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COMPLIMENTARY

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Splash Pad plans progress

By RORY SCHULER

Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. hopes to make a splash at Johnston's War Memorial Park.

A proposed Splash Pad, to be constructed in the park overtop the disused and neglected senior bocce courts, is expected to cost around \$300,000 and will be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") funds.

The 50-by-70-feet Splash Pad will include five above ground spray features, nine ground

sprays, perimeter fencing and walkways, as well as a splash-free area for guardians.

As the hot sun dried the park's wet grass (rains falling overnight) Tuesday afternoon, the "Johnston Senior Boccie Courts" sat empty.

According to a marker at the site, the courts were "built in memory of Silvio V. Santilli (June 2, 1915 - May 5, 1995) for his lifelong community involvement" during the administration of former Johnston Mayor Louis A.

Director of Johnston's Buildings & Grounds Department Christopher M. Correia attended Monday night's Town Council meeting to ask the board to award a bid to O'Brien & Sons, Inc., an authorized vender on the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium (MHEC), a bidding collaborative approved by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office for cooperative purchasing.

SPLASH - PAGE 4

NO MORE BOCCE: At left, a Splash Pad may be built overtop the current senior bocce courts at Memorial Park. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



CHAMPION HAS A NICE RING TO IT: The Johnston boys volleyball team topped Pawtucket 3-1 to win its second straight Division III Championship last weekend at Rhode Island College. The Panthers completed the perfect season and only surrendered two sets all spring. The school also honored the state champion boys basketball team on Monday night, handing the players' their championship rings while also showing off the new banner which will join the various others on the gymnasium walls. For all your championship coverage, check out the sports section on page 18. (Sun Rise photo by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

JPD joins the **Flock**

Town buys, installs three automatic license plate recognition cameras

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Police have requested the acquisition and placement of three Flock license plate-reading cameras on main traffic arteries in town.

"Cranston, they have 29 Flock cameras in their city," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira told Town Council Monday night. "They implemented the program back in August of 2021, and through last month, they've had well over 100 arrests based on this technolo-

gy ... arrests for stolen vehicles, arrest warrants, stolen property ... I know that even in Providence, they had a homicide investigation, a hit-and-run investigation, and had it not been for this technology, they would have not solved those crimes.'

Three cameras will cost \$27,450 for a

three-year contract, and funded by state and federal asset forfeiture (\$9,000 per camera, plus an additional \$150 implementation fee for each camera).

KEEPING AN EYE OUT: Three license plate reading cameras from Flock Safety, like this one in Pawtuxet Village, will be installed in Johnston. (Cranston Herald file photo)

FLOCK - PAGE 5

Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, June 15, 2023





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Ferri chorus impresses at music festival

Isabella Salazar, Sierra Colavita, Hayden Morin and Juliana Buscemi.

GOLD GROUP: Members of the Ferri Middle School Select Chorus that won a prestigious Gold Award are in front: Madelyn Sari, Evelyn Pagliarini, Zoe Fairbanks, Madisyn Card, Abigail Ajca and Gabriella Pagliaro. Second row: Isabella Ricci, Alana Smith, Alana Montecalvo, and Anthony Panone. Back: Evelhyn Cottonk Samaya Ariza, Sebastian Sanchez, Isabella Paulson, Emma Taglianetti, Elizabeth Kue, Leah Volcy, Isabella Nunes, Shemorie Constant, Samaya Anzivino, Freddy Landaverde,

By PETE FONTAINE

To say that Johnston Public Schools are becoming the "Music Capital of the State" would be an understatement

For starters, the Ron Lamoureuxchaired Johnston High School Music Department recently returned from another super successful trip to the highly-acclaimed "Music in the Park Festival" in Hershey, Pa. and wound up another impressive academic year in style by way of its annual Collage Concert.

"We have lots of talent here (at JHS)," Lamoureux assessed. "It's also impressive what the younger kids – a.k.a. our future members at (Nicholas A.) Ferri Middle School - accomplished."

Never before has a Ferri Chorus won such an esteemed honor like the Platinum Award the Seventh Grade Chorus captured during the recent Great East Music Festival at Kickemuit Middle School in Warren and Six Flags New England in Agawam,

Ma.

Thus, Director Thomas Conlon was ecstatic when results were posted because The Platinum Award is the highest honor in the Great East Music Festival.

Among some members of that award-winning chorus are in front Ian Hernandez, Liliana Ricci, Isabella Serpa and Jacqueline Nunes. Middle: Chelsea Guy, Yaliana Sievers, April Tapia, Isabella Urena, and Nichols Smith. Top: Alex Chavez, Theresa DeFalco, Tatiana James, Annabelle Guzman and Evan Drolet.

Ferri's success spilled into another high-ranking level when the middle school Select Chorus – also under the direction of Conlon – won two prestigious awards at the Rhode Island Middle School Festival and the talented troupe earned a score of "Excellent" while also singing at the Great East Festival with members of the talented eighth grade chorus where they earned a gold plaque for their prolific performance.

Enter for your chance to win





SUPER SINGERS: Pictured here are some members of the Nicholas A. Ferri Middle school seventh grade chorus that recently earned the Platinum Award – the highest honor of the Great East Music Festival.

Vietnam veterans honored to fly

By RORY SCHULER

He returned from Vietnam, but wasn't welcomed

The world was a different place when Craig Kohnaski enlisted after graduating from URI in 1968. He'll be one of a plane full of Rhode Island veterans who travel to the nation's capital on Monday, part of the 28th Honor Flight, organized by the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub.

The Warwick man, a former ROTC cadet, started active duty in the U.S. Army immediately after basic training. He shipped off to Japan for more than two years and then volunteered to go to Viet-

"They were going to send me to the Korean DMZ," Kohnaski recalled. "I ended up in the First Signal Brigade for 13 months."

Kohnaski longs to meet fellow veterans with shared experiences.

"My exposure is limited," he said. "I'm looking forward to meeting more veterans period; hear some of their stories; shake their hands and let them know how glad I am to see them come home. I hope some of them had better welcomes home than I did."

For years, Kohnaski learned to cope in a society

that didn't appreciate his service. "I heard the stories," he recalled. "It was almost a shame to wear the uniform, the way people were looking at you, talking about you. It was not a good feeling to come home — not at all."

Over time, Americans finally started to acknowledge the sacrifices made by Vietnam War era veter-

Eventually, Kohnaski started wearing his Vietnam veteran hat in public.

"Many people have come up to me thanking me for my service," Kohnaski said. "That didn't happen before. Things have changed; and I can't say when it happened."

The Price of Freedom

On Monday, June 19, the Honor Flight "Freedom Is Not Free" trip will depart T.F. Green International Airport for Washington D.C.

The Honor Flight has a Mission Statement: "To transport America's Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their sacrifices."

"Taking veterans to Washington, DC is now and always will be our highest priority," according to Chief George S. Farrell (retired), chairman of the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, which he founded in

"After I witnessed what I later learned was an Honor Flight arrival at BWI (Baltimore-Washington International Airport) in the spring of 2010, my wife and I were so moved by the experience I came home and did some research to find out what Honor Flight was," Farrell recalled.

He was the president of RI Fire Chiefs Association, so he took his idea to the board and recommended the group's involvement in organizing the

Ocean State's first Honor Flight.

"It was also a way to Honor the service of my father, George F. Farrell Jr. (U.S. Navy, World War II) and my wife's father, Antonio Barletta (U.S. Army, World War II)," he said. "We both wish that our fathers were alive to have been able to go on their Honor Flight."

Honored to Fly

The group took its first Honor Flight in November 2012. Since, 27 Honor Flights have transported thousands of the state's veterans to Washington D.C., taking them on tours of Arlington National Cemetery and the nation's war memorials.

"Currently, on this Honor Flight we have 3 (World War II) veterans," according to Farrell. "The oldest is 98 years old."

Monday's flight will also include three Korean War veterans, many Vietnam veterans, and several veterans that served during other times and places.

Farrell said that "about two-thirds of our veterans on this flight are Vietnam War veterans."

"We will be traveling to DC with a total of 115 passengers, veterans, guardians, medical staff, and photographers," Farrell said in a press release he circulated earlier this week. "On this Honor Flight we are also taking 15 members of the RI Professional Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums."

The organization has been approved for a "Public Gathering Permit" from the National Park Service, which will allow the pipe and drum band to perform at the WWII Memorial and march along the reflecting pool with the Honor Flight veterans in-step behind.

"When we reach the end of the Reflecting Pool, at the base of the Lincoln Memorial the pipes and drums will perform again," Farrell said. "When we go to Arlington National Cemetery, we will participate in a Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Un-

Four members of the group will lay a wreath two WWII veterans, Roger Desjardins, 98, of North Providence, and Anthony Barsamian, 96, of Cranston. North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi and Paul Vadenais, who sponsored Monday's Honor Flight in memory of his father Normand G. Vadenais (a Corporal in the U.S. Army) will also at-

Freedom Day

Monday's date has a special significance.

"June 19 ... is Juneteenth a Federal Holiday that celebrates 'Freedom Day' and the end of slavery,' Farrell said in the press release. "Juneteenth commemorates he emancipation of slavery which finally came on June 19, 1865 when Federal troops were sent to Galveston, Texas to free nearly 250,000 slaves. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. We are pleased that on Honor Flight 'Freedom' we have approximately 20 minority veterans and we celebrate Juneteenth with them and all our veterans. We believe that we are the first Honor Flight Hub in the Nation to travel to Washington, D.C. on June 19, 'Juneteenth.''

The Wall

Kohnaski, now 77, said he's "super excited" to

"It's fantastic really," he said earlier this week. "It's like going back in history a little bit. I'll see a lot of fallen comrades ... and it's good to bring back some of the memories of what you went through during the time period and honor those who didn't make it back home."

Johnston native Frank Olivo, also a 77-year-old Vietnam War era Army veteran, will be on-board Monday's Honor Flight. This will be his first trip to Washington D.C.

"Once I got out of the service, I got out of the service," Olivo said Tuesday afternoon. "I had a very close friend who was a guardian on an honor flight. He went with a World War II vet years ago. He talked to George and then talked to me, and wanted to know if I'd be interested."

Olivo was interested.

"I was able to locate four of my friends that I lost in the Vietnam War," he said. "I know where they are on the wall — what line they're in."

Olivo can't wait to pay his respects.

"I'm as excited as a kid going to Disney World for the first time," he said. "I cant' thank the people who put this on enough. It's an amazing venue; **SNAPSHOTS** the way they do it; very, very professional. They make everyone feel welcomed; everyone feel honored ... You can't even imagine how excited I am to



HONORED TO FLY: Frank Olivo, of Johnston, served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On Monday, he'll be on-board the 28th Honor Flight to the nation's capital. This portrait was taken while Olivo was in the service. (Courtesy



Kohnaski, of Warwick, will be on Monday's 28th Honor Flight to Washington D.C. In late 1970, he had his "Captains bars pinned on by Col. Miller in Japan." In 1971, he was awarded a Bronze Star in Vietnam. (Courtesy photos)



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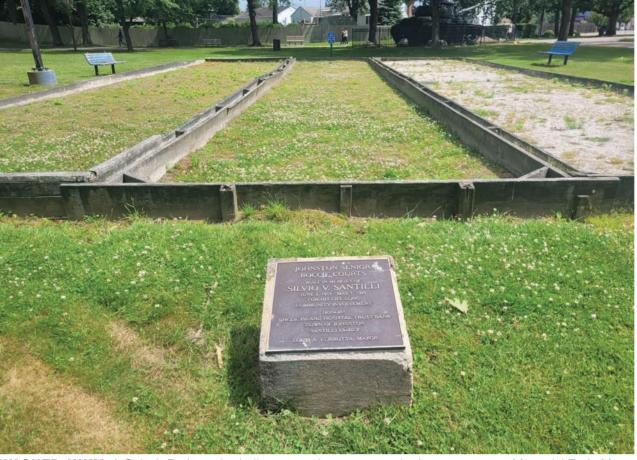




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WASHED AWAY: A Splash Pad may be built overtop the current senior bocce courts at Memorial Park. Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. has pledged to move the plaque "as close as possible to the old bocce court grounds." (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)



DISUSED AND EMPTY: The site of the senior bocce courts at Memorial Park may soon become Johnston's new Splash Pad. The project may cost around \$300,000 and paid for with ARPA funds. Most of the town's active bocce players now play at the Johnston Senior Center, according to town officials. Below right, the courts were dedicated to a town leader who passed away in 1995. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

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Splash

(Continued from page 1)

The resolution, ultimately approved by Town Council, will allow Polisena to enter into an agreement on behalf of the town to construct a Splash Pad at Memo-

The "current quote, which included the materials and installation for our available space and requested needs for our varied youth and families at the park ... was \$227,873.40," according to a memorandum sent by Correia to Town Finance Director Joseph Chiodo.

That contract "includes four-foot perimeter safety fencing, two access gates, and two cement walkways leading to said gates from the park's interior access road," according to Correia. "This quote, however, does not include the utility cost

of running domestic water 'stub' to within 20 feet of the site to supply the Splash Pad, an electrical 'stub' in the same proximity, and a grey water drain line 'stub' to connect to the sewer at the nearest point," Correia wrote. "Please note that there is domestic water that can be tapped into from the Maintenance Building nearby, an electrical hub in a Northeasterly direction heading towards the park's stage, and sewer lines under the park's service road to connect to as required."

Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti asked how much utility work at the site may cost. Correia estimated utility work could total as much as \$70,000 in addition to the initial construction contract.

Bids will be sought for utility work, once recommendations are given by DiPrete Engineering regarding this Splash Pad Project, Correia said.

"Approximately \$70,000," Correia said. "I hope for

'I think it might be too low," Civetti replied.

"I might be too low," Correia agreed.

Town Councilman Alfred T. Carnevale first asked where the Splash Pad would be located.

"We assessed the area ... the area in the park that has the most significant space available, with a reasonable terrain ... access to the interior service road of the park, access to tie-ins to utilities ... is the area of the bocce courts," Correia answered. "The bocce courts are in disrepair and I haven't seen them used in several years. My understanding is that most of the bocce games played in town is at the Senior Center at this time; no slight to anyone that is an aficionado of bocce. I haven't seen anyone utilize it. The boards are ... in disrepair. We have some weeds coming out through the material. And quite frankly there's no area of the park that flat."

Correia said the town will also need to consider future "supplement or support (of) changing rooms or additional bathroom usage, which we know will be part

The ARPA funding was provided by a federal bill

signed into law on March 11, 2021, which provided \$350 billion in additional funding to state and local governments. Former Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena announced plans to build three new vehicle storage garages for police, fire and department of public works vehicles with the majority of Johnston's nearly \$9 million share of ARPA funding. The rest was earmarked for improvements at Memorial Park and town athletic

Town Council voted to approve the bid and authorized Polisena to enter into an agreement for the installation of the Splash Pad.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday afternoon, Carnevale took a run in Memorial Park, utilizing the track. He pointed in the direction of the bocce courts.

The benches and courts deserted. The bocce boards warped and ripe with giant splinters. A clover patch has taken over.

Teenagers gathered on a nearby playground.

Mothers and toddlers took turns on the swing sets.

Seniors sat in lawn chairs and walked laps.

It was hot enough for a Splash Pad.

"We will relocate the plaque as close as possible to the old bocce court grounds," Polisena said Wednesday morning. "I have no plans for a dedication to the splash pad. The construction for utilities will begin in August and the construction of the pad itself will take place in September. It will be fully operational for next summer."



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(Continued from page 1)

"Currently, municipalities whose police departments use them right now, the Flock cameras specifically: Cranston, Glocester, Smithfield, Providence, Woonsocket, Warwick and East Providence," Vieira said. "And then, exploring the technology, like we are, is Newport, North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Narragansett."

Vieira explained that the cameras serve "as an investigative tool for law enforcement."

"So how it works is ... vehicle data and license plates ... that's the most requested piece of evidence for law enforcement when we investigate crimes," he said. "These automated license plate readers, what they do is they capture still images of the vehicles, and focus on only the rear of the vehicle, on the license plate, as they travel only on public roadways. They wont be on side streets ... it will always be on a main road. It also captures some of the vehicle characteristics, other than ... the license plate ... such as roof racks, bumper stickers, along with vehicle make, model and col-

Vieira said vehicles are used in the commission of seven out of 10 crimes: and "60 percent of stolen vehicles end up being associated with additional

"Police can use the time and location of a crime (to) obtain time-stamped data on a suspect vehicle from the Flock camera system," Vieira explained. "And it also has the ability to compare the digital images against a 'Hot List.' Basically this 'Hot List' is compiled of vehicles that are of interest to law enforcement, and include stolen vehicles, vehicles that are involved in crimes, vehicles displaying stolen license plates, and also vehicles associated with missing, abducted or wanted per-

The camera technology can flag these vehicles and send an instant alert to local law enforcement.

"If a vehicle that's entered on the national Hot List ... enters Johnston and passes a Flock camera, the Johnston Police Department would receive a real-time instant alert to that vehicle's presence and that location," Vieira said. "Then we can try to locate that vehicle in the area."

Vieira addressed potential privacy concerns by making several promises.

"The cameras will not be used for facial recognition," the chief pledged. "They will not capture the occupants that are inside of the vehicle. They will not be used for traffic enforcement. They do not gauge speed or record the speed of vehicles."

The cameras are solar powered and run on their own cellular network, so town utilities are not required to operate the sys-

And "only the police department would be able to access the data," Vieira assured Town Council.

"The police department would own the data," he said. "And it can only be accessed for legitimate law enforcement purposes. And the data would have to relate to a specific criminal investigation nothing civil — just criminal investigations."

All captured images would be securely stored on a cloud-based server automatically purged after 30 days, unless used as evidence in a crime," Vieira said, adding that the department will regularly perform audits "on a quarterly basis to ensure that the search

history only relates to ongoing investigations.'

Town Council President Robert V. Russo asked if the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has raised concerns with the technology.

"They've had issues with it," Vieira replied. "They're more concerned about what the capabilities of this technology could be ... as far as being tied to personal identification and stuff. The system will not be used for that. We're only interested in the license plates, not the people operating the ve-

Town Councilman Robert J. Civetti asked if the department considered requesting a greater number of Flock cameras.

"Do you think three cameras is sufficient?" Civetti asked the chief.

Vieira said the department decided to "start

"I figure we start out with three and we go from there, see how it works," he answered.

The locations will not be divulged publicly.

"Flock comes in and they will determine what locations would be advantageous," Vieira told Town Council. "I'm not going to publicly disclose the locations of the cameras ... but there will be three fixed cameras to start out ... and they will be on main arteries ... Hartford Avenue, Atwood Avenue, Greenville Avenue, roads like that."

Town Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. to enter into an agreement for the purchase of three "Automatic License Plate Recognition Cameras."

'These three cameras we are requesting will be placed strategically by the roadside in our town," Vieira wrote in a funding request to Town Finance Director Joseph Chiodo.

JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

Around 11:50 p.m. on March 30, 2022, Johnston Police responded to a residence to investigate the reported larceny of rims and tires that had just occurred. More than a year later, Johnston Police arrested a Providence man and charged him with the theft.

The victim told police in 2022 that he noticed his vehicle was leaning to one side. Both of the passenger side rims and tires were missing.

The passenger's side brake rotors were resting on rocks," Johnston Police Patrolman Nick J. Bordieri wrote in the initial incident report. "There was a flashlight, which was in the on position, located on the pavement next to the rear driver's side rim/tire. There was also a 4-way tire iron on the pavement near the flashlight. Both of the driver's side rims/tires were still secured to the vehicle, however the center caps were missing."

Police guessed the larceny was interrupted mid-theft.

They spotted an older model gray GMC Yukon, backed into a parking space several spots down. Next to it, they saw a floor jack. Inside, in plain view in the light of their flashlight, the spotted two rims with tires stacked next to each other in the cargo compartment. The engine was warm. The truck had power tools in the back.

"Due to the observations this vehicle was most likely driven to the scene by the suspect(s) to commit the crime," Bordieri

Rhode Island State Police responded to

the scene with a K-9 to help search for the

suspect(s), but were unsuccessful. Ultimately, Johnston Police landed on a suspect identity and issued an arrest war-

On June 7, 2023, Bordieri and Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau responded to the Cranston Police Department to transport a man arrested earlier that morning on the Johnston warrant.

The man, identified as Victor E. Estrada, 39, of 155 Salina St., Providence, was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters for processing. He was charged with felony counts of Conspiracy and Larceny Over \$1,500, and a misdemeanor Injuring or Tampering with Vehicles offense.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

At 5:42 p.m., May 19, Warwick Police Officer Connor R. Bemis was on a fixed traffic post on West Shore Road when he spotted a black Ford traveling west. The vehicle had no front plate, so Bemis initiated a traffic stop. The driver, identified as Roland J. Ferland, 54, of 17 Dexter St., Johnston, had a suspended driver's license, according to police. It was allegedly Ferland's fourth and subsequent offense, so he was taken into custody.

Ferland was transported to Warwick Police Headquarters. His vehicle was towed from the scene. He was charged with one count of Driving with Suspended/Revoked/Canceled License (fourth or subse-

"The cameras interface with a web-based program allowing our investigators to determine if suspect vehicles are in or have passed through our town. They are part of a larger network of cameras in adjoining communities such as providence and Cranston. This allows our agency to collaborate and share information with our neighboring communities to further investigations. This connection with our law enforcement partner cements the sole source classification."

In late May, Johnston was rocked by the sound of gunshots on Ligian Court. Two people died and a third is recovering after a Johnston man shot them and fled from police. Police ultimately tracked him down and the suspect was shot and killed.

"There is no way of knowing if the flock camera technology would have been helpful in our response to the Ligian Court incident," Vieira said Wednesday morning. "This technology can potentially aid in locating suspect drivers only if an identified suspect vehicle drives by a Flock camera.

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WALK WITH A PURPOSE: Members of the 2023 Neighborhood Watch recently walked through the Dix Avenue neighborhood, where they met with residents and addressed their quality-of-life concerns. Participating in the walk were (from left): Sqt. Luca Lancellotti, Deputy Chief Matthew LeDuc, Chief Mark Vieira, Dawn Aloisio, Steve Merolla, Naverio Carvalho, Councilwoman Lauren Garzone, Capt. Michael Babbitt, Rebecca Rotondo, Barbara Dibenedetto-Vaschon, David Briel, and Audrey Reder. (Courtesy photo)

60 63

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. In a place to sleep
- 5. Chemical compound (abbr.)
- 8. A way to fish 11. Classic Linklater film "___ and
- Confused' 13. Legume
- 14. Indonesian island
- 15. Smooth, creamy substance
- 16. Arctic
- 17. Wood sorrels 18. Defied
- 20. Cattle
- 22. Honorably retired and retaining
- one's title 25. Repossession
- 30. Danced
- 31. Adult males 32. A type of section
- 33. Type of Japanese animation
- 38. Satisfaction 41. Fit
- 43. "Ain't No Sunshine" singer
- 47. Israeli city
- 45. Failure
- 49. French river
- 50. Cavalry-sword

- 55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Electronic countercountermeasures
- (abbr.)
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish
- congregation

CLUES DOWN

- Unit of transmission

- 8. Cyprinid fishes
- 9. Expression of sorrow or pity

- 19. Symbol to mark for removal

- 24. Resident
- 56. Liquefied natural gas

- (abbr.) 60. Popular HBO fantasy series 28. One point south of due east 29. Winter melon
 - 34. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 62. Large body of water
 - kosh, near Lake Winnebago 36. Central European river 37. First responders
- 64. Impudence

- 1. Payroll firm
- Bambi is one
- Highest parts of something
- Batty
- Site of the famous Leaning Tower
- 12. American rocker Snider
- 14. W. African language
- Rockers Better Than
- beginning to end 45. Capital of Bangladesh 6. Correct behavior
 - 46. Dutch cheese
 - 47. Imitates
 - 48. A contest of speed 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Prejudice
 - 53. Actor Idris

25. Federal savings bank

27. Returned material authorization

26. Paddle

35. Anger

Spanish noble

pigment

41. Defunct airline

42. Small island (British)

40. Persons with absence of skin

44. The extent of something from

54. UNLV's are Runnin' 58. Criticize

JPD completes town's first Neighborhood Watch of season

The Johnston Police Department, in collaboration with Councilwoman Lauren A. Garzone, is proud to announce the successful completion of the town's first Neighborhood Watch walk of the season.

Johnston's Neighborhood Watch, which was launched in June, 2021, aims to foster a safer and more secure community in District 2. Councilwoman Lauren A. Garzone, a lifelong Johnston resident and the district's representative, initiated the Neighborhood Watch Program after hearing concerns from constituents, such as illegal trash dumping, property violations, and loud music complaints.

Recognizing the importance of building strong community ties and open lines of communication, Councilwoman Garzone organized walking tours of various neighborhoods in the district to meet with residents and develop relationships that promote community resiliency. The Neighborhood Watch encourages residents of District 2 to actively engage with their neighbors and collaborate with law enforcement to ad-

dress quality-of-life concerns. Through a problem-solving approach rooted in community-oriented policing, the watch focuses on education, security, and prevention to achieve safer neighborhoods. This program encourages residents to mobilize, walk the streets, and report suspicious activities to the police. In return, the police department provides safety and security tips and information to the volunteers and the residents they meet along the way, while taking their feedback into consideration. "We had a beautiful night to walk and meet with several very friendly residents in the Dix Ave ar ea." said Chief Vieira. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Matthew LeDuc, Capt. Michael Babbitt, and Sgt. Luca Lancellotti as they joined Councilwoman Garzone, seven walk ers and one dog as they made their way through the Dix Avenue neigh borhood on June 1. "It was so nice to be out again walking the neighbor hood with some new volunteers and a pleasure to meet some new constituents. I look forward to expand ing the Neighborhood Watch Program into other districts as well' added Garzone.

While the watch is an effective and cost-efficient method for residents to enhance their neighborhood's safety the program not only prevents pos sible future incidents but also improves community-police relations The Johnston Police Departmen gains valuable insights into the needs of district neighborhoods, which al lows them modify their responses to meet the needs of residents.

The next walk, which is weather dependent, is scheduled to take place on June 22 at 5:30 p.m. and will mee at the end of Mills Drive at Har rington Drive. The councilwomar added "I am looking forward to our next walk and hoping to have more volunteers join our group. Please un derstand there is no pressure if you cannot attend, however, we do ap preciate starting the walk at 5:30."

Those interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch group or seel further information are encouraged to contact Councilwoman Laurer Garzone via email at garzonedistrict2@gmail.com.

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Johnston SunRise



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

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If one or more of your teeth have been adult tooth coming in behind it.

a family dentist at this time, we invite you to DENTAL ARTS GROUP, 1136 Hartford Ave., Johnston. We have convenient office hours by appointment. Call 401-521-3661. Most insurance plans accepted. P.S. A knocked out baby tooth should not be replaced because it can damage the www.dentalartsgroupri.com

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dental emergency. If you have knocked out with various forms of dentures, implants, an adult tooth, try to put the tooth back in crowns and bridges, or other methods of repair will prevent additional, perhaps bigger and more painful problems later on. Visit your dentist on a regular basis, and replace the tooth, put it in a container of practice good home oral hygiene. It will milk to preserve it. Time is of the essence: pay off in the long run. If you don't have bridge, or implant.

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private functions!

Johnston organization aims to help the unsheltered By LOUIS J. SPREMULLI

PACKAGES OF HOPE: Spirt of Hope has been distributing its survival kits to the region's homeless. They need

Imagine you lost your home

Special to the Sun Rise

Imagine being kicked out into the street and you have nothing but your clothes and no money.

your help. *(Courtesy photo*)

What would be your first move? Well, everyone is different and that goes back to many things. But, this can happen to anyone, you do not know your future or what you may be in

You will be surprised not to find help that easily. We at Spirit of Hope go over scenarios and try to treat everyone the same, without considering their background, culture or physical presentation. We give immediate support directly to them and listen to their stories. But what is amazing is that some needs they present can be dealt with in

Well, it's Sunday morning and we are delivering survival kits in the streets of Providence. One of our procedures is to ask five questions for our statistics and no one has ever refused. These people seem to all want help. We continue to hear about food and housing as their top concerns to stay alive. Some lay on the ground like they are

dead and others just out of focus.

It can be very hard to accept.

We are only a small non-profit and can only accomplish so much. But, we can pass along what we learn and hope that others can fill in the gaps with mobile food supplies, clothing, and well-being checks. We can only ask that others reach out to these people in some way.

I know our staff feels good about what we do, we also have good sponsors and community fund-

ing that is being sent in on our website. Please contact your elected officials and ask for immediate support, like food deliveries, physical and mental health on site evaluations and placement.

We must go to them, they are the ones God ask us to support. How can we continue to shuffle paperwork and quote statistics and not just go out and place them according to their needs?

For more information, go to www.spiritofho-

Editor's Note: Louis Spremulli, of Johnston, is the Spirit of Hope founder. Contact him by writing Ispremulli1@gmail.com.

Regis College

Jennifer Soto of Johnston graduated with a MS in Nursing -Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner from Regis College during the May 6, 2023 commencement exercises. Soto was among more than 1,300 students who received degrees ranging from associate to doctoral levels.

Members of the Class of 2023 celebrated their accomplishments with an inspirational commencement ceremony at the Leader Bank Pavilion in Boston featuring WHDH's 7NEWS Today in New England anchor Amaka Ubaka, who delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree. Philanthropists Bill and Joyce Cummings also received honor-

"It is now up to you to take what you have learned and leave this ceremony committed to bettering the world around us with your knowledge and compassion. As the journey continues for each of you, I am confident in the future because you are in it," Regis College President Antoinette M. Hays, PhD, RN said to the graduates.

Ubaka delivered the commencement address urging graduates to embrace their "rebel hearts," a term used by the late singer Harry Belafonte to encourage individuals to stand up for what they believe in, even if it goes against the norm.

Whether it's through volunteering, activism, or pursuing a career that aligns with your values and passions, each of you has the power to create positive change. Remember that life is a journey, not a destination. There will be ups and downs, twists and turns, and unexpected surprises along the way. Embrace the journey and don't be too hard on yourself if things don't always go as you planned in your head." said Ubaka. "As you move forward, remember that your unique experiences and perspectives are what make you special. Embrace your rebel heart, pursue your passions, and don't be afraid to take risks.

Thousands of friends and family members attended the ceremony, bringing their support and enthusiasm in celebration of the graduates' achievements.

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JHS students assist Municipal Court with interpreter services

On Wednesday May 31, 2023 students from the Johnston High School descended upon the Johnston Municipal Court with cameras and audio equipment in tow. Good Burger 2 isn't the only production being filmed locally.

The students, part of the Johnston High School Multi-Media class, recorded a video that will be played before all sessions of the Johnston Municipal court. The recording shows Chief Judge David aRusso giving instructions to those attending court. Those instructions are then repeated in Spanish by Johnston High Senior, Dariana Carrascoza.

"The video will provide those appearing at court with information regarding procedures and what to expect when court begins, in both English and Spanish," said Johnston court administrator Christopher Ballarino.

The Johnston High School Music and Multi-Media teacher, Mr. Oliver Reid, supervised the project, along with Johnston High Career Coordinator Mr. Joseph Pirraglia. The students involved were Senior Dariana Carroscoza (Multilingual Interpreter), Senior Herbie Constant (Videographer), Senior Steffi Rotella (Audio Production), and Sophomore Joseph Lopez Tavares (Audio Production).

Chief aRusso thanked the students and teachers for their professionalism and their invaluable assistance to the community by producing this informational video. "Every person has a right to fully understand what is happening in the courtroom. A small misunderstanding can be detrimental to the outcome. It is important that people have the ability to understand and be understood, regardless of the language they speak," he said. "I would like to give a special thanks to Johnston High Senior Dariana Carrascoza and Career Coordinator Joseph Pirraglia who have appeared every Wednesday in court to assist with those who need interpreter services."

aRusso added, "It was a wonderful experience for the students to be in court, not only were they able to provide interpreter services to members of the community, but they had a rare opportunity to gain insight into the actual workings of the Municipal



HELPING OUT: Herbie Constant, Steffi Rotella, Judge David aRusso, Joseph lopez Tavares, Oliver Reid, Dariana Carrascoza, Joseph Pirraglia.



TALKING THROUGH IT: Dariana Carrascoza, who is a Johnston High School senior, serves as a multilingual interpreter.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Honoring the sacrifices made for freedom and freedom itself

Few things can cut through today's polarized political climate like the emotional impact of an Honor Flight.

Since 2012, the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub, in collaboration with the National Honor Flight Network and its many dedicated volunteers and donors, have embarked on 27 Honor Flights, ferrying thousands of veterans to Washington D.C. for a chance at a reflective and meaningful moment in the capital of the nation they vowed to protect and serve.

Anyone who has seen or participated in an honor flight understands the importance of these events,

 WHERE TO WRITE: 1944 Warwick Avenue Warwick, RI 02889 RoryS@RhodyBeat.com and how increasingly important they become as veterans of our nation's wars age (particularly

our local World War 2 veterans) and become less able to travel without assistance from such groups.

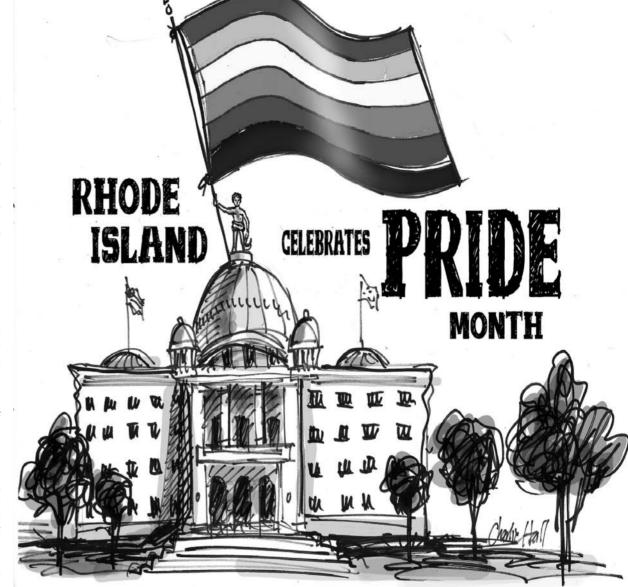
Former Providence Fire Chief George Farrell, who started the first honor flight in Rhode Island over a decade ago, has put in untold numbers of hours to safely transport these men and women. And he promises that the upcoming flight will hold an additional importance.

Rhode Island Honor Flight number 28, named "Freedom," will take place on Monday, June 19, as opposed to past flights which have traditionally been held on a Saturday. As of 2021, June 19 has been declared a federal holiday, "Juneteenth", that commemorates the final emancipation of enslaved

peoples of color in America in 1865.

It can be easy to forget in a modern world that in the not-so-distant past, millions of men, women and children were held in bondage and treated as property within a country whose very foundational document proclaimed that all people were created equal and entitled to certain rights. It can also be easily forgotten that thousands of minority American citizens — from those who fought in the Revolution as freed slaves, to those who helped liberate Europe from the tyrannies of World War II — have served this country and fought for its ideals despite not enjoying the equal treatment or protections of their white allies who they fought along-

some pride in the fact that we have progressed as a nation and as a people, where we honor the sacrifice of our bravest individuals, notwithstanding their gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. Twenty minority veterans will join in the flight to D.C., where a contingent of the RI Professional Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums will follow them on their journey to memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, reflecting on what true American patriotism



LETTERS

JRTC wishes dads a 'Happy Fathers Day'

Fathers Day is an event which is celebrated to express admiration, tribute, and love toward some of the most important people in our lives: our fathers, grandfathers, and father figures.

Many families get together to celebrate them With Honor Flight Freedom, there can at least be and enjoy a family dinner. Sometimes our loved ones are far away and could use a Zoom or Facetime call to say hello.

Some are no longer with us but still it is nice to think of them and the good memories that were

Their contribution to support and encourage our growth and development molded us into who

If you can, make sure to reach out to your loved one and thank him for all that he has done for you. Happy Fathers Day to all the fathers in our community!

> Johnston Republican Town Committee



John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Director

Donna Zarrella - Donna Z@rhodybeat.com

Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com

Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Christine Peabody - ChrisP@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representative

Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com **Production Staff**

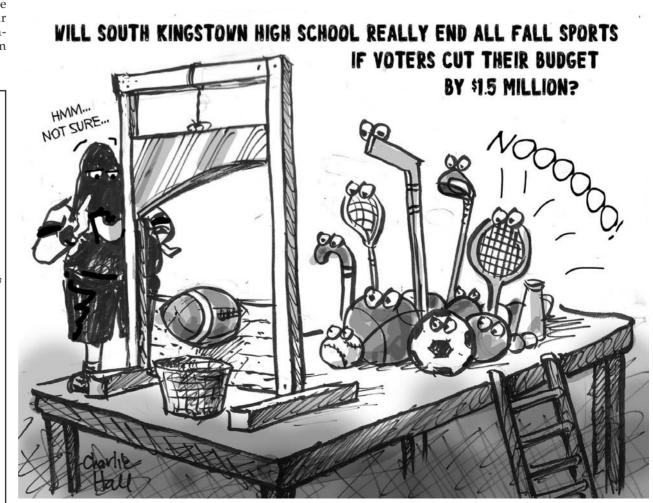
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Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, June 15, 2023



coordinator Linda Folcarelli in War Memorial Park. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

JPD hosts first 'Walk with Cops' event of season



VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS: Among the many Johnston residents who help make Walk with Cops special for senior citizens are: Livia Mastro Giuseppe, Donna Folcarelli, Christine Desimone, Linda Folcarelli, Kathy Ruggiero and Pat Giardina.



HAPPY HOSTS: JPD Chief Mark Vieira (second left) along with School Resource Officer Mike Andreozzi, Major Tom Dolan, Captain Mike Babbitt, Patrolman Brooke Ardito and Sgt. Luca Lancellotti welcomed a host of seniors citizens to War Memorial Park for the season opening of Walk with Cops.



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SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

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 16 Family Pride Karaoke Night

Friday, June 16, from 6-9 p.m., The Gamm Theater, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, is hosting a Family Pride Karaoke Night. Come sing a song in our lobby, try snacks and drinks from our café, and enjoy the weather on our patio. The evening will be full of music, fun and face painting for the kids. Bring the family and have a fun prideful night out!

June 17 Get Ready for Pride!

Saturday, June 17 12:00 noon. Stop by The Huddle Center (70 Gansett Ave) to get anything you may need for the Pride Fest in Providence. Drop in and get ready with us for Pride! Pack a goodie bag, take some Pride swag and get some Pride tips from community health worker Jill, a PVD Pride Fest regular. Please reach out to Jill at 401-258-3084 or jsparaco@comcap.org with any questions!

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.

SCOOP OF THE WEEK FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

- CEREAL
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- OATMEAL
- RICE
- APPLESAUCE
- RAISINS
- JELLY / JAM
- INSTANT POTATOES
- SNACK ITEMS
- INSTANT NOODLES
- PEANUT BUTTER
- BREAD/BISCUIT MIXES
- CRANBERRY SAUCE
- PICKLES
- SHELF MILK
- NUTS
- OLIVES
- BOX DINNERS
- TOMATO SAUCE
- LOW SODIUM/NO SUGAR (ITEMS FOR DIABETICS)
- ANY OTHER
- NON-PERISHABLES

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Help OSDRI restock their pantry!

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry is in need of a major restock. See a list of needed nonperishable items in the photo.

Like many people, OSDRI's clients have been faced with some real obstacles these past couple of years. With your help, they pledge to always be there to give a hand up for veterans and their families in need.

Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OSDRI's main office, 1010 Hartford Ave., Johnston. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the OSDRI office at 401-383-4730.

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 evidencedbased 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.

SCOOPS - PAGE 12

Obituary



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 for additional information. Obituary prices start at \$60. You may include the obituary in any of our other newspapers for half price.

– Thank you

Blaise F. Rossi

1930 - 2022

Happy Father's Day
in Heaven, Dad



We all love you and miss you every day. Miss your love, wisdom and sense of humor.

Love Always, wife Vera, children Debbie and Duane, granddaughters Ashley, Stephanie and husband Jacob, Danielle and husband Rob, and great-grandchildren Madisyn and R.J.



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Warwick Beacon

Cranston Herald

Johnston SunRise

1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick

Scoops

(Continued from page 11)

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; Patriciagmannix@gmail.com Or, Nancy Dube Brazeau 401-789-0304; nancybraz@gmail.com.

Events at Mohr Library

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

Tuesday, June 20, register for Mohr Library's Summer Reading program which includes reading incentives for kids and many great programs. Details are on our website.

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

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

The library is located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston. For information on all library events, services and hours of operation, visit their website, www.mohrlibrary.org or email info@mohrli-

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

The Johnston Senior Center is better than ever. We are offering more exercise programs and trips every week. We also have a book Club the last Tuesday once a month. A Social worker/Medicare Counselor/ Ship Counselor is also provided 5 days a week. Contact Madeline Ravenelle at 944-3343 Please come for a tour of our facility.

The Senior Center Club the last Tuesday of the month. There is no charge for Senior Center activities. They offer Bingo on Thursday and Friday. Lunch is served daily at 12 p.m. (with a suggested donation of \$3).

Offering more programs and trips every week

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

Events June - August: Ballroom Dancing will not be back until September. They will not be dancing July and August.

Thursday, June15: The Memories of Patsy, Whites of Westport Dinner & Show, \$79 pp

Tuesday, June 20: Newport Playhouse, (Spreading it around) Lobster Fest Dinner show, \$95 pp

Wednesday, June 28: Mystery lunch, \$10.00pp Thursday, July 13: "Stiletto & Saxman" Whites of Westport, at 10:30 a.m., \$79.00pp

Wednesday, July 26: Mystery Lunch at 11 a.m.,

Tuesday, August 8 and 30: Newport Playhouse, "Norman is That You?," 10:30 a.m. Lobster Fest

Trips September - November

Thursday, September 14: "The Carpenters"

Whites of Westport, 10:30 a.m., 79.00pp

Monday- Wednesday, September 17-19: "Atlantic City Gambling Tour to the Tropicana Casino Resort," \$299.00pp DO (single add \$130.00) \$50.00 Meal Credits/\$30.00 Slot Play TBA

Thursday, October 5: "Aidan Keene Tribute

Legends," 10:30am, \$79.00pp

Monday, October 16: Maine (Portland) \$429.00pp DO. See Beautiful Historic Waterfront, Lighthouse, Quaint Kennebunkport. 2 nights lodging, 4 Meals \$95.00pp

Tuesday, October 17: Newport Playhouse, 'Ghost of a Chance" Lobster Fest, 10:30

Tuesday-Thursday, November 7-9: "Turning Stone Resort Casino" \$339.00pp DO (single \$479.00) \$80.00 Casino Free Play or Bingo Bucks \$30.00 Meal Credits

Amenity Aid Volunteers Needed

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

and wellbeing of vulnerable populations by creating access to essential hygiene products. Serving all of Rhode Island, we distribute toiletry necessities to those most vulnerable through our network of direct service agencies.

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

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

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

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

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

Neighborhood Watch

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

Editor's Note: Send submissions to Sun Rise Editor Rory Schuler at rorys@rhodybeat.com or Front Desk Coordinator Ida Zecco at idaz@rhodybeat.com. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Johnston Sun Rise. Please include a daytime telephone number in case we require any further information.

Say you saw it in the Johnston Sun Rise

JHS music dept. puts on show at Collage Concert

By PETE FONTAINE

"We're back from our successful trip to Hershey Park and tonight we welcome you to our annual Collage Concert that will feature our talented students doing 21 vocal and instrumental performances."

That's the way Ron Lamoureux, director of Johnston High School's national-award winning music department greeted parents, friends and many alumni at the outset of another special show of the Panthers multi-talented vocalists and musicians.

There is so much pride in the JHS music program that alumni like Anthony Andreolli, who now plays trumpet with the highly-acclaimed U.S. Army 88th Band of Rhode Island, was among the Collage Concert participants.

As Lamoureux explained: "Tonight you will hear an eclectic mix of music; most acts are student-led and feature student soloists. By bringing a collage of different styles and colors together we have created our own collage, a greater piece of art born from many smaller individual pieces."

Lamoureux, who has developed the JHS Music Department into one of the best in Rhode Island, then issued a host of "thank yous" to School Spt. Dr. Bernard DiLullo, Assistant Supt. Julie Zarrella and JHS administration for supporting the music department.

The popular director also issued a "special heartfelt thank you" to the Johnston School Music Association (JSMA) for its ongoing support that has been – he emphasized – the reason behind our ongoing success and programs. "Everyone is incredibly busy right now – it means a great deal to us that so many people have made time in their schedules to join us."

So, the extraordinary and exciting student-led event began taking the appreciative audience on a musical journey that upon conclusion drew rave reviews from young and old alike.

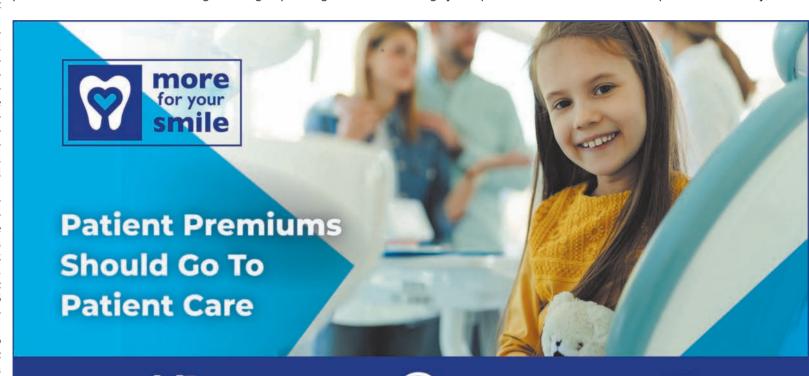
The night was like a visual collage that painted a picture and reflected the tastes and interests of the music department.

As Lamoureux concluded: "For our seniors, it is the final time in the auditorium; our students are moving forward as musicians and young adults thank you for supporting them. Now please, sit back and enjoy each of those journeys and our 2023 Collage Concert."

Thus, Act I included the Concert Chorus, Folk Band, Brass Choir, March from Julius Caesar, Jazz Combo and total of 10 awesome acts. Act II moved on with the JHS Select Choir led by JHS vocals teacher Matt Gingras and student combos and concluded with the Lamoureux-led Concert Band doing Raiders Adventure and Into the Clouds.



PROUD PRESENTORS: Senior members of the JHS Music Department show off their awards – including the Esprit De Corps – which is presented to the most outstanding school group during the annual and highly-competitive Music in the Parks competition in Hershey, Pa.



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Thursday, June 15, 2023

AL BUSINESS

Dreamland Learning Center

Call 401-280-1400 to learn about their summer programs



By JENNIFER COATES

School districts across the state are finishing up the year within the next few weeks and summer is soon upon us. If you don't have a plan in place for childcare for all or part of summer, it is not too late to enroll your child in the summer programs at Dreamland Learning Center in Johnston. There is summer fun, adventure and joy waiting for your child!

Dreamland Learning Center is a place where children are encouraged to play, explore, learn, socialize, stretch their imaginations and their muscles! Located on Hartford Avenue in Johnston, this familiar landmark is a happy place, a place where children from six weeks old to age 12 are welcomed and where the carefree joy of childhood

Every space in this center is thoughtfully planned and designed to be developmentally appropriate and purposeful. Child-size furniture makes each room look comfortable and adapted to the needs of pint-sized early learners while shelves are filled with toys and walls are strewn with art projects. Centers are set up for imaginary play, arts & crafts, building, science, music and story time. Daily programming for the children who attend Dreamland is packed with age-appropriate activities where children enjoy important routines but also the spontaneity and pure pleasures of childhood.

The outside playgrounds also provide the perfect place for youngsters to run off all that youthful energy. The staff works together to plan a fun-filled summer complete with field trips, outdoor water play and a balanced curriculum that continues to encourage your children to learn through play, socialization and exercise!

The curriculum and staff-to-child ratio requirements here meet the strict standards of the state while all staff are





Can you imagine your child playing inside in this enchanting castle, or outside on this colorful playground equipment? Visit Dreamland Learning Center and see for yourselves the magic of childhood.

licensed, and CPR certified. The caregivers/teachers here work as a team with one goal in mind and that is to enrich the lives of the children over whom they have been given this special stewardship. In fact, the whole facility is Bright Star® rated for excellence.

Dreamland Learning Center is part of a network of childcare centers throughout the region which make parents and caregivers alike happy, and, with all the programming and fun it is known for, make children happy too! This family of centers truly embrace the words of Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use

to change the world" ~ which they do one child at a time. Be sure to check out the other members of the Dreamland family of childcare centers in West Warwick (401-828-8200) and Pawtucket (401-655-1000).

Dreamland Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children ages 6 weeks through age 12. The center is conveniently located at 1253 Hartford Avenue, across from Market Basket. For more information or to schedule a personal tour, call 401-280-1400 today!

If you are looking for childcare this upcoming summer ~ be sure to register soon!



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Four-legged therapists

By LOUIS J. SPREMULLI Special to the Sun Rise

Animal-assisted therapy has proven benefits based on various studies. Researchers have found a direct connection between interacting with animals and enjoying positive health benefits. These animal therapy benefits include mental health, physical health and spiritual being.

Chipper, a Poodle/Rottweiler mix, is a twoyear-old handsome, playful, sweet active dog who loves going to work with his mom Tigist (Social

Worker) at Cherry Hill Manor.

He brings joy, love and licks to the residents and staff. He is 80 pounds of curious zippiness who enjoys eating fruits and vegetables. He loves showing unconditional love and loyalty towards

everyone he meets.

He is a very important part of his family and not just as a dog. When home, Chipper loves playing catch with his two big "human" brothers Braydon and Mattias. When not at work, he spends the day in his crate, as he is crate trained. Chipper is very active and in the winter, he loves playing with

Tigist realized during Chippers initial training that the residents and the staff at CHM would benefit greatly from Chipper's spirit, therefore a part of his training was dedicated to becoming a thera-

py/comfort dog.

Chipper started working at CHM approximately six month's ago. He visits CHM 2-3 days a week and can be found walking throughout the building with his owner, visiting residents and staff. If a resident is afraid of dogs, Chipper will not enter that room, and his owner always announces Chipper's presence prior to entering a room. Once in the room, Chipper knows his job to sit next to the resident and allow them to pet him. If they ask for a kiss, Chipper happily obliges. While he is at work, he is leashed at all times and in his owners' possession. When off leash, Chipper is in his owners' office behind a gate so people can still pet and enjoy him as they walk by the office.

There are many residents with whom he has es-

tablished routines and has built a special relation-

Chipper enjoys receiving kisses, getting his ears rubbed and laying down so people can pet his belly. Some staff members who have historically been afraid of dogs have since overcome their fears and now enjoy his company. Chipper continues training sessions at home and is very happy to be part of the Cherry Hill Family.

Editor's Note: Louis Spremulli, of Johnston, is the Spirit of Hope founder. Contact him by writing Ispremulli1@gmail.com. He provides regular stories featuring members of the Johnston community.



BEST FRIEND: Chipper, a Poodle/Rottweiler mix, is a two-year-old handsome, playful, sweet active dog who loves going to work with his mom Tigist (Social Worker) at Cherry Hill Manor. (Courtesy photo)

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Scholars

(Continued from page 7)

Husson University

Johnston resident Justin Salvatore has been named to Husson University's Dean's List for the Spring 2023

During the spring semester, Salvatore was enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in exercise science/ Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Students who make the Dean's List must be enrolled as an undergraduate student, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted for the semester, and achieve a 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

North Shore Community College

North Shore Community College President Dr. William Heineman is pleased to announce that the students listed below were Dean's List students for the Spring 2023 semester.

Dean's List Honors are awarded to students who have earned six or more semester hours of academic credit with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of

Steven Shaw, of Johnston, made the Spring Dean's List.

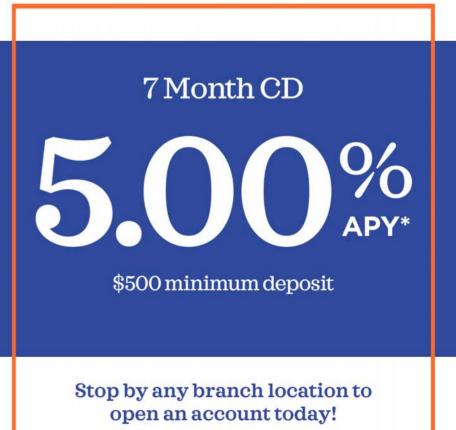
Oregon State University

Oregon State University will graduate more than 7,300 students during ceremonies Saturday, June 17 at Reser Stadium in Corvallis and Sunday, June 18 at OSU-Cascades in Bend.

The 7,338 graduates will receive 7,583 degrees. There will be 238 students receiving two degrees, two receiving three degrees and one receiving four degrees. OSU's 2023 graduates represent 34 of Oregon's 36 counties, 50 states and 71 countries.

The graduates will add to the ranks of OSŪ alumni, who have earned 287,469 degrees over the university's 154-year history.

Local students graduating this June from Oregon State include: Jonathan Souza, of Johnston, with a Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Sciences degree.



RHODYBEAT.COM





Photo courtesy of Erin Walsh (Photo by Phlash Fotography & Artistry www.phlashfotoart.com)

By SAMANTHA RUSSELL

A judgment free community where people can swim, enjoy mutual interests, and even receive a core workout: No, this place is not the local Planet Fitness, rather the Ocean State Merfolk. Based at the Smithfield YMCA, Ocean State Merfolk have created a community where people not only dress up as mermaids, but also become a part of their world.

established this pod two years ago as a means of providing others the incredible op-

portunity of mermaiding, and has since cre-

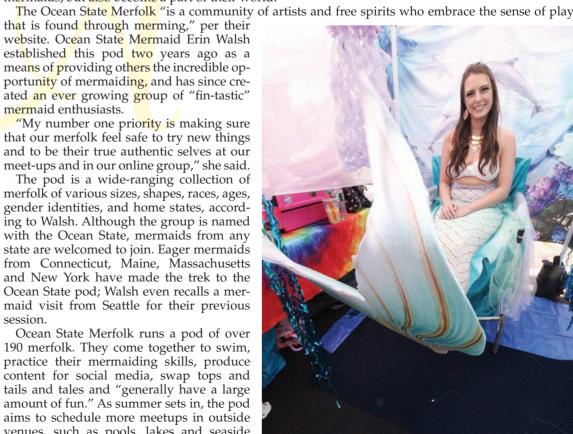
ated an ever growing group of "fin-tastic" mermaid enthusiasts.

"My number one priority is making sure that our merfolk feel safe to try new things and to be their true authentic selves at our meet-ups and in our online group," she said.

The pod is a wide-ranging collection of merfolk of various sizes, shapes, races, ages, gender identities, and home states, according to Walsh. Although the group is named with the Ocean State, mermaids from any state are welcomed to join. Eager mermaids from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New York have made the trek to the Ocean State pod; Walsh even recalls a mermaid visit from Seattle for their previous

Ocean State Merfolk runs a pod of over 190 merfolk. They come together to swim, practice their mermaiding skills, produce content for social media, swap tops and tails and tales and "generally have a large amount of fun." As summer sets in, the pod aims to schedule more meetups in outside venues, such as pools, lakes and seaside locations. The group also attends meetups organized by other pods throughout New England.

everyday lives."



OUT OF WATER: Erin Walsh was perfectly at ease at the Gaspee Days Arts and Crafts festival although she was out of water. (Beacon Communications photo)

"Creating a group that could meet regularly to share the passion for mermaiding was very important to me," Walsh says. Move over, connecting with like-minded merfolk, coaching safe mermaiding and removing the stigma around adult play has always been a goal of hers, and she hopes to "normalize this sort of play as an essential part of our

'Anyone can be a mermaid'

New members are always encouraged to swim with Ocean State Merfolk at their meetups. Through their belief that anyone can be a mermaid, the pod works to expand the mermaiding experience to anyone that is interested.

Walsh is a certified Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Mermaid Instructor and PADI Advanced Mermaid, Freediver and SCUBA diver, a lifeguard and an underwater photographer. For Ocean State Merfolk, she is also a modeling coach, organizes regular merfolk meetups and teaches mermaid classes.

Three years ago, Walsh commenced her mermaiding career with her fellow mer-friend, Chris Graefe. After swimming in his Mertailor monofin at Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, Walsh became hooked on the adventure and never looked back.

The group's website states that mermaiding, or "merming," is the practice of wearing and swimming in a costume mermaid tail. This activity is open to children, hobbyists and professionals, who perform at venues such as circuses, aquariums and parties. The act can also go by the name of artistic mermaiding, mermaidry, or artistic mermaid performance.

The website goes on to say that dressing up as a character or concept, an interest known as cosplaying, allows people to tap into the "world of play" and their inner child. Those who role play as mermaids are also able to create striking photography and digital artistry through their costumes and makeup.

"It's an incredible release to swim with a mermaid tail, freeing and fun to glide under the water doing twists and turns, flipping below the surface and then back up again," Walsh commented. She added that mermaiding is a great way to improve well-being and fitness, as well as relieve stress. "We practice performance mermaiding just for fun and make videos to share with each other and on social media."

Most mermaid tails are made from a monofin, which sits under a fabric, spandex or scuba knit tail skin – all of which come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Dedicated merfolk can make the financial commitment of a full silicone tail, although this purchase is usually preceded by years of practice in a fabric skin with a monofin. Costs of full silicone tails usually begin at over \$1.500.

Swimming as a mermaid also takes resolute practice and technique, as stated by the group's website, and typically involves the dolphin kick to leverage the power of the fin and propel a mermaid forward. Propulsion levels also depend on the type of monofin a mermaid uses.

Walsh praises the diversity and acceptance that radiates from their pod. Beginning with a small group of friends interested in mermaiding, the group has transformed into a unique program that connects with all walks of life, creating a supportive and collaborative environment for people to discover an often lacked sense of play.

Merfolk from out of state

"We work hard to be welcoming to all folks who join our group and encourage them in their pursuit of this wonderful hobby," Walsh stated. With the help of the Smithfield YMCA, Ocean State Merfolk has created a program unlike any other, welcoming guests from several New England states.

Approximately twenty to thirty merfolk regularly join the Ocean State Merfolk for their meetups. However, Ocean State Merfolk hosts a collection of dedicated and enthusiastic team members who help build their mermaid community and turn their fantasies into a reality. Among Walsh and other mermaid models, the team relies on their "mertender," Walsh's husband Kevin, to deal with equipment and camera technicalities.

Graefe, Alyssa, Toni and Abby are the four

other members of their "Dream Team" and are active merfolk themselves, participating in meetups and engaging with the community and various charities. Grafe, not only fueling the initial mermaiding idea, works as a creative assistant and underwater model for the group. He recently completed a 24-hour swimming event to raise money for a Pennsylvania community center. Alyssa is a professional mermaid performer and can be booked to perform at various events. She also makes regular appearances at "Children's Wishes" charity events. Toni, an excellent face painter, is the team's Make-Up, Costuming and Networking Coordinator and the forefront of "mer-Made," a Rhode Island company that produces mermaid crowns and other mermaid themed items. Abby, artist and model, is a sculptor who creates fantasy creatures from clay and craft materials, which are featured in local galleries.

With the recent releases of the live action The Little Mermaid and the Netflix documentary Merpeople, increased awareness and appreciation around mermaiding has surfaced. And, it has certainly brought more participants to the Ocean State Merfolk.

"We are thrilled," said Walsh about the support. According to her, five or six new merfolk will be attending their meetup on June 11. She strives to give continued access to a safe, mermaiding space for all.

Mermaid and artist Jessie Jewels recently organized an Apple Cinemas mermaid-takeover for a showing of the live action The Little Mermaid. Over twenty-five Ocean State Merfolk attended the Warwick theater, along with merfolk from the Pod of New England, Pod of Northeast and the Mermaids Merfolk of CT, RI, MA and NY. Jewels is a mermaid of many pods, Ocean State Merfolk included.

At the event, mermaids watched the movie, sang its music, and took plenty of pictures. Walsh noted that kids at the showing got a "huge kick" out of their appearance.

Holding the title of Miss Rhode Island Mermaid for 2021, 2022 and 2023, as well as Queen of the Sea RI 2023, Jewels is a strong advocate for clean, sustainable and accessible waterways for everyone. Her platform, "Save the Bay, Save the Mermaids," voices oceanic issues and pushes towards meeting them with action. Jewels often volunteers at Save the Bay for events like beach cleanups, and advocates for state legislature regarding Rhode Island waterways.

"It's an excellent way to be heard about issues going on in the environment," she said of her pageant competing and advocacy. "No one else is doing it around here. It's needed."

Jewels additionally began creating art last year as a way to aid her platform. Profit portions of all mermaid-related art goes towards Save the Bay.

All it takes to become an Ocean State Merfolk is a short questionnaire before entering the pod's Facebook group, as well as agreeing to the group's rules. In the virtual space, individuals can introduce themselves and get to know each other. Announcements regarding meetups and special events are also released there.

"It's our goal to give everyone the opportunity to try the experience of swimming in a mermaid tail and seeing just how fun it can be," Walsh said. "Nothing should hold you back from giving it a try if you are interested."

Nothing, not even the tail itself. Ocean State Merfolk lets participants borrow Mertailor Mermaid Tails of all shapes and sizes to try on, swim in and be photographed in. New members are always given instructions on safe swimming in a mermaid tail and are paired with veteran merfolk for a one-on-one instruction session.

"Ocean State Merfolk is about having fun for fun's sake," said Walsh. "I've traveled to Roatan, Honduras and La Paz, Mexico on mermaiding adventures doing deep sea photoshoots with fellow merfolk. Now I try to share that mermazing experience with as many people as possible."





POOL SIDE MERFOLK:

Erin Walsh provided this collection of photos from meetings of Ocean State Merfolk.





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Thursday, June 15, 2023

Sports

Champions again

JHS volleyball secures second straight DIII title, undefeated season

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston boys volleyball team put the finishing touches on its electric 2023 spring season last weekend when it beat the Pawtucket co-op 3-1 to repeat as Division III champions and complete the perfect

The Panthers were dominant throughout the spring, entering the title game surrendering just one set to the opposition.

Johnston got off to a slow start but would rebound to take the first set. Pawtucket, though, took control in the second to grab the 25-21 win.

The teams battled back and forth throughout the pivotal third set and Pawtucket would take a late lead, but Johnston's playmakers including seniors Jacob Muller and Josh Philbrick would come up with enough big plays to help the Panthers take the 2-1 advantage.

"I would have liked a little less stress, but it was a great way to feel after the game. We couldn't drop, we had to stay confident, stay locked in. That was the most important thing, not getting comfortable. When you get comfortable, you lose. We regrouped and came back," said Muller.

The two clubs would do battle once again in a tight fourth set. The Panthers took a

CHAMPIONS - PAGE 21



PERFECT SEASON: Johnston seniors Jacob Muller (left) and Josh Philbrick receive the championship plaque.



Ringing in the champs

The Johnston boys basketball team held a special celebration at the high school on Monday night as the players received their championship rings after winning the Division II title back in February. The team gathered to not only grab their latest pieces of hardware, but to also show off the banner that is hung in the gym walls at JHS. It was the Panthers' first basketball title since the 1996 season. Pictured at left is the team after getting their rings. For more photos, check out page 19. (Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)

IGGT'S







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Johnston sports back on top

The Johnston boys volleyball team just finished its second straight championship season as it rolled to the Division III title over Pawtucket.

What a massive year for Johnston sports as the basketball team won in the winter and now the volleyball team in the spring. It has been a ton of fun to cover and I am happy for the town as it has one of the richest sports histories in the state.

Although the teams have remained competitive in my five years here, these were the first championships they've won in that span which has given me a sense of nostalgia, and I'm not even a native Rhode Islander.

When walking through the athletic wing of the high school on Cherry Hill, it is fascinating to see the legends that have come through the town. It almost feels like this year has been a revival, Johnston sports are truly back.

When it comes to the volleyball team specifically, what a powerhouse program it has become. The Panthers have lost just twice in two seasons and only dropped two sets all spring long. That is dominance at its finest.

I can't imagine that they will be held in Division III next season. I'm a big believer in letting teams enjoy their time in the sun once they've broken through as champions, but it is clear

that the Panthers are a notch above the rest. Sure, they will have a new look with a handful of seniors graduating, but you don't go unbeaten in dominant fashion with just a strong senior core. This team has the depth and coaching to compete at the next level. I'll be excited to see what they do.

The Bishop Hendricken baseball team fell in consecutive games to Cumberland this past week to be eliminated from the Division I playoffs. It was an unexpected defeat as the Hawks appeared to be on a collision course with North Kingstown, who was also ousted from the tournament

The big question heading into the winner-take-all matchup was whether or not Hendricken would turn to ace pitcher Alex Clemmey. Clemmey is a Vanderbilt commit and a lock to be selected in the upcoming MLB Draft. He was nearly untouchable this spring and essentially a cheat code for the Hawks. If Clemmey was pitching, it would take an extraordinary effort on the other side to get a win.

Clemmey was rested and in the clear to take the hill if his number was called this weekend. I'm not sure if there was a gentleman's agreement prior to the game between the coaching staffs to not turn to their No. 1 hurlers, but neither team threw their top guns

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@ RHODYBEAT.CO

in the final matchup to start the game.

Hendricken trailed 3-1 prior to the rain pushing the remainder of the game to Saturday. It was unclear if the Hawks would throw Clemmey out there to start on Saturday, or at any point as the game wore on.

Hendricken elected to keep Clemmey stashed on the bench and allowed the other pitchers to do their thing.

Some may wonder if the Hawks made the correct decision and it is a fair second guess.

At the end of the day, all things considered, the Hawks did in fact make the best choice and they deserve a ton of respect for it.

There is much more at stake here than a high school championship. Clemmey has an opportunity to be a professional player and to go on to make millions and fulfill a dream that very few people even come close to realizing. To risk his health for a high school game would be dic-

ey ... a potential disaster.

Now, that is not to say that these games were meaningless. Most of these players won't be suiting up after they graduate. For them, this is the biggest tournament of their lives.

For Clemmey, though, it is different. He is different.

Clemmey is a rare athlete that requires different treatment from the other players on the team. When I say different, it has nothing to do with the fundamental requirements of being a quality player and teammate. He should be held accountable for his performance, effort, attitude. He should be required to be present every day and to be putting in the same work as

everyone else.

When I say different, the above scenario is exactly what I mean. His future is just too bright to jeopardize. Especially with a potential championship series on the horizon, Hendricken had to pick and choose its usage and it chose correctly by taking the conservative approach.

Had Clemmey pitched, the Clippers likely would have been shut down. I'm sure he would have relished the chance to put his cape on and save the day, but sometimes these competitors need to be saved from themselves.

Not to mention the fact that even without Clemmey, the Hawks had the most talented crop of pitchers in the state. They were certainly not hurting for quality pitching during his absence.

absence. Although the question has been asked, I am pleasantly surprised that it has not become a divisive topic. It gives me faith that we here in Rhode Island do recognize the big picture. As much as we care about championships, as much as we root for these kids to have the opportunity to play on the state's biggest stage, their lives will continue on after high school and championships will be fond memories, not makeor-break occurrences that will impact their futures.

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BANNER YEAR: Above is a closer look at the Johnston boys basketball team's championship banner along with the rings. At right, Johnston coach Mike Bedrosian addresses the crowd during the ceremony.





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Johnston Sun Rise Thursday, June 15, 2023

Rondeau answers the call

By PETE FONTAINE

As she has done time and again during her distinguished and storied world champion kickboxing career and as a highly-respected fitness coach, popular Johnston businesswoman Christina Rondeau again answered an important call.

This time, though, may be an excellent example of how Rondeau – who owns and operates Rondeau's Kickboxing at 1408 Atwood Avenue - enjoys giving back to the community.

In fact, Rondeau and her staff rolled out the red carpet, as the old adage states – to help Johnston residents whose lives have been interrupted by cases of unnecessary bullying.

According to Becky Rhodes – long-time staff member who doubles as public relations director at Rondeau's Kickboxing and Fitness – Tuesday's class was free to Johnston residents age 13 and up.

"In this hour class people will learn basic strikes and techniques to be able to fight back and get away from their attacker," said Rhodes. "This will also serve as a fundraiser for Knockout Wishes and one if the many non-profits Christina supports which has helped others throughout the community. Any donations will be welcome."

So, after receiving call after call from parents pleading for help because their children have been tormented and bullied in school, Rondeau has also started a FREE Virtual Support Group to Stop Bullying.

"The virtual call is scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month and parents, teachers, school staff members as well as town officials are encouraged to attend and join the call to discuss what they are seeing and actually going through," Rhodes continued. "Speaking with each other gives people the assurance they are not alone."

Moreover, as Rhodes went on: "People can share ideas and workarounds to help each other and their children with how to address and hopefully resolve the bullying situation."

For more information email Christina Rondeau, at info@rkblive.com.





SPECIAL SYMBOLS:
These messages and others were the topic of discussion Tuesday night beginning at 7 o'clock when Christina Rondeau presented a special program and support to help people with the nagging problem of bullying, especially

when children are involved.

Bullying

You're not alone

Six Anchormen honored by ABCA Six Anchormen were named American Bas

Six Anchormen were named American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings NCAA Div. III All-Region for their respective performances during the 2023 baseball campaign.

Junior third baseman Cal Parrillo (Greenville, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III First Team All-Region 2. He was previously named First Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Parrillo played in 43 games, starting all of them. He batted .385 (69-for-179) with 42 runs scored, 69 hits, 14 doubles, one triple, four home runs, 55 RBI and seven stolen bases. Parrillo owned a .542 slugging percentage, .448 on-base percentage and a .933 fielding percentage. He established program records for both single season and career RBI.

Senior pitcher Shaun Gamelin (West Kingston, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III First Team All-Region 2. He was previously named Second Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Gamelin appeared in 13 games, starting all of them. He was 9-1 with a 2.93 ERA and 143 strikeouts in 89.0 innings of work. Gamelin established program records for single season and career strikeouts.

Junior center fielder Cameron Santerre (Bristol, R.I.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III Second Team All-Region 2. He was previously named Second Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com and First Team All-Little East. Santerre played in 43 games, starting all of them. He batted .358 (57-for-159) with 72 runs scored, 57 hits, 17 doubles, two triples, three home runs, 21 RBI and 54 stolen bases. Santerre owned a .547 slugging percentage, .519 on-base percentage and a .990 fielding percentage. He established program records for single season runs scored and stolen bases. Santerre also broke the career records for runs scored, stolen bases, walks and hit by pitch.

Junior pitcher Terry Murray (Norfolk, Mass.) was named ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Div. III Third Team All-Region 2. He was previously named First Team All-Region 2 by D3baseball.com, the Little East Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-Little East. Murray appeared in 12 games, starting eight of them. He was 8-2 with a 2.57 ERA and 77 strikeouts in 70.0 innings of

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BOUNCE BACK: Josh Philbrick returns a Pawtucket shot.

Champions

(Continued from page 18)

nine-point lead early in the set but Pawtucket would storm back to eventually mount a 25-24 advantage. The Panthers would respond once again, rack up three straight points to put the game away.

"It was storybook, it couldn't have played out any better for us. To go undefeated and be champions, it was perfect. We were locked in and we knew we needed to perform, there was a lot of pressure, but pressure makes diamonds," said senior James Guilmette who was also a key part to last year's title team as well.

After finishing last year as the champs, many were surprised to see Johnston remain in Division III after this year's realignment. Although expectations were through the roof entering the spring, the Panthers were

confident, especially considering some of the additions they made over the offseason, including basketball state champ Anthony Corsinetti.

"We knew that we could do it again, we reloaded with two new kids that played great all season. I didn't think we would go undefeated, but I was confident in this group and was very excited," said Muller, who believed that chemistry was what set this group apart this season. "I've known most of these kids since elementary school so this is a very close-knit group. The biggest thing with this group is our chemistry; I've never been on a closer

Guilmette added: "It's really special. It's not often that you meet a group of guys with this talent and camaraderie. We practice every day, score points and win games, so it's pretty special. I'm going to miss the brotherhood. We practiced every day and worked our butts off to get better."



BLOCK: Jacob Muller leaps to block a shot at the net. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)



TITLE CLASH: Sam Cambranes eyes a shot last week.

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GARY'S GUYS: Clyde Hopkins (left), who was a member of the championship foursome for the annual Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf tournament, is all smiles and joined by Tournament Director Jim Hopkins at conclusion of the recent event. (Submitted photos)

Mazzie golf tourney ready to give back

By PETE FONTAINE

People are still abuzz about the annual Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament that recently attracted a sell-out crowd of 120 players to always wellmaintained Cranston Country Club.

One reason was the \$5,000 profit that enables the group to present the Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Scholarships that year was awarded to Johnston High School seniors Talia LaFlamme and Derek Salvatore.

Moreover, proceeds are used to offset costs of the annual Johnston High School Athletic Hall of Fame that Mazzie founded back in 2011 before he succumbed to a bout with lung cancer.

"People in Johnston really know how to do it," was just one of the many plaudits people told Chairman Jim Hopkins, who was the late Mazzie's best friend during their teacher, coach and athletic director days at JHS. "Not many schools have what Johnston has in Panther Pride!"

Perhaps a classic example is the fact that as hard-working golf chairman Johnston Graham called "an outpouring of special support for those students who attend Johnston High School. Their support is indeed gratefully appreciated."

Some people added statements like "Everyone loved Gary for what he did and stood for," while others proclaimed, "this is a Victor(y) tournament. Gary's middle name was Victor."

Other folks also labeled the tournament, "a huge family reunion of Panthers and sponsors," while some said, "it's a tradition we need to keep going for many years to come."

As for the JHS Athletic Hall of Fame, Hopkins said "we will soon announce the Class of 2023 and we're always excited about the induction ceremony and



CO-ED CHAMPS: JHS Music Department Chairman Ron Lamoureux, his wife Lisa Lamoureux and Brenda and Bob Plasse shot their way to the Co-Ed Division title of the recent Gary. V. Mazzie Memorial Golf Tournament.

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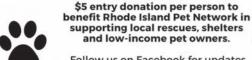
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ON THE FLY: Fly fishing expert Dave Pollack and Mario Renzi hooked up with multiple striped bass to 25 pounds on Cast-a-Fly Charters last Thursday. (Submitted photo)

How does the moon impact fishing?

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

"I want to offer some insights regarding how and why I break the season down into moon periods," said Peter Jenkins, chair of the board of the American Saltwater Guides Association and owner of The Saltwater Edge tackle shop in Middle-

Jenkins looks at each period as 15 days which is, roughly, half of a month — it is the seven days before, the day of the new or full moon and the seven days following.

The moon has influence on the ocean and the fish. They drive the tide timings and the strength of the current, they also drive the measurable height of the tide and how dark the night will be if there is no cloud cover.

"My own observations over 20-plus years fishing for striped bass from the surf, tell me that there is no denying the fact that these periods of stronger currents are usually the times when bodies of fish make a move, into or out of a bay, from one region to another or even just a few miles down the beach," said Jenkins.

With stronger currents, bait and fish movement are greater so the odds of catching fish are greater. For information on fishing strategies, tactics, tackle and gear visit www.saltwateredge.com.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Capt. Ray Stachelek of Cast-a-Fly Charters said, "Last Thursday anglers Dave Pollack and Mario Renzi of South Carolina hooked up with multiple striped bass to 25 pounds on a fly rod and bluefish to 12 pounds with fish chasing sand eels from Pr. Judith to Hazard Avenue, Narragansett." Dave Henault of Ocean State Bait & Tackle, Providence, said, "The striped bass and bluefish bite slowed a bit this week with most of the action moving to the lower East Passage with Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport doing well. The bite out in front of Newport is good too."

"The striped bass and bluefish bite diminished in Providence, yet the bite at Colt State Park and Bristol Harbor remained strong with pogies and trolling with tube & work and umbrella rings working well for customers," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside.

Joe Castaldi of Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown said, "Although things slowed in the Bay this week the bite out in front off Newport and Pt. Judith remain very strong for large bass.'

East End Eddie Doherty Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, "The action had come to a screeching halt on the Canal last week until Tuesday morning when the breaking tide brought a good size school of striped bass in from Buzzards Bay... High hook goes to 'Paulie the Painter' Gravina of Sandwich who was throwing his Hog Island Canal Pencil that fooled an energetic striper weighing 31

Angler Curt Shumway reports a trong weekend striped bass bite on the Southwest Ledge of Block Island where he hooked up with four nice striped bass to 45 pounds. Angler Greg Spier said on the RI Saltwater Anglers blog, "Trolled a bit to start off two hours after low tide on the lower Sakonnet River. Plenty of boats fishing, think with live pogies. Did not see many fish being boarded. We were using tube and worm, nothing. Fished the incoming tide till high tide on a reef off Newport and it yielded a 35-inch striper."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Striped bass fishing is becoming more consistent with the bass aggressively feeding on sand eels and squid on the south shore and bunker up in the bay. There are also quite a few bass being caught back in the salt ponds on live bait and artificials. Big bluefish are still

around mixed in with the bass."

Scup, black sea bass and summer flounder. "We had a customer catch a 6.25-pound black sea bass at the Newport Bridge this weekend along with three nice keeper flukes. Scup is moving up the bay to Colt State part with anglers a Sabin Pont catching a few too," said Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle.

Castaldi of Quaker Lane said, "The scup and black sea bass bite is very good in the Bay off southern southern coastal shores."

Henault of Ocean Stale Tackle, said, "The scup, black sea bass and summer flounder bite is goo on the East Passage channel pads, in front of Warwick Light and at Prudence Island with areas out in front off Newport producing for anglers too.'

"The best fluke bite seems to be out in deeper water so you might want to start looking in depths of 40 feet or more. Block Island has been more consistent than the south shore. Scup reports are improving with mostly large scup and there are a few black sea bass being caught. Bigger ones in deeper water and shorts in shallow water," said O'Donnell of Breachway Bait &

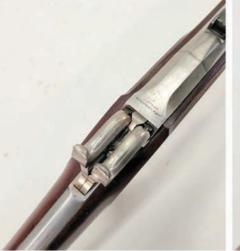
Freshwater fishing remains strong for both largemouth bass and trout in ponds that have been stocked including Willet Avenue Pond, Riverside which was restocked last week." said John Littlefield of Archie's. Castaldi of Quaker Lane said, "The largemouth bass bite remains very strong for customers with many having positive results with shiners. And the trout bite in stocked ponds remains strong."

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.

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One of the Strangest MUSKETS Made During the Civil War...

The U.S. Model 1863 Double Rifle Musket made by J.P. Lindsay has to be one of the strangest muskets made during the Civil War. When a Lindsay is amongst other more common rifle muskets they don't really stand out until you see there is no lock plate and two hammers. Once you realize what you are holding in your hands, you think how cool it is, then realize it wasn't really a good design.

John Paul Lindsay received a patent for his double shot pistols in 1859 which were manufactured in very small numbers. Legend has it he was inspired to create the double-shot musket because his brother was killed while reloading a single shot musket in a gunfight. He patented this double shot musket in 1860. In 1861 as the Civil War broke out, many inventors were trying to come up with firearms that could fire multiple shots without the need to reload as much. As the war rolled on and casualties grew, the government ordered about 1,000 double rifles from Lindsay. Between 1863 and 1864, some of them were issued to four regiments for use in

Soldiers would have to load two cartridges down the muzzle of the gun and place a percussion cap on each of the two nipples. The hammers would then be cocked and when the trigger



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

was pulled, the right hammer would fall and set off the top cartridge, or the second one loaded. The second pull of the trigger would drop the left hammer and set off the bottom cartridge. This seemingly would give a soldier two aimed shots before having to reload, however, through negligence, the heat of battle, or malfunction, both cartridges could go off at the same time with nasty results for the gun as well as the poor soldier shooting it. There were reports of this happening, and the gun was soon dropped from service. The fact that some did blow up, along with the relatively small numbers of them built, could be the reason why these odd guns are so rare.

The above said, they are very attractive,



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and you can appreciate the engineering and thought behind the design. They have beautiful walnut stocks very similar in form to their single shot cousins. The stocks have government inspectors' marks on the left flat of the stock, although there are a few survivors that do not have these markings. The butt plates, barrel bands, trigger guard, nose cap, etc. are all bright steel just like the single shot rifle muskets, as is the ramrod and blued steel rear sight. The central receiver is quite interesting with an extended tang which runs down to the comb of the butt similar to a Remington Rolling Block. The top of the receiver in front of the two hammers is marked "LINDSAY/ PATENT'D. OCT. 9. 1860".

While the Model 1863 Lindsay Double Rifle is really good looking and quite a piece



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5 budget-friendly travel tips

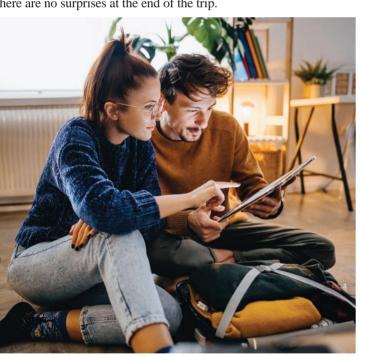
or many people, traveling is about exploring new cultures, landscapes, cuisines and ideas. However, the cost of the trip is still one of the most important considerations when booking a

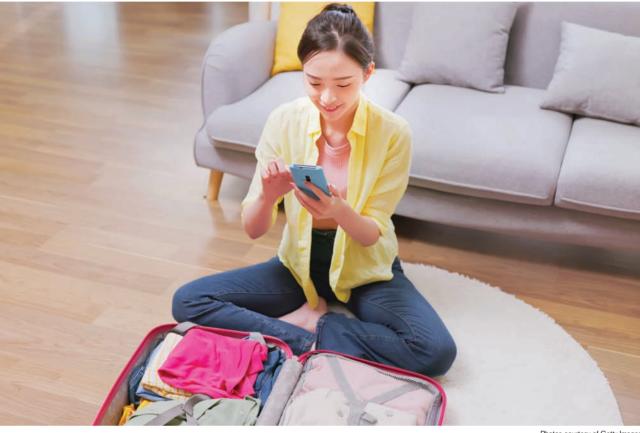
In fact, according to a survey conducted by Slickdeals, a one-of-a-kind online community of shoppers working together to shop smarter and save more, 81% of respondents listed total cost as their top consideration followed by a desire for kid-friendly experiences at the destination and discounts or deals on transportation and lodging.

Even amid reported concerns about inflation (56%), increasing flight costs (51%) and gas prices (49%), 84% of families plan to spend the same amount or more on travel this year as last. Among the respondents, 42% plan to spend between \$1,501-3,000 and 15% plan to spend \$5,000 or more on travel.

While traveling is undoubtedly an investment, it doesn't have to break the bank. Consider these tips from Pete King, deal expert for Slickdeals, to save money as you begin planning your next excursion.

Set your budget with hidden costs in mind. When setting budgets, many people stop at the basics like transportation, accommodations and entertainment. Make sure to factor in additional costs such as pet care, food, checked luggage fees and airport and hotel parking so there are no surprises at the end of the trip.





Photos courtesy of Getty Image

Look for deals. Being open to a variety of destinations and travel dates can help you score the best deals. If you're tired of switching between booking sites or searching online for bargains, consider browsing the latest travel deals on the Slickdeals Travel Page where community members share some of the best travel deals on the internet, which can save you time and effort when looking for savings on your trip. You can even set deal alerts to be notified when deals pop up for your desired destination.

Bring an empty water bottle. While Transportation Security Administration regulations don't allow you to bring most fluids through security checkpoints in airports, packing an empty water bottle in your carry-on or personal item can save you from high costs inside the terminal. Once you're through security, simply fill your bottle at the nearest water fountain. An added bonus: You can take the full bottle on the airplane to stay hydrated during the flight without having to rely on the small complimentary beverage on board.

Pack less than you think you'll need. Many people

overpack, and that can be a costly mistake. A single checked bag can cost as much as \$50, and some airlines charge extra for a ticket that includes a carry-on. For a weekend trip, keep it simple with a carry-on or backpack, and for longer adventures, keep in mind nobody at your destination will likely know you wore the same jeans two days in a row.

Find the right rewards credit card. If you have a rewards credit card, you could get cash back when you make certain purchases. You could get a percentage back on groceries, travel, dining and more. For example, with a travel rewards credit card, you earn points or miles that can be redeemed for future travel plans. General travel cards earn points or miles on virtually every purchase, regardless of airline or hotel chain, while cobranded cards that align with a specific airline or hotel reward users with more points for loyalty spending and provide additional benefits like free checked bags or a free night's stay on your card anniversary.

Find deals on travel and more at Slickdeals.com/

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The basics of consumer consumer credit

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A strong credit score is an undeniable asset for consumers. A strong standing in the eyes of potential creditors can save consumers money on relatively short-term expenses like vehicles and long-term purchases like homes.

Consumer credit is so influential in the lives of the average person that it pays to have some knowledge of what it is and how individuals can use it to their advantage.

Who issues consumer credit?

Consumer credit is typically issued by banks and retailers. One common question consumers have is who owns credit cards, which are among the most recognizable and widely used forms of consumer credit. Many credit card companies, including Visa, are now publicly held companies after years of being owned by banks. However, many major banks, including Capital One and Bank of America, issue credit cards as well.

What is a credit score?

According to the credit reporting agency Equifax", a credit score is a three-digit number which represents an individual consumer's credit risk. Credit risk refers to the likelihood that a borrower will pay their bills on time. Scores are typically between 300 and 850, and the higher the score, the more creditworthy and less risky a consumer is in the eyes of creditors.

How are credit scores calculated?

Three different consumer reporting agencies (CRAs), including Equifax,

determine credit scores. That's why it's not uncommon for a single consumer to have three different scores. Those scores should be similar, and if they're not it's likely that one or more CRA reports has an error or errors. A host of variables are considered when determining a credit score, and these include:

- Payment history
- Credit utilization ratio, which is the amount of credit used versus the total available credit
- Types of credit accounts a consumer has. This includes revolving credit accounts, like consumer credit cards, and installment accounts, which include mortgages and auto loans.
- Credit history length
- Frequency of credit inquiries (numerous inquiries in a short period of time generally lower a consumer's credit score)

So why is a credit score so important?

Credit scores are so significant because they can cost or save consumers a substantial amount of money. Consumers with poor scores, which are generally considered scores between 300 and 669, may not be eligible for auto or mortgage loans and may only be able to secure credit cards with high interest rates. By contrast, consumers with scores considered very good to excellent (740 and above) generally get more favorable interest rates on sizable purchases like cars and homes, which can save borrowers tens of thousands of dollars over their lifetimes.

Managing credit is a vital component of financial planning. Knowing the basics to consumer credit can set individuals on a sound financial path.

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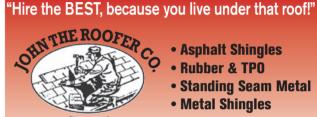
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