Vol. 26, Number 11 · 28 Pages

COMPLIMENTARY

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Padlocks or poop

Lock the fields or let the dogs run? By RORY SCHULER baseball coach, softball coach and little

There's nothing quite like walking out onto a freshly raked ball diamond on a crisp spring afternoon — squinting up at the sunlight and blindly walking into the freshly clipped outfield grass.

Nothing sours that moment faster than sinking your sole into a steaming

At its core, the debate over whether to lock town-owned and maintained baseball fields has stirred strong emotions on

Taxpayers want access to the fields, however taxpayers also want those fields to stay clean and clear of feces.

"After meeting with the high school

league president, in order to ensure the integrity of the fields for their use, I've made the decision to lock all the fields, except one, to mitigate the damage," Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said Wednesday morning.

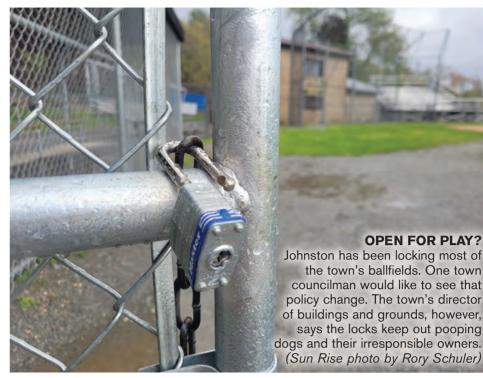
Complaint Department

"I've been getting a lot of complaints," Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti said at last week's Town Council meeting.

"Why are we locking the fields and keeping the kids off?" he asked.

Those mounds of dog droppings are a primary reason why the town typically keeps baseball fields locked, according

LOCKS - PAGE 7





'Their footprints will be everlasting at Johnston High School'

By PETE FONTIANE

The Panther blue and white balloons were affixed to matching ribbons and placed on top of Panther blue and white table coverings. The school-colored decorations were signs that something special was about to take place inside the Janice D. Mele Memorial Library at Johnston High School.

JHS Guidance Director Debbie Licciardi, with a supporting cast led by School Superintendent Bernard Di-Lullo Jr., Assistant Superintendent Julie Zarrella, Principal Matt Velino and faculty members, upheld the tradition of honoring the Panthers Top 10 seniors with a luncheon.

Those students are, beginning with No. 1: Catrina Zinni, Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye, Willson El Hage, Vincent Chan, Talia Laflamme, Allison Benoit,

Emma Homenick, Sierra Jeetan, Makayla Scuncio and Derek Salvatore.

The students and proud parents sat at round tables and enjoyed a bountiful buffet prepared and served by Chartwell Food Services.

However, it was no ordinary buffet — more like a food fest as many people concurred — for the Class of 2023's Top 10 seniors and their proud parents

TOP 10 - PAGE 5



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Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Camani Batista. Camani is a senior and an Honor Roll student. He was also a starter on this year's Championship Basketball team. Camani was nominated by Ms. Laurie Whitman. Ms. Whitman said, "Camani is a joy to have in class! He gives 100% every single day and contributes greatly to building a positive, collaborative learning environment. His mega-watt smile never fails to make my day. He is a stellar student, athlete, and JHS community member." (Photos submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

Editor's Note: This is the newest installment of an ongoing weekly series highlighting Johnston's amazing students. Staff at Johnston High School will be nominating students and submitting a caption and a photo for publication. You'll find each week's winning Panther on Page 2 of the Johnston Sun Rise.

Say you saw it in the Johnston SunRise

SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



PB&CHALLENGE: Johnston Lady Panthers took up a collection for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank as part of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) Peanut Butter Express Challenge. Peanut butter collected by the schools will be donated to the RI Community Food Bank, which each month serves 68,000 people many of them children, according to the RIIL website. (Photo courtesy the Johnston Lady Panthers)

Class of 2025 hosts Cinco de **Mayo Quarter Auction Bingo**

By LOGAN MARTINS Special to the Sun Rise

he JHS Class of 2025 invites you to join them on an evening of fun at their Quarter Auction Bingo at 6 p.m. on May 5. At the Quarter Auction Bingo, attendees can have a good time with a chance of com-

ing home with various different prizes. An entry ticket is only \$10 and includes 5 paddles and bingo cards for the night's games and auctions.

Not only will you be entered into the night's activities, but you will also be able to shop from many amazing vendors. So save the date on May 5th in the JHS Cafeteria, to attend this amazing event. Doors open at

For more information, please contact 2025 Class Advisor, Stephanie Galasso, at 401-808-1355 or Class President, Lucas Anderson, at 2025landerson@johnstonschools.org. Tickets may be purchased at the door or prior to the event.

Why should you support the JHS Class of 2025? After being close to our halfway point through high school, there is still much for us to do and plan. We have to plan proms, floats, and a senior trip among other things. The previously mentioned activities need funding and planning to be done, so every penny that we get from these events helps us enjoy our final two years

Editor's Note: Logan Martins serves as a Class of 2025 Representative on the Johnston High School Student Council. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes dispatches submitted by members of the student organization.

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JOHNSTON Spirit Wear Store

JHS Class of 2024 holds Apparel Fundraiser

By ALESSANDRA PESARE Special to the Sun Rise

he Johnston High School's Class of 2024 is proud to announce that they are reopening their online apparel shop.

T-shirts, sweatshirts, joggers, sweatpants, jackets shorts and more will be available in the shop. It also includes alumni gear!

None of the apparel displays any class graduation year. All orders were due by April 16, but the deadline has been extended. For any questions, please contact advisor, Mi chael Harwood at mharwood@johnstonschools.org.

Any purchases made from this fundraiser will help defray the costs of the class of 2024's Junior Prom, and also future activities during their senior year. We thank you in advance for supporting us in this fundraiser. The shop can be found by looking up this link in your search browser: dmksports.tuosystems.com/stores/jhs22

Editor's Note: Alessandra Pesare serves as Junior Class President. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by the Johnston High School Student Council.

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SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



RETRO POSE: Bringing back the 1980's at Johnston's ECC, kindergarten twins Ava and Emma Vasconcelos dressed for the occasion. (Submitted photo)

Don't take art for granted



ART GRANT: Kerry L. Murphy, Johnston Senior High School Art Teacher and Fine Arts Co-Chair, received a legislative grant for \$1,000 from Johnston State Rep. Deb Fellela. The money will be used for Art Department technology and exhibition needs. (Photo courtesy Kerry L. Murphy)

JSC Senior Spotlight



Jerry J. Albre

Michigan native, Navy veteran & retired mechanic appreciates center activities

By ARIEL DORSEY Special to the Sun Rise

his week, we shine the Johnston community senior center spotlight on

Before becoming a Rhode Island resident, Jerry grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, where he was involved in sporting activities, mostly enjoying hunting and fishing.

After graduating school, Jerry spent most of his years in Norfolk, Virginia, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1962-1965. His main responsibility involved being a damage controlman, where he was honorably discharged in 2nd class.

Since then, Jerry worked in the auto body business. He earned successful titles in the field, using skills that were credited to his four years spent in advanced auto mechanic trade school.

The Johnston Community Center means a lot to Jerry. He enjoys the various activities offered, and looks forward to joining their Tai Chi classes.

Jerry loves the community saying that the "people are wonderful and easy to communicate with." One thing he values most is the environment that's allowed him to connect with other veterans who come through the center's doors.

He gives all his appreciation to its director Richard DelFino, thanking him for helping to create a great community in which he and others can utilize.

Editor's Note: JSC Senior Spotlight is a new regular series in the Johnston Watch for submitted dispatches from the Johnston Senior Center written by JSC intern Ariel Dorsey, regularly in the Johnston Sun Rise.

■ Top 10

(Continued from page 1)

"Our food service does a great job," id DiLullo as he complimented, and thanked, Chartwell's Directors Justin Erickson and Administrative Assistant Erin Shoemaker. "This is a great presentation."

The lunchtime smorgasbord included salad, chicken parmesan, lasagna rollups, pasta primavera, assorted sandwiches (some in split rolls and others in wraps) and assorted desserts.

JHS faculty veterans Staci Landi, Kathy Landzierski and Anna Herbert said the event was "no ordinary luncheon."

Like the food, last Friday's exceptional event only had one speaker, Licciardi, who delivered a brief thank you in honor of the JHs Class of 2023's "Top 10 Se-

"Thank you for all attending this annual event celebrating our top ten seniors," Licciardi began. "It is always a joyous occasion as we join with students, family friends and faculty acknowledge these outstanding men and women of our community,"

She paused, then announced, "Mrs.

Volante is unable to join us due to her participation at a Brown University awards ceremony and wishes you all an enjoyable afternoon. She extends her best wishes to our students for their past successes and future endeavors."

To which DiLullo later offered: matter what type of celebration we offer to the top ten seniors of Johnston High School's graduating class, we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments. These graduates are models of true, well-rounded, serious students (who are) not only skilled in the academic areas but wo also shine in various school and community organizations, the performing arts and sports."

He also told attendees: "The lunch today honors our top ten students and their families who are an important part of their accomplishments as their support and encouragement guided these fine students to their success. The recognition is well deserved as these students worked hard for not only this year, but rather for the last 13 years of school and I'm sure they will continue to be great successes. I do want them to know that they are an impressive group and even though they are leaving us, their footprints will be everlasting at Johnston High School."

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

ORAL HEALTH LINKED TO OVERALL HEALTH

Oral health can tell us a lot about our overall health. Our mouths are full of bacteria, and our mouths are also the gateway to the rest of our body through our and promote total patient well-being. DENTAL ARTS digestive and respiratory tracts. Daily brushing and GROUP offers this column in the hopes of educating flossing help keep bacteria at bay, but oral bacteria are associated with several health conditions. Poor oral health has been linked to heart conditions such as endocarditis, clogged arteries, and strokes. Oral bacteria can enter lungs and cause conditions like pneumonia. Gum disease has been linked to pregnancy complications including premature birth and low birth weight. Conversely, some medical conditions can affect oral health-like diabetes, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's, and HIV/AIDS-by reducing bone mass and the body's resistance to infections. Acknowledging the inherent connection between

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Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, May 4, 2023



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DRAMA DUO: Isabella Ribezzo plays Nurse Kelly in the upcoming three-act play at JHS, while Benjamin Monahan portrays Dr. William P. Chumley. (Photos

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Police Log

SHOPLIFTING

Around 12:50 p.m., March 25, Warwick police on patrol near the Motel 6, located at 20 Jefferson Boulevard, noticed a black Jeep registered to a woman who was wanted on an outstanding warrant.

Police investigated, and discovered the suspect was staying at the hotel with a Johnston man who was also wanted by law enforcement.

Police knocked on the door of the motel room where the pair were staying. Eventually the door was opened by Jason Charles Dupuis, of 15 Myrtle Ave., Johnston. Dupuis was wanted by Warwick Police for one count of Shoplifting (greater than \$100, second offense, a misde-

Police also took Stephanie Dowling into custody. Dowling was also wanted by Warwick Police for one misdemeanor count of Shoplifting.

"It should be noted, upon running further checks on Dupuis and Dowling, I observed that they both had pending warrants from North Kingstown Police," Warwick Police Officer Nathaniel Gray wrote in the arrest report.

Dowling had an outstanding warrant for Shoplifting and Con-

spiracy, according to police. Dupuis had outstanding North Kingstown Police warrants for felony counts of Shoplifting and Conspiracy.

The Warwick charges originated on March 17, when Warwick Police responded to a report of shoplifting at Kohl's at 650 Bald Hill Road. The pair allegedly took clothing valued at \$154.65, by concealing it under a jacket while inside the fitting room. Police identified the pair after watching security surveillance foot-

PURSUIT

Around 9:20 p.m. on April 23, Johnston Police "joined in a pursuit initiated by the Providence Police Department of a vehicle that was observed fleeing the scene of a shots fired call in their city," according to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Viei-

"The pursuit ultimately ended on Route 95 South in Massachusetts at mile marker 7 where the suspect/ operator was taken into custody,' Vieira said after the chase. "The operator will be arraigned in Massachusetts as a fugitive from jus-

The incident remains under in-

vestigation. Vieira said additional information will be made available at a later time.

DRUG TAKEBACK

Johnston Police held a successful Drug Take Back Day event.

"We'd like to thank the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for their National Prescription Drug Take Back Day program held today," police said last week on the department's Facebook page. "Because of their efforts, along with the outstanding response from our community, we were able to collect more than 100 pounds of prescription drugs for proper disposal. We're grateful for everyone who participated, and for their commitment to help keep our streets safe."

"Remember, it's important to dispose of any unused or expired medications to prevent drug abuse or misuse," Johnston police remind the public. "If you missed the event today, but still have prescriptions to dispose of, visit the Johnston Police Department headquarters and utilize our drug disposal bin. No syringes or liquids, please."



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■ Locks

(Continued from page 1)

to Chris Correia, Johnston's Director of Buildings and Grounds (and a retired police officer and former Director of Parks and Recreation), who responded at-length to Civetti's concerns.

"It's kind of a hot topic year-to-year, relative to the fields, the locks, the security," Correia explained. "We do our best to maintain the condition of the fields. So the significant challenges posed with open gates have been countless canines, running around on the fields, at all times of day.'

Disrespectful dog owners don't follow the rules.

"They disregard signs, tear up the fields, frequently there's dog feces on the field," Correia said. "Parents don't want their kids to step in or fall in said animal feces on the fields. Quite frankly, I've actually stepped in it myself when I've been there checking on the condition of the field ... at Memorial Park.'

Padlock or Poop

Civetti said he's noticed new padlocks on multiple fields in town.

"Why are those fields being locked?" He asked. "I'd like to request that the council get those locks removed.

He said the children of Johnston "have to be able to utilize the fields.'

"They have basketball courts ... they have rec centers they can go in ... but now they can't go out ... onto a baseball field," Civetti said last Tuesday. "Down there on Sunday, you see a father with his son or his daughter, looking to go out in the field and utilize it, and they can't go on the field. So I'd like to have all locks removed from the baseball fields throughout the

The fields are clearly posted: for use by permit only and no dogs allowed. "Unfortunately a lot of

town.

disregard the signs," Correia said. "We put up a lot of signs. It's a novel idea ... in hopes that people would obey and adhere to the signage. But frequently they don't."

Correia took responsibility for locking the fields.
"In regards to the newer

locks ... I put those on myself; purchased them and put them on myself," he said. "Because, again, frequently I've been out at the fields, just to assess the progress of the maintenance workers, the hard work of the ... staff ... and dogs all over the place ... feces all over."

Permit Required

Johnston regulates who uses the town's fields, requiring permits that can be acquired by contacting the Recreation Department.

"Not to mention But there's been countless occasions ... there's an inordinate number of people that show up and they don't call or request a permit for usage," Correia said. "Insurance obligations ... people can't just show up and do what they want in terms of engaging in whatever activity.

Correia said he wishes "we had a wider ... parcel in Memorial Park just for generic field activities, of any type, but we don't."

"Really it's just a matter of security, and safety and protection of the town in terms of the property and (chance) of injury," Correia said. "People disregard the signs ... It's just been yearto-year-to-year a significant issue. Field use by permit only. They don't call for permits. They rip the signs down. There are signs that say 'no dogs permitted.' They're still on the

Correia recalled a recent interaction with one local dog-owner:

"I had one gentleman, just recently a couple weeks ago, he had two large dogs ... he actually said to me, when I addressed him ... and politely advised him what the circumstances were ... but he actually said to me, 'Yeah I saw the sign, but I saw that the first fine was only \$25 so I figured why not, I'd pay it if I got caught.""

That was "just an example," of many, Correia said.

"Simply the condition of the fields, the money that we spent, the time that the guys take to prepare the fields, security and playing by the proper entities without incurring a substantial lawsuit when someone's out there and they're not permitted," Correia ex-plained. "If some people are upset about not being able to (use the fields), my sincere apologies there. But there are countless other people that don't use it in a proper fashion and really debilitated the fields."

Pick-up Games

Civetti argued against the policy.

"Again, what are these youths supposed to do when they want to go out?" He asked. "They had school vacation two weeks ago. You had a bunch of players from the high school that want to go down there and have a pickup game and they can't play. So at a time while we're trying the children out of the house and be active, we're telling them they can't use any facilities in this town. Why do we have a public park if it's not for use of all children?"

"Councilman, I simply ask, that if there's an organized request for activity, that they come into the office, or inform the office," Correia replied.

'Neighborhood kids want to go out and play and you're telling them there's no place in Johnston they can play," Civetti responded.

Civetti has coached baseball in town for de-

"For 40 plus years I've been involved in the league and we haven't had this problem," Civetti said. "Now all of a sudden all the fields have to be locked. I think that's wrong. I think we're taking away

from the children in this town, telling them to go other places ... to play. Why don't we lock the basketball courts, the tennis courts and the rec center?" "I understand your con-

cern councilman," Correia answered. "And again, as a sports fan, a parent and a coach, I sympathize with

Correia has been following the mayor's guidance on field-locking.

"The hardest piece of property to maintain within the town are the baseball fields," Polisena said Wednesday morning. "Over the years, the Director of Buildings and Grounds has encountered numerous examples of people with dogs, dog feces, dirt bikes, trash, outof-town leagues and other instances of the fields being destroyed after the crew preps it for our Town's organized leagues. The baseball fields are not to be treated like the blacktop basketball courts at the park."

The town's "locked fields may be used (free for Johnston residents, at a cost for out-of-town) with permission, as long as that use does not interfere with any organized town leagues," Polisena said. " Field 4 at Woodlake will remain open to the public, except during prep, as that field is used infrequently compared to the others. I also consulted Mayor Hopkins of Cranston, who practices the same policy for the same reasons. I would encourage anyone with a dog to use the actual dog park in the Town."

Goose Poop

Unfortunately, it's not just dog poop clinging to players shoes.

"I think we have a bigger problem with the geese on the field," Civetti said.

Correia said the town is hoping for grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to address the geese feces problem.

Padlocks don't stop geese.

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BBB CINEEL NEMLA

Junior career night offers glimpse of the real world

By PETE FONTAINE

Some of New England's top universities and colleges came to Cherry Hill last Thursday night for Johnston High School's annual Junior Class Career Night.

"It's an important event for students — as well as their parents," Joe Pirraglia, the Career Coordinator at JHS, emphasized. "It's an annual spring event that in years past has been very beneficial to our students as well as their parents."

Such was the case week when a total of 21 in-and-out of state schools set up impressive displays on longtables in the cafeteria, providing extensive literature about each

"Tonight was a huge success," Pirraglia assessed. "We received lots of good comments from parents that each school representative took time to answer a myriad of questions concerning their respective courses of study.

Take William Boffi, who lives in Scituate and is the Vice President for Enrollment Management at famed Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Boffi enjoyed talking with Paul Smith, who works for Picerne Real Estate and his son, junior Nate Smith, who has expressed interest in a career in accounting.

Likewise, Samantha Landry came from Boston University and set up next to a Bridgewater State booth staffed by Maryellen Harvey. Greg Breen, who represented Curry College of Milton, Massachusetts, fielded numerous queries about the small yet well-known school.

The night also had a flashback when Amanda Mele, daughter of the late School Committee Chairwoman Janice D. Mele, for whom the JHS library is named, came with her son Landon Faucher — Janice's grandson. They spoke with Hunter Girard, an admission counselor at Curry College, about his interests in sports management and architec-

Meanwhile, Courtney McEntee, assistant director of the Important College Planning Center that's based in Warwick, was among the night's many resource contacts for parents who were especially interested in many different post-high school educations, from financial aid to courses of study.

The entire list of visiting schools included: Assumption College, Bryant University, Roger Williams University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, URI, CCRI, Salve Regina University, New England Tech, Johnson & Wales University, Stonehill College, Bridgewater State University, Bristol Community College, Lasell University, Curry College, Nichols College, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell and MTTI.



GRAND GUEST: Cortney McEntee, assistant director of the College Planning Center, is welcomed by JHS Career Coordinator Joe Pirraglia, Guidance Director Debbie Liccardi and Principal Matt Velino to last week's career night for JHS juniors.

AWESOME ADVICE:

William Boffi, who lives in Scituate and is Vice President for Enrolment Management at Assumption College, chats with Paul Smith and his son Nate about the Worcester based school.



COLLEGE CONNECTION:

Greg Breen of Curry College enjoys a lighter moment with Amanda Mele, daughter of the late Janice D. Mele, and her son Landon Faucher about his future collegiate plans.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Who owns the shore?

Where does public access to Rhode Island's immaculate coastlines end and private, limited, and protected ownership begin?

It is a complex question with no certain answers which will undergo further scrutiny this week at the Rhode Island Senate, where a bill (S0417) introduced by Warwick's Mark McKenney will be discussed in a continuation of efforts that began over a year ago, when a different version of that bill came up late in the legislative session at the RI House of Representatives. McKenney looks to answer where the public right of way along a beach ends and how is that measured when there is a seawall or a rock embankment from the water's edge. Does the public have the right to set up chairs, spread a blanket and have a party on the lawn of a homeowner?

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

would seem to be "no" and that's what McKenney reasons.

premise The

and arguments for advocates in support of increased public shoreline access is somewhat simple. Rhode Island's Constitution states that the public shall have access to the shoreline, but centuries of development have rendered many of those access points to the shore firmly within the confines of private property. The result, those in favor of the bill claim, is that areas once utilized for public access (and marked as such on historic maps), are now out of reach of members of the public, and solely enjoyed by owners of private prop-

Private property owners, as you might imagine, see it differently. As taxpayers who purchased valuable parcels, they see no reason, morally or legally, that any random stranger should be allowed to take a stroll or set up a beach chair in what for years has amounted to their own private backyard.

Regardless of where the state's legal authorities (namely the Attorney General's office and the Coastal Resources Management Council) lands on the issue, and regardless of whether the legislation proposed in the House or Senate (they vary somewhat on where exactly that line between public and private property should begin) actually passes, it is all but guaranteed that private property owners will bring lawsuits against any decision that threatens their hold on such picturesque and valuable pieces of property.

We are of the mindset that important recreational resources, such as Rhode Island's beautiful coastlines, do not benefit the public good when they are confined to use by a handful of citizens. Those citizens have reaped the benefits of those natural resources, which have ballooned their home values. It seems only fair that there be some sort of compromise, even if just specifically in the instances where private property has overtaken historically public access points.

We commend our legislators for tackling the issue.



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GUEST OPINION

Restore the shore to Rhode Islanders

By STATE SENATOR MARK McKENNEY Special to the Sun Rise

A right isn't a right when it's been taken away. When it's "practically nonexistent."

Even before Roger Williams' 1663 colonial charter (per Native Americans ... long before), Rhode Islanders' shoreline rights were recognized: for fishing, swimming, gathering seaweed, drying fish, traversing the coast and more.

Under the Public Trust Doctrine, rooted in English common law, the King (later, colonies and states) held the shore in trust, to benefit the people. Our 1843 Constitution stated: "The people shall continue to enjoy and freely exercise all the rights of fishery, and the privileges of the shore, to which they have been heretofore entitled under the charter and usages of the state."

But in 1982, those rights were taken away. Rhode Island's Supreme Court (mistakenly relying on an inapplicable California case) said Mean High Water ("MHW") should be considered the public access boundary, thereby restricting people's rights on the shore.

The MHW hasn't worked. It's not a line, but an 18.6 year average of tidal elevations - and scientific expertise and equipment are needed to find it. It changes frequently. So trespass prosecutions have been few and unsuccessful.

The MHW is often under water. With sea level rise and erosion, access can be impossible or available for mere minutes at low tide.

The Court said it didn't want the public's rights to be diminished - rendered "practically nonexistent". But that's what happened.

It's time to restore those rights - restore the shore to the people. Traditionally, Rhode Islanders haven't stayed below any MHW (who knows

where that is?) or seaweed line. They've enjoyed the whole shore.

But some shorefront owners, believing they own everything, harass beachgoers. Conversely, owners are upset (understandably) when people feel entitled to go up on seawalls and lawns. This confusion and confrontation has had a chilling effect on use of the shore.

A 2022 commission addressed access on and along the shore (access to the beach is separate issue, for another day). After considering much evidence, the commission determined a reasonable mark to work from - the seaweed line. It's generally recognizable to casual observers. Evidence showed a long-established common law right to use the shore, at least 10' feet above that seaweed. As the basis for a recently-passed House bill (6' above), that's a reasonable

But we can do better. Restricting people to that line doesn't restore their rights. Our Constitution doesn't limit people to just part of the shore, or some area around seaweed.

Senate bill 417 is a clarification the public's rights. In other states, access to the shore means citizens can enjoy it fully - to the vegetation line. In the Ocean State, we should, too.

Contrary to owners' arguments, the bill doesn't allow illegal acts. It addresses "where" folks can go on the shore. Local authorities address "what" they

Landowners claim people will trespass on seawalls and lawns. But the bill is explicit: access is allowed only on sandy or rocky beach. Not on seawalls or other legally constructed shoreline infrastructure, and not where there's vegetation - such as dune grasses or

Some activists want to be able to traverse the shore even when seawalls or piers or marinas preclude it. But the bill makes it clear that "the public's rights and privileges of the shore shall not be afforded where no passable shore ex-

Shorefront owners will sue, claiming their property's being taken. But the shore isn't theirs. RI's Constitution (especially 1986 amendments), strongly protects access rights. Our legislature is charged with protecting those: that power must be "liberally construed" and "shall not be deemed to be a public use of private property."

Landowners will claim "takings" under the US Constitution. But other states have given similar access, and shorefront owners' lawsuits have had little success. Moreover, recent federal decisions support greater access.

This bill clarifies rights which are now 'practically nonexistent". Crafting a solution to a thorny problem, it simply restores what the people had before 1982 a shore that's been theirs all along.

LEADERS AT LOGGERHEADS



SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

Caring for Yourself Over 50

The Southern Providence County Regional Prevention Coalition, coordinated by Tri-County Community Action Agency, has announced free presentations and tool kits to help older adults manage issues that may affect them.

The initiative, funded by the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, focuses on medication management, risk factors for overdose in the elderly, the dangers of mixing prescription drugs, what you need to know about opioid drugs (both legal and illicit), the new faces of addiction, and the stigma attached to addiction. The talk also explores how to identify an overdose and provides information about the overdose reversal medication Naloxone.

In the tool kit, attendees will receive a 34-page handbook, "Caring for Yourself Over 50," which shares information about medications, caregiving, mental health, and resources to seek help. The kit also contains a hot/cold ice pack; pill organizer; dispose RX; a journal for managing medications, and a fun word search.

A representative from the coalition is presenting at several senior centers in the area during the month of May in celebration of Older Americans Month. The schedule is as follows:

- Johnston Senior Center Wednesday, May 10 11 a.m.
- Smithfield Senior Center Monday, May 15 1 p.m. Glocester Senior Center Tuesday, May 16 11 a.m. Scituate Senior Center JUNE TBD

Registration is suggested, as there are limited supplies. Please call (401) 830-1788 to

Johnston Gus vs. Hoses Charity Basketball Game

Local 307 Johnston Police Department and Local 1950 Johnston Fire Department will hold its first annual Guns vs. Hoses charity basketball game on May 19, 6 p.m. tip-off at the Johnston Senior High School Gymnasium, 345 Cherry Hill Rd, Johnston. Half time game: Johnston High School Teachers vs. Johnston High School Students. JPD and JFD Touch-a-Truck Event at 5 p.m. Entry donation: \$5.00. All proceeds to Local 307 and Local 1950 Charitable Funds, previous donations include, but not limited to, local charities and youth sports.

Ocean State Orchid Society

The Ocean State Orchid Society will hold its Annual Ocean State Orchid Society Auction on Saturday, April 29, 11 a.m. (Preview at 10:30 a.m.), Rocky Hill Grange, 1340 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI, 02818. Entrance in rear of building.

Come to the auction for the chance to purchase orchids not commonly available at big box stores and house plant nurseries! The Ocean State Orchid Society will have orchids imported from Hawaii for sale. The will have a variety of orchid genera available for auction, including Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, Cattleya and many others. The starting bid for all orchids will be \$15.00. In addition to having a unique opportunity to purchase rare orchids, come speak to an OSOS member to get care instructions to help ensure your growing success! OSOS will have an Orchid 101 meeting in May to assist in the culture of your newly purchased plants. Complimentary refreshments available. Public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

JHS Art Show

Since the arrival of Covid 19, the Johnston High School Art Department has put together their annual art shows in digital form. However, this year, on Wednesday, May 3, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Johnston High School library, the school's artists will present their works in-person.

"Exhibition is an important part of being an artist. It gives us an opportunity to interact with viewers who bring their own unique perspectives, based on their individual life experiences," said Kerry L. Murphy, Johnston Senior High School Art Teacher and Fine Arts Co-Chair. "That communion between artist and viewer can bring new ideas to the work and lends itself to opening up meaningful conversations."

Coed Middle School Volleyball

Johnston students currently in sixth, seventh and eighth grade are eligible to play Coed Middle School Volleyball in this year's spring season. Students can register now. Space is limited. The fee is \$70 per individual (\$35 for each additional sibling). Checks and money orders should be made payable to JYSA. (Refunds will not be issued without a doctor's note and are subject to a partial refund.)

The dates for 5 more sessions of volleyball: May 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 (from 2:15-3:45 p.m. at

the Johnston Indoor Recreation Center).

Students can register at the Johnston Recreation Office, 1583 Hartford Ave., Johnston, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information call 401-272-3460 or email johnstonrec.com

AARP Day Trips

Bronx Zoo Trip, Tuesday, May 16. Bus pickup from the Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 7 a.m., return time is approximately 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$114/person. For more information and final payment, call Maureen at 401-828-5188.

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Trip for Thursday, June 22. Bus pickup from Exit 19 Park & Ride on Hopkins Hill Road at 9 a.m., return time is approximately 5 p.m. Cost is \$119/person. For more information call Maureen at 828-5188. Final payment is due by Thursday, May 25.

Youth Track & Field

It's time to register for Johnston Youth Track & Field.

The Johnston Recreation Department is also looking for volunteer coaches and spon-

sors. Register your child and get involved in the community.

Anyone interested in signing up can stop by the Johnston Recreation Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The program costs \$65 per individual, and \$40 for each additional sibling. Checks and money orders are accepted (checks should be made payable to JYSA). The program is available to boys and girls currently in grades 1-8. For more information (including schedules, registration forms, and more) go to johnstonrec.com.

The season will run from Thursday, April 27 through Thursday, June 15.

Go Hog Wild for FARA

At noon on May 6, at the Portuguese American Social Club, 32 Fenwood Ave., Smithfield, . Includes full meal with pig and sides, hamburgers and hotdogs. Tickets: \$40 per person. Free for children 12 years and under. Purchase tickets in advance or

The event will benefit the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) and has been organized by the family and friends of Johnston native Matthew DiIorio. The team has raised more than \$1 million to help find a cure for Friedreich's Ataxia, the illness that claimed Matthew's life.

More information on FARA can be found at www.curefa.org/rfmg (checks to FARA can be mailed to 533 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335; reference RFMG).

Watch for announcements of upcoming events connected to the Race for Matt & Grace fundraising effort.

SCOOPS - PAGE 12

SCOOP OF THE WEEK



Yoga at the Library

Yoga at the Marion J. Mohr Public Library is now open to all ages. Call the library to register. Sponsored by Tri-County HEZ, this class is taught by a certified professional and is free. The class is held on Mondays at 2 p.m., through May 15. This is a great opportunity to get introduced to yoga and maybe win a prize. It's not too late to join. The Library is located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. Call 401-231-4980, email info@mohrlibrary.org, or visit their website at mohrlibrary.org.

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ranging in ages from 30 to 90 years old. (Photo courtesy Louis J. Spremulli)

Bocci bowlers gather for feast, wine & shared tales of victory

By LOUIS J. SPREMULLI Special to the Sun Rise

bout 40 bocci players got together for their banquet at the Prata Society. The food was prepared by Ralph's catering and it was like eating at a wedding. The food was five courses and there was wine on the tables.

This was a winter league that ran from November to March with eight teams for 21 weeks.

The league was run by Chairman Brian Spatola, Treasurer Mike Tanzi, Vice-Chairman Pat Genco and Secretary Dennis Saccocia.

Each team had a manager and five players — a mixture of older and younger men who were just supposed to be enjoying themselves. But once the game gets started the real personalities come out. Some just want to win and others are there for fun. The big weapon is the tape measure and who is measuring for the point.

This is an inside court and a very hard surface to roll

on. One of the biggest jobs on each team is to be the hitter and knock out the other teams balls. The last person would roll in for the point. The problem is on any night you either have it or not. Just like the pitcher in baseball. The ball just does not go where you throw it. My team came in sixth place and I just don't get all the competitive stress for nothing.

Editor's Note: Louis J. Spremulli regularly submits pieces to the Johnston Sun Rise, specializing in coverage of the region's Italian American culture.

Holy Apostles host Mission Fundraiser

By LOUIS J. SPREMULLI Special to the Sun Rise

On Saturday, April 22, the Holy Apostles Catholic Church parish hall was packed with 175 guests for a Teens Mission Fundraiser.

Music was by presented Ambrosiani.

This was a home cooked macaroni and meatball meal with salad and dessert. Everything was prepared on-site by volunteers.

Michael Santilli is the director of this program and every year raises funding for missionaries to travel to Montego Bay, Jamaica. They will travel from June 17-24 of this year.

Holy Apostles Catholic Church Rev. William Ledoux was very happy to see such a great turnout for this event. There was also a raffle to raise additional funding.

Editor's Note: Louis J. Spremulli regularly submits pieces to the Johnston Sun Rise, specializing in coverage of local happenings and the region's Italian American cul-



TEAM MISSION: The mission team is comprised of 13 teens and five adults including Holy Apostles Catholic Church Rev. William Ledoux, Pastor and Michael Santilli, Director of Youth Ministry. (Photo courtesy Louis J. Spremulli)

CLUES ACROSS

19 63 64 Two-year-old sheep 20. Member of a people inhabiting Nasty manner

- Baking measurement (abbr.)
- Education-based groups
- Runners run them
- Japanese ankle sock
- Grave
- Japanese industrial city People of southern Ghana
- Particular designs
- Device fitted to something
- Pirates' preferred alcohol
- Expression of sympathy
- Rock guitarist's tool
- Ancient city of Egypt You ___ what you sow
- Ruined
- Narrations
- Body art (slang) Fencing sword
- Apartment buildings Type of missile
- **Fathers**
- Extremely high frequency
- Type of school
- 49. Incorrect letters

- 54. One who accepts a bet Indian prince
- Asian country
- Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
- "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
- Son of Shem Talked wildly
- 66. Discount
- 67. Not good
- 68. Growing out
- **CLUES DOWN**

Actor Damon

- A call used to greet someone
- Part-time employee
- **Emaciation** "Westworld" actor Harris
- Gains possession of
- Relaxing spaces
- 23rd star in a constellation
- Northern grouse Monetary unit of Bangladesh
- Manila hemp
- 12. Unites muscle to bone
- Makes deep cuts in 17. 18-year period between eclipses

- Expression of creative skill
- 27. Seems less in impressive Harry Kane's team

Synthetic rubbers

- 30. Gland secretion
- Action of feeling sorrow
- Deceptive movement More dried-up
- Crimson
- 42. Actress Ryan
- Adherents of a main branch of Islam Accomplished American president
- Side of a landform facing an
- advancing glacier
- Sheep breed
- 52. Appetizer
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Influential film critic
- NY Giants ownership family
- 57. Type of script
- 58. Assist 59. London park
- 61. Bar bill
- 65. In reply indicator

Happy Nurses Week

to all the amazing nurses out there! Your selflessness

> your patients is truly inspiring.

and dedication to

Thank you for everything you do! From Cherry Hill Manor

BEACONCOMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTS Spring HOME & GARDEN

Pick up your copy while they last at these locations:



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- Market Basket
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Warwick

- Beacon Communications
 - Warwick Mall -Customer Service Desk
- · Seasons Corner Market -Post Road & Warwick Ave.
- Dave's Marketplace Hoxsie Tumbletown Laundromat
- Warwick Public Library Greenwood Credit Union
- **West Warwick** Tumbletown 2 Laundromat

■ Scoops

(Continued from page 10)

JRTC Fundraiser

The Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC) will hold a fundraiser at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, at the Kelley Gazzerro VFW Post 2812, 1418 Plainfield Pike, Cranston.

"Join us for laughs, silent auction, cash bar and a good time," according to the JRTC. "Please bring your own food/snacks. Tickets must be pur-

chased online in advance (\$35 each). Silent auction winners must pay with a credit card. Tickets are non-refundable. show is for adults 18 and over. For more information email info@johnstonri.gop.

OSDRI Boots on the Ground

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) is requesting volunteers to help for the 2023 Boots on the Ground for Heroes Memorial. Volunteers are needed for set up, weekend-of help, and breakdown. Set up days are as follows: Tuesday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; . Wednesday, May 24, , 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, May 25, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Friday, May 26, , 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Their number one priority is to get the memorial up with success and in the safest and most efficient way. Please be advised that the need for volunteers and volunteering duties may be subject to change at any given moment. OSDRI will be sending any updates about the volunteering needs to the email that was registered with the volunteer online registration.

If you are a corporate office or company who is interested in volunteering- EACH person volunteering needs to sign up through the OSDRI online registration. If your company sends out an internal volunteering portal, you will still need to sign up with OSDRI at our online portal as well. This helps us correctly account for how many people are attending to help.

Set up will be at Fort Adams in Newport. Set up duties consist of setting the boots out, cleaning up / shining boots, lacing boots, lining up boots on a predesigned grid, attaching name placards, stuffing boots, and placing out American flags. Volunteers should be physically able to bend down/walk.

We will also need volunteers for the actual event itself. Volunteers to assist with band setup/breakdown, parking in the main lot, assisting at both the entrance and at the exit of the fort, and other miscellaneous duties. We are looking for 2-4 people to fill each volunteer shift.

The following shifts are available: Saturday, May 27, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Monday, May 29, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Break down will be at

8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30. Break down duties consist of picking up boots, storing boots, picking up tags, picking up American Flags, and other miscellaneous duties. This is also a laborintensive activity which needs volunteer assis-

If anyone is interested in volunteering, they must sign up through the link: osdri.charityproud. org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/4506. Please move the calendar to May (if it is a different month) and click on the shift desired to sign up.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Amanda Dean at adean@ osdri.org or 401-383-4730

Johnston Historical **Society Event**

On Wednesday, May 31, the Johnston Historical Society will host an event exploring the John-

ston connection to the "Band of Brothers," a group of World War II veterans who fought their way across Europe and were immortalized in a book by Stephen Ambrose and an HBO se-

George Luz Jr., was blessed by an early introduction to the men of Company E, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division, in 1965 at the 101st Airborne Reunion. Luz was nine years old at the time, and that started a journey that his father, George Luz, began in August 1942 at Toccoa,

Although George Sr. was killed in a tragic accident in 1998, George Jr. made a promise to his father's memory that he would move forward and do everything as if he had survived. He reconnected with all his father's buddies and in true Easy Company form, they embraced him with the same esprit de corps that had brought these men together so many years ago.

■ SCOOPS - PAGE 13

Obituaries

Manuel Fernandes Ribeiro

Manuel Fernandes Ribeiro, 70 of Johnston, RI passed away Tuesday, April 25, 2023. He was the beloved husband of Debra (Wilson) Ribeiro for nearly 43 years. Born in Fall River, MA he was the son of the late Manuel and Rita (Langlois) Ribeiro. Along with his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Lindsey Ribeiro, of Tiverton, RI, Melanie Ribeiro, of Monson, MA and Jamie (Ri-



beiro) Derr, her spouse, James of Cranston, RI, his beautiful granddaughter Lianna Derr and his beloved dogs Ozzy and

Manuel spent most of his early life working hard at Sunset Bakery at 499 Hope St, Bristol RI, which he owned and operated with his wife Debra from 1987 to 2002. Sunset was a staple in Bristol, RI since 1929, when it was founded by his grandfather Manuel and is missed by many. He worked very hard, 7 days a week to provide for his family. Besides baking, Manuel was also creative, winning a Scholastic Award for his artwork at Bristol High School as well as participating in championship wrestling. Gifted musically as well, he played the guitar and sang in numerous bands and taught himself to play the piano.

More importantly, besides his many talents, people were often more struck by his humble, considerate and gentle nature. The size of his heart matched his towering presence of 6'4." He often put others first; thinking nothing of rescuing a woman from a fire in his apartment complex or pick-

ing up the newspaper and delivering it to a neighbor daily. Above all else, Manuel was a loyal and dedicated husband and father who believed in his Catholic faith and following the 10 commandments from his early education at St Elizabeth's in Bristol, RI. Providing a calm and reassuring presence to all who met him with a warm, friendly smile and some great one liners, he affected many, and will not be

Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

(Continued from page 12)

George took a trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to visit with Maj. Richard D. Winters, the mainstay of the HBO series "Band of Brothers." Listening to Winters (as well as Wild Bill Guarnere, Babe Heffron, Don Malarkey, Frank Perconte, Shifty Powers, Earl McClung, Johnny Martin, Buck Compton and others) and the other men of Easy Company seeing the closeness they had was comforting.

Luz Jr. flew to the HBO set of "Band of Brothers" in Hatfield England; met Rick Gomez who played his dad; attended the World Premiere on Utah Beach on June 6, 2001; and went to the 54th Annual Emmys Awards in Los Angeles, when the show won for "Outstanding Miniseries" in 2002.

George Luz Sr. would have been so proud and happy about his son's tribute to his memory especially spending the time with the men that he so dearly

George Luz Jr. will be delivering a presentation on his father on May 31

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Johnston Historical Society Museum at 101 Putnam Pike in Johnston. Call the museum at 401-231-3380, and read future editions of the Johnston Sun Rise, for more details.

JHS 50th Year Reunion

The Inspiration of '73 will celebrate its 50th year reunion on June 23. It will be held at the Valley Country Club in Warwick. If you are in contact with any classmates, spread the word. For more information, check out the JHS Class of 1973 Facebook page or call Donna at 401-497-

More at Mohr Library

Yoga is now open to all ages. Call the library to register. Sponsored by Tri-County HEZ, this class is taught by a certified professional and is free. The class is held on Mondays at 2 p.m., through May 15. This is a great opportunity to get introduced to yoga and may-

Sign language classes are held at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, sponsored by West Bay RI, a social service agency dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities. The classes teach the alphabet and basic gestures.

A Beginner's How to Draw class for adults will be held at 3 p.m. on Thurs-

days. Please let the library know about your interest in future art classes. Mohr Library will participate in this year's "Read Across Rhode Island" programming to read and discuss "True Biz," a bestselling book which the publisher calls "an unforgettable journey in-

celebration of human connection." Register for the June 20 event, which will

begin at 6:30 p.m. Book discussion of Prince Harry's memoir, "Spare," will be rescheduled.

to the Deaf community and a universal

The list of participants is growing — let the library know if you'd like to be included when they set a date. Our knowledgeable discussion leader brings background knowledge to a subject that touches on the nature of the monarchy

The crochet group for adults continues

and commonwealth, the press, grief, and

to meet Fridays at 10 a.m. Art-Smart classes start in May for ages 5 to 8, at 2 p.m. on Saturdays (May 6 and May 13) and June 3, 10 and 17. A class for ages 8 to 12, will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. Sign up on the library's website or call. These classes may have a

Regular storytime for preschoolers will be offered Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. through May 24.

There are afterschool activities nearly every day, including varied programs for middle and high-school age kids and crafts for younger kids.

The Library will be closed Saturday, May 20, due to work on the parking lot and software systems. Both the parking lot and the Ocean State Library online catalog will be inaccessible. The library staff apologizes for any inconvenience.

Other changes may be coming to the library's online system soon. Sign up for email updates at mohrlibrary.org/contact.php.

Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Satur-

The library offers free Notary service weeknights and Saturday mornings (as well as copy, print and fax services, computer help, reference and reading recommendations).

The Library is located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. Call 401-231-4980, email info@mohrlibrary.org, or visit their website at mohrlibrary.org.

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

The Johnston Senior Center is better than ever. Offering more exercise programs and trips every week; Hi Lo Jack, Monday & Wednesday and Poker on Wednesday. Arts & Crafts, on Monday, Mar Jong on Thursday & Quilting on Wednesday, Tia Chi on Tuesday. The Senior Center also has a book Club the last Tuesday once a month. There is no charge for Senior Center activities. They offer Bingo on Thursday and Friday. Lunch is served daily at 12 p.m. (with a suggested donation of \$3).

A reminder, on May 23, the Johnston Senior Center is having a Wellness & Resource Fair Free to all. There will be Raffles, Giveaways and a Free Screening.

A Social worker/Medicare Counselor is also provided 5 days a week. Contact Madeline Ravenelle at 944-3343. Feel free to come in for a tour of the facility at 1291 Hartford Ave.

Upcoming Senior Center trips:

- Monday, May 8: Free Trip to Wrights Farm & Bakery. Bakery items for purchase
- Monday, May 15: Free Trip to the Christmas Tree Shop.
- Monday, May 22: Free Trip to Iggy's Choder House. Food available for purchase
- Wednesday, May 24: Lighthouse Cruise, in Newport \$40 pp
- Wednesday, May 31: Mystery
- lunch \$10 pp Wednesday, May 31: Paint & Wine 6:00pm \$20 pp
- Thursday, June15: The Memories of Patsy, Whites of Westport Dinner & Show \$79 pp
- Tuesday, June 20: Newport Playhouse, (Spreading it around) Lobster Fest Dinner show, \$95 pp
- Wednesday, June 28: Mystery lunch \$10.00pp

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

The Johnston High School Class of 1971 is raising donations for The Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. A generous donor has offered a \$4,000 challenge! The donor will match all gifts to the Fund up to a total of \$4,000. The Class of 1971 initiated the fund on the occasion of its 50th reunion in 2021. Each year a scholarship will be awarded to a Johnston High School Senior planning to attend a college, university, trade or technical school. Donations are tax according to your filing status. To donate, go to the following website: www.rifoundation.org/funds/soul-of-1971-scholarship-fund.

Apple Festival

Johnston will host the 35th Annual Apple Festival at War Memorial Park during the weekend of Sept. 9-10. The event is planned to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and include an artisan fair and food vendors. For applications, email rhodeislandeventsllc@gmail.com. Go to facebook.com/applefestivaljohnston for more information.

Editor's Note: Send submissions to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@ rhodybeat.com or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at idaz@rhodybeat.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit 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

















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JSC volunteers 'an absolute blessing'

By PETE FONTAINE

It would be difficult to determine the MVV (Most Valuable Volunteer) at the nationally accredited Johnston Senior Center.

The super seniors who call the JSC their second home? Or those seniors who perform many important duties at the center every day?

The answer to those queries may be "none of the above."

The JSC's MVVs are, in fact, generations apart from the countless Johnstonians who enjoy lunch five days a week and everything from knitting classes, bingo, short treks to Wright's Family Restaurant, and bocce trips on the center's minibuses.

The MVV's are nine students from Johnston High School who are participating in the unique "Project Forward/Project Success" program that Executive Director Richard J. DelFino Jr. says "have been an absolute blessing since they started coming here.'

And that, he emphasized, includes their teachers, aides and even their bus driver Jackie Pion, who once she arrives does everything from working in the kitchen to serving lunches.

"It's a rewarding experience for people of all ages," Del-Fino offered. "All our seniors enjoy interacting with the students. It is everyone's hope the experience will help build confidence and skills they can transfer to other life experiences. They have all been a pleasure to have here."

The Johnston Senior Center honored its volunteers during a week long celebration.

"Our Most Valuable Volunteers are Heber Munoz Lopez, Hayden Judd, Alexis Rivera, Kayla Beaudry, I'daizha Brown, Kaylee Vanstone, Katie Ann Rodriguez, Maro Pi and Avery Ream," DelFino said. "The students have four fantastic job coaches — Barbara Pizzi, Louise Stanielson, Karen Silva and Eric Pagano — who are supported by JHS Special Education Teachers Kathy Kelly, Savannah Bissett and Julie Forte."

In the center of it all is Edda Carmadello, Director Special Education.

"Project Forward and Project Success are programs for students in grades 9-12. They participate in Project Success and after they graduate move on to Project Forward," Carmadello said. "Students learn the skills needed to live independently as adult — in the home, community and at work. 1

In a show of gratitude and appreciation for their volunteerism, the JSC hosted Volunteer Appreciation Week with five days of gratitude. Treats and themes ranged from donuts and coffee in the morning to "We Grow Together Gratitude Gift Days," "Please and Thank You Pizza Thursday" in the Board Room, and TGFV (Thank Goodness for Volunteers), which featured a variety of baked goodies.

"There was a daily dose of gratitude every day and everyone who volunteers here is L-O-V-E-D!" Delfino said.

To which Johnston School Supt Dr. Bernard DiLullo offered: "It made me very proud to have our students and staff honored in today's volunteer ceremony. This has been a partnership that has benefitted both our students having he experience to help at the center along with our staff and the many Johnston residents who interact with our students daily."

DiLullo thanked DelFino for reaching out to Carmadello and planning the partnership.

"The plan afforded our students the opportunity to have real life experiences so that they can leave school with the understanding of the responsibility of a real job. Our teachers, job coaches and even our bus driver took part in the experience by role modeling their work ethic for our students and ultimately worked beside them at the Center."

DiLullo then added: "It was uplifting to see them honored today. They were excited and pleased with their accomplishments. This is what a true school/community partnership is all about."



LINKED LEADERS: Among those officials who helped honor these JHS students who participate in Project Forward/Project Success are Joe DeSantis, President/CEO Tri-County Community Action, JSC Executive Director Richard DelFino, Jackie Pion, School Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr., Special Education Director Edda Carmadello, Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.'s Deputy Chief of Staff Dominque Turner and Tri-County Community Relations Director Richard DelFino III. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)





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TOWN TEAM: Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. joins the "new-look JDTC" that includes Linda Folcarelli, Lauren Garzone, Anthony Pilozzi, Taylor Russo, Joseph Ballirano, Vince Baccari, Fred lafrate, and Lois Marandolda. Missing is Stephen Mandarelli. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

Johnston Democratic Town Committee elects new slate of officers

By PETE FONTAINE

"The Johnston Democratic Town Committee is alive and well!"

That's what long-time member Anthony Pilozzi said following the committee's first meeting under Chairman Joseph Ballirano, when the "new look" JDTC held an election for its Board of Officers inside the famed Maria SS DiFesa Society at 15 Lafayette St.

Amid the DiFesa Society's unmatched hospitality, led by former Johnston State Rep. John Carnevale, who served classic calzones and pizza, the JDTC unanimously elected nine officers who will begin charting the course for the 2024 election.

There was also a special election and tribute for Vilma Zanni, long-time member who Ballirano emphasized "has been an extremely valuable member of this committee for many years."

By way of his nomination and a swift vote, Zanni – whose family name is synonymous with Johnston – will now be known as the JDTC's Vice Chair Emeritus.

"That's absolutely wonderful!" Linda Folcarelli who represents District I on the Town Council and was reelected secretary, offered. "Vilma is — and always has been — a very special lady."

Another nomination came from Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., who endorsed Stephen Mandarelli for the JDTC's First Vice Chairman.

Mandarelli coaches in the Johnston Youth Basketball program and Little League and is the Business Manager for Gary Sazillo's Northeast Auto Body located at 775 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

Pilozzi, meanwhile, was elected Second Vice Chair while Fred Iafrate, who co-chaired the JDTC's sold-out Doo-Wop Show Fundraiser featuring Classic Blend, was elected Third Vice Chair.

Folcarelli, as was the case with all nine electees, was unanimously elected, while Vincent Baccari is the Recording Secretary and Lois Marandola corresponding secretary. Town Councilwomen Lauren Garzone remains as Treasurer.

Yet another new JDTC member is Taylor Russo, who will serve as Assistant Treasurer and held numerous capacities during her undergrad days at JHS. She is also a recent college graduate.

Meanwhile, Polisena told the audience "Everything is running well in Johnston" and "we have a few projects we've been working on. We're also assessing the needs of our town and make improvements in areas where they're needed."



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By JENNIFER COATES

There are many kinds of artists, and many kinds of medians with which they work. The clients of longtime hair stylist Rory Allen might say they have seen a true artist at work ~ an artist whose median is dynamic, always different, sometimes damaged, severely and always multi-colored, textured and of varying lengths. Rory is an artist whose median is hair and whose tools are not brushes, chisels, pencils, or pastels but rather delicate, razor-sharp scissors which have been honed by time and nearly fifty years of use.

Rory Allen has been cutting, coloring, repairing, and styling hair for forty-eight years. If there is anything in the world Rory Allen knows about, it is hair. He has been taught by some of the best stylists in the industry and has also instructed stylists from around

the country. One of the many notches in his belt is that he worked closely with the man who invented the popular balayage technique. One of his career mentors is John Dellaria of Dellaria Salon, Rory is a multi-award-winning hair

Allen has worked extensively in local salons, but he has hair is beyond repair, make also been a "platform artist" who has demonstrated cuts, colors, and styles on a stage rescue your hair. in front of hundreds of his up-and-coming peers. Rory has been widely recognized for work which has spanned a lifetime, and which started with a passion for hair he had that look completely natural. as a young man.

that Rory Allen is right here in Rhode Island! Recently, Rory relocated to a new salon, Salon Chic on Putnam Pike in Greenville. Those who meet him for the first time are struck by his energy, his enthusiasm, and his artistry. They can

appreciate his vast knowledge and his professionalism. He has high standards for his own performance and gravitates to those whose standards match his own. One only need to see his exquisite collection of scissors ~ each a masterful piece of art themselves ~ to know how much value Rory places on his work.

Damaged hair might be the bane of some people's existence, but for Rory Allen, it is the ultimate challenge. Rory uses a unique process that involves far infrared, ultrasonic vibration supported by a cocktail made with 100% raw silk, 100% raw collagen, silk protein and niacinamide for his base. If you think your your way to Salon Chic and see how Rory can restore and

Rory loves all aspects of hair, from hair care to all the latest trends in color, cut and style to such traditional techniques as perms. He does extensions His job is to make you look The best news of all is your very best. Every. Single. Time.

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Festival is going to be based on the same idea of bringing people from different communities and 'fandoms' in order to share the things their passionate about."

Much like the popular comic book convention, attendees at Fan Fest are encouraged to dress up (or 'cosplay') as their favorite characters. Paul indicated that she would be wearing Gryffindor student

So far, the schedule includes displays and activities based on a wide-ranging collection of media franchises - extending well beyond superheroes. "Our small meeting room will be Doctor Who themed, with a Tardis to check out and a trivia contest organized by one of our staff members," said Paul. "The teen room will be Percy Jackson; the children's room upstairs will be entirely Harry Potter themed, with a chance to select your Hogwarts house and color in your own uniform necktie. Then just after lunch we'll be serving Scottish snacks at our Outlander selfie station."

Sports

Climbing the standings



MAKING AN IMPACT: Johnston freshman pitcher Haley Boudreau deals. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Panthers breaking out in Division II

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston softball team earned a 3-1 victory over Ponaganset last week to make a statement in the Division II playoff race.

The Panthers were led by freshman pitcher Haley Boudreau in the circle, who got the complete game win, allowing just one run on two hits while striking out 13 batters.

Michelina Irons would knock in Janina Mazzulla

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 21



ROUNDING SECOND: Johnston's DiLorenzo runs the bases last week.



MAYORAL MOMENT: Mason Lombardi, 10, a catcher for the Astros, is all smiles as he joins Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. after the ceremonial first pitch. (Submitted photo)

Lombardi's mayoral moment

By PETE FONTAINE

Mason Lombardi will probably never - ever - forgot the Johnston Little League's 2023 Opening Day,

The 10 year old, who plays for the Astros, had his picture taken with his teammates then marched in the JLL's annual Opening Day Parade.

But it was during the youth baseball league's 61st Opening Ceremony that he found himself in the spot-

Mason, you see, was given the opportunity to catch the ceremonial first pitch that was delivered by southpaw and first term Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. who had as much fun as any of the Little Leaguers at famed Ken-

Upon completion of the pitch, league officials had Lombardi join the mayor for what has in recent years been a traditional keepsake photo.

Mason was all smiles as well as his parents and

Mason is the son of Brendan Lombardi and Sheri Baglia and comes from a sports-oriented family. His maternal grandfather is Tony Baglia, a long-time youth sports coach in the state.

Likewise, his maternal grandfather Steve Lombardi has a prominent place in Rhode Island sports history, as he's the former long-time Executive director at the Providence Civic Center – a.k.a. - the AMP (Amica Mutual Pavilion). He is the current Executive Director of the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce.

Johnston Police, Fire Departments to host charity hoops event

By PETE FONTAINE

One of the most unusual benefit basketball games in local history will take place on May 19 inside Johnston High School's Edward DeSimone Gymnasium. Tip-off is 6 p.m. and suggested admis-

sion is only \$5 per person.

The game, which will feature members of the Johnston Police Local 307 and Johnston Fire Department's Local 1950 will include several pre-game events as well as a historic ceremony at halftime and staffstudent game at halftime.

"We're billing this as a Family Fun Night," Mark Livingston, a JFD Rescue Lieutenant and co-chairman emphasized.



JRD officials and members of the girls' and boys' basketball teams that will take part in the hoop benefit on May 19, are sitting from left: Stephanie Bruno, Derek Salvatore, Anthony Corsinetti, Camani Batista and Ava Waterman. Top: Firefighters Mike Gaskin, Mark Livingston, Keith Calci, JFD Chief David Iannuccilli, JPD Chief Mark Vieira, JHS Principal Mat Velino and Resource Officer Lou Detoia.

(Sun Rise photo by Pete

Fontaine)

Among those JPD and

CHARITABLE

CAST:

HOOPS - PAGE 19

The Boston Bruins fell victim to what was one of the biggest upsets in sports history on Sunday night, when the Florida Panthers marched into the Garden and pulled off the wild overtime upset in Game 7 of the opening round of the NHL Play-

The Bruins recently wrapped up the best regular season in NHL history, and that is not hyperbolic, that is a fact that can be objectively argued. They broke the all-time wins record and the all-time points record. Boston was in the playoffs weeks before other teams qualified.

I know that there are some variables like how previous teams used to have to settle for ties when in today's game, teams play extra periods to determine a winner. Among other things, I understand that circumstances change as time goes on. But at the end of the day, you can absolutely say heading into the playoffs that the Bruins were on pace to be the greatest team in the history of the NHL.

For them to lose in the first round of the playoffs, especially in the manner in which they did, is a devastating underachievement. A disappointment beyond mea-

Boston led the series 3-1 and held the lead until the Panthers tied things up with under a minute to play. What made this loss even worse was that Florida won because of effort. They beat the Bruins to the puck, were more physical, they just wanted it more. Even when they were ahead, they played like they were behind.

This was an experienced Bruins team. It was not as if the moment was too big. The team just seemed to be too comfortable from start to finish. Even after the loss, it didn't seem like they even knew what had hit them.

Naturally, on social media, New Englanders began comparing this disaster to other notable losses in Boston sports history. The undefeated 2007 Pa-

My pitch



ALEX Sponseller SPORTS EDITOR

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triots losing in the Super Bowl, the 1986 Red Sox losing on Bill Buckner's famous error at first base, the 2010 Celtics blowing a 3-2 lead in the finals to the Lakers, among others.

In my opinion, although this loss does not sting as much as some of the other ones, it is, in fact, the biggest underachievement.

What did all of those other teams have in common? They lost in the championship.

It does not matter how good a team is, anyone can be beat on any day. By the time you get to the championship, you know the opponent is also going to be top notch.

For the Bruins to lose in the first round against a team that had to claw its way into the postseason in the days before it began, it is a colossal failure.

Last week, Milwaukee Bucks superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo made headlines when a reporter asked him if his team's loss meant it was a failure of a season. His response was to the effect of, "success is not purely based on wins and losses."

Although I agree with that statement, in the Bruins' case, this loss absolutely means a failure of a season. You do not break the all-time wins record and lose in the first round, you just can't do that.

Where do the Bruins go from here? Well, this one stings pretty badly.

Patrice Bergeron and David Krecji are likely retiring, Brad Marchand seems to be slowing down, the goalies went ice cold in the playoffs which I don't believe is coincidence, I believe they were exposed. This Bruins team

actually has a pretty big climb ahead of itself in order to be back in the championship mix.

On social media I posted moments after the loss, "I am honored to have just witnessed one of the alltime choke jobs in sports history."

I said that mostly sarcastically, but there was a part of me that meant it.

Look, I am a sports fan no matter what, win or lose. I am a spoiled Boston sports fan who has been alive for 12 championships, so I am certainly in no position to be bitter.

So, what we witnessed on Sunday was a historic event. Not the historic event that we can celebrate, but at least appreciate what we witnessed. A scrappy, underdog team pulling off what most viewed as the impossible. It burns being on the losing end, but that is why we watch sports, the thrill of the uncertainty, the competition.

This also is a reminder of one of the most overused, cliché aspects of sports, which is that most of the time, talent is secondary to effort and will.

The Bruins, in my opinion, had the most talented roster of the past 40 years. I say 40 years because the Montreal Canadiens rosters in the 1970s were filled with future hall of famers, but that was before my time, so I can't say I watched enough to be truly educated.

But, from 1980 on, this Bruins team had to be the best. Bergeron, Marchand, Krejci, David Pastrnak, Taylor Hall, Pavel Zacha, Tyler Bertuzzi, Jake De-Brusk, Charlie Coyle, Charlie McAvoy, Dmitry Orlov, Hampus Lindholm. I still can't wrap my head around how a roster with that much depth lost in the first round. It's beyond me.

Again, although it was a nightmare scenario, at least we were able to watch history unfold. Decades from now, we will still be talking about the great failure that was the 2022-23 Boston Bruins.

Hoops

(Continued from page 18)

"Beginning at 5 o'clock there will be a Touch-A-Truck event for children featuring vehicles from the police and fire departments."

Perhaps even more impressive that basketball fans will enjoy a terrific tribute - a.k.a. special ceremony - as Livingston offered, "honoring one of the greatest players in Johnston High School's tradition rich history.

That's Chelsea Marandola, cousin of current Boston Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla, who during her undergraduate days at Johnston High was also among the state's schoolgirl basketball elite. Chelsea later went on to star at Providence Col-"We are all excited about the en-

tire evening," Livingston went on. 'A lot of people in Johnston will benefit from this event."

Proceeds from the unique in-town

contest will help Local 307 and Local 1950 continue their on-going reputation as one of the most charitable groups in the state.

Local 1950's Charitable Fund, for example, started a dozen years ago and is used to fund youth sports and other charitable needs in Johnston. The same holds true for Local 307, which among its big-ticket items was purchasing a full, regulation-size wrestling mat Nicolas A. Ferri Middle School.

Moreover, some union members are still giving back, as Livingston works with Mike Bedrosian, head coach of the JHS boys' basketball team and JHS School Resource officer volunteers with the Joe Acciardo-coached football Panthers.

"A lot of our guys played youth sports in town," Livingston noted. "That's why we're hoping to have SRO crowd on May 19 that will help enable our unions to continue charitable giving for the youth of our great community."

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RIC track takes 7th at LEC finals

Senior Edward Garofalo (Newport, R.I.) was the Little East Champion in the triple jump as Rhode Island College finished seventh (eight teams) at the 2023 Little East Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship, hosted by UMass Dartmouth on Saturday afternoon.

The Anchormen placed seventh (eight teams) with a team score of 40.0. UMass Dartmouth won the title with a score of 179.0.

Garofalo was the Little East Champion and earned First Team All-Little East honors with a first place finish in the triple jump (13.60m). Freshman Shamus Culhane (North Kingstown, R.I.) earned Second Team All-Little East honors with a second place finish in the hammer (52.74m).

Senior Andre Solomon-Messier (Providence, R.I.) earned Second Team All-Little East honors with a second place finish in the 10,000m (33:05.76). He also placed 11th in the 5,000m (16:29.04).

Junior Steven Doss (West Warwick,

R.I.) finished fourth in the 100m (11.24). Freshman Jaden Saunders (Smithfield, R.I.) placed fifth in the long jump (6.52m), eighth in the triple jump (11.52m) and 11th in the high jump (1.75m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown, R.I.) finished sixth in the 3,000m steeplechase (10:42.68).

Junior Christopher McCarthy (Cranston, R.I.) placed sixth in the hammer (43.40m). Freshman Brandon Mota (West Warwick, R.I.) placed ninth in the discus (33.80m).

Freshman Juan Reyes (Providence, R.I.) placed ninth in the 400m hurdles

Senior Austin Michael (Swansea, Mass.) placed ninth in the 800m (2:04.53). Sophomore Matthew Taylor (Smithfield, R.I.) finished 12th in the 400m hurdles

In upcoming action, Rhode Island College will compete at the 2023 New England Div. III Championship, hosted by Springfield on May 5-6.

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It's getting fishy out there

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Freshwater and saltwater fishing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is outstanding. Both trout and salmon fishing in stocked ponds is particularly good with an explosive largemouth bass bite. "The couple of 80 degree days we had kickstarted the prespawn bite followed by a full moon. So largemouth bass fishing is great," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, RI.

Thursday the saltwater bite exploded in Rhode Island as larger migrating striped bass entered Narragansett and Mt. Hope Bays with fish starting to be caught on Cape Cod as well. The coastal shore from Westerly to the Sakonnet was good too, maybe not as good as the Bays but much improved from last week.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence said, "The mid to upper Bay in front of Rocky Point was on fire with bait and striped bass Thursday. Now the fish have moved just north of Conimicut Point. Capt. Rene Letourneau said he left the dock in East Providence at 9 a.m. and by 9:23 a.m. he was hooking up with fish," Jeff Grant said, "Fish in the 35-inch range are being caught in the Bay with an abundance of herring and hold over Atlantic menhaden in the Bay.'

To fish the salt or freshwater you need a license in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. See below links for information.

For freshwater and light tackle saltwater fishing a light to medium action rod and reel combination such as an Ugly Stick, Berkley or other rod/reel combination (\$39 to \$69) can get you started. Ask your local bait & tackle shop for tips on what to use for hooks, lures or bait based on what fish are biting.

Rhode Island stocks over one hundred ponds, rivers, brooks and lakes with a variety of trout and salmon so you might want to check waterways in your area. Massachusetts stocks designated trout waterways with over 500,000 fish each year. Many of them are stocked two or three times a year.

For a complete list of stocked ponds, license information and a copy of the Fishing Regulations and Guides visit https://rio.ri. gov . In Massachusetts visit https://massfishhunt.mass.gov.

Freshwater fly-fishing workshop

The DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its Annual Adult Introduction to Freshwater Fly-Fishing program for ages 17 and older this month. Hosted by the Division's Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) program, the workshop will be held at Addieville East Farm, Mapleville, RI on Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The workshop is \$30.00/person and includes lunch and all fly fishing equipment. The program will cover Basic Entomology, Fly Tying, Fly Casting, Basic Knots, and fish a freshly stocked trout pond after lunch. To register contact Kimberly Sullivan at Kimberly.Sullivan@ dem.ri.gov or call 401.539. 0037. Volunteers to help run the program should call Kimberly to register as well.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass. Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, East End Eddie Doherty, said, "Some school bass were caught Wednesday on the mainland side of the railroad bridge and there are reports of school bass in Buzzards Bay with slots right behind." "I fished with my sons from shore in Warwick near Conimicut Point using Kastmaster lures last week, and they caught multiple school bass, their first ever. My son TJ Giddings is now working in the shop with me. Customers are catching some nice fish using swimmers, soft plastics and surface lures," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Fly expert and guide Ed Lombardo said, "It's only been the last 10 to 12 days that many of the bass we are now getting have sea lice attached to them. For the most part, the outgoing tide has been fishing a little better than the incoming. Many of us are using old faithful flies such as clouser minnows, all white or olive over white, hot pink or brown Ed's Fly, Ray's Fly, and Lefty's deceiver, 1/0 and 2/0 sizes."

Striped bass angler Mark Tracy of Barrington said this weekend, "We found the stripers in the East Passage of Narragansett Bay from Potters Cove (Prudence Island) to the shipping channel. Fish ranged from 24-29-inches. Caught them on Mag Darters and Deadly Dicks. Both on Friday at slack tide and Sunday on the outgoing tide. Birds, bait, and fish on the surface, but plenty of fish down below in 25-35 feet of water as well."

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence said, "Anglers are hooking up with 30" bass at India Point Park, Providence and Festival Pier, Pawtucket. Soft plastic and shallow diver lures are working best." Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Fishing for striped bass is picking up with fish being caught in the wash and have started moving into the salt

Tautog. "Customers are catching big beautiful tautog in the mid and upper Bay in about ten feet of water. Reports of great fish from Sally Rock, off Godard Park in Warwick; India Point, Providence: to the Stone Bridge in Tiverton," said Giddings. O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle said, "The tautog bite

continues to improve."

Freshwater. "Customers in South County are doing well targeting trout in local rivers and ponds stocked by Rhode Island DEM," O'Donnell of Breachway Bait. Giddings said, "The prespawn largemouth bass bite continues to be outstanding at area ponds. Those doing best are using live bait (shiners). Local ponds producing include Gorton Pond and Little Pond behind Warwick Vets. Trout fishing is good too, some ponds have been restocked with Silver Spring Lake, North Kingstown producing a variety of trout including golden trout for custom-

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



PRIZE TAUTOG: "Al Zuppe with a prize tautog caught this week on Flippin Out Charters, Portsmouth, RI with a green crab and one of Al's yellow Asylum Jigz." said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle. (Submitted photo)



STRIPED BASS: Mark Tracy of Barrington caught striped bass to 29-inch this weekend in the East Passage from the shipping channel to Potters Cove, Prudence Island. (File photo)



TAUTOG BITE IS GOOD:

"The tautog bite is good on the Taunton River, like this keeper caught by Brian Andrade," said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle.





INFIELDERS: Johnston's Arianna Velasquez (right) and Stephanie Bruno take on Ponaganset last week on the road.

Panthers

(Continued from page 18)

to give Johnston the early 1-0 lead and Arianna Velasquez would hit Boudreau home to make it 2-0 in the fifth inning. Hannah Calabro would then send Velasquez home to make it 3-0.

Although Ponaganset would get a run in the sixth, Boudreau and the Johnston defense would escape the jam.

"It's early in the season so we just try

to get better every game. It was a total team effort, my pitcher was a rock today, but she also had a great defense behind her. We didn't make any errors and we got the timely hits, I thought we played the perfect game," said Johnston coach David Iannuccilli.

Ponaganset sat ahead of the Panthers in the standings heading into the matchup, but Johnston would pull off the upset and leapfrog the Chieftains to sit in third place in Division II. Boudreau was excited to get the win while also making an impact early in her high school career.

"This was a great win because we were doubted, so this was a great win to prove ourselves to everyone. Every game we've become closer as a team, closer as a family, which has made it easier to work. It definitely gets me excited and eager to play, eager to prove myself every game," Boudreau said.

Iannuccilli added: "She's solid on the mound and we're very well-rounded. Everyone picks each other up all the time. (Velasquez also) calls the game, she

takes control, she calls the play. It's like having another coach out there."

The Panthers improved to 6-2 in league play with the win, trailing just East Greenwich and Mt. Hope by a game each. Taking things one step at a time will be key in making a playoff run, according to Iannuccilli.

"I try to keep the girls grounded and I didn't want them to look past South Kingstown to this game. I try to keep them grounded and we try to take things one game at a time,' Iannuccilli said.

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MAIL TO: **Beacon Communications**

DEADLINE: **Monday 10 AM**

Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra presents Verdi's Requiem

RIPO presents one of classical music's most powerful works – Verdi's Requiem on May 5 & 6, 2023. Conducted by Interim Principal Conductor Tania Miller, the performance features the Providence Singers (Christine Noel, Artistic Director), Laquita Mitchell (soprano), Susan Platts (mezzo-soprano), David Pomeroy (tenor) and Kevin Deas (bass).

Verdi's Requiem is a powerful choral work, composed by the Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi in 1874, as a musical setting of the Catholic Mass for the Dead. Combining the styles of ecclesiastic music and 19th century Italian opera, it is a massive and dramatic piece that requires a large orchestra, four soloists, and a choir, making it one of the most demanding and grandiose choral works ever written. RIPO will be performing it for the first time in it's 78-year history.

Requiem is a work of great emotional depth and intensity, reflecting the composer's own grief and despair at the loss of the influential Italian writer, Alessandro Manzoni. It remains one of the most performed and beloved choral works to this day, and it is considered one of the greatest musical achievements of the 19th

In a 1986 review of the piece, The New York Times said, "Verdi's Requiem occupies common ground and speaks a common tongue with concert music, church music and opera...[an] unduplicable masterwork in a genre of one...it can stir the blood and grip the imagination like no

■ Fest

away.

(Continued from page 17)

R2D2 to visit

Science fiction fans in

particular will find much

to enjoy, with Star Wars

and Star Trek being well-

represented in the sched-

uled list of activities. This

will even include a mili-

tary delegation straight

from a 'galaxy far, far

"We'll be expecting a

visit from the 501st Storm-

trooper Legion in the early

afternoon," Paul said with

a smile. "They're a regi-

ment of cosplayers that

perform as Star Wars vil-

lains for charitable events.

Then later in the day, we'll

hear from Joe Francazio

of New England Droid

Builders. He'll be bring-

ing along a fully-function-

al R2D2 and explaining

Regular patrons will

not be surprised to learn

that library director Aaron

Coutu will be organizing

the Star Trek portion of

"I'll be in costume as a Starfleet captain," Coutu

said. "We'll have Star

Trek: Prodigy playing in

the background, and I'll

put some of the more in-

teresting items from the

memorabilia collection in

my office out on display."

According to Coutu,

events like this can have

the event.

how he constructed it."



TANIA MILLER

other work in the concert repertory."

"To perform Verdi's Requiem is one of the most thrilling of experiences," says conductor Tania Miller. "Few pieces in the repertoire offer the drama of opera and the thrill of wonderful symphonic writing combined with stellar, virtuosic solo moments. Verdi's Requiem does all that and more, operating on scales both intimate and grand simultaneously. That is the brilliant, theatrical magic of Verdi. As Brahms himself said, it 'could only have been done by a genius.""

Tickets start at \$15. For tickets and more information visit tickets.riphil.org/

choice," said Paul, noting

that this year's choices in-

cluded popular characters

like Batman and Doctor

Strange, as well as options

for younger readers like

Mickey Mouse and Fro-

book, we'll also have a

table set up where people

can trade comics," she

continued. "We just want

to get everyone reading.

Some people might look

down on comics because

they're not 'real' books,

but I think that anytime

we can get children and

teens excited to read, it's

The event will stretch

from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

giving participants plenty

of time to complete the as-

sociated scavenger hunt.

to search the library for

items from all of the differ-

ent franchises on display,

said Paul, noting that the

list includes artifacts like

Darth Vader's mask, Har-

ry Potter's broomstick,

and the iconic scarf worn

by the Fourth Doctor of

Doctor Who. "Everyone

who completes the scav-

enger hunt will receive a

goody bag filled with fun

free and open to all ages.

Additional details may

be found on the library's

website, and photos of

noteworthy costumes will

appear in our next edition.

Warwick Fan Fest is

prizes," she added.

"Contestants will have

a win."

"In addition to the free

an important community-

building effect. "A lot of

fans of these franchises

might not have other

friends with the same in-

terests," he said. "They

might be the only comic

book collector or Trek-

kie or Harry Potter fan in

their family. A gathering

like this gives them an op-

portunity to meet other

people who share their

passion, as well as intro-

ducing them to new sto-

ries and characters they

Comic culture has slow-

ly started to become more

mainstream, said Coutu,

with Marvel movies and

television programs like

The Big Bang Theory lead-

ing to widespread popu-

larity for media previous-

ly stigmatized as "nerdy."

meant to remind kids that

it's cool to be a geek about

"People should be proud

of the things they care

about. And you get a free

comic book for coming, so

it's a good way to promote

Free comic books

heart of the celebra-

tion, and the library's

large meeting room will

transform into a bazaar

of comic book swap-

attends will receive one

free comic book of their

"Everyone who

The comics are at the

something,"

reading."

"Events like this are

he said.

might not know yet."

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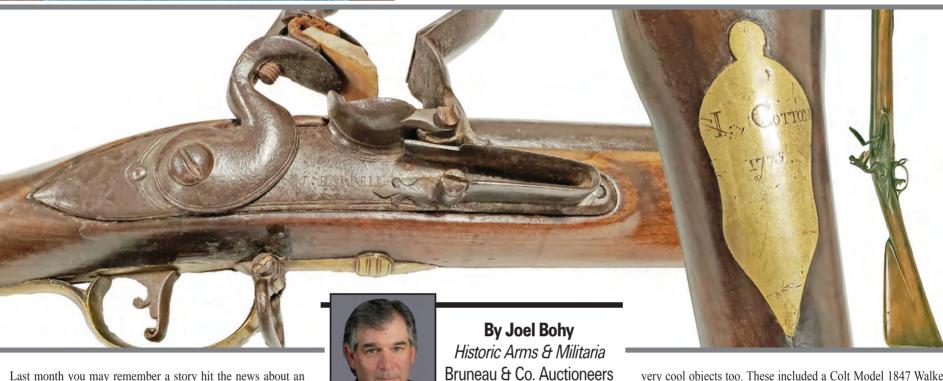
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Identifying Stolen Guns with the FBI



Last month you may remember a story hit the news about an individual who stole a large group of antique arms from museums and historical societies during the late 1960s and early 1970s. He had taken at least fifty pieces from a variety of sites spanning from New England to Alabama!

Four years ago, I was contacted by a police officer in Pennsylvania about a musket he wanted to know more about. He had found me through the Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR) in Philadelphia, and they told the officer to contact me. The gun was marked "J:BARRETT" and was assembled by a Concord, Massachusetts maker I was researching. I almost freaked out when I saw the musket as there was only one other known in existence. I wrote up all the information I knew on the gun and sent it to the officer. They said the gun had been stolen and was a part of an investigation, but nothing else. A year later, I drove down to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and studied it more closely. I hoped to write an article about the musket but had to wait until the case

was closed.

Fast forward to this past February. I received a call from the police to say the case was over, and that they discovered the thief had stolen fifty antique arms over the years! He invited me to come to the Museum of the American Revolution for a repatriation ceremony, where all the stolen goods would be returned to their rightful owners. I quickly said "Yes!" and decided to drive down to Philadelphia. I was also asked if I would give a few short words about the musket.

Cranston, RI

The FBI Art Crime Team had also been involved with the investigation, and they ran the ceremony. I arrived at a room packed with police, FBI, district attorneys, press, museum curators, and MoAR staff. All the stolen objects were laid out on tables so you could walk around and see all the guns, powder horns, and other items of historical military significance. I was obviously quite excited about the gun I was talking about, but there were some other

very cool objects too. These included a Colt Model 1847 Walker revolver with Texas markings (which had been stolen from the Connecticut State Library and is a super rare gun), and a Model 1842 pistol made by Springfield Armory (to be sent to the contractors when they were producing the pistol, and very few were ever produced).

Each museum was asked to speak, and I got up to say a few words about the Barrett gun and how excited I was for it to be found and help us understand the arms that were being assembled in 1775. After the ceremony, I had a wonderful tour around the museum and looked at some cool things in their collections storage before heading to a local pub for a few celebratory beers with

For me, it was really cool to be a very small part of this and to be able to study this wonderful historic musket from the start of the American Revolution!







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Richard Donelly as Robin with Phyllis Kay as Rose in "The Children" at Gamm Theatre. (Photos by Cat Laine)

Gamm presents unsettling drama, "The Children"

Theatre Review by DON FOWLER

I have seen many end-of-the world dramas over the years, but none quite as personal and unsettling as Lucy Kirkwood's "The Children", given a powerful performance by three masterful actors.

A local nuclear accident has brought chaos and uncertainty to this small coastal English community, causing Hazel and Robin to leave their farm and settle into a small cottage, where they live simply with their Geiger counter, rationing water and electricity.

They receive an unexpected visit from Rose, a former friend and colleague, who left the village for America 38 years ago.

The three have some history, having worked together at the nuclear power plant and formed a close friendship. And by the way, Robin had a sexual relationship with Rose.

Why has Rose returned after all these years?

Rose (Trinity's Phyllis Kay) and

Hazel (Gamm's Candice Brown) have a lot of catching up to do before Robin (Veteran RI actor and Kay's husband) shows up and things start to upravel

Kirkwood's dialogue, while a bit overdone, sets the tone for bigger issues. While much of the conversation centers around Hazel and Robin's children and Rose's lack of children, we soon realize that there are

bigger hidden agendas to deal with. I found the play a bit too disconcerting, with Kirkwood throwing her dark humor into the disturbing dialogue.

Three quarters of the one-act, hour and a half play go by before we learn the real reason for Rose's return, causing a disruption of Hazel and Robin's simple and orderly lifestyle.

Set in a comfortable cottage, with the real world is crumbling around them, gloom and doom lurk just outside the doors. Who is responsible for the environmental disaster?

We soon realize that this play is about much more than a long overdue reunion, and rekindling of some good and some unpleasant memories.

Any semblance of normalcy has been compromised outside the cabin

Can the lives of the three individuals be redeemed? Can they deal with their own guilt and regrets?

Is there any hope for the children? Kirkwood offers no easy answers. Steve Kidd, in his first directorial

role, does a fine job in keeping the issues and characters on a straight and narrow path.

Fortunately, he has three of Rhode Island's best to work with. Their timing is perfect. The English accents are convincingly legible. Their characters are sharply defined.

While not my favorite play, watching these three actors perform is well worth the price of admission.

"The Children" is at Warwick's Gamm Theater through May 14. Go to Gammtheatre.org for reservaANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Bella

It's all about her eyes, they are the window to her sweet soul! Meet Bella, she's a year old brindle beauty! Bella is smart, playful, loving and ready for a family of her very own! If you've been looking to add some love to your into your heart and home be sure to go visit Bella at the Warwick Animal Shelter. Please call 401-468-4377 for more information about how you can meet her! Whoever adopts Bella will make her so happy, she's just a great all around girl!

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









WARWICK SHOWCASE

BIG GEORGE FOREMAN

(Boxing Champ Biopic)

Subtitled "The Miraculous Story of the Once and Future Heavyweight Champion of the World" this boxing biopic tells the fascinating story of George Foreman, who many younger folks know only that they eat hamburgers off his grill.

Foreman had a tough life, growing up poor getting in trouble, and laughed at for his large size.

He joined the Job Core, where he didn't fit in until the director (Forest Whitaker) interested him in learning the art of boxing.

George released much of his rage in the boxing ring and made good use of his tremendous power.

One short year later he won the gold medal at the Olympics and went on to earn a 40-0 record until Muhammad Ali beat him.

When George had a near-death experience in the ring, he suddenly found Jesus, quit boxing, and became a preacher

preacher.

He married, had kids, divorced, remarried, started his

own church and community center, had more kids (Six boys named George 1 through 60, lost all his money through his managers poor investments, and decided to recoup his losses by going back in the ring seven years later.

Completely out of shape and way overweight, Foreman had his "miraculous comeback and was the only boxer ever to become heavyweight champion twice.

Credits at the end tell us where he is and what he is doing today.

We've seen lots of boxing movies over the years, and this one follows a familiar pattern at times. The difference is the man himself and the changes in his life that lead to his redemption.

For some of us it will bring back memories of the '70's and '80's. For others, it will introduce them to one of the greatest boxers of all times.

NETFLIX

BETTER CALL SAUL

The sixth and final season of this series, which itself was a spinoff of Breaking Bad, provides hours of entertainment as we follow Jimmy and Kim on a number of escapades and cons.

Guest stars Carol Burnett and Bryan Cranston are terrific, as are many of the returning characters.

The screen jumps from black and white to color and past, present and future, as many of the dots are connected, but some issues are left unanswered.

Will there be another spinoff?

RhodyHealth

Maternal Health—Post-Baby Care



Having a baby is a monumental moment in someone's life, but sometimes it may feel that the focus is on the pregnancy or baby, not on the person growing and delivering the baby!

Why is that the case? One reason is that, historically, insurance companies covered pregnancy-related care at a single visit 6 weeks postpartum. Another reason is that, to provide evidence-based perinatal care, up to 15 prenatal visits and only one postpartum visit are recommended.

Fortunately, things are changing. In many states including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, pregnancy-related federal health insurance (Medicaid) now extends to one year postpartum, giving access to free, preventive care visits with primary care providers for a year after their baby is born. In addition, prenatal care providers are re-centering our care around the realization that the postpartum period can be the most difficult time of the pregnancy/birth experience for many of our patients.

How are we doing this locally? Women & Infants has designed programs that make things easier for our postpartum patients. For example, all patients who have high blood pressure can now participate in a new program that allows them to take their postpartum blood pressure from the comfort of their own home, instead of bringing their two-day-old babies to their prenatal care provider's office to get their blood pressure done in the clinic. In addition, for over a year, we have offered patients with gestational diabetes the ability to receive their recommended follow-up diabetes screening on the postpartum unit (without impeding their meal delivery) instead of coming to the laboratory fasting six weeks after their baby is born. Lastly, Women and Infants have the Warm Line, a free program for everyone who delivered with us-call 1-800-711-7011 for advice about your infant, breastfeeding, or postpartum issues, and a trained, professional nurse will answer your questions. We also are scheduling more postpartum visits for many of our patients—while some have the traditional single visit, others have three or more visits.

Changes, like we are making at Women &

Staying Healthy



ADAM K. LEWKOWITZ, MD, MPHS Associate Program Director, MFM Fellowship, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Infants, are extremely important. So many things can happen in the first year after delivery—about 1 in 6 people are diagnosed with postpartum depression or postpartum anxiety, and about the same proportion of people diagnosed with high blood pressure or diabetes during pregnancy will still have these conditions a year after their babies are born. Learning about how common these complications can be and what resources your prenatal care or primary care provider has to support you may be just what you need to thrive after your baby was born.

This Mother's Day, take the opportunity to think about the last time you went to your primary care provider's office to receive preventive screening. If you have not been recently, make an appointment! Anyone who has an infant younger than one year can make use of this visit—which is usually free!—to make sure they are up to date with their preventive care. If you had diabetes or high blood pressure during pregnancy—even if this pregnancy was 20 years ago-please see a primary care providers every few years to be screened for diabetes and high blood pressure.

If you are one of the many people having a hard time after your baby is born, know you are not alone. Call the Warm Line for help or speak to your healthcare provider to help determine what support you need. And regardless of whether you find the postpartum period easy or challenging, take advantage of your health insurance to see a primary care provider!

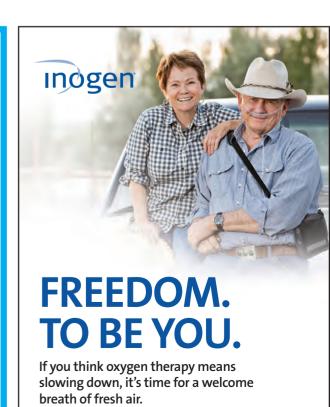


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The change of seasons isn't just a breath of fresh air — it's also an opportunity to get on your feet and get active. Whether your goal this spring is to climb stairs, get back on the golf course, or go for a stroll on the beach, Ortho Rhode Island's foot and ankle care is here to help you overcome painful conditions, restore your mobility, and return to the activities you love.

Our team of foot and ankle experts offers innovative orthopedic and podiatric care for diagnosing, treating, and preventing acute and chronic conditions affecting the feet and ankles. Some common conditions include arthritis, plantar fasciitis, deformities, diabetic foot, Achilles tendon injuries, and sprains, strains, and fractures of the foot and ankle.

Ortho Rhode Island's state-of-the-art treatment offers non-surgical options like physical therapy, immobilization, prescription custom orthotics, and biologic therapies like platelet-rich plasma with Ortho RI Biologics. If a surgical approach is the right course of treatment for you, our highly trained surgeons provide operative care like minimally invasive bunion surgery, minimally invasive flatfoot reconstruction, total ankle replacement, minimally invasive surgery, and nano-operative arthroscopy.

The foot and ankle physicians at Ortho Rhode Island also work closely with our physical therapy providers, coordinating care to provide a seamless experience centered on an individualized care plan that's tailored to your condition, symptoms, and goals. By delivering this

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Nano-operative arthroscopy
Total ankle replacement
Platelet-rich plasma injections with Ortho RI Biologics
3D-printed orthopedic implants



DID YOU KNOW

The right time to exercise is a

different time of day for everyone. But there is good reason to consider moving your workout to the morning. The health experts at Healthline say that morning workouts are less vulnerable to distractions as phone calls and texts will typically take place later in the day. Piedmont Medical group says there are mental health benefits of exercise, including the secretion of neurotransmitters that promote mental clarity and improve attention span. Working out first thing in the morning can help you focus and take charge at work or in school soon after. Since exercise can boost metabolism, it starts the day out on a good foot, and may help you make healthier decisions throughout the day, including choosing more nutritious foods. Healthline also says that cortisol is a hormone that keeps you awake and alert. Cortisol increases in the morning, peaking around 8 a.m. Working out around this time may make workouts more efficient and effective. TF227074



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