



THE MAN AND HIS MACHINE: John Ricci poses for a photo with his fully restored 1934 Cadillac. (Submitted photo)

State will help cover Amazon tax breaks

By RORY SCHULER

Ocean State taxpayers will pay Johnston \$1.5 million to help cover a small portion of the tax burden Amazon won't be paying.

Following the Johnston Town Council's unanimous approval of a Tax Stabilization Agreement (TSA) with the online mega-retailer, in which the company will pay around 60 percent of its tax obligation over the next two decades, the town qualified for Rhode Island's Tax Stabilization Incentive (TSI) program.

On Monday night, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation Board of Directors met and voted unanimously to approve a \$1.5 million reimbursement for Johnston.

"The town will never turn down any money on the table," Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr. said Monday morning. "I'm in support of any policy that would help alleviate the burden of Johnston taxpayers."

About halfway through the meeting, Jeff Miller, executive vice president of investments for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, took a seat at the head table next to Commerce Secretary Stefan Pryor and Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee, who serves as chairman of the board.

"This request before you is for a Tax Stabilization Incentive," Miller told the board. "You may recall that three times before this board has approved a TSI. The notion here is that the state helps to round out a transaction by supporting a town that undertakes a Tax Stabilization Agreement in accordance with its own policies."

The Tax Stabilization Incentive (TSI) program provides an incentive for Rhode Island municipalities to enter into TSAs by enabling the reimbursement of up to 10 percent of "tax revenue foregone due to the completion of a TSA that spans at least 12 years," according to state law.

The \$1.5 million will cover less than 2 percent of Johnston's "tax revenue foregone," according to a member of the Commerce Corporation's Board of Directors.

"The [TSA] allows for a predictable tax rate and amount for an incoming project sponsor or end-user," Miller explained. "The town of Johnston did enact, now a couple weeks ago, a TSA, and we are supporting with the amount of \$1.5 million that TSA through this Tax

SHOWSTOPPER

John Ricci's 1934 Cadillac to be shown at Concours d'Elegance

By RORY SCHULER

John Ricci unveiled his 1934 Cadillac slowly. He peeled off sheets and blankets like small strips of wrapping paper.

The bright red hood and its chrome accents flashed in the afternoon sun streaming through the garage door windows.

"I like cars," he said, pulling off the final bedspread. "Right now, this car's a showstopper."

Two years ago, Ricci traveled to Newport to witness an arrangement of the world's best automobiles assembled for the Concours d'Elegance. This year, his Caddy will be part of the show in Newport.

"I can't imagine myself in it, with the car I drive," Ricci said as he pulled a pair of photo albums – photographic restoration journals – from the passenger side seat. "To me ... it's above me. I've owned this car for 55 years. But it sat in the corner as a shelf for 40 years."

Ricci is a self-confessed "car guy."

"I loved watching the cars come over the bridge and line up at Fort Adams," he recalled from his time as a spectator at Newport's last Concours d'Elegance. "There was so much to see."

Since his teens, he's been finding old cars and restoring and customizing the rusted-out machines; turning scrap metal into art.



MIRROR FINISH: Above, John Ricci adjusted the spotlight on his 1934 Cadillac, and the shiny chrome captured his smiling reflection. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler) Below, the before photo. (Submitted photo)

CAR - PAGE 10

AMAZON - PAGE 8

Gov. McKee signs 'Ryan's Bill'

By RORY SCHULER

Cranston resident and Johnston native Lou Massemmini walked into the Rhode Island State House with a manila envelope under his arm.

He arrived in Providence to honor the life of his late son, Louis Ryan Massemmini, who died after overdosing on prescription medication.

Last Friday morning, Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee ceremonially signed four bills into law, each aiming to rescue lives from the deadly opioid epidemic.

Lou Massemmini was in the audience. He stood behind

McKee's left shoulder as he signed the bills.

"We are working every day to make Rhode Island a healthier and safer place to live for all," McKee said.

One of the laws, which penalizes doctors engaged in "irresponsible prescription practices," was inspired by the loss of Ryan Massemmini, and may be renamed "Ryan's Law" next year.

The other three will allow for the exploration of "harm reduction centers," decriminalize buprenorphine, and require insurers to cover telemedicine visits.



SIGNED INTO LAW: Gov. Dan McKee handed the pen he used to sign the legislation that may ultimately be known as "Ryan's Bill" to co-sponsor Rep. Deborah Fellela, who then gave it to Lou Massemmini. (Sun Rise photo)

BILL - PAGE 6

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BACKYARD SPACE



The Iris Nebula

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

The Iris Nebula (NGC 7023) is located in the constellation Cepheus and is a bright reflection nebula.

The nebula is illuminated by a bright star designated SAO 19158. The Nebula lies 1,300 light-years away and spans six light-years across.

These clouds of gas are hot enough to also emit their own light.

On Sept. 3rd and 4th I set up my Scope and set sights on the Iris Nebula.

Over the course of those two days I collected images from the Luminance, Red, Green and Blue filter and combined them to make an LRGB image.

In my backyard it was very difficult to catch the faint dust surrounding the Iris due to the local light pollution. In the future I plan on heading to a local dark sky site to give it another shot.

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. Maguire's photography can also be found at his Instagram account @oceanstateastro and his Twitter feed @OceanStateAstro.

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Healthcare worker vaccine mandate enforcement strategy announced for Oct. 1 deadline

Rhode Island Gov. Dan McKee and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) have announced an enforcement strategy for Rhode Island's COVID-19 vaccination requirement for healthcare workers. The enforcement strategy will help safeguard patients, residents, and staff by holding health professionals and facilities accountable to the Oct. 1 vaccination requirement, while also preventing disruptions to care in Rhode Island as healthcare facilities work toward full compliance, according to a press release from RIDOH.

"Healthcare workers have been the heroes of Rhode Island's COVID-19 pandemic by consistently putting the health and safety of their patients first," McKee said. "The vast majority of healthcare workers have continued to do that by already getting vaccinated against COVID-19. The enforcement strategy for our COVID-19 vaccination requirement for healthcare workers provides clear structure and guidance to facilities that are working to get the remaining few who are not vaccinated yet, while ensuring that all Rhode Islanders still have access to high quality care in facilities throughout the state."

"This enforcement strategy is not intended to be an extension or exemption of the original vacci-

nation requirement," said Director of Health Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH. "On Oct. 1, anyone that is non-compliant is subject to enforcement. If there is a risk to quality of care and an unvaccinated worker must continue to work beyond Oct. 1 to mitigate that risk, the employer has 30 days to ensure that role is fulfilled by a fully vaccinated healthcare worker."

The COVID-19 vaccine is one of many vaccines that healthcare providers are required to receive. Rhode Island regulations require healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 1. Similar to other vaccines, healthcare facilities will be asked to report on their COVID-19 vaccination rates for their healthcare workers. Facilities may also be required to develop COVID-19 Vaccination Corrective Action Plans to ensure full compliance if they have not met the provisions of the regulation.

These plans will: Specify the healthcare facility's plan to ensure that all remaining healthcare workers will become vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days. Demonstrate that any unvaccinated staff who are still working after October 1 are doing so to mitigate a risk to quality of patient care. Specify the temporary infection prevention measures that the facility will

implement for unvaccinated staff who are critically necessary to the facility's operation.

Outline the facility's procedure to ensure that any new hires are vaccinated against COVID-19.

More information about these plans, including information on deadlines for the submission of data and COVID-19 Vaccination Corrective Action Plans, will be shared directly with healthcare leadership across Rhode Island in the coming days. Plans will be due on Oct. 1.

"Similar to the approach that we take with other vaccinations that are required for healthcare workers, we are outlining and providing clear action steps to facilities to ensure full compliance by October 1," Alexander-Scott said. "Rhode Island's effective enforcement strategy, requiring COVID-19 vaccination for healthcare workers, will limit exposure to COVID-19 for vulnerable patients and will help ensure the stability of our healthcare system statewide."

Rhode Island's healthcare worker vaccination regulations apply to approximately 57,600 workers. Rhode Island currently has an overall healthcare facility vaccination rate of approximately 87 percent, up 10 percentage points from 77 percent in early September.



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OSDRI food pantry restocked by the community

By PETE FONTAINE

There was a unique display of caring — a terrific trait that Johnstonians have been famous for through years whenever there's a special need — last Thursday morning at Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) headquarters at 1010 Hartford Ave.

A large delegation of Johnston police, fire and town employees headed by Mayor Joseph Polisenia came to OSDRI armed with what someone called "tons of non-perishable foods" that that were donated to help replenish the veterans group's food cupboard.

Perhaps JPD Chief Joseph P. Razza, who even accepted a heartwarming donation for the event from Johnston Job Lot Store Manager Elia Balona and staffer Christine Stack, best described the unmatched show of community caring.

"My hat goes off to Mayor Polisenia for putting this together," Razza, who was accompanied by Deputy Chief Mark Vieira began. "Also, what a great show from representatives from the police, fire and town employees for their great generosity and thoughtfulness to this truly worthwhile cause."

The Chief then emphasized: "It's always special to help our community partners, but there is no organization that is as deserving as our veterans at Operation Stand Down. Eric and Tony are so influential in the community and their work and dedication to our veterans is so inspiring."

Erik is Erik B. Wallin, former US Air Force Captain and the executive director at OSDRI, while Tony is Anthony DeQuattro, who actually founded the award-winning and highly-acclaimed organization that helps veterans with countless special services.

"On behalf of the hundreds of veterans and veteran families who use our food pantry each month, OSDRI wishes to thank members of the Johnston



GRAND GIVERS: With OSDRI Executive Director Erik Wallin and Tony DeQuattro proudly displaying the OSDRI banner, members of the JPD, JFD and Town Employees had to form a long line as they helped restock the non-profit's Food Pantry last Thursday morning. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Police IPBO Local 307, Johnston Firefighters, IAFF Local 1950 and the Rhode Island Council 94, Local 1491," said Wallin with sincere appreciation ringing in his voice. "These hometown heroes generously restocked our veteran's food pantry with thousands of pounds of food following our annual Veterans Assistance Weekend."

Thus, as Wallin added: "Time and again, the Mayor, his leadership team and the fine men and women who serve Johnston always come through in a big way to support veterans. Operation Stand Down is proud to call Johnston H-O-M-E!"

There were many memorable moments during last week's food delivery, one such as a JFD Rescue pulling into the OSDRI parking lot and when several firefighters opened the back door, Polisenia and other people were amazed with the overflow collection of food.

Razza, meanwhile, offered: "We all have a great feeling that we have been able to assist those who have allowed us to enjoy the freedoms that we have in this country."



MIGHTY MISSION: Above, members of the Johnston Fire Department Local 1950 came to OSDRI last Thursday morning to deliver a load of food that nearly filled the back end of this rescue vehicle.

CLASSIC CONTRIBUTION: At right, even the Job Lot Store in Johnston was part of last week's restocking of the OSDRI Food Pantry. Christine Stack rolled out this and other carriages stocked with donations they made to JPD Chief Joseph P. Razza and Deputy Chief Mark Vieira for a great show of community caring for our veterans.



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Watch Your MOUTH

by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

DAY OR NIGHT GRINDING

Bruxism is the medical term for grinding, gnashing, or clenching teeth. Those with bruxism unconsciously clench or grind their teeth when awake and/or during sleep. Mild bruxism may not require treatment. However, in some patients, bruxism can be frequent and severe, leading to jaw disorders, headaches, and tooth damage. Combinations of physical, psychological, and genetic factors, including stress, age, personality type, prescription medications, family history, and disorders such as Parkinson's disease, dementia, gastro esophageal reflux disorder (GERD), epilepsy, night terrors, sleep-related disorders such as sleep apnea, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are primary causes. Symptoms may include fractured, chipped or loose teeth; worn enamel; pain or sensitivity; jaw, neck, face, or ear or pain; dull

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P.S. Bertrand Frohman, MD, coined the term bruxism in 1931 from the Greek expression "brychien odontas," translating literally as "grinding of the teeth."

www.dentalartsgroupri.com



MILESTONE MOMENT: Brenda Martin, who was honored for her 20 years of special service at the Johnston Senior Center, is all smiles after Mayor Joseph Polisena presents her with a key to the town in honor of her extraordinary work with the town's senior citizens. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

Brenda Martin celebrated after 20 years at Senior Center

By PETE FONTAINE

It was closing in on noon last Friday and Matt Bolton, the executive director of the Johnston Senior Center as well as Supervisor Jacquelyn Bell-Conroy were walking swiftly in-and-out of several offices into the nearly full dining room, making sure every detail of a planned celebration was in place.

Meanwhile, Assistant Director Denise Bell was going over important issues with Brenda Martin, the JSC's beloved Kitchen Manager.

But that was only a cover-up, a way to keep Martin busy as Bolton later noted, for what would transpire almost as soon as Mayor Joseph Polisena arrived at the nationally-accredited JSC, which was once the famed El Marocco Supper Club located at 1291 Hartford Ave.

With everything in place — and JSC members enjoying the day's lunch — Denise Bell walked with Martin into the spacious room amid cheers and applause for as Polisena proclaimed: "This is truly a special day for a special lady."

Needless to say, "That's so special; Brenda is obviously surprised!" people like Polisena's administrative assistant Janet Whiteley concurred as she was immediately embraced by the mayor who was on hand for not one but two "extra special presentations for an extraordinary lady."

The first was a Town of Johnston Official Commendation for

Martin who was celebrating her 20th anniversary working at the JSC.

"Be it herby known to all that the Mayor's Office and the citizens of the Town of Johnston hereby offer sincere congratulations to Brenda Martin, Kitchen Manager at the JSC, upon your 20th anniversary employed at the Center," Polisena began. "It is with deep appreciation to recognize you for your unwavering dedication, diligence and unselfish commitment to the senior citizens of our town. Representing all the residents, I hereby offer sincere gratitude and praise, with best wishes to you in the future."

There was yet a second presentation, one that Polisena said is reserved for special people who have made outstanding contributions to the town and its residents.

The Mayor, who had a special smile on his face and heart-warming ring in his voice, then handed Martin a wooden case that contained a key to the town that further enhanced the day's ceremony and was greeted by oohs and aahs from a number of seniors who she has served for two decades and counting.

Needless to say, Martin continued to be overwhelmed with the excitement, but would also receive more gifts, cards, a specially decorated cake and tall vase of flowers that were as colorful as the work she has performed during her JSC tenure.



HEART OF THE JSC: Senior Center Kitchen Manager Brenda Martin is joined by Assistant Director Denise Bell and Executive Director Matt Bolton during last Friday's surprise anniversary party in recognition of her 20 years of dedication service and joy she has brought to countless members over two decades.

"Brenda has always been loyal to us," Denise Bell offered amid more applause. "Anything we ask her to do — she does! We are so fortunate to have Brenda as a valuable member of our staff."

To which Bolton, who is in his first year as the JSC leader, added: "Having only been her for a year, I haven't been as lucky as many of our staff, who were able to work with Brenda for much of her 20 years of service to the JSC. As Director, I immediately

realized how much of an invaluable resource Brenda is to us. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful person work here for 20 years."

Bolton then paused before concluding: "It is a testament to her dedication to the town that everyone who has walked in through our doors for two decades and is greeted by her smile and cheerful personality. While Kitchen Manager may be her title, Brenda's real title should be the Heart of the Senior Center."



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Sat. Nov. 20- East Greenwich Firemens Hall, 7pm
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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By MERI R. KENNEDY

Johnston Senior Center updates

Things are happening once again in full swing at the Johnston Senior Center. The following is list of classes and activities held daily.

On Mondays, Walk away the Pounds, Aerobics & Boot Camp, Arts & Crafts and Hi Lo Jack.

It is Walk away the Pounds and Bocce on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays it will be Bocce, Quilting, Zumba and Fit and Strong as well as Hi Lo Jack and Poker.

On Thursdays it is Walk away the Pounds, Bocce, Marg Jong, Yoga and Bingo and on Fridays it is Line Dancing, Zumba and Bingo.

Coed volleyball

The Johnston Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the coed middle school volleyball program. It is open to Johnston residents currently in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The program will be held at the Johnston High School gymnasium. Participants will meet three times per week for four weeks. For more information on pricing and times/dates, please visit johnstonrec.com.

Confreda's Fall Festival

The Fall Festival is back at Confreda Greenhouses & Farms, located at 2150 Scituate Ave. in Cranston.

This year's festival theme is "Rhode Island Strong." The activities include hayrides, the Corn MAiZE, the Animal Backyard and Pumpkin Patch.

For full information on the Fall Festival, visit confredasfallfest.com.

Church seeking vendors for Holiday Bazaar

Our Lady of Grace Church, located at

4 Lafayette St. in Johnston, would like invite vendors to participate in its Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 17. There will be crafters, vendors, a penny social, food and more. For information, contact Pat Leon at (401) 529-7592.

RI Day of Portugal 5K Road Race & Walk

The Rhode Island Day of Portugal Committee is hosting its first-ever 5K Road Race & Walk on Saturday, Oct. 2, at Colt State Park in Bristol. The event will benefit Nathan's Angels and the American Cancer Society.

Registration to run or walk in the all-ages 5K costs \$25. Additional information is available at ridayofportugal.org.

According to the committee, the Day of Portugal is a holiday celebrated every June in every corner of the Portuguese-speaking world. It commemorates the death of the revered Portuguese poet Luís Vaz de Camões in 1580.

Rock & Rhodes Music Fest

On Oct. 3, the group Hey 19 from Rhode Island, The Midnight Callers from New York City, and Soul Box and The Deluxtones from Boston will join in for a Rock & Roll Music Fest to benefit children in treatment at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston. Tickets cost \$20 per person. The event will be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, located at 60 Rhodes Place in Cranston. For tickets and more information, follow the event's Facebook page or visit eventbrite.com.

SunriseScoops@aol.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events as well as virtual events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

FROM THE JOHNSTON LIBRARY

'Music has the power to change us'

By JON ANDERSON
Special to the Sun Rise

Music flows out of our experience, our heartbeats, the wind, the sounds of animals and the forest, the chaotic sounds of the city.

It is inseparable from our being and an expression of who we are. At the same time, music has the power to change us. It carries our stories from one generation to the next, and teaches us about others.

It affects our style, our mood, and our opinions and ideas about the world. Music is a reflection of culture, and influences culture.

This is one theme of a series of illustrative videos and conversations titled "Songs of the Decades."

These will be cooperative presentations by Lloyd Kaplan and Tom Shaker. Kaplan is a musician and Rhode Island Music Hall-of-Famer, the former leader of the band Aristocats, and music professor. Shaker is also a teacher, a former professor of Communications, a filmmaker and writer. The two have co-authored works and presented podcasts on the development of jazz in Rhode Island, which you can hear at RhodyRadio.org.

This series of programs, which will be held at the

library on Tuesday nights at 6:30, Oct. 5th, 12th and 26th, and Nov. 2, will each cover a decade from 1920 up to 1960 in the development of popular music.

Lloyd is calling the programs "conversations and videos" with some music and a chance to interact with their listeners, something they've been missing during the year of podcasting. Please join us to talk with these experienced and knowledgeable music lovers.

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

JSHS holds Blood Drive during national supply emergency

By MELANIE CAPRARO
Student Council Recording Secretary

Johnston Senior High School held a blood drive on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Unfortunately, this blood drive was only open to students and staff due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The blood drive took place in the gym throughout the duration of the school day. JSHS consistently ranks in the top three high schools in the state for blood donations.

The last JSHS blood drive brought in 62 donations. They hope to carry this success into the new school year.

There is a critical need for blood as

there are blood supply shortages across the country.

There is only a 1.5 day supply of blood in Rhode Island.

This means that one emergency could deplete a hospital's blood supply.

The JSHS student council worked alongside staff from the Rhode Island Blood Center in hopes of having a positive impact on this dire situation. Their goal is to do their part in helping out the community and to potentially save lives.

Editor's Note: Members of the Johnston High School Student Council regularly submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.



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BILL SPONSOR: State Rep. Deborah Fellela (D-District 43, Johnston) co-sponsored a bill that may eventually be called "Ryan's Law," inspired by the death of Johnston High School graduate Louis Ryan Massemini, who died after overdosing on prescription medication. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Bill
(Continued from page 6)

Proponents of the tactic argue the sites will save lives.

Miller and Edwards also sponsored 2021-S 0065A, 2021-H 6328, decriminalizing buprenorphine, a drug used to fight heroin addiction.

"Buprenorphine can be a real survival tool," Edwards said. "This legislation will prevent overdoses and save lives by encouraging people with substance use disorders to choose buprenorphine over heroin."

Buprenorphine is an opioid partial agonist, considered weaker than full opioid agonists like methadone and heroin, and has been used successfully to wean addicts off illicit opiates.

"Buprenorphine is an effective medication-assisted treatment," Miller said. "It offers benefits to those with opioid use disorders when treatment in a methadone clinic is not appropriate or is less convenient."

During the pandemic, trips to the doctor have evolved, like so many meetings in peoples daily lives.

Bills 2021-S 0004Baa and 2021-H 6032Aaa, co-sponsored by state Rep. Stephen Casey, (D-District 50, Woonsocket), expands

telemedicine coverage requirements for insurers and requires that all Rhode Island Medicaid programs cover telemedicine visits.

"Telemedicine has been an extremely valuable tool for maintaining health since the pandemic began," Miller said. "As its use increased, the public and our health care providers have become more adept at and comfortable using it, too. While its broader use may have been an adaptation for the pandemic, it's also an improvement to our health care delivery system that will serve us well long after the pandemic. Telemedicine gets health care to people safely, efficiently and effectively, wherever they are. Embracing and expanding it as a permanent option for Rhode Islanders will improve health care access now and in the future."

Casey, a trained firefighter and EMT, believes the legislation will be a valuable tool.

"Telemedicine is one more way we can make it easier for Rhode Islanders to access the health care they need," Casey said. "Our experience with its use over the last year or more has shown us that it is an effective way to provide a great many health services. It makes it easier for people who are housebound, those who may not have reliable trans-

portation, and those who simply find it quicker and more convenient than visiting an office. It advances public health by encouraging and helping people to maintain their health."

McKee scrawled his signature on each bill.

"I am proud to sign bills into law that prioritize wellness and set Rhode Island apart as a leader in opioid use treatment as well as access to telemedicine," McKee said. "I commend our legislative partners for their steadfast commitment to improving health and wellness across Rhode Island."

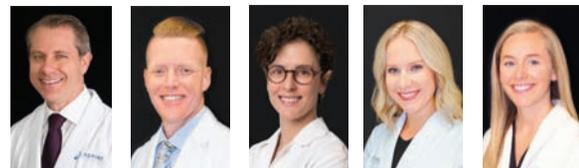
After the signatures were cast in ink, and the pens dispersed to those in the crowd who helped inspire the legislation, Massemini opened his envelope, removed his copies, and asked McKee for one more pen stroke.

The ceremony capped a nearly two-year effort. His grief helped inspire a new law. The governor's signature didn't bring his son back, but it might save someone else's.

"With the passing of 'Ryan's Bill,' I hope to stop unnecessary and dangerous over prescribing of Opioid medications by incompetent physicians," Massemini wrote. "Physicians need to take the time to treat patients' diseases without relying on just prescribing addictive medications as a panacea."



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Amazon

(Continued from page 1)

Stabilization Incentive."

In order to qualify for the TSI reimbursement, a community must have a signed tax stabilization agreement with a company that will create at least 50 new full-time jobs, and the developer must commit a capital investment of at least \$10 million toward project cost.

"The \$1.5 million will essentially ensure the stability of the tax streams received by the town," Miller said. "It will smooth out some of the tax payments, and ensure relatively predictable payments to the town under its own TSA structure."

Work may soon begin at the site off Hartford Avenue, near the intersection with Interstate 295.

"The company has predicted to the governor that it may ... break ground as soon as the next couple months," Miller said. "So if all goes well they will be moving swiftly to get into the ground."

The tax agreement with the town dictates Amazon will be required to make a series of 20 annual tax

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

The company will pay \$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.

"This is not a last-mile facility," Miller said. "This is not an Amazon distribution center that will simply deliver to Rhode Islanders, while that's quite important. This is actually a national asset."

Amazon will save significantly by avoiding taxation of its tangible assets.

"A project you have probably heard of ... we are very pleased that Amazon, a company with many choices as to facilities of this scale, has chosen Rhode Island," Miller said. "The project that will be produced in Johnston is a 3.8 million square foot complex that we believe will be the largest single facility in Rhode Island, when all is said and done."

An estimated price tag for construction of the six-story, 3,864,972-square-foot "new, state-of-the-art Amazon Robotics Sortable Fulfillment Center" hovers around \$290 million.

Prior to the public hearing where the Town Council ultimately approved the TSA, Polisena Jr. asked Johnston's legal counsel to estimate the amount of money Amazon will save with the agreement in place.

"Just spoke with the solicitor," Polisena Jr. wrote via text message several weeks ago. "He believes based on rough estimates they'll be paying around 60% of their total obligation."

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.

"The project will yield \$146 million to the town over 20 years in the way of local tax revenue," Miller said. "Amazon's also providing a Community Partnership Agreement within which there will be benefits both to the town, and for that matter, to the state. In the case of the town, its public spaces and public programs ... a variety of such investments across the town."

Amazon estimates it will hire 1,350 full-time associates, starting at \$18 hourly wages, plus healthcare, dental and 401K benefits.

The company also estimates it will hire 150 managerial, technical and operational oversight jobs with estimated \$60,000 annual managerial salaries.

"The company has expressed that it will employ 1,500 people in the construction period ... construction labor," Miller told the board. "And an equal number, 1,500 going forward on a permanent basis. There are reasonable doses of speculation around that number, meaning there are those who think it's very conservative; it will be a bigger number."

The new employees' compensation should total around \$57,000,000 in "new annual payroll created."

In all, Johnston expects to receive more than \$170 million in tax dollars and additional benefits over two decades from the proposed Amazon facility.

"The (CPA) also includes state benefits, and among these there are investments in education and training, and there are investments in small business lending, including the Small Business Assistance Program, SBAP, that is administered by this Commerce Corporation," Miller said. "So we're very pleased about those benefits."

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," according to the signed agreement.

P-Tech refers to Pathways in Technology Early College High School. Amazon will also make a \$400,000 one-time payment to cover the program's initiation costs.

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

"All of this was negotiated very ably by [Johnston] Mayor [Joseph M.] Polisena, who really has done a phenomenal job in partnering with Gov. McKee, and Gov. McKee, I think it was during the transition ... has been involved with this prospective transaction that was still only a hoped-for project when the lieutenant governor was entering the governor's seat," Miller said. "And of course there's a very close relationship between the governor and the mayor, and they very effectively navigated this."

Polisena did not return a call for comment.

"We were very grateful that both the governor and the mayor were at the council hearing in Johnston where this proposal was approved, with the TSI as a hoped-for ingredient," Miller told the board. "But that's pending, of course ... the approval of this board, as it always would be, for final enactment. So this item has been reviewed by the Investment Committee as well."

The board voted unanimously to approve the TSI, granting Johnston \$1.5 million.



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JOHNSTON ON THE AGENDA: On Monday night, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation Board of Directors met and voted unanimously to approve a \$1.5 million reimbursement for Johnston, following the town's tax agreement with Amazon. (Sun Rise photo for Rory Schuler)

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Freedom of choice, but not from consequences

Where does the right to personal choice end, and the burden of personal responsibility to protect your fellow beings begin? How far is someone willing to go to preserve the former at the expense of the latter?

Rhode Island will find out in the coming weeks and months, as a statewide mandate requiring COVID vaccination of all health care workers – including firefighter EMTs – becomes effective on Friday. Many health care workers now face the simple decision of getting the shot, or losing their jobs.

It is interesting (but perhaps not surprising) that the COVID vaccine mandate has become such a politicized, hot potato issue that has generated lawsuits at the local and federal level.

• WHERE TO WRITE:

1944 Warwick Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
RoryS@RhodyBeat.com

Health care workers who have direct contact with patients have long been required to show proof

of vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), chickenpox, whooping cough and the flu, and these mandates have never generated any notable controversy or derision.

The logic behind requiring the COVID vaccine is exactly the same. Those who interact with patients – often medically fragile individuals with compromised immune systems, such as sick and elderly people – should take every precaution to prevent spreading a possibly fatal illness to those they are charged, ethically and legally, with trying to help.

Despite all the purposefully deceitful propaganda and fear-mongering surrounding the development and efficacy of the COVID vaccine, there exists zero legitimate, peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the vaccine is unsafe to all but a tiny minority of those who have a history of proven allergic reactions to vaccinations. Such individuals are not subject to the mandate, as should be the case.

Religious exemptions are more complicated. Legally speaking, the separation of church and state in this country is a blurred line at the best of times. What should take precedence during a global health crisis – the personally held religious beliefs of an individual, or the public welfare of a whole community?

It's a challenging question, for sure, and one worthy of debate.

But we must also wonder how many people applying for such exemptions are doing so not because they actually believe that labs using fetal tissue to test the vaccines during development violates their religious moral code – there are no fetal cells in the actual vaccines, despite nefarious attempts to say otherwise – but because they see it as the last tool available at their disposal to safeguard and support their vaccine hesitancy? We would guess that the majority of such exemption requests fall into that category.

The debate over vaccine mandates is just the most recent manifestation of the broader debate that has been raging since the first mask mandates started cropping up in states throughout the nation. It is a debate rooted deeply in a selfish sense of entitlement – where any attempts from the government to force someone to make a decision that contributes to the positive well being of somebody else is unabashed tyranny, and an affront to everything American.

What those still resistant to the vaccine fail to recognize, even as they risk literally losing their livelihood and source of income as a result of their stubbornness, is that this isn't a tyrannical mandate. They still have the freedom of choice to exercise their right to not receive a vaccine.

However, as with every other American right, from free speech to the right to own a firearm, you are not free from the consequences of any decision you make while exercising that right. Some will learn that lesson, and hopefully learn from it, beginning on Friday.

Kindness a good prescription when visiting the ER

This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

"I need a doctor, immediately ... immediately," came the woman's commanding voice. She didn't wait for a reply from the emergency room nurse.

"Did you hear me, immediately. My son has appendicitis."

The boy started crying hysterically. "Mommy, mommy, I don't want to go."

"The doctor is with another patient," the nurse said.

"Don't tell me that. I've heard that before. His appendix is ready to burst ... Do you want his appendix to burst? Do you want to be responsible for that? Because that's what's going to happen and I'm going after you."

The nurse attending to me backed away from the mobile computer station she was using to enter the information I provided. She apologized, saying she'd be back.

The emergency room that had been subdued and reassuring suddenly clicked into high gear. There was a high rate of beeping. I couldn't see them, but people were arriving at the scene. The boy's high-pitched screaming didn't abate. There were a lot of "you're going to be all right" and "the doctor is here." I couldn't make out what the mother was saying, but the tone of her voice was demanding.

I was beginning to wonder if I had made the right decision coming to the ER at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, New York. My daughter Diana, a physical therapist, had listened carefully to my description of pain running down the left side of my back. Over the phone she directed me to move in various directions, to take deep breaths and move my head. Up until the night before, the pain was tolerable, a nuisance. When it got worse, Carol and my niece Christa gave me massages. That helped. After a sleepless night where I couldn't find a comfortable position and tried hot compresses, walking and pushups, I was anxious to find relief. Diana's diagnosis was muscle spasms caused by herniated discs that had been diagnosed some years ago. She suggested seeing a doctor to rule out a possible organ issue.

My ER visit offered insight to pressures on those working in the medical system. I recognized immediately, as it has been instituted at Kent Hospital, an effort to personalize care with a white board in the curtain cubicle that would serve as my temporary room. An attendant filled in the line designed for

doctor with the doc's last name and wrote the first names of those I would come in contact with.

When the attendant returned to complete the questions, I was curious to the disposition of the boy whose cries I could still occasionally hear.

Was the mother correct, was his appendix giving him such distress?

I should have known she couldn't answer because of HIPAA regulations about divulging the conditions of patients.

"Let's say your suspicions are correct," she said. There was no mistaking her opinion of the mother's outburst, which apparently was not all that unusual. A lot has been reported on unruly airline passengers and what is being done to stop them from berating and even scuffling with flight attendants and other passengers in the midst of a flight. They have been arrested, fined and barred from flights.

"People need to be kind to one another," she said.

I asked about her experiences and learned because of staff shortages she had canceled a getaway weekend with her family to be at work. She was not alone. Others, including the woman who greeted me when I entered the ER and four hours later handled my discharge, was also putting in an extra long week because of staff shortages.

She left momentarily to wheel in an X-ray machine. That didn't take long and was followed by a woman who wired me for an EKG. She took a reading and then realized she had mistakenly switched the wires for the arm and leg. We made light of it and she took a second reading, but having witnessed the mother's lack of consideration for those she was seeking help from for her son, I could imagine some patients would have been outraged.

Rachael, the nurse listed on the white board, was working her regular shift. She inserted an IV to take blood samples.

Listening to a doctor in a nearby curtained cubicle, I wondered if our access to information is all that good. The patient had clearly researched

what he believed to be his problem. He questioned the doctor on his diagnosis, which can be a good thing, except in this instance he was defiant. In measured tones, sounding like a parent explaining to their child why they won't be stopping to get ice cream, the doctor went over the diagnosis. The patient barely let the doc get in a word edgewise. Indeed, what happened to kindness if not common decency?

The doc who had my case was brief and to the point. We shook hands. He looked over the information I'd provided and at first glance pretty much concluded what Diana diagnosed, but to be sure lined me up for the battery of tests. True to his word, he was back once he had the results. He didn't see any abnormalities and prescribed a muscle relaxant and Lidocaine patches to relieve pain.

Soon the nurse was back to remove the IV. The attendant who first greeted me during the appendix episode, whose name apparently wasn't on the white board, returned with plastic bags containing my clothes and shoes. The hospital had called ahead to the nearby CVS with my prescription. The mother with the screaming son was also preparing to leave. It looked like my encounter with the medical system was coming to a close. I was mistaken.

It being more than an hour since the hospital phoned in the prescription, I thought we would be in and out in short order. Two were staffing the store pharmacy. One was working the drive-up that included rapid COVID testing – and, from what I could tell, was dealing with some demanding customers. The woman

who I assumed was the pharmacist from her white smock was talking with a pleasant enough man at the counter who wanted to get the Pfizer vaccination. CVS couldn't help him at this location. She suggested other communities, all of them no closer than a half-hour drive. Remember, this is upstate New York, and 30 minutes isn't all that long a drive.

The customer behind him gave her name and was expecting to pickup a prescription. The pharmacist said it wasn't ready and it would be a half hour. The woman wasn't happy. She grabbed the nearest chair in full view of the pharmacist.

I was next. The pharmacist looked at my prescription and gave me the same information. I'd need to wait. Then looking at the paperwork, she said the Lidocaine patches were available over the counter. She'd show me where I could find them.

I thought the stare of the waiting woman would burn through the two of us.

"It looks like you're busy," I ventured. For a second time I was hearing of staff woes. She didn't dally and returned to the pharmacy to fill prescriptions.

I stood waiting next to the woman in the chair. In five minutes the pharmacist, holding up a white bag, was calling my name. She totaled the amount and I paid by credit card.

The woman was now out of her chair.

"I was here before him and you filled his order first. I've got kids at home. My husband is at work. Why is it that he went first? You tell me why."

I didn't wait to hear the pharmacist's reply. It was time to check out of the medical system.

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BY HAND: John Ricci initially started his restoration of a 1934 Cadillac by hand-crafting wooden seat frames for vehicle's interior. The car sat in his garage and served as a shelf for decades, but was finally restored to its current "show-stopper" condition. (Submitted photo)

Car

(Continued from page 1)

A toolmaker by trade, and frugal by nature, Ricci has combed the East Coast looking for parts. And when the part was unreachable, he made it himself.

"My 1934 Cadillac was purchased in 1966, at age 28 ... and amidst restoring a 1930 Willy's," Ricci and his daughter Jennifer wrote in their application to the organizers of the Concours d'Elegance. "This very dilapidated convertible coupe was found in an opened garage about a quarter of a mile from my house by a friend who traveled by horse and buggy."

It's been 51 years since Ricci asked "Mac," a character in the neighborhood, who's buggy lantern could be seen swinging back and forth as he roamed Johnston's roads at night, to watch out for interesting old cars.

Mac scored for Ricci, discovering the '34 Caddy in a garage on Waveland Street.

The future "showstop-

per" was just a dusty and dinged-up green monster, with dark blue and maroon undercoats, creased bumpers and a decimated interior.

"I never saw one before," he said, thinking back to 1966. "I knocked on the door and asked, 'What is it?' I asked the owner if I could go look."

He pointed out the details that distinguish the 1934 Cadillac from the far more common 1935 model.

"I saw the bi-plane bumpers and the way the fenders are cut away; a little like an Auburn but with that bubble in front. I was overwhelmed," Ricci recalled. "The rest was good. It wasn't all rotted. I just had to make it up and make it work."

The previous owner stored the Cadillac in an unfinished dirt-floor garage with no door.

"Not aware of what it was, it's intriguing body and unusual fenders sparked my interest," Ricci wrote. "I approached the owner to see if he would sell it, providing I could get it to start."

He left and returned

with a can of gas and an electric pump. He took all the spark plugs out and squirted oil in every cylinder.

"But it just went 'Eh!'" Ricci said.

The car's original home was atop a hill.

"With no shift or operating brakes, I was able to jump start it going downhill, then proceeded to drag it home," Ricci wrote in his Concours d'Elegance application.

"That year, I built a large enough garage to occupy it, while completing my Willy's restoration," Ricci wrote. "It remained there under clutter for over 40 years before starting the restoration in 2007 and completing it in 2017."

He approached the car's front-end carefully, bending forward at the waist. His eyes met the chrome "Goddess" hood ornament.

CAR - PAGE 11



TIME TO CRUISE: John Ricci takes a seat behind the wheel of his 1934 Cadillac. This weekend, he'll be driving the car that he restored to Newport to compete in the Concours d'Elegance. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

LEGAL NOTICES

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, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919, on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., the various parcels of real estate or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the taxes which constitute a lien thereon set forth in the original advertisement of September 10, 2021 in THE SUNRISE of that date to which reference is hereby made

Property upon which taxes have been paid since the advertisement first appeared, will not, of course, be included in the 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 will 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 your rights.

Joseph Chiodo
Finance Collector/Director

9/17, 9/24, 10/1/21

**Office of the Town Clerk
Town of Johnston
1385 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919
(401) 351-6618**

Notice is given pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 3-5-17 that

the Johnston Town Council, sitting as the Liquor Licensing Commission under Title 3 Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended, shall hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 12th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court Building, 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following application for a liquor license.

Applicant: Raj Patel
Business Name: Tri Town Liquors, Inc.
d/b/a Tri Town Wine and Spirits
LA Enterprises, Inc.
d/b/a Tri Town Wine and Spirits
Location: 39 Putnam Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
License Type: Class A - Liquor License-
Transfer of Ownership

Remonstrants are entitled to be heard before the granting of the license.

Per Order:
Johnston Town Council
Robert V. Russo, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter service for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting date.

9/24, 10/1/21

**PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday October 5th, 2021;
6:00 P.M.**

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

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

PB 20-44 - Mill Street Apartments

- Public Hearing on a proposed conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 634 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 - Property is zoned - PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC

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.

PB 21-04 - Cherry Blossom Estates - Public Meeting on a proposed Master Plan Approval. AP 5 Lot 339 - behind 3 & 5 Granite Street. Zoned R-20.

PB 21-33 - Taft Avenue/Theresa Avenue - Public Meeting on a Conceptual/Master Plan of a three-lot Minor Subdivision on a private road. Located behind 110 Grandview Avenue and fronting on the paper Taft and Theresa Avenues. AP 11 Lot 589 and AP 23 Lot 47. Zoned R-15 and R-20. Applicant: The Malvin Company, LLC

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
1. Comprehensive Plan Update
a. Request of information from School Department
b. Discussion of process with consultant.

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.

9/24, 10/1/21



Request for Bids
Town of Johnston

Plumbing
Rainone Gym Re-Bid

Town of Johnston is requesting bids for Plumbing at the Rainone Gym. Bid specifications are available at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office located at 1385 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 beginning October 1st, 2021 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Specs are also available on the Town's website at www.townofjohnstonri.com. Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 am, October 8th, 2021 at the Johnston Town Clerk's Office at the above address and will be opened publicly at that time at the Town Hall Conference room. The Town of Johnston reserves the right to reject any or all responses or parts thereof, to waive any informality in them, or accept any bid deemed in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Johnston will offer interpreters for the hearing impaired provided the request is at least three (3) days prior to scheduled bid opening by calling (401)553-8830.

Joseph Chiodo, CPA
Finance Director

■ Car

(Continued from page 10)

“First I saw her in Hershey, but the guy wanted \$400,” he recalled. “The next year, I went to Carlisle, and saw the same guy. Now he wanted \$500 for the hood ornament. Then I found out I could buy a reproduction, but it would cost me \$400, and it would be smaller; it wouldn’t be the same. So I bought the original.”

Under the “Goddess” shines the brass wings of the Cadillac emblem. Ricci considered gold-plating the wings until he discovered they were factory brass. When brass is original, it’s better than gold.

Ricci used old Cadillac brochures as restoration reference guides.

“The 1935 is almost identical to the 1934,” Ricci said. “The only thing different that’s noticeable are the bi-plane bumpers, with bullets in the middle and a bar on the top and the bottom. The bullets are spring loaded, so if you hit somebody, it’s not supposed to spoil the bumper.”

His daughter Jennifer added to the conversation.

“It has more sex appeal than the ‘35,” she said. “Whatever he couldn’t find, he built.”

Eventually Ricci bought a junker ‘35 for donor parts.

He cannibalized the ‘35, painstakingly crafted replacement parts by hand, and combed flea markets and car shows for the rest.

Half of the stripped ‘35 sits in the yard behind his Tara Street home.

Ricci’s wife Donna and children – John Michael, Jennifer and Jaelyn – gave money every holiday, deposits toward the Cadillac fund, in an effort to motivate their dad to restore his ornate garage shelf into a show-worthy ride.

In 2014, his daughter Jaelyn (Ricci) Snow, a retired star with the Festival Ballet Providence, passed away after a long illness.

As a tribute to her sister, Jennifer gave her father an ornament of Jaelyn with angel wings.

John Ricci proudly placed the memorial to his late daughter on the passenger’s side dashboard, the same place of honor where many classic car owners prominently display car show badges.

Eventually, after four decades as a shelf, and another decade of restoration, the cherry red Cadillac, with its slightly darker red fenders, was ready to road test and show off a little.

Ricci opened the Cadillac’s suicide doors. He adjusted the spotlight and his reflection smiled back from the glowing chrome.

On Saturday, John Ricci’s 1934 Cadillac will be on display with some of the world’s most amazing automobiles. Car show judge Jay Leno will assess his work.

Trophy or no trophy, Ricci is honored to compete.

“I can only enter it one time,” he said. “That’s enough.”



SHOWSTOPPER: John Ricci points out the details that differentiate his 1934 Cadillac from the far more common 1935 model; a slightly different hood ornament, the grill’s mesh bottom, and the bi-plane and bullet bumpers. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



PAST & PRESENT: John Ricci’s daughter Jennifer stands with his beloved 1934 Cadillac as a child during the 1970s (top right) and as an adult, after it was restored in 2017 (bottom right). (Submitted photos)



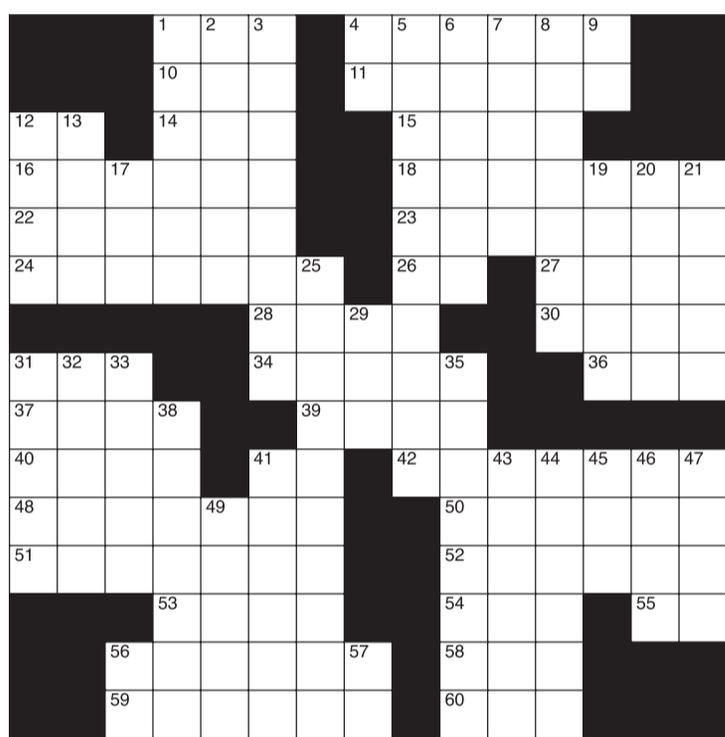


MAYORAL ADDRESS: Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena addressed the crowd gathered outside at the grand opening/ribbing cutting of Heaven and Earth Catering at Schroder's Deli. (Sun Rise photo)



PROUD PARENTS: Jim and Elaine Paquette are joined by their son – Chef Jeff Paquette – as they hold a special sign that reads: “Family – where life begins and love never ends” that speaks volumes about Johnston’s newest business located at 1302 Atwood Ave. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

**CROSSWORD
PUZZLE CORNER**



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Numbers cruncher
- 4. Creator
- 10. A type of center
- 11. About spring
- 12. Equal to 64 U.S. pints (abbr.)
- 14. Precursor to the EU
- 15. Something that can be cast
- 16. Gold-colored alloy
- 18. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 22. A hard coating on a porous surface
- 23. A type of detachment
- 24. Filmmakers need them
- 26. Promotional material
- 27. ___ Blyton, children’s author
- 28. Short, sharp sound
- 30. Feeling of intense anger
- 31. Popular TV network
- 34. Island entry point
- 36. Disfigure
- 37. College army
- 39. One who’s revered
- 40. Long, winding ridge

- 41. Football stat
- 42. Stealing
- 48. Hawaiian island
- 50. More raw
- 51. In one’s normal state of mind
- 52. Daniel LaRusso’s sport
- 53. Tropical American monkey
- 54. Measures heart currents
- 55. Midway between south and east
- 56. Knotted again
- 58. Born of
- 59. Value
- 60. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mother tongue
- 2. Removes potato skins
- 3. True
- 4. Early multimedia
- 5. The making of amends
- 6. Discovered by investigation
- 7. Small arm of the sea
- 8. More seasoned
- 9. Atomic #81
- 12. Type of pear
- 13. Chemical compound
- 17. One’s mother
- 19. Vietnam’s former name
- 20. Snow forest
- 21. Church officer
- 25. Hardens
- 29. Ancient
- 31. Advertising gimmick
- 32. Subatomic particle
- 33. Not fresh
- 35. Loosens
- 38. Religious symbols
- 41. Film
- 43. Orthodontic devices
- 44. Grilled beef sandwich
- 45. Journalist Tarbell
- 46. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 47. Japanese social networking service
- 49. Romantic poet
- 56. Dorm worker
- 57. Poor grades

ANIMAL TALK
By Karen Kalunian
Local ♡ Adoptable ♡ Loveable



Photo credit: Hillary Gillinder Photography

Meet the incredible Shrek! This handsome five year old boy loves to play, he is super people friendly! Shrek picks up a toy as soon as he meets a new person as if to say “Want to play?” He was sadly surrendered to the Warwick Animal Shelter because his family was moving and could not take him. Shrek does not like other animals so he will need a home with no other pets. A home with a fenced in back yard would be his dream come true so he can run and play! He is about 80lbs. so please keep in mind that he will need someone who can handle his size and he also comes with free training in the home. Please contact the Warwick Animal Shelter for more information at 401-468-4377. They are located at 101 Arthur W Devine Blvd Warwick, RI but are currently only open by appointment so please contact them first. If you are looking for a fun loving, playful boy who wants to be your one and only then Shrek is waiting for you!

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A slice of Heaven lands in Johnston

By PETE FONTAINE

With Jeff and Kimberly Paquette, their key word is — and has always been — family.

That was reinforced time and again Monday morning during the grand opening of Johnston's newest food service business — Heaven and Earth Catering at Schroder's Deli at 1302 Hartford Ave.

There were red, white and blue inflated star-shaped balloons as well as ones with smiling faces attached to corn stalk decorations, further proof of how much detail Jeff Paquette — who has spent three decades and counting in the food service industry since he was a dishwasher at age 13 — pays to each and every details of his many food offerings.

There was one sign, which was held by Jeff's father Jim Paquette amid the morning's special pomp and circumstance that included Johnston High School Class of 1972 classmates Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena and Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins that epitomized what the restaurateurs bring to town.

"Family — where life begins and love never ends" echoed silently but loud and clear through a short ceremony emceed by Jim Hopkins, a former JHS teacher-coach who chairs the Panthers Athletic Hall of Fame committee, who along with his wife Lois have long been friends with the Paquettes and enjoyed many-a-meal at the couple's former restaurant in East Providence.

"Today, we welcome Jeff and Kim, two great people who are known for always serving good food and enjoy giving back to the community," Jim Hopkins began while welcoming the Paquette's family, friends and town officials including JPD Chief Joe Razza, Deputy Chief Mark Vieira, JFD Chief Peter Lamb and Councilman Joseph Polisena Jr. "It is my honor to welcome you to this grand opening and now I'd like you to meet Jeff's mother Elaine Paquette, who will offer a special blessing."

Soon thereafter, Jim Hopkins introduced his brother and Johnston native Ken Hopkins, who offered his congratulations to Jeff and Kim and from the City of Cranston.

"Like the people in Johnston," Ken Hopkins began, "Cranstonians love to eat at our many fine restaurants. I personally welcome you to town and will encourage people to support our business. On behalf of our city, we extend a warm welcome to the business community and wish you well for many years to come."

Polisena, who like Mayor Hopkins, presented Jeff and Kim with a special official commendation, then offered his sincerest congratulations and warm welcome "on this

special occasion" and as he has emphasized during his tenure emphasized: "It's the small businesses that drive the economic engine of our town."

The grand opening also featured an official ribbon cutting performed by Jeff and Kim who were flanked by Polisena and Hopkins, who held the ribbon.

After which Jim Paquette said: "Thank you for coming and we hope you will ... enjoy our food. With that, please join us for coffee and enjoy a sampling of what we will serve here at Heavy on Earth Catering at Schroder's Deli."

Each and every guest was highly impressed with the unique food samplings, the taste and presentation which was further proof of the pride — and detail — the Paquettes take for each and every offering.

"Chef Jeff's experience in the restaurant and food industry is quite diverse and extensive," Jim Hopkins wanted it known. "He began washing dishes, to sweeping the floor and doing small jobs. We first met at his former Paquette's Family Restaurant in East Providence that unfortunately, due to the pandemic and lack of help, had to close."

Meanwhile, as Jim Hopkins related: "I was absolutely thrilled when Jeff told me he was going to purchase Schroder's Deli that many people know has been around since 1945. The people of Johnston and surrounding communities are going to love the food here. To coin a phrase Jeff and Kim — whose experience includes waitressing — offer delicious food that's like Heaven on Earth!"

The Paquettes, who as Jim Hopkins noted "are famous for many different foods including their famous family meals, including chicken parmesan, penne Rustico and Portuguese Stuffed Cod. Those are just a few of Jeff's signature dishes that have received rave reviews from a number of noted food critics."

As he said at the conclusion of the grand opening ceremony, Jim Hopkins mused with a special smile on his face: "It is my understating that Amazon made its final decision to come to Johnston once they found out that Heaven on Earth Catering was opening here at Schroder's Deli on Atwood Avenue!"

Thus, Jeff and Kim — Johnston's newest business owners — are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and they're closed Sunday. For more information, take out or a menu, please call 401-942-1234. People can also go on Facebook, Instagram and Yelp.

Their website is heavenonearthcateringsd.com.



OFFICIAL OPENING: Jeff and Kim Paquette, assisted by Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena, Cranston Mayor Ken Hopkins and Elaine Paquette make it official during Monday's grand opening/ribbing cutting of Heaven and Earth Catering at Schroder's Deli, 1302 Atwood Avenue. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



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Sports



TOURNEY TROUPERS: Among the many GCC members who played in Sunday's JMCE Co-Ed Memorial Golf Tournament were Cheryl Jason, Chris Adler, Steve Jason, Robin McFadden, Lisa Adley and Amy Warner. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

JCME's Golf Tournament raises thousands for Hasbro

By PETE FONTAINE

To say that the Johnston Memorial Cancer Events took a page out of the famous Masters golf tournament would be an understatement.

As the Masters well-known slogan goes, the JMCE's annual Co-Ed Memorial Golf Tournament – played last Sunday at picturesque and lakeside Gloucester Country Club – is without question a tradition unlike any other.

For starters, few private or public golf venues have a special or designated charity.

But that's not the case at GCC, which has adopted Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence and waves any and all fees for the 72-golfer JMCE event, which raised \$7,000 in 2020 but this year will go over the \$10,000 mark to help children who have been stricken with cancer.



SUPER SIGN: GCC member Greg Kernick, who owns and operates Chepachet Wine & Spirits, holds a mock check that would go to the first golfer sinking a hole-in-one in Sunday's JMCE Memorial Golf Tournament. He is joined by chairperson Judi Graham.

■ JMCE - PAGE 16

Is football safe for kids?

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

I recently swung by the CLCF Chiefs youth football teams for photos at Cranston Stadium.

When looking back on the games that I covered, it made me take a second to consider the debate that has been going on for decades regarding the safety of playing football.

As most of us know, over the course of the past 20 or so years, player safety in football has been hotly debated from the youth level all the way to the pros. Concussions are no longer considered to be "stingers" and getting drilled in a head-on collision is no longer chalked up to "getting your bell rung" like it used to be years ago.

Football is a dangerous game at any level. I do not see an objective argument that can be made against that. I do feel that the severity is a bit blown out of proportion, though, and people tend to forget the dangers of other sports in the process.

It all begins with teaching the game the right way at the youth level. There has been a greater emphasis on that in recent years. Between teaching kids how to properly tackle by wrapping the opponent up, not leading with the head, rushing the ball using your shoulder, all of that. It is so important that kids learn not to use their head on impact.

The other is equipment being used. Helmets are now lighter than they used to be and I know that companies are constantly working on ways to create equipment that is more effective in preventing concussions. That too, is so important in a sport like football.

When watching the CLCF Chiefs, the kids appeared to be as safe as most other sports and none of them appeared to be hurting. There was

nothing violent happening on the field. I believe that that is a reflection of the coaching from both sidelines, which is a great thing to see.

For those of you who read my columns, you know how much I love the game of football. It is my favorite sport. It always has been and always will be.

That is why I take this subject rather seriously when discussing it. I'm far from an expert on the medical side of head injuries and am definitely not up to date on each and every finding or report that is out there. But as a football fan that played the sport and came from a football family, I do believe that kids should be allowed to play football and that the risk is much less now than it used to be.

Of course, I do not speak for every parent out there. Everyone has their own opinion and I'll always respect how others decide to raise their kids. I just believe that for those parents who are iffy, I would not hesitate to sign your child up to play football if they express interest.

Think about some other sports.

Hockey, kids are flying around on sharp ice skates, on a hard surface, hitting each other and slapping around a hard piece of rubber that is shot and deflected every which way.

■ PITCH - PAGE 15

Cranston trio leading RIC women's tennis team

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Rhode Island women's tennis team has been one of the best in the country over the past decade and has taken home four consecutive Little East Conference titles.

As of last week, the Anchorwomen boasted an undefeated record to start the 2021 campaign and once again look poised to be a contender.

Leading the way for RIC is a trio of Cranston natives in senior Serena Bobola, junior Jenna Lisi and sophomore Lauren Macera.

"I think compared to last season, we were just really excited and pumped up to be back out

there with a normal season. Being ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll hyped us and gave us the motivation to kick butt and take names. All of the girls are excited," said Bobola, who is also excited to have gained an additional year of eligibility due to last year's pandemic-shortened season. "I'm excited to finish this season and when I was told that I had another year of eligibility, I knew I was going to take that because this is the best group that we've had since I've been here. I'm excited to see where we can go this year and next year."

■ TENNIS - PAGE 15



SENIOR LEADER: Serena Bobola makes a play in a recent match. (Photos courtesy of RIC)

■ Tennis
(Continued from page 14)

Lisi has been the team's top player since her freshman year and has been named the LEC's Player of the Year for the past two years. She also recently received her second Jill Craybas Award, which is given to the state's top female tennis player.

"I definitely feel comfortable and more confident in my game. I have definitely learned a lot since my freshman year and am smarter in my decision-making when I'm on the court. It's something that I never take for granted, there are always new players coming in," Lisi said. "You never know who is coming in from other schools so I don't take it for granted and I try to use it as motivation when preparing for who I am facing."

Macera was the conference rookie of the year last season as well and have already seen some im-

provement in her second season in college.

"We had a shortened season and it was different, but Rhode Island College was one of the few schools that got to play so I was able to get some experience. I had a good year, I won (LEC) Rookie of the Year which has motivated me to work hard this summer. I've been working really hard and have moved up the ladder a bit. I've adjusted well," Macera said.

Lisi and company are thrilled to be able to represent their home city and to show that Cranston develops top-notch athletes.

"It's not something that you see every day. There are athletes throughout the state that shine in their respective sports but to see three of us be as accomplished as we have been, it's a good showing on the hard work ethic that Cranston has to offer. We're a close city, everyone knows everyone, and we just want to make the city proud," Lisi said.

Macera also feels that the Rhode Island tennis community is on the up.

"I think it says a lot about the tennis culture in Rhode Island. Most schools recruit kids from down south because they can play tennis year-round, but more places in Rhode Island are providing opportunities to play indoors in the winter here and I feel that that is one component of how Rhode Island players are becoming really strong players. That has helped the entire state get better," Macera said.

As RIC gets set for the second half of its regular season slate, the girls are looking forward to hitting the court together and making another push toward an LEC title.

"We're looking to win another championship," Bobola said. "It's going to be about adjusting to the new lineup and working toward the ultimate goal of getting better as players and people in general."



MAKING NOISE: Jenna Lisi fires away against an opponent.



BREAKING OUT: Lauren Macera returns a shot.

■ Pitch
(Continued from page 14)

Baseball, kids are standing at the plate with someone throwing a hard baseball as hard as they can in their direction, and will try hitting the ball as hard as they can right back at the pitcher.

Lacrosse, another sport with contact and a hard, heavy ball being thrown around at high speeds.

I can keep going on, but you get my point.

Now, am I saying that football is one of the safer sports to play? No, it is a dangerous, full-contact sport and anytime a player steps on the field, they are risking injury. My point, rather, is that there is a risk in most sports and that football has recognized many of the dangers that were once overlooked and are now trying to address them.

Football is an unbelievable game and I would always support kids trying it out. When watching the Chiefs at work, it is clear that they are being taught the right way and that their bodies are a whole lot safer

now than they used to be.

I have not spoken on the Red Sox in a while, other than briefly mentioning their COVID outbreak in last week's column. The team has been in a red-hot wild card race with a few other teams in September, and it has pulled me back into it.

I have been on record numerous times saying how bad I believe the Major League Baseball product is nowadays. It is slow-moving, un-compelling, stat-driven, and just totally unbearable for me to watch at this point. I will say, though, the past few weeks have shown me how much I miss seeing the team playing meaningful games in the fall and how much fun it can be.

Sure, the Sox won the World Series not too long ago and it is not like the team has had this big play-off drought. I have just become so tired of the product and so disenchanted that even the past couple of runs, I have only had half of my heart in it.

Maybe it is just the time away, maybe my soul is no longer allowing me to be

bitter to the point that I ignore my hometown team. I don't know what it is, but I have been engaged the past few weeks and it has been ... almost ... fun to watch for me. About as good as it has been in a decade.

Welcome back, fall baseball. Welcome back.

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COIN TOSS: Jason Schino, Drew Buteau, Stephen Bucu and Nathan Della Morte watch the coin toss.

JYF Panthers making noise

The Johnston Youth Football Panthers have been having a blast on the gridiron this fall and look to compete for their league championship. Here are some photos of a recent game. (Submitted photos)



YARDS AFTER CARRY: Dylan Taylor picks up some yards.



HAULING IT IN: Shane Trainor hauls in a pass.

JMCE (Continued from page 14)

And that, as Co-Ed Memorial Tournament chairperson Judi Graham offered Sunday, "is and has always been our mission, to keep raising money for Hasbro Children's Hospital in hopes that someday there will be a cure."

Added co-chairperson Linda LaFazia: "Everyone takes pride in helping Hasbro Children's Hospital and the many children who receive extraordinary care during their stay."

Take Greg Kernick, who owns

and operates Chepachet Wine & Spirits. He offered a \$500 prize for the first golfer to record a hole-in-one.

Likewise, GCC golf pro Stan Baluik rolls out the red carpet for his friends and members who also donate countless decorative gift baskets and certificates that generate additional revenue for the JMCE's annual donation to Hasbro.

"This is about as a close-knit group of golfing friends as you'll find anywhere," offered Vin LaFazia, who has been a key to the JMCE's ongoing golf success for over a decade. "While a lot of people enjoy playing, there are other

people who secure raffle prizes and even work the grill for the pre-tourney lunch."

Sunday, amid a lineup of golf carts and surrounded by the annual putting competition held on GCC's gloriously green surface, people like Carolyn O'Keefe, Kim Dumas and Brian Curley volunteered to cook and serve sandwiches that almost every golfer enjoyed prior to the official greeting and reading of the rules ahead of the 1 p.m. tee-off.

The day concluded with a post-tournament dinner prepared by Tom Morgan, who Vin LaFazia called "a great friend of GCC and the JMCE as well."



AUDRY'S ARMY: Audry Jorge (center) came to Gloucester Country Club Sunday armed with her golf clubs and a specially wrapped gift basket, which was one of many raffle prizes that further boosted the JMCE's Co-Ed Memorial Tournament coffers. She's joined by chairperson Judi Graham, Linda LaFazia, Tracy Uriati and Dewey Uriati. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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Have questions about recreational catch estimates? NOAA's got answers

NOAA Fisheries' Maine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) now has a website that answers angler questions about producing recreational fishing catch and effort estimates which are used in part to develop recreational fishing harvest limits.

An article titled "Ask MRIP: Answering your questions about estimating recreational catch" can be found at fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/ask-mrip-answering-your-questions-about-estimating-recreational-catch.

Questions covered in the article, which is loaded with data links, include: Why do we 'estimate' recreational catch? How does sampling work? How are estimates of recreational catch produced? And, how does NOAA Fisheries ensure its estimates are high-quality?

If you have any questions on recreational estimates, email NOAA Fisheries at NMFS.MRIP@noaa.gov.

No Fluke



BY CAPTAIN
DAVE MONTI

A new bill reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Congressmen Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Edward Chase (D-HI). Visit huffman.house.gov for bill highlights and a copy of the actual bill. The bill has climate change provisions that would provide NOAA with the funding to do additional research, stock assessments to try to stay ahead of climate change impacts and gives them the authority to act more quickly.

Federal fishing law needs to be more climate nimble

In the past I have written about climate change scenario planning and how it is a useful planning tool. It is a process that helps fisheries mitigate and address climate impacts on habitat, fish, ocean mammals and fishing communities. NOAA ran three workshops in the fishing community to explain the process.

I shared how I thought the plight of North Atlantic Right Whales would benefit from scenario planning. My mistake, there was a North American Right Whale scenario planning session held by NOAA with a report issued on March 22, 2021. For the summary report, visit fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/north-atlantic-right-whale-eubalaena-glacialis-scenario-planning-summary-report.

NOAA's scenario planning for right whales was a good move, however, fish managers are not moving fast enough to address climate impacts. The scenario planning session was held in 2018, with a report on the session issued in March, 2021. So, although some actions were taken early, it took three years to implement the new September 2021 federal regulations designed to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales from entanglement in lobster gear.

We all have to do better, including NOAA, its regional councils, state regulators, the fishing community and fishing writers like me to bring forward how climate change is impacting our fish and habitat. We need to adapt or reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), our national fishing law, to allow us to be more nimble in response to climate impacts as climate change impacts are exponential and are not waiting for us.

Where's the bite?

Tautog: Tautog fishing is very good off Newport and Pt. Judith. Fished Saturday with Dave and Brian Hanuschak and they caught tautog to 20" off Newport. The bite picked up an 1.5 hours before high tide. Brian said, "The tautog bite was outstanding, more fish than we ever caught, with a lot of short fish in the mix." Mark Jacobs of the Lady J shared on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog, "Arrived off Pt. Judith (Saturday) just before nine and anchored only once in 35 ft. of water. Pretty steady action on hi-lo rigged crabs with 3:1 short to keeper ratio. Reached our boat limit of 9 fish with 3 over 20 inches. Pretty special fishing a mile from the marina. Looking forward to my first fresh tog meal of the year." Doug Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly, said, "The tautog bite is good with customers having no trouble caching their three fish limit in about 35 feet of water on the rocks." Angler Greg Spier said, "Fished outgoing tide Monday afternoon in 22 feet of water on structure at end of the Sakonnet River. Limited out with six tautog and one large sea bass in two hours. Largest tautog was 5.10 pounds. Water still warm at 71 degrees." Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "The tautog bite at Rocky Point has been very good with customers fishing from shore getting some nice keepers (16" minimum size, 3 fish/person/day). Brenton Reef off Newport is producing for customers too. With cooler weather things will improve as the Bay water is still in the seventies."

Striped bass, blue fish, false albacore: The bluefish bite with some striped bass was on this weekend in the West passage of Narragansett Bay just north of Hope Island, Pine Hill and



TAUTOG BITE STRONG: Greg Spier of Foxborough, Massachusetts, and Portsmouth, Rhode Island, with a 5.10 pound tautog he caught at the mouth of the Sakonnet River this week in 22 feet of water. The water was still warm, 71 degrees.

along the western shore near Quidnessett Country Club, North Kingstown. Angler Fred DeFinis of Middletown said, "Was fishing last week at Elbow Ledge and massive schools of very large blues - all over two feet and many over 30 inches. Sleek, fat and strong. They would crash the surface but you could also blind cast or troll them up with small lures. Didn't have to wait long for a hook-up - 30-40 seconds trolling did the trick."

Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, said, "We have a lot of bait at outflows like Buckey Brook at the base of Conimicut Point. A customer was hooking up with striped bass there to almost keeper size (28" but less than 35").

Large bluefish are also being caught throughout the upper and mid Bay area both in the West and East Passages." Doug Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters, said, "Fishing for blues and striped bass from the shore has not been good this week, however, anglers are catching fish at Block Island. The cod are biting too at Shark's Ledge." Brian Moore said on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog that the false albacore were active Monday. "Albies back strong. Atlantic menhaden so thick you could walk on them. Most interesting was from Jamestown Bridge south to lighthouse full of pods of dolphins."

Freshwater: The freshwater largemouth bass exploded this week as fish started to move up

in the water column. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box said, "As things cool a bit anglers are using top water lures to catch largemouth bass as some are up in the water column. Places like Sand Pond and Gorton Pond are producing for customers. Some pickerel and pike being caught too."

Dave Monti holds a captain's master license and charter fishing license. He serves on a variety of boards and commissions and has a consulting business focusing on clean oceans, habitat preservation, conservation, renewable energy, and fisheries related issues and clients. Forward fishing news and photos to dmontifish@verison.net or visit noflukefishing.com.

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Making history



Olympian Elizabeth Beisel's 10.4-mile marathon ocean swim to Block Island raises funds for fight against cancer



On Sept. 25, three-time Olympian and 2016 Team USA Captain Elizabeth Beisel overcame two weather-related postponements and fought through a finish-line riptide to make history as the first woman to swim the 10.4 miles from mainland Rhode Island to Block Island.

She undertook this open-water challenge as a fundraiser for the nonprofit Swim Across America (SAA) to benefit cancer research and patient programs in honor of her father, Charles "Ted" Lyons Beisel, who passed away from pancreatic cancer in July. To date this charity swim has raised over \$135,000.

"I'm humbled and honored to have completed this Block Cancer swim," Beisel said. "As a child growing up in Rhode Island and swimming in the ocean along our beautiful coastline, I always dreamed of swimming to Block Island. I envisioned my dad on the island waiting for me to finish with an ear-to-ear grin on his face – how proud he would be that I made it. Sadly, he passed before I could make

spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

Well-known in the hospitality industry is the notion of a “sense of arrival.” Broadly defined, a “sense of arrival” is that special feeling a customer experiences during the first few seconds they arrive at a destination. That desired “sense of arrival” is critical to newcomers as it creates that ever-important first impression.

This sense of awe and wonder is exactly what residents and guests of The Preserve, the newest addition to the Briarcliffe family, feel when they first walk through the doors of this brand new, state-of-the-art residence in Johnston ~ but not just the first time, every time. A true “sense of arrival” awaits them here.

Every detail of The Preserve was intentionally designed to make residents and guests alike feel at home, from its welcoming lobby and bistro area to each space thereafter. Everything is sparkling clean and elegant, yet homey and inviting. One can immediately imagine life here with its comfortable gathering spaces and energizing colors, textures, and patterns. The Preserve is quite literally alive!

The Preserve at Briarcliffe is the longtime vision of President/CEO Akshay Talwar and his team come to fruition. As with the other residences on this sprawling campus, this latest installment is the result of years of thoughtful planning. Each of this residence’s 66 apartments is designed to meet the specific needs of those who live independently or those who require assistance with such basic needs as medication management or help with simple activities of daily living. It is the ultimate senior living; Briarcliffe is a Continuing Cared Retirement Community (CCRC).

Uniquely designed so that if a person needs additional care, they do not need to move from independent to assisted living. The care comes to them. Restaurant-style



A welcoming social atmosphere greets residents and visitors to the Bistro at the Briarcliffe Preserve. Come visit this gorgeous dining room with its expansive views of nature, just outside its sun-bathed windows.

dining, housekeeping, landscaped grounds to explore, sunny patios and balconies, a full-service salon and fitness center, laundry service and cozy lounges where scheduled activities and entertainment are held are amenities afforded to all. The Preserve has the feeling of comfortable, luxury living where people engage in activities that invite socialization, friendship, and ongoing enrichment. The energy is uplifting and palatable.

The Preserve’s apartments come in six different floor plans from studio-size units to one bedrooms. Each apartment has a kitchenette (complete with quartz countertops, smaller-scale refrigerators, and a microwave), “European-

style” bathrooms for safe and easy barrier-free access, wheelchair-width doors for those with mobility challenges, and large windows that let in all that natural light. The two-story building has two elevators, wide hallways bookended by plate-glass windows and lined with sturdy handrails. No detail is left undone.

Now is the time to schedule your in-person tour of this new and exciting residence (masks required!) at 54 Old Pocasset Road in a wooded corner of Johnston. Come to this beautiful setting amid tall, graceful trees, and feel at home.

To arrange for your tour, call 401.944.2450 or visit Briarcliffe online at www.briarclifferi.com.

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Sam finds himself and his friends being tracked down by government officials 20 years after writing what he thought was a benign yet radical term paper exposing flaws in the structure of a government. Suddenly connected to 4 students with a similar theory Sam finds himself faced with an individual that will silence him at any cost. Twists & turns in this exciting thriller will leave you on the edge of your seat and wanting to turn to the next page.

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Swim

(Continued from page 18)

this swim, but he knew I was going to do it and that helped sustain him during his final months. I'll never get to hug him again, but his fight wasn't for nothing. I know that my dad's battle, along with the money raised by Block Cancer, will save someone's life one day. He is smiling knowing we helped give someone and their family the most precious gift of all time."

"Elizabeth has been supporting Swim Across America for many years, even before her father's diagnosis, so this was our opportunity to support her," noted Rob Butcher, CEO of Swim Across America. "Our cancer researchers will use the Block Cancer funds for science and patient care that will hopefully save someone's life in the future."

Beisel entered the water at Matunuck Beach by Ocean Mist, her father's favorite restaurant, and swam the 10.4 miles to the northeast tip of Block Island in 5 hours and 19 minutes. Her mom Joannie and brother Danny greeted Elizabeth with a hug when she reached Block Island.

The on-water safety crew for Elizabeth's swim included two veteran kayakers, two escort boats, Atlantic Shark Institute executive director Jon Dodd, Marathon Swimmers Federation observer and marathon swimmer Elaine Howley, SAA CEO Rob Butcher, Olympian Craig Beardsley and family friend Jack Nichting.

Donations and merchandise are available at blockcancer.org.

Swim Across America, Inc. (SAA) is dedicated to raising money and awareness for cancer research, prevention and treatment through swimming-related events. Founded in 1987, Swim Across America has raised more than \$100 million to support cancer research and clinical trials. With the help of hundreds of volunteers nationwide and Olympians, Swim Across America is helping find a cure for cancer through athleticism, community outreach and direct service.

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(Images courtesy of Swim Across America / Cate Brown Photos)



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COLLECTIBLES

The Making of a Legend



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

The miniature toy car market prior to 1968 had been dominated by Matchbox, Corgi, and Dinky Toys amongst other manufacturers. While their size and detail may have varied between companies the theme stayed the same. They all focused on normal from-life vehicles that in reality were rather mundane. Yes, Matchbox had fastback Mustangs and Corgi awesome James Bond Aston Martins but they did not stretch the imagination. Breaking that barrier is what made Mattel's Hot Wheels one of the most successful toy brands still adored and seriously collected today.

1968 introduced the first wave of Hot Wheels to the world creating an instant sensation. Commonly referred to as the "Sweet 16", the first wave offered sixteen different cars finished with vibrant metallic Spectraflame paint. The other identifying feature to the original series of Hot Wheels is their iconic redline tires. The term commonly used by collectors and dealers today in the trade to describe the original cars. If you're reading this and have Hot Wheels at home remember, redlines are king.

The original series of redline Hot Wheels range from 1968 to 1977 and are the hottest thing going for the Hot Wheels market. When it comes to their collectability even in loose played with condition, they are valuable. Recently at Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers we handled a large estate grouping of vintage Hot Wheels. They were played with and heavily loved, but original none the less. When sold in large groups with several vehicles missing wheels, hoods, or just missing a ton of paint they average \$15.00 a car. If you have a rare color combo variant then it would be worth considerably more. Hot Wheels have been around over 50 years, they feel common place but in reality, can be worth a serious chunk of change.

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