



STICKER SHOCKED: Ferri Middle School sixth-grader Lea Petrillo fans a big stack of stickers she and her fellow ATI members plan to paste to turkeys at Market Basket in Johnston. (*Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler*)

TAGGING TURKEYS

By RORY SCHULER

Past attempts targeted package stores and liquor shops.

This year, local responsible drinking advocates are setting their sights on your holiday turkey.

"The SPC (Southern Providence County) Regional Prevention Coalition, which includes Johnston Prevention Coalition, is participating in a Thanksgiving Sticker Shock Campaign," according to Patricia Sweet, Director of Prevention Programs & SPC Regional Prevention Task Force and the Tri-County Community Action Agency. "(The) Sticker Shock Campaign is a national campaign to reduce underage drinking by limiting youth access to alcohol. The campaign is designed



TURKEY TALK: Xavier Taylor, Market Basket's assistant store manager in Johnston, holds a turkey for one of the students to apply a sticker urging families to help prevent underage drinking.

■ TURKEY - PAGE 12

Bar 101 defends liquor license after neighbor complaints

By RORY SCHULER

A Johnston bar faced a call for closure by one of its neighbors, but emerged with its license in tact after appearing before Town Council last week.

Originally, the 101 Bar and Grill, also known as Bar 101, at 1478 Atwood Ave., faced a "hearing for the business to Show Cause why the BV-Full Liquor license should not be suspended or revoked due to a complaint submitted by Attorney James Marusak," according to the agenda for the Nov. 8 Town Council meeting.

However, Assistant Town Solicitor Dylan Conley informed council that the hearing wasn't necessary, since the business's license was up for renewal that night.

"The town is not presenting evidence," Conley said. "So I would just ask that instead of show cause hearing it be considered an objection to the renewal, and that counsel for the objector be able to present. I do believe he has witnesses. I don't believe that's necessary to identify the documents in this presentation. I would like to take all that in. And I can review it as he makes his presentation."

Marusak took to the lectern before Town Council.

"I'm handing the floor to you for a full objection on the renewal," Conley told him.

Marusak said he represents National Development Group Inc., a property management company with a building at 1450 Atwood Ave.

He handed a thick packet of documents to all of the council members and the Bar 101's attorney, K. Joseph Shekarchi.

Shekarchi, a Warwick Democrat, is also the speaker of the Rhode Island state House of Representatives.

"Is that Mr. Speaker?" asked Marusak.

"Call me Joe Shekarchi," Shekarchi replied.

"I'm a town solicitor myself, so I know, sitting on your side, that what we don't want generally is battles over evidence, and arguments over questioning and the like," Marusak told Town Council. "We have four witnesses here, if that was necessary. We have a property manager, we have a security detail, various members that can testify to all of the stuff that you are going to see in front of you today."

He walked the council through the thick packet of evidence.

Marusak said that his client thinks Bar 101's "license should either be suspended or revoked, or certainly not renewed."

■ BAR - PAGE 6

Kids line up for COVID vaccine

By PETE FONTAINE

There was an excellent example of Johnstonsians coming together to care for their children last Wednesday evening inside the town's Indoor Recreation Center.

For starters, the spacious and state-of-the-art facility again proved its value in form of a POD (Point of Distribution) — an extremely well-organized and first-ever clinic that offered parents and guardians who wanted their children ages 5-11 to receive the Pfizer Vaccine, in an effort to stay healthy during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

"We began vaccinating the public back in February of 2021," said Johnston Police Chief Joseph P. Razza. "Like all our vaccination clinics, the mission was accomplished in true Johnston spirit and inspiring teamwork."

Razza, who performed a number of duties during the four-hour clinic, emphasized at

night's end: "From Mayor (Joseph) Polisena on down to every fireman, police officer and volunteers, everyone worked in seamless unison to accomplish this specific objective for this age group. So, my many thanks and gratitude to everyone that participated during this very special clinic."

Every part of the clinic — countless parents who left the event smiling concurred — was "extremely well-organized and that goes from parking vehicles to what went on during the clinic."

From the time residents drove their cars and SUV's into the spacious parking lot — until they left — the JPD put on an extraordinary display of traffic control that was totally free from any confusion.

"I don't think other towns are having a clinic like this one," several women said about what actually transpired last Wednesday night. "Even Minnie Mouse was here!"

MEETING MINNIE:

Sofia Ionkoff, 6, was thrilled to meet Minnie Mouse prior to getting her Covid-19 vaccine during last Wednesday night's clinic in Johnston. (*Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine*)



■ VACCINE - PAGE 11

HOLIDAY DEADLINE



Advertising deadline for November 26 edition of the

JOHNSTON Sun Rise

will be:

Monday, Nov. 22 at 10AM

The Beacon Communications office will be closed on November 25 & 26

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BACKYARD SPACE The Heart Nebula glows

By Lucas Maguire
Special to the Sun Rise

A close up of IC1805

About 7,500 light-years away from Earth, located in the constellation of Cassiopeia, is The Heart Nebula. Radiation from the inner part of the nebula, known as Melotte 15, causes the nebula's glow and helps show off its dark dust lanes.

This image was taken Nov. 15, after we had quite a bit of wind and tornado warnings.

I was able to grab about 15x600s of Ha, Oiii, and Sii to create this SHO by combining the different filters to create an RGB image.

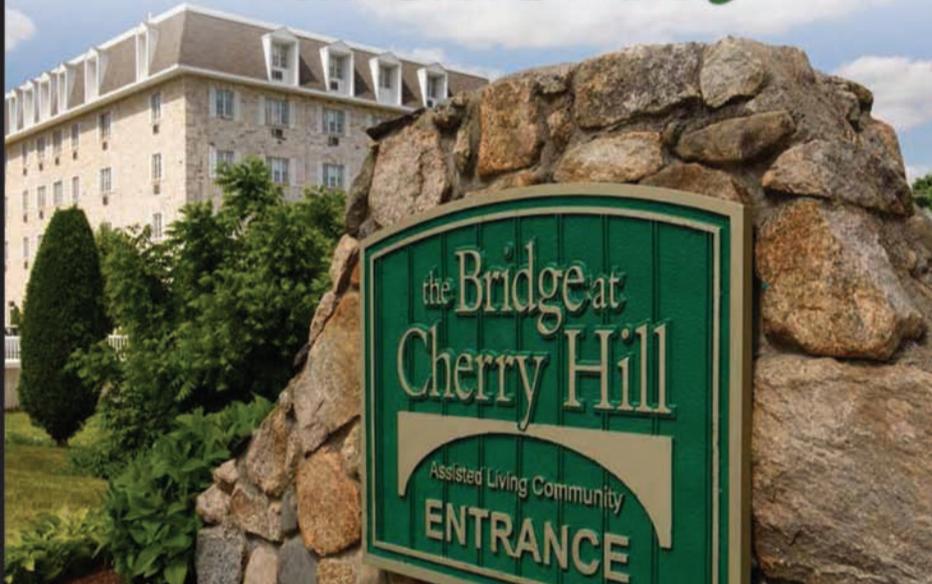
Gear used:

- QHY183M and 7 Position Filter Wheel
- William optics Z73ii and Flat73a
- ZWO ASI120MM- Mini
- William optics 50mm guide scope
- Skywatcher EQ6R-PRO
- Pegasus Astro Powerbox advanced
- Astronomik Ha, and Oiii (6nm)
- Optolong Sii (6.5nm)
- Beelink T-34 Mini PC
- PrimaluceLabs Sesto Senso 2

Photo taken in 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..

Downsizing WITH DAN DWANE



Friday, November 19 • 1 – 2 p.m.

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Coat in a bucket



The Johnston Police Department is proud to join with the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation Inc. to help distribute coats to veterans who are in need or homeless. The Coats4Vets buckets contain warm winter coats, personal protective equipment, snacks, water, and more, which will be distributed to veterans in our community just in time for Veterans Day, according to the Johnston Police Department Facebook page. (Photo courtesy Johnston Police)

'In memory of all deceased members of Johnston Hose Company No. 1'



SPECIALITY SIGN: John Ermaian, popular and long-time owner of Ermaian Signs, donated this super sign that's located at the upgraded memorial square in honor of all deceased firefighters who served the Johnston Fire Department.

Firemans Memorial Square ready for visitors

By PETE FONTAINE

Alan Zambarano, who is now 83 and began his storied career with the Johnston Fire Department as a volunteer back when he was just 14, stood underneath Saturday's sparkling sun, issuing a heart-warming sincere statement to Jerry St. Angelo "for making my dream come true!"

"If it wasn't for this man," Zambarano, who is now retired and worked his way through the ranks to JFD Chief and became a full-time firefighter at age 23, began: "We would not be standing here today in front of this great memorial for all deceased Johnston firefighters if Jerry didn't take on this project!"

Moreover, as Zambarano wanted it known amid another thank you: "The work Jerry did here actually enhances the entire area."

That area, which is now known as Johnston Hose Company No. 1 Fireman's Memorial Square, is located at the intersection of Plainfield and School Streets near the ageless Thornton Elementary School.

There's a new flag pole, specially made sign, an ageless plaque on the monument rock as well as a total upgrading of the square by "Team Jerry" who is no stranger to beautify areas in Johnston with the help of other volunteers and donations from companies like the Corsinetti Brothers owned and operated Hartford Paving and Materials who supplied bricks and pavers for the project.

St. Angelo, as Zambarano and others will attest: "Has never ever refused anyone or to donate his time and talents for a community project that will enhance areas in Johnston such as the JHS Athletic Walk of Fame just outside the entrance to the Edward L. DeSimone Gymnasium."

Back when the late Gary Mazzie was the Athletic Director at JHS, St. Angelo stepped up to the plate and in his spare time constructed the Walk of Fame that was a fund-raising project for the Panthers coveted Hall.

"And the guy is a Falcon, not a Panther," people mused back then about St. Angelo, who is a Cranston High West grad and married to Melissa who works for the Johnston Recreation Department and went to JHS as did the couple's children.

When asked how the Fireman's Square upgrade began, Zambrano said he talked with Mayor Joseph Polisena who wholeheartedly endorsed the project proposed by Zambarano then asked St. Angelo for his help.

Thus, before long the area got a much-needed facelift that includes clearing away overgrown bushes, etc., excavation and the laying of concrete and decorative paves.

"It's now a showpiece and we have Jerry to thank for that," said Zambarano. "Again, I can't thank him enough for all his work and for everyone who pumped new life brought into this wonderful fireman's memorial."

Meanwhile, St. Angelo added: "This was a community project everyone can be proud of; special thanks to Mayor Polisena, John Ermaian of Ermaian Signs, Donald Del Signore and Bob Parker of the DPW, Tom Pingitore and Andrew Zalisk ... this is another example that we will never forget our firefighters, past and present!"

MARVELOUS MEMORIAL: "In memory of all deceased members of Johnston Hose Company No. 1 are the words inscribed on this ageless plaque that's surrounded by an American and Firefighter flags and sits at the intersection of Plainfield and School Street in Johnston.



MEMORIAL MEN: Retired Johnson Fiore Department Chief Alan Zambarano (left) issues a special thank you to Jerry St. Angelo for upgrading the Johnston Hose Company No. 1 Memorial Square which was first dedicated back on May 30, 1961. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



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EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Scrap metal business reopens after 30-day suspension

By RORY SCHULER

that way," she said. "And everybody will be happy."

J&S Scrap Metal and Recycling has fulfilled its end of the bargain, according to Town Council.

The business has reopened following a 30-day license suspension.

"It's my understanding that all of the issues related to the operations of the business have been corrected, the town has visited the site, the town has no objections to them reopening to their standard practices and procedures, given that they are still maintaining the level of cleanliness they have at the site today," said Town Council Member Linda Folcarelli, who represents District 1.

Folcarelli requested "a 60-day review, so that (the Town Council) can allow them to open, make sure everything is going correctly, and in 60 days bring them back in to make sure that everything is exactly where we need it."

"Hopefully we keep it

Neighbors of the Starr Street scrap yard have been calling town officials for years complaining about debris in the street and parking on the street outside the business, tying up traffic.

"They complied with everything that I wanted," Johnston Building Official Ed Civito said at the Nov. 8 Town Council meeting. "We'll go out there periodically."

Business owner Jeffrey Cadieux can no be seen outside the business like a sentinel, stopping cars as they approach, asking them what they're hauling and telling them where to park.

Cadieux has cleared a large area in front of the business where scrap haulers can now pull into, unload, and depart without blocking Starr Street.

"We're back in business baby," he said last week, happy he was allowed to operate once again.



BACK IN BUSINESS: J&S Scrap Metal and Recycling has reopened after a 30-day suspension of its business license. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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Dr. Michael Lin, a general surgeon, is based at Fatima Hospital with offices in Johnston, Cranston, Smithfield and Warwick. He joins us from Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Oregon. Board certified in general surgery, with special interest in laparoscopic hernia and foregut procedures (anti-reflux, para-esophageal hernias), Dr. Lin is a graduate of Middlebury College and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He completed his residency in general surgery at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware and a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy GI Surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma Washington. He can be reached at 401-943-8824.



Dr. Guy R. Nicastrì, FACS, board certified in general surgery, has more than 30 years of experience, most recently was with Care New England, and has a special focus on breast surgery, surgical oncology and minimally invasive surgery. A graduate of Boston College, he received both his medical degree and his masters of Science in Physiology from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is also an Associate Professor of Surgery and family Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He has offices in Cranston at 401-943-8824 and Johnston at 401-521-6080.



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- Daniel Christian, MD

"As Jeff knows, he sees me at least once a week, to make sure everything is copasetic," Civito said. "There should be no stacking on the street. I

don't see any major problems coming up. I will be monitoring it."

Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisenà Jr. made a motion to rescind

council's previous suspension of 30 days, and allow Cadieux to reopen. Folcarelli seconded the motion.

It passed unanimously.



SCRAP FACELIFT: J&S Scrap has a new look. The crowded, piled-high façade has been cleared, and customers can now pull onto the site to unload.



NO PARKING: New signs hang on the fence at J&S Scrap Metal, warning customers not to park on Starr Street. Residents had been complaining about customers blocking traffic on Starr Street.



FINE PAID: Johnston Town Council President Robert Russo presides over a meeting in recent months. He was recently fined \$2,000 by the state Board of Elections, but has paid the fine and says the campaign fund reporting mistake was unintentional. (Sun Rise file photo)

Town Council president fined \$2,000 by BOE

By RORY SCHULER

The Rhode Island Board of Elections (BOE) has fined Johnston Town Council President Robert Russo \$2,000 following a campaign finance audit.

According to Richard E. Thornton, the state's Director of Campaign Finance, Russo paid the fine in full on Nov. 8.

"I've been in office 28 years now and never had an issue," Russo said. "I've always self-funded my campaigns."

Russo represents Johnston's District 4.

The BOE initiated an audit of Russo's campaign accounts in August 2021 "due to Russo's failure to reconcile a variance between his campaign bank account balance and his 2020 Q4 campaign finance report ending balance" and his alleged failure to file campaign finance reports.

Russo has acknowledged he made mistakes, and said they were due to a misunderstanding of pertinent campaign finance laws.

"It was clearly unintentional; I didn't realize, even though it's your own money, you have to report it as campaign activity," Russo said, adding that he didn't realize he had to report six dollars per month in bank fees as "campaign activity."

"I didn't have any campaign activity, and it was my money," he explained on Tuesday. "I misunderstood the directions that were given to me, so I had to pay the fine for a rule violation. I didn't think I had to physically write checks to myself and close the account down."

The board reviewed campaign finance reports and documentation from the period between Jan. 1, 2017, and June 30, 2021.

The BOE requested documents, and in October 2021, they received depository account bank statements for the nearly three-year period. Russo said he gladly turned the documents over to BOE auditors.

According to the campaign finance audit, a \$22,344.60 loan repayment was reported on the 2017 Q1 campaign finance report, which

brought the reported account balance to zero, and then the account was dissolved. Russo loaned the money to his own campaign.

"The repayment did not occur as was reported and the account should not have been dissolved," according to the audit.

Zero expenditures were reported on the four campaign finance reports filed during Russo's 2018 campaign, however a \$5,500 loan repayment, \$625 in political donations and \$77 in bank fees were spent from the campaign bank account during 2018.

"Concurrent with the filing of the 2018 Q4 campaign finance report, the account was again dissolved and should not have been," according to the audit.

Russo spent \$16,726.50 on loan repayments, and \$179 in bank fees from the account from 2019 Q1 through 2020 Q2, "but due to the dissolution filed in 2018, no campaign finance reports were scheduled to be filed for the period," according to the audit.

"The campaign dissolved twice (2017 Q1 and 2018 Q4) when it was not eligible due to funds remaining in the campaign bank account," according to the audit. "By improperly dissolving the account, Russo avoided filing up to 10 campaign finance reports and submitting two bank account statements."

The audit determined that the loan repayment of \$22,344.60 was inaccurately reported on a campaign finance report, as the funds were not expended from the campaign bank account, in violation of state election laws.

The loan repayments, political donations and bank fees were disclosed on campaign bank account statements, but not disclosed on campaign finance reports, also in violation of state election laws.

And "the campaign dissolved twice when it was not eligible due to funds remaining in the bank account," and "copies of Russo's 2018 and 2019 campaign bank account statements were not submitted," both in violation of state election laws, according to the audit summary.

The audit contains an "auditee response" from Russo.

"Russo acknowledged he failed to file two campaign finance reports due to his attempt to reconcile a variance which existed between his campaign bank account balance and his campaign finance report ending balance as of Dec. 31, 2020," according to the audit. "Russo also acknowledged making a mistake in reporting. Prior to dissolving his campaign account with the Board in 2017, Russo recalled speaking to a staff member who instructed him to do a repayment of loan to dissolve. Russo explained that since the money in the campaign bank account was largely his loan proceeds, he believed he could leave it there and did not realize it must be fully transferred out of the bank account as a condition of dissolving his campaign account with the Board. Russo believed that the subsequent political donations made from the campaign bank account were personal transactions and not campaign activity."

Russo signed a consent order.

"Russo hereby acknowledges that he unintentionally violated several provisions of Title 17, Chapter 25 as noted above; filed the two past due campaign finance reports and properly reconciled all reports and statements to date," according to section 4 of the consent order with BOE.

Russo waived his rights to any further hearings or legal challenges. Russo had 120 days to pay the \$2,000 civil fine.

"As soon as I found out what the fine was, I paid it a couple of days after," Russo said on Tuesday.

The BOE routinely audits campaign finance accounts of candidates running for town, city and statewide office.

Russo, a personal injury lawyer, has served on the Town Council for nearly three decades.

He said he expects to run for office again next year, but would not commit to another run for Town Council.

"It depends on which office I run for," Russo said. "Stay tuned."

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Watch Your MOUTH

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

ORAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Oral health has often been linked to overall health. Recent studies have focused on the connection between individuals suffering from depression, anxiety, and stress and their loss of motivation to maintain good oral health habits, resulting in significant oral health concerns. The stress of mental health conditions creates cortisol, a hormone in the body that weakens the immune system, leading to gingivitis and periodontitis. Medications for mental health issues can also cause dry mouth, which can reduce the body's defense mechanisms and make an individual susceptible to cavities and gingival inflammation. Because the oral cavity is the body's most accessible environment for bacteria, dental professionals have long been aware of how mental health can affect oral health.

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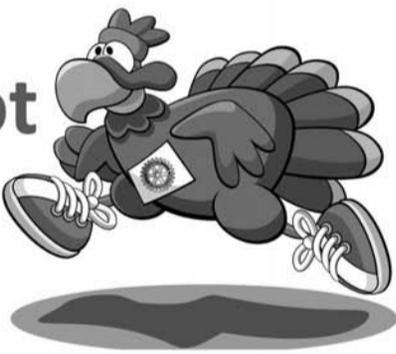
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8:00AM - Warwick City Park Ball Fields
Race Day Registration begins at 7:15AM

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Bar

(Continued from page 1)

Marusak said his client "believed that there were state regulations that had been violated."

"We brought it to the attention of the business regulations department," he explained. "Basically, the first shot should be local town council. Since they would be an appellate hearing group they asked that we bring this to you. And we did."

Initially, Marusak said his client wanted to retain anonymity.

"At the time, this was anonymous," Marusak said. "My client wished to remain anonymous so that there would not be any type of repercussions. There's no longer any question as to who put this in, and I did it on behalf of my client, National Development Group, who is within the 200 feet radius."

Marusak said his client is "an owner of premises within 200 feet ... a very busy plaza and it's well kept."

First, Marusak said his client takes issue with an alleged illicit expansion of the business, to the suite next door to Bar 101.

He said the applicants have failed to "describe the premises with particularity," in building permits and alcohol license applications.

"You can not do what the licensees did here, and that is, give your address as 1478 Atwood ... 1478 Atwood, as you know, is an entire building, it's two

floors, its got somewhere around 22, 24 businesses in it," Marusak said. "It does not describe with particularity what the licensed premises are ... Right off the bat, there's a problem with the license."

He described the building where Bar 101 is located as "a two-story commercial strip mall built in 1965."

"It has 20,640 square feet of floor space and numerous separate units," Marusak said.

He then referenced a "marketing publication that was put in by the owners of the building" which describes "the facility as Atwood Center, and it has the capacity for 22 stores, and a total, allegedly 50 or so parking spaces, situated on 0.63 acres."

"Bar 101 occupied only two units, units 103 and 104," Marusak said. "As of 2019, the adjoining unit, unit 105, was occupied by a launderer known as 'Go Green Cleaners.' I believe this was a purposeful way of keeping from the public, that there was another unit that was actually added to Bar 101."

Marusak argued that although a building permit was issued in October 2020, a new Certificate of Occupancy, was not requested.

"How do you expand a business, without seeking a certificate of occupancy, without stating what the occupancy amount is for the area, how many people can go in there?" Marusak asked. "How many people are projected? How many are already in the business that was to go into it?"

Marusak pitched his client's theory.

"I suppose that what happened was, they simply built it out," he told the council. "They left the Go Green Cleaners above, they built a partition so you can't look in, and proceeded to serve alcohol, food, etc. in the new expanded area. They did start calling that The Gathering, they called it a function room. But no matter what you call it, it's an expansion of the area that was, I take it, licensed. And it was done once again, I believe, in a surreptitious fashion. And that violates very specific

areas of the law."

Marusak claimed the bar intentionally kept their intentions hidden.

"It's our position ... that what you have in front of you is not just a run of the mill 'Oh Geez,' 'Aww Shucks,' I didn't do it, I forgot," Marusak argued. "This is something much worse than that and it's hard to say that about a neighbor. But we're saying it. It is much more. We believe it's a violation of laws, codes, ordinances, regulations that are egregious, and knowing in fashion. It's a disrespect to this commission. It's a disrespect to the Department of Business Regulation. It's a disrespect to our system of laws. And it is a big disrespect to the neighbors in that area."

Marusak repeated that he and his client were "asking (Town Council) to revoke the license."

"If you do not revoke, we think you should suspend and also fine, the operator and the owner of the premises," Marusak said. "I think they're both, under the law, equally liable. And if the suspension is over, the condition of the suspension would be that you can come back under the following conditions."

Marusak requested at least seven conditions be placed on the owners of Bar 101. Those conditions included footing the bill for private security and placement of video cameras inside and out.

"Third, we believe that security cameras should be placed, in both the interior and the exterior," Marusak said. "They should be accessible to the town, to the town's officials, including your building inspectors, your fire inspectors, your police. And they should also be available, upon request, to any abutter within 200 feet. So they can see whether or not this operation is properly and safely being run."

Marusak said his client has spent around \$55,000 in private security to monitor parking by patrons of Bar 101.

He also requested that Bar 101 no longer utilize the expanded space in the adjoining storefront.

"There should be no use of Unit 105," Marusak

said. "That is unlicensed area."

Shekarchi, representing Bar 101, offered a rebuttal to Marusak's claims.

"There's been no violations," Shekarchi said. "A violation doesn't happen until you make a ruling there's a violation. These are alleged by him. I hear a lot of 'he feels,' and 'he believes,' and 'he thinks,' but that's not, in and of itself, conclusive. The burden's on the them to prove, necessarily, that these violations occurred."

Shekarchi agreed to one stipulation: delaying the bar's license renewal until new, more detailed paperwork could be filed.

"I think that application probably should be amended," Shekarchi said. "For the long term benefit of all parties involved."

Shekarchi questioned why Marusak's clients have spent so much money investigating their neighbor.

"As far as the show cause, I heard a lot of things today," Shekarchi said. "A lot of things I didn't hear. I didn't hear how many if any cars had been towed. And why would you spend \$55,000 trying to get private detectives, and pictures, and videos, and Instagrams, unless you had some motive, other than cars parking? What we believe, I'll give you my beliefs, and they're not true unless you can prove them, but it's still a dispute between two landowners, and my client's the little guy getting caught in the middle. Let's squeeze the little guy, and the rent he pays, and then maybe one can buy the other one out, one can force the other one out."

Shekarchi said his clients have maintained the peace on the premises.

"My client informs me that there's never been any violations inside of the place," Shekarchi argued. "No one's been served for underage drinking. There's been no arrests for unruly patrons inside. He's run a clean operation inside."

He argued the pandemic was to blame for the lack of updated signage at the business.

■ BAR - PAGE 7

LEGAL NOTICES

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday December 7th, 2021;
6:00 P.M.

Johnston Senior Center
1291 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- NEW BUSINESS

PB 20-35 - Seasons Corner Market - Public Hearing on a proposed modification of a previously approved site plan. Located at 525 Killingly Street AP 13 Lots 397 and 485 - Property is zoned - B-2 Applicant: Colbea Enterprises, LLC

PB 20-44 - Mill Street Apartments - Public Hearing on a proposed conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 64 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 - Property is zoned - PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC

PB 21-42 - NorthPoint Stonehill - Public Meeting on a Major Land Development Master Plan for a proposed warehouse facility. Located at off of Stonehill Drive between the Home Depot and the BJs AP 44 Lot 66. Property is zoned B-3. Applicant NorthPoint Development.

PB 21-30 - National Development Group Self-Storage - Public Meeting for a proposed Major Land Development of a self-storage facility. Located at 1357 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 25. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: National Development Group.

PB 21-44 - Hartford Ave Self Storage - Public Meeting for a proposed Major Land Development of a self-storage facility. Located behind 1347 Hartford Avenue AP 20 Lot 81. Property is zoned - B-2. Applicant: Commonwealth Investments Group.

PB 21-02 - Pillozzi Private Road Subdivision - Preliminary Plan and Public Meeting of a Minor

Subdivision. Located at 30 Hopkings Avenue AP 57 Lot 77 - Zoned R-40. Applicant Anthony and Emilio Pillozzi. A Public Meeting on a proposed 2 lot subdivision where one lot will be accessed off of a private road and the other lot will have access to a Town Road. A variance has been granted by the Zoning Board to permit one lot to be undersized.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS

- Comprehensive Plan Update

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

11/19, 11/26, 12/3/21

Bar
(Continued from page 6)

"You said it's been going on for two years," Shekarchi said. "Yeah. Because we had COVID. It's very difficult to get workers at this time right now. That's not his fault."

He also said the virus led to the expansion.

"Did we increase the size?" Shekarchi asked. "Yeah. Because of COVID. And you have more space between everybody. But we didn't increase capacity. It's just over 100. And it didn't change. We didn't change anything. We followed the requirements as laid out by the town."

Bar 101's attorney said discrepancies on the applications and building permits were simply honest mistakes and possible misinterpretations of local regulations.

"We have 39 cities and towns; 39 cities and towns fill them out differently," Shekarchi said. "There's no right or wrong way. You do as much as the building inspector requires you. This has been reviewed. It's been accepted. It has not been deemed incomplete. We followed the law. We did what was required under the town."

Shekarchi also argued that complaints regarding "the parking situation" are "not necessarily grounds for suspension or revocation."

"Those things all need to be proven," Shekarchi said. "What's going on here? Who would spend \$55,000 to try to squeeze a little guy out of business? He's acted in good faith. There's nothing sinister about the operation of the bar. The building inspector was in. He inspected it."

After the meeting, Johnston Building Official Ed Civito said he saw no problems with the building permits filed by the owner of Bar 101.

"We would like the opportunity to apply for a new renewal license," Shekarchi said. "But I don't think at this point a revocation is called for, or a suspension is called for."

Shekarchi mentioned more egregious violators; bar owners tied to murders in nearby Providence.

"You read about in Providence, when licenses are suspended; emergency orders are granted," Shekarchi said. "It's when there's a shooting. There's never been a shooting here. Or when there's a drug deal. Or something really really severe going on. The punishment that's requested by my brother does not fit the potential minor oversights or violations in filling out applications."

Shekarchi asked the Town Council to allow his

client the opportunity to re-file for license renewal. He said he's sure the case will still progress through other layers of regulatory boards and the courts.

"And ultimately I'm sure there will be an appeal," Shekarchi said. "I'm sure it will go to DBR, and then I'm sure it will go into the court system. But to act to put this man out of business is a grave injustice to a hard-working businessman in the town because the two landlords next door, the two landlords, are fighting over parking."

Marusak returned to the lectern and responded to Shekarchi.

"We haven't made allegations," Marusak told the Town Council. "We've presented you with proof ... This is about one person, one business person, one property owner, trying to protect his property. And objecting to what the problem is."

He argued that the regulations are in place to prevent crime and tragedy.

"There are no violations and no arrests?" Marusak asked. "Well I suppose that's true. What we're trying to do is prevent that type of thing from happening. You know, code violations is what happens when The Station fire occurred; all over the place, ignoring code requirements."

Shekarchi loudly objected to Marusak's comparison to The Station nightclub fire, a 2003 inferno in West Warwick that killed 100 people and injured more than 200.

"Objection!" Shekarchi shouted. "I have to object. There's been no evidence of any fire code violation. To make that analogy about the fire code is really inappropriate."

"I'm not making that analogy," Marusak replied. "I'm just saying that you don't need an arrest before you should enforce. You don't need a tragedy before you enforce."

Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr. stopped Marusak.

"That's a pretty grotesque analogy," Polisena said.

"Then I apologize to you," Marusak said, attempting to strike a conciliatory tone. "But it's absolutely, as far as I'm concerned, it was meant to only illustrate that ... prevention is what the law is about. And my apologies to you if I went over the line on that one. I didn't intend to and I really think I ... respectfully, I don't think I did."

After the arguments, Conley offered legal advice to Town Council.

"This is a renewal hearing," Conley said. "They have a right to object ... Burden is for the objector to show they are not fit for renewal."

Conley said that the state's "standard for imposing a penalty on the licensee for the actions of patrons is impossibly high."

"By way of example, I very recently presided over a case in which a patron murdered another patron in front of the establishment," Conley said. "This is the same establishment where there was another shooting and the owner of this establishment brandished an assault rifle in response to that shooting. The DBR has stayed my penalty; I did not even seek to revoke as a result of the murder. I (sought) decreased hours. The Department of Business Regulations is of the opinion that was too strict and they are allowed to open as if no event had occurred at the premises at all."

Conley asked Town Council to compare the two situations.

"So when you think about what level of responsibility licensees have for the actions of their patrons when they occur outside of the premises, it's as close to zero as you can imagine," Conley explained. "So if you compare a brandished assault rifle, then a shooting incident, followed by a murder in which the state believes that it's appropriate for that bar to be open, issues related to parking are insufficient to impose penalty upon a licensee."

Conley also deflated Marusak's case that Bar 101 had "unlawfully" expanded the business. He referred to the license applications and building permits.

"(The) only property identified is the entire property ... what in fact happened is that the entire building was approved," Conley said. "A smaller space within the building was originally used. Then an expansion was also used. But that still is within the entirety of the premises that was originally licensed and approved."

Conley suggested the board move to disregard the complaints made by Marusak and his client.

"The town based on the presentation this evening, and our own review of the record, has no objection to the renewal of the license," Conley said. "The town doesn't see any evidence sufficient to impose penalties on the licensee from the actions of third parties related to parking."

Town Council then voted unanimously to uphold Bar 101's licenses, and granted them an extension to the board's next meeting on Dec. 13. Shekarchi said his client would be able to file a revised application for the liquor license renewal by then.

Licensed Electrician Vs. Traditional College

Average full time pay for a person graduating with a Master's Degree in Rhode Island \$77,271 per year

Full time pay for represented Licensed Electrician in Rhode Island \$87,220 per year

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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian
Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Kailey Fabiano

PUPPIES!!

If you've been in search of a puppy then here you go! The EGAPL Heart of RI has a litter of adorable pups that are four months old and ready to join loving homes! This little guy is Count Chocula, just look at that face! You can visit the shelter at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI during their open business hours: Wednesday 3-7, Thursday and Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. Please visit their website for more information at www.heartofri.org These puppies will be adopted quickly so be sure to check them out!

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



COLLECTION MOUNTS: Members of SADD, President Charlie Curci, Vice President Rachel Ixcotoyac, Senior Class President Charlene Hohlmaier, and Senior Class Student Council Representative Janet Clements pose with the food collected for the food drive. (Photos courtesy Johnston High students)

JHS holds annual food and turkey drive

By Charlie Curci
Special to the Sun Rise

As we continue throughout the fall season, Johnston High School is fully gearing up for Thanksgiving!

Currently two of our wonderful organizations are running successful campaigns to help those in need this holiday season.

First off, the JHS SADD organization, advised by Greg Russo, is running their annual canned food drive where students are inspired to bring in canned goods to support a good cause. We will then donate the cans to local food banks and churches within our community to support those in need.

It all comes down to competition though here at JHS! Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior homerooms all compete to hopefully be the victor of this year's food drive! The winning homeroom is taken out to a breakfast at a local restaurant to thank them for their dedication and support to our effort.

The JHS National Honor Society chapter, advised by Emilia Ruggiero, also runs what is known as the "Turkey Drive" where students go around collecting monetary donations with cans.

Any and all donations are also forwarded to different churches in the area in addition to that of the canned goods to support in any other additional ways.

Together, the Johnston Senior High School community's dedication to helping those in need throughout the holiday season is greatly appreciated as we hope to be able to support anyone this holiday season. It is truly something we all look forward to each and every year, and have a joy in planning.

Editor's Note: Charlie Curci serves as SADD President, Student Council Vice President and Junior National Honor Society Vice President. Members of the Johnston High School Student Council regularly submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.

FALL AUCTION

Facebook @ Handsome Dan

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YES WE CAN: From left to right, NHS President Glorianna Crichlow, NHS Vice President Emily Patenaude, and NHS Historian Mackenzie Hanna, members of JHS National Honor Society, pose with their cans. (Photos courtesy Johnston High students)

POLICE LOG

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Around 8:45 a.m. on Sept. 9, Johnston Police Officer Cody Weaver responded to the Johnston Police Department Headquarters to speak with a party involved in an accident that occurred Sept. 8. The person was identified as Andrew Blinkhorn, of 1 Melody Lane, Johnston.

Blinkhorn told police that while driving west on Morgan Avenue, his front axle broke and he lost control of the vehicle, subsequently hitting a utility pole along Morgan Avenue.

Blinkhorn completed a witness statement about the crash, and police performed a background check. The background investigation disclosed Blinkhorn had a suspended license, according to a police incident report.

"Checks through Rhode Island Court Connect showed this to be Mr. Blinkhorn's third and subsequent offense of driving with a suspended license resulting in Misdemeanor charges," Weaver wrote in the report. "Mr. Blinkhorn was processed and released with a Third District Court summons to appear on Sept. 20."

Police also issued Blinkhorn a summons for Immediate Notice of Accident, Duty in Accident Resulting in Damage to Highway Fixtures and Laned Roadway Violation, connected to the crash.

FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE

While traveling southbound in the area of 1500 Atwood Ave., Johnston Police Officer Adam M. Parkinson noticed a vehicle in front of him "execute a lane change without using a directional," according to the police incident report.

Parkinson detained the vehicle in the parking lot of CVS at 1400 Hartford Ave. and spoke to the owner/operator of the vehicle, Anthony Pereira Jr., of 58 Eilein Ave., Cranston.

Parkinson noted that the "registration plates belonged to a different vehicle and Anthony provided documentation for same."

"Checks on the plates and vehicle were negative," Parkinson wrote.

However, Rhode Island Registry Files revealed that Pereira had a suspended license and NCIC Files revealed an active "extraditable from RI only" warrant from the Seekonk Police Department.

"Communications Personnel sent a 'hit confirmation' to Seekonk PD who advised that the warrant was active and they would extradite," Parkinson

wrote in the report.

Pereira was taken into custody without incident and transported to Johnston Police Headquarters where he was processed, advised of his Constitutional Rights and allowed to make a phone call.

Pereira was secured in a cell and "given a stern warning concerning his moving violation," according to police.

He was issued a District Court Release Summons for Driving on a Suspended License (First Offense) with a Third District Court date of Sept. 13. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

RESISTING ARREST

Around 9:30 p.m. on Aug. 19, Johnston Police Officer Thomas Santurri was dispatched to 2533 Hartford Ave. Upon arrival on the scene, Santurri made contact with the reporting party, who advised there was a man in the residence named Jazion Santiago, who lived at the address.

After speaking to the victim, Santurri began walking to the front door of the residence and was "greeted by Mr. Santiago through a second story window," according to the police incident report.

Santiago told police that he and the reporting party had "an ongoing argument between them."

Santurri asked "Communications Personnel to conduct a check of Santiago to ensure he did not have any warrants," according to police.

The check revealed Santiago had an active arrest warrant out issued by the Cranston Police Department for Felony Assault by Strangulation. Cranston Police confirmed the warrant.

Santiago eventually exited the residence and spoke to police. Police met him next to a vehicle parked in the driveway.

A Johnston police officer at the scene told Santiago that he was under arrest and that he had a warrant. Police then attempted to put his hands "behind his back, however he began to tense his body and violently struggle to keep his arms free," according to the police report.

While one officer had Santiago's right arm secured behind his back, Santurri was able to place a single cuff on Santiago's left wrist, police wrote. Police said they advised Santiago to stop resisting multiple times throughout the incident, but Santiago "began to struggle further and began turning his body away from" the officers on the scene.

According to police, "Santiago then attempted to grab" Santurri's weapon, as all three

— police and the suspect — fell to the ground. Once on the ground, police were able to secure Santiago's right arm, and place his right wrist in cuffs. While on the ground, police said Santiago continued to struggle, until he was secured in the back of a police cruiser.

"As a result of the incident Mr. Santiago stated he was not injured and was photographed on scene prior to being turned over into Cranston Police who arrived on scene to take custody of him," Santurri wrote in the report. "A non-compliance form was completed via the Guardian tracking system."

Santiago was also charged with Resisting Legal or Illegal Arrest and Disorderly Conduct. A Johnston Police detective responded to the Cranston Police Station to present Santiago with a District Court Notice to appear on Aug. 30.

BENCH WARRANT

Johnston Police responded to 28 Miller Circle around 11:45 p.m. on Aug. 28 for a well being check.

Upon investigating the report, police performed a routine background check on Tony Omar Stackhouse, who resides at the address. The checks revealed Stackhouse had an active HWOB Superior Court Full Bench Warrant for failing to appear "pre-arraignment" on a charge of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to police headquarters, processed and taken to the ACI intake service center.

...

Around 5:58 p.m. on Aug. 29, Billiejo Distefano, of 48 Old Pocasset Road, Johnston, responded to the Johnston Police Headquarters in reference to a Sixth District Court Bench Warrant in connection to Reckless Driving charge and other offenses out of the Woonsocket Police Department. Distefano was processed, allowed to make a phone call and secured in a cell pending further arraignment. She was arraigned on Sunday, Aug. 29, before J.P. George Lazieh on the warrant and she paid the \$350 bail and was released.

SHOPLIFTING

A Johnston business reported to police that on Aug. 18, around 4:08 p.m., an unidentified man was observed entering the store and selecting a 2200 watt Honda generator valued at \$1,099. The man then brought the generator

to the store's service desk in an attempt to return the item.

The man was denied the return and then immediately proceeded passed all points of purchase making no attempt to pay for the item, exiting the store with the generator, according to the police incident report.

Then on Oct. 10, a store representative told police that she observed the same man enter the store and acting suspiciously as he walked throughout the store. The store's loss prevention officer approached the man, later identified as Christopher E. Schreffler, of 18 Brandywine Drive, Westerly, and "confronted him about the earlier shoplifting at which time the male started to become confrontational," according to the police incident report.

While engaged in the verbal confrontation, Johnston police arrived on the scene. The store's loss prevention officer told police that she would like to pursue criminal charges. The case was forwarded to the Johnston Police Department's Detective Division "in an attempt to have a warrant signed regarding said incident," according to police.

A NCIC/RILETS check revealed Schreffler had multiple active warrants.

The store also provided police with a witness statement concerning another theft allegedly connected to Schreffler, which occurred around 1:15 p.m. on Aug. 30. The store's loss prevention officer told police that Schreffler approached the hardware department and selected a Milwaukee Crown stapler valued at \$299 and a lithium battery valued at \$169, and concealed both under his sweatshirt, according to the police incident report.

At 1:30 p.m., the man exited the store passing all points of purchase without attempting to pay for them, according to police.

Loss prevention approached him, and Schreffler allegedly removed both items from underneath his shirt, handed them over, and fled the scene in a white Honda SUV. The store gave police a copy of video surveillance from the scene.

Police said Schreffler has 54 previous charges on his RI BCI, including more than 20 shoplifting charges. He was released from the ACI intake on Oct. 13, 2021. An affidavit and arrest warrant was prepared for Schreffler, charging him with another count of Shoplifting and Habitual Offender Shoplifting.

On Oct. 21, Rhode Island State Police responded to Johnston Police Headquarters to turn over custody of Schreffler who was wanted for two counts

of Felony Shoplifting and two counts of Shoplifting Habitual Offender.

Schreffler was processed, advised of his Constitutional Rights, afforded the use of the telephone, and held, according to police.

...

Johnston Police responded to The Home Depot in town to investigate a report of shoplifting around 12:05 p.m. on Oct. 22.

"While en route dispatch personnel stated that the suspect was exiting the store with stolen merchandise (multiple Sawzall blades)," Johnston Police Sgt. David Galligan wrote in the incident report. "Dispatch personnel described the suspect as a white male, wearing a baseball cap and navy-blue sweatshirt."

Upon arrival, the store's loss prevention manager pointed the suspect out to police as he walked through the parking lot. The man made eye contact with Galligan and "began to walk more quickly towards a white 1998 Toyota Camry with MA passenger" plates, according to the report.

The suspect was later identified as James J. Lang, of 83 Sterling St., Apt. No. LKA, Providence.

"I observed a large bulge in the front pocket of ... Mr. Lang's hooded sweatshirt and he had both of his hands in the front pocket manipulating something," Galligan wrote. "As he entered the vehicle I was alongside the driver's door of the vehicle and I observed him removing multiple red Diablo Sawzall blades from the front hooded sweatshirt pocket and throwing them on the passenger's side floor board."

The suspect was removed from the vehicle and placed under arrest, cuffed and searched.

Police said an additional unopened package of Diablo Sawzall blades were found still concealed in the front pocket of Lang's sweatshirt.

A RILETS check of the vehicles registration revealed that the plates were expired. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

"An inventory search of the vehicle was conducted prior to it being towed at which time the stolen merchandise was seized from the passenger's side floor and turned over to The Home Depot after being photographed," Galligan wrote in the report.

The value of the eight stolen Diablow Sawzall blades totaled \$352.76, according to police. Lang was transported to headquarters where he was processed and later released with a notice to appear in Third District Court on Nov. 15.

Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

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Senior Center plans 12-day Christmas raffle & tree lighting

By Denise Bell
Special to the Sun Rise

The JSC is planning some fun Christmas observances this year. With the happenings of last year, the center being closed and events being put on hold because of the pandemic, many of our community and Center members spent the season at home or even alone.

This year we are so happy to not only be open since June, inviting our members to celebrate our reopening in July, and now we are excited to have our traditional Christmas Tree Lighting along with a new fun event.

On Dec. 1, we will be lighting the Christmas Tree as we serve hot cocoa, apple cider and holiday cookies right after our noontime meal. You will also enjoy a Sing-Along with Shirley Martin as she plays a variety of Christmas music for your appreciation. To join us for lunch on that day and be here for the fun, all you need to do is call Brenda at 401-944-3343 to reserve your meal!

Something different this year will be the new "Twelve Raffle Days of Christmas" where there will be a drawing each weekday for 12 days from Thursday, Dec. 2 until Friday Dec. 17.

The tickets are \$12.00 and are on sale now at the JSC front desk. You will have an opportunity to win a fantastic gift from a variety of prizes. We don't want you to miss the FUN, so come in to get your ticket today and call to let us know that you are coming to the Tree Lighting! We hope to see many of you spend some time with us and enjoy time with friends as we celebrate together!

Editor's Note: Denise Bell is the Assistant Director at the Johnston Senior Center.



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE: Gail Krikorian holds a raffle ticket in anticipation the first day of "Twelve Raffle Days of Christmas," when a drawing will be held each weekday for 12 days from Thursday, Dec. 2 until Friday Dec. 17. (Submitted photo)

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MIGHTY MAURICE: Maurice of Circus Dynasty was a huge hit during last week's Covid-19 vaccination clinic where he performed a number of juggling and balancing that more than 200 children enjoyed either before or after they received their shots.

NURSE'S NICHE: Ali La Fazia, a fourth grade student offered a "thumbs up" with Mayor Joseph Polisena after he administered a Covid-19 vaccination during last Wednesday night's clinic. (Submitted photo)



Vaccine

(Continued from page 1)

To which Razza added: "We knew this age group may have presented us with a challenge, so as a way to lighten the mood and make it less stressful, we had Minnie Mouse meet and greet the children."

However, the famed Disney character wasn't the night's only fun entertainment, as the JPD brought in Maurice the Acrobat from Circus Dynasty who displayed his unique balancing and juggling skills throughout the clinic while Minnie Mouse (a.k.a. Kathy Holburn of Party Characters) created a special mood among young and old alike.

The JPD's plan worked to perfection, volunteers like former DPW Director Arnie Vecchione, who checked children in and explained the eight-station layout to parents who were also impressed with how a number of JPD officers and JFD firefighters assisted clinic goers.

Vecchione, in fact, was amazed that none of the children seemed scared and offered some of the many comments from the kids.

"One little boy asked me how big are the needles!" said Vecchione. "Another boy asked 'where are they going to put the needle' while a little girl quipped 'I hope my name isn't on the list!'"

Meanwhile, Sheri LaFazia — whose daughter Ali is a fourth grader at Sarah Dyer Barnes School — issued a heartfelt "Thank You" to Mayor Polisena and everyone from the JPD and JFD who made sure the clinic was as safe as possible.

"The Mayor made my daughter feel very comfortable," LaFazia added. "He — as well as other men who gave the vaccinations — created a stress-free atmosphere for our children."

Through it all, as Dr. Vincent D'Alessandro of Johnston — who was standing by in case of an emergency — observed as he chatted with parents and watched children get their shots: "There were only a couple of cases when a child seemed concerned. Other than that tonight went well!"

It was a night during which the JPD and JFD with Razza and Chief Peter Lamb headed their forces — once again epitomized officials putting

their best feet forward to protect children.

It was also a night when Mayor Polisena utilized his vast experiences in the medical field as a registered nurse and was one of eight people who vaccinated unlimited children and offering a throwback to his valuable days as an EMT with the JFD.

"I'm honored to be able to serve the residents of Johnson not only as Mayor, but also as a registered nurse in administering the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccination at this clinic for children ages 5-11 years old," Polisena said while administering another shot. "I am very happy to be a part of the effort in vaccinating our children to ensure their safety against COVID-19!"

Razza concluded, with a special sense of pride and community caring in his voice: "In all, it was a very successful clinic, especially for this age group as we more than accomplished our objective. Over 200 children were vaccinated in under three hours and surprisingly, over 100 within the very first hour; a very impressive and highly efficient pace for this age group. We're going to do this again on December 1."

VALUABLE VOLUNTEER: Arnie Vecchione (right), retired DPW Director plays it safe wearing a mask while signing in another youngster during last week's clinic.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. German philosopher
- 6. A type of stock trading (abbr.)
- 9. Cincinnati ballplayers
- 13. Deerlike water buffaloes
- 14. Island
- 15. Jewish calendar month
- 16. Round Dutch cheese
- 17. Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot
- 18. A restaurant needs one
- 19. Decent behaviors
- 21. Groans
- 22. Works hard
- 23. Upset
- 24. A sound made in speech
- 25. One point east of due south
- 28. Boxing's GOAT
- 29. Whittles
- 31. Tailless amphibian
- 33. Surrounded
- 36. Doesn't stay still
- 38. Copycat
- 39. Four-door car
- 41. Morally correct behavior
- 44. Something that is owed
- 45. Pasta needs it
- 46. Ant-Man's last name
- 48. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bodily substance
- 2. Internal
- 3. Provoke or annoy
- 4. Type of lounge chair
- 5. Losses
- 6. Makes less severe
- 7. Identifies a thing close at hand
- 8. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
- 9. Rebuilt
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. American investigative journalist
- 12. Partially melted snow

CLUES ACROSS

- 14. Take shape
- 17. Mexican beverage
- 20. Patti Hearst's captors
- 21. Jacobs and Summers are two
- 23. Disfigure
- 25. Scientists' tool (abbr.)
- 26. Ill-mannered person
- 27. Overhang
- 29. Famed rat catcher
- 30. Passover feast and ceremony
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Central processing unit
- 35. Chinese native religion
- 37. Unfermented juices
- 40. "To the ___ degree"
- 42. Frozen water
- 43. Medieval circuit courts
- 47. 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)
- 49. Gossipy
- 50. Shopping is one type
- 52. Palmlike plant
- 53. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Welsh name meaning "snow"
- 56. Popular Mexican dish
- 57. It helps power devices
- 58. Reddish-brown wildcat
- 59. Impertinence
- 61. Legal financial term (abbr.)
- 65. Atomic #52

BIRD CALLS TO ACTION: Johnston students and the Southern Providence County Regional Prevention Coalition, which includes Johnston Prevention Coalition, are participating in a Thanksgiving Sticker Shock Campaign. They're slapping a special warning on the holiday birds for sale at the Johnston Market Basket store. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

to discourage adults from buying alcohol for minors." The campaign aims "to inform, educate and remind our community of the implications of selling and providing alcohol to underage youth."

Sweet contacted several local grocery chains, looking for a partner for this year's Thanksgiving-themed initiative.

She said both Shaw's and Stop & Shop didn't return her calls.

Market Basket, however, which opened a location in Johnston over the summer, replied with enthusiasm.

"The campaign gives us the opportunity to create connections between retailers and the community at large," Sweet wrote in a statement. "We work with retailers to provide important prevention messaging to curb youth use. It is important to engage the community and work with partners to assist us because we cannot do it alone."

Past attempts have targeted local alcohol sellers; the stickers were affixed to bottles and six-pack holders.

"This campaign is usually done with alcohol retailers, where youth go to the liquor stores and place stickers on the alcoholic beverage containers to remind those who are purchasing alcohol not to provide alcohol to minors," Sweet wrote. "We have also created stickers for pizza restaurants; stickers are placed on the pizza boxes. This is our

first time we created stickers to go on the turkeys and stuffing boxes in markets."

The Tri-County Community Action Agency has an office at 1126 Hartford Ave., close to the new Market Basket, at 1300 Hartford Ave.

Sweet said her organization greatly appreciates the company's partnership in this year's Sticker Shock evolution.

She serves as an advanced prevention specialist who works with local prevention specialists, coordinating prevention coalitions in the towns of Johnston, Smithfield, North Providence, Scituate and Cranston.

"Youth who start drinking alcohol at a young age have a higher chance to develop a dependence later on," Sweet said. "Adolescents are more vulnerable to risky substance use because the brain is not fully developed until age 26. Alcohol affects kids brain differently than an adult brain."

Although adults are the Sticker Shock targets, young people are the intended beneficiaries of the campaign.

"It can actually cause serious harm to the still developing adolescent brain (ages 10-25 years old)," Sweet explained. "Research shows that teenagers delay drinking when they get clear messages from their parents that drinking is unacceptable."

Sixth-graders from the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School — Mackenzie Denton, Izabella Urena, Anthony Hopp,

Lea Petrillo, Isabella Jean, Islas Troxell, and Shayla Delvecchio — stormed the turkey isle at Market Basket on Tuesday afternoon on Nov. 16.

The students are members of Above The Influence (ATI), an organization that strives to keep its members, and their friends and families, sober.

Carolyn Carnevale, Ferri's ATI advisor and also a sixth-grade teacher, accompanied her students Tuesday.

"It's important for them to know," she said before the stickers were handed out. "Underage drinking is not healthy for them."

Kaitlyn Maggiore, a Tri-County and Johnston Prevention Coalition Coordinator, handed the stickers out to the sixth-graders, and two Johnston High School juniors who turned out to help — Emma Homenick and Melanie Capraro.

"Teens can drink and are starting to drive," Capraro said, explaining why the Sticker Shock campaign is important. "If they drink and drive, they could kill or injure themselves or other people."

Xavier Taylor, Market Basket's assistant store manager in Johnston, said the store will sell "thousands of turkeys" this year.

A small warning to families will be affixed to most of those turkeys. Prevention advocates hope the warnings will hit home, and families may think twice before allowing younger participants to indulge in drinking alcohol.

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STUFFING TOO: Johnston students and the Southern Providence County Regional Prevention Coalition are participating in a Thanksgiving Sticker Shock Campaign. They're slapping a special warning on the holiday favorites sold at the Johnston Market Basket store. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



STICKERS READY: Kaitlyn Maggiore, a Tri-County and Johnston Prevention Coalition Coordinator, handed the stickers out to the sixth-graders, and two Johnston High School juniors who turned out to participate in the Sticker Shock Campaign.

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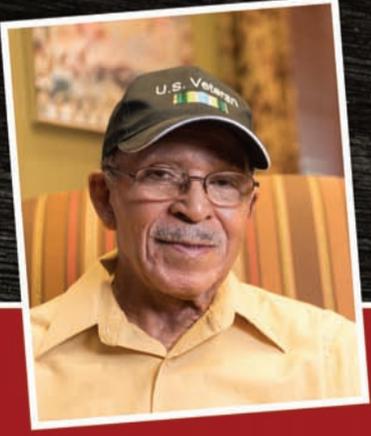
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By JENNIFER COATES

The iconic musician David Bowie once wrote of aging gracefully: "Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been." The notion of "aging" as synonymous with "becoming" and evolving with grace and dignity is the enduring philosophy of Akshay Talwar, the founder and director of The Preserve at Briarcliffe. Truly, it is Talwar's overarching belief that, even as we age, life is still full of opportunities for growth, meaningful relationships, personal happiness, fulfillment and becoming the best versions of ourselves.

This belief was a compelling force behind the conception, design, construction and completion of The Preserve, a Continued Care Retirement Community on the Briarcliffe campus in Johnston. Today, the increasing number of residents who have made The Preserve their home continue to live their lives with a sense of purpose, contentment and "becoming."

Every detail of this senior living community was intentionally designed to make residents and guests alike feel at home. Many special architectural features were incorporated into the design of this innovative residential complex. Though some of these might go unnoticed by the casual observer, they nonetheless exceed the "norm" and go beyond the standards of the industry. Some of these features include:

- Access to outdoors: All apartments come with individual patios, balconies, Juliet balconies or casement windows.
- Natural light: Wide corridors with handrails, bookended by large windows, let in abundant daylight.
- Climate controls: Each apartment has individual heating and air conditioning controls.
- Barrier-free showers: safe and easy access to full-size showers



This beautifully-appointed and welcoming residence, The Preserve at Briarcliffe in Johnston, is open for live tours. Set in the serene woods of the city, The Preserve is a Continuing Care Retirement Community ~ and your potential new home!

- Generator: May seem like a minor detail, but with New England weather, this is important. There is a back-up generator large enough to power the entire building for approximately one week.
- Elevators: Two large elevators for both safety and peace of mind

Beyond these design features, The Preserve offers an array of highly personalized amenities and services such as: Restaurant-style dining, weekly housekeeping, laundry and linen services, state-of-the-art call and monitoring systems,

scheduled transportation to appointments and outings. Basically everything that someone who wants to enjoy a truly fulfilling life and the freedom to "become the person they were always meant to be" is found here at The Preserve at Briarcliffe.

Now is a great time to schedule your in-person tour of this exciting residence at 54 Old Pocasset Road. Come to this beautiful setting amid the peaceful woods of Johnston and make yourself at home.

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SCRUFFY FINEST: Have you noticed that Johnston’s officers look a little bit scruffy? Members of the Johnston Police Department are now participating in No Shave November, a month-long journey where participants forgo shaving in order to evoke conversation and raise cancer awareness, according to a post on the department’s Facebook page. Each participating officer has made a donation to the Tomorrow Fund to assist in their mission to fight pediatric cancer at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. (Photo posted on the Johnston Police Department Facebook page)

FROM THE JOHNSTON LIBRARY

Be thankful for your local library

By JON ANDERSON
Special to the Sun Rise

Looking for a free tutor? Thanks to the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, you can take your homework question to an online session with a professional tutor. Please give this excellent service a try while it is still funded.

You can find this and other such free services through Askri.org. Another one of them is Udemy, which has instructional material to help you develop business knowledge and advanced computer skills, from general business programs up to learning programming languages.

From askRI you can find various ways to access magazine articles from hundreds of journals, information for school research, and reading recommendations.

AskRI links to a database of automotive repair information. There is a free tool, Mango, to learn dozens of foreign languages. And you can pose a question to librarians via email.

Throughout my life, I’ve been grateful for librarians I’ve known. They love their jobs, and are driven to help people find things. Librarians want to know what interests you, and will do what they can to help find information, resources, and new authors to inspire you.

I’m thankful for the library Johnston has provided, and for system we have in Rhode Island.

The size of the state is just about right for a close knit group of mostly independent, cooperating libraries each seeking to reflect its own community, with a consortium and state agency that offer library workers various ways to meet and continue their education, to learn from the greater library world, and to offer better resources to our local patrons.

Like your mind and body, libraries are at their best when you make use of them. So go to the library, and learn what’s there.

Mohr Library is closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. Open Saturday.

Editor’s Note: Jon Anderson serves as the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library Director.



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Thankful for so many things

At a time when we can easily find things to complain about, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving remind us to focus on things to be grateful for.

When American men and women decide to devote their time to the military to defend and fight for our country, we can be grateful that they sacrificed their lifestyles and family lives to work for us all.

During the last two years with Covid creating unfortunate situations for so many folks, there are also some who have found their positions to be in demand and have provided services and products needed to keep us going in challenging conditions. We can be thankful for those folks who showed up for work regardless of the risk at hand.

It is times like now that we can consider perhaps making a donation or volunteering our time to help those who are in need.

Donating to your favorite charity is a nice way to help others.

Volunteering your time can make a difference in someone's life.

Delivering meals to senior citizens who are confined to their homes will allow them a balanced meal and the daily visit, even for a few minutes, can be the bright spot in their day.



Donna DeLauro
Senior Real Estate Specialist
RE/MAX Real Estate Center
Founder of Mature Matters

Sending a holiday card or care package to our troops serving our country is a great way to show gratitude for their service. Go to <https://militaryholidaycardchallenge.com/> for guidelines.

A sick child would love to receive a get-well card or a small gift to cheer them up while in the hospital. Go to <https://www.lifespan.org/hasbro-childrens-hospital/ways-to-give> for ways to give.

If you have a product or service you wish to donate, be sure to research that organization's credibility. Although there are many great charities and foundations set up to legitimately help, there are

some who have names sounding trustworthy but are scammers.

I would like to take this time to thank a few folks who have helped me through the past year.

First and foremost, I am grateful for my family for being the most awesome family I could ask for.

Thank you to my clients who put their trust in me to help them navigate the process of buying or selling their homes.

Thank you to ReMax Real Estate Center for providing me the tools I need to do my job and support systems to help whenever needed.

Thank you to the team at Beacon Communications for allowing me to submit my articles to you. I hope you find them informative.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Donna DeLauro
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Take a Room-by-Room Approach to Renovations

FAMILY FEATURES

When your home needs updating in multiple spaces, you may find yourself wondering where to begin. Prioritizing the rooms you use most and those in the greatest need of attention can allow you to work through your renovation at a reasonable pace while bringing greater enjoyment to your home one room at a time.

There's no rule about where to start; it all comes down to your budget and how your family uses your home. The true beginning of any project is defining your vision for the finished space. These on-trend ideas can help you get started.

Multi-Purpose Room Makeover

If you spend any time on social media, you know laundry and multi-purpose mudroom updates are popular. Having a well-organized, attractive workspace can make the less glamorous aspects of homeownership more appealing. Today's mudrooms are more than a pass-through space. With thoughtful planning, you can create a more functional area for laundry, a drop area for book bags and other daily necessities and even grooming space for a pet or a potting area for an avid gardener.

With a space that gets used in so many ways, cabinetry plays an important role in keeping your cleaning equipment and belongings tidy and neat. You'll be able to find shapes and sizes to fit practically any need you can imagine, like tall hideaways for brooms or gardening tools and low-profile options that can double as bench seating. If your footprint allows it, consider an island for added storage and workspace.



Updated Kitchen

A stylish, functional kitchen is a must for anyone who enjoys culinary arts or the simple pleasure of gathering family or friends around the dinner table. Cabinetry is a focal point in most kitchens, so it's an element that many homeowners give plenty of consideration. Today's looks are commonly painted, and black is a surprisingly neutral option that can be adapted to numerous styles. Medium density fiberboard is ideal for painted cabinetry because it provides a smooth surface for even coating and stands up to the temperatures and humidity commonly found in the kitchen.

For a contemporary but classic look, try Wellborn Cabinet's Hartford door finished in Onyx paint and dressed with bronze pulls and moulding for an attractive look from floor to

(almost) ceiling. To create visual interest and contrast, take a different approach with your island, such as a Concord Maple door in Drift Slate finish. Don't forget to give extra attention to what's inside the cabinets, too. Options like adjustable slide-out shelving make it easy to access even more storage space.

Bathroom Refresh

Whether you're breathing new life into an outdated bathroom or converting unused space into a new one, practical design is essential. This is especially true if you're working on a full bath with a smaller footprint where storage space is at a premium. While a powder room may not require much in the way of storage beyond space for extra rolls of toilet paper and hand towels, a full bath demands much more.

Using the right cabinetry for your vanity can create architectural detail that makes even this small space feel special. The clean lines of a Preston door style in medium density fiberboard is a practical and eye-pleasing option. To complement the vanity, consider built-in cabinets in the corner. This is a smart way to use square footage that might otherwise be wasted. For visual interest, match the cabinet door style to the vanity but in a complementary way. One on-trend example is a soft, creamy Gray Mist vanity paired with a rich Willow gray.

Make function a priority with deep drawer dividers, sliding shelves and other creative solutions, such as repurposing a silverware tray insert to organize your toiletry drawer.

Find more inspiration for your next home renovation by visiting Wellborn.com.



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SUN RISE SCOOPS

By MERI R. KENNEDY

7th annual Fez-tival of Trees

On Thanksgiving weekend, the Rhode Island Shriners will host their seventh annual Fez-tival of Trees. The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 27, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, located at 60 Rhodes Place in Cranston.

There is a suggested \$2 donation for adults at the door, and children 12 and under are admitted at no cost. There will be tree and wreath displays, free children's activities, table raffles, a 50/50 cash raffle, penny socials, a holiday marketplace featuring crafters and artisans, refreshments at Mrs. Claus's Café, musical entertainment and more. Tree and wreath raffle drawings begin at 3 p.m. each day.

The event is the largest fundraiser for the Shriners each year. To learn more, visit www.rhodesonthepawtuxet.com.

Holiday Bazaar

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, located at 565 Pontiac Ave. in Cranston, will host a Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 30. A Coffee Nook will be open from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Lunch To Go will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event will feature basement bargains & treasures, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, needle works and much more! The church is handicapped accessible.

Mental Health: Finding help and hope through NAMI-RI

The mission of the Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI- Rhode Island) is to offer education, resources and support to all whose lives are touched by mental illness; to advocate at every level to ensure the rights and dignity of those with mental illness; and to promote research in the science and treatment of

mental illness. Currently, we are offering Free and Virtual programs for schools, families and consumers.

For more information on NAMI- RI and our programs and services, please contact them at: <http://namirhodeisland.org> or by phone at 401-331-3060 Email: info@namirhodeisland.org.

School presentations for Middle and High School audiences: "Inside Mental Illness" and "Ending the Silence" are available for students, faculty/staff, and families using virtual platforms.

Family Support Groups and Family education programs: Family Support Groups are currently available virtually; our Family-to-Family education course is taking registrations for its next virtual session.

Peer/Consumer Support and education programs: Peer support groups are held both virtually and in small, socially distanced in-person settings.

Volunteer Opportunity: Are you interested in becoming a volunteer at NAMI Rhode Island? For information about training email info@namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060

New Donation Center for Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) will open a new Donation Drop-Off Center at 993 Oaklawn Ave. on Dec.1. BBBSRI's main headquarters has been located on Pontiac Ave. for 12 years. With its headquarters moved to Providence this November, BBBSRI had to find a new location for its Cranston Drop Off Center.

Residents are encouraged to drop off bagged clothing and textiles at the new location, 993 Oaklawn Avenue (next to Gasbarro's Liquor Store plaza) Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The location is staffed with an attendant during these hours. During off-hours, residents can conveniently drop bagged items into one of BBBSRI's green donation bins located in the parking lot.

BBBSRI makes donating

easy. In addition to our Donation Center, residents can also schedule a free curbside pick-up at their home or drop their bagged cloth in bins throughout the state. Visit BigSRI.org/DonateRI to schedule your pick-up online or find your nearest bin.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. If you are interested in mentoring a child, donating to support our program, hosting a clothing drive, hosting a clothing fundraiser for your school or group, or more, visit www.BigSRI.org, call (401) 921-2434, or email events@BigSRI.org.

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

Just a reminder that Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. are open hours at the Johnston Historical Society. Tour the museum! Tour the Elijah Angell House! Ask all the questions you ever wanted to ask about Johnston history! All are welcome!

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 231-3380 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, www.johnstonhistorical.org or www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

Youth basketball opens for registration

Youth Basketball Registrations now being accepted at the Recreation Department in Johnston. Please visit www.johnstonrec.com for more information, and to download/print the forms. Forms and payments can be dropped off at the recreation office at Johnston Memorial Park. (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Checks and money orders preferred. (they do not accept credit card payments)

Please remember if a player is interested in playing travel basketball, they must be registered with the rec program.

Bingo is back

Bingo games have returned to the Johnston Senior Center.

At 2 p.m. on Thursdays

and Fridays, Johnston Senior Center members can try their luck on the Bingo cards again.

During the pandemic, the games had ceased, and were badly missed. Last week, a successful Dress-Down fundraiser resulted in free Del's Lemonade for participants.

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.

Co-ed 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 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The program will be held at the Johnston High School gymnasium. Participants will meet 3 times per week, for 4 weeks. For more information, pricing, and times/dates, please visit www.johnstonrec.com.

Pet Food Drive

Defenders of Animals will be hosting a Pet Food Drive throughout the month of November. Please bring all donations to the Warwick Animal Hospital, located at 1950 Elmwood Ave in Warwick. Drop off is Monday-Friday an ask for Tonya.

The Return of Saturday Drop-In Crafts at Mohr Library

This week, the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library will resume Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do some crafts in the library or take some home. They are located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Little Free Pantry to offer Christmas help

The Little Free Pantry is not accepting applications to

apply for Christmas Help. Their goal is to provide 1-3 items per child: value of your gifts range from \$5-\$40 dollars as this is a helping hand. They do their best to help as many as they can, yet they do not guarantee help. Those who self-identify that they need assistance, living in Coventry, Cranston, Scituate, Warwick and West Warwick are welcome to apply.

Please include your name, a picture/copy of a recent utility bill in your name (your photo ID will be required at pick up) please block out account numbers, and they just need to verify address and name. They can't accept people signing up for others, your Facebook name must be similar to your real name

For each child up to age 17, Child name (first name only), age, gender and Wishlist or a list of likes (of mixed value max 40 dollars per item). You must provide a list we cannot fill requests without it. Please note they will consider children over age 17 with special needs, please PM us in regard to our requirements. NO requests for Gift cards/tickets, as well as any video games/systems (exception would be inexpensive headphones and accessories) will be honored.

Also include a list of other programs you have signed up for or intend to sign up for.

Due to dishonesty about children they now require a birth certificate at pick up time. Your I.D. must match one of the parents listed on the birth certificate. Exception for those with legal custody paperwork will be required This for visual inspection in person only!

While we never ask for income verification and reserve the right to ask for additional information for children as you may only sign up your children that live with you full time. their pick-up location is in Warwick, near RT 37. They provide this information when pick up times are arranged. This is borrowed space afforded to them by a local business in which we are allowed to use after business hours.

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to Mohr Library.

Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and carry out other fundraising activities to allow Mohr Li-

brary to increase services and programs.

The Friends welcome new members who are willing to support either through donations, membership dues, or through volunteering their time.

To find out more, contact library director at 231-4980 (press 7).

Johnston Senior Center offers services

If you need any help with heating, housing, etc., during this cold winter or humidity or any other time, contact the Johnston Senior Center Social Services Department by calling 944-3343. Madeline or Amy will be happy to help you.

News from the Mohr Memorial Library

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

Johnston Community Library Book Club

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

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

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

Did you know?

Writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale convinced President Abraham Lincoln to officially declare Thanksgiving a national holiday, after three decades of persistent lobbying. The author also founded the American Ladies Magazine, which promoted women's issues long before suffrage. She wrote countless articles and letters, advocating for Thanksgiving to help unify the Northern and Southern states amid gathering divisions. Hale kept at it, even after the Civil War broke out, and Lincoln actually wrote the proclamation just a week after her last letter in 1863, earning her the name the Mother of Thanksgiving. (Source: Thanksgiving Fun Facts 2021)

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.



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

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Thankful for progress against COVID

Although it can be tempting to dwell in the doom and gloom associated with our ever-present lingering in a pandemic-stricken world, there is value to taking a moment to recognize how far we have come as a state in fighting off this destructive disease.

Recent headlines have shown that Rhode Island continues to be among the top states in the nation for COVID vaccinations, and actually leads the entire nation in the percent of nursing home staff who are fully vaccinated (96.7 percent as of Nov. 10). The Ocean State is also near the top in terms of nursing home residents who are fully vaccinated (93.4 percent).

This is a notable accomplishment worthy of considerable praise, as it is the elderly who have paid the highest price and faced the starkest changes to their lives throughout this pandemic. It is a sign that the states vaccine mandate for health care workers has been effective and, as a result, will undoubtedly save lives.

On an individual basis, Rhode Island residents likely feel significantly more normal headed into this year's holiday season than in 2020, when lockdowns, mandated social distancing, and restrictions on various businesses made it anything but a festive time of year. Many exercised caution by not gathering in large numbers with family, cognizant that the temporary sadness of missing out on family events did not size up to the risk of possibly losing a family member forever to COVID.

Thankfully, Rhode Island is a state mostly comprised of team players – people who understand that their own personal comforts and desires do not outweigh the health risks that their behaviors may impose on their many neighbors and peers. This has resulted in high vaccination rates, good accordance with public health directives and, if you can believe it, a prompt reopening of the economy that has saved Rhode Island from worse possible outcomes.

Of course, not all have been so selfless in their response to the crisis, and not all have been spared the consequences of this pandemic's wrath. We were reminded of the importance of following protocols to contain the virus when Pilgrim High School closed this week because of the numbers of people who contracted COVID-19 in the wake of the school's homecoming events.

Since March of 2020 when the state shutdown, many people have died; many businesses have shuttered. We cannot forget the toll this virus has wrought, or that things could have been so much exponentially worse if the disease itself was more virulent. We hope that those who have shirked at public health mandates and continue to spread vaccine disinformation will ruminate truthfully on these behaviors during this holiday season.

We are truly proud of Rhode Island for its response, from the top levels of government and on down to the individual citizens. We are once again grateful for the tireless work of public health workers and all of those who continue to contribute towards returning our state, and our lives, to a place of much-needed normalcy.

Is there more to dreams than entertainment?

Dreams are such a wonderful part of life.

I'm not talking about hopes and aspirations that indeed enrich our lives, giving us goals and purpose. They could be big dreams like starting a business, learning how to play an instrument, sailing across the Atlantic, running for public office or building a house. Then are dreams – maybe goals is a better definition – that are more attainable, such as taking that vacation to Disney World. They are definable dreams that can be attained by taking action.

Dreams are not something we can choose to have. It's not up to us whether we have sweet dreams or nightmares, although stressful situations and indigestion can make for some rough nights.

Nightmares can shake us out of deep sleep, at first feeling we have undergone something traumatic, maybe even life changing such as losing a friend. Then just as quickly we understand it's just a dream, and we dismiss the horror and are left with the question: why and what was this? Is it a premonition, is my subconscious telling me something?

Dreams can also be wonderful experiences where you can fly and do things you know aren't possible. Such dreams are made all the more poignant during those moments – who knows for how long – between sleep and being awake. It's then that you can control the dream rather than let it carry you. It's then that you can take flight and accomplish incredible feats at will. It can be exhilarating while it lasts, but like other dreams it fades quickly.

In dreaming how to explore dreams, I turned to the internet and learned of Kendra Cherry, an author and psychosocial rehabili-

This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

tation specialist. According to her bio, she helps children suffering from emotional disturbances to overcome maladaptive behaviors and is an educational speaker and consultant.

She is the author of an article, "9 Common Dreams and Their Interpretations," that refutes my dismissal of dreams as merely a wandering of the mind while the rest of the body gets the sleep it needs. I must say most of the "common dreams" she writes about I've had, including discovering I have no clothes on in a public place, which for all these years I attributed to a boyhood experience when my father brought me to a club swimming pool. I was so excited about swimming that I ran out of the locker room buck-naked. The laughs of those around the pool brought me to my senses. I jumped in the pool and my father threw me my suit.

Cherry writes, "Penny Peirce, author of the Dream Dictionary for Dummies, suggests that dreaming of public nudity might indicate that you feel like a phony or that you are afraid of revealing your imperfections and shortcomings."

As for dreams about falling, Cherry writes that according to many popular dream interpretations and at least one study, falling dreams are a sign that something in your life isn't going well. It might suggest that you need to

rethink a choice or consider a new direction in some area of your life.

Third on Cherry's list is the dream of being chased, which has been interpreted to mean you are trying to avoid something in your daily life and possibly escape from your fears or your desires. "Being chased by an animal might indicate that you are hiding from your own anger, passions, and other feelings. If your pursuer is a mysterious, unknown figure, it might represent a childhood experience or past trauma."

As for dreams about losing teeth, Cherry goes back to Penny Peirce, author of Dream Dictionary for Dummies, who suggests teeth dreams can have multiple meanings, including being worried about your attractiveness or appearance, concern about your ability to communicate, or concern that you might have said something embarrassing.

Cherry writes death is another common subject of dreams and one that can be particularly disconcerting. Dreamers sometimes dream of the death of a loved one or even dream of dying themselves. Popular dream interpretations sometimes suggest that such dreams reflect anxiety about change or a fear of the unknown.

"Studies have also shown that those approaching the end of life and loved ones around them experience significant and meaningful dreams, often relating to a comforting presence, preparing to go, watching or engaging with the deceased, loved ones waiting, distressing experiences, and unfinished business."

Cherry turns to Craig Hamilton-Parker, author of "The Hidden Meaning of Dreams," when it comes to dreams about taking a test. Studies have also found that dreams of

this nature are common. Hamilton-Parker's conclusion is "To dream of failing an exam, being late for one, or being unprepared shows that you feel unprepared for the challenges of waking life."

Then there is the dream of that your spouse or romantic partner is cheating on you. In some cases, Cherry writes, people even start to wonder if the dream might really be true. Does dreaming that your partner is unfaithful mean that it might happen? Or that it is already happening? Cherry's research takes her to "The Complete Idiot's Guide Dream Dictionary," and he suggestion that dreams about infidelity indicate issues with trust, loyalty, and communication in a relationship.

Then there is the flying dream, which I love and Cherry concludes on one hand can represent feelings of freedom and independence and on the other a desire to flee or escape from the realities of life.

Last on Cherry's list of common dreams is that of being pregnant. I have not had this dream yet. Cherry's research takes her to David C. Lohff, author of "Dream Dictionary," who believes that pregnancy dreams might sometimes represent a woman's fears of being an inadequate mother.

I like Cherry's summation that some may dismiss dream interpretation as entertainment. She asks that "instead, consider your dreams a reflection of your waking life, mirroring your fears, anxieties, desires, hopes, and aspirations for the future. Consider the personal meaning of your dreams. In all likelihood, the things you experience in your dreams are probably a reflection of the concerns you face in your daily existence."

As for me, I'm ready to go to bed and let the dreams begin.

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OP-ED

RI's 'lost girls' – completely unacceptable

By REP. JULIE A. CASIMIRO

On Nov. 6, Tom Mooney authored an insightful look at the vulnerable young girls in state care (Providence Journal Watchdog Report: Rhode Island's Lost Girls). Quite frankly, it is an awful commentary on how the state of Rhode Island is failing this vulnerable population. When do we say enough is enough?

Two RI Family Court judges agree that we are in a dire state of affairs. When these judges speak out, you know the situation is bad and this crisis did not happen overnight.

Psychiatric beds are few and far in between in Rhode Island – especially for young girls in state care. The Training School is not an option and never should be. These girls need

treatment, not incarceration.

DCYF has been given millions of dollars in funding from the General Assembly to hire front-line workers, yet it has taken months. There is good news in that a sizable cohort of new employees start this month. But, what has DCYF been doing to address this current problem long in the making? Where will the girls go? Who will care for them?

Staffing shortages across the country in the private health care sector are rampant and we need to address those issues sooner rather than later. It saddens me to know that a child, at this very moment, could require placement and not get what she needs.

We cannot become complacent and think that this poor service

model is OK. We need to do better and we need to do it now. Children in state care are fragile and, often, broken. We cannot add to that at any cost, and fixing this situation is the only option.

It is well past time for the adults in the room at DCYF and in the McKee Administration get together and find a solution to house and care for these young girls and get them the services they need. While I am not a clinician, I am happy to help broker a conversation that will end this needless cycle. Let's find a home for these girls and provide them with the services they desperately need immediately.

State Rep. Julie A. Casimiro, a Democrat, represents District 31 in North Kingstown and Exeter.

COLLECTIBLES



“Being of the lastmade for the Infantry of France:”

French Muskets in the American Revolution



As the American Revolution began on April 19, 1775, and the alarm spread, men from all over New England marched towards the outskirts of Boston. They were armed with a variety of older military arms, civilian fowling/hunting guns, and whatever they could cobble together into a functional firearm.

While the armies formed, the guns brought to the Siege of Boston rarely made it home as the army desperately needed them. The Provincial governments scrambled to setup arms manufacturing to help supply the army. But the army were not the only ones who needed arms. By law, all males from 16 to 60 had to be armed and equipped “according to law” for their service in the militia who would be needed to back up the army. Being secondary to the main army, this left the town militias in a precarious situation. The Continental and state governments began looking for outside sources of arms from other countries, and one who was secretly willing to supply arms were the French.

When George Washington took command of the fledgling Continental army in Cambridge on July 3, 1775, he began to take stock of his men and material for war. Desperate calls were made to the communities for guns but not many were available



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

to send. As early as March 1776, French arms began to trickle into the colonies but not in large enough numbers to make a difference. One French supplier reached out to Massachusetts in October 1776 to let them know that he was readily able to supply whatever arms were needed and that he had already sent two ships to Providence, Rhode Island with war materials. The model of musket listed as “Being of the last made for the Infantry of France,” the Model 1763 musket.

To me, the French Model 1763/66 musket is not

as pretty as the British arms of the period, but it was extremely functional and soldier friendly. Instead of the barrel being pinned to the stock, it had removable barrel bands to make it easier to clean and repair. It was fairly light, and had a .69 caliber bore, smaller than the British .75 caliber guns, and was available in large numbers.

Town selectmen had been writing to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress begging for arms and by the spring of 1777, large numbers of these muskets arrived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and other ports not blockaded by British ships. In many cases, chests of gun locks also arrived to build into functional arms by local makers. As the Continental Army became better supplied, some of these arms were sold to towns to outfit and equip their militias.

Throughout the war, French and American ships brought tons of materials into this country, and this explains why so many of these arms are found. I see them at shows quite frequently, as well as small town museums and historical societies. I never really gave them much thought till I started to dig through town and state archives and finding more information. It’s a really interesting story and makes me appreciate these guns more than I ever did before.



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Sports



UP THE GUT: Johnston's Steven Finegan picks up some yards. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

Big upsets, another Hawks-Rams clash

The Beacon Communications coverage area is officially down to one team for the fall season as the Bishop Hendricken football team is set to take on rival La Salle Academy once again for the state championship this weekend.

Last week we saw two big upsets be dealt to our teams as the North Kingstown girls soccer team beat top-seeded Pilgrim in the semis and the Chariho football team rolled past the Pats in the semifinal round as well.

It was a reminder that anything can happen in sports, especially at the high school level.

The Pilgrim girls were arguably the best team in the state up until the upset loss against the Skippers. The team's only league loss came at the hands of Cumberland, who was right there toward the top of the standings. Cranston West - who was also a playoff team - managed to tie the Lady Pats in the regular season.

Other than those two matches and a non-league matchup against Bishop Feehan of Massachusetts, Pilgrim was virtually untested all season long. Heck, they even the Skippers did not put up much of a fight in their first two meetings, going 0-2 by a combined score of 9-0.

I harp on the importance of momentum all the time, and the Skippers are the latest example of that as they got hot at the right moment, pulled off the huge upset against Pilgrim and then went on to beat La Salle at states. What a

My pitch



by
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streak to go on.

As for Chariho, I only covered the team once this year during the regular season finale against Toll Gate. The Chargers rolled from start to finish and really poured it on the Titans who struggled for much of the season.

I remember leaving that game thinking, 'Man, Chariho is about as tough and physical a team I've seen all season long.'

Did I think that it had what it took to beat Pilgrim, though? Not really.

Chariho took a lead into halftime of the first meeting and forced Pilgrim to pull a rabbit out of its hat in the second half to complete the comeback.

Did I expect a tough matchup for Pilgrim? Yes.

Did I think that Chariho had no chance of getting it done? No.

But overall, Pilgrim's only loss came to top-seeded Narragansett and the Pats had built a ton of momentum since that day. Pilgrim's offense was a force all fall, the defense played well down the stretch, the Pats were at home, I felt pretty confident in say-

PITCH - PAGE 23

Panthers fall in semifinals

By RYAN D. MURRAY

The No. 4 seeded Johnston Panthers were walloped by the No. 1 seeded Narragansett Mariners 48-20 on Friday night during the Di-

vision III Football Semifinal under the lights at Narragansett High School.

The Mariners will play No. 3 seeded Chariho this Friday at 6 p.m. in the championship game.

The Chargers crushed the No. 2 seeded Pilgrim Patriots 36-8 during their semifinal matchup.

The Narragansett offense was

■ **PANTHERS - PAGE 22**

Rondeau's Little Kickers put on a show

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Saturday Nov. 6, Rondeau's Kickboxing's Little Kickers stepped into the ring! The kids started at age 6, stepped into the ring with confidence and excitement, to show what they have learned in the classes they have been attending each week.

The matches started as 6-year-old Jose Miguel Restrepo from Central Falls faced off against 7-year-old Ibbi Hagen also from Central Falls. Each fighter fought a full 3 rounds, throwing kicks and punches back and forth, each earning a medal at the end. Later in the lineup Jose Miguel Restrepo went on to his next match up against 8-year-old Izzah Hagen, where it was nonstop action with Izzah throwing roundhouse kicks like a pro.

Natalia Cotugno, 10 years old from Smithfield also stepped into the ring twice, first with 9-year-old Lexmarly Garcia, and then with 8-year-old Lexmarlen



LITTLE KICKERS: Pictured from left to right are Natalea Cotugno, Kyle Silveira, Jose Miguel Restrepo, Coach Becky Rhodes, Ibbi Hagen, Izza Hagen, Keenan Honore, Lexmarlen Garcia, Lexmarly Garcia. (Submitted photos)

■ **KICKERS - PAGE 23**



PLAYOFF BATTLE: Johnston quarterback Hunter Remington (left) and Joey Acciardo in the semifinals against Narragansett.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 21)

led by senior running back Reider Fry, who rushed for four touchdowns. Johnston was topped by senior quarterback Hunter Remington, who scored three touchdowns, two rushing and one passing, plus a two-point conversion.

Johnston struck first when Remington heaved a 27-yard touchdown pass through the middle to senior wide receiver Joe Acciardo Jr. midway through the first frame. However, the Panthers came up short during the two-point conversion attempt after two false start penalties pushed them back to the 12-yard line.

The Mariners answered with 3:36 remaining in the quarter when Fry rushed into the end zone from 11 yards out and knotted the score at 6. Next, sophomore kicker Lucas Masson added the extra point and gave Narragansett a 7-6 edge.

With 9:08 remaining in the second quarter, Remington scored a 5-yard rushing touchdown and gave Johnston

a 12-7 lead. However, the signal caller's pass fell incomplete during the two-point conversion attempt.

Fry responded with a 4-yard rushing touchdown with 6:25 remaining in the half and that put the Mariners on top 14-12.

Narragansett used an onside kick during the ensuing kickoff and Jared Chaloux recovered the ball at midfield for the Mariners.

Next, Narragansett went into its no-huddle offense and they moved down the field in a hurry.

On first down, Fry rushed for a gain of 17 yards. Two plays later, Theroux handed off to Chaloux, and he ran it into the end zone from 12 yards out and put the Mariners up 21-12.

One minute and 11 seconds later, Remington recorded a 4-yard rushing touchdown. And then, Remington connected on a swing pass to Acciardo Jr. during the two-point conversion and that pulled the Panthers within 21-20.

The Mariners drove 47 yards to the Johnston 1-yard line after that, but then Narragansett suffered a mishap during the snap, which led to a fumble, and the

ball was recovered by Johnston junior Dylan Martins at the Johnston 2-yard line.

Therefore, Johnston headed into halftime trailing by just one point.

The Panthers were right there with Narragansett in the first half, but in the third quarter, the Mariners scored 20 unanswered points.

First, Fry scored a 7-yard rushing touchdown and it put Narragansett on top 28-20. Next, Poirier went untouched on his way to a 24-yard rushing score and that extended the Mariners margin to 35-20. Finally, Fry rushed into the end zone for a 17-yard touchdown and upped the lead to 41-20. Narragansett failed the final extra point attempt.

"We knew after halftime they'd come out and play well," Acciardo said. "And that is what we talked about all week, was how they're going to respond in the second half and how we'll respond and listen in the second half. They obviously were the better team and it cost us."

Lastly, with 9:33 remaining in the fourth frame, Theroux connected on a 7-yard touchdown pass to Poirier and

that ballooned the Narragansett buffer to 48-20. That score marked Theroux's 20th touchdown pass of the season.

"They're a good team," Acciardo said. "They're well-coached. A lot of players all over the place, and we're trying to find weaknesses there, but we really just couldn't stop it. They were running it down our throat. We were changing up the defenses a lot and it shows you how good they are when you're moving things around and they're still having their way with you."

As the season comes to a close, Acciardo thinks about his seniors, whom he's known for quite some time.

"I've known all of the seniors since they were Pip Squeaks and it's tough to see them go," Acciardo said. "They play with a lot of heart. We asked for that — give it your all and never quit, and they did. The other team was a great team, but we tried our best. I think we got every ounce of everything out of our guys and at the end of the day, that's how you have to chalk it up. It's that much of a win, but on the scoreboard it doesn't say that you won."



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IN THE RING: Ibbi Hagen (white headgear) blocks a jab from Jose Miguel Restreppo (photo at left). Izzah Hagen and Restreppo go head to head (photo at right).

■ Kickers

(Continued from page 21)

Garcia, both from North Providence. In both matches these ladies also went all three rounds and ended with each girl being awarded their medals
 To finish the day of fights, in stepped 9-year-old Keenan Honore, from Johnston who faced off against 16-Year-old Kyle Silveira from Cranston. Keenan had been preparing for the day's bout with determination. He has not only been attending the kid's classes, but also attending adult kickboxing classes and sparring sessions with adults to sharpen his skills. The training paid off as he and Kyle went

back and forth during the three rounds, exchanging not just jabs, crosses and hooks, but also spinning backfists and spinning kicks.
 "We have kids starting at 6 years old stepping into the ring, to see their confidence grow each time they come to class, is why we do what we do! For them to take that next step, stepping out of their comfort zone and into the ring is a huge accomplishment for them," said owner Christina Rondeau. "Just stepping in the ring these fighters are champs. It takes a lot of courage to get in there. Then add the pressure of family and friends watching you makes the nerves even worse. I am proud of anyone that steps in the ring even if it's only once."

■ Pitch

(Cont. from page 21)

ing that Pilgrim would get the job done and take on the Mariners in the Super Bowl. It just seemed like those two teams had separated themselves and were on a collision course to run it back.
 Chariho's tenacity paid off, though, as it traveled to Warwick and handed Pilgrim a one-sided defeat. The Chargers will be the underdog once again this week, but I think they proved with last week's win that they are as game a team as you will find. Should be interesting.
 That's the beauty and the curse of high school sports. Rewind two weeks ago, it looked like Pilgrim was on the inside track to bring home one, maybe even two championships. Just like that, those teams fell short of even making the big game.
 As exciting as upsets are, it's always tough to see the favorites come up short. You always have to feel for the seniors, especially. Pilgrim football is still a fairly young team so most of its players will get another crack at it next fall. The Pilgrim girls will also have a nice core of returners, but will lose some key seniors.
 As always, the postseason has been a roller coaster ride in each sport. Again, sometimes all a team needs is a little bit of momentum to shock the state.
 As for this weekend's state championship match-up, I'm as excited as someone can be for a matchup that has been played out a

million times.
 The reason is because I expect this to be an actual coin flip. Hendricken has largely dominated the matchup over the past decade, but as we have all been saying in the media this season, the Hawks have shown some vulnerability this year while the Rams have put together one of their better campaigns of recent memory ... well, for La Salle standards.
 Hendricken seems to have turned a corner recently as it cruised past North Kingstown in the semis. The Hawks made it look easy and seemed to be the Hawks of old.
 I expect a high-flying affair. La Salle always puts up big numbers and although the Hendricken offense had to search for its identity, it seems to have found it over the past two contests. Defensively, Hendricken has also improved as of late.
 My prediction? I think the Hawks get it done but I am expecting a razor-thin contest. Last spring, the Rams took the lead into halftime but the Hawks rolled in the second half to win by a wide margin ... you would have never known how close the first half was.
 This time around though, I don't think the Rams will lay an egg. I expect La Salle to battle for all four quarters. The key will be stopping the run game if you ask me. David Lynch and the Hawks are more than capable of throwing the ball, but things really started clicking once Hendricken regained its rush-

ing attack that was choppy in the early going.
 If the Rams take away the rushing attack and can establish one of its own, then they will have every chance to win this game.
 At the end of the day though, I am always reluctant to pick against the defending champs. I'll take the Hawks, 27-21.
 One last shout out to the Johnston football team as well. Midway through the regular season, the Panthers were struggling to keep pace and things were looking iffy in terms of their ceiling.
 Johnston's turning point was in a 14-0 loss to Pilgrim, in a game that they were in from start to finish and proved that they were still a team to be reckoned with in Division III.
 The Panthers reached the playoffs and took home an epic win against Middletown, then gave Narragansett a game until late in the match in the semis. I know that Johnston had bigger goals in mind, but not a bad finish by any means.

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Record 21.57-pound tautog caught off Newport

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Paul Newman of New Milford, New Jersey took the Rhode Island State Record for tautog last week with a 33-inch, 21.57-pound tautog caught when fishing on a charter with Capt. Connor MacLeod of Newport.

The Rhode Island record is 21 pounds, 4 ounces established in 1954 by C.W. Sunquist.

In an On-the-Water magazine online article (by Corey Pollnow), Capt. MacLeod related, "Newman dropped the Snafu Rig to the bottom and said he was stuck in the rocks. But then there was movement, signaling a large tog swallowed the white crab and was burying itself in the rocks. Newman slowly cranked down on the reel, getting the stout tautog 20 feet up from the bottom, until it ran back to the rocks like a striped bass. The back and forth battle continued four more times until the gigantic fish reached the surface."

Congratulations to Paul Newman for a great catch and to Capt. Connor MacLeod of Tall Tailz Charters.

Fishing law needs to be more climate responsive

It's no secret, climate change impacts of warming water, coastal erosion, habitat degradation, low oxygen and acidification are changing how we fish and how fish should be managed.

One has to wonder, what happens when the water warms to the point that even the warm water fish that have moved into our area like black sea bass, scup and summer flounder leave to go further north to cooler water.

Our Federal fishing law is not equipped to handle these impacts. However, the marine fishing law of the nation, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is being updated. U.S. Representatives Jared Huffman (D-CA) and Ed Case (D-HI) have introduced a bill in Congress to make improvements to the MSA. This bill, the Sustaining America's Fisheries for the Future Act (H.R. 4690), has important provisions needed to protect and enhance fisheries. The bill is going to hearing this week.

The bill includes important recreational fishing concerns in regard to handling climate impacts, protects the food supply for the fish we catch as well as supports new supplemental catch and effort electronic data for recreational fishing.



NEW RECORD: Paul Newman of New Jersey caught this RI record tautog, 21.57 pounds when fishing with Tall Tailz Charters off Newport last week. (Submitted photo)

reational fishing.

Speak up now in support of the bill by sending an email this to the Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. Request that your email or letter become an official part of the hearing being held this week.

Address it to the Honorable Jared Huffman, Chairman; and the Honorable Cliff Bents, Ranking Member but send to their staff persons Lora Snyder at lora.snyder@mail.house.gov; and Kiel Weaver at kiel.weaver@mail.house.gov.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass, bluefish and false albacore. Mike Wade of Watch Hill Out-

fitters, Westerly, said, "Last week we had a wave of large fish come thought and this week it's a wave of school size bass. That's the way it will be until the fall run let's up. But anglers are catching fish from the breachways, the Watch Hill Light and the beaches."

Canal Bait & Tackle, Sagamore, reports a good striped bass bite on the Cape Cod Canal with slot size fish 28 to less than 35 inches being taken on jigs on the east end of the Canal. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "The striped bass bite in the upper bay has diminished but we still have fish passing through. This weekend a customer caught a 21-inch striped bass."

"We have had a great run of false albacore last week. They seem to be ev-

erywhere mixed in with striped bass and are in the 8-12 pound range. They were in the Block Island Wind Farm area, around the Island and along our coastal shore with anglers hooking up from the beaches too. There were also some very large bluefish being caught on the Southwest Ledge off Block Island as anglers fish for bluefin tuna close the surface," said Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown.

Tautog and cod fishing. "Tautog fishing is on fire," said Mike Wade of Watch Hill Outfitters. "The interesting thing is that shore anglers fishing jetties and rock piles close to shore are doing very well too. They are catching keeper fish every time they go out."

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RhodyLife

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A message to those with big dreams...

'Just keep going'

By JOHN HOWELL

As she tells the story, Judy Davis was restless. She was ready for an adventure, but she's had difficulty articulating that feeling.

She knew as she stood before the Warwick Rotary Club at a recent meeting she would be asked why she cycled across the United States from west to east, a trek of 3,804 miles taking 59 days.

"I really don't have a good answer," Davis said.

Then offering a glimpse into her inner feelings, she said, "I knew I had to do something big." It was 2017. Davis was 51 years old. A former East Providence Police officer, Davis was working for the Attorney General.

She has always been an athlete. She played in little league, soccer and lacrosse. She's a runner, a swimmer and a sometimes biker.

When she had the thought of exploring the expanse of this country by bicycle and meeting people - she jokingly called the trip a "3,800-mile pub crawl" - she knew she had to do it.

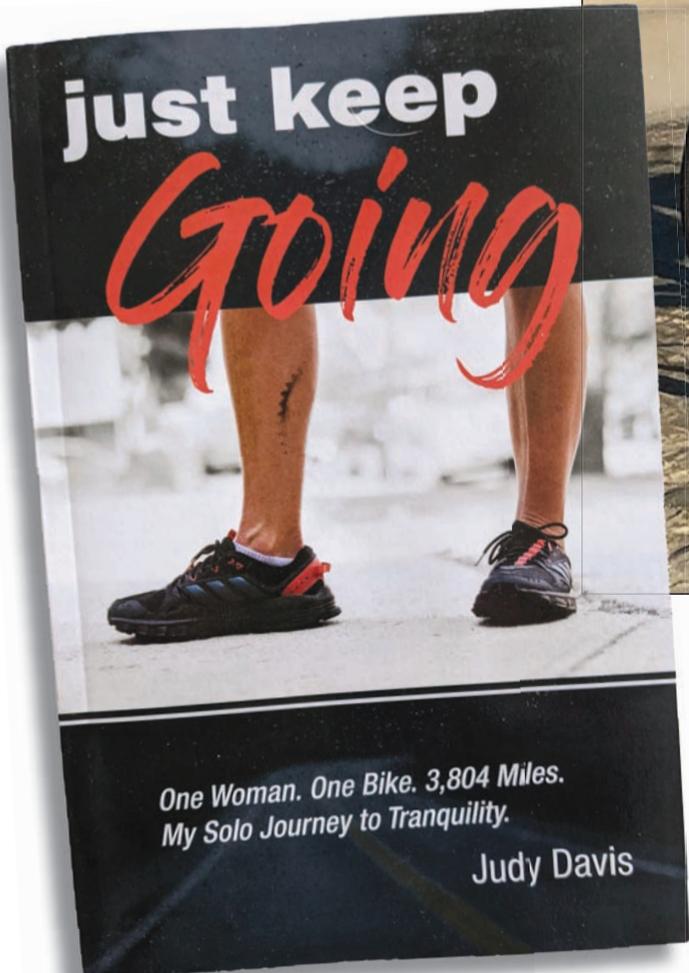
"I wanted to do it then and there," she said. That didn't happen.

Friends and family questioned the undertaking. She went into planning mode. Davis gave additional purpose to her personal challenge. She set out to create an endowment to fund swimming scholarships at the Fox Point Boys and Girls Club. From her network of acquaintances and family, she raised \$75,000.

Predictably, not everything went as planned. She flew to Oregon in July of 2018. She imagined that her bicycle, which had been shipped ahead, would be ready to pedal. It wasn't, and she feared her schedule would have to be altered. Although it was after working hours, she called the shop where it had been delivered.



READY TO START: With the Pacific Ocean as a backdrop, Judy Davis and the bike she pedaled from Oregon to Rhode Island. (Photo courtesy of Judy Davis)



She was in for a revelation that she said repeated itself throughout her trip - total strangers wanted to help her. The man answering knew instantly who she was and told her he was working on the bike and it would be ready.

"It was a beautiful day, 75 degrees, exhilarating," she says of the moment a friend who accompanied her to Oregon passed her and waved goodbye. She was on her own with all those miles ahead.

As a former cop, she had a gun, but she didn't pack it. "Guns are heavy," she said. She wasn't looking to add weight to her 45-pound pack. Also, she didn't carry a tent or camping gear. Davis doesn't care for camping, and she planned to stay in hotels and inns. She wanted a shower after pedaling 50 to 115 miles a day and a good night's sleep. She also wanted to meet the people along the way.

She tells of a "bunkhouse" in Jackson, Montana, where she spent one night. She joined the couple for a drink on their porch and asked questions about Jackson. How big was it?

Davis (Continued from page 25)

Her host started on one side of main street and started naming the residents and then went to the other side. When he finished, he came up with a total of 30 people. She was disheartened by many villages and towns. The bones of once sustainable communities were there, but stores and businesses were closed.

"Life has passed them by ... stores closed by Amazon."

But the people she met were full of life. It was the midst of a heated election, politics had polarized the nation, yet she always found people interested in her story and willing to help. She avoided talking politics. She never felt threatened. She also learned her physical limitations. The first week was the hardest. It was up the mountains sometimes at such a slow pace that the bike wobbled and she had to push it ahead. Going down the other side was easier on the legs, but not the hands and arms. The constant application of the brakes left her hands tingling and weak.

Montana, which she estimated made up for a quarter to a third of the distance, never seemed to end. She put together three days of pedaling nearly 100 miles a day.

"It really took a toll," she said. Davis took a day's break from riding to recover.

"I still can't believe my body allowed me to do this," she said.

Throughout with the use of an app, her sisters could follow her trip, knowing exactly where she was until she hit a stretch where there wasn't cell phone coverage. Family back home were alarmed, but they finally connect by the end of the day.

Entering North Dakota, she covered 80 miles without making a turn. And then there were the trucks. Most feared were logging trucks.

"Logging truckers hate cyclists," she said. They wouldn't give her an inch, although the road was open. Davis learned what to expect. When she heard them approaching, she pulled off the road rather than risk the consequences.

The bike, which she named Crazy Horse, became a companion, there to listen to her and to carry her. Davis carried a few spare parts including a chain that never broke.

Would she do it again?

Davis said she has had enough of cycling for now, besides she finds it too dangerous between the trucks and texting motorists. She is back to running.

The trip lives on in her book "Just Keep Going." It tells the story of the people she met. In a recent letter published in the Providence Journal, she gave a brief overview of her trek, concluding, "Let's get to know each other for who we are as individuals rather than what tribe we declare ourselves to be in. Once we know each other it's far easier to have a rational discussion about our differences rather than going all in with a shallow declaration. Save the vitriol for the voting booth."

Davis is an appellate attorney in the office of Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha.



WHAT IT WAS LIKE: Judy Davis talks with Dennis Sleister, a member of the Warwick Rotary Club, following her talk describing her 3,804-mile trip across this country by bicycle. (Beacon Communications photo)



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