

COVID curbs buses, closes Barnes School

Already in short-supply, bus drivers forced to quarantine

By RORY SCHULER

Many members of Johnston's already depleted pool of eligible and willing school bus drivers are now isolated in quarantine.

Earlier this week, suddenly, parents who rely on school bus transportation in Johnston to get their kids to school had to scramble to find another option.

Then, on Wednesday evening, the district announced the problem was rectified and bus service would re-

turn Thursday.

"(Tuesday) afternoon we were informed that some of our bus drivers were close contacts," Assistant Superintendent Julie-anne Zarrella said Wednesday morning. "We reported this news to RIDOH and they instructed us to where we are now. We are doing our very best to keep our students safe and in school. This situation was very unexpected."

Zarrella wrote parents with "an

■ BUSES - PAGE 4

23 cases & counting in big elementary school 'cluster'

By RORY SCHULER

Packets of schoolwork await students outside the main entrance doors.

The grounds were quiet, except for the helpful voice of a school office employee talking through a slightly opened window.

Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School in Johnston has been closed for the week after a significant COVID-19 outbreak.

Barnes Principal Jill Souza said the school, at last count, had 23 positive cases (15 students and 8 teachers/staff).

She also said several staff members have been hit hard by the virus.

"Some members of our staff are very ill," Souza said Tuesday. "As a leader, I want to keep everyone safe."

Souza distributed a statement to parents, guardians, staff and faculty.

"After reviewing all data on recent cases and infection rates from the past 24 hours at Barnes School and in an effort to keep all students, faculty, staff, and families safe, I am suspending

■ BARNES - PAGE 5

HAIL TO THE EX-CHIEF

JPD Station renamed 'Richard S. Tamburini Public Safety Complex'

By PETE FONTAINE

They toasted "Tambo" — a mighty man people called a class act, a mentor, role model, a dapper dresser and the epitome of a "cop's cop" — Saturday morning inside the jam-packed Johnston Municipal Courthouse.

"I'm here to honor a living legend!" exclaimed U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-Rhode Island). "We've been friends for years. Richard's whole life has been about service and that's why we are all here today."

That's also the way top-ranking officials from the state's law enforcement community and political leadership described Richard S. Tamburini, who was honored with the once-in-a-lifetime and emotional experience of naming the Johnston Police Department headquarters on Atwood Avenue in his name.

The ceremony, as current Johnston Chief Joseph P. Razza, who succeeded Tamburini, said during his heart-warming welcome: "This is a special honor to memorialize and commemorate a career filled with and worthy of the utmost respect."

Razza called upon the JPD Honor Guard to present the colors, then introduced Alicia Bedrosian, who delivered an inspirational rendition of the National Anthem.

"It is truly an honor for me to emcee this event and to pay tribute to his long and distinguished career in law enforcement that spanned 54 years, 25 of which he was our chief here in Johnston."

He then called upon Pastor Chris Abhulime from King's Tabernacle Church who also serves as Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Daniel McKee, for the opening prayer he followed with a special State of Rhode Island Citation for Tamburini.

■ CHIEF - PAGE 6



MONUMENT UNVEILED: Johnston Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisenia Jr., who proposed the naming of the Richard S. Tamburini Public Safety Complex and JPD Chief Joseph P. Razza, remove the protective covering at the conclusion of Saturday's super ceremony for the former JPD chief in honor of his 54-year career in law enforcement. (Photos courtesy Johnston Police)



FIRST FAMILY: Richard S. Tamburini is joined by his wife Marie and family; daughter Lisa Tamburini, son Joseph Tamburini, daughter-in-law Erica Tamburini, grandson Drew Tamburini, granddaughters Jessica and Cecelia Tamburini and sister Roseann Cerbo during Saturday's heart-warming dedication ceremony.

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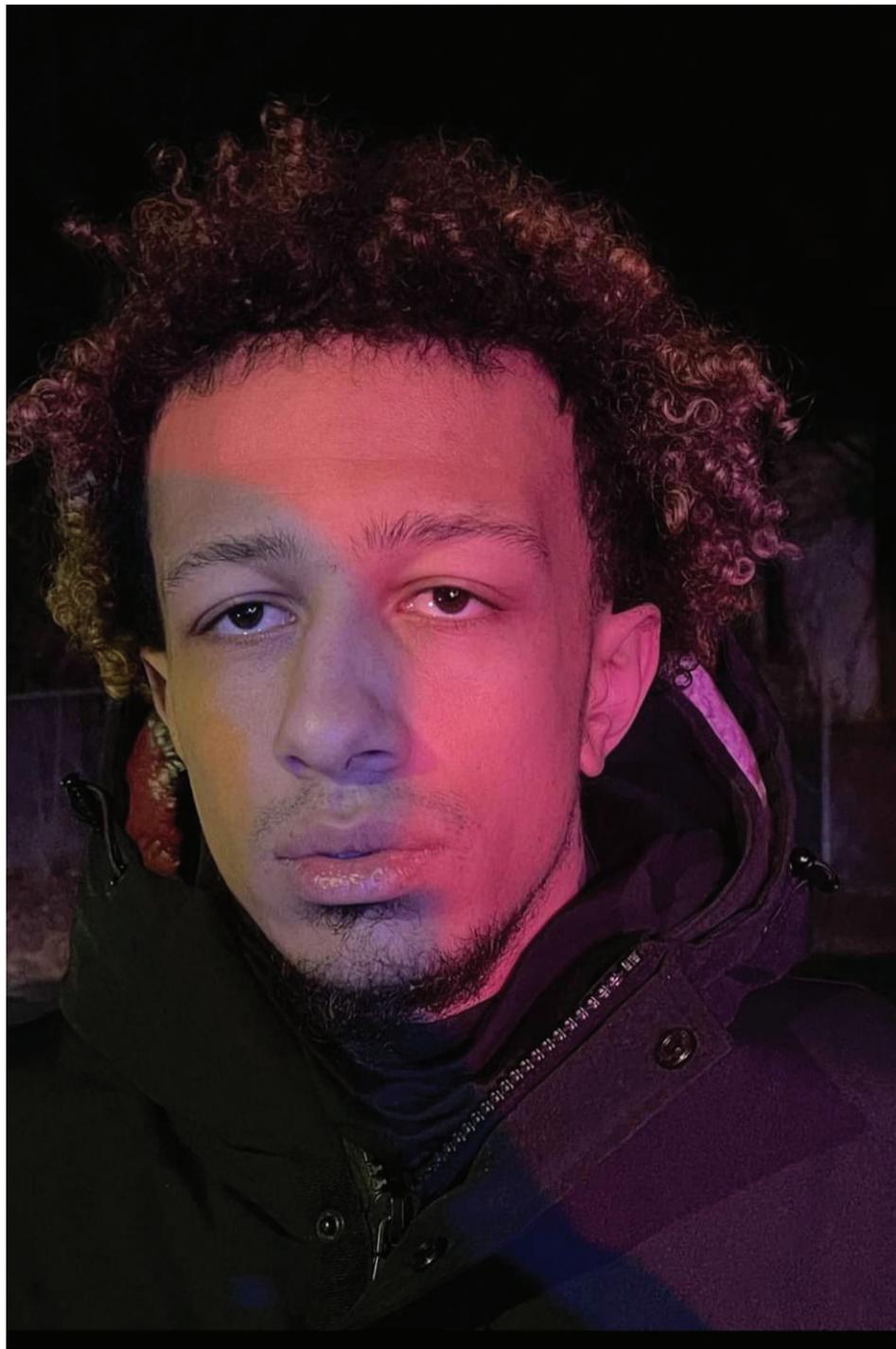
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SUSPECT AT-LARGE: Johnston Police are asking anyone with information regarding the location of Derrick Eugene Jemison to contact the Department at 401-231-4210. (Photo courtesy Johnston Police)

Johnston Police release photo, ask public for help locating at-large attempted larceny suspect

By RORY SCHULER

Johnston Police are looking for a man they believe may be responsible for an attempted theft in town.

The department released a photograph of the suspect and is asking the public for help locating the individual.

"The Johnston Police Department seeks the public's assistance in locating a suspect wanted in a recent larceny attempt," according to a statement from Chief Joseph P. Razza.

Johnston Police are looking for Derrick Eugene Jemison, 24. Jemison is wanted in connection to an attempted larceny that occurred on the evening of Dec. 7, according to Johnston Police.

"During the course of the investigation, it was revealed through video surveillance that Jemison attempted to gain entry into unoccupied vehicles parked in residential areas off of Plainfield Street," Razza said in a statement. "Those who have information regarding the location of Derrick Eugene Jemison are asked to contact the Johnston Police Department at 401-231-4210."

Johnston experienced a rash of attempted vehicle break-ins and car thefts over the past two months. They recently released images of an individual wearing a mask and a hood testing door handles in several neighborhoods. Now, they've released the image of a suspect in at least one case.

"As you know, we've committed time and resources into apprehending those individuals who are responsible in these recent thefts and are committed to bringing them to justice," Razza said Friday. "This is a quality of life issue that is paramount to the Johnston Police."

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Razza said Jemison remained at-large.

"He's still out there," Razza said.

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Need a first jab, booster or a test?

Independent Atwood Pharmacy offers walk-in jabs & swabs

By RORY SCHULER

Zahan Akbar filled the syringe with a booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Delivering jabs and testing customers for the virus consumes larger and larger portions of regular business hours each day at the Atwood Pharmacy.

It can be difficult to find a same-day appointment for a booster shot in Rhode Island. Virus testing is also in high demand, as the Ocean State reports its first confirmed case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant.

An independent, privately owned pharmacy like Atwood, however, offers walk-in appointments for testing, vaccines and boosters. The Atwood Pharmacy, at 1302 Atwood Ave., Johnston, also offers all three types of approved COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

"We actually completely ran out of tests last week," said Akbar, owner of Atwood Pharmacy, as he took just a second to deliver a booster in a quick, practically painless jab. "We've resumed now, and we should be good for a while."

The pharmacy was forced to stop offering tests late last week, after a new wave of infection washed over the region, depleting testing supply stocks. After the arrival of a new shipment, Atwood Pharmacy is again offering walk-in testing, boosters and initial vaccinations.

Waiting times for booster shot appointments, made via state-sanctioned points-of-distribution, can be as much as 1-2 weeks. The holidays have also increased demand for both vaccinations and virus tests.

Last Saturday, Dec. 11, Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee and the state Department of Health (RIDOH) announced Rhode Island's "first case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant (variant B.1.1.529) has been identified."

"The case was identified through the ongoing genomic surveillance program coordinated by RIDOH's State Health Laboratories," according to a press release.

According to the DOH and McKee's office, "the individual who tested positive is a person in their 20s who lives in Providence County and recently returned from travel in New York. The individual completed a primary vaccination series and had no record of a booster shot."

Facing an increasing case backload, the state is conducting contact tracing tied to the first confirmed Omicron case.

McKee was scheduled to announce a "comprehensive set of actions to address an increase in COVID-19 cases and alleviate pressure on our hospital system while at the same time keeping schools open for in-person learning and preventing economic disruptions to small businesses" on Wednesday afternoon, according to a statement from his office.

Schools are seeing dramatic increases in infections. The Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School in Johnston has closed for the week following an outbreak among students.

The Atwood Pharmacy has been helping to provide rapid and PCR virus testing for "close contacts" identified by Johnston School District contact-tracers.

The pharmacy is also reaching out to Cranston Schools to help provide high-demand testing, vaccinations and boosters.

"It's a time-sensitive manner, especially with parents and children, and with the state having limited supplies," said Cranston native and Atwood Pharmacy Manager Jester Lippert. "We've been working really closely with the Johnston School District, as well as starting to open up to Cranston Schools. They can send their students here for testing. So that we help the community; it's protecting the students, it's kind of reducing the stress off of parents, as well as kind of helping us build our brand in the community."

Atwood Pharmacy rapid testing costs about \$35, and is eligible via reimbursement from customers' insurance carriers.



IMMUNITY BOOSTER: Zahan Akbar, owner of the Atwood Pharmacy, has watched demand for COVID-19 tests, vaccines and booster shots climb quickly over the past few weeks. Akbar holds a Pfizer booster shot, moments before delivering it. (Sun Rise photos by Rory Schuler)

Results are available in about 10 minutes. The Atwood Pharmacy accepts most (nearly all) forms of insurance.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, required for students to return to school, are free, and Lippert said the pharmacy's contracted laboratory has been able to send results in about 24-48 hours "in most cases."

The state has also started "encouraging 16- and 17-year-olds who have completed the primary COVID-19 vaccine series to get booster doses in Rhode Island," according to a press release. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their recommendation for booster doses for everyone 16 and older, and booster doses have been suggested to help fight the new, spreading Omicron variant.

"Rhode Island has been experiencing high levels of COVID-19 community transmission since August 2021 and we have seen the transmission rate increase significantly during the last several weeks," according to the DOH. "With expected new variants, people spending more time indoors, and the high rate of community transmission, hospitalizations in Rhode Island are predicted to increase over the coming weeks and into early 2022. Although the dominant strain of COVID-19 is the Delta variant, the Omicron variant has been identified in neighboring states and is expected to cause a significant number of COVID-19 infections in Rhode Island within the coming weeks and months. Booster doses are a critical tool to help limit spread and prevent serious illness."

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St. Robert Bellarmine Church

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 Rev. Richard A. Narciso, Pastor
 Joseph P. Tumminelli, Deacon Assistant

Friday, December 24th — Christmas Eve
 4:30 PM — Vigil Mass
 10:00 PM — Christmas Prelude Music with Tom and Paula Roy
 10:30 PM — Mass

Saturday, December 25th — Christmas Day
 10:00 AM — Mass
 Mass WILL NOT be celebrated at 5:00 PM.

Saturday, January 1st — New Year's Day
 10:00 AM — Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
 Mass WILL NOT be celebrated at 5:00 PM.

In the midst of all that this most wonderful time of year has to offer, let us be sure to respond to the invitation to allow the peace, hope, love and joy of the Christ Child to fill our hearts, minds and homes throughout the entire Christmas season and the whole new year, too.

St. Rocco's Church

927 Atwood Avenue, Johnston – 942-5203

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24
 5:00 PM - Christmas Mass Vigil
 11:30 PM - Christmas Carols
 12:00 AM - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25
 8:00 AM (Bilingual Italian/English) -11:00 AM

New Year's Day

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 Saturday, January 1, 2022 - 8:00 AM

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 1, 2022
 5:00 PM- Feast of the Epiphany Vigil Mass
 Sunday, January 2, 2022
 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon

May the Peace and Joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and throughout the New Year. I will remember you and your loved ones with warmth and love as I celebrate Mass this Christmas.

Our Lady of Grace Church

15 George Waterman Road, Johnston
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Christmas Eve – December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
 3:30 PM – Christmas Concert
 4:00 – Mass

Christmas Day – December 25

The Nativity of the Lord
 12:00 AM – Traditional Midnight Mass
 9:00 AM – Christmas Day Mass

December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 4:00PM

Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church

229 Wilbur Avenue, Cranston – 944-0864
 The Rev. Barbara DaCosta

Sunday, November 28

9:30 AM – First Sunday in Advent.
 Worship Service including the “Hanging of the Greens.”

Sunday, December 5

9:30 AM – Second Sunday in Advent.
 Worship Service including Children's Christmas Pageant with special Christmas coffee hour and indoor caroling.

Sunday, December 12

9:30 AM – Third Sunday in Advent.
 Worship Service with musical program led by the Sanctuary Choir.

Sunday, December 19

9:30 AM – Fourth Sunday in Advent.
 Worship Service with a special Christmas message by Bob Butzier for the children in us all.

Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 PM – Christmas Eve service. Featuring special music, readings and an inspirational message for all.

Sunday, December 26

9:30 AM – Worship Service. Join us for a Carol Sing and Christmas Devotional by Pastor Barbara.

Sunday, January 2

9:30 AM – Holy Communion and dedication of the New Year to God.

■ **Buses**

(Continued from page 1)

important update” late Wednesday evening.

“I am happy to share good news with everyone,” Zarrella wrote. “Beginning tomorrow, all buses will be scheduled to run as usual. We are safely able to transport ALL Johnston students for the remainder of this year.”

“Students attending St. Rocco’s and Trinity will still require their own transportation until further notice,” the message to parents continued. “Thank you to Durham Bus, JPS Facilities, Nurse Valerie, our Administrators, and the Johnston Police for their help in expediting this process and keeping our students safe. Lastly, thank you to our parents and guardians for your understanding while we conducted our COVID protocols.”

Parents lined up outside open Johnston schools Wednesday morning to drop off students.

The Johnston Police Department stepped up to help keep the situation running as smooth-

ly as possible.

School administrators expected the problem to linger past the Holiday break.

On Wednesday night, Zarrella was relieved the situation was solved.

“We are good to go tomorrow,” she said. “I’m thrilled!”

The Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School in Johnston closed this week after tests results revealed more than 20 cases of COVID-19 in students and staff.

District administrators are coping with multiple staffing issues, virus outbreaks and contact tracing, and now the transportation dilemma.

Since the start of the school year, the district has struggled to hire and keep school bus drivers.

“We were already short four drivers, and now have 13 drivers out due to COVID protocols/quarantine,” Zarrella said Wednesday morning.

“Hence, the recent outcome. This morning ran very smoothly in spite of the lack of busing. We are hoping dismissals run just as well.”

State transitions to ‘community located’ COVID-19 vax sites

By RORY SCHULER

Saturday, Dec. 18, will be the last day to get a jab at Sockanosset Cross Road in Cranston, as COVID-19 rates surge in the Ocean State, and Rhode Island transitions to new strategies for fighting the virus.

“Responding to the public request for COVID-19 vaccination sites that are closer to home, Rhode Island will be running approximately 100 COVID-19 vaccination clinics in settings such as schools, churches, senior centers, and many other community sites over the next month,” according to a press release from the state’s Department of Health. “These clinics are in addition to the vaccination opportunities in pharmacies and the offices of many primary care providers.”

The list of community clinics can be found at: covid.ri.gov/vaccination.

“COVID-19 booster doses are available at many of these clinics,” according to DOH. “All Rhode Islanders who are 18 and older and who completed a primary COVID-19 vaccination series should get a booster dose. (If you got Pfizer or Moderna for your primary series, you can get a booster dose at least six months later. If you got Johnson & Johnson for your primary series, you can get a booster dose at least two months later.)”

As the strategy shifts, “operations at Rhode Island’s remaining state-run and municipal-run vaccination sites will wind down,” according to the DOH.

Sockanosset Cross Road, at 100 Sockanosset Cross Road, Cranston, will cease regular operations Dec. 18, and the final day for “regular operations at the East Providence vaccination site (585 Taunton Avenue, East Providence) will be Dec. 29.”

“The vaccination site at Sockanosset has administered approximately 211,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine since opening in January 2021, and the East Providence site has administered approximately 21,000 doses since opening in May 2021,” according to the DOH. “Vaccination provides protection against serious COVID-19 illness. Pairing vaccination with other prevention measures, such as testing, masking, ventilation, and physical distancing, is key to preventing COVID-19 transmission in Rhode Island.”

Rhode Island launched state-run and municipal-run





CLOSED FOR COVID: Sarah Dyer Barnes Elementary School in Johnston has been closed for the week after a significant COVID-19 outbreak. (Sun Rise photo by Rory Schuler)

Barnes

(Continued from page 1)

in-person learning and activity for all classrooms at Sarah Dyer Barnes School," Souza wrote. "Unfortunately, the school cannot sustain in-person learning due to the high percentage of students out and staff shortages. This guidance is based on existing research, public health recommendations, current policies, and input from the RIDOH."

"Students will have access to work packets and their teacher's Google Classroom where work will be posted by classroom teachers who will be checking in with students throughout the day," the principal's message continued.

"This temporary classroom closure starts (Dec. 14) and continues through Friday (Dec. 17) for all children/students and staff/faculty from all classrooms," Souza wrote.

Students in Grades 3-5 who were in school last Friday, took Chromebooks home already.

"If your child was not in school today or in Grades K-2, the school will call you tomorrow to set up a time to come to pick up the Chromebook," Souza wrote.

"The estimated return to in-person learning for students is Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, we will update you if this status changes," Souza concluded. "We encourage you to watch for all symptoms of COVID-19 and we suggest that if you or anyone in your family are experiencing one or more of the following: fever, cough, loss of sense of taste and/or smell, shortness of breath, or fatigue to schedule a COVID-19

test immediately. Lastly, thank you for your patience and support, it is truly appreciated."

According to the response to an emailed request for comment, Johnston Schools Superintendent Dr. Bernard DiLullo Jr. is "not in the office this week and (has) limited accessibility."

He referred questions to Assistant Superintendent Julie-anne Zarrella.

"Every sniffle is a worry," Zarrella said Wednesday. "I have parents who don't want to send their kids to school right now. And I have parents who have to send their kids to school. It's our priority to keep our staff and kids healthy. Our nurses are working extremely hard."

Souza watched a subtle rise in COVID cases in the school immediately following Thanksgiving.

On Monday, Nov. 29, two students tested positive, she explained. By mid-week, a teacher tested positive, and then three or four more students by the weekend. By the next week, the number of confirmed infected students and staff had climbed to 14.

"It was a big jump," Souza said. Rigorous contact tracing began.

Prior to closure of the school, the principal watched enrollment decrease by 35 percent (around 90 percent of the school's 283 students were absent; kept home by parents or quarantined).

"Due to the cluster at Barnes, the DOH has stated that anyone with one symptom is now required to stay home," Zarrella wrote in an emailed response to questions on Tuesday. "Our determination to make these changes are based on data and the advice of the RIDOH. If we need to close a class-

room, it is due to the high number of positive cases, close contacts, and/or staff shortages. Teachers who are able to work from their classrooms (have not tested positive and are not quarantined), are not interacting with other staff members, but will remain in their room throughout the school day, and will check in with their students periodically."

Other schools in the district have been struggling with rising cases of the virus, however Barnes has been hit recently in recent months. Winsor Hill Elementary dealt with an outbreak early in the school year, but only closed for one day after more than 20 cases surfaced there.

"All of our school sites have been impacted, but not as severely as Barnes," Zarrella said. "All schools experience new positive cases daily. Ferri continues to struggle with staff shortages, and the ECC is another school that has had to make adjustments to the learning."

Through it all, school

staff has been working hard to provide a safe, stable school environment. The virus, however, has made an already unprecedented situation more difficult.

"As you can imagine this has been extremely stressful for administrators, nurses, staff and teachers," Zarrella said. "We do our best to keep everyone safe as that is our top priority, but schools cannot shoulder sole responsibility. We need everyone's help especially now during the winter and holiday season."

The school closure was primarily linked to the lack of staff (with several teachers out sick) and extreme lack of substitute teachers.

"The decision to do what we did (close Barnes), was based on the staff shortages there," Zarrella said Wednesday. "The teachers who are not ill are teaching. Some are quarantined and teaching at home. Some are not quarantined, and teaching from their classrooms. Everything we've done has been with state guidance."

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by Rochelle Rhodes, D.M.D. and David McFarland, D.D.S.

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Chief

(Continued from page 1)

In all, there were nine guest speakers who continuously eulogized Tamburini, a seasoned police officer who, as each person emphasized, led the Providence Police and Johnston Police in highly-impressive proficient police protection of the citizens in Johnson as well as the state's largest city.

One of the speakers was the Town Council member who proposed Saturday's tremendous tribute and testimonial.

Last year, when Tamburini announced he would retire as JPD chief, Johnston Town Council Vice President Joseph Polisena Jr. proposed naming JPD headquarters in the Tamburini's name.

The idea met with instant agreement. Razzo thought it was a good idea. Johnston Mayor Joseph Polisena wholeheartedly endorsed the idea. And then it was presented to the Town Council and was quickly and unanimously endorsed by President Robert V. Russo, Linda Folcarelli, Lauren Garzone and Robert Civetti.

"We were all in agreement," said Russo, who heaped words of high praise upon Tamburini during his speech and presentation of an official town commendation. "Everyone loves and salutes the chief for making the JPD one of the best police departments in New England."

From there, a dedication committee that included Polisena, his son, Chief of Staff Doug Jeffrey, Janet Whitely, the mayor's administrative assistant and Razza was formed and the result turned Saturday's dark and dreary weather into a sparkling sunshine.

Polisena led off the speaking program and after thanking the audience for coming he began: "Remembrance is something we all think about at one point. How we will be remembered by our family, friends and our community. When thinking of how all of us remember Chief Tamburini's tenure in law enforcement, only one world came to mind — 'legacy.'"

Polisena Jr. then added: "A legacy is never defined by one act, good or bad. It's defined by a series of acts, words and choices an individual makes throughout their

life and career. Today, Chief, we honor your legacy as an individual who spent over a quarter century as our police chief ... But chief, it's not just your length of service that matters, it's what you did for all of us during that service that truly defines your legacy."

He also emphasized under Tamburini's leadership the JPD became one of the most well-respected police departments, not just in Rhode Island, but all of New England. He achieved this feat by attaining accreditations from the RI Police Accreditation Committee and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Tamburini also improved the JPD's standing in the law enforcement community but more importantly the department's standing in Johnston by implementing programs such as bicycle patrols, Walk with Cops and the award-winning JPD Explorers Post.

"Being a police officer embodies selflessness," Polisena Jr. noted. "All of us here would encounter any risk to protect our family and one's we love. What makes police officers different is they encounter daily risks and do it to protect total strangers."

Given that, Polisena Jr. concluded: "Chief, today, we want you to know that we recognize your legacy and selflessness to the community for not just the past 25 years, but for the last 54 years protecting not just Providence and Johnston but all Rhode Islanders. And always know, that your legacy will continue to endure for generations with not only police officers, but with all resident of this community."

Mayor Polisena, who thanked his son for spearheading the idea that led to Saturday's ceremony, declared during a moving but brief speech: "As the Chief began his career 54 years ago protecting the streets in Providence as a cop's cop to becoming JPD chief and statesman for 25 years leading the men and women of the JPD. He was a role model and his love for the job and our town is why we are here today. This very special day to dedicate the building across the street to the Richard S. Tamburini Public Safety Complex."

The Mayor also noted

"the Chief's love for law enforcement and the men and women on the job still continues to this day. But most of all is his love for his family; his wife Marie, children Joseph and Lisa and grandchildren and you can see his love and compassion for them when he speaks so fondly of them. And to Marie, you have been and still are the rock for the Chief; and that doesn't go unnoticed."

The speaking program also included Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, Attorney General Peter Neronha, PPD Col. Chief Hugh Clements, YMCA Executive Director and retired State Police Colonel Steven O'Donnell and of course, the Chief Rev. Peter J. Gower, the JPD Chaplain gave a beautiful blessing for the unveiling of the granite monument that was created specially by A. Scialto & Son Monuments, Inc. in Cranston.

Thus, Tamburini in his usually classy way issued a host of thank you's for "this beautiful honor you have bestowed upon me today."

"Thank you Johnston for coming together to recognize and honor my law enforcement career," he said. "Thank you Joseph Polisena Jr., Mayor Joseph Polisena and Chief Joseph Razza, you were the catalysts who put this together and again I have to say thank you."

Tamburini, as he read from a prepared text, added: "I have tremendous gratitude for your combined efforts to recognize my law enforcement career. I am sincerely humbled and grateful that you are sharing this honor with me. Over 50 years ago I made a critical decision in my life and chose a profession in law enforcement. It is a decision I did not take lightly. It is a decision that I have not regretted. I enthusiastically signed up for his life and never looked back."

The Chief also talked about another decision — the one he made 55 years ago when "I asked my beautiful wife Marie to marry me."

"This was virtually important to both of us; a decision we have never regretted," Tamburini said. "Together we have two outstanding children, our daughter Lisa and son Joseph, and four beautiful grandchildren — Jessica, Angelica, Drew and Cece — who were all the greatest gifts of our lives."



TERRIFIC TRIBUTE: Mayor Joseph Polisena and U.S. Senator Jack Reed (right) were among the many dignitaries who spoke during Saturday's extraordinary unveiling of the Richard S. Tamburini Public Safety Complex named in honor of the recently retired and highly-respected former JPD chief. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)



CHIEF'S CORNER: Providence Police Col. Chief Hugh Clements is all smiles he joins Richard S. "Tambo" Tamburini, who before his extraordinary 25 career as Johnston Police Chief, served in the Providence Police Department.

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SPECIAL SUPPORT: Doug Jeffrey, Mayor Polisen's Chief of Staff, former JPD Deputy Chief Dave DeCesare, and Paul Martelini (a former North Providence chief), join Richard S. Tamburini during Saturday's special dedication of the public safety complex in Johnston.

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POLICE PALS: Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha was among those speakers who had high praise for Richard S. Tamburini during Saturday's official unveiling of the public safety complex named in honor of the long-time now retired JPD chief.

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CLERGY CORNER: Pastor Chris Abhulime of King's Tabernacle Church and Our Lady of Grace Pastor/JPD Chaplin Peter J. Gower delivered powerful prayers during Saturday's official naming of the Richard S. Tamburini Public Safety Complex in Johnston.

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McKee announces new mask rules

By ALEX MALM

As COVID-19 cases continue to surge across the State and country, and Rhode Island is currently processing more PCR tests than at any other time during the pandemic response, Gov. Dan McKee announced new mask regulations during a press conference Wednesday afternoon. The regulations go into effect Monday, and will be reviewed in 30 days.

"The health and safety of Rhode Islanders must always be our top priority," McKee said. "The comprehensive actions that my Administration is announcing today focus on what we know works to stop the spread of COVID-19 and alleviate pressures on our hospital systems. I want to thank all the Rhode Islanders who have stepped up to get vaccinated - and I'm now urging you to get your booster shot."

For masks McKee laid

out three different categories for masking requirements as a way to mitigate the spread of COVID.

Indoor venues (including retail, restaurants, venues of assembly, and entertainment establishments) with a capacity of 250 persons or more, masking will be required of employees and patrons inside regardless of vaccination status. This will apply to all recreation and entertainment establishments, all historical and cultural establishments, all religious and faith-based organizations, and all retail or service businesses conducting operations in indoor venues.

For venues with a capacity of fewer than 250 persons, masking or proof of vaccination will be required of employees and patrons inside. This will apply to all recreation and entertainment establishments, all historical and cultural establishments, all re-

ligious and faith-based organizations, and all retail or service businesses conducting operations in indoor venues.

Establishments can adopt either an across the board indoor masking requirement, an across the board vaccination requirement, or allow individuals to either be masked or show proof of vaccination.

All office-based businesses, manufacturers and other public or private employers with indoor operations shall require either masking or proof of vaccination for all persons on their premises.

Office-based businesses will also adopt either an across the board indoor masking requirement, an across the board vaccination requirement, or allow individuals to either be masked or show proof of vaccination.

"The comprehensive set of actions that the Governor announced today focus on the tools

that will get us through this surge in cases and help alleviate capacity issues and stress on our health care systems," said Director of Health Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH. "Masks are effective at limiting the spread of COVID-19, and getting your primary vaccine series and your booster dose makes it much less likely that you will get seriously ill from COVID-19. There are dozens of vaccination opportunities all throughout Rhode Island every day. If you have gotten your primary series or your booster dose, get vaccinated today."

Testing accessibility and test result wait times

According to a press release from McKee's office "Rhode Island currently leads the nation in tests per capita."

But on Wednesday, McKee announced that the State is "taking action to strengthen the state's COVID-19 testing strategy."

A press release from the Governor's Office said that Health Equity Zones and community partners will support the distribution of tests to residents.

"Using these tests, Rhode Island will be able to test approximately 10% of its population over the next two weeks," the press release stated. "The Governor has requested an additional 1 million at-home rapid tests from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which will allow the State to provide rapid tests to all 39 cities and towns."

Because of the high volume of PCR tests McKee has directed RIDOH and the Department of Administration to swiftly explore additional laboratory capacity to help reduce COVID-19 PCR test result turnaround times.

Tom McCarthy, Executive Director for Rhode Island's COVID Response said that right now 150,000 COVID tests

are being conducted per week in Rhode Island.

"Additionally, Gov. McKee announced that Rhode Island will continue to expand its test to stay initiative," the press release stated. "Test to stay enables students who have been exposed to COVID-19 - but are asymptomatic - to test each day before going into school instead of having to quarantine. The initiative helps keep kids in school and reduces interruptions to learning."

Test to stay will be expanded to East Providence, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Barrington, Tiverton, Blackstone Valley Prep and the Learning Community charter school.

Addressing hospital staffing capacity

McKee on Wednesday sent a letter to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell requesting FEMA medical personnel to assist in the State's response to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations by providing emergency staffing for local hospital systems, according to a press release.

"The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is currently working with hospital leadership to complete the formal FEMA Resource Request process," the release stated.

McKee also announced that he will be forming the Governor's Working Group on Health Care Staffing Capacity. The group will be made up of both state and private sector leaders in the health care and workforce sectors. Together, they will explore additional short- and long-term solutions to the health care staffing challenges facing Rhode Island.

McKee said that additional details would be shared next week.

On Wednesday, the leaders of Rhode Island's two largest health care providers said that they were pleased with the plans put in place by

McKee.

"Care New England fully supports Gov. Daniel McKee's newly unveiled COVID-19 protocols that will directly address the issue of community spread, during the pandemic," said James E. Fanale, President and CEO, Care New England Health System. "Care New England, as other health systems throughout the state, is dedicated to treating patients, and in many cases, saving lives. We must do everything within our power to mitigate the spread and keep Rhode Islanders healthy this winter, as we see COVID-19 infection rates and hospitalizations rise."

"These actions are greatly welcomed and needed. The pandemic has driven burnout among healthcare workers to crisis levels. The situation in our hospitals remains extremely difficult - we have far fewer healthcare workers to care for patients than we did even a year ago," said Lifespan President and CEO Timothy J. Babineau, MD. "Many patients are presenting with more acute illnesses and conditions requiring longer inpatient hospital stays and more intensive treatment. In addition, the post-holiday rise in COVID and flu infections are putting additional pressure on our already stressed workforce. Public health measures including vaccination, masking and social distancing will help reduce the burden on the health care system and help to bring this pandemic to an end."

Businesses that have questions on these new measures can call the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation hotline at 401-889-5550 or complete an electronic form at taskforce.dbr.ri.gov.

For more information on COVID-19 visit, covid.ri.gov. To book a COVID-19 vaccination and booster shot, visit vaccinateri.org.

ANIMAL TALK

By Karen Kalunian

Local  Adoptable  Loveable



Photo credit: Rebecca Bernardo-Hartley

GRUMPY

His name might be Grumpy because he's named after one of the "Seven Dwarfs" but he's not grumpy at all, in fact he's a sweet boy! Grumpy and his litter mates are available for adoption at EGAPL Heart of RI Animal Rescue League located at 44 Worthington Road Cranston, RI. They are all young mixed breed pups, shy, sweet and playful. You can see them during the shelters open hours: Wednesday 3-7, Thursday and Friday 12-2 and Saturday 10-2. You can also call 401-467-3670 or visit their website for more information at www.heartofri.org Let's help all of the little "dwarfs" find loving homes for the holidays!

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

animaltalk1920@gmail.com



■ Sites

(Continued from page 4)

run vaccination sites, like those in East Providence, Cranston, Middletown, and Providence (at the Dunkin Donuts Center) "early in the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out to support a surge in demand and to help vaccinate as many Rhode Islanders as possible as quickly as possible," according to the DOH.

"Similar to planned shifts in testing strategy, Governor Dan McKee and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)'s vac-

cination strategy is focused on supporting vaccination at the local level and returning some of these activities to pre-pandemic providers," according to a DOH press release.

"Since Oct. 1, retail pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens, and Stop & Shop have administered approximately 65% of COVID-19 vaccine doses to Rhode Islanders. Pharmacies continue to be extremely important partners in vaccine administration and will play a significant role moving forward."

Smaller, private pharmacies also pro-

vide vaccines, boosters and COVID-19 testing. The Atwood Pharmacy, 1302 Atwood Ave., Johnston, will provide shots and tests to walk-ins.

"All COVID-19 vaccination options will continue to be available at C19VaccineRI.org," according to the DOH. "Schedules and appointments for these vaccination sites will continue to be available at vaccinateri.org. Rhode Islanders can continue to call the COVID-19 information line (401-222-8022) or 2-1-1 for information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines."

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Remote participation must be allowed

There have been very few silver linings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but realizing the potential of remote participation in municipal meetings has been one of significance.

During the statewide lockdowns of 2020, government bodies not exactly notorious for being able to quickly react to unanticipated incidents of change found themselves forced by necessity to adapt in order to allow the peoples business to go on unimpeded.

Some towns and cities have done better than others. While some communities have installed full-blown technological suites within their town halls utilizing multiple cameras and microphones to produce high-quality public meetings, others get by with one old camera and a dodgy Zoom connection. Others are waiting on electronics that may not be delivered until the chip shortage is relieved in 2023 or 2024, and some clearly intend on limping to the uncertain finish line with inadequate tech, unable or unwilling to invest in more due to constrained budgets and no imperative to do differently.

And they might have gotten away with it too, but the pandemic has once again, as it has often done, forced its hand through an uptick in positive cases including a troubling trend of cases breaking through vaccinated persons. The result is a repeat of 2020, where members of the public are now shut out of governmental participation out of a rational fear of a renewed risk of catching COVID and jeopardizing or at least disrupting their lives particularly as there is no longer an indoor mask mandate and many people have gone back to, largely, not wearing masks at all, except when forced.

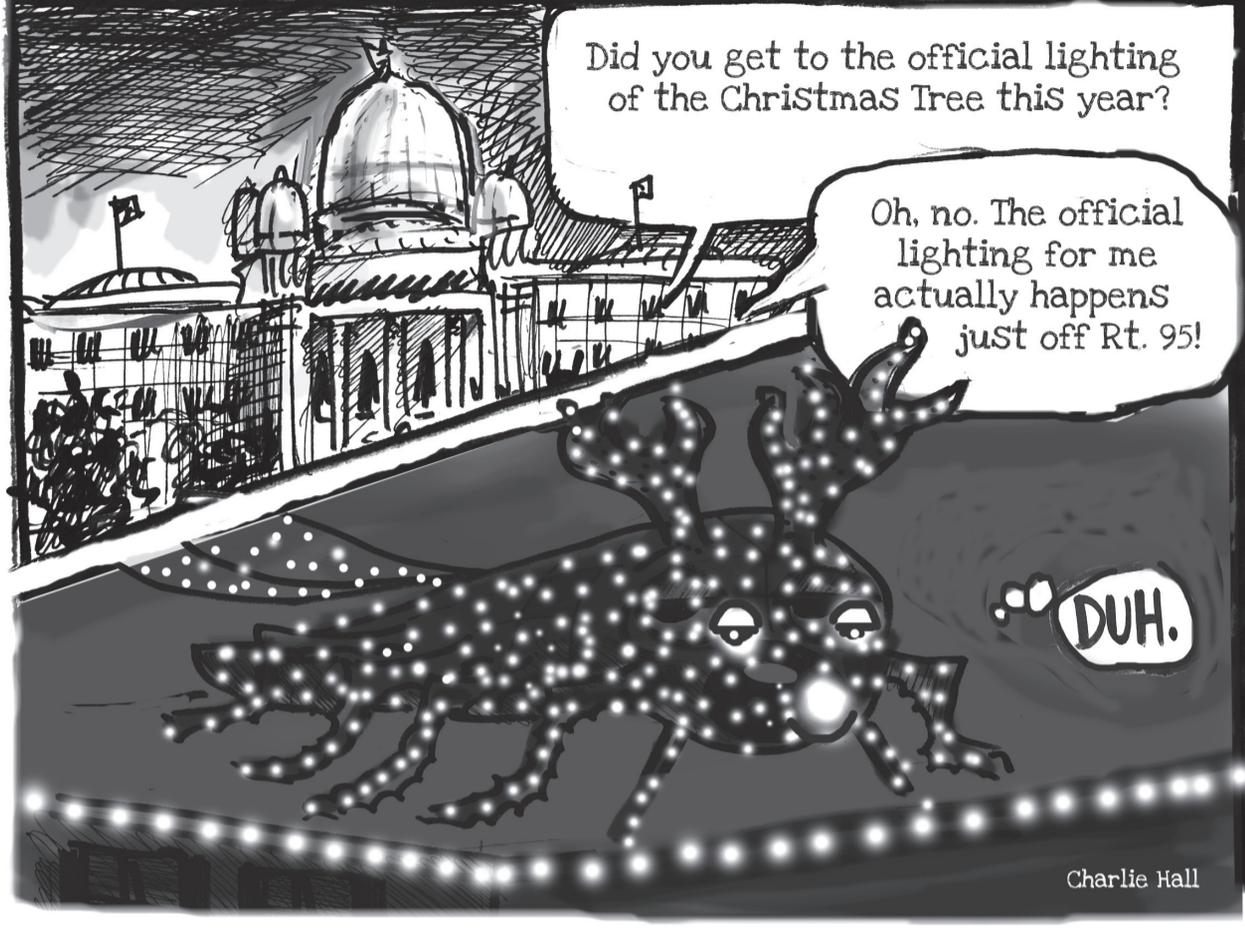
But the effect goes beyond the voting public, and extends to the elected officials the public puts in office. Because Rhode Island does not allow its representatives at the state or local levels to participate in an official capacity while remote a temporary executive order allowing this expired over the summer elected officials have the possibility of being shut out of the very democratic process they were entrusted and compelled to participate in.

In the current uncertain conditions, where in-person meetings are no longer feasible for members of the public and elected officials who either get sick or have to quarantine due to a close contact, there is no logical reason to prevent remote participation in any capacity.

Legislation or a new executive order must be put through immediately to prevent governmental repercussions born from an inability for citizens, elected or otherwise, to participate. In 2021 and beyond, democracy should no longer be required to happen under one roof.

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

utilizing multiple cameras and microphones to produce high-quality public meetings, others get by with one



Charlie Hall

Are we suffering from a dearth of Christmas spirit?

It's not a question I would have thought of asking a couple of weeks ago. After all it's not until after Thanksgiving that it seems appropriate to get a tree, put out the lights and shop for gifts.

I thought for sure this was going to be a cheery Christmas season given the early purchase of trees and talk of filling wish lists. Come to find out word of a possible shortage of Christmas trees, ships laden with merchandise stuck offshore and breakdowns in the supply chain, spurred many to get a jump on the season. It was a faux read on the feeling of this Christmas season.

The pandemic takes the blame for most things we can't explain these days. Surely, even though so many of us have been vaccinated, it has put the damper on so much of what we do. Variants of the virus have us wondering if COVID-19 will be with us for longer than imagined. That thought alone is enough to send a shiver through the season.

Inflation has been a hit. With the dollar not going as far, there's apprehension and a tendency to hold back, maybe even on Christmas spirit.

What really gave me reason to question if we're all sagging this season was the photos with Santa event jointly sponsored by Warwick Police, the Warwick Boys and Girls Clubs and the Beacon last Sunday.

The Beacon started doing photos with Santa more than 35 years ago. I've been the photographer at all of them and vouch that they are fun. What's exciting is seeing the joy and wonderment of kids even when Santa's bushy eyebrows fall off (that's happened). We've had some good Santas over the years. Santas who get kids talking, imagining they hear the hooves of reindeer on the roof and wanting to stay by

This Side Up



by JOHN HOWELL

his side for as long as their parents allow. In such cases they are deputized as Santa helpers to hand out candy canes and collect letters to Santa. And then there are the criers, those who have anxiously waited, yet want to flee when it comes their turn. They're not hard to spot and I make a point of getting at least a head shot before the tears so we have something for the paper.

We've held the Santa shoots at multiple locations. For a couple of the early years we did it at the Ben Franklin's at Hoxsie Four. Other venues include the Veterans High School cafeteria with the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce breakfast with Santa and, of course, at the offices the Beacon has had over the years.

Usually a group of us show up early to set things up. Christmas music was a must as were munchkins and cider for the kids and candy canes for Santa to hand out. One year, as people lined up for Santa to arrive, our Santa who we believed would be wearing a suit showed up in casual attire. At first we thought this was a practical joke, only to learn he thought we had the suit.

We went into panic mode, and remarkably given such short notice, located a suit. Byron Batty and his

wife Carol who ran a photo studio had the perfect suit. Albeit late, everyone was happy to see Santa.

This year was dramatically different. A lot of work went into transforming the gym at the Oakland Beach branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs into Santa's workshop. Police made the event part of their annual toy drive, but with a twist. Kids were invited to throw snowballs - not the real thing - at the cops as they popped out from behind artificial trees and out of big boxes. As it turned out that was a hit. Kids and cops had a blast.

The turnout was disappointing. In total, fewer than 40 kids had their photos taken with Santa. Mayor Frank Picozzi wasn't surprised.

He observed there just isn't the Christmas spirit of prior years. Although given more publicity this year, Picozzi said attendance at his home digital show is down from prior years - even from last year when he had to abbreviate the show because people stayed in their cars. He observed that he hasn't seen as many neighborhood home displays, too. He's right.

He hasn't let it get him down. He decorated his office and urged municipal employees to do the same. And when it came to doing a Christmas greeting video for Facebook and the city website, he called on department directors to join him. He was in for a surprise. Many were not simply satisfied with standing in front of the camera to mouth, "we wish you a happy and healthy holiday." No, they wanted to make it a special occasion. Firefighters want to get out the word from a truck, others planned Christmas attire.

Frank has a contagious form of Christmas spirit. We could all use a little more of what he's got this year.

Publisher
John I. Howell Jr. - JohnH@rhodybeat.com

Credit Manager
Lynne Taylor

General Manager
Richard G. Fleischer - RichardF@rhodybeat.com

Bookkeeping
Leslie Paz

Advertising Director
Donna Zarrella - Donna Z@rhodybeat.com

Production Manager
Lisa Bourque Yuettner - LisaB@rhodybeat.com

Editor
Rory Schuler - RoryS@rhodybeat.com

Production Staff
Monique Rice - MoR@rhodybeat.com

Sports Editor
Alex Sponseller - AlexS@rhodybeat.com

Advertising Representative
Natalie Payette - NatalieP@rhodybeat.com

Journalists
Pete Fontaine

Spotlight Profile Writer
Jennifer Coates - JenniferC@rhodybeat.com

Classified Advertising
Sue Howarth-SueH@rhodybeat.com

Circulation
Leslie Paz

Tel. 401-732-3100
Fax: 401-732-3110

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Letter to the Editor

'I pray for all service men and women'

To the Editor,

I served with the 101st Airborne Division 1968 - 1969 in the northern part of Vietnam close to the DMZ. The higher ups referred to the region as I Corp.

We spent little time in Camp Eagle, which was the headquarters of the 101st and served as our base camp. Mail call was rare when you were not in base camp. Remember that this was before cellphones and computers. There was no instant communications. You always anticipated a letter from family and friends with updates of life back home. If you were lucky you received a package. It might even have cookies or brownies. These were always appreciated, especially when you were not in base camp. Thus, mail call was a special time.

While serving my tour, part of our company was sent to run daily mine sweeping duties. Once the road was cleared, convoys would transport troops and munitions to various areas in the northern region of Vietnam. Our small base of operations from November - January was alongside a Navy Seabees' compound. One of the big differences between the Seabees and the Army was the comforts.

The Seabees being a construction battalion, built full fledge compounds. Their accommodations included good places to sleep, kitchens with dining areas, recreation areas, a movie night every so often and more. The Seabees were very hospitable to us. When we could, we used their hot showers, enjoyed their recreation areas, and ate in their galley. This was a far cry from C-rations and no entertainment short of the guy next to you, talking endlessly about his girlfriend he left behind.

As busy as we were, home and family was always on our minds, especially around the holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas was especially hard being so far away from home.

You might recall that the holidays often brought Bob Hope and USO shows to the troops in Vietnam. But that was only to the safe locations. I cannot recall ever seeing a USO show. Our locations were not that safe. We never got the time off to see any of the shows or the Go Go girls that were featured.

Back to our assignment alongside the Navy Seabees' compound and the reason for this writeup.

Thanksgiving came - The Seabee cooks prepared a feast for their

folks and us; turkeys were roasted, potatoes were mashed, pies were served. They even had ice cream. Following the meal, they showed a movie. The 101st folks thought we had died and gone to heaven.

With Christmas right around the corner I thought it could not get any better than this and was hoping to stay at this assignment for a longer period.

Our company jeep arrived over the next week or so with our mail. Remember, mail call was rare when you were not in base camp. They called my name hand me a round film reel canister with a movie film inside. In the canister a card reads something like - Merry Christmas Fred. It was from a local Providence TV station. I think it was Channel 10. Now comes the dilemma. What does the movie contain? How do I get to view it? I certainly cannot reel to reel it through the barrel of my M-16 rifle.

Over the next week, I finally decide to bring it to dinner to the Seabee galley hoping it's a movie night and they might take a chance and run it through their projector. Things got better. We had a good hot meal, and they showed a movie. I stayed for the movie. After the

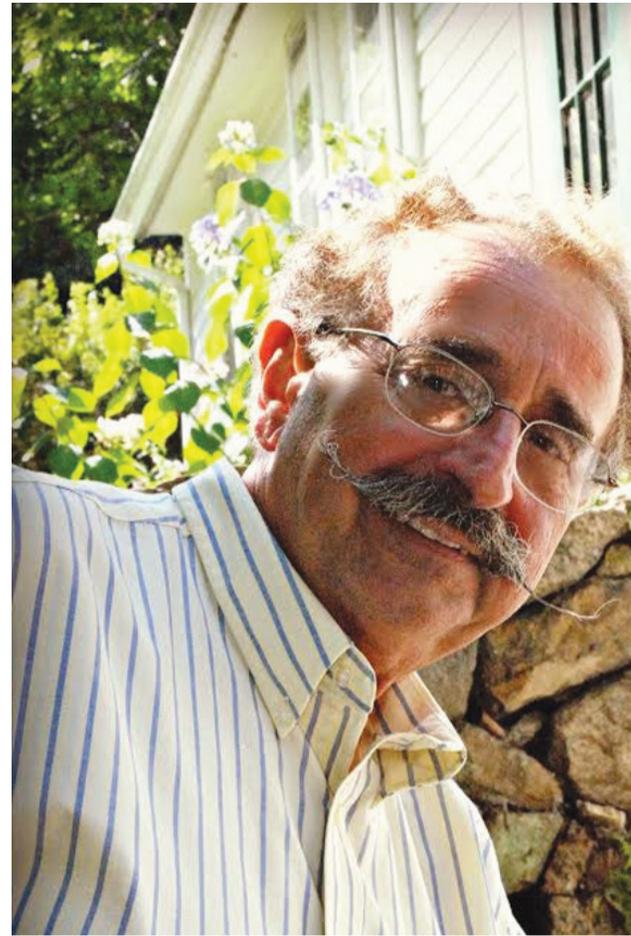
movie I approached the Seabee technician. I asked to have it played explaining that I had no idea what it was or anything. Some of the Seabees started to leave after the movie but saw the technician was starting to thread the new film so they turned around to watch what was next.

Low and behold -to my surprise and bewilderment up comes my family all looking nervous in the TV studio on the black & white screen with a festive Christmas holiday background. My mother started it off with a big "Hello Fred we miss you". My two brothers give me a similar greeting and waves followed by my sister. They finish with "We miss you, please stay safe and think of us at Christmas". "We are thinking of you in Vietnam". "Merry Christmas". They probably said a few more things but I cannot remember. It was the thought that counted. The whole thing lasted a minute or two.

I begged the Seabee to play it a few more times because it was so short and I didn't want to miss anything. I had a tear in my eye. I looked around and most of the Seabees also had tears in their eyes also. It was a powerful Christmas greeting in a place so far from home and the Best Christmas Gift Ever that you could receive in Vietnam.

I pray for all service men and women "Merry Christmas and Peace on Earth wherever you are stationed"

Fred Faria



Fred Faria

Fred grew up in Warwick attending Lockwood Junior High School and Veterans Memorial High School. He went on to Rhode Island College, but after two years, took a break and went to work for Newport Creamery. At that point, it was 1968, he was drafted and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. "I was proud of that," he said explaining that his father, John, served in the 101st during World War II. On returning to Rhode Island, Fred went back to Newport Creamery and under the GI Bill attended the Culinary Institute of America in New Haven and the University of New Haven. He was recruited by the founder of the Johnson & Wales College Culinary Arts program where he climbed the ranks from instructor to professor and chairman of the food service management department. After 40 years at J&W. He now runs his own training and consulting business, Faria Associates. The photo was taken in 2014 when he was awarded the State Historic Preservation Award for Volunteer Service.

LEGAL NOTICES

JOHNSTON ZONING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, December 30th, 2021
 at 6:30 PM
 Johnston Senior Center
 1291 Hartford Avenue

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Review will hold its monthly meeting on December 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm, at Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue. All persons interested in the following proposals are requested to be present at this time. The assembly facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Persons requiring special accommodations shall call the Zoning Office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (401) 231-4000 ext 4117. Persons utilizing TDD equipment may contact the Town through "Relay Rhode Island" at 1-800-745-6675. The agenda for the evening will be as follows, subject to change:

Old Business
File 2021-15 – Petition of Paul Giarrusso, Owner/Applicant for 41 Tartaglia Street, AP 27 Lots 60, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Special use Permit 340-75, Dimensional Variance 340-74 and 340-63 for proposed restoration of second lot.

New Business
File 2021-41 – Petition of James Penta & Laurie Howard, Applicant for 115 Hopkins Avenue, AP 59 Lot 121, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Special Use Permit -340 and Dimensional Variance for restoration of second lot.

File 2021-42 – Petition of Nicholas Castelli/Daniel Kelley, Applicant for 1350 Hartford Avenue, AP 43 Lot 87, zoned R-40. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance -340 for Proposed Ground-mounted Solar panels.

File 2021-43 – Petition of Daniel Heywood, Applicant for 1838 Atwood Avenue, AP 53 Lot 303, zoned R-20. The petitioner is seeking a Dimensional Variance for a 26x32 Two Car Garage.

2022 Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Zoning Board - Approval Required

NOTE: If a Case has not been called for a hearing by 10:30 p.m., the Board, at its discretion, may continue the Case to a subsequent or a special meeting. The Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Building Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston.

Per order of the Zoning Board of Review
 Thomas Lopardo, Chairman

12/10, 12/17, 12/24/21

PLANNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday January 4th, 2022;
6:00 P.M.
 Johnston Senior Center
 1291 Hartford Ave.
 Johnston, RI 02919

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
III. NEW BUSINESS

PB 20-35 - Seasons Corner Market - Public Hearing on a proposed modification of a previously approved site plan. Located at 525 Killingly Street AP 13 Lots 397 and 485 - Property is zoned - B-2
Applicant: Colbea Enterprises, LLC

PB 20-44 - Mill Street Apartments - Public Hearing on a proposed

conversion of a mill building to a 16-unit residential building. Located at 64 Mill Street AP 4 Lot 311 - Property is zoned - PD. Applicant: Geranskye Real Estate, LLC

PB 21-42 - NorthPoint Stonehill Public Meeting on a Major Land Development Master Plan for a proposed warehouse facility. Located at off of Stonehill Drive between the Home Depot and the BJs AP 44 Lot 66. Property is zoned B-3. Applicant NorthPoint Development.

PB 21-06 - Lakeview Terrace Condominiums - Master Plan for a proposed rezoning to Planned Development (PD). Located at 178 & 200 George Waterman Road AP 35 Lots 1, 2 & 33 and AP 37 lots 1 through 10, 63 and 193. Property is zoned B-1, R-15 and R-40. A Public Meeting on a proposed multifamily development consisting of 6 multifamily buildings with each building containing 36 dwelling units and two townhouse buildings containing 12 units.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & SPECIAL ITEMS
1. Comprehensive Plan Update

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Planning Board Agenda and Minutes are available for review at ClerkBase on the Town's web page or Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Planning Office, 100 Irons Avenue, Johnston. Items not heard by 9:30 p.m. may be continued to the next Regular Meeting or a special meeting at the discretion of the Board. Facilities are handicap accessible. Interpreter services may be requested from TTD (401) 792-9642 at least 72 hours in advance.

12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21



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Send your stories and photos to

Rory Schuler, Editor

RoryS@rhodybeat.com

johnstonsunrise.net



submissions are not guaranteed to be published

Sun Rise Scoops

By **MERI R. KENNEDY**

Cranston Historical Society's Afternoon Tour & Tea

On Sunday Dec. 16 and 20, the Cranston Historical Society will host a Holiday Afternoon Tour Program at the Historic Governor Sprague Mansion, located at 1351 Cranston St. at 4:30 p.m. December 16 or 22 ~ 4:30 pm

Participate in Cranston Historical Society's Sprague Mansion Holiday Afternoon Tour program. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon tea & tour in the historic Sprague Mansion Ballroom -- Guests will view a brief introduction of the history of the Sprague Family and A&W Sprague Textile Manufacturing Co. The Western Cranston Garden Club has splendidly decorated the mansion for the holidays using greens found on Mansion grounds!

Very Limited Seating - 10 guests only on each day. Call 401-944-9226 to reserve your place on Dec. 16 or Dec. 20. Reserve/Tickets: \$18ea; \$15ea-CHS members. Send checks payable by December 12 to Cranston Historical Society, 1351 Cranston St., Cranston 02920. After December 12, call to inquire if seating is available. Handicap access 1st floor, enter at back ramp entrance. Parking in rear. (Dates will be rescheduled if inclement weather arises.)

For more information or to get your reservation call 944-9226.

Reminder from Parks & Rec

Just a reminder of some of the rules and regulations at Johnston Memorial Park. There are no dogs allowed in the park or walking tracks. Dogs are allowed in the nature trail across the street from our parking lot; No smoking or tobacco use, No bikes, scooters, skateboard, etc. are allowed on the walking track that surrounds the pond. They may be used on the center path of the park. Please do not feed the ducks, birds, or any wildlife. Please keep the park clean by using the available trash barrels. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages on town property. No vehicles allowed in the park; No swimming or boating in the pond; No open flames or charcoal grills. Gas grills are permitted; Fireplace use is prohibited. For your safety, please do not climb trees or fences; The park closes at 10 p.m. Recreation Department organized activities may continue; No overnight parking; No foul language or loud music; Field use is by permit only

Also, please be mindful of parking. Please display a handicap placard if you park in a handicap space. The area behind the office is reserved for employees. If you have any questions, please call 401-272-3460.

The restrooms at Johnston Memorial Park will be closed for the winter beginning tomorrow, Saturday, December 11 and will reopen in the Spring.

Clothing Drive for Mae Organization

MAE Organization for the Homeless needs your help with their clothing drive to help those in need. Needed are coats, gloves, scarves and other clothing. Please schedule an appointment to bring your clothing by contacting the Mae Organization, located at 1221 Reservoir Ave. in Cranston. For more information or to set up a donation time, contact the Foundation at 206-0451

New Donation Center for Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island (BBBSRI) has opened a new Donation Drop-Off Center at 993 Oaklawn Ave. on Dec.1. BBBSRI's main headquarters has been located on Pontiac Ave. for 12 years. With its headquarters moved to Providence this November, BBBSRI had to find a new location for its Cranston Drop Off Center.

Residents are encouraged to drop off bagged clothing and textiles at the new location, 993 Oaklawn Avenue (next to Gasbarro's Liquor Store plaza) Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The location is staffed with an attendant during these hours. During off-hours, residents can conveniently drop bagged items into one of BBBSRI's green donation bins located in the parking lot.

BBBSRI makes donating easy. In addition to our Donation Center, residents can also schedule a free curbside pick-up at their home or drop their bagged cloth in bins throughout the state. Visit BigsRI.org/DonateRI to schedule your pick-up online or find your nearest bin.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. If you are interested in mentoring a child, donating to support our program, hosting a clothing drive, hosting a clothing fundraiser for your school or group, or more, visit www.BigsRI.org, call (401) 921-2434, or email events@BigsRI.org.

Mental Health: Finding help and hope through NAMI-RI

NAMI-RI (the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness) provides Family Support Groups which are free, peer-led support groups for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with a mental health condition. You will gain insight from the challenges and successes of others facing similar experiences. Most groups meet for about 90 minutes.

Our groups are unique because they follow a structured model, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to be heard and to get what they need.

The program is free of cost to participants, designed for adult loved ones of people with mental health conditions, led by family members of people with mental health conditions,

60-90 minutes long and meet weekly, every other week, or monthly (varies by location)

There is no specific medical therapy or treatment is endorsed and the information is confidential.

By sharing your experiences in a safe setting, you can gain hope and develop supportive relationships. These groups allow your voice to be heard and provide opportunities for your personal needs to be met. They encourage empathy, productive discussion, and a sense of community. You'll benefit from others' experiences, discover your inner strength, and empower yourself by sharing your own experiences in a non-judgmental space.

For schedules and additional information about NAMI Family Support Groups, visit namirhodeisland.org, call 401-331-3060 or email info@namirhodeisland.org. Zoom links will be sent to those who express interest.

Tour the Johnston Historical Society

Just a reminder that Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. are open hours at the Johnston Historical Society. Tour the museum! Tour the Elijah Angell House! Ask all the questions you ever wanted to ask about Johnston history! All are welcome!

Contact the Johnston Historical Society at 231-3380 or at johnstonhistorical1825@gmail.com, www.johnstonhistorical.org or www.facebook.com/johnstonhistorical.

Bingo is back

Bingo games have returned to the Johnston Senior Center.

At 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, Johnston Senior Center members can try their luck on the Bingo cards again.

During the pandemic, the games had ceased, and were badly missed. Last week, a successful Dress-Down fundraiser resulted in free Del's Lemonade for participants.

Johnston Community Library Book Club

Children ages 8 to 10 can meet online, by invitation, Thursdays at 3 p.m. to hear readings and discuss books with library trustee and volunteer Denese Carpenter.

Interested in other times or want to suggest a book for discussion? Let them know.

Parents can learn more about sign-up procedures by contacting Library Director Jon Anderson. Email info@mohrlibrary.org or call 401-231-4980, ext. 7.

Co-ed Volleyball

The Johnston Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the coed middle school volleyball program. It is open to Johnston residents currently in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The program will be held at the Johnston High School gymnasium. Participants will meet 3 times per week, for 4 weeks. For more information, pricing, and times/dates, please visit www.johnstonrec.com.

Johnston Senior Center updates

Things are happening once again in full swing at the Johnston Senior Center. The following is list of classes and activities held daily.

On Mondays, Walk away the Pounds, Aerobics & Boot Camp, Arts & Crafts and Hi Lo Jack.

It is Walk away the Pounds and Bocce on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays it will be Bocce, Quilting, Zumba and Fit and Strong as well as Hi Lo Jack and Poker. On Thursdays it is Walk away the Pounds, Bocce, Marg Jong, Yoga and Bingo and on Fridays it is Line Dancing, Zumba and Bingo.

The Return of Saturday Drop-In Crafts at Mohr Library

This week, the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library will resume Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do some crafts in the library or take some home. They are located at 1 Memorial Ave. in Johnston.

Mindfulness Meditation

Mindfulness Meditation will be held at the Warwick Center for the Arts, 3259 Post Rd. in Warwick on the first and third Mondays of each month. It is free and open to the public.

Their mindfulness meditation is led by Paulette Miller. The sessions offer a westernized, secular version of Vipassana, also known as insight, open-hearted, and analytic meditation. Sessions often include guided breathing meditation, movement meditation, loving-kindness meditation, and music meditation. The meditation exercises are guided and no experience is necessary.

For further information: www.warwickcfa.org or 401-737-0010.

Friends of the Mohr Public Library

Friends of the Mohr Public Library is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation dedicated to Mohr Library.

Members of the Friends plan and run book sales and carry out other fundraising activities to allow Mohr Library to increase services and programs.

The Friends welcome new members who are willing to support either through donations, membership dues, or through volunteering their time.

To find out more, contact library director at 231-4980 (press 7).

RI Housing offers loans

RI Housing's Hardest Hit Fund Rhode Island (HH-FRI) program is offering zero interest, forgivable loans to eligible Rhode Island homeowners who became unemployed or underemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are struggling to make their mortgage payments.

Loan proceeds may provide eligible homeowners with up to six months of mortgage payment assistance. Learn more about the loan program and eligibility at rihousing.com/hhfri.

Be Kind RI

Be Kind RI is a new program that connects volunteers to their neighbors across RI through text alerts to coordinate food deliveries from grocery stores and food pantries. To sign up go to www.BeKindRI.org. Volunteers must be 18 or older and undergo our background check.

Be Kind RI is open to those in RI experiencing COVID-19 risk factors including seniors 65+, anyone with underlying health conditions, those in quarantine or isolation, anyone experiencing a lack of child-care, and those who would otherwise experience difficulty in obtaining food. For assistance signing up, call 877-958-8785.



Obituaries

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

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

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GRAND GIVERS: Santa (Paul Paon) is greeted by Local 1950 leadership officials Sal Martra, Dave Pingitore, Don Roberts, Jon Pistacchio, Keith Calci and John Jaspardo. (Sun Rise photos by Pete Fontaine)

Johnston Fire Department and community pack a rescue with Toys for Tots

By PETE FONTAINE

“Oh, what a night!” exclaimed Jon Pistacchio, a Johnston Fire Department lieutenant who doubles as vice president of Local 1950, as he stood in the cold outside Stephanie Harris’ Strings Bar and Grill on George Waterman Road last Wednesday night. “What a night!”

Pistacchio wasn’t singing Frankie Valli’s legendary hit “December 1963” however, it was without question a record-setting and extraordinary evening for the Johnston Association of Firefighters’ annual Toys for Tots Party.

So much so, in fact, people’s generosity was overflowing — just like the reserve JFD rescue vehicle — that resulted in the largest collection of toys, bikes and countless Christmas gifts Local 1950 officials delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Unit and will put smiles on the faces of children from needy families next weekend.

“We’re so thankful for the support this community showed for this very important cause,” Pistacchio and Local 1950 President Keith Calci emphasized. “With your help we not only reached our goal of filling a (reserve) rescue but we had to call for a second vehicle haul all the toys.”

Firefighters like Chris DelFino, in fact, didn’t have much of a chance to enjoy the merriment and music inside Strings Bar and Grill as people whose vehicles filled not one but two parking lots and came carrying everything from toys to bicycles and every kind of children’s Christmas gifts.

“This has been our most successful toy drive ye!” offered Dave Pingitore, Local 1950’s secretary-treasurer. “As Jon said; oh what a night!”

Pistacchio then added: “We want to thank Steph (Harris) for hosting the party and Mayor (Joseph) Polisena allowing us to use a reserve rescue.”

As Johnston State Sen. Frank Lombardo — who along with his wife Patty have attended almost all of the JFD’s Toys for Tots parties — this year’s event was what he called “an outpouring and overflowing of people whose intentions were to make Christmas 2021 special for children from needy families.”

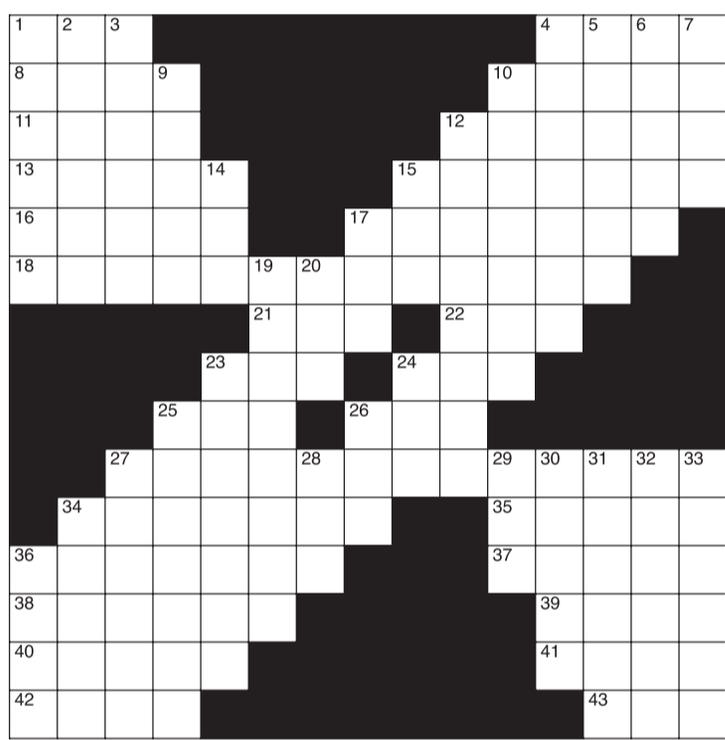
“Hats off to our firefighters,” said Lombardo. “They are all good people who enjoy — and continue — to give back. I’m extremely proud to be a small part of this big event.”

Likewise, Johnston Town Council President Robert V. Russo again showed his unwavering support for the community and firefighters by sponsoring the band Wit-zEnd that drew rave reviews — as did Harris’ complimentary buffet — from party-goers.

Joseph Poliena Jr., Vice President of the Johnston Town Council, offered: “The firefighters did great job putting this year’s toy drive together. It shows their engagement and commitment to our community here in Johnston.”

Meanwhile, Santa (Paul Paon) was what Johnston School Committee Vice Chairman Joe Rotella said was “his usual jolly self” and as Pistacchio concluded: “Thank you to all the elected officials whose generous donations took us over the top as did our active members and retirees who once again dug deep and, of course, our amazing friends and family whose overwhelming support helped us smash our goal!”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. You fry food in it
- 4. Pesky insect
- 8. Gets older
- 10. ___ Dern, actress
- 11. Uncouth man
- 12. One who sulks
- 13. Napoleon’s king of Naples
- 15. One who swims underwater
- 16. Make amends
- 17. Expressions
- 18. Document format
- 21. What a beaver makes
- 22. Limb
- 23. Photograph
- 24. Golf score
- 25. Moroccan mountain range
- 26. Wrinkled dog breed: Shar ___
- 27. 20th century sex symbol
- 34. Remedy for all diseases

- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Moved swiftly
- 37. Type of units
- 38. Madames
- 39. Indian religious god
- 40. Potentially hazardous asteroids
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. An association of criminals
- 43. A way to push content (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Town in central Brazil
- 2. Large burrowing rodent
- 3. Nerve cell
- 4. Estimating
- 5. Bakers use it
- 6. Regions
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Environmentalist nun
- 10. More kookie
- 12. Announce officially
- 14. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 15. Title given to friar
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Buildings
- 20. Pouch
- 23. They steal on the high seas
- 24. It’s mightier than the sword
- 25. Going off on a tangent
- 26. Monetary unit
- 27. Young woman
- 28. Type of bulb
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. City opposite Dusseldorf
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Elude
- 34. La ___: Buenos Aires capital
- 36. An oft-enduring symbol

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CHRIS' CORNER: Johnston Firefighter Chris DeFino holds one of the countless toy donations that helped Local 1959 collect a record number of children's Christmas gifts that will be distributed to children in need. Also pictured are Cherra Wheeler, U.S. Marine Michael Dorsey, Keith Calci and Justin Petrin.



WARM WELCOME: Johnston elected officials Joe Rotella, State Sen. Frank Lombardo and his wife Patty, Robert Russo and Joseph Polisena Jr. join Santa Claus after they made generous donations during last week's Toys for Tots Drive.

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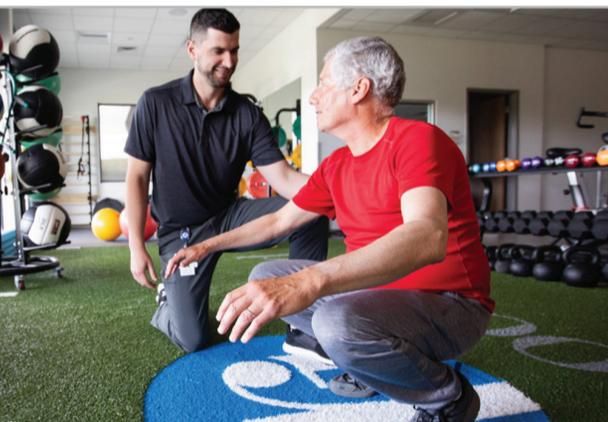

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Johnston Sun Rise

spotlight ON BUSINESS

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By JENNIFER COATES

The busy holiday season is upon us, and as usual, time is the one thing we need the most of, and yet have the least of. As your "to-do" list grows, so do the piles of laundry accumulating in your hampers. With time fleeting and lists growing, it is more important than ever to enlist the help of Jain's Laundry in Johnston. Why spend the little time you DO have this time of year laboring over a pile of laundry when you have the able, efficient and willing hands of Kaushal Jain to help you carry the load?

For an incredible .69/pound, you can have your laundry washed, softened, dried, and even folded at Jain's Laundry. What an incredible time-saver! Besides the convenience of this great service, this incredible price also covers the cost of the softener, bleach, soap and hangers! When life is already so full and free time is such a rarity, there are few reasons why NOT to take advantage of this amazing, same-day service.

Jain's Laundry, conveniently located at 39 Putnam Pike in Johnston, is a full-service Laundromat. For the most competitive prices in the area, you will find here both the wash-fold, same-day service offered by Kaushal as well as a room full of coin-operated washers and dryers for the "do-it-yourselfers". Don't have enough quarters? No worries, the Jain's have got you covered. A change machine (accepts up to a \$20.00 bill) is available on the premises.

There are large capacity machines available for all size loads, from 25 pounds to 65 pounds. The top loading machines are available here for only \$2.00 per load. Vending machines are on-site if you need to re-stock your supply of detergent, softener or laundry bags.



Come to this familiar site on Putnam Pike in Johnston and let Kaushal Jain help you carry the load this busy holiday season. The Jain family wishes you all a happy and joyful holiday season.

Jain's Laundry also has the most efficient dryers on the market. Each dryer utilizes a new technology where they spin both clockwise and counter-clockwise, thus allowing for more even and efficient drying. This prevents items from getting bunched up in the middle and, for larger items such as comforters and blankets, stops them from getting tangled up and twisted. The machines are also much more effective at preventing wrinkles.

This family-owned and operated business had been offering these convenient services for over 20 years. There is plenty of parking and a friendly, helpful staff here, ready

to meet the needs of all their residential and commercial customers. You can stay in their clean waiting area between cycles or leave and return between loads. There is always someone there to keep an eye on your clothes or help you as needed.

Jain's Laundry is found in the Plaza 44 shopping plaza on 39 Putnam Pike. It is handicap accessible, and open seven days each week - from 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the services that are available, call 231-7019.

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We need a little Christmas, right this very minute!

By James Guilmette
Special to the Sun Rise

The Johnston Senior High School's National Honor Society just ran their annual Toy drive in conjunction with the Johnston Police Department.

All toys and monetary donations that were collected will go to the Toys for Tots Campaign.

They collected the toys on the morning of Friday, Dec. 10, while serving breakfast to the teachers during a dress down day.

The toys will be distributed to those who most need them within the community this holiday season.

The High School's National Honor Society community works in various different ways through things such as adopt a family campaigns and caroling in order to support any of those they can.

Editor's Note: James Guilmette serves as a Junior National Honor Society member. Members of the Johnston High School Student Council regularly submit articles for publication in the Johnston Sun Rise.



DRESSED DOWN: The National Honor Society officers posed for a photo at the Dress Down last Friday. (Photo courtesy JHS Student Council)

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Dr. Michael Lin, a general surgeon, is based at Fatima Hospital with offices in Johnston, Cranston, Smithfield and Warwick. He joins us from Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Oregon. Board certified in general surgery, with special interest in laparoscopic hernia and foregut procedures (anti-reflux, para-esophageal hernias), Dr. Lin is a graduate of Middlebury College and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He completed his residency in general surgery at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware and a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopy GI Surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma Washington. He can be reached at 401-943-8824.



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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How to reduce risk of home fires this holiday season

METRO

Safety might not be the first thing people think of as the holiday season approaches. Faith, celebrations, decorations, and holiday dinners all come to mind when considering the holiday season. But that doesn't mean safety should be left out of holiday planning.

Fire safety bears special consideration during the holiday season, when the prevalence of fire hazards like Christmas trees, holiday lighting displays and other decorative items increase the risk for home fires. Such tragedies can be averted with a few simple safety measures.

- **Tend to your tree.** Live Christmas trees are awe-inspiring, but they also pose a significant fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association urges celebrants to purchase only healthy trees with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Such trees are less likely to dry out, especially when well-watered throughout the season. Dry trees can catch fire more easily than healthy trees if embers from nearby fireplaces or candles drift in their direction.

- **Recognize that location matters when decorating.** The NFPA notes that Christmas trees should always be placed at least three feet away from any heat source, including fireplaces, space heaters, heat vents, candles, and even overhead lights. If decorating with candles, never place them on the tree or on tables where other flammable decorations have already been placed. Chanukah menorahs should never be placed near curtains or other decorations.

- **Turn off all lights** and extinguish all lit decorative items when leaving the home or going to bed. Lit candles and menorahs should never be left unattended. The NFPA recommends turning tree lights and exterior decorative lights off when leaving the home or going to bed.

- **Utilize a fire screen on fireplaces.** Embers can catch on trees, decorations or anything else that's



flammable if they escape the fireplace. Fire screens prevent that from happening by ensuring embers from burning logs stay in the fireplace. Like candles and menorahs, fires burning in a fireplace should never be left unattended. Make sure all embers have been extinguished before leaving the home or going to bed.

- **Keep discarded trees away from your home.** A 2014 analysis from the NFPA found that none of the

ten days with the largest share of Christmas tree fires were before Christmas. Dried out trees still pose a fire risk even after they've been removed from a home. When discarding a tree at the end of the holiday season, place it at the curb or keep it a safe distance away from your home and garage until you can.

Fire safety measures are an important component of the holiday season that can prevent this joyous time of year from turning tragic. TF21C573

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As we come to an end of 2021, we can look back on this year as being an unusual one, to say the least. A year of transition, perhaps trying to recover from 2020, a year that changed our way of life in many ways.

Some folks have returned to a sense of normality.

Kids going back to school, many workers have gone back to their place of employment, some finding working from home to be the optimal choice, places of worship back open for service, stores reopening for indoor shopping, entertainment and functions once again available to enjoy.

For many folks, spending more time at home has become a new normal.

As we enter the Christmas Season, we find ourselves once again enjoying being in the company of friends and relatives for the Holidays.

Some are comfortable returning to the stores to find that perfect gift for our loved ones.

However, it's sometimes a challenge to find the right gift for that special someone on your list.

Maybe this year we think of something for the home to be enjoyed for years to come. Something that person will use while being home and think of you with a smile.

Something that will be enjoyed by that one person, or maybe something everyone can enjoy while being home together.

After a long day at work or school, what will they come home to and really appreciate having?

For the kiddos, maybe an outdoor gift they'll enjoy. Sports equipment and toys like basketball hoop, bike, roller blades, swing set; or games to bring the family together inside.

Pajamas are always welcome, especially super comfy ones they will want to put on as soon as they get home! A warm soft blanket you can personalize with their favorite color or design. Maybe an art kit for the creative one. Package the gift with items included to make something...a sewing kit with material, buttons, zippers, thread and accessories.

Adults may also love to receive a gift to be enjoyed in the home. Maybe a kitchen item for the chef in the house. Something they may not buy for themselves but can use to create a great meal or dessert. Maybe include a recipe and ingredients. I love putting gifts together so the person receiving it doesn't have to buy something else in order to use it.

Perhaps a cake or cupcake pan including the cake mix frosting sprinkles



Donna DeLauro
Senior Real Estate Specialist
RE/MAX Real Estate Center
Founder of Mature Matters

and even candles.

My son gave me a Cricut machine last Christmas, and it is awesome. I make things for the house and family we all can enjoy.

TVs are more affordable than ever and the lucky recipient of that will think of you while watching their favorite show, or big game.

If you are shopping for someone who was fortunate enough to have purchased a new home this year, maybe a gift card to a local hardware store and wrap it in something that the new homeowner will remember you, like a candy dish or coffee mug.

Most importantly we are together again for the most part, and that will make this Holiday even more special.

As we close the year, I thought I'd include some year-end home sale statistics. Focusing on our single-family home sales in MLS which are up from 2020:

- 2020-year end there were 11602 single family homes sold.
- 2021 Single family home sales as of 1st week in December are at 10536, with 1711 in pending waiting to close for approximate total sales in 2021 at 12247.
- The median single family sale price in 2021 is \$385000, up 14.9% from 2020
- There are just 898 Single family homes currently for sale or coming soon in R.I. which is low compared to the number of buyers looking to purchase.

It has been a very busy year in Real Estate for Realtors, sellers, and buyers.

I anticipate the same for 2022 if interest rates remain low and affordable.

Hopefully folks who have put off their decision to transition to upsize, downsize, or relocate will consider making their move in 2022, to increase opportunities for buyers and level out the playing field.

In any case I hope you enjoy the Holidays and have a safe, successful, and healthy 2022!

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Suiting up for Sunday



SUITING UP FOR SAILING: Zach Magnone of Warwick recently joined the Frozen Few at EGYC. He said he feels good about his performance so far. "Finished and it wasn't dead last!"

It's not church, but it doesn't hurt to pray

It's Sunday and time for George Shuster, Chris Lee, Stuart Malone, Dennis Demers and at least a half dozen more people to get out their suits. The suits aren't easy to put on or to maneuver in. It takes stretching, pulling and zippers to don a dry suit and an equal amount of effort to shed one. But a dry suit is vital apparel for those who brave the conditions to engage in a sport they love: frostbiting. They're wearing their Sunday best.

There's more to the church parallel than Sunday and suits. Sailors are known to think of sailing as a religious experience. They are close to nature, at the mercy of weather conditions and dependent on their skill and their vessel. They are given the wind, the temperament of the sea, snow or rain and the tide. Yet, they have their boats, which in the case of Sunday frostbite sailing at Edgewood Yacht Club are Sunfish. The boats are made of fiberglass. They have a single mast with a lateen triangular sail, centerboard that enables it to tack upwind and a rudder for steering off the transom. The boats are unsinkable, but that doesn't mean they don't capsize. That happens and that's why sailors wear dry suits and why the yacht club has a chase boat in the event a skipper needs assistance. Sailing a Sunfish looks to be pretty simple. After all there aren't a plethora of moving parts. That may be so, but racing Sunfish with Sunday devotees of the EGYC Frozen Few is another matter. Little things, such as the positioning of one's body weight, paying close attention to the angle of the wind that can mean a lift or a "header" and sail trim can mean the difference of leading or following the fleet. There's more to consider.

COLLECTIBLES

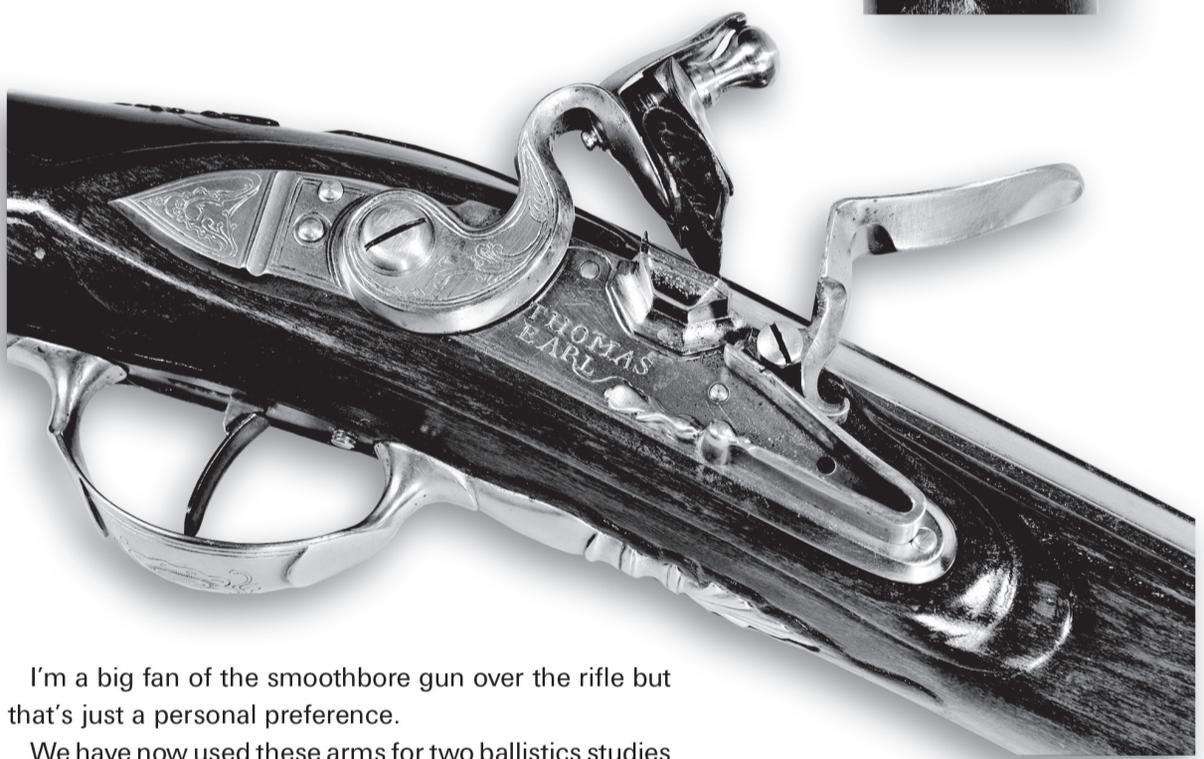
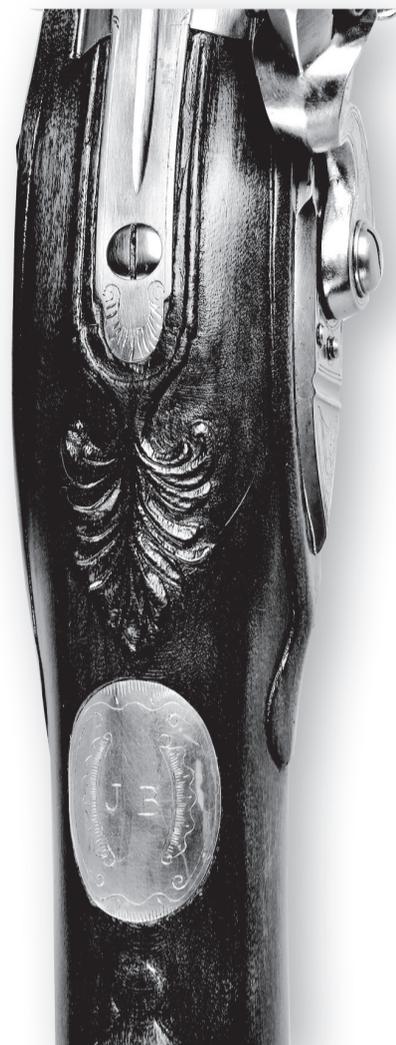
COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY FLINTLOCKS



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

art. While they look great hanging on the wall, they can be safely fired for fun as well as for historical research.

Although it has taken some time, I now have 13 custom-built flintlocks that we have been using to better understand the arms used during the Revolutionary War. From British Land Pattern muskets, fowling pieces used by civilians for hunting as well as their militia service, French muskets, carbines, a wall gun, and a lone rifle.



I'm a big fan of the smoothbore gun over the rifle but that's just a personal preference.

We have now used these arms for two ballistics studies to share with archaeologists, historians, and arms collectors. It's been a thrill to not only collect them, but to put them to good use that will hopefully add to the historical knowledge of how these weapons functioned during that turbulent time in our history.

Years ago, I bought my first reproduction flintlock, a Japanese-made Miroku copy of a British Pattern 1769 musket. Back in the 1970s there were two decent models of reproduction muskets you could purchase. Japanese and Italian made copies of the British 1769 and the French Model 1763/66 muskets.

They are quality arms and good shooters, but I wanted examples of other arms and done more closely to the originals. I knew there were some good contemporary makers out there but at the time I didn't really have the money to afford one.

There are really nice kits available from The Rifle Shoppe, an Oklahoma-based company that sells a variety of parts for building early arms. When I was in my late 30s, I purchased my first kit, a British Pattern 1756 Long Land musket. After taking it out of the box I laid it all out to get started with the assembly. I soon realized that building the gun was way over my skill level and I tried to find someone with the skills to do the assembly work. I turned to Richard Colton, an arms historian and extremely skilled craftsman. After about a year it was completed, and I picked up this beautiful musket. Not only was it faithful to the originals, it was an excellent shooter! Soon I was buying more kits, having Rich and a few other talented makers building them, and buying others that I wanted to complete my collection.

As much as I love the original arms of the American Revolution, shooting the originals isn't something I like to do. The guns I am purchasing I consider functional

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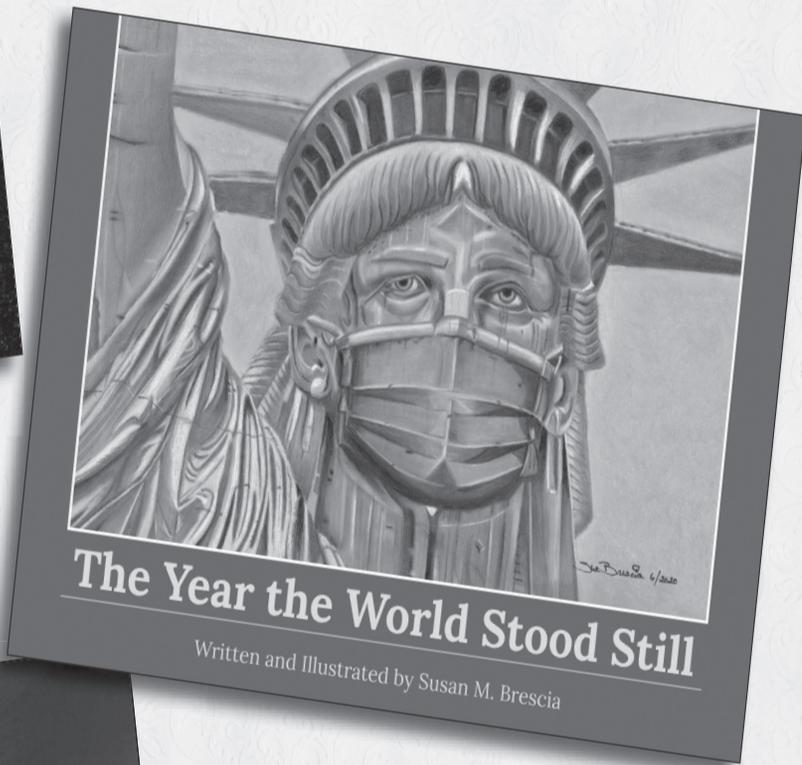
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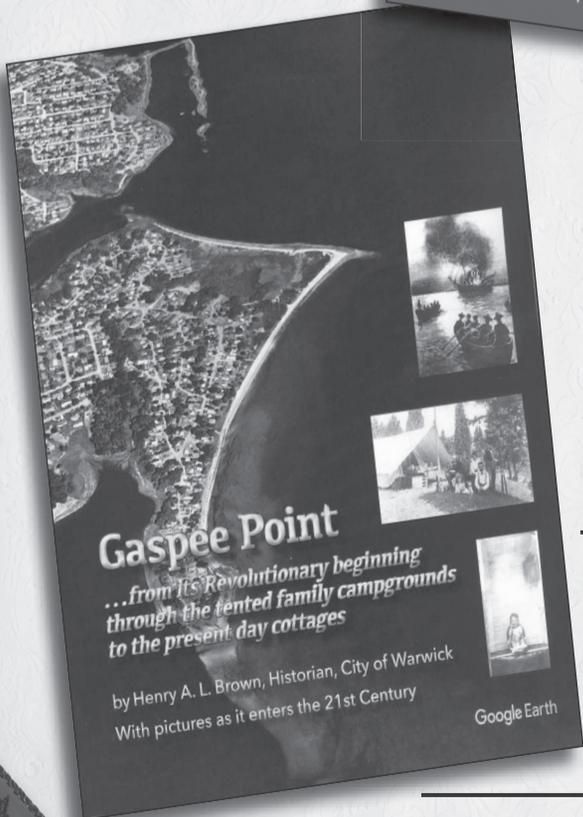
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Movies



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★★★★

(Classic Broadway Musical Soars)

Steven Spielberg has taken the classic 1961 movie and Tony Award-winning Broadway hit, retrofitted it, and given us a first class version of one of the best love stories since Romeo and Juliet.

I watched the original movie on TMC the other night, noticing the subtle differences and updating that added to the story.

The big screen allows for spectacular dance routines, shot from every angle imaginable, spreading over the streets, alleys, and neighborhoods of New York City's West Side.

The opening sequence sets the tone, with fingers clicking to the jazzy da-dada-da-da background music, as we are introduced to the Sharks and the Jets.

Set against the background of a crumbling city, where buildings are being torn down and people displaced to make way for a new Lincoln Center.

It is all about territory. The white Jets hate the Puerto Rican sharks for moving in. The local cops plan a dance to bring the groups together. Tony (he's actually Polish) lays eyes on Maria. And they immediately fall madly in love.

They dance. Maria's brother is outraged. A rumble is planned. It doesn't go well.

That's basically the story, and yes, it drags a bit over nearly two and a half hours.

But the music is so good. So memorable.

"Tonight", "Maria", "America".

Songs that will remain in your head long after you leave the theatre.

If you are a dance lover, you will marvel at the choreography.

The acting is also first rate, especially newcomer Rachel Zegler as Maria.

We have all seen the hype about Rita Moreno and her return to the movie 50 years later as the proprietor of the drug store where the kids hang out.

They don't make 'em any better than this.

NETFLIX

JOE BELL

★★★

Arc Wahlberg stars as the title character in this true story about a father who walks across America to honor his 15 year-old gay son who has committed suicide.

Joe talks to people along the way, on the side of the road, in a diner, or at planned town and school meetings, preaching understanding, forgiveness, and the dangers of bullying to anyone who will listen.

The problems he encounters with other people are nothing compared to the conflicts going on inside his own head, as he struggles with his own feelings of guilt, anger, resentment, and motivation.

The movie movies back and forth from past to present, giving us insights into this complex human being.

AT THE AVON

THE FRENCH DISPATCH, described as Wes Anderson's "love letter to journalists" is rounding out record seven weeks at the Avon, where it has received mostly glowing reviews.

Set in an outpost of an American newspaper in a fictional 20th century French city, the movie tells three stories, with Bill Murray serving as the editor involved in each.

It is satire at its peak, often going over the top with its humor. If you like the outrageousness of physical humor, you should like it.

The sets are imaginative, the acting by more than two dozen familiar names is mostly over the top, but the movie has gained a cult following, especially in college communities.

BELFAST, Kenneth Branagh's "intensely personal story" of growing up in Belfast during the late 1960s, is a touchy tale, filled with typical Irish humor.

My problem with the movie is the Irish accents, causing me to miss much of the dialogue.

Most of the film is shot in black and white, using camera techniques that follow the actors as they move through the war-torn streets of their beloved city.

Branagh captures the fear of the poor residents and their concern for their children and their future.

At the center is a family striving to survive as seen through the eyes of nine year-old Buddy (Branagh). He sees and hears everything and tries to understand what is happening.

Add sub-titles, and you have one powerful look at the "troubles" in Belfast and their effect on its residents.

Sports



DRIVING: Johnston's Derek Salvatore drives to the hoop on Tuesday. (Photos by Ryan D. Murray)

Panthers hold off Titans to open with win

By RYAN D. MURRAY

The Panthers boys basketball team went into a packed Toll Gate gymnasium on Tuesday night and edged out the Titans 52-48. It was

the season-opener for both squads, who play in Division II.

Johnston was led by Hunter Remington, a senior, who scored 16 points.

"Hunter's our glue," Panthers

head coach Mike Bedrosian said.

"Like I said to Hunter before the game, nobody can keep up with him 1-on-1. So, he's got free reign

■ PANTHERS - PAGE 23

Which rinks are the state's best?

This week's item I wanted to touch on is something that I always have fun thinking about to myself, but never really thought of putting on paper until now, and it is how I feel about the state's ice rinks.

At a hockey game I covered last week, I was speaking with another media member and we chatted about some of the local rinks. Things we liked, things we didn't, the ins and outs. Here is my take on some of the rinks I have visited in my years in Rhode Island.

Of course, I have to start with the Thayer Arena right down the street. I really enjoy covering games at Thayer, mainly because it is spacious and warm. I am a huge baby with the cold, it is shocking that I am a native New Englander.

I've heard some complaints of the ice conditions due to the warmth in the building, but as a spectator, I love that I can be comfortable wearing just a sweater. It also has good lighting, ample parking. I am a big fan of Thayer. I also did not know for quite awhile that there was a second rink in the back. What an awesome facility, having two rinks under one roof is such an advantage and I think it would be great to see the city take advantage of that luxury even more than it does. Of course, the rink out back does not provide the same seating, but I have seen rinks with fewer seats hold high school games. The flexibility is such an asset.

My least favorite, I will say bluntly, is the rink up on 146. For me, there are really no redeeming qualities. It's the coldest rink in the state that I have visited, poor lighting, tough to get to on 146 since it's only accessible on one side of the highway. It's also loud, and I don't mean in a good way thanks to a devoted fan section, I mean the ma-

My pitch



by ALEX SPENSELLER
SPORTS EDITOR
ALEX@RHODYBEAT.COM

chinery and echoes, all of that. Between the cold, difficulty taking photos, having choppy recordings to transcribe. Not a fan.

I have grown to like Cranston's rink quite a bit. Some people feel that it is in need of renovations, which is above my pay grade, but I enjoy the setup. I like how the stands are slightly raised which gives the fans a better view of the ice, I like the accessibility on the ends for photos and access to the locker rooms. The bathrooms are a little dated and the lighting has a weird tint when looking at raw photos. Overall though, it's a solid rink. Beware of the parking lot though, it feels like every 10 feet there is a hole capable of snatching a hub cap.

Speaking of a rink needing renovations, Mount St. Charles' Adelard Arena is perhaps the most talked-about rink in the state. It is old and definitely outdated. I actually love the old time hockey vibes there, it feels like hopping in a time machine back 40 years.

Although as a fan that is nice, for the kids it is not. From what I understand, the locker rooms are tiny, hot. Some areas of the facilities are allegedly falling apart. My biggest gripe is without question the parking situation. Once you enter the lot, you are stuck ... even if you are one of the few lucky people to get a spot in the front lot, it's almost not worth it thanks to the zoo it always is

■ PITCH - PAGE 22



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No. 10 CCRI picks up victory

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The No. 10 ranked (NJCAA DIII Women's Basketball Poll) CCRI Lady Knights basketball team hosted the very potent (9-1) Mustangs of Central Maine Community College on Sunday afternoon. The Lady Knights defeated the Mustangs 64-49. With the victory CCRI finishes the semester with a 10-1 overall record and 6-0 record in Region XXI play.

The Lady Knights knew they had their work cut out for them in this contest as the Mustangs of Central Maine came into Sunday with a 9-1 record averaging 84 points per game and were ranked No. 3 by the USCAA in Division II Women's Basketball (NOTE: USCAA players eligible for four years not two like NJCAA). However, the Lady Knights were riding a five game win streak and were looking to end the semester with another signature victory.

CCRI fired out of the gates and scored the game's first 10 points with a frenzy of defensive effort that led to great scoring opportunities which the Lady Knights converted into points. CCRI kept up the

intensity through the entire quarter to go into the first quarter break with a 25-11 lead. The Lady Knights utilized a balanced attack led by **Kayla Saddler** (West Warwick, RI) and **Chloe Rayko** (Coventry, RI) who each sank two 3-pointers. They were aided by center **Maggie Schwab** (Narragansett, RI) who added six points and **Elizabeth Bruno** (Providence, RI) who added five points including a 3-pointer.

In the second quarter the Lady Knights maintained their defensive excellence as they held the high-powered Mustang offense to just nine points while scoring 13 points of their own led by freshman forward **Ashley Lima** (Cape Verde) who scored six points and **Elizabeth Bruno** who scored four points. In addition, **Kayla Saddler** added another 3-pointer while also applying tremendous defensive pressure. The Lady Knights went into the halftime break leading 38-20.

After the halftime break both teams realized that defense, not offense, was going to be the key to victory in this contest. Central Maine was doing their all to match the defensive intensity of the Lady Knights and baskets became hard

to come by. The Mustangs played tremendous perimeter defense as they did not allow a 3-pointer in the second half. The Lady Knights countered with unselfish play and guard penetration to outscored The Mustangs 14-12 in the third to take a 20 point lead 52-32 into the final frame. Lady Knights' guards co-captain **Michelle Moreno** (Providence, RI) and **Chloe Rayko** led CCRI with four points apiece in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter Central Maine pulled out all the stops and went for broke as they brought their defense to another level which affected the Lady Knights adversely and helped The Mustangs cut into the Lady Knights' lead. In fact, with a little over two minutes left in the game CMCC had cut the lead to just 10 points. However, the backcourt tandem of **Michelle Moreno** and **Elizabeth Bruno** combined for nine points in the final quarter as CCRI was able to extend their lead back to 15 points as they won by the final score of 64-49.

Leading the way for the Lady Knights was co-captain **Michelle Moreno** with a game-high 13 points with eight rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Freshman guard **Kayla Saddler** came off the bench to score 11 points including a career-high three 3-pointers on 3-for-5 shooting from beyond the 3-point arc with two assists. Freshman center **Maggie Schwab** scored 10 points with eight rebounds and a blocked shot. **Chloe Rayko** added 10 points including two 3-pointers with five rebounds and assist and a steal. Freshman forward **Ashley Lima** scored nine points with eight rebounds, an assist and three blocked shots. **Lima** is ranked No. 5 in the nation with 23 blocked shots on the season. **Elizabeth Bruno** added nine points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

After the game Head Coach **Doug Haynes** commented: "Great team effort. Four players in double-figures. (**Kayla Saddler** came off the bench and played a great game giving us a spark on offense and defense. Overall a great team effort."

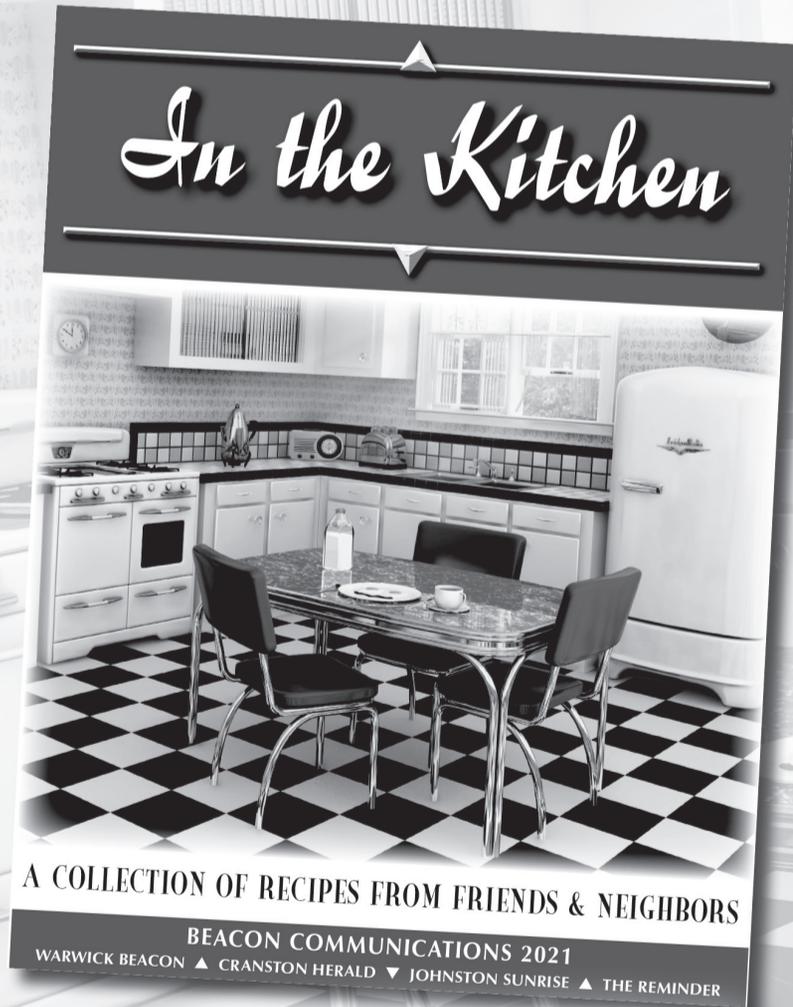
The next game for the Lady Knights will be Saturday January 8th at 1 p.m. when they will host the Seawolves of Southern Maine Community College from Portland, ME.

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■ Pitch

(Continued from page 21)

when trying to exit. I guess I'd say I have mixed feelings about it.

The Levy rink up in Burrillville is nice. Certainly is well kept both on the ice and in the stands. Great lighting, fairly warm, easy to maneuver through when covering events. I also like how it offers both ice level seats and raised seating. It's a quality rink.

However, I was given a hard time when trying to enter as a media member some time ago ... the associate working the front door was reluctant to allow me in with my league-issued media credential around my neck, saying that it was not adequate. I was eventually allowed in with media access, so no harm no foul. Just something that rubbed me the wrong way. Sorry for being petty.

Another nice rink for many of the same reasons is the rink up in Smithfield. My only real issue is that it is kind of a pain to move around in dur-

ing crowded games. Media access is restricted to the same side as the fans, which is fun during the game, but afterwards can be tricky when trying to crowd surf to the locker rooms. Parking is also limited. Overall though, it is a well-kept rink.

I also love the location. There are so many businesses in that neighborhood and I have always enjoyed catching a Friday night game and then grabbing a bite to eat after. So much to choose from within a mile.

The last one is at Brown University. I have covered the high school playoffs there, and there is something about being in the Ivy League arena that is tremendous. It also has that old time hockey feel, it almost feels like the kids should be playing with the old sweaters you saw teams donning in the early 20th century. The entire Brown neighborhood is beautiful, but an absolute nightmare navigating when trying to find your way in while on a deadline. But as for the facility itself, I love it.

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LEADING SCORER: Hunter Remington looks for space.

■ Panthers

(Continued from page 21)

going to the basket whenever he wants to. In my eyes, he's the strongest guy in the division, and he showed that today just within the first game. He's our leader and we ride his back. So, it's going to be like that all year for him."

Anthony Corsinetti, a junior transfer, finished second in scoring for the Panthers with 15 points.

"Anthony's my guy," Bedrosian said. "I've been coaching him since he was in the fifth grade. He has transferred over from Hendricken this year and all of these guys are accepting him into a part of this program, and they know that he's going to be a big part of our season."

Derek Salvatore, also a junior, finished third for Johnston in scoring with eight points.

Toll Gate was topped by Alex Usher, a senior, who contributed 18 points, while junior Jackson Cehelsky registered eight points, and senior Shawn Nolette, seven points.

The Titans jumped out to an early 4-0 lead when Usher scored with a put back before stealing the ball and driving down the lane and finishing with an emphatic slam dunk.

Johnston cut that deficit in half when Ryan Schino made a baseline jump shot.

Next, the Panthers drew an 8-6 lead when Corsinetti drilled back-to-back 3-point baskets.

But then, Toll Gate went on a 10-5 spurt and led 16-13 after one quarter.

Remington started the second quarter with three straight 3-point baskets and then Jayden Testa, a sophomore, added one of his own. After that, Neri Vasquez added a free throw and that gave the Panthers a 26-18 advantage.

The Panthers contained that margin up until halftime and headed into the break with a 30-22 cushion.

Remington opened the third frame with a driving layup and that gave the Panthers its first double-digit buffer at 32-22.

Toll Gate cut the deficit to 37-34 midway through the third frame when Cehelsky buried a corner 3.

However, Salvatore and Corsinetti answered with a layup each and Johnston led 43-36 after three quarters.

Cehelsky started the final frame by burying a 3-pointer, and then a jumper, before his teammate Syriis Price, added a layup, and evened the score at 43 for Toll Gate.

The teams went back-and-forth after that and were knotted again at 47 with just three minutes to play.

Toll Gate went up one when Price made one-of-two from the charity stripe with two minutes left, but a minute later, Remington responded with a runner and that put the Panthers on top for good at 49-48.

The Panthers extended their margin to 51-48

when Salvatore made two free throws with 20.1 seconds left.

Cehelsky missed a 3-point attempt after that and with 5.8 seconds to play Corsinetti sealed the deal with a free throw, which put the game out of reach at 52-48.

"Our guys, they took a punch from them, but they never backed down, and they just know how to respond," Bedrosian said. "We have a lot of leaders on this team that have been around for a while - a couple of guys, who played in the state championship a couple of years ago, so no environment is too much for them, and that's what I told them from Day 1."

"I just love these guys," Bedrosian reiterated. "They don't back down and they just keep fighting with things. I've got a lot of leaders on this team that really can take the role, and a lot of guys that can pick up the slack when things aren't going well."

Johnston moves to 1-0 on the young season and hosts Tolman (0-1) next on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.



IN THE PAINT: Anthony Corsinetti works his way to the hoop.

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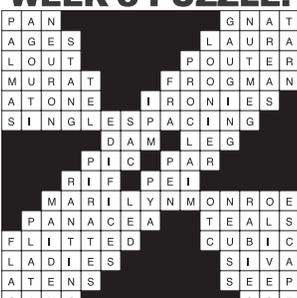
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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:



Turbine reefs could be largest expansion of underwater habitat in U.S. history

By CAPT. DAVE MONTI

I am a fisherman that believes offshore wind energy and fishing can coexist and flourish together. We badly need offshore wind, and other renewable energy sources, to help stem the tide on climate change and its negative impacts on oceans, habitat, fish and fishing.

Sea level rise, habitat degradation, low water oxygen, ocean acidification and fish stock movement due to warming water have and are creating harm to fish and fishing on our waters locally, nationally and throughout the world.

I have often scratched my head when I hear fisherman say wind farm pylons and turbines are going to be bad for fish and fishing, as I have never experienced a piece of structure that has had a negative impact on fishing. This includes natural structure such as ledges, reefs and rock piles as well as manmade structure such as jetties, ocean platforms, docks and artificial reefs of all types.

Mussels and other organic materials grow on the structure creating life and attracting small fish and then bigger fish much the same way that a natural reef would.

Fish abundance in European wind farms that have been around for years is greater than fish abundance in control areas outside of windfarms. And, at the Block Island Wind Farm (the first offshore wind farm in America) in addition to mussels, scup, black sea bass and tautog at the base of the pylons and up the water column on the sides of pylons we have larger fish such as striped bass and bluefish. This year we had more pelagic fish in the wind farm area than ever before including bluefin tuna and mahi mahi.

So the science in Europe and at the Block Island Wind Farm is telling us that the structure created by offshore wind farms is having a positive impact on fish, habitat and fishing.

That is why I was pleasantly surprised when The Nature Conservancy and INSPIRE Environmental released their highly-anticipated report, *Turbine Reefs: Nature-Based Designs for Augmenting Offshore Wind Structures in the United States* last week. The report at www.nature.org/turbine reefs outlines an opportunity to create, enhance, and expand marine habitat for native fish, shellfish, and other

species by creating artificial reefs at the bottom of offshore wind turbines.

In a press advisory The Nature Conservancy said, "To limit the worst effects of global warming and build a clean energy economy, coastal states are rapidly developing offshore wind power with plans to build more than 2,000 offshore wind turbines by 2035."

From my perspective through fishing community collaboration with scientists, developers and government agencies we can benefit marine life by enhancing habitat and fishing while we stem the tide on negative climate change impacts with offshore wind.

The Nature Conservancy said, "Using an integrated approach when designing and constructing turbines can create new marine habitats in offshore waters for the first time, improve the health of fisheries, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions."

Tricia K. Jede, The Nature Conservancy's offshore wind policy manager, said, "Without clean, renewable energy, the health of our oceans is at grave risk. By creating turbine reefs in partnership with offshore wind developers, we highlight how offshore wind can be part of the climate and biodiversity solution. We can enhance marine habitat and generate clean energy at the same time...The creation of turbine reefs would provide habitat for a wide array of native marine life from South Carolina to Maine, including species important to commercial and recreational fishing sectors."

The Nature Conservancy said, "Pylons require placement of a layer of rock and other hard materials around its base to prevent erosion. If scientists and engineers use nature-based design to select and purposefully place materials, native fish, shellfish, and other marine life would have many more spaces to live, eat, and reproduce."

The Nature Conservancy has produced a short animation that demonstrates how nature-based design promotes reef growth at www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/wind-turbines-restoring-habitat/#animationvideo.

The report also includes a product catalogue of U.S. made materials that engineers can use to increase the ecological



FISH AT WIND FARM: Paul Eidman with black sea bass at the Block Island Wind Farm. This year larger fish such as bluefish, striped bass, bluefin tuna and mahi mahi were in the area in too. (Submitted photo)

value of each turbine. It focuses on existing domestic products that can be used in or adapted for the offshore wind industry.

We need to review possible negative impacts of offshore wind farms but just as important we need to be more open minded and explore potential positive impacts. At the Block Island Wind Farm commercial trawlers fish parallel to the wind farm, commercial and recreational rod and reel fisherman fish right up to the pylons, commercial gill nets and lobster pots are set up right in the wind farm area. This is how it should be. Multiple users fishing in the same area, all because the fishing is good in the wind farm area.

Hats off to The Nature Conservancy for following the science and suggesting that "Nature-Based Designs" at the base of pylons are good for habitat and fishing.

Where's the bite?

Freshwater. Anglers are reminded to renew their licenses for salt and fresh water for 2022. For licensing information and a list of trout stocked ponds in Rhode Island visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries>; and in Massachusetts visit www.mass.gov/freshwater-fishing-information

Cod and tautog fishing. Tom Gid-

dings of the Tackle Box, Warwick, said, "Not many anglers are fishing in the cold weather and high winds we had earlier this week. But more are expected to fish as the weather improves as there still are tautog cod out there." Anglers are reminded that their local bait & tackle shops have gifts for the angler at all price points. Consult with your shop owner as they can make suggests. Giddings said, "Just give us a call and we will make sure we are at the shop when you plan to stop by."

Most cod fishing vessels are taking online reservations in advance. Cod fishing off Rhode Island and Massachusetts south of Cape Cod is a good bet in January. Party boats fishing for cod this winter include the Frances Fleet at www.francesfleet.com, the Seven B's at www.sevenbs.com, and the Island Current at www.islandcurrent.com.

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.

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■ Sailing (Continued from page 18)

The rules play into the outcome. Boats on a starboard tack, with the wind coming off the starboard or right side of the vessel have rights over those on the opposite or port tack. Vessels that foul another or hit a rounding mark are required to do a penalty turn. There's also the start to consider that can determine the outcome of a race. A boat ahead of the rest of the fleet has clearer air and hence sails faster than the others. Yet, boats over the starting line early must return and restart, which often puts them in the back of the fleet.

Sunfish race committee chair Stuart Malone, often the only person on the committee boat, sends the boats off on the first of a half dozen races about 11 a.m. No races are started after 1 p.m.

A 20/20 rule is applied to conditions. If winds are over 20 knots or the temperature below 20 degrees, racing is canceled.

Sailors start showing up an hour early to rig their boats, pull on their wet suits and check out the conditions and the competition. Competitors — men and women — range in age from 15 to their sixties. Also, the club welcomes nonmembers and provides loaners to those who want to give it a try. The seasonal fee is \$100.

The photos accompanying this story were taken on Dec. 5, a relatively light air Sunday.

Last Sunday, however, offered dramatically different conditions with some gusts over 20 knots. A lot of boats capsized. Two of the nine boats racing turned back.

It's Sundays like those when sailors are thankful for their attire...and probably do considerably more praying than in church. (Text and photos by John Howell)



READY FOR THE CHASE: Dennis Demers mans one of two chase boats on the course. Ian Cozzens and Ray Parker are also out there setting marks and assisting sailors who need it.



TRAFFIC JAM AT THE START: Racers vie to be first over the starting line. If they misjudge it or are forced over early by a leeward vessel it means having to restart.



TRAVELING TO RACE: Dejan Radeka who lives in Middletown and is a diehard sailor, find frostbiting "gives me something to do in the off months."



IDYLIC? The morning sun glistening on the Providence River can make for seemingly idyllic conditions, but wind, snow and temperature can change that.

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