

Sister Daisy's back in class

By RORY SCHULER

The prayers worked. Sister Daisy's still healing but she's back in her St. Rocco School classroom. "It's a miracle," said the nun and second grade teacher.

On Nov. 7, Sister Daisy Kollampampil was seriously injured in the Atwood Avenue crosswalk outside the school. A driver failed to stop, rear-ending another driver and pushing that vehicle into the crosswalk where it struck Sr. Daisy, sending her to the hospital.

"It is," agreed St. Rocco School Principal Regina M. Hand. "It really is a miracle."

Sr. Daisy returned to the classroom on Jan. 10.

"And everybody's prayers helped," she said in the hallway outside her classroom. Her students sat quietly, dressed for Career Day. One boy wore a construction helmet, another wore a police uniform, and a third donned a Celtics basketball jersey.

Sr. Daisy approached a little girl who was dressed in a sweater; there was an apple on her desk.

From the back of the room, St. Rocco's principal looked toward her recuperating teacher.

"She looks great," Hand said. "That's what everybody keeps saying."

On the classroom wall hangs a long banner signed by all her students and declaring "Welcome Back Sr. Daisy!"

"I'm not 100% healed," said the nun at the head of the class. "I act like it."

The accident that took Sr. Daisy off the job for two months drew attention to the St. Rocco crosswalk, from the church to the convent parking lot across Atwood Avenue (Route 5), which is a state road.

Police pledged increased enforcement in the area. The state Department of Transportation (DOT) promised they would try to expedite the permitting process



WHEN THEY GROW UP: Students in Sister Daisy Kollampampil's second grade class were dressed as their possible future vocations during Career Day on Monday. Sr. Daisy returned to the job on Jan. 10, more than two months after she was seriously injured in the crosswalk outside the school. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

PRAYER - PAGE 7



SOLAR ECLIPSED: Above, residents gathered for Thursday's zoning board meeting delivered a standing ovation to the board once it voted to deny Green Development's application to build a solar farm. Below, after the vote, residents lined up to shake the board members' hands. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



Zoning Board flips the switch on solar project

By RORY SCHULER

A shadow has been cast on Green Development's solar project plans in Johnston.

The opposition was nervous. A rumor had circulated through the ranks of Stop Johnston Solar (SJS) that the four-month zoning hearing would drag on to February. Many decided not to show up for Thursday night's meeting.

Then, early Thursday, Jan. 25, SJS attorney Matt Landry informed the group's members that a vote was likely that night.

"There was an awful lot of scrambling that day when we found out about the vote that we were told was probably not going to happen," said ex-mayoral candidate Karen Cappelli Chadwick. "We all called people, sent out messages, put up Facebook posts, and it worked. We were able to get a good crowd."

Meeting To Order

The atmosphere was tense in the Johnston Senior Center as the crowd slowly grew. At first, there were plenty of empty seats. But by the time the opening gavel banged, an argument over folding chairs erupted. The room was suddenly full and Johnston resident Paul Francis was ready to lock horns in combat.

Zoning Board Chairman Thomas Lopardo opened the meeting. The board informed the public they had four voting members, enough for a quorum (one member was out sick, and another present Thursday night had missed a meeting).

Francis leapt to his feet, as he has monthly, commanding the rooms atten-

tion. The board stopped fighting Francis last year. They let him talk.

"If it goes in their favor, we're going to be upset you don't have a full panel voting," Francis warned the board.

"I understand exactly," Lopardo said. "There's no shenanigans being played. Just give us five minutes please."

The tension was audible. Voices shaking. Hands wringing.

People were rankled that the solar project was listed at the end of the agenda. They thought they would have to sit through three new special use permit applications before they had closure on an increasingly emotional issue — the clearing of nearly 160 acres of woodland to install nearly 50,000 solar panels off Winsor Avenue on the site of a historic farmstead.

Some residents feared the fix was in. That peculiar Johnston fatalism was apparent as Chadwick talked to neighbors leading up to Thursday's climax.

"That afternoon Matt Landry found out they were indeed going to vote," she said. "I have been called 'Polyanna' and a 'cockeyed optimist.' I felt that we had a chance. If I had a nickel for every 'I told you so' since my brief stint in politics, I could have purchased the Steere's property and kept it just the way it is."

'Cockeyed Optimist' affirmed

"On my way to the meeting the clouds parted and a big full moon showed," Chadwick said. "It gave me hope. When I got to the Senior Center I saw a group of folks who looked like the hammer was about to fall."

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Johnston Sun Rise

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:


A	B	A	T	E	B	O	S	C	D	A	B	A		
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POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Sofia Williams. Sofia is a freshman at Johnston High and was nominated by her Art teacher Ms. Kerry Murphy. Ms. Murphy said, "Sofia exemplifies what it means to be a Panther! This student demonstrates leadership in how she conducts herself in the classroom as well as in her formal role as class president. Sofia has great communication skills and is respectful to staff and peers alike. Johnston High School is fortunate to have people, like Sofia, who work hard for the benefit of our school community. Her artwork has been featured in one of the JHS Art Department cases!" (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.

JHS SADD hosts Hoops for Heart

By CAMERON VEITCH
 Special to the Sun Rise

It's that time of the year again! The season of love is right around the corner! Get your flowers and chocolate ready for Valentine's Day. But do not forget about another cause that will be celebrated on the very same day.

The American Heart Association always makes an effort to reduce death caused by heart disease and stroke, which plague our society. The association's great efforts change the lives of many and are supported by many people around the world. The Johnston Senior High School is taking part and hosting its annual Hoops for Heart on Valentine's Day for students.

You may be asking yourself, "What is hoops for heart?" Well, Hoops for Heart is an annual fundraiser in which the profits go directly to the American Heart Association in support of their efforts. Students will donate a minimum of \$20 in order to participate (it is first come, first served). The event is in the school's gymnasium, hosted by JHS's Students Against Dan-

gerous Decisions (SADD), where there will be snacks and drinks provided for those students who participate. The event is run by the wonderful PE teachers at the school and is mainly officiated by Ms. Quantmire. Many games will also be held, such as Chicken in the Hen House, Red Light Green Light, and Hot Potato. Participants can also play various games such as basketball, volleyball, corn-hole, and Kan Jam.

Hoops for Heart is a widely liked event that also brings revenue to an important organization, making it important to JHS tradition. But tradition or not, all students are encouraged to participate and/or donate to the amazing cause, and so is everyone else who is not a student. Anyone is welcome to support the American Heart Association.

Please contact Mr. Russo (SADD Advisor) at grusso@johnstonschools.org or Raylin Santos (President of SADD) at 2024rsantos@johnstonschools.org for details on how you can donate today!

Editor's Note: Cameron Veitch serves as Sophomore Class President. The Johnston Sun Rise regularly publishes stories submitted by JHS students.

There's a place for all at the Senior Center, even Rocco

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlight this week shines on Rocco Uriati. Rocco has resided in Johnston for the past 14 years, having previously lived in Providence since coming to the United States from Italy in 1962. This past Veterans Day, the JSC recognized all veterans from all branches in the US military. As Veterans lined up, and as we were about to conclude, Rocco stood up and stated, "What about me, where do I go? There is no place for me."

I was caught off-guard and somewhat confused as we were sure each branch of service was represented. In what was a much lighter moment that day, Rocco exclaimed, "I served in the Italian Army."

That certainly was a teaching moment for me in that no matter how well you may plan, the obvious may not be so firmly planted before you.

Rocco was appropriately recognized for his service and received a rousing round of applause.

Rocco can be seen here daily, enjoying coffee and a muffin each morning, playing a game of "Italian Cards," similar to solitaire. He then enjoys lunch, and when the weather is suitable, a game of bocce.

Rocco, who still speaks with an obvious Italian accent, was a cabinet maker and specialized in furniture-making, a craft he learned in Italy. When speaking of Italy, and his time in a war-torn mountain village, Rocco becomes emotional to this day.

He speaks to how his family struggled to survive, with no food. His family home had been destroyed during the war, and his family fled to the mountains barely surviving. He is the only living member of his family today, with the exception of his wife and children.

Rocco is thankful for all that this country has given him, and he says in return he wants to give all he has to his children. He speaks of the families who were lost during the war and how the Italian people shared all they had with each other. He speaks fondly of "those beautiful people" as he makes the sign of the cross and looks above.

He concludes by saying, "I really can't talk about it."

As we conclude, I wonder how many others of the population we serve here have similar stories which would move them to emotions one might not expect. I also contemplate how we process loss, and the pain even those who smile and appear happy, might be experiencing. I do know, even in some very small way, we make a difference in the lives of so many here at the Johnston Senior Center.

If you know of a senior who could benefit from healthy interaction with others, bring them by to meet some of the great members and staff.

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

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

From the Staff

Our Senior Center gives our all, to make our members feel welcome and enjoy the time they spend here.

Along with the activities, lunch is served daily. Bingo is every Thursday and Friday at 2 p.m.

We are putting together more activities for the coming months ahead. Looking forward to seeing you.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Johnston Senior Center will hold a Ballroom Social Dance.

Together we will bring our Center back to life and make it better than ever. Thank you to all our members.

Weekly Fun

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

Upcoming Trips & Events

- Wednesday, Jan. 31, 11:30 a.m., Mystery Lunch, (\$10 per person)
- Monday, Feb. 5, Lunch & Shopping at Warwick Mall, 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 6, Decorating cards for the residents at Morgan Health Center
- Wednesday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m., Vini Ames Trio, Lunch & Dance at Venus De Milo Restaurant (\$45 per person)
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m., Decorating for Valentines Day,
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, Ballroom Dancing, 1-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 14, 11:15 a.m., Valentines Day Lunch, Party, and Entertainment. The Johnston Senior Center welcomes Steve Anthony!
- Tuesday, Feb. 20, Painting with Lorraine, from 1-3 p.m. Enjoy coffee and pastry. Come and join in our painting class to show your talent. (\$20 per person)
- Monday, Feb. 26, Newport, Lunch & Shopping, 10:30 a.m. (\$5 per person)
- Wednesday, Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m., Mystery Lunch (\$10 per person)
- Up Coming Trips TBA



Senior 'Spotlite'

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME: Rocco Uriati has a place at the Johnston Senior Center, from which the Senior 'Spotlite' shines this week. The Italian immigrant and veteran may not fit the typical 'Veterans Day' ceremony mold, but staff at the senior center are happy to crack the mold and start over occasionally. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)



Town of Johnston Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53 that the Johnston Town Council will hold a Public Hearing **February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Municipal Court, located at 1600 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider proposed **Ordinance 2024-1 (formerly 2023-CP-160)** to amend the Zoning Ordinance and the Official Zoning Map, as summarized here.

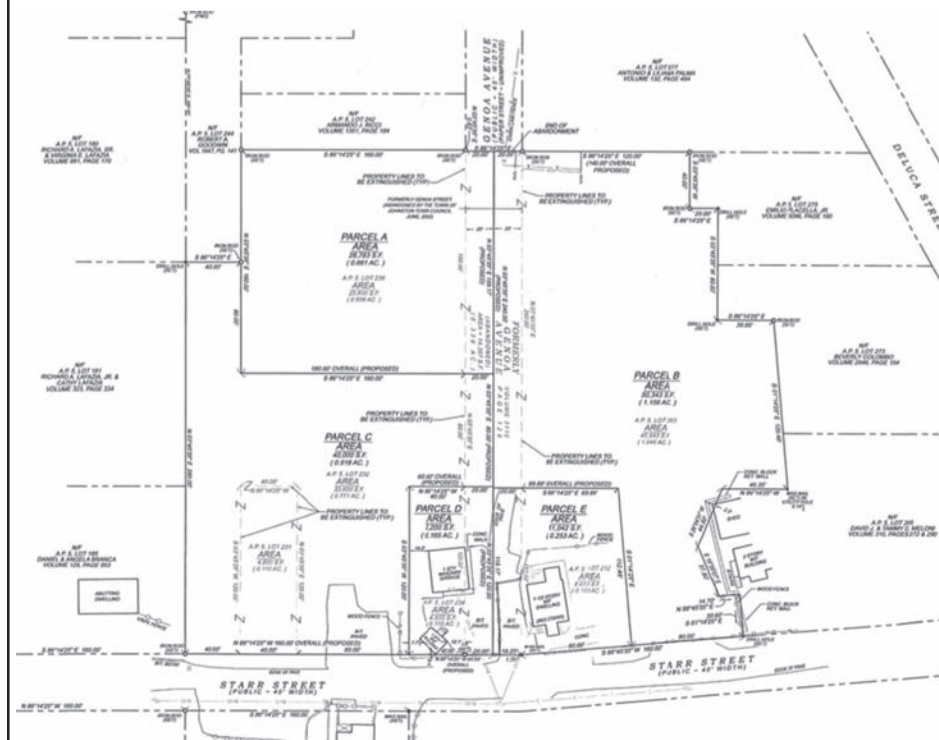
Applicant: Peter St. Lawrence, III
Assessor's Plat: 5
Assessor's Lots: 231, 232, 234, 238, 262 & 263
Present Classification: R-20
Proposed Change to: Industrial-L
Said lot being located on: Starr Street

The proposed Ordinance may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Said proposed Ordinance is available at the office of the Town Clerk for examination. Any alteration or amendment will be presented for comment in the course of the hearing. All persons interested in the above application are requested to attend said meeting and be heard. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the Office of the Town Clerk seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Per Order:
Robert V. Russo
Johnston Town Council

Attest:
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr.
Town Clerk

1/25, 2/1, 2/8/24



ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable

Troovy & Chatta



Photo credit: Paw Print Studio CT

Troovy and Chatta are a bonded pair, they need to be adopted together! They are truly best friends, they were actually found together. Troovy the white mixed breed who is four years old was found with her puppies and Chatta by her side protecting her. Chatta is younger just over a year old and is a little shy but filled with so much love. Both girls are other dog friendly and will fill your home with love and laughter! They are an amazing duo, and you know what they say, "Two is better than one." Just think they will always have each other to snuggle. Please email rhodehomerescue@gmail.com or visit their website for more information <http://www.rhodehomerescue.org> – These two girls can't wait to meet you!

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



animaltalk1920@gmail.com

JHS FNL



PERFECT PROPS: JHS students Joseph Maggiacomo, Anthony Cardullo and Ethan Bracey show off some of the promotions for the Feb. 9 Friday Night Live.

Live from Johnston, it's Friday night!

By PETE FONTAINE

If you like NBC's sketch comedy show Saturday Night Live, known as "SNL," plan on being inside Johnston High School's auditorium on Feb. 9 for a rather unique production of the Panther Players that's titled "Friday Night Live."

"Our cast and crew have been writing since September and most of our skits are completely original, which is really a challenge," offered JHS Music Department Chair Ron Lamoureux. "We started with about 25 scenes in our idea list and whittled it down to our best to create a two-act show that will slow and make people of all ages laugh."

Lamoureux announced, "We will have a special guest host and for the first time ever and it won't be a student. We have on board a university-loved science teacher Ed Saravo who enjoys teaching, fishing and most importantly supporting kids – you just may see him at sporting events, the science fair, concerts ... everything social."

Saravo will star in FNL as "The Clerk in Fable Towne Market" in the opening sketch, which promises to be a favorite for everyone. FNL will also have several cameo appearances by faculty and staff as well as kids from around JHS that are not Drama Club regulars.

Moreover, JHS will provide musical guests for the evening known as Velvet Day-Dreams that will also close Act 1 and be the final group on stage for the show. The group includes Chelsea Maranhao on vocals, Johan Rodas on guitar, Davide Pagliarini on piano, Joshua Edward Sanford on bass, Ben Monhan on baritone sax and Jonathan Guilmette on drums.

Lamoureux said "Velvet DayDreams has an indie jazz sound that is going to resonate well with the audience."

FNL will also have unique props, some of which have been made available by, as Lamoureux said, "our friends in the West Warwick performing arts department that will have an actual car on stage."

The car will be the focal point of "Bed Driving," which promises to deliver laughs from the seats of the car that has been used by West Warwick and Smithfield in productions of Grease.

"A big 'thank you' to JHS alum Richard Marchetti," said Lamoureux who he called "a super talented musician and West Warwick teacher who has made the car possible."

The FNL performance will include a few live skits mixed with some video submissions.

Tickets went on sale yesterday and are priced at \$10 in advance and \$14 at the door. Anyone who'd like to purchase a ticket in advance should call Lamoureux at 401-233-1920 ext. 2102.



STAGE SUPPORT: Josh Sanford and Faither Summers are running lines across the stage for the Feb. 9 Friday Night Live. (Submitted photos)



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

All hands on deck a necessity during Washington Bridge debacle

A common saying for procrastinators everywhere is that “we’ll cross that bridge when we get there.”

Well, the bridge is here, it’s possibly irreparably broken, and it’s making life exponentially more frustrating for many thousands of Rhode Islanders every day.

Allow us to join the chorus of voices criticizing RIDOT and state leadership for its inability to provide an accurate estimate on how long this bridge fiasco will take to resolve.

No, this is not a complaint stemming from wanting an accurate answer faster; rather the complete opposite is what we’d like.

Although it may be difficult to provide a simple but non-committal answer along the lines of “We won’t know exactly how broken this bridge is, or how long it will take to fix, until we do more analysis and inspections,” when throngs of media members and citizens are clamoring for information, doing so would be infinitely less frustrating than making uninformed guesses that become completely useless once more information is learned.

First it was going to take around three months to fix, then four, and now we’re talking about possibly needing to replace the entire structure as more inspections and analysis is being conducted. While the 24/7 news cycle has made people less and less patient when dealing with breaking news stories — always wanting that next update faster and faster — sometimes it is best to not pretend to have all the facts and simply admit what is not known, and to leave the predictive timelines for a later date when all the information is in hand.

As for the continued response to the crisis, we find it simply unbelievable that RIDOT has apparently striven to continue business as usual with other projects throughout the state while one of the most crucial arteries becomes clogged with horrendous traffic from the morning commute until well into the evening hours.

The Washington Bridge repair must be the priority project, perhaps the only non-emergency-related project, being worked on until it is resolved. A state of emergency should be sought to bring federal dollars to assist with the repairs.

As for how this mess began in the first place, there is no one person to blame and no one entity to demonize. Rather, it seems a lackadaisical culture of pushing off maintenance well beyond when it should be conducted, which has bitten us so many times in the past, has simply reared its ugly head in a most dramatic fashion.

If there is to be any good salvaged from this chaos, please let this be a wake up call to end all wake-up calls for state authorities and politicians.

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

LETTERS

RIRRC chairman trusts Reposa will ‘respect his previous commitments’ as Vinagro CEO

I write today in the capacity of Chairman of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Board of Commissioners. Having followed your recent coverage of the departure of the Corporation’s Executive Director with concern, I feel it important to share the following with your readers.

The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation takes great pride in running a results oriented, efficient operation on behalf of the stakeholders and rate payers that utilize its services. Since 2010 when the Board was reconstituted, I have been proud to be part of that work. This included seven strong years from Executive Director Reposa who efficiently managed this public asset on behalf of the people of this great State while significantly extending the life of the Central Landfill and providing our municipal and commercial customers alike with appropriate and competitive pricing.

As Mr. Reposa’s career objectives continue to widen, I am not only pleased to see him keep his talents here in Rhode Island but am reassured to have him joining the ranks of one of Resource Recovery’s most important business partners, the J.R. Vinagro Corporation. I trust he will respect his previous commitments to the State of Rhode Island while also continuing the fine legacy of the J.R. Vinagro Corporation as a leader in sustainable materials management and benevolent supporter of our larger community.

Regards,

Michael F. Sabitoni
RI Resource Recovery Corporation, Chair
65 Shun Pike
Johnston

JRTC: ‘A huge thank you to the Johnston Zoning Board’

The Johnston Republican Town Committee would like to say thank you to the Johnston Zoning Board for doing the right thing and rejecting the Winsor Solar Fields proposal by Green Development. After months and long hours upon hours of testimony, debates, and discussion, we are relieved and grateful that you voted unanimously for our residents.

We would also like to recognize and thank our Johnston neighbors for fighting the good fight and standing up for yourselves and those that would be impacted by this decision. You organized an amazing campaign but don't disband. The residents won this battle but remember that Green Development is a huge machine that is banking on RI’s Climate Change initiative. This

could come back to Johnston at another time and a different location.

All residents, please consider this and attend your local town meetings. Be involved in local politics and share your voice. You can see when the town meetings are by visiting: <https://townofjohnstonri.com/meetings>. Remember, the late, great Tip O’Neil said, “All politics is local.” For those interested in making a positive impact and joining the Johnston Republican Town Committee, please email info@johnstonri.gop.

Sincerely,

The Johnston Republican Town Committee

‘Your elected officials cannot read minds. They do not know how you feel unless you tell them’

Hello, it’s me again. It’s time to say thank you to the amazing group of residents who signed up for and stayed involved in the fight against Green Development and their Winsor III Project. Each and every one of you showed up time and time again until it was the public’s turn to speak, and speak you did. Through your presence, signatures on a petition and letters, an amazing thing happened here in the town. You spoke from the heart, and your devotion to the cause worked. Thank you to the members of the Johnston Zoning Board. As Chairman Lopardo stated, there was a lot to consider, a lot to digest. You listened to us. You saw the concern on people’s faces. You made the right decision for the residents and the town.

Time and time again I heard things like, “Why do you care? You can’t see from your house. It’s a done deal.”

But the strength in numbers gave me hope. The residents prevailed. So you see, you can make a difference. Your elected officials cannot read minds. They do not know how you feel unless you tell them. You did just that.

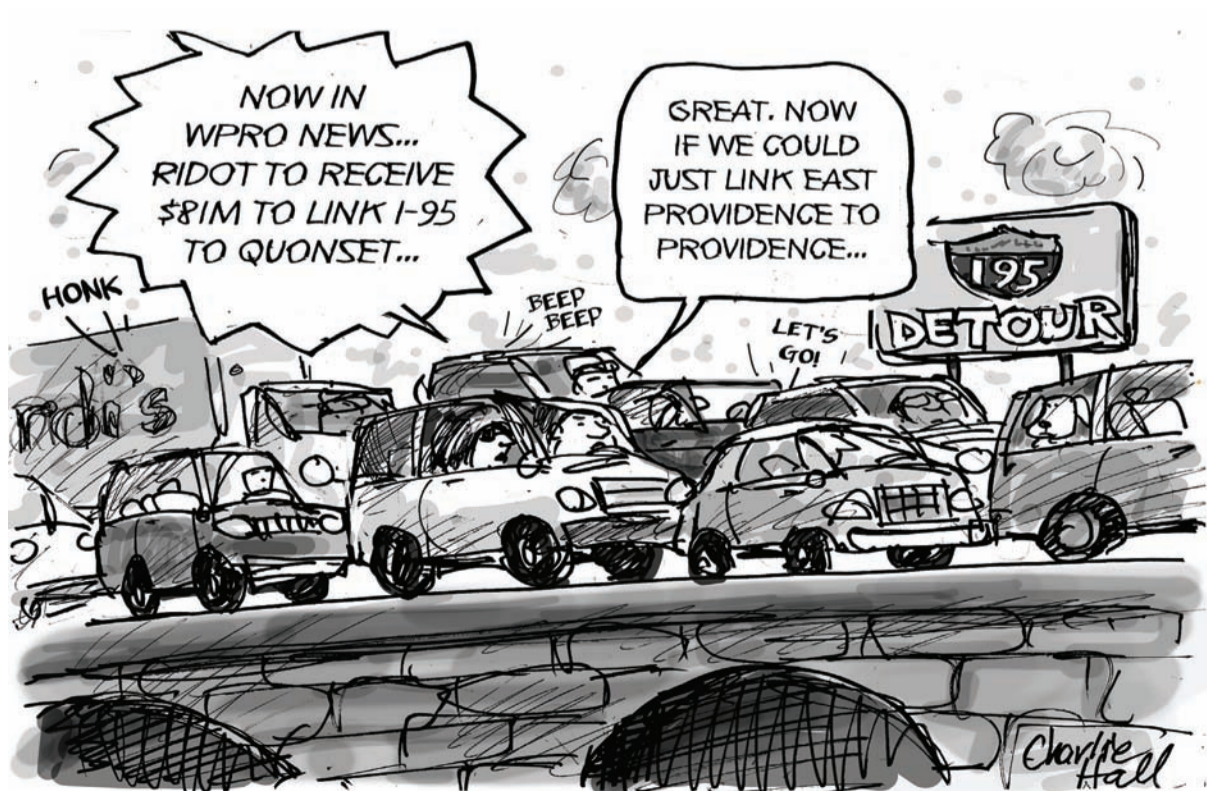
A huge thank you to Councilman Robert Civetti, who stood with his constituents for all the right reasons. A true public servant. Thank you to Attorney Matt Landry for all your hard work and a spot on presentation. And thank you to Rory Schuler of the Johnston Sun Rise, Amanda Milkovits from the Boston Globe and Jim Hummel of the Hummel Report. You helped us get the word out. I believe that made a significant difference. Keep up your good work.

Gratefully yours,
Karen Cappelli Chadwick, Johnston



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SUN RISE SCOOPS

Sun Rise Staff Reports

Feb. 5 Educational Program for Homeschool Families

On Monday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m., the Museum of Work & Culture and Harris Public Library will hold a free educational program for the Ocean State's "Homeschool Families."

The event will be held at the Museum of Work & Culture, 42 South Main St., Woonsocket and the Harris Public Library, 303 Clinton St., Woonsocket.

The Museum of Work and Culture, a division of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the Woonsocket Harris Public Library will host the third program in their bi-monthly free educational series for homeschooled families, according to a press release.

"A l'École: Walking Through Their School Day" will begin at the Museum, where families will gather in the parochial school classroom to learn about early twentieth-century school life. Children will discover what school was like for the French-speaking Catholic population of

Woonsocket. By interacting with photographs, artifacts, and traditional classroom resources, students will discover the relationship between the church and school, learn a few French words, and maybe even take a pop quiz!

After the Museum program, participants will move to the Woonsocket Harris Public Library. At the library, homeschool students will consider a school day in the early 20th-century parochial schoolroom while contemplating their own experiences as modern-day homeschoolers. Students will self-reflect on their personal interests, talents, & goals to create a mixed media collage on canvas or notebook, using lots of fun crafting tidbits.

This two-part program will have two sessions, each starting at the Museum of Work & Culture. Families may register for the 10 a.m. to noon session, or the 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. session. Space is limited, and registration is required. Email mowc@rihs.org for reservations.

Feb. 6 Photographic Society of RI

The Photographic Society of RI will

hold its next meeting on Tues., Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m., as a social time and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. It will be held at Lake-wood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave., Warwick. It will be the 3rd Open Competition of the new year. The competition will include black & white prints, color prints, digital images and slides. It will give you a chance to see some great work being judged. Future meetings will include live demos, competitions, set-ups for photo ops, image studies and presentations from experts on a vast array of topics for a wide range of skill levels. Whether a member or not, please come and enjoy the program and to see what the club is all about.

Feb. 10 Pasta Dinner

Former Coventry High School Navy JROTC Cadets will host a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser in memory of Lucas Finegan (Class of 2019) on Feb. 10 from 6-11 p.m. at the VFW Post 9404, 29 South Main St. in Coventry. Menu includes chicken, pasta, salad, rolls & desserts. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20 per person. All are invited to enjoy a night of great food, raffles and memories. Contact Dotie at 401-451-0632 with any questions.

Feb. 10 Valentine's Dinner Dance

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the West Warwick-Coventry Emblem Club 454 is holding a Valentine's Dinner Dance, with "No Host Cocktails" starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The menu includes: salad, stuffed boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, bread and butter, coffee and dessert. The event will also include music, dancing and raffles. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be prepaid. No tickets will be sold at door. The event is being held at the West Warwick Elks Lodge 1697, 60 Clyde St., West Warwick. For Tickets call Linda at 401-497-3680.

Feb. 10 Memorabilia & Artifacts

The Hope Historical Society, "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts" will be held on Sat., Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Howland Barn on 35 Ryefield Road in Hope. All are welcome! The "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts" topic is an Open Forum meeting. Open Forum is an interactive meeting where members and attendees become a living history by sharing pictures, artifacts, stories, etc. related to the program topic. Intrigued by the topic but cannot attend "Hope and Surrounding Areas Memorabilia and Artifacts"? No worries! You can still share in being part of the living history by posting a picture and/or story on our Facebook page "Hope Historical Society, Hope, RI". Pictures and stories must be posted at least 72 hours before the meeting to be included at the Open Forum. Not a Facebook user? Pictures or stories can be emailed to the HHS at hopehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

NAMI-RI Offers Family Support Groups

The RI chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-RI) offers free support groups for families and friends of loved ones who are struggling with their mental health. The groups are led by trained facilitators who also have lived experience as family members themselves. The group meetings last about 1.5 hours, and everyone who participates in the meeting gets a chance to share. The other members of the group try to offer help and resources, when appropriate, based on their own experiences. More information and full schedule can be found at namirhodeisland.org or call 401-331-3060. No pre-registration for these monthly groups is necessary.

First Thursday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Rochambeau Library in the Community Room, Rochambeau Library, 708 Hope Street, Providence (NEW-starts Aug.)

Second Tuesday at 5 p.m. In-person only at the Middletown Public Library in the Community Room. Middletown Library, 700 West Main Road, Middletown.

Third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Meets via Zoom only. Please call 401-331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland.org for the Zoom link.

Fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m. In-person only at the Hope Valley Grange, 71116 Main St., Hope Valley.

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 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!

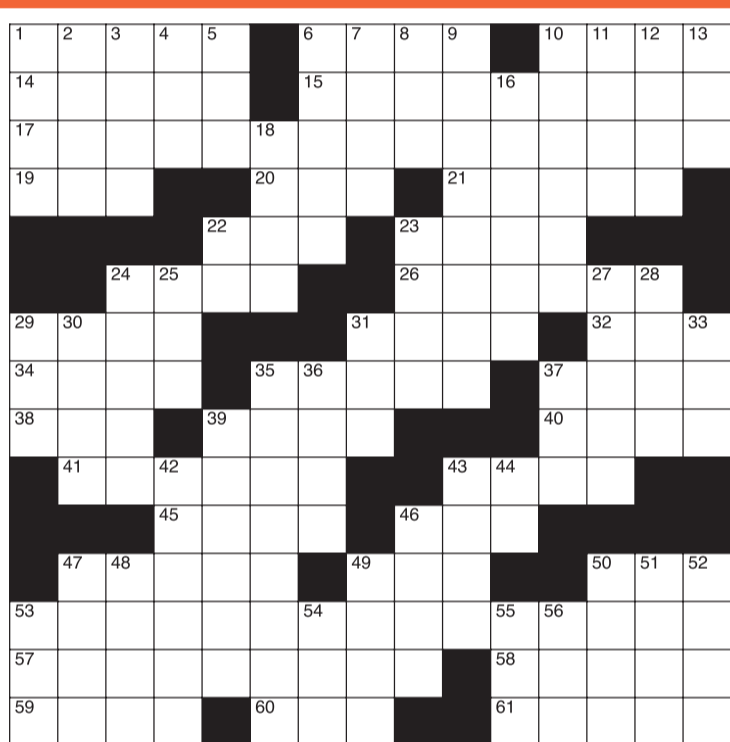
Operation Stand Down Rhode Island needs your help. Their food pantry needs a major restocking. See a list of needed nonperishable items in the photo.

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 idez@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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Become less intense
6. Variety of pear
10. Religion native to China
14. Type of tooth
15. Fitted out
17. Make every effort
19. Autonomic nervous system
20. Complete
21. Alternate name
22. River in France and Belgium
23. Miami's mascot is one
24. Turfs
26. Most cognizant of reality
29. Broad volcanic crater
31. Canadian surname
32. Satisfaction
34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
35. Collide
37. Immune response
38. Feline
39. High opinion of one's own appearance
40. Thin strip to align parts
41. Containers
43. Convicted American spy
45. Breathe noisily
46. Taxi

CLUES DOWN

1. Siberian river
2. Blessing
3. Substitutes (abbr.)
4. Principle underlying the universe
5. Work unit
6. Yellow edible fruits
7. Gemstone
8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
9. Evergreen tropical tree
10. Reality TV star Richards
11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
12. Stakes
13. Antidiuretic hormone
16. Make warm again
18. Light beams
22. Lethal dose
23. Terrorist group
24. Kids love him
25. Naturally occurring solid
27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
28. Popular cuisine
29. Partner to cheese
30. Type of horse
31. ___ Diego
33. Defensive nuclear weapon
35. Most shrewd
36. It may be for shopping
37. Midway between south and southeast
39. A stock of foods
42. The bindings of books
43. Swiss river
44. Megabyte
46. Sammy ___, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Popular type of bread
51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
52. Association of engineering professionals
53. Young women's association
54. City
55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
56. Pointed end of a pen

**ALL
DONE
BY
KINDNESS**



cherry hill manor nursing & rehabilitation center

Attention Johnston flood victims

Residents impacted by recent flooding events should document damages for potential federal reimbursement. Send this documentation to Johnston EMA Director, Chief Mark A. Vieira, at ema@johnstonpd.com (include photographs).

■ Prayer

(Continued from page 1)



for a blinking pedestrian signal.

On Monday, the usual small florescent sign was standing askew, near the center of the intersection. Still no flashing signal.

"Based on the current schedule, we expect to have the flashing signal installed and operating by the end of the fall," according to DOT's Chief of Public Affairs Charles St. Martin.

But Sr. Daisy's not angry at the distracted driver who caused her injuries, or the bureaucratic red-tape holding up the pedestrian warning signal that was approved (but never installed) long before the crash.

"I'm not mad, I am concerned ... I am really concerned," she said Monday morning. "I was in the right place ... but I have to say that the community came together, my St. Rocco School family and parish came together, they prayed; they supported me all the way until now."

Outpouring of support

"You've never seen so many cards in your life," Hand said.

Later that day, Sr. Daisy shared a few images from her card collection. Each one promised prayers.

"You couldn't be in better hands," reads one message. "Lifting you up in prayer!"

Another, possibly Sr. Daisy's favorite, promised someone's taking really good care of you." The card named God "the great Physician — the One who

made you and knows how to mend you. His healing touch restores body, soul and spirit. His schedule is never too full ... His diagnosis is always accurate ... His treatment is wise and gentle ... and His results — amazing!"

According to Hand and St. Rocco's second grade students, that was especially true in Sr. Daisy's case.

"The community, people I don't even know, they heard it from the news and everything," Sr. Daisy said. She smiled wide as she thought about the deluge of support she received from the community.

"Mass was offered for me," Sr. Daisy recalled. "Prayers. Flowers. (It was) good seeing how people care for others."

The call went out and the community heard it. Prayers were requested and received and Sr. Daisy's convinced it made all the difference.

"Everybody stopped at least one second to say a prayer," she said. "So this brought, I think, many people closer to God — at least for that moment. Because prayer is so important ... we need to pray always. It's a weapon."

Sr. Daisy, 55 at the time of the crash, has been now been teaching at St. Rocco for 10 years; her order, the Daughters of the Lady of the Garden.

"This accident also caused international prayer," she said, her classroom behind her, full of soft laughter and curious whispers. "In Africa, India, all over the world ... (people were) praying for me. My family — my sisters. I did experience that power of prayer."

Sr. Daisy quoted Mother Teresa.

"A family that prays together stays together," she said, returning to her classroom. A couple hands were in the air, waiting.

POWER OF PRAYER:

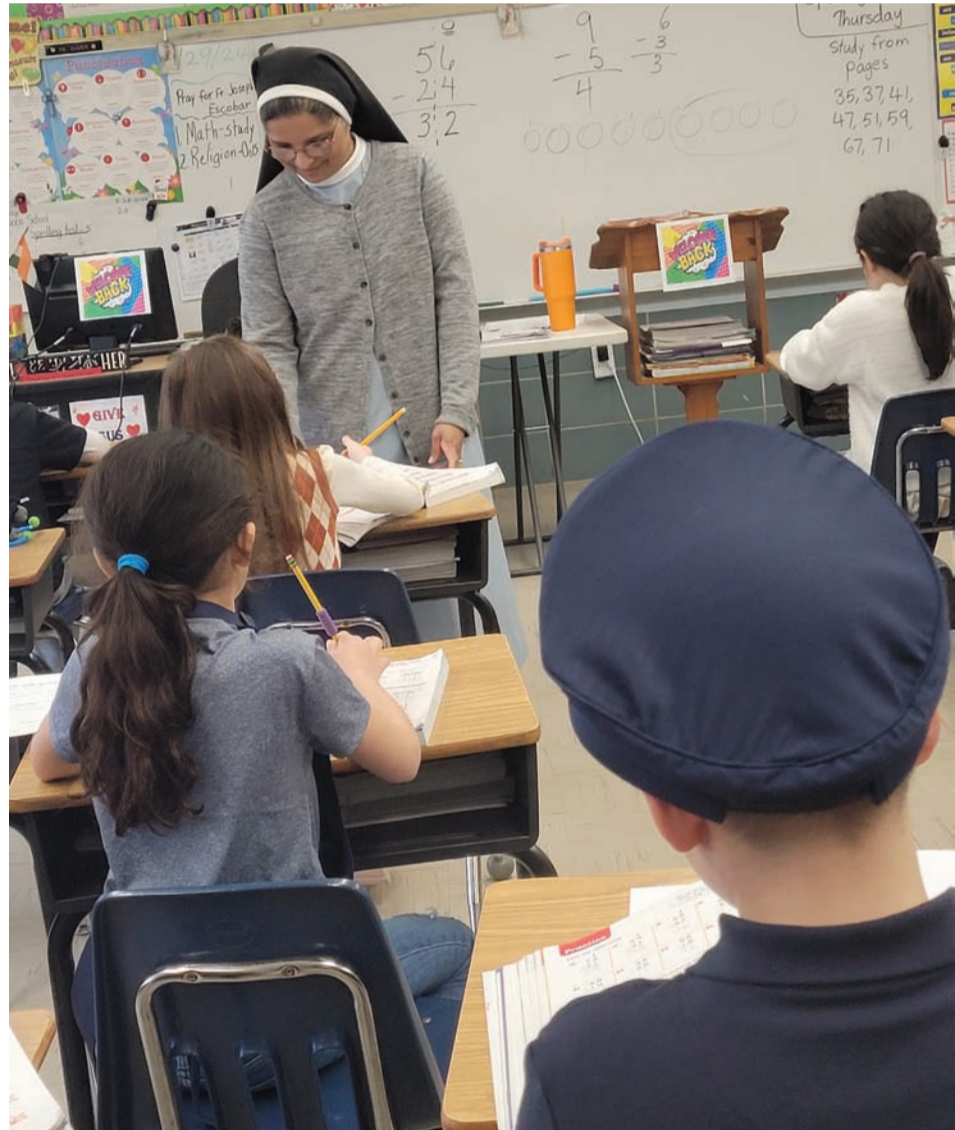
Above, St. Rocco's Sister Daisy Kollampampil was seriously injured in the Atwood Avenue crosswalk outside the school on

Nov. 7, when a driver failed to stop, rear-ending another driver and pushing that vehicle into the crosswalk. Sr. Daisy was struck and sent to the hospital, but she's convinced the prayers she received from the community helped her recover fast and get back to work teaching second grade.

(Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

WELCOME BACK BANNER:

At left, St. Rocco second grade teacher and nun St. Rocco's Sister Daisy Kollampampil shows off the "Welcome Back" banner she received when she came back to work after recovering from an accident on Nov. 7. At right, students in Sister Daisy's second grade class were dressed as their possible future vocations during Career Day on Monday.



Congratulate Johnston's newest centenarian

BIG BIRTHDAY: Angelina Marfeo is about to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Now a Johnston resident, Marfeo grew up in the Federal Hill section of Providence. She went to Kenyon Street School and then Central High/ She had three children — one boy and two girls. She has six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Marfeo worked in the jewelry industry for several years and has lived in Johnston for more than 50 years. She's currently a resident at Cedar Crest nursing home in Cranston. Some of her past hobbies included crocheting and knitting. She still loves word searches.

According to family, the birthday girl "is a sweet and kind woman who is dearly loved by family and friends." At right, she celebrates a recent birthday. At left, her family shared this past photo, circa 1944. (Courtesy photos)



REMEMBERING LUCAS
 CHS NJROTC PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER

Hosted by former Coventry High School NJROTC Cadets in memory of Lucas Finegan (Class of 2019)

Menu: chicken, pasta, salad, rolls & desserts
 Tickets available at the door, \$20/person
 All are invited to enjoy a night of great food, raffles & memories

Contact Dottie at 451-0632 with any questions.

February 10 from 6-11PM
 VFW Post #9404, 29 South Main Street, Coventry



GIFT OF A BRIGHTER TOMORROW: Lisa Abbenante (right), director of the highly acclaimed Tomorrow Fund, is all smiles as she joins the JHS students during what has become an annual check presentation to the non-profit. The proud Panthers making the donation are David Roland, Lucas Anderson, Alexia DiLorenzo, Allessandra Pesare and Raylin Santos. (Submitted photo)

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Planning today for the Tomorrow Fund

By **PETE FONTAINE**

Few Rhode Island schools, if any, rival Johnston High School when it comes to raising money that helps children who are being treated for cancer at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

"Our students really love doing this," Greg Russo, a JHS faculty member who serves as advisor for the always-active Student Council, offered last week. "There's lots of (participation) throughout the school."

As Russo noted, each year the Johnston High School Student Council arranges for a number of Dress Down Days to raise money for the Tomorrow Fund, which is an organization and nonprofit that assists chil-

dren and their families that are being treated for cancer at the highly acclaimed Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Since its formation, The Tomorrow Fund has helped countless families with numerous things such as providing lodging for parents during their children's time in the hospital as well as other necessities to make for a more comfortable stay.

When it's time for Dress Down Day various JHs classes will prepare refreshments for faculty and staff on designated Fridays throughout the school year and the faculty and staff may donate for the opportunity to dress down on those scheduled days.

Thus, Russo last week announced that last year's Dress Down Day total reached \$850 that Lisa Abbenante,

Director of the Tomorrow Fund was thrilled to receive during yet another visit to Cherry Hill.

"Director (Lisa) Abbenante enjoys visiting our school to receive the donation," said Russo. "(She) told us that ... the Tomorrow Fund (is) always grateful to receive this valuable donation and (they) appreciate the generosity that is shown each year by the Johnston High school community."

Russo also wanted it known, "Lisa arranges to have representatives from the Tomorrow Fund, including children that have been assisted by the Tomorrow Fund, participate in the annual (JHS) Homecoming Parade that is always arranged by our Student Council."

Ready to catch February Fever?

By **PETE FONTAINE**

"We've been working on this project since last summer," Ron Lamoureux, who chairs Johnston High School's national-award-winning Music Department, was saying earlier this week. "Today, it's February Fever for 28 straight days."

With that, people who participate in the music department's annual and impressive Calendar Raffle will have an opportunity to win valuable prizes and cash.

All a person has to do is purchase a calendar, which is priced at only \$10 each, and this year features over \$4,000 in valuable prizes from golf packages to gift certificates to restaurants and more.

Even if you haven't purchased a calendar, you still have time during the 28-day

calendar campaign by calling Lamoureux at 401-3233-19020 ext. 2102 during school hours.

"Everyone's excited about February Fever," said Lamoureux. "We'll have our first drawing today and someone will win a \$50 gift certificate to Laura's Bar & Grill as well as a valuable AAA membership."

Tomorrow's prize is \$100 in cash courtesy of the Johnston Police IBPO 307. On Saturday, the winner will receive golf for four at Country View Golf Club and Sunday another golf package for four with carts at New England Country Club will be drawn.

The week will begin Monday with the winner getting \$100 in cash which was donated by Mayor Joseph Polisena Jr. In all, there are 10 \$100 prizes and amounts of \$50 as well.

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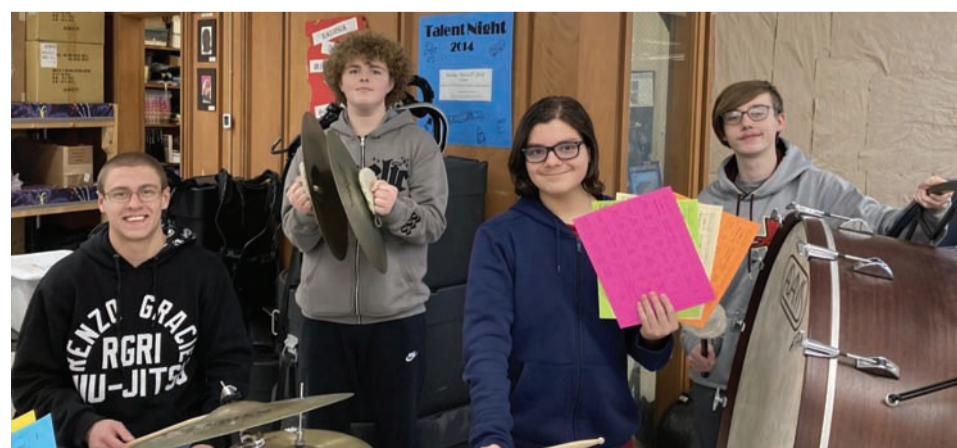
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BUSINESS BEAT: These four members of the Johnston High Music Department – Jonathan Guilmette, Brendan Grace, Lucas Simpson and Aiden Cross – held a pre-calendar raffle session last week to drum up business for the 2024 fundraiser. (Photo courtesy Steve Turten)

Anaerobic Digester causing smelly problems for Johnston neighbors?

By **ROB SMITH**
ecoRI News staff

JOHNSTON, R.I. — One of the state’s latest renewable energy facilities is making a big stink for its neighbors — literally.

The Rhode Island Bioenergy Facility (RIBF) LLC is the state’s first anaerobic digester, turning organic waste and feedstock into biogas that generates electricity for the state’s electrical grid.

Billed as the largest facility for organic waste recycling in New England, the Scituate Avenue business processes 100,000 tons of organic waste annually that would otherwise be landfilled or incinerated. The long-running project has been gestating for more than a decade, with then-owners Orbit Energy Rhode Island LLC repeatedly pushing its operation date back.

Now that it’s open, there’s a problem: it stinks.

“I have been able to smell it from Interstate 295,” said Jack Restivo, describing the odors emanating from the biogas facility. “There have been some mornings when I would come into work, and before I got on the off-ramp, I could smell it.”

Restivo, a small-business owner, has owned the property and building next to the digester facility for nearly 20 years — well before the biogas plant project was originally proposed. He uses part of the space to house his family owned and operated HVAC business, Restivo’s Heating and Air Conditioning, which has been in his family serving Rhode Island and Massachusetts since 1936. The rest of the building is leased out to other small businesses, including a gym.

For the past six months, Restivo, his employees, and his neighbors have been dealing with a repeated series of odors emanating from RIBF during its daily operation. There’s no rhyme or reason to when a noxious odor will blanket the area surrounding the facility, but Restivo said the odor was so bad it made working difficult, if not impossible, at times. Restivo said he’s no stranger to foul odors; just a little bit further down the road from his building is the Central Landfill.

When ecoRI News sat down to interview Restivo last week at his Johnston business, there was a noticeable odor in the air outside the building, but Restivo told ecoRI News the actual odors from RIBF were much worse than that.

The odors from the facility have been relentless, according to Restivo, who said many times he, his employees, and his customers can smell the odors from inside his building. Restivo said he has noticed customers leave because of the odor, and at times, he has sent some of his employees in the warehouse home because of the stink.

Restivo acknowledged it’s difficult to describe a bad smell, and the specifics can vary depending on the occasion. Several times during his interview with ecoRI News, Restivo described the odors emanating from his neighbor as “putrid” or “rancid.”

Prior to the nuisance odors wafting onto his property from RIBF, Restivo said he had no issues with the project, aside from a setback encroachment he was notified of last spring, and he’s even leased part of his property to the biogas facility, for their employees to use for parking.

“With all the issues we’ve had at the landfill over time, nothing has compared, or even come close, to the odors we are experiencing from this facility,” he said.

The biogas facility owned by RIBF is an anaerobic digester. It works by taking organic matter — wastewater biosolids, food scraps — and breaking it down in the absence of oxygen to turn it into gas that can be then used to generate electricity. Some odors in the process are a feature, not a bug, but in states like Rhode Island, the onus is typically on a facility to manage any nuisance smells produced by its operations.

In 2021, the facility was acquired by its current owner, Canada-based Anaergia, a company dedicated to cost-effective green technologies such as anaerobic digestion.

Since late August of last year, the bioenergy facility has racked up 60 complaints with the state Department of Environmental Management, many of them filed by Restivo, his employees, or other plant neighbors.



SMELL SOMETHING? The Rhode Island Bioenergy Facility (RIBF) LLC in Johnston is the state’s first anaerobic digester, turning organic waste and feedstock into biogas that generates electricity for the state’s electrical grid. Neighbors have complained about odors emitted from the site. (Photo courtesy ecoRI News)

Many of the complaints describe the odor as a “strong toxic chemical and gas smell,” while other complaints indicate some of the workers in and around Restivo’s building complained of headaches and nausea from prolonged exposure to the stink.

“It’s one of our frequent offenders,” DEM director Terry Gray told ecoRI News.

DEM first inspected the facility following the late-August odor complaints on Sept. 13, according to agency records. In their summary of the inspection, DEM staff noted at the time of their inspection the presence of “distinct and strong odors they determined to be objectionable,” and additionally noted “the odors caused the inspectors to want to avoid the area.”

At a follow-up inspection the following week, on Sept. 18, the inspector wrote, “the odors were so strong the inspector had to return to his car within minutes to avoid the odor,” and “slight putrid or rotten odors were also detected within the office building on the adjacent property.”

DEM’s Office of Compliance and Inspection issued a compliance order for nuisance odors the following week, on Sept 22, and required the facility to submit an odor remediation plan to the department, which it did on Sept. 28.

In the remediation plan approved by DEM, RIBF said its investigation into the odors found the channeling within the facility’s biofilter at fault, believed to be related to heavy rains that occurred Aug. 19. The company noted it was repairing the channeling.

Despite DEM’s compliance order and RIBF’s remediation plan, the nuisance odors coming from the facility remain unresolved, even after repeated inspections by state regulators. In the four weeks after DEM issued its September compliance order, the facility racked up another 19 odor complaints.

The repeated complaints led DEM to issue a notice of violation (NOV) on Dec. 22, alleging the company had failed to control the repeated nuisance odors from its facility the public had been complaining about since August. State regulators also fined RIBF \$15,000.

Alexander MacFarlane, vice president of RIBF, told ecoRI News in an email the company was notified of several complaints in late August and early September, and has since made improvements to its treatment process and odor control.

“We have increased air collection capacity within RIBF’s receiving building and upgraded odor control biofiltration,” he wrote. “There’s still some improvements to the odor performance of the plant that are

coming online over the next few months as well.”

The company, MacFarlane added, “takes odor control mitigation in the Johnston community seriously. At RIBF we have invested our time and money to enable large-scale organics recycling in RI while minimizing impact at the fence line.”

The company, said MacFarlane, also posts a hotline number for people to phone in odor complaints, and hires a third-party observer to track odors.

MacFarlane also said RIBF has been undergoing a series of upgrades since early 2022, making improvements necessary to recycle food waste away from the landfill into renewable biomethane and digestate fertilizer. The facility has continued to operate during its renovations, and expects all upgrades to be completed by this spring.

MacFarlane declined to comment on the NOV or the \$15,000 fine, but indicated the company was appealing DEM’s decision.

It wasn’t RIBF’s first run-in with state regulators. According to DEM documents, a July 25 inspection of the facility by officials from the agency’s Office of Air Resources revealed that the facility completed modifications that weren’t covered in RIBF’s original air permit, and the company was not accurately recording emissions data required as part of its permit. DEM issued a notice of intent to enforce on Aug. 24.

“They’re amending their permit,” said Gray of the August notice. “But we haven’t made a determination if we’re going to issue a fine.”

Meanwhile Restivo, his employees, and his neighbors still have to live with the odors. He said there’s no predicting when they will happen; they seem worse in the mornings, and sometimes when it’s wet out, but the timing of the nuisance odors are consistently inconsistent.

Restivo and his neighbors want the area and their businesses to go back to a time before the odors became a serious nuisance.

“We shouldn’t have to be the ones that sacrifice our livelihoods,” Restivo said. “Our employees and our businesses have been here prior to when [RIBF] came and started doing it. I don’t think that’s right.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: A nonprofit organization, ecoRI News is dedicated to reporting on environmental and social justice issues in southern New England. For more ecoRI News, go to their website, ecori.org.

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Johnston Police Log

SHELTER IN-PLACE

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. announced a police incident on Friday.

"There was a shelter in place at the Citizens Bank campus in Johnston for a reported suicidal subject in possession of a firearm," Polisena posted to social media Friday morning.

According to Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, around 9:23 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, "law enforcement searched the Citizens Bank Campus, located at 1 Citizens Bank Way in Johnston, for a reported suicidal male in possession of a firearm."

"The male was also wanted by the West Greenwich Police Department for discharging a firearm in their town earlier that morning," Vieira said. "West Greenwich police alerted our department of the male's approximate location, and out of an abundance of caution, a temporary shelter-in-place was issued at the Citizens Bank Campus. Shortly thereafter, the male was swiftly apprehended by law enforcement in the Town of Smithfield. Thankfully, he was taken into custody without incident and the public was never in harm's way. He subsequently faced criminal charges filed by the West Greenwich and Smithfield Police Departments."

The mayor informed the public the man was behind bars.

"That suspect has been apprehended by the Smithfield Police Department and there is no further threat to the public," Polisena posted Friday. "Thank you to all the law enforcement officers who brought this incident to a swift and successful conclusion."

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 to "experiment, explore and build" with Ms. Melyssa.

Registration began Jan. 3 for the following elementary-school-age programs with Ms. Melyssa:

Thursdays at 5 p.m., through Feb. 1, Children ages 6 to 9 are invited to experiment, explore and build.

Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Feb. 7, Art Smart for Ages 8 to 12. Have fun exploring different art styles and techniques.

Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m., to Feb. 10, Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7.

See mohrlibrary.org or call 401-231-4980 to register.

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.

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.

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

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CHRIS PEABODY
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
chrisp@rhodybeat.com
p 401-732-3100

1944 WARWICK AVENUE, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02889

By JENNIFER COATES

Chris Peabody joined the Beacon Communications family in March of 2023. There are two things that this energetic sales representative is passionate about: the people of Johnston and the opportunity she has to represent them as business owners in our ever-evolving state.

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

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

Chris came to the Johnston SunRise following a long career in customer relations in the news media and marketing industry. She is full of ideas, and personality ~ and is eager to get to know small business owners from every corner of these towns and cities. As she says: "I want to help businesses succeed!"

If you are a business owner in Johnston, a great place to start is to look at local newspapers such as the SunRise. The SunRise has a broad readership and an online presence. This widely circulated paper tells the stories of the town's residents and of the many services they provide and products they sell. The SunRise is the heartbeat of our community, acting like the "town crier" of days past but with photographs and updated stories of the day-to-day



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

lives of its inhabitants.

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

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Sports



SENIOR LEADER: Aubree Allen works past a defender last week. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

Surging Panthers grab another win

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls basketball team extended its win streak to nine games as it beat Times Squared Academy 44-27 last week. The win improved Johnston's record to 9-1 and helps it maintain control of second place in the Division IV standings.

The Panthers came out rolling early and would mount a 28-0 lead to put the game out of reach by halftime. The Panthers have jumped out to some fast leads as of late, but coach Jhamal Diggs is looking for them to start



NINE STRAIGHT: Riley Guenette calls a play in last week's win over Times Squared Academy.

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 12

Midseason report on our teams

Here we are, halfway through the winter season.

It always sneaks up on us and the winter is always the wackiest season. Between the holiday break in December, postponements due to weather, strange ice times when the puck is not dropped until 9:30 at night the same day that a hoops matchup tips off at 2:30 p.m.

Either way, winter is always fast-paced and fun to follow. This go-around has been no different, and here are my halfway thoughts on some of our teams:

My pitch



by ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

The Hendricken basketball team's season has played out pretty close to how I envisioned it would. After losing all five start-

■ PITCH - PAGE 12



HALL OF FAMER: USA Hockey Hall of Famer Paul Stewart autographing items for young fans at the last CSCS show last February. (Submitted photo)

Cranston Card Show set to hit another milestone event

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Every year a RI tradition of affordable family fun and entertainment comes back and continues to amaze all as the Cranston Sports Card Show™ emerges once again as North America's oldest charity run sports card show.

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■ CARD - PAGE 12

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■ Pitch
(Continued from page 11)

ers from last year's championship run and some young players being relied on to fill those gaps, a slow start was kind of predictable for the Green and Gold.

Sure, its losses came to top-notch clubs including La Salle and Barrington, but these growing pains have been apparent. However, with Jamal Gomes leading the way and the team still among the best in the state record-wise, they're only going to get better and I fully anticipate them being in the division's and state's final four in March ... at least.

The defending DII champion Johnston Panthers hit a rough patch, losing three straight against Lincoln, Tolman and St. Ray's. All three games were competitive and the Panthers could have finished the tough stretch 3-0, but it is what it is. Johnston will be there in the end, but it will need to find a way to beat these top teams that are clearly game opponents. Michael

Carlino and Neri Vasquez have a ton of experience, Brandon and Jayden Testa have emerged as two of the top point producers in the division, Cam Walker is as steady a player as there is. The Panthers will be fine, but what is their ceiling?

The Pilgrim boys have been the team that I have been most impressed by. The team as of Tuesday morning was 6-5 in the division and fighting to climb the DII standings. Although the record is modest, there has been enough evidence to suggest that Pilgrim could emerge as a tough out come playoff time.

Dylan Vale is as legitimate a guard as there is in DII while Carter Clifton has been efficient on both ends of the floor. This duo along with other guys like Jack McConnell gives the Pats a chance in every game they play. The team will enter its toughest stretch to date, facing the top six teams in the next six games which include Lincoln, St. Ray's, Burrillville, Tolman, Rogers and Johnston. We'll see what they're made of here.

The Falcons were hoping to have a breakout season but struggled out the gate, including going on a four-game losing streak. The West boys rebounded nicely last week, though, and ride a three-game winning streak after beating Chariho, South Kingstown and Toll Gate to get back on track. Jaymien Aponte and Kennedy Arias make up one of the division's best front courts, so it would be unwise to count West out.

On the girls side, Johnston has been on an absolute tear and is penciled in as the midseason favorite to win the Division IV title.

The Panthers have been building their program the last couple of seasons and welcomed coach Jhamal Diggs into the mix to get it over the hump. So far so good, as Johnston sits at 9-1 and only losing to Davies on opening night ... a game in which the team was without starting point guard Jayannah Rollins, who is likely on her way to an All-Division season. Bella Gesualdi and Aubree Allen have also been dynamic, pro-

viding the Panthers an elite trio. The final game of the regular season will be the rematch with Davies and will probably determine the top seed heading into the playoffs.

The Toll Gate girls and Cranston West girls are in similar situations within their divisions.

The Titans sit in third place in Division III and have looked strong with Adeline Areson returning to the mix with Dulce Garcia. The team has lost to first-place Narragansett and second-place Exeter-West Greenwich (twice). Toll Gate is very much a contender, but will have to find a way to beat those other elite clubs.

The Falcons are in fourth place in Division I behind the strong starts from Maia Riccio and Olivia Tedeschi-Moran, but have lost to North Kingstown, Barrington and Bay View, who occupy the three spots ahead of them. See above for the breakdown.

For boys hockey, it sure looks like the defending champion Hawks are in good shape to defend their title. Prout has emerged as a new heavyweight in the division and dealt Hendricken its lone

■ Panthers
(Continued from page 11)

even sharper moving forward.

"I'm our biggest critic and I would like to see us get out even faster. Our goal is always to hit first and to come out fast," said Diggs.

While Jayannah Rollins and Bella Gesualdi led the Panther offense in the first half, senior point guard Aubree Allen would run the show in the second and help the subs off the bench close out the win. Diggs was happy to give his bench players some minutes and is relying on Allen to continue to set the tone as the team's most experienced veteran.

"I hope that what the girls learned here tonight is that everyone matters, it's a team effort. It doesn't matter if you're the seventh girl off the bench, the eighth girl, everyone needs to practice hard and know their role. Tonight they realized that they have to be here, it's not just the starters," Diggs said. "The keys are there for [Allen] to take, she's a senior and has been playing since she was a freshman. She's our senior point guard, she can do it, she can be that leader for us and we are starting to see that get going."

"As the point guard, I'm just focused on keeping the tempo. The girls that are getting subbed in and out are just learning and we are trying to keep the culture. As seniors, we are trying to build the program and tonight I was just trying to keep the tempo, slow things down and lead. That's my job," said Allen.

As the team enters the home stretch of the regular season, Allen hopes that the team can continue to gel while focusing on the task at hand as it emerges as perhaps the favorite in DIV.

"When we start big, it gets us all hyped. When we can get a big lead, it gets us excited to work together and keep going. We're clicking good right now. We go hard at practice and are always looking [for ways] to get better," Allen said. "We're looking at the standings, but we're taking it one game at a time. We don't want to look too far ahead, we want to focus one game at a time."

■ Card
(Continued from page 11)

At the time there was one charity benefiting from the show which was the original promoter Tom McDonough's church being The Immaculate Conception Church in Cranston, RI providing new clothing for those that can't afford it. When Mangasarian took over responsibilities for Tom he continued the same traditions and he added his church, St. Vartanantz Armenian Church for expenses to their athletic endeavors on a National basis and further expanded charity to the hosting school athletic fund and a shelter for the homeless called Sisters of the Poor in Pawtucket RI.

The February 3 & 4 show will be the 50th and a celebration of the milestone is in the works. Some of the planned events will be a door prize every 30 minutes after the show opening crowd settles in until closing and continuing on Sunday. Our raffle is bigger and better with all proceeds going to the charities as one ticket for a dollar gives you a chance for all the prizes on the table which is normally 20-plus chances depending on donations. When you win you don't get handed a prize but you pick your own gift off the table.

Besides the staple features that have become part of the evolution of the new two-day event such as the Silent Auction and heavily discounted dealer items announced periodically over the PA system during the show there is a new child friendly event called "Find the Collectibles™" Every show we will feature certain sports items in multiple quantities that we will hand to dealers to display at their table and collectors 13 and under will search the show floor at dealer tables for these items and gather as many as they can and when the contest is over there will be three gift certificates to spend at a dealers booth. This year the search will be "Find the 1915 Red Sox". This is an eight-card set that 8 different dealers will get one card to display at their table.

When a collector sees it on a dealers table he will ask for the card and gather as many as he can on the show floor. When the time is over for the search the cards will be brought to cash out and the top three gatherers who spotted the cards at dealer tables will each be given cash certificates to spend at dealer tables

in different value amounts for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place and can go shopping with them at the 2024 show only. Said Mangasarian, "The kids have fun searching, they can win a shopping certificate, and the dealers make a little money and not by just the certificates but by collectors looking closely for the hidden prizes and maybe spotting something else they would like to purchase from that dealers table. Everyone wins. The tradition continues to be different than other card shows."

We don't want to forget our special dealers that come from 13 states and many which attend the National giving us an unprecedented quality of dealers not available anywhere but at the Cranston Sports Card Show™. For them we put a ballot in the back of our program and as collectors drop their ballots for Best Customer Service they can win a free table to our next show. What you can expect to see our dealers selling are modern and vintage sports cards, RI Reds hockey memorabilia, incredible autographs, vintage equipment in all sports, graded cards, Pokémon, pennants, non sports cards, tobacco cards, wax boxes and packs, hobby supplies, vintage photo's, yearbooks, programs, ticket stubs, figurines, sports games, regional issues, comic books, and a whole lot more.

At the show in attendance will be the R.I. Reds Heritage Society, a favorite with fans in our hockey rich state who will be returning again as other guests will continue to be added as they become available.

Entrance to the show, Trade Night, and show hours are as follows;

Date: Sat. Feb 3 & Sun. Feb 4, 2024.

Time: Saturday 9-5 (Early Bird admission 8am) Sunday 8:30-3:00

Where: Coventry High School, 40 Reservoir Rd, Coventry, RI 02816

Admission: \$5 when you say, "Put me on your mailing list" or regular admission fee of \$6 applies! \$8 for a 2 day pass! Discounted Admissions for seniors 65 & older, Military, and children 12 & under is \$3.00, & Discounted 2 day admission tickets are \$5 for both days. Children 5 and under are free. \$20 Early Bird admission @ 8am on Saturday.

Trade Night: Saturday at the Coventry VFW Post, 29 S. Main St., Coventry 02816, 7-10pm as scheduled now but subject to change

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Register for fishing and offshore wind energy workshop

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

Join the free online workshop titled 'Recreational Fishing and Offshore Wind Energy: Understanding the Changing Behavior' on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.(EST).

Webinar organizer Jennifer McCann, director of U.S. Coastal Programs at the Coastal Resources Center, URI Graduate School of Oceanography and director of Extension Programs for Rhode Island Sea Grant, said, "The purpose of this effort is to advance our shared understanding of impacts and changing behavior of recreational fishers due to the accelerated growth of offshore wind energy and identify strategies to respond to research and monitoring needs. During this initial webinar, we will communicate some of the current research and monitoring strategies, identify gaps, and strategize mechanisms to fill these gaps."

This effort is part of the NOAA/URI CRADA to advance collaborative research and ocean planning solutions on the interactions of offshore wind energy development and marine ecosystems, inclusive of humans and coastal communities.

Registration by Feb. 5 is required for this free and public event to assist with logistics. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/bde497rf>.

Confirmed Panelists for the webinar: Emma Chaiken, Economist, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Doug Christel, Fisheries Policy Analyst, GARFO/NOAA; Tony DiLernia, Captain, Recreational Fisheries Liaison, NYSEDA - contractor; Walt Golet, School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine; Todd Guilfoos, Associate Professor, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE), University of Rhode Island (URI); Jeff Kneebone, Senior Scientist, Fisheries Science and Emerging Technologies Program, NE Aquarium; Julia Livermore, Deputy Chief of Marine Fisheries, RI Department of Environmental Management; Travis Lowery, Fisheries Liaison, Vineyard Wind; Andy Lipsky, Cooperative Research Branch Chief, Narragansett Laboratory Director, NEFSC/NOAA; Dave Monti, Captain, No Fluke Charter Fishing & Tours; Scott Steinbeck, Economist, NEFSC/NOAA; Tiffany Smythe, Associate Professor, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Scott Travers, Executive Director, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association; and Jeff Willis, Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council.

Killing sharks to reduce depredation not the answer

Shark depredation, the full or partial consumption of a hooked fish by a shark before it is landed, is an increasing source of human and wildlife conflict in recreational fisheries. This summer and fall,



SHARK STUDY: Researchers from UMass Amherst placed acoustic tags on Hammerhead Sharks and Tarpon as part of their shark depredation study. (Submitted photo)

and for the past three to four years, we have had enhanced reports of sharks being caught close to shore off Newport, Narragansett and the Sakonnet River area. Along with this, we have had an increase in shark depredation with anglers reeling in summer flounder (fluke) and striped bass to find the fish has been bitten by a shark.

Last week a study led by UMass Amherst was published in Marine and Coastal Fisheries titled "Depredation rates and spatial overlap between Great Hammerheads and Tarpon in a recreational fishing hot spot."

Reports of shark depredation in the catch-and-release Tarpon fishery in the Florida Keys are increasing, specifically in Bahia Honda, a recreational fishing hot spot and a known Tarpon pre-spawning aggregation site.

Highlights of the study abstract appear below, the entire study can be found at Depredation rates and spatial overlap between Great Hammerheads and Tarpon in a recreational fishing hot spot - Casselberry - 2024 - Marine and Coastal Fisheries - Wiley Online Library.

The study suggests that culling or killing sharks is not the answer, but rather reducing fight times and ending a fight prematurely when sharks are present should be explored. Here are the highlights.

Methods. Using visual surveys of fishing in Bahia Honda, scientists quantified depredation rates and drivers of depredation. With acoustic telemetry, scientists simultaneously tracked 51 Tarpon and 14 Great Hammerheads (also known as Great Hammerhead Sharks) *Sphyrna mokarran*, the most common shark to depredate Tarpon, to quantify residency and spatial overlap in Bahia Honda.

Result. During the visual survey, 394 Tarpon were hooked. The combined observed shark depredation and immediate post release predation rate was 15.3% for Tarpon that were fought longer than 5 min. Survival analysis and decision trees showed that depredation risk was highest in the first 5-12 min of the fight and on the outgoing current. During the spawning season, Great Hammerheads shifted their space use in Bahia Honda to overlap with Tarpon core use areas. Great Ham-

merheads restricted their space use on the outgoing current when compared to the incoming current, which could drive increased shark-angler interactions.

Conclusion. Bahia Honda has clear ecological importance for both Tarpon and Great Hammerheads as a pre-spawning aggregation and feeding ground. The observed depredation mortality and post release predation mortality raise conservation concerns for the fishery.

Efforts to educate anglers to improve best practices, including reducing fight times and ending a fight prematurely when sharks are present, will be essential to increase Tarpon survival and reduce shark-angler conflict.

Annual RISAA Banquet, February 17, 2024

"This year we are holding our Annual Banquet on Feb. 17, 2024 at the Quonset "O" Club, 200 Lt. James Brown Road, North Kingstown, RI," said Scott Travers, executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA). Cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres will start at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

"We welcome all our fellow members to come and celebrate our 2023 Annual Tournament winners and other award recipients. We will have raffle items available including two charter trips and much, much more!" said Travers.

Tickets are now available on the RISAA Website. Go to the "MEMBERS AREA" and click on the "Member's Home" Page to get your tickets now. Contact Scott Travers at 401-826-2121 or travers@risaa.org for further information.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing in stocked ponds for trout and salmon continues to be good with a largemouth bass bite too. 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.

Saltwater fishing has been limited with high winds and storms. However, anglers continue to catch school striped bass and an occasional keeper in salt ponds and estuaries. If you want to try your hand at cod fishing call ahead to make a party boat reservation, vessels will sail once the weather clears. Visit www.islandcurrent.com and www.francesfleet.com. Full day rates for vessels are generally \$130 to \$135 per adult and around \$80 for those under 12 years old.

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@verison.net or visit www.noflukefishing.com.

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American Sign Language Interpreter Jennifer Alleman bridges two worlds

By KEVIN FITZPATRICK

Earlier this month, Governor Dan McKee stood at the head of the State House chambers to give an optimistic address to all of Rhode Island and, while it was his speech, he was not the only one who spoke. Alongside the governor in chambers and on television and streaming broadcasts, there was one figure—Jennifer Alleman, the American Sign Language Interpreter.

While she issued no statement herself, her presence was of vital significance to 10,000 Rhode Islanders who speak ASL as their primary language, and rely on her not just to understand the language, but the tone and color of the important speech.

Alleman is a certified interpreter through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. A deaf woman and primary ASL speaker herself, she worked as a team alongside hearing interpreter Heather Anderson, who interpreted the governor's speech directly to Alleman, from which Alleman interpreted with a greater degree of fluency which only a native speaker of a language can produce. Anderson also provided interpretation for the interview Alleman gave to Rhody Life for this article.

"I've always just been fascinated with the application of language in the various cultures," Alleman told us. "Like, why would you say that and what's the intention behind it? American mainstream culture with English, there are a lot of implications and a lot of words, implied stuff, but they don't say it outright. And so how would you interpret that into ASL? The English language is linear and ASL is not... So how can you change English into something more visual and pull out the implied meanings and make it explicit?"

These are questions the polyglot Alleman can consider using any of a number of languages which she speaks, including the sign languages of England, France, Nigeria, and Venezuela. Alleman has traveled to and worked in multiple continents, and has provided interpretation services and advocacy work for deaf immigrants to the United States who may have had no experience with English or ASL. But her life as an interpreter began long before she entered that line of work.

"I grew up in a family that signs," Alleman said. "My mom can hear but my brother's deaf and he's about ten years younger than me. He was about six at

the time, learning English. And he already knew ASL, so he was practicing his English. He loved that show called Power Rangers. So he couldn't read the captions. He would always call me over and say 'Hey sis, Get over there and interpret.' And I would read the captions and I would interpret the show for him. And so that's how originally I started. But at that time, I didn't know that that was called interpreting. I just thought it was translating."

It's worth noting that interpretation and translation have similar, but separate meanings. Translation deals with written language, while interpretation deals with spoken language. That said, the two can easily become obscured when speaking from text or writing from speech.

Interpretation for any language is a sensitive job. Interpreters are expected to be trusted to accurately convey a person's words to another, an intimate enough task, but they are often made privy to the private details of their lives as well. Sometimes the job requires one to accurately report the words of someone they may seriously disagree with. Interpreters must adhere to a strict code of ethics in order to navigate.

"You have to be impartial, as impartial as you can," Alleman said. "I mean, we're not robots, but we just have to maintain unbiased interpretations as much as possible... I've faced situations where I feel strongly against something, and in that kind of position I have to choose. Do I want to accept the job or recuse myself?"

ASL
(Continued from page 14)

"It's especially difficult when I'm in a situation when I hear things from people who don't know enough about the deaf community, and that might harm the deaf community," she continued. "I have to stand there and not say anything, because I'm not on their team. I'm a neutral party, so what am I supposed to do? So I'm interpreting for a person and it's really their responsibility to speak up, you know, so it's kind of like a catch 22 sometimes."

In her role as an interpreter, Alleman doesn't just work with politicians, though her specialty is in law. She often is asked to help patients and doctors to communicate.

"Right now I have many overlapping layers of confidentiality," she said. "So for example, if I go into a medical situation and I'm interpreting, and I'm hearing the doctor or the nurse or healthcare workers say something that's discriminatory, as a lawyer, I want to address it, but I'm not in that role of a lawyer at that moment, so I can't address it."

Interpretation in doctors' offices and hospitals are a vital part of an interpreters' job. Alleman spoke of what can, and often does occur, when interpreters of not just ASL, but of any language, are not there to interpret for people who don't speak a given nation's primary language. Often the role of interpreter is passed to patients' children, whether or not they're ready to be privy to the kinds of conversations they're being asked to interpret. Alleman said "Children don't have that emotional maturity yet to handle really intense conversations, especially with medical situations."

In addition to her work as an interpreter, Alleman is also an educator, and advocate for the deaf community. She has degrees from Western Oregon University, and Gallaudet University, the only university in the country which teaches primarily in ASL. She is currently attending law school at Roger Williams University.

"I'm in law school to work with deaf people," Alleman said. "I want to make sure that they get their access. And right now there's a lot of DEI: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. So I want to add A to that: Accessibility. That's my cause. That's my drive for law. To make sure that everything is accessible for all people, not just the disabled or deaf, but everybody."

There are, as previously stated, approximately 10,000 people in Rhode Island for which ASL is their primary language, but approximately 213,000 Rhode Islanders are deaf. The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing estimates 20% of Rhode Islanders have some type of hearing loss. It is worth noting that one does not need to have total hearing loss to be considered deaf. The National Association of the Deaf defines a deaf person as "an individual who has a hearing loss which is so severe that the individual has difficulty in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification or other assistive technology."

Assistive technology can come in many forms, and is growing increasingly common with subtitles and automatic captioning technology, but Alleman warns that these cannot and should not be thought of as replacements to true interpretation.

"People think, just broadly, thinking technology can replace an interpreter but really, technology is all in English. It's all captions or subtitles," Alleman said. "Some deaf people don't even know English in the first place."

She continued: "English is sometimes maybe a second, third, fourth language for some deaf people. So communicating through writing, really, consent can't happen because there's a lot of misconceptions."

These misconceptions often stem from

one core misconception of which many hearing people have historically been and are still today guilty: the misconception that sign languages are not real languages. This is a misconception Alleman and many, many other advocates are working to erase.

"I'm working for the deaf community to be viewed as a language minority instead of a disability," Alleman said.

"ASL is so rich," she continued. "It's got its own grammar. It's got its own structure, syntax. We use our facial expressions. We use our hands, and it's all instantly right there and it's not as linear, as I was saying, with English."

For ASL speakers, Alleman says, "ASL is their understanding. That's their access."

For the deaf community, language access is vital, and goes beyond simple speech. "It's written culture, and community," Alleman says. "We do go through cultural changes as well. We face various issues, deaf children going through identity, even hearing children who live in a deaf home, because many of them have identity issues too. It's a cultural thing. It's not just language."

Alleman recalled conversations she had had with her own daughters' teachers. Alleman's daughter is not deaf, but she remains a product of the culture, a fact which can often come with miscommunications in primarily hearing spaces.

"The first few weeks of school I would get a phone call from the teacher saying 'Oh, um, I don't think she's paying attention. She doesn't respond when I call on her name,'" Alleman said. "And I'm like, Okay, well, at home, we don't actually call names. We tap to get attention. Because I don't speak, I sign and so we rely on contact."

"Somebody else called me and said my daughter is slamming on the desk, because that's what we do at home. We get each other's attention through vibrations, and so it kind of startles the teacher, and like, why are you banging on the table? And she's like, Oh, I'm sorry. I'm really just trying to get attention."

Access to language in young childhood is a vital part of making sense of the world, something people who hear can easily take for granted. Without ambient language, Alleman pointed out, children can be left in the dark, and that can have lasting consequences.

"A lot of [deaf people] don't know what they don't know," she said. "Because they grew up without that incidental learning, like you have. When you grow up, you're hearing things on TV commercials, on the radio, or your parents having discussions. So all of that information, you're hearing it, and you don't really realize that it's in you and you have it for the rest of your life."

Alleman is hopeful that the inclusion of ASL interpreters on broadcasts such as the State of the State, in addition to its vital primary role of providing the deaf community with access to the language of their representatives, will also serve to bring attention to the fullness of ASL language and culture.

"I'm hoping that people will not just see it and say it's a beautiful language, it's visual art," Alleman said, "but as a bonafide language with culture and history behind it. With so many issues and so many frustrations."

Alleman reminds any who have benefited from the services of an interpreter that that interpreters' service is not only meant to benefit one side of the language gap. It's for everyone.

"They think that I work for the deaf people and really, I'm working for the hearing person as well," Alleman said. "The person who doesn't sign, I'm interpreting for you as well. And I'm interpreting for the deaf person. And many people think, Oh, we're getting an interpreter for the deaf person, but really, it's for both because you don't know each other's languages. And that's what we do. And I think if they looked at it that way, they would see us less as disabled and find it's really just two worlds coming together."

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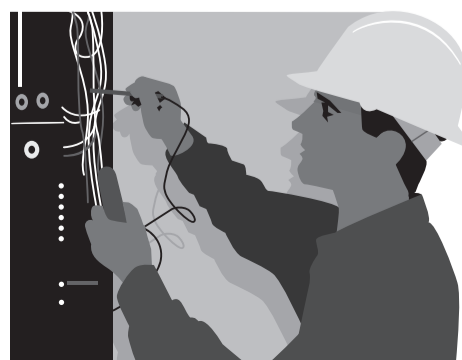
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5 Victory Falls Rd	Holsapple Jr, Richard A and Tomson, Tomi	Panek, Paulina and Lally, Jamison R	1/12	\$525,000
6 Chloe Ct	Cwabs Inc and The Bank Of Ny Mellow Tr	Franklin Sales & Mktg LLC	1/12	\$473,550
24 Cindy Ln	Anderson Robert C Est and Farley, Roberta	Tevyaw, Paul	1/10	\$335,000
140 S Main St	Witkowski, Dennis L	Drake, Robert	1/8	\$399,000
870 Hill Farm Rd	Hull, Patricia A	Entrepreneur LLC	1/8	\$150,000
2034 New London Tpke	Pit Realty LLC	Cardi, Stephen A	1/12	\$116,666
2044 New London Tpke	Pit Realty LLC	Cardi, Stephen A	1/12	\$116,667
2270 New London Tpke	Pit Realty LLC	Cardi, Stephen A	1/12	\$116,667

Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
6 Springwood St	Boyden, Sallie J	Springwood Rlty LLC	1/9	\$630,000
10 Orchard Valley Dr	Rousseau, Jacob D and Rousseau, Christina L	Rezendes, Ryan and Kinney, Heather	1/12	\$525,000
43 Beech Ave Lot 318	McKeon, Debra L	Patel, Hetusha	1/11	\$357,600
44 Tupelo Hill Dr	Sprague Frelt and Sprague, Phyllis E	Sprague, Richard A and Sprague, Kayla M	1/8	\$400,000
68 Appleton St Lot 326	Grassia, Thomas E and Grassia, Lisa A	Diaz, Carlos P and Suazo, Marleni M	1/12	\$343,000
68 Appleton St Lot 327	Grassia, Thomas E and Grassia, Lisa A	Diaz, Carlos P and Suazo, Marleni M	1/12	\$343,000
73 Fiat Ave Lot 13	Alahverdian Jr, Harry and Johnson, Lisa A	Hernandez, Luis A	1/12	\$390,000
73 Fiat Ave Lot 12	Alahverdian Jr, Harry and Johnson, Lisa A	Hernandez, Luis A	1/12	\$390,000
80 Standish Ave	Almeida, Edgar G	Morataya, Sindy S and Rios, Daniel R	1/12	\$375,000
520 Phenix Ave	Stabile, Julie	Catalozzi, Robert J	1/12	\$410,000
1640 Cranston St	Verrecchia Const Mgmt LLC	Bonin, Paul J	1/12	\$484,900

East Greenwich

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39 Castle St	Capwell, Shirley I	Saint Ours, Matthew	1/12	\$300,000
51 Woodland Rd	Baker, Landon and Baker, Megan	Tietjen, Elizabeth	1/12	\$595,000
60 Crystal Dr	Jamschidian, Darius and Argyriou, Assimina	Donat, Walter R and Donat, Lindsay E	1/8	\$920,000
130 South Rd	Lot 130, F & M Dev LLC	Gemma, Robert J and Gemma, Nicole M	1/9	\$480,000
286 Division St	Baccei, Christopher P and Baccei, Robyn L	Mastronardi, Danielle and Fisette, Kurt	1/12	\$589,900

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
1 Willow Glen Cir Lot 81-8	Grimshaw, Brian R and Grimshaw, Christopher G	Gauthier, Lynn	12/28	\$285,000
29 Thor Pl	Lataille, Michael V	Vincent, Lori A	1/9	\$435,000
44 Euclid Ave	Tetreault Marguerite J Es and Tetreault Jr, Peter K	Nautical Hldgs Ltd	1/12	\$120,000
54 Polk Rd	Barrette, Ryan R and Barrette, Melynda M	Maiato, Matthew L and Potvin, Nicole J	1/8	\$410,000
64 Natick Ave	Egan, Mary J	Freeman, Ingrid and Freeman, Stone	1/12	\$395,000
77 Johnson Ave Lot 79	Steiner, Donna L	Rihdr Inc	1/8	\$250,000
77 Johnson Ave Lot 78	Steiner, Donna L	Rihdr Inc	1/8	\$250,000
77 Johnson Ave Lot 80	Steiner, Donna L	Rihdr Inc	1/8	\$250,000
85 Charlestown Ave	Quiles, Ismael and Quiles, Felicia	Barlow, Tammi M and Marang, Corey F	1/8	\$560,000
105 Fern St Lot 232	Sprague, Richard	Verdecchia, Brittany V and Samuell, Duncan S	1/8	\$387,500
105 Fern St Lot 233	Sprague, Richard	Verdecchia, Brittany V and Samuell, Duncan S	1/8	\$387,500
161 Gilbert Stuart Dr	William J Masser T and Masser, Barbara A	Walter J Wallace RET and Wallace, Walter J	1/10	\$851,125
176 Canfield Ave Lot 23	Lc-Cabana Series Iv T and Us Bank TNa	New England Hm Buyers LLC	1/10	\$160,700
176 Canfield Ave Lot 24	Lc-Cabana Series Iv T and Us Bank TNa	New England Hm Buyers LLC	1/10	\$160,700
182 Spencer Ave	Stack, Douglas C and Coleman, Marcy	Sorkin, Benjamin and Weiss, Elisabeth J	1/12	\$1,028,000
190 Cowesett Rd	Jessie Frelt and Jessie, Jack D	Sale, Michael and Sale, Bobbie	1/11	\$899,000
197 Grand View Dr Lot 42	Rogowski John T Est and Revens Jr, John C	Bay View LLC	1/11	\$420,000
219 Irving Rd Lot 524	Levesque, Maria A and Bernardo, Anthony R	Bamisile, Oluwatoyin	1/9	\$4,700,000
219 Irving Rd Lot 525	Levesque, Maria A and Bernardo, Anthony R	Bamisile, Oluwatoyin	1/9	\$4,700,000
935 W Shore Rd	Application Leads Inc	Velasquez, Brian	1/11	\$359,000
3524 W Shore Rd Lot 306	Higgins, James P	Nielsen, Heidi A	1/11	\$250,000
4267 Post Rd	Ferland, Kim	Bisgounis, Rhea V	1/11	\$510,000

West Greenwich

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65 Nooseneck Hill Rd	Waltonen, Thayden B and Waltonen, Linda J	Offcourse Prop LLC	1/8	\$380,000
67 Knight View Dr	Harow LLC	Meegan, Ashley M and Meegan, Matthew C	12/8	\$1,095,000
382 Mishnock Rd	Southworth, Brianna L and Southworth, Gregory E	Schumann Re LLC	12/8	\$235,000

West Warwick

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12 Joaquin Ct	Martens, Paul A	Equity TCo Custodian	1/12	\$300,000
14 Middle St	Scudder Bay Capital LLC	J&m Home Buyers LLC	1/16	\$250,000
31 Dounetos St	Briggs, Jason	Heon, Christopher W	1/12	\$398,000
57 Harley St	Dwelling Series Iv T and Us Bank TNa Tr	Amc Pro LLC	1/11	\$230,000
73 Service Rd	Baffoni Jr, John	Rogers, Yolanda	1/12	\$465,000



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A Picker's Paradise in Upstate New York



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

driving north, but I was! I knew the collection we were headed for included a nice group of *Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of The Jedi* carded figures, vehicles, and playsets - with the top gem being a 1982 Return of The Jedi Lightsaber Store Display.

I am happy every time we take in good Star Wars, but store displays are next level. You rarely find them, especially in such good condition. As good as the material is though, I found the way in which it was discovered is even far more exciting. I preface this story

with the positive note that it is true that great finds are still out there. The story goes like this:

A veteran picker of early antiques and a regular client at Bruneau and Co. was attending an on-site auction in upstate New York. For those that don't know, on-site auctions take place at the actual home or property of the family or collector, rather than in an auction house. They are usually conducted as a walk through, with the auctioneer going from room to room until everything in and on the estate is sold. Because of this, the items in the collection are not cataloged and made available online. In order to know what's up for auction, you actually have to be there.

Anyways, while attending this auction in upstate New York on the hunt for antiques, our picker friend notices a bunch of Star Wars stuff coming out of the basement headed for the block. Although an antiques guy, he knew from following me and our auctions at Bruneau and Co that vintage Star Wars is highly collectible. In the heat of the action, he took his shot, made his bids, and scored every single Star Wars item in that basement - A truly fresh to the market collec-

tion as evident from the layers of dust. I wish I could've been at this picker's paradise myself; it must've been the most exhilarating moment and beautiful sight!

That's the background story, and I think you follow where it goes from here. After acquiring the collection, our friend the antiques picker called me to put them up for auction - this time online for collectors of the world to see! If you're interested, they'll be available February 24. The highlight, that gorgeous ROTJ Lightsaber Store display is estimated at \$1,000-\$1,500. There is also a factory sealed 1983 Dewback Patrol figure factory sealed in clean condition estimated at \$300-\$500 - just to name a few!

It just goes to show when in the wild you never know what you will find. Stay focused, it is out there!

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Solar

(Continued from page 1)

The Zoning Board's legal counsel, attorney Joseph Ballirano, who also serves as chairman of the Johnston Democratic Town Committee, announced a break from the posted agenda.

The audience grumbled. Francis prepared to launch. "When Mr. Ballirano stated that there was a change in the program I thought folks would start yelling," Chadwick recalled. "Mr. Pilozzi could not take the microphone fast enough."

Zoning Board Vice-Chairman Anthony Pilozzi held the microphone and tried to talk over the crowd. They barely let him.

"And when he started to speak I bit my hand so I wouldn't cry," Chadwick said. "But cry I did."

A Beautiful Motion

Pilozzi silenced the crowd with a few key words. "I appreciate that the lawyers want to do fancy memos and closing arguments," he said into the microphone. "But to be frank, I've reviewed the transcripts, taken notes, (I'm) prepared to make a motion here this evening. We have heard 10 hours of testimony from experts and neighbors and some fancy ... closing argument is not going to change that."

"I'm going to make a motion to deny the special use permit for the application under administrative reasons and my findings of fact ..."

Muted celebrations sparked in the crowd. Hands came together, but were stopped short of a clap not to interfere with Pilozzi's decree.

"Although the matter was place on our agenda by the planner, for our consideration, our zoning ordinance leaves the task of determining whether the application being considered, after a previous application previously denied, less than two years ago was substantially and materially changed so that it could be heard one year after the previous denial instead of two."

Pilozzi paused and took a deep breath. Faces in the crowd scanned the room looking for Town Planner Thomas Deller. Deller didn't attend the last meeting when residents delivered testimony, although he was the town official who gave Green Development's application the green light.

Once again, Deller was not in attendance. When Pilozzi mentioned Deller, he placed a cutting accent on the last syllable of "town planner."

One of Green Development's expert witnesses testified that the new proposal had a "20 percent reduction in power creation, thus it was substantially different," Pilozzi told the crowd.

"But on cross-examination, the testimony developed that lot coverage had only less than a six percent reduction and using 48.2% of the land, to 42.6 percent of the land. The testimony then developed that in the '22 application, the applicant voluntarily agreed to remove some panels during the hearing, thus the new application really only had a 1% reduction in land use and electricity generation."

"I find that this application should be denied on administrative finality because it was not substantially different," he said. "The testimony I rely on was from the applicant's expert witness thus it was even more persuasive to me."

Pilozzi took a moment to offer an aside regarding his philosophy on "land use."

"I think land use is just about that — how much land you're using, versus what you're producing," he explained.

Argument of Structure

A familiar conundrum resurfaced from earlier hearings. Are solar panels structures?

"On the merits of the application, I find that the solar proposal and construction of solar panels do constitute structures," Pilozzi told the still quiet crowd. "That was very difficult, that one ... Under the zoning ordinance, and thus must only cover 15 percent of the lot. And a proposal calling (for) 43% exceeds the permitted use."

Pilozzi recalled a similar Rhode Island case, described during testimony that went to "Superior Court and the Supreme Court and the courts upheld that the construction of a solar array is a structure and thus limited to applicable lot coverage permission; which in our zoning ordinance is 15%. I agree with the opponent's argument that a structure is the use of materials above and below the ground. I find that the anchoring of these solar panels into the ground with cement pads makes them a structure."

"The testimony from the applicant was that they intend to use these panels for 25 years. Thus I find that they will be attached to the ground significantly, and this is a structure. I also heard testimony from ... the opponent's land use expert, who also testified that solar panels are structures... This seems common sense to me."

Pilozzi also addressed the town's outdated Comprehensive Plan (CP).

He cited testimony that confirmed the town's current CP and zoning ordinance "does not mention solar at all."

"How can solar be consistent with the plan, if it doesn't anticipate it or deal with it?" Pilozzi asked. "I can not reconcile that in my mind."

Once again, he agreed with testimony from opposition witnesses: "It's actually impossible to find solar consistent with the comp plan because it's not there ... Ultimately the comp town could not anticipate solar if it never mentioned it."

The motion continued (portions have been trimmed for this report). Pilozzi's prepared remarks next tackled neighboring property values: "I find there will be a reduction in property values (for) neighboring parcels."

"Those are my findings of fact," Pilozzi concluded. "And those are my reasons to deny the ... application."

Before the vote, Pilozzi looked out into the audience to address a comment made at the last meeting.

"One thing I would like to mention — the gentleman from Rollingwood Drive who insulted this board, now chew on the decision that you just got," Pilozzi said, turning a feisty stink-eye toward the crowd. "We're not in anybody's pocket. I think it was very rude of you to make that remark about this board. We don't get paid."

"Do we have a second?" the chairman interrupted. A second heard was heard and the vote commenced.

One at a time, each member said "denied." The vote was unanimous. All four members — Lopardo, Pilozzi, Charles Ainabe and alternate Dennis Cardillo — voted to deny the special use permit.

Pent up applause released, filling the room. The crowd stood and then trickled out of the senior center.

Tears and Applause

"I was not alone," Chadwick said. "For the other teary eyes, I think it was relief. For me, my mom always said, 'Give someone the benefit of the doubt until they give a reason otherwise.' In the final hour the Zoning Board made the right decision for all the right reasons."

Grateful residents took turns shaking the hands of zoning board members. Chadwick approached Pilozzi, and according to her account, the vice-chairman told her, "You were pretty rough on us."

Chadwick replied, "We had to be."

Johnston Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Jr. has been a supporter of Green Development's proposal, following the receipt of numerous campaign contributions from employees of the Cranston-based company. Following the board's first denial of the application, in 2022, Polisena said he supported the board's decision.

Then the applicant returned. Polisena promoted Deller, who had been working for years as Johnston's part-time Town Planner, to a newly created position, Development & Public Services Department, with a \$95,000 annual salary. Deller reviewed Green Development's application and placed it on the zoning board's agenda, which led to the past four months of continued public hearings.

"As I said from the beginning of this a few years ago, even after the first one was denied, I have full faith in the zoning board to render the correct legal decision," Polisena said about Thursday's vote.

Legal counsel for Green Development, Providence attorney John O. Mancini did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

Landry said he has to examine the case and determine the opposition's next step, should the zoning board decision face a challenge in court (the 2022 case is still tied up in litigation).

Next Step Unclear

"Most of the residents are elated, but wondering what happens next," Chadwick said. "Hopefully Councilman (Robert) Civetti can bring forward another ordinance banning solar in residential areas. If we pack the house, it just might work."

Since the 2022 rejection, Civetti introduced a town-wide ordinance to halt solar development until the Comprehensive Plan can be updated to plan for it. His ordinance died for lack of a second (no other council members offered support).

"It was gratifying to see the zoning board agree with the legal points for opposing the solar project and how it did not change significantly from the proposal two years ago," said Johnston resident Wayne Forrest. "It was even more welcome to see the board member realize the damage taking down all those trees and clearing the land would have had on homes in the area with severe flooding from water runoff. So many homeowners would have had their lives interrupted for a long time."

Expert witnesses and neighbors agree — if the town's planning guide and zoning laws go unchanged, another application's only a matter of time.

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The God of Carnage

“We are all capable of incredible empathy and utter disregard for others. It’s what makes us both beautiful and terrifying.”

Theatre Review by IDA ZECCO

The God of Carnage is a dark comedy written by Yasmina Reza, a renowned French playwright, and novelist. Originally titled “Le Dieu du Carnage,” it was first performed in 2006 and quickly gained international acclaim. It won the 2009 Tony Award for Best Play and The Players at The Barker Playhouse have chosen this as their third production in their 115th season.

Set in modern-day society, *The God of Carnage* takes place in an affluent neighborhood. The story revolves around two couples, Alan and Annette Raleigh and Michael and Veronica Novak, who meet to discuss a fight that occurred between their respective sons. What begins as a civilized conversation quickly degenerates into chaos and hostility, revealing the underlying tensions and true personalities of the characters.

Through its witty dialogue and raw portrayal of human interactions, Yasmina Reza’s script presents a captivating examination of the fragile masks that we wear in our everyday lives. *The God of Carnage* delves deep into the complexities of marriage, friendship, and the dynamics of power. It explores how seemingly solid relationships can crumble under pressure, exposing the cracks in our carefully constructed lives. This examination of human nature offers a commentary on the fragility of social structures and the volatility of personal relationships. One of the central ideas presented in *The God of Carnage* is the belief that beneath the veneer of civilization, lies a primal instinct for violence and chaos.

Jeff Sullivan’s direction and vision for this play is concise and focused. There are minimal lighting queues and a simple, colorful living room set that reveals a comfortable, well-heeled home of affluence without distracting from the dialogue of the play. The heavy lifting in this play is character development and Sullivan’s hand has molded four actors into believable characters that fill the stage in dense conversation.

As the discussion progresses, the four adults navigate through various layers of their lives and relationships. The unraveling of their facades exposes their individual flaws, insecurities, and hidden desires, creating a raw and uncomfortable atmosphere. The play explores themes such as social etiquette, interpersonal conflicts, parenting styles, deception, and the destructive powers of anger and resentment.



“Courtesy is a waste of time; it weakens you and undermines you.” (left to right: Eve Kerrigan, (Veronica Novak), Joce Leven (Annette Raleigh), Alan Crossley (Alan Raleigh), Joel Sugerman (Michael Novak) (Photo Credit: Morgan Salpietro)

Alan Raleigh, played by David Crossley, is legal counsel to a pharmaceutical company. Although a guest in the Novak’s home and invited to “discuss” the altercation between both couples’ sons, Alan is unable to remain off his cell phone. He is constantly receiving updates from the pharmaceutical company that has brought to market a product that has fatal side effects. With telephone updates on the status of the marketing and legal nightmare that the company is facing, Alan attempts to minimize the PR damage as well as legal implications to the company. Every phone call is heard by both audience and the rest of the people in the room. Crossley’s Alan is glib, inconsiderate of any other person in the room, including his wife and his son, focused only on the company crisis and is a ruthless, legal shark. Bravo to Crossley for nailing this character.

Alan’s wife, Annette, played beautifully by the talented Joyce Leven, must endure Alan’s emotional, physical and psychological absence from their relationship as well as the parenting of their son. Annette is the only character that attempts to find common ground among the four adults in the room. However, as the play progresses, everyone begins to partake of “some very good rum,” and as Annette becomes more inebriated, her veneer begins to crack culminating with a physical annihilation

of a tulip arrangement. She is both a hilarious and pathetic figure as her aloneness takes a physical and emotional toll on her.

Joel Sugarman’s, Michael Novak, thinks of himself to be a “self-made, regular guy, salesman.” But the underbelly of this character is pure apathy. Not just apathetic to the present situation in which the four couples have met, but apathetic to everything. There is an unfortunate incident regarding the Novak’s pet hamster that is simply dumped out on the corner sidewalk by Michael in an effort to “free the rodent.” Sugarman does a terrific job in never letting up on the emotional void of this character. The great dynamic here, is Michael’s total lack of caring juxtaposed with his wife, Veronica, the extreme opposite, who seemingly “cares” about everything.

It is in that index finger of Veronica Novak, portrayed by an amazing actor, Eve Kerrigan, which gives her whole character its presence on stage. That tell-tale index finger that appears often in the conversation when someone else is wrong, when someone else doesn’t quite understand to the depth in which Veronica understands and to allow everyone else in the room how high she sits on that self-righteous pedestal. After all, Veronica has so much sensitivity and global understanding of the world’s suffering that she is authoring a book about the Darfur genocide. Veronica thrives on the control her holier than thou persona allows her. However, you can’t help but think how lonely it must be to be right all the time. Kerrigan’s portrayal of Veronica Novak is spot on!

The God of Carnage is a thought-provoking and intense exploration of human nature and social dynamics. The play dissects the complexities of marriage, friendship, and societal expectations, leaving the audience to contemplate the true nature of humanity and the consequences of suppressing our primal instincts. If you are a theater goer who enjoys character development and the many sides of the human condition, this is a play for you.

The play runs through the weekend, Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m.

The Barker Playhouse, 400 Benefit Street, Providence.

For tickets or more information please call the box office at 401-273-0590 or www.playersri.org.

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