

## Shipment delayed?

### It matters when Amazon opens

By RORY SCHULER

Amazon's opening date is a big deal. The folks working in Amazon's New England communications office are likely sick of hearing from the Johnston Sun Rise.

We've been a bit pushy, trying to get Johnston's taxpayers and job-seekers an answer on the official date when the giant blue and white building on the hill will open for business.

When will the job fairs start? When will Amazon fill the 1,500 jobs they promised Rhode Island?

"I don't have any updates from Amazon," Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. said earlier this week. "They will reach out to the Town when they are ready to begin the hiring process for the facility."

Last year, Amazon reassessed progress at the site and told the Sun Rise that they scheduled the Johnston facility's "completion date" for the "second half of 2023."

Welcome to the second half. It's summertime and still, no date has been announced, no job fairs have been held and no town or company officials will provide solid details.

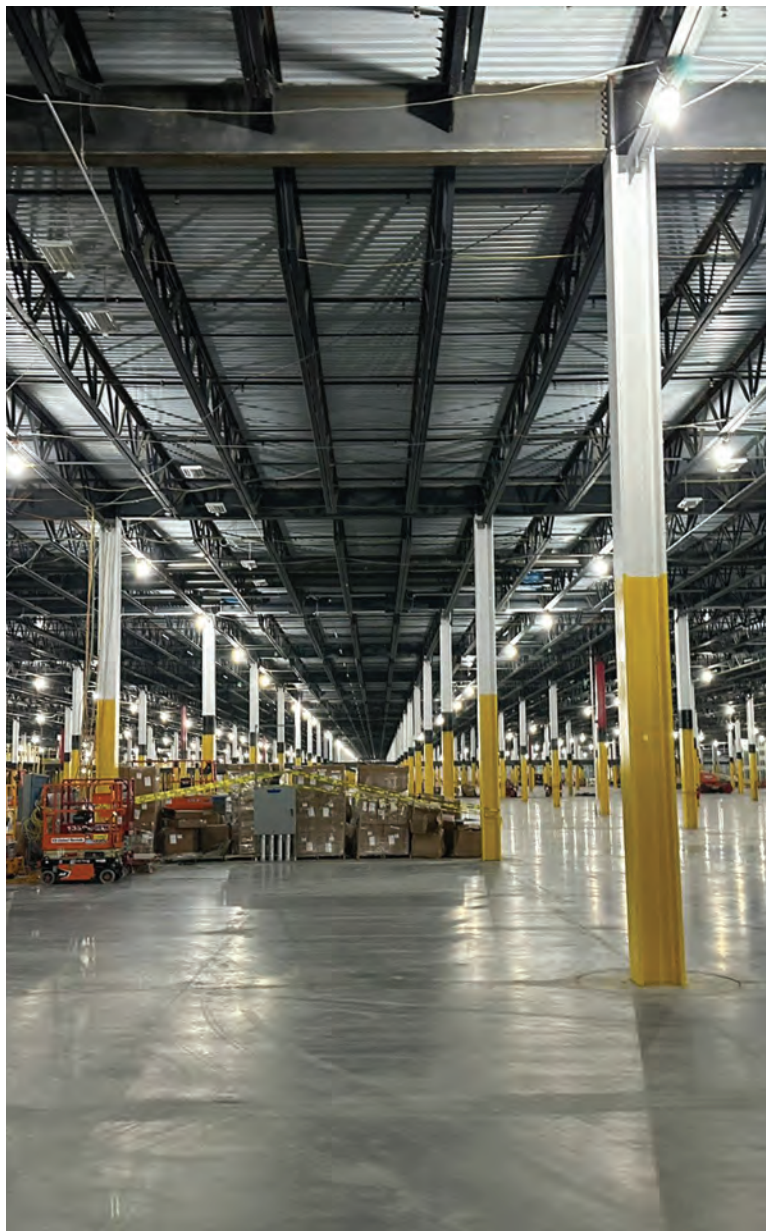
When will the building open? Is Amazon's estimate from January 2022 still accurate?

Amazon Spokesman Steve Kelly responded to our latest inquiries.

"The last few updates we provided you on this facility are still the latest from us," Kelly replied early Wednesday morning. When we have more to share, (we) will be sure to circle back with you."

A follow-up inquiry yielded a tiny bit more information.

AMAZON - PAGE 8



**POLITICAL ACCESS:** On March 17, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. announced on Twitter that he had toured the Amazon construction site with US Sen. Jack Reed. He released four photos from the tour. (Photos courtesy Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.)

## Town budget passes

### Tax rate decreases to offset higher property values

By RORY SCHULER

The latest town budget has been ratified.

And although the tax rate will dip, taxpayers will likely still face higher property values.

Johnston Town Council held a budget hearing on June 29.

A public hearings was held on an ordinance appropriating \$129,081,852 "for the support and adoption of the Town Governmental Budget, Personnel Classification, Salary Plan and Tax Levy for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024," according to the special meeting agenda.

"The residential tax rate decreased from \$23.24 to \$15.30 to offset the higher residential property values," Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena said earlier this week. "The budget went from \$120.5 million to \$129 as we had

BUDGET - PAGE 8

## Top 10 Students from the JHS Class of '23

By RORY SCHULER

Each year, the Johnston Sun Rise reaches out to the top 10 students graduating from Johnston High School. The students submit photos and answer questions.

The Class of 2023's top crop includes the following students: Catrina Zini, Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye, Willson Hage, Vincent Chang and Talia Laflamme, Allison Benoit, Emma Homenick, Sierra Jeetan, Makayla Scuncio and Derek Salvatore.

Each took the time out of their busy schedules to

thoughtfully complete this year's revised Sun Rise questionnaire.

Watch out for these youngsters as they continue through school and enter the work force. This year's top 10 students are next year's top citizens.

Turn to Page 10 to read their answers.

### Valedictorian

### Salutatorian

1.

Catrina Zinni



2.

Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye







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# 'Senior Spotlight'



Carmino "Tony" DeRobbio

## One of Johnston Senior Center's longest serving seniors

By **RICHARD J. DELFINO JR.**  
Special to the Sun Rise

This week's Johnston Senior Center "Volunteer Spotlight" shines on Carmino "Tony" DeRobbio, who is one of the Center's longest serving volunteers.

"Tony" as he is known to many friends in the community started volunteering at the center's previous site on "Priscilla Lane" some 20 years ago.

Tony began serving and delivering meals to seniors, and also was the BINGO caller three days per week.

When the center moved to its current location, Tony became known as the JSC volunteer "Security Manager."

Tony has been relied on for many years as the trusted and dependable person who allows various groups to access and lock up the building.

Tony, besides all his after hours duties, takes advantage of his JSC membership by joining his friends each day for lunch, going on trips sponsored by the center, as well as participating in many of the daily activities. Tony is a great advocate for the JSC and invites all his friends to stop by enjoy the many opportunities the JSC has to offer.

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

Say you saw it in the  
**Johnston  
SunRise**



# WALK WITH COPS

# Strolling with the keepers of the peace

By PETE FONTAINE

There's an unmatched special summer social that takes place every other Wednesday morning — weather permitting, of course — inside the "Johnston Jewel", a.k.a. War Memorial Park.

The attendees are Johnston's finest from the Police Department, volunteers from all over the town as well as residents who live at award-winning places like The Bridge a Cherry Hill and Morgan Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

It's called Walk with Cops and features an ever-growing attendance that enjoys being served coffee and an assortment of breakfast goodies.

It's coordinated by two special Johnstonians, namely JPD Capt. Michael Babbit and District I Town Councilwoman Linda Folcarelli. It's also one of those "you don't want to miss" events that also features a bit of physical fitness.

There's always a special theme for each event, like last week's pre-Fourth of July celebration that had to be moved back to Thursday as a result of what is expected to become a terrific tradition — last Tuesday's PVD Food Trucks Event.

As has been a Walk with Cops tradition the past seven or so summers, Folcarelli and her sister Donna — who are steeped in Johnston pride — placed long red, white and blue coverings on 8-foot-long banquet tables set up by recreation department staffers for the "Guests of Honor" to enjoy their morning coffee and a variety of freshly made donuts.

"I love doing this!" Linda Folcarelli said as she filled cup-after-cup with coffee. "Our volunteers also enjoy making the morning special."

Once everyone has finished their coffee and donuts, a special chant echoes through the air in the southeast corner of the pristine park.

"Does anyone want to walk?" asks Johnston Police Chief Mark Vieira.

Almost instantly, dozens of people who came from the Cherry Hill Manor Nursing Home, The Bridge at Cherry Hill, Morgan Rehabilitation and Health Center and Anchor Bay at Pocasset get up from their seats and begin the morning's trek around park pond under their own power, the use of walkers and some wheelchairs pushed by caring JPD officers.

Once the walk is complete, "our special seniors" as Linda Folcarelli calls them, sit in their seats and enjoy a fun-filled raffle that's supported by some local businesses. After which buses that carried people to the event line up and take residents home with best wishes like, as long-time volunteer Pat Giardina said last week: "We look forward to seeing (you) back here again soon."

"It will be July 12 before you know it," Linda Folcarelli said noting, "then we'll conclude our July schedule on July 26."

Walk with Cops begins at 9:30 a.m. and runs for two hours and is always filled with classic camaraderie at its finest that has happened every summer for more than a quarter century in Johnston.



**SUPER STAFF:** Among those staffers the Morgan Health Center who help make the JPD's Walk with Cops a success are Administrator Robert Sechio, Director of Nursing Crystal Brown, Ernest Miller, Melissa Cortez, Donna Oliver, Linda Reach, Felix Figueroa and Dennis Melucci.



**GRAND GUESTS:** At right, Johnston Police Chief Mark Vieira, his command staff and officers enjoy hosting the town's senior citizens during the award-winning Walk with Cops that's held every other Wednesday morning inside War Memorial Park.

## Two children hurt by fallen tree in Johnston

Johnston Sun Rise Staff Reports

Two children were injured during a storm on Tuesday, July 4.

A fallen tree has been blamed.

According to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, the incident occurred around 3 p.m. Tuesday.

"Two juveniles were transported to the hospital with substantial injuries by Johnston Fire Department rescue personnel after being struck by a falling tree at 20 Park St.," Vieira confirmed.

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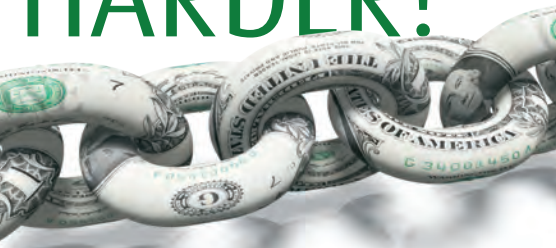
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**NEW BLOOD:** The Johnston Police Department recently welcomed five new police officers: Patrolmen Matthew Levesque, Matthew Lonardo, Levi Swanson, Aaron Blanco and Cesar Irizarry. (Johnston Police photo)

# JPD welcomes five new officers

The Johnston Police Department recently welcomed five new police officers to their ranks. "Congratulations to our five newest Police Officers who graduated from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy and were sworn in by the Honorable Mayor Joseph Polisena, Jr. and Chief Mark Vieira today!" Johnston Police announced in an online post. "Let's give a warm welcome to Patrolman Matthew Levesque, Patrolman Matthew Lonardo, Patrolman Levi Swanson, Patrolman Aaron Blanco, and Patrolman Cesar Irizarry as they join us in the mission of 'Working Together

er — Making a Difference.'" "We are proud to have these dedicated individuals join our team, committed to serving and protecting our community," Johnston Police wrote. "They have undergone rigorous training and are now ready to serve with integrity, compassion, and professionalism. Please join us in congratulating them on their achievement and in wishing them a successful and fulfilling career in law enforcement. Together, we can make a positive impact and create a safer environment for everyone."



**THE CHIEF:** Johnston Police Chief Mark Vieira addresses the new recruits.

# Johnston man arrested on drugs, weapons charges

Johnston Sun Rise Staff Reports

On June 14, members of the Johnston Police Department's Patrol and Detective Bureau apprehended Michael L. Lovenbury, 50, of Johnston on drug and weapons charges after a traffic stop.

Lovenbury was found to be in possession of approximately 40 grams of suspected powder cocaine, according to Johnston Police.

In addition, he was carrying a loaded .380 Ruger semi-automatic pistol, police said.

Lovenbury faces multiple felony charges, including License or Permit Required for Carrying a Pistol, Possession of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence, and Possession with Intent to Deliver a Schedule II Narcotic.

Lovenbury was presented as a bail violator regarding a previous arrest and appeared at the Third District Court for arraignment on June 15.

"We commend our officers for their dedication and commitment to keeping our community safe," Johnston Police posted online.



**DRUGS SEIZED:** Johnston Police say they found approximately 40 grams of suspected powder cocaine and a loaded .380 Ruger semi-automatic pistol on a Johnston man during a traffic stop. (Johnston Police photo)



# JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

## ASSAULT & PURSUIT

Around 9:15 p.m., April 23, Johnston Police received a call via department radio that Providence Police were in pursuit of a vehicle that was just spotted fleeing the scene of a "shots fired" call in the vicinity of 850 Mannton Ave. in Providence.

Providence Police advised the suspect vehicle was an older dark, black Cadillac Escalade EXT (pickup truck), and they were pursuing it into Johnston, in the area of Greenville Avenue at Killingly Street.

The vehicle fled north on Waterman Avenue, from Greenville Avenue, where it parked in a driveway, attempting to hide from pursuing officers.

As Providence Police closed-in on the vehicle, the driver reversed, striking a police cruiser's front bumper.

The pursuit continued and dispatch provided updates. The last location announcement made was Borden Avenue. Johnston Police joined the pursuit.

"The vehicle traveled north on Borden Avenue, executed a left hand turn onto Hartford Avenue and then onto the Route 6 East on-ramp from Hartford Avenue," Johnston Police Patrolman Derrick Palazzo wrote in the incident report. "I then observed both Providence Patrol Cruisers miss the on-ramp, oversteering to their left as I entered onto the (Route 6 East on-ramp), becoming the (first) patrol cruiser in pursuit."

More Johnston Police joined the chase.

The vehicle eventually exited Route 6 onto Memorial Boulevard, the driver making a U-turn.

"When he performed the U-turn I obtained a complete visual of the operator," Palazzo wrote. He described the suspect over the radio.

The pursuit continued onto Interstate 95 north, from Memorial Boulevard, and eventually neared the Massachusetts border. Rhode Island State Police eventually took the lead.

The pursuit continued from I-95 to Route 495 northbound, where Massachusetts State Troopers also joined the pursuit.

Palazzo said that he had decided to abandon the pursuit and head back to the Ocean State, when "the suspect vehicle had also coincidentally utilized the same exit."

"As the pursuit continued south towards Rhode Island, I noticed and announced that the suspect vehicle was now slowing significantly, speeds were now at 35 mph, as the vehicle began to pull to its right," Palazzo wrote. "Several seconds later the vehicle came to a stop and the suspect exited from the front passenger's door and jumped over the highway median into a heavily wooded area."

After a brief struggle, two Rhode Island State Troopers and Palazzo had

the suspect in custody. Police identified the driver as Michael Pinto, 40, of 234 Money Hill Road, Chepachet. Police discovered Pinto had a suspended license. He was charged with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer with a Motor Vehicle in a High Speed Pursuit, and received a citation for Driving with a Suspended License.

## ATTEMPTED B&E

On April 30, around 5 p.m., a resident responded to police headquarters in reference to a trespass complaint. The resident told police they had video surveillance footage of Rory A. Deshaies, 65, of 9 Camille Drive, Johnston, attempting to gain entry to their front door, that same day.

Deshaies can allegedly be seen on the video "take an unknown object out of his pocket and manipulate the door jam, then look up at the camera and walk away."

The resident told police they would like to press charges against Deshaies.

On May 1, Deshaies responded to headquarters, and police told him he had an active warrant for Attempted B&E. He was processed and placed in a cell.

## HABITUAL SHOPLIFTING

On April 24, Johnston Police responded to 49 Bridgeton Court, Cranston, in an attempt to locate Peter John Moscarelli Jr., 58, of that address. Johnston Police were looking for Moscarelli, alleging he is a "Shoplifting Habitual Offender."

Johnston Police Detective Kevin Brady spotted Moscarelli at his home, in the backyard. He arrested Moscarelli "without incident."

He was transported to police headquarters and processed. He also had a Superior Court Bench Warrant for Shoplifting out of the Johnston Police Department.

The arrest stems back to incidents reported by employees of a local grocery store on March 15 and 17. Police received a report that an "approximately six foot tall older white heavy set man came into the store" and placed a package of shrimp (\$23.89), Monster Energy drink 12-pack (\$19.99), Pepsi (\$6.99), seven four-packs of Monster Energy (\$55.93), two Red Bull 12-packs (\$39.18), two Coke Fridge Packs (\$14.98), Poland Springs water 24-pack case (\$4.50), Nestle Purelife 24-pack case (\$3.34), two Tide detergent bottles (\$31.98), and a pack of Solo cups (\$5.49), into his cart.

"It should be noted this male had a limp with his left leg as viewed by security footage," wrote Johnston Police Patrolman Nicholas A. Crowe, in the original incident report.

The man allegedly passed all points of sale

with the items.

The store also alleged the same man came into the store 8:30 p.m. on March 15, and around 8 p.m. March 17, he "placed all the same items into a cart and proceeded past all points of purchase." The man left the store and fled in a vehicle.

Security was able to get an image of the vehicle and license plate. The store told police they would like to press charges. A check of the area was unsuccessful finding the suspect.

Police eventually tied the incidents to Moscarelli. He was charged with felony charges of Shoplifting and Habitual Offender (Shoplifting).

## POSSESSION

Around 5:30 p.m., April 24, Johnston Police responded to a local parking lot to investigate a report of a man "rummaging through vehicles." Police en route were told by dispatch that the man was wearing a red sweatshirt, black sweatpants and was now standing at the bus stop in front of the store.

Police spoke to the caller, who told them the suspect was seen entering an unlocked truck through its passenger side door and removed several items, placing them in a camouflage backpack.

Police spotted the man, and identified him as Sean E. Farrell, 35, of 1149 Douglas Ave., Apt. 5, North Providence. The spoke to him, and Farrell claimed he knew the truck's owner, and claimed the vehicle owner left \$4 inside the truck for him and he was retrieving it.

The owner was located and after checking the truck, told police that it had been rummaged through and several items (including a blue iPad, multiple gift cards and various children's toys belong to her son) were missing. The items were allegedly found in Farrell's backpack. Police also found a small bag containing a white powdery substance. Farrell allegedly told police it was "meth."

"Prior to being secured in the rear of my cruiser, Mr. Farrell asked officers if he could apologize to (the victim) for stealing the items from her truck," Johnston Patrolman Matthew D. Murphy wrote in the arrest report.

Farrell was charged with one count of Possession of a Schedule I-V Substance and a count of Larceny Under \$1,500.

## SHOPLIFTING

Around 9:05 p.m., May 18, Johnston Police responded to a store in town for the report of a shoplifting in progress. Prior to arriving on the scene, store personnel told police that the suspect had fled on foot after leaving a cart full of groceries that had been taken out of the store. An employee was chasing the suspect, who had tried to leave the store with the full cart but did not pay for

the items.

Police identified the suspect as John Feliciano-Huertas, 29, of 627 Cranston St., Providence. Police spotted Feliciano-Huertas running behind the store, with the employee still chasing him.

Johnston Police Patrolman Derrick Palazzo exited his cruiser and told Feliciano-Huertas to place his hands on the hood of the police cruiser. Feliciano-Huertas was transported to police headquarters where he was processed and charged with Shoplifting. According to police, he had an extensive criminal background and was a probation violator, so he was held pending transportation to Third District Court in the morning.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *This police log information has been taken from public record police incident and arrest reports provided by the Johnston Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies.*

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## Johnston Police promotes two officers

The Johnston Police Department recently promoted Lt. Joseph McGinn to Captain, and Sgt. Joseph Scichilone, Jr. to Lieutenant.

“We appreciate both officers and their commitment to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of our community,” Johnston Police announced in an online post. “Their leadership and dedication have earned them this well-deserved promotion. We are confident that they will continue to lead by example, fostering a safe and secure environment for all residents of Johnston.”

“We wish them the very best in their new roles and have no doubt that they will continue to make a difference in the lives of the people they serve. Congratulations, Captain McGinn and Lieutenant Scichilone.”



## Johnston slaughterhouse admits to violating federal meat inspection law

BY CHRISTOPHER SHEA  
Rhode Island Current

PROVIDENCE — A Johnston-based beef slaughterhouse admitted in federal court recently that it defrauded customers over falsified meat inspections in 2019.

Rhode Island Beef and Veal and one of its owners, Michael A. Quattrucci, pleaded guilty to charges of defrauding customers by claiming that beef had been inspected under the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

The meat was never inspected but was stamped with an unauthorized official U.S. Secretary of Agriculture inspection mark, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service suspended Rhode Island Beef and Veal and withdrew its inspector on Aug. 20, 2019. Eight days later, prosecutors said a

USDA supervisor visited the plant and found employees packing various cuts of meat and applying USDA marks of inspections to the meat with no inspector present.

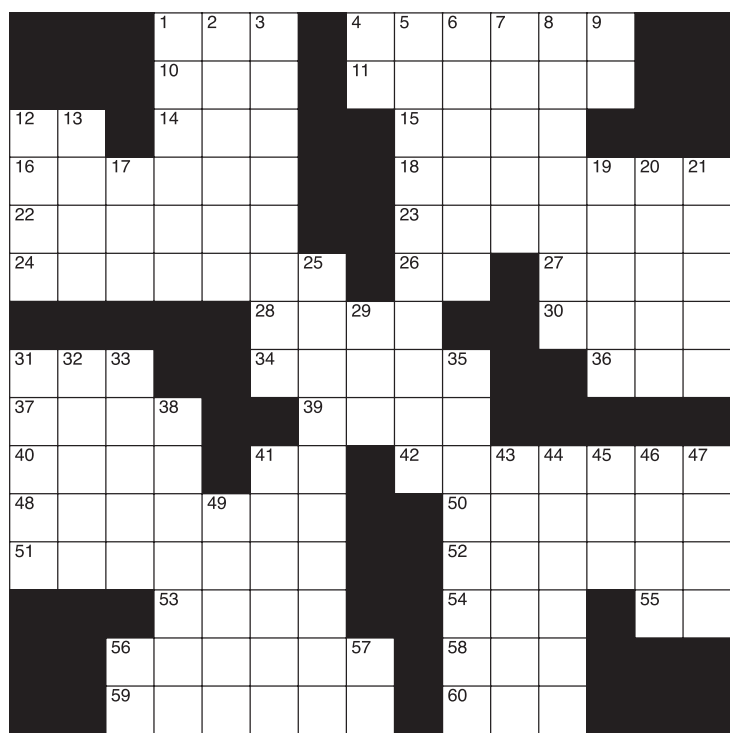
Additionally there was packaged meat with USDA stickers stored in five bins, prosecutors said.

The next day, a USDA investigator noted 224 pounds of unmarked ground beef and a 594-pound half-carcass of beef that had been freshly cut into primal parts for delivery to a customer in Connecticut who supplies meat products to restaurants.

Quattrucci is scheduled to be sentenced on July 26, while Rhode Island Beef and Veal is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 7.

**Editor’s Note:** Christopher Shea is a writer for the Rhode Island Current, a new state news service. Rhode Island Current stories can be found at [rhodeislandcurrent.com](http://rhodeislandcurrent.com).

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province
- 14. It causes fainting (abbr.)
- 15. Two
- 16. A notable one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Rings
- 23. Sullies
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Publicity
- 27. Near
- 28. Tools of a trade
- 30. Offer in good faith
- 31. “American Idol” network
- 34. Garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Retired NFL DC Dean
- 39. Hot meal
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Percussion instrument

- 42. A \$10 bill
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. National capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie’s friend
- 59. In a way, stretched
- 60. Commercials

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. American songbird
- 3. Pay
- 4. International organization
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. Criminal
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital worker (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee

- 17. Value
- 19. Another name
- 20. Sheep in second year before shearing
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate during a time of year
- 29. Creative output
- 31. Recesses
- 32. District in N. Germany
- 33. Rider of Rohan
- 35. The official emblem of the German Third Reich
- 38. One who puts down roots
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Tycoons
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Walking accessory
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. Member of a North American people
- 56. Type of computer
- 57. U.S. State (abbr.)

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# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Summer calm before a storm of activity

As Rhode Islanders take to the beaches or explore destinations elsewhere on vacation during the July Fourth holiday season — or wringing out their clothes after what was a rain-soaked celebration down in Bristol — the stage is set for another beautiful summer.

But the stage is also set for a bounty of news in the coming months, as the General Assembly has enacted a slew of new policies and legislation that, moving forward, could potentially have major implications.

In housing, more than a dozen pieces of the package put forth by Speaker Shekarchi have been signed

- WHERE TO WRITE:  
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into law, and it will be seen as to whether or not decisions to unshackle developers from certain permitting

and administrative roadblocks will actually start to translate into more affordable housing being created for years to come. Renters received a little support by having rental application fees outlawed, but advocates pushing for more control over rent increases can only wait for next session.

Environmental advocates and public enjoyers of the shoreline can celebrate two success stories, one that opens up public access to areas of the shoreline 10 feet landward of the high tide line, and although it won't take place until January of 2025, styrofoam packaging has been banned in the state for food preparation and to-go containers.

In elections, civic-minded youngsters got a boost by permitting them to register and vote in primary elections at 17 years old, so long as they will be 18 by the time the general election rolls around. This means that a 16-year-old today could be able to vote in the upcoming presidential primary in November of 2024, provided they have a birthday prior to November.

And speaking of that election, an eye-popping 35 people have officially declared candidacy for Rhode Island's First Congressional District, and many municipalities will utilize the special election to put forth capital bond requests to voters for a variety of uses, from new fire stations to brand new school buildings. With so many candidates and a lot of bond money at stake, you can expect a lot of political ads between now and November.

For now, we can enjoy the sun and take a much-needed breathe of relief. But summer months fly by, and before we know it we'll be back to the rush of the beginning of school, the holidays, and then the unknown promise of what a new year, with loads of new legislation, has in store.

It's Rhode Island....

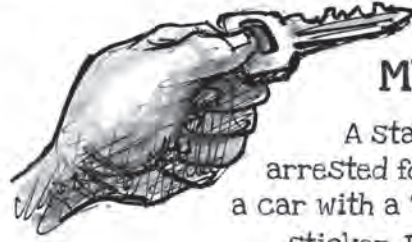
## OFFICIALS GONE WILD!

Charlie Hall

### PHILLY FIASCO



Top state execs display embarrassing-to-rude behavior at a lunch in Philadelphia. The story goes national.



### MILLER TIME

A State Senator is arrested for allegedly keying a car with a "Biden Sucks" bumper sticker. It goes national.



### UP IN SMOKE

A Cranston councilman was found unconscious in his car after allegedly using crack cocaine. It makes national news.

LETTER

## Spirit of Hope donates 50 rescue kits to fire victims

The devastating fire over the Memorial Day holiday weekend at the Simmons Village Apartments left a few people injured plus 50 or more residents homeless.

But as is the case when individuals or families are adversely displaced by tragedies like this one in Johnston, the specialists from the RI Chapter of the Red Cross showed up almost immediately to begin the task of relocating the fire victims in hotels or other viable accommodations.

According to officials, it was a tough weekend to find lodging for so many people due to placement of homeless and state-wide graduations, that brought lots of visitors to the area.

Therefore, according to sources, some burned out occupants of the Simmons Village complex took shelter in the unaffected community room to sleep and care for themselves



until better arrangements could be found.

The Spirit of Hope non-profit organization made their presence known to the Red Cross officials inside the community room, Louis Spremulli and Frank DiMaio, Rescue Kit Chairman, offered to donate 50 rescue kits which contained personal hygiene products, clean

clothes, face cloths and other useful toiletries items to help get them through the next few days.

These augmented donations were welcomed by Red Cross helpers and more mutual aid is planned by Spremulli's charity to help in situations like this as they occur especially in the great-

er Johnston and surrounding areas.

Fortunately, "Spirit of Hope" was able to get their volunteers together to assemble 50 rescue kits at their storage facility within one hour's time.

Louis returned the next morning and found out that their kits were a big help. That makes him so happy and proud of what they do at Spirit of Hope.

One thing is for sure, we will make sure our inventory is up to date in case of future disasters. We had just made other donations one week before Very important! Supporters of our organization can be proud to say they support us and are part of helping their local community. Their funding help support our kits and 50 people had something to receive from their local community.

Paul Orlando, Louis Spremulli, Frank DiMaio Spirit of Hope

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**Johnston Sun Rise**

**Budget**

(Continued from page 1)

to absorb the large Amazon payment into our budget.” Polisena said Johnston “schools account for about 70% of the increase,” including “\$2.1 million in debt service, \$2.1 million in an increase in Town aid,” and “\$1.8 million in state aid, which is a pass thru in our budget.” “It totals about \$6 million of the overall increase,” Polisena explained. “Another \$1.8 million went to police and fire, this includes salaries, healthcare and filling all police and fire vacancies.”

Polisena also created a new town department. “I took existing workers out of the recreation department and public works department and created a new department, buildings and grounds,” Polisena said. “These individuals will be responsible for maintaining all town property including town buildings, fields and parks.”

The town ran a “Notice of Proposed Property Tax Rate Change” legal advertisement in the June 16 edition of the Providence Journal. “The Town of Johnston proposes to increase its total property tax levy to \$75,540,802 in the 2023-2024 budget year, the total property tax levy this year is \$72,855,935,” reads the legal ad. “The result is a proposed net tax levy increase of 3.69 percent.”

Polisena has also announced a “Town takeover of the Johnston School Department.” That matter is still pending, and may lead to litigation between the town and the school department. Both the town and the schools have hired legal counsel.

The School Committee approved its budget on June 22. The total expenses proposed in the FY 2024 school department budget amount to \$65,466,300, as compared to the FY 2023 budget’s \$60,434,216.

That’s a \$5,032,084 difference year-over-year, or more than 8 percent increase in expenses.

The School Department is requesting a town appropriation of \$42,610,281, \$4,081,266 more than the town contributed last year, a more than 10 percent increase.

Polisena has committed to providing \$2.1 million more to the district, over last year, but called it an “exorbitant amount of money.” The nearly \$2 million gap between the mayor’s promised funding increase and the school department’s request may lead to “major cuts” across Johnston schools, according to members of the School Committee.

Out of District Tuition is projected to cost the district \$3,600,500 next year, an increase of \$398,000 (more than 12 percent). Major increases in school spending have also been proposed for Special Services (\$761,298 higher in the proposed budget, a 19 percent increase), Salaries (\$1,869,229, 6 percent) and Benefits (\$1,409,441, 10 percent).



**HERITAGE GRANT:** State Rep. Ed Cardillo presented a \$2,500 grant to Pannese Society President David Vendatelli. (Submitted photo)

**Pannese Society wins \$2,500 grant**

The Pannese Society receives a grant every year for promoting Italian heritage in the community.

David Vendatelli is the president and discussed the grant with Rhode Island state Rep. Ed Cardillo and Louis Spremulli about this year’s trip to sister city Panni, Foggia, Italy.

Spremlulli has already sent in a letter to Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr., three weeks ago and is awaiting a response regarding the town’s participation.

There is a Sister City agreement in place with the Town of Johnston from 2016, which included a ceremony at the senior center. All state officials were invited and the governor as well.

Spremlulli hopes that the town steps forward to set-up better communication and even a zoom night with refreshments for the community. Both mayors, from each country, could address each other in real-time.

Panni is a village in the province of Foggia in the Apulia region of southeast Italy.

**ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:**



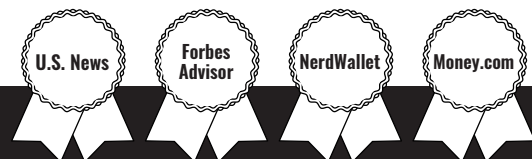
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- Sat. July 29- ST. MARIA DI PRATA, Crns.
- Thu. Aug. 3- TUMBLESALTS, North Prov.
- Sat. Aug. 5- The ISLANDER, Warwick
- Sat. Aug. 12- BELLA, Glendale
- Sat. Aug. 19- COURTHOUSE CENTER

Reservations/Info/More dates at [AGINGDISGRACEFULLY.NET/288-1188](http://AGINGDISGRACEFULLY.NET/288-1188)



**OPENING SOON?** On March 17, Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. announced on Twitter that he had toured the Amazon construction site with US Sen. Jack Reed. He released four photos from the tour. (Photos courtesy Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr.)

**Amazon**

(Continued from page 1)

When can the region’s job-seekers expect hiring to begin?

“General hiring usually starts about 4 to 6 weeks before a building launches,” Kelly replied with an answer that would be more helpful with an opening date.

In March, Johnston Town Council President Robert V. Russo, responding to Sun Rise queries regarding progress at the site, assured residents the facility would open, eventually.

“I am confident it will open — but I do not believe it will open on time,” Russo said in an April 1 re-

sponse.

Earlier this spring, we also asked Amazon if the facility would eventually open, or if it would forever sit vacant. The company assured us that it would open, and Amazon would be hiring 1,500 employees.

However, asked to clarify when the Johnston facility would open, Amazon dodged the question:

“Will the Amazon facility in Johnston open by the end of 2023 (as previously estimated by Amazon)?”

“Thanks for following up,” Kelly wrote via email on April 4. “The information we provided you last week on this is the latest from us. As both Caitlin and I mentioned, once we have more to share, we will be sure to let you know.”

We then provided a long list of

Amazon projects from across the nation that have reportedly been abandoned. We asked for updates on those projects, to gain a perspective on the company’s nationwide facility goals.

“There isn’t any new information on a timeline to share from us on this project right now,” Amazon spokesperson Caitlin McLaughlin responded on April 5.

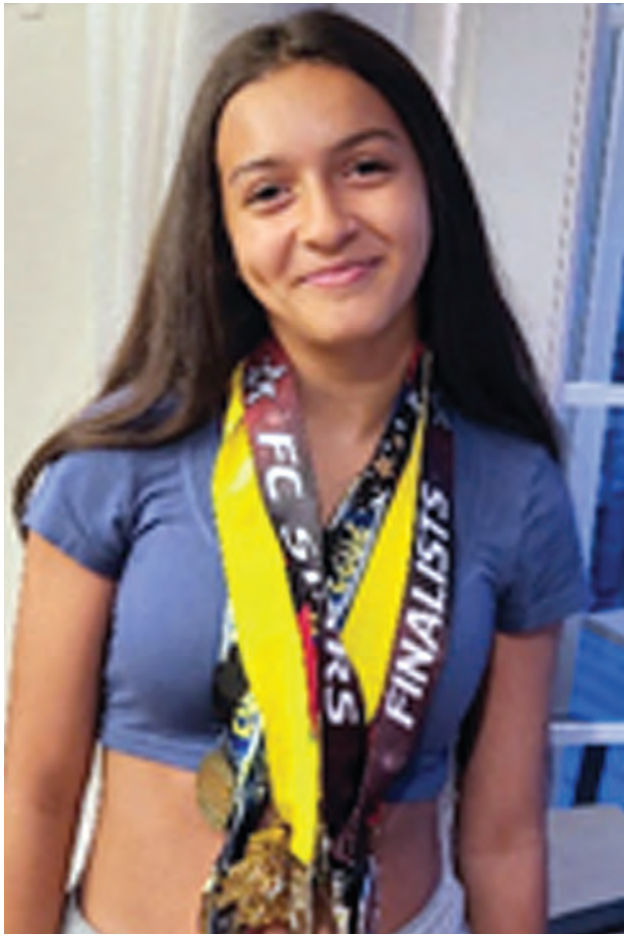
Some of the money promised to Johnston will arrive, no matter the status of the building on the hill. Some, however, like payments to youth sports and the town’s senior center, are contingent upon the facility opening.

Is the project on track?

They may not answer, no matter how often we ask. But we’ll keep asking.



# Soccer standout thanks parents for help winning medals



By LOUIS SPREMULLI  
Special to the Sun Rise

Every day of the week is soccer except for Wednesdays. The weekends are games anywhere between three states and practice during the week at Brown.

Giana Dimaio is 14 years old and lives in Johnston. She just graduated from Saint Rocco's and is going to Lasalle. She will be trying out for the soccer team in August.

Giana showed me her 15 medals and most are all first place. She played on two teams: Bruno United Premier and Pawtucket Storm, both are travel teams. What that means is that both parents had a lot of traveling to do every week.

She played defense for the team, but also has scored a few goals. She has become very friendly with her teammates and spends some time with school friends as well. Her life has been mainly focused on soccer, but now the big change comes with more dedication to school work and she will have to let the two travel teams go. Hopefully she will play on the Lasalle team. I hope one of the Lasalle scouts reads this article.

One thing for sure, she is a very happy girl. She is always laughing and enjoying her time in whatever she does. She is my friend Frank's daughter and he is very dedicated to her. I had to meet her. He actually brings her to school in the morning and picks her up in the afternoon, during his work time. I picked up on a special relationship that everyone could wish for.

**Editor's Note:** Louis Spremulli, a Johnston resident, writes and submits stories to the Johnston Sun Rise on a regular basis.

# Obituaries

## Dorothy A. Nugeness

Dorothy A. Nugeness, passed away on Monday June 26th after celebrating her 99th birthday on June 18th. She was the loving wife of the late James Nugeness Sr. They had been married for 75 years.

Dorothy was the daughter of the late Michael and Louise Mekuto and had lived in Johnston her entire life. Dorothy was a cook with the Johnston School Department for over 20 years before retiring. She loved to bake and whenever you stopped over you could be sure there would always be a homemade sweet or goodie brought out on the table. She took much pride in her beautiful Christmas cookie trays that she made every year for family and friends.

She leaves her sons, Ronald Nugeness of North Providence, James Nugeness Jr. of Johnston, and the late Bradley Nugeness. She was the grandmother of the Ronald Nugeness, Christine Nugeness and Kendra Morales. She was the great-grandmother of Mikko and Maiya Morales who gave her the loving nickname of "Gigi" which she adored. She was also called "Gramma Dot" by many that loved her.

Her funeral and burial will be private.



## Ronald "Ronnie" Corvese

Ronald "Ronnie" Corvese, 85, of Johnston passed away peacefully at HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center surrounded by his loving family on Saturday July 1, 2023. He was the beloved husband of the late Rebecca "Becky" (Pitocco) Corvese. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Carmine and Elizabeth (Lato) Corvese.

Ronnie was self-employed for 45 years as the owner/operator of Corvese's Fruit Stand in Johnston and Corvese's Wholesale Fruit and Produce in Providence. He served in the United States Army and was a proud VA member. Ronnie was a member of the Johnston Lions for many years volunteering his time and supporting fund raising events. He enjoyed horse racing, attending to his vegetable garden, spending quality time at his morning hang out, playing his daily lottery numbers and going to breakfast on Saturday mornings with his friends. He cherished the time spent with his grandchildren and was so very proud of their accomplishments.

He was the devoted father of Lianne DiMaio and her husband David of Cranston, Ronald Corvese Jr. and his wife Donna of Johnston, and Bethany Clements and her husband Matthew of Johnston. He was the loving grandfather of Morgan, Janet, Rebecca, Carmen and Matthew and dear brother of Carmine "Cal" Corvese Jr. of Johnston, Robert Corvese of South Kingston, and the late Anthony Corvese of Narragansett.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at HopeHealth Hular Hospice Center for the excellent care, professionalism, and dignity extended. Ronnie's last days were filled with kindness and comfort and the family will be forever grateful.

His funeral will be held from the Nardolillo Funeral Home and Crematory, 1278 Park Avenue, Cranston on Thursday, July 6th at 10am followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Rocco Church, Johnston at 11am. Visiting hours are on Thursday, July 6th from 9-10am. Burial will take place at St. Ann Cemetery, Cranston.

Visit NardolilloFH.com for online condolences.



# Summer blood drive slated for Tuesday

By ALEXIA DILORENZO  
Special to the Sun Rise

The Johnston High School's National Honors Society will be holding their annual summer Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 11.

The members of the society have been working hard to gather donors throughout the town to donate blood. Donating blood is an extreme life-saving action, and can help millions of people all around the world.

The blood drive will take place in the high school's cafeteria, where there will be members of the society working, alongside the RI Blood Center, to make sure every donor is comfortable.

If you'd like to make an appointment, please go to [ribc.org](http://ribc.org) and use the sponsor code 0441 to make an appointment! On behalf of JHS National Honors Society, thank you for taking the time to donate.

**Editor's Note:** This dispatch was written by Alexia DiLorenzo, Johnston High School's National Honor Society president and Student Council president. The Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by local students and schools.

## Donate Blood

Be an all-star for patients like Violet and Hudson!

### Johnston Senior High School

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Cafeteria

345 Cherry Hill Rd, Johnston

All presenting donors will receive a \$5 Brewed Awakenings gift card!

DONATIONS BY APPOINTMENT!

Scan the QR Code to Book:

(walk-ins will be welcomed if availability permits at time of arrival)

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## Thirteenth Anniversary Anna P. Pillozzi

3/28/16 - 7/10/2021



**Our Mother - Grandmother**  
To one who bears the sweetest name  
And adds a luster to the same,  
Who shared our joys and  
cheered us when we were sad,  
The greatest friend we ever had.  
God bless her in Heaven  
There will never be another to  
take the place of our dear mother.

Son Anthony & Wife Concetta,  
Grandson Emilio, Son Robert &  
Wife Rbonda, Grandson Robert,  
Grandaughter Regina  
and great-grandson Vincent

## Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local Adoptable Loveable



## Jasmine

Photo credit: FOHARI

Jasmine is a three year old Welsh Terrier mixed breed and weighs about 25lbs. She is a "bundle of energy" according to the folks at Friends of Homeless Animals RI. If you are an adult only home and live an active lifestyle then Jasmine might be the pup for you. If you know anything about her breed it's that she'll chase after small animals like squirrels, rabbits ect so that's something to consider. She will however shower you with her puppy kisses and happily wag her tail! Jasmine certainly is adorable but the rescue wants to be sure to find her the perfect match, she also wants to be your one and only princess. Please email [save4paws@gmail.com](mailto:save4paws@gmail.com) or visit their website at [www.fohari.org](http://www.fohari.org) for more information. This adorable fun little girl will surely bring her vibrant spirit into your home!

If you have been thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at [animaltalk1920@gmail.com](mailto:animaltalk1920@gmail.com)



## Magnolia

Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Magnolia has it all, big beautiful green eyes, whiskers for days and a "purr-fect" temperament! She is a young girl, so very playful and loving! Magnolia is a Domestic Shorthair with a gorgeous white and Tabby coat. If you'd like to meet her please visit EGAPL The Heart of RI at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI during their open adoption hours: Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday & Friday 12:00-2:00 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. Let's not keep this beautiful girl waiting a day longer to find love, please call now 401-467-3670 for more information.

# JHS Class of '23 Top 10



**JHS SUPER STUDENTS:** The JHS students who make up the Class of 2023's Top 10 Seniors are: Catrina Zini, Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye, Willson Hage, Vincent Chang and Talia Laflamme, Allison Benoit, Emma Homenick, Sierra Jeetan, Makayla Scuncio and Derek Salvatore. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

## Valedictorian

# 1.

Catrina Zinni



**Future Plans (education):** University of Connecticut Honors Program

**Future Plans (career):** Nursing

**High school activities and any positions held:** Class Council Treasurer, Girls Soccer Captain, National Honor Society member, peer tutor, member of the float committee

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Valedictorian, Excellence in Science Award, American Mathematical Society Award, 2022 Rhode Island Civic Leadership Award, Harvard Book Award, Seal of Biliteracy, Hopkins Family Memorial Scholarship, Gary Mazzie Memorial Health Sciences Scholarship, Red Sox Foundation Service Scholarship, JSHS PTSO Scholarship, The Michael E. and Lida M. Contillo Scholarship

**Best High School Memory:** One of my favorite high school memories was when Josephine took chicken out of her pocket in the middle of English class and we both started laughing so hard we couldn't breathe.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** I was greatly supported by my family, friends, and the teachers at the high school. They never stopped believing in me and always pushed me to be my best.

**Advice for next year's class:** My advice for next year's class is to get involved and truly make the most of your time in high school. It goes by fast, but the memories that you make will always stay with you. Always put your best foot forward in a



# 2. Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye



**Future Plans (education):** I will be attending the University of Rhode Island for a double major in Biomedical Engineering and Spanish.

**Future Plans (career):** I have many interests, and therefore I hope that in everything that I do, I continue to learn. It would be my dream to be old and still have a passion to learn from others, and to have encountered 100 million people and still aspire to show love and kindness to the next person. In addition, I hope that more than just obtaining knowledge I can teach others and breed in them a passion to learn and love! I hope that I'm humble enough to truly care for others, learn from others, and help others recover in any way, shape, or form. This is something that I hope to accomplish in my day-to-day encounters, as well as through a career in which I engineer medical equipment and prosthetics to aid in one's recovery process.

**High school activities and any positions held:** Through my high school career, I have taken part in the following clubs and extracurricular activities: Class President, Soccer Captain, National Honors Society, Mock Trial, SADD, Track & Field, World Cultures Club, Unified Basketball, cross country, peer tutoring, Above the Influence, Awakening Youth Leader, and We Heart Lives.

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Horatio Alger Association National Scholar, Thomas M. Ryan Scholar, Daughters of the American Revolution Good citizen Award, 2022 Brown University Book Award, 2022 Rhode Island Civic Leadership Award, 2022 Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magaziner's Young Leader Award, WJAR and Paul Masse's Student Athlete of the Week, Alice Sullivan Award, 2022 Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Achievement Award, Johnston Mayor and Town Council Scholarship, Students in Government Scholarship, a silver on the Spanish Seal of Bilingualism, and the RI Girls Soccer Coaches Association All State Award.

**Best High School Memory:** There are so many fond memories I have of high school, but the memories that I will never forget are the daily conversations that I had with other students. I really enjoyed listening to their stories, their passions, their complaints, and it has taught me so much and inspired me in so many ways.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** SO MANY PEOPLE have helped me succeed in high school!! In general, I think everyone has played a role in my success whether you are a politician, parent, student, teacher, administrator or even a barista at some of my favorite study spots! The impact that we have on each other, supersedes just one person, and my success is a direct or indirect accumulation of the love, kindness, and support that so many people have shown not just me, but others as well. My parents, my sisters, God, wonderful teachers like Mrs. Fresolone, Mrs. Guilmette, Ms. Ruggiero, and my friends have all made me who I am today, and I am eternally grateful.

**Advice for next year's class:** When people say high school flies by, they mean it! Please be intentional about thoroughly enjoying the time you have in high school before it all changes. Learn from the people and situations and environment that you're in. Take time to explore the beauty of life and diverse people that are all around you. Always look at things with a heart of gratitude, even if it isn't the best situation. And know that you don't have to be the ultimate best, the greatest accomplishment is being the best version of yourself. It would be a shame to spend your whole life living somebody else's dream but never your own.

# 3. Wilson El Hage



**Future Plans (education):** Attend the University of Rhode Island majoring in Mechanical Engineering

**Future Plans (career):** I am undecided but am between joining the air force or the workforce after my education

**High school activities and any positions held:** National Honors Society, Historian in Tri-M Music Honors Society, Varsity wrestling for 3 years, soccer for 3 years, chess club, and ATI.

**Special awards/scholarships received:** JSMA and the Mayor Town and Council Scholarship

**Best High School Memory:** Performing a song named Tank! by the Seatbelts during my senior year at the collage concert we hold at the school where I put together a small jazz band to perform the song.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** I can't contribute my success to only one person but groups of people, my friends who made the experience fun for me most of the time and my parents who always pushed me to do better for myself.

**Advice for next year's class:** School isn't that difficult as long as you put the effort in and make some lasting friendships along the way.

# 4. Vincent Chan



**Future Plans (education):** undergraduate at University of Connecticut

**Future Plans (career):** data scientist

**High school activities and any positions held:** Volleyball, chemistry club, writers club, yearbook club

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Stonehill book award, volleyball division iii champ, Rhode Island honor society, Richard Salzillo memorial scholarship, JHS excellence in computer science

**Best High School Memory:** Spending time with my friends

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My friends and teachers, Mrs Royer, Ms Gada

**Advice for next year's class:** Don't fool around during freshmen year and keep your head above peer pressures



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# 5. Talia Laflamme



**Future Plans (education):** University of Rhode Island (Pharmacy), 6 Year Doctorate PharmD Program

**Future Plans (career):** Pharmacist

**High school activities and any positions held:** President of National Honor Society, Corresponding Secretary of Student Council, Class Representative for all 4 years of high school, Member of SADD and Panthers Cubs clubs, Member of Float Committee

**Sports:** Volleyball, Basketball, Indoor and Outdoor Track

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Salve Regina Book Award, Janice D. Mele Memorial Scholarship, Mayor and Town Council Scholarship, Gary V. Mazzie Memorial Scholarship, JHS Student Council Scholarship, URI Presidential Scholarship, 3rd Team All Division for Volleyball

**Best High School Memory:** Every Float Meeting

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My Classmates

**Advice for next year's class:** If you are going to do a senior prank, wait to do it till after graduation.

# 7. Emma Homenick



**Future Plans (education):** Quinnipiac University

**Future Plans (career):** Lawyer

**High school activities and any positions held:** Mock Trial (co-captain) and Above the Influence (secretary)

**Special awards/scholarships received:** St. Michael's Book Award, Johnston Federation of Teachers Scholarship, Michael E. and Lida M. Contillo Scholarship, The Paul and Ann Marie Pursche Scholarship

**Best High School Memory:** Senior year Mock Trial practice was always fun. We would mess around with the characters and create our own storylines and theories. I'll miss everyone.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My teachers, especially Mr. Verardo, Mrs. Fresolone, Mr. DiPanni and Mrs. Florio

**Advice for next year's class:** Be sure to have fun and make the most of all school events. It is easy to get overwhelmed with school work, but it is equally important to have a good time and to not let stress get the best of you.

# 9. Makayla Scuncio



**Future Plans (education):** University of Rhode Island

**Future Plans (career):** To become a Registered Dietitian.

**High school activities and any positions held:** Volleyball Captain, Member of SADD, Member of Panther Cubs

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Richard D. Salzillo Memorial Scholarship and The Mayor and Town Council Scholarship

**Best High School Memory:** Battle Of The Classes

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My parents and friends.

**Advice for next year's class:** Make sure to spend time and go out with your friends in high school, because before you know it, your years at JHS will be over!

# 6. Allison Benoit



**Future Plans (education):** Majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Merrimack College

**Future Plans (career):** Mechanical/Test Engineer

**High school activities and any positions held:** Varsity Ice Hockey, Class Council Secretary, Above the Influence Student Coordinator, National Honors Society Historian

**Special awards/scholarships received:** Richard D. Sazillo Memorial Scholarship, Roger Williams University Book Award, Rhode Island Honors Society

**Best High School Memory:** Singing "Take Me Home, Country Roads" and making jokes on bus rides back with my hockey teammates after practices and games.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My teachers helped me protrude further into my academic interests and figure out which topics I really enjoyed studying. As well as my parents helped me by giving me guidance when necessary, but overall letting me develop as my own person.

**Advice for next year's class:** Get involved in clubs and sports around the school! You can find out more about yourself as a person and find a good group of friends to immerse yourself with.

# 8. Siera Jeetan



**Future Plans (education):** University of Connecticut

**Future Plans (career):** Elementary Educator

**High school activities and any positions held:** SADD, National Honors Society, Panther Cubs

**Special awards/scholarships received:** N/A

**Best High School Memory:** Whitewater Rafting on the senior trip

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** My parents teachers, and friends

**Advice for next year's class:** Always stay true to yourself and follow your heart

# 10. Derek Salvatore



**Future Plans (education):** Saint Joseph's College of Maine

**Future Plans (career):** Physical Education Teacher

**High school activities and any positions held:** Varsity Basketball Captain, Varsity Baseball Captain, Student Council Representative, SADD member, National Honors Society, Unified Basketball Helper, Float Committee

**Special awards/scholarships received:** RIIL Student Athlete of The Year Nominee, Gary Mazzie Scholarship, Richard Salzillo Memorial Scholarship, Ken Skitt Memorial Scholarship, Michael & Lisa Contillo Scholarship, Picerno Family Scholarship, 2nd Team All-State Basketball, 1,000 point scorer (Basketball), Aspiring Educators Award, Excellence in Physical Education and Health Award, St. Michael's Book Award, WJAR Scholar Athlete Nominee

**Best High School Memory:** Winning the Division 2 State Championship with my basketball team senior year.

**Who helped you succeed in High School?** Family and Faith, Teachers, Coaches, and Teammates

**Advice for next year's class:** My advice for next years class is to get involved in your school community and do as much as you can in your senior year. Make sure to spend the most time you can with your friends because this year will go by the quickest. My greatest memories from my high school career were from my senior year, so be sure to make it the best.



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**By JENNIFER COATES**

It was said by renowned Italian chef Marcella Hazen that "There is no such thing as 'Italian haute cuisine' because there are no high or low roads in Italian cooking. All roads lead to the home, to *las cucina di casa*."

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

One only needs to drive down Atwood Avenue to find Johnston's newest epicurean delight. Mounted on the building, just below the American flag, is the

Italian flag with its signature bold red, green and white stripes, symbolizing freedom, faith and love. For longtime friends, business partners and now co-owners Mario Mennella, Pasquale (Pat) Palermo and Mike Giammarco, these tenets and their café & deli, A Taste of Italy, have come to represent all that they love about Italy ~ it's people, it's culture, it's history and mostly, it's cuisine!

A Taste of Italy has been busy serving hungry diners since it officially opened its doors on May 1st. Today, this stunning café and deli is a visual showpiece with a great "sense of arrival." It is sparkling clean and anchored by long display cases, chock full of the chef's daily creations including a huge variety of prepared foods, sandwiches made from the highest quality of ingredients and Buono Bakery's rolls, fresh salads and so much more.

The menu at the deli, all of which is available for take-

out or dine-in, is diverse and tantalizing. Lately, the deli has started serving breakfast. Tease your tastebuds with house-made cinnamon rolls, muffins and donuts (including S'mores, Oreo Cookie, Cinnamon Toast and M&M flavors & toppings!) There are many other traditional Italian baked goods such as their yummy cannolis and sfogliatellas ~ perfect to linger over with a cup of cappuccino or espresso.

A Taste of Italy even CATERS! Just give them a few weeks' notice and you will be all set. Everything on the menu is available for catering so you can even taste before you buy. What a perfect way to celebrate any event worth celebrating!

Everything that comes from the kitchen of Chef Jennifer Kaya is praiseworthy. Along with the deli's other hard-working staff are Kaya's daughters Bella & Gianna, her son Vinny as well as other family members and lifelong friends of the owners ~ it is one great big Italian family!

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



Check out Johnston's newest culinary sensation, A Taste of Italy, an Italian deli and cafe on Atwood Avenue ~ serving up classic Italian dishes and sumptuous meals, antipasto trays and desserts, just like these, every single day.

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## Story research makes connection

Bracelet to remember Vietnam POW Kenneth Goff brings people together after all these years



**M**ore than 45 years ago, Patricia Berkheimer, now of Virginia, was living in Rhode Island. The Vietnam War had been over for only a few short years and many wanted to simply move on. Others were not so content to turn the page on a story that hadn't really ended - the names of absent Vietnam soldiers were now added to the more than 81,000 Americans, from a handful of military conflicts, to be listed as missing in action.

Students in Los Angeles at that time decided to create an organization which would keep the names of the missing and imprisoned on the front pages and in the forefronts of people's minds. Their organization was Voices in Vital America and they launched the POW/MIA Bracelet Campaign. Their plan was to manufacture and sell bracelets with the names and identifying information of the missing engraved upon them. Present upon wrists across America, the bracelets would ensure that our missing in action and prisoners of war were not simply forgotten about in an effort to move on to better days.

### Back in the Day



by KELLY SULLIVAN

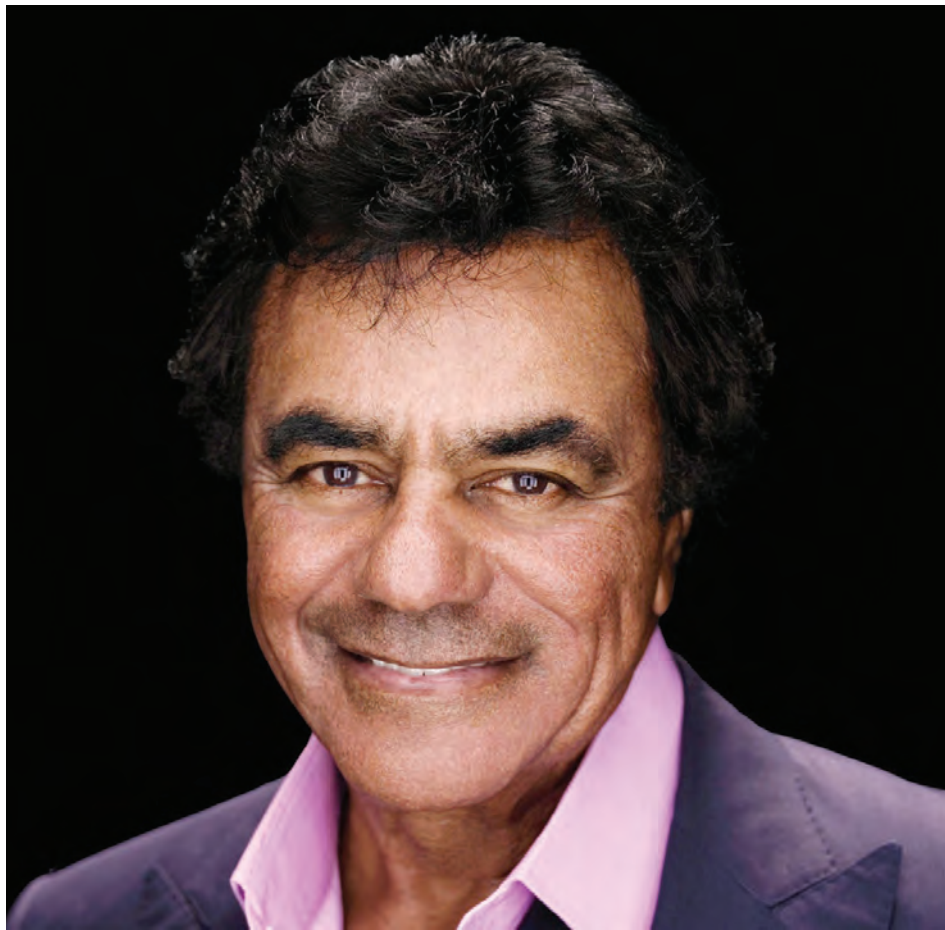




# Johnny Mathis—still performing at 87

NOTE CORRECTED DATE!

By DON FOWLER



MATHIS

Mathis will perform at the Providence Performing Arts Center on September 23 at 8:00 p.m. after flying around the

country, bringing his music to people in California, New York, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Il-

linois. While usually performing with a full orchestra, he has four musicians who always travel with him.

Mathis still loves to perform, spacing out his appearances and keeping in shape by going to the gym and exercising 45 minutes every day.

"I've always been an athlete. It's always been a big part of my life. I held some records in the high jump. Singing is like athletics. You must prepare and stay in good shape."

Mathis signed with Columbia records when he was 18 years old and has always stayed with them. He has had 73 albums on the Billboard charts, making him the 3rd best-selling artist ever, with over 360 million records sold.

"I'll be there to see this incredible man who is in his 67th year of recording music and performing it around the world."

"Chances Are" his music was playing when Joyce and I were parking at West Hill Pond. I still get "Misty" reminiscing about those days and the "Wonderful, Wonderful" songs of Johnny Mathis.

"It's Not For Me To Say", but to me, his music will also be at the top of the charts.

As an octogenarian, Johnny Mathis is aware that young people are listening to different music today than songs like "Misty", "Chances Are" and "It's Not For Me To Say".

"Most people (At my concerts) are pretty well along in age, but I do see some younger people in the audience," he said.

Tickets prices are between \$39 and \$129. All ticket prices include a \$4 per ticket restoration charge. Call 421-ARTS.

"Hello, Don. Johnny Mathis here." That smooth, sublime voice I so vividly remember from all the way back to the seventies was calling from California to talk about his September 23 concert at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

"I love Providence," there's nothing I don't like about Rhode Island," the 87-year-old singer who has performed and lived all over the world said.

We reminisced about his appearances at the Warwick Musical Theatre and his friendship with Buster Bonoff, who booked and befriended him, had a chair at the Golden Lantern restaurant in Warwick with his name on it, and played golf with him before his concerts. Mathis has made seven holes in one over his many years on the golf course.

"My dad sang, and when I was very young, he taught me how to sing," Johnny said. "I have the nicest memories of my dad."

Johnny grew up in Texas, one of seven children.

Johnny's memories revolved around people he had met and places he had visited all over the world.

"Whenever I was in New England, I would get together with Bill Russell. He was a big part of my life."

"I have been so fortunate to have traveled all over the world. I've also lived for a time in Germany, Italy and Spain. They know my music all over Europe."

"I'm flattered that so many performers have recorded my music."

## MIA (Continued from page 14)

While the plan was valiant, the celebrities and potential funding sources the students went to in order to spread the word and obtain the money for materials were not interested. Finally, the husband of their school supervisor offered to donate enough brass and copper to make 1,200 bracelets. They sold for \$2.50 and \$3.00 each. Before they knew it, over 10,000 bracelets per day were being requested. By the time Voices in Vital America closed up shop in 1976, the names of the missing were upon the wrists of millions of people.

"A friend of mine had a bracelet on his wrist and he let me wear it for a week," Berkheimer recalled. "But I couldn't give it up. I said 'I can't give this back to you.' I've had it in my jewelry box all these years. I've had it for over 45 years. The name on it is Kenneth B. Goff. My intention was always to get it to one of his family members."

Recently, Berkheimer asked her neighbor, June, to research the name online. "I was amazed when my girlfriend across the street found your article," she said. In the summer of 2019, the Warwick Beacon ran an article about Kenneth Bradford Goff Jr., the son of Kenneth Bradford

Goff Sr. and Annie (Quigley) of Warwick.

On Aug. 24, 1967, a Bell Iroquois Utility Helicopter from the 119th Assault Helicopter Company, 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, was taking part in an operation known as Paul Revere IV, near the Cambodian border. The crew, stationed at Pleiku, was en route with passengers to Plei Krong as part of a support liaison mission. The copter carried Goff and eight other individuals.

When the craft became caught in a down-draft, it suddenly crashed into the Krong Bo Lah River. The occupants were swept downstream. Four, including Goff, were never found and it was assumed they had been taken captive. Goff, who has been declared legally dead, remains missing in action.

After tracking me down, Berkheimer asked if I might go on to track down someone in Goff's family.

I was able to find contact information for a brother Leslie and a sister, Mrs. Lois Lannon, now of Florida. I left a telephone message for Lannon and hoped for the best. The following day, I received a soft-spoken message. "This is Lois Lannon. Please call me back when you get a chance. It's about the POW that's my brother."

I called her back and we

spoke about Kenneth and the bracelet. I provided her with Berkheimer's contact information. "Thank you for doing this," she replied.

Later that day, I received a call from Berkheimer who was over the moon.

"I'm ecstatic," she said. "I called June and said 'I talked to the sister!' I'm going to put her number in my cell phone. She's 71 years old and she's so nice to talk to. I'm going to send the bracelet off to

her. And I'm going to get a card and send it to her. June's going to write what I want to say."

"Thank you so much for this," Berkheimer echoed Lannon's words.

The gratitude, however, is mine. What an honor it has been to connect the girl who once wore the name of a hero on her wrist with the sister of that hero. And how fulfilling to know that Goff's name and memory are still on people's lips. As long as

the POW/MIA bracelets exist, that last page of Vietnam will never turn - that unfinished story will

remain unfinished, as it should until everyone is accounted for.



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# Sports

## JLL seniors go back-to-back

By PETE FONTAINE

Bangor, Maine or bust! That's the scenario for the Johnston Little League's Senior Division All-Star team that last week swept a best-of-three series vs. Elmwood and last night began a bid for the state championship and berth in the annual Eastern Regionals in Bangor, Maine.

Weather permitting, Johnston was set to play Burrillville, the District 4 champ, last night at famed Renaud Field in Woonsocket in Game 1 of the double elimination state finals with Game 2 tonight. If victorious, Manager Gary Gianna's talented squad would then face the Pineview-South Kingstown winner for the state title and berth in the prestigious regionals.

The Johnston Senior League All-Stars are made up of players ages 15-16 and combined superb pitching and errorless defense and beat Elmwood in two games, 3-2 and 2-1, via walk off fashion to lock up a second straight district title.



**TALENTED TROUPE:** Members of the Johnston Little League Senior Division All-Star team celebrate their second straight District Championship after sweeping Elmwood in two straight games and gaining a berth in this week's state title series vs. Burrillville. (Submitted photo)

JLL - PAGE 17

## Diggs takes over as JHS girls hoops coach

By ALEX SPONSELLER

Johnston High School made a noteworthy hire official this week when it signed former Cranston East girls basketball coach Jhamal Diggs as its new girls hoops coach for next season.

Diggs became one of the top coaches in the state after three successful seasons with the Bolts from 2019-2021. Diggs took over the East program as one of the youngest coaches in Rhode Island and immediately made his presence felt as the team would reach the open state tournament and the Division II playoffs in consecutive seasons. Diggs garnered Coach of the Year honors and went on to be an assistant coach at Rhode Island College in 2022-23.

Diggs is excited to return to the high school scene and immerse himself in the Johnston community.

"Johnston is well-known for its great basketball com-

DIGGS - PAGE 17



**NEW COACH:** Pictured at left is the new Johnston High School girls basketball coach Jhamal Diggs, who arrives after a successful stint at Cranston East where he was key in the Bolts' turnaround. (Submitted photo)

# Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

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# Keeping with my Fourth of July tradition

Last Fourth of July, I wrote my column on how I don't believe that competitive eating is an actual sport, referring to the annual Nathan's Hot Dog Eating contest on Coney Island. I stand by that take.

This year's take will be a little hotter. NASCAR and all forms of auto racing are not a sport. There, I said it.

Is driving a racecar impressive? Does it involve a tremendous amount of skill, talent, experience, dedication? Are these races some of the most thrilling, action-packed events in the world? The answer to all of those questions is a resounding yes.

The question at hand, though, is racing a sport? No, it is not.

What classifies something as a sport in my opinion? I wish the answer(s) were black and white but unfortunately they are not.

Here are some of the common questions I hear when people discuss this topic and my own thoughts on them:

Does there need to be a ball: No. Look at cross country and track. Running and sprinting has nothing to do with a ball or puck, but it is without question a sport. Swimming, gymnastics,

same thing.

Does there need to be a team: Absolutely not. There are plenty of individual games that I consider to be sports. Golf and tennis are the first that come to mind.

Does the game have to be totally physical: Well, duh. When you really get down to the nitty gritty, everything we do in life is physical. Breathing is a physical activity. There are really no games that totally lack physical exertion of some sort.

I am sure you are asking, what is this guy getting at? What I am trying to explain is that auto racing is not a sport but I can't articulate why, it just isn't.

Here is my attempt to explain my thoughts on this.

Ultimately, my biggest hang up with this topic is that the car is doing the work. The driver is operating the car, yes, but this is not like a marathon where you are putting your whole body through a grueling, athletic process. Again, driving a racecar takes tremendous skill, but so does just about anything that is being performed at the highest level.

That is why I don't really consider horse racing a sport, either. Being a jockey on a race horse is also an-

## My pitch



by  
**ALEX**  
SPONSELLER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
ALEXS@  
RHODYBEAT.COM

other incredible skill to possess, especially if you master it. Do I consider jockeys to be athletes, though? No.

You can take performing arts as an example as well. We see high school and college ensemble bands have competitions all the time. Playing instruments and performing in front of a packed house is an amazing feat. We call those performers musicians, though, not athletes. They are participating in a physical activity that requires talent and training, but we recognize that it is not a sport being played.

When it comes to auto racing, I will give you a foil to my point that "the car is doing the work."

Look at golf. The clubs are making the contact and the golfer is simply operating his clubs. It takes precision

and hand-eye coordination to be a successful golfer but so does being a racecar driver.

Once again, golf is a sport, auto racing is not.

The reason why this is an unpopular opinion is that over the course of the past century, auto racing has grown into one of the world's most beloved "sports" and is widely considered to be an athletic game. I just can't get on board with it. I refuse, even if there are valid points working against me.

I am excited about this new tradition. Every Fourth of July I will argue what is and is not a sport even if I do not have true criteria to base it on.

There was a notable coach hiring in the Beacon Communications coverage area and that is Johnston hiring former Cranston East girls basketball coach Jhamal Diggs to take over the program.

This is a fascinating hire on so many levels and for both teams.

The Panthers dropped down to Division IV last season and made the playoffs. It is a rebuilding team that is trying to find sustained success after some up and down years recently. There is perhaps no better coach that it could have hired than Diggs, who completely revitalized the East program as one of the youngest coaches in the

state.

Diggs has done it before so I have no doubt that he will be able to do it again, especially after the Panthers tasted some success last season. Expect big things from the Panthers next winter.

As for the Bolts, it will be interesting, for sure. Diggs built the program up to be one of the most consistent clubs in the state and one that had a true identity. A tough, gritty team.

The Bolts graduated a handful of seniors so unfortunately, it looks like a total reset will take place. We will see who East hires on its end to fill the void, but we have seen what quality coaching can do for a program at the high school level.

## ■ Diggs

(Continued from page 16)

community," said Diggs. "It was something that I sat back and thought on for a bit and I thought, 'Why not?' Why not help a program that needs help rebuilding, why not be part of something that will be great in the future?"

The Panthers dropped to Division IV last season and reached the playoffs. Although Johnston had a solid year in its new division, the team is still looking to rebuild its roster and find long-term success after some up and down years.

"I've been through it before, I know what it takes, I understand what I need to do. I'm more excited than anything. I know it's going to be hard, but I'm just excited to get to work with a new group of athletes," said Diggs. "I've coached against (Johnston) so I am familiar with them from that aspect, they graduated two starters but everyone else is

coming back. I know them pretty well but personality-wise it will take some time. I think it's a group that can surprise a lot of people. It will take some time, but they can make things happen."

One key player in the mix will be rising sophomore Bella Gesualdi, who enjoyed a breakout campaign last season and has been coached by Diggs at the AAU level.

"That's someone who I'm looking to have an impact right away," said Diggs.

Diggs is looking to use his experience at East to help him hit the ground running in his new home, and he believes that the Panthers have what it takes to find success next winter.

"It's another opportunity to help kids in the community reach their goal. That's what I take pride in. When I got to East, that's what I wanted to do. Help kids achieve their goals and work together. That's what I want to do with this opportunity," said Diggs. "Help these kids believe in each other and be better basketball players."

## ■ JLL

(Cont. from page 16)

Said Rianna: "The boys played hard from top to bottom, and I am very proud of this team and how they don't get down on themselves and play unselfishly; it's impressive how they support each other on-and-off the field."

Winning titles, though, is nothing new for the Johnston Junior/Senior League All-Stars who have won five district titles and two state championships in the past six seasons.

"I've been fortunate to have great players with supportive parents," Rianna, who has been part of four district title teams and two state championships, wanted it known. "I've also been associated with dedicated coaches who help put this all together ... we don't have this kind of success without all of them."

Johnston won Game One, 3-2, in eight innings.

Manny Rios had a strong pitching performance going 5 1/3 innings while Jacob Petit came in relief and hurled 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

The offense was limited for both teams throughout the game with Johnston jumping out to a 2-0 lead only to have Elmwood bounce back in the fifth to not the score at 2-2.

In the bottom of the eighth Johnston loaded the bases and Nick Testa hit a chopper to shortstop that enabled Nick D'Qilla to take off from third base and thus beat the throw to home for the game winning run.

Meanwhile, Rianna said later: "Our kids played great defense. We preached to them from Day One that defense wins games. I'm proud of the way they played tonight."

In Game Two, Elmwood led 1-0 through four innings but Johnston tied it a 1-1 when Ronnie Vento came racing on after tagging up from third courtesy of Matt Clements' sacrifice fly to center field.

After a rain delay, key defense by Jaylin Adams and catcher Dean Paris prevented an Elmwood score. Later with two outs and Adamo at second base, Paris slapped a screaming down the right field line that sent Adamo racing home with another game-winning run and the District Championship.

Many Rios once again provided a strong pitching performance through 7 2/3 innings while Logan Martins came in for relief for 1 1/3 innings of what Rianna called "tremendous relief that also led to the win."

The players who hope to bring the state title home are Loan Martins, Paul Scorpio, Domenic Corona, Dean Paris, Matt Clements, Nick D'Aquila, Brandon Simonelli, Manny Rios, Nick Testa, Anthony Vendetti, Matt Jones, Ron Vento, Jacob Petit and Jaylin Adams.

Rianna's coaching staff includes Johnston Town Councilman Bob Civetti, Erik Martins and Chris Civetti.

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# NOAA/URI agree to explore effects of offshore wind energy

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, MA and the University of Rhode Island (URI) have signed a five-year formal partnership agreement to research how offshore wind energy development will affect marine ecosystems and the people who live near, or work on, the ocean.

"Our science center and URI bring a deep bench of scientific expertise and experience in oceanography, marine life, fisheries, and coastal communities," said Jon Hare, who leads the center. "I am delighted about this opportunity to leverage our capabilities to better understand the interactions between offshore wind development and marine ecosystems."

For additional information about the partnership visit Wind Energy Partnership NOAA URI | NOAA Fisheries.

## Hex Hatch Fly Tying Program, Thursday, July 6

At press time there were still slots open for the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Aquatic Resource Education Program annual "Hex hatch" fly fishing and tying session. The program takes place Thursday, July 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at DEM's Acadia Management Area campus at the E. Huntlee Fish and Wildlife Education Center.

Visit <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdqVV.../view-form...> for directions and registration.

Fly fishing anglers flock to the Wood River in Rhode Island for the annual Hexagenia limbata hatch, Rhode Island's largest mayfly. Fly instructor Ed Lombardo will talk about the Hex Hatch, where to go, how to fish it and the recommended fly fishing set up. The program will include an opportunity to tie several flies that have been successful over the years. There is no cost for the program.

For information contact kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call 401-330-0634.

## Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. "The bass bite is very slow in the Bay but customers are catching some bluefish. Those traveling out in front of Newport are catching large fish, over the slot limit," said John Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, Riverside.

Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, said, "Fishing for striped bass has not been this good in years. The



**BIG BLUES IN THE BAY:** Tony Lombardo and grandson AJ (in photo) boated four large bluefish Saturday at the shipping channel off Popasquash Point, Bristol. (Submitted photos)

bass had been feeding on the large amount of sand eels we have had around for the past couple of weeks now things are moving to more of a normal summer pattern with eels working for anglers out in front (of Newport) early morning with an excellent bite with eels at night. You can catch them in the day too but the fish are deeper as the sun heats things up. The outgoing tide seems to be working better lately."

AJ and Tony Lombardo caught multiple bluefish in the mid 30-inch range trolling tube and work off Popasquash Point, Bristol.

"Eels are working well for customers fishing for bass off Newport. The photos of fish I have seen are of some very large fish," said Tom Giddings of Tackle Box, Warwick.

East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author said, "Abundant schools of mackerel, silversides, squid and other predator preferences are creating a bass buffet in the Big Ditch. Three 30 pounders were caught in the same area during a prolonged surface bite."

Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait

& Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Striped bass and bluefish are around in good numbers with catches reported from the Breachway, back in the salt pond and off of the beaches. School bass have been found chasing bait at the surface along the south shore both in the morning and evening. Bigger bass coming from trolling sand eel umbrella rigs or fishing live bait on the bottom."

Bottom fishing for fluke (summer flounder), scup, weakfish (squeteague) and black sea bass. Giddings of the Tackle Box, said, "The weakfish bite has started off Warwick Light with some fluke being caught there and at Rocky Point the scup bite is outstanding."

"The fluke bite has been good at the Newport Bridge, in front from Newport all the way to the Sakonnet River. Last week we found 15 to 18 pound bluefish on top with fluke under them feeding on sand eels. So the bite has been very good," said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle.

O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, "Keeper fluke are being found in 40 feet of water off the beaches. The fluke fishing isn't red hot but most everyone that has been putting in their time is finding a few keepers. Try sticking tight to structure when fishing local that has been the key to finding both fluke and seabass. The primary bait all fish are feeding on seems to be sand eels. There are some

black sea bass around but they aren't thick yet. Scup fishing has been excellent with solid catches reported from shore and boat."

Littlefield of Archie's Bait & Tackle, said, "Scup fishing has been good at Colt State Park with some fluke being caught from Warwick Light to Seminary Cover area."

"The bluefin tuna bite continues to improve with fish being caught southwest of the Dump," said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. Angler Greg Vespe said on the RISAA blog, "We were out there on Thursday ... seven for ten on bluefin tuna, five smalls, two mediums ... and one mako shark bite off. All on the troll."

"Freshwater fishing for largemouth bass is in spawn or post spawn depending on the pond you are fishing in. Frogs and larger lures in the six to seven inch range all seem to be working," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box said, "Shiners and a variety of top water lures are working best for customers fishing for largemouth bass."

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

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**STRIPERS GOING FOR EELS:** Jeff Sullivan, of Lucky Bait & Tackle and ArchAngel Fishing Charters, with a striped bass caught off Brenton Reef, Newport.





**BUBBA'S BUDDIES:** Kim Hazelwood (left), her husband Bob Hazelwood, Dawn Laplume enjoy a lighter moment with Victory Bica (right) during last week's corn hole league play at the Oakland Beach Firemen's Club in Warwick. (Warwick Beacon photo by Pete Fontaine)

# Bean bags for bucks

## OBVF to host charity corn hole tourney

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Bean bags for bucks! Perhaps that could be an appropriate title for what promises to be one of the most interesting – and important – fundraisers in the 100-year-old plus storied history of the Oakland Beach Volunteer Firemen's Club in Warwick.

On Saturday July 15, beginning at 12 noon, teams of two players each will compete for top honors in the OBVF's first-ever Cornhole Charity Tournament that organizers hope will boost the coffers of the highly acclaimed Gianna Cirella Memorial Fund and Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

The unique event was scheduled for June 17 but was postponed due to rain because the tournament will be played outside on the OBVF patio that's located alongside the Fire Barn's popular tiki bar.

"The rainout may work to our advantage," offered Bob "Bubba"

Hazelwood, who is coordinating the event and has headed the Club's now 4-year-old Wednesday Night Cornhole League that's played for eight weeks. "There's lots of interest in the tournament and it is open to the public."

Anyone that would like to enter a team should stop by the OBVF that's located on Oakland Beach Avenue in Warwick or call (401) 737-4786 or Hazelwood at (401) 499-2746. The entrance fee is \$75 for each two-player team.

For non-players who'd like to contribute to the Cirella Foundation or PANCAN Purple Stride – or enjoy the Fire Barn's camaraderie – there will be a BBQ chicken dinner for just \$15 per person.

Meanwhile, Hazelwood said the tourney will feature 12 boards and two players from each team who will toss the "baggo" with the duo reaching 21 first winning the match. The tourney will be double elimination and if a team loses one round, they can still win the championship.

Hazelwood also wanted it known that long-time OBVF members and friends John "Diggs" DeGaetano and Gianna's father Stanley "Skip" Cirella, - former Deputy Police Chief in East Greenwich - are also organizing the special event along

with Gianna's mom Sara (Donovan) Cirella.

So, on Saturday, July 15, the theme will be "Gianna Strong" and organizers are hoping for sunny skies and record donations.

"This will be a terrific tribute to Gianna," several Fire Barn members offered. "Let's hope for a super successful sports and social event that will help support the Gianna Memorial Fund."

Since its inception, the fund has also benefited college scholarships for Toll Gate High college-bound seniors in Gianna's memory and has – in addition to many important non-profits – provided education and valuable assistance for families who have also lost their children to Sepsis.

The late Gianna Cirella, whose sister Cassie is also a committee member, was diagnosed with a sore throat back on Oct. 13, 2017, and lost her courageous battle with a rare blood disease known as Sepsis on Nov. 1, 2017.

Thus, it will be "Gianna Strong" on July 15 and as Hazelwood noted last week: "hopefully old man weather will cooperate so Gianna will be looking down on us smiling as we remember her with this mighty memorial tournament."



**FRIENDLY FOES:** Among those people who enjoy the Oakland Beach Firemen's Club weekly corn hole night are Dan Pietrantonio, DJ Kowalik, David Kowalik and Pat Courtemanche, who are also looking forward to the unique July 15 benefit tournament.

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## Protecting Yourself Against Skin Cancer This Summer



Skin cancer is a serious and potentially life-threatening disease that affects millions of people worldwide. It is the most common form of cancer in the United States, with over 5 million cases diagnosed each year. Skin cancer can be caused by a variety of factors, including genetics, sun exposure, and lifestyle choices. Understanding the different types of skin cancer and their causes is crucial to preventing and treating this disease.

There are three main types of skin cancer: basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma.

Basal cell carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer and usually appears as a small, shiny bump or a patch of skin that is red, pale, or pearly.

Squamous cell carcinoma often looks like a wart or a scaly patch of skin, and it can grow quickly and become painful. Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer, and it can appear as a mole or a dark spot on the skin.

The primary cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or tanning beds. UV radiation can damage the DNA in skin cells, leading to mutations that can cause cancer. People with fair skin, light eyes, and blond or red hair are more likely to develop skin cancer than those with darker skin tones. Other risk factors for skin cancer include a family history of the disease, a weakened immune system, and exposure to certain chemicals.

Preventing skin cancer starts with protecting your skin from the sun.

### Staying Healthy



by  
**JINEN THAKKAR, MD**  
HOSPITALIST  
KENT HOSPITAL

This means wearing protective clothing, such as hats and long-sleeved shirts, and using sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. It's also important to avoid tanning beds, as they can expose you to high levels of UV radiation. If you spend a lot of time outdoors, it's a good idea to schedule regular skin checks with your healthcare provider to monitor for any changes or abnormalities.

If you do develop skin cancer, early detection is key to successful treatment. Treatment options for skin cancer depend on the type and stage of the cancer, as well as your overall health. For early-stage skin cancer, treatment may involve surgery to remove the cancerous cells. In some cases, radiation therapy or topical treatments may be used. For advanced skin cancer, chemotherapy or targeted therapy may be necessary.

It's important to note that even if you have been treated for skin cancer, you still need to be vigilant about

protecting your skin from the sun and scheduling regular check-ups with your healthcare provider. Once you have had skin cancer, you are at a higher risk of developing it again in the future.

In addition to protecting your skin from the sun, there are other steps you can take to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer. These include:

- Avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption
- Eating a healthy diet that is rich in fruits and vegetables
- Staying physically active and maintaining a healthy weight
- Managing stress levels and getting enough sleep
- Avoiding exposure to harmful chemicals and pollutants

In conclusion, skin cancer is a serious disease that requires appropriate physical and follow-up care. Understanding the different types of skin cancer and their causes is key to preventing and treating this disease. Protecting your skin from the sun, scheduling regular check-ups with your healthcare provider, and taking steps to reduce your overall risk of cancer are all important steps to take to ensure your skin health. Remember, early detection and treatment is critical to successful outcomes, so don't delay in seeking medical attention if you notice any changes or abnormalities in your skin.

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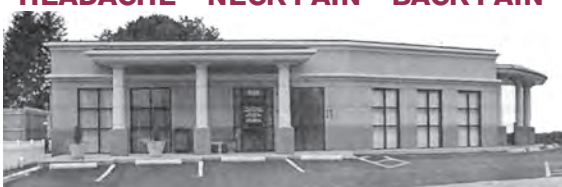
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# Dioramas



With the recent collection of antique toys from the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, there is one item in particular that has captured my attention as a beautiful period piece: A 19th-century English folk art clay diorama display. With its remarkable details, it's no surprise it piqued my interest and inspired me to write about it today.

The term diorama usually refers to a scene with three dimensional figures either in miniature or full-scale formats. We all remember having to make a diorama or two in school, right? Well, this diorama is probably a little fancier than any you have ever made. It depicts an exceptional portrayal of a Catholic cathedral with fully detailed and painted interior, wood furnishings, sculptures, and more. Even the archbishop standing at the altar is made of hand-painted clay.

Dioramas were originally used for peep shows (no, not the naughty kind!); they were a scientific curiosity where the viewer could see a miniature scene through a single peep hole in a box. Originally, in the 15th century these scenes would be painted on transparent glass and lit by moon or sunlight to simulate time or



**By Travis Landry**  
Auctioneer & Specialist  
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weather; however, they became fully modeled in subsequent years depicting Renaissance style court scenes and pageants. During the 17th century, itinerant showman would often present their peep show cabinets on the streets, which in turn made them popular among children.

Some of these cabinets would also feature movable scenery made of wood or cardboard that would later develop into the toy theatre that became popular during the 19th century. Unlike the fully modeled figures of peep shows, toy theatre figures were often cut from paper and mounted on paste board and would include a condensed version of the play that the characters would have been originally part of. This form of entertainment is believed to have been started in England

around 1810 and they were originally sold as souvenirs of current productions, which in turn provided historians with context for what was popular in entertainment.

It isn't hard to see why children were so taken with these souvenir sets, they came with numerous pieces, and eventually a stage where they could cultivate creativity. No wonder such a fine diorama example like this cathedral scene was once included in the RISD Museum toy collection of the magnificent Corliss-Carrington House in Providence.

If this diorama or antique toys in general spark your imagination, be sure to check out our catalog for some amazing pieces!

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and Cheeses  
and  
*Much More!*

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GOURMET  
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