

CranstonHerald

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AT THE SCENE: Residents of the apartment building at 1890 Broad St., members of the media and others look on as resident Ruth Abreu speaks during a press conference held last week. *(Herald photos by Daniel Kittredge)*

‘It’s jarring, it’s awful’

Dozens displaced after walkway collapses at Broad Street apartments

By DANIEL KITTREDGE
and SCOTT MARCINKO

For dozens of residents of an Edgewood apartment building now deemed uninhabitable, the past week-plus has brought sudden, severe upheaval.

Meanwhile, city and state officials, local nonprofit groups, social service organizations, restaurants and others have rallied to help provide shelter and food for those now displaced.

Chris Grogan, a teacher in Providence, is among those who lives at 1890 Broad St., a 39-unit complex that sits between Bluff and Shaw avenues and has, for the time being, been closed off to all residents and visitors.

During a press conference outside the building last week, Grogan said his work in the classroom has brought him into the orbit of students who are facing housing insecurity or homelessness.

■ BUILDING - PAGE 6



CLOSED OFF: The entrance to the apartment complex remained blocked off last week, and the property sat empty aside from an apparent representative of the management company for the complex.

Court upholds dismissal of police officer’s ‘Ticketgate’ libel claim

By DANIEL KITTREDGE

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has upheld the dismissal of a Cranston Police officer’s libel lawsuit stemming from a television news story that aired weeks after the so-called “Ticketgate” incident in late 2013.

The high court’s July 8 opinion in *Russell Henry v. Media General Operations, Inc.*, et al., authored by Associate Justice William P. Robinson III, finds that Russell Henry, then a lieutenant and now a captain with the Cranston Police Department, qualifies as a public official in the context of a defamation claim, which requires proof of “actual malice.”

With that standard in mind, Robinson writes, the court “would be hard-pressed to identify even a scintilla of evidence that would be the basis for a rational factfinder to conclude by clear and convincing evidence that the media defendants acted with actual malice in airing the story at issue.”

Robinson was joined by Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell and justices Erin Lynch Prata and Melissa Long in the majority decision. Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg did not participate in the decision.

At the heart of the complaint was a report from the late Jim Taricani, an investigative reporter with WJAR, that appeared on the station’s evening news broadcast and website in early January 2014.

The report named Russell Henry, then a lieutenant and now a captain with Cranston Police, as a participant in a November 2013 parking ticket blitz in wards 1 and 3. The issuance of those tickets followed a City Council committee vote against a new contract with the police union, IBPO Local 301.

In the report, Taricani said that according to his sources, Henry had used his personal cell phone to order the ticketing at the behest of his cousin, former police captain Stephen Antonucci. But Taricani’s report was pulled from additional broadcasts and subsequently retracted based on further information relayed from another WJAR employee.

■ CASE - PAGE 7

Fully open again

Local YMCAs strive to recover members lost during pandemic

By JOHN HOWELL

COVID-19 took the breath out of the YMCA, but not the life.

Following the shutdown of the state in March 2020, the Kent County YMCA lost more than 80 percent of its membership, forcing it to trim from 85 to nine staff members. Even with the gradual lifting of restrictions, the members didn’t return. Only now, with greater relaxation of restrictions – unvaccinated youths are still required to wear masks – is the Y starting to see a return of members.

“We just cracked 2,000,” Becky Merritt, branch manager, said Monday. Prior to the pandemic the branch had 8,500 with a goal of reaching 10,000 members.

The Kent branch has launched a four dollar for July campaign to get former members to come back. And they won’t turn away new members at the promotional rate, either. Monthly rates range from \$49 to \$89 for the top family rate.

“There were a lot of barriers to coming back,” says Merritt. Safety topped the list of concerns. During the shutdown, the Y had the opportunity to drain and make repairs to its pool. The pool reopened last June, but restrictions didn’t allow for the re-opening of fitness centers. As restrictions were eased, there were distancing requirements that limited the use of equipment.

■ YMCA - PAGE 7



EMPTY NOW, BUT JUST WAIT: Becky Merritt, branch manager of the Kent County YMCA in Warwick, stands in an empty family center. With it re-opening soon, she is hopeful of seeing a return of members. *(Herald photo by John Howell)*

Cranston Chatter

By MERI R. KENNEDY

Update on Garden City Concert Series

Your favorite summer tradition is back at Garden City Center. Join in on Wednesday nights in July and August for good tunes, family fun, and memories that will last well beyond the dog days of summer.

On July 21 will be Funk Night featuring XS Band, providing a high-energy dance party with soul, funk, disco and more. Hang out in our glow-park pre-show and dance the night away.

■ CHATTER - PAGE 11

All-Star action



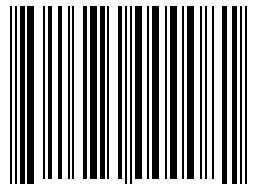
Both the Cranston East and Western Little League All-Star teams are making noise in this year’s tournament.

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THE AFTERMATH: This image provided by Cranston Police shows the aftermath of a fatal head-on collision that occurred the night of July 8 on Atwood Avenue. *(Courtesy of Cranston Police)*

1 killed, several injured in Atwood Avenue crash

By HERALD STAFF

One man was killed and several other people as a result of a head-on, two-car collision on Atwood Avenue last week, according to Cranston Police, and both alcohol and speed have been identified as likely factors in the incident.

Louis A. Costa, 49, of East Providence was pronounced dead at the scene after being removed from his vehicle with the Jaws of Life, police said in a statement.

Three other people were transported

to local hospitals with injuries described as serious but not life-threatening.

According to police, officers responded to the area of 524 Atwood Ave. following reports of the crash shortly before 11:30 p.m. on July 8. At the scene, it was found that a 2007 Nissan Sentra operated by Costa has been traveling north in the southbound lane when it collided head-on with a southbound 2012 Mercedes Benz SUV.

Police say that according to a witness, the Nissan was driving on its rim due to a blown front tire at the time of

the crash.

"The witness began to follow the vehicle when he noticed the vehicle crossed over the center line and begin traveling north in the southbound lane," the statement from police reads. "The witness indicated that the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and ended upon impact with the Mercedes. Investigators also confirmed the crash with area surveillance video."

The statement continues: "The traffic reconstruction unit has determined that alcohol and speed are believed to be a factor in the crash."

POLICE LOG

CHILD CRUELTY/NEGLECT

On July 7 at 5:30 p.m., police arrested Robert Angell, 35, 94 Laurens St., third floor, Cranston, on two counts of cruelty to or neglect of a child and a charge of obstructing an officer in the execution of duty. Police say Angell was additionally taken into custody on bench warrants issued from Superior Court and Third Division District Court.

On July 7 at 7:37 p.m., police arrested Alyssa Hoard, 22, 94 Laurens St., third floor, Cranston, on two counts of cruelty to or neglect of a child and a charge of obstructing an officer in the execution of duty.

DOMESTIC CHARGES

On July 5 at 1:06 a.m., police arrested Sandon Ciesynski, 45, 217 Pontiac Ave., Apt. 1, Cranston, on charges of domestic simple assault and domestic disorderly conduct.

On July 6 at 3:13 a.m., police arrested Brandon Dubois, 21, 151 Farmington Ave., Apt. 11, Cranston, on charges of domestic assault by strangulation, domestic simple assault, domestic refusal to relinquish a telephone, domestic vandalism, and domestic disorderly conduct.

On July 6 at 7:57 a.m., police arrested Ashley Cuascut, 28, 1494 Cranston St., Apt. 2F, Cranston on charges of domestic simple assault and domestic vandalism.

On July 6 at 12:59 p.m., police arrested Osman Garcia, 47, 41 Hoffman Ave., Cranston, on charges of domestic simple assault and domestic disorderly conduct.

On July 8 at 11:45 p.m., police arrested Victor Nogueras, 30, 641 Manton Ave., Providence, on charges of domestic burglary and domestic disorderly conduct.

On July 10 at 6 p.m., police arrested Corina Manchester, 32, 75 Harris Ave., Cranston, on a charge of domestic dis-

orderly conduct.

On July 10 at 10:18 p.m., police arrested Tammy Szlashta, 54, 11 Leah Drive, Cranston, on charges of domestic simple assault and battery and domestic disorderly conduct.

On July 11 at 3:15 a.m., police arrested Jeffrey Trecartin, 49, 153 Alpine Estates Drive, Cranston, on charges of domestic violation of a no-contact order, domestic simple assault and domestic disorderly conduct.

ASSAULT

On July 1 at 12:25 p.m., police arrested Dennis Crowley, 50, 39 Rockland Ave., Cranston, on a charge of assault on a person over 60 years old. Police say Crowley was arrested on Rockland Avenue.

On July 11 at 9:25 a.m., police arrested Bobby S. Brown, 31, 99 Roger Williams Green, Apt. 39, Providence, on charges of simple assault and disorderly conduct. Police say Brown was arrested as a result of a disturbance call on Willis Street.

SHOPLIFTING

On July 5 at 3:34 p.m., police arrested Stanley Waleryszak, 58, 1310 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, on a charge of shoplifting. Police say Waleryszak was arrested as a result of a call for service on Oaklawn Avenue.

On July 6 at 11:45 a.m., police arrested Ronald A. Meadows, 55, 400 Knight St., Warwick, on a charge of shoplifting. Police say Meadows was arrested as a result of a call for service on Garfield Avenue.

On July 9 at 9 p.m., police arrested Laura Ellard, 36, 760 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, on a charge of shoplifting. Police say Ellard was arrested as a result of a call for service on Oaklawn Avenue.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

On July 9 at 5:08 p.m., police arrested Tha Bunn, 39, 711 Dyer Ave., Apt. 1,

Cranston, on a charge of driving with a suspended license, third or subsequent offense. Police say Bunn was arrested as the result of a motor vehicle stop on Plainfield Pike.

NO-CONTACT VIOLATION

On July 11 at 9:19 a.m., police arrested Jeff Leite, 35, 29 Hopeworth Road, Bristol, on a charge of violation of a no-contact order.

OBSTRUCTING AN OFFICER

On July 7 at 5:25 p.m., police arrested Michael Martin, 52, 94 Laurens St., third floor, Cranston, on a charge of obstructing an officer in the execution of duty. Police say Martin was arrested as a result of a call for service on Laurens Street.

FAILURE TO REPORT

On July 9 at 7:38 p.m.,

police arrested Tyrone Noka, 48, 30 Howard Ave., Cranston, on a charge of failure to report an address change as a sex offender. Police say Noka was arrested as a result of a call for service on Howard Avenue.

WARRANTS

On July 1 at 12:15 p.m., police took Gary Chamberland, 42, 48 Golden View Drive, Johnston, into custody on a bench warrant issued from Superior Court. Police say Chamberland was arrested as a result of a call for service on Harris Avenue.

On July 6 at 12:28 p.m., police took Osman O. Munoz, 30, 1615 Cranston St., Cranston, into custody on an arrest warrant issued from Warwick Police. Police say Munoz was arrested as a result of a disturbance call on Cranston Street.

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Publisher John I. Howell, Jr.– JohnH@rhodybeat.com	General Manager Richard G. Fleischer– RichardF@rhodybeat.com
Advertising Director Donna Zarrella-DonnaZ@rhodybeat.com	Production Manager Lisa Bourque Yuettnier– LisaB@rhodybeat.com
Editor Daniel Kittredge-Dank@rhodybeat.com	Production Staff Monique Rice-MoR@rhodybeat.com
Sports Editor Alex Sponseller-AlexS@rhodybeat.com	Advertising Representative Janice Torilli -JaniceT@rhodybeat.com
Classified Advertising Sue Howarth-SueH@rhodybeat.com	Credit Manager Lynne Taylor
Circulation Leslie Paz	Bookkeeping Leslie Paz
Spotlight Profile Writer Jennifer Coates- JenniferC@rhodybeat.com	

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Buona festa!

St. Mary's Feast returns this week, a year after the pandemic forced the 2020 edition of the summer staple in Knightsville to significantly scale back. These images, courtesy of the St. Mary's Feast Society, show preparations being made in the days leading up to the annual festival.

A kickoff event was scheduled for Wednesday night, followed by additional festivities through July 18. The feast's fireworks display is scheduled for the final night at 10 o'clock.

The route of this year's Patronal Procession, which begins after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, July 18, has been slightly adjusted due a decline in the numbers of the faithful gathered along the Florida Avenue section of the route.

"We realize that this will cause sadness for those very few faithful left along the route, but we kindly ask you to understand the need for this change," the St. Mary's Feast Society said in an statement.

The revised route will depart from St. Mary's Church and follow Cranston Street to Vervena Street. It will then turn right onto Vervena Street to C Street, where it will turn right and continue to Phenix Avenue. From Phenix, the route will head to Green Avenue, then on to Randall Street and back onto Cranston Street, ending at St. Mary's Church.

For more information, visit the St. Mary's Feast Society Facebook page.

CACTC students among top finishers in national SkillsUSA competition

By JEN COWART
Special to the Herald

SkillsUSA Rhode Island recently announced the local winners of this year's national competition, which was held virtually in June. In total, 72 Rhode Island career and technical students were participants of the rigorous competition, with 43 of those students ranking in the top 10 nationwide.

Cranston Public Schools is pleased to announce that seven Cranston Area Career and Technical Center students competed and placed in the top 10. Two were awarded top medals. These students are now nationally recognized as top students in the country.

Rachael Zarella, a senior Educational Pathways student, received a gold medal for her entry in the Early Childhood Education category. Ricardo Vicente, a Culinary Pathways student, received a silver medal for his entry in the Restaurant Service category.

Additionally, the following students placed in the top 10: Sofia Riccio, fourth place, Action Skills; Abigail Shellard, seventh place, Advertising Design; Peter Morales and Egan Perry, ninth place, Interactive Application and Game Design; and Rafeh Aziz, ninth place, T-Shirt design.

Several of the student winners noted their competition preparation prior to the actual competition dates, with years of hands-on learning in the classroom and weeks of testing and research ahead of time.

"I participated in numerous tasks before I even presented to the judges," Zarella said. "First, I had to take two tests, a week before the competition. One would count towards my score and the other was for a tiebreaker. To prepare for the competition, it took a lot of hard work and practice. I researched developmentally appropriate practice for preschoolers, watched YouTube videos, and studied Rhode Island's Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS). All of this information helped me understand the best way that young students learn. They do not learn by getting worksheets or sitting on the rug and just listening to the teacher; they learn their best through play. So in my lesson I allowed 'my students' to do just that."

One of her teachers in the Educational Pathways program at CACTC, Bethany Correia, spoke to the depth of Zarella's prepara-

tion for both the state and national competitions, as those students who win a gold medal at the state level are qualified to attend nationals in the summer.

"As Rachael prepared for both the state and national level competition she worked tirelessly to perfect her teaching techniques. Throughout her years in the program she has always had a strong skill set for teaching and a desire to learn more about her chosen career path. She has been the type of student that requests constructive feedback and then truly reflects on it and demonstrates the growth from the reflective process in her next lesson."

Vicente, who will be a senior in the Culinary Arts program fall, spoke of the steps involved in his competition, including setting a table, memorizing a menu and providing table-side service to a "guest" - in this case, Glorimar Rivera, his teacher.

"Due to the circumstances of this year, it was a very different competition, as trying to practice and having to stay at our schools and compete via Zoom rather than in-person in Kansas was difficult at times," he said. "However, I overall had a lot of fun with my competition and I am really grateful for the opportunity I was given to compete this year."

Abigail Shellard relied heavily on her knowledge base as well as her classroom experience, and as a top-nine finalist at nationals, it was clear she was in fact well prepared.

"I was very familiar with all of the Adobe software that I would be using in the competition and trusted that my three years of experience with these applications would help me to be successful," she said.

Working primarily from home ahead of the competition provided its challenges for the students. Not only do they look forward to the excitement of traveling to a new place and being together, doing the work at home that is normally done in a classroom setting added an additional layer to the competition, according to Riccio, who had placed sixth at nationals in person as a freshman and felt the differences acutely this year. She hopes to be able to compete in person again as a senior next year.

"This year it was definitely a lot harder because I was mainly doing school from home which meant that I didn't have class time to work on it. So I had to try and make time after school which did

mean missing a few track practices," she said. "It was not nearly as fun or exciting of an experience given the fact that we had to do it from our home town in the same environment as we do every other day. We didn't get to travel somewhere new and meet new people. But with that being said it was still an interesting experience and definitely different. I hope to be able to compete next year for one last time."

Each CTE program is very much unlike the others, and several of the winners shared what they had to do in order to compete in their category.

"I was given my domain, which is the topic that I would teach to the students like math or science, and then I had four hours to work on my lesson plan. During these four hours I wrote my lesson that was developmentally appropriate for students in preschool and that focused on my domain. I also had to choose a book that related to both my lesson and domain. Lastly, I had to design and create my props. For this competition we do not have real students in front of us so we do not use real materials. We are assigned a certain amount of materials, such as paper, scissors, paperclips, etc, and we have to get creative and design our props. During my lesson I needed a sandbox, in order to make this I folded the paper and stapled the sides to make it a boxed shape. These props do not have to be perfect, all they need to show is the creativity you put into them. After completing this I waited for June 17 to present to the judges," Zarella said. "I set up my laptop on Zoom and went straight into pretending that I was in a real classroom with real students. After finishing my presentation it was time for the interview questions. I was asked, what my teaching philosophy is, what helps me stand out compared to other teachers, and three other questions. The judges then said to me that I did an excellent job and they wished me luck."

Riccio went into her Aquaculture classroom at CACTC for her presentation, as she was working on camera with live goldfish about the size of her palm to complete a fish census, and required the live fish housed in the CACTC classroom for her competition.

"I had to create a presentation for this which had to fit into a 5-7 minute time slot with an additional three minutes at the beginning and end for set up and break down. For the fish census I had to

use clove oil to put a fish to sleep in order to weigh and measure it and then wake it up again. After my presentation was over I just had to leave the meeting. This was because all of the presentations were recorded and sent to the judges afterwards which meant that there was no feedback," she said.

Shellard's competition, like Zarella's, consisted of multiple parts on different days.

"First, I had to take a multiple choice assessment about the principles and values of SkillsUSA. Next, I had to log in to a virtual orientation meeting the day before the competition to go over the competition process. Competition day started at noon and consisted of two parts. The first part of the competition was a 90-minute Reverse Design Engineering (RDE) challenge, where we were given a pre-designed advertisement for Ford trucks and we had to recreate the same advertisement ourselves. This consisted of properly measuring every element of the ad, sizing elements properly, making sure the textual elements were the same, even making sure that images were correctly cropped, scaled, and skewed. The second part of the competition was creativity-heavy. Contestants were given a made-up company, and we were given four hours to design a brand logo, three Instagram advertisements for a campaign, a sticker, and a tote bag design," she said. "This year's company was named 'Greeny Feelies,' and was a company that focused on preserving the environment. Not only were we judged based on the content that we created, but we were also scored based on our design process as well. I had to make sure that for each element that I designed, I had the proper number of colored thumbnail sketches that showed the different ideas that I had throughout the process. Finally, all contestants had a debrief the next day and viewed a creative presentation from the competition director."

Morales and Egan normally rely heavily on the ability to communicate with each other throughout their design process and preparation for their Interactive App and Game Design entry, and although they found that challenging because of the COVID-19 limitations, they utilized Snapchat in order to communicate with each other.

Their entry entailed creating a 2D stealth game labeled S.T.E.A.L.T.H. The object of the

game is for the player to take on the role of a robot escaping a facility avoiding security, and navigating to the exit without being caught.

"Along with the game we also had to make a Game Design Document (GOD) which includes all the little details about our game, like the artwork, ideas, inspirations, and technicalities," Morales said.

The team also had to create a trailer which introduced the game, and had to take two tests - one on programming and game development knowledge, and one on the history of SkillsUSA.

"Lastly was the interview, which was quite nerve-wracking, as there was no way to actually prepare for it, but it went quite well," Morales said. "We were asked basic questions about our game and presented it to our judges. There was only one interview for the state level and one interview for the national level."

Despite the various bumps along the way, Morales and Egan were thrilled to rank in the top nine nationwide.

"For this competition, it being our very first and playing everything by ear, it was quite a miracle run, to be honest, making it up to nationals and placing in the top nine," Morales said. "There's definitely a sense of pride in being able to represent Rhode Island nationally."

As Zarella reflected on her success at Nationals, she credited the teachers she's had in the Educational Pathways program at CACTC through the years for preparing her along the way for the competition and beyond.

"My teachers, Bethany Correia, Cathy Long and Charlene Barberi, have taught and prepared me not just for this competition, but also for my future as an educator," she said. "I am so grateful to have had all three of them be such great role models for me."

Correia could not be more pleased with Zarella's gold medal success at the national competition this year.

"I am so proud of Rachael and the level of dedication she has shown," said Correia. "I am proud of her national gold medal and hope this will open doors and opportunities for her. Winning first place at the national level is an amazing accomplishment, one that she earned every step of the way!"

Jen Cowart is a communications specialist with Cranston Public Schools.

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CASUAL SETTING: Enjoying the networking mixer, sponsored by Julie Nardolillo Massage Therapy at the St. Mary's Feast Society, were Christine Monahan, attorney at law; Lasondra L. Pontarelli of Zella Rose Salon; and Jackie Sasso, finance manager at Hurd Chambers Cadillac.

Back to business

It was back to business, in person, these past two weeks with a pair of networking events held in Cranston.

Julie Nardolillo, proprietor and CEO of Nardolillo Massage Therapy, and Lasondra Pontarelli, proprietor and CEO of Zella Rose Salon and Luxury Extensions, held a special networking event, free of charge, at the St. Mary's Feast Society on Phenix Avenue.

These two ambitious female entrepreneurs, who have fought off a pandemic to ensure that their newly formed businesses and brands would survive and flourish, joined forces to host a post-pandemic business networking mixer. From the look of the attendance, it was just what the doctor ordered after a long and arduous run for many businesses.

Mainly sponsored by Nardolillo Massage Therapy, other sponsors were Zella Rose Salon, Mike Lombardi Injury Law and Desmarais Plumbing.

On June 16, more than 200 business professionals joined in a larger network-



SOCIAL GATHERING: Meeting up at Pat Cruz's networking event at Chapel Grille are Joe Barone, general manager of Chapel Grille; City Councilman Ed Brady, co-owner of the Thirsty Beaver; and Ryan Nardolillo of Nardolillo Funeral Home.

ing event, organized by Pat Cruz Events. She often holds monthly meet-and-greet events where professionals and community members can get together in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Events are open to the public.

Guests were able to mingle with local business people and influencers from a multitude of industries while enjoying appetizers and a cash bar provided by Chapel Grille in Cranston.

"I believe now, more than ever, is an important time to host a networking event in hopes to bring local busi-

nesses together in our community," Cruz said. "The evening consisted of mingling and exchanging of business cards and smiles. A violinist provided background music and hors d'oeuvres were offered to complete the setting."

She added: "It was wonderful to see so many people coming together and supporting one another. I believe community is the glue that keeps us all together. I hope to be able to host another event in the near future."

(Text by Meri R. Kennedy / photos by Steve Popiel)



TASTE OF HOME:

Cathy Paliotta of Cucina Di Catherina LLC shares her home-made tomato sauce with Pat Cruz and Michael Parrella of Family Tree Service.

News at the Cranston Enrichment Center

1070 Cranston St.
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Energy & Strength Building

Wednesday, July 21 at 10 a.m.
Presenter: John Garlick,
Pappas Physical & Hand Therapy

All of us want to live well and age well. It all starts with healthy habits. But even if you are late in creating healthy routines, it's never too late to start. Let's keep moving and begin with the best exercises that will boost our energy and strength.

HiLo Jack League

Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m. (check in at 12:45 p.m.)
Fee: \$3 each week

Join us for great and prizes! Ten weekly sessions. Call Kathi at 780-6216 for more information.

Gather and enjoy!

Our Dining Room has opened for hot lunches! Be sure to make your reservations one day in advance by calling 780-6134. Lunch is better when we eat together! Good food ... good friends ... good times!

UPCOMING TRIPS

Call Lisa at 780-6215 to reserve a spot

Blueberry picking at Rocky Point Farm

Monday, July 19

Transvan leaves the center at 9 a.m.

Transportation cost: \$2

Pick your own blueberries at a cost of \$3.15 per pound. For reservations, call 780-6215.

Lighthouse Cruise

Monday, July 26

Leave the center at 11:30 a.m.,

return at 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40 (includes a bagged lunch)

This 90-minute, one-of-a-kind narrated cruise showcases some of Rhode Island's moist beautiful lighthouses. Transvan will take us to North Kingstown where we will board the RI Fast Ferry for an afternoon of fun. Call 780-6215.

Riverboat Cruise: Providence Harbor

Monday, Aug. 16

Leave the center at 10 a.m., return at 2 p.m.

Fee: \$25 (includes a bagged lunch)

On this 50-minute narrated tour, you will discover the historic and contemporary milestones of our Providence waterways. Space is limited. Reservations must be made by Friday, August 6. Call Lisa at 780-6215.

Annual Mayor's Picnic

Friday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Brayton Park, Cranston

Food, refreshments and entertainment. Tickets go on sale July 12. The cost is \$3 per person. Call Lisa at 780-6215 to make your reservation. Transportation will be provided from the center.

Cranston Senior Golf Tournament

Cranston Country Club

Monday, Oct. 4, and Tuesday, Oct. 5

8 a.m. shotgun start

Fee: \$85

Includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, continental breakfast, lunch and banquet immediately following play. For more information or to register, call Jane at 780-6220.

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■ Building

(Continued from page 1)

"I never thought that I would be in a situation where I myself would be like that," he said. "And it's jarring, it's awful. It's something that should not be wished on anyone."

The current predicament stems from an emergency call on the night of July 5, according to officials.

Just after 9 p.m., the Cranston Fire Department was dispatched to report of a building collapse at the complex. A mother and daughter who live in the building called 911 after the 41-year-old daughter nearly fell through part of the second-floor walkway. The area around the partially collapsed floor was caution taped off after the Fire Department responded to the scene.

After further inspection to the damage, it was determined that the building was uninhabitable, and an emergency meeting with residents called for the afternoon of July 6 at the William Hall Library. Many of the residents learned of the notice as they arrived home from work and were unable to enter their apartments.

The days since have seen a number of additional gatherings, including nightly meetings of city officials and tenants and a press conference held outside the Broad Street building on July 8.

Residents who were unable to make alternative arrangements through friends or family members have been housed at the Hilton Providence, and work has continued to secure both short- and long-term assistance for those affected.

On Monday, Anthony Moretti, chief of staff for Mayor Ken Hopkins, said a number of rooms at the Hilton – owned by Procaccianti Companies – have been secured at a "preferred rate" to provide housing for residents of the building in need.

Those rooms will be available for up to 30 days, Moretti said, and as of last week, he said, 35 rooms were being used.



WHAT NOW? Displaced residents of the Broad Street apartment building gather for a Tuesday afternoon meeting with city officials and the property owner at William Hall Library. (Photo by Scott Marcinko / Shield Photography)

Moretti said CCAP – which he described as "magnificent" through the process, along with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, the Diocese of Providence and others – stepped up in the immediate aftermath to cover accommodations through an emergency assistance program. The Society St. Vincent de Paul, he said, had also come forward to cover the cost of additional nights.

The situation has been fluid, and the date through which needed resources for the hotel stays have been secured has shifted several times.

Moretti said as of Monday evening, 33 households had applied for long-term assistance through state and federal programs to fund alternative housing, and 22 had qualified. "Those people should be fine for a while now," he said.

For the other households, he said, the city continues to work to secure additional resources through other nonprofit entities or state and federal agencies. To this point, he said, no city dollars have been used, and the administration's approach has been focused on facilitating solutions.

"The mayor wishes to facilitate helping [the residents] during this difficult time ... We have been working around the clock, literally with various federal, state

and charitable organizations to try and help these people, with these other organizations funding their hotel stays," he said.

Numerous others have pitched in, as well. The organization Plates with Purpose shared a Facebook post Tuesday seeking donations to help feed the building's residents through a partnership with the Thirsty Beaver. The Providence Canteen, which typically provides food and drinks to first responders at incident scenes, has made stops at the hotel.

In terms of the long-term outlook for the apartment building itself, Moretti said it remains unclear when residents might be able to return.

"Quite frankly, we don't have the answer to that," he said.

Moretti said that the legal counsel for Hennessey Property Management, the company that oversees the complex, has indicated it does not want anyone back into the building until it is full repaired. There had been some hope that the first-floor units at the building could be stabilized and approved for occupancy in a shorter timeframe.

The Herald's attempts to contact Hennessey Property Management had been unsuccessful at press time. But in a story posted Tuesday, WJAR reported that the company had issued a statement through its attorney, Andrew Bilodeau.

His statement is quoted as reading, in part: "With respect to the tenants reoccupation of the building, most of the information we have received from our contractors and engineers are requiring the entire apartment building to remain vacant until after all or substantially all of the repairs are completed. The concern is for the safety and peaceful enjoyment of the tenants apartment. The work required at the property is very disruptive in terms of noise and poses a safety hazard to tenants and their guests. The completion of all the repairs has been estimated to take a minimum of ninety (90) days."

City property records show the apartment complex, built in 1956, was most recently sold in the fall of

2020 to HPM Capital Partners LLC for \$2,457,000. HPM Capital Partners has the same East Greenwich address as Hennessey Property Management, the company that oversees the property.

City records show the property sits in an A-6 residential zone, which allows for single-family homes on lots of at least 6,000 square feet. Residents and officials last week indicated the site had once been a hotel, which would square with its nonconforming use since its construction date precedes the adoption of zoning.

Moretti on Monday said a review of inspections records found no prior complaints regarding the property.

But during last week's press conference – which was called by the groups Cranston Forward and Black Lives Matter Rhode Island PAC, along with state Rep. Brandon Potter (D-Dist. 16, Cranston) – residents expressed their frustration with Hennessey Property Management.

"We have been placed in this situation because of negligence of the management ... It is not right what we're going through," resident Ruth Abreu said.

She added: "This could have been avoided ... They need to step up. They need to do what they need to do to help us."

Officials, too, have made their frustration with the company clear. During the July 8 press conference, Hopkins said the property owners had denied him entry to the property earlier that day and had indicated they would not pay for temporary housing for the residents. He said he was "holding my tongue" in terms of any other public remarks regarding Hennessey Property Management, based on advice from legal counsel.

Ward 1 Councilwoman Lammis Vargas, who took part in the July 6 meeting at William Hall and has been on hand for the nightly Hilton meetings, criticized the property owner for "negligence" in its handling of the situation. She said the company has been all but absent in the days since the walkway collapse, and that during that initial meeting,

one of its representatives appeared content "letting the city lead."

Vargas she said she favors the city taking a hard line with the property owner, including designating the property as a nuisance and pursuing action in Municipal Court.

"Ultimately, it really should be the responsibility of the property owners," she said, adding: "We're here to work with them ... But ultimately, it's not up to the taxpayers. It really is up to the property owner to come in and take care of their tenants."

In the statement published by WJAR, Hennessey Property Management's attorney wrote: "It's important to note that my clients have only owned this building for the past nine (9) months. It was also determined that an unintrusive inspection would not have revealed the underlying issues responsible for the walkway failure. It's unfair also to think that these owners wouldn't have made the repairs had they had knowledge of the severity of the issue. It's also unfortunate that we have politicians and special interest groups making slanderous and defamatory statements against these owners simply for sensationalism and personal gain. The owners reiterate that they are grateful that they are only suffering economic losses and that no one was injured."

Vargas said the response of local officials to the situation has been a "unified front," and she praised the communication and outreach on the part of the mayor's office.

There was a moment of disparity during the July 8 press conference, however. During that event, Potter and Harrison Tuttle, executive director of the Black Lives Matter Rhode Island PAC, called on Hopkins to take executive action that would ensure no residents of the apartment complex lost access to emergency housing. At that point, funding had been secured through the night of July 8, and the administration had advised residents to seek other arrangements where possible.

"This is a issue of, not whether this is the state or

the city's fault," Tuttle said. "This is a issue of, people do not have a place to live in the midst of a housing crisis."

Potter also referenced the current shortage of affordable housing and the number of Rhode Islanders facing homelessness or housing insecurity.

"On any given night in the state, we have over 400 people who are living on the streets or in cars," he said. "We have over 1,200 people who are taking advantage of a shelter or some other accommodation by state agencies and nonprofits."

Potter urged the mayor to take whatever action was needed to ensure the affected residents kept access to emergency housing – including through stimulus money, if possible, or by spending city funds that could later be reimbursed through action against the property owners.

"This is not about pointing fingers. This is not about assigning blame to anybody," he said. "This is a matter of responsibility for us as public officials, and for somebody to take accountability and provide for the residents ... This is not something that is going to get rectified without executive action in the next 24 hours."

Asked by a member of the media if he felt the mayor was handling the matter sufficiently, Potter said: "I will say that Mayor Hopkins will be doing a sufficient job if he guarantees these people behind me are not homeless as of tomorrow."

Hopkins then took to the podium, providing an outline of the situation up to that point and his administration's response.

"I can assure you, these people will not be homeless coming tomorrow ... We will make sure that they have a place to stay," he said.

He later added: "I will continue to be here with you until this entire thing is settled."

"We believe you," Abreu responded.

Earlier during the event, she had said: "Mayor Hopkins has been a great support for us. He has stepped up to the plate, and what we have today is because of him, which is right now a roof over our head." She had also thanked CCAP, the Red Cross, Vargas and Citywide Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, who was on hand for the press conference and later helped residents arrange to retrieve medication and other items.

Others praised the mayor's response to the situation, too.

"He's the only one that's been here since day one trying to help us and trying to do everything he can in his power," resident Alex Bunker said.

The Broad Street apartment situation seems likely to spur legislative action both at City Hall and at the State House.

Hopkins said he has kept Gov. Dan McKee appraised of the situation, and a liaison from the governor's office has remained in contact with Moretti.

"Please keep in mind that from the day I found out about this, my first text went to Gov. McKee. He has been updated and he knows exactly what is happening in this situation," the mayor said.

Potter said Rhode Island House of Representatives has made "very great strides" on the affordable housing issued under the leadership of Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi of Warwick. In terms of preventing similar situations in the future, he said: "If there is something in the state statute that needs to be rectified, we will 100 percent get it rectified."

Vargas spoke of the recent apartment building collapse in Florida that claimed dozens of lives, and said she plans to explore whether an ordinance amendment or other action on the city level would be appropriate. She also said she will request an executive session be scheduled so the administration can update the council on the Broad Street situation.

"Clearly, what's happening in Florida is very frightening, then this is taking place ... Right now, what we're really working on is trying to figure out, what can we do for these 39 households?" she said.



CLEARING OUT: Residents of the building arrive after Tuesday's meeting to gather their belongings. (Photo by Scott Marcinko / Shield Photography)



CharterCARE Surgical Associates Welcomes Dr. Nicastri, General Surgeon

Dr. Guy R. Nicastri, FACS, board certified in general surgery, has more than 30 years of experience, most recently was with Care New England, and has a special focus on breast surgery, surgical oncology and minimally invasive surgery. A graduate of Boston College, he received both his medical degree and his masters of Science in Physiology from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is also an Associate Professor of Surgery and family Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He has offices in Cranston at 401-943-8824 and Johnston at 401-521-6080.



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Cranston Police headquarters

■ Case

(Continued from page 1)

Henry, whose libel suit was filed in June 2014, argued in his high court appeal that Superior Court Associate Justice Richard Licht erred when he dismissed the case in 2018 based on a finding of a lack of “actual malice” on the part of the defendants. Henry further asserted that “genuine issues of material fact” had slanted the prior proceedings against him.

In addition to Taricani and Media General Operations Inc., which owned WJAR at the time, other defendants named in the case included Chris Lanni, who was WJAR’s news director; Cranston Police Officer Peter Leclerc; former Cranston officer Ronald Jacob; and retired Cranston Police Capt. Karen Guilbeault.

Jacob and Leclerc, who was an initially anonymous tipster, were Taricani’s sources for the story, according to testimony during the legal proceedings. Henry’s complaint asserted that Guilbeault was Jacob’s source of information, but Guilbeault denied that was the case. Leclerc’s information was based on overheard conversations, according to testimony.

For his part, Taricani – who passed away in 2019 – testified that he believed the information from his sources to be true at the time the report was aired and published. He also testified that Col. Marco Palombo, then chief of the Cranston department, had told him Henry was not involved in the ticketing blitz.

Taricani additionally acknowledged that while he attempted to contact Henry prior to the report airing, he might, in retrospect, have tried harder to reach the officer.

The court’s opinion reads: “It is true that, when the media operate under the protection of the actual malice standard (as is the case when the subject of a broadcast is a public official or a public figure), mistakes will inevitably be made and individual reputations will sometimes be sullied. That is regrettable, but inevitable – and hopefully rare.”

It later adds: “Indeed, there is nothing in the record of this case to show that Mr. Taricani’s reliance on his two sources and his reasons for finding them to be credible were in any way reckless or that he had any serious doubts as to the veracity of what they were relating to him ... It remains an established principle that purposeful avoidance

of the truth can support a finding of actual malice, but that clearly was not what happened in this case.”

The opinion also rebuffs Henry’s argument specific to Palombo’s comments to Taricani.

“It cannot plausibly be deemed to have been reckless for the media defendants to have aired Mr. Taricani’s story simply because Chief Palombo had denied Captain Henry’s involvement ... To hold otherwise with respect to unsubstantiated denials would unsettle the bedrock on which investigative journalism and freedom of the press are founded,” Robinson writes.

Aside from upholding the Superior Court’s ruling and the finding that Henry, as a police officer, is a public official as it relates to a defamation claim, the Supreme Court’s opinion rejects Henry’s claims related to emotional distress and the placing of his name in a “false light.”

Those claims must be rejected, Robinson writes, because “one may not breathe life into an otherwise doomed defamation claim by re-baptizing it as a different cause of action.”

The opinion goes on to state the justices found a similar lack of evidence that Leclerc, Jacob or Guilbeault acted with malice toward Henry.

The ruling at one point continues: “This case is a classic example of the venerable maxim: ‘Dura lex sed lex’ (It is a harsh law, but it is the law). While we are confident that we have correctly applied the constitutionally derived principles relative to defamation actions brought by public officials, we are not in the least insensitive to the unfortunate effect on the lives and reputations of real human beings that the application of those principles can sometimes have. Such is the price that some individuals must pay as a result of the daunting burden which public officials must bear when they seek to prevail in a defamation action. Our sympathy for public officials who allege that they are victims of defamation is unfeigned, but our role is to apply the constitutionally derived principles that are operative in this domain.”

The “Ticketgate” scandal led to major changes in the Cranston Police Department. Palombo was placed on leave – and, soon after, retired – as Rhode Island State Police were asked to temporarily lead the department and investigate the matter. Antonucci was later found to be responsible for the ticketing blitz and fired, while Henry was cleared.

■ YMCA

(Continued from page 1)

Members had to make appointments. Naturally, masks were required.

Steven O’Donnell, CEO of the Greater Providence YMCA, which oversees six Y branches and Camp Fuller, said the agency used the down time for maintenance and improvements throughout the system. With the shutdown, he said the Y had to do extensive layoffs and furloughs, cutting its staff from 820 to fewer than 200. He said the staff now numbers 320 and would be more if the people were available.

O’Donnell is highly complementary of those who stuck with the Y and how they took on responsibility to ensure operation and the overall reopening of facilities.

“They kept us going while basically we were closed,” he said.

Kent’s decline in membership is not unique. Other branches similarly faced a loss of members.

Merritt said the diehards stuck through it. Yet there were others whose lives were turned upside down. They were out of work or working from home. Their kids were home, too. Dropping the kids off at Kent’s active family center while they worked out at the gym or swam was not an option. The family center was not open, but it will be soon.

Merritt is hopeful of a resurgence of members when the family center reopens.

O’Donnell said membership throughout the system grew by 620 last month.

The Kent Y is running summer camp. The July camp has 175 campers between first and eighth grade. That’s less than pre-pandemic numbers and at this point basically at its maximum. The Kent Y is facing the same difficulty filling summer positions as the city and the Boys and Girls of Warwick as well as restaurants and seasonal businesses. Merritt said the Y staff is up to 22, but still a far cry from what it had been.

She said there are openings for the August camp sessions.

Although it didn’t have the hum of a full lobby with members coming and going, the excited squeals of kids from the activity center or the beat of a guys’ basketball game emanating from the gym, there was youthful energy as the Race 4 Chase Team headed for its next workout. Named in memory of Chase Kowalski, who died in the Sandy Hook mass shooting, the Race 4 Chase is a kids’ triathlon. The Kent Y team will be competing with teams from other six Ys – an estimated 150 competitors – in the event to be held Aug. 15 at Fort Wetherill Park in Jamestown.

O’Donnell said a combination of factors enabled the Y to survive the pandemic. Under an agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Y leased its vans to bus students to schools since vendors used by municipalities and town-operated systems didn’t have sufficient vehicles to meet separation requirements.

The Y took on a food dis-

tribution campaign aimed at reaching families facing food insecurity while benefiting restaurants that were also facing tough times. He said the Y delivered meals and continues to do so.

Fundraising and generosity also played roles in the Y’s survival. O’Donnell said many committed members continued paying monthly even though they didn’t have use of the facilities.

The Y also turned to government grants for assistance. Because it employed more than 500 people, O’Donnell explained it was not eligible under the first round of PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) funding. By the fourth round under the American Rescue Plan, the Y showed it lost \$3 million in 2020 and received \$2.5 million that will be considered a repayable loan unless it is able to meet certain criteria.

In an effort to get a handle on costs and until the membership increases, O’Donnell has paired branch Ys under a single executive director. He said the Kent and Cranston branches are under the direction of Christy Clausen, who is starting this week.

O’Donnell has not let the pandemic dim his vision for a Providence YMCA in the urban core of the city to serve kids “who have no hope.” He said he is looking for a suitable site and has been working with corporations and individuals who share the dream.

“We think this is the perfect time to put this together,” he said.

He projected the cost of a Providence branch at \$25 million.

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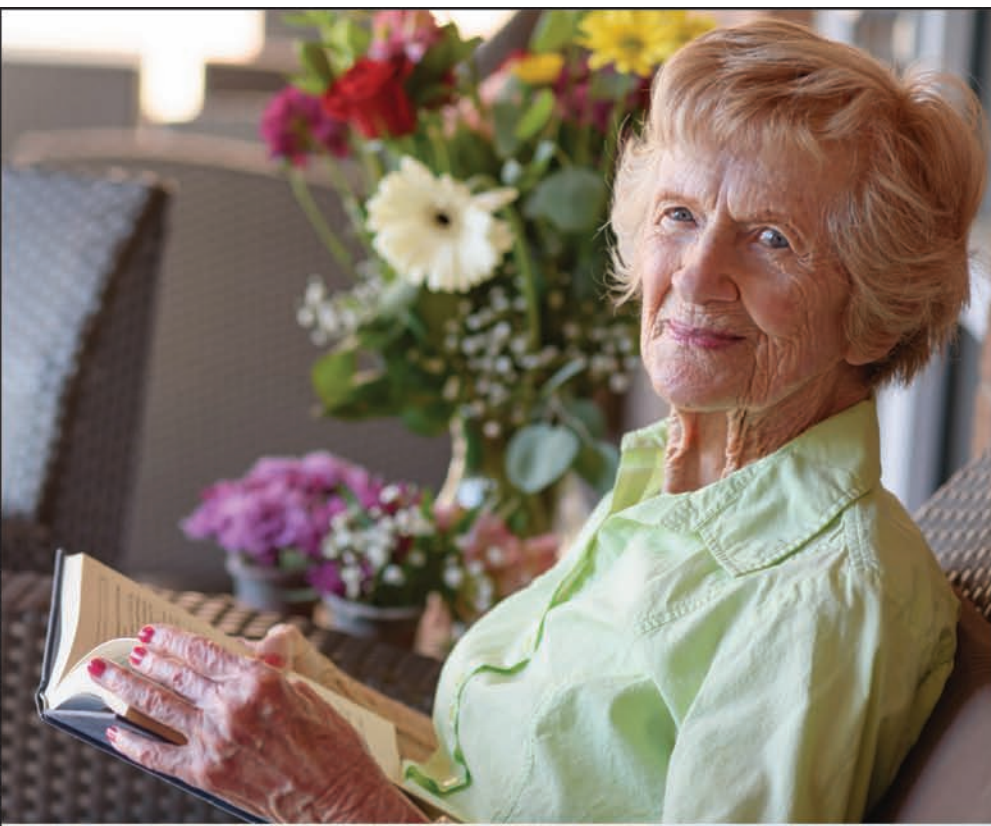
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The Cranston Housing Authority will accept applications for placement on its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Wait List. Due to limited availability of vouchers, applicants will be chosen by random selection ("Lottery").

Lottery applications will be available on-line at www.CHAHousingApp.com beginning on July 26, 2021.

Lottery applications cannot be accepted in person. Lottery Applications must be submitted electronically (on-line applications only) using a computer, smart phone, or mobile electronic device with internet access.

Lottery Applications must be complete. Incomplete entries will not be saved or accepted. Completed applications will receive a confirmation identification number. Cranston Housing Authority will not be responsible for incomplete or invalid applications. All inquiries must reference the application identification number.

One Lottery Application may be submitted per household and applications are non-transferable. Duplicate entries will be voided and may result in disqualification.

Applicants who are selected for the wait list will be notified by first class mail.

To be eligible for Section 8 Rental Assistance, an applicant must qualify as a family (as defined by HUD and the Cranston Housing Authority). A family may be a single person or group of people residing together whose income and resources are available to meet the household needs.

A single person or family may be an elderly family (whose head of household or cohead) is at least 62 years of age; a disabled family (whose head of household, spouse, or cohead is disabled); a disabled person; or a displaced family (each member has been displaced by governmental action or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed by natural disaster formally recognized under federal disaster relief laws.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Welcoming Garden City Nail Spa

Garden City Nail Spa, which has opened at 40 Sockanosset Cross Road, was recently welcomed to the local business community with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured is Mayor Ken Hopkins with co-owners Tina and Don Tu, as well as Ward 6 City Councilman Matt Reilly. Garden City Nail Spa specializes in manicures and pedicures and accepts walk-in clients and reservations. The business also offers waxing. To learn more, visit gcnailsa.com or find the spa on Facebook. (Herald photo by Steve Popiel)



STRAIGHT FROM NEGATIVES: Timothy Samzi displays the proof sheet that he picked up with his negatives from Kerry's Photo at 1944 Warwick Ave. He'll have prints made from some before sharing his work with a cell phone photo with friends. (Herald photos by John Howell)

'Old way' of taking photos making a comeback

By JOHN HOWELL

In this age of instant information, from news reports to selfies, film is making a comeback.

Kerry Sheridan, owner of Kerry's Photo at 1944 Warwick Ave. in Warwick who weathered the transition from all film to virtually all digital, has never been busier.

From selling and processing a couple of rolls a week for a select few of film diehards, she now has a stream of customers looking to buy film and for pointers on how to use film cameras they bought online, given by friends or discovered in boxes in their attics.

Disposable film cameras have also made a big comeback. Kerry says they are popular at weddings where they left at tables, collected after the event and then processed to produce an album. However, what really prompted Kerry to step up her capability to process film was a Pawtucket school project where about 500 elementary students were given disposables. From all the pictures, selections would be made to display in school corridors.

Kerry had the capability of processing one roll at a time, and she did that for a while. But witnessing a growth in film use, she looked for a used processor that could process more than 50 rolls at a clip. With the overall drop in film usage and closure of rapid processing by area drug stores, she didn't have trouble picking up a \$60,000 unit for a fraction of that price.

She doesn't regret it. She's caught the wave of film resurgence.

But what's the appeal of film when you can pull out a cell phone, click as many shots as you like and view the results instantly or years from now?

"Well, I pulled out an old Pentax," says Peter Mannka, a special education teacher who lives in Providence and has become a Kerry's photo regular. Mannka focuses on



FILM MAKES A COMEBACK: Kerry Sheridan, owner of Kerry's Photo has seen a dramatic resurgence in the use of film. She has acquired processing equipment to meet the demand.

land and seascapes. He's has a drawer full for lenses and enjoys experimenting with exposures and filters.

He's enjoying the learning process.

"You understand what you want, but then you have to know what you're doing," he said.

Timothy Samzi says he "never really left film." He said his grandfather was a photographer in the Signal Corps. Film cameras are what you use to make photos.

At the photo shop, Samzi picked up an envelope of negatives that contained a 5-by-7 proof sheet. He scanned the thumbnail prints, selecting those he would have made into larger prints. Ironically, he would use the camera on his cell phone to share some of the film prints with his friends who are also into using film.

Momolu Akoiwala, a fine art major with a business minor at URI, is another devotee of film. He uses 120 format.

"I like the natural feel of it," he said. Akoiwala is a Kerry's customer who turned into an employee.

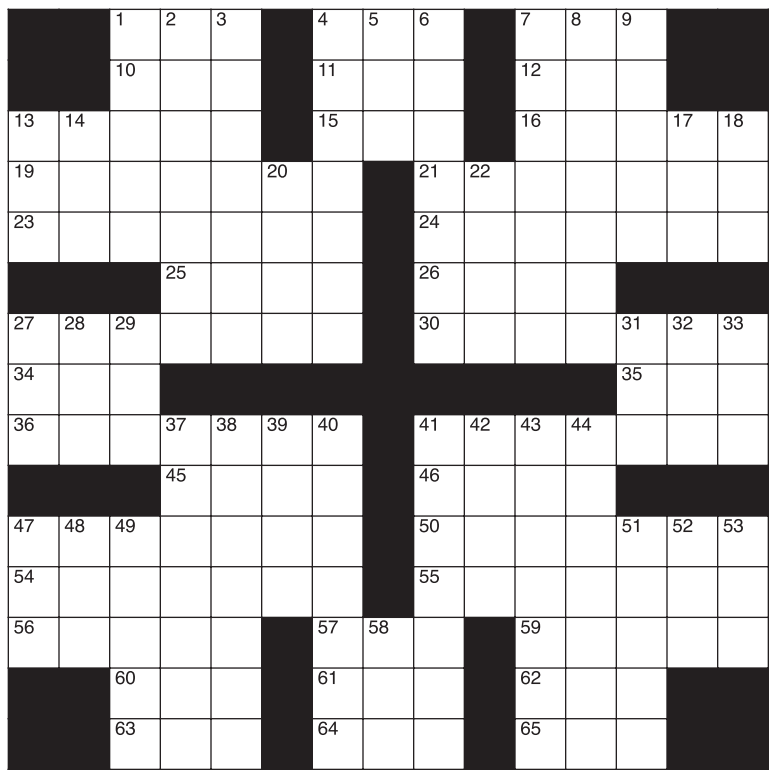
Between scanning photos from personal albums by the bucket – transforming analog into digital – he loads the processor and works the front counter. Kerry can convert home movies into a digital format. The business has also branched out to the sale of frames, cards, original artwork and passport photos and fingerprinting for IDs.

Kerry believes Instagram played a huge roll in reviving film. As people shared their photographs on the social media, they related the type of equipment and film they used as well as information about aperture and shutter speed. Kodak Portra has become the preferred film.

A 36-exposure roll of 35MM Portra sells for \$11.65. Kerry finds customers want the Portra even though they can get three rolls of Fuji for \$14. She thinks people prefer the yellow tones of the Portra.

Kerry's explanation on what's feeding the return to film: "Digital can be manipulated, it's not for real. It's the process of film that people like."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sr. enlisted Army member
4. Payroll firm
7. Monetary unit of Macao
10. Cooking vessel
11. Cow sound
12. Hairpiece
13. Spoon-shaped surgical instrument
15. Mother
16. Remove from record
19. Foolish
21. Mailman
23. Unit of data size
24. Stirred
25. Deceptive movement
26. We all have one
27. Direct from pasture beef animal
30. A person's own self
34. Helps little firms
35. Deep, red-brown sea bream
36. Tumbler
41. A short section of a musical composition
45. Young woman (French)
46. Wings
47. Wine bottles
50. Thin layers of rock
54. Opposite to
55. American state
56. Uncertainty about something
57. Basics
59. Indian seaport
60. Owed as a debt
61. Buffer solution
62. Unit of work or energy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. One point south of due east
65. Born of

CLUES DOWN

1. Small stem bearing leaves
2. Female Bacchanalians
3. Mediterranean city
4. Measures electric current
5. Arrived extinct
6. Edible butterfly
7. Causing wonder or astonishment
8. Behaviors showing high moral standards
9. Ancient Irish alphabets
13. Footballer Newton
14. Utilize
17. Sum of absolute errors
18. Opposite of the beginning
20. Shoe company
22. Algerian port city
27. Girls organization (abbr.)
28. Type of cell (abbr.)
29. Swiss river
31. When you hope to get there
32. Fall behind
33. Expresses distaste, disapproval
37. Volume containing several novels
38. Less sharp
39. Food for the poor
40. Having made a valid will
41. Royal estates
42. Relating to wings
43. Japanese three-stringed lute
44. Taking something through force
47. Angry
48. Before the present
49. Showy ornaments
51. Norway
52. Comedienne Gasteyer
53. Consume
58. Founder of Babism

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EDITORIAL

Hate the rain? Thank climate change

Nothing says summer in Rhode Island like a beautiful, sunny day with a steady, cool breeze keeping the temperature bearable and perfect for enjoying some time in the great outdoors – whether in your backyard, a hiking trail or at a beach near you.

But we don't seem destined for that kind of ideal summer this year. Maybe we should have seen it coming when Memorial Day welcomed the season in with a dreary, miserably cold and rainy weekend – or when most of July Fourth Weekend was spent inside rather than by the pool. In fact, what we've gotten thus far is one of the rainiest summers in recorded history. This was preceded by one of the hottest months of June in recent memory as well.

The historic heat and ongoing historic wetness is already taking its toll on farmers' crop yields and will certainly be a hit to Rhode Island's tourism budget. After all, who would buy an expensive beach pass for a summer where it seems every weekend is besieged by constant clouds and rain?

Of course, there's not much the average person can do. We assume if you're reading this you've already tried raising your clenched and shaking fist at the sky and yelled menacingly. No, unfortunately it didn't work when we tried it either.

From our perspective, however, these types of odd and, in some cases dangerous, weather patterns – whether it's extended periods of suffocating heat and drought that has plagued the West Coast and teed up another season of horrific wildfires, or the ongoing slog of rain, flooding and tropical storms we find ourselves in here along the Atlantic – provides a great chance for a learning opportunity.

Although it may not feel like it due to the temperature outside right now – this is what the advancing state of manmade climate change looks like. This is what it feels like. And it's not going to get better without widespread, decisive action throughout the world.

We're aware that this may be a controversial opinion to some reading this right now. But it is not controversial

among those whose entire careers are based upon the objective study and analysis of worldwide weather patterns. It is also not controversial for anyone who cares to take 15 minutes of their time to look up this readily available data on their own.

Data shows that, since 1970, the world is getting consistently hotter and wetter – with more anomalous instances of record-breaking heatwaves and annual precipitation happening each decade. According to the EPA, 2011-2020 was the warmest decade in recorded history – with 2016 and 2020 being the warmest and second warmest years ever recorded, respectively.

"What does higher temperatures have to do with more rain?" you might be asking. It's a great question, and one that isn't given enough attention when discussing the impact of increasing global temperature on Earth. The simple explanation is that increasing surface temperatures increases the amount of evaporation from lakes, ponds and the ocean – and anyone who remembers their elementary school water cycle lesson will be able to fill in the blanks of what happens as a result of more evaporation.

It is no surprise, then, that the annual amount of precipitation has increased in 14 of the 20 years (70 percent) since 2000, and has increased in every year (except for 2012) since 2010. Rising temperature and increased precipitation are inherently connected, even if the concept of "global warming" only seems relevant when it is abnormally hot outside.

The lesson to be learned is that there is no avoiding the consequences of manmade climate change. It can be ignored – as it has been for the past few decades – but no political ideology can protect you from the weather. Wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, unrelenting rainfall and other abnormal weather patterns will continue to increase in frequency unless serious action is taken at high levels of government – not just in the United States, but across the developed and developing world.

We can accept this lesson as a matter of fact, or we can kiss our beloved summers as we once knew them goodbye.

OP-ED

Restoring hope in our communities

By CARLOS E. TOBON

As the state representative from District 58, it is an honor and privilege to represent my hard-working neighbors from Pawtucket. Like many other districts in the urban core, my district is majority-minority and my neighbors and constituents are working paycheck to paycheck and struggling to make ends meet. Every day when I go to the State House I carry their stories, their dreams and their hope with me. "Hope" is the most important word there – we all know it's the Rhode Island motto, but to people who have very little, some day's hope is the only thing that keeps them going.

As a lawmaker, I go to the State House to represent my constituents and I am also there to protect their interests. In recent years, and particularly this session, I have needed to protect their dignity from those who think that a handout is the answer to every problem and their hope from those that believe that they don't deserve to live their dream of owning their own small business.

I was born in the United States to Colombian immigrants who had to walk across Mexico to make their way to this country. I was raised understanding that this country was a place where hard work unlocks opportunity and that the best re-

wards were reserved for those who were willing to take risks and dedicate themselves to their goals and dreams.

One thing that many activists fail to realize when pushing for certain proposals, like the minimum wage, is that local small businesses, like the corner mom-and-pop restaurant or bodega, are also struggling right now. To say that they do not deserve to own their own small business if they are unable to pay certain wages is not only a gross mischaracterization of their morals, it fundamentally fails to acknowledge the struggles and sacrifices made by these hard-working individuals, many of them immigrants themselves, in order to realize their own "American Dream." These are not greedy or heartless people looking to take advantage of others for their own financial gain. Nor are they undeserving of enjoying the fruits of their hard work to establish their businesses, often after years or even decades of barely getting by trying to establish themselves. I find such comments ignorant to the true reality of our communities and they often originate from well-funded out-of-state elites who think they have the right to tell everyone else how to best their lives.

After the past year we have had, everyone is in need of a little more hope these days.

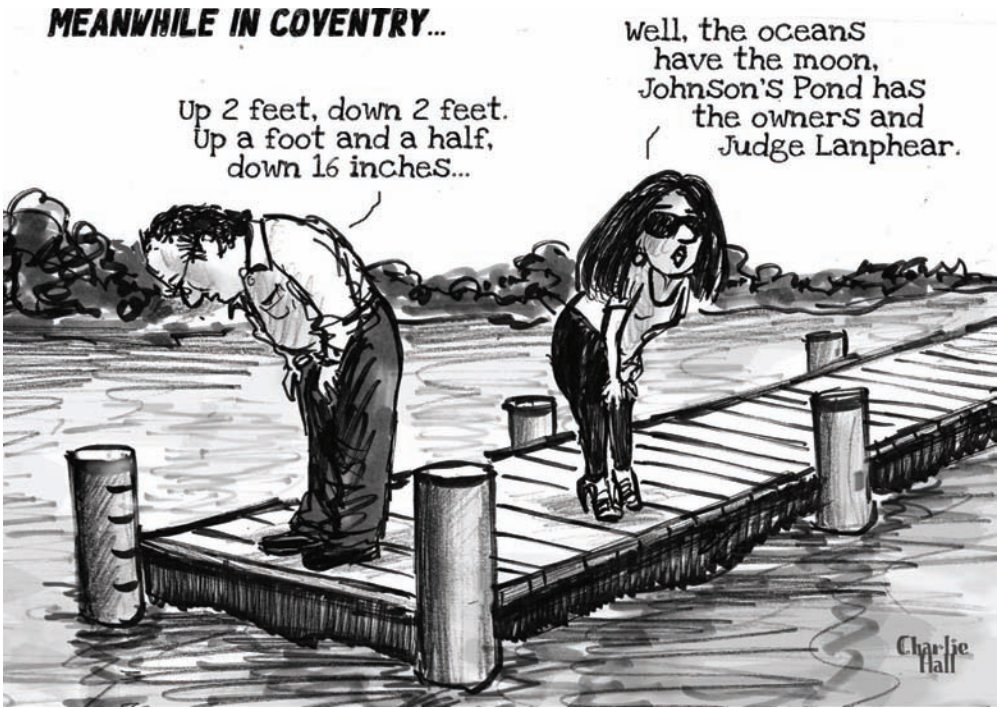
But, this hope will be unattainable if we continue to pit our neighbors, communities and businesses against each other. There will be no hope for anyone if we continue down this troubling path. Small businesses in District 58 should not be treated the same as Walmart, nor are the arguments against Walmart's business practices applicable to the corner restaurant in Pawtucket. These small businesses and their hard-working owners are integral parts of our community and economy, not the enemy.

It is time we restore hope in Rhode Island. It's time that we bring this hope not only to workers, but also small business owners. Until we realize that we are all in this together, I fear that the "American Dream" that my parents trekked across a Mexican desert to attain is in jeopardy, only to be replaced by divisive system where we have forgotten what unites us all and what it means to be an American in charge of one's own destiny through dedication and hard work.

Remember, a higher minimum wage means nothing if an employee's workplace closes their doors and this is a scary reality for many of the small businesses, often immigrant owned, in District 58.

Rep. Carlos E. Tobon, a Democrat, represents District 58 in Pawtucket.

MEANWHILE IN COVENTRY...



Relationships are enhanced when we reveal our stories

By ROBERT HOUGHTALING

We all are stories in the making. I write this shortly following the loss of my father-in-law, Henri Arts, who certainly lived a full life during his 92 years. Born in Holland, he lived through German occupation, and left for America with his wife, Mary, seven months pregnant. This powerful life force would forge an amazing life. While I will certainly miss him there is so much he taught me – lessons which will always be dear to my heart.

Earlier I wrote that we are all stories in the making. Just think about the adventures each of us have had. Then think about obstacles overcome, losses, events, travels, disappointments, plus encounters with people and places. These events shape us. These events add pages to our life's book. These phenomenal occurrences are sometimes shared, but too often left untold.

When Henri and Mary would visit Elaine and I for dinner it was always special. A great meal was accompanied by discussion, laughter and (my favorite) tales from Holland which included their journey to America. Love, resiliency, determination, creativity and patience were on display. In many ways we were privy to wisdom from the ages. For me, this was a gift beyond measure.

Luckily, I was allowed the opportunity to hear such stories. My mother and father have also imparted such insight as well. Their stories about the Depression, my father's experience during the Korean War, and the old days, are fascinating. These tales need to be heard. They are there for the listening. All you have to do is be available, attentive, and open for possibility. There



OPA: Henri G. Arts passed away on Monday, June 28, 2021. In addition to the previously mentioned information he was; inducted into the Aquatic Hall of Fame, a longtime volunteer for the Red Cross and, most of all, beloved as "Opa."

are no grades – all that is necessary is a willingness to take a magical journey to new worlds.

It has been said, "the things we think about the most we talk about the least." God, death, our fears, hopes and dreams, all lose out to the perfunctory "How's the weather?" or "How did the Sox do last night?" Certainly all are worthy of discussion. However, we often shy away from expressing those things that make us feel vulnerable. Relationships are enhanced when we take a risk to reveal our stories.

Perhaps some of the best storytellers are children – especially young ones. Maybe this is due to their belief in wonder, awe and possibility. Maybe their stories include

the panache all too often missing when one merely recites facts. Come to think about it, despite the adult content, Henri and Mary sparked my 'sense of child'. That is what makes a good story.

I will conclude with something Mary Arts (one of my favorite Philosophers) once said about flowers for her funeral. She said "bring me flowers while I am alive." Mary was telling us to engage with each other when the opportunity is there. What better way to connect than to share stories with each other? See you soon.

A frequent contributor to these pages, Robert Houghtaling is the director of substance abuse/mental health for the Town of East Greenwich.

LETTER

Where has our pride gone?

To the Editor:

Lately I have been feeling kind of down. I thought it might have been the weather. Some days hot and dry some days wet and cold. Then the other day when driving down Airport Road and Post Road, I suddenly realized the reason for my depression.

As I drove by T.F. Green International Airport and witnessed the vacant, desolated, badly maintained property, it hit me. Recently our leaders in this state spent time and probably money to change the name of the airport to add "International." Maybe that time and money should have been invested in bringing the physical appearance around our Airport to at least presentable.

Where has the pride gone of our Warwick

city leaders, state leaders, and RIAC to allow visitors to our city and state as they arrive to see what to me is inner-city blight around our airport? Isn't it always better to present a product in the best light possible? Yes, T.F. Green International Airport is a product and should be a shining example of our city and state both in service and appearance.

I have found temporary relief to my depression by using alternative routes to avoid Airport Road and Post Road until that area is improved. More miles, less depression.

So again I ask the question, where has our pride gone?

Philip D'Ercole Sr.
Warwick

The *Herald* welcomes letters written on any issue or topic currently affecting the citizens of Cranston. All letters should include the author's full name, city of residence and a daytime phone number so that the authorship of the letter may be independently verified. Letters and other submissions may be edited for grammar and/or content. The *Herald* has the right to refuse publication of any submission.

Please e-mail submissions to Dan@rhodybeat.com or mail them to the Cranston Herald, c/o Beacon Communications, 1944 Warwick Avenue, Ste. 4, Warwick, RI 02889.

Park View Middle School announces fourth quarter honor roll

Grade 8
High Honors: Awad Abdelrehem, Verena Abdelsheheed, Christian Blanchette, Corey Blanchette, Caroline Brennick, Alaina Cammack, Mia Chak, Ryan Chan, Olivia Conforme, John Conneally, Brady Croke, Miles D'Arconte, Liam DeRosa, Kevin Dilone, Maddison Dutra, Sierra Eva, Nevaeh Fatorma, Fiona Felton, Crystal Fernandez, Helena Fisher, Madeline Flinn, Isabella Francis, William Gallogly, Ava Gilroy, Zachary Iacabbo-Sawyer, Mya Lambert, Logan Lavimodiere, Juliana Molina, Adam Morello, Alyssa Pereira, Skyy-Maree Pontier-Bueno, Christian Rivera, J'Ari Simpson, Nyasia Simpson, Hazel Spahn, Braden Stephens, Ava Thurber, Lily Tillinghast, Eamonn Trenn, Matthew Varin, Eduardo G. Velasco, Jennifer Vo, Colin Williams, Elaine X Wu, Sofia Zaiceva

Honors: Stephanie Boekamp, Jeremiah Caldwell, Hunter Camara, Jaimee Cantu, Amelia Catrambone, Mya Charrette, Emily Convey, Jayden Crudale, Janai Dailey, Dante DeBrito, James Deland, Lola Delange, Oluwaseun Disu-Koita, James Fabiano, Madison Fabiano, Kalyn Foster, Nathan Gong, Amber Goodinson, Lacie Gutierrez, Ariana Hernandez, Nina Houle, Dakota Jones, Antonia King, Haley Kinney, Kaiya Loisesl, Darrell Luffborough, Elijah Meinel, Marcus Mello, Zayla Miranda, Yulianis Morales, Yumalai Morales, Alisha Pimentel,

Wesley Sanchez Toro, Tia Sanzaro, Earl Esco Sargento, Chris Sheriff, Jaiden Smith, Joshua Smith, Ashley Taveras, Layla Ward, Warren Weisensee, James Wright

Grade 7
High Honors: Aliviah Britto, Asianalese Calderon, Jessica Chin, Nicholas Chin, Emma Coen, Thora Corcoran, Alexa Eliminowicz, Logan Enos, Nicolas Germosen, Ruby Golter, Noah Gong, Camila Guzman, Jerreck Guzman, Lana Hach, Addison Haun, Mark E Heard, Michael Hernandez, Jadon Khoo, Caitlin Kiley, Claire Kiley, Pangzong Kue, Brody Linehan, Jamir Liranzo, Jack Mefford, Grace Michaelson, Devyn O'Donnell, Erioluwa Ogunde, Jayla Ou, Aria Ozvan, Tatianna Pacheco, McKenzie Rose, Lahliya Sargento, William Shealy, Sofia Smith, Willa Stefanski, Ryan Thurber, Bryanna Tiu Toj, Adryan Ürena, Nathan Zarone

Honors: Jeremy Aldana, Mason Andis, Jordyn Armbruster, Macaulay Ash, Spencer Autieri, Kacie Bailey, Marianny Balon, Kara Bush, Benjamin Calamar, Catarena Calise, Noelani Chea-Yan, Tyler Chisholm, Haley Connor, James Conway, Ryan Dellinger, David DeMartin, Jason Digiovanni, Elvis Donnelly, Taylor Evans, Dejah Febus, David Fernandez, Leslie Fernandez, Lia Fernandez, Ryan Furtado, Noah Germain, Janelle Gilbert, Giovanni Gonsalves, Gwendolyn Grace,

Ali Haddada, Jillian Ivanyk, Ariella Johnson, Kassi Khuth, Alex Lincourt, Irie Lisiecka, Abigail Maldonado, Nicole Mata, Chloe Mercedes, Amaryllis Miller, Darius Miller, Tyler Nardone, Gabriel Oliveira, Jackson Ortiz, Daniel Perez, Dariana Perez, Jayden Perez, Donavan Phol, Ava Richard, Xavier Rios, Amelia Ross, Angellina Saing, Achilles Sem, Emma-Rose Shaw, Angelo Silvestri, Ahmara Spann, Anastasia Spano, Salia Tavarez, Solomon Torsiello, Aidan Vongkanya, Brigid Weber

Grade 6
High Honors: Nylah Andrade, Bryan Aquino Tavarez, Santos Arias, Emelin Avila Recinos, Amelia Baez, Nayleen Baez, Cohen Brinker, Cristina Carvalho, Maxwell Catrambone, Ava Chiarello, Conrad Christopher, Jameson Collard, Isabella Convey, Isabella Coulanges, Trisha Nicole Cruz, Patrick DeRosa, Noah DosReis, Jayden Dumay-Aldana, Brayden Enright, Karas Ethier, Harrison Fisher, Jordan Frisone, Gian Chrizter Guerrero, Samaya Imondi, Jamila Joaquin Hernandez, Otba Jomaa, Michelina King, Ethan LaCour, Sylvia Lin, Veronica Lonczak, Kailynn Long, Valerie Lopez Rivera, Khristiana Luffborough, Alijah Magdalen, Jailynn Martinez, Oziel Martinez, Mia McDaniel, Nilanh Mendoza, Lexi Montalban, Nyah Montgomery, Ayreanna Moretti, Madison Parent, Jack Payne, Alana Pena,

Grace Petitbon, Johnathan Phav, Anthony Pimentel, Matthew Quinlan, Merelie Ramos, Kasey Rose, Isabel Sigler, Camila Sime, Lillian Sliwa, Ava Smith, Isabella Sousa, Clara Stefanski, Owen Sterpis, Lisbeth Taveras, Gianna Tocci, Chinda Top, Allyson Violante, Benjamin Wenyoun, Dilys Wiening, Leo Woodman, Mason Ypez

Honors: Jazmine Aldana, Christopher Almeida, Aryanne Aquino Tavarez, Krisnee Chuon, Patrick Connor, Misael Correa, Mason Dang, Sophia DeLuca, Aiden Dilorio, Keira Dilorio, Sean Dolan, Noah Duffy, Gianna Dupret, Jackson Earls, Walter Edwards, Lucas Fabiano, Jeremiah Fernandez Morrobel, Justin Fowler, Ivan Furtado, Myles Gormley, Jake Gulliver, Brian Haibon, Rodney Hernandez, Hanna Horsman, Jack Johnson, Santana Jones, Madelynn Kheav, Alice Kilduff, Mabel Lebowitz, Sebastian Lora, Sylvester Makor, Johnathan Marchorro Orantes, Kaemil Marte, Christopher Mathewson, Jackson McConnell, Ethan Medeiros, Jazelle Mendes, Elieser Merejildo, D'Shawn Miller, Andres Morel, Peter Morello, Johan Nawrocki, Jasiel Nunez, Wagner Peralta, Dillany Phommarath, Kayla Quinn, Patrick Rodriguez, Calvin Rojas, Eliana Salley, Alana Scorzello, Bradyn Slaughter, Hailey St. Sauveur, McKenzie Stall, James Stewart, Wayne Tavares, Madison Terry, Jolizia Turcios, Valentina Valletta, Alayna Vann, Kingston Vongvixay

Hope Highlands Middle School announces fourth quarter honor roll

Grade 8
High Honors: Amelia Albino, Chad Antonelli, Jenna Ayoub, Maryann Beira, Stalia Biosse, Cameron Bobek, Olivia Borders-Oliver, Dylan Cicchitelli, Lucia Ciccone, Elizabeth Denomme, Nicholas DiRaimo, Megan Eastman, Juliana Fernandes, Kaylin Flynn, Devon Fraenza, Samantha Irons, Hayden Karas, Grace Kogut, Angelina Lanni, Zachary Leone, Ava Lodge, Francesca Longo, Siena Nardelli, Jared Patalano, Madison Peixinho, Joseph Pennacchia, Isabella Perrotta, Ryan Phillips, Samantha Pillozzi, Pavan Tanay Ratnam, Gisele Rotolo, Ava Sears, Zoe Smith, Madeleine Tenaglia, Catherine Thompson, Olivia Venagro, Sarah Xiong, Sophia Zamarripa, Amy Zhang

Honors: Lillian Ainley, Brooke Alarie, Marcus Almada, Avery Ashegh, Giacomo Caliri, Ava Cappuccilli, Aidan Carter, Evan Caruso, Caroline Chivers, Cole Curran, Gia D'Amore, Gianna D'Ercole, Sophia Deanseris, Aidan Devine, Brody Devine, Melina Dorsey, Jack Fontaine, Mark Iorfida, Caterina Izzi, Marcus Johns, Mia Johnson, Justin Kodzis, Isabella Labonte, Ryan Luke, Gian Macko, Ethan Madden, Jordan Marion, Matthew Mastrostefano, Scott Matarese, Brooke Menna, Trent Nani, Brayden Nebus, Oceanna Orlandi, Francesca Paola, Michael Parks, Zachary Petrella, Catarina Pimental, Kovin Rasombath, James Raspallo, Lucas Richard, Enzo Sansone, Lila Sczerbinski, Jonah Silva, Joshua Silva, Ava Silveira, Florah Small, Dylan Spatuzzi, Benjamin Spirito, Adam Stoloff, Nicholas Testa, Regan Violante, Lauren Ward-Smith, Eric Whitlock

Michael DeFruscio, Paul Dolbashian, Camryn Evon, Mya Evon, Peter Grammas, Giuliana Guerard, Logan Hoit, Mikayla Imondi, Liam Johnson, Ashton Mak, Jayden Marcello, Melany Martinez Vargas, Elizabeth Matias, Sienna Monello, Alyssa Needham, Christopher Pelagio, Mia Peron, Promise Pitts, Matthew Prew, Hali Proulx, Nora Quero, Avery Rajack, Emma Regine, Ashlyn Renaud, Jordyn Renaud, Ashton Rocchio, Mark Rodrigues, Liliana Santucci, Keira Simpson, Elyse Spiridakos, Sawyer Sprows, Edward Tavarez, Gabrielle Vitale, Sara Wagnac, Brayden Zervas

Grade 6
High Honors: Cooper Bastia, Giuliana Briggs, Ashley Budano, Kennedy Carr, Adriana Catelli, Audrey Dayrit, Reese Deroxas, Nevan DiMucci, Daniella Duarte, Jonathan Feole-Haughey, Gavin Flynn, Edward Gomes, Dylan Guglietta, Sophia Harpin, Jasmine Keang, Tyler Klingensmith, Brandon Lamond, Walter Lane, Emma Leone, Gabrielle Lisi, Unity MacNeill, Dylan Malloy, Justin Marino, Liliana McGreevy, Sofia Nardelli, Caroline Nelson, Ryder Norigian, Mariella Paliotta, Vincenzo Paliotta, Angelo Palmisano, Liam Perry, Larisa Poghosyan, Kira Sanzen, Gavin Stewart, Siddharth Vytla

Honors: Madison Almada, Logan Ashegh, Elizabeth Biegel, Dillon Blessington, Madison Bodgon, Zoe Budano, Emily Butler, Brooklyn Carreiro, Jacob Case, Olivia Case, Maya Cicchitelli, Avery Cunnion, Cara D'Ercole, Madison Deanseris, Samantha DeCesare, John DelBonis, Saidee DelPrete, Sophia DeLuca, Carter Elias, Michael Farina, Giuliana Feroce, Londyn Franks, Kayleigh Gouchie, Segev Hadar, Aaron Johnson, Peter Kritikos, Lucas Labonte, Ava Lombardi, Amelia Marro, Madison McCartney, Dylan Neri, Orion Paolino, Parth Patel, Marcus Pinheiro, Alexander Reinbold, Shayna Sanzen, Samantha Sharp, Ezra Small, Elisabeth Spirito, Mikayla Taveira, Hunter Teolis, Samantha Toole, Sofia Uriati, Faith Violante, Fallon Voccio, Payton Wells, John Whitcomb, Frances Zins

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF CRANSTON BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

The following applications will be heard by The City of Cranston Building Board of Appeals on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Galley Conference Room at The Building Inspections Department, 35 Sockanosset, Cranston, RI 02920.

7/15/21

CRANSTON BOARD OF CONTRACT AND PURCHASE AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Board of Contract and Purchase on July 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Pursuant to City Council Ordinance, the following advertises the agenda for that meeting. All matters listed are subject to a vote and/or final action by the Board unless otherwise noted. This is a virtual meeting, via Zoom; please follow the directions below.

BOCAP MEETING July 20, 2021		
Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8622393766?pwd=TDZzRWlrNGlxZlU1WS9qSQ0N GZkthZz09		
Dial by your location		
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)		
Meeting ID: 862 2393 3766 Passcode: 113235 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8622393766		
BID OPENINGS:		
RFP for Design/Build for a New Generator at Cranston City Hall		
BID AWARDS – SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:		
Garden City Elementary School Building Project - Construction Manager enabling GMP # 2 to Dimeo Construction Company.		
BID WAIVERS:		
Police Department	Midstate Camera Repair	\$1,000.00
Police Department	Arrow Head Forensics	\$1,000.00
Police Department	U-Line	\$1,500.00
Police Department	Boston Medical-EZ Boston.com	\$1,500.00
Police Department	Sirchie Fingerprint	\$3,000.00
Police Department	Evident	\$3,000.00
Police Department	Celebrite	\$4,300.00
Parks & Recreation	KOMPAN	\$741.60
Parks & Recreation	Industrial Communications	\$1,364.00
Highway Department	Cintas	\$2,000.00
Highway Department	Warwick Winwater	\$3,000.00
DPW/Highway Department	Narragansett Improvement Co.	\$20,000.00
Fire Department	Northeast Rescue Systems	\$908.40
Fire Department	Shipman's Fire Equipment	\$102,831.00
Fire Department	D & M Tyre	\$1,013.14
Fire Department	N.E.T.S.	\$3,720.00
Public Works Department	Griggs & Browne	\$2,680.00
Public Buildings	General Maintenance Co.	\$2,800.00

Mark J. Marchesi, Purchasing Agent
7/15/21

Got community news?

Email
DanK@RhodyBeat.com
or call **732-3100,**
ext. 234



CITY OF CRANSTON

REQUEST FOR CONTRACTORS FOR RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Cranston Department of Community Development is seeking qualified contractors for inclusion on its bid list for its housing rehabilitation programs. Contractors needed for this list include: general, electrical, plumbing, heating, masonry and septic/sewer line contractors. This program is funded by the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Contractors responding must have a Rhode Island license and registered with the State Board of Contractor's Registration, a Lead Safe Remodeler/Renovator license and carry liability and workers compensation insurance.

Applications for this program are available at the Department of Community Development, 35 Sockanosset Crossroad Unit #6, Cranston, RI 02920 and also on the City's Website at www.cranstonri.gov.

For further information please contact the Department of Community Development at 401-780-6240. Minority, women-owned, and Section 3 businesses are encouraged to submit applications.

Kenneth J Hopkins, Mayor
City of Cranston

Timothy G. Sanzi, Director
Department of Community Development



- Anchor Baptist Church**
New Meeting Place
868 Reservoir Avenue
Pastor Alex Martinez
632-9672
www.sermonaudio.com/anchorbaptist

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish
175 Oaklawn Avenue
401-942-4188
Sunday Liturgy 9:30am
www.annunciationnri.org

Asbury United Methodist Church
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Rev. Yohan Go
467-5122
worship Service 9:30am
asburyumcni.org
Child Care available

Assemblies Of God The Solid Rock Church
1753 Phenix Avenue
Rev. Richard K. Leahey
827-0770
www.solidrockchurchag.com

Christadelphian Ecclesia
2104 Cranston Street
441-7432
www.christadelphia.org

Church Of The Ascension (Episcopal)
390 Pontiac Avenue
The Rev. Michael Coburn
461-5811
www.ascensioncranston.org
- La Iglesia de la Ascensión (Episcopal)**
Pastor Santiago Rodriguez
401 345-0819

New Beginings Christian Church
122 Laurens St.
Mario J. Nadich, Pastor
787-0725

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church
229 Wilbur Avenue
Rev. Barbara DaCosta, Pastor
944-0864
www.olcbaptistchurch.com.

Pawtuxet Baptist Church
2157 Broad Street
Pastor Irving Scoby
461-3635
www.pawtuxetbaptist.com

People's Baptist Church
1275 Elmwood Avenue
Pastor Mark Lindsay
www.PeoplesBaptistChurch.org

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
565 Pontiac Avenue
467-3300
Handicapped accessible
www.phillipschurch.org

St. David's On-The-Hill Episcopal Church
200 Meshanticut Valley
942-4368
www.stdavidsonthehill.net

- Church Of The Transfiguration**
1665 Broad Street
461-3142
Sunday 10 am
Holy Eucharist

Congregation or Chadash
Egalitarian Minyan in the Jewish Conservative Tradition in Trinity Episcopal Church, 139 Ocean Avenue, Cranston
Use Circuit Street entrance
Friday Services 6:00 pm
Saturday Services 9:30am
For information on High Holiday Services or Membership visit:
www.orchadash-ri.org

Edgewood Congregational Church
1788 Broad Street
461-1344
Sunday 10 am w/coffee hour
www.edgewoodchurchri.org

Faith Chapel Lutheran Brethren
43 Scituate Ave.
Rev. Michael Natale
944-2771
www.faithchapelri.org
Sunday Worship 10am

Gateway Pentacostal Fellowship
711 Park Ave. (rear)
Pastor Russell Farmer
467-3830
www.gatewayupc.org

Grace Bible Church
116 Rolfe Street
481-0030
www.gracecranston.com
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
5:30 p.m. Sunday Eve Prayer

Holy Apostles Church
800 Pippin Orchard Road
Msgr. Paul D. Theroux
946-5586
www.holyapostles.com
- St. Matthew Church**
15 Frances Avenue
Rev. Ronald J. Bengford
461-7172

St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church
2068 Cranston Street
Fr. Roger Durand, Pastor
SaintPatrickCatholicChurch.org
Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30

Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church of Edgewood
1 St. Paul Place
461-5734

Shepherd Of The Valley United Methodist Church
604 Seven Mile Road
Rev. Katherine Mitchell
821-8217
www.sovumc.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
139 Ocean Ave., Pawtuxet Cranston, RI 02905
Rev. Mitchell Lindeman
941-4324
www.trinitypaw@gmail.com

Woodridge Congregational United Church Of Christ
546 Budlong Road
Rev. Scott Spencer
942-0654
woodridgechurchri.org

Word & Prayer Fellowship
828 Oaklawn Ave.
Pastor Chick Salibby
www.wordandprayer.org

Word Of Life Covenant Church
1308 Phenix Avenue
944-1163
thewordoflife.net

BankRI to host statewide food drive

Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) is set to host its annual food drive in support of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and its network of emergency food programs.

Through Aug. 20, each of the bank's 20 branches statewide will collect nonperishable food items to benefit their local food pantry. During the six-week effort, BankRI will also match all donations made to the Food Bank, up to a total of \$10,000. The match includes gifts made online through the Food Bank's secure website.

"One of the biggest challenges Rhode Islanders currently face is having enough food to feed their families – more than 60,000 of our neighbors turn to the Food Bank and to local pantries for help each month," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, president and CEO of BankRI. "Every donation to our drive will help put food on a family's table at a time they need it most. We invite everyone to participate and to give what they can."

For the drive, all BankRI branches will feature collection bins in

their lobbies for donations of non-perishable food items. Each branch has partnered with a pantry that serves its community to ensure food collected at that branch stays local to feed area residents. The 15 community-based pantries, each a member of the Food Bank's network, will also receive a \$1,000 grant for additional food acquisition. In total, BankRI is committing \$25,000 this summer to alleviate hunger across the state.

BankRI's matching gift challenge on behalf of the Food Bank is

aimed at helping the organization increase donations earmarked for purchasing additional food. Thanks to its ability to buy food in bulk, every dollar donated to the Food Bank helps to acquire three meals. After distributing a record 13.8 million pounds of food in 2020, the Food Bank is on pace to top 16 million pounds this year.

"BankRI's support comes at a critical time for Rhode Islanders in need," said Rhode Island Community Food Bank CEO Andrew Schiff. "Even as our economy re-

opens, there are tens of thousands of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity. This contribution of food and funds will help ensure no one goes hungry."

Foods most needed by pantries include peanut butter, nutritious breakfast cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, boxed macaroni and cheese, whole wheat pasta, and tomato sauce.

To make a donation of nonperishable food at a BankRI branch, locations and their hours can be found at BankRI.com/locations.

■ Chatter

(Continued from page 1)

On July 28 will be Tropical Night featuring the Copacetics. Enjoy a day on the beach with a playlist full of high-energy ska and reggae, with dashes of soul, blues, doo wop and jazz. Enjoy hula dancing performances and tutorials – no plane ticket necessary!

On Aug. 4, the night will feature Elton John vs. Billy Joel, which is a good old fashion night on the boardwalk, with midway games, fun food and a dueling piano show with songs from two legends of music.

Aug. 11 will bring '80s Night featuring Fast Times. Get the out the hairspray and neon clothes – they are taking it back to the 1980s with your favorite jams, vintage games pre-show and more.

The pre-show entertainment begins at 5 p.m. Showtime is at 6:30 p.m. Swing by early to experience this night out you won't want to miss.

All Garden City Center Summer Concerts are free to attend. General admission seating is located south of the Gazebo. Pack a picnic, grab your family and enjoy the show.

Looking for the VIP concert experience? Purchase a VIP ticket and receive select seating located in the Gazebo parking lot (closest to Newport Creamery – no need to bring your own chair!) with complimentary appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, and a special gift from Garden City Center. VIP tickets are \$15 and benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Purchase your VIP ticket by contacting the Garden City Center. Visit gardencitycenter.com for more information.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert for the week will be moved to Thursday.

Audi Warwick is excited to be a part of Garden City Center's favorite summer tradition.

Wreaths Across America's Mobile Education Exhibit

Wreaths Across America has announced that its Mobile Education Exhibit, or MEE, which has been traveling the country to honor the nation's veterans, will make a tour stop in Rhode Island on Sunday, July 18.

The Rhode Island Daughters of the American Revolution will host a "Patriotic Sunday" and the MEE will be there for an open house to honor veterans and active duty military. The MEE will be located at the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge, 2115 Broad St. in Cranston, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The goal of the Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is to bring community together and teach patriotism while remembering the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "However, over the last year, in light of the current health crisis, we feel this exhibit has taken on even more meaning by providing the opportunity for people to safely participate in something that is both educational and inspiring, while supporting and giving back to the communities it visits."

To learn more, visit wreath-sacrossamerica.org.

Animals to arrive in Garden City Center

Join educators from Roger Williams Park Zoo at Garden City Center to learn more about the wild world of animals.

Programs will offer opportunities for adult/child pairs to make discoveries together and will include a lesson, activity and a meet-and-greet with one of the zoo's ambassador animals.

Sessions are hosted at the Garden City Center Gazebo and are 45 minutes long.

One ticket – which costs \$10 – includes admission for one child and their parent or guardian. If you have multiple children attending this event, please purchase another ticket for each child. Spots are limited and registration is required.

The events will be held Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Upcoming dates include July 21 and 28 and Aug. 4 and 11.

To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/animal-encounters-with-roger-williams-zoo-tickets-161249161583.

Mayor's Picnic for seniors

The annual Mayor's Picnic will be held on Friday, Aug. 20, at Brayton Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Transportation will be provided from the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center.

Tickets go on sale July 12 and the cost is \$3 per person. Call Lisa at 780-6215 to make your reservation.

NAMI Family-to-Family course

NAMI Rhode Island, the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Ill-

ness, will offer a Family-to-Family course beginning Wednesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. This is a free and virtual eight-session educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by trained family members who have "been there" and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises. It not only provides information and strategies for taking care of the person you love, but you'll also find out that you're not alone. Recovery is a journey, and there is hope.

For more information or to register for this evidence-based program, visit namirhodeisland.org, call (401) 331-3060 or email beth@namirhodeisland.org.

East 61st reunion announced

Cranston High School East's class of 1960 will hold its 61st reunion on Sept. 12, 2021, at the Cranston Country Club. A social hour will begin at noon and dinner with entertainment follows at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$50 per person and the deadline to respond is Sept. 1. For details and reservations, contact Dolores DiMeo Carroll at (401) 942-0949 or dolores1120@verizon.net.

New Hope Art Gallery now open

Ricky Gagnon, director of the New Hope Art Gallery located in the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center at 1070 Cranston St., has announced the gallery is once again open with a new show coming this fall.

Guests can come to see the current show in their large gallery located on two floors of the center. This show features wonderful art in many styles and media from 50 local, special needs and senior artists. Our current show will run until Oct. 1.

They will feature a new fall show with a scheduled opening on Tuesday Oct. 26, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Come visit and enjoy the art. Regular gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays.

'Altered Paper, Prints & Books' exhibit

Warwick Center for the Arts, located at 3259 Post Road in Warwick, will host its "Altered Paper, Prints & Books" juried exhibit through July 24. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. It features works on paper, in two or three dimensions, with an emphasis on three-dimensional art constructed with paper. In this exhibit, artists showcase their interpretation, reflection, and expression of their personal art journey. For further information, visit warwickcfa.org.

Over 65 Golf League

Attention all golfers 65 and older – if you are interested in golfing in a mixed league, the Over 65 Golf League, on Mondays at Harbor Lights, 150 Gray St., Warwick, please contact Carol Desforges at Desac63@gmail.com. Please indicate your name, phone number and email in your message.

To be a member or a spare (sub) in the league, you pay dues which include season play (May- Sept. 13, 2021), playoffs (Sept. 20- Oct. 4), scramble tournament (Oct. 13) and a banquet with distribution of prizes (Oct. 13). The membership dues are \$55, or \$30 for spares not attending the banquet.

Garden City SWEAT

Every Saturday, Garden City Center will present its new fitness series, Garden City SWEAT. Each week, they will be bringing you outdoor group workout classes led by instructors from local fitness community, including CORE Studios and Haven Fitness. They mix it up with different styles and intensities, so there's something for yogis, HIIT-lovers and everything in between.

Plus, a lucky participant in each class will win a \$50 gift card to either lululemon or Athleta. Spots are limited.

Register and learn more at garden.citycenter.com/sweat.

Cranston RSVP seeking volunteers

The RSVP Program at Cranston's Department of Senior Services is seeking volunteers to help to deliver brown bag lunches to seniors in the community, run errands for seniors and transport local homebound seniors to medical appointments.

You must be 55 years of age or older

to volunteer and a BCI is required. Mileage reimbursement is given to cover travel costs. AmeriCorps Seniors will also provide insurance protection with three types of coverage – excess accident medical coverage, excess volunteer liability insurance and excess automobile liability insurance.

If you are interested in becoming an RSVP volunteer, contact Karen Porto at (401) 780-6159 for an interview.

Books @ Home

Through the Books @ Home program, the Cranston Public Library provides free home delivery of books and other materials to qualifying, homebound residents of Cranston.

It doesn't matter if you are permanently or temporarily homebound. Books, music and videos are delivered every three weeks at no charge.

For more information about Books @ Home, call the library's Auburn Branch at (401) 781-6116 or visit cranstonlibrary.org/homebound-services.

Outdoor Storytime at Hall

The Cranston Hall library is looking for children up to age 5 and their caregivers to attend an outdoor Storytime. If you can join in Monday mornings at 10:30 at the William Hall Library, register through the events calendar on the library's website, cranstonlibrary.org.

The program is designed so participants can practice social distancing, and masks are encouraged. Participants are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs and use umbrellas or sunscreen for sun protection.

Adult Summer Reading Program

The Cranston Public Library will be hosting an Adult Summer Reading Program, "The Art & Science of Reading."

Read books, attend events, pick up a take-and-make kit, share your reading with the community, and earn raffle tickets for the end-of-summer prize drawing.

For more details, visit cranstonlibrary.org/summer-reading-2021.

CCAP Chip for Charity golf tournament

Save the date – CCAP has announced plans to hold its 2021 Chip for Charity golf tournament on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Harbor Light Golf Club in Warwick. Sponsorships and foursomes are available. For more details, contact CCAP's Lee Beliveau at (401) 562-8353 or lbelleau@comcap.org.

As a nonprofit community action program, CCAP needs to raise funds to assist families it serves. A large number of families CCAP serves have lost their jobs, suffered an illness, or experienced a different type of crisis, usually through no fault of their own. Last year, CCAP touched the lives of more than 40,000 people and provided over \$1.2 million in uncompensated services.

Chip for Charity, presented by Neighborhood Health and Mutual of America, is CCAP's largest fundraiser during the year to benefit its programs and services.

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across Rhode Island through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up, go to BeKindRI.org. Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check. Be Kind RI is open to those in Rhode Island experiencing COVID-19 risk factors, including seniors 65 and older, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of childcare, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call 877-958-8785.

Did you know?

July's full Moon, the full Buck Moon, occurs on Friday, July 23. It reaches peak illumination at 10:37 p.m. that evening, rising above the horizon just after sunset. The full Moon in July is called the Buck Moon because the antlers of male deer (bucks) are in full-growth mode at this time. Bucks shed and regrow their antlers each year, producing a larger and more impressive set as the years go by. (Source: *July Fun Facts*)

To submit your news from the community, email Meri R. Kennedy at Cranston-Chatter@aol.com. This includes virtual events which should be submitted two to three weeks ahead of the event. Photos in jpg format are accepted and news can include community events, promotions, academic news and nonprofit events. Email today and see your news in our column in the Cranston Herald.

OBITUARIES

Gladys D. Ciorlano

Gladys D. Ciorlano, 91, died Monday, July 12, 2021. She was the wife of the late Louis Ciorlano, Sr. DC. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Raoul and Dorothy (Minnie) Bacon.

Gladys was the office manager and co-owner with her husband of the Cranston Physical Therapy Treatment Center in Cranston, RI for over 25 years retiring in 2005. She formally worked as a waitress for many years. She started at Woolworth's in Providence and worked at the Aurora Club and was the head waitress at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

She was the beloved mother of Dorothy G. Ferranti and her husband Vincent, Victoria M. Arrico and her husband Robert and Louis Ciorlano, Jr and his wife Susan and the late Howard Barrett Jr.; grandmother of Dawn M. Cahoon-Edgar, Andrea M. Correia, Jacqueline V. Whittaker, Stephen R. Arrico, Matthew K. Arrico, Alyssa M. Ciorlano, Cameron L. Ciorlano and the late Denise D. Ossick. She also leaves 9 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson. She was also the sister of Richard Bacon, Donna LaPlante, Darlene Covill, Robert Bacon, Nancy Bergeron, Russell Bacon, Randy Bacon, Ronald Bacon, the late Dora Ellinwood, Joan Adams, Raymond Bacon, Daniel Covill and Christine Poland. She also is survived by many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, July 14, 2021 from 5-8pm with a service at 8pm in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel, 2435 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution to St. Antoine Residence, 10 Rhodes Ave, North Smithfield, RI 02896 and Hope Alzheimer's, 25 Brayton Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920, would be appreciated.

For information and condolences, please visit TheQuinn-FuneralHome.com.

Norma L. Gardner

Norma L. Gardner, 82, died Sunday, July 11, 2021. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Karl and Regina (Bennett) Allard. Norma was employed with the Torbot Company in Warwick for 45 years. Norma loved reading and puzzles, as well as spending time at Oakland Beach. She was the beloved mother of Karen L. Gardner. Grandmother of Porchia Stepanian and Austin MacGregor and the great grandmother of Chloe and Layla Stepanian. She is also survived by her sister Joan Yorkery and is predeceased by her siblings Marie Hutchinson, Everett Allard, Evelyn Strohmiere and Doris Testa.

A visitation will be held Thursday, July 15, 2021, from 5-7pm with a service at 7pm in the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Chapel, 2435 Warwick Avenue, Warwick. Burial will be private.

For information and condolences, please visit TheQuinn-FuneralHome.com.

Edward A. Lowell Sr.



Edward A. Lowell, Sr., 75 passed away on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at Roger Williams Hospital. Born in Harlem, NY, he was the son of Edward Rouff and Ella (Josephson) Lowell. Edward was the father of Edward Lowell, Jr. and Kelly Florenz; loving grandfather of Sarah, Anthony, Connor & Isabella. Edward served with the US Army in the Vietnam War. He also worked as a Correctional officer at the ACI for many years.

His funeral will be held Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 10 am from the Thomas & Walter Quinn Funeral Home, 2435 Warwick Avenue, Warwick followed by a burial with military honors at 11 am in the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter. For information and condolences, please visit TheQuinnFuneralHome.com.

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Preserving a lost art

Library exhibit highlights decorative stenciling from RI's 17th century 'building boom'

ARTIST AND HISTORIAN: Ann Eckert Brown has been working on preserving the lost art of wall stenciling for the last 60 years. Her exhibit, "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," is now on display at the Warwick Public Library. (Beacon Communications photo)



By ARDEN BASTIA

After being postponed a year, local historian Ann Eckert Brown has finally opened her exhibit at the Warwick Public Library, sharing the history and techniques of wall stenciling as a form of interior decoration.

The exhibit, "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," has been in the works since Brown first began researching the subject back in the 1960s.

"I've been teaching early American and doing early American decorative painting, all kinds of early American decorative painting, and wall stenciling is just one of them," she explained in an interview on Friday.

During the Colonial and Federal eras, roughly 1790 to 1840, the state saw rapid economic and population growth. It was during this "building boom," as Brown calls it, that Rhode Islanders embraced the wall stenciling techniques of interior design.

In her third and latest book, also titled "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," Brown writes that the rise of painted interiors reflected the "unbridled optimism that was rampant among the citizenry of a new state, especially those of the middling class, who were at last able to upward socially and economically."

Brown's research took her all over the state, where she visited houses and historical sites, like taverns and churches, to view the painting techniques firsthand.

"A lot of it was very deteriorated. I thought, 'Ah, when these houses disappear, so will every evidence of the stenciling.' And I thought it would be good to record it, which I have done," she shared.

Brown recalled hearing stories of young homeowners who were unaware of the history on their walls, and painted or wallpapered right over one-of-a-kind stenciled designs.

Brown replicated the designs by tracing shapes and patterns she found on walls throughout Rhode Island as she completed research for her three books on early

American architectural decorative painting.

For the book's accompanying exhibit, facsimiles were created on large, framed 31-by-41-inch panels to resemble the original stenciling in colorations, spacing and layout. Aging and damage was not incorporated, as Brown wanted to preserve the art and artist's original intent.

In "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island," Brown shares over 50 examples of these wall stencil designs from all parts of the state. Each chapter of her book is dedicated to a different Rhode Island county, exploring the historic sites that are known for their wall decorations.

In her book, Brown takes readers through the history of 17th-century interior designs with illustrations and photographs.

She writes that paint-decorated rooms "were fairly plentiful" during the Colonial period, "especially in mansion-like homes built by wealthy merchants attracted to the area by the vibrant, unfettered busi-

ness atmosphere and religious freedom."

According to her research, "the shelters of the first Rhode Islanders were sparsely decorated, and their overall appearance could be described as drab," she writes in her book.

The "Spartan aesthetic" gave way as the colony grew more prosperous and commercial building supplies began more widely available, including paint materials such as linseed oil, pigments, and turpentine.

Brown did point out that it was very easy for artists to borrow inspiration from other artists. "There were so many artists, and they traveled with cut stencils. And they applied them to walls in a different manner and different arrangement. And they did, I must say, copy from each other. Because when you're staying in a tavern and your bedroom is covered with this kind of stuff, it's very easy to trace and then put in the next place that you stay."

While the artistic plagiarism was evident, Brown said there weren't conflicts

between artists, as "they didn't get together much, and there were no copyrights or lawsuits over designs."

Some of the influential artists that Brown has noted include J. Gleason, Rufus Porter, D. Bartling, and William Gibbs.

Gleason was known for signing the walls that he painted, one of which Brown has recreated in her exhibit.

"A lot of the houses in northwest Rhode Island can be assigned to him because they share motifs. They may not have the signature, signatures disappear or get painted over, but we have one in Rhode Island that's very important," she said.

The wall that Gleason painted and signed can be found in the Deacon Daniel Hopkins House in Foster.

Wall stenciling can still be seen at local historic sites like the Christopher Rhodes House in Pawtuxet Village, the Thomas Arnold House in Apponaug, and the Peter Greene House at 1124 West Shore Road.

According to Brown, it's "debated" whether the stenciling techniques fell out of fashion with the rise of wallpaper. Displayed in the exhibit with the stencils are newspaper advertisements selling wallpaper. "Whether or not the wallpaper influenced the stencils, or vice versa," she said. "We don't know. They used similar kinds of designs."

Wall stenciling was such a prolific art that it established the state as "a true microcosm of American interior architectural painting."

Brown's goal is to share "the knowledge to help people know what this is and to preserve the history," she said at the exhibit's opening last Friday. "This is all about preservation."

Brown hopes to bring her exhibit to Bristol, displaying it on the East Bay side of the state.

"This is a part of our history," she said. "We really must save it."

For more information about Brown's work, visit anneckertbrown.com. The "Painted Rooms of Rhode Island" exhibit will be on display during Warwick Public Library hours through the end of August.



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ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local ♥ Adoptable ♥ Loveable



Photo credit: Meaghan Susi

Scarlett

Fun, excitement, smiles and kisses all wrapped up into one amazing girl named Scarlett! She is young, only a year and half old and looking for adventure. She loves the beach, taking hikes and snuggles too! Scarlett is a Lab mix with a beautiful coco brown and white coat adorned by a huge smile. When she meets new people it takes her a little time to warm up but once she feels comfortable she'll be your best friend. If you are active, she's your girl! Please contact EGAPL The Heart of RI Animal Rescue League at 401-467-3670 or stop by 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI on Wednesday 3:00-7:00, Thursday or Friday 12:00-2:00 or Saturday 10:00-2:00. Scarlett deserves to be out of the shelter and in a loving home!

If you have been looking to adopt or know of an animal in need, please contact Karen directly at animaltalk1920@gmail.com

ON STAGE THIS WEEKEND!



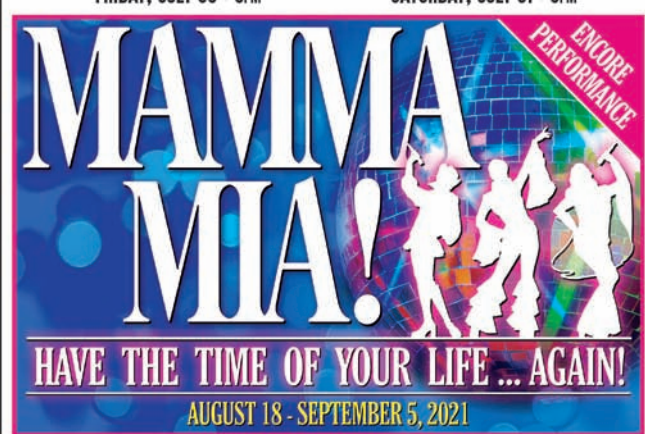
UPCOMING SUMMER CONCERTS

EMILY LUTHER IN CONCERT
FRIDAY, JULY 23 - 8PM

"WE JUST MOVE ON!"
WITH JANA ROBBINS & HALEY SWINDAL
SATURDAY, JULY 24 - 8PM

MATT DeANGELIS & CHRISTINE DWYER
"OPENING UP"
FRIDAY, JULY 30 - 8PM

LIZ CALLAWAY IN CONCERT
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Sat. Sept. 11- **CARRIAGE INN**, No. King.

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With **Charlie Hall & Doreen Collins**



READY TO GO: Strip Mall guitarist and vocalist Vinnie Ortez, bassist Nick English and drummer Jack Anderson saw their growth as a band stalled by the onset of the pandemic, but now, they're set to release their first EP. (Courtesy of Austin Delin)

Warwick's Strip Mall unveils self-titled EP

By **ROB DUGUAY**

The COVID-19 pandemic was a big roadblock for a ton of upcoming bands all over the planet.

In Rhode Island, there's an entire wave of acts that were affected by it. One of them is the Warwick-based progressive math rock trio Strip Mall, which was on the verge of establishing a solid fan base and gaining a legit buzz right when everything shut down in March of last year.

Guitarist and vocalist Vinnie Ortez, bassist Nick English and drummer Jack Anderson were stalled in the middle of their collective growth as a band. Fortunately, that period of stalling didn't make them creatively stagnant, and they have their self-titled debut EP coming out on June 15.

The record follows up the release of the band's first two singles, "Reverse The Curse," which came out in January 2019, and "We All Have Plus Things," which arrived in February 2020. Both tracks are actually part of the EP, and thanks to some help from a recording studio down south, it came out better than Strip Mall could have hoped for.

"We had been technically working on this EP for almost two years since we had put out 'Reverse the Curse,'" Ortez says. "I've done some home recording with Jack before, but with us sending the tracks to Mike Nelson at Parkridge Recording in Knoxville, Tennessee, to be mixed and mastered, they came to life in a way I never dreamed. Recording whole parts where I just use

my loop pedal was definitely both the weirdest and most fun experience for me. This EP is absolutely the band in every aspect and is our identity. We've had some of these songs for a few years and to be able to have them available to share with everyone is something I never thought this band would get to. I also think we are all really excited to move on from this set of songs and evolve further with the new material we have already."

"The initial plan was to hopefully have the album recorded and out by the end of summer and then try and book a small tour of New England for the fall of 2020 or the beginning of 2021," English adds. "The pandemic hitting completely halted all the momentum we had and shut down our aspirations to finish the album. After a few months of sitting on the songs and half recorded parts, we decided, after making sure we socially distanced for a bit before meeting up, to finish the recording. For me, it was an instant spark of life and being able to see my friends and work on something we are all extremely passionate about started to pull me out of the funk that I'm sure so many people were entrenched in. I've been in a decent amount of bands, but never one that has put this much effort and love into the composition of each song. I think all of that really reflects on the record and I can't wait for people to hear it."

One aspect of the EP that's both interesting and refreshing is how the tracks flow with each other. There isn't any dead air between the songs - they all go together as if it's one continual

sonic experience.

"There was a ton of back and forth between us just ironing out the final sounds of each instrument, almost down to every single tom hit," Anderson mentions. "We are honestly proud of the final product and it feels great to say that. We've all played music for years now, but I don't think any of us have ever released a full, cohesive project like this before. One thing I specifically wanted to do was have the tracks kind of flow into each other, so the EP could be played the whole way through seamlessly. There's some recordings from an iPhone I had in 2014 of frogs in my backyard, one from a flight taking off, some sounds I got while on walks around town and other things. We're pretty happy with how it all came together."

Along with the two previously released singles, other highlights of the record include "Pyramid Scheme," "Julius Caesar" and "Waning Gibbous." It's chock full of feverish beats and abstract guitar structures while a consistent energy and electricity covers it all like a vibrant sheen.

Strip Mall is going to be ringing in the release of the EP on the same night of its release date at Dusk, located at 301 Harris Ave. in Providence, with fellow locals People Eating Plastic, Mutter and Beauquet. If you're able to make it to the show, make sure to grab a copy of the new record while you're there. If you can't, then log on to the band's Bandcamp page at stripmall.bandcamp.com and stream and purchase it there.

At the Warwick Showcase

BLACK WIDOW

(For 'Avengers' fans)

The Showcase was filled with Marvel Comics fans this weekend, plus this one movie reviewer. Joyce stayed home, along with most people over 30 who are waiting for a decent movie for adults.

Scarlett Johansson stars as Natasha Romanoff. We get her backstory right up front, learning that she comes from a dysfunctional family whose father has sold her out to a Russian cult that turns little girls into assassins.

Skip ahead 20 years when Natasha and little sister Yelena meet up in the first of many wild and crazy scenes, filled with wild chases, destruction of people and property, and work for hundreds of stunt doubles.

The movie slows to a snail's pace as the sisters engage in long conversations about their growing up in the Midwest with parents who aren't who they seem.

Then there's a big family reunion that has them bickering with each other, working together against evil forces and fighting each other.

Many things get blown up. Action scenes galore take place in a variety of countries with little explanation as to why or how.

If you are only vaguely familiar with the "Avengers" series, you may have

See it at the

with
Joyce & Don
Fowler

Movies



thought that Natasha had been killed in one of them, and you would be right. But this story takes place before that. I had a former copy editor who would straighten me out on all the minute details, but he is long gone and I have to try to make sense out of it all ... to no avail.

Fans stay through the endless credits to catch a glimpse of what may happen in the next movie. It is supposed to pique your curiosity, but made no sense to me.

On Netflix

"Biohackers" is an interesting if far-fetched sci-fi drama that takes place in Germany.

Mia is a medical student whose parents died in a car crash and twin brother died due to some unauthorized medical testing. She has also been experimented on, but has some memory loss that comes back in bits and pieces.

Mia tracks down the scientist involved in the experiments that have killed a number of children, including her brother, vowing to expose her.

Season two picks up after

four months have passed. She and the scientist have been kidnapped and further testing has been done on her. Much has happened in the meantime, but Mia remembers little. The father of a schoolmate is involved in funding all kinds of gene modification and must be stopped.

There's some humor involved her weird classmates and lots of breaking and entering with close calls. The moral is "Does the ends justify the means?"

"The Innocent": Popular novelist Harlen Coben has had a number of his stories turned into Netflix movies.

This one is about Mat, a law student whose wife disappears, and he becomes a leading suspect.

Mat spent some time in prison after killing a man in a bar fight. The man's father is obsessed with making his life miserable.

Mat meets the love of his life, Olivia, whom we later discover has a past of her own that has led to her disappearance.

The mystery slowly unravels and we eventually learn the truth.

"Sex/Life": Netflix pushes the envelope with this

steamy soft porn series about Cooper and Billie, a handsome, loving suburban couple with kids who seem to have it all.

Billie has had an active sex life, graphically displayed up close and in living color. Cooper gives her everything she could ever want ... except her insatiable desire for her Aussie record-producer lover. She can't get him out of her mind. And doesn't.

This tawdry soap opera is about obsession, jealousy and seriously damaged people who want it all.

It is as big and R as you can get. Keep it away from the kids.

"Fatherhood": On the other side of the spectrum we have a mushy, PG rated movie about an unprepared widowed father who tries his best to raise a daughter.

Kevin Hart, the loud-mouth, sometimes obnoxious comedian, plays so out of character in this one that he is hard to believe.

After a downer of an opener involving his wife's death in childbirth and scenes of his mother and mother-in-law trying to take control, and the baby, we get down to a bit of humor as Matt does the best he can with diaper changing and feeding. Lots of poop jokes here.

Years pass and we watch him adjust to raising a pretentious young girl, all leading to a satisfying conclusion.

The ease of train travel

Last week I assisted a mom who is deaf to travel to live with family in South Carolina. We checked in at the airport and I immediately visualized the difficulties that lay ahead in the security line. Asking for assistance from several different people, I was told nothing was available. There we were, a double stroller with a 16-month-old and a 3-year-old, a single stroller with a two-month-old, a mom who is deaf and needs someone to interpret what is being said into ASL for her, along with a service dog attached to a short leash.

We made it up to the line successfully. Six totes of possessions were neatly lined up to be sent through the scanner, as were four

Life Matters



with
LINDA
PETERSEN

pairs of shoes, a laptop, an iPad and two children's tablets. Confidence exuded from me up until the time I was told that the children had to be removed from the strollers and the strollers screened separately.

The problem became that I could not carry the two un-

restrained toddlers through the metal detector, both because they were too heavy and unwieldy to manage, but especially because I have metal in my body from my knee replacement and spinal surgery. I had to set the children down and go through the newer screening machine, leaving them free to roam. I started to panic, but did as I was told, rushing through the machine and then around to the other metal detector to get the children. The three-year-old had obediently stood there and waited, but the youngest child had crawled underneath the screening equipment and was trying to push buttons.

An angry agent stepped in to stop her from getting

hurt, which was a likely possibility given the situation. It became exceedingly difficult to corral them both and get them through. As soon as we were on the other side, the agent started talking to the mom, who, being deaf, could not understand what he was saying. She looked at me to interpret, but I was holding the two little ones and if I put them down, they would, again, try to flee. Once the stroller came through and they were secured in their seats, my hands were once again able to interpret for the mom who then came through the metal detector with infant and dog in tow. It was obvious many people were angry at our dilemma which had caused a hold up

in the screening process. My face became red hot, embarrassed by the negative attention, and tears started to sting at my eyes. All I wanted was a little help!

It took quite a while for our six totes of belongings to come through the security check, but that was mainly because the mom had brought powdered infant formula which had to be screened for combustible material. (I really DO appreciate the fact that they are diligent in keeping us all safe.) Because I would have had to leave the children unattended once again, several agents brought our things over to a table near us, for which I was extremely grateful.

By the end of this fiasco, I

was sweating so profusely that beads were falling down my forehead into my eyes, the saltiness stinging and affecting my vision. One of the security staff came over and handed me a business card with a number to call in case I ever need help again. Although grateful for the information, I could not help but wonder why none of the other airport staff whom I had asked and who saw me struggling, did not have that same information.

Going through that security line with a mom who is deaf, a service dog, an infant and two toddlers has continued to cause me nightmares.

I think that train travel is in my future.

COLLECTIBLES



Trophies of War

When I think of trophies brought back from World War II I think of flags, helmets, daggers, swords and insignia from the defeated Axis forces. I have seen thousands of veteran "bring back" items in my years of collecting and selling arms and militaria. But recently I received one that I didn't really expect.

After the German army capitulated on May 7, 1945, all arms had to be turned in. I have seen photos of piles of Mauser rifles and machine guns that were surrendered to allied forces. Not just military weapons but sporting rifles of all types came in, including one type I see quite commonly, the drilling or combination guns with two or three barrels. But it wasn't just modern guns that were turned in. There were also historic arms such as early wheellocks and flintlocks that ended up in these piles of weapons.

The gun that came to me is a beautifully made flintlock pistol. At first glance it is clearly Germanic in form with a walnut stock, a brass escutcheon plate on the wrist with foliate patterns, a brass



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

butt cap with a small grotesque mask on the bottom, engraved brass straps that run up each side of the grip, and a brass trigger guard with a face and foliate designs on the bow. It has a two-stage barrel that is octagonal at the breech and then round with a silver front sight that now

has a nice uncleaned black patina. The lock plate is ornately engraved with incised lines, a face on the tail, foliate designs and a banner marked "Io. ULRICH. MANTZ."

Some research showed the maker to be Johan Ulrich Mantz of Braunschweig, Germany. He was working between 1712 and 1755 and was the gunmaker to the Court of Brunswick. After looking at some of his other guns online, many are more ornately carved and decorated than the wonderful one I have. Like many of the European makers of the day, he also made guns for the Ottoman trade that was so lucrative during that period.

After looking at this gun, I can see why the young G.I. picked this gun out of the pile and brought it back as his trophy after defeating the Nazi's. So many times we see these types of guns and wonder what their story is and how they got to this country. I'm glad that the family of the deceased veteran passed along his story of how he ended up with it so the next owner can keep the history together with the gun.



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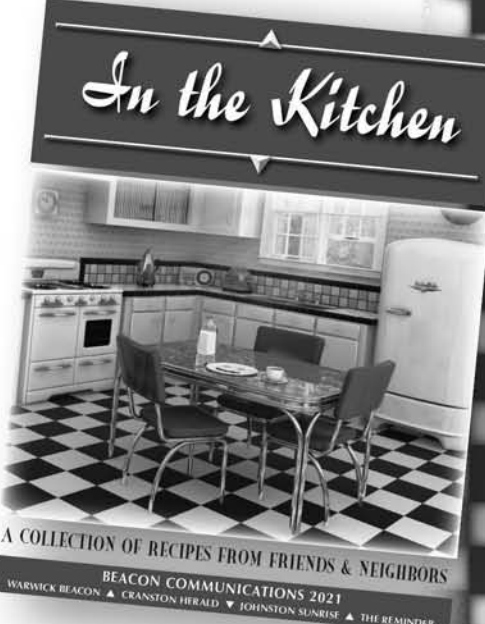


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Soldier’s letter must not be dismissed as ‘factoid’

In March 1894, Edward A. Greene, a member of Ballou Post No. 3 G.A.R. in Central Falls, presented a gift to his comrades during a post meeting. The gift was a book he had put together memorializing local men who had fallen in the face of war.

One of the profiles in the book was that of former Cranston resident Sullivan Ballou, who died of wounds received at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861. The profile included a letter that Ballou had written to his wife, Sarah, days before his death.

The letter has become world famous. However, there are some who refer to that part of Ballou’s legacy as a “factoid” – an invented fact believed to be true because it appears in print. There are some who theorize that the letter was written by someone else – Ballou’s friend Horatio Rogers Jr. being the popular alternative – to immortalize a soldier’s memory.

Rogers, who had attended Brown University with Ballou, compiled a chapter about his deceased friend for the book “Brown University in the Civil War,” published in 1868. Rogers used excerpts from numerous letters Ballou had penned to numerous people. There were letters to his aunt, letters to his wife and letters to his law partner Charles Brownell.

The idea of Rogers falsifying a letter from Ballou to Sarah, who was still alive and would have been aware of such a farce, doesn’t seem one with much purpose. Some argue that the famous letter to Sarah is much more poetic in nature than what Ballou usually wrote. On the contrary. Many of the excerpts in Roger’s chapter carry the same emotion.

One reads, “I want to see my dear little boys, around whom the tendrils of my heart cling so powerfully. And I assure you, it is a stern conflict between my affection and duty to my country, when I give up my

Back in the Day



by
KELLY SULLIVAN

children and take the battlefield in defense of the great principles of American civilization. Do not suspect me, however, of any hesitancy or misgivings ... I shall do my duty with all my might and mind, and to my latest breath. And if I cannot remain to care for my children, I shall leave them a name of which they will not be ashamed ... this is the first time such thoughts have dropped from my pen yet they fall without reserve to you.”

In a letter from Ballou to Charles, which Rogers included, Ballou wrote, “If it is my fate to fall on the field, be a brother to my little boys. I need not enlarge upon the sacred obligation I thus impose on you, nor labor to impress it upon your heart.”

On Memorial Day 1888, Comrade Nickerson of Tower Post G.A.R. read excerpts from Ballou’s now-famous letter to Sarah during his address. On Memorial Day 1902, members of Ballou Post gathered at St. George’s Church where a framed portrait of Ballou was suspended from an arch in the center of the church. Reverend Lucien Rogers read aloud a letter Ballou had written (which may have been the letter to Sarah), which was said to bring many of the men to tears.

In May 1935, Agnes Bacon, librarian at Adams Library in Central Falls, came across Green’s memorial book in the archives. Touched by the letter to Sarah, she hand-wrote a copy of it to share with the

public. It’s likely that, over the years following 1861, copies of the original were made by numerous people to refer to for their own speeches, projects and presentations.

Much of history can easily be cast aside as a “factoid.” We have no evidence of many cultural beliefs, customs or experiences other than the written word. We have no evidence other than the written word that the Bible, the Quran or other sacred texts are the words of a higher power. We have no scientific evidence supporting karma, intuition, the existence of souls or even gravity. Was Charles Dickens really the author of “Oliver Twist”? Did Leonardo da Vinci really paint the Mona Lisa? Much of life can easily be considered a collection of “factoids” if we choose to view it that way.

When Greene presented his memorial book containing Ballou’s letter to Sarah to Ballou Post in 1894, he told the crowd, “Accept this volume in the spirit in which it is given. Perpetuate the names and patriotism and lives of the citizens for you and, in another and later day, when all eyes here now shall be closed in death, men of another time shall find in the public archives your records.”

Sarah Ballou lived until 1917, 49 years of which the letter was being read aloud and published in varying formats. Certainly she would have publicly refuted its validity had it been written fraudulently following her husband’s death.

To insist that the existence of the letter be quashed is to ignore the point Ballou himself was striving to make in so many of his letters – that he was a dedicated soldier, but also a father and husband who loved his wife and children more than his beautiful words could convey.

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

That’s Entertainment: July in years past

By **DON FOWLER**

20 years ago

Child actor Haley Joel Osment starred in “A.I.: Artificial Intelligence,” an imaginative sci-fi follow-up to “The Sixth Sense.”

“The Fast and the Furious” was at the Showcase. And here we are, 20 years later, still watching Vin Diesel wrecking cars and everything within sight.

Second Story Theatre moved to School One in Providence and presented their Short Attention Span Theatre with Cranstonians Lynne Collinson and Tom Roberts starring. Larry Bonoff brought

redneck comedian Jeff Foxworthy to PPAC, followed by Huey Lewis and the News.

Gianna Giorgi and Tommy Iafraite of Cranston starred in Kaleidoscope Theatre’s “Cinderella” at Rhode Island College.

40 years ago

Gilbert and Sullivan’s operetta “Pirates of Penzance” was at Theatre by the Sea, starring Cranston’s own Gary Lynch as the Pirate King.

The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce honored the actors, staff and director Adrian Hall of Trinity Square Repertory Company

at a luncheon at the Biltmore. Chamber president Bruce Sundland praised the company for its Tony Award.

Walt Disney’s “Dragon-slayer” was a good family film.

Duke Belair was still attracting crowds to Bovi’s Tavern in East Providence on Monday nights. It cost a dollar to get in and beer was a buck a bottle.

Country star Eddie Rabbit was at Warwick Musical Theatre.

“Dames at Sea” was at West Bay Dinner Theatre at West Warwick’s Villa Di-Giorgio.

Engelbert was at the Ocean State Theatre.

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A day off, so they married

Stanley and Patricia Davies of Mallory Court, Cranston, married on July 4, 1951, "because that was the only day Stan had off from work," relates their daughter, Cathy Miller. They were married at Pat's home on Clarence Street. Stan was a member of the Cranston Fire Department and also worked for the State Fire Marshal before retirement. As Cathy observed her mother probably worked harder with a house full of six children. But then she notes they are "still in love" 70 years later. The couple has eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren with another on the way.



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By JENNIFER COATES

Summer is in full swing in New England and all of the long-postponed events of the last year are finally finding a place on calendars in every home and business across the state. Throughout the region, summer leagues are gearing up on ball fields, weddings and fundraisers are happening, business functions are being held and final details are being put on charity events planned for venues far and wide.

All these special summer events provide excellent opportunities for small businesses or organizations to promote their products or services. These are also events which call for personalized mementos which will make them memorable, unique and timeless.

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Some of the seemingly endless products available



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One of my early questions to someone telling me that they are thinking about retirement is not about money. I ask, "What will you do to fill up the time that you are currently devoting to your work?" I do get some funny looks! Those that can answer with multiple activities, be it hobbies, travel, crafts or volunteering seem to be the most likely to have a successful retirement from an enjoyment perspective. Those that have trouble answering the activity question seem to struggle more often than not when it comes to enjoying their retirement.

Another simple issue is debt level. If you are still making minimum payments on your credit cards, chances are that you are not in a position to retire comfortably. Credit cards should be used for convenience or to get points for rewards and should be paid off entirely each month. The interest rates on credit cards are still outrageous, even in this historically low-interest rate environment. Don't get caught up in that trap. Also, having too high of a mortgage payment will strain your finances in retirement leading to the same conclusion, you may not be ready to retire.

Another issue that might show that you are not ready to retire is if you

absolutely love your job! Obviously, not everyone does, so, if you do (like me!) then you are fortunate indeed! Perhaps you could consider slowing down and working fewer hours and ease yourself into your full retirement.

Now, back to the first issue above, having enough money to retire comfortably. First, we believe that the financial industry advertisements in various media that throw out the \$1 million-dollar golden retirement savings figure is doing a huge disservice to the public. Setting such a lofty retirement savings figure/amount/goal may simply turn people off from saving for retirement as the \$1 million figure seems so insurmountable to them or they tell themselves and us in our meetings that they will never retire or stop working because they can't afford to retire.

However, the true or real answer to the question is simply a function of math and is solely reliant on each individual's or a couple's particular financial circumstances. In other words, the answer is most heavily reliant or dependent on what your annual life-

style expenses are. Then the second part of the equation is to determine the total amount of retirement income that is available from all sources and seeing if there is a shortfall or surplus. If there is a shortfall, then we simply total up all available assets and determine how much annual income can be generated from these assets annually to help cover the shortfall.

In our practice we use a simple method to calculate if a client is in the ballpark of their retirement goal. This is just a quick estimate based on the dollar amount invested and their lifestyle expense. Of course, we use a financial software to do the "heavy lifting" of income calculation for retirement, this is just a simple way to determine if they are close.

Let's use a figure of \$30,000 that must come from their assets, in addition to their Social Security income and or pensions, if any. Multiply \$30,000 times 25, which is \$750,000. If they are near that number, we feel as though we can help them retire comfortably. The \$750,000 could generate \$30,000 of income by generating 4% growth on the

investments. Right now, this is considered a low average rate of return over time for money invested in the stock market, so, if that 4% will cover their initial income needs at the outset, then a portfolio can be constructed that will provide income for life using specialized insurance products and the opportunity for growth of the portfolio invested in the market to account for future inflation.

If there is a surplus after subtracting all sources of annual income from annual lifestyle expenses then this is generally a good indicator or sign that you have enough income to retire and are ready to retire successfully.

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Smart Ways to Keep Travel Spending in Check

FAMILY FEATURES

With more people getting vaccinated, many are looking forward to reuniting with loved ones and making up for lost vacation time. However, budget is often a primary concern when planning a trip.

To help make your money go further, consider these tips from the travel experts at Vrbo.

Explore a new destination: With pent up travel demand, many popular travel destinations have already been booked months in advance. Instead of visiting traditionally popular locales, consider an under-the-radar destination like Cherry Log, Georgia; Bella Vista, Arkansas; or Slade, Kentucky, which all offer scenic views and outdoor adventures. Before booking, check for any travel advisories or restrictions for your destination.

Be flexible with dates: Rather than selecting your dates first and finding a destination that works for your selected date range, choose a destination then see what accommodations are available. For example, doing an undated search through a vacation rental company like Vrbo can yield a wider selection for a particular destination, including some budget-friendly options. After selecting your lodging, check the dates to determine when it's available or most affordable and plan your trip accordingly.

Fly on off-peak days or times: If flying to your destination is necessary and you're not on a tight schedule, being flexible with the time of day you fly, the number of stops or having a longer layover can translate to a more affordable price. Generally, flying earlier in the week or later in the day is less expensive than flying closer to the weekend or taking the first flight out.

Book now, pay later: When securing lodging and other amenities like rental cars, you can often book your reservations without paying the full amount up front. Whether you simply place a deposit at the time of booking and pay the rest upon arrival or split the total cost into monthly payments, this type of option can provide an added level of flexibility when budgeting for and planning your trip.

Book accommodations that offer length-of-stay discounts: These days, remote work and school allows for flex-



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

ibility while traveling, and there are discounts to be found if you choose to stay for longer than just a few nights. In fact, some vacation rental hosts offer discounts for new listings or week- or month-long stays. Vacation rental companies like Vrbo allows travelers to use filters to find discounted properties when searching for a place to stay.

Look for free activities: If you research your destination before departing, you'll likely be able to find free or low-cost activities that interest you. Check community calendars to find events while you'll be in town and consider options like museums, art galleries or national parks, which are often free to the public or offer discounted admission on certain days or at specific times each day.

Take advantage of public transportation: One of the best ways to get to know a city is to walk everywhere, but that isn't feasible in all cities and locations. Rather than renting a car or using ride-sharing services, look for public transportation

options such as buses or subways that are more cost-effective when possible. Also consider a frequent-travel card if you'll be traversing your destination more than

once or twice.

Visit Vrbo.com more resources and information to save money on your next adventure.

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RhodyMoney

The benefits of travel insurance

METRO

This summer, many people will take traditional vacations for the first time in a couple of years. The COVID-19 pandemic put vacation plans on pause in the summer of 2020. But now that hundreds of millions of people have been vaccinated against COVID-19, the summer of 2021 figures to see a significant uptick in travel.

According to the data identity firm Adara, domestic flight and hotel bookings for travel between July 1 and August 31, 2021, tripled between February 1 and mid-March. July and August mark peak summer vacation season, and the increase in flight and hotel bookings suggests a growing confidence that summer travel will once again be safe in 2021.

With so many people returning to travel this summer, now is a good time for vacationers to consider travel insurance, and why it could be the best accessory travelers can have in the months ahead.

Trip cancellations and interruptions

No one knows what lies ahead in the summer of 2021. Though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated travel is safe for people who are fully vaccinated, travel insurance could provide a safety net should travelers need to cancel or interrupt their trips. The financial experts at NerdWallet note that travel insurance policies may reimburse travelers whose flights were canceled or whose trips were interrupted. Consumers should determine just what is covered in regard to interruptions. A Cancel for

Any Reason addendum, also known as a CFAR, is one potential option travelers can consider. Such an add-on allows travelers to cancel their trips for any reason and receive a partial refund for what they paid.

Lost or damaged baggage

Airlines will no doubt welcome a busy travel season this summer after a largely lost, financially devastating 2020. United Airlines acknowledged in January 2021 that it lost \$1.9 billion in the final three months of 2020. Summer 2021 will hopefully help airlines get back on track, but the challenges of accommodating such a significant uptick in travelers could increase the likelihood that baggage is lost or damaged. Travel insurance policies can provide a safety net against lost, damaged or even delayed baggage.

Medical emergencies

No one wants to imagine having a medical emergency while on vacation. But such incidents happen, and a travel insurance policy can cover travelers for emergency medical expenses, including transport home. That could be an especially important benefit during an era when public health remains somewhat unpredictable.

Travel is making a comeback this summer. Travelers who want a little extra security on vacation this summer can purchase a travel insurance policy to protect themselves against the unknown. TF217102

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Local eateries participate in Restaurant Weeks

By DON FOWLER

The Providence/Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau continues its traditional Restaurant Weeks through July 24, offering a wide variety of lunch and dinner specials at bargain prices.

We have discovered a number of great restaurants over the years and plan to concentrate on some of the nine special offers in the Warwick/Cranston/Johnston communities this year.

WARWICK
IRON WORKS at 697 Jefferson Blvd. has always been a favorite. On my first visit I ordered their gourmet meatloaf and my love affair with this classy but comfy restaurant began. The three-course dinner begins with creative appetizers, like cauliflower and lentil fritters and includes creative fish and meat dishes. No price was listed. 739-5111.

ELIZABETH'S OF PORTOFINO at 897 Post Road had me hooked on their garlic cloves and fresh bread, waiting for you at the table, as you choose one of their classic three-course Italian dinners (\$34.95). 461-8920.

TAVALO at 2099 Post Road offers both lunch (\$15.95) and dinner (\$29.95) choices. If we go for lunch, I want the braised pulled beef shank. For dinner, it's the braised short rib. Joyce has her eye on a calamari dish. And they have

tiramisu for dessert. 389-7573.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE'S in Warwick offers a \$25 lunch or dinner with choice of bang bang shrimp or dumplings for appetizer, a chicken of penne dish for main course, salad and cake. 739-5637.

CRANSTON
AVVIO in Garden City offers a family-style dinner. No further details at deadline. 942-8920.

CHAPEL GRILLE in Chapel Hill has a \$34 special from Wednesday through Sunday. I can't wait to try the Atlantic salmon chowder, seared salmon (I love salmon) and their patented Chapel Sundae. 944-4900.

CHASKA, the unique Indian-style restaurant in Garden City, has a \$12 luncheon special featuring specialty salads and your choice of tacos or flatbread. I'm trying the Madrin Shrimp. 573-7900.

LEGAL SEA FOODS in Garden City had not announced its menu at deadline. 732-3663.

JOHNSTON
LUIGI'S at 1359 Hartford Ave. has always been our favorite Johnston restaurant. They are offering a number of items on their menu for \$49.99 for two people.

For information on other participating restaurants in Providence and beyond, visit providencerestaurantweeks.

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GENERAC

EG Art Club announces upcoming programs

The East Greenwich Art Club is currently accepting new members and looking forward to some exciting activities this fall.

The club was formed in 1959 by local artists who came together to support each other while developing their art. It is a vibrant organization today, promoting the production, exhibition and sale of its members' art. Membership is available to both beginners and seasoned artists. During the monthly meetings, demonstrations are given by various artists to help members improve their skills and learn about other approaches to create interesting works of art.

The club is friendly and membership is not limited to East Greenwich residents. Anyone who enjoys painting, photography, pottery, glasswork, sculpting, or just wants to learn about art, is encouraged to join. Meetings are conducted in a fun atmosphere, providing both technical support and camaraderie. Here is a list of upcoming free activities for members and non-members.

* The club will be participating in the **Arts on Main Chalk the Block** and **Art Stroll** (sponsored by the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce) on Thursday, July 15, on Main Street in East Greenwich from 5 to 8 p.m. Come meet us and see demonstrations and artwork.

* **Come see the member exhibit and public reception at Crestar Framing**, 51 Liberty St., East Greenwich, on Oct. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Members will be able to participate in these activities:

Aug. 3, Plein Air at Roger Williams Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct. 1-29, Exhibit at the North Kingstown Free Library

Oct. 28 to Nov. 27 at the Cranston Library

The first meeting and demonstration will be on Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Hall, 30 Pierce St., East Greenwich.

Please email info@eastgreenwichartclub.org if you need more information or would like to join the club.



"Catania after the Rain" by Linda Sanfilippo

Westerly native opens TBTS summer season

By DON FOWLER

Westerly native Nicolas King opened Theatre-by-the-Sea's Summer Concert Series with a polished, personal program that he called "Hindsight's 2020," reflecting on the pandemic and how it affected everyone in the nearly sold-out Friday night audience.

King mixed some familiar tunes with a number of cabaret-style songs I had not heard before, backed by drums, bass and fabulous Rhode Island jazz pianist Mike Renzi.

Renzi has played with many of the jazz legends around the world, but always finds time to return to his roots.

Poppy Champlin, a comedian, actress and singer with Rhode Island roots, takes the TBTS stage on Friday, July 16, at 8 p.m. for her latest show, "On the Funny Side of the Street with Poppy Champlin."

A URI graduate, Champlin has appeared on the Joan Rivers and Oprah Winfrey shows

and was the subject of a feature story on "Entertainment Tonight." She has also taught stand-up comedy at the Courthouse Center for the Arts.

Nicholas Rodriguez, whose Broadway and national tour credits include "Tarzan" and "The Sound of Music," will be performing an evening of love songs from pop and Broadway composers on Saturday, July 17, at 8 p.m.

Emily Luther, another native Rhode Islander, will bring her concert to the barn theatre on July 23.

Luther has appeared on the "Ellen DeGeneres Show" and season 13 of "The Voice." She was in the ensemble of "Evita" at Theatre by the Sea back in 2008. She is currently creative arts director for Mount St. Charles Academy.

Tony nominee and Emmy winner Liz Callaway, the original voice of "Anastasia," will round out the concert series on Friday, July 23, at 8 p.m.

FringePVD returns with slate of performances, events

Tickets and festival passes are now on sale for FringePVD: The Providence Fringe Festival, which runs July 18-31.

Founded in 2014 by The Wilbury Theatre Group and presented since 2017 by The Wilbury Group in collaboration with WaterFire Providence, FringePVD brings together more than three hundred individual theatre, music, dance, multimedia and performing artists for two weeks of performances in and around WaterFire Arts Center, as well as online.

Single tickets and Fringe Passes, which grant entry to any in-person/online show, are available at FringePVD.org/artists-2021.

This year's FringePVD features 25 in-person performances and 22 online performances at 10 stages, including a mobile flatbed stage. Stages include multiple sites on WaterFire Art Center's Campus, as well as performance spaces at the Steelyard, The Nichol-

son File, the new Farm Fresh building on Valley Street, and businesses along The Greenway. In addition to stages for the in-person performances, FringePVD will also feature a streaming studio, on-site, for audience members to view the online performances from WaterFire Arts Center.

FringePVD kicks off this year on Monday, July 19, with an Opening Night Party from 7 to 9 p.m. The event is sponsored by TROOP and features performances by the Rhode Island Ukulele Armada and The Providence Drum Troupe.

FringePVD will continue its community focus with free events throughout the festival including a Family Fringe Day (July 26), live performances of "Capture the Block" (July 30-31) and a free Humanities discussion, "What is fringe?" (July 26).

For a full performance roster, schedule and ticket information visit fringePVD.org.

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Sports



ALL-STAR: Cranston East's Johan Nawrocki makes a throw to first base against Johnston. *(Photos by Alex Sponseller)*

East looking to make statement

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Cranston East Little League 12 year old All-Star team has been one of the top units in the state to this point of the summer tournament, winning each of its first two games over Silver Lake and Johnston to punch its ticket to the District I semis against crosstown rival Cranston Western.

After missing all of last summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 12's have returned to action and have been one of the surprise teams to this point.

"We always feel that we are a contender for a district title and maybe some more. Those are the expectations. We run a really solid program, and obviously coming back after not playing last year was a challenge, but it has been a good year," said 12's manager Mark Paesano.

East has been averaging over 10 points per game



GRINDER: Cranston East's Eliser Merejildo fields a ground ball.

EAST- PAGE 23

CWLL rolling in District I tournament

By ALEX SPONSELLER

The Cranston Western 12-year-old All-Stars have jumped out to a hot start to begin the summer tournament, collecting big wins over North Providence and Foxpoint to advance to the District semifinals against crosstown rival Cranston East.

The CWLL offense has been on fire in the early going, including a 10-point shutout performance over Foxpoint. Despite not being

able to compete last summer, the 12's have not missed a beat since the last time they were together, which was 2019 when they won at regionals.

"These kids have all been together for a few years and are all into hard work which is great. It's been great, they were looking forward to it and have done a great job," said CWLL 12's coach Gary Bucci. "They find a way to get on. Whether it's getting a hit, bunting, walking, we

CWLL- PAGE 23

The best level of baseball

My pitch



by
ALEX SPONSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

ALEXS@RHODYBEAT.COM

Over the course of the past decade or so, Major League Baseball has been on the decline as America's Pastime. The viewership has been sinking and the quality of play has become oftentimes tough to watch.

I love baseball as a sport and always have. Baseball has the richest history of any North American sport and has an incredible culture from youth all the way to the pros. Whether it be clubhouse characters or the bright stars on the field, or the sights, sounds and smells of the ballpark, to the crack of the bat and the snap of the glove, it's a tradition like no other.

Then in terms of the on the field product, baseball can be incredible to watch. There are the obvious situations that can electrify a ballpark. Whether it be a close extra inning affair, a grand slam, all those flashy plays.

But on the other end, watching a low-scoring match is almost like watching a chess game. There is so much nuance and situational awareness that is required before the actual gameplay. It can be one of the most fascinating sports to watch.

So, why has professional baseball taken such a hit recently? For a few reasons.

First off, the games at the pro level are just too lengthy, with average game times exceeding three hours.

With 162 games on the schedule, it is just about impossible for someone to devote that many hours each season. Even for diehard fans, you can't expect someone to devote three hours a night to a game, and that's assuming it lasts the typical length.

Baseball has never been a fast sport or one that is built for an impatient person, but nowadays, it's excessive and only trending in the wrong direction. The league has made some adjustments like in extra inning rules and has experimented with pitch clocks and whatnot. Either way, the length of games is the biggest issue.

The next issue, and really all the issues from this point on are related to game length, or vice versa, they're all connected.

But the next issue in play here is player egos. The players nowadays come from a different environment than former players. They have been softened by youth programs and travel leagues and have been pampered every step of the way.

Thanks to that, these players have no interest in changing their ways for the sake of the product. They

don't want pitch clocks, they don't want a reduction of innings played, they don't want rules involving speeding up at bats. Every idea the league has considered has been resisted by the players and it is because they are selfish and set in their ways.

Just look at the ongoing issue with the use of foreign substances for pitchers. The league is simply asking pitchers to stop doctoring the balls and it has created a frenzy. Pitchers have been struggling and whining every step of the way.

The game won't slow down until the players make adjustments ... but their egos will absolutely not allow that to happen.

The last issue is the emergence of other sports. This one does not require as much of an explanation. Ultimately, kids and young adults are more interested in other sports and it is a direct response to game length and the quality of play. Each passing season the sport is losing more and more ground.

So what is my point exactly?

My point is that baseball is one of the greatest sports on earth and it is a shame to see its highest organization failing.

My solution is simple: Follow the Little League model.

The local Little League All-Star tournaments are being played so I was able to watch some action last week. One thing is for sure, watching these games is the most enjoyable form of the sport there is.

Even at the high school level, games can drag on and be a little too ticky tack.

At the youth level though? The total opposite. Pitchers pitch the ball, batters hit the ball, and fielders field the ball. No nonsense, no on-field rituals, no overthinking, they just go out there and play the game.

Little League baseball at this point is the anti Major League Baseball. The games never drag on, get dull, and have you clock watching. Players are not

PITCH- PAGE 24



LAY DOWN A BUNT: Cranston Western's Ezra Small gets set to drop down a bunt last week against Foxpoint. The CWLL 12 year old All-Star team won its first two games of the tournament and took on crosstown rival Cranston East on Wednesday evening for a shot at the District I Championship this weekend. *(Photos by Leo van Dijk/rhodyphoto.zenfolio.com)*



THE THROW TO FIRST: Cranston East's Camden Fermin makes a play.

■ East

(Continued from page 21)

while also holding teams to low scores as well. Paesano and his staff have been proud of the way their team has stepped up and feels that it is trending in the right direction at the right time.

"Our the bats have been rolling and we have about a month and a half worth of practice to this point. The kids are determined, the coaches are determined to see how far we can push this thing. Our goal is always Williamsport. This will be one of the biggest challenges that we've ever faced, but the kids are riding high."

Next up for East is Cranston Western, who has been the premier league in the state

over the course of the past three decades. Once again, East will enter the match as the underdog, but Paesano has faith in his team and believes that remaining confident will only help looking ahead in the tournament.

"The biggest thing moving forward is just to continue the confidence level that they're at, to continue the determination, these kids have a lot of heart. They have what it takes and are clicking on all cylinders," said Paesano. "Obviously Cranston Western is the big dog, but we have confidence in these kids to get the job done. That is what's going to keep these guys going, believing in themselves. They are really growing into a family."

The two teams played on Wednesday evening, but the results were not available at press time.



SWINGING AWAY: Cranston Western's Matt Gomez takes a swing.

■ CWLL

(Continued from page 21)

have a lot of ways of getting on base. We don't have a lot of boppers, but we do have a few kids that hit the ball hard so we have been trying to play the small ball along with those guys."

Expectations have been sky high for this unit since its big run two years ago. The kids have answered the bell to this point and are emerging as the favorite to win the state championship once again.

Bucci has been pleased with the group's demeanor and its ability to respond to pressure.

"They have a quiet confidence, not cocky at all. And that is a good thing because you can get knocked off at any point in this tournament. Their confidence level is good, it's not over the top and they have reflected that

in their performance," Bucci said.

Bucci added: They are aware of (the expectations), and if they're not, their parents will let them know. Our league, in this area, kind of has a target on its back which is OK. We are the league that people are gunning for. Those expectations lead to pressure, how do you fight that pressure? Preparation. That's why we try to prepare and practice as much as we can. And we are at it pretty much every night."

Moving ahead, Bucci believes that the key to success for this team will be to focus on each day and to ignore the outside noise.

"We are at it, and we just need to keep going," Bucci said. "We just need to keep practicing and hope that that preparation helps some of that pressure. It won't eliminate all of it, but you hope that preparation will help eliminate some of, if not most of it."

The two teams played on Wednesday evening, but the results were not available at press time.

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Fluke bite mixed, some tips to enhance your catch

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

The summer flounder (fluke) bite has been mixed this season with some nice fish being caught off Block Island on the south side and a monster fish 15.24 pounds caught off Newport by angler Greg Vespe. But overall the bite has been sluggish.

Anglers catching fluke are working for them fishing edges to find the fish that are there. Last week we went to ten different spots to find the fish. All of these spots were pre-selected based on wind and tide moving in the same direction and the fact that we would be fishing edges. By edges we mean the base of a jetty or bridge pylon, the edge of a reef, an uphill or downhill sloop underwater, etc.

So when fluke fishing is off, you have to work for them. Plan where you will fish first, second, third, etc. the night before based on recent wind forecast and tide. Hopefully you will be rewarded with some nice fish, even in difficult times, to take home and in the process catch some nice eating black sea bass.

The minimum size for summer flounder is 19 inches with a six fish/person/day bag limit with the fluke season running until December 31. Here are ten fluke fishing tips I like to remind myself of when planning a trip.

- Wind and tide should be in line as you want to drag (or drift) over the front of the fish so it sees your bait, drift over the back of the fish and it may never see your bait.

- Fish low/high/low bottom... this means fishing channel breaks, edges of structure, etc. My largest fluke have been caught on edges.

- Match the hatch tipping with squid, blue fish, bass, silversides, mummies, minnows. Often times whatever we catch (or seem to be in the water where we are fishing) I will cut up and strip for the fluke rigs.

- Trailer teasers work, my largest fish have been caught with the trailer stinger bucktail

- Find the fish, repeat pattern ... noting both location and depth
- Power drift (putting boat in and out of gear to go slow) for movement at slack tide

- Both jigs and traditional fluke rigs work

- Fluke face into current to feed, drag bait over front of fluke from boat or shore
- Power drift or troll perpendi-

cular when wind and tide not ideal

Personal favorite is big bait... Capt. Monti's fluke cocktail ... squid rig tipped with squid, fluke belly and horizontal minnow, believe that big baits catch big fish, you will catch fewer fish with a big bait arrangement but they will be larger.

Register this week for the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament, July 24 and 25

The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament starts Saturday, July 24, 5:33 a.m. and ends Sunday, July 25, 12 noon. There will be an 'After Party' at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony.

Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks, tournament host, said, "This is a length only tournament with entries made electronically on a smartphone application. You never have to land on the Island to win but you might want to attend the 'After Party'. Winners will be posted online."

Tournament entry fees are \$100 per boat for up to four anglers, \$25/person for additional anglers; and \$25/shore angler. Capt. Willi said, "Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Ørsted Tournament sponsorship we are able to donate 100 percent of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue."

Tournament highlights include over \$10,000 in VISA card prizes, swag and tackle shop gift certificates. Fish fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish with boat, shore, youth, team and photo divisions. For information and to register visit www.sandypoint-co.com/bi-inshore-tourney.

Where's the bite?

Striped bass and bluefish. Brendon Roden of Breachway Bait & Tackle, Charlestown, said, "Striper fishing from the beach has been slow with some shorts being caught at night. However, it has been lights out for striped bass fishing at Block Island. Overall things slowed with the storm at the beginning of the week but started to pick up once the weather cleared." John Littlefield of Archie's Bait and Tackle, Riverside said, "The striped bass fishing in the upper Bay has slowed down a lot with some fish being caught at Providence Point and Kettle Point." "Striper fishing in



GETTING READY: Fluke and black sea bass caught at the Block Island Wind Farm. Anglers are preparing for the July 24 and 25 Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament. (Submitted photo)

the Conimicut Point, Rocky Point and Warwick Neck area has been very good. Anglers are catching slot fish (28 inches to less than 35 inches) trolling tube & worm as well as live lining and fishing with chunks of Atlantic menhaden (poggies). And, they are using ells at night with success," said Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box, Warwick.

"Fluke fishing at Block Island has been very good while fishing along the southern coastal shore has been slow. When you find them it is a steady pick of shorts with some keepers mixed in," said Brendon Roden of Breachway Bait & Tackle. Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box said, "Customers are catching fluke off the beach side of Conimicut Point with some doing well at Warwick Light." John Littlefield of Archie's said, "The fluke bite has not been outstanding. One customer fishing the Newport bridge area with some pretty good drifts caught 17 short fish and no keep-

ers on Sunday. They were using squid and mummies. Some customers are catching fluke at Warwick Light but it is a slow pick most days and other days there are no fish there at all."

Black sea bass fishing has improved a bit with fish being caught off Newport in the ocean and the Bay. John Littlefield of Archie's said, "Customers are starting to catch black sea bass all the way up to Sabin Point which was unheard of in past years." Passarelli from the Tackle Box, said, "The sea bass bite at Warwick Light has been good for customers." "Large black sea bass are being caught along the coastal shore with very nice keepers being taken around Block Island," said Brendon Roden of Breachway Bait & Tackle.

"Scup fishing continues to get better with good sized fish being taken just about anywhere in the East Passage," said Passarelli of the Tackle Box. John Littlefield of Archie's said the scup bite is hit

or miss. Some days guys are catching 35 fish and others just 5. Lavin's Marina and Colt State Park continue to produce scup for anglers."

Freshwater fishing softened a bit with the warm water last week but continues to be consistent. "Anglers are still catching trout at stocked ponds with a decent largemouth bite on days that are not too hot," said Mark Passarelli of the Tackle Box. "Ponds producing for customers include Sandy and Gorton Pond in Warwick, Carbuncle Pond in Coventry; and Silver Spring in North Kingstown."

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

Pitch

(Continued from page 21)

old enough yet to have fully formed egos, so they do not think about each play the way that pros do. They just want to have fun and play the game.

The product is a fast-paced, high-scoring event that is gen-

uinely exciting and unpredictable.

That is another point for me to add on here. In professional baseball, once a team falls behind three or four points, the game is effectively over.

Not at the youth level though ... seems like every team is capable of putting up three or four runs in any given inning.

I know that this idea is a little out there, but I really do think Major League Baseball should look at what works for Little League when trying to come up with solutions. I wouldn't be opposed to the league trimming games from nine innings to seven and trimming the schedule from 162 to maybe 142. It also needs to be heavy handed in enforcing

new ways of speeding the game up, regardless of what the players' gripes are.

Little League baseball, especially during All-Star time, is one of the best sports to watch because of all of the aforementioned items. It's just a great community tradition with some fun games to watch and that are unpredictable. As a lifelong MLB fan, it truly

saddens me to see the game continue to work its way backwards and to even see myself laboring to make it through a single contest. Having said that, Little League baseball is one of the few things keeping my love of the game intact and should be recognized as the best level of baseball there is ... because that's the truth.



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