

## Federal VA Secretary visits OSDRI

### McDonough: Veteran suicide data 'startling'

By RORY SCHULER

The federal government estimates more than 17 American veterans took their own lives each day of 2021. And more than 100 more veterans committed suicide in 2021, than the year before.

The suicide rates are even more staggering for the nation's servicewomen.

"I'm sure you've seen the suicide data — startling," U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis R. McDonough leaned over and said to Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) Executive Director Erik B. Wallin outside the organization's food pantry in Johnston.

"Our most recent numbers, for 2021, came out last week," McDonough said.

The nation lost 6,392 veterans to suicide in 2021 (an increase of 114 over 2020).

#### Sobering Data

After his tour, a confidential phone call and brief discussion held inside the OSDRI HQ, McDonough discussed the "startling" data.

"It showed an increase from 2020 to 2021," he explained. "What I was mentioning to Erik, is one particularly staggering data point is that suicide among



**OSDRI HQ VISIT:** U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis R. McDonough, Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) Founder and Board President Anthony DeQuattro, OSDRI Executive Director Erik B. Wallin, U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, Rhode Island Director of Veterans Affairs Kasim J. Yarn, and U.S. Rep. Seth Magaziner. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

VA - PAGE 5

## Brighten the school day

**A FINE MESS:** Johnston's St. Rocco School recently held its second annual Color-A-Thon. For more photos by Robin Okolowicz, turn to Page 4.



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# JHS Panther of the Week



**POTW:** This week's Panther of the Week is Edison Diaz-Gomez. Edison is a 10th grader at Johnston High and was nominated by Ms. Renee Gasparri. Ms. Gasparri said, "Every day he holds the door open for his classmates and always pushes any chairs in before leaving. He is just very kind and considerate." After high school, Edison would like to attend college for Music. *(Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)*

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

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**Johnston SunRise**

# 'I get by with a little help from my friends'

## Looking for more healthy community partnerships

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlight this week shines on a community partner, Lisa D'Ambra, Executive Director of the Brain and Spine Tumor Foundation.

Lisa, on behalf of the Foundation, reached out to offer services to members and families, whose lives may have been impacted by a diagnosis of brain or spine cancer.

Rhode Island has one of the highest brain cancer rates in the country and 200 new cases are diagnosed every year.

Lisa had been recruited to head the Foundation in May of 2020, at the height of the Covid epidemic. Lisa spent many years working and lobbying on behalf of non-profits, and was part of a group that started the "Proud to be an American" program supporting the Providence VA Medical Center.

Recently, Lisa provided over 125 "Wellness Bags" containing merchandise donated by Life Wear Technologies of Pompano Beach, Florida.

The company, whose owner has a Rhode Island connection, contacted Lisa, who accepted the articles for distribution.

The members of the JSC were the beneficiary, receiving new heating pads, hot and cold patches, traditional ice bags, and other wraps etc. Lisa will continue to provide whatever services available, should our members be in need.

Lisa informed the group that her "phone is on 24 hours a day." Lisa also promised to be back with more items of usefulness to our population. Partnering with service providers will continue to be a priority here at the Center as we strive to assist in all aspects of healthy aging.

**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.



**A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS:** Above, this week's Johnston Senior Center Spotlight shines on community partner Lisa D'Ambra, Executive Director of the Brain and Spine Tumor Foundation, who recently passed out "Wellness Bags" to members. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

## Good Cheer at Graniteville



**HOLIDAY HAPPINESS:** The people who drive school buses in Johnston delivered more than just students to Graniteville School the other day. Bus monitors as well as drivers brought what Christine Andrews called "holiday cheer and gift baskets that will help families in need." She also emphasized "the thoughtfulness of these lovely people will bring joy during the holiday season. Special thanks and hugs to our friends from the bus yard." Among the people taking part in the donation ceremony were Jacqueline Gregorie Pion, Kerri Brockmeyer, Christine Dinnage, DeAna Marfeo, Christine Andrews, Judy Centracchio and Barbara Hicks. (Caption by Pete Fontaine; submitted photo)

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## ST. ROCCO COLOR-A-THON



**MESSY PHILANTHROPY:** Johnston's St. Rocco School recently held its second annual Color-A-Thon as a fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 4. The staff at the school offered a special message of gratitude: "We would like to say thank you to our students, their families, local sponsors and parishioners for helping us surpass our fundraising goal. A good time was had by all!" (Photos by Robin Okolowicz, St. Rocco School)

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**VA**  
(Continued from page 1)

women veterans was up from 2020. So this underscores the need for us to re-double our efforts and to continue to invest in local partners, like Operation Stand Down Rhode Island."

Last week, the VA released the 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report.

"The increase in Veteran suicides seen in 2021, compared to 2020, was particularly seen in women Veterans, for whom there was a 24.1% increase in the age-adjusted suicide rate, compared to an increase of 6.3% among male Veterans," according to the report.

McDonough and Wallin led a group inside the OSDRI food pantry. This time of year, the pantry's packed with food for veterans and their families. The shelves often go bare following the holidays (OSDRI collects food donations year-round).

President Joe Biden's cabinet secretary looked around the OSDRI facility.

"What really stands out is the generosity of Rhode Islanders," he said, describing the heart of the organization. "The concern of Rhode Islanders for their veterans, and in particular ... Rhode Island veterans looking out for their brothers and sisters in arms."

A group of politicians and local officials — including Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, OSDRI Founder and Board President Anthony DeQuattro, Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisen Jr., Rhode Island District Court Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia and Rhode Island Director of Veterans Affairs Kasim J. Yarn — met McDonough at the OSDRI headquarters off Hartford Avenue in Johnston.

"We just got an opportunity to meet many of the staff," McDonough said. "Mr. Magaziner, Chairman Reed and I got a chance to spend time seeing much of the facility, including the food pantry, which doubles as a dental clinic. At every place in there I see a really remarkable manifestation of partnership between the state Department of Veterans Affairs, the state Congressional delegation, (and) the federal VA ... so I'm proud of that."

**Record of Healing**

OSDRI is the Ocean State's "primary nonprofit resource for homeless and at-risk veterans," founded in 1993. Their mission is simple: "Help veterans secure stable housing, employment, basic human needs, legal and benefit assistance."

"OSDRI is honored the U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs, accompanied by Sen. Reed, chose to visit OSDRI's Veteran Service Center and Johnston Headquarters," Wallin said. "We are excited to share with the Secretary,

and Sen. Reed, the innovative programs OSDRI has developed over the years which have made the organization the leading non-profit provider of supportive services for low-income and at-risk veterans in the state."

The organization not only offers Rhode Island veterans access to a food pantry program, but also pro bono legal services, rental assistance, and an employment program. OSDRI owns and operates 88 units of housing for Rhode Island veterans. The group estimates they help, on average, around 2,500 Ocean State veterans annually.

"We work closely with the VA at both the local and national level in delivering assistance with housing, temporary financial assistance, benefits for service-connected disabilities and more," Wallin said. "For our staff, almost all of whom are veterans themselves, this type of visit is an affirmation of the dedicated work they do in changing and sometimes even saving the lives of their fellow sister and brother veterans."

**Winter is Coming**

OSDRI's staff lined up shivering in the driveway as they awaited McDonough's arrival. The New England air is cooling fast, and those living unsheltered have run out of time.

According to OSDRI, McDonough's visit was part of his "commitment to work with community partners to end Veteran homelessness."

The VA has set "ending veteran homelessness" as a priority, claiming they're "on track to meet (their) goal of housing 38,000 homeless veterans for the year."

"Operation Stand Down does very meaningful and (effective) work for veterans in not just Johnston, but the entire state," said Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisen Jr. "I'm happy the Secretary was able to come up to Rhode Island and give Operation Stand Down the recognition and praise it rightfully deserves. Johnston's had a long-standing relationship with Operation Stand Down and will continue to have that strong relationship going forward."

McDonough stood next to DeQuattro, Wallin, Reed, Yarn and Magaziner to answer a few questions. He addressed the nation's veteran suicide crisis.

"Because of very generous investments from Congress — Sen. Reed has been pushing us on this for a long time, active duty and veterans — we've seen innovative new interventions in suicide prevention," McDonough said. He looked to Judge LaFazia and told her the VA relies on "great partners" in the justice system.

He said there's a "correlation between homelessness and suicidality"

and a "correlation between justice system involvement and suicidality."

"These kind of partnerships go a long way," McDonough said, referring to OSDRI's work helping veterans iron out legal issues with the courts.

**Congressional Help**

Reed addressed the nation's efforts to prevent veteran suicides.

"One of the innovations we adopted is the 988 telephone number," Reed said. "If you're a veteran, and you call ... you're connected to a counselor who's trained to deal with many of the problems veterans face. That's one thing we hope over time will improve these statistics, which at this point are unacceptable."

According to Reed's office, "as the head of the VA, McDonough is responsible for caring for some 9 million veterans nationwide, including some 800,000 aging Vietnam War veterans."

OSDRI's also doing its part to address the needs of former servicewomen, specifically.

"Next week we'll open a new facility in Woonsocket, to add 10 more beds," Wallin said. "We currently have six for female veterans in transitional housing. This is a population that needs the assistance. We're committed to doing it."

On Monday, Reed escorted McDonough throughout Rhode Island "for a series of meetings with local veterans, support organizations, and VA professionals." After OSDRI, they traveled to the Providence VA Medical Center.

Reed's office noted that the federal "VA employs more than 377,000 people and supports 170 medical centers and more than 1,000 outpatient sites nationwide."

"Today's sessions gave us numerous takeaways that we can bring back to Washington and continue to build on for the benefit of Rhode Island's veterans," Reed said in a press release later that day.

**Existing, But Worsening Problem**

OSDRI has a long track record of reaching out to the nation's fastest-growing group of veterans — servicewomen.

"(Since) Tony DeQuattro founded the Holly Charette House, which was the first 10 years ago, there hasn't been a night when the beds have not been full," Wallin said. "So we're going to commit ourselves again, to helping more of our sisters who have served alongside all of us in the last 20-25 years."

Reed served in the U.S. Army and Wallin served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force.

DeQuattro served in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 2010, he named the "Holly Charette House" after Lance Corporal Holly A. Charette, of Cranston, who was the nation's first

female Marine killed in Iraq.

McDonough said the "fastest growing cohort for veterans in VA are women veterans." While the overall number of U.S. veterans has been shrinking nationwide, the percentage of women in the military has soared.

Women veterans are also using guns to end their lives at rates far outpacing civilian women (and male veterans).

According to last week's VA report, "the firearm suicide rate among Veteran women was 281.1% higher than that of non-Veteran women, while the firearm suicide rate among Veteran men was 62.4% higher than for non-Veteran men."

"We at VA have to be better prepared," McDonough said.

Thirteen years ago, when DeQuattro announced he was opening the Holly Charette House, he addressed the contract that servicemen and women enter with their (sometimes grateful) nation.

"When you sign on the dotted line, you're promised a lot of things by the government," DeQuattro told the Johnston Sun

■ VA - PAGE 6

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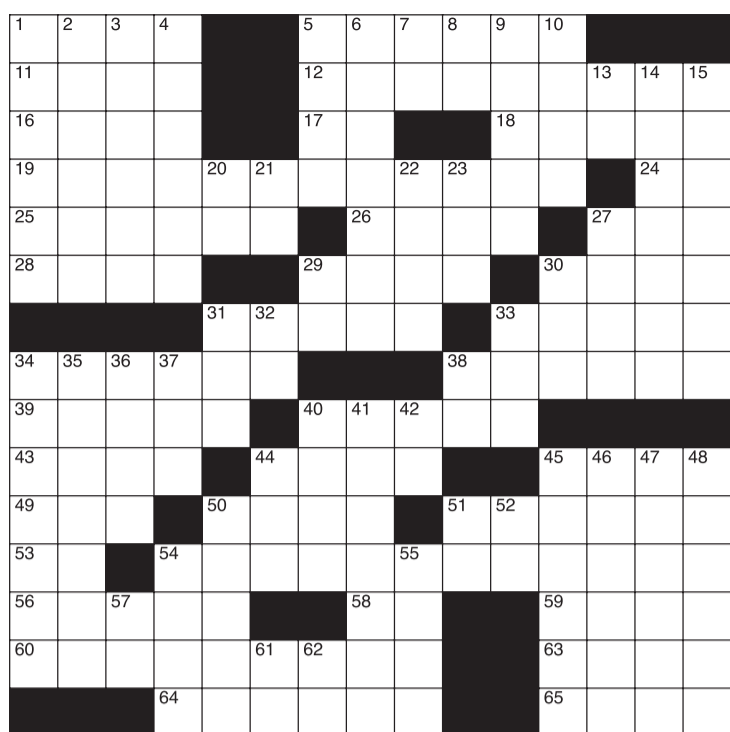
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Happiness
- 16. Military branch
- 17. \_\_\_ denotes past
- 18. Middle Eastern city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to Pa
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Decrease light
- 28. Valley in the Osh Region
- 29. "To \_\_\_ his own"
- 30. Absence of difficulty
- 31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church
- 33. Trims by cutting
- 34. Impact
- 38. Military member
- 39. A French river
- 40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Narrow valley

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Colorless fluid part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery
- 3. Photographic equipment
- 4. Confirms a point
- 5. Developed over time
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. \_\_\_ Lang (country singer)
- 8. Adults need one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes
- 13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Japanese three-stringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. Cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. Trigraph

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- 29. \_\_\_ route
- 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Tasty snack
- 35. Part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Pitching statistic
- 38. Of I
- 40. City in Utah
- 41. Football players in the trenches
- 42. Hammer is one
- 44. A "nightmarish" street
- 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for cut or scrape
- 47. More breathable
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Provokes
- 51. Home to college's Flyers
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of mackerel family
- 55. Zero
- 57. \_\_\_ and behold
- 61. The Palmetto State
- 62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)



**CHILLY NOVEMBER MORNING:** OSDRI's staff lined up shivering in the driveway as they awaited U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis R. McDonough's arrival. The New England air is cooling fast, and veterans living unsheltered in the Ocean State have run out of time. (Sun Rise Photo by Rory Schuler)

**VA**

(Continued from page 5)

Rise in 2010. "When you come home — good luck. It's an absolute crime that there has to be a homeless veteran in the United States of America."

Waiting for McDonough to arrive, DeQuattro smoked and extinguished a

cigar. Following the visit, he stuck to his matter-of-fact no-nonsense style of assessing government help.

"It would have been nice if they brought a check," said the Marine. He paused and smiled and decided to play nice. He acknowledged the attention that follows a visit from one of the President's cabinet secretaries.

"It helps," DeQuattro said, looking for his next cigar.

## Johnston Senior Center Highlights

From the staff ...

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

The Senior Center Club meets the last Tuesday of the month. There is no charge for Senior Center activities.

They offer Bingo on Thursday and Friday. Lunch is served daily at 12 p.m. (with a suggested donation of \$3).

A Notary (Algeria Vaughn-Bayley) will be on the premises, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday, free of charge.

**Weekly Events**

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

## More at Mohr Library

Mohr Library is offering extended programs for elementary-age kids after-school.

Preschool Yoga with Ms. Pauline will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Please register at mohrlibrary.org/for-children.php or by calling 231-4980. Children will be guided into gentle movement exercises using the power of their imagination. They will also learn breathing techniques that calm and center them. It will be a time of joy, wonder and movement. Ms. Pauline is a certified yoga

teacher practicing since she was 17 years old. A former school teacher, she began programs to bring yoga to children and teachers in schools throughout Rhode Island.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is an opportunity for children ages 6 to 9 to experiment, explore and build with Ms. Melyssa, on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. (no program on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23).

Art Smart for ages 8 to 12 will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 4-5:30 p.m. Art Smart for ages 5 to 7 will be Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2-3 p.m. Registration is required and begins Nov. 6. See the library's website at mohrlibrary.org or call 401-231-4980.

Preschool Story Time started in October, on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and includes stories, songs and crafts. For kids 3-5 accompanied by a caregiver.

Babies and Books will be held on Tuesdays at

10:30 a.m., through Dec. 5. It includes stories, songs, puppets and rhymes for children newborn to 2.5 years old, accompanied by a caregiver.

Registration is ongoing for a variety of programs and events at the Mohr Library, 1 Memorial Ave, Johnston.

The Library offers help with technology, information, and finding books and media. They have fax service, self-service copying and public computers, and a Notary Public most evenings (call ahead to confirm). You can reserve quiet rooms and meeting space.

Drawing for adults will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Knitting and Crochet Group meets Fridays at 10 a.m.

Activities for middle-school and high-school age kids will be offered many afternoons. Kids should talk with our Young Adult Librarian, Marissa, for more information.

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**Johnston Sun Rise**

# Opinion

EDITORIAL

## Show gratitude to those who served

If you know a veteran, ensure they're treated like family.

Consider adding a seat to the holiday dinner table. Look past whatever flaws they may have. They fought for you. They risked their lives. You owe them.

Although the world seems to be at war, America has been able to keep the vast majority of our Armed Forces off the frontlines. But despite the nation's peaceful status, we're losing our veterans at abysmal rates — not to war, but to suicide.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates 17 veterans took their own lives each day in America in 2021 (the VA released the 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report last week).

It's as if we're fighting a war against ourselves. The nation lost 6,392 veterans to suicide in 2021. That was 114 more veteran lives lost than 2020.

Stop to think about that number. That's nearly 50 percent more deaths, annually, than the United States lost in Iraq since 2003.

More than 6,000 American veterans killing themselves — each and every year.

We're doing something wrong. It's time to admit it. And it's time for drastic action.

The nation has fewer veterans each year due to technological war innovations and U.S. draw-downs from Afghanistan and Iraq. But more soldiers are dying, by their own hands, than ever. And female veterans are killing themselves at staggering rates (the VA reports a 24.1% increase in the age-adjusted suicide rate for women, compared to an increase of 6.3% among male veterans).

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denis R. McDonough visited Johnston's Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI) on Monday. He called the most recent veteran suicide data "startling."

Let us go further. This data point represents a failure by the American government to protect and support its men and women in uniform.

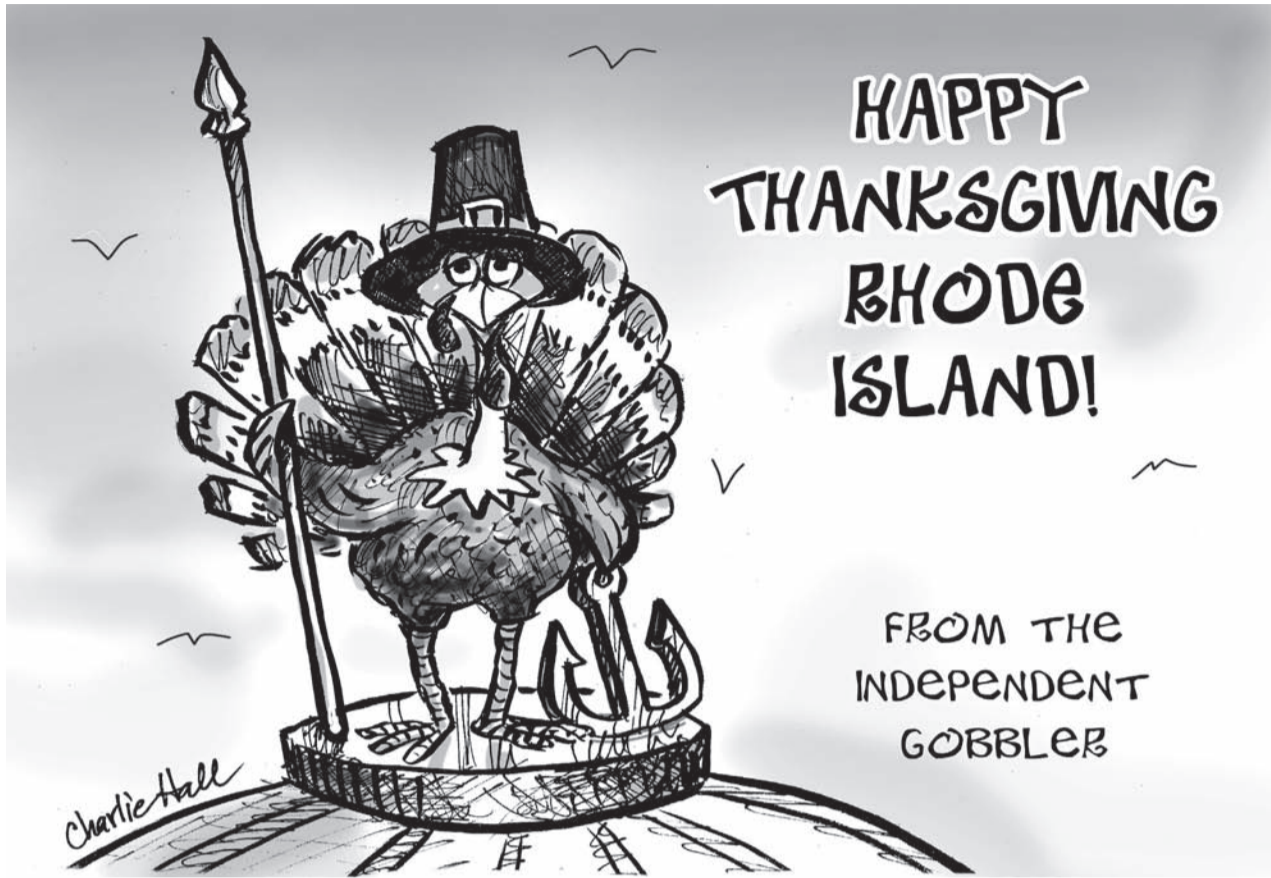
Organizations like OSDRI step in to fill the gaps left by a woefully underperforming federal government. Both the U.S. and the Ocean State need to show thanks for the sacrifices made by its veteran servicemen and women.

They stepped up for us. Now it's time for the government to step up.

The food pantry at OSDRI stays pretty well stocked through the holidays, but the shelves often empty by January. Give all year-round — not just on Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

And ensure the veterans in your life have a safe, supportive place at your dinner table throughout the next few months. This time of year's rough on all of us, but it can be a particularly dangerous time for anyone who's considering suicide.

Don't just give your thanks. Show your gratitude.



GUEST OPINION

## Tips for staying sober during the holidays

By MICHAEL LEACH

Thanksgiving is the beginning of the holiday season. It's typical between now and New Year's Day for people to participate in numerous celebrations, family gatherings, and festivities. This time of year means families are coming together.

The holiday season is also associated with excessive alcohol use and for some, drug use. It can be stressful; whether it involves finances, traveling, hosting parties, family, or tight timelines, alcohol becomes an unhealthy way to cope.

Heavy drinking environments and environments promoting recreational drug use can pose a challenge for anyone new to sobriety or someone choosing to remain sober during the holiday season. Fortunately, there are practical methods and helpful information to help people stay sober and enjoy the holidays to the fullest.

In 2020, Rhode Island ranked 17th as the highest consumer of alcohol. Rhode Island adults consistently reported drinking alcohol more often

than the median US adult. In 2020, 15.5% of adults in the state reported binge drinking.

Thanksgiving does not have to be an alcohol or drug-induced blur, and no one has to give up their sobriety. Consider some of the following information to help you stay sober.

Try coming up with a plan before the holiday weekend arrives. What are you going to do? Where will you go? Who will you spend it with?

Most temptation to drink or use drugs arises because of anxiety, depression, and feeling overwhelmed during the holidays. Chaos and unpredictability, for example, create triggers that often lead to relapse. Take time to recognize your triggers; plan ahead by avoiding them or managing them healthily.

Consider hosting your own Thanksgiving or Friendsgiving gatherings with friends or family. Let people know ahead of time that you are not drinking. When attending any family or friend gatherings, bring non-alcoholic beverages or mocktails or invite a friend as added support. Plan your exit before you

arrive if things begin to go sideways.

In contrast, suppose you notice someone struggling with their sobriety; do not brush it aside as just the stress of the holidays. Offer a helping hand, provide resources for support, be supportive, and avoid casting judgment.

Take this time of year to create new memories and sober traditions. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, do not wait until the new year to get help; take advantage of available resources.

Staying sober during the holidays should not be an uphill battle. Take advantage of valuable resources and the people around you to help. It's a beautiful feeling taking part in the holiday season sober.

**Editor's Note:** Michael Leach has spent most of his career as a healthcare professional specializing in Substance Use Disorder and addiction recovery. He is a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant and contributor to the healthcare website Addicted.org.



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I'M THANKFUL FOR THE \$100M SURPLUS WE HAVE IN OUR STATE BUDGET.



GOV. DAN MCKEE

I'M THANKFUL FOR THE BIG UPSET THE BULLDOGS HAD OVER NO. 10 RANKED FLORIDA ATLANTIC.



BRYANT HOOPS COACH PHIL MARTELLI JR.

AND I'M THANKFUL THAT I NO LONGER HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THE PATRIOTS SEASON THIS YEAR. MANGA!



ROASTED TURKEY

# JOHNSTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL Q1 HONOR ROLL

## High Honors

Melissa Aguilar 2025  
Skyla Almeida 2026  
Lucas Anderson 2025  
Samaya Anzivino 2027  
Samaya Ariza 2027  
Kaitlyn Barbosa 2026  
Kevin Biscelli 2024  
Trinity Blondin 2024  
Isabella Boudreau 2027  
Logan Brennan 2024  
I'daizha Brown 2026  
Tyler Buote 2025  
Michael Carlino 2024  
Michael Chavier 2024  
Matthew Clements 2025  
Landon Costello 2024  
Giuseppe Cucinotta 2025  
Jazmin Cuello-Pineda 2025  
Arianna Dandy 2025  
Timothy Davis 2024  
Adrianna Dinucci 2025  
Anelee Fernandez 2027  
Cameron Ferrara 2024  
Olivia Forgetta 2026  
Robert Franchini 2025  
Ian Gobeille 2027  
Serenity Gonzalez 2024  
Jonathan Guilmette 2024  
Tyler Hartmann 2025  
Brooke Houle 2027  
Vanessa Javery 2025  
Lana Jencks 2027  
Elizabeth Kue 2027  
Brenton Lang 2025  
Nina Lautieri 2024  
Jaylin Loeum 2024  
Dylan Lussier 2024  
Isabella Maggiamomo 2024  
Chelsea Maranhao 2024  
Samantha Marcotte 2024  
Logan Martins 2025  
Bennett McClish 2026  
Peyton McClish 2024  
Dariana Munoz 2025  
Elijahna Negron 2024  
Connor Niles 2025  
Brendon Norris 2024  
Janelle Nunez 2025  
Sebastian Orozco 2024  
David Pagliarini 2024  
Nicole Patenaude 2025  
Noelle Patenaude 2025  
Matthew Penafiel 2025  
Ariana Perron 2026  
Alessandra Pesare 2024  
Genesis Pineda 2025  
Matthew Ponte 2025  
Skyla Prata 2025  
Fallon Provoyeur 2026  
Donavin Quinones 2024  
Alexis Rivera 2026  
Hollan Rodgers 2026  
Raylin Santos 2024  
Andrew Sia 2024  
Lucas Simpson 2026  
Aiden Soto 2025  
Emmerson Sylvia 2024  
Carl Taglianetti 2024  
Emma Taglianetti 2027  
Ayla Tellier 2027  
Branden Testa 2024  
Jayden Testa 2024  
Abraham Tillett 2025  
Kyle Urban 2027  
Cameron Veitch 2026  
Anthony Vendetti 2026  
Benjamin Verduchi 2026  
Jordan (Fae) Weston 2025  
Austin Wheeler 2025  
Sofia Williams 2027  
Thomas Xoydara 2027  
Syeda Zainab 2024  
**Total High Honors: 82**

## 1st Honors

Andre Amato 2027  
Morgan Andrews 2027  
Angel Avila 2026  
Gabriella Barata 2026  
Colin Bishop 2027  
Aura Blanco Mazariegos 2024  
Gerson Cabrera 2024  
Ryan Capraro 2026  
Andrew Cardullo 2026

Ryan Carvalho 2025  
Sofia China 2024  
Shemorie Constant 2027  
Janiya Cruz 2026  
Hunter D'Elia 2026  
Devin DelSanto 2024  
Alexia DiLorenzo 2024  
Alberto Estrada 2024  
James Estrada 2025  
William Ferrara 2027  
Diana Gaitan Flores 2027  
Ayberson Garcia Cruz 2025  
Naomy Garcia Ore 2026  
Kylie Geremia 2027  
Annabella Gesualdi 2026  
Joseph Grenier 2026  
Riley Guenette 2024  
Gianna Halliwell 2024  
Isabella Halliwell 2027  
Maximus Halton 2026  
Amelia Healy 2027  
Mineishka Hunt 2024  
Ariana Iasimone 2024  
Vanessa Jean-Philippe 2027  
Jaylinn Khun 2027  
Alyssa Kleinberg 2026  
Dario La Terra Bellina 2027  
Ariana Lara 2027  
Hannah Lavergne 2024  
Timothy Liang 2026  
Katelyn Loffler 2025  
Joseph Lopez Tavares 2025  
Channosophonn Mam 2025  
Charlene Maranhao 2027  
Balla Marone 2025  
Isabela Martinez 2027  
Jealeen Mateo 2027  
Julia McLellan 2027  
Ava Mello 2026  
Hector Munoz-Lopez 2024  
Neriah Nhar-Matko 2025  
Davian Nunez 2024  
Anthony Pannone 2027  
Dean Paris 2025  
Gabriella Pascale 2025  
Jacob Pettit 2026  
Nikko Pezza 2027  
Leium Quinones 2027  
Tzivya Reyes 2026  
Natalya (Nathan) Rhind 2027  
Gianna Ricci 2025  
Ariana Rivera 2024  
Joaquin Rodriguez 2027  
Rayven Russell 2026  
Jenifer Sajbin Estrada 2025  
Sebastian Sanchez 2027  
Sthefany Sandoval Orellano 2026  
Jesse Santillan 2025  
Jason Schino 2026  
Shanna Scopelliti 2024  
Hailey Segee 2027  
Malachi Seyon 2024  
Lia Shenk 2027  
Nathaniel Smith 2024  
Christian Sonner 2024  
Kailey Souza 2027  
Fabian Vejarano-Tolentino 2027  
Victoria Villafane 2026  
Dezarae Waterman 2024  
Jaiden Weston 2026  
Timothy Xoydara 2027  
**Total 1st Honors: 80**

## 2nd Honors

Michael Abbruzzi 2025  
Jayvin Adamo 2026  
Logan Akins 2025  
Saad Alam 2025  
Selena Albanese 2027  
Aubree Allen 2024  
Katlyn Allen 2026  
Tala Alsheikh Kassem 2026  
Roman Amato 2027  
Haylee Andrews 2027  
Willow Andrews 2024  
Ella Annicelli 2027  
Hailey Arroyo 2024  
Jenna Aucone 2024  
Ryan Audino 2024  
Tavian Banta-Cain 2025  
Elianna Baptista 2027  
Marlice Baptista 2026  
Isabella Barata 2025  
Ava Becker 2026  
Benjamin Bejnar 2025  
Nicholas Benoit 2026

Kalina Bonetti 2024  
Kara Bonetti 2026  
Liliana Bowden 2027  
Ethan Bracey 2027  
Brian Brennan 2027  
Caspian Briggs 2027  
Sadie Bun 2025  
Juan Burjos Vilchez 2027  
Brianna Bussolari 2027  
Jayden Cabreja 2024  
Dylan Calabro 2026  
Abner Cambranes 2027  
Madison Campano 2027  
Niko Cardillo 2027  
Carolina Cardoso 2024  
Javanna Carnett 2024  
Jacob Carr 2024  
Autumn Cartwright 2026  
Lorenzo Catanzaro 2026  
Abbigaelle Cenafils 2027  
Dylan Cerio 2025  
Morgan Cerullo 2026  
Henri Chan 2025  
Raymond Cimino 2024  
Christopher Civetti 2024  
Elise Connors 2024  
Evan Correia 2024  
Santino Cucinotta 2027  
Yarielis DeJesus 2026  
David Delfino 2025  
Nathan Della Morte 2026  
Anthony DiBiasio 2025  
Michael DiIorio 2025  
Ava DiNobile 2026  
Tyler Diodati 2025  
Jada DiRaimo 2026  
Lauren Dixon 2025  
Samson D'Uva 2025  
Regan Estrella 2024  
Fiona Fairbanks 2027  
Emily Fashjian 2026  
Landon Faucher 2024  
Vanessa Febus 2026  
Alex Fedorchuk 2024  
Gianna Ferranti 2026  
Sophia Finegan 2025  
Steven Finegan 2024  
Logan Finelli 2027  
Yaraida Flores 2026  
Richard Foster 2027  
Irais Franco 2024  
Jaelyn Fraser 2027  
Haileigh-Rose (Alister) Fredette 2026  
Deanna Funches 2026  
Evangelia Georgiladakis 2027  
Kingstan Glenn 2024  
Kiniya Glenn 2025  
Marielys Gomez Mendez 2027  
Brendon Grace 2025  
Yadier Grullon 2026  
Dylan Guernon 2024  
Jasmin Guerrero 2024  
Jennifer Guerrero 2027  
Kenderra Guertin 2025  
Carlos Gutierrez Deleon 2025  
Wally Hassan 2025  
Logan Hemstreet 2024  
Adam Heywood 2026  
Dylan Hill 2024  
Madison Hogan 2025  
Tyler Holton 2025  
Walter Homenick 2026  
Malikai Hopp 2025  
Logan Horne 2024  
Dineishka Hunt 2024  
Olivia Iafrate 2026  
Mona Imrane 2026  
Christian Jeetan 2025  
Marcel Johnson Goncalves 2025  
Maxx Johnson Goncalves 2027  
Morgan Johnson 2027  
Emily Joseph 2026  
Hannah Kelly 2024  
Lucio La Terra Bellina 2024  
Chantelle Lacasse 2026  
Brady Lorangeira 2025  
Brennan Lariviere 2025  
Karen Lastor Rojas 2024  
Andre Lataille 2025  
Sebastiana Lux Hernandez 2026  
Andrew Lyman 2025  
Angelica Maddaline 2026  
Freddy Magana Landaverde 2027  
Jordan Maggiamomo 2027  
Neko Mahony 2025  
Lisbeth Maldonado 2025  
Gabriella Marandola 2024

Analese Marcano 2026  
Joel Martinez 2024  
Analeah Martins 2027  
Caroline McCormack 2026  
Devin Mejia 2024  
Alexander Melillo 2025  
Makayla Melillo 2027  
Evan Melvin 2025  
Arthur Men 2027  
Rachael Mendoza 2026  
Ernesto Mercado Anez 2026  
Gabriela Mercado 2024  
Michael Messina 2026  
Jiana Mitsoulis 2024  
Benjamin Monahan 2024  
Melissa Emely Monteiro 2026  
Antonio Morales 2027  
Karissa Morales 2025  
Jonathan Morris 2025  
Mia Mowry 2024  
Alexandra Musa 2026  
Daniela Noriega Garcia 2024  
Juliana Nunes 2026  
Lizbeth Nunez 2027  
Brady O'Donnell 2027  
Elijah Omari 2027  
Gianna Orozco 2025  
Courtney Ortega 2027  
Randy Ortega 2025  
Jeremy Ovalles 2025  
Aubree Padula 2027  
Elianna Paez 2027  
Evelyn Pagliarini 2027  
Lexie Palma 2024  
Aiden Pannone 2027  
Alexis (Alex) Pannone 2024  
Evin Paquette 2024  
Bricen Parris 2027  
James Pastore 2024  
Loren Pastore 2025  
Emilly Paul 2025  
Isabella Paulson 2027  
Cheyenne Pecchia 2026  
Alvin Pena 2026  
Miliani Peralta 2025  
Sheyla Perez Sosa 2025  
Ellyce Perez 2026  
Anthony Perito 2026  
McKerry Petit Homme 2027  
Brea Pezzullo 2026  
Madison Picchi 2027  
Ethan Placella 2025  
Jonathan Prata 2026  
Hailee Quinn 2024  
Joseph Ramos Cardoza 2026  
Sydney Raposo 2025  
Michelle Recinos 2024  
Victoria Repollet 2026  
Gian Ricci 2027  
Isabella Ricci 2026  
Brissya Rodriguez 2026  
Delaynee Rodriguez 2027  
Henry Rodriguez 2027  
Jahaziel Rodriguez 2024  
Yandery Rodriguez 2024  
David Roland 2026  
Jayannah Rollins 2024  
Isaac Roman 2025  
Leandro Roquez 2026  
Diana Rosales 2024  
Sofia Rose 2025  
Adriana Rossi 2027  
Ivana Rua 2027  
Lilianna (Warren) Salois 2025  
Leah Sanchez Perez 2026  
Kiara Sanchez 2026  
Jeff Sandoval 2026  
Joshua Sanford 2024  
Miguel Santamaria Romero 2025  
Melissa (Gus) Sauret 2024  
Gianna Sauro 2026  
James Senno 2027  
Luke Sharpless 2026  
Kimberly Sibilis 2025  
Katelyn Silva 2027  
Gabriel Simpson 2025  
Alana Smith 2027  
Nixon Soto 2027  
Shylah Soto 2024  
Skyley Soto 2025  
Brandon Souza 2025  
Ariana Stoecker 2025  
Alexander Subirana 2026  
Faith Summers 2024  
Alik Symoungkoun 2026  
Alyssa Tillson 2024  
Ariana Torres Morales 2024

Josie Torti 2027  
Lena Torti 2024  
Bobbi'Sue Trahan 2025  
Jared Urizar-Santos 2025  
Christopher Valdivieso 2027  
NeAri Vasquez 2024  
Sarah Vasquez 2025  
Serenity Vega 2027  
Angel Veillard 2027  
Ronald Vento 2026  
Cardjon'n Volcy 2027  
Leah Volcy 2027  
Cameron Walker 2024  
Ava Waterman 2024  
Ryan Waterman 2027  
**Total 2nd Honors: 231**

## 3rd Honors

Talia Abbruzzi 2026  
Vincent Allen 2026  
Amelia Almonte 2024  
Lailany Aponte 2027  
Mia Audino 2026  
Giovonnie Baccaire 2026  
Haley Boudreau 2026  
Jack Bremer 2025  
Thomas Brown 2027  
Layla Rose Bryand 2027  
Janeudy Cardella 2026  
Georgiana Cardullo 2024  
Madison Ciliberto 2024  
Nevaeha Coelho 2027  
Faith Connolly 2027  
Jaiden Cordero 2026  
Julian Correia 2024  
Aidan Corra 2027  
Jonathan Cruz Granados 2026  
Chantal DeJesus 2025  
Raymond DeSimone 2027  
Maya Diclo 2025  
Santo DiRaimo 2025  
Skyler Dupre 2024  
Katelyn Fleet 2026  
Benjamin Foster 2027  
Kalyn Foster 2025  
Jesse Geyer 2026  
Amanda Giron Caballero 2025  
Jose Gonzalez Gorrin 2027  
Robert Graham 2025  
Isabella Grimshaw 2026  
Joshua Guimaraes 2027  
Angel Guzman 2024  
Liam Hartman 2026  
Noah Hazebrouck 2027  
Musa Jahateh 2026  
Hailee Joyal Weiss 2025  
Michael Lariviere 2026  
Gabriella Laviano 2027  
Jonas Littlefield 2025  
Jeremy Luna Olivo 2027  
Alan Montenegro 2025  
Michael Morsilli 2027  
Heber Munoz Lopez 2026  
Ryan Oliver 2026  
Daniestheliz Ortiz 2027  
Brianna Parsons 2024  
Michael Perugino 2024  
Caroline Pesenecker 2025  
Kaylee Phillips 2026  
Kaylee Poole 2024  
Catherine Privitera 2025  
Danny Quinn 2024  
Nathaniel Reagan 2024  
Alayath Rietwijk 2025  
Emmanuel Rios 2025  
Danielson Rivas 2025  
Debra Rivera 2025  
Wilkin Roques 2025  
Faith Rosadio 2026  
Byron Saavedra Valiente 2027  
Nevaeh Salgado 2026  
Camila Sanchez Lamarche 2025  
Sony Sanchez 2025  
Allison Serrano 2027  
Kenneth Smith 2024  
Ayva Soprano 2026  
Jose Soto 2027  
Michael Stone 2025  
Janie-Alice Thompson 2027  
Yandel Torrico 2027  
Isabella Vargas 2026  
Lia Vidal Roman 2026  
Abdiel Vidal 2027  
Rowan Vien 2027  
Logan Woodall 2025  
**Total 3rd Honors: 77**



# FERRI MIDDLE SCHOOL Q1 HONOR ROLL

## High Honor Roll

Scarlett Agnoli 2029  
 Caylee Allen 2030  
 Adrian Amaya 2029  
 Juliette Amaya 2028  
 Alexis Arias 2029  
 Mackenzie Arsenault 2029  
 Antonio Baez 2029  
 Lannie Baker 2030  
 Liam Brennan 2028  
 Caleb Brunelle 2030  
 Gabriel Brunelle 2030  
 Tyler Brunelle 2028  
 Lucy Bryand 2028  
 Kadie Bun 2030  
 Calla Cadieux 2029  
 Nolan Cahill 2029  
 Leonardo Cardoso 2030  
 Breonna Carleton 2029  
 Jacob Celeste 2029  
 Charlotte Chapman 2030  
 Lucy Chapman 2028  
 Natalie Chea 2030  
 Michael Chounlamany 2028  
 Krishna Chu 2029  
 Jon Costa 2028  
 Nickola D'Aquila 2028  
 Moriah Dasilva 2030  
 Jaden DeLeon 2030  
 Roger Delgado 2028  
 Faith Kennedy D'Elia 2028  
 Jordan D'Elia 2028  
 Dimazlia DiBiasio 2028  
 Christopher DiPanni 2028  
 Jillian Dixon 2030  
 Islene Dominguez 2030  
 Brody Dutilly 2028  
 Ibrahima Fall 2029  
 Michael Fantini 2028  
 Evan Farrell 2030  
 Carleigh Flath 2029  
 Gina Ford 2028  
 Shawnee Funches 2028  
 Hailey Garcia 2030  
 Kaylee Hopkins 2030  
 Anthony Hopp 2028  
 Esra Imrane 2028  
 Mason Johnson Goncalves 2029  
 Cesar Jumique 2028  
 Hadley Kampper 2028  
 Sparrow Katowicz 2028  
 Aristotle Landim 2028  
 Jewel Langlois 2028  
 Brianna Lapati 2028  
 Noah Macartney 2030  
 Brianna Maggiasco 2029  
 Giavanna Manfredi 2028  
 Giana Mercurio 2028  
 Adriana Morales Cordon 2028  
 Landon Moy 2030  
 Lindsey Moy 2030  
 Frank Nasisi 2028  
 Gabriela Noriega Garcia 2028  
 Nathaniel Owusu 2030  
 Sherlyn Perez Sosa 2030  
 Jalah Pincince 2030  
 Mason Poole 2030  
 Abigail Price 2029  
 Mason Provoyeur 2028  
 Leilani Quinones 2028  
 Angie Quiroa 2028  
 Ethan Quixtan Portillo 2029  
 Isaiah Ramirez 2028  
 Valentina Rincon 2028  
 Joshua Robbins 2030

Mia Rubino 2028  
 Penelope Santos 2029  
 Isabella Serpa 2028  
 Derek Simas 2028  
 Kaleigh-James Slader 2028  
 Aubrey Soares 2028  
 Mia Soprano 2028  
 Javiana Stec 2028  
 Gianna Stomberg 2028  
 Jayeden Thayorath 2028  
 Brandon Turbitt 2029  
 Izabella Urena 2028  
 Adrian Valenzuela 2030  
 Cory Veitch 2029  
 Alejandro Velasco 2030  
 Nicolas Villa-Pinto 2029  
 Ella Ware 2028  
 Ashlyn Wheeler 2028  
 Solange Womack 2030  
**Total High Honor Roll: 93**

## Honor Roll

Neji Acksonovong 2029  
 Malaika Ali 2028  
 Kaiden Allison 2030  
 Stephanie Alvarado 2030  
 Larissa Alvarenga-Pesoa 2028  
 Sofia Amane 2030  
 Ariana Barboza 2029  
 Aliviah Bittle 2030  
 Cristian Bonilla Aguilar 2030  
 Gabriel Bowden 2030  
 Damani Bowe 2030  
 Azryah Buwee 2028  
 Aiden Callahan 2028  
 Natalie Carey 2030  
 Joella Carpentieri 2028  
 Steven Carrera Hermosilla 2028  
 Jacob Castro 2029  
 Awa Ceesay 2030  
 Alexa Chavez 2028  
 Jacqueline Chevalier 2029  
 Emelyn Coggins 2030  
 Emily Cross 2030  
 Michael Cuoco 2028  
 Alexander DaPonte 2029  
 Sophie Darby 2029  
 Joseph Davis 2030  
 Theresa DeFalco 2028  
 Ailany DeJesus 2028  
 Jeyden DeLeon Morales 2030  
 Paola DeLeon 2029  
 Randy DeLeon 2028  
 Chiara DeQuattro 2028  
 Evelina DeSimone 2030  
 Grayson Desmarais 2029  
 Jordan Diclo 2029  
 Ryder Dieringer 2030  
 Wyatt Dieringer 2030  
 Anthony DiFonzo 2029  
 Gabriella Dinucci 2029  
 Caleb Doura 2029  
 Kendall Duguay 2029  
 Sophia Fajardo 2030  
 Sokhna Fall 2029  
 Cayden Farpelha 2030  
 Ella Farrell 2028  
 Marco Fava 2029  
 Dante Ferranti 2029  
 Eric Ferrara 2030  
 Lila Figueroa 2029  
 Dean Fisher 2030  
 James Forgetta 2028  
 Colton Foster 2030

Thomas Fraioli 2028  
 Landon Frankina 2028  
 Leo Fredette 2028  
 Ashley Garcia Flores 2030  
 Jazlyn Garcia 2028  
 Mia Garcia 2030  
 Fatima Ghazi 2030  
 Brandon Giron Caballero 2028  
 Jake Gomez Mendez 2028  
 Gabrielle Gonsalves 2029  
 Avery Gordon 2028  
 Harlie Greene 2028  
 Ashton Greenhalgh 2030  
 Ana Guzman 2028  
 Trezure Hall 2029  
 Nevaeh Hardy 2030  
 Kenzi Harrop 2029  
 Henry Healy 2030  
 Jhasmin Heredia 2028  
 Ian Hernandez 2028  
 Ian Heywood 2029  
 Michael Iafrate 2030  
 Marvin Ixcol Salas 2030  
 Marvin Izaguirre 2030  
 Hannah Jackson 2030  
 William Jimenez 2028  
 Dalai Johnson 2028  
 Jean Julio Jules 2030  
 Syvianna Jules 2028  
 Torin Kalnietis 2030  
 Navjot Kaur 2028  
 Layla Kelly 2029  
 Miranda Khoury 2030  
 Gavin Kleinberg 2030  
 Kaylee Kopka 2028  
 Sophia Koshgarian 2029  
 Kamryn Kue 2028  
 Alessio La Terra Bellina 2030  
 Giovanni Labbadia 2030  
 Johanna Lacey 2028  
 Ali LaFazia 2030  
 Giuliana Lafleur 2030  
 Angelina Lambrese 2029  
 Jillian Laprade 2030  
 Taylor Larson 2030  
 Ezekiel Lazzareschi 2030  
 Mackenzie Lopes 2028  
 Trinity Lorello 2028  
 Kaylee (Roman) Lucas 2028  
 Lillyann Lucini 2030  
 Joseph Maggiasco 2028  
 Sellena Mam 2030  
 Jasmeet Mann 2028  
 Jillian Marandola 2030  
 Joseph Marandola 2028  
 Isla Marchetti 2029  
 Cecelia Martins 2028  
 Ella Martin-Sharkey 2029  
 Marco Maselli 2030  
 Jowell McAlpine Bracey 2030  
 Jameson McClish 2030  
 Emma McDougall 2029  
 Addyson Meloni 2029  
 Samaya Montrond 2028  
 Daniela Morales Cordon 2028  
 Ryan Morin 2029  
 Alexander Mrozewicz 2029  
 Kyleigh Murphy 2029  
 Dennis Nikonorov 2028  
 Owen Niles 2028  
 Kaiya Nop 2028  
 Daphen (Janae) Nyan 2029  
 Maria-Fernanda Oliva 2028  
 Linda Orozco 2028  
 Nicolas Ortellado 2029  
 Joshua Ortiz 2029

Savannah Paquin 2028  
 Joleen Pearson 2030  
 Jayliana Pedraza 2029  
 Allyson Pena 2029  
 Tyler Pepler 2030  
 Evan Perron 2028  
 Lea Petrillo 2028  
 Mykhal Picon 2029  
 Quintin Picon 2028  
 Gianna Pilloni 2028  
 Ethan Pongvongkeo 2029  
 Logan Pongvongkeo 2030  
 Logan Poole 2030  
 Bruno Porreca 2028  
 Jayden Prata 2030  
 Sophia Ramirez 2030  
 Christian Ramos Cardoza 2030  
 Christopher Ramos-Mues 2030  
 Salina Reth 2030  
 Aylin Reyes Marte 2028  
 Brea Rianna 2028  
 Derek Ricci 2029  
 Lucca Ricci 2028  
 Adriana Rikken 2028  
 Madeline Ritch 2030  
 Aaron Rivera 2030  
 Derryck Roberts 2028  
 Isabel Rocha 2029  
 Zelice Rolland 2028  
 Maralys Roques 2030  
 Jacob Rosa 2028  
 Carolyn Rosales 2028  
 Daisy Rosales 2028  
 DeeDee Rose 2030  
 Drake Rouleau 2028  
 Sophia Rubino 2028  
 Brooklyn Russillo 2028  
 Elena Sampson 2028  
 Mariah Sanchez Perez 2030  
 Dante Santos 2029  
 Joseph Santos 2028  
 Avery Sarit 2029  
 Rachelle Saucedo 2030  
 Luca Schroer 2028  
 Max Sciotti 2028  
 Lily-Anne Segee 2029  
 Joshua Seyon 2029  
 Nicholas Smith 2028  
 Brayden Sobel 2030  
 Mia Solano 2029  
 Ezekiel Sonaike 2029  
 Gabriel Sorel 2028  
 Aiden Spencer 2030  
 Alexa St. Clair 2029  
 Tristan Stevens 2028  
 Julianna Stonis 2029  
 Katie Torres 2030  
 Kianne Torres 2030  
 Isla Troxell 2028  
 Emilio Urena Moya 2030  
 Belinda Urizar Ruiz 2028  
 Yomilenny Valois Tolentino 2028  
 Peyton Vargas 2029  
 Adam Venditelli 2028  
 Sridhar Venkatakrisnan 2030  
 Juliana Vento 2030  
 Luke Ventura 2028  
 Kaeden Viveiros 2028  
 Harmony Wagnac 2030  
 Ella Watters 2030  
 Aidan Wentworth 2028  
 Gianna Wholey 2030  
 Grace Wilbur 2029  
 Olivia Zinanni 2028  
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p 401-732-3100



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By JENNIFER COATES



Meet Chris Peabody, the sales representative at the Johnston SunRise ~ coming to meet you where you are, ready to get your business seen this fall, winter, and beyond!

As one of the newest members of the Beacon Communications sales team, there are two things that Chris Peabody is passionate about: the people of Johnston and the opportunity she has to represent them as business owners in our ever-evolving state.

If you want to know what is happening in your community, then just ask this enthusiastic supporter of small businesses and the newest sales representative at this longstanding publishing company. Chris just lights up when talking about her experiences working with, advocating for, and shopping at the local businesses throughout Johnston. As a lifelong Rhode Islander, she has a deep respect and appreciation for the businesses of the city, but also for the residents who patronize them. It is now her privilege to give them a visible presence in these mainstay, local newspapers.

Chris Peabody takes her work at the SunRise seriously, even as she lives a full and active life. An avid gardener, golfer, Patriots fan, Rhode Island Special Olympics volunteer, wife and mother, Chris is always out meeting people, exploring the diverse neighborhoods of the West Bay, and cheering on the people and places that make Rhode Island so unique.

Chris came to the Johnston SunRise in March of this year following the retirement of her predecessor, Natalie Payette. She has come in with a bang, drawing upon a long career in customer relations in the news media and marketing. She is full of energy, ideas, and personality ~ and is eager to get to know small business owners from every corner of these towns and cities. As she says: "I want to help businesses succeed!"

If you are a business owner in Johnston, a great place to start is to look at local newspapers such as the SunRise. It has a broad readership and an

online presence. They tell the stories of the town's residents and of the many services they provide and products they sell. The SunRise is the heartbeat of our community, acting like the "town crier" of days past but with photographs and updated stories of the day-to-day lives of its inhabitants.

Chris can help you get the word out about your business ~ no matter what your line of work or business is. There is an advertisement space and budget just for you! When you are ready to advertise in one of these papers, she will walk you through every step of the process, laying out every available option from the smallest one column, 2" ad to a full-page ad ~ and everything in between (including this business spotlight page!)

Give Chris a call today at 401-732-3100 or her cell at 401-714-5699. You can also email her at chrisp@rhodybeat.com. Today is the day to get started!

## TOYS FOR TOTS 2023



**SPECIAL SANTAS:** JPD Patrolmen Cook, Crowe, Murphy, Yepes, Sgt. Petterutti and Lancellotta join JFD Battalion Chief Tom Marcello, Lt. Todd Swanson, Capt. Chris Brindamore, Pvts. Scott Thacker, Anthony Colella and Justin Moretti to announce the 13th Annual Toys for Tots Party that will be held next Wednesday night at Strings Bar & Grille in Johnston.

## JPD & JFD hope for 'record toy collection'

By PETE FONTAINE

Although some people are superstitious about the number 13, the Johnston Police and Fire Departments and popular business owner Stephanie Harris are hoping the Nov. 29 Toys for Tots Drive will set a record.

"I can't believe this is our 13th annual toys drive," related Jon Pistacchio, a JFD lieutenant and vice president of the co-sponsoring Johnston Association of Firefighters Local 1950. "We'll be hoping for good weather and record toy collection."

In fact, if you're looking to have some fun and enjoy what some people are calling a unique pre-Christmas community party, plan on being at Harris' Strings Bar & Grille located at 183 George Waterman Road in Johnston beginning at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29 and bring along at least one new unwrapped toy that will further boost the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

"Our goal, as always, will be to fill the back end of a reserve JFD rescue," Pistacchio noted. "People were so generous last year we had to make two special deliveries with the collection of toys, bikes, games, sports equipment etc. people brought to our 12th annual drive."

In keeping with the tradition Harris — who has owned and operated Strings Bar & Grille for six years — will offer drink specials throughout the evening.

As equally impressive is that Robert V. Russo, veteran president of the Johnston Town Council, will again sponsor a complimentary buffet in addition to making his special toy donation.

The 13th Annual Toys for Tots Drive is also being presented by the Johnston Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 307. People who'd like to donate may do so at drop boxes located at schools in the town as well as the JPD and JFD headquarters.

"The Toys for Tots Drive is a great way for people to help children in needy families," said Linda Folcarelli, District I Town Councilwoman, who attended last year's party. "Let's hope for a record on Nov. 29."

If the turnout for last year's 12th annual toy drive offers any measuring stick, the upcoming Nov. 29 event could possibly create the need for a second reserve rescue to be at Strings Bar & Grille where Santa Claus will make his annual appearance and thank Johnstonsians for their ongoing generosity.

## HOLLY FAIR



**PTSO PARTNERS:** Johnston High School students Connor Niles (left), Bella Vargas (center) and Lucas Anderson are among the committee that's organizing the 12th Annual PTSO (Parent, Teacher, Student Organization) Holly Fair that will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2 in the school's cafeteria. Admission is free and the event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature upwards of 40 vendors, food, refreshments, raffles, prizes and music. It's also rumored that Santa Claus will make a special appearance along with some elves. (Sun Rise photo by Pete Fontaine)

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## A Scout for Rhode Island



SCOUT LYONS

I have to admit that I love the name.

As someone who grew up in the "hippie" era and attended college in bucolic Vermont, I've seen my share of unusual names. Names like "Moonbeam" and "Riverseed" and "Echo," but this is the first time that I heard of anyone named Scout.

But shame on me. I must have missed that day in English Literature when we talked about the famous novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," as Jean Louise "Scout" Finch was one of the main characters.

According to most sources, "Scout" is portrayed as a 5-year-old tomboy who is "intelligent, curious and courageous." I don't know about the tomboy part, but young actor and singer-songwriter Scout Lyons (who was named after the character) is certainly the other three.

Her story is just as interesting.

Born in Providence, she is the daughter of Bob (a Middle School Teacher) and Mary (Lewicki), a registered nurse.

She graduated with honors from the Met School in 2017, and later attended classes at CCRI.

Her interest in acting started watching the Disney Channel at the age of 4.

She liked it so much that she started writing her own songs.

Her parents were her biggest fans, taking Scout and sister Tess to plenty of concerts and movies.

At 11 years old, fate dealt her a tough hand. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor. "It kind of gave me a different perspective. I was lucky to come out of it, and it showed me at an early age how precious life is." Scout continued, "I decided right then and there that I have to do what I want to do - write and sing and act."

Shortly after, fate dealt a better hand to Scout.

She got her first acting job (as someone in the background) when she heard that actor Mark Ruffalo was filming a movie in Providence.

Always the "impulsive one," when her parents took her to the movie set, Scout "flung the door open and sprinted to the set!" She said "I went right up to Mark and was introduced to him by a family friend."

### Meeting with Mike



by J. MICHAEL LEVESQUE

# Trinity's "A Christmas Carol" — fresh, funny & fantastic

Theatre Review by **DON FOWLER**

I have reviewed over 25 productions of Trinity's "A Christmas Carol."

Each director has carefully followed the script to the point where I could recite the lines along with the actors, (Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons?) while making changes to the set.

The 2023 production under the brilliant, innovative direction of Stephen Thorne explores a new and exciting approach to the Dickens' classic.

Dialogue is re-envisioned, while the meaning remains the same. Sequences are slightly altered. Never is this change for changes sake, but rather change for freshness, clarification and emphasis.

All of this requires careful collaboration between the actor playing Scrooge (Mauro Hantman) and Director Thorne.

Hantman gets it. He is not just acting belligerent. He IS belligerent! His transformation comes slowly and realistically. Of all the actors, he is right up there with the late Richard Kneeland and the great Timothy Crowe.

The play is performed in the round in two acts with a brief intermission. Set designer Michael McGarty uses every nook and cranny, plus an overhead bridge that spans the center stage where props



The cast of A Christmas Carol. (Photo by Mark Turek)

are rolled in and out and four trap doors add to the excitement.

Jeff Church, Artistic Director at Burbage Theatre, who has also acted at Trinity, Gamm and other theaters, shows his talent and versatility by playing The Ghosts of Christmas Past and Yet to Come, plus Topper.

Tiny Tim carries no cane. His uniqueness is that he is played by a neurodivergent young actor, adding a new dimension to the play.

The play is dark and scary when it needs to be and light and funny when it needs to be.

There is singing and dancing,

snow, and a wonderful scene where Scrooge goes off-script.

Phyllis Kay and Richard Donnelly are everywhere, playing a variety of characters, and their interaction with the children is a delight. And, of course, there are the wonderful child actors that add so much to the merriment.

No matter how many times you have seen "A Christmas Carol" at Trinity Rep, this is the year to pay it one more visit.

At Trinity through December 31. Call 421-Arts for reservations.

## Scout

(Continued from page 12)

We had something in common because Mark survived a brain tumor, too."

"Mark was so nice that he had us (the whole family) back every day to watch the production."

Around that time, 11-year-old Scout was also contacted by "A Wish Come True" (that grants wishes to children 3 to 18 with life threatening illnesses). She told the organization that her wish was to act on the Nickelodeon series "Victorious."

"It happened. A Wish Come True made it happen, and I got to appear with Ariana Grande and Victoria Justice!"

A couple years later she would have a small part in Rhode Island's own Verdi Productions, appearing in "Almost Mercy," directed by Tom DeNucci.

Her first "speaking" role came in 2019, when she had the part of "Penny" in the dark film, "The Killers Next Door," which is still doing well on Amazon.

Her music career had also simultaneously developed, releasing her first single "Do My Thang" in 2016. The whimsical single with Teddy Bears and Dancing Unicorns chalked up over 75,000 views on YouTube.

Just a few weeks ago, Scout released her newest single, "Stalker Song," directed by her boyfriend Zack Koehler.

But her biggest role yet is a new movie by Verdi Productions, "Secrets at the Museum," which was released on October 12th on the Lifetime Movie Network.

She said, "it's a breakout role. I played the main actor's younger sister Harper, which can be seen on Hulu."

Asked about her young life in the film and music industry in general, she heaps praise on the Verdi family and their company, Verdi Productions, led by Chad Verdi who has made quite a name for himself in the higher echelons of Hollywood.

She said "when I was 17, I had a Production Assistant job at Verdi Productions. They've been instrumental in my entire career. I went from getting coffee to being a personal assistant to Chad Verdi. It has really been helpful, giving me a unique perspective for acting.

Asked about filmmaking in Rhode Island, as opposed to other places, she was quick with her praise. "Steve Feinberg (Executive Director of the RI Film and Television Office) is wonderful. He brings meaningful products to Rhode Island, and the Verdi family is well-known and respected in the film industry. Rhode Island is a great place to shoot a film and the 30% tax breaks helps a lot."

The Verdi family thinks highly of Scout as well. Verdi Productions Producer Chad Verdi, Jr. summed it up nicely. "When I first met Scout we shared an immediate connection, she is the true definition of a Rhode Islander. Scout has faced many obstacles in her life which have contributed to her immense inner strength and has truly become part of the family. She is now in a prime position in her career where I have every confidence in her ability to thrive and take the next steps to stardom. Scout is a hard worker and when placed in front of the camera she executes her scenes seamlessly, a knack that does not come easy to just anybody. We are proud to have worked with her as an actress in many of our feature films, and we look forward to continuing our relationship as working with Scout is a genuine privilege."

My final question was what advice she would give to budding actors. She said, "start in production. Work your way up. Start by getting coffee and do a good job. Learn as much as you can and the next thing you know auditions will be coming your way."

Not bad advice for any profession.

You can see Scout performing her songs at the Parlour Providence on "open mic" days, or check out her professional life of songs and acting at Instagram.com/scoutlyons.

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# ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

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## Holiday Bazaars, Festivals & Craft Shows

**Nov. 24, 25 & 26, Ocean State Artisans Holiday Craft Show & Food Drive** on Fri., Nov. 24 and Sat., Nov. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., Nov. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 5600 Post Road, East Greenwich (former Benny's Store). Fresh wreaths, face painting, handcrafted gifts, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Special gift for the first 200 shoppers. Admission \$3 and \$1 discount with a canned good. All admission fees are donated to local charities.

**Nov. 24 & 25, Holiday Craft Show at CCRI** will be held on Fri., Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the CCRI Knight Campus, 400 East Ave., Warwick. Free admission.

**Nov. 25, The Chorus of Kent County, North Pole Festival** will be held on Sat., Nov. 25, at Christ the King Parish, 130 Legris Ave., West Warwick, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a bake sale, gift wrapping station, raffles and a visit from Santa who will be stopping by for a quick visit and pictures. Proceeds for this Festival support the Chorus of Kent County Scholarship Fund.

**Nov. 25, Holiday Craft Fair and Luncheon**, Oaklawn Community Baptist Church on Sat., Nov. 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 229 Wilbur Ave., Cranston. Fireside luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Homemade good for sale, Christmas White Elephant items. For more information: Laura Dwyer 401-439-1776.

**Dec. 2, Holiday Bazaar Spring Green Memorial Church** will be held on Sat., Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 1350 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Crafters, jewelry, a penny social of gift cards, bake table children's grab bags and a café for lunch at reasonable prices. Tables are available for crafters to rent for \$15 each. Any interested crafter can contact the church at 401-463-8329 from 10 a.m. to noon, Tues. thru Fri. to rent a table.

**Dec. 2, Tri-City Elks Holiday Craft Show** will be held on Sat., Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Tri City Elks Lodge #14, 1915 W. Shore Rd. Warwick, Lower Level. There is an entrance around back with Handicap Parking. Come and enjoy some holiday shopping with plenty of local vendors. Support Small Businesses this holiday season.

**Dec. 2, Moosup Valley Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting** will be held on Sat., Dec. 2, from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Moosup Valley Church, 81 Moosup Valley Rd., Foster. Features popular folk duo, Atwater/Donnelly, performing ancient and new carols. Light refreshments. Pass the hat. For more info, contact Laurie @ 401-623-0320.

**Dec. 2, Old-Fashioned Christmas Bazaar** will be held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1817 Warwick Ave., Warwick, Sat., Dec., 2, 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Laurie Linden at 401-739-2937

**Dec. 2, Holliman Winter Bazaar** will be on Sat., Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holliman School, 70 Deborah Rd., Warwick. Free admission, raffles & refreshments for purchase with many amazing vendors.

**Dec. 2 & 3, Open Table of Christ United Methodist Church Holiday Bazaar** will be held on Sat., Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1520 Broad Street, Providence. Featuring Children's Pancake Breakfast with Santa at 10 a.m. \$3 per child, 4 - children \$10. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. take your own picture with Santa. Children's gift shop & wrapping station, bake table, wish table (drawing at 1 p.m.). Food available. Open closet with clothing, holiday items and jewelry. More information: Helen 401-864-9603.

**Dec. 2 & 3, Christmas at the Castle** will be held at Smith's Castle, 55 Richard Smith Drive, North Kingstown, from noon to 4 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Admission costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and nothing for children younger than 6, with an overall cap of \$25 per family. Entertainment includes puppeteer Dan Butterworth, the Wheeler School Concert Bellringer, the Brown Madrigal Singers and Songs and Stories by Anne Marie Forer and Sheila Reynolds. Anyone bringing canned goods for donations to the North Kingstown Food Pantry will receive a 10% discount on purchases at their Christmas bazaar.

**Dec. 2 & 3, The Annual Winter Bazaar** will be held at The First Congregational Church of Warwick, 715 Oakland Beach Ave., Warwick, on Sat., Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sun., Dec. 3, from 12 to 6 p.m. There is still available space for rent for vendors and crafters. \$25 for 1-day and \$40 for 2-days. Contact: Stefani Capuano, [Stefanicapuano@yahoo.com](mailto:Stefanicapuano@yahoo.com) or 401-999-9473 or The First Congregational Church of Warwick 401-738-3377.

**Dec. 9, St. Lucia Fest sponsored by the RI Swedish Heritage Assoc.** will be held on Sat., Dec. 9, at 4 p.m., at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce St., East Greenwich. Adults: \$12, Ages 5-14: \$5, Under 5 - Free. Reception following with Swedish refreshments. Questions or information: Astrid at 401-350-9688 or [astrid.m.drew@gmail.com](mailto:astrid.m.drew@gmail.com) or Merlene Mayette at 401-783-2242 or [merleneinri@verizon.net](mailto:merleneinri@verizon.net).

**Dec. 9, Winter Celebration**, will be held at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 550 Fair Street Warwick (Gaspee area, just off Narragansett Pkwy) on Sat., Dec. 9, at 4:30 p.m. Winter Celebration! For Kids and adults! Crafting, songs, and cider to celebrate winter season in a cheerful way!

# Sports



**PROUD PARENTS:** Juan and Dionny Velasquez enjoyed last week's National Letter of Intent day when Arianna Velasquez announced she'll be taking her talents to the University of Bridgeport in the fall. Not pictured: Leslie Velasquez also attended. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

## Velasquez makes it official

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Perhaps the word ELITE – which was prominently displayed on an athletic shirt that was draped over a table – best summed up last week's special ceremony for National Letter of Intent (NLI) day at Johnston Senior High School.

Although many schools in the state featured numerous seniors

who announced where they'll be taking their talents to college in the fall, JHS senior softball standout Arianna Velasquez was in the spotlight when she signed an NCAA Letter of Intent to accept a scholarship to the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

The impressive event, which was set up by JHS Athletic Director Justin Erickson, included Arianna's

father Juan and mother Dionny Velasquez and her sister Leslie Velasquez. Her brother Jean Velasquez was unable to attend.

Likewise, Pilgrim High School softball superstar Alyssa Twomey – a.k.a. the state's top schoolgirl fast-pitch softball chucker – came with a bouquet of flowers for her Elite teammate who ranks among

■ **VELASQUEZ - PAGE 16**

## Another great season of football

Last weekend's football Lstate championships wrapped up another fantastic fall sports season, leaving us with just the Thanksgiving exhibitions.

With football being the last sport on the table, I will use this column to wrap up on our teams and how their seasons went.

### My pitch



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

#### Hendricken

Not much of a surprise, but Hendricken reclaimed the Division I Super Bowl with a convincing win against North Kingstown.

Hendricken led just 14-7 heading into the final quarter and would score 21 unanswered points to

get the win. The sentiment by most people was that this was a close game and the score did not reflect how competitive it was. Wrong, this game was

■ **PITCH - PAGE 17**



**LEAVING A LEGACY:** Cranston resident and Westerly native Dave Stenhouse. (Sun Rise file photo)

## RI baseball legend Stenhouse passes away at 90

By **ALEX SPONSELLER**

Rhode Island baseball legend Dave Stenhouse passed away on Saturday at the age of 90, according to his family on social media.

■ **STENHOUSE - PAGE 17**



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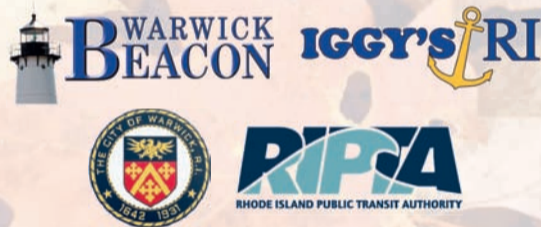
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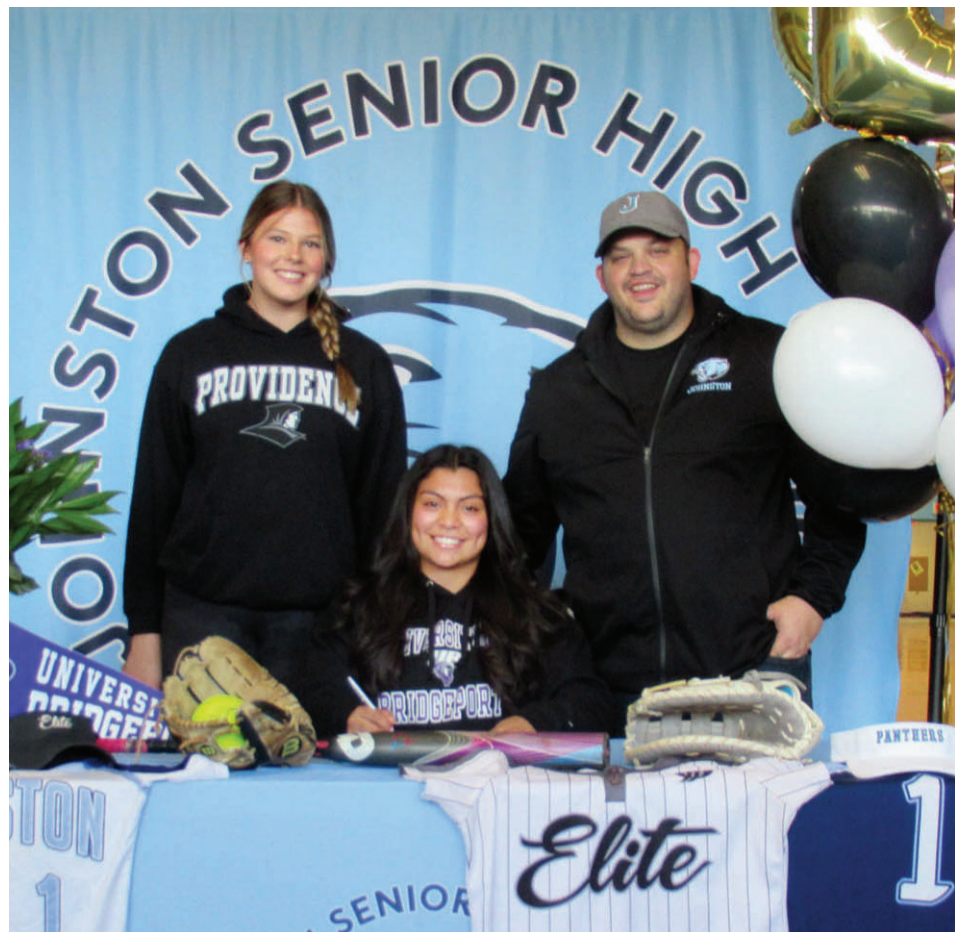
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**SPECIAL SETTING:** Arianna Velasquez is all smiles while signing her National Letter of Intent to play at the University of Bridgeport and is joined by Pilgrim Star Alyssa Twomey who is headed for Providence College and Justin Erickson, JHS athletic director who made the setting special for last week's event.

## ■ Velasquez

(Continued from page 15)

the best middle infielders in the state. "Arianna and Alyssa play on the talent-filled Elite team which is ranked among the best travel teams in the state," offered David Iannuccilli, who doubles as the Lady Panthers head softball coach and Chief of the Johnston Fire Department. "We are all happy for Arianna and wish her well at the collegiate level."

Velasquez has been a JHS varsity starter since her freshman year and has landed All-Division honors in each of her three seasons.

"Arianna has been a pleasure to coach," Iannuccilli went on. "She comes to practice every day ready to go and gives it her all. When it comes to games Arianna leaves it all on the field. She truly leads by example and is always willing to sacrifice personal stats for the best of our team."

And that, the popular Panther coach wanted it known "is a trait you either have or don't; Arianna has it all and she

also stabilizes our middle infield and is always one of the first players who comes up in conversation when coaches discuss players in the league."

Moreover, as Iannuccilli offered: "Arianna has a terrific glove and an extremely strong arm with a dangerous bat. I will be looking to her to provide strong leadership this upcoming season."

Velasquez has compiled a .325 career batting average and .575 on base percentage. She has knocked 50 runs, smacked two home runs and belted five triples and nine doubles while stealing two dozen bases. She has also drawn 38 walks.

"Arianna has a high OBP because of her keen eye and patience at the plate," Iannuccilli noted. "That's what she has drawn 39 walks over her first three varsity seasons."

So, it's off to the University of Bridgeport where Arianna Velasquez plans to major in elementary education as well as making an impact for Head Coach Dawn Stearns' Lady Purple nights rank among the best teams in the East Coast Conference.

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**PROUD PANTHERS:** Amid inflated gold balloon letters "UB" tied to the table and JHS banners providing a wonderful backdrop JHS fast-pitch standout Arianna Velasquez signs an NCAA Letter of Intent as Lady Panther Head Coach David Iannuccilli enjoys the historic moment.



## ■ Pitch

(Continued from page 15)

never in doubt for Hendricken. Sure, there was a second quarter scare. Hendricken was driving with a chance to go into halftime up 14-0, but the Skippers recovered a fumble and broke off a huge touchdown to tie it up. Even at that moment when the Skippers took the momentum, there was no real evidence to suggest that Hendricken was not firmly in control of the game. The Hawks were better in all three phases, excluding that one-minute blip on the radar. Hendricken marched right back down the field to regain the lead less than two minutes later.

The final score was 35-7. That is about what I believe it should have been. The Hendricken offense was carried by the state's best one-two punch in Ronjai Francis and Oscar Weah and the Skippers had no response. The Hendricken defense came up with four takeaways, one of which was returned for a touchdown. Hendricken was better on special teams, too. The Hawks won the battle for field position from start to finish.

That is not to say that NK laid an egg. The Skipper defense played well in the first half and that second-quarter response was big time. That being said, how can anyone suggest that a game in which Hendricken controlled 47 of the 48 minutes was close? It wasn't.

The Hawks were young last season, as strange as that sounds. They were led by juniors and sophomores and when La Salle got the win, you could see the inexperience. The Hawks played like a veteran team all season, especially on Sunday. This year's team may have been the best that I have covered in the past five years.

### Pilgrim

The Pats got off to a shaky start that would hurt them in the end, as their season ended with a loss to Moses Brown in a win or go home finale.

What Pilgrim did well this year was throw the ball on offense and boast an opportunistic defense. The struggles that the team faced ultimately came down to size. There were times when the Pats struggled to run the ball, and times where they struggled to stop the run, which is tough to overcome at the high school level.

What we learned was that Chace Roberts was the real deal. He has a big arm and spread the ball around the field. Justyn Murphy, Jack Coffey and Cole Bigelli were every bit the dynamic trio that we thought they could be.

Pilgrim was a tough out as well, which sometimes is the toughest pill to swallow. Pilgrim could have beaten Ponaganset, it could have beaten West Warwick, it held a 12-point lead on Moses Brown. It was also in the game with Johnston until the fourth quarter. Pilgrim was 3-4 in league play, but could have easily been 7-0, and that's not hyperbole. The Pats were in every game they played. You have to give credit to those other teams, though. They made the plays in the end.

### Toll Gate

Although the Titans hit the reset button last year when introducing Jim Miceli and his coaching staff, it felt like this year was truly a reset season.

Last year, Miceli and company were trying to clean up the mess. Numbers were down, the roster was unsettled, the culture was fractured. This season, though, you could see that this group was much more unified.

The Titans got back in the win column with a victory over Chariho. As much as multiple wins would have been thrilling, even just getting one was a necessary step in the right direction. Fortunately for Toll Gate, it is not being gutted, either. Many of these kids will be back.

Mason Tanner had a breakout season for Toll Gate after joining the team as a track standout. He's a senior, so that will be one tough loss.

The culture is back intact, there is a core of players with experience that will be returning. The Titans, realistically, are another year or two away from being true threats in Division III, but I do think we will see another step forward next fall, with a ceiling being a playoff appearance.

### Cranston West

The Falcons are one of the prime examples of a good team that came up short solely in the numbers game. They are also the reason why I am for a six-team Division I moving forward.

West missed the playoffs, but was a team that absolutely should have had a chance to play a postseason. Kelan Cornell, Jack Majcher, David Boscia were a great trio on offense, while Adrian Samayoa was a cornerstone piece on defense, along with Majcher in the backfield. There was enough talent on this team, and the Falcons showed enough to prove that they were playoff-worthy. Division II was absolutely loaded this year, which is the problem.

We can't totally let West off the hook. The Falcons dropped a close one against St. Ray's and were blown out against Cumberland and Mt. Pleasant late in the regular season. I am certainly not trying to say that the Falcons were elite.

But, if your team is good, you should be in the playoffs, and West was good.

Barrington and Cumberland separated themselves from the pack and squared off in the Super Bowl. Either of those teams would have been competitive in Division I, and had they been placed in that group, West would have made it. Please, let's expand the top division a bit.

### Cranston East

My favorite game of the fall came when the Thunderbolts won their first league game in five years, and like Toll Gate, this season was all about progress. Wins were going to be tough to come by as a rebuilding program, so any progress would be welcomed, and East made plenty of progress down the stretch.

The Bolts beat Shea then played a competitive game against Portsmouth, who snuck into the playoffs. East also played a close game against Mt. Pleasant, and went toe-to-toe with eventual champ Barrington in a game that was competitive for two quarters. East was about as good as a one-win team could be.

The Bolts will have plenty coming back next season, including guys like Saqari Monroe, Angel Figueroa, Armand Northup-Reed and Dionandre Brown. Will the Bolts be competing for a Super Bowl? No, but they will be firmly in the mix for a playoff spot.

### Johnston

The Panthers flew under the radar heading into the season, but the chatter coming from the locker room was this was a championship-caliber team, and despite losing in the semis, they proved they were among the Division III elite.

Matt Clements held up his end of the bargain as the starting quarterback while Steven Finegan, NeAri Vasquez, Dean Paris and Michael Carlino proved to be the division's best skill position group. The defense, although not stellar, improved as the season wore on as well and certainly did its part in the semifinal loss to eventual champion Middletown.

The Panthers went toe-to-toe with the Islanders and had a chance to win it. Had Johnston won, it absolutely would have been right there with West Warwick in the Super Bowl. In the end though, sometimes it comes down to one or two plays and that's what happened in Middletown.

The Panthers will be losing quite the core next season. Clements and Paris will return, so there should be enough for Johnston to stay in the playoff mix. It will be interesting to see if there will be enough firepower to get back into contendership.

## ■ Stenhouse

(Continued from page 15)

The Cranston resident and West-erly native played professional baseball for 13 seasons as a pitcher, most notably for three seasons in the big leagues with the Washington Senators, and was the first rookie pitcher to ever start in the MLB All-Star game during the 1962 season.

After his retirement, he served as an Army Reservist and founded his own insurance company. He was also integral in the creation of Cranston League for Cranston's Future (CLCF), where he also helped coach baseball and basketball. Stenhouse founded the RI Baseball Institute in Warwick.

Stenhouse was also the head coach for Rhode Island College, where he led the team to the Final Four, as well Brown University before coaching at the youth level and American Legion.

"RIP Dad, We will always love you. What an amazing 90 years you

gave to our family, to Cranston and to RI. We have been so blessed," son his son Mike, on social media.

Stenhouse was inducted into numerous Halls of Fame, including at RIC, URI and the RI Heritage Hall of Fame in 2008. He received All-American honors during his college days at URI for both baseball and basketball. He finished his hoops career with over 1,000 points for the Rams.

Other interests of his included golf, where he was a member of the Warwick Country Club and frequently participated in charity events. He chaired the annual fund-raising tournament that raised over \$400,000 for the Jimmy Fund, which earned him the "Jimmy Award" in 2002 for his service.

Stenhouse enjoyed traveling, playing piano and drinking red wine, according to Mike. He served as a lector at St. Paul's Church in Cranston. More than anything, he enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids.

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# Thankful for the fish

By **CAPT. DAVE MONTI**

It's the holidays. Time to take stock and be thankful.

First and foremost I am thankful for the privilege to fish, take people fishing, get paid for it as a charter captain and then write about it. For me it does not get any better.

Second, I am taking stock personally and pledge to do everything I can to ensure we manage our fisheries in a bi-partisan fashion, the way it was in the past.

We need to work together for the benefit of the fish, so we grow them to abundance, so there are more in the water for all to catch, eat and/or release. The fish have no political party or affiliation they just want to swim, eat, grow and reproduce. So we need to let them do this for their benefit and our benefit.

We need to reach across the water, republicans and democrats alike, and approach the fish, the environment, and climate impacts in a bi-partisan manner for the benefit of the environment and the fish.

This year, right now is the time to work together, give and take for the growth of the fish, the environment and to benefit all the people of the United States of America.

## Public hearings on draft striped bass regulation options

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and their marine coastal states from Maine to Virginia have scheduled hearings to gather public input on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. Addendum II considers management measures designed to support stock rebuilding by reducing fishing mortality to the target level in 2024.

Hearings for public comment on Addendum II options will take place in Rhode Is-

land Thursday, November 30, 6 – 8 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Corless Auditorium, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI. Contact is Jason McNamee at 401.222.4700.

In Massachusetts the meeting is slated for Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Admiral's Hall, 101 Academy Dr., Buzzards Bay, MA. Contact is Michael Armstrong at 978.619.0012.

A copy of Addendum II can be found at Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (asmfc.org). Tony Friedrich, vice president and national policy director, American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA) said, "While we strongly supported the initiation of Addendum II, we believe that the potential outcomes of this action are not enough to ensure long-term striped bass sustainability and abundance. These measures may only be in effect for the 2024 fishing year, assuming a 2024 stock assessment warrants another management action. Five consecutive years of poor spawns out of the Chesapeake Bay should be on everyone's minds as we consider Draft Addendum II and the future of this fishery."

Visit the ASGA comment guide at Striped Bass Addendum II – Public Comment Guide – American Saltwater Guides Association.

Public comments will be taken by the ASMFC until December 22. For background on the Addendum and how to provide comments visit Public Input - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (asmfc.org).

## Where's the bite?

Striped bass. East End Eddie Doherty, Cape Cod Canal fishing expert and author, said, "The Canal has slowed down, but mostly 21 - 26 inch school striped bass, an occasional slot (28 to < 31 inches) and some

bigger are still being caught along the 7-mile stretch. Some anglers are still fishing, like Canal legend Bob "Bull" MacKinnon, who intercepted the migration of several fish including a hefty 22-pound striper that hit his Walley's wonder bread pencil."

Declan O'Conner of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "There are still some striped bass working the Breachways and beaches eating peanut bunker and silver-sides primarily. With the bigger bass that are still around dialed in on shad. The Average size of fish has been decreasing but the size has ranged from schoolie to over slot. I recommend having a popper and a bucktail in your bag if you plan on walking the beaches. A popper allows you to cover water and look for a reaction strike. A bucktail can be fished slower and closer to you if you locate the fish. If you want to catch shad carry a small piece of metal with a fly teaser rig a foot above it."

Tautog fishing continues to produce for anglers. Anglers Walt Galloway and Walter Berry caught tautog to 21 inches fishing structure in the General Rock, North Kingstown area last week.

O'Conner of Breachway Bait & Tackle said, "Tautog fishing has been very good with many customers reporting limit catches of fish up to around 9 pounds. The fish are starting to move a bit deeper, solid reports coming from areas with depths ranging from 25 to 40 feet of water. There have been more than a few black sea bass mixed in on some of the deeper reefs."

Tom Giddings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "Tautog fishing is still good with a very strong bite this past week at Coddington Cove, Middletown. We are still open for gift certificates, tackle and gear by appointment, call 401-736-0605."



**TAUTOG BITE:** Walt Galloway with tautog. He and his fishing partner Walter Berry caught tautog to 21 inches earlier this week in the General Rock, North Kingstown area. (Submitted photo)

Squid fishing continues to be fairly good. But as usual it is hit or miss. Squid fishing expert Greg Vespe of Tiverton reported an good night squid bite in the Newport Bridge area.

"Freshwater fishing for trout in stocked ponds has been very good with a number of large fish being caught that were stocked by the State," said Giddings of the Tackle Box. For a complete list of stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.

gov and in Rhode Island visit [www.dem.ri.gov/fishing](http://www.dem.ri.gov/fishing), or call 401-789-0281 or 401-539-0019 for more information on trout stocking.

Dave Monti holds a captain's expert 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@verizon.net](mailto:dmontifish@verizon.net) or visit [www.noflukefishing.com](http://www.noflukefishing.com).

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## A HISTORY OF MATCHBOX

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

Since I wrote an entire article dedicated to the History of Hot Wheels, it only makes sense to follow it up with the story of their biggest competitor, Matchbox! Actually, since Matchbox came before Hot Wheels, I probably should have written these in reverse order, but oh well! Back in 1953, a British company called Lesney Products was in the business of manufacturing industrial diecast parts. They were not yet making the small diecast vehicles they'd later be known for; instead, they produced mostly



mundane items like door handles, electrical plugs, and some larger toys. Most people know Matchbox cars got their names from being the size of match boxes - but do you know why they are the size of match boxes? It's a cool story: Jack Odell, co-owner of Lesney, was a father, and when his daughter, Annie, told him kids weren't allowed to take any toys to school that were larger than a match box, he was inspired and saw an opportunity! Odell then designed a small scale of a steam roller, and yes, it fit inside a match box! Annie and her friends loved it, and soon afterwards he designed a miniature dump truck and cement mixer to complete the set, and sticking with the original motivation, the company decided to sell them in replica match boxes. As you know, the idea was a raving success.

Asia. A mere ten years later, Matchbox was sold again to Tyco Toys, which was bought out by Mattel in 1997. The irony is, of course, that Mattel also owns Hot Wheels, which as I mentioned, is Matchbox's biggest competitor!

Today, the average person uses the terms "Matchbox" and "Hot Wheels" interchangeably and generically, and probably wouldn't know which was which without flipping them over to read the labels. But collectors know! If you're one of those people, make sure to check out our December toy auction, we have several (boxed!) Matchbox cars and Hot Wheels crossing the block. Or, if you've got a Matchbox or Hot Wheels collection you're ready to part with, give me a call!

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# AGING IN PLACE

## *What You Need to Know*

By Jennifer Cosgrove O'Leary

The desire to age in place is one I hear often from my clients. And it's a smart idea. It reflects a growing awareness of the desire to tailor our living spaces to support our evolving needs as we age, and as our family situations change. Aging in place, the concept of growing old in the comfort of your own home, is an attainable goal, it just takes some forethought and planning.

If you are thinking of buying your next house and the concept of aging in place is on your mind, you are not alone. According to the National Association of Realtors, the average age of homebuyers overall is 47 and most people live in their home for at least 10 years before they sell. Deciding to sell your home and look for a home more suitable for aging in place, or conversely staying in your current home and making changes that allow you to stay in it as you age is a big decision.

As an occupational therapist turned realtor, I've worked with many people as they have navigated this decision and I have some advice.

Consider whether the home you are living in or considering buying will allow for future changes and improvements to accommodate changing needs as you age. A single-story home or one with a master bedroom and essential amenities on the ground floor is ideal to avoid the challenges of stairs as mobility decreases.

Does your current or future home have wide doorways and hallways to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers? This can make it easier to move around the home as you age.

What is your family situation? Do you expect (or want!) adult children or family members to move in with you as

you age? If so, consider multi-generational housing. Also look at accessory dwelling structures that can be adapted for boomerang children.

Look for homes with easy access to the outdoors, a level yard, and smooth pathways. This can promote physical activity and enjoyment of the garden or yard. You should also consider the level of maintenance necessary for the

property. A low-maintenance exterior and landscaping can reduce the physical demands of homeownership which is important as you age.

### Speak to an Expert

Consider property taxes and the cost of living. Will they be sustainable in retirement? Learn about proximity to essential services such as healthcare facilities, grocery stores, and public transportation. Being close to these amenities can simplify daily life and the availability of social and recreational activities in the community, as maintaining an active social life is essential for mental and emotional well-being.

The decision to stay in your current home and make modifications or look for something else is a tough one. If possible, consult with a Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES). SRES® agents understand federal laws for the Housing for Older Persons Act (HOPA), and have undergone special training to give them the knowledge to counsel 50+ clients through the buying or selling process. The research you do ahead of time will help ensure a safe and comfortable living environment as you age.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** *Jennifer Cosgrove O'Leary is one of the top 10 Realtors® (as certified by Real Trends) in the state of Rhode Island and the Co-Owner/Broker of Greenwich Bay Brokers. She is the only Certified Divorce Real Estate agent in the state, and is also a Senior Real Estate Specialist. Jennifer leverages her years of interior design experience, as well as her degree in occupational therapy to provide guidance on the critical aesthetic and ease of use elements that are part of the home buying and selling process.*

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# Easily overlooked safety hazards around the house

**METRO**  
 Accidents happen. While even the most cautious individuals are not immune to accidents, that doesn't mean it's not in everyone's best interest to do everything they can to reduce their risk of accident and injury, particularly around their own homes.

Homes are often seen as safe havens, but they're also where many individuals suffer preventable injuries. Data from the National Safety Council indicates that about 14 out of every 100 people suffered preventable injuries in their homes or a community venue in 2020.

A home's status as a sanctuary can make it easy to overlook various safety risks. The following are some safety hazards that can be prevented when homeowners make a concerted effort to make their homes as safe as possible.

- **Scalding:** Scalding injuries pose a significant threat to anyone. Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates that more than 375,000 scald burn injuries associated with various household appliances and products were treated in emergency rooms between 2013 and 2017. More than one-fifth of those injuries affected children four years old and younger. To prevent scalding injuries, make sure the temperature on your water heater is set no higher than 120 F. The American Burn Association advises parents to avoid giving children responsibilities above their developmental ability. For example, don't let children bathe siblings, cook, wash dishes, or use appliances like toasters or microwaves until they're able to recognize and understand the dangers of scalding and burns.

- **Trips and falls:** The National Floor Safety Institute indicates that falls account for more than eight million emergency room visits each year. Seniors seem to be especially vulnerable, as the National Institute on Aging indicates 30 percent of individuals age 65 and over will sustain a fall each year, with 10 percent of those falls resulting in serious injury. These injuries are easily avoided by routinely cleaning up to ensure walking paths like hallways and staircases inside the home and exterior walkways are clear of obstructions and debris. Carpeting and throw rugs also can pose a falling/tripping hazard, so promptly address carpet that is peeling up and utilize non-slip rug pads for throw rugs and floor mats throughout the home.

- **Unstable furniture injuries:** The CPSC indicates that every year more than 11,000 children suffer injuries that require emergency room visits due to tip-over incidents



involving home furnishings like televisions. And kids aren't the only ones vulnerable to these injuries, as 56 percent of tip-over-related ER visits involve patients over the age of 18. Mount or anchor all flat-screen televisions in your home to reduce the risk of tip-over injuries. In addition, replace any unstable furnishings, such as wobbly dining room chairs or well-worn armchairs that are no longer stable. Such furnishings pose a significant injury risk to anyone, but especially kids who love to climb on couches and chairs.

It's easy to overlook safety hazards around the house. But a little bit of attention can go a long way toward preventing potentially serious injuries. TF226995

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## Signs of septic system malfunction

**METRO**  
 Homeowners recognize that their work is never done. Homes require maintenance that runs the gamut from daily tasks like cleaning kitchen countertops to more significant undertakings like replacing roofs. For many homeowners, keeping their homes running smoothly involves tending to septic systems.

Estimates from various sources indicate that roughly one in five homes in the United States has a septic system. Homeowners who live in areas with regional sewage systems may not give much thought to the operation and maintenance of their wastewater and disposal system. But that responsibility typically rests squarely on the shoulders of homeowners whose homes have septic systems. Learning to maintain septic systems so they operate safely and efficiently is essential. Homeowners should know that recognizing signs of septic system malfunction is vital to avoiding potentially costly, messy accidents that can put the health of humans and local wildlife in jeopardy.

### What happens when a septic system malfunctions?

The Washington State Department of Health notes that a malfunctioning septic system is a threat to the health of both humans and animals as well as the environment. When a septic system is malfunctioning, untreated sewage can be released and end up in places where it

shouldn't be, such as groundwater, surface water and marine water. That's true even if it's not visible to the naked eye. Humans and animals are in danger when septic systems malfunction because untreated sewage contains pathogens and other contaminants that can make them sick.

### What are the signs of a malfunctioning septic system?

The DOH of Washington State notes that properly maintained septic systems should provide reliable service for many years. Part of that maintenance is keeping an eye out for these signs that suggest a system is malfunctioning or failing:

- Water and sewage from toilets, drains and sinks is backing up into the home
- Bathtubs, showers, and sinks drain very slowly
- Gurgling sounds are coming from the plumbing system
- Standing water or damp spots near the septic tank or drain field
- Bad odors around the septic tank or drain field
- Bright green, spongy lush grass over the septic tank or drain field, even during dry weather
- Algal blooms in nearby ponds or lakes
- High levels of nitrates or coliform bacteria in water wells

Homeowners with septic systems should make tending to those systems part of their routine home maintenance. FH218209

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