

RUN OF THE MILL



Johnston native transforms empty factory, aims to reinvigorate Frog City

By RORY SCHULER

SOLID BONES: Jessie Jacavone paid just over \$1 million for his mill building, and plans to invest around \$3 million in renovations. By May 2025 he hopes to be accepting rental applications for 15 single bedroom apartments and two double-bedroom flats – 17 units in all, with a gym and lounge. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)



Jessie Jacavone wants to spark a Frog City resurgence.

He walked around the second floor of his bare Johnston mill and imagined the 17 luxury apartments he plans to build within the next year.

“I grew up here; I already knew this area,” he said, standing inside the gutted structure, the space almost too big to answer with an echo. “We’ll call it the Residences at Frog City Mill.”

Jacavone recently attended a Johnston Planning Board meeting to renew a master plan, which the 64 Mill St. building’s previous owners had filed with the town. The plans were sound, but the previous developer made mistakes Jacavone plans not to repeat.

For instance, the previous developer installed more than 70 beautiful windows, only to watch them buckle and warp.

“This building needs reinforced vinyl or aluminum,” he said, inspecting the sagging frames. “We’ll have to trash all these windows.”

Built on Wool

According to local historian Louis McGowan, Johnston Historical Society’s former 23-year president, Jacavone’s mill was built in 1909 by Johnston industrialist Charles Fletcher, and attached to the rest of the Victoria Mill in Johnston’s Thornton village.

He described Fletcher, a Johnston native, “as a very powerful Rhode Island textile manufacturer, actually known nationally, for his American Woolen Company.”

1909 - Victoria Mill, Thornton, R. I.



OLD MILL: Jessie Jacavone’s mill building was originally built as part of the former Victoria Mill in Frog City, Johnston. It can be seen to the right of this photo, connected by the rest of the factory complex by a fourth-story footbridge. The building was reduced to two-stories in the 1950s, according to local historian Louis McGowan. (Historical Postcard Photo courtesy Louis McGowan)



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JHS Panther of the Week



POTW: This week's Panther of the Week is Antonio Gray. Antonio is a senior at Johnston High. After high school, Antonio plans on studying to become a Social Worker. "Antonio is finishing his high school career strong by getting on the third quarter honor roll and completing his senior VOG presentation," said Principal Matt Velino. "Antonio is always willing to lend a helping hand and smile when needed." (Photo submitted by Matt Velino, Johnston High School Principal)

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

Say you saw it in the
Johnston SunRise

Senior 'Spotlite'



CLASS ACT: This week's Johnston Senior Center Spotlite shines on Marjorie Brennan, a former Cranston teacher who has been a member at the Center for about a year. (Photo courtesy Richard J. DelFino Jr.)

Marjorie helps spread the word, that the 'JSC's the place to be'

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

The Johnston Senior Center Spotlite this week shines on Marjorie Brennan, who has been a member here at the Center for about one year. Marjorie, along with a friend, tried another Center, but had heard that Johnston was very welcoming and inclusive. So they ventured out to give Johnston a try, and found the environment so friendly they joined, and have been coming ever since. Marjorie told another friend, then a relative, who have all also joined and now attend regularly. Marjorie, who grew up in Cranston, attended Cranston East High School, and later Rhode Island College. It was at RIC she began dating a classmate, to whom she would be married 10 days after graduation. She earned a Master's Degree in Education, and would spend 28 years teaching in the Cranston School District. Marjorie now resides in Warwick, and enjoys spending time attending her three grandchildren's events, similar to the time she spent attending her own two children's activities. Marjorie said her late husband provided a wonderful life for her and their children. She enjoys Bocce, Bingo, lunch and daytrips sponsored by the JSC. Marjorie is a great example of a member who has lived a life fulfilled. She also is one of our greatest assets, an active member, who spreads the word that the "Johnston Senior Center is the place to be."

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

New Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island Donation Bin at the Johnston Senior Center fuels youth, seniors and environmental sustainability

By **MEGAN FEENEY**
Special to the Sun Rise

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) is excited to announce a new partnership with the Johnston Senior Center, located at 1291 Hartford Ave. in Johnston. This collaboration introduces a new donation bin on the premises, that accepts donations of unwanted clothing, shoes, and linens (even ripped, stained, and mismatched items as they'll be recycled). Additionally, 30% of the net proceeds from collected items will directly benefit the Senior Center's programming. Richard J. DelFino Jr., the Director of the Johnston Senior Center, championing the partnership shared, "This partnership represents a powerful opportunity not only to support the senior community but also to engage in environmental stewardship and support BBBSRI's mentoring programs. We're excited to see the positive impact this will have on our programs and the broader community." The Johnston Senior Center's new green bin is part of BBBSRI's broader strategy to support local communities while also diverting millions of pounds

of textile waste from Rhode Island's landfill. In 2023, BBBSRI diverted a remarkable 4 million pounds of textiles, demonstrating a profound commitment to environmental sustainability. BBBSRI partners with local thrift store chain, Savers, ensuring that textiles are reused or recycled, minimizing waste, and maximizing the benefit to the community. "Our new partnership with the Johnston Senior Center is a testament to how community collaborations can amplify the reach and impact of charitable efforts," said BBBSRI CFO, Jack Blatchford. "Through this bin and others like it, we not only fund vital community programs but also support the ongoing mentorship and support services provided by BBBSRI, which last year alone served more than 900 Rhode Islanders." Community members are encouraged to support this initiative by donating textiles at the new green bin location, conveniently available 24/7. Clear your clutter while taking comfort in knowing that 100% of your donations remain in Rhode Island, directly supporting the local community.

BIN - PAGE 6



BIN WORKING HARD: Megan Feeney, Social Service Director at the Johnston Senior Center, makes the first BBBSRI donation in the new Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) donation bin in the JSC parking lot. (Submitted photo)

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FISHING CREW: From left to right, Fishing Derby participants included Zach Slaimen, Logan Andrade, Maddox Jackvony, Henry Goodrich, Nick Ceprano, Tyler Ceprano, Cam Ceprano and King Danny Saccucci. (Photo courtesy Vin Jackvony)

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Johnston Parks & Rec hosts annual Fishing Derby

The Johnston Parks and Recreation Department held another successful annual Fishing Derby at War Memorial Park.

"Thank you everyone who showed up and participated in the fishing derby!" Said Vin Jackvony, for the Johnston Parks and Recreation Department. "The weather cooperated and it was great to see so many different fish coming in to be judged. A special thank you to RI DEM, Citizens Bank, Big Bear Hunting and Fishing, Tommy Mooney, Steve Budnick, Johnston Police Explorers, and the Johnston Recreation staff."



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- Thank you



HAD A GREAT MURDER: The JRTC hosted a successful murder mystery event on Saturday, April 27. The committee is looking for viable Republican Candidates to run for local office. Email Sandra Taylor if you're interested in running. (Photo courtesy Sandra Taylor)

JRTC hosts Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Fundraiser

By **SANDRA TAYLOR**
Special to the Sun Rise

On Saturday, April 27, the Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC) held a successful Murder Mystery Dinner Theater called "Murder in the Court" at the Cranston Kelley Gazzoer VFW Post 2812.

Everyone that attended the show said, "We had a great time! It was so much fun!"

John Thayer, Actor and Owner of Murder on Us and his team of ac-

tors, made the night one to remember. They are a terrific and professional group. It was a privilege to have them.

The fundraiser will help with the JRTC operating costs and grassroots efforts to grow the committee. The JRTC is actively looking for viable Republican Candidates to run for local office. The committee makes every effort to support the endorsed local Johnston Republican candidates during their campaign. The JRTC wants to thank everyone that

attended and or donated. It wouldn't have been a success without the committee working well together and the attendance from our family and friends.

If you are interested in getting involved, please visit www.johnstonri.gop or email info@johnstonri.gop.

Editor's Note: Sandra Taylor serves as Chair of the Johnston Republican Town Committee (JRTC).

More at Mohr Library

Registration is opening May 1 for the next series of STEAM and ArtSmart programs with Ms. Melyssa.

STEAM — Thursdays at 5 p.m. on May 9, 16, 23 and June 6 (No class May 30). Children ages 6 to 9 are invited to experiment, explore and build.

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

Art Smart Jr. for Ages 5 to 7 — Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m., May 11 through June 8. Have fun exploring different art styles, techniques and genres.

Story-time resumes Tuesdays, April 30, through the first week in June, with "Babies and Books" at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, and Preschool Storytime, at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, except May 15 when the library will host preschool yoga. Registration is optional for story-time.

Yoga with Ms. Pauline — Preschool Yoga (UPDATED) Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., May 15 and June 12. Yoga for children ages 5 to 12, Saturdays at 9:30 am,

through May 18.

Ms. Pauline is a certified yoga teacher practicing since she was 17 years old.

A former school teacher, she began programs to bring yoga to children and teachers in schools throughout Rhode Island.

Children will be guided into gentle movement exercises using the power of their imagination.

They will also learn breathing techniques that calm and center them. It will be a time of joy, wonder and movement. Register for the class with Mohr Library.

Yoga programs are sponsored by The Tri-County Community Action Agency, Health Equity Zone.

The Library currently has a wait-list for two other guest programs for elementary-age kids, Chess for Grades 1-5, on the first Saturday of the month from 10-11 a.m., and Dungeons and Dragons, for ages 9-12, Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., May 20 and June 17.

See more programs at mohrlibrary.org, where you can also sign up for our email list, or call 401-231-4980. The Library is at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Johnston Senior Center Highlights

From the Staff

Yoga & Pilates is held Monday nights at 6 p.m. with Fran. And you can exercise with Deb on Tuesday nights at 6 and Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Don't forget Bingo on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for United Health questions and answers with Lori Meo at 11 a.m. Come and experience new and exciting exercise classes at the senior center.

Weekly Fun

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

Upcoming Activities

Mondays — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Arts & Crafts, 10:30 a.m.; Hi Lo Jack, 12:30 p.m.; Yoga & Pilates

w/Fran, 6 p.m.

Tuesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.

Wednesday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Quilting, 9:30 a.m.; Zumba, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong — Chair, 11 a.m.

Thursday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 9:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, 10 a.m.; Bone Builders, 11 a.m.

Friday — Walk away the pounds, 9-9:30 a.m.; Line Dancing, 10 a.m.; Fit & Strong-Chair, 11 a.m.

Trips & Events

Look for brand new upcoming trips and activities to be announced for June.

May 14, 1-3 p.m.: Ballroom Dancing, no partner required.

May 25: 911 Memorial & Museum a day trip

May 28: The Book Club meets to discuss "Blind Knowledge" by Elizabeth Splaine

May 29, at 9:30 a.m.: Walk with the Cops at Johnston Memorial Park! Transportation is available

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JOHNSTON POLICE LOG

DUI

Around 6 p.m., April 14, Johnston Police Patrolman Patrick Gendreau spotted a vehicle traveling east on Plainfield Street with "illegal install of tint, as well as a male operator who appeared to not be wearing a seatbelt," according to the arrest report.

Gendreau was at a fixed post and initiated a motor vehicle stop in the north-bound lane on Atwood Avenue in front of Saint Rocco Church, at 927 Atwood Ave.

Police identified the driver as Jeremy M. Held, 33, of 25 Redwood Drive, Cumberland.

Police found a paper bag full of nip bottles and a half-empty Evan Williams bourbon nip bottle between the front seats.

According to police, the driver smelled of alcohol and had bloodshot, watery eyes. Police asked Held to consent to a series of standardized field sobriety tests. He consented. Following the tests, he was placed under arrest for "suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or drugs."

He was transported to Johnston Police Headquarters and processed without incident. His vehicle was searched and towed from the scene. At the station, police say Held consented to a chemical breath test. According to police, the test results showed blood alcohol content (BAC) levels of 0.22 and 0.237, over the legal limit.

Held was charged with DUI of Liquor and/or Drugs (first offense, 0.15 BAC or greater), a misdemeanor. Police eventually determined that Held was allegedly a bail violator. Police also cited Held for Unlawful Install of Windshield and Window (Tint), No Seat Belt (Operator) and Operate Vehicle with Unsealed Alcoholic Beverage (first offense).

COUNTERFEIT CHECK

Around 11:20 a.m., Dec. 29, 2023, Johnston Police were dispatched to Citizens Bank at 1495 Hartford Ave. for a woman allegedly attempting to cash a fraudulent check. The bank provided a possible fraudulent check in the amount of \$1,494.71.

Bank employees told police that while they tried to verify the check, the woman who presented it attempted to "grab the check out of his hand" and "after a short struggle and verbal altercation" fled the bank.

The suspect left the scene in a white Nissan Altima with "unknown out of state license plates."

Police said the suspect was a "black female" who "looked to be in her early 20's" and "wearing a scarf over her head as well as dark clothing." Police were unable to locate the suspect or the vehicle at the scene.

Video surveillance footage from the incident was forwarded to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

Police eventually identified the suspect as Lazaya Doman, 29, of 1054 Bush-

wick Ave., Brooklyn, New York and applied for a Superior Court bench warrant on felony charges of Passing of Counterfeit Certificates/Bills/Notes.

ON April 18 of this year, around 3:55 p.m., Doman responded to Johnston Police Headquarters to turn herself in on the warrant. She was taken into custody, processed and held pending arraignment. Later that evening, Just of the Peace John McCaffrey responded to police headquarters to arraign Doman. She was issued \$5,000 personal recognizance and a Sixth District Court date.

According to police, Doman also had a separate Superior Court bench warrant and was later transported to ACI Women's Intake.

FELONY SHOPLIFTING

Around 6:50 a.m., Johnston Police Patrolman Edward Gonzalez responded to CVS in town following the report of a shoplifting incident. The store manager told police that a man and a woman entered the store, walked to the razor section and filled two bags with Gillette razors. They allegedly left the store without paying for the items.

Police described the man as a "heavy set white male wearing a white hat with a face mask on" and the woman was "white, of average size, wearing a hooded sweatshirt with the hood over her head and a face mask on," according to the incident report.

An employee followed them outside, and they allegedly got into a blue Toyota with Rhode Island plates, operated by a third person. According to store management, the pair took \$417.24 worth of razors.

Police tracked the vehicle's license plate and took a copy of video surveillance to the Johnston Police Detective Division for further investigation.

Police eventually identified one of the suspects as Raymond A. Grundy, 42, of 136 Daniel Ave., Providence, and issued an arrest warrant.

Around 10 p.m., April 11, Johnston Police Patrolman Thomas Santurri spotted two men and a woman walking east on Hartford Avenue near the Providence line. According to the arrest report, Santurri had "prior knowledge that both individuals were wanted by this Department for Shoplifting, Conspiracy, and Habitual Shoplifter."

Police detained Grundy in the Dollar Tree parking lot on Killingly Street in Providence, and the other suspects fled the scene.

"Members of Third Watch canvassed the area and were met with negative results," Santurri wrote in the arrest report. Police found that Grundy also had an outstanding Providence Superior Court warrant for failing to appear at a restitution review hearing (connected to a previous Felony Assault charge by Providence Police).

Johnston Police charged Grundy with felony Shoplifting. Grundy was also charged with Conspiracy and Habitual Offender-Shoplifting, both misdemeanors.

Bin

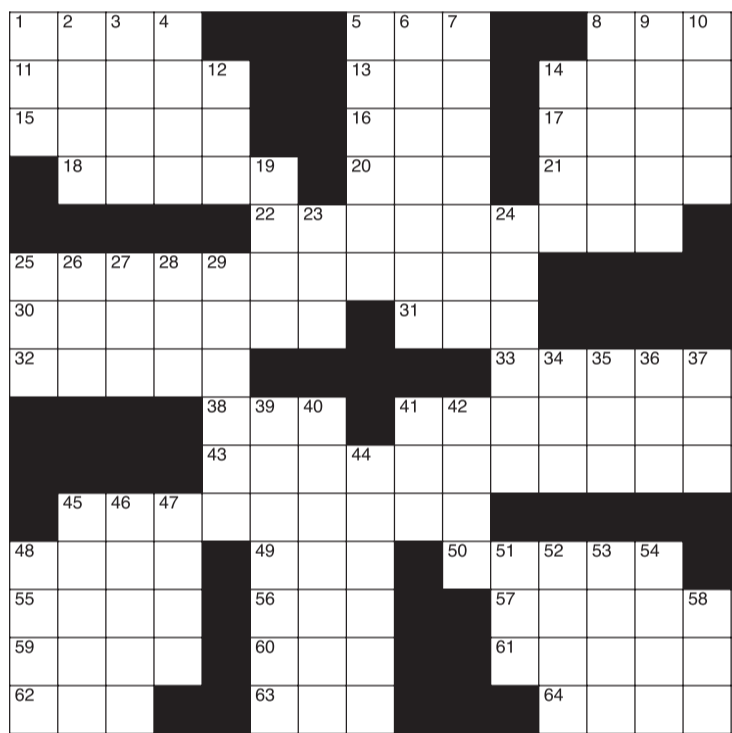
(Continued from page 3)

BBBSRI creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. For more information on how to support BBBSRI and the Johnston Senior Center through your donations, visit DonateRI.

org or email Donations@BigsRI.org. The Johnston Senior Center mission is to enrich the quality of life and support independence and vitality for seniors. For more information about the Johnston Senior Center, visit jscri.org.

Editor's Note: Megan Feeney serves as Social Service Director at the Johnston Senior Center.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it
- In favor of
- Rest here please (abbr.)
- Pulpits
- Leisure activity
- Fertility god
- Financial obligations
- When you anticipate getting somewhere
- Spanish river
- Sporting events
- Type of tree
- Ceased to be
- Persons
- Synthetic resin
- Relates to photochemical reactions
- Father
- Former Cowboys coach
- City in Finland
- Run batted in
- Got through
- They darken skin
- In a harmful way
- Form of weaving

CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Hebrew unit of measure
- Swedish rock group
- College army
- Favor over another
- Called it a career
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Israeli statesman
- Hurries
- Slog
- Midway between south and southeast
- Benedictine monk
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of regulator genes
- Surrendering
- Political action committee
- S. American plant
- Long-term memory
- Bark
- Breathes in
- Take hold of
- Everyone has one
- Valentine's Day color
- Drivers' licenses and passports
- Outer walls of castles
- Enters with force
- One thousandth of an inch
- Deceased Chinese politician
- Sugary secretion of plants
- Expressed pleasure
- Shelter
- Utilizes
- Forest resident
- Fashion accessory
- A sharply directional antenna
- ___ Kristofferson, actor
- A bad place to end up
- MLBer Gordon

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

GUEST OPINION

Grateful for a great American pastime

There's no denying the arrival of spring once the cherry blossoms bloom and spiked cleats begin digging into the dirt at local Little League diamonds across the state.

This past weekend, teams of excited youngsters from around Rhode Island converged to begin a new season on their own field of dreams; searching for a small slice of glory in a world that can so often seem to be overly complicated and working against that simple pursuit of hard-won happiness.

The microcosm of baseball, and Little League specifically, is one worth delving into. This is particularly true during a time when it seems like more and more people are turning away from such storied community endeavors in favor of an isolationist, untrusting approach to their neighbors. Little League reminds us of how communities prosper when they come together.

Teams are sponsored by local businesses that benefit from the additional attention brought by their names and logos emblazoned on outfield signs and jerseys. Players come from every walk of life for a common goal, bringing together neighbors and members of the community who might not ever otherwise say hello to one another; possibly even forming lasting friendships in the meantime. Coaches are comprised of our local police officers, firefighters, teachers, assorted business owners and workers (and even, sometimes, journalists) all volunteering their time to serve as role models and instructors for kids who may need such a presence in their lives.

Once the action on the field gets going, kids learn incredibly valuable lessons about the spirit of competition, how to persevere through long odds, the difficult but important ability to accept a loss with dignity, and the elation of winning with graciousness; all while getting exercise and sunshine that is so vitally needed when there are no shortage of digital temptations that can lead to depression and increased anxiety.

We are grateful to the people who make such a storied tradition possible in each of our communities, and to the parents who also invest the time in making sure their children have such a valuable experience. While a career in baseball is not a likely end point for most of these kids, the lessons they learn along the way will serve them well in whatever field they wind up in; be it a literal field or not.

• WHERE TO WRITE:
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Bridge troubles highlight need for a long-term funding solution

By MICHAEL DIBIASE

The prospect of repairing or fully replacing the Washington Bridge has created greater urgency to address Rhode Island's diminishing ability to pay for its transportation infrastructure. Whatever the path forward, the bridge project is almost certain to cost more than the \$78 million for repairs already underway when the structure was suddenly shut down in December.

Unfortunately, the Washington Bridge is only one of a long backlog of transportation projects that need funding. While the state has been chipping away at the list, Rhode Island still has 169 additional structurally deficient bridges—about 14% of the state's total—that have been rated poor by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT). Rhode Island's bridges are in such disrepair, one national study ranks the state 3rd worst in bridge quality among the 50 states. Rhode Island roads fair no better, ranking 2nd worst. Adding to the pressing demands to improve our bridges and roads are persistent financial problems at the quasi-public Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). RIPTA faces a substantial deficit of \$18.6 million in fiscal year (FY) 2025—representing approximately 13% of its operating budget—and the agency projects increasing deficits in future years.

Fortunately, the federal Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), passed by Congress in 2021, authorized substantial increases in federal transportation funding. Beginning in FY 2022, Rhode Island's federal allocation increased by approximately \$100 million and has continued to increase each year. There is also the potential for a special allocation of federal funding to repair or replace

the Washington Bridge. However, federal funding for transportation typically requires a state contribution of 20% to match 80% of funding supplied by the federal government. As a result, state funding needs are increasing—for FY 2025, Rhode Island will need to provide \$90.1 million in state funding, an increase of \$24.3 million over FY 2021. Any special federal allocation for the Washington Bridge also would most likely require additional state matching funds.

To fund its required federal match, Rhode Island relies on dedicated revenues. The primary source of this funding is from the gas tax, with additional revenues from motor vehicles fees, capital funds, bridge tolls and, until suspended by a federal court ruling, truck tolls. These sources provide funding for DOT, the Turnpike and Bridge Authority, as well as subsidies for RIPTA. While the need to invest in Rhode Island's bridges, roads, and transit grows, and the state's federal matching requirements increase, Rhode Island's main funding sources are becoming less reliable.

Revenues from the gas tax are projected to decline, even with scheduled tax increases, by nearly \$10 million from FY 2024 to FY 2028. Downward pressure on the gas tax is due in part to the number of Rhode Islanders opting for hybrid or electric vehicles—a trend that the state has incentivized through climate policies and tax rebates. In addition, the state's commercial truck toll program, which successfully brought in \$38.4 million annually at its peak in 2022, was deemed unconstitutional and suspended by the U.S. District Court in September of that year. The case is currently on appeal.

Despite pressures for a sustainable plan for raising transportation reve-

nue, no such plan was included in the governor's proposed FY 2025 budget. And while the Senate Finance Committee heard testimony from Syracuse University on projected declines in gas tax revenue in 2023, no legislation has been introduced on this issue so far in the General Assembly. In last year's budget, the Assembly, per the governor's recommendation, provided \$70 million in one-time federal money to backfill lost truck toll revenue for FY 2023 and FY 2024, but the funding gap is not addressed in the governor's FY 2025 proposed budget. Additionally, the governor has proposed to use \$10 million in one-time federal money to address the deficits at RIPTA, but this falls short of filling the projected deficit and does not represent a sustainable source of funding going forward.

The financial pressures created by the Washington Bridge have spotlighted the need for a viable transportation funding plan for the Ocean State. To take advantage of the available increases in federal transportation aid and address declining gas tax and suspended truck toll revenues, as well as providing necessary funding for RIPTA, Rhode Island needs a long-term solution. The state should consider alternatives pursued by other states like road usage charges, electric vehicle charging fees, increased registration fees for hybrid/electric vehicles, or tolls (especially if the state is unsuccessful in its appeal of the ruling in the truck toll court case).

Michael DiBiase is the president and CEO of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy research organization. This is the third in a four-part series on Governor Dan McKee's proposed fiscal 2025 state budget.

'Structures are clearly closer to barns than housing'

I took the time to personally visit the so-called pallet village, on Victor Street in Providence. I can't help but come to the conclusion; the same people who contrived this idea may also be responsible for the issues with the Washington Bridge. Having worked in the homeless industry for 10 years (yes it is an industry) one can immediately understand, this project is totally inappropriate for homeless people or anyone to live in. These structures are clearly closer to barns than housing. There is no electricity, no running water, no heat, and no toilet facilities. People will be forced to walk across the compound to use a port-a-john. I'm sure they'll all be more than eager to do that at 2 a.m. These cheaply constructed sheds in no way meet any form of building code that I'm aware of. No legitimate housing, permanent or temporary, would or should ever get a certificate of occupancy under these circumstances.

More than inappropriate, this project is disrespectful. My former boss once told me, "I would never ask anyone to live someplace I wouldn't live in myself." One of the few things we agreed on. The homeless are human beings and although their circumstances are often as a result of their own doing, often not, they are nonetheless human beings. Housing them in much the same way as farm animals is repugnant.

Additionally, this very site where these hovels are sitting is under investigation by the RI DEM. It seems the area may be a health hazard. I presume because of pollutants in the soil. I was born and brought up in that area of Providence and can remember it as the location of a rail yard roundhouse. Operated by the New Haven and Worcester Railroads (I believe), locomotives would pull into the site and then be mechanically turned 180 degrees to the opposite direction. I distinctly remember the smell of diesel fumes, when my father would drive by with us in the car, as well as the soot stained walls and what appeared to be oil soaked ground all around it. One could see all this from Rt. 95 as well as Admiral Street, it was that obvious. When Rt. 146 and Rt. 95 were ultimately connected, the walls were torn down and the area was covered over with dirt, but little more. One can only imagine what contaminants remain behind. Did no

one take any of this into consideration?

The idea that the State would invest \$3.3 million into a shanty town boggles the mind. And still, I can't help but wonder how this collection of shacks totals three plus million dollars. Curious. Yet another knee jerk reaction on the part of the State to a much larger problem. These sheds look like something one would buy at Home Depot. This money could have been put to far better use in combating the homeless problem through proven programs such as Housing First, Street Outreach, overnight and long term shelter housing or something original and creative. That amount of money could buy a lot of dignified housing befitting people instead of livestock. Once again, ill conceived and poorly executed.

The Governor is proposing a \$17 million permanent budget amendment to combat homelessness, funded by a tax raise on hotel rooms. Just what the tourism industry needs. When in doubt, raise taxes. Make no mistake, he'll get his money but how will it be spent? Fiscal prudence is not something that usually enters the equation in matters such as this. Guaranteed, the numerous grants that will be written, all wanting a piece of the pie, will be replete with "Administrative Fees." Those fees lead to hefty raises for the leaders of the various nonprofits in the homeless industry. What trickles down may very likely turn into shacks and barns.

You may ask, what does all this have to do with Johnston or Cranston or anyplace else in Rhode Island? Quite simply, it could happen here. The issue of homelessness is expanding at an alarming rate, just look at what's happened in California, New York or Chicago and all across the country. Eventually the problem will spread to the suburbs. With the recent passage of legislation designed to fast track pretty much any form of new housing (with little or no oversight or approval) we may be looking at this or something like it in our own backyard, sooner rather than later. In closing, be aware, get involved and let your voice be heard, now and at the ballot box.

**Richard R. Fascia, of Johnston
Member of the Johnston Republican
Town Committee (JRTC)**



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MILL COMPLEX-ITIES: Jessie Jacavone's mill building was once part of Frog City's Victoria Mill complex. His building was constructed in 1909, as part of the wool-processing operation. Mills like this opened and transformed the area from a sleepy hamlet into a hub of east coast industry. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

THE DETAILS:

Jessie Jacavone points to a patch of exposed brick on the building's exterior, "like in Italy." When he's done, Jacavone says the old, empty eyesore will be transformed into a "boutique mill apartment building."



THE DIGS: Jessie Jacavone, now a Smithfield resident, grew up on Willow Street in Johnston. He bought the mill building at 64 Mill St. and plans to transform the space into "boutique" apartments.



■ Mill

(Continued from page 1)

The rest of the Victoria Mill was constructed in 1898 "to be used in conjunction with the Pocasset Mill," which had opened several years earlier," McGowan explained.

Jacavone's building was once connected to the rest of the Victoria Mill by a footbridge, on the building's former fourth floor. The rest of the surviving mill still houses industry — the American Foam Corporation.

Frog City Reborn

According to Ocean State scholar Debra A. Mulligan, a Johnston native, "the village of Thornton ... was called 'Frog City' because of its proximity to swamp-land." In fact, a small brook running next to the mill building has been overflowing its banks regularly, leading to muddy conditions at the work site.

Jacavone paid just over \$1 million for the building, and plans to invest around \$3 million in renovations. By May 2025 he hopes to be accepting rental applications for 15 single bedroom apartments and two double-bedroom flats — 17 units in all, with a gym and lounge.

McGowan, who's now in charge of the Johnston Historical Society archives and collections, used records from the archives to track the history of the mill building.

The structure was used as a carding and combing mill, where workers "would prepare" the wool, taking it through multiple steps. They "washed, cleaned and combed the wool," eventually "making it ready to spin" into thread at the Pocasset Mill Worsted Mill, according to McGowan, who examined state factory inspection reports.

The building addition allowed the Victoria Mill to employ more workers. McGowan said that during "the first decade of 1900s, averaged 180-190" mostly male employees, with only 6-8 females. However, "during the teens," after the new building opened for operations, the mill's employment level "averaged pretty close to 300."

Down To Size

According to McGowan, Jacavone's mill was once twice as tall.

"It was a much bigger mill but they tour down the top two or three floors so that it looks the way it is now," he explained. "It's rather odd, but that's what they did."

The structure stood at four stories for close to a half-century. The building was purchased by a "Mr. Berker" in 1941, McGowan said.

"It was reduced to its present height around 1958, according to Gary Kulik's "RI — Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1978)." By that time, they were "producing textile machinery on the first floor, and started renting out space."

The Victoria Mill was one of three built in the village by Fletcher, who's entrepreneurship transformed the neighborhood.

"There were mills on Mill Street going back to the 1820s at least," McGowan explained. "The neighborhood or village was actually called Lower Simmonsville — officially they're called 'places.'"

Fletcher built another mill, at 62 Mill St., for a British friend named Robert W. Cooper, who was a textile manufacturer in Nottingham England. Cooper opened the British Hosiery Company, and, according to McGowan, "overnight, it changed from Lower Simmonsville to Thornton."

With the mills came block after block of mill housing (inexpensive homes constructed for employees).

"That's where I grew up, on Walnut Street," McGowan recalled. "He built three streets of mill housing."

Frog City's population boomed, from around 200 when the mills opened, to around 1,500 after.

Jacavone grew up on Willow Street.

Johnston's 'Bedroom Community'

His building may be just a shell now, but changes are in the works. Jacavone hopes to provide homes to employees who may relocate to the area for high-paying managerial jobs at Amazon, off Hartford Avenue (a company spokesman recently said the company plans to open the facility by this year's holiday season).

He estimates rent for the apartments will be around \$2,000 for the single bedroom units (and \$2,350 for the two-bedroom).

"Rhode Island's housing market is in trouble," said the developer. He's betting on Frog City to become the region's newest "bedroom community" for workers who commute to either Providence or Boston.

"People who make decent money can't afford a house," Jacavone said. He pointed to a patch of exposed brick on the building's exterior, "like in Italy." When he's done, Jacavone says the old, empty eyesore will be transformed into a "boutique mill apartment building."

insanity, madness, absurdity, foolishness, fatuousness, imbecility, craziness?

Nah, let's go with 'folly'

SENIOR FOLLIES: On a recent Saturday, a Hawaiian theme filled the Johnston Senior Center, while the "Senior Follies," featuring dance and singing numbers reminiscent of a Broadway show, thrilled attendees. Spectacular dress and outfits sparked throughout the performances to the delight of the entertained crowd of JSC members, staff, family, and friends. The attendees dined on Hawaiian baked ham and pineapple, chicken kabobs, rice, mixed grilled vegetables, salad, and coffee and deserts. After the performances, the group participated in line dancing. "A great time was had by all," said Richard J. DelFino Jr., Executive Director of the Johnston Senior Center at 1291 Hartford Ave. (Photos courtesy Megan Feeney, Johnston Senior Center Social Services Coordinator)



Introducing, the boys of summer



OPENING DAY: Johnston Little League welcomed a new season of fun when it celebrated its annual Opening Day parade Saturday up on Cherry Hill. Among the teams present were the Braves, who carried a banner honoring their late coach TJ May. For more photos of the event, check out the sports section, starting on page 15. (Photo by Alex Sponseller)

Ferri MS Kindness Crew comes through

The Ferri Middle School Kindness Crew collected donations for Hasbro Children's Hospital. "In coordination with Ferri Middle School's Hero Month in March, the Kindness Crew urged students to become Heroes for Hasbro Children's Hospital!" According to club coordinator Julie Romano. "Throughout the month, donations of newly purchased items were collected for use in the various libraries and activity centers found throughout the hospital. Ferri Middle School families certainly came together to support such a wonderful cause and overwhelmingly donated supplies! We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our Ferri community! We look forward to transporting the donations to Hasbro next week and putting smiles on the faces of children in need."



KINDNESS CREW: Students in the Ferri Middle School Kindness Crew, standing from left to right, Allyson Pena, Madison Pinheiro, Valerie Rios, Kaleigh-James Slader, Ella Ware. And, kneeling from left, Shawnee Funches, Derryck Roberts, Guiliana Lafleur and Chelsea Guy. (Photo courtesy Katelynn Tewksbury, Culture & Climate Coordinator at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School)

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**SORI's Elwood Johnson
Outstanding Service Award**

JPD Officer Mario Mennella one of 12 nominated in RI

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Police Officer Mario Mennella has been nominated for the inaugural Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service Award.

Special Olympics Rhode Island (SORI) announced the nominees earlier this week. The statewide award winner will be announced at the Friday, May 3 Rhode Island Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR RI) 2024 Conference.

Mennella is one of only a dozen members of Ocean State law enforcement nominated for the award, which has been "established in honor of Elwood Johnson Jr., a dedicated supporter of Special Olympics Rhode Island and long-time law enforcement member."

The "award celebrates individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy and community impact," according to a SORI press release. The list of nominees recognizes "12 exceptional members of (LETR RI) community."

"Officer Mennella's dedication to this cause is commendable," Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira said Tuesday. "For more than 10 years, Officer Mennella has been a driving force behind our depart-

ment's participation in Special Olympics Rhode Island events. From helping to organize the Law Enforcement Torch Run to the Motorcycle Run, he has worked hard to raise both awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes."

Special Olympics Rhode Island is a "non-profit organization dedicated to providing year-round sports training and competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities," according to awards banquet organizers.

The 12 honorees were nominated by their respective departments or agencies, and "have demonstrated unwavering dedication to providing opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities to empower themselves and their communities."

"Officer Mennella's commitment to our community and his efforts to support these athletes has brought our community closer together," Vieira said. "We are proud to have Officer Mennella serve as part of our department, and we overwhelmingly support his nomination for the Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service Award."

The list of the other 11 award nominees includes: Officer John

Benros, Providence Police; Corp. Gregory Burbank, Westerly Police; Lt. Jason Cahill, Burrillville Police; Officer Mac Hindle, Hopkinton Police; Detective Eric Leclerc, Cranston Police; Officer Frank Matarese, Warwick Police Department; Lt. Sarah McNulty, Central Falls Police; Lt. Joshua Nelson, North Smithfield Police; Sgt. Jon Ricciarelli, Smithfield Police; Corp. Kyle Shibley, Rhode Island State Police; and Maj. James Tiernan, West Greenwich Police.

Special Olympics Rhode Island President and CEO Ed Pacheco has presented each law enforcement honoree with a citation and Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service pin.

SORI serves more than 3,500 Ocean State athletes of all ages, races and genders. The LETR is a volunteer movement established by members of law enforcement to support Special Olympics.

"In Rhode Island, the movement includes law enforcement, corrections, fire, and justice departments," according to the organization. "The LETR mission statement is to increase public awareness and raise funds for the Special Olympics movement worldwide."



HONORED: Officer Mario Mennella of the Johnston Police Department received an Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service Award citation and pin from Special Olympics Rhode Island President and CEO Ed Pacheco during a recent department visit. Officer Mennella is one of 12 nominees for the statewide Elwood Johnson Outstanding Service Award. From left to right in the photo are: Johnston Police Chief Mark A. Vieira, Officer Mennella, and Pacheco. (Photo courtesy Special Olympics Rhode Island)

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By JENNIFER COATES



This state-of-the-art Memory Care Assisted Living Residence in Johnston provides compassionate care to those with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia and other memory-loss conditions.

When the plans were being drafted for Briarcliffe Gardens, a memory care assisted living residence tucked away on Old Pocasset Road in the shady woods of Johnston, owner Akshay Talwar, and his team poured over every detail. Every design decision was based on thorough dementia research and experience. Every detail, from the amount of light that bathes the community rooms to the patterns on the floor to the placement of furniture, was carefully calculated, all with the intent of enhancing the quality of life and the safety of the residents of this busy center.

As soon as one walks through the doors of Briarcliffe Gardens, these research-based design features are immediately apparent. Nothing here looks haphazard or unplanned. Visitors and residents alike experience a "sensory journey" as they tour the residence. There is a feeling of spaciousness, light and openness here which appeals to all the senses and which dispels the feeling that one is in a secured environment.

To start, Briarcliffe Gardens is built entirely on one floor with dining and living spaces in the center, forming the social core, much like one's own kitchen. On any given day, this warmly-lit open space area is filled with residents who are being guided through crafts, games or socialization experiences. In adjoining rooms, it is not uncommon to see residents engaged in therapeutic activities such as seated yoga, tai chi, and music therapy.

The single-occupancy bedrooms all have outside windows and line the perimeter of this common center space. Numerous skylights provide diffuse sunshine during daytime and natural and artificial lighting are balanced to create a seamless transition between daylight and nightfall. The colors, light and air temperatures throughout are all coordinated in a concerted effort to comfort residents who might be prone to agitation or

irritability. As the tour continues, one will find a 24-hour retro-design diner, a movie hall, specially adapted recumbent bikes, a Wii gaming center, a hair salon/barber, a sunroom for meditation and, in the spring/summer, a courtyard with fruit-producing trees, walking path and patio. The caregivers and administrators of this progressive memory care center have considered every aspect of their residents' lives and work diligently to anticipate their every need.

From the time when the first ground was broken on Briarcliffe Gardens, this state-of-the-art memory care assisted living

residence's primary mission has been to provide a secure, nurturing, and vibrant community for its many residents.

When family members are considering a possible long-term stay for a loved one who suffers from health concerns like Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Briarcliffe Gardens offers so much more than exceptional care. It exemplifies everything that a memory-care residence should be ~and can be ~ in this modern age.

To schedule your personal tour of Briarcliffe Gardens, call 401-944-2450. For more information, you can also visit them at www.briarclifferi.com or visit their Facebook page, Briarcliffe Gardens Assisted Living.

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(Submitted photo by James Lastowski)

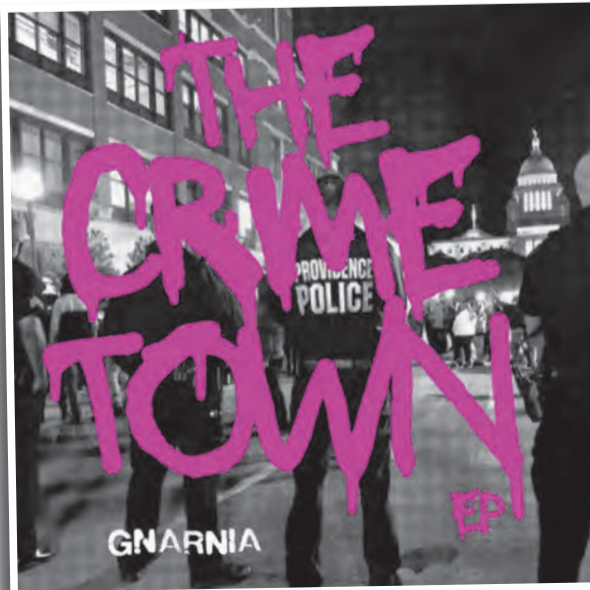
Providence Punks Gnarnia exact sonic aggression with 'The Crimetown' EP

By **ROB DUGUAY**

Like any other city, Providence has a bit of grit within its vicinity. There are certain aspects that are rough and tumble along with an underbelly where certain things happen that often get covered in the news or even talked about in a podcast or two. Speaking of podcasts, the new EP from Providence punk act Gnarnia shares a name with a pretty famous one while being titled "The Crimetown." I'm willing to guess that the EP is inspired by the much talked about second season of the "Crimetown" podcast that had multiple episodes examining what "The Creative Capital" was like during the height of the New England Mafia while Buddy Cianci was mayor. With this being said, the quartet of vocalist Christopher Simonelli, guitarist Scott Bowers, bassist Ashish Vyas and drummer Frank Mullin convey this narrative through amplified riffs, rapid beats and an intense delivery.

The record was officially released back on April 8 via the local record label Psychic Static with all the songs being tracked at Gnarnia's practice space in Pawtucket. Eric Hanson, who is originally from Fiskeville in Western Cranston, put on the finishing touches by handling the mixing at Dyerville Recording in the Providence neighborhood of Olneyville. The result is a blistering array of audial grime that's

ideal for any fan of '70s punk and '80s hardcore. Together Bowers, Vyas and Mullin exhibit tightly wound syncopation while Simonelli is right up in the senses with his vocals. It should be mentioned that the EP is a relatively short listen with only one track running over the two-minute mark, so if you're pressed for time then experiencing this from start to finish shouldn't be a problem.



Bowers' riffs have a consistent presence within the opening tune "Here We Go" as the chorus has a quick and emphatic vibe. "Crimetown" exhibits a vintage hardcore structure with Mullin's drums being the pulsating foundation with everything else feeding off of his skills. "Break Balls" absolutely thrashes with the guitar and drums forming an electrifying dynamic that ups the ante, especially during the chorus. The most unique track is most definitely "Underwater" while including funk and psychedelic elements at the beginning before going back to the raw amplification. Finishing it all off is "Go Home" while blistering in at only a half minute.

To give "The Crimetown" EP a listen, you can simply give it a stream and perhaps even make a purchase by logging onto Gnarnia's Bandcamp page at gnarniapvd.bandcamp.com. You can also grab it on vinyl via Psychic Static's website at psychicstatic.net, which also includes the band's "Thin Ice" EP that came out last year. If you're looking to check out these guys live, they have a show coming up in the Boiler Room at Wes' Rib House on 38 Dike Street in Providence on May 4. Old school metal shredders Teazer 2000 and fuzzy prog doom metal duo Coma Hole are going to be performing as well with it all starting at 8pm. Regardless of what you do, just make sure to dive into the record I just wrote about and turn up the volume.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable

Skippy and Tippy



Photo credit: Melissa-Foster Mom

Just look at this adorable duo, Skippy and Tippy! They are a bonded brother and sister pair who are a little shy but have come along way with love, time and patience. Skippy and Tippy are only ten months old so still very much playful kittens. They had a rough start in life, but their foster Mom has worked very hard with them to show them what love is! Their purr-fect home would be an adult home where they will get the attention they both deserve and where they can live their happily ever after! If you'd like more information about these two beauties, please contact their foster Mom melissa at 401-742-6086. They will be waiting to meet you and hope that you will fall in love with them!

If you are thinking of adopting or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com



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Mothers' Day and don't forget flowers

Mothers' Day is celebrated on May 12th.

The first traces of Mother's Day can be found in Greek mythology when goddess Rhea, the mother of Zeus, was honored in spring. In the Middle East, most countries celebrate the holiday on March 21 - which is the spring equinox.

The tradition of a "Mothering Sunday" can be traced to an early Christian festival of the same name, initially intended as a date to encourage people to return to their local or "mother" church for a special annual service. Over the centuries, the meaning evolved to incorporate the celebration of family, specifically mothers, and although the religious aspect was largely lost, it has become customary to give mothers gifts on this day. It has become a tradition for children to personally visit with their mother, send them a card, talk to them on the phone or send flowers. One quarter of all flowers purchased throughout the year are for this holiday. Flowers have long been a personalized way of letting moms and pseudo-moms (aunts, grandmothers, foster moms, step-moms, friends, and other women who have played an important part in the sender's life,) know how important a role they played in the sender's life and communicate how they might feel towards them.

Substantial research demonstrates that giving a bouquet of flowers holds many positive health and psychological benefits and touch the hearts of both the giver and the receiver. Research from the University of North Florida shows that people who have flowers in their homes, even for just a few days, report a significant decrease in their levels of stress and improvements in their moods. The findings are important from a public health perspective because adding flowers to reduce stress does not require tremendous effort to generate a meaningful effect. When life seems to be in a constant state of frenzy, flowers can provide a much-needed moment of calm. Another study finds that the presence of flowers triggers happy emotions, heightens feelings of life satisfaction and affects social behavior in a positive manner far beyond what is normally believed. Flowers can have long-term positive effects on moods, as study participants re-

Life Matters



with LINDA PETERSEN

ported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated after receiving flowers, and demonstrated a higher sense of enjoyment and life satisfaction.

Flowers may have something to do with my eternal good mood. Hubby regularly comes home from grocery shopping with a bouquet of flowers purchased from Aldi's, which he replaces weekly. It is a joy to come into the living room to see the colorful blossoms blooming. I cannot help but smile when I see them, wiping out any previous stressful thoughts. They have an immediate impact on MY happiness with positivity oozing from every petal. Studies have shown that flowers make us happier and have strong positive effects on our emotional well being, and a long-term positive effect. Study participants reported feeling less depressed, anxious and agitated after receiving flowers, and demonstrated a higher sense of enjoyment and life satisfaction.

A six-month behavioral study by Rutgers on the health effects of flowers on senior citizens, demonstrates that flowers ease depression, inspire social networking and refresh memory as we age. The study demonstrates that flowers decrease depression, as participants showed a significant increase in happiness and positive moods when flowers were present. Surprisingly, flowers refreshed recent memory. Seniors performed higher on everyday memory tasks and experienced enriched personal memories in the presence of flowers. They also encourage companionship. Seniors who received flowers re-engaged with members of their communities and enlarged their social contacts to include more neighbors and religious support. While instinct tells me that flowers lift our spirits, the latter two improvements were profound. Specifically, 81 percent of

seniors who participated in the study reported a reduction in depression following the receipt of flowers and it is well known that happier people live longer. Forty percent of seniors reported broadening their social contacts beyond their normal social circle of family and close friends. And, 72 percent of the seniors who received flowers scored very high on memory tests in comparison with 22 percent of seniors who did not receive flowers.

A successful gift giver is not necessarily someone with a lot of money and material goods, but rather someone who is in tune with people and knows how to touch their hearts. I can think of no other item besides flowers that evokes such positive feelings and perceptions for both the giver and the recipient. Just a bunch of daisies is enough to turn my heart to jelly, especially if they are from a grandchild who hand picked them. Extra credit is given for a handmade bow.

Next to getting flowers on Mother's Day, a personal phone call from my adult children, including their offspring, delights me. Even when my grandchildren were infants and toddlers, they would tolerate my singing nursery rhymes for them, something I did with all of my children when they were younger. As they age, I am sure that they roll their eyes at my warbling, but they are kind hearted and do not mention that it annoys them. According to Peter Rogers, senior vice president of VIP Communications, Mothers' Day is the most popular day to place phone calls, registering more calling traffic than any other holiday, including New Year's and Valentine's Day.

Of course, taking mom out to eat is also a treat. Hubby's mom prefers Top of The Bay for her luncheon, and we were thrilled when the restaurant reopened so we could continue this tradition. With this activity, I am doubly blessed to celebrate being both a gifter and giftee.

Most of all, it is important to do SOMETHING for Mothers' Day to acknowledge the importance of someone who has had a major effect on our lives. Life is short, and for my own mom I am relegated to bringing flowers to her gravesite at the Veterans' Cemetery. She was not a person who would "waste money" on flowers, but I am hoping that she enjoys them posthumously.

Philharmonic's open rehearsals—a winning bargain

By DON FOWLER

Everyone wins when the Rhode Island Philharmonic opens their rehearsals to the public.

Offered both last month and this, the rehearsals provide the opportunity for those who cannot afford to attend the Saturday night concerts to attend for the bargain price of \$20.

The rehearsals are held on the Friday before the Saturday evening event at 5:30 p.m.

The conductor and guest soloist can perform before a live audience and get their reactions, while also

making the necessary adjustments.

Music students attending can understand the hard work that goes into preparing for a major concert.

Senior citizens and families with young children can count on getting home at a reasonable hour.

I attended the Beethoven concert on April 12, enjoying the interplay among conductor Joshua Wellerstein, pianist Orli Shaham and the orchestra members.

It makes for an enlightening and entertaining evening.

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

The philharmonic's season finale on Saturday includes Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique!" on Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 p.m.

You can hear it at the Friday, May 3, rehearsal at 5:30 p.m., along with Peter Boyer's Silver Fanfare and Wynton Marsalis's Violin Concerto, featuring violinist Kelly Hall-Tompkins. Guest conductor is Thomas Wilkins.

Seating is open. I enjoy watching the full orchestra from the 1st balcony, while

others prefer sitting close to the stage. Get there a few minutes early, and you have your choice.

For tickets, visit riphil.org or call 248-7000. They are also available at the door.



KELLY HALL-TOMPKINS

Sports

JLL celebrates Opening Day

After multiple rainouts, Johnston Little League was finally able to celebrate its annual Opening Day festivities last Saturday. The day began with its parade, starting in the parking lot of Johnston High School, which proceeded down Cherry Hill, Atwood Ave and Hartford Ave before wrapping up at Kennedy Field at War Memorial Park. The day later included opening ceremonies following a full slate of action to get the season underway.

The Expos got a big win and were led by JJ Splendorio with four RBI while Mason Lombardi earned two strikeouts on the mound for the opposing Astros. Mason Poole got a pair of hits for the Cardinals, while Eden Nova picked up three hits for the Yankees.

Check out page 16 for more photos of the morning event.



BACK ON TRACK: Johnston's Moriah Fleury.

Panthers bounce back with win

FROM STAFF REPORTS

After dropping its first game of the season in a 7-6 defeat to West Warwick, the Johnston softball team would bounce back to beat Scituate 2-1 in eight innings.

Haley Boudreau pitched all eight innings and allowed one run on one hit while striking out 18. Bella Boudreau drove in Lexi DiLorenzo on a sacrifice fly to tie the score in the fourth inning, then Arianna Velasquez went on to knock in Moriah Fleury in the top of the eighth for the win.

Kalyn Foster drove in three runs against the Wizards while Bella Boudreau added two RBI as well. Haley Boudreau finished that outing with 15 strikeouts.

JHS girls lax falls to Lincoln

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Johnston girls lacrosse team is still searching for its first win after falling to host Lincoln 9-2 on Tuesday evening.

Irais Franco got the Panthers on the board in the first half but the Lions offense was sharp as it took a 6-1 advantage by the halftime break. Although the Johnston defense hunkered down in the final two periods, the offense struggled to truly break through as Sam Marcotte added the team's second goal in the final two minutes.

Riley Guenette is back in the cage for the Panthers after a breakout season last spring and has been successful. The senior finished with 14 saves in Tuesday's contest.

Also returning to the fold are seniors Aubree



GOAL SCORER: Sam Marcotte handles the ball. (Photos by Alex Sponseller)

■ JHS - PAGE 17

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HONORING AMERICA: Members of the police department join the parade.



WAVE TO THE CROWD: Members of the Cubs say hello to the crowd.

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BANNER YEAR: The Cardinals carry their team banner in the parade.

We are making progress, I guess

An ongoing issue in the world of local high school sports coverage is the connection between the teams and media outlets in terms of reporting the scores and stats of games.

In the past, it was typical for every team to report the details of their games directly to the media, it was standard practice. Nowadays, with the decline in print and the emergence of social media, the gap has widened in that connection.

This is nothing more than theory, but my guess is that with the use of social media when it comes to posting photos, videos, highlights, these teams lose sight of the fact that we need to report the full story. Sure, we'll take whatever we can get, but full box scores are ideal.

Over the weekend I saw a fellow journalist have an online back and fourth with a local coach. The media member called out coaches for not reporting scores, and this one coach fought back saying that teams post their scores to places such as GameChanger and MaxPreps which should be satisfactory.

It went on from there, but I will give you my take.

GameChanger and MaxPreps are fantastic resources when used correctly. Not all sports use GameChanger, but this site has become a staple for baseball and softball, specifically, and even some lacrosse teams have begun using it. This spring has been great so far in that I have not struggled too much to get the skinny on our teams, much thanks to these sites.

My issue, though, is that far too often are there errors in these teams' reporting. I know this because I have had a handful of occasions when people have reached out to let me know, whether it is coaches or parents.

Now, could these people be in the wrong? Sure, but the fact that these conflicting messages are being sent is con-

My pitch



by
ALEX
SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@
RHODYBEAT.COM

cerning. There are times now when I'll actually ask representatives from my teams if the stats on these sites are reliable.

I can't tell you how often I have coaches refer me to these sites. I don't blame them, they catalog all of their stats and info within these programs, so why would they retype everything or spend time relaying it over the phone?

That is my issue. If you are going to refer the media to these sites, then please make sure the stats and information is correct. In the aforementioned argument online, I stayed out of it, but the one thing I would have chimed in on would have been the dependability of these sites.

Although things have improved with the implementation of these sites, there is still work to do and room for growth. Many teams still don't make their stats and scores available, which is a shame. Sure, this is a business and we get paid to report on sports. At the end of the day, though, most of us are in it for the right reasons beyond the paycheck and enjoy celebrating local athletes and their accomplishments. That's why we got into the business in the first place.

To the coaches that report their stats, thank you. To the ones that don't, please keep this message in mind and always feel free to reach out to arrange a system

in which we can get the ball rolling. I am always willing to help.

The Patriots drafted a fresh crop of rookies this past weekend in the NFL Draft. All things considered, I was happy with the haul they brought on board, but it was not perfect.

The biggest headline was quarterback Drake Maye with the third overall pick. I am not wild on Maye to be honest, but I can't blame them for focusing on getting a talented quarterback with a premium pick. Maye's fundamentals deteriorated in a trying season in 2023, but the talent is there to be great.

The team picked up a pair of wide-outs in Ja'Lynn Polk and Javon Baker. The reports on these guys are quite similar. Two smart, savvy players that are competitive and can contribute right away. The knock on each of them, though, is that neither have elite traits that translate into top receivers at the NFL level.

Then the other notable pickup was tackle Caedan Wallace in the third round. The team desperately needs a left tackle, but the majority of his experience was on the right side. Team personnel said the plan was for him to switch and that they were confident that he could make that transition successfully.

If you couldn't tell, although I'm happy that they drafted based on need, I was not thrilled with each specific player.

There were faster, more dynamic receivers available and there were tackles with experience on the left side. These talent evaluators know more than I do, and I am certainly not saying they blew it, but I was just hoping to see the team add some explosiveness ... some firepower. Sure, it added probably NFL starters with upside, but I do not think this team is much better, if at all better, than it was a week ago.

My grade for the Patriots' draft: B.



MIDSEASON: Johnston's Kaylee Poole (above) and Fiona Fairbanks (below) on Tuesday.



JHS (Continued from page 15)

Allen and Kaylee Poole. Unfortunately for the Panthers, last year's leading scorer Hannah LaVergne suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opening game. With the second half of the schedule still to go, Johnston will look for answers offensively in hopes of making a run heading into the playoffs.

The Panthers will next host Scituate on Thursday afternoon.

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Workshop outlines wind farm's cable path

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The Better Bay Alliance held a public workshop on April 25 with Ørsted and their Revolution Wind project which is being built this year along with a cable installation in the West Passage of Narragansett Bay. About 40 people attended the workshop at Innovate Newport.

Dave Lussier, President of The Better Bay Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing boating safety in Rhode Island Waters underscored the significance of proactive communication with the public regarding upcoming operations that could affect boating safety including the installation of the wind farm and cabling in Narragansett Bay.

Lussier said, "The Better Bay Alliance's is not in any partnership with Ørsted and we are not an endorsing or supporting organization, but rather simply an interested party that wants the boating public to fully understand what their plans are so that boating safety in our waters remains a priority for all users of our waterways."

In response to the need for information, The Better Bay Alliance has developed a LIVE CHART product. This tool illustrates specific areas and schedules for the cable laying process, ensuring that stakeholders remain informed. Additionally, the organization disseminates news about various events and activities on the water. LIVE CHART is free and easily accessible on the BBA website: www.betterbayalliance.org.

Information about wind farm developer activities in and out of Narragansett Bay can do nothing but help mariner safety. The hope is that more information meetings like the one held by The Better Bay Alliance occur in other parts of the Bay as needed so boating safety remains a priority.

Making merit badges on the fly

The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA) partnered with the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and offered twenty-five scouts the opportunity to earn their Fly-Fishing Merit Badge.

Jeff Perry of the WPWA said, "The Scouts came from NY, MA, CT and RI to



MAKING MERIT BADGES ON THE FLY: Boy Scouts earned their fly fishing merit badge shown here at Bucklin Memorial, Camp Yawgoo, Rockville, RI. (Submitted photo)

participate in this two-day comprehensive endeavor. Ten volunteer instructors from Trout Unlimited, the United Fly Tiers of RI, the RI Saltwater Anglers Association, Fly Fishing International and the Rhody Fly Rodders helped these scouts accomplish ten of the eleven requirements, (the fish however were not cooperative)."

Many of the scouts had no fly fishing experience. And, before and during the outings, they were able to false cast and roll cast 30', tie two flies, tie five knots, discuss environmental issues, safe practices, and other requirements.

Jeff Perry said, "The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association and the Boy Scouts hope to continue this program in the future."

Annual Spring trawl survey

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) will be conducting its annual spring trawl survey throughout state coastal waters beginning May 6,

2024. Surveys have been conducted each May and September since 1978 to provide a consistent sampling of benthic fishes and mobile invertebrates.

Survey data is used to monitor the condition of various marine stocks. The data is also used to inform the environmental review process, which advises on ways to minimize construction impacts on fisheries resources.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater fishing. Fishing for trout continues to remain strong at stocked ponds. For a list of stocked ponds, and in Rhode Island visit Designated Trout Waters | Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (ri.gov), in Massachusetts visit Freshwater Fishing | Mass.gov. Fishing for largemouth bass continues to improve as we swing into the prespawn season as fish begin to stage in warmer shallow water.

Striped bass. Ed Lombardo, fly fishing expert, instructor and guide, said,

"Fished the Narrow River (Narragansett) last week and the weekend and things were very slow landing four bass in three days. The water temperature on the upper river is 52 degrees, we generally look for 58 degrees this time of year. Not much bait around either," Declan O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "We had stripers up to 25 inches long taken at the Breachway this week. More than a few very small school bass were caught as well, mostly in the white wash at your feet. The large numbers have not yet materialized, but they could at any tide. We have luck with white lures in the spring 1 1/2 once bucktails, 5" storm shad, Cotton Cordell bone pencil popper, and Yo-Zuri hydro twitch bait as some of the lures that have been effective."

Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence said, "Striped bass to 40" have been caught in the upper reaches of the Providence River with more larger fish being caught every day. White and bone colored swimming and surface lures are working for customers."

Tautog. Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, said, "The tautog bite has been good. Fishing for anglers is improving along the coastal shore and at the jet-ties."

Angler John Migliori who fished Aquidneck Island for tautog from shore Sunday, said, "I sure did recognize the nice bite when it hit and I reacted just in time to set the hook, and knew right away that I had a good fish on. But surely was surprised how big it really was when I landed it. 21 inches and 6.52 pounds." O'Donnell of Breachway Bait & Tackle, said, "In the spring tautog females migrate along the coast to spawn, typically depositing their eggs in mussel beds. Tautog fluctuate with the seasons to maintain their ideal temperature range of 50 to 68 degrees."

Dave Monti holds a master 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@verizon.net or visit www.nofluefishing.com.

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Real Estate Transactions

Coventry

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
11 Sunset Ave	Elevator Properties Inc	Whitney, Steven	4/5	\$370,000
17 Paige Dr	King, Raymond E	Bautista, Glenn and Bautista, Lillian M	4/12	\$360,000
32 Hazard St	Estrella, Jennifer L	Andreoni, Ryan	4/5	\$195,000
33 Leisure Way	Spenard Charlotte A Est and Spenard, Jay A	Damico, Steven	4/11	\$38,000
33 Linwood Dr	Peyatt Jr, David L	Mandeville, George	4/5	\$242,000
36 Meeting St	Gay, Larissa L	Driven Realty LLC	4/10	\$341,650
39 Lane F	Minor John J Est and Minor, Constance I	Lang, Robert J	4/11	\$155,000
85 Sisson Rd	Wendt, Rosemary and The Bk Of Ny Mellon T Co	L & P Hm Renovations LLC	4/11	\$205,000
181 Acres Of Pine Rd	Farrell, Stephen and Silveira, Heather	Vadjinia, Londa	4/8	\$377,500
1883 Flat River Rd	Ursillo, Jeffrey	Angelo M Raimondi T and Raimondi, Jessica D	4/5	\$529,900

Cranston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
16 Mallory Ct	McDonough, Michael B and McDonough, Aime C	Vang, Vivian	4/8	\$445,000
29 Sunset Ter	Rodriguez, Marcus S	Shoemaker, Griffin	4/9	\$385,888
37 Tudor St	Burrows, Natalie	Lazarek, Casey	4/9	\$483,000
42 Eilein Ave	Lagasse, Sheila M	Khatchadourian, Hrant and Khatchadourian, Janet J	4/11	\$507,500
45 Baldino Dr	Richard, Maria	Marzan, Zoraya	4/10	\$415,000
52 Firglade Dr	Almy Fret and Almy-Coutu, Judith A	Webb, Michael P and Webb, Lindsey D	4/10	\$490,000
58 Washington Ave	Fingers & Fries LLC	Enterprise Invest LLC	4/9	\$320,000
80 Crestwood Rd	Leach, Jamie	156 Lambert St Rlty LLC	4/11	\$450,000
100 Westwood Ave	Marzan, Zoraya	Rodriguez, Lisbeth H and Rodriguez, Margarita	4/9	\$415,000
104 Wilbur Ave	Testa, Erin M	Lafond, Victoria	4/8	\$385,000
111 Coolspring Dr	Agnoli, Michae L	Shea, Daniel P and Shea, Andrea M	4/11	\$563,000
132 Hoffman Ave Lot 115	Whalen Irt and Doliveira, Michelle G	Lesperance, Julia	4/9	\$192,000
151 Hope St Lot 685	Feierman, Shevach	Beausoleil, Joseph	4/10	\$529,900
151 Hope St Lot 686	Feierman, Shevach	Beausoleil, Joseph	4/10	\$529,900
164 2nd Ave	Saj LLC	Gomez, Christopher and Gomez Toribo, Yennifer	4/11	\$490,000
236 Wayland Ave	Wayland Rlty LLC	Griffey Dev LLC	4/11	\$370,000
1361 Hope Rd	2639 Cap Invest LLC	Four T S Invest LLC	4/10	\$445,100
1361 Hope Rd	Long Beach Mtg Ln T and Deutsche Bk Natl T Co	2639 Cap Invest LLC	4/10	\$406,000

East Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
25 Wood Duck Ct	Huang, Wenkang and Yan, Yixian	Pandey, Ankur and Pandey, Pallavi	4/9	\$1,307,000
78 Grand View Rd	Donat, Walter R and Clark Donat, Lindsay E	Morton, James H and Morton, Rosemary J	4/12	\$555,000
95 Cora St	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Ahern, Michael B and Ahern, Linda	4/9	\$1
135 Pine Glen Dr Lot 135	Esta Cohen RET and Cohen, Esta	Millea, Heidi S and Millea, John D	4/12	\$675,000
255 Frenchtown Rd	Wang, Jieying and Yuan, Li	Krishna, Alvin and Arumugam, Minni S	4/12	\$800,000
672 East St Lot 4	Malkin, Susan M	Palinski Fit and Palinski, Brian L	4/12	\$540,000
1335 High Hawk Rd	Marusak, Daniel and Marusak, Caitlin	Bowe, Michael B and Bowe, Kimberley E	4/12	\$900,000

Johnston

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
16 Susan Cir	Bourassa, Matthew	Delaney, Kiersten I and Delaney, Justin T	4/11	\$581,000
177 George Waterman Rd	Costanito, Maria M	Leuropa, Eric and Velleca, Claire C	4/15	\$275,000

Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
23 Princeton Ave	Payano LLC	Carreiro, Antonio J and Carreiro, Louise	4/8	\$530,000
29 Dayton Ave	Mastrostefano, John	Eloius, Audrey and Holt, Gregory	4/11	\$460,000
45 Adams St	Equity T Co Custodian	Oyler, Seth T and Ward, Chantelle M	4/10	\$445,000
51 Terrace Ave	Witaszek, James P and Witaszek, Alice E	Driven Rlty LLC	4/9	\$248,000
61 Calderwood Dr	Cushman, Betsy H	Stilson, Mark B	4/9	\$370,059
64 Waverly St Lot 200	Fagundes Donald R Jr Est and Fagundes, Tyler L	Prestige Worldwide Invest	4/12	\$390,000
64 Waverly St	Fagundes Donald R Jr Est and Fagundes, Tyler L	Prestige Worldwide Invest	4/12	\$390,000
67 Wellington Ave	Lsf9 Master Participation and Us Bank TNA	Vidavs, Justin and Sprague, Rachel	4/10	\$375,000
99 Benedict Rd	Thomas, Lisa M	Eldridge, Melissa	4/8	\$550,000
166 Wriston Ave	Casperson, Michael	Diffley, Christopher J	4/10	\$362,500
201 Edgehill Rd	Daigneault, Christopher J and Daigneault, Kristen K	Laurie, Lindsay A	4/11	\$465,000
212 Wendell Rd	Ursula Rotondi Irt and Rotondi, Richard A	Rotondi, John R	4/9	\$335,000
394 Sargent St	Desired Dev LLC	Garrepy, Michael T	4/8	\$382,500
403 Chapmans Ave	Ri Hsng & Mtg Fin Corp	Vargas Prop LLC	4/9	\$275,000

West Greenwich

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
58 Bailey Dr	Guarino, Paula	Robson Sr, James F and Robson, Frances	4/10	\$512,500

West Warwick

ADDRESS	SELLERS	BUYERS	DATE	PRICE
5 Cottage St	Carr, James E	Byington, Matthew	4/15	\$269,900
10 Fox Run Dr	Cianci, Edward D and Reid, Lucy W	Lucier, Charles	4/12	\$428,400
20 Carlton Pl	Hunter, Joshua C and Hunter, Amanda R	Gadoury, Eric	4/15	\$335,000
33 Ethel St	Mandeville, George	Lafamme, Ryan and Lafamme, Amanda	4/12	\$450,000
36 East St	Hyland Jr, Harold W	Hyland, Scott	4/12	\$265,000
38 Cowesett Ave Lot 23	Aubin, Zeke	Piao, Yongfu	4/12	\$144,000
66 Epworth Ave	Adams, William P	Benton, Kyleah	4/10	\$441,150
105 Tower Rd	Pezza, Krystina M and Pezza, Elyssa A	Bubois, Melissa R and Barrett, Michael K	4/10	\$443,000
129 Nottingham Dr	Geiser, Christopher A	Foster, Eric J	4/16	\$470,000
1676 Main St	Adams, Willaim P	Batres-Escobar, Luis M	4/12	\$418,000

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RhodyHealth & Wellness

5 Reasons You Should See a Hand Doctor



Many people come into my clinic and say things like, “I almost didn’t come in for this” or “I’m not sure if this is a big deal” or “I just mentioned this to my primary care doctor, and they said I should come see you.” Most of these people end up feeling glad they came in for an appointment about their hand or wrist problem.

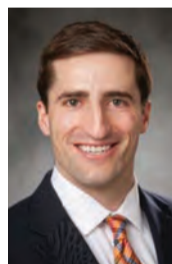
With different types of aches and pains throughout your body, it can feel difficult to sort out which problems need to be seen by a hand doctor. When it comes to the hand and wrist, here is a list that can guide you in deciding when it is time to schedule an appointment with a hand doctor.

1. Pain That Doesn’t Go Away

You are probably aware of your body’s limits. It may be normal for you to feel muscle soreness or joint stiffness after exercise or rigorous work. However, if your hand and wrist pain does not improve with rest, or wakes you up from sleep, you should probably see a hand doctor.

2. Pain Prevents Basic Daily Tasks

If your hand or wrist pain is so bad it prevents you from doing basic activities like brushing your teeth, buttoning a shirt, or cooking a meal, then you should probably see a hand doctor.



Staying Healthy

by ANDREW MATSON, MD
BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON AND
HAND SURGERY SUBSPECIALIST, KENT HOSPITAL
CARE NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT OF
ORTHOPEDICS AND SPORTS MEDICINE
MASS GENERAL BRIGHAM AFFILIATE

3. Numbness, Tingling, Weakness

Think about when you hit your “funny bone” or felt your foot fall asleep – if that same feeling of tingling (or “pins and needles”), or if any numbness or weakness becomes frequent or constant in your hand or wrist, you should probably see a hand doctor.

4. Stiffness, Swelling

If your hand or wrist becomes so swollen you cannot make a full fist, wear jewelry, or you can see an indent on the skin of the back of your hand, then you should probably see a hand doctor.

5. Getting Worse

It is probably easy to remember a time when you experienced a minor problem that was mild and/or went away in a day or two. However, in any of the first four categories above, if you feel like something is worsening over weeks or months, you should probably see a hand doctor.

Finding a Hand Doctor

Once you’ve decided to see a hand doctor, ask your primary care doctor for a referral, or call Care New England Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at 401-729-2800.

Whether it is education about your problem, advice on preventing it from getting worse, medications, braces, exercises, therapy, injections, or surgery, a hand doctor can likely help make you feel better.

DISCLAIMER: While I am a doctor, I am not your doctor. The content in this blog is for informational and educational purposes only and should not serve as medical advice, consultation, or diagnosis. If you have a medical concern, please consult your healthcare provider, or seek immediate medical treatment.

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Effort to catch chicken thief backfires

After a chicken thief helped himself to the flock of Edward John Watson, a 61-year-old watchmaker who ran a large acreage on Hopkins Avenue in Johnston, Edward became determined to catch the culprit before he successfully struck again.

The week prior, someone had broken into his poultry houses and removed 50 of Edward's hens. He thereby decided to set-up a booby trap which would ensnare any future or returning thief. The farmer attached a wire to the door of the hen roost and connected the wire to a self-cocking revolver which would go off in the event someone opened the door, thereby awakening Edward from his sleep so that he could run out and confront the intruder.

Shortly after darkness fell on May 23, 1899, Edward and his 57-year-old wife, Lydia Ann (Dolbey), retired for the evening. Their 21-year-old son Albert and a live-in farmhand, 15-year-old Elmer Wade, also went to bed. The clock had not yet struck 11:00 when Edward was awakened by a noise outside. He quickly crawled out of bed and made his way through the darkness to his son's room.

"I think I just heard the pistol go off at the coop!" he said.

Alfred sprang from bed as Edward roused his young farmhand.

The three men ran out of the house into the shad-

Back in the Day



by
KELLY
SULLIVAN

owed night. The poultry houses were located some distance away which required venturing down the hill on the other side of the road, past the pond, to the wire-enclosed area behind the barn. There, the poultry yard and its houses were apparently in the process of being tampered with.

Being younger and spryer, and knowing there was no time to waste if they wanted to catch a thief, Albert and Elmer ran ahead of Edward. Elmer was carrying a double-barreled shotgun.

Edward made no attempt to follow the boys. While they ran across the road and toward the right side of the property, Edward kept a straight path, climbing over the stone wall across the road. The older man ran across the cornfield and came out right next to the barn. He stealthily made his way around to the back of the barn. From there, he heard what sounded like someone moving around inside one of the poultry houses. Standing as near to the poultry yard as possible while keeping out of sight, he silently waited for the intruder to emerge.

Coming up around the

side of the barn, Elmer and Albert saw the shadowy figure of a man lurking there.

"There he is!" Albert called out. "Shoot!"

Elmer raised his gun, aimed it at the figure and fired both barrels at close range, sending four charges of shot into his employer.

Edward felt the charge rip through his right eye and graze his left. His left arm, between the elbow and wrist, was then checkered with wounds just before another charge entered his chest. The fourth charge entered and exited the areas of his abdomen and hip.

The mistake, though horrific, couldn't be undone. The boys had mistaken Edward for the chicken thief. As they attempted to overcome the shock from the act they had just committed, Edward staggered to and fro, the blood from his wounds spattering upon the bare ground. They lifted the suffering man into their arms and carried him back to the farmhouse.

Although the vision in his right eye had been permanently destroyed and his intestines had been seriously injured, Edward survived the terrifying assault. He lived for twelve more years, until Sept. 20, 1911, when he succumbed to rectal cancer. He and his wife are buried in Pocasset Cemetery in Cranston.

Kelly Sullivan is a Rhode Island columnist, lecturer and author.

SUN RISE SCOOPS

May 4

St. Rocco 60th

St. Rocco School, 931 Atwood Ave., will host a 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 4. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. A reception will follow in Café Rocco after Mass. Looking for alumni, family and friends to join us in celebrating 60 years! For more information, call St. Rocco school office at 401-944-2993.

May 5

Defenders of Animals May Breakfast

The Defenders of Animals is sponsoring its annual May breakfast on Sunday, May 5 at the Governor Sprague Mansion, 1351 Cranston St., Cranston, at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance at www.defendersofanimals.org. All net proceeds are used for the group's low-cost spay/neuter and animal emergency medical care for cats and dogs. For more information contact: Dennis at 401-461-1922.

May 11

Historic Yard Sale

On Saturday, May 11, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., the Johnston Historical Society will host a Yard Sale at the JHS Museum, 101 Putnam Pike, Johnston. Please, no early birds. The Historical Society offers tables to the public for a donation. Those who would like to set up a six-foot table (they must bring their own), can do so for \$25 donation to the JHS. If anyone has questions, they can contact Anthony Ursillo at aursillo401@gmail.com or 401-764-5901.

May 15

Career Networking Event

Elevate Your Career Networking Event will be hosted by the Women's Fund of Rhode Island (WFRI), a local leader in the movement to improve gender equity, on Wednesday, May 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick. Whether you are just starting your career journey, considering a career change, seeking guidance to overcome obstacles, or eager to expand your professional network, this event will help you reach your goals. The event supports both men and women. Register online.

May 18

Spring Craft Show

The Aime Forand Tenant Association will be holding their Spring Craft Show on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 8 Forand Circle, Johnston. The Association is still looking for vendors. For vendor space or more information, please call 401-441-8585.

May 18

Apple Blossom Club Plant Sale

The Apple Blossom Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Blackbird Farm, 660 Douglas Pike, Smithfield. Free samples of Organic Fertilizer Tea from "Let It Grow" from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Great selection and pricing on perennials, annuals, herbs and Vegetables. Over 50+ varieties of tomato plants.

July 20

Cranston East High School Reunion Class of 1974

Cranston East High School, class of 1974, will hold its 50th Reunion on Saturday, July 20, at the Radisson Hotel (Airport), 2081 Post Road, Warwick, from 6 to 11 p.m. The reunion features live music by Brass Attack, a dinner buffet, and a cocktail hour with live piano music. Tickets: \$100 pp. Send checks to: CHSE Reunion, 301 Oaklawn Ave, Apt. 205, Cranston, RI 02920. Keep up with Reunion news on the class Facebook page: CHSE Cranston East High School Class of 1974. Email your contact information or ask questions: chse1974reunion@gmail.com. There are rooms at the hotel at a special group rate for attendees. Call (401) 298-2294 and mention CHSE Class of 1974 Reunion or see the link on the class Facebook page.

Aug. 3

JHS Class of '14 Reunion

The Johnston High School Class of 2014 will be hosting its 10-Year Reunion this summer! The event will be on Saturday, Aug. 3, at R1 Entertainment from 5 to 9 p.m. The venue is located at 100 Higgins Ave., Lincoln. Tickets are \$50 a person, which includes food and a drink ticket. For more information, you can visit the following link below: <https://sites.google.com/view/jhs201410year/home>.

The class has an optional "Where are they now?" Form on the website that they encourage fellow alumni to fill out (they will put together a presentation for everyone who participated).

"We hope to see you all at the reunion this summer!" wrote Jordan Villella, the class member organizing the reunion.

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By Joel Bohy
Historic Arms & Militaria
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actment. For the first time since I was a kid the material culture amongst the reenactors was on a much higher level than it ever had been, and it was interesting to watch.

Sunday was spent out on the battlefield walking around and a trip to Arlington to walk through the Jason Russell house, scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the day with some folks from London who had come over to see what was going on. It was a lot of fun sharing research with people who wanted to hear it although my wife didn't seem too interested in listening to me babble.

Monday it was back to Concord for breakfast with history friends and talk, then a walk to the North Bridge to watch the Patriot's Day ceremony and parade. The weather was perfect, so it was a nice walk up Monument Street. If you haven't been there, you should go. Concord is a beautiful town with a lot of layers of history.

Having been a member of the town of Concord Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee for 5 years, it was nice to not have the stresses of making sure everything goes properly and watch. The ceremony was, as always, moving for me. Then



we watched the parade go down from the North Bridge and into town and retired to the Colonial Inn for a few beers and more conversation. That's another ritual for me over the years, and even more so after researching all of the supplies that were stored in the central part of the Inn during the Revolution. In April 1775, there had been stores there, but then it was rented until about 1781 and state stores were brought and issued from there for many years. The action in Concord didn't end once the British retreated back to Boston. It was a hub of

activity for the entire war.

Next year being the 250th anniversary, I'll be spending a lot more time in Concord, Lexington, and Arlington giving tours and presentations for an upcoming book that will be published by then. Looking forward to it already!

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