirement.

It is an accepted financial planning principle that risk should be reduced as you near retirement. The real question is how much risk is enough? It can be important to keep some assets invested in the stock market to help your assets grow for the future and to better offset inflation. However, it can be critical to protect a portion of your retirement nest egg, especially the amount needed to generate the income you will need to supplement your social security benefit amount.



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When it comes to retirement, how much "notice" do we have? Decades! Let's face it, we all think of retiring and enjoying the fruits of our labor at some point in the future. So, even though we know that retirement is coming, too many of us don't take the simple steps to start preparing to retire, especially the part about protecting a portion of your hard-earned money.

The obvious first step is to begin investing for your future. If you have a retirement plan where you work, you should start there. The earlier you start investing money, the better it will be decades down the road. The one thing no one can buy is more time. Time is the difference maker when it comes to investing and building wealth for your future.

An important question would be: should you save in a pre-tax or an after-tax account? Which is right for you? There are some generalities that can be followed. If you are just starting out, or even if you are 20 years away from retirement, I would suggest that you save in after-tax accounts such as a Roth 401k or a Roth IRA. This means that you would pay income taxes on the amount you are contributing. Then, your money grows tax-deferred and would come out tax free in the future if you comply with the two basic rules. The two rules are, you must be over 59 1/2 years of age and the money must have been in the Roth account for 5 tax years in order to withdraw the GROWTH from the account. The money contributed can be withdrawn without tax or penalty prior to age 59 1/2 as you paid income tax on the contributed money.

In my humble opinion, paying the taxes that are in place today will probably be the lowest income tax rates that we will see going forward. Under the current rules, the so-called "Trump tax plan" will sunset on December

31st of 2025. At that point, income taxes will be going up for all brackets except the first level of taxation which did not go down when all the other brackets did. So, we know that increase is already on the books. When you review the federal debt load and the likelihood of even more spending being approved, I think it is reasonable to assume that income taxes will increase in the future, beyond the increase that will happen as of January 1, 2026. Therefore, paying today's income tax on the "seed" (your contributions) and taking out the "harvest" (your retirement income) tax free could be a big advantage.

The question now is: which group are you in? Will you be the in the group that prepares for retirement or will you "hunker down" and try to survive as the storm passes? Just like preparing for a hurricane, the better prepared you are, the better off you will be. Planning makes much more sense. Work with a professional team that can first determine where you are now and where you want to go in the future as it pertains to your retirement planning. You deserve a great retirement!

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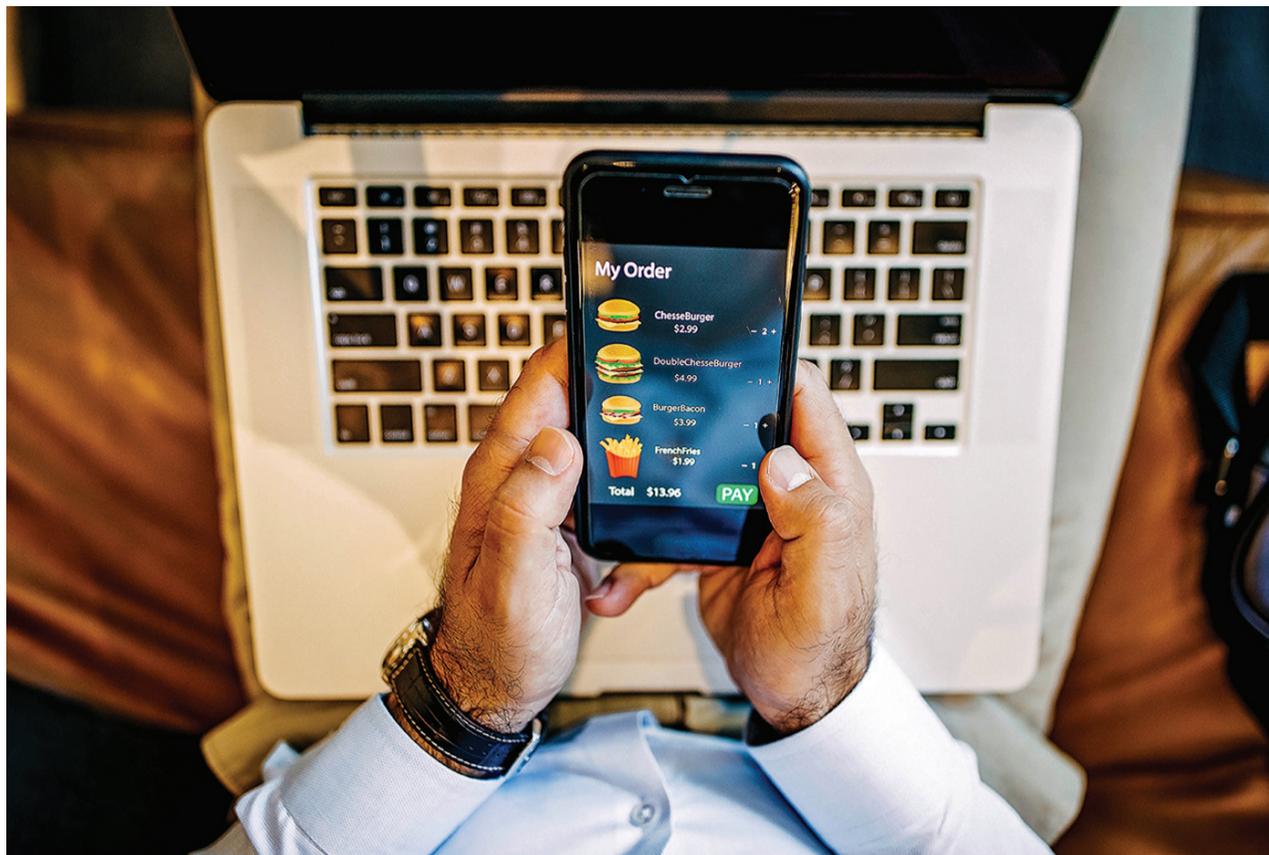
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How to monitor your money when relying on cashless spending



METRO

Cashless spending has long been a convenient way to make purchases, and that convenience became even more evident in 2020. The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the winter of 2019-20 forced people across the globe to change how they live, and those changes even affected how items are paid for.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, touching or handling certain items, including cash, could expose people to the COVID-19 virus. That led many people to rely more heavily on cashless payments, including traditional options like credit or debit cards, but also relatively new cashless options, including apps such as Venmo. While these options can be very convenient, cashless payments can make it more difficult for people unaccustomed to mak-

ing purchases without cash to monitor their spending.

The following are some tips to make it easier for consumers to monitor their spending when they're not using cash.

- **Use an app to track spending.** If you're using an app like Venmo to make purchases, you can just as easily use an app to track that spending. Mint is a free app that automatically updates and categorizes how your money is spent. Users can see how they're spending their money in real time, making it easy to know where they stand with their finances.

- **Recognize the temptation associated with cashless spending.** Studies have shown that cashless spending tempts people to spend more than buying with cash. A recent study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology asked business students to bid on basketball tickets. Some participants were told they would eventually have to pay with cash, while others were told they would need to use a card. Those who paid by card spent more than twice as much as those who were told they had to pay with cash, which illustrates just how easy it is

to spend more on transactions that do not involve cash. By recognizing that temptation in advance, consumers can better prepare themselves to remain disciplined when using cashless payments like credit cards or mobile apps like Venmo.

- **Pay off your balance each month.** If your preferred mode of cashless spending is credit cards, then make sure you pay off your balances each month. This not only saves you from potentially hefty interest charges, but the knowledge that you will need to pay off your purchases at the end of each month can help you stay more disciplined with your spending.

Cashless payments have made it easier to purchase goods during the COVID-19 outbreak. But it's imperative that consumers take steps to control their spending when going cashless. TF209319

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Did you know?

With more free time on their hands, retirees may spend a portion of that time dining out at local eateries. While it's commendable to want to support local businesses, eating out can quickly devour a budget if those on fixed incomes are not careful. Certain strategies can be used to help retirees save money while dining out.

- Shop to-go meals at supermarkets or specialty food stores, which can be heated at home or enjoyed as a picnic at a scenic spot.
- Dine out for breakfast or lunch when meals tend to be less expensive than they are during dinner hours.
- Consider splitting meals or ordering appetizers instead of entrees.
- Stick to one course rather than filling up on an appetizer, salad and then having too

much leftover food for the main course. This can help keep the bill lower.

- Drink at home whenever possible. Enjoying a glass of wine, beer or cocktails at a restaurant will almost always cost you more than if you have drinks at home. Stick to the meal only, then enjoy a nightcap once you return home. It's also a safe way to reduce the risk of drinking and driving.
- Look for coupons or special discount days when seniors can enjoy a percentage off the tab.
- Explore venues that offer tasting menus. These establishments provide small bites of various dishes and enable patrons to try out various foods before committing to one dish that may be costly.
- Opt for inexpensive foods and save the high-end meals for special occasions. MM20C499

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NOW ENROLLING
6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

By JENNIFER COATES

For young children, life is about playmates, hands-on learning, and adventure. It is about friendships and familiar routines; it is about engaging in organized activities which also allow for spontaneity and incidental learning; it is about sensory experiences that involve movement, creativity, music and so much more. For young children, they can find all of these things ~ and more ~ at Dreamland Learning Center in Johnston.

Dreamland Learning Center is part of a network of childcare centers throughout the region which make parents and caregivers alike happy, and, with all the programming and fun it is known for, make children happy too! Children ages six weeks through age 12 are welcome here. This family of centers truly embrace the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world" ~ which they do one child at a time.

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

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



The talented staff at Dreamland Learning Center is busy making sure everything is in place for back-to-school learning this fall – including these colorful and welcoming learning corners.



stewardship. In fact, the whole facility is Bright Star® rated for excellence.

Parents and children who come to this busy and nurturing learning center on Hartford Avenue will find that the changes that were implemented to protect the health and safety of its students in the days of the pandemic are still in place. At the same time, the daily programming for the children who attend Dreamland is still packed with fun, activity, friendships, and play.

If you are looking for childcare this fall ~ especially now that we are all back-to-school, it is not too late to register for before and after school care for children up to 12 years

of age. Dreamland is even open during school vacation. For some school districts, transportation is provided to and from elementary school. Homework assistance and age-appropriate, supervised activities are always planned.

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12. It is located at 1253 Hartford Avenue. For more information, call 401-280-1400 or visit their website at www.dreamlandlearningcenter.com.

Be sure to check out the other members of the Dreamland family of childcare centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

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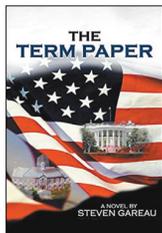
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FREE TREES: Energy-saving tree saplings in 3-gallon pots. Under the right conditions, mature trees will grow upwards of 30-60 feet high, depending on species choice. (Courtesy of DEM)

Free trees available, just in time for fall planting

Registration opens Sept. 9 for popular Energy-Saving Trees Program, which helps Rhode Islanders beautify their yards and save energy and money.

Trees will be available at the RI Tree Council, 2953 Hartford Ave. in Johnston, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM), in partnership with the RI Tree Council, RI Nursery and Landscape Association, and the Arbor Day Foundation, is providing 1,000 free trees to Rhode Island residents this autumn. Now in its 13th season, the program helps Rhode Islanders beautify their yards, save energy, and lower their utility bills by strategically planting trees on their property.

"Planting a tree in the right place can improve air quality, sequester carbon, and help manage stormwater runoff," said DEM Agriculture and Forestry Chief Ken Ayars. "It's a terrific way for Rhode Islanders to reduce their energy costs today and in the years to come, and a tangible

way to stand up to climate change. We're especially pleased to offer free trees now, when many of us are spending more time in our backyards because of the pandemic."

Planting the right tree in the right place is the key to maximizing the energy-saving benefits that trees provide. When planted properly, a single tree can save a homeowner money on energy costs by shading their home in the summer and blocking cold winds in the winter. Additional benefits include improved air quality, reducing storm-water runoff, increasing biodiversity, and beautifying one's surroundings.

Registration opens Thursday, Sept. 9. The process to reserve your free tree takes less than 10 minutes. In three easy steps, you can reserve your tree!

1. Sign up at www.arborday.org/RIDEM and map your house by using the interactive mapping tool.
2. Select the right tree by choosing from the list of available trees.
3. Reserve your tree and select your pick-up location from the list below.

The free trees will be approximately 4-6 feet tall and in 3-gallon containers. These trees will fit in most cars for transportation to your home. All program participants must be Rhode Island residents and pre-register online to reserve their free tree. The trees will be available for pick up starting in late September at the following locations, dates, and times:

- * Dexter Training Ground Park: 85 Parade St., Providence
Saturday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 - * Richmond Elementary School: 190 Kingstown Road, Richmond
Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 - * Colt State Park: Route 114, Bristol,
Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 - * RI Tree Council: 2953 Hartford Ave., Johnston
Saturday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Funding for the program is provided by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- For online registration assistance, contact the Arbor Day Foundation at 1-855-234-3801.

Rehab

(Continued from page 1)

from Encompass. "Unfortunately, an administrative law judge reviewing the decision disagreed with the state's health planning agency."

Last month, hearing officer Catherine R. Warren released a 21-page decision finding that Encompass had not proven the need for the facility.

"How can some so-called hearing officer roll this thing back and reverse this decision?" Polisen asked this week. "What was it based on? I'm cynical."

Polisen said the hospital is expected to provide around 100 local jobs.

Encompass had 30 days to file an appeal, and the company filed its appeal last week.

"On (Sept. 3) Encompass Health appealed the administrative judge's

opinion and is requesting the Superior Court of Rhode Island to reinstate the Executive Director's decision and grant Encompass Health a CON," according to the statement from Encompass. "The proposed Encompass Health hospital will provide access to high-quality inpatient rehabilitation services for individuals recovering from a debilitating injury or illness, including stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries, and other complex neurological and orthopedic conditions. We still believe the residents of Rhode Island deserve access to these specialty post-acute rehabilitation services close to home."

Encompass Health first proposed the facility prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnston Town Council sent the matter through to the state Health Services Council, which held sev-

eral meetings examining the state's need for another rehab hospital.

Ultimately, after testimony, the council reached a 3-2 decision to send the application to the desk of Alexander-Scott.

"The decision was based on specific criteria," Wendelken said in an email in 2020. "After careful consideration, Dr. Alexander-Scott determined that the proposal met the requirements, including those related to public need and affordability."

The proposal also has industry opponents, and several offered testimony while the application process was pending.

Hospital Association of Rhode Island President Teresa Paiva Weed and Rhode Island Health Care Association President and CEO Scott Fraser both spoke out against the need for another inpatient rehab hospital.

Both argued that cur-

rent facilities across the state are more than sufficient for Rhode Island's needs, and building a new Encompass facility would hurt other hospitals in Rhode Island.

"The Hospital Association of RI is disappointed in and disagrees with the decision," Weed said in a 2020 statement. "We are very concerned about the potential impact it will have on our existing rehabilitation facilities and our employees."

In 2020, Fraser said that construction of the Johnston facility "will have a detrimental effect on our state's nursing homes."

"A lot of these facilities don't like competition," Polisen said.

Johnston's mayor promises the hospital will be a boon to the local tax base.

"For-profit' means they pay taxes," Polisen said. "This would not be a free ride. The taxpayers would benefit from this."

Schools

(Continued from page 1)

The academy will provide a specialized learning space for students in their "transitional year" between elementary and middle school, when students are often "a little old for the elementary level, not old

enough for middle school," DiLullo said.

Although an overall price tag has not been finalized, the building projects and upgrade costs are currently estimated around \$190 million.

"The cost has not been finalized," DiLullo said. "The architects are still working on that, but we're looking at about \$190 million for the

two new buildings and upgrades at the high school and middle school."

Town education officials are hoping the state will help cover a large portion of the cost of new buildings and renovations.

"Because of the state incentives, the town could receive between 50 and 60 percent reimbursement," DiLullo said.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

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Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

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A life-changing bond

What it takes to get a guide dog... and best friend



By ANNEISE DEMERS

In August 2016, Heather Schey decided to switch out her white cane for another set of eyes and began the process of applying for a guide dog through Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Not only did Heather receive a guide dog, but she also met her best friend. Their bond and connection is something Heather can't put into words.

"There's no freedom like it," she said. "You know, it's really incredible."

Asher, Heather's guide dog, performs a variety of tasks such as alerting her of curbs, finding entryways, and other forms of guide work.

The application process for a guide dog is lengthy. On top of paperwork and doctors' notes, applicants must be able to perform a multitude of mobility tasks.

In December 2016, she received a call that would change her life.

"I'll never forget it. We were closing down here [at Ocean State Center of Independent Living, or OSCIL, where she works] for our Christmas party at noon, and it was like, I don't know, 11:40ish. And I got the phone call from guiding eyes telling me I was accepted and I just cried. I was so excited. Everyone was like, 'oh my God.' I was going out because I was crying so much."

In February 2017, Heather traveled to Yorktown Heights, New York, where the Guiding Eyes for the Blind headquarters is located. She arrived to train for three weeks and be paired with her dog.

"It's very exciting, because you know, you don't meet your dog right away. So, you go on like two days of training to do a couple more Juno walks, which are the pretend walks, you know, teach you some basic obedience," Heather said.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind paired Heather Schey with Asher.

Thankfully because of donations and volunteers, the whole program – training, transportation to and from the school, room and board during the program, a lifetime of follow up visits, and the dog – is completely free for the recipient. Guiding Eyes for the Blind estimates that these services cost \$50,000 per dog.

When doggie day arrived and it was time for Heather to meet her companion, she and her 11 classmates sat side-by-side as the dogs were introduced.

"When they got to me, they said a male, and I was like, OK. All right. I can handle it. And then they said yellow Lab. I was like, that's cool. And then they said his name, Asher, and I just was like, oh my God, I looked at him and just like blurted his name out. And so that was exciting," Heather said.

They had an instant connection to each other. Throughout training, Heather was constantly being informed of how Asher wouldn't take his eyes off of her. A bond like this was a surprise to the trainers. It takes most people an average of six months to create the bond Heather and Asher felt instantly.

COLLECTIBLES

Digging Into the Past



As a Revolutionary War material culture guy, I get to see and handle some wonderful pieces of history. Swords, muskets, buttons, equipment, archival documents, and so much more. Being into the arms and such made me want to study the ballistics of the guns and how they function when firing live. We collect the ballistics data as well as the fired ball to have a better understanding of how they function. It's a lot of fun to have a broader understanding of the objects I deal with as well as the history. But what ties it all together for me is archaeology. Working on a battlefield, I can put all my knowledge to use to help professional archaeologists understand what they are finding in the ground.

A few years ago, I volunteered on a project at Saratoga helping to teach veterans how to use metal detectors and proper methodology on the battlefield. I have to say I went into it very honored and excited to be working there and came out of the project very different. American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) had teamed up with the National Park Service (NPS) and asked



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

an organization I am involved with, Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist (AMDA), to come and help train the AVAR folks. The first day we gave an orientation class on the history of metal detection equipment, the equipment we would be using, proper use in archaeology, history of the site we would be working on and then we went out to the field. For AMDA it was a weeklong project, but the veterans would be staying to learn about the use of geophysical equipment and conservation work on the found objects. The second day we started early in the morning surveying lanes that had been prepared for us. It wasn't long before the veterans began to find artifacts related to the battle and see their reactions. Some of these folks have PTSD and were very quiet, but as the week went on and we began to piece together all the objects and data there was a

spark in their eyes missing a few days before. They were working as a team and finding history! The excitement was infectious to say the least and by the end of the week I was sad I was leaving. On top of finding great history that could be interpreted on the site we formed bonds and friendships that lasted long past the end of the project, and I still talk to many of the team members every few weeks to check in and see how they are doing. Because of COVID, last year's project was postponed, but this week we meet back up and get back to it again. I hope some of the new participants come away from the project with the same sense of team and history that I did.

Note: Metal detecting on National Park Service property is illegal. The above-mentioned project is permitted and supervised by the National Park Service Northeast Archeological Resources Program.

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Dog (Continued from page 28)

After three weeks, Heather and Asher were ready to take their guide work back to Rhode Island.

"They do a graduation there, which is nice, and my sister, my boyfriend had come to see it. And I spoke at the graduation. Of course, I couldn't stop crying because I was so happy," Heather said.

Walking to work

Heather's main objective was to walk to work with Asher, a freedom she hasn't had in a long time. She works as a Lunch and Learn coordinator for OSCIL. Around 51 percent of their staff has a disability. The agency assists individuals with disabilities to remain independent and living in their own home.

The five-block walk to work came naturally to Heather and Asher. The main challenge was going through the Church Avenue intersection. The walk home was more of a struggle. With Heather and Asher's bond and the help of the field rep, Asher adjusted to the new area. And the walk became routine. Heather doesn't walk to work anymore due to the increased amount of accidents at the Church Avenue intersection.

The challenges that arise from learning how to walk to work seem insignificant to Heather compared to legal problems she has faced.

Under the American Disability Act (ADA) it is illegal to refuse entry or service to someone legally accompanied by a working guide, hearing, or assistance dog. Heather has experienced multiple incidents where people have acted outside of the law due to her service dog.

Being avid Providence Bruins fans,

Heather and her boyfriend, Tim, went to go watch the team play in Pennsylvania. Heather is able to enjoy the games because she has partial vision.

There, they ran into trouble at two different hotels. One refused to let them come in and required proof that Asher was a service dog. The other hotel asked them to pay a \$200 deposit.

Another incident arose back home when a young girl yanked Asher's tail, causing him to curl up and not work.

"I'm never out for like suing or anything like that. I'm always about edu-

cation, and kind of making sure what they do won't happen to anyone else," Heather said of her approach to such incidents.

According to Heather, whenever you see a service dog in a harness, you should not try to pet the animal or get its attention, as this can lead the animal to lose focus and could lead the handler to be in dangerous situation. She stresses the importance of keeping an eye on children and teaching them not to interact with service dogs while they are working.

It's not all work and no play, though. "When his harness is off, he's a complete puppy. Yeah. Loves tug of war. Loves his walks," Heather said. "Some people think that dogs that are providing a service to people like guide work and other services are just that. Service dogs get plenty of downtime ... they get to be dogs."

Asher follows a strict diet, including grains and his favorite treat, a greenie dental bone. Heather and Tim pride themselves on taking good care of him and making sure he stays around 70 pounds. During the pandemic, most dogs gained weight and lost their training. Heather made sure to not let this happen by doing regular training exercises with Asher and taking him on frequent walks.

Asher almost wasn't a guide dog at all. His good looks and temperament caught the eye of those at Guiding Eyes for the Blind and he was chosen to be a breeder. In order to become an official breeder, each dog must under go genetic testing to determine the genes they would pass on to their pups. Although Asher is a healthy pup with no problems, the lab results showed that there would be a chance of him passing on an eye disease to his puppies. So he had a career switch and was sent to live with puppy raisers until he could complete his guide dog training.

Heather was born with Leber Congenital Amaurosis, or LCA, a rare disease that she shares with her identical twin sister. It affects 2-3 babies out of every 100,000 births, according to USCF Health. LCA is a retinal degenerative eye disease that can lead to extreme vision loss and in some cases total blindness.

"If it's on the same trajectory as my great aunts, preferably not. I could be coming totally blind by my 50s," said Heather, who will be 48 in January.

This upcoming February will mark the five-year anniversary of Heather and Asher working together. Most guide dogs retire at the age of 9; Asher will be 7 in January. When he retires, Heather will return to the program to find a new partner.

Asher's retirement will be spent living with Heather. This is a day Heather is hoping does not come soon. Their bond and friendship will be tough to replace.

"It's pretty incredible. He does so much work, so much guide work. I'm able to walk faster and more confidently with him. But it's changed my life completely. And I would never go back," Heather said.



BEST FRIEND: Heather Schey with her guide dog, Asher. (Beacon Communications photos)

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