

Central Landfill head resigns

Cranston native named interim RIRRC executive director

By RORY SCHULER



The board of commissioners offered outgoing Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) Executive Director Joseph Reposa a round of applause Friday, his last day on the job.

A Cranston native has been named interim director.

Reposa held the Ocean State's lone landfill's top post in Johnston for more than six years. His annual salary was at least \$245,000. He'll also receive a \$25,000 bonus on the way out the door (although he'll stay on as a consultant until a new, official executive director is named).

During his tenure as head of the "quasi-public agency" he refused Johnston Sun Rise requests for interviews. Reposa declined to comment on his next move.

"No comment," he said while awaiting a quorum at the Dec. 8 RIRRC Board of Commissioners Governance Committee.

"It's my last day," he said loudly to those seated in the room, waiting for the morning's meetings to start. Re-

posa's final day on the job started with a pair of public meetings Friday.

The agendas included appointment of an executive director, naming of a search committee and "investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct." The committee's lawyers said the investigation into misconduct is a separate item, and not directly related to Reposa's departure.

First, the governance committee, and then the regular board of commissioners meeting, were both held at the RIRRC headquarters on Shun Pike in Johnston. Reposa's job performance was an agenda item at both meetings.

Tardy Start

The first meeting started a little late.

"We're waiting for a quorum," said David Ursillo, outside counsel for RIRRC. "We have a very narrow quorum."

LAST DAY: To start his last day on the job, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) Executive Director Joseph Reposa awaited the start of a pair of public meetings. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

LANDFILL - PAGE 5

20-FOOT REINDEER GAMES

POOR RUDOLPH:

Gary Marandola's back with his biggest Christmas lights display ever. This year, a 20-foot-tall inflatable reindeer has joined his Atwood Avenue holiday lawn menagerie. Turn to Page 9 for more photos. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



RIVOTED SPECTATORS: Elliot Sarli, grade 5 student at Sarah Dyer Barnes, and Gabriel Rosa, grade 5 student at Brown Ave., enjoyed watching the basketball game in the gymnasium. (Photos courtesy Edda Carmadello)

The 'Unified Panther Experience'

By RORY SCHULER

Hasbro, Special Olympics Rhode Island and Johnston Public School District students gathered to "Illuminate inclusivity" last Wednesday.

Together they celebrated Hasbro's Annual Global Day of Joy and treated the student body to the "Unified Panther Experience" event, bringing Hasbro staff and JPS students together.

"Hasbro was honored to stand alongside Special Olympics Rhode Island and Johnston Public School District, celebrating the impactful Unified Champion Schools programming," said Bryony Bouyer, Senior Vice President, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Purpose at Hasbro. "The 'Unified Panther Experience' embodied unity and acceptance, showcasing the

UNIFIED - PAGE 12



Butcher's Deluxe Package

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

74222EVW separately \$221.94 **\$99.99**
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Get 8 FREE Burgers

1.866.424.0435 ask for 74222EVW
OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe8669

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. Exp. 12/31/23. | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

New England's Classic Hits
Music Station



Download on the
 App Store

LISTEN LIVE
(Kiki Dot FM)



GET IT ON
 Google Play

Keeping Our Small State Healthy is a Big Deal







Get vaccinated.




Wash your hands.




Get treated.

You can help by getting vaccinated against the FLU, COVID-19, and RSV this season.

Together, we can keep Rhode Island healthy.



Scan the QR code for more information or visit health.ri.gov/respiratoryviruses



JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Alex Pratt. Alex is a sophomore at Johnston High and was nominated by his English teacher, Ms. Lisa Fresolone. Ms. Fresolone said, "Alex has been excelling in English class. The hard work and effort he is putting forth is evident, and as a result, he is earning great grades! Not only is he excelling academically, but he is demonstrating strong leadership skills in collaborative group work with discussions. Additionally, Alex is extremely respectful and friendly. It truly means a lot when a student says, 'Good morning' as they walk into the classroom, and 'Have a nice day' as they leave. Alex does this on a daily basis." (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.

Say you saw it in the
Johnston SunRise

Senior 'Spotlite'



MAJOR ENGAGEMENT: This week's Johnston Senior Center Spotlite shines on Maria Teotonio and Stephen Aubee, who fell in love at the casino and may tie the knot at the senior center. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

HE PUT A RING ON IT Stephen wagered all his chips on Maria

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines on Maria Teotonio and Stephen Aubee.

They knew each other for years, and started seeing more of each other while enjoying time at Twin River Casino.

About three years ago, Stephen made a bet that Maria would go out with him if he just asked. He won and they have been together ever since.

Stephen, while spending some time enjoying lunch with a group of friends, who had worked together at the former Star Market, was informed that he and Maria should try the Johnston Senior Center, because of the great things happening here.

So about a year ago, they came by to enjoy lunch, and have been coming, usually four days a week since then. They have made great friends here and enjoy all aspects of the Center's offering.

They especially enjoy all the trips coordinated through the Center. They have seen their relationship grow these recent months and are now engaged.

They consider many of the members here like family and even talk about the possibility of exchanging wedding vows here at the Center. Certainly a first.

Maria resides in Providence and Stephen in Warwick, but have certainly found a home here at the Johnston Senior Center. Consider walking into our beautiful Center, and you will be welcomed with open arms. The JSC may be the friendliest place you will ever visit.

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 Spotlite," submitted by the senior center.

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

From the staff ...

The Johnston Senior Center strives to provide older adults with so many options for healthy aging.

Besides providing lunch daily at noon, there are daily regularly scheduled activities like Arts and Crafts on Mondays, Hi-Lo Jack on Mondays and Wednesdays, Quilting on Tuesdays, Poker on Wednesdays, Mar Jong on Thursdays, and Bingo on Thursdays and Fridays.

In addition, various exercise programs are offered throughout the week.

This week our Book Club met and discussed a recent visiting authors book. Members also enjoyed a Mystery Lunch and the Newport Playhouse visits.

Recently a lucky member won our "Fall into Cash" 50/50 raffle. Many more activities are planned for the upcoming Holiday Season. Come by and visit and find out all the wonderful activities here at your Johnston Senior Center.

Weekly Events

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

Senior Center Trips

Mystery Lunch will resume in January, along with many more trip options.

Emergency toys are on the way



GIVING SPIRIT: The Whiting-Turner/Dimeo and Bluewater Property group held a toy drive for the Tri-County Community Action Health Equity Zone (HEZ). The toys were distributed to families in the Johnston, Smithfield and North Providence area. According to HEZ director Lisa Kennedy, "It was great that the fire department (JFD) in Johnston was able to transport the toys to the TCCAA HEZ location on Greenville Avenue in Johnston." From right to left, Victor Buchetto (JFD), Kennedy, certified community health workers (CCHW) Perla Fernandez and Danielle Tammelleo, Kristen Crowley and Thomas Marcello of the JFD, CCHW Kaitlyn Maggiore, and Don Roberts of the JFD. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

GLOW OIL
heat your home for less

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE

- Home Heating Oil
- Heating Service Repair
- Heating Equipment Installation

401-475-9955
www.GlowOil.com

BETTER BANKING.
No Strings Attached.

Greenwood Checking
No monthly fees
No minimums
No commitments
30,000 Nationwide ATMs
Mobile Wallet & Cash App ready

Feel the freedom and unlock your world of possibilities, today!

Open an account in minutes at greenwoodcu.org or scan the code here.

Greenwood CREDIT UNION
Doing what's right...for you!

2669 Post Road, Warwick
greenwoodcu.org

Federally insured by NCUA

SOAR & EARN MORE

MyLife Premium Money Market

4.10% APY*

on balances over \$100k

Start saving today!

Visit cranstonmecu.org or call 401-463-3010.

*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are subject to change without notice and may change monthly. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. Other conditions may apply.



SMOKE STACKS: The view from directly outside the RIRRC headquarters on Shun Pike shows a beehive of activity. RIRRC runs the Ocean State's lone operating Central Landfill. RIRRC oversees Rhode Island's Materials Recycling Facility, Leaf and Yard Compost, and Eco-Depot. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

YEAR-END Kitchen Display

SALE

40 Displays Must Go!

ALL SOLD AT A FRACTION OF ORIGINAL COST

KITCHENS • VANITIES • BARS • BASEMENT OR GARAGE STORAGE

GENERAL Kitchens

Call for more information
(401) 434-5250



THE BOARD: RIRRC is governed by their Board of Commissioners, which, at full complement, consists of nine members – eight from the general public (three must reside in Johnston) and the director of the RI Department of Administration (or their designee). The board has a few vacancies. Prior to Friday's meetings, the current members' nameplates awaited their arrival.



STELLAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) Executive Director Joseph Reposa faces the Board of Commissioners to start his last day on the job Friday, Dec. 8.

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK:
Thursday, December 21 at Noon

ADVERTISING DEADLINE FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEK:
Thursday, December 28 at Noon

Happy Holidays!

Landfill

(Continued from page 1)

Prior to the meetings, Ursillo said he wouldn't be answering any questions on agenda items without the filing of official public records requests.

Chairman Michael F. Sabitoni, of Johnston, a local labor leader and union official, arrived. He was shortly followed by fellow governance committee member Diana Ducharme, of Cranston, meeting the quorum requirement of two.

Ducharme lost her voice and whispered when required to speak.

The morning's two-member governance committee voted to go into executive session to discuss Reposa's "annual Job Performance Review." Reposa had the option to have his review in public session, but chose to have it behind closed-doors.

Public Record Requests Pending

RIRRC spokesman Jared Rhodes has yet to respond to four public records requests — seeking Reposa's performance review, his letter of resignation, details of Reposa's departing compensation package, and all documents related to "investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct" — filed by the Johnston Sun Rise on Friday, Dec. 8 (by law, the quasi-public agency has 10 days to respond).

Rhodes has also not replied to multiple other emailed requests for information, including an updated salary for Reposa as he leaves the job.

In August 2022, Rhodes confirmed the executive director's annual salary was \$245,863.28.

After Friday morning's first executive session, attorney Joe Rodio, the other RIRRC outside counsel, spoke loudly and quickly, summarizing Reposa's performance review, and announcing his outgoing bonus: "After obviously a thorough review, of the director's performance over the past year, discussion related to all the highlights, related to landfill and the performance in executive session, we are presenting the following motion."

Goodbye Bonus

Rodio, Ursillo's law partner, doubled his reading speed, firing off the motion, almost approaching an auctioneer's cadence.

"Following a thorough review of the executive director's performance, and achieving the performance metrics as outlined in his contract, and finding that he excelled therein, the committee recommends that the board authorizes the award for his performance compensation in the amount of \$25,000," Rodio said. "In furthermore that the board authorizes the chairman to negotiate and execute a consulting agreement with the executive director on mutually acceptable terms."

The motion carried unanimously.

In June 2017, RIRRC announced Reposa's selection — following "an extensive six-month search" — as their new executive director, succeeding Mike OConnell who retired after holding the post for 10 years.

As Executive Director, Reposa was "responsible for all facets of Resource Recovery's operations, strategic direction, financial solvency, and long-term planning," according to RIRRC.

Around 9 a.m., the rest of the RIRRC Board of Commissioners filed into the room. North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi and former Johnston Department of Public Works (and current Johnston Charter Review Commission member) Arnold Vecchione arrived.

They were joined by ex-officio member Meredith Brady, Associate Director of Rhode Island's Division of Planning (Department of Administration) and vice chairman Geri-Ann DiPaolo of North Providence.

Following a public comment period, of which there was none, the RIRRC Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss two items: Reposa's "Annual Job Performance Review" and "Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct."

"Chairman, the director, as we discussed, has been notified of his right to have that meeting in open session and has not so elected," Rodio said before the vote.

"Duly noted," Sabitoni replied.

Public Session

Following the executive session, the RIRRC Board of Commissioners quickly moved through a list of nine action items, discussed spending more than \$4.2 million. The list of approvals included a new contract for "2024 Employee Insurance Benefits" (\$2,558,859.70) and a new "General Legal Services" contract (\$315,000).

Then the commission as a whole turned to Reposa's departure package (the "Executive Director Performance Compensation and Resignation and Consulting Agreement").

"So, the Governance Committee met this morning, they conducted a review in accordance with the director's contract. And discussed the upcoming transition related to that," Rodio informed the board members who don't sit on the governance committee. "Feelings were very strong that given the performance of the organization ... that the chair would be authorized to negotiate an interim to a consulting agreement to ensure that this upcoming transition period goes smoothly, and maintains the high performance of the organization under the director."

The commissioners then gave their approval to Repo-

sa's \$25,000 "performance compensation" payment and ongoing work as a consultant. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

The board then turned to a \$1,488,880.10 rebid for "Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Disposal" and an \$8,739,605.56 RFP for "North Slope Closure Turf."

RIRRC operates the state's Materials Recycling Facility, Leaf and Yard Compost, Eco-Depot, and the state's Central Landfill.

To conclude the meeting, the RIRRC Board of Commissioners started the appointment process of a "Search Committee" for the next executive director. They also named Luigi "Lou" Vergato as interim executive director.

Bosses, New & Old

Vergato, a Cranston native and current Connecticut resident who had worked as Reposa's second-in-command, said he hadn't decided whether to apply for his former boss's job.

"It should come as no surprise, given he's suited up today, my recommendation for an interim executive director and an acting deputy director ... is Lou Vergato," Reposa told the board. "Lou has been here a very long time, a lot longer certainly than me. Lou is currently the Chief Operating Officer (COO). He spans largely all of our operations, the vast majority of the employees report under Lou."

Reposa heaped praise on his temporary replacement. "He's remarkable at what he does," Reposa told the board. "He has a strong presence. Great business relationships ... He's a good relationship manager. I could go on, but I won't. He has everything you'd want in this acting role. I promoted him to the deputy director. And I'm recommending to the board that he is the acting director until further notice."

RIRRC is governed by their Board of Commissioners, which, at full complement, consists of nine members — eight from the general public (three must reside in Johnston) and the director of the RI Department of Administration (or their designee). According to RIRRC, the "commissioners serve until they are nominated for another term or are replaced."

Reposa reported to and was directly accountable to the board.

"On behalf of the board, and I want to say this in open session, what a pleasure it's been to work with you," Sabitoni told Reposa. "Where you brought this organization ... I can see the support of the staff, the morale of the staff ... It wasn't this way when I got here. And I think that's a testament, not only to you, but to Lou, and all of you on what you do day-in, day-out, wanting to come to work and working together. And look what we've been able to accomplish ... under your leadership."

Sabitoni put on his union hat for a moment.

"One thing Joe has always prided himself on, which I like as a labor guy, is his investment in each and every one of you, and his trust and his confidence in each every one of you to do your jobs every single day and help each other to make things better around here," he told the audience, Reposa and fellow board members. "And that's the true essence of a leader, and you've been a hell of a leader in this organization. So, on behalf of the board, I just wanted to say thank you. We wish you the best."

"Thank you," Reposa replied.

"I'm really pleased that we'll be able to still have you around, because of your institutional knowledge, your knowledge of the business, in a different arrangement," Sabitoni added. "And I know Lou ... is pleased as well to have you there as a consultant as we make this transition to the next chapter of the organization."

The room, which was packed with RIRRC employees, offered Reposa a solid round of applause.

Vergato thanked the board for their confidence and assured them he'd give the post "100 percent ... every day ... (working) hard making sure the corporation stays on its track."

"And it wouldn't be possible without everybody in this room and everybody who works for the corporation," Vergato said. "This team that we've assembled is the best — absolutely the best. And they really do the work here."

The room full of RIRRC board and employees offered another booming round of applause for their new (interim) executive director.



NEW DIRECTOR: The RIRRC Board of Commissioners named Luigi "Lou" Vergato as interim executive director. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Advertise

today!

Call 732-3100

WANTED

Junk/unwanted vehicles
Call Anytime
Top \$ Paid
You Call, We Haul!

401-451-8520

GOULIN STORAGE

STORAGE CONTAINERS FOR RENT

Stationary at our Johnston location
or mobile at your location
for a monthly rental fee.

401.837.0048 or 401.626-8737

Call for our
pricing & incentive
programs
for long term use.

VERY COMPETITIVE RATES, FAST, RELIABLE COURTEOUS SERVICE



YARD DEBRIS,
JUNK REMOVAL and MORE!

10, 15, 20 & 30 yard containers placed at your location

Call for pricing and availability.

401.626.8737 or 401.837.0048

NOW HIRING

Sign on bonus!



Affordable Care For Your Loved One

Helping Hearts 67 Sandy Bottom Road, Coventry, RI 02816



401-773-7783 • 401-773-7795 (Fax)

www.helpingheartshomecare.org



James A. Diossa

Rhode Island General Treasurer

CollegeBound Saver

Discover the
smart way to
save for the
future

CollegeBoundSaver.com

CollegeBound Saver is a program of the office of
Rhode Island General Treasurer, James A. Diossa.

Rewriting the
Rules of
Retirement

Longbridge
Financial, LLC

Retirement comes with more time for
the things you love. A reverse mortgage
can help you fund them.

- ✓ Pay off your existing mortgage to eliminate monthly payments¹
- ✓ Get additional income tax-free cash to use for what matters most²
- ✓ Continue to own your home just like a traditional mortgage



Contact Carol Miller, your local
Reverse Mortgage Specialist.

(401) 406-1247 (Cell)

carol.miller@longbridge-financial.com

1. Property taxes, homeowners' insurance, and home maintenance required. The home must be your primary residence.
2. Consult a financial advisor and appropriate government agencies for any effect on taxes or government benefits.
Branch Office: 1 International Blvd, Suite 900 Mahwah, NJ 07495. NMLS #957935. Licensed by Rhode Island Third Party
Loan Servicer License 20193879LS, Rhode Island Lender License 20153084LL, MA Debt Collector License DC957935,
Mortgage Lender License, with reverse mortgage authority ML 957935.



AGING DISGRACEFULLY
 STARRING DOREEN COLLINS & CHARLIE HALL

the blue room

**THIS FRIDAY
 December 15**

Show time 6:30
 Tickets \$25

2197 Broad Street
 Pawtuxet Village
 Cranston

For Reservations and More Info... agingdisgracefully.net

Brilliant Basement Waterproofing, LLC

Over 36 Years Combined Experience
 Egress Windows, Foundation Repair,
 Crack Sealing, Sump Pumps,
 Pumps Eliminated in Most Homes,
 Yard Drainage

HIC: 0653192 • RI Lic. #43473
 CALL US
401-541-5985

www.brilliantbasementwaterproofing.com

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

A	P	E	A	D	P	A	C	T												
W	A	X	P	A	L	P	A	C												
S	T	I	C	H	P	R	O	P	S	H	A	W								
L	I	N	K	A	G	E	P	L	A	C	A	T	E							
R	E	G	A	L	I	A	P	A	R	A	D	E	D							
F	I	N	E	S	S	E	D	E	L	E	T	E	S							
O	C	A																		
N	E	B	U	L	A	S	P	A	S	S	A	G	E							
P	A	D	D	I	E	S	B	O	M	I	N	G	O							
P	H	R	A	S	E	S	E	M	B	R	O	I	L							
B	A	I	T	S	I	A	R	A	R	E	N	A								
A	D	Z	E	R	Y	D	D	S												

**YOUR AD
 COULD BE HERE**

For more info, call
732-3100

Johnston School Committee approves body-worn cameras for police SROs

By RORY SCHULER

The Johnston School Committee voted unanimously to approve a proposal by Johnston Police Department to equip officers in schools with body-worn cameras.

"A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Johnston School Department and Police Department, pertaining to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program, is on the agenda for tonight's school committee meeting," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said Tuesday afternoon. "The MOU also serves as an agreement between the police department and the school district addressing the use of body worn cameras (BWC) by the SRO's. Essentially, SRO's will only be required to activate their BWC while in the performance of official police duties involving investigative or enforcement actions consistent with the department's BWC policy."

School solicitor William Conley Jr. told the School Committee Tuesday night, during their regular monthly meeting, that he had reviewed the MOU and had no objections.

"The BWC's will not be turned on and recording during the regular course of the school day," assured Vieira. "Furthermore, SRO BWC footage will not be used to support school disciplinary matters that do not constitute violations of the law."

The topic stirred little public discussion at Tuesday night's meeting.

"As you know the Johnston School Committee approved an MOU with the Johnston Police Department which in-

cluded agreement on the Resource Officers wearing body cameras," DiLullo said via email Wednesday morning. "This is an important action as it will help to eliminate any question of how situations play out when a resource officer is involved."

Since practically everyone carries a miniature recording device with them at all times (their smartphones), the body-worn SRO cameras will be used to capture the officer's perspective.

"As we know, students are recording in schools and when those videos are posted, they don't always show the complete recording of any concerning interactions," DiLullo wrote. "The use of body cameras will protect students and our resource officers from false claims against them. It will give us an accurate picture of interactions when our officers are involved with students. I appreciate the Johnston Police Department's willingness to participate in this program as they are an integral part of our school community and we honor their integrity and service."

In September, two Johnston High School students were arrested following an alleged assault on the school's police department-assigned Resource Officer.

According to Vieira in September, "two disorderly students were placed under arrest."

No injuries were reported and the Resource Officer stayed on the JHS beat.

"The school resource officer and the involved juveniles did not sustain any injuries," Vieira said in September. "The SRO was never out of work due to this incident."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER

13	14																				
19																					
23																					
27	28	29																			
34																					
36																					
47	48	49																			
54																					
56																					

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: ___ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state

- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory

- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. ___ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. ___ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil ___, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

More at Mohr Library

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

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 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.

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.

The Children's Library always has drop-in, self-directed activities for kids and families like crafts and scavenger hunts.

There is an ongoing book sale in the lower level, whenever we are open.

Mohr Library's Book Sale is expanded with our entire inventory made available in the meeting room from noon on Monday, Dec. 18 through Saturday, Dec. 23. It will include many older classics, nearly-new-condition hardcovers, blu-rays, ex-library books and donated material. Hardcover for adults are \$1 and children's books are 50 cents.

Programs for school vacation week, for ages 3 and up with a caregiver, include New Year's Crafts on Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Yoga for school-age students ages 5 and up with a caregiver, Thursday, Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m. (bring a mat and towel). Ages 5 and up with a caregiver can drop in to do a science project on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 5 to 6 p.m., and an art project on Friday, Dec. 29 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. I-Spy boards and Scavenger Hunts are available for children whenever the library is open.

The library will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that PODS ENTERPRISES, LLC, located at 185 Compass Circle, North Kingstown, RI 02852, will sell or otherwise dispose of the contents of containers belonging to certain customers that owe PODS rent if payment is not received by December 31, 2023. Auction will be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com starting on January 17, 2024 and ending at 10 AM on January 24, 2024. The following individuals and the respective amounts owed are as follows: Jolon Oconnor & \$1,805.55.

KINDNESS
always
COMES BACK

cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center

Opinion

EDITORIAL

An unprecedented infrastructural crisis

Not in decades, and perhaps never like this before, has the state received such a sudden, dire reminder of the importance of our local infrastructure, and keeping up with the difficult process of maintaining it.

We have been complimentary of RIDOT's efforts to renew, repair, and rebuild our most laggard roads and bridges throughout the past few years, and it is certainly no simple or straightforward endeavor, but the emergency closing of the Washington Bridge on Monday evening provided a stark and drastic reminder of how previous generations of Rhode Island leaders failed in their charged duties to ensure the structures we depend on every single day are safe, and up to standards.

Certainly, it is worth pointing out that RIDOT identified the potentially disastrous flaw in the bridge and shut it down before anybody was hurt. But this is more of a lucky blessing brought on by nothing more than good fortune, as the physical state of the portion of bridge in question could have reasonably failed at any point in the past months before being spotted. The rapidity with which the bridge was shut down, clearly with no real plan about what to do with the resulting delays it would cause, is clear evidence of that.

In the coming days and weeks, Rhode Island's leaders will be tested in their ability to make quick decisions and take decisive action to prevent unnecessary loss of life from people on the East Bay and Aquidneck Island who rely on being able to access the hospitals west of the Washington Bridge. The DOT director said on a radio program Tuesday morning that a special emergency route could be opened (potentially as soon as you are reading this column) on a supposedly safe portion of the bridge to allow emergency vehicles to bypass the detour that gridlocked all of East Providence and the surrounding area and turned a 20-minute commute into a two-hour one. We hope that will prove to be true.

But for the regular commuter going from Cranston to Bristol, or Warwick to Warren, or Coventry to East Providence, this infrastructural crisis will have a significant impact on their day-to-day life in the form of unsustainable traffic delays and time wasted. Businesses will likely require financial assistance similar to what we experienced during Covid to weather the storm this crisis will have on their bottom lines in the midst of the busiest shopping season of the year. Employers will have to regain muscle memory on allowing for remote work, as it may not physically be feasible for workers to get into an office remotely on time for the foreseeable future, unless the state is able to work on creating alternate travel routes that actually make a marked difference in the vehicular congestion.

The coming weeks and months will showcase whether our current leaders are up to the task of responding to a legitimate crisis, one that should once and for all end any bickering the public has about ponying up the required money to maintain the roads and bridges that we depend on for our lives, and livelihoods.

NO, I'M SORRY, I CAN'T REPAIR 195 WEST FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS. HOW 'BOUT A SLINKY?



LETTER

'Is there a fox in the henhouse?'

To the editor,

As a third generation resident of the Town of Johnston, I am writing as I am deeply concerned about the proposed solar development in the West End.

I have attended many zoning board meetings, but none more important than the ones regarding the proposed Industrial Solar Development on Winsor Avenue.

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

After listening to hours of presentation by the representatives for Green Development and the presentation by Matt Landry, the attorney for the residents, along with his expert witnesses, it appears that this has been allowed to be brought before the board before it is legal to do so.

How did the powers that be allow this? The waiting period for a denied application is two years. The changes made to this application were not significant and should not be before the board.

When are the backdoor politics going to stop in this town? Is there a fox in the henhouse? Resident involvement is more than crucial at this time to ensure that those who have been put into positions of power do what is good for the whole of the town, not just special interests. Whomever was responsible for bringing this forward should be held accountable.

Sincerely,

Thomas K Chadwick, of Johnston

GUEST OPINION

Rhode Island's fight against mental illness

By MADISON SCUNCIO

In the heart of the Ocean State, where waves crash against the shore and the beauty of Rhode Island surrounds us, there is a battle underway. It is not on the streets, but within the minds and hearts of our fellow Rhode Islanders.

Mental illness affects us all, directly, or indirectly. No matter what age or gender, you could be a victim of mental illness. But here in Rhode Island we are coming together to fight back. We are standing up to this darkness that can sometimes cloud the light of our lives.

We have learned that the first step in this fight is to reach out. You are never alone. We are all human at the end of the day and have our own flaws. This is okay. You do not have to carry this burden by yourself. There is hope and there is help and a community that cares.

Rhode Island has an incredible network of compassionate individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting those battling mental illness. 988 is Rhode Island's suicide and crisis lifeline. The number "988" is the intended three-digit emergency number for mental health and suicide crisis intervention services in the United States, similar to how "911" is used for general emergencies. Here at 988, we are here for you 24/7 just one call away. A call could save a life, even if you just need someone to talk to, we are here for you. Connect with people you can trust.

Along with 988 ties in their BH Link. This is a behav-

ioral health service for individuals who live in Rhode Island. It's mission is to ensure that all adults over the age of 18 experiencing mental health and substance abuse receive the right treatment and help as soon as possible. The BH Link is a triage center where you can walk in/ drop off patients that need help immediately. Here they stabilize patients in an environment that is suitable for the recovery that their patients need. People may not feel as though they are receiving help through telecommunication and would rather gain in-person treatment. This is why this location was created. Here at BH Link we connect with people through a team of professionals including registered nurses, counselors, psychiatrists, phone screeners, and peer specialists. Our staff listens to their clients concerns and take the necessary steps needed to help people throughout their crises and help make connections to longer term services if needed.

Join us in Rhode Island's fight against mental illness. Together, we can bring light to the darkness and defeat this issue once and for all. We are here to restore hope to those that have lost it and strength to those that need it. Because here in Rhode Island, we stand together and together, we are unstoppable.

Editor's Note: Madison Scuncio, a Johnston resident and student at Johnson and Wales University is an intern with Horizon Healthcare Partners, a nonprofit organization with a suicide hotline accessible for all RI residents.



Publisher John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com	Circulation Leslie Paz
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella - Donna.Z@rhodybeat.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
Editor Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com	Bookkeeping Leslie Paz
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Journalists Pete Fontaine	Production Staff Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com
Advertising Representative Christine Peabody - ChrisP@rhodybeat.com	Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com
Classified Advertising Ida Zecco - Classifieds@rhodybeat.com	Tel: 401-732-3100 Fax: 401-732-3110

All advertising and editorial material in whole or in part designed and/or composed by Beacon Communications is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without express permission of the publisher. Beacon Communications shall not be liable for errors and omissions in or failure to insert any advertisement for which it may be responsible beyond the cost of actual space occupied by the item in which error or failure to insert occurred. Beacon Communications is a member of the New England Press Association, The Rhode Island Newspaper Group and The North Central Chamber of Commerce. Johnston Sun Rise is owned and operated by Beacon Communications. Editorial offices are located at 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889. Paid subscriptions are available for \$74 per year. Web site: www.johnstonsunrise.net

OCEAN STATE NEWS

CLOGGED ARTERY

RIDOT Director Peter Alviti: Highway bridge deficiency fix 'like building a parachute as you jump out of a plane'

Nameless 'young engineer' credited with alerting team about broken steel pin that put bridge at risk of collapse

By CHRISTOPHER SHEA
RHODE ISLAND CURRENT

As gridlock overwhelmed the streets of East Providence Tuesday, Gov. Dan McKee stopped short of declaring a state of emergency after the discovery of broken steel pins in the Washington Bridge mid-section necessitated the sudden closure of I-195 westbound.

But as McKee and members of his cabinet spoke to reporters at a press conference at Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) headquarters, the state's congressional delegation was already moving to ask for federal aid to make emergency repairs to the bridge that carries over 96,000 vehicles a day over the Seekonk River.

"That's a serious matter, declaring an emergency, there's got to be a reason for it," McKee said. "We haven't even been 24 hours yet."

Westbound highway traffic was detoured off I-195 during the Monday afternoon commute after engineers discovered a critical structural failure that increased the risk of collapse. RIDOT Director Peter Alviti Jr. told reporters that the bridge appeared to be structurally sound when it was last inspected in July — not two months ago as he initially stated on Monday. Alviti apologized for the discrepancy.

"That information is coming to me fast and furious during this process, so there was a bit of confusion as to when it was," he said of the last inspection.

State officials say they still expect it to take two weeks to split the eastbound side of the bridge for two-way traffic and at least three months before the westbound part can be reopened.

McKee said the state is working with U.S. Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse and Reps. Seth Magaziner and Gabe Amo and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on a strategy for accelerating the emergency repairs.

"We'll see if it makes sense in terms of the recovery that we need," McKee said of seeking an emergency declaration. "We'll address that in a timely way if in fact we need to do it. But if we can get the resources that we need just by conventionally going through procedures, that makes the most sense."

For their part, Rhode Island's congressional delegation sent a letter to Secretary Buttigieg to discuss ways to speed up the repairs. They also requested the Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation inspector general evaluate the adequacy of the state's bridge inspections and work with RIDOT to identify obsolete infrastructure.

Cost estimates for the repairs will be available for the bridge repair work in the next few days, Alviti said. "This is like building a parachute as you jump out of a plane," he added.

In the meantime, the public was measuring the state's response to the emergency closure of the highway in lost time. Social media posts from frustrated morning commuters included one whose 10-mile trip from East Providence into Providence turned into two hours. Others reported giving up and going back home after spending hours in a fruitless effort to go to work.

East Providence Mayor Bob DaSilva announced on X a 12:45 p.m. early dismissal at the city's high school and a 2 p.m. release for middle school students in order to keep elementary students dismissal at the regular time of 3 p.m. After

the press conference, DaSilva posted that the city's schools would move to distance learning on Wednesday.

Once 'worst bridges in the country'

After he took over RIDOT seven years ago, Alviti launched a bridge inspection program that found 27% of the state's bridges were structurally deficient. Since then, the state has fixed over 300 bridges.

"We had the worst bridges in the country," Alviti said. "What took decades to get us into the serious condition we're in now is going to take some time for us to work our way out."

While many complain about traffic delays caused by so much ongoing bridge repair work at the same time, Alviti said the state is trying to "keep ahead of any failures that may occur in that inventory of bridges that we found to be in a state of disrepair."

The broken steel pin was discovered Friday, Dec. 8, by "a young engineer" working on the \$78 million Washington Bridge reconstruction project who then notified his boss, setting in motion a chain of events that led to a weekend assessment and a report submitted to Alviti Monday.

Alviti told reporters he met the engineer for the first time Tuesday morning but could not remember his name.

"He is to be commended," Alviti said.

The broken steel pin was among eight anchoring the end of a cantilever beam down to the structure below, Alviti said. The pins are about 1 1/2- to 2- feet long and 1 3/4-inch diameter.

"They're a critical component of this old style of construction, not a style that we're using any longer, but it's been there since 1968," he said. "If one pin becomes deficient, then it can have a compounding effect on the other pins in the bridge, and that's what happened in this case."

The state has already initiated the logistics to have new pins manufactured and put in place, Alviti said. A design-build team consisting of Barletta Heavy Division, Aetna Bridge Company, and VHB will help expedite the emergency repair process.

"The fact is that we averted a major catastrophe here," Alviti said.

"The system and the checks and balances we had in place — and the command and control management that the governor has put in place in our department, and in the other agencies — actually worked this time. Where many other locations throughout the country actually had to experience the worst catastrophe — the loss of human life — that was averted here through a good command and control structure."

Why was Alviti the messenger?

McKee told reporters Buttigieg "was very, very complimentary of our leadership team here for addressing the problem before it happened."

But many were not so happy with McKee's leadership late Monday when Alviti alone delivered the bad news about the highway's closure at a hastily called press conference when earlier McKee had posted about grabbing a slice at a Providence pizzeria. When a reporter asked why McKee was not present, Alviti replied: "It's my job."

McKee spokesperson Andrea Palagi told Rhode Island Current the governor did not appear at the initial conference because "his number one priority was letting the experts and engineers at DOT do their job."



CLOGGED ARTERY: Westbound afternoon traffic is backed up on I-195 at Exit 2B (Route 114) at around 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023. (Rhode Island Department of Transportation Traffic Camera)

"The goal was public safety and getting information out to the public as rush hour was approaching," Palagi said. "And that was achieved."

McKee and Alviti visited the Washington Bridge site Tuesday morning to meet with the chief bridge engineer to survey the damage firsthand and inspect the condition of the bridge.

McKee compared the situation to the recent removal of the Independent Man from the top of the Rhode Island State House after cracks were discovered in the statue's marble dome perch during an inspection.

"They were doing their work inspecting properly — and now they discovered a flaw," he said. "It's the same scenario here."

Emergency lanes options

Few changes were announced to detours RIDOT posted on Monday, but there was one notable addition. One westbound lane on the bridge would remain accessible for emergency vehicles from the East Bay reach hospitals in Providence.

RIDOT spokesperson Charles St. Martin clarified that drivers will use two of the left lanes, but have to navigate around different barriers. He added that local police will be responsible for allowing emergency vehicles on that portion of the highway.

Fire trucks will still have to use local detours.

"We cannot use it for heavier vehicles," Alviti said.

Buses also can't use the emergency

lane, but Alviti said RIDOT's transit team is working with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to increase services and encourage more commuters to not travel by car.

Alviti said "all options are on the table," including free bus service — something the city of Los Angeles did last month after one of its highways was closed.

"We're open and looking at many, many ideas from various sources," Alviti said.

The bus agency will detour Routes 24, 35, 60, 61, and 78 — all of which normally rely on the Washington Bridge to get to Kennedy Plaza, RIPTA spokesperson Cristy Raposo-Perry said in an email.

The agency also expects delays to routes 32, 33, and 34, which go on the Henderson Bridge motorists are now using as a detour into Providence.

"We are coordinating with RIDOT and other community leaders to identify the most effective course of action that minimizes disruption to RIPTA service," Raposo-Perry said.

Alviti said state employees have also spoken to a ferry owner who may be able to provide service to up to 250 people per ferry from Bristol to Providence.

Editor's Note: Christopher Shea covers politics, the criminal justice system and transportation for the Rhode Island Current. Current Editor-in-Chief Janine L. Weisman contributed to this story. Go to rhodeislandcurrent.com for more stories from the nonprofit states newsroom organization.

Hospitals' advisory for patients, staff

Southcoast Health: "We are working closely with Massachusetts and Rhode Island state officials as well as hospitals across the region to ensure patients have access to the care they need. We anticipate most emergency cases diverted away from Providence will go to Charlton Memorial, with trauma cases directed to the Level II Adult Trauma Center at St. Luke's Hospital." — **Kaitlin Johnson, spokesperson**

Lifespan: "Based on the initial traffic interruptions from the I-195 westbound bridge lane closure, anyone coming to a Lifespan hospital or facility in the Providence or East Providence area should expect significant travel delays. We strongly advise that patients use a GPS or other mapping program to plan their route and departure time to minimize the risk of missed appointments. As indicated by state officials today, an emergency lane on the closed portion of I-195 has been dedicated for use by ambulances and EMS vehicles to ensure no delays in transporting patients on that section of roadway. We have posted an alert on our website, www.lifespan.org, for the public to easily access related operational changes, and will continue to update it as information becomes available." — **Kathleen Hart, spokesperson**



THE NEXT DAY: Gov. Dan McKee, shown at the podium on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, has not yet declared a state of emergency over Monday's sudden closure of the westbound lanes of I-195 on the Washington Bridge, saying the state is still consulting with federal officials. Left to right are Secretary of Commerce Liz Tanner, Rhode Island State Police Superintendent Darnell Weaver, Emergency Management Agency Director Marc Pappas and Department of Transportation Director Peter Alviti Jr. (Christopher Shea/Rhode Island Current)

THE RIDICULOUS REINDEER WRANGLER



The Snowman Showman Returns

By RORY SCHULER

Gary Marandola limps around his front yard these days. A knee replacement and subsequent fall in some puppy puke slowed him down, but didn't stop him.

Marandola lives on Atwood Avenue, in a quaint home awash in the glow of more than 50,000 tiny light-bulbs and a couple gargantuan inflatables.

He and his wife breed Shih Tzu's — they've currently got 20 little mops running around their living room. He loves to stand in his doorway, watching out through his clear glass front door, the mini-mutts yapping at his heels, as light-peepers pull up and stop outside his home.

"They do that all the time," Marandola said Tuesday night. "I love when people stop to look."

For years, the Johnston man has been adding to his front lawn holiday spectacle.

Last year, he added a new giant "pièce de résistance" — a 20-foot-high inflatable snowman. This year, he gave Frosty some company. His 20-foot-tall Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer could guide a Boeing 747 to your rooftop on Christmas Eve.

Editor's Note: The Johnston Sun Rise would like to publish photos from the best light displays around town. If you or your neighbor has gone all out, please shoot a photo and send it to the Sun Rise. You can send it via Facebook, or email the Sun Rise Editor, Rory Schuler, at rorys@rhodybeat.com. If we get enough entries, we'll devote a few pages to them in print.



WELL LIT DUO: Gary Marandola, left, lives at 1756 Atwood Ave. He and his neighbor Adam Genest (1754 Atwood) have a healthy holiday lawn competition. Gary's been at it for years. He and Adam help each other wrangle the inflatables when the winds pick up. They encourage visitors to stop by and check out their displays. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Jennifer Coates, business spotlight writer

Wishing you the happiest of holidays

By JENNIFER COATES

It was once written that the soul of civic life in a state's towns and villages is the local newspaper. Residents refer to these newspapers to keep a finger on the pulse of their communities. They go to find answers to questions about local politics and to learn what's going on in the schools, the city council meetings, the town hall, the senior and community centers. They go to see photographs of their sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters as they score that goal, earn that Eagle Scout award, make their way to the Honor's list, show off the huge fish they caught, graduate from college. They go to learn of loved ones passed.

Readers also go to find the latest information on upcoming events, promotions or services provided by their favorite businesses ~ from restaurants to tradesmen to salons to repair shops to childcare ~ the list goes on and on. Just pick up any newspaper and you will find something about your neighborhood business that you will find useful and timely.

The truth is, we need our local businesses as much as we need the local newspapers that tell their stories and survive on their advertising dollars. The newspapers may be the soul of the city, but businesses are the heart. Supporting these businesses is as critical to the survival of our communities as the heart is to the life of a person.

As the business spotlight writer for the Johnston SunRise, I have had the privilege of interviewing the owners of these businesses for the past twelve years. It has been an enormous privilege to tell their stories and to share their goals, aspirations, and histories.

I have learned that these businessmen and women, whose walks in life are each so different, genuinely love what they do. Most have invested their every penny into their product or service. Most have sacrificed everything to be successful,



Jennifer Coates has been writing business spotlights for local businesses for over twelve years. Call sales representative Chris Peabody at 401-732-3100 at Beacon Communications to have your story told!

and many have survived natural disasters and even pandemics. Many of these businesses have been run by generations of family members.

Yet many have also failed, and I have felt that pang of sorrow when I drive by their shuttered stores or offices, knowing that what was lost was so much more than a business, but rather a dream ~ sometimes a lifetime of dreams.

What will keep the dreams and goals of these many diverse business owners alive is your continued patronage. Shop at your local stores. Support your local, family-run restaurants, salons, service stations, retail stores, gift shops, electricians, plumbers, doctors, dry cleaners, and so many more. They need you to stay alive. We need them to thrive.

SCOOP OF THE WEEK

SPIRIT OF HOPE CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH THOSE IN NEED!

JOIN US AND LEARN HOW PEOPLE LIVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING AT 9:00AM
134 MATHEWSON STREET. CHURCH

- 50 RESCUE KITS WILL BE ISSUED
- HOT CHOCOLATE AND DONUTS
- DONATED WINTER COATES, SHOES, ETC.
- CHRISTMAS MUSIC, NEWS MEDIA
- RELIGIOUS MATERIALS

GET YOUR KIT TICKET FROM THE CHURCH

CONTACT SPIRIT OF HOPE WITH YOUR DONATIONS

FEDERAL EIN 842419083

Dec. 24 Spirit of Hope seeks volunteers

Nonprofit Johnston-based Spirit of Hope will be celebrating Christmas with "those in need," according to Founder Louis J. Spremulli. He urges volunteers with holiday spirit turn out and "join us and learn how people live."

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve morning, Spirit of Hope will gather at Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, 134 Mathewson St., Providence, to hand out 50 rescue kits to fellow citizens who need a helping hand this year. There will be hot chocolate and donates. The organization will be donating "winter coats, shoes, etc.," according to Spremulli.

Contact Spremulli by email at lspremul1@gmail.com. Let him know if you can contribute a donation or have any questions.

"Get your kit ticket from the church," Spremulli wrote on a flyer for the event. "Contact Spirit of Hope with your donations."

Dec. 15 Students say goodbye to fall at the Winter Ball

By KAYLEE POOLE
Special to the Sun Rise

Johnston High School is having its annual Winter Ball on Friday, Dec. 15.

This event has been going on for many years. JHS Student Council has been working tirelessly to plan and execute this event.

This year, the Winter Ball will be held at the Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

The pictures will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and then the doors open at 7:30. Dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

The rest of the night will be filled with dancing and fun.

Editor's Note: Kaylee Poole serves as the Johnston High School Senior Class Representative. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by Johnston High Student Council.

FULL & PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Dreamland Learning Center
280-1400
1253 Hartford Ave.
Johnston, RI 02919

NOW ENROLLING
6 Weeks - 12 Years Old

THE PRESERVE AT BRIARCLIFFE
Supportive Independent and Assisted Living

BRIARCLIFFE

CALL 401.944.2450 TO SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR

Convenient to US Hwy 6 and I-295 in Johnston, RI
54 Old Pocasset Road | briarclifferi.com

★ Lowest \$ In Town ★

New State-of-the-Art Equipment - Same Old Prices!

WASH • DRY • FOLD Drop Off Service
only 89¢ per lb.
Includes Softener, Bleach, Soap & Hangers
Same Day Service

Jain's Laundry
Plaza 44 • 39 Putnam Pike • Johnston • 231-7019
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm; Sat. & Sun. 7am-8pm

Advertise your business in our LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Be part of the LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT and get the word out about your business with a feature story and photo for one week during your 6-week advertising commitment...

All for just \$44/week! (6-week commitment) (Includes story & photo on our website)

Call Today 732-3100

Obituaries

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

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

- Thank you

SUN RISE SCOOPS

Dec. 15

Elks Essay Contest Deadline

The Smithfield Elks Lodge No. 2359 announced its annual Elks Americanism essay contest for fifth through eighth grade students. This year's theme is "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me."

The essay should not exceed 300 words, and must be typed or written legibly in ink. Students residing in Smithfield, Foster, Glocester, Scituate, Johnston or North Providence are encouraged to apply. The entrant must submit the essay no later than Dec. 15, 2023 to the Smithfield Lodge of Elks No. 2359, 326 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, or it can be emailed to the Lodge Americanism Chairperson.

Essays will be judged in originality, development of theme, mechanics, and neatness.

There are four divisions for judging essays: Division I – 5th grade; Division II – 6th grade; Division III – 7th grade; and Division IV – 8th grade. First, second, and third place winners in each division will move onto the district competition in January, and those winners will move onto the state competition in February. State winners will be sent to the Elks Grand Lodge in March. The first, second, and third place national winners will be selected and announced in July, 2024.

All entrants are required to submit a cover sheet which must be attached to the essay. More information and cover sheets can be obtained by contacting the Lodge Americanism Chairperson, Kristin Sullivan at kristin_sullivan@me.com.

Through Dec. 22 Operation Santa Paws

Morgan Rehab supports animal shelters with "Operation Santa Paws." Morgan Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Johnston, where residents often benefit from animal-assisted therapy visits, recently launched "Operation Santa Paws" to collect pet supplies and donate them to a local animal shelter.

Through Dec. 22, the skilled nursing facility at 80 Morgan Ave. welcomes donated items such as blankets and towels, dog and cat beds, unopened pet food/treats, pet toys, grooming products, collars and leashes, and food/water bowls.

Therapy animals play a vital role in long-term care residents' lives, particularly those living with dementia and Alzheimer's. Benefits of animal therapy for seniors include emotional uplift, increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced risk of depression and anxiety. For more information, visit MorganRehab.com.

Dec. 13 Book Launch

Rhonda Chadwick, author of Secrets from the Stacks: an archivist reveals how to store, digitize, and preserve documents to create a family archive and leave a personal legacy, is holding a book launch on Wed., Dec. 13, at the Johnston Historical Society, 101 Putnam Pike (Route 44), Johnston, RI from 6 to 8 p.m. Books will be available for purchase at the event signed by the author.

Dec. 13 – 14 Special Olympics RI Auction

An on-line event is taking place during this holiday season with Special Olympics Rhode Island's annual Holiday Auction allowing shoppers to find the perfect gifts from the comfort of their home while making a meaningful impact! The auction runs from Thurs., Dec. 7, starting at 9 a.m., through Thurs., Dec. 14, at 9 a.m. Bid on diverse items such as Boston Red Sox tickets, an autographed Boston Bruins jersey, tickets to Ballet RI's "The Nutcracker," a two-night getaway to Margaritaville Resort Times Square, restaurant experiences and more. Bids will support the transformative programs offered by Special Olympics Rhode Island. To par-

ticipate in the auction, visit <https://bforg.com/sori> starting December 7 – the go-live date. For those interested in donating items or gift certificates, please call Special Olympics Rhode Island at (401) 349-4900.

Jan. 1

48th Penguin Plunge

Registration is Open for New Year's Day event, the longest running New Year's Day Plunge in Rhode Island. Embrace the invigorating spirit of the New Year by taking the plunge, quite literally, into Special Olympics Rhode Island's 48th annual Penguin Plunge at Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett! Join the fun on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1, to make a splash for a cause that truly warms the heart – supporting the athletes of Special Olympics Rhode Island. The main plunge kicks off at 12 noon and a family-friendly plunge at 12:30 p.m. Your participation or donation will not only kick off 2024 with a memorable experience but also contribute to a brighter future for these athletes, empowering them to achieve their dreams. Registration is \$25 and additional fundraising is encouraged. Those who pre-register and raise a minimum of \$50 will receive a fun, official t-shirt. To participate in the Penguin Plunge or support a daring individual or team, visit them online.

Volunteer with NAMI-RI

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) is currently seeking volunteers to facilitate our family programs in 2024. Free training is required and available for interested persons who have a loved one struggling with mental health issues. Together with our grassroots volunteers, we work every day to provide help and hope to millions of Americans. Volunteers are essential to the work that we do at NAMI Rhode Island, and we are always seeking enthusiastic people to help us achieve our mission. For more information about our family programs and volunteer training, email beth@namirhodeisland.org, call the NAMI-RI office 401-331-3060 or visit our website at namirhodeisland.org.

Soul of '71 Scholarship Fund

In 2021, the Johnston High School Class of 1971 established The Soul of 1971 Scholarship Fund at The Rhode Island Foundation. The Class of '71 is the first class in the history of the Johnston School System to establish a permanent Fund. The Fund currently stands at \$23,031. Scholarships have been awarded in 2022 and 2023 to deserving JHS seniors. For additional information or to make a donation, contact Harold J. Hemberger at hembergerharold@gmail.com. All funds on deposit are managed by The Rhode Island Foundation.

Help OSDRI restock

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

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

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

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

Smith Reglazing Company LLC
 Tub & Tile Refinishing
401-935-4496
LSmith@smithreglazing.com
smithreglazing.com
 Licensed and Insured #45582

Jingle Bell Bazaar
December 16
10am-4pm
 Raffles • Crafts • Goodies
 Kids Activities
JOHNSTON SENIOR CENTER
 1291 Hartford Ave. • Johnston, RI
Bring A Non-Perishable Food Donation
And Get 1 FREE Raffle Ticket

Everyone Loves Surprises...

DON'T LET A FULL SEPTIC TANK BE YOURS!

CALL TODAY! **Friendly SEPTIC**

www.FriendlySeptic.com 732-3234

UNITY

As your friends and family come together for the holidays, this is the gift they'll all agree on.

Stop by any branch to purchase your Visa® gift cards.

Navigant CREDIT UNION

*Visa is a trademark owned by Visa International Association and used under license. Fees may apply. Navigant Credit Union is federally insured by NCUA.

Unified

(Continued from page 1)

transformative power of inclusion. It's a privilege to be part of this program and to contribute to the positive change that these students are bringing to their community."

According to school staff, the day was "a heartwarming celebration of unity and inclusion" at Johnston Senior High School.

Nearly 20 executives and staff members from Hasbro, including Chairman Emeritus, Former CEO and Member of Hasbro's Founding Family, Alan Hassenfeld, were expected to attend.

"The meaningful occasion (included) the participants engaging in an afternoon of shared activities, including unified basketball and an array of Hasbro games, on Hasbro's annual company-wide day of service, the Global Day of Joy," according to a Johnston schools press release. "The 'Unified Panther Experience' event, which includes Special Olympics Rhode Island President and CEO Ed Pacheco, extends beyond the joy of play; it serves as an opportunity to recognize the students of Johnston Public School District for their unwavering commitment to inclusion."

Four Johnston public school earned a spot in Special Olympics' Class of 2023 National Banner Unified Champion Schools earlier this year.

"To earn this recognition, each school had to meet 10 standards of excellence as

determined by Special Olympics North America, focusing on Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole-school engagement," according to Johnston schools. "These initiatives bring together students with and without intellectual disabilities."

The day included a speaking ceremony and lunch (Hasbro staff enjoy lunch with students from Ferri Middle School's and Johnston Senior High Schools' Unified Basketball Teams), a Unified Basketball Game (the Hasbro staff played unified basketball with students from Ferri Middle School's and Johnston Senior High Schools' Unified Basketball Teams), and Hasbro staff members played board games with the elementary school "life skills" classrooms and partners.

"Thank you to Hasbro and Special Olympics for recognizing our students for their initiative on inclusion for all," Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. said Tuesday night at the regular monthly School Committee meeting. "The event began with lunch then a basketball game between high school and middle school students and then Hasbro hosted a board game session with our elementary students."

DiLullo thanked some of the staff members who helped make the event a success.

"Thank you to the principals and their staff, Jerri Cantone and Mike Rozzero and their staff and Edda Carmadello and Justin Ericson for your support of our students and making this event so successful."



DAY OF JOY: HASBRO hosts a Day of Joy for the schools (Brown Ave, SD Barnes, Ferri Middle School, Johnston Senior High School) recently recognized as Unified Banner Champion Schools. (Photos courtesy Johnston Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Edda Carmadello)

TOYS FOR PANTHERS: HASBRO donated toys and games to every student who attended the event.



FRIENDLY COMPETITION: Students from Ferri Middle School and Johnston Senior High School took to the court for a friendly matchup.



UNIFIED EFFORT: Last Wednesday, Johnston Public Schools celebrated being committed to inclusion with Special Olympics & Hasbro as part of Hasbro's Global Day of Joy.

Favorite Fruits

ONLY \$24.99*
Special, limited-time offer!

SAVE 34%
Reg. Price \$37.99

Call 1-855-995-3715 to order item 291X or Visit HaleGroves.com/H4YH58
* Only \$24.99 (reg. \$37.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer. IC: H4YH58

AURORA FUEL CO.
SINCE 2007
Quality Fuel at a LOW Price!

Heating/AC Repair • Service • Cleanings
AC, Furnace, Boiler and Oil Tank Installation & Replacement
Automatic Delivery Available • Heating Assistance Vendor

CALL FOR LOWEST PRICE!

Aurora Fuel Heating & Air Conditioning
401-823-5996
www.aurorafuelri.com LIC#31

POWER UP FROM ANYWHERE

DURACELL®
M150 Portable Power Station

From Duracell, the #1 trusted battery brand, the M150 Portable Power Station enables you to work and have fun from anywhere.

ONLY \$199

Give the gift of portable power to friends and family this holiday season!*

portablepower.info/offer206

Laptop	Phone	Tablet
1 Charge	6 Charges	3 Charges

*Order by December 15th for Christmas delivery. Battery purchase does not include phone.



Holiday Shopping

SEASONS GREETINGS

from your local Travel Advisor!

Experience the Gift of Travel - where you can open new horizons, create priceless memories, and ignite your passion for exploration. Scan the QR code to see our groups!



CRUISE PLANNERS
YOUR CRUISE & VACATION EXPERTS



DON FUCHS & STEVE HAUNSCHILD
Travel Advisors
(401) 397-5515
info@smooth-sailings.com
CruisePlannersSmoothSailings



Holiday Gift Card Specials

- Purchase a \$250 gift card for \$200
- Purchase a \$125 gift card for \$100
- Purchase a \$60 gift card for \$50



991 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston
401-463-7232



Hopkins Hill Nursery

73 Hopkins Hill Road, West Greenwich 392-3137 Fax: 392-3135

Get Your **CHRISTMAS TREES**

FRESH CUT VERMONT TREES

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES
BALSAM, FRASER/BALSAM MIX, HOLIDAY PLANTS
Wreaths, Garlands & Greens

Open thru Dec. 24th

Check out our Gift Shop filled with Decor, Yankee Candles & Local Items

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS -
Mon.-Thurs. 9am-9pm; Fri., Sat. & Sun 9am-9pm
hopkinshillnursery@aol.com
www.hopkinshillnursery.com

warwick mall

1 Stop Holiday Shopping!



Photos & Visits with Santa!
through 12/24

All December long:
Carousel proceeds benefit



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Your favorite seasonal stores are now open!

A Christmas to Remember, Where IS RI, Inopnito, go! Calendars/Games and Funfeet!



PROPANE FILLING STATION

621-8129 Call Phil

Santa Loves a Grill!

- Open 7 days a week
- Open all year
- English & Spanish

ALL PROPANE TANKS FILLED HERE

904 Manton Ave. Providence (IN FRONT OF STOP & SHOP)
Phil.Johnston32@gmail.com
www.jfcpropane.com



Mutual HVAC Service & Installation

Mutual Engineering

Is your home ready for the holidays?

WE CONVERT OIL TO GAS

Want Comfort? The Feeling is "Mutual!"

HEATING SPECIALISTS!
• Heating • Heat Pumps • Roof Top Systems
Generator Installations
Complete Electrical Services
• Service Contracts Available •
We Provide Complete Air Conditioning, Gas Heating and Heat Pump

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
Service & Installation
Keeping you comfortable since 1934!

Call **401-351-3900**

A Full In-House Design, Installation & Service Company
RI Reg. #1561

All our technicians are drug tested, must pass a thorough motor vehicle check & are fully bonded



Holiday Shopping

PERSONALIZED Custom CALENDARS!

Send us 12 PHOTOS and we will create the Perfect Gift!
\$30 each -or- 4 for \$100
(must be same calendar) Deadline to order is Wednesday, December 20th



CopyCats

Serving New England Since 1987

440 PROVIDENCE ST. WEST WARWICK
401-828-2830

• BANNERS • SIGNS • PRINTING • CUSTOM APPAREL • COPIERS • PRINTERS • FAX MACHINES

CONSIGNORS RESALE

Antiques & Uniques
Vintage to Vogue JEWELRY

Make the holidays extra special this year!

DESIGNER Bags & Accessories

20% OFF ANY NON-SALE ITEM!
Expires 12/31/23

95 Frenchtown Rd., East Greenwich
401-885-7283
TUES-SAT 10AM-4PM OR BY APPT.



Call today to reserve your space on next week's page

Running in the Warwick Beacon, Cranston Herald, Johnston Sun Rise & The Reminder - all for one low price!

732-3100 • 821-2216



Many Gift Ideas in a Friendly Atmosphere

Housewares • Clothing
Electronics • Jewelry
DVDs and CDs

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Credit Cards Accepted

**2067 West Shore Rd
Warwick, RI 02889**

Good Selection Good Prices...

Always Great Service With Our Friendly, Helpful and Knowledgeable Staff

J & J Gasbarro Liquors

985 Oaklawn Avenue • Cranston, RI
943-6411



RhodyLife

RHODYBEAT.COM

No toilets, no running water, no food, but lots of adventure

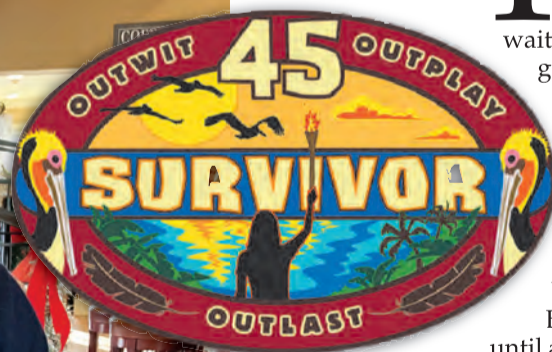


(Photo by Robert Voets/CBS)

A survivor since he was a kid



BRUCE PERREAULT



You could hear the buzz and see the second look of someone trying to think of where they knew him from.

Yes “that guy” was in the line waiting to purchase his normal coffee-to-go at Café Tempo in the Apponaug section of Warwick.

This was normally followed by someone asking to take their picture with him.

What was the commotion all about?

It was because reality TV star Bruce Perreault was there.

Bruce, who was a contestant on the hit television show, “Survivor” until a few weeks ago, is used to the attention. As a matter of fact, he kind of likes it.

And if you haven’t seen what is reported to be one of the longest-running reality TV shows in history (it has been around since 2000) then you’re missing out on a lot of fun.

Bruce Perreault’s road, from being abandoned at the age of two to becoming a fan-favorite in the Survivor series, was only a few days away from winning the grand prize of one million dollars.

The road was not easy.

Luckily for him, his time spent in the care of the State of Rhode Island ended when he turned seven, being adopted by the Perreault family of West Warwick.

The Perreaults, with six of their own children as well as eight that they adopted, provided Bruce with a kind, loving family that all kids deserve. They even fostered about 120 children through the years. Remarkable by any standard.

Bruce’s life was quite typical from that wonderful adoption day.

He attended Grammar School in West Warwick and graduated from West Warwick High School in 1996.

After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy, serving our nation honorably for four years.

When he returned, he married his sweetheart, Melinda Duggan, and the couple moved to the Greenwood section of Warwick.

The couple would have two children, daughter Sydnee and son Dylan, who Bruce still gushes about. A “proud dad” is an understatement.

Meeting with Mike



by J. MICHAEL LEVESQUE

Sports

Panthers get epic win in opener

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The defending champion Johnston boys basketball team would win a 50-49 thriller over Smithfield to open its regular season in a non-league matchup last week at home.

The Panthers led by one point with 4.9 seconds left when Smithfield called a timeout with one last chance to inbound the ball and go for the win. Johnston's Mike Carlino would time Smithfield's screen pass correctly and pick up the steal to secure the win.

"We knew that we needed energy and I knew I had to lock it in on defense. We were in the 1-3-1 and we knew that it would be energy that would win us the game," said Carlino. "Focus, focus, focus. We were in a switch-man, they were coming on the screen and we were going to switch it, so we just had to focus up, get on our guys and make sure we made no mistakes, and I was able to get the steal and put it away."

After taking an early nine-point lead, the Panthers would see a Smithfield surge in the second quarter to secure the half-time lead.



THRILLING WIN: Johnston's Branden Testa works past a Smithfield defender last week. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

OPENER - PAGE 17

Davies comes back to beat JHS girls

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls basketball team had its opening night spoiled by host Davies, who would erase a nine-point deficit to roll to the 52-47 comeback win.

The Panthers led by as many as nine points including a seven-point lead in the third quarter. Davies caught fire late in the third and would pull within a point heading into the fourth, then would control the final eight minutes while coming up with some big shots along the way to grab the victory.

Davies would break through to tie the score with 6:45 remaining and would score the eventual game-winner at the 4:10 mark.

Johnston took an 18-11 lead after one quarter, led by Ava Waterman who hit three 3-pointers to pace the Johnston offense. Although the Panther offense continued to shoot well and produce in the second, Davies'



DRIVE TO THE HOOP: Johnston's Olivia Iafra looks to make a play in the paint on Monday night at Davies. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

GIRLS - PAGE 16



885 OAKLAND BEACH AVE, WARWICK, RI

BUY ONE LUNCH OR DINNER GET ONE FREE

SHOW THIS COUPON TO YOUR SERVER UPON ORDERING

*Not valid at Iggys Chowderhouses, on take-out orders (including GrubHub & DoorDash), or on Holidays. *Purchase of a beverage required for coupon use. *Cannot be combined with any other offer. *Excludes all lobster dishes. *18% gratuity added to bill before discount. *No separate checks allowed. Only valid Sunday - Thursday. Other restrictions may apply. *Taxes not included. Only valid on sandwiches and entrees. Please ask your server for all coupon restrictions. Offer Expires 12/31/23

STAY TUNED FOR IGGY'S



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

STARTS DECEMBER 13TH

CHECK THEM OUT AT IGGYSRI.COM





CHRISTMAS EVE CATERING



ORDER TODAY.



12 CLAM CAKES
2 PINTS OF CHOWDER
2 FOUNTAIN DRINKS

\$24.99 PLUS TAX

With coupon only. Not valid with Online, GrubHub and DoorDash orders. May not be combined with any other offer. Not valid at Boardwalk. Exp. 12/31/23

ANY 2 DINNERS
INCLUDES CHOWDER OR SALAD, 6 CLAM CAKES,
6 DOUGHBOYS

\$39.99 PLUS TAX

With coupon only. Not valid with Online, GrubHub and DoorDash orders. May not be combined with any other offer. Not valid at Boardwalk. Exp. 12/31/23

EXPRESS ONLINE ORDERING FOR TAKE-OUT @ IGGYSRI.COM

Frezza earns LEC award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Five members of the Rhode Island College men's indoor track & field team were recognized by the Little East for their respective performances at the Springfield Season Opener on Dec. 2.

Rhode Island College finished third (six teams) with a team score of 73.0. Springfield won the meet with a score of 214.50. The Anchormen finished one spot ahead of Div. II Saint Rose.

Freshman Enrique Edjang (Providence, R.I.) was named the Little East Men's Rookie Field Athlete of the Week. He finished second in the weight throw (15.46m).

Junior Benjamin Lockwood (Saunderstown, R.I.), freshman Will Schiller (Smithfield, R.I.), sophomore Juan Reyes (Providence, R.I.) and freshman Andrew Frezza (Johnston, R.I.) were named the Little East Men's Relay Team of the Week for their performance in the distance medley relay. The quartet finished first in the DMR (11:48.0)

RIC SWIM TAKES 3RD

The Rhode Island College swim team finished third (seven teams) at the Bridgewater State Invitational on Saturday afternoon. Rhode Island College finished third (seven teams) with a team score of 236.0. Bridgewater State won the meet with a team score of 698.0.

Senior Rebecca Fyrer (Cranston) finished third in the 400-yard medley relay (4:50.66), fourth in the 400-yard freestyle

relay (4:17.03), fifth in the 200-yard IM (2:47.26), sixth in the 1,650-yard freestyle (23:06.02), and eighth in the 500-yard freestyle (6:31.87).

Senior Anna Vygoder (Lincoln) finished first in the 50-yard breaststroke (33.34), 100-yard breaststroke (1:12.69) and the 200-yard breaststroke (2:42.33). Vygoder also finished third in the 400-yard medley relay (4:50.66) and fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:17.03).

Senior Alina Krafton (Wakefield) finished second in the 50-yard butterfly (29.75), third in the 400-yard medley relay (4:50.66), fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:17.03), fifth in the 100-yard IM (1:13.39) and sixth in the 100-yard butterfly (1:16.50).

Senior Meghan Laflamme (Smithfield) finished third in the 400-yard medley relay (4:50.66), fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:17.03), sixth in the 50-yard backstroke (33.47), eighth in the 50-yard freestyle (28.42) and 11th in the 100-yard freestyle (1:04.20).

Freshman Abigail Steinhilber (Warwick) finished sixth in the 400-yard medley relay (6:11.59), eighth in the 400-yard freestyle relay (5:17.34), 13th in both the 200-yard freestyle (3:03.48) and the 500-yard freestyle (8:16.98) and 21st in the 100-yard freestyle (1:24.06).

Freshman Kate Clayman (Smithfield) finished sixth in the 400-yard medley relay (6:11.59), eighth in both the 400-yard freestyle relay (5:17.34) and the 200-yard breaststroke (3:27.40) and 14th in the 100-yard freestyle (1:12.31).



LEADING SCORER: Bella Gesualdi goes for a layup on Monday.



POINT GUARD: Johnston senior Aubree Allen.

NOW ONLY
\$19⁹⁹
plus \$5.99 shipping
SAVE 39%
Reg. Price \$32.99

Winter Favorites Assortment



1-855-978-2715
Visit PittmanDavis.com/P4YL43

Only \$19.99 (reg. \$32.99), plus \$5.99 shipping. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.
Order by December 15, 2023 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. IC: P4YL43



JOHNSTON Sun Rise

is available at over 200 locations in the Johnston area including...

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-11 Convenience A & J's Variety Atmed Medical Atwood Florist Atwood Grill Atwood Wine & Spirits Bank RI BD Mart BMC mart Bread Boss Brigido's Scituate IGA Buono's Bakery Citgo Food Mart Confreda Farms Convenience Plus D. Palmieri's Bakery Denny's Restaurant DePetrillo's Bakery Dollar Store Emmily's Restaurant English Muffin Espresso Pizza Family Dollar Fine Wine & Spirits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Guys FM Global Food Mart Gulf X-Press Harriet's Kitchen Hess Home Fries Hometown Pizza J & T's Grille J. Palmieri's Pizza Jacavone Garden Center Jain's Laundry Johnston Fine Wine Johnston Laundromat Johnston Senior Center Johnston Town Hall Knights Liquor La Nuova Lighthouse Restaurant Marilyn J Mohr Library Market Basket Mega Liquor NAPA Auto Parts PetSmart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pic and Pay Food Mart Popeyes Restaurant Price Rite RI Homemade Donuts Riccotti's Rosa Mia Pizza Scungio's Liquors Seasons Corner Market Shop and Go Shore's Market Speedway Stop 'n' Go Stop & Shop Strings Bar & Grill Sundaes Tire Pros Tita's Tailors Tri Town Wine & Spirits Trinity Assembly of God Tri-Town Health & Pasta Uncle Tony's Pizza Center Walgreens |
|--|--|--|

Girls

(Continued from page 15)

offense would respond with multiple 3-pointers of its own from Naydelin Ruiz to make it 31-30 at the halftime break.

Sophomore Bella Gesualdi led the Pan-

thers with game-high 13 points while Waterman picked up 11.

Johnston dropped to 0-1 in the Division IV standings to start the winter season and next faced Central on Wednesday night. The results were not available at press time.

Plenty to sort through this winter season

Now that the regular season is officially underway and I was able to gather just a little more information in the past week, it is time for me to make some of my official winter predictions for the upcoming season.

Let's dive right in: For boys basketball, it will be fascinating to see how Bishop Hendricken fares in defending its championship. The Hawks lost all five starters from last year and fields an inexperienced group. Other than James Caldarella, the Hawks do not have players with substantial big game minutes.

As always, though, Jamal Gomes and his staff will find a way to be a factor this winter. La Salle boasts another elite group and Classical is poised to go on a deep run. The Hawks will have their hands full.

It's rarely a hot take to choose Hendricken to win a state championship for any sport, but for this upcoming hoops season, it is. I am picking the Hawks to repeat. They will lose some games early as they find out what they have on their roster, but come March, they will be right there in the mix.

The other defending champs that will be interesting are Johnston, who

will be defending its Division II title. The Panthers lost Derek Salvatore, Anthony Corsinetti and Camani Batista ... not an easy group to replace.

After watching opening night against Smithfield, it is clear that this team will recover just fine. Mike Carlino will be one of the best point guards in the division, while Neri Vasquez returns along with Cam Walker up front.

The team's x-factor will be the Testa brothers, Jayden and Branden, who will need to be key scorers on a nightly basis. So far, so good. Lincoln is the preseason favorite and has been eye-opening good, beating North Kingstown 76-34 in the opener. I'm expecting a Lincoln-Johnston final.

For our girl teams, the club I am most intrigued by is Toll Gate

The Titans lost their top player last season when Adeline Areson tore her ACL in the fall. She returns at full strength along with Dulce Garcia and Amanda Preston, among others.

Despite losing their best player, which in basketball is massive, the Titans reached the Division II Semis and nearly won it. Not to take anything away from Pilgrim, but Toll Gate would have won and advanced to the finals

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

and had been the favorite. Not saying they would have won, but sometimes one player can make that large of an impact. Toll Gate will be in the finals this winter.

Cranston East will be a team to watch in Division II this winter. After a rough start, the Bolts went on to win three of their final five games and to finish 8-10. East will be returning nearly its entire roster, including Mya Jiminez, and figures to take another step forward. Although a championship is a reach, the Bolts may become a dark horse in the division.

I spoke on boys hockey last week so I will not go too deep into this again, but here are my thoughts.

Hendricken will win the state championship, book it. Last week my column focused on how tightly contested Division I will be, and it will be a dogfight, but the Hawks

return too much to not repeat, including Griffin Crain and Jack LaRose, among many others.

Pilgrim will be a fun team to watch. The Patriots are back on their own again and also return a large core of talent, including the state's best goalie in Braxton Bragg.

Mount St. Charles will be right in the thick of things, as will La Salle and Cumberland. Ultimately, though, it's hard to see anyone other than the Hawks hoisting the plaque at season's end.

Back to Pilgrim, though, I am stoked to see how it handles the pressure of being on its own in Division I.

If you recall, Pilgrim dominated Division III

only a few years ago and won consecutive titles. I was one of the people pounding the table saying that not only would the Pats be a contender in Division II, but would be a possible playoff club in DI.

The program is as strong as ever when it comes to talent and experience, and I am looking forward to saying I was correct. Although my pick is Hendricken, Pilgrim will be right in that mix of teams looking to pull off the upset.

For swimming, the Barrington Eagles boast another juggernaut lineup and will be the favorite to wrap up a three-peat.

It would be unwise to count out Hendricken

who all of a sudden is the second fiddle, but Barrington is firmly at the top of the list while North Kingstown lurks as well. Damon Buchanon will need to be the best swimmer in the state for the Hawks to pull it off.

Then there is wrestling. My prediction is that Cranston West will take home a top-5 finish as team after taking seventh last year. The Falcons lost Luke Montefusco and Cam Davis to graduation, but return Andrew Alchihed. The JV program also won the state championship last season, so there will almost certainly be enough newcomers to keep things steady and to help West beat the odds at states.



UP THE COURT: Cam Walker makes a play last week.

Opener

(Continued from page 15)

The two teams would exchange leads throughout the second half, but Carlino would put up seven points in the fourth quarter to help Johnston grab the lead when it mattered most.

"We were a little disappointed, but we knew we had this game. We knew we just had to keep our heads up and come out strong and better than we did in the second quarter, because the second quarter wasn't too good," said Carlino. Jayden Testa, who returned after

missing last season with a broken leg, had a stellar debut as he scored 13 points, including four 3-pointers, to help pace the Panther offense along with Carlino who also put up 13. Neri Vasquez added nine points as well.

After being sent home last season at the hands of the Sentinels, Carlino and company were excited to get some revenge while starting their season off on a high note.

"It's amazing, we've been waiting for this since last year when they beat us on a buzzer beater to take us out of the state tournament. We had a chip on our shoulder and we had to come in here and handle business," Carlino said.

Business Card DIRECTORY

This Week's Featured Business...

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

Interior/Exterior • Residential/Commercial



Levine
Painting
Prompt, Reliable, Quality Work

• Wallpaper Hanging • Power Washing • Staining

401-736-0600

RI Reg. #7140

www.levinepainting.com

Matola Remodeling & Painting Services, LLC

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING & REMODELING

- KITCHENS • BASEMENTS
- CEILINGS • BATHROOMS
- GAME ROOMS • FLOORS

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

We Handle Your Project from Start to Finish. No Project too Small!

821-8411

or facebook.com/MatolaRemodeling



Insured RI Reg #21649

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

Interior/Exterior • Residential/Commercial



Levine
Painting
Prompt, Reliable, Quality Work

• Wallpaper Hanging • Power Washing • Staining

401-736-0600

RI Reg. #7140

www.levinepainting.com

Raymond Pezzullo Law Offices

FAMILY LAW

LANDLORD/TENANT LAW

WILLS

DEBT COLLECTION

401-275-0669

1200 Hartford Avenue • Suite 117

Johnston, RI

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

DePietro Roofing, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL ROOFING SPECIALISTS
CALL FOR SPECIALS!
Quality Work • All Phases of Roofing
No Job Too Small
Call John 573-9328
FREE ESTIMATES • INSURED • REG. #22850

Better recreational fishing data may be on the way

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Sometimes there is a silver lining and good things come out of a bad situation. Last week anglers met with Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator and Chief of NOAA Fisheries and her staff, to talk about recreational fishing issues including improving recreational fishing data with the modernization of data collection and analysis.

Historically, commercial fishing extraction rates have been obtained by reports they are required to file with federal fish managers (and state managers) on every single fish they catch and where they caught it. However, recreational fisheries are not required to report their catch, so NOAA estimates the number of fish anglers are taking out of the water which are used in part to establish future harvest limits and ultimately regulations.

This year the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), the NOAA organization that estimates recreational fishing catch and effort, reported an error in their effort survey. NOAA conducted a routine study to evaluate the integrity of their effort survey data which is mailed to angler homes and related they may have overestimated recreational catch by as much as thirty percent in select States on select species.

They announced the error and immediately started to plan a more extensive pilot study to be run in 2024 that further explores bias that may have been introduced by the way and order questions were asked and responded to by anglers in the effort survey.

Hats off to NOAA Fisheries for being upfront about the error and developing a plan to explore it further and correct it. However, the data mishap has opened the door to not only improve MRIP but to perhaps supplement MRIP data with data from states as well as with citizen science data obtained from recreational fishing smartphone data collection applications.

But first NOAA must establish acceptable standards for both State data collection and smartphone applications to make sure the additional data provides what NOAA would want and can be used to supplement the MRIP data they already collect.

Anglers in the Northeast are working with NOAA's regional office, the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), to work on data modernization plans which play a significant role in the agencies new Recreational Fishing Poli-



HOSTING THE EVENT: Meeting host Janet Coit, NOAA Assistant Administrator and Chief of NOAA Fisheries, met with anglers last week to discuss recreational data modernization. (Submitted photos)

cy and regional implemental plans. Other additions to this implementation plan includes climate ready fisheries provisions, social environmental justice, data modernization as well as continuing to make fisheries sustainable in light of difficult climate impacts including shifting stocks, sea level rise, warming water and a host of others.

More to come on the data modernization effort and the new recreational implementation plan as it rolls out with angler input opportunities in the region.

Ponds stocked in Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) announced that four additional freshwater ponds will be stocked with fish during the week of Dec. 10, 2023. The ponds will be stocked after the recent lifting of Cyanobacteria alerts and Wyoming Pond, Hopkinton, after the conclusion of dam repairs.

Carbuncle Pond, Coventry will be stocked with Seago Salmon, Brook and Rainbow Trout; Melville (Upper and Lower) Pond, Portsmouth will be stocked with Sebago Salmon, Brook and Rainbow Trout; and Wyoming Pond, Hopkinton will be stocked with Rainbow Trout.

Visit DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Facebook Page for stocking updates and visit www.dem.ri.gov/fishing for more information.

Where's the bite?

Tautog, cod and black sea bass are being caught by anglers anchored up to tautog fish with crabs.

Parker Mandes of Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly, said, "Saturday we caught three keeper cod when tautog fishing. The tautog fishing has slowed a bit but it is nice to catch cod along the southern coastal shore and not have to go further to catch them."

"Anglers are catching cod while tautog fishing off Newport in 50 to 100 feet of water. It is hard to work a jig in water that deep so tautog rigs are working best for anglers. The bite is good for cod in the Block Island Wind Farm and at Cox Ledge too," said Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren.

Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said, "Anglers are finding fish both South and East of Block Island when anchored up fishing for tautog they are catching both cod and sea bass as well. The Island Current has been doing fairly good too."

Nick Karjewski of Quaker Lane Bait &

Tackle, North Kingstown, said, "Some anglers are still tautog fishing and the fish they are catching are in deep water."

Call ahead to make a party boat reservation for tautog and cod fishing, vessels sail between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and return in the afternoon. Visit www.islandcurrent.com, www.francesfleet.com and www.sevenbs.com. Full day rates for vessels are \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

"Freshwater fishing in stocked ponds for trout and salmon is pretty good with a fairly decent largemouth bass bite too," said Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle. For a complete list of trout stocked ponds in Massachusetts visit Mass Wildlife at Trout stocking report | Mass.gov and in Rhode Island visit 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 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@overison.net or visit www.nof-lukefishing.com.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Electrical
Valco Electric
Residential Specialist
 Electrical Upgrades
 Trouble Shooting & Repairs
 Prompt & Courteous Service
401-921-3143
Lic. #A3990 AmEx/Disc/MC/Visa Insured

Handyman
John's Construction
Handyman Services
 Painting • Windows
 Carpentry
942-1729
 15% OFF next project with ad.
Reg. #24655 ~ Insured

Masonry
CEMENT MASONRY WORK
 Chimneys • Floors • Patios
 Driveways • Steps • Walkways
 Repairs • Free Estimates
Ron 397-1891
Cell 639-2942
Reg. #6326 Licensed & Bonded

Painting
STEVEN G. RUHLE
PAINTING
 Interior & Exterior
 Small Exteriors
Neat, Clean Workmanship
639-0967
 Free Estimates
 Reg. 12067 - Insured

Plumbing & Heating
DAVIDSON'S
PLUMBING & HEATING
 Water Heaters
 Free Estimates
 Remodeling • Repairs
 New Construction
MP #1696 737-4679 MPF #6470

Rubbish Removal
Liberty House
Junk Removal, Inc.
 We remove all content from cellars.
 One room or entire house.
 We remove sheds.
 15 years of reliable service.
 Reg. #2983 & Insured
401-286-0505

Fencing
Reilly Fence Inc.
Professional installations of
 Vinyl • Wood • Aluminum
 Chainlink Fences
 Insured - Free Estimates
 Call & book an appt. today!
228-3647 Reg. #40392

Home Improvements
Weatherproof
Home Improvement
 Interior/Exterior Painting
 Roofing • Siding • Gutters • Decks
Dennis
732-9218 Reg. #31803

Oil Tank Removal
Why wait for your oil tank to leak?
 Old oil tanks removed
Licensed RI Waste Transporter
 Drum Disposal
Newton B. Washburn, LLC.
Insured • Reg. #27176 • #R1877
401-647-9606

C & J Painting
 Interior/Exterior
 Powerwashing
 Free Estimates
 Jason • Craig
378-8525 • 743-2554
Reg. #22833 Insured

E.W. FLAGG
Plumbing & Heating
 New & Old
 Installations • Repairs
 Water Heaters
 Commercial & Residential
739-6155 MP #01896

Fall Cleanups
House - Cellars - Yards
Garages - Moving?
 Anything hauled away, some for FREE!
 30 yrs. - Reliable Service!
741-2781 Lic. #37379 - Insured

Flooring
EAST COAST
WOOD FLOORS
 Installed • Sand
 Finish • Refinish
 Insured • Senior Discounts
Cell 265-3644
Reg. #15124

Landscaping
RYAN'S
LANDSCAPE
 FALL CLEANUPS
 SNOW PLOWING
401-738-5139

BUSINESS SERVICES
DEADLINE:
Monday 10 AM

Plastering
Harold Greco Jr.
Plaster Perfection
 ALL Small Repair Specialist
 Emergency Water Damage Repairs
 Historic Restorations
 Painting
 Senior, Veterans & Cash Discounts
 Integrity & Passion
ALL MAINTENANCE
Reg. #4114 ★ Member BBB ★ Est. 1946
 Call now! **738-0369**

BUSINESS SERVICES
\$32/week
 ads start at
 for 4 or more weeks in the
 Johnston Sun Rise, Warwick Beacon & Cranston Herald
 (All 3 papers for one low price)
 To place your ad, please call
732-3100

Real Estate Transactions

Coventry

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
4 Black Walnut Dr	Casavant, Steven P and Casavant, Lisa A	Carney, Nicholas A and Leonard, Taylor M	11/21	\$450,000
8 Cypress Rd	Belanger T and Belanger, Deborah	Pine, Joseph and Pine, Jennifer	11/27	\$383,000
9 Osprey Dr	Zachary R Pelletier T and Pelletier, Lee K	Pelletier, Lee K and Pelletier, Heather J	11/22	\$380,000
10 Birdie Ct Lot 10	Blais, Tracy and Blais, Paul V	Digiorgio, Anthony M and Digiorgio, Emily R	11/21	\$272,000
10 Osprey Dr	Pelletier, Lee K	Zachary R Pelletier T and Pelletier, Lee K	11/22	\$512,000
20 Forest St	Bernier, Kayln L	Pleasant Management LLC	11/20	\$300,000
20 Lloyd Dr	Mourato, Joshua and Mourato, April L	Bell, Jackson L and Bell, Candis	11/21	\$490,000
64 Mohawk St	Rhode Is Hsng & Mtg Fin C	Rodriguez, Edwin	11/21	\$162,000
64 Mohawk St	Rodriguez, Edwin	Agb Construction LLC	11/21	\$172,000
102 Macarthur Blvd	Bourgault, Michael R	Brouillard, Robert M	11/8	\$285,000
220 Pig Hill Rd	Perry, Joseph J and Perry, Courtney J	Nolan, Sean P and Nolan, Kathleen	11/21	\$445,000
390 Hammet Rd	Cucino, Mackenzie	Collard, Norman G and Collard, Kathleen A	11/22	\$448,000

Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
5 S Hill Dr	Ryan, Brendan R and Anthony, Nicole H	Anthony, Nicole H	11/17	\$53,000
11 Mapleton St Lot 5	Cunha, Tara L	Danbridge, Jennifer and Danbridge, Rowdy	11/20	\$308,000
11 Mapleton St Lot 4	Cunha, Tara L	Danbridge, Jennifer and Danbridge, Rowdy	11/20	\$308,000
14 Herod St	Lynch, Virginia	Lynch, Danielle N	11/16	\$335,000
15 Marcy St	Hansen 3rd, Robert and Hansen, Alison	Yrigoyen, Mark M and Yrigoyen, Jennifer M	11/20	\$567,500
23 Pine Ridge Dr	Sepe Michael J Est and Sepe, Adam	Paiva 2nd, Louis M and Paiva, Ahsley P	11/21	\$975,000
28 Meadow View Dr Lot 6	Weintraub, Joseph T	Coulombe, Louis J and Venditto, Mary A	11/22	\$365,000
46 Lincoln Ave	Moni, Juan and Pina-Lantigua, Magda O	Timas, Bruno	11/17	\$495,000
48 Burbank St	Rios, Carmen and Rios, Rolando	Tshimbayi, Dolly and Bwanya, Jean	11/17	\$345,000
48 Long Ct	Rathbun, David A and Rathbun, Suzanne L	Paz, Rocio A and Asfura, Anthony E	11/17	\$463,000
51 Russel Way	Mosca, Michelle B and Mosca, Louis	Terrio, Kevin and Assaf, Rana	11/17	\$629,900
52 Wild Berry Dr	Gargano, Elaine	Gargano, Elaine	11/16	\$121,000
74 Preston Dr	Vetere, Angela M and Mateo, Hector R	Clinton R Schreckengost T and Schreckengost, Clinton R	11/17	\$447,000
78 Massasoit Ave	Denise Calise Reit and Calise, Denise	Pena, Jacqueline	11/20	\$560,000
83 Broadmoor Rd	Guertin, Gregory and Guertin, Elizabeth	Sullivan, Hilary C	11/20	\$410,000
101 Fordson Ave	Rwr Re Invest Grp LLC	Casquarelli, Elaine J	11/22	\$370,000
110 Lake St Lot 738	Goodman, Emily and Ortiz, Wesley	Ortiz, Wesley R	11/17	\$29,516
110 Lake St Lot 739	Goodman, Emily and Ortiz, Wesley	Ortiz, Wesley R	11/17	\$29,516
110 Lake St Lot 737	Goodman, Emily and Ortiz, Wesley	Ortiz, Wesley R	11/17	\$29,516
115 Davis Ave	Bordeleau, Kathy	Suarez, Idalvis J	11/22	\$315,000
130 Summit Dr Lot 93	Cooper, John M and Cooper, Patricia	Faria, Anthony R and Brown, Tyler M	11/20	\$575,000
130 Summit Dr Lot 94	Cooper, John M and Cooper, Patricia	Faria, Anthony R and Brown, Tyler M	11/20	\$575,000
150 Waterman Ave Lot 163	Kolling, Fred W	Mccorkindale, Christine M	11/16	\$400,000
150 Waterman Ave Lot 164	Kolling, Fred W	Mccorkindale, Christine M	11/16	\$400,000
200 Cannon St Lot 139	Faria, Anthony R	Rego, Duarte M	11/20	\$295,000
298 Montgomery Ave Lot 8	Castro, Prospero	El Clasico Auto Mechanics	11/22	\$280,000
298 Montgomery Ave Lot 6	Castro, Prospero	El Clasico Auto Mechanics	11/22	\$280,000
298 Montgomery Ave Lot 7	Castro, Prospero	El Clasico Auto Mechanics	11/22	\$280,000
5755 Pontiac Ave Lot 450	Weintraub, Joseph T	Coulombe, Louis J and Venditto, Mary A	11/22	\$365,000
5755 Pontiac Ave Lot 449	Weintraub, Joseph T	Coulombe, Louis J and Venditto, Mary A	11/22	\$365,000
749 Reservoir Ave	Gasbarro, Elizabeth	Perez Family Prop LLC	11/21	\$370,000
868 Reservoir Ave Lot 504	Envisions Enterprises LLC	868 Reservoir Ave LLC	11/21	\$750,000
868 Reservoir Ave Lot 503	Envisions Enterprises LLC	868 Reservoir Ave LLC	11/21	\$750,000
868 Reservoir Ave Lot 502	Envisions Enterprises LLC	868 Reservoir Ave LLC	11/21	\$750,000
945 Scituate Ave	Wanita F Johnson Irt and Mattias, Heather-Rose	Risco, Giovanni	11/16	\$405,000
11519 Hope Rd	Twin Lake Dev LLC	Camara, Emma K and Pomfret, Benjamin K	11/17	\$375,000

East Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
9 Bicknell Ave	Benson, David A and Benson, Penny	Gleason, Luke and Gleason, Katherine G	11/21	\$578,000
116 Vistas Ct Lot 116	Veiga, Renata	Russo, Stephen B	11/17	\$579,900
536 Middle Rd	Yeremian, Robert	Madoff, David B and Madoff, Donna M	11/20	\$700,000
1515 High Hawk Rd	Baker Earlene P Est and Baker, Adrienne	Prestige Worldwide Invest	11/20	\$525,000
3720 Division Rd	Nye Jr, Charles V and Nye, Sun M	Veiga, Renata A and Stradone, Anthony	11/17	\$750,000

Exeter

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
75 W Shore Dr	Griffin, Richard E and Samoilov-Griffin, C A	Walker, Caleb and Walker, Sarah	11/21	\$495,000

Johnston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
4 Byron Randall Rd Lot 2	Oak And Pallet LLC	Bailey Jr, Joseph E	11/22	\$560,000
4 Harboard Rd	Perdomo, Elton	Kue, Angelina K and Yang, Xoulai	11/22	\$335,475
6 Meeting Dr	Packard, Jason C	Smith, Paul and Smith, Ryan	11/21	\$198,000
9 Tall Oaks Ct	J Investments LLC	Massey, Joanne	11/20	\$475,000
12 Everbloom Dr	Burns, Patrick F	Perez, Juan L	11/28	\$450,000
17 Pine Ln	Tirocchi, Valentino A	Kimchi, Hagay and Diaz-Caamal, Nadia V	11/22	\$570,000
18 Rockcrest Ln	Cultrera, Claudio	Cruz, Paulo C and Cruz-Rodriguez, Nataly	11/22	\$500,000
22 Winsor Ave	Cefala, Fiorina	Aldred, Iyabode A	11/21	\$410,000
33 Harding Ave	Integrity Investments LLC	Kings Catering LLC	11/22	\$310,000
105 Reservoir Ave	Donald, Kenneth M	Williams, Colin J	11/20	\$420,000
716 Central Ave	A D J Investments LLC	Elite Investments LLC	11/22	\$560,000
1343 Plainfield St	Mills, Philip	Maria Y Giron Lt and Giron, Maria Y	11/21	\$375,000

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
7 Curry Pl Lot 49	Sloan Stephen A Est and Sloan, Loren	Zanni, Raymond G and Sabbagh, Allyson R	11/16	\$263,000
7 Curry Pl Lot 48	Sloan Stephen A Est and Sloan, Loren	Zanni, Raymond G and Sabbagh, Allyson R	11/16	\$263,000
9 Hewett St Lot 709	Beauregard, Maria T	Aljammal, Issam M and Aljammal, Elizabeth A	11/16	\$300,000
9 Hewett St Lot 708	Beauregard, Maria T	Aljammal, Issam M and Aljammal, Elizabeth A	11/16	\$300,000
9 Hudson Ln Lot 197	Lsb T and Parris, Denise B	Giguere, Skylar	11/16	\$552,500
9 Hudson Ln Lot 198	Lsb T and Parris, Denise B	Giguere, Skylar	11/16	\$552,500
11 Logan St	Brian A Mazor Lt and Mazor, Brian A	Greene, Kenneth and Greene, Donna J	11/17	\$249,900
11 Staples Ave Lot 105	Harris Christine M Est and Harris, Mary E	Madden, Joseph J	11/21	\$330,000
11 Staples Ave Lot 106	Harris Christine M Est and Harris, Mary E	Madden, Joseph J	11/21	\$330,000
14 Titus Ln	Bogardus, Amanda J	Riendeau, Sadie M	11/22	\$305,000
17 Wilmar St	Cushing 3rd, Edward W	Miguel, Jonna M	11/20	\$352,000
21 Sunnyside Dr	Li, Zu Y	Caswell, Clayton R	11/16	\$410,000
31 Pettis Dr Lot 10	Kenneth E Gillissie Irt and Gillissie, Kenneth E	Phillis, Keith E and White, Lisa-Lynn	11/21	\$350,000
31 Pettis Dr Lot 8	Kenneth E Gillissie Irt and Gillissie, Kenneth E	Phillis, Keith E and White, Lisa-Lynn	11/21	\$350,000
31 Strand Ave Lot 839	Crary, Debra and Crary, Charles	Manchester, Heather M	11/21	\$525,525
31 Strand Ave Lot 428	Crary, Debra and Crary, Charles	Manchester, Heather M	11/21	\$525,525
41 Lansing Ave	Laffey Jayne C Est and Laffey, Marc T	Three Kids LLC	11/16	\$85,000
42 Brayton Ave	Flint, Helen	Soares, Cynthia L	11/21	\$247,140
46 Allen Ave Lot 38	Coutu, Kourtney A	Santos, Victor M and Felix, Gloria	11/22	\$435,000
46 Allen Ave Lot 39	Coutu, Kourtney A	Santos, Victor M and Felix, Gloria	11/22	\$435,000
48 Buttonwoods Ave Lot 197	Gelinas Jr, Timothy and Cooney, Karin	Deluca, Jeffrey F and Deluca, Carissa L	11/21	\$280,000
48 Buttonwoods Ave Lot 198	Gelinas Jr, Timothy and Cooney, Karin	Deluca, Jeffrey F and Deluca, Carissa L	11/21	\$280,000
65 Fairhaven Ave Lot 184	Laplante Estates LLC	Dechance, Ryan N and Dechance, Katrina R	11/20	\$460,000
65 Fairhaven Ave Lot 183	Laplante Estates LLC	Dechance, Ryan N and Dechance, Katrina R	11/20	\$460,000
68 Melbourn Rd Lot 4	Raymond Jr, Leo	Dandrea Jr, Frank	11/20	\$1,999,900
68 Melbourn Rd Lot 53	Raymond Jr, Leo	Dandrea Jr, Frank	11/20	\$1,999,900
68 Melbourn Rd Lot 54	Raymond Jr, Leo	Dandrea Jr, Frank	11/20	\$1,999,900
68 Melbourn Rd Lot 5	Raymond Jr, Leo	Dandrea Jr, Frank	11/20	\$1,999,900
68 Melbourn Rd Lot 6	Raymond Jr, Leo	Dandrea Jr, Frank	11/20	\$1,999,900
70 John Wickes Ave	Warrener, Mark	Carr Re Hldg LLC	11/16	\$225,000
75 Sagamore St Lot 168	Bell, Jackson and Kowalik, Candis	Pescatore, M P	11/21	\$349,900
75 Sagamore St Lot 167	Bell, Jackson and Kowalik, Candis	Pescatore, M P	11/21	\$349,900
76 Spring Grove Ave Lot 35	Petrarca Donald Est and Petrarca, Ronnie J	Thornley, Savannah and Silva, Alexis	11/16	\$412,000
76 Spring Grove Ave Lot 34	Petrarca Donald Est and Petrarca, Ronnie J	Thornley, Savannah and Silva, Alexis	11/16	\$412,000
84 Canna St	Sandra E Benson Lt and Johnson, Karen A	Tavares Prop LLC	11/22	\$250,000
88 Kenway Ave	Cash Sr, Jason and Ellsworth, Witasnah	Swanson, Nathaniel R	11/21	\$325,000
90 Cottage Grove Ave Lot 80	Falgoust, Gregory E	Weich 4th, William G and Weich, Michele L	11/20	\$40,000
90 Cottage Grove Ave Lot 81	Falgoust, Gregory E	Weich 4th, William G and Weich, Michele L	11/20	\$40,000
138 Edmond Dr	Kalina, George D and Kalina, Diane J	Rigatti, Laurie J	11/17	\$446,000
145 Woodcrest Rd	Kaiser, Sheila M	Griffith, Major W and Larson, Sara A	11/17	\$375,000
160 Edmond Dr	Guglielmetti Louis Est and Labbadia, Francesca	Soltysiak Firt and Soltysiak, Rachel L	11/21	\$424,900
163 Partition St	Paquin, Hazel H	Parkhouse, Megan A and Pierce, George	11/20	\$206,000
164 Manning St Lot 55	Jja Prop LLC	Young, Darius L	11/20	\$350,000
164 Manning St Lot 54	Jja Prop LLC	Young, Darius L	11/20	\$350,000
222 Northbridge Ave	Leach Nita M Est and Silver, Paul A	Russell, James A and Russell, Kathleen M	11/21	\$450,000
265 Hunt Ave Lot 194	Schlesinger, Matthew and Schlesinger, Stephanie	Montgomery, Marc L	11/21	\$385,000
265 Hunt Ave Lot 195	Schlesinger, Matthew and Schlesinger, Stephanie	Montgomery, Marc L	11/21	\$385,000
304 Church Ave	Johnson, Timothy S	Kuiper, Samuel R	11/21	\$349,900
351 Chatham Cir Lot 351	Norcia, Nancy J	Palazzo, Gioacchino P and Palazzo, Gaetane	11/17	\$109,166
351 Chatham Cir Lot 351	Johnson Frelt and Johnson, Stephen T	Palazzo, Gioacchino P and Palazzo, Gaetane	11/17	\$109,166
351 Chatham Cir Lot 351	Leach, Joanne	Palazzo, Gioacchino P and Palazzo, Gaetane	11/17	\$109,166
403 Pequot Ave	Stone, Cecelia V	Frain, Thomas and Abrahamsen, Kristi	11/20	\$410,000
568 Crest Dr Lot 52	Ferrucci Ft and Ferrucci, Carl C	Crest Enterprises LLC	11/16	\$550,000
568 Crest Dr Lot 53	Ferrucci Ft and Ferrucci, Carl C	Crest Enterprises LLC	11/16	\$550,000
786 Sandy Ln	Meunier, Rinda M	Lfw LLC	11/22	\$285,000
881 Greenwich Ave Lot 10	Decristofano, Domenic	Russo, Laura E	11/20	\$365,000
905 Stratford Ln Lot 905	Kwiatkowski, Michael D	Cotoia, Nicholas J	11/21	\$305,000
1008 Main Ave	Terpening, Dona L and Terpening, Paul S	Addonizio, Jeffrey	11/17	\$422,500
4080 Post Rd Lot 1	Silvia 4th, John L	Blanchette, Mathew S	11/20	\$160,000

West Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
24 Valley Look Ct	Rattenni, Robert	Billias, Jonathan A and Pine, Destiny L	11/20	\$685,000

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
11 Turner Dr	Garofalo, Peter and Garofalo, Nicole	West Bay Homes LLC	11/27	\$340,000
12 Capron St	Balcerzak Mary J Est and Antoniaki, Mark	Antoniaki, Mark and Antoniaki, Kelly K	11/20	\$380,000
18 Bennett St	Rathbun Frank E Est and Mathewson, Jeannie	Maston, Courtney I and Fernandes, Ryan M	11/22	\$325,000
24 Surrey Ln	Clingman, Gerald	Breen, Michael A and Breen, Gretchen L	11/28	\$450,000
54 River St Lot 7	Rinn, Robert	Diez, Daniel R	11/20	\$165,000
178 Kimberly Ln	Papillon Hm Solutions LLC	Stevenson, Nicholas F	11/20	\$455,000
897-899 Main St	Ruiz, Mauricio A and Zanni, Raymond	Cruz, Xavier and Cruz, Harvery	11/27	\$444,000
1804 New London Tpk	Gonzalez, Carlos	Martin, Steven and Blais, Tracy	11/21	\$430,000

This copyrighted material is compiled from public records and re-printed under agreement with the Warren Group of Boston. Not every community is reported each week. To report a data error, call 617-896-5310 or send an email to transfers@thewarrencgroup.com

YOU COULD SPONSOR THIS PAGE

For more information about this opportunity, call

732-3100 or 821-2216

Rhody TREASURES

ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • CONSIGNMENTS • ESTATES • VINTAGE

Finding a rare Revolutionary War "Canteen or Wooden Bottle sufficient to hold one Quart"



One of my favorite items of Revolutionary War-era accoutrements is the canteen. Without it a soldier couldn't stay hydrated and as such it was and still is an important part of their gear. With many being made from wood, they are rare survivors. I've been doing a lot of research on canteens made and issued in Massachusetts from 1756-1783 with an emphasis on the 1775 era. But there were also issues of canteens purchased by the Continental government, and original examples are quite rare.

A few weeks back, I went to pick up a few Civil War-era items in Massachusetts. The dining room table was laid out with an array of common swords, a naval officer's belt, and a few other items including what the owner called a "War of 1812" canteen. I went down the list of items with the owners until I got to the canteen.

It had a label on one side marked "Canteen used/by William Fleming/of Oxford/township, Ches. Co. Pa/In the war of 1812." It is a staved canteen with two interlocking hoops, a style used for



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

many years, but as I picked it up and looked at the other side of the drum, I had to smile. It was branded "U:STATES" and was actually a Revolutionary War canteen! While it certainly could have been used during the War of 1812, this was a canteen with a Continental ownership stamp! I had seen a few of these in private collections and museums before, but never found one myself as there are only a handful known to exist.

A month before finding this canteen, I was at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir outside of Washington, DC. They have a similar example on display, formerly in the collection of Col. J. Craig Nannos. It has a very similar font branded on the drum, although the "S" on this example looks a little smaller and offset. I visited another example at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia last week, although that brand is marked "USTATES" without the colon.

I searched the service records at the National Archives for William Fleming from Oxford in Chester County, Pennsylvania and found one mentioned in the 4th Battalion in 1776, as well as later in the war. I also found one in Pennsylvania during the War of 1812, although there wasn't enough information to nail down where in Pennsylvania he was from.

I've been writing about canteens for another article I want to put together and had a few bad pictures of a U:STATES-marked canteen I was going to begrudgingly use (because of the picture quality), but now I have one can be photographed for my article before it is sold and goes to a new home. I know I mention this a lot, but it's so cool to be able to find and handle such fantastic historic objects!



BRUNEAU & CO.
AUCTIONEERS
Antiques - Fine Arts - Unusual Objects
401-533-9980 - Bruneauandco.com

FINE & DECORATIVE ARTS
BRUNEAU & CO. AUCTIONEERS
consignments always welcome!
401.533.9980
WWW.BRUNEAUANDCO.COM

Music Supplies, Guitar Amps, Novelties, Etc.
ALL KINDS OF COLLECTIBLES
Not Just Music
Make Right Offer, Take It Home
ALL MUST GO
For Appointment, Call
401-525-6776

NEW YORK GOLD EXCHANGE
CASH FOR YOU!
COURTEOUS • CONFIDENTIAL • PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
We Pay New York Refinery Prices for
• Gold • Diamonds
• Silver • Silverware
• Coins • Bullion
Expert Jewelry Repair
FREE \$10 GAS CARD WITH ANY PRECIOUS METAL TRANSACTION!
1047 Mineral Spring Ave., North Providence
401-205-1638 NEWYORKGOLDXCHANGE.COM

NOW OPEN
RETAIL T-SHIRT SHOP
PICK A DESIGN, PICK A SHIRT, WE PRINT, — & DONE IN 10 SECONDS —
PRINT WHILE U WAIT
Classic T-SHIRTS
912 TIOGUE AVE. COVENTRY, RI
401-662-0699
CUSTOM SCREENPRINTING EMBROIDERY

SIZES: 6 MON. - UP TO 5XL

Discover a **Hidden Treasure...**
...Right Here in Cranston
Saint Patrick Catholic Church
2068 Cranston Street
Cranston, RI 02920
- All Are Welcome -
MASSES
(Sat) 5 PM - (Sun) 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM
Misa en Español - (Sat) 6:00 PM
(401) 944-0001 Saintpatrickcatholicchurch.org
Where your Treasure is...
...there your heart will also be

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Karen Kalunian

Lizzy

What's black, white and happy all over?? The answer is Lizzy, who is a two year old Hound mix with the biggest smile around. Lizzy loves people, is playful and so pretty! Her perfect home would be pet free with a fenced yard so that she can run around and play. You can meet Lizzy at Heart of RI located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are open on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 or Saturday from 10:00-2:00 so please stop in to meet her. She'd love to find her forever home in time for the holidays! Feel free to call 401-467-3670 if you'd like more information about Lizzy.

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



Photo credit: Warwick Animal Shelter

Yuki

Attention big dog lovers! Now is your chance to change a life for the better! Yuki is a gorgeous Akita who is ready to find her perfect match! She is five years old and her eyes just say "love me!" Yuki is the type of girl that wants to spend time getting to know you and once she does, she will give you her whole heart! She is searching for an experienced adult home and might even like another doggie friend (male). Please contact our friends Warwick Animal Shelter call 401-468-4377 and tell them you'd like to meet Yuki. They are located at 101 Arthur W Devine Blvd in Warwick. She is longing to be loved!

Survivor

(Continued from page 14)

In 2019 Bruce decided to audition for the Survivor series, so he sent in the required video and waited... and waited, and waited.

Then about six months later he got the call and was soon on his way to Los Angeles for an interview.

After the interview he heard the words that he was waiting for from Producer Jeff Probst; "yep, we want you."

The excitement wouldn't last long, however, due to the Covid pandemic. The show was put on hold.

Thankfully though, in October of 2021, he received another call asking if he wanted to be a contestant on Series 44. You know the answer, and he was soon on his way to Fiji.

He would meet the other 17 castaways, and broke off into the three groups of 6, and the competition was on.

Unfortunately, on day one of the competition, Bruce hit his head on an overhanging beam, and had to be medivacked off the island.

Bruce blamed the accident on his shirt, explaining that because it was so tight, he couldn't raise his arms all the way up, and smacked his head.

The competition was over for him, though he was allowed to stay at the "Ponderosa" on the island, where he could talk with people who were "voted off."

Fortunately, he was invited back to participate in Season 45, and relished the opportunity to finally compete.

Asked what the typical competition was like, he said "it's everything. Agility, puzzles, memory competition and some competitions that look like Army training."

The winner of every specific competition gets an "immunity pass" which they can use to keep from being "voted out" by the other competitors, because after each session, someone must leave.

At the end of the competition (which lasts 26 days), the winners from each of the three Tribes are called in front of a group of contestants who have already lost. They then vote for the ultimate winner.

As you can imagine, there's a lot of planning and conniving and gamesmanship with each other throughout the contest.

And sometimes it is not pretty. Tempers flare, some words that can't be printed are exchanged, and accusations fly in their efforts to plot to eliminate the other contestants.

Bruce saw his share of the venom, and a good share of laughs, being called "Uncle Bruce" and "Dad Bruce," because he was a "father figure" among some of the younger contestants.

Life wasn't easy on the Island. There were no toilets, no running water, and no food.

Contestants washed their clothes (3 sets were allowed) in the ocean, and they ate a lot of coconuts and crabs (heck of a diet plan).

He also answered my follow up question before I asked it.

"There are no scripts. That's why the show kept taping during the writer's strike."

He, of course, knows who won season 45, but he can't say.

I asked if contestants were paid, and he explained that they indeed are, ranging from \$5,000 to \$1 million, depending on how long you remain in the competition.

Would he do it again?
"In a minute. I loved every single piece of it!"

"If they call for an overbearing father figure to school these young kids - I'm ready!" he said while laughing (Bruce was the oldest male in Season 45).

Asked what's next for Bruce, he was circumspect.



He said he had an "awesome" life with his adoptive parents, Gerald (who worked in the West Warwick Public Works Department and has unfortunately passed), and Theresa Perreault (who, of course, is a Saint for raising dozens and dozens of foster children as well as her own), he now uses his celebrity to help the causes he likes so much, as well as working as a real estate agent for the Williams & Stuart Agency and an insurance professional at AAA in Warwick.

He loves spending time with his family and volunteers for organizations like Adoption Rhode Island.

As a matter of fact, he recently spoke at the Rhode Island State House during National Adoption Awareness Month, with the usual requests for photos.

"People are sometimes hesitant to approach me, but I love it. I love talking to people about family and important things in our lives. I even like to talk about things most people don't talk about."

I asked if race was one of those things?

He answered "I had a great childhood. Growing up in West Warwick was great. We had no social media then, and I didn't have a cell phone until I was in the military. But I saw my share of racism, some blatant



(Photos by Robert Voets/CBS)

and some not so blatant. I even had one person come up to me and tell me that in the Bible it says that races shouldn't mix."

But Bruce takes it in stride. He is someone that has nothing but a positive outlook and embodies the principles of family and hard work.

I of course had to ask the next question. Is there politics in the future?

"Definitely. I would like to stick my toe in the water. My plan in 2024 is to start looking and going to more City Council meetings."

Don't bet against my friend Bruce.

The motto of Survivor will serve him well in politics. "Outwit. Outplay. Outlast."

The final episode of the show airs Dec. 20 and then we'll learn who the survivor is.



Bruce Perreault with "Survivor" host Jeff Probst. (Photo courtesy of CBS)

Holiday Bazaars, Festivals & Craft Shows

Dec. 16, Jingle Bell Bazaar, on Sat., December 16, The Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, will hold its Jingle Bell Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Raffle, crafts, goodies, kids activities and Santa Claus. Free admission to all. Nonperishable food donations for JSC Food Pantry will get you one free raffle ticket.

Dec. 16, Holiday Story Time Craft and Visit with Santa at the Pontiac Free Library, 101 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, on Sat., Dec. 16 at noon. Refreshments will be served. Registration is requested. For information/reservations please contact 401-737-3292 or info@pontiacfreelibrary.com.

Gifts that matter

The feel-good feelings of Christmas are in the air! I forced myself to wait until after Thanksgiving before giving Christmas a thought. Hubby decorated the house and its surroundings, enjoying the colorful, eight-foot tall, blow-up Santa in a grass skirt doing the hula while perky Christmas music played. Ah, if only the weather matched that of Hawaii instead of being so cold!

Christmas shopping was great fun! Instead of perusing the malls, I let my fingers do the walking online, checking and rechecking the prices to make sure my purchases were the most economical. Gifts were thoughtfully bought with each special recipient in mind. For my three-year-old grandson who lives in California, Francis' son, I searched high and low to find a children's toy telephone where I could record my voice to which he could listen. Francis had told me that one of his favorite self-initiated play activities was to pretend to call me on his little, plastic telephone. Honored that he not only knew who I was from 3,000 miles away, but that he seemed to get enjoyment out of pretending to talk to me, I wanted to reinforce this relationship by purchasing a gift I could personalize just for him. When I do call in person, he gets excited, waving his arms excitedly and saying "Mi! Mi!" He joyfully brings toys over to the phone to show me, and I "Ooooooh!" and "Ahhhhhh!" appropriately.

Steven's daughter, Rosie, is also very excited to see me. She runs and jumps into my arms without restraint, sometimes almost knocking me over. It is great to be welcomed with such love, albeit from a nine-year-old who will someday be a teenager who has outgrown her demonstrative affection for me. The perfect gift for her is a stuffed animal that can hug back, wearing a scarf that says, "I love you to the moon and back!"

I love shopping for meaningful gifts. For one of my many nieces who is soon to turn 18, graduate from high school and embark on a summer work program in Ireland, I was lucky to find an Alex and Ani bracelet with an

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

Irish Claddagh on it. Being of Irish heritage, I am sure she will appreciate the thought. My teenage grandchildren prefer gift cards, which is fine as long as they also accept a more personalized, tangible gift. A stylish teenager's purse (do they even call it a purse?) will hold the aforementioned gift card to Amazon. Last year she was gifted with a similar item and has used it all year long. For my grandson, an up-and-coming high school wrestler, his Amazon gift card will sit in the box along with a Saint Sebastian medal, the patron saint of wrestlers.

Purchasing gifts for Hubby's mother, who, at the age of 92 has everything, takes more thought. Rather than give her a gift card to Chili's or Applebee's, we take her out to dinner. It costs the same but gives us the experience of spending some additional quality time with her.

It also hits me that there are many people who do not have family with which to celebrate Christmas, especially people who are homeless. I like to make up little Christmas bags for them which include regular toiletries, (toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant,) as well as cute, frivolous items such as joke books, search and find puzzles, pens with colorful puff balls on the end of them, gum that crackles in the mouth, and key chains with inspirational sayings are included in the bag. They only cost about \$5.00 each and will be dispensed at the Christmas service of the Church Beyond Walls in Kennedy Plaza, where participants are also served a hot meal. In reality, these gift bags are a gift for me, a gift that makes my heart joyful, and worth more than any gift someone could give to me.

Yes, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year!



Fred Sullivan, Jr. (Henry F. Potter/ Clarence), Lynsey Ford (Mary Hatch), Tony Estrella (George Bailey), Jim O'Brien (Joseph/Billy Bailey), Andrew Iacovelli (Harry Bailey, Ernie Bishop) Background L to R: Helena Tafuri (Violet Bick, Janie Bailey/Others), Milly Massey (Announcer/Zuzu Bailey) (Photo by Nile Scott Studios)

A magical mix of radio and theater at The Gamm

It's A Wonderful Life: Radio Play

Theatre Review by IDA ZECCO

From the moment you enter the theater, you become a part of this sparkling production! As pre-show entertainment, actors greet members of the audience from the stage and lead popular holiday songs. You are requested to submit a written announcement that could be read aloud and "broadcast over the live airwaves of WGAM Radio" during the show.

The studio set by Michael McGarty, the costumes (from dapper bow ties to seamed silk stockings) by Jessie Darrell Jarbadan; the upright piano and the pre-show ambiance created by director Tony Estrella and his talented cast, explodes like a Norman Rockwell painting. It is a loving reminder of a simpler and more empathetic life gone by. This reviewer was hooked from the start!

Adapted by Joe Landry from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling. The live radio play is a joyful twist on the classic film released in 1947, starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. The production marks the theater's fifth year retelling this redemptive story of resilience and community. It is as if from an actual radio station on Christmas Eve in 1946. This production has a limited run through December 24.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella expertly directs this production and performs the beloved role of George Bailey. Mr. Estrella renders a glorious George, the empathetic patriarch of Bedford Falls, NY, who smotheres his own dreams to fulfill those of his beloved community. Estrella expertly displays a sad regret while avoiding bitterness and creating the warmhearted, Capra-esque George we have come to love.

Seven additional actors play multiple characters in this play. Seasoned actor, Fred Sullivan, Jr. charms the audience with his sweet Clarence, the angel who

saves George. In addition he plays crotchety Henry F. Potter (it was as if Sullivan had channeled Lionel Barrymore himself to the stage), a despicable character, indeed! Lynsey Ford captures a beautiful and caring Mary Hatch as well as Rose Bailey, George's mother. Helena Tafuri expertly enacts the flirtatious Violet Brick; with just enough vocal inflection she creates both comical innuendo and double entendre. Jim O'Brien is a convincing, befuddled Billy Bailey as well as Joseph, Clarence's mentor.

Due to the multiple roles played by each actor, radio plays can be tricky. The success lies in the talent of diverse voice characterization which is the wizardry of a radio play. Andrew Iacovelli as Harry Bailey, Ernie Bishop, Nick the bartender, and others is a master at voice contrasts. Each one of his roles is explicit, clear and well-acted.

Will Malloy is delightful to watch and hear as a master Folley Artist. In pre-show performance Will provides lightning speed sound effects to "The Twelve Days of Christmas" which, alone, is worth the price of the ticket. Milley Massey, is Music Director and portrays a wonderfully effective Announcer as well as George's youngest daughter, Zuzu. Ms. Massey performs the music underscoring throughout the play on studio's upright piano that is delightful, and adds a sprinkling of customized radio jingles.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play runs only two weeks, now through December 24, at The Gamm Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, R.I. Weekday \$60, weekend \$70, child/student \$20; special pricing for "A Winter's Delight" benefit on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Do not wait! This captivating, life-affirming story is a holiday treat for the entire family! It is destined to be a sell-out run.

Discounts for groups of 10 or more available at gammtheatre.org/discounts. Call 401-723-4266 or visit gammtheatre.org/wonderful.

Helping Local Businesses Thrive & Survive

Thank You

C HERRY HILL MANOR
Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

for your continued loyalty



Call us at 732-3100 to advertise your business



INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY. Shop Locally!

WET LEAKY BASEMENT?
 • PUMPS INSTALLED • UNDER FLOOR DRAINAGE
 • FOUNDATION & BULKHEAD REPAIRS • EGRESS OPENINGS
 LET A PROFESSIONAL SOLVE YOUR BASEMENT WATER PROBLEMS

(401) 516-3641
www.DivConServices.com

Diversified Services RI Reg. #9386

GRAHAM INSURANCE INC.
 PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1970

Vincent S. Podmaska
 vinny@grahaminsuranceinc.com

1465 Atwood Avenue
 Johnston, RI 02919
 Tel: 401-273-8700

Custom CHRISTMAS Lighting
401-595-0726
 FREE ESTIMATES
www.PowerWashJM.com

We **DESIGN** a customized display for your home!
 We **INSTALL** our quality, commercial grade lights!
 We **MAINTAIN** your lighting all season long!
 We **REMOVE** and **STORE** it all for the off-season!

DESIGN • INSTALL • REMOVAL • STORAGE
 Licensed & Insured • Gift Certificates Available

BOOK NOW!

PROPANE FILLING STATION
621-8129 Call Phil

ALL PROPANE TANKS FILLED HERE

- Open 7 days a week
- Open all year
- English & Spanish

904 Manton Ave. Providence (IN FRONT OF STOP & SHOP)
 Phil.Johnston32@gmail.com
www.jfcpropane.com

J's BROADWAY APPLIANCE & TV

save energy shop local

47 Cedar Swamp Road, Smithfield, RI 02917
401-949-7800
 Info@jsappliance.com
www.jsappliance.com

Real Estate License

ALBERT REALTORS®
 and the REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND are offering
FREE pre-license training

ALBERT REALTORS TRUSTED SINCE 1963

Albert Scaria, **401-944-3377**
 ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE

1050 Reservoir Ave, Cranston, RI 02910

Denise's Cleaning Service
 Specializing in RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CLEANING
 Providing a Professional & Personalized Cleaning Service
 WEEKLY | BI-WEEKLY MONTHLY

Free Quote
401.428.8164

DETAILS MATTER
 INTERIOR/EXTERIOR CAR DETAILING

Full Car Detail **\$150**
 Full SUV Detail **\$200**

Mobile Services Available
 Call Lense **401-855-8088**
 DetailsMatterMost@gmail.com

(401) 461-5600 www.budgetrooterservice.com

BUDGET ROOTER SERVICE

Drain Problem? No Problem! Just Call Jim!
 40+ Years of Experience

Family Owned And Operated

"Why Pay More?"

Servicing both Commercial and Residential Clients:
 Main Sewer Lines • Sinks • Tubs • Showers • Floor Drains
 Video Camera Pipe Inspection

ASAP ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION LLC

WINTER SPECIAL: Average 1,200-1,400 sq. ft. roof \$7,495
 BOOK NOW - OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/23

FREE ESTIMATES RI REG 48467
 LICENSED & INSURED 14 WALNUT ST., WARWICK RI 02888

BRIAN: 401-855-8900

Place Your Ad Today
 Reach **LOCAL** Customers!

ONLY \$16⁵⁰ PER WEEK
 (10-week commitment)

3.42"x2" ad • FREE COLOR WHEN AVAILABLE

CedarValley EXTERIORS
 From Storm to Finish™

Local contractor that has successfully completed claim repairs of roofing and siding for over 20,000+ homes.

We provide a free inspection of your home's exterior and help you through the insurance process. We will meet your Insurance Adjuster when the damage is reviewed; then we will perform the repairs for your home at the price your Insurance Company agrees to pay.

Call now, for your free, NO OBLIGATION, home inspection

RI Reg. #36055 **401-317-5009**
 John Szymkiewicz



Place Your Ad Today — ONLY \$16⁵⁰ PER WEEK
 (10-week commitment. 3.42"x2" ad. FREE COLOR WHEN AVAILABLE)