

## 'Obviously it's a disaster'

### Displaced Simmons Village residents start finding new homes, but fear the future

By DANA RICHIE and RORY SCHULER

One of the fire victims was stuck in her second-floor apartment. Neighbors yelled to firefighters to save her. She wouldn't make it out on her own.

"She was covered in black and breathing out of her purse," said displaced resident Evelyn Englehardt, as she sat outside Simmons Village awaiting a representative from her rental insurance company Tuesday afternoon. "Honey's still in the hospital with smoke inhalation."

Englehardt hopes to salvage some belongings, get them packed up and cleaned.

For the rest of June, her stay at an "extended stay" hotel in West Warwick has been covered. After that, however, is a frightening mystery.

Englehardt had already paid her June rent, which has been applied toward the hotel stay. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the building owner are expected to pick up the rest of the tab. But after June 30, she fears homelessness.

She and 51 other residents, mostly senior citizens receiving government assistance, have been burned out of their home.

"This is very stressful for senior citizens to go through," Englehardt said, while sitting outside the fenced-off building. "We're still in shock. Obviously it's a disaster — it's confusing. I'm grateful for a place to stay."

She may be one of the lucky ones. She had insurance. Englehardt said she knew two neighbors who didn't.

#### Rough Transition

Property management company Piscerne Realty Group has pledged to help with the transition and to pick up the remaining tab after applying rent and federal assistance.

Property Manager Meghan Mancuso said earlier this week that it may be as long as 6 to 12 months until Simmons Village apartment tenants are allowed to return to their homes. She said that the 45-unit building, constructed in 1979, has to be completely gutted as a result of the fire that occurred on Sunday, May 28.



**BURNED OUT:** Above, the building property manager said it may be as long as 6 to 12 months until Simmons Village apartment tenants are allowed to return to their homes. She said that the 45-unit building, constructed in 1979, has to be completely gutted as a result of the fire that occurred on Sunday, May 28. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

**SMOKER'S HUT:** Louis Furia still has his home, in separate building. A lot of his friends are scrambling for housing, however, following the blaze at Simmons Village. He thinks the mulch surrounding all the complex buildings should be removed and replaced with crushed stone.



FIRE - PAGE 13

## Triple shooting investigation continues

By RORY SCHULER

Although the most likely suspect was shot and killed by police, the investigation into the events that unfolded on Ligian Court in Johnston on May 24 remain under investigation.

"The investigation regarding the incident is ongoing," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said Wednesday morning. "I have no new information to disclose at this time regarding the open investigation."

The Rhode Island Attorney General's investigation into the police shooting that followed later that day, has also yet to conclude.

"No update at the moment," Brian Hodge, spokesman for Attorney General Peter F. Neronha, said Tuesday evening.

When asked how many shots were fired, and which law enforcement officer fired

the fatal shot(s), Hodge replied, "As this is an ongoing investigation, there is no comment at this time."

Witnesses at the scene described upwards of 50 rounds fired by police at alleged killer, James Harrison, 52, of 4 Ligian Court, who was on the run since the early that morning.

On May 25, the day following the shootings, Vieira released some case details, including the possible catalyst event, which had occurred around midnight the night before the murders.

Vieira said that Johnston police responded to 2 Ligian Court "in reference to a report of suspicious activity" around midnight.

"Upon arrival the resident, Thomas May, age 44, reported banging noises were heard on the exterior of his residence by his daughter's bedroom window," according to Vieira. "After raising the window

blinds, Mr. May observed his neighbor, identified as (Harrison), outside his residence in possession of a ladder."

May, a neighbor and one of the next morning's shooting victims, told police that Harrison ran from his home toward "his residence next door."

"While on scene, officers did not observe any signs of attempted forced entry to the bedroom window nor could they locate a ladder," according to Vieira. "Mr. May subsequently requested to file a trespass order against Harrison forbidding him from his property."

Responding Johnston police officers on the scene "attempted to make contact with Harrison at 4 Ligian Court but were met with no response," according to Vieira. "Attempts to contact Harrison by telephone were also met with no response."



SHOOTING - PAGE 8

Harrison



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**HONORED:** OSDRI President and Founder Tony DeQuattro spoke at the organization's Headquarters Dedication in 1993. For three decades, he's been helping the region's veterans and now he'll be the honorary bearer of the Mace in Rhode Island's historic Gaspee Days Parade. (Sun Rise FILE photo)

## Veterans advocate, OSDRI founder to carry historic Mace in Gaspee Days Parade

Sun Rise Staff Reports

**O**peration Stand Down RI (OSDRI) President and Founder Tony DeQuattro has been selected to carry the Mace in Rhode Island's historic Gaspee Days Parade.

"Being asked to carry the historic mace on the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Operation Stand Down RI is not only a big honor but also a testament to the work we do every day at OSDRI for the local veteran community," DeQuattro said.

The parade will step off from Narragansett Parkway at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 10.

"Tony, who served in the United States Marines, is one of the most recognizable veteran advocates in the State," according to OSDRI. "Not only is he a founding member of Operation Stand Down Rhode Island but his leadership in 2001 led to the construction of the State's first permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans. In 2010, Tony oversaw the completion of the Lance Corporal Holly Charrette Home, Rhode Island's first and only transitional housing for homeless female veterans."

DeQuattro remains devoted to the region's veterans.

"Tony's dedication to service has spanned over three decades and he continues his service still at the helm of the board of Operation Stand Down," according to an OSDRI press release. "Additionally, Tony's family continues to serve as he now carries the label of a blue star parent with his youngest daughter serving as a Captain in the U.S. Army in Europe."

The Rhode Island Mace has been carried at the head of the Gaspee Days Parade every year since the first observance of Gaspee Days in June, 1966.

Former Warwick City Councilman Gerald S. Goldstein has carried it every year until the early 1990s, after which the honor

was given to Milton "Mr. Gaspee" Wrath.

In 2007, Wrath passed the honor on to Past President of the Gaspee Days, Mark Russell. Each year Mark Russell selects a designated member of the community to share in the honor.

The Mace is made of historic fragments of wood and is closely associated with the historical backgrounds of the state of Rhode Island, according to OSDRI's press release.

The eagle on the top of the mace was carried through the Civil War on top of a staff which bore a Union battle flag. Part of the wood in the mace was once taken from the much hated British revenue schooner H.M.S. Gaspee which was burned after being caught on a sand bar off Gaspee Point on the evening of June 9, 1772. Another portion of the wood came from colonial Governor Arthur Fenner's homestead in Cranston; which was built in 1680 and demolished in 1895.

"Connecting OSDRI to such important roots in our state is a momentous occasion for the organization. It demonstrates the importance that our nonprofit organization has come to have in the state, leading the way for Veteran Services since 1993," said OSDRI Executive Director Erik Wallin, Esq.

OSDRI is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Rhode Island's primary nonprofit resource for homeless and at-risk veterans.

Founded in 1993 and headquartered in Johnston, OSDRI's mission is to help veterans secure stable housing, employment, basic human needs, legal and benefit assistance. OSDRI offers an array of services for veterans including a food pantry program, pro bono legal services, rental assistance, and a robust employment program. In addition, OSDRI has 88 units of housing for veterans spanning across the state from Woonsocket to Westerly. On average 2,000 veterans a year benefit from OSDRI's services.

### AMERICAN RELIC:

The Gaspee Days Parade Mace is made of historic fragments of wood and is closely associated with the historical backgrounds of the state of Rhode Island. OSDRI President and Founder Tony DeQuattro will carry the mace in the parade, which will step off from Narragansett Parkway at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 10. (Sun Rise FILE photo)



# JHS seniors now citizens



**CLASS OF 2023:** The graduating Johnston High School Class of 2023 posed for a group photo on the last day of school. (Photo submitted by JHS Student Council)

**By CHARLIE CURCI**  
Special to the Sun Rise

**A**fter all these years, it'd be known that there'd be laughter and tears for the conclusion of the JHS class of 2023's time roaming the blue & white hallways of the school.

This past Thursday, June 2, was the conclusion of classes for JHS' seniors. Throughout the day, laughter was shared, and memories were made. The seniors adorned in their college attire began to discuss what exactly this next chapter of their lives would look like. It is now evident that all good things come to an end, and the seniors truly

got to experience Johnston's finest throughout their time being a Panther.

Though their high school experience was hardly anything, but ordinary, the seniors made the best of everyday and every situation at JHS.

Throughout this school year, the class of 2023 had the opportunity to go on to win the Battle of the Classes, Float Competition, and Most Spirited Class Award. They had the opportunity to enjoy a plethora of activities from Homecoming to Winter Ball to their New York Trip in March, Senior Prom, Senior Trip, and so much more.

As a senior, reflecting back on my four years of high school, and 12 years as a Johnston Public Schools student, I am left awestruck by all of the

wonderful things that I have learned and can share about my experiences.

On behalf of the JHS Class of 2023, thank you to the teachers, coaches, parents, siblings, and many more who helped to make our experience at JHS so special. We will forever be grateful for the tenacity of the community, and the love that we felt. We will forever be Johnston Panthers, and will forever wear blue and white with pride.

**Editor's Note:** Charlie Curci, a graduating Johnston High School Senior served as Student Council President. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by JHS students.

## Planning & Development meeting planned for Graduation Night

**By RORY SCHULER**

Johnston's mayoral administration circulated a flyer on social media earlier this week, advertising a June 15 Planning and Development meeting at the Johnston Senior Center. No legal advertisement for the meeting has been published, and no agenda seems to be available on the Rhode Island Secretary of State's website, however the town did previously advertise, but canceled a June 6 Planning Board meeting. No agenda was ever posted.

Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti said he could offer few details.

"Nothing at all," Civetti said when asked if he knew what the meeting would cover. "The Town Council has not been provided any updates on this project."

Civetti has been formally requesting updates on the town's efforts to revise Johnston's Comprehensive Plan.

The meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. next Thursday night, will include a review of proposed future land use maps and a discussion of "redevelopment of our neighborhood commercial areas," "developmental standards and regulations," according to the digital flyer posted

on the town's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

"Very disappointing that the meeting is not being advertised in local papers or mailers sent to residents like other communities have done," Civetti said. "Advertising only in so-

cial media forums and on-line results in many residents not knowing about the meeting or the Town project."

The Johnston Republican Town Committee posted a call-to-action online, asking residents to attend the meeting (the meeting has also

been scheduled at the same time as the Johnston High School Class of 2023 commencement).

The meeting will also include a 6:45 p.m. presentation by Rhode Island Energy, on "the Act on Climate and its effect on development."

"The Johnston Planning & Development board is ready to push Johnston to their 'GREEN' Plan," the JRTC wrote on Twitter.

The town's also requesting residents scan a QR code and complete a "short survey on land use and energy."

### Obituaries

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

Should you desire our services, kindly inform your funeral director, or call (401) 732-3100 or email [Obits@rhodybeat.com](mailto: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

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# Johnston Senior Center recognizes key volunteer

By RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.

Lynn Cianci is "our spotlight" on a volunteer. Lynn spent 32 years in the food service industry in various nursing homes. She enjoys working and truly enjoys helping older adults. She volunteers five days per week at the Johnston Senior Center, serving lunch to seniors.

She enjoys the comradery here at the center and the social interactions with staff and members. She feels greatly appreciated and believes she helps make everyone's visit enjoyable.

**Editor's Note:** Richard J. DelFino Jr. serves as Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center, at 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes a senior profile, called "Senior Spotlight," submitted by the senior center.



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# FMS Law Day civics lesson provided by civic leaders



**LAW EXPERTS:** Ferri Middle School's Eighth Grade Civics Classes participated in Law Day in May. (Submitted photos)

By **CULLY FLEMING**  
Special to the Sun Rise

Ferri Middle School's Eighth Grade Civics Classes participated in Law Day on Friday, May 5.

Students from Team 8 White had a special visit from the Honorable Superior Court Judge Joseph Montalbano, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena (as a lawyer), Johnston Police Chief Mark Vieira and School Resource Officer Lou Cotoia.

Students learned about the First Ten Amendments and how they play a role in everyday life. Students received an in-depth lesson on how the nation's basic freedoms affect all aspects of today's society.

All of the presenters discussed their roles in society and how it has an impact on citizens' daily lives. The Fourth Amendment (Search and Seizure) attracted the attention of most of the students and whether it applied to school or on personal property.

Presenters shared their knowledge and experiences with the students to get a better understanding of how politics and government affect our lives everyday.

This year's theme was "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration."

**Editor's Note:** Cully Fleming is a civics teacher at Ferri Middle School.



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

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- Who this program is NOT for:**
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  2. Homeowners that have replaced sections of their roof over the years, piece by piece
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  4. Homeowners that have a roof in absolutely terrible condition that probably needed to be replaced many, many years ago

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**Johnston Sun Rise**

# SUN RISE SCOOPS

## Sun Rise Staff Reports

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 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, or email ricsar.treas@gmail.com.

June 10

### 24th Annual Rose Show

Saturday, June 10, from 1-3 p.m., The Rhode Island Rose Society will hold its 24th Annual Rose Show at Shepherd of the Valley Church, 604 Seven Mile Road, Hope. Stroll among the fragrances, colors and petals of 100's of locally grown and exhibited roses from hybrid teas to shrubs to Old Garden Roses. Vote for the "Most Fragrant Rose." All submissions must be entered between 7-10:15 a.m. for impartial judging. There will be a

SCOOPS - PAGE 11

## SCOOP OF THE WEEK



**WARM WELCOME:** Michael Donahue (left), Americanism Chairman for the Tri-City Elks Lodge, gets a "thank you handshake" from JSC Executive Director Richard J. Delfino Jr. for collaborating on the "Birth of the American Flag" that will be held Wednesday, June 14 in Johnston. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

# Elks plan June 14 Flag Day event at the JSC

By PETE FONTAINE

"Americanism at its best" is what people are saying may be one of the most important, informative and interesting events in recent memory at the Johnston Senior Center.

The award-winning Tri-City Elks Lodge 14, which is based on West Short Road in Warwick, will present the "Birth of the American Flag" next Wednesday, June 14, inside the JSC's multi-use and spacious dining room.

"I'm honored that the Elks will be doing their Flag Day Service here in Johnston," the JSC's executive director offered. "I know they've come here in past years, but we're excited about taking this ceremony to new levels."

DelFino, who has been collaborating with Tri-City's Americanism Chairman Michael Donahue, went on: "We are honored that the Elks will be here for their annual Rite of Flag Day."

Donahue, who in addition to his chairmanship is a member of the Albert "Cookie" DeLory Memorial Golf Tournament that will be played for the third straight year on Sept. 18 at Harbor Lights Golf Club. He wanted it known: "We encourage people to take in the ceremony; there's so much to know about our flag."

So, if you're a history lover or like pomp and circumstance, plan on taking in the June 14 ceremony, which will also include music, singing and more followed by lunch and an Ice Cream Social.

According to DelFino, the Elks delegation will arrive at approximately 10:30 a.m. and the ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11. Lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m., followed by the Ice Cream Social. Reservations are only required for lunch and the social.

As for the classic ceremony, there will be 10 different parts, beginning with the singing of the National Anthem, a prayer, music like "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" and "God Bless America," as well as the Pledge of Allegiance leading to a Patriotic address.

Next week's Flag Day Ritual is a mandatory event at all Elks lodges in the country and is open to anyone who'd like to attend. There's no charge for people who'd like to see the ceremony that includes examples of the flag through the years.

The nationally accredited JSC is located at 1291 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

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# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Keep legal advertising in your local newspaper

Amidst a flurry of legislative efforts being submitted in the home stretch of the general assembly's session is one bill that simultaneously threatens the vitality of local newspapers, such as this one, as well as the ability for local residents to inform themselves about the important goings-on within the places they call home.

Senate Bill S1008 would seek to make the Rhode Island Secretary of State website as the primary home for legal notices, which are posted for everything from local liquor license hearings to proposed changes to your municipality's laws.

We join in the chorus of opposition to this bill, which includes other newspaper publishing groups and regular citizens who seek to remain abreast of their governments' activities.

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

One reason to oppose this measure is, admittedly, an act of self preservation. It is no secret that local newspapers have experienced immense financial difficulties since the turn of the millennia. Dedicated, locally-owned newspaper companies (the product of which you are reading right now) have become rarer and rarer as financial realities have necessitated layoffs, or the entire sale of operations to conglomerate companies that don't truly value the communities which they serve.

It cannot be ignored that culling legal advertising revenue from newspapers would serve as another devastating blow to local newspaper groups, but this is not the lone reason to oppose this legislation.

Legal ads aren't the sexiest aspect of a newspaper, but they are a fundamentally critical part of them. They serve to alert citizens of important meetings happening in town, and provide transparency into what their local boards and public officials are doing. Outside of serving as a convenient place to find this information, papers serve as an archival record to ensure that proper public notice has occurred, and that the governmental process is accessible to everyone.

It is immensely helpful and logical to have a "one stop shop" for a community to read about the latest news, see photos of their community in action, and inform them of critical governmental operations, all within the same place — without forcing them to go out on their own and search for information they might not even be aware they should be searching for. Indeed, many people first find out about scheduled meetings discussing topics important to them when they're flipping through the pages of their local paper.

The assumption that "everything is online now, so people can find legal notices online, too" is a drastic and ill-informed one, which also does not account for the significant number of people — particularly senior citizens and those of lower income who can't access broadband internet or have an internet-connected device — that would be left out of the democratic process as a result of this proposed change.

We implore residents and loyal readers of our newspapers to contact their local representatives in the House of Representatives and the Rhode Island Senate to oppose S1008, and oppose any similar legislation that may appear in the House.



Charlie Hall

LETTERS

## Rhode Island has fewest areas of protected Wildlands in New England

Hello everyone, a report was just released called "Wildlands in New England" which "is the first U.S. study to map and characterize all permanently conserved lands in one region that are managed to be forever wild."

Scientists from Harvard Forest including Dr. David Foster were among the principal authors of this report.

One of the most alarming things to come out of this report is how Rhode Island is the state with the fewest wildland areas in all of New England.

ONLY ONE WILDLANDS SITE WAS IDENTIFIED IN RHODE ISLAND!

This is the Oakland Forest which is a 20 acre Old Growth Forest in Portsmouth which is

owned by the Aquidneck Land Trust, a private organization.

THERE IS NOT ONE AREA OF PROTECTED WILDLANDS ON PUBLIC LAND IN RHODE ISLAND!

Rhode Island is also the only state in New England with no protected wildlands on public land.

This is embarrassing and disgraceful that Rhode Island has so few protected wildlands.

This is why we need Natural Area Preserves to finally create protected wildlands in Rhode Island.

Nathan Cornell  
President of the Old Growth Tree Society



Charlie Hall

Warwick's Mayor Picozzi is looking to acquire the Warwick Neck Lighthouse and make it into a tourist attraction.

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**Shooting**

(Continued from page 1)

The next morning, around 7:30 a.m., shots rang out on Ligian Court, as Johnston Police Officer Scott Hopkins returned "in another attempt to make contact with Harrison to investigate and issue him the trespass notice."

As Hopkins turned onto Ligian Court from Simonsville Avenue, he saw Harrison driving a dark blue Buick.

"As Harrison approached Simonsville Avenue, he made a hand gesture towards Officer Hopkins consistent with shooting a firearm," according to Johnston police. "Officer Hopkins then entered the driveway of 2 Ligian Court with the intention of turning around to detain Harrison."

That's when Hopkins spotted a "15-year-old juvenile female lying on the front lawn of the resi-

dence with apparent gunshot wounds and stopped to render aid."

The first victim discovered was May's daughter. Simultaneously, police said they received two 911 calls reporting "shots fired."

After additional officers arrived on the scene, they found May, a Johnston Little League coach, dead in the garage of the residence, "from a fatal gunshot wound to his head," according to police.

"The juvenile identified Harrison as the shooter," Vieira said via press release. "Officers were unable to locate Harrison and a BOLO (Be On the Lookout) was issued to surrounding law enforcement agencies regarding Harrison and the vehicle he was operating. The juvenile was immediately transported by Johnston Fire Department rescue personnel to Hasbro Children's Hospital where she received treatment for her injuries that were serious, however, not life-threatening."

Police entered Harrison's home at 4 Ligian Court, "in an attempt to locate additional victims in need of medical aid," when they found a third victim, whom police identified as the suspect's mother, Janet Harrison, 83. Police said she "was also deceased from a fatal gunshot wound to the head."

For the next few hours, law enforcement watched out for signs of Harrison's Buick Encore. He was eventually spotted by an off-duty dispatcher hiding out at St. Ann Cemetery. A pursuit ensued through multiple jurisdictions and ultimately ended in a Plainfield Pike crash on the Johnston/Cranston border, underneath the Interstate 295 overpass.

"James Harrison was fatally wounded by police after exiting his vehicle armed with a handgun," according to Vieira. Vieira also released a message to a mourning community: "The Johnston Police Department offers our sincere condolences to the May and Harrison families. The juvenile victim in this case has shown incredible courage and

resiliency and we pray for her speedy recovery. The Johnston Police Department commends the assistance provided by the Cranston Police Department, the Providence Police Department, and the Rhode Island State Police in swiftly locating this armed and dangerous individual. As we continue to investigate this incident, we would also like to thank the Office of the Attorney General for their assistance."

Later the day of the shooting, Vieira and Cranston Police Chief Col. Michael J. Winquist organized and spoke at a press conference.

The chiefs publicly identified the now dead suspect as Harrison.

"To my knowledge he did not have a criminal record in Rhode Island," Vieira said of Harrison.

According to Winquist, an off-duty Cranston emergency dispatcher spotted suspect and his vehicle at St. Ann Cemetery. Harrison was seated in his vehicle.

"Multiple Cranston police officers responded to the cemetery," Winquist said. "When they arrived, the suspect drove at these police officers head-on, nearly striking them."

A pursuit followed, involving "multiple Cranston Police officers ... as well as some officers from the Providence Police Department Task Force," Winquist said.

The pursuit bled into multiple towns, including Cranston, Providence and Johnston.

"As he drove on Plainfield Pike, he swerved at multiple police cars, striking a police vehicle," Winquist told police. "At some point, he was traveling the wrong way down Plainfield Pike."

At some point, the suspect "lost control of the vehicle and struck a rock," Winquist said.

"Multiple Cranston Police Officers and a Providence Police Officer Detective, approached, formed a perimeter and ordered the suspect out of the vehicle," Winquist told the media. "This lasted a matter of minutes ... The suspect eventually did exit the vehicle, brandishing a firearm, a handgun, which he pointed at the officers. At that point

the officers fired, killing the suspect."

The Rhode Island Attorney General's office will now lead the investigation into the apprehension and suspect shooting by police.

"As with any police-involved shooting, the Attorney General's protocol is invoked, and that's what's going on now," Winquist said, confirming that a "multi-jurisdictional investigation is underway and ongoing."

The entire police shooting incident was captured on uniform-worn police body camera. Winquist said a bystander on the scene also took video of the police shooting.

"Most fortunately, not a single officer was injured," Winquist said, adding that several officers were sent to hospital for observation.

Police said they could not confirm how many shots were fired at the suspect by police.

Witnesses working along Plainfield Pike reported hearing "more than 50 gunshots" after police shot and apprehended the suspect along Plainfield Pike, which is the border between Johnston and Cranston.

Dan Chiovitti was watching the massive police presence gathered along Plainfield Pike, from a parking lot at the intersection with Simonsville Avenue.

"I saw the smoke," he said. "And then I heard a lot of gun shots — at least 50."

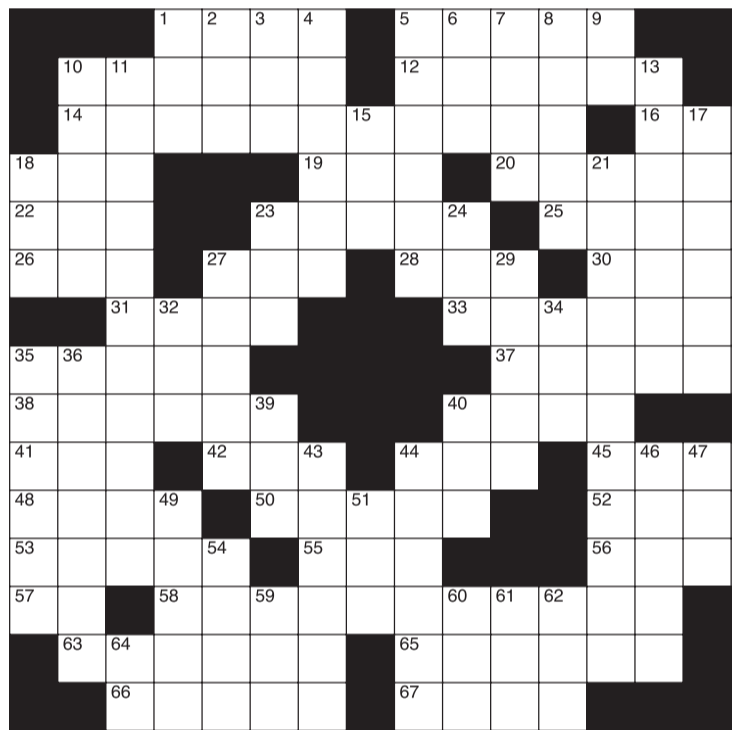
"Multiple shots were fired, we don't have a number," Winquist said. "That's part of the investigation."

Winquist said that both Cranston and Providence police officers "fired shots at the suspect."

While the suspect was on-the-loose, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said he was instructing Johnston Police to send extra law enforcement to local schools until the situation was resolved.

After police neutralized the suspect, Polisena posted the following Tweet: "I was informed this morning of a triple shooting in Johnston. I can now confirm the suspect has been apprehended and the danger to the public is over."

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Where there's \_\_, there's fire
- 10. Talked incessantly
- 12. Skill
- 14. Without shame
- 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
- 18. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Cluster cups
- 22. Footballer Newton
- 23. They make up a forest
- 25. Split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Post-office box
- 28. Test for high schoolers
- 30. Large, flightless bird
- 31. Expectorated
- 33. Falsehood
- 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
- 45. Witness

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
- 2. "\_\_\_ and flow"
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of the stem
- 6. Angry
- 7. Ceramic jar
- 8. Scraped a car
- 9. \_\_\_ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Strong hostilities
- 13. Vitamin of the B complex

- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team's best pitcher
- 21. A Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Characterized by crying eyes
- 32. Soft touch
- 34. American spy organization
- 35. A person's chest
- 36. Came from behind to win
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie \_\_, journalist
- 43. Great places to kayak
- 44. Suffer patiently
- 46. Majestic bird
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
- 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
- 54. Ship as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
- 62. One's grandmother
- 64. Siberian river

**HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE:**

Police from multiple departments converged on a shooting suspect's car along Plainfield Pike, on the Johnston/Cranston border, early Wednesday morning, May 24. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



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**LINKED LEADERS:** Ocean State Vintage Haulers Vice President Dave Pingitore (left) and President Ron Rossi stand in front of this 1952 Serling which was owned by the late Joe Pingitore, who for years served as the non-profit's president.



**AGELESS AUTO:** Anthony Andeozi drove his 1924 dump truck from Burrillville.



**VINTAGE VEHICLE:** Ron Rossi's 1946 pickup drew rave reviews.

# Vintage Haulers honor Mello in annual truck show

By PETE FONTAINE

Even though Old Man Weather blanketed Johnston Warwick Memorial Park with unseasonably chilly temperatures, there was a special warmth for the Ocean State Vintage Haulers 29th Annual Antique Truck Show.

That's because the highly regarded show was being held in memory of the late Ray Mello whose two mighty machines were placed at the park's entrance.

Mello, who was from Portsmouth, had not one but two heavy hauler trucks that his son Jason Mello – also of Portsmouth – agreed to sell to Jodie Rebello of Rehoboth, Ma.

"Wow, those are absolutely beautiful trucks," was the consensus of many people who took in the well-attended show as they looked over the 1980 Peterbuilt Model 359 and 1989 Western Star Model 4964 that were imprinted on tee shirts bearing the last Mello's name and were on sale Sunday.

There were trucks of all eras and models Sunday, like the famed 1952 chain-driven Sterling which is owned by Vice President Joe Pingitore – whose late brother Joseph Pingitore was the non-profit's popular president prior to his passing on October 25, 2021 at the tender age of 60.

"Joe is still missed by everyone," people told David Pingitore, who is secretary treasurer of the Johnston Firefighters Local 1950. "He was always a big part of this show's success."

The same holds true for Ron Rossi, who owns and operates Rossi's Christmas Free Farm In Cranston who had a small fleet of trucks on display Sunday including his spiffy and shiny royal blue 1946 Ford pickup that had wide whitewall tires.

Another Ford truck – a 1924 dump truck which is owned by Anthony Andreozi – caught people's attention by way of the front tires size 30 x 3-1/2 and featured 650 x 20 rear tires and a Galion all-steel dump body.

Yet another showstopper was Mike Zuba's 1938 Dodge that delivered gasoline kerosene and oil.

The 2023 show also featured five antique fire trucks as well as the Johnston Fire Department's famed shiny red Humvee which was refurbished by Gary Salzillo's Northeast Auto Body in Johnston.

Of course, the show offered everything for families, including a food truck, disc jockey Ray Arruda and mega trucks whose owners invited little boys and girls a chance to sit in the cab as if they were actually driving the big monster machines.



**SPECIAL SALE:** Jason Mello (left) of Portsmouth is joined by Jodie Rebello from Rehoboth.



**TRUCK TRANSFORMATION:** This is a former Shiner's vehicle that was later used as a firefighting apparatus. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

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HAPPY HOSTS: JPD Chief Mark Vieira (second left) along with School Resource Officer Mike Androozzi, Major Tom Dolan, Captain Mike Babbitt, Patrolman Brooke. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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## JPD celebrates first 'Walk with Cops' event of season

By PETE FONTAINE

It was founded about a quarter century ago when Richard S. Tamburini left his storied career with the Providence Police and took over as chief of the Johnston Police Department.

It was – and still is – a legendary and special senior social unlike any other in Rhode Island.

When Tamburini retired in 2020 and former Chief Joseph P. Razza was appointed as his successor, the number of participants – as well as volunteers – increased as did the numbers of generous local businesses that further boosted the unique program.

Now, JPD Chief Mark Vieira has assumed the reigns and if last Wednesday morning's season-opener offers any measuring stick, the JPD's award-winning "Walk with Cops" could reach all-time levels during the next four months.

There were tell-tale signs everywhere inside Johnston War Memorial Park such as the sisters Folcarelli – District 1 Councilwomen Linda – and Donna organizing and setting up what some people refer to as "a classic coffee shoppe."

As they've done for many years, the well-known sister duo makes a special social feel as if participants were in their backyard.

For example, once Johnston Recreation Department staffers set up long banquet tables and chairs at the southwest corner of the park – a.k.a. Johnston Jewel – they placed long, plastic themed coverings atop each table.

Last week, for example, those coverings featured words like Espresso, coffee and different size mugs, just to name a few.

Enter Vieira, who coordinates the unique event with Folcarelli, who for years has had the title of Community Policing Liaison.

Ladies like Livia MastroGiuseppi, Christine DeSimone, Kathy Ruggiero and Pat Giardina begin setting up the "head table"

with boxes of Brewed Awakenings coffee, containers of milk cream and sugars – as well as breakfast goodies such as donuts, muffins and sometimes Danish and other items.

That's when many JPD officers and patrol personnel helped volunteers pour and serve coffee – as well as breakfast items – to the day's valued guests who are bused to the park from their respective residences in and around Johnston.

As Tamburini and Razza said time and again, "this is the perfect way for us to connect with our senior citizens under a special social setting."

Vieira's roll call command continued the terrific tradition during last week's season opening walk opening after issuing a warm welcome and going table to table greeting each one of the morning's attendees.

In keeping with the unmatched "Walk with Cops" tradition, Vieira asked the event's most famous question: "Does anyone want to walk?" and almost instantly almost everyone got up from their chairs for a walk around the park using everything from walkers to wheelchairs as well as canes and wearing a variety of different colored t-shirts that read "Walk with Cops" they received in past years.

"We'll be ordering this year's shirts soon," Babbitt announced as the attendees had special smiles on their faces after completing the first of many walks they'll take around the pristine park every other Wednesday morning through September, weather permitting.

"We'll see everyone in two weeks on June 14," Linda Folcarelli told residents from Anchor Bay at Pocasset and the Bridge at Cherry Hill. "We'll also have more raffle prizes than we did today and our many continental breakfast items – weather permitting, of course."

Walk with Cops begins between 9:30 and 10 a.m. every other Wednesday and is expected to double – and possibly triple in size on Flag Day, 2023.

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# Scoops

(Continued from page 6)

Rose Care Presentation at 2 p.m. Admission is free, and the venue is handicap accessible. Contact Nancy at rirsrose@gmail.com or visit our website at rirs.org.

## 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.

## June 16

### Gladstone Street Elementary School Good-bye Event

Friday, June 16, from 3 – 7 p.m., all Gladstone Street Elementary School Huskies, past and present, are invited to the Gladstone Goodbye Event, 50 Gladstone St, Cranston. The public will be allowed inside and outside the building. Feel free to take pictures and share a memory or two.

## 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

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 or 401-294-3521.

## July 11

### Family-to-Family course

The Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is now accepting registration for our summer session of NAMI's Family-to-Family course which begins Tuesday, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. This is a free and virtual, 8-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program, which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the

coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI-Rhode Island's Family-to-Family course is taught by trained family members who have lived experience with a loved one, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises. For more information on the Family-to-Family curriculum and registration requirements, visit namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

## July 22

### The Prout School Class of 1973 Reunion

Saturday, 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.

## 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 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.

## Sept 11

### The Comedy Course

Monday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m., The Comedy Course is returning for a 6th year, every Monday night for 6 weeks. Three instructors, with over 100 years of combined stage experience, will guide you on a 6-week journey from writing your first joke to performing your debut comedy routine. You will learn the dos and don'ts of standup comedy and have fun doing it. The course is \$200 per person. The place: TBD. Instructors include: Joe Hebert, Coleen Galvin and John Perrotta. Class size is limited. Call John Perrotta at 401-639-7726 to reserve your seat, now. Payment options are available.

## October 15

### Central Falls High School Class of 1963 Reunion

Sunday, October 15, from 12 – 4 p.m., Central Falls High School Class of 1963, will hold a 60th Class Reunion at Chelo's Banquet Hall, 2225 Post Rd., Warwick. Tickets: \$60 for buffet and dancing. Please send checks to: Patricia (Guillette) Mannix, 111 Col. John Gardner Rd., Narragansett, RI 02882. Please include maiden name and phone number on check. For more information call or email Patricia Mannix 401-789-0451; Patricia.mannix@gmail.com Or, Nancy Dube Brazeau 401-789-0304; nancybraz@gmail.com.



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# This litter's not litter



**CAT-ASTROPHE AVOIDED:** Warwick Parks and Recreation employee Paul Joutras found a box with nine kittens inside early Monday morning. He called police and the kittens were taken to the Warwick Animal Shelter. (Photo courtesy Paul Joutras)

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## Warwick city parks employee stops 'cat-astrophe'

By RORY SCHULER

According to feline math, a Warwick Parks and Rec employee saved 81 lives on the job Monday.

Paul Joutras gripped the cardboard box and aimed for his city trash truck.

"But I heard this meow," Joutras said while emptying the trash barrel at Porter Field in Warwick. "The box was over by the woods. I didn't know there was anything in it."

He discovered the box at the original Rocky Point entrance earlier Monday morning. When he opened it, 18 big eyes were staring back at him.

"In more than 20 years on the job, I've never seen anything like that," Joutras said, later that day, while walking to the far end of the Porter Field parking lot where someone had discarded an empty pet carrier.

"Oh no," he exclaimed. "Another one?"

He walked over to the pet carrier and cautiously bent down to look inside.

"Not two in one day," he said. It was Monday morning. The work week had just begun.

The carrier was empty. A piece of twine held the broken door in place. There was no way to know if it was discarded empty, or with a tiny soul inside.

"How could somebody do that?" Joutras asked himself aloud.

He called the Warwick Police to report the box of kittens. They responded to the scene.

"In regards to (the) found kittens, one of our officers was called by an employee of Parks and Recreation in regards to finding a litter of kittens (nine in total)," confirmed Warwick Police Lt. Randy Francis, of the department's First Platoon Uniform Patrol Division. "The officer took custody of the kittens and transported them to the Warwick Animal Shelter (around 9 a.m.)."

A Warwick Police incident report by Officer Stanley J. Hermanowski Jr. indicates "the kittens appeared in good health" and "there was food in the box."

"Animal Control was advised and had contacted the Warwick Animal Shelter," Hermanowski wrote. "I then transported the litter of kittens to the Warwick Animal Shelter, where they were turned over to shelter staff."

At the Warwick Animal Shelter, employee Deb Niosi said she could confirm the kittens had arrived, but she could not comment on their health or adoption status.

She did, however, speak generally on the shelter's adoption policy.

All cats and dogs adopted from the shelter are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tested for diseases (cats are tested for leukemia and FIV, the cat version of HIV), and microchipped.

"People can come in and view animals during the hours we are open to the public," Niosi said.

The shelter is open to the public from 12-4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday (closed on Thursdays and holidays).

"The animals are all vetted before they are adopted," Niosi said.

Prospective pet adopters can call the Warwick Animal Shelter (101 Arthur W. Devine Boulevard) at 401-468-4377 or email [animal.shelter@warwickri.gov](mailto:animal.shelter@warwickri.gov).

If you know who discarded the cats, call the Warwick Police Department at 468-4200 (wireless users can text tips and information to 847411 — in the message box begin by typing in WARWICKPD, enter a space, then type your tip and hit send).

Joutras' wife Sheila may be stopping by to visit the rescued animals.

"My wife wants (to adopt) one of the kittens," Joutras said.

**Fire**  
(Continued from page 1)

Approximately 30 firefighters responded to the fire, evacuating the building of residents and avoiding serious injuries. They are still investigating the cause of the bench and mulch fire that ignited the exterior of the apartment building.

"We're going to be doing a lot of work in there," Mancuso said. "The building itself will remain, but everything else on the inside, we will be replacing pretty much everything."

As for the tenants who were displaced from the fire, Mancuso said that Picerne has been engaging in ongoing conversations with the Rhode Island housing officials and HUD "to figure out a more long-term solution for these tenants."

According to Mancuso, the property managers have not yet reached a conclusion for how they will house the displaced tenants for the duration of reconstruction.

Right now, tenants are staying in an extended stay hotel or have made their own arrangements with family or friends.

Mancuso said that for the month of June, the tenants who are living in the extended stay accommodations are paying their rent, HUD is paying their portion and Picerne is covering the difference. Those who have found their own accommodations are not paying rent. At the moment, she does not know if this arrangement will continue into July.

Mancuso said that she's been in "constant communication with all of them pretty much daily to reassure them, to find out how they're doing and see how plans are changing in terms of where they're staying."

She added that most days, tenants stop by her office to see if there are any updates.

"We want to make sure that they're all set as they can be during this difficult time," Mancuso added.

**Fenced Off**

The entire building has officially been closed off to the public, and the restoration company has begun its work. The entrance and burnt portion has been fenced off. The smell of

damp smoke still lingers heavily in the air.

Massive dumpsters have been packed with discarded refrigerators.

Mancuso said that the damage is different in each unit, with some experiencing more damage from the fire, while others experienced more water damage. She said it's still too early to determine the cost and magnitude of the construction.

"Things are changing all the time," Mancuso said.

Mancuso added they are still trying to figure out how to store and return personal belongings to tenants before they can fully begin the other construction work. She does not know how long this portion of the process will last and is unable to say when they will be able to begin construction. She hopes it's "as soon as possible."

Last week, tenants were able to enter the building for a short period of time while accompanied by either a member of the fire department or a staff member. Now, they've stopped letting nonprofessionals into the building.

"Because of the deteriorating air quality, it was no longer safe for people to go in the building, so we pulled that back," Mancuso said.

Now, Picerne employees are grabbing belongings for the tenants or allowing licensed professionals like insurance agents into the building on their behalf.

"We want to make sure that we're being as safe as possible," Man-

cusos said.

**Smoker's Hut**

Meanwhile, residents like Englehardt are eagerly awaiting news of future accommodations and a firm return date.

The nonsmoker sat in the smoking hut outside the building with fellow displaced neighbor Donna Marcera, and complex resident from another building, Louis Furia.

They examined the wood mulch at their feet and blamed it for the fire. They said there's plenty of blame to share with the smoker who possibly ignited the blaze. Initial reports indicate a discarded cigarette outside the building entrance possibly sparked the first flames.

A shriveled charred tree, blackened disabled parking sign and a melted air condition hanging off the building façade are eerie reminders how much danger the residents faced.

They said residents are forbidden to smoke within 50-feet of the buildings, but that some residents often ignored that rule with no repercussions.

"Everything's wood," Englehardt said. "It just went right up."

Furia kicked at the ground.

"The first thing they should do is pull up all this mulch and put down crushed stone," he said. "Throw a cigarette on crushed stone. See what happens."

**Editor's Note:** Dana Richie, a Brown University student, is a Beacon Communications intern.

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By JENNIFER COATES

For residents and families of Briarcliffe, it is not an uncommon sight to see Akshay Talwar journeying the corridors and pausing to visit for a while. Akshay Talwar is the CEO and director of Briarcliffe who's expansive 30-acre campus includes the Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, the Memory Care Assisted Living and its newest installation, The Briarcliffe Preserve, a Supportive Independent and Assisted Living residence.

It is important for Talwar, who has been involved with every aspect of the development of this closeknit community, to interact with the residents and their families. It is important for him to see firsthand what daily life looks like for the 250+ seniors who occupy this lushly landscaped and interconnected complex. He cares about the quality of life of Briarcliffe's many residents; they are extended family to him.

Talwar joins the residents and the dedicated associates of Briarcliffe in marking an incredible milestone this spring, the 60th anniversary of this longstanding senior living and rehabilitation community in the town of Johnston. Six decades is a very long time to grow, evolve, expand, and prosper, all while remaining steadfast and true to a set of guiding principles.

In a recent episode of The Rhode Show celebrating this milestone, Talwar explains that the core mission of Briarcliffe is to provide the highest quality of care to its residents; it's as straightforward as that. Their overarching purpose is to treat these residents the way they themselves would want to be treated, and to create a place of security, stability, consistency, and compassion. Sixty years of refinement and perfecting the details have contributed to the longevity of Briarcliffe.

Talwar goes on to explain the enduring relationship



Meet some of the many familiar faces you will see when visiting The Preserve at Briarcliffe, including founder and director Akshay Talwar, flanked here by (l-r) Beth, Monica, Stef Reed & Jordan.

Briarcliffe shares with both the town of Johnston and the broader Rhode Island community. He says: "We are deeply embedded in the community... and have cared for generations of Rhode Islanders over the years, many of whom come from not only Rhode Island but also from around the country."

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve the individual and families of this state, and to be recognized for their important work. Briarcliffe has consistently received top awards from U.S. News World & Report and Best Senior Living Community from RI Monthly magazine.

Beyond the accolades and behind the scenes are the devoted members of the team who provide the day-to-day

care for the residents of Briarcliffe. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed by their families and loved ones. From the attentive nurses, caregivers and rehabilitation professionals to the hard-working culinary crews to the energetic enrichment associates to the hands-on administrators and maintenance professionals, this is a powerfully compassionate team of providers.

The Briarcliffe campus is located in a quiet corner of Johnston on 54 Old Pocasset Road. To schedule your in-person tour, call 401.944.2450 or visit Briarcliffe online at [www.briarclifferi.com](http://www.briarclifferi.com). And don't be surprised if you run into Akshay while you are there!

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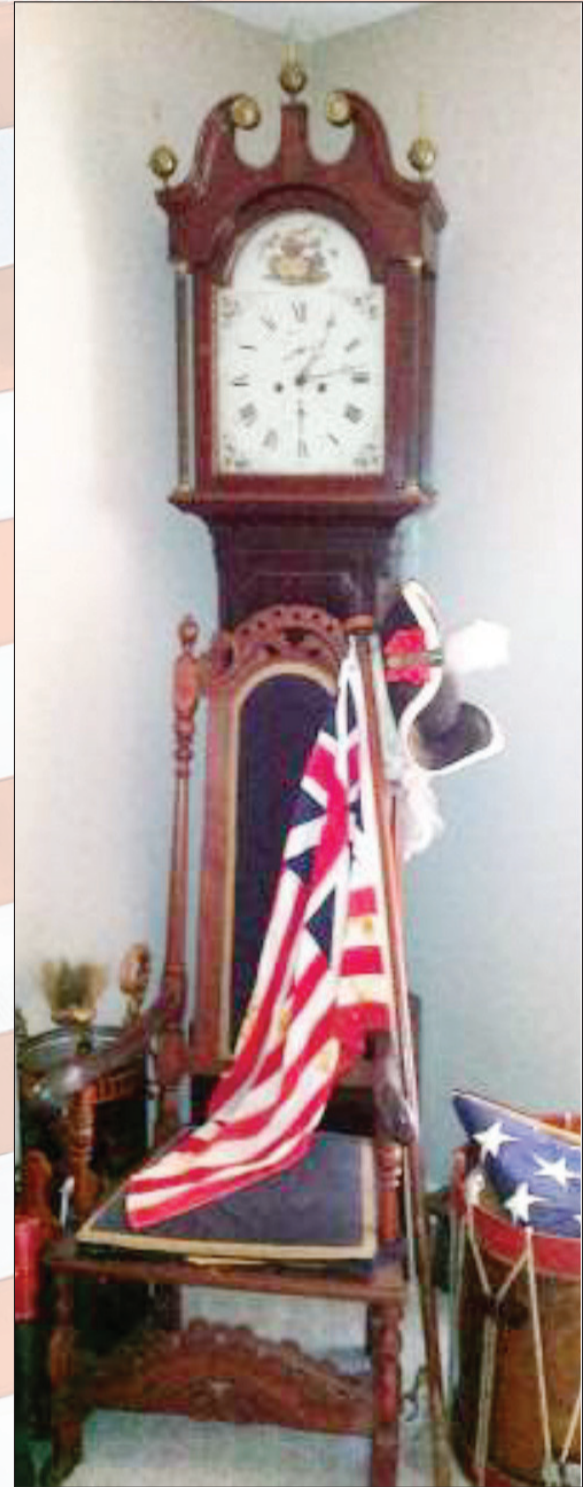
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## Front row seat to history

**THERE'S A STORY TO TELL:** Robert Porter Lynch owns the chair which is now at the Varnum Museum. Lynch says it has inspired him to write a book about Rhode Island Deputy Governor and revolutionary Darius Sessions who owned it and played a vital role in the Gaspee Affair.



## Washington chair to be 'rededicated' Saturday at Pawtuxet Park

By **DANA RICHIE**

**W**hen looking at this dark, wooden chair with intricate carpentry and dark upholstery, it simply looks like a chair. But, this beech wood chair, dating back to the seventeenth century, was purportedly touched by revolutionary history.

George Washington was reported to have sat in this very chair, one of few surviving objects of Rhode Island Deputy Governor and revolutionary Darius Sessions' collection, earning its name as the George Washington Chair.

Last year, Robert Porter Lynch, a self-declared "historian at heart," loaned this chair indefinitely to the Varnum Museum along with a manuscript that he wrote detailing Sessions' life and legacy. As part of the 251st observance of the burning of the British Schooner the Gaspee, the chair will be rededicated and unveiled to the public at 12:30 pm on June 10 in Pawtuxet Park.

According to Lynch, the chair, built in 1690, was considered a "prized chair" of the time, probably from the Flemish style in Belgium. It also bears the physical evidence of decades of use. Lynch said that the feet of the chair have lost 4 inches in height over the years, a result of prolonged proximity to the hearth in winter time.

# Sports

## Panthers get win in quarters

Defending champs sweep Central Falls

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The top-seeded Johnston boys volleyball team continued to surge by sweeping Central Falls 3-0 (25-12/ 25-18/ 25-22) in the Division III Quarterfinals last week.

The Panthers rolled to a 25-12 win in the first set and never looked back. Johnston has been the division's most dominant team this spring, remaining unbeaten and dropping just one set all season. "We have a lot of confidence and we have a lot of talent. We have two very good middle hitters in Josh (Philbrick) and Yandel (Centeno Gonzalez) and our outside is strong as well, we can send it to the outside for more



AT THE NET: Jacob Muller returns a shot. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

WIN - PAGE 17



### Thinking of you

Johnston Little League hosted a card making event last week at Memorial Park to honor the family of TJ May. Roughly 100 players in the league gathered to make homemade cards to express their love and condolences as the family mourns his recent passing. The league will continue to host events to honor TJ in the coming months and has a GoFundMe account to aid the family. (Submitted photos)



## Annual Mazzie golf tournament raises \$5k

By PETE FONTAINE

The 2023 Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament will long be remembered for many things, most notably perhaps, the support from area businesses that led to a near record 90 tee signs.

Likewise, as Jim Hopkins, a former teacher-coach at Johnston High School wanted it known, a big THANK YOU to the 120 golfers who turned out on a windy, damp and sometimes drizzly day.

Hopkins, who was Mazzie's best friend during his time as a teacher, coach and athletic director at Johnston High School, is a founding father of the storied JHS Athletic Hall of Fame which will benefit from Sunday's super special tournament which was played at well-manicured Cranston Country Club in Cranston.



GOLF - PAGE 19

**CLASSIC COMMITTEE:** Among those people who work and help plan the highly successful Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament are Kira Mazzie, Becky Ansaldi, Sam Mazzie, Mark Brown, Cathy Gaskin, Victoria St. Angelo, Cooper Ansaldi, John Graham and Brandon Ansaldi. (Submitted photos)



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# Spring playoff formats a little too messy

We are right in the thick of our spring sports playoffs and championships and it has been great theater to this point. We saw more champions crowned this past weekend in track, tennis and lacrosse and we'll be seeing who gets in done in volleyball, baseball and softball in the next two weeks.

As much as I love these tournaments, I must say, the spring formats are a giant headache to keep up with.

In the fall, it's single elimination. One and done. Football, soccer, field hockey, girls volleyball, it's straight forward. Once the playoffs begin, every game is for your season.

Winter is also pretty succinct. Basketball is single elimination as well as hockey. Prior to this past season, it was single elimination until the championship round for hockey. Still pretty easy to follow.

The spring for some reason is a web of different possibilities and scenarios. Brackets change by the day and I can't say that I see that as an exciting positive. I see it as a sloppy negative.

I'll never understand why baseball and softball specifically get double elimination and/or championship series rather than single elimination matchups. Sure, one hot pitcher, one big hit can be the difference between a win and a loss. There are also pitch limits that force roster maneuvering which is a factor, admittedly.

However, there are a million factors to consider for each and every sport. Keeping up with the baseball and softball tournaments simultaneously leaves my head spinning on a daily basis over the course of three weeks.

This year, for baseball, the RIL has introduced a pod format. Each division splits up into four-team pods, then the winners of the pods battle for it all. Uh, isn't that essentially the same process as a normal bracket?

How about we just keep it simple and stick to a traditional eight-team bracket and let the best clubs duke it out? I just don't see the harm in that. If the league feels compelled to make it a series, then wait until the championship round.

For a sports editor, these tournaments are a nightmare to manage. It is damn near impossible to schedule coverage for events, especially with a small team to work with.

Will Team X win? If it wins, then its next game is on Tuesday, but if it loses, it'll play Wednesday, assuming the rain doesn't postpone it. But wait, Team Y is playing the first game of its three-game series on Wednesday as well. If Team Y's series goes to a third game on Saturday, that will conflict with Team Z playing that day in the championship, so should I plan to cover Team Y on Wednesday, or wait and see on Team X?

I'm sure that last paragraph has your mind

## My pitch



by  
ALEX  
SPENSSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
ALEXS@  
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jumbled. Yes, those are the dilemmas that we face every day for three weeks and those scenarios wind up all over the place.

For my own selfish reasons, I feel that single elimination is the way to go across all sports. Short, sweet and to the point. Teams won't be at any sort of disadvantage, kids will get the opportunity to compete.

Let's just say single elimination is not possible, then it should, at the very least, be the same format for baseball and softball. Double elimination or series.

Again, I understand that these are really only inconveniences for people in the media world. Coaches, players, fans, no problem. I get to be selfish on occasion, though, and in this situation, my mind has been a scrambled mess this past week and will only get more twisted in the coming days. Bear with me as I try to process all this information and keep up with our teams.

Let's go over a few of the races for our teams to this point.

For the Pilgrim boys la-

crosse team, although it came up short in the Division II title game, what a statement it made this spring.

The Pats rolled to a perfect season last year in Division III and was bumped up. Pilgrim didn't skip a beat, taking the second seed and coming very close to winning another title. Pilgrim led 9-6 at halftime.

Although Pilgrim will be graduating a number of seniors, guys like Ryan Barlow and Braxton Bragg will be returning. Last season I said that the Pilgrim program was one of the strongest in the state, even when compared to Division I schools. I stand by that.

The Johnston boys volleyball team is pretty much a lock to repeat as Division III champions.

I hate saying any team is a lock to win a championship, but I can't come up with a scenario in which the Panthers don't get it done. They are 14-0 this season and have surrendered just one set. That level of dominance can't be denied. They won't be stopped.

I covered the team's quarterfinal game against Central Falls last week and it only proved itself further. The Panthers rolled to a 25-12 win in the first set, then won the second 25-18 and were in total control. In the third set, Central Falls played

well with its back against the ropes and hit a hot streak. Johnston briefly looked in trouble, but experience took over and the Panthers regained control in time to wrap up the 25-22 win. Impressive.

Lastly, Hendricken won its 27th outdoor state track title.

The thing that stands out the most to me when assessing the Hawks is the depth. Each year, the team has winners in multiple events and it seems like there are always one or two new athletes that break out. The quality of athletes they churn out is outstanding and Hendricken is on top once again.

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**PLAYOFF BATTLE:** Johnston's Josh Philbrick and Anthony Corsinetti work to return a shot last week.

## Win

(Continued from page 16)

points. We were ready to go this year but we knew that we had to put in the work. We're the state champs and we want to keep our title. We want to go back to back," said senior James Guilmette after the quarterfinal victory.

The defending champions will next take on Woonsocket in Wednesday's semifinal matchup, with the winner advancing to the state final at Rhode Island College on Saturday.

Many of the Johnston players have been together for three seasons, which allowed them to hit the ground running in their title defense.

"The strongest part of our team is our

chemistry. We're all friends, we're seniors, we all know each other. That's our strongest attribute. Last season we were going in trying to prove ourselves and this year we're trying to prove ourselves. It's the same," said fellow senior Josh Philbrick.

As the Panthers get ready for another big playoff performance, Guilmette feels that resilience will be key in keeping momentum.

"Big hits, big points and our attitude. Our attitude is the most important thing. When we're up, we're up, when we're down, we have to be able to get back. We've been able to manage that this year, pulling ourselves back," Guilmette said. "Our willingness to fight for a point, we never give up and we fight tooth and nail."

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# Block Island Tournament grows with partner tackle shops

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament doubled the number of participants with tackle shop partners last year and added a fly fishing shore and boat division," said Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works, a bait & tackle shop/charter fishing business on Block Island.

This year the Tournament starts Saturday, July 22, 5:30 a.m. and ends Sunday, July 23, 12 noon. There will be an "After Party" at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony. "This is a length only (catch & release optional) Tournament. When registering online participants download our Tournament app on their smartphone. When they want to make a Tournament entry, they take a photo of their catch up against the Tournament supplied ruler and send their entry into the Tournament electronically," said Capt. Willi. "So, it is not necessary to attend the 'After Party' to receive your Tournament prize. However, those attending the 'after party' will get a chance to win one of twenty-five \$100 tackle shop gift cards."

Capt. Willi said, "Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Whalers Brewing Company of Rhode Island, we are able to donate 100 percent of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue."

Tournament highlights include: cash cards/swag/and sponsor prizes totaling \$10,000; fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish with boat, fly fishing, youth, team and photo divisions; take a photo with the Block Island Wind Farm shown and you can enter three photo categories each with \$200 prize ... most scenic, best fish photo and best team photo; pick up participant bags at one of six locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Register online at BI Inshore Tournament | bi-fishworks (sandualypointco.com) . For additional information contact Block Island Fish Works at bi-fishworks@gmail.com or 401.742.3992.

## Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. "Everyone is catching striped bass. Fishing is hot in the East Passage in Bristol, Barrington and all the way up the Providence River. Customers are still catching monster bluefish with larger bass being caught off Newport out in front," said Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

Last week we caught keeper bass (28 to less than 31 inches) and large bluefish north of Conimicut Point using light tackle with tube & worm with Bob Donald of North Kingstown catching bass to thirty-three inches Thursday.

Dave Henault of Ocean State Bait & Tackle said, "The striped bass and bluefish bite continues to be great

north of Conimicut light all the way up to Providence as this past week there has been an influx of pogies."

Mike Swain of Coventry, a large bass fishing expert, said, "We caught our largest bass of the season this weekend live lining a pogie in the upper reaches of the Providence River. The striped bass was 30 pounds."

East End Eddie Doherty Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, "There was a four-hour bite west of the Bourne Bridge that produced eight striped bass last week for Blackstone's Mike Deryck, two in the mid 20-pound range and one that was well over 30, all on a large Green Mac Savage."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "The bass bite out in front and around the island and up in the bay has been great this past week with some aggressive surface feeding going on at times. The bass are chasing sand eels, bunker, and squid. There has also been good action for bass back in the salt ponds and there has been a few small hatches this week. Bass in the salt ponds have been finicky but customers are still able to get some by switching to smaller profile baits or throwing eels in the evening. There are still some big bluefish around, especially around Point Judith and the Breachways."

Scup, black sea bass and summer flounder. Angler Dariusz Kolodziejczak said, "Last week outside the center wall of Point Judith I caught a 10.17-pound summer flounder (fluke). The big fluke hit my buck tail tipped with gulp."

"Fluke fishing is hit or miss but picking up. Some anglers doing very well and others still struggling to find the fish. The best reports for fluke seem to be coming from 40-plus feet of water. Scup are starting to show up in better numbers and there were reports of a few black sea bass caught last week," said O'Donnell.

Neil Hayes of Quaker Lane said, "Anglers are starting to catch scup, keeper black sea bass and the fluke bite continues to improve both in the Bay particularly around the bridges, in front of Wickford and off our coastal shores."

"The scup, and sea robin bite has been good at Conimicut Point, Rocky Point and in Greenwich Bay with commercial fisherman saying they are catching fluke in the Bay," said Giddings.

Freshwater fishing remains strong for both largemouth bass and trout in ponds that have been stocked. Giddings said, "Customers are catching great largemouth using shiners but are now using drop shot with success. The water is still not real warm so the trout are still biting too."

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



**BIG BASS:** Mike Swain of Coventry, an expert large striped bass angler, caught and released this 30-pound striper last weekend in the upper Providence River, using a live Atlantic menhaden (pogie) as bait. (Submitted photos)



**STRIPER BITE STRONG:** Angler Bob Donald of North Kingstown caught bass to 33 inches trolling tube & worm north of Conimicut Light. An influx of pogies enhanced the striper bite last week.

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**FRIENDLY FOURSOME:** Ron DeFusco, Jim Hopkins, Davie Pilkington and Ron DeFusco enjoy a lighter moment before teeing off Sunday.



**AWESOME ALUMS:** Ed Skovron (left) and Dave Taraborelli, who helped Johnston High School win its first-ever state baseball championship back in 1963, handled the raffle at Sunday's Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament.

**Golf**

(Continued from page 16)

Once the 18-hole tourney was complete, Hopkins and the committee were elated because "We raised \$5,000 today!"

Proceeds also help the committee present the now prestigious and annual Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Scholarships which this year went to JHS seniors Talia Laflamme and Derek Salvatore.

Golf-wise, Domenic Coletta, Clyde Hopkins, Ken Mason and Steve Ciampantelli won the Men's Division and overall championship while runners up were Brandon Parillo, Mike Catanzaro and Johnes Tuckons.

The foursome of Eric Gelsomino, Amanda Bizzaco, Liz Kinzer and James Kinzer won the Co-Ed Division championship while the foursome of Ron Lamoureux, Lisa Lamoureux, Bob Plasse and Brenda Plasse were the runners-up.

"Everyone is a winner here today," many people concurred as they admired the official polo shirts that featured a screened-on logo and were

given to all golfers as the official tournament gift.

Meanwhile, long-time committee member Alan McGilvray said prior to the field teeing off: "These shirts are beautiful; Gary would be proud of what's happening here today."

Yet another highlight – and new for the tournament – was that the players received a brown bag lunch, bag of potato chips, apple and Snicker's candy bar that was prepared by Vin Martucci who runs the kitchen at CCC and it goes without saying that everyone loves the famous Pizza Chips that were donated by The Original Italian Bakery in Johnston.

As Hopkins and the committee related, "we also had an MVVG." Those letters stand for "Most Valuable Volunteer Golfer," John Graham, who Hopkins said "is the shining star of this tournament. "His tireless dedication and hard work are the reasons behind today's success."

Hopkins also announced that the 2023 Class of the Johnston High School Hall of Fame will be announced shortly. It was Mazzie who founded the Hall with the first induction held back in 2011. The late Mazzie lost a battle with lung cancer back on Oct. 1, 2015.

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## Remembering Rocky Point Amusement Park



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

baseball games, Olympic tryouts, concerts, and even political campaign stops. The appearance of the park had also changed many times since its creation by Captain William Winslow in 1847, as time and time again the property was ravaged by storms, most famously the Hurricane of '38.

After surviving wartime several times, the great depression, repeated storms, and various management issues, Rhode Island sadly lost Rocky Point to bankruptcy in the 1990's. When bits and pieces of the Amusement Park went up for auction on a dreary spring day, it was devastating. While I am obviously an auction enthusiast, I can imagine it was heart wrenching for locals to see such nostalgic symbols of their childhoods sold off to the highest bidder. If you've read my articles before, you know I understand how personal (and therefore valuable) mementos of our childhoods can be to collectors. Whatever held value was bought, and before the bulldozers and wrecking balls came for the rest, many Rhode Islanders braved the fences and overgrowth to snatch a piece of that tangible history for themselves - no judgement here, folks!



Because of this, we occasionally see these Rocky Point keepsakes come up for auction, even almost 30 years after the park closed for good. If you loved Rocky Point, we have two items saved from the wreckers coming up for auction this June you might be interested in. Who remembers peevishly standing in front of the height sign, nervous about being banished to kiddie land rides for the day? Or how about Rocky the Lobster welcoming you to the dinner hall? They may not be much, but they are a small part of all that's left of a Rhode Island icon.

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Any native Rhode Islander (of a certain age) remembers Rocky Point Park in Warwick, Rhode Island. Although it closed the year I was born, my parents used to talk about the amusement park by the water where they went on dates and spent summers hanging out with friends. This is not a story unique to me, either. For over 100 years, generations of Rhode Islanders made memories along the shores of Rocky Point, and for that, it remains a most sacred and revered memory in the 401.

While the most recent memories of Rocky Point consist of amusement rides, concession stands, and yes, the famous Shore Dinner Hall, the park was much more than that over the course of its lifetime. In its heyday, it hosted



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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



Photo credit: Tyler Mclewin

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Melody will bring music into your life! This beautiful year old Schnauzer mix is just waiting to steal your heart! Not only is she beautiful she is fun-loving too! She likes other friendly dogs, going on walks, some of her favorite treats are blueberries and she also loves giving kisses! Melody weighs approximately forty-five pounds, so she's a medium size. If you'd like more information about her please contact Heart of RI Animal rescue League at 401-467-3670 or visit the rescue at 44 Worthington Road, Cranston, RI. Melody will be waiting to meet you and she is sure to make your heart sing!

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



[animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)

# Local breweries join NOIPA Fest at Waterfire Arts Center

By ROB DUGUAY

In the craft beer world, the IPA could be the most polarizing brew. On a personal level, I've had India Pale Ales that were deliciously hoppy and floral while others have made me feel like I'd just drank a bag full of nickels.

I know others feel a similar way and on June 10 there's an event offering other variations of beer that's happening as a creative counteraction.

Starting at 2 p.m. and going on until 5 p.m., the NOIPA Fest will be taking place at the Waterfire Arts Center on 475 Valley Street in Providence.

The folks behind the Beervana Fest, which takes place during the fall, are the ones who have started this unique event as a way to celebrate the many varieties of craft beer in a centralized location.

There's going to be a few breweries from the area taking part, including both Buttonwoods Brewery and Origin Beer Project who share the same space on 530 Wellington Ave. in Cranston. The folks at Buttonwoods are very much looking forward to Saturday's festivities and they'll take two unique beers to the festival.

"We're excited to be pouring at this year's NOIPA Fest," says Morgan Snyder, who is Buttonwoods' co-owner, brewer and jack-of-all-trades. "It's a fun event to show off some of our lesser represented styles. IPAs are great, but with such a wide variety of styles we enjoy drinking something a little different every once in a while. There are a lot of exciting breweries coming in from out of town, and we're really looking forward to trying some of their beers and making some new industry friends. We also look for-



ward to having some fun and interesting conversations around some of the styles we will be bringing."

"We'll be pouring a traditional German style Zwickl, which rhymes with pickle," he added. "It's a young lager, meaning there is still some yeast in suspension similar to a witbier. This changes the flavor profile to a more citrusy refreshing flavor than a standard lager and this is in collaboration with the fest. We'll also be pouring an English style pale ale mild on nitro, which is just fun since English drinking culture is all about making beers that are lower in alcohol so that you can sit in the pub with friends, enjoy each other's company and have great conversation."

Another one of the many breweries who'll be at the NOIPA Fest is the Proclamation Ale Company located on 298 Kilvert St. in Warwick. They enjoy the eccentricity of the event and how attendees can discover other kinds of beer that aren't part of the current trends.

"NOIPA Fest is a beer festival unlike any other you've been to before," Proclamation Operations Manager Brendan Kennedy describes the event. "The organizers are thoughtful in the beer styles they ask each brewery to bring, thus ensuring a diverse and exciting drinking experience for every attendee. You can expect to find older beer styles that have fallen out of favor in the current hazy IPA and pastry stout crazes, such as Barleywine, Maibock, and even English Bitter. You can show up knowing you might revisit an old favorite style or discover something new."

Along with Proclamation, Buttonwoods and Origin Beer Project, there will be more than 30 other breweries from various parts of the country having their unique beverages available to drink. For all the information on those other breweries as well as tickets and guidelines, log onto [beervanafest.com](http://beervanafest.com).

## Chair

(Continued from page 15)

"If you see the chair, you'll see that the feet are really worn down...it was an old chair when George Washington sat in it," Lynch said.

Patrick Donovan, President and Executive Director of the Varnum Museum, said the museum is "happy to take in this chair" because "material culture of that time period is very rare today." He added that the chair "is a good fit" for the room that is dedicated to colonial artifacts and Revolutionary War objects.

"The vast majority of objects that are in our museum have a direct tie to Rhode Island, to a specific individual, to a specific military unit or to a specific event that happened here in Rhode Island," Donovan said.

To Lynch, this elegant wooden chair is more than a chair: it's both a family heirloom and a symbol of "the heroics of what made this country great."

Lynch said that he has always been fascinated by finding "deep meaning and purpose in history." His childhood home in Cranston was a farmhouse built in 1706, and he said that he "grew up with antiques all around imbued with history," including a Revolutionary era rifle. His father, Robert B. Lynch, an avid antique collector, Gaspee Point native and a founder of the modern day Pawtuxet Rangers, inspired his love of history and finding "hidden heroes."

"The whole house was filled with history," Lynch said. "I had history all around me. That history, my father always brought into a context to make it meaningful for today."

His father acquired the Washington Chair in 1964, and it remained a legend shrouded in mystery until over 30 years later. Right before his father passed away, he asked Lynch to look into the history and heritage of the chair. Lynch said that the Washington Chair, and that promise he made to his father, "gave me a clue" that turned into the discovery of his "hidden hero:" Darius Sessions.

"Rhode Island history didn't focus on Sessions," Lynch said. "In fact, he didn't even get honorable mention. He's a pivot man. He's a champion of causes, but he's not an egomaniac. He connects people from diverse things together to make something happen. He's very catalytic in that way."

Donovan agrees that this chair brings out Sessions' impact.

"It's an interesting object that sits there, and it gives

you the opportunity to tell the larger story of the significance of Sessions and his interesting role in the burning of the Gaspee and what happened after that," Donovan said. "Objects are kind of a gateway into telling the larger story."

Now, Lynch, who is currently working on five books, is 156 pages into a book he's writing about the life and legacy of Darius Sessions. He's particularly drawn to Sessions' collaborations with revolutionary greats like John Adams, Sam Adams and George Washington during strategic moments leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. For example, Sessions was a key force in the evasion of British investigation of the burning of the Gaspee and the promotion of Nathaniel Greene from private to Washington's second in command.

It is with the spirit of reverence for Sessions that Lynch first loaned the Washington Chair to the Varnum Museum. His ideal vision is for his manuscript to be adopted as an educational program for children. Donovan said that it seems unlikely that the museum will create programming around this individual artifact, but he said he makes sure to mention the chair and its story on every tour.

During his research, Lynch determined that there are 5 different encounters when Washington could have sat in the chair bearing his name, but he acknowledges that there is still a lot of uncertainty.

"Not a single document says where and when it actually happened," Lynch said. "It could have happened in Pomfret, Connecticut. It could have happened in Providence. Oh man, I wish I knew. It has bugged me for the entire time I've done this research."

John Concannon, historian for the Gaspee Days Committee, said that Sessions' farm was used at least once or twice as a headquarters for the war council. He doesn't know the exact dates but said that it is documented that "Washington did stay with Sessions, so he had to sit in some chair."

Donovan agrees that it is important to use qualifying language when discussing the particulars of the chair but believes it's a great artifact to engage the public in local history.

"I think people, particularly young kids today, have a lack of awareness of the richness and the uniqueness and the importance of the role that Rhode Island had in American history, and I think it's one object among many in our museum that really helps people understand the impact that our little state had on our development as a country," Donovan said.

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## PAIN TO PRIDE

### Identifying and Treating Depression in the LGBTQ+ Community

If you suffer from depression, you are not alone. Depression is one of the most common mental health conditions in the U.S., affecting an estimated 17.3 million adults and 3.2 million adolescents<sup>6</sup>, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. LGBTQ+ individuals are especially hard hit - suffering from mood-related symptoms (predominantly anxiety) and depression.

#### By the Numbers

In a 2017 survey, 28% of LGBTQ+ youth said they felt depressed most of the time in a 30-day period, compared to only 12% of non-LGBTQ+ youth. To take it a bit further, the percentage of depression amongst transgender youth was as high as 40%<sup>5</sup>. What's worse, LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide compared to heterosexual youth<sup>1</sup>.

#### Risk Factors for the LGBTQ+ Youth

There are many risk factors that can contribute to depression and anxiety in LGBTQ+ youth, including:

- Stress/tension in relation to coming out.
- Bullying at school.

- Hostile/repressive environments.
- Discrimination and stigma along with the use of drugs/alcohol and engaging in sexually risky behaviors.
- Experiencing abuse (physical, emotional, and/or sexual).
- Lack of available LGBTQ+ support/resources.
- Family expulsion.

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality's U.S. Transgender Survey, these trends continue in adulthood. Roughly 40% of transgender adults reported serious psychological distress in a month-long period, compared to the reported 5% of the U.S. population<sup>2</sup>.

#### Signs and Symptoms of Depression<sup>4</sup>

There are some signs to look out for that may signal an LGBTQ+ youth is suffering from depression, including:

- Sadness or easily tearful
- Sleep disturbances
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities
- Difficulty functioning in everyday activities
  - Anger, irritability, or feelings of emptiness
  - Anxiety, agitation, and restlessness

#### Staying Healthy



by ERIC TIRRELL, BA  
TMS CLINIC AND  
NEUROMODULATION  
RESEARCH OPERATIONS  
MANAGER  
BUTLER HOSPITAL

- Feeling worthless, hopeless, and helpless
- Low energy/motivation
- Trouble thinking, concentrating, or making decisions
- Thoughts of not wanting to be alive.

#### Finding a Support System

It is important that members of the LGBTQ+ community seeking mental health help have available resources and providers with knowledge of the adversities and insecurities these individuals may face. There are psychiatric clinicians who specialize in the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ population with targeted group programs to help with those challenges while reducing stigma and without fear of discrimination. Other situ-

ational factors such as residency in a state with more LGBTQ-affirming environments can lead to LGBTQ+ youth being less likely to have attempted suicide.

Most LGBTQ+ individuals are incredibly resilient. With the help of supportive families, communities, and peers, they will thrive in the face of adversity. One study even found that LGBTQ+ individuals used mental health services at a rate of 2.5 times higher than their heterosexual counterparts.

#### Treatment Options

One compassionate place for such exceptional mental health services and care is Butler Hospital, which has achieved LGBTQ Blue Cross Blue Shield Safe Zone Designations. This highlights the hard work of Butler Hospital's employees who have created and sustained a welcoming and positive environment for LGBTQ+ patients.

Treatment can come in many forms. It may include taking antidepressants or other psychiatric medications. Various forms of psychotherapy are also available, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Mindfulness-based Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

#### What is Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)?

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) has become a non-drug, non-invasive treatment option for treating depressive symptoms. Shortly after the FDA approval of TMS in 2008, the Butler TMS Clinic opened, and it has continued to help a growing number of patients for more than a decade. TMS is available to people with moderate to severe cases of depression when standard interventions have not resulted in remission. TMS can be a very important treatment alternative for individuals in the LGBTQ+ community suffering from depression.

Butler Hospital is open to helping all individuals who struggle with depression. Those at the Butler Hospital TMS clinic are big advocates for the LGBTQ+ community and through this article, they would like to express their support and resources to all who may need it this Pride Month, and always.

For more information about the TMS Clinic at Butler Hospital, please visit <https://www.butler.org/services/outpatient/transcranial-magnetic-stimulation>.

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