

**BUILDING HIS VOICE:** Mike Mollicone, of Johnston, earned his undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College (RIC). As a studio art major, he won this year's Senior Award for his sculpture, titled "Mousy's Bar." (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

## Johnston sculptor crafts bridge between art and education

By RORY SCHULER

A man struggles with a busted garbage bag in a back alley. The proprietor, Mousy, stands proudly next to the cash register admiring his own portrait hanging on the wall. A couple embraces outside the bathroom — reconciling after a fierce booze-fueled argument. A woman cries on the pay telephone. Who could she be talking to? A year ago, Mousy's Bar only existed in Mike Mollicone's mind. After working with bits of wood, ceramics and other chunks of media, he brought the imaginary dive to life and last Monday he hung it on a gallery wall. "My overall intention with my work is to create a space that people can identify with and understand," Mollicone explained. "In these spaces, I try to tell stories and give clues as to who people are as a character, what they're doing, who they're with. I really focus on hammering in details to give realistic layers to the space and add to

MOUSY'S - PAGE 8

## Safe but displaced

Residents who helped neighbors escape from fire face uncertainty

By DANA RICHIE

Thankful no one was seriously injured and questioning where they will end up, Simmons Village residents gathered in the shade of the parking lot Tuesday afternoon, surveying the charred facade of their apartments.

On Sunday afternoon at about 3, the exterior of this building abruptly went up in flames after mulch and a bench caught fire, forcing 52 fixed-income, elderly residents to evacuate indefinitely. The cause of the fire is believed to have been a discarded cigarette.

"We were devastated," said Anna Bongiovanni. "This is our home." When resident Rita Holmes noticed



that the bench and mulch were on fire, she immediately called the fire department, telling them that the fire would

FIRE - PAGE 11

## MAYOR: 'Tax rate will decrease'\*

\* 'How much ... depends on the budget submitted by the school department'

By RORY SCHULER

Mayor Joseph Polisenia Jr. said he plans to lower the town's tax rate, but just how much is up to the school department.

"I can only speak for the Town, and what I can say for certain is the tax rate will decrease to offset the increase in property values," Polisenia wrote via email on Monday, May 22. "How much the rate will decrease depends on the budget submitted by the school department."

Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti asked for an update on the budget at April's regular monthly Town Council meeting.

No budget update was delivered during Town Council's May meeting, and there has not been a single budget hearing or discussion in public session.

Civetti pointed out that Johnston's Town Charter sets a schedule for rolling out the budget, although it has not been

BUDGET - PAGE 9



**WONDERING WHERE SHE'LL BE:** Donna Marcera points to her apartment at Simmons Village that was not damaged by fire, but sustained water damage. All the units in the building have been closed. Insert shows charred exterior of the building. (Sun Rise photos)

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**MEMORIAL MOMENT:** Maryann Grace (right), The Bridge at Cherry Hill's executive director is joined by Activities Director Joan Stanzione during last Friday's special salute to veterans in honor of Memorial Day. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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# The Bridge at Cherry Hill remembers those who served

By **PETE FONTAINE**

There was a unique star-spangled salute to veterans last Friday on The Bridge at Cherry Hill's sun-covered patio.

There was pomp and circumstance, music, special singing, prose and poems and the release of butterflies during The Bridge's Memorial Day Observance entitled "Remember those who served."

The entire "extraordinary program" as many people concurred, was coordinated by Joan Stanzione, The Bridge's popular Activities Director, who even teamed with Ernie Marotta for the singing of America the Beautiful to open the program.

Likewise, Executive Director Maryann Grace delivered a warm welcome with the reading of "The Meaning of Memorial Day" that in short is a reminder that "Freedom is not Free!"

There were also many special stories during the program like when nurse Audrey Jacobs presented resident Geraldine Giarrusso with a red carnation and mini-United States flag.

Many staff members like Desi Sanders, Sarah Paton and Ria Bibby Kowal, just to name a few, during a ceremony which was highlighted in part when Grace issued a heartwarming "Thank You" to those men and women who are currently serving and those who have left as well as a "Happy Memorial Day" she closed with "God Bless you all!"

The entire event, which may have been The Bridge's best Memorial Day remembrance in recent memory, was also focused on the reading of a segment Stanzione called "In loving memory of those whom we hold in our hearts."

Those were: Beverly Conlon, Nina Carminiti, Mary DeMarco, June Stearnes, Eunice Ornazian, Rita Panzini, Rocco Pototo, Marjorie Sparadeo, Ida Pezzullo, Edward Robinson and Josephine Raimondo.

Another 21 people were honored during a special reading of names by Stanzione who announced: "Is dedicated in memory of all who have proudly served."

They were: Vaham (Von) Bajakian, PFC U.S. Army; Anthony Comella, PFC U.S. Army; Armando DiOrio, J.S. Air Force; Carmine Giarrusso, Corporal U.S. Army; Lewis Holt, Lt. Infantry U.S. Army; Mark Lussier, Military Police, U.S. Army; Frank McCarthy, Sgt. 1st Recon U.S. Marines, Ralph McCord, U.S. Maines; Daniel Mongtagano, U.S. Army; Michael Pezza Sr. J.U.S. Army; Thomas Quartino, U.S. Army; Vincent Ricci, PFC U.S. Army; Anthony Ricculti, U.S. Army; Ricardo Rotella, Cpl. U.S. Air Force; Joseph Sorofa, ULS. Air Force; Michael Scungio, Sgt. Occupational Forces; Thomas Toohey Jr, Chief Petty Officer U.S. Navy; Richard J. Valquette, U.S. Army; and Frank Vescera, PFC U.S. Army.

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<b>Gaspee Days Raffle</b>	<b>Colonial Encampment</b>



**REMEMBRANCE:** Geraldine Giarrusso (left) holds a red carnation and American flag she and other residents at The Bridge at Cherry Hill received during a special salute to veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

More information on this event and a full calendar at [Gaspee.com](http://Gaspee.com)

# Town gathers to celebrate Memorial Day

By PETE FONTAINE

"Thank you for being here today," Johnston's Recreation Director Mike Bedrosian began as he stepped to the podium to emcee and open Monday's Memorial Day Service. "Today we honor those men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

Bedrosian then called upon Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. who delivered a powerful and moving message during his brief yet highly-impressive address.

"We can never forget our veterans," Polisena exclaimed while noting his former work with the Rhode Island Public Defenders Office and especially working with and helping veterans. "There are lots of opportunities to volunteer and help veterans."

The mayor also related he's seen homeless veterans who are in need, especially of medical supplies, food and other necessities and he said, "I urge you to volunteer; please remember -- we can NEVER, EVER forget or fail our veterans."

What made the mayor's keynote address even more meaningful is when four members of Johnston High School's national award-winning chorus delivered a beautiful rendition of the national anthem that echoed through the still air and epitomized the program cover's message and scene: "Let our future remember our past."

In keeping with tradition, the special service was held on the park's bandstand which is located between two beautiful memorial Walls of Honor in memory of late Johnstonians who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving in our nation's military forces during World War II.

The entire memorial service was highlighted by a color guard from the Rhode Island National Guard consisting of Sgt. Fred Melin, SSG Alan Potter, SSG Lindsey Arigo and SETI Thomas Rondeau.

Even more impressive was the Johnston Police Color

Guard – wearing their parade dress – led by Major Thomas Dolan (U.S. Army Retired) and included Lt. Steve Guilmette and Patrolman Charles Psilopoulos and were at center stage when Destine Costa sang God Bless America.

Major Dolan also did the reading "In Flanders Field" and was followed by Johnston Firefighter Adam Pontbriand having the bell ringing honor when JPD Chief Mark Vieira read the names of 42 native sons who lost their lives in World War II.

Those Johnstonians, who were in the U.S. ARMY, are: Joseph DiDonato, Anthony Russo, Anthony Kwiatkowski, Anthony Riccitelli, Michael Macera, William R. Mills, Harry C. Arnold, Anthony Ciarlo, William R. Thorpe Jr., Joseph R. Searle, George G. Harrington and Emery O. Picotte, James Paterson, Jr., Alfred A. Chartier, Vincent Mongone, Rocco Stanish, William F. Hickey, Raymond DePetrillo, John A. Paglio, Carlo A. Coletti, Leo S. Arguien, Raymond J. Herther and Walter J. Hagerthy.

U.S. NAVY: Robert Moran, William Richardson, Arthur LaPrade, Edwin Carlson, James f. Cavanaugh, Raymond B. Smith, Joseph Carrara Jr., Raymond Draper, Alfred L. Ricci, George Spink and Bernard Pitocco.

U.S. MARINES: Anthony "Alien; KOREA: Anthony Mazzulla, Army; and John K. Buros, Army; VIETNAM: Ronald E. Blake, Army; Alphonse Maccioni, Marines; Andrew J. Wang, Navy and John F Bulprit, Army.

There was also the placing of the wreath by the JFD and RI National Guard doing the morning's gun salute after which Ronald Lamoureux, Director of Johnston High School's national award-winning Music Department who is an accomplished trumpet player, played Taps.

The awe-inspiring ceremony concluded after Amelia Almonte sang America the Beautiful the JPD Color Guard and RI National Guard units retired the colors.



**OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS:** Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. (sixth from left) is joined by Johnston officials who took part in Monday's Memorial Day Service. They are: Al Carnevale, Mike Bedrosian, Linda Folcarelli, Deputy Police Chief Matt LeDuc, Police Chief Mark Vieira, Lauren Garzone and Robert Civetti.



**CLASSIC CHORUS:** Johnston High School chorus members Vanessa Febus, Chelsea Maranhao, Katelyn Loffler and Trinity Bondin delivered a beautiful rendition of the national anthem at Monday's Memorial Day Service.



**DYNAMIC DIRECTOR:** Ron Lamoureux who chairs Johnston High School's national award-music department had the honor of playing Taps a Monday's Memorial Day Service.



**POLICE PRIDE:** JPD Major Thomas Dolan, Sgt. Steve Guilmette and Patrolman Charles Psilopoulos added to the color and pageantry of Monday's Johnston Memorial Day Service inside War Memorial Park. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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**VISTING VETS:** Among those Johnston Senior Center members who visited the RI Veterans Cemetery in commemoration with Memorial Day are Carmino DeRobbio, Jerry J. Allore, Nick DiTatr, Vin Delisi, Vistor Colellekl Ron DeSiderato, Robert DelFino, Paul Giarusso, Judy Furtado and Linda Anton. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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## Veterans visiting veterans

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Roll Call I: Veterans visiting veterans.

That's a rather interesting name – title if you prefer – for what may have been the most unique Memorial Day observance in the Johnston Senior Center's storied history.

"You never know what will result from table talk at a luncheon," Richard J. DelFino Jr., the JSC's popular executive director was saying last week. "Today is a perfect example of the camaraderie that goes on every day here at the JSC."

Ever since he took over the JSC reins, DelFino spends time with various visitors by stopping by different lunch tables every day. A few weeks back he sat and chatted with a table of eight veterans who were sharing stories about WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

He discovered that some vets at the table had never – ever – visited the award-winning Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery in Exeter while some hadn't been there in years.

"So, I thought what a great way to commemorate Memorial Day by bringing those veterans/JSC members to see the picturesque and upgraded cemetery," DelFino offered. "All the vets were excited for what would become a trip down memory lane, replete with lunch."

Soon thereafter, what someone suggested should be called "Roll Call Ride I" was planned and last Thursday became reality for what DelFino said will become part of our tradition here.

The idea became extra special, courtesy of Ron DeSiderato, a long-time member of the Rhode Island Italo-American Club who enjoys JSC lunches and is iconic figure in many veterans' affairs in the state.

Moreover, DeSiderato is well-known

for work as a special assistant to the last four Rhode Island governors, including Gov. Daniel J. McKee.

"Ron was our MVP chaperone-guide," DelFino wanted it known. "He has a wealth of knowledge and helped everyone find family graves they'd never seen or been able to find."

Such was the case for Linda Anton, whose late husband's name is affixed to a memorial wall she'd never seen. He did the same for Judy Furtado, whose late husband is buried there.

Likewise, DeSiderato explained about some of the new monuments such as the Gold Star "marvelous masterpiece", Portuguese Memorial Monument and RI Elks Monument and accompanying stones.

"This entire day has been special," offered Carmino DeRobbio, who served with the U.S. Army with Germany from 1961-1964. "And we got lunch with the tour."

The JSC provided freshly made chicken salad sandwiches, potato chips, chilled water and homemade-like chocolate chip cookies from BJ's Wholesale Club and DelFino received praise – and thank yous – from everyone for driving the bus and arranging the historic day.

The unique event, which DelFino said "has set the stage for other bus trips included Jerry J. Allore, who served on three U.S. Navy Aircraft Carriers from 1959-1964; Nick DiTatr, US Army in Germany from 1952-54; Vin DeLisi, US Air Force in Germany from 1960-78; Victor Colella US Army Air Corps in German from 19412-4; DeSiderato, U.S. Army Reserves76H Training Division before his storied stay with four RI governors.

JSC luncheon regulars Robert DelFino and Paul Giarrusso were also part of the unique tour which will probably double next time around.

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# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Schools need resources, not simply more police

In considering whether or not a fledgling advocacy group calling for at least one armed police officer to be placed in every school in Rhode Island has real merit and is worthy of a \$24 million estimated annual price tag for taxpayers, it is important to establish a few foundational truths.

Their proposal, at face value, seems hard to argue with. Violence perpetrated by radical domestic terrorists (call them what they are) has become a near weekly-occurrence in America, and all too often they choose our nation's most innocent citizens (children) as their victims. Who would argue against funding a means to prevent further school shootings?

While we're not necessarily arguing against the notion that an armed police officer housed within a school building could possibly prevent a future tragedy, we're not entirely convinced of that assumption either. Unfortunately, in modern America we've been given two specific examples within 10 months of one another — one of which directly supports the theory that police can make schools safer, and the other which contradicts it.

In March, officers in Nashville responded to an active shooter and neutralized the perpetrator within literal minutes of arriving on scene. Their actions were universally heralded as a textbook example of precise, disciplined police work, and if one of those officers had been located in the school at the time the incident began, it certainly seems likely they may have been able to prevent that tragedy from occurring at all.

But 10 months prior, in Uvalde, the world learned with outrage how local law enforcement could so horribly botch an active shooter situation, resulting in 19 elementary students and two teachers being killed. Additionally, in Parkland in 2018, a resource officer was on duty at the school, and still the gunman was able to carry out their horrid plan when that officer failed in their sworn duty.

All of this is to say that, outside of emotional arguments and a desire for feeling comfort in light of a situation that feels increasingly hopeless, having a police officer in a building may or may

not have any actual impact on the safety of students within those buildings.

What we do know, from decades of School Resource Officers (SROs) being federally funded and placed within schools throughout the country, is that the implementation and training of those SROs means absolutely everything.

When advocates call for "cops" in schools, they should specify that they want an officer whose primary job is not to "police" the school building. Research has shown that such implementation results in situations where the officer — who realistically isn't going to have an active threat to respond to often, or ever — will find other ways to fill their time and justify their presence. And unfortunately, that has often meant the policing of students (inordinately minority students, the ACLU has found) for small offenses that would have otherwise been dealt with internally by school administration and parents, and contributes to the creation of a tense, distrusting environment that is not beneficial for learning.

On the flip side, in many places SROs are celebrated members of the school community who contribute overwhelmingly positively to the school experience, fostering better relationships between youth and law enforcement while not focusing on trying to shovel kids into the prison industrial complex.

However, in budget-conscious Rhode Island, the price tag will be the real issue keeping this concept from being realized. A lot of good could be done — programs funded, leaks fixed, teachers hired, etc. — with an additional \$24 million a year in funding.

And in our view, these are both valid concerns to exercise caution over this idea.

Before any legislator even considers finding that money, they should be convinced that such a program would have a rigorous screening process to ensure they would be placing good people in schools who have the adequate training in active threat response, have the necessary empathy to perform a stressful job around children, and who want to become a part of their school community, rather than an armed warden overseeing it.

## Sincere apologies



*Sincere apologies to anyone who felt demeaned that I had drawn a boy saluting with the wrong arm in a Memorial Day cartoon published last week. It was not my intention to disrespect anyone who served to protect our freedoms. The source photo I used as a reference was*



*reversed evidently and I'm ashamed to say I didn't notice. I hope all the fine men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military can forgive this artist's lack of attention. -Charlie Hall. I personally add the apologies of this newspaper for failing to detect the error and correcting it before publication. John Howell, publisher*

### Netflix piece lived up to its review

To the Editor,  
I've enjoyed Mr. Fowler's reviews over the years, even if it was for a film or local play I wouldn't normally see (and on rare occasion went to see because of the review).

One surprise, and odd coincidence was his recent review of an item from that vast sea of streaming choices-Netflix's Queen Cleopatra 'miniseries'.

My wife & I had been looking for something different just the week before and stumbled across that piece. For the next 3 hours, we sat enthralled watching it. I agree with the review, it was an excellent piece!

Thank you!  
Dale Miller

### LETTERS

## Greater costs of online gambling

To the Editor,

The Rhode Island Lottery's objection to proposed state legislation that would legalize online gambling in the Ocean State totally misses the larger point. The main issue should not be how much revenue RI might gain from online gambling. Instead, it should be how many more Rhode Island children will suffer from their parents' far easier ability to gamble away family resources.

How many children will go hungry because a father sits at his home computer at midnight and gambles away that week's grocery money? Instead of making it somewhat difficult for that father to leave his children and drive 30 miles roundtrip to gamble away the food budget, we intend to make it as easy as sitting at a kitchen counter?

How many children will be forced

from their homes due to foreclosures or missed rent payments because a mother decides to use her cell phone in bed to spin slot machines and lose that month's mortgage or rent payment--a mother who would never leave her children to take a midnight drive to Lincoln or Tiverton but because of the ease of online gambling loses her children's home?

The measly \$42 million per year in increased state revenue Bally's has dangled before our legislators pales in comparison to the costs Ocean State children and taxpayers will endure because of online gambling.

Our legislators need to realize that behind every shiny object flashed before them hides a usually much greater cost.

Lonnie Barham  
Warwick

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**INVEST TO PROTECT:** Rhode Island Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-2) joined Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Warwick Police Chief Col. Bradford Connor to announce his co-sponsorship of the Invest to Protect Act, "a bill to invest \$50 million per year in training, recruitment, and mental health resources for small and mid-sized police departments." (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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**Magaziner pledges big  
funding support for smaller  
RI police departments**

By RORY SCHULER

The smallest state's smallest police departments may be in store for a big chunk of federal funding.

On Monday, May 15, at Warwick Police Headquarters, Rhode Island Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-2) announced his co-sponsorship of the Invest to Protect Act, "a bill to invest \$50 million per year in training, recruitment, and mental health resources for small and mid-sized police departments," according to a press release from his office.

Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi and Warwick Police Chief Col. Bradford Connor joined Magaziner for the morning announcement.

Magaziner said the bill has bi-partisan support, and will reserve at least \$50 million per year "specifically for small and medium-sized law enforcement agencies, defined as law enforcement agencies with less than 200 sworn officers."

"In the Second Congressional District that I represent, every single one of the 20 communities that is in the second district, except for Providence, qualify for this ... funding," he explained.

"If passed, almost every police department in the Second Congressional District would be eligible for funding, including Warwick, Cranston, East Greenwich, Coventry, Johnston, Burrillville, and more," according to Magaziner's press release.

"In recent years, law enforcement has faced many challenges such as recruitment and retention issues resulting in staffing shortages and officer wellness concerns," said Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira. "The Invest to Protect Act will offer resources for training and assistance allowing for smaller law enforcement agencies, such as the Johnston Police Department, to effectively recruit, train, and retain officers while providing access to mental health services. The valuable law enforcement training offered by this grant program includes de-escalation, domestic violence response, and officer safety programs."

The \$50 million in annual funding, for five years, would be spread throughout the nation. Local police departments will need to apply for the funding.

The funding will support police departments via three key initiatives: investing in officer safety, de-escalation, and domestic violence response training; create grants for small departments to recruit new officers, provide retention bonuses to keep their existing officers, and fund officers' tuition for graduate studies in mental health, public health, and social work up to \$10,000; and allow departments to provide mental health resources for their officers.

"These training initiatives will help ensure smaller municipalities have the support and resources necessary to serve their communities," Vieira

said. "The Rhode Island law enforcement community commends Congressman Magaziner for co-sponsoring this bill and recognizing the value of investing in local police departments to keep our communities safe."

The press conference also kicked off a week-long recognition of local law enforcement.

"National Police Week is a time for us all to thank the brave members of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our communities safe," Magaziner said. "I'm proud to announce my support for the Invest to Protect Act, which will deliver critical federal funding for Rhode Island police departments to ensure the safety of frontline officers and continue to keep our cities and towns secure."

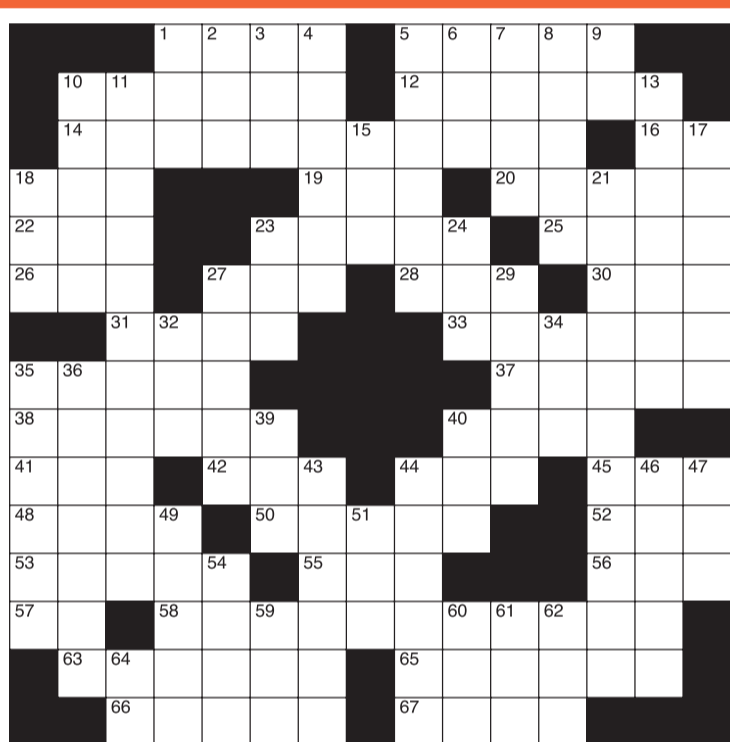
Picozzi took over the lectern following Magaziner's initial remarks.

"My greatest responsibility as Mayor is ensuring public safety," Picozzi said. "The Invest to Protect Act will go a long way to help recruit, train and retain police officers. I want to thank Congressman Magaziner for his efforts and dedication to support public safety."

Connor spoke next, voicing his support for the legislation.

"The Invest to Protect Act that is being co-sponsored by U. S. Representative Seth Magaziner falls directly in line with our commitment to provide quality policing by recruiting the finest candidates and then providing them with up to date training in the area of officer safety, de-escalation and domestic violence response," Connor said. "If passed, this bill would positively enhance policing for mid-size agencies like the Warwick Police Department."

**CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE CORNER**



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade
- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/\_\_\_
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

**LEGAL  
NOTICES**

**Public Auction  
Legal Notice**

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

To: TD BANK 40 DANBURY RD WILTON, CT 06897, ENVIRO EXPRESS 555 WORDIN AVE BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605 A public auction will be held at 100 South Street Johnston RI on JUNE 10, 2023 at 900 am. The vehicle a 2011 KW 3WKDDW9X5BF291593 belonging to the above. the auction being held is to satisfy towing and storage fees.

**GOOD  
TO BE  
KIND**





**TAKING IN THE SHOW:** Two-Dimensional Art IV students: Steffi Rotella (Honors), Linda Echeverria (Honors), Hannah Calabro, and Cameron Vanstone stop for a photo in the midst of viewing the work of their peers.



**FAMILY AFFAIR:** Christopher Alves poses for a photo with his family.



**TWO-D:** Kalina Bonetti and Jenna Aucone are Two-Dimensional Art IV students representing the Junior Class.

## Art Show better in real life

The JHS Annual Art Show returned as an in-person event for the first time since the pandemic began. Approximately one hundred students, families, Johnston Public School staff, and administrators came out to see the May 3 show.

The Art Department, which has doubled in size over the past five years, now offers more types of classes and pathways where student can specialize within the visual arts, according to Kerry L. Murphy, Art Teacher, Fine Arts Co-Chair at Johnston Senior High School.

Members of the community enjoyed talking about the work with the students, while listening to music and snacking on light refreshment. It was a meaningful experience for all involved.



**ART APART:** Dianna Droukas, a senior, poses with a friend at the art show.

## Luke DaPonte documents cemetery burials as Eagle Scout project

When Troop 20 Eagle Scout Candidate Luke DaPonte found the Highland Memorial Cemetery, where he had been placing flags for the past 5 years, does not have a record of all of the veterans buried there he decided to do something about it.

Throughout his scouting experience, DaPonte vowed to make it his goal to document the veterans buried there and create a spreadsheet for the cemetery to help families to locate their lost ones.

On Saturday and Sunday, Luke organized a group of scouts, family and friends to help him walk the cemetery, section by section, and collect the names and location of veterans.

He will then work with the scouts to create a spread sheet for the cemetery to assist families in locating their loved ones.

"One thing we learned through this process", Luke said, "not every veteran has markings on their grave." Multiple families approached the troop about their family member not receiving a flag. The troop asked for the information about their loved one and gave them a flag to place themselves.

DaPonte is hopeful these families will contact their local VFW to request a veteran plaque to be placed at the grave site so that the troop will make sure the scouts don't miss them in the future.



**EAGLE CANDIDATE AT WORK:** Troop 20 Eagle Scout Candidate Luke DaPonte gives scouts directions on how best to document veterans buried at Highland Memorial Cemetery. (Photos courtesy of Susan DeAthos, Troop 20 Boy Scouts Assistant Scoutmaster)

## 1,400 Memorial Day flags

On Saturday, May 27th, Troop 20 Boy Scouts and Pack 20 Cub Scouts honored those veterans that are no longer with us by holding a memorial service and placing flag on the graves. This is the 6th Memorial Day that the Scouts have honored those we have lost. Scouts placed more than 1,400 flags on the graves at the Highland Memorial Cemetery in Johnston. Pictured the troop and cubs gather to place flags. (Photo courtesy of Susan DeAthos)



# ATLANTIC TROPHY

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All-You-Can-Eat including Soda

## Twin Oaks

Sunday June 25th

Arrival 12:30. Lunch 1pm  
Choice of Baked Stuffed Shrimp  
or Chicken Parmigian

Reservations/Info/More dates at  
AGINGDISGRACEFULLY.NET/288-1188

## Mousy's

(Continued from page 1)

its authenticity."

He adjusted the wiring rigged to the artwork's subtle lighting accents.

"At the same time, while feeling 'real,' I have a very caricature-like style with how the people, places, and situations are presented that make it campier and more fun," Mollicone said. "It's as if everything feels slightly off, but it still makes sense within the piece."

A Johnston native and resident, Mollicone just earned his undergraduate degree at Rhode Island College (RIC). As a studio art major, he won this year's Senior Award for his sculpture, titled "Mousy's Bar."

"He's also an avid cinephile who has worked as a production assistant on a number of commercials, film productions and a TV pilot in both Rhode Island and Boston," wrote John Taraborelli, Director of Communications & Public Relations for RIC. "Michael has already been accepted into our master's program in art education for the fall, and we know he's going to go on to do great things."

Mollicone's work has impressed members of the RIC faculty, including Professor of Art William Martin, who specializes in sculpture.

"I had Michael as a student in all of my 3-D foundations courses," Martin said. "He was one of the



WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME: The patrons existing inside Mousy's Bar carry weighty experience in their expressions and posture. The true stories behind each room at Mousy's is up to the viewer, according to artist Mike Mollicone.



MIXED MEDIA: Mike Mollicone, of Johnston, has been accepted into RIC's master's program in art education for the fall semester.

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best students in the class. He had the most interesting interpretations of the assignments I gave and he exhibited an extra level of independence and ambition early on."

Mollicone created "Mousy's Bar" during the Fall 2022 semester.

"As we came back to class from COVID, I had him in my metalworking and woodworking classes, where he experimented with different materials," Martin recalled. "He took a lot of ceramics and a lot of sculpture courses. He was a really terrific student and continued to do really creative interpretations of whatever I asked. So, I wasn't surprised, as he continued on into his upper-level classes, that he turned out to be such a great student and ended up winning the Senior Award."

Mollicone gave a tour of Mousy's last week, as he made the final adjustments to his exhibition in RIC's Alex & Ani Hall.

"I love great stories, movies, anything narrative," Mollicone said. "With this piece especially, I have several small narratives for people to latch on to. It's really an ensemble piece, no interaction really overpowers another. It's great when I hear people

talking about it because everyone always latches on to something different."

The setting and its characters have loose roots wrapped around old memories from a family restaurant Mollicone visited as a child.

"I will say that the old man playing cards in the back is someone I see as Mousy's uncle," Mollicone said. "I hint to that a little bit in the restaurant. There's a large family picture on the wall in the main room where there's a younger version of that man painted in. That was just a small detail I added more for myself. If anyone ever noticed I'd be really surprised."

A campaign poster's hung on the barroom wall, urging patrons to "Elect Russo" (a reference to one of Mollicone's relatives, Ralph aRusso).

When he's not in the art studio, Mollicone can often be found on an Ocean State film set.

"He had been working on movie production crews in Providence and actually ended up taking a semester break to work on a crew," Martin recalled. "When he came back, he really threw himself into making these much more theatrical, movie-set-like pieces. He had these note-

books full of these very expressive faces/characters. His sculptures were settings of people interacting. They were a combination of his Italian family background — his experiences of Italian American clubs and growing up in Johnston — as well as the expressive characters in his sketch books and his movie production work."

Mollicone has been trying to build his artistic voice — his signature.

"The pieces that he makes are both captivating and humorous," Martin said. "They really draw you in and you begin to imagine who these characters. He does a really good job of bringing together all of his influences. The pieces on exhibit in the gallery here are a combination of everything he was exposed to for the last four years."

Most of the stories unraveling at Mousy's Bar exist solely in the mind of the beholder.

"There are some cases that I've given stories to the characters to help develop them more in order for me to put them in the space," Mollicone said. "However, I try not to give a lot of that away ... That way everyone can enjoy their own version of it when they see it."



# Steven Palumbo sings at Luigi's, The Rat Pack is next

If you want to dine and listen to music with a class act, then attend a venue with Steve Palumbo singing his popular American music, from Michael Buble', Harry Connick Jr. , Andrea Bocelli, Elvis, Bobby Darin and more...

Well, my wife and I were dining at Luigi's Restaurant and I said to her, this guy is great, let's talk to him and I will do an article on him. He was a gentleman to speak with and we felt a sincere immediate connection. He probably will be doing an

event of my non-profit. Steve is 51 years old, lives in Smithfield and has a long history of singing at different venues. He sang for many cruise lines, casinos, weddings, restaurants and personal appearances when called on.

What is real amazing is that he has his own nine piece band called "Steve Palumbo All-Stars.

Well, Steve has made appearance in the United Kingdom and has sang for Tony Bennett with Tony's live band.

Now you can listen to

him and his band on June 3, 2023 at The Park Theatre in Cranston, Rhode Island. We are going as well.

All I can say is that this type of entertainment is hard to find. You would have to travel some distance to get this type of concert experience. Steve would really enjoy having you at this event. Join him at:

The Park Theatre by calling the box office @ 955-7275 to attend

The Rat Pack Concert on June 3rd, 2023, 8:00 pm

## Budget

(Continued from page 1)

adhered to under either Polisena administration.

"In accordance with Town Charter, Town Council should have been given a first draft of the budget proposed by April 1," Civetti reiterated on May 24. "To be honest with you, it's disheartening that we have elected officials that are attorneys and they think it's OK to violate the Town Charter. It's our governing document until it's revised."

For now, Polisena Jr. said he's waiting on the school department.

"We just received the results of the re-valuation from Vision last week," Polisena wrote. "To date, we've substantially completed the revenue portion of the budget and are just waiting (for) the expense side, mainly from the school department. The Town cannot do its budget without first having a budget from the school department."

Johnston Schools Superintendent Bernard DiLullo Jr. said school officials have already discussed their budgeting needs with town officials.

"We have followed the process of meeting with Town officials to present what funding the school department may need for FY 2024," DiLullo wrote via email last Monday. "We have been working with the Mayor and Finance Director to project the possible Town appropriation so that we may finalize our budget."

When asked how much more the School Department may need over last year's request, he replied, "We don't have a firm number yet but continue to work on it."

Polisena clarified that "it's against the law to give schools less than their previous year's budget."

He said that the school department has "not asked for a specific number from the Town yet."

According to Civetti, the administration gave all department heads in town clear budgetary deadlines.

"All departments were instructed to have their budgets into the Finance Director by the middle of March and it's my understanding they each complied," Civetti said.

Last year, when the former Mayor Joseph M. Polisena (the current mayor's father) was balancing his sixteenth and final town budget, he and school officials were tasked with reconciling a sizeable projected school funding deficit (around \$1.3 million).

Increased state funding helped bail out the budget process, and ultimately, in July 2022, the town unanimously passed the more than \$120 million budget with a small tax decrease, after the fiscal year had already begun.

For this year, Polisena said the first glimpse the public and Town Council will receive of his first proposed budget will be in June, just prior to the current budget's expiration.

"Same as always," Polisena wrote last week. "We will have the public hearing in June."

"I think the council and the public deserves the chance to go through the bud-

get and not just have it jammed down their throat at the last minute,"Civetti said.

Neighboring towns and cities have already held multiple budget hearings. The mayors of Warwick and Cranston have rolled out their proposed budgets.

"We should have had workshops and public meetings where we could have discussed the proposed budget with department heads," Civetti said in an interview on Wednesday, May 24. "And we should be getting ready to approve it. The Town of North Providence approved their budget last night. The Town of Smithfield had a meeting earlier this week. West Warwick approved their budget last Thursday night. All these communities, their councils have been able to review the budget proposed by their administrations."

Last year, Town Council received the final proposed budget in mid-July, just days before they were tasked with approving it.

"If we're doing something wrong, we should correct it," Civetti said. "I strongly believe we should be complying with our Charter ... Generally, the directors of each department should have the ability to come before the Town Council. And the Town Council should be able to discuss this with department heads."

Polisena was asked the following two questions regarding the budgetary process in town, and the budget's late public release and subsequent quick adoption:

"How can the public weigh in? How can Town Council vet the budget before voting if they see it and approve it at the last minute?"

Polisena replied: "I am following the same budget practice that's been followed for decades. There is one councilor out of five that has a problem with it. This is the same person who's been on the council for the past eight years and followed this same process each of those eight years but now all the sudden has an issue with it. Same process — just a different administration. Residents are smart, they can read patterns and in between the lines."

Town Council President Robert V. Russo responded to requests for comment on Tuesday, May 23.

"To date it is my understanding the town administration has yet to receive the school budget," Russo wrote via email. "As you are aware the school department receives over half of the town budget so their proposed budget has a big impact on the town's final budget. I cannot comment as to when the school budget will be ready. Based on the new state mandated reassessments the tax rates typically are reduced to off-set any increase in additional value placed on properties. Once the school committee finalizes their budget they will transmit it to the Mayor's office and the Mayor's finance staff along with the mayor will prepare the final budget draft for submission to the council. The Council traditionally has its budget public hearing toward the end of June. By then state revenue figures should be in and the council will have time to review for any adjustments necessary on the budget submitted."

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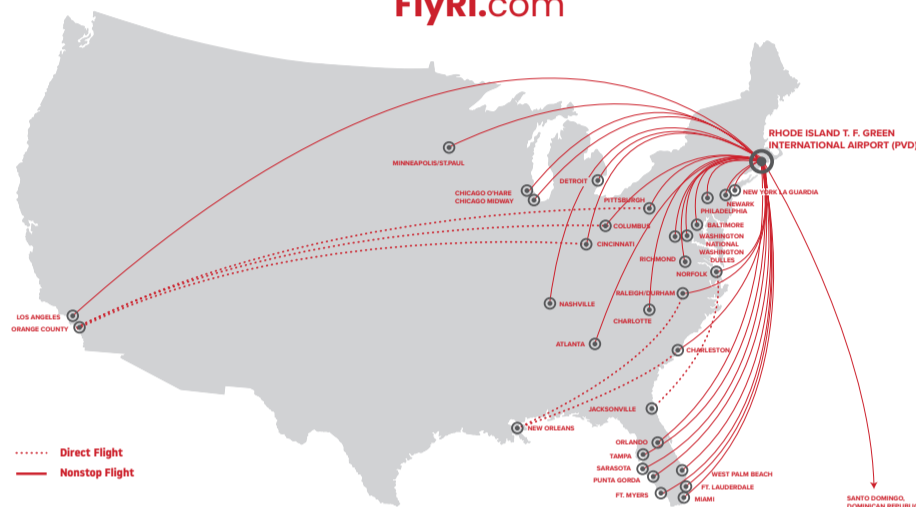


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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

# Puppies!

Have you been in search a puppy to join your family? Well there are so many pups of all shapes, sizes and mixed breeds waiting at Heart of RI. To see more photos please visit [www.heartofri.org](http://www.heartofri.org) or call 401-467-3670. They are all adorable and will be waiting to hopefully go home with you!!



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

**animaltalk1920@gmail.com**

# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

June 1

### Neighborhood Watch Walk

On June 1 at 5:30 P.M. at the Tri-County Community Action Agency parking, a group will meet for its "first walk of the season."

In an online post, Johnston Police urged residents to attend an upcoming Neighborhood Watch Walk.

"We are pleased to invite residents of District 2 to take part in Councilwoman Lauren Garzone's 2023 Neighborhood Watch Walk!" Johnston Police announced on their Facebook Page. "This program aims to create open lines of communication, strengthen community bonds, and promote a sense of pride in our town. Participants in this event will have the opportunity to meet neighbors, develop relationships, and contribute to the safety of our community."

Johnston Police said that "the Neighborhood Watch Walk is an initiative that combines community-oriented policing with informative walking tours and meetings."

June 2

### Farewell to Daniel D. Waterman Elementary School

June 2, from 5 – 8 p.m., there will be a farewell celebration at Waterman Elementary School, 722 Pontiac Ave, Cranston. There will be a DJ, food trucks, photo booth and much more. Come and enjoy the celebration and share the memories. This event is open to the community. Spread the word!

June 3

### Free Car Seat Check & Touch a Truck Event

On Saturday, June 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., South County Health will host a free car seat check and touch-a-truck event. Members of the South Kingstown Police Department, trained in Child Passenger Safety, will provide free car seat installation checks. This is a convenient opportunity for community members to ensure that they are using the right car seat, with the right installation, for their children's ages and sizes. Other family-friendly activities will include: face painting, touch-a-truck, and guided tours of South County Hospital's award-winning Birthing Units.

June 9

### Cranston High East Class of '73 Reunion

On Friday, June 9 at 6 p.m., Cranston High School East, Class of 1973 will hold its 50th Year Reunion on at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Avenue, Warwick. Cash bar: 6 – 7 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. \$75 per person. For more information, contact: AC 401-559-6627.

June 10

### Funny 4 Funds Comedy Night Fundraiser

Saturday, June 10, at 7 p.m., the Rhode Island Canine Search and Rescue, will hold the Funny 4 Funds Comedy Night Fundraiser, at the Warwick Knights of Columbus, 474 Sandy Lane. Doors open at 6 p.m. Event starts at 7 p.m. \$25/person. Raffles, 50/50 and auctions. Sponsor opportunities available. RICSAR is a non-profit 501c(3) search and rescue team. Our focus is to ensure that the families of the missing will be reunited. For links to more information or tickets, [ricsar.org](http://ricsar.org), or email [ricsar.treas@gmail.com](mailto:ricsar.treas@gmail.com).

June 10

### Rummage Sale Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, will be holding a Rummage Sale. Clothing, shoes, household items, linen, garden tools, games. Nice, slightly used items at low prices. For more information: 401-467-3300. The church is handicap accessible.

June 15

### Track & Field Registration Deadline

Now thru June 15 is the time to register for Johnston Youth Track & Field. The Johnston Recreation Department is also looking for volunteer coaches and sponsors. 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](http://johnstonrec.com).

June 18

### Annual Rochambeau Strawberry Biscuit Tea

June 18, from 6 – 8 p.m., The Cranston Historical Society will hold its 22nd Annual Rochambeau Strawberry biscuit Tea at the Joy Homestead to celebrate the 242nd Anniversary of the March to Victory of General Rochambeau. Rochambeau led his French forces of King Louis XVI through Cranston, Scituate and Coventry on June 18, 1781, on his way to join General Washington to defeat the British at Yorktown. Enjoy an

evening of pleasantries and tea with homemade biscuits & strawberries. \$5 donation. Reservations required. (401) 944-9226.

June 23

### Johnston High School Class of '73 Reunion

Friday, June 23, at 6 p.m., The Inspiration of '73 will celebrate its 50th year reunion. It will be held at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave., Warwick. Cocktails: 6 – 7 p.m. and Dinner: 7 p.m. \$80 per person. There will be live music. 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 401-497-9292.

June 24

### Strawberry Festival

On Saturday, June 24 from 12 – 4 p.m., Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown, invites the public to celebrate their annual Strawberry Festival. This family friendly event will feature once again puppeteer Dan Butterworth, as well as pop singer Jesse Liam. Plenty of colonial games, activities, and crafts will be provided as well as pony rides for children. Vendors will be on-site, and they will be selling their famous strawberry shortcake as well as plants for the garden. A special exhibit will feature collections from the Narragansett Bay Quilt Association. Admission to Strawberry Festival is \$10 per adult, \$8 for seniors and military, \$6 for children over 6 years of age. Family Cap is \$25. For more information: [www.smithscastle.org](http://www.smithscastle.org) or 401-294-3521.

July 22

### The Prout School Class of 1973 Reunion

July 22, at 12 p.m., The Prout School Class of 1973 will hold its 50th reunion at The Prout School, 4640 Tower Hill Road in South Kingstown. All 1973 graduates are cordially invited to attend. For further information, 1973 graduate alumni are asked to join the Facebook Group "Prout Class of 1973," or contact Mary Paolino at [mary.paolino@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.paolino@yahoo.com).

July 30

### Warwick Veterans/TollGate High School Class of 1973 Reunion

Sunday, July 30 at 6 p.m., Warwick Veterans Memorial High School/TollGate High School Class of 1973 will hold its 50th Year Reunion at the Valley Country Club, 251 New London Ave, Warwick. Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m. \$50 per person. Checks payable to "VetsTollGate Class of 1973" can be sent to Ms. Judy Snow, 29 Oberlin Dr. Warwick 02886. Contact us at [ClassOf73VetsTollgate@gmail.com](mailto:ClassOf73VetsTollgate@gmail.com) with any questions.

January 1 – June 31

### St. Francis Xavier Academy Scholarship Applications

The St. Francis Xavier Academy Alumnae Association is accepting scholarship applications from Jan. 1, until July 31. Forms are available on their two Facebook pages, by mail at SXA. P.O. Box 20452, Cranston, 02920, or contact a board member.

Events at Mohr Library

Tuesday, June 20, "Read Across Rhode Island" programming to read and discuss True Biz, a bestselling book which the publisher calls "an unforgettable journey into the deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection." Register by calling Meg at 231-4980, and press 6 for the reference

Wednesdays, 4 p.m. Art-Smart classes starting in May for ages 8 to 12.

Saturdays, 2 p.m., Art-Smart classes starting in May, for ages 5 to 8.

The library is located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. For information on all library events, services and hours of operation, visit their website, [www.mohrlibrary.org](http://www.mohrlibrary.org) or email [info@mohrlibrary.org](mailto:info@mohrlibrary.org).

Johnston Senior Center Highlights:

Offering more programs and trips every week

- Monday – Arts and Crafts
- Monday & Wednesday - Hi Lo Jack
- Tuesday - Tia Chi on Tuesday
- Wednesday – Poker
- Wednesday – Quilting
- Thursday – Mar Jong
- Friday & Saturday - Bingo

The Senior Center Club the last Tuesday of the 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).

May-June Trips

- Wednesday, May 31: Mystery lunch \$10 pp
- Wednesday, May 31: Paint & Wine 6:00pm \$20 pp
- Thursday, June 15: The Memories of Patsy, Whites of Westport Dinner & Show \$79 pp
- Tuesday, June 20: Newport Playhouse, (Spreading it

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■ **Fire**  
(Continued from page 1)

spread to the building in no time. While they were talking, that was exactly what happened.

According to Johnston Fire Chief David Iannuccilli, the department made a "fast response," with the first engine arriving at the scene five minutes after the dispatch. By the time they arrived, the façade of the building was already engulfed in flames.

"It went into my apartment," Holmes said. "I could see flames in there."

Iannuccilli said the 22 on-call firefighters from Johnston were aided by the Providence, Smithfield and Cranston fire departments. He estimated that there were a total of 30 to 35 firefighters working to put out the fire. Iannuccilli added that this fire was a "pretty bad one." He praised his crew for "doing a great job." Though three residents and one firefighter went to the hospital, there were no fatalities, so he considered it a "win in our book."

Bongiovanni also jumped into action during the moment. She "did what she could" to evacuate a couple residents on her end of the apartment. She said she was especially concerned about the disabled residents who had trouble evacuating from the higher floors.

"My next-door friend has Parkinson's," Bongiovanni said. "She said, 'I can't walk,' and I go, 'I'm sorry Val you gotta come.' I dragged her because my thought was if these cars caught on fire, they're gonna blow up." For the residents, the damage and trauma did not end when the fire was put out.

According to Bob Thomas, the maintenance supervisor, three-quarters of the building is damaged by a combination of fire, smoke and water. As a result, the entire building needs to be rebuilt.

Donna Marcera's apartment was not touched by the flames. Rather, as the firefighters put the fire out, a plume of smoke and fire made its way to the attic, spreading horizontally. Firefighters cut a hole in the roof and set up hoses above Marcera's apartment. She

said that because of the water damage, the "carpet smells like spoiled milk and there's plaster on the floor." She added that there are water stains on her ceiling.

Due to this structural damage, many residents do not know when they will be able to return to their units. Some estimated it could be 6 months. "We're all heartbroken," Bongiovanni said.

Bongiovanni praised Picerne Realty Group for their efforts to find temporary housing for tenants and having personnel available to accompany them as they retrieve belongings from their units.

In an email, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. thanked Johnston firefighters for their "skill response." "Due to their quick response and actions of carrying multiple civilians out of the flames, there were zero fatalities. They prevented a tragedy from becoming a catastrophe," he said.



**MELTED:** One of two cars damaged by Sunday's fire.

## Watch Your MOUTH

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

### THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF BRUXISM

Bruxism, or teeth grinding, is most often caused by stress and anxiety. Sleep problems like snoring and sleep apnea are also common culprits of teeth grinding. Certain medications, particularly SSRIs, are known to cause teeth grinding in some people. Those who grind their teeth often have jaw pain, tooth damage, and other dental problems that can include broken teeth and damaged fillings. If you suspect you have bruxism, a dentist can diagnose the condition. They can also custom-make mouth guards or splints to wear at night to protect teeth from damage. In addition to regular dental checkups, it can also help to work with a doctor to diagnose and treat a condition that may be causing bruxism.

Many people grind their teeth throughout the day, making this damaging practice a 24/7 hazard to their oral as well as overall health. Whether you are in our office for bruxism or just for a simple cleaning, our personal, casual, and relaxed style in providing quality dental care will help put you at ease. We'll take the time to get to know your needs, answer your questions about the latest techniques and materials, and make sure that you are comfortable. Be kind to your teeth—call DENTAL ARTS GROUP for complete family dental care at 401-521-3661. We're located at 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. P.S. Teeth grinding is common in children and teenagers during sleep and is often resolved once adult teeth have come in.

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## SCOOP OF THE WEEK

June 1  
Free documentary screening

On Thursday, the Kelley Gazzoer VFW 2812 will be hosting a free screening along with a panel discussion on a new documentary featuring director Michael Moore that takes a look at wind energy.

There will be a cash bar and the event will take place from 6-8 p.m. at 1418 Plainfield Pike in Cranston.

To RSVP to the event, visit [greenwindtruth.com](http://greenwindtruth.com)

FREE COMMUNITY MOVIE SCREENING

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With Panel Discussion

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FREE EVENT: RSVP Required

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of-1971-scholarship-fund.

### Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

More than 1 in 4 US households struggle with their home energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help keep the heat on. The Tri-County LIHEAP Program helps to cover the cost of home heating bills for those that qualify.

Visit [www.tricountyri.com](http://www.tricountyri.com) for more information about the LIHEAP program, and other weatherization programs that can help to reduce your home energy bills. To submit an application for LIHEAP, or to see if you qualify, contact them at 401-519-1913. The Tri-County LIHEAP program has locations in North Providence and North Kingstown.

### Neighborhood Watch

The 2022 season of Johnston's Neighborhood Watch has officially kicked off. This Neighborhood Watch brings together residents who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together with members of the police department. The program pairs residents with Johnston Police officers in an effort to open up communication, meet other neighbors and create partnerships that help build community resiliency.

*Editor's Note: Send submissions to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at [rorys@rhodybeat.com](mailto:rorys@rhodybeat.com) or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at [idaz@rhodybeat.com](mailto: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 information.*

■ **Scoops**  
(Continued from page 10)

around) Lobster Fest Dinner show, \$95 pp  
Wednesday, June 28: Mystery lunch \$10.00pp

### Amenity Aid Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers that would like to help us plan and staff community events, organize hygiene product collection drives and raise funds for Amenity Aid. If you are interested in doing any of the above or would like to be a member of our Community Outreach Committee, please contact Stacey Silva, Community Outreach Chair at [Stacey@AmenityAid.org](mailto:Stacey@AmenityAid.org).

Amenity Aid's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations by creating access to essential hygiene products. Serving all of Rhode Island, we distribute toiletry necessities to those most vulnerable through our network of direct service agencies.

### 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-](http://www.rifoundation.org/funds/soul-)

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## A Taste of Italy, Deli & Caffè

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**By JENNIFER COATES**

It has been said that "There is no such thing as 'Italian haute cuisine' because there are no high or low roads in Italian cooking. All roads lead to the home, to las cucina di casa."

No words could be truer than these when describing the home cooking of chef Jennifer Kaya of Johnston's newest deli and caffè, A Taste of Italy ~ everything tastes as if it came straight from your own Nona's kitchen. The great Italian classics. Traditional ingredients, traditional recipes, traditional techniques, traditional spices & seasonings ~ but still modern, creative and always homemade! Always fresh, always vibrant, always delicious, always comforting, always authentic.

One only needs to drive down Atwood Avenue near its intersection with Central Avenue to spot this new culinary destination. Mounted on the building,

just below the American flag, is the Italian flag with its signature bold red, green and white stripes. These colors symbolize freedom (green), faith (white) and love (red). For longtime friends, business partners and now co-owners Mario Mennella, Pasquale (Pat) Palermo and Mike Giammarco, A Taste of Italy has come to express all that they love about Italy ~ it was a labor of love with a whole lot of faith and hope, elbow grease and the freedom to create something really special to honor their common heritage.

A Taste of Italy has been busy serving hungry diners since it officially opened its doors on May 1st. A former marketplace, the space needed a complete overhaul ~ so the guys went straight to work. Today, this stunning café and deli is a visual showpiece with a great "sense of arrival." It is sparkling clean and anchored by two long display cases, chock full of the

chef's daily creations. These include prepared meals, sandwiches made from the highest quality of brand-name cold cuts and Buono Bakery's grinder rolls, fresh salads and mouth-watering desserts made right here on the premises.

Mario, Pat and Mike hand-selected their chef, Jennifer Kaya, renowned for her exceptional talent as the owner of the former Sognalo's Deli. Also on staff are Kaya's daughters Bella & Gianna, her son Vinny as well as other family members and lifelong friends of the owners ~ it is one great big Italian family!

The menu here at A Taste of Italy, all of which is available for take-out or dine-in, is diverse and tantalizing ~ just ask the numerous guests who are already giving it the highest praise. Come by for dinner tonight, pack your perfect picnic, or impress your pickiest guests! You will NEVER leave here hungry!

A Taste of Italy is found at 1302 Atwood Avenue in Johnston. The deli & caffè also offer catering (but given them a couple of weeks notice). The deli is open Monday-Friday (8:00am - 7:00pm), Saturday (9:00am - 6:00pm) and Sunday (9:00am - 2:00pm). To see more of their delicious food, follow them on Facebook. For more information, call 401-942-1234.



Check out Johnston's newest culinary sensation, A Taste of Italy, an Italian deli and caffè serving up classic Italian dishes and sumptuous meals just like these, every single day.

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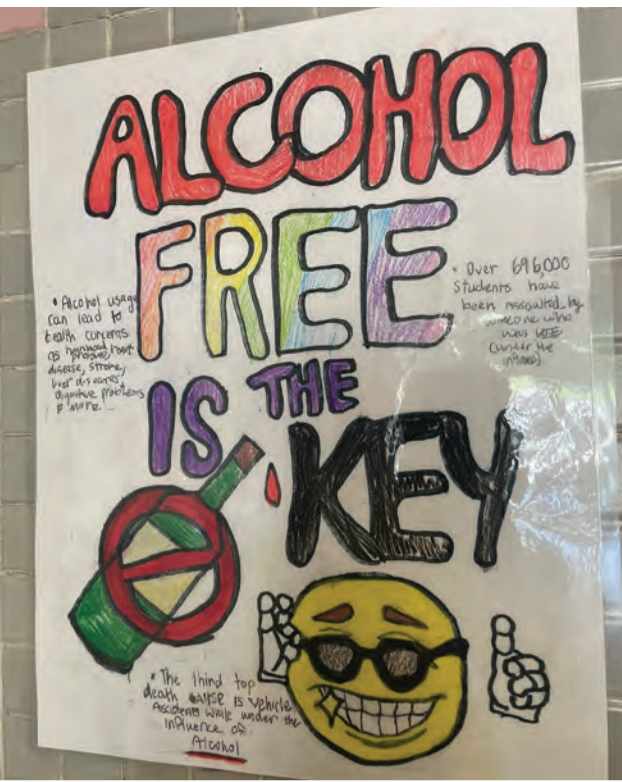
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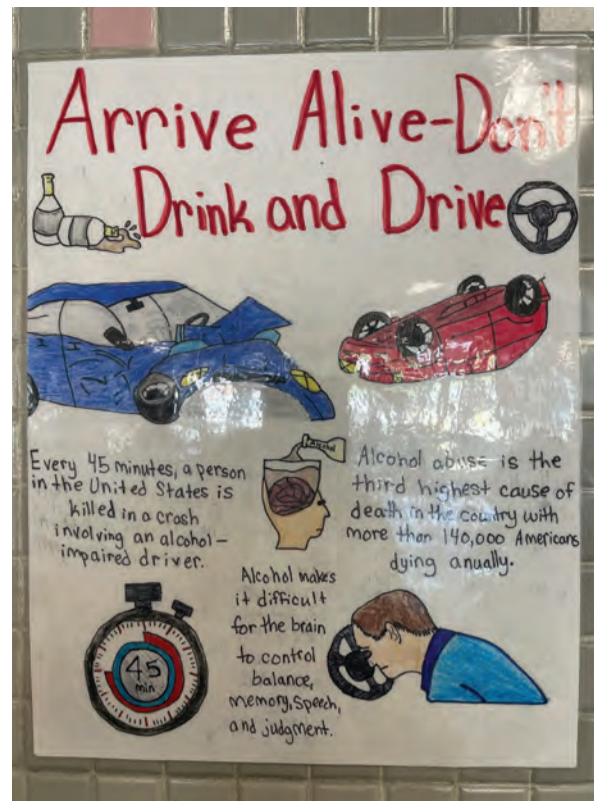
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SILVER MEDAL: Jewel Langlois was awarded second place in the poster contest.



BRONZE MEDAL: Juliette Amaya won third place.

## Ferri Middle School promotes Alcohol Awareness Month through poster contest

Alcohol Awareness Month is a public health program organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcohol misuse and issues related to alcohol. It has since become a national movement to draw more attention to the causes and effects of alcohol use as well as how to help families and communities.

The Johnston Prevention Coalition, which is part of the SPC (Southern Providence County) Regional Prevention Coalition coordinated by Tri-County Community Action Agency under the direction of Patricia Sweet, BA, ACPS, has coordinated with Ferri Middle School to raise awareness to alcohol use and misuse through a poster contest.

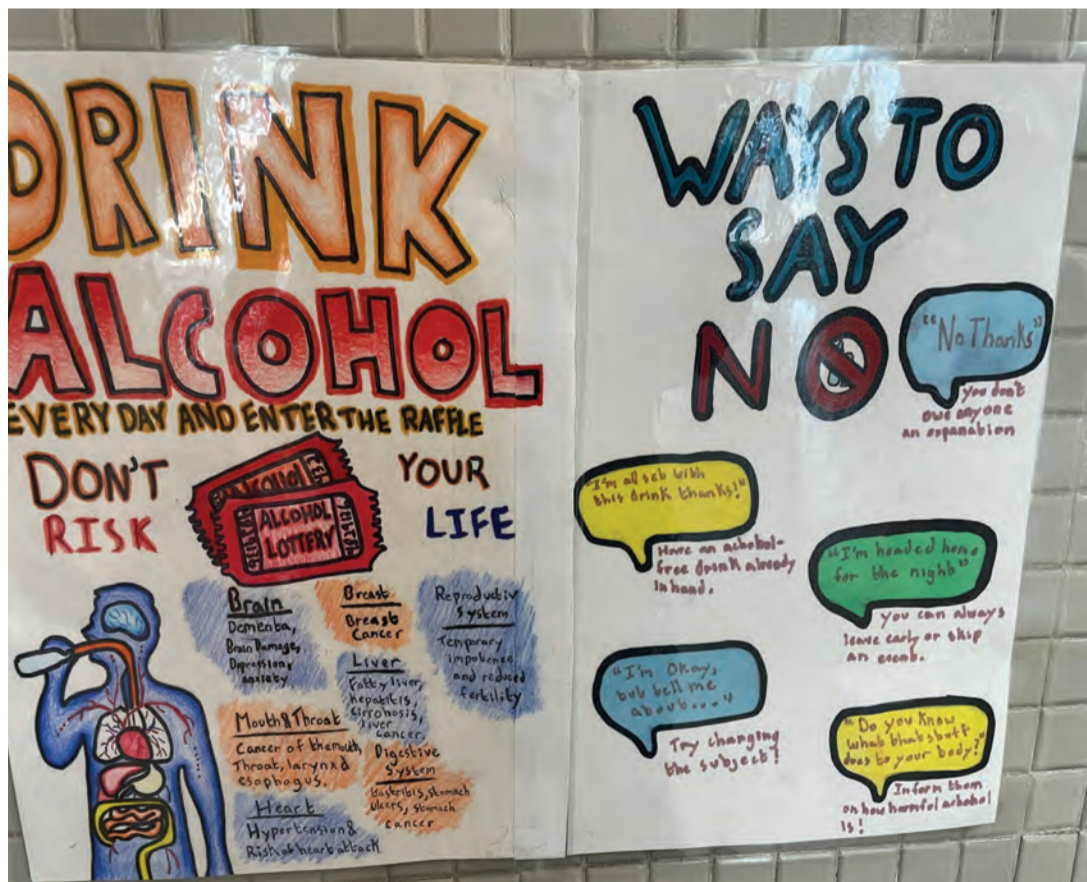
Over 60 students at Ferri Middle School submitted posters that had a catchy slogan, negative alcohol effects and facts, along with graphics or artwork that was geared towards youth and teens.

Winners included (1st place) Anthony Hopp, who won an Amazon Gift Card, poster printed in the Johnston Sun Rise, and displayed in school; (2nd -4th place) Jewel Langlois, Juliette Amaya, and Ashlyn Wheeler, also won their posters published in the Johnston Sun Rise and displayed in school.

The funding for this project came from the Partnerships for Success Grant (PFS) funded by the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH). (Submitted photos)



GOLD MEDAL: First place winner Anthony Hopp won an Amazon Gift Card.



FOURTH PLACE: Ashlyn Wheeler won fourth place in the poster contest.

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# Sports

## JLL rallies for May family

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston community is mourning the loss Thomas "TJ" May, who was one of the victim's in last week's shooting in which his daughter was also injured.

May was a beloved family man and community leader, and was a coach in Johnston Little League. May had been a member of JLL for four seasons and was the coach of the Major League Braves. He was also slated to be the coach of the 10-year-old All-Stars this coming summer. May also coached his son in the league.

Days following the tragedy, the JLL Board of Directors met and discussed ways to help the players process the loss while also brainstorming ways to aid the May family. The league provided grief counseling for players and postponed play until Thursday.

Since last week, JLL has hosted a car show fundraiser, a card making event, and established a GoFundMe page. The league is approaching \$54,000 in funds raised toward the May family after setting an original goal of \$20,000.

"We want to show his family that we are all thinking of them. We are just trying to raise some money for them, every little bit helps. Anything to help ease the burden on them. The league is battling through it. The league is one big family, we are coming to-

gether as a family and that is what is keeping us going," said JLL President Joe Splendorio.

Vice President Mike Orsini added: "The community has really come together because of this tragedy. There has been a ton of outpouring which has been great to see."

The league will continue to host various fundraising events in the coming months for the family, including a Funny for Funds event. The league has also raised his team's flag at the ballpark at Memorial Park and is hoping to create a memorial first base coach mat, where you would usually see May posted on game day.

Splendorio will remember May for his infectious personality and commitment to the kids he coached.

"We have a lot of young guys with a lot of energy on the board and he was one of us, he fit right in. He was a sports minded guy, a high character guy, a family guy. Winning and losing was at the bottom for him, it was about raising these kids," said Splendorio.

Orsini will also remember the impact that he made on those around him in JLL and beyond.

"He was a great part of the community and such a positive man. He was a man of great principles, morals. He was a great father, he truly was," said Orsini.



**'A POSITIVE MAN':** Thomas "TJ" May, who coached in Johnston Little League for four seasons and was considered one of the organization's most popular figures. (Submitted photo)



**PERFECT PICK:** Paul Petrozzi stands beside his 1956 peacock blue three-speed Thunderbird that features a 292 block and was voted the Coaches Pick at Monday's Johnston Little League Car Show.

## JLL Car Show boasts over 400 roadsters

By PETE FONTAINE

Back on April 15 when the Johnston Little League opened its 61st season, President Joe Splendorio offered a preview of the 2023 season.

There would be 51 sponsors for the 2023 season, there would be a new Board of Directors that will take the pre-teen baseball program to new levels, a big-league look – including flags on poles along the outfield fence at both fields, a Calendar Fundraiser, Funny for Funds Comedy Show and a bus trip to the Red Sox-Yankees Game at Yankee Stadium on Aug. 19.

Yet another item was a Car Show scheduled for this past Monday (May 29) inside Johnston War Memorial Park.

What neither Splendorio or Vice President Mike Orsini – or another volunteer knew back then – was that the 2023 season would include a record-setting fundraiser.

"This is an absolutely beautiful day," Splendorio offered as he walked around the sun-covered pristine park. "This is without question an extraordinary day."

The reason, first and foremost, that the Johnston Little League perhaps set an all-time record among all youth baseball programs in the state, when a total of 439 classic cars, roadsters and even trucks showed up and took filled just about every space throughout the park.

"Engineers Field was jammed with cars," Splendorio exclaimed. "This is fantastic an example of the culture of acceptance we have established for families and

# Mount Hope Bay opens to shellfishing

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Great news for recreational and commercial quahoggers, 515 acres in Mt. Hope Bay are now open as conditional rather than a prohibited shellfishing area. The area can be fished 'conditionally' as DEM opens and closes 'conditional' areas based on rain events. If it rains more than .5 inches in a 24 hour period the conditional area closes for seven days to allow the water to recover from enhanced runoff.

Last week the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced that with its latest water quality tests earlier this month confirming a year-over-year trend of improvement, it is opening a 515-acre area off the coast of Warren in the Mount Hope Bay to shellfishing.

In upgrading it from prohibited to conditionally approved, DEM said the area located in the Bay's northwest corner and stretching from the mouth of the Kickemuit River in the Touisset Point section of Warren east to the Rhode Island-Massachusetts state line — meets federal safety standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration's National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

Recent improvements in wastewater treatment and combined sewer overflow (CSO) capture in Fall River, MA have resulted in improved water quality throughout Mount Hope Bay. DEM's tests showed that these improvements have allowed water quality in the bay off Touisset Point to meet national standards for safe shellfish harvest during dry weather for the past several years. Also, tissue analyses for bacteria and heavy metals conducted by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) have shown that shellfish in these waters meet national standards.

"From the opening of the Providence River to quahogging for the first time in 75 years in 2021, to the opening of new shellfishing grounds in Greenwich Bay in 2022, to the Mount Hope Bay reopening in 2023, the trend toward better water quality in Narragansett Bay is clear," said DEM Director Terry Gray.

For information on emergency and conditional area shellfish closures, call DEM's 24-hour shellfishing hotline at 401-222-2900 or sign up for their listserv at [RishellfishOWR-subscribe@listserve.ri.gov](mailto:RishellfishOWR-subscribe@listserve.ri.gov).

### New striped bass regulation engaged

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) enacted emergency recreational regulations last weekend to change the maximum length limit for keeping striped bass.

The new recreational slot size in all New England states is 28 to less than 31 inches with anglers allowed to keep one fish per day. This new regulation started May 26 in Massachusetts and Connecticut and May 27 in Rhode Island and runs to Oct. 28.

The larger than normal striped bass class of 2015 maturing to the old slot limit size of 28 to less than 35 inches led to higher than normal overfishing. Last year anglers killed twice as many fish and reduced the probability of success of the stock rebuilding plan to just 15 percent.

### Where's the bite

Striped bass and bluefish. Angler Tom Fetherston of South Kingstown, said, "We fished the North Rip (Block Island) last Wednesday with no hits so went to Nebraska Shoal (Charlestown, RI). Ran out umbrella rigs and hit big bluefish. Quit when we had twelve pounds for dinner and the smoker. Went closer to the beach to troll and picked up two stripers."

Fishing for striped bass and bluefish in Narragansett Bay has been very good with some anglers having to hunt for them. The East Passage, Providence River as well as Greenwich Bay and the West Passage are all producing. Tim Rounds of Idaho caught a 38-inch striped bass Saturday just off Popasquash Point, Bristol.

And Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. both keeper bass and large bluefish were caught just north of Conimicut point. Dave Henault of Ocean State Bait & Tackle said, "Customer Angelo Moniz caught a 52-inch striped bass from Spooky Bottom Dock, East Providence using chunks of Atlantic menhaden.

Pogies, trolling umbrella rigs and tube & worm and flutter spoons all seem to be working." "I landed nine very nice size striped bass at Narrow Rive this weekend and dropped three others. Most of the bass were in the 18 to 20-inch range. Four bass on my hot pink fly and then changed to my brown one the rest of the time," said Ed Lombardo, fly fishing expert and guide.

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Fishing for striped bass has been producing well with catches reported at the Breachways, along the beaches and back in the salt ponds. Bluefish are still around coming in and out of the Breachway in waves."

Tautog. Anglers are reminded that the spring tautog season in Rhode Island closes June 1 to July 31 during spawning season, Massachusetts stays open with a one fish limit.

Squid, black sea bass and summer flounder. Angler Rich Hittinger said, "There are fluke at Block Island and south of Newport. So far we have landed an 8-pound, a 5.5-pound and a 4.5-pound fluke near Block Island with a four pounder south of Newport along with many in the 18 to 20 inch range.

"The sea bass are spotty, but they are on rock piles south of Newport," Angler Tom Fetherston said, "Rran back to Nebraska Shoal (Charlestown). Took some time to find fish but picked a limit of six black sea bass for three anglers to 21 inches along with a scup and a short fluke."

"Squid fishing is good and the fluke are in deep water (60-80 ft) and reports continue to improve. Customers are finding a few along the beach and out at Block Island." said Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle. Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane said, "The fluke bite is getting better everyday with reports of Bay fish just north and south of the bridges with a good bite off Newport and at Block Island."

*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](mailto:dmontifish@verison.net) or visit [www.nof-lukefishing.com](http://www.nof-lukefishing.com).*



**FIRST STRIPES BASS:** Tim Rounds of Idaho here on vacation caught this 38-inch striped bass (his first ever) fishing with light tackle at Popasquash Point, Bristol on No Fluke Fishing Charters. (Submitted photo)

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**TRIO:** The crew of the Osprey, Paul James of Bristol, Tom Fetherston (captain) and Pete Blaupied both of South Kingstown. Wednesday the trio caught bluefish, striped bass, black sea bass, scup and summer flounder.



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**SPECIAL SHOWPIECE:** There were countless classics that owners drove to War Memorial Park for Monday's Johnston Little League Car Show.



**MIGHTY MACHINE:** This is just one of the many roadsters that were on display Monday in Johnston.



**OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS:** These are some of the valuable volunteers who are part of the new-look JLL Board of Directors. They are Anthony Ferranati, Todd Spindler, Jared Poole, Joe Splendorio, Ken Kalnietis and Gary Rianna. (Photos courtesy of Joe Splendorio)

**Car**

(Continued from page 14)

friends to come down and just have a night at the park with food, fun, community and baseball."

As many of the antique and classic car owners said while showing off their spiffy machines: "The turnout here is a unique way of showing support for the

youth of the community."

Likewise, many people echoed those same sentiments as they visited a special tent the JLL set up in honor of TJ May, beloved coach of the Braves who was tragically killed last week.

Splendorio announced that all proceeds from Monday's Memorial Day Car Show will benefit the league with a portion going to help May's family.

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# Evaluating Mazzulla's first season

## My pitch



by  
**ALEX**  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
[ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM](mailto:ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM)

The Boston Celtics saw their season come to an end on Monday night as the Miami Heat won Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals to advance to the championship round.

The loss marked the end of the season for Johnston native and head coach Joe Mazzulla, who was in his first year as head coach after being elevated to the title midway through the season.

Mazzulla, who was also the youngest coach in the league, got a taste of his first postseason experience these past few weeks, so let's take a moment here to evaluate his first year at the helm.

Mazzulla deserves much credit, first and foremost, for the situation he took over. Former coach Ime Udoka was suspended prior to the regular season for violating team rules. Mazzulla was handed the reins and had to be in the center of the controversy leading up to the season.

The fact that such a young coach was able to handle that type of scrutiny is impressive and shows his maturity. He never blinked, stayed the course, and focused solely on coaching the team. He deflected the questions regarding Udoka's departure and kept the conversion strictly to basketball.

The Celtics would then go on a big run to start the season and would wrap up the second seed for the playoffs. Midway through the season, Mazzulla led the team to enough success and gained

enough respect from the players that the franchise decided to remove the interim tag and elevate him the full head coach. The stars of the team were very vocal in their support.

Which leads me to my next point. In the NBA, the coach-player relationship is the most important of any sport. NBA rosters are small and there are only five players on the court at once and maybe eight or so will play on a given night. Considering how small NBA rosters are, the relationship is paramount and Mazzulla succeeded in building that connection early in his first year. He earned that respect and trust.

Udoka's system centered on defense. The Celtics were an elite defensive team last year, but there were times when it felt like the offense suffered because of it. With guys like Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, it felt like this could be an elite offensive team if they were cut loose.

Mazzulla did that this season, and although the defensive performance was not quite what it was last year, Boston absolutely took a step forward on offense and we saw Tatum and Brown develop even further. Each were All-Stars and All-NBA players.

The postseason is when we really separate the good teams from the great teams. It's when your biggest flaws are on display and your strengths are tested. Especially as a young coach, Mazzulla was going to be pressed from the first game, and sure enough, he was.

Boston beat Atlanta in the first round in six games. The talent gap was substantial, so there is not too much to dive into there.

The second round against Philadelphia, though, we saw Mazzulla and the Celtics take on some adversity when they fell behind 3-2.

This Celtics team had been known to fold in some big moments, but explode and play their best basketball in others. It would be up to Mazzulla to make sure it

would be the later, and sure enough it was, as Boston rolled to consecutive wins to punch their ticket to the conference finals.

Then, even more trouble, as they fell behind 3-0 against Miami. From there, the Celtics would once again flip that switch, tie things up at 3-3 and force Monday night's Game 7.

Miami got the deciding win and credit to the Heat, they hit more shots and played tighter defense. When a team has those advantages, it's almost impossible for them to lose. Monday was Miami's night and Boston never really found its rhythm.

Overall, it was a successful first season for Mazzulla and I absolutely believe that he has earned the right to coach this team next season.

The most criticism he took this year was when the team fell behind 3-0 to Miami, and deservedly so. In those games, Mazzulla struggled to manage his timeouts, the clock, and the team looked unfocused at times. Mazzulla admitted that was on him, as it certainly was.

Mazzulla was out-coached those first three games, plain and simple. Some national media members felt that if the Celtics were swept then Mazzulla would have to be fired. I always thought that was a bit much considering it was a first year, but that 3-0 deficit was tough to watch as a Johnston reporter rooting for the local guy to find his way.

Although the team did not finish the job, ultimately, the comeback to force Game 7 was impressive and worthy of our praise. Again, they should not have been down three games in the first place, but the playoffs are always a grind, there are ups and downs in every series.

Next year will be huge for Mazzulla as he will have a full season under his belt and will likely have a new roster with some contracts expiring. Every season poses new challenges and next year will be another tough go.

Although Mazzulla certainly faced some tough times and his inexperience was on display in a few moments this season, it is hard not to be impressed with how he led this team and organization in his first year. He had a lot on his plate both on and off the court and coached the team to Game 7 of the conference finals.

There's still unfinished business, but Mazzulla deserves our trust moving forward.

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. ARMY!



Not many know the U.S Army's birthday is coming up on June 14th, so I thought I give a brief history about how our army came to be...

The United States Army was officially formed by a resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1775. They authorized ten companies of rifleman to be raised specifically by the Continental Congress as opposed to state troops. They also accepted the army of New Englanders who had been surrounding the British in Boston since the evening of April 19. The number of troops who marched to besiege Boston varies, however, a document at the Massachusetts State Archives dated April 23 lists 21,196 troops around Boston and in coastal communities. Obviously, the number of soldiers that were accepted into Continental service would vary as soldiers went home, new soldiers arrived, and enlistments ran out by the end of 1775. It seems in June, the number thought to be brought into Continental service was around 15,000 at the time. All of this was happening not even two months after the war had broken out and a huge move on the part of the Continental Congress.

Things were moving ahead rapidly, and on June 15, Virginian George Washington was unanimously chosen by Congress as General and Commander in Chief of the newly formed army and began his journey to Boston to take command on the 20th. A committee had also been appointed to write the rules and regulations for the



**By Joel Bohy**  
*Historic Arms & Militaria*  
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new army, quite possibly based upon the rules already written by the Massachusetts Provincial Congress on April 5 that had just been issued to Massachusetts officers in early May.

Picking officers to command the Continental Army also commenced, taking account of regional men with former military ser-

vice, and trying to appease each state, a very fragile process with many men with large egos. That said, the alliance of continental officers was soon assembled with very little internal strife at the beginning, although there would be alterations as the Siege of Boston went on.

How did all of this happen so quickly and fairly efficiently? Preparing for war was not a new concept in the British Provincial colonies before the Revolution. Formations of Provincial forces had been raised and supplied numerous times during the 18th century, and many of those forming the new Continental Army or government had been a part of this process before. A look back at records in the Massachusetts State Archives through the 1740s to the 1760s show how the state could raise and equip men for service. Provisioning and supplying troops had been done many times before with help from England. While the state governments had done this in the past, it would be tougher this time to get many of the materials that were needed, and new foreign alliances would have to be forged if it was going to last.

Although raising armies had been done before, this time it looked to be moving towards something that hadn't been done previously: a self-governed country independent from England, which finally happened eight long years later. No wonder we still celebrate to this day - Happy birthday United States Army!

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